

Paken p 32
1869

4-5/69

Green Paltrow
old cap badges
removed
pistol Lobster
p 29

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AND SPHINX

JOURNAL OF
**THE GORDON
HIGHLANDERS**

April/May, 1969

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THE TIGER & SPHINX

The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders

APRIL/MAY, 1969.

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Lt Col D. H. W. Brown, MC, who assumed command of the Battalion on 1st November 1968.

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EDITORIAL

THE ROYAL SCOTS GREYS (2nd Dragoons)

The announcement in the recent White Paper that The Royal Scots Greys are to be amalgamated was one that we all, as Scots and soldiers, had very much hoped would never happen.

As every Gordon knows, the ties of friendship between the Greys and ourselves go back to 1815 and the battle of Waterloo. Many are the instances of shared comradeship, since that time and at present both the Regiment and the 1st Battalion are in the same Brigade in the British Army of the Rhine carrying out many exercises in close co-operation.

Whatever the future holds we feel sure that the bonds that have been forged between us over the years will continue and will find renewed significance in the old cry "Scotland Forever".

3rd (TERRITORIAL) BATTALION

Despite the unstinting efforts of all ranks over the past two years to keep going, with the barest minimum of official support, the 3rd Battalion has now been reduced to a Cadre of eight all ranks. This Cadre will keep alive the name of the Battalion and the hope that it will be the basis of expansion of our thin reserve forces in the not too distant future.

"D" (GORDONS) COMPANY 51st HIGHLAND VOLUNTEERS

Good news from the Volunteers is that they are to be allowed to increase their numbers and have decided to locate the third of their three rifle platoons at Keith. This welcome move to expand will provide a further opportunity for voluntary service in the Regimental area which we know will be supported by everyone in every way possible.

CAP BADGE

The news that the Ministry of Defence has authorised Infantry Regiments, if they wish, to re-adopt their own Cap Badges will be widely welcomed by all friends of the Regiment. All regular soldiers in the Regiment are expected to be wearing our badge by the time this edition reaches you.

ARMY THREE YEAR ENGAGEMENT

It has just been announced by the Ministry of Defence that a three year enlistment in the Infantry will come into effect from 1st April 1969. To date only the Brigade of Guards have had this form of engagement. It is hoped that this three year enlistment will be an attraction to many young men who after leaving school can sign on for this period as opposed to a full six years which was the minimum engagement.

REGIMENTAL REUNION 1969

Advance notice is given to all our readers of a reunion for all Gordon Highlanders, which will take place on Saturday, 3rd May, at 6.30 p.m., within the Hardgate in Aberdeen.

We hope that this occasion will provide an opportunity for anyone who has served with any battalion of the Regiment, whether as regular, national serviceman, territorial or volunteer, to meet together in one place.

Normal bar facilities will be available and a buffet will be provided free of charge.

Although more detailed publicity will appear in the Press and on television nearer the date, please note the date now and pass on the information to any Gordon of your acquaintance.

RECRUITING

Not surprisingly, the climate of recruiting for the regular forces as a whole, continues to be bad and in times like these the infantry suffers more than most.

In January, the 1st Battalion sent home a small team which produced an improvement in our figures locally. An even larger team is to be based on the Regimental Area in May.

We appeal to our readers to encourage recruits to the regular, volunteer and cadet branches of the Regiment, whenever they have an opportunity to do so.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Because the cost of producing this magazine continues to rise, we have been forced to increase the yearly subscription to ten shillings.

We very much regret having to ask readers to complete and return to Regimental Headquarters the new Banker's Orders which have been sent to them but this is the last issue that can be sent out for the old subscription.

If any subscriber has not received a new Banker's Order, please let us know as soon as possible.

UNIFORM AND ACCOUTREMENTS

RHQ would be very grateful if any Retired Officers would present them with any article of uniform or accoutrements, especially Dirks, Breast-plates and Sashes. These are required to replace worn out articles for the Battalion Bands.

ARMY CAREERS INFORMATION OFFICE — ABERDEEN

Recruiting for the Regiment is still somewhat of an uphill task particularly when we are in competition with Corps and their many sophisticated trades, but there seems to be a glimmer of hope when, as one young out-of-town chap remarked, the other day, having been convinced that he should become a Gordon, "Man, I'd fair like to drive ane o' them things that there's a picter o't in yer windie." We feel certain that he was referring to an Armoured Personnel Carrier and not to certain members of the women's services who were wheeling prams down a street somewhere in Singapore.

We were well represented through the Area with Sergeant Rob Philip at Keith, Sergeant Hamish Grant at Peterhead, and Geordie Symon, Bert Buchan and Sandy Henderson in the main office at Aberdeen.

We will be sorry to lose Sergeant Sandy Henderson in the near future after only a very short stay, but we look forward to greeting Sergeant Willie Donald in his place, we all wonder who is going to be the first to get caught out.

Finally we appeal to all members of the Battalion on leave in the Area to come and pay us a visit whenever they happen to find themselves in the area of Market Street. Drop in and have a news!



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PERSONS AND PLACES

The Headquarters at St. Lukes has just emerged from under the hand of the painters everything is now duck egg décor and new curtains adorn the Ante Room. Much of the distempering was carried out by a former Gordon, Lindsay by name, whom some will remember as a patrol dog handler in Malaya.

Once the dust sheets, ladders and planks had disappeared it was found that Patrick Forbes had noiselessly transferred himself to the snow line at Corse, leaving behind a rather bewildered successor. Patrick had been at RHQ since its inception and together with Robin Fogg Elliot had created the firm.

Further on in this issue will be found mention of the presentation of the late Major A. E. Ker's Victoria Cross. This gift came about thanks to Pat Forbes who unknowingly (until during a final night cap) was harbouring the possessor of the Medal under his roof at Corse: one more for the road and the deal was clinched.

Some readers may have seen an article in a popular Sunday newspaper about another Gordon V.C. We would like to point out that at no time did the Regiment ever approach the owner with an offer to purchase.

At present there is a fortunate lull in the matrimonial intentions of members of the Regiment and as a result of there being no further business, the Wedding Present Fund is gradually recuperating.

It is not wise to be complacent as one now has George Kennedy at the Depot with lights in both eyes, and Gavin Peebles limbering up for another dose of Apres Ski at Chamonix.

Congratulations to Christopher Van der Noot on passing the Staff College Exam, and commiseration to those others who didn't quite make it.

News comes from the Far East about the Gordon Highlanders Colonial Forces under Command of John Simpson, one gathers from Sergeant Major Murray recently returned from Brunei that it is a lucrative and attractive posting. Of our other far flung Lieutenant Colonels, Claude Chancellor of that ilk, nothing has yet been heard, but the arrival of some exotic middle eastern fruit is eagerly awaited.

Scrappy Hay burst upon us at the end of the year, in immense form and completely recovered from his recent illness.

All best wishes to Colonel Spud Murphy, Jock Russell and George Michie who have all been bed down for short periods and we hope to hear of their complete recoveries in the near future.

Mo de Mier paid a lightning visit in the New Year, one of his usual Hit and Run raids which lasted some eight days, including in the circuit Lickleyhead, Banks of Ury Hotel, RHQ, Northern Club, London, Zurich, Paris, St. Moritz and back to Mexico.



Lieutenant Colonel A. T. C. Brown being seen off from the Highland Brigade Depot.

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Francis Moir Byres has written from Perth, Australia. He is now running an Estate Agency or as he calls it, "the construction of home units" and business seems to be brisk.

Congratulations to Dick Burge on his promotion and appointment as MA in Bucharest. At present he is taking a course in the language appropriate to the country.

It will be seen from the Army List we have a far flung clutch of half Colonels stretching from Hong Kong to Wiltshire with Tony Brown guarding 2nd Base as GSO in Malta. Tony left the Depot in late January having been hauled out in traditional manner replete with large dram at the Barrack gate at 0945 hrs. (see picture) having tottered ashkenly to St. Lukes he was further despatched en route the Mediterranean. Brother Derek now commanding in Minden is seen occasionally with gun and waders at the Bi-Annual Council Meetings.

Territorially the 3rd Bn has disappeared under the axe leaving D (Gordon) Company 51st (H) Volunteers under command of Nigel Thornton-Kemsley and watched over by David Saunders the training officer at HQ in Perth the latter has sometimes been glimpsed flitting between Dingwall and London, a small part of the area covered by this Battalion.

George Slater, assisted by Mr. Cobb, presides over the Regimental Association and considerable help has been given to many ex-Gordons who have been to see them.

A link with the Regiment has been temporarily interrupted by the promotion of Sgt Norman Catto (2nd Bn) from Craiginches to Barlinnie, Glasgow. It is undoubtedly promotion but one would view this posting with a certain degree of foreboding.

A successful Piping and Bugling Competition was held by the Battalion in Germany. The onus of transporting the Judges from Aberdeenshire to Minden fell on RHQ. Eventually Pipe Majors Brown and Nicol were unearthed from the Royal Estates at Balmoral and in company with the Depot Pipe Major succeeded in arriving on and returning safely from the Continent.

Captain Peter Graham and family have returned from the Australian Staff College and are now with the 1st Battalion.

RSM Strachan in company with RQMS Cameron paid a short visit to the Headquarters in December. Both these Warrant Officers come from Banchoory and have just swapped duties at the Depot.

Congratulations to the wives of Robin Bruce and Kenneth Lumsden on the birth of sons.

The snow having temporarily departed from Aberdeen after five weeks, it is time to be out and about and off to the Printers to bargain on production costs which regrettably continue to rise.

STOP PRESS

Congratulations to Mrs. R. Kinghorn, wife of Captain R. Kinghorn, on the birth of a son.

OBITUARY NOTICES

COLONEL W. A. ASHER

Bill Asher, whom I knew for almost 60 years, came from a very well known and much respected Elgin family. Educated at Elgin Academy and at Aberdeen University where he graduated M.A. and won a soccer blue, he joined the University Company of the 4th Gordons as a private in 1914 and was later commissioned into the H.L.I. with whom he served on the Western Front. When the Army Educational Corps was formed at the end of the War, Asher who had, but for the Kaiser, intended to be a schoolmaster anyway, was offered and accepted a regular commission in the newly formed Corps and, after a short course, was posted as Education Officer to the 1st Bn, then stationed at Cromarty.

He was instantly accepted as one of us and throughout the years looked on with great esteem and affection by his many 1st Bn friends of those far-off days in Athlone, Catterick and Turkey. He was one of the very few officers who was really good enough to be a regular member of the Bn football team. As Colonel Hutchins writes from Australia:—

"I was very sorry to read about Bill Asher's death. It is a long time since I have seen him, and I do not just mean since we came out here. I can not remember seeing him since 39. I can still see Bill waddling along like a goose (too plump for a duck) at outside left for the Regimental Soccer Team, and, if he had not lost the ball en route, ending up with a perfect lobbing cross into the goalmouth. I always admired Geordie Foster's skill in feeding Bill and Stormont, always drawing them flat out—Bill slow and accurate, Stormont fast

and erratic. There will never be a Battalion like Charlie Ogston's lot, as the Prince of Wales once described us, again."

He was also a fine golfer and our No. 1 player in the Army of the Black Sea team championship which we won.

We "Old-Timers" will remember Bill Asher, his happy disposition, his wise counsel and great love of the Regiment. J.H.S.

DOUGLAS MAITLAND-MAKGILL-CRICHTON

Douglas Maitland-Makgill-Crichton's death at Monzie Castle, Crieff, last April has lost the Regiment a most loyal supporter and generous benefactor.

Although in a reserved occupation, he left his Estates of Largo and Monzie to join the Regiment at the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, as his father did at the commencement of The Great War. Some Gordons may still remember his father being killed in action whilst gallantly rallying his men after the 10th Gordons had captured Hill 70 at the Battle of Loos on September 25th 1915. Some 27 years later Douglas, as a relatively elderly subaltern, was wounded in similar circumstances in a forward Company of Gordons at the Battle of El Alamein. This wound was to trouble him for life and resulted in his spending the remainder of the War serving with Headquarters Special Forces whose units were operating in the enemy held Balkans.

He was endowed with natural officer qualities which men immediately recognised, and he was a very trusted and respected officer. It was typical of him that he never declared his forbears who were kinsmen of the Earls of Lauderdale and the Viscount Freudraught, nor that his Great Great



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Grandfather was ADC to Lord Wellesley and commanded the 30th Regiment at Waterloo.

He was a man of great charm and humanity whose first concern, whether while serving or on his Estates, was the wellbeing of his men and tenants. Any who sought his counsel — no matter how small for his consideration for he always gave his time freely — came away the wiser. The freedom and dignity of the individual were of paramount concern to him — "Crichton the Laird and Crichton the Piper" were of equal importance. He always measured opinions and judgments against a yardstick of intellectual integrity and the highest of principles. If anyone lived to the full the Winchester motto, "Manners Maketh Man" it was Douglas Crichton. Many have lost a unique friend. C.N.B.



The late Lieutenant Colonel Charles Reid, DSO, MA, CA.

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Reid died in London on Friday, 24th January 1969, aged 79.

Born in Aberdeen in 1889, the son of the late Walter Reid, LID, CA, FFA, Charles received his early education at Aberdeen Grammar School and later studied in France at the University of Grenoble. He graduated Master of Arts at the University of Aberdeen in 1909.

After further study in Aberdeen and London, he qualified as a chartered accountant.

In 1907 he joined the University Company of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, and was commissioned into the 4th Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders (TA) in 1909.

On 4th August 1914 the 4th Battalion was mobilised and in February 1915, Captain Charles Reid, second-in-command of "C" Company, embarked with his battalion for France, where they joined the 8th Brigade of the 3rd Division.

On 25th September, while commanding his Company at Hooge, he was severely wounded but rejoined his battalion in March 1916. At High Wood on the Somme in July he was again wounded.

After a short period at the Senior Officers School, Aldershot, he returned to France in July 1917 as second-in-command of the 8th/10th Gordons and was gazetted Acting Lieutenant Colonel, to command the battalion on 15th August.

He was given command of the 15th Division Musketry School in November but returned as second-in-command to Lord Dudley Gordon, now Marquis of Aberdeen, whom he succeeded in command of the 8th/10th Gordons in February and continued to command them until severely wounded at the Battle of Arras in April 1918.

With such a wonderful record of service, it was fitting that he should have been three times Mentioned in Despatches and granted an immediate award of the Distinguished Service Order.

No one who lacked his wonderful stamina, strong determination and physical courage could have come through such a prolonged and wearying war and survive to carry on in civilian life for so many years the practice of his profession.

After the war he returned to London and his profession as a Chartered Accountant, and for many years he was an active member of the Royal Company of Archers, the Queen's Bodyguard in Scotland.

During the second world war his only son was killed, serving in the Royal Air Force, and he himself commanded a London battalion of the Home Guard.

Colonel Charles Reid was an officer who not only worthily maintained, but added lustre to the fine traditions of the Regiment.

To his wife and two daughters we extend our deepest sympathy. A.L.

PRIVATE E. KELLY, MM

The death occurred in London, on Monday, 25th November 1968 of Mr. E. Kelly who served in the Regiment from 1908 to 1939.

"Tim Kelly" enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry in 1903 transferring to the Reserve in 1906. In 1908 he joined the Regiment and saw service in Egypt, East Indies, France, Belgium and Germany.

He was in possession of seven Good Conduct Badges. His decorations included the Military Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, 1914 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Silver Jubilee Medal 1935, and the Coronation Medal 1937.

A devoted servant of the Regiment, he was a martinet when training the football and boxing teams whose members benefited from his magic touch and cheery smile in victory or defeat.

Although most of his service was with the 2nd Battalion, it was in the 1st Battalion, then the home service battalion, that he finished his service. There will be many who will remember his "chairing out" of Talavera Barracks, Aldershot, on 21st April, 1939.

Tim is survived by his wife to whom we extend our deepest sympathy.

An Invitation:

Glenfiddich Malt Whisky is made today in almost exactly the way it was in 1887. The same pure Highland stream feeds the distillery. The same plump Scots barley is dried over the kiln fired by the same rich and aromatic peat. And Glenfiddich is one of the few whiskies still bottled at its own distillery. Glenfiddich is, in fact, that rarity—a 'Chateau-bottled' Scotch.

We think that you will be fascinated by the process, the buildings, the people—and the product. So when you are next in the North East of Scotland we would like you to come and see us. Just ring the distillery (Dufftown 373) and someone will meet you. If you can bring a few friends so much the better.



William Grant & Sons Ltd.

BACKWARD GLANCES

The Diary of Corporal H. Robertson, 1st Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, continues:—

September 1st

Quiet morning. Move off at 2.30 p.m. for Marzingarbe. Arrive 3.30 p.m. We are now in Brigade Reserve and are four miles behind the line. Nearest point Loos. Very quiet here. Fine day. Hear the guns once or twice during the whole day. Who said there was a war on. A change from the Somme. This is to be our winter quarters — but there was to be no war this winter. So we said last winter. Ah well—every day brings it 24 hours nearer its end. Bed at 10.0 p.m. Comfortable sleep in nice huts.

September 2nd

Fine day. Lay out on a field and dozed with Bramah all afternoon. Very still — can hear birds singing. Fine sound. Can hear distant rumble of guns from the Somme. Glad we are away.

September 3rd

Another beautiful day. Bramah and myself discover a nice wee spot on the fringe of a small wood with a wee burn trickling past. Get another two boys. Have a game at Bridge. Very pleasant. Later. Too hot—all go to sleep. Awakened by a "dud" anti-aircraft shell falling close by. The last thing we expected here. Just lets one see that you never know how and why and when and where you might get hit. No more. Must have been a stray one.

September 4th

Very hot to-day. Dose about all day. Vary the time by catching grasshoppers. Do the round of the estaminets in the village at night. Five in all. Fine light ale here. Very refreshing drink. There should be more of this stuff in Scotland and there would be less drunkenness. Very quaint wee place this. White walled and red tiled houses. Very pretty. An odd one or two in ruins—been nabbed by shells.

September 5th

Hot day. Very quiet and unevenful.

September 6th

Hot day. Wire in stating that Findlay has just Died of Wounds. Pity—remember him fine—so all my efforts on 18th July were unavailing. Oh well—daresay he wouldn't have lasted as long if I hadn't. Bridge—smoke—sleep—eat as usual.

September 7th

Bridge—smoke—sleep—eat as yesterday. Can see the reflections in the sky of the guns going at it down on the Somme.

September 8th

Very hot. For the trenches to-night. Still it will be all right—hear that it is only Trench Mortars we samole. All the same it is a Bavarian mob that are to be opposite us. And I have a healthy respect for them. They are much more determined than the Prussians — Pommeranians or Württembergers. The Saxons are the boys — fine quiet lot. Live and let live is their motto. **11.00 a.m.** Our new RSM just arrived — Bob Brock — very nice fellow — awfu' green — first time out. **2.0 p.m.** Move off to trenches along with Brock. To show him the ropes. Pass through the remains of Vermelles, and then up a communication trench three miles long. No wonder they can relieve in day-

light. Very deep trench about 10 feet. Very chalky soil. Very hot. Arrive eventually at front covered with white dust. Time 4.0 p.m. We are on the immediate left of Loos village. Very poor dug outs considering it is so quiet here. Previous regiments must have been lazy. Explain to Brock the mysteries of taking stock of trench stores — Verey pistols and lights — flares — rockets — latrine pails — stretchers — braziers — cans of water(?) gas alarm gongs, etc., etc., etc. Nose around then pinch a few things in order to rig up a decent bed. Get to bed at 11.0 p.m. we haven't had a shot so far.

September 9th

Very rudely awakened at 1.0 a.m. by heavy machine gun fire and Mills bombs. Discover that these bad Bavarians have made a raid in force. The dirty dogs — they must have known that we were just in and new to the district—so they took advantage. Discover that A and B Coys. on my right have been forced back into No. 3 Trench. C. Coy, directly in front, are still sticking it. D Coy. have been bent back without being broken like this.

Brock and I issued bombs by the dozen to C and B Coys. and despatched others to A and D with more. Things became pretty warm where I was. As we got enfiladed with bomb and MG fire from both sides. That's it. The Coy that stuck it best got hammered most. Things got into a mess as we were not too familiar with the ground. For about an hour it rained bombs and it was just a wee hell. Don't know how I missed it. My wee dug out got wrecked. Noticed it during the excitement. About 2.0 a.m. things suddenly stoped and the Bavarians scampered back to their own lines after having put the hems on us for an hour. Busily employed for the next two hours in helping to patch up wounded. Bramah and Brock untouched. Latter got a skiff on the cheek. Carted about 15 killed out of the road. The MO then appeared. He asked me if I was hit — as I was splattered a bit —however none of the gore was my own as I explained to him. Saw him take off a chap's leg. Done it very neatly considering the surroundings. Boiled some water for him and sterilized his instruments — same as I did on March 1st only on a smaller scale. Reminded him of it. He laughed and hoped we wouldn't get a shell in amongst us this time and undo all his work; still he said half of them that day were wounded prisoners. Make a fire and some tea with Brock. Chaff him about not having long to wait for his first experience, also mentioned that I noticed him flourishing his revolver rather rashly. He admitted it and laughed. **6.0 a.m.** Sun out — everything very quiet and peaceful — both sides licking their scratches. Have a look round. Things in a bit of a mess. All the trenches that the enemy occupied knocked in and the dug outs all blown in and all useful material destroyed. Saw about six dead Bavarians. They will have taken their wounded with them. We have lost 28 killed and about 50 wounded and seven missing — captured. Quite a good hour's work for them. Their raid was successful as we had no word of it at all and were told it was a very quiet part of the line. Just so. We have lost three Lewis guns also. **8.0 a.m.** Our artillery give them $\frac{1}{2}$ hour's hot bombardment. Can see their sandbags going up in the air, etc. Looking through

a periscope. We get about ten minutes' retaliation. Result two wounded. Rescue my pack from the debris of the dug out. Glad it wasn't smashed up. This little book was in it. **9.0 a.m.** All quiet again. One or two planes up on both sides. German gets hit about one mile behind our lines. Not fatally — engine trouble. He tries a long volplane for his own lines. Passes overhead only 500 feet up. We welcome him vigorously. Have about six shots at him myself. We set his machine on fire. It lands about 200 yards behind his own front line a mass of flame. It gets the usual five minutes hot from the artillery to finish it off. **10.30 a.m.** Watched a fight over the German lines between one of ours and three Germans. Our fellow makes a bolt for it but gets hit — tail of his machine blown off by anti-aircraft shell. Pity — as he had the heels of his pursuers. He comes down nose first with a rush — making for us. We scatter. He landed about 20 yards behind my late dug out — fairly shook the ground with his bump. We scatter further for German artillery will mark it. They do. **11.0 a.m.** All quiet once more. We have been having a warm time to-day and not dinner time yet. Have dinner about 1.0 p.m. Very warm. All quiet. Watch stretcher-bearers remove our killed down back for burial. Have a sleep until 4.0 p.m. Wash and shave. Have a look round. Have a good look at Loos-Lens-Le Bassee — and the Hohenzollern Redoubt. We hold just half of the latter. The papers said that we captured it — correct — but they never stated that we lost half of it subsequently. Can see all the places where we advanced about this time last year. The usual tale—no reinforcements in time — so lost two-thirds of the gained ground. **10.0 p.m.** Dark—so investigate the wrecked plane behind. Well smashed up — fish out the pilot — hardly recognisable — poor chap. **11.0 p.m.** To bed — can hear rumble of guns of the Somme — evidently pretty heavy "straffe" on.

September 10th

Have unbroken sleep this time. Very hot. Quiet and uneventful day. Heard faintly — two trench mortars. Must be union holiday to-day.

September 11th

Things still very quiet. Hot day. **3.0 p.m.** An application arrived asking for my services at GHQ 3d Echelon, Rouen. Good. CO sends for me and asks me if I want to go. Imagine. CO talks the usual eyewash about sorry to lose me, etc., but admits I'm due a change. Have a walk round the trenches for the last time I hope and take farewell of Bramah and all the boys. Leave at 8 p.m. with transport boys. Arrive in Loos. Have to cool my heels here for an hour waiting on transport returning. Have a walk round. Very battered. Have a prowl around the famous pit head and slag heap we heard so much about last year. **9.30 p.m.** Get into a wagon and off we go for Noeux Les Mines and safety. Doff my tin hat to Mr. German — they are tough fighters and worthy of respect. It makes me sick to read in our newspapers about the poor fighting spirit of the Germans or Huns as the papers have it. Just a wee bit previous — run into some Machine Gun fire half way down the road. It would be very hard lines to be "copped" now — after all this time and just when leaving for good (I hope). Transport drivers think ditto (for their own skins) and lash the horses to a gallop. We don't half shift. My inside just about knocked out

of me. Going round corners on two wheels. These transport drivers will kill me if the Germans don't. This is leaving the front in dashing style — right enough. Land safely into Noeux Les Mines about midnight. Nobody hit bar one horse slightly wounded. Sleep in a barn with Jim Park.

September 12th

Rise early. Get cleaned up and packed up. Leave at 1.0 p.m. in a limber for Bethune. Arrive 2.0 p.m. Fine big town. Get shelled occasionally with big stuff. Train leaves at 3.0 p.m. Change at St. Pol at 4.0 p.m. Have a walk round and have tea. Pretty place this. Leave at 6.0 p.m. for Abbeville. Awful journey. Go to sleep. Arrive 2.0 a.m. Get turned out—no directions—look around in the dark yourself. Usual Army method — when you are alone—unless you are a Major or above. They are very solicitous as to your welfare when you are going TO the front. Find out that my train doesn't leave until 10.0 p.m. Just 20 hours to wait. Army system again. Discover a canteen and have a feed. Prowl again—and discover a YMCA about 4.0 a.m. Get a bed. Sleep until 11.0 a.m. Get up — wash—shave—dinner. Have a walk round. Fine place this. Leave at 10.0 p.m. for Rouen.

September 13th

Have horrible sleep and horrible draughty journey. Cross the River Seine and arrive in Rouen at 8.0 a.m. feeling very dirty — sleepy and fed up. Find out that the office is in the centre of the town. On emerging from the station — feel dirtier than ever on seeing so many spick and span people with clean boots and collars. The Army boys have creases in their breeks and my kilt, tunic, etc. all covered with hard mud. Lots of lassies here. Haven't seen so many since I left London. Folk looking at me — guess they know where I've come from. Flee into the first barber's shop — get shave — shampoo and wash. Run against a bootblack. Fancy he isn't used to tackling boots like mine; or he would be doubling his charges. Report at GHQ at 9.0 a.m. Go through about 1000 yards of red tape. Get sent to No. 8 General Hospital to get disinfected. Go up in a tram — imagine a tram. Arrive. Get a bath and disinfected. New clothes dished out even to new bootlaces. They inform me I'll get my old togs back a week later after they have been washed and fumigated. Feel clean. Get back to GHQ. Get breeks dished out to me — bed (spring), blankets, etc., etc., dished out to me. Am staying with Sgt. Jones, our ORS in Rue Armand Carrel. Fine place. Great feeding. Tablecloth and everything laid out by waiters. Guess I won't quarrel with this. All Sgts. and above here. Have a walk round the town at night. Reminds me of Glasgow — only much gayer and lighter — they have bands playing here. No signs of war here. Plenty of music halls — theatres — an opera house and cinemas. Feel tired. Get back to mess. Have a couple of shandies. To bed.

September 14th

Two-course breakfast. Fine when you haven't got to prepare it. I appreciate this place. Introduced to Sgt. Cunningham, a Rothesay fellow. Arrangements made for attending opera next week and music hall to-night. Gee whiz! Imagine making arrangements a week ahead at the front. You would be an optimist. The office is a huge place. It is or was the Archbishop of Rouen's palace. Fountains and gardens all round. One can work in

decent surroundings. I am working in the room where Joan of Arc was tried. The spot where she was burned was pointed out to me. Our office is adjoining the Cathedral. Magnificent building reminds me of Amiens Cathedral. Had a half day off — simply by asking for it. Good idea. Wish at the front we could have gone to the CO and said,

"Please sir — I want a half holiday — I don't want to play war." Visit cathedral. Fine place. First class tea. Visit the Folies Bergères music hall at night. Very jolly. A revue. The crowds of civilians appeal to me. Fine to get away from the drab khaki. To bed at 1.0 a.m.

(To be concluded in next issue).

MUSEUM

Mrs. J. A. Dunn of Woodside Cottage, Craigellachie, presented a copy of the History of 6th Gordons by J. H. Stitt.

Mr. C. F. I. Neish of Tannadice, Forfar, presented some pre-1914 photographs of Officers of 1st Battalion.

General K. C. Davidson presented some maps and photographs of First World War.

Mr. A. D. Sutherland of Leigh-on-Sea presented his father's mementoes of service pre-1914.

Mrs. J. M. Morrison of Grantown-on-Spey presented her late husband's Regimental Badges, Belts, etc. He served with the 4th Gordons.

MEDALS

Sgt. W. Riddell: 1914 Star, 1914-18 G.S. Victory Medal, Defence Medal, 1939-45 Victory Medal Territorial Efficiency Medal (Mrs. Riddell).

Pte. John Nairn: 1914 Star, 1914-18 G.S. Victory Medal (Mr. George S. Nairn).

Cpl. M. McLaughlin: Roberts Star (Col. T. B. M. Lamb).

Major A. E. Ker: Victoria Cross, 1914-18 G.S., Victory Medal, King George V Jubilee, King George VI Coronation, Queen Elizabeth II Coronation (loaned by a Relative).

Pte. E. Kelly: Military Medal, 1914 Star 1914-18 G.S. Victory Medal, King George V Jubilee, King George VI Coronation, L.S.G.C. (Mrs. Kelly).

Pte. D. B. Thomson: Military Medal (Mr. H. Thomson).

EDITORIAL NOTICES

TUZLA CLUB

The Annual Dinner of the Tuzla Club took place at Boodles on 4th November.

EDINBURGH DINNER 1969

A highly successful Reunion Dinner was held in the North British Hotel on 21st February, the eve of the Irish International. The following attended:—

Brigadier: The Lord Balerno.

Colonels: C. N. Barker, G. W. Bruce.

Lieutenant Colonels: P. W. Forbes of Corse, T. N. Johnston, J. R. Robertson-McIsaac, J. H. Stitt, D. Polson Hall, M. Robb A. Selbie, F. J. C. Moffat, H. Wright, G. R. Elsmie, H. I. Bradshaw, R. Bannerman.

Majors: M. H. O. Forbes, N. V. R. Simpson, R. Ogilvie, A. D. Spark, J. M. Gray, N. S. Thornton-Kemsley, G. Morrison, M. Dinwiddie, C. R. D'I. Kenworthy, H. H. Gardner, I. Fleming, D. Donald, W. Leslie.

Captains: J. R. D. Murray, A. N. Smith, M. A. Avery, H. M. Usher.

Lieutenants: T. Macrae, Sir Neil A. Ramsay, - Simmers.

Guests: Major G. M. Lawrence, N. Miller Esq., K. J. Peters, Esq., A. Whyte Esq., - Dickson, Esq., G. Crombie, Esq., P. Crombie.

REGIMENTAL DINNER CLUB

The Dinner will be held this year at the Hyde Park Hotel on 17th June.

ROYAL ARMY PAY CORPS MUSEUM

The RAPC Museum has now been established in its permanent home at Corps Headquarters, Worthy Down, Winchester, Hants.

There is an urgent need of suitable items to exhibit in order to do full justice to the Museum

and if anyone has any item of interest having a Corps flavour which they may not require, it will be most gratefully accepted.

Please address your letters/exhibits to:—

Captain J. L. James (Rtd.).

Corps Headquarters. RAPC.

Worthy Down,

Winchester, Hants.

Tel.: Winchester 5911 Ex 328.

HIGHLAND BRIGADE CLUB—CRICKET 1968

It is unfortunate that our games against the Household Brigade and the Grange C.C. both had to be abandoned, because of very heavy rain, without a ball being bowled. For the third year running we beat the Lowland Brigade. David Montgomery and Jeremy Dewhurst played two very good innings each, well supported by Malcolm Wolfe-Murray and Giles Le Maitre. Timothy Usher took eleven wickets during the match: his speed and Donald Callander's spin were too much for the Lowlanders in their second innings.

We played a new fixture this year against a touring side from Sussex called "The Grannies". This side visits different areas each tour and it is doubtful if this will be a regular fixture as for example they are going to Geneva for 1969. We sadly missed the bowling of Timothy Usher and poor Paul Sugden called upon against his will to bowl was hit in his one over for 21 runs — five fours and a one! Our reply to their large total was promising with some very rapid scoring from David Montgomery and Giles Le Maitre. However, after being 186 for four, we were all out for 204 in what was nearly the last over. A good game in which 456 runs in all were scored at an average rate of 91.1 an hour and 4.85 per over.

The production of the above statistics would be beyond your secretary but we have been very lucky indeed to have a really first-class scorer in Eric Hunter. Eric has been scoring for us for the last six years and his interest in our cricket is such that he has produced statistics and data covering the period from 1923 to 1968. This lists all those who have made a century, or bowled outstandingly, plus some batting and bowling averages as well as match results. Heading the batting averages is G. W. A. Alexander, followed by I. A. Robertson and A. O. L. Lithgow, whilst at the top of the bowling averages is A. J. H. Cassels, followed by K. Mac-kessack and N. M. Ritchie. The data produced by Eric Hunter will be of great interest to all past and present cricketers. It has been passed to the Club Secretary who I understand will be issuing copies to those whose names feature in it and are followers of our cricket fixtures.

Members of the Club are reminded that they are welcome spectators at all games. On the first evening, 18 July, of the game v. The Lowland Brigade, an informal cocktail party is held on the Ground — this year we are the hosts.

RESULTS 1968

28 June v. Household Brigade, at Burton Court, Chelsea.

Match abandoned without a ball being bowled.

18/19 July v. Lowland Brigade at Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh — Won by 105 runs.

Highland Brigade 242 for eight declared (Sir David Montgomery 45, J. H. Dewhurst 57, M. V. A. Wolfe-Murray 44 not out, C. S. Breslin five for 70) and 162 for one declared (Sir David Montgomery 62, J. H. Dewhurst 56 not out, G. H. Le Maitre 36 not out).

Lowland Brigade 212 (A. M. Thorburn 60, R. Maclean 43, T. G. Usher six for 67) and 87 (T. G. Usher five for 31, D. F. Callander, four for 22).

20 July v. The Grange C.C., at Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

Match abandoned without a ball being bowled.

5 August v. The Grannies (Sussex) C.C. at the Grange C.C. — Lost by 48 runs.

The Grannies 252 for seven declared (M. C. Bailey 88, I. Cranston 87, G. Graham three for 87).

Highland Brigade 204 (Sir David Montgomery 88, G. H. Le Maitre 65, C. Dean five for 54, T. F. Villiers-Smith four for 44).

FIXTURES 1969

25 June v. The Household Brigade, at Burton Court, Chelsea.

17/18 July v. The Lowland Brigade at Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh.

19 July v. The Grange C.C. at Raeburn Place, Edinburgh.

Would anyone wishing to play please contact Donald Callander, 25 Dublin Street, Edinburgh 1 (Office No. 031-556 6894/5. Home Tel. No. Haddington 3393).

GOLF

A pleasant week-end was spent at Gleneagles during the Highland Division and Brigade Meeting in October. As usual we did not win fame, but the turn out was encouraging.

The Highland Brigade Spring Meeting will be held at Muirfield on 14th, 15th and 16th May. Anyone wishing to play please contact George Elsmie at RHQ; so far 14 members have said they will play.

CURLING

The Regiment entered two rinks for the Highland Brigade Bonspiel in Edinburgh in February. Both rinks won their first round matches but were narrowly beaten in the semi-finals. The final was between two teams of Queen's Own Highlanders.

No. 1 Rink (all Colonels!)—Moffat, Barker, Bannerman, Robertson McIsaac.

No. 2 Rink (The Rest) — Shearer, Cantlie, Ross (Busty), Young.

MAJOR A. E. KER'S V.C.

By good luck and due to the excellent hospitality dispensed at Corse, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Forbes found out the whereabouts of the Ker V.C. Relatives of the late Major Ker very generously lent the V.C. and other medals to the Regimental Museum on long-term loan. This means that we now have seven of our V.C.s in the Museum.

The citation for Lieutenant A. E. Ker in the "London Gazette" of 4th September 1919 reads:—

LIEUTENANT ALLAN EBENEZER KER

"Allan Ebenezer Ker, Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion, Gordon Highlanders. For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. On the 21st March 1918, near St. Quentin, after a heavy bombardment the enemy penetrated our line and the flank of the 61st Division became exposed. Lieut. Ker, with one Vickers gun, succeeded in engaging the enemy's infantry, approaching under cover of dead ground, and held up the attack, inflicting many casualties. He then sent back word to his Battalion Headquarters that he had determined to stop with his Serceant and several men who had been badly wounded, and fight until a counter-attack could be launched to relieve him. Just as ammunition failed, his party was attacked from behind with bombs, machine guns and the bayonet. Several bayonet attacks were delivered, but each time they were repulsed by Lieut. Ker and his companions with their revolvers, the Vickers gun having by this time been destroyed. The wounded were collected into a small shelter, and it was decided to defend them to the last and hold the enemy as long as possible. In one of the many hand-to-hand encounters a German rifle and bayonet and a small supply of ammunition was secured, and subsequently used with good effect against the enemy. Although Lieut. Ker was very exhausted from want of food and gas poisoning, and from the supreme exertions he had made during ten hours of the most severe bombardment, fighting and attending to the wounded, he refused to surrender until all his ammunition was exhausted and his position was rushed by a large number of the enemy. His behaviour during the day was absolutely cool and fearless, and by his determination he was materially instrumental in engaging and holding up for three hours more than 500 of the enemy."



Medals of the late Major A. E. Ker, VC.

By courtesy of "The Press and Journal".

OFFICERS' LOCATIONS AS AT 1 MARCH, 1969

REGULAR OFFICERS

Rank, Initials, Name, Decorations and Present Location

Colonel E. E. TOMS, HQ United Kingdom Land Forces.
 Lieutenant Colonel R. W. SMITH, HQ Land Forces, Hong Kong.
 Lieutenant Colonel J. NEISH, Regular Commissions Board.
 Lieutenant Colonel I. C. S. MUNRO, HQ S.E. District.
 Lieutenant Colonel A. T. C. BROWN, HQ British Troops, Malta.
 Lieutenant Colonel A. J. C. RICHARDSON, Inspectorate of Armaments.
 Lieutenant Colonel R. C. B. CHANCELLOR, MBE, Trucial Oman Scouts.
 Lieutenant Colonel J. J. H. SIMPSON, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment.
 Lieutenant Colonel M. H. BURGE, Language Course M.O.D.
 Lieutenant Colonel D. H. W. BROWN, MC, Commanding 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Major M. A. C. STEPHEN, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Major R. A. NICKSON, MC, Far East Training Centre, Singapore.
 Major J. A. G. TINDALL, DAQMG (Quartering) 4 Division.
 Major I. McK. ROBERTSON, DAQMG (Qtg) HQ Scotland.
 Major J. T. D. DURBIN, MBE, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Major R. D. L. SMART, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Major D. G. B. SAUNDERS, HQ 3 Division.
 Major C. J. D. GORDON STEWARD, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Major E. F. GORDON, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Major W. D. R. WEST, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment.
 Major I. FLEMING, MA, 22 Cadets Training Team.
 A/Major P. W. GRAHAM, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain K. I. H. LUMSDEN, HQ Land Forces, Hong Kong.
 Captain R. G. D. BRUCE, S.C. Plans, 1 Brit. Corps.
 Captain N. F. M. OXLEY, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain A. N. McL. SCOTT, Staff College, Camberley.
 Captain T. H. G. DUKE, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain C. H. VAN DER NOOT, Ministry of Defence.

Captain R. S. FAWCUS, 13 Flt AAC.

Captain D. M. H. DU BOULAY, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain A. M. CUMMING, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain D. H. WHITE, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain G. H. PEEBLES, 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain R. C. I. ROBINSON, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain R. M. KINGHORN, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain J. R. URQUHART, Held Strength Scottish Infantry Depot (Bridge of Don).
 Lieutenant R. D. ORD, Army Aviation Centre, Salisbury, Wilts.
 Lieutenant M. N. B. N. ROSS, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Lieutenant A. W. DUNCAN, 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders.
 Lieutenant M. P. TAITT, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Lieutenant F. D. H. IRVINE, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Lieutenant A. I. O. FORBES, Oxford University.
 Lieutenant A. I. G. KENNEDY, Scottish Infantry Depot (Bridge of Don).
 Lieutenant A. W. DUNCAN, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
 2/Lieutenant I. D. S. FORSYTH, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Captain R. E. B. C. GIBSON, Desert Regiment Sultans Armed Forces.
 Major M. L. DUNBAR, MBE G2 (Air) Canadian Force Base, Manitoba.
 Lieutenant Colonel (QM) R. B. WILKINSON, MBE, HQ, BAE SHAPE.

SHORT SERVICE AND EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS

Major G. DUNCAN, ACIO Glasgow.
 2/Lieutenant A. D. P. ROSS, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 2/Lieutenant C. E. PRICE, 82 Army Youth Team.
 2/Lieutenant I. F. STEWART, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 2/Lieutenant B. R. PATERSON, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Lieutenant (QM) R. S. HAY, BEM, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.
 Lieutenant (QM) C. D. THEW, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders.

GAZETTE

REGULAR ARMY

2nd Lt A. W. Duncan (479794) to be Lt, 9th October 1968.

Lt Col I. C. S. Munro (162677) is appointed to the Special List, 4th October 1968.

Capt I. Fleming (459458) to be Maj, 30th June 1968, with precedence next below D. F. MacLaughlan (445915), QOHldrs.

Lt J. R. Urquhart (472639) to be Capt, 21st December 1968, without pay and allowances.

Maj J. D. S. Young (371893) retires on retired pay, 7th January 1969.

The undermentioned Majors to be Lt Cols, 31st December 1968, with an Ante-Date of Seniority to 30th June 1968:

M. H. Burge (315252).

D. H. W. Brown, MC (364119).

2nd Lt I. D. S. Forsyth (484093) to be Lt, 28th January 1969.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—3 GORDONS

Class III

Capt A. T. Bruce (474952) from T & AVR, Category III, to be Capt, 1st November 1968.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—LONDON

YEOMANRY AND TERRITORIALS

Class IV

Lt Col A. F. Niekirk, TD (374854) from T & AVR, Category III, to be Lt Col, 31st October 1968.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

2nd Lt E. Harvie-Watt (480508) (on probation) resigns his commn, 1st April 1967.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE—

3 GORDONS

Category III

Lt J. K. Fowlie (480109) resigns his commn, 1st October 1968.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE—

3 GORDONS

Category IV

Capt S. J. McGrath (287499) from TA, Gordon, to be Capt, 1st April 1967, with seniority, 22nd June 1962.

SCOTTISH NORTH EASTERN AREA ARMY CADET FORCE

The undermentioned officers are granted A/rank wef 1 January 1969.

To be A/Maj:

Lt (A/Capt) W. J. Chalmers (477023) Gen List (T & AVR).

Lt (A/Capt) W. S. Diack (420169) Gen List (T & AVR).

Lt (A/Capt) J. Wallace (389998) Gen List (T & AVR).

To be A/Capt:

Lt W. Allan (471117) Gen List (T & AVR).

Lt P. Dawson (473282) Gen List (T & AVR).

The undermentioned officer assumed his appointment wef 1 October 1968:

Lt (A/Lt Col) J. H. Moonie (384525) Gen List (T & AVR).

The undermentioned officer relinquished his appointment wef 1 October 1968:

Lt. (A/Lt Col) A. W. MacDonald (278236) Gen List (T & AVR).

1ST BATTALION

EDITORIAL

Having edited the multitude of contributions which have been sent in by companies, and indeed by many other individuals, it is intended only to fill in the gaps of what has happened in the past six months before going on to say something of the future.

The last notes were written somewhat hurriedly, as the Battalion departed for Soltau Training Area for a period of Brigade Training. This period was highly successful and showed clearly that the standard of efficiency within the battalion had increased considerably since the same period the previous year. There was an air of expertise and self confidence in the way that all ranks got to grips with the many problems which were thrust upon us. The same could indeed be said of our next exercise in which the battalion had, under its direct command, armour, reconnaissance, artillery and logistic units of other NATO countries. This exercise with our American and French allies was bound to be a communications nightmare, and yet, because of joint training before the exercise proper, the co-operation of our allies, and last but not least, the high standard of professionalism shown by the signallers communications worked extremely well. It was in fact a thundering good exercise.

After a few weeks comparative peace, the battalion deployed for the Divisional Exercise (Eternal Triangle). This lasted for five, hectic, twenty-five hour days. It was excellent training value and a good finale to the exercise season. It is worthy of note that the battalion completed the exercise and returned to barracks with all its vehicles and equipment in a thoroughly battleworthy condition—alas somewhat dirty!!

It is always sad when farewells have to be made, but sadness was magnified on November 1st when Lt Col John Neish left the Battalion after three years of command in Borneo, Scotland and

Germany. We wish John and June, both of whom did so much for the Battalion, all the best for the future. Sad though we were at our loss, happy were we with our gain. Lt Col Derek Brown, MC, assumed command and received a very sincere welcome back by all of us who know him so well.

By sheer coincidence, the night of 1st November was the night picked for our first battalion venture into the realms of Anglo-German relations. We gave a "Musical Display" on the square and afterwards held an "All Ranks Dance" at which we entertained our German guests who came in their thousands. It was a first-class evening and a vast number of Jocks received invitations into German homes as a result. This event over, it was time for the Sergeants' Mess to hold their annual spectacular, the "Dargia" Ball, which was held on November 15th. This proved to be an excellent evening and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We were delighted to have the Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant General Sir George Gordon Lennox, KBE, CV, CVO, DSO, out for the event and pleased that he could spend a few days with us. Also present among the guests were Mr. Waterman, as young an old boy as ever, and Colour Sergeant Dougie Thow who was attending his last Dargia as a serving soldier; it was wonderful to have them with us.

Only the two social events interrupted a four week period of preparation for both the Unit Equipment and Fitness for Roll Inspections. Long hours of work were, however, amply rewarded as both reports were highly complimentary. With the inspections over by early December, we were able to prepare for the mass of dances, socials, etc., scheduled for a somewhat elastic Festive Season.

January and February were taken up in running a mass of cadres for NCOs, "A" and "B" vehicle drivers, signallers, and also the training of NCOs in NBC Warfare. The so called quiet season was remarkably hectic.

But now to the future. 1969 is going to be packed with activity. Range firing at Sennelager for three weeks from mid March is to be followed by flotation training on the River Weser and elsewhere. The Drums and Pipes, with twenty dancers, will in the meantime be living in luxury in Rome where they will be taking part in the filming of an epic production on the Battle of Waterloo.

Late in April we will be delighted to have with us The London Scottish Company of the 51st Highland Volunteers undergoing their annual 14 days training. They will come with us to the Soltau Training Area for a week's Field Training at the beginning of May. Later that month we are to take part in Exercise Lorelei, which will last for two weeks and is designed to practise the battalion in the crossing of water obstacles.

In June, A Company go to Denmark for a fortnight — lucky chaps! The rest of us will be in Minden, although Support Company will lose a specialist platoon at a time attending the various Support Weapons Concentrations. July will see D Company off to Vogelsang to train with The Royal Scots Greys and then, early in August, the battalion moves to the South of France (Larzac) for a fortnight's training — oh, what bliss!

On return from Larzac, we enter into the BAOR Exercise Season and life will be more than full until the end of October. The only group to "miss" this entertaining period will be the Drums and Pipes, having recovered from their Rome "jolly", will be over in America taking part in a Military Tattoo.

In November we will once again be preparing for the usual round of inspections, but B Company, we hope, will manage to squeeze in a period of training in Norway before returning to clean skeletons out of cupboards.

During the whole year other activities will rage about us. Recruiting visits will be made to the Regimental Area in May and September, sport in all its forms will go on with great gusto, range classifications will progress and there will be the usual number of signals exercises. No, life is never dull.

Before closing, mention must be made of those who have visited the Battalion. Pride of place must go to Lt Col Paul Cameron, commanding The 48th Highlanders of Canada, who visited us during Soltau Training in August. It was wonderful to have him with us but such a pity that we were not able to entertain him more royally and for a longer period. Others who have visited are the VCGS, Lt General Sir G. R. Desmond Fitzpatrick, KCB DSO, MBE, MC, Lt General Sir William and Lady Turner, and the Rev. D. H. Whitfield, QHC, MA, BD, PIB, who many will remember preached rousing sermons to the battalion when stationed at Redford in 1954-55. We were also glad to have with us, on a training attachment, Captain Mohamed of the Royal Brunei Regiment; he really was a staunch Gordon Highlander and we feel sure made many friends in the Regiment.

And now to the "Notes".

OFFICERS' MESS NOTES

There have been a fair number of social occasions during the past six months. At Sennelager on the 21st November a cocktail party was given in the Training Centre Mess. A large number of guests were present including representatives from



Farewell to Arms. WO1 Leslie Dunn is "chaired out" by members of the Sergeants' Mess.

the 3rd Bn, 33rd Armour Regiment U.S. Army, the 23rd Engr. Bn. U.S. Army and 1st Bty. 8th Mauve Arty. Regt., French Army.

On October 22nd Capt Peebles, Lt and 2Lt Ross drove to Durham to witness Mr. R. S. Hunter-Blair getting married to Miss Jennifer Yorke.

Lt. A. I. O. Forbes spent his annual six weeks with the Battalion on vacation from Oxford. As three of these weeks were spent in France and two in Bavaria, we did not see much of him here in Minden, but he seemed in good heart.



Captain Gavin Peebles, Lieutenant John Grierson (R Sigs) and Captain Tobin Duke, picnic in Bavaria (before the snow!).

The Dargai Ball was held at the "Zur Grille," Minden. All officers were invited and most royally entertained. This hospitality was returned on December 22 when members of the Sergeants' Mess and their wives attended a Curry Lunch.

At the beginning of December Capt. Peebles disappeared to Bavaria taking Lt. Grierson and 2Lt. Ross with him. All reappeared eight weeks later, very sunburnt. It took a few days to persuade them to remove ski pants and to stop walking around in ski boots carrying ski sticks instead of canes.

We say good-bye to Lt. A. I. G. Kennedy to the Depot and 2Lt C. E. Price to 82 AYT. Captain Kinghorn is, at the moment, away playing the war game at Warminster and Lt. Taitt learning all about Anti Tank Guns at Netheravon. We hope to see them both again in March.

BIRTHS

Pte M. Morrison, son, Kevin Stanley, born at Rinteln, on 29 July 1968.
 Pte R. Clark, daughter, Michele, born at Canterbury, 25 July 1968.
 Pte R. Walker, son, Ronald, born at Keith, 25 November 1967.
 Pte M. Baillie, daughter, Valerie, born at Rinteln, on 14 July 1968.
 Sgt G. Paterson, son, Gordon James John, born at Rinteln, on 28 July 1968.
 L/Cpl R. Murphy, son, Colin David, born at Stirling, on 11 February 1967.
 L/Cpl M. Merchant, son, Andrew, born at Rinteln, on 8 September 1968.
 WO1 L. Dunn, BEM, son, Andrew Gordon, born at Rinteln, on 24 September 1968.
 Pte A. Marjoribanks, son, Allan Douglas Gordon, born at Rinteln, on 23 September 1968.
 L/Cpl R. Marsh, daughter, Dawn Marie, born at Rinteln, on 21 September 1968.
 Pte J. MacDiarmid, son, Julian John, born at Rinteln, on 8 September 1968.
 Pte F. McClory, son, Francis Joseph, born at Southend, on 22 September 1968.
 Pte G. Simpson, twin sons, Brian Jaffray and Raymond Alexander, born at Rinteln, on 22 September, 1968.
 L/Cpl I. Stewart, son, Craig Innes, born at Rinteln, on 7 October 1968.
 L/Cpl D. Nibloe, son, Martin, born at Rinteln, on 23 October 1968.
 Sgt. W. Murdoch, son, Steven John, born at Aberdeen, on 5 May 1968.
 Pte J. Baillie, son, John, born at Aberdeen, on 6 September 1968.
 L/Cpl B. Edwards, daughter, Amanda Jane, born at Rinteln, on 17 October 1968.
 Pte G. McInnes, daughter, Diana Elizabeth, born at Rinteln, on 5 November 1968.
 L/Cpl E. Murray, son, William Frederick, born at Rinteln, on 22 October 1968.
 L/Cpl C. Dent, son, Gordon Allan, born at Rinteln, on 14 November 1968.
 L/Cpl A. Murphy, son, Patrick Wilson, born at Rinteln, on 21 November 1968.
 L/Cpl P. Comiskey, daughter, Teresa Maria, born at Dunfermline, on 6 August, 1967; and daughter, Sharon Agnes, born at Rinteln, on 26 July 1968.
 Cpl S. Baillie, daughter, Lisa, born at Aberdeen, on 3 April 1968.
 Cpl G. Campbell, daughter, Irene, born at Rinteln, on 3 December, 1968.
 Cpl B. Duncan, son, Colin McGregor, born at Rinteln, on 4 November 1968.
 Cpl A. Murphy, son, Michael, born at Rinteln, on 15 August 1968.
 Cpl W. McWilliam, daughter, Rhona, born at Rinteln, on 5 September, 1968.
 Bdsm R. Begg, daughter, Suzanne Margaret, born at Edinburgh, on 3 December 1968.
 S/Sgt A. Anderson, daughter, Lindsay Mhairi, born at Rinteln, on 27 December 1968.
 Sgt D. Green, daughter, Sharon Louise, born at Rinteln, on December 1968.
 Cpl G. Reid, son, Michael Guy, born at Rinteln, on 1 January 1969.
 L/Cpl A. McIntyre, daughter, Elizabeth Ann, born at Stirling, on 13 April 1968.
 Pte W. Coullie, son, David Richard, born at Rinteln, on 13 December, 1968.

Pte L. Webster, daughter, Susan Ann, born at Rinteln, on 10 January 1969.
 Pte D. Bruce, daughter, Sonia Helen, born at Aberdeen, on 24 January 1969.
 Pte F. Robertson, daughter, Kim Elizabeth, born at Rinteln, on 7 January 1969.

DEATH

L/Cpl D. Nibloe, son, Martin, died at Rinteln, on 23 October 1968.

MARRIAGES

Pte W. Anderson—married Miss Adeline Mary Jassiman, at Botriphnie, on 3 August 1968.
 Pte J. Lannigan—married Miss Anne Coyle, at Renfrew, on 24 August 1968.
 L/Cpl J. McIntosh—married Miss Helen Ann Seivwright, at Aberdeen, on 7 September 1968.
 Pte J. Taylor—married Miss Jean Harvey Smith Mitchell, at Pontefract, on 12 October 1968.
 Pte I. Linden—married Miss Elizabeth Hamilton, at Girvan, on 19 October 1968.
 Pte N. Adam—married Miss Lorna Florence, at Inch, on 2 November 1968.
 Pte F. Foster—married Miss Jacqueline Helen Miller, at Aberdeen, on 7 November 1968.
 Cpl J. Boyle—married Miss Mara Mast, at Blantyre, on 16 November 1968.
 L/Cpl F. Reid—married Miss Isabella Anderson Beveridge, at Edinburgh, on 9 November 1968.
 L/Cpl C. Highet—married Miss Anne Isabella Barron, at Aberdeen, on 9 November 1968.
 L/Cpl D. Hunter—married Miss Janet Winton Bonthron, at Musselburgh, on 9 November 1968.
 Cpl J. Proctor—married Miss Margaret Coudie McReadie, at Glasgow, on 21 December 1968.
 Pte B. Cardno—married Miss Elizabeth Munro Appleton, at Aberdeen, on 21 December 1968.

WO's and SGTS' MESS

Not to deviate from the usual start of Mess Notes.

On departure our best wishes and good-byes to CSM Gordie Symon who has gone to Press Gang young lads at the ACIO Aberdeen. CSM Peter Cameron to take over some kind of fiddle at the Depot (they call it RQMS), CSgt Bert Buchan who will undoubtedly terrorise everyone on the Recruiting Staff, Sgt Tam Cossar to the QO Hldrs who are fortunate to have him for his last six months. Sgt Frank Cole to Harrogate to train (tame) the Junior Leaders, Sgt Lewis Tevendale who I am sure will astound the Depot lads with his science, CSgt Benny Boyd to the prison, as a warder (we think), Sgt Charlie Daubney to Civvy Street, Ole Reekie (Edinburgh). Last and by no means least, our pipe-smoking RSM Les Dunn who we are all sorry to loose to the big wide world. So to some we say, "See you later." and to others and their families, "Good-Bye and Good Luck!"

You would think with all those departures there would be no one left in the Mess, but of course we have our new arrivals and promotions.

Firstly "Welcome" to Sgt Jim Davidson, his wife Elizabeth and family, who reckons he's done his stint on recruiting, Sgt Andy Pattillo who said the Depot needs a break and to our new Dad, RSM Strachan, who brought along his wife Molly and kids to brighten the place up.

Congratulations to their promotion to Sgts Bill Murdoch, Jimmy Burns, Tom Winters and Ronnie Thorpe from Cpl, and CSgts Drummy Hall Cherrie Anderson and Jim Esson from Sgt.

Now that the prelims are done with we will see what has been going on in the Mess.

First and foremost, the "Ball of the Year"! "The Dargia!" As usual everyone excelled themselves on the organisation side. The Committee led by CSM Jim Hutton worked night and day to get things right. The Ball, held down in Minden at the "Grille," was indeed a glorious spectacle. With

our chief guests, the Colonel of the Regiment, Dougie Thow and of course our own Mr. Waterman, who is as spritely as ever. Our other guests included various local dignitaries, Bundeswehr from local units and USAF Master Sgts Bill Culpepper and Willie Wilson and wives, who travelled 400 miles by car from Grafenwohr.

The Christmas draw was its usual success with the ones who won something saying "It's much better this year" and the others who didn't saying "As usual it's a big fiddle."

We were invited along to the Officers' Mess for a curry lunch and drinks. We all promised not to talk "shop" but after ten minutes or so we were at it, "When we go to Soltau," etc. When we went for the curry lunch we discovered that you could curry so many different things so we all had a bit of this and a bit of that! A very nice get-together.

Hogmanay—Whatever can be said, or ever remembered, about the traditional visit to the Mess by the Officers and their wives, except that it's a great way to see in the New Year.

Jan. 3.—The Warrant Officers were invited by the living-in members for a dinner night.

Twos on the third
The dinner night
The livers in
Did us invite

With soup and steak
And veg as well
We ate so much
Our tums did swell

It then was heard
Or so it seems
"It's such a change
From toast and beans."

Cigars and Wine
And Champers too
Indeed it was
A wondrous Do!

The second phase
Of darts and crib
The weaker side
Would surely give

The snooker games
Were really proof
Some of us
Had a mis-spent youth

With just a glow
And not too tight
Thank you for
A real fine night.

Jan. 14th was the night that 26 Mess Members went to Osnabruck in a grand selection of mini buses. After a tour of the town looking for the correct barracks, thanks to our two guides in the front, namely the Bandmaster and the Chief Clerk, we finally arrived at the Devon and Dorset Mess. Here we were most warmly welcomed with a most magnificent dinner and, after a few drinks, we were whisked off to the Boxing. Good stirring bouts with a bit of blood and of course the victory. Back

again to the Mess for a buffet, where it was remarked, "Goodness, two steaks in one day." In fact, so good were our hosts they were prepared to put us all up for the night.

Jan. 18th saw us in the Mess for a Pyjama Night.

The atmosphere was there from the start, as, in the entrance of the Mess was Sgt Andy Pattillo in his bed complete with what goes under. He states that when he was a young (!) soldier, CB meant "Confined to Bed"! Sgt Nobby Clark turned up ready for bed complete with gownie, candle and night cap (Regimental I may add). "Sexy" CSgt Jim Moir with his kinky pyjamas, and RQMS Arthur Heffren with his frilly pants (just think somewhere someone is doing without).

Mrs. Mitchell was looking worried, no wonder! CSgt Ian Mitchell said he was ready for bed—he looked like Dr. Death. RSM and Mrs. Strachan won the prize for the Best Dressed Couple (I'm sure they go to bed like that).

Lots of spot prizes were won by both visitors and Mess Members. Then the music machine broke down. (I don't mean CSgt Bill Richardson who had played during the evening) but the record player. So after that it was "Gentlemen, take your partners for a song" (have you ever tried to dance and sing at the same time?) especially with Drummy Hall conducting, who, despite his musical background, missed out part of the Hockie Cockie. A note for the next Admin inspection, CSM John Dooley, Q Eddie Penman and Sgt Jonnie Carter should have their kit checked as it appears that they were deficient of pyjamas as they came in civvies.

Burns Supper, Friday, Jan. 24th.—If you have ever been to a Burns Supper it has never been as grand as this. Our guests, also judges for the Piping Competition, said they have never had such a good night, and I am sure Old Rabbie would have agreed with them.

CPLS CLUB

Presiding WOI—WOII J. Dryburgh.
PMC—Cpl R. Dryburgh.
Committee—Cpl J. Burns, Cpl J. Ross.
Treasurer—Cpl J. Dwyer.

The period since we last went to print has seen some very hectic times in the Cpls Mess.

To mark the completion of the training season we held a Social Evening on the 23rd November which was quite well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. To follow this success it was decided to hold a Tramps Ball on the 7th December. Once again this was very well attended and some of the "Tramps" looked better than in normal clothes. The winner of the best "Lady Tramp" was Mrs. Murphy, wife of Lcpl "Spud" Murphy, and the best "Male Tramp" went to Cpl "Bob" Murray without any hesitation as he was by far the "best dressed" for the occasion. There were a few outstanding performances but to save the blushes no names will be mentioned.

We had a fairly slack time for a couple of weeks whilst building up our strength for the Christmas Dance and Draw on the 21st December. This was strongly supported and a vote of thanks must go to the committee for the organisation and hard work put into it to make it such a roaring success. Unfortunately quite a lot of the prizes went outside the Mess.

To get everyone in the mood for Hogmanay we had a Free Night in the Mess, and by the looks of quite a "heep" of the members next day it was thoroughly enjoyed.

Between this we had a very enjoyable Games Night with visitors from the units in Minden and the Brigade Area.

To close, we wish Cpls "Tam" Winters and Jim Burns all the best on moving across the road to the other mess (WO's and Sgts') and welcome all those countless numbers who joined us.

HEADQUARTER COMPANY

Company Commander — Captain A. M. Cumming.
Company Sergeant Major—WOII J. Dryburgh.

Company Quartermaster Sergeant—CSgt P. Watt.
Company Clerk — Sgt R. Harrop.

I wonder if you have been to Heathrow Airport during re-decoration, when the Brain Drain is on and the Race Relations Bill is pending its third reading in Parliament. Those poor Customs people. It has never actually happened simultaneously, but Headquarter Company at the New Year could have been a good training ground for Her Majesty's Immigration Control.

The present director of this operation is Captain Cumming, ably assisted by that four-footed glutton, "Hamish," the Gay Gordon. He — no, not the dog — has released Major West for the soft living of Brunei and we wish Sunray Sniffer the best of luck. Not content with our key change over, they've relieved the shop steward too. WOII Dryburgh has arrived with his football rattle and a voice to match and CSM Symon has gone off to chase the living daylight out of potential recruits in Aberdeen.

The Exercise Season drew to a close in October with the premature end of Ex Eternal Triangle. Administrative pandemonium ensued until mid-December.

AKC Courses drifted in and out, almost everyone went on leave, or absent, or ski-ing, or on a course, or somewhere, and just as they trickled back, the Painters and Decorators moved in. McPherson took orders, the Company Commander issued the G1098, the Sergeant Major became the bedding storeman and we all had a grand time trying to keep up with our offices.

Things are coming back to normal and the place will look beautiful. But just you wait when the Strip Lighting firm move in and undo it all.

To keep track of all this movement our computer man is Sgt Harrop, who, it is heard, signed a letter with his chanter and blew his quill at the Piping Competition and pleaded pressure of work! Well, that may be so, his right hand man is Dixon which explains a lot of things. Dixon and Ritchie (of the fallen arches) cover about eight miles a day with inter-departmental memoranda and are asking if this excuses them from BE Tests.

Our spokesman from the shop floor is McPherson 58 who keeps his store, and among others, the Welfare and Messing Meeting Chairmen, on their toes. Clarke, our erstwhile Novices Boxer, says he's going to set up a Dhobi Wallah's in Civvy Street and go into a nice little racket on Government Surplus Stores. The man with the blind eye, but at least with ACE 1 behind him is CSgt Watt who moves to the Families Office as a WOII in a few weeks' time. Sgt Wilson, ex Sgts' Mess Caterer and ex HQ Coy MT Section, will be

moving in to take his place for the Exercise Season.

Mention must be made of the worthies who have recently left us, but who had a brief sojourn in the office before release. Cpl Hall, a long to be remembered figure, went off in November as a Sgt to the Sennelager Village Constabulary. Sgt Cossar has gone to 1 QO Hldrs for his last six months in Edinburgh. Sgt Daubney and Cpl Scratcher on release and, by purchase, Daniel of the Arms Den, Pte Clarke leaves in April on regular release. As a result we are sadly the losers and a little bit thin on the ground.

It may be that in the next issue there will have been one or two more changes. There's never a rut in Headquarter Company.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Quartermaster — Lt (QM) R. S. Hay, BEM.
Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant—WOII A. Heffren.

Master Tailor — SSgt A. Dack, RAOC.

G 1098 Stores — CSgt J. Moir.

Accommodation Sgt — Sgt W. Clark.

Pioneer Sgt — Sgt H. McConnell.

One feels that an awful lot of water has flowed under the bridge since our last notes were submitted. A review of the last six months suggests that a busy period has been surmounted, not least the Administrative Inspection in December which resulted in a really good Annual Report reflecting credit on the Quartermaster's Department.

More recently we have had our Stocktaking Board and we are now in the process of tying up loose ends with the change-over to the new simplified accounting system.

Several members of the staff have completed courses recently and we congratulate Lcpl George Lemon on obtaining the grade B1 Clerk, and Pte Mick Park, now a Bill Carpenter and Joiner, and also Pte Ken McNeil on passing his Bill Equipment Repairers Course. ACE II and I Courses and examinations are being attempted and the results are awaited with great expectations.

During the Festive Season many of the staff caught up with a period of leave, some to the United Kingdom, while the married types languished locally supping tax free whisky.

The Club continues to provide ale for drouthy staff members but, due to the small numbers involved, the Club now opens only four nights a week. A Christmas Social was held in the Club at which the members and their good ladies had an enjoyable evening.

Thoughts are now in focus towards preparations for spring training and summer camps. The staff are now planning and organising with this in view.

SIGNAL PLATOON

Signals Officer — Capt D. M. H. Du Boulay.
Assistant Signals Officer—Lt J. A. Grierson, Royal Signals.

Signals SSgt — SSgt I. Mitchell.

Comms Sgt — Sgt R. Carter.

Radio Sgt — Sgt J. Grant.

A complete blackout of coherent communication existed between 31st Dec 1968 until about the 3rd Jan 1969. About the 4th of Jan normality returned, or at least what passes for it in the Signal Platoon.

Perhaps this is the time to recap some of the highlights of the last months of 1968. During Exercise Game Pie Sgt Grant and Lcpl Young lived and worked with the French gunners. Apparently they existed on bread, cheese and a cold 7lb. tin of processed peas washed down with red wine. Sgt Grant now has definite ideas on French cooking.

After a short break, and a change of frequencies, we departed on yet another exercise. The apparent aim of Exercise Eternal Triangle was to cross every river, stream, canal and ditch in Germany. The engineers became a little pushed and were unable to move fast enough for the CO. At the point when his temper with Holdfast was particularly vehement and he had had to walk five miles, the boss chose to inform him over the air, "You might be amused to hear that your vehicle cannot reach you because Holdfast is having trouble building a notional bridge." The reply was "They are obviously not holding and certainly not fast, good-night, out." So far as could be made out, Pte Cowie, his signaller, then commanded the Battle Group for the rest of the night.

The remainder of the year was spent with putting our house in order for the UEI and Admin inspections. During the latter, Lcpl Peter Pratt was congratulated by the Brigadier for being able to find something or other in his own store. Well done. Peter, let's hope he asks for the same thing next year. 1968 was rounded off with a successful Christmas dance, when the CSgt won all the prizes. Well, the treasurer must get his cut, mustn't he?

After we had tottered back from the New Year festivities we got down to work again. We have two cadres running, one for those that know nothing, and another for those that know nothing at all.

Cpl Adam, Smillie and Kellas will no doubt demonstrate their system of navigation using the moon in the map reading class. We are told it goes something like this, "Reference Moon, go right 300, I'm under the second brightest star." Is gold, frankincense or myrrh required for this system?

Almost all the married members of the platoon have had additions to their families with the exemption of the following:— Capt Du Boulay, CSgt Mitchell, Sgt Carter and Lcpl Reid.

Capt Du Boulay has been studying for promotion, the CSgt has been fiddling the bar accounts for audit, Sgt Carter has been on a drill course and Lcpl Reid only got married last month.

Congratulations to Lcpl Allan, Lcpl Reid and Pte Cowie on having passed their Standard I, and to Lcpl Knox who has passed his RSI and has since been promoted to full screw. Well done!

MT PLATOON

MTO — Lt (QM) C. D. Thew.

TQMS — TQMS J. Leggat.

MT Sgt — Sgt G. Garden.

FAMTO Sgt — Sgt A. Douglas.

Since the last issue of "Tiger and Sphinx" the remaining exercises went fairly smoothly and the MT managed to get back from them all under their own steam.

After the exercises had all finished it was time to get down to work and prepare for the CIV and Fitness for Role inspections. A tremendous amount of work was put in by all, including unpaid overtime. However, this was time well spent as was

borne out by the inspection reports. Since then the Platoon has carried on its normal duties together with range courses at Sennelager, etc.

We held our annual dance on the 14th December together with a Christmas Draw. It was a great success and was enjoyed by all including Major Smart and RSM Strachan who, together with their good ladies, we were honoured to have as our main guests. One of the platoon, namely Pte (Smash) Robertson decided to retire early though he could well have chosen his own bed instead of the dance hall to sleep in! The music for the evening was played by the "BFGs" (our LAD Group) who proved themselves very talented. It was noted that one of the oldest members of the platoon, namely the MTO, put some of the younger members to shame with his energetic display of dancing and twisting!

The New Year went with a bang but quite a few were notably absent, mainly on UK leave. Pte Lillie took on the guise of a hotel keeper going by the amount of people drinking or sleeping in and around the area of his house.

1969 has started quietly and we are now preparing once again for the rigours of Sennelager, Soltau and the many exercises scheduled for this year. With trips to France and possibly Denmark and Norway, some of the lads in the Platoon should travel far this year. Ptes "Alkie" Reid (replaced later by Pte Cattanach) and Clelland have been enjoying themselves at Oberjock, in Southern Germany, on driving duty with the Battalion skiing party.

Lcpl Skene and Pte Milne (28) have just finished a recruiting tour with the Battalion KAPE Team and are now enjoying some extended leave as a result. We only hope that their unbounded energy(?) will result in a steady flow of recruits from the Aberdeen area. Lcpl Skene was mildly surprised when before the tour started he was told by Lt Kennedy that he would be driving the trampoline. Lcpl Skene naturally told him that he didn't have a licence to drive it!

There have been quite a few changes since the last issue of these notes. "Alkie" Reid has decided to retire to civil life. Sgt Easson to B Coy as CQMS (Congratulations), Cpl McKnight to A Coy, Pte (Spray) Simpson to demob. Ptes Kilbride to Bde HQ (on loan), Greig to School of Inf. Netheravon, Morrison (01) to the Depot. To them all we wish success in their new jobs, both military and civil. Arrivals have been Sgt Douglas (FAMTO) and Ptes Spence, Walker and McPherson (MT Clerk). To them all we bid welcome and hope their stay with the Platoon will be a happy one. Sgt Garden has vacated the chair of office as MT FAMTO Sgt, and is now ruling the roost as MT Sgt.

Before closing, we would like to congratulate Cpls Rutherford and Penman and Lcpl Beveridge on their promotions; Pte Gall (03) on his marriage on 14th December; Sgt and Mrs. Garden on the birth of a daughter; Cpl and Mrs. McWilliam on the birth of a daughter; Pte Simpson (now demobbed) and Mrs. Simpson on the birth of twins; Cpl and Mrs. Rutherford on the birth of a son.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Intelligence Officer—Lt F. D. H. Irvine.
Intelligence Sgt — Sgt A. McMillan.

Having dealt with over 7,500 maps for Exercise Eternal Triangle, the Intelligence Section has had a quiet time during the winter months, most people finding time for leave.

Sgt McMillan has been away on an Intelligence Course at Ashford and we congratulate him on obtaining a "B" Grading.

Col Watt we congratulate on his promotion and on his passing an NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical for those who don't know) Course. Lcpl Henry has disappeared on leave and hasn't been seen for weeks. Pte McBrearty has spent the last few months with the Battalion Boxing Team and Pte Mailer is on an MT Cadre. Pte Smart is still wielding with great aplomb his box Brownie and flash gun.

The exercise season is looming up again but it can't be as bad as last year — or can it?

their recent Trade Test. This especially goes to Lcpl Norrie on achieving an "A" grading. Well done. Ally!

Lcpl Morrison is having a private battle with a Sergeant in the Military Band for top goal scorer in the hockey team. At the moment they are level pegging.

Pte "Bones" Rabone has just signed on for a further six years and is wondering if he will be chaired out of the gate like the "oldies" at present when he has completed 22 years. Well, "Bones," this scribe won't be there to see it.

Just before the Annual Administrative Inspection (which went very well) Lcpl "Dod" Bowman was seen under a pile of leave cards and warrants muttering, "Roll on the 28th December." That's the day he headed for the backwoods of Aberdeenshire.



Intelligence Section with Map for Exercise "Eternal Triangle".

During the exercise briefing the CO said:—"If you are about to be captured you must burn your map. If there is little time you must eat it or something!!"

BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM

Once again the time has come to put pen to paper and bring you up to date with the news from the Kremlin (callsign "NO").

Firstly we bid farewell to Sgt Jordan and family who left us in January for the wintry heights of the Scottish Infantry Depot (Bridge of Don). We wish them all the best in their new environment. Cpl "Jim" Ross has stepped into the vacant seat and at one time during the past month could be seen wandering round the Orderly Room muttering, "Part II Orders, traffic accidents, Courts martial, acting Chief Clerk, do they think I'm ambidextrous seven times over.

We must congratulate Lcpls "Hockey" Morrison and "Ally" Norrie on qualifying as BI Clerks on

Pte "Wullie" Coullie is to be congratulated on the new addition to his family. He also reckons that since he came into the Orderly Room he knows more about tea than Sir Walter Raleigh!

SSgt "Chiefy" Thurlow is still in the hot seat. He is quite happy at work as long as Mrs. Harper keeps a fridge full of cool cans of coke.

The painters are in at the moment, causing havoc. The Assistant Adjutant knows this only too well as he has been relegated to his new office in the corridor.

Miss Fildes still continues to add a touch of brightness to the Orderly Room. One wonders how the work gets done, with such a lovely bit of scenery around.

As a parting note I would like to say, "Roll on the exercise season, it might be a bit quieter."

PRESIDENT REGIMENTAL INSTITUTES AND UNIT FAMILIES OFFICE

PRI/UFO—Major M. A. C. Stephen.
Families — WOII J. Will.
Families (Designate)—WOII P. Watt.
PRI Office — Cpl J. F. Haldane.

These notes are beating the gun slightly. By the time they appear in print, CSM Will will undoubtedly be with "D" Company having been relieved by CSgt Watt, who will, of course, be promoted to the rank of WOII.

Thus continues the dizzy promotion race within our little, but very exclusive Empire. We wish WOII Will all the very best in his new appointment and welcome WOII Watt, and feel sure that his drawn face will relax a little after his long spell as CQMS in HQ Company.

We will also be losing Lcpl Robertson to civilian life, and, again by the time of publication, he will no doubt be wishing he was back. We wish him, however the very best of luck.

"Lightning" Melville will have returned after a month's leave, and, no doubt, glad to be back.

It is a fact that all those returning from leave in UK do so with broad grins of delight! Home postings are very definitely not received with a great deal of favour.

Cpl Haldane took a month's leave, and took on a wife at the same time. We wish them both happiness, and welcome Mrs. Haldane to our nominal roll!

High jinkies have been in order of late. Two children's Christmas Parties, the Jocks' New Year dinner and two All Ranks Dances have all been, more or less, successfully coped with. The dances in particular were "Nights to Remember"! We were inundated with Germans on both occasions, and the Regiment now is definitely part of the Westphalian scene!

In addition to our Leyland and Mercedes buses, we have been very kindly donated by the Nuffield Trust, a new Morris Mini Bus. The MT kindly, or rather, reluctantly donated one, Pte Fyvie to push it around. We welcome him to the Team.

Pte Gall has also joined us from the MT and is at the moment endeavouring to convince Dr. Artlingstall that he can perform an hysterectomy, this apparently being one of the qualifications required before a PSV licence can be issued.

We are now mid way through our BAOR tour and about to enter our third training season which promises to be an extremely busy one, that is for those who participate. This, of course, invariably raises a few peculiar problems which we, invariably, manage to resolve.

We are gathering strength as we go along, and our performance military and in the fields of skiing, hockey, boxing and football is a great improvement on last year. We could do with about fifteen rugger players, just to get us started!

On this "stirring" note we shall close these notes and run for cover!

close these
MAC SAKAI.

SUPPORT COMPANY

OC — Major E. F. Gordon.
CSM—WOII J. Dooley.
CQMS — SSgt. McDonald.
MT Sgt — Sgt Harman.
WT Sgt — Sgt Davidson.

February 1969 sees us all "leaping about." and the order of the day is "I.A.B.C.A." which, to the uninitiated means "It's all been changed AGAIN!"

Platoon notes give details of our varied activities, so I'll just pass the time of day! We had a thoroughly successful three days at Sennelager in December last, when we all fired, banged, and observed our various "airts" and then completed classification with the G.P.M.G.

Christmas and New Year (and January) saw many of the Company on leave — or recovering from it — and only now (early February) are we almost all back.

Our Company mini-bus should be on the road and earning money by the time this edition is out, and we will have welcomed much needed replacements to the Company. Pte Lannigan, who is now in the Company Office, will have his wife out here with him, and so will Pte Cardno, who finds it very difficult standing on the side-line as substitute watching others play soccer instead of taking part himself — one of the unfortunate by-products of getting married — leave!

Brian Tannerhill is keeping the Company's name in floodlights as centre forward of the Battalion 1st XI and Cpls Leslie and Cole and Ptes Cardno and O'Hara have all been playing in the Battalion's 2nd XI.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

Platoon Commander — Sgt D. Hossack.

At the time of these notes being penned, we are detached from the Battalion on an upgrading course with 37 Field Squadron, Royal Engineers, Osnabruck. It is hoped that on completion of this course we shall see in the Battalion a few more Jocks proudly wearing their cross-axes as proof that they are Specialists.

We would like to take this opportunity to say our farewells and welcomes to the following members of the Platoon:— Pte Deick has left us and gone to "B" Company, where it is hoped he will settle down and become a part of a very good Company. Lcpl Black has left us and gone next door to the Regimental Pioneers. This would probably be considered a fly move on our part, getting an Assault Pioneer in with the Regimentals, as this, we would hope, would make it easier for us to scrounge nails, paint, timber, etc. from the sacred domain of the Quartermaster. (Sorry, Hughie). We would like to bid welcome to Pte Anderson from "A" Company, and Pte Henderson (59), elder brother of Ronnie of 1st XI fame. Congratulations go to Pte Reid (92) on passing his medical course; it is a comfort to know that we now have our own resident consultant. Congratulations also to Lcpl and Mrs. Hubbard on the birth of a daughter.

Pte "Sword Edge" Wilkinson has returned from his long ski-ing holiday. He informs us his ski-ing has not improved but he can now fall like a professional.

Pte Crombie is at present doing his best to prove that he is a good highland dancer — sorry, dancer! He hopes that he will be picked to go with the dancing team to Rome. They intend to show the Romans how nimble of feet we Scots are.

In closing these notes, I would like to enter something that I do not think has been entered before — a Wanted Column.

Wanted

A kind Company Commander who is willing to have our very good friends, 2 Troop, 37 Field Sqn. R.E., on a working holiday for 10-14 days. The idea being to show them how we work in the field, and to learn a little about infantry tactics. What they lack in experience they would make up for in enthusiasm. This would go a long way in fostering good relations between our two units. Any takers please contact the sponsors:— Assault Pioneer Platoon.

RECCE PLATOON

Here we are again with another entry in the Autobiography of the Recce Platoon.

Back from "Eternal Triangle" with cuts and bruises, but nothing serious. Then the UEI came along and some personnel became ill or bedded down at home, etc. You know, the same old story! The UEI went past with the usual compliment to the Recce Platoon. The Admin followed just after this, and there were the usual kit checks, inspections, and the CSM (hang down your head, John) Dooley's drill parades, but everyone survived. On the day of the Admin., the Platoon were put out on a Signals Exercise and they wondered if they were unwanted after all their hard work beforehand. Ssh!

The middle of December saw Sgt "Mountain Goat" MacKenzie, Cpl Mathers, Lcpls Farmer, "Padre" Stewart, Danny "Legs" Rothney and "Corny" Winton, get "choppered" out from Minden and dropped 24 miles from Sennelager as the crow flies. From there they walked up and down hills and eventually reached the RV. They all roughed it out in the open, then next day went and fired their G.P.M.G. classifications just to show it's no sweat to some men in the Recce. But guess what — Yes, they got a lift back!

Then came the Festive Season — no, not the usual nightly or weekly performance, but Christmas and New Year. The married families showed their hospitality in putting up with all the single fellows, and so thank you very much to the "pads". The shame of it all was Brian "Spider" Knowles could not drink very well as his verookas, or something like that, were playing up!

The Recce Platoon wish to congratulate Capt Peebles and lady companion on a first class course. (Ski-ing — or is it the Scandinavian pronunciation?!) "Padre" Stewart wants to know what Capt Peebles has got that he hasn't. We think it must be the body.

Pte Lovie seems to have overdone the recruiting business, as 97 heard from afar that he was in a spot of female trouble, and sent him some free advice on family planning!

Mr. Nobby Clark 36 has handed in his kit and has gone to join his brother-in-law in the woods of the Scottish West Coast. As an older member of the platoon, he will be missed by all but we have given him a pair of DMS boots to take home to keep him company.

We have got Ferrets and Landrovers to replace our old APCs. From now on we'll have one APC, four Ferrets and three Landrovers. Lcpl Dent, Ptes Lannigan, Dent, Adam and Robertson have passed a Ferret cadre under Sgt Waters' instruction, and we're all waiting to go to Sennelager to fire the Browning.

Ptes Knowles and Hancock have been on an NCO's cadre, and have passed out well. We congratulate Lcpl Bob Mathers on his promotion to Corporal, but we're still waiting for our traditional beer! Lcpl Edwards had an addition to the family — a girl this time, and, oh yes, I nearly forgot, Lcpl "Padre" Stewart has also had an addition to the family, a boy. "It's all go — or come!"

We welcome Pte Adam from "A" Company, who suddenly decided to get married. Pte Maclean will be going home to get married in four weeks' time, and 97 has been buying boot polish for some reason or other.

P.S.—If anyone should see our Platoon Commander in his travels, ask him if he remembers us who have been left at the "sharp end".

MORTAR PLATOON

Platoon Commander—Lt. A. W. Duncan, Snr.

Platoon Sergeant — Sgt Fraser.

Our usual scribe has left us with one of his many chores, whilst he is off to conquer the slopes of Silberhutte. The exercise season started well with Battle Group Training at Soltau, emphasis was on river crossings. This immediately brings to mind the plight of one like 29 who was responsible for getting assault boats to a certain point, and unfortunately did not make it on time. Soltau can be a bit tricky in the dark to the best of trail blazers.

Exercise Game Pie was a very interesting experience, as we joined forces with both Americans and French. The voice procedure was rather difficult to begin with, and gave rise to moments of comedy, however this barrier was soon overcome and the experience was well worthwhile. The Platoon had difficulty in training leading up to the exercise, as every time we deployed on Staple Training Area Sunray's call sign, 1A and 4A would chase us to some far corner.

Our final exercise of the season was Eternal Triangle which kept us on the move and afforded us plenty of action, although we did find ourselves short of fuel and water at one stage. Molar call sign 4 came to our rescue, thus enabling us to complete the exercise, which ended three days early.

The UEI and Admin. inspections went well with no one being disgraced. As always, they are fine to look back on. We finished the year with a good old stonk at Sennelager in December, the call sign Byers being our Ace Air Fire Controller. The weather was rather bitter, but this was shadowed by the thought of returning to the end of year festivities.

We now look forward to the new year's training with great zest. Finally, congratulations to Lcpl McIntyre on his marriage, and to Cpls Fraser and Leslie on their engagements.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Platoon Sgt—Sgt Robb.

Sec. Sergeants—

Sgts O'Neill, James and Cpl Ward.

I think we will begin this issue with the usual hellos, farewells and congratulatory notes. Hello and welcome then to Ptes Munro and O'Hara, who are at present engaged in learning how to drive the "Mini-Tanks". Farewells go to our ex Platoon Commander, Lt Ross, Sen., who has moved up to the somewhat "cushy" life as Asst. Adj. Sgt Tevendale

has gone to annoy the members of the Depot Sergeants' Mess with his "corny" jokes, and Pte Ritchie left us for HQ Company. Congratulations are in order to Cpl "Barra" Cole on his recent marriage and his promotion, also to Lcpl Brian Cardno who also took the plunge. "Best of British" to them both.

Such a lot has happened since the last issue that I can only mention briefly one or two of the more recent adventures. The training season ended with Exercises Game Pie and Eternal Triangle, probably remembered as two of the most enjoyable schemes of the season.

Just to keep the Battalion in general and the Platoon in particular busy until next season, the "powers that be" sent down upon us the UEI and Admin inspection. The Platoon worked hard, and although one or two late nights were included in and a favourable report was had for both inspections.

Christmas and New Year afforded a few days relaxation, and I believe that "booze and birds" were aplenty. Quite a number of the Platoon were able to make the trip to UK for the festivities, but those who stayed behind enjoyed themselves as guests of the married men in the Battalion.

The month of January finds us leaping and jumping all over the sports field in preparation for the forthcoming inter-platoon Athletics to be held on 17th February.

We eagerly await the return of Cpl Ward from his course at Netheravon, where he is learning "all

about it" with Lt Mike Taitt, our new Platoon Commander.

"A" COMPANY

Company Commander — Major D. A. N. C. Miers.
 Second-in-Command — Captain D. W. White.
 CSM—WOII I. J. Collinson.
 CQMS—CSgt A. Anderson.
 MT Sgt—Sgt P. Robertson.
 MT Cpl — Cpl A. Ogg.
 Signals NCO — Cpl G. Reid.
 OC 1 Platoon — Lt A. W. Duncan.
 Platoon Sergeant — Sgt D. Green.
 OC 2 Platoon — 2Lt I. F. Stewart.
 Platoon Sergeant — Sgt W. Murdoch.

Since the Company Training at Haltern in July a lot of muddy water has flowed under the bridge. The Battle Group Training at Soltau went much the same as last year except that a certain amount of emphasis was put on River Crossings which added a great deal to the general interest.

During the quieter period between Soltau and Exercise "Game Pie" in September there were two main events, a border patrol and the departure of a composite platoon to Denmark with "D" Company. The company representatives on the border patrol were a formidable foursome and consisted of CSgt Anderson, Ptes Barron, McGruer and Sneddon. The aim of the patrol was to show the flag along the East/West border and the East Germans must surely have acquired a taste for, or a violent dislike of, the sound of the pipes since they were played until 2330 hours every night. Their



Live firing on the range with (l. to r.) Cpl Burnett (rear view), Pte Watson 93 and Cpl Ward.

eyes must also have been on stalks when the CSgt did a Highland Fling as a finale. The Denmark platoon joined "D" Company in order to lend a little tone to the occasion. It is not certain if they did, as nobody could give a precise account of what happened during that fortnight. The locals were apparently most hospitable in the true Danish fashion which probably accounted for the mental blank. Whispers have, however, been heard saying, "Don't let the wife hear about that bit," but of course, this could have referred to anything!



Pte "Nommy" Wiseman ready for a Patrol Race.

Exercise "Game Pie" was a very cosmopolitan affair and an interesting experience. The Americans and French thought we were "great stuff" which of course we knew, but they were most emphatic about it! Our allies' radio procedure was not very similar to ours and the Company Commander's nerves were strained to the uttermost with the Americans, who, when answering a radio call continually used the rather odd expression of "Shoot ma-an" in reply. Interpreters for the French radio procedure were in short supply, also the French composite rations consisted of bread and red wine which at times made the Jocks a little curious.

There was a blissful gap of six days between "Game Pie" and "Eternal Triangle", the main exercise of the year. During this period an enjoyable time was spent "Messing about on the River,"

as Josh McCrea would say, but, as the more experienced tacticians would say, practising river crossings with APCs. For this, special river crossing equipment was on trial and a good laugh was had watching other Company APCs being washed downstream by the strong Weser current. The laughing stopped abruptly when our company's turn came to "have a go". Exercise "Eternal Triangle" when the river crossing was eventually put into practice, went smoothly enough, although it was perhaps a little disappointing that bridges were used to cross the rivers and the APCs did not have to swim. The bridges, however, saved a lot of lives and valuable equipment! The exercise ended several days early due to the amount of damage done by tanks to the local crops.

After "Eternal Triangle" it was not a question of "put down tools and relax," but put one tool down and pick up another because the Unit Equipment Inspection had started to rear its ugly head. Paint was obtained by the gallon and brushes by the thousand as the Company got to work to make all the vehicles gleam. Sgt Robertson and Cpl Ogg were the great organisers and should be commended for a lot of hard work. Lcpl McIntosh accompanied all the vehicles into the inspection bay and chatted up all the examiners to great effect. All drivers should be congratulated for their efforts and especially Ptes Anderson, McPatrie, Gorman and McGeary whose vehicles were commended by the inspectors.

The annual Administrative Inspection took place during the second week of December and, prior to it was the usual bulling of floors and painting of everything in sight. "A" Company's task was easy in the end since it only had to be inspected in greatcoats and PT kit. The only amusing incident was in the case of Sgt Burns who followed the chain of high ranking inspectors around the Company with his mill-board taking notes. Every room was inspected separately and Sgt Burns in turn was inspected himself in each room by the Brigadier. While inspecting him for the eighth time the Brigadier said to Sgt Burns, "Haven't I seen you somewhere before?" Sgt Burns was much perturbed by the episode.

In the sporting field the main achievement in the past six months was the overwhelming victory of the Company in the Cross Country Running for the second consecutive year. Within the Company the runners were placed as follows:— Ptes Henderson, Paisley, Stark, Lcpl Stone, Ptes Gorman, Wood, Rae, Gillies, Parry and Lcpl Mitchell. All these were in the first 30 within the Battalion. A proud effort.

In the Novices' Boxing Competition the Company came second to "B" Company and the "dreaded" Sned and "Yogi" Brooks are to be congratulated on winning their respective weights.

The soccer has not been a great success this season due mainly to the depletion of the team as a result of inter-company postings. There are high hopes for next year though.

It may be a bit late, but the Company takes this opportunity of wishing all readers A Happy New Year. Unfortunately, with only two issues of "Tiger and Sphinx" per year, we are unable to send our wishes at the correct time. The Company had a Christmas Social which everybody enjoyed, but details of what happened that night should remain a closed book!

We bid a sad farewell to Major D. A. N. C. Miers and CSM P. Cameron who have both now left the Company, and wish them all the best in their new jobs. Major Miers is now DAQMG of 12 Brigade and CSM Cameron is at the Scottish Infantry Training Depot in Aberdeen. We also bid farewell to Sgt Burns who is now the Sgts' Mess Caterer, but we hope to see him back in the Company before long.

We also bid a sad farewell to:— Cpl Addison. Ptes Dickson, Moir, Cooper, Anderson and Allison, and to our Signal Detachment who have returned once more to HQ Company.

We welcome to the Company:— WOII Collinson, Sgt Murdoch, Cpls Proctor, McKnight, Stewart, Ptes Moore Gillies, Colligan, Alexander, Cowie, McGowan, Pirie, Wright, Donnelly, Nisbet and Porter.

Our congratulations to Lcol McIntosh, Pte Linden and Cpl Proctor on their recent marriages, and to Cpl Sutherland and Pte McIlroy on the births of a daughter and son respectively.

Our congratulations go out also to Sgt Anderson on his recent promotion to CSgt, and to Cpls Murdoch and Burns on their promotion to Sgt.

EXERCISE "ETERNAL TRIANGLE"

Before the Company's little sortie,
The cry goes up "Oh, whar's the Quartie?"
With Captain White his raspberry jam,
And oatmeal blocks for our boss man.

Old 2 Platoon with head held high,
Caught some men, from out the sky,
I Platoon eyes filled with hate,
Said all they did was slept and ate.

On and on through muck and "Mier",
Surely more than we require,
Through the wet and through the rain,
Oh so hard these soldiers train.

Duncan's lads would like to thank
A maniac who drove a tank
It very nearly cooked their goose,
Apologies! No, just black looks.

But let us not forget the "Moose",
Who stayed behind and cleaned the Hoose,
His animals now more than two,
"A" Company stores? A b zoo.

"B" COMPANY

Officer Commanding — Major C. J. D. Gordon-Steward.

Company Second-in-Command — Captain T. H. G. Duke.

Platoon Commander c/s 21 — 2Lt R. A. Phelps-Jones.

Platoon Commander c/s 22—2Lt B. R. Paterson, MA.

CQMS—SSgt J. Easson.

CSM—Sgt P. Charman.

Platoon Sergeant c/s 21—Sgt. G. Paterson.

Platoon Sergeant c/s 22—Sgt A. Pattillo.

MT Sergeant — Sgt W. Donald.

We left off our last notes in the midst of busy preparations for the major exercise of the year, the Divisional FTX Eternal Triangle.

We arrived in our concentration area in the driving rain and wind on the 7th October. The OC and 2 i/c had preceded us by a couple of days and had suitably installed themselves in the deepest, thickest and muddiest wood for miles around. Captain (Wellington) Duke, as is his wont, went for a walk in the woods on the first morning and was never seen again for seven days. It is rumoured that he went off to do an LO job at Brigade. It is conspicuous that when we returned to Minden he was there to meet us in civilian clothes. Captain (Circles) Cummings gave his services to the Company as 2 i/c in Captain Duke's absence.



2/Lt Brian Paterson—A day on the training area.

This was to have been our last exercise as part of the "Scots Greys" Battle Group. Last though it was, radio was used only in dire emergency when all other forms of communications had positively failed. To incur the wrath of the CO 1 Scots Greys on the Battle Group net is something to be experienced only once.

"Get off my - - - Net or I'll send you off the - - - Exercise!"

Sleep was hard come by on the exercise as we seemed to be on the move most of the time. Because of the damage to crops the exercise was cut short and a very tired and dirty Company returned to Minden on Saturday, 11th October.

Exercises over for the year, the novices' boxing was the next Company commitment. Once again it

was a resounding victory for us with 82 points. Our nearest rival with 58 points was "A" Company. Congratulations to 2Lt Phelps-Jones, REME, Pte "Bandy" Ballantyne and Pte Batteridge on winning their bouts in the finals.

Dargai Day was the next Regimental occasion. After a late reveille, "B" Company beat "D" Company YET AGAIN in an inter-Company football match by three goals to one. The P.R.I. laid on an excellent lunch to which married men were cordially invited. It was a Scale "X" acceptance, a sad reflection on the wives' cooking. The Boxing finals followed in the afternoon, and then a floodlit Retreat by both bands with most of Minden invited. The culmination of the day was the All Ranks Dance held in the evening. A grand day.

The annual administrative inspection was coming up fast. It was preceded by the annual UEI on the vehicles, and for days on end, the camp and garages were scenes of great activity. Much hard work and late evenings put in by drivers and crews, paid off and we received a very good inspection report. There was no rest, however, and we set to getting our house in order for the Admin. We passed the inspection with flying colours and our second year of hard and fruitful work in Minden passed by all too quickly.

Practically before the inspections were over, the 2 ic, OC c/s 21, Ptes Clark, Davidson, Forsyth, McKeown, MacDiarmid, Fotheringham and Lcpl Martin rushed to the mountains to find solace in the snow and hills of Bavaria. By all accounts there was no snow and they were too lazy to climb any mountains, but we heard the Gasthauses in Bavaria did a roaring trade.

Those of us who were not so fortunate to go off on a drinking holiday christened our new Company beer bar with a smoker on the 5th of December. It is a heartfelt plea that "B" Company officers learn some new party songs.

Our Company fund was raided for our annual Christmas Dance on the 17th of December in the WRVS Room. Drum Major Hall was our MC. We were very pleased to welcome Lt Col and Mrs. Brown, Major and Mrs. Elliot Major and Mrs. Stephen, Padre and Mrs. Lawson, Lt Thew and RSM and Mrs. Strachan as our guests. Our chief girl provider, 2Lt Paterson could only, however, produce three girls. He does insist, however, that he was PROMISED 25.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a tankard to CSM "Gordie" Skene on his leaving the Battalion on a posting to the 51st Highland Volunteers, London Scottish Company.

Christmas and New Year passed in a haze of bonhomie, even though the invasion of other people's homes had to be carried out on foot this year. This was except for Pte Thow who attempted to gate crash a Russian party by crossing the border two days after Christmas, but unfortunately they did not want him either.

The Company would like to welcome "Sam," a black Labrador, which was a present to OC c/s 22. They are inseparable and are often seen prowling around barracks together after dark.

The Company would also like to welcome the following personnel to the Company, 2Lt Phelps-Jones (REME) who is attached to us for a year, Sgt Pattillo, Cpl Mackie Lcpl Marsh, Cpl (Taffy) Hamilton, Ptes (434) Kennedy, Hepburn, Dieck,

Ritchie and McDade. We wish them all a happy stay in "B" Company.

The Company wish the following the best of luck on their departure from the Company:— 2Lt Price, CSM Skene, Colour (Hurricane) Buchane, Sg Riach, Cpl (Norrie) Donald, Cpl Isaac West, Ptes Chalkie White (ugh), Andy Parry, Podge Christie, Bradley, McKay and Weston.

We would like to congratulate Cpl Boyle and Lcpl (Mash) Hight on their marriages and Lcpls Galbraith (P7) and Rennie on their promotions.

"D" COMPANY

Officer Commanding—Major J. T. D. Durbin, MBE.
Company 2 ic — Captain R. M. Kinghorn.
Company Sergeant Major — WOII J. Hutton.
Company QM Sergeant — SSgt R. Greenhowe.
41 PI Commander — 2Lt I. D. S. Forsyth.
41 PI Sergeant — Sgt W. Pratt.
42 PI Commander — 2Lt A. D. P. Ross.
42 PI Sergeant — Sgt J. McDonald.
MT Sergeant — Sgt H. Gill.

These notes open with the Company, plus a Platoon from "A" Company under 2Lt. A. W. Duncan, setting off to Denmark. This was two weeks' liaison attachment to The Jutland Dragoons, a combined infantry/cavalry regiment based at Holstebro in the west of Denmark. Our particular hosts were the members of the 1st Recce Squadron, under the command of Major H. B. Neilson, who treated us admirably.

There was a lot to see and do in Denmark as for most of us, with the exception of Major Durbin, it was the first visit. We found the Danes extremely hospitable people whose frequent welcomes always seemed to involve a good many Carlsbergs!

However, it was not all sight-seeing and merry-making — we were involved in the Danish test exercise of the year in which we acted an enemy to our peacetime hosts. The exercise lasted for four days, raging backwards and forwards across Jutland. It was most enjoyable and interesting.

On the 20th September, having said good-byes in true Danish style and having secured a host of new friendships, the Company set off to Senne-lager for Exercise "Game Pie".

"Game Pie" was a week's exercise in which the Battalion was working together with an American armoured company, a French reconnaissance troop and a French battery of guns. For "D" Company the exercise took off to a bad (some say good) start as our FV 432s were lost by the railways somewhere between Denmark and Senne-lager and it was not until two days later that we got them back. Making allowance for the language barriers and different tactical views we were soon working well together.

And so we come to October, during which month we finished the training season with Exercise "External Triangle" the Divisional Exercise.

Before the start it was rumoured that if there was any more rain "External Triangle" would be cancelled — despite the abundance of praying and rain worshipping that went on, the Battalion left Minden for the concentration area on the 7th October as planned! As the exercise took two days to get under way the Company was fortunate that some well-disposed benefactor had made our concentration area just near an attractive little vil-

lage which sported a large welcoming pub! However, the exercise finally got under way and, for a week we hardly seemed to stop moving or manage to get any sleep.

We were fortunate in having Lt Malcolm Borthwick, from the London Scottish, attached to us for the duration of the exercise. He kept us all in high spirits and in fits of laughter for most of the time.

Worthy of note was the occasion when a German farmer was seen approaching a platoon position bearing a tray with coffee, cups and saucers and a bottle of schnapps for the hard pressed front line forces!

Also to be noted is Major Durbin's argument with a civilian car followed by a further argument with an Army Ferret scout car which resulted in his leg having to be encased in plaster for three months.

Because of the great cost of damage done by tanks (and some 432s) the exercise was cut short much to everyone's relief!

October also saw us into the Battalion Novice's Boxing Competition in which we found two finalists — 2Lt I. D. S. Forsyth at Light Middle and Pte Reid at Light Heavy. There was also the amusing spectacle, during the Bogan-Milligan fight, of Pte Milligan hurtling through the ropes, narrowly missing the judge!

The next obstacle for the Company was the annual Unit Equipment Inspection in the middle of November. A lot of hard work was put into the preparation for this inspection, the result of which was a glowing report. More notable still, commendations for the outstanding standard of their vehicles when offered for inspection go to Ptes Scott, Flynn, Taylor, Williamson and Lcpl Menhick.

Unfortunately we could not completely relax and congratulate ourselves for long as we had to buckle down and prepare for the annual Administration Inspection due on the 3rd December. This meant a lot more hard work involving numerous prior inspections in all orders of dress, with and without vehicles, in the gym and other places. Last year the Company was inspected on the square ready for war and complete with vehicles so we were reasonably confident that this time there would be an inspection of drill or PT or at least something different. We were wrong. "D" Company for the second year running was standing for a freezing 80 minutes on the square being inspected as for war! However, we had not omitted to prepare for this remote chance and we gained yet another good report.

The Company could now afford to relax a bit and concentrate on sport, leave, courses, etc. Talking of sport, we must congratulate Cpl Harding and Pte Breen on playing for the 1st XI Football team. Captain Kinghorn in the 2nd XI, Cpl Campbell in the Basketball team, Cpl Downie for coming fourth in the Divisional Cross Country (he might have done better had his false teeth not come out and so caused a slight delay!) and going forward to the BAOR finals, and Pte Oles for getting through to the quarter finals in the Army Boxing Cup. The Company's Football team, under the captaincy of Cpl Downie, is doing well — at the moment — and is in second place in the football league and hoping to come first.

On the 12th December we held our Christmas Dance — this was highly successful, despite the

last-minute absence of WRAC and QARANC guests; however, the wives were energetically employed as dancing partners while their husbands developed the Company smoker theme!



Burns Supper Night.

The haggis having been duly piped in is now killed with a sgian dubh, wielded by Sgt H. Gill.

On the 21st December, the famous "D" Company minibus with Lcpl Lawson at the wheel and eight others in the back set off for Aberdeen until after the New Year. It managed the round trip with no mishaps and the occupants had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

2Lt A. D. P. Ross, Lcpl Murray and Pte Robertson disappeared a week or two after the Administration inspection to spend approximately six weeks in Bavaria training for the Battalion ski team. Although this was hard work in the tourist centres of Bavaria, a most enjoyable time was had.

We say good-bye to Sgt Cole who left us for a new job at Harrogate where we wish him every success.

Congratulations to Sgt McDonald on his promotion after his course in Brecon, South Wales. He takes over as Platoon Sergeant of 42 Platoon.

Congratulations also to Lcpl Sutherland and Pte Jaffray on coming first and second respectively in the Junior NCO's Cadre, also to Cpl Campbell, Lcpl Farmer and Pte Robinson on their latest arrivals.

Finally, on 25th January, we sat down as a Company for Burns Supper, this again was successful and as the OC commented, "A remarkable evening."

Our sympathies go to Pte McGregor who was injured in an accident, but are pleased to see he is making a remarkably rapid recovery. We welcome Ptes Angus and Elsbury in to the Company, both of whom joined the 42 Platoon.

This brings us well into the New Year with people gradually seeping back glutted with good living from leave. The exercise season is now not far ahead — news of which will be in the next edition.

THE PIPES AND DRUMS

Pipe President—Major E. F. Gordon.

Drum Major—SSgt G. Hall.

Pipe Major — Sgt J. Kerr.

Company Pipers:

A Company—Piper A. Kelly.

B Company—Piper G. MacPherson.

D Company—Piper D. Davies.

Sp Company—Lcpl R. Henderson.

HQ Company—Cpl J. Jaffray.

Our last contribution left us still writhing in the coils of the Edinburgh Tattoo and looking back I find it hard to whip up any great enthusiasm about it. While realising the pleasure given to thousands of camera bestrewn Americans and their ilk, the general feeling of performers is that only a substantial jump in the Tattoo pay packet would help offset the monotony of long cold nights munching Edinburgh pies and sipping tepid NAAFI tea in some dark and windy crevice behind the Esplanade.

Upon our return from UK, half our number left immediately for Denmark to join "D" Company; they were able to join the rest of us at Senne-lager where we played "conkers" and beat Re-

trat in what I suppose was a prearranged Cease Fire in the conker war for cocktails.

I have always harboured suspicions concerning our designation, Drums and Pipes as opposed to Pipes and Drums. I am now firmly convinced that the custom evolved solely in order that when they bung us into the field we can still conveniently be referred to as DPs, our role being Defence Platoon, or, if vague mutterings I have heard concerning the Drummie's map readings are true, perhaps "Displaced Persons" would be a more apt description.

In October we spent a few days in Bad Segeburg along with the Military Band playing in a NATO musikschau. French, Dutch, Americans and Germans provided the other bands. We played for two evenings in Neumunster and the Grand Finale was an evening in Hamburg.

On the 1st of November we and the Military Band staged a "Gordon Spectacular" under floodlights on the barrack square. Half the German population of Minden seemed to be there and from all reports enjoyed the show just as much as the Battalion.

The "Admin" now loomed ahead and our next few weeks were spent hanging off the end of bumpers and folding "Drawers Pyjama Type" to the same size as "Vests PT Red". We also made good use of "Defenders Ear" pairs one, as the Drummie's and Pipe's stentorian tones reverberated along the gloomy corridor of Block Thirteen.



L/Cpl Ian Stuart, Piper George MacPherson and L/Cpl Stuart MacMillan with the children of a German family whilst "Ooo! fur a scoff"

With the Admin. safely circumnavigated, our next task was a little more pleasant, namely a dinner and dance which was a tremendous success. Credit for this goes to those who did so much work before it and to Major Gordon who paid all the bills after it. The following week the members of the Drums and Pipes packed their well-worn suitcases to proceed on their annual four weeks debauchery in the far flung outposts of "Auld Caledonia," not to mention the East End of Nottingham.

Stars of Record, Radio and now T.V. ("Pop" show, no less). On the 11th of January we arrived in Hannover TV Studios under the impression that we were to appear on TV as a playing band. Surprise, surprise! The Pipe spent ages tuning the pipe with the thought in mind that all the rest of the Pipe Bands in Germany would be looking in. We waited our turn for the "Spot" (TV profession jargon) and duly marched on to the set playing "Scotland the Brave". The producer went berserk screams of anguish came from the other performers and the Pipes and Drums faded into a deathly silence. A patient Chris Howland, the star of the show, explained that all we were required to do was . . . now wait for it . . . "Mark time"! So we marked time, thighs parallel to the ground, and a pop star named Dorthe sung about the men of Scotland . . . in Deutsch!

On the 24th and 25th of January we sponsored a Highland Gathering here in St. George's Barracks. Judges were invited from back home and Pipe Major Bob Brown, Pipe Major Bob Nicol (both fae Balmoral), Pipe Major Dennis Rodden fae the Depot, and CSgt Alan Cameron Morris fae The London Scottish, were guests of the Battalion for four days. Mighty me fit a time wis had . . . The Gordons lifted the majority of prizes, and Pipe Major Joe Kerr ended up with the medal for Champion Piper. Even the lads fae Nottingham won a couple of prizes. Piper Larkin won the novices'



The Commanding Officer presents the Royal Scottish Pipers Society Silver Star to Pipe Major Kerr, Champion Piper of the Highland Gathering.

pipin and Piper Selby came second. Well done, you chaps fae "Notty Ash"!

The night of the 25th was when we held a Ceilidh for all judges, competitors and guests. The "cratur" flowed like the proverbial mountain stream and the very successful proceedings were a grand finale to a splendid time.

Come the following week-end we were off to Bremen for yet another NATO Musikschau. We stayed in the Stadthalle in Bremen itself and had a very enjoyable time. There were Americans, French, Germans, Czechs, Yugoslavs. Talk about "The Bremen Gathering"!

In conclusion, I feel that we must mention our Nottingham contingent which continues to increase with promise, I use the word with misgivings of more to come. This is undoubtedly due to the Nottingham Cadet Force, which boasts a Pipe Band having a connection with the Regiment, though I've heard it's part of a diabolical plot to counteract the activities of the SNP. Personally I think that they are seeking a father figure in the benign countenance of Pipe Major Kerr, mistaking him for some latter day Friar Tuck!



Our friends frae back home . . . Pipe Major Bob Brown, Pipe Major Bob Nicol, Lt J. McLellan (Director of Army Piping) and Pipe Major Dennis Rodden.

MILITARY BAND

Band President — Major R. D. L. Smart.
Bandmaster — WO1 C. A. Harper.
Band Sergeant — SSgt J. Thomson.

Once again it is time to put pen to paper to convey to you, the reader, the Military Band news.

I should like to commence with the customary congratulations to,— Lcpls W. Chalmers, B. W. Little, J. Riddell, J. Schroder, J. Wilson and M. Garton on being promoted to Lance Corporal.

To Lcpl Steven Coventry and Lcpl Larry Riddell go our warmest congratulations on their respective marriages, and to Cpl Steven Gordon and Lcpl Bob Begg on the births of their son and daughter respectively.

We welcome BdsM Rex Burton, a re-enlistment from the R.C.T. Band and hope his stay will be an enjoyable one.

It is, however, with regret that I record the leaving of Sgt Bobby Owen, a most valued friend (and occasional enemy) of everyone here in the Band. Civvy Street will be all the richer for you, Bobby. He joined the Band as a Band Boy in the 2nd Battalion in 1944 which means he has given 25 years loyal service to the Band. All the best for the future, Bobby, Peggy and children. We'll all meet again some day.

After a few days back in Minden we set off once more to Denmark, this time to Svendborg where we were to play for Bjerne Haelps Dagen, a parade during which collections are taken from the onlookers on behalf of needy children. We were accommodated with families, which we all enjoyed immensely, Cpl Davy Greig and Lcpl Mike Henderson being "domiciled" with a teetotal music teacher and his family. They tell me the lack of liquid was amply compensated for by the performance of trios for Piano, Flute and Violin. Well done, boys!



NATO Bands, Neumunster.

Having missed the past two editions we find it impossible to record all engagements. However, here are but a few, in which we made many new friends and met many old ones.

We travelled to Esbjerg, Denmark, along with the Drums and Pipes, for the British Trade Week. The main part of the time was spent in marching through the town streets, showing the flag, etc. During our stay we were billeted with the Varde Artillereregimente of the Danish Army. The accommodation was quite good, but some of our members didn't see eye to eye with the food. We were looked after in Esbjerg by Mr. Aarne Aaroe and his staff of the Jubilaem Office and towards the end of our stay he declared to all and sundry that he was an "unofficial" member of the Gordon Highlanders. Most of us went on a trip to Fano Island just off the coast, and were given the opportunity of having first class swimming lessons under the auspices of SSgt Spud Thomson, but no one took advantage of the kind offer.

Yet again we had to leave Denmark for Minden and the Massed Band season at Osnabruck and Bielefeld. Then came another visit to Rheindahlen with Lcpl Bob Begg temporarily losing his car due to a technical fault, and Sgt Bobby Owen permanently losing his for the same reason.

We arrived back in Minden at 0100 hrs from Rheindahlen and at 0530 hrs on the same day we were en route to, yes, you've guessed it, Denmark again — Kolding. As in Svendborg we were accommodated with families. The reason we were there was to provide music during a pageant which depicted the 700 year history of Kolding.

Once again we left Denmark for Minden Massed Bands and then we went to Peterhagen for a Schutzenfest and came into contact with our old friend Geog Busse. Geog is a special friend of the Band and deserves mention as such. We are grateful for all he has done for us whilst we have been in Minden, so, on behalf of the Band, I can only say "Thanks" for everything.

Some of our Brass players, Sgt Bob Forsyth, Cpl Nellie Wallace, Cpl Davy Greig, Lcpl John Sproul, Lcpl Steven Coventry and BdsM Topper Brown were placed on record with the Mindener Kinderchoir and so earned their place in posterity. Lcpl Mike Henderson also managed to get in on that one with his flute and some German friends.

On the 29th of November the entire Band went to Bonn to play at the Bundespressball in the distinguished company of Chris Barber, Shirley Bassey, Heidi Bruhl, Werner Muller, as well as lots of other bands, groups and singers.

We played at the world famous Circuskrone in Munchen on Friday the 13th of December. True to form, this was a typical Friday the 13th, our bus breaking down just after Kassell. However, in spite of all drawbacks, we made it to Munchen and made the engagement with minutes to spare.

The high spot of December was undoubtedly our annual social which we held on the 18th, in the WVS Room, St. George's Barracks.

the Five Nations Show. On arrival there a harassed looking Lcpl "Ali" Rae was seen wandering round muttering, "Cymbals . . . Minden . . . Taxi . . . Help . . . !" However, after borrowing some from the German Band, he did his customary "smashing" job. Together with us on the show were performers from America, France, Belgium, Germany and Yugoslavia.

After the last performance there was a dance for everyone who had taken part in the show and a dance band was formed from somewhere consisting of a Belgian trumpeter, German clarinetist, American pianist and bassist, French trumpeter and British trombonist and drummer. Truly an "International" line-up!

FOOTBALL NOTES

What a splendid year this promises to be. Already the Divisional Cup is ours and we have yet to be defeated after having played no less than



Military Band, St. George's Barracks, 1968.

After the preliminary introductions, we commenced with the cabaret. This opened with a preview of our latest LP and demonstration by a selected bunch of musical idiots, namely "KRO" Paul Massie pedal clarinet, "Metogarden" Riddell, treble pedal clarinet, Herr "Buffalo" Lindie, trompete and sledge hammer, "Mig" J. Carton, trombone, rubber pipe and balloon, "Six Eyes" D. J. Simpson, tuba, two empty Amstel bottles and fire bucket, and "Frederious" Nero Smith, thumps, bangs and waltz. Trying to assemble that lot into some sort of order was Mr. R. H. Begg, who wielded (welded?) the baton admirably for the rendition of "Poet and Peasant." Our thanks go to Sgt A. McMillan of the I. Section for his seemingly inexhaustible patience in coping with vast numbers of tape recorders, mikes, wires and amplifiers.

After three weeks' leave in January we travelled, along with the Drums and Pipes, to Bremen for

twelve games. Alas, there is not enough space in this journal to bring you all the thrills that have been witnessed by the vast number who regularly turn up to support the team. We will, however, try to give you a picture of the team's progress to what could be a really exciting Army Cup year.

Preliminary Round

This was played at Wolfenbuttel on 23rd October against 5th Royal Tank Regiment. The pitch was not only sticky after considerable rain but had a distinct slope running from one side to the other. The team started with a furious attack on our opponents' goal but, possibly through over-eagerness, a number of excellent chances were missed. Gradually the standard of play improved and the 5 RTR goalkeeper was fully employed keeping out a series of scorching shots. In the 35th minute one of the opposition handled in the penalty area and Lcpl Stewart took the kick which

was saved. It was, however, palmed out to the kicker who made sure that his second attempt would go in — it did, and at half-time the score was 1-0 in our favour.

On resumption 5 RTR turned on considerable pressure, but Lcpl Mortimer in goal dealt most capably with everything that came his way. Then disaster, a penalty was awarded against us and the ball was belted into the net. The fat was now well and truly in the fire and, with both teams out for the winner, the atmosphere became electric. There were narrow escapes in both goalmouths, but they survived until the referee blew his whistle for full-time. Thirty minutes extra time had to be played to decide the tie. In the first fifteen minutes neither side could score, but it was most noticeable that the Jocks were lasting the pace far better than their opponents and, most important, they knew it and their confidence grew. Pte Tannerhill was brought on as substitute for Lcpl Cole who had injured his leg. Obviously keen to put his mark on the game, the former, almost with his first kick, had the ball in the net. Hardly were the cheers dying when Cpl Murray made it 3-1 and Lcpl Stewart added a fourth goal minutes from the end to leave no doubt as to who had won.

1st Round

On 23rd November we tackled the Sherwood Foresters on their pitch. The first half was played at a furious pace with both teams demonstrating that they were superbly fit. Despite some really skilful ball play and some stinging shots at both ends neither side managed to get a goal before the whistle was blown for half-time.

With the resumption of play it became evident that we were putting on considerable pressure and after fifteen minutes' play, Pte Breen, playing at centre-forward kicked a glorious goal from just outside the penalty area. Eight minutes later he celebrated his first goal by scoring another. Counter attacks followed but Cpl Bellis, our goalkeeper, brought off some unbelievable saves. Then, in the thirtieth minute, we were given a free kick and, despite a solid wall of defenders blocking the goalmouth, Lcpl Stewart chipped the ball in for goal number three. Now it was all Gordons and in the fading minutes of the game, Pte Alexander, who had played an excellent game, made the victory complete and undeniable.

2nd Round

Our first home match in the cup was played against 20 Heavy Regiment RA, on 15th January.

A snap goal by Pte Breen within seconds of the kick-off got us well and truly under way. Attack followed attack but in their anxiety to put the ball in the net, and some excellent saves by the Gunners' goalkeeper, the forwards missed a number of chances. Then it happened. A ball went loose to Cpl Harding, standing some 35 yards from goal. He hit it hard and true: a magnificent shot which had the net bulging. Half-time came with the score 2-0 in our favour.

On resumption it was obvious that a high score was on the cards. Playing beautiful open football the team stormed to the attack. Pte Alexander headed in from a well taken corner by Pte Ballantyne, then Lcpl Stewart belted a long ball which was deflected into the net by a defender — it was

going there anyway. By now the fight was taken right out of the opposition and Pte Alexander and Lcpl Stewart both got second goals. Not to be outdone, Lcpl Henderson, who had a splendid game on the left wing, smacked the ball into the net to make the final score 7-0.

3rd Round

An away game, this was played at Hohne against 2nd Royal Tank Regiment. A very tough game was expected as we had been told that our opponents were a clever and intelligent football side.

An even first ten minutes and then our spectators, who could only just see across the pitch



L/Cpl Brian Stewart, Captain of the Bn 1st XI.

through a thick mist, jumped for joy. Pte Tannerhill had scored; a beautiful shot which swerved into the net leaving a helpless goalkeeper standing on the goal-line. Now for the first time, the game was really going our way, yet it came as a surprise when Pte Tannerhill again gained possession of the ball inside the penalty area and calmly kicked it into the corner of the goal. Half-time score 2-0.

A good team like 2 RTR do not take things lying down. Back into the game they came and nobody would grudge them the two goals that brought them on to level terms. Now the game could have gone either way, especially as our goalkeeper, Cpl Bellis, had his leg injured in a goal-mouth incident. The pace, always hot, broke through the temperature gauge. The ball swung from one end to another and then we were awarded a free kick a good 40 yards out from goal. Cpl Harding side footed the ball to Lcpl Stewart standing only

yards away. Two paces and a truly glorious shot made the score 3-2. It was a goal to live in the minds of those fortunate enough to see it. More excitement followed, but shortly afterwards the result was put beyond doubt when Pte Alexander headed a further goal to make it 4-2.

4th Round (and Divisional Final)

This was played against 2 Light Infantry at Verden on a very slippery surface.

The team were not clicking, passes were going astray, tackles being missed and, most of all, chances being lost. Supporters became worried—what had gone wrong? The traffic was not all one way, far from it, but it did seem that to get a goal was next to the impossible. Then, before we were ready for it, half-time had arrived to give a thankful break from tension — or did it? Would Cpl Bellis, our goalkeeper, recover from a bad leg injury received within minutes of the game starting? This question was in all our minds.

Then to the second half. Yes. Bellis was still there but obviously in considerable pain. The opposition threw in attack after attack but the backs played magnificently to protect the injured keeper. First Pte Ralph, then Pte Adams made magnificent clearances. Pte Adams, at centre-half, headed away threatening balls and Bellis still managed to limp gamely to clear all the odd shots that got through — all, that is, except one. The supporters fell silent.

When one goal down you must hit back and this is what the team did. Far from becoming depressed, they charged to the attack. Gone were the early faults, passes flowed smoothly one man to the other. Shots were banged into the goal-mouth and only the post and crossbar stopped goals from coming. Then the moment of glory, Pte Alexander equalised from close in and once again the supporters raised wilting banners proudly in the air. Eagerly the team went for the winning goal, but the clock would not allow it. Extra time had to be played.

From the kick-off the team attacked from the start and shots flew towards the opponents' goal, but, alas, to no avail. Then tragedy for our opponents, a shot from Lcpl Stewart flew towards the goal, a back tried to clear it but in doing so it was deflected over his keeper's head and into the net. Lucky perhaps, but we were now in the lead. Attacks continued with unrelenting pressure and it came as no surprise when Pte Cardno, who came on as substitute for Lcpl Reid, banged in a splendid goal. This was the killer; no doubt now as to the result. A win, 3-1, and the Divisional Cup to show for it.

In the league we have now played seven games, winning five and drawing two. In doing this 28 goals have been scored, whilst only eight have entered our net. We have every reason to hope that by the end of the season we will be able to place the League Cup in the Sergeants' Mess beside the other trophy — still we must not count our chickens, etc.

Although in these notes, a number of individuals have been mentioned, it must be stressed that the real strength of the 1st XI does not lie in a few good players. It is a team, on and off the field of play. Each man plays for the other ten and no "um" is taken if a player is dropped for a particular game after having an "off day" — they just

fight their way back again. Also it is a team with a fantastic pool of reserve talent behind them. The 2nd XI play regularly and still have to be beaten with 42 goals in their favour and only eight against.

Congratulations must go to Lcpl Stewart and Cpl Bellis both of whom have been honoured by gaining places in the BAOR XI.

Finally, a big vote of thanks must go to the men behind the scenes. To Captain "Len" Cox, the Football Officer, who managed the team with a truly professional touch. To WOII Dryburgh and Cpl Haldane, the trainers, who have devoted many hours of selfless dedication to their task, and to the spectators who have backed the team up in all their ventures. And now to the future, and, God willing, the Army Cup.

HOCKEY

The Battalion Hockey team has had a very successful season so far in spite of fighting against the fearful odds of keeping the team together. Courses and leave have taken their normal toll of players at the wrong time. Nevertheless, it has only lost one match so far.

In the Garrison League the Battalion have played five matches, won four and drawn one and at present are lying in second place. The first match v. 54 Sqn RCT was a disappointment even though we won 4-0 because we were by far the stronger side but could not get the ball into the net as often as we should. The scorers were eventually BdsM Schroder, Pte Wiseman (2) and 2Lt Phelps-Jones.

The next match against 11 Bde HQ we won 2-0, but still the team was not playing up to expectations. The backs formed a solid defence but the forwards' shooting was still weak. The third match was away against 1 Div RCT and the team was put off its stride by the state of the pitch. It was full of cracks and holes and it was more luck if the ball was stopped cleanly, than good judgment. We spent three-quarters of the game in their half, but, try as we might, could not score. Eventually, after a ruck in the circle, 2Lt Phelps-Jones scraped the ball into the net but soon afterwards 1 Div RCT scored a breakaway goal and the game ended in a draw 1-1, which was sadly not a true reflection of the run of the game.

20 Electrical Workshops produced a very game team for a Minor Unit and their hard bustling tactics put the Battalion off their game again. We scraped a victory 2-1. Once again it was WOII Jenkinson and Captain Oxley at back who stopped them scoring long enough for our own forwards to slip two in. We played the Sherwood Foresters on the 29th January and this was the strongest team we had yet played in the league. It was a clean, open game with the ball evenly distributed, but our backs, in this case, Sgt Owen and Captain Oxley, did not allow the opposition to score. Lcpl Morrison was on target with his shooting and scored two goals, one of which was off a short corner.

In the Army Cup we played four matches to get into the Divisional Semi-Finals when we were beaten by 32 Armoured Engineer Regiment. The fixtures were as follows:—

1st Round v. 20 Heavy Regt RA at home

14 November. 1968. We started this match with some apprehension and as the game prog-

ressed, it became evident that both teams had scoring potential. In the first half the Artillery fought hard against our backs, Captain Oxley and WOII Jenkinson, both playing magnificently, warded them off and gave Sgt Owen a chance to score just before half-time.

With this goal to spur us on, we managed to hold our lead, despite several fierce attacks in the second half, although one got the impression that the Artillery were beginning to tire. We had a lucky escape at the end of the match when a magnificent ball from an opposing forward went just wide of the post. So the game ended in a victory for the Gordons, but all credit to the Artillery who put up a very hard and spirited fight.

2nd Round v. 2 RTR at home.

The team by this stage was confident that the halves and backs were not going to allow any opposition to score goals without great difficulty and so it was up to the forwards to pull out all the stops. In the opening minutes of the game 2 RTR appeared to be much faster than us and more precise with their passing. Their inside-left unfortunately tripped over the back stop boards in the tenth minute and had to retire with a broken finger. This certainly affected their performance as a team for the rest of the game, although they worked hard in our circle. Our halves, WOI Dunn, Captain Kinghorn and Cpl Gordon, started many good movements for the forwards and similarly the two wings got the ball to the middle well, but against two good backs we could not score. Just before half-time, LCpl Morrison picked up a loose ball from a melee in the circle and hit it hard and high. The goalkeeper did not see it until it hit the back of the net. The second half was even play with neither side scoring, and so the game ended in a victory, 1-0.

This was the last game WOI Dunn played for the Battalion before he retired from the Army. His excellent play at right half and general enthusiasm will not be forgotten.

3rd Round v. 16/5 The Queen's Royal Lancers

Fallingbøstøl is two hours travelling on rough roads from Minden and by the time we rolled up to the Guardroom of the 16/5 Lancers, we were all ready for some fresh air and exercise. It was a fine clear day and despite the poor surface on the pitch, which to add to the interest, was half covered by puddles, we had a very good match.

We had Captain Robinson playing on the wing for us for the first time this season and he made his debut by scoring a magnificent goal in the first half. The 16/5 fought back well, and we had some worrying moments, but Sgt Owen clinched the victory for us by a second goal in the 53rd minute. By full time our right flanking tactics were beginning to work, the ball swinging across more and more often, but even so the score remained at 2-0. A good match.

Div. Semi-Finals v. 32 Armd Eng Regt.

This game we knew was going to be a hard battle with a good team and the Battalion could only produce an "A" team. We were again missing WOII Jenkinson at full back and Captain Kinghorn at centre-half. From the start to the end of the game we were on the defence against a well

drilled and fast set of forwards. Within five minutes they had broken through the defence and scored. They kept up the pressure but just before the end of the first half the Battalion was awarded a short corner for an infringement in the centre and LCpl Morrison scored from it. At half-time the score was 1-1. The second half took on the same pattern as the first, but 32 Armoured could not penetrate the defence. The halves and in particular 2Lt Forsyth and Cpl Gordon should be congratulated on playing a good game during the second half. In spite of their efforts and those of the backs, 32 Armoured scored one more goal. This clinched the match for them but they certainly deserved the victory.

The team this year had been selected from the following:— Captain Kinghorn, Captain Oxley, Captain Robinson, Captain White, 2Lt Forsyth, 2Lt Phelps-Jones, WOI Dunn, WOII Jenkinson, Sgt Forsyth, Sgt Owen, Cpl Gordon, Cpl Mackie, Cpl Ross, LCpl Allan and LCpl Morrison. Major Gordon and Sgt Massie have also worked very hard umpiring.

BOXING 1969

1969 has been a year of steady improvement with novice boxers gaining experience and the open class boxers winning some individual honours for the Battalion.

Owing to the exigencies of BAOR training exercises, the novices boxing was not held until late October. The competition was lively as usual with "B" Company winning the cup. There were many good contests, too numerous to mention, but, by general consent the most exciting and determined was the final between 2Lt Phelps-Jones and 2Lt Forsyth, who punched each other to a standstill. The former won by a whisker and the latter was awarded the cup for the best loser.

Following this event, the Battalion Boxing team got down to serious training and shed as much excess poundage as possible before the first match in the team championships. This was against our old enemies 32 Heavy Regt RA and once again was held in their territory at Hildesheim. We went down to a fitter and better team on the night by eight bouts to three. The discovery of the night was LCpl Moodie who produced a perfect left hook to knock out a former BAOR finalist.

This sharp defeat brought its disappointments, but the team settled down to train for the individual championships and to gain as much experience as possible. It was quite clear that lack of training time and match experience due to exercise commitments had precluded the possibility of beating a team of the calibre of 32 Heavy Regiment RA. They had been training for months and not weeks and had already taken part in three "friendly" contests. However, they thoroughly deserved their win and we hope to be able to meet them on more even terms next year.

The next event of note was the Divisional Individual Championships. These took place at the Round House at Hohne and the Battalion entered six boxers. Of these one was unmatched, three won their weights, and the other two were narrowly outpointed.

The winners were LCpl Moodie at lightweight, LCpl Marsh at light welterweight and LCpl Mitchell at light heavyweight. Pte Marjoribanks was unmatched at either flyweight or bantamweight and

Pte Oles was narrowly outpointed by an ex Army Champion, Cpl Tibbs of the 16th/5th Lancers. In the heavyweight contest Lcpl Seivwright lost a close decision to Pte O'Flaherty of the Gloucesters. These six were then selected to go on and represent 1 Division in Berlin at the BAOR Championships.

Before this event took place, however, various members of the team and reserves took part in a friendly match involving boxers from the Devon and Dorsets, the King's Own Scottish Borderers and 2 Division Signals Regiment. Pte Oles, Lcpl Moodie and Lcpl Mitchell chalked up their usual wins and Pte Watson, as a reserve light middleweight, slugged his way to a knockout in his first contest



L/Cpl Moodie (left) gets ready to launch himself at Pte Cheape.

for the Regiment. Ptes Betteridge and McLellan both lost narrowly after spirited contests in which they held their own.

The last event to date took place in Berlin when the six representatives of the 1st Division fought in the BAOR Championships. Of the six two reached the finals (Lcpl Moodie and Lcpl Seivwright), one the semi-finals (Lcpl Marsh) and the other three the quarter-finals.

Lcpl Moodie was narrowly beaten by Signalman Varley, an experienced lightweight. Moodie fought well and had his opponent in serious trouble in the last round. However, he just failed to sway the judges' decision. Lcpl Marsh fought with his usual vigour and kept up a non-stop attack against McMahon, his old 32 Heavy Regiment opponent. Many thought he had taken the decision, but it was not to be, and he was beaten on a majority verdict.

Lcpl Seivwright met his old opponent, Pte O'Flaherty, and after boxing carefully in the first round and taking the lead, he allowed his blood to rise to the boil and tore into him in the second. Such tactics were not to pay off against a boxer of O'Flaherty's cool counter punching ability, and some hard straight punching shook the wild Seivwright so badly that the referee was forced to stop the contest. It was a great shame that Seivwright threw his chance away like this as he undoubtedly has the ability to go much further.

Lcpl Mitchell had a tough and rousing battle against Pte Govan of the King's Own Scottish Borderers and lost a very close decision after an excellent contest to the eventual winner of the weight.

Pte Oles met a strong and determined opponent in Guardman Duffy of the Scots Guards, and, after giving as good as he got in some brisk exchanges, he finally ran into some heavy punishment and the referee rightly stopped the contest. Oles has had some excellent bouts this year and has shown a tremendous improvement. Like many another good boxer, he tends to fight half his battle before he gets into the ring with the result that his confidence is sometimes affected. He is a powerful hitter and a quick mover and with a less tense approach will go a long way.

Pte Marjoribanks lost his contest in the preliminaries and never reached the heights expected of him.

And so the season comes to an end with mixed results. The team has been determined and fit after its first bleeding and has been a credit to the Battalion in its example and sportsmanship in the ring.

The lessons are clear for next year. An earlier start to the Novices' meeting and the commencement of team selection and training. A couple of friendly matches before the first team championship contest and a larger boxing squad with first and second strings in every weight. With luck and these advantages we should have a Highland Battalion in the finals next year.

The following were awarded Battalion Colours or had already won them last year:— Team Captain, Lcpl Marsh (light welterweight 1st string), Heavyweight, Lcpl Seivwright; Light Heavyweight, Lcpl Mitchell; Light Middleweight, Pte Oles; Lightweight, Lcpl Moodie. The following also represented the Battalion:— Middleweight, Cpl Bruce. Light Middleweight, Pte Watson; Welterweight 1st string, Lcpl Reid 42; Welterweight 2nd string, Pte McLellan; Light Welterweight 2nd string, Pte Tweedie; Featherweight, Pte Betteridge; Bantamweight, Pte Marjoribanks; Team Trainer, Cpl O'Neill.

BATTALION SKI-ING: SEASON 1968-69

By Captain G. H. Peebles, Ski-ing Officer.

Well, we made it! It is with some relief that I am able to report that, after numerous setbacks in the preparatory stages, in the form of returned applications for funds, returned contracts, dates missed because of Exercises and inexperience, the Battalion's first entrée into the highly organised world of Competitive Ski-ing in BAOR has, most emphatically, been made. If our results have not been outstanding at least we did not come bottom of the League by any means, and this with our total inexperience and the misfortune

to have, effectively, only ten days' snow training before the Divisional Meeting. Once introduced to the Sport, skiers have been known to develop very rapidly (members of the British National Cross-Country Skiing Team, in some cases, reached International Standard after two winters on skis!) Let us hope that, in 1969-70, the Skiers may emulate the high standards set by the Footballers this year. . .

As forecast in the last edition of the "Tiger and Sphinx," the pub "Edelweiss" became the Battalion Ski Hut. Lt Grierson bid his long-suffering fiancée good-bye for two months and led the Advance Party to Bavaria on the 2nd of December. By the time the Main Body reached the Edelweiss by coach four days later, the Advance Party had everything organised. Cpl Bottrell, with all the stores on his charge, became famous for his frequent searches for "wandering items of stores," puffing up and down the creaking stairs, muttering under his breath, "Oh! No, no, no! Oh! No!" Ptes Reid 92 and Clelland were the drivers who were out in their trucks most days and at variance most nights; again to quote, "Hey! Come on, Alky, tell us about the time you took a 'Fergie' to a dance!" "Butt'njt!" Pte Songhurst established himself in the basement with his two PRI-bought gas cookers and started to produce excellent food. Craftsmen Cage and Andrew assumed new responsibilities, the former becoming Sports Storemen and the latter Understudy Cook. With the exception of Reid 92, who left in January to be demobbed, and was replaced by Cattanach, this stout crew served throughout the Scheme, and served right well.

Edelweiss provided us with normal Gasthaus rooms, in which we slept, three or four to a room. They all had basins and radiators. On the ground floor of the pub there was a room adjoining the Public Bar which served as Dining Room and Canteen. In the basement was the Kitchen and all the skis were stored in the garage. "Mr. Edelweiss," known to everyone as "Valentin," and his wife, Elsa, were excellent landlords. Everything seemed to run itself and they had to worry about us very little. Elsa washed the most enormous dobbie for us in her machine at D.M. 1:00 a time! Some of the Admin. Party thought Bobby, the Barmaid, was fair game at first, but gave up the chase when a large lorry driver appeared one morning trying to tiptoe down the creaking staircase from the top floor! Lucky man! The three children: Reinhold, nine, George, seven, and Martin, five, soon found favour and spent their entire waking days being over-excited. As a rule the locals were found to be very friendly. The village itself was, in atmosphere very like some of the more remote Dee- or Donside villages: there was a burn with plenty of fish in it, there were great hills all around abounding with beasts, everybody knew each other, there were some remarkable characters about and drink was a friend of all;

Having attempted to achieve a certain amount of preparatory training with a view to spending as much time on skis as possible, it was a bitter blow to encounter the warmest winter since 1936. In that remarkable year the snow arrived three days before the Winter Olympics were due to take place at Garmisch! This year the snow was not skiable until the 23rd of December. The result of this was that time lost in Barracks was made up on strengthening training (with the valuable result that the

whole party sustained only very minor injuries throughout), mostly by climbing every peak worth climbing in the district! As a summary of the climbing effort, we climbed 43,000 feet in ten days! Every morning, at 0830 there were Ski Exercises outside the pub, which became a local legend, and which provided Lt Grierson with his



"Was it on the Dee or the Don that I caught that 10-pounder last year . . . ?"—The Commanding Officer at the start of the Patrol Race.

sadistic outlet! Thereafter we would sponge down in front of a basin and prepare for the day's flog. We climbed some magnificent mountains and saw some superb scenery, but it was not skiing, and, at times, life was a little depressing. For variety's sake we injected visits to the skating rink, which were not popular, orienteering, which was, and some rock-climbing. On one particular morning we had instruction in rock-climbing and abseiling from a local Mountain Guide which was very exciting and worthwhile. It is hoped that this summer there may be more rock-climbing. The final effort in the dry-training period was running with sticks. On the advice of a former British National Skier, we took up this particularly unpleasant form of exercise to develop stamina and wind. Properly done, it consists of running, using ski-sticks, up a steep slope for about 200 yards, trotting down again and repeating this until you are on the verge of collapse! There is then a recovery period and the whole process is repeated. All the while pulses are being taken to ensure that maxi-

mum effort is being made by those training. In practice, we ran until exhausted, rested and then ran some more for about an hour. On other occasions our potential trainer, Siegfried Wittwer, took us on long five to ten kilometre hikes with sticks.



Patrol Race—"A" Team (l. to r.) Lt J. A. Grierson (R Signals), L/Cpl Stronach, Pte Wiseman, Pte McKeown, inspected by Brigadier R. Lyon, OBE.

At about Christmas-time the snow arrived. As soon as we could we got on skis. Within three days we had finished with the heavy patrol skis and were learning to get used to the very narrow Racing Langlauf Skis. As often happens with this sport, some complete newcomers began to develop good style very quickly. Lcpl Stronach and Pte McKeown were prime examples. Pte Dick, who had been on skis before, showed excellent promise. During this early period of learning, life was again not very exciting. The best method of instruction was to plod around a 1½ kilometre circuit making a track, and then push people round it time and again until practice made perfect. At times we felt we were surging forward and, at other times the whole venture seemed hopeless. One memorable day an expedition was mounted. We were to ski and climb about seven kilometres distance and 1,500 feet in height to Oberjoch. We set off at about 9 a.m. and reached Oberjoch at 2 p.m. after a most enjoyable, and sometimes pretty dangerous, tour. We made our own track which meant that the poor trail-breaker was often fighting through snow up to his waist; very exhausting work. Our Trainer, who proved not to be a great teacher, though undoubtedly an excellent strength and stamina trainer, was a local champion of some repute. The living-room in his house was littered with cups and medals. "Siggi" was a very modest and likeable man who chaffed the Jocks about trying to train on drink and who made sure they sweated it out when given the chance!

Owing to Christmas and Hogmanay, from the day the snow arrived, we had a mere ten days on skis before the Divisional Meeting. The teams chosen to go to Mittenwald, where the Championships were held, were the best in the circumstances. They had not had enough snow-training, nor had they any race experience, and they had very little practice with their rifles for the Patrol Race. However, the results were satisfactory enough for a first year effort.

Everyone who went to Mittenwald was entered for the 15 Kilometre Individual Race. Out of 223



"I am in the Arctic Special Patrol Force, and we're mean men"—2/Lt Ross before the Patrol Race.

starters, Lcpl Stronach was our highest placed man at 87th. Other placings were:— Pte Wiseman, 93rd; Lt Grierson, 102nd; Lt Ross 124th; Pte Michie, 127th; Pte McKeown, 132nd; Capt Peebles, 133rd; Pte Dick 144th; Lcpl Murray 146th; Lcpl Smith 154th; Cfn Cage, 169th; Capt Cumming, 198th; Capt White, 206th. It was the first race of the week, run on a lovely sunny day, over 15 kilometres of varied country and, apart from some wax troubles which meant that our skis were not getting the grip they ought, everybody thoroughly enjoyed it.

Two days later the 4 x 10 kilometre Relay Race was run. We entered two teams: the "A" Team was: Lt Grierson, Lcpl Stronach, Ptes Wiseman and McKeown; and the "B" Team was: Lt A. Ross Lcpl Smith, Pte Dick and Cfn Cage. Pte Michie was lent to the 11th Hussars to make up a team. This race is characterised by the Mass Start. There were 41 teams taking part and the first skiers in each team started together. After about 200 metres of skiing on parallel tracks, the racers have to fight to get on to the main track into which all the others merge! Out of the 35 British Teams taking part (local German Mountain troops also competed), the "A" Team came 25th and the "B" Team came 29th. Pte Michie skied extremely well with the

11th Hussars and helped their "B" Team to come 20th!

The Cross-Country Finale is the Patrol Race where a team of four skiers, carrying a rucksack and weapon, skis for 20 kilometres over varied country and shoots on a range, with penalties incurred for bad shooting. Our teams were the same as for the 4 x 10K Relay except that Pte Michie was brought in for Cfn Cage in the "B" Team. In this race, 26 British teams took part. The "B" Team came 19th, thus beating the "A" Team who came 23rd. The latter team had the bad luck to take a wrong turning at one point through no fault of their own; however, even if they had been awarded compensation for this they would not have beaten the "B" Team, whose shooting was very good.

Throughout the week the Divisional Alpine Championships were run concurrently. Capt Peebles took part as an individual in all three races: Giant Slalom, Downhill and Slalom. On the day before the Patrol Race there was a Novices' Downhill Race in which a number of the Gordons took part. There was a field of 62 novices, ladies and veterans. Our placings were: Lt Grierson 13th; 2Lt Ross, 18th; Pte Michie, 37th; Capt Cumming, 41st; Pte McKeown, 51st; Capt White, 58th. Mrs. Cumming was our only lady representative and she was 7th lady home.

The Meeting was immensely enjoyable and a new experience for most of us. The team were put up in the Annexe to a very smart hotel where all meals were taken. The town of Mittenwald is attractive and the hotel in which the team stayed had a particularly good Keller-Bar with bosomy barmaid and local yodellers thrown in. The Commanding Officer came down for the period of the Meeting with his wife and supported every race.

The sequel to the Divisional Championships is, naturally enough, the BAOR Championships Meeting at Oberjoch. This year we did not do well enough to qualify to go forward but Lcpl Stronach is to be congratulated on having done well enough to be allowed to go forward as an individual. In his race at Oberjoch, the 10 Kilometre Individual Race, he came 75th out of 102 starters, among them some of the best cross-country skiers in BAOR. Captain Peebles was lucky enough to be allowed to race in the Downhill Races at Oberjoch and later went on to the Army Alpine Championships at St. Moritz.

The result of this whole "experiment" is that it has been, by and large, a success, but only for those lucky few who were able to enjoy it. It has proved less costly than originally thought, thanks to dexterous use of Adventure Training Funds. The Commanding Officer has given his blessing to projected plans for ski-ing next year. The intention is, as planned, to use those members of the Battalion who now have experience to run courses at the Battalion Hut, at the same time filling any vacancies allocated at the Brigade Hut or Silberhutte. There will be a ski-ing team, both in the cross-country and downhill competitions and we shall probably enter for the Infantry Cup; but these teams will, as far as possible, be kept away from the Battalion Hut in order to allow as many as possible from the Battalion to enjoy its facilities. The cross-country team will go to Norway for about a month before the Divisional Championships.

Let us hope that those envious people who have been unfortunate enough to have had to winter in Minden will organise themselves next year that they too may take part in this undoubtedly immensely enjoyable sport!

FREE-FALL PARACHUTING IN BAOR

"The second most fabulous sensation in life!" or "The nearest you can get to an Act of Faith!": call it what you will, Parachuting in any form is an unique and fantastic experience. There is an opportunity in BAOR for any fit member of the Battalion to try this experience out, and this short article is by way of an introduction for those who may have thought about it.

At the Playing Fields at Bad Lipspringe are the Clubhouse and Airfield of the Rhine Army Parachute Association. The former consists of three Nissen huts, side by side in which are the stores, offices, canteen and packing-tables necessary to the Club, and the latter consists of a bumpy stretch of well-mown grass which Ringo uses. Ringo is the De Havilland Rapide generously donated to the Club by Rothman's of Pall Mall to encourage the sport in BAOR. Students, on any of the six to eight three-week courses run by the Club from April to October, live in a barracks in nearby Paderborn. The Club Staff are loaned by Units, usually serving in BAOR. There is an Administrative Officer, a Chief Instructor, a Rigger who looks after the equipment and who is the only permanent member of the staff, and about four or five Assistant Instructors. The Instructing Staff are extremely well qualified by strict examination to perform their duties. Sgt Mike Jackson of the Sappers, who was Chief Instructor in 1969 is one of only 18 British Parachute Association Approved Advanced Instructors.

At the beginning of each Course there is the usual amount of administrative paper-work which occupies one morning. After that there is a period of about three days of groundwork. The syllabus is detailed and they are three long days, mostly spent inside, learning how to pack a parachute, to fall properly on landing, to adopt a "stable" position and emergency drills. They are three days which all new students take very seriously!

Before that momentous, belly-melting first jump is made, there is a session in the 'plane on the ground, in order to sort out aircraft drills ("Students are warned NOT to make frantic grabs at the tail-plane as they leave the wing, as Ringo is very old and could easily disintegrate if roughly handled . . .!")

Finally, after numerous visits to the trees behind the Clubhouse, after weak grins at your muckers and the usual coarse comments from jump-happy instructors, you are formed up in your stick, having your equipment minutely checked by the Chief Instructor:

C.I.: "Isn't this a **fabulous** way to spend an afternoon, sir?"

Officer Student (weakly): "Fabulous."

C.I.: "You bloody liar, sir!!"

Ringo rolls up, engine churning away, and you are hurried along to clamber awkwardly aboard. Almost before you have got down inside the old 'plane is revving up to go, for time wasted costs money in fuel and the Club is not financially sponsored by the Army. The climb to 2,500 feet seems to take an age; the crowds of German gawpers

gets smaller and smaller and you can see details of Jocks firing on "Alma" Ranges. At last the altimeter needle shudders round to 2 500 feet and the first two to go get up off the floor; the moment of truth has come.

Nobody misses their first jump and, invariably, people come back for more. It's too easy: the



CSM John Will—Don't look so unhappy, your parachute did open!

'plane flattens out and cuts her engines, you get out on to the wing as per the drill, you notice the wind blasting into your face, you get the slap from the Dispatcher, you jump and shout: "ONE THOUSAND, TWO THOUSAND, THREE THOUSAND—errWHUMP! . . . FLACK!", look up: she's opened O.K.; "Pheew!" Nae sweat! Then there's time to look about and watch others floating down, to suck in the summer air and to watch the sports being played below: there's always golf, and polo, and sometimes cricket . . . Then comes the tricky bit: the landing. All that is needed is concentration to remember the valuable lessons learnt during ground-training: chin in, elbows in, feet and knees together and land on the flat of the feet, NOT on your toes as this author can emphasise. Once on the ground you report in, get debriefed and then pack your parachute as quickly as possible for another jump; three jumps in a day is enough for any beginner.

There are some drawbacks to the course which must be mentioned, but which should not deter anyone who is sufficiently keen. The course costs about DM 130:00 for every student. This fee will pay for 15 free jumps, the hire of helmets and parachutes, and the fuel for Ringo. The average student needs ten to twelve jumps before he will be able to "free-fall", that is: leave the 'plane and then pull his own ripcord. Secondly, there is the weather. It has to be a very fine day for beginners to jump. The slightest summer breeze will stop jumping for an hour or two. Rain will stop

jumping altogether, as, indeed, will low cloud. The inevitable result of all this is that there are often long periods of waiting about doing nothing, and there are very early mornings and very late evenings in an attempt to catch the calmest times of day. Finally, there is your mother! If you are under 21 years old you must have your parents' permission to jump.

If, after reading this article, you think you'd like a try, see the Parachuting Officer, Captain G. H. Peebles, or his Secretary, CSM G. Will, Sergeant-Major Will is the only member of the Battalion qualified to make free-fall descents . . . at present! Who knows, maybe you'll be in the Battalion team which will be going for that magnificent Rothman's Parashot Trophy in 1969!

ADVENTURE TRAINING, 1969

"Adventure" is a powerful word in any Army Recruiter's vocabulary. It is something that many of us when we are new out of school, long for, and it is something that most of us connect with the services. If "adventure" meant "something out of the ordinary" then, no doubt we would all be satisfied, for we lead no ordinary life! In the English Dictionary, "adventure" means "hazardous activity," or "daring enterprise." In this light it is apparent that some of the more determined members of the Battalion manage to have adventures within the confines of St. George's Barracks: witness the man who left his clothes behind when he went to the Sergeants' Mess, the man who hurt his Company Sergeant-Major in a sparring bout and the man who sauntered across the square in overalls, smoking a cigarette and with his hands in his pockets during an RSM's Drill Period . . . Perhaps these were all adventurous men, but one doubts whether they were getting the benefits of real adventure!

It is with those benefits in mind that, throughout this year, the opportunity is being taken to use the facilities available in BAOR to mount some Adventures.

Excluding the Winter Sports Schemes already planned for the winter of 1969-70, of which there is a forecast elsewhere in this Journal there are three major Adventure Training Exercises planned. These will be mounted by the Company sponsoring any one exercise to be run for its own benefit with assistance from the Adventure Training Officer. They will all be for about 20 to 30 men from the Company, and Headquarters Company will be able to get men away in administrative jobs on these Company Adventures. In addition to these Company-scale exercises, there will be a number of small-scale specialist Exercises, viz. Ocean sailing and parachuting. The highlight of these kind of activities this year will be the "Swinging Safari" Exercise to East Africa.

In most cases the Exercises planned are in an atmosphere quite removed from that of Minden. "Kilts Awash" is a projected canoeing exercise in Denmark for about 20 men. "Ben Kilt" is a rock-climbing and orienteering exercise in Bavaria. "Kilts Aweigh" is an ocean sailing cruise in the Baltic. "Vintage Kilt" is an Anglo-German relations exercise based on the Moselle Valley at grape-harvest time. Throughout the summer there are three-week courses run by the Rhine Army Parachute Association at Bad Lipspringe, near Senne-lager.

Some of the Exercises sound more "daring" than others, but if they are memorable and different, whether they be sheer hell or sheer bliss, something will have been achieved.

CHURCH NOTES

It would be easy to write a mournful essay on the uphill struggle of the Church in the Army—the small numbers — erratic attendance. The whole mood of soldiers contemplating the role of the "Kirk" in their midst — could be summed up by one lad who approached me confidentially over a glass of ale which had got slightly the better of him and with the deadly earnestness of the drunk, confronted me with the chilling statement: "Padre, d'you not think you're flogging a dead horse." He swayed uncertainly waiting with devilish glee to see the traumatic effect of his words. I think he felt disappointed that I did not turn pale or burst into tears.

Of course there are days, when one feels in sympathy with this sentiment, but show me the job that is without frustrations, difficulties and discouragements. To be a soldier in to-day's Army demands a great deal of strength of character in the ability to keep pegging on in spite of inevitable periods of crushing boredom. He has to have good motivation to keep his spirits up when he is tempted to feel his role is unnecessary in a peacetime situation. But it is in sticking it — in seeing the thing through, whatever our job, that men are made.

The ministry in the Army is by no means all gloom; and I want briefly to recall over the past few months the kind of things that gladden a man's heart.

On this frosty February morning I think back to the warm glow of candlelight which filled our little Battalion Church on Christmas Eve. It was the one occasion when on entering the Church from the vestry — I could truthfully say — "I could not believe my eyes." The Church was packed — literally. They were standing down the aisles. I don't suppose an outsider would have considered the volume of sound anything of the quality heard in St. Machar's or St. Giles', but to me it was the best singing I have ever heard.

Such moments are rare occurrences, but of continuous encouragement. The life of the Church in the Sunday by Sunday unobtrusive witness of those who come and make their offering to God.

Few services pass without some minor technical hitch or humorous moment. Our best occurred recently during the children's address given by Rev. Jim Morrison, Staff Chaplain, HQ BAOR, who was our visiting preacher on 9th January. He launched forth on the well-known story of the "Shy Monk". "Do you know where monks live?" he asked the row of little faces gazing up at him. Back came the reply, "in the Jungle, Sir."

J.L.B.

The following poem is believed to have been published in a woman's magazine during the war.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

We've met many different soldiers since September "thirty-nine",

Leicesters, Warwickshires and Hampshires, and we thought that they were fine.

But of course, we never realised, as we'd never met a Scot,
Till we met the "Hieland Laddies," we were missing such a lot.

They were proud that they were Gordons, and their motto was "Stand Fast".
And in the line of battle they would fight until the last;
They would talk about Loch Lomond, where a Scotsman loves to roam,
And the heather on the mountains in the land that they called home.

Time passed so very quickly till the day they said "Good-bye",
When we asked them, "Will ye no' come back again?" their answer was "Och aye."
You will see our kilts a-swinging, and you'll hear the Bagpipes play,
And we know we'll find you waiting, when we come back again some day.

Sent to the magazine by Lorna Mary Enderby,
89 Canwick Road, Lincoln.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

They come from Orkney and other islands.
They come from the Lowlands and the Highlands.
Any town in Scotland could be theirs
They call them the Gordon Highlanders.

Through wars and battles great they fought,
From old men to young men they have taught
How to fight when the cause is great,
How discipline and friendship to create.

Their battle honours are second to none,
Each one awarded for services done,
Every man is proud to wear
The tartan of the Highlander.

From the Colonel to the newest man,
They're proud of their name in every land,
Yes "every man is justly proud"
You'll hear the Gordons shout aloud.

As fighting soldiers they're the best,
They stand right out from all the rest,
From every man his pride does ooze,
For he knows not what it means to lose.

And now in their present role
Where peace does reign — and no death toll,
They go on training how to fight
And always a Piper well in sight.

For they are called the fighting Jocks,
Tough, steadfast, hardy, men like rocks,
And as they march, those Gordons gay,
You'll see the Piper and hear him play.

And, if they march to noisy battle,
When bugles sound and drums do rattle,
The skirl of the Pipes will be heard aloud,
And the gallant Gordons will be proud.

S.A.M.

(Note: This poem was submitted by a soldier who was transferred to us when his own Regiment, The Cameronians, was disbanded. It is typical of the loyalty which has been shown to their new Regiment by the many Cameronians who have joined us.)

"BYDAND"

The Royal Scots Greys went galloping past,
The Gordons dived for their stirrups fast;
Charging into the field of death,
Just to stop the enemy's breath.

The Dargai Heights had the Gordons on edge,
Longing to hear their Colonel's pledge;
Then the message came through and Mathais said
"Go",
And the gallant Gordons overcame their foe.

The Gordons have seen many a fight,
Many a Battle Honour rewards their might;

Four VCs in the First World War
Added proudly on to the Gordons' score.

On the cliffs of Le Havre the Gordons were there,
Defending the Allies who wanted their share;
They fought for life, they fought and died
For the freedom of Scotland, my God how they
tried.

The silent ground, the bloody terrain,
They've heard the cries, they've felt the pain;
"A Gordon for me," the song reels out,
For there's no finer Regiment to sing about.

They've seen the world, they've made their name,
Where'er they go we remember their fame;
They'll be needed again to fight and maim,
They'll be needed again in spirit and name.

Pte RABONE.

SCOTTISH INFANTRY DEPOT, BRIDGE OF DON DEPOT NOTES

INTRODUCTION

"You are now Regimental Rep at the Depot.
"Tiger and Sphinx" notes are required by 1 March
— Good afternoon!"

With these kind words your author began life at the Depot, Bridge of Don, after having been much maligned by the officers of the 1st Bn through an unhappy accident which prevented him from joining in August as planned. Knowing as yet very little about the Depot, this edition will, I fear, be largely devoted to the departments who have, as usual, been most elusive in their attempts to avoid their kind hearted and good natured Regimental Rep — I wonder why?!

Apart from the normal training routine, the Depot very kindly looked after another Regimental KAPE team, who stayed for two weeks. At the moment there are ugly rumours about tracked vehicles entering the sacred area of the Depot in May. The RSM looks most worried about the square and Cpl Simmers is just a wee bit perturbed about the fuel stakes. But Mr. Irvine will doubtless overcome all! However, enough of introduction. Over now to the Companies.

Depot HQ

Commanding Officer—Lt Col B. M. Hamilton, MBE.
Adjutant — Captain N. J. Ridley QO Hldrs.
Chief Clerk — WO1 A. R. McKinnell, BW.

This still seems to be barred to Gordons. Captain Ridley, Queen's Own Highlanders, is now firmly in the adjutant chair. The Seaforths still run with their usual efficiency the PRI and generally ensure that junior officers are taught to appreciate their true worth — not much! Lt Col Brown left us after nearly three years as Commanding Officer. All the Gordons here are very sorry to see him go and wish him and Mrs. Brown every happiness in the future. We welcome Lt Col Hamilton from the Black Watch and hope his tenure of command will be an enjoyable one.

Officers' Mess

The Mess notes will, I fear, be brief, since your writer has only been permanently here for a fort-

night. The main function was a guest night on 23rd January which Colonel George Elsmie would have attended if mechanical failure had not detained him.



BAGHDAD SQUAD.

Back Row—Ptes Elsbury, Wright, Nisbet. Front Row—
Cpl Mutch, Sgt Melville, Pte Kennedy.

Lt General Sir George Gordon-Lennox lunched in the Mess after Egypt Squad's passing out parade in January. We were expecting visits from Officers of the 1st Bn at home over Christmas and New Year, but regrettably no one turned up. David Irvine appeared briefly during his KAPE Recce/Leave and attended a very successful party in Mess in January. We trust his Recce did not suffer too much as a result and hope his car recovered. Robin and Julia Bruce also appeared in late January, together with Robin's No. 2 wife? It was very good to see them and I hope more officers home on leave will drop in and visit us. Our charges are modest — your duty-free whisky will suffice. I must

not forget to mention our attached civilian Chris Price who in between undermining the Youth Club, honours us with his presence.

Training Company

Coy Comd—Major R. T. T. Gurdon, BW.
Coy 2 ic—Captain B. Stirling-Hamilton, QO Hldrs.
CSM—Woll Gow, A and SH.
Pl Comds—Lt. E. A. MacM. Graham. A and SH.
Lt R. B. Campbell, A and SH.
Lt R. H. Stopford, BW.
2Lt Parata, BW.
Lt Kennedy, Gordons.

Since the last issue seven squads have passed out, having completed their basic training. In these there were 25 Gordons excluding the seven in training at the moment with Alamein Squad.



PAARDEBURG SQUAD.

Back Row—Ptes Pirie, Colligan, Lovett, McGowan. Front Row—Cpl McKinnon, Pte Cowie.

Grik Road Squad passed out on the 24th August, 1968. Lt Graham A and SH, commanded the squad, and the salute was taken by Col B. A. Stewart, the Brigade Colonel of the Lowland Brigade. There were two Gordons in the squad. Pte Ross from Aberdeen and Turner from Larkhall.

Macedonia Squad passed out on the 21st September and was commanded by Lt Cotton, A and SH. The Salute was taken by Brigadier H. C. Baker-Baker, DSO, MBE, The Colonel of the Black Watch. There were three Gordons in the squad; Fotheringham from Brechin, Gillies from Macduff and McCorquodale from Seafield.

Doiran Squad passed out on the 19th October and was commanded by Lt Davidson, Black Watch. The Salute was taken by Lt Colonel E. W. Nicoll, the Commanding Officer, 1 Black Watch. There were six Gordons in the squad; Jolly from Huntly, who was the Best Recruit, Alexander from Bury, Allan from Cullen, Gemmel from Paisley, Hender-son from Huntly, and McKeown from Kirknewton.

Paardeburg Squad passed out on the 16th November and was commanded by 2Lt Parata,

Black Watch. The Salute was taken by Lt Colonel H. D. G. Taylor, Royal Scots, the Army Careers Officer, Aberdeen. There were five Gordons in the squad; Cowie from Ballindalloch, who was the Best Recruit and Delgatie Cup winner, Colligan from Ballinluig, Lovett from Nottingham, McGowan from Conon Bridge, and Pirie from Montrose.

Baghdad Squad passed out on the 14th December and was commanded by Lt Graham. The Salute was taken by Group Captain H. E. White, DFC, AFC, the Commanding Officer, Royal Air Force, Buchan. There were four Gordons in the squad; Wright from Aberdeen, who won the Delgatie Cup, Kennedy from Aberdeen, Elsbury from Dorking and Nisbet from Leven.

Egypt Squad passed out on the 18th January, 1969, and was commanded by 2Lt Duke, QO Hldrs.



Lieutenant-General Sir George Gordon-Lennox, KBE, CV, CVO, DSO, inspects Egypt Squad.

The Salute was taken by Lt General Sir George Gordon-Lennox, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO, The Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders. There were three Gordons in the squad; Robertson from Huntly who was the Best Recruit and Delgatie Cup winner, Lovie from Coupar Angus and Robb from Aberdeen.

Malaya Squad passed out on the 15th February and was commanded by Lt Campbell, A and SH. The Salute was taken by Brigadier J. C. Monteith, CBE, MC, The Commander, Highland Area. There were two Gordons in the Squad; Learmonth from Great Yarmouth and Stacy from Nottingham.

The squads in training at the moment are: Mons, Burma, Tunis and Alamein.

Headquarter Company

After Lt Ord left Aberdeen I thought, "That's the end of 'Tiger and Sphinx' notes for me!" What a hope! Somebody must have whispered in Lt Kennedy's ear that I'm the only Gordon in the Depot, so as his warm breath defrosts my neck on these chilly mornings, I put pen to paper once again.

Life at Aberdeen has been rather quiet lately, our only main event being the annual Administrative Inspection on 3rd December which went by



GRIK ROAD SQUAD.
Pte Turner, Cpl Mackie, Pte Ross.

As is normal, the Depot came to an all but grinding halt over Christmas and the New Year except for those few of us who were responsible for ration rolls, etc. One thing we were thankful for is that not a single Absentee Report had to be submitted on the Company's return from leave.

The Permanent Staff, for once, has remained unchanged over the past six months, but by the time these notes are read a number of new faces will be seen at Gordon Barracks. Lcpl George Lemon arrives in March to take over Company Clerk from Lcpl Jim Gibson who has decided to return to civilian life. Lcpl Abe Seivwright will also, by this time, be making his mark in the 1st Battalion, but we are still waiting to hear who is coming here in his place. All congratulations to the two latter mentioned on the birth of their respective sons, David and Keith, over the New Year (prospective Gordons?)

Csgt Adam Strathdee is still here but is wondering who is to relieve him as mutterings of "six months' notice" are to be heard daily from the accommodation stores. He has now found himself something new to do in his spare time — First Class Education — and can be seen carrying text books instead of US blankets.

Cpl Les Chalmers, complete with white jacket and hypodermic, rules the MRS. He took a sadistic

pleasure in sticking his dirty great needle in most of us after checking his medical documents and found that we all needed re-vaccinated.

Cpl Simmers, although greatly handicapped by snow and ice, manages to keep his MT Section on the road, ably assisted by Pte Harvey Donald who had the misfortune to break his thumb which kept him off the road and on leave for a while.

RQMS Pete Cameron is now well installed in the Quartermaster Department and is enjoying Depot life. He still manages to find time for a round of golf with the Chief Clerk, weather permitting. CSgt Arthur Varley has, to his relief, managed to get some leave out of the QM. Enjoy it while you can, Arthur!

Cpl Gordon Bruce is finding drilling a squad on Company Drill Parades a far different kettle of fish than serving drinks in the Officers' Mess. Cheer up, Gordon, it's only once a week

We have said good-bye to a number of well-known Gordons lately. They have included WO1 Les Dunn, WO1 George Rose, WO11 Rab Carruthers, Csgt Fred Murray and Csgt Dougie Thow. Sgt Danny Flynn also paid us a flying visit en route for Brunei and we are now waiting the arrival of an old friend of many Gordons from Fort George days — WO11 Willie Dunbar Queen's Own Highlanders, who is in the process of returning to civilian life.



EGYPT SQUAD.
Ptes Robertson, Robb, Lovie.

DEPOT SERGEANTS' MESS

Yours truly commenced work at the Depot on the 8th November and was overheard to say by the 31st December, "Roll on 3rd January, I want to get back to work for a rest."

The social life since the 29th October has been really hectic, all stories about the Depot Mess being quiet are quite untrue. There are very few Messes with so much talent and hard working committees.

A Mess Dinner held on the 8th November was certainly a good booster to the festive season. It is hard to say what vintage the wine was, I would rather say "Jester Wine P 1954" as everyone was in the pink, with renderings of Nikkie Tams to Blackbird where are ye? The Strachans were to the fore with Bob being presented with a lovely silver cigarette box suitably subscribed with cigarettes. Snowy Strachan, on the other hand, decided he would like a rest and booked himself into the Royal Infirmary. I'm glad to say he is now fully recovered but relegated to drinking pineapple juice!

The 29th November saw one of the finest Sgts' Mess St. Andrews Balls ever held. Full marks must go to the committee who put in an enormous amount of work. A Stag's Head by the name of Hector proved that he, too, was partial to whisky and water. The Ball, I think, came to a close at 0501Z. The reason for its success was that no two ladies were wearing the same dress!

Christmas Draw Big Fiddle, call it what you may, was another roaring success. It must have been as there are no signs of a DCM yet! People who didn't even have tickets won prizes, including dogs by the name of Kim and Cora. Arthur Varley's table was in really good form, with Bert Strachan, Adam Strathdee and Baldie Baldwin to name just a few who were drinking religiously under the watchful eye of Father McGregor. The QM electrified the entire evening with his pack of cards. The evening came to a climax with the Scotts, Nicols, Taylors turning the night into a real Fishie Fiddle.

Little can be said about the period 21st December to 3rd January as all work at the Depot stopped, or appeared to. All evidence over this period is purely hearsay and would never stand up in Court, probably just as well for Jack Chalmers (QMSI, SASC), who somehow or other did manage to spend Christmas at Hythe and Hogmanay in Aberdeenshire — this may well have been due to the RSM's train timings. Christmas was taken in the correct spirit with most of the members attending the Carol Service, the Mess staying open for light refreshments in order to let the many Santas find their feet.

Hogmanay was celebrated in real Scottish fashion with first-foots ranging from Arthur Bibby to Arthur Clark, and it is just as well that there is a fence round the Depot, as it could well have been mistaken for Kingseat, especially with Jim Melville's jokes and Tam Cuthbert's laugh! There were so many in-laws staying over this period that to mention them all would be impossible and I am sure they enjoyed themselves every bit as well as we did having them.

With the festive season behind us we thought "Now for a rest" — not at all. Games Nights were to human cry. A very smart, well behaved, or so they appeared to be, squad of policemen from all over Scotland arrived to attend a WT Cadre. I believe they all passed. The night prior to their final TPs, we challenged them to a Games Night. The only game they won which, I may add, was completely new to us, was one called the Breath-

alizer. All it proved was that no one was driving that night.

The Cpls' Mess entertained us to a real test of skill on the 31st January which finished in a draw. A real scrupulous member of the Sgts' Mess suggested that to decide the winners we should play three games of carpet bowls as the Cpls had never heard of the game let alone play it. We finally won the evening, despite the RSM and the RQMS being beaten at bowls!

Sport played an important part in the Mess during the better weather. Our hockey team won its first match for over a year in November. This may have been due to our goalkeeper — Hickory Strathdee. We now stand: Played four, won four. Football has also been played, but the less said about it the better. Badminton on Friday evenings is gradually catching on but we are not quite ready for a match yet, but keep watching the Green Final. Golf is still a means of having a day off, unfortunately only the Chief Clerk and the RQMS have the intelligence to play this wonderful game. We sadly miss Jackie Ross and Bob Strachan, two great exponents of the art.

Visitors have been many and vary from ex Sgt Billy Arthur, MM, who, at the age of 70, looks remarkably fit, and Danny Flynn at the age of 35 looks washed out after three years at Sandhurst. Danny is hunting the area for Fred Murray who has just returned from Brunei looking very well indeed. RSM Les Dunn passed through on the 10th January looking as though he had just come off Exercise Mouse Trap and Eternal Triangle combined. He did extremely well to motor from Leicester to Aberdeen under the conditions, which included fog and accidents on the M1 to black ice in Scotland. We wish Les, Barbara and the bairns all the very best for the future.

Snowy and Francis Warden paid a visit over the New Year, both looking extremely well, with Francis looking more like Nancy Sinatra!

Rab Carruthers has bought a flat in Aberdeen, taken his Civil Service Examination and is all set to take Civvie Street by storm. Being one of the founder members of the 1st Battalion Fund, he was really thrilled with his silver cigarette box and Queen Anne lighter. All the very best, Rab and Renie, and remember the Depot is still in Aberdeen.

Dougie Thow keeps popping up every now and then to hand in yet some more kit — his 1157 must surely go to RHQ. We wish Dougal all the very best in his new venture (Civvie Street). Dougal, you left a bottle of stout when last here. You had better come back.

Departures read RSM Bob Strachan and Sgt Andy Pattillo, both to the 1st Battalion. We wish them both every success in their new venture. We have already heard of RSM's Cadres and thinking of opening a fish and chipper in Minden.

The Mess said farewell to Lt. Col A. T. C. Brown on Friday, 31st January. He presented the Mess with two lovely pictures of Girdleness Light-house and the Brig o' Balgownie. We wish Col. and Mrs. Brown all the very best for the future.

We are very sad to announce the death of Mr. Urquhart, who worked in the Depot as Csgt Varley's assistant. He will be sadly missed by all, a pleasant little man who was a past master with the steam press.

Arrivals since the last edition have been RQMS Peter Cameron, Csgt Buchan, Sgts Lewie Tevendale and Arthur Riach. We hope that they all enjoy their stay us much as their predecessors.

Congratulations to Arthur Riach on getting married. It was rumoured that Sgt Buchan was best man; well, he was seen sporting a new thirty guinea suit.

Stop Press: The 3rd Battalion's Sgts' Mess held their farewell dance on Saturday, 1st February, which was a tremendous success. I can only add to what the 92nd said: "3rd Gordons nae dead yet."

Strathdee sent by RSM for codein as he (the RSM) had a very sore head. Strathdee returns with tablets. RSM has two every hour but still has sore head. Tablets turn out to be indigestion tablets. Strathdee not very popular at present.

CORPORALS' MESS

First of all, we would like to express our thanks to Major Fleming for giving us the opportunity to give an account of ourselves over the past few months.

We ended 1968 with our Annual Dinner, Dance and Grand Draw, which was held the the Embassy Rooms in Aberdeen. The evening was a resounding success with the Mess Cabaret of Bob "Al Jolson" Simmers and Lenny Green going great guns during the interval, much to the appreciation of all.

We were host to the Sergeants' Mess on 31st January for a Games Night. This developed into an exciting and enjoyable evening for all and ended in a draw. The Sergeants' Mess, not satisfied with anything but an outright win produced their new hobby—carpet bowls—and proceeded to trounce the Mess. For revenge, we offered them a return competition of basketball, football and .22 shooting, but to date the only response to our invitation is the excuses why they can't produce a team.

As always happens, faces keep changing at the Depot. We have lost Bill Murdoch but would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on reaching the higher heights of the Sergeants' Mess. New arrivals to the Depot Mess are Glen Low and John Gordon, to whom we bid welcome and hope they enjoy their tour at Aberdeen.

To end, our next big date on the calendar is the 28th February, when we are holding a Grand Dance, full report to be published in the next issue.

JUNIOR SOLDIERS' NOTES

Sgt T. Cuthbert
Sgt L. Tevendale
Cpl S. West? Why Who?
Lcpls D. Ross, A. Stewart, W. Gow.

We Would Like To Know

Col West's job?
Who cancelled Sgt Tevendale's drill course? "NOTES". Why me?
I would like to start these notes by welcoming Sgt Tevendale and Cpl West to the fold. I hope they have a happy and uneventful stay with us.

Alas! We say farewell to Sgt Pattillo and Cpl Stewart. I would like to thank them for all the work and effort they put into their tour of duty with the Junior Soldiers.

Recruit Platoon

The summer term started off to a good start with 42 Recruits, ten of whom were Gordons.

J/Dmr Harper won the Cup for the Best Recruit against some fierce competition. We congratulate him on achieving such a high standard. He has a brother at present serving with the 1st Battalion Pipe Band. On the whole, the Platoon reached a very high standard of training and so far are one of the best to have passed out for quite some time but this did not spare Sgt Cuthbert — it added a few more grey hairs — thus he is now known as "Snowy".

He Would Like To Know

Anything? — Sgt Tevendale.
How to Get a 3-Day Week?—Cpl West!
How to Dye Hair?—Guess who (no prizes).

In the Junior Soldiers' sport world again the Gordons come to the fore. Ruhning in the Cross Country are J/Soldiers Brown, Mellay Burnham and Reid. We have big hopes for Brown and Mellay who are running for the Junior Army Championships.

The Hockey team can almost be called the Gordon Highlanders team as we field seven Gordons. They are already in the 1st round of the Army Cup.

On the music side we have J/Piper Rugg who is entering for the Piping Competition in the Army Drum Music Festival. We wish him all the best and remember it is not the game that counts but winning it.

We apologise to the Medical Staff for the inconvenience caused by the delay in returning the angle poise lamp, but it is being dealt with in the usual manner of Junior Soldiers' Company — "Get lost," or words to that effect.

BY DAND.

"D" COMPANY

51st HIGHLAND VOLUNTEERS

OC—Major N. S. Thornton-Kemsley.
2 i/c Capt R. J. Aitken.
CSM — WOII Prati.
CQMS—Ssgt Warden.
1 Pl. Comd.—2Lt A. T. Brown.
Pl. Sgt—Sgt C. Gibson.
2 Pl. Comd.—Lt T. Macrae.
Pl. Sgt—Sgt W. Hadden.
Keith Pl. Comd.—Lt I. Y. Hardie.
Pl. Sgt—Sgt T. R. Christie.
PSIs—WOII Macdonald.
Csgt Fraser.
Sgt Booth.

A lot has passed under the bridge since we last put pen to paper. The Government has completely reorganised the TAVR — doing away with the varying grades. We have been left now as the only Gordon Highlander Reserve Force. However we are delighted to have attached to us a Cadre of 3rd Gordons. This Cadre, consisting of three Officers and five NCOs is to help us with administration and training.

One of the exciting things to come out of the re-organisation is the formation of a Platoon at Keith. Lt Ian Hardie is to be the Platoon Officer—married during the summer and is now living in Fochabers.

Our time of late has been spent preparing for the FFR Inspection that took place in early February. We have not seen the written report of this inspection, but we have heard that it is most favourable.

During this inspection our new Company Commander was seen in uniform for the first time for a month or two; the occasion being used for a take-over/hand-over check as well. We are all sorry to see Major John Gray go. He is to be taking up the post of 2 i/c, 52 Lowland Volunteers, we hear, in the near future — we wish him all the best in his new appointment.

Our new Second-in-Command, Capt Bob Aitken, joins us from "C" Cameron Company which he commanded. We look forward to seeing him in the Gordon Tartan and hope his time with us will be enjoyable.

Congratulations must also be expressed to 2Lt Tony Brown who was granted a Commission in January.

At last we have got some Gordon Tartan in the Battalion Pipe Band — at least four members of the 3rd Gordons Drums and Pipes have requested a transfer to us. Our strength at the present time is 93 Officers and men — but soon we should be welcoming some 30 men from the 3rd Gordons and a dozen recruits.

We still need more recruits — should any Gordon Highlander know of any **good** young lad, we would welcome an introduction.

We are losing WOII Macdonald in late March. It must be frustrating for a Regular Soldier to come and try to teach us civilians about soldiering.

Many thanks for putting up with the likes of us — the best of luck to you in the future.

We are looking forward to greeting WOII Hutton and hope he does not find us too bad.

2 PLATOON

As reported in the last issue, our annual camp was in foreign parts, in Bellerby, Yorkshire.

Since then, the situation in the Reserve Army has been clarified — to the disappointment of many former "Terriers" — and recruiting has been a main theme of our post-camp activities in past months.

Added to this, there has been some re-organisation within the Company. We were sad to discover that the OC, Major John Gray, was relinquishing his command; we wish him well, and trust he will contrive to occupy his new-found leisure hours. Enter a new broom Major Nigel Thornton-Kemsley; our congratulations to the Company Commander of the only Gordon unit in the Reserve Army. We anticipate with pleasure our brave new future.

There have been changes, too, within the Platoon. We welcome Lcpl Thomson and Russell from the stores, hoping they will find their feet — literally and metaphorically — in a more active capacity. Previously, our regard for them was possibly tinged with envy, on some occasions at least. Our thoughts were with them, for example, as we breathed the cool, clear, wet cold night air and contemplated wrestling a mythical secret from 1 Platoon at 2 a.m. on a March mornin!

"Salve", also, to our "new boys," both from AVR III, of tender memory, and from other sources.

"Usus et experientia dominatur in artibus" (Practice and experience are essential in works of skill: Columella) might well be our motto for the coming months. With camp — always a salutary experience — and its lessons behind us, we are now intent on preparation and hard training.

Officers' and senior ranks' week-ends, NCO's Cadres and range courses (the latter somewhat

more inspiring than in days of yore) should all add weight and meaning to our evening and week-end training sessions; in our new role as the sole representatives of the Reserve Gordons, we have an added incentive to produce a fighting unit worthy of the name.

Our mood, then is of hopeful ambition for the future, and training in the months before camp will undoubtedly prove nothing if not eventful.

Pl. Commander — Mr. Duggan.

Pl. Sergeant—Sgt Hadden.

Section Comdrs—Cpl. McKen.

Cpl Middler.

Cpl Irvine.

3rd TERRITORIAL BN.

By Lt Col R. Bannerman, TD.

Officially this will be the last occasion on which notes from the 3rd Bn will appear in the Regimental Magazine. However, being an optimist as well as having been credited with clairvoyant powers, I would prefer to say that notes from 3rd Bn will be missing from these pages for some little time, but I am convinced we will be reading within two or three years of the rebirth of a Gordon Territorial Bn.

Before the Burial Service is said over the ashes of the last remaining Gordon Bn in the Reserve Forces, it might be fitting to think back on its eventful if short life. Born of illustrious parents (a union of 4/7th and 5/6th Bns) the 3rd first saw the light of day in 1960. A re-organisation of the Reserve Forces dictated a reduction in the number of Territorial Brigades and the consequent reduction of Bns. At this time there were many sore hearts amongst Territorials when famous regiments found their identity lost forever in various amalgamations or shotgun weddings from which there was no possible escape. Our Regiment, however, was more fortunate than most. Its geographical location, coupled with its excellent recruiting record, brought from the pundits at the War House the decision that we should produce one Bn out of two. The wedding was arranged and the courtship which by even the most benevolent, could be described as "Stormy" began, to be followed by an equally turbulent honeymoon. Many good men were retired prematurely, others were forced to accept lower ranks, all in the cause of re-organisation.

Then out of the blue came the tonic that was needed. Something that demanded of each of us the maximum effort. New Colours were to be presented to the Bn and Her Majesty The Queen had graciously consented to perform the ceremony herself on the lawn of Balmoral Castle. To a man we applied ourselves to the hard work that such an event demanded, and though at the time we were not conscious of it, the 3rd Bn began to tick from the moment the news broke. Our differences were soon forgotten and when we marched on to the Royal lawn on that showery afternoon in August, 1961, the seal was set on our future. Hardly had the first foot touched the turf than the sun broke through a lowering sky to continue shining throughout the entire parade as if acknowledging that a new chapter in our history were just beginning. The success of such an occasion depends on the co-operation of all, but we must remember the excellent work done by our Regular staff of that

period led by Lt Col (then Major) Derek Brown, without whose tireless efforts the whole thing would have been an impossible task.

Since that day the Bn has performed its various roles which have ranged from first line reserve of the Regular Army to the backing up of the Civil Defence Forces, with distinction. Divisional and Army competitions, both athletic and military, have been tackled with considerable success and even if we did not always win we were "aye there or thereabouts". All was going well until the powers that be decided two years ago that another bit of re-organisation should be our lot. Initially Government policy dictated that only one Company would remain in each Bn area, but considerable pressure brought to bear on them from high places made them relent somewhat and allow Bns to continue but on a ludicrously small budget. Their hopes that this would make TA units commit suicide were completely dashed and so more drastic measures were adopted. We were then informed that no money at all would be allocated to us and that any training we did do would have to be paid for out of our own pockets. Again we dumbfounded Whitehall by continuing to operate, although not as often or on such a scale as we would have liked. At this point I must pay tribute to all ranks who continued to serve during this difficult period proving that it is still important for men to belong to a

Regiment and financial inducement is not essential.

Government however, always has the last word and in its wisdom has said that 3rd Gordons along with every Territorial Bn throughout the country will officially die on 31st March 1969. A small cadre of eight, commanded by Major Simpson, will remain to look after the property, etc., of our Bn and with this "Foot in the Door," we hope that one day in the not too distant future they will be told to recruit and form a new Territorial Bn.

Before closing, I would like to thank everyone who has ever served in the 3rd Bn for their loyalty and devotion, especially my predecessors who did such a marvellous job — Lt Col Jimmy Shankley, Col Mowbray Burnett and Col Ted Toms, and, of course our Honorary Colonel Tony Bruce who has been a tower of strength and a fund of knowledge since the formation of the Unit. Readers will, I hope, excuse an old man for reminiscing, but for me, like many others, there now ends a way of life I have known for many years, a void has been created which will be difficult to fill. It is nevertheless comforting to know that "D" (Gordon) Coy. o. 51(H) Volunteers has been able to absorb quite a number of the younger men. We know that they and the Cadre will give a good account of themselves, and we wish them every success for the future.

SCOTTISH NORTH-EASTERN AREA (THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS) CADETS

AREA HEADQUARTERS

Soon after the return to some semblance of normality, after the very wet camp the Area enjoyed(?) we said good-bye to Captain Norman Scott, who left us to travel to Staff College via Shrivensham. A dinner party was organised during which tributes were paid to Captain Scott's work as Officer Commanding 22 Cadet Training Team. There is no doubt in the minds of everyone in the North-East that the return of Regular Army assistance has proved to be of enormous value, and both the Cadet Force and the Regular Army will reap the rewards which must surely follow. To Captain Scott and Caroline we say adieu, and thank you for your enthusiastic efforts on our behalf.

We were delighted when we heard that as replacement for Captain Scott we were to have with us an old friend in the form of Major Ian Fleming. No stranger to the Area, Major Fleming was welcomed with open arms and found not the slightest difficulty in settling down amongst us — we hope happily.

Having in the past been winners of both the Senior and Junior Scottish Army Cadet Force Swimming Championships, we were not a bit daunted when with a tiny team we came second in the Senior Championships. Over the fate of the Junior Team we prefer to draw a merciful veil. Had Cadet G. Sutherland, an Area champion, been able to swim, and probably win the Butterfly, there is no doubt that we should have won the Senior Event, but a football injury incurred the evening before ended his hopes of competing in the swimming events. He did, however, against doctor's orders, compete in the Diving Events.

A follow-up Certificate "A" Par 2 Examination proved that instruction in the area has benefited from the work of 22 Cadet Training Team when the Cadets recorded a 93% pass thus securing our position as the leaders in the Certificate "A" Part 2 pass ladder for the Highlands.

The next event of importance in a crowded calendar was the Area Boxing Championships. The organisers paled when confronted with over one hundred eager boxers, but somehow all managed to get a fight.

We are grateful to the Scottish Infantry Depot at Gordon Barracks for allowing us the privilege of using their boxing ring, which is an enormous help. Watching the boxers we were glad to see Lt Col



Sergeant Grant and Cadets of the North Eastern Area at Gordon Barracks Training Weekend, 9th and 10th November, 1968.

A. T. C. Brown, and we must pause here in these notes to pay our tribute to Lieutenant Colonel Tony Brown, who has throughout his time as Depot Commander been a staunch ally and friend indeed to Scottish North Eastern Area. We wish him well where e'er his footsteps wander and record our grateful thanks for his many kindnesses.

The Scottish Army Cadet Force Commandant, Brigadier A. S. Pearson, CB, DSO, OBE, MC, TD, DL, the most highly decorated Territorial Army officer of the last war, presented the prizes at the end of what proved a fruitful if utterly exhausting evening for the small band of organisers. Our congratulations to Cadet Sergeant A. Sinclair (Strichen), for being awarded the Best Loser's statuette, to Strichen Platoon for winning the championships, and Dufftown Platoon who romped home second, only four points behind the winners.

Great consternation reigned amongst the ranks of the ungodly when the great god MOD ruled that no migration to Northern Ireland for annual camp would be permitted. However, after much work and near acrimonious correspondence MOD relented and all was happy in the land of SNE.

We would fail in our duty were we not to make mention of the impending descent upon 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders of 12 eager young cadets in April. After last year's visit which proved to be such a resounding success, there has been a waiting list to join this year's visit. As scribe

for the Area Headquarters notes I may add that having been on the receiving end as a Company Commander in BAOR and later in charge of a party visiting BAOR, the manifold difficulties are fully appreciated.

To those who so ably organised last year's visit, may we quote the answer given by one cadet to the question "Have you any suggestions or complaints about your visit to the Gordons?", the cadet replied "Yes, one complaint—the visit wasn't half long enough."

Every Gordon Platoon in the North-east now has incorporated in its title a Battle Honour of the Regiment. The one exception being Banchory which has used Dargai, and not Tirah, for many years.

In next quarter's notes we hope to be able to record a third win by the North-east in the Scottish Army Cadet Force Boxing Championships being held in Redford Barracks on 1st March. Having won these championships in 1967 and 1968, we have every intention of completing the hat-trick in 1969. Should we be able to afford the cost of a Gordon tartan dressing gown we hope that this tartan will appear with unfailing regularity in the ring as forty cadets comprise the North-east team.

Before ending, the Area would wish to record its thanks to Sergeant J. Baldwin for his cheerful efforts on our behalf. Always willing, always helpful, he has been a tower of strength and we shall miss him. To his successor, Sergeant P. Charman, we extend a very hearty greeting.

1ST (CITY OF ABERDEEN) BATTALION

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

The City Battalion aim at having at least one week-end training period per month and in fine weather believe in going places to encourage the cadets' sense of adventure by training in new surroundings.

One of the highlights of the week-end training periods was held in October when the Battalion moved to Tomintoul which is one of the highest villages in Scotland. The village is picturesque and can be described as sitting on the roof of Scotland. The journey from Aberdeen to Tomintoul is really delightful. The accommodation, which is owned by Banff Education Authority, is first class and very well equipped but can only sleep a maximum of sixty. This inevitably meant that a number of cadets were disappointed. However, the policy of going to new areas for week-end training certainly pays off by evidence of the large attendance at these training periods.

On Armistice Sunday the Battalion took part in a combined parade of Youth Organisations to Saint Fittick's Church where the Remembrance Service was conducted by our popular Padre Captain John Dickson. The Battalion Flag was carried by Cadet Company Sergeant Major D. Rennie and placed on the altar along with the flags of the other organisations. The ceremony of the flags was quite moving on this solemn occasion. The lesson was read by the Battalion Commander.

Sergeant Major Instructor Harry Gordon is the Battalion "Culinary Expert" and the wonderful meals he can prepare with primitive cooking appliances have to be seen to be believed. The Battalion is fortunate in having the services of a first class Assistant Administrative Instructor in

Regimental Sergeant Major Thom who laid on a really wonderful Christmas Dinner for the boys, and one look at the photograph shows that at least one cadet enjoyed the pudding.

The Battalion Commander believes that all work and no play makes the cadet a dull boy and as a change from the normal routine work, visits to various places of interest are organised from time to time.

At the moment the Battalion is training hard for the Certificate 'A' Part 1 Examinations which are being held next month. It is anticipated that at least 25 boys will pass.

CORUNNA PLATOON (NORTH)

This Platoon normally does very well in the sporting field and particularly in the realms of Boxing and Swimming. This year in the Area Swimming Competition they distinguished themselves by winning all the events in their age group except Back Stroke and the Divina events. The credit for this successful performance was due to Cadets G. Ross, J. Sked, J. Wilson and D. Robertson. They duly went forward to represent the Area in the Scottish National Army Cadet Force Championships held at H.M.S. Caledonia, Rosyth, on Saturday, 26th October. They were unable to repeat their successful performance but nevertheless put up a good show. In the Boxing event's every boy in the Platoon entered the ring but despite the hard work they put into their bouts the opposition proved too strong.

It is good to see so many of the boys taking part in these sporting activities. This is due to the encouragement and help which they receive from their Platoon Commander, Lieutenant A. Bryson.

EL ALAMEIN PLATOON (KINCORTH)

Training since camp has been concentrated in preparation for Certificate 'A' Part 1 at the end of March. Seven Cadets will be entered for the Examination and we expect 100% success.

Recruiting has been good with seven new Cadets in the past seven or eight months. This is quite good but it goes without saying that a few more would be very welcome.

We have been shooting regularly on the miniature range on Friday evenings and have the makings of some good shots.

In common with other platoons, we like to do our little bit and have recently wished good luck and a bright future to Cadets Stuart and Reid, both of whom have joined the Regular Army. Cadet Stuart is now training in the ACC, while Cadet Reid is nearer home at the Boys Wing at Bridge of Don.

In the sporting field, Cadet Rae represented us at the Boxing Championships at Redford Barracks but was, unfortunately, beaten in the preliminaries.

SAINSBURY PLATOON

Since camp in 1968 this sub unit has gone from strength to strength and now have a total of thirty-three cadets. The largest platoon in the North-eastern Area. However, due to the fact that of the total, twenty-six are recruits for the Part 1 Examination, and because of a shortage of Adult Instructors, it is difficult to maintain the high standard of instruction that we are used to. Still Lieutenant A. Sainsbury and Sergeant Instructor R. Merchant, with the help of a few senior Cadets, are managing to cope very well.

Having entered the Swimming, Shooting, Basketball and Boxing Competitions we achieved two individual wins and hope to do better next year.

We have had two boys joined the Junior Leaders Battalion, and speaking to them on a recent leave, they are thoroughly enjoying themselves. Three more of our Cadets are now considering the prospect.

2ND (ABERDEENSHIRE) BATTALION

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

It is now some time since we had the privilege of having notes published in the Regimental Journal and strange as it may seem, there has only been one notable change in that time, this was the departure of our Commanding Officer for the past ten years, Major J. R. Cutland, MA, who has taken up a new appointment with the Education Board in a wee village in Kirkcudbright. We in the Battalion and the Area who have known John Cutland and worked with him were extremely sorry to say goodbye to such a staunch supporter of the movement. Our loss is Kirkcudbright's gain as he has been accepted by them and will carry out his good work in the Cadet movement with them in his new area.

We congratulate Captain (Punchy) Chalmers on being promoted Acting Major and taking up the reins as our new Battalion Commander. As he was our Training Officer for the past three years it was fitting that he should step up and take over the Battalion.

Congratulations also go to Lieutenant P. Dawson on being promoted Acting Captain and appointed to Training Officer. As an ex-Cadet himself he has really climbed the rungs of the ladder to his present position and we wish him well. One feels sorry for his young wife and family because being the Training Officer, Peter has to visit the platoons as often as he can and this means long trips from home. However, Mrs. Dawson is also a staunch supporter of the movement and will no doubt bear with it.

TEL-EL-KEBIR PLATOON (BUCKSBURN)

The most important change in our way of life has been the move from the Drill Hall to the new Mini Hut built at the rear of the Hall. This took place in January in a sea of mud but our Platoon Commander, Sergeant Major Instructor Davy Reid, has promised us a beautiful lawn and a vegetable garden in the summer, so we have something to look forward to. We have been extremely fortunate in retaining the miniature range for which we are thankful as this in itself is a great asset on training nights. Sergeant Major Reid has as his assistants two of our ex-Cadets namely, Sergeant Instructor K. Masson and Sergeant Instructor D. Mackay. We

feel some good has been accomplished when cadets reach the age limit and then volunteer to remain as Adult Instructors. We could do with a lot more like them.

Somewhere in the offing are the chimes of wedding bells and we wonder, will Davy emigrate to Orkney or will he remain in a civilised country.

LADYSMITH PLATOON (INVERURIE)

We lost our Platoon Commander in September when Lieutenant T. McBeath was moved from the town and posted to Lonmay on being promoted Bank Manager. We wish him and his good lady all the very best and hope they will keep in touch with us.

Sergeant Instructor Douglas Reid has now taken over the Platoon and with the help of Sergeant Instructor Peter Bain (ex Regular Black Watch) is working hard to mould his young Platoon into an efficient and happy one.

We too have moved into a new Mini Hut at the rear of the old Drill Hall and of course are finding it a bit small after being in a large Drill Hall for so many years. Also like Bucksburn we were fortunate in retaining our Miniature Range and are very thankful. We have been informed that if our numbers exceed a certain figure we might get an extension to the hut so the Platoon have been given orders to go out and bring in their friends.

One of our senior Cadets, Lance Corporal Leslie Wright, has joined the Junior Leaders Regiment and, according to all reports, is enjoying his new life. We have seven Cadets going forward for the Certificate 'A' Part 1 Examination on 30th March and wish them success.

WATERLOO PLATOON (HUNTLY)

At the moment the future of the Platoon is in the balance. With the Drill Hall being handed over to the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works we have been given the use of the Married Quarter but this is on a short loan basis and, as there is no provision for a hut because of our low numbers, we may go out of existence in the not too distant future. This would be a tragedy after all the good work put in by our Platoon Commander, Captain Gordon Henderson, and his brother Lieutenant Jack

Henderson. We sincerely hope that it doesn't come to that.

In the recent Swimming Championships held in Aberdeen, Lance Corporals D. Chree and J. McKay came out tops in the Swimming and Diving respectively. Well done lads. We hope to have at least five Cadets trying for their Certificate 'A' Part 1 at the end of March. We wish them well.

KANDAHAR PLATOON (TURRIF)

On our first parade night in our new Mini Hut we had to uplift the partition that splits the hut into two rooms and put it into the office out of the way. We have a total of twenty-two Cadets and if we can keep this up we are bound to get an extension for the hut. The Platoon is very young with only one boy over 16. Our Cadet Sergeant, W. Stephen, was only fifteen last month.

We hope to have at least 8 boys going forward for their Part 1 at the end of March.

Five of our Platoon will be representing the Area in the Scottish Army Cadet Force Boxing Championships at Edinburgh at the end of February and should do well.

Since Lieutenant Sinclair resigned, the Platoon has been under command of Sergeant Major Instructor McAllister and Sergeant Major Instructor Winton. SMI McAllister comes from a family well known in boxing circles, hence the large number of boys interested in the noble art.

MARNE PLATOON (ELLON)

This is a comparatively new Platoon situated in the local Drill Hall. The Platoon has been in existence for about two and a half years and was originally commanded by Sergeant Major Instructor J. Chalmers of Peterhead (brother of Major Chalmers). The platoon is now under command of Sergeant Instructor J. Bruce who, at the moment is not in the best of health, unfortunately. However he is ably assisted by an ex Cadet Sergeant Instructor A. Middler from Lonmay who puts in long miles in all weather to be with us.

Of the original Platoon only one remains but we have a happy little band of willing warriors and provided we can continue to have the Drill Hall as a base, we shall go from strength to strength.

SERINGAPATAM PLATOON (STRICHEN)

This Platoon is domiciled in one of the very last war-time wooden huts in the area but despite leaks in the roof and holes in the floor, can still produce one of the finest platoons in the North-eastern Area.

Commanded by the local postman, Lieutenant J. Greig, this Platoon can still retain a strength of 16 to 18 really good and enthusiastic lads. One of the many honours the Platoon has received was the recent appointment to Area Regimental Sergeant Major of Cadet Sergeant Major J. Leel, one of the stalwarts and a perfect example of a dedicated cadet. He was also placed first in the Best Cadet Competition last year for the second year running and, in addition, in an open contest in the Highland Area held at Ballater, he commanded the group of cadets who were placed second. Truly an outstanding record for any 17 year old.

The Platoon also gained first place in the Area Cross Country Competition both in team and individual placings. Sergeant Sinclair being home

in record time. In the Scottish Army Cadet Force Boxing Championships in Edinburgh at the end of February the Platoon will have a few representatives. We wish them the best of luck.

SOMME PLATOON (PETERHEAD)

In recent months this Platoon has been going through a bad patch because of the loss of its Adult Instructors. However, we have been able to keep going thanks to Sergeant J. Grant (Gordons) and Sergeant Heep of the RAOC. These enthusiastic helpers from the Army Information Office have stepped into the breach and give of their best to assist young Sergeant Instructor Devlin in producing a young and efficient Platoon. This is the perfect example of the Regular Army assisting the Cadets physically and not with lip service. We cannot thank these two soldiers enough and can only hope that at the forthcoming Part 1 Examination what they have taught us will not have been forgotten.

RHINE PLATOON (FRASERBURGH)

We must start our notes by congratulating our Platoon Commander, Lieutenant P. Dawson, on his promotion to Acting Captain and appointment to Training Officer. This is great achievement for him and the Platoon. It was in this Platoon that he started his Cadet career. We wish him all the very best of luck.

Command of the Platoon now falls to Sergeant Major Instructor A. Buchan who fully intends to carry on the work of his predecessor. To assist him he will have ex-Cadet, now Sergeant Instructor, J. Ritchie and Cadet Sergeant J. Middler. An excellent team, as in due course results will show.



Captain P. Dawson and the members of his Platoon receiving the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Three members of the Platoon namely, Sergeant Middler and Cadets Watson and Stephen, have been selected to represent the Area in the forthcoming Army Cadet Force Boxing Championships and should do well.

Since we moved into our new hut we are running a monthly dance and, so far, has proved a success. We also have the makings of a good football team and hope to show our paces with local matches once the weather improves.

3RD (BANFFSHIRE) BATTALION

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Having been asked, at short notice, to provide notes for the 'Tiger and Sphinx' we find ourselves a little breathless and at a loss for words. However, we are grateful for the opportunity to do a bit of advertising and will, in future, keep a diary of notes.

It was unfortunate that the dates for the last Cadet Depot week-end clashed with our arrangements for Remembrance Sunday but a parade is a parade and last year we had our Armistice Parade at Dufftown. Although it could not by any means be called a scale X turnout, we did muster a fair number in 14 adults and 60 plus cadets. A wreath was laid at the War Memorial by Cadet Sergeant Major Higgins.

The Battalion continues to be the "Duke of Edinburgh's" and have so far gained 113 Bronze, 27 Silver and 12 Gold Awards. No mean feat in a relatively depopulated area.

DELHI PLATOON (DUFFTOWN)

Delhi Platoon continues to do well. At the start of the season their Roll Book showed only nine on strength but after some concentrated recruiting under Lieutenant R. B. Pickthall and Sergeant Major 'Monty' MacDonald their strength is now at a healthy twenty-eight. The Platoon is also the proud possessor of two pipers and this, we hope, will be the start of a Battalion Band.

Finally, we wish Cadet James Rankine the best of luck at the Army Apprentices School.

MANDORA PLATOON (KEITH)

Mandora Platoon, taking their time from Kabul, this year started on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and have so far gained 10 Bronze Awards. Lance Corporal D. Gillies has lately joined the Junior Leaders at Oswestry and goes with our very best wishes for the future.

LUCKNOW PLATOON (BUCKIE)

The Platoon under Lieutenant J. Bain is shortly to leave our old Drill Hall and move to a new Mini Hut where I'm sure we'll all be happy. The Platoon continues to do well under his leadership and lately had a very successful week-end at the Tomintoul Youth Centre, where they were assisted

by the Army Youth Team under Lieutenant M. P. Tait.



Lieutenant Colonel A. W. Macdonald, MC, TD, JP, who recently retired as Commandant Scottish North Eastern Area.

MARETH PLATOON (CULLEN)

The Platoon records another fairly successful year in having been runners-up in the Inter-Platoon Championships and having gained 4 Bronze and 3 Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We also said our goodbyes to Cpl A. Christie, who left us for the Junior Leaders at Oswestry, and to Cadet Sergeant Major D. Duthie, a staunch Cadet, who joined the Gordons at Bridge of Don. We wish them the best of luck.

KABUL PLATOON (PORTSOY)

The Platoon congratulates itself on once again winning the Commandant's Shield. This is the fifth time in seven years. Well done lads. The Platoon made an evening of it on 28th February when the Chief Constable, Mr. Tom Chasser, presented another 13 Duke of Edinburgh Awards to members of the Battalion as well as the Commandant's Shield. We also congratulate Cadet Sergeant C. Munro on his award of the Best Cadet Shield.

We have lately said cheerio to another of our members. Corporal M. Kelbie has joined the Junior Leaders at Oswestry. We hope he will be happy and wish him good luck.

4TH (KINCARDINESHIRE) BATTALION

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

On 1st January the Commanding Officer, Major N. R. Gray, was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and appointed Deputy Commandant for Scottish North-eastern Area. Captain W. S. Diack was promoted Major and took over the Battalion and Lieutenant W. Allan was promoted Captain and appointed Training Officer. Both the Commanding Officer and the Training Officer are Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme enthusiasts and are looking forward to having many members of the Battalion participating in the Scheme in the near future.

The Battalion has a good football team and at present are the holders of the El Alamein Cup for the Inter Battalion Competitions.

Headquarters are fortunate in having an efficient Assistant Administrative Instructor in RSM J. Rogers who is an asset to the good running of the Battalion.

CHITRAL PLATOON (ABOYNE)

Still flourishing with Sergeant Major Instructor F. Thomson the mainstay. On 27th October Lance Corporal G. Fraser successfully passed the Certificate 'A' Part 2 Examination.

The Platoon did well in the .22 Inter-Platoon Competition, coming 5th in the Lyon Cup Class. In the Champion Platoon Competition for 1967/68 they were placed 11th. This was a considerable improvement on last year when they were 20th.

Corporal Fraser and Cadet C. Brown were in the contingent that visited Troon at the end of January and both enjoyed the experience.

All are looking forward to gaining more experience in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme when the better weather is here.

We have recently been allotted the Gordon Highlanders battle honour 'Chitral' and are very proud of it.

DARGAI PLATOON (BANCHORY)

We congratulate our Platoon Commander on his promotion to Captain and on his appointment to Training Officer. We also congratulate Sergeant Major Instructor M. Conn on his appointment to Platoon Commander and his elevation to Under Officer.

In January we moved into our new premises and were very glad to do so. Although not large, they are very comfortable and have plenty of light. The Centre was officially opened by our new Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel J. H. Moonie, MM, TD, and was dedicated by the Battalion Padre, Reverend R. M. Maule Brown, on 28th January.

This was also an Open Night for parents, friends and representatives from the trades responsible for the alteration and completion of the premises. A number of VIPs also attended. After the ceremony the boys put on a few humorous sketches and tea was served. We also took advantage of the evening to show our appreciation for his great interest and assistance to us by presenting Captain Allan with a silver and cairngorm mounted Sgian Dubh.

Our old Centre, the Drill Hall, is now to be sold and this will be the end of an era for many Gordons who had a long association with the Territorial and Regular battalions in the past. We hope, of course, that the miniature range will still be available to us.

VITTORIA PLATOON (PETERCULTER)

Going strong under our able Commander, Lieutenant W. Thain, and loyally supported by our other 'old soldier,' Sergeant Major Instructor F.

Geddes. Bill Thain has been a Gordon Highlander since 1931 and is an ex-Regimental Sergeant Major of one of the Gordon Battalions.

We are happy to have been allotted the battle honour 'Vittoria' but when we recall Bill's tales of his experiences at the battle of Alamein, which are amusing and often hair-raising, we feel that 'El Alamein' might have been more appropriate.

Cadet Sergeant Jock Smith is kenspeckle in the unit and won Class 'C' in the Inter-Platoon Boxing Championships. This is one of Jock's shining rays.

All are looking forward to better weather so that we can get more outdoor experience and to participate in some sport.

ANZIO PLATOON (STONEHAVEN)

We congratulate Sergeant Instructor A. Watt on his elevation to Under Officer and on his appointment to Platoon Commander in place of the lately resigned Lieutenant J. Lowdon. Andrew is an accountant so there should be no difficulty with money matters with any of the Battalion, unless he starts to charge professional fees for his services.

Being beside the sea and having an excellent pool locally, the Platoon has always done well at sports and, in particular, at swimming. Corporal J. A. Shankley, a son of a former Commanding Officer of the 3rd Territorial Battalion, represented Scottish North-eastern Area in the National Swimming finals at Rosyth on 23rd November. Although Scotland came 4th he was commended by the Commandant for his achievement. We also have some excellent footballers, outstanding among them is Cadet Sergeant J. Lindsay. At present we hold the Inter-Platoon Shield and have members in the Battalion team for various other sports.

We too have moved into a new hut which, although small, is compact and has the advantage of being near grounds for outdoor activities. It is also in an area where we might be able to recruit a few more members.

We recently said goodbye to Cadet D. Adie. He has joined the Junior Tradesmens Regiment (ACC), and is now 24152635 Junior Private, 'C' Company, Clayton Barracks, Aldershot. All wish him well in his career and hope to have him visit the new premises when on leave.

NILE PLATOON (LAURENCEKIRK)

We are still fortunate enough to have the use of the Drill Hall and its amenities. But for how long? However, our numbers are such that should we lose the Hall, we'll get a new hut. In the meantime we continue to train happily under our 'old Gordon,' Captain W. Officer. Despite the fact that Willie is the only adult, he is ably and enthusiastically assisted by Cadet Sergeant R. Stuart and Corporal N. McLean. These two worthies recently visited Troon and thoroughly enjoyed their short stay.

In the Champion Platoon Competition, 1967/68 we were placed 8th and in the competition for the Lyon Cup were 12th.

As soon as the better weather comes in we hope to take full advantage of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and get out on 'safari' to areas where there are more trees to be seen than are at Laurencekirk.

We take this opportunity to wish Cadet R. Mitchell, who is now A/T 24147378 Sapper at Chepstow, every success in his career.



One member with no complaints.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

ROBERT GORDON'S COLLEGE CONTINGENT

This, I believe, is the first time we have contributed to the Journal. We are pleased and proud to do so, being in high hopes that it will increase the links of goodwill between the Regiment and ourselves.

The Cadets at Gordon's College came into existence in 1941, and took on their present form as an Army Section of the Combined Cadet Force in 1948. As for school premises to call our home, this is the first year we have achieved that advantage. We have a large room suitable for drill or lectures, an office, an armoury and store, and a good miniature range. For the past five years we have also enjoyed a half share, with Aberdeen Grammar School, in a well worn 3 tonner. It knows the approaches to the Cairngorms and to Cultybraggan rather well by now.

The three platoons in the contingent bear the names of battle honours of The Gordon Highlanders. The present senior platoon, Tel El Kebir, is undergoing a course in first aid given by Lieutenant Colonel C. J. H. Mann, TD, RAMC. We encourage every Cadet, after proficiency, to complete this very valuable course.

Alamein Platoon is at the moment working for the Proficiency Examination. In this connection we are indebted to 22 Cadet Training Team for their skilled assistance and good humoured patience on training nights.

Waterloo Platoon, a very enthusiastic band of recruits, are meeting the mysteries of map and

compass, and shooting their way gloriously through the Empire Test.

The basic calendar of activities includes two fairly arduous 4-day exercises in the Cairngorm area. These are not merely instructive and enjoyable, they also prove most useful in showing Cadets' leadership potential. The more modest Field Day, in June, is very popular as a day out when the rest of the school are at their lessons. We usually march out to Black Dog ranges for minor tactics and shooting.

Annual Inspection also happens in June. This year we are to be inspected by Lieutenant Colonel B. M. Hamilton, MBE, the new Commanding Officer at Gordon Barracks.

Annual camp provides the grand finale to the session, when we function as a whole unit amongst other similar units, and Cadets really can get their *esprit de corps*, away from the school mood. Cultybraggan is perforce the normal venue—and an excellent camp it provides. However, boys like variety, and so we spread our wings for more distant parts, when we can. Since 1954 we have had camp at Strensall, Glencourse, Troon, Ballykinlar, Minden (with the Cameronians), Chatham, Fort George and Farnborough. We have never had the good fortune to be attached to the 1st Battalion for Annual Camp, although we tried to manage it for Germany and even Kenya.

At Sandhurst this year are two former Cadets—Sergeant Douglas Stalker and Corporal Ian Noble; whilst at Welbeck there are Corporals Harry Ross and Guy Munnoch. Two Cadets have won scholarships. Corporal James Macgregor goes to Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1970, and Sergeant



Lance Corporals McKay and Crosby attending parachute training.



Sergeant Douglas Cannon, Robert Gordon's College.

Douglas Connon to Sandhurst after the summer holidays.

We are very proud of the good report received on Sergeant Connon after his visit to Canada last summer. He was the only Scottish Cadet in a party of six Cadets from Britain and he has written the following account.

CANADA 1968

Thirty-two hours after shivering in a cold and damp typically English morning, I found myself waking up in the brilliant Canadian sun in Calgary. The British Cadets had spent the night at the barracks in Calgary after a tiring but thrilling journey which took us from England to New York, New York to Toronto, Toronto to Winnipeg and finally, Winnipeg to Calgary.

Before we had time to absorb to the full the surrounding beauty we were whisked away to Banff, sixty miles from Calgary and lying in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies.

When I arrived at the Banff National Cadet Camp, I was immediately impressed by the surroundings of the camp and the hospitality given to us by the Canadian Cadets. I was assigned immediately to Delta Company and collected the gear and equipment necessary for the course. The course itself was split into four week-long activities, with a Battalion Parade on Saturday morning and the rest of the week-end till Sunday night free.

The first week, my Company were to do tours and basic military training at the base camp. These tours took us to beautiful Lake Louise, Johnson Canyon, Marble Canyon and Emerald Lake. The tours also took us to the Cave and Basin with its sulphur heated pools.

Basic military training took the form of parade-ground work, self defence training, first aid and athletic activities. The highlight of the week was the invitation to attend a Ball in the world famous Banff Springs Hotel where we met the Scottish proprietrix and were introduced to some of the hotel guests. I may say that my kilt and sporran attracted so much attention that I was exhausted telling the history of the tartan and of The Gordon Highlanders.

The second week was spent at a bivouac camp five and a half thousand feet up at the base of the Cascade Mountain Range. There we learned some basic rock climbing, fire fighting, nature study, river crossing and some mountain rescue work demonstrated by the famous climber, Peter Firmin, who has climbed the second highest peak in South America. For me, the bivouac camp was the most interesting and rewarding.

The last two weeks were split between a sixty mile walk round Lake Minnewanka and the Cascade climb.

The walk round the lake was interesting and we saw much of Canadian wild life. I had my first and, I hope, last meeting with a Canadian Black Bear which caused our instructors much concern over our safety as the bear followed us for quite a while.

The Cascade climb entails the climbing of some four and a half thousand feet to a height of nine and a half thousand feet. It involved using some basic rock climbing techniques.

When we climbed to the top of the mountain we planted the Canadian flag and sang their National Anthem. Thereafter I planted a storm torn Union Jack which had been with me since the first week of camp, and the surprised Canadians immediately took up the strains of the British National Anthem.

Before I had time to collect my thoughts I was leaving that wonderful country and all its natural scenic beauty, with only photographs and memories of the trip.

The trip left me, in the words of the information booklet of the camp, "a better citizen, proud of your country's heritage, and thankful to a foreseeing government who recognises the value of Canadian (British) youth properly guided. This is the finest assurance that the ideals for which your forefathers fought and died will be forever preserved."

ABERDEEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL CONTINGENT OPERATION "RAEDYKES"

The Contingent has had a fairly active winter, although most of the training must, of necessity, be carried out indoors. One exercise, Operation "Raedykes," which we did in November, amid the first snow of the winter, is worth mentioning. Three enemy agents had been parachuted on to an area about a hundred acres in extent near the Slug Road, three miles from Stonehaven. From this vantage point they had all our troop movements under observation. The Contingent, who were in camp at Banchory, were to attack in sections and eliminate the intruders. The terrain was rough moorland and the enemy had chosen the high ground with a twofold purpose, good visibility and excellent cover. However, after several attempts the enemy were over-run. Some of the younger Cadets reacted well in their first exercise of this kind.

The exercise had an added interest to those keen on archaeology since most of the land used formed the site of a Roman marching camp, a fact that has been preserved in the name Raedykes. About two miles of earthworks can still be traced—a remarkable achievement, when we consider that the Romans were to stop there only for a day or two or perhaps just overnight.

How would the shade of Emperor Septimius Severus have evaluated our tactics that Saturday? He and his two sons, Garaus and Geta, led a punitive expedition of nearly twenty thousand troops into this part of the world against the so-called Caledonians, about the beginning of the third century A.D.

They were perhaps the finest infantry the world has ever seen. Each soldier was self-supporting; he carried his own weapons, food, equipment, trenching tools and his daily marching quota was twenty miles, twenty-five if accelerated—echoes of the Duke of Edinburgh. The Sahara Desert was no more of an obstacle to them than the moors of Northumberland. All the armies of Europe were based on the Roman Army. Perhaps Severus had a good chuckle as he joined us at the de-briefing in Banchory. After a good hot meal, we packed up and left for Aberdeen.

Severus had plenty of time for meditation on his journey back to his tomb Eboracum (York); he has a further claim to fame in that he was the only Roman Emperor who died in Britain.

No. 82 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

2Lt. C. E. Price, 1 Gordons.
 Lsgt. W. Kely, Scots Guards.
 Pte Shade, 1 Gordons.
 Pte Clarke, 1 Gordons.
 Gnr Coupland, Royal Artillery.

For the first time in its short history, 82 A.Y.T. feel that it is time that its existence was brought to the notice of all in the Battalion by giving it a place in each issue of the 'Tiger and Sphinx'. Although a composite team, it only operates in Gordon country and with three Gordons in the team as is always the policy, no other regiment would have the right to claim it as theirs, although the Scots Guards or 50 Missile Regiment could perhaps try!

There are 78 Army Youth Teams in Britain, of which only nine are in Scotland. 82 A.Y.T. along with 81 A.Y.T. is wholly independent, the other seven are based around Glasgow and Edinburgh, but with Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and Kincardineshire to cover as an area, we are the second largest, close behind 81, who cover Inverness and the north. With over three hundred clubs and organisations to visit we have a formidable task on our hands. Somehow we manage, averaging between four and seven hundred miles a week. Our mini-bus has in fact finally died of exhaustion (after covering 35,000 miles in the last six months) to be replaced by an equally worn out hard top, long wheel base Landrover.

For those not fully in the picture as to A.Y.T. work, the aim of the A.Y.T.s should be explained.

The aim is simply to inform young men about life in the army and to stimulate those of the right quality to think seriously about making the army their career. The aim can in fact be achieved by both direct and indirect recruiting.

The majority of the time is spent in and amongst youth clubs, and secondly with ACF and CCF units, although Scouts and similar organisations and even the police, play a large part in A.Y.T. work.

This year so far has proved to be busier than any other and we are in fact fully booked up until December '69.

After Christmas leave the year began with the Kape Team visit. January the thirteenth saw the Kape indoor football competition, which was open to all schools, cadets, and youth clubs. The competition was won convincingly by the Beehive Youth Club, the largest club in Aberdeen and the Northeast.

On the thirty-first of January, O.C. 82 A.Y.T., took a party of twenty-five cadets from the Northeast to the Junior Tradesmens Regiment in Troon for the week-end. They were shown round the Barracks and introduced to various activities and projects, culminating in a football match which proved to be entertaining in more ways than one.

Our annual .22 shooting competition involving youth clubs from all three counties is finally drawing to its end after six months; shooting takes place every night. It is hoped that when the competition restarts in September, three months will see it through, as too much time is in fact being devoted to this one activity.

The snow continues to remain in the hills and we hope will remain so until well into April, when we hold our own ski course for the Banffshire Schools at Tomintoul. All our week-ends are booked for ski-ing with various Youth Organisations until the end of April. Most week-ends are spent in the Tomintoul Outdoor Centre where excellent slopes are available for ski-ing and Aviemore itself is close at hand. Pte Clarke, who so far has come through the ski-ing season unscathed, with only one set of broken skis to his name is proving to be a very competent skier. Pte Shade takes it turn about with Gunner Coupland to spend a week or so in the MRS with either a twisted knee or sprained ankle.

May will see the Kape Team once again on the scene which we hope will be as successful, if not more so, as the last one. We also will be playing our part. At the end of May we go to the Shetlands for a week on our own recruiting drive, where a programme already planned and reconnoitred will be carried out. The main emphasis will be on the schools, with a week-end devoted to the cadet unit from Lerwick.

July will mean a fortnight in Northern Ireland with the S.N.E. Area Cadets, August and September will see the Aberdeen City Police Cadets working with us. As part of their basic recruit training they will be coming out on various activities to gain experience on the hills and also in the running of camps and outdoor activities.

Abseiling and rock climbing is an important factor in A.Y.T. outdoor work. Lsgt Kely is at present running a basic course for the Junior Soldiers prior to their visit to Norway.

Pte Shade too, is doing his bit by proving to be a very capable fencer having gained his experience from Lt M. P. Taitt.

Other activities include canoeing, sailing (we are building our own Wayfarer dinghy), archery, orienteering and hill walking. In fact we must be qualified to run any outdoor activity. Lsgt Kely is at present completing his canoe qualifications but to see him attempting to squeeze into a canoe is not only amusing but just about impossible. At last Mr. Price has to look up to someone and for once feels rather small! (For the record Lsgt Kely is 6ft. 6½in. tall.) We are sorry that there are no photographs available in this edition but we hope to oblige in the next one.

We hope that this, although short, will give you some indication as to the work done by this A.Y.T.

THE CAPETOWN HIGHLANDERS

EDITORIAL

Once again the Chief Scribe faces a piece of blank notepaper headed "Editorial" and hopes that it will fill up with items worthy of appearing in the 'Tiger and Sphinx' journal. Fortunately, a reader of the journal, Lt. Col. R. A. Wolfe-Murray, DSO, MC, has made a very fine suggestion which I intend using as a start for this issue.

In the previous issue of the Journal a photograph was published of the Regimental Colour being uncased on the occasion of the trooping of the Colour ceremony early in 1968. This is the new Regimental Colour presented in 1966. The background colour is infantry green and the wreath contains the disa flower (the emblem of the Western Province, our home Province, in the Republic of

South Africa), silver leaves (found only in the Western Cape), Cape heath and thistles. The centrepiece depicts the lion of Scotland (taken from our Regimental badge), the cross of St. Andrew and the Regimental motto "Nemo me impune Lacessit." For the interest of our readers the battle honours appearing on the Colour are—Bechuanaland 1896-97; South Africa 1899-1902; South West Africa 1915; Western Desert 1941-43; Gazala; Alem Hamza; Best Post; Alamein Defence; El Alamein; Italy 1944-45; Casino II; Chiusi; Florence; The Greve; Gothic Line; Monte Stanco; Monte Pezza; Sole-Caprarra; Po Valley.

The historic event of the granting of the freedom of entry into the City of Cape Town, bestowed on the unit on 10th October, 1967, was commemorated on the evening of the 9th October, 1968, with a march through the streets of the Mother City. With are described elsewhere so I will not take up more space here.

In the new year the Unit was called upon to do street lining duties at the Opening of Parliament on the 31st January, 1969. In spite of many haircut "fatalities" the street lining contingent commanded by Capt Barry Ventriss put up a good show.

The Regimental Pipe Band has gone from strength to strength during the past year and Pipe Major Munro and his merry men are to be commended on the fine improvement the band is showing. Soon we hope to see the Band back to what it was in its glorious years just after World War II.

OFFICERS' MESS

To the skirl of bagpipes 1969 was greeted by a record crowd at the Regimental Association's Hogmanay Ball once again held at S.A.S. "Unitie." This event which is ever increasing in popularity was well organised with the decor being something worth seeing. The catering was excellent and the atmosphere sizzling!!

With the new year well on the way we glance back at the closing events of 1968 to record a pre-camp informal function held in September for the combined Officers' and Sergeants' Messes together with wives/lady friends. This get-together was a most pleasant and enjoyable evening and an event that should be repeated annually.

Then there was the El Alamein Dinner in October, although not a Mess function it was well attended by new and older members alike.

The late afternoon of 9th December saw the Mess gathered together at The Castle for the traditional Cutting of the Cake by the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Stephan. At this gathering the Honorary Colonel presented an additional Oak Table to the Mess which was a welcome addition to our Mess furniture.

The new year got off to a good start when on 3rd January our Guest Speaker was General Sir Oliver Leese, who commanded the 8th Army for a period during the Italian Campaign. He was visiting South Africa in his capacity as the Patron of the B.C.E.S.L. The senior honorary members of the Mess, together with the Commanding Officer, dined with the General at the Civil Service Club, thereafter proceeding to The Castle where a most interesting and enjoyable evening was held. Our sincere thanks to the General for giving up his valuable time to visit our Mess.

On Sunday 9th February a group of officers went out to do battle wielding a cricket bat against the Sergeants' Mess. It was a fine day but oh! not

such a fine score!! Next year we will have to start oiling our bats sooner. Still a 7 runs defeat was almost a victory.

Wedding bells rang out loud and clear from Pretoria on Friday, 14th February when Lt John Bone was "substantively ensnared" to Reneé Bijker—our very best wishes for the future to you both.

Hearty congratulations must be extended to Carl Scheppening and Mike Hayne on their recent promotions to Captain. Also to 2nd Lt Tony Spencer-Smith on receiving his commission.

SERGEANTS' MESS

As 1968 was drawing to a close, the annual continuous training camp was held in Oudtshoorn. The new arrangement is that the leader group from Sergeants upwards go and take command of troops undergoing national service. The Cape Town Highlanders have been going to Oudtshoorn since the other three units concerned we marched on a circular route through the centre of the City past the City Hall, where the Mayor took the salute, to The Castle. Here the Mayor presented a long service medal to the Regimental doctor—Major John Silberbauer. We believe that it is the first time that a Mayor of Cape Town has presented medals to a member of the armed forces.

Continuous training in 1968 was a departure from the usual procedure as only the "leader group," from Sergeants upwards, attended camp at Oudtshoorn, in October. There the leader group took command of National Servicemen doing their national service and for more than a week did active, on the ground, manoeuvres. This we found worked exceedingly well as, in particular, there was always an instructor on hand to guide and offer advice when required. The weather was exceedingly mild and altogether with our week-end stop over at the Gamtoos River, we can safely say a good time was had by all.

On 23rd November, 1968 the Unit took part in an athletic meeting, our opponents being other Citizen Force and Commando units in Western Province Command. We started off exceedingly well and at the half-way mark were in the lead. But then we faded badly and finished up third behind the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes) and the Cape Field Artillery.

Then the trying Christmas period with its rounds of festivities was upon us. Regimental functions before World War II and the Sergeants' Mess has many friends in that town. Old and new acquaintances are passed on from one generation of sergeants to the next, and this camp was no exception. One incident that stands out in the camp was when out in the field on manoeuvres a certain staff sergeant omitted to lay in the stock of beer for Saturday night. To put it mildly, the boys were disappointed, but relief came from an unexpected quarter. Staff Gibbs, who flew up for the week-end with those officers and sergeants unable to attend the whole camp, produced a bottle of whisky. This had a remarkable effect on the morale, the more so as Staff Gibbs is a teetotaler!

The Commanding Officer has given part of the regimental headquarter's premises for a Sergeants' Mess, and work has been put in hand immediately to convert it to our use. Mr. R. A. Briggs, who was a sergeant before the war, presented us with a bar counter that does the bar section a lot of credit. Being a regiment of Scottish affiliation, we naturally prefer to do the work ourselves than pay others,

and being soldiers, we naturally prefer to scrounge the materials needed than spend money unnecessarily! The work is proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

The traditional Sergeants' Mess Christmas party was held on the 14th December. The CO and Mrs. Albertyn, Major O'Brien and the Adjutant, Capt Burger, were present. Outward looking policies are in vogue now, and the hospitality of the RSM is no exception. This year the RSMs and their ladies of the Cape Town Rifles (Dukes), Cape Field Artillery and the Warrant Officer of SAS Unities were invited. One of the highlights of the evening was an elimination dance. When two couples were left it was announced that the couple who could produce the longest line of clothing would be the winners. It started with the usual ties, socks, shoe laces, etc., but when it appeared that the end of the gent's clothing had been reached, the two sergeants were suddenly reduced—yes—to bikini bathing costumes! A big round of applause, and now it was the ladies' turn to do better. After quickly putting their heads together (—censored—). And would you believe it, it was a dead heat! This example of outstanding sportsmanship earned a very big round of applause. The party finally broke up at 2.30 a.m. with a melodious rendering of many of the old favourite mess ditties by some of the visiting mess veterans.

The Mayor of Cape Town has presented a cup to be competed for by the Citizen Force units of Cape Town in athletics. The first meeting was held in late 1968 with the Cape Town Highlanders coming third, the Dukes first and CFA second. Outstanding in the regiment team was Sgt Plane who earned his regimental sporting colours.

In recent years the national commercial radio in the Republic, Springbok Radio, has run a Christmas appeal for funds for underprivileged children in institutions. Each donation is announced over the radio, and the procedure is to then challenge others to donate as much or more. Last year the Mess collected £30 and donated this to the fund. A challenge went to other Sergeants' Messes in the Republic to equal it, but the challenge was not met.

Congratulations to Paddy Pigden, Tex Silva and Allan van Blerk on the birth of their daughters, and to George Lippert on the birth of another son. It is fortunate for these babies that their mothers are good-looking.

1968 has been a fruitful year with the biggest accomplishment being the acquisition of premises for a Mess and the work done thereto.

"HQ" COMPANY

The period under review can only appear to be very quiet compared to all the activity of the previous few months. However, this was just superficial while under the surface "HQ" Company was "regrouping" and sprucing up on the organisation side.

Cadet Officer Tony Marriner let it be proudly known that he was expecting to produce a new Highlander in the new year ('69)—not unaided, but with full assistance from his wife.

New Sergeants Day, Unser and Warner arrived in the nick of time to strengthen the company NCOs, and it is rumoured that Medic Bob Warner is the lowest flying ambulance "pilot" in the army. The farmers of Oudtshoorn district vouch for it anyway.

Tony Spencer-Smith is to be congratulated on his appointment to commissioned rank—he thought he had been overlooked in the "birthday honours"—even if the powers that be in Pretoria insist on calling him A. S. SMITH.

Annual camp at Oudtshoorn was tackled with the usual enthusiasm for which we are known, and sometimes, it is felt with even anxiety by the senior adjudicating staff. Like the time when the entire enemy force was completely surrounded by then Candidate Officer "S. SMITH" and his "merry" men. (Apparently a bottle of something was seized and detained for "interrogation")—and brought back to base for processing. Apparently their leader did have a point or two under the Convention when he complained that they had all been stacked and bound in a heap on their tummies in the bottom of a bouncing Bedford. And the temperature was close on 100°F.

Public Holiday Kruger Day (10th October '68) saw two of the Company involved (it's a very good word that describes many of our pastimes) in a really over ambitious scheme. Namely to "walk" (and we are supposed to be motorised infantry) from Simonstown to Cape Town—a short distance of some 25 miles. And what's more we have a photograph to prove it. Although it must be admitted that "Piper" Jimmy Munro had a lot to do with the determination to complete the course. We have searched but somehow are not able to find the photograph. (The photographer was not allowed into the blister ward of the hospital.) Congratulations to our two crazy stalwarts, Capt Barry Ventris and 2Lt Roger Haylett. Roger represented his boss the QM and we are pleased to mention that Capt Patrick Tate is more mobile on his two pins than he even was in his wheel chair at the time of the Trooping the Colour parade. He says he got more sympathy in his chair but has a better capacity standing up.

One way or another 1968 turned out to be another interesting and successful year and the



The Big Walk—(from l. to r.) P/Major Munro, Capt Barry Ventris, unknown.

highlight was reached at the annual Hogmanay Ball held once again at SAS "Unitie" in the Cape Town Docks.

The new year usually commences with the Regiment attending the State Opening of Parliament, and 1969 being no exception the 31st January, 1969 saw the Regiment as the biggest contingent on parade. A very tiring job was well done under intense heat which was too much for some of the lads. Or perhaps it was the mini-skirts for which Cape Town is becoming famous. Anyway, fainting or swooning, walking or complaining, we are keeping our end up to live up to what is expected of us. And that leaves room for a lot of imagination.

"A" COMPANY

Last year in October the Leader Group of the Highlanders went to camp in Oudtshoorn, and a most instructive and useful camp it turned out to be. All from "A" Company did a good job, especially considering some were filling posts new to them.

At the Inter-Unit Athletics Meeting held on the 23rd November this Company was well represented, and congratulations go to our Sgt I. Plane for being the Highlanders' best athlete.

We were pleased to see the long awaited promotion come through for John Watson, and wish him luck as a full Lt.

"A" Company provided troops for the Opening of Parliament parade this year and a smart, if rather warm, parade it was.

"B" COMPANY

The only opportunity offered recently for a company exercise was at a camp in Oudtshoorn. Unfortunately, this was restricted to officers and NCOs only.

Although only our key personnel were present the camp proved to be highly informative and enjoyable. The permanent force attached to "B" Company, 1 SAI, managed to refresh somewhat rusty memories and by the end of the camp we were able to run the company allocated to us efficiently.

Apart from the training aspect, the two weeks gave us a much needed chance to get to know our key personnel within "B" Company on a more personal basis. This has been most advantageous since many of our key posts are newly appointed men.

In conclusion, we would like to congratulate WO II de Reuck on his promotion to warrant rank.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Our meeting in September was well attended. We were given a most interesting talk by Captain Brewer on life in Rhodesia. The wild life films were particularly interesting, the "stars" ranging from beetles to elephants.

The El Alamein Dinner was held on 11th October at the Hotel Cecil, Newlands, and was voted a great success. The toast of The Regiment was proposed by Colin Eglin, who served with Dog Company in the Italian Campaign. He must have been very young at the time, but we were treated to an excellent speech, to which Commandant Chris Albertyn suitably replied. It was altogether a most happy occasion and it was gratifying to see, after twenty-six years, such a high proportion of those present who could recall the joys of service in the desert.

Over ninety children were present at the Christmas Tree function and, as usual, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. WO II Steyn, as Father Christmas, was very much in evidence—he really is a GREAT Father Christmas in every sense of the word. The conjurer was much enjoyed, though we must admit that when it came to doing the disappearing trick he had nothing on the youngsters—at least as far as ice cream and sweets were concerned. The fathers, as usual, were suitably catered for.

The Hogmanay Ball was one of the best ever, as witness the number of requests already received for tickets for the next one. The Mayor and Mayoress of Cape Town did us the honour of attending and the further honour of staying until the wee small hours. Wally Cox and his hard-working and competent Dance Committee are to be congratulated on their success. The dance was held at SAS "Unitie," and once again we must express our thanks to our Naval friends for their kind assistance.

Capt George Innes has returned to civilisation, i.e. Cape Town, after a long stay in Walvis Bay. We were certainly glad to see him back again and celebrated the occasion by promptly voting him on to the Committee. Walvis Bay will miss him. Another new committee member is Seymour Stoch. After his sterling effort on the Dance Committee his election was a foregone conclusion.

Lyell Williams and Ken Beard, unfortunately, have both suffered heart attacks. Happily, they are making progress and at the time of writing, Ken, in fact, is overseas on a recuperative holiday. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Presumably Capt John Welch prefers sunny South Africa to sunny Italy. We hear he has now returned after some years abroad, and has established himself at Botha's Hill, Natal. Well, Natal is a lot nearer than Italy and with luck we may see John again one of these days when he comes down on leave.

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION

NOTTINGHAM & MIDLANDS BRANCH

Secretary: Mr. E. Matthews, 20 Elms Park, Ruddington, Nottingham.

Meetings held on the third Thursday of each month, at the Old Robin Hoods, NCOs Mess, Legion Place, Parliament St., Nottingham, 8 p.m.

Having been co-opted at very short notice by our Committee to write up the activities of the Midlands Branch during the past few months, I

sincerely hope that our members will forgive me if I omit to mention them all by name, but would like to thank them all who have given their time towards the furtherance of the Association's aims here in the Midlands.

Our social season commenced on September 14th last with a Social and Dance at the Triumph Road Drill Hall, followed by a visit of our members to the Lincoln Section Social Evening on October 12th.

November 9th—Pipers of the Branch escorted the Lady Mayoress, Ald. Mrs. Joan Case, and councillors to the Market Square for the traditional buying of the Poppies. On Sunday the branch was on parade at the War Memorial, Victoria Embankment, Trent Bridge, along with the other ex-Service Association; the wreath was laid by the Secretary, E. Matthews, on behalf of the Gordon Highlanders.

November 16th—Our eighth Annual Dinner, also held at the Triumph Road Drill Hall, was well attended, our guest of honour being the Secretary of the Sherwood Foresters Regimental Association, Lt Col Gofton Salmon, OBE, our President, Lt Col R. G. Lees, MBE, was especially welcome among us, also Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds of the Edinburgh Branch, and Mr. and Mrs. Rabone. The Secretary, Eddie Matthews, looked very fit and tanned sitting beside us pale faces, but then he had just returned from two weeks training in Libya, North Africa TA (VR). Some of us dimly recalled the hills of Benghazi later on at the bar.



EIGHTH ANNUAL DINNER.
P/M Runcie, Ppr Howlett, Ppr Ferguson.

We put on an excellent St. Andrew's Night social—the ladies predominated in the organising of this function, and our Pipers, under John Runcie, once again excelled themselves.

Unfortunately our Hogmanay Night was very poorly attended which was a great pity after all the hard work put in by Mrs. Bicknall and Dunn and Messrs. Ferguson, Howlett, Dunn. We look for much more co-operation next time.

On January 25th our eighth Burns Supper was held at the Welbeck Hotel, we were most fortunate in the venue as both the Manager and the Chef were Scots, and they did us proud. The Manager gave us a tune on the Pipes besides dispensing large quantities of whisky to the Pipers during the course of the evening.

Mr. J. Rabone, ex 2nd Bn, was present along with his wife and their son Michael, on leave from the 1st Bn in Germany. Michael was in uniform and a great credit to the Regiment, both in his appearance and demeanour—we were most happy to have him with us.

A long time aim of our Secretary may well come to fruition should we get the necessary support from interested parties in getting an Associ-

ation Pipe Band formed. We are very fortunate in having ex Cpls Howlett and Ferguson willing and able to give up time and experience in taking the learners we have already.

Our biggest problem is in obtaining sets of Pipes and Drums, and we would be extremely grateful for any help in obtaining any of these instruments, also any articles of dress.

Mr. Ferguson has appeared on local television, and played a very catchy tune which he has dedicated to the Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Alderman Mrs. Joan Case. He has also composed a march to our President and called it Lt Col R. G. (Tansy) Lees, MBE.

We look forward to the day when this march will be played by the full pipe band, in appreciation of the help by the Colonel.

I should like to take this opportunity of welcoming to our membership ex Cpl Ian McLeod of the 1st Bn with whom he served in Cyprus and Germany for several years, also to report on the progress of Brian Dunn and his family who are settling down nicely. Brian is now working for the GPO and at present waiting for a council house in the city.

Our Treasurer for the last few years, Mr. Albert McLean, has resigned due to ill health. We wish him all the very best.

I think that about winds things up this issue, apart from saying that our AGM will be held in March when our officials for the next year will be elected. We look forward to a successful year ahead and send all our best wishes and regards to all Gordons serving and otherwise from the Midlands.



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CHRISTMAS CARDS

The choice of inserts for the Christmas Cards this year will be the same as last year, i.e. "The Gay and Gallant" and "Wellington on Copenhagen at Quatre Bras" for the upright cards and "Outpost in the Pyrenees" plus a new insert "Viceregal Guard, Dublin 1847" for the oblong card.

The cost of cards plus selected insert is 12/- per dozen, postage extra. Orders should be addressed to Regimental Headquarters.

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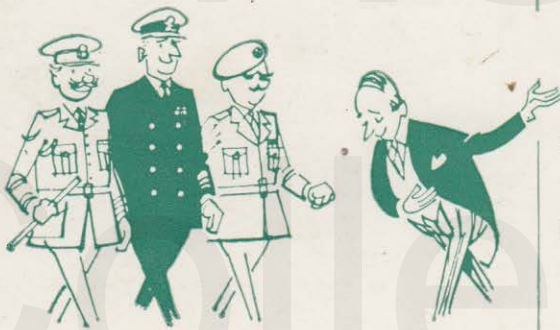
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