

THE
REGIMENTAL JOURNAL



THE DEVONSHIRE & DORSET REGIMENT
11th, 39th and 54th of Foot

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1860-1960**

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≡ Editorial ≡

CADETS 1860-1960

FROM time immemorial boys have wanted to be like their elders. Young David must have had a lot of practice with a sling before he met Goliath. The Spartans had an excellent Youth training system. In this country Pages started study at an early age in order to become Squires and Knights. James, the son of General Edward Wolfe, was bent on following his father's profession, and, while still a young man, conquered Canada before he was killed.

France was rapidly and decisively defeated by the Prussians in 1870. It now seems strange to reflect that only eleven years before Britain had been convinced that Napoleon III would prove to be another Bonaparte and, in panic, had built vast forts along the South Coast and called for the immediate formation of Volunteer Battalions. The Regular Army, owing to deficiencies revealed during the Indian Mutiny and Crimean War, was depressed and under strength. At this time the industrial revolution was well established and from it had emerged strong, reasonably well educated and energetic middle classes. Regular Officers were still generally recruited from the upper classes, and the rank and file from the lower classes. The middle classes, while accepting the need for the Army, did not identify themselves with it. But when now, in apparent peril, Britain called upon her citizens, the middle classes responded whole-heartedly. They did not want to be regular soldiers, but were more than ready to be citizen soldiers. Young men came forward in their thousands, and in 1859 Volunteer Battalions were rapidly raised throughout the whole County. Given the threatened danger, the patriotic urge and the general excitement it is not surprising that boys wished to join up with their elder brothers; or that Volunteers should collect their younger brother and put them into uniform.

And so junior volunteer forces came into being. They owed central direction to no one. Few records of those early days survive. One may be quoted: "A member of the Queen's Westminsters dressed his two sons in the complete uniform of the Regiment. Although several of his comrades objected to this act, Earl Grosvenor (commanding the Regiment) suggested that others should be sought and a Company of Cadets embodied. In May 1860, 35 Cadets of the Regiment marched in Hyde Park at the first Volunteer Review."

The Cadet Forces was officially recognised in 1860, when the volunteers raised further Companies in Schools. As the Cadet Force developed so more men saw the potential of youth training, as distinct from purely military training. The result was that Cadet units were either formed outside the volunteers, or seeded from them, to form independent Cadet Companies and Battalions. At a very early stage it was realised that Drill and manoeuvre alone would not prove attractive for long, nor would uniform, however glamorous prove more than a temporary novelty, and so the National Rifle Association was formed "to give permanence to the Volunteer Forces"—a worthy object—and indeed the introduction of shooting as a pursuit played a great part in the Volunteer Movement, and naturally spread to Cadets. The Ashburton Shield was instituted in 1861 and is one of the most highly prized of Cadet Trophies today.

The Boer War had a profound effect on both political and military thought. It led amongst other things, to the formation of many Cadet Units in Schools and Counties. After that War the Esher Committee made recommendations which were to transform the Regular Army, and the Haldane Committee established the organisation of Territorial and Auxiliary Forces by Counties and the function of County Territorial Associations who were charged with the administration of Cadet Forces. In 1908, however, the Officers Training Corps was formed, and this removed from the Army Cadet Force one hundred School Units. These now are part of the Combined Cadet Force.

The present Commandant of the Devon A.C.F. was one of the many Cadets in Camp when war broke out in August, 1914. All were immediately sent home, as their Camp equipment was required for Mobilisation. But the War gave encouragement to the Cadet Forces, and many new

units were raised. In 1916, a new Army Cadet Battalion was formed in Exeter, and over 400 boys joined within the first four weeks. Most of them went to Camp that year, and amongst them was Cadet (now Lieut.-Col.) A. C. SAMPSON, who until recently commanded the 1st (Exeter) Battalion of the Devon A.C.F.

After the 1914-18 War, the Country was exhausted financially and its citizens weary of a War in which so many good men and boys had gone and so few had returned. Those who did return came back to a different world. There were few inspired leaders—many Cadet Units closed. The Second World War and the continuance of National Service restored interest and enthusiasm. The ending of National Service has reduced the purely utilitarian function of the A.C.F., but it still can be a fertile recruiting ground for the Regular and Territorial Armies. Furthermore, a larger proportion of time can now be devoted to Sport, Citizenship and Adventure Training.

In 1958, the Amery report gave the A.C.F. a more streamlined and efficient character, together with a new Charter. This Charter is in perfect harmony with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, which has been assimilated into A.C.F. training and is proving both successful and popular.

Civilisation seems now to be advancing to a point at which men at last are taking council together in order to avoid war. The time must surely come when National disagreements can be settled without bloodshed, and so today our Cadets, while still helped and encouraged to acquire military virtues, are trained for PEACE.

Dates For Your Diary

Saturday-Sunday, April 8-9.

Dorset (T.A.) Rifle Meeting, Sydling.

Friday-Sunday, April 28-30.

43rd (Wessex) Div. (T.A.) Rifle Meeting.

Saturday April 29—Saturday, May 13.

Devon (T.A.) Annual Camp, Shornecliffe.

Saturday, June 10—Saturday, June 24.

Dorset (T.A.) Annual Camp, Dartmoor.

Saturday, June 10.

Dorset Regiment Association, London Branch, Annual Dinner.

Saturday-Sunday, July 1-2.

Bisley; China Cup.

Friday-Saturday, July 7-8.

Regimental Cricket Week, Dorchester: The Regiment v. Dorset Rangers.

Saturday, July 8.

Regimental Officers' Club "At Home", Dorchester.

Wednesday-Friday, July 12-14.

Regimental Cricket Week (cont.), Exeter.

Wednesday, July 12.

The Regiment v. Free Foresters.

Thursday-Friday, July 13-14.

The Regiment v. Devon Dumplings.

Thursday, July 13.

Regimental Officers' Club "At Home", Exeter.

Sunday, August 13—Sunday, August 20.

Dorset A.C.F. Camp, Penhale, Cornwall (unconfirmed).

Sunday, August 13—Thursday, August 24.

Devon A.C.F. Camp, Penhale, Cornwall (unconfirmed).

Saturday, September 30.

Dorset Regiment Association Reunion, Dorchester.

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Regimental Diaries

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REGIMENTAL NEWS

Obituary

"HAWKES"

The death of Brigadier A. E. Hawkins at the age of 68 after a long illness has removed a distinguished officer and great personality from the Regiment and our sympathies go to Hilda Hawkins and her daughter Eileen Ingram at this time.

A number of officers of different generations have been kind enough to write striking tributes to the memory of the "Hawkes" they remember. Before quoting one in particular it would be well to outline his career, by far the greater part of which was spent in the Regiment.

Joining the Regiment from Sandhurst in 1911, he seems from his earliest days to have made his mark as a tactician. His qualities in this respect and his remarkable eye for ground have been commented upon by more than one of his contemporaries or juniors. He opened World War I for 1 Dorset by firing on the Colours or Standards of the 8th Grenadiers on the evening of August 23 at Mons: it was thought that the Germans were using their flags as some form of recognition signal.

At the Aisne he was evacuated to the U.K. It was during his convalescence that he first met Lt.-Col. H. D. Thwaytes at Wyke Regis, who recalls being most impressed with the manner in which Hawkes lectured new intakes. In June, 1915, they journeyed out to the 1st Battalion together. On May 1 Hawkes' Company (D) occupied the vital Zwarteleen salient, on the left of the Bn. position on Hill 60. When the Germans used gas against them in their attack he made all possible arrangements to counter this unknown and terrible weapon before he and 200 others were gassed. He was fortunate enough to recover from the effects of the gas, and next appears in the Regimental story in Mesopotamia, when he turned up in the "Norsets". This was the composite Battalion of Norfolks and Dorsets formed from reinforcements of both Regiments for the relief of Kut el Amara in early 1916. Later that year he was invalided to India and we believe took command of a Signals Depot at Poona.

Between the wars Hawkes had a very long run with the 2nd Bn., which he joined at Portland in 1919, and with whom he remained until going to command the Depot in 1932. From the Depot he went straight out to command the 1st Bn. in India. His tour as C.O. was most successful, and there is no doubt as to the good name the Dorsets left behind in India when Hawkes sailed away with them in 1939 on completion of his command. When the Bn. disembarked at Malta he continued his way home to his new appointment as a Brigade Commander in the North of England.

He found himself, much to his regret, to be over age for active command in the war about to break out, but throughout World War II his undoubted qualities as a trainer were put to the greatest use as he continued to command a Training Brigade until his retirement.

Col. R. E. C. Goff, his one-time Adjutant, adds the final note to the career of an outstanding Regimental Officer:—

"I probably knew Hawkes as well as anybody as I served under him for a considerable period of my service. He was at times my Company and Depot Commander and I was his Adjutant when he commanded the 1st Bn. in India just before the second World War.

"Hawkes, as he was affectionately known to all who served with him, had a character entirely his own, and he was in many ways a very gifted individual. There were very few things he couldn't do. He was a very useful all-round games player. He rode remarkably well and had he cultivated his talent for drawing and painting I think he might have been really good.

"As a Battalion Commander he was absolutely first-class, and he produced a unit that evoked the present Field-Marshal Lord Alexander to remark that he had at last seen a British Infantry Regiment that could complete in speed and efficiency with Indian Bns. on the frontier. I think the secret of his success was that he never worried people over unessentials and, having laid down his policy, he allowed his Company Commanders a very free hand. It certainly worked, and the Bn. during his command was not only a very happy one but singularly free from crime.

"He qualified for the Staff College on the one occasion he sat for it, and with a bit more luck he might have gone higher than he did; but he was too old for active command in World War II.

"It was with great regret that I heard he had died, and we that knew him—who even now tell each other Hawkes stories when we meet—will always look back with affection to one who showed us much kindness during his lifetime."

CAPTAIN W. V. RICHARDS, M.C.

The sad news of the passing of our old friend on his beloved Bisley Ranges—still shooting in his eighties—has brought grief and proud memories to his countless friends in the Regiment and the County of Dorset.

Richards' career was quite remarkable. He came to the Dorsets as Bandmaster from the old Royal Irish, already with a high musical reputation as the composer of that well known march "Namur".

From 1914 onwards his official duty was clearly defined—to continue as Bandmaster with the reserve battalion in England. But Richards decided quite otherwise. He was a fighting soldier, but first he had to fight higher authority to get to the Front. At last he achieved his objective when he joined the 1st Battalion as a combatant 2/Lt. in 1916. If anyone ever enjoyed the first war it was Richards. He was more than twice the age of his brother subalterns but his zest and jollity were an example and an inspiration to us all.

I remember, in that most unpleasant push at Beaumont Hamel in November, 1916, Richards appearing from a post he had established well in front of the rest of our forward positions to ensure

that his prisoners had come back to me and been properly accounted for. The liquid mud was trickling from the ends of his long pre-war moustache, but he was enjoying every minute of his private battle.

Subsequently he was secured by our fire-eating V.C. Brigade Commander as his specialist in trench raids. It was believed that he and his Brigadier went themselves on every raid. The result, of course, was that the Brigadier was killed and Richards' active warfare terminated with a wound and the Military Cross.

After the war Richards served with the 1st Bn. in Ireland throughout the troubles, but when peace finally descended he resigned to take up his musical career in Weymouth. He was, of course, the most loyal and beloved of Old Comrades, and his eager boyish greetings will be missed by countless friends at this year's Reunion.

Never did he miss Bisley, and though he never won the Queen's Prize, he was a most popular member of the shooting fraternity. He won his first big competition, the Indian "Bisley" at Bombay in 1902, and only last year scored a possible at 300 yards in the "P. W. Richardson" competition. Many of his old comrades went to Bisley for the funeral. He was happy in his passing and it is indeed fitting that his ashes should lie on the ranges where he found such happiness.

Our deep sympathy goes to Mrs. Richards and the family, and the dear old man will ever be remembered by us all as the pattern of a gallant soldier and a most delightful friend.

G.N.W.

Mr. C. J. POPE, M.B.E.

The death of Mr. Charlie Pople in his 67th year has removed a very familiar character from the Regimental scene. Born in Yetminster, Pople spent most of his adult life in or around Dorchester and saw service with the 2nd Dorsets in Mesopotamia and Palestine in World War I.

After the war he was appointed clerk at Headquarters, 4 Dorsets (T.A.) in 1921 and served under seven successive Adjutants.

In the spring of 1939 he, in company with everyone else at Headquarters, was faced with the problem resulting from a sudden Parliamentary decision to make two Battalions out of one. In August, 1939, he mobilised with the 4th Bn. and took his discharge in March, 1940, when he was appointed Chief Clerk of the Dorset T.A. and A.F.A. under the then Secretary, Lt.-Col. J. V. Shute. He continued to serve the Association faithfully for the next nineteen years until his retirement only last year. For these services he was awarded the M.B.E. in 1957.

After his retirement he went to live at Verwood and was very busy getting his garden in order, but regrettably had little time to enjoy it.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Mrs. Pople and his son, who although he did not follow his father into the Regiment, maintains some connection through his marriage with Bill Stehr's daughter.

AWARDS

M.S.M.—5723948, R.S.M. L. J. Webber.

G.O.C. (Malta) Commendation for saving life.—14524904, G.S.M. V. F. Howe.

LT.-COL. A. D. LEWIS, D.S.O., M.B.E.

Lt.-Col. Tony Lewis was commissioned from the old R.M.C. Sandhurst, in July 21 years ago. He was one of the last Regular officers to join before World War II, and he is the first Commanding Officer of the Regiment with no first-hand experience of the frustrations of peace-time soldiering in the thirties. This does not seem to have affected his soldiering in any way. Within two years he had commanded a Platoon in Davis' Rifles—a unit hastily assembled from the reinforcements at Rouen during the latter stages of the Battle of France, and had made the raid on Lofoten Islands with 4 Commando and had also been selected as Adjutant of 8 Dorset, which was then extended in a beach defence role along the coast of Dorset. Not a bad start for an officer too young to be allowed to accompany the 2nd Battalion to war.

During his tour as Adjutant the 8th Bn. was converted into 105 L.A.A. Regiment, R.A., and was sent to North Africa on operations.

His tour as Adjutant finished, Tony made his way back to Commandos and for six months carried out long distance patrols behind the enemy lines. He landed as a Troop Leader with 6 Commando on "D" Day and was awarded the Croix de Guerre for his work that day. On "D" Day plus 5, within six days of his 24th birthday, he took command of this tough fighting unit and led them through the hard Normandy fighting of the next two months.

He was then sent home to train Commando Regiments till the New Year, when he returned to Germany to re-assume command of 6 Commando for the final battles and river crossings of that campaign for which he was awarded the D.S.O.

Since the war Tony Lewis has served not only with his old Regiment, but as a Company Commander with the old 1 Devon in Malaya, and with 1 D. & D. in Cyprus. He is a great enthusiast and is not afraid of introducing unorthodox methods into his soldiering. He has had plenty of opportunity to put his ideas into practice, not only in his own Regiment but also as the C.O. of the Training Centre for Kenya National Servicemen, and later at the R.M.A.S. Sandhurst, where he was Chief Instructor of his college. His services in Southern Rhodesia and Kenya were recognised by the award of the M.B.E. in 1955.

He now takes over command of a Battalion to which he is no stranger. He has already served a tour as training Major and is more aware than most Regular officers of the problems of Territorial soldiering in these days. Dorset (T.A.) has, however, been well prepared under its late C.O. for originality and excitement in its training programmes, which factors will obviously continue with the return of Colonel Tony Lewis.

YEOMAN WARDER JOHN WEBBER, M.B.E.

We had just prepared a belated note to record R.S.M. Webber's retirement last May and his new job as a Security Official with the British Embassy in Prague, when he turned up at Dorchester for the Dorset Regiment Association Reunion with the news that he had been selected to fill a vacancy as a Yeoman Warder in the Tower of London.

So once again John Webber returns to the personal service of the Sovereign. Twenty-nine years ago he enlisted in the 4th Dorset (T.A.), but before twelve months had passed his P.S.I. persuaded him to become a Regular soldier in the Life Guards.

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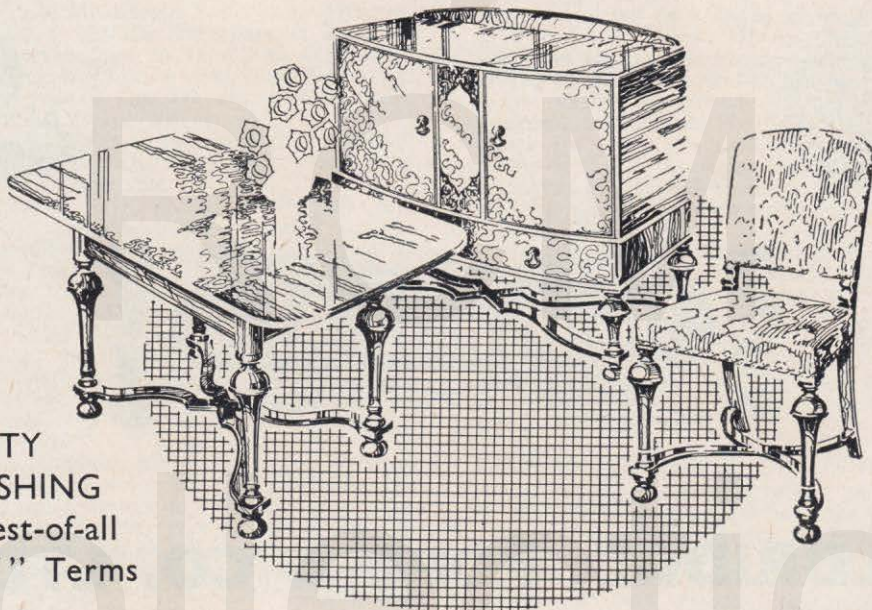


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The recruiting of a Household Cavalryman put 30s. into C.S.M. (now Lt.-Col.) Goodson's pocket as against the 3s. 6d. he would have got had Webber only transferred his services to the Regular Battalion of the Regiment. A pernicious system which may have been good for the P.S.I. but hard on the County Regiment.

After six years with the Life Guards, Webber returned to the Regiment, this time as a Regular, and after a tour at the Depot spent most of World War II with his old Battalion, 4 Dorset. He was C.S.M. of "A" Coy. when he was captured in the costly fighting at Maltot in July, 1944.

After the war he was sent to Germany as an Instructor of the B.A.O.R. School of Infantry, where he was awarded the C.-in-C.'s Certificate for his work. On the reorganisation of the 4th (T.A.) Bn. he became R.S.M., and two and a half years later, in the spring of 1952, rejoined the 1st Battalion in Vienna in time for the celebrations of the 250th Anniversary. The highlight of this week was the Trooping of the Colour on the Queen's Birthday and the high standard of drill reflected very much to the credit of the new R.S.M. as did the reception given by the Sgts.' Mess.

By this time command had also changed and a new C.O. and new R.S.M. were faced with the problem of building up a brand new Battalion for a tour in Hong Kong.

It was in that far off colony that R.S.M. Webber really proved his worth. After four years in a country where regular training had been difficult to arrange, there was plenty of work facing the Battalion in Hong Kong. At the same time, the families, provided with Chinese servants, had too much leisure in accommodation, generally speaking too bad to enjoy it, and in a city too expensive for the husbands' purses. A number of them soon found themselves in difficulties, and it was here that Mrs. Webber proved to be a tower of strength to the Colonel's Lady and a powerful support in the many problems of Regimental welfare which now faced them.

Altogether it was a pretty hectic eighteen months for the Webbers—a year and a half of heat, frustration and hard work. Shortly after arrival in Korea Mr. Webber became seriously ill and had to be evacuated to the U.K. His powers of recuperation however were excellent, and in three months had got himself up-graded again and was off to the Middle East to become R.S.M. of H.Q. British Troops Egypt. He was the last British R.S.M. to leave Egypt—a sort of reversal of the usual Regimental practice of being "Primus in somewhere or other", and in June, 1956, was sent to Singapore as R.S.M., G.H.Q., F.A.R.E.L.F., in Tanglin Barracks.

The change from R.S.M. of a line Battalion to R.S.M. G.H.Q. is not a simple matter. How well R.S.M. Webber performed his duties is reflected in his award of the M.B.E.

His last tour was with "Q" (Mov.) Southampton, during which time he was ships' R.S.M. in *Nevasa* and *Dunera*.

His friends will be glad to hear that on discharge this year after twenty-nine years' service, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

We are delighted to hear of his being accepted as a Yeoman Warder. He will make an imposing figure in his State Dress and we look forward to our

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next visit to the Tower of London and a personally conducted tour by the "R.S.M."

On leaving the Army he claims that his possession of a Jubilee and two Coronation medals (he rode in King George V's Jubilee and King George VI's Coronation processions and was R.S.M. 1 Dorset at the time of the Queen's Coronation) is a record, unique even in the Household Cavalry. He will, therefore, from the start make no poor showing even amongst the more senior members of his new and well decorated Corps.

To Mr. and Mrs. Webber we send our best wishes for a happy and comfortable life in the Tower.

PETER GRAYSTONE

I would like to add my congratulations to those of the Editor to Peter Graystone on his engagement, and, having been his Company Commander at Sandhurst, feel justified in making a few comments about him.

Peter was the first Officer-Cadet to be commissioned into The Devonshire Regiment from the new post-war Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. On sizing up my Intake 1 for the first time on January 3, 1947, Peter's massive figure caught the eye and continued to do so throughout his time at Sandhurst. He played a leading part in helping Waterloo Company to become the first Champion Company after the war, just before that title was changed to Sovereign's Company. He won a rugger and athletics "blue" and was Senior Sergeant in the Company. He was a fine wing-threequarter, his tackling being devastating. Later he played on the wing for Devon. He put the shot for Sandhurst and was a useful quarter-miler, possibly an unusual athletics combination, though the Editor will put me right on that one. As a side-line, and rather under protest, he used to play a vigorous game in goal at hockey as a number of forwards who have collided with him could testify!

Since joining The Devonshire Regiment, Peter has done his share of "bushwhacking" and was an outstanding patrol-leader both in Malaya and Kenya.

J.K.W.

VOLS I and II are now complete

TURN THE PAGE

for particulars of INDEX and BINDING
service

Regimental Memorials

ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY, SANDHURST

Photographs of the Memorial panels and pews of the two Regiments in the R.M.A. Sandhurst Chapel have been added to the collection of Memorial photographs in the Museums at Exeter and Dorchester.

GARRISON CHURCH, NAIROBI

A photograph has been obtained of a lesser known Devonshire Regiment memorial, the Memorial Pew in the Garrison Church, Nairobi. This pew has the Devonshire Regiment badge on the end. The badge is identical to the badge in the R.M.A. Chapel and is a very fine piece of work. Below the badge is a brass plaque bearing the following inscription:—

“This pew was presented by All Ranks of the 1st Battalion The Devonshire Regiment in memory of those members of the Regiment who lost their lives during the Emergency in Kenya. 1953-1955.”

This memorial was not completed until after the Battalion left Kenya, so only those members of the Battalion who remained behind have seen it.

We would like to thank the Rev. L. E. M. Claxton, M.C., M.A., R.A.Ch.D. (well-known to The Dorset Regiment) for obtaining the photographs for us as he is on the spot as Deputy Assistant Chaplain General East Africa Command.

5th DORSET MEMORIAL, NORMANDY

Rev. J. E. Gethyn-Jones, D.A.C.G. 43 (Wessex) Div. on a recent visit to Normandy reports a crack appearing in the 5th Battalion Memorial. He kindly took a photograph of the damage. Immediate steps are being taken to have the necessary repairs carried out. This timely report from Padre Gethyn-Jones has been of great assistance. We would ask anyone coming across a regimental memorial in an out-of-the-way place to let us have a first-hand report of its condition.

17th DIVISION OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

The 17th Division Officers' Dinner Club formed from officers who served in that Division in 1914-18 still thrives, but the Secretary hopes to attract a number of officers with whom he has lost contact. In a recent list of members the following Dorsets—most of whom served in 6th Battalion—are listed:

Major J. R. Acton; Capt. Philip S. Barber, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.; E. L. B. Lart, Esq.; Lt.-Col. A. G. Lawe; Lt.-Col. A. H. Mitchell, M.B.E., M.C.; Capt. K. Leslie Mortimore, A.C.A., M.C.; Capt. B. C. Mozley, D.S.O., M.C.; Capt. G. O'Hanlon, M.C.; Capt. B. Ten Brocke, C.I.E., M.C.

The Secretary's announcement arrived too late to warn former members of 17th Division of the date of this year's dinner, which was held on September 20, which is the customary time of the year this event is held. Maybe there are amongst our readers those who would like to renew contacts with their brother officers of World War I, and can do so by contacting Lt.-Col. H. P. McC. Glover, M.C., 53 Campden Hill Square, Kensington, London, W.8.

WESSEX BRIGADE NECKTIE

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

BOUND VOLUMES

Arrangements have been made with our Printers, Messrs. F. J. Parsons, Ltd., Observer Buildings, Hastings, Sussex, for the binding of Volumes 1 and 2 of the Journal. Owing to the slimness of individual numbers it is recommended that it is more economical to bind Volumes 1 and 2 together.

Volumes will be fully cased in red cloth with lettering and regimental crest on the front side and the date line on the spine done in gold foil.

Journals for binding must be in good condition and should be sent **direct to the Printers.**

Price: 27s. 6d. plus 1s. 6d. for postage. Cash with order.

INDEX

An Index to Volumes 1 and 2 is being prepared and will be issued as a loose leaf insert with Journal No. 9 in February, 1961, when final details of the Binding and Indexing Scheme will be given.



THE CRICKET WEEK

The new Officers' Club held its first Cricket Week in early July, opening with a two-day match against the Dorset Rangers at Dorchester, followed by a one-day match against the Free Foresters at Exeter and finishing with a two-day game against the Devon Dumplings on the same ground.

Two At Homes were held, the first at Dorchester on Saturday, July 9, and the second at Exeter on the following Thursday. It had been hoped that by holding the Dorchester part of the week early in July we would have ensured the same sort of weather usually enjoyed at Exeter. Not a bit of it—the Clerk of the Weather was up to all his old tricks and arranged for a most unseasonable wind to greet the company of some 350 guests who came to enjoy the day with the Regiment.

This was also the first occasion on which the At Home had been held on a Saturday, a change which was forced on us for a number of good reasons. It is appreciated that July traffic on Saturday does not make for easy driving and a number of regular supporters of the Cricket Week who live some way away were prevented on this account from making the journey. The Officers' Mess bar was taken over by Dorset (T.A.) and proved a very popular rendezvous after the very excellent tea served by Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Bailey of the Wessex Restaurant, Dorchester, and the Durnovaria band provided the music as no military band was available.

The At Home at Exeter was held on the following Thursday, July 14, when about 450 guests were received by the Colonel of the Regiment and General

Borradaile, in very much better weather than had been expected from the forecasts that morning. A mid-July Cricket Week certainly avoided the clash with end of term Speech Days, which had interfered with the plans of some members the year before. As at Dorchester the Officers' Mess bar, following an excellent tea, was taken over by the First Rifle Volunteers. We also had difficulty in finding a band at Exeter until our old friends the 2nd East Anglian Regiment sent their band from Watchet to play during the afternoon.

We regret that the lack of space prevents our including the team manager's report of the cricket, the results of which are as follows:—

DEVON & DORSET REGT. v. DORSET RANGERS LOST

Dorset Rangers

126. Hardwicke 40, Henshaw 28; Waller 6 for 36, Bailward 3 for 31; and 165 for 8 dec. Pinney 41, Dean 40; Waller 3 for 34, Bailward 3 for 48.

Dorset & Devon Regiment

62. Hayes 21; Ormiston 6 for 21, Dean 4 for 28; and 120. Waller 34 n.o., Davey 29; Friend 4 for 23, Taylor 3 for 21.

DEVON & DORSET REGT. v. FREE FORESTERS DRAWN

Devon & Dorset Regiment

197 for 9 dec. Roberts 85, Hewitt 35; Vallins 5 for 42.

Free Foresters

167 for 6. Smith 48, Parr 24; Waller 3 for 55.

(Continued on page 129)

THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES

[We welcome this first contribution from 5 K.A.R. in which Lt. N. R. Pavitt provides a sketch of our Allied Kenya Battalion. We regret we are unable to reproduce his map which accompanied the article.—Ed.]

In this contribution to the DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENTAL JOURNAL we propose to give a few details of 5 K.A.R. for the benefit of those of our affiliated Regiment who have had no contact with the K.A.R. in their service. By arrangement with Lt.-Col. Geoffrey White we have also sent home a set of K.A.R. uniform to dress a dummy in the Regimental Museum. Later we hope to fill a show-case in the Museum with articles of interest to visitors such as ceremonial tribal headress, unusual weapons and other equipment.

5 K.A.R. is part of 70 Infantry Brigade, K.A.R., and is stationed at Nakuru, some 100 miles north-west of Nairobi in the great Rift Valley. Nakuru is the centre of the "White Highlands" farming community and the type of country is such that men from Devonshire and Dorset could often imagine themselves at home. The Battalion occupies spacious barracks five miles from the town: it was originally built for the Royal Air Force during the last war, and was later occupied by the K.A.R. Depot until it was disbanded at the end of the Emergency. Most of the barracks is new, or rebuilt, and the standard is generally very high.

A K.A.R. Battalion has a H.Q. Company, three Rifle Companies and a Training Company. There

is no Support Company or Support Group, but there is a mortar platoon which may have to operate either as a reconnaissance platoon in long wheel base Land Rovers or with two sections of 3 in. mortars. Each Rifle Company has three officers—a Major as Company Commander, a Capt. as Company Second-in-Command, and a subaltern with the exalted title of "Company Subaltern"! This subaltern assists in the training of the three platoons and may command a platoon at times. Sometimes he finds himself acting as Company Commander. The most senior African rank in the Battalion is the "Effendi", who is taking the place of the subaltern platoon commander or African Warrant Officer platoon commander. This rank lapsed soon after the First World War (although a number of Effendis served on until as late as the 1930s) until its reintroduction in 1956. Potential Effendis who are selected from any African rank down to Sergeant, do a rigorous six-month course of training at Nakuru, and those who pass out do not hold either the Queen's or Governor's commission, but rank as Warrant Officers Class I, senior to the African Regimental Sergeant-Major. They have special privileges and their own Mess and they are saluted by African other ranks.

Each Battalion has its own recruiting area, but is responsible for recruiting the tribes within that area for all other Kenya Battalions. There is an identical tribal structure for the three Kenya Battalions with a majority from two tribal groups—the Kalenjin-speaking tribes and the Wakamba. 5 K.A.R. recruit the Kalenjin (mainly Kipsigis and Nandi), who make excellent soldiers and, incidentally, produce most of Kenya's best athletes. 2 K.A.R., stationed in Nairobi, recruit the Wakamba. These two tribal groups account for approximately 60 per cent of each Battalion; the remaining percentage is drawn from many tribes but mainly consist of those from the Northern Frontier such as the Samburu, Turkana and Somali. The Turkana, perhaps the most backward tribe in Kenya and in the K.A.R., live on the west side of Lake Rudolf. They are entirely nomadic and carry what few possessions they have on donkeys—the beast of burden second only to their wives!

Unlike the Indian Army, the tribes within the K.A.R. are integrated in Companies and Platoons; this avoids tribal intrigues and produces a better Battalion spirit. A lingua franca, Ki-Swahili, is used by the K.A.R.; this means that some of the most backward recruits have to be taught it during their basic training. This is quite a problem when teaching them words of command in English at the same time! However, Ki-Swahili in its more basic form is easy to learn as words can be strung together without any agreement and they will be understood. Tribal feuds are now almost unknown and the Askari gives his primary allegiance and his loyalty to the K.A.R.

Recruiting presents no problems whatsoever in East Africa. The K.A.R. askari enjoys high prestige in his native reserve. Ex-Askari who have reached S/N.C.O. or Warrant Officer rank are often selected as Chiefs of their Location when they retire from the Army. News of recruiting safaris is sent out well in advance because it takes a long time to pass through the "normal channels"—from District Commissioner to District Officer to Chief to Headman down to local population! Recruiting safaris from each Battalion recruit simultaneously and consist of a Regimental Officer with K.A.R. experience, a Medical Officer, and senior African N.C.O.s from the tribes which are being recruited. These safaris travel in the Reserves for a fortnight or three weeks visiting pre-arranged trading centres. Selection is a difficult and lengthy process because it is not uncommon to arrive at a place wanting twenty young men and to find 500 eagerly waiting to enlist. Some may have waited for several days and there is real disappointment on the faces of those turned away. Every man has to sign on for an initial period of nine years, and re-engagement figures thereafter are high. 5 K.A.R. for instance has a re-engagement figure of over 70 per cent at the present time. Recruits normally do a six-month period of basic training, but their keenness is such that it is possible to shorten this to four months if essential.

The discipline is high in a K.A.R. Battalion, for it is an honour to be an Askari. When rules are broken the Commanding Officer can award up to 42 days' imprisonment and discharge a man instantly from the K.A.R. Consequently a Court Martial is almost unknown.

The Askari can be trained in all normal trades and specialist appointments found in any British

Battalion. The only additional trade is that of "Tracker", who develops uncanny powers of instinct and observation. In Malaya it was found that he was equally as good as the Iban tracker, and many considered him better. The Askari thrive on a monotonous diet, consisting mainly of maize meal which, when cooked, looks like thick dry porridge, together with vegetables, rice and meat. The daily menu never changes and complaints are rare. On exercises cooking presents no problems, and a mid-day meal of biscuits and raisins will satisfy their needs. This in no way alters the toughness of the Askari, whose endurance in hot climates is second to none. He can march 90 miles in three days in the hot Northern Frontier and be fit for battle on arrival at his destination. Water is always scarce in the Northern Frontier and the Askari are rationed to two water bottles a day.

We have recently been visited by Brigadier P. H. W. Brind, D.S.O., O.B.E. (late Dorset Regiment). Unlike a British Battalion where the turnover of N.C.O.s and men is so swift, he was welcomed and well known by almost all the African Warrant Officers and Sergeants and by very many of the lower ranks, although he relinquished command over four years ago. We have also seen 2/Lt. R. Vincent (late Dorset Regiment), who served with 5 K.A.R. in the Emergency and is now with Brooke Bond's tea estates at Kericho.

We have heard that the Trustees of the Devonshire Regiment have most generously presented us with an inscribed silver cigarette box to commemorate our affiliation. All ranks of 5 K.A.R. wish to express their thanks for such a magnificent gift, which is now on its way out to us by sea.



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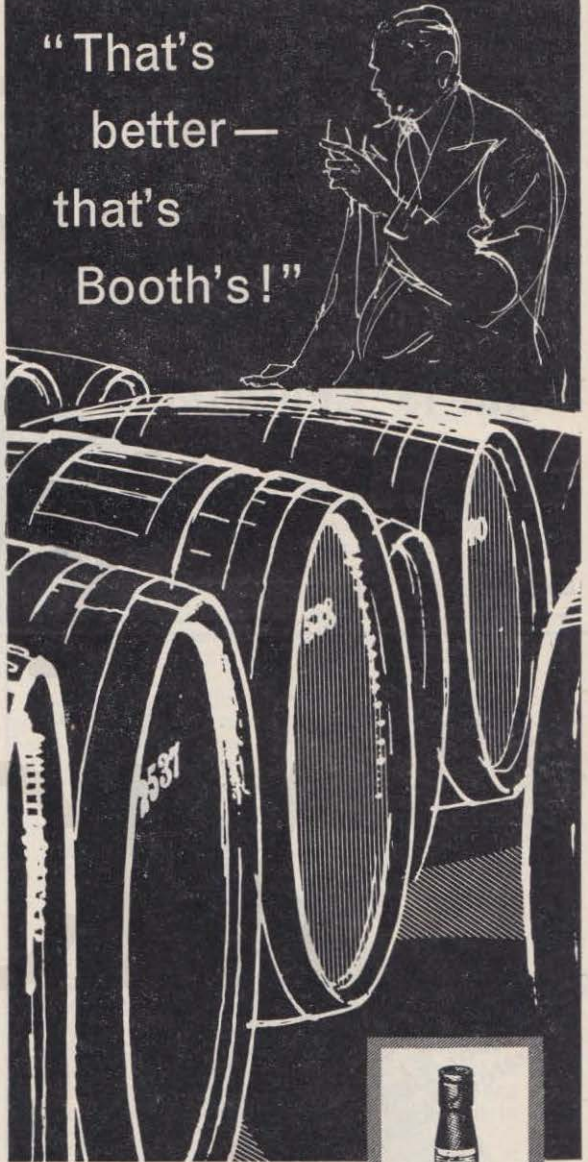
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Dorset Regiment Museum

The attendance figures for the last quarter—which include a very brief Dorchester tourist season—where more than 5,000, that is 2,000 more than last year, and in fact, is greater than the total attendance for the whole of 1959. Even if we do not achieve our aim of doubling last year's figure we hope by the New Year to have received 8,000 visitors.

Among our visitors have been scores of old soldiers who have brought their families and they have been very pleased at what they have found here.

During September our neighbours the Royal Armoured Corps Tank Museum gave their 100,000th guest of the year a ride around the training area in a Centurion. They attract a considerably larger public than our more limited Museum, but the visitors to Dorset seem to be there alright and we must continue to encourage them to come to us.

A sad blow is the temporary drying up of the supply of dummies from the firm who have let us have them for the last few years. However, we have just completed a figure to represent the Dorset Home Guard in Col. Drew's uniform which has been lent to us from the County Museum by kind permission of Mrs. Drew.

The County Museum themselves have continued to extend their help to us in very possible way and have placed at our disposal a magnificent eight-foot high glass case, which, standing in their front hall, will be filled with a military figure and other items to indicate that in the Military Museum at the top of the town visitors will find much more to interest them.

Two gifts of uniform this quarter deserve special mention, the first from Lord Digby who has very kindly given us his grandfather's Yeomanry uniform—both full dress—and the very rare undress jacket worn over a hundred years ago. Lord Digby promises us more such relics of his ancestors when he has an opportunity to reopen his boxes locked away for safe keeping during the war. Great families of Dorset who have for centuries sent their sons into the Land Forces of the County must have a number of such valuable relics hidden away. We are most grateful to Lord Digby for his lead in releasing to the County Military Museum the uniform of his ancestor. Lord Digby also presented one or two personal relics of his own, captured by himself when serving with the Coldstream Guards in World War I.

Another interesting collection which has been given to us—the uniform worn by Sgt. W. Ross in 1870 and his son at the turn of the century. These were presented by the grandson, Mr. E. W. H. Ross of Cucklington, who was the third member of the famous family group—"Three Generations of Yeoman"—which appeared in the Yeomanry Records some years ago. Grandfather Ross' uniform is of special interest, as although we are well supplied with officers' uniforms of the period, we had nothing to show what the trooper wore in those days.

Seventy or eighty years ago the Yeomanry earned a great name for themselves as marksmen in the National Championships, and permanently in the team were Ross—*père et fils*.

Visitors to the Yeomanry room can now see a remarkable document which is none other than the evacuation scheme for Dorset in the year 1804, and which gives in considerable detail a list of persons, live stock and dead stock to be removed in case of invasion and includes a very comprehensive map of the County with the "G" plan of all beacons to be lit—all on one sheet of paper. It is a model of brevity which might well be copied by any Staff Officer or Civil Servant today.

A welcome visitor from our Allied Battalion in Kenya of 5 K.A.R., was Capt. Robin Montgomery, who brought with him an Askari's ceremonial uniform which is now on view in the modern soldier's room.

A Korean bivouac has been laid out in the Queen's Gallery and although we have tried to avoid reproducing the temperature of "Nightmare Field Range" which, if we remember correctly was exactly Zero Fahrenheit, the enlargement of a group of "Charlie" Company taken at the time helps to provide the right atmosphere. Also in this room is to be found a Fujiyama stick. These sticks are carried by climbers making the ascent to the summit of this 12,000 foot peak. Altogether some six former Dorset officers are known to have made this ascent.

It is always fun to know that our belongings are of great interest to others. During the summer an Australian visitor glancing through Capt. Forbes and Lt. Maule's Diary of their search for a gang of Bushrangers in New South Wales in 1832, discovered an original drawing by an aboriginal chief of a duck billed Platypus. This caused great excitement in both historical and naturalist circles and we have already had a very good offer to print these valuable records. We hope to let you have further details of this scheme in our next number.

Once again the Editor is not going to allow me room to publish a complete list of donors and all their gifts. I am hoping to try to persuade him to include such a list with the Index which he is producing for Volumes I and II.

Stories of our Forebears

2/11 Foot—Disaster at Sea

(Extract from The Evening Star—28 Feb., 1811)

It was the night of February 21, 1811, and the 2/11 Foot were on their way to the Peninsula in the transport "John and Jane".

It was unusually dark, and there was a half-gale blowing and heavy rain. The frigate "Franchise" was moving fast off Falmouth when about three o'clock in the morning there was an appalling crash and the "John and Jane" was nearly cut in two. In five minutes she had sunk.

The lack of time and the conditions made it impossible to save many of the passengers and crew. Rope ends were thrown to those struggling in the sea and a few survivors were able to cling to some of the smashed masts and spars which had—fortunately—become entangled in the bowsprit of the "Franchise".

Owing to the fury of the night the Captain declined to lower a boat, thinking that it would undoubtedly be swept away.

As a result of this disaster 224 souls out of a total of 252 were lost.

The 2/11th casualties were seven officers and 197 men, and 15 women and five children also perished.

The officers drowned were Capt. McRae and Gregsby, Lts. Fuller and Ross and Ensigns Glending, Handcock and McMasters.

Survivors included Ensign Duff, Sgts. Brown, Hunt and O'Neale; Cpl. Thompson, and Ptes. Delancey, Valentine, Harr, Mahoney, McLean, Burgess, Keefe, Murphy, Parr, Reilly, Bateman, Stott, Mooney and Young.

This 2nd Bn., as the above names might suggest, had been raised in Ireland in 1807-8 by its Colonel, Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles Asgill.

A Victoria Cross for the Fifty-fourth

An Unsuccessful Claim

By G. G. HARRIS

(Military Historical Society)

We are most grateful to Mr. Harris for allowing us to publish the result of one of his recent searches amongst the Victoria Cross correspondence in the Public Record Office. Readers may be surprised that no trace of this claim for a Victoria Cross exists with the Regiment. However, Lt.-Col. Brett seems to have made his bid after 1861, by which time he had exchanged into the 61st Regiment and in view of his failure to secure the recognition he sought, may well not have passed the correspondence on to his old Regiment.

Major Brett, as he was in 1857, was 2nd in Command of the 54th on board the Sarah Sands. It was upon this officer that command of the Regiment devolved during the 17 critical hours of the fire on 11/12 November after the Commanding Officer had been lowered away in one of the boats and was unable to return.—Editor.

The epic story of the burning of the "Sarah Sands" has been told too often for me to repeat it here. Sir John Fortescue tells it in "A Gallant Company" and an account appeared in "Soldier" recently. It is sufficient to say that on November 11, 1857, on the way to India with some 400 of the 54th Regiment on board fire broke out in the after hold of the steamship "Sarah Sands" when she was about a thousand miles from land. The crew panicked and took to the boats leaving the soldiers to fight the fire. After some seventeen hours during which the mizzen mast had caught fire and gone overboard and an explosion of gunpowder had blown a hole in the port quarter and wrecked the rudder, the flames were subdued. However dangers were not over and it was nearly two weeks before the "Sarah Sands" limped into Mauritius harbour 800 miles away.

About three years later on his return from India, Lt.-Col. Brett of the 54th paid a routine visit to the Adjutant-General who made a very flattering allusion to the behaviour of the Regiment on the "Sarah Sands". Previously, in a speech to the Commons announcing the amendment to the Victoria Cross warrant dated August 10, 1858, General Peel had said, "It was requisite that some extraordinary proof of valour in the presence of the

enemy should be given. But in the instance of the "Sarah Sands" they afforded the greatest possible proof of valour. He was glad to say he had obtained Her Majesty's permission to extend the order to such circumstances." The warrant of August 10, 1858, reads: "By a warrant under Her Royal Sign Manual August 10 1858 Her Majesty was pleased to direct that the Victoria Cross should be conferred subject to the rules and ordinances already made on the Officers and men of Her Majesty's Naval and Military Services who may perform such acts of conspicuous courage and bravery under circumstances of extreme danger, such as the occurrence of a fire on board ship, or the foundering of a vessel at sea or in any other circumstances in which through the courage and devotion displayed, life or public property may be saved."

Encouraged by the foregoing Col. Brett requested the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Michel, to make application to the Adjutant-General for an award of the Victoria Cross to be made to the Regiment. In July 1860 a reply was received saying that "special application must be made for an individual. His Royal Highness will not object to the name of an officer or man of the 54th being submitted for consideration."

In answer to this Col. Michel sent to the Adjutant-General a copy of a letter from Lt.-Col. Brett in which he recommends for the Cross 3190 Pte. Andrew Walsh in these terms:

"He volunteered to assist clear the powder magazine. Went aft with Mr. Welch (Chief Officer of the 'Sarah Sands') and succeeded in extinguishing the fire in the main top sailyard, the yard and mast being on fire and the ship rolling badly. Subsequently, good conduct during the next twelve days of great anxiety and danger."

The A.G. forwarded Walsh's name to the Military Secretary for submission and in February 1861 the A.G. received from the War Office the following: "The warrant of August 10, 1858, has no retrospective effect and therefore no instrument is in existence under which Her Majesty can confer this honour on the soldier in question. However His Royal Highness received with gratification the favourable testimony which has been borne to the conspicuous courage and bravery and regrets that the claim cannot be granted."

Col. Michel wrote in September of 1861 a reminder to the A.G. and on the back of this letter is written in red ink "Letter in reply to him was sent as long ago as 18 February last." Colonel Brett made a final but unsuccessful attempt to secure the Cross for Pte. Walsh in 1863.

Four officers and twenty-five other ranks were cited for gallantry during the fire on the "Sarah Sands" but I do not know if any actual reward was made or award given, or if Pte. Walsh was one of these.*

But what "Red Tape"—that the very action which motivates the alteration in the Victoria Cross warrant should go unrewarded by it!

*Major Brett and Capt. Gillum received immediate Brevets. Lt. Hughes was promised a Brevet in due course after receiving his Captaincy, and Lt. Houston was granted immediate promotion into the 4th King's Own. The 25 men were granted an extra 6d. per day pension after their retirement. Pte. Walsh was one of the men cited in General Order No. 700 of 27 February, 1858.—Editor.

WHERE BE YON BLACKBIRD TO?

GERALD BLIGHT in his new job in the War Office, M.I. 3 (c) reports that he is trying to make head and tail of the most fascinating job he has ever done. Lorna and the two children were due to arrive from Australia at the end of September, when they plan to move into a hiring at Addington, near Croydon. * * *

Gerald informs us that Colonel Gabriel Favreau, M.C., is now the French Military Attaché in London. We hope that any old Dorsets of Hong Kong days will look up the gallant Foreign Legionnaire when they are in London. He continues to hold the happiest memories of his attachment to the Regiment. We well remember his perplexity on arriving on "Shaiba Day minus 1" when, for the first time for many years the Norfolks and Dorsets were about to celebrate a "Norset" occasion—"Le Regiment de Norset" was something about which he had not been briefed. Colonel Gabriel has recently been awarded *La Plaque de Grande Officier de la Legion d'Honneur*, which is one of the highest possible awards for that very distinguished and much be-medalled officer to hold. * * *

A former 1 Devon Teatoon Commander, Peter Andrews, writes from his tea plantation in Kenya—Tinderet, P.O. Box 12, Lumbwa—that he hopes to visit the United Kingdom on his long leave next summer. He spent a night recently with George and Comilla Cope and reports George as working with great vigour from dawn to dusk on his farm. * * *

In Embu and Meru the "Isaac Walton" and the "Pig and Whistle" hostleries are as hospitable as ever, and despite the activities of certain Devons in the past the rivers are once more abounding with trout. * * *

Bill Bullocke was at home during the summer. We hope that room will be found for his account of his journey home 3rd Class from Athens elsewhere in this number. Meanwhile he is at the Command Arabic Language School, Aden, until December. This inveterate wanderer hopes to take his next leave from Oman in Kashmir. * * *

Another visitor during the summer was Paget King Fretts, who has sold his farm in South Molton and, without leaving that postal district, has moved to somewhere called "East Johnstone". Paddy, who is now at Sandhurst, was spending a great part of his leave camping in Guernsey. * * *

Vic Duffield reports that he has forsaken the hotel trade, delicensed his pub—which he now uses as a private residence—and is now employed as a local Government Officer at Taunton. * * *

We hear that Tony Chiswell becomes official Wessex Brigade representative at Mons on the departure of Lt.-Col. Warren of the Hampshires next summer. Meanwhile his brother, Peter, who was nominated for next year's Staff Course at Quetta, has been given a vacancy at Camberley. At the time of writing he is getting a "shot in the arm" course at Shrivenham to prepare him for the mental rigours he will have to face next year. * * *

Wing-Commander Kit Forsyth writes from the Ministry of Defence at Storeys Gate, S.W.1. We are not quite certain what appointment he holds in that august organisation. * * *

The Rouses (or is it Rice?) passed very quickly through England on their return from the United States. Due to normal but regrettable delay in the War Office decision as to whether or not he could have an accompanied passage, Adrian was finally warned to take Valerie in the *Devonshire* only five days before they sailed, and were then unable to get to the Regimental "At Home" at Exeter. * * *

Another African settler who asks for his address to be made known is Tony Speller, P.O. Box 688, Lagos. He says, "I can normally be found in Lagos, Nigeria, or Accra, Ghana, P.O. Box 85. In Lagos a bed is always available. . . ." * * *

W. F. R. Burton, about whose recent activities we were misinformed, is now back on the Regimental Roll and is Ships' Commandant on one of the Harwich-Hook boats. His old friends can find him at Walsingham, Low Road, Dovercourt, Essex. * * *

We congratulate Peter Graystone on his engagement, of which we read just about the same time as we received his posting order to the Q.O.N.R. in January next. He is to be married on November 26 at Devizes and sails for Nigeria, he hopes with his wife, on December 22. Nothing like starting your wife off on a foreign tour without any delay. * * *

Robin Sheather has arrived back from hot countries to occupy a D.A.A.G.'s desk at H.Q. Wessex Bde. At one time this seat had been ear-marked for Gerald Blight, and we are still not certain whether Robin is the permanent or only a temporary occupant. * * *

The elder Harries twin, F.W., is reported as returning home in January to become D.A.Q.M.G. (Works) at H.Q., Southern Command. After this summer in England we hope he will bring some of the Aden sunshine with him. * * *

Bob Reep has announced his engagement to Mary Gooch, and we look forward to hearing more news of this forthcoming marriage. * * *

During one of the wetter and stormier days in August a bedraggled figure in Scouters uniform—entirely disguised behind a beaming smile—walked into the Keep at Dorchester. It was none other than "Chindit" Cottle, who was such a ball of fire when he joined the old 54th for the trip to Japan after the war. He is now a Master at Dulwich College and a keen scouter. He had deployed his boys over the beauty spots of England from Cumberland to Dorset and was busy visiting each camp. He says that he recently stayed with Hugh MacIntyre and Willie Gray, who has also adopted medicine as his profession. It appears that they share a practice in Nottingham and would welcome a visit from any old members of the 54th passing that way. * * *

Another old Japan hand on a visit home is Tony Cross, currently serving in the Kenya Police. Until Christmas Tony is on a long Police Course at Basingstoke. He came to the Dorset Association Reunion and looks forward to meeting his old friends at the Regimental Dinner.

Peter Willcocks has had a busy visit home. In the course of a comprehensive tour of the two counties he has met a great many who will be watching the interests of the 1st Battalion during his period of command. He has also been made to "sing for his supper" by both the Old Comrades' Associations. At Exeter he was called on to read the Lesson, whilst at Dorchester he was put on his feet to face 300 members of the Dorset Regiment Association and propose the toast.

Dick Jury, who is now firmly ensconced in the War Office—S.D.4—has announced his engagement to Ann Davis of Paignton.

Roger Cullen, who is joining the staff of the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, Salop, is another soon to quit the bachelor ranks when he marries Miss Sandra Love of Plymouth.

Nigel Notley is home from Nigeria and for the moment is held at Wessex Bde. until after the Staff College examination next February. One posting order we have had suggests his next move is to join 1 D.E.R.R. at Tidworth—having been caught out once in our prognostication we will say no more about this at the moment.

"Aga" Cann, late Quartermaster of the 1st Rifle Volunteers, went off to Hong Kong at the end of July, his departure having been postponed, which was fortunate as he was available to run the bar at the Old Comrades' Reunion Dinner.

Clive Chettle paid us a flying visit recently and will be in Cyprus by the time these notes are published.

Desmond Bannister came down from Warminster in August to take a passing out parade at the Wessex Brigade Depot. As an ex-Commander of the Depot Devonshire Regiment, he knows the form.

We had temporarily lost touch with Eddie Warren, so it was good to see him at the "At Home". He is still with Dunn's Seeds at Salisbury, but lives at Mere Down House, Warminster.

Eddie Warren's half section when he joined the Regiment—Quentin Hogg—was encountered recently outside the War Office. Quentin is shortly changing his job and joining an organisation which selects staff for other firms. We understand this includes female staff, so unless Quentin has lost his form since Calcutta days, his customers should be well satisfied.

Major Pannett, who has a son doing his National Service at the Depot, was down here recently staying with Ronnie Creasy, and looked in before watching the passing out parade taken by Desmond Bannister.

We were visited recently by Colonel Willis, who was on one of his periodical visits to England from Guernsey. He is one of our veterans as he served in the South African War in the 2nd Devons.

Jimmy Lynch is about to become, or has become, a local "tycoon", and when last seen was house-hunting in the Exeter-Crediton area.

Mike Bennett, late S.S.O. Famagusta, came home at the end of October and has returned to Somerset, for whom he used to play cricket. He may be getting a Photographic Interpretation job if his mathematics will stand the strain. In by-gone days Mike used to do his Supplementary Reserve training with the 2nd Devons.

John Bahin, who has just taken over G.S.O. I. Infantry 2 at the War Office, went to Canada in October to attend the Infantry Conference and also to visit the Canadian and American Schools of Infantry.

A recent wedding in London was that of Graham Dadson to Agatha Urquhart. Since he left the Regiment some years ago, Yon Blackbird has little to add to this bald statement.

Brigadier "Speedy" Bredin recently visited the Dorset Regiment Museum. He has been a great help to Geoffrey White in his plans for the improved display of the Battalions which served in North-West Europe in World War II. This has been a busy year for Speedy as he took over Inspector of Physical Training just as the A.P.T.C. was about to celebrate its Centenary; these celebrations were planned to last throughout most of 1960. When seen at the re-dedication of the War Memorial in the Headquarters Gymnasium he was bearing up well and assisted the Colonel Commandant to present Q.M.S.I. Baker with his M.S.M. As Speedy pointed out to Field-Marshal Montgomery, he and Baker joined Charlie Company of the old 54th in Portland at about the same time.

Charles Wallis writes from his mountain fastness accusing Yon Blackbird of having an interest in Pirelli tyres. He points out that for those prepared to accept his advice, and drive their own cars to Switzerland for the winter sports, that Dunlop "Town and Country" are not only quite as adequate but considerably cheaper. Caro, the hound which stood about the size of a calf, has been replaced with something a little more manageable and less ferocious—a pedigree bitch miniature Bernard. Charles looks forward to seeing his friends at Le Tilleul during the coming winter.

Congratulations to the 1st Bn. Paymaster, Capt. M. Chapman and wife Stella on their daughter Emma Caroline.

G.S.M. Howe writes that among the 1st Bn. the Royal Fusiliers in Malta are many who formerly passed through the hands of 1st Dorset in Hong Kong, and there is much talk of the old San Wai Sgts.' Mess. Of Maltese formerly employed by the two Regiments he mentions especially Mr. Agius, who was in the old 1st Dorset (39th) Orderly Room and is now the owner of the hairdressing saloon in the Vernon Club; 5725142, Pte. Lock is

still serving in Malta, having been there since the Regiment left seventeen years ago. He is employed in the canteen at the Education Centre and must be as much a part of the "Inventory" as was that remarkable groundsman at Dover when the Devons and Dorsets were there before the war.

G.S.M. Howe says that he does not know how many G.C. badges Lock carries on his arm, but of his family of five children, the eldest boy has emigrated to Australia.

Howe himself, who was recently commended for rescuing an unconscious swimmer at Valetta, is kept very busy in the field of sport. His prowess as football referee is well known and in matches between Maltese teams he is regarded as one who will handle the game without bias to either side. Meanwhile at night time he is kept busy refereeing boxing. He reports Mrs. Howe and Patricia as fit and well, spending most of their time in the water or on the beach. In the Garrison Swimming Gala the Howe family took second place in the "Families Race". The Garrison Sgt.-Major was himself second in the over 40s final, having been made to produce proof of his date of birth before his entry was accepted.

It is not every day that the Regiment hits the headlines quite as heavily as when George Short took unilateral action with his patrol to deal with some Congolese goings on in darkest Africa. Well done, young man! That is the sort of resolute action we like to hear that our Subalterns take.

Former R.S.M. Webber's recent boss, the Military Attaché in Prague, turned out to be none other than Colonel John Bolton, who will be remembered by former Officers of the 39th as the young officer who did his year's U.L.I.A. attachment with them in 1932-33 and achieved some distinction as a boxer. He sends best wishes to any of the Dorsets of those days who may remember him.

Capt. Aggett has returned from Nigeria and is due to go to the H.Q. Light Infantry Brigade at Shrewsbury as P.S.O. in February next. As there is already a Wessex Brigade P.S.O. at Exeter his services were required farther afield.

Jimmy Hosking has been posted to 1st Royal Hampshires in the Caribbean. There is no doubt this young officer has a flair for selecting only the best overseas stations, Hong Kong and the Caribbean are not a bad pair with which to start the list of names on his napkin ring.

The first letter to reach us from Independent Somaliland is from John Freer-Smith, who reports that our three representatives are all due to be home for Christmas. John himself hopes to join 2 Q.O.N.R. to complete his overseas tour. He does not know anything about the fate of Brian Edwards or Nipper Harries, whom he sees seldom but hears most days over the Battalion net.

They had a magnificent hand-over parade with Battalion H.Q. Staff and Company Commanders mounted on rather wild Somali ponies. It would appear that Brian Edwards must have had a few months' extension of his tour as Adjutant.

We hear that Malcolm Wadham, who has been with 4 R.E.M.E. for some time, is due to rejoin the 1st Battalion by Christmas.

It appears that Reggie Hill did not throw away his gum boots and feed box when he took up the pen of an R.O.3, and he assures us that before setting out and on returning home every day his animals and birds are as well fed by him as ever.

During the summer we had our first visit from an officer currently serving with our Allied Battalion, 5 K.A.R., Capt. Robin Montgomery, home on a series of courses. He brought with him the Askari ceremonial kit which now graces the Allied Regiments Exhibit in the Museum at Dorchester. We are looking forward to the next batch of items which 5 K.A.R. are collecting for us. Shortly before his arrival a former Dorset officer, R. L. Vincent, who did his National Service with 5 K.A.R. also dropped in at Dorchester and presented the Museum with some of his kit.

A recent visitor to Dorchester was Capt. B. R. Hodgkins of the Worcester Regiment, who was attached to 4th Dorset after Arnhem. For those who may like to get in touch with him his address is Warwick, Stratford Drive, Honeybourne, Evesham, Worcs.

We congratulate Eric Stones on his majority—well done, Eric! We hope you are liking your new appointment in A.R.(I.) better than the desk to which you were first assigned in the War Office. We are glad to hear that Gerry is out of dock, but has to take things quietly in their home at Camberley for a while. Eric's address is Heatherside Close, Chobham Road, Camberley, and they are always pleased to see travellers passing up and down the A.30.

1 D. & D. are not only shortly losing a C.O., but have already lost their Adjutant, Douglas Lovejoy, having left them for a two and a half year's course at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham. For an officer who seems to have spent his regimental soldiering as "Pronto", we hope he will rapidly get on "net" with the "Boffins".

Cricket Week—continued from page 123

DEVON & DORSET REGT. V. DEVON DUMPLINGS
WON

Devon & Dorset Regiment

250. Hewitt 80, Garnham 40; Acland 6 for 63, Davey 3 for 99; and 142. White 36, Waller 29; Acland 5 for 26, Rogers 3 for 54.

Devon Dumplings

190. Tremlett 53 n.o., Taylor 48; Avent 4 for 46, Waller 3 for 51; and 138. Acland 46, Tremlett 40; Garnham 4 for 25, Avent 3 for 25.

Adventurous Training—continued from page 136

Our departure date was fast approaching so we returned to Athens and here again saw many wonderful archaeological treasures. Besides the actual ruins we visited a number of museums and this in itself was an education. We were only too sorry to have to leave such a wonderful country. The return boat trip was uneventful but provided us with time for thought and indeed we will never regret the money spent or the many hours of planning, it was an unforgettable experience.

1st Battalion

THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT

Since our last contribution there has been quite a change among the sub-unit Commanders, only "C" and H.Q. Coys. remaining unchanged. The new Commanders are "A" Coy., Major Rouse; "B" Coy., Major Archer and S. Coy., Major Reynolds. Major Walenn has become second-in-command, *vice* Major Gilchrist.

Quite a lot has happened since our last notes—in chronological order there first came the Queen's Birthday Parade at Dhekelia. Each major unit on the island sent a detachment. The Devon and Dorset party was commanded by Capt. Tremlett, and the officers for the Colours were: Queen's Colours, Lt. C. R. M. Green (Devon) and Lt. P. McL. Baxter (Dorset), 2/Lt. J. F. W. Wilsey (Devon) and 2/Lt. J. E. Andre (Dorset). The salute was taken by H.E. the Governor, Sir Hugh Foot accompanied by Maj.-Gen. K. Darling.

From June 14-17, Bn. H.Q. and Coy. lower controls had their annual signal exercises, "ex-Plassey II". This exercised us in all phases of war including a long rough walk for some of us of some 5,000 yards over country that could only be likened to the North West Frontier in miniature. It was a great success and certainly refreshed our wireless procedure. The exercise finished with a withdrawal to the sea and a welcome bathe.

This year we celebrated Plassey Day with a Regimental holiday and swimming gala. Details of this appear in the swimming notes, but one of the highlights was the convoying—the word is used advisedly—of the Bn. families some 10 miles across Limassol Bay in "Z" craft.

On June 29 the G.O.C.-in-C., Lt.-Gen. R. N. Anderson paid a visit to the Bn. and was entertained to luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

The first three weeks of July saw all the rifle companies disappear to hidden base camps near the sea to carry out platoon and company training. During the period the interplatoon patrol competition was held. This was won by 4 Platoon of "B" Coy.; 3 Platoon "A" Coy. was second and 7 Platoon "C" Coy. was third. The running of the competition was somewhat delayed each day by Forest Fire Standbys for a forest fire in the north of the Island. Fortunately our friends of 2 Para. coped ably, and in the event we did not have to go.

July 14 and 15 H.M.S. *Ark Royal* paid a visit to Limassol and several officers and men went aboard. We played soccer against a team from *Ark Royal*, defeating them 9-2.

On July 14 the Deputy Governor, Sir George Sinclair, left the Island and the Bn. sent a small party to Nicosia to bid him farewell.

Salamanca Day this year was celebrated quietly by a Regimental holiday and the final of the inter-Coy. cricket, in which "B" Coy. defeated H.Q. Coy. by 7 wickets.

Close on Salamanca came our Bn. exercise "Fly by Night". This was a simulated air move to a

place outside Cyprus. One of the highlights of the exercise—or for "C" Coy. at least—was when 8 Platoon and the Coy. H.Q. were flown into action by two helicopters. The Bn. carried out its task so quickly that the C.O. was able to order the return to camp 24 hours before the scheduled end of the exercise.

During the exercise "Fly by Night" 2 Libyan officers visited the Bn. They were brought over by Major Paul Mangin, who is with the Military Mission there. He spent an exhaustive time answering a host of questions that were fired at him by all the officers on N. Africa. They enjoyed their trip and we enjoyed having them.

On August 10 H.E. the Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, and Maj.-Gen. K. Darling paid a farewell visit to the Bn. They were entertained to luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

H.Q. Company

We think that the outstanding milestone in this quarter has been the game of General Post occasioned by the reduction of H.Q. Coy. from its peak strength of 491 to a mere manageable force of a mere 275. Nevertheless we are still a mixed force of all arms and, sponge-like, have begun to absorb numerous old friends who have managed to creep back into remote corners of the H.Q. Empire.

Our training diary has been full, varying from a full-scale Command and Signal exercise known as "Plassey II" on which the Signal Platoon maintained communications with all the out-stations of the Bn. who had not switched off or removed their battery packs to lighten the load, and in which the Drums maintained a duty roster in the field and a "nights in bed" book, both of which produced permutations beyond the wildest hope of any pools permutation.

Towards the end of July came exercise "Fly by Night", when we moved by lorry to a local airfield, then changed to other vehicles to simulate aircraft and motored through the Cyprus darkness to debus (or was it deplane?) at dawn on a bare flat deserted airfield where the Coy. erected what shade they could and performed their numerous tasks. Many men are still wondering what became of the aircraft, and all imaginations were fully exercised in visualising aircraft where none existed. The arrival of General K. T. Darling by helicopter, and his inspection of the Drums in their position served to enlighten the proceedings slightly. In the sporting life, two major Battalion events have claimed our attention. On June 27 the Plassey Day Gala was held at Fisherman's Cove, when H.Q. Coy. produced two swimming teams thus giving them the O.C., C.S.M. and remainder of the Coy. office staff an excuse for NOT participating in strenuous events for fear that one team or other would claim advantage (or disadvantage) in the final result. On the day H.Q. I led by Capt. Tawney returned a score

of 64 points and so became champion swimming Coy. H.Q. II, not to be outdone, were 5th, a result which does no credit to the high endeavour of the Orderly Room, Q.M. Staff, Police and Cooks, and did nothing to prevent the subsequent disbandment of H.Q. II.

During Salamanca Week H.Q. Coy. cricket team achieved a notable victory over S. Coy. in the semi-final, only to be soundly defeated by "B" Coy. in the final match. Needless to say "B" Coy. played a high proportion of ex-H.Q. Coy. soldiers, who were thrown up by the General Post, notably L/Cpl. Goode, who has now departed on N.S. release. All are universally agreed that the highest scorer of the H.Q. team throughout the season has been Mrs. Veronica Brierley, wife of the I.O., who has striven nobly against all visiting scorers to achieve cricketing victory for H.Q. Coy. We are most grateful for her sharp pencil and sharp eyes in the scorer's box.

C.S.M. Lamble, having just established his chair as C.Q.M.S., departed for "B" Coy., where we wish him good luck and good swimming! In his place we welcome C.Q.M.S. Rogers from S. Coy., who has already expanded to a suite of offices complete with cold (iced) water supply and fans, all presumably labelled A in U. C.S.M. McGregor from a brief precarious start as M.T. Sgt., C.S.M. H.Q. 2, W.T. and Sniper W.O., Bn. Drill Instructor, has now consolidated his position as C.S.M. to the Coy. and we have exchanged the valuable services of C.S.M. Cleverley for those of C.S.M. Wood, who from the relative calm of "A" Coy. has now been jettisoned into the frantic preparation of the M.T. for Africa and U.V.I. We shall miss him when he departs in October for the T.A.

Regimental Police

We welcome to the Constabulary L/Cpl. Greenaway and Pte. Carpenter. Although he has only been on the Island a few weeks, "Chippy" Carpenter has gained a place in the Bn. boxing team alongside an old member of the staff, "Tiny" Roberts.

Between Bn. exercises we are kept alert on the main gate check point by jumping clear of lady drivers coming to collect their husbands. After being stopped from a steady 65 m.p.h., one lady driving a blue Simca, or was it a blue Prefect, said she thought the Bn. speed limit sign (15 m.p.h. painted RED AND WHITE) helped to brighten the camp up a bit.

After a few more days of looking after the inmates, driver training, map-reading, etc., under the eagle eye of Cpl. Lingard, we shall be able to count the "days to do" for L/Cpl. Manston, Ptes. Stagg and Musselwhite of our staff. "Wiltshire police have already filled in the forms for Stagg, so just sign on the dotted line."

Intelligence Section

The brains department have found the past few months exhausting, interesting and, in the main, amusing. Lt. Brierley took over the position of "Big Brother" complete with four-wheeled trolley and hooter. It is a source of wonderment to this section as to where Pte. Smith manages to find the wind to keep him talking for so long. However, with much cotton wool the remainder manage to survive.

The newest recruit to the Section and also a regular is Pte. Richardson, who has completely

subdued the remainder by giving up a good civilian job to join the Army. At the present time the Section are busily preparing for North Africa, training and learning how to mount camels. Congratulations to Sgt. Groom on achieving a very good result on his "I" course, and who is now returning to resume his position of "Assistant Big Brother".

The Band

What a busy summer this has been for us, but surprisingly, most of our work has taken us away from the Battalion. There are certain disadvantages in being the Band nearest G.H.Q., but there is always the credit which comes from so many important engagements.

This period has seen our appearance in our white helmets, and very smart we feel, too. The excited comments of our audiences are really worth listening to, although naturally we are often mistaken for members of another famous Corps in the armed services.

In mid-June the Bandmaster flew to Malta (he took the C.-in-C. with him as a matter of fact) to arrange a tour for the Band of that Island. It is expected that this will take place later in the year, when we look forward to renewing our acquaintance with Major Speller and R.S.M. Howe. Applications from ex-Devon or Dorset Bandsmen to enlist for this tour will be considered on their merit—yes, even yours, Nobby Knowles.

A hearty welcome is extended to Bdsms. Norton and Matthews, who recently joined us from the Boys' Unit at Exeter, and to Bdsms. King, who is serving his country in the Band. Bdsms. King has shown that he is even better at snooker and billiards than cornet-playing, so it looks as if we might be able to hold our own in these sports from now on.

Solo cornet player, L/Cpl. John Martin, has decided to try his luck with the R.A.M.C. Staff Band. All the best John, come back if you don't like it. To replace L/Cpl. Martin, we are eagerly awaiting the return of Bill Begam from the Irish Guards, where he has spent the last nine months, having decided that the D. & D.s weren't so bad after all.

On his return our hockey team will be back to strength and we will unhesitatingly challenge all comers. The summer season has seen a decline in our sporting activities, but with the approach of the cooler weather, watch out all companies and departments.

To end these notes we would like to say a sad farewell to our musical sparring partner, Drum-Major Young. We have had some very fine times together, and under his guidance have taken some peculiar routes through various "Retreats". We wish him *bon voyage* and all the luck in the world in his next appointment. He has a very worthy successor in Drum-Major Barlow, and it is with pleasure that we anticipate the next order "Band and Drums will parade."

Corps of Drums

Since writing our last JOURNAL notes we have lost a lot of members from the platoon and are practically starting from scratch. Our greatest loss was Drum-Major (Spandel) Young, who left us for a familiar stamping ground of his, namely Malaya. We wish him and his family *bon voyage*

and the best of luck in his new job. A fitting farewell to the old members was the Trooping of the Colour, which was a great honour for all concerned, especially the National Service drummers, who never let a chance go by without boasting about it.

We are gradually becoming an all regular Corps and are anticipating getting down to some serious practice during the stay of the Bn. in N. Africa besides playing our role as Bn. H.Q. Defence Platoon.

We congratulate L/Cpls. Peters and Mariam on their recent marriage, and wish them luck for the future, and "Butch" Williams on his recent promotion to L/Cpl., his first step on the bottom rung of the ladder of success.

Signal Platoon

During the last few months the Signal Platoon has lost over 20 old stalwarts of the 58 group. We have had to buckle down to cadres and hard training in order to fill the gaps. L/Cpl. Beeston has replaced L/Cpl. Joint on the throne in the mad whirl of the Signal Centre. He is being ably assisted by Baker, our documents king, who, after the last check, has been heard mumbling A.F. numbers during his sleep—both night and day.

"Fly by Night", the only exercise during this period, exercised our imaginations more than our communications, but our net was open on time, unlike the umpires, who managed to shake the sleep out of their eyes half an hour after everything was all over.

With sighs of relief we saw our kit sail for N. Africa with the advance party, and we have now settled down to enjoy ourselves until it is our turn to leave.

M.T. Platoon

A busy quarter for us being the Bn. training period, which always means vehicles in the field, leaving less in camp to carry out the same number of domestic details; we find it difficult to meet them at the best of times. However, our R.E.M.E. detachment and Regimental fitters, not to mention office staff, cadre instructors, servicing bay personnel and drivers, have worked wonders and all needs have been met.

We were sorry to lose so many old hands during the quarter, too many to mention here, and wish them and their replacements the best of luck for the future.

100 per cent vehicles are required for the Bn. training in North Africa, which is much looked forward to by one and all, and at the present we are working like beavers to ensure that they are all runners as far as the docks at least.

Six weeks after the return from North Africa the annual vehicle inspection rears its ugly head, so more hard work is called for. However, we intend having a relaxed and enjoyable break at Christmas.

Q.M. Staff

Since our last notes we have several changes on the staff and there are many more to be made, due chiefly to the departure of N.S. men and a reshuffle throughout the Bn. To those who leave us for civilian life we wish them *bon voyage* and success; to the newcomers we say welcome, and settle down quickly to the uncertain life of a Q.M. Staff man.

Lt. Marquis has attended a Messing Officer's course at Aldershot, taken a month's leave and returned in time to take the advance party to N. Africa.

R.Q.M.S. Bate-Jones has settled into his new job and, contrary to the last JOURNAL edition report, does not also function as C.S.M. "C" Coy. He is also visiting N. Africa and tells us that he has seen Derna before. We wonder when—and why! And if he went armed on that occasion?

Pte. Alan Smith continues to ring birds on the Akrotiri Peninsular, at least so he reports, however, there is no truth in the statement that he also rings "sparrows". This is only done by Brigadiers.

We congratulate our hockey team on being unbeaten in the inter-platoon hockey tournament. Further congratulations to the M.M.G. Platoon on receiving the trophy; they were the victims of circumstances. There are no prizes for working out how the final result came about. With monkey gland treatment we may even see the Q.M.s taking part again next season.

An unusual occurrence was noted on August 11, a real live General visited the Q.M. Staff; at last our hideout in Kitchener Lines has been discovered. Fortunately it was a farewell visit and not a visit in search of 6 ft. piquets.

"A" Company

This has been a very unsettling time for the Company due to the extraordinary number of changes that have taken place this quarter. With great regret we lost both Major A. D. Lewis, and Capt. D. McL. Stone within months of each other. In their places we welcome Major A. D. Rouse and Capt. P. K. Essame.

Also within Coy. H.Q. we have said good-bye to C.S.M. Wood and L/Cpl. May. C.S.M. J. Cleverley replaces the former and Pte. Ashley takes over as our new Coy. clerk.

Within the platoons we welcome 2/Lt. D. Thomas to command 3 Platoon in place of 2/Lt. A. G. Hill; and Sgt. Shearsby returns to the fold after his Sgts.' Mess duties.

We say good-bye to Cpl. Foley, L/Cpl. May, L/Cpl. Moorshead, Ptes. Bishop, Cohen, Dustan, Gane, Keffen, Madge, Simmonds, Smith and Payne. And welcome the following to the Coy.: Ptes. Board, Dymond, England, Harrison, Haseldine, Holden, Jefferies, Hill, Martin, Neale, Oaten, Spiller, Wallis, Wallum and Ward.

Despite the large turnover we have done plenty of training, a normal week's training consisting of 4 or 5 days Platoon and Coy. training in the Paphos and Akrotiri area followed by Platoon Adm. inspections and parades.

In the platoon patrols competition, 3 Platoon came second and 1 Platoon fourth, and the Commanding Officer complimented us on being the fittest Coy. Congratulations to Cpl. Mellin for getting full marks for 1 Platoon as a Section Commander.

The experiment of banding all regulars together in 1 Platoon has worked most satisfactorily and it is hoped when we return from North Africa to start a one-month progressive training scheme. When numbers allows it is also hoped to re-arrange 3 Platoon on an all regular basis.

On the lighter side we had a good day on the Plassey inter-Coy. swimming gala, where we came

1st BATTALION



FAREWELL LUNCHEON TO H.E. THE GOVERNOR SIR HUGH FOOT

Back Row:—2 Lt. N. Taylor, 2 Lt. N. Taylor, R.A.E.C., Lt. J. D. Landholt, Int. Corps., Lt. P. McL. Baxter, Lt. J. M. Hewitt

Third Row:—2 Lt. B. Reid, Lt. J. Graham, 2 Lt. M. Clark, 2 Lt. A. E. O. Bastyan, 2 Lt. A. Hurst, Lt. W. Bullocke, Lt. J. Reid, 2 Lt. D. G. Thomas, 2 Lt. J. E. Andre, Lt. J. Brierley

Second Row:—Maj. P. R. B. Freeland, Rev. K. Jackson, Capt. P. D. Clarke, Capt. N. Chapman, R.A.P.C., Capt. G. W. Blake, Capt. P. K. Essame, Capt. D. McL. Stone, Capt. M. Hawkins, Capt. A. Tawney, Lt. C. R. M. Green, Capt. J. D. C. Blake, Capt. J. W. Tong

Front Row:—Maj. M. J. Reynolds, Brig. H. Pyman (Western Area Comd.), Maj. R. Feltham, Mr. Williams (Commissioner Limassol), Maj. J. Walenn, H.E. The Governor, Lt.-Col. R. H. Wheatley, Maj.-Gen. K. T. Darling, Capt. D. P. Lovejoy, Mr. A. C. C. D'olivera, Maj. J. Archer, Maj. A. D. Rouse

Camp Pictures

(Right)—Devon A.C.F. Camp, Okehampton. Mid-morning break

(Below)—Dorset (T.A.) Bivouac in Glen Clova



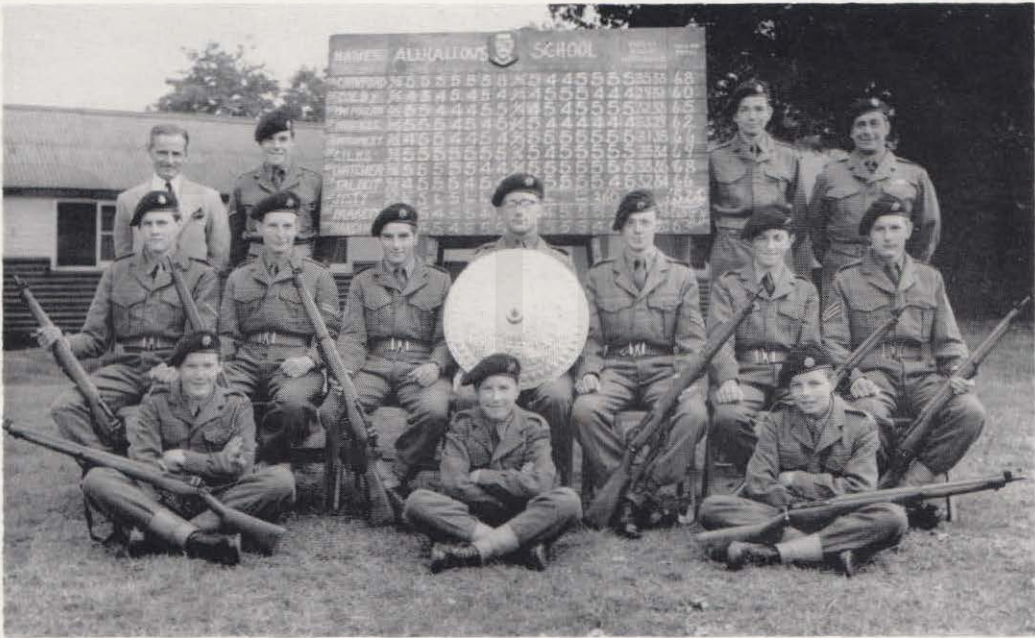
THE NIJMEGEN MARCH TEAM, DEVON (T.A.) (1st Rifle Volunteers)



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From rear to front:—2 Lt. A. J. C. Mew, 2 Lt. P. I. Lambert, Sgt. R. Mead (*in rear*) Bicycle Orderly, Pte. Hawke, Lt. D. A. Harris, Pte. G. Salter, Pte. M. Clancy, Pte. A. Banfield, Pte. L. J. Stoneman, Maj. M. J. P. S. Dickson, Sgt. J. Alderman, Pte. D. O'Connor, Sgt. W. Rose

SUCCESSFUL MARKSMEN



Allhallows School C.C.F. Winners of the Ashburton Shield, Bisley, 1960

Maj. J. D. Turner, L/Cpl R. B. Montgomery, Cadet M. J. Niemann, C.S.M. C. Hickson
 L/Cpl. H. R. D. Talbot, Cpl. D. W. Nicholls, Sgt. C. D. Colby, Under-Officer D. A. Crawford, (Capt.), Sgt. M. D. MacFarlan,
 Cadet M. J. Gilks, Sgt. W. R. Thatcher
*Seated:—*Cadet J. S. Harding, Cadet J. Jesty, Cadet J. D. Parrett



Devon Dorsets in Wessex Brigade Depot Shooting Team, 1960

*Back Row (first from left):—*Cpl. J. MacDougall—Members of Young Soldiers champion team. *Back Row (fourth from left:—*
 Cpl. P. Gove—Class C Champion S.M.G., SWUSSAM. *Back Row (sixth from left):—*Cpl. G. Hamlyn—Member of Falling
 Plate champion team. *First Row (third from left):—*Cpl. W. Glanville—Member of Young Soldiers champion team. *First Row*
*(sixth from left):—*Cpl. T. Evans—Member of Falling Plate champion team

CADET FORCES CENTENARY



HARDYE'S SCHOOL, C.C.F.

Brigadier G. Laing, C.B.E., takes the salute at the Centenary Parade at Dorchester. Parade Commander, Under Officer, F. A. Barber



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S BANNER IN DORSET

The Mayor of Poole inspects the Duke of Edinburgh's banner on its way through Dorset
Banner Party: Cdt. Cpl. J. S. Mackie (Lyme Regis), Cdt. Sgt. J. B. Parfitt (Blandford), Cdt. Cpl. A. G. Duke (Bridport), Cdt. L/Cpl. J. Hanxwell (Sixpenny Handley)

second equal over all and won the diving, due to a fine performance by Capt. Stone and Cpl. Bienvenu.

In the inter-platoon hockey, 3 Platoon were knocked out in the semi-final. The cricket was less successful as we were eliminated by S. Coy. in the first round.

"B" Company

It was but a short time ago that we told readers that we had spent most of our time behind the wire in Kitchener Camp on individual training. We can assure you that the training wheel has almost completed full circle and, even as these notes are written, the advance party for exercise "Overlift" has arrived in North Africa in preparation for Battalion training. But, as always, the routine business of soldiering has been interspersed with a variety of other occupations.

2/Lts. Clark and Reed, now just about to leave for civilian life, took a representative party to Government House where they took over from the Black Watch. Sir Hugh Foot, who always looked kindly upon his West Country guards, has now departed from Cyprus with the granting of Independence, and this was therefore our last attendance upon him.

Much of the credit at platoon level must go to 4 Platoon who began by winning the inter-platoon map-reading competition. They subsequently won the patrol competition thus achieving the unique success of winning all the platoon field competitions which, in addition to those already mentioned, included the night compass march and the Sarah Sands. They also came very close to defeating the M.M.G. Platoon in the inter-platoon hockey to make it a full house. A measure of the closeness of the game is that it was conceded to the first corner in the second period of extra time.

Throughout, 2/Lt. Andre and his teams have been spurred on by the efforts of 5 and 6 Platoons who, even if they have not succeeded in getting into the top flight, have provided the incentive required in training within the Coy. They certainly contributed in large measure to our success when we defeated H.Q. Coy. in the final of the inter-company cricket in late July. We beat "C" Coy. in the semi-final, and L/Cpl. Williams was in such tremendous form that we dismissed our opponents in the final for 49 runs after 22 overs. We passed their total with only three wickets down and some five overs in hand. Pte. Mitchell provided a fitting ending with an almighty six, and we offer our congratulations to the whole team led by L/Cpl. Heal. We must also congratulate Pte. Scriven who was awarded a special prize as the only competitor in the Island motor-cycle trials to complete the course on a machine with girder forks.

Throughout the quarter we have contributed to the less spectacular aspects of collective training. We have worked wireless sets, fired our pieces on the field firing range, staggered over most of Cyprus in the dark, amazed to find ourselves where we should be at first light, performed like monkeys from helicopters and, it goes without saying, taken every opportunity we can to jump in the sea to escape from or remove the dust and sweat. During the last Battalion exercise before leaving for North Africa, we distinguished ourselves first by having the Company "O" Group captured on the first day of the exercise (the "enemy" kindly gave them tea!) and second by capturing a whole troop of armoured

cars with the aid of a visiting water truck which provided a convenient road block. One wonders what life in the North African desert can have in store.

Inevitably we had a number of changes. Major Walenn left for Battalion Headquarters and the fort was held by Capt. Clarke until he too left as P.M.C. and a course at Warminster. Major Archer has arrived and now holds the reins with 2/Lt. Taylor who has been transferred from "A" Company and 2/Lt. Scrivener who has joined from Mons O.C.s.

We regret to report that C.S.M. Thomas is to be medically evacuated and in his place we welcome C.S.M. Lamble. Many familiar faces have left us on release and we have taken on nine of the last but one National Service intake.

The "B" Company team about to take off for the desert sands of Cyrenaica is therefore much changed. Our next report will let you know how we fared.

"C" Company

June, July and August were intensely hot and very active. Platoon and Company training, a Ceremonial Guard at Government House, a contingent for the Queen's Birthday Parade, an adventurous training party to Turkey, a general smartening up of administration, Plassey Day, Salamanca week, and the preparation for Battalion training in Africa have kept these three months fully occupied.

There have been some incidents bringing light relief and keeping us all bright boys. Pte. McCarthy newly enlisted as a regular was arrested by the police in Nicosia as a deserter when in fact he was legitimately off duty from the Government House guard. Probably the combination of an Irish brogue, the Devon O.C.A. badge and the Dorset O.C.A. tie caused confusion in the police minds. Twice during a rather strenuous company exercise we stood to, to go fire fighting at the other end of the island. On the last occasion after a record breaking filling in of trenches, running and rolling off platoon positions on mountain tops to join our transport on the road we were met by a grinning Capt. Tremlett with the news that the fire was just out and that we could go back again. The Plassey day swimming gala was held at Fisherman's Cove to which place the bulk of the battalion and the families were taken in Z craft. As the weather was hot and the sea calm this was a pleasant trip. In the swimming competition we maintained our record of being the best runners-up Company. Some very good swimming was seen; Ptes. Green, Mauger and Amey all swam well and L/Cpl. Sculley did sterling service in one more event.

A full report of the Battalion expedition to Turkey appears elsewhere in this issue of notes. Out of the 15 all ranks, "C" Company was represented by 2/Lt. Bastyan and eight N.C.O.s and soldiers. In retrospect all enjoyed themselves although some looked shadows of their former selves on their return. Among the unplanned adventures that occurred was when Amey fell into a river and lost his trousers in which among other things was his passport. Several times a day the Turkish authorities examined all passports with suspicion so the loss of one was a serious matter. This did, however, provide 2/Lt. Bastyan and Amey with an excuse to

escape from the mountains for a few days to go to Ankara to get an emergency passport.

This quarter has seen many comings and goings. With one exception 58 group of National Servicemen have all left us. This has meant that our young N.C.O.s and known games players have also gone. Now once again we start the build up of a new team. Major Smith and Capt. Tremlett surprisingly both disappeared on leave at the same time and Capt. Stone joined us as a caretaker Company Commander. He has now moved on once again this time to Support Company. We have had three large intakes of National Servicemen and also have received our quota of soldiers from the other Companies. We have a respectable total now and can sometimes muster more than 100 men.

Now everyone is preparing for the month in Africa. Already advance parties and the sea tail of trucks and heavy stores have started moving. The Company will follow by air on September 3.

Support Company

As these notes are written the birth of the Cyprus Republic is imminent. This is a happy event we have awaited for a long time, and as we wish the Cypriots good fortune we look forward to more time for training and the more interesting tasks that are a soldier's lot.

This quarter has been full of activity. The M.M.G., Anti-Tank and Assault Pioneer Platoons have now finished their cadres and are fully trained specialists. The Anti-Tanks had a 100 per cent pass, and are eagerly awaiting the chance to do more advanced work on the old tank battlefields of World War II. The Assault Pioneers remain a myth to everyone but themselves. They have, however, made quite a lot of bangs and did sterling work preparing for the swimming gala on Plassey Day. The Mortars had finished their cadre ahead of the other platoons, and since then have had several field firing exercises on Goshi. Incidentally they now have a new mascot, a thoroughbred Cyprus Bull Mastiff (the pie dog version) which is appropriately called "Jerry". The M.M.G. cadre has finished and they hope to classify in North Africa.

You will have realised that the training in North Africa is our main thought at the moment. The advance party, under Sgt. Long, has already gone, the main body flies on September 2 and our vehicles and guns go on August 29 by L.S.T. Some of the old Devon's faces light up at the thought of Derna, Benghazi and Tobruk—but they are reminded that there is no walking out. Those not familiar with North Africa are more reserved in their outlook. Nevertheless we look forward to exploring new field firing areas and preparing for a Support Weapons demonstration on September 21. A full report of our activities in North Africa will appear next time.

For the Battalion's air loading exercise, ex. "Fly by Night" our Mortar and M.M.G. Sections went out to Rifle Companies, the Anti-Tanks being used as a mobile recce force. This exercise brought out the difficulties of an operation of this sort, and was thoroughly good training. Among our other activities were a "Dry" demonstration for the Rifle Platoons, the Internal Admin. Inspection, the half-yearly R.E.M.E. Weapons Inspection, the Map Reading Competition and a party "Adventurous Training" in Greece. The Admin. Inspection went

off well after a lot of extra work—one soldier even painted the carobs outside the Coy. bedding store. We had good reports from the Armourers. The Map Reading saw the Mortars, Anti-Tanks and M.M.G.s come third, fourth and sixth, respectively. L/Cpl. Wall has written a report of his trip to Greece, which appears elsewhere. Next week we start a blitz on education, with the Coy. officers instructing. In the meantime preparations for North Africa go ahead.

We had a mixed season at cricket. After beating "A" Coy. we unaccountably lost to H.Q. Coy. in the semi-final for the Inter-Coy. Cup. Rideout (75 not out) and Dawkins (48 not out) put on 125 against "A" Coy., and Nichols and Scott bowled well throughout the season. Lt. Hewitt, Lt. Reid, Nichols, Rideout and Johnson all played cricket for the Bn. In the swimming our medley relay team of Lt. Reid, Cpl. Cann, Reynolds and Lee represented the Bn. An assault river crossing was staged by a team from the Company; this, literally, "went down" very well. The M.M.G. Platoon won the Inter-Platoon hockey cup having had close games against the Mortars and Anti-Tanks. We now have the Band in the Company who should help us on the sporting field.

Congratulations to Lt. Hewitt, Tate, Whitlock on their respective marriages; also to Fone and Harris on becoming fathers. We welcome Sgts. Thacker and Crocker, and L/Cpl. Wrixon to this Company. We have said farewell to "Colour" Rogers. Shortly we are to welcome Capt. Stone who will relieve Major Reynolds, who we congratulate on his posting to the M.M.G. Division at Netheravon, where Sgt. Davies recently got a very good "B". Lt. Bullocks departs for the Trucial Oman. Also a large N.S. draft, too numerous to mention, is about to leave us. We hope they enjoyed "S" Company and wish them the best of luck. Finally we would welcome back any old specialists who are looking for a full and interesting life.

Officers' Mess

Shortly after the last notes were written the subalterns held a party to celebrate Amalgamation Day. It began as a cocktail party and soon developed into an excellent dance which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

On July 23 we celebrated Salamanca Day with a barbecue on the beach. We had asked a local kebab seller to provide the food and there were some doubts as to whether this was wise, but in fact the party was a great success.

On August 8 we entertained H.E. The Governor, Sir Hugh Foot and Maj.-General and Mrs. Darling to lunch. Although we enjoyed the event we regretted the occasion as it was their farewell visit to the Battalion.

We offer our congratulations to Jim Hewitt who was married at Plymouth in June. Dare we hope that he will spend a little more time in the Battalion now.

Congratulations too, to Bob Reep who announced his engagement in August.

The Battalion will soon be moving to North Africa during which time the mess will be closed and a field mess will operate.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

This period of reporting starts on a rather wet note. Plassey Day being the first item of importance

was celebrated this year by a swimming gala held at Fisherman's Cove, Akrotiri. This was a grand day out and thoroughly enjoyed by all mess members and their families. C.S.M. "Reg" Burgoyne finally dispelled any doubts anyone may have had in regard to the Archimedes Principle when he took to the water in the surprise medley race, his cubic capacity being somewhat greater than the amount of water in the bath. The consequence of which was the swimmer to follow, C.S.M. Bob Bolton, scraped his stomach on the bottom through lack of water. This fact was proved when Reg started to walk half-way across. Sgt. (handlebar) McNaught proved another worthy swimmer for the Mess and only through water resistance to his moustache did he fail to break any records. It is not thought that Ian Black will consider his opposition seriously in the Olympic Games.

A very warm welcome visit from the Army Commander Lt.-General Anderson followed in which he showed keen interest in the Battalion. He also showed a keen interest in the silver tankard which contained his beer in the mess at lunch time.

We are very pleased to report that R.S.M. Pollard has at last, after much debating and studying cheque book stubs, finally purchased a mechanical vehicle. It had been thought previously that the Hillman and Ford were the best makes but now he has a Dauphine, we car owners are convinced that the R.S.M.'s car is certainly better (Well we have to think of our substantive promotion), and it's a nice blue anyway!

Exercise "Fly by Night" came next on our lists of events and the battalion was set an exercise to rescue "Professor Finklestein and his valuable equipment" from some obscure spot in the hills, C.S.M.s Bob McGregor and John Cleverly managed to delay signing handing over taking over certificates of H.Q. and weapon training C.S.M. until after the exercise was finished. They were heard to remark that the administration must come first. C.S.M.s "Lakri" Woods and John Lambie have also had another shuffle around. The former taking over M.T. C.S.M. and the latter moving to "Bravo" Company. John Lambie was heard to remark that at last the Battalion had a Company ready for battle! It would appear that nobody wants "Charlie" Company. I wonder why? As a closing remark on ex. "Fly by Night" I would like to add that the point was finally proved when C/Sgt. (Blondie) Cummings having been waiting for four hours in the early hours of the morning for Chalks 24/25 and 26 to fly in with the ammunition and Sgts.' Mess beer was told by a sanitary orderly that these flights were cancelled. His delectable choice of phrases showing his appreciation for the official signal department would have done credit to Grace Metallius the authoress of "Peytons Place".

Congratulations to Sgt. and Mrs. Gratton on the birth of their new baby, we hope that all will continue to thrive. To Sgt. Walter and Sgt. Barlow we extend a welcome into the Mess on their promotion and ask Sgt. Walter to bring us back our first "A" Grading from his drill course in U.K. next October. Leaving us for Malaya in August is Drum-Major "George" and Mrs. Young on a new posting. It has been whispered that George is keen to form his own regiment, to be known as the "East Asian Light Shetland Ponies" or "George Young's Own" either way they would be just as mad. But

with his gift from the Mess members of a Phillips electric razor he has said that since the R.S.M. never did like his haircut he would devise a new style for his Malay drummers to be known as the "Newton Abbot bob" or leaving one hair in the centre of the head.

Also leaving us sometime in August is C.S.M. Thomas and family. Unfortunately "Tommo's" burns on his leg will not heal up properly in this humid heat and he has been advised to go home. We will miss his raucous laugh and staunch devotion to amalgamation and trust that after his rehabilitation in England he will be fit to rejoin the Battalion.

Corporals' Club

(We welcome the Corporals' Club to this Journal.—Editor).

Owing to Battalion Training the Corporals' Club has not been able to lead the corporate existence we would like, and must wait until after our return from Africa before resuming our programme of activities.

We would like to welcome the 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment, with whom we have already had some battles in the Club and on the sports field. We now have a hockey team and will take on all comers including the Band.

We would like to express our sympathy to John Mellin on the death of his father.

Congratulations to the following N.C.O.s and wives for achieving their life's ambition—Cpl. Norman Tutty, L/Cpl. Edward Hilton, and L/Cpl. Douglas Riggs.

We have had a few happy faces around the Club and we asked what the joke was—to be told—"We are hitched." This, of course, applies to Cpl. Sidney Harold Nash and Cpl. "Lofty" Marrison.

We send our hearty congratulations to Cpl. Dave Barlow on his promotion to Drum-Major.

We have heard that Cpl. B. J. Nicol, and ex-Q.M. N.C.O., has had a serious accident and all members of the Corporals' Club wish him a speedy recovery.

By the time these Journal notes are published we will be in North Africa sweating it out in the sand dunes.

SPORTS NOTES

Swimming

The Battalion swimming gala was held on June 27 this year. It was taken as a Regimental holiday to celebrate Plassey Day. The venue was Fisherman's Cove at the end of Akrotiri peninsula. The setting could almost have been likened to a Roman amphitheatre. The cove formed a natural pool about 60 yards across. It was a very hot day and the families were ferried across from Limassol by Z craft, a distance of some ten miles.

The result of the gala was a win for H.Q. 1 Coy. (M.T. Pl., Sig. Pl., Corps of Drums and I. Sec.) with 64 pts. second "A" and "C" Coys. with 52 pts.

Individual winners were as follows:—

Plunge—H.Q. 2; freestyle—"B" Coy.; diving—"A" Coy.; Back stroke—"A" Coy.; long distance race—H.Q. 1; medley relay—S. Coy.; All Ranks mystery relay—"A" Coy.; ladies race—Mrs. M. J. Reynolds.

S. Coy. laid on a very amusing assault river crossing—fortunately this team was not among those present on June 6, 1944.

Unfortunately we are not able to enter the Inter-Unit swimming and water polo championships as these are being held on September 9 and we shall be swimming—we hope—during training in North Africa.

Cricket

After an indifferent start to the season the Battalion cricket team has gone from strength to strength and is now one of the best all round sides on the Island.

By far the finest game we have played was against the Free Foresters in which we fought them to a draw despite the fact that our opponents had six Army players. No mean achievement for a Regimental side!

The batting throughout the season has been of a high standard with Lt. Hewitt, L/Cpl. Goode, L/Cpl. Adams and Pte. Rideout the principals very ably supported by Cpl. Williams and L/Cpl. Heal.

Nearly every team the Battalion has played has commented on the very high standard of fielding particularly since most of the grounds on the Island consist of loose sandy soil and stones. One of the finest fielders was L/Cpl. Goode who proved an excellent cover point and was chosen to go with the Army (Cyprus) team to Malta where he acquitted himself well.

The players who have represented the Battalion were as follows: Lt. Brierley, Lt. Hewitt, L/Cpl. Goode, L/Cpl. Heal, L/Cpl. Adams, L/Cpl. Sculley, Cpl. Williams, Cpl. Lawes, Pte. Culver, Pte. Nelmes, Pte. Chessell, Cpl. Welms, Pte. Rideout. The results were as follows:—

1 Devon Dorset v. H.Q. M.E.L.F.: Bn. 117 for 6 declared. H.Q. M.E.L.F. 118 for 2. Lost by 8 wickets.

1 Devon Dorset v. 29 Sig. Regt.: 29 Sig. Regt. 107 (Lt. Brierley 2-13, L/Cpl. Goode 2-9). Bn. 103 for 7 wickets. Draw.

1 Devon Dorset v. H.M.S. *Surprise*: H.M.S. *Surprise* 60 (Pte. Culver 6-12). Bn. 61-5 wickets (L/Cpl. Goode 21 not out). Won by 5 wickets.

1 Devon Dorset v. 15 Signal Regt.: Bn. 84 for 8 wickets declared (Lt. Green 25, L/Cpl. Heal 21). 15 Sig. Regt. 86-3 wickets. Lost by 7 wickets.

1 Devon Dorset v. 2 Para: 2 Para 134 for 7 wickets declared (Lt. Brierley 3-36). Bn. 137 for 5 wickets (Pte. Rideout 48 not out, L/Cpl. Adams 39). Won by 5 wickets.

1 Devon Dorset v. 625 Ordnance Depot: 625 Ord. Depot 48 (Lt. Brierley 3-18, L/Cpl. Goode 6-14). Bn. 49-1 wicket. Won by 9 wickets.

1 Devon Dorset v. Free Foresters: Free Foresters 232-3 declared. Bn. 161 for 9 wickets (Lt. Hewitt 72 L/Cpl. Adams 20). Draw.

1 Devon Dorset v. 42 Survey Engineer Regt.: Bn. 109-6 wickets declared (Pte. Nelmes 41). 42 Survey 82-3.

1 Devon Dorset v. 9 Sigs. Regt.: 9 Sigs 89 (L/Cpl. Sculley 5-18, L/Cpl. Heal 4-18). Bn. 49 all out. Lost by 40 runs.

Hockey

The Inter Platoon hockey tournament was won by the M.M.G. Platoon of S. Coy. who played a very exciting game against 9 Platoon "B" Coy. in the final.

Boxing

The boxing team training is well under way under the expert eyes of C.S.M. Bolton and S.S.I. Caine and we hope to report our successes in the next issue.

Adventurous Training in Greece

By L/CPL. WALL, MORTAR PLATOON

DURING July of this year, we, a party of foot soldiers from the Mortar Platoon spent two very interesting weeks in Greece. The Battalion Adventurous Training Club was extremely helpful in supplying us with maps, equipment, etc., and a task was set us that entailed making a road survey from Alexandroupolis to Kastaneai, a distance of 70 miles along the Turkish border. This road section was itself 680 miles from the seaport of Piraeus where we landed after a most interesting and enjoyable journey from Limassol via Alexandria. We travelled deck-class on the boat, mainly for financial reasons as we were entirely un-sponsored by outside sources but this proved to be an experience we are glad we did not miss.

On both the outward and return journey we spent a few hours at Alexandria, regrettably we were not allowed ashore as we had no visas but we were able to bargain and purchase items from the Egyptian merchants displaying their goods on the quay.

Three days after leaving Limassol we disembarked at Piraeus and after spending that night at a Youth Hostel in Athens, made a start for the Turkish border. We were offered a lift by car from Athens to Salonika for the price of the petrol and accepted, we wanted to complete the road survey as soon as possible so as to give ourselves time to visit a few archaeological sites, so after a short stay in Salonika tried to hitch-hike to Alexandroupolis but were sadly disappointed, for some reason unknown, all the lorry drivers seemed to avoid us. We realised afterwards that this was probably because of our marked German appearance, we sensed strong anti-German feeling in the villages, especially in the North of Greece. We wished we had sewn small Union Jacks on to our packs, it would have helped enormously and certainly recommend anyone contemplating a similar journey to do this. However, after two days without lifts we had reached Lake Lanaadha and still 290 miles from Alexandroupolis so camped there and decided on the next plan of action (our financial position was such that we could not afford to travel by public transport) having to rely on lifts it would be extremely doubtful that at the present rate of progress, we could achieve our objective and still be back at Piraeus in time for departure.

We returned to Salonika as best we could and camped on the coast having to buy our food in the local market because our limited conipo had now finished. During the few days spent in Salonika we visited the Old Walled City, also the White Tower, a very well-known landmark of the town.

We then made our way back to Athens, visiting Delphi on the way down, this was really the highlight of our tour, the ancient remains just have to be seen to be appreciated, in fact I think our three days in Delphi were the most memorable of all.

(Continued at foot of page 129)

Wessex Brigade Depot

The arrival of Capts. Sheather and Notley from Bahrein and Nigeria respectively, the former as D.A.A.G. and the latter replacing Capt. Blundell (Malta bound), as 2i/c Training Company, has strengthened the regimental stock at the Depot.

The Colonel of the Regiment and Lt.-Col. D. J. H. Bannister, both took Passing Out Parades in July and August. The last Devon and Dorset, National Service intake passes out of the Depot on November 10, 1960.

Lt. Peplow (meant to be recruiting) fell into the Depot trap and announced his engagement in August and even Lt. Turrall has been heard to blow the bachelors lament on his horn, whilst in pursuit of otter.

In September, Sgt. Daniels completed 22 years' service, but intends keeping his boots on whilst in the pay of the Postmaster-General. Cpl. Bennett (P.R.I. Clerk), has signed on for another

year, whilst L/Cpl. Hooper can still be seen defending his sports store against all comers, whatever rank.

During July, considerable numbers of recruits were to be seen putting up tents, moving chairs and tables and doing other jobs in connection with the Regimental Cricket Week and Devon O.C.A. reunion. Fortunately the weather was reasonably dry by the standards of this summer.

In the Depot sports, Lt. Willes, who has since left the Depot to go on a photographic intelligence course and R.Q.M.S. Nott were amongst the first three in the 100 yards.

Pte. Waller (H.Q. Company Clerk) has been doing great things in the Depot cricket XI with both bat and ball and the side has again benefited greatly through being able to call on the services of Lt.-Col. Spencer of R.H.Q. both in front and behind the stumps.

THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT (T.A.)

(THE FIRST RIFLE VOLUNTEERS)

The Devons at Nijmegen—July 23-30, 1960

"WELL, what was Nijmegen like?" That has been the question put countless times to the members of the Devonshire Regiment team since we returned from Holland after successfully completing those much talked about marches.

One over simplified answer given by a marcher was "We got blisters and a medal we are not allowed to wear—but I wouldn't mind going again next year".

Nijmegen, to most people, is now a jumble of memories. Weekend after weekend of training in Devon, the Harwich to the Hook boat journey, the hospitable Dutch and their friendly children, marching along straight roads trying not to think how many kilometres away was the next resting place, the songs that became rather stale after the first 50 miles, and those glorious blisters. These are some of the things that makes up Nijmegen, but above all else is the memory of the final march into the city at the end of the four days. Watched by thousands upon thousands of spectators, it all seemed very worthwhile.

To enter a Battalion team for the international marches was the idea of Major M. J. P. S. Dickson, O.C. "A" Coy. Training. Training began last Autumn and continued throughout the year until on the evening of Friday, July 23, our convoy of cars set out from East Devon for the overnight drive to Harwich.

Besides Major Dickson, the team consisted of Lt. D. A. Harris, 2/Lts. A. J. C. Mew and P. Lambert, Sgts. J. Alderman, R. Mead (H.Q. Coy.,

the only non "A" Coy. member), W. Rose, Ptes. L. J. Stoneman, D. O'Connor, M. Clancy, and A. Banfield. Acting as reserves and administrative helpers were Ptes. R. Hawke who was also the cycle orderly, C. Salter and Prowse. Left behind in the U.K. were several people who had trained for the marches, but who found it impossible to go, and others who carried out the mass of administration connected with the journey.

Fine sailing weather for the North Sea crossing seemed a good omen for the Marches and after a fast train trip across Holland we arrived in Nijmegen on Saturday night and settled into the Dutch Air Force Barracks. The Marches did not start until Tuesday so this left two days for sightseeing at Arnhem and Amsterdam.

As dawn broke on the Tuesday, we marched out of the "Starting Pens" in the centre of Nijmegen with the prospect before us of having to cover over 100 miles in the next four days. That first day was easy. The weather was fine, the Dutch were out in strong numbers and it was a novel experience. During the morning we made a chance meeting with a detachment from a Dutch artillery regiment—The Prince Frederick's—which was to prove extremely lucky. Our team had just left a resting place when the Dutch came up behind us, picked up our step and became firm friends. They were all wearing rubber soled boots so they appreciated the rhythm made by our studs.

Although we set off at different times each day we tried to team up with our Dutch friends somewhere along the road. If we set a pace they liked,

they certainly repaid us with their morale boasting company. The sight of English and Dutch marching and singing together drew cheers from the villagers and townspeople on the routes.

Each day we left Nijmegen by a different road, marched out into the surrounding countryside and returned by another route. Three, sometimes four, official resting places broke up the day's march and not once did we halt between these stops.

Although the marches were by no means races, we did overtake unit after unit, including the much vaunted Israelis, the U.S. Marines, and many Regular Army teams. We had 11 hours to finish each day's march but we usually completed it in eight.

If the first day was easy, the second was a little harder and the third was the worst of all. By then practically every member of the team had foot trouble. The course was the longest, somewhere around 28 miles, and the hardest. It also rained most of the time and there were few spectators.

In contrast there was a holiday atmosphere about the last day. The sun shone, every village was crowded and we knew that the number of kilometres in front of us was small compared with those behind. Children rushed out to catch hold of our hands and flowers were given to us.

About three miles from Nijmegen on the return, all the British detachments, including the W.R.A.C. and W.A.A.F. teams halted to smarten up for the march into the city. Boots brushed, brasses cleaned, we marched at attention behind the R.A.F. Band through packed streets. Feet, which in many cases were bleeding, did not seem to matter. Ahead stretched a ruler-straight road leading into the heart of the city and along this thoroughfare marched over 10,000 people who had completed the course. In the heat of the afternoon, the Devons, not one having dropped out, crossed the finishing line.

That evening we held a party with the team from the Prince Frederick's Regiment to celebrate that not one man from either team had fallen out on the Marches.

Early of Saturday we left Nijmegen having achieved what we set out to do and with a team plaque and individual medals as proof of it. We arrived in England in the evening and our first stop was at an inn for pints of shandy all round. Then off sped the cars, bound for Devon and home.

Looking back at Nijmegen, all the members of the team agreed that Marches were by no means easy, but neither were they gruelling. To have taken part without training would have been fatal but, provided that he has had the proper preparation, any member of the T.A. should be able to finish the course. The Marches were just hard enough to be worthwhile, that was what Nijmegen was like.

Officers' Mess

During June Capt. (Q.M.) F. L. Cann left us to take up his new appointment with H.Q. L.F. Hong Kong. We thank him for his hard work with us over the past four years, and wish him and his family a happy and successful tour in Hong Kong. We welcome Capt. Roy Patmore from 11 K.A.R. as our new Q.M. and hope he will enjoy T.A. life.

Capt. F. K. Carter, T.D., will soon be relinquishing his appointment as Assault Pioneer Platoon

Commander to fill the vacancy of second Quartermaster. This change in role enables us to retain his valuable services after having reached the normal retiring age.

The interior decoration of our new Officers' Mess is now completed and the furniture is due to be installed early in September. Our first main function will be the 4th Battalion Past and Present Officers' Dinner on Saturday, October 15. It is interesting to note that we have acquired the Officers' Mess table from Topsham Barracks which originally belonged to the 2nd Battalion The Devonshire Regiment.

We were pleased to welcome Col. Tony Lewis and five officers from the Dorset (T.A.) on the occasion of our annual shooting match in July. The weekend began with a party at Ugbrooke Park. After which celebration it had been intended to visit the Turf Inn at the entrance to Exeter Ship Canal by means of Peter Falkner's boat. Unfortunately the weather prevented this nautical experiment from taking place. Next day the shooting match took place at Straight Point Range at Exmouth. Our opponents had the measure of us in the "Queen Mary" and "Volongdis", but we drew ahead after winning the "China Cup" and the Falling Plate. It was a close and exciting finish to this most enjoyable annual event.

We are very sorry to be losing Capt. Peter Strickland who has been our M.M.G. Platoon Commander for the past four years. We congratulate Peter on his promotion in the Band and wish him and his family a happy and successful stay in Northampton.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

We were well represented at the Wessex Brigade Wyvern ball and were pleased to see the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion.

Our mess members at Bisleigh had to look a little harder to see the bull and I am sure (although they will not admit it) that some could not even see the targets. We would like to know what range and Competition is held in Regents Park. Anyway, it was a good opportunity to see old pals and study the fashions!

This year it was our turn to entertain the Dorset T.A. shooting team. It was not the late Saturday night that won us the shoot but our falling plate team who pipped our opponents at the post in the last shoot. What a grand way to finish!

Three of our members, Sgts. Alderman Mead and Rose were in the Nijmegen March team. They receive our congratulations on surviving and winning their medals. Sgt. Mead was the oldest member of the team. Well done!

In August the R.S.M., C.S.M. Burton and C.S.M. Channing with Sgt. Smale and Sgt. Sellick gave assistance to the Devon Army Cadet Force. The results of the Certificate "A", Part II examination proved the value of their instruction.

For your information Tim O'Shaunessey is now at Yelverton Hotel and says many still look him up.

Finally may we offer our congratulations to Sgts. Beach and Toulcher on their award of the T.A. Efficiency Medal.

Band and Corps of Drums

The Band has given two concerts on the front at Ilfracombe and one on The Hoe at Plymouth. In addition they have played for the Devon Rifle

Association at their C.C.F. meeting, for a parents' day at Kingsteignton Secondary Modern School and at the Plympton and District Show. In conjunction with the Corps of Drums a marching display was given at the Exeter Air Show, and we led the march of the Old Comrades at the annual reunion from Bury Meadow to Exeter Cathedral.

Our future commitments include leading the annual parade of the Old Contentibles' Association, Beating Retreat on Plymouth Hoe and at Bideford and playing at Paignton during carnival week.

SHOOTING

T.A.R.A. Meeting at Bisley

For the first time a member of our Bisley team came within one point of winning The Queen's Medal in the T.A. Championship. L/Cpl. A. J. Ford of Plymouth came second in the first stage of the Championship with 170 out of 200. In the second stage his aggregate score put him one point behind the winner. L/Cpl. Ford won the N.R.A. silver medal and was selected for the T.A. VIII which shot for The United Services Challenge Cup. We congratulate L/Cpl. Ford on his success and hope he may have even better luck in 1961.

Also in the T.A. Championship mention should be made of Cpl. Foulkes of Dartmouth and Cpl. Hooper of Plymouth who came 19th and 35th respectively.

In the "China" Challenge Cup our "A" team came 15th, whilst we missed winning the "Volongdis" Challenge Cup by two points.

Major D. S. Phillipps was selected as a reserve for the T.A. team in the Inter-Services XX match.

Devonshire Rifle Association—Open Meeting—Straight Point Range—September 3-4, 1960

The Battalion completed a successful year's shooting with the following successes in the Devon Rifle Association Annual Open Meeting in competition with the Royal Marines and other Devon T.A. units:—

OPEN INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Queen Mary (2nd); 2/Lt. Bill Thomas of Tiverton. Score of 160/200.

In addition this result gave 2/Lt. Thomas the highest T.A. and Young Soldier's scores thus winning the Fortescue Cup and the Dawson Plate.

Cpl. Foulkes of Dartmouth has the second best T.A. score.

TEAM EVENTS

H.Q. Company team won the L.M.G. match beating a Royal Marines team. Members of the team were Sgts. Stapley and Newcombe and Cpl. Hammond, all of Exeter.

"A" Coy. team came second in the "Volongdis". Support Company team from Plymouth won the "China" Cup competition and obtained the Milne Holme Cup.

The Battalion won the Bucknill Cup with the highest T.A. aggregate score.

The Battalion "B" team won the Open Falling Plate Competition beating a Royal Marine team with S.L.R.s in the final.

North Devon T.A. Committee

In February, 1959, a North Devon T.A. recruiting committee was formed under the chairmanship of our Honorary Colonel, Col. J. N. Oliver. This committee is almost entirely composed of

either past or present members of the Devonshire Regiment (T.A.) and amongst its members are numbered two members each, father and son of the Steer and Hollingsbruck families. Last year it organised the Laying Up of the 6th Bn. The Devonshire Regiment (T.A.) Colours. As this committee now has members from all T.A. units in North Devon and it was decided to change its title to North Devon T.A. Committee with the aim of furthering the interests of the T.A. in North Devon.

At its first meeting in August it was decided that an annual Church Parade would be held in September on the anniversary of the Laying Up of the 6th Battalion Colours. Also a New Year's T.A. ball would be held in Barnstaple. This will be the first time it has been revived since the war.

Inter-Com System

In order to ensure an uninterrupted flow of hard work within our Bn. H.Q., we are having an office "inter-com" system installed. We are starting with a master set and six "out-stations".

T.A. Re-organisation

We are glad to say that the newly-announced T.A. reorganisation will leave us unaffected although full details of the new plans are not yet known.

"A" Company

One of the main roles of "A" Company seems to be that of a shop window for the Regular Army. We have exhibited the delights of soldiering to a number of young members and three of the latest to join the Regular Army have been Ptes. Ray, Woods and Anderson, all in a matter of weeks.

The first two, we are glad to say, have joined their country regiment while Anderson is following his mechanic's trade in the R.E.M.E.

We are consoling ourselves with the thought that perhaps it says quite a bit for the Company that so many people want to take up full-time soldiering and also with the fact that new members are coming in all the time to take their places. The latest arrivals are Ptes. Young (ex-N.S. who worked in the Sergeants' Mess at Topham Barracks), Jamieson, Prowse, Lovegrove and Perham.

The Nijmegen Marches successfully over, the Company has been able to return to a normal training programme, which has included a number of range days. Nor has the social side been neglected, the Sidmouth detachment, under 2/Lt. A. J. Mew, having run a successful dance for the benefit of the whole Company.

The Devons have also returned to Honiton—once the stronghold of the Volunteer Movement in East Devon. There we have re-opened the drill hall in an attempt to recapture the glories of yesterday.

"C" Company

On a lovely summers evening and in the setting of Rock Park the Band Beat Retreat watched by a large and delighted audience. They were inspected by the Mayor of Barnstaple and we trust will be in such fine form when they give another display in Bideford in the not too distant future.

Recruiting in Torrington is still going well and we are now holding our drill nights for Bideford and Torrington in the Torrington Drill Hall. Is it true that this contingent is now known as Sgt. Beer's

little army? Incidentally, we would like to congratulate Sgt. Beer on the birth of his son who we hope will follow in due course in father's footsteps.

The P.S.I. and Sgt. Smale apparently enjoyed the Cadet Camp although both loathe to admit it.

Our first aid team are diligently training, Salt is often seen with appropriate pamphlets hanging out of his pockets, and we have also managed to survive of late many inspections, or so we hope!

Due to extremely bad weather the activities on the Company weekend had to be slightly curtailed although the weather was kinder to us on Sunday

but everybody enjoyed themselves and we trust did not have their spirits dampened. Under Sgt. Woods' supervision "Ticker" Lock is now coming along well with his cooking and his "whites" were much admired.

Cpl. Mingins' rich scotch accent floating down the line from the butts caused some rudery but fortunately we managed without an interpreter.

The Colour Party rehearsed under the R.S.M. in the Ilfracombe Drill Hall and we hear that the visitors to the town were shaken from their lethargy by, to them, must unusual sounds.

THE DORSET REGIMENT (T.A.)

Introduction

THE current notes, which as usual only beat the "dead line" date of the last number by being rushed up the tortuous stairways of the Large Keep to the Editor's office in the hands of a frenzied Adjutant or chief clerk, cover that period of the T.A. year, which in "racing, shooting and fishing" parlance might be termed the "Flat Out" season and the "Close" season. This is exemplified, when a T.A. member of the unit will shake hands with a regular member of Headquarters prior to returning from annual camp, signifying that the exertions of the "War" are definitely over for him, and that he doesn't really expect to see any of the Permanent Staff for at least two or three months. However, the "Close" season these days seems pretty active, in spite of the disappearance on very staggered leave of the Permanent Staff.

We welcome Lt.-Col. Lewis again to the Bn., this time in a more elevated position in the fold, and hope that he and his family will enjoy their stay with us. He is an old hand at the T.A. While on the subject of promotion we must congratulate too, Capt. Taylor and Capt. Gibson on having moved up on the ladder, and Lt. Jenks for having come "under command" at long last when he married Miss Gillian Paul recently.

Annual Camp

The special train bringing the unit back from Scotland had delivered the majority to their home stations by 1 p.m. on Saturday 18 June, and the first camp over the border had ended.

On reflection this had been a most successful camp, marred slightly by a rather cool spell of overcast weather, and a fair amount of local rain. Fortunately no training hours were lost through this, and no wet weather programme had to be put into operation. Companies training in one area very often had a dry and sunny day and fine night while another had to shelter from a quick thunder shower. The worst weather was in the mid-week Sunday, when, however, S. Coy. sallied out into the Highlands in a coach to Braemar and thoroughly enjoyed themselves, others had cars and went as far afield as Edinburgh, while the C.O. Adjutant and 2/ic climbed over "Jocks Walk" from Glen Clova to Braemar on a path which wound up over 3,000 feet, and were surprised to see banks of snow when

the rain clouds lifted. Undeterred by being soaked to the skin they completed the 14 miles march in good time. Col. Bray was so struck with the walk that he took a large party of officers and O.R.s, some 60 in number, over the same course on the final Thursday. They were rewarded with some fine weather, magnificent and breathtaking views, and even a large herd of red deer.

The camp itself was extremely well provided for a camp of this nature, with messes, ablutions, some stores and sergeants' accommodation in huts, while the cookhouse and a well-stocked N.A.A.F.I. were again in large huts. There was electric lights in all buildings and there was plenty of hot water in the showers. The tented lines were also well laid out and compact.

Training was on a cadre basis, the three main ones being the N.C.O.s, recruits and signallers. The N.C.O.s finished by giving a demonstration to the recruits of the platoon in attack and the fighting patrol, the latter being watched by the G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Command, Lt.-General Sir Nigel Poett, who was visiting the Bn. He also dined with the officers in the evening. The Divisional Commander, Maj.-Gen. Cubbon, visited the Bn. during the first week, and toured the whole of the Barry Buddon field firing area watching the wide variety of live training, which the Bn. was undertaking. This included mortars and machine gun firing, throwing of grenades and firing rocket launchers, with live fire and movement exercises. It was extremely useful having an area of this nature on one's doorstep, rather than having a long M.T. move very day to get to the ranges.

The Corps of Drums besides putting on two very good little Retreats, the last in front of the Army Commander, also carried out extensive military training ending with 36 hours in the bivouac camp in Glen Clova along with all the other cadres. Where possible everyone was given an opportunity to either train in or visit this lovely Glen in the highlands surrounded by magnificent mountains.

Support Coy. were also able to get away for 36 hours and were lucky enough to have facilities to fire their weapons near Comrie, a lovely little town amid some glorious countryside. They seem to have had a good night out there and were led back to their camp by a piper!

The Signallers got through a lot of hard work, as did the I Section and the Regimental Police,



Bob Clarke
(helped of course by Carol Clarke!)
buys a car

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besides carrying out their normal duties very well—they also had a visit to the highlands.

Finally, a small but important feature of the Bn.'s visit was the universal praise from unsolicited sources of the bearing and behaviour of all members of the unit both on and off duty, which was pleasant news to report to the Secretary of the Dorset Territorial and Auxiliary Forces, Lt.-Col. S. R. M. Hamblin, when he visited the Bn. in camp.

Cricket Week

This has been reported in detail elsewhere, but it would be wrong if it was allowed to pass unnoticed by these notes. Capt. Vaughan and his "Q" Staff must be thanked for all their hard work, and also the permanent staff who assisted so invaluable. The weather was as usual pretty arctic, but the tents, chairs, bar, drinks, etc. all seemed to be there. However, it is quite apparent that drinks must be catered for more thoroughly next year, as in the event of the cricket finishing early, no exhibition match is put on as in a Test Match, and the spectators' natural recourse is to the bar. Cpl. Legg slaved valiantly there, but will have more support next year.

Bisley and Decentralised Shoots

Again the "A" team was not successful in bringing back the China Cup and their shoot was only moderate. Individuals again did quite well, and a certain amount of prize money was picked up, but not as much as during the previous year. Conditions were generally wet and windy after the heat of the previous summer.

The Decentralised Shooting results gave Cpl. Wareham a gold medal for the pistol and Sgt. Gover a bronze—both were selected to shoot against the Regular Army—a very good effort. The M.M.G. team came third in the previous year's shoot, and this must be termed their best effort yet—long may they prosper, with that redoubtable crack M.M.G. shot from the A.C.C. (T.A.), Cpl. Jones of Gillingham.

The unit team very much enjoyed their visit to Exeter, when we fired against The 1st Rifle Volunteers on Start Point in July. This is an annual event, and our compatriots from across the border had their just revenge. In spite of an unspeakable Saturday's weather, Sunday brought a nice fine day, which was also enjoyed by the numerous small craft sailing in the danger area. In the event we could not wait for them to leave, as another was already there to take its place, so the firing just continued. The match was closely contested until the last event, and we must thank our hosts for a most enjoyable weekend for both officers and other ranks; we were entertained most royally.

Ex. "Guernsey Floater"

Very few of the thousands of holiday-makers at Weymouth who saw H.M.S. *Bronnington* steam through the breakwater into Portland Harbour at about 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, August 14, realised that she was returning from a weekend in Guernsey with the new Commanding Officer and 60 all ranks of the Battalion on board. The Dorset Coy. Group, composed of personnel from all the major towns in the County, had been taking part in a three-day exercise on the Island with the 5th Bn. The Royal Hampshire Regiment (T.A.), thanks

to the able co-operation of the Royal Navy, and the Wessex Division of the Royal Naval Reserve, who provided the necessary vessels.

The exercise commenced on Friday evening, August 12, with the Dorsets and the Royal Hampshires sailing at 9 p.m. from Portland and Southampton on H.M.S. *Bronnington* and *Warsash* respectively. Both these ships are minesweepers, being commanded by Lt.-Comdr. Churchill, R.N., and Comdr. Clarke, R.N.R. It was a fine night, and both ships met up at the R.V. off Alderney at about 4 a.m. after a good crossing, which only the worst of sailors could have described as "rather choppy in places". Before disembarking at St. Peter's Port at 6 a.m., Cpl. Skevington, A.C.C. (T.A.) from Bridport, produced a first rate breakfast of bacon and eggs from the ships tiny galley, with the help of C/Sgt. Lamb from Sherborne, who was carrying out the duties of C.Q.M.S. for the Coy. Group.

Having disembarked, the combined force of both units quickly got together and were soon on the march to L'Ancrese Bay five miles to the north of the Island, where "Dissident Elements had taken control of the Golf Links area", and for action against which, so the Ex-Narrative stated, the States of Guernsey had called on military assistance. The Royal Hampshires soon came under heavy fire from the high ground on left in front of the club house, and put in a Coy. attack. When this had been secured the Dorsets passed through, but the leading platoon, under Lt. Philip Daubney from Abbotsbury, was soon in action against a small party of enemy on a rocky hill to the right. Having moved forward with fire and movement, this position was captured by the platoon, from where they gave valuable support to the rest of the Coy. who had to do a flanking move to reduce the next position, where heavy resistance was encountered—the "live" enemy from the Royal Hampshires being particularly active. This was eventually mopped up, but not before several of the enemy had to be winkled out of the bunker and underground passages made by the Germans during their occupation of the Island.

The operations terminated at 10 o'clock and the two Coys. then marched back to the camp at Fort St. George, their route taking them along the crowded front of St. Peter Port, where many tourists were surprised to see the new visitors, who had arrived despite the seamen's strike! After the usual foot inspection following a longish march and meal, the order of the day was shopping and trying out the entertainments of the Island. A cocktail party was held on H.M.S. *Warsash* in the evening at which the Royal Navy, R.N.R., and officers of both Regiments were hosts to a large number of guests from the Island, including the Governor; the band of the Royal Hampshires, which had arrived earlier in H.M.S. *Curzon*, played during the reception. Next day, Sunday, a massed Naval and Military "Divisions" was held in a hollow square on the dock side, at which Comdr. Clarke, R.N.R., presided and read the prayers, after which both units re-embarked in their respective ships, leaving harbour at 9.30 a.m. to the martial strains of "Col. Bogey" on the ships loud speaker system. So ended a most enjoyable visit, with a calm and sunny trip of five hours back to Portland ahead.

Our thanks must go to Lt.-Comdr. Churchill and his ship's company for making us all so welcome,

and for such a comfortable trip. Everyone agreed that the weekend had been well worthwhile in all respects, and it will continue to be one of the highlights of the T.A. year with the Regiment. It is to be hoped that the continued inclusion of this type of interesting and novel weekend training will persuade the young men of Dorset that joining their County Regiment as a territorial will give them a fresh interest in life.

County Rifle Meeting

This meeting was graced with some fine weather unlike the rest of the summer, and the whole commitment of marking, bar, etc., was undertaken by the unit, and mostly by "B" Coy., to whom great credit was due. Apart from one slight panic when it was found that shooting on the range was due to finish at 4 p.m., while competitions were not scheduled to close until 6 p.m., the meeting was very successful. Brig. Woodhouse himself rallied round and persuaded all the local farmers that they had no objections to another two hours firing.

The Battalion individuals again did quite well, Cpl. Wareham, C/Sgt. Nicklen and Sgt. Gover being in the prize-money, but the highlight was the winning of the falling plate competition by the unit team, in face of increased opposition to last year, including Naval and Marine units. Well done those chaps.

M/C Trials

The unit entered a team in the annual South-Western District Motor-Cycle Trials which were held at Bovington this year. The trials are open to all Regular and T.A. Units in the south-west and to units of the Royal Marines, and took place on Saturday, August 20. The Dorset Regimental team consisted of the following riders: Cpl. Hardiman, Ptes. Welch, Orchard and Smith all of the Wimborne Anti-Tank Detachment and Cpl. Tandy of Dorchester. The team did extremely well, coming fourth in the combined Regular and T.A. placings and third in the T.A. placings. Individual positions in the District Trials were Pte. Welch second, Pte. Orchard eighth, Cpl. Hardiman eleventh, Cpl. Tandy twenty-fourth, Pte. Smith twenty-fifth. There was a total of 106 riders.

Following on this success at the South-Western District Motor-Cycle Trials, the Dorset Regiment (T.A.) motor-cycle team was selected to ride in the Southern Command Trials, on September 3 and 4, and again met with great success. The team gained second place over all other teams in the trials, both Regular Army and Territorial Army. Their star rider, Pte. Welch of the Wimborne Detachment, again succeeded in becoming T.A. Champion of Southern Command. Representing the Battalion were Cpl. Hardiman, Pte. Orchard and Pte. Welch. The team are now hoping to ride in the Army Trials to be held shortly.

WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN THE OUTSTATIONS

"A" Company

Since camp we have been concentrating mainly on wireless procedure and weapon training on drill nights and we have had plenty of shooting on Crackmore Range.

We had a very enjoyable initiative test which was won by Cpl. Lamb's section with Cpl. Gill's section

as runners-up which involved a lot of rushing around on August 26.

We captured a tame gunner the other day from "P" Battery 294 Field Regt. R.A. Gunners are quite friendly if treated right and fed sparingly on light ale. He gave us a lecture on gunner organisation and on Sunday, September 11 we spent an enjoyable day at Larkhill watching them shoot.

We were very surprised to find a contingent of "B" Company there at the same time. We had no idea they had ever heard of gunners.

"B" Company

On Bank Holiday weekend the Company spent a very enjoyable two days on Chickerell Range classifying those who had not yet fired their course. This was followed up by several interesting inter-Company competitions.

The weather was fine and the Company bivouaced on the range. In the evening the local hostelry was visited and our sharpshooters were well and truly beaten up by the locals at darts. The weekend was made all the more interesting by the firing of tracer, most of the Company not having seen it before. They were very impressed by the facility with which small fires were caused. These however, were soon extinguished by the Butt Party.

While some of the lucky ones were spending the weekend in Guernsey, a novel map reading exercise was organised for those who were left behind. This was well run by C/Sgt. Canter and Sgt. Matthews, and the two sections had to find clues en route from one map reference to another before finally arriving at their R.V.

Once again "B" Company contributed substantially to those who helped to run the Dorset County Rifle Association Meeting. This was a long drawn out day for those in the Butt Party, not particularly helped by individuals who take 25 minutes to fire seven shots. Lt. Alp, R.N., did very well at this meeting, and it was he who contributed a substantial amount to "B" Company's defeat, when they visited H.M.S. *Osprey* earlier in August, and were beaten by a well-balanced team. However, we were not disgraced and we hope to fare better when we meet them again, this time on Chickerell Range later on in September.

Masterton and Lagadu are to be congratulated on their promotion to lance-corporal and sergeant respectively. Sgt. Cole is also to be congratulated on the birth of a son.

We were pleased to welcome the C.O. on August 23 when he paid his first visit to the Company.

"C" Company

Since the last notes were published annual camp at Barry Buddon is of course the main topic.

In spite of the vehicle detailed to bring the Swanage Detachment to Wareham, reporting initially to Wareham Station, the Company, practically 100 per cent. up to strength, managed to catch the train. Although some uncomplimentary remarks are heard about Scottish weather and other habits peculiar to Dundee and neighbouring towns, most members of the Company learnt a great deal both on the military side and the general interest side. The majority of the Company were involved in running an N.C.O.s cadre which was considered to be successful and the recruits learnt a great deal under the able tuition of Major Negus.

Those who were successful in getting their names drawn out of a hat, experienced an enjoyable week-end attending exercise "Guernsey Floater II" and considering the weather were lucky not to lose weight during the crossing in H.M.S. *Bronnington*.

At present the Company is enjoying a well-earned rest while its P.S.I. recuperates on leave prior to settling down once more to serious training starting on September 12.

All members congratulate Lt. Jenks on his wedding which took place on September 3, and wish him the best of luck for the future.

"D" Company

The Company has enjoyed a very active summer and has had marked successes in the shooting world. Camp in Scotland was notable for the camp at Glen Clova, a pleasant trip to Edinburgh and rain which did not, however, lessen the benefits of training. Of those shooting at Bisley, Sgt. Gover had the highest score of the Dorset entrants in the rifle competitions, C/Sgt. Nicklen and Sgt. Gover were awarded the Centenary Silver Medal and Sgt. Gover was chosen to fire in the T.A. Pistol Eight. Well done, Sgt. Gover! Members of the Company shooting at East Holme retained the "Brittania" Cup at the Home Guard match and C/Sgt. Nicklen was placed second in the S.R.(a) aggregate at the Dorset County Rifle Association Meeting.

"S" Company

The last quarter has included annual camp and the "Dry Period" after camp when nothing much happens. We are indeed glad to hear that the new T.A. organisation will not affect us very much. "S" Coy. will continue with three highly independent Platoons at Blandford, Gillingham and Wimborne. Already the battle has begun for the annual cup for recruiting, and it would seem that Wimborne intend to take it away from Gillingham this coming year. We were pleased to welcome our new C.O. to Blandford in July, and several members were able to renew his acquaintance.

Our Company Commander went over with ten members of the Company on the Guernsey exercise, but apart from the farmer asking if we were firing "live" ammunition, it passed off quietly and pleasantly.

Camp in Scotland this year was disappointing, chiefly due to the weather, but also due to the mis-interpretation of the words "Recreational Training" by certain people! However we survived long enough to enjoy the "S" Coy. exercise "Bonnie Prince Charlie", when the whole Company went up into the hills above Perth for 36 hours. This was the first time for many years that the whole Company has been able to enjoy an evening out together. It was indeed a memorable evening which will be remembered by us all and by the people of the little village of Crie for a long time. During the evening Major Stoop presented the Annual Recruiting Cup to Sgt. Padfield on behalf of M.M.G. Platoon: who promptly filled it with "Scotch Broth" which is stronger than the English! This brew plus the presence of a real piper (the local Blacksmith) enlivened the evening considerably, despite the presence of a certain Irish supporter. Finally the whole Company marched out of the village to the whirl of the pipes, and as we

crossed the Bridge the salute was taken by our Irish supporter. And so we left this quiet Scottish village and returned once more to the woods from whence we came; where we all slept jolly well!

On the morrow we fired our mortars and M.M.G.s on to a range the size of a pocket handkerchief, but the previous night revels were in no way responsible for the mortar bomb we dropped short to welcome our new Brigadier, who was most understanding despite the awful rain. So we returned to our camp at Barry rather wet but undaunted by 36 hours in the country of "Bonnie Prince Charlie".

Our main triumph at camp, was the winning of the inter-Company "six-a-side" soccer competition. It is reported that one of our opponents complained to the referee that there was not room to get the ball past the "S" Company goalkeeper!

Now we look forward to the start of a new training season, with lots of work to be done and a lot more recruits to be found. In doing this we should like to record our thanks to all the Permanent Staff for all their hard work they do on our behalf.

Blandford Mortar Platoon

We welcome Lt. Burgin who is to be attached to us for a period, and hope that he will enjoy his stay with us. The last quarter has included camp in Scotland where the training grounds were excellent but the ranges most inadequate for mortars. However by careful economising of ammunition we can enjoy one more full day on Larkhill Ranges before the end of this year's allocation.

Recruiting is still very slack here, but it is to be hoped that the running of dances on the new floor in the Drill Hall will help to rectify this soon.

Gillingham M.M.G. Platoon

As these notes are written, our Drill Hall is in a state of shambles, with the builders putting up what at the moment resembles a very large deep litter house for chickens, but which we are advised will shortly turn into a garage for the larger Company vehicles. In addition to this Cpl. Jones's quarter is being re-painted and done up, and now we look forward to his house-warming party! The clubroom has also been done up and looks very smart.

Despite the fact that our Platoon Commander, Capt. Ram, issued most orders from his death-bed at camp, we enjoyed some very good shooting with our M.M.G.s, particularly up at Tignablaire where we laid on a good shoot for the new Brigade Commander. We were most grateful to "D" Company for lending us Cpl. O'Shea at camp and to him for all the hard work he put in on our behalf. We look forward to the Annual Classification Shoot when we hope to improve on last year.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the sudden death of Pte. Reid, who was only married in June, and our sympathies go out to his young widow.

Wimborne A/Tk. Platoon

We have made a good start in our efforts to take the Recruiting Cup off Gillingham this next year, and we welcome Ptes. Burry and Heard. It is hoped to add three more names to these next month.

Annual camp this year was rather frustrating for us, because there was nowhere suitable for firing

our "17 pdrs." however, the dry training areas were good and so we look forward to another day down at Lulworth this autumn.

At present we are building a "float" for the Wimborne Carnival: it will take the form of a naval frigate on one of our half tracks. We are hoping that the youth of Wimborne will be brought in like the Pied Piper!

Once again our M/C. team consists of Cpl. Hardiman, Ptes. Orchard, Smith and Welch, have done well and with Cpl. Tandy from H.Q. Coy., have been selected to ride in the Southern Command Trials representing the Regiment. In addition Pte. Welch has ridden for the Territorial Army this summer.

H.Q. Company

The Corps of Drums is now over 20 strong and

has been turning out regularly at 17 or 18 for their various engagements. They have had a busy summer, putting on two Retreats at camp, two further ones at Major Lyndon Moore's C.D. fete in Bristol, and the British Legion fete in Dorchester respectively. Besides these, they took part again in Blandford Carnival, and the British Legion Parade in Beaminster; latterly they still have the O.C.A. Reunion display to undertake, and Gillingham Carnival. It is always the object that they should show the flag in all parts of the county, and this they have been doing well. A good Corps of Drums needs constant practice at drill as well as playing and everyone at last seems to realise this and the turnouts have been gratifying.

THE CADET FORCES

The Centenary, 1860-1960

We celebrate this year the Centenary of the organised Cadet Forces of the County, but as our Editorial on page 117 indicates boys from the time of David have trained with their elders as soldiers and have accompanied them in battle.

Only 160 years ago, when the prospects of yet another invasion from across the Channel necessitated the raising of Volunteer Companies throughout the Kingdom, the age limit was set from 15-60. This opened recruiting to a number of age groups still at school and it was among these boys of 15-18 years that there was perhaps more enthusiasm to be found than from those in the middle aged groups.

In Exeter a Cadet troop of 60 boys was enrolled, trained in "military manners" with their own uniforms and specially made weapons as the following account prepared by a Mr. G. Townsend nearly 70 years later relates:—

"An Old Exeter Volunteer Cadet Corps"

"So great was the military ardour excited by the alarms of a French invasion at the end of the last century, that a gentleman of Exeter, Michael Dicker Sanders, residing in Magdalen Street, enrolled a troop of 60 boys, trained in military manners. They wore a blue uniform with yellow facings. Their muskets at first were mounted with tin barrels, subsequently changed for small light fusils. A drill-sergeant was employed to drill them, and they had the usual non-commissioned officers as in the regular regiments. They had also drums and fifes. It was not all pastime, as they were placed under a schoolmaster in a room somewhere adjacent to the Black Lion Inn in South Street, from whence they marched on Sundays in full uniform, morning and afternoon, to Trinity Church, sitting in the gallery. If any boy behaved badly in church he was reported and confined in the schoolroom, with a sentry at the door. On one occasion, the corps was reviewed in the Castle Yard by the officers of a regiment stationed here at the time, and for this special inspection the

boys' heads were powdered and queued, as was the military fashion of the day. After the review the boys were entertained at dinner at the Queen's Head, outside Southgate. Mr. Sanders married subsequently, and his lady not approving of these young soldiers, they were disbanded; each boy was presented with a gratuity and all his clothes and books.

"The complete uniform of these young soldiers was a blue jacket trimmed with yellow, breeches and leggings, cap (probably mitre shape), with a tin plate on the front, on which was painted a star, and a bit of horse-hair hung from the top."

"Sherborne Schoolboys in the Volunteers"

In Dorset things seem to have been contrived differently. We reproduce an extract from the reminiscences of a septuagenarian published about 1860 who was still a schoolboy when he joined the Sherborne Company of the Volunteers in 1802:—

"I was at that time at the King's School in Sherborne, and have vivid remembrances of soldiering in those days, when every man, ay, and every boy too, buckled on his armour, and prepared himself for the battle. I see by your paper last week that the scholars at the King's School have now their athletic exercises, racing and wrestling on Lenthay-green, like the Grecian Olympic games; but this is nothing compared to the military ardour displayed in the soldiering at the time I allude to. We did not simply go through graceful evolutions like young Ascanius and his troop before Queen Dido:—

*Discurrere pares, alternos orbibus orbes,
Impediunt, pugnae excient simulacra sub armis*

a mere mimic representation—child's play. But we were soldiers with all the pomp and circumstance of actual war—we marched with the national colours carried before us, to the shrill fife and the spirit-stirring drum, and differed only from veterans, *milites ipsi*, in having wooden guns instead of muskets or rifles. I well remember with what veneration we *irones* looked up to the veteran officers of the Sherborne division Volunteers."

The Combined Cadet Force

ALLHALLOWS SCHOOL, C.C.F.

Since the last notes the contingent has added to its shooting record by winning the Ashburton Shield at Bisley for the third time since the World War II. With a score at 200 yards of 260 we were lying fourth but our 264 at 500 yards gave us a two point lead over the school which came second and defeated all our rivals. For this score at 500 yards we share the Country Life Trophy with Wrekin, the cup being awarded for the highest score at 500 yards. Two of our members, Under Officer D. A. Crawford and Cadet M. J. Gilks were chosen as members of a Great Britain VIII to shoot against Canadian Cadets on the day after the Ashburton Shield competition.

It may be of interest to give a brief outline of the contingent's shooting record. In full bore shooting we won the Ashburton Shield in 1951, 1954, and 1960. In 1954 we also won the Cottesloe Vase, Kinder Cup and Country Life Trophy at Bisley. We are no longer eligible for the Cottesloe Vase as it is awarded to the school with the highest score in the Ashburton Shield competition with a small contingent and our establishment has risen. Our record in general at Bisley has given us a great deal of satisfaction as the following positions show starting from 1946, 27th; 1947, 5th, 1948, 2nd; 1949, 6th; 1950, 4th; 1951, 1st; 1952, 7th, 1953, 3rd; 1954, 1st; 1955, 29th; 1956, 16th; 1957, 3rd; 1958, 13th; 1959 3rd; 1960, 1st. We won the Devon Shield (open to Devon Schools only) in 1956, 1957, 1958. In small-bore shooting we have also had considerable success. The Country Life competition was won in 1948, 1949, 1953, and 1957, and we have done well at other times. The Imperial Challenge Shield (open to all schools in the British Commonwealth) has been won three times, 1957, 1958 and 1959. We owe a great deal to the help we have received from Major J. D. Turner (late Commander of the contingent) and Lt. H. Yool who have coached the teams and to R.S.M. Aggar, B.E.M., and C.S.M. C. Hickson (late Scots Guards) who has taken his place.

The contingent spent a very enjoyable and profitable camp at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. At times the weather was rather trying but even though it rained hard during our all-night exercise, morale was extremely high and a dawn attack went in with perhaps more determination than precision. The R.M.A. made our stay pleasant and gave us as much help as possible. Cadets attended Signal Classification and Post Classification cadres run by the staff of the R.M.A. Others attended a junior leaders cadre and we were given a special P.T. course for a few cadets who show promise in that direction. We are indebted to the R.M.A. for their help.

We hope next term to widen the scope of our activities and to strengthen those we have already. We were very pleased to receive a visit from Lt.-Col. O. G. W. White who gave us some extremely valuable advice on the construction and use of the assault course.

Peterborough in his column in the Daily Telegraph of 22 July had this to say about Allhallows' Ashburton success.—Ed.

Triumph over Exams

"The triumph of Allhallows, the Devon school, in winning the Ashburton Shield at Bisley for the third time in 10 years is notable in a number of ways.

"In 1956 the National Rifle Association switched the Ashburton from June to July and so caused a clash with the G.C.E. examinations.

"This particularly affected the small schools and with only 240 boys Allhallows were amongst the most severely handicapped.

"That they carried off the trophy this year was partly due to the examiners, who timed the papers so that the school could field their strongest team."

CANFORD SCHOOL C.C.F.

As no two C.C.F. contingents are alike in their organisation and all are different from the old O.T.C., a word or two on this subject may be useful.

At Canford, every boy over the age of 14 and medically fit is expected to join the corps and our strength last term was 410 cadets which is slightly more than 91 per cent of the school.

The contingent is not organised on a "house" basis but into four sections, R.N., Army, R.A.F. and Basic Sections.

A cadet first joins the recruit platoon in the Basic Section and at the end of one term, having passed the recruit test, he moves up to the Basic Platoon. One term in this platoon and he takes the Basic Test, which has replaced Cert. "A" Pt. 1., and 99 per cent pass this test at the first attempt.

After passing the Basic Test, a cadet may select one of the three Service Sections in which to continue his training, the R.N., Army or R.A.F. Section.

The R.N. Section of from 45-50 cadets spend the rest of their time in the corps on purely naval training but the R.A.F. Section is completely integrated into the Army companies and takes part in all the activities of the Army Section which include the Army Proficiency Test.

The cadets who elect to join the Army or R.A.F. Sections are kept together and undergo training for the Army Proficiency Test which has replaced Cert. "A" Part 2. This test is passed in two terms by 95 per cent of the cadets who are then transferred to the Headquarter Company of the Army Section and life becomes far more interesting.

This company includes six different courses, Commando, R.A., R.E., Signals, First Aid and Cadre training. On entering the company every cadet enters the cadre training platoon and here we are ably assisted by Sgt. Solman, The Dorset Regiment. In this platoon in which cadets remain for one term, we cover platoon tactics and all platoon weapons. Thanks to our affiliation with The Dorset Regiment, we are able to include more weapons than those we actually hold, the 3.5 rocket launcher, all grenades and the 17 pdrs. anti-tank gun with a .22 rifle attachment and the cadets are taken to the Drill Hall, Wimborne, to fire this gun. As the Bren Gun has been dropped from the A.P. syllabus it is taught at this stage. Cadets are also taught method of instruction and at the end of the course the best get a stripe and are retained for a period as instructors.

After passing this stage a cadet can opt for either the signals platoon, the R.A. Section or the R.E. Section. Each of these courses lasts for two

terms. After classifying, the best signallers will be retained as instructors with this platoon. The R.E. Section is affiliated to 115 Field Regt. R.E. (T.A.) and was formed during the summer term 1959. As the Drill Hall is just down the road at Wallisdown we are extremely well situated for assistance and every Wednesday we have been visited by W.O.1 Bradley and W.O.2 Harrington plus frequent visits from Capt. P. O. M. Chitty, R.E. Last year we camped with the Royal Engineers at the Southern Command bridging camp, R.E., at Wyke Regis and in the Easter holidays five cadets attended the R.E. Course at Marchwood. The section constructed a Bailey bridge for the annual inspection in June. The training also includes demolitions—very useful for removing the stumps of elm trees in the park. A very interesting result of Capt. Chitty's personal influence is that boys are now joining the T.A. while still members of the C.C.F. and this summer at Wyke we had four cadets who are members of the R.E.s and who are attached to the Territorial staff and acting as assistant instructors.

Our R.A. Section is affiliated to 294 (Q.O.D.Y.) Field Regt., R.A. (T.A.) and was formed last summer term. Every Wednesday they send over a team of instructors under Capt. D. C. W. Young, R.A. Last term they spent one whole day training at Dorchester and next term we hope they will be sufficiently trained to fire at Lulworth. The R.A. course lasts two terms and should provide its own instructors. We are most grateful to the Q.O.D.Y. for giving up so much time to helping us and we hope senior boys will join the R.A. (T.A.).

As all instruction in the junior companies working for the Basic and Army Proficiency tests is carried out by cadet N.C.O.s, some cadets who show that they have the necessary qualities of leadership are posted to these companies as vacancies occur but there are never enough vacancies. Last summer term our H.Q. Company was 167 strong.

We were also able to run a first-aid course.

The final and most exciting platoon is the Commando Platoon commanded by one of our own officers, 2/Lt. J. T. Davies, who served an attachment with 41 R.M. Commandos at Lymptone, Devon. Here again our situation helps us as our friends at the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre, Poole, manage to send us a junior officer every Wednesday. Work in the Commando Platoon course included an assault course which seems to get higher up in the trees every term, evacuation of wounded by means of a rope bridge over the river, field cooking and demonstrations by 2/Lt. Weiner, R.M., of the use of frogman's equipment.

The highlight last term was the all night exercise for which the platoon marched out to Canford Heath, dug in, constructed bivouacs, had supper and settled down for the night. But they had not reckoned on a surprise attack in the middle of the night by a fighting patrol of about 20 cadets led by 2/Lt. E. J. Boughton—all volunteers. However, sentries were very alert, the attack was driven off and several prisoners were taken—including the writer of these notes who was marched into the post and very efficiently dealt with!

As has been pointed out the cadets in the R.A.F. Section take part in all these activities. Our experience of the the old A.T.C., in the days before the C.C.F. was formed, was that the boy who joined the A.T.C. was not necessarily keen on flying

but did like sitting in a class-room. The type of training did not appear to produce leaders or to attract boys with leadership qualities. Our system attracts the boy who is genuinely keen on flying and therefore he does not object to doing some extra work. Some of our senior under-officers or N.C.O.s are in the R.A.F. Section and so may be leading a platoon in the attack on Wednesday, flying at Hamble on Thursday and gliding at Christchurch over the weekend. The inducements offered to a cadet who is keen on flying are tremendous: "B" Gliding Certificate, Flying Scholarships up to the civilian pilot's licence, overseas flights to Canada, U.S.A., Europe or India, and Star Camps in which the cadet lives in the Officers' Mess. At the last passing out parade at Cranwell, Under-Officer R. Howard was a typical example of a cadet who had just about done all he could in the C.C.F. He was an Under-Officer in command of the senior platoon working for the Army Proficiency Test, gained his "B" Gliding Certificate and his pilot's licence.

Our weak spot is .303 shooting and this is chiefly due to the fact that we have no suitable range near enough to make it worth while entering a team at Bisley. In the Country Life competition this year we were 63rd.

Of the six Old Canfordians now at Sandhurst, Weld and McLellan were selected from a large field of candidates to take part in an exercise in North Africa last Easter term.

Last term the contingent was inspected by Gen. Sir John Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. His son, 2/Lt. W. Crocker, was an Old Boy and was killed in action in Normandy in 1944 whilst serving with the Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guards.

HARDYE'S SCHOOL, C.C.F.

In this number of the Journal we introduce our contingent for the first time.

The contingent has an establishment of two officers and 374 cadets and is affiliated to The Dorset Regt. (T.A.).

The contingent is Commanded by Major R. Barrass, D.F.C., Naval Section, Lt. R. Tompsett, R.N.V.R., R.A.F. Section, F/Lt. J. O. Roberts and P/O. A. G. W. Paul. 2/Lt. D. C. Lacey assists the Contingent Commander to run the Army Section. Admin. Officer is Major F. J. Edwards, M.B.E., late Dorset Regiment.

Our strength at present is Basic Section 104, R.N. Section 40, Army Section 160, R.A.F. Section 44, making a total of 348 cadets. During the year 121 have passed the Basic Test and the contingent have the following Certificates: Army Pro: 119; R.N. Pro: 4; R.A.F. Pro: 30; Cert. "T" 2; R.N. Advanced Pro: 8; R.A.F. Advanced 24. The Signals Section last month had 13 passes in the Signals Classification and five gained Assistant Instructor's Certificates. Sgt. D. M. Harrison attended a course in Electrical and Automobile Engineering at Bordon and was awarded Certificate "T".

The "Day of the Year", our Centenary Celebrations on May 31, 1960. The contingent was inspected by Brig. G. Laing, C.B.E., Deputy Commander South Western District, and the parade was Commanded by Under-Officer F. A. Barber of the Naval Section.

On show for the interest of the contingent and parents were, armoured vehicles from the R.A.C.

Bovington, a D.U.K.W. from "C" and "D" Pls., 920 Coy. R.A.S.C. (Amph Tpt.) (T.A.), a 25-pdr. gun from 294 Regt. (Q.O.D.Y.) R.A. (T.A.) and an exhibition of infantry weapons from The Dorset Regt. (T.A.). We are very grateful for the assistance given us.

The Royal Navy laid on a demonstration of air-sea rescue by helicopter and was of great interest to all.

The R.A.F. Section Commander laid on a plane for aerobatics, which consisted of looping the loop, rolling and flying upside down. W.O.2 Howe of the R.A.F. Section was in the plane. As this was taking place there was a fly past by a Hunter and Javelin aircraft.

Demonstrations were also carried out by the contingent.

Signals demonstration arranged by C.S.M. Miller.

Camouflage demonstration arranged by C.S.M. Northover.

Camping and cooking demonstration arranged by C.S.M. Hunt.

The Corps of Drums, under Drum-Major Hunter, gave an excellent display of marching and counter-marching. The Drum-Major threw his mace for the benefit of a V.I.P. and did not drop it.

On July 17, at Sydling Ranges, we entered two teams for C.C.F. competitions. Our "A" team scored 204 and "B" team scored 227. "B" team were presented with the Major Le Marchant Cup and Cpl. Hart who made the highest score on the range was presented with the William Watt Challenge Bowl.

At the passing out parade at the Royal Air Force College, Cranwell, on July 25, 1960, the parade was taken by an old boy of the school, Senior Under-Officer P. J. Kemp, who was presented with the Sword of Honour by Her Majesty the Queen. Another old boy, Under-Officer M. B. Bullocke, received the new Colour which was being presented to the College by Her Majesty. Under-Officer Bullocke received the Kinkead Trophy, the flying prize awarded to the best cadet in each entry.

Representing the contingent at the Central Parade in London for the Centenary Celebrations were Under-Officer F. A. Barber, R.S.M. W. I. Birrell and Ft/Sgt. R. B. Duckett.

Our annual camp was held from July 27 to August 4, and we had a "Greenfield" Camp for the first time. We chose Exmoor, and camped on a farm about five miles from Lynton in North Devon. During the camp period we had rain, sunshine and mist. The camp was enjoyed by all and we look forward to another "Greenfield" Camp in the future.

SHERBORNE SCHOOL, C.C.F.

The Cadet Corps was formed as a Cadet Company of the Dorsetshire Regiment in September 1888. Capt. W. B. Wildman was the first C.O. The Corps wore the scarlet uniform of the Regiment with helmets and white leather belts and Sherborne was one of the four Schools represented in the first Public Schools Provisional Battalion at Churn Camp in 1889. 1903 saw the change from scarlet to khaki and in 1908 the title changed to the Officers Training Corps. By 1910 the O.T.C. contained, as now, nearly the whole school. In 1940 the title was changed to the Junior Training Corps and in 1948 to The Combined Cadet

Force, including a Royal Naval and a Royal Air Force Section.

Today a boy joins the C.C.F. in his second term and spends normally two terms in Recruits' Company. He then goes on to "B" Company where after a further two terms he takes Army Basic Test. If successful he can then choose either to stay with the Army or to join either the R.N. or R.A.F. Sections. If he stays with the Army he then goes to "A" Company for a further two terms, at the end of which he takes his Proficiency Test. With that under his belt he is posted to H.Q. Company for three terms, one of which will be spent on a Drill and Weapon Training Course. For the other two terms he can choose to go to the Signal Platoon or the R.A. Troop (who have their own 25-pounder gun) or to the Commando Pl. (advanced Field Training) or to the Technical Platoon (the internal combustion engine and Civil Defence). There is also a C.C.F. Band which is now over 50 strong, believed to be the largest of its kind in the country. After this year the cadet becomes a house corporal and an instructor. From then on promotion is by merit only and C.S.M. is the highest rank attainable.

At present there are 16 Officers and over 500 Cadets on the strength.

Devon Army Cadet Force

Centenary Celebrations have been the main feature of the year. Nevertheless, we have had more Certificate "A" successes than ever before and, in addition to other sporting successes, we have won the Southern Command football, boxing, and cross-country championships.

The Devon Rifle Association, as part of its own Centenary Celebrations, invited a team of eight Cadets from each of our four Battalions to a special .303 match and presented a souvenir centenary cup to everyone of the 32 Cadets taking part. Furthermore, the best Cadet received a special memorial cup. Incidentally, the Cadets did not win!

The General Manager of the Southern Region, British Railways, was in Exeter in connection with the Celebrations of the 100th Anniversary of the first train to reach the City, and it was appropriate and gratifying that he was at the Central Station to bid God-speed to the 15 Devon A.C.F. Cadets selected to attend the National Cadet Centenary Celebrations. These Cadets spent five days in London, and so it was possible for them not only to attend the Queen's Parade in Buckingham Palace and the Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey, but to visit places of interest such as the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament, Windsor Castle, and the Palladium.

For the first time for many years we held our annual camp in Devonshire. The main object of doing this was achieved because the Lord Lieutenant's Parade, on which the Duke of Edinburgh's Banner was Trooped, was watched by some 600 parents and friends. The map reading exercise by road and river Dart steamers proved to be useful, and our traditional 28-hour bivouac expedition was more interesting than usual. We were fortunate to have with us R.S.M. A. T. Coombe, C.S.M. F. G.

Burton, and C.S.M. F. Channing, all now serving with The Devonshire Regiment (T.A.). They terrified the Cadets—who loved them.

The G.O.C. South Western District, visited us on our last day of camp. Owing to heavy rain we had to cancel the parade, and to “sardine” ourselves into a garage. There the G.O.C. skilfully winkled himself through the mass of boys, addressed them, and presented to the winners our County Trophies. These, for the first time, included the Colonel of the Regiment's Cup. This was won, and proudly received by, our 2nd (Plymouth) Battalion.

The B.B.C. recorded, and later broadcast, our community singing which appropriately included “Widdecombe Fair”, “Happy Wanderer”, and “On Dartmoor baht 'at”. So cut off did we feel in our Moorland Camp that it was almost surprising to visit the little town of Okehampton and find that the rest of the world was going on just as it was when we left our homes. At the end, cadets were reluctant to leave what they were now calling “Our Moor”; some of us are at last learning to appreciate our own county.

“C” Coy. seem to have caught the eye of the Editor of the Cadet Journal as the following extract which was published in the August number will show:—

“‘C’ Company of the 1st (C.) Battalion, Devon A.C.F. drew up an impressive programme to mark Centenary Year. A march past was organised through the market town of Axminster, and nearly all the townspeople turned out to see the local cadets on parade. Afterwards a Centenary Service was held in the parish church, and the cadets then marched through the town to the Drill Hall for refreshments, where they were joined by their parents. Two shoots were also arranged, and a film show; one of the films which was shown was ‘The Trooping of the Colour’. The B.B.C. were kind enough to mention all these events in two of their regional broadcasts.”

When H.R.H. Princess Margaret unveiled a statue of St. Boniface during her visit to Crediton, two A.C.F. Cadets were on guard over the statue. They were called upon to take prompt action to remove the cloth when the unveiling ropes snapped.

Dorset Army Cadet Force

A year ago the Dorset Army Cadet Force was extremely short of leaders, many detachments relying on the goodwill of only one officer. Now the position has changed very much for the good. All detachments have at least three officers or instructors and the whole force is in the enviable position of being up to strength with willing and able gentlemen. This increase in instructors has enabled a greater amount of activities to be undertaken during the year. Indeed this fact has allowed the Dorset Army Cadet Force to take full advantage of the national activities organised for this Centenary Year of the formation of the Cadet Force.

Six cadets and one sergeant-major took part in the national parade in the gardens of Buckingham Palace on July 22. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh inspected this parade, also five officers from the County Army Cadet Force watched the parade and attended the subsequent service in Westminster Abbey.

As maybe well known has part of the Centenary Celebrations the Duke of Edinburgh has presented the Cadet Force with a Banner which is to visit every county in the Kingdom. During its stay in Dorset from August 26 to 28, the County Cadet Force, as part of the Dorset Regiment trooped the Banner through the towns of Lyme Regis, Dorchester, Blandford and Poole, which Boroughs have conferred their Freedom on the Regiment.

The cadets have just returned from a week's camp at Plasterdown near Tavistock. Naturally during this period the opportunity was taken, under R.S.M. Harris of the Dorset Regiment, T.A., to polish up and rehearse for these parades and also for the Drumhead Service which took place on the Depot Barracks Square, Dorchester during the afternoon of Sunday, August 28. Besides drill, the cadets took part in a 24-hour trek across Dartmoor and had an exciting days battle. They also visited H.M. Dockyard, Devonport, where they were taken over a number of warships which were in the harbour at the time.

A total of four adults have now attended and passed the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Course which took place at the National Training Centre, Frimley Park. This autumn, this very worthwhile scheme will be offered to all cadets who wish to take part.

Dorset was one of the first County Army Cadet Forces to operate a County Training Centre. During the year this centre, which is in the T.A. compound, Blandford, has proved most valuable in training both instructors and cadets. A total of six weekend courses have been run during the year.

Great efforts have also been made to increase both interest and standard of shooting. The Colonel of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment has very kindly given a cup and financed an inter-detachment joint .22 competition which started this year with 14 detachment teams. Wimborne “B” won the competition with what was considered to be a good score of 348 out of 400. Every Sunday throughout the year, winter and summer, cadets have fired on the open range at Symondsburry near Bridport. No doubt due to this effort, the Dorset Army Cadet Force came second in the County Pre-Service rifle meeting and Cadet Campbell of Bridport detachment won the Ellen Mills challenge cup for the best individual score. It is to be hoped that this year a team will represent the County Army Cadet Force at Bisley.

It is very pleasing and perhaps surprising, to be able to say that in Sgt. Cadet Pearce we have this year obtained a national pre-service boxing champion. At the boxing finals held at Seymour Hall in London in March he defeated the representatives of the two other Pre-Service Forces before becoming National Champion. Also at Seymour Hall, Cadet Hiscock of Wimborne detachment represented the Army Cadet Force, but unfortunately was defeated.

Looking to the future it is to be hoped that both parents and schools, with boys between the ages of



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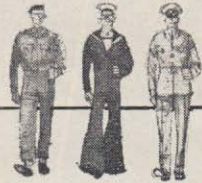
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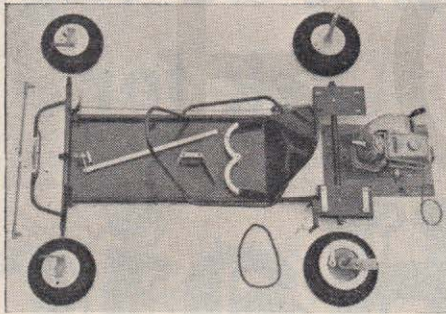
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14 to 18 will encourage them to take full advantage of the active and interesting life offered by joining their County Army Cadet Force.

We are grateful to the Editor of "The Blandfordian" for permission to reproduce this report from Blandford Grammar School, A.C.F. Unit:—

"Although the unit is only a small one (present strength 16) good progress has been made over the past school year. Last September none of the cadets held Cert. 'A', but during the year 11 candidates have sat the examination for Cert. 'A', part I, eight being successful; also at the present time three senior cadets are preparing for their Cert. 'A' part II, a much harder test than the first, involving skill as instructors as well as military knowledge.

"In November the unit took part in the Dorset A.C.F. annual scheme based on Sixpenny Handley.

"In February we were represented in the Southern Command cross-country championships; Pike running well came in eighth out of a field of 40 runners.

"We were defeated in our next competitive event, the Colonel of the Regiment's Cup for .22 shooting, by Wimborne 'A' team, despite excellent shooting by Coward (95) and Ralls (87).

"On June 8 a party of cadets was privileged to attend the annual demonstration of the School of Infantry, Warminster. An extremely interesting day was spent watching vivid demonstrations of fire-power. Army-Air Force co-operation, helicopter work, and finally a noisy battle involving tanks, artillery, and armoured cars. The unit's thanks are due to the Dorchester H.Q. for providing a free coach to the demonstration.

"In addition to the normal training we have enjoyed films, and on evenings when the weather has been fair, we have been on the sports field doing field craft and mock attacks on the pavilion. (Cpl. Leonard is now an expert on the cheap provision of camouflage cream.)

"Annual camp this year is to be held at Plasterdown in Devon, but unfortunately only a small number of cadets will be able to attend. Camp dates seem to have clashed with parent's holidays!

"The culmination of the training year will be at Speech Day when Brig. Woodhouse, Chairman of the Governors, will present a silver trophy (from the Dorset Regiment) to the cadet who is considered to have made the most progress through the year."

The Poole Battalion

Following the doldrums of the 'thirties, the Army Cadet Force in Poole was started on April 1, 1942, when Poole was made the 3rd Battalion. The C.O. was the Town Clerk, Mr. Wilson Kenyon, and the Adjutant was the Education Officer, Mr. Higham.

In those days rifles were a thing not thought of as regards the cadets and parades were done with wooden rifles. Greatcoats and web belts were sometimes borrowed from the Home Guard. In 1943 special permission was granted for senior cadets to borrow rifles from the Home Guard. Each cadet was given a letter of authority. He would go to the home of a Home Guard, borrow his rifle, take it to parade, and return it on the homeward journey, and so the Army cadets started.

The Poole Battalion started off with four Companies:

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Henry Harbin School, Kemp Welch School, Poole Grammar School, and Hamworthy.

The first church parade held in 1942 was in Poole park where the cadets were all on parade when a lone enemy plane came overhead, but the parade carried on. So much for early discipline.

The first ever camp was 1943, held at Clayesmore and was practically the last. Special trains went to Shillingstone station and from there the cadets had to march five miles to the school. What a long journey. First camp, no experience, some fell by the wayside others said they were hurt and had lifts in the baggage lorries. On arrival at camp tents had to be put up in the dark (bell-type), and after all that, supper was served; **just one sausage**. Half-way through the night the tents had to be shifted. What a camp to remember.

At the 1945 camp, cadets with part I Cert. "A" and over 16 years old, were given flights in gliders, which proved quite successful.

Nineteen-forty-eight saw the Dorset Army cadets in four Battalions under Col. T. G. L. Elliott, O.B.E., but four years later on March 8, 1952, the 2nd Cadet Regiment was amalgamated with the 3rd Cadet Battalion.

On July 3, 1952, the cadets were privileged to witness the parade for H.M. The Queen when she visited the Depot at Dorchester.

March/April 1952, was a chance of a lifetime, a visit by cadets to Lulworth Tank School and demonstration.

October, 1953: The Poole Area Company Band represented Dorset at the South West district band competition and won.

March, 1954: Once again the cadets were privileged to parade at Dorchester on the occasion of the visit by H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent.

June, 1954, saw the Poole Area Band at the Royal Tournament in London.

Whilst at the 1954 camp, cadets were taken to St. Austell for training flights over the countryside, which, again proved to be of great interest.

On June 25-26, 1955, six cadets from the Parkstone Detachment visited London as guests of the 1st Bn. Coldstream Guards.

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THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

HEADQUARTERS

THE Annual Reunion dinner was very well attended by some 550 members on July 16, of whom quite 350 took part in the march from Burry Meadow to attend the Cathedral service in the late afternoon. We sent appropriate telegrams to Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent. It was nice to receive a reply from Her Majesty and to read her message to the assembled company, but unfortunately the Duchess of Kent was away from London and I did not receive her reply until some days after the dinner.

Owing to the temporary move of the Wessex Bde. Depot to Honiton during the rebuilding of Topsham Barracks, we shall have to hold our dinner in June next year (1961). This may help our members in the holiday towns as the dinner won't coincide with the annual rush to seaside resorts.

In April last H. H. Greenslade of Honiton died in his 89th year. He served for 32 years and retired as R.S.M. after serving in the Relief of Lady-Smith, India and Palestine.

Bandmaster E. A. Herniman wrote to say that he keeps well but finds it more difficult to jump a five-barred gate nowadays. He wishes particularly to be remembered to his old mates in the Band.

We learn that Reg Scoble who served in the 1914/18 War and in 1920 went to join his brother in Canada is becoming blind and partly paralysed. He is being well looked after in the Veteran's Hospital in Victoria.

One of our very old members left us when E. Morris of Leystone passed away last April.

After a very long illness J. Webley of Bromsgrove was relieved of his sufferings. To the very last his favourite conversation was of his Regimental service in India and Aden.

Sgt. E. C. W. Pepperell of Devonport was awarded the Imperial Service Medal in July. He is the standard bearer of the 5th (P.O.W.) Bn. O.C.A. standard and an active member of the Plymouth Branch.

Our Old Comrades of the Torrington district organised a most successful dinner at Torrington on July 28. The photographs of the party reproduced in the local paper are sure proof that an enjoyable time was had by all.

Drummer Price from Whipton was very disappointed that he could not attend the Exeter dinner because of illness. I gather that he is more or less bedridden but he sent his wishes that all attending should have a good time.

By the death of Mr. Creek of Crownhill the local rifle club and the County lose a crack shot with the .22 and the 303 rifle. He served with the Regiment in the 1914/18 War and with the Home Guard during the 1939/45 War in which he held the rank of Major.

Cpl. T. W. H. Veale, V.C., attended the V.C.'s dinner in London and was also present at our Reunion in Exeter when he told us of his meeting with the Duke of Edinburgh.

Alfred Wing died in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on August 13, but unfortunately we did not hear of it in time to take any action to be represented at the funeral.

I learn that Mr. T. K. Wigan (I believe he was a captain) of the 6th Devons during the 1914/18 War died some two years ago. I understand that he spent his later years in the Hungerford district.

Walter Trim, who was with the Regiment in Mesopotamia and Salonica and after the war joined the Devon Police Force, died at the age of 61. He was of a Honiton family but served in many Devon towns as a policeman.

Those great veterans, the O.C.A. of the 1st Rifle Volunteers, still muster a goodly gathering for their annual outings despite the fact that the 1st R.V. was absorbed by the 4th Bn. T.A. in 1908. I reckon they must all be over 75 years of age although they don't look it. The 1st R.V. Association is still going strong 50 years after their unit disappeared and so there is good hope for the longevity of our O.C.A. too!

R.H.C.

EXETER BRANCH

The Branch has now passed its first birthday and is gaining in strength very satisfactorily. The members now total 96.

The hard working committee is settling down to an excellent routine with good backing from all concerned. Seven social evenings were arranged during the first year and these were well attended. This has proved the object of forming the branch which was to bring the Old Comrades together at least once a month—hitherto it was once a year and then at the annual dinner.

There are numerous Old Comrades in the Exeter area who have not yet joined our branch; we would be pleased to welcome them. Do please come along. There are no finer clubs than the Old Comrades' Clubs.

(Continued at foot of page 153)

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THE DORSET REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

HEADQUARTERS

A VERY brief note on the Reunion just finished.

With the barracks up for sale this may well have been the last occasion on which members of this Association could be accommodated in their old recruits barrack rooms.

Last year the responsibility for accommodation and general physical arrangements for the Reunion devolved for the first time on the Territorial Battalion—this time they did considerably better and not only bedded the visitors down but fed them as well! Sgt. Pugh and his merry men, assisted by the W.R.A.C. girls of the Dorchester Platoon, laid on a meal considerably better than that produced by a well-known contractor last year.

Capt. Vaughan, R.S.M. Harris and his sturdy handful of assistants at Battalion Headquarters and Headquarter Company are to be congratulated on their first incursion into catering on this scale. The dinner was certainly voted to be one of the best we have had for years.

It is most encouraging to us who are called on to organise this Reunion that far from numbers decreasing, attendance seems to be growing, and it is estimated that more Old Comrades marched to the Cenotaph this year than had been seen since the 250th gathering of eight years ago. Our attention has been very forcibly called to the fact that this marching column could be considerably increased if those on the pavements sporting their Regimental neckties would join in the march to the Cenotaph which is such an important occasion in the Association's year.

The guests of the Association this year included the Mayor of Dorchester, Alderman J. H. Moore and his Town Clerk, Mr. Allan R. Jeffery, Secretary of the 1/4th (Overseas) Association, Col. Cyril Carter, representing the 2/4th (Overseas) Association, and Lt.-Col. P. T. Willcocks meeting the Association for the first time. We are all very grateful to Col. Willcocks for his kind speech in proposing the health of the Association and his assurance of every support he can give us during his forthcoming tour of command of the 1st Battalion, The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment.

BOURNEMOUTH BRANCH

Death

We are sorry to say since our last notes that we have lost a very good member—Mr. V. J. Kerley (Vic.) on April 26, 1960. Up and until his illness about three years ago he was a very active member and was President for a number of years.

These notes must seem like an annual report to Bournemouth members, but really members you are

to blame. You do not, in most cases, attend your meetings and functions, when perhaps I could compile some notes from the "Chatter" that goes on during such occasions. Such social evenings as I have arranged with entertainment would, but for the loyal members, be a "flop".

Our annual dinner was held at The Dolphin Hotel on June 18—"What a spread"—the landlord and his wife did us proud. Prior to the meal the Branch Standard was paraded around the tables by our Standard Bearer, Mr. J. Roper, finally being placed behind our President's chair for the remainder of the evening.

The toastmaster was one of our old members—Dick Burge (now with the Southampton Branch). Never a dull moment when he is on his feet. The evening was rounded off with music and singing with the usual "wallop" courses between. There were some reports of headaches, etc., next day. Thank you, committee members.

What a surprise I had when on a visit to my old "Stamping Ground" for dinner (curry and rice) then the Whitehall Theatre for a show, afterwards to visit Clarence P. H. for drink—lo and behold my Old Comrades the London Branch having a few after a meeting. It made my evening and birthday outing—thank you, London.

JERSEY BRANCH

The Dorset Regiment Association were "At Home" to the ex-Devons at the Dorset Tavern early in September when a reception was held to meet Mr. W. J. Atkinson, Hon. Secretary of the London Branch of the Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association, and Mrs. Atkinson.

Numerous members of the Dorset branch together with their wives attended, and among those present were Capt. and Mrs. Billot, Maj.-Gen. and Mrs. Wilsey, Mrs. Wilsey and their son, Lt. J. Wilsey, who was on leave from Cyprus. Also Major M. A. Trotter, ex-Devon.

Capt. F. R. Billot, President, welcomed the guests and expressed his delight at seeing so many members and their wives on what was a unique occasion, for since the amalgamation of the two Regiments they had not had the pleasure of welcoming a representative of the sister Regimental Association. This gathering of ex-members of both Regiments would still further cement the bonds of friendship which existed between them.

Good Wishes

Mr. Atkinson thanked the President for his very kind words and the members for the great welcome

they had given to both Mrs. Atkinson and himself—a welcome which would make their holiday in Jersey all the more memorable. He conveyed to the gathering the greetings and good wishes of the Devon's London Branch.

H. J. Seager, Hon. Secretary of the Dorset Regiment Association proposed the toast of "The Devons" and this having been warmly acclaimed, Mrs. Atkinson was presented with a bouquet by Mr. Seager. Mrs. Atkinson briefly responded and the gathering was then served with a well chosen and served buffet supper by Mr. and Mrs. R. Dorkins and the remainder of the evening was spent in a sociable manner.

LONDON BRANCH

"Tich" Jack Hounslow who is suffering from arthritis in both legs and shoulders and also from failing sight which, as "Tich" tells me, may result in the removal of his left eye. Apart from this, he has recently been operated on for a "double hernia". With it all he carries on making the best of his lot. We regret to announce the death of "Admiral" Dick Beattie, since these notes were received. An appreciation of this grand Old Comrade will appear in our next issue.

As promised you in my last Journal notes, I would deal with the branch's annual dinner and dance which was held for the first time at the Chatham Room Restaurant, Victoria Station. Among the 160 who sat down to a good dinner, was our usual and principal guest, General G. N. Wood. It was apparent that, considering his frequent journeys from dinner to dinner at various branches all over the country and his Police obligations as well (as he is Commandant of Bath City Special Constabulary), not to mention his private domestic affairs and obligations, the General doesn't appear to age in any way. His speech was as "lively" as usual and brought not only smiles, but outbursts of laughter too, not to mention the blushes on the ladies' faces. Also with us for the first time was Brig. John Hewick and his wife and Col. E. L. Stephenson. Brig. Hewick, popularly referred to as "John" made a humorous and lengthy speech touching on events connected with his world tour during which he couldn't escape contacts with the old Dorset Regiment. His speech was so lengthy in fact that he over-run his stipulated time, he just couldn't help it he said because he felt so darned happy at being with some really old familiar faces around him. This was followed by Col. Stephenson's somewhat brief, yet candid talk.

We were very pleased to have with us yet again a strong contingent of Birmingham Branch Members and their good ladies, together with not quite as many from the Bath Branch attending for the first time. It was, as well you may know, proof of what London Branch loves to do not only for its own members but also for members from other branches too. Both these branches have expressed their sincere appreciation. So there you are our great old Dorsets in other branches, you too are welcomed to join us at the next year's event, the date is June 10, 1961, at the same place.

Since the dinner, the branch has held its annual St. Leger draw the proceeds of which provides the principal means of raising money for the branch's funds. It so happens that through some reason or

other, the result was somewhat disappointing. Only about 50 per cent of the members made a positive return. Maybe it's because such draws are so "hackneyed" these days, and then again it may be that folk are so used to going in for higher stakes, round about the £75,000 mark. Who knows? maybe we shall have to venture out on the same principal! That'll be the day!

Apart from the Reunion, the branch is also looking forward to its Annual General Meeting which will be held at "The Clarence", Whitehall, on the first Wednesday in October. The branch is, I am very sorry to say, losing the services of its Honorary Secretary who, through the exigencies of employment and move to Essex, finds it impossible to put in the time which the post entails. You may therefore have a "new line" in your next Journal, a line which may well prove an improvement and one which may give ideas for added interest.

In conclusion, may I express the hope that the branch can count on your attendance, yes even the attendance of members from other branches too, at its meetings which are held at "The Clarence", Whitehall, on the first Wednesday in every month throughout the year.

All the very best of good health and fortune to you all. "BUSTY"

SHERBORNE BRANCH

The highlight of our summer was a garden party given for branch members and their wives by our President, Col. Laugher, at his farm at Charlton Horethorne. Luckily, it was a reasonably fine evening for this summer, so that the party could be held in the open. About 45 were present, and those who missed it have our sympathies. A skittle alley had been rigged up, at which all tried their hand for prizes: refreshments, both liquid and other, were on so generous a scale that even Dorsets couldn't clear the board—though probably there was little left in the beer barrels.

It was a splendid stimulus to the social life of the branch, and we are all deeply grateful to Col. and Mrs. Laugher, who spared no trouble or expense to give us an evening which we shall long remember.

We regret to report the death of Mr. J. Plympton, after a long illness patiently borne. He and his father had a long record of service with the Volunteer and T.A. Bns. of the Regiment; and he had lately shown his continued interest by presenting to the Regimental Museum a handsome set of spoons won at Battalion shooting events.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

Southampton Branch have produced an attractive little news letter which unfortunately is too long to reproduce *in toto*.

Members of the Association visiting Southampton may like to know that this Branch has changed its meeting place to the Headquarters of the Bitterne Manor Branch of the British Legion, where they meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Their indefatigable scribe—Jack Scott—send us an interesting account of a meeting of their "Old Contemptibles" who had not met together for 46 years.

This quarter has been particularly heavy for deaths in the Association, not the least well known of whom is the late Sgt. Calley who is still well

remembered in Dorset. George Calley was 70 when he died and had lived at Carisbrooke for the last 25 years. He served 22 years with the Regiment and was taken prisoner when fighting with the 1st Battalion at La Bassee in 1914. During the last war he was a member of the Police War Reserve.

A Reunion of three Old Dorsets

On June 27, three old Dorsets met at Jack Scott's house at Eastleigh, they were, Major F. H. B. Rathbone, Jack Scott and Monty Audrain from Jersey. Neither Jack nor Monty had seen Major Rathbone since the Battle at La Bassee on October 13, 1914, where the Major was seriously wounded, and Jack Scott, with many others, was taken prisoner.

During the two hours we were together, we talked of everybody and everything of Regimental interest, commencing with the 2nd Battalion at Colchester in 1905, where the Major and Jack Scott both served, also of the 1914-1918 War and India.

The battle at La Bassee was discussed in detail, and many serious and amusing incidents leading up to and during the battle were recalled.

Looking at photographs, brought back many happy memories, in particular "B" Coys. club swinging class at Colchester in 1905. The names of the class were, Sgt. Lambert, Cpl. Sawyer, L/Cpl. Whitley, L/Cpl. Kerley, L/Cpl. Creasey, Ptes. Blackmore, Toms, Casey, Foyle, Ted Creech, Scott, Fooks, Pidot, Nash, Monckton, and three others whose names could not be recalled.

Another most interesting photograph was that of the members of the Sergeants' Mess of the 1st Bn. at Belfast in 1914, on going through the names they were all remembered except one.

The most interesting photograph to Major Rathbone, was that of No. 13 Platoon, taken just before the Bn. embarked from France, at the time Major Rathbone was 2nd in Command on "D" Coy. Of the platoons war strength of 57, we could only remember the following, Lt. Partridge, Platoon Commander, Sgt. J. W. Scott, Platoon Sgt., Cpl. Constable, the Platoons Marinden Range Finder, Cpl. Harcourt, Cpl. Kenny, L/Cpl. Flowers, Ptes. Creasey, Davis, Eaton and Parks.

If there are any of No. 13 Platoon still about, Jack Scott would very much like to get in touch with them.

What fine and good soldiers they were in those days, with their smartness on and off parade, their splendid spirit of comradeship, devotion to duty and loyalty, will such soldierly qualities ever be surpassed, or even equalled in the days to come? Time alone will tell.

This ended a very happy and exciting reunion of three old Dorsets after a lapse of 46 years.

JACK SCOTT.

NOTTINGHAM AREA

We have heard a lot from Sid Thompson of Nottingham lately, who is becoming a very faithful correspondent keeping us in touch with a number of the old Dorsets in the Midlands. The Provost Sergeant of the 2nd Battalion made the journey to Dorchester for the Annual Reunion this year, looking very fit and well and quite as active as he used to appear on Staff Parade to the writer of these notes nearly 30 years ago.

We are sorry to report the death of Mr. M. W. Basley who passed away on July 9.

Col. Mitchell, who has been Area Secretary of the Nottingham Area for more than a quarter of a century is planning to hand over to Mr. Sid Thompson at the end of the year.

1/4th DORSET (Overseas) ASSOCIATION

All too soon October is approaching and brings us nearer the Reunion of the 1/4th Dorset Overseas Association which has always been held on the nearest Saturday convenient to October 9, the date on which the Battalion sailed for India in 1914.

At last year's dinner and parade we mustered about 120, all of whom actually served with the 1/4th Battalion Dorset Regiment Overseas.

This year the date is October 1, when once again we look forward to meeting our old friends, most of whom we see just once a year, but what a wealth of memories are conjured up that night.

ALLAN R. JEFFERY.

2/4th DORSET (Overseas) ASSOCIATION

The Regiment in general and the 2/4th Battalion (Overseas) Association in particular, have suffered a severe loss and a very staunch supporter following the death of Harry Stacey. We also report with regret the death of another staunch supporter—Mr. B. J. Cuff, of Wimborne. Of the two Harry Stacey was more generally known in the Regiment for his fine work as Secretary, from its inception in 1925, of the 2/4th Old Comrades (Overseas) Association. Not only has he continued to be Secretary all this time but was made Vice-President in recognition of his work for the Association.

After the war he served with distinction for 38 years in Local Government in Wimborne. A correspondent writes this of him:—

"The news of Mr. Stacey's death must have come as a great shock to his many friends. A fine figure of a man, with a soft voice that one can never imagine to have been raised in anger it is for his long and unstinted work as hon. secretary and treasurer of the 2/4th Dorset Regiment Old Comrades' Association that he will be remembered by an inevitably declining number of those in the county and beyond it whom the First World War brought together in service with the Battalion in India and Palestine. It may almost be said that without him the annual dinner of the Association would not have happened, and it is possible, for such is the way of things, that few realised to the full the great amount of work that went to the organisation of those meetings. Was it worth it? Indeed it was.

"The debt owed him by his old comrades is very great."

Devonshire Regt. O.C.A.—continued from page 150

We regret to have to record that two of our stalwarts have left the Exeter area but still remain members—Bill Handy is now "Mine host" at the Red Lion, Stratford-on-Avon, and Blondie Hiscox has joined him to help "pull" the beer. We recommend a good call after Shakespeare.

Another regret is that owing to transport difficulties, time and space, our President has reluctantly resigned. We shall have him as a member so cannot say farewell.

We shall soon be in a position to nominate a successor.

F.B.

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