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The
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Regiment

Summer 1961

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The
Journal
of



The
Gloucestershire
Regiment

Vol. VIII. No. 30 (New Series)

June, 1961

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," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Guilleumont," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Messines, 1917, '18," "Pillckem," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18," "St. Quentin," "Bapaume, 1918," "Rosières," "Avre," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Bailleul," "Kemmel," "Béthune," "Drocourt Quéant," "Hindenburg Line," "Epéhy," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Beaurevoir," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1917," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Sari Bair," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915-16," "Egypt, 1916," "Tigris, 1916," "Kut al Amara, 1917," "Baghdad," "Mesopotamia, 1916-18," "Persia, 1918." "The Second World War.—"Defence of Escaut," "St. Omer-La Bassée," "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." "Hill 327," "Imjin," "Korea, 1950-51."

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EDITORIAL

THOSE who served in the 2nd Battalion in the early 1930s may remember a hot march along the concrete road from Gravesend to Shorncliffe on an August bank holiday and being passed by charabancs full of cheering and jeering holiday-makers—"Join the Army and see the world," shouted one of them. "Join the Glosters and march round it," returned one of the LXI.

Little did they all foresee how much of the world the Regiment was to see in the next 30-odd years. Quite apart from service in the last war—W. Germany and Berlin, Jamaica with detachments in Bermuda and British Honduras, Korea, Kenya, Aden with sundry detachments, Persian Gulf with companies at Bahrein and Sharjah, Cyprus and Germany once again, recently Libya and in July Portugal, with the prospect of a move to Malaya next spring—not quite round the world, but two-thirds round it. Plenty of opportunities for Britain's best ambassador—the British soldier—to do his stuff.

The 1st Battalion News tells something of the interesting and busy life of the modern Army. Maybe they have lost some good stations abroad, but life in the Strategic Reserve certainly produces variety.

From the 5th Battalion there is news of reorganisation and of a much closer link with the City of Bristol.

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER

On the 25th anniversary of the wedding of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the following telegram was sent from the Regiment:

"Major-General Firth and All Ranks of The Gloucestershire Regiment have the honour to present their congratulations and best wishes to their Colonel-in-Chief and to H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester on the happy occasion of their Silver Wedding day. They also beg to take this opportunity to thank H.R.H. for his unflinching interest and support during his 25 years as Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment."

All the regiments of which the Duke of Gloucester is Colonel-in-Chief shared in presenting as a silver wedding present to T.R.H. a dinner service crested with the various regimental badges.

The following letter of thanks was received by General Firth, who later was invited to call at St. James's Palace so that T.R.H. could personally thank him and the Regiment.

York House,

St. James's Palace.

10th November, 1960.

DEAR GENERAL,

Will you please thank all the officers in your Regiment who so kindly subscribed to our silver wedding present.

The plates are just what the Duchess and I wanted and will always be a reminder of our connection with The Gloucestershire Regiment.

We very much look forward to thanking you personally next time you call.

Yours sincerely,

HENRY. ALICE.

THE LORD MAYOR OF BRISTOL

The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve that the Lord Mayor of Bristol, from Joint Hon. Colonel, 311, (Bristol) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A., T.A., be appointed during the period in office Joint Hon. Colonel, 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment, T.A., on reorganisation 25 March, 1961.—*London Gazette*, 7 April, 1961.

REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

Ex-Private M. Baber, of Churcham, near Gloucester, who served as a National Serviceman (No. 23367241) from 1957-59 was one of the two lucky and promising young farmers from Great Britain to gain recently a P. & O. "Canberra Award" which gave him a six months' farming tour in Australia and New Zealand. In his ambassadorial tour he appears to have been an admirable choice. Martin Baber, whilst in the Regiment, was employed as a company clerk. He is a good cricketer and has played for the Regiment after he left the Army.

Lieutenant-Colonel M. F. Carter, T.D., D.L., has just completed his tour of command of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. Commissioned in the 5th Battalion in 1939, he served with that battalion and in the 43rd Recce. Regiment during the war, transferring to the R.G.H. at the end of hostilities.

Ex-Band-Corporal E. Castle (No. 5184716) (1938-52) is now serving in the Derbyshire Police Force at Barlow, near Sheffield.

Captain M. A. Crush writes from Uganda where he is working with the Special Branch. He recently stayed with Bob Leach, ex-Glosters and attached to the Somaliland Scouts, who is the District Agricultural Officer at Moroto, Karamoja.

Congratulations to Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist for adding grist to the Regimental mill. His elder son, **Second-Lieutenant R. D. Grist**, was commissioned to the Regiment from Sandhurst last December.

An earlier recent welcome entry from Sandhurst is **Second-Lieutenant T. B. Dutton**, son of **Major T. J. Dutton, M.C.**, who will be remembered as a rugger-playing sergeant in the 61st and who was commissioned in the Wiltshire Regiment during the last war.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Harrison, O.B.E., T.D. (O.C. 5th Battalion, 1956-59), has been appointed Deputy County Commandant of the Gloucestershire A.C.F. He would be very pleased to greet other officers or N.C.O.s of the Regiment willing to help train the A.C.F. in the County.

We are delighted to know that **Mr. William Howell** of Chipping Campden remains hale and hearty at the age of 95. He still works as a hurdle maker for a few hours each day. "It helps to keep me fit," he says. A fine sportsman in his day, he is still a West Bromwich Albion fan.

Mr. Howell enlisted in 1881 and finished his time without crime in 1893. In the 1914-18 War he served in the Labour Corps. It would be interesting to know if he is now the oldest ex-member of the Regiment alive today.

Councillor W. E. Lane of Tewkesbury (2nd/5th Glosters, 1914-18) has been appointed county chairman of the British Legion in Gloucestershire.

A new illustrated book, "The Way of a Gun" by **Major E. H. Lynn-Allen, M.C.** (published at 21s. by Geoffrey Bles), describes all the things a young shooting man usually has to learn piecemeal from his elders, or absorb from experience.

Lieutenant-Colonel John Morris takes up in June the pleasant appointment of Secretary to the County of Lanarkshire T. and A.F. Association. He was lucky as he was competing for the appointment against two Cameronians who were fighting on their own stamping ground.

Major (Q.M.) J. H. Ridlington originally enlisted in the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1938 and served in their 2nd Battalion under Brigadier M. A. James. In 1940 he received an Emergency Commission in the K.S.L.I. and served with the 2nd Herefords and 6th R.W.K. until 1945. In December of that year he enlisted in the Gloucesters (No. 5194281), serving at the School of Infantry until early 1949 when he joined the 1st Battalion in Jamaica. He served as Mortar Platoon Sergeant, C.Q.M.S. "Sp" Company, and finally C.S.M. of "C" Company until taken prisoner at the Imjin in 1951.

In 1954 he held a short service commission in the R.A.O.C. He received his present Regular commission as Q.M. in the Regiment in April 1960.

Ex-Corporal E. F. Taylor, who has taken over the duties of attendant at the Regimental Museum, enlisted in the Regiment in 1934 (No. 5182379) and served mostly with the 1st Battalion until he was invalided in 1943 after the withdrawal from Burma. He will be remembered as more or less permanent "stick orderly," priding himself that it was very seldom he missed this whilst on guard duties.

Congratulations to **Mr. W. J. Wakefield** on being awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List. Enlisting in the Regiment (No. 5174031) in 1919, Mr. Wakefield served with the 1st Battalion continuously until 1936 when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion as C.Q.M.S. to "H.Q." Company. For over 15 years he had served as P.R.I.'s clerk in the 28th. On his discharge in 1939 he joined the Civil Service and took up an appointment the same day with the Regimental Depot at Horfield. Three years later he was appointed Chief Clerk, and when the Depot was closed in 1959 he became Chief Clerk at R.H.Q., which appointment he still holds. Forty-two years of continuous loyal service to the Regiment has at last been rewarded. He received his award at the hands of the Queen Mother at an investiture last March.

The **Rev. G. C. W. Wallis**, who served as a subaltern in the 61st for a couple of years after Dunkirk, has recently been appointed rector of Brinkworth, near Chippenham.

Major N. S. Watkin-Williams is now serving with the Sierra Leone Government as an administrative officer.

Lydd, to which the 28th/61st move in August when their Dover barracks are to be reconstructed, is an entirely new station for the Glosters. It was formerly a gunner camp with artillery ranges and gave its name to "Lyddite," the high explosive used in shells during the First World War.

Now some three miles from the sea, at the time of the Norman Conquest it was a fishing station and a seaport of some consequence. It was a corporate member of the Cinque Port of Romney. Now it has adjacent to it Ferryfield, the Silver City airport for the Continent.

Colonel A. H. Radice, D.S.O., in his "Subaltern's Recollections" when telling of service in Malta with the 28th in 1894, writes: "The officers had their uniforms made by Zarb, a Maltese who had a small shop in Strada Reale in Valletta. He was the worst tailor in the world but useful to borrow money from." One wonders if he was a forebear of Mr. Zarb who was recently released from an Egyptian prison after alleged espionage.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

8th-22nd July.—5th Battalion Camp, at Shorncliffe.

Thursday, 27th July.—Cricket Match v. Gloucester City, on the Spa ground.

Friday, 28th July.—Cricket Match v. the Gloucestershire Gipsies and Officers' At Home, on the Bristol Grammar School ground, Golden Hill, Kellaway Avenue, Bristol.

Saturday, 29th July.—Regimental Reunion ("Old Soldiers' Day"), on the Bristol Grammar School ground.

Saturday, 7th October.—Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' 14th Reunion, at Gloucester.



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS NEWS

RECRUITING continues to be the main preoccupation of Regimental Headquarters. The final figure of 194 recruits for 1960, which excludes National Service conversions, was only six below our annual target of 200. Of these, 117 came from Bristol, 56 from the County and 21 from the rest of the U.K. and Commonwealth (they include one from Canada and one from Kenya).

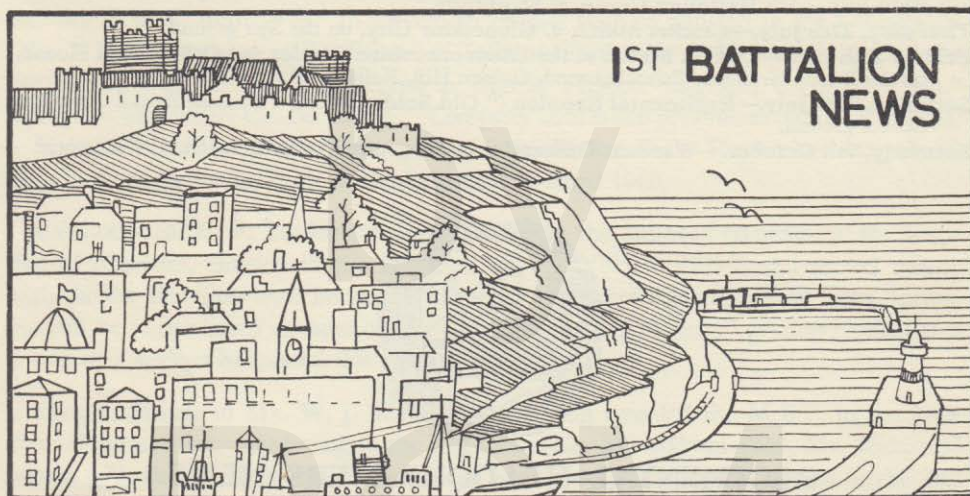
The main conclusion is that, while recruiting in Bristol was very good, that in the County was most disappointing. This is particularly disheartening in view of the recruiting drive carried out last July by the display team of the 1st Battalion in the northern half of Gloucestershire.

Unfortunately, 1961 has gone off to a bad start in Bristol as well as in the County and our total for the first three months of this year is only 28, as against 74 last year.

By the time these notes are in print two activities will have happened on which we must pin our hopes for an improvement. The first is the purchase from Regimental funds of a recruiting caravan, which, provided the 1st Battalion are able to staff it, will tour the recruiting area throughout the year. Being painted in Regimental colours and covered with posters and photos, it cannot fail to "keep the Regiment in the public eye," which is this year's recruiting slogan.

The second activity is a further assault by the 1st Battalion display team, accompanied by the Band and Drums, but this time we are planning to reinforce past successes by concentrating on Bristol and the south of the County. During the visit the Regiment proposes to exercise its privilege of marching through the City with drums beating, Colours flying and bayonets fixed, and the Lord Mayor of Bristol is taking the opportunity of welcoming the Regiment to the City.

Two points affecting our small staff are noted elsewhere: the first is the sudden death of our Museum attendant, ex-Private Price, M.M., who had held the job for four years. From a number of candidates the vacancy was filled by ex-Corporal Taylor, who served with the 1st Battalion during the first Burma campaign. The second is a happier event, namely, that after 42 years' unbroken service with the Regiment ex-Colour-Sergeant Bill Wakefield was rewarded with the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours List.



MGH

MALAYA IN 1962

AS we go to press it is announced that the Battalion is due to go to Malaya in March 1962. By then the 28th/61st will have had just over two years at home. As we have covered Kenya, Aden, Bahrain, Cyprus and Germany in the last seven years, the news of a tour on the outer circuit was very well received. The Battalion will be commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. H. Varwell, who takes over from Lieutenant-Colonel A. L. W. Soames in March 1962.

In our last issue we forecast a great deal of interesting work in the Strategic Reserve. Articles on our exploits leading up to the exercise in Libya appear in this issue.

In August 1961 the Battalion moves to Lydd, which is 26 miles west of Dover. It is unfortunate that we will have to make this change with the move to Malaya so soon afterwards. Connaught Barracks is at last due to be completely rebuilt and we must make way for the bulldozers.

The last National Serviceman has already joined us. By the end of 1962 there will be no more left. In fact, it is very doubtful



HOME COUNTIES
DISTRICT

Dover Castle with green
and white cliffs. Blue
sky and sea.

whether any will go to Malaya. The need for recruits weighs heavily on our minds. The Wessex Brigade figures are some of the best in England, but there is no room at all for complacency. We are hopeful for good results from the May repetition of last year's recruiting tour in the County.

A busy summer lies ahead of us. All the usual Battalion activities will be reported on in the next issue, including a further exercise, air transported, of course, in Portugal in July.

EXERCISE "BLEAK ROCK"

The aim of February Exercise "Bleak Rock" was to test the initiative, organisation and endurance of a platoon operating a fair distance behind the enemy lines, and in this it succeeded admirably. Four platoons took part, two from "D" Company and one each from "A" and "B" Companies.

Basically the exercise consisted of a sea landing on an enemy beach about 20 miles from the objective, which were twin radar towers manned by the N.C.O.s' Cadre. There was a night march up, a day's lying up followed by a night raid and a march back to another RV. A withdrawal from the beaches was simulated by two very welcome 3-tonners. All in all, this entailed approximately 45 miles in 36 hours.

The preparations for the exercise were carried out under operational conditions and some excellent intelligence information was provided with the liberal use of air photos, models, etc. Our landing techniques were taught to us by the Amphibious Warfare School at Poole. Before the exercise we carried out several practice beach landings and were required to disembark the whole platoon in about 10 seconds from the moment of beaching. Having managed to keep one's boots dry during these performances, it was extremely trying to get soaked to the skin by spray on the way home.

The marches, both up and back, had their moments, but generally were a real test of staying power by all concerned, especially for those who were unfortunate with the weather. This also applied to the lying up, as some shivered through a continual down-pour, while others slept under cloudless skies. Such is the luck of the draw.

The attack itself was full of incidents for all platoons, as the enemy had made excellent use of trip flares, and what appeared to be unlimited wire, both barbed and telephone. The latter was criss-crossed at just below knee height and provided many a laugh afterwards as the attackers bounced off the unseen barbed wire and, having painfully surmounted that, hurled themselves forward into choking smoke. The position was then overrun and held for 15 minutes while the ghost sappers destroyed the two objectives. We then withdrew to start the lonely march home.

In spite of all the aching feet, the exercise was enjoyed by all, even, we are told, by certain company commanders who flogged along with us as umpires!

TEN THOUSAND FEET UP

Our first important role in 19th Infantry Brigade Group after returning from Stanford towards the end of last year was to be detailed as spearhead battalion in the event of an emergency move by air. This role was to last for a month—January 1961.

All this air business was comparatively new to us and the first requirement was to get officers and N.C.O.s trained in the art of loading aircraft, working out load tables, etc.

We had heard of a number of not too amusing incidents of vehicles and guns being loaded into aircraft and reappearing through the fuselage, of aircraft hitting air pockets and freight emerging through the top of the cabin, of vehicles breaking loose inside aircraft and carrying the crew away through the nose.

We were anxious that these mishaps should not happen to us. A Unit Emplaning Officer was appointed, whose duty it was to co-ordinate an air move and supervise packing and loading of freight, preparation of load tables, etc., a responsible job and particularly suited to one with a flair for "them mathematics." All departments carried out weighing and loading trials.

As a further step a series of study days and exercises were run to consider the problems involved of moving by air and having to operate the other end on any one of four different scales.

A "mock-up" Hastings aircraft floor plan was constructed in the barracks and drivers practised driving Land-Rovers and trailers up and down ramps, whilst company loading teams were trained under the Unit Emplaning Officer in loading and unloading drills.

We learnt for the first time the real meaning of the word "hazardous"—the act of a comparatively harmless piece of freight to spontaneously ignite or blow up, bringing destruction to an aircraft. (Overheard on a company parade: "Fall in there, you hazardous soldier.")

Anything could be deemed to be hazardous and had to be treated in a special way, e.g. wireless batteries had to be drained, charging engines emptied of petrol and so on. Ether and methylated spirit (medical necessities) were especially taboo.

These precautions applied in the main to the Britannia aircraft, a pressurised plane and a special pet of the R.A.F.

A great deal of documentation was necessary and almost everything was typed in quadruplicate. This period of preparatory activity passed off without incident and the first Battalion group exercise in early March in Libya was eagerly awaited.

After several date changes, the advanced party of some 50 all ranks, including those from the attached units, left Lyneham, Wiltshire, on 6th March for El Adem in a Britannia of R.A.F. Transport Command. The remainder of the Battalion group, gunners, sappers, signallers and medics, left at intervals between the 7th and 9th March in similar aircraft. Each aeroplane load was called a chalk and remained as such until arrival the other end.

The trip to El Adem lasted six and a half hours non-stop. For many this was their first trip in an aeroplane and for many more their first trip outside U.K. Those of us who were fortunate to fly in daylight will not easily forget the magnificent view of the snow-covered Alps glistening in the sunlight below or the deep blue of the Mediterranean.

Our base camp in the desert was established four miles west of Derna on the shores of the Mediterranean. A tented camp consisting of a few marquees and store tents and bivouacs set among sand dunes.

We had taken over the site from the Royal Welch Fusiliers, who had been exercising during the previous 10 days in the area. Bathing was allowed off the beach, but care had to be taken because of strong under-currents. The sea at this time of the year was a bit nippy, but none the less very refreshing after a dusty day's training.

AIRLIFT TO LIBYA

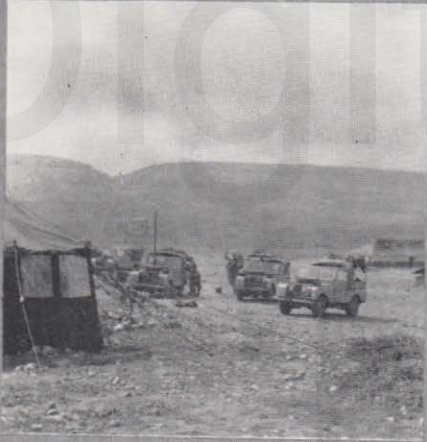


Going aboard at Lyneham (Wilts.)



Aboard the aircraft

LIBYA, 1961



Base Camp near Derna

[By courtesy "Bristol Evening Post"]

The Battalion group was finally concentrated on 10th March and prepared to move out on the first exercise on 11th March. The aim of Exercise "Shifting Sands" was to carry out a normal operation—Battalion as advanced guard on light scales, i.e. a Land-Rover and trailer basis, a total in this case of 30 vehicles.

This operation entailed ferrying forward companies and sub-units and their supplies as and when they were needed in the battle. It was simply a game of leapfrog of marching and transportable groups using the same transport. A transport pool was operated and with few exceptions all vehicles in this type of operation are vulnerable for ferrying. This means continually loading and unloading them, exercising very strict control, and a high standard of driving.

The golden rule to remember is that *everyone* keeps moving forward—soldiers must *not* wait for transport to pick them up. Time is a very important factor in this kind of operation.

The Battalion group set off through the range of hills above Derna in search of a rogue called El Fakir and his band of rebels. Some British oil prospectors had been reported missing, their fate unknown, but it was believed they were being held as hostages at El Fakir's headquarters some 20 miles south of Derna in the desert village of El Meikili. After a series of skirmishes in a long wadi the Battalion group "broke out" across the desert in full cry. The vast distances, giving almost uninterrupted view, were not at first appreciated: groups of men and vehicles tended to bunch too much and to close up too much on formations in front. However, for the first time in the desert this was understandable and the lesson was soon learnt and dispersion and moving by bounds improved as the exercise progressed.

Everyone enjoyed themselves; a company of the Royal Scots acted as "enemy" and did their job extremely well. We all gained useful experience and, above all, we had "got our knees brown."

The exercise lasted altogether two days; there followed a day and a half of rest and recuperation, during which most of the Battalion visited Derna to rummage around the shops and see the local sights.

The Battalion soccer team played Derna Football Club on a hard-baked ground and won 10—5, a most creditable performance. The local team were good sportsmen and the game was enjoyable to watch.

From 14th March to 17th March companies carried out group training from base camps established in the training areas. The Intelligence Section and Battalion H.Q. swanned off into the desert for a "jolly"—all tracks led to the ancient city of Cyrene, which was well worth a visit.

By 17th March it was time to think of returning home. All our stores and vehicles had either to be handed over to 3rd Infantry Brigade at a place called Tmimi or taken back by LST to Cyprus. Our fly back was less smooth than the outward journey, as different types of aircraft were used—Britannias, Beverleys and Hastings. We were to land eventually in U.K. at three different places. However by 21st March the majority of the Battalion were concentrated again at Dover—with their feet on the ground.

A ceremonial parade was held to commemorate Back Badge Day and, considering the lack of rehearsals, the standard of drill and turnout was quite high.

Space has not allowed the coverage of all aspects of our stay in Libya. For most of us it was an exciting experience in another country; the training was interesting and

worth while and, above all, it was fun. Some useful lessons were learnt. To mention one of them: one soldier on arrival at base camp employed one of the many small Arab boys hanging about the camp to clean his boots every morning in order that he should have an extra 15 minutes in bed.

On the last morning the youngster turned up with his "brother" to help him with the chore. The boots were handed over as usual—it would appear they remain so. "Ah, m' dears, we've a got un, but 'e'll learn, won't 'e?"

Now on to July and Portugal, where we are to take part in a Brigade group exercise. More about this in the next edition.

IMJIN DAY—22nd April, 1961

The tenth anniversary of the Battle of the Imjin River was marked at Dover with a parade and a Korean Reunion. After a dress rehearsal in fog, the day turned out warm and sunny so that the blankets provided for spectators by the Quartermaster were little used.

The Battalion paraded in No. 1 Dress for the Colonel of the Regiment, who was accompanied by Colonel Carne. The parade followed the same form as last year with the addition of the new Reconnaissance and Support Platoons which drove past in their Land-Rovers.

After the parade, the Reunion assembled in the gymnasium and we were delighted to see so many old friends again. The buffet lunch was soon eaten and the serious business of drinking quickly took over. Private (Bernard) Shaw was host to 16 of our visitors in the temporary dormitory which we had established.

Prior to the parade, a most successful Sergeants' Mess Ball was held in the gymnasium on the Friday night. The midnight ceremony of the change-over from the old guard to the new was enhanced by a compere, Sergeant Bird, resplendent in genuine 1900 uniform. He had appeared in this dress before the Chief of the Imperial General Staff earlier in the day, as the sole representative of the Regiment at Colchester during the former's visit to Headquarters, 19th Infantry Brigade Group.

Once again Padre Davies came to take the service for our church parade on Sunday, 23rd April. This service proved a most fitting end to the whole week-end.

Amongst many other old friends of the Battalion whom we saw over the week-end were Major-General and Mrs. Temple, Brigadier and Mrs. Collins, Colonel and Mrs. Arengo-Jones, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Harding, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. D. B. A. Grist, Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. R. F. Grist, Major and Mrs. Biddulph, R.S.M. Baldwyn, R.Q.M.S. Walker, R.Q.M.S. Bolton, C.S.M. Morgan, Colour-Sergeant Burnett, Colour-Sergeant (ex-Drum-Major) Buss, and Sergeants Jenkins and Hale.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We say good-bye to: Captain D. E. Matson on posting to H.Q. Cyrenaica District; Captain R. A. F. Jarman on posting to 19th Infantry Brigade Group; Major H. R. A.

IMJIN DAY PARADE



THE MARCH PAST

No. 4 Guard with Lieutenant P. L. Spencer, R.C.R. (*left*) and Lieutenant T. B. Dutton



THE DRIVE PAST

Support Platoon under Lieutenant R. J. Bwell

IMJIN DAY CEREMONIES



[By courtesy "Kent Photos"]

Colonel J. P. Carne, v.c., meets Sergeant W. A. Lucas who was also a prisoner of war in Korea



[By courtesy "Kent Photos"]

TROOPING OF THE REGIMENTAL COLOUR

Colour party: Lieutenant T. D. Cooper, Cr.-Sergeant R. W. Preece, Cr.-Sergeant G. W. Chillcott and Sergeant N. H. Tuggey

Streather on posting to Army Outward Bound School, Towyn, North Wales; Captain K. F. Clark on posting to Wessex Brigade.

We welcome: Captain N. D. Notley, Devon and Dorset; Captain M. M. A. Gilmore on rejoining; 2nd Lieutenant R. D. Grist; Major J. H. Ridlington on rejoining; Lieutenant D. Bagley, R.A.E.C.; Captain J. Henderson on return from Canada.

"A" COMPANY

The Company bade farewell to Major Littlewood in splendid fashion by presenting him with a Parker 51 pen and pencil set. Probably our most vivid memory of him will be of a dank and extremely dark bog at Stanford last year, in whose clutches he was for some time.

The next milestone was the arrival of Major Sanders of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment as our new Company Commander. With the advent of the Strategic Reserve there were the innumerable rumours of "moves," but before long we settled down for the administrative inspection.

The "day" saw "A" Company on the square in the first "proper" light scales practice. This, despite some trepidation, passed Brigadier Jackson's eagle-eye inspection and Christmas was upon us.

On return from leave we stepped straight into our standby role. With this enforced confinement came a rush of Hobbs Cup games, our most successful being the soccer.

"A" Company, along with "B," supply most of the Battalion team, including Corporal Futhcher, Lance-Corporal Grimshaw, Private Emms, Private Dean and, while he was with us, Lance-Corporal Morris, with, of course, Sergeant Hunt, who appeared from time to time. Likewise in the 2nd XI we had a bevy of talent, led by Lance-Corporal Dixon and Privates Tandy and Allen. Thus it appears we were bound to have a good Hobbs Cup side, which indeed we did, losing only to "B" Company, who had the rest of the Battalion side anyway.

In the basketball we again rose to the occasion led by Lance-Corporals Taylor and Rainbow, both Battalion players. We were unlucky not to beat "H.Q." Company, who were the eventual winners. However, we finished with two wins and two losses, which was a fair result.

In rugby we were not so successful, but by no means disgraced ourselves, losing only 8—5 to a much stronger "D" Company side. It was interesting to note that we had five non-players on our side, which was a good effort on their part.

A platoon struggled round Exercise "Bleak Rock" and discovered all too quickly the aptness of the name. However, despite several setbacks, we managed to get everybody back without falling out.

Then came Libya with its sunburns, sore backs, and sea. Everybody agreed that it was great fun, even down to those who lost, one way and another, most of their money in the "Gut" of Malta on the return journey.

In addition to one latrine bucket lost at sea, we did leave our mark in Libya. Private Burgess, being left alone to guard the tents, erected a 6-ft. high cairn to beat all cairns, with "A" Company spelt out in beer cans underneath.

Finally, there were the inevitable few to succumb to married life, some of the takers being Lance-Corporal Grimshaw, Lance-Corporal Rainbow and Privates Godwin and Clapton and, last but not least, Private Parsons. We all wish them the best of luck.

" B " COMPANY

After three weeks of block leave the Company settled down to prepare for the annual administrative inspection and at the same time looked forward to its new role in 19th Brigade. Christmas leave came as a welcome break but, alas, was too short owing to our first commitment on " Spearhead." During the month of January we were able to catch up on Hobbs Cup rugger and football. The Company won the football in grand style, winning every match with rugby scores. In the rugger we drew the favourites, Support Company, in the first round, and, after a great battle, just lost. We finished third in the table. In the basketball the Company was placed second behind " H.Q." Company by winning three games and losing one.

In early February No. 6 Platoon boosted by a section of No. 5 stalwarts and commanded by Lieutenant Dutton were selected to take part in Exercise " Bleak Rock " in Dorset. An article by Lieutenant Dutton appears elsewhere. The change of training and scenery was enjoyed by all and the Platoon put up a very commendable performance. The remainder of No. 5 Platoon spent a most enjoyable week acting as enemy when Lloyds Battery, 20th Field Regiment, R.A., did the exercise. This took us to the end of February and the preparations for Exercise " Return Match."

In Libya, having completed the Battalion exercise, we enjoyed the glorious weather whilst on three days' intensive and very worth while training to the west of Derna.

The Company has had an abundance of representatives in Battalion sports. We have provided the following regular players: Lance-Corporals Brian, Knott and Williams, Privates Wait, Burton, Rogers, Loud and Smith (82). Corporals Tasker and Taylor (77) have also played. In Battalion rugger Captain Matson, Lieutenants Dutton and Devlin, Lance-Corporal Isaac and Private Perrens have played regularly for the 1st XV. Lieutenants Spencer and Ladds, Corporal Siely, Privates Burton, Slade, Robertson, and Jones have helped with the 2nd XV. Private Green (75) was awarded his cross-country running colours.

C.S.M. Brewer left us in December after two happy years with the Company. We wish him luck in civilian life. The tiny figure with gigantic voice will be much missed. To show their appreciation the Company presented him with a silver cigarette box and tankard. Captain Matson after 18 months at the helm leaves us for the beaches of North Africa on a staff appointment. Captain Holdsworth and C.S.M. Dec fill the gaps and we welcome them both.

" C " (TRAINING) COMPANY

The following have been successful on Potential N.C.O. and Junior Leader Cadres:
Potential N.C.O.s No. 6 (October-November, 1960)

Lance-Corporals Halliwell, Balston, Artingstall, Tovey, Liddle and Isaacs.
Potential N.C.O.s No. 7 (December 1960-January 1961)

Lance-Corporals Judd, Stiddard, Taylor, Knott, Law, Johnson, Youngs, Hill, Grimshaw, Dixon, Williams, Curtis and Griffin.

Junior Leaders No. 3 (February 1961)

Corporals Watkins and Hobbs, Lance-Corporals Hunt, Rainbow, Semmens, Darke, Davies, Brian, Oram and Palmer.

The staff list now reads: O.C., Major Gallop; Training Subaltern, Lieutenant Giles; C.S.M. Lucas, Colour-Sergeant Preece, Corporal Ennis and the ubiquitous G.D. men, Privates Ahern, Ponting and Short.

Major Wilson left in January for "H.Q." Company and was succeeded by Captain Edward-Collins, who also followed on to "H.Q." in March, when Major Gallop arrived after presiding over the liquidation of Support Company.

"D" COMPANY

Since coming into the Strategic Reserve "D" Company, in common with the rest of the Battalion, have been uncommonly busy. The main events are chronicled elsewhere, so we shall confine ourselves to purely Company matters. The Regular soldiers have continued to start their life in the Battalion with "D" Company, and many are then posted on to specialist jobs—the Drums, Signals Platoon and Assault Pioneers have been our best customers. With the break-up of Support Company we formed a new Support Platoon with little outside help in the form of specialists. The Platoon has now completed its initial training and takes its place on exercises as part of the Company.

At sport we have not done as well as we had hoped. Our rigger team, although promising and giving all others a hard game, finished no higher than fourth. In the cross-country we were third, at soccer we won only one game and at basketball we were bottom. Representation in the Battalion sides has been reasonable, with Private Bera a regular member of the Battalion XV, Privates England and Speck have played several times and with Lieutenant Cooper, Corporal Godsall, Privates Kibble and Hughes turning out for the 2nd XV. At basketball Privates Cook, Devlin and Parkin played for a highly successful Battalion team. Lieutenant Cooper represented the 28th/61st regularly at hockey.

We welcome Lieutenant Thompson, Sergeant Winter, Corporal Longden and Privates Pickard and Devlin from Support Company on disbandment. We also welcome Sergeant Cook from the M.T. School and Sergeant Simmance from "A" Company; lastly Lieutenant Grist from Sandhurst.

SUPPORT COMPANY

Not for the first time Support Company has disbanded. This is the result of the reorganisation of the Battalion on what is called the "774" establishment, in which case each rifle company has its own integral support platoon consisting of a mortar section and two anti-tank detachments. As we go to press 774 has become 763 and will no doubt change again before the next issue.

Naturally the disbandment was not achieved without considerable regret on the part of those who over the years had known it as "the" company. However, everyone turned cheerfully to the task of training their successors, the personnel of the rifle company support platoons. It was achieved during the period November-February and companies had their own support platoons in Libya.

Sentimental regrets were perhaps less than might have been expected, largely because the great majority of junior N.C.O.s and privates of the Mortar, Anti-Tank and Assault

Pioneer Platoons, by coincidence, finished their National Service in March, when we finally disbanded. They were a very fine set of chaps, strongly represented in Battalion teams, whose loss will be greatly felt.

On the military side, we can record the training of our successors in the techniques of mortarmanship and anti-tank gunnery, the successful transformation of the new all-Regular M.M.G. Platoon and the Reconnaissance Platoon, the training of a full-strength all-Regular Signal Platoon and the formation and training of an all-Regular stronger Assault Pioneer Platoon.

We failed by a very narrow margin to win the Hobbs Cup for the third successive year, being second by only $1\frac{1}{2}$ points to "H.Q." Company. Our great success was in the cross-country, where the Company team was virtually the Battalion team which reached the Command finals. We shared the rugby honours with "H.Q." Company with a pointless draw after extra time. Other commitments prevented this being fought out to a conclusion. Had the Rawson Cup and Solma-ri trophy been competed for? Who knows? Basketball, with a strong team, was disappointing and soccer moderately successful.

We mourn the passing. To our successors, the rifle company support platoons, the Reconnaissance and Assault Platoons, the Signal Platoon—all the latter now in "H.Q." Company—we leave the proud "support" tradition and spirit. May they always be "first amongst equals." Vale.

"H.Q." COMPANY

We said good-bye to Major Strange shortly before Christmas. He had been a staunch member of the Company for many years, formerly as M.T.O. and latterly for nearly two years as Company Commander. We were sorry to see Hector go.

Major Wilson took over the reins in December and since then Captain Edward-Collins has joined as Second-in-Command. At the present time the Company numbers 330 all ranks. The increase in its size is due to the reorganisation on to the new establishment, whereby Support Company as such is abolished, and each rifle company has its own Support Platoon. We welcome the Signal Platoon, Recce Platoon and the Assault Pioneer Platoon to the Company.

"H.Q." Company were victorious in the Hobbs Cup for the first time for many years. It was as usual a close fight and we won by a hair's breadth from Support Company. Space will not allow to mention all by name, sufficient to say that a great deal of enjoyment was had by both performers and spectators. We must mention, however, the marathon rucker games with "D" Company and Support Company. The former was settled after many periods of extra time, when Captain Hurford-Jones ran like a frightened rabbit, with the whole of "D" Company after him, from one end of the field to the other to score a fantastic winning try. The game with Support Company was also a fiercely-fought duel with extra time included. The final was a draw and, unfortunately, there was no time to replay to reach a conclusion. Sergeant Mann is to be congratulated in whipping up a very good basketball team which was undefeated.

We congratulate the following on their marriages: Corporal Chismon, Privates Whitehead, Jones (56), Tranter, Curtis, Brown (74), Cross, Andres, and MacDonald. We also congratulate W.O.2 Masters, Sergeant Quail and Private Whitehead on the birth of their sons.

Recent promotions include Corporal Hodges to Sergeant, Sergeant Vaughan to Colour-Sergeant and Colour-Sergeant Thomas to W.O.2.

PS.—We wonder if the Paymaster found those legs to his camp bed.

M.T. PLATOON

After the Stanford training the M.T. Platoon got down for that work for which it appears to really exist, i.e. cleaning, servicing and inspecting. We decided that even though the vehicles had had a reasonable caning, they would not be too bad for the annual CIV inspection in December. We would have the block leave period to start, and we should have enough time to make a good job of it during the remaining weeks.

Imagine the general air of horror when it was learnt that all the Champs and Morris 1-ton had to be changed for Land-Rovers and Austin 1-ton, ONE month before the inspection, and these from another strategic Reserve Unit. Sergeant Russell got the programme going at top speed while Sergeant McEwan and his merry men swarmed over the engines. The M.T.O. went on a short Current Affairs course.

By mid-November it looked as though the work would be managed, but it entailed long hours of work including every week-end.

The CIV started in early December, and keen R.E.M.E.s came from Colchester and did their worst. The M.T.O. went on a short Military Law course. Suffice to say that the results were tremendous, all of it due to the M.T. staff working so magnificently. Enough said.

Then the annual inspection, which should have been easy meat. The day came, and after a short period of standing on parade for 70 minutes we stood to our vehicles after lunch. The M.T.O. then left on a short Current Affairs course. Corporal Way was asked to try out his brake by the Brigadier. He stormed down the hill outside the C.O.'s office, and came to a glorious halt. The hell of it was that this was the vehicle of which the nearside front wheel brakes had just that morning begun to bind! Well driven, Corporal.

Christmas passed and Spearhead practices began. Land-Rovers were stripped, wing nuts lost and sometimes found. Windscreens were gone through at the rate of three per practice.

With the early spring came our move to Libya. This was the great time for the M.T. We went out first and came back last. We took over 57 Land-Rovers and umpteen other vehicles in three days. Then we spent a week breaking them all up in the desert. Then we handed them all back again. During the Battalion exercise the M.T.O. was in charge of the "relief on the march column." On coming to a hot walking Company, he would take them forward for a bit and then go back for another struggling mass.

Suffice to say that there were some pretty apprehensive faces to be seen when transport appeared at the appointed times. It was rumoured that a vote of no confidence had been passed on the M.T., but we (i.e. Corporal Walker and his 3-ton charioteers) were there again and again. The Recce Platoon did not manage to get rid of all their vehicles, but Hewitt did a good job on a front differential, with a neat small hole of two inches right through.

The end to Libya came with the M.T. driving all the vehicles some 130 miles to 5 Mile Camp, where they dumped their steeds and awaited somebody else to drive them through

the air. We stayed in Malta, and saw Valetta. We think that Jones (56) saw Valetta but, judging from the frown next morning, he appeared to have forgotten the lot. And so the yearly cycle revolves.

PS.—Where did Mr. Presley put the methylated spirit?

SERGEANTS' MESS

The end of 1960 brought, once again, the usual round of Christmas festivities, although many events had taken place well before Christmas Day. This was largely due to the Battalion spending one of the few Christmases in the U.K. for some years, allowing many members to spend the festive season on leave and causing a calm and quiet to descend on Connaught Barracks.

As always it was a delight to watch the children enjoy themselves, and gather round Father Christmas, competently played by "Three Cylinder" Ramsden. This was achieved only after many cakes and jellies had been devoured in the N.A.A.F.I. by 200 children, for which we thank the N.A.A.F.I. staff for a well-arranged tea. During the party we were delighted by a visit of Major-General and Mrs. Firth.

Once again the chief entertainer at the Christmas draw was C.S.M. Tizzard, who could be seen explaining how to flip a kipper between draws to the many guests. Our thanks go out to all the committees who were responsible for the organisation of the two main events, and congratulations to C.S.M. Bowrin on taking away many of the prizes.

During the Christmas draw we said farewell to C.S.M.s "Tich" Brewer and Jerry Morgan, the former on his retirement and Jerry on his transfer to the Army Recruiting Staff. May we see them at future socials and may we see many recruits to make up for their loss.

We welcome into the Mess Colour-Sergeant Ponting from Devizes and Colour-Sergeant Vaughan from the 5th Battalion. Congratulations to Sergeants Gough, Simmance and Hodges on their promotions and may they all spend many drinking hours in the bar.

Finally, we would like to thank the Commanding Officer and officers for a very enjoyable and entertaining games evening held in the Officers' Mess, whereby the Sergeants' Mess retained the Tidak Apah Cup. May a return match soon be arranged and better luck next time, gentlemen.

TANKARDS

Past members of the Sergeants' Mess may be interested to know that the following tankards are still in use and have seen many gallons flow under the bridge:

Major Bartlett, Bandmaster Gumbley, R.Q.M.S. Glifford, C.S.M.s Gazzard and Durrant, Drum Major Scaife, Colour-Sergeants Pitts, Brown and Davidson, Sergeants Bayley, McFarlane, Hayes, Weeks, Laheen, Harrison, Websters, Shearn, Wheeler, Flaherty, Farness, Venn, M.M., Davis, Dunn, Walker, Slattery, Aston, Neal, Hunt, Fisher, Rumble and Dutton.

REGIMENTAL BAND

The Band Christmas draw and social was held in a somewhat transformed Band Practice Room. Major-General and Mrs. Firth accompanied the Commanding Officer



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on a short visit to this function, as also did Major Strange (making his farewell appearance to the Band), and Major Wilson, whom we welcomed as the new Band President.

The ladies were delighted with the decorations, and particularly with the "pre-fabricated powder room."

Bandsmen Bird and Hinchcliffe, who joined us from Exeter recently, will be going to the Royal School of Music in the autumn for a pupil's course, which is of a year's duration. Bandsman Phelps, who is at present at the school, has been selected to play with the school trumpeters at the Royal Festival Hall during 1961.

One of our members has recently taken certain vows, namely, those of matrimony. The wedding of Bandsman Benham took place at Ramsgate over the Easter break. As the wedding took place before Budget Day, we can all imagine the sumptuous life the happy couple will lead after the tax man has left (they hope) a large rebate. We impart with these notes our best wishes and heartiest congratulations.

Certain members of the Band have an excessive appetite for music of all kinds and they have joined several local orchestral societies. The diversity of the programmes, rehearsals and performances have ranged from Haydn's "Creation" to Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf," much to the pleasure of performer and listener.

We are looking forward to the recruiting displays in the Bristol area during May with mixed feelings. But we do hope that old members of the Band will come and have a word with us should they see us performing during the tour. We say "mixed feelings" as we are now up to full strength and it is always hard to turn a good man down.

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The season was again late starting this year, due to the Battalion training at Stanford. However, trial matches were played during this training and the 1st and 2nd XVs selected. After the block leave rugger really started in earnest. In the Army Cup we survived the first two rounds and then came up against the K.S.L.I. They gave us the best game of the season so far, which we won 11—3. The Battalion then had a bye and next played the Welch Regiment in the England Section quarter-finals. This proved a hard, tough game against a better side, who won 14—0. Our eventual goal is, of course, to win the Army Cup again. However, this is the farthest that a Battalion side has got towards that aim since the war.

As well as the Army Cup, we have been competing in the Home Counties District Rugby Cup, in which we lost to 12th S.M.E., R.E., Chatham, in the final. Otherwise both the 1st and 2nd XVs have been enjoying a pretty successful season, as can be seen from the results.

Rugby Colours have been awarded to Captain Holdsworth, Lieutenant Mermagen, Lance-Corporal Hopkins and Private Bloxsome.

The following have played for the 1st XV: Captains Matson and Holdsworth, Lieutenants Mermagen, Dutton, Devlin and Chapman, Corporals Bunting and Witt, Lance-Corporals Hopkins, Williams and Isaacs and Privates Bloxsome, Parker, Bera and Fowke.

Others who have played are: Lieutenants Godfrey, Honicke and Ladds and Privates Neale, Perrens and England.

The following have played for the 2nd XV: Captain Hurford-Jones, Lieutenants

Godfrey, Honicke, Ladds and Waters, Lance-Corporal Watkins and Privates Buston, Gandy, Whitehead, Godsall, Neale, England, Lambie, Andres, Moss and Burton.

<i>Results up to 4th March, 1961</i>		<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>
Junior Leaders' Regiment, R.E.	.. .. .	Lost	6 8
16th L.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (1st round, Army Cup)	.. .. .	Won	17 3
12th S.M.E. Regiment, R.E. (2nd round, Army Cup)	.. .. .	Won	3 0
George Brooker's XV	.. .. .	Lost	3 12
1st K.S.L.I. (3rd round, Army Cup)	.. .. .	Won	11 3
Royal Navy, Chatham	.. .. .	Won	14 0
Depot, Royal Marines, Deal	.. .. .	Won	8 0
1st R.W.K.	.. .. .	Won	19 0
Wye College	.. .. .	Won	14 9
Duke of York's R.M.S.	.. .. .	Won	3 0
1st Welch Regiment (England quarter-final, Army Cup)	.. .. .	Lost	0 14
Depot, Regt. R.E. (quarter-final, H.C.D. Cup)	.. .. .	Won	12 0
36th Corps, Engr. Regiment, R.E.	.. .. .	Won	25 0
Wye College	.. .. .	Won	14 3
Depot, Royal Marines, Deal	.. .. .	Won	9 6
36th Corps, Engr. Regiment, R.E.	.. .. .	Won	8 5
Int. Centre, Maresfield (semi-final, H.C.D. Cup)	.. .. .	Won	6 0
12th S.M.E. Regiment, R.E. (final, H.C.D. Cup)	.. .. .	Lost	14 18
"A" XV:			
Ashford 1st XV	.. .. .	Lost	0 9
2nd XV:			
Canterbury "Extra A" XV	.. .. .	Won	10 8
Duke of York's R.M.S.	.. .. .	Won	6 3
Wye College "A" XV	.. .. .	Lost	3 9
Depot, Home Counties Brigade 1st XV	.. .. .	Lost	3 12
Wye College "A" XV	.. .. .	Won	9 0

BASKETBALL

The 1960-61 basketball team had the most successful season in the history of the Regiment. During the regular season the Battalion were entered in the Home Counties District League with seven other teams. By mid-season the team had an unbeaten record and were obviously heading for the Army Championships.

In the first preliminary round of the Army Inter-Unit Championships the Battalion travelled to Maresfield, where they defeated the Intelligence Centre in a hard-fought game. Then at Shorncliffe a victory against 36th Corps Engineer Regiment, R.E., gave us the Home Counties District Championship and the right to enter the Eastern Command final.

On 23rd February the Battalion defeated 1st Irish Guards at Shorncliffe to win the Eastern Command Championships. This qualified us to compete in the Army Inter-Unit Championships at Aldershot in March.

Before leaving for Aldershot the team played a number of friendly matches with the M.C.T.C. at Colchester, the Brighton Giants at Maresfield and the Sappers at Chatham in an effort to gain more experience against good teams. The Battalion record on travelling to Aldershot was impressive. Won 42, lost 3.

At Aldershot the competition was keen and stiff, but the Battalion did well considering that this was the first time that we had competed in the Army Championships. The first game resulted in a win by 62 points to 60 against the Army Apprentices' School, Harrogate. The second game was the crucial one against the R.E.M.E. Depot. This game was lost by 53 points to 47 after a very close match which could have gone either way. The third and final game against 94th Locating Regiment, R.A., from B.A.O.R. ended in a victory for the "Gunnery."

The Battalion were handicapped in the finals because of their size, but they overcame this with the will to win and to go further than any previous battalion basketball team. Next year the team should be a real contender for the Army Championship. The champions this year were 3rd Royal Canadian Horse Artillery from B.A.O.R. who overwhelmed 94th Locating Regiment R.A. in the final.

The team: Lieutenant Spencer, R.C.R. (captain), Sergeant Winter, Corporals Matthews and Walker, Lance-Corporals Taylor and Rainbow, Privates Green, Devlin, Jones, Parkin and Cooke, and Bandsman Wood. S.I. Birt, A.P.T.C., was the coach.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The first leg of the Hobbs Cup competition took place on 3rd January. The course was three miles long with a back-breaking hill finish. All members of the Battalion under 35 took part. Everybody was just about recovering when the second race took place. This time it was five miles, with a lot of mud and an almost vertical hill to finish. The final was a six-mile course which included mud, hills and some road work; again all the Battalion ran. Thus we were able to select a Battalion team.

On 25th January we ran in the Home Counties Meeting. Thanks to some fine running by Lance-Corporal Williams and Privates Green and Gage, and some good backing up by Lieutenant Chapman and Corporal Bishop, the team won hands down. The result provided a great incentive for the Eastern Command competition, which took place three weeks later. This time we met our match. In spite of a tremendous fight to keep on terms by all members of the team, we were shown the way by the Irish and Scots Guards.

Results:

Home Counties District: 1st, 1st Glosters, 64 pts.; 2nd, 1st Queen's Own Buffs, 131 pts.; 3rd, Intelligence Centre, 219 pts. (Lance-Corporal Williams 3rd.)

Eastern Command: 1st, 1st Irish Guards; 2nd, 1st Scots Guards, 112 pts.; 3rd, 1st Glosters, 201 pts. (Private Gage 10th.)

The following ran for the Battalion: Lieutenants Chapman, Thompson and Firth, Sergeant Moss, Corporals Witt and Bishop, Lance-Corporals Williams and Hopkins, Privates Gage, Paul, Green and Devlin. Reserves: Lance-Corporal Grimshaw, Privates Occlshaw and Hopper.

EXERCISE "RETURN MATCH"

BETWEEN 6th and 20th March the Battalion was involved in an exercise in Libya, code named "Return Match." Units taking part, in addition to 1st Glosters, included a battery of 20th Field Regiment, R.A., with 4.2-in. mortars (in place of their customary 25-pounders) and supporting Provost and medical detachments, the purpose of the exercise being to test a Battalion group in flying to an area and operating immediately in an internal security role on light scales.

A small advanced party having flown to Libya a week previously, the Battalion left Lyneham airfield in single plane loads, i.e. approximately 110 men or 30,000 lb. of freight, over four days from 7th March. The aircraft were Bristol Britannias and covered

the 2,000 miles or so to El Adem in about six hours—the same time that it took 1st Glosters to move from Connaught Barracks to the staging camp at Crookham by more conventional means. Flying in a Britannia one is assured of a comfortable and swift journey, but as the aircraft is not so robust as other less modern Transport Command types, and, moreover, is pressurised, all cargo, including the human variety, must be carefully loaded: passengers must wear P.T. shoes, webbing equipment must be carried and not worn, weapons bundled in hessian and loaded into the hold. Nevertheless, all were impressed by the ability of the R.A.F. to move a large body of troops a long distance in a short time.

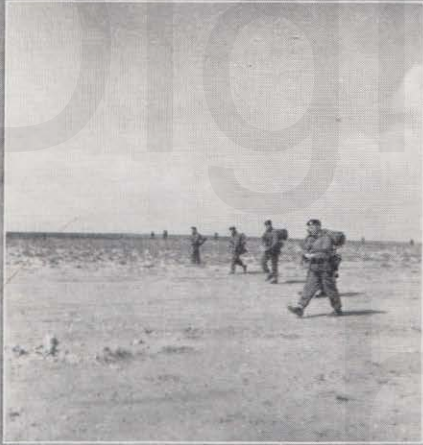
From the airfield we moved by R.A.S.C. 10-tonners west along the coast road to our base camp near Derna, where we sorted ourselves out with the weapons (Mobat anti-tank guns and Land-Rovers) taken over *in situ* from 1st R.W.F., the previous occupants of Derna. After a deep breath we started on Exercise "Shifting Sands," our first operation on light scales. Our allocation of transport was 30 Land-Rovers, and to move the whole Battalion group quickly over long distances was quite a problem. The method used was to deploy the three sections of the Reconnaissance Platoon well forward of the point company, the latter also being vehicle-borne—mounted in vehicles pooled from all departments of the group. When the Reconnaissance Platoon bumped opposition the point company debussed and performed the necessary attack, while their vehicles returned down the "Charlie Love" to pick up the next company, who had been marching along probably without any hope of ever seeing a Land-Rover again as the tide of battle disappeared miles away in the mirages.

The exercise was a success, although this was undoubtedly disputed by the Royal Scots, who acted as "enemy." It certainly proved the feasibility of operating on light scales, but rest for the overworked drivers would become a serious consideration in an operation of greater duration than "Shifting Sands" (48 hours). Many interesting lessons were learned, including the obvious one of how to get lost in the desert. The Libyan weather was a new experience to most, being very hot in the daytime and extremely cold with a high wind at night.

After "Shifting Sands" the group returned to the base camp for a day of rest, in which an *ad hoc* Battalion soccer team beat the local All Stars. Company commanders went on reces for the independent company training that was to come and company 2ICs and colour-sergeants counted up the lost binoculars, sleeping bags, Bren barrels and so on.

Following the rest day, companies enjoyed three days of unrestricted operation in the "ooloo," which was becoming less inhospitable as time wore on. All were proud possessors of sunburn, some almost to the point of self-inflicted wounds, and the combined diet of hot sun, high mountains, much walking and compo rations undoubtedly was having a beneficial effect on Battalion fitness. It was all over too soon and after 36 hours of packing and tidying the group returned to El Adem for the return flight. The journey to El Adem was staged at 5-Kilo Kamp, where the aircraft loads were finally juggled to suit the mysteriously inconsistent numerical strength; eventually all were fitted into one aircraft or another, although not all were destined for the U.K. A fortunate group under Lieutenant Cooper spent two weeks marooned in Cyprus (supposedly practising riot drill) until they reached England on 2nd April.

LIBYA, 1961



Training.

[By courtesy "Bristol Evening Post"]

LIBYA, 1961



[By courtesy "Bristol Evening Post."]

OFF DUTY

(Top left): Match v Derna Football Club.

(Top right): A cheerful group.

(Bottom left): Apollonia.

(Bottom right): A local Cavalryman.

A pleasant feature of "Return Match" was the attachment throughout of Jeremy Brien, a *Bristol Evening Post* reporter. He gave us good coverage in the Gloucestershire Press and saw, during his stay, a large number of the Battalion. We look forward to meeting him again. Captain Henderson was another reinforcement; he had taken 14 days' "leave" from Adjutant of the Royal Hampshire T.A. Battalion.

It was a pity that after flying 2,000 miles we only had on "Return Match" the opportunity for five days' training; however, the aim of the exercise was achieved, and we have had a foretaste of Portugal, which we visit for about two weeks with the whole of 19th Brigade in July.

GLOSTERS DETACHMENT IN CYPRUS, 1961

AFTER Exercise "Return Match" had finished, the problem arose of flying the Battalion back to U.K. The matter was complicated by the fact that the whole of 3 Brigade in Cyprus were being flown out to Libya to do a similar exercise at the same time as the Glosters were leaving. Due to the lack of aircraft it was decided to send 38 men to Cyprus and fly them back to U.K. by charter plane as soon as possible.

The party was broken into two—26 including 10 gunners from 20 Field Regiment (Lloyds Company), our supporting battery, flew by Britannias on Saturday, March 18, and all but two of the remainder all Glosters, on 21st March, Back Badge day, by Hastings.

Both parties landed at Nicosia and then moved to Dhekelia Garrison, 60 miles away. The second group arrived at Dhekelia to find everyone immaculately turned out—compared to what they looked like in the desert—because the first party had just had a Back Badge parade which apparently caused some excitement in the barracks which had not seen a drill parade for about five years.

Dhekelia is a reasonably new barracks with all amenities—cinema, W.V.S., etc.—and is only a quarter-mile from the sea. As soon as we arrived there we were surrounded by "dhobi wallahs" who literally stripped us of everything, took it away, washed and pressed it, and returned it the next day.

There was a garrison P.T. school nearby who were only too glad to teach us battle P.T., so we spent some time stripped to the waist heaving around huge logs in glorious sun.

One day we managed to collect 17 sets of underwater swimming kit and so went off by coach to Salamis, near Famagusta, which is famous for its underwater swimming, and in glorious clear, luke-warm water chased little fishes, and explored the sea bed. We returned in the late afternoon by way of Famagusta, which gave everyone a chance to sample the local "brew."

Swimming along the north coast of Africa and in Cyprus tended to be a little dangerous so we used to go down to the sea every morning to practise the first lessons in life-saving and artificial respiration—fortunately no casualties.

In Cyprus they work from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. and finish, the rest of the day being free for sport. We challenged the garrison to football and basketball, but unfortunately picked the wrong opponents. They beat us 10—0 at soccer and 80—30 at basketball. Both teams were Cyprus champions.

Weekends were spent lazing in the sun on the beach and covering oneself in sun tan

lotion. Several people went out shopping in Famagusta and Larnaca where we found clothes cheap but food and alcohol terribly expensive.

Towards the end of our stay the rear party arrived at Famagusta by LST with all our Libyan transport which they handed over to the R.A.O.C., and then managed to get some sunbathing in.

We flew back on 2nd April by a British United Airlines Britannia in "civvies"—mostly just shirtsleeves, all we possessed. We left in glorious sunshine, with four air hostesses, and arrived six hours later at Stanstead, Essex, in pouring rain, everybody absolutely "blue" with cold. We reached Dover the same day and went off on a week's leave to show off our tan. So ended a most interesting and enjoyable trip to a place we probably would never have visited.

BACK BADGE DAY—DHEKELIA—CYPRUS

At 1100 hrs. on 21st March, 1961, the inhabitants of Dhekelia Garrison were startled to see a somewhat unusual parade. This parade was held by "D" Company detachment who were staged in Cyprus on returning from Libya. The detachment consisted of men of Nos. 13 and 16 (Sp.) Platoon under the command of Sergeant Cook. The inspecting officer was Captain Mayo, R.A., the combined Glosters and 20th Field Regiment, R.A., detachment commander. Dress was battledress with web belts, weapons had been returned to the U.K. Numbers on parade were approximately 20, drawn up in three ranks. The parade took the form of a march on, an inspection by Captain J. Mayo. Sergeant Cook then read out a short account of the Battle of Alexandria, which was followed by an advance in review order. Finally, the parade marched past in column of threes with Captain Mayo taking the salute. In a letter to the Commanding Officer, Captain Mayo said that he was impressed by the standard of turn-out achieved.

After the parade, beer was provided by the inspecting officer and in the afternoon there was a football match.

5TH BATTALION TERRITORIAL NEWS




ANW.

THE winter of 1960-61 has seen considerable changes in the organisation of the T.A. Happily the Battalion was not adversely affected by this major reorganisation. Details of the changes as they affect us are given elsewhere.

We have been inundated with inspections during the past six months. No sooner had

the Brigade Commander completed his annual inspection for 1960 in November, preparations were put in hand for the 1961 programme. In March documentation teams from the War Office and Infantry Record Office descended on the Orderly Room; teams from the Command Secretariat and the T. & A.F. Association delved deeply into the Quartermaster's department. Much to everyone's surprise, except Captain Gillett, our Q.M., no surpluses or deficiencies were found. No sooner were these completed than a large civilian team thoroughly examined our M.T., arms, signals, etc. It reflects great credit on all concerned that a high all-round standard was achieved.



43RD DIVISION
The Golden Wyvern
on Black

Apart from the above administrative battles a fair amount of training has been carried out. Weekend training cadres have been run for N.C.O.s and recruits and, in addition, several officers' study periods have been held. On a cold January night an officers' and N.C.O.s' Initiative Exercise was held in the Birdlip/Cranham area. A high standard was attained and a tough course was successfully completed by all who took part. In spite of the rigours of a Cotswold winter's night the participants were probably more at ease than our Hon. Colonel, whose garden gate was used as an important RV at about 0200 hrs!

Socially, too, the Battalion has been active. Apart from the customary Company Christmas parties, a series of evening band concerts, catering for all tastes, have been held at Gloucester. Whilst we applaud the popular success of "76 Trombones," we shudder at the ideas this will give "Nobby" Hall.

"Back Badge" Day was celebrated at Tewkesbury this year, with a service in the Abbey, followed by a march past the Mayor and Hon. Colonel.

This year's camp will be at St. Martins Plain, Shorncliffe—new ground for the Battalion. The main object of choosing such a location was to improve our contacts with the 1st Battalion. Unfortunately, we now know that they will be in Portugal on an exercise during our camp period. A great pity as we had high hopes of the two battalions really working together.

Like the 1st Battalion we have our recruiting problems. While we maintain a fairly steady influx of new recruits, our run-out rate is still somewhat high. With the ending of National Service and the gradual run-down of our more experienced N.C.O.s we have a requirement for the middle group of N.C.O. with previous Regular or National Service experience. A warm welcome will be given to any ex-National Serviceman joining the Battalion, and real opportunities for promotion are available for them.

Several changes have taken, or are taking, place shortly, in the Battalion. Major W. O. V. Clee, T.D., took over command from Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. Harding, D.S.O., on 10th April. The latter goes to H.Q., B.A.O.R., in August as Assistant Military Secretary.

Captain A. C. N. Preston, the Adjutant, also leaves the Battalion in August on retirement, and Captain R. Jarman is selected as his relief. Tony Preston may rightly be named a professional Adjutant. He held this appointment in the 1st Battalion in Kenya and the Middle East and has been with the 5th some three years. Great credit is due to him for helping to make the Band and Corps of Drums so efficient.

Drum-Major E. F. Bowles, B.E.M., has left us on posting to a new civilian appointment. He has given sterling service to the Corps of Drums and will be greatly missed.

Major Leo Capel joined the Battalion as Training Major in March, straight from the

barren rocks of Aden. He does not appear to have forgotten the Wuppertal Osnabruck march as he is talking of marching the Battalion to camp. Others view him with even greater suspicion when they see the number plate on his car (35 BUL).

The following officers have left the Battalion: Major W. A. Bird, T.D., and Lieutenant J. C. Kirkland to T.A.R.O.; Lieutenant G. R. Rowlands to N.S. List; Lieutenant N. A. C. Meeks to T.A.R.O.; Lieutenant E. H. Hargreaves, transfer to 5/7th D.W.R.

The following have joined us: Second-Lieutenant A. G. E. Clarkson, from R.N.F. (T.A.); Second-Lieutenant B. T. Bowman, from 311th H.A.A. Regiment (T.A.); Second-Lieutenant R. Rees (Glosters, A.E.R.); Second-Lieutenant N. J. Neather (N.S. List).

"H.Q." COMPANY

Since publication of the last issue of the Regimental Journal we have experienced quite a busy time, but we are sorry to note that the bulk of the hard work has fallen to the lot of that small band of stalwarts, who are, in the main, what we term "The Regular Attenders."

In November the annual administrative inspection proved the Company, as ever, up to the mark. During January, we said good-bye to our Company Commander, Major W. A. Bird, T.D., and in his place we have had Captain M. S. Lee-Browne, for a period in a "caretaker" role, and now we welcome Major M. A. L. Bowyer. During March we had the pleasure of Major Bird's company at a representative gathering of the Company at the Sphinx Club, where C.S.M. Cheater, on behalf of "H.Q." Company, presented the Major with a small memento, to remind him of his association with us.

February this year found the Company jointly responsible with the Sphinx Club for the running of the children's party. In the past this has been the lot of the Sphinx Club itself but Club and Company co-operation proved to be highly successful for the 198 children present were well catered for. The traditional Christmas party was changed to a New Year's party, and in place of Father Christmas we had Sergeant Franklin as "Old Father Time" and he really looked every bit like The Old Man. Corporal Lockey, A.C.C., acted as the new babe to represent the New Year, and quite naturally looked every bit unlike an infant. Our grateful thanks for their efforts.

March, quite rightly, became our "Highlight" month with the "Back Badge Ball," the Back Badge parade and social, and to C.S.M. Harry Outterside, our ever-working P.S.I., the annual arms inspection. If our arms report is reasonable, all credit is due to him, for never has one P.S.I. cleaned so many weapons in so short a time.

The Company would like to offer a special mention to Colour-Sergeant Blackford and his club committee for their excellent arrangements for the Back Badge all ranks social, where, backed by the Band of the 5th, under the able direction of Bandmaster W. Moth, those present were treated to a grand social evening and band concert, which has far surpassed any such occasion since the Battalion re-formed after World War II.

Congratulations to Sergeant R. Keitley on his being presented with the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate. To Sergeant "Micky" Mutton, who has re-joined us from the Army Reserve, we extend a welcome back to the fold.

We are very sorry to lose W.O.2 E. F. Bowles, B.E.M., who, due to promotion in his civilian job, is being posted to Hertfordshire. Thank you, Drum-Major, for your hard work with the Drums.

Since our last annual camp we have had many young recruits and to name a few: Privates Reade, Jackson, Jefferies, A. Wintle and Drew. They have become the starters of a really good bunch of chaps who, most important of all, have become regular attenders.

Finally a special word of praise to our cooks, Sergeant Godsell, A.C.C., Corporal Lockey, A.C.C., Corporal Gillard, A.C.C., and brothers Corporal and Private Richards, regimental cooks. When we look back at such occasions as Back Badge balls, Back Badge socials, reunions and children's parties and attendances of approximately 300 at these functions, hard work and skill at their jobs must not go unmentioned, much more so when their efforts are produced outside their normal civilian working hours.

The reorganisation will, we are sure, cause transfers to our Company and to all who may join us we extend a welcome.

"A" (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

The Company Christmas draw was again a great success this year and many thanks are due to C.S.M. Crompton and R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Reeves who worked very hard to ensure that there were plenty of prizes to go round and that everyone enjoyed themselves; also to Mrs. Crompton who produced a veritable mountain of food for the buffet.

Our annual children's party was also held in December and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children present.

The training during the winter months has been mainly indoors, with the notable exception of the Battalion initiative exercise for officers and N.C.O.s. Although a very tough course was set, all those taking part were keenly interested and very enthusiastic—but the Company Commander and his party have no wish to explore any deeper into Cranham Woods. All are to be congratulated, as "A" Company was the only company to complete the full course.

Owing to reorganisation, 311 H.A.A. Regiment has been disbanded and several members of that unit have now joined us, and we welcome Sergeant Johnson, Sergeant Sanders, Corporal Haynes and Private Fennell, who have now settled in happily with us. We welcome also all the newly joined recruits to the Company and, as far as possible, they are doing their training all together as a recruits' platoon. We hope to give the latest bulletin on Private Scudamore's beard in our next notes.

A very welcome addition to the Company are our three new platoon commanders, Lieutenants Bewell, Clarkson and Bowman. All are taking a full and active part in the company training.

A special recruiting competition started as from 1st March and it is hoped that all ranks will take part and do their best to encourage recruits to join the Company.

"B" (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

Last year in this journal we saw the 1st Battalion M.M.G. Platoon slow march their Vickers guns to their last resting place; now in this Battalion we do the same thing with Support Company.

Our last six months' activities included taking part in the C.D. exercise "More Reliance" in the Bristol area. Utilising our training and experience from the Army School of Civil Defence at Millom, we manned an ambulance loading point where we cleared all sorts of ghastly-looking casualties in converted Army transport; oddly enough, after the "initial shakedown," things worked quite well.

We took part in a different type of exercise—"Euminides"—with local T.A. units, 883 Locating Battery, R.A., 43 Division C.B. Troop, R.A., and 43 Division Field Sec. Sect. as well as the R.A.S.C. and Gunner unit at Shepton Mallet. This was an aid to the civil power experience and the surprise of "Evercreech Junction" when it was cordoned and searched on a Sunday morning was indescribable.

We welcome all ranks who have joined us from 311 Regiment, R.A., and congratulate them on the way they have slipped easily into Infantry routine. We also welcome those who have enlisted since the last issue, namely Privates Bowen, Capel, Clemments, Coppen, Hulin, Purnell and Wheeler. We are sorry to lose Sergeant J. G. Williams, who has had to leave us owing to illness in the family.

Under the new establishment the specialists are located in platoons in the Rifle Companies. We hope that the inter-platoon rivalry that has always existed in the specialist platoons will remain among the new platoons, although they are scattered the length and breadth of the County. The difficulties of training, of course, can at present only be imagined.

We take this opportunity of thanking all those who have participated in our many happy days and for the efforts they put in to make the Company tick. So, with the Brigadier's comment on our last administrative inspection, "This would have given credit to a Regular company," we say farewell to a team that worked and wish them luck in their next assignment.

"C" COMPANY

Apart from the usual mixture of training the Company has had a busy six months.

Sergeant D. Wilde and Private H. Mitchell are to be congratulated on receiving the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate and Colour-Sergeant Jim Cadle and Private "Tich" Walters for receiving the bar to the Efficiency Medal. Incidentally, it is rumoured that the oldest soldier in the Company, Private Neighbour Agg, is due to receive the Efficiency Medal, which will no doubt go well with his numerous "good service" conduct stripes.

Lance-Corporal Pincott (driver) and Sergeant Moore (navigator) were the winners of the Battalion M.T. rally.

The children's Christmas party was held at the Drill Hall in December, about 60 children and mothers sitting down for tea and their dads waiting on them. After tea there were cartoon films, toys distributed by Santa Claus Agg and a bag of sweets and fruit and a balloon for all to take home.

Our annual .22 shoot was held in February with the Commanding Officer presenting the cups and prizes to the following:

Officers and Sergeants Cup	..	..	..	Sergeant D. Wilde
Corporals Cup	..	..	..	Lance-Corporal T. Pincott
Trained Soldiers Cup	..	..	..	Private H. Mitchell
Young Soldiers Cup	..	..	..	Private R. Talbot
Highest Aggregate Cup	..	..	..	Sergeant D. Wilde

After the presentation the Company Commander thanked the Colonel and offered him a large bottle of "Chelt" as his reward for coming along.

As Back Badge parade was at Tewkesbury this year the Commanding Officer awarded us the privilege of providing the Colour party; it was Lieutenant H. Jessop, C.S.M.

J. Patterson, Colour-Sergeant J. Cadle and Sergeant D. Wilde. This was the first time that the S.L. rifle had been taken on parade in the Battalion.

We welcome a foreigner from over the border, Private Gavin—we have yet to see him in his kilt. We also welcome the following recruits: Private Higgs, Johnson, Shardlow, Fisher and Methias (all from Cheltenham), also Parker transferred from the Drums, and Privates Burford, Booth and Jordan (Tewkesbury).

We all now look forward to annual camp at Folkestone.

“ D ” COMPANY

The Company has been waiting, like everyone else, for the reorganisation of the T.A. to be implemented and we are at least satisfied with the outcome, which basically means that “ B ” Company personnel come back to “ D ” Company. We take this early opportunity to welcome them back to Dursley. We shall be sorry to lose Captain Jones to “ H.Q. ” Company and wish him well in his new job.

We now look forward to the spring and summer with their attendant range allocations and annual camp directives and are particularly pleased with this year’s venue. It is hoped that most of our young recruits who are apprentices at Listers will be able to get the time off for camp, as we are sure that people like Bunn and Jones will enjoy the south coast and its “ attractions. ” Some of the Company recently enjoyed a day out with mess tin cooking and it is again very obvious that Bunn cannot cook eggs, as someone found out to their cost. Sergeant Millener is booked for a drill course instead of camp and this has caused some amusement and some concern among the younger element. One cannot help feeling that Sergeant Millener will have the last laugh.

We progressed to the semi-final of the inter-company football competition and wait now for the date to be fixed for our game with “ C ” Company.



WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT

IT is with no little regret that these notes must begin with the news that the new Brigade Colonel, Colonel A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, M.B.E., is laid up in his quarter at the very beginning of his tour of duty and has thus not yet been seen officially in the Depot. This can in no way be attributed to the conditions existing here but to a torn muscle caused by too strenuous efforts whilst moving into his new home. Doubtless the walls of “ Sawley ” rang with strange Arabic curses, putting to shame the normal flow of language

heard from the adjacent golf course! We look forward to his speedy recovery and appearance.

Already the knell of National Service has rung within the Depot and this was most forcibly brought home to us when the Fire Call was sounded recently. Whereas on past occasions the square was rapidly filled with a host of men bearing fire buckets and stirrup pumps, on this occasion a rather pathetic group of soldiery gathered in one corner to be surveyed by a somewhat worried-looking Adjutant and R.S.M. If nothing else, it brought home to us the need to encourage recruiting in every possible way. In all fairness it should be pointed out that on this day the platoons in training were out of camp and the situation is not quite as disturbing as painted.

It is with no little pride that the achievements of the Junior Soldiers are once more told. During the Winter Term they reached the final of the Army Band Boys' and Drummer Boys' Soccer Competition and were runners-up after an excellent game with the Junior Soldiers of the Yorkshire Brigade. In the same term they were placed second in the drama section of the Southern Command Drama and Music Festival. This entailed the production of an excerpt from the recent stage and screen success, "The Long and The Short and The Tall," by Willis Hall. It is the story of a patrol in the jungle in Malaya and one which caught the imagination of the Junior Soldiers taking part. The Junior Soldiers' Wing was the only unit of its kind to enter, and its success was due to the efforts of Captain P. Padwick, M.B.E., R.A.E.C., the unit Education Officer, who undertook the production. During the Spring Term, just completed, the Junior Soldiers came fourth in their class in the Army Boys' Cross-country Championships; it was bad luck that the team was weakened by illness.

After a tour of two years with the Depot, Sergeant Marshallsay is about to rejoin the 1st Battalion, and it should be noted that for the last year he has been a most valuable member of the staff of the Junior Soldiers' Wing; his replacement will be no easy matter. There have been no other changes of note, unless one records the "change" in the figure of Colour-Sergeant Brown, the C.Q.M.S. of Training Company; his figure has now to be seen to be believed!

Our only visitors during this period have been Major E. L. T. Capel on return from Aden and prior to taking up his appointment with the 5th Battalion, and Major T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker prior to his going out to join the 1st Battalion the Royal Hampshire Regiment as Second-in-Command.

On Saturday, 18th March, a most successful Back Badge luncheon party was again held in the Officers' Mess and the thanks of all who attended are due to Mr. Smart, the Mess Steward, who made his usual excellent arrangements.

All would appear to be fixed for our move to Heathfield Camp, Honiton, in August, and it is from there that the next notes should be written whilst Topsham Barracks are modernised and largely rebuilt.

WESSEX BRIGADE TIE

The Wessex Brigade necktie of the pattern agreed by the meeting of Commanding Officers in December last is now on sale. The tie is dark green with a motif of golden wyverns and may be obtained from Messrs. Conway Williams, 48 Brook Street, London, W.1, price £1 1s. 0d.

WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT



The Band and Drums of the Junior Soldiers' Wing



The Junior Soldiers' Wing Soccer Team—Runners up in the Army Band Boys' and Drummer Boys' Soccer Competition, Aldershot, November 1960

IMJIN DAY CEREMONIES, DOVER



SERGEANTS' MESS BALL—21st-22nd April, 1961
W.O.s' and Sergeants' Colour Party. *Left to right:* Cr.-Sgt. G. W. Chillcott, C.S.M.
D. Stephens, Sgt. N. H. Tuggey, C.S.M. G. Bowrin, Cr.-Sgt. R. W. Preece



KOREAN REUNION—22nd April, 1961

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

At this time of year the County's cadet strength is usually low, but this year it is lower than it has been for some time. The loss must partly be due to the 73 cadets of the St. David's College Detachment, Bristol, leaving us to become a contingent in the Combined Cadet Force. We have also had to close two detachments—one at Cirencester and the other at Patchway, Bristol—in each case because of lack of adults.

During the two years St. David's College was with us they played a major part in representing the County at all games, sports and in the Southern Command Pentathlon. Their record of passes in Certificate "A" was the highest ever reached in the County. We shall certainly miss them and wish them every success in the Combined Cadet Force.



THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
A.C.F.

Yellow Sphinx on Blue
Shield within Red
Frame

Shooting

This year the Annual County Meeting will be held at Pilning on Sunday, 9th July.

Our representative team in the Earl Roberts' Imperial Trophy, the 6th Cadet Regiment, were seventh this year. Last year they were fourth. However, we are confident that with just a little extra effort they can and will win it this year.

Camp

This year the County will be having its annual camp at Lulworth, Dorset, from 30th July to 11th August. The camp will be under canvas so we can only hope that we shall enjoy another 1959 summer as when last under canvas on the Isle of Wight. As always, the problem of cooking at camp looms at this time, but we hope the cooks from our affiliated T.A. Units and the Welfare Section of the Civil Defence will help us out.

Sports

This has not been a very successful sporting year. Cadet R. Gwillim, twice our National Boxing Champion, was defeated in the South Area Finals after receiving a rather dubious blow.

Our rugby team, entirely from the 2nd/4th Cadet Regiment, Gloucester, were beaten by last year's champions, Glamorgan A.C.F., in the first round, but gave a very good display against an almost dedicated and fit Welsh side. The defeat was amply recompensed by the wonderful hospitality of Glamorgan Army Cadet Force after the match.

At football, after playing much the better football, the County team were beaten by one goal to nothing in the first round against Devon, who eventually went on to the semi-final.

In June we again will be represented in the Southern Command Cadet Pentathlon.

Awards

In the New Year Honours, Major M. H. Rabin, who is on the staff at County Headquarters, was awarded the M.B.E. Major Rabin joined the A.C.F. in 1943 and at one time commanded the 7th Gloucestershire Cadet Regiment. He is now the County Duke of Edinburgh Award Officer.

Visit to Germany

This year the War Office severely cut the number visiting the B.A.O.R. from 4th to 14th April, and we were limited to a party of Captain G. R. Thomson and 10 cadets of the 6th Regiment, Bristol. Again the town was Osnabruck where we were the guests of the 1st Battalion The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry.

County Training Centre

The most important thing that has happened for some years is that we now have our very own County Training Centre. This is situated near the airfield at Aston Down and has been converted for our use by a generous War Office grant. It is here that we shall be running our own weekend courses of instruction for officers, W.O.s and Sergeants and Cadet N.C.O.s. It will also be a base for Regimental and Detachment Weekend Camps.

To conclude, we would like to say that our recent advertisement in all the local newspapers for ex-servicemen to help with the training of our cadets did not meet with the response we had hoped for. However, our main need was in the areas of Dursley, Minchinhampton and Coleford, and we have enlisted the services of seven W.O.s and sergeants for these detachments. **Any ex-Glosters wishing to join us will find plenty of room left for them and be most welcome. Information may be obtained from H.Q., Gloucestershire A.C.F., 2 Beaufort Road, Clifton, Bristol, 8.**



THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

1st Battalion

SINCE September 1960 the Battalion has been in Camp Ipperwash, Ontario. This is a hatted camp on what used to be part of a neighbouring Indian reserve. The buildings are wooden but well-heated, and the surrounding training areas are very good. Only the Mortar and Anti-Tank Platoons have not got every range they need within 20 minutes march of the camp gate.

In the past six months the Battalion has been working on the first portion of the annual training cycle—individual training. In this phase almost the whole Battalion take courses to qualify in additional Infantry trades. Machine-gunners take full signal courses, drivers become qualified pioneers and so on. Under this system it will be seen that a man becomes a fairly versatile soldier after three or four years.

Superimposed on the individual training phase are two other forms of training. The first is Civil Defence training. The Canadian Army freely admits that it owes its existence in its present form to its Civil Defence responsibility. The Battalion has a vital role to perform in the event of a nuclear attack on Canada, and is organised into two columns.

A full scale of equipment is held by each column, in addition to conventional military equipment. There are two mock "houses" for rescue practice within the camp, and all ranks get Civil Defence Training every year. There are also occasional practice alerts, very reminiscent of the 28th/61st's "Lightning" alarms in B.A.O.R.

The second form of training running concurrently with the individual training programme is "Leadership" training. The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel J. A. Johnston, C.D., recently assumed command from Lt.-Colonel F. Klenavic (who visited Robinswood Barracks in 1956 to present the Regiment with Colonel Carne's Chinese prison overalls) and has introduced training designed to develop the private soldier's powers of leadership, stamina, self-discipline and self-reliance. The Regular Force of the Canadian Army would form the nucleus of a fully mobilised Canadian Army in the event of a world war. This would mean that most senior N.C.O.s could expect to become officers rapidly, and that the Regular private would become a Corporal overnight. The need for training to instil leadership qualities into the rank and file of the Canadian Army is therefore obvious.

The leadership training course, which all soldiers in the Battalion undergo, lasts for ten days, and is conducted by Company Officers and N.C.O.s. The basis of the training is the long-range patrol, lasting for one or two days, and covering distances of between twelve and thirty miles.

The country used is mostly covered with thick bush, and contains a canal—only crossable by assault boat—and a sizable river, which is fordable in places. The patrols are briefed, rehearsed and led by the soldiers themselves, under the close scrutiny of an N.C.O. or officer, who lives with them for the duration of the patrol. The patrol may only move by night. Thus, if a patrol is still in "Enemy territory" at first light, it must lie-up until the following evening, normally forfeiting both food and rest for the day. The patrols have always a definite task to perform, have a live and vigilant "enemy" to avoid, agents to contact and the canal to cross. Much depends on the map-reading and compass-work of the soldier designated as "leader" for each patrol. His judgments can make all the difference between a well-fed and restful day in camp for his patrol, or a hungry day under the trees on the training area. The leaders change for each of the four patrols during the ten-day course.

If snow is on the ground the patrols operate from Arctic tents on snowshoes. The only difference here is that a man cannot exist out of doors for long periods without moving. Therefore the rules making a patrol lie-up by day are waived.

In addition to all this the Battalion has celebrated Kowang-son Day, the Regimental birthday (21st December) and Paardeburg Day (27th February) with gusto.

A number of officers of the Battalion have had dealings with officers of our Regiment. Major E. R. Friel, the 2IC, met Lt.-Colonel D. B. A. Grist and Captain P. R. Barker whilst serving on the staff of the Commonwealth Division in Korea. He also remembers Major Farrar-Hockley, with whom he served in the Airborne Division during the Second World War. Major E. B. M. Pinnington vividly remembers playing liar dice against Majors Weller, Morris and Littlewood during the period when the 28th/61st were running the B.A.O.R. rifle meeting at Sennelager in 1959. Captain C. G. Owen met several Glosters whilst a prisoner in Korea—unfortunately he cannot remember names—and Captain J. W. Martin once spent a week at Robinswood Barracks in February 1955, being shown the training by Major Harvey. Finally, Major R. D. T. Fletcher

spent several N.A.T.O. conferences cheek by jowl with Major Taylor, representing Canada and Britain respectively. As they also served in the same Brigade in India during the war one assumes that there can hardly have been grounds for disagreement over matters as trivial as weapons and equipment.

2nd Battalion

Stationed 52 miles from the 1st Battalion in London, Ontario, the 2nd Battalion have just handed over their responsibilities as N.A.T.O. "Fire Brigade" to the 1st R. 22e Regiment (the French-Canadian "Van-Doos"). This means that they will now follow a training cycle very similar to that of 1st R.C.R. The Command of this Battalion has also recently changed, Lt.-Colonel J. A. Clancy, M.C., replacing Lt.-Colonel D. E. Holmes. All members of the 28th/61st will be pleased to hear that Lieutenant John Lawson is to be married in May. At present he is M.T.O., and has 98 jeeps to look after, not to mention snow-mobiles, 2½-ton lorries and ¾-ton trucks. He is also studying hard for his promotion exams, and finds that all this is interfering with his skiing.

The Future

Both Battalions go to Petawawa in June and July for the annual Brigade concentration, and will train towards this with section, platoon and company training. At the end of concentration the Brigade departs on leave for the whole of August, returning in September to begin yet another training cycle. The 1st Battalion hope to be sent to Soest, Germany, in the autumn of 1962. Nobody knows when the 2nd Battalion will leave the solid comforts of Wolseley Barracks and London.

C. P. T. R.

FIRST THOUGHTS OF A TRAINING MAJOR

Oh, it's grand to be in Gloucester
 Now that Spring is in the air,
 To see the County once again,
 For there is none more fair;
 To try some elvers, watch the bore,
 And see familiar faces,
 To have a pint at the "Air Balloon,"
 And go to Cheltenham races.

Oh, it's grand to be in Gloucester
 Now that Spring is really here,
 But endlessly before me
 Stretches all the training year.
 Full of depressions,
 Squalls and rain.
 If only we didn't
 Have to *train* !

E. L. T. C.



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SN233

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

THE number of visitors to the Museum in Westgate Street, Gloucester, during 1960 amounted to 22,749; during the last six quieter months the total was 7,850.

We regret to have to report that Mr. Price, our attendant since September 1956, was taken ill on 20th December and died in hospital on 18th January. All these years he was, in his quiet way, a loyal and conscientious worker and served the Museum and the Regiment well.

Mr. E. F. Taylor (No. 5182379), an ex-corporal of the 28th, has been appointed to the vacancy.

The highlight of the period has been the loan from the Bristol City Museum of a selection of Regimental medals from the late Alderman Fuller Eberle's fine collection. This, prior to the last war, was on display in the central hall of the Bristol Museum but was scarified during the blitz of 24th November, 1940. Fortunately very little real damage was done to the medals themselves, but they have since been stored away and seen by no one. We are very grateful to the Bristol authorities and to Alderman Eberle's family that some of the collection may now be seen and enjoyed once more by the Regiment and by the general public.

We are also grateful to the Stroud Museum for the loan of a rare cross-belt plate of the Wotton Volunteers of 1803-14.

Amongst other additions are:

General Service Medal for Cyprus. (Mr. S. P. Dowdle.)

Four City of Bristol Volunteer shooting medals. (Gloucestershire T.A. Association and Mr. Weech.)

Lewis gun. (R.H.Q.)

Helmet, 5th Battalion, 1902-14. (Lieutenant-Colonel S. S. Marling.)

Open letter to men of British 29th Brigade, Korea. "Why don't you revolt," etc. (Major N. S. Watkin-Williams.)

Austrian and German daggers. (Mr. V. S. Spring.)

Set of six napkin rings made by German P. of W. for Private Spring, 1st/4th Battalion, 1914-18. (Mr. V. S. Spring.)

Group of eight medals to Staff-Sergeant C. S. Bishop. (Mrs. Bishop.)

Waist-belt buckle, Royal Forest of Dean Volunteers. (Mr. N. A. C. Jones.)

Glengarry badge, Gloster Rifle Volunteers. (Mr. N. A. C. Jones.)

"Active Service" Testament, 1915. (Capt. B. W. de Morgan.)

Discharge badge "For Loyal Service," 1939-44. (Mr. E. Taylor.)

18th-century socket bayonet. (Purchased.)

Green "City of Bristol" shoulder flash worn by "A" and "B" Companies, 5th Battalion. (O.C., 5th Battalion.)

Colour print of Earl Berkeley, commanding R.S. Gloster Militia, 1801. (Purchased.)

THE LAST NATIONAL SERVICE INTAKE

The final intake of National Servicemen, numbering about 70, joined the 1st Battalion in the middle of January. Because there was no room for them at the Wessex Brigade at Exeter they were sent for training, under Lieutenant R. C. Hobbs of the Regiment, to the Mercian Brigade Depot at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield, the old Regimental Depot of the North and the South Staffordshire Regiment.

Although the majority of the men were apprentices whose call-up had been deferred until they had completed their apprenticeship, eight of them decided to convert to a Regular engagement before even they joined the Regiment.

The passing-out parade was taken by Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, who presented a copy of the "Cap of Honour" to Private R. Baker, adjudged to be the best all-round recruit.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RE-ORGANISATION

DURING the past winter the T.A. has undergone a major reorganisation resulting in the amalgamation or disbandment of many major units. Thirteen Infantry battalions have amalgamated. Happily the 5th Glosters remain intact.

As part of the reorganisation Infantry Brigades within 43rd Wessex Division have been regrouped. 4th/6th Royal Berkshires and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire L.I. have left 129th Infantry Brigade T.A. and the 4th Wilts. and the Somerset L.I. taken their place. The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars have been converted to a reconnaissance regiment and become Divisional troops.

Among the many artillery units affected, 311 H.A.A. Regiment in Bristol have lost their identity. Since 1955 the Lord Mayor of Bristol has been their Honorary Colonel, and "R" Battery has carried the title "City of Bristol." All concerned were anxious that this traditional link between the Volunteers and the City of Bristol, dating back to 1797 was not broken. Largely due to Brigadier Newth's efforts it was finally agreed that approval should be sought for "R" Battery to amalgamate with the 5th Glosters in order that the two Bristol companies of the Battalion could incorporate "City of Bristol" in their title. This was agreed by higher authority and was effected in March. Some twenty members of "R" Battery transferred to the Battalion.

The amalgamation being authorised, the approval of the Colonel-in-Chief was sought to invite the Lord Mayor of Bristol to be joint Honorary Colonel of the 5th Battalion. The necessary authority has been received and at the time of writing this article it is hoped to present the Lord Mayor with his warrant in May.

It is very fitting that these two links with the City of Bristol should now revert to a battalion of the Regiment after a lapse of 23 years. It will be remembered that the 4th Battalion carried the title "City of Bristol" and that the Lord Mayor was their Honorary Colonel. "A" and "B" Companies are now permitted to wear in battle-dress a green flash bearing in black the words "City of Bristol" immediately under their red "Gloucestershire" shoulder title.

As part of the T.A. reorganisation the 5th Battalion has changed over to the new Infantry battalion establishment. This has necessitated major changes. Support Company, as such, disappears and each rifle company has three rifle platoons and one support platoon (3-in. mortars and anti-tank guns). The new deployment of the Battalion is now as follows:

BRISTOL: "A" (City of Bristol) Company at Brislington; "B" (City of Bristol) Company and M.M.G. Platoon at Horfield.

CHELTENHAM/TEWKESBURY: "C" Company and Drums.

DURSLEY: "D" Company.

STROUD/STONEHOUSE: Assault Pioneer Platoon.

GLOUCESTER: Battalion H.Q.; "H.Q." Company (less M.M.G. and Assault Pioneer Platoons); Band; Support Platoon, "C" Company.

As part of the reorganisation the T.A. has been promised more up-to-date equipment. The 5th Battalion has already received a number of F.N. rifles, and the first of a new range of vehicles has been received. It is hoped that new radio sets, as issued to the Regular Army, will soon be held.

Although the reorganisation has necessitated the disappearance of a number of units with a long history of service to the country, the overall effect should be of the greatest value. Units at a realistic strength, with modern equipment, should now be able to offer an interesting and worthwhile part-time occupation to the young man of the 1960s to whom the term National Service will be but a memory of the past.

THE CITY OF BRISTOL VOLUNTEERS

AS noted in the previous article, once again change comes to the "In Danger Ready" Volunteers of the City of Bristol.

Quite apart from their earlier ancestors, the Bristol Infantry Volunteers of 1797-1802 and the Royal Bristol Infantry Volunteers of 1803-14, the unit which in due course became the 4th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment (T.A.) has had numerous titles and numerous roles during its hundred years of continuous service.

Raised in September 1859 as the 1st Gloucestershire (Bristol) Rifle Volunteer Corps, it was the first corps in the country to achieve "battalion" status and soon became known as the 1st (City of Bristol) Rifle Volunteers, or more generally, the "Bristol Rifles."

In 1881, under the Cardwell scheme for Army reorganisation they became a volunteer battalion of the County regiment, and in May 1883 received the official title of the 1st (City of Bristol) Volunteer Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, whilst the Army List added "late 1st Gloucestershire." When in July 1887 volunteer brigades were constituted, the Bristol Rifles formed part of the Severn Volunteer Infantry Brigade.

During the South African War an "active service section" was formed of volunteers to serve with the Regular battalions and in due course they gained for their battalion the Battle Honour "South Africa 1900-02." In 1902 their brigade was renamed the Gloucestershire and Somerset Brigade.

At the 1908 Haldane reorganisation of the Reserve Forces of the country the Battalion became the 4th Battalion of the Regiment and next year was designated the 4th (City of Bristol) Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment (T.F.). The old dark green rifle uniform was given up at the time for the scarlet of the Regular battalions.

Under the reorganisation their brigade became the Gloucester and Worcester Infantry Brigade of the South Midland Division, later to be numbered the 144th Brigade of the 48th (South Midland) Division.

During the 1914-18 War the Battalion served with distinction in France and Flanders and in Italy, gaining in all 12 Battle Honours. A 2nd/4th Battalion was formed in September 1914, gained four honours, and was disbanded in 1918. A 3rd/4th Battalion formed in May 1915 was amalgamated the next year with the 3rd/5th and 3rd/6th to become the 4th Reserve Battalion of the Regiment.

In 1917, as with all other Territorial battalions, the 4th Gloucesters were permitted to adopt the badges and honours of their Regular battalions, and in 1920 the Territorial Force was redesignated the "Territorial Army."

Just prior to the 1939-45 War a number of T.A. Infantry battalions were transferred to other branches of the Service and the 4th Battalion was in November 1938 converted into a searchlight regiment with the provisional and lengthy title of the 4th (City of Bristol) Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment (66th Searchlight Regiment) (Terri-

torial)! Needless to say, this was soon simplified to 66th Searchlight Regiment R.A. (T.A.) and the 4th Gloucesters, sad to say, ceased to appear in the Army List as a member of The Gloucestershire Regiment.

At the beginning of the war the Regiment, as part of the 5th A.A. Division, was initially employed in defence of Bristol and the old motto "In Danger Ready" remained appropriate. All these years the Lord Mayor of Bristol continued as Honorary Colonel of the unit—a custom which originated with the old volunteers of Napoleonic days.

In October 1945 the Regiment was placed in "Suspended animation," and when reformed in 1947 became the 601st City of Bristol (Mixed) H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (T.A.). It was granted special "City of Bristol" shoulder flashes to denote its association with the City, and in green because of its early service as "rifles."

In 1955 the decision was made to disband the three Bristol A.A. Regiments (namely the 266 (Gloucester Volunteer Artillery), the 312 (Gloucestershire) and the 601 (City of Bristol)), but each of these three units produced one battery to form a new 311 (Bristol) H.A.A. Regiment R.A. (T.A.). "R" Battery continued to bear the title "City of Bristol," and so as a grandchild of the old corps enabled the City's Volunteers to reach their centenary year in 1959.

1914—BATTALION TRANSPORT—1961

SOLDIERS of today will probably be amazed when they consider the Battalion transport on the establishment of the 28th when the Regiment went to war in August 1914. "Old Contemptibles" will be equally amazed when they learn of the number of vehicles on the war strength of the 1st Battalion at Dover.

In 1914 there was no mechanical transport; there were no motor-cycles, no wireless sets, and no support weapons to be moved about other than two Vickers machine-guns. Senior officers were mounted on riding horses, and spare ammunition was carried on pack cobs.

The actual establishment was as follows:

B.H.Q.

8 riding horses (C.O.(2), 2IC, Adj., Q.M., T.O., M.O., Tpt. Sgt.).
1 pack cob (spare)
9 cycles for signallers
5 S.A.A. carts (2-horsed)
1 Maltese cart for medical equipment (1-horsed)
2 water carts (2-horsed)

M.G. Section

1 riding horse
1 G.S. limbered wagon for 2 Vickers (2-horsed)
1 S.A.A. cart (2-horsed)

4 Companies

4 riding horses
8 pack cobs for S.A.A. (2 per company)
4 travelling kitchens (each 2 heavy draught horses)

Attached from A.S.C.

4 G.S. wagons for baggage, stores and supplies (2 heavy draught A.S.C. horses)
(plus 2 G.S. wagons for 1 blanket per man when ordered (2 heavy draught))

Total

(less attached) 13 riding horses 9 cycles
 9 pack cobs 18 vehicles
 27 draught horses
 8 heavy draught

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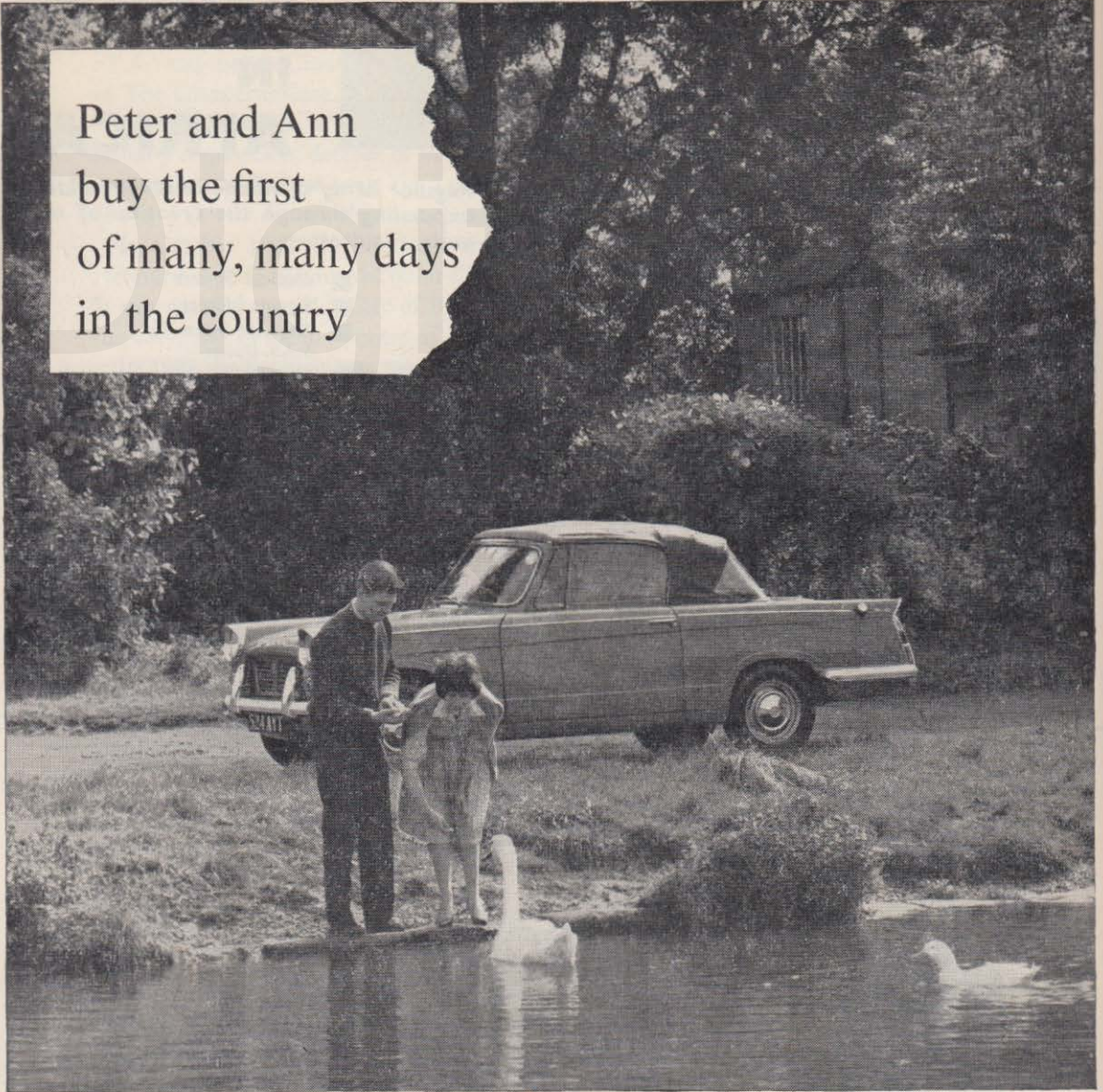
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During the Retreat from Mons of the vehicles only the S.A.A. carts and M.G. limbers accompanied battalions, and of these two S.A.A. carts were early brigaded to form a S.A.A. reserve. The rest of the battalion first-line transport (i.e. toolcarts, cookers and watercarts) were also brigaded, whilst the supply and baggage wagons marched well ahead with the Divisional Train.

As the retreat continued, cookers and watercarts were ordered to join the Train. The watercarts were drawn by one horse only and the second animal was taken on as a spare. As can be imagined, the cold-shoer—Private Green—was kept busy during the retreat and could continually be seen at work during ten-minute halts at the side of the road. He must have reshod every horse before the Aisne was reached.

Troops were given permission to place any ammunition in excess of 150 rounds per man on S.A.A. carts if these were not filled, and on 26th August packs with second pairs of boots, officers' swords and so on were dumped on A.S.C. wagons—many never to be seen again.

During some portions of the march a horse-drawn ambulance was attached to the Battalion from the Field Ambulance. This to help convey casualties—but for the *blesé* a ride in such a vehicle with iron-shod wheels was no joy ride over the French *pavé* roads.

To help distribute rations on occasions, the A.S.C. dumped food at the side of the roads for troops to grab as they passed by, or fresh meat for the cooks to stack on their cookers, often to perish in the heat.

From all this it would appear that "boots" were the most important item of the Battalion's transport, and it was a great relief when on 5th September a fresh supply was issued to replace those worn through.

Seven—six—eleven—five—nine—an'—twenty miles today—
Four—eleven—seventeen—thirty-two the day before—
(Boots—boots—boots—boots—movin' up and down again!)
There's no discharge in the war!

Don't—don't—don't—don't—look at what's in front of you
(Boots—boots—boots—boots—movin' up an' down agin);
Men—men—men—men—men go mad with watchin' 'em,
An' there's no discharge in the war!

(KIPLING.)

The actual distances marched by the 28th in those 1914 days were:

From point of concentration at Leschelles to Haulchin, near Mons, 44 miles.

Retreat from Mons to Rozoy, S.E. of Paris, 200 miles in 13 days.

Advance from Rozoy to the River Aisne, 99½ miles in 8 days.

A total of 343½ miles in 25 days, 20th August-13th September.

Today visitors to the 28th/61st at Dover might walk through an avenue of freshly painted vehicles each named after a Battle Honour, and one wonders whether the Glosters have more vehicles or more honours.

Actually the unit transport consists of an assortment of 54 vehicles, 27 of them fitted with trailers, for the complicated organisation of an Infantry battalion. As in 1914, these vehicles are distributed into echelons in the field—today into "F" or the fighting Echelon, "A" Echelon of easily available vehicles and "B" Echelon under the Q.M. away back. They are again for convenience grouped into echelon packets, e.g. a Reconnaissance Group, Battalion H.Q. Group, individual company groups and so on.

Briefly, the establishment for comparison with that of 1914 is as follows:

<i>B.H.Q.</i>	1 car for C.O. 4 Land-Rovers 5 1-ton vehicles 2 motor-cycles
<i>H.Q. Company</i>	3 Land-Rovers 1 1-ton vehicle (water) 7 3-ton vehicles 2 motor-cycles
<i>"Sp" Company</i>	9 Land-Rovers 8 1-ton vehicles 4 3-ton vehicles 6 motor-cycles
<i>3 Rifle Companies (each)</i>	1 Land-Rover 2 1-ton vehicles 1 3-ton vehicle (cooks)
<i>Total</i>	1 car 19 Land-Rovers, 16 with trailers 20 1-ton vehicles, 10 with trailers 15 3-ton vehicles, 1 with water trailer 10 motor-cycles

No wonder a second Q.M. (tech.) is required to check nuts and bolts, etc.

NORMANDY REVISITED

BY LIEUTENANT H. G. F. CHAPMAN

LOOKING back, 1960 had been a full year, two large parades, the visit to Gloucester, T.A. camps, rifle meetings and a month on Stamford Training area, and so it was not until October, when the Battalion was on block leave, that we were able to plan any unusual or adventurous training. Since the war there have been numerous expeditions to the battlefields of France, but they have almost all been by officers, so we thought why not a battlefield tour for the soldiers.

We decided to follow the 2nd Battalion on the Normandy landings and its subsequent advance, ending with the capture of Le Havre. We chose this campaign for three reasons. First that Colonel Soames had personally been present for a large part of it and could give us the more intimate and interesting details; second, that there were the excellent accounts by Captain H. H. Holgate in past BACK BADGES; and lastly, it would not mean too long or expensive a journey.

In order to pick camp sites, and to pin-point the exact Battalion locations in the various battles, the Colonel and I set off at the end of October on a three-day reconnaissance. It was a very crowded three days as we covered the 2nd Battalion's movements over three and a half months; the Normandy farmers could not have been more co-operative, despite our dreadful French, and we only received one temporary refusal of a camp site, when the farmer mistook our French for two tents, as two tanks!

On the 21st November the party left Dover on the Boulogne Car Ferry. The members of the party were Lieutenant Chapman and Private Price, "Sp" Company, Corporal Palmer and Private Kendall, "D" Company, Lance-Corporal Goodhall and Private Hill, "A" Company, Sergeant Garland and Private Mackenzie, "B" Company, and

Privates Howls and Gray (the driver), "H.Q." Company. The Channel was crossed without anyone being sick and the port officials on both sides were very helpful. We had planned on one night's stop before reaching the beachhead and we spent it at Yvetot, where we pitched our tent in a very boggy field and ate our first meal surrounded by old broken-down cars. The following morning we made very good time and reached Arromanches, the site of the Mulberry Harbours, by midday. Here there is a magnificent museum. Under the guidance of the Curator we spent a fascinating afternoon amongst models and photographs, of the harbour and its piers, which made D-day possible. The Curator gave us a private film show and found us a camp site with a barn which we could sleep in. Sergeant Garland, however, put us all off sleeping there with lurid stories of French rats.

The next day we sent the truck ahead to Bayeux and set off along the beach to Habel-de-Heurtot, where the 2nd Battalion actually landed; from there we followed the route taken by them to Buhot, where they had an assembly area in an orchard, and on through the Normandy villages to Magny. In Magny we saw the church from which a sniper had caused the Battalion so much trouble, and then marched on to Bayeux, meeting our truck again in the market place. We found it hard going after sitting for two days in a truck, but how much harder it must have been after a rough Channel crossing and a beach landing.

The afternoon was spent in Bayeux Cathedral and then looking at the famous tapestry. Finally, a very full day was rounded off with a search of the war cemetery for Gloster graves. We found 22 here, and were extremely impressed by the way in which they were kept; this was in fact the case with all the cemeteries we visited.

Another wet, but quite comfortable night was spent in the fields south of Bayeux and by 9 o'clock the next morning we were on our way down the long dreary road to Tilly-sur-Seulles. We stopped for tea at the Jerusalem cross-roads, which the Battalion had quickly cleared of Boche and then continued marching, discussing as we went the attack on Buceel and the lead up to the battle of Tilly. This we found to have been completely rebuilt, the site of the hospital where the enemy orderly had behaved suspiciously was obvious, and it was interesting to resite all the companies as they had been for the battle. We marched in the afternoon to Tilly cemetery, and then as we still had time in hand and our camp site was only a kilometre or so, motored to the cemeteries at Hottot and St. Mauvien. This with 2,000 graves made an enormous impression on the soldiers, as the massed headstones gave pictorial evidence of the vast number of dead, and we arrived in Longevres suitably subdued. The Wednesday night in Longevres will long be remembered by the party. The farmer and his family, who provided us with a barn, well remembered the Battalion being there in the war, and told us the Commanding Officer had slept in the farmhouse. They built us an enormous fire, and provided us with a never-ending supply of cider and calvados.

The excellent evening caused a few to stagger as we marched out the next morning towards Parouru l'Eclin and St. Germain d'Ectot, the area in which the Battalion fought between the 28th June and the 1st August, and it took all day to cover a rather round-about route. However, we stopped at the cross-roads where Lieutenant Burton won his M.C., at the farm at Les Fourqueries where Major Brasington, the Q.M., had his H.Q., and in the field where the present Commanding Officer was wounded. It was about three in the afternoon when a rather tired and dusty party found itself in St. Germain,

and I decided to motor the ten miles to Villers Bocage. This was the battle honour we had painted on our truck, but the place was deserted and much to our disappointment it caused very little interest.

After a very windy night we left the Bocage country for the more hilly and wooded area that surrounds Thury Harcourt. I went into great detail over this battle, described as the hardest of the campaign. I wondered at the time what it would be like to be thrust into command at the age of 22 as was Colonel Lance at this battle. The written account of Thury Harcourt was good and we were able to pick out all the key positions, and the remains of the chateau, which had caused "B" Company so much trouble. We had an amusing evening in a small cafe where I was offered three girls for the amusement of my soldiers—much to my embarrassment! On Sunday, 27th November, we had a rest from military history and marched most of the way to Caen, another city which had been completely rebuilt since the war.

Finally, before returning we retraced the very successful battle for Le Havre, in which the Battalion took such a prominent part. We found it difficult to imagine that such an extensive city had been so comparatively easy to take. The return to Dover was uneventful, although I feel the reception party of the Colonel and the Press must have thought us a little green, even Lance-Corporal Goodhall, who thought himself a good sailor.

Now, afterwards, I can look back on a most enjoyable and instructive ten days. I think it would be fair to say that, even those who had previously found history a dry subject, in this form found it extremely interesting.

THE REGIMENT TO RE-VISIT PORTUGAL

IT is about 150 years since the Regiment last served in Portugal, and the visit of the 28th/61st in July for training may well cross the paths of the 28th and the 61st of Peninsular War days as both Regiments saw considerable service in the country.

The 28th landed in the Bay of Peniche on the west coast in August 1808 and, passing through Torres Vedras, marched to Lisbon where, 1,100 strong, they were inspected and congratulated by Sir John Moore. "Gentlemen," he said to the officers afterwards, "what I have to say to you is pleasant. I have never seen a body of men in finer order than your Regiment; they appear more like the picture of a battalion than actual men bearing arms. The fame of your Grenadier Company has gone through the Army; but, much as I expected from reports, I am more pleased at its appearance than I could have anticipated."

Later, marching through Santarem, Abrantes, Castello Branco and Guarda, the Regiment entered Spain in November of that year. There followed much marching, the retreat to Corunna and, finally, the withdrawal of the British Army from the Peninsula.

In 1811, after the battle of Barrosa, the Regiment returned to Lisbon from Gibraltar and joined the 2nd/28th at Villa Viciosa. There the two battalions were amalgamated: both were under strength after the casualties of Barrosa (1st/28th) and Albuhera (2nd/28th). The new 28th Regiment moved to Pontalegre for a pleasant rest with racing, hunting and shooting as diversions before entering Spain once more to winter at Albuquerque.

The 61st Foot had also been serving in Portugal. They arrived at Lisbon in June 1809, joined Wellington's Army in Spain, but, after the battle of Talavera, had been driven back into Portugal. At Viseu, near the frontier, they received a draft of 300 men from the 2nd/61st.

There followed a certain amount of scrapping at Busaco (September 1810) before the Regiment took part in the defence of the lines of Torres Vedras near the village of Caxaria. When the French finally withdrew from their Santarem positions the 61st were in the pursuit to the fortress of Almeida in the northern part of the country, and here the Regiment spent some time fighting, crossing and re-crossing the frontier with Spain until May 1813.

EARLIER REGIMENTAL TROOPING

IN these days of rapid moves and air-lifts it may be of interest to recall something of the vicissitudes of Regimental trooping in earlier days.

Marching was, of course, the normal method of troop movement by land with impressed vehicles for baggage, both at home and abroad. The 28th very soon after they were raised at Portsmouth in 1694, were ordered to carry out their first move by marching the 70 miles to London in three divisions in five days.

For a foreign tour it meant long periods at sea in small transport ships and under appalling conditions. In 1697 it took two months for the Regiment to reach Newfoundland from Spithead. On a return of arms and camp necessities wanted to complete the 28th on return from Flanders in 1746 is the note: "Tents and accoutrement returned wanting were destroyed by rats on board the transports." But was this the Quartermaster's excuse for a write-off?

Fifty years later (November 1795) the Regiment set sail for the West Indies but were caught in "Admiral Christian's Storm" and but four companies reached their destination, the remainder of the Battalion returning to England, and it was not for nearly a year that they were re-united. The W.I. detachment was attached to the 14th Foot and took part in the capture of St. Lucia.

Coming to later years, new methods of transport were introduced. The 61st, in October 1827, arrived at Liverpool from Ireland and proceeded by canal to Fenny Stratford, in Buckinghamshire, whence they marched to Chatham to embark from Gravesend for Ceylon—a voyage which took, round the Cape, three to four months.

In 1841 we first read of railways being used by the Regiment. The 61st, in that year, proceeded by railroad from Deptford for Northumberland, whilst the 28th went by rail in 1848 from Canterbury to Plymouth.

The 61st voyage in 1845 to Calcutta in five ships took from 2nd July to 5th November. Sergeant Halliday wrote: "We cast Anchor in the evening (6th Nov.) in the Sands Heads, being the first time since we left Cove of Cork . . . Dec 5th. Marched at half-past 3 a.m. from Dum Dum to the upper provinces, leaving our heavy Baggage, Women and Children in order to proceed to Allahabad by water (i.e. the R. Ganges). 1846, 27 Jan., crossed the Ganges by Bridge of Boats and marched to the Sepoy lines near Allahabad. Here we joined our Women and Children which had arrived at the station before us from Calcutta. They had suffered very severe on passage up the River." The distance from Calcutta to Allahabad was 623 miles.

In 1858 the 28th were at sea four months in three ships returning to England via the Cape from Bombay, but 10 years later they made the voyage back to the "Shiny" via Egypt. This was before the Suez Canal had been built, and when the Regiment reached Alexandria, troops had to proceed overland with arms and accoutrements packed with the heavy baggage owing to the treaty arrangements with Turkey. As no ship was ready at Suez the Regiment remained on board ship at Alexandria for a week or so until, on 8th November, the left wing disembarked and went off by train to within seven miles of Suez where the railway line ceased. Thence a march through trackless sand and eventually embarkation in the P. & O. hulk, *Precursor*. The *Oriental* paddle-steamer arrived on the 12th, the rest of the Battalion moved to Suez and the two wings joined to sail on the 18th. Bombay was reached on the 8th December (three weeks).

Scarcely had the Regiment settled in their new quarters at Poona than they were ordered to march (just at the beginning of the hot weather) to Nasirabad, 700 miles away. When they set off most of the native drivers of the baggage carts bolted with their bullocks. However, the animals were collected again and, to their resentment, troops were detailed to drive them. Fortunately, the bullock train which had been formed at the time of the Indian Mutiny was still in existence, and by it sick men and the families were sent to Mhow. By the time this station was reached the weather had become too hot for marching and steps were taken to push on the men daily in detachments by bullock train for the last 300 miles to Nasirabad. Incidentally, there was then no road in existence, only a cart-track.

No wonder one Battalion was always considered to be "on the march" in India and that there was a station deficient.

The 61st encountered much the same sort of problems 10 years later. In 1857, on the outbreak of the Mutiny, the Regiment was ordered to march from Ferozepore to Delhi—some 300 miles—in the hot weather. Captain Griffiths, in his story of the siege, writes:

"On the morning of 13th June a courier arrived with orders for a wing of Her Majesty's 61st Regiment to proceed at once to reinforce the army besieging the City of Delhi.

"No time was lost in making preparations for the march. Our camp equipage was ready at hand, a sufficient number of elephants, camels and oxen were easily procured, and by eight o'clock that evening we were on our way.

"In those days a European regiment on the line of march in India presented a striking scene. Each corps had its own quota of camp-followers, numbering in every instance more than the regiment itself, so that transport was required for fully 2,000 souls.

"We had been directed to take as small a kit as possible, each officer being limited to two camels to carry his tent and personal effects.

"When practicable, English regiments, moving over the country, marched at night, resting under cover of their tents during the day. We marched slowly, for it was necessary every now and then to halt so as to allow the long train of baggage to come up. Thus passed the 16 days which were occupied in reaching Delhi."

In 1859 the 61st left Delhi on 15th February for Bombay under orders for England. They arrived at Bombay on 20th May to be told that their orders for home were cancelled and they were railed back to Poona. Later in the year they did sail but spent a year in Mauritius *en route* for the U.K.

Apart from the stranding of the 28th transports on "Slashers Reef," off the east coast of Australia, in 1842, the greater part of the Regiment was almost lost at sea in 1866 when

returning home from India. After an adventurous voyage in the *Melmerby*, the ship was dismasted off the rocky coast of Brittany. Fortunately the rigging and wreckage was eventually cut free and the ship limped into Brest harbour, where the Battalion were the first British troops to land on French soil since the Waterloo campaign.

Quick and difficult moves were also known a 100 years ago. Whilst on manoeuvres near Aldershot late on 26th November that same year, 1866, the Regiment were ordered to hold themselves in readiness for duty in Ireland owing to the Fenian troubles, and, on the 28th, the whole Regiment marched to Farnborough, trained to Portsmouth, and sailed that evening. So urgent did the authorities seem to think the reinforcement that the vessel was not allowed to wait a few hours to take on board the heavy kit.

Of late, sudden moves may be noted the departure of the 61st for Shanghai in 1927. Orders for mobilisation reached the Battalion away on jungle manoeuvres near Jhansi at 2 a.m. on 21st January. The Battalion entrained on the 24th, embarked in the S.S. *Vasna* at Bombay on 27th, and sailed that evening at full speed and with prodigious vibrations to reach Shanghai on 12th February (over 5,500 miles).

Their move to Egypt and the Western Desert was more gentlemanly in 1936, except that orders had come whilst the Battalion were on Christmas (1935) leave. However, the three weeks' warning and preparation were more than ample.

Of the post-1939-45 War moves, probably the most noteworthy was the first air-lift of the Regiment, when "A" Company, 28th/61st, left Kenya for Aden in April 1956. Other companies followed, but maybe "C" Company's erratic and somewhat alarming flight from Aden to Bahrein the following month produced more excitement and grey hairs.

Today, air-lifts, though still complicated by the variety of aircraft available and requiring training and much weighing of bodies and kit, come as a matter of course to the 1st Battalion as their news shows.

THE TRIALS OF A SECOND-IN-COMMAND

MAJOR JACSON was second-in-command of the 28th in Malta in 1894. At this time he had certain eccentricities which invited the irrepressible subalterns to pull his leg. He would often fall asleep in a chair after Mess and keep the Mess waiters up long after everyone else had gone to bed. He hated to hear the Mess door slammed. Once at least when he had slept longer than usual and there was nobody left in the Mess, the Mess sergeant sent one of the waiters to slam the door and disappear round the corner. The major was woken up by the noise, jumped up, and rushed out to see who had slammed the door. The Mess sergeant, who was waiting inside, at once closed the door and put out the lights, closed the Mess, and Jacson had to go to bed.

In those days the second-in-command was not such a busy person as he is today. Major Jacson, after a leisurely breakfast, would light a big Havana cigar and stroll to the Orderly Room. Before going into the C.O.'s room, he would place his cigar on the window-sill, hoping to finish it when he came out again. When he came out the cigar had gone. This happened a great many times and Major Jacson tried every device and trick he could think of to find where his stump went to, but he never succeeded.

ACROSS EUROPE AS A P. of W.

The following is an account by Mr. H. R. Tarrant (No. 5181549) who was serving in the 61st at the time of Dunkirk and who, as will be seen, underwent many adventures and crossed many countries before he was eventually demobilised.

He is to be congratulated on his very stout efforts and on his memory. He now lives at Somerford, Christchurch, Hampshire.

* * *

WE pulled out of Cassel at night, going in a pincer movement towards Dunkirk. The following morning we were in a U-shaped wood. Jerry shelled us but not knowing our exact position in the wood, our casualties were light. What was left of us had one clash with Jerry patrols; no one was lost on our side. We left this wood in Indian file at night, heading again for Dunkirk.

We had not gone far out in the open when Jerry opened up on us with everything he had, and the order went down the line, "everyone for themselves." On sorting ourselves out I found myself with Lance-Corporal Greenhough and three others of the Regiment. We crossed a river by wading through it and slept in a barn.

In the morning a farmer came in for straw and prodded accidentally one of the men. We all awoke and he had a shock of his life. His wife gave us a drink and something to eat and told us that we were surrounded by Jerry, but to get away from the farm because of endangering them. We left, heading towards Dunkirk, but did not get far in daylight owing to Jerry patrols. We lay alongside a main road, buzzing with enemy mobile units.

At dusk we moved on, but did not get far before we struck a village where the sound of our Army boots brought out Jerry, who challenged us. We lay low until they got too close, then dashed into a field and right into a Jerry unit camped there. We all laid down as soon as we were challenged. I could see in the moonlight the sentry still had his rifle on his shoulder. I said to the others, "Let me shoot him," but no answer came, so I said, "I am not stopping here—if you are not trying to escape, I am." No response, so I made a dive for the hedge, zigzagging as I went, across a road and through another hedge. Very lights went up but I was not found. The others were taken prisoner.

When safely out of range I struck towards Dunkirk alone. How many miles I travelled I do not know, but eventually found a hut and inside were blankets and beds. I slept here the night. The following morning I found food and civilian clothes. I donned trousers, shirt and coat over battledress. The rest of my army equipment, except an officer's .38 revolver and 20 rounds, I buried.

I joined evacuees, not knowing where they were going. We struck a road north, but three miles from Dunkirk were turned back. I stopped at a farm at dusk for water and food and stayed here three days and nights with a Belgian refugee. We tried all means to get through to Dunkirk without success, even getting shot at.

I left here and struck the village of Sanguine-en-Melanthois. Here I was supplied with food and a bed. The following morning a young lad as escort said I had to go with him. We went south on stolen bicycles, stopping at Lille for a meal. The lad took me to the outskirts of a village, giving me instructions where to go. I arrived at Cauchy la Tour and walked straight into Madame Lecas' café and asked for beer. There were Germans sitting at one table. They took no notice of me, but this good lady recognised straight away that I was English. I sat down drinking until the Jerries had gone, then

the lady called me. I was given food and later a bath. Later her husband hid the revolver, wrapped in greaseproof paper in the cellar under a stone, burnt my battle-dress and got me a clean change of everything. These people wanted to keep me for the duration, but I wanted to get home.

Eventually they got me a map and told me to go to Etaples, where I could get out to sea and be picked up. On eventually arriving there I saw there was not a chance in hell to get out of the harbour with a fishing boat. I therefore struck back inland with every intention of going south, although I did not know the south was unoccupied. On the way I caught up with another evacuee. After about a day I discovered he was a soldier of the H.L.I. and he finally persuaded me to go with him.

We hit the next big town down the coast; eventually stayed one night, sitting in a café and watching the barrier. We decided to risk the barrier as no one had been stopped. We just got through when a voice from the control room shouted to the sentry to stop us. We were taken to the control room and searched. Nothing was found on me. I said in French that I was a Belgian refugee, papers had been destroyed with my house and I was going from town to town looking for work. On my friend were found English cigarettes, so we were taken and locked in a guard room. There were two other British soldiers there. We were put to work the following day peeling spuds and cleaning cabbage. We were treated quite well.

Three weeks later we were moved to a civilian jail near Lille. There we were with civilian internees for a fortnight. Then the four of us were moved to Loos to a British P.O.W. camp (Alexisdorf Stalag VI.C) on the Dutch-German border. We were here a month when we moved to Heiner (Dusseldorf Stalag VI.A). After a month we were moved to Stalag 210, Strassburg, where I was registered as P.O.W. No. 425. Later the S.S. took over and searched the camp for a wireless set. They lifted my home-made mattress but did not bother about a civilian suit I had there.

We were here until late October 1940 when we got moved suddenly because of escapes. We travelled by rail—50 to a cattle truck—through Metz. We stopped at Krafeld oil-refinery siding. Air-raid warnings went and Jerry left us locked in trucks while they scurried to air-raid shelters. Blenheims came round and dropped flares and then came back dropping bombs on the refinery. For this we were made to go without food and water as a reprisal for the rest of the journey.

We eventually arrived at the next camp—at Heideburg, near Freiburg in the Black Forest. Within a month 450 out of 600 were down with frost bite, being unequipped for the weather and without proper food.

We were moved when fit (by intervention of the Red Cross) to Schildeberg, Polish corridor, Stalag XXI.A. I was a boot and shoe repairer for our own troops here.

We were moved to Stalag Kundendorf, near Posen, and from here to Stalag 344, at Lamsdorf in Silesia.

I changed places by persuasion with another soldier to get out of camp on a working party in January 1945. I went to this camp as a boot and shoe repairer but got frost bite again. I was in sick bay at Bethune, when we woke on 2nd January and found the camp deserted. All the fit and Jerries had gone, leaving us sick behind. We took over a Jerry Grobermister's house and I cooked for 30 people for three weeks, working from 4.30 a.m. until 11.30 p.m. A Frenchman was the slaughterman and skinner.

We left because Russians would not help us at all although we were friendly with them.

Seven of us left to go to Sosnovitch where British planes were supposed to be landing. We hitch-hiked to Denbitscha, where we stopped the night. We left by train without tickets for Krakow. Here we spent a week trying to find out what was going on, but without success. We were registered at a Church Mission as British and turned back fed up. Two of us stopped the night in the Jewish horror camp at Sosnovitch. We left in the morning not knowing where to go, but decided to board a train for the Polish-Czechoslovakian frontier, making our way to Yugoslavia. We got off the train at Crosnoi and walked down the street. We were stopped by a Pole, who in perfect English asked if we were British soldiers. I said "Yes," and he took us to his mother's house. We were given a meal and put up for the night. My friend was taken ill and the Pole got him into hospital. I repaired my own boots and was suddenly taken ill, was put to bed and given steam bottles on chest and back. Bronchitis treatment, I think. I was in bed a week. The Poles came to see him and it was suggested to me to get them both back to Britain, as I had learned enough Polish to know they were patriots for Britain.

I left Crosnoi with the one speaking English, and we hitch-hiked back to Krakow to get him registered as a British soldier and myself as his cousin. I registered myself as George Smith, Gloucester Regiment. We stopped at a Resistance house in Krakow for two days. We then went by goods train back to Crosnoi.

Later we left (I was in charge, taking all risks with their papers on me) and hitch-hiked across the border into a little village in Czechoslovakia. Next day we left by train and arrived at Kosetsa where the civilian population would have nothing to do with us. We could not go on because of curfew hours, so we had to approach the Russian Embassy for a night's sleep and food, trusting that it would not be found out that we had two Poles with us. I had learnt a little Russian and spoke German very well. The English-speaking Pole acted as interpreter. We were taken to a café and the Russians with us demanded a meal for us.

Next morning we were fetched, given tobacco and paper money and told we were being given an escort. We thought it was to cross the Hungarian and Czechoslovakian border. No fear, we were being taken to Moscow. We left on horse and sleigh and travelled daily until arriving at Novosano. In the morning we were on a lorry and eventually arrived at Lemberg at 4 p.m. The lorry was dumped and we were left on the station to await the 5.30 train to Moscow. A stationmaster came up and I was informed that when our guard returned he was to see the stationmaster, as we were not to board the train. Then we were taken into the town of Lemberg and put in a barracks for the night. Next morning we were taken before the British Military Mission, which had arrived two days before. Here I was told I was taking a great risk with my two Polish patriots, but was told what to do on being interrogated by Russians. We stopped in Lemberg roughly three days, helping these officers bring their Red Cross clothing parcels and their belongings to the barracks.

We left by train for Odessa but went via Kiev so as our escort could have a day at home. We arrived at Odessa and were put in a barracks with a few hundred Ps.O.W. on about 29th March, 1945. Here we were interrogated and I got these Poles through without quaking in my shoes. We were given our boat tickets and left Odessa on 15th

April. We stopped at Naples, picking up wounded soldiers and an escort. We stopped at Gibraltar, eventually landing at Glasgow about 28th April.

I left the two Poles on board the S.S. *Nieuw Holland* and have never heard of them since.

I went to 110 Clearance Camp at Haslemere, Surrey, and went on leave in May.

FREEMASONRY IN THE 28th

Mention has been made of Freemasonry in the 28th in earlier issues of THE BACK BADGE (Vol. 4, p. 96; Vol. 7, p. 55). Mr. Fulke Radice has now kindly contributed the following further notes with an interesting preface on the subject of Military Lodges.

NOWADAYS every Lodge of Freemasons has to obtain from Grand Lodge a document called a "Warrant" which gives it its legal status and its number. In the early 18th century, Warrants were not issued, a simple permission was granted to some distinguished Mason to constitute a Lodge. This permission usually stated that the Lodge was to meet at a certain tavern and Lodges were known by the name of their place of meeting: e.g. "The Goose and Gridiron," "The Queen's Head," etc. Whenever a Lodge changed its place of meeting it had to notify Grand Lodge and obtain permission for the move. Fortunately for Freemasonry in the Army, things developed on different lines in Ireland. There, very soon Warrants began to be issued and, in addition, in the case of Lodges in Regiments, the Warrants granted were Travelling Warrants which accompanied the Lodge and the Regiment wherever they went. During the great wars of the 18th century Regiments and their Lodges travelled all over the world, and, wherever they stopped, local civilians often became members of these Military Lodges, later to found stationary Lodges of their own when the Regiment moved on. It is very difficult to praise too much the work done by Military Lodges in spreading Freemasonry, and the right kind of Freemasonry, all over the world. During the wars of the 18th century Cork was usually the assembly and starting point of overseas expeditions, and the Grand Lodge of Ireland had no hesitation in constituting Lodges and issuing Warrants to any Regiment desiring one, even if the Regiment already had a Lodge working under an English or Scottish Constitution. It happened quite frequently that Warrants of Military Lodges were lost or even captured by the enemy during the campaigns. The Grand Lodge of Ireland never hesitated in proved cases of genuine loss to issue a substitute Warrant. This Warrant bore sometimes the same number, sometimes a different one from the original. There is, therefore, great difficulty in tracing the various warrants. The 28th had at least three, No. 35 I.C. (Irish Constitution), which was operative from 1734-1801, No. 510 I.C., 1773-1823, and No. 260 I.C., 1809-16 (see below). I have found in the Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge of Research an article by my cousin, J. Heron Lepper, a very distinguished Irish Freemason, who, together with Brother Crosslé, wrote the history of the Grand Lodge of Ireland. The article dealt with the Military Lodges and is entitled "The Poor Common Soldier." I have extracted the paragraphs referring to the 28th and annex them with the necessary references.

ARS QUATUOR CORONATORUM—Vol. XXXVIII

“The poor common soldier,” by J. Heron Lepper.

- p. 158. “No less than 5 out of the 8 regiments which took part in this great success (the capture of Louisburg in 1758) possessed British Warrants: these were . . . 28 Regiment No. 35 (1734-1801). . . .”
- p. 160. “Even the outbreak of the War of Independence could not interrupt this fraternal intercourse, when occasion offered; and during the occupation of Philadelphia by the British troops in 1778, Brothers McGulrick and Betty of No. 510 I C, held in the 28th Regiment, were present as visitors at No. 4 Philadelphia on the 5th June, an incident which speaks well for the Masonic spirit of those days.”
- p. 161. Mention of Span* of No. 35 I.C. who became P.G.M. of Quebec.
- p. 172. “‘Lodge 510 in the 28th Regiment (1785-1823); the Warrant was revived by the Munster Custom): 5 March, 1801, duplicate granted,’ the letter of Transfer having been lost on the Continent.”
- p. 181. “No. 260 in the 2nd Battalion of the 28th Regiment, granted 2nd April, 1809, had a very short regular course. The Grand Lodge Roll says: ‘Warrant sold† in Plymouth and cancelled by order Grand Lodge 1st July, 1815.’ The inner history of this Lodge is that it was originally warranted as No. 6 by the Prov. G.L. of Andalusia (1786) and took an Irish Warrant from Seton at least as early as October 1807, this latter being legalised in 1809.”

*Captain T. A. Span of the 28th who became Provincial Grand Master.

†This was very irregular. Some member of the Lodge on its dissolution must have sold it to another body of Masons forming a Lodge or as a curio. The proper course was to return it to Grand Lodge.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL W. O. V. CLEE, T.D.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CLEE, who took over command of the 5th Battalion from Lieutenant-Colonel Harding last April, joined the Battalion as a subaltern in June 1948. Originally he had enlisted in 1940 and served first with the 16th Field Training Regiment, R.A., at Topsham Barracks, Exeter. The following year he joined the Army P.T. Corps as an instructor and was granted an emergency commission in the Gloucestershire Regiment in February 1945, when he served with the 15th Holding Battalion at Felixtowe and at Robinswood Barracks. He was released in May 1946 but obtained his T.A. commission in the Fifth in 1948.

Promoted captain in 1950, and major in 1952, Colonel Clee has commanded “H.Q.” Company and, more recently, “C” Company at Cheltenham. He was appointed Battalion Second-in-Command in 1956.

In civil life he is a valuation officer at the Inland Revenue Office in Cheltenham.

Colonel Harding, whom he relieves, has been appointed Assistant Military Secretary at B.A.O.R.



Lieutenant W. O. V. Clee, T.D., commanding
5th Battalion, T.A.



The last passing out parade of National Servicemen, Lichfield, January 1961. Brigadier
T. N. Grazebrook presents medal to Private R. Baker, the best marksman
(See page 161)



BRAGG III. The Harlequin Great Dane of the 6th Battalion, 1938, with his handler, Sergeant Saunders



[By courtesy "The Citizen"]

THE REGIMENTAL RECRUITING CARAVAN

Painted primrose yellow and blue with narrow red dividing line. Special recruiter Sergeant R. Lee in front

“CAP OF HONOUR”

A copy of “Cap of Honour” has been presented to the Korean Military Academy at Wharang Dae through the Military Attaché at Seoul.

The following letter of thanks has been received from the Superintendent:

I have received your gift, the story of the Gloucester Regiment, “Cap of Honour.” This thoughtful gift on your part shall serve as a reminder of the visit of yourself to the Korean Military Academy and shall add our library one more meaning ful battle history which will admonish the cadets much. We also hold it as an indication of the bond friendship between our two countries.

I thank you very much for your contribution. Be sure your contribution will remain with our Academy.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) YOUNG HOON KANG,

Lieutenant-General, R.O.K.A.,

Superintendent.



THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

<i>Headquarters:</i> Robinswood Barracks, GLOUCESTER	<i>Chairman:</i> MAJOR-GENERAL C. E. A. FIRTH, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	<i>Secretary:</i> LT.-COLONEL C. L. C. ROBERTS, M.B.E.
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.B.E., M.C., D.L.	Mr. L. J. Meadows, M.S.M. 61 Savoy Road, Brislington, Bristol.	Second Saturday in each month, T.A. Centre, Kensington House, Brislington, Bristol.
CHELTENHAM Captain E. F. Pates 211 Bath Road, Cheltenham.	Mr. F. H. Berry, 9 Queens Parade, Cheltenham.	Third Saturday in each month, T.A. Drill Hall, North Street, 7.30 p.m.
GLOUCESTER	Mr. T. Blackford, 20 Finlay Road, Gloucester.	As arranged.
LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES Colonel C. S. R. Campbell, O.B.E., M.C.	Major C. D. Welford, T.D., War Office (S.P.S.O.D./Inf.), Whitehall, London, S.W.1.	As arranged at “The Gloucester,” 187 Sloane Street, S.W.1.
STROUD Lt.-Colonel A. H. R. Chalmers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D.	Mr. R. Close, 123 Stratford Road, Stroud.	First Monday in each month, The Rose Inn, Paganhill, Stroud, 7.30 p.m.
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE Lt.-Colonel J. C. Milner	Mr. O. Mills, 23/25 Church Street, Wotton-under-Edge.	Third Tuesday in each month, Shearman’s Arms, 8 p.m.

SINCE the last notes appeared, the Secretary has had a steady flow of applications for assistance. It is clear that, as time goes on, we are likely to get an increase rather than a decrease in these calls for help. There has been a steady flow of members joining the Association, but the aim should be to have 100 per cent. of serving soldiers and as many ex-members who have not previously joined, as members of the Association.

The Branch Secretaries have been doing some good work in gathering in fresh members for which the Association is duly thankful. But if we are to meet all the calls made on our finances we must try and increase our income. The Army Benevolent Fund grant is likely to be further reduced and this at the moment provides a fifth of our income. So if any member hears of an ex-member of the Regiment who does not belong to the Association, please persuade him to write to the Secretary for details.

The annual general meeting was held in the 5th Battalion Drill Hall at Gloucester on 6th May. The minutes of the meeting will be published in the next issue of the Journal.

There followed the 30th annual dinner of the Association, which was well attended by some 150 members. The President, Major-General Firth, proposed the loyal toasts and that to the City of Gloucester. The Deputy Mayor, Alderman M. G. Lewis, responded to the latter and said how proud the citizens were of their County Regiment. He proposed the health of the Regiment and the Association. Lieutenant-Colonel Soames, commanding the 28th/61st, replied.

To end on a lighter note—please read the notice about the Regimental Reunion (Old Soldiers' Day), on Saturday, 29th July, 1961, printed elsewhere in the Magazine. It is hoped to see as many members as possible present with their families. Tickets (3s. 0d. each) may be obtained from R.H.Q., Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester, or from any Branch Secretary.

BRISTOL BRANCH

Our annual dance held on 12th September at the T.A. Centre, Whiteladies Road, in conjunction with the Burma Star Association was a great success. The Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Firth and several other senior retired officers attended and the 5th Battalion Band provided the music.

Our monthly meetings at Kensington House, Brislington, on the second Saturday of each month continue to be very well supported and attendances have increased.

With great regret we have to record the death last winter of Mr. A. E. Prince, one of our very faithful supporters. All our sympathy goes to Mrs. Prince, who always accompanied him to our meetings.

M. A. J.

CHELTENHAM BRANCH

The main social event during the last six months was a social evening held in December. There was an excellent attendance and among the distinguished guests were Major-General and Mrs. Firth, Brigadier Grazebrook, Colonel and Mrs. Grazebrook, Colonel Carne, v.c., Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts and Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Harding. During the evening skittles and darts competitions were held, as well as a grand raffle. All the prizes were donated by members of the committee. The evening concluded with

a dance. Mr. Berry acted as M.C. for the evening and managed to keep things going with a swing. Mr. Pates, the chairman, was in "over-all command." Members of the committee were kept busy keeping scores and Mr. Neale acted as sticker-up for the skittles competition.

In January, we were lucky to get the services of the Regimental Band of the 5th Glosters (T.A.) (by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel Harding) and had a first-class band concert. After the concert, the dance band section gave a programme of dance music and the members were able to demonstrate their skill on the dance floor. We must thank the Bandmaster (Mr. W. Moth) for organising such a grand evening, and only regret that more members did not turn up to support it.

The monthly meetings still continue to be held every third Saturday in the month, at the Drill Hall, North Street; attendances vary from month to month. We have enrolled a few more members into the branch and hope that during the summer months we shall have plenty of support for the social events now being organised.

F. H. B.

STROUD BRANCH

On the first Mondays in the month a meeting of the branch has been held at our new H.Q., The Rose Inn, Paganhill. We are grateful to our host, Harry Minett, for the amenities he has provided and, in fact, we have all we require for a happy social evening, except for the company of the many ex-Glosters in the area, many of whom tell us that they are going to turn up, but continue to disappoint us. The hard core of a dozen members enjoy one another's company and will continue to strive to enlarge the branch. We have been very pleased to welcome Brigadier Grazebrook and Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts.

A. H. R. C.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE BRANCH

The Wotton Branch is still going ahead and we average about eight or 10 for our monthly meetings. During the winter we have had several meetings at the T.A. Centre at Dursley, when about 20 members were usually present.

A dance in conjunction with "D" Company, 5th Glosters, was held at Dursley on 18th March. Socially it was a success, with 150 people attending. General Firth was present and also the C.O., 5th Battalion. We had the 5th Battalion Dance Band and the Regimental cooks from H.Q. Gloucester prepared the refreshments. I think everybody enjoyed themselves.

Old soldier J. Baileys died on 31st December last. About 12 ex-Regiment members were present at his funeral.

O. M.

1/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE 42nd anniversary dinner of this Association was held at the Gupshill Manor Hotel, Tewkesbury, on 9th March, when a company of just under one hundred sat down to an excellent repast provided by host Merchant. Captain D. P. Morgan presided and the guests included the Mayor of Tewkesbury, Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O., Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. Harding, D.S.O., and Sir Raymond Priestley, M.C., M.A.

Mr. D. Conduit, chairman of the Central Council, proposed the toast "Absent Comrades" and before doing so read out the names of 23 officers and men, members of the Association, who had died during the year. All stood in silence while Drum-Major Bowles, who has assisted us at so many of our dinners and church parades, sounded the Last Post and Reveille in his own inimitable manner.

The chairman, who had previously proposed the Loyal Toast, welcomed the guests. He congratulated the Mayor on the way he had conducted the civic affairs of the borough, and thanked Lieutenant-Colonel Harding, a friend of the Association, for granting it the services of the Band and Drums at the church parade. He also thanked those who by contributing to the dinner fund had made it possible to hold it.

The Mayor of Tewkesbury, proposing the toast of "The Gloucestershire Regiment" and of the 5th Battalion, complimented those present on their youthful appearance and mentioned the many kindnesses he had received from the military authorities.

Brigadier Grazebrook, whose name was coupled with the toast, in his reply said there was hardly a Battalion in the Regiment which had more battle honours than the 1/5th and hardly a Battalion which had suffered more casualties. The present 5th was considered the best in the Division.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harding, replying for the 5th Battalion, said that during the winter there had been considerable reorganisation in the Territorial Army. Units had been amalgamated, others disbanded, but the Fifth remained intact and had gone on to an Infantry establishment, the same as in the Regular Army. Also they had been promised much new equipment, which was a good sign. Their strength was satisfactory, but there was always room for more.

The remainder of the evening was passed under a veritable barrage of reminiscence.

R. M. A.

2/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE annual meeting of the Association was held on 28th February and the following were elected to serve in the 1961-62 year: President, Councillor W. E. Lane, C.C.; Chairman, Mr. R. V. Copeland; Treasurer, Mr. E. H. Yeend; Secretary, Mr. L. G. Drake; with a committee of 12.

The 33rd annual reunion dinner is to be held on Saturday, 14th October, and a small sub-committee was elected to fix the venue.

L. G. D.

BRISTOL'S OWN 12th (S) BATTALION O.C.A. 1914-18

AT the 43rd annual dinner and reunion held at Bristol in January, there were just over 100 present and Lieutenant-Colonel H. Essex Lewis, who proposed the toast of the O.C.A., made a brilliant speech, which was greatly appreciated. As usual, the list of deaths since the last reunion gets somewhat longer, but it was a very enjoyable evening altogether.

This Association owes a tremendous lot to H. F. Allen, the Secretary, and E. S. Streets, the Treasurer, together with the committee, who have served for a great many years and have kept the Association going so well.

W. S. B.



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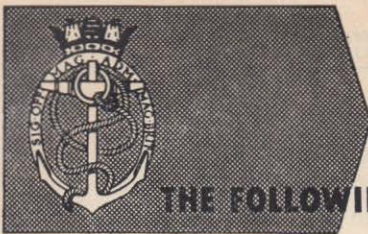
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SUMMARY OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY REGIMENTAL BENEVOLENT FUNDS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960

It is, no doubt, generally appreciated that the funds of the Regimental Association are only available for the assistance of its members. Nevertheless there are other Regimental benevolent funds from which ex-members of the Regiment who have not joined the Association can be helped in time of need. These are the Regular Battalions Benevolent Fund (for ex-Regulars), the Militia and Local Forces Fund (for ex-members of the T.A.), the Disbanded Units Fund for 1914-18 veterans, the Disbanded Units Fund for 1939-45 veterans, the Korea Dependants Fund and the Regimental and the War Memorial Pension Funds.

It will be seen from the names of these funds that there is no category of ex-other rank members of the Regiment, except for the National Serviceman who has not joined the Association, who is ineligible for assistance in time of need; and this applies equally to his dependants.

During 1960 financial aid was given to 133 ex-members or their dependants, the total sum distributed being £1,190, averaging nearly £100 a month. A breakdown of the total by categories is perhaps of interest.

Pre-1914 Regulars	14
1914-18 war veterans	20
1918-39 Regulars	36
1939-45 war veterans	30
Post-1945 Regulars	18
Territorials	9
Pensioners	6

It is well realised that, for example, to a family in which the husband has been out of work for a long time through chronic illness the relatively small grants which it is possible to make are insufficient to effect more than a temporary alleviation of hardship, and this will be so until the Regimental benevolent funds possess a larger income. At present their income, apart from that of the Regimental Association, is derived entirely from investments, the generous gifts of past generations and from grants made by the Army Benevolent Fund.

Put in another way, present members of the Regiment, apart from the officers who subscribe annually to the Regimental Association, are giving nothing towards their own Regimental charities from which at some future date they may themselves have need to appeal for help. This lack of support is solely because up to the present it has never been asked for.

But now we are faced with a new factor: the Army Benevolent Fund grants, already reduced, may be cut still further, and if our present charitable work is to continue, let alone expand, it will be necessary to raise more money from serving and past members of the Regiment. With the full support of the Colonel of the Regiment, a campaign with this object is about to begin, and the target will be £400 per annum.

DO YOU KNOW



R. F. E. A.

During 1960 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 18,411, which was 86½ per cent. 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, 7,639 were from the Army and 48 were from your Regiment.

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'll be able to give it to you.

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

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, April, 1961)

	<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>		
Maj.-Gen. C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	23/2/54	
<i>Lieutenant-Colonels:</i>		
E. D. Harding, D.S.O.	15/1/59	For A.M.S., H.Q. B.A.O.R. (August)
A. L. W. Soames	23/7/59	Commanding 1st Battalion
<i>Majors:</i>		
E. Jones, M.B.E.	1/7/46	H.Q. N. Command
R. H. S. Woodward	18/3/47	Adj. Trg. Battalion, Aden Protectorate Levies
A. D. Hunter	30/1/49	G (Int.), H.Q. Allied Land Forces
J. H. E. Bown, M.B.E.	1/6/50	4th Battalion, Aden Protectorate Levies
T. A. K. Dillon	1/7/52	G.S.O.2 42 Inf. Div. (T.A.)
W. A. Wood	1/7/52	O.C. "H.Q." Company, Wessex Bde. Depot
P. G. H. Varwell (T/Lt.-Col.)	3/7/52	Inf. Adviser, Jordan Trg. Team
E. L. T. Capel	10/7/52	Trg. Major 5th Battalion
P. W. Weller, M.B.E.	12/2/53	2 i/c 1st Battalion
T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker	23/4/54	2 i/c R. Hamps
W. L. D. Morris	6/4/55	2nd Q.O., Nigeria Regiment
H. W. P. Gallop	3/5/55	O.C. "C" Company, 1st Battalion
H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E.	13/6/55	O.C. "D" Company, 1st Battalion

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
<i>Majors (cont.):</i>		
J. E. Taylor	10/8/56	A.R.D.E.
T. R. Littlewood	25/11/57	G.S.O.3 (S.D.), H.Q. 1 (Br.) Corps, B.A.O.R.
M. G. Harvey, M.C.	10/10/59	Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Battalion, Oswestry
H. R. A. Streater	24/3/60	Chief Inst., Army Outward Bound Sch.
A. N. Wilson	27/10/60	O.C. "H.Q." Company, 1st Battalion
<i>Captains:</i>		
R. J. Martin, M.C.	15/7/54	D.A.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Land Forces, Persian Gulf
G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey	16/8/54	Staff Capt. (P.S.), G.H.Q. F.A.R.E.L.F.
G. F. B. Temple, M.C.	10/4/55	G.S.O.3 Ops., 5 Div., B.A.O.R.
H. R. Gilliver	21/5/55	5th Battalion, Q.O. Nigeria Regiment
A. C. N. Preston	14/7/55	Adjutant, 5th Battalion
P. R. Barker	22/11/55	1st Battalion, Singapore Inf. Regiment
D. J. Holdsworth	22/7/56	O.C. "B" Company, 1st Battalion
J. W. Allison	20/1/57	R.M.C.S., Shrivenham
W. A. Duguid	16/9/57	M.T.O., 1st Battalion
J. C. H. Roberts	10/11/57	656 L.A. Sqn. A.A.C., Malaya
D. E. Matson	8/2/58	G.S.O.3 (Int.), H.Q. Cyrenaica Area
M. M. A. Gilmore	1/8/58	"D" Company, 1st Battalion
R. A. F. Jarman	4/4/59	G.S.O. III, 19 Inf. Bde. Gp.
D. J. Hurford-Jones	12/6/59	Adj., 1st Battalion
R. A. Maby	22/7/59	R.A.O.C. School (for transfer)
J. B. Henderson	31/7/59	A/Adj., 1st Battalion
C. P. T. Rebbeck	31/7/59	Attd. R. Canadian Regiment
M. A. Crush	4/2/61	Attached Army Intelligence Corps Depot
<i>Lieutenants:</i>		
T. E. Lapage-Norris	29/7/57	Wessex Bde. Depot
C. J. Waters	16/12/57	Sp. Platoon, "B" Company, 1st Battalion
R. J. Bewell	24/6/58	Sp. Platoon, "A" Company, 1st Battalion
H. G. F. Chapman	21/12/58	Recce. Platoon, "H.Q." Company, 1st Bn.
W. J. Vicary	21/12/58	6th Battalion, K.A.R.
D. A. Godfrey	16/3/59	R.S.O., 1st Battalion
R. L. Giles	19/6/59	"C" (Trg.) Company, 1st Battalion
N. C. Thompson	20/12/59	Sp. Platoon, "D" Company, 1st Battalion
W. R. N. Ladds	2/8/60	"B" Company, 1st Battalion
J. W. Mermagen	27/3/61	"A" Company, 1st Battalion
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
S. D. A. Firth	25/7/59	A/R.S.O., 1st Battalion
T. D. Cooper	25/7/59	"D" Company, 1st Battalion
M. G. Smith-Rewse	18/12/59	"D" Company, 1st Battalion
T. B. Dutton	23/7/60	"B" Company, 1st Battalion
R. D. Grist	16/12/60	"D" Company, 1st Battalion
<i>Quartermasters:</i>		
J. H. Ridlington	1/4/60	Major Q.M.2 (Tech.), 1st Battalion
E. J. Hobbs, M.B.E.	10/2/61	Major Q.M.1, 1st Battalion
K. F. Clark	27/5/55	Capt. Wessex Bde. Depot
C. W. Phillips, M.B.E.	12/3/56	Capt. Cambridge Unit O.T.C.
A. J. Gillett	1/1/57	Capt. 5th Battalion, Gloucester
<i>Paymaster:</i>		
E. N. Browning		Major, R.A.P.C., attached

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

<i>Majors:</i>		
*C. D. Welford, T.D.	2/9/52	D/S.P.S.O./D. Inf., W.O.
*D. F. Jones	8/5/56	S.O.3 (P.T.), N.W. District
<i>Captains:</i>		
*R. S. Mardell, M.C., M.M.	11/11/50	H.Q. Singapore Base Dist.
C. R. S. Holdaway	30/10/54	3rd Aden Protectorate Levies
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
R. C. Hobbs	5/3/60	"A" Company, 1st Battalion
B. E. Devlin	29/8/60	"B" Company, 1st Battalion

*Extended Service Officer

OFFICERS LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brigadier J. G. C. Waldron, C.B.E., D.S.O.	18/12/58	A.C.O.S. (O. & P.) H.Q., A.F.C.E.
Col. J. A. Mackenzie, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (T/Brig.)	14/1/57	Bde. Comd. R. Nigerian Mil. Forces
Col. P. C. S. Heidenstam, O.B.E. . . .	1/5/58	A.A.G. (Col.), A.G. Co-ord., W.O.
Lt.-Col. A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, M.B.E.	1/7/55	Bde. Col., Wessex Bde.
Lt.-Col. J. Morris	31/12/55	Inf. Records, York (retires May, '61)
Lt.-Col. (Staff Q.M.) R. F. Grist, M.B.E.	1/9/58	Joint School of Nuclear and Chemical Ground Defence

RETIRED OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY WAR OFFICE

Lt.-Col. C. W. A. Bath, O.B.E.	R.O.II, War Office
Lt.-Col. D. W. Biddle, D.S.O.	R.O.III, Records Office, Exeter
Lt.-Col. M. M. A. Bryant	R.O.II, Records Office, Exeter
Col. C. S. R. Campbell, O.B.E., M.C.	R.O.II, War Office
Brigadier R. G. T. Collins, C.B.E.	R.O.III, Cadets Home Counties Dist.
Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O.	R.O.II, Regimental H.Q.
Lt.-Col. N. Lovett	R.O.III, No. 1, E.S.D., Long Marston
Lt.-Col. W. H. Percy-Hardman	R.O.III, Combined Records, Bournemouth
Lt.-Col. C. L. C. Roberts, M.B.E.	R.O.III, Regimental H.Q.

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

REGULAR W.O.s AND SERGEANTS OF THE REGIMENT

Army No.	Name	Date of Promotion	Location	Army No.	Name	Date of Promotion	Location
<i>Warrant Officers—Class I:</i>				<i>Sergeants:</i>			
22530395	R. Baldwin	2/8/56	5 Glosters	13077675	G. Cook	4/3/53	1 Glosters
14462559	W. Smythe, B.E.M.	9/10/57	1 Glosters	19030552	I. Dee	16/12/53	1 Glosters
<i>Warrant Officers—Class I (Bandmaster):</i>				5193476	A. Donohue, M.M.	16/12/53	1 Glosters
6199228	G. Plummer, A.R.C.M.	29/6/52	Band, 1 Glosters	21060240	G. Thomas	16/12/53	1 Glosters
<i>Warrant Officers—Class II:</i>				14463401	R. Preece	12/4/54	1 Glosters
14439628	G. Boyes	25/10/54	R.Q.M.S. 1 Glosters	19148587	G. Chillcott	22/7/54	1 Glosters
14994918	D. Stephens	1/4/56	1 Glosters	14186568	J. Vaughan	28/7/54	1 Glosters
14446243	P. Crompton	15/7/57	5 Glosters	2326773	T. Walker	1/8/54	1 Glosters
14456139	A. Tizzard	17/7/57	1 Glosters	22530157	W. Russell	5/8/54	1 Glosters
5186121	H. Outterside	17/10/57	5 Glosters	6922078	R. Sexton	9/8/54	4 K.A.R.
19018438	L. Masters	28/4/60	1 Glosters	22510656	G. Moore	11/8/54	5 Glosters
5732740	G. Bowrin	12/5/60	1 Glosters	22526626	R. Lee	13/8/54	1 Glosters
<i>Warrant Officers—Class II (Orderly Room Sergeant):</i>				22288811	J. Cook	18/10/54	Army M.T. School
14838781	I. Jackson, B.E.M.	7/9/55	O.R.S., 1 Glosters	5732409	W. Garrison	22/11/54	1 Glosters
<i>Colour-Sergeants:</i>				19031198	R. Marshallsay	26/11/54	Wessex Bde. Depot
5183956	G. Havelock-Allen	9/9/52	1 Glosters	21125505	J. Webb	5/12/54	1 Glosters
5182070	R. Panting	20/11/53	A.P. Levies, Aden	23464514	F. Brisland	11/1/55	5 Glosters
5185299	W. Morgan	16/9/54	A.I.O., Portsmouth	22530561	R. James	20/1/55	1 Glosters
1489408	L. Cleeve	18/2/57	1 Glosters	22530067	D. Neaves	10/8/55	5 Glosters
19047858	W. Lucas	1/4/58	1 Glosters	22540713	J. Boulton	22/9/55	A.A.S. Arborfield
19048317	W. Brown	1/4/58	Wessex Bde. Depot	22367664	W. Ludiman	23/12/55	1 Glosters
5193231	J. Ponting	1/5/60	1 Glosters	22530544	L. Ramsden	30/11/56	1 Glosters
<i>Band Colour-Sergeant (subject to Time Promotion):</i>				13021928	R. Pickard	15/1/57	1 Glosters
5631263	W. Halstead	3/7/58	Band, 1 Glosters	22341852	J. Trowbridge	22/1/57	1 Glosters
<i>Drum-Major (C/Sgt.) (subject to Time Promotion):</i>				22530329	K. Dowler	14/9/57	1 Glosters
849050	R. Norsworthy	16/1/54	Drums, 1 Glosters	5194298	H. Mann	22/10/57	Band, 1 Glosters
				22812814	M. Chappell	5/12/57	Sch. of Inf., Hythe
				21015222	T. Clayden, M.M.	12/1/58	A.I.C., Reading
				22530240	K. Godwin, B.E.M.	20/1/58	Aden Protec. Levies
				23006075	G. Bird	19/2/58	1 Glosters
				6204341	W. Lucas	28/7/59	1 Glosters



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5th BATTALION, T.A.

(1st April, 1961)

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
<i>Honorary Colonel:</i>		
Colonel J. P. Carne, V.C., D.S.O., D.L.	28/8/56	
<i>Lieutenant-Colonel:</i>		
W. O. V. Clee, T.D.	10/4/61	Commanding Officer, Gloucester
<i>Majors:</i>		
M. A. L. Bowyer	1/2/55	Second-in-Command
T. A. Newberry, T.D.	1/2/55	O.C. "B" Company, Bristol
J. M. Hillerby, T.D.	1/4/57	O.C. "A" Company, Bristol
S. A. Matthews	1/4/57	O.C. "C" Company, Cheltenham
D. H. Potter, T.D.	27/4/59	O.C. "D" Company, Dursley
<i>Captains:</i>		
D. Chapman	9/8/53	2 i/c "A" Company
C. S. Jones	1/8/54	2 i/c "H.Q." Company
I. S. Cooper	1/4/57	2 i/c "C" Company
A. Macfarlane	1/4/57	2 i/c "B" Company
J. L. S. Houghton	4/7/59	2 i/c "D" Company
D. B. Smith	1/1/60	"B" Company
M. S. Lee-Browne	2/1/60	I.O.
C. F. L. Boyce (acting)	4/2/60	Signal Officer
<i>Lieutenants:</i>		
D. G. Trimby	28/7/55	"D" Company
M. A. W. Daines	10/5/56	M.T.O.
M. Fenton	11/1/57	"C" Company
E. J. Neather	29/12/57	"C" Company
P. J. M. Whiteman	19/1/58	"D" Company
N. J. Wendover	15/2/59	"D" Company
D. M. Telling	8/9/59	"B" Company
W. R. Bewell	29/11/59	"A" Company
J. N. MacBrayne	14/7/60	"H.Q." Company
M. J. M. Wright	19/1/61	"B" Company
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
H. C. Jessop	10/12/58	"C" Company
J. R. McCann	13/11/59	"D" Company
R. A. Rees		"C" Company
A. G. E. Clarkson		"A" Company
B. J. Bowman		"A" Company

Training Major: E. L. T. Capel (Major, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 10/7/52)
Adjutant: A. C. N. Preston (Captain, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 14/7/55)
Quartermaster: A. J. Gillett (Captain (Q.M.), The Gloucestershire Regiment, 4/4/59)
2nd Quartermaster: L. K. J. Courtney (Lieutenant (Q.M.) (T.A.), The Gloucestershire Regiment, 3/12/59)
Unit Paymaster: Lieutenant W. G. Foreman, T.D., R.A.P.C. (T.A.)
Medical Officer: Captain G. B. Hanna, M.B., B.Ch., R.A.M.C. (T.A.)
Chaplain: Rev. P. C. W. Walker

Name	Date of Promotion	Company	Name	Date of Promotion	Company
<i>Warrant Officer—Class I (R.S.M.):</i>					
R. Baldwyn	2/8/56	Bn. H.Q.	<i>Sergeants:</i>		
<i>Warrant Officer—Class I (Bandmaster):</i>					
W. C. Moth	15/7/58	Bn. H.Q.	M. J. Winter	15/1/50	"H.Q."
<i>Warrant Officer—Class II:</i>					
T. Hier, M.B.E.	1/12/49	Bn. H.Q.	E. V. Godsell, A.C.C.	21/7/52	"H.Q."
A. C. Corrick	2/3/51	"B"	F. V. Wade	29/6/53	"B"
W. S. Reeves	27/10/53	"H.Q."	J. M. Dumford	1/6/54	"C"
G. L. Peters	27/10/53	"A"	D. S. Williams	1/8/54	"B"
W. R. W. Cheater	19/11/57	"H.Q."	E. Collier	1/8/54	"A"
R. Y. Masters	2/1/60	"D"	J. R. Miller	10/4/55	"A"
J. H. Paterson	1/5/60	"C"	D. Simms	1/7/55	"C"
I. D. Marriott	1/7/60	"D"	J. S. Yandell	17/11/55	"A"
<i>Colour-Sergeants:</i>					
J. Cadle	10/6/52	"C"	C. R. Smith, M.M.	1/6/56	"C"
R. Phipps	1/1/55	"B"	R. Milliner	18/8/56	"D"
C. T. Blackford	18/6/55	"H.Q."	K. Knowles	13/10/56	"H.Q."
D. A. Talboys	2/8/58	"D"	N. Meadows	15/2/57	"H.Q."
K. E. Payne	26/9/58	"A"	R. Kettleby	1/5/57	"H.Q."
J. L. Fyelman	20/4/60	"D"	S. Cruickshanks	1/8/58	"H.Q."
<i>Band-Sergeant:</i>					
D. D. Howells	23/4/58	Bn. H.Q.	F. W. Aldwinckle	27/1/59	"H.Q."
			D. S. L. Thackeray, R.E.M.E.	15/3/59	"H.Q."
			D. J. Rogerson	1/6/59	"B"
			C. G. Bullingham	1/9/59	"C"
			D. B. Pimm	20/11/59	"B"
			J. J. Cross	2/1/60	"D"
			A. H. Hatton	2/1/60	"D"
			C. D. Nurdling	2/1/60	"D"
			C. A. Franklin	1/2/60	"H.Q."
			E. R. Portlock	1/2/60	"H.Q."
			T. B. C. Dix	2/3/60	"H.Q."
			D. Wilde	1/5/60	"H.Q."
			R. P. G. Wilson		"H.Q."
			C. J. Saunders		Bn. H.Q.

WEST COUNTRY "BACK BADGE" DAY LUNCHEON

THE fourth "Back Badge" Day luncheon was again held in the Wessex Brigade Officers' Mess at Topsham Barracks by kind permission of Colonel R. Welchman and Lieutenant-Colonel Pat Anderson.

A total of 37, including wives and guests, attended a very cheerful and pleasant party.

Our choice of date was perhaps a little unfortunate, as it clashed with a 5th Battalion "Back Badge" gathering, the England v. Scotland match at Twickenham and the wedding of Major Atty Capel's son in London.

Regimental H.Q. was represented by Neville Grazebrook. We were sorry to hear that Clive Roberts is on the sick list and hope he recovers quickly. General and Mrs. Firth were too hard at work on their farm sowing their corn before it rained again to be able to come.

The local band of "Old Braggs" has received an increase in strength by the arrival of Major and Mrs. Farmer, who are seeking a house near Exmouth.

Those present were Gen. Sir Edward and Lady Weatherall, Brig. and Mrs. T. N. Grazebrook, Brig. and Mrs. Hynes, Col. A. E. Wilkinson, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. M. M. A. Bryant, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. D. W. Biddle, Mr. A. W. Biddle, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Gilmore, Lt.-Col. Kirkland, Lt.-Col. H. N. Vinen, Mrs. Varwell, Miss Varwell, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Roland Grist, Col. and Mrs. Ladds, Major and Mrs. Butler, Major and Mrs. Wood, Major and Mrs. Heath, Major and Mrs. Farmer, Major and Mrs. Bertie Lovett, Mrs. Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. Lapage Norris.

FOOTNOTE.—Whilst Maurice Bryant lives at the "Ballroom," Henry Heath lives at "Life Line House," so if after a dance at the former you feel rather poorly you had better try the latter!

THE ARMY ART SOCIETY

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The Society, which exists to encourage art in the Army and sister Services, is holding its 30th Exhibition during October 1961 at the Commonwealth Institute, South Kensington, S.W.7.

All ranks of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, past or present, permanent or temporary, may submit works for consideration.

The Society is an entirely unofficial organisation and for several years very successful exhibitions have been held in London each autumn. Service artists can derive more interest from their hobby by aiming at submitting works for the exhibitions, which also give them an opportunity to compare their standard and style with others.

As the Society is non-profit-making, the entrance and hanging fees are kept as low as possible.

Intending exhibitors are invited to apply after 1st May for particulars. Applications should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, The Army Art Society, Captain A. J. Daldy, 16 King Edwards Grove, Teddington, Middlesex.

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HONOURS AND AWARDS

Date of Award
(London Gazette, etc.)

M.B.E.

W. J. Wakefield, Esq., clerical officer, Regimental Depot, Gloucestershire Regiment	31/12/60
Major M. H. Rabin, Gloster A.C.F.	31/12/60
<i>Territorial Efficiency Decoration</i>	
Major J. M. Hillerby, 5th Battalion	17/3/61
<i>Efficiency Medal/Clasp, T.A.</i>	
Sergeant D. S. L. Thackeray	
Sergeant D. C. Stockton	
Sergeant J. M. Dunford	
Corporal G. Gunningham	
Bandsman J. F. Allaway	
Lance-Corporal V. S. H. Kent	
Private R. G. Walters (1st clasp)	

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

1960	
18th October	Brigadier J. G. C. Waldron, C.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., to be supernumerary to establishment 15th October.
15th November	Major F. W. J. Day, having exceeded the age limit, ceases to belong to R. of O. 16th November.
25th November	Captain H. A. Walter, E.R.D., having exceeded the age limit, relinquishes his commission (R.A.R.O.) 26th November.
6th December	Captain (Hon. Major) W. D. M. Attwood, E.R.D., having exceeded the age limit, relinquishes his commission (R.A.R.O.) 7th December.
1961	
3rd January	Lieutenant J. C. Kirkland relinquishes his commission (5th Battalion) 13th October, 1960.
13th January	Second-Lieutenant J. W. Mermagen, from R.A. N.S.L., to be second-lieutenant with seniority 14th August, 1960.
20th January	Captain J. E. Almonds, M.M., relinquishes his (S.S.) commission and is granted hon. rank of major 31st December, 1960.
18th February	Major A. E. Strange relinquishes his (S.S.) commission 18th February.
3rd March	To be second-lieutenant from R.M.A., R. D. Grist, 16th December, 1960.
10th March	Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, M.B.E., Emp. List 1, late Glosters, to be supernumerary to establishment.
31st March	Rev. J. E. Gethyn-Jones, M.B.E., T.D., Q.H.C., relinquishes his appointment of Hon. Chaplain to the Queen 31st March.
14th April	Second-Lieutenant A. R. G. Giles resigns his commission 14th April.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

BIRTHS

CRUSH.—On 30th November, 1960, at Nakasere Hospital, Kampala, to the wife of Captain M. A. Crush, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.

WILSON.—On 9th December, 1960, at Buckland Hospital, Dover, to Margaret, wife of Major A. N. Wilson, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a daughter.

JARMAN.—On 21st December, 1960, at Dover, to Susan, wife of Captain R. A. F. Jarman, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a son.

METCALFE.—In January 1961 at Stroud, to Felicity, wife of Major D. B. Metcalfe, late The Gloucestershire Regiment—a son.

MARRIAGE

CAPEL—ROWLANDS.—On 18th March, 1961, in London, Mr. A. W. R. Capel, elder son of Major A. and Mrs. Capel, to Bettina, elder daughter of Mrs. K. M. Rowlands, of Park Crescent, London.

DEATHS

HIGGINS.—On 21st October, 1960, at Bath, ex-Band-Sergeant J. C. Higgins, aged 64. The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5172278) 1900-29. Enlisted as a boy at Portsmouth, aged 14, straight from school, and served throughout with the 28th.

- PRINCE.—On 6th November, 1960, at Bristol, ex-Private A. E. Prince. The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5174908) 1920-28. Served in Ireland, India and Shanghai. A very keen supporter of the Bristol Branch of the Regimental Association.
- BARNES.—On 6th November, 1960, at Paignton, Captain A. F. Barnes, M.C., 2nd/5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment 1915-19. Editor of *The Story of the 2nd/5th*. Doctor of Music (Oxon.), Fellow of the College of Organists and Hon. Associate of the Royal College of Music. A popular and loyal member of his Battalion and O.C.A.
- WOODWARD.—On 10th November, 1960, at Cheltenham, Mr. E. R. Woodward, 2nd/5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment 1914-18.
- RADICE.—On 20th November, 1960, at Cheltenham, Mrs. Radice, wife of Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Radice, D.S.O., The Gloucestershire Regiment 1893-1921.
- HOLBROOK.—On 8th December, 1960, at Worthing, Lieutenant F. C. Holbrook, M.C., late The Gloucestershire Regiment, aged 69. Commissioned in 1917 when a W.O. in 2nd Battalion. Served with Tank Corps 1920-23, and in K.A.R. 1923-26. Retired 1928.
- HEWETSON.—On 15th December, 1960, at Cheltenham, Mrs. Hewetson, aged 90, widow of Major C. H. Hewetson, 11th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment 1914-19.
- BAILEYS.—On 31st December, 1960, at Wotton-under-Edge, ex-Sergeant J. Baileys, The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 4557) 1895-1913 and 1915-18. A fine old soldier and a loyal member of the Regimental Association.
- HOLDER.—In 1960, at Coleford, Glos., ex-Private M. Holder, The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 7247) 1903-07, and with 7th Battalion 1914-19.
- UPSON.—In 1960, at Rednal, Warw., ex-C.S.M. G. H. A. Upson, M.M., The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 9413) 1910-26, served with the 1st Battalion in 1914 and later as R.S.M. in 14th Battalion.
- WALLER.—On 4th January, 1961, at Oxford, Colonel N. H. Waller, M.C., T.D., D.L., aged 79, 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment 1902-29, commanding the Battalion from 1922 until his retirement. From 1946 to 1951 he was Hon. Colonel of the Battalion, and throughout his long service had the efficiency and welfare of the Fifth very much at heart. His father had served in the 2nd V.B.G.R. before him, his son, Major A. D. Waller, was killed when serving with the Battalion in Dunkirk days, and his daughter, whilst in the A.T.S., was attached to the Battalion as a clerk in the early days of the last war. For many years, as was his father, architect to Gloucester Cathedral. A memorial service was held in the cathedral.
- URSELL.—On 7th January, 1961, at Cheltenham, Private S. W. ("Snowy") Urrsell. The Gloucestershire Regiment 1939-61, aged 42, whilst on leave from his unit, Regular Commission Board, Winchester. Served with the 61st and taken prisoner at Cassel; with the 1st Battalion in Korea and one of the few who managed to escape from the Imjin battle. Employed during much of his service as an officer's servant.
- PRICE.—On 19th January, 1961, at Gloucester, ex-Lance-Corporal H. T. Price, M.M., The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5172742) 1916-48. Originally enlisted in the Herefordshire Regiment T.A. in 1914 but transferred to the 28th at High Wood in 1916. As an early Lewis-gunner he gained his M.M. for gallantry at Bohain in 1918. From 1919-40 he served with the 61st where he was no mean athlete and as groundsman was responsible for the construction of many of the sports fields at Jhansi. After service at the Depot and, after discharge in 1948, as caretaker and cleaner at the 5th Battalion H.Q., he became attendant at the Regimental Museum in 1956. A fine loyal "old soldier" who will be missed by his many friends.
- BARTLETT.—On 1st February, 1961, suddenly at Dusseldorf, Major T. W. Bartlett, R.A.O.C. Attached to The Gloucestershire Regiment from the I.A. during the Korean campaign, when he commanded the Anti-Tank Platoon.
- BENFIELD.—On 2nd February, 1961, at Standish Hospital, Stonehouse, Mr. E. Benfield, M.M., of Fairford, aged 76. Served in The Gloucestershire Regiment in South African War, and in R.F.A. in 1914-18 War.
- RICHARDSON.—On 3rd February, 1961, at Selly Oak, Birmingham, Lieutenant E. H. Richardson, aged 64. Enlisted in The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 9645) 1912. Commissioned 1916; severely wounded 1918 and retired 1920.
- POWELL.—On 6th February, 1961, at Worthing, Colonel L. A. ("Pip") Powell, aged 64. The Gloucestershire Regiment 1916-35. On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War joined the Navy and served at Gallipoli. Commissioned into the 8th Gloucesters in 1916, he transferred to the R.F.C. and it was as an observer and air-gunner that his Bristol fighter was attacked by nine German fighters. He and his pilot accounted for five of the enemy aircraft. Lieutenant Powell was awarded the M.C. for his gallantry and later a bar. After the war, though he continued with the R.A.F. until 1920, he obtained a Regular commission in the Regiment. From 1926-30 he was Adjutant of the 6th Battalion, and from 1932-35 Adjutant of the Kedah Volunteers in Malaya. He retired in 1935 but was recalled for service during the last war, eventually retiring from the Reserve of Officers as Hon. Colonel in 1946.

HERBERT.—On 12th February, 1961, Mr. W. J. Herbert, M.M., of Fairford, Glos. The Gloucestershire Regiment during South African War and 1914-18 War.

RACHEL.—On 27th February, 1961, at Great Rissington, Glos., Mr. G. Rachel, M.M., aged 67. The Gloucestershire Regiment 1914-18.

TREVELYAN.—On 18th March, 1961, at Bristol, Captain (Q.M.) J. Trevelyan, D.C.M., M.S.M., aged 96. The Gloucestershire Regiment 1881-1911 for the last eight years as garrison sergeant-major in Dublin. During the 1914-18 War appointed Q.M. to the 9th Service Battalion and later, until

invalided, to the 16th Training Reserve Battalion. A fine old soldier who even as R.S.M. was popular. Three of his sons served in the Regiment.

GRIFFIN.—On 17th April, 1961, at Southmead Hospital, Bristol, after a short illness, ex-Private R. Griffin (Tich), The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5172551), 1915-39. Served for many years in the LXI as equipment repairer. A stout hearted old soldier devoted to his Regiment.

BARNES.—On 22nd April, 1961, at Cheltenham, Mr. H. Barnes, M.M., 1/5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18.

Obituary

LIEUTENANT E. H. RICHARDSON, M.B.E.

The death occurred last February after two years of illness of Lieutenant E. H. Richardson, whose remarkable determination and guts enabled him to overcome his serious disabilities and to do such fine public work in his later years.

Richardson enlisted (No. 9645) in 1912 and served in the 1st Battalion orderly room until wounded at Ypres in 1914. He was then posted to the 7th Battalion, but was invalided home from Gallipoli. Commissioned in December 1916, he returned to the 28th, was wounded again in 1917, and finally very severely wounded at St. Quentin in September 1918, resulting in a fractured skull and the amputation of both legs above the knee.

He retired in 1920 and took employment in the wages office of Cadbury Brothers and there followed a succession of activities which it would be hard to believe possible. In 1924 he won for the third year running motor cycle reliability trials on a 7-8 Morgan. He became hon. secretary of the Birmingham Branch of the Old Contemptibles and later Lord Nuffield, so impressed with his good work, presented him at his Cowley works with a motor car specially fitted to aid his driving.

In 1947 Richardson was elected to the Birmingham City Council and for some years was chairman of the Allotments Committee, but his great interest was in Servicemen's pensions and from 1955-58 he was chairman of the Birmingham War Pensions Committee. For his good work here he was awarded the M.B.E. He was intensely interested in sport, winning many trophies himself on the bowling green.

Always a faithful attendant at Regimental functions, his passing will be a great loss to his many friends. Major P. Burton represented the Regiment at his funeral at Selly Oak, which was also attended by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham and many members of ex-Servicemen's organisations.

Our sympathy goes to Mrs. Richardson, who as a nurse tended him at the time of his tragic injury, and to their son, Mr. M. E. Richardson, who served in the 1st and 2nd Battalions in France and India in the last war.

DONATIONS

Acknowledgment is made for the following kind donations towards the cost of producing this issue of the Journal (to 25th April):

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1	3	0	—Mr. C. Bassett, Mr. N. Cosier.

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- Hon. Editor: COLONEL R. M. GRAZEBROOK, O.B.E., M.C., The Old Cottage, Swindon Village, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

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