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GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Regiment

Summer 1964



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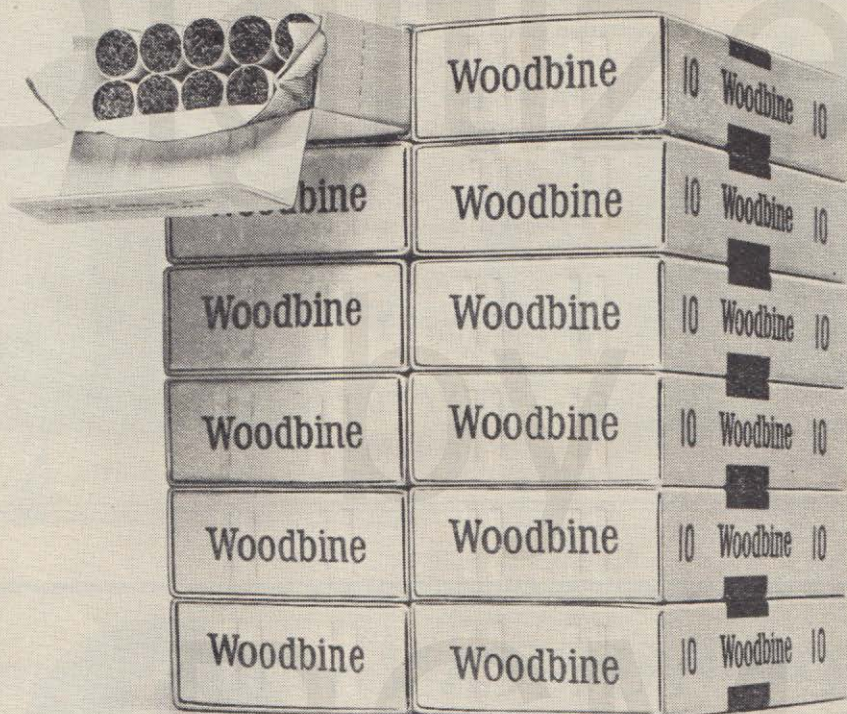
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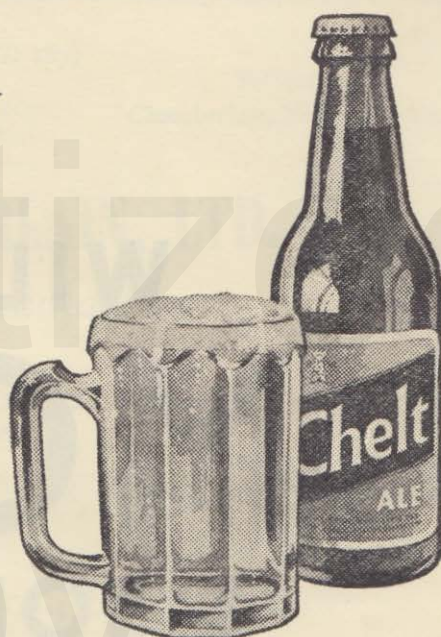
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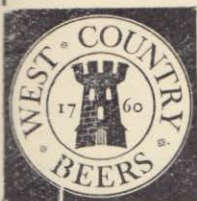
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THE BACK BADGE

The
Journal
of



The
Gloucestershire
Regiment

Vol. X. No. 36 (New Series)

June, 1964

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," "Punjab," "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," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "Kemmel,"
"Béthune," "Drocourt Quéant," "Hindenburg Line," "Epéhy," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal,"
"Beaurevoir," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto,"
"Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1917," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Sari Bair," "Scimitar Hill,"
"Gallipoli, 1915-16," "Egypt, 1916," "Tigris, 1916," "Kut al Amara, 1917," "Baghdad," "Mesopotamia, 1916-18,"
"Persia, 1918."

The Second World War.—"Defence of Escaut," "St. Omer-La Bassée," "Wormhoudt," "Cassel," "Villers Bocage,"
"Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "Risle Crossing," "Le Havre," "Zetten," "North-West Europe, 1940, 44-45,"
"Taukayan," "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

"CHANGE and decay in all around I see," wrote the Rev. H. F. Lyte in his famous Chymn "Abide with me." Certainly we see a deal of change in the Army and in the Regiment these days, but let us hope the following words of Disraeli in 1867 are more accurate:

"Change is inevitable in a progressive country, change is constant."

The War Office, as we have known it and which was constituted in 1870, is now the Ministry of Defence (Army) and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff has unhappily dropped the "Imperial" portion of his title.

In the Regiment we have a new Colonel of the Regiment, a new C.O. of the 5th Battalion, two fresh R.S.M.s in the Battalions, and a new Regimental Bandmaster.

* * *

It is with real regret we say goodbye to General Firth as Colonel of the Regiment after his strenuous and full 10 years with us: time and distance never caused his absence from any Regimental function of note and we all knew we had his interest and backing behind us. Now we wish him a happy retirement and still hope to see both him and Mrs. Firth at our future gatherings.

To Brigadier Heidenstam, who so many serving and young "Old Soldiers" know so well, we send greetings and we know that in the days and years ahead we shall have him also as a friend and a wise "little father."

* * *

Where there appears to have been little change is in Cyprus. Once more the Glosters have been called upon to attempt to keep the peace between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot irresponsibles—the usual sticky situations have arisen when as part of the "peace force" the British soldier with his usual patience, good humour and tolerance has been called upon to show his virtues, and with no word of thanks from the inhabitants of the Island. As the British High Commissioner in Cyprus said when the United Nations troops began to arrive, "As yet we have received no public expression of thanks so far from the people of Cyprus whom we have, to the best of our ability, helped quite impartially."

Their efforts have, however, been acknowledged by others. Major-General Young, the G.O.C., sang the praises of the Battalion for all their good and unpleasant work in the earlier days before reinforcements arrived. Mr. Ball, the American Under Secretary of State after a visit to the Island, said "The role of peacemaker is never easy and the role of peacekeeper very difficult. It needs great restraint, patience, understanding and compassion. I should like to pay tribute to the British troops there and say my country is grateful for the way they carry out their arduous, wearying and frustrating task." General Gyani, the Indian U.N. force commander on the spot, in an order of the day expressed his absolute admiration for the tact and way in which the British troops had worked.

Well done 28th/61st. People at home are proud of you—all ranks, and the wives and families who have had such an anxious and difficult time.

MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT**BRIGADIER P. C. S. HEIDENSTAM, C.B.E.**

On my assumption as Colonel of the Regiment, I want first to pay tribute to General Ted Firth, who has been our Colonel for the past 10 years. During that time he has taken every opportunity to foster, nourish and preserve the best traditions of the Regiment and has taken an active interest in all its activities, whether they be Regular, Territorial or Old Comrades. The Regiment as a whole and many individuals to whom he was always willing to advise and support owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Second, I would like to send my greetings and best wishes to all members and their families both of the Regiment and the Regimental Association.

Changes have taken place and will take place in the organisation of the Army; this is inevitable if up-to-date progress is to be made. In fact changes have taken place ever since 1694, when the story of The Gloucestershire Regiment began. But throughout the years from Alexandria to Salamanca to Korea to the present troubles in Cyprus the Regiment, however it has been named or whatever type of badge it has worn, has a record second to none and in all this has been fully supported by its Territorials and Old Comrades. It will be my endeavour as Colonel of the Regiment, whilst accepting those changes which are necessary for progress, to safeguard those traditions and associations from the past which have enabled the Regiment to undertake any task which it has been called upon to perform with such success.

One final plea. The Regiment can speak from strength if it is united and if it is strong in numbers. That it is united, Regular, Territorial, Old Comrades, I have no doubt. I cannot be so sure that it is strong enough in numbers. Therefore I ask everyone, who has the interest of the Regiment at heart, to do whatever they can to encourage recruits to join the Glosters.

**REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS**

Congratulations to **Brigadier A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, O.B.E.**, on his appointment as Commandant of the School of Infantry at Warminster. One of his last tasks when commanding the 151st Infantry Brigade in Yorkshire was to act as one of the judges at a charm and beauty competition held for some 350 W.R.A.C.s of the 50th Division.

Sir Colin Coote, D.S.O., who served in the 4th and 5th Battalions during the 1914-18 War, winning the D.S.O. in 1918, has retired from the editorship of the *Daily Telegraph* which he has held since 1950. He was 22 years in the service of the paper.

Mrs. F. Counsell of Westbury-on-Trym, widow of **Private R. Counsell** who died in 1962 (28th/61st), was the lucky winner of £1,000 first prize in the Bristol *Evening Post's* last annual Christmas shopping competition. This competition is one of the money-raising efforts of the paper in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal Fund for aged people in Bristol.

Mr. W. V. Denley has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal for 31 years' service as postman in Andoversford, near Cheltenham. He served in the 61st from 1915-22.

Major-General C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., had the honour of being received by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, last April on relinquishing the appointment of Colonel of the Regiment, as did **Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.** on his assumption of that office.

Captain A. J. Gillett has returned to the U.K. after his service with the 1st Battalion Trinidad and Tobago Regiment in Trinidad. He is now at Wessex Brigade Depot awaiting a new appointment.

Major A. W. Hardick is now an R.O.III (Legal and Discipline) at H.Q. Salisbury Plain Sub-District, Bulford.

Captains J. B. Henderson and **D. J. Hurford-Jones** have been selected to attend the Staff College in 1965.

We now have a second in-patient at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in **ex-Sergeant A. H. Phipps** (No. 5172101) who served 1907-33 in the Regiment, and from 1939-41 in the R.A. (T.A.). He has kindly given us an article on life today at Chelsea.

W.O.1 W. Smythe, B.E.M., being the senior W.O. in the Wessex Brigade has been appointed to the Brigade Depot at Exeter. His place in the 1st Battalion has been taken by **R.S.M. D. Stephens** recently serving with the 5th, and the latter's place at Gloucester has been taken by **R.S.M. P. Martin** from the Devon and Dorsets.

Major A. C. A. (Mick) Walker, M.B.E. (No. 5179217) retired last year after 37 years in the Army—latterly on an extended service commission in the Army Physical Training Corps in Germany. He is now the full-time organising secretary of the Bristol Old Folk's Festival.

Another new arrival on the list of R.O.IIIs is **Major N. S. Watkin-Williams**. He has just been appointed Staff Captain "A" at H.Q. 54 (East Anglian) Division/District at Colchester which is only ten miles from his home on Mersea Island. He writes to say how he has enjoyed life at Sierra Leone where he was at the "hub" of things in the Governor's office before and during Independence, and in the Prime Minister's office and Ministry of Defence since.

After the mutinies in Kenya the War Office wrote to say that the **3rd King's African Rifles** have now been absorbed into the Kenya forces and their alliance with the Gloucestershire Regiment is now automatically concluded.

There is, as we go to press, no news of the whereabouts of **Major M. G. Harvey, M.C.**, who was serving as 2i/c of the 11th Battalion K.A.R., a unit which is believed to have mutinied.

It is understood that the 28th/61st are delighted they do not have to wear the pretty blue U.N. beret; any U.N. soldier unfortunate enough to meet a Gloster is liable to be met with a barrage of West Country humour. "Where were *you* on Boxing Day?" is a popular jibe.

Cheltonians will miss the **North Street Territorial Drill Hall** which has been in continuous use since it was built in 1909 on the formation of the Territorial Force. It was first occupied by "E" and "L" Companies of the 5th Glosters—"E" Company then being the local company in the days of the old eight-company battalion, and "L" Company was the cyclist company to which men could belong providing their own cycles.

The new T.A. Centre in Arle Road, Cheltenham, is certainly a more luxurious building with more spacious surroundings, but it is shared with other units, and old members of the 5th will no doubt in some ways regret the change from the rather murky entrance with its sphinx over the gate.

When the 28th/61st moved to Nicosia to patrol the town during the tense period last Christmas, one company and Tac. H.Q. were quartered in the luxurious Ledra Palace Hotel. When the shooting had died down the hotel management handed the C.O. a bill for £600!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Friday, 19th June .. Officers' Buffet Lunch and Regimental Dinner, Army and Navy Club, London.
- 4th to 18th July .. 5th Battalion Camp.
- Saturday, 3rd October .. W.O.s' and Sergeants' Reunion, Gloucester.

WESSEX BRIGADE

It had been hoped to include information about the other regiments of the Wessex Brigade, but their latest newsletter dated March and giving battalions' news of last February is hopelessly out of date, and for us gives but little factual and useful news.

Actually the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment are soldiering at Holywood, Northern Ireland, the Royal Hampshire Regiment (now commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker) are in Germany but have been on a week's stand-by notice to move to any part of the world. The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment moved from Malta to Cyprus at the time of the emergency and may still be there.



CYPRUS is still the focal point in world events. The Regiment took a heavy burden of settling disputes and damping a civil war in Nicosia. Together with the R.A.F. Regiment from Akrotiri we were first into Nicosia on Boxing Day. During the whole period of peace-keeping duties no shot was fired, except in self defence, to maintain law and order. This is no mean task, when there are continued acts of aggression, provocation, and being subject to abuse.



CYPRUS DISTRICT
Two Golden Lions on a
Green Shield

The Regiment was away in Nicosia for approximately six weeks, during which time our wives were in Limassol on their own, except when their husbands came home for a 48-hour leave. The battle in Limassol on 13th February which was confined to the Turkish quarter found several of our families in the middle of the battle who were later evacuated to Episkopi and have since been re-housed in safer areas in Limassol.

On returning to Episkopi, after a few false starts, we were again committed on peace-keeping duties in the South West. Western Zone H.Q. was set up under Brigadier Crane. "A" Company went to Polemidhia Camp, "B" Company to Paphos and "D" Company to Troodos. The arrival of 26 Regiment R.A. relieved the company at Paphos.

Since the arrival of the U.N. force and it becoming operational this Easter, the Regiment has returned to barracks and life is getting back to normal again, with only one company away in the Troodos Mountains. We are without the U.N. blue berets and are earning a well-deserved rest from peace-keeping duties in the Sovereign base area.

TRUCE FORCE

The rumours of trouble from most reliable sources began to filter into Episkopi as early as September but no one imagined that the Battalion would be called into Nicosia to prevent civil war.

The Christmas festivities had been curtailed slightly as the troubles increased, but everyone had enjoyed the normal Christmas lunch and had just finished dinner when orders came to move to Nicosia. The Colonel held his first "O" group around the dinner table and remarkably by 1000 hours on Boxing Day the Battalion was well on its way to Nicosia.

They looked grey and tired and the "char wallahs" who accompanied the column were out of "Alka Seltzers" and coffee in no time at all.

Our first home was to be in a hutted camp on Nicosia Airfield. On the 27th the Battalion began to patrol Nicosia bringing relief to stranded service families and getting to know the city. On the 28th "B" Company moved into Nicosia and took up positions in the Ledra Palace Hotel and Nicosia Club. "A" and "D" Companies went into the walled city the next day and took up positions along the Mason Dixon Line. Tac H.Q. moved into the confines of the Ledra Palace. The green line dividing the two communities was established and we then had the difficult task of trying to move the two opposing forces back at least 100 yards from the line, and to try and prevent further bloodshed.

On the 4th of January when reinforcements arrived we were withdrawn to R.A.F. Nicosia until the 11th, when we were sent to the north coast towns of Xeros and Lefka, where an explosive situation was developing as both sides refused to accept the agreement of removing road blocks and dismantling defended positions. Lefka and Xeros are the H.Q. of Cyprus Copper Mines and work was at a standstill. The Battalion was deployed with "A" and "D" Companies in Lefka and "B" Company and Ech in Xeros. Battalion H.Q. was established on the golf course at Pendayia.

Again frantic negotiations took place and freedom of movement was partially restored despite some very difficult moments. No shots were fired by us although as in Nicosia several shots came in our direction.

By the 19th the situation had eased considerably in this area but Nicosia still showed no improvement. "D" Company moved back to reinforce the R.A.F. Regiment in the Kyrenia Road area of Nicosia and the Battalion took over from No. 3 Wing on the 21st in the Northern suburb of Trakhonas.

The Battalion's task did not change and by this stage both sides had got their second wind in Nicosia and kidnapping, minor battles, arson and looting were rife. Again by negotiations the situation was eased although both sides were very trigger happy and the Green line had to be manned by day and night. The Recce Platoon remained in Lefka with the Drums and managed to keep the two communities quiet.

By mid-February Paphos and Limassol were warming up and concern for our families was first in our thoughts.

On the 16th we heard the welcome news we were to be relieved by 1 Para and that we were to take on the south-west. "A" Company moved to Polemidhia, "B" Company to Ktima and "D" Company to Troodos. The Battalion was very widely disposed and we were glad to hand over Ktima to 26 R.A. "D" Company then moved to Polemidhia, "B" Company went to Troodos and "A" Company took over the responsibilities of Episkopi village, Mallia and Kaandou. Mallia blew up and the Recce Platoon, Drums and a platoon of "A" Company distinguished themselves in quelling a very nasty incident.

It was with great relief that we heard that we would not be included in the U.N. Force, as for three months we had been working day and night prising the two sides apart with little praise. Both communities in their own way despised and insulted us all, the soldiers had kept their heads, and from the newest joined private had restrained the urge to shoot and calmed both sides by negotiation.

It is indeed difficult to single out any particular incident which individuals did well

because every department, platoon and soldier were faced with problems which no textbook can solve and somehow by negotiation these difficulties were overcome.

"A" COMPANY

Many changes have taken place within the Company since October. Second-Lieutenant C. B. Smith-Rewse has newly joined from Sandhurst. Colour-Sergeant Brisland has taken over from Colour-Sergeant Walker, the latter now being a constable with the W.D. Police. Sergeant Page has joined the 5th Battalion as P.S.I. and Sergeants Modrich and Brooks have joined us from other companies.

We now have our own signals detachment headed by Corporal Cavill with Privates Saunders, Cameron and Macey, all classified signallers. Our Company M.T. which during the past months has run up a considerable mileage has had two disasters, Corporal Broady's "Pig" sheared a retaining pin and lost a wheel and Private Purver's 1-ton broke a half-shaft leaving him in the wilds for some time. Private Dix is now the Company clerk, but spends much time dreaming of the car he's going to get at Chester. Corporal Rainbow our muscle bending expert has quite ably carried out the duties of 3 Platoon sergeant but would sooner wear his red and black and training the company athletics team.

On Christmas Eve, 3 Platoon were alerted and hastily dispatched by plane to Nicosia where fighting amongst Greek and Turk had been going on for three days. On Boxing Day the remainder of the Company formed the vanguard of the convoy that snaked for miles with "Jacks" in full stream heading in the direction of Nicosia. Indeed the whole Battalion were on the move and "move" was the operative word.

On arrival at Nicosia we were directed to a transit camp within the confines of Nicosia Airport.

After several days of waiting the Company moved off again, this time to take up duties inside the walled city. The streets were deserted, but the number of warlike posts bustling with weapons was considerable. Once inside the wall, the Company took over a school for girls (the holidays were still on) and it was here that the New Year was very quietly "seen in" with the exception of 4 Platoon who at midnight aided by Captain Rebbeck, Lieutenant Grist and the C.S.M. escorted the whisky bottle along the Mason Dixon Line to the customary Old Lang Syne reassuring the locals that the British were there.

From Nicosia the Company complete with "Scouse," the char wallah, moved to a position near the Turkish village of Lefka and a tented camp was established between the Greek and Turkish positions. It was here that the C.Q.M.S. had to thaw out the water bowser after a freezing night. The next move took us back once again to Nicosia, but this time into what appeared to be a block of luxury flats. The opening days were spent filling sandbags and carrying them up flights of stairs to roof top positions on the factories along the Green Line. The task once again was one of peace-keeping and many a would-be serious incident was dissolved by applying common sense and hours of talking. Private Abdullah, speaking both Turkish and Greek, was a great asset during consultations with the local police force, he having once served with the Cyprus police.

We were relieved in Nicosia by 1 Para and the Company moved back to the Limassol area for a short while and then on to Episkopi where 1 Platoon took over the police station. 4 Platoon moved to Mallia and it was here that Sergeant Longden and his



(Top left) Ferret scout cars being prepared for a patrol near Lefka. These cars are a special issue to the Battalion for their I.S. duties. (Top right) A sandbagged position on "Pork Chop Hill" outside Nicosia. (Bottom left) A Ferret car of the Recce Platoon patrols Lefka. (Bottom right) Two members of the Recce Platoon joke with a police inspector in Lefka.

Collection



(Top left) Keeping watch from a flour mill roof in Trachonas area. *(Top right)* Lance-Corporal B. Wiggins manning position on "Pork Chop Hill".
(Bottom left) Lance-Corporal C. Caple and Private P. Whitcher in position on oil factory in Trachonas district. *(Bottom right)* Time off between patrols.
 Privates R. Crouch and M. Evans.

section after flying in by helicopter during the battle were congratulated by the Commanding Officer for their steadiness, patience and firm bearing under considerable small arms fire.

Winning the novices boxing competition gave us 4 points towards the "Hobbs Cup." Lance-Corporal Williams (18), Privates Ramsden, Gleeson and Flynn all won their weights and together with the rest of the team very quickly learnt the art of drinking champagne from the punch bowl.

Another achievement by the "Point" Company was the assault course competition. Once again we added to our Hobbs Cup score with full marks. 3 Platoon had the fastest time in the Battalion. It is rumoured that the Padre was late for church on Sunday having had difficulty "over the wall"!

The soccer team too have won honours. They drew with "B" Company 1—1, defeated "D" Company 4—3 and "H.Q." Company by 5—2. This meant we shared top place with "B" Company. Private Bryant our goalkeeper made many spectacular saves whilst Corporal Miller, Lance-Corporal Gaze and Privates Lloyd and Avenall were ever prominent in the attack. At present the Company has an overall lead in the Hobbs Cup of 3 points with two events to go.

"B" COMPANY

The Company was enjoying normal life in Episkopi as the last BACK BADGE notes were written. Since then we have had a couple of months of training and exercises and three months of emergency operations.

In October we had a successful I.S. exercise when we captured all the Green Jackets in the Kyrenia Range. The weather was fine, the dogs flourished round the block, and afternoons were free. In November we enjoyed Sergeant Pickard's fireworks, changed into winter dress, and began to take exercise in the afternoons.

Exercise Solinus against 3 Para was not as tough as we expected. We had expected to be overrun by red-bereted men soon after the parachute assault. This did not happen. The first attack came in half a day late and the enemy continued to be late throughout the exercise. However, it was easy for us in vehicles; they walked the length of the Kyrenia Range. We didn't think this gave them an excuse to capture our beer though.

After defeating the Paras we started Hobbs Cup competitions. We did well in the Novices boxing and gained three champions, Collins as middleweight, Lance-Corporal Stock as lighthheavy and Lieutenant "Rock Fist" Mirehouse as heavyweight. Congratulations.

C.S.M. Dee left us to go to the T.A. shortly before Christmas. He was still here on leave when the emergency began, and we hope he is now well settled in his new post.

We heard rumours of impending trouble in Cyprus some time before Christmas. However, our Christmas arrangements went smoothly ahead. Captain Rendle joined the Company and Lance-Corporal Webb got married. The Battalion concert took place, Lance-Corporal Coram was a great success, but Support Platoon's "Christine" act was censored.

On Friday, 20th December, the Battalion started to man the Western Zone ops room and we heard of the Cypriot troubles. The Company was put on standby, the marrieds had to spend Christmas Eve at home and be in camp on the 25th, but we continued to enjoy ourselves. Support Platoon very nearly won the inter-platoon six-a-side soccer



on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day itself went off as normal until we got orders at 10 p.m. to move to Nicosia at 0800 hours the next day.

Boxing Day dawned in a confused way. We all spent our time packing, loading magazines, finding kit and rushing in all directions. However, we were ready in time and the whole Battalion set off for Nicosia. It was a fine sight, the long column of vehicles moving at best speed with Union Jacks fluttering in the air. We remember how both Greeks and Turks were pathetically glad to see us, and how we were clapped and cheered as we drove through Nicosia.

We set up camp in the R.A.F. Station and named it Alexandria Camp. On 27th December things were uncertain, but a few of us did patrols round the suburbs with the R.A.F. Regiment, who went unobtrusively round Nicosia to see what was going on. We felt quite safe under our Union Jack, but it was quite obvious that no one else did. Both Greek and Turks were shut up in their houses or else standing armed guard. There were many casualties and gaunt unshaven faces everywhere. Everyone was glad to see us and relaxed when we came by. There were occasional shots to be heard but no real fighting.

On 28th "B" Company moved in to the Ledra Palace. We drove up while the EOKA boys were still on the roof. As we came in they went out leaving their mess behind them.

We took over the north wing of the hotel, living in the ballroom and having Company and later Battalion H.Q. upstairs. We first took over the roof where the Cypriots had been sniping at the Turkish Embassy and Dr. Kutchuk's house.

Our task was to dominate the north west of Nicosia, standing between the two communities to prevent any incidents. We worked day and night and those first few exciting days were very long. We were only at the Ledra for a week, but it seemed more like a month. During that time Support Platoon and Company H.Q. manned the Ledra roof and road block and patrolled the area. 6 Platoon guarded the residency, and 7 Platoon took over the C.I.T.A. building.



Both sides respected us, and the Union Jack worked wonders. However, the Greeks very quickly produced armbands and enrolled all the EOKA boys as special constables. Their first act was to set up their own road block 100 yards behind ours. Things were quiet most of the time, but one occasionally heard bursts of fire from the old city.

We got to know the manager and staff at the Ledra well. When we arrived there were few guests, a couple of cabaret artistes and a few press men. The rooms were filthy with old crusts, orange peel and piles of cartridge cases, with a few bullet holes in the cupboards and doors. We cleaned up, moved in and became friends with the inhabitants. In fact on New Year's Eve we had an excellent party with wine and chicken supplied by the Ledra and their cabaret to entertain us. The press had been a little suspicious of us at first but when we welcomed them they became most friendly.

After a short time life became organised. Our food was cooked in the hotel kitchens, 6 Platoon lived off the fat of the land at the Nicosia club, the mail arrived every day for some of us and we were properly in business.

The Passion Run was instituted after a few days. At first the marrieds were sent home for a day to organise their families. After a while single men were sent too and this bore definite fruit in at least one case we know of.

Our first move was on Friday, 3rd January when the R.A.F. Regiment took over our Company area and we returned to the rest of the Battalion at Alexandria Camp. We had a couple of days rest. The first we spent on a route march and quick attack, followed by an afternoon's rugby. The next day, Sunday, was quieter, just battle P.T. and a church service.

It was about this time that troops began to fly out from England. We came under command of 16 Para Brigade H.Q., and 2nd Regiment R.A. and 1 Para flew out.

We soon learnt when to expect trouble, as soon as the Company Commander left us to go home, something would crop up. The first time he left we were ordered to Ormophita.

This short stay was one of the most depressing of our tour. Ormophita is a poor, mixed suburb north and east of Nicosia. There had been considerable fighting there before and during Christmas and many Turks moved out of the area and fled to Turkish villages or into the walled city. As a result many houses and small homes were left empty. The Greeks smashed and looted the contents and burned many homes. The Rifle Brigade had not been able to prevent all the incidents so we were sent to help, when the Turkish Army threatened to attack if another house was burned.

Ormophita was a dismal place. We lived in a children's school furnished with short legged chairs and tables for four-year olds. A man had been shot in one room where we lived and there were still blood stains on the floor. The Platoon areas were small and one endlessly repeated one's beat around the poor, ruined, dirty houses. We patrolled night and day. There was nothing exciting about it, we were still respected as a peace force, but the Greeks became less helpful and more of a nuisance. We were glad to leave Ormophita and return to Alexandria Camp.

Lieutenant Michels left us at this time to do his course in England. We wish him good gradings and an interesting time.

As new troops came to the Island, we were freed for duties outside Nicosia. On leaving Ormophita we moved with the rest of the Battalion to Xeros and Lefka on Saturday, 11th January. There are mines in Lefka and a big Turkish community, which is adjacent to the Greek port of Xeros. Here there had been no actual fighting, but both sides were all ready to start. Our task was to position ourselves between the two communities, relax the tension, and get life back to normal.

This fortnight under canvas in the country was the wettest and coldest of the winter. However, we soon acquired the art of making ourselves comfortable. Each tent had an electric light, and every post soon had its brazier, firewood, and sack of oranges.

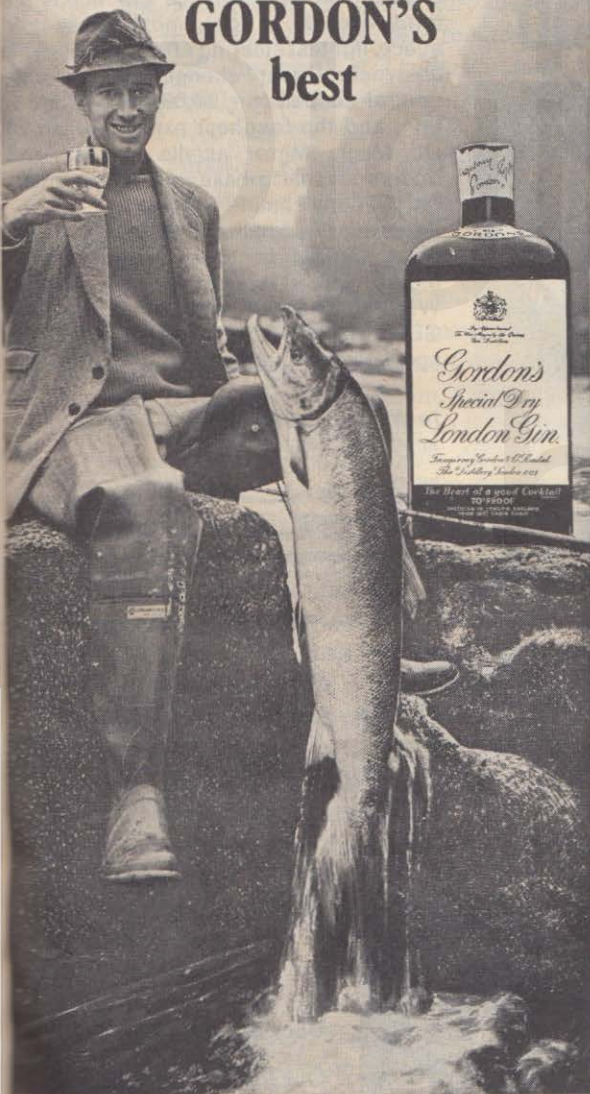
We had various jobs to do. Man a Greek Police road block that tried to stop Turkish movement, escort people to and from the towns and villages and patrol the local area. We did this and constantly met the annoying Cypriots who are now the legal forces of the state. These men were very full of themselves and appeared to control the police and civil administration in Xeros. They obviously enjoyed being in power and made no attempts to get the mines working or life back to normal. They were interested in getting rid of the Turks and nothing else.

One of the pleasures of Lefka was the countryside. The hill villages in particular were nice. The houses were stronger, the people less shifty, and the air much clearer. They were a pleasure to visit. Our soccer team had a few games in Xeros. One had to have a good referee as the locals thought it fair to field a team 13 or 14 strong. However, we did beat them.

Other things we remember from Xeros. The Cyprus mines showers we used. The oranges, Battalion H.Q. on the golf course and the rain dripping through the tent roof during the storms.

We were most of the way to getting the place settled after 10 days, but on Tuesday, 21st January we were ordered back to Nicosia to take over the north western sector and the Turkish corridor into the city. Once again "B" Company had the best area. We took over Trakhonas. This is a village once separate from Nicosia, but now joined to it by suburbs. It does, however, retain its village character, being clustered like a lollipop

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round the church and coffee shops in the centre with the road to Nicosia forming the stick of the lollipop.

We now moved into a new situation. While we were in Lefka a green line had been drawn between the two communities. We were to stop either side crossing the green line, and as usual try and restore the situation as normal. This was not made easier by the fact that the Turks were reputed to be standing by to invade and the Greeks were worried. Just north of Trakhonas stands Orta Keiy, a Turkish village with a battalion of specially picked six-foot Turks standing by constantly at the ready. "B" Company took over from the R.A.F. Regiment to keep the peace between a Cypriot sergeant and the Turkish "Regulars" over the wadi.

Just opposite the church in Trakhonas stands the 001 Club, now a temporary police station under the command of the Cypriot sergeant, a P.T. instructor from the police training school in Nicosia. He had a fluctuating force of specials and irregulars, constables variously dressed in denims and steel helmets, police blue serge, SD caps and berets.

Our accommodation in Trachonas was very good, private houses that we took over from the R.A.F. Regiment. Company H.Q. had three bungalows joined together to house officers and Ops Room, Company H.Q. and one platoon. The best billet was first occupied by 7 Platoon and had working TV, gas stove, washing machine and fridge. During our stay in the houses the platoon cooked and fended for themselves, did duties every night and kept busy and amused. The Company bought some sets of Monopoly, cards, draughts and so on, that proved popular and we spent some time playing volley ball. The soccer team also had some success against the local village who fielded three teams. We beat them all.

We had settled into a pleasant routine of peace-keeping at Trakhonas when Captain Rendle failed to turn up after two days' passion run. He eventually drove up a day late, grinning and saying that he was engaged. The same week Lieutenant Davis arrived from Sandhurst and took over 6 Platoon and C.S.M. Masters arrived at the same time. They both arrived just in time to settle in before "Trench Time in Trakhonas." One night, a Cypriot sergeant organised all the men in the village to a 1914-18 style trench around a few houses at the north west end of the village. This was about 70 yards long and had two fire bays that covered our houses very well. The next day the sergeant got a bulldozer and began to improve his trench, making a large but useless earthwork. The Greeks were very pleased with themselves, until the Turks 400 yards away got up three dozers and built a very much bigger and practical earthwork that covered the Kyrenia Road from view.

This rather back-fired on the Greeks who now felt foolish. Sergeant Bambos began an anti-British feeling and convinced himself of a lot of amusing facts. Apparently we had a Greek speaking soldier in every platoon to "spy" on the lawful forces of the state. We had been giving information to the Turks, Private Williams of Support Platoon apparently was a Turk and so, of course, was the "char wallah." His imagination increased as he lost his temper. The final straw came when he found that he and his trench diggers had been filmed for the Battalion P.R.I. film. On learning this he got up an Army and surrounded Company H.Q. with his irregulars and demanded that the film be destroyed. He was partly pacified by several cups of tea.

Trakhonas was both comfortable and fun, but after that we were glad to send a party to Troodos for ski-ing, and looked forward to going ourselves. It didn't work, however,

for on Monday, 17th February, we handed over to 1 Para and moved to Ktima after a night stop in Episkopi.

This tour in Ktima was a good one. We arrived to take over from 1 Para some five days after the first battle in the town. This had been a strenuous affair and was fought with armoured bulldozers sniping down the main street.

Company H.Q. and two platoons moved into Wrottersley Hall just outside the town, while 7 Platoon lived in the Pig Farm at Akhelia. They patrolled the country roads and villages to the south. 6 Platoon controlled the town, while Support Platoon and a troop of Royals patrolled the country to the north.

The Greek police and civil administration were rather more in command of the situation in Ktima than in other places we had been in. However, when there was trouble brewing EOKA came in and gave orders as to how the battles should be fought.

Not only did we control the town, we managed to visit the villages and keep the hill roads open. This was largely due to the great help given us every day by the helicopters of the R.A.F. They were most useful landing anywhere and working anytime while they were with us.

26th Regiment R.A. were flown out with General Carver and they came to relieve us at Ktima. We handed over to them on Sunday, the 23rd February and gladly returned to Episkopi for a couple of days after spending two months away.

In 1963 it had been planned that "B" Company should run the winter warfare training centre at Troodos, and for some time the Company Commander's eyes were on the Troodos snows. On Thursday, 27th, we left Episkopi again and set off for Troodos where we relieved "D" Company.

At first we expected to have a Company ski-ing holiday, in fact we had to work quite hard to build defences for ourselves and 200 R.A.F. men who were to hold the radar and signals in case anything happened.

There was not a lot of time for ski-ing, but those who tried enjoyed it and made good progress. Luckily the snow stayed good and we were able to have a Company ski-ing championships organised by Lieutenant Hill and won by Corporal Challinor who had only been ski-ing a week. This was a great success as was the evening party afterwards.

Company H.Q. were happy as Mrs. Streather brought her family to live in hut 70, with an extra nanny in the shape of Miss Whitley (we didn't ask who she was looking after). Padre Morris visited us on Sunday. No matter where we go the padre always turns up and we always enjoy seeing him.

On Thursday, 19th March, we changed round and the complete Company are now in Polemidhia Camp keeping an eye on Limassol and waiting for the United Nations Forces to come and take over from us.

The following changes have taken place in the Company since the last BACK BADGE notes: Captain Rendle, C.S.M. Masters, Colour-Sergeant Russell, Sergeants Tasker and Boulton, Corporal Harrington and the Signals detachment, Farrell, Relf, Courteney, Evans have joined us. We welcome them. Captain Oldfield, Captain Lapage Norris, C.S.M. Dee, Corporal Shaw, Parker and Crouch have left us. We congratulate the following on their promotion: Corporal Galley, Lance-Corporals Stock, Scurlock, Tanguay, Webb, Skinner, Davin and Adams. Also the new pads on their recent marriages, Lance-Corporals Davin, Webb, Skinner, Bowkett, Jarrett, Crouch and Parker and Captain Rendle on his engagement.

"C" (TRAINING) COMPANY

Since our last notes the Company has done almost everything except train. "The Troubles" (Lieutenant Corrigan's phrase) changed our proud motto from "C for Cream" to "C for Canteen," as we had the unenviable job of providing canteen facilities for the Battalion in Nicosia and Lefka. C.S.M.I. Hart became caterer of the Nicosia Sergeants' Mess, Private Short showed films in various venues ranging from the Ledra Palace Hotel to "D" Company's famous flour mill, and Corporal Ennis carried on quite happily with the ammunition.

The sight of Colour-Sergeant Cleeve, Sergeant Hyde, Lance-Corporal Dixon and the rest selling everything from meat pies to Mars bars from the back of a 3-tonner became common place, whilst Captain Elgar became an expert in Naafi accounting. Whilst we realised that our efforts were most necessary we were heartily relieved to get back to Episkopi, and, at the time of writing, are busy running a Junior N.C.O.s' Cadre. This is somewhat limited, as we cannot leave the Sovereign base area, and are forbidden to use pyrotechnics for fear of alarming the locals.

Throughout this period we have undergone many changes. Captain Elgar has left us for "A" Company, pending posting to his beloved helicopters again. Lieutenant Newbould has also gone, and now trains recruits at the Depot. C.S.M. Outterside and Sergeant Modrich have also left us, whilst Sergeant Boulton got away only to be recalled for the present cadre. We wish them all (except Sergeant Boulton) the best of British in their new appointments.

Captain Rebbeck is now commanding, ably assisted by Lieutenant Corrigan, whose traditionally Irish sense of humour lightens the heavier lectures. Private Yabsley has also joined us for duty as pamphlet storeman. Finally, we congratulate Private March, who did extremely well on his clerks course at Warminster in December.

"D" COMPANY

Join the Army and see the world! Go to sunny Cyprus where each and every day is packed with new adventure! One can just imagine that ever so kind recruiting sergeant rolling off the patter—Yes, enjoy the thrilling atmosphere of an international airport (as you double up and down the runway a little after sunrise), or maybe just stroll through the quaint sweet smelling streets of Nicosia's walled city at any hour of the day or night. On the other hand guided tours of Fort Martin, Lefka Secondary Mod or other such ancient monuments will always be made available to you. For the unexpected you may even catch a glimpse of Martin's Marauders whiling away the time and recalling past exploits as they dally all day under the Tree of Idleness at Bellapais. Even the oddest of hobbies are catered—for instance if you are bent towards geology, you may chip away all day at Mount Olympus—such tools as are needed are all provided—free!

If, like us, you had believed all that, you too would have been rudely awakened from sleep or stupor in the early hours of Boxing Day morning. By 0600 hours a queer looking muster parade was taking place and it was amazing just how many found their way to it. The amazing speed at which the convoy rose to keep up with its leaders was a good cure for hangovers. By the end of the day we were ensconced in a part of R.A.F. Nicosia which was hastily rechristened Alexandria Barracks. It was, however, much more

comfortable than we expected and our thanks go to R.A.F. Nicosia who were more than helpful. On and off Alexandria Barracks was to be our new home for at least two months. Unpack! pack! load up! unload! prepare to move! stand down! move! Such orders soon became familiar in the next month. After much hesitation we made our first move—to the somewhat chilly ramparts of the old city by the Paphos Gate. We were not impressed by our lot when some 400 yards away “Bravo” Company were lording it in the Ledra Palace Hotel with its central heating at full blast. The Major did manage to warm things up a little towards the end when we “stood to” in our trenches so neatly and speedily dug by a Holdfast friend. We pointed everything we had at the Paphos Gate Police station whose inmates appeared to be doing likewise at us. When finally peace and that non-existent Christmas goodwill was restored one young man was heard to squeak, “But it was only a practice, Sir, wasn’t it?”

It was during this sojourn that the “Q” department was despatched to Epi to prepare to hand over our block—Home Sweet Home—to 2 R.A. all in a matter of hours. This was duly done whilst everyone argued furiously how the “dropshorts” could take over our job and we return to Epi. In fact it came true in part—within three days 2 R.A. were ousted from our block by 1 Para and, lo and behold, took over our position on the ramparts. We, however, did not return to Epi. One night in Alexandria Barracks and “Delta” were despatched to report on the situation in the west of the Island. The Greek village of Stombi was to be our base but in actuality the Major put us down at the mixed town of Polis where the irregulars were about to have a set to.

After two days of extensive vehicle patrols to show the flag, tension eased in the area. It was, therefore, not a sorrowful Company that departed from Polis, with the all too familiar Akamas training area so close. Back to Nicosia for a rest; no, don’t be stupid—an exercise!

A period of peace did reign as we were not allowed into Nicosia. The C.O. then became restless and began to hum his favourite tune and we knew that we must look to the mountains. As it turned out it was only the foot of the foothills of Troodos, namely Lefka.

Whilst the remainder of the Battalion lived under canvas it was our turn to live in comparative luxury—the Secondary mod! “Showing the flag” was the order of the day in vehicle patrols, though our Turkish friends were none too friendly. Really! and we thought we did much to improve the cleanliness of their school. Leaving the remainder of the Regiment in the Lefka area to move to Turkish-occupied Nicosia we felt somewhat apprehensive at being placed under the R.A.F. Regiment. It so happened that all went well—neither one understanding the other.

Our immediate task was to spring-clean the Cyprus flour mill and the cold store, which were in a very unhygienic state. It was, with regret, that when the Battalion joined us a few days later the latter was handed over to “A” Company. We felt such a valuable prize should have remained in our ever careful hands. However, the mill—or Fort Martin as it was later christened—left us with a good self-contained home.

An Englishman’s home is his castle—the mill became our castle—literally! Where all those sandbags went we know, because we filled them but it was a hard job convincing the Q.M.’s department that we were not selling them to the Turk!

Our efforts may not have earned rewards for bravery, but we all agree that the ingenuity of “Blanche” Denby and his assistants, Palmer, Faulkner and Jackson, made

our lives much easier. Whether it was a fish fryer, a lift or a 10-tonner it suddenly found a new lease of life. Once those 10-tonners rolled, it was amazing to see just how many potential Jim Clark's there were who had been hiding their talents.

Apart from defending the mill our duties consisted of patrolling on foot and in vehicles and guarding some disputed houses through which the famous "Green Line" ran. We regret to say in some places it was actually painted green but fortunately not by us. This infamous line certainly caused a great deal of activity and occasional excitement as "Para" Chambers experienced when he jumped into his "stand to" trench to find two Turks already in it!

Fort Martin was "D" Company's effort and now it is perhaps appropriate to mention those who lived within its walls—the Company signallers—the Cooks (Sergeant Beer, Corporal Burrow, Lance-Corporals Greengrow and Pink) who produced some excellent food with the aid of that fish fryer—Dobie Jones and his canteen—the ever ready Jackson in his stores—last, but not least, the Sergeant-Major's parks committee who kept the yard so clean.

Time to move on—we had almost forgotten how to pack, but practice was soon offered. No sooner had we reached EPI than we were ordered to Troodos the very next day. Having flapped madly to obtain anti-freeze and skid chains for the vehicles and "Long John's" for ourselves we rushed up the hill only to find that we were not really necessary.

Not to worry, for the first time since Boxing Day the platoons were able to spend not one but two consecutive nights off duty. For those not on duty ski-ing was the order of the day. Hall managed to spike himself before leaving the ski store and Corporal Godsall is still carrying his left arm at an odd angle. Never mind, it was cheap at the price!

For seven days the Major, aided by the weather, held out against digging defensive positions, but the inevitable happened. Skis were abandoned. Entrenching tools were swinging into action and into pieces, as the uneven struggle with solid rock was waged. Thus it was not without a certain amount of pleasure that we handed over to "Bravo" the task of completing the defences.

Polhemidia Camp, of course, was not unfamiliar to many—the fact that the Company 2i/c had been there five years earlier, however, was frowned upon! Many would have rejoiced at the new camp had it not been for the restriction on "places of entertainment" in Limassol.

Again the duties were not too strenuous, but the patrolling of Limassol often proved valuable and interesting. With many junior N.C.O.s away on a cadre the mobile patrols were often commanded most ably by private soldiers. Each and every patrol report was studied by the O.C. and Sergeant Edwards acting as Intelligence Sergeant, and much information that otherwise would not have come to light, was passed on to higher authorities.

Though the U.N. troops were reported to be on the way, we passed on our task to "B" Company in order that we might return to Epi. After eight days at "Home Sweet Home" we feel more shattered than ever having completed our B.E. tests. Having done our best in true Gloster tradition it is true to say that today being 26th March, in the history of "D" Company, *that was three months that was.*

Four Hobbs Cup competitions were fought out during this period, in which we managed to improve our position in the overall competition by taking two seconds, a second equal, and by sharing second place with other rifle companies in the hockey matches. In the hockey we came closest to holding H.Q. but with five minutes to go the only goal of the match was scored.

Some spirited boxing by all our novices gained us second place with "B" Company. Privates Hall, Chambers and Ryan are to be congratulated on winning their finals. Five days later on 17th December the Company were just pipped into second place by "B" Company in the Inter-Company shoot. Two days after, despite 16 Platoon's great effort in being the second platoon, the Company again just failed to take first place in the assault course competition.

Once again we provided the bulk of the 1st XV from Corporals Meek, Norman, Young, England, Kibble, Lance-Corporal Speck, and Privates Hughs, Ford and Evans 55. At soccer Lance-Corporal Ford and Privates Chambers, Bruton, Pickard play in the 1st XI whilst Captain Peplow captains the 1st XI hockey.

To keep the record in order we must congratulate Corporal Kibble, Lance-Corporal Biddle and Private Friend 64 and their respective brides on their recent marriages; Corporal Goss, and Privates Faulkner, Spiers, Williams 14 and their respective wives on the latest additions to their families.

Congratulations also go to the sergeant-major on obtaining his substantive rank and to Sergeant Edwards on his promotion. Sergeants Brooks and Perrior and Corporal Semmence have left us; to replace them we welcome Sergeant Murphy and Corporal Shaw.

Our latest recruits are O'Conner and Jenkins. Corporals Norman and Hodder have taken their final leave, but before we close we wish to say "thank you" to "Dobie" Jones on his impending discharge. "Dobie's" armstore has been the best in the Battalion for as long as any can remember and his immense pride in his job has been a fine example to everyone. We feel sure he will be just as successful in civvy street.

"H.Q." COMPANY

RECONNAISSANCE PLATOON

Since the last issue much has happened in Cyprus—fully reported elsewhere—and the "Recce" has been fully involved, using the Ferrets which in spite of teething troubles have proved an absolute boon. The issue of these Ferrets to us and the Rifle Brigade, the two garrison units, from the stockpile can now be revealed as a far-sighted move by the G.O.C. who foresaw their I.S. potential—even in the amateur hands of the P.B.I. Until the arrival of greater R.E.M.E. backing the local workshops were hard pressed to keep the Ferrets operational, especially in the field of wireless and ancillary equipment. Added to this, use has taught many lessons and although we are still amateurs we can claim to be pretty proficient ones at "Ferretting." Our close co-operation with both 14/20th Hussars and the Royals has taught us a great deal of the cavalier arts and we are indebted to them for their help and guidance; in fact, only several days after being shown the rudiments of using the Browning .30 cal. we actually had to fire it in self defence against a Greek "Security Force" bazooka team who had fired upon a building which we were occupying.

In November 1963 we gained our first real experience with the Ferrets on Exercise Solinus, when the Battalion was enemy to 3 Para. The Platoon spent the best part of a week withdrawing along the north coast road in front of the Guards Independent Para. Company. Lack of umpire control led to some unusual exercise activity and a certain amount of high spirits. One Ferret had the misfortune to turn over when a track collapsed and the occupants had a narrow escape.

It was Christmas Day and the lunch had just finished when the order came to send two cars to Nicosia to work at the High Commission on escort duties. The Platoon Commander, Privates Daley, Wood and Giles went, arriving on Christmas evening. We were kept exceedingly busy, ferrying Greek and Turk V.I.P.s, escorting the High Commissioner and Mr. Duncan Sandys and so on. Meanwhile, the Battalion had moved up to Nicosia and into the city along the now famous Green Line. The other two sections, under Sergeant Stone and Corporal Tucker, were attached to companies initially then joined us at the High Commission.

Soon the Battalion moved out to Camp Elizabeth to await a move to Lefka, an isolated Turkish town to the west. Whilst the Battalion waited we did long-distance day patrols with the 14/20th Hussars. Eventually they moved to Lefka and we lived with "D" Company in the Turkish Primary School. Here again we did rural patrols over very difficult roads. Just over a week later the Battalion returned to Nicosia and we and the Drums became the heirs to Lefka. We remained there for nearly five weeks having quite a few alarms and excursions including being instrumental in the freeing of three bus loads of Greek hostages taken by the Turks.

Eventually we returned to Nicosia—again to "D" Company, our foster-company,—for a few days before the Battalion's return to Episkopi. We returned in good cheer having completed exactly eight weeks of interesting and often rewarding work.

Once back in Episkopi we were able to get the Ferrets up to scratch before starting a pretty full and exacting patrol programme within the Battalion's new area. One village, Mallia, was a focal point of tension and was eventually surrounded and attacked by the Greek "Security Forces" over a period of days. Two sections of the Platoon, the Drums, a troop of Royals and Sergeant Longden with six men (who were helicoptered in just as the attack was coming in) were involved. An account of this action is told elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it to say that all acquitted themselves well under trying and dangerous conditions and were subject of a message of commendation from the Commanding Officer.

We say farewell to Sergeant Chappell, Corporal Cordey, Lance-Corporals Davies and Burrow, Privates Tucker and Speaight. We also welcome to the Platoon, Sergeant Ramsden, Corporal England, Lance-Corporal Portch and Privates Hill, Chappelle, Smart, Pinnell, Powell, Daley and Little.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

The Assault Pioneers under the leadership of W.O.2 Crompton still continue to play an active part in the life of the Battalion in spite of lack of manpower.

The Platoon consists of W.O.2 Crompton, Sergeant Pickard (plus beard), Lance-Corporals Hayward, Keen and Coombe and Privates Morris, Hooper, Moseley, Evans, Payne, Cooke, Leonard, Lancaster and Caple. Privates Hale and Wood although still



"And what makes you think I'm in sympathy with the Greek cause?"

on platoon strength are only with us in spirit, the former being employed full time at the Garrison saddle club—a horsey character with dung on his boots and straw in his hair. He is doing an excellent job in the stables. Private Wood is employed in the Sergeants' Mess having volunteered to do the barman's duties and is also doing an excellent job there.

We have temporarily lost Lance-Corporal Hayward and Private Cooke who have been loaned to the M.T. section owing to the shortage of drivers during emergency.

Lance-Corporal Keen is at present sweating it out on an N.C.O.'s cadre with "C" (Training) Company and doing very well there so we are informed. We are hoping he is recommended for promotion as a result of this cadre.

Sergeant Pickard is to be seen in his spare time coaching the Battalion archery club on the Butts at the rear of Battalion H.Q. buildings. It is dangerous to venture in this area these days because of random arrows flying in all directions.

In September they were out with "B" Company at Akamas teaching the rifle companies watermanship and doing field firing and a very enjoyable time was spent at Akamas.

In October they were with the rifle companies at Dhekalia doing the A.R.C., where a pleasant time was spent in good weather under canvas.

On return from Dhekalia they had the garrison fireworks display to prepare for Episkopi S.B.A. This was a great success preceded by beating of Retreat by the Band and Drums and finishing with the usual bonfire ignited by remote control.

Later on in November they did their practising for air loading at Nicosia Airport in preparation for Exercise Solinus.

This exercise was enjoyed by all the participants as it was against airborne troops.

**FOR
STRIKING
RESULTS**

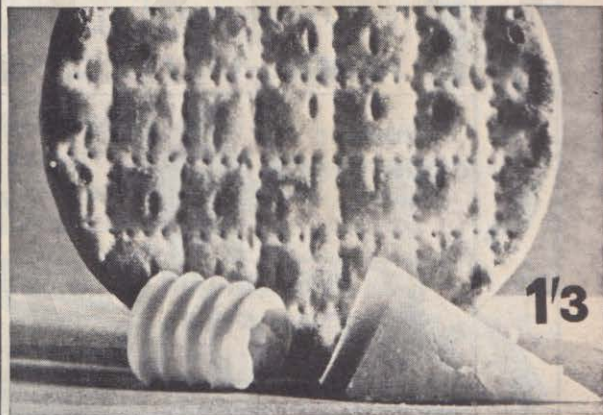


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Then, with the rest of the Battalion, they started to prepare for the coming annual admin. and the Inter-Platoon assault course competition (having first of all built the assault course). Also preparations were being made for Christmas festivities.

Christmas, however, was marred by the local unrest when the Battalion was called upon to keep the peace in Cyprus.

The Platoon was then called out with the rest and we were attached to rifle companies as required to make up fighting strengths.

We then fluctuated from Nicosia to Lefka and Troodos and such places as their services were required.

We are at present back again at Episkopi for the time being, anxiously awaiting to see what is to be the outcome of the U.N. Forces, on going to press.

SIGNAL PLATOON

The six-month period covered in these notes has been one of the most hectic since 19 Brigade days.

The period before Christmas saw the Platoon hard at work building up for the annual admin. inspection and at the same time running various short cadres.

Just before the Christmas break we also had the additional task of organising a platoon playlet for the concert party. The playlet went off well and raised a few laughs. Ours was the only sketch to include real live girls! Also the R.S.O.'s interpretation of a R.A.F. movements officer had to be seen to be believed.

We were all settling down to enjoy the Christmas festivities, when news that we were to be part of the British force to help keep the peace in the republic was received.

After frantic last-minute preparations we moved out with the Battalion at 1000 hours on Boxing Day. From then on we were kept hard at it providing communications for the Battalion.

As the operation increased in scope so we received reinforcements in the shape of 538 Signal Troop under Sergeant Nutter, Royal Signals, who set to work to keep us in contact with 16 Para. Brigade, under whose command we now came.

At this time we said goodbye to Lance-Corporal Hilton, who had served the Platoon well in his six years with the Battalion. "Ginger" will be missed, particularly in the Signals Centre, which he ran for several years.

With very few hitches the Platoon has provided communications wherever required, and up to date the Battalion net has been working without one break for 91 days. (We are hoping to make our "Century" before the U.N. Force becomes effective!).

Despite the tremendous pace of work he has kept up, the R.S.O. (Lieutenant Firth) has managed to find time to get himself married. Congratulations. He is now back at it, after a month's absence in which Lieutenant Ladds "stood in" as R.S.O.

Other people within the Platoon who deserve a mention for their efforts and hard work during the recent operations are: Corporal Cleary for running the control station so well. The C.O.'s driver and operator Lance-Corporals Davies and Lambie. Lance-Corporal Cammish, Royal Signals, our radio technician who has kept our equipment "on the road." Privates Ogier, Drew and Sig Brown for hard work on the "Q" side. Lance-Corporal Crook our "postie."

The following are to be congratulated on their promotions: Corporal Cleary, Lance-Corporals Davies, Green, Moore and Wilkes. Following the R.S.O.'s lead in the matri-

monial stakes have been Lance-Corporal Lambie and Private Bowkett. Privates Thomas, Prangley, and Mansford have all become fathers of sons whilst a second daughter was born to the wife of our temporary Lieutenant Ladds.

Private Tucker, an old retainer of the Signal Platoon, went on demob in a blaze of glory, with his picture in every national newspaper. We wish him all good fortune in civvy life.

We are now looking forward to handing over our commitments to the "Light Blue Berets" and the prospect of a rest and retraining.

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

The Intelligence Section has for the first time been operational. At last all that has been taught can now be put into practice, and has fortunately paid dividends. Since the start of the operations, vast numbers of maps, air photo's, reports, etc. have passed through our hands. On I.S. operations, the Intelligence side is one vast array of material and information which must be sorted and disseminated to units/depts concerned. The companies gave us large amounts of information which helped to ease the duties as a peace-keeping force, especially so "D" Company who obtained information from unknown sources and passed to us no end of material.

Captain Vicary has now taken over the appointment of I.O., having rejoined the Battalion after serving with the 2nd Tanganyika Rifles. We are wondering over the coincidence of him leaving and the mutiny taking place! Lieutenant Ladds has left to take over the intricate duties of R.S.O. while the present one is on a course. We wish him all the best in his future posting. Congratulations to Lance-Corporal Bailey, the oldest serving member of the section on his promotion. Lance-Corporal Jellings is at present on a junior leaders cadre and missing all the work! The same applies to MacBryde who took it into his head to go on leave in U.K. Sergeants Matthews and Lewis are still slogging into the various reports coming in and hoping to please all concerned on the unusual requests coming in. As this goes to press, we are all once more in the middle of reports and continuously standing up for the top brass who want to know the latest situation.

ORDERLY ROOM

The Orderly Room staff spent the weeks before Christmas '63 in preparing for the yearly admin. inspection. They therefore were very up to date when called upon to move to Nicosia on Boxing Day for something totally alien to an admin. inspection. Many of the staff welcomed the "exercise" with the population of Cyprus, however, as two months at Nicosia was reckoned as better than two days with prying staff officers.

Even in the few months since the last Journal was published there have been many changes in the staff of Battalion H.Q. Lieutenant Ladds has left the assistant adjutant's chair to cope with recruiting in U.K. In his place has come Captain Vicary. The assistant adjutant's phone is now occupied with much horsey talk instead of rugger and cricket fixture making.

We have said farewell to Bernard Shaw who after a long and loyal 33 years service has left Battalion H.Q. to fend for himself in the field of cleaning and gardening. Amongst the clerical staff we have said farewell to Sergeant Merchant who has joined the Q.M.'s empire and Corporal Hazzard who has left to juggle with the myriad mysteries of H.Q.

Company office. From "D" Company has come Corporal Young and from the Intelligence Section, Private Cokayne to fill the ranks.

We extend congratulations to Captain and Mrs. Waters, Lieutenant and Mrs. Ladds and Corporal and Mrs. Hazzard on the recent additions to their families and to Private Townley who has taken the plunge into matrimony. Also congratulations to Sergeant Collis and Lance-Corporal Parker upon their recent promotions.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

"The Battalion will move to Nicosia at 1030 hours this morning," these words by the Commanding Officer in the early hours of Boxing Day started a whirl of activity in the department from which emerged complete, everything required to support the Battalion loaded and ready to move on time.

R.Q.M.S. Bowrin, a stickler at all times that things should be done in the proper way, watched stores and loading lists with an eye that missed nothing, Sergeant Bird and Corporal McCue issued harassed colour-sergeants with the many items of I.S. and station stores required by the companies for their many possible tasks. By 1600 hours the same afternoon the departments were busy unloading and setting up in a disused camp on the outskirts of R.A.F. Nicosia having picked up on the way the Battalion's first line ammunition and the unexpected luxury of sleeping bags and camp beds for everyone (they were not all meant for us).

By 1800 hours the Quartermaster looked reasonably happy until told that he would be accounting officer for the Joint Force H.Q. and the various detachments of other arms which were joining it. His remarks when told this while in the midst of trying to meet innumerable demands from the companies are not for this chronicle.

For everyone in the department this very crowded first day and subsequent six weeks was rewarding and interesting experience.

Following the return of the Battalion to Episkopi, Truce Force Ops continued under the new title of I.S. duties and with the attachments of "A" Squadron Royals and 9 Independent Para Squadron R.E., plus the detachment of our own companies to far flung locations, the help of a nearby flight of helicopters was much appreciated in overcoming the problem of re-supply.

Sergeant Bird will long remember an exciting flight to Mallia where the hovering aircraft came under fire while he was unloading stores and the Quartermaster was glad to deplane from another which landed at base with fuel for two minutes and a nasty oil leak following a long trip to Polis and Ktima.

Despite our many duties, the department found time to relax a little and for some unknown reason went soccer mad. Challenges were issued and to date we have managed two games a week and when outside opponents could not be found have fielded two teams ourselves.

Since the last notes Corporal Ryder, Lance-Corporal Bodman, and Private Green have left for civilian life and we wish them all success in their new occupations. Lance-Corporal Kay, R.E.M.E., has left on posting and his place has been taken by Craftsman Chuch, who has quickly settled down in the armourer's shop. Sergeant Merchant has joined from the orderly room, Private Heavens now runs the office and Private Waltham is fully occupied in the A.F. G 1098 store.

We have also managed some promotion and congratulate Sergeant McCue and Lance-Corporal Jamieson on their recent elevation.

Finally, not unnoticed during the past very busy month, the arrival of a daughter to Private and Mrs. Moore.

REGIMENTAL BAND

The past few months have seen such an upheaval in the Band, both in personnel and duties, that your chronicler finds great difficulty in confining the space of these notes within the editor's specifications.

It was with regret that after 11 years as bandmaster we had to say farewell to Mr. Plummer, A.R.C.M., on his appointment as Director of Music to the Uganda Rifles. We all wish him every success for the future in his new venture.

We welcome in his place Bandmaster D. Carson, who we hope will have an enjoyable stay with the Regiment.

We recently said goodbye to Lance-Corporal Marsh and Bandsmen Humphrey and McGregor and wish them the best of luck out in the mad, bad world of civilian life. Lance-Corporal Wood has also left us to try his hand in the M.T. section. We take this opportunity too to welcome our latest arrivals, Bandsmen Owens, Ford, Martin, and Thomas.

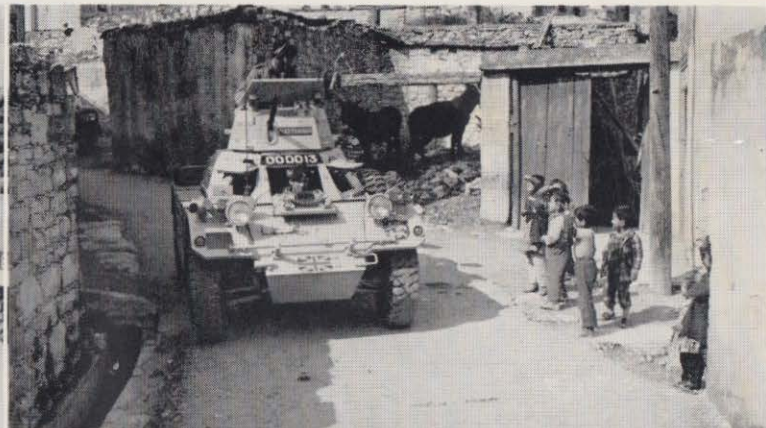
November saw the return, from this year's course at Kneller Hall, of Bandsmen Ford, Franklin and Grant of Watneys Silver Band fame. Their places were taken this year by Bandsmen Carlile and Pankhurst.

During the recent troubles our duties have been many and varied including our usual quota of guards, etc. Corporal Hannam and Lance-Corporal Payne deserve special mention for their untiring efforts in the S.S.O.'s office in Limassol where they looked after the welfare of the many families whilst their husbands were on active service in Nicosia. This period found us practically devoid of opponents for the sports field but we did manage three games of hockey against the W.R.A.F., W.R.A.C. and a team combining both. The unanimous vote on "Les Girls" was that they were the greatest.

Congratulations to B.S.M. Halstead and Sergeant Wake on their recent promotion. The latter became the talking point of one particular day when, on his return from a trip to Limassol, he told of being shot at by a Cypriot and he had the evidence of grape-shot in the rear of his car.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT PLATOON

The constant arrival of large brown envelopes covered with red seals and marked secret for U.K. eyes only intends to dominate the period since our last notes, but once again we seem to have covered a lot of ground and gained a lot of experience. In early December the Platoon was out in force on Exercise Solinus when we did enemy to 1 Para. All went well until the final night when it decided to rain and this must have been the signal for an enemy force to attack the Echelon area and one point we shall always remember is seeing Sergeant McEwan with arms upstretched and legs apart spreadeagled against the side of a 3-ton vehicle with a Para soldier suggesting to his pal, "Shall we do him now, Jock?" or words to that effect. It is also interesting to note the two R.E.M.E. sentries were also abducted from their position at the Echelon entrance and not seen until some time later, when the names of Butler and Jenkinson were called and no reply was forthcoming.



(Top left) Private T. Barnes mans road block in Trachonas district of Nicosia. (Top right) Privates Pinnell and Prowton on patrol in Mallia. It was up this street that the main fighting took place (see page 27). (Bottom left) Making friends with Cypriot children in the Xeros-Lefka area. (Bottom right) Lance-Corporal K. Smith, R.E.M.E., uses his Ferret scout car as his lunch table.

Collection



Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Jordan, C.M.G., D.S.O.
takes the Salute of the 28th at Cairo, 1930



Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.
Colonel The Gloucestershire Regiment



Lieutenant-Colonel P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E.
O.C. 5th Glosters

We then started preparing for the unit vehicle inspection and getting ready for our Christmas break, but even this was to be only a short reprieve as at 0015 hours on the 26th December the M.T.O. was brought into camp and told we were moving out at 1000 hours to Nicosia to start our I.S. duties.

Our period in Nicosia was interesting and it was surprising who one saw driving the unit vehicles, and on the 18th February, we once again returned to our barracks and bashed on regardless. We must congratulate Private Miles for getting married during our stay at Nicosia and we were sorry his leave was such a short one. Some new faces have appeared in the H.Q. section, Sergeant Perrier, Corporal Cordey, Lance-Corporal Wood, Private Knight and Craftsman O'Brien, the last named having only arrived with his family on the 23rd December, not a very good welcome for Mrs. O'Brien. At last Corporal Palmer has joined the S.A.S., and Privates Gardner and Pederick left for civilian life. The situation did not allow us to give them the normal M.T. farewell. Our birth rate for this period was slightly below seasonal average but we must offer our congratulations to Private Wilson on the birth of a son and Private Nichols on the birth of a daughter.

Finally we congratulate our technical adviser, Colour-Sergeant Cook, on his recent promotion and now his substantive rank.

WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Since our last notes there has been a full and at times hectic period of activity involving, of course, all members of the Mess. Christmas 1963 is not to be reported, as is usual in these notes, as the main event of the period for its festivities. This past year it has taken a back seat to our participation in the U.K. truce force at Nicosia and Lefka.

Many are the stories that could be told of this period. There are many of hard work, long hours, unusual conditions and plenty of comic incidents. Quickly to mind comes the steadfastness of members of the unit at the village of Mallia in the Troodos foothills, when fighting between different factions of the population took place. Drum-Major Bob Norsworthy, Sergeants Les Ramsden and John Longden commanded sub-units who earned well deserved praise from the general officer commanding Cyprus district and the Commanding Officer for their part in this incident.

During our time at Nicosia a Mess was established at No. 2 site, R.A.F. Station, Nicosia (quickly renamed Alexandria Barracks). This flourished throughout our stay at Nicosia and Lefka as the Mess of the Echelon when the remainder of the Battalion were dispersed. It catered for many units "lodging" there including the Rifle Brigade and many units of 16th Parachute Brigade. It had the unusual sight of our P.T. Instructor, C.S.M.I. Vic Hart, acting as caterer. We handed this Mess over to our neighbours from Malta, 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment upon their arrival here.

Tactical headquarters and each of the rifle companies ran their own little Messes when operating on their own. Rooms in schools, flats, bungalows and even a flour mill were adapted for this purpose.

Many members became confirmed commuters back and forth to Episkopi. They travelled on the bi-daily "passion" vehicle which brought personnel for a 48-hour rest. In the Mess at Episkopi, kept operating by the rear party, it became an intriguing problem for single members to find somewhere to get their head down for this rest. The Mess was occupied by a variety of units at various periods during the Battalion's

absence. Amongst them were the Royal Dragoons, 14/20th Hussars, 2nd Regiment Royal Artillery, 9 Parachute Squadron Royal Engineers, Guards Parachute Company, 1st Sherwood Foresters and 1st Parachute Regiment. Upon the Battalion's return "A" Squadron The Royal Dragoons have become established and welcome members of the Mess.

Early Boxing Day morning 1963 saw the Mess full of dinner jacketed officers briefing their senior ranks for the move to Nicosia. This brought to an end our Christmas festivities which we had embarked upon in the hope that we would not be involved in the local trouble. Many members looked upon this sudden move as a welcome release from the annual Boxing Day morning fracas versus the officers, normally called a hockey or football match. We had, however, managed to complete most of our Christmas activities before being whisked away.

We had a most excellent Mess dinner a week before Christmas. The Commanding Officer and his niece, Miss C. Whitley, were guests. We were also glad to see all our wives present on this night. Our thanks are extended to R.Q.M.S. George Bowrin and S.Q.M.S. Keith Newton and their helpers for a most successful evening. We followed a few days later with our Christmas draw. We had a social and dance for the occasion and were pleased to have the officers and their wives present. C.Q.M.S. Jim Dunkin and his entertainments committee organised the evening and even persuaded the senior ranks of the Band to show us they were as good as Acker Bilk. We also entertained the corporals to drinks at a lunchtime before Christmas, and on Christmas Eve the living in members held their Christmas dinner. The R.S.M. and other senior members were the guests. It is not true that the standard of this meal, and not the present emergency, is the reason for a doubling of the living-in strength of the Mess.

On the occasion of the dinner we took the opportunity to present a farewell gift to Bandmaster George Plummer. He has been our bandmaster for the past 13 years and has now gone to be a Director of Music in Uganda. He travelled there with his family at the end of December and we are glad to hear he has settled down well there. This is in spite of the mutinies at the time of his arrival.

Among our other departures in the past few months has been R.S.M. W. J. Smythe, B.E.M. He has left to become R.S.M. of the Brigade Depot. He will be the first R.S.M. of the reconstructed Depot at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter. R.S.M. D. Stephens has arrived from the 5th Battalion to take over the helm.

To the T.A. as instructors have gone C.S.M. Ivor Dee to Bristol, C.S.M. Ginger Lucas to Devizes, Wilts., Sergeant Bob Page to Dursley and Sergeant Dick Marshall to Poole, Dorset. Amongst our recent arrivals have been Bandmaster D. Carson from Kneller Hall (and Burroughs Hall some say), C.S.M. Paul Masters and Sergeant Spud Murphy back from their tours with 5th Battalion, C.S.M. Topper Brown returned from 4 Wilts and Sergeant Frank Nutter the "commander" of our attached signal troop.

We have had plenty of opportunity to take the "sampler" off the shelf and fill it to the brim in the past few months. We have had a chance to participate in drinks all round with recently promoted C.S.M. Ollie Halstead and Colour-Sergeants John Cook and Fred Brisland. We have also been able to extend a welcome to the Mess to new members Sergeants Pat Edwards, Bill Brooks, Mick Hunt, Bert Collis, Taffy McCue and Hector Wake.

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We end these notes with an account of our celebrations on 21st March. Unfortunately we could not hold the Back Badge Ball on its usual scale due to the situation in Cyprus. We did, however, hold a dance in the Mess. We invited the senior officers of the Battalion and their wives, also members of "A" Squadron Royal Dragoons and various guests from R.A.F. Episkopi and Army Messes in Episkopi. To the music of the Regimental dance band an enjoyable evening was had by all under the master of ceremonies Colour-Sergeant Stan Dunn.

THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MALLIA— 8/10th MARCH

BY CAPTAIN M. A. CRUSH

O.C. Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment

ON the evening of 8th March I went to Mallia. My detachment consisted of one section (two cars) of Ferrets of the Recce Platoon and the Corps of Drums. We relieved a troop of Royals and a platoon of "A" Company, and Sergeant Ramsden's section. They had been sent to Mallia the previous night when firing had been reported and that morning had been caught in some very close and heavy small-arms fire between the Greeks and Turks. We settled in and patrolled the village throughout the night. I went to the Turkish school at the top of the village at about 0630 hours on 9th March, and whilst there firing began from the hills to the east of the village and to the south. After observing the firing and locating from where it came (some of the shots were landing 50 yards away from us although there were no Turks there) I went to the Greek Police station and invited their comments. They stated that the Turks had started the firing and had fired upon the police station and some buses coming along the road from Arsos. I told them that this was untrue to my certain knowledge and despatched the drum-major to Arsos to find the buses and escort them if necessary past Mallia. I also told the Turks what the Greeks had said but they replied they had not fired either at the police station or at the Arsos road. They agreed that as long as the Greek fire was from some distance they were to all intents and purposes safe and would not fire or return fire as they realised they were achieving nothing other than annoying the Greeks and wasting their own ammunition. Meanwhile, the Greek police and other "Security Forces" at the police station remained aggressive and said the Turks were provoking them and that if they fired one shot they would wipe out the village. The drum-major reported from Arsos that there were no buses waiting to pass through Mallia and that the inhabitants shunned them and refused to speak with them. I told him to return to Mallia and tell the police this.

I returned to the Turkish school and continued watching the firing. The Greeks continued to fire from positions in the hills north, north-east, south and west of the village. As I could get no co-operation from the police I decided to go to the eastern firing position myself to request them to stop. I got out of the Ferret and walked there. At first several shots were fired over my head but this soon stopped. I approached the position and spoke with them. There were about 15 men in civilian clothes. Their spokesman who had a cockney accent was manning a bren gun, the remainder had rifles, sub-machine guns and a large quantity of ammunition and grenades. The spokesman was truculent and said they had not fired all morning. He also said that he had only just

arrived there since the firing began although in spite of this he added that my night patrols had provocatively shone their headlights on their positions whilst turning their vehicles at the Turkish school. As I left, one of them held a grenade as though he was about to throw it at me and the whole group laughed.

I returned to the police station where I spoke again with Mr. Benjamin, the Limassol District Officer, on the police radio. He said all firing was to cease and that he had given orders that no one was to fire even when fired upon without reference to him. I thanked him and went to tell the Turks. The remainder of that day was quiet and was punctuated by the arrival of new faces in Mallia amongst the Greek security forces whose senior officers all repeated Benjamin's orders.

It was obvious that there was a considerable build-up of security forces, both well-armed and confident. It was also obvious that there were now present the lunatic fringe and gangster elements. One of the irregular leaders confirmed my suspicions when he said that he was convinced the "Turks would make trouble" that night. I told the Commanding Officer that I was sure that the Greeks intended to attack either that night or the next morning. He was able to send me another section of my Ferrets under Sergeant Ramsden. I stationed my own section on the hill by the Turkish school for the night whilst Sergeant Ramsden's section and the Drums patrolled the village. Just after dark, eight shots were fired from the bottom of the valley to the west of the village. True to their word, the Turks did not return the fire. The drum-major confirmed the general direction from which the fire came. Sergeant Ramsden went to the police station to enquire about the firing. Whilst he was there and after the firing had stopped, four armed policemen came into the police station. There was no more firing that night until 0400 hours on the 10th March when two long bursts of automatic fire were heard to the south-west about half a mile from the village.

At 0550 hours the H.F. net became jammed, as it had done previously during firing, by Greeks using various call-signs prefixed PAPA. At 0555 hours a loud hailer from the police station started speaking to the village. It was interrupted by the first bursts of firing, again from the eastern position, no doubt due to their watch being unsynchronised. The other positions started firing heavily. Bullets were landing close to us at the school and were passing over the heads of the Drums and my other section in the Turkish coffee shop opposite the Greek police station. My orders were to maintain these two positions and to deny them to either side. I considered the Turkish school the tactical "plum" in the village and therefore told the Greek police that firing was getting close to my men. I had now to exchange my position and put my sergeant at the school as it was necessary for myself to be mobile and available to parley with either side.

The firing continued, heavily at times. About 0730 hours the Greek police sergeant told me they were attacking the Turkish school in 15 minutes' time and that I had to remove myself. I told him I intended staying and that any firing upon the school would be firing upon my soldiers. I also repeated that I would allow no Turks there either. The sergeant phoned the divisional gendarmerie commander who spoke to me. He repeated the demand to leave the school and warned me that his men were using anti-tank weapons. I repeated that I intended staying and warned him that my men would defend themselves. I gave orders to Sergeant Ramsden that if the position was attacked he was to return effective fire. Shortly afterwards there was a loud explosion and smoke

came from the school. This was followed by some bursts of machine-gun fire and I observed the fall of bullets around the Greek position to the east. Sergeant Ramsden reported that a bazooka shot had hit the roof of the school and he had fired upon the bazooka team with two Brownings. I was still outside the police station and within a minute the police sergeant told me that my men had fired upon the Greeks. I agreed and repeated my warning. Meanwhile all shooting had temporarily stopped. Soon the police sergeant told me that his superiors had agreed not to attack the school!

I went to the school and awaited the arrival of the Commanding Officer by helicopter. He soon arrived, landing in a field by the school with the Adjutant. Another helicopter brought Sergeant Longdon and six riflemen from "A" Company who took up position around the school. As the helicopters landed a section of Greek irregulars advanced towards the school from the hills using ourselves and the helicopters as a shield. The helicopters were immediately sent off and the Commanding Officer and I told the section commander to go away. He withdrew reluctantly.

The next two hours were used parleying with the Greek police and their superiors, visiting the Turks and generally summing up and reporting on the situation. Throughout, firing continued and the Greeks attempted to close in on the east side of the village without success.

At the early stages of the firing the Greek police had given the drum-major an ultimatum saying they would attack if the Turks did not hand in their weapons. The Turks refused to agree to this and due to the incidents described above the attack had not been launched. By 0930 hours the Commanding Officer had exhausted all avenues of persuasion in trying to prevent the attack. We had just heard that Archbishop Makarios, Lieutenant-General Gyani and Major-General Carver would meet to discuss Mallia at 1100 hours and told S/Inspector Pavlides of this. He started shouting that no time could be wasted, the attack must go in there and then, which was significant. We procrastinated for a short while but they were determined. They started telling the villagers that they were going to attack over the loud hailer. They also said that the British could not save them and that if we got in the way we would be shot as well. This was in Greek. We obtained another five minutes' grace and I drove up to the Turk headman with the five-minute deadline. The Turks again refused to surrender their arms. It was obvious the Colonel could do no more as the Greeks were now determined to attack. 3 Troop, The Royals, then arrived to join us, having successfully circumvented the road blocks erected by the Greeks along the main road into Mallia to prevent our being reinforced.

The firing began again in earnest and the Irregulars started moving from the Greek quarter into the Turkish quarter from house to house. They used bazookas and Stens mostly. The bazookas frightened the Turks drastically and the fighters withdrew rapidly in spite of their previous "sabre rattling" leaving the first group of Turk houses defenceless. I realised that the Turks would make for the school at the top of the village which we were occupying and I decided to try to get up there to give Sergeant Ramsden a hand. I and my second car with Privates Wood and Price followed by the Royals Troop commander, followed the main street up which the fighting was progressing. As we rounded a corner I came across about six women running screaming out of a house. I heard a Sten gun shooting and saw a small girl of about eight running out behind them with a bullet wound in the thigh. One of the women had a flesh wound in her arm.

They were followed by the section commander with the cockney accent who had manned the eastern hill position. He saw me and stopped in his tracks. I drove between him and the women and motioned them to go on down the hill away from the fighting. This they did, a woman carrying the child. Three more Irregulars came out of the house, one looking very pale and shocked. (I visited this same house some hours later with the Press and found one man of 62 with a Sten bullet in his leg and one running along his forearm. There was another older man lying dead in the courtyard and a trail of blood led several yards to a small room with a bullet torn and bloodstained bed on which he must have been lying at the time he was shot.) There was, I knew, another route to the school but normally impassable to Ferrets. I told the Royals to watch the routes in and out of the village for either signs of reinforcements or casualty evacuation by the Greeks. My second car I left with the Drums and I went up to the school, having to knock the corner of a wall to pass through.

At the top of the hill, I found that refugees had started pouring into the school. There was little my sergeant could do to stop them. Of his own initiative he had searched for and collected all Turkish arms and ammunition which he piled at the entrance under guard. By now there was a considerable quantity of arms and I considered them a useful bargaining instrument with the Greeks. By radio I told the Sub-Inspector I had the arms and that the refugees were in "our" school but all unarmed. He said he wanted the arms and after consultation with the Colonel by radio I had the Sub-Inspector brought through the village to see them. The fighting was still going on and a bazooka was being used with effect on the Mosque. I told the Sub-Inspector he could have the weapons and any others we might collect if he would give orders to his men to cease firing immediately. I pointed out that shots were getting very close to the school in which there were by now about 500 people: also two bazooka rockets had just gone over the top of the school (one of which we later found unexploded beyond the school) and I would soon have to take firm action. He wished to contact his superiors so I put one car at the police station and he used my radio to speak to someone who was obviously in overall command. I later found this person was the Limassol Eoka leader, on whose orders all the police and Irregulars were working. The Sub-Inspector told how we were collecting the arms and his superior was convinced of our intentions. He agreed to our offer and the Sub-Inspector used our loud hailer to call upon the fighters to cease firing, which they eventually did.

About this time the Press arrived and I considered it most important that they got as full a picture as possible of the happenings. My men in the school area started trying to organise the refugees. The Drums were ordered to patrol the Turkish area in order to get out any remaining Turks who were hiding and to disarm them.

We kept patrolling the streets and started looking for casualties. The cease-fire had originally been for only half an hour but once the men were within the village the Greeks were unable to start again. I arranged with an inspector and the leader that any further searching for arms should be done by combined British and Greek patrols. They were bent on getting two more Brens which they said they knew had fired at them. By the next day through questioning the Turks, we found that they had had in fact only two and Sergeant Ramsden managed to find out where the second one was hidden. Once this had been delivered the whole attitude changed and the police withdrew all patrols.

In our search we discovered four old Turkish men shot, all within the precincts of

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their houses (this included the man mentioned earlier). There was also a Turkish man and wife found shot in their house, the woman whilst still in bed. These casualties were collected by us the next day and put under guard. The Greek police asked us to hand them over, which we refused. They were returned to relatives and buried near the Mosque.

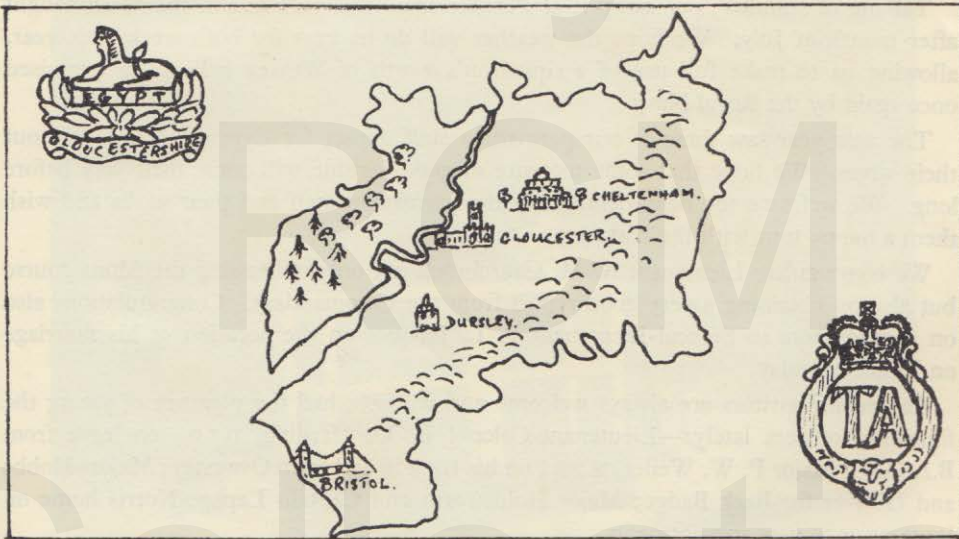
It was lucky that there were so few casualties as the method of clearing houses which I saw being used was to kick open the door and then spray the room with a Sten gun. The Greeks thought there were seven dead and considered this very few in the circumstances. I saw five other persons grievously wounded besides the mother and child.

The whole business was a typical example of the combination of callousness and arrogance which has been so often the tenor of these actions. Many innocent and unaware people suffer for the sins of the politically-minded few. Those who had anything to do with the Mallia incident can, however, feel some consolation in that our presence probably avoided considerably heavier casualties.

* * *

Owing to the late arrival of the Battalion's news and the length of the Battalion and Company notes, it is much regretted that the sporting activities of the Regiment have had to be omitted.—EDITOR.

5th BATTALION NEWS



THERE is no particular significance attached to our "new heading," it is merely a reminder to those less familiar with the T.A., of our general deployment within the County and to draw attention to the fact that we still wear the "old" badge.

We are glad to report that the new T.A. Centre in Cheltenham is now well and truly occupied, and was officially opened on the 5th April by the Lord Lieutenant of the

County who is also the president of the T.A. Association. The Officers' Mess extension at Painswick Road was completed just in time to stage a farewell party to Major-General and Mrs. Firth on the occasion of the General's retirement as Colonel of the Regiment. A most successful Back Badge Cocktail Party was also held on the 20th March at which we were glad to see so many friends both military and civilian. It ought to be mentioned that a few stalwarts managed the lunch at Honiton the next day and also came back for more punishment that evening at the W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess Back Badge ball which proved to be a most enjoyable evening. We were particularly pleased to welcome our new Colonel of the Regiment to both the Officers' and W.O.'s and Sergeants' Mess functions; and whilst we are delighted to hear of his new appointment as D.D.P.A., we are at the same time sorry that he will be moving further away from the County.

Our third encounter with 23 S.A.S. was judged a success; with the help of the Hereford L.I. and elements of two Regular units we managed to put 50% of the "invaders" into a cold and unpleasant "bag." To mark their appreciation of the contest our opponents very kindly presented the Battalion with a smart and appropriately inscribed regimental plaque. It is considered worthy to record that only two very minor complaints were registered after some 600 troops had manoeuvred over an area of 60 square miles for very nearly 36 hours.

The Battalion football team brought back the Brigade football cup again this year but were less fortunate than last in the Command finals against 4/6th Royal Berks. Needless to say the organisers yet again had to contend with postponed matches due to abnormal weather conditions. It is fast being realised that football—T.A. football anyway, should be played in the summer!

Talking of summer; our camp is at Penhale again this year and in the much sought after month of July. We hope the weather will do its best for both weeks this year, allowing us to make full use of a squadron's worth of Wessex helicopters promised once again by the Royal Navy.

The new year saw three of our permanent staff depart for Cyprus but alas without their wives. We hope that some measure of good fortune will come their way before long. We welcome the new members of the permanent staff and their wives and wish them a happy tour with the battalion.

We congratulate Lieutenant A. M. Grazebrook not only on passing the Mons course but also on obtaining a very good report from the Commandant. Congratulations also on another note to Second-Lieutenant P. L. Jacques on the occasion of his marriage on Easter Monday.

Regimental visitors are always welcome and we have had the pleasure of seeing the following officers lately:—Lieutenant-Colonel E. D. Harding, D.S.O., on leave from B.A.O.R.; Major P. W. Weller, M.B.E., on his trips to and from Oswestry; Majors Hobbs and Gilliver for Back Badge; Major Holdsworth and Captain Lapage-Norris home on leave prior to new appointments.

Back Badge Day was celebrated this year by a parade and church service at Horfield, Bristol, on Sunday, 15th March, 1964.

The Battalion, led by the Band and Drums, marched from Horfield T.A. Centre to Horfield Parish Church for the service which was conducted by the Battalion's Padre, the Reverend Peter Walker. The address was given by the Reverend E. H. Eynon,

21st MARCH, 1964



Band and drums on their way to Horfield Church



The Saluting Base

Left to right: Brigadier A. L. F. Newth (Hon. Colonel), Lieutenant-Colonel W. O. V. Clee (C.O.), The Lord Mayor of Bristol, Alderman Mrs. Brown (Hon. Colonel), The Sheriff of Bristol and Mrs. Ainsley-Baker, and Major D. Chapman

THE MARCH PAST



Lieutenant-Colonel Clee takes the Salute



The Old Comrades led by Brigadier M. A. James, V.C.

Deputy Assistant Chaplain General (T.A.) H.Q. Southern Command. About 150 guests including many Old Comrades joined the Battalion at the church which was filled to capacity.

After the service, the Battalion, together with the Old Comrades and a detachment of cadets, marched back to the T.A. Centre where the salute was taken by Lieutenant-Colonel W. O. V. Clee, T.D., whose last parade this was as Commanding Officer 5th Glosters.

The Regimental Colour was carried by the senior subaltern, Lieutenant (now Captain) P. J. M. Whiteman, B.A.

After the parade, all ranks and their guests had tea in the T.A. Centre.

"A" (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

Recruiting continues to be the major problem in "A" Company. We held an "open night" at the T.A. Centre in November, and the Company is to be congratulated on the really excellent display. A considerable amount of thought and effort was put into the preparation of the stands, weapons and vehicles, and it was most disappointing that our efforts were unrewarded. Although approximately 200 members of the public attended, no recruits were forthcoming, but we did get some useful publicity. We can, however, welcome two new recruits—Private Flook introduced by Lance-Corporal Chippett and Private Corrigan by Private March. We also congratulate Second-Lieutenant Francis on his commission and welcome him to the Company.

In October we were very pleased to be invited, with "B" Company, to participate in a combined exercise with 129 (Wx.) Field Ambulance, who had succeeded in obtaining the services of two naval craft by the courtesy of the R.N.V.R. Exercise "Sea Horse" was a most attractive proposition—embarking at Clevedon, a landing in the Watchet area and patrolling inland during the night. 5th Glosters' "weather gremlin" had other ideas, and, as we walked along Clevedon pier into the teeth of a near-gale, we began to wonder what we were in for. After watching the small craft being tossed about in the stormy sea and the gallant but unsuccessful effort of one captain to get his craft alongside, we were not surprised to be informed that the voyage was off. The journey to Watchet was completed by road and the exercise continued. One patrol ran into difficult terrain but the force arrived complete at the R.V. for the final assault. Good admin. arrangements provided at Watchet camp, were appreciated by us all.

We held our usual social in December, on bounty night, and had the pleasure of welcoming Major and Mrs. Hillerby, and Sergeant and Mrs. Murphy, just before the latter's departure for Cyprus. Ex-R.Q.M.S. and Mrs. Reeves are always welcome to our social functions and it was a pleasure to have them with us again on this occasion.

Another successful Children's Party was held in January and our thanks are due to the social committee, and the wives who helped with the food, and for all their hard work.

The weather was kinder for this year's escape and evasion exercise with the S.A.S., we had a mild weekend with little rain. "A" Company were on the edge of the area and there was little activity in our locality; however, we did capture two prisoners in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The second weekend in March brought Exercise "Top Hat," a brigade exercise, designed to practise communications and deployment drills. Bitter winds and nightmare

cross-country journeys in $\frac{1}{4}$ -tonners, reminded us that in Warminster anyway, "I Remember Imber" was still No. 1 on the hit parade. Who will forget Captain Jones' "covered approach" route to the start line, or the "real issue" fire-fighting qualities of Lance-Corporal Chippett and Private Fennell? Generous helpings of "new formula" stew rounded off a most instructive exercise.

Congratulations to Staff-Sergeant Saunders on his promotion and to Sergeant Miller on the birth of his son in February. We understand the Sergeants' Mess will be celebrating another "happy event" very soon.

The Company now looks forward to the spring and summer training culminating in camp at Penhale in July.

"B" (CITY OF BRISTOL) COMPANY

The "close" season is normally looked on as a chance to relax but we have been exceedingly busy. The administrative inspection was the start. The Brigade Commander visited the T.A. Centre on the drill night when we were rehearsing for the Brigade patrol competition. He remarked on the ingenuity of the training in the vicinity of the T.A. Centre to simulate patrol conditions.

The T.A. soccer cup was also an enjoyable commitment with ten of the Company playing in the Battalion team. We won the 129 Brigade Cup but were defeated by our old opponents the 4/6th Royal Berkshire Regiment in the Command finals. The Divisional Commander has offered a special trophy if the same two teams meet for a third time next year.

W.O.2 Morgan contributed to the success of the children's party with an excellent show of cartoon films enjoyed by children and parents alike. The party was acclaimed a social success by the parents who now want further social activities.

The first of a series of weekends was the S.A.S. Exercise "Cotswold Chase" when we had sub-units from the R.A.S.C. (T.A.) and A.T.C. attached to the Company. We suspected an infringement of the exercise rules, so, although railway property was "out of bounds," we laid an ambush on the railway bridge and had quite a measure of success when the enemy came "tearing down the line." One young soldier saw so many enemy that night, climbing down trees and appearing from nowhere, etc., that he had to be given some enforced rest!

The Mortar Section under Sergeant Marriott assisted 883 (G.V.A.) Battery R.A. (T.A.) in a 4.2 mortar shoot at Larkhill. There is still conjecture as to how hard one should strike the barrel with a handpike to loosen an unfired bomb! Gunner subalterns and Infanteers obviously have different points of view. Next came the Brigade signal exercise where we provided a lower control. The subsequent issue of an order that cooking would not take place in vehicles was no doubt the result of an ancient sage remark that, although track discipline and camouflage were excellent, you could locate every vehicle by the sizzling of bacon in the back.

We have had a complete change of Company staff, Lance-Corporal Mathews will no longer have difficulty in differentiating between water and petrol, he has ascended to better things! Mr. Love has taken his place and we are trying to make him Private Love. Mr. Tyler, our clerk, has found himself a spouse and an executive appointment with a transport firm; we shall miss him but wish him well in his new position. Last, but not least, our P.S.I. W.O.2 Masters has departed to real soldiering in Cyprus.

We wish him luck in his difficult task ahead. W.O.2 Dee, already known to some of the ex-N.S. men in the Company, is rapidly settling down despite the difficulties of reorganising quarters and family.

We say au revoir to Lieutenants Hutchens and Wright who are now out of town and hope that they will rejoin the Battalion one day when they can make up their minds to settle down in the County. We welcome Second-Lieutenant Jeal who has joined on commissioning and Lieutenant Williams who has been posted in from "A" Company. We are very sorry that Sergeant Waring had to give up the T.A. due to a new job; we shall miss his help with anti-tank training. We also welcome the following new recruits, Privates Harrison, Anstey, and Watson, who are we hope going to stay with us for a number of years.

"C" COMPANY

The Company is now established in its new home in Arle Road. Memories of North Street recede into oblivion—rumour has it that the Company Commander still has the front door key—perhaps he has ideas of opening a new shop!

During November the Company paid a visit to Monmouth weekend training centre. We had an interesting and amusing time, managing assault craft, constructing rafts, and sailing down the river on them. The training finished on a high note by learning how to fish for soldiers!

December was a month we devoted mainly to domestic events. A successful social evening was held just before Christmas, friends and members of the Company, past and present were invited; we were especially delighted to see the three previous Company Commanders: Lieutenant-Colonel W. O. V. Clee, T.D., Major S. J. Wilcox, M.B.E., T.D., and Major S. A. Matthews, T.D. Also during the evening a presentation was made to C.S.M. Paterson who has recently retired from the Company.

The children's Christmas party was put back until January; we mustered about 40 in number. Colour-Sergeant Wilde donned his postman's uniform and distributed a late delivery of pseudo Christmas mail; we did manage by this subterfuge to avoid any awkward questions, such as "Where is Private Agg?"

We acted as enemy against certain members of the Gloucestershire A.C.F. on a short patrol exercise, we have also since survived an exercise with the S.A.S., and the Brigade signals exercise.

Lieutenant N. J. Wendover has left us, he has changed his firm, consequently he had to move into Devon. We shall probably still see him on divisional functions though, as he hopes to join his new county's regiment. From the Fusiliers we welcome Lieutenant R. R. Lettington, likewise from the R.G.H. we welcome Corporal Josey. Our Company strength is still on the increase; we hope to go to camp this year with twice the number as the previous year.

"D" COMPANY

With the reasonably mild winter, we have been able to train outdoors at weekends and still improve our efficiency at "liar dice" after training on drill nights.

Sergeant Page, the new P.S.I., has now settled in, although he would disagree with this if only because he finds the world of the T.A. sometimes illogical, confusing and unbelievable. We were delighted at the good attendance on the social evening when we

entertained Sergeant and Mrs. Murphy prior to their departure. We hope that duty in Cyprus permits Sergeant Murphy a few spare moments to read this, and to note that we hope he is well and fit and that his present to the Company is used not only in the canteen, but on exercises during slack periods.

It seems sad that the last notes should record the change of P.S.I.s, and that these announce the change of Company Commanders. Major Potter is bound for "B" Company at Bristol and Captain Trimby becomes the "resident" at Dursley.

We look forward to camp at Penhale again, and are sure that the Hobbs, Cornocks, Smiths and Atheys of this world will welcome the opportunities that Newquay offers for their leisure hours. You just can't go wrong with a Morris 1100.

Sergeant Cross and Corporal Mears, who seem to spend more time on patrols these days than anything else, are doing excellent work with the recruits, particularly weapon and wireless training. Newly promoted Lance-Corporal Holt has also proved his worth on recent exercises by operating for long periods the 62 set. Our first-aid team under the guidance of C.S.M. (Kildare) Marriott, still gives a good account of itself in Battalion competitions, and because it is so "high powered" has ruled itself ineligible for the Brigade competition. We also understand that we are easily recognised on Brigade signals exercises by the muddy condition of our "Cotswold 1-tonner." Not for us the common Wiltshire chalk, when you can have fertile soil from Chipping Campden and grow your own "fresh fruit and veg" in the back of a 1-ton truck!

"H.Q." COMPANY

The last six months has been a period of great activity for everyone. We are pleased to be able to say that not only have we succeeded in retaining the interests of the old stagers, but also the recruits, mostly with no previous military experience, who continue to come forward in encouraging numbers. As a result our position in the "top twenty" recruiting table continues to rise.

To have achieved this has entailed continual hard work by our permanent staff instructor, Company Sergeant-Major and other senior N.C.O.s. Between them they have produced what our specialist platoons and recruits want. Though Battalion exercises such as "Cotswold Chase," reported more fully elsewhere, are highlights, our Company weekends either at Monmouth or Cribbs Causeway are the real magnets.

Old members of the Regiment may be astonished to read that all recruits joining this Company now have to complete 14 weeks signal training before posting to platoons. The day of Headquarter Company being the logical home for the non-technically minded is far behind us. Today we expect everyone to eventually master at least two skills, such as a driver and radio operator, or be more than competent in finding his way around the country and in handling a modern semi-automatic rifle.

Many members of the Company and their families owe R.Q.M.S. Blackford, C.S.M. Keitley and their band of helpers, their thanks for the stimulating Christmas children's party. Nearly 200 children were entertained.

The arrival of "himself" in an Army Land-Rover to hand out presents was perhaps expected. But the rhythm supplied by the Regimental dance band beating out the twist for the enjoyment of all ages was not!

W.O.s' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

In the last issue it was stated that we were looking forward to the winter training season and all its associated social functions—dare we say this time that there are some amongst us, who find their waistlines increasing (due to the indoor activities) and can hardly wait for the summer season to begin!

Since training activities have been dealt with in the Company notes we will deal here with our domestic and social events. Firstly, we held our Christmas dinner and social at Fairfax House, Bristol, this was very well attended and enjoyed by all there. After the dinner a silver cigarette box was presented to ex-C.S.M. Corrick on his retirement from the T.A. We were all highly amused at having to pass through the bedding department to get to the bar—that's what we call having "everything laid on," well done the committee!

In January we said farewell to W.O.1 D. Stephens on his return to 1st Glosters in Cyprus; with him went W.O.2 P. Masters and Sergeant "Spud" Murphy. We hope their respective families will shortly be able to join them. Replacing them came W.O.1 P. Martin from the 1st D.E.R.R. in Malta as R.S.M., to him and his family we extend a warm welcome, and from Cyprus we welcome W.O.2 Dee and Sergeant Page and their families—no doubt they will find T.A. life a change from I.S. duties (or will they)?

We held our last Mess meeting at Dursley, it was decided that the Mess would adopt the white mess jacket, bow tie and cummerbund as worn by the Regular Battalion, we hope they will be ready in time for annual camp in July.

The "Back Badge" parade was held this year at Horfield, Bristol, the Colour Escort being C.S.M. Keitley, C.S.M. Marriott and C.Q.M.S. Loftus—we wonder when those barrack walls last echoed to the commands of a Colour Party. Incidentally, who was the sergeant who couldn't find his back badge for the parade?

There was no difficulty this year on deciding what day to hold our ball, the 21st came naturally on a Saturday—we expected quite a few guests to turn up—and turn up they did—over 250! C.S.M. Cheater and Sergeant Dix needed shoe-horns to fit everyone in. Sergeant Winter was in his glory handing out Easter eggs to winners of the spot dances, whilst in the bar Sergeant Franklin demonstrated the finer points of the "Muffin Man." Besides our new Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Heidenstam, other official guests were Brigadier Newth, Colonel Harrison and Lieutenant-Colonel Clee. It was good to see again so many past and present members.

We are now setting our sights ready for the Divisional Rifle meeting to be held at Pilning, under the R.S.M.'s direction we hope to get somewhere in the Falling Plate this year.

We will soon be thinking about going to camp again . . . wonder if they've enlarged the mess at Penhale yet?

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Sergeants Walker and Hodges on their recent promotions.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

The Battalion soccer team have had another successful season in the T.A. Cup competition although they did not manage to retain the Southern Command Championship.

In their first game they defeated their old rivals, the Somerset L.I. by 7—1, Wheeler (2), Nutt (1), R. Head (1), Llewelyn (2) and Usher (penalty) being the scorers.

A lively R.E.M.E. side were defeated by 5—2 in an entertaining game, the highlight of which was a magnificent goal from Llewelyn, which finally turned the game in the Battalion's favour.

The Oxford and Bucks L.I. were defeated by 9—1 in torrential rain, the whole of the forward line shared eight of the goals and centre-half Burchill added the ninth.

The most important and as it happened final game this season was against the Royal Berks at Shrivenham. After leading 2—0 at half-time the Battalion had to give best to the Berkshires to the tune of 5—2. Despite the loss of goalkeeper Jones in the second half, who had been the most outstanding player on the field until his injury, the Battalion team fought hard, but the Berkshires ran out worthy winners.

Thus this seasons' honours amounted to the Brigade Championship and Command finalists. There is little doubt that the loss of Corporal Wintle to the 1st Battalion was felt greatly and the Battalion team wish to record their best wishes to him in his career as a Regular soldier.

Colour-Sergeant Loftus and Sergeant Marriott again did a lot of work on the admin. side which was much appreciated by all concerned.

EXERCISE "COTSWOLD CHASE" **"FROM SMALL ACORNS . . . DO GROW!"**

OUR third encounter against members of the Special Air Service was held on the last weekend of February in the eastern parishes of the Cotswolds.

The weather, as opposed to last year's arctic conditions, was reasonably warm and dry, and much to our Permanent Staff's surprise, members of the Battalion who said they would attend actually did so!

Exercise "Cotswold Chase" was similar to the last two exercises. We, the defenders, aimed at preventing some 100 members of the S.A.S., T.A. and Regulars, from crossing the River Windrush near Burford from their base area in and around Chipping Campden, over a period of 36 hours starting at midnight on a Friday. This year, however, as the word must have spread that we believed we were more than a match for the opposition, the Directing Staff gave fair warning that we could be captured should any of our patrols be in the minority in an encounter. The scope of this exercise stimulated sufficient curiosity to attract a Battalion H.Q. and a strong company of the Hereford Light Infantry, a platoon of the Oxford and Buckinghamshires and approximately 50 youngsters from the Gloucestershire A.C.F. to join us.

We were also pleased to have working with us the Reconnaissance Troop of the 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guards with their Ferret scout cars and a Heavy Drop Company R.A.O.C. acting in an Infantry role. The defending force were thus able to muster about 530 Regular and T.A. volunteers determined to prevent the S.A.S. penetrating our stop lines.

As always there were many incidents worthy of remembrance which is not surprising when we were operating over an area of about 60 square miles. Those in Battalion Headquarters are unlikely to forget the sight of about 150 members of the Quorn in full cry after a fox within yards of their position on the Saturday afternoon, or the two cadets locating an S.A.S. patrol asleep in a barn and capturing them.

Each year we find that the standard of patrolling, map-reading, and communications

EXERCISE "COTSWOLD CHASE"



BATTALION H.Q. "STAND TO"
Sergeant Charles, Private Broadman, Corporal Davies



"THE NEXT MOVE"
The C.O. and Adjutant in the Command Post

5th BATTALION



POST CAMP TRAINING
"C" and "H.Q." Companies at W.E.T.C., Monmouth



[By courtesy "The Echo"]
The Duke of Beaufort opens the new T.A. Centre at Cheltenham

by radio improve; perhaps this is one of the reasons the annual event is such a popular one. A larger percentage of our Battalion now attend, particularly our new recruits. To learn the hard way the meaning of keeping awake when tired, probably cold and not knowing when the next meal will be ready is a challenge if nothing else!

Came the Sunday morning and the debriefing of all troops who took part; we learnt we had captured approximately half of the S.A.S., and prevented a good many from reaching their objective. Though we do not claim this percentage as an outright win, we feel that come next year's exercise, it will start with a score over the series of one win apiece and one draw. May the weather be as warm again. We did miss the Quarter-master's rum ration!

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARMY CADET FORCE

WE are pleased to report a much improved situation in recent recruiting and we hope the trend will continue. A scheme to award prizes to the cadet in each detachment who brings in the most recruits up to October 1964 appears to be having the desired results.



THE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE
A.C.F.

Yellow Sphinx on Blue
Shield within Red
Frame

After much deliberation and anxious planning a start has been made in forming a new detachment at Stow-on-the-Wold. Already the strength is promising and Major Enoch, Commanding the 1st Gloster Cadet Regiment, is confident that the detachment will soon be strong enough to apply for Ministry of Defence approval. We do hope any "Glostors" living in the area will call in to see the detachment any Tuesday night at the Church Hall.

Regrettably after the move from the Air Training Corps hut the Bishops Cleeve detachment faded away and in spite of great efforts by the 1st Regiment to keep the detachment alive it was finally closed down in February. A similar fate has befallen the Brislington detachment once based at Kensington House, Bristol, which

never really got going again after the T.A. Centre was closed down.

Sports and Physical Recreation. At boxing the County has had a most successful year. After winning the Southern Command Championships outright for the first time three boxers won through to the A.C.F. National finals at Lincoln. Cadets Cantillon and Simmonds of the detachment at Gloucester, commanded by Captain Watkins, after tremendous efforts won their bouts and became A.C.F. national champions. Cadet Lewis of Speedwell was narrowly outpointed. Cadet Simmonds is now in the A.B.A. quarter finals and we hope an A.B.A. champion.

As a result of this, Gloucestershire shared third place in the County Boxing Championship.

Lieutenant T. R. Beckett in Gloucester and Captain W. J. Brown in Bristol are now busily engaged in training our boxers for 1965.

At cross-country too the team did well in the command finals at Blandford and were placed third.

In the football championship after defeating Wiltshire A.C.F. in Bristol, the County were defeated by Devon in the next round. Devon always seem to frustrate our best efforts.

The next sporting event is the Southern Command Pentathlon in early June, and as in previous years we shall be sending two teams.

Shooting. The 2/4th Gloster Cadet Regiment won the inter-regimental .22 competition for the Gange Cup very convincingly, several of the team obtaining "possibles." All very creditable and above board especially as the umpire was the C.O. of another regiment.

In the national .303 competition for the Montgomery of Alamein Trophy the 6th Regiment team were placed 16th.

Ten Tors Expedition. Captain R. E. Coleman of the Falcondale Road detachment is again sending a senior and a junior team to compete in the expedition over Dartmoor on weekend 16/17th May, 1964. Already this year the teams have spent training weekends over Exmoor and they are confident that once again they will complete this exacting test of stamina and gain Ten Tors Medallions.

Camp 1964. This year the county will be in camp at 92 W.E.T.C. Nesscliff, near Shrewsbury, for the period 9th-21st August. As usual the ladies of the welfare section of the Gloucestershire Civil Defence will be carrying out the cooking for the cadets. We are also happy to report that already many members of the Territorial Army wish to camp with us and their services have been gladly accepted.

It was at Plasterdown in 1958 that the County last had a camp away from the seaside. However, with Snowdonia on our doorstep and the North Wales coastal resorts only 50 miles from camp we are not too unhappy about the prospects.

Officers. Since our last notes three officers have been commissioned and we are steadily increasing the number of "younger" officers.

We have also gained from Warwick, Captain Baggot now with the 1st Regiment in Cheltenham, and Lieutenant Oakes from Somerset. Regrettably as a result of change of his employment we have lost Captain L. V. Scull, M.M., to Hertfordshire. Captain Scull had been 15 years with Gloucestershire and his services on weekend camps, certificate "A" boards and courses of instruction are sadly missed. However, we wish him the best of luck at his new detachment in Tring.

We complete our story on a happy note with a report that our detachments based at the old barracks, Gloucester, and in a hut at Arle Road, Cheltenham, are now very comfortably accommodated in the new Territorial Army Centres at Arle Road and Eastern Avenue, Gloucester.

ANNUAL WEST COUNTRY LUNCHEON

21st March, 1964

This event was again held at the Wessex Brigade Depot, by kind permission of Lieutenant-Colonel John Tull.

There was a very good turn out, the number present being 69.

Amongst those present were:—

General and Lady Wetherall, both looking very flourishing—and, at last, Brigadier and Mrs. John Vicary (Shabash to Nora), their first West Country luncheon, so we hope they enjoyed themselves.

Colonel and Mrs. Michael Grazebrook from Cheltenham—we were very glad to see them. Colonel and Mrs. Tony Wilkinson from Evesham; Tony can now fix you up with a first-class tin of any shape if you are in the canning business.

Colonel and Mrs. George Mirehouse were there also, which brought memories of pre-war days. Brigadier and Mrs. Neville Grazebrook, both looking younger than ever. Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Digby Grist, both in very good heart. Lieutenant-Colonel Roland and Vera Grist; very glad to hear that Vera has recovered from her recent illness. Major Jack and Olive Hobbs—all the way from Richmond, Yorkshire—a very stout effort. Major Richard and Auriol Butler back from the Canaries with a good African tan. Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice and Pam Bryant managed to tear themselves away from the local point-to-point. Colonel Harold Vinen, claiming four score years but very hale and hearty. Lieutenant-Colonel Nigel and Florida Lovett nowadays living and enjoying the “bush country” out beyond Okehampton.

Lieutenant-Colonel Arthur Soames down from Farnham—he is taking an active hand in the rebuilding of the barracks in Aldershot.

Major Cecil Davis complete with caravan (very comfortable to digest your luncheon on the Dunlopillo settee).

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Jimmy Harrison down from Bristol, still taking a most active interest in the Army through the A.C.F.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. Maurice Gilmore over from the golden sands at Exmouth.

Space does not permit me to add all the others present, but I hope they will forgive me.

Next year, all being well and with the kind co-operation of the Wessex Brigade Depot, the luncheon will be held at Wyvern Barracks, Exeter, when, I hope, if the new Brigade Colonel—Denis Harding—has arrived, he will be able to show you what a 1964 Officers' Mess looks like.

D. W. B.

BRIGADIER P. C. S. HEIDENSTAM, C.B.E.

THE Queen has approved the appointment of Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E., as Colonel, The Gloucestershire Regiment, vice Major-General C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., tenure expired (*London Gazette* 25 Feb. 1964).

Brigadier Philip Heidenstam was commissioned into The Gloucestershire Regiment just 30 years ago, and soon made a name for himself as a young subaltern in the field of sport, captaining the 2nd Battalion rugby team which won the Army Cup in 1938. Still a very young officer he was appointed Adjutant of the Regimental Depot at Bristol in the same year, and on mobilisation in 1939 he helped to organise its expansion as an Infantry training centre with a strength of 3,000.

In the second year of the war he was selected to go to the Staff College, and afterwards was posted to Headquarters 8th Army where he became one of General Montgomery's mobile liaison officers in the desert. He continued with 8th Army into North Africa, Sicily and Italy where he saw service with units of the Irish Brigade and with the 1/6th East Surrey Regiment. It was not until August 1945 that he was able to get back to the Regiment—as 2i/c to the 2nd Battalion in Germany.

During the years since the war Brigadier Heidenstam has held appointments in many fields which are open to a professional soldier of high quality. His first was to be an instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and this was followed by a spell at the War Office. He rejoined the Regiment in 1953 when the 1st Battalion was acting as demonstration battalion at the School of Infantry, Warminster, and it was during this period with the Regiment that he received brevet promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel.

Next he went to Malaya as chief of plans to the director of military operations against the terrorists, when he received recognition of his good services with the award of an O.B.E.

In 1957 he became the popular and energetic Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion which was at that time in Cyprus, engaged with the Eoka terrorists. The Battalion's next station was to be Germany, but on the way there it staged in England for a brief period, and Colonel Heidenstam led them on parade at College Green, Bristol, to receive the Freedom of that City.

In 1959 he received promotion to Colonel on assuming a post of considerable importance at the War Office for which he was in due course rewarded with the C.B.E. Two years ago he took over command of the 159 Infantry Brigade, T.A., at Worcester. He is now Deputy Director, Personnel Army at the Ministry of Defence (A)—fortunately not whisked off to some staff appointment in the Far East.

Brigadier Heidenstam's home is in London but he has long-standing connections with the County for he was educated at Cheltenham College where he was senior college prefect and in addition, captain of rugger and boxing.

FAREWELL TO GENERAL AND MRS. FIRTH

To mark the conclusion of General Firth's 10-year term of office as Colonel of the Regiment the officers of the 5th Battalion gave a cocktail party in his honour on the 21st February, in their recently enlarged Headquarters Mess at Gloucester.

It was very much a "family" affair, the only other guests being Brigadier Heidenstam, our new Colonel, Brigadier and Mrs. Newth, a few retired officers and their wives living in Gloucestershire and Simon Firth and his fiancée.

The opportunity was taken to present General Firth with a handsome cut-glass decanter suitably inscribed, as a mark of appreciation and esteem from the whole Regiment for all that he and Mrs. Firth have done for it during the past 10 years. The presentation was made by Brigadier Heidenstam after an appropriately happy speech.



WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT

AFTER the excitements of the past three months, the news of our doings must seem extremely dull, and we can only hope that our work has been appreciated.

The long awaited move to Wyvern (formerly Topsham) Barracks, Exeter, took place

on 7th April. These have been substantially renovated and rebuilt at a cost to the taxpayer of over £½ million. The result is most impressive, the new buildings comprising a barrack block of 140 beds, gymnasium, NAAFI, junior ranks' club, officers' mess, and a block of 12 flats for married N.C.O.s. The remainder have been modernised, and the unsightly collection of wooden huts which occupied half of the square has disappeared.

However, the training facilities are scanty; Roundball range and Woodbury Common, familiar to all who have passed through the Depot, are still used by recruit platoons. In compensation, Dartmoor is now more accessible to us, although it is difficult to find an unoccupied area, especially on summer weekends.

The winter and spring have not been very eventful, and we read with envy of the activities mentioned elsewhere in the Journal. There has been a most welcome rise on the 1964 recruiting graphs, we hope that this may become steeper yet.

Unfortunately, the raising of the school leaving age to 16 years has made the recruitment of boys more difficult, but this is not a serious problem, and there are still enough candidates.

Recent arrivals from the 1st Battalion include: Lieutenant Newbould, R.S.M. Smythe, Sergeant Simmance, Corporal Lennard, who is in charge of the Depot transport, Lance-Corporal Attwood, who is working as sports storeman (in succession to the celebrated Lance-Corporal Hooper) and lastly Private Flook (late of "D" Company) who is a regimental policeman.

Drummers Goldsmith and Machon, Bandsman Martin and Privates Hall and Courtenay all joined the 1st Battalion from the Junior Soldiers Company in February.

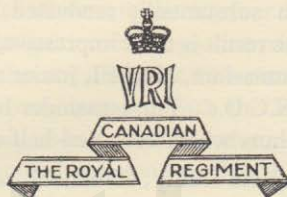
Lieutenant-Colonel D. A. Gilchrist (The Devon and Dorset Regiment) handed over command at Christmas to Lieutenant-Colonel J. E. Tull (The Royal Hampshire Regiment).

THE OPENING OF WYVERN BARRACKS, EXETER

WYVERN Barracks, formerly Topsham Barracks, Exeter, will be opened by the Chief of the General Staff, General Sir Richard Hull, G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., on the 9th October, 1964. The ceremony will be in the morning and will consist of a short parade, an address by the C.I.S. and a tour of the barracks.

There will be a reception in the Officers' Mess before lunch and any serving or retired officers and their wives who would like to attend the opening ceremony and the reception in the Officers' Mess should inform R.H.Q., Robinswood Barracks. The cost per head is likely to be about 15s.

Any Old Comrades wishing to attend the ceremony will be very welcome. Due to accommodation difficulties, it is not possible to provide overnight accommodation and no official entertainment is being arranged. However, there will be a tent in which drinks and light refreshments can be purchased. Those wishing to attend should inform R.H.Q.



THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT

THE 2nd Battalion left for Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick, shortly after Lieutenant-Colonel J. W. P. Bryan took command last May, and spent a very successful concentration in the 427-square-mile camp.

Returning from Gagetown, the unit engaged in sub-unit training as well as "extra curricula" activities, such as the provision of a precision drill squad to the local fair and blood donor clinics to the Red Cross Association.

Due to the lack of training areas in the vicinity of London, sub-units were sent to various parts of Ontario to conduct their training. The unit classified on all weapons in October using the ranges at Camp Ipperwash, 50 miles north of London, and Camp Borden, 120 miles north-east of London. Battalion Headquarters was required to travel even farther, to Camp Petawawa, to take part in various command exercises.

While this was going on, Support Company was conducting courses and firing the support weapons at Camp Meaford, which is situated on Georgian Bay. Also, "C" Company was testing the army's new combat clothing with which we hope to be issued soon.

Due to the unit's winning of the Duke of Edinburgh's Trophy in 1962, this team received more support in 1963. The result of the greater turnout of competitors, and weeks of hard training by the team, was a score eight points above that of last year's team. The 2nd Battalion was announced winner in December, and because the unit had the distinction of being the first to win the competition in two consecutive years, the Canadian Government sent the team to Buckingham Palace to receive the trophy, at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.

The Central Command boxing championship was almost as rewarding as the Duke of Edinburgh's trophy competition was for 2nd R.C.R. At the conclusion of the match, held at Kingston, Ontario, 2nd R.C.R. had accumulated 38 points. This was a higher score than any other unit.

In January, "B" Company parachuted into Camp Borden while the remainder of



the unit moved by road from London to Borden to conduct a winter exercise. The elusive "C" Company led the Battalion a merry chase, until they were cornered by "D" Company and finally destroyed.

THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

THE Regimental Museum in Westgate Street, Gloucester, had to be closed for several weeks during the last quarter owing to the illness of the regimental attendant. The total number of visitors recorded for 1963 amounted to 17,406.

On the closing of the Royal United Services Institution in Whitehall, the following exhibits were kindly presented to the Regiment—a rare silver, buckle and tip of an officer of the 61st Foot, 1802-50. For some reason the LXI retained this type of belt device instead of wearing the shoulder-belt plate as did other regiments. Later and more common examples are in brass. Other gifts included a coloured print of the taking of Quebec published in 1797, a print of the Battle of Alexandria by Willermaine, a large panorama of the Alexandria battlefield drawn a few days after the battle, and a pair of brass collar badges.

The Director of Ordnance Services has presented (per the Technical Stores Depot at Weedon) a Snider rifle (1862), a Martini-Henry rifle (1877) and a Pitt rifle (1917), all with bayonets.

The extensive collection of regimental orders, decorations and war medals were last valued for insurance purposes in 1951. Since then values have risen to a fantastic degree and Mr. Charles Lovell (late R.G.H. and who possesses a magnificent medal collection himself) very kindly offered to revalue our collection and spent many hours over the task. We are very grateful to him for all his help and advice. It is estimated that the value has trebled during the last few years.

Owing to the tinkering by visitors of the various firearms on display, and the theft of small parts, all weapons have now been taken into store until a suitable case can be constructed for them.

Amongst other recent additions to the collection are:

Tunic and frock coat of Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Lovett (1914) (Lieutenant-Colonel N. Lovett).

Grey cloth great coat c.1890 (Lieutenant-Colonel N. Lovett).

Tunic and helmet of Captain A. C. Hume (1914) (Lieutenant-Colonel N. Lovett).

Five watercolours depicting men of the 28th c.1895 by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Lovett (Lieutenant-Colonel N. Lovett).

Group three 1914-18 medals to Corporal W. H. Mallard (Mrs. Mallard).

South African Queen's medal to Private G. Jenkins (purchased).

Punjab medal to Corporal H. Perry, 61st (Mr. J. H. Greening).

Goatskin jerkin 1914-18 period (Mr. R. Taylor).

Khaki shoulder pad (Major S. J. Wilcox).

Tunic of Lance-Sergeant C. A. Young (1895) (the late Mrs. Young).

Buff waist-belt and frog (the late Mrs. Young).

Bugle strings 6th Glosters, 1911 (Mr. R. H. Harper).

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. J. E. DURANT, M.B.E.

COLONEL Durant, the new C.O. of the 5th T.A. Battalion, was first gazetted from Exeter College, Oxford, with a Regular Army Emergency Commission to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire L.I. in March 1941. Since then he has spent the bulk of his service overseas, largely in the Far East. He first served with his 6th Battalion with the 25th Indian Infantry Division in India and in Burma on the Arakan front. For eight months he was G.S.O.3 of his division in Malaya, and on returning to England in 1945 was posted as an instructor and later adjutant at the School of Infantry at Warminster.

He then served with the Malay Regiment during the emergency there from 1948-51 as adjutant and company commander. He next rejoined the 1st Battalion of his regiment as adjutant in Germany until 1954 when he was posted to the 26th King's African Rifles in Mauritius and Kenya. In 1955 he was a student at the Staff College, and promoted that year as major, was later appointed D.A.A.G., H.Q. Farelf, Singapore.

When he once more rejoined his regiment, they had become the 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd, and he was stationed in Cyprus towards the end of the first lot of troubles. The Battalion returning to the U.K. became the Demonstration Battalion at Warminster. Colonel Durant was G.S.O.2 at the School of Infantry from 1961-63 and then served as second-in-command 1st Green Jackets in Penang. He has just returned from operations in Borneo.

It is hoped he will have a pleasant tenure of command of the Fifth. As will be seen from the following list, he is not the first Green Jacket to hold the appointment.

* * *

PREVIOUS SUBSTANTIVE C.O.s OF THE 5TH GLOSTERS

April 1908 Lt.-Col. Hon. A. B. Bathurst, late R. N. Glos. Militia.
 May 1913 Lt.-Col. S. S. Marling, 5th Battalion.
 Sept. 1914 Lt.-Col. J. H. Collett, C.M.G., T.D., 5th Battalion.
 April 1922 Lt.-Col. N. H. Waller, M.C., T.D., 5th Battalion.
 May 1929 Lt.-Col. C. Macfie, D.S.O., late Seaforth Highlanders
 Jan. 1934 Lt.-Col. F. L. Pardoe, D.S.O., late K.R.R.C.
 Jan. 1938 Lt.-Col. G. A. H. Buxton, 5th Battalion (late 4th Hussars).

June 1947 Lt.-Col. J. P. Carne, V.C., D.S.O., 1st Battalion.
 Dec. 1949 Lt.-Col. A. H. R. Chalmers, O.B.E., M.C., T.D., 5th Battalion.
 Dec. 1952 Lt.-Col. D. W. Biddle, D.S.O., 1st Battalion.
 Jan. 1956 Lt.-Col. F. J. Harrison, O.B.E., T.D., 5th Battalion.
 Jan. 1959 Lt.-Col. E. D. Harding, D.S.O., 1st Battalion.
 April 1961 Lt.-Col. W. O. V. Clee, T.D., 5th Battalion.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL A. H. RADICE, D.S.O.

ON the passing of Colonel Jordan last October, Colonel Radice becomes our oldest serving officer. He was gazetted into the Regiment in 1893 and finally retired in 1921.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he was adjutant of the 28th—a captain with 21 years service—and during the Retreat from Mons and the Battle of the Aisne had great

responsibilities thrust upon his shoulders in the way of getting out orders and so on, as his C.O., great artist as he was, had a habit of slipping off to draw some panorama or sketch, and could not quickly be discovered!

Captain Radice was wounded in October during the first battle of Ypres. After being an instructor at Sandhurst he commanded the 14th Battalion and was awarded the D.S.O., the Italian War Cross and was three times mentioned in despatches.

His recollections as a subaltern joining his battalion in 1893 will interest those of today.

* * *

At last came the passing out examinations, then the long anxious wait for the result and a further wait scanning every gazette to learn one's fate. At last, in November, I found my name, I was appointed Second-Lieutenant in The Gloucestershire Regiment together with Dan Burges, Ruck, Hickie and Breul; then I was posted to the 1st Battalion and ordered to embark on the troop-ship *Himalaya* for Malta. Then visits to Hawkes for uniform, Wilkinson for a sword of the new pattern and a revolver, the Army and Navy Stores for furniture as the government provided only a table and two Windsor chairs, a coal-scuttle and a broom. I bought a chest of drawers made in two pieces each packed in a separate case, the cases placed one on top of the other made a cupboard, a folding arm-chair which packed into a case turned into a table, a tin bath in which fitted a washing stand complete, an iron bedstead packed in a long box and a roll of bedding. The chest of drawers is still in existence.

In the middle of December 1893, having put on the regimental uniform for the first time, I embarked on H.M. transport *Himalaya*, which in her younger days had taken troops to the Crimean war. I with three other young officers was allotted a cabin in the "Pandemonium," the lowest deck of all in the stern of the ship, it had a small scuttle through which filtered a feeble green light as it was usually under water. Above us were the "horse-boxes" tenanted by captains and majors and above that even more senior officers. There were no proper baths but a sort of large tin saucer was provided which could be placed on the floor of the cabin and filled with water, but as the ship was rolling nearly 40 degrees each way the whole way to Gibraltar there was no possibility of keeping enough water in the bath to wash with. After leaving Gibraltar a sail bath was rigged up in the fore well-deck and the officers were given the first half hour every morning.

The weather was not kind to us during the first part of the voyage, as soon as we had passed the Needles we met a south-west swell which sent most people below. I considered myself a good sailor but going round sentries below on that first night at sea was nearly too much even for me. All the way across the Bay the ship rolled heavily under leaden skies and on sighting Finisterre, as the wind was increasing in force the Captain changed course and headed out into the Atlantic to get a good offing.

A Major Hamilton, whom we met later as Staff officer in Alexandria, was really very bad with sea-sickness, he was lying in a deck-chair on the upper deck when a specially bad roll sent him sliding, chair and all across the deck to crash into a small brass saluting gun. His greatcoat got caught underneath it, and the watch had to be sent for to release him.

One of our idle amusements was to watch the ship's boatswain heaving the log every hour, the line was trailed astern and at the given moment three or four men would throw themselves on it and pull it in again, the boatswain invariably jammed his fingers and would swear strange sea oaths much to our amusement.

We arrived at Gibraltar in the evening and the Governor, very kindly, put off gun-fire for half an hour to allow us to land as nobody is allowed to enter the fortress after gun-fire.

Next day we continued our journey leaving the cold grey skies and mountainous seas of the Atlantic behind us. On rounding Europa Point the Mediterranean welcomed us with sunny skies and a deep blue sea. Christmas came round before we reached Malta, the Purser provided some Christmas fare and sports took place in the forward well deck in the afternoon and there was an extra issue of rum. Next day we reached Malta and moored in Seliema harbour. Lieutenant Bryant came on board to meet us and took us to Pembroke camp where the Regiment was quartered.

RECOLLECTIONS

Old Soldiers Remember

R.S.M. W. STENNER (No. 7777, 1904-30)

ON the outbreak of the 1914-18 War I was in China with the 61st. I went to France with them and remained with them until June 1918, when I was transferred to the 9th Battalion in Salonica, who were under orders for France, to take over R.S.M. They were disbanded in December 1919, when I was sent to 1st Battalion.

Next year it will be 60 years since the 2nd Battalion relieved the Guards at the Tower of London for two months. How many of the 400 are left. I had my 18th birthday there being then a trained soldier having been dismissed drill and gym and fired the recruits course of musketry at Colchester. There were many duties to be found; main guard, five posts; spur guard, two posts; wharf guard, one post. There was also an inlying picquet about five posts. This was performed in walking out dress with sidearms and cane. Fire picquet about a dozen.

I had never done sentry before and was keen not to let the Battalion down. My first post was on the King's House. I was on duty 12 midnight till 2 a.m. The beat is on paving stones with buildings on three sides. At night marching up and down in ammunition boots the noise was terrific, even the ravens croaked. About 12.30 a.m. the Governor sent his servant down. "Would I please walk about quietly?"

My next guard was on wharf. The officer on guard was very keen on men knowing their orders and as some had done very little school work it was not easy. They were condemned to stay in the guard room when not on sentry and study a spare copy of orders. The orders as far as I can remember were:

The sentry will extend his walk from the East Gate to the Traitors Gate so as to communicate with the spur guard sentry.

He will keep his post and archways clear of all loiterers and have the east side of the moat in view.

In case of a riotous assemblage outside the gate close the gate and turn out the guard.

Turn out the guard to the King, members of the Royal Family, the Constable, Lieutenant, and Major of the Tower, the Commanding Officer of Battalion and to all armed parties.

To allow no one to land at the Queen's stairs.

To allow no unauthorised persons to enter the gun park.

In case of fire give immediate alarm, etc.



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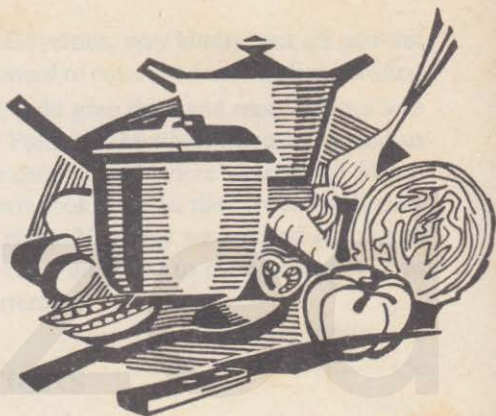
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FINE OLD

FRENCH BRANDY

While I was on sentry King Edward passed down the river in the Royal Barge. The guard turned out, presented arms, the King saluted smartly.

I did most of the posts at different times, about one a week. On main guard I escorted Keys at midnight and quite earned my 8½d. a day, but I enjoyed it.

We went to Harsley Park from the Tower to do Battalion training. I was appointed Lance-Corporal and did no more sentry-go.

One job we sometimes had was ordnance fatigue, cleaning swords and armour, etc., with emery powder, we worked seven hours then lined up for pay—a penny an hour.

I went to the Tower a short time ago, there were only two sentries, no inlying picquet, this work was performed by civilians. The main guard room was destroyed by bombs in the last war.

W.O.2 G. WALKLEY (No. 5172204, 1909-31)

I enlisted into the 61st at Aldershot in April, 1909. I continued to serve with the 61st in Malta, China and then in France. I was wounded at Sanctuary Wood, 9th May, 1915. After leaving hospital served as Instructor for 12 months with the 3rd Battalion. To France in the winter of 1916 and posted to the 12th Battalion. Wounded in 1917 at Vimy Ridge a few days after it was taken by the Canadians. After leaving hospital I served as P.T. Instructor with the 3rd Battalion. In 1918 on my third attempt to be accepted as a candidate for a commission, I was successful, thanks to the personal recommendation on the spot by Colonel A. F. Chapman who was seeing the General on joining the regiment on repatriation from Germany as prisoner of war.

When the Armistice was signed I was at Hastings in a Cadet Battalion expecting to be commissioned at any day. After some leave I eventually linked up with the 28th when they came from France. I served with the 28th in Ireland until the end of their troubles, then on to the Rhine. In 1925 I made application to serve as W.O. with the West India Regiment in Jamaica and served there until 1927 when the Regiment was disbanded. Back to the 28th and on to Cairo leaving there in 1931 on pension.

I must say I have enjoyed my soldier days even during war and in Ireland in spite of hardship and death hanging around neither of which I would recognise. There was something which made one feel worth while, serving in the Gloucestershires. As I seem to appear as if I have been inveigled "into print," I must beg of you to forgive me for concluding this letter with a few blasts, not very raucous, I hope, on my little trumpet. During my service with the Regiment I have played rugby in the regimental team, played cricket for many years and captained the team, played hockey for many years and captained the team which won the Irish Army hockey cup 1921-22. I boxed for the Regiment in the 3rd Battalion during the 1914 war and I have been Battalion Shot in the 28th after the war. Now I have made enough noise and have little wind left even to produce a screech. The point I have wished to make, or rather I wished my trumpet to make, is that I enjoyed my service with the Regiment and what gives me much happiness now is the many happy memories of officers and other ranks I have served with.

I do hope your patience has not given out, but still I think a little personal "history" helps to know each other better.

Pleased to say I am keeping fairly well though at times methinks Father Time is stalking too close to me.

MR. A. F. JOHNSTONE (No. 5174027)

Reading "Recollections" in the Winter 1963 issue, loaned to me by my son Corporal A. C. W. Johnstone still serving in the T.A. after going through the 1939-45 War, I was quite surprised to read of the incident at Ahmadnagar in 1920 which I remember well.

I joined the new 2nd Glosters at Chiseldon in 1919 on transfer from the D.C.L.I. I was in the re-enlistment scheme which came out after the 1914-18 war. I voluntarily enlisted and took on for another three years. We sailed from Tilbury on 12th October, 1919.

On arrival at Bombay we stayed a week at Colaba, waiting for the East Yorks to pack and move to another station. I can remember the P of W camp well and was there when they were sent home and their belongings not wanted were sold by auction.

I did post office guard stopping prisoners posting letters, also nurse guard against the natives.

I had trouble with my eyesight whilst there and was invalided back for discharge in December 1920. I was married on the nine-day draft leave with Colonel Jordan's permission to get the Government allowance.

Reading your "Recollections" brought back my memories of Ahmadnagar East Ridge Barracks. I remember right the East Yorks had their cap badge in the sand outside the Guard Room and some of our pals altered it to the Gloucestershire badge.

I am at present practically deaf and aged 64 next August—living at Gloucester.

MR. GEORGE KNIGHT, 1896-1904

It was very kind of you to write to me. I was merely a humble soldier. I enlisted in 1892 when only 16 years three months. I said I was 18 but was claimed out.

I re-enlisted in the 2nd Battalion in 1896 when 20, under Colonel Leatham. The adjutant was Captain Le Mottee and the R.S.M. Trevelyan. I was in "E" Company under Captain Baxter and Colour-Sergeant Baker.

Then I went to the 1st Battalion, "D" Company, under Colonel Wilford and R.S.M. Gray. My company officer was Major Wallace and the Colour-Sergeant Savage. C.S.M. Gray was followed by R.S.M. Hewitt.

After our colonel was killed at Rietfontein, I with others near at hand saluted our colonel for the last time as he was carried away. Major Humphries took over, afterwards he was followed by Major Capel-Cure.

I left the regiment in December 1904.

(Mr. Knight later joined the 2nd V.B.G.R. Band under Bandmaster Dyer and served in the 1/5th Band under Bandmaster Wickham. He had served with the 61st at Devonport and Jersey and with the 28th in South Africa, Ceylon and India. He is now 88 years of age, living at Churchdown near Gloucester—EDITOR.)

A VISIT TO ASIAGO

BY EX-SERGEANT T. C. BODDINGTON

I HOPE this short account of a visit to Asiago may be of interest to any ex-servicemen of The Gloucestershire Regiment who saw service in Italy on that plateau during 1918.

On taking a holiday in Venice in 1955, I thought it would be a good idea if I could get up to Asiago and have a look round with my son.

I got in touch with the Imperial War Graves Commission who were most helpful and supplied me with the names of the cemeteries and a full list of the members of the 1/5th Gloucesters which was my Battalion, but they gave me little hope of being able to get to Asiago and the cemeteries in one day. In Boscon British Cemetery 18 comrades lie, and 13 in the Magnaboschi British Cemetery. I was also informed that at Giavera British Cemetery there was a memorial to those who fell in Italy and had no known graves. On this memorial there are seven of the 1/5th.

On visiting the local information bureau just off St. Marks Square, I obtained the times of the buses and found that I should have to change at Vicenza and take the bus to Asiago via Thiene, and you can well imagine the feeling one felt when one passed through the latter township in a bus when the last time I took that road was previous to the Austrian attack on the 15th June.

Before we arrived in Asiago we stopped and picked up passengers at Canove, a very small village which was the extreme right of the Austrian attack during the final battle to the Piave. The Austrians advanced principally in two areas—in the plains and the mountain area, 18 miles between Monte Grappa and Canove. The two sections were distinct battles.

We debussed at Asiago but the terminus of this route was Levico which the 48th Division must have passed through on their final advance to the outskirts of Trento, the first British division to enter enemy territory on the Western Front.

We had no difficulty in obtaining a taxi, but before we hired one we decided to find a café for a coffee as we felt the change of temperature coming from sea-level to over 3,000 feet. When we entered this café we sensed a feeling of hostility, and after we had given our order and been served we were asked if we were Deutsche. We soon assured them that we were British and that I was wounded in front of Asiago with the British Army. The atmosphere in the café changed completely, so fortified with excellent coffee and cognac we made our way to the taxi rank.

Explaining that we wanted to visit the British Cemeteries at Boscon and Magnaboschi, we were soon on our way and found the former, the smaller of the two. Unlike the military cemeteries in France and Belgium that I have visited there were no bright borders of English flowers which I suppose is quite natural when one considers the altitude. The green sward surrounded by a wall in local stone was beautifully kept and the crosses in both cemeteries were also of local stone as were some of the headstones which had been badly affected by weather.

The names in the visitors books that we signed were as far as we could make out all Italian, with the exception that the British Consul had made a visit. It was gratifying to see that the local inhabitants visit occasionally though these spots "that are for ever England" are rather off the beaten track. As we were supplied with a packed lunch by our hotel we returned to Asiago and as we had noted a huge monument on the north of the town we thought we would partake of it in that direction. We found this memorial was called Sacratio Di Asiago, a mausoleum type of building surmounted with an arch similar to the Arc de Triomphe. It was approached by a wide straight paved road, and as it stands on a hillock on the plateau it looks very impressive. I understand that it covers the graves of 3,271 Italian soldiers who fell on the plateau. One enters through massive doors, and finds oneself in a labyrinth of marble-faced corridors, with the names

and rank of the fallen set into the marble in lead, though some were in gilt, probably soldiers that had been decorated for outstanding acts of heroism.

There are many of these Sacrarios built at points on the old battlefields where the fighting was intense. Some of the places remembered by the Gloucesters are Monte Grappa and Montello.

We travelled back from Asiago Station by the rack-railway that was a very interesting journey, as we had a travelling companion as far as Vicenza. He was a science master at the High School in that city. He told us that as a boy he roamed about the trenches on school holidays and like all boys made a collection and a hobby of anything connected with the war. He also mentioned that the timber that was used for the foundations of Venice came from the woods around Asiago in the building of that city, and is still used in repairs to the sides of canals.

At Vicenza we changed trains on to the full gauge line and what a fine diesel train it was, clean and comfortable seats similar to the first-class of British railway crack trains.

As our pilgrimage to Asiago had proved so successful we decided to find our way to Giavera and to see the monument to those men who had no known graves, and if time allowed to visit the Nervesa on the Piave. This town is now known by the well sounding name, Nervesa della Battaglia, for the part it took in the final battles of the 1915-18 War that Italy fought as our allies.

On our visit to Giavera a couple of days later we again travelled by bus and when we told the conductor that we wished to be put off at the British Cemetery at Giavera he went and spoke to the driver and they drove us up to the entrance, which was some way from the main road and gave us the time of bus for return journey as the next one would be the last for the day. As we entered we were approached by the Italian gardener who had the care of the cemetery and how very beautifully he was looking after it; it was like a glorious floral display of English flowers increased by the clear warm Italian sunshine, a complete contrast to the cemeteries at Asiago, in their sombre dark green setting of the fir trees.

The gardener took us straight away to the tablet placed against the boundary wall of the Civil Cemetery which adjoins. When seen in 1955 the names were then somewhat weather-beaten but no doubt have been relettered by this time, but one's thoughts went back to the names in lead and gilt one saw at Asiago to the Italian dead, made to last for ever and a day.

On this memorial there are seven names of the 1/5th Battalion. The ones known to me were two out of four of our very worthy "D" Company cooks who were named Private Blunt and Private Carr, who never failed us with a hot meal if it was humanly possible; all these men lost their lives in the Austrian bombardment prior to their attack on the 15th June, 1918. Before leaving we were taken to see the grave of a soldier who had been decorated with that outstanding gallantry award, the Victoria Cross. On taking leave of the Italian gardener to return through the village we passed one of the granite posts erected to show the limit of the Austrian advance on to Italian soil. I understand these are to be found on the whole length of the front. As we passed a farm building so very like the billets we used to occupy when out of the line and being interested to let my son see how we used to live, we went into the farmyard to examine it closer. A cow shed with loft above which was often very comfortable especially if there was any hay

or maize foliage remains, and much more so if the cow shed housed a number of animals as the warmth of their breath helped to increase the temperature. While discussing these points the farmer came along, with the offer of an English cigarette; other members of the family turned up and soon all were smoking; taken round to the rear our attention was drawn to a vine over a high archway hanging with huge bunches of purple grapes enough to make one's mouth water as it was a pretty warm day. I think the farmer read our thoughts as he exclaimed "No, No" and left us, but soon returned with a large bunch which took some holding and he explained were sweeter. We left to catch our bus in a very happy mood.

Unfortunately by the time we arrived on the main Treviso-Nervesa road the bus had passed on to Nervesa della Battaglia. We therefore did not get into that town to see the Piave where we manned the trenches on its banks. We decided to call at the Albergo to get out of the sun and to taste their local wine. When the landlord found we were British he called his daughter who told us she had been working early that year in London in the Middlesex Hospital.

In due course our bus arrived, proceeding to Treviso where we had again to change on our way back to Venice. Thus my pilgrimage completed to the comrades left behind and a promise made to my son years ago that one day I would take him back to the area where I lost my right arm on the 15th June, 1918.



THE SPHINX

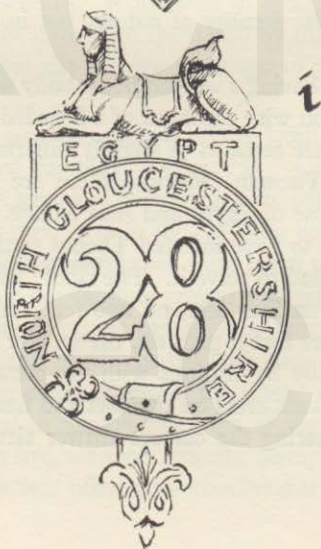
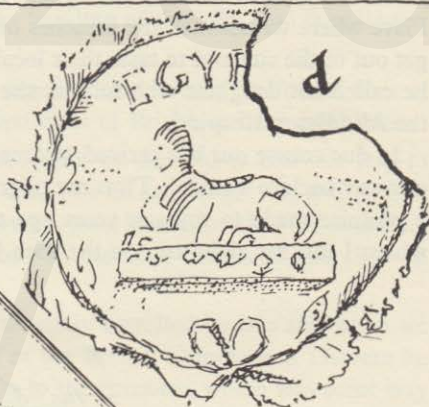
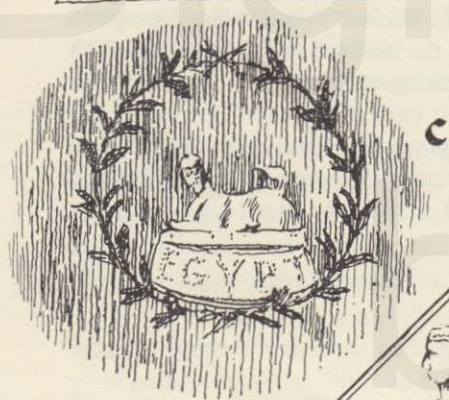
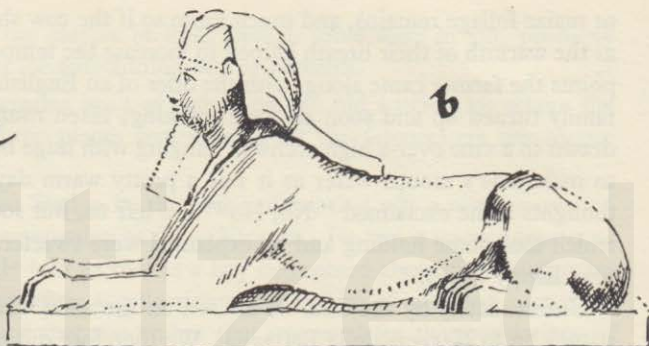
THE Sphinx was one of the monsters of ancient mythology—in Egypt a divinity personifying wisdom and the fertility of nature, but in Greece a malignant power dealing in mysteries.

It is represented in Greece as having a winged lion's body with the head of a woman (a) and in Egypt as a recumbent lion with the head of a bearded man (an *andro-sphinx*) (b). In Asia Minor and in Cyprus are remains of slightly different "sphinges," and among the earlier Mayan culture in Yucatan (Mexico) there are examples of the creature, male and female, not unlike those of Egypt and Asia Minor.

In Greece the Sphinx is said to have infested Thebes setting the inhabitants a riddle and devouring all those who failed to solve it. The riddle was:

What goes on four feet, on two feet, and three
But the more feet it goes on, the weaker it be?

The riddle was solved eventually by Oedipus with the answer that it was a man who first crawled on all fours, then went erect on two feet and finally in old age with support of a stick. The Sphinx on hearing the correct answer slew herself and Thebes was delivered.



The great Egyptian sphinx of Giza is a typification of Ra, the sun god. This colossal statue near the Pyramids was hewn out of the solid rock and is over 150 feet long, with a head some 30 feet from crown to chin.

The Sphinx, superscribed Egypt, was the first Battle Honour ever to be awarded. Under the Horse Guards letter No. 170 dated 7th July, 1802 it was granted to those regiments that took part in the Egyptian campaign of 1801 "as a distinguished mark of His Majesty's royal approbation, and as a lasting memorial of the glory, discipline, and intrepidity of his troops in that arduous and important campaign."

One would have thought that the campaign would have been commemorated by an Egyptian Sphinx—a male with its tail lying over its back, similar to those to be seen today flanking Cleopatra's Needle on the Thames Embankment.

But no—in practically every badge which entitled regiments bear, it is the female Greek Sphinx, but without wings, which has been adopted.

The question of whether the female Sphinx with tail erect as shown on early regimental colours was correct or not was put up to the Garter King of Arms in 1934, and in his reply he stated that the original sealed pattern could not now be found, but that the paintings in the Vellum Books dated 1811, in the custody of the Inspector of Regimental Colours, this Sphinx presumably conformed with the original design approved by King George III.

The first depiction of a Sphinx on a Regimental Colour of the 28th Foot appears (c) embroidered on that presented by Colonel Prescott in 1802 and which is now in the Regimental Museum. The Sphinx is not easy to see, but it is definitely the female of the species, with an erect tail, but with hindquarters more like those of a hippopotamus than of a lion! The same may be said of the device (d) on the Colour carried at Waterloo. On the earlier Colours various forms of hieroglyphics on the pedestal below the Sphinx are presumably conventional forms of the Arabic for Egypt.

It must be remembered that the badge awarded in 1802 was most probably copied from the Sphinx in Egypt and in 1803 Captain Walsh of the 93rd Foot wrote "the face of the Sphinx has been most savagely mutilated, and only retains enough of its former features to allow us to guess what it once was. The French having cleared the sand all round the foundation have enabled us to ascertain that it has never had a body connected to it as was generally imagined."

The Sphinx depicted on the earliest back badge of the 28th is also a curiously shaped beast though its tail appears correctly lying over the back (f), as does that in the officers' back badge (g) of 1830-78. A curious type of Sphinx (i) appears on the 28th Glengary badge of 1871-90.

As the years passed the Sphinx badges of the Regiment became more delicate in design, with the tail usually erect. For a period before and after the 1914-18 War a few officers' collar badges bore the Lincolnshire Regiment pattern Sphinx (e) with an entirely different lappet—possibly made by a misinformed diemaker.

There are numerous small differences to be found even in the regimental forage-cap badges still worn by the 5th Battalion—for instance the shape of the wig-lappet, the curve of the tail and the prominence of the ribs.

From 1878 the officers of the 28th and from 1830 other ranks, used the numerals "28" as their back badge and it was not until 1881 that the Gloucestershire Regiment

adopted the Sphinx within a circle of laurel leaves. The LXI were not of course entitled to the back badge until linked with the 28th. They did though bear the Sphinx honour on their Regimental Colour, and it appeared on sundry of their shako plates—notably at the top of their attractive badge of 1822-29. Later a small white metal Sphinx appeared at the foot of the brass shako and helmet plate of all ranks. All ranks also wore a brass sphinx “collar dog” on the tunic collar in pre-1881 days—of varying patterns (h, j) but very similar to the recent white metal one (k) which was also used at the centre of the universal pattern brass helmet plate.

In 1930 H.M. King George VI was pleased to approve of regiments selecting a badge for the centre of their Regimental Colours. The Gloucestershire Regiment requested the Sphinx within a laurel wreath—an enlarged version of the “Back Badge” (l). This was approved in Army Order 170 of 1933.

The Dorsets are the only other regiment in the Wessex Brigade to have taken part in the Egyptian Campaign. Two battalions of the 54th Foot (later the 2nd Dorsets) after the Battle of Alexandria were left outside the city when the rest of the British Army marched south on Cairo. It was their successful capture of Fort Marabout which resulted in the final surrender of the French General Menou, that gave them the Battle Honour Marabout and the right to bear that name on the pedestal of their Sphinx instead of Egypt.

*And Man knows it! Knows, moreover, that Woman that God gave him
Must command but may not govern—shall enthrall but not enslave him.
And She knows, because She warns him, and their instincts never fail,
That the Female of the Species is more deadly than the Male.*

RUDYARD KIPLING, 1911.

ABOUKIR BAY

(In the early dawn of 8th March, 1801, the force commanded by Abercromby landed at Aboukir Bay. The 28th were there . . .)

With a creaking of timbers the British fleet lay
in the lapping grey waters of Aboukir Bay.
And the soldiers were silent. The landing was near
and who would admit that he felt no fear
at the thought of the dawn, and the coming day?

The soldiers were silent, that early March night
as they checked on their weapons. Tomorrow the fight
in the heat and the sand. And first on the shore
the Reserve Brigade regiments commanded by Moore.
The 28th, traditionally, in the first flight.

Thirty rounds of ball each. And for the attack
three days' rations per man, all borne on the back.
“Each man for himself” was the order. But the men knew
none could match them in battle, and only the few
had not smelled powder before, heard the musket balls crack.

Two in the morning. And then "Man the boats!"
Disciplined, silent and tightening their coats
they took up their places. Some jested, some thought
of the bloody, fierce battles they'd recently fought
and how many soldiers felt dry in their throats?

The serried lines moved, with a quiet splash of oar
slowly, relentlessly on to the shore.
In the van Paget, the Colours held high
in the bows of his boat. Then the crack and the sigh
of the musket balls, and the cannons roar.

The morning sky lightened, the dawn grew pale.
The grapeshot and bullets whipped water like hail
but on to the shore, with a mighty cheer
stormed the 28th Foot. The Gloucesters were there!

E. L. T. C.

MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Whilst the 28th Regiment were stationed in the Ionian Islands (1818-29) certain charges were unjustly laid against the regimental surgeon of the 32nd Regiment, and the British Lord High Commissioner of the Islands, Sir Thomas Maitland, a deservedly unpopular official, issued an order that no individual belonging to the 32nd Regiment should hold any communication with him, including wives, children and officers, and a sentry with bayonet fixed was directed to attend the doctor wherever he went, to ensure the rigid observance of the Lord High Commissioner's command.

An Irish grenadier of the 28th Regiment, named Fitzgibbon, was selected to be the doctor's escort. The doctor was also of grenadier proportions, therefore when they sallied out together and strode along the ramparts, or about the esplanade, Fitzgibbon carrying the doctor's cloak, lined with scarlet, on one arm and shouldering his firelock and fixed bayonet with the other, their appearance attracted universal attention.

Fitzgibbon completely misunderstood his orders for he fancied that he had been placed over the doctor to protect him from danger and, full of this notion, he would say to his charge by way of keeping up his spirits, "Never fear, doctor, the devil of a hair on your head will they touch while I'm here."

FRANCE COMMEMORATES THE CONCLUSION OF THE PENINSULAR WAR

On Sunday, 12th April, the 150th anniversary of the conclusion of the Peninsular War was celebrated in Southern France at Biarritz and Bayonne. Hostilities were forgotten as the Gallic hosts with representatives of all the contestants, British, Spanish, Portuguese and Germans, met together for the event.

The programme in the morning at Bayonne included a visit to the Peninsular War Memorial, a cathedral service and a Vin d'Honneur given by the city. In the afternoon at Biarritz the British Army's war memorial in the Anglican Church, which suffered

damage during the last war, was re-dedicated by the Bishop of Fulham, and to wind up the affair there was an official dinner in the evening. The 28th/61st was represented at these celebrations by Major David Matson, who is at present liaison officer at France's Military Academy.

The Memorial at Biarritz is of particular interest to the Regiment, for it includes the names of all officers and the numbers of all other ranks of the 28th and 61st Regiments who fell in the great battles of the Nivelle, the Nive, Orthez and Toulouse, all of which are battle honours for both regiments.

AUGUST 1914

IN a few weeks time we shall reach the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War of 1914-18 and the following article tells something of the 1st Battalion during that eventful August.

In July the 28th, then serving in the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Division, were carrying out training at Aldershot and amongst other events had taken part in the "mobilisation" of the 2nd Division. The Battalion had acted as "reservists" to the King's Liverpool Regiment and one was able to see a battalion at war strength—1,000 men, 56 horses and 18 horse-drawn vehicles.

Rumours of war with Germany grew during the month and the Brigade was ordered on 1st August to strike camp and return to Bordon.

BATTALION ORDERS

by

LIEUT. COL. A. C. LOVETT,

Commanding, 1st. Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.

Bordon

Tuesday, 4th. August, 1914.

Part 1. No. 177.

A F T E R O R D E R S .

Mobilization. A General Mobilization has been ordered.

1. The first day of Mobilization will be the 5th. August.
The Mobilization of the Battalion will be completed in three days i.e. by midnight the 7th. inst.

All ranks are confined to Barracks.

Appointments. Lieut. M. W. Halford is appointed

2. Transport Officer.

Rations. Field Service rations will be issued from
3. tomorrow.

A. H. RADICE, Captain,
Adjutant, 1st. Battn. Gloucestershire Regiment.

At 6 p.m. on the 4th the above orders for a general mobilisation were issued. There followed hectic days of preparation—handing in peace-time equipment and issuing mobilisation stores, packing of regimental and personal property, medals and documents, sharpening of swords and bayonets. Rumour had it that only English gold coins would be acceptable overseas and there was a rush on the banks for gold. Aldershot was soon cleared out and relatives were called on to help from elsewhere.

Meanwhile at Horfield reservists were pouring in to rejoin the Colours, to be issued with weapons and equipment. Many of these men had never before seen the Short Lee-Enfield rifle or the 1908 pattern webbing equipment, and the Depot staff were kept at it for three days and nights helping to put the equipment together and to see to the packing up of civilian clothes, etc.

However, by the 6th August, 580 men and a number of officers joined the Battalion—for the most part white-faced and long-haired compared with the exceptionally fit serving soldier.

There was still much to do organising companies and platoons, and as the date of departure was delayed opportunity was given for route-marching and musketry for the benefit of the reservists.

S P E C I A L .

The Battalion will parade for entraining as follows, in accordance with instructions issued to Companies.

1.0 a.m. to-morrow, 12th. inst.-1st. Train loading.

2.40 a.m. to-morrow, 12th. inst.-2nd. Train loading.

All ranks will carry 3 days rations on the person.

Ammunition will be issued before parade.

Transport will be loaded at 5.0 p.m. to-day.

A. H. RADICE, Captain,

Adjutant, 1st. Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment.

Finally in the early hours of the 12th the 28th marched (with one exception!) to the station where the transport had already been loaded.

Amongst those to accompany the Battalion was Drummer D. E. Baker of "D" Company then 16½ years old. He writes:

"I had to carry the same kit as a man—full marching order which included: overcoat, ground sheet, shirt, socks, holdall, mess tin, washing kit, three days' rations, emergency rations, cigarettes and matches (which I was not supposed to have being a boy), photographs and odds and ends in my pockets including a gold half sovereign given to me by my father for luck. My warlike equipment consisted of my bugle and flute, 120 rounds S.A.A. in my pouches and a very sharp bayonet.

"When the order came to parade it took two other boys to get the equipment onto my back. I nearly missed that war; on the march to Bordon station, it was hell trying to walk with that load but worse was to come at Le Havre; the march to the camp was up a hill and at that time seemed to be the steepest in the world. I still do not know how any of us reached the camp with the load we were carrying.

"I am proud of my record of being the youngest soldier to go to war with the 28th in 1914 and to be one of the last drummer boys to go to war.

"There was another boy, who went to France with the Battalion named Tanner; we both served with the LXI in India after the war, he as a sergeant and I as an officer."

Amongst those to be left behind was the old soldier, Private G. Whyman, church orderly and servant to the padre, the Rev. O'Rorke; with tears in his eyes he watched his comrades march off. Later he and the padre joined the B.E.F. and both unfortunately fell into enemy hands whilst remaining with a party of wounded.

In two trains the 28th reached Southampton and proceeded to embark in the Bibby Line S.S. *Gloucester Castle* (later to be torpedoed when serving as a hospital ship), sailing at 1210 hours for an unknown destination. Land was sighted at about 2330 hours and at 0100 hour on the 13th the Battalion disembarked at Le Havre. After a few hours sleep on the concrete floor of a dock-side shed, led by French boy scouts they marched up the hill north of the town to No. 1 rest camp near the French forts of Ste Adresse—in fact very near to where the 61st launched their attack on the port in 1944. Here more training was carried out—especially in fire orders, and even in forming square to repulse cavalry as rumour had it German uhlans were likely to be met in large numbers.

Marching up to camp the troops received a tremendous welcome from the French; all the girls kissed the troops and the soldiers in return gave away their cap badges much to the anger of the C.O., Colonel A. C. Lovett. At one of the halts he told the men they must never do such a disgraceful thing again. Flowers and wine were also passed to the troops—the latter causing "grief" to some of the later units.

Two interpreters—Leroux and Duval—joined the Battalion in camp—two good fellows in the French uniform of the day, long blue coats, red trousers and red and blue kepi—picturesque maybe, but . . . Later we saw French cavalry with their steel waistcoats, brass helmets with long black flowing plumes!

The following appeared in a local French paper, *L'Avenir*, dated 18th August.

WELCOME

The arrival of the English is to all French hearts a stimulating and a comfort.

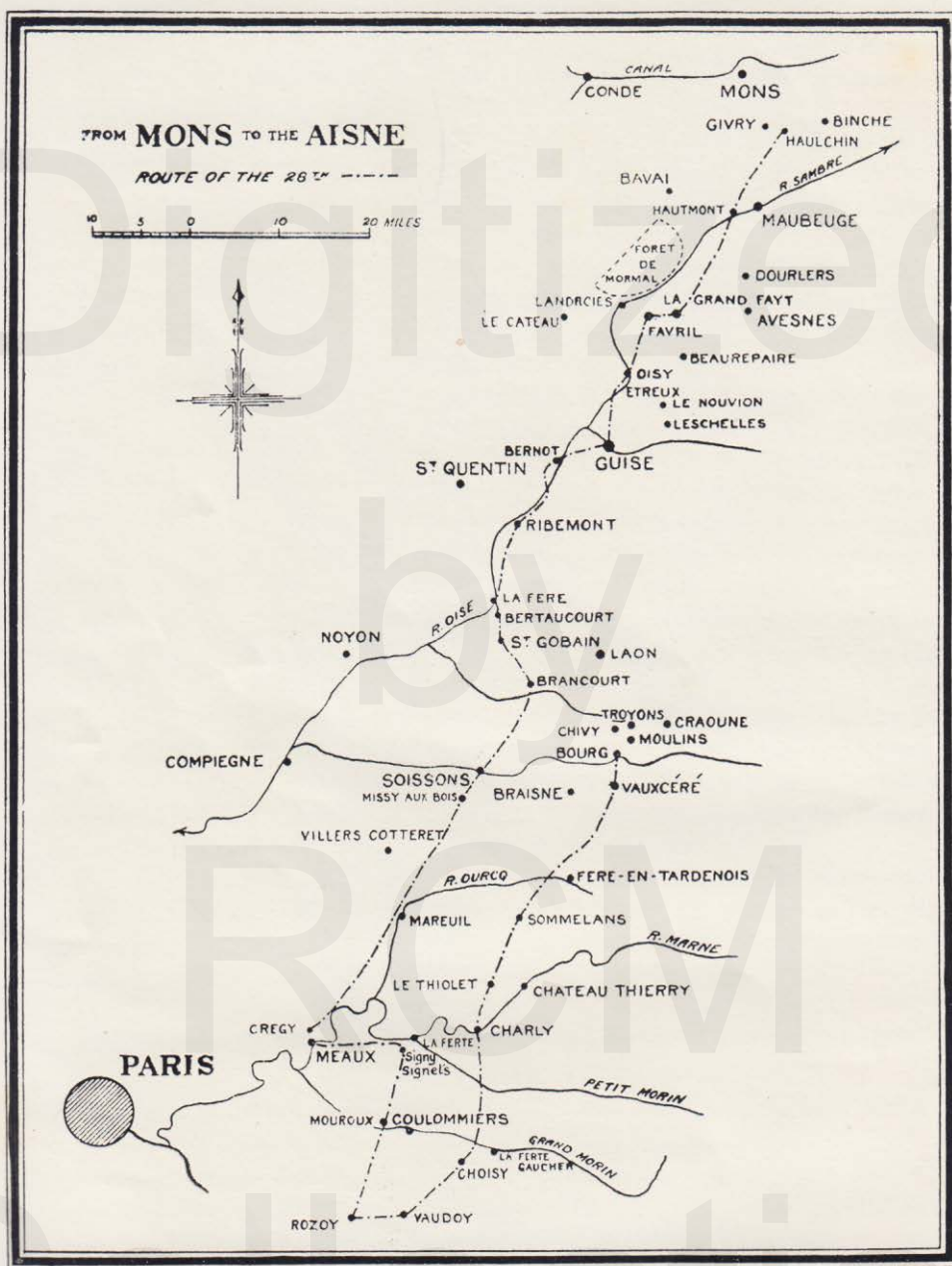
The presence of English soldiers among us enjoys every French. Let us wish our friends the welcome dear to all English. Since they are in France, our populations give them friendship and heartiness.

On the 15th after a violent night of thunder and drenching rain the Battalion entrained in trucks labelled "30-40 hommes—8 chevaux" for the 1st Division railhead and concentration area about Le Nouvion. On the train journey Captain Shipway, O.C. "B" Company, who had just passed out of the Staff College, pulled out a bundle of maps and showed us where we were going, and sure enough he was pretty correct.

On arrival more days were spent whilst the rest of the B.E.F. were concentrating, then



An Old Contemptible, August, 1914
From a painting by Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Lovett



followed the march north towards the Belgian frontier, through the fortress town of Mauberge where French troops and civilians were busy at work on the encircling forts, digging trenches and putting up wire, etc.

On the 22nd August after an approach march of 44 miles we reached our destination, the small village of Haulchin some nine miles S.E. of Mons. Of the situation we knew next to nothing. The rest of the B.E.F. were on our left around Mons itself and on our right was the 2nd French Army where there was a rumble of gunfire.

Brigadier N. F. Somerset, then commanding a platoon of "C" Company, writes: "We had been given an orchard to defend and we set to work to make it as strong a defended locality as was possible. Trenches were traversed both for the forward sections and some 150 yards to the rear for the support sections and platoon H.Q. In spite of the previous day's hard marches in very hot weather the men were in very good shape and worked excellently and most of us looked forward to giving a good account of ourselves if and when the enemy attacked."

It was the same elsewhere: "B" Company on the right, after sundry orders and counter orders dug in at the Trieux cross-roads, ripping off doors and shutters from the nearby houses to provide overhead cover—much to the dismay of the villagers—little did they realise what was in store for them during the next four years.

"On the morning of 23rd August, I again remember hearing the rumble of guns on our right, but it ominously seemed to me to have moved from the north-east to the east and it was clear that the French were in retreat at some speed.

"However, we were concerned with our own affairs as an order was received we were to stand and fight where we stood. This furthermore seemed to be confirmed by the sound of much firing to the north-west where a battle was obviously in progress." The Battle of Mons was on. "I had scarcely given out this order to my men when another order came cancelling the previous one and ordering an immediate withdrawal. I vividly remember how disappointed we all were at this and at the time it seemed to us unnecessary."

General Wetherall, also of "C" Company, writes: "A lasting impression in my mind was the lovely day and sunrise on the day we started the retreat, not fear of the Germans then, in fact it was a job to make my platoon retreat."

We had seen the withdrawal of the K.R.R. on our left front and the first casualties passing through, and sundry small bodies of British cavalry operating ahead, but had no idea of the seriousness of the situation at Mons itself.

At 07.30 hours on the 24th the Battalion moved off south by companies with no very clear orders as to route or destination. A few shells burst nearby but there were no casualties. This was the first time any of us, except for the South African veterans, had been under fire.

The 1st Division had come lightly out of the battle and in fact throughout the retreat the bulk of the fighting took place further to the west where the 3rd and 5th Divisions were heavily engaged especially at Le Cateau.

On Sunday, 30th August—"Black Sunday" a special issue of *The Times* was issued, and the people of England first heard of the Battle of Mons and of the retreat.

"The losses suffered by the British forces are described as terrible, but the spirit of the men is unshaken. The consciousness that they have inflicted on

the enemy losses far greater than their own has nerved them to fight on, in conjunction with our Allies until the advance is stemmed and the invader driven back."

So started the 13 day retreat of 200 miles to Rozoy, S.E. of Paris—with one day's rest en route and an average of $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles a day, the longest being 23 miles.

The weather was abnormally hot, the French roads were either pavé (cobble) or very dusty. At times to shorten the length of the column two battalions marched side by side, at others the centre of the road was left to the artillery and transport, the left of the road to mounted troops, and the dusty right to the P.B.I. In addition there were columns of unfortunate refugees with their farm wagons loaded with the aged, infants and household treasures.

On the 25th the Glosters reached Le Grand Fayt and were just getting into billets when a battery of our heavy guns drawn by six horses, came galloping up from the rear to say the enemy were just behind. So out we turned once more and with very vague orders took up positions amongst the hedges to the north-west of the village. Brigadier Somerset writes: "I had not come long from Sandhurst and being imbued with the knowledge from military textbooks, started without pause to have a large farm house put into a state of defence. I had the windows broken and furniture and other articles piled against the openings. I had loopholes made in the walls and allocated the men to man them. No attack took place that night though there were many alarms and the corn stooks in the fields in the changing lights looked like advancing infantry. Just after dawn my company commander (Captain W. A. M. Temple) came round and then the balloon really went up. The farmer complained at what I had done to his house and no subaltern ever received a bigger telling off."

A similar performance was seen elsewhere during the retreat when Lieutenant A. D. Harding of "B" Company, started to put a house in a state of defence, except that clouds of brick dust hid most of his operations!

Actually the Guards Brigade had been attacked in the village of Landrecies a few miles to the north and a fierce engagement had taken place. Next morning the Battalion were ordered to help extricate them and moved north-west once more. All however was quiet but companies took up rearguard positions astride the road and it was here that the Glosters were first really engaged with the Germans. The fog of war was thick and no one was clear as to the situation. "A" Company was ordered to send out a detached post on the left of the Battalion's position, but when a runner was sent out later to call them in, it could not be found. The seven men had been surrounded and taken prisoner. Captain Shipway, of "B" going forward with C.S.M. Long to reconnoitre was hit by a German sniper and unhappily died of wounds that evening in the field ambulance at Evreux. "B" Company on the right of the road also suffered other casualties including a fine old soldier, Private Lander, who was finally bayoneted to death after he had killed three Germans.

The total casualties of the day were one officer and six men killed, 25 men wounded and seven missing.

Then the retreat continued. Colonel D. Baxter, then a subaltern in "A" Company, writes: "Suddenly I heard the clatter of galloping hooves getting closer and closer. A corporal of the Scots Greys leaning from his saddle handed me my sword saying he found it by the hedge which I had just left. I thanked him warmly. I had left it

behind deliberately. The story of my sword is as follows: The sword was a great trouble to me banging away on my hip. It might be amusing to tell its story.

"My father was very particular to buy me a good one when I got my commission, so we went up to London to Wilkinson's and saw this particular sword tested; bent double and sprang back when released in its original shape. This then was not a 'tailors' sword but a fairly heavy one.

"As we were retreating day by day we suddenly had our valises sent up which we had not seen for days. I put my sword in my valise. The next day whilst we were having a 10-minute halt, the Colonel rode up and stopped in front of me and said, 'Baxter, where is your sword?' I replied: 'In my valise, sir.' He ordered me to recover it as soon as possible and said, 'Baxter, how can you defend yourself without your sword?' The last episode of the weapon was in September, when we were in the trenches on the Aisne. We were being relieved by the Black Watch and as I was marching away, a bearded officer came rushing after me and handed back my sword. I thanked him profusely.

"Never again did I leave it behind and when wounded at Langemarck in October it eventually arrived home with my valise, and is in my possession to this day."

Most of us managed to get rid of our swords the last time we saw our valises during the retreat. The officers' turn out in these early days of the war called for a deal of criticism. Double brown leather equipment straps (peculiar to the 28th), leather revolver holsters and field glass cases, badges of rank on the cuff, and rolled waterproofs strapped on the shoulder all made the officers conspicuous to the enemy, and German snipers used to pick out the officer by his thin legs (breeches and puttees) as compared with the troops' service dress.

Another trouble was the issue of flat-nosed target model revolver bullets—not dum-dum, but as bad. Some officers threw theirs away, others tried to round them off with a knife during the 10-minute halts.

And so day by day the retreat went on. No one was really in the picture, though there was the suggestion that we were enticing the Germans further south, the easier to wipe them out, little knowing the tremendous strength of their five corps following up our "Contemptible Little Army."

March discipline on the whole was extremely good and the 10-minute halts per hour strictly kept along the Brigade column. The troops were naturally weary in the unprecedented heat with the continuous marching; the stouter men helped carry the packs and rifles of their weaker comrades. There was but little singing.

"Tipperary" was unknown, and what songs were struck up were usually greeted with the old "Oh my, what a rotten song, what a rotten singer too."

The musical hero was Drummer C. Fluck of "A" Company. He had brought his fife with him and his Irish tunes went a long way to keep up the morale of the men. He later was awarded the D.C.M.

Another stalwart was the Battalion farrier—Private Green, who was continuously to be seen at work during the halts. He must have reshod every horse before the River Aisne was eventually reached.

There was but little grousing—but the thing which really annoyed the troops was, towards the end of a long march, the "only another half mile," which so often turned out to be another three or four.



The Battalion never went really short of rations. Though bully beef and biscuits were the order of the day, fresh meat was on occasions produced by the A.S.C.—tied on to company cookers (amongst the dust and flies) and finally cut up for stews. The company cooks did fine work. When the A.S.C. were unable to reach companies, rations were dumped at the side of the roads to be grabbed by the men as they passed. A novelty were Oxo cubes—eaten whole by some, to add to their thirst!

There were naturally a number of men who could not cope, and at one period a horse-drawn ambulance wagon followed the Battalion where the M.O.—Captain Howlett, R.A.M.C., produced his apparently only cure for sore feet, tummy troubles or heat stroke—a white pill. Feet inspections at the end of the day's march were rigorously kept and produced some horrible sights. Boots had begun to wear out and in some cases socks were soleless. Fortunately a small supply of new boots, socks and shirts were received early in September. These were badly needed as the men's packs with spare kits had been dumped on to A.S.C. wagons some time before to lighten the men's weights.

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

RUDYARD KIPLING.

On 28th August companies made a halt near a stream of muddy water about two feet deep and the troops got their first real wash. On the 29th much to our joy we were told we were to have a complete day of rest. However, it meant putting our billeting area at the Château of Berteaut in a state of defence, trench digging, outposts and so on, but it was a rest, caused partly by the exhaustion of the pursuing German hordes. This pause may have been responsible for the legend of the "Angels of Mons" in which St. George on a white horse at the head of a phantom body of English archers held up the enemy to ease the pursuit—a legend believed by some at the time and somewhat similar to that of the Russians who were seen passing through England with snow still on their boots!

The retreat continued until 5th September when the B.E.F. side-stepped a little to the east and then crossing the River Marne advanced north to the River Aisne, the Glosters reaching Vauceré on the 22nd after a further 94-mile march.

The total casualties amongst the "Old Contemptibles" of the Glosters during their 200-mile retreat was one officer and seven men killed, 26 men wounded, eight men prisoners of war, and two officers and about 85 men sick—light compared with other units, but the turn of the 3rd Brigade came in the next days on the Aisne. But that is another story.

Base details of 94 men under Captain A. McLeod joined the Battalion on the 22nd August, and first reinforcements of another 90 men under Captain A. Capel on the 26th August.

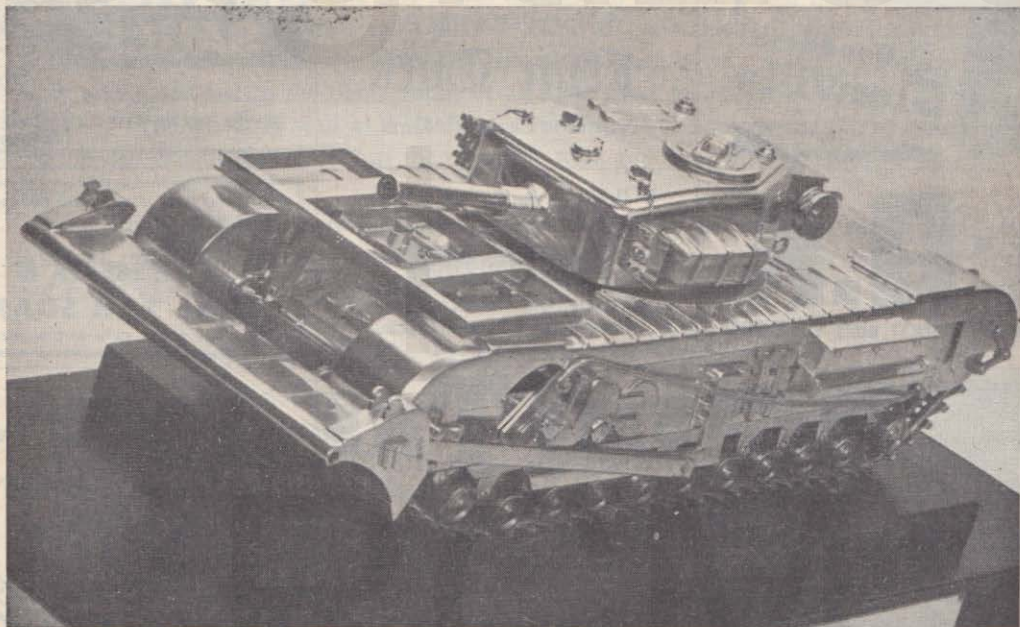
R. M. G.

The following story from ex-Sergeant B. G. Crang (No. 8821) has been received too late to be incorporated in the above article but is well worth adding as a supplement. Sergeant Crang had been put in charge of the reception of reservists at Bordon. He was severely wounded in the head in 1914, and again in November 1944 by a V2 Rocket in Poplar. He now lives at Leigh-on-Sea.



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"On the morning of 8th August, we had the first parade of the full regiment. Colonel Lovett, a wise and far-seeing officer, called all officers and senior N.C.O.s and told us that, as some of the reservists might be restless at first at having to leave their families, to go easy with the men until they had settled down. This turned out to be very good advice. I called the roll and took the men of my section's names, with surprising results. One man, a proper Old Bill type with a drooping moustache and grog blossom nose gave his name as 'James.' On asking his Christian name he replied, 'My wife calls me Lily because I am so pure.' This caused a general laugh in which I joined and the Colonel was then passing on his charger but he took no notice. On calling the parade to attention another very large strong man who I later learned was a butcher, threw his rifle 10 ft. into the air, caught it with his right hand and stood there grinning, again general laughter. Now realising that it was hopeless to carry on I said that we would fall out and go to the barrack room where we could all get acquainted with each other and arrange for all old chums to have their cots next to each other. This proved a good move and I was shown the photographs of all their wives and families, which I duly admired. You know as well as I do how sentimental and homeloving the so-called 'brutal and licentious soldiery' of the old army were and how these men must have missed their loved ones.

"After this first day things were normal on parade and we all had intensive training and bringing up to date the musketry of the reservists during the few days left before embarking to meet and conquer the enemy."

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA

ALTHOUGH I am not much of a scribe I will try and give you some idea of life in the Royal Hospital today.

First may I say that I strongly advise any old soldier who feels lonely, perhaps through the loss of his partner, and out of touch with civilian life to apply for admission, as here one finds good living and accommodation, plus the greatest thing of all, comradeship.

Just one little item before I carry on, *don't* leave it too late as the younger you are, and the more active, the better you will be able to help those who are not so fortunate; further to this, it helps to relieve the monotony, if one is doing something.

As regards clothing on entry all that is required is one good suit, a complete change of underwear, toilet necessities. This enables you to carry on until your uniform, etc., is issued; this usually takes about a fortnight. Whilst on this subject, you are allowed out in civilian clothes, but like the old regimental days it is not permissible to stroll about the hospital so dressed.

Discipline is just enough to ensure that a man keeps himself and his bunk clean, and abides by the rules; this of course is only natural to the old soldier.

Cleaning materials are provided, such as soap, polish, etc., and the baths are excellent, plenty of hot water all day and every day, except Sunday. Bath towels are issued, and if required help is given by the bath attendants deputed to that work, so as you see there is not the slightest excuse for any straying from the path of cleanliness.

Just one more very personal thing, under no circumstances is a quarrelsome man tolerated; if any man is of this type I should advise him to think twice and yet again before applying to this hospital for admission.

Parades are few and far between, church parade about once a fortnight, held in the beautiful chapel, an excellent choir, and occasionally one of the bands of the Guards Brigade attends.

Services for R.C.s are also held, mass is celebrated on Fridays, Sundays and Holy Days. Other denominations' services are held outside.

Apart from the religious parades and services, the annual parade, to commemorate Founders' Day, is held on the 29th May, *Oak Apple Day* (I should know as it happens to be my birthday). This also is known by the dear old souls as "Charlies' Day." As I have not as yet attended one of these parades I cannot say much about it, but I have been told by the old boys here, that it is a very impressive and picturesque scene, and as I look out of my window into the Figure Court, I can well imagine this to be so.

Many royal personages have taken the salute in recent years, such as Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty The Queen Mother, and Princess Margaret. I believe that Lord Harding is taking the salute this year.

Before finishing about parades I must mention sick parade—if you fall sick and can walk, the infirmary, which is apart from the hospital, is only about 300 yards, but if unable to do so, the ambulance is always handy and a pretty chauffeuse to take you.

Medical attention is of the finest with high ranking M.O.s in attendance. For instance Major-General R. A. Bennett, C.B., one of The Queen Mother's physicians is on duty this week; in addition the M.O. comes around at least once a week.

Entertainments. We have a very good library of over 5,000 books. These are constantly being added too, so you also get the very latest ones with something to suit all tastes.

The club is an excellent one and as you may well guess much appreciated by all.

Beer, wines and spirits are at very reasonable rates, for instance, Guinness, 1s 2½d., a double whisky 3s. 6d. and so on, sandwiches free every night and on special nights one can get a real slap up feed, sandwiches, pasties, hot dogs, savouries, and to finish off biscuits, cheese and pickles and plenty of it, so what could a man wish more.

Bingo is run once a fortnight, alternating weekly with concerts; these are organised by our very hardworking and popular R.S.M., who to use a very hackneyed phrase is always the life and soul of the party.

At present we are running a games tournament, chess, crib, darts and even that old game I haven't seen in years, phat.

In addition to all this we have a television room (films are also shown), billiards and snooker room.

The main part of the club is comprised of three rooms, the largest is where the concerts are held and is very comfortable and so arranged that all can see and hear what's going on. Next is the Red room, and across the passage the Blue room; these two rooms are most tastefully arranged, deep pile carpets, easy chairs, etc. No distinction as regards these rooms, a pensioner can go where he wishes, the only thing is the Red room is used as a reading room during the day; all the daily papers are there plus periodicals, etc., and the Blue room open weekends and gala nights, to take the overflow.

Further to this various clubs give invites to parties, stage and cinema previews, circus, etc., which are much appreciated and all get their turn to attend these functions. Some of our chaps have been lucky enough to get abroad, Malta, Gibraltar, Germany, etc.,

but this I believe is to do with the regiments concerned; in any case no obstacle is put in the way, in fact quite the reverse.

The hospital is flanked on the south side by a beautiful park (in which is held the renowned Chelsea Flower Show); it reaches down to the Embankment and is open to us at all times during the day.

As regards the historic old building itself, designed by that great architect Sir Christopher Wren, it would take a more learned person than I am to describe it.

One more thing I must mention is the efficiency and kindness of the staff, nothing is too much trouble for them. The adjutant, the R.S.M., the O.R.S., not forgetting the Q.M. and Q.M.S. are tops.

In conclusion, I should like to wish any of my old comrades the best of luck and will be pleased to hear from them any time.

A. H. PHIPPS (*late Gloucestershire Regiment*)

PS. By the way I am employed in the club. Did someone say something?

CORRESPONDENCE

28th December.

To the Editor THE BACK BADGE

Dear Sir,

I understand that Mr. Plummer will have left the Battalion by the time that you next go to press, and would like to add my appreciation, as one of the commanding officers whom he served so well, to any official article which is published.

His musical skill, patience and enthusiasm will be very much missed. We were very lucky to have him serving as bandmaster with the 1st Battalion at a time when there were many public functions for the Battalion to attend. His personal coolness and the turnout and swagger of the band and drums were an enormous asset to these displays.

Finally I am sure that the band library now contains several original works by Mr. Plummer, which will be played by the Regimental Band long after the occasions of the first performances of the pieces have been forgotten.

Yours sincerely,
DIGBY GRIST.

THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

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Gloucester

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BRIGADIER P. C. S. HEIDENSTAM, C.B.E.

Secretary:
MAJOR C. R. DAVIS

BRANCHES:

Hon. Secretary:

Meeting Places and Dates:

Branch and Chairman:
BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT
Major P. R. Burton, M.C., T.D.

Mr. L. A. Rayner, 360 Rednal Road,
West Heath, Birmingham 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. P. R. Brown, D.C.M., 3 Milton
Park, Redfield, Bristol 5.

Second Saturday in each month, T.A.
Centre, Horfield Common, 8 p.m.

CHEL TENHAM
Mr. F. Finch, M.M.

Mr. F. H. Berry, 9 Queen's Parade,
Cheltenham.

Third Saturday in each month, T.A.
Centre, Arle Road, 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.

Branch and Chairman:
LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES
Colonel C. S. R. Campbell,
O.B.E., M.C.

Hon. Secretary:

Meeting Places and Dates:

As arranged at "The Gloucester"
187 Sloane Street, London, 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," Wooton-under-Edge,
8 p.m.

ON the 23rd of February, Major-General C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who had been Colonel of the Regiment and president of the Regimental Association for the last 10 years, was succeeded in these appointments by Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.

When General Firth became president of the Regimental Association there were no separate branches functioning in the County or elsewhere, but due to the encouragement given by him over the last 10 years, we are now in the happy state of having six flourishing branches.

During 1963 there was quite a considerable increase in the number of members seeking financial assistance. It would appear that the very severe winter may well have been the chief factor in causing this increase, as the number of cases helped at the beginning of the year far exceeded that of any other period.

During the year the Regimental Association, together with the other regimental charitable funds, gave financial help amounting to a total of £1,621 to 181 different cases. This of course could not have been accomplished without the annual subscriptions from officers, and now the annual payment of half a day's pay to the Association by all ranks serving with the 1st Battalion.

Also during the same period 41 men of the regiment have been placed in suitable jobs through the National Association for the Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen.

There was a total of 50 new members including 11 officers joining the Association last year. This year we hope to see a large increase in the numbers joining. There are a number serving in the 1st Battalion not yet members of the Association who are subscribing half a day's pay a year. It was agreed that those subscribing as above should become members as soon as the full life subscription had been paid. This should account for a considerable increase in new members this year.

ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

The 33rd Annual Reunion Dinner and the Annual General Meeting took place in the T.A. Centre at Horfield Common, Bristol, on Saturday, 25th April.

Undoubtedly this must have been one of the most successful reunion dinners held at Bristol. Eventually 205 members sat down to dinner. This is about 100 more than the number attending at Bristol in recent years.

Our guests were The Lord Mayor of Bristol, the Sheriff of Bristol and Mr. R. V. H. Taylor from the Bristol United Press.

We were once again indebted to the Band of the 5th Battalion (T.A.) which played during the dinner.

The dinner next year is to be held in Gloucester on 24th April, and it is hoped that this will be equally well supported.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Monthly meetings have been held at the White Horse Grill, Congreve Street. As the result of a circular sent to all known local members, the October meeting was well attended. We have been pleased to see, at our monthly meetings, the following: F.

Bassett, P. R. Burton, C. Buxton, A. Dodson, H. Kitchen, E. Meakin, L. Millward, W. Pollock, L. Rayner, S. Speed, W. E. Salter, H. Standen, R. D. Thompson, F. Timbrell, A. Wallace, C. Workman and T. Yates.

P. R. B.

BRISTOL BRANCH

Our branch has met regularly once a month since the last report. Attendances have continued to be very satisfactory. All meetings have been held at the Horfield T.A. Centre.

We had another very successful dance in October in conjunction with the Burma Star Association. The Lord Mayor and her Consort attended, also Brigadier Newth. We are greatly indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Rattenbury for all the work they put in to organising and running both the meetings and the dance.

It is with much regret that we have to report that our hon. secretary, Mr. Meadows, who had been in hospital a long time, died last April. He will be a very great loss to the Branch.

M. A. J.

CHELTENHAM BRANCH

During the last six months the branch has come together much more; we believe that the members are quite happy with our new quarters at the T.A. Centre, Arle Road. We are able to enjoy all the amenities of a very well run club (through the very kind and much appreciated permission of Major I. Scott-Cooper, T.D.).

We hold our monthly meetings in "Old Braggs Bar," the name that "C" Company have given to their club, in every comfort.

We as a branch owe a great deal to W.O.2 G. Thomas who is the P.S.I. and we thank him for his good efforts and kind consideration and help that he has given us.

We are arranging an open night on the 16th May when we hope to bring many more members who seem to have "wandered off" back into the fold again. We will give a report on this evening's activities in the next edition.

F. H. B.

GLOUCESTER BRANCH

Our readers may have noticed there was not a report in the winter edition. This was because at that time we had little to write about. The situation today is very different. We have a paid up membership of over 25 and are now striving for our half century. Monthly meetings, in the T.A. Centre, Painswick Road, have been supported by an average of 15 members at which business and subsequent "getting together" has been brisk and interesting.

Our members have enjoyed two social evenings at Stroud and Berkeley organised by our very active secretary, Mr. P. O. Masters. He is most anxious that with the assistance of other branch secretaries we should strive to have more branches meeting each other to strengthen the interest in the branch and give everyone something to talk about.

We are pleased to report that through the generosity of our members we have been able to help some of our members in time of need and have just concluded our first draw to the satisfaction of our treasurer Mr. C. J. Waite, who will no longer have to say "no" quite so firmly when asked for financial assistance.

There are too many new members to mention any by name, but we are particularly pleased to see them and hope that with their encouragement they will persuade more past members of the regiment to join us. We meet the first Monday of each month.

D. B. M.

STROUD BRANCH

The branch has met and will continue to do so on the first Monday of each month at the Rose Inn, Paganhill.

All Glosters, past and present, are welcome, even if they are only temporarily staying in the district.

A. H. R. C.

WOTTON UNDER EDGE BRANCH

There is little to report this time. The branch has continued to meet on the second Monday in each month and so we have kept abreast of all happenings in the Regimental Association. This year, for the first time for several years, no one was able to attend the Back Badge Parade at Horfield.

On 21st February we joined the Gloucester branch for a social evening at the Berkeley Arms in Berkeley. Some 14 or 15 travelled by coach from Wotton-under-Edge and all had a very happy time. We hope to entertain the other branches shortly.

We always look forward to attending the Old Comrades Association annual dinner.

J. C. M.

1/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE 45th annual dinner of this association was held at Gupshill Manor, Tewkesbury on 21st March—"Back Badge Day."

Ninety-three were present, a few more than last year. Tewkesbury had a splendid turn-out, of the 12 men available for parade, 10 answered the call, the absentees were ill.

Mr. C. W. Norris read out a list of names of those who had joined the great majority during the year; he then proposed the toast to "Absent Comrades" and Drummer Gubby of the 5th Battalion sounded the Last Post and Reveille while all stood at attention.

The chairman was Captain C. S. Mason who came up from Devon as he has done several previous years. He welcomed all those who were present, thanked the donors to the dinner fund and recommended all to have next year's dinner in mind.

In proposing the toast "The Gloucestershire Regiment" the Mayor of Tewkesbury (Councillor L. G. Marston) said that the spirit which was bred in the men of 1/5th Battalion still remained as strong as ever and showed in gatherings such as these.

In reply Colonel N. Johnson, D.S.O., appealed to all those present to do all they could to get recruits for the Regiment.

Replying for the 1/5th Battalion, Captain D. P. Morgan, M.C., J.P., said that 50 years after the outbreak of the 1914-18 war they should pay tribute to the committee who organised such a wonderful reunion.

R. M. A.

2/5th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE annual meeting of the association was held in Cheltenham on 17th March. The following were elected: President, L. G. Drake; chairman, F. H. Edwards; treasurer, E. Yeend; secretary, F. C. Lewis.

The reunion dinner will be held on 10th October and the chief guest is to be Earl Bathurst. This will be the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Battalion.

8th BATTALION O.C.A.

THE 24th annual reunion of the 8th Battalion (1914-18) took place in Gloucester on the 28th March. Over 50 veterans of the old battalion attended—a goodly number in view of the increasing age of members and their present dispersion in the County.

They had lost their president, Lieutenant-General Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart, v.c., since their last reunion, but a portrait of this gallant commanding officer of the Battalion was given a place of honour on the top table. Colonel W. Parkes, a later C.O., who presided said that “the General was a genius in courage, a genius in friendship for whom our greatest affection will remain as long as there is a man of the 8th Gloucesters left.”

Amongst others on the list of fallen comrades was the name of Sergeant Bert Speller who was secretary and organiser of the annual reunions for so many years—but, as Colonel Parkes said, “I hope pride will be the overwhelming factor this evening rather than sorrow.”

The guest of honour was Lieutenant-Colonel H. Essex-Lewis, a gunner who had also served in the 19th (Butterfly) Division.

Brigadier M. A. James, v.c., now chairman of the Association, spoke of the forthcoming 50th anniversary and said it was a remarkable thing that so many old comrades were still able to come to the reunion each year. Amongst those present on this occasion were Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Milner, Captain H. C. Adams, Colonel C. G. Elkington, Lieutenant L. J. Pitt (the present association secretary) and last but not least “dear old Holmes” who though 85 had come from Monmouth. He must have been the oldest member present. But he was more than that—the closest link with the late president. For 12 years he had been his batman, in France, Poland and Russia and won the D.C.M. when the General was once badly wounded. “You saved my life,” Carton de Wiart told him.

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

THE 46th annual dinner of Bristol's Own O.C.A. was held at Bristol on 21st March. More than 70 members of this fine battalion attended—the oldest was 82 and the youngest over 67, and the old battalion song “Bravo Bristol” rang out as grandly as ever. Amongst those who were present after an absence of 40 years was the Rev. Roy Machon, M.C.

The chief guest was Brigadier A. de L. Cazenove, late Coldstream Guards, who defended the young people of today, saying, “At the bottom of their hearts they have the same spirit as your generation.”

Other speakers were the president, Mr. A. E. Phillpot; Mr. W. A. Cradock; Mr. H. Short and Canon Percy May. Members gave a standing ovation to their secretary, Mr. Bert Allen, retiring through ill-health. Mr. H. J. Taylor was elected in his place.

REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, April, 1964)

	<i>Date of Substantive Rank</i>	<i>How Employed</i>
<i>Colonel-in-Chief:</i>		
Field-Marshal H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, K.G., K.T., K.P., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Personal Aide-de-Camp to the Queen	6/5/35	
<i>Colonel:</i>		
Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.	23/2/64	D.D.P.A., M. of D. (A)
<i>Lieutenant-Colonels:</i>		
E. D. Harding, D.S.O. (super- numery)	15/1/59	A.M.S., H.Q. B.A.O.R.
A. L. W. Soames (supernumery)	23/7/59	A.A. & Q.M.G., Aldershot District
P. G. H. Varwell	20/1/62	Commanding 1st Battalion
<i>Majors:</i>		
E. Jones, M.B.E.	1/7/46	H.Q. N. Command
A. D. Hunter	30/1/49	Wessex Brigade Depot (H/S)
T. A. K. Dillon	1/7/52	D.A.A. & Q.M.G., H.Q. Mid. East
W. A. Wood	1/7/52	2i/c 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	2i/c Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn.
T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker (T/Lt.-Col.)	23/4/54	O.C. 1st R. Hamps.
W. L. D. Morris	6/4/55	Adm. Wing, School of Infantry
H. W. P. Gallop	3/5/55	H.Q. Oxf. Bucks Sub. Dist.
H. L. T. Radice, M.B.E.	13/6/55	B.M. 99 Gurkha Bde. Gp.
J. E. Taylor	10/8/56	For T.S.O.2 Inspec. of Armaments (June)
T. R. Littlewood	25/11/57	Trg. Major, 5th Battalion
M. G. Harvey, M.C.	10/10/59	Attached E. African Forces
H. R. A. Streather	24/3/60	O.C. "B" Company 1st Battalion
A. N. Wilson	27/10/60	Staff Capt. Q. (Maint.), B.A.O.R.
R. J. Martin, M.C.	15/7/61	O.C. "D" Company, 1st Battalion
G. D. E. Lutyens-Humfrey	16/8/61	For 1st Battalion (July)
G. F. B. Temple, M.C.	10/4/62	D.A.Q.M.G. Libya and Tripolitania
H. R. Gilliver	21/5/62	S. Capt. Q (Ops.) Min. of Def.
D. J. Holdsworth	22/7/63	Wessex Bde Depot (H/S)
J. W. Allison	20/1/64	T.S.O.2, Inspectorate of Armaments
<i>Captains:</i>		
P. R. Barker	22/11/55	1st Battalion
W. A. Duguid	16/9/57	Adjutant 5th Battalion
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	S. Capt. M.F.A. Cyprus Dist.
R. A. F. Jarman	4/4/59	Tech. Staff Course, R.M.C.S.
D. J. Hurford-Jones	12/6/59	R.M.A. Sandhurst
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	Mons O.C.S.
C. J. Waters	16/12/61	Adjutant, 1st Battalion
R. J. Bewell	24/6/62	Trucial Oman Scouts
H. G. F. Chapman	21/12/62	Spec. Forces Gp. U.S. Army
W. J. Vicary	21/12/62	A/Adj. and I.O., 1st Battalion
N. C. Thompson	20/12/63	2 Para. Regt.
D. A. Godfrey	10/3/64	Jungle Warfare Sch. FARELF

			<i>Date of Substantive Rank</i>	<i>How Employed</i>
<i>Lieutenants:</i>				
R. L. Giles (T/Capt.)	..	..	19/6/59	SMIS HQ Land Forces
W. R. N. Ladds	..	..	2/8/60	25 A.Y.T. Gloucester
J. W. Mermagen	..	..	27/3/61	1st Battalion (May)
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 (P/S)
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	Wessex Bde. Depot (P/S)
T. W. Michels	..	..	5/2/63	1st Battalion
W. P. J. Corbett	..	..	22/6/63	1st Battalion
J. G. H. Corrigan	..	..	4/8/64	1st Battalion
A. T. Holman	..	..	4/8/64	1st Battalion

Second-Lieutenants:

P. A. Woodley	..	..	2/8/63	1st Battalion
C. B. Smith-Rewse	..	..	20/12/63	1st Battalion
C. J. T. Davis	..	..	20/12/63	1st Battalion

Quartermasters:

K. F. Clark	..	..	27/5/55	Dhekelia Admin. Unit Officer
		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	Wessex Bde. Depot (H/S)
		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
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Second-Lieutenants:

G. E. W. R. Mirehouse	28/7/62	1st Battalion
D. E. Windebank	27/7/63	1st Battalion

OFFICERS LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brig. P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E.	..	..	9/7/62	D.D.A.P.A. Min. of Def. (A)
Brig. J. A. Mackenzie, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.	..	..	1/2/64	B.G.S. (M.T.) Min of Def. (A)
Brig. A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, O.B.E.	..	..	1/2/64	Comd. Sch. of Infantry
Col. A. H. Knight, M.B.E.	..	..	10/12/60	H.Q. W.R. & N.M. Div./Dist.

WESSEX BRIGADE OFFICERS SERVING WITH 1ST BATTALION

Major S. S. Elvery	..	..	19/9/56	D. & D.
Major B. R. Hobbs	..	..	15/7/61	D.E.R.R.
Capt. P. N. Elgar	..	..	12/6/56	D. & D.
Capt. C. G. Rendle	..	..	21/12/62	D.E.R.R.
Capt. C. M. Peplow	..	..	2/8/63	D. & D.
Lt. (Q.M.) A. T. Coombe	..	..	1/4/61	D. & D.

RETIRED OFFICERS EMPLOYED BY WAR OFFICE

Lt.-Col. C. W. A. Bath, O.B.E.	..	..	..	R.O.II, Min. of Def. (A)
Lt.-Col. D. W. Biddle, D.S.O.	..	..	..	R.O.III, Records Office, Exeter
Major J. Biddulph	..	..	..	R.O.III, S.C.(A) Oxf. Bucks Sub-Dist.
Lt.-Col. M. M. A. Bryant	..	..	..	R.O.II, Records Office, Exeter
Col. C. S. R. Campbell, O.B.E., M.C.	..	..	..	R.O.II, Min. of Def. (A)
Brigadier R. G. T. Collins, C.B.E.	..	..	..	R.O.III, Cadets 44 (H.C.) Div/Dist.
Major C. R. Davis	..	..	..	R.O.III, Regimental H.Q.
Brigadier T. N. Grazebrook, C.B.E., D.S.O.	..	..	..	R.O.II, Regimental H.Q.
Major A. W. Hardick	..	..	..	R.O.III, H.Q. S.P. Sub-Dist.
Lt.-Col. W. H. Percy-Hardman, M.C.	..	..	..	R.O.III, Combined Records, Bournemouth
Major N. S. Watkin-Williams	..	..	..	R.O.III, H.Q. 54 (E. Anglia) Div/Dist.

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

5th BATTALION, T.A.

		Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
<i>Joint Honorary Colonels 5th Battalion:</i>			
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	
<i>Lieutenant-Colonel:</i>			
P. J. E. Durant, M.B.E. (Regular)	..	10/4/64	Commanding 5th Battalion
<i>Majors:</i>			
M. A. L. Bowyer, M.A., T.D.	..	1/2/55	21/C
D. B. Metcalfe	..	21/3/56	O.C. "H.Q." Company
D. H. Potter, T.D.	..	27/4/59	O.C. "B" Company
E. F. Burkart	..	2/8/61	G.S.O.2 (C.D.), H.Q. 129 Inf. Bde.
D. Chapman, T.D.	..	1/2/63	O.C. "A" Company
<i>Captains:</i>			
C. S. Jones	..	1/8/54	G.S.O.3, H.Q., 129 Inf. Bde. (T.A.)
I. Scott Cooper, T.D. (Acting Major 7/4/63)	..	1/4/57	O.C. "C" Company
A. Macfarlane	..	1/4/57	21/C "B" Company
M. S. Lee-Browne	..	2/1/60	21/C "C" Company
R. H. Jones	..	1/5/61	21/C "A" Company
D. G. Trimby (Acting Major 1/4/64)	..	26/10/61	O.C. "D" Company
C. F. L. Boyce	..	26/2/63	R.S.O.
M. Fenton	..	28/2/63	21/C "H.Q." Company
D. B. Rice	..	7/4/63	Rece Platoon
P. J. M. Whiteman	..	1/4/64	21/C "D" Company
<i>Lieutenants:</i>			
N. J. Wendover	..	15/2/59	"C" Company
P. R. Williams	..	11/3/60	"B" Company
R. H. Boyle	..	21/1/61	"C" Company
R. R. Lettington	..	8/3/61	"C" Company
B. T. Bowman	..	22/4/62	"B" Company
A. D. King, B.A.	..	15/6/62	"A" Company
A. G. E. Clarkson	..	31/10/62	"A" Company
A. M. Grazebrook	..	16/2/64	"D" Company
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>			
R. H. P. Walmsley	..	14/9/62	Unattached List (24/4/64)
<i>Second-Lieutenants on Probation:</i>			
P. J. L. Lloyd	..	30/5/62	"D" Company
P. L. Jacques	..	14/9/62	"D" Company
P. A. Lintott	..	15/2/63	"C" Company
J. Francis	..	13/9/63	"A" Company
K. D. Jeal	..	13/12/63	"B" Company
<i>Quartermaster:</i>			
L. K. J. Courtney, Lieutenant	..	3/12/59	Q.M.2/M.T.O.
<i>Medical Officer:</i> Major G. B. Hanna, M.B., B.Ch., R.A.M.C. (T.A.) Major 3/6/61.			
<i>Chaplain:</i> The Rev. P. C. W. Walker, R.A.Ch.D. (T.A.) Cl IV 29/12/60			
<i>Paymaster:</i> Captain W. G. Foreman, T.D., R.A.P.C. (T.A.), Captain 1/9/61			
<i>Permanent Staff:</i>			
<i>Training Major:</i> Major T. R. Littlewood			
<i>Adjutant:</i> Captain W. A. Duguid			
<i>Quartermaster:</i> Major C. W. Phillips, M.B.E.			
<i>R.S.M.:</i> W.O.1 P. Martin			
<i>P.S.I.s:</i> "A" Company, S/Sergeant K. S. Dowler; "B" Company, W.O.2 I. J. Dee, "C" Company, W.O.2 C. S. Thomas; "D" Company, Sergeant R. R. Page; "H.Q." Company, W.O.2 W. R. W. Cheater.			

FROM THE "LONDON GAZETTE"

1963	
6th December	.. Lieutenant-Colonel to be Colonel, D. J. H. Bannister, M.B.E., M.C. from D and D, 22nd June.
24th December	.. Major C. R. Davis having attained age limit ceases to belong to R. of O. 23rd December.
1964	
28th January	.. Lieutenant T. W. Michels from S.S.L. to be Lieutenant, 3rd December, 1963, with seniority 5th February.
11th February	.. The following Officer Cadets from R.M.A. to be Second-Lieutenants: C. B. Smith-Rewse and C. J. Davis.
21st February	.. Second-Lieutenant A. C. Dicker relinquishes his commission, 26th February.
25th February	.. Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, C.B.E. is appointed Colonel of The Gloucestershire Regiment, 23rd February, in succession to Major-General C. E. A. Firth, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., tenure expired.
31st March	.. Colonel A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, O.B.E., to be Brigadier, 1st February.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Territorial Efficiency Decoration:

Major E. F. Burkart	15.11.63
Major D. N. Potter, T.D. (1st clasp)	15.11.63

Imperial Service Medal

Mr. W. V. Denley (61st 1915-22) for 31 years service as postman at Andoversford, Cheltenham.

Cadet Forces Medal:

Rev. (A/Captain) W. J. Boyd	29.11.63
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Obituary

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. P. JORDAN, C.M.G., D.S.O.

Colonel Jordan joined the Regiment from the Militia in 1889 and was posted to the 28th then stationed in Dublin. In 1890 he made his first of many tours of duty at Horfield Depot. Promoted captain in 1899 he transferred to the 61st and with them proceeded to South Africa, where he gained the D.S.O. for gallantry at Driefontein and was slightly wounded.

In 1902 he returned to Horfield as adjutant of the 3rd Militia Battalion until 1906. As a major in 1910 he joined the 28th at Portsmouth until 1914 when he was appointed O.C. Depot. On the outbreak of war he raised and commanded the 7th Battalion and took them to Gallipoli after only ten months' training. As a result of his training and leadership the Battalion showed a fighting quality second to none. In spite of all the officers and many senior N.C.O.s becoming casualties, the Battalion fought magnificently. Dickie Jordan was badly wounded himself but propped against a rock and armed with a rifle stayed on until the evacuation of the Chunak Bair position. He was awarded a well-deserved C.M.G.

On reaching Mesopotamia on his way to resume command of the 7th he was unfortunate enough to break his Achilles tendon and had to be invalided home to England. However, he rejoined the Battalion in time for the recapture of Kut, the capture of Baghdad and the defeat of the Turkish army. He remained with them until they reached Baku in 1919.

Under his command the Battalion won ten Battle Honours. Major Eric Barnard, his second-in-command for many months, writes:—"Jordan's outstanding characterisation was that inexplicable thing, charm, and since it was allied to a deep humanity and a ready sense of humour, none who met him could forget his chuckle. It is no wonder he

was a much loved commander. I remember his saying to me during the advance on Baghdad when we were about to attack, 'Barnard, I can't bear to see these youngsters killed.' And I must add that there never has been a man more modest and less self-seeking."

After the war he became C.O. of the 61st and took them to India in the autumn of 1919. As his adjutant, Brigadier John Vicary said: "A more popular and well-beloved C.O. can never have existed. His friends were legion, his enemies nil, and under his command the Battalion reached great heights in efficiency and sport. He knew all in and out of the Regiment; they were all his friends."

An old soldier writes: "He was always a real gentleman and a fine commanding officer. No matter when one passed him there was always a smile and how are you Co., Co., Cosier, with his slight stutter."

In 1922 to the great sorrow of the Battalion he decided to retire, and went to live at the Rag. In 1934 he married a lady he had known for many years and went to live at Worplesdon—he was a keen golfer—and later at Hove, where unhappily Mrs. Jordan died early in the second war.

Jordan had loved service at Horfield, where in those peaceful pre-1914 days he was a regular supporter of the Berkeley and Beaufort Hunts. His record of days hunting was 18 consecutive days—Sundays of course excepted! He was one of the few members of the Regiment who was made a member of the Berkeley.

In both the 1st and 2nd Battalions he had been a super P.M.C. and a stickler for Mess rules.

His last visit to the Regiment was in 1930 when he stayed with the 28th in Cairo and took the salute at the Back Badge Day parade.

Many are the stories of his kindnesses and interest in his old regiment, even of his dismissing the 61st with bayonets fixed—a trick numerous C.O.s have perpetuated.

It is sad that his later years were full of suffering in a Brighton nursing home, but he had the devoted and loyal care of his friend Miss Dorothy Rye to whom our sympathy now goes. He died on the 22nd October in his 94th year. Brigadier John Vicary and Major E. Barnard represented the Regiment.

Colonel Jordan left his medals some years before to the Regimental Museum.

DOMESTIC EVENTS

MARRIAGES

REBBECK—HALL PARLBY.—On 8th January, 1963, at Chelsea Old Church, Captain C. P. T. Rebbeck, The Gloucestershire Regiment, to Sheila Ann, daughter of Major C. St. J. Hall Parlby of Charlton Horethorn, Dorset, and Mrs. M. C. Parlby of Loch Winnoch, Renfrewshire.

FIRTH—ASHCROFT.—On 29th February, 1964, at Bishopstow, Warminster, Mr. S. D. A. Firth, The Gloucestershire Regiment, son of Major-General and Mrs. C. E. A. Firth, and Clare, daughter of Mrs. L. Ashcroft, of Wingrave, Bucks.

GOLDEN WEDDING

DRAKE.—In February, 1964 at Cheltenham ex-Sergeant W. F. Drake, D.C.M., late The

Gloucestershire Regiment, 1902-19. He was awarded the D.C.M. for gallantry in the 1st Battalion, organising the escape of a party of his men who had been buried for 23 hours in a dugout blocked as the result of bombardment.

DEATHS

PALMER.—On 28th July, 1963, ex-Private R. H. Palmer, late 1/6th and 3/6th Battalions, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1914-18 (No. 7985).

ADAMS.—On 23rd November, 1963, at Talgarth, Brecon, ex-C.Q.M.S. W. W. (Bill) Adams, aged 61. The Gloucestershire Regiment 1920-39 (No. 5173121). Transferred to the Royal Welch Fusiliers 1940-50. For last 17 years employed as a civilian

clerk at the S.W.B. Depot. He was also advertisement manager of the *Brecon Express*. Holder of the Meritorious Service and L.S. & G.C. medals. He will be remembered by many old comrades as a loyal old soldier of both the 28th and 61st. A football referee of note and an honorary life member of the Brecon Motor Club.

TRIGG.—On 28th November, 1963 at Cheltenham, Mr. A. E. Trigg, aged 68. 1/5th Gloucestershire Regiment 1914-18. Mayor of Cheltenham 1962 until his death. A fine sportsman in his day and a member of the 1/5th Battalion O.C.A.

MACFIE.—On 23rd December, 1963 at Cheltenham, Colonel C. Macfie, D.S.O. of Fayre Court, Fairford, Glos., late The Seaforth Highlanders. Retired 1922. Commanded 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, May 1929—January 1934. Employed at W.O. during 1940-46.

MORTON.—On 29th January, 1964, at Chobham, Surrey, ex-R.Q.M.S. A. E. Morton, B.E.M., late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5182247) 1933-57. He served with the 28th in India and during the war, taking his discharge in 1946, but re-enlisted the following year. He was in Jamaica and Korea. As C.S.M. he was taken prisoner at the Battle of the Imjin and was awarded the B.E.M. on release. He rejoined the 28th at Barnard Castle and with them proceeded to Kenya, Aden and Bahrein. Earlier he was in the Battalion boxing and hockey teams.

COTTINGHAM.—On 4th February, 1964, at Haywards Heath as the result of a car accident, Major E. B. Cottingham, M.C., The Gloucestershire Regiment 1930-53, aged 55. "Cootles" served with the 61st and at the Depot until 1937 when he joined the Iraq Levies under the Air Ministry. He gained the M.C. in 1941 at Habbanyia and later was awarded the parachute badge. He rejoined the Regiment in 1942, serving with the 9th and 7th Battalions before proceeding with the 61st to Normandy as O.C. H.Q. Wing. After the war he served in the Sudan Defence Force and at the Wessex Brigade Training Centre, before retiring in 1953. The funeral service was conducted by his friend and contemporary in the Regiment, the Rev. R. G. Brownrigg (1930-34). Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A. Bath represented the Regiment.

SPELLER.—On 16th February, 1964, at Cheltenham, Mr. A. S. Speller, aged 72. 8th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment 1914-18 and founder member of the Battalion's O.C.A. of which he was hon. secretary for 20 years.

WHEADON.—On 21st February, 1964, accidentally on active service in Cyprus, Private Wheadon, The Gloucestershire Regiment.

WILCE.—In February, 1964 at Shipton Oliffe, Gloucester, ex-R.Q.M.S. F. J. Wilce, late the 2nd V.B.G.R. and 5th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment. He joined "L" Cyclist Company of the Volunteers in 1904 and transferred to the Cheltenham Company of the 5th Glosters in 1908. When war broke out he was a Sergeant, but was left behind with the first reinforcements. However, he was overseas early in 1915 as a R.S.M. of an entrenching battalion. He rejoined the 5th in 1916 as a C.Q.M.S. eventually becoming R.Q.M.S. When the 1/5th O.C.A. was formed in 1922 he was elected chairman, and on Colonel Tarrant's death in 1951, became president. In 1940 he was an early recruit in the L.D.V., later to receive the Lord Lieutenant's commission in the Home Guard.

JEFFRIES.—On 6th March, 1964, at Midsomer Norton, Somerset, ex-W.O.1 A. J. S. Jeffries, aged 59. The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5176903) 1922-32. Served in the 61st Drums in India and Gravesend and as educational corporal. He transferred to the R.A.E.C. and during the last war served with the 7th Armoured Division in Palestine and the Western Desert. Afterwards he was in charge of the educational instruction of the Arab Legion. He went to the Reserve in 1945 as W.O.1 when he was employed as a civil servant with the Admiralty at Bath.

ROBERTSON.—On 22nd March, 1964, at Gloucester, Mr. G. J. J. Robertson, editor and director of *The Citizen* since 1948 and a good friend of THE BACK BADGE.

ARMSTRONG.—In March, 1964, at Prestbury, Cheltenham, Captain J. K. Armstrong. Served in the Royal Warwicks and the Oxf. and Bucks L.I. in 1914-18. 5th Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment 1922-29, latterly as O.C. "C" Company. Headmaster of Prestbury School for 28 years.

PEARCE.—On 15th April, 1964, in hospital at Bristol, ex-Corporal E. Pearce, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 8177195).

CAPEL.—On 17th April, 1964, at Prestbury, Cheltenham, Major Christopher Capel, aged 86. 4th Militia Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, 1897-1908, and in the 7th Battalion 1917.

EYERS.—On 19th April, 1964, at Bristol, ex-R.S.M. H. Eyers, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5172088) 1905-31. R.S.M. 1st Battalion, 1925-31.

MEADOWS.—In April, 1964, at Bristol, ex-R.Q.M.S. L. J. Meadows, late The Gloucestershire Regiment (No. 5173485). Remembered by many in the 61st as a fine all-round sportsman.

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