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The Journal of The GLOUCESTERSHIRE Regiment

Summer 1963

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THE BACK BADGE

The Journal of



The Gloucestershire Regiment

Vol. IX. No. 34 (New Series) June, 1963

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

"Ramillies," "Louisburg," "Guadaloupe, 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," "Guillemont," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Messines, 1917, '18," "Pilckem," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18," "St. Quentin," "Bapaume, 1918," "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 Bassee," "Wormhoudt," **"Cassel,"** "Villers Bocage," **"Mont Pincon," "Falaise,"** "Risle Crossing," "Le Havre," "Zetten," **"North-West Europe, 1940, 44-45," "Taukyan," "Paungde,"** "Monywa, 1942," "North Arakan," "Mayu Tunnels," **"Pinwe,"** "Shweli," **"Myitson," "Burma, 1942, 44-45."**

Honorary Distinction: 5th Battalion. A Badge of the Reconnaissance Corps, with year dates "1944-45", and scroll: "North-West Europe."

"Hill 327," **"Imjin," "Korea, 1950-51."**

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EDITORIAL

ONCE again News from the Battalions tells us something of the activities of modern peace-time soldiering. And "extra-mural" activities appear to become more and more varied and worth while—all to the good in the training of the partnership of officer and man in modern times.

As Admiral of the Fleet Sir Caspar John, G.C.B., said at the last Sovereigns Parade at Sandhurst " We need to be hard-headed, mentally and physically tough, and forward not back-looking if we are to keep our services on an even keel."

Cyprus and the Eastern Mediterranean certainly seem to provide a fine area for such ardours.

But ceremony, tradition and sport may also be included in the day's work, as the programme for " Back Badge Day," 1963, shows.

At home the 5th Battalion also have undergone their strenuosities, for example during their Exercise " Barnacle Goose " in the Severn Valley during the atrocious winter weather. Surely " Snow Goose " (*Anser hyperboreus hyperboreus*) would have been a better title than " Barnacle Goose " (*Branta leucopsis*)!

The Battalion is to be congratulated on its soccer successes.

By the time this issue of the Journal is in print the Jubilee Reunion of the Regimental Association will have been held, but we hope our printers will enable us to include a brief account of this gathering. Also over, probably, will be the number of the B.B.C. programme, " Tunes of Glory," in which Sir Brian Horrocks will have said something of the music of the Glosters.

In these days of uncertainties the Minister of War's recent statement will be welcome, to wit, that no further radical reorganisation of the Infantry should be required, though the W.O. would like to see the introduction of the large Infantry regiment, but would rely on evolution and pressure of events to bring this about. There would be no change of identity within present battalions nor was any reduction in their size intended. Already friendly integration of units within the Wessex Brigade is in action.

Regrettably our last issue of THE BACK BADGE exceeded our ration of print and paper, and therefore of £sd. As a result we are " in the red " and in this issue certain economies have had to be made—notably the exclusion of the Lists of Senior N.C.O.s in Battalions. It is hoped to include these again in the December issue.

We are grateful to all those who have forwarded welcome donations to help meet our deficit. Their names appear on a later page. We thank also our advertisers for the kindly support of their County Regiment and welcome amongst the old the appearance of new friends.

REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

At a memorial service held last February at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, a plaque was unveiled in the School Chapel in memory of the late **Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. Adkins, Mus. Doc., L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M.,** who was Director of Music at the School from 1921-43.

Colonel Adkins originally enlisted in the 61st as a boy in 1900. He went to Kneller Hall as a student in 1909 and in 1913 was appointed Bandmaster of the 2nd Suffolks. His uncle was R.S.M. of the old 4th Militia Battalion of the Regiment.

It will be remembered the 1st Battalion lost their property in Burma including the bulk of the Officers' Mess silver. **Colonel R. J. Bewell, O.B.E.,** has very kindly recently presented to the Mess two silver beer goblets to the design of the set that was lost.

Major John Biddulph, now employed at H.Q. Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Sub-District at Bicester, writes that the following ex-Glosters are serving there in the War Department Constabulary: G. H. Humphreys, A. C. Busby, W. R. Fox and W. Powell.

Major P. R. Burton, M.C., who served with an emergency commission in the 2nd Battalion in the last war has taken over the chairmanship of the newly formed Birmingham Branch of the Regimental Association. He is now assistant secretary of Birmingham University, and one of his recent duties was to see that the track was ready for the Duke of Gloucester when he landed by helicopter for a visit to the City. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham introduced Major Burton to the Colonel-in-Chief.

Staff-Sergeant P. E. Buss, R.A.E.C., was discharged from the Army last March under the redundancy terms and has been accepted for a two-year course as student teacher at Trent Park College, Cockfosters, Barnet. It will be remembered he was Drum Major in the 1st Battalion and it was he who blew the Long Reveille to the amazement of the rival forces during the Imjin Battle.

Congratulations to **Major Richard Butler** on his share in winning the 36-hole final of the South-West of England Open Foursomes at Yelverton on 23rd March. This accounts for his absence from the West Country Luncheon at Honiton.

An old soldier who has linked up with the Regiment again is **ex-Sergeant L. Charter** (No. 8530), who joined at Aldershot in 1907, and served with the 28th and 61st in India, Malta and China. In 1915 with a number of other Glosters he was transferred to the Royal Warwicks in Khartoum. As a C.S.M. he then served in the British Camel Company at El Obeid and Kordofan in the Darfur Expedition. Later he saw service in Palestine. Now 77 years old he lives at Cherry Willingham, near Lincoln.

Dr. William Costin, O.B.E., M.C., the distinguished historian and who retires in July as President of St. John's College, Oxford, was commissioned in the 6th Battalion, T.A., in September 1941. He served much of the 1914-18 War with Trench Mortar batteries. His predecessor, **Dr. A. L. Poole,** who died last February, also served in the Gloucesters in 1914-18—in the 8th Battalion.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. Harrison, O.B.E., T.D., who commanded the 5th Battalion T.A. from 1956 to 1959, has been appointed County Commandant of Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force.

He has been Deputy Commandant for the past two and a half years and succeeds Colonel R. H. E. Hudson, T.D., who is also a former T.A. commanding officer, he having been C.O. of 601 H.A.A. Regiment R.A., the City of Bristol's Own, which was originally the 4th Glosters before the Second World War.

Gloucesterhire A.C.F. provide many candidates for Junior Leaders' Regiments and the Army Apprentices' Schools and recruits for the Regular Army and the T.A. Of these, a number go to the Regiment—a situation which one hopes will continue and even be improved upon with an officer of the Regiment as County Commandant !

Major (Q.M.) J. E. Hobbs, M.B.E., who retired last February after his long and loyal service, and who to help his pension served the last few months with the Duke of Wellingtons, now lives in Richmond, Yorks., and is employed on clerical duties with the Royal Signals at Catterick.

Brigadier Tunku Osman Bin Tunku Mohamed Jewa has been promoted Major-General and first C.I.G.S. of the Federation Army of Malaya. Tunku Osman was born in Kedah State in 1919 and continued his education at Bristol Grammar School. He enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment at the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific in 1942. He volunteered for commando training and was commissioned in 1945. As a member of the Malay Wing Force 136 he was parachuted into Kedah after 10 years absence and next year took over command of the wing. In 1947 he enlisted as an officer cadet in the Malay Regiment and saw active service with their 2nd Battalion.

Major H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E., Brigade-Major 99th Gurkha Brigade Group, writing " temporarily in Brunei . . . A good little war. Air portable, no manifests except those made out in flight, no weighing of kit or vehicles, no emptying of cooners or fuss over hazardous freight lists, no vaccination certificates. Shades of Dover!!! "

Brigadier J. G. C. Waldron, C.B.E., D.S.O., who retired in December 1961, has settled in Spain and writes that he will be very happy to entertain anyone of the Regiment at his home—Apartado 52, Marbella, Malaga. The house is not easy to find, so on receipt of a " warning " he would send a map.

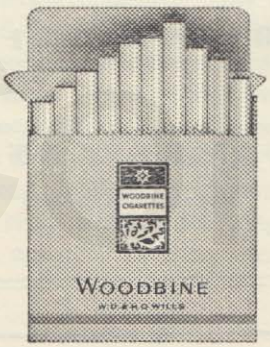
This year the 5th Battalion receives a new distinction in that one of their joint Honorary Colonels, **the Lord Mayor of Bristol,** is a lady—Alderman (Mrs.) F. M. Brown. Last year they had a retired Naval officer, and the year before a working postman.

Actually the back badge has been worn on duty by women, when after the last war the Gloucestershire Home Guard had a few " amazons " serving for clerical duties (q.v. THE BACK BADGE, Vol. 5, p. 112).

Her Majesty Queen Mary also, to the delight of the troops, wore the Regimental badges when during the war she resided at Badminton and a company of the 8th Battalion provided a guard there (q.v. THE BACK BADGE, Vol. 2, p. 159).

The Freedom of the City of Gloucester was conferred on The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars on the 6th of April this year. The Gloucestershire Regiment had received this high and symbolic honour on 21st November, 1946. H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, was admitted as an Honorary Freeman of the City in July 1928, and Colonel J. P. Carne in November 1953.





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A Portuguese Military Museum has been established at Busaco. Both the 2/28th and the 61st took part in the Battle of Busaco on 26th September, 1810 and were granted the battle honour. In response to a request glengarry badges of the 28th and the 61st have been presented to the Museum.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, 4th OCTOBER ..	Regimental Dinner at the Constitutional Club, Marsh Street (off Baldwin Street) Bristol. Ladies Tea (if there is sufficient demand) at The Royal Hotel, College Green, Bristol.
SATURDAY, 5th OCTOBER ..	W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess Reunion at H.Q., 5th Battalion Gloucester.



REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS NEWS

THE future location of our Regimental Headquarters is a never-ending source of interest (academic) and amusement (ironical) to us. For the last four years at least there have been plans to close down Robinswood Barracks and sell the site to the City for a housing estate, but this of course is dependent on building another barracks elsewhere for the Signal unit which now lives here. We have been rehoused theoretically in a wide variety of places; in College Green, in the present Army Information Office, in a T.A. married quarter in Carne Place, and in a new office to be built for us in the allotment gardens that lie between the 5th Battalion H.Q. and the railway embankment.

Fortunately the owners of the 60-odd acres of excellent agricultural land selected for the new Signals' barracks are putting up a stout and determined resistance, and as the Army Recruiters can't find a new home and as Dr. Beeching is reluctant to sell his cabbage patch it seems very likely that we shall continue to do our doings in the old Depot office block at Robinswood Barracks, where to tell the truth we are very comfortable and contented.

The headache of recruiting has been eased considerably so far as Regimental Headquarters is concerned. Now that National Service is no more than a memory it has been found that none of the regiments of the Wessex Brigade can remain self sufficient in manpower, particularly as the establishment of battalions varies according to the station they are in. Thus on completion of their training at the Depot, recruits are posted to the regiment that is in need of them whatever the regiment they were enlisted into. Exceptions to this general rule can be and of course are made in cases where a man expresses a strong preference to his own Regiment, but these are few and the scheme works well.

In effect therefore recruiting is now on a Brigade basis, and the Regimental recruiting team operating in Gloucestershire is responsible to the Brigade Colonel through the

Brigade recruiting office. During the winter—a bad season for caravans and static displays—Captain Crush, with Sergeant Way as his able lieutenant, has been in charge, but in April, Captain Duguid took over for a few months until he becomes adjutant of the 5th Battalion.

Total recruiting figures for 1962 were 161, which was one less than for the previous year, and of these 64 were from Bristol, 63 from Gloucestershire, and 34, many of whom were boys, came from outside the County. Gloucestershire for some reason is always very productive of boy recruits and we are always well represented at the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion where Major Mike Harvey has recently been an instructor, and where Major Sam Weller is about to go as 2IC. But the Brigade Depot are no longer able to accept all our would-be junior soldiers and these have to be farmed off to other Infantry Brigades—which is a great pity. Unfortunately, recruiting for the first few months of 1963 has been particularly bad.

It is much regretted that while the 1st Battalion is overseas, and due to the lack of facilities available to the Regimental H.Q. it will not be possible to hold a Regimental Reunion this year; nor will the Officers' " At Home " take place this year. All subscribers to the Officers' Central Fund have been circulated regarding the future of officers' reunions, and if they have not already done so, it is hoped they will now find time to fill in their questionnaires and let us have their ideas.



AFTER our third move within two years, the Battalion is now established in Salamanca Barracks, within the Episkopi Sovereign Base Area. Although we miss the peaceful seclusion of Polemedhia, we are well compensated by our new accommodation. The companies are all housed in comfortable modern barrack blocks with all amenities (including running hot and cold water which we rarely saw in our last home). It is perhaps unfortunate, that owing to the lack of quarters, we were obliged to leave the greater part of our married families behind in Limasol, and the buses of the " Second Battalion " arriving each morning have once again become as familiar as they were back in Lydd.



CEREMONIAL MARCH INTO EPISKOPI, 28th February, 1963

Colour Party: Regimental Colour—Ensign G. E. W. R. Mirehouse. Queen's Colour—Ensign J. G. H. Corrigan. Escort, Colour-Sergeant Cleeve, Sergeant Hunt, Sergeant Chappell



THE BAND AND DRUMS

Headed by Drum Major R. Norsworthy

To face page 154

BACK BADGE DAY



Trooping the Colour
"Rear rank, right about face"



March Past in Slow Time

To face page 155

Digitized by RCM Collection

Owing to the Administrative Inspection in December and the move to Episkopi in February, we have been unable to carry out as much field training as we would have wished. However, on Exercise " Panhandle " in November, after covering an appreciable number of dusty miles along the crests of the Kyrenia Mountains, the Battalion carried out a spirited night attack on one of the highest points on the island, Mount Olympus (2,373 feet).

In December, in support of the " Wireless for the Blind " campaign by the Forces Broadcasting Service, Cyprus, the Battalion contributed the sum of £83, more than any other unit on the island, in order to secure one hour's broadcasting space on the Forces radio. We then produced a programme in the form of gramophone requests under the guidance of Bob Kennedy, an F.B.S. announcer. It was broadcast on Boxing Day, and compered by Captains Duguid and Oldfield, and Lieutenant Corrigan.

Also forming part of the Christmas festivities was the Christmas Concert—" Sphinxes Jinxes "—the first since Germany, in which Lieutenant Newbould and Corporal Matthews led a " Beyond the Fringe " cast before a most appreciative audience in the Junior Ranks Club.

The summer now lies ahead of us, with the promise of further adventure training parties to Turkey, Kenya and Uganda. The Battalion is again off to Libya for a month after Easter, and all ranks are occupied in the packing and fitness training that this entails, and which has almost become an annual event.

BACK BADGE DAY—1963

In sharp contrast to the rather secluded private affair of 1962, Back Badge Day, 1963, was completely the opposite. We were honoured by the presence of several hundred guests throughout the day, the most notable of whom were Their Royal Highnesses, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester.

March 20th was cold, wet and gloomy. Everybody prayed, and March 21st dawned with a blue sky, a cool breeze and bright sunshine, thus setting the mood for the rest of the day. The major event—the parade, was due to start at 11 o'clock, but for at least an hour before that time crowds of spectators began to arrive including the wives and their families, the children having been given a day off from their schoolwork in honour of the occasion. There were also many watchers from other units, in addition to the many official guests. These included such notaries as the British High Commissioner and his wife, Sir Arthur and Lady Clark, Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Barnett, the C.-in-C. British Forces Cyprus, Air Officer Commanding Near East Air Force, and the Administrator of the British Soverign Base Areas Cyprus, with Lady Barnett. Also present was the General Officer Commanding Cyprus District, Major General Young. Thus was the scene set for the arrival of Their Royal Highnesses preceded by a motor cycle escort. The Duke mounted the dais and took the Royal Salute. Thenceforward the Parade took its normal form, highlighted by the presentation of the Hobbs Cup to " H.Q." Company, represented by Lance-Corporal Bassett, and of Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to C.S.M. Crompton, Colour-Sergeant Cleeve and Corporal McKay. The March Past included the vehicles of the Reconnaissance Platoon, commanded by Captain Notley, and the Anti-Tank Platoon, under Captain Lapage-Norris. By all accounts our visitors were

most impressed with what they saw, and one old " veteran " was heard to say that the parade was " the best since Osnabruck days."

By noon the sun was shining more brightly than ever, and with the Parade over, all ranks rushed off to change into something cooler and then streamed off down to the sports field at Happy Valley where the Grand Back Badge Fair was held. Here there were sideshows of all shapes and sizes—coconut shies, guess the weight of the cake, a " minefield," roll-a-penny, and of course Bingo and many others. The main attraction was, however, the carnival procession of floats, each one devised and constructed by a platoon or department. A prize was presented by the Duke of Gloucester to the best one, adjudged to be the " galleon " from the Q.M. department, captained by a ferocious Corporal Ryder. One could not but feel that many of the other efforts deserved prizes also, such as the pub with no beer, the old-fashioned train, and the space ship, all of which personified the labour and ingenuity of their constructors. A well earned second prize was awarded to the Roman chariot from "B " Company, hauled by half a dozen " unwilling " slaves under the whip lash of Corporal Williams.

Evening, of course, brought us the traditional Back Badge Ball where the Changing of the Guard from Old to New extracted murmurs of admiration from those of us who had never witnessed this old ceremony before. It was a very long day for some of us, but never uninteresting, and certainly one of the most memorable that the Battalion has seen for many a year.

BACK BADGE DAY MESSAGE

The following was received from His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, K.G., K.T., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C.(P), Colonel-in-Chief The Gloucestershire Regiment:

To The Commanding Officer,
1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.

Congratulations to All Ranks on the standard of drill and bearing on your historic parade this morning. I know how much preparation and hard work is required on these occasions.

Despite all your other activities you succeeded in achieving results of which you may all be proud.

HENRY.

" A " COMPANY

The winter season in Cyprus has been a comparatively quiet period, but has offered a new range of military and sporting interests to the Company and uncovered a previously well-hidden potential in some of its numbers.

After the exercise " Panhandle " held in the only area of the Island, Lefkoniko, as yet untouched by Gloster boot, work began for the annual Administrative Inspection, which in turn gave way to the relaxation of the Christmas holiday (where there was definitely no hidden potential for the festive consumption of alcohol).

From Christmas onwards the strength of the Company was somewhat depleted by the demands for permanent staff in the cloudy heights of Mount Olympus, and the attractions of leave in England. The latter claimed some 42 members of the Company between

December and March on the free leave scheme, whose time away was considerably lengthened by the weather conditions there which hindered the return schedule and forced some to stay at home for six weeks, doubtless much against their will !

Posters issued by the Cyprus Tourist Board claim for the Troodos mountain ranges all the winter sports advantages of Kitzbuhel and St. Moritz. In our experience this would certainly seem to be so; many members of the Company attended courses or were on the permanent staff of the Winter Warfare Training Centre, run there by the O.C., Major Temple, and all returned sunburnt and very enthusiastic. Lance-Corporal Portch is to be congratulated on winning the novices race at the end of his course, and Private Doherty, himself a complete novice prior to this season, on winning the advanced end-of-course race and the novices race at the Cyprus ski meeting. Major Temple went on to represent Cyprus in the International ski championships in the Lebanon.

In February the Company moved from Twyneham huts at Polemedhia to the new barracks built for us at Episkopi. Fine accommodation and palatial in comparison, if somewhat spread out: it must be unique, even amongst military camps, in that all roads seem to lead to somewhere in particular, and it was to conquer this and the distance factor that the O.C. has spurned his motor-car in favour of a form of motorised roller-skate. Lance-Corporal Eales has a bicycle of archaeological interest on which he makes daily *Tours d'Episkopi*, but Privates Thorpe and Whiting go one better in their preference for the labour saving luxury of racing pigeons. Can there be a military use for these in Libya?

The setting at Episkopi was ideal for the celebration of Back Badge Day. The parade was followed by a fair in Happy Valley in which the platoon floats (inaptly " pub with no beer " by No. 3 Platoon) inexplicably failed to gain a place in the competition judged by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester. But credit is due, so perhaps the mention here of the effort and imagination that went into them are some compensation, particularly Sergeant Bishop's Enfant Terrible—a rocket ship to Mars.

The Company's sporting activities have produced varied results. In the Rawson Cup we were placed second, No. 3 Platoon being first in the Company. The Company boxers made a sterling effort in the Novices Boxing Competition, but despite wins by Private Gaze (76), and Lieutenant Tantum, the final placing was third. In the Hobbs Cup inter-Company Athletics, Sergeant Page won the discus and Corporal Rainbow the high jump events. It was, however, in the Hobbs Cup cross-country that we achieved most success. The team of ten, captained by Lance-Corporal James, is to be congratulated on winning each of the three legs, and finishing complete in the first 24 of the final.

Congratulations also to Corporal Westaway on passing out first of his Junior Leaders' course, and Lance-Corporals Attwood, Evans, James and Jellings on passing the potential N.C.O.'s cadre. We are sorry to say farewell to Captain Duguid, 2IC of the Company for most of our time here, and wish him well on his posting as Adjutant to 5 Glosters. In turn we welcome Captain Rebbeck who has taken over Support Platoon from Lieutenant Ladds, now at B.H.Q. as Assistant Adjutant, and Second-Lieutenant Holman, who commands No. 3 Platoon.

Can it be that we have already been a year in Cyprus ? So much has been accomplished that time has passed imperceptibly. Why, instead of raw recruits, it will be " old sweats " who set off again for Libya in a fortnight's time.

" B " COMPANY

After the strenuous training of the 1962 summer period, the autumn brought the welcome advent of leave and the cooler weather. By the time the Company goes to Libya after Easter, nearly every single man will have had leave in U.K. Naturally the married " pads " managed to take their local leave here in Cyprus, while their single compatriots had been braving the rigours of the British winter for at least a month—the snow made their arrival and departure extremely erratic, and short notice seemed always to be the order of the day.

The Free Leave Scheme caused a great deal of alarm and despondency in the duty roster and also to those whose lot it was to run the various teams in the Hobbs Cup competitions. We failed to retain the laurel this year but were far from being disgraced.

In the Battalion rifle meeting we came second, Corporals Nash and Spibey living up to their usual Battalion team standard gave us a good foundation, and the Bren gunners, Lieutenant Hill, Corporal Nash, Private Ricketts and Lance-Corporal Wiggins also fired well. In fact, the Company Commander holds to this day that we won the meeting, gaining a first and two seconds in the three matches. Unfortunately, the winner was decided by an aggregate of scores—however, perhaps we shall take steps to get our revenge on Delta Company next year !

Again in the Rawson Cup March and Shoot Competition, our platoons came in sixth, seventh and ninth respectively out of the eleven entries, but those who watched will not gainsay us when we bring up the point that had there been reasonable bonus marks for march discipline and control, we should have been very much further up the scale. This was followed by Christmas, the spirit of which was celebrated with the usual manifestations of food and drink, in that order. We had a good Company " Smoker " party to mark the season, in the Wyvern Club, which, no doubt, kept some of our members out of the clutches of the Cypriot Police. Corporal Sawyer, Privates Morgan, James and Taylor put on an extremely good slapstick sketch for the Christmas concert party.

No. 6 Platoon did not win the Christmas six-a-side soccer, but won the inter-Platoon Soccer League Championships, in spite of Lieutenant Michel's legs !—a good effort; this platoon provided the basis of the Company side which won the Hobbs Cup Soccer Competition when they beat " H.Q." Company just before Back Badge Day in the final play off before the Colonel of the Regiment, with a score of 8—2. Also congratulations to Corporal Williams on the award of his Army (Cyprus) Colours.

" D " Company managed to revenge their defeat of last year in a fearsome and exciting encounter in our first rugby match in the Hobbs Cup, 11—8. We did not really mind being defeated in such a fine game. During the series of games, we unearthed a new list of talent. Privates Leonard and Sparkes proved useful scrum halves—and Private Boulton a flying right wing—we knew about Lieutenant Mirehouse, but our pack were the real workers, in which Corporal Sawyer and Sergeant Tasker held them together. Private Skinner hooked well, while Privates Davin and Webb proved excellent props. They should make Battalion status next year.

In the Athletics and cross country our performance was disappointing and although Lieutenants Michels and Mirehouse, Privates Choppy and Rassool, and Corporal Green all ran well at various times, there was little support, which was witnessed by the appearance of Major Elvery as second string in the pole vault. Private Davin and Corporal

BACK BADGE DAY



Drive Past of Recce Platoon



The Colonel-in-Chief presents the L.S. and G.C. Medal to Colour-Sergeant L. Cleeve

Left to right : Colour-Sergeant Cleeve, H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. H. Varwell, Lance-Corporal Wiggins, Major-General C. E. A. Firth, Major P. W. Weller

To face page 158



GRAND BACK BADGE FAIR
Winner of the Platoon Float Competition
The "Galleon" entered by Q.M. Department, inspected by the Duke of Gloucester



BACK BADGE BALL
The Changing of the Guard

To face page 157

Payne did well in putting the shot, but that was about all we managed to win. We must train some more talent for the next time.

Our move to the new Company block in Episkopi passed without incident during February. This is very pleasant indeed, and near to the cookhouse, though rather too near to the kennels of Delta Company. It is hoped that while we are here, many more people will take advantage of the various hobbies and societies which are in existence in Episkopi, rather than taking it out on the new doors of the block after one or two K.E.O.s too many in the J.R.C.—the latter is considerably the more expensive form of entertainment.

Back Badge Day, as reported elsewhere, was a great success. We've never seen the Company turned out better—not since the Drill Competition. All right, the C.S.M. is determined to win the drill next year, so watch out you rifle droppers. Our thanks to all those who helped at the Grand Back Badge Fair—especially Corporals Brown and Nash on the side-shows. Bad luck Support Platoon with your Aladdin's Lamp which came to grief en route to the procession—some one must have rubbed it up the wrong way !

We were sorry not to get more of the Company away to ski up in the Troodos mountains, though Lieutenant Hill and Corporal Young had a good session up there as instructors. They returned eventually, needing haircuts, but brown and full of the joys of the snow.

Our congratulations to Privates Ricketts and Greegrow on their marriages. Oh, yes ! sub-editor reminds me that I have not mentioned hockey or basketball in which we did quite well, being second in the latter, thanks to the assistance of Private Parkin and Corporal Walker, and third in the hockey where we surprised " H.Q." Company when we played them. We had the enthusiasm, but alas not the skill.

" C " (TRAINING) COMPANY

The tranquillity surrounding the Training Company was disturbed early in January when the management ran its first cadre of the year. Seventeen potential N.C.O.s, which included a member of the Royal Signals, joined us for six weeks. The latter, having been told that he would be taught drill and discipline was naturally surprised to find that there were other facets that were necessary in a N.C.O. The complete and utter shock on his face during the opening address was regrettably not caught by one of our photographers for this surely would have been the " Picture of the Year."

Near the end of the course this study of " surprise " was reciprocated on the face of the Company Commander when one of his assault boats carrying personnel on to the Akamas peninsula had capsized with all hands on board and had broken up. The false alarm was shown in the faces of eight weary members of the cadre who marched into the area, suffering, one could see from sea-sickness and paddle fatigue.

The following successfully passed the potential N.C.O.'s cadre No. 12: Lance-Corporals Shaw, Keen, Cooper, Burge, Attwood, Ford, James, Jellings, Somers and Evans.

The relentless " crack " of small arms has recently given way to a new sound heard around the Training block, the " twang " of the bow. We can find no mention in the Regimental Records of when we last " quivered," but the directing staff who disappear three afternoons a week, one presumes to practise " silent " shots, are convinced that future cadres must " quiver " more than they have in the past. The directing staff's

results have not been too encouraging. However, cadres will at least have a second string to their bow.

Congratulations to: Colour-Sergeant Cleeve on the award of his Long Service and Good Conduct Medal presented by H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester on 21st March, and to Private Short on obtaining an " A " grading on the Army Kinema Corporations Projectionists Course.

Instructors: Lieutenant Grist, C.S.M. Bowrin, Sergeant Modrich, Sergeant Boulton and Corporal Hyde.

Things we would like to know:

Who planted a " Molotov Cocktail " in the O.C.'s tent at Goshi ?

Who removed the " bung " from the bottom of C.S.M. Crompton's boat at Akamas ?

" DELTA " COMPANY

" D " is for dashing and daring, devils and drink, discipline, demonstration and duty. All of which have had something to do with the Company during the last six months.

Looking back over this period, one's immediate impression is one of leave, leave to Great Britain, more popularly known as " U.K." It has undoubtedly made it difficult from every angle, with so many being away the whole time, coupled with the uncertainty as to when the next batch would go. In many cases too, it was so cold in England that some might well have preferred to remain in sunny Cyprus. Several did.

After serving the Company for six months, Major Blight is still in command, with Captain Gilmore as his 2IC; No. 13 Platoon is controlled by Lieutenant Newbould, and Sergeant Hunt; No. 14 Platoon by Lieutenant Corrigan and Sergeant Simmance and No. 16 Platoon by Lieutenant Grist (after his attachment to " Charlie " Company), Sergeants Palmer and Winter; C.S.M. Thomas has guided us, while Colour-Sergeant Dunkin has supplied us; Lance-Corporals Young and Watkinson have typed and filed, Jones has guarded the weapons, while Jackson has rigorously followed the notice on his wall in the stores. " In God we trust, all others sign ! "

On the sports side, our rugby players deserve first mention. They managed to win the Hobbs Cup rugger from " Bravo " Company after a very exciting game with a final score of 11—8. In addition to this, Corporals Meek, Kibble and Norman, Lance-Corporals Young and Beach, and Privates Sutton-Thompson and Speck have played for the Battalion, while Lance-Corporals McEvoy and Hughes played for the Army and Corporal England for the Combined Services. In neither the hockey nor the soccer did we do well although Lance-Corporal Ford and Radnedge had an Army trial in soccer and Cooke played hockey and basketball for the Battalion. We did plan to win the boxing, but alas, we reckoned without " Bravo " Company who beat us. Nevertheless we had several Battalion boxers in Cooke, Radnedge and Stallard. Lance-Corporal Dixon, and Uren boxed for the Army, while Private Smith and Corporal Goss represented the Combined Services. " Smudger " Smith is always well supported by the Company and has never let us down. Well done ! In the Hobbs Cup cross-country, once again the star was Smith who managed to win outright one of the three legs having fought (and won) a hard bout the night before. The Company were unfortunately only to come second in the competition to " Alpha " Company, but amongst those who proved their worth were Lancastle, Cavey, Stallard and Boone. Finally, in the athletics, we were once again in second place, this time to " H.Q." Company, the eventual winners of the

Hobbs cup, leaving us in second place. Major Blight, Hughes, Corporal Norman Coke, Lance-Corporal Young, Corporal Meek, Llewellyn and Lancastle all represented the Battalion on the athletics field.

In other spheres, the Company has always played its part; we are still well represented in the Limassol courts, Corporal Thorne, Lance-Corporals James and Beach did a sketch in the Christmas Show, while Lance-Corporal McEvoy led a stage crew, all found from the Company, who worked extremely hard to make the show the success it was. More recently the platoons all produced floats at the Back Badge Day Fair; No. 14 Platoon did " Emergency—Ward 10 " whilst the pigeons belonging to Private Speck were produced from inside the body on the operating table, and No. 16 Platoon (" There are Fairies at the Bottom of my Garden ") received much laughter from the crowd, in particular the very " salubrious " chief fairy, Private Chambers. Neither managed to win the beer.

During November, on Exercise " Panhandle," where the authorities managed to find an odd mountain not previously conquered by the Battalion, the Company distinguished itself during a night attack up the highest of these mountains in thick mist, by not only capturing its own objective, but also the two Battalion ones as well before anyone realised. We had climbed the mountain just a bit faster than the other two companies, though some might have felt that the presence of the Commanding Officer just behind us, might well have accounted for this.

Lieutenant Grist, Corporal Kibble, Lance-Corporal Baker and Private Kimber went off in February to assist No. 3 Troop R.A. in controlling a naval bombardment. A very interesting time was spent by them whilst dangling from the end of a helicopter wire as they were lowered to the deck of H.M.S. *Trafalgar*.

It was whilst they were on board, that a shell from the same ship landed only a few yards from one of the O.P.s, and they had great difficulty on their return in convincing the gunners that it had not been their fault.

In the shooting the Company surprised themselves and " B " Company by winning the Solma-Ri trophy, which was an excellent effort, but then eight days later we lost the Rawson Cup through poor shooting. However, No. 13 Platoon are to be congratulated on achieving the fastest time over a course, the length of which is still in dispute.

Finally, we say farewell to C.S.M. Thomas who is off to the 5th Battalion and Sergeant Hunt who goes to the Dorset T.A., and we wish them both luck. From the Depot, we welcome back Lieutenant Cooper to No. 16 Platoon, and the new faces of Lieutenant Dicker from Mons Officer Cadet School and Privates Pinnel, Sutton-Thompson, Whittal and Knight. Lastly to all those who have had the privilege of serving in " Delta " Company, we send our best wishes.

" H.Q." COMPANY

Since last going to press the better half of the Battalion has proved it so by winning the Hobbs Cup which was proudly received from His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester by Lance-Corporal Bassett on behalf of the Company on Back Badge Day. Doubtless in other Company notes there will appear references to superior numbers and other imagined disadvantages but no reference to superior quality. Of the several competitions won outright those for the Rawson Cup and Drill Competition are particularly noteworthy since these are well within the limited ability of rifle companies, or so we believe. It would be invidious to mention any individual by name since all platoons

and departments gave of their best but the Corps of Drums and Reconnaissance Platoon deserve special mention for their efforts in the Rawson Cup march. Nor let it be thought that the contributions of that nebulously named body—" The Corps attached "—are not remembered and appreciated. Doubtless for the competition next year an axe will descend on this, at present, proud body.

The achievement of the Hobbs Cup has been, however, a mere incident in the daily round and common task. By our efforts the Battalion has continued to be rationed, fed, clothed, healed, transported, documented, made to dance to the tune of the Regimental Band and generally toe the line; the Reconnaissance Platoon to seek out and keep the enemy under surveillance, the Assault Pioneer Platoon to smooth out devious paths, the Intelligence Section to plot the whole boiling and very often sweating issue whilst on several occasions the Signal Platoon has managed to arrange for each to speak to each.

Lastly it might be worth noting that the Company Commander has been translated (or should it be " removed " ?). The fact that this event took place on 1st April might well be significant !

SIGNAL PLATOON

Following the hand over of the Platoon by Lieutenant D. A. Godfrey, to Lieutenant S. D. A. Firth at Nicosia airport at 0430 hours one morning, the Platoon was soon immersed in the Annual Administrative Inspection and the C.I.V. This was a very busy time, particularly for the Stores—Colour-Sergeant Dunn, Lance-Corporal Cross, Privates James, Moore, Denny and Davies (83). They all worked very hard to maintain the equipment at its high standard. The drivers were also heavily involved. No sooner was one inspection over, than it was time to start preparing for another and polishing some obscure nut and bolt.

However, it must be clearly understood that none of this was allowed to interfere with the sports, and we are able to provide no less than nine of the " H.Q." Company soccer team, Corporal Gardener, Lance-Corporals Denford and Cleary, Privates Gage, Brown, Wardle, Bartlett, Hawkings and Tucker.

Private Gage spent a great deal of time doing cross country and is now representing the Army at athletics. He is running the 880 yards and the one mile.

For some time at Polemidhia, we had a flourishing .22 rifle club with Davies (83) and Lance-Corporal Ivory running it. Most of the living-in members of the Platoon joined, and some good cards were shot. Now we have moved to our new barracks at Episkopi, however, the club has been disbanded.

Lance-Corporal Lambie has become a leading light of the Episkopi Sailing Club and spends most of his time sailing. He has qualified on " C " and is already beginning to win races.

On the more serious side, the Platoon has been involved in several exercises. Exercise " Panhandle " was the main Battalion exercise, and all spent a great deal of time crawling across the Kyrenia mountains. Communications were satisfactory as usual, although Corporal Gardener, and Sergeant Fisher, on control were often excited.

We held a small exercise around Pissouri and the Army Air Corps gave us an Auster aircraft. Denny, Gage, Bartlett and Lance-Corporal Denford all got a flight which was enjoyed immensely. The only black spot was that one of them became intimately aquainted with the " Littel Brown Bag."

We are now preparing for our third visit to Libya. All the equipment is packed and ready to go, all the last minute flaps have been overcome. There is of course slight apprehension of what is in store for us. Garland has still not returned from U.K. leave and there is a rumour that the R.S.O. will have to walk.

Looking back over the period, there appears to have been the usual maximum activity within the Platoon. This will no doubt continue.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

Many and varied are the jobs that we are asked to do. Starting with watermanship training at Akamas with " A " Company, the highlight was the day we set off for Latzi Jetty to collect the Padre, dropping off the Platoon Commander and Lance-Corporal Evans to do a recce on an island. The sea became rough and Sergeant Pickard beached the stormboat on the crest of a wave at Latzi. It was impossible to launch the boat for the return trip and Private Leonard quipped, " He will have to live on snails and weeds."

Bonfire Night—We don't know who enjoyed themselves most, the spectators or our bods running around with portfires setting off the fireworks.

Our second trip to Akamas with the potential N.C.O.s' cadre in early February was not very successful, but notable in that Sergeant Pickard made the N.C.O.s row the full seven miles from Latzi to the training area in five hours in a heavy swell when the outboard motor failed to start.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Keen on his promotion, to Private Leonard on being awarded the best losers medal at the Army Individual Boxing Championships and to W.O.2 Crompton in the award of the L.S. and G.C. Medal.

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

Apart from Battalion exercises the period has been mainly one of leave, passing T.O.E.T.'s, preparation for the Administrative Inspection, the training of an M.M.G. Section for live firing, least of all a fifth place in the Rawson Cup.

At the moment our thoughts are firstly turned on the Back Badge parade where dreams of an easy drive past were rudely shattered and secondly towards Libya where the terrain is more to our liking and where the job of training and welding together a somewhat new looking platoon can be done with maximum numbers present.

Leaving the Platoon are Captain Notley and Corporal Chambers—the latter after many years service first with the M.M.G.s and then with the Recce. Private Wafer has joined us from " B " Company and Corporal Tucker is re-joining us from The Devon and Dorsets, no doubt with more family problems and a fresh batch of blue-prints.

As we go to press the rumour has been confirmed that we are to get Ferret scout cars and that training on them is to start on our return from Libya.

M.T. PLATOON

On looking back we seem to have covered a lot of ground and to mention the most important events we quote, annual administrative inspection, Xmas, vehicle inspections, move of camps, Back Badge Parade, and now our next tour to Libya. As can be expected we did our fair share of pre-admin parades, inspections and all the other little chores, and let us say without the assistance of any national newspaper. The inspecting officer paid us a brief visit and spoke to Sergeant Russell and Sergeant McEwan, R.E.M.E.; the latter

rather astonished the Brigadier by his record of service with the Battalion (seven years).

In spite of the absence of many on U.K. leave we had a normal Xmas with the usual trimmings and of course plenty to eat and drink, but nevertheless we had no apparent after effects to man or vehicle. We had a good proportion of seats for U.K. Xmas leave and at one time 34 out of 62 were out of station on leave, and of course due to bad weather conditions at home some had a little extra time, in the case of Private Gardner and Craftsman Jenkinson who attempted to canoe we thought they were on a world trip and not just the quick run from Cyprus to U.K. With so many stranded in the U.K. our man-power for the vehicle inspection was thin on the ground and never was so much done by so few for so many, and if nothing else we convinced the inspectors that it is possible to paint as well as lubricate grease nipples and other obscure components. We then started our packing and moving over to Episkopi where we actually had a brick building for a M.T. office and stores and a nice square for our parking space and when we take over the whole area we shall be as well accommodated as most units overseas. We have had a few changes in staff, Sergeant Hodges and Sergeant Cook (75) departing, and Sergeant Cook (11) coming in. We proudly presented ourselves on the Back Badge Parade and had 12 vehicles on view, six with the Reece Platoon and six with the Support Platoons and the drivers of these vehicles did us well. Our main role at the moment is attempting to keep our full quota of vehicles and trailers on the road ready for our trip to Libya early next month, and then offer our prayers for a safe return remembering our return of last year and seeing we move on Good Friday let's hope we return on Good Monday. Some of our staff have decided they cannot break the marriage racket and have joined it instead. It is almost impossible at present to keep in touch with the birth programme but no doubt the annual returns will show that the M.T. is second to none.

QUARTERMASTER'S STAFF

Since our last notes there have been further changes in the staff, Lance-Corporal Watkinson has gone to improve " D " Company's office work and Brown is responsible fot the M.T.O.'s turnout. Griffiths has joined us as a clerk, Matthews now looks after clothing, Lance-Corporal Wornell (R.E.M.E.) helps to lighten the load in the armourers shop and Wheeler, although not on our strength, helps to meet the Battalion's insatiable demand for signs, so far " A " Company have not exacted tribute for his services.

On the sporting side we continue to contribute players for teams at all levels at most games and Staff-Sergeant Hampton (R.E.M.E.) and Green are to be congratulated on representing the Army (Cyprus) at badminton and basketball respectively. Parker's gallant bout with Lieutenant Tantum in the Battalion's novices boxing will be remembered for some time—his opponent's height and reach proved too much in the end.

The move to Episkopi was preceded by much negotiating with Oi/c Barracks for furniture and accommodation stores of suitable type and quality to match our first-class barrack blocks. Corporal McCue was often to be seen in various parts of a fast closing H.Q. N.E.A.R.E.L.F. removing office furniture, in some cases before the retiring owner was really ready to part with it. It is not true, however, that he was caught trying to remove the G.O.C.-in-C.'s desk while that distinguished officer was away on a farewell visit to another unit.

Among our acquisitions from the now defunct H.Q. is the Navy's flagpole which now graces the front of Battalion H.Q. While most impressive it has been the centre of much

controversy and a high powered flag hoisting party comprising the C.O., 2IC and Adjutant was seen the other day in hot debate. Main mast, gaff and yardarm offer many permutations when it comes to hoisting the Union and Battalion flags.

No notes from the Quartermaster's Staff would be complete without reference to Corporal Ryder and his Trade Pioneers, among their recent achievements was the construction, despite a Force 8 gale, torrential rain and a great deal of well intentioned but misplaced advice, of a covered stand and enclosure for the V.I.P. attending the Back Badge Parade. This was successfully completed about two hours before it was due to be used, then nothing daunted they put together a most impressive galleon which won first prize for the best float at the Battalion Fair which took place on the same afternoon.

Statistically it may be of interest that during the past year we have:

Raised 2,354 indents.

Received and issued 23,794 items of stores.

Repaired 4,600 small arms and weapons.

Said " Sorry, none on the Island " 365 times, and " After Libya " 143 times.

Consumed 10,957 mugs of tea.

Saved the Battalion umpteen hundreds of pounds in deficiences and damages.

Enjoyed ourselves immensely.

M.T. please note we got the idea for this last paragraph from your last notes.

On a light-hearted note, the R.Q.M.S. is looking forward to the return of two Bergen rucksacks; he feels that the two officers concerned have had sufficient time to find the traditional baton should it be lurking in the bottom of either of them.

Finally congratulations, firstly to Corporal Collis on obtaining a " Distinguished " on his clerks' course; he set out to pass the BIII trade test and emerged with a BII qualification. Now unfortunately the Orderly Room want him and it has been decreed that their need is greater than ours, but there is some consolation that in this case " After Libya " can be said with some justification. Secondly, to the R.Q.M.S. on the award of the L.S. and G.C. Medal, if he did not earn it in his first 17 years' service, he certainly did in the eighteenth.

Intelligence Section

Contrary to popular belief, the Intelligence Section is not an advertising sub-unit within the Battalion. This is despite the continual requests from all departments for posters and signs which can be seen in all places !

Captain Henderson, our I.O., has recently left us to take up a G3 appointment in Bahrein. We are sorry to see him go and wish him the best of luck in his new posting. His place has been taken by Lieutenant Ladds, whom we welcome to the fold.

The " staff " side remains much the same, with Sergeant Neaves in charge, followed closely by Privates Bailey, Townley, Gardiner and Cokayne. These worthy men are also members of the newly formed Battalion Judo Club, started by Sergeant Neaves.

Regimental Band

On the Band's return in late September, from the tour in Turkey, we found that not only were the Royal Air Force Band on tour, but also the Band of the Rifle Brigade were in U.K. on annual leave. This left us only, operating as duty band for the whole of the Sovereign bases. We were kept very busy, with the various engagements, which gradu-

ally gained momentum on the build up for Christmas and the New Year, which finally ended with the Band completely exhausted and not a little confused with it all.

However, with a lot of telephoning, and staggering of timings, we still managed to keep the Battalion hockey team supplied with players (Staff-Sergeant Halstead, Sergeant Owen, Corporals Wake and McKay and Bandsmen Wood and Carbin).

The New Year unfortunately brought with it the inevitable gaps in our ranks, and we said farewell to Lance-Corporal Mullender, and Bandsman Benham.

These gaps, however, were filled, in a different way, and we congratulate Staff-Sergeant and Mrs. Halstead, and Corporal and Mrs. Hannam on the additions to their families.

At the time of writing, we are busy fitting in the new arrivals, to the Band, namely Bandsmen Pearce, Pankhurst and James, and hope that their stay with us will be a happy one.

The Band's highlight of the New Year was witnessing the portly and dignified figure of Corporal McKay marching across the parade ground on the Back Badge Parade, to receive the elusive award of the L.S. and G.C. Medal. Well done McKay !

CORPS OF DRUMS

In October, Drummers Harding and White were welcomed from the Depot with the words " You are just in time for the Rawson Cup." Any doubts as to what the Rawson Cup was, were soon dispelled by Captain Henderson who, after chasing Drummer " Flash " Harding around the hills of Polemidhia for two weeks, successfully led us to win the competition.

Almost immediately afterwards came the Annual Admin. Inspection, with the usual spring-cleaning and drill parades.

Christmas came as a welcome break. Although almost everybody had hoped to be home for Christmas, those who had to stay behind certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. Those who stayed behind went home in January or February, some even lucky enough to miss the move to Episkopi.

About eight o'clock every morning, for a fortnight before Back Badge Day, a little group could be seen standing outside the Drums Store thumbing down the Recce and Support Platoon vehicles on their way to the square. One day they even stopped a bus. What a place to build a square!

The Drums were well represented on the " Old Guard " at the Sergeants Mess Back Badge Ball. Although they are getting old stagers at this now, it was certainly the most distinguished audience that they have appeared before.

As if Back Badge Day wasn't long enough, everybody was up again at 6 o'clock next morning even though it was a day off. I have heard it rumoured that Captain Henderson was contemplating entering a Corps of Drums swimming team in the Hobbs Cup this year.

We have had numerous representatives in Company rugby, soccer, cross-country and athletics. Lance-Corporal Bedwell and Drummer Thomas have played rugby for the Battalion and Drummers Turk and Hole were members of the athletics team.

Congratulations to Lance-Corporal and Mrs. Curtis on the birth of their son and to Drummers Hicks, Hole, Turk and Thomas on their recent marriages. We also welcome Drummers McEvoy and Wheatley who recently joined us from the Depot.

Who said winter is a quiet period ?

SERGEANTS' MESS

With the move of the Battalion to Episkopi in early February, the Sergeants' Mess moved into somewhat luxurious surrounds, as compared with the " Mess " at Polemedhia. Some of the members, to wit, Sergeants Tom Clayden, Keith Godwin and Brummy Garrison sighed with relief, or, in the case of Sergeant Jock McEwen, " purred " with pleasure at the thought of having to walk downstairs to meals instead of a 500-yard walk ! Most of the living-in members now enjoy breakfast, as opposed to a quick nip into the " char wallahs " tent as was more usual. Our Orderly Room Colour-Sergeant Bob Roberts now has no excuse for an early morning drive in his new shiny car. It is generally understood, however, that his car can find its own way to and from Hero Square.

Shortly after the Battalion arrived in its new station, and after what may be termed a settling-in period, the Mess sent out invites to all Messes in station to come and be entertained at a " House Warming Party." This proved to be a great success and many new friends were made. In fact the " Housewarmer " sparked off a series of standing invitations to members to come ANYTIME ! Rumour has it that Colour-Sergeant Jimmy Dunkin 'n May are being considered for membership at a nearby R.A.F. Mess.

Other activities have also taken place since the move. Sergeant Doug Neaves has found another corner for his judo activities, and the club under his guidance is a thriving hub of interest. Sergeant Fred Brisland has started a Regimental archery club and was swamped with requests for membership. Colour-Sergeant Ken Walker is an ardent member who, at the moment anyway, cannot understand how Robin Hood did so well at it. Other members include C.S.M. George Bowrin and Sergeants Jack Boulton, Lofty Pickard, Steve Modrich and Johnny Longdon.

The main item of interest of course was the Back Badge Parade and Sergeants' Mess Ball. The parade, under the guiding hand of R.S.M. Smythe, B.E.M., went off to perfection and much praise was forthcoming from all who watched. During the parade W.O.2 Crompton and Colour-Sergeant Cleeve were presented with their L.S. and G.C. medals by the Duke of Gloucester. After the parade wives and children of the members went to the Mess for lunch, and members for a well-deserved drink.

In the evening the Ball was attended by over 200 guests. The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester also put in a brief appearance during the evening. At the time of writing letters of appreciation are pouring in from all directions. The Ball was considered to have been one of the best for a long time. One very popular person in the shape of W.O.2 Jerry Morgan arrived all the way from U.K. where he is normally employed on recruiting. Good show Jerry !

In the near future the Mess will be losing quite a few members. These include W.O.2 Thomas who is going to 5 Glosters (T.A.), W.O.2 Preece who is off recruiting and Sergeant Joe Hunt who will be going to the Dorset T.A. in Poole. We would like to wish them all the very best of good luck, in the future, and in their new jobs. Other members that are due for a move will be published later in the year. (There's many a slip . . .)

Finally, congratulations are in order for two members: Sergeant Owen on his promotion to the Mess (welcome Taffy), also to Colour-Sergeant Ollie Halstead on the birth of a brand new baby daughter, who we feel is also most welcome.

Before signing off it is worth mentioning an incident which shook Sergeant Jock McEwen. His " Tom " had kittens !

RUGBY FOOTBALL

The team this year was a promising one, and they appeared to have great potential, particularly as far as the three-quarters were concerned. Unfortunately, due to the failure of the team to knit together as a whole, we had rather a disappointing season. This was not entirely our own fault, for we had several difficulties to contend with that made progressive training of the team virtually impossible.

For the greater part of the season we were hampered, whilst in Polemedhia, by the fact that our nearest playing field was over 15 miles away, thus ruling out the possibility of regular team training and practice games. In addition, throughout the months of December, January and February, whilst the Free Leave scheme was in operation, we were never able to train as a complete unit, and for the great majority of our important fixtures at least two or three members were on leave in England.

Nevertheless, in all our games, the three-quarters looked fast and dangerous. Lieutenant Mirehouse was a constant source of danger, with his frequent breaks and excellent kicking to his wings, where Lance-Corporal Burge was, in particular, a very fast and difficult player to stop. As far as the forwards were concerned, Corporal England and Privates Hughes and Flynn played consistently well. However, the team must not forget the difference between the kind of rugger played in Cyprus, and that which we played on the muddy, green fields of England. On fast, hard, and dusty grounds, possession and speed on to the ball, with constant changes of direction and handling in the style of the French players, is the only answer.

In the Cyprus Army Cup, we lost to the Theodolites (Royal Engineers) in the first round, the score being 23—25. We were extremely unfortunate in this game for we did, in fact, score more tries than the opposing team, and, had our place kicking been more accurate, we would certainly have beaten them. Despite this, a most enjoyable game to watch.

This year the Hobbs Cup rugger was won by " Delta " Company, beating " Bravo " Company in the most exciting game of the series and after an extremely close finish, with a score of 11 points to 8. " Delta " also beat " Alpha " Company, 33—0, and " H.Q." Company, 23—6.

The following have played for the Army (Cyprus) during the season: Lieutenants Holman and Mirehouse, Corporal England, Lance-Corporals McEvoy and Burge, Private Speck. Lieutenant Mirehouse, Corporal England and Lance-Corporal Burge also played for the Combined Services in a game against the Royal Air Force.

The following represented the Battalion during the season: Lieutenants Ladds, Firth, Corbett, Mirehouse and Holman, Corporals England, Kibble, Norman and Meek, Lance-Corporals McEvoy, Young, Beach and Burge, Privates Speck, Flynn, Hughes and Ricketts.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The Battalion has not been very successful this season. There are two principal reasons for this, firstly that until this season the team was largely composed of National Servicemen and we are now trying to find a new team, and secondly, that with a great many of the Battalion going on leave to England, the team has hardly ever been the same twice.

At last a team seems to be emerging, and in the future anyway it looks as though we

shall have a strong one. The mainstay of all this is Corporal Williams of " B " Company, who has also played for the Army. Unfortunately he was one of the canoeists who attempted to reach England, and so was not able to play until January, since then he has been a tower of strength. C.S.M.I. Hart, " C " Company, has also proved on many occasions that even if we were two or three goals down that everything is not over. Noticeable among these games was the one in Kuwait where the score at half-time was 0—3, and we won 4—3, and the game against Nicosia where the score was 0—4 and we won 7—4, but these are isolated incidences in a season where too often the result has been the odd goal against.

There is more on the visit to Kuwait elsewhere in the Journal. The final team at the time of going to press is: Sgt. Tasker (" B "), Cpl. Philips (" B "), C.S.M.I. Hart (" C "), Cpl. Gardner (" H.Q."), Pte. Lansdowne (" D "), L/Cpl. Ford (" D "), Pte. Boulton (" B "), Cpl. Williams (" B "), L/Cpl. Burge (" B "), Pte. Chambers (" D "), Pte. Shephard (" B "), but the following are also very much part of the team: L/Cpl. Denford (" H.Q."), Pte. Featherstone (" B "), Pte. Andrews (" A "), Pte. Stock (" B "), Pte. Rae (" H.Q.").

Within the Battalion the picture has been one of a surfeit of football, each Company entered a team in the Western Area Minor Units League which involved two games a week against local R.A.F. and Army teams. After this the Grist Cup was competed for and a thrilling result emerged in that " H.Q." Company and " B " Company had equal points on the league table and a cup final resulted. Eventually after some first-class football Mrs. Firth presented the Cup to " B " Company who had won 8—2.

HOCKEY

A most enjoyable and successful first season in Cyprus. Apart from inter-Company games, played with great spirit and gusto, two Battalion teams were entered in the all Cyprus Leagues. The 1st XI played 12 league games, winning 7, losing 2, drawing 3. Goals for 28, against 13. Final league placing third.

The 2nd XI played 12, winning 7, losing 4, drawing 1. Goals for 42, against 39. Final league placing second. A very good effort by both teams which certainly places the Battalion as one of the strongest Hockey XIs on the Island.

In the All-Island Cup competition we reached the semi-final, but after a replay, lost 2—4 to the eventual winners, H.Q. R.E. Although Cup games have a habit of producing shock results it is felt that had not four of our regular players been missing we certainly would have reached the final, and possibly emerged eventual winners.

All games have been played in a most sporting spirit enhancing the good reputation of the Battalion and it would be invidious to mention individual players. However, mention should be made of Team Captains (Captain Hurford-Jones for the 1st XI and C.S.M. Bowrin for the 2nd XI) for so ably controlling the players and giving them every encouragement. Also, Lieutenant Mirehouse who gained his Army and Combined Services Colours, and Staff-Sergeant Hampton (R.E.M.E.) for his willingness to umpire on every conceivable occasion.

BOXING

Before Christmas several of our boxers put on gloves at R.A.F. sponsored tournaments prior to the start of the Army Cyprus District Boxing Programme. Of these Corporal

Goss, Privates Smith, Whitehead and Gaze showed a promise that has since been amply fulfilled.

In the first round of the Army team competition we drew the Ordnance Depot Cyprus. After two weeks hard training in an improvised gym at Polemedhia, we boxed them in our own J.R.C. The result was a clean sweep for the Glosters by 12 bouts to nil. This was a great spur to training and left us to box the Rifle Brigade at Dhekelia in mid February in the final.

It may have been a false idea of our capabilities after convincingly beating a small unit in the first round or it may have been the slight gap in training caused by the move from Polemedhia to Episkopi, but either way, the team was disappointing in the final. The Rifle Brigade won the first four bouts and were leading 5—1 at the interval, after Private Gaze had stopped the rot with a display of calm hitting. Privates Smith, Whitehead and Sawyer won the next three fights for us to make the score 5—4 and the atmosphere became very tense. However, Private Webb lost the heavy-weight bout and Lance-Corporal Dixon had an off-day which made the final score 7—4 to the Rifle Brigade. Special mention should be made of Corporal Goss who boxed very well to lose a rather doubtful verdict. We shall be all out to turn the tables on the Rifle Brigade next year.

We had ten boxers in the novices competition and 15 in the Army open championship, in which our boxers were hoping to be matched against the Rifle Brigade. However, they did not enter any boxers, and we won ten out of 11 titles with 14 finalists, thus monopolising the evening against smaller units.

At the time of writing these notes we hope to have about half the Army team to box the Royal Air Force in a fortnight. (Actually nine of the 11 in the Army team *v.* R.A.F. on 1st April, 1963, were Glosters.)

If there has been one outstanding fault common to our boxers this season it was a tendency to square up energetically without conserving power for the actual target blows. Too much weaving, feinting and half-hearted leading will always come off second best to a boxer with an economical style. This was particularly apparent amongst our lighter boxers.

To end on a more cheerful note, the present membership of the Battalion Boxing Club is almost 50. Training will continue on one night a week throughout the summer with emphasis on skills rather than fitness in preparation for what we hope will be a more successful 1963-64 season.

BASKETBALL

The winning of this year's Army (Cyprus) inter-Unit Championships was the first Regimental sporting success of 1963. Having lowered our colours at rugger and soccer, the basketball team were even more determined than ever to restore our rightful position as the leading sporting unit on the Island and to repeat last season's win.

As a preparation for the forthcoming clash with Army teams we accepted an invitation to play in the American League in Nicosia. Due to, one presumes, a clerical error on the part of the Americans, 1 Glosters appeared on the court twice a week as R.A.F. Polemedhia. And though we did not win a match we were by no means disgraced for all of our games were closely contested.

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The inter-Unit Championships were held at Dhekelia in March. Results: Semi-Finals:

	We	They
Battalion Team *v.* Ordanance Depot	52	33
v. 33 Field Park Squadron ..	36	28
v. 9 Signal Regiment	44	26

Final: Our opponents in this match were 9 Signal Regiment who having played a rather indifferent game against us in the semi-final proved to be worthy opponents. During the second half, our lead of 12 points was steadily reduced until at one stage with three minutes to go before the final whistle they had taken a lead of 3 points. With barely two minutes of play left we regained the initiative and scored 9 points to leave the Signal team trailing without addition to their score. Final score: Battalion team, 41; 9 Signal Regiment, 35.

The Battalion team comprised of: S/Sgt. Smith (R.A.P.C.) (Captain), W.O.2 Lancaster (R.E.M.E.), W.O.2 Hart (A.P.T.C.), Cpls. Rainbow, Matthews, Slorach and Nash, Ptes. Cooke and Green.

Corporal Matthews, Privates Cooke and Green are to be congratulated on their selection for the Army team to play the Royal Air Force in the inter-Service Championships.

CROSS COUNTRY

Cross-country running in Cyprus was obviously going to be quite different from running in England. Also training a team was going to be very difficult with every sport apart from cricket, taking place at the same time.

This proved to be so. With the result that the Battalion team's first race, in the Cyprus Cross-country League, was run with no training whatsoever.

However, we were pleasantly surprised in the end, and came first of all the Army teams entered, just beating H.Q. Royal Engineers. The Commanding Officer on hearing that very little training had been done then decreed that the whole Battalion should run the following week. Two of these runs took place, one of two and a half miles and then one of five. Both races started on the football field of Polemedhia, the whole Battalion under 40 taking part.

The first race was won by Lieutenant Michels and the second, despite the effort of O.C. " B " Company to snatch a 200 yards start before the race began, by Lieutenant Firth.

The next race for the Battalion team was on 5th January, the Army Championships at Dhekelia. Having beaten H.Q. R.E. once before we were quite confident of winning easily. Alas this was not to be, and the team came second, 10 points behind the sappers. The first three Glosters in were Lieutenant Michels 5th, Lieutenant Firth 10th and Private Choppy 11th.

Having sorted out their teams the companies now had the Hobbs Cup races to run. The first one on the 24th January was carefully selected by Captain Henderson. This proved to be probably the hardest and longest course run for years. Why Captain Henderson selected such a gruelling course became apparent 62 minutes later, when the first runner appeared. It was of course Captain Henderson himself, red in the face,

wearing exceedingly long shorts and chukka boots. The team race also produced an unexpected result, " A " Company winning by 17 points from " D " Company. The points were as follows:

Individual: 1st, Capt. Henderson, 62 min. 49 sec.; 2nd, Pte. Rae, 63 min. 42 sec.; 3rd, L/Cpl. James, 64 min. 7 sec.

Teams: " A " Company, 171 points; " D " Company, 188 points; " H.Q." Company, 213 points; " B " Company, 257 points.

The second big run at Episkopi on the 27th February over a short course proved that " A " Company win was no flash in the pan. This time they won by 40 points from " D " Company, the individual winner being Lance-Corporal Jellings.

Individual: 1st, L/Cpl. Jellings, 22 min. 30 sec.; 2nd, Cpl. Gardner, 23 min.; 3rd, Pte. Smith (" D "), 23 min. 30 sec.

Teams: " A " Company, 160 points; " D " Company, 201 points; " H.Q." Company, 233 points; " B " Company, 248 points.

P.S.—Lieutenant Michels had a good leave and came 30th.

Thus, with " A " Company in an almost unassailable position, came the third leg, over a distance of five miles.

The race developed into a struggle between four runners, Private Smith, Lieutenant Michels, and Lance-Corporals James and Jellings. All four kept together to within 300 yards of the finish, to be confronted by an almost perpendicular cliff. The race now depended on who could climb it first. Eventually Private Smith drew ahead and on arriving at the finish was about 100 yards ahead of Lieutenant Michels with Lance-Corporal James third and Lance-Corporal Jellings, fourth.

" A " Company again proved supreme, winning by 50 points from " D " Company and the Cup as well.

Individual: 1st, Pte. Smith (" D "), 33 min. 25 sec.; 2nd, Lt. Michels, 33 min. 44 sec.; 3rd, L/Cpl. James, 33 min. 55 sec.

Teams: "A" Company, 134 points; " D " Company, 184 points; " H.Q." Company, 207 points; " B " Company, 341 points.

Final Placings: 1st, " A " Company, 465 points; 2nd, " D " Company, 573 points; 3rd, " H.Q." Company, 653 points; 4th, " B " Company, 846 points.

ATHLETICS

The 1963 Athletics Season opened with the inter-Company Sports, which were held on 1st March. The results were as follows: 1st, " H.Q." Company; 2nd, " Delta " Company; 3rd, " Alpha " Company; 4th, " Bravo " Company.

The striking feature of the meeting was the enthusiasm of all the spectators, particularly during the field events. A splendid beginning to the Athletics season. This meeting enabled us to ascertain our two teams for the R.A.F. Episkopi Station Sports which were held at Happy Valley on 12th March. These teams being of equal strength did extremely well, and gained 1st and 2nd places respectively. Worthy of mention are: Private Cooke, 1st in the 120-yards hurdles; Corporal Rainbow and Major Blight who were 1st and 2nd in the high-jump; Corporal Hazzard and Lieutenant Michels, 1st and 2nd in the 440 yards; Private Davin, 2nd in the long-jump; Private Thorpe, 2nd in the 880 yards, Lieutenant Michels being 1st. The tug-o-war teams, coached by C.S.M. Bowrin gained 2nd and 3rd place, and Major Ridlington managed to come 3rd in the Veterans race. In



CANOEING EXPEDITION

Practising in Malta prior to departure, November 1962

Left to right: Lance-Corporal Teed ("H.Q."), Private Wadham ("D"), Private Maclean ("B")



ARCHERY

Left to right: Private March, Corporal Neville, Sergeant Brisland

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28th/61st EXTRA MURAL ACTIVITIES



Private Doherty, "A" Coy., winner of Near East Novices Ski Championships



Visit to Kuwait



JUDO

Left to right : Corporal Brooks ("D"), Sergeant Neaves ("H.Q."), Corporal Slorach ("H.Q."), Private Sparrow ("D"), Corporal Neville ("H.Q.")

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the "Carrying the Can" race the Battalion, particularly Major Blight, excelled themselves.

This was an encouraging start to the season, and the team then prepared for the inter-Unit Championships, which were eventually held on 29th and 30th March. After a very close finish, the Battalion came first with 46 points. This contest was decided on the last event, the 4 x 440-yards relay, which we won, the team being Lieutenant Michels, Privates Thorpe, Birks and Llewellyn. In addition to this we also won the pole vault, thanks to C.S.M.I. Hart and Private Cooke, the 120-yards hurdles, the 4 x 880-yards relay, the 4 x 110-yards relay, and the shot put with Privates Bera and Hughes. The final placings were: 1 Glosters, 1st; 9 Signal Regiment, 2nd; Royal Engineers Cyprus, 3rd.

The next event on our programme is the inter-Services Meeting, R.A.F. versus the Army, just before we go to Libya. The following have been selected to represent the Army: Lieutenant Michels, Corporals Rainbow and Norman, Privates Birks, Llewellyn, Cooke, Hughes and Sandels. In addition to those actually performing, the Army team is being trained by Lieutenant Firth and C.S.M.I. Hart, A.P.T.C.

In fact, despite our many Battalion commitments, we have had a very successful season.

ARCHERY

Under the direction of Sergeant Brisland, a Battalion Archery Club has come into being. A certain amount of equipment has been purchased and is used by a small but enthusiastic group of members. We trust that the Club will continue to flourish and hope to publish an account of its activities in our next issue.

JUDO

After a number of false starts, the Regimental Judo Club has been formed, and under the direction of Sergeant Neaves now meets regularly. Almost any afternoon, anyone passing a certain Nissen hut by the Guard Room will see strangely garbed figures mouthing words like " Osaekomiwaza " and " Tsurikomuashi " as they hurtle through the air.

Most club members have purchased their own " Judogi " (Judo clothing) and mats are on order from U.K. In the meantime, practice is carried out on old mattresses. All companies are represented in the Club, with a large percentage from " H.Q." Company. Space does not permit mention of all the members of the Club, but some of the stalwart personalities include Corporals Hector Wake, Jim " Uchimata " Slorach and Stan " Get out of that " Neville.

It is hoped to hold the first display and contests before we go to Libya, a report of which will appear in our next issue.

POTHOLING

" But what fun can you possibly get from crawling through holes in the ground ? "

This is the question that one is asked with monotonous regularity by almost everyone to whom the subject of speleology (potholing to you) is mentioned, and, like the controversy as to why the chicken crossed the road, it is not an easy question to answer, except perhaps to say " to get to the bottom."

The potholing club in the Regiment is at present only in its embryo stages, but already enquiries from prospective members have been legion, and the future would appear to be bright.

With the assistance of 42 Survey Engineer Regiment, a small party consisting of Second-Lieutenant Corrigan, Corporals Westaway, Williams and Brain, made a descent of Pentadactylos Pothole during the weekend 9th and 10th March, which was most successful. Armed with a plentiful supply of torches, sweaters and beer we set off from camp at 1230 hrs. on Saturday morning and arrived at the base of Pentadactylos at 1700 hrs. where we set up camp in two uninhabited stone cottages. At this point we rather shocked the potholing veterans of 42 Survey by our array of home comforts. However, they came round to our way of thinking after a hot meal of stew and apricots, washed down by Corporal Brain's inimitable tea (it is a wicked lie to suggest that he makes this by dissolving iron filings in Jeyes fluid).

We descended the pothole at approximately 2100 hrs., and were under ground for about five hours, during which time we covered nearly a third of the distance to the bottom, taking in several long pitches and two quite difficult traverses. Spirits were, however, kept high by Corporal Westaway quietly singing nursery rhymes in the background, and our Engineer guide's comforting remarks about the consequences of being caught underground in an earthquake.

Despite all this the trip was safely accomplished, and we returned to the cottage to consume our beer, which had been left in the loving care of Private Faulkner, our driver. To our astonishment he had not succumbed to temptation, so the next half hour was pleasantly spent in the sampling of the product's of Messrs. Keo and Tennant.

Next morning Corporal Williams and Private Faulkner ably produced an excellent breakfast of bacon and eggs, with trimmings, after almost blowing themselves up with the stubborn No. 1 burner, and we returned to camp. Thanks to the invaluable assistance of our Sapper guides we are now fairly conversant with the underground routes in Pentadactylos and we hope to mount frequent expeditions in the future.

We have also done a small amount of explorations in the Curium Labyriths, in the course of which Corporal Westaway uncovered a complete Roman pot, dating from about A.D. 500. As this was filled with snails, he was heard to conclude that they must be French Romans.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about potholing in general. It is an inexpensive sport, and an exciting one. It is not without its dangers, but then if it was easy it would not be worth doing, and with a modicum of common sense and caution, accidents should not happen. Once a small team has been trained as leaders, it will be possible to take larger parties to the area, so anyone who wants to participate in an adventurous, challenging pastime, is invited to have a go. J. G. H. C.

EQUITATION IN CYPRUS

Equitation in Cyprus apart from flat racing exists as a sport only among the British Forces. The Cypriots, although they use horses and ponies to some extent for transport and work, take little interest except in the racecourse at Nicosia.

The major clubs in the Island are the Army ones at Dhekelia and Episkopi and the R.A.F. ones at Akrotiri and Nicosia. There are also two smaller ones, 9 Signals Regiment at Famagusta and R.A.F. Pergamos.

Apart from normal hacking, several other activities are indulged in. The most common are cross-country competitions and show jumping and each club usually runs at least one meeting for these every year. A lot of work is put into these meetings, parti-

cularly as there are virtually no natural obstacles for cross-country courses. Due to the animals not being very large, show jumps are usually no more than 4 feet and cross-country jumps 3 feet 6 inches high. However, there is usually a great variety of jumps which give interest.

The two Army clubs play polo and the Cyprus Polo Association, which is affiliated to the Hurlingham Polo Association, has recently been formed to organise the various competitions played during the year. There are two polo seasons, first from February to July and then from September to December. The breaks are to coincide with the very hot and the very wet periods. The Episkopi club must have one of the most representative polo lists in the services ranging from the General to Private soldier and include the 28th/61st R.S.M. and an R.A.F. doctor. The ponies used are generally used for all club activities which produce problems in keeping them schooled.

A new sport appeared in March when the Akritori club ran a point to point. This was a very good miniature meeting, there being nine jumps, 3 feet high, in a course of a mile and a half long. There were two races for ladies, one for officers, one for other ranks, and a maiden race. A tote was operated and fine weather made it a very good day. It is hoped to run more of these meetings.

Other racing indulged in is of a semi-professional type at Nicosia where once or twice a month a race is organised for amateur riders on club horses. The type of race varies from seven furlongs to one and a half miles, sometimes with small hurdles and sometimes for lady riders.

The Dhekelia Club is closely connected with the Dhekelia Draghounds whose master is Major F. E. Kitson of the Rifle Brigade. He has four and a half couple of hounds and hunts twice a week during the cooler weather. Apart from the Dhekelia area, he has also visited Akrotiri and Episkopi and shown good sport. The season ends on 30th March with a hunt ball at Dhekelia.

There is a Pony Club organisation active among the saddle clubs and Pony Club gymkhanas; treks and paper chases are run in addition to the normal class teaching. Inter-branch competitions are run and camps are organised during the summer.

All in all it can be said that Cyprus is an excellent place for those interested in riding activities and a number of sports that are expensive in U.K., are relatively cheap here.

SKI-ING

The 28th/61st were given the job of running the winter warfare training centre at Troodos for the first and larger part of the season. The permanent staff was largely found by " A " Company under the command of Major Temple, assisted by two Austrian ski instructors and a number of services ski instructors from Cyprus.

Some 35 men from the Glosters attended one or the other of the three 12-day courses that were held. All seemed to enjoy themselves and the majority learned how to ski fairly proficiently.

There was a race at the end of each course; the first being won by Private Doherty of " A " Company and the second by Lance-Corporal Portch also of " A " Company. Both were won against a course strength from services in Cyprus of about 60.

The Near East Ski Championships were held from 28th February to 3rd March. The Battalion achieved some success in this meeting. First of all Private Doherty won the novices races. In the Alpine Combination Cup the Battalion beat 3 Greenjackets and

N.E.A.F. " A " and N.E.A.F. " B " thus winning the cup. The members of the team were Major Temple, Lieutenants Firth and Hill and Corporal Young. The inter-Services Cup was won by the Army, the members of the team from the Battalion being Major Temple and Lieutenant Hill.

We now hope that many members of the Battalion will take up water ski-ing during the summer.

SAILING

For the last few months, sailing has been a fairly light-hearted affair, for during the winter season, though we are fortunate enough to be able to sail at all, no serious competitions have taken place. In fact, as far as the Battalion is concerned, most of our boats have been out of the water for their annual maintenance—this involves scraping, painting, varnishing and replacing defective equipment. In particular, Major Weller and Private Lambotte have been most fastidious and resolute in the maintenance of their boat, and if results bear any relation to the amount of labour devoted to that boat, then they should certainly win all their races.

Now, however, with the onset of the summer season, serious racing commences, all crews vieing with each other in order to gain the valuable points which go towards the award of a cup at the end of the season.

It is unfortunate, in fact, that the Regiment does not have more active members in the Sailing Club. This is a pity, for it is an extremely well run club, with a genial atmosphere and a well stocked bar.

Sailing goes on throughout the year, and the club is always willing to take new members, no matter how little experience they may have. Sailing in Cyprus is a most exhilarating sport, for rarely are we blighted with bad weather, and nothing is more exciting than bowling along at a rate of knots, with the wind blowing through your hair, and your cheeks aglow, as you lean out over the side during a particularly complicated manoeuvre.

An account of the antics of the Army yacht *Natanis* will be found elsewhere in this issue, and some may be interested to know that a further programme of cruises is planned for summer 1963. It is hoped to carry out several local cruises, possibly calling at Beirut in the Lebanon, and in July and August she will be cruising around the Aegean.

Mention must be made of Lance-Corporal Lambie, who, although having only been sailing for about seven months has managed to qualify as a " C " Helmsman—and is thereby capable of taking out a boat on his own, and is also controlling a syndicate of sailers on his boat. Quite a remarkable achievement.

Lieutenant Firth's boat still would seem to be out of the water, but nevertheless we look forward to a busy sailing season.

OFFICERS' CENTRAL SPHINX (LOAN) CLUB

It will be of general interest to officers to know of decisions recently made by the Trustees of the Regimental Trust Funds with regard to the so-called Central Sphinx Club. It will be recalled that this Club or fund, exists for the encouragement of officers of the Regiment to engage in sports and games, especially those which develop initiative and leadership, by making loans, and in exceptional circumstances grants, to officers to enable them to buy horses, ponies and sporting equipment in general.

The decisions recently taken are as follows:

Firstly, that the loan facilities of the Club extend not only to all Regular officers of the Regiment, but equally to all T.A. officers.

Secondly, it has been decided that loans may be granted for the purchase of motor cars in cases where the C.O. certifies that these will be used largely for the furtherance of a sport or game.

Finally a decision has been reached that the annual income of the fund will be offered to the Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, to afford facilities for his officers, and in certain circumstances for other ranks in parties commanded by officers, to take part in adventure training which is calculated to bring credit to the Regiment. If all of the sum offered is not so allocated by the Trustees, then the balance of the annual income will be transferred to the Central Officers' Mess fund.

5TH BATTALION TERRITORIAL NEWS

ANW.

MAJOR T. R. LITTLEWOOD assumed the appointment of Training Major 5 Glosters in early January just in time to take part in Exercise "Barnacle Goose," an escape and evasion exercise, which also proved to be a sub zero "endurance test." A good initiation to the T.A. !

Captain W. A. Duguid arrived in U.K. at the end of March to take up the duties of Regimental Recruiting Officer until he relieves Captain R. A. F. Jarman as Adjutant 5 Glosters in August.



43RD DIVISION
The Golden Wyvern on Black

Since we last went to press we have faced yet another Annual Administrative Inspection and achieved a "good" report. Although our next inspection won't be for another seven months, we have already had several ancillary inspections including one on unit documentation conducted by W.O.1 Jackson, whom we were naturally delighted to see. Incidentally he saw fit to give us a very good report, and we didn't threaten him either !

Training, like recruiting, is of paramount importance in the T.A. these days and the tempo is kept at a pretty high pitch. The New Year was hardly under way when the Battalion took on the Special Air Service Regiment (T.A.), in an escape and evasion exercise. Details of this appear elsewhere, so suffice to say that apart from feeling extremely cold, the T.A. still wear battledress. The exercise was a success and the

majority said they enjoyed it. Apart from this we have run two weekend cadres for W.O.s and N.C.O.s and recruits at our local weekend training centre, taken part in a Brigade signals exercise on Imber, and attended various officers training weekends. Are training weekends popular? That remains to be seen. We look forward to camp at Penhale in early June and trust that the weather will be very much kinder than it was at camp last year.

In spite of bad weather and lack of ranges the Battalion shooting team have managed to get some practice and we look forward to a concerted effort by them at the Divisional Rifle Meeting. Our football team has had a very successful season under the guidance of Captain Macfarlane and C.Q.M.S. Loftus and succeeded in winning the Southern Command T.A. Football Cup, which was presented to the team by the new G.O.C. (Wessex) Division/District, Major-General J. R. Holden, C.B.E., D.S.O.

Our Back Badge Parade was held at Wotton-under-Edge this year and judged a success. The Parade formed up on The Chipping and marched to St. Mary the Virgin Church led by the Band and Drums. The Regimental Colour was carried by Lieutenant (now Captain) M. Fenton. Our Chaplain the Rev. P. C. W. Walker conducted the Service and our Honorary Colonel, Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, and Mr. R. Barber Taylor, Chairman of the Wotton Parish Council took the salute at a march past after the Service. Later the Parade and all guests returned to our " D " Company T.A. Centre at Dursley where they enjoyed a very good tea arranged by the Q.M.s and their staff. You can guess who did the washing up afterwards !

On the social side the Officers' Mess have given two cocktail parties, one in Bristol for our friends in the South and the other in Gloucester on Back Badge Day. The W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess have also held a very successful Back Badge Ball in spite of the builders who have recently been tearing the T.A. Centre apart in order to build an extension to the Officers' Mess.

On the subject of builders, we have recently heard that owing to the bad weather earlier this year the new T.A. Centre in Cheltenham is not likely to be completed before January 1964. This is a particularly unfortunate blow for " C " Company who were looking forward to an early move with the hopes of improving their recruiting. Let's hope that with a good summer a certain amount of lost time can be made up. The new T.A. Centre in Eastern Avenue, Gloucester (alas not for us !), is now progressing at a reasonable pace and those of us who live on the site and periodically can't get in or out in our cars for brick lorries and equipment will be glad to see it finished.

" A " (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

Major Hillerby relinquished command on 1st February due to his move to Taunton in connection with his civilian employment, and Major Chapman now commands the Company. Major Hillerby has served with " A " Company since 1947 and has commanded since 1957. On 15th March, at a Company Social, he was presented with an engraved tankard from officers and men of the Company, and Lieutenant-Colonel Clee also took the opportunity to present him with a tankard from the officers of the Battalion. Both tankards were promptly filled with foaming bitter, and emptied almost as rapidly by Major Hillerby. A bouquet was presented to Mrs. Hillerby who was also thanked for all the work she had done for the Company behind the scenes, and for her work in connection with the Children's Christmas Parties. This was obviously a sad occasion for



EXERCISE "BARNACLE GOOSE"

C.S.M. Keitley, "H.Q." Company, directing, Drum Major Stone and others assisting in the erection of the Command Post pent house



"H.Q." Company at 90 Weekend Training Centre, Monmouth

Left to right: Lieutenant (now Captain) Rice (I.O.), Staff-Sergeant Knowles (Sigs.), Captain Daines (Late R.S.O.), Corporal Hodges (Provos.)

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Corporal, now Sergeant Reade of "H.Q." Company affixing plastic Battalion name-tapes to Q.M.I.'s Land Rover



[*By courtesy "The Citizen"*

The Permanent Staff of the 5th Battalion saying "Farewell" to the Regimental Locomotive the day she was taken out of service

Left to right: W.O.2 Outterside, Sgt. Murphy, W.O.2 Masters, W.O.2 Cheater, Sgt. Dowler, Mr. Cook, Captain Jarman, R.S.M. Stephens

Mr. Cook served in the Regiment in World War One and subsequently was the main driver on this engine for many years

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Major and Mrs. Hillerby. We wish them happiness in their new surroundings, and hope to take advantage of their kind offer to " bivy " in their slaughterhouse some time during the summer.

We extend a hearty welcome to Captain R. H. Jones, the new 2IC, who has rejoined the Battalion from Brigade Headquarters. (There is no truth in the rumour that he gets a special rate of M.M.A. for his Rolls ! !)

The combined exercise with the S.A.S. in January (Exercise " Barnacle Goose ") was more a feat of endurance—shades of " Dragon Rampant." Deep snow on the ground and a heavy fall on Saturday night, combined with record low temperatures, produced near Arctic conditions which favoured the enemy patrols. It was hardly surprising that our " bag " was smaller than last year. Spirits remained high throughout the exercise, which reflects great credit on those who took part.

The Company strength has diminished during the past six months, but we hope we have stopped the rot and that we will be back to our normal strength by the next issue.

Congratulations to Corporal J. Murphy and Corporal R. Murphy who were recently promoted to sergeant.

" B " (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

The blanket of snow which lay over the West Country for nearly two months severely curtailed our evening training, but gave us a chance of training under Arctic conditions. Exercise " Barnacle Goose," an escape and evasion exercise against the S.A.S. in the Berkeley-Thornbury area, taught us a lot about moving in heavy snow and keeping warm. C.Q.M.S. Loftus in his new appointment certainly had his hands full in feeding " B " Company under these conditions. From Second-Lieutenant King, who landed chest deep in a ditch, to our latest joined recruit Private Seymour, who was so exhausted from patrolling in the snow that he was found sleep walking, in fact trying to open a non-existent door in a brick wall, we enjoyed ourselves.

We have varied our evening training with an indoor assault course and basketball. This has had the effect of attracting a number of recruits; we had a record of eight in February and some of them are among the eight men who have represented the Company in the successful Battalion football team.

Another recruiting gimmick is a model steamship built by our P.S.I., W.O.2 Masters, and named " The Slasher." It has already sailed at Portishead and Eastville Park and we hope it will attract maximum attention to the Regiment.

On the social side we have tried a new venture, an out of camp Company dinner. We hope to improve this next year and make it an annual event in addition to our socials and Children's Christmas Party. Among those who enjoyed it are our latest additions: Privates M. Williams, D. Williams, M. J. Seymour, C. E. Hall, C. G. Hall (ex-Sigs. Pl. 1st Bn., 1954-56), K. B. Usher, T. G. Rees, M. Head, R. Head, D. G. Payne, A. Jones, B. H. Hill, B. C. Burchill and Lance-Corporal L. N. Oakley.

" C " COMPANY (CHELTENHAM)

The new T.A. Centre in Alstone Lane, which we are to share with the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars is gradually taking shape, and we have been racking our brains as to how we can compete with their, perhaps, more glamorous appearance and military activities. We have reluctantly decided against primrose yellow trousers to wear with our No. 2

Dress, and even more reluctantly that perhaps the answer to the second point is that we should be somewhat healthy, out-of-doors and even slightly tough types (Major Scott Cooper, Captain Lee-Browne, Lieutenants Wendover, Jessop and Jacques excepted). We have therefore marched " up to the top of the hill " at Ullenwood Camp to inspect the underground C.D. command post; and " down again "; we have spent a weekend, needless to say in the pouring rain, on the Malverns with only the regulation one blanket per man; we marched up to the range at Seven Springs and back; and some of us took part in Exercise Icicl . . . sorry, " Barnacle Goose," in the vaguely chilly weather of early January.

The Company Commander and the 2IC attended Captain Boyce's wedding during the Saturday afternoon of that Exercise, and helped, no doubt, by the very excellent champagne, the 2IC managed to persuade the Company Commander that his family were already snowed up in the desolate plains of East Gloucestershire; whither he disappeared at great speed, muttering something about " . . . healthy, out of doors, tough . . . ," and like some Abominable Snowman was not seen for weeks and weeks.

We have presented Major Matthews with a brief case to serve as a reminder of his five years " hard " with the Company. Oddly enough, almost his last appearance with us was on Dartmoor . . . We welcome to the Company Lieutenant Wendover, Second-Lieutenants Jacques and Lintott, Colour-Sergeant Dixon and Privates Gleaves and Gillon, who have joined since we last appeared in print.

More recently we took part in the Brigade Signals exercise on the Plain. Quite by chance, mind you, quite by chance, we just happened to find a convenient hut, complete with Aga, separate kitchen, baggage store and sitting room with dining recess, in which we spent a very pleasant " semi-tactical " evening, while the remainder of the Battalion roughed it under the twinkling stars. The only thing to shatter the peace and quiet of the evening was the colossal explosion which rent the air when the Sergeant-Major and Sergeant Wilde tried to light the said Aga by dousing the sticks and coal well with petrol and following up with a lighted match, and beside which the famous detonation in the Officers Mess at Windmill Hill some years ago was a mere puff. Later on, in the misty, echo-y dawn we led the whole Brigade from muddy victory to muddy victory, sweeping the cringing Fantasians from their ancient earthworks, their tumuli, their demonstration stands and their long barrows, with all our accustomed skill. Actually, the only enemy resistance was provided purely theoretically by the umpire who accompanied us, and it was only our consciences which prevented us from pressing our accelerator pedals to the floor and charging across the Plain in our Land Rovers faster than the proverbial Carl Gustav leaving him protesting open mouthed behind us, and sweeping forward relentlessly to clear every defensive position from the wrong R.A.F. tower to Bowls Barrow (" Haven't we been here before sometime ? ") in 12 minutes flat.

" D " COMPANY (DURSLEY)

Since the last issue of the Journal, we have endured the severe blizzards of January and February, which must make our P.S.I. and his wife wish more than ever that they were in Cyprus. Still, we have managed to " tick " and meet with a fair measure of success most of our Battalion commitments. The recruits still arrive and we seem to maintain a steady trickle which only just keeps pace with our " run-outs."

Sergeant Cross attended a small arms course at Hythe in January and has, " under

pressure," put pen to paper to record this event. He reports " It was bitterly cold on the ranges, some of the students were wearing leather jackets, denims, battledress, shirts, pullovers, and under all this pyjamas. They were ready at all times for coal fatigues, parades, and of course blanket drill. The food and accommodation were top rate. The small-arms instructors were, as usual, perfect. Altogether we had about 40 periods of training, covering methods of instruction, fieldcraft, weapons and coaching. To sum up, a really worthwhile course, one which I would not hesitate to recommend to N.C.O.s who would like to brush up on their weapon training."

The Judo club is to restart again in April and it is hoped that it will be well supported. Corporals Neaves and Smith are prepared to give anyone interested all the help they need, and one must commend their keenness and initiative in this venture.

We can also boast that we have some men in the Battalion Soccer XI and although the 2IC of " B " Company may disagree we feel that no Battalion soccer team would be complete without some men from " D " Company. Corporal Rodman and Private Sweet continue to give a good account of themselves, with Sweet in particular scoring on nearly every occasion.

Camp at Penhale looms ahead and, if we are not pressed to do " too much " in the " short time " available then it will not only benefit the younger recruits from the training aspect but also provide some useful propaganda for recruiting when we return. Let us hope that the programme is balanced with the ingredients of " play hard and work hard."

It is perhaps unfortunate that we should have to conclude this contribution on a somewhat sombre note. This stems from the S.A.S. Escape and Evasion exercise we took part in in January in sub-zero temperatures, knee deep in snow. All the Company, including the Company Commander, but excluding the Battle Adjutant (a mythical Company 2IC) suffered from extreme cold and discomfort. Some even from capture, as Lieutenant Lloyd knows only too well from personal experience. " Captured, on my very first patrol. It wasn't until the next day, and the day after, and the day after that, that I realised I wasn't going to be allowed to forget it. It seemed so straightforward at the time. 'You will take a patrol to—route—move at 0300 hrs. be back by 0630 hrs.' Apart from the ice and snow bound roads, and 10° of frost, it was easy, just a stroll down the road. The S.A.S. were not expected to have reached this far south, and this is where I learnt my first lesson. A snowdrift stood up and wrenched my rifle from my arms, the rest of the patrol were soon embraced by a larger snowdrift that split up into several pieces. Dejected, we were marched away from our weapons that were left on the side of the road until we were told to go back and collect them. From then on, the slightest movement produced a full scale plan of attack—which nearly always turned the victim from an old cart horse into a potential Derby winner. Needless to say when I reported back—the older and more experienced members of the Company cracked their sides with laughter at my expense. I can only live in the hope that Corporal Athey will, one Monday evening—forget to recall the incident to the members of the Company—arrayed around the bar."

Sergeant " Snowdrift " Murphy and Corporals Boyland, Cornock, Athey, excelled under these adverse conditions, and the C.Q.M.S. was always able to provide the necessary from his mobile cookhouse which, like the Windmill—never seemed to close. We feel that if we could meet the S.A.S. more than once a year, and a football match has been suggested, it would do a power of good to both units.

" H.Q." COMPANY

The members of this company have had a stimulating and busy winter. Four nights a week one or more of the sub-units of " H.Q." Company undergo training in the T.A. Centre at Painswick Road, Gloucester. In early January we welcomed the arrival of the reformed Battalion Reconnaissance Platoon under the temporary command of Lieutenant Rice. It is of interest that our Permanent Staff Instructor, W.O.2 Cheater and C.S.M. Keitley now have under their wing the Band, Drums, Signals and Assault Pioneer Platoons, M.T. Section, as well as a combined Recce and Intelligence Platoon. Fortunately their shoulders are broad and they seem to thrive on the extra responsibility.

Turnover of individuals is naturally high but we are glad to report in consequence of a local recruiting campaign and by encouragement from volunteers within the Company that our numbers are steadily improving.

We welcome back Captain Boyce, subsequent to his marriage, on his re-appointment to Battalion Signals Officer and Captain Fenton as the Company 2IC. Our good wishes go to Captain Daines during his year of absence and to Second-Lieutenant Jacques on being commissioned and posting to " C " Company. There are too many other names to mention all our recruits but we are particularly pleased to welcome Private (late Colour-Sergeant) Broadman, ex-Green Howards, a ski-ing and outward-bound training expert, straight from the Regular Army, and ex-Corporal Ellam who served in " C " Company of the 1st Battalion between 1954-57.

The Company's activities in the major winter exercise " Barnacle Goose " are mentioned elsewhere in this Journal but the other weekend exercises have been well attended. Our particular thanks are due to Sergeant Godsell (A.C.C.) and his team of cooks who never let us down on these occasions.

Already from the forecast of events we shall have plenty to occupy all our spare time. Our aim is to bring our strength of active members up to establishment. We have much to offer and look forward to fine weather for our camp by the sea in June.

SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last letter was submitted for publication much has happened in the Sergeants' Mess, the most notable event, of course, being the " Back Badge Ball." This was arranged at a W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess Meeting, held at Cribbs Causeway, during a weekend training programme for W.O.s and Sergeants of the 5th Battalion. Surprisingly, to our Training Major's delight, much was learnt from this new venture, by tutor and student alike ! And many would like to attend more of such weekends, as one tends to get " rusty " on the " Methods of Instruction."

To get back to the " Back Badge Ball " which turned out to be a great success, many notable and distinguished guests assembled at B.H.Q. on Friday 29th March and we are sure all who attended had a wonderful evening. Thanks are mainly due to R.S.M. Stephens and his merry band of P.S.I.s, not forgetting the one and only " Tom Dix " who polished the floor to such an extent that one could almost see to shave in it (shades of the Provost Sergeant) !

Wilf Burnett and Titch Morton, as usual, found their way here again, together with their good ladies—both of these characters are known to many who are still serving with the Regiment.

We welcome the Murphy brothers to the Sergeants' Mess on their promotion and wish them the best of luck in their new home. Of course we shall initiate them at our annual camp, which this year is at Penhale. This area is well known to many of our members, having been there before on a very successful camp.

In conclusion we must thank the members who live in Bristol for their efforts in arranging transport, etc., and shepherding such a good crowd from Bristol for the Ball.

Good news about one of our ex-members. Staff-Sergeant Wilf Barrett, who was taken ill at camp last year, has since been discharged on medical grounds. He is back to his civilian employment. " Good going Wilf, keep it up, and all the best."

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

5TH BATTALION'S GREAT RUN IN THE T.A. CUP

After many lean years of 1st round failures the Battalion soccer team had a magnificent run in this year's T.A. cup competition, winning the Southern Command Challenge Cup —before being beaten in the Army quarter finals by 135 Survey Engineer Regiment, the Eastern Command champions for the past five years. Results were as follows:

1st round	Bye	
2nd round	*v.* Somerset L.I. (T.A.)	Won 7—3
3rd round	*v.* 571 Field Squadron R.E.(T.A.)	Won 7—1
4th round	*v.* 4/6 Royal Berks (T.A.)	Won 4—3
5th round	*v.* 135 Survey Engineering Regiment (T.A.)	Lost 3—1

The match against the Somersets was a lively struggle in the mud of Robinswood Barracks and our heavier defence proved too good for the opposition. Privates M. and R. Head both played a first-class game, sharing five of the goals scored. The Battalion became 129 Brigade champions as a result of this win.

After countless postponements due to snow and ice the team eventually defeated 571 Field Squadron from Plymouth convincingly by 7 goals to 1—this gave them a place in the Southern Command Final against the 4/6 Royal Berks. This match was played in driving rain at the R.M.C.S. Shrivenham and was undoubtedly the best win of the series. The Battalion team, with Private B. Usher the star, fought back magnificently from 3—1 down to finish as the eventual winners at 4 goals to 3. The winning goal was scored direct from a corner.

This win put the team in the last eight of the National Competition.

What was to prove the final round for this year was played at the Ewell and Epsom Football Club ground, Surrey, against the Eastern Command Champions—135 Survey Engineer Regiment. After a long and eventful journey the Battalion team fought gallantly, but were defeated by three goals to one. By no means dismayed, plans are already afoot to maintain interest through the close season and, using the experience gained this year, the team have high hopes of going even further next year.

Although it is perhaps wrong to single out individuals on such an occasion no one would grudge a word of special praise and thanks to Private " Bunker " Hill for his inspired captaincy of the team. Lance-Corporal Wintle of " H.Q." Company never had a bad game, and Privates M. Head, B. Usher, R. Jones, R. Mitchell and B. Burchill and Corporal H. Stacey all played their part; Corporal H. Marriott did sterling work behind the scenes and Colour-Sergeant Loftus was an irrepressible " trainer."

The team which played most of the games was: Cpl. Stacey (" B "), L/Cpl. Wintle (" H.Q."), Ptes. Burchill (" B "), M. Head (" B "), R. Head (" B "), Hill (" B ") (Capt.), Jones (" B "), Mitchell (" C "), Sweet (" D "), Wheeler (" B ").

The following also played: Cpl. Rodman (" D "), L/Cpl. Moulder (" D "), Ptes. Payne and Reynolds (" B ").

EXERCISE "BARNACLE GOOSE"

" The devil damn thee black, thou cream-faced loon !
Where gott'st thou that Goose look ? " — *Macbeth.*

Members of the 5th Battalion attending Exercise " Barnacle Goose " " gott'st that Goose look " in the Berkeley Vale during the third weekend in January. Historians in the years ahead may remember the early months of this year as being the coldest and most unpleasant winter the West Country has experienced for decades. They will not, however, recall that our Battalion with the assistance of other T.A. units carried out a three-day exercise against members of the T.A. Special Air Service and Parachute Regiments.

" Barnacle Goose " was designed as an escape and evasion exercise undertaken by volunteer members of the T.A. S.A.S. and Parachute Regiments. Their task was to travel across country approximately 20 miles from Berkeley down to the river near Aust avoiding capture by the Home team of the 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment assisted by the Reconnaissance platoon of the 1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers and elements of certain other local T.A. units. This they had to achieve unobserved within 48 hours.

For days prior to the start of the exercise speculation was rife and the betting considerable that the exercise would be cancelled. Bets were, however, lost as in the words of the exercise director " No weather could stop the S.A.S. from accomplishing their mission ! " The views of the defenders were unprintable but, strange as it may seem, the climatic conditions did not reduce the numbers of our unit attending. The 2IC was heard, however, to comment on seeing the mixed combination of British, American and Boy Scout uniforms, that the dress of the day was by Milletts !

As this exercise was a return match to a similar one held in 1962 in the Forest of Dean we knew we were contesting wily opponents. Thus, during the first 24 hours, we were not surprised that we neither saw nor captured many of the opposition. The problem, however, of combating sub-Arctic weather was uppermost in our minds. Due to snow-filled lanes and little moonlight, the rifle companies found patrolling extremely difficult. Local residents living adjacent to a stone quarry viewed from their windows the collection of Battalion Headquarter vehicles and strangely dressed characters on the Saturday morning with astonishment. They weren't the only ones.

By early evening of the Saturday, either the efficiency of our patrols or the combination of weather and fatigue, resulted in a steady stream of prisoners who failed to cross our stop lines.

But 24 hours of below-zero temperatures and a strong wind was beginning to take its effect. Rumours, fortunately false, of frostbite amongst the rifle companies started filtering back to Battalion Headquarters. Necessity, though, forced us to find preferably warm cover in which to thaw out before the second night arrived. Rifle companies found skittle alleys and builders yards in which to hibernate, whilst the Headquarters

miraculously found a brickworks from which to operate. The Romans certainly knew what they were about with under floor heating ! Seldom have the Quartermaster and the Medical Officer on his authority, been so popular as when a rum issue was distributed late that evening.

The exercise closed by mid-morning on the Sunday at the Cribbs Causeway Weekend Training Centre. The S.A.S. were justifiably declared the winners, which was as it should be. Their tasks were far harder than ours. As the score was now one all, we threw down a challenge which was promptly accepted that we should do a similar exercise in 1964.

Space precludes inclusion of the numerous amusing incidents but it is worth mentioning that the T.A. Infantryman of today, given a challenging problem to master, in spite of inadequate clothing, vehicles and radio sets, can and does rise to the occasion. The proof ? Nearly a dozen recruits joined the Battalion on the strength of tales heard in the " locals " in the subsequent weeks !

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

Changes in Command. The County enters the new training year with a new Commandant. After five years as Commandant, Colonel R. H. E. Hudson, T.D., hands over the reins to Colonel F. J. Harrison, O.B.E., T.D., recently Deputy County Cadet Commandant and formerly O.C. 5th Glosters (T.A.).



THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE A.C.F.

Yellow Sphinx on Blue Shield within Red Frame

We wish Colonel Hudson a happy retirement and Colonel Harrison our very best wishes.

The 1st Regiment at Cheltenham will also have a new Commanding Officer, Major E. M. Ling moves to County H.Q. and Major A. Enoch formerly 2IC of the Regiment takes over.

The 3/5th Regiment at Stroud loses Major R. P. Scott who after ten years with the Cadets feels it time to hand over his charge to Major S. H. Sobey formerly the Detachment Commander at Alstone Lane, Cheltenham.

Colonel Hudson and Major Scott were dined out at a grand farewell dinner held at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Gloucester, in March, at which Colonel T. F. Hood the Chairman, Gloucestershire T. and A.F. Association, Colonel Sir Denys T. Hicks the Chairman, Gloucestershire County Cadet Committee, Lieutenant-Colonel E. G. B. Moss the Secretary, Gloucestershire T. and A.F. Association, Brigadier L. W. H. Mathias formerly Officer Commanding 3/5th Cadet Regiment and Major W. Golder formerly Commanding 2/4th Cadet Regiment were our guests.

Training. In the year commenced 1st August, 1962, 36 Cadets have so far obtained Certificate " A " Part I, and 24 Cadets obtained Part II. Following camp and the influx of 238 recruits, initial training and Certificate " A " Parts I and II training were carried out in detachment locations, together with Regimental weekend training. The exceptional bad weather of January and February adversely affected the continuity in training.

Camp 1963. The County will be at annual camp in Penhale, Cornwall, from 28th July to 10th August.

It is anticipated that the strength attending will be 450 all ranks. As in previous years assistance from Territorial Army Volunteers will be most welcome. Catering arrangements will be undertaken by Gloucestershire Civil Defence (Welfare) Organisation.

Physical and Recreational Training. (a) The National Boxing Finals of the Army Cadet Force were held at Horfield T.A. Centre on 23rd February and were a most successful event. Our two leading boxers were defeated at the National Semi-Finals at Reading and so, unfortunately, Gloucestershire A.C.F. was not represented in the Finals, the first time for many years.

(b) The County soccer team contested the Command Soccer Championships but was defeated by Devon A.C.F. in the District Final.

(c) A team of seven represented Gloucestershire A.C.F. in the Command Cross Country Championships on 9th March and finished eighth.

(d) The Stroud Detachment represented the County .22 Rifle Team in the *News of the World* Competition but came up against stiff opposition from School detachments and was unplaced. We expect them to do better next year.

General. The strength of the County (699 all ranks) has remained constant over the past six months and the decrease of 29 Cadets is thought to be due to the recent very severe weather and difficulties of parading.

The need for more adults continues and the detachments at Tewkesbury and Eastington, once flourishing, are urgently in need of officers and S.M.I.s, preferably with some military experience.

We have been fortunate in recruiting some officers from existing S.M.I.s, three of whom recently attended an Officers' Selection Board and have been commissioned.

Selected ex-cadets have been appointed Sergeant Instructors on attaining adult age.

Visits. Two parties from Gloucestershire A.C.F. each consisting one officer, one S.M.I. and 40 Cadets visited the R.A. Junior Leaders' Regiment, Nuneaton, in October 1962, and March 1963, at the invitation of that unit. The parties stayed for two days on each occasion and were well received.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

BESIDES the Gloucestershire Regiment the Royal Canadian Regiment now has an alliance with the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment). This alliance strengthens the earlier close bond between the British Regiment and the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the R.C.R. (formerly the Canadian Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) and later the London and Oxford Fusiliers).

London, Ontario, is the Headquarters of the R.C.R. and in 1953 that City granted to



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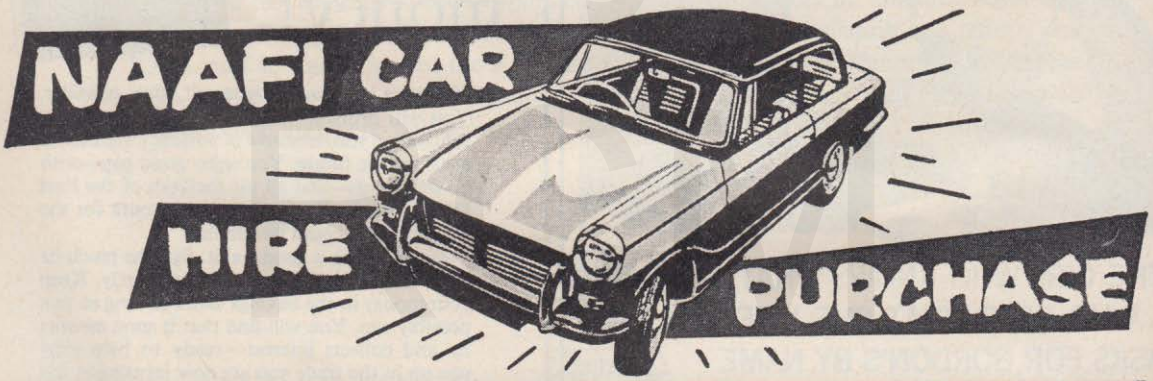

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the Regiment the time honoured and symbolic privilege of marching through the City with bayonets fixed, drums beating and Colours flying.

* * *

The stirring " R.C.R. March," well known to the Gloucesters, was composed by Corporal Offen of the R.C.R. Drum and Flute Band about 1905-07, and was officially adopted as the quick march of the Regiment in 1910.

* * *

A branch of the Royal Canadian Regiment Old Comrades Association has recently been formed in the U.K. largely through the efforts of ex-.R.S.M. O. S. Lewis, M.S.M., who has been elected secretary to the new branch and who hopes that all ex-Glosters will consider themselves ex-officio members with a view to establishing closer regimental contacts. His address is 63 Petts Hill, Northolt, Middlesex.



THE ROYAL WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has approved of the alliance between the Gloucestershire Regiment and The Royal Western Australian Regiment. Details have not yet been received, but when in 1960 our old friends " The Swan Regiment " (the 28th Australian Battalion) ceased to exist on the reorganisation of the Australian Army, it was hoped that a company of the new regiment would be known as the " Swan Company " in order to preserve a name of some significance in Western Australia.

The badge above is, of course, that of the old Swan Regiment (the black swan of Western Australia).

The Royal Sussex Regiment are also allied to the R.W.A.R. They were originally allied with the 11th/14th Australian Infantry Battalion, the City of Perth Regiment, which has also been absorbed into the new regiment.

GREECE AND BACK

By NAVIGATOR

" I'M looking for someone to come sailing in the Greek Islands with me," was how it started. This remark by the Commanding Officer caused me to " volunteer " and I was in. As a direct result of this, some months later, I sat outside a quayside cafe in Volos, a Greek port, sipping Turkish coffee and watching the L.S.T. *Empire Gull* come alongside. On the deck was to be seen the Army Yacht *Natanis* looking ridiculously small, and the remainder of the crew. Within four hours of docking we had *Natanis* in the water, the mast stepped (thanks to the fortunate proximity of a Parachute Brigade crane) and everything was ready. Next afternoon we left to sail for Cyprus.

The Commanding Officer was the Skipper, and the only one of us who knew anything about sailing, together with the bo'sun, Sapper " Curly " O'Hara of 33 Field Squadron

R.E. The crew was split into two watches, port watch being Captain Kevin Eltringham, our old dentist from Polemedhia, Lance-Corporal John Lambie, the Signal Platoon, and the bo'sun. The starboard watch consisted of Lieutenant Robin Grist, second mate, Corporal Keith Foley, an ex-Gloster now transferred to the Pay Corps, Private Rod Tanguay, " A " Company, and lastly, Private Mick Hart from the M.I. room who for at least part of the journey anyway, was cook.

We aimed to visit as many of the Greek Islands as possible, see a bit of Turkey, and be back in Famagusta by Guy Fawkes Day, spending as many nights as possible in harbour, and to sail during the day.

To go through the trip stage by stage would only serve to bore the reader and cause drastic cutting by the Editor, so here I can only give those memories that stand out.

The occasion when the dentist left his toothbrush behind.

Sailing into Skiathos on the second night, with the second mate swinging the lead and calling out the soundings, " 7, 7, 6, 6, 2, 1 . . ." The roar of the engines into reverse and the tense moments waiting for the grate on the bottom which luckily never came.

The black shape that rose beside us in the waves when sailing fast at night towards North Skiros, and we found a porpoise who kept us company for the next half hour.

Having lunch in a tiny fishing village where the village priest was the postman, and when one ordered fish they rushed onto a nearby boat in order to cook two more of the catch.

Trying unsuccessfully to find the grave of Rupert Brook.

A terrifying drive from Kimi to the harbour in pouring rain in a taxi with no brakes and no windscreen wipers, the real driver having refused to risk it. Our driver managed to get us back to the yacht, very nearly car and all, and then he tried to over-charge us.

The night the port watch tried to return to the yacht after drinking Greek cognac paddling Indian style in the bath tub dinghy. They turned over after only 20 yards and lost everything, including the mate's wallet, which was, incidentally, eventually found and returned to him three months later complete with all its money.

The three officers trying to get a shower in a hotel and eventually having a cold one in a small partitioned part of the kitchen, with all the women of the house shrieking with laughter.

The walk to a Phoenician archaeological site " only three miles away " through drenching rain and over what we subsequently discovered to be the highest mountain on the island.

Sailing from Mykonos with the wind at gale force, a big sea and seven and a half rolls in the main sail.

Dawn the next morning when the gale had died down in the night and a new breeze had sprung up and the *Natanis* was doing six and threequarter miles an hour, for her, a record.

A thunderstorm in the night as we approached Rhodes with the lightning getting closer and the sudden squall that came, making one realise how small and insignificant we were in the face of the elements.

" Ochi " day in Rhodes, the Greek National Day and the endless march-past of school children, troops, the U.S. coastguards, and finally the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and some British sailors of the Royal Navy, who completely stole the show, and the applause of a large crowd.

The whole crew mounted on motor cycles to ride the 30 miles to see the ruins of Lindos where some of the film, " The Guns of Navaronne " was filmed.

The incredulous joy of the cook when, after many hours of quiet confidence and no success with a fishing line, he pulled aboard a small tunny fish which was cooked and eaten within 30 seconds.

Sighting Cyprus exactly on the bow after eight hours sailing out of sight of land, and being very nearly run down by a cargo ship while entering Famagusta Harbour at night.

Altogether a wonderful trip, not without its hazards, humour and drama, all of which resulted in a desire by all who sailed in the *Natanis*, to try it again whenever the opportunity occurs.

R. D. G.

THE TRIP THAT DIDN'T . . . .

IT started as a joke, " For wine inspires us," late one Saturday night during a canoeing weekend near Kyrenia. Next morning enthusiasm had replaced laughter and was not damped by rough seas and a dangerous capsize that day. During the next week plans were made and official permission sought for a party from the Canoeing Club to paddle home for Christmas. The idea was conceived in June but it was not until August that approval for the expedition was granted and planning and preparation could go forward in earnest. Many of the problems could be solved on the basis of military experience but not those of who? how? and where?

More than six canoes would form an unwieldy armada at sea so it was decided to restrict the party to 12 people only, in fact 11 members of the Battalion in five canoes took part. The choice of route was limited but it was planned to paddle up the west coast of Italy from Messina in Sicily to France and then go by canal to the Channel and England and Bristol. In August the Canoeing Club had two folding canoes and three rigid canoes; it was decided to take the two folding canoes on the expedition, to purchase two more and to make a fifth canoe, rigid but with a rubber hull, in the club. In the event three more canoes were bought as one of the club canoes was badly damaged during training for the expedition.

By 28th October the expedition with all members, five canoes and all equipment, had reached Malta. Eleven people altogether, Corporal Williams sharing a canoe with Lance-Corporal Teed and Private Maclean, this canoe had been built by Lance-Corporal Teed; Bandsman Wood and Private Green with a canoe which Wood had bought and hopes to use in Cyprus and Germany later; Lance-Corporal Watkinson and Private Mackenzie in the old Canoeing Club canoe; Private Gardner and Craftsman Jenkinson in a canoe which they had jointly bought especially for the expedition; and Private Wadham and Captain Bewell, who was the leader of the expedition. The expedition was delayed for nearly a week because of bad weather, this was an omen of worse to come, but were well looked after by 1st Battalion Royal Highland Fusiliers who were very helpful but wondered at such foolhardiness. Some training was possible and was enlivened one day by the capsize of Captain Bewell and Private Wadham when sailing fast but rescuing them was good practice. Valetta became quite familiar mainly by night but also by paddling round the harbour by day.

On 3rd November the expedition left Malta in R.A.S.C.V. *Scrooge* for Messina. It was an easy trip memorable for a wonderful stormy sunset with the sky a constantly changing patchwork of colour with all the shades of pink, red, purple and black blazing and dying over the mauve sky. At dawn on 4th November Sicily was close on the port beam with Mount Etna looming through the mist and Messina was reached a few hours later. The canoes were quickly unloaded, assembled and filled to the gunnels with all the stores, and shortly after noon the expedition paddled out of Messina Harbour.

The sea was calm, the sky clear and the sun was shining, beautiful conditions, but, on this and subsequent occasions, of short duration and the sequel never varied. Within 30 minutes there was a short choppy sea, quite uncomfortable, within 60 minutes the sea was rough, the wind strong, and the canoes were forced to run for the safety of the shore. Within 90 minutes everybody was glad to be standing on the beach watching heavy surf and breakers driving onto the beach and the wind lashing the sea into a fury of whitecaps. After the calm and peaceful seas around Cyprus this was the first experience of the rage and fury of the sea and of the speed with which storms could appear, it was quite frightening. But it did show how safe the canoes were; two of them although completely waterlogged were paddled safely to the shore. Everyone was soaked and so were the tents and some food had been lost when one canoe was rolled over and over in the surf as it came onto the beach, but the canoes were undamaged although the frames of two of them were badly strained. The expedition was to become quite used to stormy seas and to being beaten onto beaches in the next fortnight. The expedition became the centre of attraction in Paradiso and for the next two days there were always men or boys in the camp on the beach staring at the mad Englishmen and their fragile boats.

Two days later the seas calmed and the expedition set off to cross the Straits of Messina but luck was not with it. Charybdis was left behind and then Scylla when the three-man canoe began to fill with sea; Lance-Corporal Teed pumped furiously but to no avail and half-a-mile from the Italian shore the canoe foundered. Fortunately a fishing boat was nearby and towed the canoe and the crew to the beach near Favazzina. The canoe was too badly damaged to be repaired and was abandoned where it lay. The following day Corporal Williams and Privates Mackenzie and Maclean left to make their way home on foot and there were only four canoes left to continue the voyage.

A day later Private Gardner sighted a swordfish and the four canoes raced away from it, the crews fearing for the rubber hulls of their canoes. The next day the four canoes rounded Cape Vaticano and exciting it was when in the midst of foaming waters and sharp rocks the rudder on Private Wadham's canoe broke. Cape Vaticano is over 300 feet high, rocky, steep and rugged, and is typical of this precipitous, bare and stony coast where successive ridges of mountains come right to the sea and extend as far as the eye can see. To the west the sea stretched to the horizon broken only by the island of Stromboli above which there was always a small cloud, looking just like a puff of smoke atop the volcano.

12th November was both the best and the worst day of the expedition. The Gulf of Sant'Eufemia was crossed in near perfect conditions, the canoes passed Cape Suvero and then the village of San Giovanni near which the 61st fought the Battle of Maida in 1806. Then a landing was attempted but at every beach there was heavy surf, sometimes extending a quarter mile out to sea, which was too big and too dangerous to paddle through, so the expedition paddled on into the night. Towards 10 p.m. Scogli Isca was

reached, a pair of prominent rocks near Amantea, with the sea becoming rougher a landing had to be forced. Lance-Corporals Teed and Watkinson went first, as their canoe touched the beach the surf caught it, spun it round and rolled it half-a-dozen times in the surf before they could drag their waterlogged selves and canoe onto the beach. Private Gardner and Craftsman Jenkinson were next and they raced towards the shore and going flat out on the crest of a wave were carried 10 yards up the beach, safe and dry. Bandsman Wood and Private Green were less lucky, as the stern of their canoe touched the beach an enormous breaker rose out of the darkness, lifted the bow of the canoe and then with the canoe vertical, standing on its stern, pushed it over on top of them. The four men already on shore rescued the crew and the canoe; Wood came round to find that he had lost his teeth and that the canoe was badly damaged. Private Wadham and Captain Bewell with their canoe already completely waterlogged made a slow, almost submarine, approach and landed safely. Despite the near disaster everyone was cheerful, a fire was built and an attempt made to dry some of the kit, then well warmed by a bottle of somebody's Christmas present they all squeezed into the one dry tent.

The next day Lance-Corporal Teed and Private Green took the badly damaged canoe to Naples to repair it, there were no facilities in Amantea, minor damage to the other canoes was made good and the remainder of the party went into Amantea to buy food as the last of the tinned food had been lost the previous night. Olive oil had been used since Tropea for cooking and the local red wine was well liked, now it was intended to try macaroni and spaghetti. This was unsuccessful as no one ever learnt the knack of cooking it and hunger forced a return to a more normal diet.

14th November was the last day the expedition spent at sea. Only three canoes remained to set off from Scogli Isca in the morning and they reached Paola Marina by 4 p.m. It was intended to spend only the night there but the evening check of the canoes revealed that battling through the rough seas and surf yet again had strained the canoes beyond breaking point. Stringers and trimmers in all three canoes were cracked and broken; the repairs took three days, most of them being done in a workshop in the town. In Paola as in every place visited the Italians went out of their way to help; very few of them spoke English but with the few words of Italian which were quickly learnt, with Captain Bewell's stuttering French and a torrent of German from Bandsman Wood and with signs and gestures there was never any trouble whilst shopping and long and confused, lively conversations were quite common.

No sooner had the repairs been completed and the canoes readied for an early start the next morning than a telegram was received ordering the expedition to desist from paddling and to go by train to Naples. Naples was reached the next day and after spending a week there mainly packing all equipment so that it could be returned to Cyprus, the weather was appalling, the top of Vesuvius was visible only once and it was then covered with snow, everyone left Naples, travelling home by road, rail or on foot. Lance-Corporal Teed walked over the Alps through the snow and then hitch-hiked through France; Private Wadham went to Rome, Florence, Pisa and Paris; Lance-Corporal Watkinson and Private Green to Marseilles and Paris; and Bandsman Wood with Private Gardner, and also Craftsman Jenkinson on his own, slowly through the North of Italy and France to Calais; everyone was in England by 12th December.

R. J. B.

KUWAIT

BREAKFAST is for many what might almost be described as a sacred part of the day when peace and quiet reign, broken only occasionally by the ripple of a newspaper, the appearance of one's regular egg and in a Mess the 'good mornings' of the other members; in my case this is certainly true. Thus when on the last working day before Christmas I was summoned to the telephone to speak to R.A.F. Nicosia and a voice said, " Sir, do you still want to play your battalion fixture against Kuwait in Kuwait," I could only weakly reply, " Well, this is the first I've heard about it, I think that I had better ring you back in half-an-hour." I returned to the, by now, cold scrambled egg firmly convinced that it was going to be a bad morning.

Thus it began and the result was that on the 16th of January, 13 members of the Battalion boarded a Viscount at Nicosia bound for Kuwait and one of those gigantic and unbelievable " swans " that occur every now and then. A few words of explanation are I think necessary. The Kuwait Oil Company about two years ago offered to the services a series of fixtures both in Kuwait and in Cyprus of practically every conceivable game, mainly as a means of providing a break for their own employees. R.A.F. Nicosia eventually accepted these fixtures and they began every month. When we arrived in Cyprus a few of these fixtures were very kindly offered to us and in particular this game of football.

With us on the plane which belonged to the Oil Company was a Hockey team from R.A.F. Akrotiri and the Near East Air Force Women's Hockey team. We refuelled at Damascus at about three in the morning and finally alighted at Kuwait just as dawn was breaking.

Having had all our baggage completely searched by the customs we emerged to be met by our hosts for the next 36 hours and were quickly carried off to breakfast. We were all split up into ones and twos and then each group went off to some private house in which they were to stay. As soon as we were clean most set off to look at the town of Kuwait itself, the rest began to drink beer at a fairly steady rate. One's immediate impression was one of wealth. The Cadillacs and other big American cars were to be seen in hundreds, the roads were big, straight well tarmacked highways and would have been the envy of most County Councils in England. Down the centre of these roads were planted trees in the sand and water trucks were to be seen continually watering them. To the right and left of the roads flames in the distance showed where waste gases were being burnt. In the midst of all this were pitched the tents of the Bedouins amongst their flocks hardly changed from biblical days. The capital itself was once again modern and American at least on the surface although it did not take long to find the customary squalor of a normal Arab town. Personally I had great luck in seeing the Sheik himself come out of his Palace, enter his car and drive away. Many of K.O.C. had not seen him.

We returned to the Oil Company town of Ahmadi where we all gathered at the football club to drink beer. In fact by the time we went off to lunch I was rather concerned about the capability of some of the team to even run on to the field. This was further emphasised when we discovered that those who were actually playing against us hadn't been entertaining us at all, just other members of the club.

We took the field at three and with quite a crowd watching the game began. The Battalion started terribly and the effects of the hospitality were definitely felt. It wasn't

long before the Oil Company got their first goal. They were an excellent side very much older than us but with tremendous experience. Another goal came shortly before half time so that we started the second half two goals down. Within two minutes of the second half it was three and it began to look as though we might be overrun. However, it soon became clear that the Battalion was at last settling down and youth might be beginning to count. However, we had to wait some time still for a goal but eventually it came. The score remained 1—3 until the final five minutes when quite suddenly the game caught fire and the Battalion played football like it never has before or since. The crowd was in an uproar as the three required goals were scored by a complete team effort. We left the field only the second visiting team ever to beat them feeling very pleased indeed.

The tremendous hospitality continued all evening and most of the night. The atmosphere was one of complete informality and friendliness which was very much appreciated by all.

The next morning we set off to the see the Oil Company itself. We heard the fantastic figures of oil produced daily, we saw tankers bound principally for England being loaded at the enormous jetty, we stared in bewilderment at the mass of equipment in the refinery itself but we came away with at least some idea of what went on and of the enormous importance of this tiny state.

We left very regretfully at teatime having had a truly wonderful time and hoping that soon the opportunity will come when we can repay some at least of the hospitality.

The party consisted of Lt. Grist, C.S.M.I. Hart, Cpl. Gardner, L/Cpls. Denford, Ford, Phillips, Jellings, Ptes. Pickard, Stock, Shephard, Featherstone, Rae, Radnedge.

R. D. G.

FOCUS ON JORDAN

An Account of 10 *days spent with the Jordan Arab Army—February*, 1963

By Lieutenant G. A. Tantum

ACCORDING to the *Daily Telegraph*, Jordan is an " adventure waiting to be taken up by all who like their travel spiced with the strange and the colourful." To a certain extent this is true; colourful it certainly is, but its strangeness very much depends on one's own interpretation, for it is fatal to visit Jordan with preconceived ideas. For instance, I read, and was fascinated by Lawrence's " Seven Pillars of Wisdom " before going, and was therefore prejudiced, expecting a land of Bedouin, fierce tribalism, sparse wells, and endless desert. This, of course, is very un-twentieth century and certainly not 1963.

The Jordan Arab Army is organised on entirely British lines (it was only four years ago that the last British unit commander left) and has four brigades. I stayed, by the system of exchange-au-pair, with 66 Brigade at Az-zerka, 25 miles north of the capital city, Amman, with one Captain Adel who was the host throughout my stay, and our guest on return to Cyprus. Since the Army is run on such similar lines, there is very little to be remarked upon, yet one could not fail to be impressed by the eagerness and efficiency of all by comparison with other Middle Eastern countries. The soldiers are of a particularly

high standard. Evidently, these days, one is accepted out of every 100 volunteers. The illiteracy rate is very small—some even have the General Certificate of Education—and one feels that with better direction they could be a formidable force. The other main limitation, fortunately one that is completely alien to our own Army, is the power of politics in the military hierarchy. There is no doubt that under King Hussein this is less nowadays, but a strong undercurrent does still exist, and on promotion to field rank an officer is in very real danger of being put in prison, seemingly on the principle that majority is plotting rank. The engineers officers (intelligentsia?) have suffered most; there is at present a duplicate set under lock and key! Coupled with this are the many advantages of an Army career. A soldier ranks with the police in power and authority and enjoys many privileges not accorded to the civilian in a rigidly-ruled state.

Militarily the Jordan Arab Army has some enormous advantages. They need only to cross the camp perimeter to be in a vast training area, in many of which there is no restriction on the firing of live ammunition—of particular advantage to gunners. They have also been fighting a sort of " running battle " with Israel for several years, which gives a great sense of urgency to all training. One brigade is on permanent duty along the Israel-Jordan frontier and the remainder are frequently called at short notice to move to any border trouble spots (e.g. Iraq in February, 1963). The frequency of these stand-bys can be judged if one bears in mind the fact that Middle Eastern countries have, on average, one revolution/uprising/coup per year. Further, their greatest potential enemy, Israel, is Jewish, which gives the added spur of religion to their natural dislike on territorial/racial grounds. It is odd that Jordan does not officially acknowledge the existence of Israel; although it may be clearly seen on any map, it is rare to hear the name mentioned.

The Jordanians were all extremely hospitable to me during my stay, despite the fact that it coincided with " Ramadan " which was rather an embarrassment since it caused a direct clash between their natural hospitality and religious principles. During the month of Ramadan no food or drink may pass their lips between sunrise and sunset. Not being a Moslem I was not expected to observe it, but suffered from it indirectly nevertheless, for politeness demands that one eats the vast quantities of food that, not unnaturally in a bleak country is the highest form of hospitality. Thus I was fed enormous, lonely meals at lunchtime under their benevolent eyes, and then, as guest, served even more enormous quantities of food at the break of fast at sunset. There is a limit to the attraction of even the most exotic foods (sheep's eyes, suckling camel, calf and rice) and after a few days I felt, and probably looked, like a stomach on legs.

The desert has an unquestionable beauty; Lawrence said it had the " sweetest scent of all " and was " intangible, clean, and a place where one could come near to God." In the south, towards Ma'an and Akaba, this is still true: it is far more desert-like desert, with an atmosphere far less contaminated by European influence (no such incongruity as a suit of Savile Row cut topped by the traditional Arab " shmergh " headdress), and Bedouin settlements are far more numerous. It is a beautiful drive south from Amman to Akaba along an excellent highway which replaced the desert track about three years ago. The road stretches on through the desert alongside the Hadj railway which Lawrence spent so much time blowing up, and past the ancient " rose red " city of Petra.

Petra is unique. It consists of an open plain, some two miles square set in a mountain range which affords such natural defences that only the most skilled mountaineers

could enter by any route other than the Siq, a very narrow cleft in the rocks through which a motor-car might just pass. It was in an attempt to attack a small Arab stronghold here that a foolhardy Turkish battalion was wiped out in the First World War. The dwellings in the city are caves in the rock face with grand facades carved as entrances. Even now some of the caves, set high in the rock are unexplored and those that have been entered recently have yielded remains of the earliest civilisations. At certain times of day the sun combines with the natural hue of the rock to give it a reddish tint, hence the name, and such is the magical effect of the place that one falls quiet, afraid and ashamed to flaunt one's smallness in the presence of such stupendous rock. The Jordan Department of Antiquities are at present fighting a move to build a road through the Siq which will allow coaches and cars into the city, which, they say, will ruin the peaceful, secretive atmosphere of it. I hope they win.

So on past Petra to Akaba, the only Jordanian port on the Red Sea. It is surprisingly small, yet very beautiful and is now being exploited commercially as a tourist centre which is understandable but a great shame. At the beginning of April a sparkling white hotel built in the Caribbean style was opened right on the edge of the sea and there will shortly be little left of the old town.

Jordan is extraordinarily rich in archaeological sites. They are far too numerous to mention but Jerash in the north is perhaps the most interesting since it is one of the few places on which any work has been done. Even so, it is still largely unexcavated, and what is, is poorly restored. But the work, by sappers of the Jordan Arab Army, has only recently begun so that it may well rank within a year or so as a perfect example of a Roman colonial city.

In the north too are Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Most people's attitude to these is tainted by early religious teaching, so that the result of a visit can be horribly disillusioning. Jerusalem itself is very interesting. It is a walled city where everyone seems to know everyone else, but its religious interest is lost in a mass of commercialism and irreverence, and it is impossible not to be cynical when a guide states categorically that " this is the place where Christ was born," etc.

But Jordan's future economy will depend on tourism and to this end the face of the country is changing. Whereas previously the tourist would have had to be either rugged or dedicated, in the future he may be luxuriously idle and sophisticated in his holiday-making. The potential is enormous, but it would be wrong to think such progress *ipso facto* good: it is a land of contrasts, an archaeological gold mine, but there must be many who will mourn the passing of the dignity of a country in whose very soul was wrought the harshness of the desert.

"RANGER"

By Lieutenant D. A. Godfrey

THE United States Army Rangers were revived at the beginning of World War II and their original units were trained by British Army Commandos in Scotland, Ireland and North Africa. From these beginnings they formed five battalions which fought with great distinction in North Africa, Italy, France and the South Pacific. After World War II they were disbanded but at the outset of the Korean conflict two Ranger battalions were formed and the Ranger School at Fort Benning was set up

whose objective was to train a sufficient number of officers and N.C.O.s so that each company in the " teeth " arms, had one officer and one N.C.O. " Ranger " qualified. This process is still going on with eight or nine courses per year each of approximately 115 personnel.

The course itself lasts nine weeks and is divided into three (three week) phases. The first, a combat conditioning phase at Fort Benning in central Georgia. The second, a mountain warfare phase in northern Georgia and the third, a swamp, jungle, small-boat-operations warfare phase in northern Florida.

Lieutenant David Christie, the Cameronians, and I arrived at Fort Benning to join Ranger Class 4 after a journey from England which was a veritable saga, far too long to tell here, but which included such highlights as a meeting with a blonde at London Airport on her way to Chicago to collect her fourth husband and then on to Mexico to divorce her third; " Someone told me divorces are easier in Mexico, darling," and the remark of the waitress in the Washington hotel on being told that David came from Scotland, " Gee! you speak real good English. Better than my boss, and he's Greek! " and numerous other incidents which unfortunately I have neither the time nor the literary ability to relate here.

Ranger 4, an all officer class made up of graduates from West Point and honour military graduates from colleges throughout the states, assembled for briefing, documentation and—disaster—haircuts on Friday, 12th October. We were organised into squads and platoons, assigned to barrack rooms, 22 in each, shed our rank and became Ranger. . . .

Since the Benning phase is designed to prepare the students for the mountains and the swamps for which one has to be in good physical condition, great emphasis is placed on P.T., runs, marches, and hand-to-hand fighting in order to build up stamina. The average working day starts at 0430 hours with an hour of P.T. followed by a short 1½-mile run and ended at 1930 hours approximately having covered such subjects as map reading, aerial photograph reading, patrol techniques and principles, demolitions and possibly a little bayonet fighting thrown in for good measure. The standards required to pass the map reading course are very high. The final test is run at night in a particularly wild part of the training area when one is required to navigate one's way with only a compass from one white stake set in the heart of a swamp to a second stake also set in an inaccessible point. In a box on top of the second stake is a sheet of paper giving you a bearing and a distance to a third stake and so one progressed until one had completed eight legs. Each leg was approximately 2,500 yards long and together with one's " buddy " one attempted to complete the course in seven hours.

The most interesting part of the Benning phase was the demolition classes in which one is shown various types of charges and how best to use them, including a complete day on how to construct charges using anything one can find such as tin cans, flower pots, cigarette packets, watch glasses, string and plastic bags. This class is particularly appropriate for Ranger training since most Ranger operations are conducted far behind enemy lines where no conventional supplies are readily available.

The finale to the Benning phase is eight days in the field putting into practice the patrolling principles and techniques one has learnt in the classroom in the first two weeks. After eight days of patrolling of all sorts, ambush, recce, combat etc. one marches 17 miles to a lake where one has the final confidence test a " slide for life " from a 70

foot tower down a cable hanging from a pulley block, into the lake below. This ends the Benning phase and the next day is spent preparing to move to the mountain camp.

At the mountain camp one starts the patrolling seriously with patrols up to three days in length over very rough terrain. The hills themselves were not particularly high but they were covered in very dense undergrowth consisting of mountain laurel and ivy, bound together by fallen trees and deadwood. In some places the undergrowth was thick enough to slow one's rate of progress to 100 yards per hour. During patrols the commanders were frequently changed by the instructor and one was liable to be called upon at any moment to take over and by the same token of course one was liable to be killed at any moment in order to make way for someone else. Although the patrolling was interesting, the most enjoyable part of the mountain phase was the instruction in abseiling, climbing and use of ropes in the construction of rope bridges, fixed ropes, suspension traverses, etc. We had our initial instruction in the immediate area of the camp on a 30-foot log wall and a 60-foot cliff, where we practised various types of abseiling, cliff evacuation on stretchers and most hair-raising of all a " buddy rappel " over the 60-foot cliff. This consists of tying one man to another's back and then the carrier backs away over the edge of the cliff and abseils down. For the man being carried this is particularly unpleasant because there is absolutely nothing he can do should his " buddy " fail. Having been sufficiently " oriented " (a favourite American word) in this subject we then spent two very pleasant days on Yonah Mountain on a 250-foot cliff abseiling, putting in fixed ropes, party climbing and generally enjoying ourselves.

The Florida Ranger Camp is at Eglin Air Force base, a huge reservation covering some 160,000 acres of swamp, coastline and dense undergrowth. During the three week phase one does eight patrols the longest of which is three days. Before we started the patrolling however, we spent one day in the Gulf of Mexico learning how to capsize, right, land from, get into, launch from a landing craft, get onto a landing craft and generally control the seven-man rubber patrol boats which we used extensively in this area on a positive maze of inland waterways. We found that they are a very effective means of infiltrating a small force through enemy lines, providing your navigator is good. We were lucky that the weather remained dry during our training here for nowhere did we get into a swamp over waist deep. The patrols themselves were the usual sort, reconnaissance, combat and ambush, but here they had an additional factor—lots of live enemy which we hadn't had in the mountains due to the Cuban crisis. This, of course, made everything far more realistic although it was somewhat disheartening to find that no matter how carefully one planned the enemy always seemed to know where one was—we began to suspect that we had a traitor in our midst but the instructors assured us that each man was loyal and trustworthy!

Our last patrol in Florida was a co-ordinated attack by five patrols on five different objectives on an island in the Gulf of Mexico. We were taken by landing craft out into the Gulf and one by one the patrols left the craft at the appointed time in their boats. At the correct hour the island erupted with the crackle of small arms fire (blank!) loud explosions and the screams of the dying and shortly afterwards we all returned to the L.C.U.—all except one patrol who did not return for two more hours. On their return, however, they reported successful completion of their mission, killing in the process all the bearded enemy on their objective. Could the navigator have been wrong?

The Ranger course is undoubtedly hard work but it was not as hard as I expected it to

be. We did a total of 15 patrols, walked or ran approximately 600 miles and averaged four hours sleep in every 24 during the nine week course. Looking back on it, I enjoyed it although at times it was uncomfortable. The greatest value that both Lieutenant Christie and I gained from the course was not the training but learning how the American army works and getting to know the people who run it. In many ways they are just like us, we had a little language difficulty from time to time but we liked what we saw.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

THE number of visitors to the Museum in Gloucester dropped considerably during the last six months (4,351) largely owing to the atrocious winter weather and the fact that the Museum was closed for a period for the repair and redecoration of the downstair rooms and the staircase, and during the construction of new wall cases. These latter have added very considerably to the appearance of the Museum with their gay Regimental primrose colour interiors and top lighting. We are indebted to the City authorities and also to Mr. R. D. Abbott, the deputy city curator and to the technical assistant, Mr. K. L. Griffith (one time 9th Glouc esters) for all the good work that has been done in this respect.

One case displays uniform and badges of Volunteers of Bristol and the County during the Napoleonic war period (1797-1814). Other cases show (i) uniform of the 28th and of the 61st between 1815 and 1855, (ii) Mess kit of the battalions including that of the 5th Battalion, and (iii) miscellaneous uniforms and equipment.

In the " shop window " there is now displayed " The Gloucestershire Regiment " name plate and sphinx badge of locomotive No. 5017, which has been withdrawn from service—kindly presented by British Railways, Western Region.

Amongst other items added to the collection are:

Group of six medals to Sergeant F. Cook (Mr. Barron).
Group of four medals (Crimea and Mutiny) to Q.M.S. Hamilton (Miss Hamilton).
Group of four medals to Corporal D. Whitman (Mrs. Whitman).
Group of four medals to Sergeant W. Pearce (Mr. Kermey).
61st Officer's coatee, 1829-55 (Purchased).
61st Shako Plate, 1844-55 (Purchased).
61st Belt buckle and tip, 1830-55 (Purchased).

WEST COUNTRY LUNCHEON

THE Fifth Annual West Country Luncheon was held on 23rd March, at the Wessex Brigade Depot, Honiton, by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Gilchrist, Officer Commanding the Depot.

Sixty-two members and friends attended and, I hope, enjoyed it. (Yes, a very happy gathering—thank you. *Editor.*)

They will, however, be sorry to hear that Mr. Smart the civilian Mess Caterer will be leaving shortly to take up a new appointment. We send him our best wishes.

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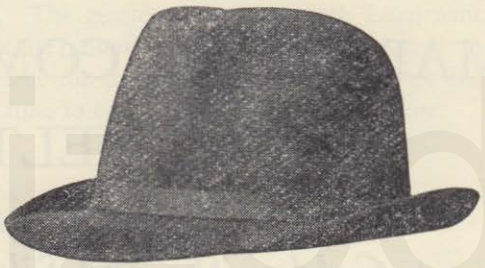

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It was sad not to see Major-General and Mrs. Ted Firth who were over in Cyprus with the 28/61.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. Vinen was also in Cyprus for Back Badge Day celebrations.

Other absentees we missed seeing were: Brigadier and Mrs. Caunter, Brigadier and Mrs. Bill Hynes, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Maurice Bryant who were in Majorca for a short (well earned ?) holiday, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Digby Grist and Major and Mrs. Richard Butler who were engaged in a golf tournament.

The following attended: Lt.-Col. and Mrs. C. E. K. Bagot, Major and Mrs. T. H. Barnard, Col. and Mrs. D. Baxter, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. D. W. Biddle, Major and Mrs. A. Capel, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. R. G. R. Chilton, Major and Mrs. C. R. Davis, Major and Mrs. S. C. S. Farmer, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. E. M. B. Gilmore and daughter, Col. and Mrs. R. M. Grazebrook, Brigadier and Mrs. T. N. Grazebrook, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. R. F. Grist, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. F. J. Harrison, Major and Mrs. E. J. Hobbs, Mr. R. C. Hobbs, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Kirkland, Major J. W. C. Kirkland, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. G. W. V. Ladds, Mr. and Mrs. W. R. N. Ladds, Major and Mrs. H. J. Lovett, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. N. Lovett, Major and Mrs. D. B. Metcalfe, Col. and Mrs. G. E. Mirehouse, Major and Mrs. P. J. H. Pope, Lt.-Col. A. H. Radice and Miss Radice, Lt.-Col. A. L. W. Soames, Mr. M. G. Smith-Rewse, Miss J. Varwell, Lt.-General Sir Edward Wetherall and Lady Wetherall, Col. and Mrs. A. E. Wilkinson and, as guests, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. D. H. Gilchrist.

Please note that next year's luncheon will be held on Back Badge Day, same place, same time.

D. W. B.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HIGHLANDERS

IN June 1794, the 91st Regiment, in due course to become the 1st Battalion The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, embarked at Leith for Southampton. They were kept on board until the end of July when they were billeted in Southampton. In October they moved to Chippenham in Wiltshire when extensive recruiting was carried out in that county and in Gloucestershire, and more particularly in Bristol and Birmingham.

The men from Wiltshire, and no doubt those from Gloucestershire, appear to have been very shy of wearing the kilt, and in this connection the following amusing letter exists from Colonel Duncan Campbell, the then C.O. of the 91st.

" I have not the slightest objection to the Company at Calne wearing trousers if the inhabitants choose to make a present of them. The men will not be immediately obliged to wear the kilt, who are enlisted in England. I pray you coax them the best way you can.

" We must now be very active in recruiting. I would give coarse round hats, either bearskin or feathers, and trousers, as Wiltshire lads have no idea of the Old Romans. Bristol, I am told, is a famous place " (i.e. for recruiting).

★ ★ ★

Those who served in the 61st in the 1914-18 War may remember that in the 81st Brigade of the 27th Division the Battalion was brigaded with the 1st and 9th Argylls, the 1st and 9th Royal Scots, and the 2nd Camerons—a very Highland unit, and that on numerous occasions the 61st and 91st relieved one another in the trenches.

MORE REMINISCENCES OF LIFE IN THE 28th

By Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. V. Ladds

(N.B.—All incidents described below did actually occur)

Bladeless Sword (Tidworth 1920)

During the summer a Brigade Ceremonial Parade was ordered, preceded by an inspection by General Harper, the G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command. In those days there was a game which, at the present price of swords, I do not recommend any subaltern to play. One held his sword at the carry position, arm extended for safety; the other had a slash at it. The two great exponents of this game were Willo Chapman, the Adjutant, and Captain Lester Lyne.

On the eve of the Brigade Ceremonial, Willo Chapman cut Lyne's sword-blade off about 2 inches from the hilt. At the time, Lyne did not worry as he thought that he would be able to borrow the Q.M.'s sword for the Ceremonial, but when the great day dawned, it was found that Quartermasters were also on parade. There was, in fact, no spare Infantry sword in Tidworth and no time to go elsewhere for one. Lyne's sword looked quite normal before swords were drawn. His own Adjutant was hardly in a position to exercise the eagle eye; he therefore had to chance it.

We reached our appointed place on the parade ground. I had a wonderful view of the whole affair as Lyne was about ten paces to my left front.

When General Harper reached " B " Company, he spotted someone he wished to speak to beyond Lyne and passed him without a glance, but the Staff halted all round him; one Senior Staff Officer to make some point waved his arm and would have actually collided with Lyne's sword blade had it been there—but such is the power of suggestion that nobody noticed.

* * *

" Eleven Mules Reported Dead, Sir " (Cologne 1923)

When stationed at Cologne during our time with the B.A.O.R., we spent some of the summer in a most unpleasant camp which was located no less than eight miles from the Training Area.

Owing to heavy rain floods occurred in the little valley in which the transport animals were tethered.

Lieutenant Manley James, V.C., M.C., the Battalion Transport Officer, had spent his Sunday afternoon moving his eight chargers and 20 or so mules to higher ground. He had just returned to the disused German Aircraft Hangar in which the Officers' Mess was located for a well-deserved cup of tea.

A few minutes later the door of the Mess was pushed open and the Transport Corporal entered unannounced; he looked at Manley James, saluted, and said " Eleven mules reported dead, Sir."

Manley, who had only a few minutes before left the mules fit and well, looked rather as if someone had dropped a brick on his head from a great height.

Preceded by Manley James and the Corporal, we all rushed off to the new transport lines and there, sure enough, were 11 of the mules lying on the ground still in their head stalls, with red froth at their mouths and dead.

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When they moved the transport lines a wire rope was tied at one end to a G.S. waggon, the other end was looped round a post. No one had noticed that the post carried an electric power cable.

The mules in their head stalls with chain attachments were tied to either side of the wire rope. The constant movement of their heads up and down, had caused the loop round the post to rub against and finally to break off a small attachment to the post, which in turn exposed a live wire which enabled the current to pass down the wire rope and from that down the head stall chains and to electrocute the mules.

We learnt, when the R.A.V.C. Officer arrived, that it takes only a very low voltage to electrocute a mule—only 90 volts if my memory is correct, which is considerably less than that required for a horse.

* * *

Sagacious Mule (Aldershot 1925)

The scene, 0400 hours on the road going west from Basingstoke during the 1925 manoeuvres. Owing to a heavy dew on the oily road, it was hard to keep one's feet.

Charles Wetherall, our Adjutant, had reason to canter up the column; just as he had passed the head of " B " Company and was about to pass between the column and a G.S. Limber drawn by two mules which were trotting in the direction of Basingstoke, his horse, Mickey, side-slipped with its legs towards the Battalion. Wetherall got his right leg clear but in so doing placed himself so that his head and shoulders were immediately in front of the off mule. All this happened in an instant; the driver had no time to act, but not so the mules, which stopped dead on their own initiative. The off mule held his off foreleg hoof in the air and knee bent over Wetherall's head until he had rolled clear.

I have heard of mules, when entangled in barbed wire remaining still until disentangled, but I have never seen anything like this; no one thought that Wetherall had a chance. There was an audible sigh of relief from "B" Company when the incident was safely over.

Perhaps the mule, unlike us, was aware that a future K.B.E., Lieutenant-General and Colonel of the Regiment was having one of his nine lives !

* * *

Hungry Panther (Mhow, Central India, 1935)

The part of Alexandria Barracks at Mhow, which was occupied by " A " Company, was at the higher end which adjoined the jungle. Outside the Company Office, which was at the opposite side of the Barracks from the Square, was a fair sized patch of scrub grass on which were a number of shady trees, and as this was the highest point for some miles, there was usually a breath of cool air under the trees, even on the hottest day—and Mhow can be distinctly sunny.

It was the custom of the troops of " A " Company to have their dinners under the trees during the hot weather.

One day whilst about 100 members of the Company were in a loose queue for their dinners, one of the men, who was located in the middle of the queue, had his little terrier at his feet.

Suddenly a large panther flashed down from the trees right amongst the troops, took the terrier, pushed through the queue and leapt away into the open jungle.

It all happened so suddenly that nothing could be done except to feel sorry for the terrier and to express sympathy to its sorrowful owner.

Souvenir Hunting (Mhow). In 1935 in the Mhow Brigade Area on " A " Day the Battalion went out some miles into the jungle and dug in, after which we marched back to Barracks, leaving our trenches.

On " B " Day the 8th Field Brigade R.A. bombarded the empty trenches with live ammunition.

On " C " Day the Battalion marched out again to see what damage had been done. All ranks were warned that if they found any unexploded shells on no account would they be approached but that their position should be reported.

Remarkably little damage had been done owing to the small allowance of live ammunition to gunners in those days, but had the trenches been occupied during the bombardment, it was obvious that there would have been some casualties.

The party was over and we were collecting the troops prior to falling in for the march home when I heard a sort of metallic tapping noise coming from one of the trenches.

I rode up to the side of the trench, peeped over the edge. What I saw caused me to back away rather more quickly than I had approached ! One of the troops was trying to remove the percussion cap from an unexploded shell with his bayonet.

I will leave to your imagination the flow of bad language which ensued; fortunately the shell was very dud and did not explode.

* * *

Sleeping on the March (Mhow). During a four-day exercise in 1935 at Mhow, at about 0200 hours, I regret to say that I went to sleep on my charger Polly. Unknown to me the Battalion arrived at a fork in the track and took the right one which rose up a slope parallel to the lower left-hand track with a sheer unfenced drop of 9 feet.

On the right of our new track was a jheel (lake). Something in the water must have frightened Polly who jumped to the left over the edge.

This was the moment at which I woke up. It was pitch dark and we were airborne and falling. I had not the faintest idea as to how far we were going to fall. Were we in a pot-hole, over a cliff, or what ?

In the few seconds between waking up and hitting the ground I was surprised at the vast amount of thought which can pass through a frightened human brain.

Polly landed on the lower track on all four feet and, barring the fact that the impact nearly split me in half, I was none the worse for the adventure. I have never slept on the march since.

* * *

Blast (Mingaladon, Burma, 1941). The effect of blast is absolutely unpredictable. I will quote two cases.

A Royal Air Force officer was, with seven others, in the operations room at Mingaladon Aerodrome during the first big raid by the Japanese.

He remembers hearing the sound of a bomb falling, seeing the ceiling split, then a flash, next the wall opened before him and he found himself running down the airfield. He was undamaged but his clothing was slightly impaired; the seven others who were in the Ops. room with him were unidentifiable.

Private Beatty " A " Company 1 Glosters was one of a party who were on the airfield filling in bomb craters; with all the noise of planes landing and taking off the party did not hear the air raid warning.

A R.A.F. officer went out and warned them. By the time they reached the edge of the Airport the raid had started. Private Beatty and the man who was with him heard a bomb falling in their direction. Beatty did what he had been taught to do and lay down; his companion ran for it.

Beatty remembers a flash and a bang. He then found himself at the bottom of the bomb crater; he was rather shaken but had nothing worse than a black eye; the other, who ran, was killed.

RECOLLECTIONS

By Ex-C.Q.M.S. A. Lukins

(Late No. 9114 and 5172176)

IT is almost 55 years ago I enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment at Horfield Barracks, Bristol, on 10th December, 1908. (No, I did not enlist for my Christmas Dinner, I had leave and went home for that.)

Men joining the Regulars in those days were not kept in the Depot long as recruit training was done in the Regiment, so soon after Christmas I joined the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Corunna Barracks, Aldershot.

The Commanding Officer was Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor, the Adjutant Captain Pagan, and I was posted to " E " Company, commanded by Captain Jordan. The R.S.M. was "Smacker" Fry, so called because of his very fine waxed moustache. He was reputed to be the smartest R.S.M. in the Army, and I must say that in all my time I have never seen a smarter one.

Before proceeding further I feel that I should confess that I was considerably under age upon enlistment, and this as you will see caused me some embarrassment during my period of service in Aldershot.

It began one day with a chap called Smith, who was also in " E " Company who I knew to be under age, but somewhat older than myself. I was standing with another man on the edge of the square, when I saw Smith marching across the square in full marching order between a file. I turned to the other man and said, " Where is Smith going ? " and he replied " To the Glasshouse." My reply to this remark was " What is the Glasshouse," and he replied in no uncertain terms, " The B— Clink." I managed to force myself to ask why he was being taken there, and he informed me that he was being taken to prison because of enlisting under age. This made my knees knock, which did not stop for some time. That, however was nothing to what happened shortly after that.

One day Sergeant Walsh, who was one of our Drill Instructors, came to the Barrack Room and called out my name. I reported to him at the double. He remarked " What have you been up to ? The Adjutant wants you at the Orderly Room immediately." I stood outside the O.R. for what seemed an eternity, shaking like a leaf and firmly convinced they had found out I was under age, and that I should be following Smith to the Glasshouse very soon. Eventually Captain Pagan came out and said " Can you swim ? " I was so relieved I said " Yes, Sir," although I was unable to swim at that time. Captain Pagan informed me that I was to join the Young Soldiers Swimming Team and report to the baths every afternoon. On the first occasion I reported at the baths we were told to swim the full length. I had never been in the deep end before but somehow I

managed to reach the other end. Incidentally the 61st won the Aldershot Command Shield that particular year. During training we were given a free tea in the canteen every day, which was considered a luxury in those days.

I very much doubt whether anyone knowing me in those early days could possibly imagine me returning 12 years later to Horfield Barracks as Drill Sergeant and later as Sergeant Instructor of Musketry.

I still have vivid recollections of the square bashing, route marches and ceremonial parades at Aldershot and can recall standing on Laffan's Plain in the hot sun for several hours, in full ceremonial dress, awaiting General's Inspection. The route marches we completed varied between 15 and 20 miles in full marching order with 60-lb. pack carried. I recall one outstanding march we did. We had been on Battalion training and finished late on the last day at a place called Bordon, which is approximately 17 or 18 miles from Aldershot. We had a slap up tea which consisted of bread and margarine, jam, cheese and polony. The C.O. sent word round asking whether we should march back the same night and go on leave the next day, or would we rather bivouac for the night and march back the next day. Everyone agreed to march back the same night, and what a march it was. It rained in torrents all the way back, and all the drums burst, with the exception of the tenor, which the big drummer carried on his chest, beating time. We finally arrived back in Aldershot late at night, and proceeded on leave the next day.

One of the sights never to be forgotten by those who served at Aldershot in those days were the units from all the different Regiments marching down Queen's Avenue on Sundays, in Full Dress Uniforms, to attend Church. We also had the Smith-Dorrien Soldiers Home to go to and the Canteen Gaff (concerts) which visited the whole Brigade in turn.

Not being old enough to go on draft for India, I went on 1909 manoeuvres. Two things still stand out in my mind in respect of these manoeuvres. One day our Company was escort to the convoy and we were supposed to have marched 32 miles that day, sometimes walking, sometimes running and sometimes halting and dropping off to sleep on the side of the road. Whatever the distance was, it seemed more like 50 miles to me. The other thing was the presence on those manoeuvres of the German Kaiser " Bill " who was quoted as saying the British Army was nothing but a lot of boys. I think his remark was justified in my case. Boys or not, the Regiment was praised in the end for its fitness and having the least number of men fall out on the marches (I am still proud to say I never fell out on any march). That ended my short period of service at Aldershot.

After manoeuvres we took up station in Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth; thus we were back in the town where the Regiment started making history. You may learn much more about it in that wonderful book " The Cap of Honour."

I fired my recruits course on Gosport Ranges. Whilst we were there the death of King Edward VII occurred and we were recalled to go with the Regiment to London, where we lined the streets in Piccadilly. That was a sight that will probably never be seen again as there were nine kings attending the funeral, including once again the infamous Kaiser " Bill."

In preparation for this Funeral Ceremony we had the usual poshing up and in addition overcoats had to be rolled and worn on the back of the belt. This required considerable skill to attain the correct shape. The coat was rolled on the barrack room table, sticking table forks in them to keep them in position, but it was an extremely difficult job especially

if the coat was an extra thick one. Finally we were all ready to entrain for London about midnight. Just before time for parade it started to rain and the order was given that overcoats would be worn. After the hours we had spent rolling them to our satisfaction you can imagine what was said.

We arrived in London in the early morning and marched to Kensington Gardens and the weather turned out fine and warm, so overcoats had to be rolled again. This was found to be impracticable with the facilities that were available to us, and so regrettably we had to parade with our coats rolled all shapes and sizes, and our pride badly shaken. This was somewhat modified by the fact that as we lined the street the rolled coats were used as perches for children lifted up by their parents.

I well remember the Church Parades on Sundays at Portsmouth, when the streets were lined with people to watch the Regiment march past.

The outstanding sporting event which took place during our period at " Pompey " was the winning of the Army Rugby Cup. We met the Leicester Regiment in the final of the Army Rugby Cup at Twickenham. The whole Regiment went with sporting rosettes of the Regimental colours, ribbons twirled round our Regimental canes and cap straps. What a match it was ! We won by 3 points to nil after extra time. The winning try being scored by Corporal James standing on his head. That was a really great day for us all.

Colonel J. S. Hobbs took over command of the 61st in July, 1910, and the Battalion proceeded to Malta in October of the same year. I went with them, having short of two years service.

There are probably still some old sweats who remember me in those days, if so I should be pleased to hear from them (14 Stowe View, Tingewick, Buckingham).

A LOOK INTO THE PAST

By Ex-R.S.M. A. A. Faville, d.c.m.

MAY I in a very few words try to relate how my Battalion, the 1/5th Bn. The Gloucestershire Regiment, got ready for war in 1914. In the old Volunteer days before 1908 we went to Camp for 7 days—no pay whatever. After that year it was known as our Annual Training, with Army rates of pay, but there were hardly any holidays with pay then.

Consequently, on Saturday, 3rd August, 1914, off we went to Marlow-on-Thames; things were very grim when we left home—the next day we returned and were told not to leave our homes. On the 5th August we were mobilised, on the 6th we went to the Isle of Wight, returning to Swindon on the 9th. Much happened here—we were asked to sign for Imperial Service, which meant volunteering to go outside the United Kingdom if required, and 98 per cent. of the Battalion signed.

Very soon we were on the move again—entrained to Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire; then on consecutive days marched to Hockliffe, Hitchen, Hertford, Waltham Cross, Chipping Ongar, and then to Chelmsford—here we were to do our training for nearly six months.

We seemed to have walked nearly half way across England—not bad for men straight from home.

Here I must mention a little of the composition of the Battalion. About one-third were mere lads, 17 years of age, and what grit they had—they wore ammunition boots, belt and bayonet, pouches across the chest, greatcoat rolled high up on the shoulders, and carried a rifle, which when the bayonet was fixed was as tall as themselves. From Marlow to Chelmsford not one of them fell out—they used to say that if they did " they won't take us with them when they go "; birth certificates had to be produced and there was a strict medical examination too. They had to wait until they were 19 years of age, and they stayed on with us until the 2/5th, our sister Battalion, was formed. Most of them joined that unit.

We now wanted recruits—a great meeting was held at the Shire Hall, Gloucester, and hundreds of men came forward, of the right sort too—keen and very intelligent. We being early in the field had the cream, including more than half the then playing members of the Gloucester Rugby Football Club.

The instruction of these men was carried out by our own N.C.O.s under Colour-Sergeant Chapman, a Regular soldier, and with such men our task was all the easier. A word about our officers—they were good, most of them known to us in civilian life; very keen and learned their business very quickly. If there was one officer who stood out it was the Adjutant, then Captain V. N. Johnson. A finer soldier there never was, so we thought; he never talked much, his very presence was enough. We said then, and we say it now, what we were he made us, and he called us a very fine Battalion; he came overseas with us and remained until October, 1915.

I well remember one incident. We had a Divisional March past Sir Ian Hamilton, very hot, very trying, every available man had to turn out (" All Hands Parade ") and all had to carry a rifle, even the Band. On the return march, about four miles from home, there was a G.S. Wagon with the band instruments on board. Rifles were exchanged for instruments, but the big drummer did not take kindly to it and with the first hit of the stick he went through the head of the drum. Before dismissal the Adjutant called for Drummer Lay—it went like this: " Did you do that on purpose, Lay ? " " Yes, Sir." " You will pay for a new head." " Yes, Sir." He paid, and that was the end of that.

Our training was not harsh, but firm and progressive, and by Christmas we were in good shape, and some of the men were getting despondent; they thought the war would be over before we got there. Little did they think that some of us would be still overseas well into the Spring of 1919.

It happened all right at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of the 29th March, 1915. We left Chelmsford, went to Folkestone, boarded the S.S. *Invicta*, landed at Boulogne, and at midnight we climbed the hill to St. Martin's Plain, the first British troops in a new camp. What a night: a biting wind and stinging frost—we shivered. The next day, we were off again and that night we slept in a Belgian barn—we were in the sound of guns, the flashes lit up the country and Very lights were all around the area—the Ypres Salient. We now realised we had arrived and were a long way from Marlow. What happened after that would take a long time to tell—we saw much service in Belgium, France and Italy.

If ever there was a County Battalion it was ours—all came from a circumference of about 20 miles of Gloucester, Cheltenham, Stroud, Dursley, Tewkesbury, Campden, the Cotswold Hills and Vales, and a more friendly lot you never wished to meet; they blended well together. The only rivalry was on the sports field.

During our stay at Chelmsford a large number of our men took commissions, many reaching very high rank—Lieutenant-Colonels, Majors, D.S.O.s and M.C.s. One such Private obtained a commission and fortunately for him he joined us before we went out; he was bucked joining his old Battalion. This officer, when a Private soldier at Chelmsford, took boxing lessons from another private soldier who was very skilled, and strange as it may seem they were both drafted to the same platoon, No. 15. The officer often relates how when he came to inspect the platoon the first time, on arriving at the boxing instructor the latter actually winked his eye at him. After dismissal the Platoon Commander asked the Platoon Sergeant what he would have done in a case like that—" I should have winked back " was the reply; " That is just what I did," said the officer. The bond of friendship between the Commissioned and Other Ranks, a wink of the eye; what do you think of that you old soldiers, but it is true.

When I took over my Platoon I looked at them and I thought they scowled at me, they were such a mixed bag. City men and from right out in the country, some very rough and others very genteel—but how they mixed together—it was always " What is mine is yours." Often in the trenches they would tell me to clear off; when they wanted me they would send me a card. Although at war, we had some very happy times, and casualties—before we had been out many weeks two were killed at my side. I came home on leave once, and two days after I got home I received a Field Card from all of them; what was on the card was not as printed—I still have this and other mementoes. This chummy spirit prevailed throughout the Battalion.

When the 1st Battalion attacked High Wood on the Somme in 1916, two of our men were with them as commissioned officers (one was a Sergeant with us and the other a Private); the first named was killed, and the Private later in life retired holding a high rank in the R.A.F.—he won the M.C. at High Wood.

The only members of the permanent staff that came out with us were the Adjutant and R.S.M. Dennis; Colour-Sergeant Spragg went to the 2/5th as R.S.M. and Colour-Sergeant Chapman became a Quartermaster.

One must say a kindly word for the people of Chelmsford. There were two Battalions billeted right in the town and two more right on the outskirts. We arrived rather suddenly, they took us in and to numbers of men it was home from home, and I am sure we never gave the Civilian Police any trouble at all; our own M.P.s were quite sufficient. Sergeant Peter Huggins was most tactful, the jankermen really loved him—his best customer was a man we will call " Ike "; for trivial affairs he was always on, and sometimes on or not he paraded with them. It was known that just before the " call " sounded he actually formed them up, telling them that they must not keep Peter too long out in the cold. This " Ike " could juggle with a rifle—do anything with it except bend it; he was a tartar, but some years after he became a Colour-Sergeant in the Grenadier Guards—you never know that talent lies hidden.

We were never boastful; thought ourselves very good, of course, but we were full of Regimental pride. Our Adjutant and pre-war permanent staff helped that along, and the example set by the Regular Battalions in Peace and War was always an example to us. On the 9th March of this year we held our 44th Annual Dinner and evening of Remembrance and Reunion—quite a record, don't you think, for a single unit ? We have been kept together so very much by our Secretary, a late C.Q.M.S. of Cheltenham, who has seen to it that we do not lapse and that we keep going as long as possible.

You will have gathered by now that we are all O.A.P.s, in fact most of us are between 70 and 80 years of age and still have a kick in us. So to all members of The Gloucestershire Regiment of whatever age, serving or otherwise, we send a warm Greeting and wish you Good Fortune wherever you are.

"THE KINNEGAD SLASHERS"

KINNEGAD (Irish—*Ceann na nGad*) is a rather miserable little town in Ireland some 12 miles from Mullingar in Co. Westmeath.

The town of Naas is a horrid place,
Kilcullen's just as bad,
But damme if I ever saw
The likes of Kinnegad.

In 1796 a company of Yeomanry was raised at Kinnegad and two years later were formed for the defence of Clonard in Co. Meath, against a large force of rebels said to have numbered 400. It appears some 27 men commanded by a Lieutenant Tyrell, and later reinforced by a further 21 men from Kinnegad, defended a house near Leinster Bridge over the River Boyne.

Sir Richard Musgrave in his " Memoirs of different Rebellions in Ireland," 1802, wrote " This victory, obtained by a handful of loyalists over a numerous body of rebels, was one of the most splendid achievements performed in the course of the rebellion. No less than 150 of the rebels were killed and a great number wounded."

For their gallantry at this " battle " the Kinnegad corps received the sobriquet of " The Slashers " and a lively melody was named " The Kinnegad Slashers " in their honour.

But there were other " Slashers " in the neighbourhood at that time. Some celebrated ladies were also called " The Kinnegad Slashers." In a poem " Petticoat Loose " dated 1812, a political skit on Dublin Castle, there appears the verse:

Till now (its every colour soiled,
Its flowers torn, its gloss quite spoiled),
In vain you'd sent it to the Washer,
It will not answer e'en a Slasher.

A note referring to the term " Slasher " states " In this country (Ireland) we are rather unfortunate in some of our professional names . . . Reader could'st thou ever suppose this hussar-like appellation (rendered doubly tremendous by the thundering preface Kinnegad) intended for a couple of ladies, so remarkably slender as to be in this respect, at least, the envy of all the ' Squeezers of the Metropolis '."

What the lively melody named " The Kinnegad Slashers " in 1798 was is not known. The tune used by the 28th and later by The Gloucestershire Regiment as their official march and called " Kynegad Slashers " (card VI No. 25) has over the years passed under many titles. It is a good type of Leinster or double jig and must have been popular at the beginning of the 19th century as it is included in various musical collections.

The earliest noted is in O'Farrell's " Pocket Companion for Irish and Union Pipes " (1804) as " Land of Sweet Erin." In Levey's " First Collection of Dance Music of Ireland " (c. 1875) and in O'Neill's " Music of Ireland " (Chicago) it is given as " The

Kinnegad Slashers," but in other collections it goes under the various titles " An Irishman's Heart," " The Twin Sisters," " O, Merry am I," " Paddy Digging for Gold," " O, Mary Ann," " O'Donovan's Daughter," " The Powers of Whiskey " and " Bannocks of Barley Meal."

When and why the 28th Foot adopted the tune is not known. On numerous occasions the Regiment was stationed in Ireland—in 1866 actually at Mullingar but a few miles of Kinnegad and in the 19th century very many of their officers and men were Irish. The 28th were known as " The Slashers " since the Walter's Ear episode in Montreal in 1764 when several officers and sergeants of the Regiment raided the home of an unpopular magistrate who had refused to provide quarters for their women and children in a harsh Canadian winter, and cut off his ears !

It may well be that the attractive tune—with its " Slasher " title—was a favourite one amongst the troops and so, possibly in the Mullingar days, became the recognised march tune of the Regiment. In 1881 when the 28th and 61st were linked to form The Gloucestershire Regiment the march was retained though its origin was at that date unknown.

Even in the 1890s Irish tunes were customary. Colonel R. W. P. Lodwick of the 28th, who had made a study of music all his life, years later wrote that the C.O., Colonel George Conner, who did not know one note from another, always held the office of Band President and the programmes were usually selected to suit his Irish taste.

It is reasonable to suppose the tune preceded any words, but the ballad " Bryan O'Lynn " is usually associated with the air. There are numerous verses and many versions, of which the following, from the poems of Edward Kenealy (1864) may be taken as typical:

Brian O'Lynn was an Irishman born,
His teeth were long and his beard was unshorn;
His temples far out and his eyes far in,
" I'm a wonderful beauty," says Brian O'Lynn.
Fal de ral la ral la la ral lal lee.
His temples far out, and his eyes far in.
" I would leather the Devil," says Brian O'Lynn.

Brian O'Lynn had no breeches to wear,
So he bought him a sheepskin to make him a pair.
With the woolly side out, and the fleshy side in,
" 'Tis a fine pair of breeches," says Brian O'Lynn.

Brian O'Lynn had an old grey mare,
Her legs they were long and her sides they were bare.
Away he rode through thick and through thin.
" I'm going to get married," says Brian O'Lynn.

Away he rode to the old cuckoo's nest,
Who said, " Which of my daughters do you like best ?
There is one can card, and the other can spin."
" Hoo ! I'll marry them both," says Brian O'Lynn.

" Will you marry me now ? " this damsel replied.
" I will marry you now, my honey," he cried;
" And I'll forfeit my life, or it's I will you win ";
" Faik ! it's I that will settle you," says Brian O'Lynn.

Brian O'Lynn, his wife, and wife's mother,
They all went into one bed together;
The blankets were broke, and the sheets were thin.
" Let's lie close together," says Brian O'Lynn.

Brian O'Lynn, his wife, and wife's mother,
They all went over the bridge together;
The Bridge it broke down, and they all tumbled in,
" Bad luck to the mason," says Brian O'Lynn.

NATO DEFENCE COLLEGE

A SHORT time before I gave up command of the 28th/61st I received instructions to report for a course of instruction at the NATO Defence College in Paris. At the same time it was suggested that I read my choice of something like one hundred books before arrival.

Having failed to find out any concrete or useful information about this seat of learning in the U.K., in spite of prolonged investigations, I proceeded on a longish period of leave and in due course arrived in Paris in early February, 1962. I discovered that the College was part of the Ecole Militaire—close to the Eiffel Tower—and I settled down to what was to be one of the most instructive and enjoyable six months periods of my career.

The College caters for officers of the three services, and certain civilians, of the 15 NATO nations of the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel or equivalent and upwards. The object of the course, in the broadest terms, is to study the many aspects of the Alliance both military, economic and ideological, at the highest level. To this end the majority of the course takes place in Paris and consists of lectures by eminent personalities, committee work and language instruction. In addition there are two tours, each of a fortnight, of the Northern and Southern capitals of Europe with the object of seeing conditions in the countries concerned at first hand. These were particularly enjoyable and interesting—with our own aeroplane and V.I.P. treatment all the way.

All instruction and committee work is in the two official languages—French and English. With a daily French lesson and the necessity to speak French whilst living in Paris—if only to eat—it is surprising how quickly one remembers the little one learnt at school and indeed improves on that provided one is not afraid of dropping one's British reserve.

Apart from the knowledge gained I have made a great number of European friends and learnt a great deal about that Continent which is so much in our minds and thoughts these days.

I found that I was the second officer of the Regiment to go to the College, Brigadier Waldron having attended a course three or four years previously.

A. L. W. S.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters:
Robinswood Barracks, GLOUCESTER

Chairman:
Major-General C. E. A. FIRTH, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.

Secretary:
Major C. R. DAVIS

BRANCHES:

Branch and Chairman:	*Hon. Secretary:*	*Meeting Places and Dates:*
BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT Major P. R. Burton, M.C.	Mr. L. A. Rayner, 360 Rednal Road, West Heath, B'ham 31.	Third Wednesday in each month, The White Horse (Grill Room), Congreve Street, Birmingham, 8 p.m.
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, Horfield Common, 8 p.m.
CHELTENHAM Captain E. F. Pates.	Mr. F. H. Berry, 9 Queen's Parade, Cheltenham.	Third Saturday in each month, T.A. Drill Hall, North Street, 8 p.m.
GLOUCESTER: Major D. B. Metcalfe.	Mr. P. O. Masters, 3 Lonsdale Road, Gloucester.	First Monday in each month, T.A. Centre, Painswick Road, 8 p.m.
LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES Colonel C. S. R. Campbell, O.B.E., M.C.		As arranged at "The Gloucester," 187 Sloane Street, S.W.1.
STROUD Lieutenant-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, 8 p.m.
WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Milner, M.A., LL.B., T.D.	Mr. O. Mills, 23/25 Church Street, Wotton-under-Edge.	Second Monday in each month, The White Lion, Wotton-under-Edge, 8 p.m.

ON the 16th January, 1963, one more branch of the Association came into being. This was in the Midlands based on Birmingham. It is hoped that all ex-Glosters in this area will give it their support. A number of new members have already joined from this area.

During the past year one item of particular significance has emerged. In the past the Association has relied chiefly upon officers for its annual income. This last year a magnificent voluntary donation was also made by the other ranks serving with the 1st Battalion. It is hoped that this will set a precedent, as the Association is now unlikely to receive any more direct grants from the Army Benevolent Fund.

JUBILEE YEAR, 1913-1963

As 1963 is our Jubilee year it might be interesting to record a little information about the history of the Regimental Association.

The Association was founded at an Old Comrades' Dinner held at Stuckey's Restaurant, Bristol, on the 1st July, 1913.

In the first rules published the objects of the Association were stated to be:

(1) To assist its members in obtaining employment.

(2) To form a Benefit Fund from which grants or loans can be made to approved individuals.
(3) On behalf of its members or their widows or children to apply to any of the various civil and military charitable societies or institutions for assistance.
(4) On behalf of its members to make application for pensions, or an increase of pensions.
(5) To organize and carry out any scheme for the benefit of its members, such as a Club, Veterans' Residence, Labour House or lodgings.
(6) In order that its members may keep in touch with each other and with the Regiment, to arrange for Regimental Dinners, Reunions, Concerts, etc.

Despite many minor amendments and a recent re-drafting of the rules, the objects today remain basically the same. Probably the most important object in the Twenties and early Thirties was the first, that of finding employment for members. Today the emphasis is more on financial help, and, therefore, it is vital to maintain the annual subscriptions and donations to the Fund.

The life subscription for the other ranks was first set at 10s. This could be paid off at 2s. a year over a period of five years. In 1953 it was found necessary to raise the subscription to £1. Now again it is found that this does not go very far, and as recorded earlier, other ranks serving with the 1st Battalion gave a very substantial donation to the Fund in 1962.

Whilst serving and retired officers have always given an annual subscription to the Fund, they were not included as beneficiaries in the original rules. In 1957, it was, however, agreed retired officers would be eligible to receive benefit from the subscription income of the Fund.

The first report up to 31st March, 1914, made by the Association gave the numbers of members as 877. It is interesting to note that all N.C.O.s and men who had served in the Crimean War or the Indian Mutiny were admitted as Honorary Members of the Association. Twelve Honorary members with such service are named in the first report. Since then our numbers have increased greatly and now nearly 10,000 have joined. Unfortunately due to deaths and members failing to notify their changes of address, we can only trace about 3,300 of the above.

Major Stephen Willcock, O.B.E., became our first Secretary. He had served four years in the ranks in the Royal Welch Fusiliers and was gazetted to the Glosters in 1884. He served with the Burma Police and the Egyptian Army before becoming adjutant to the 61st in 1890. Severely wounded with the 28th in South Africa, he transferred to the Manchester Regiment as a Major in 1901, retiring three years later. During the 1914-18 war he was with the 7th Glosters and then with the Lancashire Fusiliers. A gallant and tough officer who stood for no nonsense, he did much to put the Association on a sound footing. He continued in office until forced to resign owing to ill-health in 1920. He was succeeded by Major R. J. Gray, a popular one-time Quartermaster of the 28th and of the 4th Militia Battalion, and a member of the very regimental family of Gray's.

He in turn was followed by Major E. E. T. Culley, who was secretary for 28½ years, from 1921 to 1949, and who (with Mrs. Culley's help) did so much to help members and their families during the difficult years after the First War. Under him the funds of the Association were steadily built up to a very satisfactory amount, and the Annual Report developed into THE BACK BADGE.



Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath (see page 208)



"D" COMPANY, 28th/61st
Lance-Corporal Baker being winched up from H.M.S. *Trafalgar*
to a helicopter of 103 Squadron

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Swimming Team, 2nd Battalion, 1909 (see page 203)



[By courtesy "The Citizen"

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION GOLDEN JUBILEE DINNER
27th April, 1963

To face page 213

There followed as secretaries Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Priestley (1950-58) and Colonel J. P. Carne, V.C., D.S.O. (1958-60).

Since the formation of Regimental Headquarters, the Retired Officer Grade III at R.H.Q. is ex-officio Secretary. Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. C. Roberts, M.B.E., held office until his unfortunate death in April 1962. The present Secretary, Major C. R. Davis, was appointed on 1st September, 1962.

Membership of the Association when first formed was only open to members and ex-members of line battalions of the Gloucestershire Regiment. Now the membership is open to anyone who has served in any unit of the Regiment. Of late the number joining from the Territorial Army and non-Regular Battalions of the First World War has been very encouraging.

The Annual Dinner has always been the chief social function of the Association. Since the first dinner held in Bristol in 1913 until 1956 it had been the standard practice to hold the dinner in Bristol. At the Annual General Meeting in 1956 it was decided to hold the dinner alternately in the North and South of the County—either in Gloucester or Cheltenham in the North and in Bristol in the South. Since making this change the numbers attending the dinner tend to be higher when it is held in the North.

GOLDEN JUBILEE DINNER

The dinner celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Regimental Association took place at Gloucester at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday, 27th April, 1963, in the hall of the Gloucester Engineering Company Ltd. who had very kindly put their hall at our disposal for this occasion.

Without doubt this was the most successful reunion held by the association in recent years, and perhaps the most successful ever held. If the numbers of the 5th Battalion Band are taken into account, then there were about 300 past and present members of the Regiment in attendance.

All known members who joined the association before March 1914 had been invited to attend as guests of the association and we are happy to say that 15 of these original members as below were able to accept this invitation.

Lt.-General Sir Edward Wetherall, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Col. V. N. Johnson, D.S.O., Col. R. M. Grazebrook, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. H. N. Vinen, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. J. R. Guild, D.S.O., Mr. A. Brisland, Mr. A. Davis, M.M., Mr. A. Holmes, D.C.M., Mr. W. A. Morgan, Mr. E. New, Mr. R. H. Palmer, Mr. J. Ponter, Mr. R. J. Walker, Mr. G. Walkley, Mr. E. F. Yeates.

Other members came from all parts of the country and beyond. The one who had the longest journey was Mr. T. L. Martin, who came from West Queensland, Australia, but we must admit there were other reasons apart from the dinner for this journey.

During dinner the Band of the 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment (T.A.) played by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel W. O. V. Clee, T.D., and we are most indebted to them for helping to make the evening such a success.

We are also greatly indebted to Messrs. Simonds who presented us with 48 bottles of beer, Messrs. John Harvey & Sons Ltd., who gave us some Bristol Cream, and Messrs. W. D. & H. O. Wills who gave cigarettes in packets of two for all present and a box of cigars.

After the Loyal Toasts the President read congratulatory telegrams from H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, and also a signal received from the Officer Commanding and All Ranks of the 1st Battalion, who were in training in Libya at the time.

The President then proposed the health of the guests. This was answered by Lieutenant General Sir Edward Wetherall, the senior of the original member guests, who in his turn proposed the health of the Regiment and the Regimental Association. The Regimental Secretary, Brigadier Grazebrook, responded to this.

After the speeches the band played the Regimental marches of The Royal Canadian Regiment, the 61st and the 28th while those assembled stood.

This was by no means the end of the proceedings, but only a chance to get down to more serious matters. To the amazement of the barman more than 110 gallons of beer alone were consumed. He also commented with respect that he did not see anyone who was not steady on his feet.

During the dinner members from the Wotton-under-Edge Branch ran a raffle for which all branches had presented a prize. This resulted in £18 being raised for Association funds.

After the outstanding success of this dinner it is hoped that future dinners will be equally well supported.

C. R. D.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH

Our branch was officially recognised on 16th January, 1963 although much preliminary work and several meetings had taken place before this date.

The officials are: chairman, Major P. R. Burton, M.C.; vice-chairman, Mr. W. E. Salter; hon. secretary, Mr. L. A. Rayner; hon. treasurer, Mr. C. L. Millward. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month in the Grill room of the White Horse, Congreve Street.

We are hoping to organise a few outings in the future, and wish to contact other branches of the association, but due to our infancy this must be left until we are really organised.

L. A. R.

BRISTOL BRANCH

Our annual dance held at the Whiteladies Road T.A. Centre in November was most successful. Numbers were larger than ever. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress honoured us with their presence; as also did the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Firth and Brigadier Newth.

Our monthly meetings have continued regularly at the Horfield T.A. Centre and members have kept up very well, in fact they have steadily increased.

M. A. J.

CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT BRANCH

The Cheltenham Branch is still carrying on, but we regret that attendances at monthly meetings have dropped quite considerably, the reason being there is no bar operating in the T.A. Centre, where members can obtain drinks.

When the new T.A. Centre at Alstone Lane is opened and we are settled in, no doubt more members will come along; we hope to use the facilities of the club bar.

We were to have had a New Year party at the beginning of the current year, but had to cancel this as we were unable to obtain a license granted by the court in time.

Nothing of any importance has occurred at this branch since the last issue of the BACK BADGE.

F. H. B.

GLOUCESTER BRANCH

Attendances at our monthly meetings have been hampered during the winter few of us will ever forget. Nevertheless the secretary, Mr. P. O. Masters and our treasurer have between them succeeded by their enthusiasm, in contacting and persuading more members of the association to meet their fellow members at the T.A. Centre, Painswick Road, on the first Monday of the month. Approximately 20 members are now meeting at each of our association nights. The committee are, however, very well aware they have a long way to go if they are to achieve even a partial success in attracting a fair proportion of the known large numbers of ex-members of the Regiment living in the city.

The branch has much to offer members. Through the kindness of the Officer Commanding the 5th Battalion we have the use of a well appointed and friendly club room in which to hold our meetings. Our aims, however, include a willingness to help financially or by other means ex-members of the Regiment in need of assistance. Plans have also been made to invite to the city branch members of the other branches within the County.

Any man who has served in any battalion at any time will be sure of a warm welcome should he visit us. If you live in or near Gloucester and have not yet been to a branch meeting—do come.

D. B. M.

STROUD BRANCH

The branch, thanks to its hard core, is still in being and has continued to meet every first Monday of each month. Even the severe winter did not prevent someone turning up. Representatives went to Wotton for the 5th Battalion Back Badge Church Parade and enjoyed themselves very much. Almost the whole branch will be attending the Golden Jubilee Dinner.

The A.G.M. was held in April. All the officers and members of the committee were re-elected: chairman, Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. R. Chalmers; vice-chairman and padre, Rev. H. C. V. Beck; hon. secretary, Mr. R. Close; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. J. A. Elliott. Committee: The officers and Messrs. G. Butlin and C. King.

A. H. R. C.

WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE BRANCH

The Wotton Branch is still very much alive but still small in numbers. At Christmas we ran a successful draw which enabled us to send £35 to Regimental Benevolent Fund; we have also assisted local Old Soldiers of the Regiment.

Colonel Milner is still our chairman and Major Pope our vice-chairman.

The 5th Battalion had their Back Badge Parade at Wotton this year, for which our branch feels very honoured.

Our meetings are now held at the " White Lion," Long Street, on the second Monday of each month at 8 p.m.

O. M.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, April 1963)

	Date of Substantive Rank	*How Employed*
Colonel-in-Chief:		
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	
Colonel:		
Maj.-Gen. C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.	23/2/54	
Lieutenant-Colonels:		
E. D. Harding, D.S.O. (supernumerary)	15/1/59	A.M.S., H.Q. B.A.O.R.
A. L. W. Soames (supernumerary)	23/7/59	A.A. & Q.M.G., Aldershot District
P. G. H. Varwell	20/1/62	Commanding 1st Battalion
Majors:		
E. Jones, M.B.E.	1/7/46	H.Q. N. Command
A. D. Hunter	30/1/49	D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q. NORTHAG
T. A. K. Dillon	1/7/52	D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q. Mid. East
W. A. Wood	1/7/52	O.C. "H.Q." Company, 1st Battalion
E. L. T. Capel	10/7/52	G.S.O.2 (Plans), B.A.O.R.
P. W. Weller, M.B.E.	12/2/53	For 2i/c Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn. (July)
T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker	23/4/54	2i/c 1st R. Hamps.
W. L. D. Morris	6/4/55	Adm. Wing, School of Infantry
H. W. P. Gallop	3/5/55	G.S.O.2 (Plans), H.Q. Eastern Comd.
H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E.	13/6/55	B.M. 99 Gurkha Bde. Gp.
J. E. Taylor	10/8/56	R.A.R.D.E.
T. R. Littlewood	25/11/57	Trg. Major, 5th Battalion
M. G. Harvey, M.C.	10/10/59	2i/c 11th K.A.R.
H. R. A. Streather	24/3/60	1st Battalion
A. N. Wilson	27/10/60	Staff Capt. Q. (Maint.), B.A.O.R.
R. J. Martin, M.C.	15/7/61	D.A.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. Land Forces, Persian Gulf
G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey ..	16/8/61	D.A.A.G. (P.S.I.), G.H.Q. FARELF
G. F. B. Temple, M.C.	10/4/62	O.C. "A" Company, 1st Battalion
H. R. Gilliver	21/5/62	Att. Wessex Bde. Depot
Captains:		
P. R. Barker	22/11/55	1st Battalion
D. J. Holdsworth	22/7/56	G.S.O.3, S.A.I.F., Hong Kong
J. W. Allison (T/Major)	20/1/57	T.S.O.2, Inspectorate of Armaments
W. A. Duguid	16/9/57	For Adj. 5th Bn. (August)
J. C. H. Roberts	10/11/57	Army Air Corps Centre
D. E. Matson (T/Major)	8/2/58	Liaison Officer, French Mil. Acad.
M. M. A. Gilmore	1/8/58	1st Battalion
R. A. F. Jarman	4/4/59	Adjutant, 5th Battalion for Staff (Sept.)
D. J. Hurford-Jones	12/6/59	Adjutant, 1st Battalion for R.M.A. (August)
J. B. Henderson	31/7/59	H.Q. Land Forces, Persian Gulf
C. P. T. Rebbeck	31/7/59	1st Battalion
M. A. Crush	4/2/61	1st Battalion
T. E. Lapage-Norris	29/7/61	1st Battalion
C. J. Waters	16/12/61	A/Adjutant, 1st Battalion
R. J. Bewell	24/6/62	Trucial Oman Scouts (Dec.)
H. G. F. Chapman	21/12/62	22 S.A.S. Regt.
W. J. Vicary	21/12/62	6th Bn. K.A.R.

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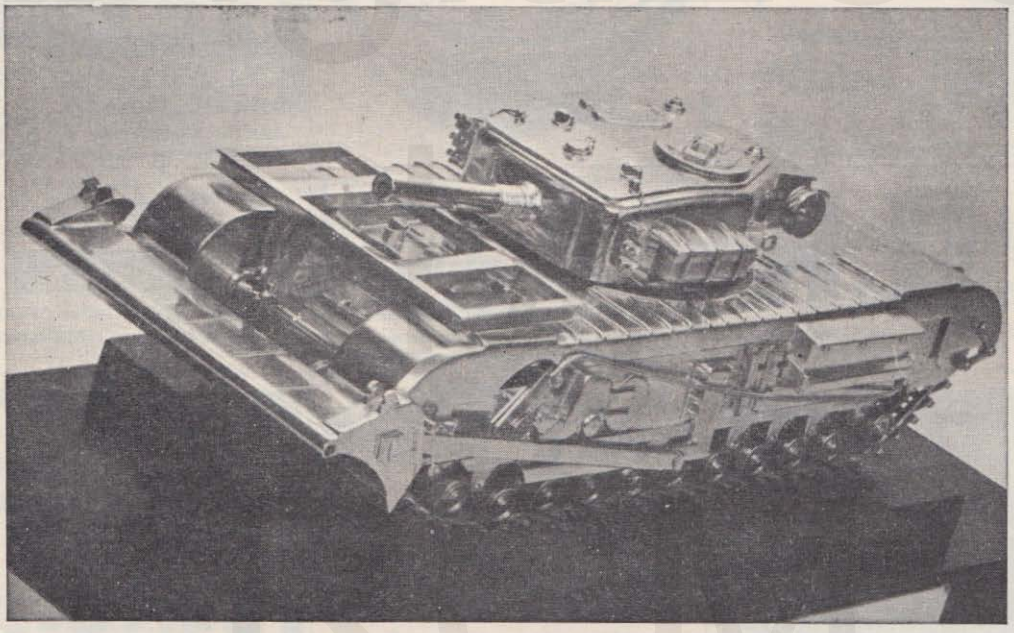

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	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
Lieutenants:		
D. A. Godfrey	4/12/58	Jungle Warfare School, FARELF
R. L. Giles	19/6/59	Attd. R.A.E.C. Depot, Language Course
N. C. Thompson	20/12/59	2nd Para. Regt.
W. R. N. Ladds	2/8/60	1st Battalion
J. W. Mermagen	27/3/61	Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Battalion, Oswestry
S. D. A. Firth	1/6/61	R.S.O., 1st Battalion
T. D. Cooper	1/6/61	1st Battalion
M. G. Smith-Rewse	18/6/61	Wessex Bde. Depot
R. C. Hobbs	18/12/61	1st Battalion
T. B. Dutton	23/1/62	R.M.C.S. Shrivenham
R. D. Grist	16/5/62	1st Battalion
A. G. Hill	22/12/62	1st Battalion
C. J. Newbould	29/1/63	1st Battalion
Second-Lieutenants:		
W. P. J. Corbett	22/12/61	1st Battalion
J. G. H. Corrigan	4/8/62	1st Battalion
A. T. Holman	4/8/62	1st Battalion
Quartermasters:		
K. F. Clark	27/5/55	Regtl. Pay Office, Devizes
	Major 19/11/62	
C. W. Phillips, M.B.E.	12/3/56	5th Battalion
	Major 25/2/62	
A. J. Gillett	1/1/57	Garrison H.Q., Trinidad
	Captain 4/4/59	
J. H. Ridlington	Major 27/12/60	1st Battalion

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

Major:		
D. F. Jones	8/5/56	S.O.P.T. Western Command
Lieutenants:		
B. E. Devlin	28/8/62	Seconded to 3rd Parachute Regt.
T. W. Michels	5/2/63	1st Battalion
Second-Lieutenants:		
G. E. W. R. Mirehouse	28/7/62	1st Battalion
A. C. Dicker	·/2/63	1st Battalion

OFFICERS LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brig. P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.	9/7/62	Comd. 159 Inf. Bde., T.A.
Brig. J. A. Mackenzie, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.	1/1/63	Bde. Comd. R. Nigerian Mil. Forces
T/Brig. A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, O.B.E.	1/2/60	Comd. 151 Inf. Bde., T.A.
Col. A. H. Knight, M.B.E.	10/12/60	Col. A/Q. N. Mid. Dist.

WESSEX BRIGADE OFFICERS SERVING WITH 1ST BATTALION

Major S. S. Elvery	16/9/56	D. & D., O.C. " B " Company
Capt. P. N. Elgar	12/6/56	D. & D., " C " Company
Capt. G. B. Blight	3/8/57	D. & D., " D " Company
Capt. R. P. M. Oldfield	31/7/58	D.E.R.R., " B " Company
Capt. N. D. Notley	31/7/59	D. & D., O.C. Recce. Pl.
Lt. (Q.M.) A. T. Coombe	1/4/61	D. & D., Quartermaster 2 (M.T.O.)

5th BATTALION, T.A.

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
Joint Honorary Colonels:		
The Lord Mayor of Bristol	*Ex officio*	
Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P.	29/8/61	
Lieutenant-Colonel:		
W. O. V. Clee, T.D.	10/4/61	Commanding, 5th Battalion
Majors:		
M. A. L. Bowyer, M.A.	1/2/55	Second-in-Command, Gloucester
T. A. Newberry, T.D.	1/2/55	O.C. " B " Company, Bristol
D. B. Metcalfe	21/3/56	O.C. " H.Q." Company, Gloucester
S. A. Matthews, T.D.	1/4/57	Unattached List (6/4/63)
D. H. Potter, T.D.	27/4/59	O.C. " D " Company, Dursley
E. F. Burkart	2/8/61	G.S.O.2 (C.D.), H.Q. 129 Inf. Bde. (T.A.)
D. Chapman, T.D.	1/2/64	O.C. " A " Company, Bristol
Captains:		
C. S. Jones	1/8/54	G.S.O.3, H.Q. 129 Inf. Bde. (T.A.)
I. Scott-Cooper (Acting Major, 7/4/63)	1/4/57	O.C. " C " Company, Cheltenham
A. Macfarlane	1/4/57	2i/c " B " Company
D. B. Smith	1/1/60	Unattached List (1/12/62)
M. S. Lee-Browne, M.A.	2/1/60	2i/c " C " Company
R. H. Jones	1/5/61	2i/c " A " Company
D. G. Trimby	26/10/61	2i/c " D " Company
M. A. W. Daines	28/8/62	Unattached List (1/2/63)
C. F. L. Boyce	26/2/63	R.S.O.
M. Fenton	28/2/63	2i/c " H.Q." Company
D. B. Rice	7/4/63	I.O.
Lieutenants:		
P. J. Mac I. Whiteman	19/1/58	Recce Platoon
N. J. Wendover	15/2/59	" C " Company
P. R. Williams	11/3/60	" A " Comapny
M. J. M. Wright	9/1/61	" B " Company
H. C. Jessop	23/4/61	" C " Company
J. R. McCann	13/11/61	" D " Company
R. L. Hutchen	11/3/62	" B " Company
B. T. Bowman	22/4/62	" B " Company
A. G. E. Clarkson	31/10/62	" A " Company
Second-Lieutenants on Probation:		
A. M. Grazebrook	16/2/62	" D " Company
P. J. L. Lloyd	30/5/62	" D " Company
A. D. King, B.A.	15/6/62	" A " Company
P. L. Jacques	14/9/62	" C " Company
R. H. P. Walmsley	14/9/62	" A " Company
P. A. Lintott	15/2/63	" C " Company
Quartermaster:		
L. K. J. Courtney, Lieut.	3/12/59	Q.M.2/M.T.O.

Paymaster: Captain W. G. Foreman, T.D., R.A.P.C., 1/9/61
Medical Officer: Major G. B. Hanna, M.B., B.CH., R.A.M.C., T.A., 3/6/61
Chaplain: The Rev. P. C. W. Walker, R.A.CH.D., T.A., 29/12/60
Permanent Staff:
Training Major: Major T. R. Littlewood
Adjutant: Captain R. A. F. Jarman
Quartermaster: Major (Q.M.) C. W. Phillips, M.B.E.
R.S.M.: W.O.1 D. Stephens
P.S.I.s: W.O.2 L. P. Masters, " B " Company; W.O.2 G. Thomas, " C " Company; Sergeant (Local W.O.2) W. R. W. Cheater, " H.Q." Company; Sergeant K. S. Dowler, " A " Company; Sergeant B. J. Murphy, " D " Company.

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

1962

25th December .. Major and Bt. Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Farrar-Hockley, D.S.O., M.B.E., M.C., to be Lieutenant-Colonel (Parachute Regiment) 26th June, 1962.

1963

12th February .. Major (Q.M.) E. J. Hobbs, M.B.E., having exceeded retiring age is placed on retired pay, 10th February.

19th March .. Brigadier H. L. W. Bird, O.B.E., having attained the age limit ceases to belong to R. of O., 18th February.

26th March .. Major J. M. Hillerby, T.D., from Active List T.A. to be Major T.A.R.O., 1st February.

29th March .. Major-General C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., having attained the age limit ceases to belong to R. of O., 9th October, 1962.

5th April .. .. Colonel J. A. Mackenzie, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., to be Brigadier, 1st January, and to be supernumerary to establishment, 14th January.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

L.S. and G.C. Medal
W.O.2 G. Boyes (No. 14439628)
W.O.2 P. Crompton (No. 14446243)
Colour-Sergeant L. Cleeve (No. 14898408)
Corporal McKay

Territorial Efficiency Decoration
Captain D. Chapman
Major S. A. Matthews

Cadet Forces Medal
S.M.I. H. Jeans
S.M.I. C. T. Vining
Rev. E. Akers-Perry

1/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE annual reunion dinner of 1/5th Battalion Old Comrades' Association was held at the Premier Cafe, Stroud, on Saturday, 9th March, 1963.

For the first time since 1919 when the first dinner was held the numbers dropped below 100 chiefly owing to wintry weather. But in spite of lowness of numbers the spirits of those present were as high as usual, as one speaker said, " The spirit of the 1/5th Gloucesters is the most wonderful badge. It is a shining light to all other past and present members of the Gloucestershire Regiment."

Colonel H. P. Snowden, M.C., T.D. who presided said, " You can be a very proud man if you can say that you were with the Gloucesters."

In welcoming those present he remarked that they included men from Suffolk, London, Birmingham, Devon, Wiltshire and Staffordshire.

The toast, " The Gloucestershire Regiment and the 5th Battalion," was proposed by Lieutenant-Colonel Antony Kershaw, M.C., M.P. who said " There is some tendency to think that any future war will be quick, and that our reserves will not matter. This belief is wrong, the Territorial Army will be as valuable as ever."

Major-General Firth in his reply said, " We must face the fact that in the future there will be some closing up of regiments but we must not lose our identity—County traditions must be carried on."

In replying for the 5th Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel W. O. V. Clee, T.D., outlined the training of the Battalion for the past year and described their plans for the future. These were based on an effort " to make them worthy successors of you."

The Rev. E. H. Tucker proposed " absent comrades " and all stood in silence while the buglers of 5th Battalion sounded the Last Post and Reveille.

R. M. A.

8th BATTALION (1914-18) O.C.A.

THE 23rd reunion dinner of the 8th Battalion was held in Gloucester on 6th April—some 45 Old Comrades attended.

The toast of the Battalion was proposed by Mr. Norman Frost, Chief Constable of Bristol. Replying, Brigadier M. A. James, V.C., held up a small black book and told members that it contained the names of all those men of his platoon who went to war in 1915.

The book, he said, was in his possession until he was seriously wounded and brought back to British lines. Where it went to then—" when my pockets were blasted off me "—he did not know, but one day when in hospital in Oxford a sack was handed to him

containing his personal belongings at the time of his wounding and there, among them, was the book.

" Fallen Comrades," and there had been over 970 during the war, was proposed by Major Hughes-James. The loyal toast had been proposed by the chairman, Colonel W. Parkes, and that to the association was proposed by Colonel Elkington. The toastmaster for the evening was Lieutenant Pitt, hon. secretary of the association.

★ ★ ★

A visitor to this country during 1962 was an old member of the 8th Battalion of the First World War, whose name is Joseph F. Fouhey. He is an American citizen from Boston.

In 1917 when a young man he crossed from the United States into Canada and enlisted in the British Army. The wheels of fate brought him to the 8th Gloucesters in France early in 1918 and on his arrival he was posted to " A " (Butterfly) Company under the command of Captain M. A. James just before the March offensive.

He was one of the 11 survivors who managed to get back when the company was overwhelmed in the German attack on 23rd March, and took part in all the later operations of the 8th Battalion during that fateful year.

On demobilisation he returned to his native land and became an aircraft fitter from which trade he retired on reaching retirement age last year.

He was determined to meet some of his old comrades in the 8th Battalion and came over to this country on holiday when he met old members of the Battalion in Bristol, Gloucester and Tewkesbury. He also called at Regimental H.Q. at Gloucester. He greatly treasures his association with the Gloucestershire Regiment.

DO YOU KNOW



R. F. E. A.

During 1962 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 15,665, which was 83% of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 49 Branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number 5,657 were from the Army and 32 were from the Gloucestershire Regiment.

If when you get home you have mislaid 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, 4 Buckingham Palace Mansions, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

"GOOD HEALTH"

A contingent was sent from India and Cape of Good Hope to take part in the 1801 Egyptian campaign.

Colonel Sir John Burgoyne in his history of the operations wrote "It is recorded that the 68th Regiment which came from Bombay was chiefly composed of boys and that on the passage, fever broke out among them and that they lost nearly half their number and continued so unhealthy that they were re-embarked and sent back to Bombay; while the 61st were nearly all old soldiers and owing, it is said, to the strict discipline and care of Colonel Carruthers, although they were over 900 strong and had been 16 weeks on board ship, when they landed at Kossir had only one man on the sick list."

THE ARMY ART SOCIETY

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The Society which exists to encourage Art in the Army and sister Services, is holding its 32nd Exhibition from 30th September until 11th October, 1963, at :—

The Chenil Galleries, King's Road, Chelsea.

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 successfull 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 the 1st of June for particulars. Applications should be addressed to :—

The Honorary Secretary, The Army Arts Society, W. A. Arnold, 4 West Drive Gardens, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

CORRESPONDENCE

c/o Command Catering Pool,
H.Q. Western Command, Chester.
10*th April*, 1963.

To: Colonel R. M. Grazebrook, O.B.E., M.C.

Dear Sir,

I recently received two publications of THE BACK BADGE journal from the 28/61st in Cyprus. It was a disappointment to me to note that in dealing with the visit of Lieutenant-General Sir R. Bray, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., C.-in-C. Southern Command to the Regiment in Lydd, the presentation of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal to myself by the C.-in-C. was given no mention.

I express my feeling as such because with the support of a fine team of A.C.C. and Regiment cooks I managed to maintain a satisfactory standard of messing throughout the Regiment for three and a half years, and although the Regiment's appreciation is shown in my present appointment I feel that in support of those remaining behind should be given a mention.

I hasten to add that apart from one or two mishaps, I enjoyed my tour with the Regiment and miss the comradeship very much indeed. If you print this letter I would like to say that I miss the Regiment very much and all my friends.

I am Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
P. COLE, W.O.1, A.C.C.

Obituary

EX-R.S.M. W. G. BRAIN, M.C.

We regret to announce the death on 9th December last of ex-R.S.M. Brain. Joining the Regiment as No. 4730, in 1895 he served in the South African War with the 61st, and as a signaller during the disaster to the 14th M.I. at Holland's Spruit, remained behind alone and exposed to enemy's fire to helio for reinforcements. For his gallantry he was promoted to full Corporal—to become one of the so-called " King's Corporals." From 1908-1911 he was a drill instructor at the " Shop," the R.M.A. at Woolwich and was promoted Colour-Sergeant in the 28th in 1911 and R.S.M. in 1914. Severely wounded on the Somme he was one of the few Warrant Officers in the Army to gain the Military Cross in the 1914-18 War. From C.Q.M.S. of " B " Company in 1914 to R.S.M. he had given most excellent service.

When Army Numbers replaced Regimental Numbers in 1920, R.S.M. Brain was the oldest-but-one serving soldier in the Regiment and was allotted the No. 5172002.

After his release in 1922 he put in over 22 years service as custodian to the Conservative Club at Gloucester. This post he had to give up owing to ill-health and since then had lived quietly at Stroud.

A fine old soldier, a " gentlemanly " disciplinarian and respected by all those who served with him. His latter months were clouded by the loss of his wife who died in 1962 after 55 years of married life.

MAJOR S. J. GRIFFIN

Major Griffin who died at Bristol in February at the age of 75 was the son of a soldier who had served with Lord Roberts at Kandahar. He enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in 1907 and at the end of the First World War was with the Detention Services in Cologne under Colonel Dan Burges, v.c. It was there in 1922 that he transferred to the Gloucesters as R.S.M. in the 28th in succession to R.S.M. Brain.

In 1925 Griffin was promoted Lieutenant (Q.M.) serving with the 1st Battalion until in 1929 he was posted to the Depot.

It was during these years that Griff's value on the soccer field became of such value to the Regiment. As a player he had represented his old regiment until 1920 when he took up refereeing. He was always a keen sportsman and in due course became a referee of a very high standing. In 1927 and in 1931 he was chosen to referee the international soccer match between the French and Belgian Armies. On the first occasion he was presented with a special souvenir by M. Domergue, the then French Minister of War.

In 1937 Captain Griffin returned to the 28th to succeed Captain Brasington as Q.M. He was promoted Major the following year and continued to work untiringly for the Regiment both in his own department and in various branches of sport. He was a man of varied interests and would talk knowledgeably about almost any subject, and as many will remember was able to acquire for the Regiment things seemingly impossible.

Probably his greatest contribution to the good of the 28th was in Rangoon just prior to the evacuation of Burma. Colonel Bagot writes: " Griff was a pillar of strength. With his long experience, combined with a dynamic character and untiring energy, he obtained for us much of the necessary mobilization equipment and weapons which Ordance refused to provide. One day he produced a motor car stripped down to show all its working parts, and set up a barrack room with diagrams. This was the start from which some 400 men of the Battalion were trained under his instruction to drive and service M.T. vehicles. I have no hesitation in saying that nothing contributed more to the success of the Regiment during the campaign and its subsequent safe arrival in India, than this initiative and forethought on his part. Since we depended for our mobility entirely on rejuvenated abandoned vehicles and our own resources. He will be remembered by many with gratitude for his very live contribution to our welfare and success at that time."

Regrettably Griffin was put out of action during a Jap air raid in Rangoon and was evacuated to India where he was subsequently employed with the Military Police. He was also able to help with the administration of the Glosters Fund initiated by the Bristol *Evening Post*.

After retirement Major Griffin became secretary of the Bristol Branch of the Royal Empire Society; he was founder and chairman of the local branch of the Burma Star Association and in 1950 was elected chairman of the Association of Friends of the French Volunteers.

He had latterly suffered from ill-health, but his passing will be greatly felt by his many old friends, and not least by his widow and sons to whom sympathy of the Regiment is tendered.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL J. L. F. TWEEDIE, D.S.O.

Another death to record with sorrow is that of Colonel Tweedie who died in London at King Edward VII Hospital for Officers on 7th March in his 91st year.

Son of a senior officer of the Indian Army, Tweedie joined the Indian Police but, coming as he did from a family which for generations had served in the Armed Forces, it was natural that on the outbreak of the Boer War he should transfer to the Army and in 1900 he was at the age of 27 commissioned into the Gloucesters. He saw service in South Africa with both the 28th and 61st.

He then served continuously with the 28th until 1909 when he was seconded to the Egyptian Army. He saw active service in the Sudan in 1914 but returned to the Regiment the following year when he joined the 61st in France, proceeding with the Battalion in due course to Salonika later in the year. In 1916 Major Tweedie was appointed to command the 12th Lancashire Fusiliers and with them was awarded the D.S.O. He was one of the eight officers of the 61st to command battalions in the Macedonian theatre of war.

In March 1918, he returned once more to the Regiment and took over command of the 28th only a few days before they were called on to fight their desperate battle of Festubert when they fought for three days nearly surrounded by the enemy. For his services here he received a bar to his D.S.O.: he had also been awarded the Egyptian Order of the Nile and the Serbian Order of the White Eagle.

Promoted Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel in 1919, he continued to serve with the 1st Battalion in Ireland (one of the four Lieutenant-Colonels then in the Battalion !) and in Germany. It was whilst on the Rhine that he retired in November 1922.

Active in his earlier years, gay and good fun, Twiddles was always intensely proud of his Regiment and a keen supporter of all its activities. Sympathy goes to Mrs. Tweedie and her family.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

BIRTHS

MORRIS.—On 15th October, 1962 at Cheltenham, to Rosemary, wife of Major W. L. D. Morris, The Gloucestershire Regiment.—a son.

TEMPLE.—On 25th March, 1963 in Cyprus, to Caroline, wife of Major G. F. B. Temple, The Gloucestershire Regiment—a son.

ENGAGEMENTS

GILMORE—EDMONDS.—The engagement is announced between Captain M. M. A. Gilmore, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and Marion, daughter of Mr. C. J. Edmonds, and stepdaughter of Mrs. Edmonds of Hawkhurst, and daughter of Mrs. Pierson of St. John's Wood.

HURFORD-JONES—WALSHE.—The engagement is announced between Captain D. J. Hurford-Jones, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and Cecelia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Walshe of Princes Risborough.

MARRIAGE

BOYCE—TODD.—On 19th January, 1963 at Badgeworth, Glos., Captain C. F. L. Boyce, 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Todd of Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham.

DEATHS

TAYLOR.—In March, 1962, ex-Private A. Taylor, late the Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 4449597).

PEACOCK.—On 12th April, 1962, ex-Drummer W. Peacock, The Gloucestershire Regiment 1910-22 (No. 97430).

ROGERS.—In April, 1962, ex-Sergeant E. D. Rogers, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1907-18 (No. 8643).

ISAACS.—In April, 1922, ex-Corporal A. H. Isaacs, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 24422).

FENTON.—On 23rd April, 1962, ex-Private H. Fenton, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5172421).

COOMBS.—In August, 1962, ex-Private F. Coombs aged 82, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5182459). Served in South African War.

FARMER.—On 20th August, 1962, ex-R.S.M. H. Farmer, late the Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 7948).

SMITH.—On 3rd October, 1962, ex-Sergeant G. E. Smith, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 6621).

THOMAS.—On 6th November, 1962, at Bexhill-on-Sea, Major B. Thomas, D.S.O., aged 80. The Gloucestershire Regiment 1903-12, serving with the 1st Battalion in India. Rejoined in 1914 and was posted to the 8th Battalion. He commanded "A" Company throughout the Somme battles and at Messines when the company won the Divisional award of the "Butterfly" for gallantry. Major Thomas himself was severely wounded and invalided out of the Army. He won the D.S.O. at Messines.

GIBBONS.—On 10th November, 1962, ex-Corporal F. Gibbons, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5182453).

COUNSELL.—On 21st November, 1962, at Bristol, Mr. R. Counsell aged 55 years. 1st and 2nd Battalions, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

ORGAN.—On 23rd November, 1962, ex-Private A. Organ, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5173256).

STENNER.—In November, 1962, at Bristol, ex-R.S.M. H. C. Stenner. In 1900 he joined the 1st V.B.G.R. (Bristol Rifles) which later became the 4th T.A. Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment. Served with the 1/4th Battalion in France becoming their R.S.M. In civilian life he worked for 50 years at Messrs. Todd & Co. Ltd., of Templegate.

BRAIN.—On 9th December, 1962 at Stroud, ex-R.S.M. W. G. Brain, M.C., The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1895-1922 (No. 4730 and 5172002).

CHALLENGER.—On 21st December, 1962, at Cheltenham, Mr. E. F. Challenger, aged 75. One of the few survivors of the 2nd V.B.G.R. which he joined in 1906. Served in 5th Battalion until 1912. A fine shot in his day. His father had been for many years company cook of "E" Company, and a younger brother was killed as a machine-gunner in 1914-18 war.

NEEDHAM.—On 29th December, 1962, at Ascot, Violet, wife of Major-General H. Needham, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1906-21.

STROUD.—On 3rd January, 1963 at Bristol, Mr. A. G. Stroud, after a long illness. 12th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18, and of Weston-super-Mare.

WATKINS.—On 25th January, 1963, ex-C.S.M. E. W. Watkins, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 4851).

MATTHEWS.—On 25th January, 1963, at Bristol, Mr. W. J. Matthews, late The Gloucestershire Regiment.

WILCOX.—On 28th January, 1963 at Prestbury, Cheltenham, Mrs. E. A. Wilcox, wife of Major S. J. Wilcox, M.B.E., T.D., 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment.

WONSON.—On 3rd February, 1963, at Cheltenham, Mr. R. W. D. Wonson, aged 80. 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

MCMAHON.—On 15th February, 1963, at Malvern, Major D. J. B. McMahon, aged 83. The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1900-29. Served in South African war. A/Paymaster with 28th in India. Wounded with 61st during second Battle of Ypres, 1915: later served with 10th and 2/5th Battalions. Severely injured with latter battalion by kick of a mule.

POOLE.—On 22nd February, 1963, at Ticehurst, Kent, Dr. A. L. Poole, aged 73. Lieutenant 8th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18. President of St. John's College, Oxford, 1947-57. A distinguished medieval historian.

TICEHURST.—On 27th February, 1963, at Cheltenham, Mr. G. F. Ticehurst, aged 83. Served in 2nd V.B.G.R. Enlisted in 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment in 1914 and later commissioned. A leading Cheltenham solicitor and freemason.

GRIFFIN.—In February, 1963, at Bristol, Major (Q.M.) S. J. Griffin, aged 75. The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1922-45.

TWEEDIE.—On 7th March, 1963 in London, Lieutenant-Colonel J. L. F. Tweedie, D.S.O., aged 90. The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1900-22.

STOCKWELL.—On 20th March, 1963, at Bristol, ex-Drummer A. Stockwell, aged 89. The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1892-1913, and during 1914-18 War.

HORSFORD.—On 27th March, 1963, at Crowborough, Captain H. T. Horsford, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1907-21. Served in Sierra Leone Battalion and Army Cyclist Corps.

FARRELL.—On 2nd April, 1963, at Bray, Co. Wicklow, Eire, ex-Sergeant J. (Peggy) Farrell. The Gloucestershire Regiment 1922-45 (No. 7143328). A welcome transfer from the Connaught Rangers. Served in the 28th Drums until promoted Sergeant in 1924. To 61st in 1927 and was for many years Provost Sergeant. Went to France with the Battalion, received head injuries and was taken p.o.w. at Dunkirk. Employed by Customs and Excise Department, 1945-56 when forced to retire owing to ill-health.

MERRICK.—In 1963, ex-Private J. Merrick, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5177926).

MARLING.—On 18th April, 1963 at Amberley, Glos., Lieutenant-Colonel Stanley S. Marling in his 99th year. 2nd Volunteer Battalion and 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1897-1915. O.C. 5th Battalion, 1913-14. Hon. vice-chairman of the Regimental Association. Always took a great and fatherly interest in his old Regiment throughout his long life.

DONATIONS

Acknowledgment is made for the following kind donations towards the cost of producing this issue of the Journal (to 22nd April):

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(d) The Editor has a limited number of post-war back numbers for disposal at 3s. 6d. each, post free.

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

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Against this we received fees from advertisers, a number of welcome donations and from you 3/6 plus 3d. for postage (though this latter is actually 6d.).

Unfortunately The Back Badge account is running into debt. We are, however, most reluctant to raise the price again, or to lower the present standard (i.e. fewer pages or illustrations and so on).

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