

THE BACK BADGE



THE JOURNAL OF THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT

SUMMER, 1958



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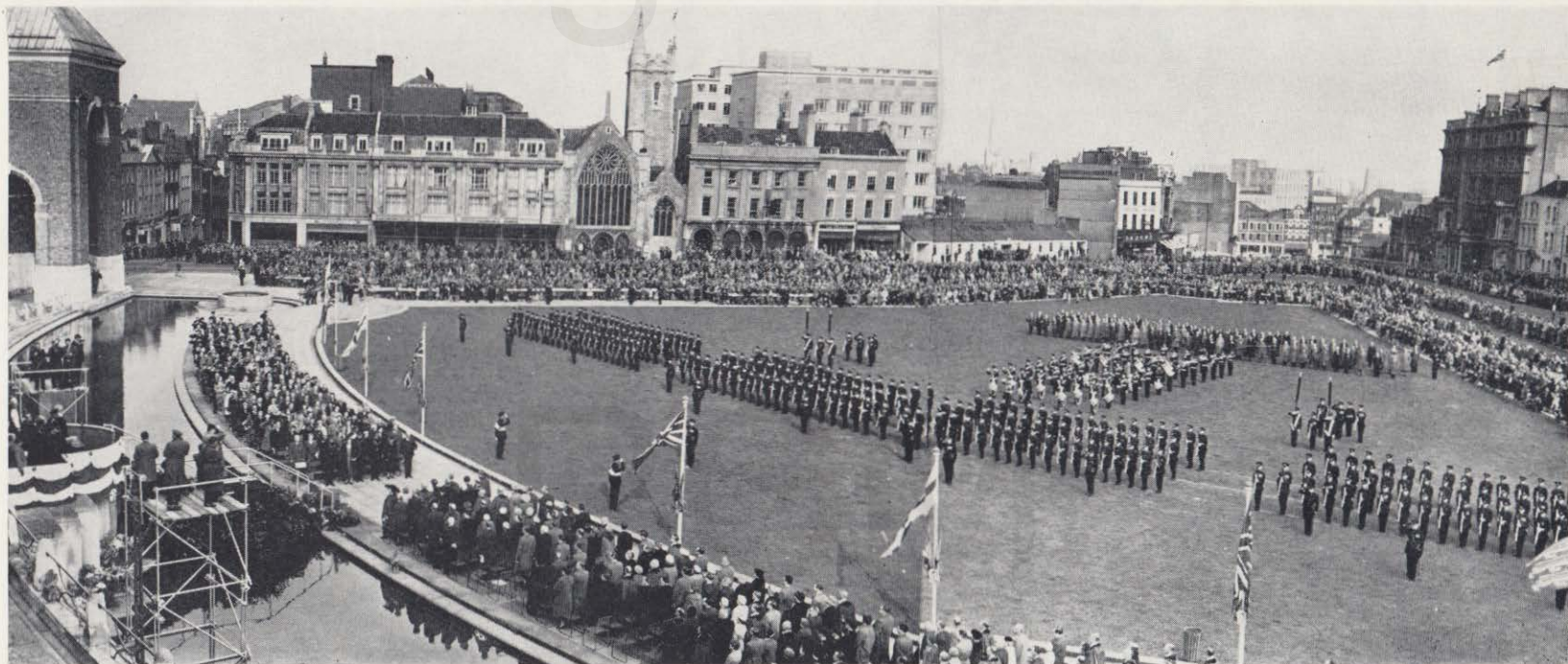


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A general view of the Parade on College Green as H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester arrives on the decorated dais in front of the Council House to receive the Freedom of the City on behalf of The Gloucestershire Regiment, 29th March, 1958

Collection

THE BACK BADGE

The
Journal
of



The
Gloucestershire
Regiment

Vol. VII. No. 24 (New Series)

June, 1958

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," "Albuhera," "Salamanca,"
 "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Waterloo,"
 "Chillianwallah," "Goojerat," "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," "Gheluvelt," "Nonne Bosschen," "Givenchy, 1914,"
 "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezzenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18,"
 "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Guillemont," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval,"
 "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Messines, 1917, '18,"
 "Pilckem," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18,"
 "St. Quentin," "Bapaume, 1918," "Rosieres," "Avre," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailloul," "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," "Suvla," "Sari Bair," "Scimitar Hill,"
 "Gallipoli, 1915-16," "Egypt, 1916," "Tigris, 1916," "Kut al Amara, 1917," "Baghdad," "Mesopotamia, 1916-18,"
 "Persia, 1918,"
 "Defence of Escaut," "St. Omer-La Bassee," "Wormhoudt," "Cassel," "Villers Bocage," "Mont Pincon,"
 "Falaise," "Risle Crossing," "Le Havre," "Zetten," "North-West Europe, 1940, 44-45," "Taukyan,"
 "Paungde," "Monywa, 1942," "North Arakan," "Mayu Tunnels," "Pinwe," "Shweli," "Myitson,"
"Burma, 1942, 44-45."
 Honorary Distinction: 5th Battalion. A Badge of the Reconnaissance Corps, with year dates "1944-45", and scroll:
 "North-West Europe."

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EDITORIAL

THE highlights of the last six months have been the return of the 1st Battalion from Cyprus and their somewhat complicated move to the Army of the Rhine, and the honouring of the Regiment by the City and County of Bristol.

The main body of the 28th/61st embarked for the U.K. on 2nd February, reached Liverpool on the 14th and dispersed on leave. In the meantime the advanced party which had arrived in England before Christmas opened up at Wuppertal in Germany on 1st February, where they were kept exceedingly busy preparing for the arrival of the Battalion in bits and pieces in March.

Wuppertal proved to be but a temporary station and the Battalion moved to their permanent quarters—Quebec Barracks, Osnabruck, on 28th March (B.F.P.O. 36) and not to Hameln as predicted in our last issue.

Their departure from Cyprus was made none the easier by the almost last-day calls on their services for Internal Security duties. All ranks of the Battalion are congratulated on the excellent report on their high state of efficiency whilst on the Island. (See page 8.)

Mindful of the Regiment's outstanding achievements and desirous of making some recognition of them, Bristol conferred on them the Honorary Freedom of the City, with the right to march through the streets on all ceremonial occasions with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed. All ranks, both serving and retired, are very conscious of this signal honour and take the opportunity of thanking the Lord Mayor, the Aldermen and Burgesses of the City and County.

The ceremony which took place on College Green on 29th March was a brilliant occasion, enjoyed by many thousands, as will be seen in our photographs.

Though The Gloucestershire has now no footing in Horfield Barracks, companies of the 5th Battalion still keep the Regimental flag flying in the City and still enable the citizens to see the Back Badge.

1959 is to be a year of recruiting, both for Regulars and Territorials, and schemes are afoot to proclaim the County Regiment and to encourage the right type of young men to accept the Queen's shilling, and the really liberal pay of the day.

"D" Company of the 5th Battalion (Major Bowyer) are to be congratulated on the results already achieved in and about Dursley. Members of this Company are now in training for the International Marches which take place at Nijmegen in Holland in July.

It is good to know that the Regimental Band is now likely to be spared from disbandment, and that the Fifth are raising their Band of Musick once more. Though martial music is always stimulating, music of other bands never tastes so good as one's own brew.

Whether Bryan O'Lynn was a "Kinnegad Slasher" we know not, but his innumerable verses of nonsense will continue to flow from the Bandmaster's tongue.

"Bryan O'Lynn was a gentleman born,
He lived at a time when no clothes they were worn,
But as fashions walked out of course Bryan walked in.
'Whoo! I'll soon lead the fashions,' says Bryan O'Lynn.

"Bryan O'Lynn had no breeches to wear,
 He got him a sheepskin for to make him a pair,
 With the fleshy side out, and the woolly side in.
 'Whoo! They're pleasant and cool,' says Bryan O'Lynn."

THE COST OF "THE BACK BADGE"

IT is regretted that the last few issues of THE BACK BADGE have been produced at a loss. Owing to the increases in wages, paper and blocks for illustrations, the printing costs have risen very considerably and postage charges have increased 100%.

The price of the Journal has remained steady at 2s. 6d. since it was republished in 1946 and the time has unhappily arrived when its price must be raised.

For 1958 there will be no change, but in 1959 it has been decided, very reluctantly, that the price will be increased to cover cost of production and postage. The exact amount will be decided when the cost of this issue has been finally calculated.

It is sincerely hoped that all present subscribers will continue to support the Journal, and will, wherever possible, obtain fresh subscribers.

Those who subscribe by bankers orders will in due course be asked to notify their bankers of the increased subscription to take effect from 1st January, 1959.

REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

THE BACK BADGE

All ranks of The Gloucestershire Regiment will be relieved to know that, with the introduction of the Wessex Brigade cap badge, War Office authority has now been given for the "Back Badge" to be worn in accordance with existing regulations, and that the regulations regarding the wearing of the United States Presidential citation will remain in force.—(W.O. Letter 54/MISC/6370/PS 12 (c) dated 8th April, 1958.)

Colonel E. R. C. Ames, M.B.E., T.D., after 45 years' service with Bristol Territorial units handed over the appointment of County Cadet Commandant in March. He originally joined the 6th Battalion in 1913, serving during the 1914-18 War with various battalions and on the staff. After the war he founded the 3rd Surrey Regiment, R.A., the first T.A. unit of its kind and took them overseas in 1939.

Colonel Ames was appointed in 1947 to command the Bristol group of A.C.F. and eight years later succeeded Lieutenant-General Vickers as C.C.C. During his tenure the Bristol group won every national and Commonwealth shooting trophy open to cadets.

His successor as County Commandant is **Lieutenant-Colonel R. H. E. Hudson, T.D.**, who commenced his service in the Somerset L.I., and subsequently became a gunner, commanding 601 (City of Bristol) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.

It is noted from a copy of the Journal of the Regular Military Forces of Malaya that **Major J. H. E. Bown** was awarded the Military Cross in 1956. News of this award does not seem to have reached the Regiment before. Major Bown was then serving as second-in-command of 3rd Battalion The Malay Regiment.

Those who served with **Drum-Major P. E. Buss** between March, 1946, and June, 1957, will be interested to learn he is now in the R.A.E.C. at Arborfield, near Reading.

In January **Colonel J. P. Carne, V.C., D.S.O.**, now living in nearby Cranham, took over the secretaryship of the Regimental Association from **Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Priestley**, who held the appointment since he relieved Major E. Culley in 1950. This is an opportunity for thanking Colonel Priestley for all his good and multifarious offices on behalf of the Regiment. He still continues as Administrative Officer at the Regimental Depot, where Colonel Carne also has his headquarters.

Members of the 5th Battalion will be interested and glad to learn that **Lieutenant-Colonel M. F. Carter, T.D.**, has just been promoted to command the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. He joined the Fifth in June 1939, served with the Battalion in France in 1940, and continued with the unit throughout the war after it was converted into the 43rd Reconnaissance Regiment being awarded the French Croix de Guerre. He has served in the R.A.C. ever since. His appointment will mean an even closer liaison between the Regiment and the R.G.H.

The Rev. J. M. Clutterbuck, who carried out his National Service with the 1st Battalion in Jamaica is now curate at Tewkesbury Abbey.

Captain D. J. Holdsworth, having completed his final exams in Chinese, is now doing Intelligence work in Malaya with "S.M.I.S. Malaya."

Mr. F. W. Saunders from his Island home reports three **Jerseymen** enlisting in the Regiment in April. Two of them, H. Green and A. Walker, have just completed their strenuous training at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Plymouth, and M. C. Le Masurier joined from Victorian College C.C.F.

Mr. C. R. Lydford, from whom a letter appears on a later page, enlisted in the Regiment at the age of 17 (alias 19), No. 24772, during the 1914-18 war, losing an eye when serving with the 28th, on the Somme in July, 1916.

From 1920 until he retired in '54, he worked in the entertainment business with Poole's Pictures, first at the Old Palace Theatre in Westgate Street, Gloucester, and at the Hippodrome, then up in Edinburgh. During the last war, he was Head A.R.P. Warden of his ward.

Two of his stepbrothers, by name of Crump, also served in the Regiment during the First World War, and a younger one, Lance-Corporal J. Crump, in the 61st in India after the war. An uncle, Sergeant Blunsden, was in the 28th in India towards the end of the last century—a fine family record.

Second-Lieutenant J. Portch, when competing in the Cyprus Individual Athletics Championships in November, 1957, won the Javelin Event, and also set up a new Regimental record.

We regret the passing of two **Regimental nonagenarians** during recent months. In February **Mr. Dixon Ward** died at his home at East Brent, Somerset, aged 95 and in March **ex-Private Charles Magee** in Northern Ireland in his 99th year.

Mr. Ward had served in the early days of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion as Drum-Major and had been congratulated by Lord Roberts, the Colonel of the Battalion, on the efficiency of their Drums. For many years he was a keen and leading member of the British Legion. His son, Vernon Ward, served in the Regiment during the 1914-18 war.

Charlie Magee originally enlisted in the Royal County Down Regiment (86th Foot) in 1880, but transferred to the 28th in the same year, being claimed by an older brother who already had 15 years in the Regiment. He well remembered his first C.O.—Colonel Brodigan, and also Majors Emerson and Ducat, and R.S.M.s Ferguson and Smith. He took his discharge at Bristol in 1886. Until the end he remained as straight as a young man, read the paper and took an interest in everyday affairs. He was the chief disciplinarian in the Old People's Home at Broughshane, Co. Antrim, where he had latterly lived, and where he was respected and loved by all.

He must have been our oldest "Old Soldier" and it is sad he just failed to reach his century.

One young nonagenarian, however, keeps hale and hearty at Moreton-in-Marsh. This is **Mr. W. Howell**, now 91, who took the Queen's shilling in 1884, and who served in the Regiment until 1893. He still works seven hours a day with his son, making ladders, gates, etc. Some interesting reminiscences of his appeared in **THE BACK BADGE** ten years ago.

The Rev. V. S. M. Wheeler, rector of Rendcomb, Glos., is returning to Burma in October for duty in that country at the request of the Bishop of Rangoon. Mr. Wheeler served in the 1st Battalion (No. 5186334) between 1939 and 1944, prior to being commissioned in the 9th Gurkha Rifles.

In the February issue of **The Royal Hampshire Regiment Journal** is the following pleasing entry under "Z" Company notes, 1st Battalion:

"We have received into the Company two drafts of Glosters making a total of 23 men. They are to remain in training with us until the arrival of their own regiment in B.A.O.R. Already they have made a great impression in the Company. In the Battalion Concert on December 23rd, the entire 'Z' Company skit was made up by a cast of ten Glosters. They also represented the Company in the cross-country, and more recently in the final of the Christmas six-a-side hockey, in which in the final, No. 10 Platoon beat an 'H.Q.' Company team, 5—0."

A silver shooting trophy in the form of piled rifles, with the Gloucesters front badge on the plinth, has been presented by the Regiment to Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. de F. Sleeman and all ranks **1st Royal Sussex Regiment** "under whose inspiration a memorial to those who fought at the Battle of the Imjin River, 1951, was erected and unveiled in Korea, 29th June, 1957."

This June and July sees the 200th anniversary of the Siege and Capture of the French Fortress of **Louisburg** (Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia). Here the 28th Foot were at first detached to make a feint landing at Lorambic, but later took part in the main attack and gained their second Battle Honour.

The first amalgamation of units of the Wessex Brigade—that of **The Devonshire Regiment** with **The Dorset Regiment**—is due to take place in Germany on 17th May. The Queen has approved the title of the new regiment as **The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment**. The Depot personnel of The Dorset Regiment have moved to their new H.Q. at Topsham Barracks, Exeter.

Colonel R. Chandler, D.S.O. (late the Royal Hampshire Regiment) retired last March, being granted the honorary rank of Brigadier. He has been succeeded as Wessex Brigade Colonel by **Colonel J. R. Welchman, D.S.O.** (late the Wiltshire Regiment), who was recently Officer-in-Charge of the Record Office at Exeter.

An ex-Gloucesterc follows an ex-Gloucesterc as **Mayor of Tewkesbury**. In May, Councillor W. E. Lane succeeded Alderman F. H. Knight. Both served in the 5th Battalion during the 1914-18 War, as did an earlier Mayor of the Borough, Alderman S. C. J. Moulder.

The Forces' Broadcasting Service in Cyprus, during the Christmas period, organised the usual appeal for **Wireless for the Blind Fund**. An hour's programme every evening, during a ten-day period, was offered for sale to the highest bidder, all proceeds going to the Fund. The 1st Battalion acquired the programme for the evening of 28th December (an appropriate date!) for the sum of £170. All this money was raised entirely by voluntary contributions, within a very short space of time. The programme, consisting of "request records" and a commentary, was put over the air by **Captain J. W. Allison** and **Lieutenant M. A. Crush**, assisted by a representative body of O.R.s, and was considered a great success. The 1st Battalion were the only Infantry battalion in Cyprus who bought a programme.

"Erected by his afflicted Window." So runs the inscription on a large tomb to Captain Andrew Grant, 61st Regiment, at Ferozepore in India. Captain Grant had been a Quartermaster-Sergeant in the Regiment and was commissioned in 1843. He was Regimental Paymaster from 1853 until his death in 1857.

Fifty years ago—in April, 1908—the **Territorial Force** came into being, and the old Volunteers which had served since 1859 were disbanded. In spite of the latter's keenness, it was realised they were not sufficiently organised or trained to take the field against any highly-trained continental troops.

Under Lord Haldane's Territorial Force Act, considerable reorganisation of the second line units of the County took place and so far as the Regiment was concerned, the 1st (City of Bristol) Volunteer Battalion became the 4th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment (T.F.), the 2nd V.B.G.R. became the 5th Battalion, and the 3rd V.B.G.R. the 6th Battalion.

At the same time the 3rd Battalion (Royal South Gloucester Militia) was restyled the 3rd Special Reserve Battalion, and the old 4th Battalion (Royal North Gloucester Militia) was disbanded.

For 30 years, in peace and war, the three Territorial battalions steadfastly upheld the traditions of the Regiment, but unhappily, in 1938, the 4th and 6th Battalions were converted into units of other arms and were lost to the Gloucesters. Now it remains for the 5th Battalion to take part in the celebrations of this **Territorial Jubilee Year**.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday, 18th July.

Saturday, 19th July.

Saturday, 4th October.

Officers' "At Home" during *Cricket Week*, at Gloucester.

Regimental Reunion, Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester.

W.O.s' and Sergeants' Reunion, Robinswood Barracks.

REGIMENTAL PUBLICATION

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SUB-EDITORIAL

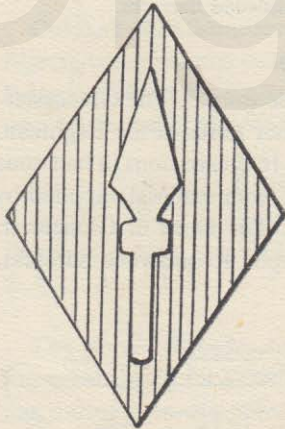
COMPANY notes have been compiled up to the time the Battalion was about to move from Cyprus. They are therefore somewhat out of date, and the main purpose of this sub-editorial is, very briefly, to fill in the gaps and to show how much has happened during these past few months.

The overseas tour just completed has indeed been most complicated and unusual, full of quick moves, bad camps, and difficulties of all sorts. It continued so to the very end in Cyprus, for the Battalion had to hand over its equipment and vehicles to the Argylls, and its camp to the Lancashire Fusiliers. The resulting complications were immense in themselves, and became almost insuperable when the Battalion became involved in some very bad rioting in early December, and were drawn into the worst disturbances yet experienced in Nicosia only two days before the move. We were non-

operational at that time and all weapons were greased and packed in steel-banded crates. Despite this, the first company moved out 40 minutes after the alarm had been given.

Before we left Cyprus the G.O.C., Major-General D. A. Kendrew, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., visited us; congratulating the Battalion on its high state of efficiency, he went on to say, "There is nothing more than any General would want than that the Glosters be in his particular command. I do not think in all my service have I met a battalion that has carried out its duties so quickly and efficiently as you have done out here. You have got down to the job quickly and carried it out thoroughly. It is a tremendous credit to you."

The Battalion, after a good voyage home in the *Devonshire*, reached Liverpool on the 14th February and dispersed on leave.



1st BRITISH CORPS
White spear-head on
red diamond

The advance party, having left Cyprus in November, arrived in Wuppertal in January and were faced with the task of taking over an empty barracks. These are good by German standards, but our tenure is short, as in April the Battalion takes over from the East Yorkshires in Osnabruck.

The first leave party arrived in Germany in early March, but the remainder of the Battalion was held back for the freedom ceremony.

Once again our plans for celebrating Back Badge Day in fitting style went by the board. We were, however, very glad to welcome the Rev. S. J. Davies, padre to the 28th/61st in Korea, who made the long journey from Luneburg to take a drumhead service on Back Badge Day.

We foresee a very busy summer ahead of us. Our late arrival here will mean a great effort, both in training and

sports, if we are to make our mark in B.A.O.R.

"A" COMPANY

Our last instalment ended by mentioning the funeral of a Turk killed at the Omorphita explosion. In fairly rapid succession the three remaining survivors expired in Nicosia General Hospital as a result of their injuries and their funerals passed off without incident—in fact, we were not called out of camp.

The month of September continued quietly, although it included one of the common anniversaries on which "trouble could be expected." These occasions usually marked the date of a Greek victory over the Turks or vice versa and, of course, sometimes it was said that EOKA would resume its campaign of violence on one of these days. One particular celebration commemorated the Battle of Salamis (480 B.C.!) and, as the anniversary fell so close to the "bloody" business already mentioned, it afforded an opportunity for a bit of VOLKAN versus EOKA strife. To forestall any more explosions, the Battalion carried out some intensive searching of waste ground, road verges, etc. "A" Company was given certain town sectors, but unfortunately our energetic poking of drains and scrambling through junk yards did not have tangible success. The only "find" was made by Support Company (R.I.P.) who unearthed a small load of gunpowder and detonators on the Limassol road.

REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE, IMJIN CAMP, 1957



The Colour Party marches on. Lieutenants R. A. F. Jarman and J. B. Henderson



The Battalion marches past the Commanding Officer



The District Commissioner, Nicosia, visits the 28th/61st and inspects the Quarter Guard (HQ2)

Right to left: Ptes. Meek, Gordon, Brown, Sgt. Chappell, Cpl. Tanner.
In rear, Major E. L. T. Capel



CHRISTMAS 1957

The 28th/61st celebrate in Nicosia. The C.O. visits the companies

At the end of the month, No. 1 Platoon (Second-Lieutenant Spry) and No. 3 Platoon (Second-Lieutenant Burges) went off for some fresh air to Sha and Dhali, country villages outside Nicosia, respectively, each platoon spending a couple of days in its area.

In October, the move to Germany seemed imminent and four weeks of Battalion training were organised, during which everyone in the Company managed at least two courses. The period opened with the murder of the Mukhtar of Dhali, and was interrupted in the middle by "OXI" (pronounced "Ocky") Day—yet another of the anniversaries claimed by EOKA.

On this date, 28th October, trouble was expected and so, quite naturally, "A" Company was despatched to the rural area to look after things for the Battalion. Company H.Q. and No. 1 Platoon got themselves comfortably established in Perakhorio Police Station, to watch over Lythrodonda, Ayia Varvara, etc., while Nos. 2 and 3 Platoons led a tented existence near Laxia and Dhali respectively. We moved into the area on Sunday, the 27th, and stayed to Monday night.

Slogans, posters and flags came up like mushrooms everywhere, and undoubtedly if we had not been "on the ground" there would have been serious disturbances. No. 2 Platoon captured a brace of fine Greek flags, which eluded the Company Commander for about a month afterwards.

Also during the training period we played in the Battalion football competition. We had a good selection of Battalion-class players—Corporal Yates and Privates Tunaley, Marks, Allen and Polson, to mention a few—and these were backed up by many more, but for some unknown reason both our teams lost. However, in the Christmas six-a-side competition—admittedly after gaining Corporals Cornish and Court and Privates Whittle and Sedlen from "H.Q." 2—we showed our true superiority by getting two teams into the final. Needless to say, we won!

In the middle of November we went back to Nicosia (Garrison Duty Battalion), which involved a lot of guards and also control of the Walled City of Nicosia. "H.Q." 2 Company gave up most of its men in November, and we gained from them Corporals Holland and Price, Lance-Corporals Cornish and Court (now both corporals) and various other bodies. However, we lost nearly 20 of our "old sweats" in December, as they had completed their two years, and we also lost Regular soldiers Sergeant Shorey, Lance-Corporal Coram and Private Hook. (Archie left to repeated choruses of "Glorious Devon.")

December's thrill-packed action is described elsewhere; all returned to normal (?) in preparation for Christmas. Second-Lieutenant Shore's accident could not have happened at a worse time—however, let us hope he will soon become operational again.

Looking forward to Germany, we are going to be depleted again, with another draft due out in three months. Second-Lieutenant Burges is also leaving us for the Regimental Depot. However, the prospects of a decent barracks seem to be good and, from all accounts, Osnabruck is a pleasant town—so Germany, here we come.

"B" COMPANY

The recent reorganisation of the Battalion has wrought many changes in the Company. The passage of thirteen platoon commanders through our thin ranks has been bearable, but two drafts and a reluctant contingent from Support Company have produced a new look for Bravo.

C.S.M. "Chipper" Read left us soon after our return from the forest and C.S.M. Dee joined us from Support Company. Captain Lutyens-Humphrey has been and gone and Lieutenant Mackean is now second-in-command. Of course, "they" had to go and change the numbering of the platoons and even now commands such as "Fall in the old No. 5 Platoon and the new No. 7 Platoon," interspersed with mutterings from the rear rank of "Up the machine guns," cause havoc on muster parades.

Second-Lieutenant Godfrey, Colour-Sergeant Preece, Corporal Wade, "Spud" Abbott, "Scouse" Brett and "Don" Howling have disappeared with the advanced party and from this end it looks like one of the luckiest "skives" in the whole of this tour. Sergeants Neaves and Hunt (from Support Company) have replaced Sergeants Dowler and Deslandes. Sergeant Neaves gets frequent attacks of "instructivitis" and goes off to put "C" Company straight. "Ginger" Ward still sleeps in company office and on occasions attempts to teach the company commander how to use the slide rule. "Syd" Hearmon left us to join the Berkshires and we wish them the best of luck!

Corporal Whitehouse left us after some valuable work in the dining hall, and at 2115 one evening George Lewis was asked if he could be ready to fly home at 0500 hours the next morning; we haven't seen him since. The other members of that great team of storemen, "Hank," Dave Price and Charlie Harper, left us before we embarked as will all those others who are somewhat unkindly known as the great "Ineligibles."

The catalogue of changes is endless; as endless as the round of guards and duties we have carried out. From Omorphita to Central Prison, to Mitsero to KT and the Secretariat, to Perakhhorio Police Station, to the Detainees' Ward at the General Hospital and back again. Only the Central Prison guard offers anything worth recording. It was there that Harvey fired three rounds at an escaping prisoner. He says he would have fired another burst if the Sergeant Warders' Mess had not been in the way. When we have been Immediate Readiness Company and the Walled City has been in our firm but kindly control nothing has happened, but once we left and another company took over all hell was let loose.

From time to time we pass the company office on our way to the arms store and hear angry mutterings of "Bumph, bumph—thank heaven I'm redundant" and we know that Major Wood is still with us.

"C" (TRAINING) COMPANY

It is customary at the end of a year to become retrospective, even perhaps a little sentimental, as we remember old friends and old times. At the end of 1957 the members of "C" Company have much to look back on with satisfaction. The keynote of our stay in Cyprus was cheerfulness, a cheerfulness which neither EOKA nor potential N.C.O.s have been able to impair. Frequently we were mockingly branded as an overgrown section, but it is in the very paucity of our numbers that our strength lies. When the flock is large, a black sheep can remain hidden; when the flock is small he must soon seek fresh pastures.

As the year went by we lost several old friends. Lance-Corporal Barns, after many months of sterling work in the company office, reverted to his civilian rank; Sergeant Vaughan gained well-merited promotion and deserted us; Lieutenant Hurford-Jones, after training one draft, decided he must get to grips with recruits a little earlier on and has now joined the Depot Staff, and Lieutenant Kirkland departed with a glint in his eye

for the quiet pleasures of Cheltenham (we hear that yellow jaundice greeted him as he stepped on to English soil but that he is now firmly established on the warpath once again). With so many departures it was good to welcome Private Brown back into the Company after a short interlude in U.K. We understand that the Company Commander's consistently impeccable turnout has absolutely nothing to do with Private Brown.



Such has been the decimation of our ranks, however, that we number a mere 22, but our activity has, if anything, increased. Colour-Sergeant Chillcott (another promotion but no deserter) accommodated 24 junior leaders and potential N.C.O.s, zealous young men under the care of Captain Harvey and Second-Lieutenant Chapman respectively, whilst in another part of the camp Second-Lieutenant Thorne wielded the chalk as frenziedly as any headmaster. Indeed, the situation was a true reflection of our day-to-day existence throughout the autumn months. Junior N.C.O.s and private soldiers have also been introduced to the terminology and complexities of atomic warfare under the knowledgeable direction of the Company Commander, whose visit to the Maralinga atomic trials made him very much the man of the moment. The sight of soldiers prowling around the lines with weird and wonderful instruments caused scarcely the raising of an eyebrow.

In the Battalion sporting and social activities the Company continued to acquit itself with great merit. The end of the cricket season saw Major Reeve-Tucker captaining

Cyprus District against the R.A.F., with Corporal Carton, having previously been awarded his Regimental colours, also in the team. In the winter games the rugger side owed much to the services of Second-Lieutenant Chapman, Corporal Carton, and Private Lewis, while on the hockey field Major Reeve-Tucker and Staff-Sergeant McDonald, A.P.T.C., have shown that none of last year's skill has been lost. Private Vick has represented the Battalion at soccer, Lieutenant Kirkland won the 220 in the inter-unit athletics meeting, and Second-Lieutenant Chapman made sure that we had a boxing team for Germany. The C.S.M., having passed out at that "sort of caper," now continues at only slightly reduced speed in the capacity of referee or umpire. When we remember in addition that Lieutenants Kirkland and Chapman, Colour-Sergeant Chillcott, Lance-Corporal Bowen, and Privates Lewis, Sargeant and Parsons have all assisted the shooting team through the Brigade, Cyprus District and M.E.L.F. competitions, it would appear that the overgrown section is not doing too badly. Indeed, Lewis and Parsons proved to be the second best bren pair on the Island, while Sargeant was the second best S.L.R. shot.

In the sphere of social life, the skiffle group continues to go from strength to strength. Corporal Carton's sojourn in U.K. resulted in a considerable widening of the group's repertoire and their crowning achievement was to come third in the Island-wide skiffle competition, sponsored by F.B.S. The group consisted of Corporal Carton, Privates Lewis and Parsons, and "Slow-drag Parageau" Allen.

Naturally enough, they performed with their usual enthusiasm at the Battalion concert in November, at which the Company was also represented by Private (Elvis) Archibald and Second-Lieutenant Thorne, who, rather against his better judgment, endeavoured to keep the all-star cast in some kind of order. Later a carol party, composed entirely of "C" Company stalwarts, toured the married families on Christmas Eve. Setting out, full of the Christmas spirit, they returned overflowing and with more than £5 for the Wireless for the Blind Fund.

There was a pernicious rumour that the Company was to be disbanded before the move to Germany. A few nights later, as the Company wallowed in food and drink under the benign eye of maître d'hôtel, Lance-Corporal Wratten, we considered the disastrous consequences of such an act of folly. The Company Commander wondered who was going to impart gems of atomic knowledge; Sergeant Ponting pondered about untrained recruits; Lance-Corporal Bowen was interested to know who on earth would supply young officers with amended pamphlets; Second-Lieutenant Thorne was aghast at the prospect of an illiterate Battalion and empty fire buckets; Privates Fleming and Edwards wondered what the Battalion would do about film shows; Lance-Corporal Wratten was smiling to himself (something about doors); Second-Lieutenant Chapman was muttering about 20-second knock-outs; the C.S.M. meditated on the downfall of the Q.M.'s Department and Captain Harvey, author and artist, innocently inquired who was going to earn dollars for the Treasury.

We were rather relieved for the Battalion's sake that the pernicious rumour was officially denied.

"D" COMPANY

Although chords (at least two) may sometimes spring from Private Margrett's guitar, notes are usually left to that non-stop pianist, Second-Lieutenant Hutchings. This time,

however, company notes are assembled by Major J. E. Taylor, lately eased into command by Major H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E., who, after two years as O.C. "D" Company, is now reaping change where he has not sown in "H.Q." 2 Company.

The highlight of our activities was our detachment near Limassol underpinning the 43rd Light Infantry. Our tasks were to guard three police stations and vigorously patrol a hilly area, as large as the Battalion's sector, on the plains of Nicosia. Thanks to Sergeant Lee's acquisitiveness and Lance-Corporal Doyle's craft and ingenuity, our camp soon became comfortable. The camp site on the beach in a really beautiful bay afforded limitless sport which we supplemented by an inter-platoon athletic meeting (won by No. 13 Platoon), inter-platoon soccer and matches against other units. The situation permitted easy entry to Episkopi and Limassol but not so easy a return for Privates Amey, Booy, and Clarke.

The job, though not rewarding in operational success, provided both good training and good fun. We wondered why Second-Lieutenant Rowlands' visits to Prastio coffee shop produced such complacent reports on the attitude of the civilian population until we saw the form of the barmaid, but readily understood, when, after a night in a gully, Second-Lieutenant Paxford saw a vulture rising from the ashes. The year's vintage made a water bottle unnecessary and fruit and vegetables were easy to acquire. However, after four weeks, just as Colour-Sergeant Havelock-Allen had perfected his all-in stew and Private Spurr had learned another war story, we returned to Imjin Camp.

A month's training soon followed. Concentrating on specialist training inevitably meant some dispersion of talent. A new draft joined. Sergeant Lee, Corporal Connell and Privates Mallard, Kingscott and Clarke left for U.K. and Germany with the advanced party.

December ushered in the promotion age. With so many stripes, one wag called us Zebra Company. We soon found time to exercise them in the Nicosia riots described elsewhere. Corporal Cordey had a new tooth with his, Corporal Denby felt it poor compensation for waiting for so long for W.O.S.B., Corporal Meadows takes a longer stride, and the photographers did much business with the new profiles.

For all this our reward was Christmas in prison, guarding both criminal and political detainees. Nevertheless the best was made of it and amongst many others, A.C.C. cook, Private Taylor, ably supported by his apprentice chef, Private Woodington, worked wonders to produce a first-class Christmas dinner. The good cheer was reserved until January when an indoor games' night was held, won by No. 15 Platoon. A sing-song reduced Private Owen's baritone to a croak, whilst Private Hollis was sung to sleep, and Private Green fell asleep.

Postings and discharges changed the Company beyond recognition during the period, and it would be impossible to mention them all in this brief space. Amongst the last to leave were Corporal Drakely, Privates Hollis, Margrett, Jones (60) and Smith. Lance-Corporal Wolfe and Private Reed leave Company Headquarters sadly depleted. Amongst our latest arrivals are some old soldiers—Lance-Corporal Fisher and Privates Davies, Chambers, Powell and Whitehead are warmly welcomed from elsewhere in the Battalion and Nall, Summers and Pearce from E.R.E.

"H.Q." 1 COMPANY

Much has happened during the past four months or so, and "comings and goings" have been practically continuous. We have reorganised at least twice, and have now settled down into some sort of recognisable shape, which should at least last until we get to B.A.O.R. There, we are sure, we shall be reorganised yet again. We have suffered much during all these changes, from which only "H.Q." 2 Company have really benefited—they have gained the Drums and the Signals Platoon, which had been brought to a high state of training and efficiency during their time in "H.Q." Company.

We now consist of the Administrative Platoon, containing the Quartermaster's Department, the Cooks, the Unit Pay Team, and the Officers' and Sergeants' Mess staffs, and the M.T. Platoon. Overall, including corps attached personnel, we are still the strongest company in the Battalion.

We have continued to be more than busy. Apart from providing the camp guard practically every night, we have played our part in patrolling also. In fact, one of our patrols—consisting of the Messing Officer, the M.T. Sergeant, the Regimental Butcher, and an R.A.P.C. N.C.O.—scored a definite success when, moving stealthily in the darkness, they caught a man in the act of pinning a terrorist slogan to a church wall. Our mobile patrols into the countryside outside Nicosia were equally representative. The Paymaster, the Messing Officer, the P.R.I., and the Mess Secretary have all performed the duties of patrol commander, and some patrols have consisted of a fine mixture of R.E.M.E., R.A.S.C., R.A.P.C., R.A.O.C., A.C.C., Lancashire Fusiliers, and, of course, Glosters!

COMPANY H.Q.

Once again there has been upheaval in Company H.Q. Once more we have a new C.S.M., for C.S.M. Stephens has gone to the Depot, albeit reluctantly and practically under escort. We all miss him, and wish him the very best of good luck at the Regimental Depot. Our loss is their gain. We welcome in his stead C.S.M. Baker, already well versed in the mysteries of "H.Q." companies of all sorts.

Colour-Sergeant Bassett has been away with the advanced party for what seems years, and Colour-Sergeant Vaughan has been standing in. Indeed, he was C.Q.M.S. of both "H.Q." 1 and "H.Q." 2 for a considerable period, and how he kept sane we do not know. He for one will be *very* glad to get on that boat! Corporal Down, and that redoubtable footballer Private Stephens, have gone from the Company Office, as has Private Mursell who now drives a Landrover. (Cheer up, Stephens, we *did* win the inter-Company football!) Private Knowles, late of the Orderly Room, now sits in the company clerk's chair, and copes admirably with everything thrown at him by O.C. "H.Q." 1 Company, the P.R.I., the Messing Officer, "Old Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all." How he keeps smiling no one knows.

Lance-Corporal Kirton, in between working away for some mysterious examination, playing hockey for the Battalion, and planning to drive to Germany, still conducts the P.R.I. shop. He has other "outside interests," too, they say. . . . Corporal Laffoley, now graduated from the Officers' Mess to Company Orderly Sergeant, has been attending a strenuous unit cadre, and is a great power in the Corporals' Club.

He was in excellent form at Christmas, and succeeded in carrying *two* bottles of whiskey in *one* battledress pocket! Privates Powell and Chapman have left our arms store, and Privates Dowse and Spiers have taken over. Good luck to all four!

Privates Jefferies and Grey (when the M.O. can spare him) are carrying on with the good work in the Company stores.

The Company Commander, Major E. L. T. Capel, lingers on, assisted by his faithful chief of staff, Captain H. R. Gilliver. These two gallant officers now feel capable of dealing with any problem from lighting cookhouse boilers to producing cigarette coupons—or administrative study days. But, despite the strain, the Company Commander smiles when he thinks that during the past twelve months “H.Q.” or “H.Q.” I Company have won the Rawson Cup, the inter-company football competition and the cross-country.

M.T. PLATOON

There have been several changes of M.T.O.s in the Platoon since last summer. First to leave was Captain A. E. Strange, who left the Platoon to do a course in England. He managed to get himself on the advanced party to Germany after he had taken his annual leave. Lieutenant (Q.M.) Gillett, who took over the task of M.T.O. from him, was unfortunately all too soon taken to B.M.H. with stomach trouble and subsequently evacuated to England. His loss was deeply felt by the Platoon and in particular by Sergeant Cook, who ran the Platoon until the arrival of Captain Lutyens-Humphrey, who had been on a visit to Persia.

The Platoon is feeling justly proud of its annual C.I.V. inspection by the R.E.M.E. inspectors' team and is maintaining its boast of being “The best on the island.” We were indeed fortunate in having two concrete ramps for servicing and washing down vehicles on, even though our improvised hose was a poor apology for a colander. Also we are pleased to think that at the end of November our accident rate was at an all-time low. Although there was an increase in December, fortunately none of them was serious.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Corporals Brown and Stevens and Lance-Corporals Hughes and Nation on their demobilisation. However, we congratulate Major Strange, Corporal Arkell and Lance-Corporals Binding, Turner, Damsell, Evans and Whittle on their promotion. We would be ungrateful if we did not thank Corporal Muchmore and Lance-Corporal Stroud of “B” and “A” Companies for helping out the Platoon when we were very short of drivers, owing to the absence of the advanced party and cadres still being trained.

The Platoon enjoyed a very good Christmas and were all feeling envious of the drivers on the advanced party. Since the latter left us we have constantly been short, but despite this have lived up to our motto “No one walked.” Private Marshall in the “tech.” stores has been kept busy, as Sergeant Cook '75, the Technical Sergeant, left on the advanced party. We particularly congratulate him on his ability to keep everything “shipshape.”

The R.E.M.E. detachment has helped us to keep up to our reputation under the command of Sergeant McEwan and his hard-worked craftsmen, who include Craftsmen Bayliss, McManus, Parrott and “Chalky” White. Craftsman Parrott's pet moan is that the “recovery” vehicle has been used once only when it was called out in the middle of the night to Kykko Monastery. Sergeant McEwan claims to be the only pyjama-clad recovery man in the island!

At the time of going to press Corporals Pattison and Damsell have been nominated to attend driving instructors' courses at Bordon. We wish them good luck—and “As” from both.

Q.M. DEPARTMENT

In our last notes we included the statement "R.Q.M.S. Boyes is convinced that he and the Q.M. will be soldiering alone within the next twelve months." How right he was, for the Q.M. promptly departed on the advanced party!

There have been many changes in personnel, and Lance-Corporal Friend joined us to deal with the mysteries of clothing. Sergeant Dauncey (congratulations from us all on your promotion) has left us. He will be greatly missed, and we all wish him the best of luck. The same applies to Corporal Fowke, who has been a tower of strength in the Q.M.'s yard and on the rugger field.

We featured strongly in the shooting activities of the Battalion, Sergeants Lamb and Dauncey, Corporals Fowke and Gibbons and Lance-Corporal Mathieson being absent for long periods on the range. All acquitted themselves well.

We now have a new sanitary squad, which has been operating under Corporal Parker (now departed, with our best wishes) and Corporal Gibbons. Privates Pibworth, Bale, Brenni, Livingstone and Townsend have all attended the necessary courses, some getting excellent reports.

The R.Q.M.S. soldiers on, aided and abetted now by C.S.M. Walker when "C" Company can spare him. But how glad we were to get rid of Imjin Camp!

UNIT PAY TEAM

Since our last notes, we have said goodbye to our chief clerk—S/Sergeant Stidson—who was posted to Regimental Pay Office at Fooks Cray, Kent, where we wish him every success in the future.

During the last months in Cyprus our routine work has rarely altered, although from time to time all members have cast down their pens, taken up their arms and taken part in I.S. patrols. The unit has been engaged on many activities, but it has been the pay team's boast that pay has always been delivered on time.

The sports field has seen Sergeant Sowten representing the Battalion at hockey, whilst Corporal Sharples put up a fine performance in the cross-country run by finishing in second place. Corporal Sharples was also centre-forward for "H.Q." 1 Company soccer team when they were the winners of the inter-company soccer competition. There is life in them there pen-pushers after all.

On arrival in England we said goodbye to Corporals Sharples and Huckle who returned to Civvy Street. They joined us at Aden and, although we are sorry to see them go, we wish them all the best in their new occupations; who knows, they might follow Corporal Crossley's example and sign on as Regulars!

S/Sergeant Curtis and Privates Andrews and Brumskill are our reinforcements. Not for them the heat of Aden and the Persian Gulf, but perhaps the cold and damp of North-West Europe will bring forth even better stories of the hardships endured by the members of an Infantry battalion's pay team.

CORPS ATTACHED

The A.C.C. cooks under Sergeant Marshall produced a really first-class meal on Christmas Day which was celebrated by the Battalion in traditional style. The cook-house was definitely a more pleasant place after the hot weather ceased, but very few of the promised improvements did in fact materialise.



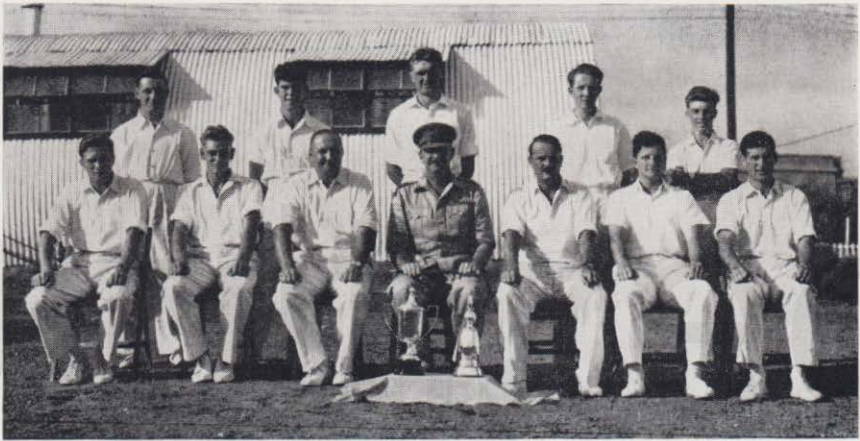
M.T. PLATOON

"New recruit or an Old Sweat?"

Left to right: Ptes. Kinman, Fry, Hicks, L/Cpl. Wickham, Ptes. Gray, Marshall, Smith '07, Smith '88



No. 13 Platoon, "D" Company. Imjin Camp, Nicosia



28th/61st CRICKET XI, 1957

Winners: Cyprus District Tournament and 50th Independent Infantry Brigade Tournament

Standing, left to right: 2/Lt. G. R. Rowlands, Cpl. C. Spurr, Cpl. P. Carton, Lt. T. E. Lapage-Norris, Dmr. R. O'Callaghan. *Seated, left to right:* 2/Lt. D. A. Godfrey, Dmr. J. Dawson, Maj. H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E., Lt.-Col. P. C. S. Heidenstam, O.B.E., Maj. T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker, Lt. D. J. Hurford-Jones, 2/Lt. J. S. Portch



"VALE M.M.G. PLATOON," 16th NOVEMBER, 1957

Left to right: Cpl. Fenn, Pte. Grantham, L/Cpl. Court, L/Cpl. Bedwell, 2/Lt. Stroud, Sgt. Garrison, Pte. Welsh, Sgt. Hunt, Cpl. Price, Pte. Creed, L/Cpl. Lynch, Pte. Jarvis, Pte. Palmer

We welcome Corporal McLuskey to the fold, a stout reinforcement indeed! Our R.A.E.C. instructors have continued their good work in getting as many through their A.C.E. as possible, and have achieved surprising results. Once again we are losing two excellent N.C.O.s in Sergeants Yeates and Allford. We shall miss their guidance and, above all, their good humour.

SUPPORT/"H.Q." 2/COMMAND COMPANY

We have heard much talk of streamlining units and formations to form the compact hard-hitting battle groups so necessary for nuclear warfare. This process as far as it affects an Infantry battalion has fallen mainly on Support Company. Since our last notes we have become, on paper only, a mere appendage of the old "H.Q." Company known as "H.Q." Company Group 2. In practice we retained our independent status for I.S. and training. However, no sooner had we become resigned to this fact than we changed again to an experimental establishment for Germany by becoming Command Company, although still calling ourselves "H.Q." 2. This has caused a veritable upheaval in that the M.M.G. and Anti-Tank Platoons were disbanded.

We absorbed Battalion H.Q., the Signal Platoon and the Drums; the Assault Pioneers were reduced to a section and integrated into the Drums. The final result is that our compact mobile battle group now consists of at least 150 men. Now we vie with H.Q." 1 in the number of gentlemen who emerge from their holes at infrequent intervals. All this is very muddling, especially to one who is hardly yet a member of the I.S.C.C.C. (Independent Support Company Commanders Club). But we comfort ourselves with the thought that the one thing certain is that it will all be changed again. One further source of satisfaction is that we can now ask the Adjutant and O.R.Q.M.S. why their platoon return is late!

We have continued to discharge our I.S. duties as a rifle company and in addition have managed to do six weeks' specialist training. At sport we were runners-up to "H.Q." 1 in the inter-company football cup. We supply our full quota of players for Battalion teams.

We have said goodbye to Major Harding as Company Commander only to see him return to the Company as Battalion second-in-command. Major Radice, who came as a "locum tenens" for six weeks, has stayed for three months. Further details of our activities can be found in Platoon notes.

BATTALION H.Q.

They seek them here, they seek them there—Battalion H.Q. is everywhere. "H.Q." 1 to Battalion H.Q. and last of all to "H.Q." 2.

Battalion H.Q.'s independence was short-lived; however, whilst it lasted it was second to none, despite the cracks made about not doing duties. In actual fact, we did our fair share. The Adjutant as Battalion H.Q. Commander was well and truly oiled into place. It was indeed a marvellous sight to see their muster parade, what with the R.S.M. as C.S.M., the Drill Sergeant as C.Q.M.S. and the O.R.Q.M.S. as Company Clerk. Who indeed could say that *our* returns were not in on time. Battalion H.Q. was not short of volunteers to swell its ranks, for there were despite everything more officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s than private soldiers. Unfortunately, due to a "slip up" we now toe the line in "H.Q." 2, who under the guidance of Major Radice certainly ensure we have

our fair share of everything that is going. It is even boasted by our noble Company Commander that he will lead a patrol consisting of part of his command, i.e. Adjutant, R.S.M., Drill Sergeant, O.R.Q.M.S., the Provost Sergeant as runner, and the R.M.O. as medical orderly. It is wondered if this is indeed the fulfilment of his wildest dream !

3-INCH MORTAR PLATOON

Since the last issue of THE BACK BADGE the Platoon has changed considerably.

We have said goodbye to the Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Hurford-Jones, who is now Training Officer at the Regimental Depot. The Platoon wishes him all the luck and our heartfelt sympathy in this duty. Also departed, this time to Netheravon as a 3-in. mortar instructor, is Sergeant Thorne. He will be kept up to date with news of the Battalion by potential mortar instructors visiting Netheravon, the first being Second-Lieutenant Vicary, the new Platoon Commander. Practically the whole of the 3-in. Mortar Platoon has been demobbed since the spring issue. The remainder, "Blondie" Stallard (storeman) and "Sweaty" Hammond, will be leaving us shortly.

The Platoon has been fortunate enough to have had the opportunities to do proper specialist training with a six-week cadre which started last October. Of the 1st cadre, seven men received layers badges after doing a part 1 and 2 shoot, when approximately 900 bombs were fired. Those awarded layers badges are: Corporals Higginson and Harold, and Privates Hault, Longden, Derricott, Elmes and Hurcombe.

In the sporting field, Private Hurford represents the Battalion in cross-country rambles and Corporal Harold plays rugger and hockey for the Battalion.

M.M.G. PLATOON

"Requiescat in pace . . ."

The M.M.G. Platoon, unfortunately, lives only in spirit now, but a great comeback is confidently looked forward to in Germany. In the meantime the men have departed to boost the morale of the rifle companies.

The time since the last M.M.G. notes has been very full. Internal Security commitments continued, unabated, up to the period of Battalion training. The Platoon found itself at Luna Park twice in a month; at immediate stand-by, and later at "K" Camp. These duties were performed cheerfully with everyone looking forward to the training period, when they could get down to some work and justify the name of machine-gunners.

We started training ten days before the rest of the Battalion and began from scratch, thus providing some useful revision for the older members. The Platoon worked hard and keenly, under the capable instruction of Sergeants Garrison and Hunt and a great deal of progress was made. The field-firing range at Goshi was available for several days, where many of the Platoon fired the gun for the first time, and many useful lessons were learnt. The enjoyment of those at Goshi was nearly marred by an R.M.P. patrol in disguise who insisted that we had been speeding. However, in the last week of training a terrible tragedy befell us; the Commanding Officer addressed the assembled Company on the new Battalion establishment for Germany and we learnt that we were to be disbanded. Naturally this depressed us, but not so much that we went down without our colours flying, for on the last Saturday of the training period the whole Platoon, with the help of the Corps of Drums, ceremonially slow-marched the Vickers .303 medium machine gun, mounted on a blackboard, to its greasy grave. A large congrega-

tion turned out to watch this moving ceremony. After an hilarious party we then dispersed, leaving the Company office frantically searching for the Company flag.

Most of the Platoon went to "A" Company, where, with great daring, Major Morris entrusted his stores to Welsh and Hicks. Davies, our storeman, worked his way into "D" Company stores and Evans has risen to dizzy heights in the Regimental Police and can be heard bellowing "Mark Time" all round camp.

They are not downhearted, but merely waiting revival in Germany, for, as they remind themselves, the M.M.G. has been done away with many times before.

"... sed in maiore gloria resurget."

ASSAULT PIONEER AND ANTI-TANK PLATOON

Since the last BACK BADGE issue the Anti-Tank Platoon emerged phoenix-like from its ashes for an all too brief moment. At the same time the Assault Pioneer Platoon have managed to learn to do their various tasks—attempts at blowing up the Officers' Mess on Boxing Day for instance.



"THINGS THAT GO BANG IN THE NIGHT ..."

This was achieved by a six-week training period. During that time half of the old Platoon did an assault pioneer course, whilst the other half did an anti-tank course with the 1st Suffolks, ably assisted by Corporal Moultrie, who has joined us from the Royal

Berkshires. The result at the end of this was finding ourselves with four trained assault pioneers: Corporal Herbert, Lance-Corporal Hathway, Private Bailey and Private Evans 89: and seven trained anti-tank men: Corporals Herbert and Cornish, Lance-Corporals Hathway, Friend, Brock and Fisher, and Private Bailey.

Unfortunately, no sooner were the courses over than the old Support Company changed to "H.Q." 2. What would have been the nucleus of an Anti-Tank Platoon was disbanded and many old friends left, albeit some with layers badges, to rifle companies. A ghastly fate.

What remained was the Assault Pioneer Section which is now amalgamated with the Drums. We still continue to make appropriate noises, booby-trap the Platoon Commander's bed, dig the most uncomfortable looking weapon pits and build inappropriately collapsible bridges. Doubtless, Germany, with its assault river crossings, will not dampen our spirits.

SIGNALS PLATOON

We have completed another cadre in a desperate attempt to make us up to strength for B.A.O.R. However, it looks as though we shall have to run yet another cadre in B.A.O.R. before May.

During the last few months we have lost a few hardened members of the Platoon. Corporal Maxwell, Willett, Lawrence 52, Oaten, Day and Stephens are amongst some who will not join us in Germany. Corporal Bailey and Pritchard are joining the R.S.O. on the advanced party leaving the hard-worked (?) colour-sergeant to bring on the main body.

Of promotions, Wheeler is now a lance-corporal i/c Signals Centre and Corporal Phipps has been promoted full corporal.

We have now moved to Command Company, or "H.Q." 2, alias Support Company. We still have our drawbridge up and have repelled all boarders despite attacks from our new C.S.M.

(This statement was made before a certain well-remembered Saturday morning when our defences were well and truly breached.)

During the later riots in Nicosia we *not* only maintained the lines communications but also provided a rifle platoon, under Lieutenant Crush, which took its full part in normal I.S. duties.

CORPS OF DRUMS

The Regimental Corps of Drums is steadily developing into the most competent platoon in the Battalion. Apart from providing the entertaining music on parades, they have all taken, and passed out well, stretcher bearers and first-aid courses under the eagle eye of Sergeant Webb. In addition to this they are rapidly becoming expert assault pioneers and like nothing better than to spend a morning digging.

The Drums have now the unusual luxury of two officers to look after them; the assault pioneers and the machine guns having been disbanded, Lieutenants M. A. Crush and M. Stroud have descended upon them, and, therefore, Corporal Fenn has now relinquished his role of acting Platoon Sergeant and Commander, much to his relief. The competition for the Commanding Officer's and Adjutant's silver bugle was keen, the Commanding Officer's bugle being won by Lance-Corporal Tanner and the Adjutant's, which was awarded this year to the best learner bugler, by Private Tucker.

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In the recent trouble in Cyprus the Platoon was well to the fore and revelled in the thunderous applause of a Turkish crowd when moving up to cordon off a looted shop. On the following day entertainment was provided for the residents at the Paphos Gate end of the Mason-Dixon line during a lull, when they were all brought out on their balconies by a resounding "Mail Call," perfectly executed by Private Murray. On the whole the Platoon was disappointed when the Company was stood down.

General training continues, with the Drum Major of the 3rd Battalion, the Grenadier Guards coming over every other Tuesday to give much useful instruction. Small walks up Buffavento are appreciated, even by Scott, and the morale of the Platoon is generally high. By the time the Battalion arrives in Germany it should have a very efficient and good Corps of Drums.

So far the Platoon has defeated all-comers, including three of the companies, at basket ball.

SERGEANTS' MESS

With the move to B.A.O.R. very much in our thoughts, the Mess took on a very jovial mood. Everyone was looking forward to leave at home and the subsequent change of air.

The advanced party left and were fortunate in having both Christmas and New Year at home. How envious of them we all were. The inevitable sigh was heard when it was announced that our sailing date had been put back.

The weather, as if in anticipation of Christmas, turned cold, and even our change to battle-dress did little to keep out the cold winds. Snow appeared on the Troodos Mountains and we all thanked our lucky stars that we were based at Nicosia, even if strange forces did appear in the Mess occasionally from the wilds of Mitzero, KT Detention Camp, and the Central Prison.

Our depleted Mess numbers had a very enjoyable Christmas, with the children taking possession of the Mess on Saturday, 14th December, and it was a feat of contortion when a certain Father Christmas appeared out of an improvised chimney to face the television camera. As was expected the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was with a sigh of relief that they were handed back to their parents. Children will always be children but in addition there were the inevitable adults who enjoyed the party games equally as much as the children for whom they were intended.

Our monthly Mess socials were well supported and very popular, especially when married members came escorted only by their wives, whilst other members must move about in fours. It only goes to prove that the female is deadlier than the male.

The Mess has recently acquired a widower in the form of Sergeant Garrison, who, true to form, was chief mourner at the funeral of the M.M.G. Platoon. Complete funeral rites were observed, including draped drums and the carrying of a machine-gun on a bier. Sergeant Garrison is still drowning his sorrows but he entered into the spirit of Christmas with utter abandonment.

Cigars were at the high port at Christmas and there were numerous Mess "Bura Sahibs." The Mess deviated from tradition slightly and had an excellent Mess dinner at the Acropole Hotel, Nicosia.

Prior to this, all living-in members had enjoyed a full Christmas fare.

Many members took a smart pace forward to catch up with their eyes in order to distribute the traditional "Gunfire" to the Battalion on Christmas morning. Later, with

eyes in full focus, they were seen decorating the troops' dining hall. Christmas dinner was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

CORPORALS' CLUB

Since the last instalment of the Journal much has happened. Many new faces have appeared and our ranks, if they can be so called, have swelled to the "ton" mark.

Many invitations have flowed from other Messes and, on the whole, a thoroughly enjoyable time has been had by the majority. In fact, the Corporals' Club shooting team "walked" away with the Shanghai Trophy, some said unfairly, as Corporals Dauncey, Wansbrough, Simmance and Hunt had gained, regretfully from our point of view, promotion to the sergeants' ranks. They also had the privilege of "wining and dining" with the Officers' Mess.

In September, invitations to Messes and clubs outside our own were numerous and the usual steady "capacity" of the "regulars" gained ever increasingly. Lance-Corporal Shaw was no exception and a welcome new member to the club now closely challenges him to this "honoured and sacred" position, one Corporal McLusky, A.C.C. We wish him success in the future!

Christmas, the long-awaited moment of abandon, came gradually nearer and ever increasing were the number of excuses to partake of the local brew! Corporal Laffoley had by this time earned for himself the "well-oiled" place of P.M.C. Closely associated with him were "old hands" Lance-Corporal Stewart, A.C.C., the "law," represented by Lance-Corporal Bishop, as always the quiet clerical background added by Corporal Holly and, last but not least, Lance-Corporal Friend. This merry bunch of revellers prescribed suitable entertainments for the Christmas and New Year.

The club looks forward with good solid thirsts to the *new* club in Germany, where we hope that a change of not only accommodation but also of beer will bring new life to the club.

SPORT

GENERAL

Now is a convenient moment to look back upon the recent foreign tour from a sporting angle. Despite the difficulties caused by our operational role, wide dispersion and lack of good facilities, our reputation has been upheld by a number of fine performances, although many will be sad at the lack of success in our traditional sports of rugby and boxing.

The most disappointing feature is that, while there has been plenty of sport for the gladiators of the Battalion teams, except for soccer in Kenya and a short period in Bahrain, company and platoon games have been at a discount.

The main achievements of the tour are as follow:

KENYA

Rugger. Private Kimmins represented Army and East Africa (the latter *v.* British Lions Touring XV).

Boxing. Corporal Yandle, Kenya A.B.A., East Africa Command heavyweight champion.

Cricket. Representatives in Army and Combined Services teams.



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Athletics. Runners-up 49 Brigade athletics championships. Private Collett represented Army at pole vaulting in the Kenya A.A.A. Championships.

CYPRUS

Cricket. Winners, 50 Independent Infantry Brigade and Cyprus District Tournaments. Major Reeve-Tucker captained Army Cricket XI.

Hockey. Winners 50 Independent Infantry Brigade Tournament and runners-up Cyprus District Tournament. Two players in Army trials.

Boxing. Runners-up 50 Independent Infantry Brigade Tournament to 1st South Staffords, the eventual island champions.

Athletics. Lieutenant J. C. Kirkland, winner 440 yards in Cyprus District Athletics Individual Championships. Second-Lieutenant J. L. Portch, winner 220 yards and javelin in Cyprus District Individual Championship and also broke Regimental javelin record with a throw of 157 ft. 3 in.

Rugger. Corporal Fowke selected for Army Rugby trials.

Regimental Colours for games have been awarded as follow:

Rugger: Captain D. E. Matson.

Soccer: Corporals Groves, Kitchen, Ryan, Spurr and Way, Lance-Corporals Skingley and Yabsley, Privates Gould and Jones.

Hockey: Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. Arengo-Jones, Majors T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker and H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E., Captains A. D. Lennard and J. C. H. Roberts, Lieutenant D. J. Hurford-Jones, C.S.M.s Hall and Petherick, Staff-Sergeant McDonald, A.P.T.C., Sergeants Pitt and Shorey, Corporals Harris and George, Private Powell.

Cricket: Majors T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker and H. L. T. Radice, Lieutenant D. J. Hurford-Jones, Corporal Carton, Privates Dawson and Lawrence.

Athletics: Captain D. E. Matson, Lieutenants J. C. Kirkland and J. L. Portch, Privates Collett and Atkinson.

Boxing: Lance-Corporal Tasker.

WINNERS, INTER-COMPANY COMPETITIONS

Soccer, Inter-Company Cup, 1957	..	..	..	"H.Q." 1
Novices Boxing, "Wilkinson Cup," 1956	..	..	..	"D" Company
Shooting, "Rawson Cup," 1957	..	..	..	"H.Q." 1
,, Shanghai Trophy	..	..	..	Corporals' Club

No other competitions have been possible.

SOCCER

Due to the Battalion's impending move the football team was not entered for any leagues or competitions. However, they had quite a successful season having played nine matches, winning four, drawing two and losing three.

The 2nd XI played three matches, winning one, drawing one and losing one.

Lance-Corporal Skingley captained the 1st XI team throughout the season and was awarded his colours. Corporals Spurr, Cornish and Yates played regularly, together with Privates Marshall, Allen, Sedlen, Marks, Summers, Smith 47, Masters, O'Callaghan, and Heyman. Privates Tunaley and Welsh have attended in goal.

The 1st XI's finest victory was against our affiliated Engineer Regiment, 37th Field, at Polymedhia, when we beat them 3—2 after a most exciting match.

There has been keen inter-company rivalry with many "challenge" matches being played. "D" Company started the season very confident that they were easily the strongest side, but the season ended with "A" Company winning the six-a-side tournament held on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day, and "H.Q." 1 winning the inter-company cup after beating "H.Q." 2.

HOCKEY

In spite of the success of last year the results this season were disappointing. With six of last year's players still available initially and several promising new ones, the team was unfortunate in not finding its true form. I.S. commitments perhaps are partly to blame, but lack of practice accounts mainly for bad positional play in defence and weak shooting in the circle.

Our first two matches against the Suffolks and C.R.E. Nicosia were both narrowly lost due to poor shooting, while the defence, urged on by Major Radice from the rear, only wilted occasionally.

Unfortunately, due to our departure from Cyprus, we were unable to enter for the knock-out competition which was to be played throughout the island. There has been no inter-company hockey since arriving in Cyprus, but we hope to start this in Germany.

The team is now changing considerably with the loss of many of last year's stalwarts, of which the most recent are Lieutenant Hurford-Jones and Sergeant Shorey. In their places, Second-Lieutenant Stroud is a fine centre-half, whilst Second-Lieutenant Godfrey and Lance-Corporal Kirton are an asset to the forward line.

ATHLETICS AND CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

Cyprus is by no means the ideal place for either athletics or cross-country running, but in a small way both played their part in Battalion sport.

In November, 1957, the Island Individual Athletics Championships took place, spread over two days. Time for training had been hard to come by, but the Battalion entered a team of nine men for the heats on the first day. Other units had spent much more time in training and coaching, but we managed to get seven of these entries into the finals on 9th November. The final results from the Battalion's point of view were most satisfying, having gained three 1st, one 2nd, one 3rd, one 4th and two 5th places.

There were 263 entries in all and it is obvious that the talent is present and the Battalion should be able to produce a good athletics team in B.A.O.R.

Full results. Lieutenant J. Kirkland won the 440 yds. Lieutenant J. Portch won the 220 yds. and javelin, incidentally breaking the Regimental javelin record. Private Stephens was second in the 100 yds. Sergeant Moss was 4th in the one mile. Corporal Drakely was 3rd in the hop, step and jump.

Cross-country courses are of two types in Cyprus—either absolutely flat or mountainous. We had one match which was over the latter-type course. We had only three days' notice and just managed to gather ten men together to travel to Platres, which is 5,000 ft. above sea level, to run against the Royal Ulster Rifles and the 3rd Battalion the Grenadier Guards. The R.U.R. had obviously had considerable practice over this mountainous course and ran away with the race. We came third. Mention must be made of Sergeant Moss, who ran extremely well to take third individual place. We were last, but not dispirited, and very much enjoyed a day above the snow line.

SHOOTING TEAM

The first serious competition shooting of the overseas tour took place last July when all companies competed for the Rawson Cup. This event was well won by "H.Q." Company. From the individual results of the Rawson Cup match a potential Battalion team was selected and there followed a hectic training period under the determined direction of Major Reeve-Tucker. The team spent a profitable ten days camped at

Dhekelia ranges where they succeeded in decreasing the size of their groups and increasing their knowledge of "patter marchants."

From the 16th-19th September the team took part in the 50 Brigade rifle meeting held at Dhekelia where, although no great team success was achieved, they were far from being outclassed, even by 1st Suffolk and 1st R.U.R., both regiments noted for their marksmanship. In the individual placings Sergeant Neaves was beaten into second place by the Brigade Commander in the Class "A" rifle match. Sergeant Simmance was also runner-up in the Class "B." The individual S.M.G. match brought success to Corporal Heaton (1st) and Corporal Price (2nd). One of the best wins of the meeting was the young soldiers' L.M.G. pairs, won easily by Privates Bolton and Jones.

After the Brigade meeting came the Cyprus District shoot. Some 32 units entered teams for this competition and the Battalion team improved enough to be placed equal fourth. Most of the individual honours went to members of the Marine Commando and Private Sargeant did very well to get second place in the F.N. match, and Privates Lewis and Parsons second in the L.M.G. pairs. The five-day meeting ended with the team feeling quite pleased with the greatly improved standard of their shooting, and a certain bespectacled sergeant tried frantically to discover how Corporal Price managed to get three "pool bulls" in quick succession with a floating foresight.

On the 20th October the team fired for the Middle East shooting trophy. This is a non-central match with most units of Middle East Command taking part. Results are not yet available, but with a total score of 662 the Battalion seem certain of being in the top half-dozen. Another postal shoot, the Middle East battle trophy, was fired for on 14th December. This match is fired under battle conditions including a march of five miles in the hour. The team made a total score of 1,461. Again, all results are not yet in, but so far this score has not been beaten in Cyprus and the team are confident of being well placed.

The annual inter-Mess shoot for the Shanghai Trophy was fired on Athalasa range on 17th November. This proved to be a very close match with the Corporals barely beating the Sergeants and with the Officers a close third. Two members of the Battalion team headed the individual list, Sergeant Neaves (first) and Sergeant Lamb, R.E.M.E. (second).

We are now fairly confident of leaving our mark at the various meetings in B.A.O.R. and at the central meeting at Bisley.

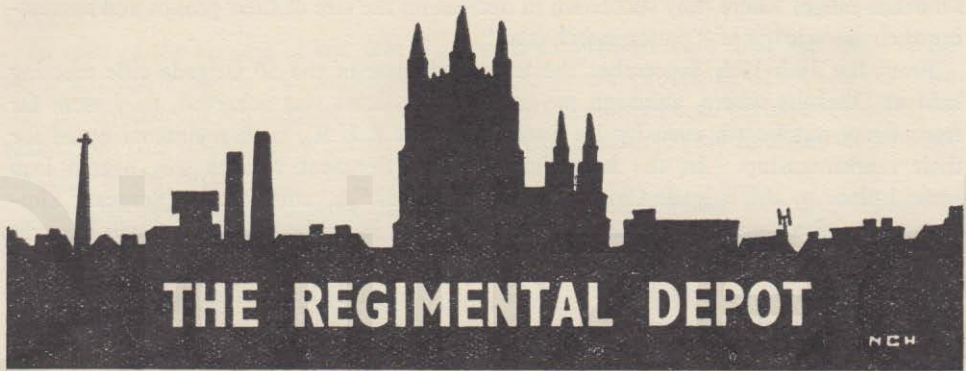
We regret that we shall be without the raucous shout of Lieutenant Kirkland next season, but he will be remembered every time an outer follows a bull.

NOTICE

In September the American Military Attaché in Great Britain will present the United States Presidential Unit Citation to the 1st Battalion. A firm date cannot yet be given, but the parade will be held in mid-September.

Past and present officers and other ranks of the Regiment would be welcome at this parade. If sufficient numbers are forthcoming it may be possible to organise a coach from U.K. to Osnabruck. (The round trip would take about six days.)

In order to determine whether there will be a requirement for special arrangements to be made, anyone interested is requested to forward their name and address to the Officer Commanding Regimental Depot as soon as possible and further details will then be issued.



THESE are among the last days of the Regimental Depot and it is interesting to note that since 1951, when Depot recruit training started up again at Gloucester, 3,500 National Service and 800 Regular soldiers have been passed off the square at the Depot.

When the training commitment of the Regimental Depot is to cease seems still to be a matter for conjecture. Views, from War Office downwards, vary from "almost immediately" to "the Spring of 1959." Planning, therefore, becomes difficult for our future Regimental H.Q. Current thought is that the Regimental H.Q. should be located in Gloucester, to continue present links, but it is not yet certain whether "the home of the Regiment" can be made in an existing and suitably imposing house in the city or whether we should build one specially for the purpose. At least we are fortunate in having an established Regimental Museum.



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A Golden Hind trippant
on a Green Square

Recruiting is, of course, a major regimental problem. Although many aids to regimental recruiting already exist, such as the "Friends of the Regiment Scheme," and have existed for some time, even greater effort is required now. To this end, it is hoped shortly to start our own recruiting drive in the County. This will be done by forming a small regimental team who will tour the whole of Gloucestershire from May until August. In the first three months of 1958, 18 regular soldiers enlisted; our aim for the future must be a basic 12 recruits a month. With careful planning and diligent research in the towns, villages and country of Gloucestershire, one feels confident that the recruiting drive will be a well-worth-while effort and, we hope, a successful one.

The Back Badge Parade this year held special significance for the Regimental Depot, on two counts. Because it may be the last ever to be held at our Depot and because the salute was taken by Colonel J. P. Carne, v.c., d.s.o. The traditional Back Badge Ball in the evening, given by the Regimental Sergeant-Major (R.S.M. Smyth, B.E.M.) and the members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess, was an outstanding success and much praise is due to the hosts. The decorations, the display of Colours and silver, the buffet, the whole evening's entertainment, were quite excellent. The midnight ceremony of changing the guards was perfectly done and was very well received. Great credit is due to the guards for their presentation and one will not easily forget the splendid

voices of the guard commanders (each according to the fashion of his day) nor the measured tread of the old guard. It was an occasion of pageantry and most impressive. The guard commanders were: Old Guard—Corporal M. Merchant; New Guard—Corporal P. Wheatley.

An account of the Freedom Ceremony at Bristol is given elsewhere in THE BACK BADGE, but for the Depot it meant much ado in the way of organization and preparation, which followed hard on the celebrations of Back Badge Day.

There are, as ever, changes in appointments. The present Commanding Officer, Major T. A. K. Dillon, is shortly to return to the 1st Battalion and Major W. A. Wood takes over command. Captain E. J. Hobbs, M.B.E., also returns to the Battalion, after four years as Quartermaster at the Depot. Lieutenant A. J. Gill ett takes up the appointment of Quartermaster, having recently returned from the Battalion. Lieutenant D. J. Hurford-Jones, Second-Lieutenant W. P. G. Burges from the Battalion and Second-Lieutenant M. A. R. Biggs from secondment to the Nigeria Regiment have taken over in the Training Wing from Lieutenant C. P. T. Rebbeck and Lieutenant R. A. Maby.

RECRUIT AWARDS—CONGRATULATORY

	<i>Intake 5717</i>	<i>Intake 5720</i>	<i>Intake 5723</i>
<i>Best Recruit:</i>	Pte. Baker	Pte. Whitehouse	Pte. Hutchinson
<i>Best L.M.G.:</i>	Pte. Hirst	Pte. Mathison	Pte. Quelsh
<i>Best Rifle Shot:</i>	Pte. Peters	Pte. Tamsitt	Pte. Hyde

The rugger season has been an excellent one—18 matches played, 11 won, and we have yet to be beaten at home. We entered for the District Championships and reached the semi-finals. This was a very creditable effort as all the other entrants save one were "major" units. The following played regularly for the Depot: Lieutenant Rebbeck (captain), Captain Matson, Sergeant Wanless, Corporals Holmes, Wheatley, McGilchrist, Iles and Lightbown, Lance-Corporals Baber and Hills, Privates Murphy and House and Bandsman Pugh.

This year we entered a team for the district cross-country running competition. Although outclassed by the various junior leaders and training battalions, the team ran well and several promising runners were found, among them Corporal McGilchrist, Lance-Corporal Cox, Privates Wood and Mudge from the Permanent Staff. These were placed well in the race as also were Captain Matson and S.S.I. Chapman, who finished seventh and eleventh.

Most of the shooting during the winter has taken place in the comparative comfort of the .22 range. The Depot team has competed steadily if not brilliantly in the district postal league and showed up well against the T.A., civilian and police teams in a competition organised by the 5th Battalion at Cheltenham. The 1st Army Cup, A.R.A. Non-Central match, has also been shot and the result is awaited. In the .22 league Corporals Welsh and McGilchrist have developed into useful shots and, together with the Adjutant and the Bandmaster, should form the nucleus for a good team.

The Depot basket ball team have also done very well, reaching the final of the District Championship and only just being beaten by a team which included two Army players (score 37 points to 22). S.S.I. Chapman, A.P.T.C., Corporal Iles and Corporal Wheatley are to be congratulated.

THE REGIMENTAL BAND

Since the last issue of the Regimental Journal, we have continued to carry out our duties at the Depot, the main one being passing out parades. Now that the Battalion's three-year tour is over, we look forward to joining them in Germany later this year.

On 15th February we spent a very pleasant day at Liverpool when we played in H.M.T. *Devonshire*, which brought the Battalion back home.

There were many strange faces but we look forward to making the acquaintance of newcomers in the future.

Our congratulations go to the Bandmaster and Mrs. Plummer on the birth of their son and also to Bandsman and Mrs. Smith on the birth of their daughter. Now that Lance-Corporal Cuss and Bandsman Broady have decided finally on the date for entering into matrimony we congratulate them and wish them every happiness for the future.

Corporal Perrior is now attached to the Wessex Brigade Headquarters, assisting in the instruction of Band Boys. Through his efforts the Boys' cross-country team did very well.

We welcome to the Band, Bandsman Marsh and Bandsman Stewart and hope that they will find their stay a pleasant one.

Finally our congratulations go to Sergeant Turner, Corporal Perrior and Lance-Corporals Hannam and Cuss on their promotions.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

We extend a very hearty welcome to C.S.M. Stephens and Colour-Sergeant Brown, both of whom have joined us from the 1st Battalion since the last issue of THE BACK BADGE. We hope their stay with us will be a happy one.

Redundancy, the big word of 1958, struck at two members of the Mess. Sergeant Howkins left us in March and Sergeant Sanders will be leaving the Regiment in December. We wish them both the very best of luck in civilian life.

The social life of the Mess has carried on well. The Christmas draw was enjoyed by all and some members made the Christmas Eve trip to the boys' orphanage at Painswick. In January we had an outing to London, certain Mess members being involved with the Welsh Rugby fans who were trying to persuade Eros to "emigrate" to Cardiff. No casualties were suffered, however; at least not until some married members got back home!

The Back Badge Ball was a great success, the Old and New Guard adding their touch of tradition, much to the admiration of the 300 guests present.

We congratulate the Bandmaster on the birth of a son. Talk has it that he can already whistle "Sons of the Brave."

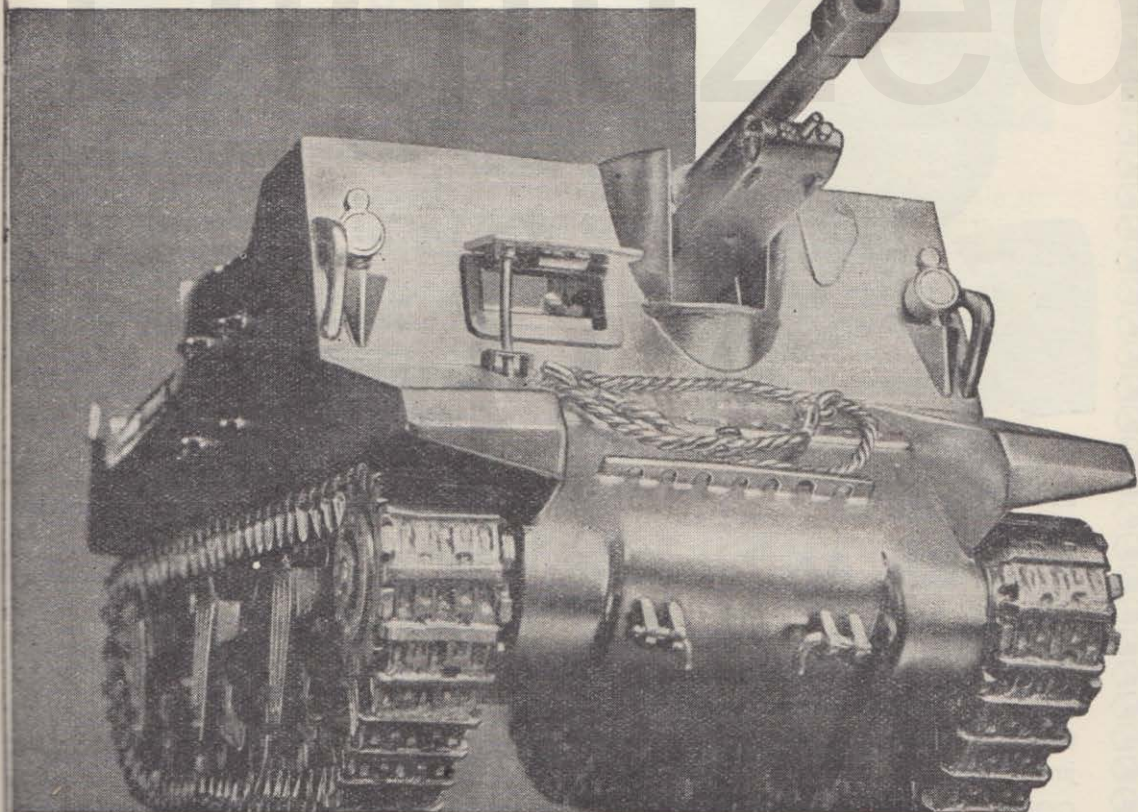
We still have the cheerful faces of "Frankie" and Joe Price popping in to see us and Danny Howles is living with us whilst he gives the T.A. a hand sorting out their stores.

The months of February and March saw many a haggard face and many a maths book open in the Mess. A certain candidate was heard to say that all invigilating officers should be hung, drawn and quartered. At the time of writing Mess members and bar profits are being boosted by representatives of the 1st Battalion who are with us for the Bristol Freedom Parade.



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5TH BATTALION TERRITORIAL NEWS



ANW.

It can truly be said that 1958 will stand out as one of the most important years in the history of the Territorial Army and certainly the most important year since the reformation after the Second World War.

It is, of course, the Territorial Army Jubilee Year, which will be celebrated by a National Review in London at which representatives of every Territorial Army unit will parade before the Queen in June. Actually the 5th Battalion's representatives will have to travel to London for this from Plasterdown Camp, for the event takes place during the middle weekend of annual camp, which is this year being held from 14th June to 28th June—a change from the long succession of August and early September camps.



43RD DIVISION
The Golden Wyvern
on Black

More important still though, it is felt among all senior members of the Battalion that this is the year in which the Territorial Army, and, of course, our own Battalion in particular, must prove that it is, with the passing of the National Serviceman from the T.A. ranks, able to build up once more a truly Volunteer Army.

In this respect the 5th Battalion have every reason to be of good heart. At the time of writing the Battalion is over 300 strong in Volunteers, and we do not think it unreasonable to have forecast that we shall be 500 strong by camp 1959 at the present rate of progress. The greatest strides have been made at Dursley, where "D" Company have gone from a Volunteer strength of under 30 in August last year to 80, with more coming in. "H.Q." Company at Gloucester, too, have increased their numbers considerably, while in Cheltenham and Bristol there are steady if not yet quite such spectacular increases.

Because "D" Company at Dursley attracted so many young recruits in the latter part of 1957 and early 1958, it was decided to hold the Back Badge Parade there this year, and a great success it proved.

Led by the Battalion's Corps of Drums and the 1st Battalion Band, the parade went from the Drill Hall to Dursley Parish Church. After the service conducted by the Rector, the Rev. G. F. Hutchins, the Battalion marched past the Honorary Colonel, Colonel J. P. Carne, v.c., d.s.o. Previously our many distinguished guests were entertained to tea at the Drill Hall, and Colonel Carne presented Territorial Decorations to Major T. A. Newberry and Captain D. H. Potter.

Locally, the T.A. Jubilee Year is to be celebrated with an All Ranks Ball in Bristol in July, a Civic Reception, and a Sunday parade of all units in Gloucestershire to a service at Bristol Cathedral, after which the salute will be taken at a march past, by the President of the Gloucestershire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, the Duke of Beaufort. Later in the year ceremonies are to be held in the north of the County.

It is not proposed to dwell here on the ceremony of the presentation of the Freedom of Bristol to the Regiment, for it has been fully reported elsewhere in this Journal, excepting to say it was a proud day indeed for all of the 5th Battalion who had the honour to take part in it, though all those who could but watch were equally proud. From all that has been heard said in the City of Bristol, and much has been said, it was as thrilling a day for the citizens as it was a proud day for serving and ex-serving members of the Regiment.

With two colourful ceremonies behind us (Back Badge Day and the Freedom Ceremony), two other great ceremonies ahead of us this year (the London and County Jubilee parades) and the rising strength of Volunteers to the Battalion, there is no doubt 1958 will be recorded as one of the Battalion's most memorable years.

"A" COMPANY (BRISTOL)

The winter training season has, as always, been mainly confined to drill hall training and this has perhaps been fortunate in some ways because we have been without a P.S.I. for most of the time. This has been due to the unfortunate illness of Sergeant Lennon, whom we are glad is now fit and back with us again.

We were indeed fortunate in having R.Q.M.S. Reeves living on the spot, who was able to act as stand-in P.S.I.

During the winter period company functions have been well attended and during the summer we hope to combine in some training with the other Bristol companies.

"B" COMPANY (BRISTOL)

Since the last issue of this Journal we have concentrated almost entirely on "Recruiting." This does not mean to say, of course, that we have excluded all forms of training, but with the introduction of recruits we have had to take our time by the slowest man. At the time of going to press our members have increased by 17 and we have, therefore, doubled the strength of the Company and are well on the way to the 50 mark. Not all the new members are "fresh men"; we have some old stalwarts, like Corporal Marriott, who has come in from the A.E.R., and we also welcome old faces returning to the ranks, such as Privates Miller, Denny, Fry, Giles and Jones. On the training side we have concentrated on map reading and wireless, together with some driving instruction and we look forward to our open range allocation with great interest after a winter on the miniature range.

Perhaps the highlight of the six months was the Freedom Parade, which entailed two practices in extremely cold and uncomfortable conditions. The Company was represented by C.S.M. Corrick, C.Q.M.S. Courtney, Sergeants Payne and Currall, Corporal Marriott, Lance-Corporal Oxenham and Privates Miller, Fry, Dutton, Denny, Giles and Russell. We should like to mention that Private Dutton was a recruit of four weeks' standing.

We have now settled down to our new Headquarters at Horfield Common T.A. Centre and are rapidly making friends with the Signals. We are well consolidating our bonds with "Sp" Company, with whom it has been our fortune to work closely for many years.

On the domestic front Sergeant Currall now has a son and the Company Commander a daughter. There is no truth in the rumour that the C.Q.M.S. is expecting triplets.

Once again we have been fortunate with our P.S.I. C.S.M. Read has come into the Company and has continued to set a very high standard. We owe a lot to him and his wife when we count our successes on the social evenings which have been very well attended. One other point about our P.S.I. is that he is "recruit hungry" and what with drill nights, weekends, parades, recruiting and liar-dice, Mrs. Read sees very little of him.

The next time we go to press we forecast this Company will be 50 strong and, who knows, maybe in a year's time we shall be able to boast a "waiting list."

"C" COMPANY (CHELTENHAM)

Our only domestic change over the past half-year has been the transfer of C.S.M. Stockton to us from "H.Q." Company and we extend a cordial welcome to him.

We have held four social events during the winter: starting with a farewell party to R.S.M. Smyth, when Major Matthews presented him with a racing switch.

At Christmas we decorated the Drill Hall in appropriate fashion for the annual children's party and after the Company Commander had welcomed the guests, the party got under way, commencing with a tea-party, then a film show featuring "Mickey Mouse" in a non-technical role, terminating with a visit from Father Christmas—minus his long service stripes!

In February the Company held its annual .22 Invitation Prize Shoot, to which the Depot and other local T.A., C.D., "E" Division Gloucestershire County Constabulary and Special Constabulary units were invited. Major Clee presented the prizes.

The Company turned out in almost full strength for the parade held at Dursley to commemorate "Back Badge" Day. In the evening, after the parade, we had a small Company party, which was mainly an excuse to quench our thirst after the march through Dursley.

The big event in March was the presentation of the Freedom of the City and County of Bristol to the Regiment; the Company was well represented on the parade by Colour-Sergeant Cadle, Sergeants Smith and Howells, Corporal Whalley and Private Dodwell. Captain Scott Cooper carried the Queen's Colour of the Battalion. It was both a colourful and long-to-be-remembered ceremony.

Now we are busy training and preparing for the annual camp.

"D" COMPANY (DURSLEY)

This has been one of the most interesting periods in the history of the Company. We are at this moment, in fact, a new company, our numbers having risen from 30 to 80 in the last six months, with some 30 more awaiting Record Office final approval. The majority of the recruits are very young and have had no previous military experience—the average age being down to the early twenties. With new men coming in every week and a shortage of trained instructors, we have been well extended to keep the wheels turning.

Using our patent "Field Attestation Kit" we have signed them on in all weathers, from places as far apart as the 600 yards firing point at Sneedhams Green to the gates of a local factory in the lunch break. In short, our recruiting methods have succeeded; we have won the Battalion award for 1957 and we shall be up to full establishment by June. All ranks have taken their part in a good, combined effort.

The major task is now to ensure that we build a company spirit, as good as that of the past, and to further this end we are taking a platoon to Nijmegen, in Holland, to participate in the July Marching Festival. We have been in training for some time, including 16 miles on Easter Day, to the astonishment of Wotton-under-Edge. Blisters have been no respecters of persons and the training programme looks very fearsome, but we are looking forward to the trip with keen anticipation.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year has been the holding of Back Badge parade here in Dursley for the first time and this has proved to be a good talking point among the locals; at the moment this area is very sympathetic and co-operative towards the 5th Battalion and this local staging of a County parade proved to be very popular.

We have been well represented on the Freedom of Bristol parade and can point to continued success in the Brigade Postal Shoot.

A series of company dances have been held with a view to financing the Nijmegen trip and we have arranged a final "session" in camp. We are also fixing up a social encounter with "C" Company of the 1st Hereford Light Infantry from Ledbury on a competitive basis of Bingo, darts, skiffle and skittles, with a background of "I-was-there" from the command post at the bar.

All in all, a most successful and encouraging start to Jubilee Year.

"H.Q." COMPANY (GLOUCESTER)

Since the last edition of THE BACK BADGE our strength has grown to 105 and we hope to go to camp this year 120 strong. We understand from a reliable source that our nearest rivals, "D" Company, are trying to find the secret of our success!

The annual dinner, held at the Midland and Royal Hotel, Gloucester, was a great success and was very well attended. Everyone present was in good voice.

The week-end training so far this year included, amongst other novelty items, a dog-show, which we found to be in progress on reporting to the Drill Hall, Painswick Road. Nevertheless, this week-end proved to be a howling success.

Company week-ends were held at Ogbourne St. George at the beginning of March and also mid-April. The "Cricketers Arms" was well favoured on the Saturday evenings.

We were sorry to say farewell to W.O.2 Stockton, who has been a stalwart member of "H.Q." Company, and wish him every success with "C" Company. We have welcomed in his place W.O.2 Cheater and count ourselves most fortunate that he decided to join us and give us the benefit of his experience.

We are all looking forward very much to camp at Plasterdown in June.

"SP" COMPANY (BRISTOL)

Our move with "B" Company from Horfield Barracks to Horfield Common T.A. Centre was carried out since our last Company notes. Now that we have settled in, Company life is running more smoothly in spite of shared accommodation, which, administratively, is rather cramped.

Our numbers are slowly increasing and we provided a good number of volunteers for the Battalion guard in the Freedom Parade.

W.O.s' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Our Annual Christmas Ball was held in the Drill Hall at Dursley. The weather, unfortunately, was not in our favour and many of those who attended had an extremely difficult task of driving through a thick fog which extended for miles around. Luckily very few were unable to get there. After overcoming many difficulties the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Many members attended the Back Badge Ball at the Regimental Depot and, in conjunction with meeting a number of old friends, it was a very enjoyable evening.

There was a very good attendance by members at our Back Badge Parade held at Dursley on Sunday, 23rd March.

The City of Bristol pulled an extremely fast one on everyone by giving the Regiment the Freedom of the City at very short notice. We produced one guard for this parade and, again, there was a very good attendance by members.

We welcome C.S.M. Cheater, who joined us quite recently and has taken over the duties of C.S.M. of "H.Q." Company. C.S.M. Stockton has now taken over "C" Company.

Sergeant Lennon has had a long spell in hospital but has now recovered and is with us again.

Our thoughts are now turning to annual camp and this year we are off to Devon on 14th June.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

BY CAPTAIN E. T. MALLOY (P.R.O., Glos. A.C.F.)

THE AMERY REPORT

THE W.O. White Paper resulting from this Report gives rise to what is officially described as the "Reorganisation of the A.C.F.," though its application in certain fields has been heard to be designated "revolutionary." Its main effect on Gloucestershire A.C.F. has been to deprive us of the services of many experienced specialists, including our County Commandant. The basic principle for such deprivation has been the yard-stick age limit of 55 years, mercilessly applied to Gloucestershire with no exceptions. This should bring smiles to the faces of many old Regulars, still serving, and whose commitments permit their retention in the Regular Army until 60 years of age. The ruling denies us the services of such stalwarts as Captains Holloway, Nicholls, Billy Brown, Luckett, Pochon and Malloy (although the last named remains with us as "PRO/PHC—Persona Honoris Causa"). The scheme has certain advantages, however, in that the accent will now be on the younger A.C.F. officer, as will of course its attendant added responsibility. And since we shall in future conform more or less to concrete establishment figures, major headaches will no doubt arise in some respects concerning the financial gymnastics necessary to fill in the 28 days'



THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
A.C.F.

Yellow Sphinx on Blue
Shield within Red
Frame

P/A permitted for all officers on the establishment. This will be most apparent in years when annual camp absorbs only eight days' pay.

"Le roi est mort—Vive le roi." We said farewell to our retiring Commandant, Colonel E. R. C. Ames, at the Back Badge dinner on 29th March, in the presence of The Duke of Beaufort, Lieutenant-General W. G. H. Vickers, Major-General H. Borradaile, Brigadier W. A. C. Anderson, Brigadier J. Proudlock, Colonel J. P. Carne, v.c., and 70 other members and guests. At Colonel Ames's express command we are not permitted any laudatory comments on his ten years' A.C.F. activities, but we shall certainly miss his commanding presence and limitless experience. We may persuade him to hand over his "Weather Clerk's Crystal Ball" (the one he invariably took to camp when Bristol Group D.C.C.). In his place as Commandant, we are delighted with the War Office choice of Colonel R. H. E. Hudson (late Commanding Officer of 601 H.A.A. Regiment, R.A.), whom the local press aptly describe as being "the man for the job." As our new C.C.C. is in the early age bracket as Commandants "used to go," we wish him many years of happy sojourn with the Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force.

Sport. In the field of sporting and other activities we are a little down on previous years. There is a temporary lull in our rifle shooting achievements and we pulled up no extraordinary trees in the football and athletic world. We can, however, boast of records in the boxing arena, since two of our county boxers battled their way to the National Finals in Manchester, only to fall at the last hurdle. As both these boys (Sergeant L. A. Smith and Lance-Corporal M. J. Smith of 3/4th Glos. Regt.) are serving in Regiments still affiliated to the Gloucestershire Regiment, we are proud to record that the Sphinx emblem was carried triumphantly to the final bout. Sergeant Smith was awarded the Crouch Trophy for the best performance in the finals.

As regards "Adventure" we have further successes to record. The Silver Award Certificate and Cypher Badge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme were presented on 7th March, in Bristol, by Brigadier Sir John Hunt, to Bombardiers Thomson and Hutchinson and Corporal Pullin—all of the 6th Regiment, Bristol.

On 29th-30th March some 60 officers took part in a week-end course at Cribb's Causeway, Bristol. Since the lecturers were mostly in the capable hands of "Top Brass" and questions were invited on all subjects (including the Amery Report) it was the considered opinion of the Brigade Commander that the location was most aptly named. He expressed the hope that whilst he thought he could cope with a V.1 rocket, and would do his best with the V.2's, he didn't want any Sputniks. His breezy and informative hour was not marked by any pyrotechnics and he was perfectly at ease volleying the sallies of the back-benchers.

Annual Camp, 1958. A sad blow this year, since we are deprived of the gamble between a fine week and a misty, wet one at Plasterdown, the old American hospital, with its futuristic plumbing. We are again limited to one week's camp, with its attendant nightmare of half-day take-over—one-day hand-over. What a pity; training is scarcely in its stride before you have the next advance party knocking at the door for the inventory boards. And those Dartmoor mists can play havoc with night ops. Our dates are 3rd-10th August and we are looking forward with some trepidation to the Somerset-Devon main-road crawl on August Bank Holiday week-end. As was the case at Chickerell last year, the catering is in the hands of NAAFI.

THE NICOSIA RIOTS

(7th-11th December, 1957)

DURING the early part of December, 1957, the 28th/61st became involved in what ultimately developed into one of the worst periods of rioting yet experienced in Nicosia. These riots, which were undoubtedly inspired by the terrorist organisation EOKA, were timed to take place on the eve of the U.N.O. discussion on the Cyprus problem, and were presumably designed to show how determined the people were to throw off the "yoke of British Imperialism." They certainly succeeded in hitting the headlines of the world Press, and many strange and startling statements appeared on the front pages of a number of newspapers. They were indeed far more frightening than the riots themselves.

But, first of all, for the sake of those fortunate enough not to have visited Cyprus themselves, a brief description of the scene of the rioting. Nicosia is the principal town of Cyprus, situated well inland on a flat plain. It is an ancient walled city, with extremely narrow streets overhung by balustraded buildings, and has both a Turkish and a Greek quarter. When inter-racial strife is thought likely, a line dividing these two quarters is manned by the military. This line, the Mason-Dixon line, will be mentioned more than once in the ensuing narrative. The Walled City has certain great advantages and disadvantages from the point of view of internal security. It is a veritable rabbit warren, and a terrorist can easily pick off a victim, vanish down a side street, and either hide up or clear the town within a matter of minutes. This has indeed happened on numerous occasions in the past—hence the infamous designation "Murder Mile" for Ledra Street, the chief shopping area. On the credit side, however, owing to the fact that the town is completely walled round, with only a limited number of exits and entrances, cordoning off is a fairly easy matter. The trouble-makers can at least be kept inside.

Inside the Walled City, in the Turkish sector, is located the Central Police Station where in the event of trouble a joint police-military H.Q. is established. Also inside the walls, in the Greek sector, is Luna Park, where a military force (normally one platoon in times of "peace") is maintained at all times. This garrison is, of course, reinforced during periods of tension.

SATURDAY, 7TH DECEMBER

On Saturday, 7th December, it had been appreciated that there was a possibility of disturbances occurring during the next few days, and a strong platoon of 40 all ranks from "D" Company was stationed in Luna Park. The remainder of "D" Company—amounting to some 20 all ranks!—remained in Imjin Camp at 30 minutes' notice to move, and "B" Company at two hours' notice. Life, in fact, was comparatively normal.

Shortly after the working day began, Greek school children stopped work according to what was obviously a pre-arranged plan, and started to process towards the Phaneromeni Church, a well-known centre for disturbances within the Walled City. The order "stand to" was given to the Luna Park guard, and Second-Lieutenant Hutchings and one section armed with batons and shields in addition to rifles were stationed in a side street near the church ready to reinforce the police if need be. At about 0930 hours the message "school boys marching towards Phaneromeni Church" was received in Imjin Camp, and the sages nodded and thought "Here it comes."

At 1000 hours Brigade H.Q. ordered the remainder of "D" Company to move to Luna Park and to stand by for action. The Commanding Officer was already at the Central Police Station, ready to control the "battle" should it come.

At the Phaneromeni Church a very considerable crowd of school children attended a service, and numbers of young "toughs" began to collect in the vicinity. The section from "D" Company under Lieutenant Hutchings still lurked up its side street and four sections of the Police Mobile Reserve and some R.M.P. stood by. The service began inside the church. Outside, apart from an occasional volley of stones from the roof tops, all was quiet and good order was maintained. There was, however, an air of tension and this was brought to a head when suddenly the doors of the church opened and a crowd of boys emerged throwing bottles and stones which they had taken with them to the service. (The Church in Cyprus is certainly militant!) Lieutenant Hutchings and his one section helped to keep the crowd back whilst the Police Mobile Reserve charged the boys and forced them back inside the church. The big doors clanged together. After a few minutes to allow heads to cool the Police permitted the sullen children to leave in small groups after they had dropped their missiles.

The younger children went home, but the youths from Pancyprian Gymnasium—a notorious trouble-making school—regrouped in the square outside the gymnasium, shouting and throwing stones. Lieutenant Hutchings and his section moved to the trouble spot and were greeted with a shower of brickbats. At this moment, however, the Police Mobile Reserve arrived from a different direction, whipped out their batons and charged the crowd. Some tear gas shells were fired from riot guns and the youths scattered. After a few attempts to reform they dispersed and went home, many with black eyes and bruises on the upper arm.

Thus ended the "preliminary skirmishing" of the 7th December. By 1300 hours the Walled City was once again quiet. "D" Company, under Major J. E. Taylor, remained in Luna Park in readiness for further trouble, and carried out vigorous patrolling throughout the Greek sector. Apart from a few minor incidents, however, all was quiet. At 1600 hours, as a precaution against further trouble in the evening, "B" Company (Major W. A. Wood) was moved to the Central Police Station. They were not, in the event, required and were withdrawn back to Imjin Camp the following morning. The Battalion settled down hopefully for a quiet weekend, with "D" Company patrolling the narrow streets of the Greek sector and the remaining companies in Imjin Camp at varying states of readiness. A liaison officer was maintained at the Central Police Station and the Operations Room in camp was continuously manned, but the Walled City remained quiet and we all began to relax.

8TH AND 9TH DECEMBER

During the Sunday and Monday patrolling continued in the Walled City. There were, however, no incidents, though it was clear that feelings were running high and that there was considerable tension in the town. States of readiness were not therefore relaxed and all were ready to descend in force on the city should there be a recurrence of the incidents of the Saturday.

The country villages in the Battalion area had been quiet, but it was considered that trouble was more than likely to occur in one or more of the villages. Dhali, the birth-place of the notorious Nicos Samson, was in particular considered worthy of observation



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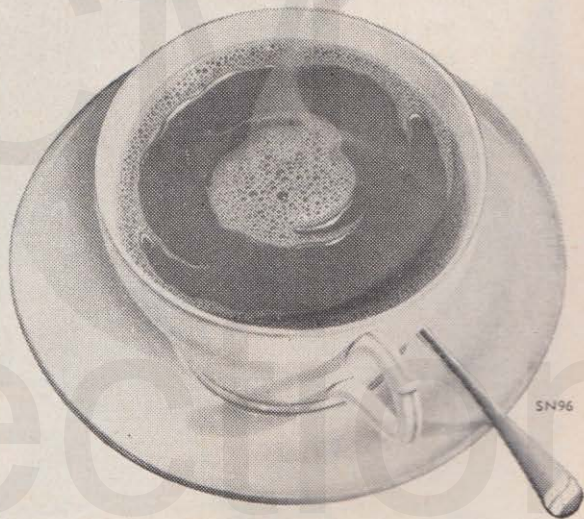
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and accordingly a section of "H.Q." 2 Company (Major H. L. T. Radice) was dispatched to Perahkhorio Police Station, some 15 miles from Nicosia and close at hand to Dhali. This section, under Corporal Trude, although originally sent out for only 48 hours' duty, remained in fact for more than a week and did much good work. They became involved in Dhali quicker than they thought, for early on the morning of 9th December Sergeant Hassell (the U.K. police sergeant in charge of Perahkhorio Police Station) brought in a youth to be charged for distributing EOKA slogans. As a result he decided to go to Dhali for a look around and set off in his Landrover accompanied by Lance-Corporal Harold and Private Holt. They arrived in Dhali at about 1000 hours and found everything apparently peaceful.

They toured the town and suddenly, near the church, came upon a large procession in full swing. Sergeant Hassell debussed from his Landrover and dispersed the crowd—arresting a young female for throwing stones and confiscating two large Greek Nationalist flags in the process. There was a considerable scuffle at one stage in the proceedings when the Landrover was practically overturned and had a tyre slashed, and there is no doubt at all that the determination and cool behaviour of Sergeant Hassell, Lance-Corporal Harold and Private Holt prevented the incident from developing into a very ugly scene.

Later in the day, to round off the proceedings, a further patrol was sent into Dhali. Some 18 youths were arrested for throwing stones, including the youth who had taken part in the tyre-slashing episode that morning. He—foolish fellow—was recognised and picked up whilst playing cards in a coffee shop.

Apart from these incidents, the 8th and 9th were calm. It was the lull before the storm. . . .

10TH DECEMBER

The dawn of 10th December was cold and bright. It was the morning of the weekly "change-over," when the Luna Park detachment was due to be relieved and, as more than one gallant officer had said before, an ideal time for starting any troubles.

"A" Company (Major W. L. D. Morris) was due to relieve "D" Company in Luna Park, but mindful of possible disturbances the Commanding Officer ordered that this would be a gradual process, and would be carried out section by section. Command would pass to "A" Company by midday.

It had been appreciated that, should rioting begin, more likely than not it would as usual be touched off by the youths of the Pancyprian Gymnasium. Thus, whilst routine patrolling in the Greek sector continued as usual, the Company Commander (Major Taylor) sat outside the school in his Landrover and watched the students assemble peacefully at 0800 hours. All seemed quiet and he drove back to his base at Luna Park, no doubt heaving a natural sigh of relief.

At about 0930 hours Lieutenant Hutchings, that luckless officer, out on a routine patrol, ran into a full-scale riot at the Pancyprian Gymnasium. Stones were flying in all directions, and there was much shouting of anti-British slogans. Almost simultaneously the mobile police arrived, debussed from their vehicles and rapidly cleared the small gangs of "toughs" from the side streets. By this time the doors of the Pancyprian Gymnasium had been bolted and barred, and a crowd of about 100 youths had established themselves on the roof, where they had previously prepared an armoury of bottles,

stones and other missiles. These they hurled against all and sundry and any attempt to approach the building was met by a veritable barrage of brickbats, which included even tiles and coping stones. A number of police and military were injured during this phase, including certain members of the Press who were anxiously seeking examples of "British brutality." The Security Forces withdrew to a safe distance, and attempts were made by the police to persuade the headmaster to come out and discuss the situation. These proved fruitless, and only aggravated what was fast developing into a potentially serious situation.

In Imjin Camp, by this time, the Operations Room was a hive of activity. The wireless net was buzzing constantly, and more than one officer was agreeably surprised at the slickness and efficiency of the Regimental Signallers.

The crowd in and around the Pancyprian Gymnasium continued to shout slogans and throw stones, and attempts to negotiate with the headmaster were abandoned. Tear gas shells were fired in an effort to dislodge the youths from the roof, but this proved ineffective owing to the height of the building. The Police Mobile Reserve then rushed the gymnasium, but were driven back with casualties. A second assault, however, succeeded. The lock on the door was burst by a pistol shot and police entered the building, closely followed by Lieutenant Hutchings and a few men. A tussle then ensued as police cleared room after room in the school. A large number of injured boys were taken into custody, whilst many others made their escape by the back door. No school teachers were found, as they had, true to form, abandoned their charges at an earlier stage. There was much "ammunition" found in the building—a large collection of stout wooden staves, bottles and other missiles by the score. The gymnasium was occupied by a platoon from "D" Company and the crowds dispersed. The time was about 1100 hours.

Meanwhile, throughout this "battle" "A" Company were relieving "D" Company at Luna Park, section by section according to the pre-arranged plan, and at 1200 hours command passed. Major Morris was left in supreme command of Luna Park, and "D" Company withdrew to Imjin Camp, remaining on 30 minutes' notice to move.

Things were now starting to liven up inside the Walled City, however. There were many instances of R.M.P. and R.A.F. police patrol vehicles being stoned, and patrols reported that the Turks were now starting to riot against the Greeks. At 1210 hours, in the Greek sector, a Turkish policeman was shot at and wounded by a young man who made his escape on a bicycle. This really set the cat among the pigeons. A wave of rumours swept through the Turkish quarter, most of them untrue or greatly exaggerated, and anti-Greek vandalism began almost immediately. A number of shops were looted, and gangs of Turkish youths appeared on the streets looking for Greek property to destroy. Inter-racial feeling was now running high, and patrols were continually reporting, or dealing with, incidents.

At 1245 hours the Commanding Officer ordered O.C. "H.Q." 2 Company (Major H. L. T. Radice) to move to the Central Police Station with one platoon, and placed the Walled City out of bounds to all service personnel and families. But the looting of shops continued, and some of the more irresponsible Turkish youths started shouting "Vengeance" and moved towards the Greek quarter. A car was overturned and burnt. The situation began to look slightly serious. . . .

By this time fantastic rumours were sweeping the city and the Commanding Officer was receiving many weird and wonderful reports. Most of these he quite rightly disbelieved, but at about 1300 hours despatched Major Radice on a "fact-finding tour." The gallant major, armed with a stout ashplant, set off from the Central Police Station in his Landrover, accompanied by his wireless operator and his batman. He soon ran into trouble, coming across a gang of Turks smashing the windows of a Greek shop. These he dispersed with a few choice epithets and a wave of his stick and was just about to drive off when he saw, behind him, a further gang of "angry young men" beating up a too-adventurous Press correspondent. He again advanced upon the crowd, and drove them off with further words of wisdom and threatened blows, advising the correspondent to !!!!! out of it. And so the Radice patrol continued. As soon as he stopped and strode forward waving his stick, the trouble-makers took to their heels. When he drove on, the sound of breaking glass and the screams of agitators rang out behind him, despite the every effort of the civil and military police patrols.

In due course the major reported to the Commanding Officer that there was, as all had suspected, undoubtedly a "situation."

The Commanding Officer then decided that it was high time for really firm measures to be taken. At 1450 hours he issued orders that:

- (a) The Mason-Dixon line was to be closed.
- (b) The Walled City was to be curfewed.
- (c) All entrances to the Walled City were to be closed.

"A" Company and "H.Q." 2 Company, between them, closed the Mason-Dixon line in the record time of 19 minutes, whilst "D" Company cordoned off the main entrances to the city. It was then apparent that the Battalion were, to say the least of it, fully committed and accordingly two squadrons of the Royal Horse Guards (the "Blues") and one company of the 3rd Battalion The Grenadier Guards were placed under command. The "Blues" relieved "D" Company on the cordon of the city and the Grenadiers, for a spell, took over the Mason-Dixon line.

"H.Q." 1 Company (Major E. L. T. Capel) was ordered to patrol the rural areas around Nicosia with the aim of "showing the flag" and reporting any signs of unrest. This they did, using up everyone from the pay team to the unfortunate advance party of the Lancashire Fusiliers in the process. It was fun while it lasted!

As "B" Company (Major W. A. Wood) was already fully deployed on static guards in and around Nicosia, it can be said that, on the afternoon of 10th December, the Battalion was 100 per cent "on the job." The camp was deserted and was to be so for some days. At 1700 hours on 10th December a reinforcement arrived—the wife of O.C. "D" Company gave birth to a daughter!

During 11th December Nicosia gradually returned to normal. Precautions and patrols, however, continued up to the 16th, by which time all ranks were thoroughly tired and weary of the sound of the words "internal security."

The riots have been described in fairly horrific terms by the majority of U.K. newspapers. They were, in fact, far less frightening than they have been painted and were certainly never "out of control."

From the Battalion point of view they were definitely of value. They shook us out of our pre-Christmas lethargy and they gave us a chance to get every man on the ground

and to operate as a battalion. The Signals had a real test of their efficiency, and they coped with the situation very satisfactorily. The Operations Room was running at full pressure for nearly a week and much was learnt by the I.O. and his staff.

Liaison with the police throughout was 100 per cent.

Many valuable lessons were brought out by the riots. From the general Internal Security point of view, the most important were, without any shadow of doubt:

(a) That speed in dealing with disturbances is absolutely vital. Determined action by a few men can often prevent a minor incident from developing into a serious situation.

(b) That quick, accurate patrol reports are essential if the commander is to be able to take proper action at the right time.

E. L. T. C.

CYPRUS THROUGH THE EYES OF A NATIONAL SERVICEMAN

By "JOHN SWEDE," R.A.E.C., ATT. 1 GLOSTERS

CYPRUS is a good posting in case of any trouble in the Far East. Cyprus consists of Greeks and Turkies. These people live in Nicersia and other towns at night, because in the villages everybody goes to bed early because there is no other form of entertainment. These two people don't get on well together and that is why we make them live in different places of historical interest: the Turkey quarter and the Greek quarter. Round Nicersia is a wall to keep all the dangerous places together and so the Security Forces can have their out-of-bounds areas for getting drunk in and having a good time. Nicersia is a maze of streets and you can easily get lost, so some places are put out-of-bounds. In Turkish churches you have to take your shoes off so you don't spoil the carpets of historical interest. All the films are in a foreign language which we can't understand so not many Cypriots go to the pictures. Instead, they sit in rest-rooms, called mosques, found all over the Turkish quarter. You can go in and have a rest and take your shoes off. Turkies don't like Christmas, so they made their own religion which didn't have any Christmas and carried it on in the gymnasiums the Greeks left them, and that's why the Turkies are known as Musselmen.

A Cypriot is four-fifths Greek and one-fifth Turkey. We ignore the Greek women because they won't have anything to do with us. The Greeks welcome us on pay nights because they are very hospitable and like us to drink their brandy sours and buy souvenirs. There is trouble in Cyprus because us squaddies don't get paid a lot for doing this every night, and there is always too much week left at the end of our money. So the Greeks won't have anything to do with us and go and live in the mountains and start forest fires. Cypriots have very good memories, because one night I went down and said my name was John Swede to a taxi-driver. And every time I go down Nicersia they all remember and call me John except one man who called me Jimmy, but I didn't like the looks of him because he wouldn't let me read the leaflets he was sticking on a church wall. It's a good job we weren't on a patrol because they're not allowed to stick leaflets while we're on a patrol. There are plenty of taxis in Nicersia so they don't need buses. The Cypriots are very lonely and live with just an oil lamp in the window. They eat only bread and olives because all the recipes are kept by the Generations, who hand them down to each other.

The mineral wealth of Cyprus consists of lemonade, orange-squash, Keo beer and Coca-Cola and Aphrodite wine. A woman once got drunk on Aphrodite wine and got washed ashore on the beach. The Greeks build castles on top of mountains as they know we have to go on educational visits and when we get to the top we buy their Coca-Cola to cool off. The Island hasn't got much currency of its own, and depends on the money spent by tourists in its places of historical interest. No heavy industry goes off in Cyprus. Instead they like growing lemons, oranges, cocos and colas. Cyprus houses don't have cellars because there is no coal on the Island, only a lot of old trees and forests. They are planting a lot of new trees while they are still young, to feed the sheep and goats who eat the trees by the side of the road. A lot of tree-growing is done in the Troodos area by women which are the main source of fuel in winter.

I saw a very tiny picture of Cyprus like it used to be in the 11th century—and it must obviously have grown since then. Richard Lying Heart came on a crusade here to rescue his fiancée who got shipwrecked at Berengaria Village. This was when Cyprus was much smaller and much of it under water, for it's not on the coast now. Anyway, after that she's known as Berengaria. Richard captured Cyprus but needed money for the crusade so sold it to one of his N.C.O.s who wanted the castles. The Cypriots had put these on mountain tops so that they wouldn't be any use to him when he got them. The Greeks used to live in Cyprus and at Salamis we have found where they used to dump all their old pots and pans and statues.

WHY ?

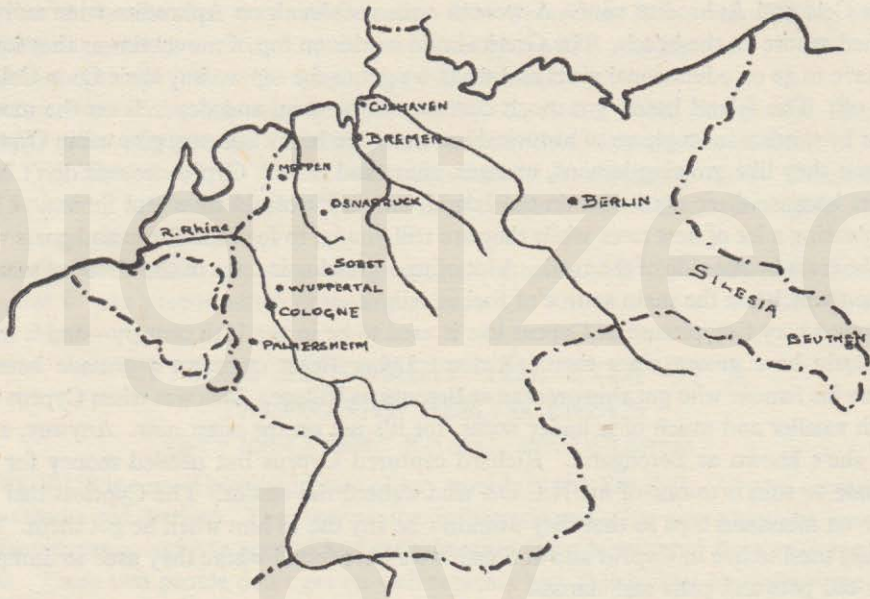
Move their families around,
Lest they settle on the ground,
Mortars out, then Mortars in,
Which to put the Signals in—
“H.Q.” 1 or “H.Q.” 2 ?
Take their bats, machine-guns, too.

Give them sun and give them sand,
Move them to another land,
Move by sea or move by air,
Move the bastards anywhere.
“Not *direct*,” said one old sage,
“That's too simple, make them stage !”

“Not *one* unit—make it *two*,
Taking over from their ‘Q’,”
Seems that with a hangover
Someone planned our hand-over—
Else who is the one who fosters
Such a hate against the Glosters ?

H. R. G.

GERMANY



THE move of the 28th/61st to Wuppertal this spring is the sixth time that The Gloucestershire Regiment has served in Germany. The first was the visit of the 28th Foot in 1795 during the war with the French Republic. After the unhappy campaign in Flanders the British Army suffered defeat and, retreating through Holland, crossed into Germany near Wina. Then followed two months of marching and counter-marching by the Regiment over frozen rivers and dykes in the vicinity of Meppen before they were relieved by the Hanoverians and marched the 150 miles to Bremen to embark for England at Bremerlike on 12th April.

In 1805 the 28th were back in Bremen having joined Lord Cathcart's expedition to North Germany. They remained there, however, inactive for six weeks before sailing home from Cuxhaven.

Over a hundred years passed before the Regiment was in the country again. At the end of the 1914-18 War the 1st Battalion crossed the frontier at Crombach on 18th November, 1918, and, stationed at Palmersheim and Odendorf, formed part of the Army of Occupation until the following April.

Service at home and in Ireland followed, but in March 1922 the Battalion was despatched to Upper Silesia during the period of the German/Polish plebiscite. Leaving one company in Cologne, the 28th was stationed at Beuthen with detachments amongst the mining districts of Pias Niki and Orzikov. After the plebiscite decision whereby most of their billets were handed over to Poland, the Battalion was reunited in July 1922 at Riehl Barracks, Cologne, until September 1923.

The next service in Germany was by the 2nd Battalion at the end of the Second World War. The Battalion entered the country near Osnabruck and from June 1945 to August 1946 was stationed at Soest, with, in the early months, companies detached at Bad Sassen-

dorf and Werl. In August 1946 the 61st moved to Berlin and for three months formed part of the British garrison at Spandau.

Now, in 1958, the 1st Battalion, represented by its advanced party, opened up at Keightley Barracks, Wuppertal, some 20 miles north-east of Cologne, and were followed by the rest of the Battalion in March. Their final move to Osnabruck took place on the 28th April.

THE INTERNATIONAL MARCHES, NIJMEGEN 1958

As reported elsewhere, a platoon of "D" Company of the 5th Battalion will be going to Nijmegen this year and it is hoped that these notes may serve as an introduction to their venture.

The international four-day marches began in 1909 when members of the Netherlands Armed Forces set out to carry out a series of marches over different routes within a given time limit. The marches increased in popularity as time went by and in 1928 they were made international. Last year, over 10,000 marchers competed and 19 countries were represented.

During Sunday of the last full week in July, all the participants assemble in Nijmegen. All foreign military participants are quartered in barracks free of charge as guests of the Netherlands Government. On the Monday evening there is an impressive ceremony in the Nijmegen Stadium, during which the flags of the nations represented are raised. British bands usually take part in this ceremony—last year there were the Band of the Essex Regiment and the Corps of Drums of the Grenadier and Coldstream Guards.

On Tuesday the marching starts. Each day for four days there is a different route, starting and finishing in Nijmegen. Our 5th Battalion team will be carrying 22 lb. of equipment and covering approximately 25 miles a day. Each of the four marches has to be completed in 11 hours.

The marches arouse great interest in Holland and teams are under observation from spectators and other teams during the whole course. Television increases the number of spectators by many millions and on the last day about 100,000 people gather in Nijmegen to see the troops finish with a march past in the Square.

No competition is attached to the marches, but those who complete the course are awarded the medal of the Netherlands League for Physical Culture, whilst military detachments who lose not more than 10 per cent. of marks, are awarded the detachment medal.

SWORDS AND MESS KIT

The Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion wishes to maintain a pool of swords for use on ceremonial parades. If any retired officer would care to present his sword (Infantry officer's pattern only) to the Battalion he can do so by sending it to the Regimental Depot.

At the same time the Commanding Officer would welcome the gift (or sale) of Regimental Mess kit. These, too, can be sent to the Depot.

DAY OF PAGEANTRY AS REGIMENT RECEIVES FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL

29TH MARCH, 1958

(Reproduced by kind permission of the Editor, The Western Daily Press, Bristol)

BRISTOL enjoyed two rare treats—pageantry and sunshine—on Saturday afternoon, when The Gloucestershire Regiment received the Honorary Freedom of the City. People thronged the perimeter of College Green to see the Duke of Gloucester (Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment) receive the Freedom from the Lord Mayor (Alderman Percy Raymond) on a platform outside the Council House.

Then they watched more than 200 men of the Regiment, Regulars and Territorials, in their blue No. 1 Dress, march round the Centre and back “with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.”

Throughout most of the afternoon's ceremony the weather was bright and warm, and it was only during the last part of the march through the centre of the city that a light covering of rain fell.

The Duke took longer than scheduled to inspect the four guards of Glosters drawn up on the Green and the body of Old Comrades at the rear. He spoke to practically every Old Comrade present, and it was 4.30 before he finally left the Council House—the time when he should have been taking off from the airport.

One of the officers on the dais during the Freedom ceremony was Colonel J. P. Carne, who was awarded the V.C. for the part he played when commanding the “Glorious Glosters” at the battle of the Imjin River, in Korea, in 1951.

Bristol's own First World War V.C. was also on parade, Brigadier M. Angell James. He led the detachment of Old Comrades.

The Duke and other distinguished persons had taken the platform at the Freedom ceremony to a fanfare from the City Trumpeters, and after the National Anthem the Bishop of Bristol (Dr. F. A. Cockin) opened proceedings with prayers.

The Lord Mayor then called upon the Town Clerk (Mr. Alexander Pickard) to read the resolution of City Council granting the Freedom.

Asking the Duke of Gloucester to receive the Freedom, the Lord Mayor said: “For upwards of 264 years the story of this Regiment has held a proud, honourable and high place in the military history of England and the Commonwealth; its records abound with deeds of heroism, bravery and devotion to duty by the Regiment; they tell of its courage and service.

“Its steadfastness before Alexandria in 1801 earned for it the unique and famous Back Badge, an honour not possessed by any other regiment.

“Its deeds, its fortitude and self-sacrifice are enshrined in the many battle honours borne on its Colours.

“In the unsettled years since 1945, the Glosters have rendered magnificent service, including the historic action at the Imjin River. Fighting under the flag of the United Nations in April 1951, they achieved further fame and the award of the United States President's Distinguished Unit Citation, the highest military honour that he can bestow on a unit.”



H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester salutes the Colours of the 1st Battalion



[Photo by courtesy of the "Bristol Evening Post"]

H.R.H., accompanied by Major W. O. V. Clee, inspects No. 4 Guard found by the 5th Battalion



Under the gaze of John Cabot, The Duke thanks the City for the honour they have conferred on the Regiment



[Photo by courtesy of the "Bristol Evening Post"]

The Lord Mayor signs the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City, watched by H.R.H. and the Town Clerk. In rear can be seen, from the right, Major-General C. E. A. Firth, the Duke of Beaufort and Colonel J. P. Carne

The Lord Mayor then read out the Citation and went on: "Bristol's sons have fought in many wars in the ranks of the Glosters, and in the campaigns of the last 20 years. Regulars and National Servicemen from this City have represented a high proportion of the Regiment.

"It gives me great personal pleasure, Your Royal Highness, to be Lord Mayor on this happy and historic occasion and to be able to say:

Now we, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of the City and County of Bristol, being mindful of the Regiment's outstanding achievements and desirous of making some recognition of them, do, under our Corporate seal, confer upon The Gloucestershire Regiment the freedom of the City and the highest honour of the right to march through the streets of the City on all ceremonial occasions with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed."

"May I ask Your Royal Highness, as Colonel-in-Chief, to accept on behalf of the Regiment this silver casket containing the sealed copy of the Resolution of the Council conferring the honour upon the Regiment."

The Lord Mayor then presented the Duke with the silver casket and the Duke signed the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City.

The Duke then said: "The Freedom of a city is a memorable event in the life of a regiment and I am glad to be able to accept this honour on behalf of the officers and men of The Gloucestershire Regiment.

"The Lord Mayor has reminded us of our history, and as one generation passes away and another comes, the Freedom of the City of Bristol will remind future Glosters of the gallant deeds of their forefathers.

"To achieve greatness does not merely entail fighting battles—it requires courage, fortitude and discipline—and what better men to have in one's regiment than the sons of Bristol? This city has been the breeding-ground of men of spirit for many generations.

"The citizens of Bristol may feel justly proud of their forefathers who made the voyages of discovery to the New World. The city is also a recognised home of learning and education in the West of England, being the seat of a university.

"The Merchant Venturers of Bristol, one of the earliest chartered companies who at one time employed 50,000 persons in the Netherlands, helped to build the city into the famous centre of commerce which it is today.

"Last summer the Duchess and I flew some 8,500 miles to Malaya in one of your latest products—the Bristol Britannia. It is fitting that one of Britain's leading aircraft should be named after the city which years ago led the way to the New World.

"The Gloucestershire Regiment are proud of their association with your ancient city," the Duke said, "and it will be with full hearts that they today exercise the privilege accorded to them by marching through the streets, all ship-shape and Bristol fashion, with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying."

When the Duke had finished his address, bayonets were fixed by the guards and the Colours, which had been to the rear, were uncased and brought to the front. R.S.M. W. J. Smyth, of the Depot at Gloucester, then took the casket from the platform and joined the parade.

The Duke inspected the men on parade, accompanied by the Lord Mayor, the Duke of Beaufort (Lord Lieutenant of Bristol), and by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-

General C. E. A. Firth. The guards on parade were formed from the 1st Battalion, the Depot and the 5th (Territorial) Battalion.

When the inspection was over the Duke was given a Royal Salute. And it was at this stage that the Lord Mayor formally gave permission to the commanding officer of the parade, Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. S. Heidenstam, for the troops to march through the city with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

The troops marched off the Green, in the direction of Park Street, round the rear of the Council House and along Deanery Road, where a saluting base had been erected. Here the salute was taken by the Lord Mayor. Ripples of applause went round the watching crowds as the Glosters went by, marching to the regimental band and the 5th Battalion drums.

The day's first spectacle for the crowds had been the troops arriving on parade, marching down Park Street from the Artillery Grounds, Whiteladies Road. They were drawn up on parade on the grass "parade ground" by the time cheers announced just before three o'clock that the Lord Mayor's open horse-drawn carriage, preceded by a mounted police escort, was coming into view. It was bringing the Duke and the Lord Mayor from the Mansion House, where they and the official party had had lunch. The carriage went from Park Street all the way round College Green before going up the incline to the main entrance of the Council House.

Long before the Lord Mayor's coach appeared from behind the Council House, the crowds were thick all round the triangle of the Green, on both sides of the road, while the Centre itself was a tarmac-and-garden island surrounded by patient onlookers.

The parade was finally dismissed in St. George's Road, to the rear of the Council House, and by this time the Duke and other distinguished guests were having tea in the Conference Hall of the Council House. These guests included the official party: the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, the Recorder (Mr. G. D. Roberts, Q.C.), the Sheriff and his Lady (Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Wheatley), the Town Clerk, the Chief Constable (Mr. Norman Frost), the Swordbearer (Mr. J. Sealey), the Bishop of Bristol, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command (General Sir George Erskine), Major-General Firth, Colonel Carne and Lieutenant-Colonel Harrison (who commands the 5th Battalion). Members of the Regiment and their wives and members of the Bristol Corporation, distinguished guests who had watched the proceedings from inward-facing seats placed along the pathway bordering the Council House moat, were also in the company.

SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF 29th MARCH

MANY were the headaches at the Regimental Depot whilst raising the necessary personnel for the parade, in view of the fact that the 28th/61st were partly in Germany and partly scattered on leave after their return from Cyprus. Eventually No. 1 Guard was made up from officers and men who had been ordered to report from leave at Robinswood Barracks instead of proceeding to Harwich for the B.A.O.R. Nos. 2 and 3 Guards were formed by the recruits and Permanent Staff of the Depot, and No. 4 Guard by Territorials of the 5th Battalion. A very representative party from the Regiment maybe, but a very complicated one to assemble, to clothe and to train and rehearse together. Obtaining and fitting some 240 suits of the No. 1 Dress was no easy matter—

"WITH COLOURS FLYING, DRUMS BEATING AND BAYONETS FIXED"



The Regiment headed by mounted police, the Regimental Band and the Drums of the 5th Battalion, leaves College Green to exercise for the first time its new right

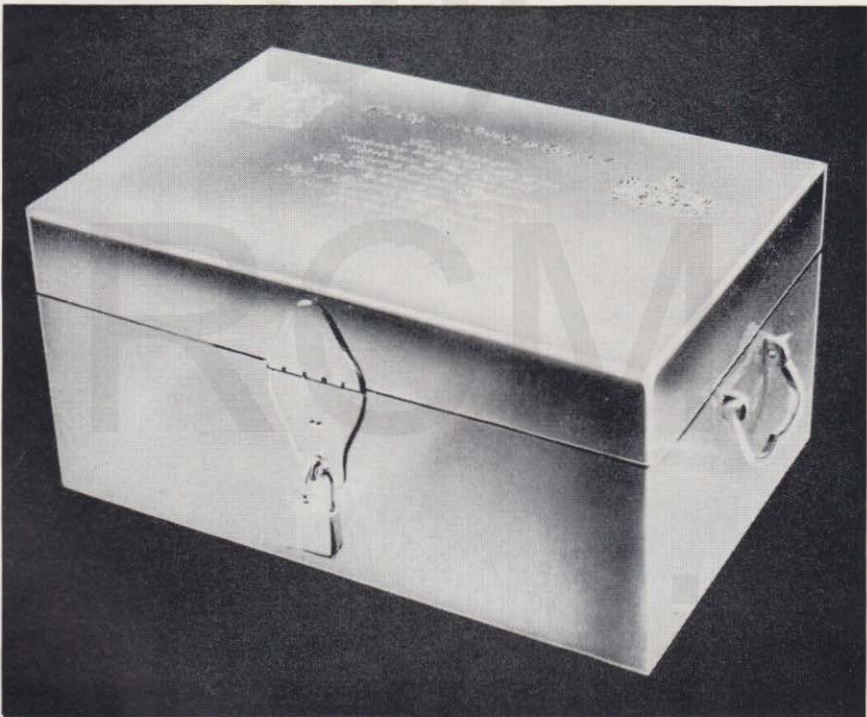


[Photo by courtesy of "The Western Daily Press," Bristol
No. 1 GUARD

From right to left: R.S.M. W. J. Smyth, B.E.M., bearing the casket, Major W. A. Wood
and Captain W. A. Duguid



[Photo by courtesy of "The Western Daily Press," Bristol]
Old Comrades march to the Freedom Parade, Bristol, 29th March



The silver casket presented to the Regiment by the City of Bristol

with regimental buttons to sew on, some shoulder piping to change, and so on. The Depot Staff are congratulated on the results of their labours.

The co-ordination between the city authorities and the Regiment was of the closest in the many administrative arrangements which had to be made—again with but little time, but which produced the first-rate ceremony so many were to enjoy.

At the official luncheon at the Mansion House prior to the parade, when the Lord Mayor entertained the V.I.P. guests, there was a private soldier from the 1st Battalion, a corporal from the Depot and a warrant officer and a private from the 5th Battalion. To these the Duke of Gloucester made a point of talking.

In the platform party seated below the statue of Cabot at the main portico of the Council House the Regiment was represented by Major-General C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel J. P. Carne, V.C., D.S.O., Hon. Colonel of the 5th Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Harrison, T.D., Commanding Officer of the 5th, and R.S.M. W. J. Smyth, B.E.M., of the Depot.

Above the Council House from one of the flagstaffs flew the Regimental flag.

On parade under Brigadier Manley James, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., were 101 be-medalled veterans of the Regiment, marching like youngsters once more to the strains of the Regimental marches.

R.S.M. Smyth appeared in the *Daily Telegraph's* despatches for the manner in which he carried the weighty silver casket on its cushion after the presentation.

Watching the parade itself as guests of the City was a large body of serving and retired officers and men with their families, a number of whom had not been seen at regimental ceremonies for many a year.

It was good to see that old warrior, Captain M. FitzPatrick, M.S.M., who enlisted in 1885, seated in a place of honour.

It was the first time the Colours of the 1st Battalion and those of the 5th Battalion had ever been carried together on a ceremonial parade. On each of the Queen's Colours the 1939-45 Battle Honours had been embroidered just in time for the occasion. The honorary distinction—the Reconnaissance Corps badge—had not, however, yet been emblazoned on the Regimental Colour of the Fifth.

The solid silver casket (140 oz.) bears on the lid the arms of the City of Bristol and the front cap badge of The Gloucestershire Regiment, whilst the back badge is engraved at the back. Inside the casket is divided into two sections for use as a cigar and cigarette box. Engraved on the lid is the following inscription:

The City and County of Bristol
This Casket
containing the sealed copy of the
Resolution of the Council
ordering that the name of
The Gloucestershire Regiment
be placed on the
Roll of Honorary Freedom of the City
was presented to the Regiment
29th March, 1958

Contained in the casket at the time of the presentation was a sealed copy of the Resolution of the Council for conferring the Freedom of the City on the Regiment. The wording of this is as follows:—

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL

At a Special Meeting of the Council of the City and County of Bristol held on the 11th day of March, 1958,

It was unanimously **RESOLVED**

Now we the Lord Mayor & Aldermen and Burgesses of the City and County of Bristol being mindful of the outstanding achievements of the

GLoucestershire Regiment

and desirous of making some recognition of them do order that the name of the Regiment be placed on the Roll of Honorary Freemen of the City and do confer upon the Regiment the signal honour of the right to march through the streets of the City and County on all ceremonial occasions with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

P. W. RAYMOND,
Lord Mayor.

A. PICKARD,
Town Clerk.

ON PARADE

Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant-Colonel P. C. S. Heidenstam, O.B.E.

Second-in-Command:
Major T. A. K. Dillon

Adjutant:
Captain D. E. Matson

Officers carrying Colours:

1st Battalion
Lieutenant D. J. Hurford-Jones
Second-Lieutenant W. J. Vicary

5th Battalion
Captain I. Scott Cooper
Lieutenant D. J. Barrett

Regimental Sergeant-Majors:

R.S.M. A. Courtney
R.S.M. R. Baldwin

Warrant Officer to carry Casket:

R.S.M. W. J. Smyth, B.E.M.

No. 1 Guard, 1st Battalion
Major T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker
Captain H. R. Gilliver
Lieutenant M. A. Crush

No. 2 Guard, Regimental Depot
Major W. A. Wood
Captain A. D. Lennard
Captain W. A. Duguid

No. 3 Guard, Regimental Depot
Major W. L. D. Morris
Captain J. C. H. Roberts
Second-Lieutenant W. P. G. Burges

No. 4 Guard, 5th Battalion
Major W. O. V. Clee
Lieutenant M. S. Lee-Browne
Lieutenant R. G. Newman

Regimental Band
Bandmaster G. Plummer, A.R.C.M.

5th Battalion Drums
Drum-Major Bowles

Old Comrades:

Commanded by Brigadier M. A. James, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.
Marshal: Major D. B. Metcalfe

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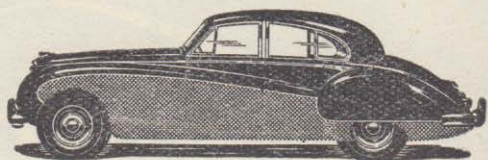
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THE WYVERN

THE Colonels of the Regiments of the Wessex Brigade have agreed that the most suitable cap badge for their 1st Battalions would be the Wyvern, and the central device shown above has now been authorised. Officers will wear the badge in white metal and other ranks in gilt.

The Dragon is probably the best known of all fabulous beasts. It represented all that is most frightful in nature, but at the same time was a creature of outstanding strength, wisdom and power, and was taken as a royal emblem alike in the East and the West.

The Wessex Wyvern is often referred to as the Wessex Dragon, but those depicted in the Bayeux Tapestry are clearly Wyverns having only two legs (vide the outer monsters shown above) instead of four of the "normal" dragon.

In heraldry the two-legged dragon developed into the fire-drake or wyver (M.E. *wivere*, viper. Wyvern in 16th century) and was shown with bird-like claws, bat's wings, an iguana's comb and a long tail sometimes barbed at the end. The neck and upper parts are scaly, but the under parts form a series of large rolls. In colour it was described as "fiery" or "of ruddy gold."

Mr. John Walker, Lancaster Herald and Deputy Inspector of Regimental Colours, has kindly informed me that he thinks the Dragon or Wyvern was an emblem common to the Saxons generally and that the West Saxons adopted a gold dragon for their device. He suggests that our ancestors were not as well versed in natural history as we are today and frequently confused the two monsters!

The 12th-century historian, Henry Huntingdon, stated that the Dragon standard was borne by Cuthred of Wessex in the Battle of Burford, in 752. It was under the standard of the Wessex Wyvern that Harold's men made their last stand at Hastings in 1066.

Centuries later the 43rd Wessex Division (T.A.) adopted the Wyvern as their formation sign and now again it becomes the device under which the Regular soldiers of Wessex will serve.

R. M. GRAZEBROOK.

THE BICENTENARY OF COX'S

TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF BANKING FOR THE ARMED FORCES

HOW much pay and allowances was the Iron Duke drawing at Waterloo? What was the cost to the East India Company of the cannon supplied to Colonel Clive for his expedition against Gariah in 1756? Or of the "lanthorns Muscovy, aprons of lead and linstocks without cocks" issued then to Lieutenant Thos. Hussey "to march with the party who have not had the small-pox"?

The answers to these questions together with countless other fascinating glimpses into the past (e.g. rate of exchange for the *pagoda* in 1761) are to be found, down to a penny, in the ledgers preserved at Cox's and King's branch of Lloyds Bank in Pall Mall.

The story of this banking office goes back exactly 200 years, to the day in 1758, when Mr. Richard Cox was appointed Secretary (de facto financial Agent) to the 1st Foot Guards. Such was the origin of the bank which was in time to earn the affectionate sobriquet "Uncle Cox" in the course of its service to tens of thousands of British officers in peace and war.

Mr. Cox received his appointment at the hand of Jean Ligonier, famous cavalry leader, whose eminent services had in the previous year been acknowledged by the Colonelcy of the 1st Foot Guards.

Such Colonelcies were by that time sinecures: the extensive work of accountancy for pay and purchases was delegated under Power of Attorney to a Secretary.

For Mr. Cox this agency was a reward for devoted service as personal secretary to Ligonier in the field and at home.

Cox was a man of distinction: among his friends were Dr. Johnson, Burke, Goldsmith, Garrick, Reynolds and other notables. That he was also a very competent business man the rest of his life story proves. By 1803, when Richard Cox died, his bank was Agent to numerous Regiments. And by 1815, when his cousin Charles Greenwood was senior partner, the firm was Agent to the entire Household Brigade, the majority of cavalry and infantry regiments, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Waggon Train.

In presenting Greenwood to George III, the Duke of York described him as "the gentleman who keeps my money." Greenwood commented drily "I think it is rather His Royal Highness who keeps my money." Among his royal customers was the Duke of Kent, Queen Victoria's father.

As the multifarious duties of the regimental Agent were gradually taken over by the Army itself, the personal banking business of Cox's expanded. It reached a peak with the First World War during the course of which the names of more than 250,000 officers passed through the books. The address was by now 16 Charing Cross. Here a 24-hour service was given, including Sundays and holidays, for officers returning from the front; and "Dear Mr. Cox," as the bank was often lightheartedly addressed, was patriotically understanding in the matter of subalterns' overdrafts. Associated in their minds with the hectic pleasures of leave in London, he became "Uncle Cox." A gallant young colonel who fell on the Somme, had a habit of singing, when there was a moment for conviviality:

The soldier boy is full of joy
As pleased as Punch you'll find him,
With Father Grim in front of him
And Uncle Cox behind him.

Joan would be Savage if her husband didn't buy her a cool refreshing beer at the end of the show



Fortunately for Joan, Ken Morris is an understanding husband. There's nothing he likes better himself after work than an invigorating pint of bitter. Though sometimes he'll join his wife in her favourite drink, a smooth, nutty, brown ale.

More and more young couples today share a taste for good wholesome beer. It's a cheering, lively, friendly drink, is beer. Have one next time you're round at the Local. Good health!

Beer
the best long drink
in the world!

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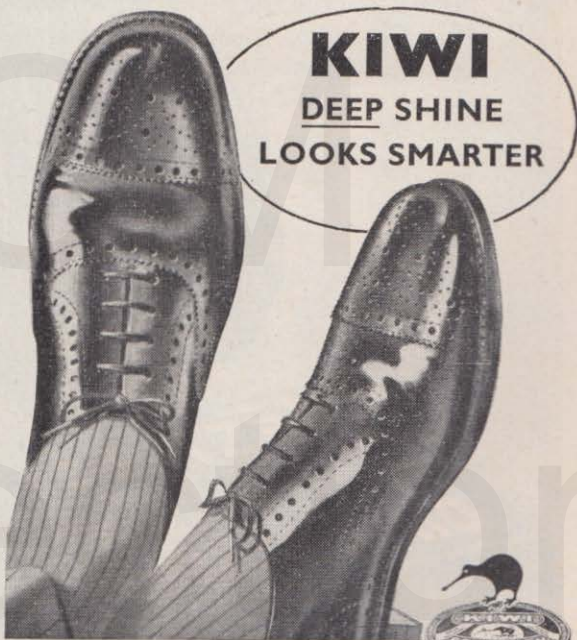


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The luscious, melt-in-the-mouth
magic!
The more-ishness!
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SC 64

At the height of the war 50,000 cheques a day were cleared and up to 20,000 letters dealt with. Branches were set up behind the lines in France, and on any front an officer could draw on his account without troubling to prove his identity.

Cox's did far more than merely issue pay and keep an officer's banking account. The Insurance Department would arrange to insure his kit, the Income Tax Department would deal with his tax returns, and the Standing Order Department would see that the instalments to his tailor were paid regularly. A kindly and spontaneous service was to send a cashier with a supply of money to every hospital ship as it arrived, in case wounded officers wanted cheques cashed.

Cox's provided another humanitarian service. A careful record was kept of all officers posted as missing. Often the Bank had the first indication that the missing officer was alive and a prisoner, by the presentation of a cheque he had negotiated and which reached 16 Charing Cross through neutral channels. Mrs. Reginald Cox, the wife of the senior partner, played her part in keeping the families of missing officers posted with any information reaching the Bank.

Cox's was taken over by Lloyds Bank, 1923. But it preserves the memory of its founder in the title Cox's and King's Branch, and remains an "institution." Among banking offices it is in many ways unique. At 6 Pall Mall (the address since 1924) there are still separate counters for sections of the military. For example, "F" for the Foot Regiments; and, as throughout Cox's history, the ledgers are bestrewn with illustrious names.

In 1939, faced again with the prospect of enormous expansion in the number of officers, the Branch had already equipped itself by the installation of the most modern mechanised accounting system. Large numbers of additional staff had to be recruited not only to replace those who joined the Forces but to handle the additional work. Dispersal was inevitable. The Pay Department which at one time dealt with the pay of 153,000 officers spent most of the war in Bournemouth. But, once more, in London an all night service was given to officers.

The extension of the war into many theatres and the frequent interruption in communications brought difficulties, but with goodwill they were surmounted. This letter came from the Middle East:

"Gentlemen,

"I return herewith a cheque book recently sent me by you. I regret to say that this book met with disaster at the hand or rather mouth of a hungry cow . . . I would like to point out, in view of the instructions given on the cover of the cheque book, that my permission to eat same was not first obtained."

Service to the Army has been the *raison d'être* of Cox's for just 200 years. This is a tradition of which Lloyds Bank is very proud. The close association between officers and the Bank persists; a recent letter from a customer serving abroad testifies:

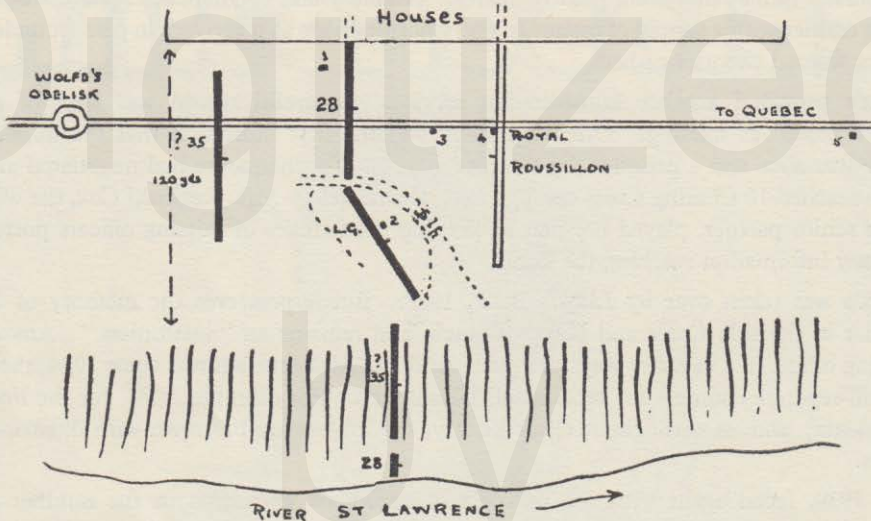
"As I think I mentioned to you, whenever I enter the portals of Cox's and King's I immediately feel at home."

(Messrs. Cox & Co. were first appointed Agents to the 28th in 1834, and to the 61st in 1793.)

QUEBEC

BY MR. FULKE RADICE

LAST September, while attending the Postal Union Congress in Ottawa as its Secretary, I spent a few hours in Quebec and just had time to have a very short look at the battlefield, or rather the few square yards on which no houses have been built, and the following few points may be of interest to readers of THE BACK BADGE.



No. 1 28th Stela. No. 2 Louisburg Grenadiers' Stela. No. 3 Wolfe's Stela. No. 4 Roussillon Stela. No. 5 Montcalm's Stela

What is left of the battlefield is a narrow strip of fairly flat ground, on average 150 yards wide, along the top of the plateau of Abraham overlooking the St. Lawrence and, in addition, the slopes, in some places steep cliffs, run down to the river. This strip of ground, Battle Park, which lies parallel to the St. Lawrence, runs naturally at right-angles to the line of battle. All that is left unbuilt on is therefore the ground on the extreme right of the British line, i.e. that occupied by part of the 28th, the 35th and the Louisburg Grenadiers. The ground undulates a few feet here and there. The British line stood on a very slight crest, the ground falling away almost imperceptibly both to the front and to the rear. Towards Quebec it rises again to another slight crest about 200 yards away. There are five stelae in the shape of blocks of granite about 4-feet high resembling small dolmens into which are let plates of bronze with inscriptions in English and French. In the very short time at my disposal I took copies of the inscriptions on the tablets and noted the following points which may be of interest.

The most interesting feature of this portion of the battlefield is a shallow dip, not more than 2 feet deep, running parallel to the edge of the plateau and at right-angles to the battle line. After a few yards toward Quebec, this dip turns away towards the edge of the plateau, growing slightly deeper as it approaches its edge. The ground which it thus encircles is 3 to 4 feet higher than the rest of the plateau. In fact, it constitutes a small oblong knoll the front of which, lined by the dip I have mentioned, is at an obtuse angle to the general run of crest occupied by the British line. This knoll is just long enough to accommodate the three companies of the Louisburg Grenadiers. It is reason-

able to conjecture, therefore, that the dip formed the boundary between the 28th and the Grenadiers on their right. Further, the knoll is, as stated, at a slight angle to the British line of battle. In order to have an unimpeded field of fire the Grenadiers must have stood on its forward crest. My conclusion is, therefore, that the line formed by the three companies of Grenadiers was thrown somewhat forward at an angle to that of the 28th and was able to enfilade to some extent the French left, the Roussillon Regiment. As a French success against the British right would have cut off the invaders from the river and their base, both Wolfe and Montcalm attached great importance to this part of the line; both took up their position there and both received their death-wound there. As Wolfe was a master of ground and tactics, it is highly likely that he himself placed the Grenadiers in their favourable position. A further proof of the importance attached to this part of the ground is that Wolfe placed a large portion of his slender reserve, the whole 35th Regiment, here. Authorities differ as to where the Regiment stood. In "Cap of Honour" it is said that it was placed behind the Grenadiers and on the right of the 28th. Fortescue, historian of the British Army, says that on the river bank stood a single platoon of the 28th. Next to it, guarding the slope from the river to the edge of the plateau, he places the 35th, then on the plateau the Louisburg Grenadiers and the 28th.

Going along the road leading to Quebec from the west, about 100 yards from the edge of the plateau, we arrived first at the Wolfe Memorial, a pillar which has replaced the well to which the wounded General was carried and where he died. About 70 yards further on we found on the left of the road the stela bearing the following inscription:

Bragg's 28 Regiment
under Colonel Hume Walsh stood
next left to the Louisburg Grenadiers in this
first of all the two-deep 'Thin red lines' the world had ever seen.
13 September, 1759.

If the fact stated in this inscription is correct, it is of great historical importance. It is generally thought that the two-rank formation was adopted by Sir John Moore in the 1790s. But it is by no means improbable that the stela is right. First of all it is well known that Wolfe, especially during his service in Scotland, was a great organiser and a trainer of troops and just the man to have departed from strict tradition when required. And on the Heights of Abraham the need was urgent. The British were about 5,000 strong and too few to man a line from the St. Lawrence to the Charles River on their left. The left flank therefore remained "in the air." To make the gap as small as possible and also to provide a reserve, however scanty, it is very likely that Wolfe, relying on his well-trained veterans, thinned out the normal three-rank formation to two ranks only, at any rate as regards some of his regiments. It seems that the inscription can be taken as accurate.

The next stela is 50 yards away from that of the 28th, to the right on the knoll. It is 10 to 15 yards further advanced than that of the 28th and it faces not straight to the front but slightly to the left, i.e. it conforms to the general line of the knoll. It is in the centre of the ground the Louisburg Grenadiers occupied. The inscription is as follows:

The "Louisburg Grenadiers" of the
Battalions left at Louisburg formed
the right of the actual front, which
itself formed the first two-deep 'Thin red
line' the world had ever seen.
13 September, 1759.

It is to be noted that it is not said here that the Grenadiers themselves formed two-deep. If they were not, this may have been due to the vital importance of the knoll, which would cause it to be held as strongly as possible.

The next stela is 25 yards further on, nearly straight in front of that of the 28th. The inscription runs:

Here on the very eve of victory
Wolfe
received his mortal wound and at once was
carried back to where he died victorious.
13 September, 1759.

Wolfe must have been straight in front of the 28th right company when he was mortally hit. The whole line was then advancing.

The next stela is about 20 to 25 yards further on from Wolfe's stela and marks the furthest point of the French advance. The inscription runs:

The Royal Roussillon
commanded by Colonel Poulariez formed the left of
the actual French front, was first
in the gallant attack, and last in retreat
before the devastating fire
13 September, 1759.

It is from this Regiment that Wolfe received his death wound. It retreated or fled down the slight slope to the next crest. There, about 150 yards from the Roussillon stela, stands that of Montcalm. The inscription is:

The gallant, good and great
Montcalm
four times deservedly victorious
and at last defeated
through no fault of his own
here received his mortal wound
13 September, 1759.

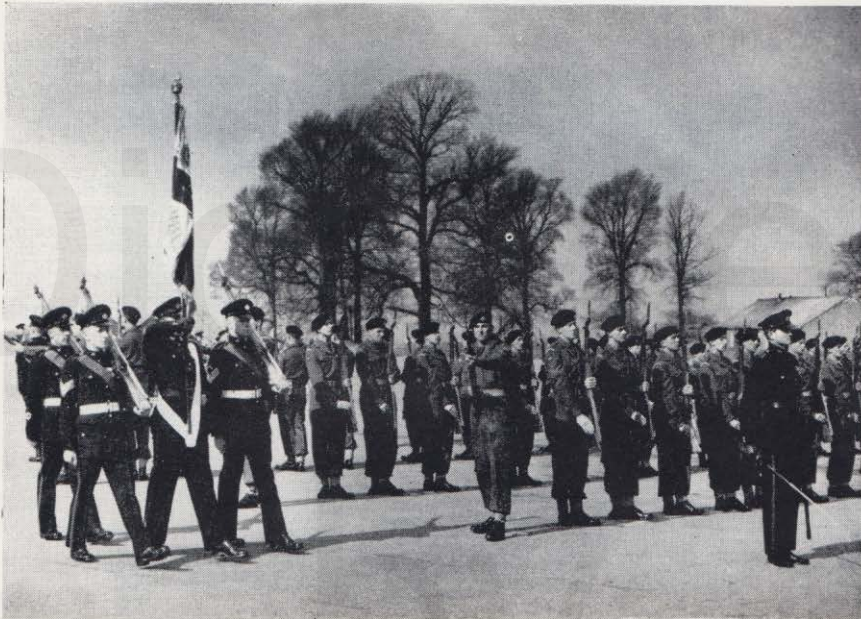
The words "through no fault of his own" may be questioned, but this is not the place to discuss this point. Montcalm was evidently hit in trying to rally the defeated Roussillons.

THE WOLFE SOCIETY

On the 2nd January, 1958, the Wolfe Society held its annual dinner at the King's Arms Hotel, Westerham. The Regiment became a member of the Society in 1957 and I had the honour to represent the 28th Foot for the first time at this annual function. The guest of honour was Lord De L'Isle, v.c., who addressed the members and their guests after dinner. In proposing the toast of the guests, the President of the Society, Major J. R. O'B. Warde, T.D., R.A., mentioned the 28th by name and welcomed their representative to the dinner for the first time. He expressed the hope that the 28th would be represented in future years at this annual function. Finally, the President presented a portrait of Wolfe to Major W. C. Harrison who is the present housemaster of Wolfe House, the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover. The following regiments, members of the Society, were represented: 15th Foot, 20th Foot, 22nd Foot, 35th Foot, 40th Foot, 43rd Foot, 47th Foot, 48th and 58th Foot.

C. L. C. ROBERTS, Lieutenant-Colonel.

BACK BADGE DAY, REGIMENTAL DEPOT, 1958



[By courtesy of "The Citizen"]

THE TROOP

Colour Party: C.S.M. D. Stephens, Sgt. A. Sanders, Lieut. D. J. Hurford-Jones, Sgt. L. Ramsden. On the right, Capt. D. E. Matson, Depot Adjutant



[By courtesy of "The Citizen"]

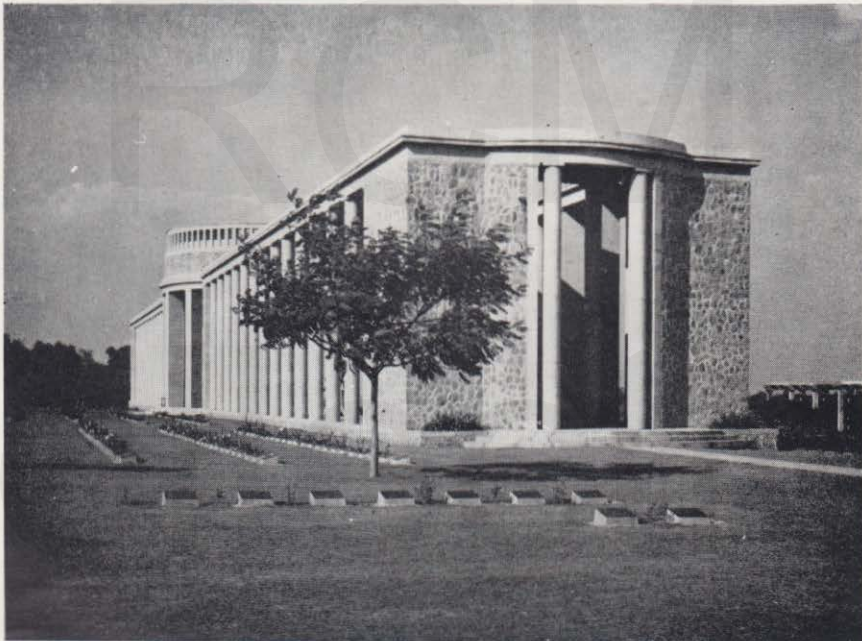
Colonel Carne, v.C., D.S.O., who inspected the Parade, chats with Corporal J. Lightbrown.
In the centre, R.S.M. W. J. Smyth, B.E.M.



[Photo by courtesy "The Gloucester Citizen"]

"BACK BADGE" BALL,
REGIMENTAL DEPOT, 21st MARCH, 1958

Sentries relieved in the Old Guard. *Left to right:* L/Cpl. M. Merchant, Pte. D. Knowles, Pte. J. Robinson



THE RANGOON WAR MEMORIAL, TAUUKKYAN

FREEMASONRY IN THE 28th FOOT

In Major Cryer's article, printed in THE BACK BADGE of December, 1952, about Freemasonry in Bragg's Regiment, he quoted from Gould's "History of Military Lodges" in which it was stated that the colonel of the 28th at Quebec, Colonel Edward Huntingford, was elected in 1759 Worshipful Master of Lodge 35 in the 28th.

Knowing that Colonel Hunt Walsh was the C.O. at that period, Mr. Fulke Radice caused further researches to be made and it appears that Gould copied an error made in Graham's "History of Freemasonry in Quebec." The Public Record Office in London, on searching through the 28th Musters of the day, found that Huntingford was actually a private in Captain Thomas Span's company at Quebec. Mr. Radice suggests that Huntingford may well have been a member of the Regimental Lodge and have been present at the famous meeting of 28th November, 1759, as Tyler, i.e. the outer door-keeper of the Lodge. The Tyler was usually someone of low rank and was paid for his services. It will be remembered that Captain Span was chosen as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province of Quebec, to become P.G.M. the following year.

Huntingford is recorded in the Muster Books as "Died 28 April, 1760." Colonel Hunt Walsh, whose name is wrongly given as "Hume Walsh" on the stela on the Quebec battlefield, joined the Regiment as a subaltern in 1741, was promoted lieutenant-colonel after 16 years' service, and commanded the Regiment with distinction at Quebec and their brigade at Martinique in 1762. In 1767 he was appointed Colonel of the 56th Foot and a lieutenant-general in 1777.

CHAR-WALLAH

BY LANCE-CORPORAL GORDON

"IT'S the EOKA," were my thoughts as I awoke for the first time in Cyprus to stare in horror at a dark-skinned stranger standing by my bedside in the early hours of the morning.

Dressed in a pyjama bottom, a striped flannelette shirt (with tails outside) and a battered trilby hat, he throatily inquired "Tea, mucker?" While impatiently jangling my tin mug, I nodded dumbly and the shape receded into the early-morning darkness to return with a tea-filled mug and a packet of biscuits.

"One shilling, mucker," he persisted, patiently, in the same stilted monotone and, after payment, ambled out into the darkness.

This was my first introduction to the Imjin Camp char-wallahs, but by no means my last contact with them. There were about six of them at Imjin Camp, who produced teas and rolls at every opportunity and the bill with equal promptitude at the end of the week.

Originating from Pakistan, they joined the Battalion when it came to Cyprus and remained there when we sailed in February.

The better known of this tea-serving troop were, perhaps, "Pop" and "Lofty," two characters who proudly advertised that they had served tea to the best of regiments throughout the Far and Middle East.

These char-wallahs, called "John" individually and collectively, knew all the tricks of their trade, and their command of English only deteriorated when the end-of-week bill was being questioned. The day of settlement for "on the book, 'John'" customers

found the char-wallahs nipping around the lines at great speed to ferret out the unwilling squaddie, who, after the customary cursing, gesticulating, arguing and denying, completely failing to make "John" understand his financial crisis, eventually gave up and paid up.

However, there was one occasion when the customers did get away with a free issue. It happened in September, when a new char-wallah entered "C" Company lines for the first time, at about 2030 hours.

Proudly placing his highly polished urn in the centre of the lines alongside his pannier of rolls, he squatted down and uttered the customary cry of "Tea up."

Within a matter of seconds he was surrounded by about 20 customers. With lightning speed hands dipped in and out of the pannier and the amazed "John" was left contemplating 25 mils in small change and an empty pannier. To his frantic cries of "Hey! mucker" the customers vanished into the gloom, munching their highly prized "buck-shee rolls," while, within the confines of their tents, they heard the despairing "John" comparing 25 mils to the vanished number of meat, cheese, and tomato rolls.

On another occasion, a certain company awoke to the sight of a wide-eyed and terrified char-wallah haring up the lines, pursued by a pyjama-clad corporal waving a dinner knife. This energetic scene was the sequel to an irritated corporal being awoken once too often by an enthusiastic char-wallah, when he didn't want tea or biscuits. With a snarl of rage to the well-meaning "tea, mucker?" inquiry, the corporal sprang from his bed, snatched a knife from his dinner plate, and chased "John" half way around the camp.

When a new char-wallah arrived, his book for the first week always made interesting reading. Herein we discovered the names of customers such as Private "Buckshee," Lance-Corporal "IOU" and Privates "Moses" and "Abraham," who had run up fantastic bills in a matter of days. For several days the bewildered "John" would spend many long and fruitless hours looking for his elusive debtors, but would eventually give up on hearing that they had "bin demobbed" or had left camp.

The jokes, however, bounced both ways and the char-wallahs, with their broad grins and excellent service, could give as well as take, and when we left the Island I was sorry to see the last of the days of tea in bed in the Army.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

THE number of visitors to the Museum at Gloucester during the last six months amounted to 9,236. For 1957 the total was 23,562.

Another show case has been provided by the City authorities, for which we are very grateful. This has not yet been taken into use, but is earmarked for the collection of sporting and shooting medals, etc., etc.

The Peninsular Gold Cross awarded to Major-General Sir Jeremiah Dickson, Colonel of the 61st Foot, 1844-48, now makes a brave show in the case containing Regimental silver.

From Cyprus the 1st Battalion sent an EOKA flag, illegally displayed in Nicosia, a large EOKA notice from Dhali village and a grenade from Omorphita. These are now in the "shop window."

After very extensive but unsuccessful searchings, we have at last acquired a complete set of 1908 webbing equipment and are now able to dress one of our display models

in 1914 uniform. The director of the Mills Equipment Co. heard of our endeavours and very kindly presented a set.

We have also received a complete set of clothing of a sergeant of the King's African Rifles, of which the recently disbanded 23rd Battalion was attached to the Regiment. As we have no facilities for showing this, with the permission of the Officer Commanding K.A.R. Battalion concerned, the uniform is being sent to the Colonial Section of the R.M.A. Museum at Sandhurst.

Finally, we have been delighted to receive from Major-General T. Woods, D.D.M.S. Southern Command, a quantity of uniform belonging to his father-in-law, the late Major D. L. Rogers, including the exotic full dress and Mess dress of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion (later 6th Battalion)—khaki with red facings, much braid and brown leather accoutrements. Unfortunately, the plumed slouch hat is missing, but one can well imagine this dress, invented at the time of the S. African War, caused a furore in Bristol and the nickname "Mardon's cocky olly birds."

Among other recent additions are:

- Three silver tablespoons engraved "61" (1804). (Mrs. Carmichael Reeve.)
- Whitworth prize rifle won by E. Burgh, 2nd V.B.G.R., in 1860. ("C" Company, 5th Battalion.)
- Officer's sword, 1st V.B.G.R. (Officer Commanding 5th Battalion.)
- Group of four medals (1914-18 War and Special Constabulary) to Pte. G. Gardner. (On loan, Lance-Corporal T. W. Gardner.)
- Group of three medals (S. Africa and 1914 Star) to Private E. Holland and M.M. to Corporal Mills. (Mr. A. E. Hawkins.)
- Officers' Cane, 4th Battalion, c. 1930. (Major R. C. Brooks.)
- Numerous items of officer's full dress and Mess dress uniform (including scarce Mess dress collar badges 1900-05) acquired at a sale. (Mr. E. F. Martin.)
- S.M.L.E. rifle issued to White Russians on Murmansk front, 1919. (Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. V. Ladds.)
- Russian rifle captured August 1919. (Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. V. Ladds.)
- Formation sign of N.R.R.F. (Arctic Star) worn by British troops in N. Russia. (Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. V. Ladds.)
- Two swords (Edward VII and George V). (Major F. J. Langford, late 6th Battalion.)
- Head-dress and belts. (Major F. J. Langford, late 6th Battalion.)
- Challenge cup to Sergeant Player, 1 V.B.G.R., 1872. (Mr. T. P. Langford.)
- Enfield rifle 1858. (Sergeant N. Cook, 5th Battalion.)

Visitors to the Regimental Reunion ("Old Soldiers' Day") on 19th July are reminded that the Museum in Westgate Street, Gloucester, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Wanted

We still want more relics of the old 4th and 6th Territorial Battalions. Also medals for the Korean Campaign.

Colonel R. M. Grazebrook, The Old Cottage, Swindon Village, Nr. Cheltenham, is always glad to hear of possible exhibits.

THE RANGOON MEMORIAL

THE Rangoon Memorial was unveiled on 9th February by General Sir Francis Festing, who members of the 10th Gloucesters will remember commanded the 36th Division, in which they served in 1944-45.

The memorial commemorates by name 27,000 officers and men of the Commonwealth Land Forces who perished during the campaigns in Burma and Assam and to whom the fortune of war denied the rites of burial or cremation customary to their faith.

It was built by the Imperial War Graves Commission and stands in the Taukkyan War Cemetery some 20 miles north of Rangoon where the road forks left to Prome and right to Pegu, and where the 1st Battalion fought their first battle after the evacuation of Rangoon in March, 1942. It takes the form of two long open garden courts flanked by covered walks and joined in the middle by an open rotunda. The names of the fallen are carved on the broad faces of the rectangular piers on the inner sides of the covered walks. As the memorial is composed largely of colonnades it is "transparent" and the green lawns of the cemetery can be seen through the colonnades as well as the planting in the garden courts themselves. On a frieze inside the rotunda are inscribed in English these words:

1939-1945

HERE ARE RECORDED

THE NAMES OF TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS OF MANY RACES
UNITED IN SERVICE TO THE BRITISH CROWN
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN BURMA AND ASSAM
BUT TO WHOM THE FORTUNE OF WAR DENIED
THE CUSTOMARY RITES ACCORDED TO THEIR COMRADES IN DEATH

An additional inscription *THEY DIED FOR ALL FREE MEN* is also engraved on the rotunda in English, Burmese, Hindi, Urdu and Gurmaukhi.

On the Regimental panel are inscribed the names of eight officers and 132 men of the 1st Battalion and 2 officers and 21 men of the 10th Battalion.

In the War Cemetery itself are 6,400 individual memorials on the graves of men who were originally buried in the battlefield cemeteries. Amongst these are the graves of five men of the 1st Battalion, of six officers and 82 men of the 10th who lost their lives near Pinwe and the Gyobin Chaung in 1944, and of two "unknown British soldiers, The Gloucestershire Regiment," who died 19th March, 1942.

In Rangoon War Cemetery lie the bodies of six other members of the 1st Battalion.

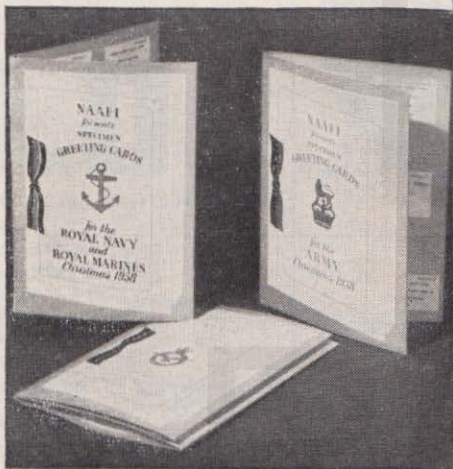
The unveiling ceremony commenced at 0700 hours when guards of honour from the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment and the Burma Army took up their positions. Detachments from the Royal Navy and the R.A.F. were also present. The Lincolns' regimental band provided the music, with buglers of the Brigade of Gurkhas, pipers of the King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Royal Marine Band, Far East Station.

The Honourable U Nu, Prime Minister of the Union of Burma, in his speech (in Burmese) said, "We are proud and happy to have on our soil this monument to cherish and honour. Like all things of value, this edifice of liberty and freedom needs to be guarded constantly. In honouring those who gave their all, it would be well that we reaffirm our determination to defend this edifice even at the cost of our lives. Only by so doing will we ensure that the heroic sacrifices which we commemorate today have not been made in vain."

General Festing, following him, said, "This memorial presents a picture of a simple truth—that of a multitude of men, of many races and widely differing faiths, who gave their lives in a common cause. . . . They died for all free men. It is these six words, carved in five languages in the centre of this memorial, that I now have the honour and privilege to unveil."

Distance and expense prevented a representative of the Regiment from being present, but a wreath was laid on their behalf.

Christmas Cards



The choice of the right Christmas card is a problem for most of us: how to decide which is the best design or the best size or the most appropriate words? These problems should not arise if you are in Her Majesty's Forces where Naafi's Printing Branch is at your service. Here you will find skilled craftsmen with years of experience who are familiar with all aspects of Christmas card design and are eager to give you the benefit of their knowledge. Each year they print over a million Christmas cards for Servicemen and women the world over from a unique collection of Service and Regimental crests, dies and ribbons.

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THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters:
REGIMENTAL DEPOT,
Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester

Chairman:
MAJOR-GENERAL C. E. A. FIRTH,
C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Secretary:
COLONEL J. P. CARNE, V.C., D.S.O.

BRANCHES:

<i>Branch and Chairman</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Meeting Places and Dates</i>
BRISTOL Brigadier M. A. James, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., D.L.	Mr. G. Pearce, 29 Ullswater Road, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol.	Second Saturday in each month, T.A. Centre, Horfield Common, 8 p.m.
CHELTENHAM Major H. G. Mason, T.D.	Mr. H. J. Walker, 40 Clarence Street, Cheltenham.	Second Saturday in each month, Great Western Hotel, Clarence St., 7.30 p.m.
GLOUCESTER	C.Q.M.S. T. Blackford, 17 Lichfield Road, Gloucester.	As arranged.
LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES Colonel C. S. R. Campbell, O.B.E., M.C.	Major A. L. W. Soames, W.O., C8, Whitehall, S.W.1.	As arranged.
STROUD Lt.-Colonel A. H. R. Chalmers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.	Mr. Granger, "Wulfruna," Farmhill, Stroud.	First Friday in each month, The Dragon, King Street, 7.30 p.m.

THE start of a new year saw a change at the Headquarters of the Association: Colonel Priestley who has been the Hon. Secretary for eight years handed over the duties of Secretary to Colonel J. P. Carne in January. There must be a very great number of members who realise what a debt of gratitude the Association owes to Colonel Priestley for his untiring and unstinted work for the benefit of the Association. In part the debt will continue to increase as Colonel Priestley's knowledge, experience and advice are generously given to a new Secretary who frequently requires plenty of help.

Since the last notes were published the following sums have been received in the Association Charitable and Disbanded Units Funds and have been gratefully acknowledged:

	£	s.	d.	
H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, K.G.	5	0	0	(Under deed of Covenant)
The Army Benevolent Fund.. ..	250	0	0	For Disbanded Units Funds
Messrs. Winterbotham, Strachan, Playne Ltd. ..	52	3	5	
1st Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment ..	36	0	0	
Major C. E. W. Lavender	10	0	0	(Under deed of Covenant)
Henbury Forces Welfare Fund	3	7	3	For Disbanded Units Funds
Major W. A. Wood	2	2	0	
Major P. G. H. Varwell	1	0	0	

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1957

	<i>Charitable Fund</i>		<i>General Fund</i>		<i>Disbanded Units Fund</i>		<i>Korea Dependants Fund</i>	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
RECEIPTS								
Balance, 1st January, 1957 ..	12,654	1 11	928	6 4	8,654	10 10	2,000	4 8
Donations and subscriptions ..	250	2 0	302	16 6	—	—	—	—
Dividends and interest ..	448	13 11	27	17 1	241	10 10	47	10 0
Regimental Dinner receipts ..	—	—	39	2 0	—	—	—	—
Sale of badges	—	—	3	6 0	—	—	—	—
Sundry receipts:								
Army Benevolent Fund ..	750	0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
1st Battalion	72	0 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
	£14,174	17 10	£1,301	7 11	£8,896	1 8	£2,047	14 8
PAYMENTS								
Grants	839	16 0	—	—	293	12 6	46	0 0
Funerals	31	13 0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Office expenses	3	2 8	48	7 4	4	12 0	—	4 0
Audit fee	5	5 0	6	0 0	6	6 0	—	—
Honorarium:								
Bristol representative ..	—	—	50	0 0	—	—	—	—
Travelling expenses ..	—	—	8	1 0	—	—	—	—
Regimental Dinner expenses ..	—	—	111	15 6	—	—	—	—
Cost of badges issued ..	—	—	21	13 9	—	—	—	—
Grants to Branch Association ..	—	—	10	0 0	—	—	—	—
Dunkirk Memorial	—	—	12	15 0	—	—	—	—
Balance, 31st December, 1957 ..	13,295	1 2	1,032	15 4	8,591	11 2	2,001	10 8
	£14,174	17 10	£1,301	7 11	£8,896	1 8	£2,047	14 8

BRISTOL BRANCH

Meetings of the Branch have continued throughout the winter. They now take place in the T.A. Centre, Horfield Common, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer of the Command Signal Regiment since Horfield Barracks has closed down. The attendances have been improving as the news of these meetings has spread. We were pleased to see Colonel Carne, v.c., at one of them.

The highlight of the period, however, has been the presentation of the Freedom of the City of Bristol to the Regiment on Saturday, 29th March.

Over 100 ex-members of the Regiment were in the parade on College Green and were inspected by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester after the presentation of the casket by the Lord Mayor. The Duke had a word to say to many of the old members on parade. Afterwards they marched past in rear of the Regimental contingent and then followed them on their march round the Centre. A very memorable occasion indeed for all those who attended.

In the evening a special "get-together" was held at the T.A. Centre, which was attended by a very fine muster of Old Comrades and their wives.

They were delighted to have a visit during the evening from General and Mrs. Firth and also a further visit from Colonel Carne.

M. A. J.

CHELTENHAM BRANCH

The highlights of the last six months were two specially arranged meetings just prior to Christmas and on 22nd March, when we invited the wives and friends of members and a number of other guests. One who wrote to apologise for absence was William

Howell of Moreton-in-Marsh, who joined the Regiment in 1884 and is now a hale and hearty 91, and still doing a 7-hour day at hurdle and gate making.

At these evenings we were entertained by slick cross-talk, songs, pianoforte, a skiffle group and sleight of hand, while our host, who had obtained an extension of licence, dispensed drinks and snacks from his new bar. Through the generosity of several well-wishers successful raffles helped to clear our expenses.

At each of these meetings our numbers were about 75 but at the other ordinary meetings we have mustered only about a dozen, which is disappointing and should be more.

The last notes were written before the deaths of "Busty" Haynes and Fred Bond, but we were glad to be represented at their funerals. Their presence at our functions is sadly missed as they were both very regular in their attendance. H. G. M.

LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES BRANCH

The Branch held its Back Badge dinner on Saturday, 8th February, 1958, at the Westminster Arms. Our Chairman, Colonel C. S. R. Campbell, presided and 33 members and guests attended. We were very pleased to have with us Mr. Biddle and Mr. Slater from The Worcestershire Regiment Association, and Mr. Beckett, who for many years was armourer sergeant to the 28th before the war. After the loyal toast and that of the Regiment, coupled with the name of our Colonel-in-Chief, had been drunk, members spent an enjoyable evening talking of the past, the present, and the future.

Owing to accommodation difficulties the dates of future functions will now be as follow: Ladies' social, Saturday, 7th June, 1958; Annual General Meeting, Saturday, 4th October, 1958; Back Badge dinner, 1959, Saturday, 28th March, 1959.

It is hoped that all members will make a note of these dates and make every effort to attend one or more of these functions.

STROUD BRANCH

Meetings on the first Friday of each month have been held and will continue to be held at the "Dragon," King Street, Stroud. In addition a New Year's Party took place at the "Rose," Paganhill, to which ladies were invited.

On Sunday, 23rd March, our padre and vice-chairman, the Rev. H. C. V. Beck, held a "Back Badge" service at Paganhill Church. Members of the Association fell in and marched to church. Later, in the evening, a social was much enjoyed by all at the "Rose."

At the annual general meeting of the branch Mr. Granger of "Wulfruna," Farmhill, Stroud, was elected secretary in place of Colour-Sergeant Tilton, who wished to resign. Mr. Granger will be remembered by many of the old "D-Day" 61st. A. H. R. C.

1/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE 39th anniversary dinner of this Association was held at the Star Hotel, Cheltenham, on Saturday, 8th March, when a party of 110 youthful-looking veterans did ample justice to the excellent fare provided and fought many battles and minor engagements over again.

The chair was taken by the president of the Association, Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. Watkins, C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C., who proposed the Loyal toast and later welcomed all the guests, but especially Colonel J. P. Carne, V.C., D.S.O., Alderman T. L. Thompson,

representing the Mayor of Cheltenham, and Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Harrison, T.D.

Captain V. G. Smith, D.C.M., proposed "Absent Comrades" and mentioned those who had died during the year: G. Owen (Dursley), J. H. Heaven (Stroud), A. Strickland (Cheltenham), F. Tandy, G. Cox, P. Collins and S. Tarplee (Gloucester). All stood in silence while Drum-Major Bowles sounded the Last Post and the Reveille.

The "Gloucestershire Regiment" was proposed by Alderman T. L. Thompson, who said we had been privileged to live in one of the great periods of the world's history and The Gloucestershire Regiment had played an important part in shaping that history. Paying tribute to Colonel Carne's fine military record he said that during his two years as Mayor he had enjoyed several happy associations with Colonel Carne. One of these was a presentation of a portrait of the Colonel to the Regiment from the people of Cheltenham.

Colonel Carne, in his reply, said he was pleased that Alderman Thompson had stressed the pride that Cheltenham had in the County Regiment. He went on to say what constituted a Regiment. It was, in his opinion, the spirit of pride, loyalty, and comradeship, which was well exemplified in the large number of Old Comrades present that night.

Major L. R. C. Sumner, M.C., proposed the toast "The 5th Battalion" and Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Harrison, who responded, gave an outline of the Battalion's progress and said that this year special parades would be held to commemorate the jubilee of the Territorial Force.

R. M. A.

GLoucester BRANCH

The past year has passed away with the Old Comrades still pursuing their natural habits. The usual looked-forward-to social evenings have been quite well attended and have been the means of keeping the members together. Also, although we must look forward to declining ranks, the attendance at these various functions still gives us that little ray of hope to carry on as long as we can. We have had the never-to-be-forgotten "housey-housey," a film show very kindly given by British Railways, and an excellent evening by our Hon. Padre (Rev. Emrys Evans), which consisted of a talk on hymns and their origin.

The church parades, both Battalion (held at Cirencester) and the local branch, were quite satisfactory and it was pleasing to see some long-lost friends on duty. A notable feature of the parade at Cirencester was the splendid gesture of the Branch providing refreshments which were greatly appreciated by all.

During the year we held the President's outing or, I should say, the committee outing, for services rendered, and which took the form of another trip to Longleat House, Wiltshire. On this occasion, the time was spent in looking round the grounds and admiring the peacocks. An excellent tea was arranged thanks to H. Horlick and the return journey was made via Paganhill, Stroud. Fortunately the weather was kind to us and a most enjoyable day was spent.

The annual guest night was a grand affair, when we were entertained by Ali Baba (son of a former sergeant of the Battalion), J. Howes (accordion) and songs, etc., by our Hon. Padre and members of his choir. I must add here that our Padre is an excellent acquisition to our social evenings, a veritable master of all trades and always so willing.

To conclude I strike rather a sombre note as, during the period, we have lost four Old

Comrades through death, viz. George Cook (a life member), Pat Collins, F. Tandy and G. Vallender. We all mourn their loss.

To really finish I should like to voice the appreciation of all members of the branch to the committee of the Services Club for their making available rooms for all our meetings and for the always-willing attention of the Steward and Stewardess. W. E. D.

2/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE annual meeting, held on 20th March, 1958, at the Sydney Arms Hotel, elected Mr. C. Davis as chairman, Mr. E. Yeend as treasurer and Mr. L. Drake as secretary. The meeting received the treasurer's report, showing a balance in hand of £69 14s. 1d., and decided to hold the 30th annual reunion at the Star Hotel, Cheltenham, on Saturday, 11th October, with General the Rt. Hon. Lord Ismay, K.G., P.C., G.C.B., C.H., D.S.O., as chief guest. Colonel Carne, V.C., D.S.O., has consented to reply on behalf of The Gloucestershire Regiment. It was decided to ask Colonel Sir G. Christie Miller, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., to be president of the Association for 1958. A strong committee were elected to serve.

6th BATTALION O.C.A.

“THE Sixth” held their Old Comrades' reunion dinner at Bristol on 29th March, after the memorable Freedom of the City ceremonies. Unfortunately, with no “recruits” coming in since 1938, the Association gets smaller year by year, but there was a good attendance on this occasion, under the president, Colonel E. N. Gardner, the last Commanding Officer of the Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. R. Gee, who had been Second-in-command of the Bristol 9th H.G. Battalion, proposed the toast to the Association, which was replied to by Mr. V. E. G. Stevens. “Fallen Comrades” was proposed by Mr. F. E. Veale. The oldest member present was ex-Sergeant E. C. Witchell, who is now 76.

MR. W. W. Adams, M.S.M. (No. 5173121), who is now employed as a Civil Servant with the South Wales Borderers Depot at Brecon, recently noted a number of 28th/61st names in the “Book of Remembrance” in the S.W.B. Memorial Chapel in Brecon Cathedral. Here they are not forgotten by the Regiment with whom they were serving when they died.

5183194 Corporal Duggan, J. B., 2 S.W.B.
 5178460 Sergeant Febury, C. G. H., 2 S.W.B.
 5188119 Private Fisher, L. W., 2 S.W.B.
 5188510 Private Hancock, R. W., 2 S.W.B.
 5181131 Private Kind, R., 6 S.W.B.
 5183419 Private Martin, D. N. J., 2 Mons.
 5183482 Private Parsons, G. R., 2 Mons.

5187592 Private Slater, C. H., 2 S.W.B.
 5188439 Private Slater, J. S., 2 S.W.B.
 5188355 Private Smart, F. J., 2 S.W.B.
 5189232 Private Smith, F., 2 S.W.B.
 5188066 Corporal Stafford, W. G., 2 S.W.B.
 5189429 Private Taylor, T. W., 2 S.W.B.
 5184624 Private Price, G. D., 2 S.W.B.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, April, 1958)

	<i>Date of Substantive Rank</i>	<i>How Employed</i>
<i>Colonel-in-Chief:</i>		
Field-Marshal 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., Personal Aide-de-Camp to the Queen	6/5/35	
<i>Colonel:</i>		
Major-Gen. C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	23/2/54	
<i>Lieutenant-Colonels:</i>		
A. H. Knight, M.B.E.	16/4/56	A.Q.M.G. (Movements), M.E.L.F.
P. C. S. Heidenstam, O.B.E. (Bt. Lt.-Col., 1/7/55)	23/4/57	Commanding 1st Battalion
<i>Majors:</i>		
J. Biddulph	30/8/41	Retires about July
E. Jones, M.B.E.	1/7/46	Quartering Cmdt., Catterick
R. H. S. Woodward	18/3/47	Awaiting appointment
C. R. Davis	23/12/47	Retires 28th April
N. S. Watkin-Williams	20/3/48	2nd Ghana Regiment, Accra
A. D. Hunter	30/1/49	3rd Ghana Regiment, Takoradi
E. D. Harding, D.S.O.	30/1/49	2 i/c, 1st Battalion
A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, M.B.E. (Bt. Lt.-Col., 1/7/55)	30/1/49	O.C. 3rd Battalion, Aden Protectorate Levies
A. L. W. Soames	30/1/49	G.S.O.2, W.O. (C8)
P. J. H. Pope	27/8/49	D.A.Q.M.G. H.Q., Sp. Dist.
J. H. E. Bown, M.C., M.B.E.	1/6/50	C.I., F.A.R.E.L.F. Training Centre
T. A. K. Dillon	1/7/52	O.C. "B" Company, 1st Battalion
W. A. Wood	1/7/52	O.C., Depot
P. G. H. Varwell	3/7/52	G.S.O.2, Tactical Wing, Sch. of Inf.
E. L. T. Capel	10/7/52	O.C., H.Q. 1, 1st Battalion
M. C. Denison	21/12/52	Army Apprentices School, Harrogate
P. W. Weller, M.B.E.	12/2/53	Brigade Adjnt., Wessex Brigade
T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker	23/4/54	O.C., "C" Company, 1st Battalion
W. L. D. Morris	6/4/55	O.C., "A" Company, 1st Battalion
H. W. P. Gallop	3/5/55	D.A.Q.M.G. H.Q., Western Cmd.
S. C. S. Farmer	28/5/55	Training Major, 5th Battalion
H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E.	13/6/55	H.Q. Northgate
D. B. Metcalfe	22/7/55	Training Officer, Depot
J. E. Taylor	10/8/56	O.C. "D" Company, 1st Battalion
T. R. Littlewood	25/11/57	1st Battalion
A. H. Farrar-Hockley, D.S.O., M.C.	8/4/57	Transferring to Para. Regt.
<i>Captains:</i>		
M. G. Harvey, M.C.	10/10/52	W.T.O., 1st Battalion
H. R. A. Streater	24/3/53	R.M.A., Sandhurst
A. N. Wilson	27/10/53	G.S.O.3, G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
R. J. Martin, M.C.	15/7/54	Adjutant, 5th Battalion
A. D. Lennard	24/7/54	H.Q., 2 Inf. Div., B.A.O.R.
G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey	16/8/54	2 i/c, "B" Company, 1st Battalion
G. F. B. Temple, M.C.	10/4/55	O.C. H.Q. 2, 1st Battalion
N. R. Gilliver	21/5/55	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
P. R. Barker	22/11/55	Adjutant Singapore Mil. Forces
D. J. Holdsworth	22/7/56	S.M.I.S., Malaya
J. W. Allison	20/1/57	I.O. 1st Battalion
A. C. N. Preston	2/5/57	Invalided, Depot
W. A. Duguid	16/9/57	2 i/c, "A" Company, 1st Battalion
J. C. H. Roberts	10/11/57	2 i/c, "D" Company, 1st Battalion
D. E. Matson	8/2/58	Adjutant, Depot

<i>Lieutenants:</i>	<i>Date of Substantive Rank</i>	<i>How Employed</i>
D. E. Whatmore	24/5/52	H.Q., 7th Armoured Division
M. M. A. Gilmore	1/8/54	British Embassy, Ankara
R. A. F. Jarman	4/4/55	2 i/c, H.Q. 1, 1st Battalion
D. J. Hurford-Jones	12/6/55	Depot
R. A. Maby	22/7/55	Attd. Para. Regiment
J. B. Henderson	31/7/55	Attd. R. Canadian Regt., August
C. P. T. Rebbeck	31/7/55	1st Battalion
M. A. Crush	4/2/57	Assault Pioneer Platoon, 1st Battalion
T. E. Lapage-Norris	29/7/57	" B " Company, 1st Battalion
C. J. Waters	16/12/57	M.M.G. Platoon, 1st Battalion
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
R. J. Bewell	16/12/55	" A " Company, 1st Battalion
H. G. F. Chapman	27/12/56	" C " Company, 1st Battalion
W. J. Vicary	27/12/56	H.Q. 2, 1st Battalion
N. C. Thompson	20/12/57	1st Battalion
<i>Quartermasters:</i>		
E. J. Hobbs, M.B.E.	26/2/52	Capt. M.T.O., 1st Battalion
K. F. Clark	27/5/55	Capt. 5th Battalion, Gloucester
C. W. Phillips, M.B.E.	12/3/56	Capt. 1st Battalion
A. J. Gillett	1/1/57	Lt. Depot

NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICERS

<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
D. A. Godfrey	16/3/57	" B " Company, 1st Battalion
G. A. Hutchings	16/3/57	" D " Company, "
A. B. Paxford	16/3/57	" D " Company, "
M. A. R. Biggs	30/3/57	Depot
M. Stroud	30/3/57	" B " Company, 1st Battalion
W. P. G. Burges	18/5/57	Depot
A. G. L. Shore	18/5/57	U.K.
T. G. Rowlands	1/6/57	" D " Company, 1st Battalion
C. J. F. Spry	15/6/57	" A " Company, "
J. Doull	29/6/57	" B " Company, "
R. L. Giles	26/7/57	" A " Company, "
S. St. J. Moore	7/12/57	" B " Company, "
P. G. G. Freeman	25/1/58	" D " Company, "
R. H. Sweet	25/1/58	" A " Company, "
R. F. Jackson	22/3/58	5 K.A.R.

OFFICERS LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brig. T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O.	1/1/53	Retiring, July 1958
Col. R. G. T. Collins, C.B.E.	16/11/53	U.K. Liaison Staff, S. Rhodesia
Col. J. G. C. Waldron, C.B.E., D.S.O.	15/10/54	N.A.T.O. Defence College (student)
Col. J. A. Mackenzie, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.	14/1/57	Comdt., Joint Concealment Centre
Col. T. K. Lacey	13/6/57	British Legation, Bangkok
Lt.-Col. C. W. A. Bath, O.B.E.	1/1/54	A.A. & Q.M.G., S.P. District
Lt.-Col. C. E. B. Walwyn, D.S.O., O.B.E.	24/4/54	R.C.B., Westbury
Lt.-Col. J. Morris	31/12/55	O.C., Q.O., Nigeria Regiment
Major (Q.M.) R. F. Grist, M.B.E.	29/8/46	Staff Q.M., Joint School Chemical Warfare

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

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

1957	
17th September	Captain J. D. Barker retires, 1st September.
4th October	Lieutenant D. J. Barrett to be Lieutenant (5th Battalion), 13th August, with seniority 18th February.
19th November	Major R. S. Butler, having exceeded the age limit, ceases to belong to R.A.R.O., 19th November.
3rd December	Colonel J. P. Carne, v.c., d.s.o., retires on r.p., 30th November.
1958	
17th January	Major P. P. L. Owen retires on r.p., 13th January.
21st January	Second-Lieutenant P. J. MacI. Whiteman (5th Battalion) to be Lieutenant, 19th January.
	Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. C. Roberts, m.b.e., retires on h.p., 16th January.
7th February	Major A. W. Hardick retires on h.p., 7th February.
21st February	Lieutenant-Colonel A. E. Wilkinson, o.b.e., m.c., retires on h.p., 14th September, 1957, and is granted the honorary rank of Colonel.
25th February	Officer Cadet N. C. Thompson from R.M.A. to be Second-Lieutenant, 20th December, 1957.
7th March	Lieutenant I. S. Cooper to be Captain (5th Battalion), 27th February, with seniority 1st April, 1957.
18th March	Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Bartlett retires on h.p., 18th March.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

	<i>Date of Award (London Gazette, etc.)</i>
C.B.E.	
Brigadier (temporary) J. G. C. Waldron, d.s.o., o.b.e.	1/1/58
O.B.E.	
Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. B. Walwyn, d.s.o. (for services in Cyprus)	7/2/58
Army Emergency Reserve Decoration	
Captain H. A. Walter (now R.A.R.O.) and 1st Clasp	18/3/58
Territorial Efficiency Decoration	
Captain (A/Major) T. A. Newberry	5/11/57
Captain D. H. Potter	5/11/57
Cadet Forces Medal	
A/Captain W. F. Honor	31/1/58
Mention in Despatches (for services in Cyprus)	
Major A. E. Strange	7/2/58
Lieutenant J. B. Henderson	7/2/58
Lieutenant A. G. Bryan	7/2/58
5183956 Colour-Sergeant G. Havelock-Allen	7/2/58
5732409 Sergeant W. E. Grandison	7/2/58

PUBLICATIONS

Short History of the 49th Division, 1907-57, by Lieutenant-Colonel F. K. Hughes.

Included in the book is the story of the Polar Bear Division in the 1939-45 War with whom the 2nd Gloucesters fought after the Normandy landing. There are several brief mentions of the Regiment.

Price 6s. 6d. from H.Q. 49th Inf. Div., Bestwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottingham.

The Unquiet Peace. Stories of the post-war Army, edited by Maurice Tugwell. Published by Allan Wingate at 16s. 0d.

An excellent collection of 19 stories telling something of the adventures and heroism of the "peace-time" soldier since 1945. Actions in Malaya, Palestine, India, Korea, Kenya, Cyprus and Port Said are all vividly described by those who have taken part in them. Included is the story by Major A. H. Farrar-Hockley of Privates Fox and Graham of the 28th/61st who, after escaping from Gloster Hill on the Imjin, were recaptured by the North Koreans and threatened with death. However, a last chance was given—Fox was challenged to single combat by a lieutenant who boasted of being the strongest man in Korea. For victory, freedom was offered. Fox won the desperate contest and the two men were released.

The story of the sinking of the *Empire Windrush* is also told.

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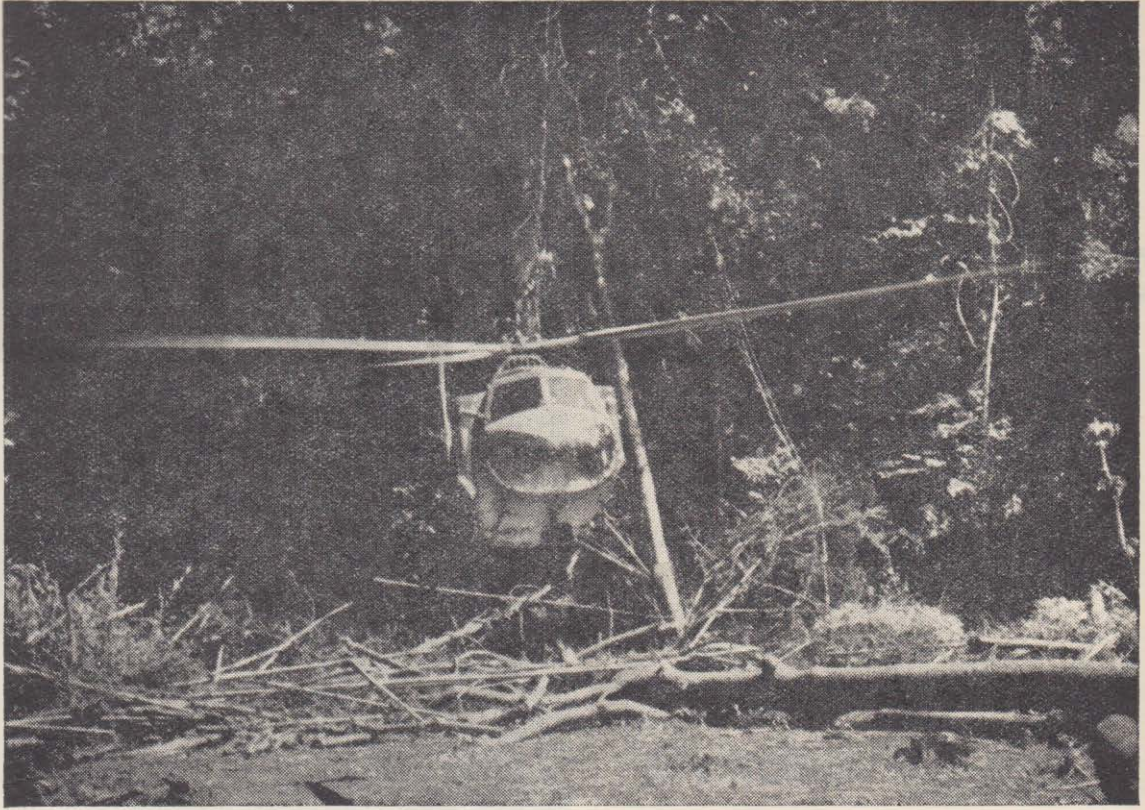
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RECOLLECTIONS

BY ROSCOE ADAMS (RHANIKET ROVERS)

I FOUND the last issue of THE BACK BADGE very interesting, notably the article relating to the Dunkirk War Memorial by Mr. P. R. Brown, D.C.M., M.S.M. I take it this is the Mr. Brown who was for many years D/Major in the Regiment; if so, he was a great friend of mine in the days of Mhow, etc. Several of the names amongst the Roll of Casualties brought back many memories of far-off days in India, notably 5177922 Private J. Mogg, who I feel sure will be remembered by many of the old "D" Company, 61st, as a great cross-country runner and the winner of many trophies, which he invariably gave away; I still have one which I cherish very much. Those were the days when "D" Company excelled in sport and usually provided about 75 per cent. of the men for the Regimental teams. At that time the company was commanded by the late Major A. F. Chapman, "Pug," with Major H. L. Cox, "Bouncer," as second-in-command, and Lieutenant C. E. A. Firth, now major-general, was platoon commander of the famous No. 13 Platoon which contained so many excellent sportsmen.

One recalls such names as "Taff" Simonds, "Gunner" Middleton, "Busty" Horler, Arthur Moss, Reuben Arthurs, "Tich" Hall, Sergeant Bragg, Corporal Coleman, Cressy Lannon, Bill Cull, Underwood Brothers, Fox Brothers, Brushneen Brothers, Hodgson Brothers, Bill Glead, Gillespie, Victor Imrie, Shiny Pearce, Johnson the cricketer, Duke, Hopkins and Comely the footballers, Harry Stewart, "Busty," noted for his thirst and tales of far-off days when he was a "lion tamer" in the circus, old soldiers Dan Newman of target paste fame and Rutte Bedwell of motor car fame and last, but not least, Sam Clayton of moustache and arms drill fame. Whoever will forget Sam when he used to be called out by the R.S.M. or the adjutant to give a demonstration to the Battalion?

At that time we were ably looked after by C.S.M. Tosdevine and C.Q.M.S. Cannell ("Tich" to all his friends off parade). Those were the days when we were tucked away in jungle bungalows, away from the spying eyes of C.S.M. Middlecote and Charlie Wilkes. One looks back with pride to the good old days of the twenties and the many happy times spent together with such a wonderful lot of men to revive old memories.

We were brought up to date with an interesting film and discussion on the T.V. recently about the excavations of Taxila. Shades of Hassan-Abdul, Nicholson's Monument, not forgetting the camel and bullock transport of those days and the mules (Bill Loades, king of same). I wonder if anyone still remembers these famous last words by R.S.M. Budd:

"Run your Rolls Rigden,
Run your Rolls."

S.S.A.F.A.'s TATTOO

The 7th Annual Tattoo organised to raise urgently needed funds for the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Families Association takes place at the White City Stadium, London, on 11th, 12th, 13th and 15th August. Bookings now open at the White City.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dehra Dun,
U.P., India.

Sir,

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilford was O.C. of the Regiment when I enlisted in '98. He was killed in action in the Boer War. Since there has been Lieutenant-Colonels Wallace, Humphries and Capel Cure, all in my time when I was time-expired in 1910.

There is one outstanding incident when the Regiment was stationed in Lucknow. One of the agitators, Lala Lajpat Rai, was locked up in our guardroom. He said he would be released by his followers within an hour and would be proclaimed King of India. I, knowing the vernacular, reported this to the sergeant of the guard and eventually it reached the G.O.C., who ordered the whole garrison out with 100 rounds of ball ammunition and fixed bayonets and marched through the city and the mob given one hour to disperse. However, everything went off quietly.

I may mention that I am still proud that I served in the 28th Old Braggs. I have treasured a group of drummers, a photo taken in Lucknow in 1905. Thanking you, sir, for your kind letter. I beg to remain, sir,

Yours most obediently,
A. R. HANSEN.

(Mr. Hansen enlisted in the Regiment at Calcutta in 1898 (No. 5372) and served for 12 years with the Colours. He recently applied for a copy of his Army papers as he was desirous of being registered as a British Citizen.—Editor.)

Hexham,
Northumberland.

Dear Sir,

Major Metcalfe's letter, "A small world," interested me very much, because last July I myself heard a spontaneous testimonial to the Glosters' heroism at Solma-ri from another American who was "there."

On 9th July I was told that an American staying for three days at a local hotel was inquiring for me! He proved to be a Joseph Forster, a pupil of mine over 40 years ago and now a bank manager in Seattle. He was on a flying visit with his family to his home district.

Conversation about the school and its former pupils naturally brought up the name of Major-General Brodie. It was then that his son, a Master-Sergeant with a good war record, at the time on leave from N.A.T.O. headquarters, Paris, paid his tribute to the Glosters. He did not know that I came from Gloucestershire. Nor, while still in Korea, had he heard the full account of what had happened. He was delighted when I lent him the issue of THE BACK BADGE which described the battle. I recommended *The Edge of the Sword* too.

Finally may I offer you and the Glosters my best wishes for 1958.

Yours sincerely,
W. L. DIX
(late 5th Glosters).

REGIMENTAL DINNER, 1958

TO enable as many officers of the 1st Battalion as possible to attend, the Regimental Dinner for 1958 was held on Wednesday, 5th March, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge. The Duke of Gloucester, as Colonel-in-Chief, presided.

Besides Major-General C. E. A. Firth, Colonel of the Regiment, the following 56 other members of the Dinner Club were present.

Lt.-Col. C. E. K. Bagot, Col. R. J. Bewell, Lt. R. J. Bewell, Major D. Calvert-Fisher, Col. C. R. Campbell, Major E. L. T. Capel, Col. J. P. Carne, Lt. H. G. F. Chapman, Lt. M. A. Crush, Major T. A. K. Dillon, Capt. W. A. Duguid, Major H. W. P. Gallop, Capt. H. R. Gilliver, Lt. M. M. A. Gilmore, Col. R. M. Grazebrook, Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, Major A. W. Hardwick, Lt.-Col. F. J. Harrison, Capt. M. G. Harvey, Lt.-Col. P. C. S. Heidenstam, Brigadier M. A. James, Lt.-Col. G. W. V. Ladds, Lt. T. E. Lapage Norris, Capt. A. D. Lennard, Major T. R. Littlewood, Lt.-Col. N. Lovett, Major E. H. Lynn-Allen, Lt. R. A. Maby, Capt. R. J. Martin, Capt. D. E. Matson, Major D. B. Metcalfe, Major W. L. D. Morris, Maj.-Gen. H. Needham, Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, Capt. A. C. N. Preston, Lt.-Col. F. W. Priestley, Major H. L. T. Radice, Lt. C. P. T. Rebbeck, Major T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker, Lt.-Col. C. L. C. Roberts, Capt. J. C. H. Roberts, Major A. L. W. Soames, Capt. H. R. A. Streather, Major J. F. Taylor, Lt. N. C. Thompson, Lt.-Col. J. F. L. Tweedie, Major P. G. H. Varwell, Lt. W. J. Vicary, Lt.-Col. H. N. Vinen, Brigadier J. G. C. Waldron, Lt.-Col. C. E. B. Walwyn, Col. A. E. Wilkinson, Major W. A. Wood, Major R. H. S. Woodward.

The following officers of the Royal Canadian Regiment serving in England were guests of the Regiment: Major F. M. Vine, Major H. V. Davies, Captain D. B. Butts and Captain D. G. Loomis, as was Major N. D. P. Bosville MacDonald, in attendance on H.R.H.

A well-attended ladies' tea took place on the same afternoon, also at the Hyde Park Hotel.



During 1957, the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 22,052, which was 83% of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 52 branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number, 9,057 were from the Army and 76 were from The Gloucestershire Regiment.

At some time or another, every Regular eventually returns to civil life. When this happens, looking for a decent job can be a trying and lengthy business.

This is where the National Association comes in, completely free, to help you to start right. If you are not absolutely sure of your job, get in touch with the local Jobfinder. Incidentally, he is an ex-Regular like yourself so you will be quite at home when you meet him. He knows the employers and the vacancies they want to fill and can, therefore, give you an up-to-the-minute picture of the local employment possibilities.

If, when you get home, you have forgotten, lost or have never been told the address of your Area Jobfinder, apply at any big Post Office, or to your own Regimental Association. They will be able to give it to you.

Regular Forces Employment Association, 62 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

OFFICERS' WIDOWS' PENSIONS

WE have previously published short articles giving information about the aims and activities of the Officers' Pensions Society. It may not be generally known that the Society does much work on behalf of the widows of retired officers whom they consider to be amongst the hardest hit and most neglected members of the community in this age of inflation.

It is realised that many officers' widows have no idea of their eligibility for a pension, nor do they know how to set about making a claim for one when their husbands die. The Council of the Society decided some time ago that when a member died his widow should immediately be offered a year's free membership and all assistance she might need in making application for her pension. When a member's death is reported, therefore, a letter is sent to his widow at once, offering the sympathy of the Society in her loss and explaining exactly how and to whom she should make application for her pension according to the branch of the Service in which her husband had served.

Although, on the Society's representations, widows' pensions were practically doubled in 1953 and the Means Test was then abolished, they are still pitifully small, and many widows without other means cannot hope even to exist on their pensions alone without finding some form of employment. This, of course, is extremely difficult for an elderly lady who has led a comparatively sheltered life and had no training for earning her own living.

Members of the Society will know that a memorandum has recently been submitted to the Minister of Defence, asking for a complete review of officers' retired pay and giving high priority to the question of making widows' pensions bear a more reasonable relationship to their late husbands' retired pay. It is believed that this matter is now receiving sympathetic consideration by the Minister, and it is hoped that improvements may be made during the lifetime of the present Government.

It is a matter of importance for every officer who retires to add his weight by joining the Society, and to this end all those who are not yet members are urged to write to the Assistant General Secretary, The Officers' Pensions Society, 171 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, who will be pleased to forward particulars and an application form.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

BIRTHS

- LUDIMAN.—On 20th March, 1957, to the wife of Sergeant W. Ludiman, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- DUGUID.—On 13th September, 1957, at B.M.H., Nicosia, to Janet, wife of Captain W. A. Duguid, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- CROMPTON.—On 16th October, 1957, at Nicosia, to Sheila, wife of W.O.2 Crompton, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- TAYLOR.—On 11th December, 1957, at Nicosia, to Joyce, wife of Major J. E. Taylor, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.
- SIBUN.—On 1st January, 1958, at B.M.H., Kinrara, Malaya, to Doris, wife of Captain A. V. Sibun, The Gloucestershire Regiment (S.C.C.)—twins (son and daughter).
- PLUMMER.—On 5th February, 1958, at Gloucester, to the wife of Bandmaster G. Plummer, A.R.C.M., The Gloucestershire Regiment—a son.

MARRIAGES

- LEE-BROWNE-FORD.—On 14th September, 1957, at Dartford, Kent, Lieutenant M. S. Lee-Browne, 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, to Diana Frances, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Ford.
- MERCHANT-GRAY.—At Downend, Bristol, Corporal Merchant, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and Alice Ellen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gray.

DEATHS

- BOND.—On 27th October, 1957, at Cheltenham, ex-Private F. T. R. Bond, aged 46. 1st and 2nd Battalions The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5180791), 1930-44. Repatriated as a prisoner-of-war 1943 and discharged for ill health.
- GIBBS.—On 2nd November, 1957, at Cheltenham, ex-Sergeant P. F. Gibbs, 2nd and 1st Battalions The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1919-43, and with 5th and 7th Battalions until 1945.
- TEAGUE.—On 10th November, 1957, at Rhyl, Mr. H. Teague, aged 82. Bandmaster of the 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment during 1914-18 War. For 28 years musical director of the Cheltenham Opera House, and Bandmaster of the Cheltenham Military Band for many years.
- FREER.—On 6th December, 1957, at Oxford, ex-Sergeant D. M. Freer, aged 57. The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5172522) 1915-25. Served first in the Band of the 2nd Battalion. At age of 21 was a sergeant in the Battalion and for a number of years in India as Sergeants' Mess caterer. On leaving the Colours he settled in Oxford and, whilst intensely proud of his old regiment, served on the committee of the Regimental Association of the Oxford and Bucks L.I.

- HAWKER.—In 1957, at Gloucester, Mr. F. J. Hawker, 2/5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18.
- JACKSON.—On 7th January, 1958, at Cheltenham, Mr. A. N. Jackson, of Tewkesbury, aged 88. Late The Gloucestershire Regiment. Served in S. African and 1914-18 Wars. Two of his sons, Arthur (M.M.) and Wilfred, later served in the Regiment.
- HALFORD.—On 7th January, 1958, in London, Mrs. J. M. Halford, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel M. W. Halford, M.C., The Gloucestershire Regiment.
- WRIGHT.—On 10th January, 1958, at Chalford, Glos, ex-Corporal E. Wright ("Herbie"), The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5184774). For many years groom and farrier in the 61st.
- WITTS.—On 11th January, 1958, Captain G. B. Witts, of Upper Slaughter Manor, Glos, aged 74. 14th (West of England) Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment during 1914-18 War.
- FAIRBANK.—On 20th January, 1958, at Bristol, Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Fairbank, D.S.O., M.C., D.L., late R.F.A., aged 74. Secretary Glos. T.A. and A.F. Association 1925-47.
- ROBINS.—On 27th January, 1958, at Bristol, Mr. W. H. Robins, aged 65. 2/5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18 War. At one time secretary to the Cheltenham Rugby Club. Latterly licensee of the "Colston Arms," Bedminster.
- EAGAR.—On 28th January, 1958, at Cheltenham, Lieutenant-Colonel E. F. Eagar, aged 67. Late the R. Berkshire Regiment (1910-36). First Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment (August 1939-June 1940). Officer Commanding 11th Battalion June-November 1940. Commanded 1st Battalion Glos. H.G. 1943-44.
- WYNNIATT.—On 16th February, 1958, at Stanway, Glos, Mr. T. W. Wynniatt, aged 68. 8th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment 1915-19. Twice wounded. Foreman of the Earl of Wemyss' Stanway estate for last 20 years.
- WARD.—On 23rd February, 1958, at East Brent, Somerset, Mr. Dixon Ward, aged 95. Drum-Major in the 3rd Volunteer Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment at time of S. African War.
- WYLLIE.—On 28th February, 1958, at Tunbridge Wells, Mr. J. M. Wyllie, aged 80. One of the original members of the Cyclist Section in the 2nd Volunteer Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. Served in the S. African and 1914-18 Wars.
- MAGEE.—On 8th March, 1958, at Broughshane, N. Ireland, ex-Private C. Magee, in his 99th year. The 28th Regiment, 1880-86.
- CALVERT-FISHER.—On 28th March, 1958, at Walmer, Kent, Mrs. K. Calvert-Fisher, widow of Colonel H. Calvert-Fisher, 6th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.

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