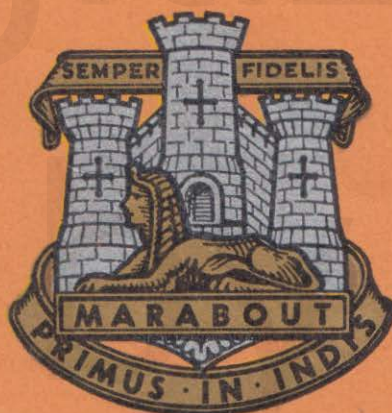


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JUNE, 1968

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THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT (11, 39 and 54)

The Sphinx superimposed upon the Castle of Exeter

The Castle and Key superscribed Gibraltar 1779-83 and with the motto
'Montis Insignia Calpe'

The Sphinx superscribed 'Egypt'

Semper Fidelis

Primus in Indis

"Dettingen," "Plassey," "Martinique, 1794," "Marabout," "Albuhera," "Salamanca," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Orthes," "Toulouse," "Peninsula," "Ava," "Maharajpore," "Sevastopol," "Afghanistan, 1871-80," "Tirah," "Defence of Ladysmith," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1899-1902," "Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassee, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Hill 60," "Ypres, 1915, '17," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellewaarde," "Aubers," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Guillemont," "Flers-Courcelette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Bullecourt," "Messines, 1917," "Pilckem," "Langemarck, 1917," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcapelle," "Passchendaele," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Hazeubrouck," "Bois des Buttes," "Marne, 1918," "Tardenois," "Amiens," "Bapaume, 1918," "Hindenburg Line," "Havrincourt," "Epéhy," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Beaurevoir," "Cambrai, 1918," "Selle," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Piave," "Vittorio Veneto," "Italy, 1917-18," "Doiran, 1917, '18," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suvla," "Landing at Suvla," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Egypt, 1916-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Nebi Samwil," "Jerusalem," "Tell 'Asur," "Megiddo," "Sharon," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Basra," "Shaiba," "Kut al Amara, 1915, '17," "Ctesiphon," "Defence of Kut al Amara," "Tigris, 1916," "Baghdad," "Khan Baghdadi," "Mesopotamia, 1914-18," "St. Omer-La Bassee," "Normandy Landing," "Port en Bessin," "Villers Bocage," "Tilly sur Seules," "Caen," "Mont Pincon," "St. Pierre La Vielle," "Nederrijn," "Arnhem, 1944," "Aam," "Geilenkirchen," "Roer," "Rhine," "Ibbenburen," "Twente Canal," "North-West Europe, 1940, '44-45," "Landing in Sicily," "Agira," "Regalbuto," "Sicily, 1943," "Landing at Porto San Venere," "Italy, 1943," "Malta, 1940-42," "Imphal," "Shenam Pass," "Tamu Road," "Kohima," "Ukhrul," "Mandalay," "Myinmu Bridgehead," "Kyaukse, 1945," "Mt. Popa," "Burma, 1943-45."

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 LT. J. V. BURGESS, HQ Coy, 1 D & D.
 CAPT. F. J. CANN, 1 GLOSTER, Berlin.
 MAJ. (QM) F. L. CANN, QM, Wessex Bde. Depot.
 LT. R. J. COATE, IO, 1 D & D.
 CAPT. J. COBB, 1 D & D.
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 MAJ. P. K. ESSAME, DAAG, H.Q. Wessex Bde.
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LT. D. MICHAELIS, Asst. R.S.O.
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1st BN. DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT BOXING TEAM

Back row: Bds. Ballard, L/Cpl. Murphy, L/Cpl. Riley, Pte. Stone, Pte. Jones, Pte. Rodrigues, Pte. Pennman.

Centre. row: Cpl. Murphy, Pte. Holden, Pte. Thompson, Pte. Wade, Pte. Florence. L/Cpl. Godfrey, Pte. McGarry, Pte. Philbert, L/Cpl. Sibley.

Front row: L/Cpl. Smith, Cpl. Brown, Capt. J. C. F. Hill, Lt.-Col. A. D. Rouse, M.B.E., SSI Holling, Pte. Hamley, Cpl. Wood.

ARMY INTER-UNIT TEAM BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP, 1967/68

Runners-up—Army Final. Winners—BAOR Final, 2 Division Final.

EDITORIAL

BOXING

WE congratulate the 1st Battalion Boxing Team on their outstanding performance in winning the B.A.O.R. Championship and being runners-up in the Army Championship, which reflects the greatest credit on all who fought in the team and upon those who trained the team. A fine parting present for Capt. John Hill who was in charge of the team and who has now left the Army. To the best of our knowledge neither of the two old Regiments was ever particularly outstanding in the boxing world, though the 1st Devons had a useful team in Calcutta in 1935-36, with two Army in India Champions in L/Cpls. Garnham and Lippitt, the redoubtable "Battler" Roberts, and Lt. Quintin Hogg. The Dorsets had some outstanding individuals, particularly L/Cpl. Spears who was the Army welterweight champion from 1935-39, Imperial Services Champion in 1936, and also in that year, won the "Golden Gloves" against the U.S.A. Capt. Lilley was the Army light-heavy champion just before the First War, and Lt. Tarrant boxed for the Army in the early thirties.

A detailed account of the 1st Battalion's Final v. 1st Battalion The King's Regiment at Ballykinler on April 10 and the results of previous rounds appear on page 40.



THE DAY'S PAY SCHEME

In the February Journal we gave a fairly comprehensive account of benevolent affairs under the heading "Benevolence in the Army" and "Half Day's Pay Scheme". The ink was scarcely dry before we received information indicating that it was inevitable that The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment Association must change from a Half to a Whole Day's Pay as the annual contribution for all ranks who are still serving. As we have mentioned before in these pages, the four Wessex Brigade Regiments were the only Infantry Regiments in the Army contributing only a Half Day's Pay. Now the Glosters and R. Hampshires are going over to a Whole Day, so we can hardly remain the odd man out! With most gratifying regularity we receive evidence of how much the Army Benevolent Fund is doing for us—the wife and three children of a member of our Association went on a free holiday to a Pontins Camp at the end of May. The Army Benevolent Fund would not be able to sponsor projects of this nature were it not for the fact that Regiments take the strain off the Fund by their Day's Pay contributions.

BOXING

The Army Final of the Inter-Unit Team Championship took place against the 1st Bn. King's Regiment at Ballykinler in Northern Ireland on April 10. The team flew across two weeks before the match and trained at H.Q. Northern Ireland Command at Lisburn. One hundred and sixty faithful supporters made the long journey from Osnabrück under the organisation of the Adjutant, Capt. Cobb, to watch the final, and the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. Bannister and Lt.-Col. Bullock flew over from Old Sarum. Several changes were made within the weights. Pte. McGarry was retired and L/Cpl. Riley was brought in at light heavyweight.

Bantamweight

The evening started with the sudden knock-out in the 1st round of **Pte. Hamley**. Normally a good counter-puncher he attacked from the beginning which was to prove fatal, for after scoring blows to the body and head, Hamley was hit with a right hook and was knocked out for the count.

Featherweight

Pte. Holden was up against a Combined Services boxer. However, he stood his ground and boxed his opponent off, using his shoulder and glove expertly. In the 2nd round the contest came to an end as Holden's opponent sustained a cut left eye and the referee stopped the contest.

Lightweight

Cpl. Wood fought a hard, plucky fight against a good coloured boxer. Cpl. Wood kept fighting to the end but his opponent's blows were too telling and the referee called an end to the fight in the 3rd round.

2nd String Light-Welterweight

Cpl. Brown fought a great fight and boxed magnificently to win on points. His opponent was a very useful boxer and Cpl. Brown had to use all his skill to subdue him. In the 1st and 2nd rounds it was touch and go with both boxers hitting each other with hard blows. In the last round Cpl. Brown's fitness paid off and he had his opponent reeling from a succession of lefts and rights—what a fight!

1st String Light-Welterweight

L/Cpl. Smith, who lost on points, came down a weight from the last match and boxed at 1st String Light-Welter. Somehow, L/Cpl. Smith could not get going and he appeared to be out of form. His tough opponent closed his style up and L/Cpl. Smith could not attack sufficiently to score points.

2nd String Welterweight

Pte. Philbert boxed superbly at 2nd String Welterweight and never lost his head from start to finish. His opponent was coloured and Pte. Philbert, who had been given plenty of rum before the fight, was told to counter punch him. This he did and moving expertly around his opponent dominated the fight, and won a clear cut decision on points.

Score Level at Half-time

At half-time the scores were level at three all. After the interval we did not win another fight, losing the next five.

Light Middleweight

L/Cpl. Godfrey, who was up against a hard-hitting boxer, could not master his opponent's scoring power and skill and lost on points.

Middleweight

Pte. Wade fought a tough southpaw, neither boxer giving away anything. Though Wade kept throwing punches he was apt to go too near the ropes where his opponent scored many blows. Wade lost on points.

Light-Heavyweight

L/Cpl. Riley was paired off against another novice. His opponent, who was taller, wore L/Cpl. Riley down with a succession of blows and in the 3rd round the referee called a halt to the fight.

Heavyweight

Pte. Florence fought a more experienced coloured boxer and lost on points. Florence was slower than usual, and though he kept attacking, he could not master his opponent's vigorous left hook which time and time again proved deadly.

1st String Welterweight

In the last fight **Pte. Thompson** fought a clever coloured boxer and lost on points. Thompson was too apt to rush his opponent instead of boxing him. The final score was 8 fights to 3 and a win to the Kings.

Cpl. Brown's Fine Record

In retrospect the team has been aggressive and very fit throughout their long season which started last October. L/Cpl. Sibley trained the team up to the Divisional Final. S.S.I. Hollings then took over the reins assisted by L/Cpl. Sibley and Cpl. Murphy. **Cpl. Brown, the team captain, has set a great example as a boxer and he alone has won all his six fights.** Pte. Holden would also have won all his six fights but for a cut eye in the B.A.O.R. semi-final match.

RESULTS

November 29, 1967, at Bunde, 1st Round v. 2 Div. Regt. R.C.T.—Won 9-2.

December 12, 1967, at Munster, 2nd Round v. 1 Royal Scots.—Won 9-2.

January, 25, 1968, at Bunde, B.A.O.R. Quarter Final v. 2 Div. H.Q. & Signals Regt.—Won 7-4.

February 15, 1968, at Osnabruck, B.A.O.R. Semi-finals v. 32 Heavy Regt. R.A.—Won 6-5.

March 8, 1968, at Paderborn, B.A.O.R. Final v. 34 Lt. Air Defence Regt., R.A.—Won 7-4.

April 10, 1968, at Ballykinler, Army Final v. 1 Kings.—Lost 3-8.

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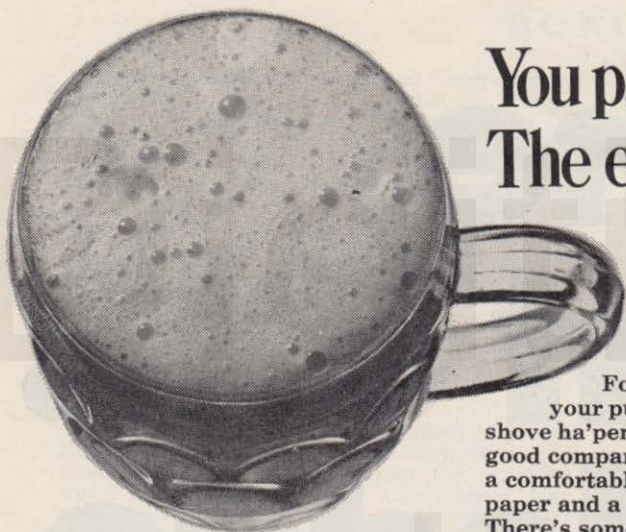
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THE KING APPROVES

BY LT.-COL. SIR MERVYN WHEATLEY, K.B.E., C.St. J., D.L., J.P.

I have often been asked how I managed to be granted a Regular Commission in the Army, in view of being blind in my right eye. Officers of the Regiment have invited me to tell the story in the Journal, as it is the only known case of such a thing happening in more or less modern times. So here goes, with many apologies for such a personal story.

At the age of four I suffered a severe bout of whooping cough which killed the optic nerve of my right eye and I became totally blind in that eye. Otherwise I was physically sound and played all games with gusto and some skill. During my Army service I was always a first-class shot, and even was a member of the Regimental team which took part in the Queen Victoria Cup at Bisley.

In May 1899 I was gazetted as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st V.B. Dorsetshire Regiment and received Queen Victoria's commission. When in October, 1899, the War Office decided to call for Companies from Volunteer Battalions to go to South Africa to reinforce the Regular Battalions of their Regiments, I at once volunteered and was accepted, medically examined, but with no eye test, and posted as a Temporary Lieutenant. The history of that Company has already been told in the Dorset Regimental Journal.

Brigade Transport Officer

While serving with the 2nd Dorsets in the 10th Inf. Brigade, 5th Division, I was loaned to the Army Service Corps as Brigade Transport and Supply Officer. On the change in the general military situation when the campaign became a sort of guerrilla warfare, columns of troops ranged over the country attempting to round up the Boer forces, and I was posted to a local Transport Office at Charlestown, north of Laings Nek, on the railway line from Durban to Pretoria. A column of troops under General French was operating in the Eastern Transvaal and had arrived at Piet Retief, the largest town in the area. Owing to bad weather and Boer commando activities, the supplies for General French failed to reach him from Natal. It was then decided to remedy this situation by sending a convoy from Wakerstroom, Transvaal, through the mountains to Piet Retief. I was given command of this convoy, made up of two hundred 16-span wagons and a few mule carts. I had two subalterns to assist me—one a militia Lieutenant of the Munster Fusiliers, and one a Lieutenant of the City Imperial Volunteers. I organised the convoy into sections of 10 wagons under a civilian conductor, mostly farmers from Natal. Originally the Army ox transport was composed of hired or captured wagons. Prior to leaving my depot I paraded all the hired transport and discharged all those wagons not up to full teams and sound wagons. I also discharged their owners and replaced them with new and experienced men with no financial interest in the transport. The escort for the convoy was composed of the 2nd Battalion the Devonshire Regiment, commanded by Lt.-Col. Bullock (Adjutant, Captain Lafone), the 2nd Divisional Mounted Infantry and some artillery. In addition to being Transport Officer I was also Supply Officer, with about 10

A.S.C. personnel. The journey through the mountain passes was extremely difficult. The road was cut out of the side of the mountain, and the surface of deep clay, owing to heavy rains, caused the wagons to sink up to their axles.

Wagons were continually halted to rest the oxen, owing to the road being narrow, it was difficult to get them restarted. To do so it was necessary to swing the front seven yokes of oxen, i.e. 14 animals, to get a pull on. In some cases we had as many as 44 oxen to move a wagon. The rain continued for 21 days out of about 28 and we had to cross several rivers at drifts. These were really fords, but often obstructed by rocks and therefore not easy for a span of oxen to negotiate. At one river at the foot of the mountain road we were delayed a good deal and I stayed there to see the convoy through.

Trouble with the Rear-Guard

Meanwhile the officer in command of the Mounted Infantry rear-guard ordered me to send back to get one of the conductors to hurry up the transport through the drift. I explained that I could not do that as they were all in charge of sections which might also be in difficulties. By interrupting the organisation further delays would be caused, thus the security of the convoy would be endangered, so I took no action. He approached me again and asked if I understood I had been given a direct order and that if I did not obey immediately he would put me under arrest and send me to the camp. He finally called one of his subalterns to escort me to camp, but I said I refused to go unless actual force was used. Nothing more was done, but as I was riding to camp I met Col. Bullock, who stopped me and asked what I had been doing to get into trouble with the rear-guard commander. I explained shortly but he told me to go and get some rest and he would deal with the complaint against me later on. I had four hours sleep after 24 hours on end and then was sent for by Col. Bullock. I found a gathering of officers of the H.Q. Staff and O.C. Rear-guard.

On the Mat!

The C.O. then came out of his tent and asked the O.C. Rear-guard to explain his complaint against me. I was then asked what I had to say. I accepted the truth of the case against me, but explained my reasons. Col. Bullock said that as an officer of the Auxiliary Forces and lack of knowledge of military matters, I evidently did not realise that refusal to obey a direct order by a superior Officer on active service laid me open to a court-martial. However in all the circumstances he said he felt the case would be met by my expressing my regret and apologies to the Officer concerned. This I did and I was told to fall out. Later I was comforted to be told that Col. Bullock gave the O.C. Rear-guard a very serious telling off! I might here express my very sincere gratitude to both Col. Bullock and Capt. Lafone and indeed all the other officers of their fine Regiment for their great kindness and consideration. I was very young—only 20 years of age, with just a year's service in the

Volunteers with a Regular battalion, and carrying great responsibilities.

Enter "Jumbo"

Next day, at another drift, a Lieutenant with the rear-guard started interfering. I at once ceased to work and was asked by the Brigade Major, who was present on the far side of the drift why I was doing nothing. I reminded him of the trouble I had been in on the day before, etc. He, at once, ordered the interfering officer to go away. It is interesting to note that that officer was known at that time to all his friends and later to the Army in general, as "Jumbo", a nickname which followed him even when he became a Field-Marshal and Peer of the Realm.

How Not to Further Your Career!

When we arrived at Piet Retief and met French's Force, General French came to see Col. Bullock, who sent for me. In answer to the General's expressions of gratitude for getting the convoy through, as his men were living on mealies only, Col. Bullock was good enough to tell him that the credit was entirely due to me. The next morning, as I was going to take over all the captured cattle, Col. Bullock asked me to return to General French the field glasses he had left behind him on the previous day. I did so and handed them to his A.D.C. This officer asked me to wait, as he knew the General wished to see me. In a few minutes he returned and said the General was too busy at the moment to see me, but would I lunch with him. Having to take over some hundreds of cattle and Boer families for internment, I begged him to explain to the General and ask him to excuse me. This shows my youth and lack of any expectations that there was any possibility of an Army career!

First Meeting with Allenby

I took two more convoys to Piet Retief—one of 400 wagons—200 under my command and 200 under a Col. Fall, A.S.C., who told me to run the two convoys together as one. This length of convoy entailed the first wagon arriving at the forward camp as the last one was leaving the last camp. We finally arrived at Piet Retief in the dark. I met a Major (in the Irish Regiment and who lived at Blandford), carrying a hurricane lamp, who asked where he could find Wheatley in charge of the convoy. I replied that I was he, but he testily said he wanted the senior officer in charge. I explained, and he told me that General Smith-Dorrien wished me to take over command of all his ox-transport, and that he was marching north in three columns to clear the country up to the Pretoria-Delagoa railway line. Incidentally, one was commanded by Lt.-Col. (later F. M. Lord) Allenby, and the other by a Lt.-Col. King. I had two subalterns working with me so I sent one to take charge of each of these two flanking columns, and I moved with General Smith-Dorrien in the centre.

Lord Allenby, when he was High Commissioner in Egypt, made several visits to the Sudan. On one such occasion, about 1921, when I was Governor of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province in the Southern Sudan, he toured the Province and I travelled in his car with him. He plied me with questions about policy in the Southern Sudan and then said "I am sure I have seen you before?" "When was it?" On my telling him it was in the Eastern Trans-

vaal during the Boer War and explained the situation he replied, "Oh! yes, I well remember. It was a drive under General Smith-Dorrien and you were responsible for my transport".

D.S.O. or Regular Commission?

This was a successful operation. Having reached the railway at Belfast this force was broken up and I was ordered to take a convoy further North to Lydenburg under escort of the Gordon Highlanders, Lt.-Col. McBain in command. I may say here that this officer was as kind and considerate to me as Col. Bullock. Before I departed General Smith-Dorrien sent for me and told me he had, when writing his dispatches to General Kitchener, strongly recommended me for a D.S.O.—a somewhat sparsely awarded decoration in those days. He then went on to say that since writing that he had been told I was a member of the Auxiliary Forces and it had occurred to him that I might prefer a Regular Commission. I explained about my disability and that the C.O. of the Dorsetshire Regiment had twice put forward my name but I had been turned down on each occasion on medical grounds. I further explained that my father, through friends, had put my case before Lord Wolseley, the then Army C.-in-C., who regretted the impossibility of over-riding the King's Regulations. He explained that if I had even a little sight in my eye he might have been able to approve. However General Smith-Dorrien said that he was going to see Lord Kitchener and would strongly represent my case to him.

I heard nothing for a year and meanwhile, after recovering from a severe attack of enteric fever, I was ordered to report to Army H.Q. in Pretoria and was given command of 34B Company A.S.C., and ox transport depot in Kimberley. After a few months a telegram was received from Army H.Q. in Pretoria, stating that I had been granted a Regular Army commission in the Dorsetshire Regiment. I was posted to the 2nd Battalion, and ordered to report immediately to that unit at Brandfort, Orange River Colony. With much happiness and pride I accordingly hastened to comply. Perhaps needless to say, I was almost at once appointed Regimental Transport Officer!

Ten years later, while seconded to the Egyptian Army, I was in Khartoum when Lord Kitchener paid a visit to the Sirdar and Governor-General, and the latter asked the officials of the Officers' Club there to invite the famous visitor to tea. I, with half-a-dozen other Club officials were drawn up in line and were introduced to the Field-Marshal by Sir Reginald Wingate, the Governor-General. When he got to me he presented "Captain Wheatley", Lord Kitchener looked at me and said, "Wheatley, Wheatley—are you the fellow with a blind eye?" "Yes, Sir", I replied and he then remarked, "Well, I got you your Regular Commission, over-riding the King's Regulations, but I had to go to the King to authorise my doing so".

I hope I have not made the story too long for such a personal tale. My excuse is that this is a story of a young one-eyed officer of the Dorset Volunteers being so specially treated by H.M. the King in the days when no sort of eyeglasses (except monocle), were allowed to be worn unless by very senior officers overtaken by "Anno Domini" or as a result of wounds.

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Regimental News

Obituary

BRIG. R. S. "JOCK" McNAUGHT, D.S.O.

Geoffrey White writes:—

"In the annals of the Regiment the name of Jock McNaught is synonymous with the Battle of Kohima. The recent announcement of Jock's death serves to remind us of the debt of gratitude the Regiment, and especially the old 2nd Dorsets (54th), owe to the cheerful, friendly, and imperturbable Royal Scots Fusilier officer, who arrived in India from the U.K. to take command of the 54th at a particularly opportune moment.

Jock's arrival coincided with the Japanese attempt to invade India, and it was into this mêlée on the far side of India that he was called upon to lead the 54th within a fortnight of his arrival. It speaks much for his robust constitution that with little chance of becoming acclimatised, let alone trained for jungle and hill warfare, he was able to do so.

I count myself singularly fortunate in having been Jock's 2 i/c. throughout those hectic three months during which he led and fought his Battalion through the sticky battle of attrition on Garrison Hill and the subsequent, but also costly, break out from Kohima. To serve under him was not only a privilege but a joy, and one of my happiest memories of World War 2. When at Kigwerna on June 8, 1944, Jock was promoted to immediate command of 4 Infantry Brigade, I had cause to be most grateful for all I had learnt from this very experienced Regimental Officer during the brief 94 days he had commanded the 54th.

Our joy at Col. Jock's promotion was tempered with the feeling of loss at his departure. Although he had been a Dorset for only so short a time, he had from the moment of his arrival at Jagalpet endeared himself to the Battalion. His cool and calm leadership and his cheerful manner had done more than anything else to bring the Battalion successfully through the campaign to date. He had a very shrewd judgement and the uncanny knack of being able to sum up an officer or man on first acquaintance. His knowledge of regimental soldiering was deep and he never allowed the Battalion to be bounced.

I am quite aware how inadequately this describes an officer who so justly merited the award of the D.S.O. for his command of the 54th at Kohima. I find it hard however to improve upon it other than to emphasise the endearment which this essentially modest man aroused in the hearts of his subordinates.

After the war Jock's close association with the 54th continued when he reappeared to command the 5 Infantry Brigade, part of the British and Indian Division in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan. When he retired he settled a long way from Dorset but never lost touch with the Dorsets as he seldom missed an opportunity to attend a Regimental Reunion, especially those of the 54th (1939-45) Officers, and he also kept in touch with the new 1 Dorset (39th and 54th).

I like to recall that the last important Dorset Regiment event which Jock attended was the Dedication of the War Memorial in the Lady Chapel in Sherborne Abbey when we deposited the Colours of the old 54th which he had last seen being trooped in Tokyo. It is on the new Colours which the Regiment now carries that can be found the Honours in the gaining of which he played such a significant part. The genuine pleasure evinced by the Burma veterans on finding their old C.O. with them on that day was the finest tribute I can express to the memory of a fine officer and gentleman."

C.S.M. GILBERT CREECH, D.C.M.

General Wood writes:

"C.S.M. Gilbert Creech was a most notable personality of the 1st Battalion during the inter-war years. Then stability was as essential a feature of Regimental life as change is now, and "D" Company was a reflection of the personality of its C.S.M.

He was the complete opposite of the accepted sergeant-major figure—slim, smiling and very quiet. I never remember him raising his voice off parade. But his discipline remained firm and happy in most trying times, of which I particularly remember "D" Coy.'s period of 18 month's detachment at El Obeid in the Sudan, under incredibly bad conditions.

C.S.M. Creech will be remembered as an outstanding athlete. In his younger days he had played centre-forward for the Army, and as a cricketer, he was a brilliant batsman and a slip-fielder of the type that the M.C.C. now cannot find.

I remember so many hours of duty shared, and sports enjoyed, with a charming friend."

COL. L. G. CARPENTER-GARNIER, O.B.E.

We congratulate the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment on his appointment as High Sheriff of Hampshire. He is the third member of his family to hold this office.

PTE. J. H. SILK, G.C.

When checking through the Roll of Honour copy for the 1939-1945 War, we noticed that someone had added "G.C." after the name of Pte. Silk who appears in the Roll under Somerset Light Infantry. As we have no record of a man, originally in the Devonshire Regiment, winning this award, we asked R.H.Q. Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry for details. Here is the citation:—

"Awarded the George Cross for his resourcefulness, courageous action and self-sacrifice with the 1st Bn. Somerset Light Infantry at Taung Bazaar in the Arakan on 4 December 1943. Pte. Silk and other men of the platoon were sitting on a slope in the jungle cleaning their weapons and grenades. Below and above him were others similarly employed but whom, because of the thickness of the jungle, he could not see. For some reason Pte. Silk's grenade became ignited, he shouted "Look out" and rolled clutching the grenade to his body. The grenade exploded killing Pte. Silk instantly. There is no doubt that Pte. Silk appreciated he could

not throw the grenade away safely because of the men above and below him and, in order to minimise injury to his comrades, used his body as a shield".

REGIMENTAL CHAPEL, MALTA

In January we were informed by the Chaplain in Malta that the cross and candlesticks presented to the Chapel in 1965 had been stolen. Just as we were about to claim from the Insurance Company, we received a signal to say that these items had been recovered by the S.I.B. Three Maltese boys are being charged with the theft. We understand that the Regimental badge at the base of the Cross has been prised off but otherwise no serious damage has been done.

DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT CHAPEL

The copies of the Rolls of Honour kept in the Chapel for reference purposes became so worn with constant use that it was necessary to remove them so that new copies could be produced. We are most grateful to Mr. Webb, in charge of the Devon County Council Document Reproduction Department, who has photographed the pages of the original Rolls of Honour. These reproductions have been bound, making two far more durable duplicate Rolls of Honour which should withstand a great deal of handling in the years to come.

We are very sorry to report that one of the vases presented to the Chapel by Mrs. Haynes in memory of Col. "Joe" Haynes, was stolen from the Chapel probably on Sunday, April 7. We are glad to say that the vase was recovered on May 9.

COLONEL CUYLER

We recently received a request to make a donation towards the erection of a stained glass window in the Royal Garrison Church, Governor's Green, Old Portsmouth. This appeal was sent to us because in the Church Burial Register was recorded the death and burial of Col. Cuyler in 1818. On checking up on this officer we discovered that he was wounded at Salamanca when in command of the 11th Foot. Maj. Newman, who receives mention in the Regimental History, was obviously his Second-in-Command. The Colonel was evidently a glutton for punishment as he was back again commanding the 11th in 1813 and was again wounded at the battle of Toulouse. He died on November 12, 1818, at the age of 46.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS DORCHESTER

We wish to thank those who have recently signed Covenants in favour of the Dorset Regiment Association and also those who continue their annual subscription to the Association. In 1967 the Relief Fund paid out just short of £1,200 to members in need.

This being the fiftieth Anniversary of the end of the 1914-1918 War, it is hoped that veterans of that War will make a big effort to attend this year's Annual Reunion at Dorchester on September 14. We also hope that the Officers' buffet supper will be well supported and apologies to the cricketing fraternity for holding it (June 22) during the Lord's Test Match, due to circumstances beyond our control.

DORSET MILITARY MUSEUM

A mention in "Peterborough's" column in *The Daily Telegraph* of the "Sarah Sands" story, which Brig. Bredin submitted to coincide with the granting of Independence to Mauritius, brought a letter from a Miss Olive Sands. Miss Sands' great-grandfather was Mayor of Liverpool in 1844 when the ship was launched and it was named after her great-grandmother. We now have a photograph of a miniature of Mrs. Sarah Sands on display.

Early in April some very good pictures of the Museum, with a commentary by John Arlott, were shown on B.B.C. Television, "South Today". Mr. Arlott had visited the Museum in November and the cameras came in January and we wondered when the end product would appear. But it was five minutes well worth waiting for.

Visitors to the Museum in 1967 totalled 15,940, the highest number yet. This figure included 1,182 schoolchildren in organised parties.

Although the new Volunteers Room is not expected to be completed until June, the main part of it, the Queen's Own Dorset Yeomanry exhibits, was open to visitors at Easter. There remains a lot to be done, including the moving up from the first floor of Dorset Volunteer exhibits c.1800 and 1859.

PRINCE OF WALES'S DIVISION

In 1758, the 2nd Battalion 11th Regiment, which had been formed in 1756, became the 64th Foot, later to become the 1st Battalion North Staffordshire Regiment now the 1st Battalion The Staffordshire Regiment, one of our fellow battalions in the Prince of Wales's Division. Accordingly the Colonel of the Regiment sent the following signal to the Colonel of The Staffordshire Regiment, "Delighted we shall be serving in The Prince of Wales's Division with our off-spring who left home in 1758." We received the following reply: "Many thanks for your signal. We also welcome renewing family ties. Despite two shot-gun marriages against father one of the off-spring still flourishes".

During his visit to H.Q. Wessex Brigade in February, we presented a fine reproduction of a print of the first Duke of Beaufort to Brig. Balantyne, the Divisional Brigadier. We trust the Duke's presence in Divisional H.Q. will be an inspiration! (At least to Edward Tremlett! Editor.)

RETIREMENTS

Since the February Journal was published the following officers have either retired or resigned their commissions:

Maj. Alan Blundell; Capt. Tom Coombe; Maj. John Edward-Collins; Capt. Bill Harris; Capt. John Hill; Maj. John Hollingshead; Capt. Ken Marquis; Maj. Roy Patmore. Amongst this large band are four Quartermasters who between them amass a very hefty total of years service. We feel sure that the younger officers will not think it amiss if we give a special word of thanks to those four stalwarts who have done so much for the Regiment and indeed, for their original Regiments. To all of you we send our very best wishes for a successful and happy future wherever you may be. We trust you will all keep in touch.

HELLO NINER—HAVE YOU MOVED—OVER

Careful readers of the February Journal will have noted on page 2 that a certain Capt. M.J.H. is serving at the School of Infantry, WESTMINSTER.

For critics who thought rude thoughts about the Editor—I have news.

I can now reveal that the location is correct and is part of a new secret plan to concentrate the Army near the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall. This imaginative new thinking allows the Army, for the first time since Cromwell, to contribute directly to the national economy.

For many years the rush-hour jam in the Strand has meant that workers have arrived late at offices, or have returned home tired and embittered in the evening. The stimulus of 3½ squadrons of Chief-tain tanks merrily cabbying at 35 m.p.h. from the new training area in Finsbury Park to the barracks in Trafalgar Square, clears the crowded area in time unthinkable in the days of traffic lights and policemen. Commuters feel happy as they arrive, after a brisk trot, in office or home.

A new economic dynamic has been created by the move of A.C.C. centre to Soho Square. Various traditional items from the service repertoire are now available to nearby restaurants. Foremost on the successful menu are the "Banger 4-inch, bread filled" and the "Dumpling G.S., 33/16-inch diameter". No longer do business men waste exporting time dwelling over lunch, they hurry back to their offices. Moreover total constipation removes any excuse for leaving their desks, even for

a moment. A symptom of constipation is sloth and tiredness, this will not do, and a timely dose of the old Mark 2 Brown Windsor soon gets them moving—and tones up the leg muscles too. A cup of (bromide) tea sees to it that the secretarial staff are unhindered in their secretarial duties. Trendy restaurateurs are taking full advantage of the exotic meats being provided by the School of Artillery's new range near Regents Park Zoo.

Recently announced is the new site for the Staff College at Charing Cross. From here students will learn to crawl by underground channels direct into nearby ministries. Officers who have facility in this exercise are expected to gain rapid advancement, for by carefully selecting the correct path it is possible to get straight to the Army board room. Less successful officers who get lost in the devious labyrinth may, perhaps, emerge in the River Thames. They will then be washed on the next ebb tide from Whitehall straight up Limehouse Creek. Here they will find the Army Nonentities and No-hopers Indoctrination Establishment (and you know what "Limehouse Annie" can do for your career).

Unfortunately other plans are still classified—watch page 2 in future—but a spokesman did disclose that thought is being given to siting a Military Families' Centre in the Elephant and Castle area—"you remember the old military ballad", said my informant.

ANON.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, June 22nd.

Officers' Club Buffet Supper, Dorchester.

Wednesday, July 10th.

Cricket, Colonel of the Regiment's XI v. Dorset Rangers, at Exeter.

Thursday, July 11th.

Cricket "At Home", County Ground, Exeter.
Colonel of the Regiment's XI v. Devon Dump-lings.

Saturday, July 13th.

Devonshire Regiment O.C.A. Annual Reunion and Dinner, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.

Saturday, September 14th.

Dorset Regiment Association Annual Reunion, Dorchester.

Saturday, September 28th.

London Branch Devonshire Regiment O.C.A. 42nd Annual Dinner, Victory Club.

Sunday, September 29th.

London Branch Devonshire Regiment O.C.A. Cenotaph Ceremony, 12.30 p.m.

Friday, November 15th.

Officers' Club Buffet Luncheon and Dinner, Gloucester Hotel, Weymouth.

Sunday, November 17th.

Dorset Regiment Association Annual London Cenotaph Parade and Service at 11.45 p.m., Horse Guards Parade.

Best wishes to

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Where be yon blackbird to?

A number of the Regiment were present at the wedding of Hugh Clifford's elder daughter in April. The Bill Anstey, Falkners, Hatfields, Piers, Spencers, Windeatts and Worralls. Also Mrs. Barbara D'Oyly and Douglas Nation. The writer of this note had not seen Claude Worrall since 1951 (he transferred to the Coldstream Guards in about 1941), but Claude seemed just the same as ever and unlike most of us, without any grey hairs and still a teetotaller!

In the February "Blackbird", we mentioned the U.L.I.A. officers who served with 1 Devon in Razmak, India. We are glad to say that Jeff Hill, who lives near Taunton, has just joined the Officers' Club and the Devonshire Regiment Old Comrades' Association.

John Edward-Collins made his customary visit to R.H.Q. when he was home on leave from the Persian Gulf. Having retired from the Army, he has returned to Muscat on contract, to the same job he was doing when he retired.

Tony Carter, D.E.R.R., who served with the Regiment in British Guiana and was a pillar of the Regimental rugby team, is now at Wessex Brigade H.Q. as Brigade Recruiting Officer.

In the Regimental News item concerning officers who have retired we omitted the names of Maj. John Reynolds, who has landed a very good job with Watney the Brewer, and Lt.-Col. John Smith who we understand, may well be out of the Army by the time this Journal is published. We thank them both for all they have done for the Regiment.

Pat Leeper paid a rare visit to Exeter at the end of April and was in good form. Pat and Monica Nepean are back for a holiday from Rhodesia and are down this way though at the time of writing we have not seen them. Robert Coate paid a flying visit *en route* for the Battalion after a Warminster course, followed closely by Peter Burdick, the new Second-in-Command.

Paul Freeland is the next Commanding Officer of the Wessex Volunteers and takes over at the end of the year. This news arrived like manna from heaven, for here we have a ready-made Captain for the Colonel of the Regiment's XI next year!

The wires have been buzzing making arrangements for Colin Shortis to collect the new silver cutlery for the 1st Battalion. We hope this operation ended successfully and that the Purser of the Townsend Ferry "Free Enterprise", who was to hand over the silver to Colin at Dover, did not display too much free enterprise and abandon ship with the loot!

Maj. Norman Golding, who served with the Dorset T.A. before the War and with the 1st Bn. during it, was appointed Governor of Dartmoor

Prison, at the beginning of the year, a quick move from Strangeways. Another ex-1st Bn. member, Eric Hannah, looked in at the Keep in February. He has moved from Cornwall and is now manager of the Midland Bank, Wimborne.

Sam and Vanny Symes have just moved from Cerne Abbas to Haslemere where they will be near their married daughter. They will be greatly missed in Cerne Abbas where Vanny undertook a host of good works. Also in Dorset, "Skinny" Laughter has sold his farm near Sherborne and built a very nice house nearby.

Tony Cross, whom 2nd Dorset readers will remember in India and Japan in 1945/46, is home on leave from Kenya. He is now 2 i/c of the Kenya Para-Military Force and has had to start learning to be a soldier again. He and Jimmy Butts, who has now been transferred to Zambia with the Caltex Oil Co., and Wally Barrow, who is a staff officer in the office of the President, met for curry lunch two or three times last year.

John Dutot, son of the late Maj. L. C. M. Dutot and of Mrs. Kathleen Dutot, who lives at Poole, was one of the principal speakers at the Old Hardyans Club Dinner in April, together with Maj. A. N. Lane who served with 5 Dorsets in the last War. John has been with the B.B.C. since 1959 and has been connected with many T.V. programmes. At present he is working with the B.B.C. Television Further Education Department.

A visitor to the Keep in February, was Capt. A. J. Smoker who runs an hotel in the London area. He was looking for an hotel or public house in the more peaceful countryside of Dorset. At Easter H. J. Hickling looked in. He was in the Supplementary Reserve before the War and was with the 2nd and 5th Dorsets until 1942 when he went on the staff, finishing as a Lt.-Colonel. He now lives at Worcester.

Latest Retirement Transfer news is that Malcolm Peplow has transferred to the Army Catering Corps.

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1st BATTALION THE DEVONSHIRE AND DORSET REGIMENT



ONCE again the period covered by these notes has been an extremely busy time for the Battalion. Perhaps this is just the way it has always been in B.A.O.R. but we wish our new Commanders every success in their avowed aim of somehow slowing down the tempo. It is certainly something that is badly needed so that we can get on, undisturbed, with the things that really need doing and at the same time take advantage of the splendid opportunities that Germany has to offer.

Move to Osnabruck

The period started off with the Battalion clean-up the barracks and quarters in Münster in preparation for the move from 6 Brigade to 12 Brigade in Osnabruck. There were the usual round of inspections, farewell visits and the like and then, in mid-January we drove out of Waterloo Barracks, past the Gremmendorf gas works, that symbol of military Münster, and up the 35 miles to our new home. The weather fortunately was kind and within a week it was all over and we were settling into Quebec Barracks and starting to cope with a new set of problems.

Although the camp certainly leaves much to be desired—and more of this later—and although we were very sorry to say goodbye to 6 Brigade who were themselves packing up for their move to England, the general opinion is that Osnabruck is a nicer place than Münster. For one thing the people seem more friendly and certainly the city and countryside are more attractive. And so, on balance, the move, coming as it has midway through our tour, has proved to be no bad thing.

The main disadvantage is the camp which we share with H.Q. 12 Infantry Brigade. The problem is the age-old one of money. Some time ago, when B.A.O.R. reductions were first in the wind, the planners were told to work out schemes to meet a variety of circumstances varying from large scale withdrawals to small ones. Had large withdrawals been ordered Quebec Barracks would have been one of those vacated. And now, although that situation hasn't materialised and only 6 Brigade has been withdrawn, the Treasury has latched on to this fact and have vetoed the large sums of money that are needed to put the camp into really good order. For three things are needed—central heating, re-decoration and the necessary improvements to the L.A.D. and M.T. facilities to bring them into line with an A.P.C. Battalion's requirements.

That was the situation we inherited and it has only been after very considerable wrangling that one of these three requirements—namely, re-decoration—has at last been agreed. As a result "B" Company and the Band and Drums have been moved into another barracks two miles away and the contractors are now at work on the blocks they vacated. Although it is a nuisance having workmen in the camp we hope that the end result—the complete refurbishing and re-decoration of all

accommodation and office blocks—will be worth it. Progress was slow initially but with snags gradually eliminated and with the onset of better weather, things are at last moving and there is every likelihood of the whole project being completed by early December.

Meanwhile, to speed things up the Battalion has been doing all it can to improve the place with its own resources. Both the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes have been transformed, largely by self-help, and are now quite unrecognisable from the mess we inherited. The N.A.A.F.I. is next for a face lift and the signing of the camp is such that no one should be in any doubt as to who the new occupants are.

While all this has been going on the Battalion has been kept more than busy with the usual round of administrative, training and sporting events. The first of these was the P.R.E.—the R.E.M.E. inspection of all our vehicles, weapons and signal equipment. The five weeks preparation started as soon as we arrived in Osnabruck and went on until the inspection took place the week before we left for Sennelager.

Woodlands Camp and Soltau

At Sennelager we had three weeks field firing. Throughout we had the pleasure of having the Glosters training alongside our brigade but it did mean that, with only permanent accommodation there for two battalions, the other two would be under canvas. A draw was made but the Gods—perhaps offended by the curses heaped on their heads during the Big Clean Up—(Waterloo Barracks, Quebec Barracks and finally the P.R.E.)—did not respond and as a result we and the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots, found ourselves under canvas in that well-known Sennelager beauty spot, Woodlands Camp. However, Gods or no Gods, we still had George Street who had recently taken over as Q.M. when Tom Coombe left on redundancy. He worked wonders and, with wooden floors and stoves for the tents and a camp bed for everyone, was more than a match for the weather despite every sort of nastiness it could bring down on us. And so, between him and our new charwallah, we not only managed to survive but also enjoyed ourselves.

Looming over everything at Sennelager was the Infantry Platoon competition for which all Infantry Platoons must compete. Although everyone put their backs into it and tried their best there is no doubt that, even making allowances for the vileness of the weather and the lack of preparation due to the move, we are not as good at shooting as we should be. And this skill which is essential for the Infantryman is something we must put right in the year ahead.

After Sennelager we have had a short spell back in barracks in which to complete our individual testing and classification and now, as I write, the

Battalion is packing up for the start of the collective training season. This will take us initially to Soltau for three weeks platoon training where we'll be joined by a company of the Wessex Volunteers. And then, in quick succession we have three weeks in Bavaria in June and a month in the South of France in July. And by that time another Journal will be upon us.

Boxing and Ski-ing

These introductory notes which are intended as a background to the articles that follow would be quite incomplete without mention of the success achieved by our ski-ers and our boxers. Both teams did extremely well and there is an article on each. It was a particularly fine achievement for a Regiment such as ours, with no great history of boxing prowess, to get into the Army final and great credit is due to the team and all who trained and encouraged them.



Cpl. Brown, Team Captain

Recruiting

One final word—recruiting. We can only survive and do well as a Regiment if we get the right recruits, officers and men. May we ask all readers of this Journal to assist us in this task. Apart from the obvious things that go with a secure life here are some facts about the material benefits:—

The average age a man makes Corporal in the Battalion is twenty-four and as such he earns £14 a week if he's single and £23 a week if he's married without children.

The average age a man makes Sergeant in the Battalion is thirty-one and as such he earns £19 a week if he's single and £28 a week if he's married without children.

The average age a man makes W.O.2 in the Battalion is thirty-four and as such he earns £22 a week if he's single and £33 a week if he's married without children.

28 men have been promoted Corporal and 7 to Sergeant since January 1.

The Battalion Gazette

Promotions

We congratulate the following on their promotion:—

TO REGIMENTAL SERGEANT-MAJOR
C.S.M. Turney; R.Q.M.S. Preece.

TO COMPANY SERGEANT-MAJOR
C/Sgt. Thacker, Support Coy.; C/Sgt. Gilbert, "C" Coy.; C/Sgt. Hale, H.Q. Coy.

TO COLOUR-SERGEANT
Sgt. Bird, 1 Glos.; Sgt. Brown, Support Coy.; Sgt. Collis, H.Q. Coy.; Sgt. Gordon, "B" Coy.; Sgt. Gratton, Support Coy.; Sgt. McGoldrick, Support Coy.; Sgt. Wright, Support Coy.

TO SERGEANT
Cpl. Balston, "C" Coy.; Cpl. Bennet, H.Q. Coy.; Cpl. Carnegie, H.Q. Company; Cpl. Fowler, H.Q. Coy.; Cpl. Ginn, "C" Coy.; Cpl. Gove, "C" Coy.; Cpl. King, H.Q. Coy.; Cpl. Spiller,



S.S.I. Holling and L/Cpl. Sibley

H.Q. Coy.; Cpl. Scott, H.Q. Coy.; Cpl. Newitt, "A" Coy.; Cpl. Wheeler, Support Coy.

TO CORPORAL

L/Cpl. Adams, Support Coy.; L/Cpl. Beale, "B" Coy.; L/Cpl. Bennett, "C" Coy.; L/Cpl. Burrlock, Support Coy.; L/Cpl. Colls, Support Coy.; L/Cpl. Elford, H.Q. Coy.; L/Cpl. Gardiner, "A" Coy.; L/Cpl. Griffin, "C" Coy.; L/Cpl. Hynes, Support Coy.; L/Cpl. Jeffery, "B" Coy.; L/Cpl. Kendrick, H.Q. Coy.; L/Cpl. Loid, H.Q. Coy.; L/Cpl. Mitchell, "A" Coy.; L/Cpl. Nias, "B" Coy.; L/Cpl. Philp, "A" Coy.; L/Cpl. Sollis, "B" Coy.; L/Cpl. Stock, H.Q. Coy.; L/Cpl. Turner, H.Q. Coy.; L/Cpl. Westlake, Support Coy.; L/Cpl. Williams 94, "B" Coy.; L/Cpl. Williams 32, H.Q. Coy.; L/Cpl. Wood, "A" Coy.; L/Cpl. Wortley, "B" Coy.; L/Cpl. Woodman, "C" Coy.

To LANCE/CORPORAL

Pte. Andrews, H.Q. Coy.; Pte. Body, "A" Coy.;
 Pte. Burt, "B" Coy.; Pte. Clarke, "A" Coy.;
 Pte. Cope, H.Q. Coy.; Pte. Copp, H.Q. Coy.; Pte.
 Crago, H.Q. Coy.; Pte. Cruikshanks, "B" Coy.;
 Pte. Crocker, Support Coy.; Pte. Dawe, H.Q.
 Coy.; Pte. Gueno, Support Coy.; Pte. Graham,
 H.Q. Coy.; Pte. Hendrick, "C" Coy.; Pte. Hook,
 "C" Coy.; Pte. Hope, "A" Coy.; Pte. Jackson,
 H.Q. Coy.; Pte. Johnson, Support Coy.; Pte.
 Joicey, Support Coy.; Pte. King, H.Q. Coy.; Pte.
 Kitteridge, "C" Coy.; Pte. Lester, "B" Coy.;
 Pte. Lewis, H.Q. Coy.; Pte. Ley, H.Q. Coy.;
 Pte. Loram, H.Q. Coy.; Pte. Lunk, Support
 Coy.; Pte. Manderson, Support Coy.; Pte.
 Marshall, "B" Coy.; Pte. Millgate, "B" Coy.;
 Pte. Murphy, "B" Coy.

Courses

The following have successfully attended courses:

All Arms Tactics—Warminster

Maj. M. P. Hawkins—Passed.

M.T. Officers' Course—Bordon

Capt. R. S. Pollard—"B" Grading.

A.P.C. Tracked—Bordon

Capt. R. S. Pollard—"B" Grading.
 2/Lt. G. K. Pearce—"C" Grading.

Tactical Sketching

L/Cpl. Elford—Passed.

Butchery Duties Course—Aldershot

Pte. Janes—"B" Grading.

M.T. Accounting—Bordon

L/Cpl. Sollis—"C" Grading.

Recruiters Course

Sgt. Burnell—Qualified.

Standard 1 Regimental Signallers Course—Hythe

L/Cpl. Gardiner—Passed.

Platoons Weapons Course—Hythe

Sgt. Gove—"C" Grading.

Anti-Tank Gun Course—Netheravon

L/Cpl. Westlake—"C" Grading.

Clerks' Course—Warminster

Pte. Robinson-Wildman—"B" Grading.

Marriages

We congratulate the following on their recent marriages and wish them and their wives, whom we would like to welcome to the Battalion, every good wish for the future:

Cpl. Hooton to Miss Patricia Woolcott of Torquay, Devon.

Cpl. Farmer to Miss Barbara Drinkwater of Newton Abbott, Devon.

L/Cpl. Bennett to Miss Lynette Luke of Berbice, Guyana, South America.

L/Cpl. Colls to Miss Janet Southerton of Kings Heath.

Pte. Dibbs to Miss Francis Caldess of Wapping, London.

Pte. Rendle to Miss Sheila Barlow of Castle-U-Lyme, Staffs.

Births

The following births are announced:

To C/Sgt. and Mrs. Bird, a daughter (Patricia Ann).

To Cpl. and Mrs. Brooks, a daughter (Esther Jayne).

To L/Cpl. and Mrs. Hook, a son (Trevor Paul).

To L/Cpl. and Mrs. Loram, a daughter (Deborah Ann).

To L/Cpl. and Mrs. Edgecombe, a son (David Mark).

To Pte. and Mrs. Blunt, a daughter (Nicola Jayne).

To Pte. and Mrs. Taylor, a daughter (Michelle Julie).

To Pte. and Mrs. Rendle, a son (Wayne Stuart).

To Pte. and Mrs. Rae, a son (Angus McDonald).

NOTABLE ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES**The Officers' Mess**

The Officers' Mess would like to welcome Maj. Mike Hawkins from the Far East, Maj. Tony Laurie-Chiswell from H.Q. 2 Div., Capt. Garry Stewart, R.E.M.E., from 6 Inf. Workshops, Capt. Ron Pollard from the British Army Training Team, Kenya.

Regretfully we say farewell to Maj. Bob Martin who has retired, Maj. Roger Woodiuss who is going to take up an appointment in Canada, Maj. Edward Tremlett who has gone to H.Q. Prince of Wales's Division, Capt. Jeremy Gomersall, R.E.M.E., who has joined the Army Team of lecturers, and finally Capt. Tom Coombe who, after a very successful Army career, has retired. We wish them and their families a happy future.

We congratulate Capt. Jim Hewitt and Capt. Malcolm Peplow on passing the Staff College exam, and Capt. Roger Cullen on becoming captain of the B.A.O.R. rugby team.

In December we gave an "East of Suez Party" which went extremely well, this was followed by our "Farewell to Münster" cocktail party and then the move to Osnabruck. The success of the Battalion boxing team kept the Mess extremely busy with two most successful parties—one after the B.A.O.R. semi-final and the other after the B.A.O.R. final at Sennelager. The latter being extremely difficult for the Mess Staff as it took place in a borrowed Mess at Sennelager whilst the Battalion trained there.

On return from Sennelager early in April we gave our first official cocktail party in Osnabruck. By this time our Mess had been completely re-decorated largely due to the efforts of the Mess Committee and the Unit Pioneers. Our next big occasion is the Bois-des-Buttes ball which is planned for the 50th anniversary of the battle.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

The Mess congratulates R.S.M. Lucas on his commissioning and wish him and his family the very best of luck for the future. We would also like

to congratulate R.S.M. Turney on his promotion and R.S.M. Preece on his promotion and appointment as R.S.M. of the Depot.

Early in February we held a dinner night to say farewell to Mr. Lucas and to welcome Mr. Turney. In March we similarly bade farewell to R.Q.M.S. Preece, and C.S.M. Ellis who has gone to become R.Q.M.S. of 1 Hamps. In addition we would like to say farewell to C/Sgt. Roland-Shrubb who has gone into the church, C/Sgt. Elliot and Sgt. Coates who have been posted to the Depot.

We would like to welcome R.Q.M.S. Peters from 1 D.E.R.R., C/Sgt. Collis from 1 Gloster, Sgt. Hamlin in from recruiting and Sgt. Bird from 1 Gloster, who quickly vanished back to 1 Gloster on promotion to C/Sgt. Sgt. Riggs is again back with us after two years recruiting. Few of his old friends recognised him as he has now shaved off his beard and looks years younger. Sgt. Topham, the new Pioneer Sergeant, will soon have a full set and will no doubt be confused with Sgt. Riggs.

Finally we would like to welcome all those who have recently been promoted from the Corporals' Mess.

The Corporals' Mess

The Corporals' Mess welcome L/Cpls. Roach, Costello and Hood who have recently been promoted and Cpl. Lees who has been posted in from the Depot. We wish the following who have left us, the best of luck for the future: Cpl. Scanlon

who now has a "cushy" job in Bournemouth; L/Cpl. Edgecombe who has gone to join the permanent staff of the All Arms School at Arborfield and L/Cpl. Morkill who has now left the Army. L/Cpl. Tennyson-Lane has also left us temporarily to attend the rehabilitation centre at Woolwich and Cpl. Tuck has gone off to be a "Special Recruiter."

The Battalion

Finally a big welcome to all soldiers who have recently been posted to us. They are:

"A" Company

Pte. Coombes from Mortonhamstead; Pte. Dale from Sidmouth.

"B" Company

Pte. Blake from Totnes; Pte. Newby from Exeter; Pte. Cook from Ivybridge; Pte. Shebbing from Sussex; Pte. Beaman from Taunton; Pte. Buck from Bristol.

"C" Company

Pte. Phillips from Brixham.

S.P. Company

Pte. Ellis from Barnstable; Pte. Hughes from Sidmouth.

H.Q. Company

Pte. Connolly from London; Pte. Downton from Plymouth; Pte. White from Bournemouth; Pte. Wingfield from Exeter.

SKI-ING, 1967/68

This winter was the second in which the Battalion has trained really seriously for the various B.A.O.R. Winter Sports competitions and the results achieved fully justified the effort expended.

Things got under way in late November when the teams set out under Lts. Pook and Hare. The Langlaufers went to Bavaria and established themselves in the "Hotel Giebelhaus" while the Alpine team moved to Alpbach, a small village in Austria.

The Langlauf "blood and guts" group, as they called themselves, started training under the eagle eye of Seigfried, a local German instructor who was himself training to race in the Olympic trials. When Capt. Jim Hewitt paid his first visit to them their initial greeting was a burst of gunfire from the patrol team which clearly expressed their opinion of his choice of such a dedicated skier as their trainer.

In the meantime the "International Ski Set", the Alpine team, were training hard under Hermann, one of the top Austrian instructors in Alpbach. When, over the Christmas period, there was a lack of good snow, nothing daunted, he merely converted the team into a bunch of mountain goats and chased them around the hills—a form of training not appreciated by the larger members of the team.

Both teams were allowed a day off for Christmas and New Year and then began their final build up. On January 13 they joined together in Bavaria in preparation for the Divisional competitions which were due to be held in Oberjoch. Naturally enough, both teams had many tales to tell. For the reader, perhaps the best is about Sgt.

Gore who, not content with the daily training schedule laid down by the trainer, took the team on an evening run at 2 a.m. in Christmas morning. The course was over mountains and freezing streams, through which he ran with no discomfort. He was not seen on the slopes later that day when the rest of the team were up and about!

Just before the end of training, Cpl. Jones of "A" Company, who had been doing sterling work, broke his ankle and had to return to the Battalion.

When the Divisional Meeting started it was obvious that, despite all our efforts, the Langlauf team was still weak in experience but that this was more than compensated for by its fitness and determination. The novices won their Langlauf race and the patrol team was second in their race, beating the Duke of Wellingtons who, next week, were to win both the Army and the B.A.O.R. patrol race. **Our final position in the Divisional Championships was 3rd, only being beaten into second place by one point by 2nd Field Regt., R.A., our close rivals.**

The next two weeks were divided into two parts. The Langlaufers concentrated on the National, Army and B.A.O.R. combined races, while the Alpiners spent the first week at the B.A.O.R. Meeting where they came 4th and in the second moved to St. Moritz for the Army Meeting.

At St. Moritz they were joined by Capt. Wilsey from the R.M.A. Sandhurst and thanks to his fine ski-ing, they were able to maintain the high positions reached in the Divisional and B.A.O.R. Meetings.

There are so many tales of hard luck and "if only" that they cannot be recounted. **The main facts are, however, that the team won the Infantry**



BATTALION SKI TEAM, 1968

Back row: L/Cpl. Thomas, Capt. Hewitt (Team Captain), Lt. Pook, Lt. Hare, Pte. Atkinson.

Front row: L/Cpl. Wilson, Pte. McGuire, L/Cpl. Joicey, Sgt. Gore, L/Cpl. Thompson, Cpl. Coles, L/Cpl. Cloke.

Cup in the B.A.O.R. Meeting and in all combined results of Langlauf and Alpine, were the best Infantry team in the Army competition. In the "Princess Marina" Cup, we were placed 9th out of 18 teams.

Next season it is hoped to run a series of two weeks' courses the aim being to have had 350 soldiers ski-ing by the end of February, 1969, and, at the same time, to train another ski team to improve on this year's results.

Summarised below are the results and a list of those who represented the Battalion.

2 Divisional Meeting

Langlauf

1. *Relay Race.* "A" Team 7th and "B" Team 12th out of 23 teams and 80 individuals.
2. *Patrol Race.* 2nd out of 17 teams.
3. *15 km. Individual Race.* Out of 130 individuals Sgt. Gore came 14th, Lt. Pook 23rd, Pte. Atkinson 27th, L/Cpl. Cloke, 28th, Pte. Maguire 51st, L/Cpl. Wilson 57th and L/Cpl. Joicey 85th.
4. *Military Combination.* 4th out of 13 teams.

Alpine

1. *Downhill Race.* 5th out of 14 teams and 60 individuals. (Cpl. Coles 9th, Capt. Hewitt 15th, L/Cpl. Thomas 33rd, Lt. Hare 36th.)

2. *Slalom.* 6th out of 14 teams and 60 individuals. (Capt. Hewitt 14th, L/Cpl. Thomas 26th, Cpl. Coles 31st.)

Army and B.A.O.R. Meetings

Langlauf

1. *Relay Race.* 12th team out of 31 teams and 131 individuals. (Sgt. Gore 24th, L/Cpl. Cloke 34th, Pte. Atkinson 51st, Lt. Pook 83rd.)
2. *15 km. Race.* 22nd team out of 32 teams and 190 individuals. (Sgt. Gore 46th, Lt. Pook 73rd, Pte. Atkinson 89th, L/Cpl. Cloke 98th.)
3. *Patrol Race.* 11th team out of 32 teams.

Alpine (B.A.O.R.)

1. *Giant Slalom.* 8th team out of 26 teams and 115 individuals. (Capt. Hewitt 24th, Cpl. Coles 25th, L/Cpl. Thomas 38th, Lt. Hare 71st.)
2. *Downhill.* 8th team out of 24 teams and 106 individuals. (Cpl. Coles 18th, Lt. Hare 35th, L/Cpl. Thomas 50th, Capt. Hewitt 52nd.)
3. *Slalom.* 4th team out of 23 teams and 63 individuals. (Cpl. Coles 27th, L/Cpl. Thomas 31st, Capt. Hewitt 34th.)
4. *Alpine Combination.* 4th team out of 24 teams and 62 individuals. (Cpl. Coles 18th, Capt. Hewitt 27th, L/Cpl. Thomas 30th.)

Alpine (Army)

1. *Slalom*. 18th team out of 23 teams and 78 individuals (Capt. Wilsey 32nd, Cpl. Coles 50th, Capt. Hewitt 69th.)
2. *Giant Slalom*. 7th team out of 23 teams and 110 individuals. (Capt. Wilsey 24th, Cpl. Coles 25th, Lt. Hare 47th, L/Cpl. Thomas 54th, Capt. Hewitt 68th.)
3. *Downhill*. 7th team out of 23 teams and 111 individuals. (Capt. Wilsey 30th, Cpl. Coles 34th, Lt. Hare 51st, L/Cpl. Thomas 55th, Capt. Hewitt 89th.)
4. *Alpine Combination*. 11th team out of 23 teams and 70 individuals. (Capt. Wilsey 27th, Cpl. Coles 32nd, Capt. Hewitt 63rd.)

Stop Press

Cpl. Coles and L/Cpl. Thomas managed to attend the British Army Scottish Meeting during March. Cpl. Coles did extremely well competing against many old racing rivals of St. Moritz and B.A.O.R. meetings. He was placed 2nd in the Open Race and won the Infantry Individual Cup.

BOIS DES BUTTES BALL

The 1st Battalion celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Bois des Buttes by holding a ball at Osnabrück. The three officer survivors who have been located, Lt.-Col. U. B. Burke, M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Clarke, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. A. H. Cope, D.S.O., were invited, however only Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Cope were able to accept.

WINTER WARFARE TRAINING**SPECIAL TRAINING CENTRE
SILBERHUTTE****(By L/Cpl. Jackson, Signal Platoon)**

Unlike exercise "Snow Queen", the aim of the Silberhutte course was to train personnel in winter warfare.

We were first of all taught the fundamentals of ski-ing and the use of ski-stretcher and sledge. Whilst doing this we averaged five kilometres a day on skis and became very fit.

Once we became reasonably proficient on skis we then went on to the art of survival in the snow and learned how to build an igloo and cook in sub-zero temperatures.

In the second week of the course we were taught how to fire our personal weapons whilst on skis and then we were thoroughly tested in all the skills we had been instructed in. We raced over 10 kilometres pulling a sledge and took part in an 18 kilometre Langlauf race.

The climax of the course was an exercise called "Mountain Goat". This involved two nights sleeping in igloos, a 20 kilometre Langlauf with checkpoints and a different test at each.

For two days at the end of the course we were allowed to ski for our own pleasure, which, after our experiences over the past ten days, was most relaxing.

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EXERCISE "SNOW QUEEN"

(By 2/Lt. R. C. Shore, Ph.D., who was unfortunately frost-bitten)

During the period December-February, a large number of us spent a fortnight at a time at Kranzegg in Bavaria on exercise "Snow Queen". The aim of the exercise was to give basic instruction in ski-ing to as many people as possible, while at the same time making it enjoyable. Instruction was provided by both military and local German civilian instructors.

The first few days of each course was spent on a nursery slope where we were taught the basic techniques of stopping and turning. We then graduated to another slope at the top of the main ski-lift, which was provided with a rope tow. The last few days were spent on the main ski slope. The first time the main run was used the snow was covered in bodies and there were some very spectacular falls, but finally most were able to negotiate the slopes with a fair amount of stability and control.

I think almost everybody enjoyed the time we spent ski-ing, although injuries of a temporary nature were quite common, and due in part to inadequate pre-ski preparation. The administration by the permanent staff was good, especially considering the conditions under which they worked. Most of us would like to have remained ski-ing for longer, in fact, one ski-ier got cold feet at the thought of returning to the Battalion!

SENNELAGER**THE INFANTRY PLATOON COMPETITION**

During the Battalion Camp at Sennelager Train-Centre everyone's attention was firmly fixed on the Platoon competition. In it Platoon Commanders were required to lead their three Sections through an assault course, a two-mile forced march and a field-firing shoot. The "Bogey Time" for this was 35 mins. In addition each Platoon had to fire their 84 mm. Carl Gustaves and 94 Energa Grenades in the tank hunting rôle and also to shoot their personal weapons by night at the limit of night visibility.

A great deal of hard work in preparation for the competition was put in by all who took part and the aim of the exercise, which was to promote fitness, skill-at-arms, field firing and night shooting, was thoroughly achieved.

In fairness to all who took part it should be pointed out to the reader that the results published below do not in anyway reflect on the platoons which competed. The competition was over a realistic battle type course and contested over a very large area. It was by its nature extremely difficult to judge and to award marks.

Battalion Results, Infantry Platoon Competition

1st "C" Company—Lt. K. Ireland, No. 8 Platoon.

2nd "Sp." Company—Lt. R. Pook, A/Tk. and Recce Platoon.

3rd "A" Company, Sgt. Hewitt, No. 3 Platoon.

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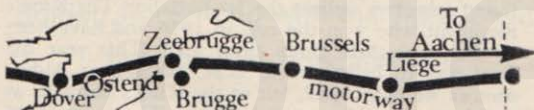
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BOXING

FOR the first time ever—so far as we know—the Battalion got into the Army Boxing finals and were only beaten by that boxing Regiment, the 1st Battalion The King's. It was a fine achievement on the part of the team, the boxing officer (Capt. Hill), the trainer (S.S.I. Holling) and the second (L/Cpl. Sibley). Here for the record is how things developed.

Before Christmas the team fought its way through the early B.A.O.R. rounds in most convincing style. They met, first of all, 2 Divisional Regiment, R.C.T., whom they defeated 9-2 in an away match at Bunde and then went on to meet the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots at home. Again the result was 9-2 in our favour.

Divisional Final

The next hurdle was the 2 Division final due to be held away on January 25, and against a tough side, the 2 Division H.Q. and Signal Regiment. At Bantamweight **Pte. Hamley** of "B" Company started well with some crisp punching but in the second round began to mix blows and was knocked out. He was followed by **Pte. Holden** of "B" Company who boxed extremely well at Featherweight and beat his opponent on points. **L/Cpl. Wood** of "A" Company fought a hard fight at Lightweight and was totally superior to his opponent. The referee stopped the bout in the third round. **Pte. McGarry** of "C" Company had a more experienced opponent at 2nd string Light Welterweight and although McGarry boxed bravely he was clearly outpointed and lost heavily on points. **Cpl. Brown** of "A" Company, who followed, was feeling the after effects of travelling back from leave but won his fight at 1st string Welterweight on points. At 2nd string Welterweight, **Pte. Thompson** of Support Company k.o.'d his opponent in the second round with some well-timed blows, but **Pte. Philbert** of "A", boxing for the first time, did not attack enough and lost on points at Light Middleweight. **L/Cpl. Godfrey** of "C" Company fought a close bout and just won on points, at Middleweight. At Light Heavyweight **Pte. Wade** of Support Company boxed a tall negro and although Wade put on a spirited performance he could not match his opponent's size and lost on points. At Heavyweight **L/Cpl. Penny** of Support Company had a walk-over as his opponent, who was boxing for the Army in England, was unable to fly back on time. In the last fight of the match **L/Cpl. Smith** of "A" Company boxed cleverly and k.o.'d his opponent in the second round. This gave us a 7-4 victory and, as Divisional Champions, we were through to the B.A.O.R. Semi-Final against the 32 Heavy Regt., R.A.

B.A.O.R. Semi-final

This match was held at home in Osnabruck and we knew before hand that it would be a very hard contest. In the first fight **Hamley** k.o.'d his op-

ponent in the first round and things were off to a good start but in the second **Holden**, who was boxing well, sustained a cut eye and the referee stopped the fight. The Gunners also won the next two fights when **Cpl. Wood** and **Pte. McGarry**, despite great performances, just lost on points. However, **Cpl. Brown** levelled things up by attacking all the time and, although he was knocked down in the second round, went after his opponent until eventually the referee intervened and stopped the fight in his favour in the third round. **Pte. Thompson** just won the next fight on points so that once again we were level pegging. **Pte. Philbert** boxed a close fight at Light Middleweight but by some hard counter punching managed to win on points. At Middleweight **L/Cpl. Godfrey** lost on points in a fight that everyone knew he had won. This was bad judging as **L/Cpl. Godfrey** had done enough to get at least a majority decision. **Pte. Wade** took the fight to his opponent and with straight lefts won on points at Light Heavyweight. **Pte. Penny**, boxing at Heavyweight, kept attacking and though he was hit early in the fight managed to get in some well-timed blows which earned him a points decision. When this verdict was announced the whole Battalion rose from their seats as a sign that the team was through to the B.A.O.R. Final. **L/Cpl. Smith** unfortunately lost the last fight on points but left us the winners 6-5.

B.A.O.R. Final

The next fight on March 8, was the B.A.O.R. Final and once again we were the host unit. As we were training at Sennelager at the time we arranged to hold the match there and afterwards entertained the guests in the S.T.C.'s Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. A crowd of over a thousand, including the Corps Commander watched **Hamley** get the team off to a good start by k.o.-ing his opponent in the first round. **Holden**, who followed, boxed well and outpointed his tough opponent. **Cpl. Wood**, too, won his fight as did **McGarry** and **Cpl. Brown**. By now we had won all the first five fights and needed only one more to secure victory. **Thompson**, who fought next could not get at his opponent who was bigger, and he lost on points. **Philbert**, however, who followed, took some time to warm up but then completely dominated his opponent and so the evening was ours. In the last four fights both **Godfrey** and **Wade** lost but **Florence** and **Smith** did well so we ended up with a 7-4 victory. It was a great evening in which everything went extremely well.

We were now through to the Army Final and found ourselves against the 1st Battalion The King's Regiment who won the cup in 1936 and have been in the final three times since then. This year the final was to be staged in U.K. but not at Aldershot as we had hoped, but at the King's barracks at Ballykinler in Northern Ireland. The account of this contest appears on page 40.



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A GUIDE FOR STAFF OFFICERS RETURNING TO REGIMENTAL DUTY

THERE comes a moment in the life of every staff officer when an order arrives posting him back to a tour of Regimental Duty. Although this normally gives about six months' warning and can therefore rest safely in the pending tray, if there is room, until one is preparing to hand over, it is inevitable that at some stage thought has to be given to how one will cope with the problems at the sharp end. As one sits in meditation over coffee and biscuits in an air-conditioned sound-proofed office watching the croquet lawn being cut, the thought of having to make decisions wearing uniform, in the open air when it is raining and even cold, comes as a considerable shock to even the most adaptable staff officer. This is not helped by the clerks, who normally produce guides to assist staff officers in overcoming every conceivable contingency, stating that they can find no publication to help one in this plight. This article seeks to give brief advice on this problem.

Announcing Your Arrival

The first step is a letter to the Adjutant saying how pleased you are to be returning and that you are especially keen to arrive fully conversant with the workings of the Battalion. You should ask him to include in his reply everything that this over-worked officer could reasonably or unreasonably have been expected to have written ranging from Dress Regulations, S.O.P.s, Fire Orders, Standing Orders, Training Directives, etc., to items that have nothing to do with him dealing with families, Mess rules and so on. It is an even chance that he will not have had the time to rewrite some obscure document or cannot find a spare copy. Either way you will have seized the initiative and made your return an event he will note.

Your arrival should preferably be timed for early evening. This gives time for the Mess staff to be corrected for not lining up to greet you, for your comments on dinner and the stocking of the cellar to be entered in the suggestions book, and time for a careful reconnaissance of the barracks to plot your activities the following day. This, of course, includes turning out the guard, inspecting all picquets and correcting the guard orders in red ink for minor S.D.

Interview with the C.O.

It is likely the Commanding Officer will wish to see you the following morning to welcome you back and to explain your duties for the next two years. Having made sure whilst a staff officer that a Commanding Officer has to work harder than any other serving officer you must do all you can to help him. Be quite open about this. Tell him that he has aged, looks overworked, but that you have heard he is doing quite well and that you intend helping him as much as you can to get the Battalion on the right lines, pointing out that you realise, that this will take time. When he seems amused and to disagree, you should remember that you are listening to an officer under considerable strain delighted at last to have an officer whose loyalty he can trust back in the Battalion. His abrupt dismissal should be put down to a worried man.

Making Yourself Felt

You then go to begin your take-over, having put the R.S.M. on a charge for walking about barracks in a slovenly manner, on the way. This should be no problem providing you count everything, change everything and shout at everyone. You will find this ensures your becoming known.

It is also important that you come to a happy working relationship with other key personalities in the Battalion. A good line with the Quartermaster is to remind him, preferably in the presence of his staff, of the surplus equipment he had under the trap door beneath his stores when he was C.Q.M.S. A visit to the T.Q.M., E.M.E., M.T.O. and Signals Officer finding faults and making suggestions completes the morning. To make sure that everyone knows you have a sense of humour a good start is to ask the Paymaster if he can work out his pay without taking his boots off.

The afternoon should be spent playing golf so that all can see you intend keeping fit and not becoming tied to the office.

The following morning is the key to success. You should be in the Commanding Officer's office, unobserved by the Adjutant, early so that you can clear the in-tray, reorganise the Officer and N.C.O. plot and re-write the training directive on the assumption that it could only have been the first draft, before his arrival.

Misunderstood?

It is a pity that the following morning will probably find you on your way back to the staff but you can console yourself with the thought that your tour at regimental duty, whilst not qualifying you for command, has at least given you an insight into the problems at Battalion level and thus made you better qualified to serve them as a staff officer.

OFFICERS' CLUB AT HOME

Any member of the Officers' Club who wishes to invite a guest or guests to the At Home at Exeter on Thursday, 11th July, should send particulars as soon as possible to The Secretary, Devonshire & Dorset Regiment Officers' Club, Wyvern Barracks, Exeter.

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THE LAMENT OF THE 432 DRIVER

By Lt. J. J. Field

I remember, I remember
My dreaded 432,
The wireless installation,
The compartment for the crew;
The way the engine never starts
Whenever it is hot.
The hundred tiny little parts,
And how I lose the lot.

I remember, I remember
The day I threw a track,
The way the section laboured
To put the darn thing back;
The track pads which came hurtling off
And struck the colonel's car:
The going up on orders,
The sojourn behind bars.

I remember, I remember
My scruffy 413,
And trying to explain it all
To my company 2 i/c.
He never could quite fathom out
My entries on page two—
It seems I wrote the symbol
For "servicing the crew"!

I remember, I remember
The parking up at night,
The last parade inspection—
And switching off the light.
But as I walk away from it
I shed a lonely tear,
A twelve-hour separation
Is more than I can bear.

I remember, I remember
the time we did flotation;
The little screen that kept at bay
The waters agitation.
We set off at a cracking pace
To cross the River Maine—
Alas we sank beneath the waves:
The plugs—at home—again!

I remember, I remember
The annual P.R.E.,
The hundred thousand X jobs
That daily threatened me.
I dreamed of all the horrid things
The inspectors sometimes do;
And then they put me V.O.R. . . .
An overtightened screw!

I remember, I remember
The driver's daily tasks,
The little titivations
A diesel engine asks.
As if we didn't have enough
To flaming well get done—
Now . . . Regimental History
On every single one.

BOOK REVIEW

"GUERRILLAS"

By

LT.-COL. A. CAMPBELL

Published by Arthur Barker Ltd., 45/-

STILL a serving officer with first-hand experience of guerilla warfare in Burma, Malaya and Cyprus, Col. Campbell, author of "Jungle Green" and "The Siege" now has this book to his credit. In it he traces the origin of guerilla warfare back to the Spaniards when they were resisting the French Armies in the Peninsular during the years 1808-1814.

The campaigns covered in detail include South Africa (1900-1902); the Arab revolt (1916-1918); Yugoslavia (1940-1944); Greece (1941-1949); Malaya (1948-1960) and Indo-China (1950-1954).

Of the present war in Vietnam, which is not examined, the author says: "I feel that this war has not yet passed into history, and although the experiences of the French and the Vietminh in the Indo-China campaign between 1945 and 1954 point the way to victory over Communism in this area of operations, it is as yet too early to draw conclusions from the present day-to-day happenings in Vietnam."

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WESSEX BRIGADE DEPOT



Director of Infantry's visit to the Brigade Depot. Maj. Goodbody, Maj.-Gen. M. Forrester, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Maj. Bennett, Lt.-Col. Bullock, Lt.-Col. Russell.

Christmas was celebrated in the usual way except that the social calendar seemed rather fuller, if possible, than last year. The Corporals' Club had a particularly successful dance even if the large numbers who attended seemed to swamp the N.A.A.F.I. staff.

O.C. Training Company was greatly relieved when the foot-and-mouth restrictions on the use of Dartmoor were lifted in February. The competition for training allocations at Tregantle and Woodbury had been fierce as we had to contend with 1 A. & S.H. and a Marine Commando back from Aden as well as the normal residents of the West Country.

The Administrative Inspection was carried out in February by Brig. R. G. S. Bidwell, O.B.E., A.D.C., Deputy Commander South West District. Junior Soldiers Company and the Corps of Drums produced a smart Guard of Honour for him.

Capt. (Q.M.) Marquis has left us for civilian life, and has been succeeded as O.C. H.Q. Coy by Maj. A. D. Parsons, M.B.E., M.C., of the D.E.R.R.

The ante-room and bedrooms damaged in the Officers' Mess fire are in the hands of the contrac-

tors now and the top floor has been completed. We hope to be back to normal in time for the Cricket Week.

We asked Lt.-Col. Hatfield to take the Passing-Out Parade on March 29, which was two days before he retired as Secretary of the Devon T. & A.F. Association. He accepted the invitation and we were very pleased to have him with us. The new Director of Infantry, Maj.-Gen. M. Forrester, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited us in April and had lunch in the Mess.

The Junior Soldiers repeated their triumph of last year by winning the Army Junior Soldiers Boxing Championship for the second year running which was an excellent effort, particularly as The Parachute Regiment put in a strong team. The Depot hockey team reached the District final again, and found themselves playing the School of Infantry again whom they beat 1-0 last year. This time they lost 0-1 after a very close game.

We close by wishing the 1st Bn. boxing team the very best of luck at Ballykinler.

(Continued on page 58)

TERRITORIAL AUXILIARY AND VOLUNTEER RESERVE ASSOCIATIONS

As a result of the recent reorganisation of the Reserve Forces of the Crown, by a process of amalgamation the existing 84 County Territorial Associations have been reduced as from April 1st, 1968, to 14 Associations each with its own Secretariat.

Western Wessex T.A. & V.R. Association

The five County Associations of Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire have been amalgamated to form the Western Wessex Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association (T.A. & V.R.) with its headquarters at 2 Beaufort Road, Clifton, Bristol 8 (the existing H.Q. of the old Gloucestershire Association). The Secretary is Lt.-Col. E. G. B. Moss, D.L.—lately Secretary Gloucestershire T. & A.F. Association.

The size of the new Association area has necessitated the formation of a small sub-office at Exeter under a Deputy Secretary—Brig. A. Tilly, C.B.E., D.L. (lately Secretary, Cornwall T. & A.F. Association), and with particular responsibilities for the administration of T.A.V.R., Royal Auxiliary Air Force and pre-service units in Devon and Cornwall. For the time being, the sub-office will be located at 23 Longbrook Street, Exeter—the old H.Q. of the Devon T. & A.F. Association—but it will move to Higher Barracks, Exeter, probably early in July, 1968.

Each of the five Counties will retain its own Cadet Executive Officer who will be responsible to Western Wessex T.A. & V.R. Association for the administration of all pre-service units in his County. The Cadet Executive Officer for Devon will continue to be Lt.-Col. W. Kaye.

Within the new Western Wessex Association there will be two Area Committees—one for Devon and Cornwall and one for Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset. These Area Committees will comprise a proportion of T.A.V.R. C.O.s, Selected Military and R.A.F. Members, and representatives of pre-service units, local authorities, employers and employees. It is anticipated that each of these Area Committees will meet twice a year, immediately prior to the meetings of the full Western Wessex Association, which will also be held twice a year. The members of each Area Committee are automatically members of the Western Wessex Association.

Eastern Wessex T.A. & V.R. Association

Dorset will amalgamate with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire & Isle of Wight to form a new Eastern Wessex T.A. & V.R. Association, with Headquarters at 30 Carlton Place, Southampton, with Col. C. A. T. Halliday, O.B.E., D.L. (lately Secretary, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Association) as its Secretary.

T.A. Secretaries

Lt.-Col. E. J. Hatfield, D.L., Secretary of Devon T. & A.F. Association since 1951, having exceeded the age limit for retirement, will retire on June 30,

1968. Lt.-Col. S. R. M. Hamblin, D.L., Secretary of Dorset T. & A.F. Association since 1957 is also due to retire on June 30. As a mark of their appreciation for all he had done, Col. Hamblin was entertained to lunch by the officers of The Dorset Territorial and "C" Company Wessex Volunteers, and Col. Hatfield took a Passing Out Parade at Wyvern Barracks, lunching in the Brigade Mess afterwards.

We should like to thank both T.A. Associations for their splendid efforts on behalf of the old T.A. Battalions and in forming the new Reserve Forces in our two counties. We are delighted that Bill Kaye and Willie Hayes are soldiering on, and we welcome Brig. John Tilly to Exeter. He is well known to many who served in the 12th (Airborne) Battalion of the Devons, and to those who served in 1 Devon in Germany in the 7th Armoured Division Lorried Infantry Brigade. Some of us will have vivid memories of the Brigadier's performance at guest nights both on the piano and in the scrum!

Wessex Brigade Depot

The following officers took the Salute at Passing Out Parades:

December, 1967—SALENO V.

Brig. W. Horsfall, O.B.E., A.C.I.O., Bristol. January, 1968—BURMA V.

Col. E. D. Harding, D.S.O., Brigade Colonel, Wessex Brigade.

February, 1968—NORMANDY V.

Lt.-Col. M. F. A. Wilson, 1st Bn. The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

March, 1968—IMJIN V.

Lt.-Col. E. J. Hatfield, D.L., Secretary Devon T. & A.F. Association.

(12th Battalion—(Continued from page 68)

this Return to Yesterday. It is probable that from 1969 onwards it will be an annual Swedebasher pilgrimage on a 60-hours round trip. If anyone is interested in this project please write to this scribe—but after August next.

12th Bn. Reunion

Taking a chance on this Journal's Editor ruling us out of court we would remind ALL ex-12 Devons (Airborne, Chairborne, Non-Airborne) that "Oscar" and Doreen Farmer, 85 Broadlands Avenue, Newton Abbot, Devon, sets up our annual Exeter Reunion each October ("Oscar" has just about recovered from a serious illness last year), Fred and Dorothy Megee, 60 The Drive, Chase Cross, North Romford, Essex, gets the London chaps together each May.

Tailpiece. You probably did a snigger about that spring-cleaning, "de-looting" mentioned above. Just now we heard of a soldier (NOT repeat NOT ex-12 Devon) who unpacked his kit-bag early in 1968! Asked why he had not touched it since 1945 demob he replied, "I saw enough of that damned thing during the War!" R.G.S.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE WESSEX VOLUNTEERS

H.Q. Company (Devon)

Since the last publication of the Journal we have been comparatively quiet, which means that not more than ten things have been happening at once. There have been a number of transfers in and out, and we are pleased to say that recruiting has been going so well that at one stage we had a waiting list in double figures. We were particularly sorry to have to say goodbye to Sgt. Thorner who has been a very loyal and devoted servant of the Company since its formation. We have all been impressed by the tremendous energy and zest with which he has entered into the challenge of building a new organisation from scratch, and it says much for his powers of persuasion that the whole of the Signal Platoon has followed him to Germany for its Annual Camp.

One of our main training difficulties has been the lack of petrol, and a very promising Command Post exercise has been postponed from February until June. It is always difficult to look sad when a night out in February is postponed, but we were all disappointed, as we have so little opportunity for field training.

The whole Battalion, less "B" Company and the Signals Platoon who have gone to Germany, are just off to camp at Sennybridge. This is always eagerly looked forward to, and usually turns out better than expected.

"C" Company (Dorset)

The last quarter has been one of consolidation and preparation for annual camp at Sennybridge.

We have had a great deal to do by way of getting through our T.s O.E.T., and familiarising ourselves with new weapons and kit. Recruiting has gone well, though we are not yet over the top.

In February we went to the Brecon Beacons for a strenuous week-end. We were administered by the Parachute Regiment Battle School, who did us proud. On the Beacons we had everything, sun, snow, mist and sleet. Only the cynics suggested that we were restocking the Company Commander's farm with mountain sheep and goats.

In March we were inspected by Maj.-Gen. Tom Acton, G.O.C., S.W. District. A full evening of weapon training was in progress during the period of his visit.

Sgt. Vater and Cpl. Pratt attended a week's course at Netheravon, and were taught the finer points of the 81 mm. mortar, which we are due to receive at the end of the year. Cpl. Brian Jones spent two weeks' training with 1st Bn. The Queen's Regiment in the Persian Gulf. He enjoyed taking part in an assault landing exercise laid on by the three Services.

The award of Lord Lieutenant's Certificates to C/Sgt. Riglar and Sgt. Dewland has been announced. Ptes. Pridmore, Upshall and Langdown, J., have all paraded up the aisle, and beaten the tax-man for the last time. To all these we say "Congratulations".

The only former member of D. & D. we have with us as a Volunteer is Pte. Bastable who was with The Dorsets in Minden, and then served with D. & D. in Cyprus.

For a time the Reserve Army was in danger of becoming all work and no play. To counter this we have held successful dances at Christmas and Easter. The former was run by the Sergeants, and the latter by the Corporals. We also held a children's party at Christmas under the control (or lack of it), of Sheriff Gover of Salt Lake Hamworthy.

THE DEVONSHIRE TERRITORIALS (RDY/1st RV.)

The news of the latest projected disbandment of the Territorials has been the main problem we have had to face during the past few months. Since the first announcement in January, however, a considerable amount of re-thinking has been done, and it now appears that, once again, it is going to be more difficult to get rid of the remaining volunteers than the powers that be anticipated. The steadfast refusal by these particular soldiers—young and old—to fade away, appears to be having its effect.

The situation at the moment is that the unit is to carry on, on an unpaid basis, shorn of most of its permanent staff, until the next review of the T. & A.V.R. is published at some unspecified future date. Although we have only been working under these conditions for a short time, it is most encouraging to find that attendances have been good and even those with long distances to travel have been attending regularly.

"C" Squadron

This last quarter has been a daunting period in the history of the Squadron. With the festive season

over all members were looking forward to improved weather, a settled period of training and preparation for camp.

With the 'flu epidemic receding and better travelling conditions returning, attendance at evening drills began to improve and prospects for the forthcoming year were not unhopeful. Then from the "corridors of power" came the bombshell of further reorganisation and the demise of T. & A.V.R. III. The foundations so patiently laid in 1967 were destroyed in a moment. The subsequent campaign to salvage some form of Territorials moved so slowly that there was an inevitable fall in attendance by all but the most dedicated members. S.S.M. Heap and those others who travel a long way to T.A.C. are to be commended on the devotion which prompts their attendance.

Training has continued, the most interesting periods being a day spent in the hands of M.O.I.T. learning the mysteries of P.M.D.2.L. and a very interesting day spent at Plymouth. The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders entertained and instructed by demonstration and discussion their Aden cam-

paign. This was followed by a most interesting and comprehensive discussion on the future of the T. & A.V.R. III. But it seemed that this was all to no avail. Shortly afterwards the Territorials were invited to continue on an unpaid basis pending a further governmental decision concerning their

future. Since this news "C" Squadron has shown its determination to remain in existence. Attendance has, if anything, improved and the period from now till July should yield some useful training periods.

DORSET TERRITORIALS

Miss Anna Elizabeth Milner of Dorchester was the only girl among 150 men of The Dorset Territorials and Royal Navy taking part in a week-end exercise at Portland. Miss Milner, who is a W.R.A.C. Lance-Corporal, employed as a clerk in The Dorset Territorials, volunteered to be a rifleman in the forward section of the assault on Fort Weare on the Isle of Portland.

The exercise was divided into two parts:—an assault on Fort Weare by the Royal Navy's Dartmouth Officer Cadets and an assault on the old gun positions below Fort Weare by the Dorset Territorials.

Concentrating at Bincleaves T. & A.V.R. Centre, Weymouth, some 80 volunteers arrived by mid-afternoon, Saturday, and commenced by watching training films in preparation for the night exercise, whilst the organising officer, Maj. Peter Dobson (Weymouth), together with the chief umpire, Maj. Douglas Fryett (Poole) and W.O.2 Ronald Haines, Territorial Instructor (Dorchester), carried out a quick reconnaissance of the exercise area. After issue of arms, briefing was held by Maj. Dobson and section commanders then made ready for the assault. Before leaving for Portland everyone enjoyed a pork and chicken dinner prepared by the unit cooks, led by W.R.A.C. Sgt. Inge Still (Witchampton) and Cpl. Glyn Jones (Gillingham).

At 1945 hrs. all ranks embussed for Portland concentrating at Fort Weare and deploying towards Portland Naval Rifle Ranges. Meanwhile the Dartmouth Officer Cadets had concentrated at the rifle ranges and after briefing set out at 2030 hrs. towards their objective—Fort Weare.

It was a bitterly cold night and the Dorset Territorials had now been joined by a section of the Dorset Army Cadet Force under Capt. Barry Fox (Dorchester). The deployment was carried out successfully and first contact was made by No. 3 Section commanded by Lt. Roger Lowans (Bournemouth). This was a diversionary attack on the out-post by the H.Q. of the Royal Navy platoon and was unsuccessful, the platoon commander losing contact with his H.Q. and being captured by No. 3 Section. Meanwhile the main Royal Navy force had successfully reached Fort Weare and made an assault on the front and the main gate, being repulsed by the defenders, Nos. 1 and 2 Sections with the Army Cadets in reserve. A strong attack under covering fire and a simulated grenade bombardment by the Royal Navy enabled some of the attackers to breach the fort, but the majority were pinned down outside the fort by covering fire from No. 3 Section and the initial momentum of the attack was lost.

Round One to the Dorset Territorials.

After an interval of 30 minutes during which both sides redeployed, the battle was resumed. The Dartmouth Cadets had withdrawn to the disused gun positions below Fort Weare. The Dorset Territorials, with the Assault Pioneer Platoon (W.O.2 Roy Northover, Weymouth), leading advanced.

The naval Cadets had laid booby traps and trip flares in excellent positions and the Territorial pioneers were unable to dismantle these, which blew up and a surprise attack was then out of the question.

All sections hastily advanced on the gun sites, the first rush of the Territorials taking them through the road block. No. 2 Section by-passed the gun sites, being given covering fire by No. 3 Section. No. 1 Section and the Army Cadet reserve Sections were help up at the road block by simulated mortar and grenade attack. Small scale fights occurred all over the position and the umpires called a halt.

Round Two to the Royal Navy.

All personnel then converged on the rifle range where a welcome cup of hot grog (by courtesy of the Royal Navy) was had by all before the debriefing, and so to bed—0130 hrs. Sunday.

The co-ordinating officer for the Royal Navy was Lt. John Monkerty, R.N., Base Gunnery Officer, Portland.

Reveille Came Too Soon.

At 0630 hrs. the gentle voice of the R.S.M. of the Dorset Territorials was heard on the morning breeze, calling all hands to rise and shine. After breakfast which looked so huge it seemed impossible to consume, and looked larger than the smallest of the Army Cadets, Pte. Ware (Dorchester) who described it as "smashing, sir"), The Territorials proceeded to Portland Rifle Ranges for firing practice and rifle competitions. Although the weather was bleak and chilly, competition was hot.

The winners of the Competitions were:—

The Dorset Territorials.—W.O.2 (C.S.M.) Bill Brinsley and W.O.2 (Pnr. Pl. Comd.) Roy Northover (both of Weymouth, equal first).

Dorset Army Cadet Force.—Pte. Paul House (Dorchester).

And to end as the story commenced:—

Women's Royal Army Corps.—L/Cpl. Anna Milner.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



THE CADET FORCES

DEVON ARMY CADET FORCE



The Mayor of Exeter, Alderman R. E. Board, talks to cadets at Guildhall in company with Brig. Bredin, the County Commandant, and Lt.-Col. Bill Wheeler, Deputy Commandant.

Training

The winter months are behind us and a true reflection on how wisely these dark evenings have been occupied is inevitably revealed in the Spring Part II Examinations. Our training staff can feel well rewarded because at the Cadet County Training Centre, 34 Cadets were successful, five with distinction. Well done all those adults whose dedication is so often accepted as a matter of routine, but success at the end of those seemingly endless sessions in map reading, fieldcraft, drill and all the rest is a well deserved reward. And then they start all over again!

Outdoor activities have been restricted. The heavy rains day by day followed by a fair quota of snow has a retarding affect on even the most enthusiastic adult.

Athletics

The county cross-country was held in Exeter, the 1st Battalion taking the senior teams event and the 2nd (Plym.) the junior. We are, however, still waiting for the Command cross-country which has been postponed (indefinitely?) due to accommodation problems at Blandford. So difficult to explain this to the Cadets who eagerly look forward to pitting their skill as proven athletes against the other nine counties.

Shooting

The past six months have been the most successful in the history of the Devon Army Cadet Force in competitive shooting.

It is recognised that to gain success in .303, over distances ranging from 100 to 300 yards, one must

be proficient in .22 (small bore) at which the whole basis of method and accuracy is acquired by those who are destined to be known as first class marksmen.

Many strive but comparatively few really make the top grade. So much depends on the availability of range facilities, the standard of coaching and the time which can be devoted to practice.

At Grenville College, Bideford—who have a detachment of 70 Cadets, and are part of the 3rd Battalion Devon Army Cadet Force—the coaching has been in the experienced and capable hands of a Territorial soldier, Sgt. Gerry Beer, who has a profound knowledge of shooting, and his dedication over the past few years has produced a team, second to none in Great Britain.

Grenville College who, for two successive years, have won in turn every competition staged by the Devon A.C.F., made their mark at Bisley last October when they provided two competitors in the county team of four who won the Canada Trophy, open to competition by all counties of the Army Cadet Force.

This was followed by International honours when the College Detachment were third in the Commonwealth shoot, and now comes the news of their latest and perhaps most outstanding achievement, the winning of the "News of the World" Small Bore Championship, open to teams of eight competitors drawn from all Cadet Forces in Great Britain.

With a score of 791 points, only nine short of maximum (the lowest score in the team was 97), the Cadets of Grenville College have created a new National record all of which takes the College through to Frimley Park on May 4 and 5, for a shoulder to shoulder shoot against the champions of the Navy and Air Cadets to decide the destination of the famous "Punch" trophy awarded to the champion team of the three pre-service Forces of the Country. The other representative teams in the "Punch" trophy this year will be The Middlesbrough Sea Cadet Unit, and the 2319 Squadron (Vale of Levan) Squadron of the Air Training Corps.

The members of the Grenville College team were:

C.S.M. D. Benallick

C/Sgt. N. Leakey

Sgt. D. Stone

L/Cpl. A. Vartanian

Cadet G. Beaumont

Cadet H. Webb

Cadet C. Cross

Cadet D. Haslam

Civic Reception at Guildhall, Exeter, for Devon A.C.F.

What a splendid and memorable evening came to the Devon A.C.F. recently. The pride of winning The Canada Trophy at Bisley was closely followed by further successes at swimming, soccer, boxing and athletics, all of which produced trophies.

We are blessed with a splendid newspaper editor here in Exeter and the "Express & Echo" always gives considerable coverage to our activities, both

locally and nationally. It was therefore inevitable that the Civic Authorities would learn of our efforts, more particularly perhaps because the Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City and County of the City of Exeter, Alderman Ronald E. Board, served with the Devonshire Regiment in the last War.

The culmination of all this was an invitation from the Mayor for 40 Cadets and 10 adults, drawn from all parts of Devon, to attend a reception at Guildhall for the purpose of handing over our trophies to the Mayor for "safekeeping at Guildhall for as long as we are permitted to hold them".

We were "snowed off" on the original date, but immediate steps were taken to rearrange the function which took place in the Mayor's Parlour and the trophies are now on display to visitors at Guildhall.

The Cadets enjoyed the evening tremendously and created a most favourable impression with the Civic Authorities—the Mayor chatting in the most friendly manner with each Cadet which put them very much at ease and created a relaxed atmosphere.

Looking Back

Capt. Sam Dark, of Broad Clyst, has left us after many years faithful service. We shall miss him.

Looking Ahead

VISIT TO GERMANY. Capt. John Moon is about to leave for B.A.O.R. with a contingent of Cadets from Devon. They will be attached to the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment.

Inter-Cadet Pentathlon

To be held at H.M.S. *Drake*, Plymouth, in May. Always a first-class turn out with close on 30 teams from the three Services.

Army Cadet Sunday, May 26, 1968

Parades and Services at Exeter Cathedral, The Citadel, Plymouth, Ilfracombe and Torre Abbey, Torquay.

Southern Command Pentathlon and Athletics at Blandford

Probably the last Cadet event to take place at Blandford. Devon will be well represented.

Shooting

County .303 competition at Rippon Tor on June 30. We've got something to "shoot" about!

Camp

At the Warren Camp, Crowborough, July 21 to August 1. Recces have been completed and we shall be taking 500 All Ranks.

Headquarters

After a lifetime at Longbrook Street we move to Higher Barracks on July 1. Lt.-Col. Teddy Hatfield, having vacated the Secretary's chair, Brig. A. Tilly has taken over with Lt.-Col. Bill Kaye as Cadet Executive, Brig. A. E. C. Bredin, County Commandant and Lt.-Col. Bill Wheeler (Deputy).

Just a handful of the original T.A. Staff remain, Ken Coombes, Frank Sylvester and Bill Blake with Mrs. Joan Sylvester and Katie Pleace. Streamlining in the 1968 fashion!

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THE DEVONSHIRE REGIMENT OLD COMRADES' ASSOCIATION

"GINGER" HOOPER

We are very sorry to record that "Ginger" died early in May. He had been ill for about six months, first at his home in Teignmouth, and later in the Newton Abbot Hospital where he died. During his illness he was visited by Col. Ned Windeatt; Major George White almost every week; Jim Garnham; John Davey; "Wiggy" Bennett, and other Old Comrades.

His funeral service was held at the Salvation Army H.Q. in Teignmouth and he was buried in the Teignmouth Cemetery. The Association was well represented at the funeral. Amongst those present were Lt.-Cols. Spencer and Windeatt; Majors Blake, Symonds, Webber and White; Capt. Coombe; L/Cpl. Walters; Mr. and Mrs. Bromfield; Paddy Collins and Mr. Till. Cpl. West, formerly Devons and now Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, and Junior Drummer Carr, Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, sounded the Last Post and Reveille at the graveside. We offer our deepest sympathy to "Ginger's" family.

LONDON BRANCH

We of the London Branch seemed to have had a very hectic time since our last notes appeared. In February we played the London Branch of The Wiltshire Regiment Old Comrades at darts for The Rose of Torridge Cup, which was presented by John Woolland, a Vice-President of our Branch, this trophy was first put up in 1962, and the Devons have managed to win it on one occasion only, so if you fancy yourself as a darts player, please come along next February and help us out. Daisy Bell, the old 1st Bn. footballer did manage to win one leg for us, but then The Wilts. really went to town and gave us a real licking.

Football

Talking of football, a cutting from the *Times of Malta* dated the 13th December, 1967, has been forwarded to me and I quote from it: "Yet forty years ago local soccer circles had a bigger reason for attaching the letter 'H' to success on the field, for in the cup winning team of The Devons there were five players whose names all began with an 'H.' Hawkey, Hyde, Harper, Hunt and Humphreys, these five 'H's, became a soccer legend on the Island". There was also a photograph of this fine team in the Maltese paper, which just goes to prove that the Maltese have not forgotten the splendid

team that the 1st Battalion had in those days, practically the same team went on to win the Durand Cup in India.

Grand National

March 26 saw our draw for The Branch annual Grand National, this was held at our Headquarters, "The Greencoat Boy", Greencoat Place, Victoria S.W.1., where we meet every first Tuesday in the month. The fortunate winners were: J. Stockley of Canterbury; H. F. Hancock, Plymouth; and Col. Freeland, Wilton. On behalf of the Branch. I thank most sincerely all who so kindly bought tickets for the draw. One bit of news that has filtered through is that "Bogey" Channing is now at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He will be well remembered right from Blackdown days, and of course, during the First World War, to "Bogey" I say come along on the next first Tuesday of the month, to the "Greencoat Boy" where I can assure you of a real welcome. Now for the *Pièce de Résistance*.

Reunion Dinner

THE 28th SEPTEMBER at THE VICTORY EX-SERVICES CLUB, MARBLE ARCH, The London Branch will hold their FORTY-SECOND DINNER. This is an all male function, and this year we should go over the 200 mark, so you have plenty of notice. Make up your mind and turn up, you will be surprised who you will meet. The Sunday following will see us at The Cenotaph to lay our wreath. We shall then adjourn to "The Greencoat Boy", for refreshments, and not to "St. Stephens Tavern" as we have done in previous years, incidentally I hear that this year the eats will be free, and all are welcome. "RETLAW".

Regimental football enthusiasts may be interested to hear that when the Editor was on a visit to the Pakistan Army Staff College, Quetta in 1958, he received a visit from a character from the bazaar, a carpet-wallah, who called himself "Man Moses". In his best Urdu the Editor said "Kuch nay pica", whereupon "Man Moses" replied that he had not come on business, but had heard there was a Devonshire Regiment Officer at the Staff College and wished to talk to him about "old times". From his conversation it transpired that "Man Moses" had been a good footballer and had played against our Durand team. Moreover he proceeded to reel off their names, not bad after a gap of over 25 years! After enquiring for Gotto Sahib and D'Oyly Sahib, he departed without attempting to make a sale!

4th DEVONS

There was no visible sign of celebration in Exeter of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the 4th Devons with the creation of the Territorial

Force by Act of Parliament on March 31, 1908. But the milestone did not escape the notice of Col. C. P. Tremlett, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., of Exmouth, the President of the 4th Devons O.C.A.

Telephoning Mr. R. J. (Bob) Stark, the Chairman, to apologise for non-attendance at our Annual General Meeting held on April 2nd, at the Royal Oak, Heavitree, Col. Tremlett, who is 87, reminded him of the anniversary. Present at the meeting were two members who were in at the beginning—Messrs. Jack Clements of Exeter, in his 84th year, and C. Taylor, of Culmpton, aged 78. They served in the 1st and 3rd Volunteer Bn. The Devonshire Regiment respectively prior to the advent of the 4th Devons.

On this April day when snow-storms punctuated the sunshine and when the East Devon meteorologist, Maj. J. M. Brierley, of Kilminster, reported a drop in temperature of 24 degrees in the space of 15 minutes, Mr. Taylor was the car passenger of Maj. W. Snell, one of the Association's Vice-Presidents. After the meeting they set off on the return journey, Mr. Taylor to Culmpton, Maj. Snell to his home at Ashbrittle, nr. Wellington, Somerset. The Wellington area had been badly hit by snow earlier; soon after the Exeter members had left for their homes the snow was swirling again.

Mr. Kenwin Steer, former Chief Constable of Exeter, who is the 4th Devon's O.C.A.'s Hon. Treasurer, reported that they began last year with a balance in hand of £165 16s. 5d. and ended it with one of £135 18s. 8d., a loss of £32 7s. 9d. There

were, however, special expenses of £25 incurred in connection with the Farewell Parade of the Regiment on Easter Monday, 1967. The October Reunion dinner costs totalled £51 0s. 6d. from which there was a recovery of £31 13s. 6d., including raffle proceeds of £9 5s. 0d. (net £6 2s. 6d.). The "subsidy" cost approximately £6 18s. 0d. but donations from guests and others received at the dinner, as well as membership dues then collected must be offset to some extent as these might not otherwise have been received.

There were 106 paid-up members. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. S. J. Handford, was granted an honorarium of £5.

After discussion and criticism of the service at the dinner and of the meal, it was agreed that for the next one the Association might revert to a cold meal. The Secretary is to enquire as to the possibility of arranging this at the Butts Road, Heavitree, T.A. and V.R. Centre, on Saturday, October 5, or October 12 (1968).

Col. C. P. Tremlett was re-elected President, and Mr. R. J. Stark as Chairman. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected *en bloc*, and these include four who had accepted invitations during the year. Col. J. G. Harrison; Maj. Tom Anstey; Maj. G. Wreford; and Capt. J. Greenslade. A new office created is that of Vice-Chairman, and Mr. Eric Hoare was elected to this. Mr. S. J. Handford (45 Priory Road, Exeter), was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and Mr. K. E. Steer re-elected Hon. Treasurer. The committee was re-appointed *en bloc*.

12th (AIRBORNE) BATTALION

"Well, I'm amazed. Your crowd must be exceptional, Archie", declared the family doctor on a recent visit to the Union Cottage, Hennock, Newton Abbot, home of Archie Cudmore. He was, of course, commenting on the after-service traditions of The Swedebashers—ex-skytroopers of 12th (Airborne) Battalion, The Devonshire Regiment.

Without going into details, we were able to do Archie's doctor a small favour and our former Battalion soccer team goalkeeper had given the Doc. a potted history of "The Shower". The Doc. was right, you know!

Apart from the fact of missing out on a contribution to this Journal last time out, due to some clot in the backwoods of East Devon not making a diary entry, we can look back on the last twenty-odd years with certain amount of satisfaction.

Guest of Honour

We could name-drop. We may—and we may not—have Lord Kindersley, our 6th Airlanding Brigade Commander, now a Big Name in the City, as our Guest of Honour at Exeter on Saturday, October 5, 1968. This will be our 22nd "Farmer's Arms" and we move to Butts Road Drill Hall, Heavitree, Exeter, after many years at the T.A. Centre, Barrack Road. We should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those in and out of the Army who have made our stay there so successful.

Our Guest of Honour list over the years has been rather impressive. Except for "Monty", you

name him—we've had him. A well-known military historian, an airborne forces pioneer, one-time big noises at War Office, present-day high-ups in the Army. It seems they all wanted to see what makes us tick so long after 12 Devons had been given the works.

But we are rather saddened that some old stagers of 12 Devons stay away from "Farmer's Arms" because they do not feel a part of what we try to put across. We have in mind a much-loved Colonel, who was a king-pin in very early beach defence days. Unfortunately, he did not come with us to Airborne Forces. Many of us would like to see him a regular attender at our Exeter get-togethers. He, of all people, should not be frightened by that Airborne tag in our publicity. We live in an age of gimmicks and "Airborne" is ours! If you were ever in the "Old Shower", any place between Denbury and Bulford, we want to see you, either at Exeter on October 5, or in London during early May.

Pew Appeal

Since our last notes we have donated a de-valued pound(!) towards the Pew Appeal Fund of the Regimental Chapel of The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces, the Royal Garrison Church at Aldershot. Individuals who wish to donate £1 units—or more, if officers so desire!—towards the presenting of pew end panels, should send their donations to The Secretary, The Regimental Chapel Fund, Regimental Headquarters, The Parachute

(Continued on page 68)



SPERRY

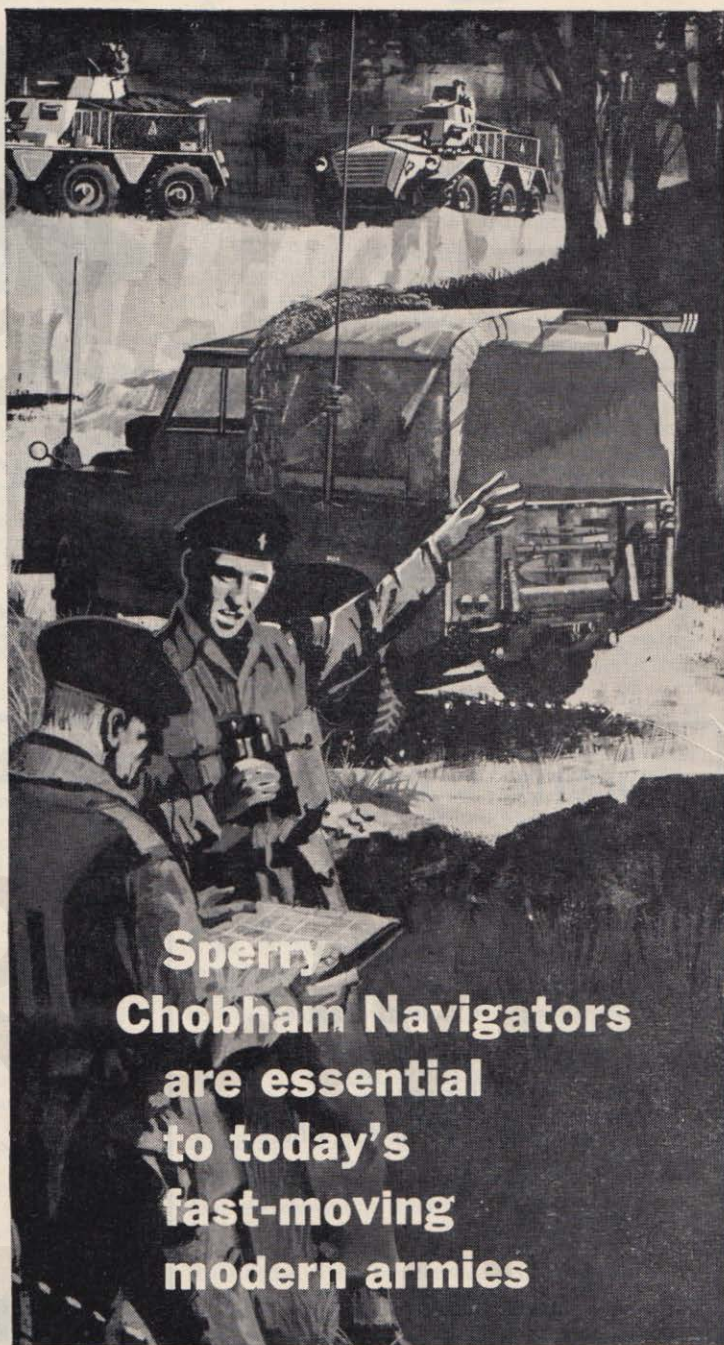
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WHITEWAYS —all ways



THE DORSET REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

AN obituary on C.S.M. Gilbert Creech, D.C.M., written by Maj.-Gen. Wood, appears elsewhere in this issue. We regret to announce the death of the following members: Messrs. E. Alner, Dorchester; J. R. Algar, Gillingham; A. Barker, Bourne-mouth; F. Bonfield, Swanage; G. Bool, Portland; C. Curtis, Weymouth; W. S. Dance, Romford; W. Dunford, Abbotsbury; F. Dungay, Milborne Port; A. H. Fletcher, Woking; Maj. P. J. L. Girardot, Hartfield; Messrs. V. D. E. Hands, Rotherham; J. T. Jeans, Winterbourne, Kingston; R. Marsh, Swanage; H. Miles, Blandford; F. Rowland, M.M., Bere Regis; A. Shiner; W. C. Sims, Shaftesbury; G. Wilmshurst, Portsmouth and F. Wiscombe, Sherborne.

BATH BRANCH

My notes for this issue are not very bright or interesting as I am just recovering from an attack of 'flu.

Whatever the country's state of affairs, it would appear that we are finding a drain on our pockets. We are all aware that our funds will not stand the strain and I think it is only through the good work of the Hon. Secretaries that the Branches are being kept alive and active. As many of our members may know, I travel the country through my work and one of my interests is talking about ex-Servicemen Associations to people I meet. It would appear that areas differ, as in Leicester the T.A. Centre is used to a great extent for these Associations and there is a great attendance at their meetings. Last year I attended a meeting at Leeds and the members afterwards were invited to a social at the British Legion Club, some 200 being present. Commenting on this, I asked the Secretary if this had been a special event as so many attended but he informed me that this was the usual week-end "do". It would appear, therefore, that this is the way of life in the big industrial cities and towns, the Midlands and the North. The moral of this, gentlemen, is that Bath is a small touring City which relies on her ancient buildings and environments for the employment of her workers. This puts us in the commerce trade as most of our members are employed in shops, hotels, road transport and local railways, who find it very hard to get away to many of the events held by our many Branches throughout the country. We shall in time be like the early Bath with their hot springs, founded for the retired Roman Legions.

J. P. GRIFFIN.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

Since writing our last notes, there is one change at the top of our "Establishment" and that is that our old friend, Charlie Shaw, is Chairman. Good

show, Charlie! Our monthly meetings have been kept up, with the old faithfuls attending. We wish we could see a few more present as it appears that all the work is being done by this faithful few all the time.

Those of us who attended the London Dinner and Cenotaph Service spoke well of all the arrangements and we were quite thrilled and proud to march behind the Scots Guards Band. Thank you, London, for a grand week-end. On that trip last November I told quite a few people that our dinner would be held on the first Saturday in May. I wish to apologise as the correct date was the last Saturday in April, the 27th.

Mr. Webb and Mr. Pickering are going to make the trip to Halstead to attend their dinner and we regret that a few more of us will not be able to make it.

Our hard-working Secretary is compiling a list of the names and addresses of the members of this Branch which we hope will assist members of other Branches to contact long lost friends. It is nice to see our Mr. Webb, Mr. Hodgetts and Mr. "Nick" Carter are out of hospital and are all on the mend again. Our old friend, Capt. Roberts of Orderly Room fame, tells me that the Newsletter keeps him more in touch with old friends and also the goings on of the Branches; he looks forward to receiving his copy.

I am still waiting to hear from Kohima about our War Graves and hope to be in a position to say something about this in the next issue.

We in Birmingham wish to offer our sincere condolences to the London Branch for knocking Arsenal out of the Cup; it looks as though it will be Chelsea's farewell, too.

P. J. KEEGAN.

BLANDFORD BRANCH

On Sunday, November 12, 1967, Blandford Branch turned out in reasonable strength to join the British Legion Parade at the Remembrance Service in the market place, followed by a service at the church. It was also attended by the Blandford detachment of Cadets and Air Force Cadets, Maj. Bolingbroke taking the parade.

Headaches for me for about two months before the London Cenotaph Service persuading people to make up a bus load. For the last two years we have just managed to make the Parade at fall in. Last year we got lost owing to a diversion; this year we started off at 7.15 a.m. on a nice fine morning. All was going well with a card game started six miles out when the bus conked out, luckily enough alongside a R.A.C. telephone box to which one of our party had a key. Of course there were the usual laments and some of us debussed and started

a game of pitch and toss to while away the time until the relief bus turned up. I was worried about three of my party who were waiting for us six miles further on, but there again my luck was in as the Dorchester bus came in sight, stopped and offered to pick up the three for which again I thank the Dorchester Branch Secretary for his help. Well it was a long wait for the relief and I had to knock off the top of my bottle of rum to pass round. Then someone else had the same idea. However, we started again eventually at about 9 a.m. with the order of "no more stops". By gosh! that driver did co-operate, driving between 60 and 70 m.p.h. and making very good time. However, by the time we reached Hartley Wintney, I decided to have a ten-minute break as one or two of our lady passengers were looking a bit green with the speed of travel. At last we made Whitehall and found "Bolly" fussing like an old hen who had lost her chicks. I had an ex-R.A.F. guest with me when we went to the Drill Hall and his comment was "Can't these Dorset blokes sink it; I haven't had such a good time in years". Thank you, London Branch. We had two stops on the journey home at Hartley Wintney and at the "King's Arms" in Salisbury where there was a good lay-out of grub for the party. Then Home Sweet Home.

On Wednesday, January 24, we had the sad occasion of attending the funeral of a veteran Old Comrade (Bert) Miles (3049) at Pimperne Cemetery. Members of our Branch attending were: C. Wells, (Standard Bearer); Maj. Bolingbroke; Maj. de L. Wilson; L. Dear; W. March; F. Adams; W. Ricketts and H. Rebbeck. Bert was a Service N.C.O. of the local Home Guard during the last war. He was 73. His children requested that his medals should be sent to H.Q.

I have had two letters from Mr. E. C. Mozley of South Africa, and have managed to put him in touch with an old side kick by the name of Alf Winsor who is now writing to him. I hope to be able to send him the address of another mate whom I have reason to believe is in California.

The Blandford Detachment Army Cadet Force are having to move out of their old training hut at the late Territorial Drill Hall and already their own new quarters are under construction. On Saturday, February 24th, 1968, the Cadets are having a recruiting drive in the Blandford marketplace, displaying their weapons and training programme. A few of the older lads appear to be interested in The Wessex Volunteers whom I hear are having a steady intake.

H. REBBECK.

BRIDPORT BRANCH

His many friends will be pleased to hear that Harry Primmer and his wife have arrived safely at Titirangi, New Zealand, after a not too uneventful journey and are now enjoying a good holiday. No doubt Harry will be reporting in Newsletter No. 8 of his deeds (and misdeeds, if any).

We are functioning fairly normally and financially are improving. The Christmas draw was a good financial success and our New Year's party on January 6, was superb, made possible by the excellent services of the joint M.C.s, Bill Hansford and his son-in-law.

No doubt during the coming summer months many Old Dorsets will be holidaying in the Bridport area; as a bus driver I see quite a lot of

visitors and shall look out for Regimental ties or lapel badges. Our meetings are held on the second Monday in the month at "The Tiger Hotel", Barrack Street, at 7.45 p.m. Don't forget to bring the wife as well! Ladies' Section, same place, same time (different room).

The Ladies' Section is also thriving and they have so far been very successful with their functions—jumble sales, coffee mornings, sales of work, etc.

We are holding our annual skittle week at West Bay in the second week in August with many valuable prizes to be won. Most of our members have been keeping well although Jack Williams has had a long bout of sickness and our President, Maj. Slater, has also been poorly.

The Branch dinner was held on Saturday, March 16, at the "Greyhound Hotel". Our guests included Brig. and Mrs. Bredin, Col. and Mrs. Wakely, the Mayor of Bridport and Alderman and Mrs. A. Savage of Dorchester. The fare included roast leg of lamb with all the trimmings and was excellently laid on. The usual toasts were proposed and responded to. Sixty-one guests, members and wives attended the after-dinner dancing to the Bluebird Trio, which lasted until 11.45 p.m. Even after much jumping and hopping about, none of them seemed the worse for wear and it was generally agreed that it was a rare "Do".

We all much regret the passing of Mr. A. Burden on February 10, 1968, at his home at Queen's Road, Bridport. He was aged 62 and for many years an active member of our Branch until ill-health intervened.

HALSTEAD BRANCH

With great regret we report the first death of a member of the Branch. This is Col. "Dusty" Miller, M.C., of Chelmsford who, though never a very active participant, was often in touch with us and ever appreciative of our doings. To Mrs. Miller, our deep sympathy.

Comings and goings include Maj. "Dicky" Richards of Norwich, who reverts to H.Q. Branch (though still remaining on our suspended list) and George Capps of Bardfield whom we cannot persuade to stay on the active list. But there are more coming than goings, we are pleased to say, and we welcome B. W. Lewington of Basildon (1st Bn.); Ben Smith of Haverhill (4th Bn.) and Bob Swan of Billericay and London Branch who becomes an associate member.

Illness, aches and pains continue to affect most of us old gentlemen of the Branch in one way or another and, alas, these are too numerous to mention though names and details are always circulated in our Branch Newsletter.

Activities have included a dance with our Polish Army friends at Oxford last October; a coach outing to London to see the musical "Oliver" following which, by a stroke of good fortune, we joined up with the London Branch for their Christmas gathering, and the annual carol service at Wivenhoe, conducted by Padre Gaye.

Although we have only held annual dinners for the last five years we tend to make somewhat of a splash of them since it is the one time we can be "at home" to the Association and to those guests who have expressed interest in our existence. This year's dinner was held on March 30, and although

the meal itself might have been better, a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all and we managed to double the previous year's dinner attendance. Our very welcome visitors included "Lofty" Woodrow, "Snowy" Gartell and a big contingent from London Branch, representatives from Bath and Birmingham Branches and representative "squads" from our affiliations: the 13th Polish Battalion Association and the Braintree Anglo-Polish Society. Col. Desmond Wakely represented Brig. "Speedy" Bredin and Association H.Q.

The guests of the evening included Mr. Peter Kirk, M.P., Mr. Victor Gares, Press Counsellor of the French Embassy and representing M. de Courcel, the Ambassador. Col. C. Portway, M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., representing the Lord-Lieutenant of Essex. Col. Carter, U.S.A.F. of the 20th Tactical Fighter Wing, U.S.A.F., at Wethersfield, and Maj. R. A. F. Handley, Editor-in-Chief of the "Essex Chronical Series Newspapers", all with their wives. Miss Vera Lynn, who was scheduled to sing for her supper, was unable to make it at the last moment.

The theme of the speeches was France and, appropriately so in view of the proposed 25th Anniversary of "D-Day" visit to Normandy scheduled for next year when it is hoped that many Association members will join us. The French Ambassador sent a personal message as did Gen. Anders, former Polish C.-in-C., Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks and Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. Appropriate to the "French Atmosphere" too, was a telegram received from Madrid which read "Have a wonderful evening. Wish I could be with you. Signed: Brigitte Bardot."

C.P.

LONDON BRANCH

Firstly, we must apologise for the non-appearance of our notes in the last issue and we accept our Secretary's apology, who failed to submit them.

Since the last epistle, there have been many happenings in the Branch, but the two main events, the dinner and dance, followed by the Cenotaph Parade, the next day, were both well supported, and I think the great Service at the Cenotaph was perhaps the most moving event of all. Thanks to the magnificent support of the London Police, Whitehall becomes a part of Dorset for a short period, one day of the year. A special thanks to all Branches who really think their journey is worth while on this one day in November, and to Halstead Branch, who are in a much smaller community than we here in London and must be congratulated on nearly a hundred per cent turnout.

The Branch Christmas party would not have been a success at all as very few members and their wives attended, but fortunately those who did attend, had the pleasure of the company of Halstead Branch, who had been to a show in town and had arranged to meet the "Clarence" before starting their journey home, and as they heard of the party, readily agreed to delay their departure and spent a couple of hours with us, really making the evening.

Perhaps our Secretary's circular may have touched on all the points, but I do feel that many more members could make a greater effort to support these functions. My apologies to those whose circumstances make it impossible to attend, but please let us have a little more support in 1968

and give our Branch officers the encouragement to carry on the good job they are doing.

My regards to all my old "Chinas", who must now be feeling their years. ERIC HONOUR.

Now that our scribe has had his say, I would like to add a few words myself. Our dinner and dance, to be held on Saturday, November 16, will this year be held at the Tavistock Banqueting Rooms, Charing Cross Road, and as an added attraction, we are having a cabaret during the evening. If any Branches have any members interested in attending this eve of Cenotaph dance, would they please inform me, and where possible, overnight accommodation may be arranged.

The Branch on the whole, is going very well. All meetings are well attended and we do see a new face on many occasions, but, there are still a few more faces we would like to see again.

"Spider" Harris would like to know the whereabouts of one J. O'Brien, ex-"C" Company, 1st Bn., about 1936-45. Last known address or whereabouts, was at Feltham, Middlesex.

A final word of thanks to all Branches who contributed wreaths or crosses for the "Field of Remembrance" at St. Margarets, Westminster, last November. Fourteen of these were planted by members of the Branch and a photograph was taken of the Regimental plot. SNOWY GARTELL.

POOLE BRANCH

These are my first notes from Poole Branch and it is hoped not the last. One person whom I must mention is Mr. W. Woodland, who for so many years has been the Branch Welfare Officer and kept the name of the Branch alive. Now he has handed over to an old friend of his, Mr. T. Mitchell, and is going up north to live at Chesterfield. L.S.

PORTSMOUTH BRANCH

Hello, fellow Dorsets! "Pompey calling".

I'm afraid most of our members now are over the 70 mark and we don't see a lot of them. The ex-Servicemen of Portsmouth have joined together and taken over the R.A. Association Building (the old N.A.A.F.I.) at Rugby Camp, forming quite a healthy Club.

Maj. G. Connor, a member of our Branch for a time, has left Portsmouth for Bournemouth and we wish him and his family all the best in their new surroundings.

"Fishy" Tiller of the Signals Section, 2nd Bn. in India and Aldershot, is still the same as ever and sends his best wishes to Herby Drew and all his old pals.

We hope to be sending our usual representatives to Birmingham and Dorchester this year, not forgetting London which, of course, is a must. Congratulations to those who care for us so well after the parade. Although our numbers have decreased, the loyalty of the few remaining is stronger than ever and if at any time anyone visits Pompey and are at a "loose end", please come and see us at the British Legion, Cosham, where you will always find a Dorset. Happy meetings at Dorchester! Cheerio from "Pompey"! C.S.

SHERBORNE BRANCH

This Branch has once again finished another good year both in membership and social activities, having had trips to Barry Island, The New Forest

and to Dorchester for the Annual Reunion. We have been able to run a couple of very successful draws which enabled us to help our sick and older members at Christmas and should like to take this opportunity of thanking those Branches who so kindly helped us to make these draws a success.

This year brought us our 21st Annual General Meeting. On this occasion, our President, Lt.-Col. F. F. Laughler, made a presentation to our Secretary, Mr. W. Batten ("Tich" to us), of a barometer/thermometer engraved "Dorset Regiment Association, Sherborne Branch, Tich. Committee 11.2.47-8.2.68", he having been elected to the first Committee and served continuously since as Committee Member, Social Secretary and Hon. Secretary. He was taken by surprise and lost for words but eventually thanked all those concerned.

The Branch hopes to have a celebration trip this year to commemorate our 21st birthday, first a trip to Bristol to see a show.

We regret the passing of four of our members during the past year, Messrs. T. Walters, W. Anton, F. Wiscombe and F. Dungey. We also regret the passing of Mrs. F. Groves, the wife of Frank Groves of Yeovil. W.B.

SOUTHAMPTON BRANCH

We have had a very welcome enquiry from a 1st Battalion member leaving the Service and hope that he will join us and become a pioneer modern member.

The Southampton Branch of the Association is a vigorous one and our monthly meetings are held at 7.30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the British Legion Club, Bitterne. Thanks to the attractions of the club, the friendliness of the club members and the facilities for the Ladies' Section to hold their meetings there at the same time, first Wednesdays are social occasions.

The club has the envious advantage of the by no means inconsiderable support of Dr. Horace King, the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Major Jackie Vaughan is our very active and extremely capable Chairman; Doughy Baker, our devoted Secretary, and Louis Balman, ex-Devon, our Treasurer. Meetings are well attended; a Branch annual dinner is usually held and trips to the Dorchester Reunion and the Cenotaph Service are organised on a Branch basis.

So if 1st Battalion members leaving the Service are settling in the Southampton area, we would appreciate it if they would get in touch. O.V.B.

WAREHAM & SWANAGE BRANCH

We are pleased to report that we have now attained our 100 membership.

The Christmas draw and social was a great success, although the snow and cold weather prevented some from attending. In February the Branch held its first meeting in Swanage, and as a result, a successful dance and social was held at the Royal Victoria Hotel the following month.

We were saddened by the sudden death in March of (5723659) Bob Marsh. Bob died suddenly after attending a Branch meeting. Jim Dinan (5719233) has been poorly during the winter and has had pneumonia. We hope to see him on his feet again soon.

Soon the summer will be with us and with it will come the crowds of visitors to the Purbecks. During the summer months many people rely on Herbie

Grant (200938, 2nd/4th and School Children's Crossing Officer) for assistance in getting across Wareham's main street. J.N.S.

WEYMOUTH BRANCH

Since the re-formation of the Weymouth Area Branch nine months ago there appear to have been two distinct phases of feeling. At first the initial enthusiasm, which gave us a membership of some 30 names, covering all ranks, from the old veterans of 1914 to the very last recruits of the Territorial Bn. disbanded last March, thus enabling us to be represented at last year's Reunion by a small detachment.

After this successful function, membership increased to about 40, but there I am sorry to say it has remained and attendances have fallen off in the past few months in spite of a splendid Christmas social with "B" Company of the new Dorset Territorials. However, we have a small nucleus of stalwarts who are regular attenders and I hope the others will be able to find the time to bring in any of their friends who have not yet joined.

The Branch meets at 2000 hrs. on the second Tuesday of each month at Bincleaves Drill Hall, Weymouth, and they will be delighted to meet any Old Comrades from other Branches who may be spending their holidays in the vicinity.

Let us rally then to the old call: "We can do it, what is it"? NOT as the wag said, "We did it, what was it" R.F.J.M.

(12th (Airborne) Battalion—continued from p. 64)
Regiment, Maida House, Aldershot, Hants, and mention 6th Airlanding Brigade and 12 Devons.

Hand Over the Loot!

Since we are on the "Give" subject, it has been brought home to us over the last few months that there must be a lot of Museum material lying around in Swedebashers' homes. When you have that annual spring-clean, which for some of you airborne types means once in every five or ten years, don't sling away Loot that has been "de-looted" by the Missus, or you. Maps, badges, army issue books, Nazi flags, escape kits, Army Pay Books, Identification Cards, even those 36-hour Bulford leave passes, could all find a place in either The Devonshire Regiment Museum or The Airborne Forces Museum. If your off-load is too big for either to take in, there are other Continental organisations who are "dead keen" to obtain relics of the Second World War. One Belgium Para-Commando Club we know has been delighted with recent acquisitions. So, remember, don't throw it in the garbage bin, just contact the Museum of your choice.

Visit to Ranville

By the time you read this our eight-strong Normandy rear-party will have sampled the memories of 24-year-old Ranville slit-trench days. Ex-R.S.M.s George Lewis, "Oscar" Farmer, "Robbie" Robinson, Dick Wraxall (ex-12 Devon and 13 Bn., Parachute Regiment), Doug. Sweet and wife and Dick Sweetland and wife, go across for a short stay to take in the Ranville June 6 celebrations. Geoff. Sneezum, a former 12 Devon Officer, now an Imperial War Graves Commission overseer in Normandy, helped greatly with the organisation of

(Continued on page 58)

183 Clarets

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