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JOURNAL OF

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

October/November, 1969.

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The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 1969

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EDITORIAL

We offer our congratulations to Colonel Kenneth Moubray Burnett, TD and to Major Gordon Duncan. The former on his appointment as an Aide de Camp to Her Majesty, The Queen. The latter on his appointment, in the Birthday Honours List, to Membership of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

It has been announced that the 1st Battalion is to complete its present tour with the British Army of the Rhine by the end of 1970 and should return to Fort George early in 1971.

Older members of the Regiment would find the Fort a vastly altered place, since it became normal practice to station a Battalion there. Extensive improvements have been made to the buildings and their surroundings. A modernisation and building programme has greatly increased the numbers and standard of the quarters on the Common, in Ardersier and in Inverness.

It is worth noting that despite the advantages for training and the nearness to the Regimental Area, the battalion at the Fort spends a fair proportion of its time training overseas, which makes an interesting and pleasant change from the monotony of soldiering in Britain.

The attention of our readers is drawn to the praiseworthy efforts and excellent results achieved by the 1st Battalion team, who won outright the Scottish Divisional Assault Course Race during this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

As published in our last edition, the Regiment is to return to wearing our own Cap Badge. It was hoped, that by now all regular soldiers would have

been wearing it. However there were insufficient supplies of staff and other rank badges to make an issue to everyone. Should present contracts be met on time, the return to our own badge should be effected by 1st of November.

We wish through these columns, to extend a warm welcome home to Redford Cavalry Barracks to the Royal Scots Greys who were until recently serving in the same brigade as our 1st Battalion in Germany.

Readers will see in this edition an account of a legacy, to the Regiment, from the late Lady Brownrigg which we wish to acknowledge here, with gratitude.

There has been an improvement in the recruiting figures, to the Regiment, so far this year, as against last year. Undoubtedly the efforts of the KAPE teams, sent home from the 1st Battalion, have played no small part in this improvement. In addition a small Regimental Recruiting Team, manned in rotation by the 1st Battalion, is based on the Army Careers Office in Market Street.

Recent improvements in pay and the review of the entire pay and allowances structure in the services, promised for April 1970, should also help.

Important as it is that rates of pay and general conditions should be in line with those in civil life, of themselves, they do not encourage men to enlist. Only those who are serving, or have served, can put across to young men the idea that service in the Regiment can be a worthwhile career in these days.

In this, all of us have a continuing task.

NEWS IN BRIEF

REGIMENTAL COUNCIL

The Fifteenth Meeting of the Regimental Council of The Gordon Highlanders assembled at Regimental Headquarters at 1030 hours on Wednesday, 30th April, 1969. The following were present and routine business was discussed.

Chairman—Lieutenant General (retd) Sir George GORDON LENNOX, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO.

Serving Officer Members—Lieutenant Colonel J. NEISH, Lieutenant Colonel D. H. W. BROWN, MC, Commanding 1st Bn, The Gordon Highlanders.

Retired Officer Members (TA and Regular) — Colonel G. W. BRUCE, TD, DL, JP, Honorary Colonel TAVR III Cadre 3rd Bn The Gordon Highlanders, Lieutenant Colonel (retd) W. D. H. DUKE, MC, Lieutenant Colonel (retd) R. W. PETRIE, MC.

Secretariat—Lieutenant Colonel (retd) G. R. ELSMIE, OBE, Major (retd) C. R. D'I. KENWORTHY.

REGIMENTAL TRUST

As a result of a successful petition to have Regimental Funds removed from the Board of Charity Commission and have all such funds treated as a Trust under Scots Law, the Court of Session on 18th July, 1968, decreed that such a Trust be set up within the Regiment. Membership of the Trust should be the Colonel of the Regiment, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, two Senior Officers at RHQ, two trustees and, for three years at a time, a representative field officer serving in Scotland.

The Second Meeting of the Trustees of the Regimental Trust of The Gordon Highlanders was held at Regimental Headquarters on Wednesday, 30th April, 1969. Routine business was discussed and the following members were present:

Chairman — Lieutenant General Sir George GORDON LENNOX, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO, Colonel G. W. BRUCE, TD, DL, Lieutenant Colonel D. H. W. BROWN, MC, Lieutenant Colonel G. R. ELSMIE, OBE.

Secretary—Major C. R. D'I. KENWORTHY.

An apology was received from Major D. G. B. SAUNDERS.



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LEGACY FROM LADY BROWNRIGG

On 15th of April, 1969, Lady Brownrigg died leaving a bequest of One Hundred Pounds to the Regiment and a similar sum to each Highland Regiment in memory of her late husband General Brownrigg.

This generous and imaginative bequest commemorates Lieutenant-General Sir Douglas Brownrigg, who was originally a Sherwood Forester, and who rose rapidly in rank during and after the First World War. In 1932 and 1933 he commanded the 11th Infantry Brigade at Colchester, in which the 2nd Battalion was then serving; and he and his wife were extremely hospitable, especially to the younger officers of the Regiment. It was from there that he was promoted to command the Highland Division, an appointment about which there was initially some resentment, in that it had always been a perquisite of a Scottish, if not a Highland, officer. But the kindness and charm of the Brownriggs, and their obvious delight in finding themselves where they were, broke down all opposition; and for the rest of their days they were intensely proud of the fact, to which Lady Brownrigg refers, that he was the first Englishman to occupy that post in peace-time.

REGIMENTAL REUNION—ABERDEEN, 1969

A first ever Reunion took place in the new Headquarters of Volunteer Company at the Hardgate on Saturday, 3rd May, 1969 at 6.30 p.m.

The reunion was preceded by a service of rededication of the 4th Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, War Memorial, originally placed in Woolmanhill. It was to pay tribute to the memory of the 86 Officers and 1056 Other Ranks of that Battalion that the service was held.

Over 700 people attended the reunion and the opinion was that it was so successful that there should be such a gathering annually. It has already been decided that this will take place in the autumn of 1970.

It was a great pleasure to see there, four of our seven Boer War veterans and also a unique three-generation-group of the family of our caretaker Willie Gordon.



Re-Union—The veterans (l. to r.) Capt F. J. Mitchell, Mr. Fred Taylor, ISM, Mr. John Still, Major Bill Craig, MBE.

The date of the reunion will be published in the next edition and we hope as many as possible will book the date in their plans.



Three generations at the Re-Union. Front Row—Cpl John Gordon, Mr. Willie Gordon, Mr. John Gordon.

LONDON DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Gordon Highlanders' Dinner Club was held at the Hyde Park Hotel, London, on the 17th June, 1969.

In the unavoidable absence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier J. M. Hamilton, DSO, presided at this year's dinner and the following members were present:—

Major Generals E. C. Colville, CB, DSO, JP, DL; Lord Thurlow, CB, CBE, DSO.

Brigadier J. M. Hamilton, DSO.

Colonels G. W. Bruce, TD, DL; G. S. Courtney, OBE, TD; W. J. Graham, MC; G. MacDonald, MC.

Lieutenant Colonels M. H. Du Bollay, MC; M. H. Burge; J. D. Chalmers; S. W. Chant-Sempill; G. R. Elsmie, OBE; R. G. Lees, MBE; F. G. Maxwell, CBE, TD, DL; R. M. Neilson, MBE; J. Neish; H. W. B. Saunders, DSO.

Majors T. Adam; V. A. H. Denne; R. G. Findlay-Shirras; M. P. Henderson, TD; G. H. Hutchinson, MC; J. F. Johnston Watson; C. R. D'I. Kenworthy; T. R. S. Lyon, TD; I. D. Martineau; A. L. S. Mitchell, TD; N. V. H. Simpson, TD; R. D. L. Smart; J. P. P. Taylor; R. E. Warlow, TD; A. T. Wilson, MC.

Captains A. E. Balfour; C. T. M. Booth; D. C. K. Brown; D. W. S. Buchan of Auchmacoy; A. M. Cumming; T. H. G. Duke; R. D. Finlay; J. W. Gordon; A. D. M. Hendry; P. J. Keogh, MC; W. G. Lewis, MC; D. A. McColl; D. J. MacMillan, TD; P. E. L. A. Myers; A. R. Speak; J. R. Urquhart; C. H. Van der Noot; D. H. White; C. M. Wolfe Murray.

Subalterns A. J. Anderson; J. C. Aston; D. J. Ewart; A. M. Graham; F. D. H. Irvine; K. J. Irvine; J. B. H. Leckie; S. A. Marshall; P. E. Miles; A. D. P. Ross; H. G. A. Ross; P. G. Symington; M. P. Taitt.

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This year it was decided to experiment by arranging the seating in groupings of smaller tables instead of the normal long table. Members were asked to declare their preference in a circular to Regimental Headquarters. The replies have been received and are summarised below:—

Small tables	31 votes
Long tables (U shape)	13 votes
No strong opinion	4 votes

At the next dinner it is intended, therefore, to repeat this year's table arrangements. The new Secretary of the Dinner Club is Major Dick Findlay-Shirras.

BRUNEI

The following news extract about a well known Regimental figure has come to hand and will interest our readers:—

"Brunei Bulletin"

Supremo for Brunei

Brunei Town—The Commanding Officer of the Royal Malay Regiment, Lt Col John Simpson, is to be appointed commander of forces in Brunei.

The Bulletin understands that the appointment will be made early in the new year when Lt Col Simpson will be promoted to full Colonel.

At the moment the commanding officer of the RBMR holds only the same rank as a battalion commander in the British army. However the regiment, with nearly 1,000 men, its own flotilla of patrol craft, an air fleet of six helicopters and a hovercraft, is as large, and generally better-equipped than two normal battalions.

The Bulletin understands that under the new arrangement the commander of forces would, in an emergency, become Director of Operations with command of all the State's forces, including the police.

The move is a further step in Brunei's policy of developing its own independent defence force.

The RBMR is a unique unit in South-east Asia, being the only truly integrated unit of land, sea and air forces. It includes officers of the Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and the Royal Danish Navy as well as a number of civilian specialists who have been seconded as officers in the regiment.



Late for Mosque—Flagship K.D. Pahlawan (at 55 knots).

ROYAL CALEDONIAN BALL

The Royal Caledonian Ball was held in Grosvenor House, Park Lane, on Monday, 12th May, when the undermentioned danced in the Regimental Eightsome Reel:—

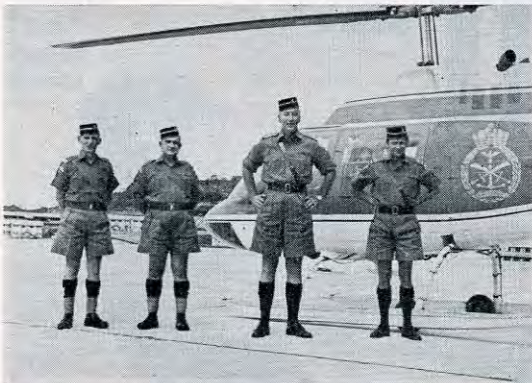
Capt J. R. Urquhart	Miss Mary Hunter-Blair
Lt R. D. Ord	Mrs Rosemary Ord
Lt F. D. Irvine	Miss Fiona Ogilvie
Lt A. I. O. Forbes	Miss Charmian Rylands

HIGHLAND BRIGADE GOLF MEETING

A very pleasant meeting was held at Muirfield in May 1969. As usual we 'also ran' but one or two distinguished themselves on and off the course. Reggie Hunter-Blair came second in the Medal and then retired to his business activities and did not play in the teams. James Irvine never lost a match; on promotion to the 1st Team he succeeded in defeating by his own methods a four hand-capper.

Colonel Charles Usher came to our rescue and filled the team and also was a most hospitable host at a party held in his North Berwick home.

The next meeting will also be at Muirfield on 27th, 28th and 29th May, 1970. Please let George Elsmie know at RHQ whether you can play.



Going to Mosque—(l. to r.) WO II M. Flinn, WO II M. G. West, Lt Col J. J. H. Simpson, Maj W. D. R. West.



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MARTIN HOLT CUP

Gordons I v. QO Hlds I

Barker	1	Curle	0
Saunders	0	Nason	1
Smith	0	Robertson	1
Findlay-Shirras	0	Kennedy	1
Harper	0	Lang	1
	—		—
	1		4
	—		—

BW I v. A & SH I

Thomson	1	Porteous	0
Montgomery	0	MacKenzie	1
Fotheringham	1	Hendry	0
Wolfe-Murray	0	Robertson	1
Dunn	1	Boyle	0
	—		—
	3		2
	—		—

QO Hlds I v. BW I

Curle	1	Thomson	0
Nason	0	Montgomery	1
Robertson	0	Fotheringham	1
Kennedy	1	Wolfe-Murray	0
Lang	0	Dunn	1
	—		—
	2		3
	—		—

A & SH I v. Gordons I

Porteous	0	Barker	1
MacKenzie	1	Findlay-Shirras	0
Hendry	1	Saunders	0
Robertson	1	Harper	0
Boyle	1	Smith	0
	—		—
	4		1
	—		—

QO Hlds I v. A & SH I

Curle	0	Cole Hamilton	1
Nason	0	MacKenzie	1
Robertson	$\frac{1}{2}$	Porteous	$\frac{1}{2}$
Kennedy	0	Hendry	1
Lang	1	Robertson	0
	—		—
	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	—		—

Gordons I v. BW I

Barker	0	Montgomery	1
Irvine	1	Thomson	0
Harper	0	Fotheringham	1
Smith	0	Wolfe-Murray	1
Findlay-Shirras	0	Dunn	1
	—		—
	1		4
	—		—

Result

Winners—BLACK WATCH	3 points
A & SH	2 points
QO HLDERS	1 point
GORDONS	0 points

FORT GEORGE CUP

1st Round

QO Hlds II v. Gordons II

Johnston	0	Irvine	1
MacLagan	1	Morrison	0
Lamb	1	Du Boulay	0
Barber	1	Lumsden	0
Murray	1	Usher	0
	—		—
	4		1
	—		—

QO Hlds II v. QO Hlds III

Johnston	1	G. B. Murray	0
MacLagan	1	Logan	0
Lamb	1	W. A. MacKenzie	0
Barber	0	Callander	1
W. K. Murray	1	MacInnes	0
	—		—
	4		1
	—		—

Semi-finals

BW II v. A & SH II

Osborne	1	Mundie	0
Severn	1	MacLean	0
R. Hamilton	1	P. Church	0
Innes	1	J. Church	0
Rusk	0	Wedgwood	1
	—		—
	4		1
	—		—

Finals

BW II v. QO Hlds II

Osborne	0	Johnston	1
Severn	1	MacLagan	0
R. Hamilton	1	Lamb	0
Innes	1	Barber	0
Rusk	0	W. K. Murray	1
	—		—
	3		2
	—		—

Winners—BLACK WATCH.

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We think that you will be fascinated by the process, the buildings, the people—and the product. So when you are next in the North East of Scotland we would like you to come and see us. Just ring the distillery (Dufftown 373) and someone will meet you. If you can bring a few friends so much the better.



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NOTICES

EDINBURGH DINNER

The above function will take place on Friday, 20th March, 1970, in the North British Hotel. Pro-formae will be sent out from Headquarters in the near future.

LONDON DINNER

The above function will take place on Wednesday, 17th June, 1970, in the Hyde Park Hotel. Letters will be sent out nearer the time.

BEATING RETREAT—HORSE GUARDS—1971

It is hoped that there will be a Beating of Retreat on the Horse Guards Parade, London, in 1971. Although Headquarters the Scottish Division have, by no means finalised the details, it is probable that such an event would be similar to that organised in 1967. Should this be so, it will most probably take place on Monday of the second week in July.

WANTED ITEMS

The following are a list of items of which Regimental Headquarters has urgent need. Should any reader be able to assist us, we would be most grateful and would be happy to meet any reasonable price put on the item.

Regimental Staff Badges
Regimental Staff Sporrans
Cross Belt Plates, Dirks and Sgian Dubhs
Claymores

The Life of a Regiment, The History of The Gordon Highlanders, by Lt Col A. D. Greenhill Gardyne—Volume III (1898-1914) (now out of print, but one copy is urgently required for a Regimental presentation)

The Tiger and Sphinx:—

Vol III New Series No. 8	Feb 55
IV " " " 1	May 55
IV " " " 2	Aug 55
V " " " 2	Jun 58
V " " " 6	Jun 59

(These seven editions are urgently needed to complete records)

GORDONS AND GREYS AT WATERLOO

The making of the latest film of Waterloo, in which some of the 1st Battalion helped, has raised the old bogey of the impossibility of Infantry to keep up with galloping horses. In fact the Italian stunt men who were representing the men of the 92nd couldn't do it, and the scene was cut from the film.

The re-enactment of this famous charge has been tried at various tattoos with no success owing to the troops not being able to keep up with the horses for any distance, and this has led to many people declaring that the whole story is a myth.

The reason for the failure in all these attempts is that it has always been done with the spectacular in mind, and charges of 100 yards or more attempted. In fact the distance covered by the two Regiments in the actual charge was 20 yards, and as a matter of interest here is an eye witness account of an Officer who was present at the time, Major Winchester. I don't think that this account has ever been published before and I quote:—

"Sir.—In reference to your letter of 6th inst. I beg to inform you, that towards the left of our position, on the 18th June and immediately in front where the 92nd was stationed at the commencement of the battle, was a grass field which went all the way from the hedge down to the Channel which divides the Valley between La-Haye-Sainte and La-Belle-Alliance, and indeed I think the whole of the ground in front of our position from the road at La-Haye-Sainte to the enclosures at Pamelotte was a grass field—the position to the left of the road which the troops stood upon previous to the battle commencing had had a crop of grain on it, but which had been cut down before we took up our ground on the afternoon of the 17th—to the rear of

the left of our position where the 92nd stood was a clover field.

At the commencement of the action, 20 minutes to 11 a.m., a Corps of Belgians of from 8,000 to 10,000 men were formed in the line in front of the 5th Division, but soon after they were attacked and their skirmishers driven in on their line, the whole of them retired through the 5th Division, and were seen no more during the action. After this the enemy made several attacks on the 5th Division—about 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon, a Column between 3,000 and 4,000 men advanced to the hedge at the road side which leads from the main road near La-Haye-Sainte beyond the left of our position—previous to this, we had been lying down under cover of the position, when they were immediately ordered to stand to their arms, Major General Sir Denis Pack calling out at the same time '92nd everything has given way on your right and left, and you must charge this Column,' upon which he ordered four deep to be formed and closed in to the centre. The Regiment which was then within about 20 yards of the Column, fired a volley into them. The enemy on reaching the hedge on the other side of the road, had ordered arms, and were in the act of shouldering them when they received the volley from the 92nd. The Scots Greys came up at this moment, and doubling round our flanks, and through our centre where openings were made for them, both Regiments charged together calling 'Vive Scotland for ever', and the Scots Greys actually walked over this Column, and in less than three minutes it was totally destroyed—2000 besides killed and wounded of them, having been made prisoners, and two of their Eagles captured. The grass field in which the enemy was formed, which was only the instant before, as green and smooth as the

15 acres in the Phoenix Park, was in a few minutes covered with killed and wounded — knap-sacks and their contents, arms and accoutrements, etc., etc., so literally strewn over, that to avoid stepping on either one or other was quite impossible—in fact, one could hardly believe had he not witnessed it, that such complete destruction could have been effected in so short a time—some of the French soldiers who were lying wounded were calling out, 'Vive l'Empereur', and others firing their muskets at our men who had advanced past them in pursuit of the flying enemy. The Regiment was then recalled, and formed up on its former ground—soon afterwards the enemy commenced a cannonade, and an attack with his Infantry and Light Troops, supported by his Cavalry along our whole line which continued without interruption until about the time he made his last great effort near La-Haye-Saint, during the greater part of which time the 92nd was formed in Square.

When the Imperial Guards were advancing to attack the left centre (see Lord Wellington's Disputes of the Battle of Waterloo) of our position near La-Haye-Sainte, the 92nd Highlanders who were then near the extreme left of the line were ordered up to the left of the main road near La-Haye-Sainte, they moved in a

column at quarter distance, and when about half-way between the left and the road, a shell fell in the midst of the column—the Companies in the rear of it faced about and doubled to the rear until it had burst, then faced about again and doubled up again to their proper distance from the leading divisions without any word of command having been given.

Just as we arrived at the left of the road, our Troops were in the act of charging the enemy and driving him from the crest of our position, which he had gained a short time before, the rush of the enemy was so great that it forced them, together with some of our guns (from which he had previously driven our gunners) into a sand pit on the left of the road near La-Haye-Sainte—upon this, the enemy retired in great confusion lining the opposite side of the pit, the hedge, and the farm of La-Haye-Sainte with their skirmishers. About this time (between 7 and 8 o'clock p.m.) the fire of the Prussians informed us of their advance from the wood upon the right of the enemy near Planchenoit. Soon after this I was wounded and obliged to quit the field."

It is interesting to note that the French wounded actually did call out "Vive l'Empereur" and that this is not a figment of the imagination of romantic historians.

PERSONS AND PLACES

This column opens on a sad note. Mr. Willie Gordon the Caretaker, Museum Attendant and general factotum at RHQ suffered a severe stroke whilst on holiday in May spending some seven weeks in Oban Hospital before being transferred to the City Hospital in Aberdeen where he still is. His illness will regrettably be protracted as it involves semi paralysis of the left side. Our sympathies go to his wife and family during this worrying time. Cpl Gordon is probably one of the best known characters in the Regiment, he was soldier servant to all Regimental Depot Commanders from 1937 to 1960; this tour of duty was broken during the war when he took time off to travel from El Alamein to the Baltic finally ending up in 1947 with the 2nd Battalion in Tripoli, needless to say as the Commanding Officer's right hand man. On behalf of all subscribers we wish him a speedy recovery and return to work.

Our congratulations to Gordon Duncan on the award of the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours. Gordon has been for some time Army Careers Officer in Glasgow, to the uninitiated this means Recruiting Officer, in recent encounters he appears to have lost none of his old fire the only thing missing being fifty pounds (avoirdupois), hence impassioned pleas to this address for a Slim Jim Doublet in which to be invested.

From Colonels H. Wright and H. W. B. Saunders news has come of Colonel Hutchins in Australia, the latter was visited by R.Q.C. Mainwaring who made the trip from Spain to visit his daughter only to suffer a very severe motor accident in Australia, he is now back in Spain but regrettably will be crippled for some time.

At the moment of writing a further Recruiting Drive is being launched round the area under Gayin Peebles. This is a follow up on the previous

two this year firstly under George Kennedy in January and then David Irvine's onslaught on the population in May. It is hard work with few successes; however our recruiting figures are almost double that of last year but there is a long way to go before we can become complacent. This latest tour is being reinforced by the presence of a helicopter flown by Robin Fawcus who is at present attached to the Army Air Corps and who has recently become engaged to be married — our congratulations.

The British Military Hospital in Rinteln has been working overtime and to date has produced next of kin for the following officers, Ronnie Kinohorn (mentioned as a PS in the last issue), David White, Robin Bruce, Nigel Oxley, still on the production line are the wives of David du Boulay, Euan Gordon, Alistair Cumming and Sunray Brown the latter two being now in this country. Our best wishes to one and all.

A surprise visitor was one ex 2/Lieut James John Taylor who served with the 2nd Bn in Malaya in 1941-42. He was wounded in Johore on 26th January, 1942, the Battalion's first day in action and was evacuated through the Australian Brigade, never to be heard of for some time. It turns out that he left Singapore in a hospital ship on 14th February, 1942, reaching India and eventually visiting Burma in the second Chindit expedition where he was again wounded. He now lives in Hertfordshire and works in London.

Word from another ex 2nd Battalion man, Sergeant Ian Hamilton who took his discharge in South Africa. Hamilton fought with the Independent Company in Malaya being severely wounded on New Year's Day, 1942, he survived captivity and was hospitalised via India to South Africa in 1945.

Major and Mrs. Black from the 48th Highlanders

of Canada paid a visit in May and a party of 48th pipers and their families have sent us notice of their imminent arrival in Aberdeen. Meanwhile our Pipes and Drums from Germany are touring North America and will no doubt visit the 48th in Toronto.

It normally takes some ten days of interrupted "off on" sessions to get together this column and other material for the current edition and by the time the work has been almost completed it is found to be out of date (e.g. Remarks re officers offspring delete Du Boulay and add one daughter—many congratulations.

To continue—J. Innes (RSM Celle and Kenya) called in, he is now with the Defence Constabulary in the North West borders in the Longtown area.

Seen down south were Paddy Kernohan and Ian Munro. One in a retired capacity and the other running on half choke in Aldershot district but still keeping his place in the Highland Brigade Cricket side.

There are two members of the regiment in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond, they have been visited by RHQ and regularly kept in mind by visits and gifts from the London Association. They are Colour Sergeant Jack Hoad and Mr. W. Coutts, both suffer from Parkinsons disease and are severely handicapped. Many post war soldiers will remember Jack Hoad and Coutts will be remembered by old 2nd Gordons; he was QM's Storeman in Singapore, took his discharge in 1938, joined British American Tobacco in Kuala Lumpur and was captured at Singapore as a member of the F.M.S.V.F.

Charles Barker has been posted from Edinburgh to London and is to be found on some high powered panel of experts in the Ministry of Defence. Meanwhile our interests at HQ Scotland will be watched over by Jim Robertson. The departure of Charles Barker will leave a gap in the Regimental Golf and Curling teams. The running of the Curling will devolve (temporarily we hope) on RHQ.

July saw the flitting of the Dukes from Aberdeenshire. Dukie and Pat have taken up residence in Somerset, they will be greatly missed in Aberdeenshire and no doubt as a result the number of head recorded in various game books will decrease this season.

Congratulations to Moubay Burnett on being appointed Aide de Camp to The Queen.

The news has just been made official that the 1st Battalion will go to Fort George in early 1971. The regiment were last there in 1923 in the form of the 2nd Battalion under the Command of Brigadier General P. W. Brown, C.M.G., D.S.O., father of the present incumbent in Germany.

We are indebted to Lieutenant Colonel Curle, for the present of a framed photostat of a drummer and piper of the 10th Gordons sketched in France during the 14-18 War, also to supplying the address of several ex-Gordons not on our list.

A list of addresses of past and present Gordons is being slowly compiled at RHQ, should any reader know of a former officer or soldier who is out of touch with the Regiment please let us know the address. An abbreviated address book has been compiled and a few copies are available from RHQ.

Malcolm Borthwick (Celle 1958-61) has been in evidence in the South of Scotland recently. He took possession of his father's grouse moors in the

Muirfoot area and dispensed hospitality and several days' driving to many, among whom were George Morrison, David Ewart, Colin Brown, Angus Avery, Ran Ogilvie and George Elsmie. Unfortunately David Saunders' day was called off due to heavy mist. One and all are extremely grateful to Malcolm and his father, Algy.

Further on in this issue will be found a page of photographs titled "Who, Where, When". We hope these will be of interest to readers who may be able to supply some details of the photographs.

A Press cutting concerning the Regimental Far East Private Army appears in this edition together with two photographs. No further comment is considered necessary.

Major Morrice (Hearty) Henderson paid us a worried visit in July—on his way north his car had been broken into, and a brief case and his gun were stolen. The latter was recovered, less sixteen inches off the barrels, from the hands of a person in Glasgow who had run amok in a tenement. Total bag one brace homo sapiens.

The following letter has just been received. It is hoped that anyone who remembers Mr. Wright will drop him a line direct to Canada.

1 North Dawson Court,
Albama St.,
Port Arthur,
Ontario.

Dear Sir,

I have intended writing this letter for quite a while, but never got down to it. Regarding the first Battle of Mons, everybody calls it the Mons Medal, in my opinion there is no such thing as the Mons Medal, that clasp and rose is just to recognise the Old Imperial Army from Kitcheners Army. Britain never gave medals for a defeat. I went through all the retreat from Mons: I joined the army in 1910, was discharged in 1919, now I have got started.

If you put this letter in the Legionary I would like to have a line from some of my old pals in the Gordon Highlanders, my nickname was Wilbur, was in the Battalion Scouts and was third best runner in the Battalion. I often wonder how many of my old chums are still alive, most of them must be about my own age 77, hope you can locate some of them. Cant Brown was my Company Officer in 1911 in Colchester.

I hope you can make out this scribble. Best of luck to the Gay Gordons.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) WM. WRIGHT.

Mr. Ken Peters has just returned from a visit to Germany on behalf of Aberdeen Journals. We are much indebted to him for all the help and publicity received for the Regiment in this area.

Further to Patrick Forbes' departure the following is an extract from a letter received thanking all those who subscribed to his leaving present:

"I regret very much that my message of thanks which was to have been relayed to members through the kind offices of Colonel George MacDonald at the Regimental Dinner in June, had to be relegated on account of pressure of business at the Annual General Meeting; also that, possibly on account of past criticisms of the legibility of their handwriting the RO II and

RO III at Regimental Headquarters were reluctant to provide a subscription list which might have enabled me to thank at least a proportion of the subscribers personally.

Despite the apparent delay, I should like to say how very much I appreciated this kindness to one who was only a comparatively short time in office. A long-desired and much needed piece of furniture, a refectory table, has now been acquired which will be a permanent

reminder of the happy times and comradeship of service in the Regiment."

In producing this magazine twice yearly one feels that issues in November and May as at present just seem to miss important events and when these do appear in print they are out of date (e.g.) Christmas activities, etc. reported in May, and Summer activities in November. Perhaps products in January/February and July/August would be more appropriate.

SCOTTISH DIVISION — ASSAULT COURSE RACE



Winners of the Scottish Divisional Assault Course Race at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, 1969. 1st Battalion Team—Pte Robert Alexander, LCpl David Farmer, Pte Norman Wood, Pte Andrew Ballantyne; (standing) Cpl Robert Cole, Pte Alastair Robson.

Headquarters, The Scottish Division decided to sponsor an assault course race as an item in this year's Edinburgh Military Tattoo. All Regiments were invited to enter teams.

The 1st Battalion team comprising: Cpl Robert Cole, L/Col David Farmer, Ptes Robert Alexander, Andrew Ballantyne, Norman Wood and Alastair Robson trained in Germany under Lieutenant J. Grierson.

In late July, SSgt R. Trenham brought the team to Scotland and continued to train them at Glen-corse, where the other Regimental teams were stationed.

Each of the thirty-two performances of the Tattoo staged an assault race for two teams on the esplanade, preceded by an abseiling demonstration from the Half-Moon Battery. The race was organised between Regiments on a league basis.

The first battalion team was unbeaten and recorded the fastest time throughout the race.

The final results are summarised below:—

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Pts for	Best Time Mins	Aggr Time Mins
1 Gordons	10	10	—	—	20	1 2 11	51
1 RS	10	8	—	2	16	1 3 11	36
1 RHF	10	5	—	5	10	1 7 12	43
1 BW	10	3	1	6	7	1 4 14	0
1 QO Hldrs	10	2	—	8	4	1 9 13	28
1 KOSB	10	1	1	8	3	1 4 13	12

The 1st Battalion team therefore became the outright winners of the race and received a presentation from the GOC-in-C Scotland, Lieutenant General Sir Derek Lang, KCB, DSO, MC.

Signals of congratulations were received simultaneously by the team, at the Castle, on the last evening, from the Colonel of the Regiment on behalf of all Gordons in Scotland and from the Commanding Officer on behalf of all ranks of the 1st Battalion.

LOCATION OF GORDON HIGHLANDERS

Col C. N. BARKER, MBE, MC, at extra Regimental Employment, Ministry of Defence.
 Col A. J. C. RICHARDSON, Inspectorate of Armaments.
 Lt Col R. W. SMITH, HQ Land Forces, Hong Kong.
 Lt Col J. NEISH, Regular Commissions Board.
 Lt Col A. T. C. BROWN, HQ British Troops, Malta.
 Lt Col I. C. S. MUNRO, HQ South East District.
 Lt Col R. C. B. CHANCELLOR, MBE, Trucial Oman Scouts, BFPO 69.
 Lt Col J. J. H. SIMPSON, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, BFPO 605.
 Lt Col M. H. BURGE, MOD, Military Attache (Designate), Budapest.
 Lt Col (QM) R. B. WILKINSON, MBE, HQ BAE, SHAPE, BFPO 26.
 Maj M. L. DUNBAR, M.B.E., G2 (Air) Canadian Force Base, Manitoba.
 Maj R. A. NICKSON, M.C., J.W.S. Johore Bahru, GPO, Singapore.
 Maj J. A. G. TINDAL, HQ 4 Div, BFPO 15.
 Maj G. DUNCAN, MBE, AC10 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.
 Maj I. McK. ROBERTSON, HQ Scotland, GPO, Edinburgh EH1 2YX.
 Maj J. T. D. DUBIN, MBE, Ministry of Defence.
 Maj D. G. B. SAUNDERS, HQ 51 (H) Volunteers, Tay Street, Perth.
 Maj W. D. R. WEST, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, BFPO 605.
 Maj I. FLEMING, MA, 22 Cadet Training Team, Aberdeen.

Maj R. E. B. C. GIBSON, The Desert Regt, Sultan's Armed Forces, BFPO 1.
 Capt K. I. H. LUMSDEN, JBIS, HQ Hong Kong Land Forces, BFPO 1.
 Capt A. N. McL. SCOTT, Staff College, Camberley.
 Capt C. M. VAN DER NOOT, Ministry of Defence.
 Capt R. S. FAWCUS, 13 Flt AAC, Cauty Bks, Perham Down, Andover, Hants.
 Capt J. R. URQUHART, Held Strength, Scottish Inf Depot.
 Lieut R. D. ORD, Army Aviation Centre, Middle Wallop.
 2/Lieut C. E. PRICE, 82 AYT, Market Street, Aberdeen.
 WO I W. R. C. FREEMAN, AMIC, Wilton Park, Beaconsfield, Bucks.
 WO I A. HEFFRON, Glasgow University OTC.
 WO I P. CAMERON, HQ 51 (H) Volunteers, Tay Street, Perth.
 WO II G. SYMON, ACIO, Aberdeen.
 WO II G. SKENE, G Coy, 51 (H) Volunteers.
 WO II J. B. HUTTON, D Coy, (51) (H) Volunteers.
 WO II J. SOMERS, HQ 2 Div & Sig Rept, BFPO 22.
 WO II M. FLYNN, Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, BFPO 605.
 SSgt R. BUCHAN, ACIO, Aberdeen.
 SSgt W. FRASER, D Coy, 51 (H) Volunteers.
 SSgt P. SCHONEVILLE, School of Infantry, Warminster.
 Sot J. MEIVILLE, RMA, Sandhurst.
 Sot J. ASHBRIDGE, G Coy, 51 (H) Volunteers.
 Sot R. BOOTH, D Coy, 51 (H) Volunteers.
 Sot W. ROSS, Junior Inf Bn, Shorncliffe.
 Sgt D. ROBERTSON, G Coy, 51 (H) Volunteers.

Sgt F. COLE, AAC, Harrogate.
 Sgt. G. PATERSON, Lovat Scout Company, Lerwick.
 Sgt H. GRANT, ACIO, Aberdeen.
 Sgt R. PHILIP, ACIO, Aberdeen.
 Sgt W. DONALD, ACIO, Aberdeen.
 Sgt J. HALL, STC, Sennelager, BFPO 16.
 Sgt C. GALLAGHER, School of Transport, Bordon.
 Sgt R. THORPE, School of Infantry, Warminster.
 Sgt P. N. CHARMAN, 22 Cadet Training Team.
 Sgt D. ANDERSON, Senior NCOs Tactics Wing, School of Infantry.
 Cpl W. MANSON, HQ & Sig Sqn, 11 Inf Bde, BFPO 29.
 Cpl R. HENDERSON, AAC, Carlisle.
 Cpl A. HOWIE, Regimental Recruiting Team, Aberdeen.
 LCpl F. McKENZIE, 82 AYT, Market Street, Aberdeen.

LCpl A. DEVLIN, Chinese Languages Course, Hong Kong, BFPO 1.
 Pte A. COOPER, HQ Scotland, GPO, Edinburgh, EH1 2YX.
 Pte R. ERSKINE, 20 Trials Unit, Kirkcudbrightshire.
 Pte A. GRANT, Highland Regiments Recruiting Team.
 Pte J. GREIG, School of Infantry, Netheravon.
 Pte J. MORRISON, 22 Cadet Training Team.
 Pte J. PARRY, HQ 28 Commonwealth Bde, Malacca.
 Pte B. SWEENEY, School of Infantry, Warminster.
 Pte N. STEWART, School of Infantry, Warminster.
 Pte A. NORRIE, 82 AYT, Market Street, Aberdeen.
 Pte H. BOYLE, Junior Leaders Bn, Oswestry, Salop.
 Pte G. PHILIP, Regimental Recruiting Team, Aberdeen.
 Pte I. ROBERTSON, Regimental Recruiting Team, Aberdeen.
 Pte W. WRIGHT, Regimental Recruiting Team, Aberdeen.

GAZETTE

HONOURS AND AWARDS—BIRTHDAY HONOURS LIST— 14th JUNE, 1969—MEMBERS (MBE) MILITARY DIVISION

Major Gordon Duncan, The Gordon Highlanders, Army Careers Office, Glasgow.

APPOINTMENT

Colonel Kenneth Moubay Burnett, TD, late of Inf T & AVR, is appointed Aide-De-Camp to the Queen, Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve, 6th June, 1969, in an existing vacancy.

REGULAR ARMY

2nd Lt I. D. S. Forsyth (484093) to be Lt 28th January, 1969.

Short Service Commissions—2nd Lt A. D. P. Ross (481659) to be Lt 4th June, 1969. Lt R. S. Hay (485128) to be Lt (QM) 1st April, 1968.

Lt Col A. J. C. Richardson (220301) to be Col 30th June, 1969.

The undermentioned Captains to be Majors 30th June, 1969.

R. E. B. Gibson (448965)
 P. W. Graham (451249)

Special Reg. Comm—2nd Lt Alan David Patrick Ross (481659) from Short Serv. Comm., to be 2nd Lt 5th May, 1969, with seniority 4th June, 1968. To be Lt 4th June, 1969. Lt A. W. Duncan (474396) to be Capt 27th July, 1969.

The undermentioned O/Cdts from Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be 2/Lts 25th July, 1969:

John Maitland William Stenhouse (487586)
 Richard Adam Lamb (487528)

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS—Class II

Capt (Acting Maj) J. M. Gray (441329) from T & AVR, 51 Highland, to be Capt 19th May, 1969, and is granted the hon rank of Maj.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE—

Category II

Maj N. S. Thornton-Kemsley (444586) 51 Highland from T & AVR, Category III, 3 Gordons to be Maj 9th February, 1969, with seniority 1st October, 1967.

Capt E. M. Gibson (472074) 51 Highland from T & AVR, Category III, RA, to be Capt 6th January, 1969, with seniority 1st November, 1964.

Lt T. G. MacRae (476044) 51 Highland from T & AVR, Category III, 3 Gordons, to be Lt 18th March, 1969, with seniority 5th March, 1966.

SCOTTISH NORTH EASTERN AREA ARMY CADET FORCE

The undermentioned Officer is granted A/Rank wef 1 January, 1969:

To be A/Lt Col and Deputy Commandant, Lt (A/Maj) N. R. Gray (428688) Gen List (T & AVR).

1ST BATTALION NOTES

EDITORIAL

The past six months have been the hardest, and in many ways the most enjoyable, of our present tour in BAOR. In an extremely tight "Diary of Events" there were many occasions when it would have been difficult to say where one activity ended and another began. The aim in this script is to outline past happenings in skeleton form only, and to leave the companies and departments to add the "meat".

March saw the battalion making its annual pilgrimage to the All Arms Training Centre at Sennelager to carry out three weeks' field firing on the numerous redesigned ranges. Fortunate in having good weather for that time of the year, we were able to make maximum use of the facilities and, as a result, gained a great deal of value. For the major part of our stay we acted as hosts to No 3 Company Marine Regiment (The Bornholm Volunteers) of the Danish Army, and were most pleased to have them with us.

After a welcome Easter break we embarked upon a period of flotation training on the river Weser in preparation for further river crossing trials. This coincided with a period of really foul weather which caused our APCs to turn limited areas of riverbank into seas of liquid mud. Undaunted by the elements training continued and as a result drivers and commanders gained experience which was to stand them in good stead later in the year.

Towards the end of April we were very pleased to greet The London Scottish Company of the 51st (H) Volunteers who were to stay with us for two

weeks. After allowing them a few comparatively peaceful days in barracks we moved them, together with the Battalion, up to Soltau for a week's field training. This period was devoted to exercising at Platoon and Company level which gave an excellent opportunity to build upon and develop techniques learned at Sennelager. In the final two days "A" Company acted as enemy for the London Scottish Company who showed that they had reached a high and thoroughly professional standard of training in the short time at their disposal.

No sooner was Soltau over than Exercise "Lorelei" began. This was a series of River Crossing Exercises which was also a trial (in both senses of the word). In a period of only ten working days over one thousand crossings were made by APCs and stalwarts from a number of crossing sites on the River Weser in the Bodenwerder-Holzminen area. During this exercise, and the working up training, we were fortunate to have with us 1 Fd Sqn RE commanded by Major Neville White; they gave invaluable assistance and made many friends.

June was quiet. "A" Company with a number of the Drums and Pipes departed for a visit to Denmark where they were the guests of The Royal Danish Life Guards who saw to it that they had a pleasant mixture of serious soldiering and most hospitable entertainment. In the meantime "B" Company had the chore of guarding an ammunition depot and other mundane duties. "D" Company marched hundreds of blister-making miles in preparation for their participation in the Nijmegen

marches. Support Company made ready for, and then took part in, the annual Reconnaissance, Mortar and Anti Tank Platoon Concentrations. Headquarters Company managed to draw breath and prepare itself for the next hurdle.

Right from the beginning of July the Battalion, with the exception of "D" Company turned all its attention to preparation for a move to Larzac in the South of France. Thanks to excellent planning by Captain Oxley and a great deal of careful driving by members of the MT Platoon, this complicated move was successfully concluded and the Battalion established in a French Army camp on a high plateau some sixty miles North of the Riviera. For three weeks we carried out training which included an Escape and Evasion exercise, Combat Team exercises, Adventure Training and, finally a Counter Revolutionary Warfare exercise. Between these activities nearly everyone managed a three day visit to a camp we set up on the beach at Agde and, in addition, were able to make one day visits to the many places of local interest such as the awe inspiring Gorge Du Tarn. Our visit to France was made all the more enjoyable by the excellent and ready assistance given by the Advance Base Unit commanded by Lt Col John Salizar, MC, and by the willing co-operation and friendliness of all ranks of "C" Sqn 16/5th Lancers, 11 Infantry Brigade Aviation Squadron, and detachments from 52 Niagra Bty, 45 Medium Rgt RA and 21 Engr Sqn RE who were under our "Battle Group" command.

Whilst Larzac was in full swing "D" Company had been far from idle. They, and the Drums and Pipes, had taken part in the Nijmegen Marches and in doing so had gained much praise in the European press for their stamina and bearing. This over, they departed rapidly from Holland for the rather more hilly training area at Vogelsang where they came under command of the Scots Greys for Combat Team and Battle Group training.

During all the foregoing, the Drums and Pipes and the Military Band had been carrying out a vast and exacting programme of engagements. The former had been to Rome with additional dancers, drawn from companies, to take part in the production of an epic film on the Battle of Waterloo. In addition they had shown the tartan across Europe as they moved from one engagement to another. The Military Band, no less busy, had their Kneller Hall Inspection which resulted in a report crammed full of superlatives and including the words "If there were a higher grading than 'Out-standing' this band would obtain it". Both bands joined together on a number of occasions to provide a "musical spectacular" in barracks to which the public of Minden were invited and came in their thousands. Such activities were always followed by "All Ranks Dances" which proved a tremendous success.

As always we have been delighted to have a number of visitors from outside BAOR. In late March we had Maj Gen H. L. E. C. Leask, CB, DSO, OBE, Colonel Commandant, The Scottish Division, who we were delighted to have visit us at Sennelager; such a pity that circumstances made it such a brief stay. This was followed in May by a visit from Brigadier F. H. Coutts, OBE, Divisional Brigadier, who again managed to fire us with his

tremendous enthusiasm. June saw the arrival of Mr. "Don" Leslie, MBE, CPRO Scotland, who gave invaluable advice on how to gain and maintain a favourable relation with the Press and, through them, the public. Early in July we were very pleased indeed to have with us Lt Gen Sir George and Lady Gordon-Lennox who, in a somewhat hectic weekend, managed to see a large number of serving members and their families. Amongst other events the Colonel of the Regiment and Lady Gordon-Lennox were able to dine with the Officers and their ladies and attend the annual Motor Car Rally, at which Lady Gordon-Lennox presented the prizes. Last but not least, it was a great pleasure for us to have Mr. Ken Peters (Aberdeen Journals) and Mrs. Arunda Peters with us in August. It was Ken's first visit to the Battalion since he was made an honorary member of the Regiment. As usual he was on the go the whole time and we are eagerly awaiting to see his reports on the visit.



Colonel of The Regiment talks to LCpl Demster during his visit to the Battalion.

Apart from the individuals mentioned, we were happy to have as our guests members of the SNEA Army Cadet Force who visited us in April; it was a pleasure to have them and our only regret is that other activities forced us to restrict their programme. During our stay at Larzac we had with us five Junior Leaders from Oswestry and three Junior Soldiers from the Highland Brigade Depot (Bridge of Don). They brought with them a most infectious enthusiasm for all that they did and saw their way through all aspects of training with flying colours.

And what of the future? Early in September we take part in a Command Post Exercise (Barred UMBER) before the entire Battalion deploy, yet again, to Soltau for one week of Battle Group exercises. This is to be followed immediately by a Logistics Exercise for the echelons. A week's break and off we go on a Brigade exercise which will last one or two weeks depending, in rough terms, on whether one is an "Indian" or "Chief" respectively (the latter are required as umpires on the second week). Following on immediately is to be another two week exercise which, from the number of maps involved, is going to keep us well and truly on the hop.

The exercise season over we then get a period of two weeks in which to do nothing—except prepare for our Annual Fitness for Role Inspection and all the other ancillary inspections which go with it. But all is not lost. Those who survive this training year can look forward to the inevitable social period in December and the beginning of another Training Year in January 1, 1970!

Looking to what at present is the distant future, we are happy to say that in late 1970 or very early 1971 we shall be home again in Scotland. The news that we are to move to Fort George has been well received within the Battalion and we all look forward to being back, not quite in, but very near to, the Regimental area.

Thank you for looking at the skeleton but remember the meat is still to follow.

STAFF LIST

BN HQ

CO—Lt Col D. H. W. BROWN, MC, sq.
2IC—Maj R. D. L. SMART, sq. Unit Security Offr, Sub Editor
Tiger & Sphinx, Band President, Sports President.
2IC Des—S/Maj P. B. De T. ROOKE, pc (KOSB).
Adj—S/Capt N. F. M. OXLEY, Unit Mail Offr.
Adj Des—S/Capt G. H. PEEBLES, OIC Adventure Training
and Freefall Parachuting.
A/Adj—S/Lt M. N. B. N. ROSS, Legal Aid, Cross Country,
Edn, Offrs Mess Wines Member, Rowing.
IO—S/Lt F. D. H. IRVINE, NBC, PR, Fire, Historical Diary
Asst Unit Security, Asst Recruiting Offrs Mess Food
Member.
IO Des—S/Lt C. E. PRICE.
Padre—Rev J. B. LAWSON (RACHD).
RSM—WO I R. D. STRACHAN, Tug O' War.
ORCS—SSgt THURLOW.
"HQ" COY
OC—S/Capt T. H. G. DUKE, OIC Rugby, OIC Sailing, Sgts
Mess Supervising Offr.
2IC—S/Capt D. M. H. DU BOULAY, Cpls Club Supervising
Offr, Offrs Mess Secretary, Rgt Association.
PRI/UFO—S/Maj M. A. C. STEPHEN, Welfare, Schools, OIC
Cycling, Housing, OIC Riding.
Families—WO II P. S. WATT.
RSO—S/Capt R. C. I. ROBINSON, Asst Bn Editor, Tiger &
Sphinx, OIC Hockey.
Asst RSO—WO II I. MITCHELL.
QM—S/Lt R. S. HAY, BEM, Messing, Civil Labour.
RQMS—WO II V. MARTIN (OO Hldrs).
Tech QM/MTO—S/Lt C. D. THEW, OIC Road Safety OC Golf.
RQMS—WO II, A. W. C. McDONALD.
Paymaster—S/Capt A. A. BULL (RAPC), OIC Central Bank.
OC LAD—S/Capt L. M. COX (REME), OIC Football.
OC LAD Des—S/Capt J. T. WILLCOX (REME).
ASM LAD—WO I B. JACKSON (REME).
CSM—WO II J. DRYBURGH, Football Secy.
CQMS—Sgt J. WILSON.
CQMS Des—C/Sgt A. STRATHDEE.
"A" COY
OC—A/Maj P. W. GRAHAM, psc, OIC Athletics, Tug O' War,
Recruiting.
2IC—S/Capt D. M. WHITE, OIC Ski-ing.
PI Comd—S/Lt A. W. DUNCAN, OIC Canoeing, Asst Rifle
Shooting.
PI Comd—2/Lt I. F. STEWART, OIC Fencing, Offrs Mess
House Member.
CQMS—WO II R. GREENHOWE.
CQMS—SSgt R. HARMAN.
"B" COY
OC—S/Maj C. J. D. GORDON-STEWART, OIC Boxing, Para-
chuting.
2IC—2Lt B. R. PATERSON.
2IC—A/Capt J. R. URQUHART, A/OIC Football, OIC Darts.
PI Comd—2/Lt J. M. W. STENHOUSE, Offrs Mess House
Member.
PI Comd—2/Lt J. D. FIELDEN.
CSM—WO II R. WARDEN.
CQMS—SSgt J. C. MASSON.
"D" COY
OC—S/Capt R. M. KINGHORN, OIC Squash, OIC Tennis,
OIC Orienteering.
OC Des—S/Maj R. E. B. C. GIBSON.
2IC—2/Lt I. D. S. FORSYTH, OIC Badminton, OIC Cricket.
PI Comd—2/Lt R. A. LAMB, Offrs Mess Junior Member.

PI Comd—2/Lt M. P. BRAY (RCT).
CSM—WO II J. WILL, A/OIC Parachuting.
CQMS—Sgt A. PATTILLO.
"SP" COY
OC—S/Maj E. F. GORDON, Pipe President, PMC Offr Mess.
OC Recce PI—S/Lt A. I. O. FORBES.
OC Mor PI—Capt A. W. DUNCAN, OIC Judo.
Des—S/Lt A. D. P. ROSS, A/OIC Ski-ing.
OC A/TK PI—S/Lt M. P. TAITT, OIC Langlauf Ski-ing.
CSM—WO II J. J. DOOLEY.
CQMS—SSgt J. SHARP.
WTWO—WO II G. A. MacDONALD.

BIRTHS

L/Cpl J. Young, daughter, Annete, born at Torphins, 24th
January, 1969.
Pte N. Adam, daughter, Arlene Florence, born at Inch, on
22nd January, 1969.
L/Cpl T. Brown, son, Thomas, born at Rinteln, on 10th
February, 1969.
L/Cpl M. Hubbard, daughter, Elaine Ann, born at Rinteln,
on 31st December, 1968.
Cpl R. Rutherford, son, Paul Alexander Gow, born at Rinteln,
on 31st January, 1969.
L/Cpl D. Farmer, daughter, Janet Louise, born at Rinteln,
on 15th January, 1969.
L/Cpl F. Adams, daughter, Roselyn Jane, born at Rinteln,
on 10th January, 1969.
Pte R. Bell, son, Richard Peter, born at Rinteln, on 2nd
February, 1969.
Cpl N. Donald, son, Norman, born at Rinteln, on 12th
December, 1968.
Pte R. Florence, son, Martin James, born at Rinteln, on 13th
February, 1969.
Pte J. Huntstone, daughter, Elizabeth Currie Kennedy, born
at Rinteln, on 18th February, 1969.
Pte F. Foster, son, Mark Frederick, born at Aberdeen, on
23rd May, 1967.
L/Cpl T. Beattie, daughter, Debbie, born at Rinteln, on 24th
February, 1969.
Pte G. Lillie, son, George Milne, born at Rinteln, on 16th
March, 1969.
L/Cpl A. Black, daughter, Melanie Lee, born at Rinteln, on
16th April, 1969.
Pte B. Cruickshank, daughter, Teresa Anne, born at Rinteln,
on 27th March, 1969.
L/Cpl P. Kelly, son, Iain Allan Mitchell, born at Rinteln, on
26th April, 1969.
L/Cpl R. Rust, daughter, Susan Helen, born at Rinteln, on
12th April, 1969.
Pte W. Anderson, daughter, Donna, born at Rinteln, on 5th
March, 1969.
Cpl W. Penman, daughter, Yvonne Mary, born at Rinteln,
on 20th April, 1969.
L/Cpl I. Sutherland, daughter, Ashley June, born at Huntly,
on 5th June, 1967.
L/Cpl R. Hanratty, daughter, Gina Petrie, born at Rinteln,
on 1st April, 1969.
L/Cpl I. Martin, daughter, Angelia, born at Rinteln on 5th
April, 1969.
SSgt W. Richardson, son, Grant Alexander, born at Rinteln,
on 30th April, 1969.
Cpl J. Proctor, son, John Henry, born at Paisley, on 23rd
April, 1969.
Pte D. Henderson, son, William Alexander, born at Dunfer-
mline, on 8th April, 1969.
Cpl G. Mitchell, daughter, Julia Ara, born at Rinteln, on
10th March, 1969.
Cpl J. Smith, son, Robert James, born at Rinteln, on 23rd
April, 1969.
L/Cpl T. McSeveney, son, Peter Mark, born at Rinteln, on
29th April, 1969.
Pte J. Taylor, son, Ian Michael, born at Rinteln, on 5th May,
1969.
L/Cpl D. Michie, son, David Frank, born at Rinteln, on 28th
June, 1969.
Cpl D. Falconer, daughter, Linda, born at Rinteln, on 29th
April, 1969.
Pte I. Whyte, son, Ian Alfred, born at Rinteln, on 13th May,
1969.
Pte C. McInnes, son, David George, born at Rinteln, on 13th
May, 1969.
Pte J. Taylor, son, Ian Michael, born at Rinteln, on 5th
May, 1969.
Pte T. Campbell, daughter, Karen Mary, born at Bradford,
on 7th July, 1969.
Cpl J. Cole, son, James McRae, born at Rinteln, on 10th
June, 1969.

MARRIAGES

- Pte J. Gallie—married Miss Marion Elizabeth Fraser, at Inverurie, on 25th January, 1969.
 Pte D. Henderson—married Miss Christine Candlish, at Dunfermline, on 24th February, 1969.
 Pte K. McLean—married Miss Patricia Anne Brown, at South Queensferry, on 8th March, 1969.
 Pte T. Campbell—married Miss Katherine Mary Griffin, at Bradford, on 15th March, 1969.
 Pte R. Jack—married Miss Joan Moig, at Aberdeen, on 12th April, 1969.
 Pte J. Bogan—married Miss Jeanette Ruth Ferguson, at Glasgow, on 5th April, 1969.
 Pte H. Cooper—married Miss Doreen Jessie Clark, at Aberdeen, on 3rd May, 1969.
 L/Cpl P. Pratt—married Miss June Margaret Murray, at Buckie, on 5th April, 1969.
 Pte E. Kennedy—married Miss Aileen May McLeod, at Aberdeen, on 14th June 1969.
 Pte N. McDonald—married Miss Margaret Ann Findlay, at Kirkwall, on 30th May, 1969.
 Pte J. Allan—married Miss Christine Margaret MacLennan, at Stornoway, on 30th April, 1969.
 Pte H. Greig—Married Miss Mary Laing, at Stonehaven, on 7th June, 1969.

DEATHS

- Cpl J. Boyle—wife, Mrs. Mara Boyle, died at Minden, on 8th June, 1969.
 L/Cpl W. Reid—son, William, died at Minden, on 24th July, 1969.

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Since our last notes we have had a change over of "Quarties." CSgt "Tug" Wilson has left us for the home comforts of the depot but Sgt Arthur McMillan has kindly stepped in until our new one arrives.

We had a visit from an old comrade, who I am sure most of you will know. He was Sgt "Nobby" Hall who left us for the post of Provost Sgt at Sennelager. He popped in to say "Hello, how's things, cheerio, see you again some time," and there he was—gone.

At present the CSM is away on leave, and, according to the postcard he sent us, he is really enjoying it although he says the money has run out.

We have all returned from our stay in Larzac and I think that everyone agrees that it was an experience well worth while. Certainly Pte Bradley will not forget it, £5 on our arrival there and £40 in the last week, rather an expensive "do" to say the least.

We managed to have a trip round the local area, organised by Sgt Harrop, which ended up in Millau. A truly great day was had by all, and the evening turned out to be even better. LCpl Dixon couldn't remember any of the evening due to him experimenting with the rather cheaper version of Vin Rose.

During the Battalion stay there, the Commanding Officer decreed that as many personnel as possible would go to the beaches on the Med. (cannot spell it in full). So off we went in parties to the beaches. Reports came back that the talent was just great and the final outcome was that a grading was given of "outstanding."

Well we could go on, and on, and on but unfortunately we just haven't the space so over to the rest of the company.

One final point before we close. The new arrival expected by the McDonald family has still not arrived. The stork must be in for an overhaul. LCpl McDonald isn't really worried, he has got his bingo.

BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM

This season's notes could be a matter of "Hello, how are you and goodbye." Don't be deceived, we are still our usual hive of work.

The spring saw the start of the exercise season and everyone was wondering who would be the lucky one to do his "twist" with the companies, and prove that we don't only know the gas stoppage of a typewriter.

The chief has been sitting on his throne as infallible as ever! The trouble is his crown is on his arm and not on his head. Sgt Ross, yes Sgt, has now taken over ORC and can now be found rummaging through discipline files and 8 day delay reports but still managing to smile and wish us Good Morning!!! Congratulations to Cpl Morrison on his promotion and also on his efficiency on joining the expectant fathers gang. The only gang warfare that is going on is between him and his wife as to whether it will be a boy or girl.

Cpl Ally Norrie is coming in to work thinner every day as he has just posted his wife to Edinburgh for a couple of months. He is counting the days to the happy reunion. Also congrats on the second.

We have received our usual intakes again. Welcome to Bill Booth from "B" Coy, Bill Clark from the 82 AYT and Bill Alexander from "A" Coy. With so many Bills we had better keep a check on these chaps.

In July and August we had the pleasure of going to Larzac in the South of France. The pads were swooning for their loved ones, while the single pads were out looking for their own loved ones.

The heat was terrific. The Chief Clerk was drinking so much that it is said that he exhausted the camp's supply of lemonade powder and Bill Clark exhausted the supply of water making it for him. The scenery was beautiful likewise the girls. Ally Norrie and Bones amazed everyone with their parlezing of the lingo, but really they were just repeating themselves over and over again.

Well, that being the latest news, we sign off, Yours till the sphinx winks,

INTELLIGENCE SECTION

From over 7,500 maps for one exercise to a small piece of black tape to stop the Padre's soap powder spilling in his suitcase, the Intelligence Section have won through since the last notes.

The IO has been seen—but not very much. The excuses have been KAPE recces, KAPE tours, local leave and Public Relations trips to St Tropez!

Sgt McMillan has taken over the job of CQMS of "HQ" Coy and so we find that we are never short of rations or equipment. We look forward to seeing him back at the end of October, but wish it was before the two big exercises.

LCpl Henry and new arrival LCpl Bowman are both working hard and are already planning their leave. Pte McBrearty has gone on leave only telling us six hours before he left.

Pte Smart is still photographing madly, some of the results you may have seen in the local press.

The highlight of the summer has undoubtedly been the trip to Larzac where the Section were involved in tactical questioning on the Escape and Evasion exercises with a great deal of success. We didn't know the IO spoke French and we can't accept that chatting to those French lovelies was all for Public Relations! The experts (LCpls Henry and Bowman) approve of the local wine, Cpl Watt says he approves of everything "Francaise."

And so it is with a heavy heart that we, less the IO who is staying here on leave (how does he do it?), depart for Minden to face that mountain of maps yet again.



The 10 at Larzac — "Intelligence, Security, Public Relations, or just onto a good thing?"

SIGNAL PLATOON

Capt D. M. H. Du Boulay has managed to survive two years as Signal Officer, without drinking more than is his custom, resigning his commission or going mad for more than four hours at a time. He took over when we first became APC borne and by dint of encouragement, cajoling and thinly veiled threats managed to get us on the air for the last two training seasons. His departure was marked by an orgy in the platoon club when he presented us with a picture outlining his ideas for the communication system of the Eighties. The "Boss" is now out to grass camouflaged as Call-sign 99, and maybe the aberrations of "Nigs Rig" and "Smarties Cartie," with their US generators, lack of tracks, BLR'd batteries Rebros configurations and steel lockers will soon become just a bad dream.

Lt J. A. Grierson is deserting us for HQ 24 Bde at Portsmouth. He also managed to stay reasonably sensible, in spite of occasional lapses when he flings himself off the Half Moon Battery of Edinburgh Castle with the Battalion Abseiling team. His departure was marked with the consumption of considerable quantities of liquids. Mr Grierson presented the Signal Club with a Tankard which will be held by the best .22 shot of the month.

The new Chief is Capt Robinson, who has successfully completed stage 1 of his indoctrination at Warminster, and stage II at Capt du Boulay's farewell party. His martyrdom will take place on Soltau training area in the autumn. From all Prontos, Call-sign 82, welcome and good luck! To LCpl Reid who left us for Civvy Street, and Cpl Reid who has gone to "D" Coy, many thanks and best of luck for the future.

Congratulations to CSgt Mitchell on promotion to WOII, and to Ptes Leys, Adams, Cowie and Christie on promotion to LCpl. Sgt Carter was promoted to CSgt in order that the extra pay could go towards the kit he lost on Exercise Lorelei.

By Signal Platoon standards it has been a fairly quiet period, the usual epidemic of CPX's was followed by training at Soltau. Exercise Lorelei proved to the surprise of all, including their crews, that BHQ vehicles will actually float. Detachments have run successful skywave links from Denmark, Soltau and from the Exercise Lorelei area. Good communications were maintained, and many useful lessons learned or relearned, not least of which being that morse is certainly "No" deid yet."

July finds most of us with the Battalion at Larzac, of which there will no doubt be tales to tell. Cpl Lyon has just returned from his successful MPC I course, and Signalmen Barrington from an MPC 3. CSgt Carter and LCpl Pratt may be found closeted in the Signal store, trying to avoid rear party duties and brushing up their Swahili in anticipation of a trip to Kenya in August.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

We start this edition where we left off last time, a most appropriate place to start it seems.

Shortly after the close down of the last edition LCpl "Geordie" Lemon left us for a more expensive way of life at the Depot; we wish him great success there. His vacancy was filled by Pte "Sam" Moore from "A" Company, who has also taken over the jobs as Reporter, Writer and Departmental Editor of both "Tiger and Sphinx" and Bn Monthly Newsletter.

Next on the agenda was the preparation for Sennelager, after many late nights (working?) we were ready for the big move.

Sennelager saw a change of tactics for the staff as most of them, in turn, were attached to Rifle Companies for field training. A special concept of field training was Sgt "Nobby" Clark's idea of standing in a field hitting golf balls whilst LCpl Nibloe brought them back, thinking of the reward, a visit to the 19th hole!

Classification was soon under way, and this proved a successful year for all members of the staff, although Pte Moore thought it somewhat unfair to be banned from using Telescopic Sights on the GPMG. The main occurrence of Sennelager was when a member of the staff filled the RSM's heater with White Spirit. This caused a slight panic when the error was discovered, but much to our relief the RSM was found sitting next to his stove which was burning away nicely with no ill effects. The following morning saw a repeat performance when our own coal stove was lit with the assistance of a vast quantity of kerosene. This resulted in all members of the staff being out of bed 15 minutes before Reveille and wondering what had happened (a most unusual occurrence).

The break between Sennelager and Soltau was filled with work (as usual) and a social evening which was arranged by Cpl (Mr Tap Toe) Topping and our Master Tailor SSgt (I'm a Gordon) Dack. This proved a most successful evening with an excellent buffet supplied by LCpl Reid. Our barmen, Ptes Drennan and Stott, kept the evening in high spirits (about 90%) and thus kept up with the staff's motto of "Supply and Replenish!"

Soltau passed with no great experiences arising although Cpl Topping had a brief encounter with a very large dog whilst visiting a farm (it was a brief encounter as the farmer found out while trying to explain to a flying Cpl that the dog was muzzled).

Shortly after Soltau we had a change over of RQMS, we said farewell—but not goodbye we hope

—to RQMS Heffern, who on his promotion left us for the cushy life of RSM at the Glasgow University Officers Training Corps. We welcome in his place RQMS Martin who joins us from the Queen's Own Highlanders. He has definitely been awarded "The Whistler of the Year Award" without even a decent challenge from Roger Whittaker! With the new boss settled in CSgt Moir and LCpl Nibloe decided it was safe enough to return from UK as the hand-over was now complete.

LCpls Galashan, McNeil, Hastings and O'Reilly all managed to find time for leave, then, even the Quartermaster and Sgt Clark managed a week or so before it was time to leave for Larzac.

We have now settled in Larzac, in the glorious sunshine of the South of France, where we find that most of the staff have managed to get a chance to take their shirts off for a bit of sun, it makes a pleasant change. One man who seems to have no time is LCpl Hanratty who can be found each evening checking his daily chore sheet which he claims, contains more jobs than the Prime Minister does in a week. The staff agree that if he can keep all those jobs working properly, they will vote for him in the next General Election.

We welcome a new quartet to the QM's Clan, they are: the son of LCpl Beattie, the daughters of LCpl Hanratty and LCpl Black and the daughter of Pte Park, all born since the last edition—with these new additions to the Clan, LCpl Hanratty is proud to announce he still holds top spot in the QM's Staff "Family League."

Pte Anderson has just returned from a successful recruiting tour of the North East with the only complaint being the price of cigarettes; he claims these were harder to get than recruits. Pte Cheape has acquired himself a driving licence after the successful completion of a driving cadre, he can now be seen nicking off at half past four in a new Mini. Pte Moore has taken over from him on the cadre hot seat and hopes to be as successful.

We bid you farewell and look forward to the next Journal with more details of Larzac.

FAREWELL TO OUR RQMS

Our RQ is leaving and going away,
But we will see him another day,
For he is one we can't forget,
For he left an impression, when we met.

He worked with us for a couple of years,
And as he goes he can feel the tears,
For to work with our staff for a while,
Is enough to make anyone forget to smile.

We bid him farewell, but not goodbye,
For we know it is not the end
Of a partnership that lasted well,
And that will be again, as time will tell.

So go to Scotland with this in mind,
That wher'er you go you'll always find
That one of us will see you there
Whether in the Cities or Highlands fair.

And as we drink to your health once more,
As we lift some comrades from the floor,
We watch you prepare to leave this land
There's just one word that we can say "Byeand."

M.T. SECTION

Since our last notes we have been extremely busy with one exercise after another.

February saw us in Sennelager and after that came Ex "Lorelei," where Ptes McPherson 26 and

Milne 28 found themselves left behind in a quarry without food for three days, but in true MT tradition overcame these difficulties by use of Gasthauses. Also on the same exercise LCpl Allen showed courage and great presence of mind when he moved his burning petrol bowser clear of a 5,000 gallon tanker. If he had not done this it may have resulted in disastrous consequences.

The majority of us are now in the sunny South of France, the rest in Vogelsang. The move to Larzac, a distance of approximately 950 miles was quite a drive. It took us five days with night stops at Frankfurt, Toul, Lyon and Nimes. Very little trouble was encountered on the way and we arrived at Larzac on 18 July (advance road party) and 19 July (main road party) respectively with both convoys (17 vehicles and 39 vehicles) complete as they left Minden. Credit for a good move must be given to the high standard of driving by all drivers.

Larzac is situated on a plateau about 2,800ft. above sea level and 70 miles from the "Med." The Bn has a camp site on the beach next door to a nudist camp, where "charms" are displayed all day! Various visits have been made to places of interest. During our stay here LCpls Brown and Bruce took over duties as Bn barbers. The standard of hair-cutting was good with the exception of Pte "Bodies" Cruickshank whose haircut looked as though it was the result of a Saturday night scoop, which it was.

TO A BARBER

As Brown held down the screaming Jocks
And Bruce cut off their curly locks
The RSM gave out an awful roar
"Bruce, cut off some ruddy more."

Pte Florence has now taken over the position of Bn Postie in France and is doing a very good but unrewarding job.

As far as the weather here is concerned Ptes Spence and Nisbet agree with everyone that it is rather warm.

We all say goodbye to (Auld Jimmy) TQMS Lerat, Col Anderson, LCpl Beveridge and Pte "Starry" Middleton. It is a great loss to the MT in losing these good men, but we all wish them the very best in civvy street.

We welcome TQMS McDonald, Ptes Bonan, Cowie, Nisbet and Martin to the platoon and we hope their stay is a happy one.

The platoon would like to congratulate Cpl Skene, LCpl Grant and LCpl Bruce on their recent promotion.

Good luck in the coming years to Ptes Greig 63 and Bonan and their respective wives.

If the birth rate in the MT were to be any indication of future recruiting the Gordons will never be below strength. We congratulate the following on additions to their families—Cpls Penman and Rutherford, LCpls Dent, Brown and Bruce and Ptes Lillie, Florence, Syme, Taylor, Walker, Milne 79 and Cruickshank 41.

By the time this reaches print we should all be enjoying the Soltau air.

One word of advice—Please do not drink and drive.

"A" COMPANY

The common BAOR cry is that its all "go-go-go." Whether this refers to the girls that are seen in Hamburg or to the pace of life is not clear. However the pace of life over the last six months has been hectic.

The New Year began with a mass of cadres and courses—APC cadres, B Vehicle cadres and ski

courses at all sorts of ski huts. In the midst of the exodus to take part in these activities, the new Company Commander arrived to find that a Company Parade consisted of himself, the CSM and twelve.

In early February, 2 Platoon took part in Exercise "McGinty's Goat" which was an exercise designed to test Rear Corps HQ. Great emphasis was laid on gas and chemical warfare; indeed so much emphasis was placed on the gas aspect that one Staff Officer, Captain R. D. G. Bruce who had been second in command "A" Company, had to be helped to the rear areas when his secret gas bomb blew back on him.

Just as everyone was beginning to gather in early March, the drivers and commanders of the APCs took them down to Ohr Park to practice river crossings. The exercise was noted for the extreme cold and the antics of 1A which burst into flames when the Company Commander first got into it (must be related to his new car). At a later point, 1A, driven by Pte Gorman and commanded by Cpl Knox practically sank and as our REME chief (SSgt Hirst) has said, "She's never been the same since!"

Sennelager followed, and this year emphasis was placed on basic tactics and field firing at Platoon and Section level. The GPMGs mounted on the APCs made a lot of difference to basic tactics as the APC can now be used to support its section's movement (although preferably not as in the IIC style when LCpl Smith blazed away so effectively at the rest of his section that they were forced to scatter!). An exercise of interest was the final one where Cpl. McKnight commanded a composite platoon with private soldiers acting as

Section Commanders. It is now appreciated that Platoon and Section Commanders do have problems!

The return from Sennelager was followed by a Company Athletics Meeting. This was followed, two days later, by the Battalion Athletics Meeting where we came a very close second to Support Company. Congratulations in particular are due to 2Lt Stewart, Cpl Stone, Ptes Henderson and Paisley for their excellent win in the 5000 metres, to Pte Liddell for winning the high jump, and to Cpl Bruce who did very well in the field events and greatly helped "A" Company to win the Field Events Shield.

The athletics meeting over, Company HQ left on Exercise First Parade. The outstanding event was Pte Paisley's drive through a snow storm with little visibility at about 30 mph—after all we were in a hurry! However we all got back in one piece.

During this period Capt White took and passed his practical promotion exam. Many congratulations, but it seemed odd the Company Commander was a DS on the board—any connections?!

The next event was the "A" Company smoker. Some excellent turns were put on, in particular by LCpl Martin (whose song we cannot print), Pte Hotchkis (don't be so bashful next time!), and by Cpl Stone who sang very well. Everyone was surprised at LCpl Erskine who got up to sing something funny—or at least the rest of us thought it was. Sgt Green got up to do a turn, grinned and that was enough. Sgt Murdoch proved himself a very good Master of Ceremonies. One question that remains unanswered is why did it take the Company Commander and the Second in Command two hours to find the pub—the map couldn't have been



Eyes right! by "A" Company. The salute is taken by Colonel Schousboe on the Queen's Birthday/Farewell Parade.

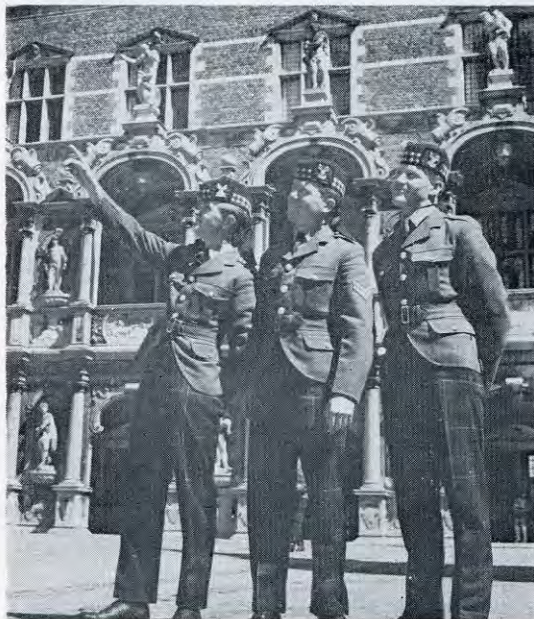
that wrong gentlemen! However, it was a very good evening which everyone enjoyed.

In early May we all went to Soltau for a couple of fairly hectic exercises. The first one set by the Company Commander was called "Crathes Castle." 1 and 2 Platoons were enemies and carried out quite a lot of patrolling against each other. The less said about a 2 Platoon patrol which, while crossing a swamp, with water to their waists, suddenly burst into uncontrollable laughter, the better! A useful exercise against the visiting Company of 51 (Highland) Volunteers was held. Sgt Murdoch led a very successful snatch patrol against the "London Jocks." On this he was helped by the Padre, who assisted with the capture of a bloke who turned out to be a rather benign stockbroker.

After Soltau there was one free weekend before the Company took part in Exercise "Lorelei" which was a series of minor exercises all involving river crossings. The Company had to provide a Surface Swimming Team which was led by Pte McGregor with Ptes Colligan and Full. It became impossible to get them to part from their black shiny rubber swim suits although the team became parted from their flippers on more than one occasion—particularly when they carried out James Bond entries into the Weser from a helicopter. Another unusual aspect of the exercise was training to cross the river in rubber dinghies. At one point we thought we had lost Pte Sneddon for once and for all as he floated down the river out of control, but perhaps he just likes messing about in boats.

The name Denmark always seems to conjure up a picture of gaiety, friendliness and pretty girls, so it was in high spirits that "A" Company left Minden on the 2nd of June for a two week visit to the 1st Battalion The Royal Danish Life Guards.

The Life Guards are one of Denmark's oldest Regiments having been raised in 1658. They are the "crack" Danish Regiment and are the King's



Pte Stuart Craig, an obvious authority on Danish Culture, showing Cpl "Paddy" Proctor and Pte John Watson some of the finer points.

Guard, guarding the Royal Family wherever they reside. At present the 1st Battalion is stationed 20 miles north of Copenhagen at Sandholm which, with other small towns nearby, forms a small military complex—almost a mini Aldershot.

After a day spent in settling in and zeroing weapons, the Company, with the Danish host Company (No. 1 Company) set off for a field training area at Jagerspris situated on the west coast of Zealand. Here the Company, which had now been joined up by the Air and Recce Troops of the Royal Scots Greys, gave a demonstration of British weapons and vehicles before having the first evening's entertainment—a "smoker or camp fire" as the Danes call it. It was quite a smoker with a variety of games and acts including singing, Tug of War, bayonet fighting, and, perhaps the most spectacular, the consuming of 2,400 bottles of beer by those attending! Piper Kelly gave an imitation of the Drunken Piper which fell flat as the Danes thought it was the real thing!

The following day was packed by a parade for the Commanding Officer of our hosts, field training and a Company exercise laid on by the Danes. In the evening the Company took part in a "Taptoe" which is a Danish equivalent of Beating Retreat. The only problem with the parade part of the "Taptoe" was when the CSM found that he had to train 1 Platoon to "Quick March" to the Danish order "Aus."



Colonel Schousboe casts a critical eye over Ptes Booth, Adams and LCpl Smith on the Queen's Birthday/Farewell Parade.

At the start of the second week the Danes arranged a sightseeing tour. The visit included Frederiksberg Castle where everyone admired the magnificent carvings, the Banqueting Hall, and the lovely Chapel; Fredensberg Castle, where the Royal Family were in residence and we actually saw the King, the Queen and General Lemnitz who was visiting Denmark; Kronberg Castles where the Drums and Pipes played in the courtyard and the echo was such that Hamlet's ghost must have been rather startled. The visit ended with a visit to the Wiibroe Brewery where everyone was given as much free beer as they could drink in an hour. It was noted that Ptes McIlroy, Brooks and Linden in particular enjoyed the visit!

The following day was spent on the ranges and practising for our farewell parade which was to be

Gordons on foot with the Greys mounted in their Scout Cars, all curiously reminiscent of Waterloo. Indeed the parade took place only four days before the anniversary of the battle.

The next two days were spent on a Battalion exercise which was so crammed with activity that little if any sleep was had by anyone. The exercise was interesting and the Company learnt a lot. A number of Danish prisoners were captured by us—well done Cpl Sutherland. However in return we lost Cpl Proctor, Ptes Craig and Barron (who later escaped). The final scene on the exercise of 1 Platoon in APCs furiously chasing Danes who, encumbered with kit, were running away at high speed was to say the least amusing.

On Friday the 13th June, we had a sports competition against the Danes with the football being drawn in a most exciting game at 5-5. Great credit is due to Lcpl Adams who as captain really kept the team together. The Tug O' War was won in two straight pulls. At athletics Pte Hershaw won the shot, the long jump was won by Cpl Cranston of the Greys and Lcpl Wood and Pte Stark won the 400 metres in fine style.

The 14th of June was the day of the farewell parade which was taken by Lt Col Schousboe, Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. A large number of soldiers and civilians turned out to see it and it was considered a great success.

A final weekend in Denmark and then we returned to Minden. It was a tremendous visit with some useful training. What we will always remember will be the amazing kindness of the Danes. They extended tremendous hospitality to everyone and, in particular, the Officers and Sergeants had to fight to get some sleep.

Having returned from Denmark the Company was sent down to Sennelager for a week to guard the ammunition site there. A dreary and uninteresting task which we are glad is now over.

We are now in the throws of preparing for Larzac where the Company will spend three weeks in France training at Company and Platoon level. Everyone is looking forward to a change of scene and it should be an interesting time.

It has been decided to include a few brief notes on some of the Company personalities in each "Tiger & Sphinx" so that previous members of the Company can keep tabs on their old friends.

Lcpl 'Woodie' WOOD

Lcpl Wood hails from Inch and has been in "A" Company since 1963, so has seen service in Kenya, Zanzibar, Edinburgh, Borneo and Germany. He is, therefore, one of the older "A" Company types. He is now section second in command of 12A, having been promoted about two months ago.

Lcpl 'Moose' MARTIN

Lcpl Martin comes from Aberdeen and joined the Regiment in 1955. Indeed he and the Company Commander were trained together under Major C. J. D. Gordon-Stewart and CSM Dooley. Lcpl Martin has served in Cyprus, Kenya, Zanzibar, Edinburgh, Borneo, and Germany and all of this service has been in "A" Company. He is shortly to be posted to the Depot where we wish him the best of luck.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

Firstly we welcome our new Company Commander, Major P. W. Graham who, with his wife and family, have just returned from "Down Under" where he spent a year at the Australian Staff College.

CSgt Harman has arrived to take over as CQMS and we wish him a happy stay in the Company. Sgt Anderson has left us for "B" Company although meanwhile he is to be found piping with the Military Band.

Sgt Baldwin and his family arrived from Aberdeen where he was working with the Cadet Training Team. We hope he will enjoy his tour with the Company and he now takes over as Platoon Sergeant of 1 Platoon from Sgt Green who goes to Brecon as an instructor. The Green smile will be missed but we hope he enjoys his posting.

Cpl Bruce has left us for the Depot much to the relief of the non PT types and we hope all goes well with him there.

Lcpl Troup has left us for civil life and we wish him well.

Pte Moir joins us from the Depot as does Pte Robb and we welcome them to the Company.

Pte Gillies has left us for the MT to drive a landrover and Pte Wiseman has gone to Support Company where he will give the benefit of his ability as a footballer and hockey player and also his ski-ing prowess.

Pte O'Rourke has gone to "B" Company and Pte Moore to the QMs. We hope all goes well with them in their new jobs.

We have lost Ptes Guyan and Smith to the Signals Platoon but on the other hand we welcome our Signals Detachment for the training session. They are Cpl Knox, Lcpl Adams, Ptes Markie and Scanlin.

TAX GAINS

Congratulations are due to Ptes McDonald, Henderson and Campbell 57 on their marriages and to the following on increasing their families:

Captain and Mrs White—a son.

Lcpl and Mrs Michie—a son.

Pte and Mrs Adam—a daughter.

Pte and Mrs McIlroy—a son.

Pte and Mrs Moir—a daughter.

THE POWER GAME

Finally congratulations are due to the following on their promotions:

To Corporal—Lcpls McIntosh, Mitchell, Stone.

To Lance Corporal—Ptes Adams 05, McLellan, McMurray, Wood.

"B" COMPANY

Our last notes left off in January with the Company recovering from the Christmas and New Year celebrations. A period of bulbous activity then ensued with the Company involved in APC driver training and in refreshing their memories of the basic elements of infantry training. The result was that on the 15th March, we moved to Sennelager fully prepared for the rigours of annual field training. This was extremely valuable and was enjoyed by all concerned. We were now fit for the annual round of Soltau, Soltau and Soltau yet again!

Soltau came, first in early May, and we reaffirmed our faith in the old landmarks, the failsafe method of navigating on that training area.

We were back in Minden a bare two days before moving out on Ex Lorelei; a foretaste of the increased time pressure that we were going to be working under. Lorelei proved to be a great amount of fun, and this scribe would hesitate to even think of the number of times his heart was transposed to his mouth when crossing the Weser. For some, however, the braver few amongst us, the joy of setting sail on the Weser in an APC and doing numerous gyrations before at last attaining the far bank, can never be adequately expressed in this writer's dull prose.

Back from Lorelei and two days later "B" Company was again on the move, this time to do the Sennelager Site Guard (Dhobied!). The fact that it was also the Whitsun Break did nothing to deter the Company from its duty. The Guard period passed uneventfully bar for some unfortunate results for a certain soldier. He was unfortunate enough to be caught in the act of sleeping on duty. The same incident resulted in a lengthy—if undesired—departure from the Company Lines, to be accommodated in a more secluded part of the Battalion. He was released just in time for "B" Company's second Sennelager Site Guard which he managed to get through without any extra-curricular sleeps.

It is also reliably reported that 2/Lt Paterson spent the whole of the Sennelager Guard Period writing some 150 letters to business firms offering his services when his SSC terminates in 1970! Any successes as yet he has not divulged.

June itself was taken up, for the most part, by sports, and the highlight of the month was the 175th Anniversary of the Founding of the Regiment. This included Retreat on the Square, followed by an All Rank's Dance. Enough said!!!

July found the Battalion in the South of France . . . well, not quite! We were, in fact, at Larzac, some 2 hours from your actual Cote d'Azur. Training was mostly on foot, as everyone will vouch. We walked for miles, and miles, and miles, etc., etc. The heat was intense, normally around the 95°F. mark (we haven't gone over to Centigrade in the Battalion as of yet) and therefore water was at a premium. On the more enjoyable side, the Company spent three days on the beach and innumerable afternoons in the swimming pool. Two days adventure training in the Gorges du Tarn, by C/S 22 and Coy HQ, turned out to be no fun. For the record, the local French in the area tell us that it is the first time that anyone has ever walked up the Gorges, and believe you me, it is probably the last time as well! All in all, an extremely enjoyable time was had at Larzac, and it was with a heavy heart that we returned to the cold and rain of Minden.

Now, arrivals and departures. Our old CSM, WO II G. Skene has gone to finish his career with the TA—the best of luck, Geordie! CSM Warden arrived in March and has settled in OK. We also welcome Pte Duff, who has replaced Pte White in the Signals Detachment. We bid farewell to 2Lt R. A. Phelps-Jones who has gone now to squander his career in the REME. As an epitaph, let it be said—"He had potential." 2Lt Paterson's Labrador, Sam, has also bid a sad farewell to the Company. He has gone on a choice posting to a farm in Holland to learn to become a gun-dog.

And on that note, we take our leave of you all.

"D" COMPANY

Early May saw the Company move to Soltau for a short, sharp week of training. Apart from Sennelager, which was largely range work, this was our first period of field training for the 1969 season. We discovered to our relief that rust hadn't set in to any great extent and we were able to carry on very much from where we had left off in 1968.

We worked largely as a Company, only losing Sgt Wullie Pratt and his boys on the last two days when we in turn, received Sgt West and his troop of Greys.

The week culminated in a short exercise built around an advance to capture a scientist, one Pte Trotter. This aim was successfully achieved in the form of a flying tackle by Lt Forsyth at the retreating Trotter.

With only a weekend after returning from Soltau to gather together lifejackets, ropes and buoys we were off on our next exercise—Lorelei III. This was a two week river crossing exercise on the Weser and the Leine, where we perfected our skills in manoeuvring APCs and Stalwarts across the river by day and by night. The river Leine proved too be a little too tough but here we trained our surface swimming team, consisting of Lt Forsyth, Lcpl Breen and LCpl Connelly, to a high standard in leaping from helicopters into the water, using Recce boats and accurately surveying the river for crossings. Contrary to popular belief LCpl Breen did not develop webbed feet and has sound medical backing to support this!

The exercise culminated in a night crossing involving the whole Battalion beginning with the swimming team, groping about in the reeds and floundering around in the thick Weser mud, placing marker lights to guide the vehicles across. The final phase went very well, all vehicles got across in a very short time.

After so much water we were eager to have our feet on firm ground. Our next event certainly took care of this. After a break of eight years the Gordon Highlanders once more participated in the famous 4 day marches at Nijmegen. These marches started in 1909 and since they have increased in size until this year when 17,700 entrants from 21 different nations took part. Of these only 14,400 completed the 103 miles.

"D" Company commenced training in April and progressed steadily with 0400 hrs reveilles and a quick 25 miles before lunch. Regrettably the Company was limited to a total of 42 marchers because of the great number of entries. It was with much difficulty that the final 42 were chosen.

Accompanied by the Pipe Band the Company moved by coach to Holland and there were accommodated in a large tented camp holding 7,000 soldiers from many countries.

The actual marches were preceded by various ceremonies and then on Tuesday, 15th July, the marches actually started. Each day we marched on a different circuit. On the second day we faced a heatwave, the third day the seven hills, and on the fourth and last day the ceremonial final march past.

Our memories of Nijmegen are those of the Danish WRAC who marched with us, the cripples



"D" COMPANY AT NIJMEGEN.

The Company Commander Major Durbin does his best to keep up with the remainder of the Company. The pacemaker with a posy of roses in his rifle is Sgt McDonald.

who leaned on Sgt McDonald, the girls both large and small who held the Jocks sweaty hands for many a mile and still carried on by night. We owe our gratitude to the Pipes who in rotation piped the Company through the whole march.

At the end of each day our feet were sore but this did not stop us enjoying the nights in the "Scotch Bar" where we consumed large quantities of both beer and whisky.

We were commended as being outstanding unit of the British Army at Nijmegen and that, together with praise from the "Weekly News" made Nijmegen worthwhile. As a last word we can only quote the press comment that "The tough fast marching Scotsmen in their kilts were a great favourite with the gigantic crowds, swinging along at a cracking pace they overhauled many of the teams from other nations."

Having finished with Nijmegen, the Company moved direct to Vogelsang where we were to carry out Combat Team Training together with the Scots Greys. This year "D" Company is detached from the Regiment and is now part of the Scots Greys Battle Group and Vogelsang was the first time that we had trained with them. Although we lived as Combat Teams for the first four days we did our own company training which included a lot of flotation and helicopter work. The training culminated in exercise "Bloody Blacklock" during which "D" Company acted as enemy.

During our time at Vogelsang a Regatta was held and although we did not win any of the rowing events the "D" Company Aqua Tug of War Team managed to sweep the board and won a crate of beer for their efforts.

On the 30th July the Company entrained and moved back to Minden without hazard.

SUPPORT COMPANY

This year so far has passed very pleasantly. Variety and the weather have helped to make life so enjoyable and being in our third season in BAOR life is but a drill.

We have had more time to concentrate on sports this year, and our efforts have been well rewarded. We collected the light and heavy Tug O' War trophies at Sennelager earlier this year. This was followed by a further success at the Battalion Athletics Meeting which we won.



Ptes Oles, Townsley and Murray, sitting it out alone during one of the halts at this year's Nijmegen Marches.

Boxing is our next goal. Competition is fierce and the results very unpredictable, with the most unexpected knocking the most expected out, however we are out to win it! "Volunteers" (Army type) will move forward as soon as the training starts!

The mini bus is now finally on the road. Never have I seen a mechanical object with so much character. Only the L.A.D. can speak its language. It is beautifully painted in the true tradition but there is a definite lack of co-operation from the moving parts!

It is a year of turnover in Support Company. WO II MacDonald has handed CQMS to CSgt Sharpe, and moved to the seat of W.T.O. Sgt Harman is now CQMS of "A" Company leaving Cpl Mitchell as IC MT. Lt Ross (Jnr) will be taking the Mortars over from Captain Duncan, and Lt Forbes (fresh from Oxford) will relieve Captain Peebles, of the Recce Platoon, who takes over as Adjutant in December. Captain Peebles is desperately taking advantage of the sunshine, as it will be his last issue for the next two years!

MORTAR PLATOON

Exercise "Lorelei" was the first big event since our last notes. Lorelei was the biggest flotation exercise we have ever taken part in. When an APC is prepared for swimming a screen is erected which blocks the drivers view completely. The Commander has the task of talking the driver into the river Weser (flowing at three knots), getting him across the river and out the other side. It is the loneliest command on the market. I ask you to close your eyes and imagine an APC with the engine screaming at 3,500 revs, the commander out of communication with the driver and a very large barge coming down the river trying to signal that he has "right of way". The resulting mental picture, with perhaps a pleasure steamer thrown in as a background activity, would be a summary of the high points of flotation.

We survived flotation and were in fairly good shape for the yearly Mortar Concentration. We arrived completely up to strength with six mortars blazing. Even Cpl Byres and Cpl Murray (normally seen running after OC's with a radio on their backs) had their own APC's. The concentration went well with all the newly promoted more than pulling their weight.

In early July "53" section commander Cpl Smith went to Vogelsang with "D" Company and the balance went to Larzac in the south of France. The amount of work done by the individual could be gauged by the depth of his suntan. The lazy were black and industrious "off white". The Mortar platoon was mainly "off Black". A nearby nudist colony proved an attraction. There were no cameras allowed therefore no recruiting pictures, what a pity, we could have reformed a 2nd Battalion.

Congratulations are due to "Father" Reid and his wife on the birth of their son. Cpl Leslie, MFC and football star, is now married and we wish him every happiness.

ANTI-TANK PLATOON

This years' training started at Sennelager where, as usual, the Platoon showed its versatility in performing the more mundane tasks of the common or garden Infanterie with about average results. A very successful zeroing was then carried out with

the wombat, unfortunately at the end of the day it was discovered that the targets were the wrong distance from the firing point.

Soltau in May was very much run of the mill type of training with firstly Platoon, followed by Company and Battle group training which at times was quite hectic and eventful.

The flotation exercise "Lorelei" proved very interesting, and at times rather amusing, such as when the wombat was floated across the river on a rubber recce boat—midway across the river the gun was accidentally tested for its amphibious capabilities. It was decided that there were distinct possibilities of its use, whilst upside down under water, against tanks using snorkel equipment.

During June a three weeks cadre (in which the platoon had six days' training), was held in preparation for Putlos. Pte Robertson 50, did exceptionally well in coming top of the class.

The platoon arrived at Putlos on the 28th July, where, after working extremely hard, the platoon achieved reasonable results. However, we hope to win the live firing competition next year. Promotion prospects were greatly improved during the night shoot when the Platoon Commander and three Sergeants with a driver, were driving up to the firing point. At a distance of 70 metres from the firing point two guns fired their main armament, turning the driver into a gibbering idiot, and the Platoon Commander into a nervous wreck. The three sergeants calmly tossed coins to see who would get his job!

Two of the detachments accompanied "D" Company to Vogelsang for training with the Scots Greys. A very interesting training programme included Battle Group exercises, flotation, ferrying, roping down from and jumping from helicopters hovering 15 feet off the ground.

In the sporting world the platoon was well represented in all aspects. In the Tug O' War, Cpl Cob, LCpl Murphy and Pte Graham, pulled under the direction of trainer Cpl Chapman. On the athletics field, Cpl Mood, Ptes Watson, Smiley, Wiseman and Thomson did very well in their events. The platoon won the Inter-Platoon Cross Country race with Lt Taitt coming first and Pte McEwan coming third.

RECCE PLATOON

The period at Sennelager from the middle of March to beginning of April was the real start of the training season as far as the platoon was concerned. Here we carried out all the normal training required by an infantry platoon. Unfortunately, this area was never used by the Recce for their type of training, though it did help to bring up the standard of the small personal skills one lets skip through time. Much to everyone's horror, Sgt McKenzie suggested walking to and from the ranges.

At the end of April the platoon found itself at Soltau with 3 brand new landrovers and 4 ferrets but alas—little driving experience. The rough terrain there soon showed the drivers what each vehicle could or could not do. For the first day the platoon Sgt and his "old" APC C/S 62 did nothing but drag vehicles out of bog-holes. Glad to say that by the 3rd day the number of bogged vehicles was down by 90 per cent.

At the end of Soltau we joined "A" Company for another exercise against the London Scottish—this being our first chance to put our vehicles to their proper use. At one stage in life the drivers were suggesting putting meters on them and charging their many passengers. Everything went very well on this exercise and we even gained a little praise.

June produced nothing of interest apart from a mad rush to prepare for the concentration at the end of the month. It was this period our ferrets took frequent trips to the L.A.D. Everytime we started one it seemed to break down. On our pre-concentration exercise we had 4 of our 7 vehicles off the road. Thanks to some very hard work by Sgt Jones and his men all vehicles went on the concentration and surprisingly enough none broke down! Compared to last year's concentration this one was a "corker". No written report has arrived of this yet but verbal reports hint at it being a good one.



Recce Platoon returning from 1969 Concentration.

June to August saw the Battalion in France where everyone (apart from the lovesick married men) seemed to enjoy themselves. At least some said, "It's better than being at Soltau." Apart from some small map-reading exercises the Recce found themselves almost solely employed as catchers during the many escape and evasion exercises. During the last Battalion exercise Cpl Mathers and his section of five fell foul of the 16/5th and apparently some earlier scores were settled. Cpl Mathers being rather fond of his trousers and

Adam hating the song "By Yon Bonny Banks", which had been shouted in his ears for hours on end. The story goes that the platoon Sgt led them into this trap but as author he emphatically denies this.

At this very moment the Battalion has just returned from France so there the story must end.

As usual we have changes in the platoon and we congratulate Cpl Dent, LCpl Dent and LCpl Lovie on their promotion. Cpl Dent became the proud father of a boy—and took the excuse to get slightly soozled.

Robertson 40, has gone on a KAPE tour soon to be followed by LCpl Lovie—Again! LCpl Edwards is due to add to his clan soon but is unfortunately leaving the army soon. No doubt some fresh talent can be trained up to the required standard.

FAREWELL TO THE RECCE PLATOON

They're a very fine crew, the Recce Platoon
Who I must abandon and that right soon;
(I've asked the barber to shorten my hair
To qualify me for the Adjutant's chair . . .)

Colour-Sergeant Fraser is now in Aboyne:
He was the fellow who helped me to join.
Sergeant McKenzie took over his place
And characteristically kept up the pace;
Sergeant Duncan's the latest to join the fold:
His forerunners' standards he's out to uphold.
My priv'lege has been to serve with all three,
My pleasure was serving in their company.

For the rest of the bodies, it's now my intention
To thank them in rhyme by awarding a "mention"...
"The General" was demobbed but now he's back
in;

"Bud" Rae has got sideboards down to his chin!
"Mr" Duncan with petrol by Huntly was seen,
While Aitken it seems never left Aberdeen!
"Nobby" Clark had a smash and punctured his
lung,

While Sim from a parachute oft-times has swung.
Of "Leggies" we're hoping to hear more anon:
Corporal Bruce we've seen recently at Brig of Don.
To Simpson we said a hasty good-bye,
A signaller now is Private McKay.
Lance-Corporal Ritchie to book-work is warming:
McPetrie in "A" Company, we're told, is performing!

Those who stay often meet with success
Douglas', Phillip's and Henderson's now in "The
Mess".

The senior man serving by far and away
Is the bold Corporal Mathers, and long may he stay.
Two Corporals who joined us last year—'68,
Are Gibson and Carrick: Cameronians—late.
The Dent brothers both now have stripes on their
arms,

And still provide laughs with their teuchterish yarns!
Of signalling experts we've had a fine core
Duncan, Reid, Nicol Allan—they make up the four.

The L.A.D. with our garries has often had kittens,
So: "Thank you! Sergeant Smith, Sergeant Jones,
Corporal Mittens!"

"Padre" Stewart looks down on us all from the sky
While Edwards has two cars and dreams of hare-
pie!

Lance-Corporal Lovie with teeth has had fun:
He's met lots of girls and he's marrying one.
McLean's married now, his wife's at Queensferry;



RECCE PL GROUP.

Back Row (l. to r.): Pte Hancock, LCpl Knowles, Pte Morrison, LCpl Stewart, Pte Robertson 11, LCpl Dent 97, LCpl Lovie, Pte Leye. Centre Row (l. to r.): Pte Adam 55, Pte Michie, Pte McLean, Pte Robertson 40, Pte Meldrum, Pte Winton, LCpl Edwards. Front Row (l. to r.): Cpl Gibson, Cpl Mathers, Sgt Duncan, Captain G. H. Peebles, Cpl Carrick, Cpl Allan.

Winton can drive. Dangerous? Very!
Robertson 11 is engaged to a German,
Maybe one day it'll happen to Herman!
Robertson 40 has joined late in life
And he's home at the moment recruiting a wife.
Hancock likes tanks and paints all our signs
Rothney likes sleeping and picking up fines!
Morrison's keen on all kinds of sport
And also on Land-rover driving's been taught.
Meldrum at the wheel's a marvellous sight
He's our latest arrival with Michie and Wright.
Adams from Insch's wife's had a son
And, I nearly forgot, "Mr" Farmer's just gone.

That I'm sorry to lose them I shall not deny,
But I'll keep in touch with a critical eye.
My successor I wish with the best in my heart
As happy a time as I've had from the start!

G.H.P.

ASSAULT PIONEER PLATOON

Once again we put pen to paper in order to keep you (the readers) up to date on the activities of the platoon.

We welcome Cpl D. Falconer who joined us recently from having spent a considerable time in the clerical trade. We would like to take this opportunity on congratulating him on his recent addition to the family. "It's another girl", he keeps saying. With all these females he can't get a minute's peace to himself.

We are sad to report the departure of Cpl Low who has left us to take up employment at the Scottish Infantry Depot (Bridge of Don).

We would like to congratulate Cpl's Mick Low and Mick Hubbard on their recent promotion, also Pte's Dod Henderson and Keith (Swordedge) Wilkinson on their promotion to the dizzy heights of LCpl.

The past few months has kept the platoon hopping around the country, going from exercise "Lorelei" to Denmark then to the South of France.

From 1-17 July the platoon was attached to the Royal Danish Lifeguards, with "A" Company for training. We were stationed at Sandholm some twenty miles from Copenhagen. As there were liberty trucks going to Copenhagen most evenings, it is safe to say that a good time was had by all. A few chaps went across to Sweden and found their effort well rewarded by the sight of some gorgeous blondes.

At Larzac the Royal Engineers of 1 Troop, 1st Field Squadron, 21 Engineer Regiment, from Nienburg were attached to the platoon, or we were attached to them (we could never agree on this point). A few of us gained experience on the number of demolitions that were carried out, likewise the RE's benefited when they joined us on Infantry work.

OFFICERS' MESS

The past six months have been fairly quiet and uneventful in the Officers' Mess. This is in part to be explained by the number of exercises over this period and by the marriage of one of the more lively members of the Mess, Lt J. Grierson, Royal Signals. John and Eileen were married on Saturday, 29th March, in Minden. Scale "X" Officer attendance! They have now left Minden on a posting to Plymouth and we wish them both well.

The Ladies' Guest Night was held on Friday, 11th April, and proved as popular as ever. On 29th of April we held a guest night with Brigadier T. C. Creasey Commanding 11 Inf Bde attending. A number of London Scottish Officers also put in an appearance before being dispatched with broken collar bones and bruised noses for medical treatment. It was, as everyone agreed, a highly successful evening.

We leave off these notes just having returned from Larzac for a period of rest and recuperation prior to exercising again in September.

We welcome to the Mess, for a prolonged stay now, Lt A. I. O. Forbes, and we are awaiting further with bated breath for the appearance of two new Subalterns at the end of August to relieve 2Lt Paterson of his duties as Junior Subaltern.



Captain and Mrs. Bruce with "Robert (the) Bruce".

SERGEANTS' MESS

Friday, 18th July, saw the majority of the Battalion off to the sunny South of France. One sad point about leaving Minden was that as our train pulled out, the "School Train" pulled in. Still,

though, I suppose for some of us this was a God-send, eh! The feeding arrangements on the train, made by Cpl Ruchat and his staff, went down a treat and they are to be greatly praised. Twenty-four hours journey was tiring enough, but was made worse when "Yours Truly" went out to speak to the French Gendarme and, on return, found that the only room left in the compartment was floor space. After a couple of hours, your scribe packed it in, and stood gazing out of the corridor window until first light.

Most of us had been told for weeks that Larzac was "some place" but, on arrival, we got a pleasant surprise. The living accommodation, in fact, was a vast improvement on Polish Barracks, Sennelager, for instance. Asian-type lavatories, of course, but after a couple of visits, the stance became almost bearable.

The Battalion had three/four? French sergeants on attachment during our stay and they just couldn't understand how or why Warrant Officers and Sergeants did the same work as the Jocks (Vive la France).

Training got into full swing right from the 20th, but "nae doot" this will be adequately dealt with in Company notes.

The majority of Mess Members spent a few days down at the beach camp right next door to the "Noddy" Colony. I still can't understand how so many members got their eye-sockets burnt? Of course, one of our young braves having a midnight stroll after a few beers stood on the dividing bank to peer over, but lost his balance and ended up in the burn.

Millau, the largest town of any size—20 kms from camp—was visited by a few members but the prices of the local leather goods were out of this world. Considering the population—19,200—Millau has one of the best outdoor swimming arenas I have ever seen—2 kiddies pools, 2 swimming pools and diving pool. A very good afternoon was spent there, not only on swimming, but trying to spot the lassies with the most teeny-weeny bikini (again eye-sockets got sunburnt).

Our Moustache Competition got well under way after a couple of weeks but, alas, only a few hardies remained on our return to Minden. Of course, the "Hairy Parade" is not until the 25th August, so the result will have to be given in our next notes. The "Tara's" excuse for shaving off was that the hairs were getting too long and going into his mouth. Anybody for a few cuttings when I next prune down?

You will have noticed by this time I haven't said much about the 16/5 Lancers or our R.E. Sgt who stayed with us at Larzac. Let me point out that we enjoyed having them, and we hope to meet up with them in the near future.

Approximately one week before the close of proceedings at Larzac, the Mess bunks were flooded, please find attached confession duly signed.

Of course, one must not forget the Military Band and Sgt "Cherry" Anderson with his pipes. They joined us for at least one week, and played on nine occasions. Who said Cherry canna play "My Old Man's a Dustman" on the pipes?

On Saturday, 9th August, we held a games night against the 16/5 Lancers and ABU. We lost most games, but won the boat race. To be quite honest I thought we lost a Tara that night too (still not to worry, sir, try some gripe water with the beer, next time). A lot of hard work went into making the night a success. Sgt MacMillan, SSgt Sharp and the mess staff are to be congratulated.

At last the promised day appeared, the 11th August, and we set off on our return journey to Minden. Not 24 hours this time, but 34 hours from Camp to Camp. The sleeping arrangements had improved greatly and a reasonable night was spent by all.

On the whole, Larzac wasn't too bad, and a lot of useful training experience was gained. After all, we are still Infantry, and must not rely on transport all the time.

Two questions remain to be answered:

Who doesn't like "Fish Soup" and "Thrush Pates"? and which Sgt-Major likes "Budgies and Chips"?

CONFESSION

We, the undersigned, hereby confess to the flooding of the WO and Sgts Mess at Larzac on Tuesday, 5th August. The flooding occurred at approx 1100 hrs on the above date. On returning to our bunk to do our dhobi, we discovered there was no hot water. Fraser went to doctor the geyser whilst O'Neill got out his smalls. What we didn't know was that some clown rising late turned on the hot water taps in their bunk, found it to be dry and neglected to turn it off. It was amusing for the culprit to sit back and listen to the brilliant deduction put forward by the victims as to the cause of the flood.

J. FRASER, Sgt.
G. O'NEILL, Sgt.

CORPORALS' CLUB NOTES

Presiding W.O. II—W.O. II P. Watt.
P.M.C.—Cpl J. Boyle.
Committee—Cpl T. Bottrill.
Cpl Byers.
Cpl McKillop.
LCpl Aitken.
LCpl Hasting.
Treasurer—Cpl Sudbury.

Due to the heavy training commitments over the last quarter the Cpls' Club has been unable to function socially. However, we did manage to organise a dance for the 175th Anniversary of the Regiment on the 12th July.

The anniversary dance was well attended. Unfortunately "D" Company and Drums and Pipes NCO's were unable to attend due to them leaving for Nijmegen. For the rest of us the evening proved to be a great break from the rigours of training. The wives of course took this as an excellent opportunity to dance to the beat of "The Face Beat Group" who gave us an excellent selection of pop and a few Scottish country dances. The highlight of the evening was Cpl "Slim" Bottrill, who did a fabulous job as auctioneer by persuading people to dig deep into their pockets and fork out the necessary for the remaining raffle tickets. A vote of thanks goes to the committee for the organisation and hard work put into it to make the evening such a great success.

Since our return from Larzac our Club Committee has been back at work organising for the next quarter. Cpl Jimmy Shand of course will be performing shortly with his team in the Minden Darts League.

To close, we wish Cpls Archie Colville and Jim Fraser all the best in the Sgts' Mess and welcome all those who have joined us.

DRUMS AND PIPES

At the time of writing the main body of the Drums and Pipes are on leave in U.K. prior to going to Aldershot for the final combined rehearsals for our forthcoming North American tour with the Royal Scots Greys and the Parachute Regiment. The leave has been very welcome as we have had an exceptionally busy year up to now with jobs in various parts of the continent.

Our first major engagement after the film "Waterloo" in Rome was in May when we journeyed to Aalborg in North-east Denmark where together with the Military Band we opened a motorway tunnel and two small banks. A great time was had by all, both during the performance and the off duty periods. Hardly surprising considering the Danish standard of hospitality.

After Aalborg we made our way to Le Bourget in France, stopping off at Minden only for a change of clothes etc. This proved to be an eventful two days ending with a bus run to Paris under the supervision of Lt Tait. This was to be a non-stop tour of the places of interest, no doubt Mr. Tait had no intentions of looking for pipers or drummers in the dark recesses of the "Folies Bergere" or other such establishment.

"Go West Young Man !".



So back to Minden to clean up the kit for British Week in Luneberg on the 16th and 17th May.

On the 25th we made for Saarbrücken where we took part in a television show along with some well known celebrities. This was a good weekend, in particular for the married personnel who were able to take their wives and families with them if they wished, not to mention the substantial fee for the engagement.

In the beginning of June the single element of the band moved to Denmark with "A" Company, under LCpl Stuart (78), returning in time to beat retreat with the Scots Greys during their Waterloo celebrations on the 21st. Two days later four pipers moved to Hohn where they played at a "Dining Out Night" in the Station Officer's Mess.

We left for Rothenburg on the 28th for two days which we all enjoyed. It was here that LCpl Sievwright made his first public appearance as Drum Major, Drummy Hall at this time recovering from an old ailment. This was to be the conclusion of a hectic month for all concerned.



Nijmegen National Press Co-operation. Dancers and Joanna.

By courtesy of "Weekly News".

On the 6th July we went to Hartum where we put on a small show at a Schutzenfest. This was greatly appreciated by the locals. The "Pipey" had now gone on holiday and Cpl Jaffray was acting P/M.

The 10th July found a miniature band under LCpl MacRae headed for the Hague to open a "Wimpy Bar". Hotel accommodation had been arranged by the patrons and after playing they retired to the Wimpy Bar where free drink and "Wimpys" were served.

From the Hague the Miniature Band moved to Nijmegen to join up with the remainder of the band under Cpl McLaren and LCpl MacRae, the Drummy not quite ready for duty as yet and the Pipey still camping somewhere in the South of Germany. This was to be an anti-climax before leaving for the UK. A flag raising ceremony on the first day opened the week here, and bands taking part had to stand through 21 National Anthems some of which felt like complete overtures. So to the "marching". The Gordon contingent made up wholly of Delta Company under Major Durbin did exceptionally well, and we would like to think this was partly due to the pipers who accompanied them daily. The final 5 kilometres were marched in Ceremonial Order for the Company and full No. 1 Dress for the D/P's. The week's activities were concluded with a retreat held on the square of Nijmegen, which was paved with cobbles and did nothing for the feet of the pipers who that day had walked somewhere around 40 or 50 kilometres apiece.

This final engagement brings us up to date leaving only the customary congratulations which go to Cpl (J. J.) and Mrs. Jaffray on the birth of their second son, and to LCpls (Hackett) Davies and (Spud) Thomson on their recent promotion.

Our next "T & S" notes should hold some interest with tales of our tour of the U.S.A.

MILITARY BAND

Since the last issue of the "Tiger and Sphinx" so much has happened within and without the Band that to relate all would take reams of paper to print and dozens of blue pencils to edit. So, scorning the more sinister tales, the Band notes for the new issue are launched.

Although it seems history by now, our chronicles are resumed from the time of the Kneller Hall Inspection, which is the ultimate test of any Band's capabilities both on the square and on the concert platform. So intense were the preparations for the inspection, that some of our living-in personnel were reputed to have been heard singing scales in their sleep. The result of all the hard slog and graft was an "Outstanding" grading on the report, which is the highest possible standard attainable. Truly an achievement of no mean distinction for all concerned.

After all the hard work we thought we had a cushy number coming up, but no. In May a busy time was had by all, with engagements in Denmark, Aalborg, Massed Band appearances at Luneberg, T.V. transmissions from Minden, a Schutzenfest in Iserlohn etc., etc. Before we realised it May was over and we were well into June before we stopped for a breather.

Having just finished such a busy period, boredom could have soon set in, but this was averted by the Police Show at Dusseldorf, in which we appeared along with Bands from the U.S. Army, and the Dusseldorf and Berlin police.

We began July with a hectic weekend which was spent commuting alternately between Minden, Hasselunne, Minden, Hanover, Minden, Hasselunne and finally Minden again. All this was crammed in between the afternoon of the fourth July and the evening of the sixth.

Everyone was glad when the ninth of July arrived, and we went to our separate corners of the world to spend a much needed leave.

Upon returning from leave we unpacked our cases, and within twenty-four hours were packing them again to join the rest of the Battalion at Larzac. When we arrived, after a nightmare journey of almost 1,000 miles and 31 hours, there was waiting to meet us a list of engagements as long as your arm. During this time, Sgt Ron Massie had assumed temporary control of the baton as the Bandmaster had to return to Minden. Engagements in Nîmes, Sete, Le Fayet, St. Rome, Pont du Salas, Agde etc., were successfully undertaken. Whilst staying in Agde, a new phrase came into being:—"Noddy Land". This however had nothing to do with the little man of Enid Blyton fame.

On returning from Larzac on the 12th of August, there were further engagements at Bremerhaven U.S. Army Base, Hereford and Petershagen. At the latter, which was a concert cum presentation ceremony, Mr. Harper was given a painting from the citizens of Petershagen, and afterwards there was a dance with the Band as honoured guests.

On the 18th of August we had a stag party in our own bar prior to our Bandmaster, Mr. Harper, leaving us on his posting to the Royal Anglian Regiment. In the usual manner, a toast was proffered, and there was the usual "Why was he born so beautiful" as becomes any "stag" gathering. A large glass boot of 1½ litres capacity, was filled with whisky by Mr. Harper, and passed round the Band, and, as the last dregs were going, it was filled with the more usual beer and offered to our new Bandmaster, Mr. F. Renton.

We would like to welcome to our ranks, Bdsm E. McKay, M. Johnstone and E. Kennedy, and to LCpl R. Burton who joined us from the R.C.T. Band. On the outward bound course is Cpl Harry Shand to Kneller Hall on his Bandmaster's Course. We would also congratulate LCpl and Mrs. Henderson on the arrival of a son, Andrew, and LCpl Ali Rae who got himself married on leave. Finally on behalf of the Band I would like to wish, through the medium of this column, to Mr. and Mrs. Harper, all the best wishes for the future and to Mr. and Mrs. Renton a hearty welcome upon joining us and congratulations on the birth of Sara Jane.



Dancers at the Nijmegen Reception.

PRESIDENT REGIMENTAL INSTITUTES AND UNIT FAMILIES OFFICE

We welcome Cpl Hamilton (of the Valleys) who has taken over from Cpl Haldane. Cpl Haldane has left us to face the rigours of civilian life and our best wishes, and prayers go with him. A fair amount

of time is spent by yours truly explaining to outsiders, whose telephone calls are invariably answered in fluent Welsh, by Cpl Hamilton, that we are still, fundamentally a Highland Regiment. After all there are Highlands in Wales, Our Driving Club has been joined by one Pte Baillie who replaces Pte Gall, now departed, who bent the Bun Wagon.

Baillie lends a bit of height around our department.

The summer has come round again and leave applications flowed in from WOII Watt, LCpl "Lighting" Melville and Pte "Castle" Fyvie, all of course, to the detriment of the writer, who now hopes for an Indian Summer sometime around November.

Families out here now number 303, which must be the greatest number we have ever had in any one station. With all the emphasis on recruiting, our families have responded magnificently. There can hardly have been a day in our two and a half years sojourn in Minden when we were not represented at the Maternity Ward in BMH Rinteln.

Two more All Ranks Dances have been successfully staged, these preceded of course by the customary musical spectaculars provided by the Drums and Pipes and Military Band.

It will not be out of place here, it is hoped, to say farewell and the very best of luck to Bandmaster Colin Harper who leaves the Regiment on a step to "higher things." In his seven years with us, he transformed a fairly average Band to what has been officially recognised by the pundits of Kneller Hall as "Outstanding." The dulcet tones of the "Paper Wifie," too, will be missed reverberating through the Corridors of Power at Battalion Headquarters!

The author is now about to return to Barracks Stores one cot, playpen and high chair in the fond hope that such like furnishings need never again grace his quarters. Any bets?

FOOTBALL NOTES

In the last issue we left you with the news that our football team had won the Divisional Cup and had won it's way through to the semi-final of the BAOR Cup. How we wish that we could report further success but we regret this cannot be although, as you will see things could well have turned out quite differently.

In the semi-final of the BAOR Cup held at Sennelager we met 4 Div Engrs, a Unit which we knew to be good exponents of the game. In the first half of the match it became clear that we were in for quite a battle as both teams went all out for the opening goal. There were near misses at both ends but after thirty minutes play it was our team that took the lead with an excellent goal by Pte Tannerhill. Hopes of victory at this stage were high but as the game progressed it was apparent that our opponents were not to give up easily. Eventually the equaliser came just before half time. The second half was fought out vigorously by both sides and once again it was Pte Tannerhill who put us in the lead. Minutes ticked past and just as we were ready for the victory celebration the worst happened—the Sappers equalised. Extra time had to be played but even a further thirty minutes could not gain a result. It was agreed to have a replay on the same pitch the following day.

As is the case after hard fought games we had our injuries and a number of changes had to be made for the replay but, despite this, we felt that we could win the day. The whistle blew and attack after attack on our opponents goal, surely the ball must go in but, alas, it was not to be. Then, just as we thought the game was really swinging our way the Sappers counter attacked in force and we came under very heavy pressure until half time. So to the second half, with first one and then the other getting the upper hand but still failing to score. Both teams were showing the strain and it became apparent that the team to get the first goal

would win the match; after another explosive twenty minutes, it was our opponents who scored the all important goal after a goalmouth scramble. After 240 minutes of pulsating football we were out of the Cup beaten by a good team who went on to win the BAOR Cup in most convincing style.

More disappointment was to follow. The exercise season was upon us and it was with great difficulty that we could produce a match ready team. Unfortunately the last league matches were against the main contention for the championship and we had to play them at a time least suitable to us. Although we drew our last three games, thereby going through the season unbeaten in the league, we had lost valuable points and had to content ourselves by being league runners-up with one point separating ourselves from the winners.

The season was over and we had had a very good run for our money. The team had played good, open and attractive football. No matter what stage a game was at they had played as sportsmen should and it is of note that not one referee had occasion to question the behaviour of any player. They had made many friends which could be judged by the vast number of supporters, not all from the Battalion, who revelled in watching the play. It was a very good season indeed and will be remembered for many a year.

But what of the future? We certainly have no grounds for fear. Although we have lost Cpl Bellis (REME attached), who guarded our goal so capably throughout the season, we have been told that the same Corps is to post us Craftsman Wrzyszc (pronounced Ri-sish!!) who kept goal for the Carlisle Apprentice College and was most highly thought of. In addition we have high hopes for Ptes Wiseman, Cunningham and Taylor who have arrived from the Infantry Juniors Leaders Battalion. There is a wealth of talent about ready to be moulded into what we hope is an excellent team.

HOCKEY NOTES

The 1967-68 season finished on a muted note with the weather taking its toll of matches in the usual way. Last season also saw the departure of two players who will be very hard to replace, and who had been playing for the Battalion for longer than most of the present team are able to remember. They were Sgt Owen who seems to have played in every position on the field except goalkeeper and RSM Dunn who has been either centre or wing half.

The coming season will start slowly, hampered as usual by the Autumn exercises, but by the end of October we should be in full swing once again. There are several positions waiting to be filled both in the forwards and the defence, and although hockey does not exercise the same mass appeal within the Battalion as does soccer it is worth remembering that it is an extremely energetic game for the more youthful players while the greyer, rounder players can still enjoy the game by conserving their energy skillfully.

BADMINTON NOTES

For the first time in many years the Battalion entered a team in a badminton competition and we are pleased to say that, although we did not head the league, our performance was encouraging. We gained victories over 1 Foresters, 39 Missile Regt RA and 65 Corps Support Sqn but had to accept defeat at the hands of 26 Regt RCT, 11 Inf Wksps REME and 23 Amph Engr Regt. All

games were heavily contested with the odd match separating the victorious from the defeated. It is a great pity that Sgt Davidson, one of our stalwarts, had to be absent on a course at a time when we could well have done with his experience to swing a match in our direction.

Those who have played for the Battalion are:

Major R. D. L. Smart
Sgt Davidson
Sgt MacMillan
Sgt Trenam (APTC)
Cpl Thomson
LCpl Milton

We look forward to taking part in the sport again this year and feel we will benefit greatly from the arrival of SI Cowie, APTC, who, we believe, is a very high class coach and player who has gained many a trophy from the sport.

ATHLETICS NOTES

The Battalion Meeting took place on the 11th of April which, according to the calendar, gave us a month and a half to have those that showed promise for the Brigade Meeting trained. This unfortunately was not the case since a new spate of exercises filled the gap nicely, and allowed only about 10 days of disjointed training.

A good deal of the joy of the Battalion Meeting was removed by the fact that the Tug of War Competition had already taken place at Sennelager. All the same it went well even though the afternoon was so wet that the scores chalked on a big board ran until all was illegible. All the races with the exception of the 1500 metres and the 5000 metres were run on a relay basis in order to get more participation without running too many heats for which there was not time. "B" Company won the 110 metres comfortably and also the hurdles. Support Company won the 200, 400 and 800 metres and LCpls Farmer, Moodie and Manders should be congratulated on some strong running. "A" Company, as a result of a good team spirit, won both the 1500 and 5000 metres even though they had no brilliant stars. As an individual, Cpl Downie, in spite of his growing years, still showed considerable flight of foot and won both the 1500 and 5000 metres. In the field events "A," "D" and Sp Companies all competed strongly against each other. The names that spring to mind are Q Jenkins who won the shot, Pte Adams who won the discus with Lt Duncan in second place and Cpl Rutherford who won the hammer with Cpl Bruce in second place. Sgt Owen should be mentioned for his gallant run to win the veterans race. This was his final victory before his retirement and showed that he was still pretty fit.

"A" and Support Companies ran level on points throughout the Meeting, but Support Company finally just took the lead to win. In third and fourth place were HQ 1 Company and "B" Company. Overall it was a good day but somewhat marred by the tropical downpour in the afternoon.

From the start it was known that two of our star performers, Q Jenkins and SI Trenam were not available for the Brigade Meeting. Cpl Breen who won the high jump in the Battalion Meeting was also not available but even so the Battalion fielded a reasonable team that suffered from lack of training due to other heavy commitments. The Battalion's final placing was fourth but this did not give a true indication of its potential. The only events the Battalion came to the fore in were the 5000 metres, the long jump and the hammer. LCpl

Farmer came third in the long jump, Cpl Downie came second in the 5000 metres and Cpl Rutherford and Lt Duncan came second in the team placing for the hammer. Cpl Rutherford should be congratulated for his excellent throw of 122 feet 7½ inches.

TUG OF WAR NOTES

To prevent any deviation from tradition it was decided to have our Annual Inter Company Competition despite the many and varied military commitments. This proved to be very successful and it was good to see once again the old rope being included as part of a company's equipment wherever they went. As the competition took place at Sennelager, and bearing in mind the variety of units and nations that train there, we were able to convince most of them that we were "Stark raving bonkers!" "Heave"—"Push"—"Yes" etc., etc., was the daily cry. The eventual winners for both the 88 and 100 stone teams were Sp Company.

Selecting some good, hefty "loons" we set about serious training for the Brigade Sports. This certainly proved well worth while as we excelled ourselves by winning both weights. Perhaps this gave us a false impression as our opposition was not all that strong but, none the less, both teams put up a tremendous performance which was well noted by the many personalities present.

Preparation for the Divisional meeting was started immediately and, suffice to say, the morale of both teams was extremely high. The meeting took place in Minden and the organisation of it was by ourselves. Once again we revelled in showing others how things should be done in regards to the organisation but, alas, we have still to learn from others the successful technique of winning. Our pulls were hard, strenuous and in true traditional manner—spectacular! The favourites for many years, 94 Locating Regiment RA and the 26 Field Regiment RA, were again the winners and we had to be content as runners-up. It is very obvious that there is no substitute for technique and experience and amongst the two winning teams there was an abundance of this.

Suffice to say that one learns by mistakes and the experience gained by meeting other good teams. To this end we are to look ahead and train as hard as possible for next year. Provided our military commitment isn't too full in 1970 and provided the same volume of interest and enthusiasm prevails throughout the battalion, we hope to have a greater measure of success.

In our effort to further the interest of Tug of War within the Regiment the RSM, CSgt Easson and Sgt Fraser 75 all successfully completed an Official Judges course and are to be seen sporting a badge on their blazers. It is hoped that CSgt Sharp and Cpl Chapman will take advantage of the next one.

In conclusion we would like to thank Major C. J. D. Gordon-Steward for his loyal support in the past and bid welcome to Major P. W. Graham, his successor as officer in charge of Tug of War.

CRICKET 1969

With the writing of these notes the Summer is almost over and the last match has been played. Our record this year has not been startling but there is still that happy band of the faithful who turn up to 'have a bash' and who do not sulk if they are out first ball for a duck!

Between spells of soldiering we have played 7 matches this year. The following is a brief summary of each match.

- 11 June, Away v. 1 Foresters. They batted first. Lost by 19 runs.
1 Foresters—53. Adam 5 for 20.
1 Gordons—34 all out. Captain Oxley 11 n.o.
- 18 June, Home v. 1 Foresters. Lost by 7 wickets. We batted first.
1 Gordons—40. Captain Peebles 12.
1 Foresters—41 for 3. Dixon 15 n.o.
- 21 June, Away v. 16/5th Lancers. Won by 1 wicket. They batted first.
16/5th Lancers—55. Mellor 19. Smith 4 for 8.
1 Gordons—56 for 9. Captain Oxley 15.
- 2 July, Home v. 54 Sqn RCT. Won by 5 wickets. They batted first.
54 Sqn RCT—52. Smith 4 for 15, Jones 3 for 22. Adam 2 for 9.
1 Gordons—54 for 5. Captain Oxley 19. Smith 14. Morrison 10 n.o.
- 5 July, Home v. 11 Inf Wksps REME. Lost by 148 runs. They batted first.
11 Inf Wksps REME—167 for 7 after 30 overs. Eggbeer 59 n.o.
1 Gordons—19 all out.
- 9 July, Home v. 11 Inf Bde & Sigs Sqn. Lost by 6 wickets. We batted first.
1 Gordons—39. Dobinson 5 for 10.
11 Inf Bde HQ & Sigs Sqn—43 for 4.
- 27 August, Home v. 11 Inf Wksps REME. Match abandoned (rain).
11 Inf Wksps REME—49 for 4.

In the back of the Battalion score-book there is a wealth of interesting information and statistics carefully calculated by that most conscientious of team secretaries—Sergeant Jones, to whom the Cricket Officer and his stand-ins must here offer their thanks. A few of the performances are worthy of mention. Sergeant Jones himself took the most wickets this season. He took 21 wickets at an average of 9.7 runs per wicket. Staff-Sergeant Smith took 19 at an average of 7.7.

Corporal Bellis, before he left us, scored 62 runs at an average of 15.5 runs per innings. Captain Oxley scored 55 runs at an average of 13.75.

The LAD, who always support Battalion cricket sides so effectively, played with some success in the Craftsman Cup this year. Having beaten the LAD1 KOSB and LAD 1 Foresters by 38 runs and 7 wickets respectively, they met their Waterloo at home to the powerful 11 Infantry Workshops side. We batted first and faced up to Cordner on one of his good days. He took 7 wickets for 11 runs and helped skittle us all out for 21! The 11 Infantry Workshops side passed our total without loss of wicket.

We wish Captain Oxley, Staff-Sergeant Smith and Corporal Bellis, who will all have left us by next season, the very best of luck in their new jobs.

The following have played cricket for the Battalion this year:—Major Smart; Captains Oxley, Kinghorn, White, Peebles, Robinson; Lieutenant Forsyth; ASM Jackson; SSgts Smith and Hirst; Sergeant Jones; Corporals Bellis, Paine and Morrison; LCpls Sweet and Dixon; Privates Adam and Robertson; Craftsman Draycott. Lance-Corporal Milton was the Official Scorer.

WIVES CLUB NOTES

This year one feels the Gordon Wives have struck yet another blow for emancipated womanhood by having an article printed in the Tiger and Sphinx. On reflection, as we have 310 families out here, is it sheer force of numbers?

In comprising these notes, one was struck by the variety of jobs and hobbies participated in by the wives of the Battalion. Baby producing is probably still "Top of the Pops" occupation wise but other interests almost read like "Jennifer's Diary." Husbands are frequently heard to moan—"When am I going to get her back?" In Minden we are lucky enough to have a highly organised and well equipped All Unit Kindergarten. Many of our wives, including Mrs. Strachan our RSM's wife, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Dryburgh and Mrs. Watt work there every morning. We have a Merry Band of "Annie Oakleys" who meet once a week and get rid of their inhibitions, shooting at targets instead of their husbands. (Suffice to say that in their last competition against the menfolk, the ladies only lost by one point!) Badminton flourishes and we play for a monthly cup. The Keep Fit Class thrives and keeps us all in trim for doing those piles of dirty washing that come off exercises!!! Our Wives Club is our main social centre where we gather for talks, films and general fun and games.

Do we ever complain? Frequently! One Pipe Band wife, when asked if her husband ever sent postcards, replied, "Yes—to his parents!"

However time doesn't hang heavily and the "packing case blues" are soon dispersed in the challenge of making a new home. Here in Minden, we are lucky to have lovely flats and houses and are well settled in. In fact, I am pleased to report, that like a well organised "Fifth Column," our wives have successfully infiltrated all walks of life out here.



Mrs. Black, wife of Cpl Black, helping in the Garrison Kindergarten.

FILMING IN ROME

The sparrows hadn't even cleared their throats when we left St. George's Barracks, Minden, on Friday, 7th March, 1969. Our party, 45 of us, under the Adjutant, Captain N. F. M. Oxley, consisted of the Drums and Pipes and 15 dancers from the rest of the Battalion. We were on our way to Italy to help de Laurentis Film Company make "The Battle of Waterloo."

The flight from Hanover was uneventful and we all arrived safely in Rome at mid-day. Quickly we were whisked through passport control and customs by very helpful representatives from the British Embassy and the Film Company, then driven to the hotel Arcangelo which turned out to be ten minutes walk from the Vatican. Vincent, the hotel manager, gave us a warm welcome and, with a perpetual washing of the hands motion, hoped we would enjoy our stay and not break up his hotel.

Hardly had we seen our rooms (all with private bathrooms, radios and telephones) and had a liquid lunch, than we were whisked off to the Studios which were some fifteen miles south of Rome. The Studios of de Laurentis consisted of ten massive sound-proof buildings linked with a myriad of dressing, make up, and property rooms. Alongside these was a large office block crowned by the penthouse of Dino himself. Anyway we spent four hours having our Waterloo period costumes fitted then returned to the hotel exhausted.

Saturday set the pattern of work for the next eight working days.

0400	Reveille
0430	Continental breakfast (coffee and rolls)
0500	Leave hotel
0600	Arrive studios
0600-1000	Make up (powder, wigs and whiskers for 350 extras)
1000-1300	On set
1300-1400	Lunch (spaghetti and wine)
1400-1800	On set
1800-1830	Dewigging
1830	Depart studios
1930	Dinner (macaroni and wine)

During our working days we had four separate tasks. Firstly we had to make a simple film to be sent to Russia for the MacIvans to learn how to march and counter-march to the drums and pipes. No doubt there are now 600 Russians learning to be Gordons. The second thing we had to do was to make recordings of all pipe tunes to be played throughout the film. The pipers had to learn three new tunes during one lunch break but that was "nae sweat." The only troubles arose when we were asked to play "The Flowers of the Forest," and later to sing accompanied by the pipes. Both we refused to do.

The third, and definitely the most difficult task was doing all the Highland dancing scenes at the Duchess of Richmond's Ball which, as all historians know, took place the night before the Battle of Quatre Bras and three nights before Waterloo. We had five teams doing the Broadwords in the middle of the Ballroom surrounded by lots of pretty girls and Italian extras playing the part of British officers. The Queen's Own Highlanders should watch the film carefully—as they will discover that the 79th had one milk-chocolate gentleman in their regiment—the extras playing Gordon officers did, I'm glad to say, look like Europeans. Also surrounding the dancers were cameras, mikes, 3000 candles dripping wax and 10 arc-lights which made the

place as hot as a suana bath. The dance had to be repeated no less than 43 times in one day so that different shots could be taken through windows, mirrors, behind flowers, and overhead. "Drummie" Hall and "Pipey" Kerr saw the "rushes" of these scenes and had to agree that all Sgt Harman's and Sgt Harrop's dancing instructions had not been wasted. We almost returned to Minden earlier than expected when the film company wanted to include in our central dancing team a 6ft. 4in. giant called Duncan; his only experience of Highland Dancing being an eightsome at Newtonmore last year. However he was gracefully withdrawn except for the march off. The Drummers and Pipers were able to get a few NAAFI breaks during the dancing scenes and Drummie had time to read his very thin volume called "Italian War Heroes."

Our fourth labour was the making of some of the battle scenes. I think enough about these has already appeared in the "Daily Express" but I must admit I creased myself with laughter when, on hearing Captain Oxley ask one of the Italian extras dressed as a Gordon whether he was a fierce soldier, a small native effects man shrugged his shoulders and said quietly "spaghetti soldier."

We had three free days during our filming. On the first most of us took the chance to watch the Rome v. Milan football match. On the second we did a bit of shopping and catching up with sleep. On the third we went on a conducted coach tour of Rome accompanied by a public relations man from HQ 1 Division and a pretty lassie called Joanne Bennet. Jo was trying to break into the film world but having little success borrowed LCpl Don's tartan shirt and came with us. We saw everything—Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, the Forum, Roman Baths and some Catecombs. The PR men had great difficulty persuading us that tossing coins (money) into the Trevi Fountain was the thing to do. Luckily they were good for a tap.

On the 20th March we left Rome and got back to Minden just after midnight. Then followed a well earned week-end before writing this in the relative peace of Sennelager. In retrospect our Rome trip was a great experience but it was certainly no holiday.

GORDONS AT WATERLOO

By Ppr. I. Mortimer

On Monday the 10th of March the Drums and Pipes, together with dancers drawn from all companies of the Battalion, flew from Hanover Airport to Rome in order to assist in the making of the film "Waterloo." The detachment was under command of the Adjutant, Captain N. F. M. Oxley. With this rather stereotyped opening sentence any attempt at an informative, cohesive narrative ceases until the 21st of March when the party, minus two hospital cases, explained at Rome Airport for the return journey to Minden.

What happened in between? Well officially we took part in a vast screen epic produced by the famous Dino De Laurentis and directed by Russian Sergei Bondarehuk of "War and Peace" fame. In fact to us amateurs the whole affair was more reminiscent of a Whitehall Theatre farce, or as one of the recording crew remarked, "It should be re-named 'Carry on Napoleon.'" Our early enthusiasm soon abated after a series of 4 a.m. reveilles, and after being covered in make up and burned with

curling tongs at unearthly hours of the morning. Even this had its moments though, if you've never seen Corporal "Chiefy" MacLaren covered in powder and topped with a curly wig an experience awaits you.

Our big scene took place in the magnificent ballroom in Brussels, built in a studio, lit by thousands of flickering candles not to mention twenty dirty big arc lights just over our heads. Here for endless hours we did exactly the same thing over and over again, constantly being harried by agitated gentlemen of many nationalities all of whom it would appear were leading experts on Highland Dancing and Pipe Bands. We always finished doing the scene the same way we had done it originally and all the experts looking triumphantly around as though this was their special creation. The comedy relief during these scenes was provided by the "stars" who stood tapping their feet to the music and coming out with gems of dialogue like: (Wellington) "I like the cut of your men Gordon." (Gordon) "Forward fellows with a bayonet, what! meat 'n' eggs and a slice of lemon since the day they were born, all raised on me own acres, bred 'em me bloody self."

On top of this we had the Pipe Major who, in all seriousness, gravely informed anyone who would listen including "yer" Jack Hawkins that he was a far better actor than Rod Steiger. He would then strut about, hands clasped behind the back, intoning some incantation about letting China sleep.

The incident that lingers in my mind took place during the battle scene when after being kept waiting half the morning, while cameras were being set up, we were kept rehearsing well into the lunch break until finally we were informed this is it "a take." The cannon roared, smoke rose, standards fluttered in the breeze, pipers swept over the hill playing "Arrivederci Roma." "Cut" "Okay you guys," we were told by an Italian gentleman, "Go get your lunch and the next time let's have the different tuna. Huh."

So at the end of a long day we made our weary way to the bus that conveyed us to and from the studio. This was the most hair-raising adventure of all. We averaged an accident a day, while the driver Mario manoeuvred his bus like a dodgem car, regaled us with obscure Italian arias and, oblivious to the presence of Mrs. Oxley, cheerfully shouted Anglo Saxon obscenities to anyone in his path.

Then to the hotel, a shower, a meal and the long awaited glass of beer in the hotel lounge. Here unfailingly we met Vincent, the hotel manager, who never tired telling us, in accents of pure Brooklyn, "A lika you Scotch guys, but mind the -----! furniture."

CHURCH NOTES

I was greatly encouraged to discover, just the other day from a letter received from Captain Derek Napier, that he had actually read these same notes in a former issue, and that he had felt a feeling of nostalgia for the "wee Kirk."

Derek, while he was with the Battalion, used to play with great gusto the hymns for the occasional service and it was always a delight to us all when he favoured us in such a way.

He is at present serving with the Australian Army in Vietnam. It is, to quote him, "Not a very pleasant war, though not quite as morally indefensible as western apologists would have it."

Should Captain Napier's eyes again be attracted to the Church Notes I know that our congregation to which he once belonged would wish to assure him of our prayerful thoughts and we hope to receive further trenchant comments from our man in Australia.

Of particular note in our Church life is the growth of the Sunday School over the last months. This is in no small way due to the energy and enthusiasm of LCpl Chalmers of the Military Band and his wife Marion. A prize-giving and picnic was arranged for Sunday, 29th June. Two bulging Mini-buses plus cars set off after a lunch in the Church Hall, for Brake, a small town an hours run from Minden. The youngsters greatly enjoyed an afternoon of mini-golf and football in the well equipped grounds of The Canadian Bible School who kindly allowed us to use their facilities.

The following Sunday the congregation took to the road again when after the morning service many of them joined in the Church Car Rally, this year called Ex. Get Lost. Fortunately all the competitors finished.

It happened to be the week-end when Sir George Gordon-Lennox and Lady Gordon-Lennox were visiting the Regiment. We were privileged to have Lady Gordon-Lennox present the prizes to the winners.

Just before Lt Col John Neish moved on to his new post in the U.K. he asked if there was anything he might give to the Church. After some discussion it was felt that a Baptismal Register would be very acceptable. A most beautifully bound Register of Baptisms in green leather with the Regimental Badge in gold arrived recently. It is a most lovely thing and a book that the congregation will treasure. We can assure Colonel John that there will be no difficulty filling its pages as the Gordons are not slow to fulfil those words of Scripture "be fruitful and multiply."

In an effort to improve the preaching in the Church without changing the Chaplain, a new pulpit has been installed. It replaces a monstrous structure built to withstand an atomic blast. Seven men it took to bear it to some quiet resting place and one to carry in the new streamlined lectern-pulpit, made by George the German joiner who assists the Pioneers.

As the humble preacher who God willing will have most occasion to give forth from it, I hope it will indeed provide the inspiration for more effective communication.

BANDMASTER (WOI) COLIN ALLASTAIR HARPER, A.R.C.M.

In the comparatively short period of six years few men could have made such an impact, in times of peace, upon a Regiment as Bandmaster Colin Harper. During his stay with us he has brought the Military Band to such a peak of perfection that the inspecting team from the Royal Military School of Music stated in their report "If there were a higher grading than 'Outstanding' this band would obtain it."

Born at Ardersier on 28th March, 1932, the young Harper was immediately introduced to life within a Highland regiment as his father was then serving with the Seaforth Highlanders at Fort George. He was schooled at Clinton, near Peterborough, but at the age of fourteen decided that he wished to become a military musician; and so it was that he joined his father's old regiment as a

Boy Soldier in 1946. His first instrument was the coronet (with typical modesty he states "I was a lousy player") and it was not long after in 1948 that he was sent to Knellar Hall to attend a Pupils' Course. This completed, he rejoined his regiment and served with them until leaving them in 1959, with the rank of Band Sergeant, to attend the Bandmasters' Course at the Royal Military School of Music. It was during this period that he was to win a considerable number of stiffly contested musical competitions.



CO and RSM say farewell to Bandmaster Harper.

In September, 1963, Bandmaster Harper reported to join the battalion which was then serving in Kenya. His close connections with Highland regiments made it easy for him to fit in, and in a short time he became an established member of the battalion. Kenya over, he has continued to serve with the battalion right through to 1969.

What are the characteristics of Colin Harper? He is a professional in all that he does; his aim is always to be just that much better tomorrow than he is today in a purposeful drive to reach the ultimate in musical perfection. He is a wonderful teacher who, by combining example, encouragement, and a personal involvement with his students never fails to find a willing response. An excellent administrator, he has the ability to organise complicated and lengthy tours giving the impression that they are nothing much more than Sunday School outings. As a man he is quiet, modest, thoughtful of others, and one who would be at ease in any company.

Now we are about to bid our farewell to one who has served us so well. On his posting to the Regimental Depot of the Royal Anglian Regiment, all of us would take this opportunity of wishing him, Mrs. "Jane" Harper, and family, all the very best in the future and with it a sincere hope that he will remember "Once a Gordon always a Gordon."

CHUNG-KAI TO MANILA

In April 1944, 1400 men left Chung-Kai in Thailand, en route as we thought to Japan. Included in this group were 54 men of the 2nd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, under the command of Lieutenant Forbes Lawrence.

We spent roughly six weeks in Havelock Road Camp, Singapore, and during that time a matchbox containing a two page newspaper was smuggled into our part of the camp by a Gurkha

soldier. Three quarters of the front page was taken up by a photograph of Joseph Stalin and the remainder, in large red letters, Freedom News, through which our morale received a boost, on learning of the allied raid on Dieppe.

At last we received orders from the Japanese, to get ready to embark for Japan. We were marched to the docks, where every man was individually searched by the Kempi. The Japanese had prepared a cargo of rubber designed to look like cushions or pillows, with a handle at either end. Every man had to take one on board with him. The ship Hopuka Maru, was an old cargo vessel of just over 6,000 tons, and the brass plate below the bridge bore the inscription "John Brown, Glasgow, 1912".

We sailed from Singapore on the 4th July, 1944. The second day out the ship's engines started giving trouble. On reaching Brunei, North Borneo, work started immediately on repairing the engines. During the period of nine days spent at Brunei, our rice was cooked in water drawn from the sea, into which our men had been defecating.

By the time we reached Manila, on the island of Luzon in the Philippines Group, 104 men had died of dysentery. To gain speed the Japanese removed all ballast from the ship and some of our men were moved into the bowels of the ship to get more room. By that time 156 men could not walk because of Beri-Beri or other diseases, and in a bid to cover up, the Japanese ordered that all these men be moved to the stern holds of the ship. Two Gordons were seriously ill in this group; Bandsman Hector Lovie (Tarland) was suffering from a severe bout of Bacillary Dysentery and Bandsman Peter Wood (Dykehead Shotts) was suffering from Elephantitis and was completely incapacitated.

On the evening of the 20th September, 1944, we sailed from Manila and lay up for the night in a bay behind Corregidor, sailing again on the morning of the 21st around 0700. The convoy comprised 16 ships and was escorted by two destroyers. At 0930 we were allowed on deck for breakfast. Twenty minutes later we were herded below and battened down. Around 1020 the ship shuddered as a vast explosion shook her. Then the wooden staircase from our hold disappeared. A few minutes later came a second explosion and the sea came rushing in. It was every man for himself. There was not time to try and help anyone. Even now, I find it difficult to explain how I got out of the ship. Time meant nothing. How long it was before I found myself clinging to a raft, I do not know.

On pulling myself on top of the raft and turning over on my back, I could see the planes circling overhead, some of them still had Aerial Torpedoes under their fuselage. When I sat up and looked around, all the ships in the convoy had been sunk, except for the two Japanese destroyers. They ploughed through our men in the water, only picking up Japanese survivors. Eventually there were four of us on the raft, one being another Gordon, LCpl Bob Peart.

We could see the shore. Those lucky enough to be on a raft grabbed whatever wreckage we could use as paddles and tried to reach it. The swell plus the outgoing tide, made a fiasco of our efforts and though we tried for twelve hours we

could not reach the shore. After four days the raft was becoming waterlogged, when we saw smoke on the horizon. They turned out to be little supply ships flying the ensign of the Japanese Navy, which had been ordered to look for survivors. The ships headed back to Manila and we were treated decently.

In the middle of the following afternoon we were attacked by American planes. During the attack one ship was sunk and one plane shot down. On arrival in Manila we found that of the 1400 men who had left Chung-Kai only 224 had survived. Of the 54 of the 2nd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, only 5 were left; Lieutenant Forbes Lawrence, LCpl Bob Peart—England, Pte Paddy O'Brien—Glasgow, Pte Smith—Transport and Pte J. H. Macrae—Ack-Ack.

We were taken to Bilibid Prison, Manila where we were interned with survivors from Batan and Corregidor. Three days later I went down with Spinal Malaria and on recovery learned that the other survivors had embarked for Japan.

J. H. MACRAE.

Editor's Note: Macrae was the first member of the 2nd Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, to return to Britain. Arriving home early in 1945, he was able to assist Mrs. Lees, who was in Aberdeen, with the many enquiries about members of the Battalion. Unfortunately his story is incomplete; he was liberated from the Philippines by an American Commando and repatriated to the United Kingdom via the United States.

WHO, WHERE, WHEN?



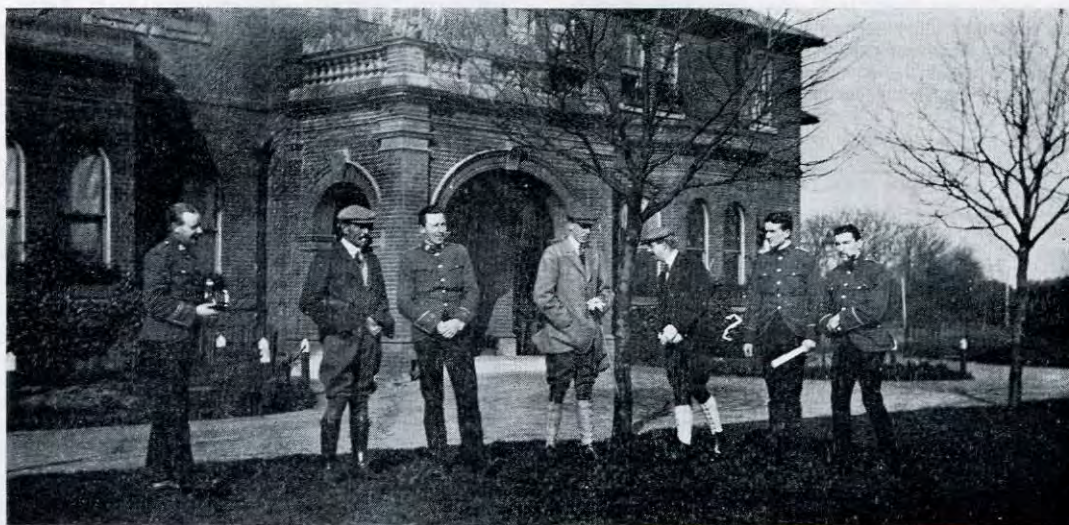
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(Answers on Page 63)

SCOTTISH INFANTRY DEPOT (BRIDGE OF DON)

GORDON BARRACKS STAFF LIST

Depot Headquarters:

WO 1 A. WEST, Superintending Clerk.
CSgt A. VARLEY, Master Tailor.
CSgt J. WILSON, Accommodation CSgt.
Sgt J. JORDAN, Orderly Room Sergeant.
Cpl K. ADDISON, Orderly Room Clerk.
Cpl I. BRUCE, Medical Reception Centre Orderly.
Cpl G. BRUCE, Officers' Mess Corporal.
Cpl L. CHALMERS, Medical Reception Centre Clerk.
Cpl R. SIMMERS, NCO i/c Mechanical Transport.
LCpl R. HENDERSON, Regimental Police.
Pte F. LAMONT, M.T. Driver.

Training Company:

Lieut A. I. G. KENNEDY, Training Subaltern.
Sgt A. RIACH, Training Sergeant.
Sgt R. WATERS, Administration NCO.
Cpl J. GORDON, Training NCO.
Cpl I. MUTCH, Training NCO.
Cpl L. GREEN, Training NCO.
Cpl J. LOW, Training NCO.

Headquarter Company:

LCpl G. LEMON, Company Clerk.

Junior Soldiers' Company

Captain A. N. M. CUMMING, Officer Commanding.
Sgt T. CUTHBERT, Pl Sgt.
Sgt L. TREVENDALE, Pl Sgt.
Cpl M. LOW, Training NCO.
LCpl D. GOW, Instructor (Drumming).
LCpl A. STEWART, Instructor (Pipino).
LCpl D. ROSS, Instructor (Military Band).

Civilians (Ex Gordon Highlanders)

Mr. A. MURRAY, Clothing Storeman (Ex 1st Bn).
Mr. J. QUADE, Clothing Storeman (Ex 1st and 2nd Bns).
Mr. THOMSON, Orderly Room Clerk (Ex 1st Bn).
Mr. DAVIDSON, Kitchen Orderly (Ex 2nd Bn).
Mr. REID, Kitchen Orderly (Ex 1st Bn).
Mr. COOPER, Kitchen Orderly (Ex 1st Bn).
Mr. McBAIN, Depot Barber.
Mr. T. GORDON, Quartermaster's Clerk.
Mr. MILNE, Officers' Mess Orderly (Ex 1st Bn).
Mr. SMITH, MT Driver (Ex 4th Bn).

Headquarters Company

Departures from the throng are LCpl Abe Sievright who has rejoined the 1st Battalion and LCpl Jim Gibson who went to Civvy Street thinking it would be easier than working in the QM's Office in the Battalion, we wish him all the best in his new job. We welcome LCpls George Lemon and Ronnie Henderson, Pte Fred Lamont and Cpl Ian Bruce who have just newly been posted from the Battalion. We hope they have a pleasant stay.

There have been quite a few of the Battalion passing through on demob or rejoining the Battalion and it was good to see some old acquaintances, e.g. Alkie Grant who gave us all the news of what is happening in the Battalion. He was here for two weeks and worked with the QMs pioneer and did a good job of varnishing 300 bedside tables during the day, but was his usual self at night time.

Things have been pretty busy in the Company just now with the preparation for the Open Day, especially for RQMS Peter Cameron who was putting tents up himself, as we were short of men.

The Depot has entered the Football Welfare League this season, the first time they have done this since the Depot re-opened, and Cpl Les Chalmers has appointed himself manager of the team. Headquarter Company is well represented in the team with LCpls Henderson, Lemon, Cpl Bruce, Pte Norrie, of the Army Youth Team and

Pte Gordon Philips of the recruiting team, when he has time off.

Most of the Company have had most of their leave except for a few who say they are far too busy to have some (I wonder what job they are doing).

Cpl Bruce and LCpl Henderson represented the Depot in the athletics and did very well at Aldershot. Cpl Bruce came third in the Discuss with a throw of 103ft 1in, and LCpl Henderson was fourth in the 220 yards with a time of 24.4 seconds; well done lads.

Training Company:

The Training Company cycle continues undisturbed by holidays and KAPE tours. We lost Sgt Melville in April to join the ranks of RMA Sandhurst. The squads which have passed through since the last edition were:—Burma Squad: Passed out on April 10. The salute was taken by Lt Col J. F. Logan,



BURMA SQUAD.
Robson, Taylor, Wood and Cpl McKinnon.

QO Highlanders. Pte Robson won the Delgattie Cup and also won the prize for the best shot with the GPMG. There were 3 Gordons in the squad.

Mons Squad: Passed out on May 8. The salute was taken by Captain E. M. Brown, OBE, DSC, AFC, The Royal Navy, Commandant of the Royal Naval Air Station, Lossiemouth. There were five Gordons in the Squad: Pte Allan from Inverurie, Pte Dailly (Dundee), Pte McKay and Pte Robertson (Aberdeen) and Pte McRobbie (Motherwell).

Alamein Squad: Passed out on June 7. The salute was taken by Lt Col M. R. Wallace from Regimental Headquarters, The Black Watch. There were 4 Gordons in the Squad: Ptes Davidson, Duthie, Copeland from Keith and Pte Cunningham from Edinburgh. Davidson won the prize for the best shot with the SLR and Duthie the Delgatie Cup.

Major Ian Fleming left us a fortnight ago to assist in running the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, and Chris Price appears now and again just to prove he hasn't gone absent—yet.

Finally a warm welcome to Alastair and Hilary Cummings who have recently arrived. I hope that their stay in Aberdeen will be an enjoyable one.

On reflection I feel that some reference to that most valuable non-playing Gordon, Mr Ken Peters should be made in these notes. He has been up to see us several times, sporting a new tie which bears a marked resemblance to our Regimental one. It is always a pleasure to see him and the tie, and I hope both will continue to be seen in the Mess!

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess

With only two publications a year your scribe feels something of a Leslie Welsh. Keeping a Battle Log is easy compared to keeping tabs on Sgts Mess activities. Having said farewell to Mr. Entertainments (QMSI Jack Chalmers) we are blessed with having received QMSI Norman Milburn who is equally good at planning and preparation of social events. Between Norman Milburn and our new Cook Sgt, Frank Spencer, it's a toss up to see who will run out first on Saturday Socials or Continental Menus.

Arrivals and departures reads like a Pekin time table, with quite a few sporting a nice eastern tan. Arrivals have been Jim Hutton, complete with Mini and pot plants. He is finding it difficult to obtain a licence plate with TAVR 2.



RQMS Peter Cameron (note his pin-up).

Pat Charman is now settled in with the Cadet Training Team; he keeps saying he is only 22. Keep it up Pat, Major Fleming may believe you.

Rab Owen is seen from time to time, when not on leave, carrying a nice shiny dustbin which he assures us is a musical instrument.

Geordie Waters comes under the heading Training Coy Admin Sgt. He is certainly first class at his

job, as all recruits seem to reach their Battalions, during which time Geordie manages to get in another month's leave.

CSM Ian Collinson's name has just appeared on Depot Orders and should arrive on the 31st October. It is a pity to miss Dargai but never mind Ian you will manage our Saint Andrews Ball.

Courses have played an important part since the last issue with Arthur Riach and Louie Tevendale attending Drill Courses. They are both now qualified for Civvie Street as Turners, with Louie having the edge with a "B" Grading.

Tam Cuthbert and Louie Tevendale are qualified climbers and proficient enough with skis to say what goes up must come down.

Adam Strathdee and John Jordan must be making a tidy little sum with their fishing courses. It is marvellous how many fish they catch and never leave the bar. John specialises in Don Mouth eels while Adam can't see past sea trout.

The Regimental re-union on the 3rd May was a tremendous success. The new floor in the Hardgate Drill Hall being well and truly christened. To mention names would take a magazine on its own, for those who were unable to attend, you missed a real Gordon Re-union with stories ranging from Minden to Dargai. Everyone agreed it should become an annual event.

The Mess played an important part in the Depot Athletics Team who won the Div Minor Units and came in fourth at Aldershot. There is word that the RSM and CSM Sandy Duffus may be given their sports colours; the RSM winning the Old Soldiers' race and Sandy beating the gun by 5 seconds.

The 9th May saw some strange sights in Golfing array. The event the Officers versus the Sgts' Mess at Balgownie proved hard to both sides. The Chief Clerk and QMSI saving the day by squaring the match on the 18th. Next year the Sgts' Mess will work out the handicaps.

The 26th May will long be remembered for the amount of rain and not the runs scored during the Officers versus the Sgts Mess at cricket. The result is still hard to believe but we did win by 7 wickets. The Drum Major must be congratulated by the way he absorbed the criticism and the rain. After the match all retired to the Sgts Mess for a good curry, a few beers and a game of darts.

Braemar and Aboyne has no look in when it comes to Highland Games. The Sgts Mess Mini Highland Games were held on Sunday, 20th July. All members turned out in kilt order. The caber, shot and weight were won by the WOs and CSgts. Sgt Riach put up a great show with the weight. The Sgts Tug-o-War team did well to come second to a well drilled and immaculately turned out honorary members team coached by George Scott; we still reckon there was some fishy business going on during the pulls. The obstacle race proved to be too much for some members of both teams; Arthur Bibby setting a new record for the ropes. All praise for a truly great day must go to the Games Committee and cooks who supplied a wonderful buffet lunch. Cpl Bruce (37) must be complimented on the manner in which he occupied the children all day.

The mess summer dance held in the gymnasium on Friday, 25th July, was again a tremendous success; credit must go again to the present entertainments committee. A good band, buffet and plenty of refreshments, what more could one ask for? A great favourite with all members, both past and present throughout the Highland Brigade was presented with a gift from all members. Arthur Bibby, our hard working cook Sgt for 5 years, leaves us for civilian life. By some strange force or other he is going to Lawsons of Dyce with our illustrious Charlie Shand—what a team. All members wish Arthur and Mrs. Bibby all the very best of luck in civilian life, and as our friends in the Royal Regiment say, "There will never be another You."

Our new cook, Sgt Frank Spencer, has settled in very nicely, complete with exotic Mess Menus for social nights. You order your dinner on the Thursday and spend the best part of Saturday night eating your way through it, at 8/- a head you can keep the Station Hotel.

Departures we are glad to say have been few. Our only loss has been Jim Melville to RMA Sandhurst who by now will be well and truly settled in. Thank you Jim for all the hard work you put in here, Sandhurst has gained a real card. Jim and his sense of humour were lucky to escape King Seat, look out for Broadmoor, it is only over the hill.

Some pretty smooth operators have passed through the depot in the past six months on their way to civilian life. Charlie Daubney to be a janitor in the blackboard jungle of Edinburgh, the grapevine now says he may be taking a pub. Fred Murray is now in big business with his 10 minute car wash at Crewe Toll, Edinburgh; reduced prices for Gordon Highlanders. No. AFV 432 please. Pete McKenzie who by now should be an air conditioning engineer in East Africa, after having studied central heating as a release course. Jimmy Leggatt our first TQMS and last of the Desert Campaigners paid us a short visit, we thought he had come to sign on. Jim is to join the WD Security boys; let's hope for the nation's sake that Joe Innes and Jim do not team up.

Tom Cossar when last seen with the QO Highlanders was negotiating a job as Tec Storeman in Ayrshire. No doubt Tom will reorganise their ledgers.

We at the Depot wish all those who have finished, and their families, every success in civilian life and the mess is always open to well kent faces if you are in the area. MI 4½ Bert Buchan will soon get to know.

Visitors are always welcomed especially when they call well armed with duty frees, well done Andy Pattillo, Geordie Garden, Bill Ross and Arthur Heffron, all speaking highly of the Battalion. Another stalwart of years gone by has been staying at the depot, namely Reg Parnell, who is at present with the Household Brigade repairing breast plates. He wishes to be remembered to all and may include an interesting article in the next edition of the Tiger and Sphinx.

Warning Order: To whom it may concern: do not encourage Adam Strathdee or John Jordan to drink Schnapps, especially Norwegian.

Corporals' Mess

There is nothing exciting going on at the Depot just now. However what little there is to report, here goes. Just today, August 12th, I saw Cpl Chalmers signing out a track suit. He says it is to get himself fit for his return to the Battalion. Gallons of sweat will be lost.

There is a keen football following in the mess; in fact the team just entered the City Welfare League, matches being played on Wednesday afternoons. Taking an active part in the football are Cpls Gordon, Low, Bruce (PTI) and LCpls Lemon and Henderson.

Cpl Low is still "Dons" mad and now that the season is under way I hate to think what Glen will say when a Saturday guard duty comes along (Corporals take over the Guard Room at 1200 hrs.). This is going to be the "Dons" year says Cpls Chalmers and Low. With all the ex Rangers players playing for them they might be right.

Congratulations to Cpl and Mrs. Gordon on becoming proud parents of a baby boy. I'm still waiting for my glass of whisky and cigar. Cpl Gordon is at present on duty at the Edinburgh Tattoo.

Frequently seen going about the Depot in track suit is Cpl Speedy Campbell (no sweat lost there). His right arm is getting plenty of exercise just now on a spot of well earned leave.

That grand team of Cpls Green and Low have at last been broken up. After doing two squads together it was beginning to feel like being back working in Saint Georges Barracks, but somebody must have decided to break up this Gordon clique and we are all now in different squads.

Cpl Addison keeps punching away at the Training Company typewriter and at the same time keeps up to date with all the tasty morsals of information.

LCpl Mitchell, I see, comes to replace me at the end of March so I must get down to serious thought on Mein Deutsche Sprechen. Looking forward to seeing you Bill.



J/Bdsm Knott, winner of prize for Most Progress in Music.
J/Bdsm Reid, runner-up for Best Instrumentalist Prize and Education Prize.

ARMY CAREERS AND INFORMATION OFFICE (ABERDEEN)

Since our last notes a new scribe has taken command, ex Playtime Call Sign 2.

Recruiting at present is going quite well. CSgt Bert Buchan has assumed command of the Regimental Recruiting Team until the new commander arrives later in the year. At the moment they are making their vehicle roadworthy and being employed with the KAPE Team.

WOII Geordie Symon can be seen any day at the reception desk at Market Street and is always glad to see well kent faces from the 1st Battalion.

Sgt Bill Donald has been keeping on the right side of the law teaching the Aberdeen City Police Cadets the tricks of map reading, rock climbing, orienteering, etc., whilst on loan to 82 Army Youth Team.

Sgt Hamish Grant is still guarding our interests at Peterhead while at Keith we have Sgt Rab Philip who has a fair measure of success with recruits so far this year.

One wonders if at times the Information part of our address is not misused with all the requests we have i.e. ex soldier wishes to get rid of piano free of charge—now in Depot Mess; would the Army like my dog as a war dog—now on a farm at Aboyne; can you get me a piper to play at my wedding—new bride piped down the aisle.

Having had requests for pipers and after hearing all the pipe bands at the different Highland Games it seems only fitting to close with an ode to a piper:

It was in a crowded hospital in western USA,
A lonely Scot far from home, dying lay,
Oh doctor could I hear but once my own bagpipes
again,
I'd lay my head down in peace and die, in spite of
pain.

The kindly doctor searched the town,
A brother Scot was found,
And soon within the hospital,
The cheery pipes resound.

Along the great white corridors
The pibroch echoed clear,
Till every poor sick sufferer,
Heard the Highland tunes so dear.

And by that glorious music,
The weary Scot revived,
Regained his health and walked abroad,
The other patients died.

NO. 82 ARMY YOUTH TEAM

Our last notes saw us preparing for our Ski Course at Tomintoul in April. This proved to be a great success with good weather and everybody getting very bronzed.

On May 29th the team left Aberdeen for a tour of the Shetlands. During our weeks tour we managed to visit six schools and returned to Aberdeen with 20 names for junior entrants, which, when one considers the size of the schools, is very reasonable. On our return journey we went via Orkney for one day. Whilst in Shetland we did manage to take the Lerwick cadets into the hills for a small week-end exercise which they all enjoyed.

June proved to be relatively quiet and most of our time was spent on the completion of our Way-farer Dinghy, which after seven months work has now been successfully launched.

July saw the team at Rowston Camp along with SNEA ACF, where our time was spent on the construction of an assault course, the running of the assault course and orienteering competitions. Instruction was also given in the use of Assault Boats. The weather at camp was perfect and we

managed to get plenty of swimming done, over and above the 0630 hrs swimming parade. Norrie conveniently managed to twist his knee jumping off the wall and thought that a massive bandage would excuse him swimming. No such luck.

After camp we managed to squeeze ten days leave, with the exception of the OC, followed by preparation for our summer camp at Loch Morlich. This was to be a tented camp and luckily, so far, the weather has treated us kindly. From 1st-15th September we have been hosts to cadets from the Aberdeen City Police and at week-ends various Youth Organisations from Aberdeen. The syllabus has included canoeing, sailing, rock climbing, hill walking and trekking. Everything so far has gone well, no doubt due to the expert work put in by WOII Stacey, B. W., and Sgt W. Donald—Gordons both on loan from ACIS Aberdeen.

In closing we say farewell and thank you to Ptes Shade and Clark who have returned to the 1st Battalion and welcome LCpl MacKenzie and Pte Norrie from the 1st Battalion. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

"D" GORDON COMPANY 51ST HIGHLAND VOLUNTEERS

Company Commander—Major N. S. Thornton-Kemsley.

Second in Command—Capt R. J. Aitken.

CSM—WOII Prati, C. G. A.

CQMS—CSgt Warden, N. A.

PSIs—WOII Hutton, J.; CSgt Fraser, W.;

Sgt Booth, R.

In early April a party was held by the Senior Ranks to say "farewell" to Major John Gray and WOII A. McDonald. Major Gray was presented with a silver salver, crystal glasses and water jug while

WOII McDonald received a portable typewriter from members of the Company.

WOII J. Hutton joined us from the 1st Bn—he seems to take us Volunteers in his stride. CSgt Fraser had an addition to the family in May—a son—to him and Mrs. Fraser we offer our congratulations.

2Lt Donald Fraser—a veterinary student in Edinburgh—was granted a commission in June. We were delighted to hear this news as he has been a very regular attender at training, in spite of the distance he has to travel.

We were delighted to play "host" for the first Reunion of Past and Present members of the Regiment, on the 3rd May. We all hope that this will become an annual event—we certainly will be delighted to house this event in the future.

On the 25-26th May the Wapinschaw was held at Black Dog. Our team led by Capt R. J. Aitken did very well. To him and every member of this team we wish our congratulations, Cpl L. Cooper—ex 3 Gordons—from Laurencekirk, won the King George V Cup—this cost the Company Commander a lot, but I am sure that he was delighted to fork out—well done Cpl Cooper. The results were obtained after only one evening on the zeroing range. We were delighted to see our recruits doing so well in the competitions. Let's hope this bodes well for the future.

Results

Individual Cup Winners

King George V Cup and Ladies Gold Cross—Cpl L. Cooper.

Aberdeen City Brooch, Officers Cup and Bruce Cup—Capt R. J. Aitken.

Recruits Cup—Pte McIntosh.

Fintray Cup—Pte Law, D. (recruit).

Places

County Brooch—LCpl Beattie, E. T., 3rd equal.

King George V Cup—Capt Aitken, 5th; Pte Shepherd, I., 7th; Pte Robertson (recruit), 11th.

Forsyth Cup—Pte Shepherd, I., 3rd equal.

Ladies Gold Cross—Pte Shepherd, I., 2nd.

Evening Express—Capt R. Aitken, 3rd equal.

Veterans Cup—Capt R. Aitken, 4th.

Recruits Cup—Pte Robertson, 2nd.

Team Events

Bn Challenge Trophy—1st: Capt R. Aitken, Cpl Cooper, Pte Shepherd and Pte Robertson.

Open Team Trophy—3rd: Capt R. Aitken, Sgt Gibson, C., Cpl Cooper, L., Pte Shepherd, I.

Falling Plates—2nd: Capt R. Aitken, 2Lt A. Brown, Cpl I. Cooper, LCpl Beattie, E., Pte Shepherd, I., and Pte Robertson.

We sent a team of athletes to the Oldmeldrum sports. Unfortunately we managed to only come second in the Tug-o-War, being beaten by the Yanks! Our relay team, however, won the inter-services Relay Race Cup—this being the first time an Army unit has ever won this event. In the past either the Royal Navy or the Royal Air Force have beaten the Army.

Drummer Black, Pipers Ross and Morgan all attended the 25th anniversary celebrations at St Valery in June. We gather they had a wonderful time.

The Company held a Buffet/Dance on 12th June, when we were able to "Show off" all the trophies. This party was a great success due to the hard work of the Canteen Committee, led by Cpl Hill.

Needless to say we have been training very hard during these summer months. As we are virtually at full strength some good exercises have been held. Major David Saunders, our Training Major, attended one of these in late May. We were delighted to have a Gordon Highlander from Bn HQ to keep us up to the mark.

Many members of the Company have managed to get attached to one of the Companies doing Annual Camp in Germany or Norway this year. All these people seem to have enjoyed their trips to the full and what is even more important to us is that they really did learn something.

Annual Camp this year took place from 23rd August to 6th September at Stanford.

The main body of the Company found the overnight train for the south on Saturday, 23rd August. They were to join eight other companies of the Bn for 15 days annual camp—three companies had already done camp abroad during the summer months. On the Sunday after an FFR inspection the Gordon Company came first on the Assault Course Competition.

During the first week the Company spent five nights out in the field either learning to "Night" fire or patrolling.



Winning Team in the Highland Wapinschaw, "D" Gordon Company: "The Sweet Taste of Success".
(By kind permission of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.)

On the Tuesday of the second week the Colonel of the Regiment paid us a visit. We felt terribly honoured to have a visit from our Colonel—especially when we learnt he had travelled all the way from Fochabers to visit us, in Norfolk. The Colonel spent all day at camp and during the day spoke to almost every Gordon. He was accompanied by our Company Commander who, due to harvest, was unable to attend camp with us.

We are again pleased to report that we won yet another cup—this time the Tug-o-War Cup—to the team our congratulations ring out.

The big exercise was held during the second week, when we as a Coy found ourselves under the command of Major David Saunders—acting for this exercise as CO of a Bn. He was able at the close of the exercise to report that we had done well and that since the first week of camp had improved greatly.

Camp was fun, but very hard work for all—now we look forward to another year's training before next Annual Camp.

OFFICERS' MESS

The political decision on the Reserve Forces has now been made. The Mess has now passed from 3 Gordons (TA) to 51st Highland Volunteers. The Mess is a Company Officers Mess run with the approval of the CO 51st Highland Volunteers. Members of the Mess belong to three units (1) D Coy 51st Highland Volunteers with 6 members, (2) 3

Bn Gordons (Cadre) with 3 members, and 29 Engineer Plant troop with 3 members.

The first duty of the new mess committee was to organise a dining out combined with a ladies night. Eighty members and their guests attended. Colonel of the Regiment Lt General Sir George Gordon-Lennox thanked the members who were being dined out for their years of loyal service to the Regiment and presented them with their traditional parting gift—an inscribed tankard.

A special word of praise was reserved for our CO Lt Col R. Bannerman T.D., who has commanded the Bn successfully during a very difficult period. The applause from the body of the Mess indicated the approval of all the assembled party.

In his reply the CO stated that in his opinion in the not too distant future a new Territorial Battalion would arise like a Phoenix from the ashes.

Other members of the Mess dined out were Majs Jimmy Lobban and George Thom, Capts Alan Simpson, Ian Hutchison and Tom Bruce, Lieutenants Donald Phillip, Ian Forbes and Bob Chalmers. We wish them all well.

George Thom has received an appointment with the RAMC and Ian Hutchison with the RCT. Both have retained their ranks. Alan Simpson and Tom Bruce have accepted appointments with the Army Cadets.

We wish all our former members well and hope we will still enjoy their company as Honorary Members of the Mess.

3RD BATTALION THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (CADRE)

Composition—Major N. V. R. Simpson, T.D.—Commanding.
Captain R. D. Buchan.
Captain D. A. Young.
WOII A. R. Burnett.
CSgt J. Watson.
Sgt J. W. Gallow.
Cpl A. Dawson.

The speculation which had dominated 3rd Battalion notes for the previous few issues was finally resolved by the formation of a Cadre to succeed the last Territorial Battalion; the 3rd finally disbanded on 31st March, 1969.

The sequence of events leading up to this decision are known to all and the news though bitter was not altogether unexpected and at least cleared the air.

The Cadre composition is as listed above with the exception of a Pte vacancy still to be filled. Members of the Cadre are probably well known to most readers, all having served in the Regiment for many years and who were serving in the 3rd Battalion at the time of disbandment.

In view of this and the notes to follow it may be of interest to note officer locations at the time of disbandment (in brackets the "thereafter").

CO—Lt Col R. Bannerman, T.D. (retired).
2IC—Major N. V. R. Simpson, T.D., Cadre.
Adjutant—Captain R. D. Buchan, Cadre.
Recce Pln—Captain A. T. Bruce, SNE (ACF).
"A" (Banffshire) Coy—Major J. Lobban (retired).
Capt D. A. Young, Cadre.
Lt R. L. C. Chalmers (retired).
Lt J. K. Fowlie (retired), Tra Major.
"B" (Buchan) Coy—Major G. Thom, RAMC AVR II.
Capt I. C. Hutchison, RCT/RAMC.
Lt I. R. S. Forbes (retired).

"C" (Aberdeen Mar and Mearns) Coy—Major N. S. Thornton-Kemsley, 51st Highland Volunteers.
Capt A. D. Simpson, SNE (ACF).
Lt T. G. Macrae, 51st Highland Volunteers.
Lt D. G. Philip (retired).

In addition WOII Burnett, CSgt Watson and Sgt Gallow were respectively Coy CSMs of the three Coys. The last two accepted demotion in order to comply with Cadre rank structure (which changed no fewer than seven times!!!) as did Cpl Dawson who was a Pin Sgt in "C" Coy.

Major N. V. R. Simpson was due to succeed Lt Col R. Bannerman to command 3rd Bn in May, 1969.

As readers will appreciate with the disbandment of a Battalion, more especially the last Territorial Bn, considerable work is attached to winding up Bn affairs. The Cadre is to retain the colours, silver, property and funds of the old 3rd Bn. The funds will in due course pass into the Regimental Trust after Court of Session proceedings. All of which has involved a great deal of work but at the time of writing much has been completed.

Soon after forming, the Cadre had yet another change in strength announced. This time very welcome. We were allowed to appoint an Honorary Colonel and Col G. W. Bruce, last Hon Col of the 3rd Bn accepted this appointment and we were delighted to have him as No. 9 (or should it be No. 1!!!). Official correspondence between Hon Col and CO now starts "Hon Sec Leader to Sec Leader." However, with Col Tony, we are determined to maintain the best traditions of the Regiment throughout the area and to maintain contacts with as many former territorials as possible.

Our training which is restricted to 6 days out-of-camp, is carried out with "D" (Gordon) Coy 51st Highland Volunteers. So far this year this has largely been spent on weapon training and live firing with all members classifying. Capt Young and CSgt Watson have given the volunteer company great assistance in forming a detached platoon in Keith, their old company HQ.

Annual camp will again be a 15 day affair and we look forward to meeting the Cadres of all other Highland Regiments together with the London and Liverpool Scottish. We shall all be at Stanford under training with 51st Volunteers.

A notable event since our formation in which Cadre members have participated has been the rededication of the 4th Bn War Memorial now in its new location at Hardgate, after many, many years at Woolmanhill. This was attended by a large number of old 4th Bn members, many well known faces among them. Immediately after, everyone joined in the Gordon Highlander Reunion held in the same hall. The first of its kind and the inspiration of Lt Col Elsmie it was very well attended, a huge success and obviously must be held again.

Officers of the old 3rd Bn who were retiring from active services were dined out at a ladies night attended by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Honorary Colonel. It was particularly sad that we should have to say farewell to so many officers on the same night. Apart from Lt Col Ronnie Bannerman retiring after commanding for 3 years, the others were all premature retirals due to the restructure of the Reserve Army. That so many, who were only too willing to serve on in almost any capacity, should be redundant is still a source of regret to all. This of course applies to all ranks of the 3rd Bn who, for various reasons, could not accept the A.V.R. II commitment and who are now no longer able to serve actively in the regiment.

Those officers dined out were:—

Lt Col R. Bannerman T.D., Major G. Thom. Major J. Lobban, Capt I. C. Hutchison, Capt A. D. Simpson, Capt A. T. Bruce, Lieut I. R. S. Forbes and Lieut R. L. C. Chalmers.

Since the event we hear that Major George Thom and Capt Ian Hutchison are now attached to RCT/RAMC while Capts Alan Simpson and Tom Bruce are commissioned into the Gordons A.C.F. (tempted no doubt by Major Ian Fleming).

CAPTOWN HIGHLANDERS

Commanding Officer — Comdt C. C. C. Albertyn, J.C.D.

2 IC—Major C. O'Brien.

Adjutant—Lt K. B. Wahl.

Quartermaster—Capt P. A. Tate.

"HQ" Coy Commander—Lt M. A. M. Chambers.

"A" Coy Commander—Capt S. J. Burger.

"B" Coy Commander—Capt M. Mayne.

"C" Coy Commander—Capt J. B. Ventris.

"D" Coy Commander—Major R. G. Forsyth.

RSM—WO I R. B. Lowton.

Pipe Major—WO II J. A. Munro.

Editorial

These have all been in their respective posts for some time and the Unit is reaping the benefit of not only increased experience but also of continuity.

The Bn Silver having been meticulously checked and written up after the disbandment was enhanced by the presentation to the Cadre of some fine pieces of silver from the retiring officers. This was a wonderful gesture and these items were immediately taken on strength!!

The Pipes and Drums of the old 3rd Bn have been retained at full strength thanks to the intervention of the Colonel of the Regiment. The Band have always shown tremendous spirit throughout all difficulties but on disbandment had no official establishment. They were tremendously keen to stay together as a band and so are now "The Gordon Pipe Band," splendid ambassadors for the Regiment in the North-East. Administered by R.H.Q. the Pipe President is Lt Col R. Bannerman T.D.

What of our future? We hear the words 'expansion' and 'integration' applied to the Cadre but no one has yet expanded on our role and future. Certainly, if we are to be allowed to increase our strength we hope the news will break soon while our contacts with former 3rd Bn members are still fresh.

Over the last few years contributions to the Regimental Magazine from Territorial sources seem to have been punctuated with references to "the old"—"the last"—farewell to the 4/7th—to the 5/6th—to Woolmanhill, etc., etc. And now the 3rd Battalion—sic transit gloria!

Perhaps a Phoenix.

THE GORDON PIPE BAND

On the disbandment of the 3rd Territorial Battalion a very smart and efficient Pipe Band was left in the air. After considerable discussion it was decided that we would try and keep this Band alive and RHQ agreed to sponsor it.

Scottish Command gave authority for us to go ahead and it was decided that the title of the Band should be "The Gordon Pipe Band."

Our decision has been fully justified and the Band under Pipe Major Morrison has had a very successful season. They have played at the Braemar Games and Kinrossie and several engagements in Aberdeen. They also won the Grade II Pipe Band competition and the Grade II Drumming Cup at The Scottish Pipe Band Association Competition at Hazlehead. What is more they have kept themselves solvent. Well done, may they go on to bigger and better things next season.

The New Year started as usual with street lining for the Opening of Parliament. The Unit was fully committed and all involved acquitted themselves very well. We did have haircut and rifle trouble—both fortunately have now, in theory, been largely overcome. We hope that the theories for the issue of arms will work in practice.

During February the Unit spent a full day on the rifle range. Obviously one, or two, shoots a year cannot make marksmen out of riflemen but at least it keeps the man in touch with his weapon. Should the need arise, further training will be easier.

An innovation by the newly appointed Officer Commanding Western Province Command was that once a month a Retreat Ceremony should be performed. This was an endeavour to make the public of Cape Town more "soldier conscious". The first

Citizen Force Unit ordered to do the Retreat Ceremony was the Cape Town Highlanders and "B" and "C" Companies were selected for this job. The guard commander was Capt C. Scheppening, with 2 i/c Lt J. Williamson, Colour Ensign 2/Lt C. I. Bernhardt and Guard WO A. J. van Blerk. Rehearsals were unfortunately hampered by rain but in spite of this the two Companies put up a good show. However, more time should have been available for rehearsals.

The annual Church Parade was not as well attended as usual but the Church was adequately filled. Correspondents to the local newspapers criticising the dress and smartness of the Unit were dealt with in well chosen replies by the C.O. and friends of the Unit.

At this time, too, a very successful NCO's course was organised by the 2 i/c. The Course Commander was Capt Mayne and thanks to his enthusiasm the results obtained were of a high standard.

In June the Command Group went to Bloemfontein for a Signals Exercise. The first week was spent in training and revision and in the second week the battle was on in earnest. The whole period was most interesting and instructive although very intensive.

We look forward to the second half of this year with the usual speeding up in training and social tempos.

OFFICERS' MESS

After our "cricket practice" against the Sergeants' Mess held during February when we were defeated by the narrow margin of 7 runs we decided to combine forces with the Sergeants and pit our skill against the Kelvin Grove team on the 30th March. The match was a most enjoyable event culminating in an exciting finish. With barely a few minutes to spare we managed to claim victory by 1 wicket—man, were those refreshments good!!!

At our March Mess Meeting a tape recording on Leadership qualities was gratefully received; this item of value being sent to the Mess by Col. John Simpson. Our sincere thanks to the Col. for this fine gesture.

The 20th April marked a great day for Capt Pat Tate. This was the day for the Regiment's Annual Church Parade held at St Andrews Presbyterian Church. After the parade Capt Tate was presented with the "John Chard Medal" for 12 years' service in the Citizen Force. Our sincere congratulations to you.

The evening of the 25th April saw the Mess gathered together at The Castle for the formal occasion of the 84th Regimental Birthday Dinner. The honorary guest for the evening was the newly appointed Officer Commanding of the Western Province Command, Brig. J. Fourie. An excellent dinner, a fine toast to the Regiment proposed by Maj van Hoogstraten, together with all the great traditions of the evening helped to make this a memorable occasion.

During June the following Cadet Officers were welcomed into the Mess: Cadet Officers Broek, Farr, Hough, Plane and Stokes. We wish them all a long and happy association with the Mess.

A quick delve into the Mess records revealed that a photograph of members was now long overdue. Arrangements were soon put in train for a photographer to attend the July meeting and as a result we are all now proud owners (some of us not so proud) of a photograph for the Family Album.

The officers, together with their good ladies, enjoyed a most pleasant evening on Friday, 8th August, having dinner at the Wynberg Officers' Mess, a show at a nearby local cinema and ending up at the 19th hole at the Regimental HQ.

During the period under review, Cadet Officer Marriner and Lieut Chambers proudly announced the arrival of additional members to their families while 2Lt Haylett and Lt Bedford gave up their rights to Bachelorhood during April and May respectively. Lt Williamson also comes into the news in that he received promotion to the rank of Lieutenant—well done and hearty congratulations to you all.

SERGEANTS' MESS

The first half of 1969 has seen some notable events in the Sergeants' Mess. One was the promotion to WO II of Sgts Allan van Blerk, Bob Warne and Paddy Pigden. There cannot be many regiments where that number of WO's had retired and been replaced all at once. The whole Sergeants' Mess wishes them every success for the future.

Another event was the inauguration of the new Sergeants' Mess premises. This was done in May and a large number of past WO's and Sergeants came forward to give the first party in the new mess. For the benefit of those who do not know the background to the establishment of a new mess, we wish to explain that the Regimental HQ was moved from The Castle in Cape Town to Wynberg Military Base in the suburb of Wynberg outside Cape Town. This necessitated setting up a new mess, the inauguration of which brings us to the reason for the party. The evening was most successful and an interesting point was that some of the past members were in the Sergeants' Mess over thirty years ago. Generally their view was that in spite of changing times, the spirit of the Sergeants' Mess remained excellent.

The Sergeants' Mess celebrated the Regiment's birthday with its traditional Mess dinner. This year it was held at the Master Marriners' Club. The evening was graced with the company of Comdt and Mrs. Albertyn, Major O'Brien, the 2 i/c, and the adjutant, Lieut Wahl and his lady. The responsible committee did a splendid job in planning the whole evening.

Following a Retreat Ceremony that the Regiment was asked to perform, it was arranged that there would be drinks after the parade. There were a number of past members of the Sergeants' Mess among the spectators. They were invited to the mess and quite spontaneously a most memorable evening developed.

Due to re-organisation of training, Citizen Force regiments only go to a training camp once every three years as a unit. The years in between, the leader group, officers, WO's and sergeants, go on courses. So far, over a period of about two months, things have been rather quiet at RHQ due to mem-

bers of the Mess going on courses at different times over that period.

In conclusion, as this journal has a world wide circulation, the Sergeants' Mess of the Cape Town Highlanders once again extends an invitation to any member of the Sergeants' Mess of the Gordon Highlanders who finds himself in the "fairest Cape" to contact Cape Town Highlanders Orderly Room. He will be made most welcome.

"HQ" COMPANY

The re-grouping of the company has been finalised and we congratulate Lt Mike Chambers on assuming duties of Company Commander (acting).

Being rather short on the officer list, we welcome to our ranks Cadet Officer L. Farr who takes over the job of anti-tank platoon leader, relieving Sgt Major Allan van Blerk, whose promotion makes him now CSM of the company. Congratulations Allan on your promotion to warrant rank.

Most of the admin side of the company has been re-organised with much re-shuffling of ranks. At present the company is without a CQMS and some of the junior NCO's are putting in much "overtime" learning new jobs. We hope to have the assistance of SSgt R. Castle on loan (no interest I hope) to us from "C" Company to help out with admin matters.

Kit inspection led to much "dipping into pockets" by many of the troops for items misplaced on their "fishing trips", etc. As always, "HQ" Company has the disadvantage of numerous country members who, due to their specialised training, cannot be posted out to our "out of town" company.

The CSM attended a Senior NCO's course, whilst Cadet Officer Tony Marriner completed and passed his I.S. training (rural areas).

The Company Commander wrote the theory paper of his promotion course and as yet awaits the results.

Congratulations to our IO Mike Weinstein, on his promotion to full lieutenant.

So, with admin and Q toping the list, visible signs of a more efficient office procedure, HQ Company is looking to the second half of the year for some light relief from its mainly admin role.

"A" COMPANY

Officer Postings:

- Coy Commander—Capt S. J. Burger.
- 2 IC—Lt A. Bedford.
- 1 Platoon—2Lt M. Allen.
- 2 Platoon—Lt W. Tooley.
- 3 Platoon—Cadet Officer B. Stokes.

A word of welcome is extended to our new company commander on his transfer from Bn HQ.

Congratulations are extended to: Lt Tony Bedford on his recent marriage to Miss Mildred Laubscher; Hans Broek, Nicholas Hough, Ian Plane and Brian Stokes on their selection as cadet officers, and to WO II Robert Warne on his recent promotion.

We are pleased to record that "A" Company together with "HQ" Company are to select a guard to do the Retreat Ceremony at the coming Military Tattoo to be held at Green Point Stadium.

"B" COMPANY

Officer Postings:

- Coy Commander—Capt M. Mayne.
- Coy 2 IC—Lt. J. Watson.
- 4 Platoon—Cadet Officer D. Graham.
- 5 Platoon—Cadet Officer N. N. J. Hough.
- 6 Platoon—Cadet Officer I. T. Plane.

Welcome and congratulations to N. N. J. Hough and I. T. Plane from "B" Company on their becoming cadet officers.

Members of "B" Company acquitted themselves well on the 21st March in the first Retreat Ceremony with the new Cape Town Highlanders Colours at Wynberg Military Base.

We wish Lieut C. Scheppening the best of luck for the future and take the opportunity of thanking him for his valuable assistance over the past six years.

"C" COMPANY

Field Dress was the order of the day on Saturday, 22nd February, when "C" Company paraded at Bellville for a Range Practice. The battle to hit those moving targets and "falling plates", the heat of the day, the balancing of the ammunition and the job of picking up the "doppies" afterwards all helped to make us tired yet more efficient soldiers. Hats off to the Quartermaster and his cooks for a splendid lunch and plenty of tea to wash down the dust.

Without very much time for rehearsal, "C" Company combined with "B" Company to form a Guard of Honour for a Retreat Ceremony on Friday, 21st March, at Wynberg Military Camp. Col Schmidt, 2nd in command of the Western Province Command took the salute, this being one of his last duties before a well earned retirement. It was the wish of the Officer Commanding Western Province Command that a Retreat Ceremony be performed once a month and the Cape Town Highlanders were accorded the honour of being the first Citizen Force unit to parade.

Sunday, 20th April, saw "C" Company in Church as part of the main contingent from the Regiment taking part in the Annual Church Parade. To prove it we even had our photograph displayed on the front page of the "Times" the following day.

During the month of May, eighteen new members to the Regiment were welcomed into the ranks of the company and we trust that their stay will be both a beneficial and a happy one.

On the 24th May an Administrative parade was held in order to sort out many kit and uniform problems and also to take individual photographs of each member for the records—quite a varied collection of faces that would make any psychologist happy!

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

At our April meeting we were privileged to have with us Group Captain Bale (ex R.A.F.), who gave us a most interesting insight into things behind the scenes, during and after the war.

Our guest speaker at the July meeting was Col McIntyre, of the South African Police, who gave a

very interesting talk about the Force. His anecdotes about the early days of his career, when communications in South Africa were largely undeveloped, were particularly interesting and amusing.

A very pleasant, informal function was held on board S.A.S. Unitie, at which a plaque of the Regimental Badge was presented to the Petty Officers' Mess on behalf of the Association in recognition of services rendered. Apparently the recipients were resolved to keep us in their debt, as, to our pleasant surprise, a plaque of S.A.S. Unitie was in turn presented to us. Cordial spirits were much in evidence and, although our committee members were not sure that they succeeded in discharging their debt of gratitude, they feel that the effort was a great success.

Dennis Lloyd has just returned from a long trip in the course of which he visited the United States, Canada, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore, amongst other places. While in Australia he saw Frank Erikson (ex Rhodesian Sergeant, FC/CTH) and Ken Westwood, who will be remembered by many. They send greetings and fond wishes to all.

Commandant Denzil Loveland met up with Neville Titterton at George recently. Neville had had a heart attack but is now much better. Commandant Sholto Douglas is fine and is living at Leisure Isle, Knysna. Lyell Williams at Port Elizabeth is making good progress.

Bill Sheppard (from Rhodesia) and Redvers Sweet (from Johannesburg) were in town recently and some of us were able to say "Hallo". They send greetings to all they were not able to meet.

OBITUARIES

Captain D. L. Middleton

The death occurred in the Hilton Hospital, Inverness, on 26th June, 1969, of Captain D. L. Middleton, aged 71 years.

During the First World War, he served with the 7th Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, and between the wars he commanded, for a time, "D" (Mearns) Company of the 5/7th Battalion.

Although earlier he farmed in the area of Fettercairn, he had been living near Nairn for many years.

Major John Ernest Tollemache

The death occurred in Farnham, Surrey, in July, 1969, of Major John Earnest Tollemache, aged 70 years.

Commissioned into the regiment in November, 1917, he served in France and Belgium until the end of the war.

He served between the wars and in the second World War saw service with 6th Battalion, 9 ITC, The London Scottish and after a time with the 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment. He retired in 1944.

Colonel John McAdam Cunningham, OBE, MC

The death occurred in Gullane in March, 1968, of Colonel John McAdam Cunningham at the age of 76 years.

Commissioned into the 1st Battalion he served in various appointments including that of adjutant on several occasions in France and in Belgium. Towards the end of the war he served on the staff, as a staff captain, and later in the appointment of DAQMG. He was awarded the Military Cross and was Mentioned in Despatches.

He served with the King's African Rifles from 1922 to 1926 and later from 1928 to 1934.

He was a keen cricketer and often played in the 1st Battalion side at Secunderabad (1926-27).

In 1935 he retired to the Regular Army reserve of Officers but was mobilised again in 1939 and held many important staff appointments throughout the war, finally being released in September, 1945.

For many years he was secretary of the Dumfriesshire TA Association.

Mr. William Irvine

The death occurred in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Foresterhill, of Mr. William Irvine, 6 Cummings Park Road, at the age of 69 years.

He was known to many Gordon Highlanders as Regimental Sergeant Major and, after 24 years service, as manager of the former Gordon Highlanders club in King Street.

Born in Ellon he joined the Depot at Castlehill in 1921 and served in Ireland, Gibraltar, Egypt and Singapore. He was RSM at the Depot 1941-42 and later at Combined Operations Headquarters in Ayrshire. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1953 in recognition of his Army Service.

William Irvine is survived by his wife, five sons and two daughters, to whom we extend our sympathy.

Mr. William R. Murdo

Mr. William R. Murdo, 87 years, who resided latterly at Rosewell Eventide Home, King's Gate, Aberdeen, died in hospital on 8th May, 1969.

Giving a false age, he joined for and served in, the Boer War with the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, and later served in India. His father bought him out in 1902, but when the First World War commenced, he immediately rejoined the Regiment, serving throughout in France in the 4th Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders.

Mr. George Morrison

Mr. George Morrison, 29 Cotton Street, Aberdeen, died suddenly at home on March 28th, 1969, aged 92 years. An old time regular soldier, he served throughout the South African War with the 2nd Battalion and later re-enlisted for service with the Regiment in the 1st World War. On leaving the Army he became a docker at Aberdeen and followed this calling until his retirement.

Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Clark, DSO, MC

There will be many Gordon Highlanders who will feel a great sense of loss at the passing of 'Sailor' Clark.

Sailor began his military career in the Royal Naval Division (hence his nickname) at the outbreak of World War I and was subsequently commissioned into the Regiment. He was essentially a regimental soldier and throughout most of his Army career served with the 1st Battalion, devoting himself to the efficiency and well being of all who served under him. On his retirement he lived in Aberdeen, where he took a keen interest in regimental affairs and also attended a regimental and Tuzla Club dinner in London recently.

Sailor was quiet and unassuming but with great strength of character and sound judgment. He remained calm and seemingly imperturbable in any situation however unpleasant and, in addition was blessed with a keen sense of humour.

That he was popular goes without saying but this popularity was not of his seeking. It stemmed from a realization that here was a man who understood people, who believed in fair play and who would do nothing mean.

Sailor went to France with the 1st Battalion in September, 1939 and shortly afterwards was given command of the 5/7th Battalion, an appointment which I have little doubt gave him great satisfaction and enabled him to achieve one of his main ambitions. He led the Battalion throughout the operations of the 51st Highland Division which ended at Saint Valery. To a person of his calibre, life in a German prisoner of war camp must have been one of frustration and disappointment. He must have realised that he was to be denied the opportunities that occur during active service but I never knew him to complain of his bad luck or to show any envy towards his more fortunate contemporaries. The award of the DSO bears witness to his courage and leadership and may have been some compensation to him. He had been awarded the Military Cross and Bar during World War I as well as being mentioned in despatches.

Those of us who were privileged to serve with Sailor Clark and to count him as a friend will remember with gratitude his quiet ways, his good companionship, loyalty and kindly humour.

Not long ago, I was told of someone who said, when asked to describe a friend's character, "He's six o'clock, straight up and down." When asked to enlarge on this statement, he repeated it, adding, "You can't go better than that."

It seems to me that, in this description, peculiar thought it may appear to be, there is something very apt and I have no doubt that, on reflection, many Gordon Highlanders who knew Sailor, will agree that he too was "Six o'clock, straight up and down." K.C.D.

Mr. John Still

Mr. John Still, a most colourful regimental character, died on the 7th May, 1969, at the age

of 89 years in hospital in Aberdeen. He served in the Boer War in the siege of Ladysmith, and re-enlisting for the 1st World War, served throughout with the Canadian Forces. In the Second World War he served in the Home Guard again wearing Gordon uniform; and had a fine row of Campaign Ribbons for all three wars.

He was very well known in the regimental area. He was a very kenspeckle character, and wore a Dress Gordon waistcoat, Balmoral Bonnet, and his medals at all military reunions held in the Aberdeen area. He was a member of both the British Legion and the Royal Canadian Legion.

Major William Bartlett Gordon, MC, TD

Bill Gordon's death in June will have been a great shock to his many friends and especially to his immediate contemporaries. Only a few outside his family circle knew that he had endured with great fortitude much suffering during the last two or three years. Throughout this period his primary thought was an unselfish consideration for his family. With his tremendous zest for life it must have taken a high degree of courage to quietly accept the inevitable.

Born at Huntly in 1912 he was commissioned into the 6th Gordons in 1934 and served with the 9th and 5/6th Battalions before transferring to the T.A.R.O. in 1952. In Burma as a Squadron Commander with the 9th Gordons, then designated the 116 Regiment (The Gordon Highlanders) RAC, he was awarded the Military Cross and twice mentioned in despatches.

In 1947 with the reforming of the Territorial Army Bill Gordon was given the opportunity of command with a heavy ack ack Regiment RA based on Huntly. He preferred to offer his services to the 5/6th Gordons as a Company Commander and together with a few other widely experienced officers and NCOs he laid the foundations for a very happy and most efficient Territorial Battalion.

Throughout his years of service to the Regiment Bill often gave the impression of being a brash devil-may-care type. This really belied a reticent nature, he was basically a shy indeed modest man but always a loyal, enthusiastic Gordon Highlander.

To his wife and daughter Susan and young James we extend our deepest sympathy.

MUSEUM

Mrs. A. Duguid of Auchlunies House presented the personal effects and papers of the late Capt Peter Duguid.

The late Lt Col J. Clark left his uniform and effects to the Museum.

Mrs. Mary Davidson presented the uniform of the late LCpl R. Davidson.

Mrs. Violet Straghan presented books and papers of her late husband, SSgt Malcolm Straghan, M.M.

Major "Hector" Macdonald presented his late father's dress uniforms. Captain James Macdonald.

Mr. J. R. Thorburn presented 1914-18 photograph collection of Sgt E. Fuller, M.M.

Mrs. C. Oldham presented a pictorial book of 2nd Bn in Cairo circa 1913.

MEDALS

Pte D. B. Thomson: Military Medal (Mr. H. Thomson).

Pte J. Leaa: Egypt Medal 1882 with clasps, "The Nile 1884-85", "El Teb Tamai", "Saukin 1884", "Tel El Kebir" (Dorchester Military Museum).

Pte H. Hamblin: Egypt Medal 1882 with clasps, "The Nile 1884-85", "El Teb Tamai", "Saukin 1884", "Tel El Kebir" and the Khedive Star (Mrs. J. P. Bozdean).

Pte A. Shewan: 1914 Star, 1914-18 General Service, Victory Medal (Mrs. Shewan).

Pte M. White: India Medal with clasps, "Relief of Chitral 1895", "Tirah 1897-98", "Punjab Frontier 1897-98", Queen's South Africa with clasps, "Transvaal", "Dreifontein", "Paardeberg, King's South Africa with clasps "1901, 1902", 1914 Star, General Service 1914-18, Victory Medal, Imperial Service Medal (Mr. D. M. White).

Lieut. H. S. Menzies: 1914 Star, General Service 1914-18, Victory Medal (Mrs. H. Stuart Menzies).

James Morris: 75th, Mutiny Medal with clasp "Delhi" (Mr. H. R. Harris).

CSgt A. Birnie: 1914 Star, General Service 1914-18, Victory Medal, Defence Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Mrs. A. Marnoch).
W.O. I. McLauchlan: D.C.M., 1914 Star, General Service 1914-18, Victory Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Sgt W. Fuller: M.M., General Service 1914-18, Victory Medal (Mr. J. R. Thorburn).

Capt Peter Duguid: 1914 Star, General Service 1914-18, Victory Medal, Special Constables Medal (Mrs. A. Duguid).

THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS' ASSOCIATION

All Gordon Highlanders, serving and retired, will be interested in the scope, aims, and function of the Association, which was instituted in 1930, and is administered by a body of Trustees from the Regular and Territorial Armies. The Association is a charitable organisation which deals with grants to deserving ex-Gordons and their families for the payment of rent, fuel and clothing. In addition it negotiates with the Army Benevolent Fund for the payment of supplementary (weekly) grants and major rehabilitation grants for ex-members of our Regiment and their families. On this account alone, over £1,000 has been obtained from the Army Benevolent Fund for disbursement this year.

The Association, as well as administering its own funds, is responsible for the administration of certain funds and trusts, which by their constitutions, can only be applied to certain categories of ex-Gordons and their dependants, e.g. "The Old Cottage Home Fund" for Boer War veterans—of which there are 7 known, including 2 "pre-Boer War" veterans of Dargai, 1897, "The 1939/45 War Memorial Fund," etc. The revenue from the Association, and kindred funds, is applied to the relief of all ex-Gordons, whether Regular, Militia, Volunteer, T.A., or National Service.

In supplement to the excellent work done in the field of job-finding by the Regular Forces Employment Association, assistance is given to all members looking for employment to place them in civilian life.

Much welfare and charitable work is done through the agencies of the Welfare Organisation, such as S.S.A.F.A. and the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, through their various branches in the U.K. and overseas, and grants have been made to ex-Gordons in such widely separate places as Canada, Dublin and Malta, as well as at home.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association is usually held in May at R.H.Q. in Aberdeen, and notices of meeting are sent out to the 1st Battalion, Depot and T.A. units; cost precludes the despatch of balance sheets and reports to individual members, but these may be had, on request, by any Life Member.

Membership (as at 31st December, 1968)

	1967	1968
Life Members	3,017	3,065
Paying Members	541	549
Totals	3,558	3,614

The Gordon Highlanders' Benevolent Funds:—

	1967	1968
(a) Charitable cases investigated	160	138
(b) Grants given	136	129

In addition to the above many cases not involving actual financial assistance were dealt with,

such as pension, accommodation and rental queries, etc. Grants of over £100 have been received from other Corps and Regiments in respect of ex-Gordons who have dual service in our Regiment, and others. These grants have been disbursed through the Association or directly by the Corps and Regimental Associations concerned.

Great help has been received through the many social service organisations, The British Legion, The Earl Haig Fund, The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, S.S.A.F.A. and War Pensions Welfare Officers throughout the country.

Relief:—Relief from the various Regimental Funds amounted to £801/8/- sub-allocated as follows:—

	1967	1968
Payments for rent/rates/light/fuel	£312 17 9	£247 14 3
Purchase of clothing and footwear	201 10 0	230 0 3
Purchase of bedding and other necessities ...	352 5 0	323 13 6
Total Regimental Benevolence	£866 12 9	£801 8 0

In addition, Army Benevolent Fund Grants were obtained, and disbursed, as follows:—

1967, 2 supplementary grants	£100 0 0	
1968, 11 supplementary grants		£374 15 0
1968, 3 major rehabilitation grants		230 0 0
Total A.B.F. grants	£100 0 0	£604 15 0
Grand Totals (Regimental plus A.B.F. grants)	£966 12 9	£1,406 3 0

INCOME:—

Sources of Income are as follows:—

(a) *Interest on Investments.* Unfortunately many of these are Government Stocks of low yields (originally bequests) and of low capitalisation realisation value. Higher interest stocks are being purchased by the Trustees as the earlier investments fall due for redemption.

Direct Grant from the 1st Battalion.

The Day's Pay Scheme: Applicable to O.R.s of the Regular Army, which forms the main head of income.

Membership Dues:—

Life Membership—Officers £5
O.R.s £2/2/-

Sundry donations, income tax recovered from Dividends, and from Deeds of Covenant.

EXPENDITURE:—**Our main heads of Expenditure are as follows:—**

Donations and Grants to ex-Gordon Highlanders and their dependants.

Donations to Service Charitable Organisations and Homes, such as Whitefoord House, Rosendale, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Erskine Hospital, etc. In all, we have 26 residents at these homes and Christmas Cards and small donations are sent to all ex-Gordon residents yearly. In addition a donation is also given to the Scottish National Institution for the War Blinded in respect of our in-patients at Linburn and the "after-care" patients, all of whom have been visited by Association representatives, in their own homes, during the year.

Administrative Expenses:

These are minimal, but include items such as stationery, printing auditor's fees, heating and lighting, and small honoraria paid to the Honorary Secretary and his assistant, both of whom give their services on an honorary basis.

Day's Pay Scheme:

This is the main source of income, and payees in 1968 were 373, compared to 322 in 1967. Our aim is for all Regular O.R.s to become payees during their service.

Officers who have not already done so, are invited to donate a day's pay annually by Bankers' order, which, if linked to a "Deed of Covenant" permits the Association, as a charity to reclaim the income tax, in addition to the subscription, at no extra cost to the donor. Full details of this scheme may be had on application to the Honorary Secretary.

General:

The Association keeps in close contact with local Regimental Associations, and Battalion Associations, such as the 5/7th Association, etc., and any case requiring action by the main association should be brought to the notice of the Honorary Secretary by the local/Battalion Association concerned.

It is intended to write these notes annually, but in rather less detail than the present issue, which has been necessitated by the fact that no Association notes have been published for some years.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Office: Regimental Headquarters, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen, AB1 7XH. Tel. 33387.

Names and Addresses of Branch Secretaries

LONDON: Mr. J. Kean, M.B.E., 19 Colenorton Crescent, Eton Wick, Windsor, Berks.

EDINBURGH (CLUB): Major W. Leslie, T.D., W.S., 45 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh, 7.

GLASGOW: Mr. E. Meighan, 15 Ashley Street, Glasgow, C.3.

HAWICK: Mr. T. S. Aitchison, C.A., 7 and 11 High Street, Hawick, Roxburghshire.

PERTH: Mr. J. Watson, 49 Kingswell Terrace, Perth.

NOTTINGHAM: Mr. L. Howlett, 12 Grace Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham.

Names and Addresses of Battalion Secretaries

5/7th Bn: Mr. J. McIntosh, M.B.E., M.C., 246 Hilton Drive, Aberdeen.

8th Bn (100th Anti Tank): Mr. J. McKay, 207 Garthdee Road, Aberdeen.

9th Bn (16th R.A.C.): Lt Col Matthew Robb, T.D., Royal Bank of Scotland, Turriff, Aberdeenshire.

1/4th Gordons (1914/18) Assoc.: Mr. W. Philip, 10 Westholme Avenue, Aberdeen.



GORDON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION—HAWICK BRANCH.

Standing—Capt A. T. Goddard, 2nd Bn (R.A.); R. B. Anderson, MC, TD, 1st Bn; John Purves, 2nd Bn; W. Milne, 1st Bn; C. W. H. Hutcheson, 1st Bn London Scottish; George Middlemass, Guest; R. Armstrong, Guest; Dr. Andrew Simpson, Guest; D. Gibb, Guest; H. A. Aitchison, 5/7 Bn; F. P. Neave, 4/5 Bn; A. Richardson, Guest; Major David Ord, MBE, TD, 1st Bn London Scottish; J. Grierson, 11th Bn; John J. Welch, CA, JP, Guest; T. S. Aitchison, 1st Bn London Scottish. Seated—A. Aitken, 6th Bn; The Rev. Ewen G. S. Traill, MC, 1st Bn; Lt General Sir George Gordon-Lennox, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO; LtCol A. T. Curle, DSO, OBE; Lt Col H. I. Bradshaw; J. Hume, 1st Bn London Scottish.

2/4th Gordons (1914/18) Assoc.: Mr. G. D. Farquharson, 22 Raeden Avenue, Aberdeen.
6th Bn: Major James C. Williamson, M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., 11 Bayview Road, Aberdeen.

HAWICK BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of this Branch was held in the Victoria Hotel, Hawick, on 22nd March, 1969, under the Chairmanship of Lt Col A. T. Curle, D.S.O., O.B.E.

This was a particularly memorable function for members since we were greatly honoured by the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, Lt General Sir George C. Gordon-Lennox, K.B.E., C.B., C.V.O., D.S.O., who proposed the Toast of The Regiment.

The versatility of the Branch was fully demonstrated to our Colonel who commented on the wealth of talent at our disposal after hearing John Purves give several selections on his pipes, after Mr. Bert Armstrong and Mr. David Gibb had contributed songs with Mr. John J. Welch at the piano, after hearing Dr. Andrew Simpson and Mr. R. B. Anderson as raconteurs, and after hearing Mr. H. A. Aitchison talk on the uses to which a piano can be put and demonstration of the ease with which it can be stripped and re-assembled.

The Toast of Absent Comrades was proposed by the Rev. Ewen G. S. Traill, M.C., and the programme concluded with Mr. J. Grierson proposing the Vote of Thanks.

LONDON BRANCH

Since our last notes three of our committee members attended the Reunion at Aberdeen, Lt Col R. G. Lees, M.B.E., Capt W. Reith and Mr. W. Kean, M.B.E. We met many old friends and although it rained the whole week-end it was a very enjoyable time for all and we were made very welcome. The Secretary paid visits to the Regimental Headquarters and Museum, the Highland Brigade Depot and the 3rd Bn Drill Hall and was made most welcome.

Our A.G.M. was held at the London Scottish H.Q. on 12th June for the election of officers. It was very disappointing that so few members attended. We have at present in the Star and Garter home ex-CSgt Hoad and in Tolworth Hospital ex-LCpl Coutts, both ex-2nd Bn who are visited periodically by our Welfare Officer Ian Rodger, and in Royal Hospital, Chelsea, ex-RSM Alec Noble. We continue to help our members who are in need and would like any information of any member in the London area who has not already been brought to our notice.

The Annual Reunion will take place in The London Scottish H.Q. on Friday, 7th November. All ex-Gordons are welcome. We take this opportunity to thank the London Scottish for their hospitality.

Arrangements have already been made for the Remembrance Plot at Westminster Abbey to be laid out for Sunday, 9th November, and our representatives will be pleased to meet anyone there at 3 p.m. on that day.

NOTTINGHAM AND MIDLANDS BRANCH

Once again it is my pleasant duty to relate the activities in Nottingham and Midlands Branch areas over the past few months.

At the Annual General Meeting held in March the following officers were elected: President—Lt Col R. G. Lees, M.B.E.; Vice-President and Vice-Chairman—Mr. S. A. Marshall; Chairman—Mr. E. Matthews; Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. L. K. Howlett, the Committee being Messrs. I. McLeod, A. Smith, A. Harris, T. Salmon. Our thanks are due to all retiring officials especially Mr. S. A. Marshall, for all the hard work put in over the past year, and extend our very best wishes to those who have taken over.

We are very pleased to welcome to branch membership the following:

Mr. W. G. Lowe, who enlisted in the Regiment in 1907, he went to France with the 1st Battalion and was in action with "B" Coy at Mons, leaving for India in 1916 for duty with a Garrison Regiment, he returned to the Depot in 1919, saw service with the 2nd Battalion and then transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps, with whom he served until retiring in 1957 with the rank of Paymaster.

Mr. G. Smith, who served with the 1st Bn at Aldershot and went to France with the Regiment, being captured at St. Valery.

Mr. J. Hart ex 1st Bn The London Scottish, eventually ended his service with the 2nd Bn.

Mr. J. Taylor, ex 5/7 Bn served with the battalion prior to and throughout the war.

All these members wish to be remembered to any who may recall serving with them at any time.

The social programme is now being hotted up as it were. We have a Saturday Social Evening arranged for September, October, November and St. Andrew's night, in addition to our annual reunion which is to be held on November 1st. We are hoping that our President Lt Col R. G. Lees, M.B.E., will be able to be with us, also the Regimental Secretary Lt Col G. R. Elsmie, O.B.E. We would welcome any ex Gordons who might like to be with us on this night, a line to the Secretary, Mr. L. K. Howlett, 12 Grace Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, will get any information required.

Mr. A. Ferguson, who was recently at the Edinburgh Branch Club, is still active with the piping side of our activities, he has been trying to persuade ex Piper Dave Selby who recently left the Regiment to take up piping again with us.

Our Chairman, Eddie Matthews, is beginning to run short of stories and sun tan, in May last he was in North Africa again with the Well Drillers doing his annual camp with the TAVR.

I think that about finishes our news for this time, so to all Gordons everywhere, past and present, all the very best from the Midlands Branch.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

SCOTTISH NORTH EASTERN AREA (THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS) CADETS

Area Headquarters

Spring, if a dreary succession of pouring wet days is allowed to count, saw the Recce party, under the Commandant, viewing Ballykinlar Camp, and hatching plots for treks in the mountains of Mourne to the accompaniment of a plethora of advice from elderly Gordons who had been there in the Middle Ages.

As it transpired this long journey was all to no avail as Mr. Denis Healey decided to put a Regular Battalion into this camp during the emergency, causing us to camp elsewhere; of this more anon.

A Part II exam showed little wrong with the general training standards when Maj Ian Fleming and his team failed only three entrants from the area. The Best Cadet Competition took place in a steady downpour and everyone involved got exceedingly wet, including Mr. Price and the Army Youth Team who were in support. One wag suggested that perhaps Ark Building should have been included among the initiative tests. However, luckily, our Cadets, who had after last year's camp become web footed survived and all completed the course.

Cadets would have drowned, this year we had tropical heat with rain only once and then at night. There is little doubt that a combination of good food, good weather, a very varied and hard programme, together with the close proximity of the sea, made this camp the best ever. (At least in the last ten years.) The weather continued day after day unrelenting, hot, hotter than most Cadets and many adults had ever experienced, and the shallow waters of the North Sea, reached after a short scramble down the crumbling cliffs, were constantly alive with bodies.

Orienteering, organised by Mr. Price, featured largely in the early part of the programme and the Cadets enjoyed the challenge set them. However it was in the construction of an Assault Course that really earned the Army Youth Team undying gratitude and fame. This course became the focal point of the Cadets life and even late at night as they wended their weary way home, they could not pass by without a further dash round. The Inter Battalion Assault Course Competition was one of the highlights of the camp; the evening air being rent by the shouts of derision and or encouragement.

Major Ian Fleming had his hands full running, what, to him must have seemed, an unending series



SNEA (Gordons) ACF Adults and Senior Cadets, Hornsea Camp, 1969.

In the field of sport we were beaten by Perth ACF in the first round of the Scottish ACF Football Cup, but as this was a virgin effort no one was at all disheartened.

Then came word that the camp in Ireland was cancelled. The Staff Officer Cadets, having recovered from a resultant short stay in the looney bin, settled down to wait until we were told where we were to camp. The answer came swiftly—Rowlston. Everyone set to work with atlas and gazetteer to find this inconspicuous place. A recce party left with all speed and their report was encouraging.

In the event it turned out to be a case of from the ridiculous to the sublime. Having suffered a soaking camp last year, when had it not been for the fact that the human skin is waterproof many

of adult cadres and night exercises. Almost without exception every adult attended part if not all of a cadre. Even the luckless PMC was dragged out on the night patrol exercise; an experience which we are led to believe will not be forgotten for many a day. This patrol exercise was the climax of the cadre, adults tackling the difficult tasks set them with a willingness which showed their total ignorance of what was likely to happen, and did. However everyone is now returned to their platoons with practical knowledge of the problems involved. Far less sophisticated night exercises were run for the younger Cadets, who, although they learned very little, did give the young Sergeant Instructors the opportunity to learn something of the difficulties experienced by section commanders in the field.

Never in the course of ten camps have the Padres Platoon been so heavily employed. In the canteen Rev. John Dickson, ably assisted by Rev. Roddy Macdonald, sweated in the stygian darkness in conditions which rivalled the "Black Hole of Calcutta" serving the ever clamorous population at the Cadets Canteen.



THE TAWSE TROPHY
(Bronze Statuette of a Gordon Highlander).

Marne Platoon (Ellon) who won the trophy jointly with Delhi Platoon (Dufftown) at this year's ACF Wapinschaw at Black Dog.

Sport loomed largely upon the programme and despite the havoc caused by the continual heat, matches were carried out in the evenings and believe it or not before breakfast. One such event was the football match between the Cadets and the WOs and Sgts Mess which developed into an unseemly brawl when the Sgts discovered that some twenty-five cadets had been infiltrated on to the pitch. SMI Thomson, having been rightly sent off and tied to a convenient lamp post, the game ended with the immersion of the luckless referee in a nearby static tank. We take off our hats to the referee for his sporting acceptance of this totally unwarranted attack.

During the second week three assault boats were acquired from East Riding ACF and having been lowered down the cliffs, were used to teach watermanship. Those trying to give instruction in the art were hampered by the thrashing mob of swimmers who were drawn to the boats like iron filings to a magnet. However in due course paddling was commenced and the boats crawled about the sea giving the impression of inebriated water beetles making a night of it. The climax of the sport came when efforts were made to hoist the boats up the cliff. Success was eventually achieved with two boats but the third, evidently imbued with the ideas expressed in the song "We Shall Not be Moved" proved too much for the by now exhausted heavers. In the end rather than haul the boats up the cliff it was decided to paddle them the two miles to the slipway at Hornsea. And a fine sight it made as they set sail. 2Lt Price with a scratch crew of cadets gave a startling impression of a Roman galley in full flight, and his voice aided by a paddle which he thumped on the floor could be heard singing out the time: In-Out as the boat disappeared with rapidity towards the distant shores of Norway.

All in all a near perfect camp.

As we go to print, we should mention that the area has just successfully undertaken, for the first time, the job of stewarding at the Braemar Gathering. This was a considerable task for us as everyone had to be kitted from Glengarry to Brogues (items which are not issued) as Gordon Highlanders.

Major Fleming returned from his duties at the Edinburgh Tattoo for the preparations and briefing. The whole operation (on Saturday, September 6th) going without a hitch.

Many have been the compliments received by the Commandant praising the efficient, courteous and smart manner in which our kilted warriors performed their duties as Junior Gordon Highlanders.

Officers' Mess—Rowlston Camp, Hornsea

Since the absence of a weekend training centre in our area makes it impossible to have normal Officers' Mess facilities, it is all the more appreciated when at Annual Camp for a time, we have a temporary home.

From 12th to 25th July, 1969, Rowlston Camp provided us with very adequate accommodation for our 31 dining in members.

The first important function arranged by Major Jim Kyles (PMC) was the official cocktail party on Friday, 18th July. Thus we were able to offer hospitality to the many people in the Hornsea area who had welcomed and assisted us in many ways. No rest for the PMC, because next day, Saturday, after the Guard Mounting Competition and the official photographs had been taken, the Mess entertained the members of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess to pre lunch drinks. Both functions were voted successes.

During our stay we had much pleasure in welcoming our Honorary Colonel, John Nicol of Ballochie and Wing Commander Laing, Deputy secretary T & AVR, Highland District.

The Mess owes a debt of gratitude to SMI Frank Geddes, our Mess Steward, and to SMI Harry Gordon, our chef, both of whom did so much towards the smooth running of the Mess.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess—Rowlston Camp, Hornsea

The Mess once again opened up with a flourish, with a big change round of accommodation after the take over from the Argyll Cadets from Stirling. This change over would have warmed the heart of many a "Jock" as the three regular Sergeants, namely Charman, Philip and Grant, got their shirts off to do the change over of arrangements.

The jollification during the first week was centred around the antics of SMI Thomson (Aboyne) and SMI McAllister (The Craw) from Turriff. On the Thursday night of the first week, the Mess opened its doors to the locals and an excellent social evening developed. The Hornsea Ex Servicemens Club, as a result of the Social, made all our Mess members Honorary members of their club for the duration of our stay at Rowlston.

The weekend after the social evening the Mess became reminiscent of 'Slim Dusty's' "Pub with no Beer." Many of the Mess members now know what it feels like to have signed the pledge. Lime and lemonade or orange was the dismal cry of the barman.

The usual inter-mess visits between the Officers and Sergeants Messes took place with much leg pulling and shop talk on either side, especially as the alcohol took its menacing effect.

During our stay at Annual Camp the Mess started a new system whereby the privilege of dining in the Mess was extended to the Cadet RSM, RSM J. Leel (Strichen).

1st (CITY OF ABERDEEN) BATTALION

Battalion Headquarters

Another training season has gone by and we have just completed a very successful Annual Camp.

We were able to get out of the city for training a great deal more this season. In snowy April we spent two full days with 22 CTT on the shores of Loch Muich and the lower slopes of Lochnagar, returning to the sauna-like showers at Victoria Barracks, Ballater, to thaw out at the end of it.

We welcome into the Battalion Captains Alan Simpson and Tom Bruce, both from 3rd Gordons. Unfortunately AAI Alex Thom is in Woodend Hospital at the moment and we wish him a speedy recovery.

2nd (ABERDEENSHIRE) BATTALION

Battalion Headquarters

On the evening of the 17th May a mixed company of adults sat down to dinner in a hotel in Mintlaw. This was the adult instructors' way of thanking their wives and girl friends for their understanding in allowing their menfolk to attend cadet training nights week after week, month after month, without a cross word.

Our new chaplain, the Reverend Roderick MacDonald, has started his tour of the platoons and created a lot of new friends. We are sure we will be seeing a lot more of him on training nights.

We have just returned from our Annual Camp at a lovely place called Hornsea on the East coast of Yorkshire, and everyone says that without doubt it has been the best camp for years.

For the first time since its origin, we have lost the Guard Mounting Cup to the 3rd Bn, being beaten into second place but by no means disgraced.

We were fortunate in winning the cup for the Assault Course race with a team of really small lads but with plenty of guts.

3rd (BANFFSHIRE) BATTALION

Battalion Headquarters

The Battalion carried out a Duke of Edinburgh's Expedition in the Cairngorms from 21st June until 1st July, 1969.

Ten boys took part, with six competing for the silver award and four for the gold. The trek was 30 miles for the silver and 50 miles for the gold over some of the most rugged country in the Highlands. Though very tired and weary they all completed the expedition and have passed this test for their awards.

Gold Awards: CSM G. Sutherland, CSgt C. Munro, Sgt W. Murray and LCpl J. Rae.

Silver Awards: CSgt G. Nicol, Cpl L. Bowie, Cpl F. Mitchell, LCpl D. Rae, Cpl W. Stronger and Cpl A. Smith.

We appreciate the valuable assistance given by Sgt R. Philip, 1st Gordons, during this weekend.

In closing it must be mentioned that the cheerful face of the Mess President, Paddy Sutherland (Portsoy), was missing on quite a few occasions owing to his 'Rummy-Tummy.' We all hope that he has now got over this and is living life to the full once again.

Annual camp was the highlight of the year's training and with the lovely weather in Yorkshire and a most attractive training programme, everybody came back with happy memories of this year's camp.

The 3rd Battalion won the Guard Mounting Competition and we congratulate all those who took part.

4th (KINCARDINESHIRE) BATTALION

Battalion Headquarters

Always keen to try anything new on training weekends, we started the season with an Adventure weekend at Balmedie beach, where forty cadets and adults spent a most interesting, enjoyable and 'new style' weekend. This consisted of initiative tests, sport and compass bearing races. The two mile run on the beach on Sunday morning in PT kit, before breakfast, wakened up everyone and gave them a good appetite.

Everyone was looking forward to Annual Camp in Ireland, but despite cancellation of this, we had an excellent camp and first class weather at Rowleston Camp in Yorkshire. A very hectic and strenuous programme kept everyone exceptionally busy and the heat was terrific at times but nevertheless two Cadet teams from the Battalion were second and third in the Assault Course Race.

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY CONTINGENT

The Officers' Training Corps

Commanding Officer: Lt Col P. E. G. Mitchell, RAMC.
Training Officer: Major J. R. Buchanan, MBE, King's.
Administrative Officer: Capt S. J. McGrath, Gordons.
RSM: WO1 A. M. C. Armitage, Scots Guards.
Infantry PSI: A/CSM W. Joss, Gordons.

Although members of the University served in the Old Aberdeen Volunteers raised to meet the French menace at the beginning of the nineteenth century, the association of the University with The Gordon Highlanders dates from 1897, when a detachment of the 1st Volunteer Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders was recruited exclusively from the student body and became the University Company.

With the reorganisation of the Territorial Army and the formation of the Officers' Training Corps, under the Haldane reforms of 1903, the 1st Volunteer Battalion was retitled 4th Battalion, The Gordon Highlanders, but 'U' Company continued to be recruited from the University. In 1914, on the outbreak of war, the company was mobilised and in early 1915 went to France, probably the only University combatant unit to proceed overseas in the First World War.

In France their record was magnificent, however, at the battle of Hooge, where they distinguished themselves, their casualties were very high. Their valour could not justify a policy which allowed so many potential leaders to serve in the ranks of a combatant unit.

The original OTC was a medical unit. Despite many requests, applications to form an infantry unit were rejected by the War Office on the grounds that this would interfere with recruitment for 'U' Company. However, in 1924 this authority was granted and, most important, the unit was authorised to wear Gordon Tartan. In 1925 the original Medical Unit successfully petitioned the Military Education Committee for permission to wear Gordon Tartan, like the newly formed infantry unit.

The Pipe Band was instituted during Session 1924-25, and since then has been one of the most popular features of the contingent; with the kind permission of the Officers Commanding the Depot, The Gordon Highlanders, the Regimental Pipe Majors and drumming instructors have been made available to give tuition to the members of the Band.

During World War II the University OTC fulfilled many roles; providing initially training resources for TA Reservists, Selection Boards for potential officers and later providing a Home Guard Company which ultimately expanded into a Battalion.

The OTC Today

- The OTC now has three main roles. They are:—
1. To provide a practical link between Service thought and the universities, thereby fostering interest in the Military affairs of the nation and particularly of Defence Policy.
 2. To provide pre service training for undergraduates who are considering joining the Regular Army.
 3. To provide pre service training for candidates for commissions in the TAVR and in the Cadet Forces.

Training 1968/69

Surprisingly enough with all the newspaper talk of student unrest, albeit not in Scotland, recruiting for the OTC during the year has been remarkably good. In all, some 43 new officer cadets enlisted and the majority have become good attenders. The average strength of the unit has been over 120 with up to 80 turning up for evening training and between 40 and 50 at weekends.

During the autumn term the accent was on preparing for the Armistice Day Parade and on training the recruits. For Armistice Day 85 Officer cadets paraded and the salute was taken by Colonel T. B. Lamb, OBE, the then Highland Brigade Colonel.

For the seniors two study periods were held, one dealing with Internal Security and the other with amphibious operations. These were most successful and encouraged lively discussion amongst the students whose varying points of view frequently clashed with those of the DS.

The Spring Term was disappointing largely due to a very severe winter which curtailed training considerably. We were, however, able to run a Sapper Water Point exercise at Drumoak on the Dee, an Infantry/Medical exercise at night on Black Do and thanks to the co-operation of the Scottish Infantry Depot, the WRAC had a splendid weekend cooking the meals for the recruits at Gordon Barracks.

During the Spring vacation some 48 members of the unit attended arduous training at Rothiemurchus in the Cairngorms. Here skiers and hill walkers under Captain Mike Hewitt and Lieutenant Robbie Ewen were able to take good advantage of some fine weather.

Rothiemurchus was followed by a week's Cert 'B' course at which 11 officer cadets achieved passes in the Part 1 examination.

During the summer term training has mainly been directed at classifying the unit and in preparation for Annual Camp. Yet again owing to bad weather we were unable to get as much range practice as we would have liked, it was, however, possible to classify all those attending Annual Camp in order that they might qualify for bounty.

Shooting

At the Aberdeen Wapinschaw the unit fared well. In the King George V Cup JUO MacDonald was placed in the shoot off for the final 12 places whilst 2Lt Kock Shearer did well to take third place in the SMG. The climax of the meeting for the OTC was the final of the Falling Plates competition in which we beat 'D' Gordon Company, 51st Highland Volunteers, in the fastest time of the day. It was in fact the first win for the OTC in this event since the trophy was presented in 1934.

Pipe Band

This has been a great year for the Pipe Band. Under the leadership of OCdt Pipe Major Bill Fraser and Pipe Sgt Willie Donaldson the standard of piping has improved beyond all measure. In particular the Band has had great success in competitions. In the North of Scotland Quartettes held at Bucksburn in March we took 3rd place out of some 25 bands competing, only one mark separating us from the leaders, Invergordon. In the Inter-University Competitions the band took first place by an unprecedented margin of 8½ points whilst in the individuals P/M Fraser took first place in the Open Piping and Pibroch. These achievements were closely followed by a win and fourth place by the 'A' and 'B' teams in the Quartettes at the Inverness Festival.

Annual Camp

Annual camp this year was held during the first fortnight of July at headquarters, The Army School of Transport; the aim being to show the Officer Cadets as much of the Army and its equipment as possible. In this respect the location was ideal for we were able to make the best use of visits too, and training with, Regular Army schools and units.

For the Infantry, 2 Para arranged an excellent demonstration of use of Airborne Forces and Support Company weapons. This covered watching an air drop of several sticks of parachutists from Hercules Aircraft, 81mm Mortar crash action, use of Wombats, GPMG in the sustained fire role and the vigilant. In addition all Officer Cadets were able to fly in a Sioux helicopter; for many their first experience of chopper travel.

During camp the unit was visited on the ranges at the Rifle Meeting by the GOC Scotland, Lieutenant General Sir Derek Lang, KCB, DSO, MC, and on the final exercise by Brigadier J. C. Monteith, CBE, MC, Commander Highland Area. This exercise involved the rescue of a captured Brigadier and practised the unit in Beach Recce, Watermanship, Patrols and Ambushes and evacuation of casualties. The Brigadier kindly elected to act the part and we were treated to the delightful spectacle of our commander doing a mile run, cross country, on his release.

Finally our two weeks camp was concluded. After packing up we left Longmoor in fine style on

the Army's own railway which links with the Southern Region at Liss.

And so, after a successful camp, back to Aberdeen.

COMBINED CADET FORCE ROBERT GORDON'S COLLEGE CONTINGENT

For the contingent, 1968/69 was a successful year culminating in a good camp at Cultybraggan. Combining with the Aberdeen Grammar School for training purposes there was an endeavour to make the programme more adventurous.

For Senior Cadets the highlight was a visit to Glencoe where, from a midge infested camp site the cadets attacked some very major "Munroes." Bidean Nam Bean was exceptionally heavy going in weather conditions which were rough in the morning but by afternoon cleared to give us a fine climb on Buchaille Etive Beag. On the following day we claimed the other Shepherd of Etive which rounded off a very successful, arduous trip. The juniors were by no means idle over this period as they trekked, with an overnight bivvy, from Cultybraggan to Callander via Ben Vorlich.

At Loch Earn the contingent enjoyed a day of watersmanship under the direction of the Royal Engineers. The OC, Capt Collins, and Lt Gordon attempted to find an eastward passage by canoe from Comrie to Forteviot. The Earn proved to be too much of a challenge and because of many overturnings and ripping of canvas the recce was abandoned at Kinkell Bridge.

There was the traditional night exercise on the hills above the camp, a day on the range at Dunblane and on the Friday an educational excursion to Stirling Castle.

The Summer term in School is hectic. Events in the CCF along with other school activities concertina into the month of June. Among these events was the Proficiency Examination which resulted in a marked improvement over the previous year's efforts. Eighteen of the nineteen candidates who sat the examination were successful.

Field day was held in ideal conditions at the Black Dog ranges where over seventy cadets classified in their range course.

The inspection, by Lt Col B. M. Hamilton, MBE, took place at Seafield. This was a departure from the traditional inspection at the college. The contingent paraded with ceremony at the sports field where the combined pipe bands of the Grammar School and ourselves added colour to the occasion. Following the inspection and march past, the platoons demonstrated various aspects of training. Tel-el-Kebir bordered on the spectacular by abseiling down the pavilion clock tower, near which another section (by coincidence) were practising first aid. Alamein presented a section in attack while Waterloo platoon performed a competition including compass bearings and judging distance.

There are still good reports coming from Wellbeck and Sandhurst where a number of our former cadets are engaged in their service careers.

We are looking forward to next session when we will spread our wings over new territories. In addition to normal training we are to introduce canoe building to the senior cadets. A team from the contingent will take part in a sports day in September with the ACF.

We are indebted to a number of helpers throughout the session—in particular Major Flem-

ing and the Cadet Training Team, Lt Col Mann, RAMC, and members of Aberdeen University OTC, and it is perhaps partly because of their efforts that the contingent is in good heart.

COMBINED CADET FORCE ABERDEEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL CONTINGENT

The (Aberdeen Grammar School) CCF Army Section participated in two very enjoyable camps in 1969. The first was held during the first week of the Easter break where a series of interesting and energetic exercises was carried out using TAC Kingussie as a firm base. This period of arduous training included hill walking, mountaineering and a little skiing as well as normal training and a dozen senior boys from both sections (Army and RAF) took part, as well as the contingent officers. There was a big improvement in the facilities since last year; better cooking arrangements, installation of showers, provision of framed beds and a TV set, all of which was much appreciated by both officers and boys. The accommodation was somewhat more crowded than usual since the hall had been booked by Battersea CCF and a company of junior soldiers from the Fusiliers. However we took it philosophically—it was arduous training after all.

In July we spent a very full and interesting week in a combined camp with Robert Gordon's College CCF Army Section, carrying out a varied programme arranged by the officers of both contingents working in conjunction. This included a trek along Glen Artney to Ben Vorlich, followed by a night spent in bivouacs and a day's watersmanship on Loch Earn; a new venture for most of the cadets and at least one of the officers. This was



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thoroughly enjoyed by all, even those who got more than their feet wet.

The Officers of the RGC contingent all took the opportunity of sampling a life on the ocean wave in the form of an interesting exploratory trip down the River Earn in a canoe.

A party of eight senior cadets were able to visit 1 Gordons and the Greys in June by travelling out on the excellently organised party by Major Frank Dodds of the Greys Regimental Headquarters. They have written the following brief account of the visit.

GERMANY 1969

The first part of our journey, from Aberdeen to Edinburgh, was quite enjoyable. We had the pleasure of the company of a police special constable who took our money at cards and showed us one or two 'police' self defence holds.

There were eight of us in all and we were a happy crowd when we met with Captain Duncan and his party of Scots Greys cadets. When we realised that no provision had been made for overnight travel we were quite annoyed but soon adapted ourselves to travelling eight to a compartment. LCpl Dey managed to keep everyone awake until they were past the point of sleep and then he conveniently stretched out and went to sleep. I need not say much more about the journey, suffice it to say that the excellent accommodation and service which we had at Motel Brabant was the best I have ever experienced. The idea of travelling through Belgium, Holland and Germany by coach was an excellent one, as we came into contact with the different countries and their people much more than we would have done had we gone by train.

The barracks at Fallingbommel were not as good as those of the Gordon Highlanders at Minden but the NAAFI canteen was certainly as good as the one in Minden. Our table football team combined natural skill with sobriety, the Scots Greys lacked the latter, and took all comers. We were allowed into Fallingbommel every night if we wanted to and we soon got the hang of things. There was a shortage of German girls and we soon realised that we should not pass up any chances.

The Scots Greys did, however, lay on quite a lot for us. We watched a demonstration of a tank battle and we were able to look over, at close quarters, their Centurions, Stalwarts and their armoured cars. They arranged lots of competitions for us, five-a-side football, basketball, hockey, crab football, murder ball and an assault course competition. The Gordon Highlanders detachment, Aberdeen Grammar School CCF got through to the quarter finals of the football competition and they swept the boards in all the other events. Apart from murder ball, where we won by something like thirty touchdowns, the assault course was our most convincing win. For this we each received

5DM. Our stay coincided with both regiment's Waterloo Celebrations and we were most impressed by the way the officers of the regiment took part in everything.

At last the great day which we had all waited for arrived; our visit to 1 Gordons. It was rumoured that our transport was to be an APC. However on the day a three tonner arrived and drove us to Minden. Our stay at Minden was by far the most enjoyable 3 days of the trip. The food was much better and we all appreciated the change. Throughout our stay a very helpful corporal and lance corporal were in charge of us. We saw all the Gordon Highlanders' weapons, including Wombat, Carl Gustav, etc., and the vehicles and we all had a go at driving an APC. A trip was laid on for us in the Support Company Mini Bus by our hosts and we were taken on a tour of all the local sights, King Billy, the TV Mast, etc. For fear of getting an obliging Mini Bus driver into trouble I won't say what we did for the rest of the evening. Our stay with the Gordons just happened to coincide with their 175th birthday celebrations. Our stay was lengthened by a day so that we could watch the best Brass and Pipe Bands in BAOR beating the retreat. The one thing that sticks out in my mind is the beautiful salad, honestly the best I've ever tasted, which we had for lunch the day of the celebrations.

It was with much regret that we left for Fallingbommel and more friendly arguments with the Greys cadets as to which was the better regiment. So convincing was our arguments that one Greys cadet promised before he left that he would no longer join the Scots Greys but would join the Gordons.

The journey back was uneventful but very interesting. We stayed at the Bridge Hotel in Brussels which was in the "Red Light" district. This part of the journey was very enlightening and we all enjoyed it thoroughly. The Customs provided a worrying moment for a few of us but we were all waved through when some cadets started declaring Centurion tanks. We all arrived home very tired but much wiser than when we set out.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking on behalf of all Aberdeen Grammar School cadets, Major Fleming, Captain Duncan, and all the other officers and NCOs involved in making our visit to both regiments a memorable and pleasurable experience.

M. KERR

STOP PRESS:

The Area Quartermaster on a visit to the Sergeants Mess billets found feathers all over the place. The answer to his question on how this came about was: "Somebody has plucked the Crow."

WHO, WHERE, WHEN?

1. Not known, believed to be Band Sgt Fuller and relatives.
2. Officer Survivors of 2nd Gordons 1st Battle of Loos 5th Nov, 1914 (l. to r.) Lieut Coptan, RAMC; Capt Mackie, Lieuts W. J. Graham, H. M. Sprot, J. M. Hamilton.
3. Drums and Pipes 2nd Bn Copenhagen 1933(?). In background Major G. T. Burney, MC; D. M.

- Low. Front rank—Pipers (l. to r.) P/Sgt Dickie, Ppr Maclean, LCpl Macdonald, P. M. Turnbull.
- Malayan Jungle 1952/53, M. A. C. Stephen, D. G. B. Saunders.
- Officers' Mess, Colchester, 1911 (l. to r.) Captain H. Ross, Major C. J. Simpson, G. T. Burney, W. A. F. Sandeman, ? Bertram, J. F. Johnston-Watson, W. J. Graham.

A LETTER FROM AN OLD SOLDIER

The Commanding Officer,
The Gordon Highlanders Depot,
ABERDEEN,
SCOTLAND.

1224 Deschamps,
Pierrefonds P.Q.,
CANADA.

Dear Sir,

Trusting everything is proper and correct.

For years and years I have meant to write to your Regiment and also the Royal Scots Regiment about the conduct of a Labour Batt of each outfit, if I remember right both were 10th Battalions.

I am pulling open the curtain to March 23rd, 1918, during the Jerries last big drive, which I guess to you is Ancient History.

I belonged to the 2nd Cameronians, who originally came from India with Indian Lahore Division (the 8th) due to the fact we had a Brigade of Indian Troops in the Division. These troops were the "Gentlemen" of all armies. On the first week of March, 1918, my Battalion along with the 1st Irish Rifles were transferred to the 20th Division of the 5th Army on account that Army (5th) did not give a good showing at Cambria late in 1917, and as far as the rest of the troops were concerned the only one who came out of that battle with any credit was Old General De L'Isle. We were supposed to stiffen the 20th, unfortunately it didn't work out that way for us. In the Reg Div the staff work was excellent, in the 5th Army as far as staff work was concerned it didn't exist, for not at any time did we have troops on our flanks and what was even worse, we didn't even know the regiments that made up our brigade. When the Jerry broke through on March 21st we were rushed up in line as a Flying Division, but never once did we see or contact any troops on our flanks. On March 22nd the situation had deteriorated to such an extent that two labour Battalions were rushed up the line. On March 23rd they were directly in front of us and believe it or not these labour Battalions were the only troops who were putting up a fight. Along with 4 Batteries of RFA. They were magnificent. In fact to this day I never saw any troops fight as well as the RFA, it was Hollywood stuff, you would have thought they were drilling on a parade ground instead of fighting for survival. They were shooting at point blank range around 400 yards and out of the mess that was the retreat of March, 1918. These four Batteries of RFA and the two Labour Battalions mentioned above were the highlights of that Retreat and I never saw anything to equal their conduct and courage. My own Battalion was wiped out the following day, March 24th, only three of us breaking out, the Colonel, the Padre and myself, this I was told by the transport officer. I'll give you one incident that happened in your outfit, the Gordons. The Medical Officer of

the Gordons had just returned from furlough, he was along with our outfit when some, I would say about 35-40, returned from the line. The Medical Officer asked for the Colonel and one chap answered, I'm acting as Colonel sir, this is all that's left of our Battalion. The Medical Officer took his scissors and cut the medical insignia from his uniform and then said to what I found out was the Pipe Major "all right Henderson (or Anderson) let's go" and off they went again into action. About 10 minutes later a reduced bunch returned carrying the Medical Officer who was badly wounded. All this took place at a place called Ugnay, which lay in the area of Hamm and Nesle just in front of the Somme. I was sorry I did not see the finish as we as a Flying Column had orders to move to another position.

I wrote this as I'll bet there is not a good word about this Labour Battalion (the 10th) in the Gordon records. In defeat great deeds are forgotten or ignored (exceptions Mons and Dunkirk). Apparently great deeds only count when you are on the winning side, but as far as I'm concerned, the 10th Labour Battalion of the Gordons and the Royal Scots could stand up to the best performances of any troops in France at that time.

I am sending this to Aberdeen which in my day, 1919, was the home of the Gordons at Castle-gate Hill. I hope this reaches you. If so, will you kindly notify the Royal Scots Depot of the brilliant performance of their 10th Labour Battalion. I hope you don't mind me taking up your time with all this ancient history. I'm really sorry I left it so late.

You know the Gordons were the first soldiers I ever viewed—I was born in Aberdeen and when about 3 years of age I used to watch them drill on the links until I left Aberdeen for Dundee in 1902. I lived in York Street which was practically on the links so in a way, while I'm an old Cameronian, I have an affinity with the Gordons. It would be useless for me to pass any remarks about your Regiment, for when the call comes they are right there.

Wishing you and your Regiment the best of luck.

I close sending my kindest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) JAS. W. FARQUHAR.

P.S.—It's a heart break to see our old outfits being disbanded. The Scottish Troops are Scotland's only identity to the rest of the world.

Mr. WILLIAM GORDON

Everybody will be very sorry to hear that Mr. William Gordon died on 5th November, 1969.

"THE SCOTTISH REGIMENTS"

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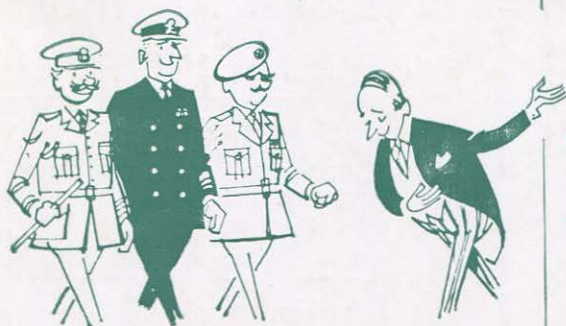
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