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THE JOURNAL OF THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SUMMER, 1951

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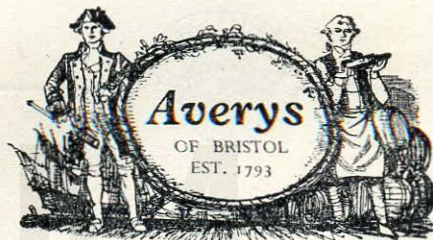
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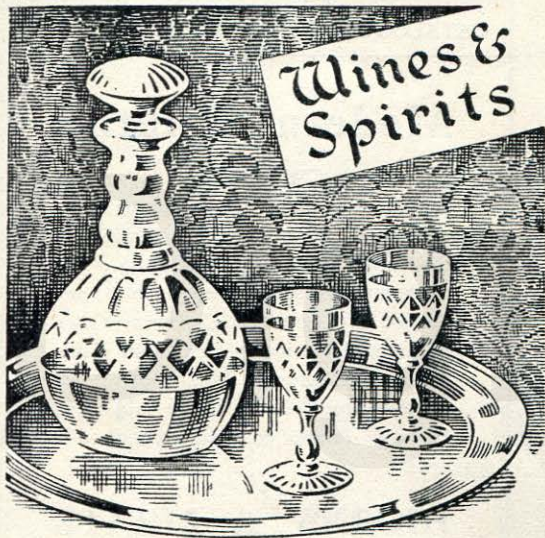
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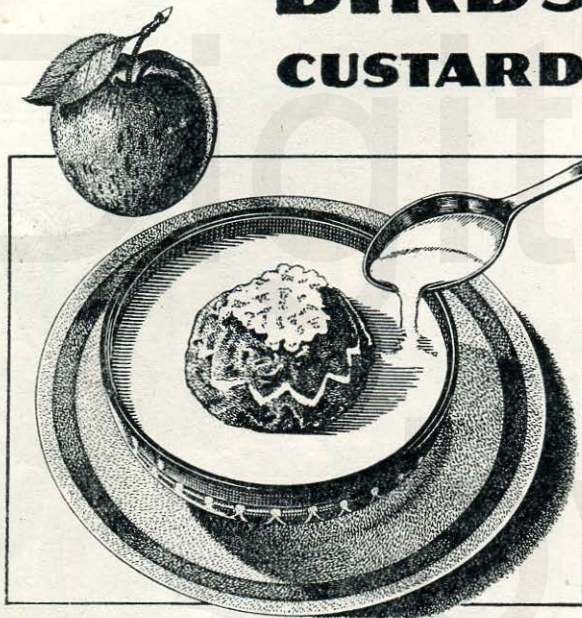
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THE BACK BADGE

The
Journal
of



The
Gloucestershire
Regiment

Vol. III. No. 10 (New Series)

June, 1951

Within a laurel wreath upon a pedestal inscribed "Egypt" a sphinx

"Ramillies," "Louisburg," "Guadeloupe, 1759," "Quebec, 1759," "Martinique, 1762," "Havannah,"
"St. Lucia, 1778," "Maida," "Corunna," "Talavera," "Busaco," "Barrosa," "Alubera," "Salamanca,"
"Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Waterloo,"
"Chillianwallah," "Googerat," "Punjaub," "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "Delhi, 1857,"
"Defence of Ladysmith," "Relief of Kimberley," "Paardeberg," "South Africa, 1899-1902,"
The Great War, 24 Battalions.—"Mons," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18,"
"Ypres, 1914, '15, '17," "Langemarck, 1914, '17," "Gheluveldt," "Nonne Bosschen," "Givenchy, 1914,"
"Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18,"
"Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Guillemont," "Flers-Courcellette," "Morval,"
"Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Messines, 1917, '18,"
"Pillckem," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18,"
"St. Quentin," "Bapaume, 1918," "Rosières," "Avre," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel,"
"Béthune," "Drocourt Quéant," "Hindenburg Line," "Epéhy," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal,"
"Beaurevoir," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto,"
"Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1917," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Sari Bair," "Scimitar Hill,"
"Gallipoli, 1915-16," "Egypt, 1916," "Tigris, 1916," "Kut al Amara, 1917," "Baghdad," "Mesopotamia, 1916-18,"
"Persia, 1918."

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EDITORIAL

“NOBODY but the Gloucesters could have done it”—so ran a signal sent to the 1st Battalion during the fateful action south of the Imjin River in the last week of April. There is no doubt such a message must have heartened the defenders of that hard pressed hill in Korea, as it stirred the hearts of all in the Home County.

Knowing the terrible losses suffered by the Battalion, the message “We are operational again” the following week came as a powerful tonic to all.

“News from the 1st Battalion” naturally looms large in this issue of THE BACK BADGE and many will learn for the first time something of the activities and hardships of the Battalion since they landed at Pusan last November. Of the last heroic but tragic action when the brunt of the recent Chinese attack appears to have fallen on the Regiment, we have just received a first-hand but necessarily incomplete account, and with its help a somewhat fuller story has been compiled and will be found on a later page.

Already the Gloucesters had lived up to the best of their traditions in the fine capture of Hill 327 in February. Colonel Carne, writing afterwards, said: “It was quite an achievement and we are proud of it. Our rather middle-aged and sometimes unenthusiastic reservists were splendid—just steadily determined to get to the top of the hill. Morale was very high indeed and we could have done anything. Now we have been warned to take over from one of the forward Regiments and no doubt the activity will do us good.”

The Battalion were thenabouts just south of the Imjin River, near Choksong, on what was soon to become their great field of battle. For four nights and three days, vastly outnumbered, they held their ground, isolated, short of ammunition, food and water, until on the 25th April the situation became so desperate that the Commanding Officer was given permission to evacuate their position, and he told his Company Commanders that they might attempt to break out of their small hill-top perimeter and fight their way back independently.

Those who know Colonel “Fred” Carne can well imagine him, imperturbable as ever, giving his orders and then deciding to remain with those of his Battalion, maybe the larger proportion, wounded and who would have had no earthly chance of breaking out to safety.

The casualty list is probably the longest any battalion of the Regiment has ever suffered in so short a period, and we all join in sending our tribute to our gallant comrades in the 28th/61st, and our sincerest sympathy to the relatives of all ranks in their anxiety and sadness.

“The 28th are still the 28th”—but let us not forget that many of those gallant defenders, both officers and men, were not always Gloucesters. Many were reservists from other corps, and to some extent the tributes that continue to pour in from so many sources must be shared by other Regiments.

The news that the Regimental Depot is once more to take in recruits for their early training will be welcomed by everybody and we hope that the old county and family spirit, of which we were so proud, may once more flourish. It is hoped that the new scheme will be brought into operation this autumn and that the chances of men remaining with the Regiment all their service will be the greater.

A list of donations towards the Korean Welfare Fund will be found elsewhere in the Journal; and may this be another opportunity for giving thanks for all the kindness showered on the Regiment by friends and by strangers. Kindly gifts from other Regiments have been much appreciated.

Donations towards the cost of producing this issue of THE BACK BADGE have been more generous than in previous cases and we are really grateful to all kind subscribers. Quite apart from this larger issue with all its Korean news and photographs, a week or so ago the rises in costs were frightening and there seemed but little chance in countering these except by cutting the number of pages and illustrations. We have no wish to raise the price of the Journal in these already expensive days, but must continue to count on the generosity of those able to make extra contributions, and we would also ask for help in securing *more* subscribers, especially from amongst those who have recently been released from the Service.

Thanks are also due to our advertisers for their support and we hope that the various firms concerned will really be supported by our readers.

10th May, 1951.

TRIBUTE TO THE 1ST BATTALION BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

One cannot but feel exalted over the stand made by the 1st Battalion against overwhelming hordes. Sustaining the main thrust of the enemy's assault, attacked on all sides for days on end, cut off from the rest of the force, yet the Battalion was never overborne.

When it was found that they could neither be relieved nor supplied, a break out was ordered.

To quote from a letter that I have received from the Brigade Commander, 29th Infantry Brigade: "The behaviour of all ranks, the coolness and calmness displayed when it was almost certain that they would not be relieved will never be forgotten by those of us who knew about it. *Carne* was an inspiration. I can still hear him talking on the wireless as calm and unruffled as if on an exercise at home."

No achievement in the past can surpass this effort for bravery and tenacity.

We are indeed proud of our Regiment and our countrymen.

In the name of the Regiment I wish to express the deepest sympathy to those who either mourn a dear one or who are left in suspense as to their fate.

H. E. DE R. WETHERALL, Lieutenant-General,
Colonel, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Many other tributes—literally from world-wide sources—have been received, but it is regretted that space will not allow their inclusion in this issue of THE BACK BADGE.

REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

WE congratulate **Private M. A. Abrahams** of the Parachute Regiment on the award of the George Medal for gallantry in seizing a burning explosive charge and thereby saving a comrade from serious injury. Private Abrahams (No. 22189549), who lives at Sea Mills, Bristol, did his basic training in the Gloucesters in 1949, prior to volunteering for the Parachute Regiment.

* * *

2/Lieutenant J. W. Allison, gazetted to the Regiment last December, was the winner during his last term at Sandhurst of one of the Commandant's six silver spoons (second highest score) for rifle shooting.

* * *

The Very Rev. Harry Blackburne, D.S.O., M.C., Dean of Bristol, retires this year from the Deanery. He will be remembered by many in the Regiment as chaplain to the 3rd Brigade during the 1914-18 War, and at the R.M.C., Sandhurst, in later years. He has been a very good friend of the Regiment and we wish him happiness in his years of retirement.

* * *

Amongst "old soldiers" who take in **THE BACK BADGE** is **Colonel G. C. Burn**, who was gazetted to the Regiment in July, 1891. He served with the 61st in India prior to transfer to the Indian Army in October, 1892. Colonel Burn now resides in Edinburgh.

* * *

Major S. Drinkwater writes that his eldest son volunteered for the Navy last October and is now training at Torpoint.

* * *

Four officers of the Regiment are now serving with M.E.L.F. in **Egypt**—Lieutenant-Colonel T. K. Lacey and Captain R. D. French at G.H.Q., Captain D. F. Jones (S.S.R.C.) at the Corrective Establishment at Moascar, and Captain L. C. W. Cull (S.S.R.C.) attached to the R. Pioneers near Suez.

* * *

Brigadier M. A. Green, C.B.E., M.C. (1916-21), manager to the M.C.C. team in Australia, was injured in a motor accident in Adelaide last February. He is now home in England, fully recovered, and back as Secretary to the Worcestershire C.C.C.

* * *

5181640 S.S.M. H. Hale, now R.A.S.C., has been transferred from Colchester to M.S. Branch, H.Q. Western Command, at Chester.

* * *

The 1st Battalion, Royal Hampshire Regiment, recently responsible for the training of the Wessex Brigade Training Centre, left Bulford last February for Minden, Germany; a suitable move as they are one of the old Minden Regiments of 1759 days.

* * *

Mr. F. W. Saunders, writing from St. Helier, has passed on information about the origin of **League Football in Jersey** in 1898, when the 61st were the first champions, playing through the entire season without a single goal being scored against them (48—nil).

In what was probably the stiffest match of the season, against the Jersey Wanderers, the Regimental team consisted of: Lance-Corporal J. Hathaway; Lieutenant R. E. Rising, — Clark; Privates Savory, Beard, Amos; Private Hunter, Corporal Hill, Band Sergeant R. D. Livingstone, Privates Woodward and Williams. Armourer Sergeant Heacock and Private Lundy appear to have been reserves.

* * *

Brigadier M. A. James, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., who retired from the Army last March, has been appointed by the Bristol Aeroplane Company as Works Defence Officer at their factories. He was recently Director of Ground Defence at the Air Ministry, so he will have little to learn but much to pass on in his new task. He says there are a number of old comrades with the B.A.C., including several in the Police. Brigadier James's son is now at Sandhurst and hopes to get a commission in the Regiment next autumn. He is a member of the R.M.A. hockey team.

* * *

Two other sons of ex-Regimental officers are also at Sandhurst, but in more junior terms—**Lieutenant-Colonel E. M. B. Gilmore's** eldest boy and **Major C. Matson's** son. We hope in time that they also will wear the Back Badge.

Major Matson, M.C., has just given up his Sussex farm and has settled in Eastbourne.

* * *

Major R. B. James has recently retired from the secretaryship of the Long Ashton Golf Club, Bristol, where he has been since 1945. Major James joined the Regiment in 1914 and retired in 1939. During the last war he was H.G. Staff Officer at Bristol.

* * *

Sympathy is extended to **Colonel E. W. Lennard, T.D.**, late 6th Battalion, in his recent illness. We learn that he is slowly on the mend. His son is now a platoon commander in the 1st Battalion in Korea.

* * *

Malaya seems to have attractions for Regimental bandit-hunters. Major R. H. S. Woodward, Captains J. H. E. Bown and M. K. Smith and Lieutenant C. G. C. Riley, D.C.M., are serving there with the Malay Regiment, and Captain E. L. T. Capel is reported to be joining them shortly.

* * *

Ivor Novello's death recalls the song "**Bravo, Bristol**" written by Fred E. Weatherly for the 12th (Bristol's Own) Battalion of the Regiment in 1915. Novello, who wrote "Keep the home fires burning" at about the same time, composed the music for the Battalion song, the proceeds of its sale being given to the Battalion funds.

*It's a rough long road we're going,
It's a tough long job to do,
But as sure as the wind is blowing
We mean to see it through;
Who cares how the guns may thunder !
Who recks of the sword and flame !
We fight for the sake of England
And the honour of Bristol's name.*

Lieutenant M. G. C. Pimbury, a National Service List subaltern, is serving with the Somaliland Scouts at Gederis, British Somaliland. He gives the population of Somaliland as 150 Europeans, 700,000 Somalis and 3,000,000 camels.

* * *

Another veteran officer of the Regiment has been traced. This is **Colonel Hugh Rose**, who was commissioned into the 61st at Malta in May, 1878, three years before the formation of The Gloucestershire Regiment. He was transferred to the 2/22nd Foot in 1879, so that there can be very few who would remember him. He later joined the Indian Army and retired in 1910. Colonel Rose now lives in London.

* * *

We learn that **Captain J. F. G. Smele, M.C.**, who served in the 28th in Burma in 1942 (and spent a night with the Japs), is now a resident in Toronto, Canada.

* * *

Station Officer G. H. Upson, M.M. (late 28th), has now retired from the Birmingham Fire Service after 30 years' service; because of their close associations in the Regiment, Councillor E. H. Richardson was asked to make the presentation of a chiming clock from the Fire Brigade Committee.

* * *

Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Waldron, D.S.O., O.B.E., who retired from his Australian appointment last December, is now, after a course in Gurkhali, commanding the 2/10th Gurkha Rifles in Malaya.

* * *

Elsewhere will be found the "Recollections" of **ex-Sergeant-Major Edward Young**, of Weston Park, Bath, who, as No. 2377, enlisted in the Regiment in 1879 and who finally retired from his military career in 1936. Mr. Young is now in his 91st year.

* * *

The Story of The Gloucestershire Regiment will be **broadcast by the B.B.C. Midland Region** during "Gloucestershire Week," 8th-14th July. The script has been written by David Scott Daniell with Regimental assistance; it is a revision of our earlier broadcast of 1949 which received such generous praise. Watch the B.B.C. programmes for the exact date and hour.

* * *

The formation of a **British Commonwealth Division in Korea** is now to be formed. It will contain the Canadian 25th Infantry Brigade, consisting of the 2nd Battalions of our friends The Royal Canadian Regiment, of The Princess Patricia's Canadian L.I., who served in the 27th Division with the 61st in 1915, and of the French Canadian Royal 22nd Regiment from Quebec.

* * *

A bronze tablet was unveiled in St. Nicholas' Church, Bristol, last January in memory of members of the **12th Battalion, "Bristol's Own"** who died in the 1914-18 War. The service was conducted by the Vicar, Canon J. M. D. Stancomb, Honorary Chaplain to the Regimental Association.

The Memorial Window to the **6th Battalion** is reported to be progressing well and will be ready for unveiling in St. Michael's Church, Bristol, in the autumn. In one of the bottom corners of the window will be found a representation of a woodcock, to commemorate the name of the late Colonel H. C. Woodcock, a former C.O. of the Sixth.

* * *

Old Soldiers' Day will be held at Reservoir Camp, Gloucester, on **Saturday, 21st July** (by bus for Finlay Road from G.P.O., Gloucester). Tea, games and sideshows will be arranged and the 1st Battalion Band will play during the afternoon. Past and present members of the Regiment are invited to attend and may bring their families. To help with the expenses, a charge of 3s. per person will be made for tickets. Apply early to the Regimental Depot.

OBITUARY

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. F. TARRANT, T.D.

WE regret to announce the death at his home at Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, of Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Tarrant, T.D., on 13th April. Colonel Tarrant joined the ranks of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, in 1887, became a sergeant and obtained a commission in the Battalion in July, 1898, reaching the rank of major in 1913. As a subaltern he commanded the old Cyclist Company ("L" Company of Cheltenham) and, with Captain Pottinger, commanding "E" Company, helped to raise by voluntary subscription the money needed to build the present 5th Battalion Drill Hall in Cheltenham. In 1908, when the 2nd V.B.G.R. became the 5th Glosters, "L" Company became a rifle company and was re-lettered "F" with Captain Tarrant as O.C. Company and Colour-Sergeant (now Captain) W. G. Tibbles as his Colour-Sergeant.

In 1914 the Cheltenham detachment, some 225 strong and consisting of the Band, "E" and "F" Companies, the Cyclist and M.G. Sections, was commanded by Major Tarrant, who was shortly afterwards appointed 2 i/c. He proceeded overseas with the Battalion in 1915. In March, 1916, as a Lieutenant-Colonel, he took command of the 4th (Reserve) Battalion in England (formed from the 3/4th, 3/5th and 3/6th Battalions) and was later transferred to the T.A.R.O.

Colonel Tarrant was President of the 5th Battalion O.C.A.; he was a very good friend to his old unit and will be missed by many.

His son, K. F. Tarrant, will be remembered as a subaltern in the 1st Battalion, 1917-22. To him and to Mrs. Tarrant we offer our sympathies.

NEWS FROM THE 1st BATTALION

ONE is sometimes apt to find that what is on the far side of an horizon is very different to what one had imagined. So it was with Pusan. Its photographs had shown it, apparently, to be a reasonable, western-style seaport and, if a trifle rickety, at least worthy of the title city. Pusan was a sham. The harbour was there; the wharves were there; about these lay great warehouses, railway lines and derricks. But the town itself was a mouldering, stinking, overgrown village with a railway terminus and certain brick and mortar buildings scattered, shamefaced, amongst the native shanties.



29TH INDEPENDENT
INFANTRY
BRIGADE GROUP
A White Circle on a
Black Square.

On the evening of 10th November, 1950, the Adjutant, the R.S.M., Chief Clerk, Provost Sergeant and an interested following of Korean nationals surveyed the train that was to take the Battalion to Suwon, its destination. It was a broken, filthy train, whose chief virtue lay in the fact that each coach possessed the requisite number of wheels, and its appearance was in keeping with the terminus.

Nevertheless, by two o'clock on the following morning, it was packed tight with Glosters and, after a protest or two from the engine, managed to pull slowly away from the station.

Since trains were invented, soldiers have made the sort of journey which followed. The long nights, swaying and jolting through the countryside, with the creak of the springs and the couplings occasionally drowned by the shriek of the whistle; the daily brews in a tin hung outside the coach; the halts when meals are prepared with one eye on the stationmaster and the other on the local dogs; and the fearful indecision as to whether there is time to attend to the calls of nature. The Battalion train, pulled by one engine and then another, made slow and unsure progress up the Korean peninsula towards Suwon. The place names were sometimes familiar—Taegu, Taejon and, on the first morning aboard, the great sweep of the Naktong river which had protected the United Nations Army within its arm so faithfully. And, as ever, there were so many memorable incidents: a brush with the R.T.O. at Taegu; a search for water in blacked-out Taejon; an officer who fell down a manhole on a station; but the train crept ever north until, late in the afternoon of the third day, the broken platform of Suwon station lay beneath our feet and there were friendly faces to greet us—Major Richard Butler, Lieutenant Antony Wilson, Sergeant Read and all the others of the advanced party. Packs and kitbags were tumbled off the train, ration boxes and ammunition, a few men still sleeping—all were unloaded on to the platform, sorted out, and transported by one means or another to the grand buildings of the Agricultural College wherein lay our first Korean base.

As the autumn turns to winter in Korea, there is a chill, piercing wind, thin and clear, that blows down from Siberia across the great ranges of mountains. It was blowing that morning following the arrival of the Battalion, and all the plywood nailed across windows, all the fires that burned smokily within could not keep it completely outside. Already, the ground at dawn sparkled with a deep frost and the sun had lost its power to warm the air comfortably. As the Battalion unpacked and prepared itself for the task of joining in a war that, daily, seemed farther and farther away, and nearer and nearer its conclusion, the last days of autumn seemed to be fast running out.

Digitized

KOREA, 1950



Suwan Agricultural College

Left: windproof jacket and hood. Right: Tank suit



"Char up!"

Colonel Carne and Captain Wilson just after morning "stand down," November, 1950



Sibyon-ni, 18th-22nd November, 1950

Battalion firm base here when chasing guerrillas. Major Butler in foreground

Digitized

KOREA, 1950



" Our Christmas tree "

In front: Major Wood, R.S.M. Hobbs, Major
Walwyn, Captain Farrar-Hockley
Behind: Captain Wilson, O.R.Q.M.S. Evans



Recharging Wireless Batteries
Signal Sergeant Smythe and another



Christmas, 1950
Battalion rest area 8 miles north of Seoul

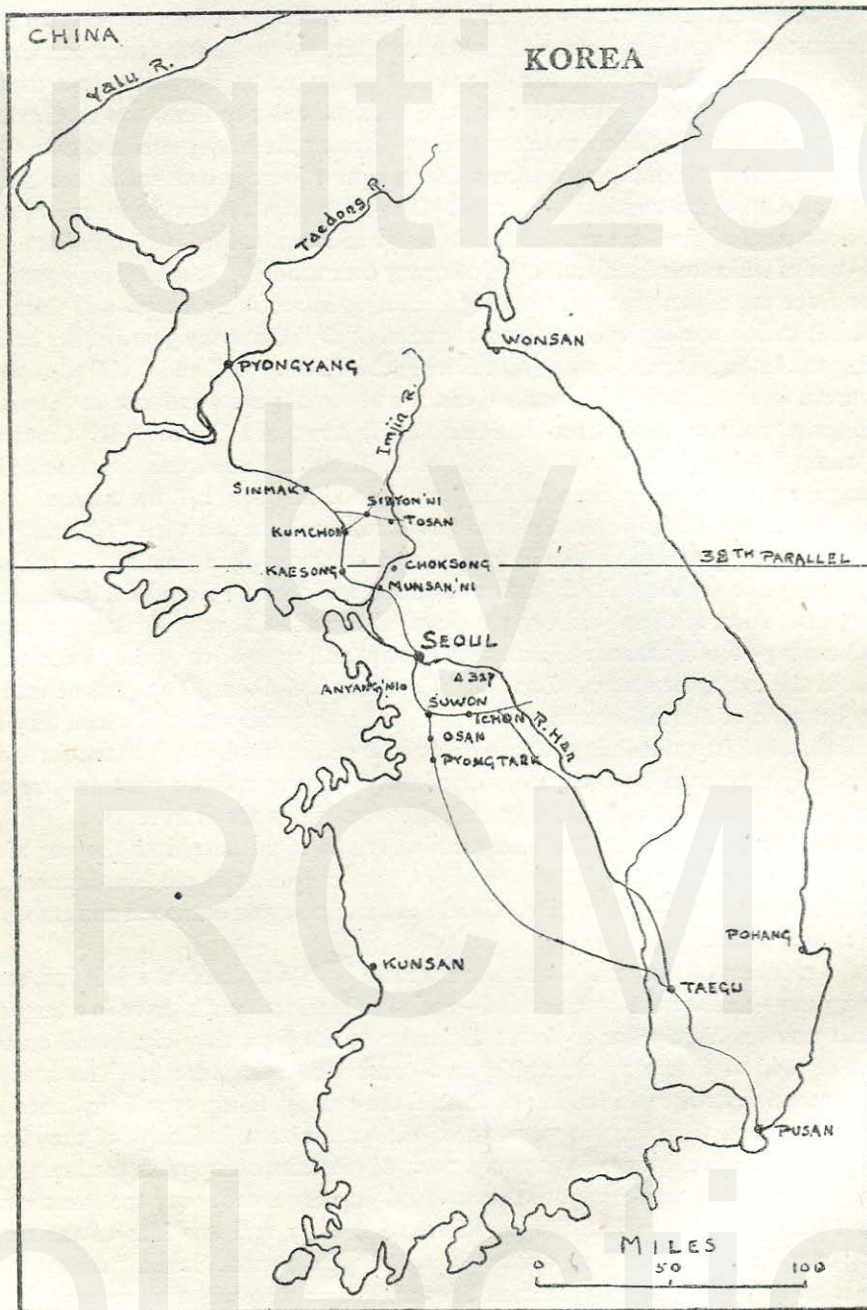
[Photos by Major R. S. Butler]

There was an exercise called "First Frost," at the outset of which a number of plaintive voices were heard to say, "An exercise!—but surely we've come to fight! Surely not an ordinary exercise!" And there were some red faces at the end of the exercise for those who found that, after all, their marching was not quite up to the standard that they had thought, and that there were certain things that a long sea voyage had caused them to forget. But before the exercise was over, the welcome order to move was received and by road and rail the Battalion moved north to Kaesong for anti-guerrilla duties. The road party arrived without mishap after a dusty, bumpy journey over roads that had not been maintained for a considerable period. The rail party was caught in one of those mysterious plots of the Korean National Railways and was divided overnight into three parts—one of which consisted entirely of company commanders! A schoolhouse provided shelter from the nights that were rapidly becoming increasingly bitter, and from this base the Battalion was deployed on its new duties. "D" Company guarded the bridges crossing the Imjin river at Munsan'ni, relieving the Turks. "A" and "C" Companies went north into the heart of guerrilla country and established a redoubt at Sibyon'ni, guarding the eastern approaches to the Main Supply Route of I Corps. "B" Company, the "rump" of Support Company, and Main Battalion Headquarters remained in Kaesong area, telling each other what they would do if only they had the chance!

On 24th November, however, the entire Battalion concentrated with "A" and "C" Companies, and operations in the Sibyon'ni area commenced in earnest. A series of sweeps took place as the result of "information received" either from local informers or local agents. Most of these—such as the dawn raid on the village of Kwangungsong by "A" Company—found that the "birds" had flown, and were of value only in that they permitted the flag to be shown. But "C" Company had a sharp engagement with an enemy battalion of North Koreans on the road to Tosan as the result of which they lost two killed and eight wounded. But the debit balance did not lie with them, for No. 9 Platoon, ably supported by the remainder of the Company and the gunners (our own 70th Field Battery of 45th Field Regiment), shot straight and well in reply.

It was at Sibyon'ni that the Battalion heard the news of the entry into the war of the Chinese "Volunteer" Army. That same night, two companies of the Northumberland Fusiliers came up from Kaesong in relief, and the Battalion again entrained and embussed for a journey north.

On the morning of the 30th November the main body detrained at a halt just south of Pyongyang—the North Korean capital—and after breakfast and a shave in a temperature that was sufficiently low to freeze the razor to the face, they clambered on to a column of United States 2½-ton trucks and continued their journey. The roadway was thick with dust that whirled in and around the convoy, filling eyes, hair, lungs and mouth. The mud villages gave way to the brick-and-mortar buildings of the city as the trucks sped furiously into Pyongyang, their negro drivers happy in the knowledge that no other vehicle would oppose them. And on they raced, over the great sweep of the Taedong River, up into the pine-forested country and low hills of the north, pausing only for 30 minutes for a quick "brew-up" and a snack from a "compo" tin. There is an Adjutant and a Regimental Sergeant-Major who will ever remember that day when they sat exchanging pieces of cake and cheese, almost unidentifiable as such for their covering of dust, as they bounced northward in a vehicle driven by one Private (First-Class) Jehu.



Towards the late afternoon they arrived at a pleasant valley lying within long, rolling hills whose abundant green pines broke the ever-present wind from the north-east. Here the Battalion made a defensive position and prepared to withstand the onslaught of the vast horde of Chinese who had volunteered to fight for the Communist cause in such a public-spirited manner. The advanced party, under Major Richard Butler, had gone rather farther forward than had been intended and it was not until the evening that they were able to return to give first-hand information as to where the enemy lay. Against any attack, positions were improved throughout the 1st December, and again on the morning of the 2nd. It was with consternation that instructions were received at mid-day to withdraw before nightfall and, uncomprehending, the Battalion joined the great stream of men and vehicles moving south.

A withdrawal is never pleasant, particularly when there is no apparent reason for making it. The snowstorms that fell about the marching column did not ease their problems. But at last the final vehicle, the final man, reached the new concentration area where, after a drink of blessed hot tea, the tired soldiers threw themselves down upon the frozen paddy-fields and, huddled together in their blankets, slept under a moonless sky.

And still the withdrawal continued, still the withdrawing Corps poured down the main supply route. In new defensive positions that held a bridgehead north of the Taedong River, the Battalion saw them all pass until, at 10 minutes past midnight of the 4th-5th December, all troops of 1 (United States) Corps were back on the southern bank of the river, making for the next defence line, leaving the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade Group as its rearguard. Company by company, the Royal Ulster Rifles withdrew. With "A" Company astride the bridges, the Battalion then commenced its own withdrawal. One by one the companies reported in to the check point by the gaunt skeletons of the hangars on Pyongyang airfield, embussed in American lorries, and drove south through the burning city. A mighty explosion rent the air as the two bridges were blown by the American Engineers on Colonel Carne's order. Then, with a small force of the 8th Hussars accompanying them, the last party of the Battalion—No. 3 Platoon, Major C. W. A. Bath, and Tactical Battalion Headquarters—left the airfield and city, now shaken with explosions started by the great fires raging, and set off along the road south as the dawn broke. Thus the United Nations Forces abandoned the city taken in such triumph only a few weeks before.

At Sinmak, a small town lying 30 miles or so north of the 38th Parallel, the Battalion concentrated once more before moving off to a defence task on the extreme west of the United Nations line. Here, on the bare hills above the village of Chongsoktu'ri, yet another series of positions were dug, yet again the artillery registered, and yet again the Battalion withdrew without meeting a Chinaman or a hostile North Korean. There was, perhaps, one major item of excitement when an Intelligence Officer patrolled forward rather longer than was scheduled, and "D" Company, straining like hounds on the leash, were stood by to reeve him from the enemy. But even as they assembled, the patrol returned so filled with enterprise and information that no one had the heart to be unkind. And there was that other astounding incident when Advanced "B" Echelon, led by Captain F. H. Worlock, made an advance to contact for 8 miles beyond our lines before discretion overcame valour—and this, understandably, was sufficient justification for an additional issue of rum for the heroes.

At 1540 hours on 11th December, 1950, the last Battalion vehicle passed back over the 38th Parallel. A wit had crossed out the original caption on the board denoting the boundary and inserted in its place: "You are now crossing the 38th Parallel by courtesy of the 38th and 39th Chinese Communist Armies."

And so, 17 days after crossing the Parallel going north, the Battalion found itself making leaguer again in the Kaesong area, but this time going south.

The dust and the snow were mingled in the dry winter air as the companies settled themselves in a leaguer immediately north of Seoul. Here, in I Corps reserve, they were able to live a more normal life with naked lights showing in the darkness, and baths, and a cinema show, and even, on one memorable morning, a visit from a N.A.A.F.I. mobile canteen which, though empty but for a few packets of biscuits, was showing a willing spirit. The days drifted towards Christmas and dining halls appeared from nowhere, petrol drums disappeared mysteriously to reappear again disguised as ovens, the mail bags grew bulky with parcels not only from friends and relatives but many from kindly strangers in all walks of life who wished the Glosters well in Korea. And all the while the business of military routine continued with road patrols, bridge guards, visits from General Officers and, unhappily, plans for the Battalion to cover a new withdrawal south of the River Han. The Colonel addressed the Battalion in Christmas week and, wishing them a satisfactory Christmas, warned them that the enemy was building up his strength along the River Imjin. Reports confirmed this daily and, accordingly, to make sure of it, Christmas Day was celebrated on the 24th. But the 25th was quiet, and the days following it, as the last days of the Old Year passed. However, the enemy, having given Christmas to his foes, was not prepared to extend his generosity. Early in the morning of 1st January, 1951, the Chinese Communist forces crossed the Imjin River and fell upon the 1st Republic of Korea (R.O.K.) Infantry Division.

The Battalion, as Corps Reserve, was alerted at 0545 hours. By 10 o'clock they had moved forward, been halted, turned about and switched to a new area. Ahead of them the Colonel tramped the hills laying out yet another defensive position, into which, by nightfall, the Battalion had moved. There followed a short lull, until, before dawn on the 3rd January, two battalions of the enemy attacked the positions of the Royal Ulster Rifles and the Northumberland Fusiliers and the first real fight between the enemy and the 29th Independent Infantry Brigade Group was on. Throughout the morning and the afternoon the enemy pressed his attack, whilst the remainder of the Corps made or commenced its withdrawal. By mid-afternoon the enemy was routed, leaving a vast heap of dead on the field. The mortars and artillery followed as they withdrew. The Glosters, who had held the centre position on the Brigade front, had made no contact and thus withdrew again without being brought to battle. For after nightfall the Brigade were ordered to withdraw back through Seoul and south of the Han River, whence the bulk of the Corps now lay.

Thus they fell back, leaving the empty streets of the capital city behind them, back across the frozen Han River, pausing only for a night in Suwon, before they took up their new defence task far to the south in the village of Pyongtaek.

At this stage the 8th United States Army paused to take stock of the military situation, whilst the political aspect of the war was examined by others doubtless better qualified to do so. And while proposal and counter-proposal flew across the conference table,

the new Army Commander, ever-anxious to join battle, began to patrol forward—at first cautiously, becoming emboldened with success. From the defences in and about the village of Pyongtaek, where the companies lay, entrenched in the icy paddy, and along the bunds, these sorties were made, along the deserted roads that led north to Seoul. For now the great hordes of refugees, mentioned elsewhere in these accounts of the campaign, starving, wragged, completely pitiable, had passed south and all that remained to the north were the very young, the very old, and the enemy. Daily, the American marches north increased in scope and strength until, once more, Suwon returned to the United Nations. Now the Battalion's defence works, once the foremost protection against the attacker, had become reserve positions, and it was time for them to move again. On the last day of January, they rose out of their weapon pits and moved north to Osan'ni in reserve to the attacking Corps.

The wind was still chill and piercing, the nights bringing heavy frost and snow. Yet it seemed that the sun was a little warmer in the daytime and the nights less severe. As if shaking off the dust of winter storage, the Battalion quickened its life with exercises, more games, route marches and the like. Over three days each company was taken to the local Hill 156 on which there lay, buried and unburied, over 200 enemy dead who had resisted to the last, reckoning without the tenacity of the Turks. But 11 days is quite long enough in one place if one has been in reserve overlong, and no one was sorry to move north again to Suwon on 11th February. The city, by now familiar to all, had suffered little damage from the Chinese during their occupation and there were billets for everybody. Regretfully, therefore, they left these that same afternoon and made their way eastwards to the town of Kumnyangjang'ni and thence northwards to Pabalmak. It was dark and cold when they reached their night leaguer and the paddy fields had never seemed less inviting. The Colonel, returning well after midnight to the leaguer area, issued orders for the relief of a battalion of American cavalry on the following day. It looked as if a real job had come along at last.

By noon on the 12th February the relief was complete, and the Battalion was in possession of a hill that had been taken only the previous afternoon by the Americans. From it they watched an American attack on Hill 350, just forward and right of "C" Company. As darkness fell the wind dropped, but a heavy frost began to settle on the ground. Shortly after midnight an enemy patrol attempted to penetrate Lieutenant Maycock's platoon area and was repulsed. "A" Company now stood to and waited. The Chinese tried again, this time through Lieutenant Preston's platoon, after raking the positions with fire from cover close by, as the result of which Lieutenant Preston and two others were wounded. The enemy then approached towards Corporal Armstrong's section who held their fire until they were at point-blank range. The engagement then reverted to a fire-fight at about 40 yards' range until the artillery and mortar fire became too intense for the enemy, who withdrew. Eleven bodies were found on the following morning—bodies that had been too far forward for the enemy to carry away in accordance with his normal practice. The enemy dead in front of Corporal Armstrong's section were 10 yards from the slit trenches.

The line was now swinging forward as "C" Company patrolled 3,000 yards ahead of the Battalion and took up a position just forward of the American cavalry to their right. Without incident, the remainder of the Battalion infiltrated forward into position in rear of "C" Company. Now, however, a major obstacle to further advances lay before

them and the advance to the southern bank of the Han River. Four hundred yards beyond "C" Company's foremost positions rose the steep slopes of Hill 327 on which, well concealed and deeply entrenched, lay a strong force of the Chinese. On the 13th February Colonel Carne was told that the task of taking this feature fell to the Glosters. On that night the enemy counter-attacked, his main blow falling upon the 5th Cavalry Regiment on the right flank of the Battalion, but his mortar fire covering this attack, though not intense, fell accurately upon many of the Battalion's positions and even had the temerity to ruffle the Olympian calm of Battalion Headquarters and the Command Vehicle. By morning the situation was restored and preparations for the attack on Hill 327 continued while the 5th Air Force made an attack with rockets upon it. On the 15th the cavalry were relieved by another brigade brought in to attack a feature immediately east of Hill 327, 30 minutes before the Battalion crossed its start line. The night fell and passed without incident, and the morning of the attack broke under a heavy sky filled with snow clouds.

At 1030 hours on 16th February the Assault Companies moved forward to the start line—"D" Company left and "C" Company right. Slowly, for the slopes were appallingly steep, the two columns made their way upwards to the 200-metre contour line from which the final assault was to be delivered. On the right flank the Americans were making slow progress in the face of heavy and determined opposition across the hill feature named "Cheltenham," and the enemy in rear of this began to fire into the right flank of "C" Company. But as yet the enemy on "Gloucester", Point 327 itself, showed no sign of revealing his position. The Assault Companies began to move forward and upward for the last 127 metres that would bring them to their first objective.

The guns and tanks increased the weight of their fire and the mortars searched out the enemy positions on the reverse slope. Suddenly, apparently from nowhere, grenades began to shower upon the Assault Companies, followed by heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. Within the first few minutes Major Charles Walwyn was wounded and his company was temporarily commanded by Lieutenant Peter Ware. The battle had now reached that stage when the individual skill of infantryman against infantryman was the deciding factor. Checking "C" Company in order that they might move to a more favourable position from which to continue the attack, the Colonel instructed "D" Company to work round the left flank and attack up another spur. Major Wood switched Lieutenant Simcox's platoon from its original route and continued the attack, though the latter was shot dead whilst assaulting a bunker a few minutes later. Slowly, but with increasing success, "D" Company moved on up the hill until, at last, two sections reached the western edge of "Gloucester." Meanwhile, Captain Mardell, second-in-command of "C" Company, had reached the slopes where his platoons lay and assumed command. From their new positions "C" Company now assaulted the enemy bunkers whose occupants resisted until the British weapons were actually in the bunker's mouth—some even then resisting surrender. Thus "C" Company reached the crest a few minutes after "D" Company, and turned to the task of clearing the eastern end. Again each bunker had to be eliminated before the next might be engaged—particularly so in this case as the crest of "Gloucester" was a knife-edge.

It was now well into the afternoon as "D" Company moved on to the next objective, a broad feature named "Bristol." As they advanced it became evident that the remaining enemy had fled, for the bunkers and weapon slits lay deserted, the enemy's

KOREA



"A" COMPANY

[Photos by Private Williams

Private Ayliffe tidies up his wagon after another bump. This vehicle lost a wheel in the big December retreat

Private Williams '55 on Seoul Airstrip, November, 1950

Corporal Parkin and Private ("Busty") Earing shaving at "Shanty Town," December, 1950

C.S.M. Gallagher caught in conversation with Sergeant Pugh at Pyongtaek, January, 1951

KOREA, 1951



Gloucesters on Patrol
Typical country east of Seoul

[Official W.O. photo]



"A" Company H.Q., "Hill 367," 13th February, 1951
Captain A. N. Wilson, Major P. A. Angier

To face page 143

weapons, ammunition and food still resting where it had been placed less than an hour before. "B" Company moved on to "Dursley" where, again, the same evidence of recent flight was to hand. The Battalion began to dig in as night fell and the last prisoners escorted by native porters, stretcher-bearers, odd elements of the Drums and Assault Pioneers moved down the hill.

At midnight the password for the day changed, but it had been an appropriate one, for the challenge was "About," the countersign "Face."

Hill 327, and the massif to which it was the key, dominated the final approaches to the Han, in the Pabalmak sector. With the feature in our hands the advance continued and "A" Company, with a squadron of Centurions, patrolled forward without contact along the western road to the river during the 17th. By the 18th the entire Battalion had moved forward 6,000 yards without making further contact and, on the morning of that day, rounding a bend in the road, the calm face of the great river lay, once more, beneath them.

There followed a period of quiet in that area as the Royal Ulster Rifles cleared the bank of the river. The position was a delightful one, covered with pine and pleasant shrubs, and the sun was warm daily, countering the still chill winds. Only the Anti-Tank Platoon, defending Point 312, and carrying up their daily needs on their backs, felt that the scenery could be improved.

On the 23rd the Battalion withdrew completely on relief by a brigade of the 25th Division and, returning west via Suwon, made a leaguer at Anyang'ni on the main Seoul road. But the stay here was of short duration only, for on 3rd March they returned east again, this time to Ichon, in the central sector, for a stay of several weeks. It is from here that they look to the next horizon which, on close inspection, seems to be broken not a little by mountain peaks.

A. F. - H.

"A" COMPANY

The time that has passed since the last edition of THE BACK BADGE has been a time of continuous duty for all. Active service has produced, so far, little actual fighting and, happily, light casualties. Nonetheless, it has meant that no day is a holiday, no day too long and no hour too strange for the execution of some military function or other. Living conditions have often been extraordinary, and moves frequent and unpredictable.

It will be well known to most readers that these are just the conditions which produce comradeship among men and so often are the cause of incidents that give full scope to a soldier's sense of humour. In this respect the campaign has run true to form as some of the following incidents will illustrate and may serve to give an idea of the life of the last few months.

Let us start by having a crack at another company. Just after Christmas, in the space of four hectic days, about 250,000 refugees passed through our company area along one road and one demolished railway. The scene was both tragic and alarming for no one knew whether the enemy was following through behind the civilians or not. On one of these nights of doubt there were about 20,000 souls in a pitiful condition spread along the road and across the open ground in front of our position. At this juncture we received a telephone message from "B" Company saying that they were very alarmed because

there were twenty refugees in their position. The reply of Captain Littlewood, then 2 i/c of "A" Company, has not been recorded.

Incidents of humour seem to linger on in this style of life and C.Q.M.S. Buxcey has not been allowed to forget the occasion when he instructed Private Foster, A.C.C., to "Give the boys plenty—half a ladle." The unpredictable moves in unexpected directions prompted someone (we think it was Private Ayliffe) to remark that he was serving in "Tom Brodie's Nutters Brigade" and this one also seems to have caught on.

As always on active service there have been frequent changes within the Company, although we are fortunate to have retained the services of C.S.M. Gallagher to keep us on the rails and C.Q.M.S. Buxcey to keep us fed and clothed. Among the first to become a casualty was Major C. W. A. Bath, who had formed and trained the Company, and led it through the difficult days of the U.N. retreat from Pyongyang—days of discomfort owing to the foul north wind which added to the usual depression of any retreat. Major Bath suffered one of those unpredictable strokes of fate in that, by merely stamping his feet to keep warm, an exercise we all took most regularly, he pulled a muscle in his leg. We were very sorry to lose him, especially as the mishap took place just before our Christmas celebrations at Shanty Town, just north of Seoul.

This Shanty Town consisted of the most diverse collection of huts and holes constructed from corrugated iron. In the manner of ants the Company had collected their materials from the surrounding district, and built dwellings in many styles and shapes. The C.S.M., who employed an excessive amount of forced, black-leg or bribed labour, was probably the most comfortable. Many people were smoked out, or washed out, but only No. 2 Platoon H.Q. (Lieutenant Bergin and Sergeant Harfield) had a complete collapse, when someone walked over the roof in the dark. There was plenty to eat and drink at Christmas and one soldier, who shall be nameless, was got to his bed only by helpers who persuaded him that it was a bunk on board a trooper bound for the U.K.

One of the most welcome of many generous gifts we have received was cigarettes presented to us by "A" Company, 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment. This was a very nice thought and everyone was very grateful.

Major P. A. Angier succeeded Major Bath as Company Commander and he is now the only remaining officer who was in the Company on embarkation. We had the benefit for six weeks of some able administration by Captain Littlewood, who left us to command the M.M.G. Platoon and was replaced by Captain A. N. Wilson, who brings with him an invaluable knowledge of the inner and deeper secrets of the orderly room. It is rumoured that he can handle a duplicating machine with deadly effect. Lieutenant H. J. Bergin is now M.T.O., Lieutenant J. Nicholson was injured by a trip-flare, and 2/Lieutenant A. C. N. Preston wounded in action. Lieutenant P. K. E. Curtiss, 2/Lieutenant T. E. Waters and 2/Lieutenant J. M. Maycock are the present platoon commanders.

It was disappointing that Private Jackson ("sixty") did not meet Lieutenant-General Mansergh during the latter's visit to No. 3 Platoon. Jackson was on sentry and all prepared to give a demonstration of the penetrating effect of his glasses (Army issue). It was on this same occasion that Private Allen bowled a fast ball at the General by saying that "he had no quarrel with the Chinese." Some weeks later we found ten dead Chinamen in front of Allen's Bren gun, so we assume that there must have been some difference of opinion that night anyway.

We miss the services of our interpreter (American/English), Private Fowler, who smoked so many Camel cigarettes that he spoke pure American and thought his home was in Cincinnati. Also the services of Lance-Corporal Hawkins, Cheltenham Fire Brigade, who had to leave us the very day before Company H.Q. was burnt down.

We claim two especial distinctions: No. 5 Section (Corporal Roots) were the first doggone limies to reach the Han River going north second time; also we were the first U.N. sub-unit to run a course in the care and maintenance of Korean oxen. This Bull Course was run by 2/Lieutenant Preston (Foreman), assisted by Private Francis.

We can also claim to have done some good for the mines. When the "wishful thinking" rumours about ships going home had died out, Private Johnson, No. 4 Platoon, started the craze for signing on for the mines. We have now got six ex-miners eager to do their stint, but no move by the War Office so far.

Our latest interest is the new "K" Platoon (Korean Porters), who are very keen, but, like everything else in Korea, unpredictable. They cannot yet speak any more English than we can speak of their language, but one of them, in the absence of a signaller, picked up the telephone and answered "'A' Company!" When paraded for the last move they fell in twenty-four men and one woman. Anyway, in spite of their idiosyncrasies they are very handy for going up hills, and there is no shortage of hills that we have noticed.

P. A. A.

"B" COMPANY

The Company settled down aboard the *Empire Windrush* for its long journey to Korea. During the voyage we trained hard although, at the time, it was generally felt that the war would be over before we got there. The reports about China massing her troops on the Manchurian border were not at the time taken too seriously. It was therefore with a fairly light heart that we paid our flying visits to Port Said, Aden and Singapore. We also called at Colombo but saw little of it as there was only time for a short route march round the town before we sailed again.

Arriving at the port of Pusan early on a dismal dreary day with the background of ugly and forbidding hills did not serve to put our spirits up, and the rather uncomfortable journey to Suwon followed by our experience there of what a bitter Siberian wind can be like, soon brought us down to earth and, coupled with the Chinese threat on the border, served to make us realise that after all the war might not end as quickly as had been thought. We had a short stay there and were then sent to Sibyon'ni, just north of the 38th Parallel, where we were employed in an anti-guerrilla role. The Company did one or two patrols in the area but never actually saw any action against the guerrillas, and then, on 30th November, we were ordered north of Pyongyang as the situation had suddenly worsened when elements of the Chinese crossed the border and pushed back the leading elements of the U.N. Forces.

Our stay north of Pyongyang was short lived and the Battalion did a very depressing march back to the capital in a snowstorm and took up a position just north of the city. Then started the general withdrawal and we did move after move travelling over dusty and bumpy roads with Bill Morris and his batman, Street, getting better and better at organising themselves for quick moves as part of the rear recce parties! We finally stopped at the place which became known as Christmas Valley, just 7 miles north of Seoul. It was here that we built our famous collection of grass huts which earned it

the name of "Wogtown." We had many visitors, including the Press and the B.B.C. Television Newsreel, who admired it and reported us fully in the home papers.

We celebrated Christmas Day on the 24th December as it was thought the Chinese might try to interrupt it on the 25th as a possible Christmas "present." For our party we built a very fine arena on the side of a hill and installed enough seats (rather small ones as we got them from a local school) for everyone, in the centre of which was a massive bonfire. For music we had two pianos, which did look rather ludicrous perched on the side of a hill, plus a wireless set with loudspeaker to turn on if the pianists became tired. Together with free beer and cigarettes and a "brew" made by Lieutenant Allan Norrish and Sergeant Claxton from a recipe they had from the days when the Battalion was in Jamaica, the party was indeed a success.

The Battalion was called out on New Year's Day to counter-attack an enemy breakthrough on the Imjin River, but instead moved to a defensive position in the hills a few miles north of our rest area. We dug ourselves into what we felt was an impregnable position, but, to our annoyance, once more came the order to withdraw, and our south-bound moving recommenced when Seoul was evacuated. We came to rest eventually at Pyongtaek, some 40 miles south of Seoul, when the Company was given an area right out in the rice paddy fields with absolutely no cover whatsoever. We dug ourselves into the snow-covered ground, laid mines and put out wire and flares, and spent three or four most uncomfortable days and nights either frozen stiff or up to our knees in mud and slush when the sun thawed the snow and ice. We regret to report that it was here Lieutenant Paddy Reilly was killed, and we all missed his cheery presence. We then moved the Company across the railway and took over a position formerly occupied by a company of the Northumberland Fusiliers. This was a much better site as we had a few buildings in which a percentage of the Company could sleep at night and keep warm. The temperature, by the way, was about the worst we had so far experienced and one night there was 40 degrees of frost. It was decided by the Higher Command that we were not going to do any more withdrawing and we then proceeded to get really well dug in with communication trenches and underground sleeping accommodation being built in preparation for a long stand. This decision undoubtedly proved the turning point in the war, as from that moment the Allied line started to move steadily forward again so that, at the time of writing, we are getting very close to the 38th Parallel.

We then moved up and went into our first action at the hill now famous as "Gloucester" and we are now in 8th Army Reserve ready at two hours' notice to be committed to any part of the front.

Major E. D. Harding has recently taken over the Company from Major N. S. Watkin-Williams, to whom we give our best wishes in his new command of "H.Q." Company. We also wish Lieutenant Donald Allman success in his appointment as Assistant Adjutant. Lieutenant G. T. Costello arrived when we were at Pyongtaek, and being so tall makes even Bill Morris look a "normal" size.

Sergeant Stephens, who acted as our C.S.M. from the Bodney days, was unfortunately involved in an accident on the road back from Pyongyang and we learn he has now reached the U.K. We welcome into the Company C.S.M. Morton, who came to us from Support Company at Christmas. The Company, unfortunately, suffered a few casualties just before the Battalion attacked Hill 327, when a couple of mortar

bombs landed on Company H.Q. and No. 6 Platoon. These were Sergeant Claxton, Lance-Corporal Cameron, Privates Quinton, Wiseman, and Goldsmith, who were wounded. Sergeant Claxton is back with us, but still has a piece of the bomb which has to be removed from his jaw.

In conclusion, we extend our congratulations to Sergeant Robinson on his promotion.

E.D.H.

"C" COMPANY

Having stood up to five weeks' turmoil of training and leisure aboard *Empire Windrush*, "C" Company arrived at Pusan on 10th November, a cold, dark, wintry morning. There was much apprehension at the sight of the surrounding mountains and peaks; indeed the first glimpse of the Korean countryside left no doubt in our minds that sooner or later "C" Company would soon be climbing mountains.

After much excitement the long and exhausting train journey came to an end at Suwon, where the Company was established, having been met at the station by Colour-Sergeant Walker, M.M., looking very fit and more rotund than ever. The Officers' Mess was set up in quite a pleasing Korean house, and a number of parties ensued. Then more training. Exercise "First Frost" found the Company in good physical shape and though it rained all night our spirits remained undaunted.

Captain P. L. Owen, the 2 i/c, sustained an injury to his shoulder at Taegu. Whilst alighting from the train during darkness he fell down a very deep hole and dislocated his collar bone, which opened up an old war wound, and it was with much regret that he was evacuated to Japan from Suwon.

Then followed a period of swift moves. From Suwon our next stop was Kaesong where the Company was carefully prepared and briefed for anti-guerrilla operations, during which we became involved in a fight with North Korean Communists at Sibyon'ni.

On 25th November Lieutenant Weaver took a patrol in carriers along the valley road eastwards and came across two large craters and saw a party of men digging on the road further on. "C" Company was ordered to clear the locality whilst a sapper detachment repaired the road, and if possible to reconnoitre on to Tosan and the river. Major Walwyn with No. 8 Platoon and the R.E. pushed forward towards the craters, being followed up by the rest of the Company, a section of mortars, 70 Battery, R.A., and later by "B" Company. At 0910 hours the leading carrier hit a mine and three men were seriously wounded, as was Lieutenant Weaver, though he made no mention of his injuries until collapsing later in the day.

The leading platoon occupied the high ground on either side of the mined locality, but no enemy were seen and the advance continued towards the craters. Here there was a pause when it was realised that some time would be required by the R.E. to repair the road. The rest of "C" Company arrived at about 1100 hours and whilst No. 7 Platoon was left to protect the sappers and vehicles, No. 9 Platoon (2/Lieutenant Ware) was ordered forward along the open valley towards a dominating hill about a mile ahead. When their leading section started to climb the slopes of the hill they came under rifle and L.M.G. fire from the front and rear. At the same time Company H.Q. and No. 8 Platoon were fired on from the hills on either side of the road.

The artillery was ordered to open on the hill ahead and very successfully shelled the wooded slopes occupied by the enemy; they also put down smoke to help in the evacuation of the casualties in No. 9 Platoon.

No. 7 Platoon now arrived at Company H.Q. and was ordered to clear the hills on the right flank of the road, whilst No. 8 was sent forward to join No. 9 when "B" Company arrived at the craters. Firing died down at about 1300 hours, but it was not until four hours later that the road was finally repaired. The C.O. decided not to continue the advance and covered by "B" Company, the Company withdrew back to Sibyon'ni. It is with very deep regret that we record the sad loss of Lance-Corporal Laurence and Private Dwyer, both of whom were killed during the action and were buried with full military honours at the U.N. cemetery at Kaesong.

Our next bound northwards was to have been Anju; however, U.N. forces withdrew their line meanwhile, and "C" Company was soon to be found in Battalion reserve doing local protection to the 45th Field Regiment of Artillery at Sunan. From thence we marched to Pyongyang, where we spent three days on a cover position and finally played our part in the bridgehead role on the River Taedong.

Our withdrawal from Pyongyang to Sinmak was not without incident. For the first time we experienced a move by M.T. with our American friends, and it was several hours before the whole of the Company arrived; a part of No. 8 Platoon, having overshot the dispersal point, found themselves at Kumchon and were guests of the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers during that night. Whilst at Sinmak the Signal office was burned down and Lance-Corporal Oldfield, the company clerk, made a dashing recovery of a 36 hand grenade from a signaller's kit, thus preventing a major catastrophe.

Once again, we regret to record the sad loss of Lance-Corporal Wigley and Private Law, due to enemy action whilst moving from Chansokturi to Changdong. They were buried with full military honours at the U.N. cemetery at Ichon.

At Changdong on 13th December Captain R. S. Mardell, M.M., was appointed 2 i/c of the Company and Lieutenant K. Weaver rejoined from hospital. He had been blown up in the carrier incident at Sibyon'ni and had sustained a fractured rib; he returned "fighting fit."

Christmas found "C" Company on a pleasant hillside NE. of Seoul, the Brigade being in Corps reserve; it resulted in a well-earned three weeks' rest. The Company had its fair share of "Naafi rations!". Platoon cooking for dinner served on 24th December and platoon celebrations with plenty of Christmas fare was the order of the day.

The C.O., in company with Major Walwyn, visited each platoon in turn; No. 7 Platoon had six ducks, No. 8 Platoon had turkey and No. 9 Platoon a large pig killed and cured by Privates Hewitt and Bradley (56). As so often happens, Company H.Q. fared the worst, their turkey having been burnt. No comments! The Company officers, Major Walwyn, Captain Mardell, Lieutenants Weaver, Ware and English sat down to dinner at 5 p.m. on the 24th and Lieutenants Ware and English ably carried out the functions of President and Vice-President. The toasts were: "The Loyal Toast," "The Duke of Gloucester" and "Absent Friends." The 25th December was just another holiday and on Boxing Day the officers entertained the Company Sergeants' Mess, R.S.M. Hobbs and other members of the Battalion Sergeants' Mess. In the evening they entertained the Commanding Officer and other officers of the Battalion.

Sergeant Avery, B.E.M., joined the Company at this time and was posted to No. 9 Platoon.

KOREA, 1951



L.M.G. Post of No. 9 Platoon, "C" Company

[Official W.O. photo.]

The hill under fire was being patrolled by Sergeant Preece and No. 7 Platoon. Part of "Hill 327" is seen on the left, but not the spurs used by the Battalion

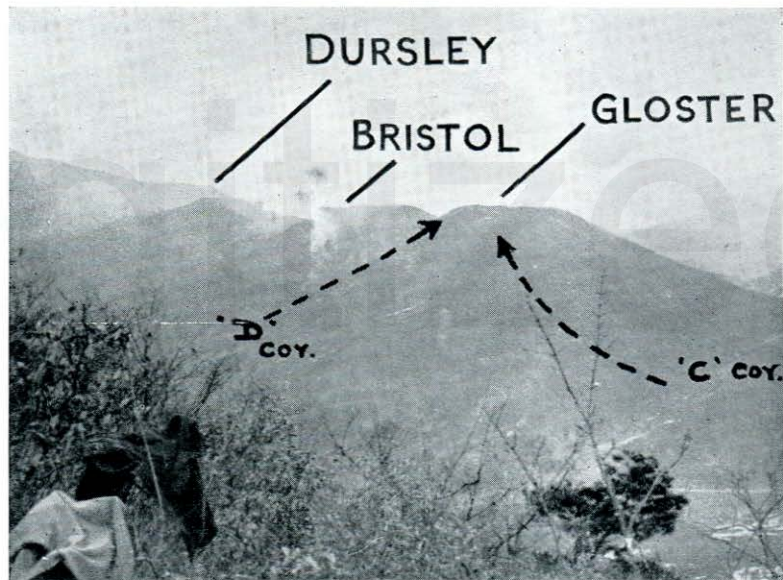


[Official W.O. photo.]

Gloucesters and Centurion tanks advancing prior to the attack on "Hill 327," 16th February, 1951

The leading tank is about to wheel right, when "Hill 327" would lie ahead of it

KOREA, 16th February, 1951



"Hill 327" during the attack of 16th February, 1951
The three company objectives are shown, and also the route up the spurs by "C" and "D"
Companies



"Hill 327"
"C" and "D" Companies meet on the summit after the successful attack of 16th February, 1951

[Official W.O. photo]

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With the New Year "C" Company moved NE. to "Happy Valley," where for three days we lived on high hills with No. 7 Platoon on the highest peak in the Company area. The Company was called upon to be rear guard to the Battalion on the march out, on the night of 4th-5th January, 1951.

The immediate future role of the Company was a far from pleasant one, as the refugee problem through the Company positions at Pyontaek had become serious. It was sad indeed to see the plight of these homeless Koreans as they passed through our area at the rate of 25,000 per day—with weather conditions at their worst.

Five weeks later "C" Company moved north on Centurion tanks, under command of 8th Hussars. From a concentration area we commenced movement towards the Han River and early on 13th February came under mortar fire from the general area of Hill 327. Then followed three days of planning and bombardment by 45th Field Regiment, 170 Heavy Mortars, Bofors, and two squadrons of Centurions; thus the final preparations were indeed very thorough and all was set for the capture of this dominating feature.

At 10.30 a.m. on 16th February the Battalion launched its attack on Hill 327, with "C" Company leading, and by 2.45 p.m. Hill 327 and "Gloucester" Ridge had been captured, "D" Company having reached the top of Hill 327, thus neutralising the opposition on the left shoulder (SW. ridge). Within the Company the final honours go first to No. 9 Platoon, commanded by 2/Lieutenant P. Ware for their steady and determined advance upon the "Knoll" from the front; then to No. 7 Platoon, commanded by 2/Lieutenant English, for their resourcefulness in working round the left and capturing the "Knoll" from the flank; and finally to No. 8 Platoon, commanded by Sergeant Eames and supported by No. 7 Platoon, for their resolute dash in assaulting and capturing the "Gloucester" Ridge feature—the Company's objective. Taken all round, the Company did very well in having only 21 casualties. It is with profound sorrow we record the loss of Corporal Herrall, Lance-Corporal Tyler, Privates Bailey and Williams, killed during the battle and buried with full military honours by our Chaplain on the 18th. Major Walwyn, who personally led the Company in the attack, was severely wounded in the arm and we learn it will be some months before a complete recovery can be expected.

After Major Walwyn's evacuation, Captain Mardell took over command and very successfully led the Company in the closing stages of the attack on the final objective.

Captain P. B. Mitchell assumed command of the Company on 20th February. Colour-Sergeant Blackford arrived during the battle to replace Colour-Sergeant Walker, M.M., who we regret is being posted owing to ill health. Lieutenant A. F. Blundell joined on 8th March and is commanding No. 8 Platoon. C.S.M. Morgan, we regret to say, has been evacuated with a fractured bone in the wrist, but we hope to see him back in a month or so.

Officers serving with the Company to date: Major P. B. Mitchell, Captain R. S. Mardell, M.C., M.M., Lieutenant A. F. Blundell and 2/Lieutenant English. We hope to see 2/Lieutenant P. S. Ware back with No. 9 Platoon in the near future; he has a splinter in his shin bone from enemy mortar on Hill 327.

Senior W.O.s and N.C.O.s serving to date: Colour-Sergeant Blackford, Sergeants Eames, M.M., Sallebank and Walker.

" D " COMPANY

Once again that difficult problem, how best to sum up our many activities and impressions in a few brief lines. The long, dreamlike voyage in the *Windrush*, our arrival and the awful realisation that Korea really did consist of range upon range of hills; our first billets in Suwon with its bitter wind; the dash to a concentration area north of Pyongyang and the equally sudden return when the first Chinese offensive began; the lack of information and the wild reporting by the Press; then the long stay north of Seoul where Christmas Day was celebrated on Christmas Eve and we were rudely awakened on New Year's Day by orders to move which culminated in the Brigade's first action; the seemingly hopeless withdrawal; and so to the turn of the tide and the present slow and steady advance in which we have been able to play our part.

Better pens than this will doubtless have described the bitter winter, the heart-breaking climbs, the pathetic streams of refugees, and the utter lack of amenities in this barren country. All these have been experienced and in doing so the endurance and cheerfulness of Regular and Reservist alike have been proved.

We remember with pride those of the Company who died on Hill 327 and offer our deepest sympathy to their relatives.

As we approach the 38th Parallel once more, perhaps—but that is wishful thinking and "verboten."

SUPPORT COMPANY

The Company has taken part in every action that has been required of the Battalion since we have been in Korea; it got the first representative of the Battalion here as a member of the Brigade advance recce party, and given half a chance the Company will be the first out of Korea as well.

In addition to the problem of keeping ourselves warm and fit in the extreme Korean winter, we have had the special problem of keeping our weapons and vehicles in a serviceable state. By trial and error we achieved this object, but some of our solutions would startle the pundits at training schools, and our views on "carrier stoppages"—suitably expurgated—would probably be a valuable addition to M.T. school libraries.

All our vehicles and weapons have had a good opportunity to prove their value, except the 17-pounders. These latter spent the first months trundling around Korea searching unsuccessfully for T 34's to shoot at. Now we have given up the unequal struggle and the Platoon is reduced to a H.Q. and two gun detachments, still marching hopefully and clamouring for, at least, a supply of H.E., so that they can fight as infantry guns. The Oxfords have proved a great success, and when not used as gun towers have been in constant demand for carrying mounted recce patrols or as a form of unofficial L.A.D., both of which tasks the vehicles and drivers have stood up to well. Incidentally, the carrier establishment of the Battalion is now such as to exhaust even this Regiment's list of battle honours, so the Oxfords are named after snakes—Anaconda dying an untimely but necessary death by our own hands in the rearguard stand north of Seoul.

Our battle since landing in Korea has been more against the weather than the enemy. In this we were lucky to have the Assault Pioneers as part of the Company, for they not only consist of a skilled body of specialists in the art of being comfortable, but are a useful source of material and tools for making others comfortable. However, the Assault

Pioneers are aware of all the methods of "making," and were able to protect their own and—for that matter—other people's property very effectively. The Platoon has seldom had an idle moment for when it was not satisfying the Company Commander's phobia that the Company must have a proper track as a back door, it was either mining round the Battalion or removing the mines of the enemy. We feel that the Platoon is a concrete proof that it is a very necessary part of the establishment of an Infantry Battalion.

As we travelled out here in the *Empire Windrush* and talked glibly over the sand model of digging in and ranging, we did not realise that it would be something more than anything we had experienced before. In the event, so numerous have been our moves that though the M.M.G.s and mortars have had comparatively few opportunities of firing in full-blooded anger, they have dug into and ranged over a vast acreage of the country. Of these many places, Sibyon'ni, where we engaged North Korean guerrillas, and Hill 327, where we supported the Battalion in that mountainous attack, will be remembered as being worth it, but there are countless others where we were so sure that if only the enemy would come into our target area or beaten zone we should have the shoot of a lifetime.

Two last pictures that the Company will always remember. A ghastly re-entrant north of Pyongyang, out in front of the Battalion, with the lights and rumbling of withdrawing American vehicles inciting us to panic all through the night, and no way out except forwards over the paddy. And the other, different altogether, Christmas Day, north of Seoul, with a bonfire and a Christmas tree, and a great spread, thanks to the cooks, and a very real feeling for all of us that while we could all think of better places, we knew a lot a great deal worse.

These notes mention no names, for if they mentioned one they should mention so many, and anyhow to many of the readers the memory of the times will bring back the names and the faces of the players—associated with such places as Pyongyang, Sinmak, Chongsokturi, Kumchon, Kaejong, Pyongtaek, Seoul and Suwon.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last notes our social activities have been extremely limited. We embarked on "Mother" *Windrush* to find that accommodation was excellent and that the second-class lounge had been placed at the disposal of all units aboard, as a W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess. The other units aboard were the 55th Field Squadron Royal Engineers and the 44th Forward Delivery Squadron Royal Armoured Corps. We learned that C.S.M. Brown of the R.E.s was a nephew of Colour-Sergeant P. Brown, D.C.M., who recently retired from the Regiment. This broke all ice and we soon learned to "Make fast the dinghy!" Several enjoyable evenings were held and all we can say is that we're thankful that the other "Dodger" retired. To have suffered both on board, at one time, would have been more than man could bear. As someone remarked, "A definite chip of the old block, pity he's in the R.E.s." It was also on board that we definitely got acquainted with our P.T.I., C.S.M.I. Strong, or "Muscles" for short. One of the hardest worked men on the boat, "Muscles" still found time to organise and run community singing, tombola, etc., not forgetting unarmed combat, to C.S.M. Gillett's regret. "Gillie," full of new-found knowledge, decided to demonstrate unarmed

combat to an officer in his company. When he picked himself up out of the scuppers "Gillie" found that his intended victim was a Judo expert and a holder of the Black Belt. We live and learn! Except for discordant renderings of "Josephine" by the Provost Sergeant, the voyage was uneventful, and on 10th November we landed at Pusan. Events in Korea until then were such that we were still contemplating whether Koreans would make good Mess waiters, and what the Mess buildings would be like. Little did we know that it would be some months before we saw all Mess members together again.

Events and the Battalion moved rapidly from then on, and Mess activities were nil. One occasionally saw Mess members as one passed, and it was evident that the "brew" or "sprog" can had taken the place of the tankard. In December the first Mess casualty occurred. Sergeant Stephens was evacuated as a result of a carrier overturning. We understand that he will be on his back for several months. We wish him a speedy recovery and sincerely hope that he will be on both feet to greet us on our return.

C.S.M. Gillett was also invalided home in December and we wish him the same. Christmas Day dawned on 24th December for us, but owing to the situation Mess activities were limited to social calls between companies. Most members saw the Old Year out and the New Year in between their sleeping bags.

January brought little change and February found us still marking time. In mid-February the following Mess members were wounded in action and evacuated: Sergeant Smythe (Signal Platoon), Sergeants Harfield and Lacey ("A" Company), and Sergeant Preece ("D" Company). We wish them all a speedy recovery and hope some will rejoin us later. To the others *bon voyage* and good luck.

At the end of February the Battalion went into reserve, and that was the signal for Company Messes to start. In March Battalion Headquarters decided to invite all Company Messes to be their guests for one evening. "Doctor" Brisland was hastily commissioned to brighten the Mess, which he did with a cartoon of Hill 327. A rumour was heard that a brewery had been "liberated" at Yongdongpo and "Drummy" was despatched post haste with all available jerry cans to confirm or otherwise. It was confirmed—definitely—"Drummy's" trousers were wet to the knees where he stood "Up to me knees in it!" Compo boxes were hastily commissioned as seats (a trifle rickety but effective), and the Cook Sergeant, like a magician, produced sandwiches, meat rolls and cheese straws from nowhere. Invitations were sent to companies, the only proviso being, "Bring your own drinking mugs." This was the first time Mess members had been together since the *Empire Windrush*, and there were notable changes. It was a trifle crowded and the evening mainly spent in reminiscences. A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

Various changes have occurred in Mess members since our last edition. In addition to those mentioned above, Colour-Sergeant Faulkes has left us to go to Brigade. We congratulate him on his promotion to C.S.M. Colour-Sergeant Walker has left us for parts unknown, but we hope to see him again some day. We welcome Sergeants Avery, Leadham, Cottam, Mole and Sallebank and hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

At the time of going to press we are wondering where we shall be, and how we can celebrate the 150th anniversary of "Back Badge" Day.

EXTRACT FROM LETTER TO MAJOR-GENERAL FIRTH FROM BRIGADIER BRODIE,
COMMANDING 29TH BRIGADE

"The Glosters you will be glad to hear had their big day two days ago when they captured an enormous hill, precipitous beyond words, and the mere physical effort of climbing was bad enough.

"Fred Carne and his chaps did a wonderful show, starting at 10 and finishing at tea time, plain honest slogging up the hill, then the struggle for the top. They lost 8 killed and about 30 wounded, and it might have been much worse. Charles Walwyn stopped one in his arm early on but I hope is O.K. Young Mardell took over and was first class. We are all delighted as Glosters had not had a real do before, but they certainly are on top of their form now.

"Today we have as a result pushed right up to the river with little opposition, through the most terrific country I've yet met, hills for miles. We have been using 100 porters per Battalion to supply and carry loads, and one company in addition, and striking right across country into the blue! Always in artillery range luckily. It is an amazing war—jets, napalm—porters and load-carrying bullocks all in a Brigade area at the same time!"

"THE SLASHERS"

Once more the Glosters held the gap till last,
Once more the old, the grim and gory story,
Once more the great tradition carried on,
Once more the mother mourning o'er the son.
Once more the Glory!

Once more the foreign soil—nay 'tis to God,
To Paradise, their happy spirits rise!
'Tis we who mourn the heroic dead who died,
Envyng them their end, their peace, their pride.

F. W. HARVEY

THE BATTLE OF THE IMJIN RIVER

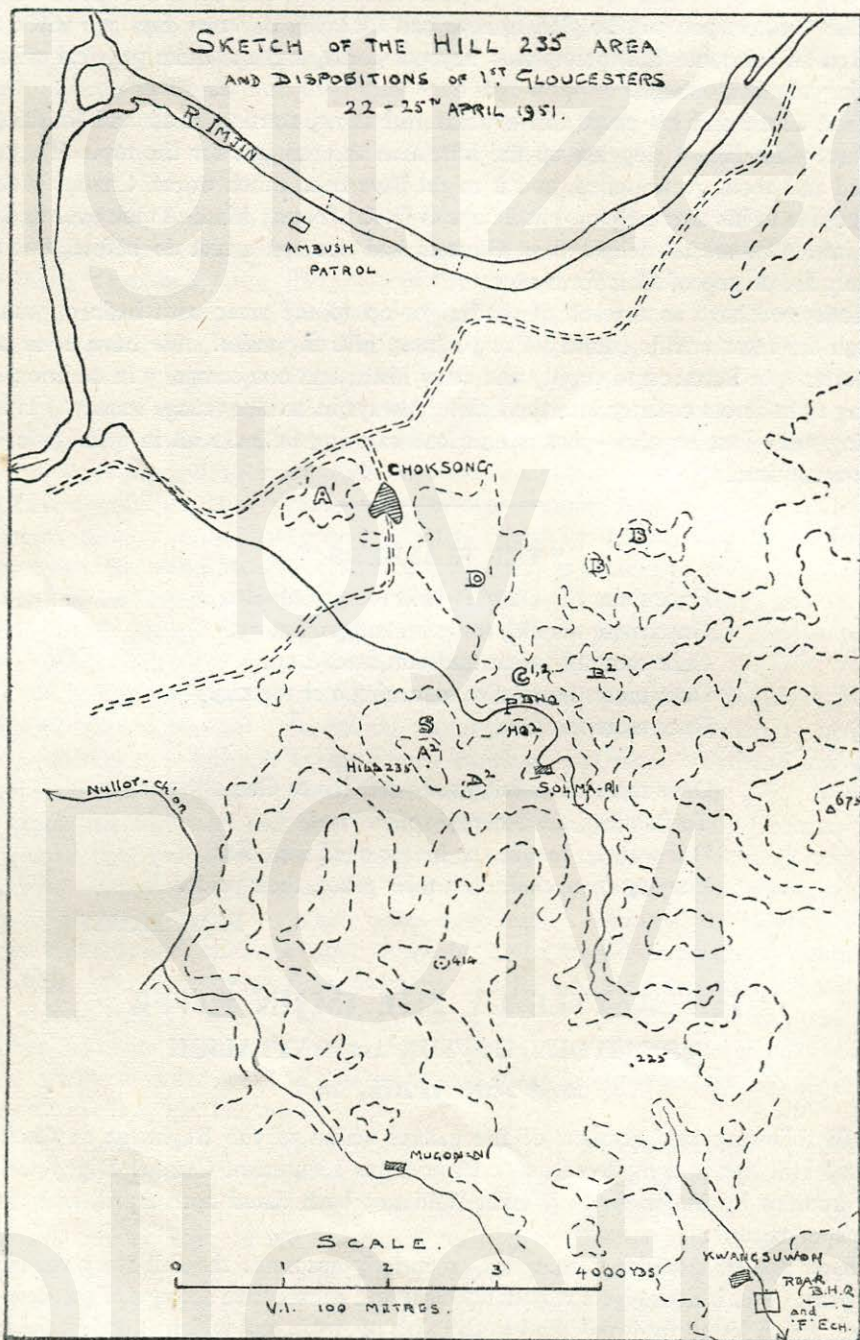
THE STORY OF THE 1st BATTALION

22nd-25th APRIL, 1951

THE following bald account of the gallant action of the Regiment at Choksong and Hill 235 is compiled from a letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Digby Grist, a fuller account by Major N. S. Watkin-Williams, both dated 29th April, and various newspaper reports.

It must not be considered complete or entirely accurate: the full story remains to be written. But it does give a reasonably clear and consecutive account of the desperate fighting which lasted from the 22nd to the 25th of April, and which ended in the tragic decimation of the 28th/61st.

* * *



By about the middle of April the 29th Independent Brigade Group were occupying positions on a wide front south of the Imjin River with patrols going out across the river up to eight or nine miles but without making any real contact with the enemy. The Chinese spring offensive was, however, expected though it seems that the higher command did not think that Seoul on the western front would be the first or the main objective of the Communists.

On the 22nd April the 1st Gloucesters were occupying an extended position about 2,000 yards south of the river, with a frontage of about 3,500 yards, the village of Choksong lying in the left centre. "A," "D" and "B" Companies were to the front with "C" and "S" Companies in support on the higher ground in rear. Away to the left were units of the South Korean 1st R.O.K. Division, and to the right the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers: there were wide gaps between all units. The Royal Ulster Rifles were in reserve away to the right rear and, attached to the Brigade, was a Belgian battalion which was located across the Imjin to the north of the Fusiliers.

The sketch map will show something of the rugged nature of the country with its brushwood-covered hills, its gorges and its absence of roads.

Early in the evening of the 22nd an ambush patrol, commanded by Lieutenant G. Temple (son of Major-General B. Temple), was sent out from "C" Company to cover a likely crossing place near the ferry to the north of Choksong and soon after dusk this patrol observed in the moonlight a large number of the enemy wading across the river. Fire was opened and the patrol claimed that some 70 Chinese were killed.

Crossings, however, were obviously being made along the whole front as the N.F. were being attacked in strength on the immediate right, and further to the east more thrusts were being made.

The Gloucesters patrol withdrew when its ammunition was expended and almost simultaneously heavy enemy attacks developed against the three forward companies. The attacks lasted all through the night of the 22nd/23rd.

United Nations artillery had opened on the enemy massed on the north bank of the river and on waves of infantry wading through the water. Wounded men flown to Japan talk of the river running red with the slaughter and of walls of dead.

During the night the Belgian battalion, north of the Imjin, had been cut off and the N.F. were forced from one of their positions though they were able to restore the situation by counter-attacking.

Of the Gloucester companies, "A" Company suffered the worst in their rather isolated position to the west of Choksong. Their three officers (Major P. A. Angier, Lieutenant P. K. E. Curtis (D.C.L.I.), and 2/Lieutenant J. M. Maycock) were all reported killed, though Chinese casualties were estimated to be 15 to 20 times those of the Regiment.

Early on the 23rd Colonel Carne ordered "A" and "B" Companies to withdraw, the former to "S" Company's position on Hill 235, and the latter to the ridge where "C" Company were entrenched. "D" Company from their central position covered these moves and they themselves fell back at 0830 hours to the high ground in rear of Battalion Headquarters.

Despite these withdrawals the Battalion had fought magnificently, the situation was well under control, morale was high and all were confident that the enemy could be

held off until a relieving force could arrive. The one misfortune was that the forward companies had only been able to bring back with them a minimum of ammunition, and no water or food.

The Chinese attacks ceased at about 0900 hours, and except for some sniping and a certain amount of machine gun and mortar fire the Battalion was left alone. Very large numbers of the enemy could, however, be seen infiltrating south on either flank, and in fact they had cut the track leading back from Battalion Tactical Headquarters to its Rear Headquarters and "F" Echelon near Kwangsuwon. About a company of Chinese attacked and captured the locality with its advanced motor pool and fuel dump. All transport, with the exception of four carriers and a 15-cwt. truck, however, managed to get away and reached "A" Echelon some five or six miles further south.

2/Lieutenant Preston, moving down with these vehicles, met two ammunition lorries which were going up to the Battalion and volunteered to try and get them through. Unfortunately they were ambushed near to the old "F" Echelon and he with about six others who failed to make a get-away were taken prisoners.

At about 1530 hours the second-in-command, Major Grist, was on his way back to Brigade from Battalion Tactical Headquarters and drove into the same trap. All the slit-trenches he had dug for the defence of Rear Headquarters were occupied by Chinese. By a piece of magnificent driving on the part of his Jap driver who "stepped on the gas" and drove like mad, he got through. It was a miracle he escaped alive as his jeep was riddled with bullets (including the windscreen) and he got off with a neat little hole in his right wrist. Major Grist eventually arrived at Brigade Headquarters as Major Watkin-Williams was on his way up to the Battalion. From this time onwards there was no ground contact with the Battalion.

Meanwhile Lieutenant Preston and his men were kept by the Chinese near Kwangsuwon but persuaded the officer to let them go to the bottom of the hill when an airstrike was being put in. From here they managed to escape. Lieutenant Preston decided to make for the Battalion; the men got back to "A" Echelon. It is regretted that no more was heard of Lieutenant Preston.

Major Grist spent the rest of the day with Brigadier Brodie at Brigade Headquarters and a relieving force consisting of a squadron of 8th Hussars (Centurion tanks) and 10th Battalion Combat Team (Filipinos with light tanks) was laid on to move up towards the Battalion at 0630 hours on the 24th April.

During the night of 23rd/24th the Belgians managed to cross to the south of the Imjin during a lull after an unsuccessful attempt had been made to relieve them, first by the R.U.R. and 8th Hussars, and later by an American tank/infantry force.

Both "B" and "C" Companies were heavily attacked that night from the north-east and the remnants of "B" Company (Major E. D. Harding and 15 other ranks) later fell back to "D" Company's second position. Later the C.O. decided to abandon his vehicles in the valley north of Solma-ri and to concentrate the whole Battalion on Hill 235. He accordingly ordered "C" Company to pull back across the valley and to occupy the southern end of the hill.

Apart from sniping and machine-gunning no major attack was put in during the 24th. The entire emphasis was on the mass infiltrations around the flanks and the complete encirclement of the Battalion.

During the morning the relieving force set out and pushed on towards the Gloucesters. The Kwangsuwon locality was found to be abandoned by the enemy and a service force of about four Bren carriers was sent up to recover the vehicles which had been left there the previous afternoon, plus the two ammunition lorries which Lieutenant Preston had tried to get through and an ambulance which had been on its way up when the attack was first made.

The object of the relief column was to seize a firm base somewhere, firstly in the area of Kwangsuwon, and subsequently some 1,500 yards further to the north-west from which it would have been possible to supply the Battalion with S.A.A., water, food and wireless batteries, etc., all of which it was realised must by then have been getting very low.

The 8th Hussars managed to reach Point 225 on the saddle of the ridge and were prepared to push on, but it was decided that the American light tanks would have a better chance of moving down the narrow gorge to the Battalion. Unfortunately the leading tank caught fire in the valley and blocked the route for any further vehicles with supplies.

At about 1630 hours, on hearing of this mishap, a Sapper officer at Brigade Headquarters suggested that certain essential items might be dropped "free" from spotter aircraft (U.S. Army L5's). Major Watkin-Williams therefore went straight back to "A" Echelon to get such things as Brens, Stens, S.A.A. and W/T batteries parcelled up in blankets ready to be chucked out of these little planes. Major Grist meantime contacted the aircraft. It was a race against time as the weapons had to be collected from sundry places and suitably packed, and got off so that they could be dropped before dusk. Actually some six loads were dropped, though not all in the Battalion area.

Meanwhile a full-scale airdrop was being arranged. But as all the freight aircraft were based in Japan it was not possible to lay this on until 0700 hours on the 25th. Unhappily this drop never materialised as, after a heavy night frost, the whole countryside was covered in mist and though three U.S. Air Force "Box Cars" went over they were quite unable to locate the dropping zone.

On the night of the 24th April Colonel Carne closed up the Battalion into an even tighter perimeter on Hill 235. During the night a major attack was directed on the hill up the spur from the north-west. During this attack "D" Company were able to hold tight but the remainder were so hard pressed that a great number of casualties were sustained. There were known to be some 50-60 stretcher cases in the area of the Regimental Aid Post alone, and there were many more in the company positions.

By morning of the 25th the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant (Captain Farrar-Hockley), the Intelligence Officer (Lieutenant Cabral), "P" Battery Commander (Major G. T. Ward) and the Medical Officer (Captain Hickey) were known to be at Battalion Headquarters. At 0500 Colonel Carne ordered Drum-Major Buss to sound the Long Reveille (nicknamed by the troops "The Call of Defiance") to give answer to the Chinese bugles which always heralded their attacks. Everyone cheered when the call sounded.

A second relief had been arranged and consisted of the 10th B.C.T. already up the valley, plus two battalions of the 65th Regimental Combat Team which were to strike west towards the Battalion with a tank force moving along the line of the Imjin. However, owing to the terrific pressure which had been put on the rest of the 29th Brigade

and the infiltration which had taken place between the N.F., the Ulsters and the Belgians, the operation had to be cancelled, and the Brigadier told Colonel Carne that he could attempt to fight his own way out as their essential task had been completed.

At 0730 hours the following message was received at Brigade Headquarters: "From Glosters. Only 30 mins. of battery remain." Under this in the Brigade Headquarters' Log was written by Brigadier Brodie "Nobody but the Glosters could have done this.—T.B." This signal was passed over the air to the Battalion by Major Grist and typified the feelings and opinion of everybody else in the Brigade.

The final stages came when at 1030 hours the C.O. called up his Company and Detachment Commanders and told them they could make their way out independently: he gave them a suggested route southwards towards Mugon-ni.

Captain Harvey, commanding "D" Company, who perhaps knew a little more of the country on the left flank, decided to bluff the enemy and to start off in a northerly direction before turning westwards. With 81 of his Company, and picking up odd people, including Lieutenant Martin (M.M.G. officer), he succeeded in trekking miles round to the Nullori-ch'on (stream) and eventually met up north-west of Mugon-ni with the American 73rd Heavy Tank Battalion who were working in support of the 1st R.O.K. South Korean Division. Of the original 90 only five officers and 41 other ranks got through. Others, including Lieutenant Conneely, were shot whilst rushing for cover behind a tank when coming under fire from the Communists. At one point the party were fired on by American tanks, and a few under Lieutenant Martin separated to come out through the R.O.K.'s themselves. It is presumed that those who made any attempt to escape by the more direct route were all caught. Their story remains to be told.

Colonel Carne made the difficult decision to remain with the Medical Officer with the wounded, then estimated at about 200. Survivors are loud in their praises of the C.O., walking calmly, pipe in his mouth, in the last small perimeter on Hill 235. His leadership, imperturbability and cheerfulness throughout were an inspiration to all ranks and the Regiment is proud of him. Those who got away had no idea that he intended to remain behind.

The morale of the Battalion is reported to have been wonderful: admittedly they had hoped a relieving force would get through to them, but tired, hungry and without water, with but little ammunition and with their wireless batteries running down, they fully realised their desperate position. All are worthy of the tributes which continue to pour in.

Much of the above story is derived from Captain Harvey's report. But for his gallant escape, which incidentally saved the lives of a number of men, we should know even less of the tragic battle on Hill 235. We owe him a debt.

From reports already received, and from the experiences of Kwangsuwon, it seems that the Chinese are treating prisoners of war properly. We pray that this is the case.

It has been learnt from Chinese prisoners of war that it was the intention of the 63rd Chinese Communist Army to reach Seoul in 36 hours. The action of the 29th Brigade, and in particular of the Gloucesters, frustrated this aim and provided the critically needed time to regroup other First Corps units to block the southern advance of the enemy.

Tribute must here be paid not only to the units, and especially the 8th Hussars, who made such vigorous attempts to relieve the Battalion, but also to the 45th Field Regiment and "C" Troop 170th Independent Mortar Battery, R.A., who supported them. The Field Regiment have repeatedly, swiftly and accurately answered calls for artillery support and, in the final stages of the last stand, men of the Mortar Battery died fighting as Infantrymen with the Gloucesters.

* * *

In view of the situation in Korea there has been no opportunity for the Regiment to go back to a rest area: everyone has had to turn to and help defend the line, and the Battalion (on the 29th April) was in the throes of reorganising and being brought up to strength again.

Major Grist was promoted by the Brigadier as temporary Lieutenant-Colonel in command. "C" Company (Major P. B. Mitchell, Devons) and "D" Company (Major W. A. Wood) were reformed, and "A" Company (Major G. J. Palmer, Devons) well on the way. The following other officers and senior W.O.s and N.C.O.s were safe with the Battalion (some of whom were on leave in Japan at the time of the battle): Captains J. E. Taylor, R. S. Mardell, W. Bartlett and F. H. Worlock (Q.M.), Lieutenants P. R. Barker, R. J. Martin and H. T. Bergin (Royal Fusiliers), 2/Lieutenants D. J. Holdsworth and D. E. Whatmore (Royal Hamps.), C.S.M.s Munro and Thackerah, R.Q.M.S. Phillips, C.Q.M.S.s Fletcher, Read, Maule and Blackford. O.R.Q.M.S. Evans had just left *en route* for the U.K. but returned to help sort things out.

Through the wisdom of General Sir Horace Robertson, C.-in-C. British Commonwealth Troops, who was in Korea at the time, it was realised the best "tonic" for the Regiment was to make them operational again as quickly as possible. The General flew back to Japan one evening and with American co-operation Gloucestershire reserves were collected and by 0900 hours the following morning hundreds of men had been flown across to 29th Brigade Headquarters. Weapons also were coming in and a nucleus for Support Company (Captain Bartlett) with three 3-inch mortars and two M.M.G.s had been formed.

With truth Lieutenant-Colonel Grist could reply on the 3rd May to the Colonel-in-Chief's telegram of congratulations that the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment was operational once more. In fact "C" Company, under command of 7th R.T.R., was responsible for the defence of the Seoul bridges over the Han River, whilst the rest of the Battalion was concentrated near Sosa, some 10 miles south-west of the capital.

MESSAGE RECEIVED BY 1st BATTALION FROM

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

"For Commanding Officer 1st Glosters from Colonel-in-Chief. Please convey to all ranks that I have heard with great pride of their gallant action which was fought in a manner worthy of our highest regimental traditions.—Henry."

REPLY

"For H.R.H. The Colonel-in-Chief, The Gloucestershire Regiment, from the Commanding Officer. All ranks very grateful and encouraged by your message. We are already operational again.—D. B. A. Grist, a/Lt.-Col."

THE LONG REVEILLE

Do not despair, take strength in what they did,
 These Gloster men who lonely held a Hill,
 Do not misjudge the wisdom of their deed,
 To hold, and fight and die upon a Hill.

They ask no praise, nor seek reward,
 These Gloster men who lonely held a Hill,
 It was their custom and their solemn word to stand,
 With Brass in front and Brass behind upon a Hill.

Now, quiet reigns upon this Asian Hill,
 And if the flowers that grow thereon are foreign,
 The soil beneath is Gloucestershire forever,
 Enriched by blood of men who stood for Honour.

Now in the light of dawn upon this Asian Hill,
 The early rays of sunshine filter through, to reach the valley,
 High overhead a skylark sings, as if in requiem,
 But hark! A higher more triumphant note—it is the Glosters sounding Long Reveille.

[This was written by an officer on the staff of B.C.K.B. at Taegu in appreciation of the Battalion as he saw the results of casualties coming through and who had heard of the C.O.'s order to the Drum-Major.]

HIGHEST U.S. MILITARY HONOUR FOR 1st BATTALION

The United States of America has paid its highest military honour to the 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment for their heroic stand on the Imjin River.

At a parade at the 29th Brigade Headquarters in Korea the 8th Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Van Fleet, presented to Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist, commanding the Battalion, the United States President's Distinguished Unit Citation.

The Citation itself said: "The defending units were overwhelmingly outnumbered. The 63rd Chinese Communist Army drove the full force of its savage assault at positions held by the 1st Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment and attached unit. The courageous soldiers of the Battalion and attached unit were holding a critical route selected by the enemy for one column of a general offensive designed to encircle and destroy the First Corps. These gallant soldiers would not retreat.

"Completely surrounded by tremendous numbers these indomitable, resolute and tenacious soldiers fought back viciously to prevent the enemy overrunning the position and moving rapidly to the south. Their heroic stand provided the critically needed time to regroup other First Corps units and block the southern advance of the enemy.

"Without thought of defeat or surrender this heroic force demonstrated superb battlefield courage and discipline. Every yard of ground they surrendered was covered

Digitized



The Roll Call

[By courtesy of Associated Press Ltd.]

Survivors of the 1st Battalion after their heroic stand south of the Imjin River, 22nd to 25th April, 1951

Collection



Unit Citation Parade—8th May, 1951

[Associated Press Ltd.]

General Van Fleet, commanding U.S. Eighth Army, presents Unit Citation ribbons to representatives of the 1st Gloucesters, and of 170th Mortar Battery, R.A. In foreground recipients from left to right are: C.S.M. Munro, Lieutenant-Colonel Grist, Major Fisher-Hoch, R.A., C.S.M. Courtney, with behind Colour-Sergeant Read and C.S.M. Blackford. Brigadier T. Brodie, 29th Brigade, and General Van Fleet stand on the dais. Opposite the Saluting Base are, to the left, men of the Mortar Battery and, to the right, the 1st Gloucesters with 25 of their survivors in front. Detachments of the 1st N.F. are just seen to the left of the parade and of the 1st R.U.R. and Belgians to the right.

with enemy dead until the last gallant soldier of the fighting Battalion was overpowered by the final surge of the enemy masses.

"Their sustained brilliance in battle, their resolute and extraordinary heroism are in keeping with the finest traditions of the renowned forces of the British Commonwealth, and reflect unsurpassed credit on these courageous soldiers and their homeland."

The "attached unit" was "C" Troop 170th Independent Mortar Battery, R.A., who so devotedly supported the Battalion.

General Van Fleet spoke with deep sincerity to the men who stopped the southern advance of the Chinese. "I know," he said, "I am in great company. I am proud, yes, proud and honoured to be here."

After his highly complimentary talk, the General handed to Colonel Grist, and to Major Fisher-Hook of the Gunners, the citations on behalf of their units. He then pinned on their right breasts the blue ribbon, with gold-bordered stripes, of the Citation. This he also did for C.S.M. Monro, C.S.M. Blackford and C.Q.M.S. Read.

The Distinguished Unit Citation is the highest military honour that the President of the United States can award to a unit, and the whole Regiment rejoice that the gallant Battalion has been rewarded in this manner.

Besides the actual Citation, blue streamers are presented for flying with the Regimental Colours and every man of the unit may wear for life the treasured blue ribbon.

King's Regulations state that foreign awards should be reported to the War Office so that the necessary authority to wear them can be issued. It remains to be seen if permission will be granted for the Battalion to wear the ribbon.

5th BATTALION NEWS

(OCTOBER, 1950 TO APRIL, 1951)

DURING the past months of comparative "hibernation", in spite of some appalling weather which discouraged the weaker vessels from turning up at Drill Halls, a creditable amount of training and social activities can be recorded.

On the training side, a Battalion Cadre for junior officers and N.C.O.s was run during January and February. Companies continued with their own cadres in February and March, and attendances have been keen. Two Officers' Days and a T.E.W.T. have also been held.

A good number of officers and N.C.O.s have applied for courses at Army Schools, as well as going on Brigade and Divisional T.E.W.T.s. Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. R. Chalmers, M.C., T.D., has set the example by attending a two-week course at the Senior Officers' School, where, we hear, he was "being worked very hard!" Some Company week-end exercises have already been held, and many more are planned, including 3-in. mortar and anti-tank shooting at the School of Infantry ranges. Altogether, we hope to see some good practical results of winter Drill Hall and week-end training at Annual Camp. The latter takes place at Lownworth Bridge, about seven miles from Scarborough, from 25th August to 8th September. Little is known as yet of the area, but field firing should be plentiful, and Scarborough is said to be a gay resort.

The Divisional Rifle Meeting takes place at Sydling-St.-Nicholas on 26th-27th May and we hope to repeat or better the excellent results of last year. A total of three teams has been entered. The Battalion Rifle Meeting will be at Sneedhams Green on 23rd-24th June. Major Collett continues to give a great deal of his time and much enthusiasm to Battalion shooting.

Social activities during the winter months have been numerous. On 1st December a party was held at the Drill Hall, Gloucester, at which we were glad to be able to give hospitality to many who have contributed to the Battalion in one way or another.

Christmas parties were held at all Companies. R.S.M. Walker and the permanent staff at Gloucester put in a great deal of work, as a result of which some 153 children were entertained by all sorts of surprises, including a Father Christmas, who had apparently turned in his reindeer and taken to a jeep. "C" Company at Cheltenham also put on a large party and produced a very fine Christmas tree.

"Back Badge" Day was celebrated by a Ball on the previous Friday, and the parade on Sunday, 18th March. The former was well attended by all ranks, music being provided by the Dance Band of the Regimental Band. The parade was, unfortunately, marred by bad weather. The parade and trooping-the-colour had to be cancelled, but the service in Gloucester Cathedral took place, followed by the march past the Guildhall, where the salute was taken by General Wetherall. A B.B.C. van was present, and made recordings of a short talk by Lieutenant-Colonel R. M. Grazebrook on the occasion, and also of the march past. The result was later broadcast.

National Servicemen have started to come to us again after the six months' break caused by whole-time service being extended. Our present strength of N.S. men is 140, of whom 15 have become volunteers. We hope and believe that, now they are beginning to know the unit better, volunteers will become more plentiful.

Recruiting has slightly more than kept pace with termination of engagements, but there have been indications recently that Z reservists are beginning to think it wise to join the T.A. and serve with a unit they know, rather than be called up in a "pool" and posted anywhere.

The Rugby team had a fairly good season, and high hopes are held for next season. Attempts are being made to get our own ground at Sneedhams Green—but it is not yet certain that this will be possible.

"A" Company continues to consolidate its position both in the training and social sphere. They carried out some successful anti-tank and assault pioneer training during October-December, culminating in a week-end exercise on which a 6-pdr. gun was floated across a water obstacle. Major A. G. Slater, T.D., has left the Company to take up a business appointment further north, and is succeeded by Captain D. T. Dufty. All ranks wish Major Slater success in his new post, and are very appreciative of the work and enthusiasm he put in as Company Commander.

"B" Company have advanced a stage further, and now possess their own Company Office. Their proposed separation from "A" Company and move to a building of their own elsewhere in Bristol is a matter which remains shrouded in mystery. Under the supervision of Major Harrison, ex-Battalion mortar officer, the Company carried out 3-in. mortar training during October-December. A .22 rifle range is very near completion at Kensington House and will fulfil a long-felt want.

"C" Company at Cheltenham, a hot-bed of M.M.G. experts, carried out M.M.G. training prior to their Company Cadre, and will no doubt be keeping a critical eye on the M.M.G. platoon at camp. C.S.M. Sallis has put on some excellent shows with the drums, including the Beating of Retreat outside the Town Hall on 18th April. This should have taken place on "Back Badge" Day, but torrential rain made it impossible. The Company, and particularly the drums, will be taking a prominent part in the Cheltenham Tattoo in July.

"D" Company now have a small Drill Hut of their own at Dursley, a big improvement on the cramped quarters they occupied before. A signals cadre was run prior to the Company Cadre. Captain R. F. N. Mason has taken over command of the Company from Captain D. T. Duffy.

"S" Company have recently recruited four volunteers, and hope this is the start of a successful recruiting year. Week-end camps are planned for all specialist platoons before camp, which will be attended by specialists who, because of their location, are necessarily on rifle company strengths, and normally carry out rifle company training. A social was held on 24th March, when men of the Company and their wives saw Aston Villa playing, and a show in the evening.

Major M. M. A. Bryant left us in January to go to the Senior Officers' School. Major P. J. H. Pope, back from Cyrenaica, took over as Training Officer on 6th May.

Since our last news, Major M. L. Sutcliffe (R.M.O.) and Lieutenants S. F. Cargill, A. O. H. Mills, P. E. F. Owen and J. R. Buchanan have left us.

Sergeants C. T. Blackford and A. G. Franklin and Private J. Wright are with the 28th/61st, and Sergeant M. Laheen has recently been posted to Wessex Group Training Centre, awaiting drafting to Korea. C.S.M. A. Gillett, at present at the Depot, is coming to us shortly as "S" Company P.S.I., and Sergeant J. Stewart is in joint charge of M.T. with Sergeant L. Hand.

W.O.s AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Owing to the Companies being outlying to a radius of 50 miles, it is difficult to hold functions except at the Battalion Mess, therefore all activities are confined to Battalion Headquarters at Gloucester.

The Mess at Gloucester during the winter season has seen quite a lot of old members, and all old members are welcome to come in at any time, especially now the Budget has been published, and the usual mess medicines have not increased.

The attendance in the Mess during "Back Badge" Ball was very good, and space, of course, would not allow much elbow room; fortunately the old members attending that evening were tall and thin, with the exception of Big (G. S.), who eventually moved out into the ball-room with cigar and all.

We shall have the usual collective Mess at camp, when members can get together again and talk about last camp or the one before that.

All members of the Mess are very pleased to hear P.S.I.s Blackford and Franklin are both O.K. and wish them a safe and speedy return to the homeland. A welcome is extended to the Mess for C.S.M. Gillett and Sergeant Stewart, the latter having to partake of Ushers Stout owing to his disability in the tummy, and good wishes are sent to all members of 28th/61st and safe and speedy return. All members wish C.S.M.s

Critchley and Hodges good eating with their new choppers from the N.H.I. Scheme and congratulate them on getting them free. All bad shots should have taken the opportunity to have obtained spectacles pre-budget 1951.

We thank ex-"Private" Joby Cole for the good but not quite accurate painting of the 28th at "Quatre Bras," and it will be treasured by members for a good many years to come. On the information that a similar picture was hanging outside 29th Brigade H.Q. in Korea, members were rushing in thinking the R.S.M. had sold it.

H.J.W.

REGIMENTAL DEPOT

THE most joyous moment of the winter was undoubtedly the one in which the C.I.G.S. announced in a broadcast that Infantry Regimental Depots are once again to train recruits.

Rumour and counter rumour had been active for over four months, and to have one's fears dispelled so satisfactorily was a pleasant start to the New Year.

Recruits, both Regular and National Service, are to come to the Depot for their first six weeks' training and, "subject to the exigencies of the Service," to be "Glosters" for all their service. We do not know yet when we will receive our first intake, but planning is in full swing and the game of Postman's Knock with the accommodation in Reservoir Camp started like the proverbial hare in March.

In January we heard that a Signal Regiment might come to Gloucester; at the end of February a siting board was held to parcel out the camp between the future expanded Depot and the Signal Regiment who were expected to arrive on 1st April; a small advance party of two officers and 30 O.R.s came in mid-March. Six days later the 2 i/c and the Adjutant of the new regiment arrived and by 7th March the Depot was housing 14 Signal Officers in the little Mess and 200 signallers had arrived.

Those hectic days passed. The Depot have moved out of their brick-built winter quarters and are now in huts ("A" and "B" Lines at the entrance to Reservoir Camp). Approval has been given to the conversion of two buildings into an Officers' Mess and we hope this will be completed by the end of the summer. Plans to provide a Sergeants' Mess are already being drawn up; this, too, we hope, will be a reality before the year is out. Meanwhile, despite the bad weather, we have been trying to recover the wilderness of the new areas into gardens with the help of the reservists.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of reservists who have come to the Depot pending discharge or transfer to another unit. Nearly all are compassionate cases and are here only for a few days—long enough, however, for the Q.M. to suggest placing three balls above his clothing store!

In January the Colonel of the Regiment launched a county-wide appeal for comforts for the 1st Battalion in Korea. Response to this appeal has been most heartening and both cash and goods have poured into the Depot. The people of Gloucester are keeping the box placed in the Bon Marché for comforts filled to overflowing most weeks. Packages of books are received almost daily from Bristol, Cirencester, Stroud and Cheltenham. Almost three tons of comforts have been sent out to Korea through the Field Stores at Aldershot and nearly £600 has been donated in cash.

A Band Concert was put on in Bristol for the Comforts Fund on 25th February at which Miss Mary Harding, Miss Peggy Blair (who grew up under the shadow of Horfield Barracks) and Mr. Dennis Blower kindly came as guest artistes. Major Griffin (ex-Q.M. of the 28th) was a pillar of strength in promoting the concert and the 5th Battalion also gave full support. The concert was much appreciated and greatly praised by all those who attended. Unfortunately very few did attend, so there was no financial gain to the Fund.

The Regimental Band were warned in December to sail in January for Korea, but at the last moment the order was cancelled. This was unfortunate for the Band as we were unable to make any engagements for the Festival Year, and by the time we heard that they were not going it was too late, as most towns had already made their engagements. The Band played on 29th April at the Victoria Palace, London, and was "on the air" in May.

One innovation has been instruction in music to the pupils of Finlay Road School. The course concluded with the Band playing to 250 children one afternoon in March with the finale of the school Percussion Band and the Regimental Band both playing at the same time. The Gloucester Education Committee have expressed their thanks and gratitude for this novel form of instruction which was a great success. It is hoped that this may encourage some of the boys to enlist, as band boys are so badly needed and of whom there are so few.

During the winter we said good-bye to Sergeant Powell, who is now a Prison Warder, then to Sergeant White, who is now a Recruiter in Gloucester, then to R.S.M. Murphy, who has gone to Dean Close School, and also to Sergeant Fry. Sergeant Field, from the 1st Battalion, also passed through the Depot on his way to civilian life.

W.O.II Lovesy and Sergeant Calloway have joined the Depot and, until R.S.M. Clark arrives, W.O.II Gillett is training the Depot for the South Western District Rifle Meeting in May, in which we hope this year to bring back the Small Units' Cup which last year we lost by only one point.

Captain A. E. Strange with Home Details of the 1st Battalion was here till the end of December, when the Home Details finally wound up. Captain Strange left to join Wessex Group Training Centre with whom he is still serving.

Other visitors to the Depot have been Major Biddulph, Army Apprentices School, Arborfield, Major Brasington and Lieutenant Lennard, whose first-hand news of the Battalion in Korea was eagerly sought and greatly appreciated. 2/Lieutenant Allison recently commissioned from Sandhurst paid us a three-day visit and was shown life in the Depot.

We are now looking forward to seeing many old friends on Old Soldiers' Day on 21st July in the camp, when we hope families will come once again. More distant still is the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Reunion in the Sergeants' Mess on 6th October, when all who have served in that rank will be welcomed.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

By MAJOR F. L. HOGAN, P.R.O. for the A.C.F. in the County

WHAT THE "JUNIOR BRANCH" OF THE REGIMENT IS DOING

THE winter is the time when most of the national Army Cadet Force contests take place. This year, Gloucestershire did not do so well in the boxing, but we repeated last year's success in winning the Southern Command cross-country race championship, which was again held at Corsham in Wiltshire, and we also brought a number of shooting trophies to the county.



THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
A.C.F.
Yellow Sphinx on Blue
Shield within Red
Frame.

The Cheltenham Grammar School Company, which was formerly part of the 1st Cadet Battalion, has become an independent contingent, and bids fair to make as good progress as the Cirencester Grammar School contingent, which now has a strength of nearly 100.

The officers held a dinner at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Berkeley, Lieutenant-General W. G. H. Vickers, the County Commandant, presiding. There were several officers present with more than 50 years' service, including Captain Tibbles, of the 2nd (Gloucester) Battalion, whose service went back as far as 1894. The record for continuous service, however, was claimed by Lieutenant-Colonel S. E. Norris, a member of the County Cadet Committee, whose service began in 1898, but he was closely run by Major A. W. Golder, of Cheltenham, Commanding Officer of the 2nd (Gloucester) Battalion, who has had 48 years' unbroken service. Major Golder, by the way, has been awarded the A.C.F. medal and clasp for long service, and has received special War Office authority to continue in command of his battalion after reaching the retiring age.

Cadet Bands are making excellent progress, especially that of the 8th Battalion (Bristol), which had engagements at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, for New Year's Eve festivities, and for the dedication of the 12th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment war memorial. It also supplied buglers at the funeral of Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton Bell, and earned congratulations for its bearing, turn-out and playing. Cadet Drum-Major Ivor Needs, of this Battalion, received the award of a certificate of good service in the New Year honours, and this was handed to him by Colonel E. R. C. Ames, Deputy County Commandant, at a special parade.

General Sir Montagu Stopford, chairman of the Army Cadet Force Association, inspected 1,000 Bristol cadets after a service in Bristol Cathedral in April, and presented shooting trophies won in Empire competitions. The General, who was accompanied by the County Commandant and by Major-General C. F. C. Coleman, G.O.C. South-West District, complimented the cadets on their turn-out and expressed pleasure at seeing such a large and efficient parade.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Gloucester, the High Sheriff and the Chief Constable of the county attended the annual party and prize distribution of the 2nd Battalion in the Painswick Road Drill Hall, Gloucester. The Mayoress presented prizes to cadets who had won them during the year. Several ex-cadets, now doing their National Service, obtained special leave to be present at the function.



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ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

THE past year has been an eventful one for The Royal Canadian Regiment. During the summer of 1949 conversion of the Regiment from an Infantry Battalion to a Parachute Battalion got under way and by last January as many as 200 men were either at Canadian Joint Air Training Centre at Rivers, Manitoba, or *en route* to and from that station at one time.

In November, 1949, the Regiment moved from its old quarters at Brockville some 150 miles north to Petawawa Camp.

During the winter 1949-50, "B" Company did Winter Indoctrination training and then proceeded to Fort Churchill, Manitoba, for a period of ten weeks. The remainder of the Battalion was spread over the country with Observers in Alaska on Exercise "Sweet Briar" and most of the others at Rivers.

During June, 1950, the Regiment carried out its first continuation parachute jump before a very distinguished audience, and these demonstration jumps continued weekly until mid-August for the benefit of the Reserve Force at camp. Battalion training took place between 17th July and 5th August, during which companies marched a total of 140 miles, much of it over undeveloped country.

On the night of 7th August the Prime Minister of Canada announced the formation of the Second Battalion to form part of the Canadian Army Special Force for service in Korea. Demands on the 1st Battalion were not long delayed and a large number of W.O.s and N.C.O.s were provided as a nucleus of the 2nd Battalion, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Keane, D.S.O. On 18th October the new battalion came officially into existence as an independent unit, and in November left Petawawa for Fort Lewis, Washington, on the Pacific coast of the United States and some 150 miles south of the Canadian frontier. Here intensive and extensive training took place and later a 3rd Battalion started to be formed at Fort Lewis, also for service under the flag of the United Nations.

The 1st Battalion remains in Canada as an integral part of the Active Force and things at Petawawa are reported back to normal.

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

THE Regimental Museum in Westgate Street, Gloucester, continues to attract visitors, both Regimental and otherwise. Since our last report 6,786 visitors have been recorded (seven months). There is no doubt that through the kindness of the City authorities the Regiment is gaining a certain publicity by its display of old trophies and treasures in such pleasant surroundings.

A Chinese Communist bugle was on show within a month of its capture in the battle for Hill 327 in Korea, and we learn that a Chinese drum and a Russian rifle have also been secured for the Museum. Amongst other additions are:

South African War Medal and L.S.G.C. medal of Colour-Sergeant A. B. Hopkins.

Middleweight boxing medal won by Sergeant Hopkins (all presented by Mr. Theobald).

A.R.A. and N.R.A. medals and musketry badges of Sergeant Major F. Cook (presented by Mr. G. E. Cook).

A quantity of 2nd V.B.G.R. and 5th Battalion uniforms (1890-1914), including an interesting type of patrol jacket (presented by Captain R. S. D. Stuart).

United Nations "Safe Conduct" passes and propaganda leaflets from Korea (presented by Major E. D. Harding and Major N. S. Watkin-Williams).

61st glengarry badge (presented by Major J. W. C. Kirkland).

Owing to lack of space a very large number of exhibits cannot as yet be displayed, but it is hoped that during the present financial year it will be possible to make rooms on the first floor available.

The collection of Regimental War Medals is already very comprehensive, from the first Military General Service Medal of 1801 period to the Victory Medal of 1918, and includes two Victoria Crosses and numerous British and foreign decorations. It is surely better for medals of officers and men of the Regiment, if they are not kept in the family, to be in the Museum where they are valued, decently arranged, and on view to all, than to fall into the hands of pawnbrokers and dealers, where maybe they would simply be melted down. It would be appreciated if possessors of medals would remember this and perhaps leave them to the Regiment on their death.

"CAP OF HONOUR"

AS we write *Cap of Honour*, the new story of the Gloucesters, is in the hands of the printers—and a Bristol firm at that—and will be published, we hope, in September.

As the weeks go by we realise how fortunate we were in obtaining Messrs. George G. Harrap & Co., Ltd., as our publishers. Nothing seems too much trouble for them and in spite of the constant difficulties as regards rising costs of paper, of binding, and of wages, and so on, we can guarantee that the production will be of the highest quality. The selling price of the book will, of necessity, be higher than we first intended, but all good things cost more these days and it would be foolish to try to produce a history unworthy of the Regiment.

A prospectus, which gives full details, is enclosed in this issue of THE BACK BADGE and it is hoped that all our readers will order their copy early.

The Regimental Depot has been specially recognised by the Publishers' Association as the Book Agent for the sale of *Cap of Honour*, and orders should be sent with accompanying remittance to O.C. Depot, Reservoir Camp, Gloucester, who will ensure that despatch is made immediately the book is out. Copies will also be on sale at the Museum at Gloucester.

THE REGIMENTAL COLOURS

BEFORE the 1st Battalion proceeded to Korea the problem arose as to the serviceability of the Regimental and King's Colours of the old 28th and 61st Regiments, carried on ceremonial occasions prior to the amalgamation by the 1st and 2nd Battalions respectively, and more recently by the new 1st Battalion.

The Colours of the 28th had been presented in 1868 and those of the 61st four years earlier. Both sets had been extensively repaired many times and it was feared that the silk was now so frail that further renovation was impossible.

A board of survey (consisting of Brigadiers T. N. Grazebrook and H. L. W. Bird, Major E. Jones and Major L. M. Arnold, R.A.O.C.) was convened in London last February to examine the Colours and to make a recommendation. A representative of the Royal School of Needlework was present and it was finally decided that both sets were definitely beyond further repair and that the time had come for them to be laid up after their long and honourable service.

As yet no arrangements have been made for the laying up ceremony, but it is learnt that a new stand of Colours for the 1st Battalion will be issued in due course.

Only a piece of old silk, only two tattered rags,

But many have died for their honour, and bled in defence of the Flags.

THE 61st IN THE WESTERN EUROPE CAMPAIGN, 1944

BY CAPTAIN H. H. HOLGATE

CHAPTER VI THURY-HARCOURT

The account of the battle for Thury-Harcourt on 12th August, 1944, was told by Captain R. C. Nash, M.B.E., in the Summer 1947 issue of "The Back Badge." It is not, therefore, repeated by Captain Holgate in this story of the 61st in the Western European Campaign.

CHAPTER VII AFTER THURY-HARCOURT TO LE HAVRE

THE 2nd Gloucesters spent the 14th August among the ruins of Thury-Harcourt, with Battalion H.Q. in the chateau area and the companies in a defensive ring round the town. The enemy's withdrawal had been complete, and was marked by unnecessary acts of destruction. The beautiful 17th century chateau was a smoking ruin, deliberately fired for no apparent reason by the retreating Germans. The town itself was an appalling mess and bore witness of the heavy fighting that had taken place two days before.

On this day Major F. W. A. Butterworth, M.B.E., West Yorkshire Regiment, joined us and took command of the Battalion.

On the 15th August we had orders to move from Thury-Harcourt to the area of Bas Breuil, about one and a half miles to the south-east. We were now reserve battalion in the woods in which the 2nd Essex had had some bitter fighting five days before. The following day



56TH INDEPENDENT
INFANTRY BDE.
Yellow Sphinx on Black
Circle on Yellow Square.

The formation sign for the 56th Independent Infantry Brigade was designed by Sergeant J. Ryan, Bde. Int. Sgt. of Staple Hill. The Sphinx was selected as the three Regiments in the Brigade (2nd S.W.B., 2nd Glosters and 2nd Essex) all had the device on their cap badges.

was spent resting and checking equipment. All ranks had a hot bath in a mobile bath unit and lectures were given on the "big picture" of the Normandy Campaign to date.

At this time the German 7th Army was being decimated within the Falaise pocket. We were approaching from the west and were not experiencing strong resistance as was the case at the "gap" further east, where a desperate enemy was throwing in everything he had to keep open an escape route for his army. At midday on the 17th the Battalion had orders to take over the area of Pierrepont from the 177th Brigade. We embussed in T.C.V.s at 1345 hours and reached the assembly area by 1515 hours. Some enemy, mainly snipers, were found in Les Loges Saulces and cleared out by "C" Company. We remained in this area until the 19th, patrolling to the line of the river La Baise, bumping small parties of enemy and undergoing slight mortaring and shelling.

On the 19th August our 56th Independent Brigade were taken from the 59th Division and joined the 49th Division, replacing the "pit prop" flash with the "Polar Bear" we were to keep until the end of the campaign. We thus left 30th Corps and came under command of the 1st British Corps in the Canadian Army. The 61st were lifted in T.C.V.s to Airan, where we rested until the 22nd August. We remained in the open for the 19th and 20th in an area swarming with mosquitoes which seemed to relish the anti-mosquito cream provided, and raised some prominent lumps on the arms and faces of many. On the 21st we occupied empty houses a mile or so back in Airan itself owing to torrential rain. About this time we were joined by a draft which included Captain J. L. Wood, Lieutenant A. C. Machin and 52 other ranks.



49TH DIVISION
White Polar Bear on
Black.

The Germans were now beating a hasty retreat to get the River Seine between themselves and the Anglo-American Armies advancing along the whole front. On the 22nd August the 56th Brigade were ordered to move forward in T.C.V.s to a concentration area around Bonnebosq. The intention was to pass the brigade through the two forward brigades at Quilly-le-Comte, where a bridgehead over the river had been secured, but a further advance was awaiting construction of bridges by the R.E.s. We waited during the 23rd for definite orders but the position at the bridgehead was obscure. Enemy rearguards were showing plenty of fight and their counter-attacks had by last light made it imperative for the bridgehead to be strengthened. We left our concentration area as it was getting dark and reached a point about one and a half miles from the bridgehead. Here, with the head of the column on a steep hill leading down to a flat, wide valley, we came under shell fire and were forced to leave our vehicles. The Boche were holding on to Norolles to the north-east and making the passage through Quilly-le-Comte difficult. The Battalion were therefore given the task of infiltrating across the river in the dark and moving north along the wide main road by the river to Breuil-en-Auge, where we were to firm base and allow the Essex to pass through. We set off at midnight, and by 0300 hours all companies had crossed the two rivers which joined into one further north. We continued by march route along the main road, passed through positions held by the Hallams and by 0900 hours had reached our objective, having met no opposition. After



59TH DIVISION
Black Pit-head Slag-
heap, with Red Winding
Gear on Blue Square.



56TH INFANTRY
BRIGADE
Yellow Sphinx on
Black Half-circle.

a sleepless night we were glad to welcome the cooks' trucks, and snatched a few winks during the morning. At 1530 hours we were on the move again to take up a left flank protective position for the Essex, who were at the outskirts of Cormeilles. The Battalion area was lightly shelled in the evening but thereafter the night was quiet.

At 0900 hours on the 25th we set off with the ultimate objective line of the River Risle. "D" Company led off and by 1015 had come under fire on the main road from Epaignes. Major Chalmers switched his company to the left off the main road and attempted to close on the village through close-wooded country intersected by paths. The leading platoon became stuck in a very unpleasant position, overlooked from high ground in front and unable to move one way or the other. The remaining two platoons edged bit by bit towards the road running through the village. These German rearguards were fighting very well indeed. In this case their strength was estimated at two weak companies. Their siting of machine guns was good and they had good artillery and mortar O.P.s which they held on to even when our men were amongst them. In addition their morale was excellent.

"D" Company by now were having a very sticky time. They had reached close enough to the enemy to exchange grenades and, in some cases, were on opposite sides of banks until one or the other party decided the position was too intimate. The paths were well covered by enemy machine guns and no movement along them was possible. This state of affairs continued until about 1700 hours, by which time "D" Company had suffered casualties and had some sections isolated from their platoons.

Meanwhile "A" Company had moved round to the right to straddle the road leading south from the village, and was in this position by 1345 hours, having met little opposition. By 1700 hours Colonel Butterworth decided to put in a Battalion attack to clear the village, "B" Company to push in frontally and "A" Company to close in from the south. Tanks were in support of this attack and by 1930 hours some of the enemy were reported to be waving white flags. From this time they were, in fact, pulling out and by last light that evening Cormeilles was finally cleared. In this sharp clash we had lost 12 killed and 41 wounded, having taken five prisoners and established 48 enemy dead.

The village was burning fiercely in some parts and it was thought that the Boche had fired the church, which he had used as an O.P., to prevent us doing the same. That evening, for no apparent reason, a single enemy aircraft dropped a single bomb in fields close to us, luckily without hitting a single thing. Most of the Battalion spent that night in a house of some sort, since the enemy's withdrawal had been complete and patrols sent ahead met no opposition.

Before our attack, divisional reconnaissance troops had also run into trouble before pulling back, leaving three of their armoured cars brewed up either on the road or on tracks off the road.

During this time Major A. J. A. Arango-Jones joined us as Battalion 2 IC and Lieutenant W. E. Nicholas (Canadian Army) joined "B" Company. A draft of 78 other ranks had also been posted to us.

On the 26th the 61st made a short move forward and remained in a rest area until the 28th. At this time Pont Audemer on La Risle river was being fought for by the Essex and men of the 6th Airborne Division.

By 0955 hours on 28th August we had moved up to cross the river at Pont Audemer, and were now ordered, as the left leading battalion of 56th Brigade, to drive for the

Seine through the Foret de Brotonne. This was a very considerable forest and a wood clearing operation of this size was felt to be a big task. By that evening we had reached the outskirts of the forest at La Haye de Routot and so far all was clear. Patrols that night, however, drew mortar and Spandau fire.

At 0820 hours on the following day "A" and "B" Companies were on the move, and very quickly "A" Company came under heavy Spandau and mortar fire. "B" Company also ran into Spandau fire. Close scrapping continued until midday, "C" and "D" Companies having passed through. It then became obvious that we had been confronted by nothing more than M.G. and mortar teams who, as soon as they were pressed, withdrew fast. The advance continued throughout the day, good progress being made and no further opposition met, although some mines were found. On the 30th orders were to reach the northern edge of the forest. This was achieved by 0930 hours, when the 61st had reached a position on the main road heading east to La Mailleraye-sur-Seine two and a half miles away.

We were astonished at the chaos that was found in the woods. Masses of equipment had been hidden under the thick foliage. The withdrawal across the Seine had been so rapid and bridges so few that complete Quartermaster's echelons had been left behind. Horses were running loose over the locality; by the river were many brewed up vehicles and tanks. There had not even been time to booby-trap this tempting array of souvenirs.

The 31st was a day of rest, spent by many exploring the woods in the area. On the following day we were warned for a move across the Seine, at first via Rouen, but this was later changed to road parties only via Rouen and the main body in D.U.K.W.s and assault boats across the river at La Mailleraye-sur-Seine. There was at this time no sign of the enemy on the other side of the river. However, there was a hitch somewhere because we waited until 1500 hours 2nd September before moving off. The river was reached about 1700 hours but the rough water had upset the craft in which other battalions had been crossing before us and the operation was called off until the following day. The road column meanwhile had become involved in a dreary procession of hundreds of vehicles queuing up for that single R.E. bridge at Rouen. The Battalion's transport eventually crossed on the night of the 3rd and joined the rest at the concentration area at Alliquerville at 0700 hours on the 4th. The night crossing of the Rouen bridge underlined the impotence of the German Air Force. The bridge was brilliantly lit by our searchlights and did cause some apprehension to those involved in the crawl across, but not a single enemy plane put in an appearance.

After concentration, with no river casualties, the 61st moved to Sainneville en route to take over positions from the Hallams on the outskirts of Le Havre. We were established by 2130 hours that evening on highish ground which gave us a good view of the approaches to Le Havre, and ready to begin the intensive patrolling and planning which preceded the capture of the fortress.

CHAPTER VIII

THE CAPTURE OF LE HAVRE

The account of the capture of Le Havre, 10th to 12th September, 1944, in which the 2nd Gloucesters were very much to the fore, was given by Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. R. Chalmers, M.C., in the Winter 1947 issue of "The Back Badge," and will not be repeated in Captain Holgate's story.

COPY OF LETTER RECEIVED BY O.C. 61ST FROM THE SEA KOMMANDANT, LE HAVRE,
ON CAPITULATIONLe Havre,
13th September, 1944.

To the British Commander-in-Chief of Le Havre.

SIR,

Not being able to communicate with you directly by one of my officers I am forced to hand over this letter to you by a British soldier made prisoner of war.

Blocked in my military station since the 10th September I have no knowledge of the situation of the fortress Le Havre. Would you kindly give me the necessary information?

In my territory I have got seven wounded soldiers, for whom I ask assistance. Several dead British soldiers in front of my lines could be also transported on this occasion. In order to avoid any misunderstandings please let me know by what street and time I can expect your message.

V. TRESCKOW,
Konteradmiral.

Admiral von Tresckow, the German Naval Commander at Le Havre, surrendered himself with his staff to the 61st.

Anyone wishing to complete the record of the Battalion's war service may obtain copies of back numbers of the Journal from the Hon. Editor, Gretton House, Nr. Winchcombe, Glos., at 2s. 6d. per copy.—EDITOR.

FAREWELL MESSAGE TO THE 56TH BRIGADE FROM LIEUTENANT-GENERAL G. C.
BUCKNALL, C.B., M.C.Main H.Q. 30th Corps,
3rd August, 1944.

Before the 56th Infantry Brigade leaves the 30th Corps I would like to express to all ranks my most sincere gratitude for the excellent fighting which the brigade has done in Normandy.

Given only a very short space of time, the 2nd S.W.B., 2nd Glosters and 2nd Essex Regiments, together with Brigade H.Q. troops, welded themselves into a first-class team. This was a very high test for the three Regular battalions and illustrated how Regular units can overcome all difficulties and how great was the devotion to duty of all ranks.

I realise, with deep regret, that the casualties in the brigade have been heavy and that the fighting from the beaches has been very fierce. The 56th Infantry Brigade will always be able to pride themselves that they gave valuable assistance to the putting into effect of the Commander-in-Chief's plans, and in doing so killed and captured many Germans.

I am very happy to know that the brigade is being transferred as a whole and will become a permanent brigade of the 59th Division.

I wish you the very best of luck and continued successes.

I would be grateful if this letter could be read out to all ranks of the 56th Infantry Brigade.

GREATNESS IN THE BRITISH SOLDIER

BROADCAST BY FIELD-MARSHAL SIR WILLIAM SLIM

AS a soldier, I have been asked to say something about the greatest soldier I had met and known. So I am going to. The funny thing is, I cannot tell you his name. It changes. Sometimes he has an English name, sometimes Scottish, sometimes Welsh or Irish. That is because the soldier I want to talk about, the greatest soldier I have met—and, believe me, I have met a lot of all sorts—is the ordinary British soldier.

I hope you do not think it is a foul to choose as my Great Man, not a single hero, but a whole group of men. Our race and our army have produced great men enough. We have had our Pitts and our Churchills, our Marlboroughs and our Wavells, but I believe their greatness, in their finest hours, was that they expressed and focused the spirit and the qualities that infused the whole British people. Any nation, now and then, may throw up a great man, but unless its people have greatness in them, it will not cut a very noble figure at the bar of history. An army must have Generals to lead it but, if the only men in it who have the mark of greatness are the Generals, it will win few victories.

To be great a man—or a people—must pass two tests. They must show greatness in character, and greatness in achievement. Now there are whole sections of our people, luckily for us large sections, which show in a special degree those marks of greatness. There are our ordinary British housewives. If you want to know what greatness of character is, look at them in the blitz; if you want to know greatness of achievement, look now at the children they raised in hardship and peril. I could do a jolly good broadcast on the British housewife, but I have to deal with someone else, great also in character and achievement—the British soldier. Think for a moment of the soldier's job. In war he has not only to fight, but in order to be able to fight at all, he has continually to perform every activity that goes on in a civilian community, and do it under the most uncomfortable, nerve-racking, and dangerous conditions. In peace he is often called upon to restore order or carry on essential services when these tasks have proved too difficult for the civil authority.

What qualities does he need for all this? He must have courage, lots of it; endurance, moral and physical; skill with his weapons and at the techniques of his trade—for soldiering these days is a highly skilled trade. He must be adaptable and he must have discipline. A formidable list that, but if he fails in any one of them he cannot be a good—let alone a great—soldier. As to courage, our race, whatever its faults, has never failed for want of courage. From the days of Joan of Arc down to the British soldier today on a Korean hillside, our friends, and, what is perhaps more to the point, our enemies, have picked out the British soldier as the staunchest of comrades and the most formidable of foes.

It is not that the British soldier is braver than other soldiers; he is not, but he is brave for a bit longer, and it is that bit that counts. Endurance is the very fibre of his courage and of his character. He stays where he is until he has won. He did it at Gibraltar 200 years ago. A few years back he was doing it at Kohima. He is ready to do it now in Korea. Many years ago, when I was a young officer, my battalion was hard pressed, and I was sent with a couple of men to get into touch with a unit which we hoped was still on our left. Worming our way from one bit of cover to the next, we eventually dropped into a trench that had been badly smashed by shell fire. Pistol in hand I scrambled over

the fallen earth, through bay after bay, finding nothing but wreckage and the dead. I think I would have turned back then, but I was as frightened to go back as to go on. So I went on. At last, round a traverse, I heard voices. My heart in my mouth, I strained my ears to listen. An agitated voice was proclaiming that another attack was coming and they would all be wiped out. There was a pause and then one of those creamy West Country voices drawled: "Aw, don' 'ee worry. Us'n 'll beat they!" I had found the Glosters. The British soldier in his long career has suffered so many disasters, won so many victories, that neither the one nor the other unduly depresses or elates him. Come what may, he holds to his inflexible confidence in ultimate victory. It may take a long time, it may mean all sorts of grim things, but—"Us'n 'll beat they!"

Unlike most others, the British Army has to be ready to fight or serve anywhere. Western Europe or furthest Asia, desert or jungle, it is all in the day's work. A few hundred years of that have bred in the British soldier an adaptability to climate and terrain and conditions that is one of his most valuable assets. In the same way he takes readily to new weapons. The Britisher fights best when he can see his enemy and that is why, I think, his skill has always been high with his personal short-range weapons. He first gained international fame as a bowman whose hard driven shafts broke the armoured chivalry of France. The steady disciplined volleys of Minden, the deadly musketry of the thin red line of the Peninsula, the 15 rounds a minute of the Old Contemptibles, down to the anti-tank gunners of the desert still firing as the Panzers rumbled over them, held this tradition of skill at arms. May we always keep it, for it is the foundation of battle-craft.

An army without discipline is no more than a mob, alternating between frightened sheep and beasts of prey. Discipline, as the British soldier has demonstrated it in peace and war, is the old Christian virtue of unselfishness, of standing by your neighbour, your comrades. It is the sacrifice of a man's comfort, inclination, safety, even life, for others, for something greater than himself. It is the refusal to be the weak link in the chain that snaps under strain. Once, from the safety of a well-dug command post, I looked down on a battery of artillery in action in the African bush. It was firing at five rounds per gun per minute and, idly, I timed the nearest gun. The enemy, unfortunately, in the area, had complete local air supremacy, and guns, unless engaged in some vital task, were ordered to remain silent whenever hostile aircraft appeared. Gradually dominating all other sound, came the dull drone of bombers flying low. But the guns went on firing, five rounds per gun per minute, for they were supporting an infantry attack. The first stick of bombs fell round the gun I was watching. Some of its crew were hit. The dry bush roared into flames, which spread instantly to the camouflage nets over the gun. It vanished from my sight in smoke and flame. Yet from the very midst of that inferno, at the exact intervals, came the flash and thud of the gun firing. Never a falter, never a second out. No weak link there; discipline held.

Any soldier who has courage, endurance, skill at arms, adaptability and discipline, will be a very efficient soldier but he will not be the British soldier, for he has something more. It may seem strange to talk of gentleness as a soldierly quality, but it is—and he has it. Time and again the British soldier has combined real toughness in hardship and battle, with gentleness to the weak, the defeated, the unhappy. Our bitterest enemies would rather be occupied by British troops than by any others. The British soldier is

a grim fighter—but, bless him, a bad hater. He moves amid strange races and surroundings with an unarrogant assurance that radiates confidence. In famines, epidemics, earthquakes, floods, he has earned the dumb gratitude of millions. Thousands he has protected against their own violence and fanaticism—often with poor reward.

One sweltering afternoon in the Red Fort at Delhi a company of British infantry was hurriedly falling in. There was a riot in the city, Hindu against Moslem. Heads were being broken, men stabbed, shops looted and burned. As the troops struggled into their equipment an officer said: "Now, remember, in this quarrel you are neutral." A young soldier turned to his sergeant: "Wot did 'e mean by nootral, sergeant?" he asked. "Nootral, me lad," replied the N.C.O., "Nootral means that when you go down that adjectival bazaar, you are just as likely to be 'it by a Mo'ammedan brick as by a 'Indu brick."

Unruffled by brickbats or bouquets, the British soldier has marched across history, dominating the scene. Success that might turn another's head he greets with studied under-statement; disaster that would appal most he meets with a jest, for his courage is always laced with humour—with his own brand of humour, that is part of him and that he has kept quick, topical and good-natured through the centuries. There was a Grenadier, at Fontenoy, who, as the French presented their muskets for a devastating volley, intoned: "For what we are about to receive may the Lord make us truly thankful." He must have been brother to the freezing British fighting man crouching under a Korean blizzard, who exclaimed: "I wish to Heaven the Iron Curtain was windproof!" Many countries produce fine soldiers, whose achievements rival those of our own. It is in character that the British soldier shows beyond others the mark of greatness. Courage, endurance, skill, adaptability, discipline they may have, but none blends these qualities together as he does with this leaven of gentleness and humour. Nor has any other soldier his calm, unshakable confidence of victory. The character of the British soldier is his own, but in his achievements he has owed much to his officers. The Regimental Officers of the British Army have in all soldierly qualities, self-sacrifice and in leadership been worthy of their men. They could not have, nor would they covet, higher praise.

Well, that is the British soldier, officer and man. We do take him for granted a bit, don't we? How many of you sitting there, listening to me, know more about the victories of your local football team than about those of your county regiment? Good luck to your football teams, but give a hand to your Army, too, for it *is* your Army, much more a part of the nation than it has ever been before in peace, and on it much more than a game may depend.

We have forced on us now the grim necessity to look to our defences. That will mean for all of us inconvenience and sacrifice, but before we grumble too much let us remember two things. First—never was an untrained man of less value in war than he is today. And, second, if we deny ourselves to arm our forces, those arms will be going to the greatest of all fighting men—the British soldier.

War Office, Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.
5th March, 1951.

CIGS/BM/39/4404/1

DEAR GRAZEBROOK,

Thank you for your letter of the 21st February, in which you asked my permission to reproduce my recent broadcast in your Regimental Journal. I shall, of course, be delighted for you to do so and send a copy of the script with this letter.

My story about the Gloster Regiment occurred when we were fighting the Turks in Mesopotamia in 1917.

I always have a warm spot for the Gloucestershires. I did my very first military training as a boy of nine when my father sent me and my brother for P.T. and drill under a sergeant from Horfield Barracks.

Yours sincerely,
W. J. SLIM.

OLD-TIME SOLDIERING

BY MAJOR H. RUMMINS, O.B.E.

WHEN reading of conditions existing in the Army today, I think perhaps a few remarks on old-time soldiering of about 58 years ago may be of interest. Take messing. In those days communal messing had not been thought of, every barrack room was a mess on its own, irrespective of number, provided of course it was not too low. I have known the number as low as eight. Government rations consisted of one pound of meat and one pound of bread daily. To augment these rations, a Company Mess Book was also kept, to provide groceries such as potatoes and beans for dinner, butter, tea and sugar and a little something for breakfast, according to the credit of the Mess Book and the whim of the Colour-Sergeant. I have been down to half a kipper. Threepence per diem was deducted from the pay of those in mess to provide the extra messing. Tea and supper consisted of what was left from breakfast and dinner, except for a basin of char for tea, or what you liked to buy from the dry canteen.

Plates and basins (there were no mugs) were often short, and one had to share with another or improvise. Mess Orderlies were detailed daily, and were excused parade.

Dinner was somewhat of an ordeal. Plates to the number in mess were laid, and the Mess Orderly, having drawn the dinner from the cook-house, proceeded to hack out the joint if a roast, with his holdall knife; there was no carving knife and fork. The men stood around until all dinners were ready and then each took, or tried to take, the dinner he fancied. After dinner tables and forms were taken out to be scrubbed, all in mess taking part. It was here the popularity of the Colour-Sergeant waxed or waned, according to the amount of soap and soda he dished out. It was also customary to fight on the least provocation, and I have seen many good old up-and-downers at table-scrubbing.

In Egypt the authorities swopped four ounces of meat for two ounces of cheese (khedive) daily, and the old sweats of the boozing schools often made it their dinner, plus a couple of cans of shrab.

With all these small messes half the food went to the swill tub. Today, of course, communal messing prevents this to some extent, and I think the troops are much better fed. I wonder how many would relish a bit of straightforward naval salt-junk as issued to us in the H.M.T. *Victoria* when taking us to Malta in 1893. Personally I would prefer it to old ewe meat.

A private's pay was then 1s. per diem. Out of that 3d. went to extra messing and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. washing, leaving 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Out of this, again, deductions were made for barrack damages and deficiency of kit, so that 4s. on weekly pay day was about the maximum. There were extras, of course, such as 1d. per diem for the first Good Conduct Badge after two years' service, 2d. after five years, etc. A paid lance-corporal got 3d. per diem for his stripe after being unpaid and doing the duty probably for two or three years. Such sudden acquisition of wealth on becoming paid, prompted a Lance-Jack I knew to remark to a barmaid: "Don't you think us Non-Commissioned Officers a jolly lot of fellows?"

A corporal's pay was 1s. 8d. per diem, a lance-sergeant's 2s. (three white stripes), sergeant's 2s. 4d. As a lance-sergeant I kept the accounts for approximately 100 details of various units at Darjeeling on 2s. a day. A Gold Badge Boy Trumpeter of the R.F.A. in those details got 2s. 1d. Money, of course, went much further in those days. In Dublin one could get half-malt and sleever of Guinness for 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Beer in the canteen was 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pint, tobacco 3d. per ounce, hard tack 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. (Fair Maid). One could buy a cooked haddock in the coffee shop for supper for 1d. In fact, you could have an evening out, square-pushing, on about 1s. 6d., or less if you were a shonk.

As regards discipline, when I read these days of troops walking off ships if they do not like the look of the captain or some such triviality, I wonder what would be thought of the old *Argo*, the ship that brought the pigs from Ireland to Bristol and took back drafts of recruits from the Depot to the 28th in Dublin (No, not in exchange). She had been washed down, but we were hot on the *Argo* and the peculiar odour of its late occupants could be felt. Did we walk of?—like hell we did, *not*. Had we done so there would have been no coaxing back. By the way, a whiff of old Dennis would be a treat these days.

Anyhow, improvements were on the way; for instance, the Defaulter Sheets, Regimental and Company, became Conduct Sheets, but your 168 hours cells or seven days' C.B. remained just as hard. Another innovation, and an excellent one, was making the soldier responsible for acquainting himself with the duties and orders for the following day. Detail was posted on a notice-board for the purpose; hitherto N.C.O.s and men had been warned personally by the Orderly Sergeant with the Orderly Lance-Corporal present as witness.

Discipline was due for a change from the old days, when many convictions were recorded on hearsay evidence—suffice it that it was Jones of "B" or Williams of "H," known as regimental bad hats (how I loved them), and they must be guilty. I am not so sure, however, that it has not swung too much to the other extreme. A commanding officer, or for that matter any officer or school master, awarding punishment these days lays himself open to criticism, and I am strongly of the opinion that much of the unrest and insubordination in the Services and in the industrial life of the country is due to this lack of discipline.

RECOLLECTIONS

BY EX-SERGEANT-MAJOR EDWARD YOUNG, No. 2377

COLONEL LYNDEN-BELL was the Officer Commanding at Horfield Barracks, when, at the age of 20 years, I left my native home at Bleadon in Somerset to enlist into the Gloucestershire Regiment in the year 1880.

Two years later, with my lance-corporal's chevron, I formed one of a draft of a hundred to join the 61st at Quetta, Afghanistan.

The journey out in the old *Crocodile* took some seven weeks, and it may be mentioned that this vessel could never have been classed as a "luxury liner." We eventually reached Bombay, where a brief respite of two days gave us back the use of "land legs," only to be soon lost again in a three-day trip up the Arabian Sea to Karachi.

After two days here we entrained, then followed that five-day ride over the Sind Desert to Rinby, at the mouth of the Bolan Pass. No railway existed in those days to take us to Quetta, so we then had a six-day march with pack mules—no wheeled transport, a continual fording and refording of the "Snaky" river, and, to crown all, the last days through a blinding snowstorm. At about two miles from the camp, we were met by the Regimental Band, which bravely played us into camp.

The Officer Commanding was Colonel Heywood. For three weeks, owing to deep snow and generally arctic conditions, we were confined to our quarters (chiefly mud huts), our time being spent in lectures, etc. After 12 months in Quetta, the Regiment returned to Karachi, where I was summoned to the Orderly Room and asked if I would take a course of gymnastics and fencing as instructor at Poona, to which I readily agreed.

Three days later I left the Regiment for Bombay, then one day's train journey to Poona. This was a wonderful journey through the jungle; wild animals, tigers, cheetahs, etc., were to be seen very much in their natural surroundings.

In 1884, after a six months' course, I passed out as 1st Class Instructor in Gymnastics and Fencing, and was retained as such in the school.

A Gymnastic Tournament for the whole of the Bombay Presidency was held. I entered for several events and was successful in winning the pole leaping, high and long jumping and gymnastic events. I was also entered for the bayonet *v.* bayonet open competitions, six events, and won six heats, fighting off the final on the Saturday evening. I was again fortunate in winning the 1st prize—Bronze Medal (still in my possession) and 50 rupees (long passed out of my possession). This was presented to me by the Duke of Connaught, the then Commander-in-Chief, Bombay Presidency.

During the above course, the Battalion moved from Karachi to Ahmednagar, this in the year of Her Majesty's Jubilee, 1887. On my return to the Regiment I was made full sergeant and appointed Assistant Gymnastic Instructor, moving to Bombay in 1888.

Here I was appointed Regimental Instructor and made *i/c* Gymnasium at Colaba. I was fortunate also in Bombay, since it was here that I met my fiancée. In honour of Prince Albert Victor (Duke of Clarence), a tournament was held, in which I entered for several events, winning hurdles, bayonet *v.* lance, and the 1st prize for champion foils.

The silver cup, which I still proudly possess, and 50 rupees were presented to me by the Duke.

In 1891 the Regiment moved once again to Nusserabad, where I was married, and my first little "barrack rat," a son, arrived. After two years, the next move was to Aden, in 1893, where my wife was invalided back to England, preceding me by about 12 months, when the Regiment returned to Raglan Barracks, Devonport, where my second child, a daughter, was born.

After a few months I was transferred from the Regiment to the Depot at Horfield, where I continued as gym instructor to the 3rd Battalion (the Militia), and received the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1898. Here, at Horfield, my second daughter and second son were born.

Then came the Boer War, during which I was on Salisbury Plain, training and supplying drafts to the Regiment abroad. The 3rd Battalion moved to Raglan Barracks, Devonport, but I was then i/c Garrison Gymnasium. I returned to the Depot in 1902, where I was discharged as a sergeant pensioner, settling at Horfield.

I continued my gymnastic career into civilian life as instructor to several schools, day and evening classes, fencing pupils, etc. This continued up to the First World War, during which period the only civilian member of my family was born—a daughter.

I again volunteered my services and, at 55 years of age, I was taken on the Army Gymnastic Staff as Company Sergeant-Major Instructor. During this period I was attached to the 12th Battalion, Bristol's Own.

After three years and some months' service, I was appointed Physical Training Instructor at Downside School, near Bath, and thus completed an overall gymnastic career of over 40 years. I retired from the more active side of instructor to lighter work in the school, and during this period, before finally retiring from work, His Majesty King Edward VIII granted me the Meritorious Service Medal—which was presented to me at Downside School by the then Major R. M. Grazebrook, O.B.E., M.C.

During my latter years at Downside I lost my wife (1927). I can look back to the past very full life with many happy memories of old friends in the "Old Brags."

My two sons both served in the Gloucesters. The elder with the 6th Battalion (1835 Sergeant, Signal Section), seeing service in France, Belgium and Italy, winning the Military Medal and getting a mention in despatches.

The second (5021, 2/6th) after a return to England, having seen active service in France under-age, being reposted to the 1st Battalion in France as full corporal, later being transferred to the Russian Relief Force at Archangel.



THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE DRILL HALL, WHITELADIES ROAD, BRISTOL, AT 6.30 P.M., ON SATURDAY, 3RD MARCH, 1951

Present—

THE PRESIDENT: Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Wetherall, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
 COMMITTEE: Brigadier A. L. Newth, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., Colonel Sir Paul Gueterbock, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. R. Chalmers, M.C., T.D., Major E. Jones, M.B.E.
 SUB-COMMITTEE: Messrs. J. Emery, J. Hibberd, F. Martin, J. Russell, Colonel V. N. Johnson, D.S.O., R.S.M. H. J. Walker.
 HON. SECRETARY: Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Priestley; Bristol Representative, Major E. E. Culley.
 and some 50 members.

1. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th March, 1950, were read, confirmed and signed by the President.

2. Arising from the minutes it was explained by the President that it seemed likely that the Band of the 1st Battalion would remain in England this year, making the holding of an "Old Soldiers' Day" a possibility in 1951.

It was then proposed by Major Rummins, and seconded by Mr. Martin, that the "Old Soldiers' Day" shall be held again this year in Gloucester in the summer and that wives of members and old members of the Regiment shall again be allowed to attend. *Carried.*

A proposition by Mr. W. Wakefield, seconded by Major F. Sharp, that wives of members and old members of the Regiment should automatically be permitted to attend the "Old Soldiers' Days" was lost in favour of the proposition that the question of their attendance should be raised annually.

3. The accounts of the Regimental Association for the year ended 31st December, 1950, as audited, were circulated whilst the Hon. Secretary gave a general résumé of the amounts received and expended and of some of the activities of the Association during the year.

It was proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel Gilmore, and seconded by Colonel Johnson, that the accounts of the Regimental Association for the year ended 31st December, 1950, shall be passed. *Carried.*

It was then mentioned by the President that a new commitment had been taken on by the Committee of the Association in that financial help was being given in proved need to dependants of the reservists of other regiments now serving with the 1st Battalion.

This help was shared to some extent with other Regimental Associations and was considered our responsibility as the men were fighting with the Regiment. The concurrence of the Meeting was unanimously given to this arrangement.

4. The President then raised the question of the place for the next Annual Dinner, with special reference to the diminishing number of those attending. It was very desirable to get as many members to attend as possible and it was difficult to cut down charges. A smaller hall might be necessary and this brought up the question of going to a cafe. Generally the cafe charges were high in Bristol, around 12s. 6d. as against 8s. 6d. now paid, and although lower charges can be obtained in small hotels the accommodation was usually much too limited.

It was then proposed by a member that the Dinner be held in Gloucester next year but this proposal was withdrawn when the President explained that it was undesirable to leave out Bristol as the majority of members lived in Bristol and district. Gloucester had the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Reunion, in October, as it was held there more suitably in the Depot Sergeants' Mess.

Mr. Martin then rose to suggest an alteration in the date of the Dinner which, so early in the year as the first Saturday in March, made travelling conditions uncertain and often bad for the older members coming from a distance.

After some discussion of suitable dates to avoid Easter, it was proposed by Brigadier Newth, and seconded by Major Rummins, that the Annual General Meeting and Dinner shall be held at the same times and in the same Drill Hall, if available, on the last Saturday in April and that this shall be the fixed date for the future. *Carried.*

5. A request by Lieutenant-General A. E. Percival, Chairman of the Far East Prisoners of War Claim Committee, addressed to the Chairmen of Regimental Associations, was read to the meeting by the President.

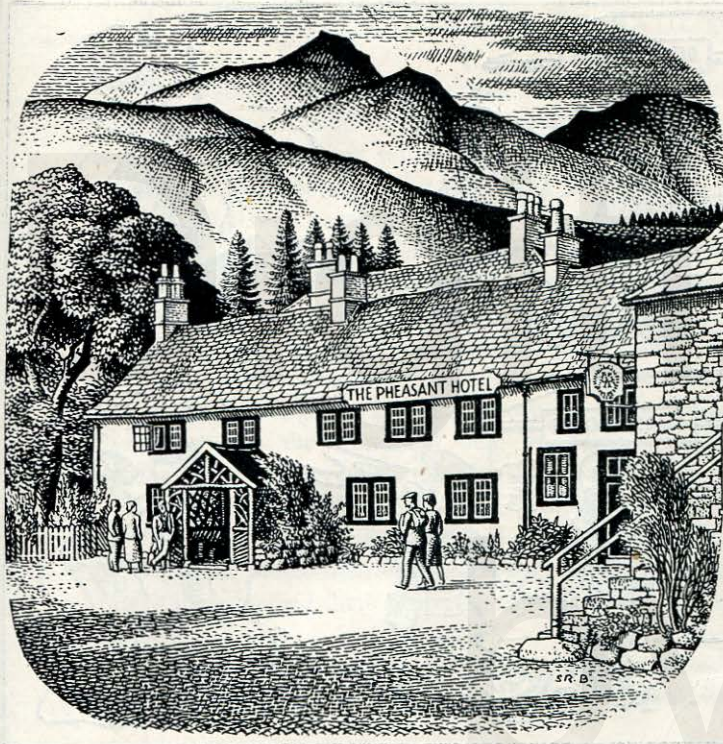
This request was for the support of this Association and, if possible, its formal resolution in the matter of the recognition of the claims of ex-P.O.W.s and the dependants of deceased P.O.W.s who suffered in Japanese hands, in any forthcoming Peace Treaty with Japan.

As explained by the President everyone was aware of the unspeakable atrocities committed by the Japanese in the last war and the point at issue was whether this was to be a matter for the General Meeting here assembled to support in a formal resolution. It was generally agreed that it was a matter for support and it was proposed by Major Rummins and seconded by Lieutenant-Colonel Gilmore:

"That members of the Gloucestershire Regimental Association assembled at their Annual General Meeting in the Drill Hall, Whiteladies Road, Bristol, affirm their support for the principles set out by the Far Eastern Prisoners of War Claim Committee in their memorandum, 'The Coming Peace Treaty with Japan,' issued in December, 1950.

"That members are of the opinion that full regard should be taken in any Peace Treaty drawn up, in the claims of the dependants of British Service-men who died in Japanese captivity, and that claims should also be recognised in the case of ex-prisoners of war surviving their inhuman treatment in Japanese camps." *Carried.*

The meeting closed at 7.35 p.m. after the President had expressed the thanks of the Association for the work done during the year by the Hon. Secretary and by Major Culley as Bristol representative.



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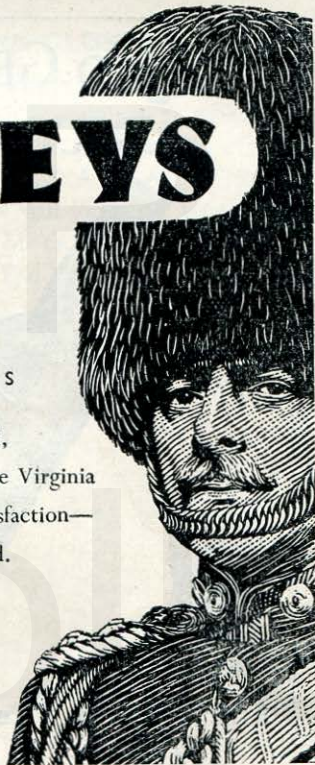
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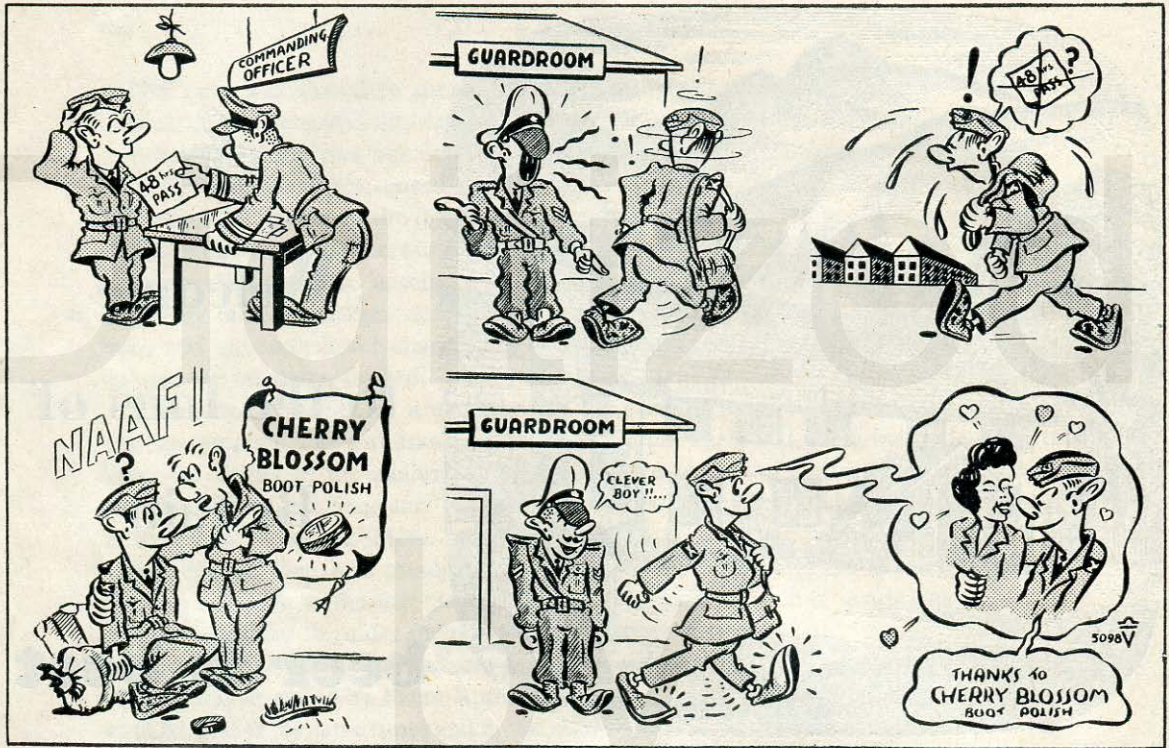
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At the Dinner, in proposing the toast of the Regiment, the President gave an interesting and informative account of the doings of the 1st Battalion since they landed in Korea and how, in spite of very severe weather conditions, outdoing the hardships of the two Great Wars, the Battalion had kept up a wonderfully high spirit and, with the other British units, were earning very high praise from the American higher commanders.

Of the Korea Fund which had been launched, over £500 had been received and about a ton of comforts had been received in addition and despatched. In spite of improving weather conditions in Korea more would be welcomed.

The President expressed his disappointment in the decreasing numbers attending the Association Dinner and deplored the fact that Bristol members were so thinly represented. In welcoming the guests present, he expressed the thanks of the Regiment and of the Association for the continued help and encouragement received from the Press and thanked all others connected with the Association for their sympathetic co-operation.

Lieutenant-Colonel W. S. J. Carter, O.B.E., T.D., who commands 601 (City of Bristol) H.A.A. (M.) Regiment, R.A., replied for the guests and, in doing so, mentioned how his Regiment valued their connection with the Gloucestershire Regiment which, among other things, helped their good rate of recruitment, second only to the 5th Glosters in the district.

During the Dinner messages of good wishes were read as received by telegram from H.M. The King, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester and from the 1st Battalion.

4th GLOSTERS AND 66th S/L REGIMENT O.C.A.

The annual dinner of the Association was held at the T.A. Centre, Horfield Common, Bristol, on 18th November, at which the President—the Lord Mayor of Bristol—was present, as was the guest of the evening, Lieutenant-Colonel Carter, C.O. 601 (M.) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.). The dinner was well attended and it is hoped that still larger numbers will join next year. Details of the Association may be obtained from the Secretary, M. G. R. Tussell, Esq., "St. Audries," Farleigh, Backwell, Somerset, or G. H. Butler, Esq., 196 Bloomfield Road, Bristol, 4.

G.H.B.

THE FIFTH GLOUCESTERS O.C.A.

(CHELTENHAM BRANCH)

SINCE the publication of the last BACK BADGE the O.C.A. have sent a representative party to the Dedication Parade held by the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars O.C.A. on the occasion of the presentation of a standard, followed by a memorial service in the Parish Church and a march past at the Cenotaph in October.

On 12th November a very strong party attended the unveiling of the new War Memorial and Remembrance Day service on the Promenade, and afterwards took part in the march past when General The Lord Ismay took the salute.

A fair number of members took part in the annual Christmas shoot on the miniature range at the Drill Hall, organised by "C" Company, 5th Glsters. The standard of marksmanship seems to have dropped a bit with the passing of the years, but once again ex-C.S.M. Finch, M.M., made one of his regular appearances in the prize list.

The quarterly combined meetings have not been well attended and it is questionable whether they are worth continuing. However, the 1/5th and 2/5th Sections continue to hold their own separate meetings, which still seem to attract a fair number of members and various darts matches in the Cheltenham League of O.C.A.s have taken place, with varied results. A social evening was also held at the Whaddon Community Centre in March, and although the number of Old Comrades present was not large, it made a small profit.

On 18th March a fair number of members made the journey to Gloucester, in spite of torrential rain, to take part in the "Back Badge" Parade and Trooping of the Colour by the 5th Battalion. Unfortunately the parade had to be very considerably curtailed on account of the weather; the Trooping and March to the Cathedral were both cancelled.

Following the annual general meeting in February, an appeal was sent to all members who had not paid subscriptions recently to send them in as the calls on the limited funds available had been very heavy; and this seems to be meeting with a small measure of success.

On Friday, 13th April, the Association sustained a very great loss indeed by the death of its President, Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Tarrant, T.D. Keenly interested in anything connected with the 5th Battalion, Colonel Tarrant had been President of the O.C.A. since its formation in 1946 and was a most regular attendant at its functions. He was always ready and anxious to do anything for the O.C.A., and will be greatly missed and deeply mourned, especially by the older members who served with him in the 1/5th. It will be a difficult task to replace him.

S.J.W.

1/5th GLOUCESTERS O.C.A.

The Gloucester branch of the above Association again had a most successful winter season, and although the numbers were not quite so many as in the past, partly due to the inclement weather, the members who did attend were treated to some very entertaining nights, and their enthusiasm remained. The last social evening of the session was Guest Night and many friends and members attended, and a thoroughly good

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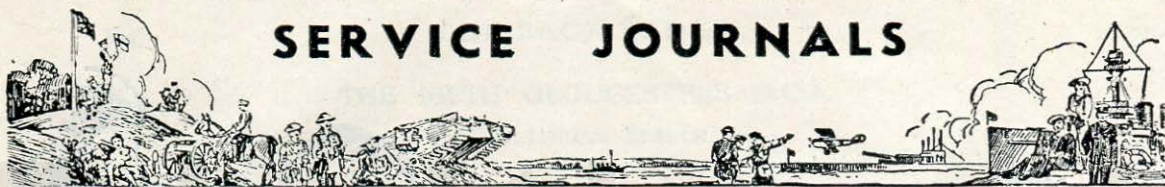


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evening was spent, the entertainment being provided by an excellent party in the Spa Glee Singers from Cheltenham.

The success of these evenings is due to the untiring work of the Committee and officials, who are always seeking for new ideas to keep the Association flourishing.

The Battalion Dinner, attended by about 150 members, which was such a success, was arranged and conducted by the Gloucester Branch. The dinner provided by the Cadena was excellent. May we go on keeping our numbers up to scratch.

W.E.D.

2/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

The annual general meeting was at the United Services Club, Cheltenham, on 9th March. Opening the meeting, the Chairman (Mr. L. G. Drake) called on members to stand in memory of Corporal G. W. Mayo and C.S.M. Chas. Phillips, both of Gloucester.

The Hon. Secretary gave a brief review of the year's work, expressing regret at the lack of support of the social functions arranged; also that it was found impossible to raise a darts team to enter the Council of Old Comrades' Associations Darts League.

The Hon. Treasurer was congratulated on the manner in which he presented the 1951 balance sheet. This showed a rather heavy deficit on the 1950 annual reunion dinner. However, the year wound up with a small balance in hand.

The following officers were unanimously elected: President, Lieutenant-Colonel L. Dudbridge, M.C.; Vice-President, Colonel Sir G. C. Christie-Miller, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.; Chairman, Mr. R. Vivian Copeland; Vice-Chairman, Mr. L. G. Drake; Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. C. H. Dix; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. H. Yeend.

Members from Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud, Tewkesbury and Cirencester were elected to the Committee.

It was decided to hold the 1951 annual reunion dinner at the Star Hotel, Cheltenham, on Saturday, 13th October. Owing to limited accommodation, the function will be confined to members of the Battalion. Members coming from long distances are to be invited to join the Officers and Committee at a local hotel for tea, prior to the dinner.

S.C.H.D.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

The Committee of the above Association are anxious to obtain the names of *all* veterans of the South African War, of all ranks, and those who are not already members are asked to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, 23 Deerhurst Road, Streatham Common, London, S.W.16, who will notify the Secretary of the nearest branch to the veteran's home.

It is hoped to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Peace Treaty of Vereeniging on 31st May, 1902, by a National Service at St. Paul's Cathedral next May.

The following names should be added to the list of Veterans of the Regiment published in the last issue of THE BACK BADGE:

S.A.				S.A.					
No.	Rank	Name	Bn.	Present Location	No.	Rank	Name	Bn.	Present Location
6786		G. Cook	2	Gloucester	8458		G. Beard	1	Wotton-under-Edge
5022	Cpl.	F. W. Fowler	2	Warwick					

It is with regret that we have to record, on another page, the death of five other veterans.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, 1st May, 1951)

	Date of Substantive Rank.	Present Rank.	How employed.
<i>Colonel-in-Chief :</i>			
Gen. H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O.	6/5/35		
<i>Colonel :</i>			
Lt.-Gen. Sir H. E. de R. Wetherall, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.	1/6/47		
<i>Lieutenant-Colonels :</i>			
J. P. Carne	7/2/49	Lt.-Col.	Missing, Korea.
<i>Majors :</i>			
J. Biddulph	30/8/41	Major	Army Apprentices School, Arborfield.
N. Lovett	4/2/43	Lt.-Col.	H.Q., B.T.A.
M. M. A. Bryant	4/2/43	Lt.-Col.	O.C. Reinforcement Trg. Unit, Japan.
W. H. Percy-Hardman, M.C.	14/2/43	Major	Combined Records Office, Bournemouth.
R. S. Butler	30/8/43	Major	Attd. Depot.
R. G. T. Collins	30/8/43	Lt.-Col.	O.C. 2/3rd Bn., K.A.R.
D. W. Biddle, D.S.O.	31/1/46	Lt.-Col.	C.I. 40th Div. Battle School, Hong Kong.
J. Heath	1/7/46	Major	Somaliland Scouts.
A. E. Wilkinson, M.C.	1/7/46	Lt.-Col.	A.A.Q.M.G., Mid-West Dist. Attd. Depot.
C. W. A. Bath, O.B.E.	1/7/46	Major	
J. G. C. Waldron, D.S.O., O.B.E.	1/7/46	Lt.-Col.	O.C. 2/10th Gurkha Rifles, Malaya.
E. B. Cottingham, M.C.	1/7/46	Major	Coy. Cmdr., Wessex Gp. Trg. Centre.
T. K. Lacey	1/7/46	Lt.-Col.	G.S.O.I, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., Egypt.
D. B. A. Grist	1/7/46	Lt.-Col.	Comdg. 1st Bn., Korea.
H. J. Lovett	1/7/46	Major	Inf. Record Office, Exeter.
E. Jones, M.B.E.	1/7/46	Major	O.C. Depot, Gloucester.
F. W. J. Day	1/7/46	Major	Warned for Korea.
C. E. B. Walwyn, D.S.O.	1/2/47	Major	Attd. Depot.
R. H. S. Woodward	18/3/47	Major	Malay Regt.
A. H. Knight, M.B.E.	6/7/47	Major	G.S.O.II, SD3, War Office.
J. C. Bartlett	27/8/47	Major	5th (Kenya) Bn., K.A.R.
P. S. C. Heidenstam	30/8/47	Major	D.A.A.G. A.G.2 (O.), War Office.
C. R. Davis	23/12/47	Major	Military Mission, Greece.
C. L. C. Roberts, M.B.E.	2/2/48	Major	G.S.O.I, N. Comd.
N. S. Watkin-Williams	20/3/48	Major	O.C. "H.Q." Coy., 1st Bn. (P.R.I.)
J. Morris	6/5/48	Major	1st Wilts. Regt.
J. A. Mackenzie, D.S.O., M.C.	29/8/48	Lt.-Col.	Joint Services Staff College (Student).
A. D. Hunter	30/1/49	Major	D.A.Q.M.G., S.W. Dist.
E. D. Harding	30/1/49	Major	Missing, Korea.
A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, M.B.E.	30/1/49	Major	Instructor, Staff Coll., Camberley.
A. L. W. Soames	30/1/49	Major	Warned for Korea.
C. G. Nuttall	27/8/49	Major	Att. R.A.O.C.
P. J. H. Pope	27/8/49	Major	Trg. Officer, 5th Bn., Gloucester.
J. H. E. Bown	1/6/50	Major	Malay Regt.
J. C. Robertson	27/1/51	Major	D.A.L.S. Branch, M.E.L.F.

Captains :

F. Thorp	1/7/46	Capt.	E. Africa.
T. A. K. Dillon	1/7/46	Major	Warned for Korea.
W. A. Wood	1/7/46	Major	O.C. "D" Coy., 1st Bn.
M. C. Denison	1/7/46	Capt.	Warned for Korea.
P. G. H. Varwell	1/7/46	Capt.	Para. Training Sch.
M. K. Smith	1/7/46	Capt.	Malay Regt.
E. L. T. Capel	1/7/46	Capt.	Malay Regt.
A. W. Hardick	1/7/46	Capt.	D.A.A.G., H.Q., S. Comd.
P. W. Weller	1/7/46	Major	Missing, Korea.
H. H. Holgate	1/7/46	Capt.	Adj. 5th Bn., Gloucester.
A. D. Gregory	1/7/46	Capt.	Att. R.A.S.C., Aldershot.
T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker	23/4/47	Capt.	G.S.O.III, MO4, War Office.
R. D. French	17/10/47	Capt.	S.C. Q.M.G.A. Branch, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
P. P. L. Owen	23/10/47	Capt.	Attd. Depot.
D. B. Metcalfe	22/1/48	Capt.	Warned for Korea.
H. W. P. Gallop	3/5/48	Capt.	Student, Staff College.
H. L. T. Radice	13/6/48	Capt.	Student, Staff College.
S. C. S. Farmer	28/11/48	Capt.	Warned for Korea.
J. E. Taylor	10/8/49	Capt.	1st Bn.
T. R. Littlewood	2/11/50	Capt.	Missing, Korea.
A. H. Farrar-Hockley, M.C.	8/4/51	Capt.	Missing, Korea.

Lieutenants :

J. W. Ellis	28/3/46	Lt.	
H. R. A. Streather	1/11/47	Lt.	On loan to Pakistan Army.
C. S. Rawlins	1/11/47	Lt.	
A. N. Wilson	1/11/47	Capt.	Missing, Korea.
A. D. Lennard	24/7/48	Lt.	"B" Coy., 1st Bn.
G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey	16/8/48	Lt.	Missing, Korea.
J. D. Barker	31/8/48	Lt.	Exeter College, Oxford.
P. R. Barker	22/11/49	Lt.	Mortar Officer, 1st Bn.
A. R. Norrish	6/10/50	Lt.	

2/Lieutenants :

R. J. Martin	15/7/48	2/Lt.	M.M.G. Officer, 1st Bn.
H. C. Cabral	22/12/48	2/Lt.	Missing, Korea.
G. F. B. Temple	22/12/48	2/Lt.	Missing, Korea.
A. C. N. Preston	14/7/49	2/Lt.	Missing, Korea.
D. J. Holdsworth	22/7/50	2/Lt.	"D" Coy., 1st Bn.
A. Peal	22/7/50	2/Lt.	"B" Coy., 1st Bn.
J. W. Allison	20/1/51	2/Lt.	1st Bn.

Quartermasters :

F. M. Worlock	1/1/43	Capt.	1st Bn.
W. J. Oxenham	26/1/43	Major	5th T.A. Bn., Gloucester
R. F. Grist, M.B.E.	29/8/46	Capt.	Depot, Gloucester.

SENIOR OFFICERS LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Maj.-Gen. B. Temple, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.	29/10/49	Maj.-Gen. H.Q. British Services Mission, Burma.
Maj.-Gen. C. E. A. Firth, C.B.E., D.S.O.	7/10/46	Maj.-Gen. Cmdr., Salisbury Plain Dist.
Col. T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O.	17/6/47	Brig. D.D. Manpower Plans (A), W.O.
Lt.-Col. H. L. W. Bird, O.B.E.	24/6/48	Brig. Cmdr., 129 Inf. Bde. (T.A.).
Lt.-Col. C. S. R. Campbell, M.C.	1/11/50	Lt.-Col. A.A.G.M.G., S.W. Dist.

* * *

It would be appreciated if officers extra-regimentally employed would keep the Editor informed of their appointments, etc.

ROLL OF HONOUR

CASUALTIES OF 1ST BATTALION THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT IN KOREA

(23rd November, 1950 — 25th April, 1951).

KILLED IN ACTION		OFFICERS		MISSING	
Lt. D. A. Simcox (Bedfs & Herts attd.)	16/ 2/51	Lt.-Col. J. P. Carne	23/24/ 4/51		
Lt. J. A. G. Milner (Dorsets)	4/ 4/51	Major P. W. Weller	23/24/ 4/51		
Major P. A. Angier	23/ 4/51	Major E. D. Harding	23/24/ 4/51		
Lt. P. K. E. Curtis (D.C.L.I.)	23/ 4/51	Capt. G. D. Lutyens-Humfrey	23/24/ 4/51		
Lt. T. Connely (Devons)	23/ 4/51	Capt. A. H. Farrar-Hockley, M.C.	23/24/ 4/51		
Capt. W. L. D. Morris	23/ 4/51	Capt. A. N. Wilson	23/24/ 4/51		
Capt. R. A. St. M. Reeve-Tucker	23/ 4/51	Capt. T. R. Littlewood	23/24/ 4/51		
2/Lt. J. M. Maycock	23/ 4/51	Capt. H. J. Pike	23/24/ 4/51		
2/Lt. G. D. Rudge (Cheshire)	25/ 4/51	Lt. D. G. Allman (R. Hamps)	23/24/ 4/51		
		Lt. A. F. Blundell (Dorsets)	23/24/ 4/51		
		Lt. G. T. Costello (R. Hamps)	23/24/ 4/51		
		Lt. G. F. B. Temple	23/24/ 4/51		
		Lt. H. C. Cabral	23/24/ 4/51		
		2/Lt. D. J. English (R. Hamps)	23/24/ 4/51		
		2/Lt. A. Peal	23/24/ 4/51		
		2/Lt. A. C. N. Preston	23/24/ 4/51		
		2/Lt. J. A. Haggerty	23/24/ 4/51		
		2/Lt. E. S. Gael	23/24/ 4/51		
		2/Lt. T. E. Waters (W. Yorks)	23/24/ 4/51		
		Capt. R. P. Hickey (R.A.M.C.)	23/24/ 4/51		
		Rev. S. J. Davies (R.A.C.D.)	23/24/ 4/51		

WOUNDED	
Lt. L. E. Weaver	25/11/50
Lt. J. Nicholson (R. Hamps)	6/ 2/51
Major C. E. B. Walwyn, D.S.O.	16/ 2/51
Lt. A. P. Norrish	8/ 4/51
Lt. P. J. W. Ware	16/ 2/51
Lt. M. G. Harvey (R. Hamps)	6/ 2/51
2/Lt. A. C. N. Preston	13/ 2/51
2/Lt. J. A. Haggerty	8/ 4/51

KILLED IN ACTION		OTHER RANKS		WOUNDED contd.	
6400228 Pte. G. Bailey	16/ 2/51	4032875 Pte. F. Davies	25/11/50		
22204567 Pte. F. Brailsford	19/ 3/51	4127332 L/Cpl. J. Sayle	25/11/50		
22266031 Pte. M. Burton	16/ 2/51	2049535 Pte. R. Teare	25/11/50		
926712 Pte. D. Cason	15/ 2/51	5570078 Pte. A. Stanford	25/11/50		
5570115 Pte. E. Crowson	13/ 2/51	2734799 L/Cpl. J. Davies	25/11/50		
22530138 Pte. G. Davies	16/ 2/51	5185294 Pte. G. McCabe	11/12/50		
106657 Pte. R. Dwyer	25/11/50	6142855 Cpl. R. Cattermole	13/ 2/51		
6460551 Pte. G. Ellison (attd. Middx. R.)	15/ 2/51	5336357 Sgt. W. Harfield	13/ 2/51		
869731 Cpl. A. Herral	16/ 2/51	2182152 Pte. L. Taylor	13/ 2/51		
22341857 Pte. J. Heward (attd. R.U.R.)	19/ 2/51	14421161 Pte. J. Bloxham	13/ 2/51		
19048173 Cpl. R. Jones	16/ 2/51	5619975 Pte. G. Andrews	13/ 2/51		
5569911 Pte. T. Kelly	13/ 2/51	14186792 Pte. F. Houghton	13/ 2/51		
6299820 Pte. S. Law	11/12/50	14190816 Pte. C. Noonan	13/ 2/51		
5336089 Pte. G. Lawrence	25/11/50	14462559 Pte. W. J. Smyth	14/ 2/51		
2066993 Pte. G. Spuffard	16/ 2/51	19042302 Pte. W. Bridgeman	14/ 2/51		
6015121 Pte. W. Tyler	16/ 2/51	5620148 Cpl. D. Griffin	14/ 2/51		
6142972 Pte. K. Williams	16/ 2/51	6024944 Pte. S. Poore	14/ 2/51		
22346555 Pte. A. Bailey	25/ 4/51	14191751 Pte. K. Poulton	14/ 2/51		
22341326 Pte. R. Ballard	23/ 4/51	22530162 Pte. J. Wiseman	14/ 2/51		
22530139 L/Cpl. D. A. Balls	23/ 4/51	1609975 Pte. G. Quinton	14/ 2/51		
21015246 Cpl. L. J. Bishop	22/23/ 4/51	2764379 Pte. A. Cameron	14/ 2/51		
19030887 Cpl. G. B. Burchill	24/25/ 4/51	22530056 Pte. J. Mangan	14/ 2/51		
22373549 Pte. R. J. Burton	23/ 4/51	6399938 Pte. W. Goldsmith	14/ 2/51		
22530081 Pte. W. A. Fox	23/ 4/51	3909432 Pte. D. L. Morris	14/ 2/51		
6400278 Pte. H. Jones	23/ 4/51	22530107 L/Cpl. R. Morgan	14/ 2/51		
6202999 Pte. A. Judge	23/ 4/51	886995 Pte. E. Tidswell	14/ 2/51		
2066112 Pte. P. J. Maycock	24/25/ 4/51	14425048 Sgt. J. Claxton	14/ 2/51		
1609997 Pte. J. Morley	24/25/ 4/51	1444977 Cpl. H. Robinson	14/ 2/51		
19032484 Cpl. R. Norley	24/25/ 4/51	19046803 L/Cpl. H. Hawkesworth	14/ 2/51		
22341296 Pte. B. N. Robins (D. of W.)	24/ 4/51	5569898 Sgt. F. Lacey	15/ 2/51		
22244986 L/Cpl. D. M. Taylor	24/25/ 4/51	1438616 Pte. S. Gates	15/ 2/51		
14189010 Pte. R. Vosper	24/25/ 4/51	5726253 Pte. T. Payton	15/ 2/51		
3662604 Pte. H. Utley (D. of W.)	22/23/ 4/51	5570442 Pte. L. Edwards	15/ 2/51		
6345458 L/Cpl. G. Inns (attd. R.U.R.)	24/ 4/51	5437532 L/Cpl. B. Walker	15/ 2/51		
		6458963 Pte. C. Bird	15/ 2/51		
		6344933 Pte. D. Lidstone	16/ 2/51		
		5570087 Pte. S. Harris	16/ 2/51		
		5885132 Pte. J. Waite	16/ 2/51		
		21039978 Pte. I. Laing	16/ 2/51		
		5884812 Pte. B. Cokayne	16/ 2/51		
		5836445 Pte. L. Stanbridge	16/ 2/51		
		5185268 P/A Cpl. W. Pinchin	16/ 2/51		
		6287393 Pte. A. Meredith	16/ 2/51		
		5338012 Pte. A. Butler	16/ 2/51		
		2048309 Pte. R. Ellement	16/ 2/51		
		5773277 Pte. V. Brown	16/ 2/51		
		3771983 Pte. A. Bradley	16/ 2/51		
		5672558 Pte. C. Haste	16/ 2/51		
		6479208 Pte. M. Glinwood	16/ 2/51		
		19034420 Sgt. H. Jackson (second time)	16/ 2/51		
		4546107 Cpl. S. McMullen	16/ 2/51		
		5349421 Pte. A. Preece	16/ 2/51		

DIED ACCIDENTALLY	
3959923 Pte. K. Partis (in billets gutted by fire)	24/12/50
6286946 Pte. J. Wylie (in grenade explosion)	12/12/50

WOUNDED	
19034420 Sgt. A. Jackson	23/11/50
6922078 Pte. R. Sexton	23/11/50
5773189 Pte. J. Morris	23/11/50
22530078 Pte. G. Demery	23/11/50
6399604 Pte. A. Bevis	23/11/50

MISSING contd.

22053047	Pte. P. Thomas	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22298982	Cpl. W. K. Westwood	.. ..	24/25	4/51
19031511	Pte. R. H. Thomas	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5110209	Pte. H. H. Wheller	.. ..	24/25	4/51
5885345	Pte. A. Thorling	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22189601	Pte. B. C. Whitchurch	.. ..	24/25	4/51
886995	Pte. E. A. Tideswell	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5885398	Pte. G. L. White	.. ..	24/25	4/51
22530088	Pte. P. R. Tozer	.. ..	24/25	4/51	4538627	Pte. A. Whitehead	.. ..	24/25	4/51
22322182	Pte. A. G. W. Tremlett	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22530091	Pte. A. Wicks	.. ..	24/15	4/51
21015051	Cpl. S. H. Truan	.. ..	24/25	4/51	6287338	Pte. W. A. Widshe	.. ..	24/25	4/51
2234603	Pte. A. Trude	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22161036	Pte. C. R. Williams	.. ..	24/25	4/51
21062262	Pte. G. H. Tucker	.. ..	24/25	4/51	4032818	Pte. J. H. Williams	.. ..	24/25	4/51
19036795	Pte. D. Tudor	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5569908	Pte. O. G. Williams	.. ..	24/25	4/51
14183650	Sgt. N. H. Tugsey	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5569903	Pte. J. Wilson	.. ..	24/25	4/51
5351996	Pte. G. F. Tull	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5772998	Pte. R. A. Wing	.. ..	24/25	4/51
22327132	Pte. R. B. Turley	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22329595	Pte. D. W. Winter	.. ..	24/25	4/51
1923632	Pte. W. Turner	.. ..	24/25	4/51	1609902	Pte. P. G. Winter	.. ..	24/25	4/51
5726260	Pte. L. Tyrrell	.. ..	24/25	4/51	6287079	Pte. G. J. Wood	.. ..	24/25	4/51
22530118	Pte. H. P. Underdown	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5619926	Pte. F. S. Woodrow	.. ..	24/25	4/51
6143171	Cpl. F. Upjohn	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5773268	L/Cpl. W. A. Wright	.. ..	24/25	4/51
5781358	Pte. J. V. Varney	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22207712	Pte. R. Yates	.. ..	24/25	4/51
14186568	Cpl. J. Vaughan	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5499662	Pte. R. Young	.. ..	24/25	4/51
4127112	Pte. E. H. Viney	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22315899	Pte. J. B. Keefe	.. ..	25	4/51
14431991	Pte. P. Wade	.. ..	24/25	4/51	14456265	Pte. D. W. King	.. ..	25	4/51
4858866	Pte. B. L. Wagg	.. ..	24/25	4/51	19047317	Pte. E. W. Lucas	.. ..	26	4/51
22534161	Pte. D. Walker	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22530181	Pte. H. G. Maynard	.. ..	25	4/51
22275883	L/Cpl. H. M. Walker	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22315901	Pte. D. G. Morris	.. ..	25	4/51
14944765	Cpl. K. Walters	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22317481	Pte. B. R. Pounds	.. ..	25	4/51
14410571	Pte. A. Ward	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22532714	Pte. R. F. Stone	.. ..	25	4/51
4468016	Pte. J. Ward	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22530187	Pte. D. A. Tomlinson	.. ..	25	4/51
6344572	Pte. N. Ward	.. ..	24/25	4/51	5855292	Pte. J. W. L. Tyler	.. ..	25	4/51
22530071	Cpl. G. A. Warren	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22329200	Pte. C. C. Warren	.. ..	25	4/51
14186875	Pte. R. M. P. Warrior	.. ..	24/25	4/51	6344476	Pte. J. Edmonds	.. ..	25	4/51
14474594	Pte. T. Watson	.. ..	24/25	4/51	19031991	Pte. A. R. Evans	.. ..	25	4/51
22315914	Pte. A. R. Waycott	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22327143	Pte. A. W. Harding	.. ..	25	4/51
14456816	Cpl. R. W. Wellington	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22315896	Pte. L. G. Henson	.. ..	25	4/51
19040097	Pte. F. Wells	.. ..	24/25	4/51	22304253	Pte. D. G. E. Jones	.. ..	25	4/51
22107732	L/Cpl. S. A. West	.. ..	24/25	4/51					

TOTAL CASUALTIES 23rd November, 1950 to 25th April, 1951.

	Died	Wounded	Missing	Total
Officers	9	8	22	39
Other Ranks	37	115	545	697
	46	123	567	736

HONOURS AND AWARDS

	Date of Award (London Gazette)
<i>Military Cross</i>	
Capt. R. S. Mardell, M.M.	—
<i>Military Medal</i>	
Sgt. K. Eames	—
<i>Territorial Efficiency Decoration (T.D.)</i>	
Hon. Maj. W. H. Horton, M.C. (retired) (and 1st Clasp)	16/2/51
Major J. N. Collett (and 1st Clasp)	16/3/51
<i>Territorial Efficiency Medal</i>	
Lt. (now Capt.) J. G. D. Boutflour	10/11/50
Lt. E. E. Fryer	10/11/50
Lt. A. S. Hay	12/1/51
<i>Mentioned in Despatches (for services in Malaya, 1st January—30th June, 1950)</i>	
T/Lt.-Col. C. S. R. Campbell, M.C.	24/10/50

KOREAN DECORATIONS

WE congratulate Captain R. S. Mardell and Sergeant K. Eames on their Military Cross and Military Medal deservedly won for their gallantry during the attack on Hill 327. The citations state:

"On 16th February, during the attacks on Hill 327, Captain Mardell was second in command of one of the assaulting companies. On learning that his Company Commander had been wounded, Captain Mardell at once climbed the hill and assumed command of the Company which, at that time, was held up on the steep, bush-covered slopes of an under feature which was strongly and stubbornly held by the enemy.

"Captain Mardell made a quick, bold plan to outflank the position and take it from the rear. Then, having organised the covering fire, he personally led the assault with great dash and gallantry in the face of considerable enemy small arms fire from the flank and front supplemented by a number of grenades from the positions under attack.

"This operation meeting with complete success, Captain Mardell rallied his men and swept to the main hill feature. By this time another Company had secured a foothold on a shoulder of the hill, but the greater part of it was still in the hands of the enemy who were, similarly, resisting stubbornly with small arms fire and grenades.

"Again, with complete mastery of the situation, Captain Mardell brought overpowering covering fire to bear and then led his men into the assault with bayonet and grenade. This finally secured the feature.

"There can be no doubt that Captain Mardell's grasp of the situation, his ability to plan effectively, and his magnificent fighting spirit were largely responsible for the success of the operation."

* * * *

"Sergeant Eames was a member of one of the assault Companies in the attack on Hill 327 on 16th February. After a sharp engagement on one of the forward slopes, during which he distinguished himself by his fearlessness and leadership, Sergeant Eames led his Platoon on to the crest of the hill.

"At this stage the eastern half of the feature still remained in the hands of a tenacious enemy who had hitherto resisted every effort to reach them by bringing down heavy small arms fire supplemented by grenades on the bare crest-line, and who now increased their resistance as Sergeant Eames personally led the assault forward.

"It was he who entered and destroyed the foremost posts whose occupants would not surrender. There can be no doubt that his was a major contribution to the capture of this vital ground and the ultimate success of the day."

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

(TO 1ST MAY, 1951)

REGULAR ARMY

10th November, 1950. Lt. A. R. Norrish from Devon Regt. (E. C.) to be Lt., 11th November, with seniority 6th October, 1950.
5th December. Col. (T/Maj.-Gen.) C. E. A. Firth, C.B.E., D.S.O., to be Brigadier, 26th October.

From THE "LONDON GAZETTE" contd.

- 2nd January, 1951. Maj.-Gen. C. E. A. Firth, C.B.E., D.S.O., relinquishes the appointment as Commander E. Anglian Dist., 1st January, remaining on full pay.
- 26th January. Major C. S. R. Campbell, M.C., from Gloster Regt., to be Lt.-Col. on employed list, 1st April, 1950.
- 2nd March. Brig. M. A. James, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., retires on ret. pay, 1st March.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

- 20th October, 1950. 2/Lt. C. K. Beard from R.A. to be 2/Lt., 17th July.
- 5th January, 1951. 2/Lt. C. S. Jones from Wilts Regt. (E.C.) to be 2/Lt., 7th September, 1950, with seniority 4th February, 1950.
- 26th January. 2/Lt. C. K. Beard to be Lt., 18th June, 1950.
- 9th March. Lt. R. E. Matthews from The King's Regt. (E.C.) to be Lt., 11th October, 1950, with seniority 20th May, 1947.
- 23rd March. Lt. J. M. Hillerby to be Capt., 2nd June.
- Lt. D. Chapman from W. Yorks (E.C.) to be Lt., 17th November, 1950, with seniority 30th June, 1947.
- 6th April. Lt. J. Buckee from R. Fus. (E.C.) to be Lt., 1st December, 1950, with seniority 31st December, 1944.

RESERVE OF OFFICERS

- 1st December, 1950. Major (W.S. Lt.-Col.) (Hon. Brig.) H. P. L. Hutchinson, C.B.E., from Special List (ex-I.A.) retired, to be Major, R.A.R.O., 2nd December, 1950, retaining hon. rank of Brigadier.
- 13th February, 1951. Col. (Hon. Brig.) A. L. W. Newth, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., is transferred to T.A.R.O., 13th February.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

BIRTHS

- BATH.—On 6th March, 1951, at Petersfield, to Mollie, wife of Major C. W. A. Bath, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- CHRISTENSEN.—On 30th March, 1951, in London, to Barbara, wife of Captain J. H. Christensen, late The Gloucestershire Regiment—a son.
- DILLON.—On 30th March, 1951, at Old Sarum, to Billie, wife of Major T. A. K. Dillon, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- WALKER.—On 10th April, 1951, at Isleworth, to Maisie, wife of Captain A. C. A. Walker, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- GRAZEBROOK.—On 13th April, 1951, at Farnborough, to Betty, wife of Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, late The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- HARDING.—On 6th May, 1951, at Shrewsbury, to Phyllis, wife of Major E. D. Harding, The Gloucestershire Regiment (reported missing in Korea)—a son.

MARRIAGE

- DAY—DE LACHEROIS.—On 1st February, 1951, in London, Major F. W. J. Day, The Gloucestershire Regiment, to Jacqueline de Lacherois, of Donaghadee, N. Ireland.

DEATHS

- CURTIS.**—On 25th December, 1949, ex-Private E. J. Curtis, No. 5172597, of Fishponds, Bristol, late The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- PORTLOCK.**—On 15th August, 1950, at Banbury, after a long illness, ex-Sergeant F. W. J. Portlock, D.C.M., No. 4607, aged 80. The Gloucestershire Regiment (1895-1917). Served in South Africa with the 28th, where he gained the D.C.M. In France with the 61st in 1914 and, as R.S.M., with the 14th Bantam Battalion, 1916-17.
- URCH.**—On 3rd September, 1950, at Clifton, Bristol, ex-Sergeant S. Urch, No. 2809, late The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- LONG.**—On 3rd November, 1950, suddenly, at Bristol, Mrs. Helen Long, widow of the late Captain A. Long, The Gloucestershire Regiment (1896-1921).
- STENNER.**—On 4th November, 1950, suddenly, at Bristol, Mrs. R. E. Stenner, wife of R.S.M. W. Stenner, formerly 2nd and 6th Battalions, The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- MAYO.**—On 3rd December, 1950, at Gloucester, ex-Corporal G. W. Mayo, late 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- JUDD.**—On 8th December, 1950, very suddenly, at Weston-super-Mare, ex-C.S.M. W. B. Judd, No. 5357, aged 71. The Gloucestershire Regiment (1898-1917). Served in 28th in South Africa and in 1914-18 War. He was discharged in 1917 as the result of wounds.
- BLANTON.**—In 1950, at Newnham, Glos., Mr. Fred Blanton. For many years a member of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.
- STAIT.**—On 2nd January, 1951, at Thornton Heath, Surrey, Mrs. Hannah Stait, widow of Colour-Sergeant Charles Stait, The Gloucestershire Regiment (1865-93).
- HOBBS.**—On 6th January, 1951, at Bristol, Mrs. A. Hobbs, widow of Colour-Sergeant "Jerry" Hobbs, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and sister of Mr. J. W. Caburn.
- BARRETT.**—On 16th January, 1951, at the Fellowship Hotel, Horfield, Mr. Levi Barrett, aged 76, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (1892-1901). Served in the 28th in South Africa.
- PENSOM.**—On 16th January, 1951, at Cheltenham, Captain Alfred Pensom, aged 82, late The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1897-1901. Served in the 61st in South Africa. Invalided home and became an Army Schoolmaster. In 1914-18 War was Q.M. in 9th Battalion and at P. of W. camp. Former Official and Surveyor of Cheltenham R.D.C.
- WATKINS.**—On 17th January, 1951, at Bristol, Mrs. E. Watkins, aged 71, widow of C.S.M. E. W. Watkins, The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- BUSS.**—In January, 1951, at Gloucester, ex-Sergeant C. H. Buss, No. 5907, late The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1900-07 and 1914-18. Served with M.I. in South Africa. For many years (1918-49) Army Recruiter at Gloucester, where he did exceptionally good work for the Regiment, being one of the best recruiters in S. Command. Provost Sergeant in 28th during 1914-18 War.
- PREEN.**—In January, 1951, at Gloucester, Mr. A. H. Preen. The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1887-89. Previously served in the old Gloucestershire Engineer Volunteers.
- PHILLIPS.**—On 7th February, 1951, at Gloucester, ex-C.S.M. C. Phillips, late 2/5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- CLEAL.**—On 20th February, 1951, at Cheltenham, Mr. C. H. Cleal, aged 58. 2/5th Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18. President of the Cheltenham Liberal Club since 1947.
- NEWMAN.**—On 27th February, 1951, at Cheltenham, David Christopher Paul, son of Private C. Newman, The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- HOPKINS.**—In February, 1951, at Cheltenham, Mrs. Hopkins, widow of Colour-Sergeant A. B. Hopkins (No. 3286), late The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- RICH.**—In February, 1951, at Dursley, Mr. J. E. Rich, late 2nd Volunteer Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 6815). Attached to 2nd Battalion during S.A. War.
- HARRIS.**—On 2nd March, 1951, at Gloucester, Geraldine Bernice, daughter of Private G. Harris, The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- DEW.**—On 13th March, 1951, at Cheltenham, ex-C.S.M. A. H. Dew, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1903-13. Rejoined for 1914-18 War. Caretaker at Messrs. Martins & Co., Promenade, Cheltenham for 32 years.
- KING.**—In March, 1951, at Purton, ex-C.S.M. A. C. King, late 6th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. Presented the original Great Dane Mascot (Bragg I) to the Battalion. Employed for over 40 years by Messrs. Fry & Sons of Bristol.
- GREGORY.**—On 12th April, 1951, at Bristol, Mr. W. J. Gregory, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1904-28.
- TARRANT.**—On 15th April, 1951, at Cheltenham, Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Tarrant, aged 78. 2nd Volunteer Battalion and 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1898-1918.
- HILTON.**—On 16th April, 1951, at Bristol, Mr. J. Hilton, No. 4864, late The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1896-1908. Aged 74. Served in the 1st Battalion and was one of its best footballers of his time.
- HORNIBLOW.**—On 25th April, 1951, at Camberley, Ellen Augusta, widow of Colonel F. Horniblow, C.B., The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1883-87. A.S.C., 1887-1912. Aged 88.
- CAUDLE.**—On 3rd May, 1951, at Cheltenham, Mr. H. Caudle, 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18. Aged 55.

CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor of THE BACK BADGE

SIR,

I read the article about "Bridgehead Days" [THE BACK BADGE, Summer 1950, page 33] with some interest, especially the part about Lieutenant Burton and his patrol, for I was the N.C.O. in the assault group, and if I may I would like to give a brief account also, for the report seems to have forgotten us.

The assault group, under Lieutenant Burton, were volunteers ; they were his batman, Private J. Holmes, and myself, then a newly promoted corporal. The "battle picture" was that there was a machine-gun position at the road junction, known by all as the "Calvary" because of a large crucifix there, and we were to get a prisoner at all costs.

To reach the position it was necessary to advance along a fairly open road, which incidentally was mined. To cover our approach the artillery were to lay a box-barrage, the open end of which was along our road. When we finally reached our forming-up position the remainder of the patrol laid up to give us covering fire if necessary, and the assault party crept on. When we finally came to the objective the enemy were under cover from the shelling which they obviously believed was meant for them instead of around them.

The batman covered our line of approach, Private Holmes covered the road leading to the enemy lines, and Lieutenant Burton and myself dashed to the nearest trench on which an MG34 was mounted. Two enemy were in the pit and when called on to come out they refused ; we tried pulling but of no avail, a burst from my Sten changed their minds. The burst had caught one in the stomach so we concentrated on the other who ran across the road ; as he did so he was hit by flying debris from the shells, and he fell down and refused to move. It was at this juncture that another enemy poked his head out of a position, and before he could do much Private Holmes grabbed him and started back, while I dealt with the other two—the one wouldn't move and the other was clutching his stomach. But rather than risk being shot in the back by either I shot them, grabbed the MG34, and followed hastily after the rest of the party. About half-way back we were met by Captain Higgs, who was then 2 i/c of "B" Company. He was overjoyed and for the rest of the day he was trying to strip the MG34.

We reported to Company Headquarters, and then to Battalion Headquarters. There were several congratulatory signals sent in from various headquarters, and the outcome was that we, the assault group, all went back to 30th Corps rest camp for four days.

Of course the exploit was talked about quite a lot and many of my friends in the battalion and myself thought that that was why I received the M.M., but it was not until I came home the following year that I found out that my M.M. was for an entirely different action.

What happened to Lieutenant Burton and his batman I couldn't say, but Private Holmes was killed at Nispen on the same day that Major Stephens told me that I had been awarded the M.M. I can truthfully say that I did not enjoy the patrol I was sent on that night ; my mind was full of "Joe" Holmes.

R. COLLINS, Sgt. (No. 14334545).

Church Street,
Moreton-in-Marsh.

SIR,

It gives me great pleasure to post order for two copies of THE BACK BADGE again. I listen to the radio and scan the Gloucestershire Echo daily to gather news of the "Old Braggs" in Korea.

I am pleased to say I am in as good health as I was when I wrote you first and am still working at 84—7 hours a day.

Thos. Hooper of the Gloucesters is still alive at 88.

Yours,
G. HOWELL.

KOREA COMFORTS FUND

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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