

THE  
BACK BADGE



The Journal of  
The  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE  
Regiment

*Summer 1969*

THE BACK BADGE

# *Conway Williams*

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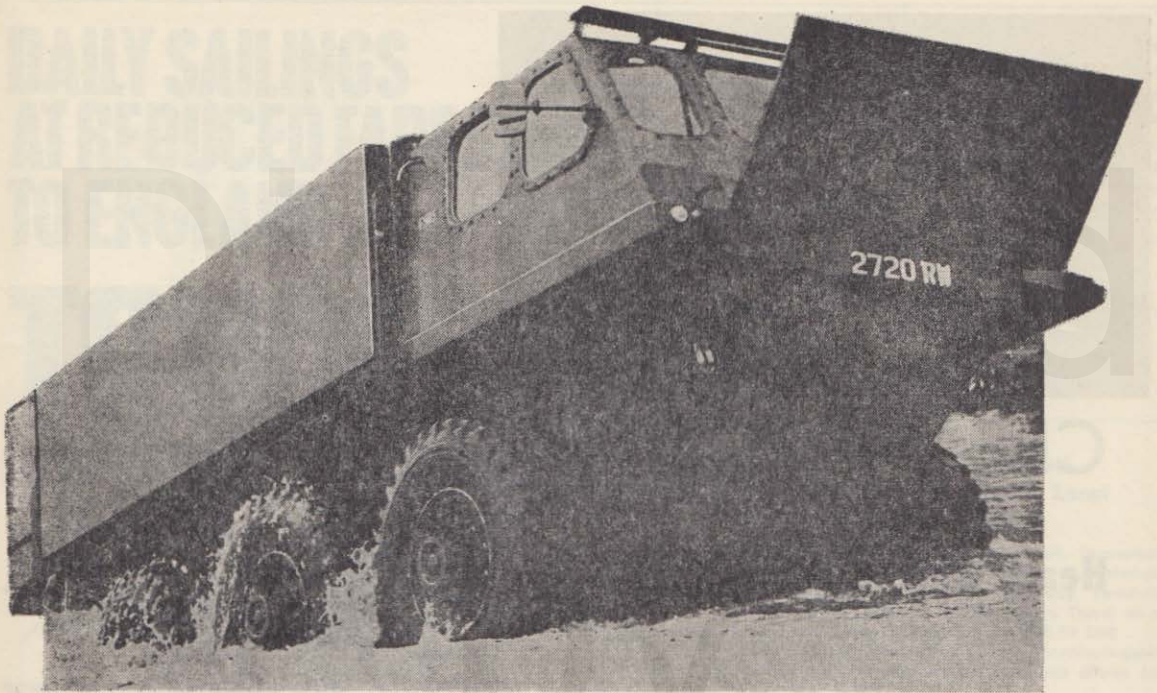
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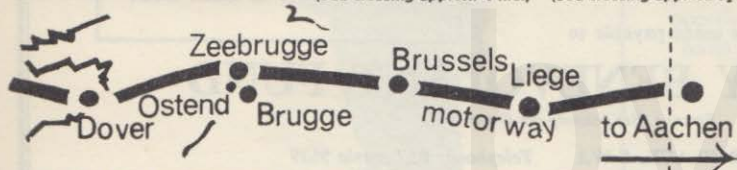
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# Leading Light







To face page 133

*(By courtesy of The Gloucestershire Echo)*  
Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, inspects the 1st Battalion on the Back Badge Day Parade in Berlin, April 26, 1969. The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Streater, is mounted

# THE BACK BADGE

The  
Journal  
of



The  
Gloucestershire  
Regiment

Vol. XII. No. 46 (New Series)

June 1969

The Battle Honours in heavy type are entitled to be borne on the Colours

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

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

The Second World War.—"Defence of Escaut," "St. Omer-La Bassée," "Wormhoudt," "Cassel," "Villers Bocage," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "Risle Crossing," "Le Havre," "Zeten," "North-West Europe, 1940, 44-45," "Taukyan," "Paungde," "Monywa, 1942," "North Arakan," "Mayu Tunnels," "Pinwe," "Shweli," "Myitson," "Burma, 1942, 44-45."

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

Korean War—"Hill 327," "Imjin," "Korea, 1950-51."

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## EDITORIAL

Since the news of our amalgamation with the Royal Hampshire Regiment was announced last year, the past six months have passed relatively quietly. A joint amalgamation committee, with members drawn from both Regiments, has been set up and has held several meetings. The main task of this Committee is to advise Colonels of Regiments and make recommendations on such matters which are necessary to effect the formation of the new Regiment. In making its recommendation, the Committee was to take note that it was the intention of both Colonels that the new Regiment would carry forward the best and most worthwhile traditions of the old Regiments. Much progress has been made, and the Colonels of Regiments will be submitting firm proposals to the Ministry of Defence shortly. Their proposals must inevitably remain *sub judice* until approved.

After nearly 35 years' service, the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, relinquishes his appointment of Commandant Mons OCS and retires from the active list in June. His three-year tour of duty at Mons has been both active and eventful. His capacity to remain "alert and alive" until the early hours, which has held him in good stead on countless regimental occasions, was put to good military effect during his frequent visits to his cadets on Dartmoor and in the Welsh mountains.

In February he completed his five year tenure as Colonel of the Regiment, but an extension has been approved, and it is hoped that he will continue to hold the appointment throughout the pre-amalgamation period.

As the 1st Battalion leave Berlin in October for Heathfield Camp, Honiton, Lieutenant-Colonel Tony Streather was determined to make Back Badge/Imjin Day 1969 a memorable occasion. It is hoped to include a report of the parade in this issue, but we would wish to record our grateful thanks to the 1st Battalion for so willingly acting as host to some 150 Regimental visitors from the UK.

A note appears elsewhere in this issue on the subject of a new regimental history covering the post-war period. This will be complementary to the "Cap of Honour" and should be on sale in August 1970. It is hoped that all members of the Regiment will buy their copy in order to make this venture a financial success. Order forms will appear in the next two issues.

An after-effect of the Defence cuts is the closure of Robinswood Barracks later this year. The Regiment has been identified with the Barracks since 1940, and the RHQ has been established in them since 1959 when the Regimental Depot was disbanded. The RHQ is to move to a quarter in Carne Place (adjacent to the T & AVR Centre of "A" Company (Gloucestershire) The Wessex Volunteers.

Finally, Major Cecil Davis, who has handled Regimental matters unaided for nearly two years, is to have his burden alleviated in June when Colonel Denis Harding retires and fills the post of Regimental Secretary and also the appointment of Editor of THE BACK BADGE.

### REGIMENTAL NOTES AND NEWS

Miss Susan Curtis, daughter of the late Lieutenant Philip Curtis, VC, was married in Plymouth in November 1968. Captain Graham Hill and RSM Preece attended the wedding.

In December, Colonel Denis Harding, accompanied by Captain Hill and RSM Preece, presented a regimental brooch to Susan, on behalf of the Colonel of the Regiment.

Major (QM) Charles Phillips retired on May 27, 1968, after 38 years' service and is now mine host of the Eagle Hotel, Corwen, Merioneth. His daughter Gillian was married recently. A warm welcome awaits any ex-Gloster who is passing through.

Lieutenant-Colonel Digby Grist relinquishes his appointment of OC Winchester College CCF in June this year. Our congratulations to him on the award of the Cadet Force Medal—a fitting end to his 15 years' service as Contingent Commander. We hear that Digby and Shirley are off to New Zealand later in the year for a long holiday.

We are glad to hear that Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Biddle is now on his feet again after a recurrence of his war wound troubles. Denis gave up his post in the Infantry Records Office in April 1968. As Denis put it "the penalty of not wearing a steel helmet some 25 years ago".

Lieutenant-Colonel Maurice Bryant leaves the Exeter Record Office in July and intends to settle in Alderney.

Captain Tim Lapage Norris has ventured into the catering trade and opened The Simple Simon in Barton Street, Gloucester, in January. His manager is Mr. M. Nurding who will be remembered as the long-suffering Officers Mess Corporal in Cyprus and Germany.

Congratulations to Captains Simon Firth and Nicky Thompson on passing the Staff College examination.

Captains Firth and Giles have gained a vacancy on the Staff Course beginning September 1970.

Major Leo Capel, ERD, who retired in October 1968 is now an RO III on the staff of HQ Prince of Wales's Division at Lichfield.

Tim Carew, MC, who has been commissioned to write the Regimental History for the post-war period, is the author of the "Longest Retreat"—a history of the 1st Burma Campaign in which the 28th played a prominent part. The book will be published in June 1969.

Brigadier Tony Arengo-Jones relinquished Deputy Commander Gibraltar and has bought a farm at Chippenham.

Mr. R. F. Cleveley, now living in Germany, has ventured into the Bed and Breakfast and Car Hire business. We wish him every success.

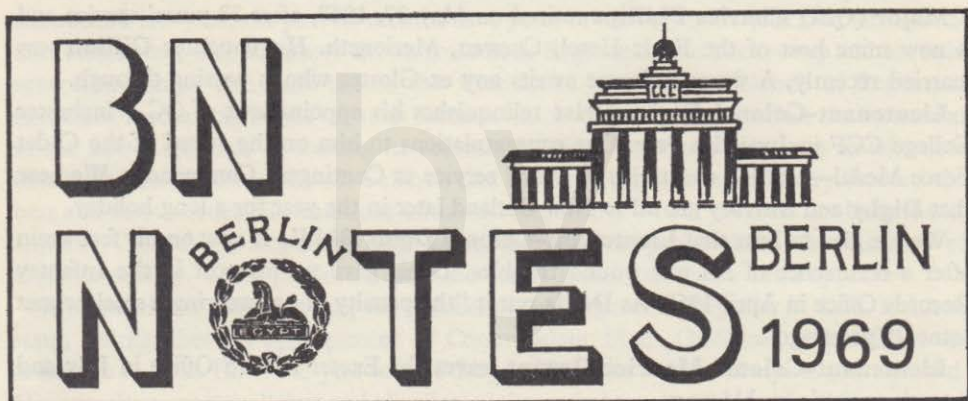
Mr. Reg Panting (5182070) is now a spare-time club steward of the Sphinx Club in Eastern Avenue, Gloucester. He is looking forward to making contact with many ex-

members of the Regiment, so why not drop in for a drink and chat? Bar sales have increased considerably.

**Mr. C. Cribley**, who served in the First World War with the 8th Battalion, won a television contest for writing the best war story out of 250 entries. His prize was a free trip to the famous battlefields of France.

**Ex-Corporal J. E. Venn, MM**, of Jamaica days, retired on November 30, 1968, as Captain (QM).

Our congratulations to **Mr. Bill Brough** who was awarded the MBE in the New Year Honours List.



#### BATTALION HQ

##### ORBAT

Commanding Officer .. ..	Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. A. Streater, MBE
Second-in-Command .. ..	Major G. C. Phipps
Adjutant .. ..	Captain T. B. Dutton
Adjutant Designate .. ..	Captain R. D. Grist
Assistant Adjutant .. ..	Captain J. H. G. Corrigan
Regimental Sergeant-Major .. ..	WOI G. Chillcott
Chief Clerk .. ..	WOII D. R. Roberts

Our last BACK BADGE went to print just as the Battalion was off to Soltau for its annual training in October 1968; the highlights of Soltau are mentioned in more detail in the Company Notes which follow, but we will remember Soltau for a variety of reasons, amongst them the kindness of the late autumn weather, the lessons we learned in infantry-armoured co-operation with the new Chieftain tank, and our ability, or inability, to exist without sleep for lengthy periods whilst living in holes in the flat, north German plain.



"The Old Guard" soldiers in the uniform of the 28th Foot as worn at the Battle of Alexandria 1801  
Lance-Corporal Milne, Drummer Uzzell (hidden), Drummer Ambury, Privates Evans, Jeffs, Moore and Mitchell

Collection



The Guard of Honour for the Prime Minister during his visit to Berlin in February 1969, showing, in the foreground, Major C. W. E. Coppens-Gardner, MC, Guard Commander and Drum Major J. Bassett

As these notes are written, the last traces of snow are just starting to melt, and we have survived our second winter in Berlin. This winter has been a busy one, although here we are always busy; we managed to produce an excellent Christmas concert, "Smile, darn yer smile", with a talented cast, and then celebrated our Christmas in traditional fashion with a carol service, and with the soldiers' Christmas dinner being served by the officers and sergeants; the feast was a good one, the Commanding Officer having revived the old custom of "pudding stirring" in the dining hall a month prior to Christmas.

January was the month of the skiers, and, although their exploits are fully explained later, they are to be congratulated on achieving fourth place in the Divisional championships and for holding their own in the Army meeting; it helps to have a Commanding Officer who skis.

The Battalion provided a Guard of Honour for the visit of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Harold Wilson, to Berlin in February; the guard was congratulated on its smartness, and Mr. Wilson was introduced to the Commanding Officer, Adjutant, RSM, and the Guard Commander. The GOC and the Brigade Commander accompanied the Prime Minister.

March saw our first taste of a Berlin crisis; no regiment's tour would be complete without a Berlin crisis, with Russian and East German tanks and troops holding manoeuvres around the city, with the autobahn closed and blocked, and with all the banner headlines in the world press referring to "the beleaguered city". It is times like these that bring home to us all the very real necessity for our allied presence in Berlin, and remind us that the sword of Damocles still hangs there, even if the only evidence of it is the noisy rattling of a Russian sabre.

Currently we are in the throes of preparing for our annual administrative inspection and, after that, for the Back Badge celebrations which, this year, will be graced by the visit of H.R.H. the Duchess of Gloucester; we are also hosts on that occasion to a party of "Old Comrades" who are flying out by charter aircraft from England.

This winter we have had our share of visitors. The outgoing and incoming Brigade Commanders, Brigadier D. J. St. M. Tabor, MC, and Brigadier R. W. L. McAlister, OBE, visited in November, as did Colonel Davidson from Infantry Records York, to be followed later by Colonel Sturgeon, also from Records. Lieutenant-General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick, KGB, DSO, MBE, MC, Commander-in-Chief, BAOR, visited in January, and the Colonel Commandant of the Prince of Wales Division, General Sir Charles Harrington, KCB, CBE, DSO, MC, visited the Battalion in February. We now await with pleasure our Royal Visitor in April.

There have been the inevitable comings and goings; we recently said goodbye to Major W. G. R. Turner, MBE, and wish him and his family well at RMA Sandhurst. We welcome in his place Major C. J. Waters, now back with the Battalion as OC "A" Company. Major R. G. Tomkins has left us to be QM at Exeter, and Captain G. Boyes has rejoined us at QM in Berlin. There has been a changeover in the band with the arrival of WOI Scholfield who has taken over from WOI Carson, recently posted as Brigade Bandmaster, The Highland Brigade. We welcome Second-Lieutenants Cable, Malony, and Neill who have been commissioned into the Regiment.

Having just celebrated the one-hundred-and-sixty-eighth anniversary of the battle of Alexandria with a magnificent ball given by the Warrant Officers and Sergeants in the Charlottenburg Rathaus, we now await the spring, and all is geared towards our Back

Badge Parade; we learn with pleasure that the Commanding Officer's tenure of command has been extended until May 1970, and that he will be succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Freeman-Wallace who will eventually command the new regiment.

## SWISS ARMY MOUNTAIN SKI TOUR

### A DIVERSION

The Colonel returned, brown and bursting with vigour, from the 1 Division Ski Championships. We, the stay-at-homes, ground our teeth with ill-concealed jealousy, and practised self-delusion; yes, we really *were* looking forward to Sennelager, particularly in February. Experience has shown, time and again, that snow and mist are essential to the real enjoyment of minor tactics. But suddenly there was hope. "He" had heard of a competition in Switzerland on March 8 and 9. No details were available, but it sounded like a "good idea".

It transpired that it was something akin to a mountain, winter Nijmegen March. A rally rather than a race. Instructions arrived in nearly incomprehensible technical French and German which seemed only to increase the confusion. However, we gathered that the meeting was at Lenk, and consisted of two consecutive days of mountain patrols. Each day the course would be about 30 kilometres, including a climb of at least 3,000 feet. Patrols were to carry weapons and equipment, with a minimum load of 20 lb.

It was decided that the team would move from Sennelager to the Special Training Centre at St. Andvoesburg about a week before the event, and then drive down by car to Switzerland. At this stage, the Army Ski Association very kindly gave us £50 expenses, and it was then that we discovered that we were the first ever, and only, British entrants.

The cancellation of Sennelager meant that the team moved straight from Berlin to St. Andvoesburg. Major Waters, Privates Coster and Hoare went down to join Captain Firth and Corporal Davis who were already there. Training under the eye of a Norwegian instructor lent by the STC proved exhausting, at least to Waters and Firth, who were forced to think of all manner of reasons why they were not as fit or hard as they might have been. We trained on langlauf skis, the choice of skis being the most important of many decisions that we had to make in the dark. Skis had been ordered from Norway which we hoped would give us the ability to "run" with loose heels, but also give reasonable control down hills. However, they had not yet arrived.

After a last flap over the non-arrival of the skis—Firth had to drive to Hamburg to get them—Waters, Firth, Davis and Coster set off for Switzerland on Thursday the 6th.

An anticipated difficulty at the frontier over importing weapons and brand new skis was circumvented by an impressive paper which started "Her Britannic Majesty . . .". At Lenk we found that we were to live in a most comfortable Swiss barracks. The other competitors were not due until the following evening, so there was no opportunity to compare notes.

Next day was largely occupied with fitting bindings to the new skis, but we did get a brief spin on them which raised morale. In the evening the other teams started to trickle in. There were teams from the Swiss Army, police, railways, and technical schools, and girl teams from the Red Cross. There were also patrols from the Bundeswehr. Without

exception, they were all using downhill skis for the climb. Doubt returned, only partly dispelled when we discovered that the girls were doing a shorter course and carrying less weight. To be beaten by a team of girls . . . !

Saturday dawned. Maximum time for the course was to be nine hours. There were about 700 competitors, and as we made our way to the start it seemed that each and everyone was paralysed by laughter at the sight of our wax covered, sticky Norwegian skis. We were off. Firth leading. Over-anxious, we tore off. We found we really could go uphill a great deal faster than everyone else. Even when we settled to a steady pace we were still pulling past most others, and only on the steepest parts did our wax fail. The top was reached in five hours, and then for the next two hours we more or less fell downhill in wet, thick, difficult snow while all the time all and sundry bombed past us on the Kniesels, Heads, and Kastels. However, seven hours saw us at the finish, in spite of a broken ski and an uncountable number of sitzmarks.

In the evening there was a flag-raising ceremony, and Waters found himself reluctantly trying to make a speech in French. Oh, where was Matson ?

The next day was much the same. The sun shone, the snow changed and upset our waxing, but the downhill was easier and we improved our time by half-an-hour. And, at the end, a very pleasant medal.

In conclusion, a good time was had by all. It was a "good idea", and well worth repeating. We were almost overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and kindness of the Swiss, who were almost without exception weekend soldiers. It was impossible not to realise that they were far the better skiers, and yet, due to our light skis, our times were very fair, even if our downhill progress was undignified. The only question that remains; were we cheating?

C. J. Waters

### WINTER WARFARE TRAINING

In Berlin in winter, some say there is little to do except drink too much; so when the Company Sergeant-Major asked for volunteers to go on a ski-ing holiday in the Hartz Mountains, down in Western Germany, there were many takers. So it was that, throughout the winter months a steady stream of Glosters made their way to the Special Training Centre at Silberhütte.

On arrival they were issued with skis, sticks, boots and winter clothing. Admittedly, the boots were made in 1940 for the abortive British invasion of Norway; but who cared? The stage was set for high adventure. Three weeks away from Berlin with nothing to do but ski. It seemed like money for old rope. That is, until they heard the Commandant's opening address:

"So those of you who came expecting an Alpine holiday had better forget it! Ski-ing is fun, but winter warfare is different. It's hard work, and needs lots of practice. That's why, at the end of the course, you will spend five days and four nights living in the snow. There's no other way to learn".

After that, nobody had time to regret volunteering. The next day and for the rest of the course, they were to rise at six and return to camp at five, too tired to do anything but eat their evening meal and then sleep like dead men.

The first 10 days were under the aegis of German civilian instructors. With names like Willi, Hans and Heinz they laboured to educate their pupils in the rudiments of ski-ing. Progress was slow, but not without its lighter moments. Despite the fact that each soldier knew he was about to do a repeat performance, there was always something heartening about the sight of one's comrades head-first in a snow drift with legs and skis waving in the air like some upturned primeval beetle. Then would come the plaintive cry from the instructor—"Bend ze knees"!

Slowly the standard improved. Dips and bumps were taken in their stride, and, after one or two cross-country treks in excess of 10 kilometres, the men began to gain confidence. Then they learnt to assemble and drag light-weight ski stretchers whose ominous purpose, they were told, was to transport battered bodies from the ski slopes down to the omnipresent ambulance. No sooner was this knowledge gleaned when the injuries started. One man tore his knee muscles, while another twisted his arm into a hitherto thought impossible position. Blisters grow, developed and burst, rendering their owners in-operative. But these were a minority; the remainder discovered muscles they did not know existed and persevered.

Then came the igloo building competition. Here, soldiers of the Regiment utilised previously untapped talent and gained first and second places for their practical and aesthetic snow houses. There was even talk of contracting out to a Greenland building society. Igloo building proved to be a mild respite, for that brought an end to the period with the German instructors. After a day's free ski-ing on the Matthia Schmidt Berg, where soldiers found the descents easier to cope with than the one-man ski-lifts, the military phase of the course began.

The students now came under the tender care of officers from the Norwegian Army. The opening lecture took place in the open air on a wind-swept plateau where the temperature was below minus 10 degrees Centigrade. The Norwegian officer began by apologising for the mildness of the weather. He told the assembled multitude that these conditions would be considered summer in Norway.

From this point on, the tempo of the course increased. Fire positions, formations and fire trench construction were practised again and again. With an increased load, which included rifle and rucksack, the students laboured up hill and down dale sweating furiously despite the sub-zero temperatures.

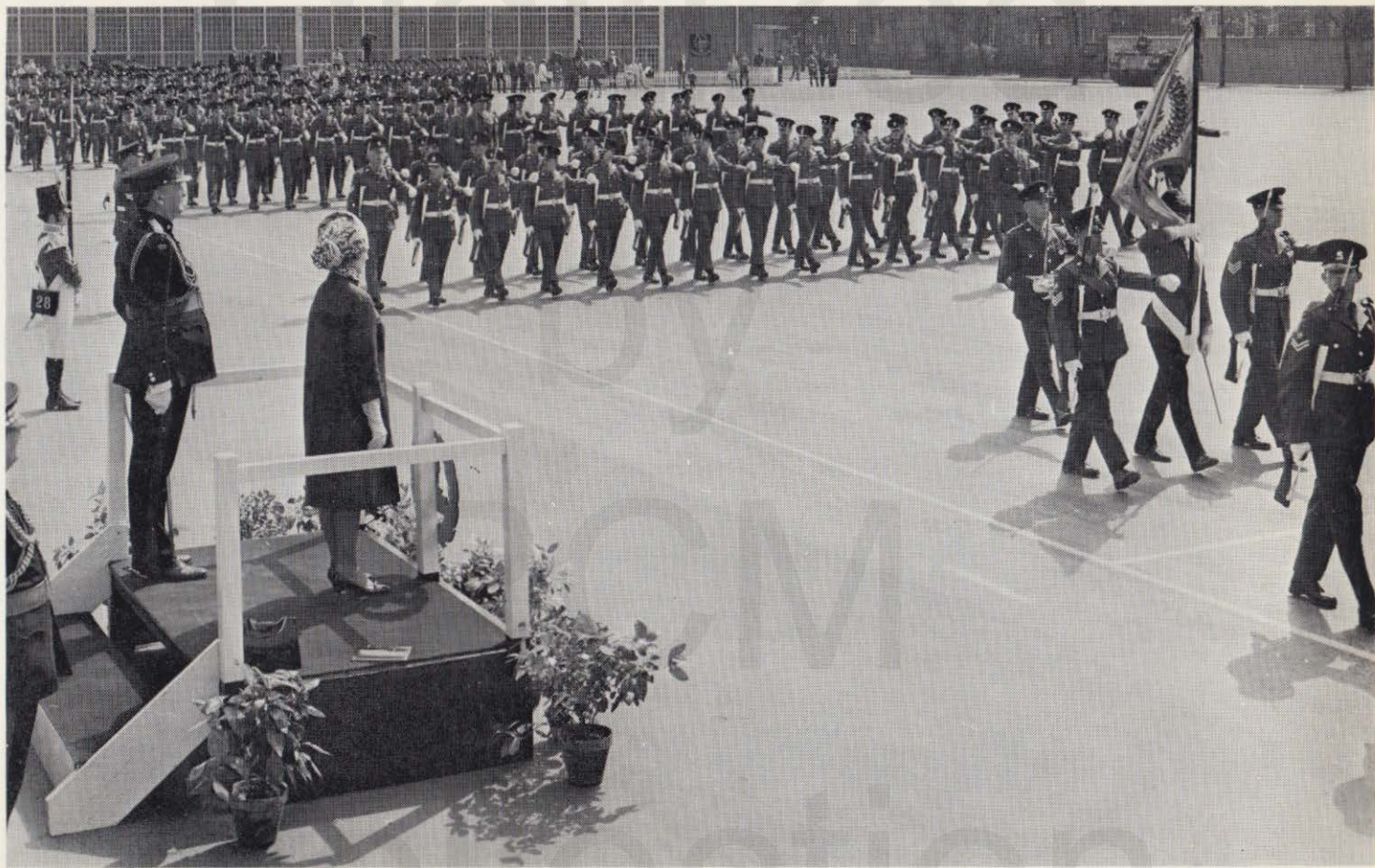
There were races, too. Mad, frantic gallops through the pine trees over varying distances. The longest was a full 20 kilometres, much of which was a long, slow climb up the side of an interminable mountain. Then came the final exercise. Five days and four nights living in the snow. The students' equipment was either carried on their backs or lashed to the heavy Nansen sledges. These sledges were to be the recipients of much violent invective. Totally unsuited for any purpose other than firewood, they were most cumbersome and awkward to handle. Slithering off the track at any opportunity, they cannoned into every stump and snag imaginable. The soldiers eventually found that the only way to make reasonable speed was to remove the load from the sledge and carry it themselves!

The exercise involved movement on skis by day, and the establishment of a series of base camps. From these, small groups of men issued forth as ski patrols to search the neighbouring hills. It was cold, but there were very few cases of mild frostbite. Forewarned by a grisly lecture on the subject, the highlights of which were films and slides of suppurating toes and amputated limbs, everybody took the necessary precautions.



Back Badge Day Parade in Berlin showing the Regimental Colour, carried by 2 Lieutenant W. G. A. Molony, passing the saluting base *(By courtesy of The Gloucestershire Echo)*

Collection



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Back Badge Day Parade in Berlin showing the Duchess of Gloucester taking the salute  
*(By courtesy of The Gloucestershire Echo)*

Then the exercise came to an end, and so did the course. Throughout their stay in the Harz Mountains there had been some muttering and cursing about ski-ing holidays and deceitful Sergeant-Majors but the majority remained cheerful. Those who survived the course, influenza and injuries having struck down nearly fifty per cent., were justifiably proud of their achievement.

C. J. Newbould

**OLD COMRADES WATCH GLOUCESTERS'  
BACK BADGE PARADE, APRIL 26, 1969**

(Reprinted by kind permission of *The Gloucestershire Echo*)

One hundred and twenty Old Comrades of the Gloucestershire Association, made a 600-mile sentimental journey by special plane to Berlin at the weekend, to march proudly past the Duchess of Gloucester, during celebrations to mark Back Badge Day and the battle of the Imjin River.

For the last time as a full-strength unit, the Gloucesters paraded in brilliant sunshine at Brooke Barracks. Next year they will amalgamate with the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

In the bustling, swinging city of West Berlin, the Gloucesters form part of the British Brigade which, in turn, is part of the four-power occupying force.

They occupy barracks within 200 yards of Spandau prison, where Rudolf Hess has been a prisoner since the Nuremberg trials, but in October return to Honiton.

On the vast parade ground—formerly part of a German barracks—the pomp and circumstance of the parade was watched by high-ranking officers of the occupying powers, and by German officials and a large gathering of wives and families.

But German civilians were kept to the entrance to the barracks, a few curiously watching the ceremonial inside.

In the vicinity of the barracks, scores of German police were on duty, apparently fearing demonstrations at Spandau, but a few watched the parade from inside the barracks.

Making a special trip to Berlin for the occasion, the Duchess was greeted at the main entrance to the camp by soldiers of the Battalion, wearing the colourful red and white uniforms of the 28th Regiment of Foot as worn at the battle of Alexandria in 1801, where the Back Badge honour was gained.

Private George Robb acted as sergeant of the guard armed with a fearsome pike.

To make their appearance more realistic, the men had grown sideboards specially for the occasion.

At the saluting base the Duchess was met by the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, as she stepped from the royal car, which was preceded by a jeep loaded with military police.

French and American generals had places of honour, together with the Mayor of Cheltenham, Counc. the Rev. C. H. Markham, and Cheltenham's Town Clerk, Mr. A. A. Crabtree, who made the trip specially to Berlin.

The ceremony started when the band and drums of the Battalion, led by Drum-Major John Bassett, whose home is at St. Luke's Place, Cheltenham, marched on to the tune of the "Army of the Nile". Other gay tunes filled the parade ground as the guards marched on.

Under the shade of trees on the side of the parade ground waited the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. A. Streather, the Adjutant, Captain Terry Dutton, and the Second-in-Command, Major G. C. Phipps, to take their places in the parade.

A royal fanfare was played on silver trumpets, and, following the National Anthem, the Duchess climbed onto the rear of an open vehicle, with Colonel Streather riding alongside on horseback, to drive slowly down the ranks.

In a unique ceremony, the Duchess assisted Major-General Robert G. Fergusson, American Commandant in West Berlin, fix the streamer of the citation awarded to the Battalion by the President of the United States for collective bravery in Korea, to the Regimental Colour.

The emblem is worn by all members of the Regiment serving with the 1st Battalion, and by all those actually in the battle.

And at the parade were some 20 survivors from the Imjin River battle, five of them still serving with the unit, including Major W. L. D. Morris, of Cheltenham, who is the Families Officer.

After Trooping the Colour, the Battalion marched past in slow and quick time, during which the tune "The Kynegad Slashers" was played.

The most moving part came as the 100 or more old comrades assembled in bowler hats and lounge suits, headed by Colonel Digby Grist, who commanded the Battalion after Colonel J. P. Carne, VC. Also on the parade was Major C. R. Davis, the regimental secretary. Smartly they marched past the Duchess who gave them a special smile.

To the strains of "Marching through Georgia" the Battalion marched off after a ceremony lasting 1½ hours, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Streather on horseback.

For the remainder of the week-end, there were many chances for the old comrades to renew friendships, as they were the guests of the Battalion, with reunions in the various Messes.

Before lunching in the officers Mess, the Duchess talked with many of the families, and then toured the WOs and Sergeants and the other ranks Messes. She also spoke to the hundreds of guests who attended a buffet lunch.

After lunch, the Duchess drove into the centre of West Berlin, and to the Brandenburg Gate, past Soviet sentries guarding the war memorial. At the wall dividing the two cities, the party halted, while curious East Border guards trained binoculars on the cars.

In the evening, the British Commandant in Berlin, Major-General James Bowes-Lyons, entertained the Duchess, and past and present officers and ladies at his official residence, Villa Lemm, a massive house with extensive grounds.

German police with dogs guarded the outside of the grounds, and there was a tight security ring around the area, with special branch officers mingling with the guests. The band of the Battalion played on the terrace, and Gloucesters in the uniform of 1801, mounted guard.

On Sunday, the Duchess attended a service at the garrison church of St. George, and laid a wreath on the Commonwealth war memorial in the Heerstrasse. For Roman Catholics, there was a service at which Major Morris read the lesson and gave a brief history of the two battles.

In the afternoon the Duchess flew back to England in a plane of the Queen's Flight. The Old Comrades flew back from Tegel Airport to Gatwick last night (April 27).

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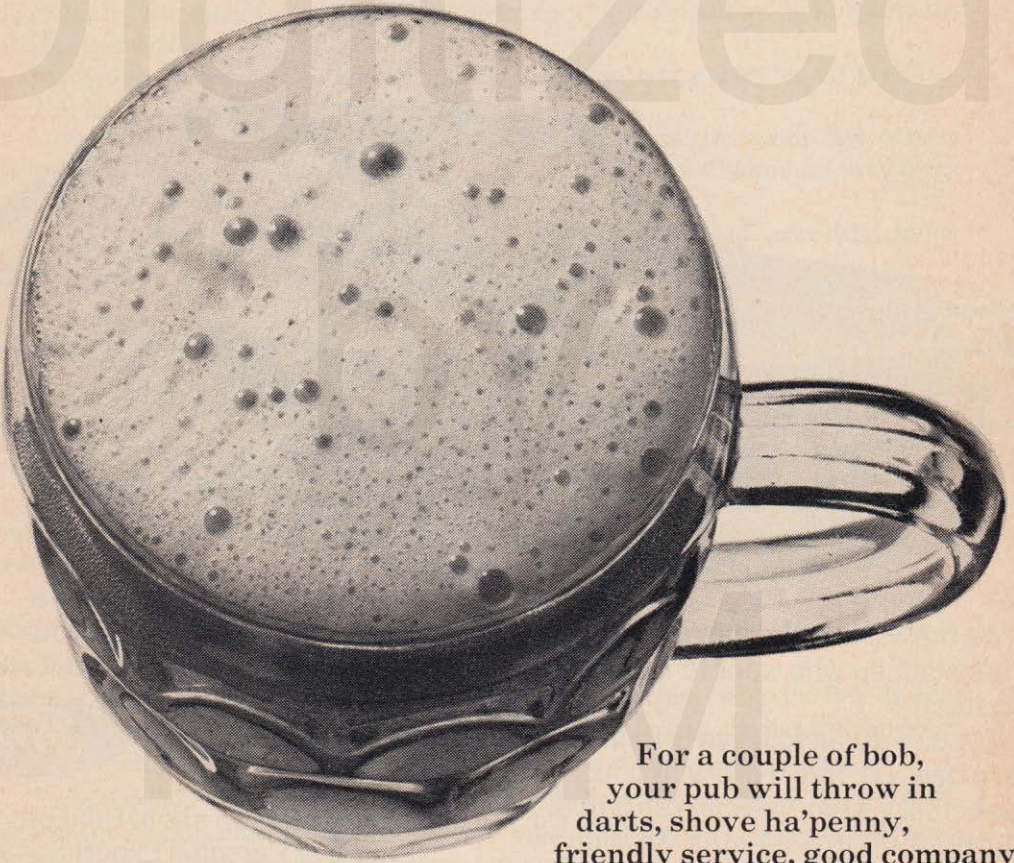
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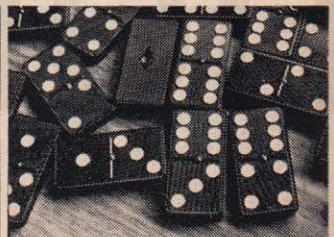
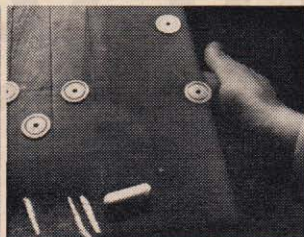
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# You pay for your drink. The entertainment's free.



For a couple of bob,  
your pub will throw in  
darts, shove ha'penny,  
friendly service, good company,  
a tall story or two, a comfortable  
chair, a glance at the paper and a  
smile from the barmaid. There's  
something for everyone at the local.



## A STRANGE DUTY OR HOW I DESTROYED £26,000

It was a most disturbing experience. I was detailed by the Adjutant as a member of a BAFSVs Destruction Board. BAFSVs are British Armed Forces Special Vouchers—the Army's own money. Made by De La Rue, the playing card people, they strongly resemble the money from a well-known property trading game. BAFSVs were originally introduced throughout Germany immediately after the Second World War, when the Deutschesmark was one of Europe's weakest currencies. How times change! In 1958 BAFSVs were withdrawn from circulation in BOAR. Now used only in Berlin, they remain as an inducement for British Servicemen to buy British goods. They can only be used by servicemen in the NAAFI and service canteens.

However, like any other paper money, they eventually grow tattered, dirty and, in the end, unuseable. That is how I came to perform the strangest duty of my career and helped destroy £26,000. The Board, consisting of myself, another officer, a collection of Senior NCOs and members of the Royal Army Pay Corps spent several hours counting and checking the money to be destroyed. We worked under the supervising, eagle eye of the Command Secretary. He was determined that no money should go astray! As the piles of notes before us grew, so did the beads of perspiration on this gentleman's forehead.

Soon our hands grew filthy from handling the used notes and I was struck by the pervading odour that accompanied them. It was almost nauseating, and made one wonder . . . Despite this, I felt a great sense of loss when the BAFSVs, all counted and checked, were bundled into six specially provided sacks. We all looked longingly at them as they were sealed and carted away to the incinerator; but the eyes of the Command Secretary were everywhere . . .

G. E. W. Mirehouse

## "A" COMPANY

## ORBAT

Officer Commanding	..	..	..	Major C. J. Waters
Second-in-Command	..	..	..	Captain W. G. R. Mirehouse
Platoon Commanders	..	..	..	Second-Lieutenant K. Richardson Second-Lieutenant P. G. Jones Second-Lieutenant P. G. Calde
Company Sergeant-Major	..	..	..	WOII M. Chappell
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant			..	Colour-Sergeant G. Bird

September found the Company busily preparing for yet another tour of duty guarding Spandau Prison. For those who had not taken part in this duty before it was certainly an eye-opener, but for those who had, it was just another guard.

In October, the Battalion moved to Soltau Training Area, arriving in a blizzard, which was surely an omen of things to come; this was to be proved incorrect, as the day we arrived was the only day of rain during the whole three-week period.

Attached to us for our training was a section of our American cousins from our affili-

ated "Battalion 4th/18th US Infantry". After an initial settling-in period they played a full and useful part in the Company. The differences of drill and tactics were soon ironed out amicably on both sides; however, it was not unusual to find British soldiers chewing gum and smoking American cigarettes, whilst American soldiers were to be seen and heard practising "Pirbright" salutes and imitating Gloucestershire accents. A lot was learnt on both sides, and we now feel that we are slightly more qualified to work alongside our American cousins, albeit jelly and hamburgers on the same plate have never really appealed to our soldiers.

The training at Soltau was varied and interesting, ranging from patrols and exercises to working with tanks, something that appealed to us, as it saved our hard-pressed feet on a number of occasions. The Brigade Test Exercise was successfully completed with 1 Glosters defeating a well-controlled enemy. The Company received a pat on the back for its efforts after the exercise.

Prior to the Brigade Test Exercise, we spent a week-end in Kiel where we were able to renew old friendships and plan our coming visit in the summer.

Our return to Berlin and city life was accomplished without incident. A bed, it was decided, was an excellent piece of equipment, although no one had suffered any real hardships at Soltau, thanks to the CQMS who provided us all with camp beds of varying shapes and sizes.

Before Christmas descended upon us, Sergeant Wiggins and his section left for Bavaria for an attachment to our sister company 4th/18th US Infantry. They enjoyed themselves immensely, helping to win the inter-company combat efficiency competition between eating numerous "Thanksgiving", dinners.

Christmas was soon upon us, and we took part in the time-honoured mixing of the Christmas pudding. A bar was laid on in the cookhouse, and all took part with gusto. The Regimental band played during the mixing.

Christmas day was spent with families, both English and German, and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking once again the friendly Germans who entertained us so splendidly in their homes. This went a long way to promote the Anglo-German spirit of friendship that is so essential in this unique city of Berlin.

Christmas having been well and truly celebrated, the company found itself preparing for another tour of duty guarding Spandau Prison. The international handover to the French went well, and the Battalion received a note of congratulation from the French commandant, something that has not happened for many years. Rudolph Hess, the only prisoner in Spandau Prison, was seen by most of the Company at one time or another. He still remains an upright figure after 25 years imprisonment. He has an exercise area at the rear of the prison where he is allowed to feed the birds that flock to greet him as he appears from the side entrance of his quarters.

January was soon with us, and with it came the snow. Berlin has suffered from the worst snowfall for the last 30 years and even now, at the time of writing, it is still snowing.

Due to political unrest in Berlin, because of the West German decision to hold their Presidential elections here, the Battalion's visit to Sennelager was cancelled. This was viewed with mixed feelings by the majority of the Company, as we had already had our days there planned down to the last detail. However, we were soon to be occupied as we found ourselves taking part in a combined exercise with "D" Company exercise "Dig Wun". Needless to say, as soon as the exercise started, it began to snow and the tempera-

ture dropped below freezing point. The exercise, aptly named "Dig Wun", was voted the coldest two days defensive exercise that any one had ever done. We managed to survive, with the help of the rum ration in the tea which cheered everybody up. We even managed to upset the General on the exercise, as our night assault crossing of the Havel reputedly disturbed his household. However, all was explained and ended happily. We are now preparing for the next Battalion Exercise, exercise "Spring Clean", which will sort us all out prior to the administrative inspection.

During the course of the past six months the Company has changed considerably; we say goodbye to Major W. G. R. Turner, MBE, whose unflagging interest and leadership was an inspiration to the Company, and welcome Major C. J. Waters from Staff College. The Company has now realised what has hit them, and are to a man becoming incredibly fit, some, it is rumoured are even developing "fins". We managed to sweep the board in the Hobbs Cup Basketball Competition which made up a little for our efforts in the Rawson Cup. We now lie fourth in the Hobbs Cup Competition with a number of contests still to be decided. We also welcome our new 2IC Captain G. E. W. R. Mirehouse.

Congratulations to the following for their sporting efforts in representing the Battalion; Corporal Thorner, who has appeared from Support Company and Lance-Corporal Lewis—Battalion Rugby; various Battalion footballers, Lance-Corporal Ireland, Key lock; Sergeant Cooke was newly promoted from the gym and was mainly responsible for us winning the basketball, helped by Ellis and O'Flaherty.

O'Flaherty successfully won his way through the Berlin—1 Div and BAOR boxing to be beaten in the semi-finals of the UK championships in the last round. His opponent went on to win the heavyweight title which may be some consolation to the loser.

Congratulations to CSM England whom we lose to "C" Company after nearly three years uninterrupted service in "A" Company, and to our splendid CQMS Bird for passing his ACE I.

In conclusion the past six months have been both fun and frustrating, which is the nature of such a posting; but, nevertheless, we look forward to spring and summer in Berlin. Where duties and sport permit, we will take full advantage of our last four months in this unique station.

## "B" COMPANY

### ORBAT

Officer Commanding	..	..	..	Major F. D. J. Dickenson
Second-in-Command	..	..	..	Captain P. R. Rostron
Platoon Commanders	..	..	..	Second-Lieutenant T. G. Ongley Second-Lieutenant W. G. A. Maloney
Company Sergeant-Major	..	..	..	WOII N. Tuggey
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant			..	Colour-Sergeant D. Simmance

Training at Soltau seems to be the best point at which to begin. The Company learnt a lot and worked with great enthusiasm but, to be honest, did not enjoy the relative

hardship quite as much as happy memories would have you imagine. The Company's defensive position in both main exercises was much admired, and the spirit shown when fatigue set in was tremendous all through the period. CSM Boulton returned to the Company to command 6 Platoon and was never without a brew or a very, very, deep pit. Corporal X set out a lot of trip flares and then set them all off on his way back to his pit. Even during rest periods, reaction to orders was instinctive. One Gun Controller suddenly sat up in his bed and shouted "Gunner prepare to move". His gunner, who was playing cards at the time, replied after laughter that he would be ready at the end of that hand. Two other incidents worth repeating are:

#### **Tactical Breakfast**

Private Gadd: "Hey, Sarge! That Land-Rover has just run over my mess tin".

Platoon Sergeant: "So what? What was in it, anyway?"

Private Gadd: "My porridge and spoon, Sarge".

CSM (tactically) "Keep quiet, Gadd, and eat your breakfast".

Private Gadd: "I can't sir. I was holding the spoon at the time".

CSM: "So? You've got two hands haven't you?"

#### **Night March**

SPLASH! "What are you doing down there, Hawkins?"

"I slipped, Sergeant".

LATER—SPLASH!

"What are you doing down there Sergeant?"

"Shut up, Hawkins!"

Most of the Company enjoyed their trip to Hamburg very much and Corporal Parker got a couple of jumps in as well. (They were in the display laid on for the Battalion by the OC in his role as OIC Parachuting.)

On our return the Company Club was again brought into use for Platoon parties which were held well in advance of Christmas. This facility is much appreciated and is well looked after by the Company despite some qualms on the part of the OC. The football team also use it for their after match hospitality to visitors.

Several exercises have been held since our return. The most memorable of these were the exercise with the German Police, a Company battle to clear a village, and two days spent on CI training in the "Snowy Grunewald Jungle".

We have also concentrated hard on shooting. An inter-platoon smallbore evening league was won by 5 Platoon and aroused a lot of interest. This increased interest, together with a lot of Pokey Drill, has resulted in a marked improvement and we now have 59 men classified as Marksmen-on at least one weapon. The shooting was also instrumental in winning us the Rawson Cup by a very clear margin.

This leads us on to the subject of the Hobbs Cup in which the Company is leading at present. Since our last notes, we have been second in the cross-country and have won the boxing as well as the Inter-Platoon Rawson Cup Competition. In the latter, 5 Platoon won outright and 6 Platoon were fifth. In the basketball we have not been so successful, being taken by surprise, without any time to teach the fundamentals of the game to our young soldiers.

On the parade ground the Company provided half the Guard of Honour for the Prime Minister and has spent some more time preparing for the Drill Competition and the Back Badge Parade.

Life is very hectic at the moment with so many important events in the offing, including the Annual Inspection. However, morale remains very high, indeed, and we are determined to keep up our standards in all things.

The comings and goings are too numerous to mention. Suffice it to say that 52 men have left the Company in the last year. The most tragic effect of this has been that 7 Platoon has had to be temporarily disbanded. This was a difficult decision to make, but it had to be done. Let us hope that it will not be too long before we can reform the Platoon.

### "C" COMPANY

#### ORBAT

Officer Commanding and PRI	..	..	..	Major C. P. T. Rebbeck
Training Subaltern	..	..	..	Lieutenant J. Denley
Company Sergeant-Major	..	..	..	WOII J. Boulton

Since the last issue, Charles Company has, like Topsy, grown and grown. We can now muster no less than 19 officers and men. This increase has been caused in part by the arrival of the Company Commander, who brought everyone concerned with his other activities along as well. The only way to deal with such a miscellany is to deal with each department in turn.

### TRAINING WING

The last six months have seen many changes in Training Wing, most of them, happily, for the better. In October, one week before Potential NCOs Cadre No. 3/68 began, we learnt that the Company lines in Brooke Barracks were needed for living accommodation. After a rapid search, RAF Gatow very kindly offered us a wing of one of their blocks and in we moved. Thanks to the kindness of the RAF and their excellent MPBW we are now quite ideally equipped with living space for 40, offices and stores, six squad rooms, a cinema, model room and large lecture room. It is doubtful if we shall ever have such splendid accommodation again. We use a hanger 200 yards away as a drill shed and have woodland and a golf course right on our doorstep. One other feature of the Company's life at Gatow is the RAF "Airbridge" Club, of which Maddison is now virtually a part of the furniture. Relations with the airmen are excellent, and we shall be very sorry to leave.

*Potential NCOs Cadre 3/68.* This Cadre was the first run at Gatow, the instructors being Lieutenant J. A. C. Hoole, CSM J. Boulton, Sergeant Keen, Corporal Smith ("A" Company), Corporal Chilcott ("Sp" Company) and Corporal Keeling ("B" Company). It started with 24 students and finished with 21, of whom two-thirds passed. The last week was spent at Hohne under rather chilly circumstances, six of the Cadre being admitted to hospital with frostbite. Happily, they are now all back at work. Lance-Corporal O'Shea won "the Stick" for the Mortar Platoon, followed by Lance-Corporal Kearney (also Sp Company), Lance-Corporal Brown (now "C" Company clerk!) and Lance-Corporal Welsman of "D" Company.

Directly after this Cadre Mr. Hoole and Sergeant Keen left for Wilson's Heaven, the former to take over 25 AYT in Gloucester and the latter to terrorise a boys' establishment somewhere. The gap was further increased by the departure on leave of the CSM, who had had no leave since 1967 (he said!). Luckily, Sergeant Walker joined us from "B" Company, Corporal White 09 returned hot from Brecon and Corporal Wright was released by his doctors, having been damaged whilst on a Far East training course. As we were also able to keep the services of Corporals Keeling and Chilcott, we felt able to carry out our threat to run a series of GPMG (SF) Cadres. (MMG training, to the other and bolder reader.)

*GPMG (SF) Training.* About 70 Lance-Corporals and soldiers were given a one-week crash course at Gatow during late January and February. We enjoyed teaching this generally neglected subject as much as they enjoyed learning it. At the very end of February we were able to send a party of 50 to Sennelager to fire the weapon in its SF role, despite the activities of the East Germans. The party was led by Lieutenant J. Denley (having handed over 25 AYT to Mr. Hoole) and the CSM, fresh from three weeks chilly fishing on the Havel.

The highlight of the visit was a competition, in which each Company entered two teams to count. The results were:

1st	..	..	..	..	Sp Company
2nd	..	..	..	..	"B" Company
3rd	..	..	..	..	"A" Company
4th	..	..	..	..	"D" Company
5th	..	..	..	..	HQ Company

The best gun team in the competition was Private Payne 94 (gun controller), Private Allman and Private Smith 81 of "B" Company.

*Potential NCOs Cadre 1/69.* We have started the first Cadre of '69, with 31 young hopefuls now in residence at Gatow. The instructors are Mr. Denley, the CSM, Sergeants Walker and Smith (welcome, and congratulations on your promotion) and Corporals White 09 and Wright. We are also supported by a long list of visiting speakers, and all is well at the time of writing.

One must mention the Company's Administrative tail before moving on. We have no Colour-Sergeant, and have perforce to rely on Corporal Chittenden for almost all aspects of our Q work. Despite his tender years he very seldom lets us down and even seems to enjoy it. Lance-Corporal Sleigh-Smith runs the ammunition with his usual skill, but is shortly to leave the Battalion for private life, in which we all wish him luck. Private Fennel continues as the projectionist!

## PRI

The rest of the Company has its being in Brooke Barracks, the largest single element being the PRI. Here, Sergeant Hodges reigns supreme, somehow managing to run the Berlin Brigade Fishing Club in addition to overseeing his various departments out and around the Battalion. These are the PRI Shop, the UK newspaper service, the Corporals Mess Account, the pigs, the petty cash account and the sports store.



The Duchess of Gloucester, attaching the Solma-Ri streamer to the Regimental Colour at the beginning of the Back Badge Day Parade



(By courtesy of *The Gloucestershire Echo*)  
A party of Old Comrades visiting the Russian War Memorial in East Berlin during their visit to the 1st Battalion



The opening of the Corporals Club, "The Gloucester Arms" by Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. A. Streater, MBE, Commanding Officer



"Pudding Stirring Ceremony", November 1968 in the Dining Hall. The CO drinks a toast to the pudding with the youngest soldier in the Battalion

The shop and the newspaper service are run by Corporal Reynolds. Thanks to the efforts of a previous PRI we now have a proper shop hard by the main gate, and he thus does a fair bit of business. Corporal "Panga" Price is the current Corporals Mess Barman, and has seen the Mess grow into a smart affair with a very pleasant bar, lounge and games area. Private Tucker still runs the pigs, of which he now has 59. During our time in Berlin he has sent just under 160 to market so far—a sobering total. When Tucker goes on leave he is capably replaced by Private Smith of "A" Company, or by his brother-in-law, Lance-Corporal Mace. Corporal Dixon runs the Sports Store with relentless efficiency, also managing to cope with the Battalion Ski Store as well. He delighted the whole Battalion by making a come-back in the Brigade Boxing finals; no doubt the story of his win will be told elsewhere.

### THE FUTURE

After the present Cadre finishes we expect to be able to run one more Junior Leaders Cadre before returning to Honiton. Regrettably, the CSM and Sergeant Hodges will have left us by the time the next issue is prepared. The CSM is to become WOII Accn, thus ending his years of service in the Battalion's various training companies. We cannot imagine him doing anything else than training, and expect to see him down at Gatow counting our tea-cups fairly frequently. As for Sergeant Hodges, he will leave a considerable hole in the Battalion's poaching strength. He is redundant, and, after a short spell at the Depot, hopes to settle in the Gloucester area. They are to be replaced by CSM England, late of "A" Company, and Sergeant Summers, at present in the Mortars. We welcome them both.

Lastly, as PRI, I should like to mention Miss Anne Mullins. Few Battalions can have had as delightful a WRVS representative as we have over the past year, and we all wish her the very best of luck wherever she may go. Her work for the soldiers has been greatly appreciated, and will not be forgotten for years to come.

### "D" COMPANY

#### ORBAT

Officer Commanding	..	..	..	Major C. W. E. Coppen-Gardner, MC
Second-in-Command	..	..	..	Captain S. D. A. Firth
Platoon Commanders	..	..	..	Lieutenant A. S. Hadfield
				Lieutenant J. P. D. F. Webster
				Second-Lieutenant J. R. Neill
Company Sergeant-Major	..	..	..	WOII P. Goss
Company Quartermaster-Sergeant	..	..	..	Colour-Sergeant P. Garland

So much happens in six months in Berlin that only a reference to last year's diary really reminds one of the highlights; we survived Soltau, and having survived it, realised that we enjoyed it. Having only two platoons possibly helped us, because whenever the

other two companies were "forward" on ghastly windy slopes, "D" Company were "in depth" tucked cosily into a wood; at least, we thought it was cosy, until we woke one morning to find a squadron of Chieftain tanks in our midst. We then rapidly became experts at unrehearsed counter-attacks at night, sometimes with fixed bayonets, much to the horror of the umpires, with whom we also had some good battles.

Sołtau, the Christmas celebrations, and the snow are "old history" now; or we *hope* the snow has gone, because after some days of spring weather it turned viciously cold and almost brought "Exercise Dig Wun" to a frozen standstill. Prior to the night crossing of the Havel with "A" Company, stories went around of how men "froze to death before they hit the water"; needless to say, none fell in, and no one realised that the safety boat operators were "gonking" soundly under a pile of blankets until the crossing was half finished.

Together with "B" Company we provided a guard of honour outside the Allied Staff HQ for the Prime Minister on his Berlin visit; it must have been the coldest day on record. We were congratulated on the smartness of the guard, and the Prime Minister talked to some of the Company as he inspected. Lieutenant C. S. Wakelin carried the Regimental Colour and Major C. W. E. Coppen-Gardner, MC, commanded the guard.

Exercise Spring Clean gave us some more late snow in March; Captain Firth, that mythical Company 2IC was inevitably not available to give us any instruction in igloo building. It would have been useful.

We are all now frantically employed trying to get sorted out for the Annual "Admin", CO's inspections, parades, mounted and otherwise, plus Hobbs Cup football, hockey, swimming, rugby, and athletics; somehow, we will eventually get into top gear, but April is hectic, some say hellish, with everyone virtually standing on his head. "Coming up" are Spandau Guard, Allied Forces Day, and Queen's Birthday Parade.

As a Company we seem to suffer more "turbulence" than most (in addition to always finding ourselves on duty over Christmas, Easter, Whitsun, etc.); it probably all arises from a genuine "willingness to help".

We have lost CSM Murphy, Colour-Sergeant Bishop, and Sergeant Hazzard, *all* to that omniverous elephant, HQ Company; we thank them all for their hard work on behalf of "D" Company, and are happy that they aren't too far away. We have gained CSM Goss from Sp Company, and Colour-Sergeant Garland and Sergeant Palmer from HQ Company; we hope they will enjoy working with us. We have lost Lieutenant Wakelin to the Parachute School in Bad Lippspringe, and congratulate him on his marriage; we welcome in his place Second-Lieutenant J. R. Neill.

All the comings and goings within the last few months would fill a complete edition of this magazine, but to mention some, having gained numerous NCOs from the Signal Platoon, nearly all of whom didn't like us and went, we now have inherited half the Regimental Provost staff, with and without their stripes. We will miss Corporal Temperton when he goes to his new job in the Officers Mess, and hope Corporal Hazzard survives his Brecon course; we wish Privates Williams and Maby good luck in civvy street, and welcome Lance-Corporal Newbury and Private Preston, who found civvy street wasn't the life for them and re-enlisted.

## HQ COMPANY

## ORBAT

Officer Commanding	..	..	..	..	Major R. A. F. Jarman
Second-in-Command	..	..	..	..	
Families Officer	..	..	..	..	Major W. L. D. Morris
RSO	..	..	..	..	Captain R. C. Hobbs
Quartermaster	..	..	..	..	Captain G. Boyes
MTO	..	..	..	..	Captain M. P. Nott
Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant	..	..	..	..	WOII L. A. Ramsden
Company Sergeant-Major	..	..	..	..	WOII B. J. Murphy
Bandmaster	..	..	..	..	WOI M. C. Scholfield

Company Headquarters continues to preside (nominally) over some 300 officers and men of the Battalion, dispensing leave passes or £10 fines to those who pay us a visit. We pride ourselves on our ability to cope with practically all the problems which come our way, whether they be military, matrimonial or merely mad. As these notes are being written, the key figure in this scene, CSM Ramsden, is in the process of handing over to CSM Murphy. We congratulate CSM Ramsden on being appointed RQMS and thank both him and Mrs. Ramsden for all their hard work on behalf of the Company. A warm welcome is extended to CSM Murphy who has joined us from "D" Company. Presumably our new CSM can rely on the QM's Department to take some notice of Company Detail even if nobody else does . . .

Colour-Sergeant Garland has also left us, in order to go and fiddle the books for "D" Company. He admits, when pressed, that he was down one "beakers, plastic, drinking" (price 7d.) when he left us—and that admission has been the cause of considerable increase in the internal mail. We were very sorry to see Colour-Sergeant Garland go but pleased to welcome Sergeant Hazzard into Company Headquarters from "D" Company.

Corporal Woodman finally had enough of the daily parade state and has returned to the MT Platoon, to be replaced as COS, by Corporal Sanders. Corporal Sanders suddenly realised what he had let himself in for and volunteered for a course in Norway, but we hope to see him back sometime. Lance-Corporal March continues to mutter and bash the typewriter according to his mood; he has now called everyone's bluff by volunteering for the next Junior Leaders Cadre.

Since the last issue of the BACK BADGE, we have lost one department—the PRI, which has gone to "C" (Trg) Company—and gained two—the Gym staff and the Grooms. We are, as a result, pressing hard for the inclusion of Gymnastics and a Three-Day Event in the Hobbs Cup, but the Battalion Second-in-Command remains unamused by the whole subject.

In the last six months the Company has taken an active part in the various sporting events in the Battalion and the "old and bold" have acquitted themselves well in all fields. For our operational role, we produced a platoon for each of the Rifle Companies though we sometimes feel that the receiving Companies are not as appreciative of the added talent as they might be. When asked on the last turn-out what he was doing,

Private Fox (QM's Dept.) replied "Second composite platoon Sir, the best . . ."—well done, Fox.

For detailed doings of Platoons and Departments, please read on.

### SIGNAL PLATOON

We arrived in Soltau to find that we had, unwittingly, administered a successful *coup d'état*, on law of averages, by having completed the journey from Berlin without sustaining a single accident to man or vehicle. We soon settled in and supplied the Battalion with illuminations where they were required—(Why should the Provost Staff have lights?). The generators proved to be troublesome, but our "Engineers" soon had the trouble sorted out. Corporal Schneider and Lance-Corporal Bishop showing us their inept mechanical abilities on more than one occasion, by refuelling "broken down" generators with petrol.

Along came the long-awaited Battalion exercise, and, from the aspect of communications, everything went reasonably well. "Well", that is, from *our* biased point of view though sometimes detachment commanders were very near to the point of committing "Hara-kiri" after all their efforts to please had not always been received in the proper perspective. Other tasks went well, including the "passing round" of the inevitable "Red Shield" wagon to various departments within the Battalion.

We managed to put in some signal training, and were able to absorb some of the beautiful scenery that surrounded us. Some valuable experience was gained by most of the Platoon, who now know where to go in Hamburg should the chance ever arise again.

Christmas festivities were soon upon us, and on Christmas Eve the Platoon held a social evening in the Spandau Community Centre, with dancing to the "Savage Age". This turned out to be a very successful venture—as we were told afterwards by members of 1 Staffords Signal Platoon and 229 Signals Squadron who we invited to share the evening.

We ran a Standard III cadre in January, which appears to have produced some promising signallers. Also we had Privates Hirthe, Sheppard, Tremlin, Joyce, Smith 02 and Angell proving to us that they could pass a Standard II cadre, which had been organised by 229 Signals Squadron.

After considerable preparation for the Battalion move to Sennelager, we were informed that it had been cancelled. This met with mixed feelings from members of the Platoon.

The Rawson Cup took place in March and we were very satisfied by finishing third in the Battalion.

We say welcome to Sergeant Cavill (once again), Lance-Corporal White, Privates Wells, Oliver and Kay.

We say "Good luck" to Lance-Corporal Bishop who has now left our number for the attractions of civilian life, where he will be able to have his long sideboards without receiving the attention of various senior NCOs within the Battalion.

On the promotion side of things, Lance-Corporal Wright has again stitched his tape on and has caused great speculation within the Platoon as to how long it will be before he unstitches it again. We also have two new Lance-Corporals in the Platoon—Lance-Corporals Blackmore and Watson, who returned from Hohne with various tales of frostbite and the like. Colour-Sergeant Tucker has at last received his crown, to go above

the three stripes that we had all become used to seeing, after the departure of WOII Fisher to the QM's department.

Most of the Platoon are now looking forward to our return to England and are wondering what communications problems, and other problems, we will encounter there.

### CORPS OF DRUMS

After the hectic summer season of parades in Berlin, it was almost a relief to get out into Western Germany in October. The Drums accompanied the Battalion to Soltau to take part in the annual field training exercises. Drummers will tell you that they only exercised their hands and backs while digging in, but the Adjutant fondly believes that more was achieved. However, a break was as good as a rest, and, apart from one unfortunate incident, the Platoon enjoyed life in the wide open spaces. Thankfully, the weather was kind.

Christmas was upon us on our return and, as usual, the Drums sounded a rather odd "Reveille" at an ungodly hour outside the local Married Quarters. Strange to relate, they appeared to be welcome and only just managed to return in time for their Christmas lunch.

The Review was a great success and Drum Major Bassett's appearance was well supported by the Platoon hidden in the depths of the audience.

The cancellation of the Battalion's trip to Sennelager caused acute disappointment to the drummers who had spent weeks hardening their hands in anticipation of more spadework.

Our Rawson Cup result was disappointing, having done very well on the inspection and marching parts of the competition. Shooting let the Platoon down, and they finished sixth out of 14.

The respite, however, has enabled preparations for Back Badge Parade in April to forge ahead. The ball in March was tremendous fun for all and the Drummers of the "Old Guard" looked distinguished and resplendent in their brand-new uniforms. Stacey, it should be noted, managed to behave for the whole evening!

With the parade season almost on us once more, everyone is busy rehearsing and preparing for another strenuous but enjoyable six months in Berlin.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Drummer Leslie Orchard in a training accident at Soltau. His wife and family have our most sincere sympathy.

### MT PLATOON

Brushing aside the snow and melting the ink in our pens we bring you another epistle. Due to weather conditions, activities have been restricted to the normal, everyday, busy, domestic taxi service. Corporal Collins made the Battalion boxing team and knocked out his opponent, and in the Novices boxing Corporal Woodman and Private Bale acquitted themselves well.

The Saturday after Christmas we had our usual MT Party, and, in spite of bulging stomachs were still trying to digest excess turkey, Christmas pud, and the like. A good time was had by all and, after a few dances to the "Savage Age", we're sure that digestion problems were eased, even if heads suffered next morning.

The Battalion has been brought up to date with the issue of "6 FV 432" in lieu of the

Saracen. Corporals Howse, Smith and Lance-Corporal Atherton have trained up Privates Wallace, Sylvester, Gazey, Vokins, Bye, Bale, Lampard and Selwood to master these monsters, and they have found it is one of the few vehicles that German drivers treat with respect.

Also, it will be seen in the "Comings and Goings" that there has been quite a change-over on the MT due to the nine-year men electing to return to civvy street. Corporal Howse, who ran the driving cadres, has managed to keep his nerves steady although his nails are much shorter.

We held a farewell party for the 2 LI who will have left Berlin for Colchester by the time of print. An inscribed Regimental Plaque was presented to them to mark our happy association.

The busy ("silly") season has now started, with first the Imjim Parade, when we hope to see a number of old friends from UK and will endeavour to give them a memorable three days. For the Admin, Allied Forces and Queen's Birthday Parades we also have to supply parade-type-soldiers; well, with a quick hose down, off they go.

The MT had a team in the Rawson Cup to prove we are soldiers as well. Colour-Sergeant Bishop went up the scramble net the wrong way and did himself no good at all but the team acquitted themselves very well considering they had little practice; we managed to beat five other teams in the Battalion, two of which were from Rifle Companies, so we proved capable of rising to the occasion regardless of "Petrol feet". After a quick top-up at the end with a beer, it was a job to stop them running back to camp (well, almost).

#### COMINGS AND GOINGS

We have said farewell to such stalwarts of the MT as Frank Ratcliff, Barry Hayward, Stan Howse (get your hair cut), Master of the Keys, our clerk Lance-Corporal Tony Adams, all to civvy street, where we wish them the very best of luck and thank them for all they have done in the Battalion. They may not think they have contributed much, but they have, and we are sorry to see them go and now hope they will keep in touch by attending reunions and looking us up at Honiton. Harold North went to Bordon: we hope he enjoys his tour away. Craftsman Berry is also away having been posted to Instow (not far from Honiton). We wish him all the best in the future. Colour-Sergeant Weaving we congratulate on his well-deserved promotion and he is off to Support Company.

Colour-Sergeant (God)? Bishop has arrived with a bang, complete with Russian vocabulary, as MT (NO) Colour-Sergeant; Sergeant Thorne is now the Fiddler, sorry, Tech Sergeant.

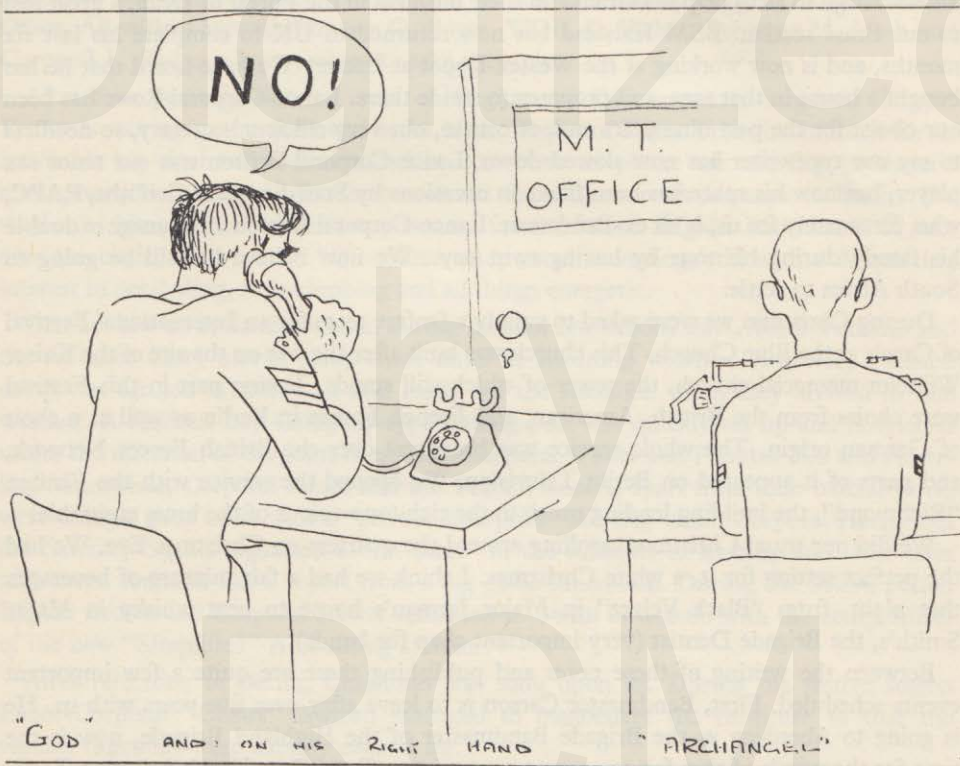
Corporal Woodman, who we managed to get rid of in Chester, has proved he has oil in his blood by returning as chief key tapper in the office and is known as Archangel; with all this heavenly power we hope we have seen our last accident report!!! Other arrivals we have to welcome are Alfie Bass, Doug (Winnie) Attwell, Cris Selwood, Tanky Hill 65, Dave Eyers, Bango Bjork, Puff Puff Gale, Russ Norman, and all are now finding there is a little more to MT than riding everywhere when on Exercise!! New arrivals in our REME are Craftsmen Holroyd, Parry and Ayers; we hope they enjoy their stay with us and we do appreciate their valuable assistance.

We congratulate Corporal and Mrs. Hoult, Private and Mrs. Selwood and Corporal and Mrs. Smith on their new arrivals and wish the babies a life of health and happiness.

From the MT we say "keep your tanks topped up and cheers" until the next edition.

### What we want to know

Does it really take a B1 Craftsman REME to put petrol in tanks of a Land-Rover, Signals?



### BAND

Since last going to press the engagements we have completed have been many and varied. We have found, during our tour of West Berlin, that the Berliners make wonderful audiences. This brings to mind one occasion when we were playing at a local shooting festival. All the members of the Band were surprised to see the Germans present dancing to Colonel Bogey on Parade, and enjoying it; as we said at the time, it takes all sorts to make a world!

We had a first-class Band Christmas Draw last December with some 80 prizes which were donated by firms in Berlin. They even included a tape recorder and record player donated by Tele-funken Ltd. As we did not have to purchase prizes, we were then in a position to donate the monies taken to a charity. On the night of the draw we presented

a cheque for DM1,000 to a Berlin Orphanage. We were also able to send a further cheque for £63 2s. 5d. to The Royal Daughters School at Hampstead.

Bandsmen Hopes and Owens were posted to the Royal Military School of Music to undergo a pupils course during the next year. Bandsman Sandells and Lance-Corporal Macdonald have now returned from the School; "Sac" Sandells still appears to be as jovial as ever, and just as fat, although he does insist that he has lost weight.

We have lost three stalwarts over the last few months; Corporal Phelps has bought his discharge so as to help his father run their business in the Forest of Dean, a great loss to our Brass section. BSM Halstead has now returned to UK to complete his last six months, and is now working at the Wessex Depot at Exeter. We have heard that he has bought a house in that area, and proposes to reside there. Lance-Corporal Rowe has been our oboist for the past nine years and, of course, our very efficient secretary, so needless to say our typewriter has now slowed down. Lance-Corporal Britton was our tenor sax player, but now his space has been filled on occasions by Staff-Sergeant Griffiths, RAPC, who, fortunately for us, is an ex-Bandsman. Lance-Corporal Britton did manage to double his family during his tour by having twin boys. We now believe he will be going to South Africa to settle.

During Christmas we were asked to supply a fanfare team for an International Festival of Carols at the Blue Church. This church was built after the war on the site of the Kaiser Wilhelm memorial church, the tower of which still stands. Taking part in this Festival were choirs from the British, American, and French Forces in Berlin as well as a choir of German origin. The whole service was broadcast over the British Forces Network, and parts of it appeared on Berlin Television. We opened the service with the Fanfare "Richmond", the building lending much to the rich tone-colour of the brass ensemble.

We did our usual Christmas carolling around the quarters on Christmas Eve. We had the perfect setting for it, a white Christmas. I think we had a fair mixture of beverages that night, from "Black Velvet" in Major Jarman's house to neat whisky in Major Smith's, the Brigade Dentist (very important chap for bands).

Between the writing of these notes and publishing there are quite a few important events scheduled. First, Bandmaster Carson is to leave after over five years with us. He is going to Aberdeen as the Brigade Bandmaster of the Highland Brigade, now is the time for the words of that famous song to come into effect "Donald, where's yere Trousers?" We all wish him and Beryl all the best of luck in their new job, and hope to see them in the future, should they get south of the Border. Our new Bandmaster is to be Mr. Scholfield who will join us from Kneller Hall, his previous Regiment being the Royal Fusiliers.

On April 26 we have our annual Back Badge Parade; this year it is being attended by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester. We have also the Band of the Devon & Dorsets' coming up from Western Germany to give us moral support, as well as a little physical. In May we have the Allied Forces Day Parade; we only hope that this year it will not be so wet. The comments last year were that it was like trying to play in a swimming pool.

We would like to congratulate Bandsman Kingston on his recent marriage, and we wish them both all the best for the future. We also congratulate Corporal Carbin and Lance-Corporal Macdonald on promotion. We are shortly to lose Bandsman Wheeler to the Life Guards and we all hope he does not fall off his horse, and that he gets a mount fitted with a reverse gear.

## QUARTERMASTER

Since the Autumn of 1968 there has been a period of intense activity and change within the department.

A major programme of staff changes is nearly completed. Major Roy Tomkins has left us to try a new golf course at Exeter; Sergeant-Major Bill Russell, Corporal Lofty Harris and Private Way have gone into civvy street to straighten things out there. Spud Merchant has been promoted to cope with the anxieties and excitements of the Families Office. All will be missed. Captain G. Boyes, WOII K. Fisher, Sergeant M. Nash and Corporal L. Radnege have arrived to take their place.

After four years in the hot seat of Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant, Topper Brown is retiring to the quiet and order of the Forest of Dean. From his office, with its inevitable big cigar—shirt-sleeves and braces—terse telephone talk and film producer's atmosphere, he managed our stores accounts from Chester via Matsapa to Berlin. We shall miss him, and wish him every success for the future. RQMS Ramsden is to take over the chair, fresh from a "Q" course, and, notwithstanding, still with a disquieting interest in pot-holing, rock-climbing and all things energetic.

October saw us at Soltau, where, during the first few muddy days, Major Tomkins and the Advance Party moved camp three miles in appalling weather. However, a tented camp was erected in torrential rain ready for the Battalion when they arrived in fine weather. A Hudson Bay Company-type trading post was quickly set up and flourished under the direction of Sergeant Merchant, Corporal Wilkes and Privates Fox and Howting. Meanwhile, Corporal Ryder and the Trade Pioneers, apart from their official work, were doing a good trade with a "private enterprise" hot-dog stand. Corporal Harris and the Sanitary Squad organised a "rat hunt" in the interests of hygiene and their tales afterwards sounded like a report from a big game expedition. During the Soltau period RQMS Brown and Corporal Hewer remained in Berlin to wrestle with the complexities of the new "Simplified" Accounting system.

After returning to Berlin, Christmas was soon upon us. During the festive season Lance-Corporal "Chairs" Awford managed to manoeuvre the furniture so that the various functions were happily catered for.

Corporal Lee Radnege is currently representing the Battalion at soccer and boxing. Private Jack Howting is also a Battalion soccer player. Lance-Corporal Taylor is reported to be "on the books" of HQ Company and Manchester United.

A lot of work was done in preparation for the Battalion Training at Sennelager in February and March; however, two days before the Quartermaster was due to leave, training was cancelled. Whatever the reasons, Private "Wheels" Allwood was deprived of his "one decent, long cabby of the year", and the RQMS of three weeks peace and quiet. Feelings among the remainder of the staff were mixed but, well, the snow *was* deep. We wonder, sometimes, about 50 tons of ammunition on Sennelager railway sidings.

The cancellation of Sennelager training has given us additional time in which to make preparations for the visit of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester in April. We are hoping that we shall then be able to see some ex-QM's Staff members during the Imjin Day festivities.

## SUPPORT COMPANY

## ORBAT

Officer Commanding	.. ..	Captain W. R. N. Ladds
Company Sergeant-Major	.. ..	WOII R. Page
Company Quarter-Master-Sergeant	.. ..	Colour-Sergeant P. Weaving
OC Recce Platoon	.. ..	Lieutenant N. C. Richardson
OC Mortar Platoon	.. ..	Second-Lieutenant R. E. Thomas
OC Anti-Tank Platoon	.. ..	Second-Lieutenant N. C. Scott
OC Assault Pioneer Platoon	.. ..	Lieutenant D. R. Dixon

Since the last notes there have been few changes, except for the continuous trail of Colour-Sergeants. No sooner had Colour-Sergeant Goss guided us over the introduction of the new accounting system when he was posted as CSM "D" Company. Congratulations on his promotion, but it is a pity that he uses his car as a "Punch Bag". Private Brasier has achieved a life's ambition and has moved from the Company Office to the Arms Kôte. Lance-Corporal Shellem is now Corporal Dix's aspiring deputy.

Minns continues to lose items from the bedding store and wishes it to be known that there has never been any sharp practice with the laundry. We hope to see Colour-Sergeant Weaving in due course, but meanwhile, Sergeant Thorne is in the hot seat.

The Company had a successful three weeks at Soltau. All Platoons were put through their paces and found that they were not as rusty as they had thought. The mystique of the "Fire Support Cell" was maintained and CSM Page and Captain Ladds maintained a "constant brew" and managed to fend off all invaders.

Since Soltau, the Platoons have been reinforced and several long-standing Support Officers and NCOs have left us for civilian life or other jobs. Captain Mirehouse has taken over 2IC "A" Company, and we welcome Second-Lieutenant Thomas "hot foot" from Netheravon in his place. Captain Corrigan has now become completely immersed in "bumph" and commutes between "the stables" and "the keep". Lieutenant Richardson claims that he is the most hard-worked and misunderstood Recce Platoon Comd (allegedly keeping a watchful brief on Intelligence). Lieutenant Woodley has left Berlin to "corrupt" British youth as YLO Plymouth. Lieutenant Dixon has returned from ski-ing and it is strongly rumoured that he will remain with the "chunkies" for at least the next six months.

Sporting fixtures both before and after Christmas have been curtailed by the weather, but we have managed to complete some Hobbs Cup matches. Private Douglas and Cichy and Corporal Knight are congratulated on being Novice Boxing Champions. The hockey, football, basketball, swimming and rugby competitions have still to be completed. The Assault Pioneer Platoon did extremely well to come second in the Rawson Cup. Our GPMG Gunners under Corporal Chilcott's guidance did extremely well to win the inter-Company SF Competition. We still lead the Minor Units Berlin Brigade Soccer League but we haven't played a game for two months.

The cancellation of Sennelager was a bitter disappointment to the Company as there are no Support Weapons ranges in Berlin. It is hoped to get the Mortar and Anti-Tank Platoons away in May to Sennelager and to take part in the concentrations at Höhe and Putlos in June and July. Meanwhile, the Company is very busy preparing for the administrative inspection, and we will be providing a complete Guard for the Back Badge Parade.

# Smokers have met their match!



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BRITISH MADE BY BRYANT & MAY

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Mix Gordon's with  
Vermouth, Lemon,  
Lime or Tonic,  
... people find they're  
made for each other



This is the Gin

FAMOUS DRINKS IN YOUR MESS		
 <p>Rutherford and Miles <b>OLD TRINITY HOUSE</b> Bual Madeira</p>	<p>LEMON HART JAMAICA RUM. LAMB'S NAVY RUM. <i>Tia Maria</i> COFFEE LIQUEUR</p>	<p><b>Bénédictine</b> DOM <i>La Grande Liqueur Française</i></p> 
<p><b>NOVAL LB</b> THE PORT matured in the wood</p> 	<p><i>These and all other famous drinks are obtainable through N.A.A.F.I.</i></p>	<p>CROWN OF CROWNS LIEBFRAUMILCH</p> 
<p><b>Drambuie</b> THE LIQUEUR YOU PREFER TO BE OFFERED</p> 		<p><b>Carlsberg</b></p> 
<p>DUFF GORDON <b>EL CÍD</b> Amontillado Sherry</p> 	<p>Deliciously Different <b>CINZANO</b> THE BIANCO</p> 	<p>SOUTH AFRICAN SHERRY <i>The Luxury you can afford</i></p> 



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hundred  
years  
tradition

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The Governor and Company  
of Adventurers of England  
Trading into Hudson's Bay  
INCORPORATED 2nd MAY 1670

WHITE HORSE WHISKY  
GOES RIGHT  
ROUND THE WORLD



It is hoped that by the next notes Block 52 will be repainted. This is subject to the beer intake of the contractors.

### MORTAR PLATOON

Recent events in the Mortar Platoon have centred around a period of "all change". There has been a large influx of young, energetic talent, all of whom are determined to uphold and add further distinctions to the Platoon's acknowledged traditions.

Several people have inevitably disappeared from the scene to make way for new blood. Corporal Ford and Corporal Kendall have gone "civvy"; Corporal Ford having joined the long arm of the Law, whilst the latter is just having a rest and growing his hair. Sergeant Thorne is now Support Company CQMS, MT Tech Sgt and about a dozen other appointments (so he claims). Lance-Corporal Chamber's gleaming skull now adorns the Recce Platoon vehicles and several more NCOs are hoping to improve their careers with Rifle Companies, including Corporal Thorner, Lance-Corporal Wafer, Lance-Corporal Robb and Lance-Corporal Toogood. The Platoon also has a new director of operations, Second-Lieutenant R. E. Thomas having succeeded Captain G. E. W. R. Mirehouse. So far, the most striking result of this change is that the Platoon Fund is thriving and money-making schemes rival training directives for priority. We now look forward to spending all this cash, or perhaps it should be called liquid assets.

Since the last issue of these notes, the Battalion has received Mortar Support at Soltau. Certain standards of platoon comfort were sacrificed as vehicle canopies were removed to produce a combat image. However, the Battalion test exercise proved the Platoon was still able to locate their "wheels", even in the dark.

Christmas followed shortly after the return from Soltau and again the Platoon excelled by apparently getting itself on block leave. It certainly seemed that this was the case at Muster Parade until almost a month later. Certain members of the Platoon found the attractions of "Blighty" so compelling they failed to arrive at the airport at the scheduled time for their return flight.

Unfortunately, in a station like Berlin, we get few opportunities for live firing and this made the last-minute cancellation of training at Sennelager particularly disappointing for those members of the Platoon who have yet to place a live round in a barrel. Others were particularly quick to point out the compensations of this cancellation (especially the married personnel). During the period, some of the Platoon went to Sennelager to compete in a GPMG SF Shoot. Under the guidance of Corporal Chilcott the Company succeeded in winning the competition on what, for mortarmen, is an unfamiliar weapon.

As there are several new Lance-Corporals in the Platoon it has been necessary for them to be released to attend Potential NCO Cadres. On the Cadre that finished in February, Lance-Corporal O'Shea succeeded in being placed first in the order of merit. The fact that Corporal Chilcott was one of the instructors apparently had absolutely no bearing on this result! Lance-Corporals Fry, Peart and Scovell are now all trying to emulate this excellent performance on the next Cadre.

As always, the Platoon continues to provide the nucleus of Company sports teams and also a fair proportion of Battalion teams. Recent weather conditions have severely limited the playing of outdoor sports and many are becoming impatient for a game of soccer, rugby or hockey. Only the skiers have been lucky since Christmas, and a large backlog

of all the other outdoor games fixtures is building up. The playing of these fixtures will provide us with one of our main tasks in the coming months.

We shall also be preparing for Berlin's many parades, when "spit and polish" will be at a premium. Finally, in June many will get the awaited opportunity to fire live ammunition when the Platoon participates in the mortar concentration at Hühne. A busy time lies ahead before we even begin to think of the move back to Honiton.

### RECCE PLATOON

The last contribution to these notes was made prior to our visit to the Soltau training area in West Germany. Soltau provided the Platoon with the rare opportunity to train in unrestricted areas without the normal loss of personnel on Berlin duties. Two full-scale Battalion exercises lasting 2-3 days gave us the chance to exercise within the normal Recce Platoon concept and this was greatly enjoyed by all. For a time there was much speculation as to the re-equipping of the Platoon with horses as it was known that Captain Corrigan had been on a long equitation course. This rumour was in no way lessened when he was seen in the company with a well-known horse trader. Alas, Captain Corrigan soon parted company with the Platoon and the daily jargon reverted from "fodder up" to "tank up". Another highlight of this period was a daring ambush laid by Corporal McEvoy with the aid of Lance-Corporal Gray and Private Ellis. They waited for some hours until the enemy approached and watched them enter the killing area. Alas, their aim was not good enough with pick helms and radio antenna, and the enemy escaped; Corporal McEvoy has recently undertaken more advanced training in rat extermination.

Christmas saw the Platoon on the wire (Zonal Border) and now with a year passed they are "old sweats" to a man, and the "Goon" (East German Border Guards) receive little sympathy as they carry out their inhuman task.

With the passing of time the usual casualty roll has mounted and we are sorry to have lost Privates Clarke and Ellis and Sergeant Cavill who has returned to the heliograph Platoon. Also, we are sorry to have lost Captain Corrigan who has disappeared to the depths of Battalion HQ as Assistant Adjutant. We have been pleased to receive reinforcements in the form of Privates Fisher and Gallaher and Lance-Corporal Chambers. In the place of Sergeant Cavill comes Sergeant Skinner fresh from the Depot and as Platoon Commander comes Lieutenant Richardson when he ventures from his Int Office. We will also be sorry to say farewell to Private Christian and Corporal Cullinane who will have left us by the time we go to press. Further replacements would have been needed had Lance-Corporal Tony Cook succeeded in sinking the new Platoon Command. Having encouraged him on to the ice covering a lake across which ran the zonal border, he proceeded to demonstrate how Eskimos fish and was well advanced with his circle of holes around the Platoon Command when a flare fired by a "Goon" sent them in search of the shore.

The last feature in this edition goes to the Berlin Crisis of early March. The Platoon were fortunate in having to provide a section to drive to West Germany along the controversial autobahn. On the day, though only once delayed by the Soviets, the section drove west, and in the area of the Elbe River saw large quantities of tanks, guns and armoured cars close at hand. The Platoon are grateful to Marshall Yacobovsky for this most interesting lesson in recognition of AFVs.

We close these notes as we prepare for a Battalion two-day exercise when the platoon will act as enemy, a task which has been received with unusual enthusiasm.

### ANTI-TANK PLATOON

It should be spring, but the Platoon has just returned from a two-day exercise with two or three inches of snow on the ground and sub-zero temperatures. At least, the snow limits RSMs drill.

Lieutenant Woodley has left us for a "chairborne" appointment in Plymouth and we welcome Second-Lieutenant Scott as his replacement. We feel that the strain of the Grunewald by day and the Eden Playboy Club by night was too much for Mr. Woodley.

Corporals Chittenden, Whitcher and Dickerson and Private Jefferies have left the Platoon. "Chitt" for "C" Company, "Dick" for "Rodent Officer" in the QMs and Corporal Whitcher and Private Jefferies for "civvy street".

We welcome Sergeant Wardle, Corporal Whittall and Privates Cichy, Mapp and Wood. All our new arrivals have successfully passed the cadre. Well done Corporal Whittall, who beat a lot of the "old sweats".

Under Corporal Boon we provided most of the Company cross-country team. Well done Corporal Boon, Lance-Corporals Kearney and Goodyear and Privates Putley, Ramsden and Clatworthy, not forgetting Lieutenant Woodley. Corporal Knight and Private Cichy were novice boxing champions and command a lot of respect. Burnett claims it was only Second-Lieutenant Wakelin's rank which saved him from total destruction. Privates Courtenay, Kelly and Cichy play regularly for the 1st XI Soccer and several members of the Platoon have been to the winter resorts to ski.

Soltau was extremely good value and we managed to convince the Rifle Platoons that manhandling a "Mobat" uphill in mud is no easy task. When we were allowed to use our Unimogs we beat the REME for recovery jobs. Our map reading on occasions left a lot to be desired, but some members homed in on a "Gasthaus" for what promised to be a costly drink.

We should have gone to Sennelager this month but our Russian and East German friends decided to be difficult. By holding an exercise along the Corridor they did give an excellent opportunity for sharpening up our AFV recognition. We hope to blood our new arrivals in May and look forward to the annual concentration at Putlos in July.

Congratulations to Private McGowan on his marriage, and Private Gordon needs a "pat on the back" for getting him to the church on time.

Our next notes, with any luck, will be written in Honiton.

(How wrong you are! (Asst. Editor).)

### ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

After a pleasant summer spent sun-bathing and "cementing" Anglo-German relations at the Berlin Brigade Canoe Club, the Platoon was fully engaged in the Battalion's preparations for Soltau and the Brigadier's test exercise. The Havel was again crossed in assault boats at night by the Battalion to save the mythical island of Grunewald from being overrun yet again by the Liberation Forces of Redland. Lieutenant Dixon and Colour-Sergeant Palmer spent an anxious half hour watching a class 12 raft with Land-

Rover, CO, 2IC and RSM aboard go round and round in ever increasing circles in the middle of the Havel until Lance-Corporal Whiting eventually managed to lasso the shore.

The Platoon was on the advance party to Soltau and morale sank at the sight of this barren stretch of north-west Germany which was to be our base over the next three weeks. However, things were quickly organised, and our first task was to be enemy to the Battalion for its five-day "shake-out" exercise. This proved to be great fun, acting as a highly mobile hit-and-run force always "bugging out" at the last moment in trucks, APCs or tanks as the sweating Rifle Platoons tried to lay their hands on us.

On the Brigade test exercise we blew up a bridge with a thunderflash and once again dug in Battalion HQ to new specifications drawn up by Captain Ladds which we presumed included rest rooms, a kitchen and bathroom by the amount of digging we had to do.

We returned to Berlin after a trip to Hamburg, of which some of the Platoon took advantage, to make up for the needs which the Salvation Army truck could not supply.

The return to Berlin heralded the preparations for the festive season which was celebrated in the traditional manner. Lieutenant Dixon, accompanied by Private Sparkes, went off for two months ski-ing with the Ski Team. Corporal Coombe and Private Broad also went to Bavaria on a course and became very competent skiers. The snow arrived in Berlin in February and the Platoon took to the skis as often as possible in the Grunewald. Their efforts were recorded on film for posterity by the Platoon's publicity manager, Corporal Wratten.

As the notes close we have just come second in the Rawson Cup, a very creditable performance by the Platoon.

We have said goodbye to Private "Speedy" Caple who has retired from army life much to Colour-Sergeant Palmer's disappointment. We wish him and his new doctor all the best in civvy street. Corporal Wratten is also about to retire and will certainly be missed by the Platoon, mainly for his ability to conjure up hot tea and curry in the most improbable situations. We all wish him the very best of luck.

#### WARRANT OFFICERS' AND SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last edition, the Mess has been extremely busy. The period leading up to Christmas can be described as somewhat hectic due to an extremely hard-working Entertainments Committee, ably chaired by Ron Bishop. They succeeded in organising functions on an average of two per month, much to the enjoyment of Mess members, the most notable of which was the "Montmartre" Night, which included a Cabaret produced and directed by Mick Chappell.

The Christmas Draw, held on December 21, can only be described as entertaining and highly successful. Norman Tuggey, through his contacts with the New Eden night club, hired "Vikki", a Hungarian entertainer, to come and sing for us. I wonder if it is a coincidence that the members of the Draw Committee won at least two prizes each?

The New Year's Eve Fancy Dress Ball marked the end of the Christmas festivities. From then onwards, due to alterations to the Mess, we are confined to the cellar, which, although cosy and full of atmosphere, does not lend itself to large-scale entertaining.

Hector Wake is still keen on cycling and says he can save DM 2 per day by cycling to his various destinations in Berlin as well as keeping fit at the same time, although there is an element of doubt as to his real reason for keeping fit!!

Although the Back Badge Parade is not taking place until April 26, the traditional Back Badge Ball was held on March 21, in the Charlottenburg Rathaus. This is the highlight of our year, and was truly a magnificent evening. The comments of our many guests were full of praise, especially for the spectacle of the changing of the Old and New Guards. The Old Guard was dressed in a replica of 1801 uniform which had recently been made.

We say goodbye to those members who have left us since the last edition; to Bandmaster Carson, who left us for another Band with hardly any warning (no doubt he will soon be giving Band Concerts in his new Mess), to "Ollie" Halstead, Fred Brisland and "Bootsie" Quail, who have completed their service; we wish them all well in their new careers, and hope they come to see us when we return to England.

Finally, we welcome and extend our hands to Bandmaster Scholfield and to the newly-joined members of the Mess and hope you enjoy Mess life as much as we do.

#### FAMILIES OFFICE

It seems difficult to realise that after a long, hard winter in Berlin this edition will be read in the warm sunlight of a summer. The Families Office have managed to survive the trials and tribulations of the cold of Berlin and have come into their own having divorced themselves from the PRI, at last.

"Ye Olde Families Officer" continues to thrive in his well-heated emporium, but his staff has changed with Colour-Sergeant Merchant as the new second-in-command and Lance-Corporal Dumas as the new junior clerk. The continuity is upheld by Corporal Curtin whose only regret appears to be that we will not be staying in Berlin for ever.

Throughout the winter months the "Ladies" of the Regiment have continued to clamour for their shopping trips to the East, and many bargains must have been purchased from the other side of the wall. The Families staff and the wives were pleasantly surprised that the bus managed to move at all on the return trip from East Berlin before Christmas. Never has a bus designed to carry 45 passengers seemed so small as when all "Les girls" returned with their Christmas presents and other goodies. Anyway, we made it and lived to tell the tale.

From the buying of Christmas presents we moved to the arrival of Father Christmas and children's parties. As usual, the WOs and Sgts Mess provided excellent organisation and entertainment and the tea organised by PRI and supplied by NAAFI was very good. For a change, Father Christmas did not appear to have any complaints from the children (or parents) about the type or quality of the presents. There was a technical hitch on the arrival of Father Christmas and the non-appearance of the films for one of the parties, but a worried Families Officer was informed that it was only the parents who were upset, the children having not noticed anything wrong.

The snow is at last beginning to go and we are all looking forward to the spring and summer months and our big Imjin week-end with the Old Comrades. I am sure, that, somehow, Berlin and the Regiment (including families) will withstand the impact of about 100 Old Comrades (and some wives) for a two-day period. Some people seem to have their doubts.

## RUGBY NOTES 1968-69 SEASON

Being in Berlin has resulted in a frustrating season. The weather has played havoc with the fixture lists, with snow on the ground from early December until late March.

At the start of the season the rugby club looked set for a promising and enjoyable year. Two fifteens were able to take the field and competition was keen to gain a place in the first team.

From the start, the pattern of play of both teams developed from the two very mobile packs supported by backs that, when in form, produced some sparkling rugby. It was this mobility on the field that resulted in the Battalion team winning the Berlin Brigade Cup, and only losing to the runners-up of the BAOR section of the Army Cup through penalties. This latter game was fast and furious, and, in spite of heavy pressure on their line, 32 Armd Engr Regt managed to keep the Glosters out, taking advantage of errors by superb kicking by their team captain.

It is with regret that the club has said farewell to Private Jefferies. Private Ford has retired to the 2nd XV, where he is bringing on younger players, after many years of first-class service as scrum half for the Battalion team. Corporal Chilcott has succeeded in producing a spirited 2nd XV that has supported the club well during the season.

Major Bill Turner left us in December having spent much time and energy coaching the players and fostering an excellent club spirit. All were sad to see him go and wish him success in his new post.

Thoughts are now turning to next season as our last before amalgamation. Every club member is determined to make this the best yet.

It is with much regret that, after four seasons with the club, I must move on to a new post. I would like to thank all players for their co-operation both on and off the field and wish them all the best for next year. (Captain Dutton.)

## BOXING NOTES

Boxing in the Battalion has seen a welcome burst of enthusiasm over the last nine months. Companies have let Battalion boxers train for quite long periods at a stretch, and the results have been adequate compensation. There are still too many "old lags" in the team, but with the novices boxing standard "as high as I have ever seen", as the Commanding Officer said, we can look forward to an infusion of fresh blood next season.

In mid-summer we boxed a "friendly" match against the Spandau boxing club, one of the leading Berlin clubs. Despite promises to match the boxers evenly, we were, for the most part, hopelessly outmatched by a fitter, more professional, and more experienced team. It was great credit to Second-Lieutenant Ongley and Private O'Flaherty that they won their fights, and Lance-Corporal Hodder drew. However, beside demonstrating the undoubted "guts" of the team, and achieving Anglo-German goodwill, the contact led to promises of help in training from the club, with its excellent facilities. We took advantage of these, and under Second-Lieutenant Ongley's enthusiastic leadership, the team began to train for their first match in the BAOR Unit competition. We boxed 1 Staffords on November 11 for the Berlin Brigade Major Units Trophy, and achieved a comfortable 9-2 win, and entry to the next round. Corporal Gleeson and Corporal Mansford lost narrowly on points, but out of the remaining nine, all were convincing wins, including knock-outs by Corporal Gaze and Colour-Sergeant Goss, and RSBs by Lance-Corporal Goss and Private O'Flaherty.

On December 9, we went down 9—2 to 3 RGJ, eventual team winners of the BAOR Cup. Again, every man fought with great pluck, Corporal Collins gaining a KO in the second round, and O'Flaherty an RSB in the first. Colour-Sergeant Goss and Private Llewellyn were both very unlucky to lose. This ended the team efforts for the season, but four of our boxers took part in the BAOR individuals.

Corporal Gaze and Lance-Corporal Hodder lost in the quarter-finals, and Private Llewellyn in the semi-finals, but Private O'Flaherty went on to complete his most spectacular triumph of the season by putting away three opponents on successive days to gain the BAOR individual heavy-weight title. He then went on to Tidworth for the Army championships, where he went down in the third round of his first fight, having led comfortably on points. We wish him better luck next year, and more strength in that right hand!

In the Novices Boxing, "B" Company coasted home to win with Sp Company second, and "D" Company third. As remarked before, the standard was very high, and owed much to the enthusiasm of the Companies in training their teams. SSI Crooks and the gymnasium staff are to be congratulated on their hard work in providing such a good meeting.

#### HOCKEY NOTES

At the time of writing, the weather in Berlin has been so bad that none of the Major, Minor Unit League, or KO Competitions have been completed. However, before the bad weather really settled in, in early December, a lot of most enjoyable hockey had been played and the Battalion were experiencing one of their most successful seasons for years.

The Berlin Major Unit League, still uncompleted, looks very healthy for 1 Glosters as results to date read:

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
6	6	0	0	21	2	12

The 1st rounds of the Army Cup again brought bitter disappointments to a good team that appear dogged by ill-luck in this Competition. Having travelled to Wolfenbuttel in the 1st round and completed a comfortable 2—0 win over 5 RTR, we were then faced with a 2nd round tie against the formidable 3rd Royal Green Jackets at Celle. However, with dozens of their Regiment cheering on the side lines, their reputation seemed to be going under when, by half time, 1 Glosters had built up a comparatively comfortable 2—0 lead. The dream of things going right for us in Army Cup Matches was soon shattered when, half way through the 2nd half, 3 RGJ piled on tremendous pressure and scored 3 goals in as many minutes. Surprisingly enough, 1 Glosters did not capitulate after this set-back and the final 15 minutes brought constant pressure on the Green Jackets goal—but to no avail. Having led by 2 goals to nil we finally bowed out of the Competition by 3—2.

Leading goal scorers in all matches to date:

Sergeant Cooke	..	..	..	..	..	9
Corporal Carbin	..	..	..	..	..	7
WOI (Bandmaster) Carson	..	..	..	..	..	6

The regular 1st team for the season, in order of position, has been: Corporal Hole, WOI (Bandmaster) Carson (Capt.), Corporal Halford, Colour-Sergeant Matthews, Sergeant Owen, Sergeant Wake, Bandsman Jones, Second-Lieutenant Richardson, Corporal Cook, Captain Colvert (RAEC), and Corporal Carbin. Captain Mirehouse and

Second-Lieutenant Hardick have also helped out occasionally when not starring in the Battalion rugby team.

One of the main reasons for the team's success is that the Battalion has once again entered two teams in the Major Unit Competitions. This gives excellent match practice to our many good reserves and, although the results have not been good, a word of praise is due to them for the wonderful team spirit they have shown, combined with a "never-say-die" attitude.

During the three months of icy conditions, a very good Berlin five-a-side indoor KO Competition was arranged, and 1 Glosters came through with flying colours. The competition was split into "A" and "B" sections and the results were as follows:

"A" Section 1st round, 229 Sigs "A" .. ..	3	1 Glosters "A" .. ..	2
"B" Section 1st round, 229 Sigs "B" .. ..	2	1 Glosters "B" .. ..	8
Semi-final, 9th/12th Lancers "B" .. ..	2	1 Glosters "B" .. ..	11
Final, 1 Glosters "B" .. ..	10	Bde HQ/BMH "B" .. ..	1
"A" and "B" Section finalists play-off, 1 Glosters "B" .. ..	5	229 Sigs "A" .. ..	4

The "B" team in this competition was represented by: WOI Carson, Sergeant Owen, Sergeant Cooke, Corporal Carbin and Bandsman Jones.

#### ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL NOTES

Playing record to March 30, 1969: Played 15; Won 8; Drawn 2; Lost 5; Goals for, 39; Goals against, 28.

The season started with great hopes for the team. We had trained hard and had adopted a 4-3-3 system of play and seemed set for a very exciting season. Unfortunately after a few initial successes, the goals just did not come. The defence was very tight but the forwards could not make many breaks and did not take well those chances that were offered.

In November, we adopted a 4-2-4 system to try to give more width and variety to the attack. The players were immediately happier with this and gradually success started to come. Unfortunately, the team had already been knocked out of the Army Cup and had suffered a few defeats in the Berlin league. However, despite the bad weather which stopped most football for about three months, the Battalion has now beaten all the other teams in Berlin.

The last of these victories was on March 12 when we beat 2nd Battalion The Light Infantry by 5 goals to 3, thus winning the Berlin Knockout Shield. Hopes are now high for the League competition in which we now need to win all our remaining matches.

In the BAOR Infantry Cup we are again through to the semi-final. Readers will probably remember that we were beaten in extra time last year by the eventual winners. This year we have beaten our neighbours, 1 Staffords, by 3 goals to 2, and also the hot favourites, 1 Gordons, by 3 goals to nil. The latter game took place at Sennelager on March 26 and was a triumph of tight, defensive play allied with fast breaks from which the forwards took their chances.

Of the team personalities, we have now lost Corporals "Les" Radnege and "Reg" Ford to civilian life, where we wish them luck. Absolute newcomers to the team are few, but special mention must be made of Lance-Corporals Pinnell and Courtenay for their efforts at the back and the front respectively. Older Battalion players will be

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pleased to hear that Lance-Corporal "Para" Chambers is playing as well as ever and still keeps up morale with his "After-Dinner Speeches". Sergeant "Dusty" Miller is the team coach—when he can be spared—and he can always be relied upon to convince the team that arguing with the referee just does not pay! Lance-Corporal "Jim" Cox the team captain, is in hospital at the moment, and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

Goal scorers this season have been: Private Cichy 11, Private Keay 6, Corporal Ford 5, Lance-Corporals Cox, Courtenay and Roussetty 4 each, Corporal Radnege 3, Corporal Wadley and Lance-Corporal Chambers 1 each.

At Company level, Minor Unit League matches are just restarting after the snow, and Support Company are well placed to win this League. A very well-supported Inter-Platoon Six-a-side Competition was held in September and won by the Mortar Platoon. Also, the Battalion was introduced to indoor football with a Five-a-side Competition held in the Gymnasium during February. This was also well supported and was won by Support Company.

The Hobbs Cup Competition has had to be postponed twice to date, but will be fitted in somehow!

All in all it has been an interesting season and with success achieved and more in sight, the team and its many supporters are looking forward to the next six weeks.

#### SKI-ING NOTES

Whatever else the 28th/61st may have done this winter we have most certainly been ski-ing. We have sent a total of 76 officers and men on formal ski courses, quite apart from Battalion team training and the plentiful local training here in Berlin. Broadly speaking there were two types of course that could be taken—a three-week ordeal at the Corps Winter Warfare Training Centre at Silberhutte in the Harz mountains (always referred to as "Silberhutte"), or a three-week "jolly" learning downhill ski-ing at the Berlin Brigade Ski Centre, situated in a German Army barracks in Mittenwald, Bavaria. For the first two months of the season the administration of the Centre was the happy responsibility of the Battalion, and Lieutenant Dixon, Lieutenant Hadfield and a small but select party had a cheap and long holiday.

We also entered three competitions during the season—the 1st Divisional Championships, held at Mittenwald, the BAOR Championships at Oberjoch (for which we were selected, due to our success at Mittenwald) and the Alpine equivalent of the Nijmegen marches, held at Lenk in Switzerland. The full story of this last meeting is told elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it to say that we were the first British team ever to take part, and that, in spite of having all the wrong gear, our team still finished the course, and that we will know better next time.

Local ski-ing in Berlin has been great fun. Before the snow came we were lucky enough to be given the Brigade Ski Stores to run, thus having at our disposal 70 pairs of cross-country skis if nobody else in the Brigade should want them. The winter, so the Berliners say, has been the worst since 1947. From a ski-ing point of view it has been the best, and strings of Glosters on cross-country skis have been seen loping around the rides and glades of the Grunewald. Lance-Corporal Morris, of the Assault Pioneers, ably assisted by Private Hudson, has had the exasperating task of running the Brigade ski store, and has done it remarkably well. Alpine ski-ing has been possible to a limited extent on

“Staff College Hill”, an artificial mountain made out of a part of the rubble cleared from the streets of the city since the end of the war.

The piste, however, is limited, and crowded to capacity at weekends and on holidays, when the very air is thick with hurtling Berliners.

### **Silberhutte**

Captain Newbould, Lieutenant Webster and 58 other stalwarts attended courses at the WWTC during the season. In addition to learning to move about on patrol skis they also learnt valuable Winter Warfare techniques. Captain Newbould has contributed an account of his course to this issue. After the racing season had ended Captain Firth and Corporal Davis joined the Centre as instructors, along with Sergeant Hunt, who ran the Sergeants Mess, and Private Seers, who worked in the Orderly Room. Courses ran until April—a very long season.

### **Mittenwald**

Major Coppen-Gardner, Lieutenant Cable and 14 others went on Alpine ski courses at Mittenwald during the season. Mittenwald being beyond Munich, the journey to and from each course was fraught with interest. At Mittenwald accommodation was provided in either the German Barracks or at pensions in the town. All enjoyed their courses. The Battalion ski team trained at Mittenwald. Notes on their training and competitions are as follows:

### **Langlauf team**

The Battalion langlauf ski team arrived in Mittenwald at the beginning of December to find everything they wanted except snow, and indeed, no prospect of any for several weeks. The tedious business of getting fit was begun, made more pleasant than usual, however, by the local countryside. Each day a different peak of the German Alps were “bashed”, culminating in a two-day assault on the Zugspitze, Germany’s highest mountain (about 10,000 feet). At last, on Christmas Eve, the snow arrived and proper training started. Privates Coster and Putley and Lieutenant Dixon improved quickly in style and technique, thanks to their experience last season, whilst Lance-Corporal Simons and Privates Sparkes and Cox made good progress with their basic ski-ing ability. They proved to be a most reliable second team. Corporal Davies, already an accomplished Alpine skier, also picked up langlauf remarkably quickly, and found himself somewhat overworked during ski meetings as he had to ski in every single event—the only skier in all BAOR to do so.

At the 1st Divisional Championships at Mittenwald we fielded two teams, the first led by Lieutenant Dixon and the second by the Commanding Officer in person. At this meeting, in spite of a broken ski, we qualified to go forward to the BAOR meeting, in Oberjoch, finishing seventh out of 22 teams.

At Oberjoch we found the standard much higher, facing teams who had been able to train for several months in Norway. However, despite this, everyone went flat out, and our best result was in the 4 x 10 km relay, in which we came 17th out of 35 teams. The biathlon races provided tremendous experience and we hope that this can be carried forward to next season as the potential in the Battalion is now very good.

Those who represented the Battalion in langlauf ski-ing during the 1969 season were

the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Dixon (capt.), Corporal Davies, Lance-Corporal Simons and Privates Hoare, Coster, Putley, Sparkes and Cox.

### Alpine team

With the late arrival of snow in Mittenwald and with some delay in the arrival of the team captain, the real skiers didn't begin team training until a mere 10 days before the start of the 1st Divisional Championships. Two members of the 1968 team were available—Lieutenant Hadfield and the ubiquitous Corporal Davies. They were joined by Captain Firth and Second-Lieutenant C. K. Richardson. The team hired an instructor in Mittenwald who, besides emptying our pockets, managed to drum the elements of downhill racing into us. Army regulations insist that we can only have our lodgings paid for if we take part in the 15 km cross-country race that begins each Championship (a prospect that makes any true skier shudder), and thus we took part in one before the start of the downhill events at the 1st Divisional Championships.

This ordeal over, we proceeded to take part in the Championships, coming, to our astonishment, 4th out of the nine teams competing, and beating many well-known performers.

We had intended to finish the competitive season at this point, but, having been quite successful, it was decided that we should be allowed to go on to the BAOR championships at Oberjoch, to which we had become qualified. We therefore packed and moved to Oberjoch, which was being used for both the BAOR and the European Universities championships at the same time. As bad luck would have it, the weather broke and the meeting ended with the slalom (our best event by far) still to be run. It rained incessantly, reducing some skiers to making practice runs in macintoshes. We ended placed 14th.

We very much hope that we will be able to ski next year—thanks to the PRI being Ski-ing Officer we now have some excellent racing skis and, with reasonable luck, our team should be intact. It consisted of Captain S. D. A. Firth, Lieutenant A. S. Hadfield, Lieutenant C. K. Richardson, Corporal J. Davies.

### SADDLE CLUB NOTES

The fortunes of the Saddle Club continue on the upward trend since our last notes. We are glad to welcome back Lance-Corporal Andrews as head lad, after a brief foray to investigate the possibilities of civilian life, and we have also acquired Privates Guisley and Rosedale from 1 Staffords.

Instructional lessons have continued and we still have a fair number of soldiers who are learning the equestrian art. One notable feature has been the wives classes, under the direction of Mrs. Hanson, which have been very successful and have exercised both horses and riders during the normally bleak winter months in the indoor school.

We shall shortly be moving up to the summer stables in Stadion Allee, and we hope to be able to compete in some of the shows organised by the French and Germans during the summer season.

The polo pitch has been sited on the Maifeldt and we look forward to the warmer weather so that we can take part.

With the arrival of "A" Sqn 9/12 R Lancers it is hoped to be able to field a Berlin

Brigade polo side, although at present we have not sufficient ponies to mount a purely regimental team.

The indoor school has recently taken on the appearance of a film set for the battle of Borodino as the Battalion 2IC and Adjutant, like inspired Cossacks with swords flashing and hooves pounding, practice for the Back Badge Parade, which, for the first time since the war, is to be mounted. The parade horses are borrowed from the West Berlin Police, our own being used for drill practice. While it has not proved possible to teach the horses to walk in step, the parade should nevertheless be extremely impressive, provided the mounted officers remain mounted.

## THE WESSEX DEPOT

It is with regret that I have to report that the recent recruiting figures have diminished considerably. There are at present three platoons of well under 20 men apiece under training. This is, perhaps, largely due to the number of throwouts and non-suitability cases rising. There is normally one platoon based on the Plasterdown Camp, doing their concentrated Battle Training period. This monthly concentrated training has become a success in spite of the somewhat "poor" living conditions.

The innovation of Corsham, Wilts, as a Selective establishment has the aim of giving the potential soldier an insight into Army life. This idea was only put to the test at the end of 1968 and has met with great success.

We all congratulate Corporal Atkinson upon his marriage in February and wish him every success. He is at present serving with the Drums at The Depot and is due to be posted back to the Battalion this coming summer. In the same vein, we also convey our congratulations to Captain Rostron, Lieutenant Denley, and Lieutenant Wakelin upon their recent engagements. Yet more broken hearts bite the dust!

Captain A. G. Hill and Lieutenant N. R. Barker have recently returned from three weeks mountaineering and rock-climbing in the Lake District and a week's ski-ing at Aviemore, Scotland. Captain Hill's only comment "It's great to be mounted back on skis again". Both are at present enjoying life to the full with the Junior Soldiers Company.

Few new faces have appeared at the Depot since the last edition of *THE BACK BADGE*! Lieutenant Cangley has taken over a Training Platoon vice the departure of Lieutenant James now serving with The Trucial Oman Scouts! At this stage it is worth mentioning that Lieutenant James's present Adjutant is Captain Holman! With summer coming on, it is questionable whether we shall be seeing much of Lieutenant Cangley who goes on three months parachuting with effect from May. We congratulate him upon passing his driving test at the second attempt! Our only other newcomer is Corporal Day who is also with a platoon in Training Company. Sergeant "Paddy" Shaw recently rejoined the Battalion in Berlin where we wish him well.

As usual, the Depot has had its share of visiting Glosters. Lieutenant Hoole, who recently succeeded Lieutenant Denley, stayed with us overnight during an AYT Conference. Corporal Tibble has now begun his civilian career having completed his re-settlement course.

On more mundane matters, our Annual Admin Inspection on January 21 was conducted by Major-General Acton, CBE, and went off without a hitch, but with the usual pre-admin flap.

On the sporting side, the nature of work here with its full combat training time-table to adhere to, means that fully organised inter-unit sport is virtually impossible. However, an occasional soccer XI and regular hockey team have been successful. With the arrival of Lieutenant Cangle, basketball appears to be coming into its own at the Depot. The teams consist, predominantly, of the permanent staff with the recruits, less junior soldier, getting very little time for external recreation.

Finally, it is with a sense of frustration that we await the results of the Amalgamation Committee. However, whatever the outcome, we all feel that the amalgamation will be a tremendous success.

## 25 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

January saw the hand-over of command between Lieutenant Denley and Lieutenant Hoole. The fortnight was spent mainly in a locked office discussing the many devious ways of fixing officers' claims. At the end of the takeover Mr. Hoole emerged looking pale but elated, Mr. Denley spent and exhausted, but confession being good for the soul, left us for Berlin in good spirits having passed on the subtle methods of extracting a passport to London each week.

The new ginger broom sweeping clean has led us into many ambitious and successful endeavours, not the least of which has been our involvement as sailing instructors at the South Cerney Water Sports Centre. Many enjoyable days spent at South Cerney have resulted in us now being competent enough to instruct youngsters in sailing and canoeing. It has also resulted in having one of the happiest dogs in England, Seamus, reunited with the Army after an enforced absence since Chester days.

At the time of printing, there is much activity and hard work going on preparing for a mammoth competition at Cranham with all the mid-Glos Youth Clubs taking part. It consists of a Military type of "It's a Knockout" competition inspired by the popular television programme. Sponsored by Coca-Cola and televised by Harlech ITV it promises to put 25 AYT really and truly on the map.

Close combat now being taboo as far as entertainment is concerned, we have had to search for other activities to occupy the Youth Clubs. Investment in archery equipment has resulted in one or two budding Robin Hoods and an early migration of pigeons from Robinswood Barracks.

Night exercises are always popular, and our latest one, in February, coincided with the coldest day in the Forest of Dean since 1946. Eventually, at 3.30 a.m., with only a quarter of the participants still on their feet, we had to call it a day.

Corporal Bloor, an old member of the team, will be pleased to hear "his" Mini-bus is still on the road due to much love, affection and frequent trips to Steels by Corporal Minchin. Sergeant Stafford, of the RIT, who has established some sort of record by wrecking two Land-Rovers in one week, now assures us that he has got the hang of it.

The wives of Lance-Corporal Whittal and Corporal Minchin are both expecting a happy event in the summer, duplication being one of the problems of the team we are working to get right.

Perhaps the most amusing incident so far was the sight of Private Deacon's red and agitated face peering over the side of a capsized yacht to which he was clinging frantically. We are all looking forward to a long and hot summer with many and varied activities.



### “A” COMPANY (GLOUCESTERSHIRE) THE WESSEX VOLUNTEERS

1969 is New Look Year. After a brief two years, Wessex Volunteers are reorganising so that the nerve centre can move to the middle of the area in which the Unit lives—from Exeter to Trowbridge. This will put an end, it is hoped, to petrol shortages, excessive travelling by the permanent staff, and so on, as well as the frayed tempers attendant upon these things.

There are new hands at the helm, too, and New Look is the name given to a series of exercises during 1969, designed, if the first was any guide, to show whether the Volunteers are capable of applying to a practical situation the training which has been going on for the last couple of years.

Ex New Look I, at the end of March, was a Company Advance to Contact, Patrolling, Attack exercise on Salisbury Plain. A novelty to most of us, was a troop of armoured cars from 3 RTR; how to utilise combined armour and infantry resources is something which we hardly ever come across; what an ocean of military topics there is, the complications of which one never begins to understand until faced with a new problem.

Your correspondent had always regarded the appointment of a soldier to the job of radio operator as an excuse for him to become Company Champion in grumbling and never-being-in-the-right-place-at-the-right-time. Having dressed up in an A 41 and walked half-way across the map without, it seemed, stopping at all, your correspondent is pleased to announce that radio operators are *persona grata*, and applicants for the job will be given every encouragement.

A great deal more walking was done than an office or factory job lead a man to expect, and though most members of the Company were probably killed a couple of times by the defending forces during the course of the week-end, the final attack was well executed and few people failed to stay the course. Biggest surprises were for Corporal Attwood, who arrived on the ground to find himself promoted to acting Platoon Commander, and Private Price, M., who arrived on the ground, horizontally, to find that he was sitting in two feet of muddy water. Both are believed to have recovered.

On this occasion we had to return for a complete clean-up and check of kit, for the annual administrative inspection was to take place on the following Tuesday. At one stage, chaos was imminent as the CQMS's store spewed its contents into a drill hall



South Cerney Watersports Centre  
Members of 25 Army Youth Team  
Top photo: Sergeant M. Young, Private R. Deacon (in water), Lance-Corporal C. Whitall,  
M. Warren (Warden) and Corporal C. Minchin  
Bottom photo: Sergeant M. Young, Corporal C. Minchin, Private R. Deacon, Lieutenant J. A. C.  
Hoole and Lance-Corporal C. Whitall





Two groups taken at Bledisloe Lodge at the Back Badge Day Ball of 'A' Company (Gloucestershire) The Wessex Volunteers, on Saturday, March 22, 1969



already crowded with the paraphernalia of weapon cleaning. Disaster was averted, however, and the inspection passed without adverse comment. This was no doubt due to the fact that the inspecting officer was Colonel E. D. Harding, DSO, an ex-CO of 5 Glosters.

So much for the end of the period under review, and probably the herald of the next—the autumn and winter had not, however, passed without some activity on the part of “A” Company.

Readers will recall that in October there were to be the annual out-of-camp support weapons shoot and an inter-company competition of rifle platoons. Both took place; the support element performed quite well, considering the lack of live firing available, and that everyone had a go; in the inter-platoon competition, taking in various aspects of a rifleman’s training, individual and corporate, Lieutenant Lintott’s army finished a close second to a platoon from Reading.

There followed, in November, a Remembrance Parade and service at Gloucester Cathedral. A number of units were on parade, and it was fitting that they should include one with at least a connection with the Gloucestershire Regiment. The previous year we had not paraded on Remembrance Sunday.

In this connection, we were pleased to be asked by the Gloucester Branch of the Regimental Association to take part in the recent Back Badge Parade. The service was held at St. Aldate’s, Gloucester, and the parade at nearby Robinswood Barracks. The performance, with the aid of 17th Area (they looked awfully like Hussars) Band, was by no means perfect, but we hope we shall be permitted to do the same again. A word, too, for the hard-pressed Company cooks, who laid on tea for the masses afterwards.

November saw us on Salisbury Plain again (we shall soon be voting in local elections there) where we executed a fairly orderly night withdrawal exercise. Everyone seems to like attacking and advancing more than defending and withdrawing, and this is the first time for several years that your correspondent can recall a withdrawal exercise. It is, however, equally (or almost equally) as likely to happen as an advance, so its practice was probably not out of turn. The exercise was, perhaps, memorable for the Platoon Commander (who shall be nameless) who achieved the feat of leading two platoons and Coy Tac HQ off the training area on a compass march. A remark was heard to the effect that it was as well that unlike the world which had an edge according to medieval intellectuals, Salisbury Plain training area has a fence around it.

December opened with the traditional annual Bounty Night, when Volunteers who have completed their training obligation are paid (in cash) their annual gratuity (up to £85). We hope the country had its money’s worth; certainly the Sphinx Club profited.

During the autumn it was suggested that the Company might make its debut in the field of orienteering, a sort of navigational running sport emanating from Scandinavia and a rather athletic map-reading exercise was laid on in the Forest of Dean to see how the Company took to the idea. Apart from the batchelor officers, who, they were told had broken all the rules, Corporal Heatley and party were first home, but it is clear that the map reading and fitness of most of those taking part will have to improve a great deal if they are to venture into outside competition.

The year finished with a security film which seemed to prove, if nothing else, that while civil servants may sometimes submit to foreign pressure, it is not the done thing for the military.

Many will know that, all being well politically, we are going to Berlin for our fortnight's annual camp in June, and for several months now our programme has been peppered with visits from doctors and photographers so that no one should lack the necessary paper work. Recruiting has been going very well, too; we hope that it will not fall off after the foreign trip to which all are looking forward, but, with key people having been on courses instead and a large number destined for recruits cadres, the Company which trains in Germany may be a bit weak in one or two departments. The Company is now the strongest in Wessex Volunteers and since January 1969 has been forming a platoon in Cheltenham which now numbers some 24.

Several members of the Support Platoon have had the opportunity of taking a military driving test, and Privates Graves, Marks and 4 ton Bees are congratulated on passing. The last named succeeded in arriving for the test without his driving licence, but put the matter right a month or two later by obtaining an above-average pass. The Company MT Section also came out well on a specialist MT week-end at Exeter. Congratulations too, to private McCarthy on his selection as first reserve for the England under nineteens rugby football team to play Scotland. He may well have succeeded in getting a place by the time this is read.

Your correspondent supposes that "A" Company Officers' Back Badge Ball deserves a mention. It was a considerable success, and passed off without incident, despite the somewhat dubious advice given to the unmarried subalterns by the NCOs who kindly helped out on the night. History does not relate whether the advice was followed—perhaps it is still too early to tell.

If it has, perhaps, been a somewhat routine half-year, that is not necessarily a matter for criticism as recruits now form a large proportion of the Company. Next year they will be trained soldiers, and with our presence in Cheltenham our competence should be considerable. Wessex Volunteers have recently had a motto approved—"Their land to defend". We hope we never have to, but expect to be fit for it should the occasion arise.

### **REPUBLIC OF KOREA SOLDIERS WORK ON GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT MEMORIAL**

Aided by Korean schoolchildren, Engineers of the 25th Republic of Korea Army Division have spent several months turning the Gloucester Memorial valley site at Solma-Ri into a park consisting of a large bridge, lawns and shrubs, a car park and helicopter pad.

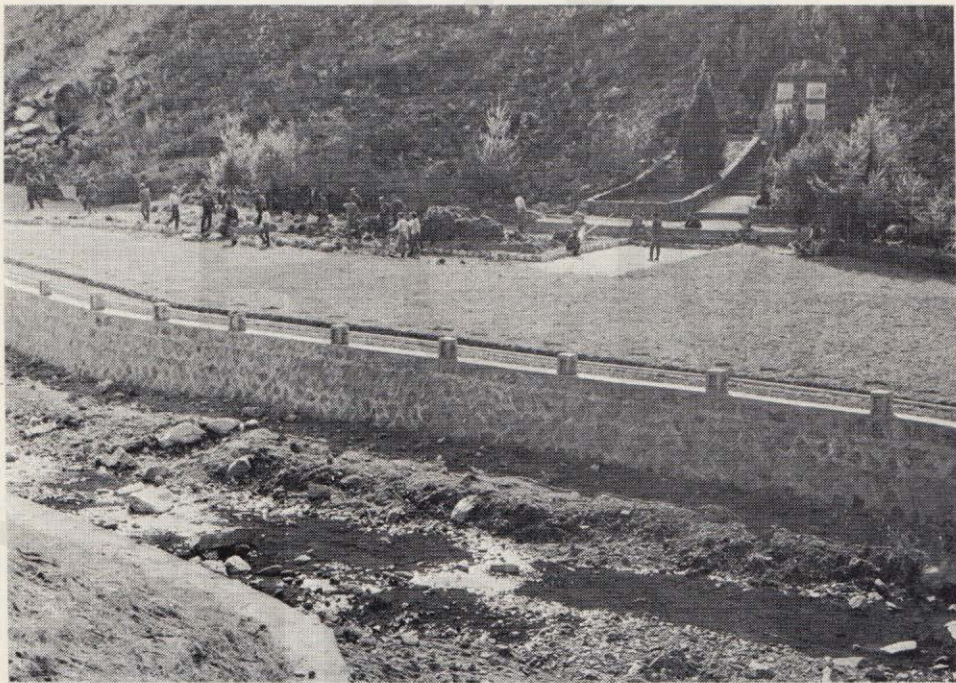
The work has involved re-shaping part of the bank of a river—where, in April 1951, a few hundred British soldiers of the Gloucestershire Regiment stood fast for four days against two Chinese Field Armies—and lining it with beautifully constructed stonework. Boys and girls of the Juksung and Namun schools helped with the task in their spare time.

The project was suggested by the Commanding General of the 25th Division, Brigadier-General Yun Bong Joo, when he was visited in June by Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Pearson, Army Commander, Far East Land Forces.

Brigadier-General Yun told General Pearson that he was not happy with the state of the memorial site and that he had instructed his Divisional Engineers to "do it up". He felt, particularly, that a proper bridge should be built to give better access to the



The Gloucestershire Regiment War Memorial in Korea showing improvements to the site recently carried out





A group of serving and retired survivors from the battle of the Imjin photographed in Berlin



The Duchess of Gloucester talking to ex-Drum Major P. E. Buss after the parade in Berlin

*(By courtesy of The Gloucestershire Echo)*

memorial itself. All the work was carried out by the Division's Engineers, while the sum of £1,200 towards the cost of materials was donated by Headquarters Far East Land Forces and the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

The opening ceremony was performed at the end of October 1968 and attended by the British Ambassador in Seoul, Sir Walter Godfrey. A Guard of Honour was provided by soldiers of the 25th Division, who were to have been joined by soldiers of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, which also fought in Korea, but this was not possible. The Division's band provided music, wreaths were laid and the British and Korean national anthems played.

The wartime trenches of "D" Company, The Gloucestershire Regiment, are still visible and, close by, a battery of howitzers faces north—a reminder that the Korean war of the early fifties did not solve the country's problems in the long term.

South Korea's capital city, Seoul, was occupied twice by the North during the war and would probably have been occupied for a third time, but for the action of the Gloucesters on the Imjin. This probably explains the enthusiasm with which the 25th Division of the Republic of Korea Army went to work in "Gloucester Valley".

### THE BATTLE OF ROCHE NOIRE

Macedonia—September 1-2, 1918

By Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist, OBE

With the impending amalgamation of the Gloucesters and Royal Hampshires to form a new infantry battalion, it has been interesting to find that there is one battle in which battalions from these two Regiments were the only battalions to take part.

Victory was hard won as the casualty lists show:

2/Glos 14 other ranks killed, 4 officers and 71 other ranks wounded.

10/Hants 3 officers and 43 other ranks killed, 1 officer and 132 other ranks wounded.

The awards for gallantry as a result of this battle were:

	<i>Gloucesters</i>	<i>Hampshires</i>
DSO	1	1
MC	4	3
MM	6	7

Reading the war diaries of the two Battalions 50 years after the battle, one is immediately struck by the sheer efficiency of the operation. The planning is most detailed; the dumping of the right stores in the right places, the decision to dispense with artillery support until the first objectives are taken, the planning on models down to a platoon level commanders at least, the daily practice by the troops on a mock-up of the ground in the kit in which they would do the attack, even the unconventional H hour—1736; all these come as a great surprise to one who has thought of the first world war in terms of the holocausts on the Western Front, in which staff planning was often suspect.

Not only was the planning excellent, but the morale was excellent. To quote Colonel Vicary "It was almost unbelievable that after nearly four years of war, officers and men could have been so extraordinarily keen". They needed to be, for it was an uphill all the

way against an entrenched position, which had been held successfully by the Bulgars for the past year.

The attack was important because the Roche Noire salient looked into the ground over which the 2nd battle of Doiran was due to take place in three weeks time. Both these battles had the same basic aim—to draw off enemy from the main offensive into Bulgaria. In this they were successful.

### The Story of the Battle

All the assault companies of the two Battalions achieved complete surprise in their attack on the front line of the enemy, reaching it without artillery support, and so avoiding the usual enemy barrage. Once the front line (Tr de Alcak) had been captured, our artillery support came down to cover the advance to subsequent objectives. The Bulgar barrage thus came down behind the assaulting companies. This, unfortunately, caught the reserve company of the Hampshires ("B") who had made an unexplained delay at the jumping-off point of 3½ minutes. The routes of assault companies after the initial attack are shown on the attached map. At 1815, the Gloucesters reported all objectives taken, and their Battalion Headquarters moved up to a point in the Tr de Alcak, but they found the Bulgarian trenches flattened, and were in a most exposed position until an undamaged dugout was found, and every man of the HQ was hit except the CO and Adjutant. At 1810, the Hampshires were in possession of Roche Noire and Les 2 Roches, but did not capture Dos de Mulet until 2100. A Bulgar MG was captured on Roche Noire itself, and as it is referred to in the War Diary as *the* machine gun, it is possible that it was brought back to UK as a trophy. Communications must have been appalling; only a gunner line remained working on the Hampshire front, and even lamp was impossible for the Gloucesters because of the dust and smoke. Great resource and bravery was shown by company runners in both battalions.

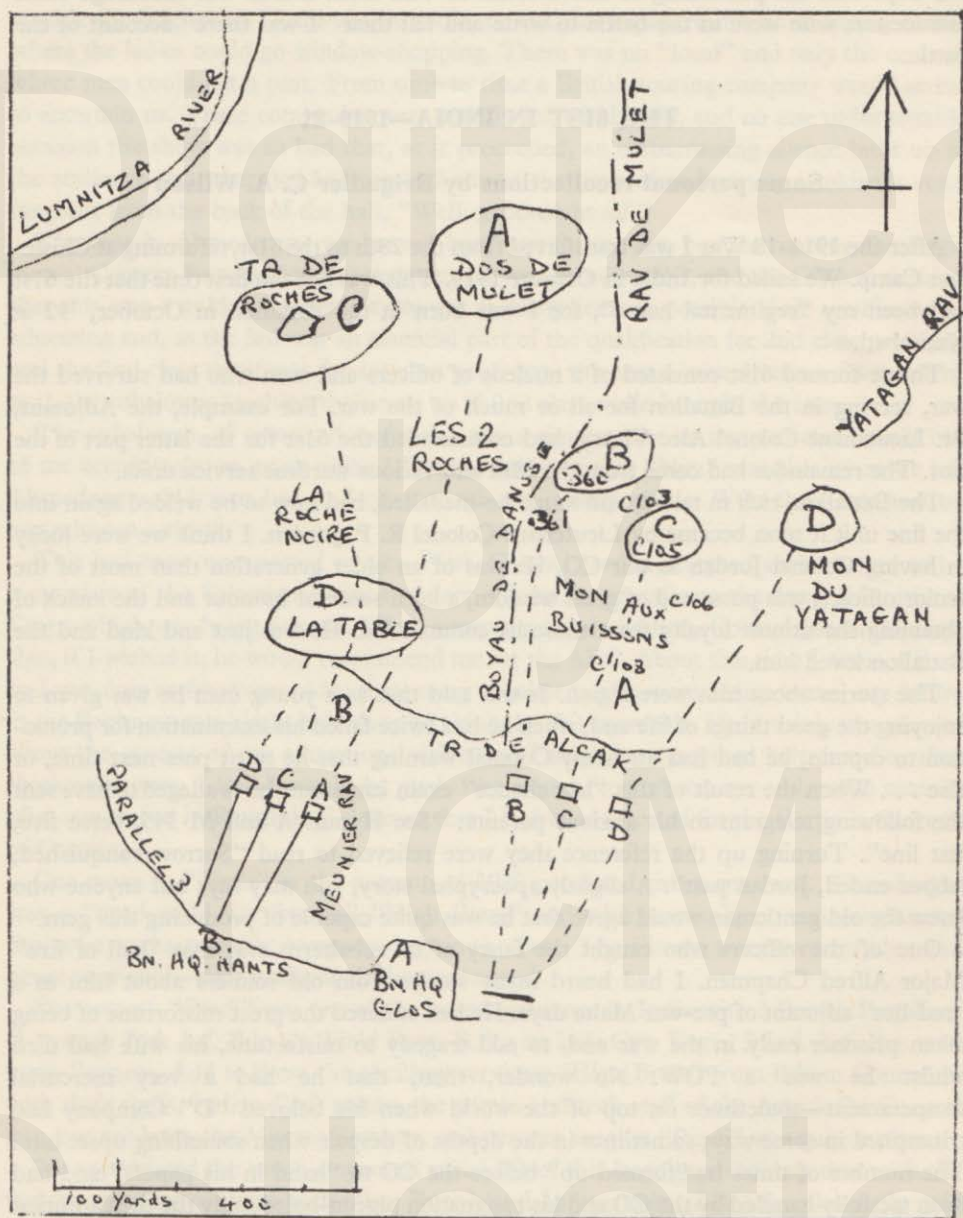
The rest of the night was spent in consolidating the captured objectives, improving trenches, wiring, and getting prisoners and casualties back. Patrols made contact on both fronts, and it is cheering to know that every Gloucester in the attack got a mug of hot tea around 0300 hrs. Both Battalions dug dummy trenches, covered by small arms fire, to fool the Bulgars when they made their dawn counter-attack. This counter-attack came at 0400 on the Gloucesters' front and was easily repelled, but a much stronger one came against the Hampshires at 0455, and for a time the N. slopes of Les 2 Roches were lost. At 0510 the Hampshires put in a further attack on Les 2 Roches, supported by fire from Roche Noire. This operation was successful, and the Bulgar effort petered out.

The Battalion HQs of the two Regiments made contact and agreed success at 0536, just 12 hours after the operation was set in motion.

On the night of September 4 the Gloucesters took over the defence of the whole Roche Noire salient, which is now the official title of all the ground over which this battle was fought.

On September 7 Corporal Allen, 10th Hampshires, was selected to be dropped by aircraft on a secret mission behind the Bulgar lines.

On September 28 orders were received to form a composite battalion of Gloucesters, Hampshires and DCLI, to be commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Vicary and to be known as 82nd Composite Regt, with the role of acting as advanced guard to the push through Bulgaria.



Capture of the Roche Noire Salient September 1-2, 1918 by 2nd Gloucesters and 10th Hampshires

On October 1 peace was signed with Bulgaria, and on October 8 the composite regiment ceased to exist, battalions being reformed into their original units.

I hope that the publishing of this account in *THE BACK BADGE* will encourage some Gloucesters who were in the battle to write and tell their "I was there" account of the battle.

### THE 61ST IN INDIA—1919-21

#### Some personal recollections by Brigadier C. A. Wilson

After the 1914-18 War I was transferred from the 28th to the 61st, reforming at Chisleton Camp. We sailed for India in October 1919. This was not the first time that the 61st had been my "regimental home", for I was born in the Battalion in October, '92 at Nasirabad.

The re-formed 61st consisted of a nucleus of officers and men who had survived the war, serving in the Battalion for all or much of the war. For example, the Adjutant, Bt. Lieutenant-Colonel Alec Vicary, had commanded the 61st for the latter part of the war. The remainder had come from the 28th and various wartime service units.

The Battalion, rich in talent, and much be-medalled, had now to be welded again into the fine unit it soon became by Lieutenant-Colonel R. P. Jordan. I think we were lucky in having Colonel Jordan as our CO. He was of an older generation than most of the senior officers, was possessed of great wisdom, a keen sense of humour and the knack of obtaining the utmost loyalty from those he commanded. He was just and kind and the Battalion loved him.

The stories about him were legion. It was said that as a young man he was given to enjoying the good things of life and, when he had twice failed his examination for promotion to captain, he had had an Army Council warning that he must pass next time, or else . . . When the result of this "last chance" exam came out, he is alleged to have sent the following telegram to his anxious parents: "See Hymns A and M 345, verse five, last line". Turning up the reference they were relieved to read "Sorrow vanquished, labour ended, Jordan past". A slightly apocryphal story, you may say; but anyone who knew the old gentleman would agree that he was quite capable of producing this gem.

One of the officers who caught the fancy of us subalterns was that "ball of fire" Major Alfred Chapman. I had heard many stories from old soldiers about him as a "red-hot" adjutant of pre-war Malta days. He had suffered the great misfortune of being taken prisoner early in the war and, to add tragedy to misfortune, his wife had died whilst he was a POW. No wonder, then, that he had a very mercurial temperament—sometimes on top of the world when his beloved "D" Company had triumphed in some way; sometimes in the depths of despair when something upset him. The number of times he "formed up" before the CO to "hand in his papers" and had been tactfully handled by the CO and his resignation pigeon-holed, only the then adjutant could say. Chapman's burning ambition was to win again the Inter-Regimental Polo Cup which the Regiment had so gloriously won way back in the '90s and woe betide any subaltern who was well enough off to play polo and didn't do so!

As there was no other British Battalion in our first station in India, Ahmednagar, the companies and platoons took each other on furiously at every game, including rugby

when the rain made the usually rock-hard ground soft enough for it. Then for a few glorious days all other sport would give way to it.

Ahmednagar was a pretty dead-and-alive place for there was virtually no social life outside the Regiment. There was no radio, no daily newspapers and no shopping centre where the ladies could go window-shopping. There was no "local" and only the canteen where men could get a pint. From time to time a British touring company would arrive to entertain us. These companies were usually incredibly bad, and on one unforgettable occasion the show was so bad that, as it proceeded, an embarrassing silence built up in the audience and when we had reached almost the limit of endurance, a soldier's voice rang out from the back of the hall, "Well, good-night all"!

The year in Ahmednagar was a very busy one for me for, besides running the Regimental Concert Party and the hockey team, I was Battalion EO, and the CO had decided that this was a golden opportunity to get as many men as possible their certificates of education and, as the 3rd was an essential part of the qualification for 2nd class prof. pay and the 2nd class certificate for 1st class prof. pay, this was a wise decision. So we went to it, the subalterns teaching their men up to 2nd class while I taught the 1sts.

The subalterns, of course, thought this was a sinister plot on my part and took it out of me accordingly on guest nights! But the result of this "blitz" was that when we left Ahmednagar 644 men had 2nd class certificates, nearly all the WOs their 1sts and no one without a third.

This had most unexpected results. First, Colonel Jordan accepted an invitation to be a member of the Selection Board to select officers for transfer to the Army Educational Corps which was being formed. When accepting this invitation, Colonel Jordan told me that, if I wished it, he would recommend me for the AEC. About this time I realised that, as I was four or five years older than many subalterns who were senior to me, my future in the Regiment was bleak, indeed, and I think the CO knew this. He certainly was pleased about the success of our educational drive and I think he wanted to help me. So, after thinking it over, I said I would be glad if he would recommend me and, some months after our arrival in Rawalpindi, I heard that I had been selected for the Corps in the rank of Captain.

Our move to "Pindi" in the autumn of 1920 produced many contrasts. Ahmednagar was a "dead end", far from all "High Brass" and with practically no extra-regimental duties beyond a monthly company duty in the Fort. The climate was never very hot and never very cold—drill uniform all the year round.

By contrast, "Pindi" was one of the largest garrisons in India with 3 British Battalions (1 to each Ind. Inf. Bde.), a Field Regt. R.A., an Ind. Cav. Regt., 3 Ind. Inf. Bns. and some Sappers. Add to these the ancillary services, "High Brass" from Bde to Command with their staffs, Indian Civil galore, the admin and tech staff of the Attock Oil Co. and last, but not least, the Murree Brewery, and you can see that "Pindi" was quite a place.

We appreciated the much-improved social life of this large garrison, together with the various sporting contests with other British and Indian units. Also, the pleasantly cold nights and cheerful coal fires were a nice change.

The 61st was the British Battalion of the Abbottabad Ind. Inf. Bde. where the 5th and 6th Gurkhas were quartered and great was our men's delight when they found that "Johnny Gurkha" liked beer and football. A great friendship sprang up between us and the Gurkhas.

I was glad that I was able to go on living with the Battalion until April '21 when it moved to Gharial in the Murree Hills for the hot weather. I had been appointed as the first District EO Rawalpindi District, and so had to stay in "Pindi". But I was able to visit the Battalion almost all the time it was in "Pindi" and this softened the blow of leaving my first "regimental home". Although I afterwards served for 33 years in Army Education, I still retain a strong feeling of "belonging". How could it be otherwise?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Jasmine",  
Hampton Lane,  
Blackfield,  
Southampton, SO4 1WF.  
12.12.68.

The Editor,  
THE BACK BADGE.

Dear Sir,

I am sending my appreciation of the Regimental News to old soldiers who have memories of service with the Gloucestershire Battalions.

I read with great interest on page 106, Winter 1968 BACK BADGE, "Fifty Years' Service". I have a memory of the early days with "Queenie" Pearce. I, too, served in No. 6 Platoon "B" Company, our CSM being Bill Biddle to whom I always extended my secret admiration and, coupled with this, I would like to add the name of RSM Brain and my Saturday morning NCO instruction (later held me in good stead!). Although, mind you, it was not all plain sailing, especially when the Murmansk and Archangel details for Russia suddenly come to life with memories of Richmond and Catterick Bridge Garrison Riots. As a very frightened young soldier, I found myself with other young soldiers detailed as Guards at the POW camp (mainly, if I remember rightly, "Prussian Guard"!).

Later, to Tidworth, where we were one night rudely awakened, "pack up we're on the move" order to Southampton on HMS *Princess* and away to Ireland. On again, Kilworth Camp Guards. Still "nervous on duty", I wonder if the false alarm of the donkey who got tangled up on outside perimeter wires can be remembered, which started firing all round, bringing "Black and Tan" cars from Fermoy and Glanworth direction?

Later periods via Cork, Waterford, Banteer, Limerick, we eventually found HQ Battalion in Kanturk. Our platoon officer having been appointed Intelligence Section (Mr. Grazebrook). Names come to light like Tom Masters, "Busty", etc., etc. The "Sean Moylan" preparations, memories of sheep horn blowing "Sabatella" cycle patrol section. In conclusion, we were rushed back to Tidworth.

Following on to Germany (Scala Barrack, Cologne) "B" Company suddenly switched to Beuthen in Upper Silesia, where the air splitting of the Gloucester Patrols led by V.C. James, through the fronts of Poles one side and Germans on the other front, "Keeping the Peace" motto (a wag from Poucho Morgan called it "Keeping the Pieces").

On our return to Cologne I had the distinction of being the last British soldier (at that time) to leave Leipzig after lowering the Union Jack as detailed by our Captain James, vc.

Regarding our sporting activities I have a few trophies gained in training with Lieutenant Biddulph in relay teams 100 and 220 yds., etc. I look with pride on an NRA medal gained at Bisley, and Lewis Gun medallion gained whilst serving with the Regiment at Portland. ("Leggy Ley" they called me!).

Now we come to the modern trend of the future amalgamation. I personally view with regret the possible submerging of our Regimental identity, but, looking on the bright side, I have already seen a silver lining of two famous regiments merging in 1970, on an ex-service basis. Being an ex-Gloster Old Brags with close Hampshire Associations (my son served in Suez, etc. with the Hampshire Regiment) quotes many conversations with Glosters, brought "Dad and his colleagues" in on points of interest. Furthermore, I see in the future military administration the new look for the younger generation, which will enhance the history of battle honours and glory of mutual Regimental discussions at gatherings in the not-too-distant future.

Owing to an early accident which prevented a more active part being undertaken by the writer (having reached retirement age) I have taken this opportunity of reviving some snatches of interesting memories that may be of use.

As a point of interest, we have a large Social Club and Ex-Service Organisation in this district and would be pleased, should any Glosters moving through the New Forest Area care to write beforehand, and only too willing to make any arrangements required on behalf of the Fawley and District British Legion regarding refreshments and (or) evening entertainment at weekends.

In conclusion and memories of the Regiment,

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

CHARLIE LEY,

5172864.

Life Assn. No. 2189.

Longburton House,  
Near Sherborne,  
Dorset.

16.1.69.

Major C. R. Davis,  
Robinswood Barracks,  
Gloucester.

Dear Davis,

I thought I would write a tale which took place in the First World War, about 50 years ago.

I have just celebrated my golden wedding, and it brought home to me very forcibly the gallantry of the "Gloucester Soldier". I would not have been celebrating my golden wedding had it not been for their gallantry.

The order of battle was as follows:

The frontal attack on High Wood by the four companies of the Battalion "A" Company (my company) on the left; "B", "C", and "D" Companies on the right. The plan was a

slow artillery bombardment until 12 noon, when the Battalion would jump out and begin the attack.

There were several incidents before the attack. We had to walk along a communication trench for about half-a-mile to the jumping-off trench. To my surprise and consternation when I started to walk up the trench, I found the Padre standing at the entrance, shaking hands with the men as they advanced and saying "Good-bye Boys". If he had thought for six months, he could not have done a worse thing for morale. The leading man of No. 1 Platoon (and of the original reservists left) said "Wow, we are going into some battle if the Padre says this"!

Having lined up in the jumping-off trench, the artillery fired short, and hit some of the men in the trench. Colonel Pagan got on to Brigade HQ immediately and stopped the shelling of our own men.

As we waited for 12 noon, Private Alder, who was also an original reservist and who had not particularly shone as a soldier, said to me, "I wish to come with you as your orderly". I was delighted to accept. The left flank of my company was in the air, but it was well known there was a little nest outside High Wood, comprising of enemy machine guns, and the artillery had orders to silence these guns. Unfortunately, during the operation they did not do this. The whole of my No. 1 Platoon were casualties, including a fine young officer named Edwards, who had only been with us for 48 hours. As far as I can recollect, he came from "Prince Edward's Horse". The only instructions I gave my company were to run as fast as possible to the enemy line at the edge of the wood, as it was the safest place to be. The distance was approx. 150 yards. The other companies being on my right had a shorter distance. It was very hard work running across "No Man's Land" pitted with shell holes, so half-way across I threw my rifle away and reached the first objective, the trench at the edge of the wood. Presumably, we surprised the enemy, as I collected about 20 prisoners there. Up till then, the only casualties were No. 1 Platoon. Here begins a real good scrap.

The soldiers were magnificent. When they saw I was being attacked, a voice on my right said "leave him to me, I'll settle him". Having gained the first objective I was crawling under a cavalry trench bridge when a wounded "Hun" got up and clutched me by the throat; I managed to shake him off. The next moment, I suddenly saw Colonel Pagan staggering along in pain. He told me that he had two spent bullets in his stomach. Looking around, I found my orderly was still with me, so I told him to help Colonel Pagan back to Battalion HQ. I was informed afterwards that the Colonel was in the Welsh Lines and was cheered all along their line. We gained our second and final objective, and fought off a counter-attack by the enemy.

Before starting the attack, I filled my water-bottle with half whisky and half water. I was standing by the trench after the defeat of the counter-attack, when my water bottle was hit, which sent me to the ground. I thought a drink would be a good idea, when I found that a spent bullet had penetrated the bottle and it was empty! Just at that moment the CSM came up to me and, standing straight up, he gave me a perfect salute and said "I beg to report, Sir, that I have killed my 11th German with my revolver".

We held on to this position until dusk, when I received a message from the adjutant that I was to withdraw my troops to the jumping-off trench. In the early morning I assembled the whole Battalion, being the senior officer left. I found that only myself (a



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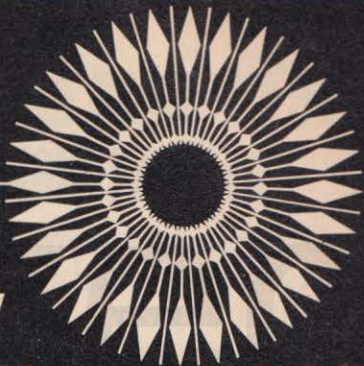
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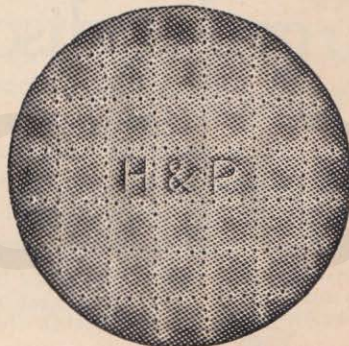
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captain) and 3 subalterns were the only men left out of the whole Battalion. This really was a soldier's battle. I cannot ever repay the debt to my own Company for the valour they displayed on that day.

D. BAXTER, Colonel (Ret'd.).

(It is with the deepest regret we announce the death of Colonel Baxter on April 12—Ed.)

1st Battalion The Gloucestershire Regiment,  
Brooke Barracks,  
Berlin.

March 21, 1969.

The Editor,  
THE BACK BADGE.

Dear Sir,

In your editorial to the Winter '68 edition of THE BACK BADGE, you dealt briefly with the future of the journal as affected by the forthcoming amalgamation of the Regiment. You write that there will almost certainly be a combined journal when the new Regiment is formed and that this will result in very little change in the way it is produced.

It is my view that the journals of the Gloucestershire and Royal Hampshire Regiments should most certainly be combined. I also believe that we should not wait for the formation of the new Regiment, but should do so now. I will explain why.

However deplorable the decision to amalgamate may be, there is no doubt, as the Colonel of the Regiment has said, that we must make amalgamation work. Having said that, practical difficulties do emerge. Inevitably, there are differences between the two Regiments. Customs, dress, opinions, habits and methods of operation vary. Some of these differences can be, and are being, solved by committees and standardised before amalgamation. Habits and opinions, on the other hand, are a different matter; for they are moulded by time and experience.

I believe that most differences of opinion develop through a lack of communication. At present we know little of the Royal Hampshire Regiment, save rumours and old soldiers' tales. It is unfortunate that the two Regiments have had few dealings together in the past. Now is the time to put this situation right, and here THE BACK BADGE journal can play its part. A combined journal, now, would be a step in the right direction. Both Regiments would then be able to read of the other's activities and personalities. The opportunity exists now for us to get to know each other. A common journal could become the foundation stone upon which the new Regiment is built.

There would be further advantages in creating a new journal. With the combined funds of both Regiments at your disposal, coupled with a wider readership, a new, high-quality magazine should be possible. More photographs could be included, perhaps with some in colour. You might even run to three issues a year.

Here, too, is the chance to improve the rather mediocre standard of some of the contributions. I think particularly of articles from the 1st Battalion. These appear to be based on the rather dubious principle that circulation increases in direct proportion to the number of soldiers' names included. The various ploys which have to be adopted each year to sell the journal put the lie to this. Nominal rolls make very dull reading.

One year ago, Colour-Sergeant Bishop put forward several suggestions to stimulate

interest in the journal. Regrettably, like unsold copies of THE BACK BADGE, his ideas appear to be gathering dust. There is now not much time left. Let us put it to good use.

I remain, Sir,

Yours hopefully,

C. J. NEWBOULD,

Captain.

1 Glosters,

Berlin, BFPO 45.

March '69.

The Editor,  
THE BACK BADGE.

Dear Sir,

May I, as Assistant Editor of this journal for the past year, be permitted to express my views in print other than in the "Battalion Notes"; I have read Captain Newbould's letter (I had to edit it), and would like to support his thesis that prior to amalgamation our regimental magazines should be amalgamated.

*This* amalgamation could be comparatively easy; I, for one, would be prepared to lobby in the corridors of Serles House to achieve it. The work involved in the production of a joint magazine would be minimal, provided that both editors and assistant editors were in agreement on the layout of the magazine. To start if off, a list of the whereabouts of the officers, warrant officers, and sergeants of both our regiments would help a lot of us.

The result would be a fuller, more interesting journal, with a wider appeal, and would help to overcome what Captain Newbould rightly describes as a "lack of communication" between our two regiments.

It never ceases to surprise me that there is this "lack of communication"; a number of us have served with both regiments and have not only enjoyed it but benefited greatly by so doing. Perhaps any lack of communication results from a failure on *our* part to bring to the regiment which we serve the current ideas in our own parent regiment.

If we have failed in this respect, it can only be because our regiments are so similar in so many ways. If we are honest with ourselves, the chameleon instinct is very strong in all of us, and when it comes to wearing a coat of many colours in 1970, I personally believe that it will be far less painful than we imagine or care to admit; we owe it to the next generation who join the new "Regiment" to make it as painless as possible. Let us take one small step in the right direction and amalgamate our magazines *now*.

C. W. E. COPPEN-GARDNER,  
Major.

### THE REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Regimental Museum is likely to remain closed until about April 1970. Major repairs are taking place with the advice of the Historic Buildings Council for England.

During the period of closure a very limited display of items from the Regimental Museum is being arranged in the Folk Museum next door.

## REGULAR OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

(As far as can be ascertained, October 1968)

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
<i>Colonel-in-Chief:</i>		
Field-Marshal HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Earl of Ulster, KG, KT, KP, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, Personal Aide-de-Camp to the Queen .. .. .	6/5/35	
<i>Colonel:</i>		
Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, CBE, ADC .. .. .	23/2/64	
<i>Lieutenant-Colonels:</i>		
A. L. W. Soames (special list) .. .. .	23/7/59	Cadet Admin Officer Mons OCS
P. G. H. Varwell .. .. .	21/1/62	GSO1, Study Team, Vietnam
P. J. E. Durant, MBE .. .. .	9/4/64	GSO1, Northumbrian District
H. L. T. Radice, MBE .. .. .	28/7/64	GSO1, Ops(SD) Northern Command
M. G. Harvey, MC .. .. .	1/10/66	Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat
J. E. Taylor .. .. .	31/12/66	Inspectorate of Armaments
H. R. A. Streater, MBE .. .. .	1/3/67	Commanding 1st Battalion
<i>Majors:</i>		
W. L. D. Morris .. .. .	6/4/55	1st Battalion
T. R. Littlewood .. .. .	25/11/57	GSO2 (Trg) HQ East Mid Dist
A. N. Wilson .. .. .	27/10/60	1st Battalion Jamaica Regiment
G. F. B. Temple, MC .. .. .	10/4/62	DAQMG (MOV) HQ Army Strategic Comd
H. R. Gilliver .. .. .	20/5/62	GSO2 (Trg) HQ Eastern Dist
J. W. Allison .. .. .	20/1/64	GSO2 Royal Armament Research Establish- ment
D. E. Matson .. .. .	8/2/65	For retirement
R. A. F. Jarman .. .. .	4/4/66	1st Battalion
C. P. T. Rebbeck .. .. .	31/7/66	1st Battalion
C. J. Walters .. .. .	31/12/67	1st Battalion
<i>Captains:</i>		
M. A. Crush .. .. .	4/2/61	4 Comn unit
R. J. Bewell .. .. .	24/6/62	1 R Hamps
N. C. Thompson .. .. .	21/12/63	1st Battalion
D. A. Godfrey .. .. .	10/3/64	1/6 GR
W. R. N. Ladds .. .. .	2/8/64	1st Battalion
R. L. Giles .. .. .	19/6/65	BRIXMIS
S. D. A. Firth .. .. .	25/7/65	1st Battalion
T. D. Cooper .. .. .	25/7/65	Adjt Inf Junior Ldrs Battalion, Oswestry
M. G. Smith-Rewse .. .. .	18/12/65	1 DERR
J. W. Mermagen .. .. .	14/8/66	Adjt 1 DERR for Inf Bde
R. C. Hobbs .. .. .	18/12/65	GSO3 HQ 51 Bde, Hong Kong
T. B. Durton .. .. .	23/7/66	SC HQ Berlin Bde
R. D. Grist .. .. .	16/12/66	Adjt 1st Battalion
A. G. Hill .. .. .	22/12/66	Wessex Depot, PS
C. J. Newbould .. .. .	29/7/67	1st Battalion
T. W. Michels .. .. .	6/2/67	1st Battalion
P. R. Rostron .. .. .	22/12/67	1st Battalion
T. G. H. Corrigan .. .. .	4/8/68	1st Battalion
A. T. Holman .. .. .	4/8/68	Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat
G. E. W. R. Mirehouse .. .. .	9/1/69	1st Battalion
<i>Lieutenants:</i>		
P. A. Woodley .. .. .	2/2/65	YLO Southern Comnd
C. B. Smith-Rewse .. .. .	20/6/65	2 Gurkha Rifles
C. J. T. Davis .. .. .	20/6/65	JTR, Rhyl
A. P. Arengo-Jones .. .. .	31/1/66	ADC to Comdr, British Forces, Near East
R. P. James .. .. .	31/1/66	Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat
P. G. Hodson .. .. .	30/1/67	Oxford University
J. Denley .. .. .	17/6/67	1st Battalion
J. P. C. Hoole .. .. .	17/6/67	25 Army Youth Team
N. C. Richardson .. .. .	17/10/67	1st Battalion
D. P. Cangle .. .. .	29/12/67	Wessex Depot, PS
D. R. Dixon .. .. .	16/6/68	1st Battalion for Inf JuniorLdrs Battalion
N. R. Barker .. .. .	16/6/68	Wessex Depot PS
J. P. O'F. Webster .. .. .	28/1/69	1st Battalion
C. S. Wakelin .. .. .	28/1/69	1st Battalion
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
T. C. Ongley .. .. .	15/12/66	1st Battalion
P. J. Cable .. .. .	2/8/68	1st Battalion
J. R. Neill .. .. .	20/12/68	1st Battalion
<i>Quartermasters:</i>		
G. Boyes (Captain) .. .. .	1/4/66	1st Battalion
W. J. Smyth, BEM (Captain) .. .. .	1/4/66	Wessex Volunteers

## SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

	Date of Substantive Rank	How Employed
<i>Lieutenants:</i>		
I. H. Jackson, REM .. .. .	26/6/67	1st Battalion
A. S. Hadfield .. .. .	6/4/68	1st Battalion
W. R. Lucas (A/Captain) .. .. .	16/4/68	Wessex Depot
P. J. McNaught .. .. .	10/7/68	1 R Hamps
<i>Second-Lieutenants:</i>		
R. E. Thomas .. .. .	4/6/66	1st Battalion
N. W. Scott .. .. .	2/12/66	1st Battalion
D. A. W. Hardick .. .. .	14/4/67	1 DER
C. K. Richardson .. .. .	12/4/68	1st Battalion
P. G. Jones .. .. .	15/6/68	1st Battalion
W. G. A. Molony .. .. .	12/12/68	1st Battalion

## OTHER OFFICERS SERVING WITH 1st BATTALION

<i>Majors:</i>		
G. C. Phipps .. .. .	.. .. .	R Hamps 2IC
F. D. J. Dickenson .. .. .	.. .. .	R Hamps
C. W. E. Coppen-Gardner, MC .. .. .	.. .. .	R Hamps
<i>Captains:</i>		
M. P. Nott .. .. .	.. .. .	D & D QM2
H. T. Steggles, MBE .. .. .	.. .. .	RAPC, Paymaster
K. J. H. Southern .. .. .	.. .. .	RAMC, Medical Offr
R. G. Laird, Rev .. .. .	.. .. .	RACHD Chaplain

## OFFICERS, LATE THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT ON THE ACTIVE LIST

Brigadier P. C. S. Heidenstam, CBE, ADC .. .. .	9/7/62	For retirement, June
Brigadier J. A. Mackenzie, CBE, DSO, MC, ADC .. .. .	1/1/63	Commandant Inspector of Intelligence
Brigadier A. J. A. Arengo-Jones, OBE, ADC .. .. .	1/2/64	
Brigadier A. H. Farrar-Hockley, DSO, MBE, MC .. .. .	1/12/65	Oxford University
Colonel J. C. Robertson .. .. .	2/4/64	DALS HQ FARELF
Colonel E. D. Harding, DSO .. .. .	30/7/64	For ROI, RHQ
Lieutenant-Colonel F. R. Henn .. .. .	11/11/63	11th Hussars
Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. W. Reeve-Tucker special list .. .. .	9/1/66	MA to CIC Southern Comnd
Lieutenant-Colonel C. G. Nuttall .. .. .	31/12/66	RAPC
Major A. D. Gregory .. .. .	2/6/53	RAOC
Major D. E. Whatmore .. .. .	24/5/65	Intelligence Corps
Major R. A. Maby .. .. .	22/7/66	RAOC

## "A" COMPANY (GLOUCESTERSHIRE) WESSEX VOLUNTEERS

<i>Officers:</i>		
Company Commander .. .. .	.. .. .	Major P. J. M. Whiteman
Second-in-Command .. .. .	.. .. .	Captain D. C. Ryan
Lieutenant .. .. .	.. .. .	A. M. Grazebrook
Lieutenant .. .. .	.. .. .	P. A. Lintott
Lieutenant .. .. .	.. .. .	R. J. Poole
<i>Warrant Officers and Sergeants:</i>		
WOII .. .. .	.. .. .	R. Keitley
Colour Sergeant .. .. .	.. .. .	D. J. Pack
Sergeant .. .. .	.. .. .	M. A. Miller
Sergeant .. .. .	.. .. .	H. W. Marriott
Sergeant .. .. .	.. .. .	D. A. Mears
Sergeant .. .. .	.. .. .	K. M. Reade
<i>Permanent Staff Instructors:</i>		
WOII .. .. .	.. .. .	J. Alderman
Colour Sergeant .. .. .	.. .. .	I. Matthews
Sergeant .. .. .	.. .. .	I. R. Galley

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Major C. R. Davis (Ret'd) .. .. .	.. .. .	Regimental Secretary
Mr. R. Panting (5182070) .. .. .	.. .. .	Chief Clerk
Mr. H. Powell (17866) .. .. .	.. .. .	Storeman
Mrs. J. M. Cox .. .. .	.. .. .	Typist

## RETIRED OFFICERS RE-EMPLOYED

Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A. Bath, OBE, RO II Army Department (MOD)
Lieutenant-Colonel M. M. A. Bryant, RO II Infantry Records, Exeter.
Major E. L. T. Capel, ERD, RO III HQ Prince of Wales's Division.
Brigadier R. G. T. Collins, CBE, RO III Army Department (MOD)
Major C. R. Davis, RO III, RHQ, The Gloucestershire Regiment.
Major A. W. Hardick, RO III, HQ 1 (BR) Corps BAOR.
Colonel T. K. Lacey, RO III, MS (CR).
Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Percy-Hardman, MC, RO III Combined Records, Bournemouth.
Major N. S. Watkin-Williams, RO III, HQ Eastern District, Colchester.
Major P. W. Weller, MBE, Army Careers Officer, Gloucester.



The Duchess of Gloucester, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, shaking hands with Chelsea Pensioner A. H. Phipps, on the right is Chelsea Pensioner E. G. Smith



The Duchess of Gloucester shaking hands with the Mayor of Cheltenham, Councillor the Rev. C. H. Markham  
*(By courtesy of The Gloucestershire Echo)*



Old Comrades and their families embark at Gatwick for their visit to the 1st Battalion in Berlin.  
The Mayor and Town Clerk of Cheltenham are in the centre of the group



(By courtesy of *The Gloucestershire Echo*)  
A group at Checkpoint Charlie look over the Wall dividing East and West Berlin



## THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

*Headquarters :*  
Robinswood Barracks,  
Gloucester, GL4 9RP.

*President :*  
BRIGADIER P. C. S. HEIDENSTAM,  
CBE, ADC.

*Secretary :*  
MAJOR C. R. DAVIS

### BRANCHES

<i>Branch and Chairman :</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary :</i>	<i>Meeting place each month :</i>
<b>BIRMINGHAM DISTRICT:</b>		
Major P. R. Burton, MC, TD	Mr. H. L. Standen, 736 Walsall Road, Great Barr, Birmingham 22A.	Third Thursday except July and August, Limbley Ex- Service Association, 64 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham 16, 8 p.m.
<b>BRISTOL:</b>		
Brigadier M. A. James, VC, DSO, MBE, MC, DL.	Mr. J. C. Horton, 47 Bridg- man Grove, Bristol, BS 12 7HP.	Second Saturday, TA Centre, Horfield Com- mon, 8 p.m.
<b>CHELTENHAM:</b>		
Mr. F. Finch, MM.	Mr. D. J. Pack, 61 New Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3LY.	Last Monday, except August, United Services' Club, North Place, 8 p.m.
<b>GLOUCESTER:</b>		
Major A. R. Cannon.	Mr. P. O. Masters, 3 Lons- dale Road, Gloucester, GL2 OTA.	First Monday, except August, United Services' Club, College Green, 8 p.m.
<b>LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES:</b>		
Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. A. Bath, OBE.	Mr. S. A. Mercer, 99 Hey- bridge Avenue, London, S.W.16.	As arranged at The Victory Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, W.2.
<b>STROUD:</b>		
Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. R. Chalmers, OBE, MC, TD.	Mr. R. W. L. Close, 123 Stratford Road, Stroud, GL5 4AN.	First Monday, except August, "The Rose Inn", Paganhill, Stroud, 8 p.m.
<b>WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE:</b>		
Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Milner, MA, LLB, TD.	Mr. O. Mills, 23-25 Church Street, Wotton-under- Edge, GL12 7HB.	As arranged.

### **Birmingham Branch**

"Where are they now?" It is with regret that the attendance at our monthly meetings has shown a falling off these past two years despite the fact a reminder is published in the leading local newspaper each Saturday prior to our Thursday meeting, and I understand it is general with all units these days. One would have thought that a city like Birmingham would have commanded an even keel. We find a better attendance from men of the 1914-18 battalions than any other, which seems a great pity. I would suggest that Secretaries in other areas would probe their members on our behalf to obtain addresses they may have of old pals in the Birmingham district whom we could then contact. Much rebuilding has been going on in recent years and men have been rehoused at short notice. The same applies to meeting places and many units are still without accommodation, but we are fortunately better off, and have been allocated space at the Limbless Association which is well-furnished, complete with bar.

The 9th Battalion at its inception in 1914, comprised roughly 50-50 Birmingham and District and Gloucestershire men some of whom still exist. E. B. Meakin (16920) and H. L. Standen (16926) served in the 9th from Coleford in 1914 to be the last two of the originals in Germany in 1919.

### **Cheltenham Branch**

The continuing growth of the Cheltenham Branch both, in numbers and in activity, since our last notes has been maintained. Our most important event during this period was our second Back Badge Ball which was held at The United Service Club, Cheltenham, on the Day itself, March 21. Some 100 members and their ladies attended. Music was supplied by the Les Bloxsome Trio who had been well rehearsed in the Regimental March by Mr. George Brown. Our MC was ex-RSM J. J. Loftus from Bristol who gave us the benefit of his experience. Among those attending were the Rev. Wheeler from Gloucester, and ex-RSMs G. Biggs and T. Murphy. We were especially pleased to welcome Sergeant M. Attwood who travelled up from Exeter for the evening and added that touch of colour in the new Brigade mess kit. It would be impossible to mention all the names of members who turned up to make this important event. The Branch Chairman and Committee would like to thank all those members who made this evening such a success both socially and financially. It must be added that it is intended to make this an annual event in Cheltenham and the hall has already been booked for 1970.

Typical of the energy of the Cheltenham Branch is shown in the fact that the Back Badge Ball was by no means our only event since our last notes. Christmas saw a large number of members at our dance and social. In February, in spite of bitter cold weather, a party visited the Sphinx Club in Gloucester and renewed old acquaintances with members of the Bristol Branch who visited the Club the same evening.

April will see quite a number of members on the trip to Berlin. We have arranged for a reporter from *The Gloucestershire Echo* to accompany us and take appropriate photographs. The Mayor and Town Clerk of Cheltenham will also be in the party.

Shortly after our return from Berlin we shall be attending the annual reunion dinner at Bristol. During the summer months several trips to country pubs are to be arranged, these being extremely popular with the Cheltenham Branch.

Finally, it is with regret that we report the death of Mr. S. Chandler. Sid was amongst



Old Comrades headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Grist march past the Duchess of Gloucester at the Back Badge Day Parade in Berlin *(By courtesy of The Gloucestershire Echo)*

Collection



*(By courtesy of The Citizen)*  
Back Badge Day church parade on Sunday, March 23. The Old Comrades march to church behind "A" Company  
(Gloucestershire) The Wessex Volunteers

our most active members and will be sadly missed. Our sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

### **Gloucester**

At our AGM it was decided that the Gloucester Branch would make the arrangements to hold a Back Badge parade at Gloucester. After a lot of letter writing and making a number of visits, it was agreed to hold a parade consisting of the RGH Band, "A" Company (Gloucestershire) The Wessex Volunteers, and as many Old Comrades as we could muster. The parade formed up on the square of Robinswood Barracks at 1445 hrs on Sunday, April 23, and marched through the camp to St. Aldgate Church for a service. This was conducted by the Rev. V. S. M. Wheeler. After the service the parade marched back to the Square; the Mayor of Gloucester, with the Colonel of the Regiment, took the salute, the Old Comrades then fell out and a very good parade was carried out by "A" Company T & AVR commanded by Major P. J. M. Whiteman. We are most grateful to the 14th Signal Regiment who served an excellent tea for the parade in their cookhouse. Major Cannon has taken over as Chairman from Major Metcalfe. We are indeed most indebted to Major Metcalfe for his past services to the Branch.

### **London**

Although our potential membership must be several hundred, attendances at meetings remain, regrettably, rather small. However, we have combined with the Royal Canadian Regiment OCA for the past two years for an annual dinner. The second one was held on Saturday, March 15, at the Victory Club, Marble Arch. It was a great success and about 45 were present, roughly equal numbers of each. Brigadier Heidenstam brought us up to date with news of the Regiment and we were very pleased that he was able to be with us.

Our next meeting, the AGM, will be held at the Victory Club on Saturday, October 11, at 7.30 p.m., and a News Letter is being sent out shortly (April.)

### **Berlin visit**

The main item of interest in this period is the visit of the Old Comrades to the 1st Battalion in Berlin on April 25 to 27.

It is hoped to be able to include a report on this visit in the 1st Battalion Notes.

### **4TH (CITY OF BRISTOL) BATTALION**

This Association held the Annual Reunion Dinner at the Bristol Omnibus Co. Social Club on Friday, March 28, 1969. This was very well attended, the number present being in excess of that of last year.

The guest speaker was Brigadier M. A. James, VC, DSO, MBE, MC, DL, who, in reminiscent mood, both with regard to World Wars I and II, was extremely interesting.

Also present was Brigadier A. L. W. Newth, who, as a young officer, was awarded the MC early in 1915 with the original 1/4th Glosters, and the DSO in the Second World War. These two officers, together with our President, Colonel G. S. Castle, MC, TD, DL, had a Reunion of their own, for they were at school together, and had very rarely met all together since those days.

**6TH BATTALION**

About 50 veterans of the Sixth again met for their annual reunion dinner on Saturday, April 19, at the Assize Court Hotel, Bristol.

The toast to "Fallen Comrades" was proposed by Mr. R. Harper, the Secretary, and Colonel E. N. Gardner, president, proposed "The Sixth Old Comrades Association".

**8TH BATTALION**

"At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we shall remember them". These were the words spoken by Major C. M. Hughes-Games to 40 men of the 8th Battalion to toast the memory of nearly 1,000 men of the Battalion who died in the First World War.

Major Hughes-Games was proposing the toast to "Fallen Comrades" at the Battalion's 29th reunion dinner held at the Fleece Hotel, Gloucester, on Saturday, April 12, 1969.

To the Battalion toast, the one-time Colonel of the Regiment, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Wetherall, paid great tribute to the 8th Battalion, which had a great service record.

Also present at the reunion were Colonel W. Parkes, Colonel C. G. Elkington and Brigadier M. A. James, VC, who won his VC in the First World War.

**DONATIONS TO "THE BACK BADGE"**

We are very grateful to the subscribers listed below who gave generous donations towards the cost of production of the 1968 journals. Donations to March 31, 1969, total £43 14s. 1d.

Mr. J. Allaway, Lieutenant-Colonel C. E. K. Bagot, Major E. Barnard, Mr. A. H. Bishop, Mr. T. C. Boddington, Mr. J. J. Bousfield, Mrs. R. E. D. Brassington, Mr. P. R. Brown, Mr. T. Buckley, Lieutenant-Colonel R. G. R. Chilton, Captain J. H. Christensen, Major K. F. Clark, Mr. P. H. Crew, Mr. W. B. Croot, Major W. Danahy, Mr. W. L. Dix, Major S. J. Drinkwater, Mr. F. C. Drissell, Major T. Dutton, Mr. C. Essex, Major F. W. Gooderham, Mr. M. G. Gregory, Mr. D. J. P. Griffiths, Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist, Mr. H. J. Hale, Mr. R. H. Harper, Mr. E. E. Harris, Major H. C. W. Harris, Mr. J. Head, Mr. J. Hibberd, Mr. A. E. Holder, Mr. B. E. J. Hussey, Lieutenant-Colonel V. N. Johnson, Mr. L. Jones, Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Kinnersley, Major J. W. C. Kirkland, Major C. E. W. Lavender, Mr. R. G. Lawrence, Mr. C. Ley, Mr. B. G. Light, Mr. J. Loftus, Mr. S. Long, Mr. A. Lukin, Mr. F. L. Maisey, Mr. P. O. Masters, Mr. J. Millard, Mr. W. H. Morgan, Lieutenant-Colonel A. C. Nash, Mr. C. H. E. Owen, Mr. D. B. E. Paine, Sir Ian Parkin, Mr. J. G. Perkins, Mr. H. G. Pike, Mr. S. Pitt, Mr. C. R. Prescott, Mr. J. Pring, Mr. W. J. H. Rattenbury, Mr. V. E. Robertson, Mr. W. G. Roots, Mr. W. H. Routledge, Mr. K. C. Russell, Mr. W. E. S. Salter, Mr. B. B. Saunders, Mr. J. Scaife, Mr. D. R. Shearn, Mr. E. G. Smith, Mr. W. Stenner, Mr. H. Townsend, Mr. B. Turner, Mr. H. Tyler, Lieutenant-Colonel P. G. H. Varwell, Lieut-

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### THE LONDON GAZETTE

1968

- 18th October .. .. P. J. Cable from RMA Sandhurst to be Second-Lieutenant 2nd August, 1968.
- 29th October .. .. Major E. L. T. Capel retires on retired pay 29th October, 1968.
- 6th December .. .. Captain P. J. Mac I. Whiteman (T & AVR) granted rank of Major 1st July, 1968.
- 6th December .. .. Lieutenant D. C. Ryan (T & AVR) to be Captain 1st July, 1968 with seniority 16th February, 1967.
- 30th December .. .. Captain (QM) L. K. J. Courtney from T & AVR Category II to be Captain (QM) 1st November, 1968.

1969

- 3rd January .. .. W. G. A. Molony (SSC) to be Second-Lieutenant 14th December, 1968.
- 10th January .. .. Lieutenant G. E. W. R. Mirehouse to be Captain 9th January, 1969.
- 17th January .. .. Major M. M. A. Gilmore retires on retired pay 15th January, 1969.
- 24th January .. .. Second-Lieutenant C. S. Wakelin to be Lieutenant 28th January, 1969.
- 24th January .. .. Second-Lieutenant J. P. O'F. Webster to be Lieutenant 28th January, 1969
- 24th January .. .. J. R. Neill from RMA Sandhurst to be Second-Lieutenant 20th December, 1968.
- 28th March .. .. Colonel J. P. Fane, MC retires on retired pay 29th March, 1969.

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

London Gazette, March 21, 1969, Lieutenant-Colonel D. B. A. Grist awarded Cadet Forces Medal.

### REMEMBER D-DAY

The D-Day and Battle of Normandy Fellowship, formed in connection with the Portsmouth Cathedral Completion Appeal, continues to build up steadily. Membership now several hundred strong, includes people from the USA, Canada, and other overseas countries. An application leaflet can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, D-Day Fellowship, Flat 2, Cathedral House, St. Thomas's Street, Old Portsmouth.

## OBITUARY

**LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. BAXTER, MC, TD**

Colonel Donald Baxter, MC, TD, died at Sherborne on April 12, 1969. Such is the bald announcement, but what sad news it conveys to his friends.

Bob Baxter joined the 28th at Portsmouth in 1913. I remember that he was a fiery and spirited young officer, fond of games and sport, especially anything to do with horses.

We went together to the 1914 war with the 28th. He was a Platoon Commander in "A" Company, I was one in "C" Company. For the 28th the Battle of Mons was light, but the subsequent retreat imposed a great mental and physical strain. With his sturdy physique, Bob Baxter withstood it admirably.

In the Battalion it was noticeable that the 30-35 age group did better than the younger people. Then up together via the Marne and Aisne to Flanders where the 28th took such a notable part in the Battle of Langemarck which was the curtain-raiser to the 1st Battle of Ypres.

For several days we struggled against fresh, fanatical German divisions, but we held them, handsomely. "A" Company greatly distinguished itself. The Company Commander, Captain Rising, being awarded the DSO, Lieutenant Baxter the MC. It was in this action the two other subalterns of "A" Company were killed and Baxter severely wounded. About 500 rounds per man were fired during the attack. It was not until November 1915 that Bob Baxter rejoined. He was given "A" Company, I had "B" Company. He fought through the Somme Battles until he and I were sent, in the winter of 1916, to run the 1st Divisional Training School. I left early in 1917 after being given the command of the battalion.

We never served together again in War, thus a close association came to an end.

Bob Baxter is often mentioned in Brigadier-General Pagan's book called "Infantry" In this book we are told that of the rugby football matches played in France, 1915-17, the 28th won 23, drew 2, lost 1. Captain Baxter is described as a fast wing player.

Bob Baxter married in 1919. Later he resigned, so as to carry on his family's brewery business at Sherborne. He was the Managing Director from 1921 until 1951.

Still keen on soldiering, he joined the 4th Battalion The Dorsetshire Regiment TA as a Company Commander in 1922, this Battalion he eventually commanded. After the last war he was made Honorary Colonel of the 4/5th Dorsets.

I last saw him at the Exeter Back Badge lunch on March 21 this year. He told me with great pleasure and pride that the "Baxters" had recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. He also said that at the celebration there were over 40 who were children, grandchildren or close relatives.

I would say that Colonel Baxter's chief characteristic was that he was "English" through and through, both in deed and thought.

He was a great patriot. Mourned by his many friends, so ends, this useful, brave and happy life.

25.4.69.

H. E. DE R. WETHERALL.

## DOMESTIC EVENTS

## MARRIAGES

BROOKE—BUTLER.—On 14th December, 1968, at Cornwood, South Devon, Major Thomas Brooke, Irish Guards, to Eve, daughter of Major and Mrs. R. S. Butler.

## DEATHS

BALLINGER.—On 30th January, 1969, Mr. V. C. Ballinger (No. 5173202).

BAXTER.—On 12th April, 1969 at the Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne, Colonel D. Baxter, MC, TD. (See Obituary notice.)

CHANDLER.—On 24th March, 1969, Mr. S. J. Chandler (No. 5721391).

COUCH.—On 19th October, 1968, Lieutenant J. H. B. Couch.

DAINTY.—On 9th February, 1969, Mr. A. Dainty (No. 5182302).

FAULKNER.—On 17th October, 1968, Mr. R. Faulkner (No. 9737).

GIBBS.—On 1st September, 1968, Mr. A. G. Gibbs (No. 5333664).

HANSON.—On 1st December, 1968, Mr. E. Hanson (No. 42020).

HARRIS.—On 10th December, 1968, Mr. W. Harris (No. 5180039).

LEADBETTER.—On 31st October, 1968, Mr. S. Leadbetter, MM (No. 360622).

LORD.—In January, 1969, Mr. J. Lord (No. 5180075).

MASTERS.—On 14th November, 1968, Mr. W. E. Masters (No. 9794) father of RSM L. Masters.

MORRIS.—On 25th October, 1968, Mr. A. L. Morris, father of Major W. L. D. Morris.

ORCHARD.—On 29th October, 1968, Drummer L. D. Orchard (No. 23915576). In a training accident at Soltau.

POWER.—On 23rd March, 1969, Mrs. Dorothy Power, widow of Major R. P. Power, OBE.

TAYLOR.—On 30th January, 1969, Mr. G. Taylor (No. 5184747).

WHITTERN.—On 12th October, 1968, Mr. H. W. Whittern, MM (No. 5172246). Awarded MM and MSM in November 1952, also awarded Croix de Guerre (21 years service).

From: M. E. Taylor, C. ST.J., F.S.A. SCOT,  
11 Horselethill Road,  
Glasgow, W2.  
16.4.1969.

Dear Sir,

I would be grateful if any readers could lend me photographs—even in a group or groups—of two veterans of the Korea campaign. I would be able to make a copy of a photograph and return the original to the lender within a few days.

The men in question are 22184318 Private F. L. Richards, who was captured at the Battle of the Imjin River and was mentioned in dispatches as well. The other is 22396073 Corporal W. Ferguson who served in Korea and Kenya.

I shall be pleased to reimburse postage on the loan of any photographs.

Yours faithfully.

M. E. TAYLOR.

### OFFICERS' BACK BADGE DAY LUNCHEON

The twelfth Back Badge Luncheon was again held at The Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham, on March 22, 1969.

The Colonel of the Regiment and 32 officers, many with their wives, attended.

We were very glad to welcome the following as guests: Mrs. J. Bown, Mrs. J. Duguid, Mrs. R. Grazebrook, Mrs. B. Grazebrook, Mrs. M. Ladds, Mrs. R. Mason, Mrs. J. Morton, and Mrs. A. Roberts.

A signal was received from the 28th/61st.

Lieutenant-Colonel Denis Biddle also organised a luncheon at Exeter on March 21, which 20 officers and wives attended.

### REGIMENTAL HISTORY

In view of the amalgamation of the Regiment with the Royal Hampshire Regiment in September 1970, the Colonel of the Regiment decided that the regimental history for the post-war period should be written.

Tim Carew, MC, the author of "The Fall of Hong Kong", "Korea—the Commonwealth at War" and "The Longest Retreat" (a history of the first Burma campaign, 1942)—has been commissioned to write the history.

It is the Colonel of the Regiment's intention that the history should be a readable, lively account of all Regimental activities in this period.

The history will be available for sale in August 1970 at about 25s. a copy.

### EDITORIAL NOTICES

#### 1. EDITOR

Colonel E. D. Harding, DSO, takes over as editor from Major C. R. Davis in June 1969. His address is: RHQ The Gloucestershire Regiment, Robinswood Barracks, Gloucester, GL4 9RP. Tel. No. Gloucester (0452) 21343.

#### 2. PUBLICATION

THE BACK BADGE is published half-yearly in June and December.

#### 3. SUBSCRIPTIONS

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(b) Officers who belong to the Officers' Club will receive their order without further demand.

(c) Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and made payable to "The Editor, The Back Badge" (in future, receipts will only be sent on request). Donations will be acknowledged in the Journal as before.

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

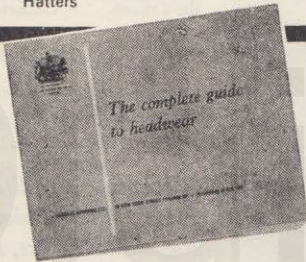
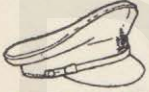
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