

SEPTEMBER

1954



The Regimental Magazine  
of  
The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders  
(Princess Louise's)



**Balaclava Centenary  
Number**

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Vol. 8

No. 3

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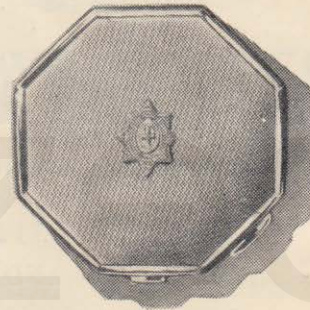


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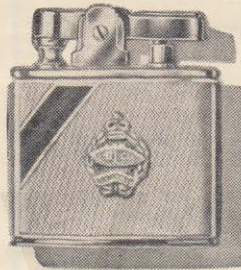
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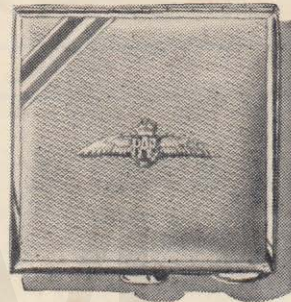
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*The Regimental Magazine of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders  
(Princess Louise's)*

Vol. 8.

September, 1954.

No. 3.

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**EDITORIAL.**

This year the Regiment commemorates the battle of Balaclava, fought one hundred years ago on 25th October, 1854.

Balaclava was chiefly a cavalry battle, the infantry, represented solely by the 93rd Highlanders, playing an important, though almost a subsidiary, part. Yet the stirring account of the part the 93rd played, sent home by the Crimean correspondent of *The Times*, with its graphic reference to "the thin red line," caught the imagination of the British public and gave us a name of which we are justly proud.

To-day, the 93rd as a separate unit is no more; but its glory and its traditions live on with those of the 91st in our First Battalion. And there, as history and recent events have shown, we may very safely leave them.

\* \* \*

**1st BATTALION COMPANY MARCHES.**

In our last number "XCI" asked for the names of the Company marches at present in use in the 1st Battalion. In reply to our enquiry the Adjutant very kindly supplied the following:—

- A Coy., "Cameron Men."
- B Coy., "Glendaruel Highlanders."
- C Coy., "Scotland The Brave."
- D Coy., "Bonnie Dundee."
- H.Q. Coy., "The Back o' Benachie."
- SP. Coy., "The 93rd's Farewell to Parkhurst."

In this number we pay tribute, however inadequately, to Lt.-Colonel Ainslie, his officers and men, who formed the 93rd Highlanders one hundred years ago. In our next issue we will describe at length the various Regimental observances which are to make up our centenary.

## REGIMENTAL NOTES.

### Her Majesty The Queen.

As we went to Press with our last number our Colonel-in-Chief had just left Gibraltar at the conclusion of her tour to the West Indies, Australia and New Zealand. On her arrival home the following telegram was sent:—

"General Sir Gordon MacMillan and all ranks The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, with humble duty, offer their greetings on your safe return."

To which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to reply:—

"I and my husband sincerely thank you and all ranks The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders for their kind message on my return.—ELIZABETH R., Colonel-in-Chief."

### Our Colonel.

All ranks were delighted to learn of the bestowal of a K.C.V.O. on our Colonel by Her Majesty The Queen. We offer him our warmest congratulations, as we would also congratulate him on what were, from all accounts, most admirable arrangements for Her Majesty's highly successful visit to Gibraltar.

We thank him, too, for the inspiring message which he has sent for this centenary number and which we print immediately after these notes.

### Command.

Our heartiest congratulations to Lt.-Colonel B. A. Pearson, D.S.O., on assuming command of the First Battalion.

To his predecessor, Lt.-Colonel J. C. Church, M.C., we would offer our thanks for the interest he always took in this magazine.

### The Birthday Honours.

Congratulations, too, to C.S.M. J. Orr and Sgt. Robertson on their award of a M.B.E. and a B.E.M., respectively.

### Obituary.

We deeply regret to record the deaths of Brigadier L. L. Wheatley, C.M.G., D.S.O., Brigadier Sir Bruce Campbell of Arduaine, K.C.B., C.B.E., T.D., Colonel Alan Stein, O.B.E., M.C., Colonel R. Dickie, O.B.E., Dr. Lewis Sutherland, and Messrs. Hugh McGovern and "Ginger" Dickinson. To their relatives and friends we offer our sincerest sympathy. Obituary notices will be found later in these pages.

### R. S. M.

Not long ago we were privileged to publish a photograph of W.O.I T. Collett, then C.S.M., on his receiving the M.M. for gallantry in Korea. Now we must offer him our further congratulations on his appointment as R.S.M. of the First Battalion.

He relieves R.S.M. "Paddy" Boyde, D.C.M., who goes as R.S.M. to the Depot. To him, also, our congratulations, and to both our best wishes.

### Highland Dancing.

At the Divisional Games at Fort George dancers from the Depot were first in the Foursome Reel, first and second in the Highland Fling, and first, second and third in the Sword Dance. Well done, indeed, Sgt. Olliver, Cpl. Yule, Cpl. Elliott and Pte. Ferguson.

### Pipers and Dancers in Venezuela.

We do not know how much of this magazine our readers skip, but we strongly recommend everyone to read the fascinating account in the First Battalion notes of the visit of a party of pipers and dancers from that Battalion to Venezuela on the occasion of Her Majesty's official Birthday.

### Rugby Football.

To those of our readers who are depressed by Scotland's poor showing in recent years on the rugby field we offer this advice: read the rugby notes of the First Battalion and take some comfort from the fact that in, at least, one quarter of the world Scottish rugby is in fine shape.

## REMEMBERING THE 93rd.

### Customs of the 2nd Battalion preserved to-day in the 1st Battalion.

1. Guard Mounting procedure of the 2nd Battalion is still continued in the 1st Battalion. This keeps the 93rd old and new alive in all ranks' memory.

2. The March Past of the 93rd is played first on all occasions when the Battalion is on ceremonial duty. There will be many readers to-day who will remember the 93rd March from the Ghandab Valley to Peshawar in 1935, when as the Pipes and Drums played our march past, "Hieland Laddie," every man marched past the Brigade Commander as if he had just come out of his Barrack Room to do a ceremonial parade, although they had covered over 40 miles with the temperature over 100 degrees in the shade. It is the same to-day when "Hieland Laddie" is played. All ranks seem to gain a good two inches in height and wish they had the 93rd back again.

3. The tassels of the hair sporran are set by O.R.'s the same way as men of the 93rd used to set them.

4. The Regimental Flag and all signs used by the Battalion carry the figures 91 and 93. This again keeps the 93rd alive in all ranks' memory.

5. "The Pibroch o' Donald Dhu," the 93rd's Fall In, is played when the 1st Battalion falls in for afternoon parades.

6. The motto of the 93rd, "Sans Peur," meaning "Fearless," is the war cry of the 91st to-day.

7. In addition, all soldiers are taught Regimental History (91st and 93rd).

[These notes are supplied by the First Battalion.—Ed.]

# Thoughts on the Balaclava Centenary.

By General Sir GORDON H. A. MACMILLAN, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.,  
Colonel of the Regiment.

On this, the centenary of the Battle of Balaclava, it is appropriate to refresh our memories with extracts from Burgoyne's Historical Records of the XCIII Sutherland Highlanders.

"On the morning of the 25th October (1854) about 7 a.m. . . . the main body of the Regiment under Lt.-Colonel Ainslie, as well as about one hundred invalids of different corps, were drawn up in line on a small hill in front of their encampment . . . having on either flank a battalion of Turks."

When the action commenced certain redoubts on the flanks of the 93rd which were held by Turks were captured by the Russians, who turned the guns on the Regiment. "Sir Colin ordered them to retire under cover of some rising ground immediately in their rear, where they remained for a short time lying down under a fire of artillery till presently a large body of cavalry showed on the opposite side of the plain . . . the order was then given to the Regiment, which was still in line, to rise and advance a short distance to the summit of the rising ground behind which they had lately retired . . ."

"The Russians . . . in one grand line charged in towards Balaclava . . . Gathering speed at every stride they dash on towards that thin red streak tipped with steel . . . The Turks fire a volley at eight hundred yards and run . . . With breathless suspense everyone awaits the bursting of the wave upon the line of Gaelic rock, but ere they come within two hundred yards, another deadly volley flashes from the levelled rifles and carries terror into the Russians. They wheel about, open files right and left, and fly back faster than they came." (Mr. Russell's despatch to *The Times*.)

"At the time the Turks ran away, and just before the 93rd commenced firing, Sir Colin rode down the front of the Regiment and said, 'There is no retreat from here, men! You must die where you stand!' The men answered, 'Ay, ay, Sir Colin, and needs be, we'll do that.' . . . the 93rd never altered their formation to receive that tide of horsemen. 'No,' said Sir Colin Campbell, 'I did not think it worth while to form them even four deep.' The ordinary British line, two deep, was quite sufficient to repel the attack of those Muscovite cavaliers." (Russell.)

"I beg to call Lord Raglan's attention to the gallantry and eagerness of the 93rd Highlanders under Lt.-Colonel Ainslie."

"The Major-General had such confidence in this distinguished Regiment that he was satisfied that it should receive the charge in line, and the result proved that his confidence was not misplaced."

Russian officers of the cavalry that charged the 93rd subsequently said, "Our object was to seize the battery behind you. On our advancing to do so, your Regiment rose as it were by enchantment out of the ground and poured a deadly fire into us, which our horses would not face. We thought

we were running into a trap laid for us and sheered off. Few of us were killed, but nearly every man and horse was wounded."

"The casualties in the 93rd at the Battle of Balaclava only amounted to two men wounded."

\* \* \*

To-day we, as soldiers, devote much attention to the study of methods which will enable British infantry to defeat massed attacks by an enemy, and many Commonwealth troops have actually had practical experience of such operations against Chinese hordes in Korea.

In this story of Balaclava there are contained in a nutshell all the essential ingredients of success, provided we read it aright and apply the principles correctly to modern conditions of warfare.

The determined Highlanders, well briefed and well directed by Sir Colin Campbell, well led by Lt.-Colonel Ainslie and skilfully concealed in perhaps unorthodox but certainly effective dispositions, took the Russians by surprise and were able to defeat by their controlled and disciplined rifle fire a massed attack by cavalry, suffering only infinitesimal casualties themselves.

More than once I have heard it said, "After all, Balaclava was a very small affair. The 93rd only had two men wounded." It is a poor Commander who counts as successes only those battles in which his unit has had heavy losses, and one of the greatest claims to honour which the 93rd can put forward after Balaclava is that their discipline and training enabled them to win a resounding victory with so few casualties.

While determination in battle is no special prerogative of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, we can yet claim that, in the hundred years since Balaclava, the men of 93rd and the 91st, and indeed all battalions of the Regiment, have always been characterised by steadfastness in action.

To-day, when the Army is not as popular a career as in the past and when the long service soldier is becoming more and more of a rarity, it is more important than ever that we should remember the steadiness of The Thin Red Line at Balaclava: and we must remember, too, that simple courage is not enough.

Good leadership and sound training are essential if the British infantry to-day are to be as invincible as they were on that October morning one hundred years ago.

The 93rd no longer exists since its successor, the 2nd Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was amalgamated with the 1st Battalion. Yet that 1st Battalion cherishes the old traditions of the 93rd with its own, and on this proud anniversary I would wish that all members of the Regiment may draw inspiration by the remembrance of this epic tale for continuing success in the future.



Lieut. E. Stotherd, 93rd Highlanders.

# BALACLAVA.

## I.—The Battle.

The Regiment is fortunate in possessing two first-hand accounts of the battle, written by Officers who were with the 93rd that morning.

The first, by Lieut. E. A. Stotherd, has already appeared in *The Thin Red Line*.\* but we do not think it out of place to reproduce it in this centenary number; in fact, we do not think the number would be complete without it.

The second is taken from "Reminiscences of Military Service," by Surgeon-General Munro, M.D., C.B., who was the 93rd's Regimental Surgeon in the Crimea.

Another Officer, Captain, later General Sir John Ewart, describes the action in his autobiography, but on the morning of the battle he was extra-regimentally employed carrying orders for the Commander-in-Chief. To be precise, he spent the early part of the day in persuading General Cathcart to bring his 4th Division to the assistance of the 93rd and so carry out Lord Raglan's orders.

\* Lieut. Stotherd served during the whole of the Crimean Campaign with the Regiment, leaving it on promotion to a Captaincy in the 60th Rifles, only to meet a very gallant death saving life when the troopship "Anglo-Saxon" foundered off Cape Race in 1862.

### LIEUT. STOTHERD'S ACCOUNT.

Writing from Balaklava on 27th October, 1854, Lieut. Stotherd says:—

"I must now tell you all the news, which is plentiful. We have had another pitched battle here at Balaklava, and, thank God, we have been successful and I have escaped unhurt. On the 25th, at daylight, the enemy were observed in great force on our right flank; we ascertained afterwards that they were from 20,000 to 25,000 strong, and with a large force of Artillery of heavy calibre and several thousand of their regular Cavalry. We on the hill received orders to march down (I mean our Regiment only), leaving the Marines to defend the hill. Our Batteries commenced at long shots, and the Russians then commenced shelling the forts in our front and round Balaklava."

After describing how the forts to their front were, in his opinion, somewhat easily abandoned, thereby yielding to the Russians a "famous position," and how two R.A. men, "like Britishers, remained in one or two of the forts or earthworks, fired two or three rounds and then spiked the guns and retired when no longer of use," he continues:—

"We had the fine opportunity of seeing the Russians' attack of the largest and strongest work, this being the one on the extreme right. We were then marching down to join our right

wing, which we did just as the third works were abandoned, and which earthwork was directly in front of our camp. They then advanced the Artillery on the heights thus gained, and at the same time their Cavalry advanced over the crest of the hills and prepared to annihilate our Cavalry, being at least three times their number. During this time our Regiment was advanced in line, more on to the plain, and covered in skirmishing order by the Lt. Coy., which I had the honour of commanding. Out I went and was obliged to lie down with my Company, the round shot and shells flying from the opposite guns very thick. At last one round struck the ground in front of the centre of our skirmishers and lodged in our line, cutting over two poor fellows, striking one man in the knee, but only a graze, and completely smashing the foot of a man in the rear of him, whose leg had to be taken off below the knee.

"Sir Colin Campbell then thought it time to retire our Regiment under the edge of a small ridge and to lie down. When I was called in and went to my place on the left with the Lt. Coy., the enemy's Cavalry were at the same time advancing on our Cavalry, who were on our left some quarter of a mile off. On went the enemy's Cavalry, about, I should say, at least 4,000 strong, and when close to our Cavalry the splendid body of Greys rode out and charged them. In they went, and for a moment every-one thought they were all cut to pieces, but, no, although all we could see was a red coat here and there in the thick of the Russian grey, still through they went, and then right about and through again—the 4th and 1st Royal Dragoons charging another body and doing it equally brilliantly. What a charge that was! Never was seen a finer one and more successful. They completely routed the enemy's Cavalry, who began to retire, and finally went to the right about and retired where they came from, getting under cover of their guns. Our Cavalry could not follow them up without great loss, so were ordered to retire.

"Now for the 93rd. In the first place, you must know that our Regiment, with the exception of the Turks, were the only Infantry down from Sebastopol, and thank goodness we were, as we got all the honour and, I may say, richly deserved all the little praise we got. After the Cavalry charge, two bodies of the enemy's Cavalry formed and came straight at us, or rather at the Turks, who appeared in masses on our flanks. We were not seen by them on the tops of the hill as they were, being under the edge and lying down. As they came, we rose and advanced on to the edge of the hill, and gave them three British cheers and peppered them so much that they turned and swerved away, and they finally beat a retreat at a hard gallop, leaving many a corpse behind. This

\* Vol. 1, No. 3, September, 1947.

## FRENCH LITHOGRAPH OF BALAKLAVA.



This is a reproduction of a coloured lithograph, entitled, "Repulse of the Russian Cavalry by Sir Colin Campbell's Highlanders on the 25th October, 1854, at Balaklava." It is taken from a sketch by a Lieutenant in the Chasseurs d'Afrique.

finished the enemy's advance. They were then beaten back by our Cavalry, who re-took the work in front and recaptured two of our guns, which we found with the spokes of the wheels all hacked and cut about. However, they were brought off, and the Guards and rest of our Division and 4th Division came down, but had nothing much to do, as the enemy retired behind the range of hills to the right, and Lord Raglan did not like to attack their position, as he could not spare the troops from Sebastopol. The French worked round on the other side of the range of hills in front of us; in fact, the range on which our front line of works were, and their light Cavalry did a very brilliant stroke of business. They charged on the right flank of the enemy, and, rushing up to a battery before they could limber up, spiked all the guns and took them—spiked them first in case they could not hold them.

"Now for the worst part of the news. The Lt. Cavalry went in the same direction as the French Lt. Cavalry, but were there first, and, by some mistake, or something that has not yet been explained, gallantly charged the enemy's troops on the other side of the hill, and found themselves flanked and raked in front by two strong Field Batteries, being awfully cut up. In fact, Lord Cardigan said to Lord Raglan that, out of the 800 he had charged with, he could only muster 200. I cannot explain how it happened, as no one appears to know.

"Now for the remarks re the conduct of the 93rd. Lord Raglan stood on the heights on this side of Sebastopol looking on, and said afterwards that he thought we should have been cut up to a man. He was surrounded by all the French Generals and staff, who cheered like mad when they saw us turn the Cavalry. I must close, as a sudden call for letters."

## THE REGIMENTAL SURGEON'S ACCOUNT.

The following account is from "Reminiscences of Military Service" by Surgeon-General Munro, M.D., C.B., formerly Surgeon of the Regiment, published by Hurst & Blackett in 1883:—

"After the first week of October we occasionally saw single horsemen, and several times small groups of horsemen made their appearance on the distant heights towards the north-east of our position at Kadikoi, who, after hovering about for a short time, disappeared again. We therefore concluded that the Russians were collecting in our neighbourhood, but until the morning of 25th October the Regimental Officers did not know what was gathering round us, and were not aware of the proximity of a large force of the enemy, composed of all arms of the service.

"At an early hour that morning, however, just after we had stood to our arms, as was customary, we were startled by the boom of a gun away in the distance on our right, followed almost immediately by the nearer report of answering guns, and by wreaths of white smoke curling upwards from our No. 1 Redoubt. I was standing with the Regiment at the time and

remained with it to witness the battle of Balaklava, from the firing of the first gun to the charge of the heavy Cavalry Brigade.

"After the first exchange of shots, the firing became more rapid, and from a number of guns, Under cover of these, masses of Russian Infantry advanced from the east in the direction of the redoubt, throwing forward clouds of skirmishers as they approached. The guns of the redoubt, meanwhile, kept up a constant fire. This, however, failed to arrest the advance of the Russians, who swarmed round the base of the hill, ascended its sloping side, and threw themselves over the breastwork. In a few minutes afterwards the Turks retired from the redoubt in confusion, the crescent flag was hauled down, and almost immediately hoisted again, but with another flag, a yellow one, it appeared to me, flying above it.

"When the Turks vacated, or rather were driven out of No. 1 Redoubt, those in 2, 3, and 4 retired also, and all came streaming across the plain, pursued by Cavalry, in the direction of the 93rd, which was drawn up in line on the crest of Highlanders' Hill, with a small body of the Rifle Brigade (invalids, who had been sent up from Balaklava), under Captain Inglis of that

## ANOTHER FRENCH VERSION.



This carries the inscription:—"La Brigade Ecosaise a Balaklava soutant le choc de la cavalerie Russe et la met en fuite."

Regiment, and with a Turkish Battalion on either flank. Mr. Kinglake states that a few of the Guards also were present in line with the 93rd. Of course, he must be right, but I did not see any of the Guards. I speak confidently of the presence of a small party of the Rifle Brigade, for I saw them, and exchanged greetings with Captain Inglis, whom I knew intimately.

"As soon as the Turks had retired from Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Redoubts, a large body of Russian Infantry appeared between Nos. 2 and 3, accompanied by Artillery, which opened fire at once on the 93rd and Turks, causing a few casualties. Two of the 93rd were wounded, one of them losing his leg and the other being severely bruised by a splinter of shell. Sir Colin, observing these casualties, ordered us to retire, and to shelter ourselves by lying down behind the crest of the hill. This movement was executed quickly, and it appeared to me that this startled and shook the Turkish Battalions a little.

"While we were lying under the crest of the hill, a Battery of our own (Captain Barker's, I think), and two of our guns on the high ground above and behind us, under the command of Wolf (an old Canadian friend of mine), kept up a fire upon the Russians; and I saw two shells fired from these guns (Wolf's) burst close over the very centre of the Russian column, which immediately retired to the north side of the captured redoubts.

"Just at this time a great mass of Russian Cavalry came into view, and rode slowly down towards the plain; and, as this great body of horse moved westwards, a considerable body detached itself, and, wheeling south, advanced in our direction at a brisk pace, which gradually increased to a gallop. While they were approaching, Sir Colin ordered the 93rd and Turks to reform line on the crest of the hill; and, as we were doing so, the two Companies of the Regiment, which had been detached, under the command of Major Gordon, arrived, and took up their position in the line. Thus we stood for a few seconds, while the Cavalry was rapidly nearing us. But the Turkish Battalions on our flanks began to get unsteady, and at last fairly turned, broke, and bolted. It was at this moment that Sir Colin rode along the front of the 93rd, telling the Regiment to be 'steady,' for, if necessary, every man should have 'to die where he stood.' He was answered by the universal and cheery response, 'Ay, ay, Sir Colin; we'll do that.'

"I write exactly what I saw and heard. The men of the 93rd were in excellent spirits, burning to fight; and I do not think there was a single soldier standing in the line who had an anxious thought as to our isolated and critical position, or who for a moment felt the least inclination to flinch before the charge of the advancing Cavalry. On the contrary, they appeared to have settled themselves firmly where they stood to receive the expected shock, and to be pleased that everything depended on themselves in what

they expected was to be a regular hand-to-hand struggle.

"When Sir Colin thought that our Minié rifles might reach the enemy, he ordered the line to fire a volley; but, when the smoke from this had blown aside, we saw that the Cavalry was still advancing straight for the line. A second volley rang forth, and then we observed that there was a little confusion in the enemy's ranks, and that they were swerving to our right.

"The men of the 93rd at that moment became a little, just a little, restive, and brought their rifles to the charge, manifesting an inclination to advance, and meet the Cavalry halfway with the bayonet. But old Sir Colin brought them sharply back to discipline. He could be angry, could Sir Colin, and when in an angry mood spoke sharp and quick, and, when very angry, was given to use *emphatic* language; and such he made use of on that occasion. The men were quiet and steady in a moment; and then the Grenadiers, under my old friend, Ross, were ordered to change front, and fire a volley. This third volley was at much nearer range than the previous ones, and caught the Cavalry in flank as they were approaching, apparently with the intention of passing by our right. It shook them visibly, and caused them to bend away to their own left until they had completely wheeled, when they rode back to their own Army, followed by a burst of wild cheering from the ranks of the 93rd, which, from that day, has been spoken of as 'The Thin Red Line,' and, as I have already said, is the only Infantry Regiment which bears upon its colours the word 'Balaklava.'

"The Highlanders were a good deal elated and proud to think that, under their old chief and in sight of three Armies, they had stood in line only two deep to receive the charge of European Cavalry."

## II.—How the News reached Home.

The first official news of the battle to reach the British public was contained in a message printed in *The Times* on 4th November, 1854, from Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, dated 28th October, midnight.

"The Captain of an English steam transport, which left Balaklava on the evening of 26th, confirms in great part the information brought this morning by a French ship, and transmitted immediately to London by way of Marseilles.

"It appears that the Russians attacked the forts in the vicinity of Balaklava on the 28th. Their numbers are supposed to have been about 30,000 men. The attack was unexpected. The Cossacks preceded the infantry. To resist them at first there were Ottoman troops and Scotch.

"The Turks gave way, and even spiked the guns, which, seized by the Russians, were turned against them.

"The Scotch, on the contrary, remained firm in their position."

Nine days later, on 13th November, 1854, *The Times* published the Commander-in-Chief's despatch. In it Lord Raglan refers to the 93rd:—

"The Russian Cavalry at once advanced, supported by Artillery, in very great strength. One part of them assailed the front and right flank of the 93rd and were instantly driven back by the vigorous and steady fire of that distinguished Regiment, under Lieut-Colonel Ainslie."

THE ORIGIN OF THE PHRASE:  
THE THIN RED LINE.

Next day, 14th November, *The Times* published Sir W. H. Russell's famous despatch from the Crimea. The wording of this excerpt should be carefully noted, for its author was to change it subsequently more than once!

"The ground flies beneath their horses' feet; gathering speed at every stride, they dash on towards that thin red streak topped with a line of steel."

Later "topped" was changed to "tipped," as in the extract from the despatch our Colonel quotes in his "Thoughts on the Balaclava Centenary" written for this number of our magazine.

Later still, when asked about the authorship of "the thin red line," Sir W. H. Russell claimed to have originated it:—

"But I wrote tipped, not topped, and in a subsequent collection of the letters, entitled 'The British Expedition to the Crimea,' published by Routledge in 1877, the words are (page 156) *thin red line tipped with steel*. How they came to be printed in italics I cannot say, but I certainly did not intend them for a quotation."

Sir W. H. Russell may have written "tipped," but *The Times*, on 14th November, 1854, certainly printed "topped," for I have verified this in the files of the paper in the Edinburgh Public Library.

And so the matter has rested till on 19th April of this year, when the author of an article in *The Scotsman* wrote:—

"MYSTERY OF A PHRASE.

"In correspondence with Captain Harris, in 1895, Sir W. H. Russell claimed to have originated the title, 'thin red line.' Perhaps he did. He may have altered the first wording before his book was published. But public utterance of the phrase came from Lord Provost James Cowan of Edinburgh on Saturday, 10th May, 1873—four years before the book came out.

"The Lord Provost was addressing the 93rd Highlanders at a farewell parade before they left Edinburgh after being stationed in the Capital for two years, and in the course of his address he said, 'There are many still in the Regiment who formed part of the "thin red line" at Alma and Balaclava.' In the report contained in the files of *The Scotsman*, the three words are in inverted commas, indicating that the Lord Provost was quoting from another source."

III.—Retrospect.

What is Balaclava's place in history? Had it any special military importance beyond the fact that the town and harbour, used as a fortified base for the Army in front of Sevastopol, were saved? The answer is Yes, Balaclava has its special niche in history.

In *The Thin Red Line* of November, 1934, on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the battle, G.I.M. wrote:—

"In estimating, therefore, the military value of this feat of arms, we must first of all consider that it was performed by a Battalion which had seen no active service for 40 years, until it received its 'baptism of fire' at the battle of Alma a month previously. There were, consequently, no war veterans in its ranks.

"Then we should note that during those 40 years, all their drill and training had taught them that Cavalry must either be received 'four deep' or in 'square'—a survival of Wellington's Peninsula tactics.

"The point of the achievement is, therefore, that the discipline of the 93rd was such that it was able, notwithstanding all its training to the contrary, to face charging Cavalry in line with both its flanks exposed. It was, in fact, a severe test of discipline and fire control from which the 93rd emerged very creditably."

Later, in the same article, he commented on the happy chance which left Sir Colin Campbell in charge of the Balaclava base instead of with the remainder of his Brigade in front of Sevastopol.

"In the first place, Sir Colin was a seasoned veteran in contra-distinction to the Officers and men of the 93rd. His experience of war was wide, and had included service in the Peninsula War, in America, in China and the Punjab; and, apart from being the senior Officer present, he was, from all accounts, the type of man who would have assumed command in any emergency.

"In the second place, he was undoubtedly a man of action, as he proved again later on in the Indian Mutiny.

"His first idea . . . was to use the Battalion in a counter-attack to recapture the Turkish redoubts, but he appears quickly to have realised the impossibility of this movement, and almost immediately afterwards to have appreciated the unexpected threat of the enemy Cavalry against the British Battery.

"The enemy was first seen about a thousand yards away charging the Battery (not the Battalion, which was behind the hill). If we allow the speed of charging Cavalry to be somewhere about 15 to 30 miles per hour, we may conclude that the 93rd had not more than 1½ minutes in which to prepare to meet the charge. Every second was vital, for the volume of fire could not possibly exceed two volleys, since the effective range of their Minié rifles was no more than 500 yards; and it is more than possible that a hurried attempt to execute a drill-book

movement would have been rudely interrupted by the unchecked onslaught of the Cavalry, who would then have been able to effect considerable damage.

"Be that as it may, Sir Colin Campbell, whom many a battle had trained to think rapidly in emergency, instinctively played the right card in the circumstances by producing his Infantry with their two volleys quite unexpectedly from behind a hill. Personally, I have no doubt that this brilliant application of the principle of 'surprise' proved the decisive factor that day, as, in fact, the survivors of the enemy later admitted."\*

In some recent correspondence in *The Scotsman* the question of the type of Minié rifle the 93rd had was raised. This is answered, as was pointed out, by General Sir John Ewart in his autobiography:—

"Minié rifles were issued to the whole of the troops before leaving Scutari, and we got ours on 27th May, 1854. The Regiment had previously, when in England, received about 250, which had been given to the best shots; but it was a bad plan to have two sorts of ammunition in use, and we were, therefore, very glad to be now altogether relieved of the old muskets."

As the writer pointed out, "this might indicate that the Minié's were new and not modified old smooth-bores."

And during the same correspondence Mr. Arthur Birnie commented:—

"It was their rifles that enabled the 93rd to defeat the Russian Cavalry,"

and he concludes his letter:—

"In fact, no one seems to have realised that The Thin Red Line marked a turning-point in the history of military tactics. The Cavalry ceased to be a striking arm. The failure of some gallant charges in the Franco-German War fully demonstrated this. At Wörth, the courageous attempt of Michel's Cuirassiers to cover the retreat of the French Infantry led to its almost complete destruction. At Mars la Tour, Bredow's Brigade came back from its famous 'todesritt' with less than half its strength.

"The day of the Cavalryman was not entirely over. He had still useful functions to perform, but he was no longer a decider of battles. It is curious that this should have been first clearly revealed at Balaclava, which, apart from The Thin Red Line, was mainly a Cavalry battle."

But over all, making it all possible, was the courage and discipline of the 93rd, of which we are as proud to-day as were those spectators of their action who cheered and waved from the neighbouring heights as the Russian Cavalry swung away to rejoin their own forces.



**BALACLAVA.**

Theirs is the glory, they, the Ninety-Third,  
Highlanders all and with that Highland fame  
Extolled anew, immortal as their name.

Nobly they stood, as in that painting shown  
In line extended, thin red line indeed  
Nerved into action by the odds opposed,  
Emerging thence like rock that had withstood  
The seas that foamed from off its battled front,  
Yet steadfast still in face of fierce assault.

Time doth but add to that immortal fame  
Held on those fields that veterans have known  
In recent years, and e'en remoter still.  
Right royal, too, as Thin Red Line became,  
Delville accords with Balaclava fame.

J. M. S.

\* See "History of the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders" (Cavendish), page 103.

# BALACLAVA CENTENARY.

## Regimental Observances.

The principal observances will take place at Stirling Castle, the Headquarters of the Regiment, and in Glasgow Cathedral, where the Colours carried by the 93rd at Balaclava were laid up in 1857 and rest above a Memorial to the Fallen of the Regiment in the Crimean War. Associated with these observances will be a "salute" at the Cairn at Skail in Strathnaver, Sutherlandshire, commemorating the raising of the Regiment in 1800, and the laying of a wreath at the Memorial Plaque in Dornoch Cathedral to the Fallen of the 93rd at the Battle of New Orleans in North America in 1815.

The tribute at Stirling Castle will take the form of a Ceremonial Parade of Regular and Territorial Army Units of the Regiment on the Esplanade on the afternoon of Saturday, 9th October. The Colours of the 2nd Battalion, laid up in the Castle on the suspension of the Battalion in 1947, will be brought on parade in token of its Sutherland ancestry. The massed Pipers and Drummers of the Depot and the Territorial Army Units will take part in the parade, and will later beat "Retreat" on the Esplanade.

In the evening of 9th October a "Rally" of serving and retired members of the Regiment and their families will be held in the Albert Hall in Stirling, when a dramatic production, "The Thin Red Line," commemorating the Honour won by and the title accorded to the 93rd in the Battle of Balaclava, will be presented.

A Commemoration Service, attended by personnel of the Regiment and members of the Regimental Association, will take place in the Church of the Holy Rude in Stirling on the morning of Sunday, 10th October.

The tribute to the 93rd Colours and Memorial in Glasgow Cathedral will be associated with the morning service on 24th October. The Colours of the 2nd Battalion will be brought to the service, and the Regiment will be represented by Regular and Territorial Army detachments. A wreath will be laid at the Memorial by members of the Regimental War Memorial Club in Glasgow, whose custom it is to pay this tribute every year on or about 25th October.

Applications for admittance to (a) the Ceremonial at Stirling Castle on 9th October; (b) the Rally in the Albert Hall, Stirling, on 9th October; (c) the Service in the Church of the Holy Rude on 10th October; (d) the service in the Glasgow Cathedral on 24th October, should be addressed as follows:—

(a) by members of the Regimental Association—to Regimental Memorial Home, Valley Lodge, Stirling, between 16th August and 18th September;

(b) by all serving officers and other ranks, including the Territorial Army, and all ex-officers and other ranks, including the Territorial Army, who are not members of the Association—to O.C. Regimental H.Q. and Depot, Stirling Castle, by 18th September.

It may be necessary to limit the number of tickets to each applicant if numbers wishing to attend exceed accommodation available.

The "Salute" at Skail in Sutherland will be given by surviving members of the 2nd Battalion of 1914, which erected the Cairn in the summer of that year shortly before leaving Fort George for France and the First World War. They will be supported by representatives of Regimental Headquarters and of the 11th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, T.A., the descendants of the old Sutherland Volunteers. The Seaforth Highlanders, whose Regimental area includes the former recruiting ground of the 93rd Highlanders, is joining in this tribute to the Sutherland Regiment and also in the service in Dornoch Cathedral which follows. Those tributes will be paid on 26th August at 12.45 p.m. and 6 p.m.

The London Branch is holding its annual Balaclava anniversary dinner on Saturday, 16th October, and will observe the tradition of laying a wreath in memory of the Fallen of the Regiment, with special regard to the Fallen of the 93rd in the Crimea, at the Crimean Memorial in London on Sunday, 17th October.

Finally, advantage is being taken of the gathering in Stirling to hold the Officers' annual dinner in Scotland in the Golden Lion Hotel on the evening of Friday, 8th October.

### PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

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All subscriptions and communications regarding the sale and distribution of the Magazine should be addressed to the Treasurer, *The Thin Red Line*, The Castle, Stirling. Readers are particularly requested to forward to the Treasurer the names of any Argylls known to them who are not subscribers to the Magazine.

Subscription rates are:—Per copy, 2/4; per copy (post free), 2/6. Annual subscription (post free), 7/6.

## BALAKLAVA

1854-1954

*One hundred years ago they stood, immovable,  
as stood their fathers forty years before  
at New Orleans.*

*They, too, held their ground  
by the same Virtues—Courage, Discipline,  
and a stout Confidence in their Commander.  
Now, on a hundred widely separate fields,  
those Qualities have all been manifest  
by their own Regiment where Duty called.*

\* \* \*

*Changed is the World and all its ways of War:  
Constant the Values that shall qualify  
To-morrow's men to stand with Yesterday's  
beside their forebears of "The Thin Red Line."*

## OBITUARY.

**Brigadier Sir BRUCE A. CAMPBELL, K.C.B.,  
C.B.E., T.D., Lord Lieutenant of Argyllshire.**

In 1908 Brigadier Campbell joined the Scottish Horse and was its Adjutant at the start of the first world war. During the war he served as Staff Captain and Brigade Major, and for his services in Gallipoli was mentioned in despatches.

After the war he rejoined the Scottish Horse and commanded it from 1928 to 1933. In 1932 he was given a Brevet Colonelcy, and after completing his period in command of the Scottish Horse he was appointed to command our 8th Battalion, and held the command till 1938.

Promoted Colonel in 1939, he was in command of an Infantry Brigade when war started. In 1940 he was given charge of the Angus Sub-District, and was there till 1943, when he was appointed Commandant of the Army Cadet Force in Scotland.

In 1940 he was made Honorary Colonel of the 8th Battalion, and remained its Colonel until 1953.

A brother Officer writes:—

"In 1933 he was appointed to command the 8th (Argyllshire) Battalion, after finishing command of the Scottish Horse, in which he had served for 25 years. He brought to the Battalion a wealth of experience of Territorial affairs, and a deep knowledge and sympathetic understanding of the peculiar conditions prevailing in the County of Argyll. It was fortunate for the 8th Argylls that he was also Chairman of the Territorial Association and one of the Scottish representatives on the General Council of such Associations in Great Britain. In those circles, and at Headquarters, Scottish Command, his sound views on the Territorial problems of Argyllshire were always received with respect—and with consequent advantages to his Battalion. No arbitrary regulation for the whole Army was ever allowed to apply to the 8th Argylls without a respectful protest on his part; and, if that proved insufficient, a personal visit to the "right quarter," regardless of his own convenience, would usually produce the desired result.

"One of the first opinions he expressed on

assuming command was that the Battalion must learn to stand on its own feet and not rely on the Permanent Staff, who would probably be posted elsewhere on mobilisation. To this end, he delegated wide powers to his Company Commanders throughout the year, and he never allowed the P.S.I.'s to command any sub-unit on training, but used them instead as umpires. Those who were then serving under him will remember his habit of keeping the Officers for a conference after an exercise and sending the Battalion with the Pipes and Drums marching back to camp under the senior Territorial Warrant Officer. Though these and other measures were not invariably approved by "Higher Authority," there is no doubt that they paid dividends when war came, as one of his critics later acknowledged. He was indeed a fine Territorial Commanding Officer, who held the affection and the confidence of his officers and his men."

And C.H. writes:—

"It was my privilege to edit for a period during the war the Regimental Newsletter. At that time Sir Bruce Campbell was in Angus and frequently visited Perth. He seldom left that city without coming to Queen's Barracks and giving me his latest news of the 7th Battalion, which Ian had sent him, and of the 8th Battalion, with which his numerous friends in that Battalion had posted him. He took a great interest in our News Letter, and, by his kindly encouragement and practical assistance, greatly helped in its production."

#### **Brigadier L. L. WHEATLEY, C.M.G., D.S.O.**

Brigadier Wheatley joined the Regiment as a Captain from 45th Rattray's Sikhs, Indian Army, in 1908. He had seen much service on the North-West Frontier of India in the preceding ten years, and had been mentioned in despatches and awarded the D.S.O. for his part in the defence of Chakdarra Fort in 1898, where he was wounded.

In 1911 he was appointed A.D.C. to the Governor of Victoria, and on his return to England in 1913 he went to Sandhurst as an Instructor. He left Sandhurst in 1915 to be Staff Captain of a Brigade in France. Rapid promotion to the command of a Brigade followed. Five times mentioned in despatches, he received a bar to his D.S.O. and was created C.M.G.

After the war he served as Military Secretary to the Governor-General of Australia before retiring in 1921.

#### **Colonel A. STEIN, O.B.E., M.C.**

A former 7th Battalion Officer writes:—

"Colonel Stein joined the ranks of the 4th Volunteer Battalion of the Regiment on 24th March, 1906, and on the formation of the Territorial Force he was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the 7th Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, which had sprung into being from the ashes of the 4th and 7th Volunteer Battalions.

"On the outbreak of the first World War he mobilised with his Battalion, and with it crossed to France in December, 1914. In the four years of war he saw much active service, gained the

M.C. with Bar, was twice Mentioned in Despatches, and rose to be second in command of his Battalion. The fact that he was three times wounded undoubtedly prevented his getting a command.

"After the first World War, Colonel Stein was the automatic choice for command of the 7th Battalion, and the Brevet Colonelcy he received on handing over the Battalion in February, 1924, was a well-merited recognition of his work in the re-forming and re-making of his old Battalion.

"Appointed to the T.A. Reserve with the rank of Colonel in 1925, he remained on that reserve till he attained the age limit for his rank. During the years of the second World War, he was far from idle. In October, 1939, he was appointed Honorary Colonel of our 10th Battalion, and later he commanded the 2nd Stirlingshire Battalion of the Home Guard.

"In addition to his duties as Chairman of the Territorial Army and Air Force Association—an association in whose interests he had been active since 1920—he was an Honorary Colonel of the 2nd Stirlingshire Battalion of the Army Cadet Force.

"Truly, Colonel Stein deserved well of his Regiment, and, in particular, of its 7th Battalion, whose members, particularly those who fought and served with him in the first World War, will learn with much sorrow of his death."

#### **Colonel ROBERT DICKIE, O.B.E.**

Colonel Dickie died suddenly in Glasgow on 21st July. We regret we have been unable to obtain particulars of his service, but hope to have them in time for our next number.

#### **Sergeant DICKINSON.**

Sergeant "Ginger" Dickinson died recently after a long illness, in which he was most lovingly nursed and looked after by his sister, Mrs. Stevenson, 9 Ferguson Street, Paisley.

Sgt. Dickinson was Provost Sergeant of the First Battalion from 1919 to 1926.

#### **Dr. LEWIS SUTHERLAND.**

Dr. Sutherland, minister of the Church of The Holy Rude, Stirling, and Presbyterian Padre at the Depot, died on 14th July.

O.C. Depot represented the Regiment at his funeral, and a strong detachment from the Depot attended a memorial service in his church on 19th July.

All who served at the Depot, or who knew Dr. Sutherland, know him for a very good friend of the Regiment, who will be greatly missed.

#### **Mr. HUGH McGOVERN.**

The Secretary of the A. & S. H. Memorial Club wrote on 15th July:—

"We have to-day laid to rest in the Mount Vernon Cemetery, Liberton, Edinburgh, our late member, Hugh McGovern. His funeral was well attended by his fellow Club members. Hugh was with the Regiment at Mons."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

**THE LATE LT.-COL. G. W. MUIR.**

From Major H. H. M. Marston, M.C., Middle East Land Forces, dated 29th June, 1954.

The death of Lt.-Col. G. W. Muir was mourned in one, perhaps, unusual place. There is in Moascar Garrison, in the Canal Zone, a small photographer's shop, owned and run by an elderly Armenian named Sarkis. He was the official photographer to the 91st in Cairo in 1925, and still talks with pride and happiness of his association with the Regiment. Above all, he revered Colonel Muir, and I have had many a conversation about the Colonel when taking my films in to the old man for processing.

The news of the death of Colonel Muir was a great shock to him, and he was very upset. Eventually he disappeared into the back shop, at the same time begging me to wait. I did so, and eventually he reappeared with two mementoes of the Regiment which had apparently been in his possession for thirty years. I enclose them both, a copy of the *Egyptian Mail*, dated 14th January, 1927, with a group photograph on the front page of the 1st Battalion A. & S.H., winners of the Roberts Hughes Cup, and a postcard size photograph taken by Sarkis himself of Colonel Muir mounted upon "Jimmy."

[It is regretted that lack of space does not permit the publication of these photographs.—Ed.]

**ROBERT GIBB'S PICTURE.**

From Lt.-Col. D. Darroch of Gourrock, Swanston Cottage, Lothianburn, Edinburgh, 10, dated 13th August, 1954.

I have been given some information on the subject of the famous picture by Mr. Robert Gibb which has figured on the cover of the Regimental Magazine for the past fifty years.

The original picture was painted by Mr. Gibb in 1881. When he was painting it he had a portable studio anchored in a field on the farm of West Kinleish, near Currie, Midlothian. The faint outline of a hill at the back of the Russian Cavalry is Black Hill in the Pentlands. The figure of a Sergeant on the right of the centre rank behind the Officer is Michael Stark, who was dressed up in uniform for the purpose. He was the blacksmith at Currie. An old woman in the village of Currie said it was a remarkably good likeness of Stark, even down to his hands.

I wonder if any other of your readers have any more information about this picture, and can they tell us who the other individuals are who are shewn in it.

Can you ascertain from your files any record of when this picture of "The Thin Red Line" first appeared on the cover of the Regimental Magazine?

[O.C. Depot very kindly made search and reports "the full picture of 'The Thin Red Line' appeared first in the magazine in May, 1903. Before that all that we printed of the picture was the first few files of the line."—Ed.]

**LONGSTOP HILL MEMORIAL.**

From Lt.-Col. G. I. Malcolm of Poltalloch, D.L., Kilmartin, Argyll, dated 13th July, 1954.

The French have behaved very generously in their remembrance of British battles in Tunisia. Not only did they erect a memorial on Green Hill, as you have already reported, but I have now heard of another at Longstop Hill, of which I send you a photograph.

Though you cannot see it, the inscription reads as follows:—

LONGSTOP HILL.

La colline du long arrêt.

1re ARMÉE BRITANNIQUE.

Prise 23-24 Decembre, 1942.

The Coldstream Guards.

Reprise 24 April, 1943.

Argylls, Surreys, Kents.

Although the latter date should read "23rd April," it is heartening to know that this battle, peculiar to the 8th (Argyllshire) Battalion, is remembered by our Allies.

**ROBERT GIBB'S PICTURE.**

From "Inquirer," dated 5th August, 1954.

I was once told by no less a person than the then R.S.M. at the Depot that there were five mistakes in Mr. Gibb's famous picture of "The Thin Red Line."

The R.S.M. pointed out what he had been told were three of the mistakes and apologised for not knowing the other two. I regret I cannot remember what the three mistakes were, but I think they are related to dress.

Can Colonel Malcolm, or any other authority on dress, say if there are any mistakes—or was my leg being very successfully pulled?

**TRADE IN HUMAN BONES.**

From Brigadier I. M. Stewart, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.,  
Achnacone, Appin, Argyll, dated 20th August, 1954.

You recently published a most interesting article on a 93rd button that had returned from the Crimea in a load of bone manure. The enclosed extract from *The Observer* of 18th November, 1822, shows that the trade in human bones was a quite normal one after a war.

**"HUMAN BONES.**

**"WAR AND COMMERCE.**—It is estimated that more than a million bushels of human and inhuman bones were imported last year from the Continent of Europe into the port of Hull. The neighbourhood of Leipsic, Austerlitz, Waterloo, and of all the places where, during the late bloody war, the principal battles were fought, have been swept alike of the bones of the hero and of the horse which he rode. Thus collected from every quarter, they have been shipped to the port of Hull, and thence forwarded to the Yorkshire bone grinders, who have erected steam engines and powerful machinery for the purpose of reducing them into a granular state. In this condition they are . . . sold to the farmers to manure their lands."

**KING EDWARD VII'S HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS,  
Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, London, W.1.**

The extension to the Hospital has been completed, the original building has been brought up to date, and the Hospital is now provided with the very latest equipment.

As is already known, the Hospital has a consulting staff of eminent physicians and surgeons, and patients who desire to avail themselves of their services are charged in accordance with their means on a scale agreed by the Council. Patients may, however, still make their own arrangements with any physician or surgeon of their choice if they so desire.

A number of ward beds are set aside for serving Officers, who are entitled to free bed, nursing and maintenance. Extra charges are cut down to a minimum and are constantly reviewed, and the ability of the patient to pay is always considered. We have recently introduced a Samaritan Fund to assist those in financial need.

The Hospital is mainly for surgical and medical cases, and has its own Medical Officer (from whom preliminary advice can be obtained without charge), a Physiotherapist, and an X-ray apparatus.

The Hospital has been disclaimed by the Minister of Health, and is therefore entirely dependent on voluntary support. Subscribers, who are entitled to special rates, are asked to pay £1 yearly by Bankers' Order, which can be obtained from the Honorary Appeal Secretary, 15 Ormond Yard, Duke of York Street, London, S.W.1, who will also be pleased to receive donations.

All Officers, serving and retired, permanent and temporary, are eligible for admission.

**WHO AND WHERE ARE THEY?**

We have been asked to identify these two officers. Can anyone identify them and place the photograph? Will anyone who can, please write to the Editor at 6 Buckstone Terrace, Edinburgh, 10?

**BOUND VOLUMES FOR 1954.**

Readers who wish to have bound copies of the 1954 volume of *The Thin Red Line* are asked to **preserve their own copies** of the January, May, and September issues and **forward them at the end of the year** to the printers of the magazine, A. Learmonth & Son, "Journal" Office, 9 King Street, Stirling. The cost of binding in full dark green cloth, stamped in gold with Regimental Crest, is 30/- approx. It is regretted that no back numbers are available for binding purposes; these must be supplied by those readers desiring the bound volumes.

## THE ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS' REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION.

Patron — Her Majesty The Queen.

### PERSONAL.

The Association suffered further losses in its honorary membership during the period under review by the deaths of Brig.-General L. L. Wheatley, C.M.G., D.S.O., J.P., and Brigadier Sir Bruce A. Campbell of Arduaine, K.C.B., C.B.E., T.D., Her Majesty's Lieutenant for Argyllshire. The death of Sir Bruce Campbell, a much respected Vice-Patron of the Association, following so closely on the sudden passing of his wife, will evoke feelings of deep sympathy for the family so sadly bereaved.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Association was held in the War Memorial Club in Glasgow on 4th May. The attendance was no larger than in previous years, but was competent to adopt the annual report and financial statement. The members of the Executive Committee were re-elected for a further year of service, and the auditors, Messrs. Martin Currie & Co., were re-appointed.

The position regarding the renewal of the lease of the Memorial Home in Stirling was explained to the meeting, as was also the state of the 1939-45 War Memorial Fund. The meeting agreed to accept custody of the Fund if offered by the War Memorial Trustees, and to administer it as a separate 1939-45 War Memorial Account.

The Chairman expressed appreciation of the valuable work of the Branch and Club officials, and paid a special tribute to the services of Mr. J. Aitken, the hon. secretary and treasurer of the Association. Thanks were expressed to Mr. J. Leask, the newly-elected Chairman of the Glasgow Club, who was in attendance, for the Club's permission for the use of the premises for the annual general meeting.

### WAR MEMORIAL CLUBS.

Edinburgh.—The central heating system, recently installed, is proving a boon to the members under cold conditions, and is particularly effective in keeping the basement warmer and dry. A dry rot infection has recently been found in the woodwork of the windows on the billiard room front. This will involve the landlords, the Association, in considerable expense, and it is to be hoped that the cure now being undertaken will prove successful in restoring the healthy condition of the Club's structure.

Stirling.—The Town Council of Stirling has agreed to a temporary extension of the lease of the Memorial Home, pending examination of the condition of the exterior of the building and discussion with the Executive Committee on the subject of external repairs. Meanwhile the Association is in occupation of the Home and

responsible for its maintenance. It is hoped to make good use of the Home during the Balaclava Centenary Celebrations in Stirling on 9th and 10th October.

### BALACLAVA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS.

Arrangements for attendance at the Parade and Rally in Stirling on 9th October have been made known to members of the Association, individually and through the management of the Clubs and Branches. The arrangements for the Memorial Service in Glasgow Cathedral on 24th October have been similarly notified. It is hoped that members and their families will join in these observances of a significant Regimental Anniversary in large and appreciative numbers.

Tribute to the 93rd Highlanders' Memorial symbols in Sutherland was paid by a representative party of retired and serving members of the Regiment on 26th August. A description of this commemoration visit will appear in the next number of *The Thin Red Line*.

### Branch Notes.

#### GLASGOW.

The main event to be reported is the annual bus run, and we are indebted to an observer for the following pithy notes:—

"We left from the Club Rooms at approximately 9.40 a.m. on 27th June for North Berwick, intent on enjoying ourselves one way or another. It was quite a pleasant morning when we left, but as we got under way we had an occasional shower of rain, no doubt to remind us that we were leaving the sunny West and travelling towards the East.

"There were two coaches, the first of which seemed to carry the 'short distance runners,' which necessitated a few 'uncharted stops.'

"We arrived at North Berwick in time for lunch, which had been arranged with the management of the Dalrymple Arms Hotel in advance, which seemed to go down very well—at least, I heard no complaints.

"Then off we went our different ways to reconnoitre the surrounding countryside. Others had found their objective and remained static, while some enjoyed a stroll round the town or along the front, with an occasional (energetic) one climbing the low cliffs by the bathing pool. There were those who preferred sailing, so a trip out to the Bass Rock just was long enough, and on return the name seemed to revive old memories. One of our party really had the courage to enter the bathing pool, although, having been one of the spectators of this manly act, I can vouch that he didn't need coaxing out. Those in the vicinity of the swimming pool were doing their best to keep warm, so they indulged in a little game of 'fitba,' our national game. Who said that? Some of our older members are continually telling us that at one time our countrymen actually excelled in this sport.

"Returned to Glasgow and stopped at the Black Bull in Haddington for tea. General opinion—a good run."

The annual Remembrance Day Parade of the Glasgow Ex-Service Men took place on 6th June at George Square, when we had a good turnout. We were glad to welcome Capt. Heatly and two other members of the Edinburgh Club. We had, again, the pleasure of having the Band of the former 9th Battalion to play for us, and we enjoyed their company afterwards in the Club.

Our main sport at this time is bowling, and we have taken part in the Glasgow Regimental Associations' competition. Details of our successes will, however, have to wait until the next issue.

We are looking forward to a repeat visit to the Tattoo at the end of August, and hope to have as pleasant an evening as last year.

Our winter season will have a fine opening in the visit to Stirling for the Balaclava Centenary celebrations, and we are very glad that our annual ceremony each October in Glasgow Cathedral, when a wreath is laid at the Regimental Memorial there, has been given recognition as part of the Centenary celebrations.

Anyone connected with the Regiment, who is in Glasgow, should not hesitate to visit the Club at 9 Lynedoch Place, and inspect our facilities. Applicants for membership can be assured of a warm welcome, and we should like as many as possible to join soon and to take part with us in the visit to Stirling on 9th October, and the Cathedral on the 24th October.

#### LONDON.

The London Branch has been continuing with its usual summer activities, with the exception this year of a visit to the Royal Tournament. Unfortunately, we were unable to get tickets, but we are pleased to announce that we have already booked our block of seats for 1955, so we will not be disappointed next year. We attended the Highland Games at Harpenden, Hertfordshire, on 12th June, where many ex-Argylls were in attendance as stewards, and we had our usual block of 100 seats at The White City, to see the Searchlight Tattoo, in July.

We shall be doing our very best to celebrate the Centenary of Balaclava by making our annual Dinner this year a very special occasion. It is being held at the Chatham Rooms Restaurant (over Victoria Station) on Saturday, 16th October—a week earlier than usual, in order not to clash with the celebrations in Scotland. We hope to have a larger gathering than last year, even though the numbers exceeded our expectations then, and we are pleased to announce that Major-General J. Scott Elliot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (accompanied by Mrs. Scott Elliot) will be in the chair. As last year, the price of the tickets are 12/6 single and 25/- double, and can be obtained upon application from the secretary.

This year's Christmas card is now in production and will be ready for sale in the second week in September. The card will measure 7 inches by 4½ inches and will bear the Regimental badge in silver on the front, and will have as an inset a very fine reproduction of "The Thin Red Line" in colour,

and we hope that all ex-Argylls will endeavour to purchase the card this year, as we have had to obtain a larger quantity than in previous years to keep the price low. They will be 8/- per dozen, including envelopes.

We are pleased to say that the blazer badges have been a great success, both with the Regimental Association and with the Regiment.

We are still enjoying the hospitality of the Royal Marines' Club, who have now acquired new and superior premises at 50 Eaton Place, London, S.W.1. The new premises will have games and committee rooms, and twelve single bedrooms and three double bedrooms, also a lounge and bar and dining room, and any member of our Association coming from Scotland can, at any time, use the facilities of this Club. Furthermore, all fully paid members of the Argylls have been made associate members of the Marines' Club. It is hoped that all members will take advantage of this fine gesture on the part of the Royal Marines and use the Club as often as possible.

### THE REGIMENTAL PIPING AND DANCING SOCIETY.

The meeting of the Pipe Majors of the four Regimental Territorial Units, referred to in the previous article on the Society's activities, was associated with practice by the Pipes and Drums of the Units for the massed playing and beating on the Ceremonial Parades at Stirling Castle on 9th October. The week-end at Hall Hill Camp was very profitable, and much credit is due to the Pipers and Drummers who entered most enthusiastically into the practice. The pipe programme for the Balaclava Centenary Parade, including the beating of "Retreat," was adopted and rehearsed at the camp, and this was followed by a further rehearsal on 27th June, this time at Stirling Castle. There is to be a final rehearsal on 26th September, when the drill for the parade will be practised with musical "accompaniment."

These gatherings of the Pipers and Drummers reflect the keenness and Regimental loyalty of the T.A. Units. They involve the giving up of leisure time and, in some cases, considerable travel. Pipe Major Smith of the 7th Battalion is in charge and has already achieved a harmonious response to his leadership. The standard of performance on 9th October promises to be high.

Cpl. Yule, of the 1st Battalion, is to be congratulated on passing out from the Course in Piping at Edinburgh Castle. In his determination to consolidate his success he is attending special instruction periods in Edinburgh while awaiting the return home of the 1st Battalion. In his spare time he encourages Highland Dancing instruction at the Regimental Depot, and takes part in dancing displays and competitions with the Depot Reel team.

Regimental Headquarters reaped the harvest of its Highland Dancing enthusiasm when its

individual and team dancers swept the board at the Highland District Games at Fort George, Inverness, in the summer. The Reel team, composed of Corpls. Yule and Elliott, Sgt. Oliver and Piper Ferguson, won the Inter-Regimental Championship, while Cpl. Elliott and Sgt. Oliver were respectively winner and runner-up in the Highland Fling and the Sword Dance. It is hoped that the Regimental dancers will repeat these successes at the Argyllshire Gathering Games at Oban in September, when the Alasdair Maclean Cup for Regimental Reel teams and the Poltalloch Cup for individual competition are at stake.

Meanwhile the dancers are keeping their hands and feet in practice at the Edinburgh Festival Tattoo, where a display of Highland Dancing brings representatives of all the Highland Regiments under searchlight on the Esplanade.

### GOLF.

The Highland Brigade Golf Meeting was held this year at Muirfield on 6th and 7th May. All Regiments of the Highland Brigade were represented in the Martin Holt Cup, and approximately 40 individual entries were made.

The regimental team consisted of Major G. B. Hendry, Colonel A. Irvine-Robertson, Colonel R. J. F. McAlister, Captain J. Muirhead, Colonel G. A. McL. Sceales.

Our opponents in the first round were The Cameron Highlanders, with whom we had a very good game and lost by a margin of 4 holes. The final was between The Black Watch and Seaforth and resulted, after a very exciting finish, in a win for the Seaforth by a single hole. Lt.-Col. Sir Edward Stevenson, the Purse Bearer, was the hero on this occasion.

### GOLF IN 1955.

The Army Golfing Society meeting will be held at Muirfield during the early part of May, 1955.

The Highland Brigade meeting will be held immediately before the Army meeting and at the same place.

### NEW CONDITIONS FOR ARMY GOLFING SOCIETY MEETING.

It was agreed at the A.G.M. in 1954 to experiment, for this year, with teams of 5 for the Army Golf Cup, the Argyll and Sutherland Bowl, and the Ordnance Cup. In each team at least two members must be serving on the Regimental List (includes Regular, Short Service and National Service Officers), and the remainder of the team can be made up by either retired officers or officers serving off the Regimental List. By introducing these conditions, it is hoped that many more teams will compete for these trophies. It is essential, therefore, that we, along with all other Scottish Regiments, get a strong side together and put up a good show on our own ground.

### MEMBERSHIP OF ARMY GOLFING SOCIETY.

I am not aware that any great response has been given to the recent appeal for regimental officers to join the Army Golfing Society. I still hope that a lot of you will join—and quickly! The name and address of the Hon. Secretary is—Brigadier M. D. S. Saunders, Furners, Wittersham, Kent.

*Note.*—To be eligible for inclusion in the regimental team at the Army meeting, membership of the Army Golfing Society is *essential*.

R. McA.

### OFFICERS' ANNUAL REUNION DINNER.

The Centenary Celebrations for Balaclava will bring many old Officers to Stirling on 9th and 10th October, 1954. It has been thought that it will be convenient for many to hold the Officers' Annual Reunion Dinner this year in Stirling on 8th October instead of holding it in Glasgow a week or two later.

Arrangements have therefore been made to dine in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling, at 7.45 p.m., on Friday, 8th October. It is hoped that all Officers and Ex-Officers who can do so will attend and find many old comrades there. While this meeting of friends is the main purpose of the Reunion Dinner, opportunity is being taken to invite some of the distinguished visitors who will be attending the Balaclava parades on the following days.

Notices have been sent out from Regimental H.Q. and Depot, but if any Officer or Ex-Officer has not had one he is invited to notify the Administrative Officer (Capt. J. Richardson) of his present address. Tickets for dinner, at £1 3/-, should be obtained from him by 28th September, 1954. Dress: Dinner jacket or kilt, and medals.

### BOOK REVIEW.

“HISTORY OF THE ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS, 1st BATTALION, 1909-1939,” by Brigadier R. C. B. Anderson, D.S.O., M.C.

This volume, privately printed by T. & A. Constable, Ltd., may be obtained from the Depot, Stirling Castle, price £1, with a further 1/- for postage.

In his book, Brigadier Anderson continues the history of the 91st from where Dunn-Pattison left off, with the Battalion about to sail for Malta in 1909, and carries it to the outbreak of the second world war and the fighting in Palestine.

To write a history of a Regiment in peace time is not an easy business. As the Colonel of the Regiment points out in his foreword, “this has been no ‘hot news’ story,” such as the authors of our war histories were able to offer, but a “clear, accurate and matter of fact record of great deeds.”

Yet the volume contains, most admirably told, the story of the part the Battalion played in the first world war. In these pages its veterans can live again those great days of Second Ypres—for they were great, even in the history of the 91st—and feel once more the monotony of much of the Salonica campaign, a monotony relieved at intervals by such actions as those of Bala and Zir or the gallantry of the fighting patrols.

Here, too, is the full story of the fighting in the Sudan in 1924 and in Palestine in 1939.

Finally, this volume will serve as a fascinating record of the First Battalion's peace time activities prior to the first world war and to the years leading up to the second.

It remains to add that the volume is handsomely bound and well illustrated with maps and photographs—a valuable addition to our Regimental histories and one which every Argyll, and certainly those who have had the privilege of serving in the 91st, should possess.

C. H.

# BATTALION NOTES.

## FIRST BATTALION.

When we sent in our notes for the May edition the Battalion was busy rehearsing for the Queen's Birthday Parade. We were also standing by to assist the Police to deal with P.P.P. demonstrations and acts of lawlessness which were expected following the imprisonment of Dr. Jagan and other P.P.P. leaders.

The Queen's Birthday Parade, held in Georgetown on 21st April, went off very well. The Battalion was represented by A and H.Q. Coys., stationed in Georgetown at that time, and the Pipes and Drums and Military Band were included in the Massed Bands on parade. Contingents from the British Guiana Local Forces took part, as in previous years, but this time we, the Regular Battalion, were responsible for all the Staff work connected with the organisation and rehearsals for the Parade.

After several days of incessant rain, which interfered greatly with the rehearsals, the weather cleared for the actual parade, though the parade ground remained a marsh.

The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel B. A. Pearson, D.S.O., was in command of the whole parade, and the salute was taken by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Alfred Savage, K.C.M.G.

The drill, turnout and bearing of the Highlanders and of the Local Forces were extremely good, and made a considerable impression on the large crowds watching.

The Parade was followed by a "Flag March" through the streets of Georgetown. The sound of the pipes and military bands, and the bearing of the marching troops, attracted large numbers of enthusiastic spectators. The civil authorities had anticipated that this march would provoke demonstrations and bottle throwing. But nothing of the kind occurred. Everyone remained in good humour and the troops returned to barracks—but not before the heavens had re-opened and a tropical deluge caught everyone 200 yards from the Barrack Gate. Luckily, we managed to case the Colours in time—whilst still on the march!

On 24th April the Atkinson Field Detachment held its own Queen's Birthday Parade. On parade were all ranks of C and SP. Companies, the Pipes and Drums and Military Band and detachments of the attached Arms and Services stationed at the airfield. The Commanding Officer took the Salute at this parade, which was excellently carried out, and which was the subject of most laudatory reports in the Colony's newspapers.

The Internal Security situation in the Colony has improved greatly since the arrival of British troops last October, and the Battalion has been called on to assist the Police on only one occasion—in Berbice at the end of last year.

There have been a number of demonstrations and minor acts of sabotage in Georgetown and in

the Eastern part of the Colony, but the Police have succeeded in dealing with these incidents firmly and unaided.

Since the Battalion was sent to British Guiana at considerable expense and at very short notice to carry out Internal Security Duties, some of us, perhaps, feel disappointed at not having been called on to play a more active role in maintaining law and order.

But, on reflection, it is gratifying to know that, by its presence, the Battalion has exerted a steady influence over the population, and by giving the Police and Volunteer Forces encouragement, backing and assistance in training, has enabled these Forces to reorganise and, to date, deal effectively with the P.P.P. threats of civil disobedience.

This freedom from any continuous Internal Security Duties (the Government House Guard is our only permanent commitment) has left the Battalion free to concentrate on three main subjects: Administration, Sport and Individual Training.

Establishing and maintaining a garrison, such as we are, in an undeveloped country which has seen no Regular troops for over a half-century, presents unique problems, and the "paper war" which the Staff of Battalion Headquarters wages with Headquarters, Caribbean Area (1,800 miles away in Jamaica), continues with unabated violence. The Battalion's administrative efficiency was put to the test in July, when the new Commander of Caribbean Area (Brigadier R. C. S. Hall, O.B.E.) visited us to carry out the Annual Administrative Inspection. A great deal of work was carried out by everyone in preparation for this yearly "ordeal." We are gratified that the Brigadier was pleased and gave us a good report. And we were pleased, too, when he granted all ranks a whole holiday as a reward.

The training carried out during the past four months has been limited by the lack of suitable training areas in the flat, marshy and densely populated coastal plain, and also by the rain, which this year began a month early and is still falling daily. Nevertheless, much has been done to train N.C.O.s and specialists; education and rangework have been given a lot of attention, and Officers' Days have also loomed large in our routine since the return of the Second-in-Command, Major C. P. Anderson, from the U.K. in July.

In the training line, therefore, we have not been able in this station to undertake an ambitious programme, but what has been done has been done thoroughly, and should pay good dividends when the Battalion reaches B.A.O.R. next year.

P.T. and sport play a great part in our lives. S.I. Stuart, our A.P.T.C. Instructor, is a live wire, and his early morning P.T. parades are full of variety and amusement. Though the sale of rum in the N.A.A.F.I. has fallen considerably, and the beer consumption has increased, these P.T. parades still have a particularly beneficial purpose.

The Battalion has played a great deal of Association and Rugby football and hockey.

**WITH THE FIRST BATTALION.**



**Battalion Soccer Team taking the field at Bourda Ground in the final of the Peppiette Cup.**

Photo. by Monarch Photo. Finishers, Georgetown, British Guiana.



**Battalion Rugby Team.**

Photo. by Monarch Photo. Finishers, Georgetown, British Guiana.

The Regimental teams have more than held their own against representative Colony sides, and the Rugger XV in particular has had a most successful season. Details of our sporting activities are printed elsewhere in these notes.

At the end of June a further re-deployment of the Companies was carried out. D Company was withdrawn from its isolated station at New Amsterdam and moved into Georgetown, where it took over the Government House Guard duties from A Company.

The Georgetown Garrison now consists of Battalion H.Q., D, and H.Q. Companies, and detachments of our "funnies" (R. Sigs, R.E. (Postal), R.A.S.C., R.A.P.C. and R.A.E.C.).

Thanks to improvements made to the accommodation at Atkinson Field, it has been possible to increase the strength of the Garrison there, which now includes A, C, and SP. Companies, the R.A.M.C. detachment, the R.A.O.C. Sub-Depot, and R.E.M.E. Workshops.

One factor which does much to keep up the spirits of all of us, and also enhances our prestige amongst the local population, is the programmes by the Pipes and Drums and Military Band. They are kept busy, and have been a great credit to the Battalion. As related in the P. and D. notes, a party of four pipers, under 2nd Lieut. B. A. E. Malcolm and Pipe-Major Pitkeathly, visited Venezuela in June for ten days at the invitation of the British Ambassador in Caracas, Sir Robert Urquhart. The visit was organised for the occasion of the official birthday of Her Majesty The Queen. Not only were our pipers and dancers a huge success there, but they also wrote a new page of Regimental history, for, as far as we know, no Argyll had previously visited Venezuela in an official capacity.

As the Battalion is only due to spend a year in British Guiana, leave outside the Colony—save at private expense, which is considerable—is not allowed.

However, the Battalion has established a leave centre in a country club on the coast about 17 miles from Georgetown to which the "Jocks" go, a dozen each week, to relax, swim and eat huge meals.

Those readers who were with the Battalion in Edinburgh last year will be interested to know that the Walt Disney film, "Rob Roy," was shown at one of the Georgetown cinemas in late July. This was a great occasion for the Battalion, which had provided the Highlanders and Redcoats for the filming of the battle scenes in Perthshire in March, 1953.

The management of the cinema arranged a first-class supporting programme, and the Pipes and Drums and Military Band gave a performance of dancing, piping and Scottish music before the film show. H.E. The Governor and Lady Savage and many members of the Battalion with their wives and friends attended this most enjoyable evening.

Since we last wrote for *The Thin Red Line* a number of Officers and Other Ranks have left us for release or posting elsewhere.

Amongst these were Lieut. K. V. F. Maclean (to assume the appointment of Adjutant at the Depot), 2nd Lt. N. W. Buchanan and 2nd Lt. W. T. Hugh (on release), C./Sgt. McCrimmon and Sgt. Lyon—the latter being one of many of our senior N.C.O.s whom we are sending to the Depot and T.A. Battalions as instructors. We wish them all the best of luck.

However, we have been glad to welcome large numbers of reinforcements, including Lieut. J. R. R. Edington, 2nd Lieuts. W. D. Prosser, E. C. F. Macpherson, C. K. Davidson, T. O. McCracken, and Sgt. Young, who has rejoined the Regiment after a spell in civilian life.

At the time of writing Sgt. Young is in Barbados with Lieut. A. C. R. Howman, and Sgt. Forbes running a training camp for the Barbados Regiment.

This month we are losing to the Depot, after over four years' service with the Battalion, R.S.M. "Paddy" Boyde, D.C.M. We shall all miss him very much indeed, but look forward to seeing him again often on our return to Scotland. No member of the Battalion has worked harder during our tour in British Guiana, and R.S.M. and Mrs. Boyde take with them the best wishes of everyone of us.

We welcome our new R.S.M., W.O.I. T. J. R. Collett, M.M., who comes to us after three years with the 8th Battalion.

Two other points which we would like to include in these notes. Firstly, our congratulations to Lieut. D. Darroch and 2nd Lt. I. B. Robertson on having been appointed Honorary A.D.C.s to His Excellency The Governor. Also to 2nd Lieut. R. G. Fallowfield and S.I. Stuart on having run the 26 miles from Atkinson Field to Georgetown in 3½ hours. Zatopek, look to your laurels!

To close our contribution to this issue we can report that we are now getting down to the problem of getting away from British Guiana. It will be a complicated business, but the task will be anything but an unwelcome one. We expect to fly to Trinidad and there embark on H.M.T. Dilwara on our relief by the 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch, in mid-October.

The Battalion's last weeks in British Guiana are flying past and we look forward with the greatest pleasure to returning to Scotland which we left so hurriedly a year ago.

#### A COY.

Coy. Commander	-	-	Major J. V. Parnell.
2nd i/c	-	-	Captain G. A. J. Hadow.
C.S.M.	-	-	W.O.II W. Dunbar, M.M.
C.Q.M.S.	-	-	C./Sgt. R. Harris.
1 Pl. Commander	-	-	2nd Lt. Fallowfield.
Sgt.	-	-	Sgt. J. MacAlpine.
2 Pl. Commander	-	-	2nd Lt. B. A. Malcolm.
Sgt.	-	-	Sgt. C. Forbes.
3 Pl. Commander	-	-	2nd Lt. C. P. R. Palmer.
Sgt.	-	-	Sgt. W. Adam.

Since our last epistle we have suffered another upheaval and are now resident in Atkinson Field. This move has caused considerable anxiety among the young ladies of Georgetown, but we are certain

that D Coy. will soon take over all our responsibilities, along with the Governor's Guard! Good luck, D Coy., and check your Out of Bounds chits.

We have little to do in the line of civil disturbances during our tour in Georgetown, being stood to only twice, once at night. We were not called out, however, as the police kept matters under control. These disturbances ended with P.P.P. leader, Jagan, getting six months.

In sport the past three or four months have been very full and successful despite the amount of water that has fallen every day without fail. At rugby football the Battalion won the Gonsalves Cup with the assistance of 2nd Lt. Palmer, 2nd Lt. Fallowfield, Ptes. Huddart and Pickles. Whilst readers will find elsewhere more particulars of the Gonsalves Cup we would like to congratulate our players on their achievement. At soccer the Battalion were not so successful, being beaten in the final of the Peppiette Cup. We thank Haggart above all our Company representatives in this field as it was largely due to his efforts in keeping goal that the Battalion reached the final of this Cup. Well done, Haggart, Snedden, Muirhead, Logan, Barrie 53 and Kirkcaldy. In the Inter-Platoon League we did very well, 2 Platoon sweeping all before them. 1 Platoon did very well until Logan deserted them for the Q.M.'s Department. That is where the C.Q.M.S. has recovered all his deficiencies. Despite repeated efforts to get the hockey going, it seemed always to be washed out. Maybe now that we are with C and SP. Companies we will get some opposition!

The Company swimming team under L./Cpl. Strachan has transferred its headquarters from Young Street monsoon drain to Atkinson pool, but "their" night coinciding with pay night they are having difficulty finding the swimming pool gate.

To conclude the sports report, we must mention Sgt. Hookey Walker's cycling feat, from Atkinson to Georgetown and back. Was it to pay his arrears in messing? It is rumoured that he is going to attempt to run into town with 2nd Lt. Fallowfield, Coyle 20 and Sgt. Muscles, A.P.T.C. The best of luck, fellows. Pack your kits before you go and we'll pick you up off the Groyne as the "S.S. Tartan Funnel" steams out!

2nd Lt. Malcolm's courtesy visit to Venezuela with the Pipe Major and the dancing team was a huge success, the party being made very welcome by the "Local Scots." 2nd Lt. Malcolm is hoping to be mentioned in the Venezuela honours list as his one gong is—Oh! so lonely.

We have had our usual demobees among whom figure prominently Pte. Campbell, ex-Coy. clerk, signwriter and general office slave; L./Cpl. McCrae, the gallant defender of Ennismore House; Pte. Ford 29 of the rock cakes and sunken gardens; Blackburn, Carolan, Fulton, Kennedy and L./Cpl. Berry—not forgetting our Fire Officer, 2nd Lt. Hugh. We wish them all good luck in civilian life and hope they will come and see us on our return home.

In conclusion, the Company administrative staff have just returned to earth after an administration check by the Brigadier—in time to type these notes.

## C COY.

Coy. Commander	-	Major C. G. Kelway-Bamber, M.B.E.
2nd i/c	-	Captain R. B. Gardiner.
7 Pl. Commander	-	Lieut. D. Darroch.
Sgt.	-	Sgt. Young.
8 Pl. Commander	-	2nd Lt. R. N. L. Malcolm.
Sgt.	-	Sgt. Johnstone.
9 Pl. Commander	-	Lieut. J. R. A. MacMillan.
Sgt.	-	Sgt. Docherty.
C.S.M.	-	W.O.II Masterton.
C.Q.M.S.	-	C./Sgt. Walker.

If it was a little colder the Tagues, Fergusons and Frasers in the Company might almost feel homesick. There has been enough rain to satisfy any Argyllshire man since the last notes were written. The unreliability of the weather has, in fact, dominated our activities and made it impossible to carry out any ambitious schemes and patrols, so C Coy. has shown how versatile the private soldier should be by scrubbing, painting, building, polishing and cleaning and mending anything from socks to six-foot targets. Foley, Thomson, McGuigan and Findlay kept miraculously out of trouble for a week while they covered themselves and the new Company store with paint, and Fleming wasn't heard to talk for the best part of a month while he worked on target frames in the morgue. That was probably because he wasn't so fit rather than because he had seen a ghost in his workshop.

The ammunition dump provided occupation while all else failed. First we rebuilt the tent erection which was used as a store until April, then as soon as it was finished we were told to move the ammunition. 8 Platoon spent a sporting day clearing bats, snakes, tarantulas and more bats from the new store, and the whole Company shifted the boxes. No sooner was that finished and the dump wired in than the civilian authorities decided to make the area rubbish dump beside it. The final stage came between the C.O.'s Admin. inspection and that of the Area Commander, who said all the ammunition had to be shifted once more and blast walls made between the stacks of explosives. Sgt. Forbes was heard to murmur that one or two of the Company would make good pioneers, so when the Pioneer Platoon is formed in a week or two's time we may be losing a few more of our men.

Recent losses have been Farquarson, Johnstone 68, McGifford and Cryans to the M.T., and Cpl. Arthur to A Coy. and then home. McLean came back from Boa Vista just in time to join the Oxna for home, and Spalding sailed in the same ship. Cpl. McConnel was invalided home at about the same time.

In between public works and rainstorms the Company managed to fire the Rifle Course on the Range, much of which we had cleared and repaired. In addition, a fortnight of intensive study under Lieut. Malcolm and Lieut. Darroch resulted in fourteen more 3rd Class Education Certificates. Finally, everyone's attention has been turned to baffling the brains of the Colonel and the Brigadier with the usual military commodity. The spit and



Mr. Macdonald Bailey, the world-famous sprinter, talks to C Company about sprinting.

Photo. by Captain R. B. Gardiner.

polish was sufficiently successful for the Battalion to earn a holiday, and C Coy. did nothing to let down the general standard.

It has not, however, been all work and no play. Rugby and soccer have been the two main games, and Richardson, who joined the Company from the Police, has distinguished himself by some extremely good play in the Colony team against Trinidad as well as in many games for the Battalion. On the football field McLean was the outstanding success and had an interesting tour of the northern towns of Brazil where a convenient air strike detained him for an extra week. Dundas, McCotter, Stewart, Kelly, Cpls. Byrne, French and Keir have all played for the Atkinson team in a Colony League. The Battalion boxing finals were just about to happen when the last edition went to press. The results were very encouraging for the Company, McKell, McGill, McNab and McGowan all winning their fights. Before the end of the month it is hoped to hold a local tournament between Support, A and C Companies. Athletics are now coming to the fore: a Company meeting showed a great deal of untrained talent, especially among the new arrivals from Stirling. Gibson, Tague, McShannon and L./Cpl. Ashcroft all showed ability either in long or short distance running or jumping. Sgt. Young, also newly returned, has the heavyweights well in hand for

field events, and the Company was lucky enough to get McDonald Bailey to speak about sprinting for the benefit of the faster runners.

We are all looking forward to a couple of months of dry weather in which to do some active training and patrols, and then by the time the next notes are written we hope to be back in Scotland.

#### D COY.

Coy. Commander	-	Major A. N. Campbell-Baldwin.
2 i/c	- -	Captain R. H. Webber.
C.S.M.	- -	C.S.M. W. Tullett.
C.Q.M.S.	- -	C.Q.M.S. P. King.
Asst. C.Q.M.S.	-	Sgt. J. W. Houghton.
10 Pl. Commander	-	2nd Lt. W. D. Prosser.
Sgt.	-	Sgt. R. A. Leach.
11 Pl. Commander	-	2nd Lt. E. C. F. MacPherson.
Sgt.	-	Sgt. G. Turner.
12 Pl. Commander	-	2nd Lt. D. A. Campbell.
Sgt.	-	Sgt. R. Wilson.
Supernumerary	-	2nd Lt. C. K. Davidson.
		Sgt. W. Hamilton.

Since last going to press the face of the Company has changed comparatively little until the last few days. Lieut. Ward has left us to become the head "cloak and dagger" man in Georgetown. Lieut. MacLean has gone to be Adjutant at the Depot. In their place we welcome 2nd Lieuts.

MacPherson, Prosser and Davidson. For a short time we thought we were going to lose C./Sgt. King, but the fates relented and he is still with us, complete with his dazzling new teeth. Amongst others who have left us for Civvy Street are L./Cpl. McIntosh, Ptes. Malcolm, McInnes and Todd, to mention only a few.

Life at New Amsterdam pursued its way without major incident. We stood by several times during the strikes, but were never called on to take any positive action, so perhaps our presence helped. H.M. The Queen's birthday was celebrated, as a nice change, on her real birthday and was the occasion for a somewhat motley parade. Besides ourselves, there were B Coy. of the B.G. Volunteer Force, and detachments of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Life Brigade and Red Cross. The inspection was carried out and salute taken by the District Commissioner, Mr. C. P. Ashurst. The weather was kind after an unpromising start and those taking part enjoyed themselves at all events.

Expeditions into the interior were carried out by Captain Webber to the Government Experimental Ranch at Ebini. Some of our amateur bull fighters had a nasty shock when the very fierce bull opened the gate into their compound and came in. 2nd Lt. Campbell and 12 Platoon visited the beauxite centre at Kwakwani. Pte. Davies is still minus a bed as a result of one of the numerous occasions when the barge ran aground on the way down river. 2nd Lt. MacPherson and 11 Platoon visited the large Amerindian settlement at Orealla up the Courantyne River. This expedition achieved some notice in the press which 2nd Lt. MacPherson has had considerable difficulty in living down.

Visits by the Pipes and Drums and the Military Band have been greatly enjoyed by everybody. In addition to playing in New Amsterdam it has been possible at each visit for them to play at one of the sugar estates. We managed to synchronize the last visit of the Military Band with our final dance, held on our last Friday, in the Windsor Hotel. The dance was a great success and was attended by most of the Company and all their friends. Three nights later a closing party was given in the Services Canteen. The following night the East Indian Association gave a farewell party for us in the Town Hall. There were numerous private parties also, so altogether it was a somewhat bedraggled company that stumbled on to the ferry on 1st July. Most of us had made good friends in Berbice and we left with genuine regret.

On the football field we have been carrying all before us in Berbice and were confidently tipped as winners of all five local cups. Unfortunately, we have had to withdraw from four of them, but will make every effort to play our last two matches in the County League. Rugger has been taken up with great enthusiasm and several of our players will be representing Berbice against Trinidad. We also claim to be the first Company to raise two rugger teams and beat a County (!) at seven-a-side. Other sports have rather had to go by the board owing to bad weather and lack of suitable grounds.

Since coming to Georgetown we have had two new drafts and an Administrative Inspection. We are now recovering our breath from these body blows and girding our loins for fresh trials to come in the shape of another large draft, 20-mile route marches and packing up for a return trip in the Sunjaryv.

#### SP. COY.

Coy. Commander	-	-	Major I. H. Scheurmier.
C.S.M.	-	-	W.O.II R. Smith.
C./Sgt.	-	-	C./Sgt. Henderson.

#### MORTAR PLATOON.

Pl. Commander	-	-	Lieut. A. G. R. Howman.
Pl. Sgt.	-	-	Sgt. McAnany.
No. 1 Section	-	-	Sgt. McKenzie.
No. 2 Section	-	-	Sgt. Peffers.

The Battalion's "Heavy Battery" would like to begin by welcoming all those new members of the Platoon who have joined us since our last issue.

Ptes. Scott, Eadie, Ross and McEwan have all, unfortunately, left us for home and we would like to wish them the very best of luck in their new jobs as civilians.

The annual Administrative Inspection was notable because our Platoon Commander foolishly returned from leave on that day looking slightly larger around the waist; he had been on leave and now is off again to train the Barbados Battalion for a month. Everything was very smart for the Brigadier. He rewarded us with a day's holiday so he must have been quite pleased; previously the Company's motto had been—"Everything that moves, salute it; and if it doesn't move, paint it!" Actually one of the Platoon went to the Coy. Commander and asked to be considered for a tradesman's rate of pay.

There was much handshaking with the arrival of A Coy. to the base, in fact some thought that they were a new draft. Nevertheless we were glad to see them and so far there has been no skirmish, though two members decided to put an "S" instead of an "A" on their flag, but C.S.M. Dunbar got wind in good time.

Sgt. Macanany is in for the three miles in the Battalion Sports, and may be seen any day running between the lines and the Guest House—a distance of at least two miles.

Whether Sgt. Peffers took fright at the training programme or for some other reason is not known, but he disappeared for four weeks; it was later discovered that he had a cushy job in the Sergeants' Mess, and now Sgt. Mackenzie has disappeared to the same place.

L./Cpl. Donaldson has done a splendid job in training drivers for our Carriers, but he will now have to start again to train them in driving one-tonners, with which we have now been issued.

Congratulations to L./Cpls. Martin and Milton on their promotion; they are at present on an N.C.O.s' Cadre in town, and we are sure that they will do well as we have a very high standard down there.

Ammunition is very short in spite of the Platoon Commander who is always worrying Senior Officers about it.

One of our old members, who says that he has nothing to learn, has got himself a cushy number and may be seen any morning before Muster Parade heading for the Officers' Mess with a little "Baggie" to "BULL his Bosses' kit"—and it is rumoured that he stops at the Pool on the way.

The next time that we write notes we hope that we will not have the problems of prickly heat to cope with. Actually we don't think that the Scottish winter will get us down as we have some very experienced coal stealers in our ranks; at least so Cpl. Mutch says, and he should *know*.

#### M.M.G. PLATOON.

Pl. Commander - - Captain A. N. Paul.  
Pl. Sgt. - - - Sgt. King, M.M.

We are sorry to say that we are no longer under the care of Sgt. Houghton. He left us some weeks ago to be taught the mysteries of the "Q" side. We wish him all the best of luck in his new job and hope that he will continue on the ladder of success.

At the end of June we also lost L./Cpl. Nelson who has returned to the U.K. on demob., and we wish him every success. Despite this depletion in our ranks we have five new faces in the Platoon known as the "Young Gunners." These five have been undergoing a rigorous yet intriguing course on our "bread and butta" (a saying that we all know very well).

At the beginning of July we all had a very enjoyable games night at the Cinema; needless to say we beat the "Plumbers"—though only just—but we were surprised to find ourselves beaten by H.Q.—the marker to blame no doubt—but we hope that there will be more of these pleasant evenings.

We feel that our "demob. happy" need have no worries as to their civilian employment owing to the activities of the past few weeks. The gun was cast aside completely and all hands were put to the brush—both painting and scrubbing—with the result that everything shines like a new pin. There was no chance of anyone standing about either, for it was more than likely that the lounge would have been painted too. However, the Brigadier's inspection went off really well.

Quite recently we received a new D.P. gun, as well as a number of dial sights, so we may soon expect to be plunged into a confusion of pluses, minuses, degrees and minutes, and various other headaches caused by this instrument of torture.

#### NEW MOTTO.

We paint here, we paint there,  
We Gunners can paint everywhere;  
Every cranny, every nook,  
From A to Z, we know the book.  
Are we in heaven? are we in hell?  
My guess is—you know darned well.

#### SIGNAL PLATOON.

Pl. Commander - - Lieut. A. C. S. Boswell.  
Signal Sgt. - - - Sgt. D. Lewis, R.S.I.  
Wireless Sgt. - - Sgt. S. McCheyne, R.S.I.

Since the last issue of *The Thin Red Line* we have lost a number of well-known faces. Cpls. Keir and Wright and Ptes. McPhee, Connelly and McGillivray have all left us for civilian life.

The detachment at New Amsterdam has closed down, and as a result Cpl. Findlay and Haggerty have returned once more to the fold. It may be pure coincidence, but the day after their arrival all lockers sported bigger and better padlocks.

We now have a number of new wireless operators in the Platoon. They will get their just chance to prove their worth on the forthcoming Battalion Signal Exercise.

Now that this has become a family station we are never quite sure what will happen next. The other day we found Pte. McLennan's small daughter operating the exchange.

We congratulate Cpls. Findlay and Will and L./Cpl. Fraser on their recent promotion, and also the Signal Officer on lasting the whole of his recent Course at Hythe, from which he has just returned to us out here.

#### TRANSPORT PLATOON.

An earlier and perhaps more cheerful edition of these notes began on the classical note that "all Gaul was divided into three parts." Even then we wager Cæsar never had enough chariots on the road to satisfy his Legions. Maybe one of the reasons Gaul remained so divided was that on the crucial day the key chariot had a broken axle sling or a deficient pintle; Boadicea had similar difficulties, and, of course, Hannibal stuck to elephants. We of the Transport Platoon have also elephants—albeit white ones—nevertheless, undaunted, we press on regardless.

New Amsterdam having discharged its detached worthies back into the fold we are now concentrated at Atkinson Field with a sizeable detachment at Georgetown, ably and untiringly led by Sgt. George—who we note is referred to in the last notes of the Q.M. Staff as the captain of *their* football team. No wonder they are able to challenge all comers. These Q.M. types, Cpl. Kelly and L./Cpl. Blincow, were almost on the Oxna, homeward bound, but through some mischance are still with us. Mischance for them, but lucky for us; meanwhile Cpls. Lindsay and Henderson have been demonstrating their abilities on the Drill Square with the latest N.C.O.s' Cadre. Poor old petrol-feet, a Pacestick is a poor substitute for a Dipstick when it comes to comfort (Calibrated or not).

After long and untiring effort we have succeeded in obtaining some "Water Detecting Paste" and are about to try it out on the local rum as bottled; results will be notified in the advertisement columns—watch out for this space.

Since last we wrote our grim tale of woe, yet another cadre of desperadoes has been absorbed

into our midst, one of whom is rather unpopular at the moment owing to absorbing too much Eve Leary ditch into the front of his jeep. Johnstone now drives the M.O. at Atkinson (sick parade consequently reduced), while Miller, Maxwell and Orr have a good record of clean misses in the big city; Derrick would also seem to have a miss in the same metropolis judging from his frequent visits, well-cut suit and flowing locks. Sailor McInnes, tired of duty company frustration, survived a driving cadre and is now an Equipment Repairer, turning out some crafty hem-stitched seat-covers as well as the more mundane canopy repairs; we are still hoping to get him and a barber together for a fleecing. L./Cpl. Elliott (252 Elliott to his ex-friends) is Chief of Staff to Sgt. Galloway in the Tech. Stores, while Cpl. Smith (married but as yet undaunted) and L./Cpl. Layden (unmarried and ditto) can sometimes be seen emerging from the paper pile in search of tea, cigarettes or plain fresh air.

On the Fitter (R.E.M.E. not A.P.T.C.) side, Sgt. Gibbons, ably assisted by Cpl. Chalk, still wields the nifty wench—sorry, wrench. Cfn. Harris overnight blossomed forth as a Corporal, while Cfn. McKie rushes around trying to do the work. Lee and Jones having departed per Oxna in a blaze of oxy-acetylene, McKie is Chief Sloth Expert to the M.T. at the present time, jealously guarding the sole survivor from roaming Sergeants after a "Badger sporrán" on the cheap. Hamilton, Neilson, Black and Christie, assisted by Filshie and Wright, still keep the three-ton wheels turning, while Reynolds has never been stationary for more than 20 minutes since getting off the Sunjarv. By the way, it is an absolute libel that a certain officer, anxious to get to Georgetown in a hurry, was offered a trailer and two men; we resent this aspersion on our surplus manpower—he was offered the trailer and his batman's name was idly mentioned at the time.

The Office Truck, after six months sojourn on the park, now moves under its own power, and, newly painted by Pte. Forrest, is the apple of our jaundiced eye.

The road from Atkinson to Georgetown is still as bad as ever. If it's not deep mud and ruts, it's swirling dust and ruts, development plan or no development plan; thank God for four-wheel drive and the fact that "fools rush in where angels fear to tread." (WANTED.—Ten angels: exchange for ten shop-soiled fools.)

However, the sun shines through the clouds again. We have the assistance of L./Cpl. Pepperil with donkey and cart when details get really heavy in Georgetown. It is rumoured that this will become the chaplain's vehicle, specially equipped for shooting expeditions at Red Water Creek. Mills and Coppard are the "tracked" experts of Georgetown and the roar of their unsilenced engines brings Reveille to many a late sleeper. Now that our Support Coy. friends are on wheels, they will be the last representatives of the old régime (Carrier Patrols in Givat Shaul and Jerusalem the first time).

#### BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM.

We open our notes for this issue with a much depleted staff, L./Cpl. McNee (Mr. Football), L.-Cpl. Andrew, Ptes. Smith and Crombie having departed for Jamaica for "Onward Transmission" to U.K. and thence to T.A. We were very sorry indeed to lose them, but we nevertheless wish them every success in civilian life, although C./Sgt. Woods is quite vehement in his assertion that he would never open an account with the National Bank of Scotland (Grangemouth Branch).

They may be interested to learn that the remainder of the staff continues to move in the same social circle and have even made a few more contacts since they left—rather a case of picking up the threads! Pte. Sharp even styles himself "Mr. Personality" vice McNee!

Our "order of battle" now reads as follows:—

O.R.Q.M.S. Woods.	Pte. Sharp.
Sgt. Robertson.	Pte. Munn.
L./Cpl. Lawrie.	Pte. Barrie.
L./Cpl. Mackay.	Pte. Copeland.
	Pte. Stewart.

We have just survived an Administrative Inspection in which we have been given a good report, suitably rewarded by one day's holiday. Much hard work certainly went into the preparation, and we are enjoying a brief respite prior to embarking on adm. for the move home. We don't relish the thought of Elgin, but look forward eagerly to our disembarkation leave.

We shall greatly miss R.S.M. Boyde, who leaves us in a few days' time, but we were glad to have been able to arrange an Orderly Room/Regimental Police cocktail party to say "good-bye" to him and to welcome R.S.M. Collett.

In closing we would like to add our congratulations to Pte. McHugh (ex-Orderly Room) on being a member of the 7th Battalion winning cross-country team.

#### Q.M. STAFF.

Since our last notes very little has happened and very few changes have taken place. Perhaps there is some truth in the old saying, "Once employed, always employed." We have lost Pte. "Speedy" Friend and "Abie" MacDougall from the Pioneers, also "gigolos" Mitchell and Milne from the Stores, who are all taking the plunge back to Civvy Street. New replacements have been found to fill the vacant gaps, namely, Ptes. Logan, Hannah, Campbell, Lees, Easedale and Clarke. The main upheaval that has passed over was the annual Administrative Inspection, where there was evidence of certain members of the staff taking off and hitting the ceiling. The favourite catch-phrase for that period was "Come down, man, stop flapping!" but with Captain Brown at the "helm" and Captain Jagger on the "look-out" a safe and steady course was steered during that period.

As time draws near for us to return to U.K., R.Q.M.S. Smith still maintains that there is only one thing slower than Pte. MacDonald, our runner,

and that is demob. Cpl. Maclachlan, ably assisted by Pte. Cameron, is still snowed under with piles of paper work and Courts of Iniquity (sorry, I mean Inquiry), while Cpl. Drawbell, who has now taken over the duties of chief clerk, still says that clerks should be born with two pairs of hands instead of one. Pte. Lloyd has taken over the worries of the Clothing Stores, and to him we extend the best of luck and hope he won't go grey-headed soon. In the Accommodation Store, L./Cpl. Ireland can be seen daily creeping about among piles and piles of sheets and bedding and various other stores searching frantically for deficiencies, and pouncing on the poor C.Q.M.S.s for signatures for his 293s.

Last but not least is Cpl. King, the only man to be caught by the Adjutant cleaning out his store at 12 o'clock at night, who is in charge of the Ration Store, and maintains that between guards and ration issues he is definitely being "done buck," which is one of the Battalion's favourite expressions. One wonders when these infamous words will be inscribed upon the Regimental Scroll. Nevertheless the work still goes on and everyone seems to be enjoying their stay in "Bee Gee," but longing for the day when they will be once again in good old "Gee Bee."

#### SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since penning our last contribution to the magazine the Georgetown members have occupied a new Mess in the barracks; the accommodation is a vast improvement on the "Murray Arms" and we are extremely comfortable. Our opening social evening was very successful despite the fact that at least 95 per cent. of the company were still upstanding at the close; considering that the stock had been reduced by roughly the same percentage it was noteworthy.

To strike a sad note we make mention here of the imminent departure of R.S.M. Boyde for the Depot. We shall miss him very much, as both he and Mrs. Boyde know well.

A further loss was felt with the R.H.E. of "Big Peter."\* He left in a blaze of glory—the blaze tinged with blue (an effect peculiar only to Bookers' X.M. rum)—and parties were held in appreciation of his services to the Mess, both in Georgetown and Atkinson Field. Not to be outdone, his departure was adequately marked with a celebration held by the many civilian friends he made in British Guiana. Good luck, Peter!

Included in these notes should be details of our victory against the Officers in a shoot—proposed by us some time ago. Unfortunately, the shoot hasn't yet taken place, due to a mysterious reluctance on the part of the Officers to accept the challenge. They are, however, practising furiously and have probably been awaiting intensified coaching from the member of the "Army Eight," Q.M.S.I. Hayter (S.A.S.C.), at present visiting the unit—the results will no doubt be included in the next issue.

R.S.M. Collett, M.M., arrived just as these notes were being compiled. We extend a hearty welcome to him after a three-year absence away from the 1st Battalion.

#### PIPES AND DRUMS.

Pipe President - Major A. N. Campbell Baldwin.  
Drum Major - Drum Major T. Robson.  
Pipe Major - Pipe Major A. Pitkeathly.

After visiting D Coy. for a day the Pipes and Drums returned with the Company to Georgetown. D Coy. received a rousing send-off at Berbice, and the Band played selections as the ferry left the quayside.

The Drum Major is still searching the ranks of the Pipes and Drums for the "Phantom Bugler" whose leisure hours are spent impersonating Eddie Calvert's rendering of "Oh, Mein Papa."

Two members of the Band, Drummers Rae and Fitzpatrick, sailed on the R.A.S.C. vessel Oxna on her last visit to Jamaica with a draft. The Band played selections at the quayside prior to the ship's departure with her cargo of Jocks bound for Civvy Street.

Cookhouse fatigues and guard duties keep the Band fully employed these days, and, in addition, they have been appointed Internal Security Platoon.

Band strength at present is 38, 24 Pipers and 14 Drummers—playing strength is 29. Shortage of plaids is preventing the Pipe Major from increasing the playing strength.

Much to the delight of the troops and the local people, the Pipe Band with the Military Band have beaten Combined Retreats on Eve Leary Parade Ground. Both Bands, wearing their new white tunics, presented a colourful spectacle to the large crowds. A special effort was made in the Combined Retreat at Bourda before a large rugby crowd, and the Bands' efforts were acclaimed as the best Retreat seen in the Regiment for years. As a change, four Drummers from the Pipes and Drums played in slow and quick time in front of the Military Band. The Drum Major alleges that he has heard the Bandmaster is doing his best to get the four Drummers transferred to the Military Band—on being asked to comment on this the Drum Major muttered something about, "Over my dead body!"

Quite a few new faces are now present in the Pipes and Drums. May their stay be a happy one. We congratulate the Drum Major on his promotion to Colour Sergeant, and Cpl. Wilson and L./Cpls. Crossan, Parrott and Fraser on passing a Weapon Training and Drill Cadre.

Major A. N. Campbell Baldwin has been appointed Pipe President in the place of Major J. V. Parnell—we wish him success in his new venture.

Recently Pipe Major Pitkeathly, accompanied by dancers Cpl. Wilson, L./Cpl. Ogilvie, and Pipers Lee and Campbell 33, had a most enjoyable trip to Venezuela. 2nd Lt. B. A. E. Malcolm was in charge of the party. A full account of this visit is given in the supplement to these notes.

\* C./Sgt. P. McCrimmon.—Ed.

## TRIP TO VENEZUELA.

H.E. the British Ambassador to Venezuela, Sir Robert Urquhart, had seen the Regimental dancing team perform at Government House on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday and had asked the Commanding Officer if they might visit Caracas for the official birthday on 10th June. The C.O. agreed, and thus it was that at midnight on 5th June our small party, consisting of 2nd Lt. B. A. E. Malcolm, Pipe Major Pitkeathly, Cpl. Wilson, L./Cpl. Ogilvie, and Pipers Lee and Campbell, embarked on the M.V. Tapakuma on the first leg of their journey.

Travelling as deck passengers under a hurriedly constructed tarpaulin, we at first found the weather unpleasant, due to a rolling ground swell, but on Monday, 7th, the sea calmed, the sun shone, and at mid-day, in intense heat, we arrived at Port of Spain, Trinidad.

A welcome committee of police and Captain Lerrett, R.A.S.C., took us away for passport photographs and to our hotel, although Mr. Malcolm was fortunate enough to be staying with an old friend of the Regiment, Major Cocksedge, late of the (6/13) Frontier Force Rifles. Later in the day, the Head of Chancery at our Embassy in Caracas, Mr. Howard Smith, outlined the tour to the Pipers, and the next day, while he battled with the B.W.I.A.—expelling passengers to make room for the party we gather—the remainder of us passed through the hands of the Immigration Authorities and received our passports at the very helpful Venezuelan Consulate.

On Wednesday, embarking early at Piarco Airport, we flew to Maiquetia on the coast of Venezuela. Our first reaction after rapidly passing through the Customs and being photographed by the Press was to stand and stare at the very fine hills, which, after the flats of British Guiana, appeared enormous. Very shortly, however, we found ourselves speeding through these very hills up the magnificent New Road, for Caracas, although only five miles from the sea, is 5,000 feet up.

After visiting the Embassy, where we were received by the Ambassador, we separated for lunch and later went to our respective hosts. During our stay in Caracas we each stayed with a different family, who quite overwhelmed us with their kindness and hospitality. Mr. Malcolm stayed with Sir Robert and Lady Urquhart, the Pipe Major with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smith, Cpl. Wilson with Mr. and Mrs. Donipace, L./Cpl. Ogilvie with Mr. and Mrs. Laing, Piper Lee with Mr. and Mrs. Homberger, and Piper Campbell with Mr. Mace. The wonderful way in which we were treated contributed immensely to the pleasure of the tour.

On Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Malcolm visited the enormous and spectacular Cuidad Fuerzas Armadas, the brand new Officers' Club, to discuss a proposed performance there, and in the evening we all attended a welcome party at Mr. Smith's house.

Thursday was the official birthday of Her Majesty and two receptions were being held at the

Residence. In the morning the Pipe Major and Cpl. Wilson played in the garden, but in the evening we danced an Eightsome with the help of four ladies, the Highland Fling and Ghillie Callum.

Friday was a free day; in the morning we were driven by the terrifying "Old Road" to swim at the Laguna Beach Club, while in the afternoon a Mr. Waters took us to the Caracas Sports Club. Later that evening a film of our dancing appeared on the Venezuelan T.V.

After a morning trip into the hills with a Mr. Scrivener, we assembled at the Canadian Embassy to perform at a children's party, the high spot undoubtedly being an Eightsome Reel with small but very expert girls for partners. In the evening we appeared before an audience of Army Officers and their wives in the theatre of the Cuidad Fuerzas Armadas.

On Sunday we flew to El Cardoz as the guests of Shell Company and danced at their beautiful Club. Here we were accommodated in delightful chalets, and after seeing round the refinery were indeed sorry to leave.

Maraquibo was our next visit, and we were invited to a very fine Ball in honour of Her Majesty during the course of which we performed our dances. Despite the great heat the Pipe Major kept playing and even gave us an Eightsome Reel and the Gay Gordons.

Back to Caracas on Tuesday in time to pay visits to the new University and the tomb of Simon Bolivar before appearing at the première of "Rob Roy," in which film many Argylls had acted during the battle scenes.

On Wednesday, after a free day, Sir Robert gave a dinner to the Ambassador Designate to the Court of St. James at which the Pipe Major and Cpl. Wilson played. After dinner, L./Cpl. Ogilvie gave a spectacular exhibition of the Ghillie Callum on top of an urn-shaped fountain!

At last it was time to leave, and after an enjoyable flight to Port of Spain in the Embassy plane we arrived back in British Guiana.

Our thanks are due to the British and Venezuelans alike, whose kind hospitality made our trip so very enjoyable and memorable.

## MILITARY BAND.

Our last notes saw the Military Band newly arrived back with the Battalion from the Depot. We quickly got down to work, our first engagement being for the Dance Band in the N.A.A.F.I. Club, a weekly "one-night stand," which has become almost an institution. Our living accommodation here in Georgetown is quite good, and we have found ourselves a rehearsal space under the N.A.A.F.I.—"Far from the maddening crowd's ignoble strife." (P. & D.s please note!)

A large crowd turned out to greet our first appearance on the Sea Wall Bandstand when we combined bands with the British Guiana Militia Band. We have also given concerts here on our own, and the local mosquitoes being what they are, we have often longed for an issue of trews for these jobs!

Visits have been paid to Atkinson Field (C and S Companies), and to D Coy. at New Amsterdam, our first visit there being to open the Berbice football season. The opening match was played on the Mental Hospital ground, and to the amazement of most of the Battalion the Band returned to Georgetown intact! We have played on Sugar Estates, Pln. Blairmont and Rosehall. On our visit to Blairmont the transport provided for the Band kit consisted of three donkey carts! There is a rumour going around that the only time the Rosignal-Georgetown "Express" was early was when Bandsmen Wheatley and Diskin managed to inveigle their way on to the footplate! (Musicians' Union and National Union of Railwaymen will probably clash.)

The Dance Band has fulfilled a number of "Outside" engagements. Most civilians seem to think that dances should not cease before 4 a.m. and consequently we have had some sleepless nights. We have quite a few "fans" amongst the locals and not all of them are of the opposite sex — although "fratting" is almost an "organised game"!

The British Guiana Music Festival has commenced and four Bandsmen tested their skill against the local Colony musicians. Cpl. Irons, Bandsmen Rankin and Cooper, and L./Cpl. Wheatley all won prizes.

We have not had much time for sport, although we have produced seven players for the 1st and 2nd rugby XV's. We have played various people, including A Coy., at hockey, and are, as yet, unbeaten. We also produced Admin. I and II's star soccer players on request! On Wednesday mornings Sgt. Parker seems determined to have the complete Band do a 4-minute mile for the road walk and run!

Congratulations to Bandsmen Mannix, Stanforth and Archer on their promotions to L./Cpl., and to L./Cpl. Pattullo on the birth of a daughter. We have just heard from Kneller Hall that Bandsman O'Rourke has also become a father. A certain bandsman is at present walking around hearing the faint tinkle of wedding bells, and we withhold our congratulations until the knot is securely tied.

#### FOOTBALL.

When the Battalion arrived in British Guiana the football season was almost at an end. However, it was possible to have games against a British Guiana Select side on numerous occasions. Considering the fast grounds and the heat the Battalion put up some very good shows, drawing two games and losing two. There was no local football from December, 1953, to March, 1954, when the British Guiana football season proper began.

The Battalion has entered two teams in the local League, one team from Atkinson Field, comprising personnel from C and S Companies, and now A Coy., since the change-over of Companies. The other team from Georgetown personnel, comprising H.Q. and previously A Coy., but now D Coy. There are two Leagues each of

four teams and numerous Cup tournaments which the Battalion teams have entered.

The results to date have been fairly satisfactory. The Argyll A team, which is the Georgetown team, have the following record:—

LEAGUE MATCHES	Goals For	Goals Against
versus Georgetown Football Club ...	3	1
versus Police ...	1	1
MACDONALD CUP.		
1st Round, versus Transport & Harbours Dept. ...	6	1
2nd Round, versus Infantry ...	1	2
PEPPIETTE CUP.		
1st Round—Bye.		
2nd Round, versus Argylls "B" Team ...	3	1
Semi-final, versus St. Barnabas ...	2	2
1st Replay ...	1	1
2nd Replay ...	3	2
Final, versus Victoria ...	1	1
Replay ...	1	3

The play in the semi-final ties reached a very high standard, and so much interest was aroused that the attendance reached the highest in British Guiana since 1946. On the final day the local press reported the attendance as 5,000.

The semi-final was played under ideal conditions, the ground being soft and yielding, slowing the game down, which suited our style of play, but, unfortunately, in the final the ground was extremely hard and the superior speed of our opponents proved our undoing. Also we had lost one of our mainstays of the defence, L./Cpl. McNee, on release a few days before.

The B team, Atkinson Field, has not had the successes of Georgetown, but considering their lack of decent football pitches and the travelling involved, the team has done well.

In League matches they have won one game and drawn one, but did not go far in either Cups. Keen rivalry naturally exists between the two teams. In the second round of the Peppiette Cup, when the two teams met, an extremely good display was served up by both teams. It was generally agreed Georgetown deserved to win.

D Coy., when stationed in Berbice, were victorious over all teams and it was with regret that they had to withdraw from the local competitions on coming to Georgetown.

#### RUGBY.

Our first and very successful rugby season ended on 7th February, with the enthusiasm of Battalion players keener than ever.

Major G. E. C. Ash, president of the Lorne Athletic Club, and Captain T. Jagger, M.B.E., Battalion Rugby Officer, were appointed to the British Guiana Rugby Football Union, and this body set to work to prepare for the main rugby season which is from 1st May to 31st July. During July the Trinidad R.U. were arranging to send over a side to compete for the MacGregor Cup, a trophy competed for annually between the two colonies. With this visit to look forward to,

Battalion players kept in training and a meeting of all interested in the game was held at the beginning of April. At this meeting more than eighty members of the Battalion put forward their names for rugger training, and a short course on the Laws of Rugby was given by Captain A. J. Cookson. Practice and trial matches were held towards the end of April and it was decided to enter two XV's for the Gonsalves Cup competition. This is similar to a League competition where teams play each other once. The teams were to be called Lorne Athletic 1st XV and 2nd XV respectively.

The fixture list published by the B.G.R.F.U. was a very full one and gave the Battalion all the rugby it could handle. On Saturday, 1st May, the Rugby Union held a dance which was well supported by the Battalion. The following day was the first match of the season, a representative "Scotland" v. "England" match, with both teams picked from the Battalion and attached troops. The ground was in good condition when the Commanding Officer kicked off before a fair number of spectators. It was a really grand game, with both sides handling the ball well and the play moving from one end to the other. With no score at half-time it was anybody's game, but early in the second half "Scotland" scored from a penalty. Retaining their three-point lead to within five minutes of no-side, the Scottish defence failed to prevent 2nd Lt. Fallowfield (A Coy.) going over on the right for C.S.M. Smith (SP. Coy.) to kick a grand goal to put "England" in the lead and give them victory.

The months of May and June were taken up with Gonsalves Cup matches. The 2nd XV had a very unfortunate run of luck during the series. Though several Battalion players were in the team, never once was it possible to field the team as originally selected, and though they never won a match they gained plenty of rugger experience which will be useful later.

The 1st XV had better fortune and won the Cup, scoring 104 points for, with only 3 points against. Results were as follow:—

May 9—versus Caribs XV	...	...	won	8 - 3
June 2—versus Hornets XV	...	...	won	24 - 0
„ 9—versus L.A.C. 2nd XV	...	...	won	23 - 0
„ 20—versus Berbice XV	...	...	won	49 - 0

Total 104 - 3

In order to inflict such a heavy defeat on the Berbice XV, the 1st XV travelled to New Amsterdam by special train and played the match on nearby Albion Estate ground. When we arrived we found that more than half of the Berbice team were from D Coy., then stationed in New Amsterdam. With Captain R. H. Webber as referee it was more or less a D Coy. party. Some will have it that the presence of Piper Drummond on the touchline, complete with Pipes and playing the Regimental Charge, inspired the 1st XV to greater effort to win so convincingly. Scorers on this day were as follow:—Tries—Sgt. Douglas, 4; L./Cpl. Whittaker (A.C.C.), 2; Pte. Richardson, 2; Captain J. D. C. Graham, 1; Cpl. Crichton, 1;

Pte. Robertson, 1. Conversions—Pte. Richardson (5); he also kicked two penalty goals.

The Battalion has been, so far, unbeaten in British Guiana, but a game against an all-Guianese XV on 12th May tested us to the limit. The locals were leading by 8 points to nil ten minutes after the second half, but our forwards took over and shattered the Guianese defence to give us the game by 18 points to 8.

#### SEVENS COMPETITION.

The B.G.R.F.U. held a seven-a-side competition in Georgetown on 27th June. Ten teams were entered for the competition, five of them from the L.A.C. The Commanding Officer kindly presented a Cup, to be known as the Argyll Cup, for the competition which is to be held annually. The competition was very successful and the 1st Caribs team were worthy winners. The L.A.C. 1st team had hard luck in losing Cpl. Crichton through a head injury in the first minute of their match against the victors. History was made that day as this was the first time such a competition had been held in British Guiana.

The end of June and early July was taken up with Colony trial matches in preparation for the visit of the Trinidadians. Major G. E. C. Ash, who had been appointed to the panel of referees and the Colony selection committee, put in a great deal of work at this time. The following players took part in the various trials:—Captain J. D. C. Graham, Pte. Richardson, Pte. Huddart, Captain T. Jagger, M.B.E., Sgt. Douglas, 2nd Lt. C. P. R. Palmer, Captain J. A. N. Poynton (R.A.M.C.), Sgt. Stuart (A.P.T.C.), L./Cpl. Ferguson, Captain A. N. Paul, L./Cpl. Bell and Pte. Robertson.

#### TRINIDAD XV.

Advanced information of the Trinidad XV showed that they possessed a very dangerous three-quarter line with two English County caps in the centre, C. Dupenois, their captain, and Davison, with some very useful forwards. Major Ash and the rest of the selectors must have had a very hard time picking the first Colony team as the first match of the tour, Trinidad v. Hornets, had to be postponed because of heavy rain, denying them an opportunity to see the tourists in action.

Congratulations to the following L.A.C. players who were capped for British Guiana against Trinidad, the number of times played being in brackets:—Captain T. Jagger, M.B.E. (1), Captain J. A. N. Poynton, R.A.M.C. (3), Captain K. C. Perry, R.A.M.C. (2), 2nd Lt. C. P. R. Palmer (3), Sgt. J. Douglas (3), L./Cpl. Ferguson (2), Pte. Huddart (3), Pte. Richardson (3), Pte. Worsley (A.C.C.), (1).

With each of the three tests ending in a draw the MacGregor Cup was retained by Trinidad, the holders. Major G. E. C. Ash had the honour to be chosen to referee the first two test matches. All L.A.C. players did their best, and L./Cpl. Ferguson's try in the second game and Captain Poynton's in the final match saved the day for the Colony. Results of the games were:—First, 8 all; second, 3 all; third, 3 all.

Not in the least daunted by the Colony's showing, the Battalion team took on the Tourists on 20th July before a big crowd containing plenty of Battalion supporters. We put on pressure from the kick-off and there were many who thought we were over, but the referee gave a 5 yards' scrum. Getting more of the ball in the first half the Tourists were always dangerous, but our forwards were tackling like tigers and a Trinidad heel usually ended in an Argyll foot rush. Eventually, Davison, the Trinidad centre, collected the ball from a too energetic Argyll dribble and wriggled through our defence to score close to the post. The kick went wide. Half-time saw us three points behind, but again our fitness showed in the second half when we were in the visitors' half most of the time. Sgt. Douglas, always a tower of strength in the pack, barged through to score our one and only try. Pte. Richardson's kick went wide and the game ended 3 points all, allowing both teams to retain their unbeaten records.

The Battalion XV on this memorable occasion was as follows:—Captain J. D. C. Graham; Sgt. Stuart (A.P.T.C.), Pte. Richardson, Lieut. Edington and Cpl. Crighton; Captain K. C. Perry (R.A.M.C.) and Pte. Worsley; Pte. Huddart, Sgt. Douglas, Captain T. Jagger, M.B.E., L./Cpl. Ferguson, C.S.M. Smith, 2nd Lt. C. P. R. Palmer, Captain J. A. N. Poynton (R.A.M.C.) and 2nd Lt. E. C. F. MacPherson.

After the match the Trinidad XV were entertained in the Officers' Mess.

To wind-up the season it was decided to hold an Inter-Coy. Rugger Knock-out Competition. The first game in the first round has been played, C Coy. beating Camp Staff and Military Band by one try (3 points) to nil. It was a most enjoyable game with some of the forwards of C Coy. heading the ball so well that there were four heads up before somebody "knocked forward."

There is no doubt about it, this sojourn in British Guiana has done wonders for Battalion rugger. We only hope to keep our winning streak on our return to U.K. in October.

**STOP PRESS.**—The result of the Inter-Coy. Rugger Competition final match, played in Georgetown on 11th August, was:—H.Q. Coy., 6 points; C Coy., nil. Lady Savage very kindly presented the medallions to the victorious members of the H.Q. Coy. team. Thus ended the Battalion's enjoyable and most successful rugger season in British Guiana.

### BOXING.

Since our arrival in British Guiana it has only been possible to stage one individual boxing competition, which was held in Georgetown on 7th and 14th April, 1954.

Earlier in the year an effort was made to arrange boxing matches with the local civilian clubs, and with this end in view Captain Jagger, M.B.E., and Sgt./Inst. Stewart, A.P.T.C., ran a course in the evenings on Refereeing and Judging at the Y.M.C.A., Georgetown. Unfortunately, the local boxers were found to be amateurs in name only, and in fairness to our own boxers it was

decided not to enter for the British Guiana individual championships or to organise team competitions with the local clubs. This decision was taken most reluctantly, but was undoubtedly the right thing to do under the circumstances. As a result there is no doubt that boxing in the Battalion has suffered to a certain extent, but the very fine display put on by all the entrants for the Battalion Individual Championships gave us all high hopes for the future.

The following were the winners and runners-up at various weights:—

Bantam—Winner, Pte. Robertson, D Coy.; runner-up Pte. McGranaghan, A Coy.

Feather—Pte. McGowan, C Coy.; Pte. Robertson, C Coy.

Light—Pte. Malloch, D Coy.; Pte. Ferguson, C Coy.

Light Welter—Pte. MacNab, HQ. Coy.; L./Cpl. Bell, HQ. Coy.

Welter—Pte. McGill, C Coy.; Pte. Wiseman, HQ. Coy.

Light Middle—Pte. Robertson, HQ. Coy.; Pte. Cryans, C Coy.

Middle—Pte. McKell, C Coy.; Pte. Drummond, C Coy.

Captain T. Jagger, M.B.E., R.S.M. Boyde, D.C.M., and Sgt./Inst. Stewart (A.P.T.C.) are to be congratulated on having so well organised and conducted this competition.

There is still a lot to be done before the Battalion will be able to produce a well-balanced boxing team, but we are fortunate in having some good boxers whom we can build round.

## REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS AND DEPOT.

### DEPOT DIGGINGS.

Since we last wrote these notes there have been several changes at the Depot. Lieut. P. M. K. Mackellar, one of our oldest inhabitants, has now been winkled out and gone to learn about the medium machine-gun before returning to the 1st Battalion. His chair in the Adjutant's office is now occupied by Lieut. K. J. F. Maclean. We were also very sorry to have to say good-bye to R.S.M. McNaught, who has departed for Kenya, where Mrs. McNaught is soon to follow him. An unexpected, and we hope very temporary, change occurred when Captain I. McKillop was sent on six months' sick leave. We hope to see him well again soon. Mrs. McQueen left for Canada in June, where Captain McQueen will join her nearer the end of the year. 2nd Lt. Lorrimer has joined us, having completed his post-Sandhurst courses at Hythe and Warminster. He is training with up-to-date information concerning the Old Bell and the Bath Arms.

As forecast in our last notes, our intakes have risen to over sixty strong. However, the National Servicemen's sojourn in the Regiment is short, since they are now all going to The Black Watch, Camerons and Gordons. Our last draft to the

1st Battalion was despatched on 5th July when 2nd Lt. Davidson departed, taking 24 other ranks with him. Our regular recruits are now going to the 1st Gordons at Redford Barracks, where they await the return of the Battalion from British Guiana.

At the moment, preparations are under way for the Balaclava Day Celebrations on 9th and 10th October. Until recently R.S.M. Neeson and C.S.M. Skinner could be seen on the Esplanade earnestly taking compass bearings on each other, while Sgts. Adair and Mitchell marched about completely entangled in yards of rope. The result, amazingly enough, has been a square beautifully marked out with white lines and dots. So we now begin to look quite ready for the occasion.

By the way, if anyone hears sounds of heavy breathing, groans, moans or pleas for mercy in the vicinity of Stirling, it is only Q.M.S.I. Lauder and his staff taking everyone under 35 for a little training jaunt. Those who survive hope to pass their P.E. tests.

#### PARENTS' DAYS.

The summer type parents' days are now the order of the day, and we hold them this summer in conjunction with the passing-out parade. Since our last notes they have been on 15th May and 3rd July, and continue to prove a great attraction. Up to now we have put no limit on the number of guests each individual could ask—one recruit asked thirteen and they all came—but we are now forced to limit numbers owing to the size of intakes. It is most encouraging that the men are keen to ask their relations to come and have a look, and even more encouraging that the relations do so readily accept.

#### PIPING AND DANCING.

With the arrival of Cpl. Yule fresh from his piping course we have been able to increase our scope. At the Highland District Games at Fort George on 5th June the dancers managed to sweep the board. Sgt. Oliver, Cpl. Yule, Cpl. Elliott and Pte. Ferguson won the Inter-Unit Foursome and featured as follows in other dances:—Fling—1st, Cpl. Elliott; 2nd, Sgt. Oliver. Swords—1st, Cpl. Elliott; 2nd, Sgt. Oliver; 3rd, Pte. Ferguson.

We were sorry not to win any piping, but how could we with the 8th A. & S.H. there in force?

Cpl. Yule has trained a very good little band, and is able to keep a close eye on Boy Scott. Pipe Major Macleod had him on a month's course at Fort George recently and he said that he was the most promising boy piper he had had under instruction for many years.

#### PASSING-OUT PARADES.

The following have taken place since those last reported:—

15th May. Inspecting Officer—Brigadier J. Sorrel Cameron, D.S.O. Pte. McGurk and Pte. Kidd were awarded certificates as the best recruits in each platoon. Pte. McGurk was awarded the A.R.A. Medal for best rifle shot, and Pte. Maitland for the best L.M.G. shot.

3rd July. Inspecting Officer—Major-General J. Scott-Elliott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. Pte. Kane and Pte. Brown were awarded certificates as the best recruits in each platoon. Pte. Breakell was awarded the A.R.A. Medal for best rifle shot, and Pte. Wisdom for the best L.M.G. shot.

#### MUSEUM.

The number of visitors in the first two months was disappointing, but they have been increasing steadily in July and August. The new medal room is proving a great attraction and certainly adds interest. The Balaclava pipes have been taken out of their case and are in good working order. They will be played during the centenary celebrations.

The following permanent presentations have been made.—The Hon. Mrs. H. Leith Hay, of Leith Hall, Kennethmont, has lent us the horn drinking mug and field glasses carried by Colonel Leith Hay in the Crimea and during the Indian Mutiny.

#### WIVES' CLUB.

The Club continues to thrive, although we are shortly to lose Mrs. McNaught. Before she gave up her official job of treasurer, we held a farewell party on 21st June in her honour. Mrs. Fanshawe presented her with a travelling clock on behalf of all the wives as a token of our gratitude to her for all her splendid work. We will miss her very much and wish her great happiness in the future.

The families' outing to Kinghorn was held on 18th June. We hired two big 40-seater buses for the occasion. There was plenty for everybody to do and the day was voted a great success by all.

We ran a troops' dance on 29th July in an effort to swell our funds for the coming winter activities. It was enjoyed so much that we are going to run another in September.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS.

We wish to take the opportunity in this issue of the Regimental magazine to welcome to the Mess the following members who have joined us from overseas:—C./Sgt. McCrimmon, Sgt. (Young Robbie) Robertson, B.E.M., C./Sgt. Ashton and C./Sgt. Cowan. Departures since the last issue have been R.S.M. J. McNaught, who has left us for service with 3 K.A.R. in East Africa. To him and Mrs. McNaught we wish the best of luck, and would like to say how sorry we all are to see them depart after having served the Regiment and the Mess so well during the past three years. Our loss is someone else's gain. C.S.M. McAllister departed to civvy street on 6th August, and to him we wish all the best on his leaving the service.

On 7th July we accepted a challenge from 26 Comd. Workshops, R.E.M.E., for a Games Evening in their Mess at Back o' Hill Camp. An excellent evening was had by all, the evening finishing with a win for R.E.M.E. by one point. If only our O.R.S. had been a crib expert we might have won.

The Mess annual bus outing was held on 11th July, and 33 members and honorary members

## REGIMENTAL DEPOT SERGEANTS' MESS.



FRONT Row—C./Sgt. P. McCrimmon, C.S.M. J. Bell, R.S.M. B. Neeson, Major J. G. D. Fanshawe, R.S.M. J. McNaught, Lt. and Adj. K. J. F. Maclean, Lt. (Q.M.) D. MacLennan, C.S.M. A. Skinner.

CENTRE Row—Sgt. J. Oliver, Sgt. J. Adair, Sgt. J. Harrison, Sgt. W. Linton, C./Sgt. T. Moorehead, Sgt. (O.R.S.) C. Thew, Sgt. A. Mitchell.

BACK Row—Sgt. D. Street, Sgt. N. Thackwray (R.A.E.C.), Sgt. J. Weatherall (R.A.M.C.), Sgt. G. Orchard (R.A.O.C.), Sgt. J. Rodger, Sgt. H. Saunders.

Photo. by Ian S. Kennedy, Stirling.

attended. Destination for the outing was Balloch where we stayed for lunch and tea. During the outing stops were made for refreshments at Drymen, Helensburgh and Buchlyvie. A very good day was had by all and everyone was in a merry mood on arrival back in Stirling at 11 p.m. The writer has been informed that four members, reputed amateur sailors, got stuck in the "Leven" at Balloch and had to be rescued. Who could they have been?

A farewell social evening in honour of R.S.M. McNaught was held on 22nd July and approximately 70 attended, which included the officers of the Depot and their ladies. During the course of the evening complimentary tributes were paid to R.S.M. McNaught by Major J. G. D. Fanshawe and R.S.M. B. Neeson. The presentation of a Parker pen and pencil set, Ronson lighter and cigarette case, suitably inscribed, was made to R.S.M. McNaught by R.S.M. Neeson on behalf of the members of the Mess.

The final of the Mess darts championship was held on 18th June and was won by Sgt. Linton, who defeated Sgt. Harrison by two games to one. To Sgt. Linton we offer our congratulations.

A Sergeants' Mess photograph was taken on 24th July and is reproduced above.

Before closing these notes we would like to congratulate Sgt. (Young Robbie) Robertson on his award of the British Empire Medal in Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday Honours List this year.

## CORPORALS' MESS NOTES.

The following changes have occurred in the last quarter:—Cpls. Ross and Nicoll have joined us from the Battalion, and L./Cpl. Scholfield (A.C.C.) from Back o' Hill Camp has replaced Cpl. Small (A.C.C.), posted to Germany.

Cpl. (Wogg) Yule has rejoined from his Pipe Major's Course at Edinburgh Castle, and is now keenly keeping together the small but enthusiastic band at the Depot. L./Cpl. Thomson, the dental surgeon, has just completed six weeks' course at Aldershot and is now as tough as his 4 × 4 figure looks. We heartily welcome L./Cpl. Todd from the Boys' Battalion at Nottingham, who is already making his mark. The last new member is a girl, Elizabeth Louise, first child of Cpl. and Mrs. C. R. Scott, born on 7th May.

L./Cpl. Yetman, the Orderly Room Wallah, has been missed from the Mess, having been in hospital and on sick leave. We hope to see him amongst us soon.

Congratulations to Cpl. Todd Sloan on being awarded his L.S. and G.C. Medal on 3rd July by Major-General J. Scott-Elliot.

It is with heavy heart we say farewell to R.S.M. McNaught, who recently left us for East Africa to rejoin the K.A.R. He was a well liked "Tarra," whose presence will be missed by many.

"Chesty," the new "Tarra," is an old favourite and is known to most of us as a "Fine Fella," and admirably holds the "Cherished Post."

The Corporals' Mess held a farewell party for the R.S.M. on 22nd July, which was well run and enjoyed, thanks to Cpl. John Whitley, Cpl. Parsons, Cpl. "Spot" Campbell and L.-Cpl. Scholfield. The presentation of a camera was made to the R.S.M. and a cake stand to Mrs. McNaught, this being given by the youngest member, L./Cpl. Blair. After a refreshment and chat there was a dancing session with the ladies who had been invited. By this time things began to go with a swing; the only thing which stopped was the flow of draught beer. Cpl. Parsons, who undertook barman, somehow contrived to stop the flow after 14 pints. Later, we discovered that someone had turned off the suction tap, but it might have been Cpl. Parsons trying to get the rest over to a cupboard in the Company Office for later use.

On 17th July the Mess held an outing in the form of a bus run to Portobello. This was quite well attended and enjoyed, so much indeed that some Corporals did not get back till the following day, and not a few required "the helping hand of guidance."

Let us not forget our congratulations to Cpl. Mitchell on his promotion to Sergeant.

Our Corporals' Mess just has one debt—  
But this, I'm sure, we don't regret,  
And from our Mess we shall not roam,  
Till that TV becomes our own.

### SPORTS.

Since the last notes we have competed in various sports with a certain degree of success.

#### BOXING.

On 6th May we fought Depot Seaforth at the Castle. After a very keen contest we won by the odd point. The following represented the Depot:—Ptes. Sparkes, Begg, Taylor, McCourt, Crowley, Comrie, McGuire, Robinson, Wisdom and Sinclair.

Major-General J. Scott-Elliot presented the prizes.

#### HIGHLAND DISTRICT GAMES.

We entered a small athletic team who trained hard, but were unfortunately outclassed. Competitors were:—Javelin—Pte. Taylor; Discus—Pte. Brown; Hammer—Pte. Nance; Three Miles—L./Cpl. Sutherland and Pte. Davey; Medley Relay—Ptes. Breakell, Robbins, McNab and Kane.

### CRICKET.

We have played three games this season, winning one and losing two. The scores are given below:—

#### SEVEN-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT.

##### STIRLING HIGH SCHOOL STAFF.

Robertson, b Moorehead	...	...	...	11
Porter, c and b Fanshawe	...	...	...	7
Lambert, not out	...	...	...	14
Brown, c Linton, b Fanshawe	...	...	...	2
Sinclair, not out	...	...	...	7
Extras	...	...	...	4
Total	...	...	...	45

Shedden and Barclav did not bat.

Bowling—Fanshawe, three for 9; Moorehead, one for 17.

##### DEPOT A. & S.H.

Sgt. Linton, st. Sinclair, b Robertson	...	...	...	8
R.S.M. J. McNaught, b Porter	...	...	...	0
Major J. G. D. Fanshawe, not out	...	...	...	8
C./Sgt. Moorehead, b Porter	...	...	...	6
Sgt. Street, b Robertson	...	...	...	2
Sgt. Thew, b Robertson	...	...	...	4
C.S.M. J. Neeson, b Porter	...	...	...	2
Extras	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	31

Bowling—Porter, three for 17; Robertson, three for 11.

#### ANNUAL MATCH v. BLACK WATCH.

##### DEPOT A. & S.H.

Maj. R. V. Dewar-Durie, c Lyle, b Montgomery	...	...	...	31
Lt. J. Watson, c Lyle, b Montgomery	...	...	...	52
Capt. J. Ritchie c Gowe, b Darling	...	...	...	11
Maj. H. R. MacNeal, c Darling, b Price	...	...	...	1
Pte. Craig, run out	...	...	...	27
Maj. J. D. L. Boyle, c Gowe, b Montgomery	...	...	...	14
Maj.-Gen. J. Scott-Elliot, b Montgomery	...	...	...	0
Maj. J. G. D. Fanshawe, not out	...	...	...	17
C./Sgt. Moorhead, c Saddle, b Darling	...	...	...	0
Pte. Baith, b Darling	...	...	...	0
Lt. P. M. K. Mackellar, b Montgomery	...	...	...	3
Extras	...	...	...	1
Total	...	...	...	157

Bowling—Montgomery, five for 75; Darling, three for 30; Price, one for 13.

##### BLACK WATCH.

D. Montgomery, c Baith, b Craig	...	...	...	33
G. Sadler, c Boyle, b Craig	...	...	...	35
Dewhurst, b Moorhead	...	...	...	4
Price, b Boyle	...	...	...	10
Lyle, c Watson, b Dewar-Durie	...	...	...	16
Darling, c Watson, b Boyle	...	...	...	21
MacPherson, b Boyle	...	...	...	2
Lord Forteviot, b Boyle	...	...	...	0
M. Gowe, b Boyle	...	...	...	4
Pollock-McCall, not out	...	...	...	4
Jardine Paterson, c Fanshawe, b Dewar-Durie	...	...	...	2
Extras	...	...	...	6
Total	...	...	...	142

Bowling—Boyle, five for 48; Craig, two for 20; Moorhead, one for 22; Dewar-Durie, two for 5.

## ANNUAL MATCH v. STIRLING COUNTY.

## DEFOT A. &amp; S.H.

Maj. R. V. Dewar-Durie, c McAree, b Parker	0
Lt. J. Watson, b Parker	13
Capt. R. Ritchie, b Parker	0
Maj. H. R. MacNeal, b McArthur	10
Pte. Craig, c MacArthur, b Parker	75
2/Lt. Brownlow run out	26
Maj. Boyle, c Martin, b Little	2
Maj. J. G. D. Fanshawe, b Iffla	10
Lt. P. M. K. Mackellar, not out	14
2/Lt. W. Henderson, not out	1
C./Sgt. Moorhead did not bat.	
Extras	8

Total, for eight wks. ... 159

Bowling—Parker, four for 17.

## STIRLING COUNTY C.C.

W. Clark, c Fanshawe, b Dewar-Durie	62
C. S. Kennedy, b Boyle	3
J. A. H. Morgan, st. Fanshawe, b Dewar-Durie	40
S. Parker, b Boyle	28
D. McAree, not out	10
J. C. Martin, not out	10
I. Iffla, W. McArthur, W. Little, R. Marshall, and J. Kennedy did not bat.	
Extras	10

Total, for four wks. ... 163

Bowling—Boyle, two for 37; Dewar-Durie, two for 46.

## SHOOTING.

Under the guiding hand of Lieut. R. D. Fairrie, the unit shooting team put in a great deal of practice for the 51 Div. Rifle Meeting held at Barry on 30th April and 1st-2nd May, 1954.

The team consisted of:—Major J. G. D. Fanshawe, Captain I. McKillop, Lieut. R. D. Fairrie (captain), Lieut. P. M. K. Mackellar, R.S.M. J. McNaught, C.S.M. J. Neeson, Sgt. Linton, L./Cpl. McIlroy and Pte. Brown. Reserve—Sgt. Harrison.

They were placed as follows in the main events for which they entered:—Second—Inter-Depot Competition; second—Falling Plates Competition; third—Rifle Competition.

We hope that the interest aroused will continue and that next year the team will win everything.

## GARDEN PARTY.

The annual Regimental Garden Party was held on 6th August. It was held indoors owing to inclement weather.

## 402 LIGHT REGT. R.A. (A. &amp; S.H.) T.A.

(Formerly 5th/6th Battalion.)

The month of June was fully taken up in putting a polish on the technical side of training, prior to camp, which was held at Buddon, Angus, between 3rd and 17th July.

In effect, the camp worked out to be probably the best held since pre-war days.

On the local Fair Saturday, the Pipes and Drums, under Drum Major A. Bloomfield, D.C.M., and Pipe Major John Fairhurst, played the two

local Batteries—P Battery (Greenock—Major W. R. Kerr, T.D.) and Q Battery (Port Glasgow—Major R. Brough)—to Princes Pier Station.

As part of the "hardening" process there were not seats for all on the train! But, after being joined by R Battery (Major J. G. Paton) at Paisley, Buddon was reached at 2.30 p.m.

The weather was dry for the move in, the tents and ground satisfactory, and settling in carried on after a large evening meal supplied from a modern cookhouse to good dining halls—these being practically the only permanent buildings.

The first Sunday was spent taking over vehicles, guns, carriers and stores ready for training on the Monday.

The week's work was not held up by weather at all, as frequent showers dried off into the sandy ground in a matter of minutes.

Shooting with mortars and small arms took place for the batteries in turn throughout the week, and visitors to watch the shooting included the Commander of The Royal Artillery, 51st Division (Brigadier W. B. Wilson, O.B.E.), and culminated on the 9th by a joint visit from Major-General J. Scott-Elliot, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., Commanding Highland District, and Brigadier C. I. V. Jones, Royal Artillery Scottish Command.

The General, when a Lt.-Colonel, had commanded the Regiment (93rd Anti-Tank Regiment, A. & S.H., as it then was) in North Africa in 1942, but the only officer now serving who was with him then, as one of his Battery Commanders, is the present C.O., Lt.-Colonel Donald Main, T.D.

Everything went well on the visit, and the Officers' Guest Night, graced by both the General and Brigadier Jones, was, in consequence, a cheerful affair, preceded by the Pipes and Drums beating Retreat and with three pipers at Mess.

The Regiment was disappointed that the Hon. Colonel, Colonel Sir W. Guy Shaw-Stewart, M.C., was unable to attend, but it is hoped to have a visit from him at the next camp.

The middle Saturday and Sunday at camp were working days also, but Q Battery had a cheerful bus load of supporters, wives and children, for a meal and sports on the Saturday afternoon.

Sunday afternoon saw more buses from Paisley area, the Pipes and Drums playing them in, out, and round about, in the first really blazing sunshine of the camp. Some hardy visitors went swimming, and everyone had a grand time.

The second week's camp was in much better weather, any rain falling during the night only. Shooting went on daily, increasingly and successfully, right until the last bomb had been fired.

The Pipes and Drums played programmes in Carnoustie and had a joint performance with the Band of the Divisional Signals Regiment.

A Sergeants' Mess guest night was a great success, as also, on the last Thursday, P Battery's concert and smoker, when the M.C. (B.S.M. Mackenzie) kept matters running smoothly in a most amusing manner.

The Alarm Stakes race was won by the Gun Detachment of Sgt. McWilliam of Greenock, and the C.O. handed over the Shield and Cups to Sgt. McWilliam's merry men.

All in all, Reveille at 4 a.m. in bright moonlight on Saturday, 17th July, brought a successful culmination to the year's training.

The food was first-class, the weather played up and the programme was not constantly changed.

What more can a T.A. soldier hope for?

The time of the Regiment at camp was sandwiched between the camps of the 8th Battalion and the 7th Battalion, and we were fortunate enough to be able to offer hospitality to all visitors from the 7th Battalion. It was quite like old times—as in pre-war days the sequence of training used to be 8th Battalion, 5/6th Battalion and 7th Battalion.

Since returning from camp the Regiment has not been training, as the date for re-opening of various classes is 7th September.

Social activities have been carrying on as usual, and the Pipes and Drums have already made quite a name for themselves by carrying through engagements in the local parks at enormous expense to the civic authorities.

The Regiment hopes to do well at Cowal Games on 28th August, and certainly any lack of success will not be due to failing to practise hard.

## SEVENTH BATTALION.

### A COY.

O.C., Major I. M. Grant. Lieut. J. S. Cairns.  
 Captain R. G. Lee. Lieut. J. Maitland.  
 2nd Lt. I. A. Watson.

Annual camp is over once again. We in this Company all had a good camp, and although we were not first in the various competitions we didn't do too badly. Shortage of N.C.O.s was our problem during the whole camp. During the second week we had only one full rank N.C.O. in the Company, which made the smooth running of the Company very difficult.

A bus load of wives and children came up for the Families' Day and it was voted a great success. We hope in future years, if we are not too far away, to have other Families' Days.

The Drill Hall will now be closed for a few weeks while the P.S.I. has his annual leave. We hear talk of a new Drill Hall for Kilsyth, and hope that some action will come from this rumour. The accommodation we have is poor by present-day standards. If we are using our miniature range, we can do nothing else, because the range uses up the whole hall.

Our next big effort will be the celebration of the centenary of Balaclava Day in October. We are all looking forward to this, and the Company representatives will soon be practising hard.

## 7th BATTALION.



"C" Company Shooting Team.

Photo. by Clews & Hamilton, Alloa.

## C COY.

O.C. Major J. L. Isles.      Lieut. J. Stirling.  
 Capt. D. Gray.              Lieut. A. J. Younger.  
    Lieut. H. McIlwraith.

We start our notes for this edition with news of our successes at shooting in the immediate pre-camp period. Members of C Company took three of the major trophies for the third year running at the Battalion rifle meeting at Whitestone Ranges, while Captain Gray won the Mowbray Medal, with Cpl. Burns as runner-up. The Company team consisted of Capt. D. Gray, C.S.M. Pearson, Sergt. O'lito, Cpls. Craine and Burns, and Ptes. Brennan, McFarlane, and McPhee. Capt. Gray, C.S.M. Pearson, and Cpl. Beaton were also members of the two Battalion teams which were winners and runners-up of the "Glasgow Herald" Trophy (the T.A. team championship) at the S.R.A. meeting at Dechmont on 30th May.

Camp was a great success this year. A lot of hard work was done at Platoon level, and a lot was learned by everyone.

We are sorry to say good-bye to C.S.M. Gillan, who leaves us in August to face the rigours of "Civvy Street."

Perhaps it will be "au revoir" and not good-bye, for surely after giving the sales talk to so many N.S.M., Harry can persuade himself to join the T.A. Anyway, all the best, Harry, and many thanks for all your help and cheerfulness. In his place we welcome Sgt. Dunbar, from Kinross, an old member of the Company. We hope his stay will be a happy one.

## D COY.

O.C., Major R. A. Orr-Ewing.      Lieut. I. H. Handley.  
 Capt. R. C. Stewart.              Lieut. R. G. Cursham.  
    Lieut. R. J. Denholm.

Once again our two weeks under canvas are behind us, and, as usual, D Coy. has acquitted itself with honour.

The drill competition proved that C.S.M. Erskine and D Coy., by their combined efforts, can mount the finest guard in the Battalion, the drill and turnout being exceptional, while in the weapon-training competition only one point separated us from the winners.

At football we were "robbed." Though a far better team than SP. Coy., the final was held on one of our "off" days, and SP. Coy. won.

We worked hard at camp, and our attacks on sand dunes (and flies) were well carried out, while in the evenings our assaults on Dundee and Arbroath, through the courtesy of Alexanders' buses, were equally memorable.

On the whole, a good camp, and now — on to camp 1955!

**RE-VISITING EDINBURGH.**

Owing to pressure of space in this special number, an article under the above title, written by S. C. Foster, late 4th Bn., has been unavoidably held over and will appear in our next issue.

## SP. COY.

O.C., Major J. D. L. Boyle. Lt. J. A. Sherriff.  
 Lt. I. MacG. Gow.              2nd Lt. N. W. Buchanan.  
 Lt. M. McL. Henderson.      2nd Lt. J. D. Watson.

Since the last issue tension has been steadily mounting to the crescendo of annual camp.

We were able to relieve this tension slightly by some excellent social evenings in the Drill Hall, when all present were greatly entertained by Cpl. Scott's concert party. Unfortunately, one of their evenings preceded the Battalion rifle meeting, which probably accounted in no small measure for the Company's ignominious shooting. However, the Company Commander was unable to be present at the "social," and therefore had no excuse for setting an example by winning the "wooden spoon" on this Officer's cup!

We also had a field firing week-end at Comrie, which was a great success for the Company, but not so pleasant for the Training Officer, who has to blow up the blinds.

We moved off to camp in good order, but our "petrol feet" were shaken early on by being made to march from King's Park to the Station, and from Barry Station to Buddon Camp.

On arrival, it was apparent that the R.S.M. still took a "fatherly" interest in his old Company, as Sgt. Tierney disappeared to administer the wants of the Sergeants' Mess and Cpl. Milne became one of the Q.M.'s assistants, bartering daily in the ration store in Perth.

There is no doubt that the training at camp did an immense amount of good, and the standard of individual handling improved out of all knowledge.

The results of the field firing were extremely gratifying. The mortars mastered some very faulty ammunition extremely well, and, in spite of a constant flow of misfires and tail fins falling off, produced a very good shoot.

The gunners seemed to have a very good shoot, and their targets confirmed that this was so, unless they are handier with the bayonet than one imagines.

The A./Tk. Platoon, composed largely of beginners, showed that they, too, could hit the target, and no less than 14 hits on the crosser was the best that the range warden had seen this year.

The Pioneers, as usual a law unto themselves, blew up everything in sight, and gave a most impressive demolition to speed Brigadier Jock on his way.

In the Champion Company Competition, we started camp lying practically last, owing to finishing last in both the .22 and .303 Shooting Competition. However, we soon showed that we didn't intend to stay at the bottom, and, by winning the sports, coming second on the lines inspection, and being placed highly in guard mounting and the turnout inspection, we eventually finished second, close on "B" Coy.'s heels.

In the sports we won by no less a margin than 20 points. We were greatly assisted by Lieut. Leslie, who won the 440, high jump and javelin. Other

winner were:—100 yards, Pte. Kerr 35 ; 880 yards, Pte. Birnie 8 ; discus, Major Boyle ; shot, 2nd, Pte. Baird ; hammer, 2nd, Pte. Strathen ; and, of course, the tug o' war team, ably assisted by Sgt. Bell's voice (perhaps caused by a proprietary brand of the same name). Quite apart from the individual winners, it was the number of placed men gaining points that produced our runaway victory.

We also won the Football Cup, which, unfortunately, did not count in the Champion Company Competition. The team was excellently led by Pte. Baird, who left for Preston North End bearing more scars than when they paid £12,500 for him.

We further convinced the Battalion that our claim to "petrol feet" was justified, as Ptes. Comrie and Ramage came first and second in the Driving Competition against the cream of the M.T.

Altogether, it was a successful camp, and we left determined to improve our shooting for next year. (Company Commander, please note!)

Finally, we welcome our new C.S.M., Jimmy Orr, who is well known to us all, and who showed how much an asset he is to any Company.

#### H.Q. COY.

Ah! well, there it is—the old sweats of the 1947 T.A. have seen yet another annual Camp come and go! One fact remains, the old spirit of soldiering, the overnight metamorphosis from "Teddy boy" to "Jock," and the atmosphere of flapping canvas, bugle calls, and the skirl of the pipes never change much through the years—and, praise be to Allah that this is so. For those of us who like the Army, and it is my humble opinion that more people like it than admit it, it is a wonderful feeling to throw aside civilian cares and accept the problems that the running of a Company entails, in the knowledge that those worries, in a Battalion of good fellowship, will be quite readily surmountable.

On the whole, the Company enjoyed itself. The cooks worked with a will, the administrators achieved much more order than chaos, the M.T. were relieved of long weary miles of driving, and the Signallers' training progressed with a purpose, culminating in a two-day test by the Chief Signals Officer from Highland District.

The Intelligence Section was under the I.O., Lieut. John Prosser, who seemed particularly happy in his work. Although but a very small band of men, the training, in its interest and variety, held their attention during the entire duration of Camp.

The two Signals Officers, Lieuts. George Younger and Alistair Graham, were most "up-stage" in their statement that all equipment was returned without any major deficiency disclosure, yet both fled the country after Camp—one to Germany and the other to France. The French holidaymaker, however, is now well entangled in apron strings!

The Company suffered three hospital casualties, L./Cpl. Turner with a broken arm after a high dive from a pole carrying telephone cable ; Pte. Lawson, attached to SP. Coy., who collapsed with "tummy" trouble, and Pte. "Simoniz" Duff, who had his ankle twisted by a rabbit? All, we are pleased to say, are now back in semi-circulation.

#### PIPES AND DRUMS.

Well, here we are again, after our strenuous fortnight at Buddon, Angus, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We were more like our usual selves again, having Big Bill McDonald back leading us after his long lay-off. The Band was heavily engaged during the camp period, playing at Broughty Ferry, Monifieth, Carnoustie, Dundee, and Edinburgh, in addition to beating Retreat in camp on one or two occasions. The Pipes and Drums also played selections on the Families Day, which coincided with the finals of the Sports Meeting. Although the various drill halls are closed for a month, the Pipes and Drums are determined to carry on with their practising in an effort to retain the trophies won last year at Cowal. As a preliminary, the Pipes and Drums entered the contest at the Strathallan Highland Gathering and secured two prizes, one being for department and the other for drumming. We wish Big Bill and Jock Smith all the best in their efforts to keep the Pipes and Drums of the Battalion to the fore in the various competitions.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS.

Since the last edition of *The Thin Red Line* we have undergone our annual training in camp, which was held at Buddon, Angus, the well renowned breeding place for flies and midges, which seemed to thrive on Sergeants and above. We had a well-organised mess, with Jack Bryson looking after our "spiritual" needs and Ronnie Teirney looking after the eats, and the appearance of the members at the end of camp showed that they had both done their jobs well. The members of the Mess had the usual photograph taken on the second Sunday at camp, but our humane feelings prevent us from submitting it for publication. The photographer's visit coincided with the lunch interval, and one irate C./Sergeant, who had to leave his lunch unfinished, definitely showed his displeasure in the photograph. No prizes for guessing his identity. We had our Guest Night in the Mess on the second Thursday of camp, and it was voted a great success, although some saboteur "got at" the lighting system, which resulted in the Mess being plunged into darkness around 2 a.m. and a curtailment of the festivities. The Officers contributed well to the programme, whilst our "Whispering baritone," Big Peter, gently crooned his party piece. The proceedings started with the toast, "The Queen," which was drunk in a special brew, concocted by a few T.T. bods who would not risk a tot at any cost, but, as no casualties were reported, it must be assumed that it was at least drinkable. The Mess have made a new departure in having a "Ladies' Night" once a month in Princes Street, when it is hoped to have a real friendly "get together" and provide the excuses to the ladies for the habitual absence of the hubbies. Two of these functions have already been held, and were quite successful, although the numbers were not quite what we hoped for. The P.S.I.s are now off for their well-earned (?) leave, and we can therefore look to a drop in the output of bumphy from Hookey Walker.

## CAMP COMPETITIONS.

The results of the various competitions held at Buddon Camp were as follows:—

Weapon Training Competition—1st, B Coy., 28½ points; 2nd, C Coy., 28 points; 3rd, D Coy., 27½ points.

Battalion Sports—1st, SP. Coy., 51 points; 2nd, B Coy., 33 points; 3rd H.Q. Coy., 27 points.

Best Kept Vehicle—1st, L./Cpl. Wilson, B Coy.; 2nd, Pte. Duff, HQ. Coy.; 3rd, Pte. Watt, B Coy.

Guard Mounting Competition—1st, D Coy., 44 points; 2nd, C Coy., 35 points; 3rd (equal), A Coy. and SP. Coy., 20 points.

Coy. Lines Competition—1st, B Coy., 30½ points; 2nd, SP. Coy., 28 points; 3rd (equal), HQ. Coy. and C Coy., 26 points.

Platoon Tactical Competition—1st, B Coy., 34½ points; 2nd, C Coy., 34 points; 3rd, D Coy., 32 points.

Field Firing—1st, B Coy., 398 points; 2nd, C Coy., 306 points; 3rd, D Coy., 272 points.

Driving Competition—1st, Pte. Comrie, SP. Coy.

D.R. Competition—1st, L./Cpl. MacKrell, HQ. Coy.

Inter-Coy Turnout Competition—1st, B Coy., 27 points; 2nd, HQ. Coy., 24 points; 3rd, A Coy., 22 points.

Champion Coy.—1st, B Coy., 50 points; 2nd, SP. Coy., 40½ points; 3rd, HQ. Coy., 37½ points.

## EIGHTH (ARGYLLSHIRE) BATTALION.

The Battalion was in Camp at Buddon, Carnoustie, from Saturday, 19th June, until Saturday, 3rd July. That "event" occurred approximately in the middle of the period under review, and as most of May and early June was devoted to preparation, and certainly the whole of July was more than taken up with "mopping-up," these notes are bound to savour strongly of "curry and rice," or, for the uninitiated, East Coast airs!

Actually, Camp was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and a good mixture of hard work and fun was attained. The hard work consisted of minor tactics up to Platoon level, a deal of specialist work, a junior N.C.O. cadre, and range work for all weapons. The fun consisted of—well, various things, including sports, an excellent Battalion Games and healthy inter-Company rivalry.

The accommodation in Camp was "180 lbs." tents with some larger store and office tents; a few permanent huts of the Nissen variety, and a brick-built Officers' Mess completed the layout. The weather, which could obviously make or mar the fortnight, was kind enough to interfere only once with the programme. Church Parade on Sunday, 27th June, was "rained off," and, to the obvious approval of a number of Officers and Sergeants, the Battalion was "motored" to and from Church at Barry. Captain The Rev. A. R. Manson, M.A., of Tarbert, the Battalion's Padre, officiated.

A most interesting and realistic inter-Company section competition was run on one of the field firing ranges. This was won by a section of B Company, led by Cpl. McLellan, and including L./Cpl. Munro, A. Paterson, McDonald, McSporran,

Gillespie and Girvan (H.Q.), all from Campbeltown and district. B Company were also successful in the inter-Company rifle shoot on the classification range. When the points were added up for this competition, it surprised most people (and not least the winner himself) to find that Major Hector L. R. Macneal had scored the highest individual aggregate. It was unfortunate that in the falling plate contest the A Company team, with such well-known rifle shots as Lieut. Murdoch Mactaggart, L./Cpl. Jim Cameron and Pte. Durcan Heads from Islay, and L./Cpl. Donald MacQuarrie and Pte. Sandy Wilson from Lochgilphead, had to be disqualified for an infringement of the rules when "going well." The competition was won by the Support Company (Renton) team, led by Lieut. Roger MacAslan of Dumbarton.

The "Dumbarton Argylls" also won the Association football knock-out competition by beating H.Q. (Dunoon) Company in the final by 8 goals 5. This was a hard fought game, in which H.Q. Company, assisted by the wind, shook their opponents by leading at half-time. Major Tom MacCrow, who commands H.Q. Company, tried for his revenge by challenging Major Iain Gillespie, M.C., and his men of C and D Companies to a shinty match. H.Q. Company, however, could not batter their way through such seasoned campaigners as Sandy Macdonald of Ballachulish and Angus Lawrie of Oban, and the result was a goalless draw.

The Games were held on Saturday, 26th June, on a fine field and track lent by the Monifieth Town Council. A good race in the 100 yards final was won by Pte. Aitken of Support Company in the excellent time of 11.2 seconds (against the wind); the high jump was a gift to Sgt. Alasdair Macdonald of the Argyll Hotel, Lochgilphead, while Lt. Dick Curtis made an excellent throw to win the discus. Support Company (Renton) won the day on their aggregate total of points, very closely followed by D Company, who won the tug of war, their team consisting of such stalwarts as Cpl. Jock Leitch, L./Cpl. John Hill, Pte. Alex. McLean, Donald Duck McLean, Rob McNiven, Tommy Stewart, Colin Urquhart, George Macaulay, L./Cpl. John Connell, and C.S.M. Bob Murray. In the handicap race for Officers and members of the Sergeants' Mess there were a number of quietly fancied men, such as C.S.M. Bob Innes, of Kinlochleven, representing the more experienced group, and Lt. Hugh Blakeney, from Easdale, a much fancied "youngster." In fact, the Regular soldiers (from the Dunoon stable) filled the first three places, the Commanding Officer, the Adjutant and the R.S.M. flashed past the post in that order. The result undoubtedly shook everyone, both Officers and Jocks alike!

The Pipes and Drums had a busy fortnight, which included beating Retreat at Edinburgh Castle and visiting Arbroath, Carnoustie and Monifieth for evening engagements. They had the advantage of having their Pipe President, Major D. Graham Campbell, with them for much of the period. The Pipes under P.M. Ronnie MacCallum and Sgt. Neil Henderson (Dunoon), and the Drum Corps under D.M. Alex. Black (Dunoon), benefited to a great

extent by being able to practise together for a whole fortnight.

While at Buddon the Battalion was visited by a number of friends and Senior Officers. Brigadier Lorne Campbell, V.C., D.S.O., T.D., spent three days in camp; Lt-General Sir Colin M. Barber, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C. in C., Scottish Command; Major-General J. Scott-Elliott, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. Highland District, and Brigadier J. Sorel Cameron, D.S.O., Brigade Commander, all watched the training during the camp period. Among those paying courtesy calls were Lt-Colonel A. J. Biddulph, M.B.E., Secretary, Argyll T.& A.F.A., Ex-Provost MacPhee and Lt-Col. A. I. M. Gilchrist, M.B.E., T.D., chairman and secretary, respectively, of Dumbarton T.& A.F.A.; Major Duncan MacMillan, M.M., from Campbeltown, a former commander of B Company, and other ex-Officers of the Battalion.

The fortnight was quickly over, and many stated quite openly that this was the best post-war camp. Perhaps the general feeling was best summed up by the Commanding Officer, who spoke to all ranks on the last day of camp: — "Here is the end of another camp, and I think few, if any, of you will say that it has been a waste of time. Thanks to the hard work put in by the Officers and N.C.O.s who instructed you, thanks to your enthusiasm and willingness to do your best, the standard of training and efficiency throughout the Battalion has improved enormously. Do not forget those amongst you who have worked in offices, stores, cook-houses, the M.T. and other departments. They have done an excellent job of work. Without their help neither your training, recreation nor your enjoyment would have been possible. I look forward to seeing you again later in the year. Good luck."

H.Q. COY.

"Honkers to your perches"—and let us put on our thinking caps, return from holiday spirit, much the same as the usual brand, and put the needs of *The Thin Red Line* in their proper place.

As the following list of promotions shows, there is no standing still in this most advanced of Companies. Pte. Black to Corporal and then to Drum Major, rapid and deserved. L./Cpls. Gordon, Knight 70, and Pte. Gordon to Corporal. Ptes. Irvine, Scott, McGregor, McLeod, to Lance-Corporal, and to show that we have not nearly exhausted our resources, we send a soldier to "S" Company, who is such a novelty amidst their 130-strong Company that he is immediately pushed on the road to five-stardom — Pte. Carson, now Lance-Corporal. Congratulations to all. Keep on with the good work.

Let us place on record our pleasure at S. Company's success in the sports field, although they had to fight every inch of the way to beat our depleted team in the final of the football competition. Well kicked, S. Company.

We are delighted, however, to record further that S. Company did not meet with the same success in the Chain of Command race, or in another place where water seemed strangely out of place. We'll meet again!

Yes, there is no doubt that the annual Camp this year taught us quite a lot, not the least being that our worthy C./Sergeant, the four-eyed one, can return a deficiencies-nil list at the conclusion. It is not true that it cost him all of his last week's pay. Not only that, but he bearded our very gallant and distinguished Honorary Colonel about a shortage of cigarettes some time in 1940 or thereabouts, and, after being demoted to Corporal by the writer, triumphed and was restored to C./Sergeant (Four-Eyed) by the generous admission that the oversight probably let slip a Field Marshal's baton.

We also saw that our O.R.Q.M.S. and O.R.S. are definitely attached to blondes—Day and Night. Our P.S.I. having been greeted by loud cries of "Wolf" from one of the blondes in question, had no option but to retire and leave an open field. It should also be noted that even a granny is appreciated by a very select clientele. We also heard of a certain wolf who took an armful to the pictures and was batch-ful about it.

Finally, we would like to thank our Pipes and Drums for their very good work, and we now warn all and sundry that we are going to win the Cowal Championship this year.

S. COY.

After a successful Camp, we are now settling down to a civilised existence again.

Much to the astonishment of the rest of the Battalion, but not to us, we gained a very clear victory in the Battalion Sports held during Camp. There is some likelihood now that Chattaway and Bannister are coming down to Renton for instruction by Messrs. McGregor and Bonnar on how to run a mile. Congratulations should go also to Smith 60, Maich, Aitken, Scott, Cpl. McBride and the rest of the team, who put up really splendid performances.

With our tails up from our success, we then went through to the final of the Inter-Company Football Cup, and, under the able leadership of Aitken, we beat our old rivals, H.Q., by 8 goals to 5, after being 4-2 down at half-time.

The Rifle Companies were also quite shaken when we won the Falling Plate Shooting Competition, and came second to B Company by 5 points in the overall competition.

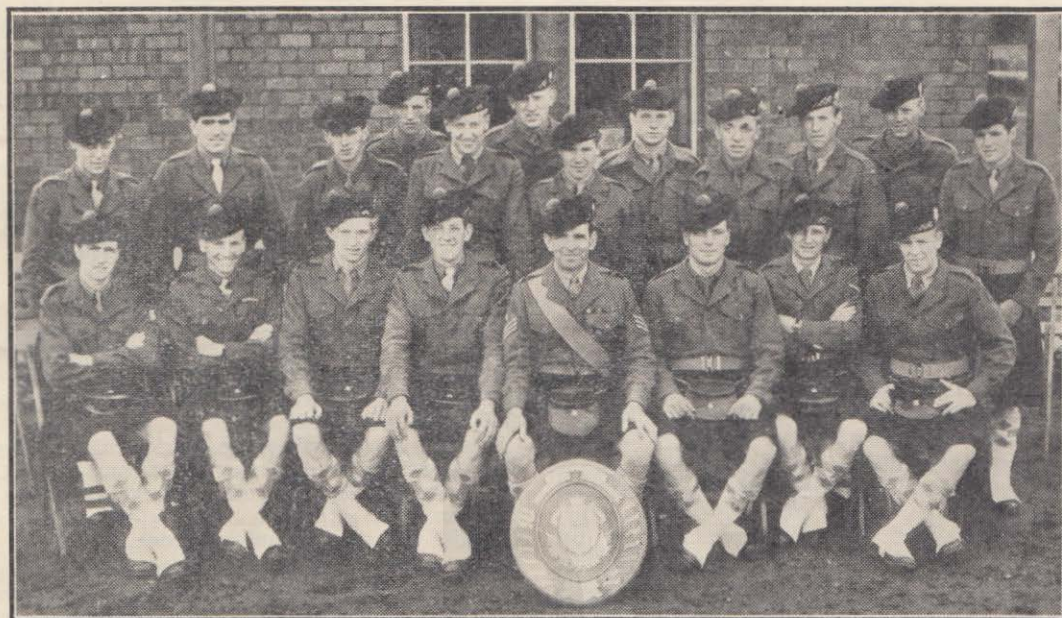
We are more than pleased to welcome twelve new N.S.V., who signed the dotted line at Camp, and are now hoping to double our figures this year.

A most successful Company Party was held on the last night of Camp. Hard luck on the boys who nearly succeeded in getting away with a nine-gallon barrel.

In case it is thought that our Camp was one round of sports, parties, etc., it should be mentioned in passing that some very serious training was carried out. All weapons were fired and the general standard had improved greatly by the end of Camp.

Congratulations on promotion should go to Captain Munro to Major, Lieut. Thomson to Captain, L./Cpls. McBride and Dunn to Corporal, and Ptes. McCall, Hume, Hendry 65, Sharp, McGowan and Currie to Lance-Corporal.

## 8th BATTALION.



"S" Company Sports Team.

Great interest seems to have been aroused in the Company Office by the fact that there is now a vacancy for a P.S.I. in Oban. Rumour has it that "Eddie Edmondson" wouldn't take the job under any circumstances.

In conclusion, we should recall that, in addition to thrashing H.Q. Company at football, we were also successful against them at the handling game, when three gallant stalwarts of the Company (no names, no pack drill) were successful (nearly) in holding the combined weight of at least fifteen H.Q. Company members in a titanic scrum in the Sergeants' Mess. The O.R.S. had better procure a scrum cap before next Camp.

## A COY.

Since the last issue the Company has been busy with week-ends at Oban, Dunoon and Campbeltown, and also in firing its Annual Range Course, before proceeding to Annual Camp. The results of the Annual Course were very gratifying.

Our latest recruit, 025 Pte. A. Campbell, has settled down very well with the Company, and has been initiated into the mysteries of guard mounting, etc., at his first Camp. He, incidentally, was one of the local A.F.C., and, unfortunately, missed the examinations of the A.F.C. when he joined us. However, we hope that he will have a pleasant stay with the Company.

Congratulations to Pte. W. A. McDonald, firstly, on his volunteering, and, secondly, on his promotion to Corporal. May he stay a long time with the Company.

Our departure for Annual Camp was very quiet, and after the stops at the various places to pick up our far-flung Company we proceeded to Dalmally, where we boarded a special train which conveyed us to Stirling. There we met up with the remainder of the Battalion, had a cup of tea and carried on to Barry Links. Here we were met by the Commanding Officer and then convoyed to the camping area, and after a time we settled in for the night.

Sunday passed peacefully enough in getting to know where everyone was and getting sorted out.

Monday saw the start of training, which was nearly all carried out at Platoon level, first as a drill and then, with battle simulation, as an exercise, and once everyone had learned their jobs this was carried out with the maximum of efficiency, and the interest shown was of a very high standard.

During the fortnight's training there was an Inter-Section Competition in leadership and shooting, and this was a stiff test for the N.C.O.s in charge of sections. However, we did not do so badly, as the sections under the command of L./Cpls. McAffer, McIntyre and Cameron were placed 5th, 6th and 8th respectively.

In the football knock-out we were beaten by H.Q. Company to the tune of 8 goals to 2, but although the score indicated that H.Q. had all the game, this was not so, as the Company put up a good show.

The Inter-Company Tug-of-War was quite an event, and in the first round we pulled S. Company in two straight pulls, but, unfortunately, in the final the same thing happened to us when D Company pulled us.

The Highland Games will be reported in this issue at some length, so it will be unnecessary for me to dwell on the results, but we must mention Cpl. W. A. McDonald, who won the high and long jumps, and his magnificent running of the 440 yards in the Inter-Company medley race.

In conclusion, we should like to thank all the members of the Company who represented the Company in the various events, and hope that in the next competitions we will improve so much that competition will be keener than ever within the Battalion.

#### B COY.

The Company left Campbeltown for Buddon Camp on the 19th June, under C.Q.M.S. Mitchell, M.M. As C.S.M. Bennett, to everyone's regret, has left us for civilian life, we would like to wish him every success in whatever occupation he enters, and are unable to stress sufficiently how much he will be missed here in Campbeltown.

The tempo of training was, to everybody's relief, slackened, and Companies were left very much on their own to concentrate on minor infantry tactics and weapon handling. It was surprising how the standard of individuals, particularly section commanders, improved at the end of the fortnight. It is to be hoped that more opportunities for similar training will be given to the Battalion in the not too distant future.

With more time available, it was possible to organise several extra Inter-Company contests as well as the annual Battalion Sports. We were unfortunate to draw D Company in the first round of the tug-of-war, and although all members of the team pulled valiantly, coached by Sergeant Harvey, D Company proved their superiority, and we could not repeat last year's triumph. However, considering the small number of competitors available, the performance put up was very creditable. Pte Reid proved once more that he is a runner of considerable ability, winning the 880 yards, and others, including Pte. Gillespie, Lt. Curtis (who won the discus event), and Lt. Peel, also showed their possibilities. In the medley relay race, but for a certain amount of juggling by the C.Q.M.S. and Pte. J. Paterson with the baton, the Company would almost certainly have won.

We reached the semi-final of the Inter-Company Football Competition, and among those who played were:—Ptes. Colville, Connor, Gillespie, Paterson. Gillespie, Nicholson and McVey.

Cpl. McLellan's section, consisting of L./Cpl. Munro, A. Paterson, MacDonald, McSporran, Gillespie and Girvan (H.Q. Company), won the Inter-Section Field Firing Competition, and Cpl. MacMillan's Section was third. The Company's first team won the Battalion Shooting Competition and was second to Support Company in the Falling Plate contest, the team being composed of L./Cpl. Brown, Ptes. McShannon (these two having shot with Sgt. Harvey against the Navy for the Battalion in the first week of camp), McSporran, Watson, H. Paterson and Graham, plus an Officer from the Company, who surprised everybody, including himself, by returning the top score for both B Coy.

teams. In the Company second team, under Lt. Peel, were Cpl. McLellan, Ptes. McVey, Bird, Morrison, Mungal and Gillespie, who reached the semi-final of the Falling Plate Competition.

Most people's verdict was that it was one of the best camps since the war, but it is hoped that there will be an improvement in the food next year.

#### C COY.

For the purposes of Camp this year the Company amalgamated with D (Oban) Company, and for training purposes was known as D Company. The only time C Company put in an appearance was on the last morning when we shot, unsuccessfully, in the Inter-Company Competition.

The weather was kind to us at camp, and we trained in dryness nearly the whole time. The weather was also very kind to us when it rained-off the night scheme!

During the mornings we would train, mostly the Platoon attack, and in the afternoons the N.C.O.'s Cadre and the Signals Cadre removed so many men from us that afternoon training was done, quite literally, with three men and a dog.

However, the Cadre reports were, over all, good, and if a D Company (or C Company) Platoon has some day to attack anything, I really do feel we can do it—even in our sleep!

This year Major Mellor was not with us, and Major I. R. R. Gillespie was Company Commander. Sgt.-Major Murray, during the brief moments when he was not trying to light his pipe, aided and abetted by his shadow, Sgt.-Major Innes, worked like a black in the Company office, keeping such a check on stores and tea wagons that we were not only well fed on training, but also we didn't have to fork up for deficiencies.

In the sports we came second, winning notably the tug-of-war, brilliantly coached by Sgt.-Major Murray, whose fearsome countenance had no difficulty in driving the team back, to the detriment of our opponents.

If one name has to be singled out, I think L./Cpl. Connell might well be mentioned as a notable performer in the field events; also a representative of British Railways, McLean, who, though standing in an engine stoking it for 48 odd weeks in the year, yet contrived to run, and only narrowly lost, a very gruelling mile race—not four minutes, but a good effort none the less.

General opinion had it that it was a good, instructive, and an enjoyable Camp, and that is, I feel, very good praise indeed for a yearly T.A. Camp.

#### D COY.

On the 19th June, under the guidance of Lt. C. A. R. Malcolm, the Company proceeded to camp. This was our first contact with the Ballachulish Company, which was eventually absorbed into D Company, and, although running true to type, they nevertheless became excellent members of D Company. The harmony of the Company was shown by our results in the Battalion Games, in which we finished second to Support Company, but

we would like to point out at this stage that if the points for winning the tug-of-war had not been changed, we would have been handsome winners. We must, however, congratulate S. Company on finally making sure by winning the mile and the 100 yards finals. Our successes were L./Cpl. Connell, first in the hammer and second in the shot. Our gallant storeman, Archie McLean, came out of the stores to try and win the shield for us by winning the mile, but S. Company had a Jock who was a hairsbreadth better than him. Bad luck, Archie! Lt. Blakeney is also to be congratulated on an excellent 100 yards final, although once again S. Company proved to be our undoing. In Pte. McGregor we had a dark horse for the long jump and he finished second. We were sure Donald Duck McLean from Mull was going to win the javelin, but S. Company stepped in again—much to their own surprise. Now we come to our real win—the tug-of-war. In the first round we met our conquerors in last year's final, and it was great to see our team getting down to it. Big Jock Leitch said, "They won't beat us this time," and he was right. Bad luck, B Company, but you were warned last year to look out for trouble! In the final we beat A Company, and we must admit that, though they were a light team, they gave us a good pull.

At football we were given a lesson on the finer points by B Company, but we showed all and sundry that shinty was our game. In the Chain of Command race the Sergeant-Major claims he had a sore back trying to carry the Company Commander to the winning post, as he was reluctant to collect the baton (not the Field Marshal's one).

We must congratulate our young potential N.C.O.s on their efforts in the Cadre, which will probably produce a few promotions. Well done, lads! Keep searching for the baton!

We welcome Pte. J. McConnell to the Company as a T.A. member.

All members of the Company were very sorry to learn that Cpl. Jock Leitch's mother had passed away, and we offer our condolences.

#### 554 (A.&S.H.) L.A.A. REGT. R.A. (T.A.). (Formerly 9th Battalion.)

The customary helpful post card from the Editor has just arrived with its timely reminder that action is wanted on our part. So what more natural than that we should repair to the only source of literary inspiration known to us and pay a visit to McWhirter for a little advice. However, we couldn't see the great man. To judge by the explosive noises coming from his sanctum he had got no further than page 48 of the last issue: "Forbye, they dinna ken the fitba' game. They dinna ken their own numbers," quoth the sage,\* ending up with a resounding, "Losh, man." We are but poor mortals, and these remarks were, of

course, lost on us, for we are not literary by inclination, but only by obligation, and have had no success in the art of article or essay writing since that ignominious occasion at school when our failure to attain the standard which fate (?) decreed for essays resulted in a more painful interview than we like to remember. You have been warned.

May we start our notes on this occasion by offering to our Honorary Colonel our most sincere congratulations on the award to him of the K.C.V.O. The immense load of responsibility which the earning of that decoration must have involved makes us feel rather small and very humble, but our congratulations are none the less heart-felt for all that.

In spite of the apology for a summer which every one seems to be experiencing this year, we have really been very lucky in that the weather has interfered surprisingly little with our modest training activities. The Batteries have been out on two week-end exercises each, and they were also involved in the Spring exercises organised by H.Q. A.A. Command, and rather strangely called Flamingo. For these occasions we have now achieved some local contacts which have brought us some truly excellent air co-operation, even if some of the flying does make us hold our breath a bit. The layers have, however, had some very good practice, and we hope they have benefited accordingly.

We are very glad to welcome two newcomers to the Officers' Mess. Captain Mitchell joined us last April, and we hope he will enjoy his service with the Regiment as much as we are enjoying ours, and also that, by the time these notes see the light of day, the Q.M.'s department will at last have succeeded in finding something that fits him. To 2nd Lt. Hindell, too, we extend a most cordial welcome, coupled with the hope that distance may not prevent us seeing as much as possible of him once we have met.

It is nice to see old faces back again where they belong. At least, when we say "old," well, you know what we mean, don't you? Which is just our way of saying how glad we are to have Sergeant Kirkwood back again with us as a member of the Sergeants' Mess.

These last few months have seen a lot of activity in Band circles. They turned out on both occasions when the massed bands of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders paraded to practice for that great day in October to which we are all looking forward. The first of these occasions was on our own home ground, and we were very glad to have the opportunity of seeing and welcoming the Pipes and Drums of the other units of the Regiment and also Brigadier Clark and Major Fanshawe, without whom no gathering of this nature would be complete. The second occasion was on the 27th June, when the Pipes and Drums visited Stirling, and this was a day indeed, thanks to the kindness of Major Fanshawe and the Officers of the Depot, who very hospitably entertained the C.O. and Major Hamill and their wives to lunch before the piping. The Sergeants' Mess made this a good pretext for their annual outing, and the R.S.M. took a party

\* Our humble apologies to McWhirter and to his Regiment for the misprint in their number.—Ed.

of 39 to Stirling, where, thanks to the kindness of R.S.M. McNaught, they were shown round the Castle most thoroughly and were most hospitably looked after during their visit.

In addition to these two great occasions, the Pipes and Drums have had a number of other engagements. They have appeared twice in the competition ring—at Markinch in Fife and at Irvine in Ayrshire—and we are glad to record that they were placed second and third respectively on these occasions, and that by the narrowest of margins. As we go to press their most recent appearance was at Edinburgh Castle, where they beat Retreat on 31st July, 1954. McWhirter said they looked very smart, and we quite agree with him. We thought they looked very well, and for that our thanks go to Colonel Gilchrist, secretary of the Dumbartonshire Territorial Association, and himself an ex-member of the Regiment, whose efforts on our behalf are much appreciated. As to their playing, our opinion is, of course, worthless, but we thought very well of it, and, feeling rather bold, we approached a real authority on the subject, and we learned from the lips of Pipe-Major Ross himself that the three Argyll bands which have appeared at Edinburgh Castle this year have provided the best pipe music heard there this year. In so far as our contribution is concerned, the credit is all Pipe-Major Weatherstone's, for no effort is too great for him where the Pipes and Drums are concerned, and no standard too high.

The middle months of the year—we hardly can call it summer—have produced the usual social rounds. The Officers found their Ladies' Guest Night so much to their liking that the experiment was repeated in May, to the great satisfaction of all concerned. Our opinion of eightsome reels in evening dress remains unchanged, but we regret that we cannot publish the remarks of McWhirter. He is, alas! an uncouth man.

In June the Officers held a Garden Party at Dumbarton Castle. This is still the titular headquarters of the Regiment, and makes a very good setting for such an event. It was unfortunate that the date coincided with the date on which our Honorary Colonel sailed for Gibraltar, and that he was not able to be present, but we were very glad to welcome Major-General and Mrs. Scott Elliot, and Major-General and Mrs. Goodman. Lady Stirling of Glorat, whose late husband was Keeper of Dumbarton Castle for many years, also came, and so did Mr. Edward Denny, whose family have been such great friends of the Regiment for so long. It was nice, too, to have a chance to meet the Provosts of Dumbarton and Kirkintilloch, and also to find out from Mr. McIntyre who really owns the Castle. It was, in fact, a good opportunity for a lot of old friends to meet together, who, perhaps, do not see quite as much of each other as they might like, and, speaking for ourselves, we found that we met a number of most charming people whom we had never met before. We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, and we hope everyone else did, too. It seems to be the sort of occasion that might well be repeated another year, and that is what we intend to do. The Clerk of the Weather was, on the whole,

kind to us, and, if we did get slightly damp, at least we didn't get flooded out. The Pipes and Drums played for us during the afternoon, and their appearance was a joy to us all. The arrangements were made by Major Hamill.

The Sergeants' Mess of R Battery held a dance at Kirkintilloch in April, which was a great success. The Provost of Kirkintilloch was among the guests, who numbered over 100, and who all spent a most enjoyable evening. The Drill Hall was decorated by the united efforts of the members of the Mess, under the able direction of Sergeant Fraser, M.M. The Sergeants' Mess of P Battery also held a dance in June, which was just as successful a function. Other engagements prevented our editorial presence at either of these entertainments, but McWhirter, lapsing slightly, described both as "chumpion."

As these notes go to press we are on the verge of the move to Camp. But that, as they say, is another story, and is to be continued in our next.

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## AFFILIATED DOMINION REGIMENTS.

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### THE ARGYLL AND SUTHERLAND HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA (P.L.).

Summer Camp is over, and seeing that this experience is the most vivid in our minds we shall tackle those seven days first.

Approximately 150 officers and men spent a tough seven days at Niagara-on-the-Lake, an ideally situated militia camp about 45 miles from Hamilton. The entire 3rd Infantry Brigade, of which the Argylls are part, were under canvas, and for many of the men this was a new and novel experience. The permanent staff, under the command of Brig. R. L. Purves, D.S.O., Central Ontario Area Commander, and our own Reserve Brigade, commanded by Brig. R. A. Roberts, D.S.O., had set a big schedule for the Brigade to follow.

The men were formed into one Training Company under Major C. W. Tunis, C.D., and training was the most thorough ever to be carried out for such a short period.

The 1st Battalion Royal Canadian Regiment from London, Ontario, a permanent force unit, supplied a Platoon for demonstration purposes, and this training aid greatly speeded the over-all syllabus. In addition, a troop of Sherman tanks from the Royal Canadian Dragoons, stationed at Pettawawa, gave a good idea of how the tanks can support the infantry in an attack.

A full day was spent on the ranges, where the 36 grenade and the 77 smoke grenade were thrown, and all the men finished qualifying on the Sten, Rifle and Bren gun.

Various specialists' courses, including the 3.5 Rocket Launcher and a Carrier M.M.G. course, were at the camp, and these were attended largely by senior Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains. Meals, prepared by a civilian catering firm, were excellent, and, for a change, second helpings were in evidence.

A guard-changing ceremony at old Fort George, when the Argylls took over from the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, was perhaps the most colourful event of the week. The Pipes and Drums, in full dress, and the Guard in white spats, diced hose and swinging sixes, and the Lincoln and Welland Guard in sober khaki bush uniforms, presented two extremes in modern day dress for the Canadian Militia Force. The spectators, many of them American visitors from across the border, were visibly impressed by the old custom revived each summer.

Platoon and Company tactics were carried out extensively, and a sports parade held one afternoon finished a most successful week's activities.

The Pipes and Drums spent the Dominion Day holiday at Fort Henry, Kingston, Ontario. This was another honour for the Regiment, as it marked the first time that a pipe band had played inside this historic fort in over 100 years. The other band participating was a permanent force brass band, so you can readily see that the Argylls have been maintaining their high standard of music.

Pipe-Major A. Cairns, in charge of the band for the past two years, has left, and has been appointed Pipe-Sergeant of the 1st Canadian Guards. The new Pipe Major is Campbell Wright, who has been connected with various pipe bands both in Hamilton and during the last war. He has proved very popular with the members of the band, and can be called a true Argyll, as his father before him.

Two very successful week-ends were spent at the Winona Ranges during May and June. The shooting standards are continually rising, and the men get a big kick out of the open-air training. Approximately 100 Officers and men attended each week-end, and more of the same are laid in for the Fall training period.

The recent shake-up of the Canadian Militia Force in no way affected the Argylls, although some famous units were disbanded and joined with other units.

The Regiment is now on leave, and regular training will begin about the end of September.

### CURLING.

The season 1954-55 opens in October, and rinks will again be available at Haymarket Ice Rink, Edinburgh, and the Ice Rink, Perth.

Would the O.C. Depot like to arrange similar facilities at Falkirk during the coming curling season?

REGIMENTAL BONSPIEL, 1955.

This will be held at the Haymarket Ice Rink, Edinburgh, on 23rd and 24th February, 1955. Remember the Regiment won it last year and we must do our best to retain it again in 1955.

R. McA.



## ARMY CADET FORCE.

### STIRLINGSHIRE.

#### 2nd BATTALION.

This year the 2nd Stirlingshire Battalion's camp was held at Crail. We were in company with Cadets representative of The Highland Light Infantry, The Glasgow Highlanders, The Royal Scots Fusiliers, The Royal Scots, Renfrew and Dumbarton Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and The Cameronians.

We arrived on Saturday afternoon, and after tea and the issue of beds and bedding we settled down for the night. On Sunday there was a Church Parade 1½ miles to Crail. It was led by the combined Pipes and Drums of The Royal Scots Fusiliers and The Cameronians. The afternoon and evening were free, and most of the Cadets took the opportunity of sight-seeing in Crail and Anstruther.

On Monday, Cadets were taken to a training ground near Kincaig Point where they were taught fire control orders and fieldcraft by the various instructors. On this occasion, as on all occasions when training was in progress at Kincaig, a Church of Scotland canteen truck served refreshments. In the afternoon a demonstration was given by a R.E.M.E. Field Workshop team. Cadets saw armouring, welding and turning here. There were also demonstrations by The Royal Signals, and a scout car and an armoured car.

On Tuesday morning there was firing on the ranges at Kincaig. Cadets fired with Bren guns at posts in the sand, and with rifles at plates on the 200 yards and 300 yards ranges. On Tuesday afternoon The Royal Artillery personnel present in the camp gave a demonstration of a heavy anti-aircraft battery going into action.

On Wednesday, Cadets were again taken to Kincaig where some were allowed to fire the 2-inch mortar, while others fired "Signal" pistols. Wednesday afternoon was sports and visitors' day. Most of the sporting prizes were won by our colleagues from Renfrew.

On Thursday morning we were once again at Kincaig for a mock battle. A defence, consisting of Argyll and Highland Light Infantry, were awaiting the arrival of boats to evacuate them and an officer they had captured, when, however,

they were attacked through dense smoke by hordes of other Regiments by whom they were outnumbered and captured. This "battle" was enlivened by the use of thunderflashes. On Thursday afternoon a Gloster Meteor from Leuchars put on an exhibition of "stunt" flying. On the same day a demonstration was given by potential officers from The Royal Military College, Sandhurst. A map reading competition was held from which the Argylls emerged victorious.

On Friday, for the lucky few (one from each unit), there was a trip to Rosyth. For the rest there was a ceremonial parade and march past. The salute was taken by a visiting Brigadier-General. Once again the Pipe Bands were of great importance. Cadets were allowed out on Friday afternoon to buy such presents as they wished.

In this camp, besides an efficient N.A.A.F.I., there was a Church of Scotland Canteen with a games room and a TV and reading room. The training programme was full and interesting, and on the whole the camp was very enjoyable.

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### CLACKMANNANSHIRE.

#### 1st INDEPENDENT COY.

Our most important piece of news is that we have moved into the new Cadet Hut at Tillicoultry. It is pleasing to note that, since moving in, we have recruited several new Cadets and are confident of enrolling more this winter.

We are now in a position to run recreational training and have made a start by running a Games Night on Tuesday evenings. These Games Nights are very popular with the boys and no doubt play a big part in recruiting.

We take this opportunity of welcoming two new members to the Company, namely, Lieut. J. Rankine who has taken over the Tillicoultry Platoon, and A.W.O. W. Tainsh who is in charge at Alva. We take this opportunity also to congratulate Mr. Rankine on his marriage.

As extensive alterations are being carried out at the Alloa Drill Hall, the platoon there is "marking time" for the present. Once these alterations are completed we can rely on Mr. Stewart to get the platoon back into shape.

This year's camp was held at No. 47 WETC, Gordons Barracks, Aberdeen, and must rank as one of the best in the history of the unit. Much of the credit must go to two persons—Captain Dickie who looked after us so well, and Captain Nickson who laid on a most interesting training programme. The weather, too, played its part, and with so many facilities for enjoyment in Aberdeen it is not surprising that the camp proved so successful.

And so with camp we ended another year. We are now looking forward to the winter session and the start of yet another successful year.

### THE MILITIA CLUB.

Colonel C. J. Hitchins, Chairman of the Club, has asked us to publish the following particulars:—

"I would much appreciate if we could have space in your journal to bring The Militia Club to the notice of any of your readers who may have held commissions in the old Militia, Special Reserve Battalion or Yeomanry.

The Club was started in 1905 to provide Militia Officers of different Regiments with opportunities to meet together for social intercourse. The Club has no quarters, but the members meet together at least twice each year, at one of the Service Clubs for lunch or dinner.

The present membership is 120, and there are representatives of almost every Regiment in the Army.

Our President is Brigadier-General The Earl of Gowrie, V.C., P.C., G.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., who started his Army life in the Militia Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry.

The subscription is 10/- per year.

Further information can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Major A. S. Bredon, Derry Cariff, Camberley, Surrey."

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### A LINK WITH THE PAST.

We are indebted to Major J. B. Gillies for kindly placing this letter at our disposal:—

S.S. "Lusitania,"

Greenock,

16th November, 1882.

Dear Sir,

Before leaving the "Lusitania," in which we have had such a pleasant voyage from Portsmouth, I wish, in my own name and that of my brother officers, to tell you how much we feel indebted both to yourself and the officers under you, for the courtesy and attention we have all met with on board.

The kindness and civility we have experienced the last few days, combined with the exceptionally good "cuisine" on board your vessel, has rendered our trip so much pleasanter than usually falls to our lot, that I cannot help placing our feelings on the subject on record, and hope we may be fortunate enough to travel with you again.

Yours truly,

EWEN D. MACPHERSON, Lt.-Col.,  
Commanding

2nd Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

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### STOP PRESS.

We deeply regret to report the death in Edinburgh, after a long illness, of Major Alec Gibb, M.B.E., formerly R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion, and later Quartermaster of that Battalion and of the Depot. An appreciation will appear in our next number.



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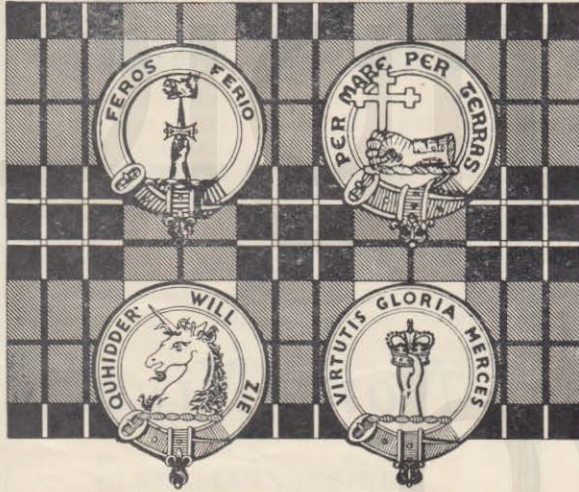
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