

# THE TIGER



# AND SPHINX

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# THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

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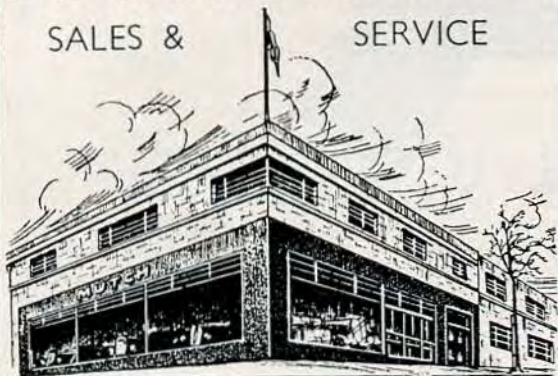
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# THE TIGER & SPHINX

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### Memorial to Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton

(By courtesy of Kemsley Picture Service).

On November 6th, 1957, Sir Winston Churchill unveiled a memorial in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral to General Sir Ian Hamilton. The Colonel of the Regiment was represented by Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Lees, and a number of Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men of the 1st Battalion were present on behalf of the Regiment.

Unveiling the memorial, Sir Winston recalled that he first met Sir Ian Hamilton 60 years ago when they were both returning from India. The general's career, he said, had stretched across some of the greatest days of the Empire—from the Afghan War of 1878, through South Africa, the Nile, Burma, the frontier wars of India in the 1890's, to, above all, the Boer War.

"He has described some of those days himself," said Sir Winston Churchill, "in the most lively and readable though characteristically modest words. From them, however, and from the memory of those who knew him, emerges the picture of a brilliant and chivalrous man who reached the highest positions in the Army and came to command one of the great endeavours of the First World War.

"Sir Ian Hamilton served his country well, and it is most fitting that he should be honoured here in St. Paul's Cathedral among the illustrious men whose deeds have lighted the pages of our history with their records of courage and patriotism."

At the close of the service, which was conducted by Dr. Matthews, the Dean of St. Paul's and Canon Knight, a piper of the Regiment played "The Flowers of the Forest."



A "brilliant and chivalrous" man. From the bust by Sigismund Strobl in the Regimental Museum.



## EDITORIAL

ONE spends a considerable portion of one's Army life considering problems of time and space. Up to the present time space has been pretty simple to understand. To get anywhere you go in a circle, or at least trot along its circumference. With the introduction of Sputniks, Phutniks, Nogoodniks, space capsules, and science fiction, however, space has gained another aspect. Space now goes straight out as well as in circles. This is easy enough to understand even if it does make things difficult for the logistic experts.

Time on the other hand is difficult enough as it is. For practical purposes we can forget about the Chinese Year, the Jewish Year, the Moslem Year, "Give us back our Eleven Days", Old Moore's Almanac, and the Time Machine. As far as we are concerned the Calendar Year begins in January. We learn this at an early age. As we approach the years of indiscretion we are introduced to the Fiscal Year, which starts in April. Then we join the Army and, after a period, we discover that the Training Year kicks off in October, or thereabouts. The Administrative Year, on the other hand, has rules of its own. After considerable research we have narrowed its limits down to this formula. If you are inspected before Christmas it coincides with the Calendar Year. If not, it coincides with the Fiscal Year. Nobody, as far as we can discover, starts anything in July, except of course Eton, the U.S.A. and the Quarterly Audit Board. Throughout all this confusion the flexibility of Army thought and organisation enables it to maintain its aim to the last. The aim, of course, is to go on leave.

Having been primed with these basic facts, it should be a simple matter for the reader, if he has survived thus far, to deduce from them the activities of the Battalion during the past quarter.

Up to the end of November the Rifle Companies were left relatively free to concentrate on individual training. One is being perpetually filled with astonishment at the stoic calm with which the old soldier, who has recently been priding himself on his prowess in Divisional manoeuvres, greets in the following week the lesson which starts "This is the rifle". That is now behind him, and so also to his joy are the Tests of Elementary Training and the Physical Efficiency Tests.

H.Q. Company (Group 2) were similarly able to concentrate on the individual. Not so H.Q. Company (Group 1) which survived in rapid succession an inspection by the Record Office Team, the Command Secretariat, the Central Inspectorate of Vehicles and other lesser bodies. Individual training for this Company awaits the coming of the New (Calendar) Year. The results of the inspections were in each case satisfactory. The off-the-record comment of a member of the Command Secretariat Team is, however, worth repeating. He said "If all battalions were as well administered as this one, our job would be an easy one." That from an organisation whose heart is notoriously stony is praise indeed.

Whatever upheaval was caused to individual departments by their own inspections, undoubtedly the major upheaval of the quarter was the Annual Administrative Inspection, or what has been feelingly described by Anthony Armstrong's famous figure, Captain Bayonet, as the 11th Plague.

The Army has from the days of King Alfred, or even earlier, spent a number of its waking hours complaining bitterly about the effect of inspections upon the even tenor of its ways. But however irksome they may be, they do have a remarkable effect on a number of departments in the supply echelons, who for eleven

months of the year have regarded you as saboteurs of the Military economy if you so much as ask for the exchange or replacement of a worn-out article. For one month of the year you have them at your mercy and, by judicious use of suggestions about the effect on the Inspecting Officer if the stuff isn't supplied, you can get enough to keep you going until the next inspection.

Our inspection was on the 17th December, a day of brilliant sunshine, clear sky, and the ground covered thickly with frost. Real brass monkey weather, particularly for the companies in the rear of the parade who had up to two hours on parade either standing to attention, standing easy, or just standing. While the parade was in progress the Divisional Staff descended on the various departments and proceeded to dismember them. As the inspection had to be completed by lunch-time the progress of the Staff between the Companies took on the nature of a stampede towards the end of the morning.

As might be expected the Inspection Report was complimentary. The turnout and bearing of the men on a parade excellent, the administration sound and on training on Salisbury Plain the Battalion showed "a considerable amount of dash".

Mention was made in the last quarter's notes of the Asian 'Flu epidemic that wasn't. Having been attacked by 'Flu at Tilshead, we not unnaturally expected that a return to the more confined spaces in Dover would bring it out in force. It is true that at one time we were averaging six new cases each day, but then as suddenly as it had come it left us, and the top floor of "C" (Training) Company, which had served as an isolation hospital, returned to its rightful uses.

With the dawn of the New Year the Battalion completed one year since its return from Cyprus. It has been a year of many changes in personnel. We have had two Seconds-in-Command and four Adjutants. Only one company commander is still in command of the company he commanded in Cyprus. Three of the six C.S.M.s have changed and five of the six C.Q.M.S.s. Below this the changes have been on the same scale. Coupled with this we have had to change our thinking from anti-terrorist operations to training for atomic war in Europe. Our lives in Cyprus were directed towards one aim and on diversions were allowed to deflect us from pursuing that aim. Inevitably military life in this country presents very different problems. Owing to the multitude of duties which Battalions are called upon to undertake during the training year, particularly during the summer, it is only with the greatest of difficulty that training can take place at all. Continuity is almost impossible. One works within a flexible framework, seizing what opportunities one can of training, and being forced to restrict oneself to the absolute basic essentials through sheer lack of time. This is not only our problem. It is one faced by every Battalion in this country. It is understandably frustrating. In operations it is easy enough to maintain a sense of purpose and, with it, high morale. It is far more difficult to do so in this country. The stature of a Battalion and of a Regiment stands or falls by its success or failure in sustaining its sense of purpose. We believe that in this past year we have not failed in this.

Now at the dawn of 1958 we stand on the brink of vast and far-reaching changes in the Armed Forces. As a Regiment we have been spared to take our place in the Army of the Future. This is not only a challenge but also an opportunity to show that the qualities which made the Regiment great in the past are those which will make it even greater in the days to come.



## 1st BATTALION NOTES

## BATTALION H.Q.

*Commanding Officer*—Lieutenant-Colonel P. W. Forbes, p.s.c.  
*Adjutant*—Major J. Neish.  
*Administrative Officer*—Major A. J. C. Richardson, p.s.c.  
*Intelligence Officer and Assistant Adjutant*—Lieutenant M. A. Avery.  
*Unit Paymaster*—Captain J. H. Fitzgerald, R.A.P.C.  
*Medical Officer*—Captain A. H. Sears, R.A.M.C. (N.S.)  
*Chaplain*—The Reverend G. G. Inglis, R.A.Cn.D.  
*Regimental Sergeant Major*—R.S.M. G. Dunn.  
*Bandmaster*—Bandmaster R. Ford.  
*Orderly Room Quartermaster Sergeant*—O.R.Q.M.S. R. Hay, B.E.M.  
*Drum Major*—Drum Major L. Burfion, B.E.M.  
*Pipe Major*—Pipe Major C. Campbell.  
*Provost Sergeant*—Sergeant J. Ashley.  
*Physical Training Instructor*—Sergeant Instructor D. Dolphin, A.P.I.C.  
*Education Instructor*—Staff Sergeant O. Massey.  
*Band Sergeant*—Sergeant D. Dawson.

## H.Q. COMPANY—GROUP 1

*Commander*—Major I. C. S. Munro, B. A., p.s.c.  
*Quartermaster*—Captain (Q.M.) F. Kernohan.  
*Transport Officer*—Lieutenant (Q.M.) G. Michie.  
*Driver Training Instructor*—Lieutenant C. J. D. Gordon-Steward.  
*Messing Officer*—Second Lieutenant J. B. Thomson. (N.S.)

Second Lieutenant C. R. Erskine

Hill. (N.S.) (designate.)  
*Company Sergeant Major*—C.S.M. T. Denholm.  
*Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant*—R.Q.M.S. W. Barclay.  
*Company Quartermaster Sergeant*—C.Q.M.S. W. Crichton.  
*Transport Sergeant*—Sergeant G. McDonald.  
*Officers Mess Steward*—Sergeant H. Stephenson.  
*Armourer Staff Sergeant*—Staff Sergeant R. Parnell, R.E.M.E.  
*Vehicle Mechanic*—Sergeant W. Bell, R.E.M.E.

## H.Q. COMPANY—GROUP 2

*Commander*—Major R. A. Nickson, M.C.  
*Machine Gun Platoon Commander*—Captain I. D. Martineau.  
 Second Lieutenant P. W. Graham (Designate).  
*Mortar Platoon Commander*—Lieutenant R. W. C. Murison.  
*Anti-tank Platoon Commander*—Lieutenant B. M. M. Simpson.  
*Signal Platoon Commander*—Lieutenant N. H. Cantlie.  
*Company Sergeant Major*—C.S.M. R. Kent.  
*Company Quartermaster Sergeant*—C.Q.M.S. W. Ogg.  
*Machine Gun Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant A. Heffren.  
*Mortar Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant R. Carruthers.  
*Anti-tank Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant P. Watt.  
*Assault Pioneer Sergeant*—Corporal R. Knowles.  
*Signal Sergeant*—Colour Sergeant D. Postill.

## "A" COMPANY

*Company Commander*—Major R. Ogilvie.  
*Second-in-Command*—Captain R. D. L. Smart.  
*1 Platoon Commander*—Second Lieutenant R. J. MacLagan. (N.S.)  
*2 Platoon Commander*—Lieutenant W. J. M. Beckwith.  
*3 Platoon Commander*—Second Lieutenant A. G. Gordon. (N.S.)

*Company Sergeant Major*—C.S.M. E. Coggle.  
*Company Quartermaster Sergeant*—C.Q.M.S. F. Raeburn.  
*2 Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant J. Dooley.  
*3 Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant G. Robertson.

## "B" COMPANY

*Company Commander*—Major R. W. Smith, p.s.c.  
*Second-in-Command*—Captain R. C. B. Chancellor, M.B.E.  
*4 Platoon Commander*—Second Lieutenant B. E. D. Gordon. (N.S.)  
*5 Platoon Commander*—Second Lieutenant I. Macaulay. (N.S.)  
*6 Platoon Commander*—Sergeant P. Williams.  
*Company Sergeant Major*—C.S.M. L. Dunn, B.E.M.  
*Company Quartermaster Sergeant*—C.Q.M.S. G. Wilkie.  
*4 Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant A. Gee, M.M.  
*5 Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant A. Murray.

## "C" TRAINING COMPANY

*Company Commander*—Major J. A. G. Tindall, p.s.c.  
*Second-in-Command*—Captain P. H. Hutchison.  
*Training Subaltern and Weapon Training Officer*—Second Lieutenant A. R. Watson. (N.S.)  
*Company Sergeant Major*—C.S.M. W. Stewart.  
*Company Quartermaster Sergeant*—C.Q.M.S. T. Brown.  
*Training Sergeant*—Sergeant G. Symon.  
*Training Sergeant*—Sergeant M. Salmon.  
*Weapon Training Sergeant*—Sergeant J. Forsyth.

## "D" COMPANY

*Company Commander*—Major G. Morrison, D.S.O.  
*Second-in-Command*—Captain J. J. H. Simpson.  
*10 Platoon Commander*—Second Lieutenant J. M. W. Burn. (N.S.)  
*11 Platoon Commander*—Second Lieutenant J. P. Peddie. (N.S.)  
*Company Sergeant Major*—C.S.M. J. Innes.  
*10 Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant T. Cullen.  
*11 Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant M. Flinn.  
*12 Platoon Sergeant*—Sergeant J. Donald.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES—OFFICERS

## Arrivals

Lieutenant R. W. C. Murison from Depot, Permanent Staff.  
 Lieutenant M. A. Avery from A.D.C. to G.O.C. Highland District.  
 Second/Lieutenant G. R. Erskine Hill from Depot.  
 Second/Lieutenant I. Macaulay from Depot.

## Departures

Major G. R. Elsmie to Mons O.C.S.  
 Major B. C. A. Napier, M.B.E., M.C., to War Office (Q) (Ops).  
 Captain A. T. C. Brown to Staff College (B Division).  
 Captain D. H. W. Brown, M.C., to Staff Captain "A" H.Q. 3 Infantry Division.  
 Lieutenant D. C. K. Brown to Adjutant Depot.  
 Lieutenant B. G. Paton to Depot (Permanent Staff).  
 Second/Lieutenants D. M. Alexander, I. M. Murray, D. W. Macintosh and J. M. M. Burn to part-time service.

## STATISTICS

Private Soldiers—Regulars 72%.  
 National Servicemen 28%.  
 All Other Ranks—Regulars 76%.  
 National Servicemen 24%.



# WAR AND PEACE

## WAR



C.O.



ADJUTANT.

## PEACE



C.O.



ADJUTANT.



### HEADQUARTER COMPANY (GROUP 1)

With the final thunderflash of Exercise "Autumn Flight" exploded and the rigours of Salisbury Plain a thing of the past, we thought that the Company would be able to burrow its way back into its wonted anonymity. Three months of hibernation and battalion administration seemed to be an admirable way of spending this quarter. We would have wandered happily round the barracks with the faintly dedicated air of employed personnel or the ungaitered look of military chauffeurs, watching our less fortunate comrades in arms being rudely shouted at on the square or departing for some unknown destination in P.T. kit and properly studded boots.

Unfortunately the leisured life escaped us on account of a large number of high-powered inspection teams with strange initials and inquisitive natures, who insisted on our giving an account of our stewardship. One by one our departments were put under the microscope.

The cookhouse was covered with fresh paint, and mysterious pieces of cooking apparatus, long disused, were cleaned and oiled and, in some cases, even used to prepare a meal for the edification of the Divisional Catering Adviser. However, the chefs had mostly recovered by Christmas and a large staff of experienced waiters distributed an excellent Christmas luncheon.

The M.T. Department also underwent a lengthy examination, and for a time there were several people in the Battalion, apart from the Transport Officer himself, who knew how many vehicles we legally possessed. We are still not sure whether the mysterious jeep, which at present stands outside the Officers' Mess, will eventually be used as special transport for those foolish enough to demand a truck at less than forty-eight hours notice. We fear the worst.

The Quartermaster's domain, usually so impregnable, with a defensive system that is the envy of every Rifle Company Commander, was invaded for a whole week. Several of the Quartermaster's minions had to allow a stranger to handle the priceless articles with which they had been entrusted AND without a single signature with which to defend themselves.

There were even some valiant gentlemen from the Record Office who dared to beard the lion in his Orderly Room. Judging by the speed with which they departed, they must have regarded it as a profitless venture from the outset.

Strange officers in strange badges descended even upon the Paymaster and the Medical Officer. It seems that they too are not all powerful, although judging by the callousness with which stoppages of pay and "M and B" are administered, this is sometimes difficult for the uninitiated to believe.

The Intelligence Section laughed the while, as these visitations were not for them, only to find themselves bodily transferred to "C" (Training) Company and left entirely to the tender mercies of the Training Officer and the W.T.O.

But troubles never come singly. No sooner had we finished with these individual inspections than the Annual Administrative Inspection was upon us. For this we had not only to be prepared for the shrewd questioning of the Divisional Staff, but we also had to suffer the ultimate indignity of going on parade. Not only did this mean that we had to perform long forgotten and reluctantly remembered drill movements, but others had a chance to notice the staggering size of the Company, which at Scale X stretches right across the Parade Ground. However, we escaped more or less unscathed and without anyone becoming too suspicious about the actual functions of all of us, and departed for a well-earned Christmas or New Year break.

### Transport Section

Since our return from Salisbury Plain we have prepared for three major events, an Inspection by the Central Inspectorate of Vehicles, the Annual Administrative Inspection and Christmas or New Year leave. We survived two of them. It still remains to be seen how soon we will recover from the third.

During our sojourn at Tilshead in September, the vehicles were constantly in use, and it was only by the exercise of considerable ingenuity that we were able to keep them on the road at all. Added to this, cleanliness proved somewhat incompatible with concealment, and the vehicles arrived back in Dover not only mechanically the worse for wear but also with the more inaccessible parts caked with bits of Salisbury Plain. The problem was how to remove all traces of Wiltshire before the Inspecting Team from the Central Inspectorate arrived. The M.T.O., financed by the P.R.I., produced a length of garden hose complete with nozzle. This was fixed to a tap. Work commenced with high hopes, but the small jet of water made little impression on the stubborn Salisbury Plain mud and clay. We tried chipping, scraping, cursing and kicking. We barked our knuckles, we scraped our shins, we stubbed our toes and we developed sore throats, but we made no impression on the mud. Then someone said "Fire Hose". That did it. Big Stan Rennie appeared with hose, stand, pipes, the lot. Success at last. Stan was in his glory. The vehicles began to look like vehicles and not like mobile muckheaps. Everything was going swimmingly, almost literally. Then an important gentleman in "civvies" came and pointed out that we were lowering the water pressure all over the camp with horrifying results. We stopped. We had to. Then back we went to our scraping, scrubbing, and our little garden hose.

Because of releases and posting we were much below strength, but by working against rules, round the clock and at week-ends, we were more or less ready for the C.I.V. Team which arrived on 25th November and stayed until 6th December. Then we relaxed. We started toying with dreams of leave in two weeks time. Two nice gentle weeks in which to savour the parties to come. What a hope. For weeks the M.T.O. had been barking "Get weaving. I don't care if you get as black as your boots. Get those trucks clean and lubricated". The next thing we knew, there we were on the square in ceremonial order. Once more we started chipping, scraping, scrubbing, fitting, kitting, painting, fainting. About the only thing in camp which had any peace was our little garden hose.

The morning of 17th December dawned bright, frosty and freezing cold. There we were, still standing on the square in ceremonial order, when who should appear but the Divisional Commander and his staff. We came to the conclusion pretty rapidly that this couldn't be entirely a co-incidence, and of course it wasn't. It was the Annual Administrative Inspection. We would like to be able to tell you how sorry we were that they could only stay half a day with us, but we don't really think you would believe us if we did, so we won't. Instead we will tell you the absolute truth. Even now we were not allowed to rest on our laurels. We were put straight on to preparing for the final big event of the quarter. That's the Army for you. Once again off we went, scrubbing, shining, signing. Then one day there we were, standing on Dover station waiting for our train, and we never did get time to finish our little dream.

We left the M.T.O. and six stalwart and generous-hearted warriors to hold the fort while we were away. You can imagine how reluctant we were to leave them. The M.T.O., on the other hand, seemed pleased to see



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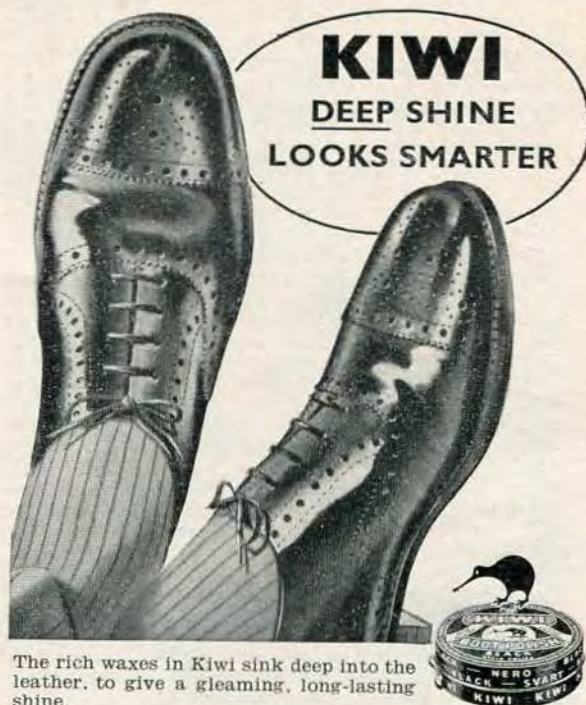
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us go. He was heard to mutter happily to himself: "Thank goodness. Now I can get a little peace and quiet to dispose of all the bump". We sometimes wonder, but not very often, whether our vehicles run on petrol or paper.

#### Quartermaster's Department

After the rigours of Salisbury and Bisley, this quarter has not been so strenuous physically, but as we had both the Command Secretary's Inspection Team and the Administration Inspection, quite a bit of mental energy has been expended by the Quartermaster and his staff. Still it was not energy wasted and we feel that a lot of trumpet blowing on our behalf is quite permissible, for apart from an erring pair of battle dress trousers, everything was found to be in ship-shape order. The satisfactory results obtained on the inspection created an impression at Brigade Headquarters for now we find that they do not refer to the Quartermaster, but rather to "The Efficiency Expert".

Deficiencies are to be reported not in the stores but in the Staff. We said goodbye to many familiar faces during the past few months, with special mention of course of Private Clements after many years service, a great number of which were spent with the Quartermaster's Staff. Lance/Corporal Geater and his contemporaries, Ptes. Nicholson and Tawse, have also been demobbed. We wish them well in their new occupations. To compensate Ptes. Leslie and Kay have joined us to work in the Clothing Store and Office respectively. Our congratulations to Lance/Corporal Sneddon on the birth of a daughter, and Staff/Sergeant Parnell and to Corporal Irvine on their promotion.

In retrospect, 1957 was a year brim full of activity for us, beginning with the return from Cyprus and all

the repercussions therefrom, then the preparation and clearing up of two very large tented camps during the whole of the Summer and part of the Autumn, and finally the two inspections to round the year off. We feel that we acquitted ourselves well and hope to do the same in (dare we wish for) a less hectic 1958.

#### The Messing Department

Altogether 1957 has been for us an eventful year, the two biggest challenges being Bisley and the training on Salisbury Plain. The latter was specially so, as many of the cooks had had little or no experience of cooking in the field. However all in all we did not do so badly. At least the Gentlemen of the Press "on the trail of the rotten spud", as they so delicately put it, were able to reassure their readers that all was well.

Later in the year Sergeant Barnes arrived to take charge of the cookhouse. He did much to ease our problems, but stayed only temporarily with us; long enough, however, to preside over the Christmas and New Year dinners, both of which seemed to satisfy the customers. We wish him all the best in his new appointment.

We now extend a hearty welcome to Staff/Sergeant Healey who has just joined us. He started his Army career in the 60th Rifles before joining the A.C.C. This will be his first appointment with an Infantry Regiment and we hope that it will make him feel at home.

We wish good luck to Lance/Corporal Andrew and Privates Ede, Askew, and "Black Mac" himself, who are leaving us for the sorrows of civilian life.

We look forward to 1958 with confidence that we shall continue to improve the standard of feeding in the Battalion both in barracks and, so far as Compo will allow us, in the field as well.



The Drums and Pipes at the Military Band Festival at Lille.



### Drums and Pipes

September went out with a bang, or, should we say, with Exercise "Autumn Flight". Night and day became words merely descriptive of darkness and light. Routine was put into reverse with dinner before midnight and breakfast after midnight, if you see what I mean. In daylight, between spells of protecting Battalion Headquarters from marauding umpires, the members of the "platoon" could generally be suspected of, but never seen, concealing themselves from the equally regular searching by the R.S.M., Duty Officer and orderlies on the look-out for unsuspecting fatiguesmen, runners or other hole diggers. At night the Command Post defended area resembled "Hernando's Hideaway" except that the luscious girls always turned out to be sodden, frozen sentries, or prostrate, cursing ones, deliberately protected by invisible obstructions, such as trip wires, rocks or whippy bushes.

We returned from Salisbury Plain for a spell of leave and then to prepare for the forthcoming visit with the Military Band to Marseilles. We left for Marseilles on the night after one of the worst of channel storms. Thanks to the M.O., who prescribed two seasickness pills for each of us, we arrived at Calais little the worse for wear. And so to Marseilles. We played there at the Franco-British Military Festival for two and a half weeks as the representatives of the British Army. It was a long spell, playing every evening from 9 p.m. to midnight and with only one day off half-way through. We were ready for a change by the end. We were given an excellent reception on every night even though to begin with many of the houses were poorly filled.

On our day off we were royally entertained by Monsieur Ricard, proprietor of the famous "Pastice" of that name, at his ranch in the Camargue near the mouth of the River Rhône. Here we saw the branding of a couple of bull calves and a short display of bull fighting. This is the only part of France where this takes place, and the spectacle was well worth the visit. After seeing the wild horses, we were ushered into M. Ricard's private restaurant, where we were offered his famous

"pastice". Some even dared to have two, not suspecting what was to follow. This proved to be a banquet, the like of which is not likely to be put before us again. For three hours we imbibed various colours of wine, ate the most magnificent food and were finally delightfully entertained to songs by the Beauty Queen of Arles and her two Ladies in Waiting. Our friends of the Festival Militaire then gave some songs. We did our best to return the compliment but, alas, the wine was strong and plentiful and the result was like the drones of the Pipes when the reeds are shaking in the wind and the Bag is short of it.

The following day we were entertained by the N.C.O.s and men of The Garde Republicaine to another magnificent banquet.

The France-Grande Bretagne Society very kindly opened their Club premises to us and, after the initiating tea party, it was noticed that some members, quicker off the mark than others, were attached for the rest of their stay in Marseilles.

Our barracks were no West End hotel and we never really got accustomed to the richness of Marseilles cooking. However, our hosts did everything they could to make us feel at home. The "Mess" became noisy with divers tongues, well loosened with divers drinks, and we made many good friends among the French Garrison troops.

We are spending the winter months in retrenchment. Our playing numbers are low, but we have fairly substantial learner cadres in both Drums and Pipe Sections. We are also spending vast sums on repairs and replacements to our kit and hope to have a really well equipped Pipe Band by the Spring, ready for next season.

### The Military Band

During the last six months of 1957 we undertook a varied programme of engagements and travelled quite a few miles to execute them.

The latter part of June found us at Winterton in Lincolnshire, where we appeared for the local Agricul-



The Military Band playing at the St. Andrews Night Celebrations of Dover and East Kent Scottish Society.





The Centenary Celebrations at the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, on 18th June, 1957.  
Lance Corporal A. McMillan, from Hull. Bandsman R. Williams, from Maidstone.

tural Society Show. On face value this appeared to be quite an easy engagement but turned out to be the exact opposite, entailing ten hours work each day. It was as well that the engagement was only for two days and not for a week, otherwise we should all have required medical attention. However, even under the very hot weather conditions, the Band acquitted themselves very well.

During July we played at Hastings for one week and while we were there the Dance Band played at the leave centre at nearby St. Leonards-on-Sea and also for the Carnival Ball in Hastings. After Hastings came our old "Faithful" Tunbridge Wells, where we had our usual success. In fact we are already booked to appear there again in August, 1958. From Tunbridge Wells we moved on to The Embankment Gardens in London where we had a great success, the figures for attendance being 29,000. These figures show that, given kind weather and the right conditions, Military Bands are still very popular with the public. The figure of 29,000 is nearly twice as high as the previous record figure for attendance and over three times the attendance for our engagement the previous year. This is even more satisfactory when it is considered that the maximum seating capacity for a week is 21,000.

Alternating between our engagements we paid visits to the Battalion at Bisley and played at the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Our Band practice spot was just outside the Sergeants' Mess, and it was noticeable that Mess members came to dinner earlier than usual. Whether it was to encourage us to leave or not is a moot point.

After concluding our week in London, there came a hurried visit back to Dover to pack our kit for our departure to Edinburgh and the Tattoo. This was to be the third appearance of the Band at the Tattoo in the last four seasons. One could write a whole book on

the Tattoo and of all the long hours we spent behind the two massive doors waiting for our entrance to the Esplanade, with the strains of "Stars and Stripes Forever", then Ave Maria, then Crimond ringing in our ears. When one hears thousands of voices raised as one, singing Crimond, there is nowhere better to be than in Edinburgh during the Festival. One is even able to forget the rain and that some nearby Bass player is emptying sufficient water out of his instrument to do his wife's weekly wash, that the music should, more appropriately, have been Handel's Water Music. If only we had had the boats.

On the conclusion of the Tattoo, which ended with the usual "Oohs" and "Ahs" at the wonderful firework display, we travelled to Aberdeen for the Aberdeen Recruiting Week. It was the second week of September by now and summer had vanished once again. There was not one day on which rain did not fall or high winds cease to blow. At times it became a little discouraging playing to an audience of two seagulls. The Drums and Pipes were more successful. They played to three seagulls. No doubt the Aberdeen gulls are now fully trained for their Second Class Trade Test. We expect to hear any day now when they wish to sit the Test. The final day was almost fine and we played at the Passing Out Parade, held in Union Terrace Gardens. Quite a large crowd assembled to watch the parade. From Aberdeen the Band went on a well-earned spell of leave and gathered together again at Dover on the 2nd of October.

The last quarter of the year should normally have been a quiet period, when one gets down to hard work and serious practice for the next year's engagements. But more was to come and hurried arrangements had to be made for a visit of nearly three weeks to Marseilles with the Drums and Pipes. Whilst preparations were progressing the Dance Band had two



important engagements. The Dargai Ball and a dance run by The Buffs Association in Canterbury.

On the 2nd of November we played at Headcorn, a local village nearby, for the local Bonfire Night. This was a Charity Show, in aid of Polio victims.

On the 4th of November we left for France, arriving in Marseilles on the morning of the 5th. We were met by our sponsors and, after much ado, the combined bands were safely installed in the local barracks, which are quite near the sea front, but are really very rugged. In fact, three months in them would have qualified us all as candidates for The Foreign Legion. However everything was done to make our stay a pleasant one and, although the rich food was not always to our taste, the wine and bread helped to make up for this.

The Show itself was held at the Palais des Sports and our own particular display was very well received by all who saw it, so much so that reports say that our presence helped considerably to lessen the tension caused by the British and American offer of arms to Tunisia. Unfortunately the show ended a day sooner than originally planned, but not before we had made numerous friends and had played for the Armistice Service in The British Consulate. We arrived back in Dover on the 21st November, to find that the weather was not nearly as kind as in the South of France.

December found us preparing for the annual Administrative Inspection and also for the Christmas and New Year Festivities. The Inspection was on the 17th and the Children's Party on the 20th and the Children's Carol Service on the 22nd. On the 24th and 25th, sections of the Band played in the Camp Church for Christmas Carol services. Finally on the last day of the year the Dance Band played once more in 59 Buckingham Gate for the London Scottish.

Certain changes have taken place within the Band. Staff/Sergeant Thow has left us and is now on the Recruiting Staff in Aberdeen. After all these years his departure is a very sad loss, but we wish him every success in his new job and for all his future. His successor is Jerry Dawson. Lance/Corporal Davidson has joined Mr. Williams' staff at The Depot. Lance/Corporal Janes has gone to The Scots Guards. New promotions are Corporal Thomson to Sergeant, Lance/Corporal Colville to Corporal and Bandsmen Watson, Leith and Docherty to Lance/Corporal. We wish them every success in their new appointments.

#### HEADQUARTER COMPANY (GROUP 2)

The term "winter quarters" is well known to readers of military history. Time spent during such periods was devoted to individual training and improving the standard of administration in readiness for the campaigns of the year to come. As in the past so it is with us today. Our quarters, however, are not primitive farmsteads in the wilds of some far-off peninsula, now even the more ancient type of barracks still to be found in the United Kingdom, but modern central heated barracks built in 1939, well designed to withstand the gales of this corner of Britain.

In October the majority of the Company managed to get in some well deserved leave. The Machine Gunners found time to carry out a 14-day concentration at Lydd with the 1st Royal Fusiliers when much valuable experience was gained in getting the bullets on to the targets.

By November the Company, approximately 150 strong, consisting of the five specialist platoons of the Bn., settled down to prepare for the visit of the Inspector of Army Equipment and the Annual Administrative Inspection by the Divisional Commander. At the same time Morse, M.T. and N.C.O.s cadres were under way



Cutting up the joint?

and the support platoons were catching up on their individual training in preparation for physical efficiency tests and tests of elementary training. Not to be outdone, the Assault Pioneer Platoon succeeded in redecorating the Coy. lines on the "do it yourself" principle.

With all this activity the festive season was soon upon us, and for once leave for all has been the order of the day. Christmas leave parties are now away, soon to be followed by the trek North for the Hogmanay celebration. Peace now reigns within the Company lines.

#### Medium Machine Gun Platoon

Lieutenant D. C. K. Brown left the Platoon with perhaps the feeling that he had accomplished something, having successfully steered us through our stay at Lydd, where we beat the Royal Fusiliers in the Machine Gun concentration by one point. In his place we welcome Second/Lieutenant P. W. Graham and we hope that his stay with the Platoon will be a happy one. On the 6th January both he and Sergeant Hawkins leave for Netheravon on the Machine Gun course. We are confident that they will both emerge from it covered in glory.

Privates Mutch, Cunningham and Fryers are about to embark on an M.T. cadre, and, with our congratulations to Private Hannan on being promoted to Lance/Corporal, all looks set for a happy New Year.

#### Mortar Platoon

In the last few months officers, sergeants and other ranks have been coming and going in Mortar Platoon. Little has been accomplished at training, apart from some thorough pre-course instruction for Lance/Corporal Moir. We hope that he will return to the platoon with a good result from the School of Infantry.

The future of the platoon is quite bright, in so far as that, after February, nobody is due release from the Army in the platoon for another year. To have the platoon, with Sergeant Carruthers, and Sergeant Warden, up to lower establishment and remaining together for a year is a great thing. That will be the position after having a goodbye to eleven members of the platoon who served in Cyprus, and to Sergeant Ogg, whom we congratulate on his promotion to Colour/Sergeant. It will be a platoon with four of its six N.C.O.s trained at the School of Infantry, five trained mortar-men and nine untrained new men. Our immediate task is to give these new men a fortnight's basic training, which is it hoped can be carried out in January. Five of them have been well grounded in wireless, having attended a Signals cadre in December. After



fire controls and mortar drills are up to standard the next step will be training in battle procedure. This is to be carried out on detachment, in the Stanford training area in Norfolk. By the end of March the platoon should be capable of working together as a team, and of producing fire support for the Battalion. It is also hoped that Sergeant Carruthers will be able to build up as strong a football team as the platoon had at Redford Barracks.

#### Anti-Tank Platoon

The main item of interest during the past quarter has been the annual R.E.M.E. inspection of our anti-tank guns. After weeks of hard work we managed to dislodge the mud of Salisbury Plain from every corner of the guns, and such bits that we could not clean, we painted in the hope of deceiving the Inspector. Fortunately he felt kindly disposed towards us and allowed himself to be deceived, to such an extent that he gave us a good report. If the gentleman should read this, we hope that he will not take us seriously and come back for another look.

From then onwards, the Administrative Inspection took up most of our time with rehearsal parades and various forms of clothing checks. It was not an interesting period, and we were all glad when it was over, and we could go on Christmas leave. In January we will be starting to train in earnest to be ready for all the exercises which are planned for the New Year.

As for the individual comings and goings in the Platoon, Corporal Raitt has left and has been replaced by Corporal Pirie. Congratulations to Lance/Corporals Craig and McLeod on their promotion and Private Nimmo on his success in the Boxing Ring. Finally, we wish the best of luck and a quick return to Private McNamara, who has been in hospital for the last three months.

#### Signal Platoon

To the strains of Good King Wenceslas rising from the Military Band below me and with the heavenly thoughts, which mistletoe conjures up, uppermost in my mind, I endeavour to "recapture the flicks" of the last quarter.

"Bleep, bleep" has been the signature tune of the Sputniks and so it has been with us. Most of us have had our noses to the grindstone (or should I say thumbs to the buzzer?) tapping out morse. Now nearly everyone can do 8 words per minute.

An exercise in mid-winter, camping out for four nights, was very successful, except that no one could contact Control. Certain "bleeps" were picked up which were thought to have originated from Control, but later investigation showed that they may just as likely have come from outer space. The exercise was much enjoyed, perhaps because eating out of soapy mess tins added a special flavour to the already highly seasoned compo. Or was it the fascination of shaving in a greasy stew? We heard, anyway, of an excellent piece of bartering, a dozen eggs for six packets of hard tack. We suggest the A.C.C. take a hint. Apart from two of the platoon almost being blown over the white cliffs by a strong gale, and Dann trying to cut off one of his fingers whilst shaving, there were no real mishaps and everyone returned safely to camp.

The next big item on our rather cramped programme was the Annual Administration Inspection, from which all the platoon emerged unscathed, although there were several loud sighs of relief when it was past.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Ron Murray who has left to resume the studies which were so rudely interrupted. Our congratulations go to Corporal

Stephen and Lance/Corporal Purves on being "made up". Also to Corporal Badger and Melvin on becoming engaged.

The platoon is certainly living well as was confirmed when we got our Xmas pay. We went to town that night but fear that some of the platoon may have regretted their lavishness the next morning.

Now we all prepare to enjoy a mid-day reveille and home cooking (not to mention all the old flames which may be rekindled) over the holiday period.

#### "A" COMPANY

Our last notes were written under canvas at Tilshead Camp, just before the launching of Exercise "Autumn Flight" and, as this exercise was the culminating point of our training year, we feel that our part in it should appear in print.

The exercise started on Saturday, 28th September, under excellent weather conditions. The hours of daylight were spent in preparing temporary positions on the fringe of a wood and resting for a night advance-to-contact, in which we would have been the vanguard company. The plan, as such, was not implemented, and it was not until four a.m. that we piled into trucks and started a long slow move over the Plains, which ended at Imber Village. At this stage the heavens opened up, and before very long we reached a hundred per cent. saturation! At two p.m. on Sunday the wheels began to turn again as the battalion moved on to press the retreating enemy, and at last we were in a position about half a mile west of the river Avon, with the enemy on the other side.



Infantry-Tank Co-operation. "A" Company moving forward to F.U.P. on the tanks of "A" Squadron The Westminster Dragoons (T.A.).





The Brigadier's plan was to get one company across the Avon during the hours of darkness to locate the enemy positions and, if possible, to deal with them. This task was given to us, and with surprising speed blankets, which had been drawn in expectation of a peaceful night, were handed in and the company prepared for the task. Led by the Company Commander himself, the company waded into the river in darkness and then split into three patrols of platoon strength. The enemy was found and most certainly dealt with. Attack followed attack, the defenders being caught with their trousers down. Alas, the battle was not supposed to run that way and the company was told to retire by the umpires, who reluctantly admitted our complete victory. So ended a memorable morning with all ranks in the highest of spirits despite wet clothing. Shortly afterwards the battalion returned to Tilshead, and the training year was over.

On our return to Dover, "block leave" was the order of the day and the majority of the company managed to squeeze in fourteen days before returning to start individual training.

Since our return from leave, our time has been spent on Annual Range Classification and in the preparation for tests in both weapon training and physical efficiency. In addition we have spent three days on a field training area to brush up our fieldcraft.

The Annual Administration Inspection (so called because it only happens every three years, or so) has just taken place and we think that we got away with a fairly clean slate. In the first parade, in ceremonial order, we heard, with some little pride, that we were easily the best company of the six.

In the realms of sport, the company, although not doing too well in the Football League, continue to produce the quota of sportsmen for the Battalion. At present Corporal Brand, Lance Corporal Taylor and Private Davidson 44 turn out for the battalion football team, Captain Smart, Second/Lieutenant McIntosh, Second/Lieutenant Gordon, Corporal Douglas and Private Fitch for the Rugby team, Second/Lieutenant McLagan for the Hockey team and Lance Corporal Cosgrove, Corporal Brooks and Private McDade have all trained for the battalion Boxing team, although only Lance Corporal Cosgrove had represented the battalion. Private McDade is to be congratulated on winning the final of the novices' Welter-weight competition.

The company now has two excellent indoor recreational rooms, one for television and one as a games room. Both these rooms are used extensively during off duty hours and have proved exceedingly popular.



Swan Upping?

We have two weddings to report. Private Grant was married at Dover on 19th October and Private Bisset at Aberdeen on 26th October. To both of them and their wives we wish all good fortune in the future.

We congratulate Private Christie 39 on the arrival of a son, born at Aberdeen on the 3rd October.

We congratulate Lance/Corporal Brand on his promotion to Corporal and also Private Taylor, our company clerk, on gaining his first stripe. Also to be congratulated are Corporals Brooks and Burns on becoming substantive Corporals.

Our arrival and departures have been exceptionally numerous, some only arriving in time to be posted again into Regimental employments. The following arrivals are, however, still with us:—From the Depot—Privates McGuire, Singer, McNeill, Fitch, McCabe. From Mons Officer Cadel School—Private Reid. From other companies—Privates Leslie, Bird, Short, Potts, Bewley and Henderson 00. The following have left us and we wish them every success:—To the Depot Staff—Cpls. Grant and Gill; on National Release Cpls. Dingsdale, Russell, Davidson, Privates Smedley, Duncan 31, Allan,



Moving in Naval Circles. (The Editor wishes it to be understood that this is not one of the vessels commanded by any of Mr Alec Guinness's forebears).

Bruce, Roy, Greig, McCulloch, Milne. To other Companies:—Privates Simpson, Mair, Ritchie, Gatt, Lance/Corporal Collins. On regular release Privates Morrison 34, Sutherland, and Neilly; to ERE Corporal McCameron, Privates Craig, Todd, Davidson 85; to 5/6 Gordons Sergeants Strathdee. The following will have left on release, before these notes go to press:—Sergeant Robertson, Privates Bisset, Brown, Junor, Paxton, Mackie 55, Hendry, Grant, Tough and Leslie.

It is hardly surprising that the "lines" look rather empty these days. We have relied entirely on "regular" intakes and the only National Servicemen left are the "old hands" of Cyprus days (we are now about 80 per cent. regulars and, including Officers, are only eighty strong—quite a change from "Pinewood" when we were kept at about one hundred and forty). Unfortunately some of the finest intakes of recent years—those who saw Cyprus right through—are away or are leaving within the next few months.

The Regiment, for two years now, has topped the regular recruiting in the Highland Brigade, but we still need more, especially from the North-East. Let us hope that the news that we are to go to Germany early in 1959 will add many stalwarts to our strength.



**"B" COMPANY****General**

Christmas Eve is hardly the best day of the year to which to sit down in contemplation to marshal one's thoughts on the happenings of the last three months. However, as these notes have to be in by the 3rd January, one feels that any day after to-day would be totally disastrous!

After a summer of hard campaigning at Camber, Canterbury, Bisley, Salisbury, and all stations South, early October saw the battalion scuttling rapidly back to winter quarters at Old Park Barracks, Dover. War-paint and woad to which we had become so much accustomed was rapidly discarded in favour of Brasso, Blanco, Boot Polish and male cow manure so dear to the soldier's heart. First of all came leave—lots of it for everyone. Then the company—or what was left of it—settled down to individual training. Such activities as M.T. Cadres, N.C.O.s' Cadres, Signal Cadres, Educational Cadres, Drum and Pipe Cadres running simultaneously made the company training parades appear very much like a Platoon Muster after a particularly bloody battle.

**Administration Inspection**

The early and middle part of December was spent frenetically preparing for the Annual Inspection due to be held on the 17th December. For a week before the inspection all available hands were employed during the daylight hours giving the Company Block a new look from head to toe. The scene was reminiscent of the Crazy Gang at the Victoria Palace at its best. Overlaid figures in every conceivable position wielding distemper brushes to the detriment of every living and inanimate object within spitting distance, 6-foot tables moving majestically along the corridors without any apparent means of motivation, water and soap everywhere, with "scrub, scrub, scrub" the order of the day.

The expenditure of genuine elbow grease, Red Cardinal, Windowline, Floor Polish and invective must have been phenomenal, but the "— only comes once a year". Superimposed on this scene of "pressure bull" was the deeper administration aspect. Kit checks and exchanges followed each other with bewildering rapidity, weapons, stores, and books were checked, re-checked and checked again. Ten days beforehand we were told the General was hot on the numbering of clothing, so the emphasis was changed and every platoon was allotted the wretched company marking

set on a strictly controlled programme. Many articles which had seen previous service in other hands sported as many as five sets of numbers, an indication indeed of the rapid turnover in the Army today.

The day dawned bright but bitter, the square deeply carpeted with white frost. The General, an imposing figure in boots, breeches, sword and spurs arrived dead on time. The parade on the whole was satisfactory. Being number two company we were allowed to march off immediately our inspection was over, Headquarter Group One company in the rear of the parade was over two hours on parade and we did not envy them! The second parade was a kit lay-out, a performance we had practised but once. The General soon found out that everything was not marked as he had hoped. This was no cursory inspection but reminiscent of those the battalion used to undergo in the far-off Berlin days. The gleaming brass, the shining glass the freshly painted walls and halls went apparently unnoticed or at least uncommenced.

The kit was there complete and serviceable, neat and tidy, but it is to be feared that the battalion had been "reading the wrong book" in following instructions regarding lay-out which was received in Cyprus. Nevertheless now we know—which is, after all, one of the objects of these functions.

The rest of the day the Company kept studiously out of the way whilst a succession of efficient investigators put the Company Office and Store through its administrative paces with the Company Commander and his team dancing to the crack of the whip. An exhausting day indeed!

**Additions, Subtractions and Elevations**

During the past three months we have regretfully had to say goodbye to many "well kent" faces. To all we wish every good fortune and happiness in their new vocations wherever they may be:—To National Service release—Second/Lieutenant Guild, Corporals Gordon 18, Hartwell, Lance/Corporal Garden, Privates McKenzie, Wilson 37, Henderson, and Duncan. To Regular release—Private Condron, to 29 Infantry Brigade.

We congratulate the following on their promotion since the last notes were published:—Lance/Corporals Spence and Soutar to Corporal and Private Dixon to Lance/Corporal.

The following have become fathers since we last went to press. We congratulate them and also sympathise with them on the acquisition of new, valuable and very reliable early morning alarm clocks.

Sergeant Williams—a daughter.

Sergeant Boyd—a daughter.

Corporal Cole—a son.

Corporal Spence—a daughter.

We also congratulate Corporal Gordon 95 on his marriage in November last. We trust he may in due course join those in para eight above.

Finally we welcome to the Company the following who have recently joined us:—Second/Lieutenant I. Macauley; Sergeant Gee, A., M.M.

**"C" TRAINING COMPANY**

The last notes ended with the Company dealing in an administrative capacity with Asian 'flu. It wasn't until some weeks later that the top floor ceased looking like an old print of a London hospital during the Great Plague. Eventually, the last patient was discharged down four flights of stone steps, carrying as usual, his mattress, blankets, sheets, pillows, personal kit and other necessities, to a happy convalescence under his own Sergeant Major again.

The first N.C.O.'s four week cadre then moved in and conveniently swept away all the germs and inter-



An "O" Group.



esting literature left behind by the 'flu cases in an orgy of what is more tactfully called "interior economy" these days. The cadre kept us all very busy. We were lent Second Lieutenant Gordon from "A" Company, and Sergeants Williams and Warden from "B" and H.Q. (2) Companies respectfully. Our thanks are due to them for their enthusiasm and keenness. The cadre led a varied life ending up with a field firing at Lydd with mess tin cooking. Luckily, the weather was quite kind during the course.

Before the cadre started the company organised and ran the annual classification course in rifle and L.M.G. for the last of the casualties at Lydden Spout Range. Results on the whole were quite good.

We were glad to welcome back Sergeant Symon from his drill course and congratulate him on his "B" grading.

In October, the first of our under age regulars arrived from various depots of the other Highland Regiments. They remain with us until old enough to join their battalions overseas. All regiments are now represented except the Black Watch. Some stay only a short time but it is amazing the amount of kit that requires exchanging and replacing, so our last notes about the C.Q.M.S.'s store being a somewhat peaceful place are quite misleading. We hope that they enjoy their stay with us and benefit from the various employed jobs in which they are placed and the cadres and courses they attend.

We welcome to the company the Weapon Training Staff consisting of Sergeant Forsyth, Lance Corporal Campbell and Private Simpson, all transferred from H.Q. Company Group 1. Corporal Byers has also arrived from H.Q. Company Group 1. We were sorry to lose Corporal Walker on release.

The annual inspection took up a great deal of everyone's time and energy. Usually we, in this regiment, are seldom in one place long enough for a full ceremonial order inspection to be arranged by our superiors in time to catch up with us. We will say no more about the event as we are sure most of our readers have themselves suffered and sympathised.

Thanks to a festive and generous attitude towards Division, most of us did rather well and return to Christmas and New Year leave by H.Q.3 Infantry duty in 1958 "refreshed" in a manner of speaking.

### "D" COMPANY

It is, of course, a misnomer to describe this literary effort as "Company Notes." For the unpractised journalistic contributor, it involves much juggling with words, frequent recourse to the dictionary, considerable expenditure of paper and ink, many scratchings out, and, of course, a modicum of thought.

In this particular issue, some very nice timing is required, as the Battalion sub-editor has decreed that contributions must reach him by the 3rd of January. Thus, in theory anyway, doings over Hogmanay, should be recorded. However, most readers will have an idea of what happens at Hogmanay, and this year, thanks to the good offices of H.Q. Infantry Division, many will be making up for arriving in Dover at 23.59 hours on 31st December, 1956.

The last instalment in the life of the Company ended with the return from the charms of Salisbury Plain, and some remarks on how much nicer the paintwork in the Company Commander's Office looked to those standing on the mat which actually exists in front of him.

Four days after getting back, the Company Commander returned to Salisbury Plain for the School of Infantry Demonstration. He just wanted to get some ideas for our next visit in plenty of time.

The next step was leave, which, of course, few people were reluctant to take, in spite of having to do the washing up at home.

Leave over, everyone hurried back (with one or two notable exceptions) for those annual military abbreviations T.O.E.T.s and P.E. tests.

Lieutenant Essian Ekanem, of the Royal West African Frontier Force was attached to the Company in October for a month, and joined in all our activities, playing games with the Company, doing P.T. and helping with training and T.O.E.T.s, quite apart from giving us an interesting and amusing lecture on Nigerian marriage customs. His only complaint to our knowledge (apart from the weather), was that he understood all British units spoke English, whereas we spoke a language which put some West African Dialects in the shade. The Company on the other hand did not even try to pronounce his name and, within fifteen minutes of joining, he had been affectionately christened "Mr Midnight."

It almost goes without saying that "D" Company won the inter-Company boxing championship by a comfortable margin under the able management of Privates Delaney and Walker 98, and medals were won by Privates Chalmers, Petrie, McCormack, and Forbes 48.

The Company followed up their win in the Inter-Company Football Cup by winning the league as well, a thing Manchester United has been trying to do for years. Unfortunately, Private Fox has now left the Battalion and will be appearing in the more exalted spheres of Scottish League Division 1 next season—our loss, Hibs gain. However, Private Chalmers is teaching the Company Second-in-Command's year old son to play football before he can walk. Nobody can say we don't take our football seriously.

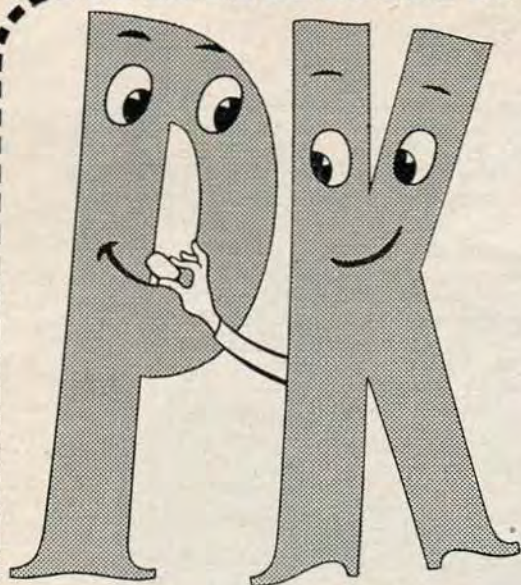
In the realm of indoor sport the Company has established a games room with table tennis, dart boards and draughts. In addition a television set has been installed in the now misnamed Quiet Room, providing inexpensive entertainment when weather or lack of funds discourages the long walk back up the hill from Dover. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then we are flattered, for we hear that there were so many applications to transfer to "D" Company, that other companies have followed our lead.

Colour/Sergeant McAuley is currently on a drill course at the Guards Training Battalion at Pirbright. The Company had a forecast of things to come when he was rehearsing to go on the course, and doubtless laundry will now be handed in by numbers. A somewhat blasphemous Sergeant Donald officiated in his



Captain R. D. L. Smart, Major G. Morrison and Major Nunno Pereira (Portuguese Army).





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place, and had the pleasure of exchanges and A.F.s P 1954 for the Administrative Inspection. Sergeant Cullen has been on the Platoon Weapon course at Hythe, and most junior N.C.O.s have been subjected to a strenuous and useful cadre run by "C" (Training) Company, and a number of others have been on M.T. and Signal cadres.

And so to the Administrative Inspection. Advice, exhortation and threats descended on us from above, to be translated to the Company in terms of inspections, parades, kit checks, kit lays, exchanges, more inspections, more kit checks and more exchanges. Lance/Corporal Cumming and his helpers covered selected walls and themselves with distemper. The Company stores were checked and re-checked, and those surplus denim buttons hidden safely away. The sporting trophies in the office were highly polished, graphs drawn, and documents checked for perfection. The great day dawned bright and cold with a white covering of frost over the square. If we were cold as the fourth company to be inspected, our heartfelt sympathies went to H.Q. 1 who are not often subjected to the rigours of the open air, and who were on this occasion last. As one Jock remarked on coming off parade, "I dinna ken whether ma name's Angus or Agnes". After all our preparations it was something of an anti-climax to have our second parade ordered in denims. However, that is just the luck of the draw. On the specially selected Quarter Guard of the day, drawn from every company in the Battalion, Private Cull is to be congratulated on being selected as the Commanding Officer's stick orderly.

Arrivals and departures are as usual too numerous to be all mentioned individually. Lieutenant Paton,

Corporal Allan, and Private Swanson have departed to the Depot. Lieutenant Burns, having found it convenient to go harvesting during Salisbury Training, leaves us at the end of the year to go farming permanently. Perhaps next time he will reverse the process and visit us for a rest on Salisbury Plain during harvest time. Lance/Corporal Simpson has also left for civilian life and Lance/Corporal Collins from South Africa reigns in his place as Company clerk.

For the future, we have been told that we can expect to remain in Dover until early 1959. Even Messrs. Krushev and Nasser permitting, this statement seems hardly accurate, as it was hotly followed by a programme committing us to different parts of England and Wales for large portions of 1958. However, with a bit of luck, we will pay occasional visits to Dover to see our wives and sweethearts, before departing to relieve the Highland Light Infantry in B.A.O.R.

Meanwhile every good wish for 1958 to all those who served in "D" Company in the past, from the present upholders of the traditions of the Black Bear.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

It has now become almost inevitable that these notes should commence with an account of the comings and goings, ups and downs, etc., that have affected our little community during the period under review. Since this is as good a way as any of kicking off, your scribe sees no reason to change this now almost hallowed tradition. So here goes!

First to leave us this last quarter were Sergeants Cole and Robertson, Johnny, as the result of a bit of pull with the medics, and Robbie on completion of his



Display of the Mess Silver at the Dargai Ball held in the Town Hall, Dover. Drummer J. Chalmers, Blairgowrie, and Drummer I. McDonald, Ballater.



Colour service. We understand that their intentions are to revolutionize the Aberdeen Transport system and to put the Metropolitan Police Force back on its feet respectively. Be that as it may, we wish them all the very best in their new walks of life. Sergeant Reynolds of R.E.M.E. has also left us for the dubious delights of civilian life, having been with us since he was a mere mechanic. He intends to continue his Army trade in Edinburgh this time on the civvy net and all hands wish him well. To take the place of Debbie we are lucky to have secured the services of Sergeant Bell, who came to us on promotion from 29 Brigade. We congratulate him and hope his stay will be as long as that of his predecessor.

On the credit side, after this list of losses, we are glad to welcome back to the fold Sergeant Leggat from the Depot, Sergeant Gee (M.M.) from a tour on ERE and Sergeant Homer who joined us from B.A.O.R., having previously served with the 2nd and 6th Bns. Another Corps Wallah whom we are very glad to see is Staff/Sergeant Healey, A.C.C., who takes over as head chef. Incidentally, another new arrival not yet actually on posted strength is Andrew Philip, son to Sergeant and Mrs. Williams, whom we are happy to congratulate on their new acquisition. Congratulations of a different sort go to R.S.M. Dunn, C.S.M. Stewart, and Sergeant Williams on having been awarded substantive promotion, and to Willie Ogg on his appointment as Colour/Sergeant. Reg Parnell has also hoisted a crown above his stripes, though he's been with us so long as a Sergeant that many of us find it difficult to remember his new style and title when addressing him. Our congratulations on his well-earned advancement are nonetheless sincere, however, for all that. Last but by no means least, we are glad to welcome to the brotherhood of the red sash Sergeant Thomson of the Military Band, and while we are on that subject we are happy to note that Sergeant Dawson has been appointed Band Sergeant vice Duggie Thow.

Unbelievably, almost, we've all managed to stay in one place throughout the entire quarter, in sharp contrast to our nation-wide rambles commented on with so much feeling in our last issue. This has brought about a marked improvement in our social life and, one way and the other, despite the Administrative Inspection which hung over our heads most of the time like the sword of Damocles, we've been able to whoop it up in no uncertain fashion.

Pride of place in any account of our efforts in this direction must go, of course, to Dargai Ball. This was held on October 25 in the Town Hall at Dover and for the first time since 1954 we were able to restore this function to all its former glory. The new innovation of the holding of the Ball on civilian territory was an unqualified success and the stately interior of Dover's ancient centre of civic life made a fitting and picturesque setting for the many splendid uniforms of the service personnel present and the glittering dresses of their ladies. Time and space do not, of course, permit one to dwell as long on this very pleasant topic as might be desired, but before leaving it is only fitting that congratulations of a more public nature than those already bestowed within the confines of the Mess and the unit should be passed to C.S.M. Tom Denholm and his committee for the long hours of hard work they put into making this Ball of 1957 such an unqualified success.

After the tumult and the shouting occasioned by Dargai had cleared away we once more reverted to our habit of holding a small party of one sort or another every Saturday and during many of these pleasant little functions astute committee members were able to catch members in a sufficiently mellow mood to flog what

ultimately transpired to be a very satisfactory number of tickets in the Christmas Draw. The Draw itself was held on Saturday, December 21, and was an enormous success, particularly as far as Sergeant and Mrs. Donald were concerned. They were finally compelled to hire a 5-ton Cargo Bedford truck which was backed up to the Mess doors and loaded with their loot, consisting of beer, whisky, an electric blanket, more beer, some hams, more whisky, more beer, etc., etc. Other lucky members were Joe Innes who drew a bone (species unspecified). Les Dunn won a forfeit which culminated in the award of a balloon with more than the usual number of holes in it, and Bob Hal, who was awarded a doubtless well deserved pat on the back.

This Christmas brought with it an even bigger avalanche of Christmas Cards than usual from our well-wishers in other units and old friends and acquaintances. One which gave us special pleasure was from the Dover South African War Association. It was a splendid photograph of Mr. Hugh Fraser Ross, whose obituary appeared in the November 1957 issue.

Needless to say Mess members made their traditional appearance as D.R.O.s at the Men's Christmas Dinner on December 24 and tradition was again closely followed at Hogmanay when a very happy party assembled in the Mess for the purpose of ushering in the New Year. The Commanding Officers and Officers were piped into the Mess with due ceremony by Sergeant Symon and shortly afterwards a chorus of "Auld Lang Syne" saw in 1958. Sergeant Salmon will have to take our word for this. This was followed by the disappearance into the darkness of all hands to go first footing and carry to their more personal friends the hearty good wishes for the coming year which we now extend to all our readers.

## SPORT

This last quarter, dull in most other respects, has seen a splendid resurgence of sporting activity after a "close" summer season when, due to our various commitments, no representative matches nor indeed Company Games were possible. However, this period of sporting inactivity was not wholly wasted. Owing to the Battalion's fourteen months active service in Cyprus, with most Companies out on detachment, and our heavy training commitments during the early spring, no hundred per cent. check of the Battalion and Company sports gear had been carried out since Redford. At the direction of the Commanding Officer this was done. A board of officers headed by the Second-in-Command carried out a complete check. A large amount of equipment was condemned and destroyed. A new scale of Battalion and Company sports kit was drawn up and purchased, and the ledgers completely rewritten and brought up to date. By the time we returned from Salisbury Plain the Battalion was fully equipped to meet the challenge of the winter season.

We are most indebted firstly to the Commanding Officer for his very generous allocation of over three hundred pounds from the President of the Regimental Institutes for this purpose, and secondly to Captain D. H. W. Brown for the meticulous way in which he acted as Secretary to the Sports Board, carried out the checks of all stores and personally rewrote all the ledgers.

Since our return in October, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey, Boxing and Basketball have flourished at all levels. Although our efforts in the representative field have met with varying results, it is true to say that anyone who wishes to play any of the major games can play regularly, and that the opportunity and facilities are not just available to the "Gladiators".



### Boxing

The Boxing season started with the Novices' Boxing Competition in late October. Thanks to a very good Referees' and Judges' Course run by our newly acquired A.P.T.C. instructor, Staff/Sergeant Dolphin, just before the meeting, we were able to organise the meeting without outside help. Over one hundred entries were received and those privileged to watch saw two days of extremely good boxing. The standard of skill displayed and the courage shown by nearly all the contestants augurs well for the future of boxing in the Battalion. We congratulate "D" Company on winning the Company Shield, which they did comfortably. "B" Company were runners-up.

The Battalion team, picked from known boxers and from those selected as a result of the Novices' Competition, was the strongest we have had for years, and we had high hopes of at least winning the Divisional Cup. On 13th November we met 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards on our home ground and beat them by seven bouts to four. In the second round we were scheduled to meet the 1st Manchester at Brentwood. A week before the contest the Manchesters asked for an extension, to which we reluctantly agreed. Four days before the meeting, four of our team contacted Asian 'flu, whilst another poisoned his hand. This made it impossible for us to field a representative team, even with reserves, and so we in our turn asked for an extension. This was not allowed and we therefore had no option but to withdraw from the competition. This was a bitter blow to the whole Battalion and must have been a crowning tragedy to the team so ably led by Lieutenant Gordon Steward, which had trained so hard and conscientiously for weeks for this competition.

However, three of our team, Corporal Nimmo, Private Kelly and Private Walker (the last two already being Command Champions) are training for the Command Individual Championships. We wish them every success. It would be invidious to close these Notes without thanking Lieutenant Gordon Steward for the enthusiasm and the energy he has devoted to boxing within the Unit. We hope to profit next year from the firm foundation he has laid.

### Football

So far this has been a fairly successful season. Our team entered the East Kent Wednesday League on return from Salisbury Plain and found that it was well able to hold its own in local football. The team reached the semi-final of the League Cup but met their Waterloo at the hands of the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, who were a much faster and more experienced side. However, in the League itself we continue to do well, having already beaten 1st Scots Guards 5-2, R.A.F. Sandwich 4-1, Depot Buffs 6-2, R.A.F. St. Margarets Bay 4-1. The only team to have beaten us are 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers, and the Dover Rangers. Before we leave the Battalion side we should like to bid farewell to Private Fox ("D" Company), who has now left us on release. His prowess as a footballer, his able captaincy and his exemplary behaviour on the field have been an example to all who enjoy and watch football. We wish him every success with Hibs, whom he rejoins as a professional footballer.

Meanwhile the very popular Inter-Company League carries on within the Battalion, and will continue to run until the end of March. In addition to this, Companies run their own Inter-Platoon Leagues on their Sports afternoons, so no one can say that football is not a thriving concern in this Battalion.

### Rugby Football

Rugby is not normally a very thriving sport in a Highland Regiment, but, nevertheless, under the

enthusiastic leadership of Second/Lieutenant Burn we have raised a very reasonable representative XV chosen from all ranks of the Unit. Apart from the Divisional Cup, in which we were eventually beaten 14-3 by 17th Trades Regiment R.E., there is a very full winter programme of friendly matches. So far we have beaten 7th Infantry Workshops R.E.M.E. 25-0, and the Depot Buffs 14-0, but were seen off by 26th Field Regiment R.A. 9-0, and Tonbridge 5-0, both after close-fought matches.

### Hockey

After a slow start, the Hockey season is now well under way, and the first indications are that we have a good Battalion side ably led by C.S.M. L. Dunn. We have entered, perhaps optimistically, for the Army Cup but have started off well with a resounding victory over 7th Infantry Workshops R.E.M.E. by 8-0. On 15th January we play 10th Trades Regiment R.E. in the second round.

Meanwhile we continue to do well in the full fixture list arranged by our Hockey Officer, Second/Lieutenant Erskine Hill. To date we have beaten the Royal Marines at home, but lost in a return match away. We beat Dover Hockey Club 5-1, and 1st Royal Fusiliers 6-4, but were beaten by the 1st Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers after a close match which we should have won.

### Basketball

Although Basketball has been a recognised Army game for some years and is played by nearly every man in the Battalion at some time or another, it has never gained the recognition it deserves, being labelled as slightly "sissy" by those who have never played it. Of course it is quite one of the toughest and most exhausting games it is possible to play. Now, due to the enthusiasm of A.P.T.C. Staff/Sergeant Dolphin, who is a Basketball "fanatic", a Battalion team is being formed to play in the local league. In addition Staff/Sergeant Dolphin is arranging an East Kent Basketball League on a Company level, for which all units in the East Kent area (i.e. Dover, Shorncliffe, Deal) will be eligible to enter teams. It is hoped, therefore, that within the next few weeks, apart from the Battalion side, there will be thriving Company teams playing regular Basketball.

### Fencing

The attendance for Fencing instruction has been disappointing over the past three months. However, now that we have ample first class fencing equipment, Second/Lieutenant D. E. D. Gordon, our Fencing Officer, hopes to train a team to enter the Army Championships in 1958.

Apart from our own instructors we have been promised help from the Royal Marines at Deal, who have three Fencing "Masters", as well as instructors from the Command P.T. School at Shorncliffe. So all that is now required is a little effort on the part of those who are "on the books" for Fencing to turn up regularly and train conscientiously to ensure a reasonable showing in representative matches next year.

### "IN MOBILE?"

- V.I.P. "And do you play football?"
- V.P.S. (Very portly soldier) "No Sir."
- V.I.P. "Then what exercise do you take?"
- V.P.S. "None Sir."
- V.I.P. "Why not?"
- V.I.S. "I've given it up Sir."
- V.I.P. "Oh! Then what do you do?"
- V.P.S. "I'm in the M.T."



## Memories of My Stay with the 1st Bn., The Gordon Highlanders

by

LIEUTENANT I. EKANEM (THE QUEEN'S OWN NIGERIA REGIMENT)

The aim of my attachment to the 1st Bn. The Gordon Highlanders was to study the working of a British Infantry Battalion.

I arrived in the Unit on the 28th of October, 1957, a few weeks after individual training had started. Literally a soldier is not a stranger in any military station, but even so it does take some time to get things sorted out and adapt oneself to the new environment. However, with help from all angles, I soon settled down with 11 Platoon of "D" Company.

The training continued and the Tests of Elementary Training, which were carried out a few weeks later were well done. I do not know what I made of my stay in this platoon, but it is true to say that the attitude of both N.C.O.'s and men gave me a lot of confidence and encouragement. I really felt at home both at work and play. One week with the N.C.O.'s Cadre in C (Training) Company was an added stimulant. On the whole four weeks with a rifle company was enough and it was time for me to see what the Support Platoons were like.

We are all aware of the role of the support weapons in an infantry battalion. What I am concerned with here are the training and the drills necessary to bring the platoons to a reasonable standard for effective deployment in battle. And it must be remembered that support weapons are specialist's weapons and one needs time to become efficient at them. It is all very well to study them in theory (the M.M.G. and the Anti-tank gun are not yet introduced into the West African Army), but it makes a lot of difference to handle the parts and to do as the often amended pamphlet says. My aim here was not to specialize but to study the scope of training and the organization of these platoons. And the gun drills and the individual duties of the gun numbers of the 17-

pounder, for instance, are all very interesting spectacles.

After eight weeks with the Battalion I have come to realise what a friend in West Africa meant when he wrote back to say "Your attachment to them is singularly fortunate." The pride of a Regiment, which is a prelude to good soldiering, features in all aspects of the life of a Gordon Highlander. The new Model Army has caused enough shock to the Regimental Traditions in the British Army but yours are fortunately spared. It was your tradition that my friend was referring to and which I find quite inspiring.

This reminiscence would not be complete without a word of appreciation of the kindness, consideration and co-operation which I have received throughout my period of attachment. I would like to end by saying how much I have enjoyed my stay with the Battalion.

### TEMPTATION.

O Thou who seest all things below,  
Grant that thy servants may go slow,  
That they may study to comply  
With regulations till they die.  
Teach us, O Lord, to reverence  
Committees more than commonsense.  
Impress our minds to make no plan  
But pass the baby when we can,  
And when the Tempter seems to give  
Us feelings of initiative,  
Or when alone we go too far,  
Chastise us with a circular.  
Mid war and tumult, fire and storms,  
Strengthen us all, we pray, with forms.  
Thus will thy servants ever be  
A flock of perfect sheep for thee.

(This is reputed to have been written by a Civil Servant under the title of "The Civil Servant's Prayer". It is quoted here as a salutary reminder of the temptations which may fall upon us too.)

## DEPOT NOTES

Christmas and Hogmanay are now over and the Depot life is once again back to normal. A characteristically excellent Christmas dinner was produced by Sergeant Shand on the 27th of December. "Bonnie Kate of Aberdeen" and "Rock Around the Clock" on the radiogram created just the right atmosphere for the occasion. The Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants proved themselves to be most efficient waiters in the traditional manner.

The most notable personal achievement of recent months has been Bandmaster Williams' great feat in gaining The Bandmasters' Advanced Certificate of Music, with honours; only fifty of these certificates have been awarded during the last fifty years.

During the quarter there have been two Passing Out Parades. Alamein Platoon passing out on the 25th of October, was inspected by Major T. Oxley. The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Training Officer of Aberdeen University O.T.C. The Parade was commanded by Lieutenant H. M. Bradshaw, with Sergeant R. Gordon as Platoon Sergeant; Private R. W. Stevenson was the Champion Recruit and Private R. Duguid the Best Shot. Rhine and Anzio Platoons passed out on the 6th of December, the salute being taken by Lieutenant Colonel J. Shankley, the Com-

manding Officer of the 4/7th Gordons. Lieutenant H. M. Bradshaw commanded the Parade, with Sergeants MacDonald and Hyslop as Platoon Sergeants; the Champion Recruit was Private W. L. Dear and the Best Shot Private W. Deans.

The football season has opened successfully, the Depot having reached the final round of the Scottish Command and Small Units Knock-out Competition. The Black Watch Depot and the J.S.S.L. at Crail have been beaten so far; 28 Command Workshops R.E.M.E. will be played in March. The Depot is also competing in four local competitions. In one of these, the team had two close games with R.A.F. Buchan in the final, the first of which was drawn, the second narrowly lost. For yet another year, Sergeant MacDonald is training the team, and its recent successes are largely due to his coaching and enthusiasm.

A four man Tug-of-War Team represented the Depot in a competition organised by The Spartan Club of Aberdeen; this they won, beating a team of Aberdeen Dockers in the final round. The team was coached by Corporal Smith.

The Depot Basketball Team, trained by C.S.M.I. Copeland, has been playing regularly in Aberdeen.





Anzio Platoon passed-out 6th December, 1957.

Victories over both the A and B teams of The Aberdeen Training College and also over Aberdeen University have been among its most notable successes.

The Adjutant, Captain I. D. Martineau and Lieutenant R. W. C. Murison have departed for the 1st Battalion. Captain Martineau has been a member of the depot staff for over three years and the Depot is particularly indebted to him for his contribution to athletics; apart from his own frequent individual wins, he has trained many successful Depot Teams. He will be especially missed in this respect. In their place we have great pleasure in welcoming Captain D. C. K. Brown as Adjutant and Lieutenant B. G. Paton as a training subaltern. We also welcome

Second Lieutenant G. S. Guild as the Administrative Officer of The Highland Brigade Junior Training Unit in place of Second Lieutenant A. C. Watson, who has recently completed his National Service.

The members of the Sergeants' Mess gave another very enjoyable Dinner Dance in the Marcliffe Hotel in Aberdeen on the 27th of December. This date coincided with the 40th wedding anniversary of Mr and Mrs William Brown, who were presented with a clock by members and friends of the Sergeants' Mess in memory of the occasion. Seagull Brown served in the Regiment from 1902 till 1923. The Officers and their wives were present as well as many friends of the Sergeants' Mess at this successful party.



Rhine Platoon passed-out 6th December, 1957.



On 23rd January, we were to have been visited by the Army Commander, Lieutenant-General Sir Horatius Murray, and his Chief of Staff, Major-General J. F. M. MacDonald, but unfortunately a heavy snowstorm forced their aircraft to turn back before they could land at Dyce. We look forward to their postponed visit in March.

### The Best Recruiting Regiment

According to the latest available figures, the Gordon Highlanders gained more Regular recruits in 1957 than any other Regiment of the Line, with a score of 196.

Beyond any doubt this is mainly due to the very high public reputation of all sections of the Regiment, both Regular and Territorial, and men come from all over the country to join us.

Not only have we been getting the numbers, but their quality is the envy of other Regiments.

Congratulations to:—Sergeant and Mrs R. Gordon, on the birth of a daughter in Aberdeen on 8th October. Sergeant and Mrs A. MacDonald, on the birth of a son in Aberdeen on 5th November. Corporal and Mrs Allan, on the birth of a daughter in Aberdeen on 20th November. Private A. MacKenzie on his marriage on 3rd October.

The following have left the Depot and we wish them the Best of Luck in the future:—Sergeant J. Leggat; Corporal J. Sharp; Corporal C. Cheyne; Lance Corporal E. Cobban; Privates W. Blakeman, C. Territt, G. Beattie, G. Lamont and D. B. Dunnett.

We welcome the following:—Corporal A. Allan, Corporal D. Grant, Corporal N. Kerr, Lance Corporal C. Nimmo, Privates A. Grant and G. Robertson.

### HIGHLAND BRIGADE JUNIOR TRAINING UNIT NOTES

The last quarter has seen a record increase in the number of Junior Bandsmen, Pipers and Drummers joining the Highland Brigade—we are now 59 strong and increasing daily at an alarming rate.

Musically, we have been both very busy and successful. A small Military Band has been playing at church services within the barracks, and at a Service at the British Legion Hall, Bridge of Don, on Remembrance Sunday. Brodie, McQuade and Richards have gone to the Royal Military School of Music, and those already at the school have distinguished themselves and are a credit to the unit. For the year 1956-57, Pilcher (A. and S.H.), has won the award for the best musician and McMillan and Williams have tied for second place in the award for best all-round boy at the school. Few realise that it is no mean achievement to get to the School of Music, a course which is of immense value in a boy's career as a musician. Lance Corporal Davidson and

Edmondson have been playing in the Turiff British Legion Brass Band and went with this Band to Edinburgh to play in the Scottish Brass Band Championship. The Bugle Band, too, has been busy and has played at two Passing Out Parades, at the British Legion Festival of Remembrance at Ellon where it marched the standards on and off the stage, and at the head of the Depot on the march to St. Machar Cathedral on Remembrance Sunday. The sounds coming from the Pipe-Major's hut are becoming less plaintive and slightly more melodious, giving rise to the pious hope that a Pipe Band may be in the offing.

A number of new sports have been tried with some success. The Basketball team have forced a draw with a Training Company intake and trained hard for the Army Boys' Units Basketball Championship—we met the Lowland Brigade at Lanark in the first round and after a very spirited game which we dominated for two thirds of the time we were beaten 28-32. The Junior Training Unit at The Cameronians' Depot, looked after us very well indeed, and it was a week-end we all enjoyed. Badminton instruction has been started under the C.S.M.I. and, one feels, the fact that no one has been drowned during the Life-Saving lessons is due more to luck than the expert supervision of the coach at the Bon-Accord Baths. Football matches against local Boys' Clubs have been played, although it has been found that they are usually of a higher standard than ourselves.

Social Evenings are now held once a week in the Recreation Room—that they are so popular is almost entirely thanks to the hard work and excellent catering of Mrs Williams, Mrs Hall and the ingenuity of the Bandmaster. The Unit Christmas Party was a resounding success—it was held in the N.A.A.F.I. and a large number of guests were invited including a number of Officers, heads of the various departments, Provost Shannon and members of the W.V.S., to name but a few. After an excellent meal provided by Miss Finlay, members of the unit and staff staged a concert—these were comedy sketches written by Mr Williams, the Skiffle Group, Ford's imitations of Elvis Presley, and skits on I.T.V. and B.B.C. by Cpls Hall and Robertson which soon had all present in fits of laughter, while on the more musical side Sergeant Meenagh's songs and Hamilton's mouth-organ playing were of a high standard. The concert had already been put on at the Palmuir Road Old Folk's Home, where it met with an equally enthusiastic reception—although the Old Folk were at first a little mystified at Skiffle and Rock'n Roll.

We say goodbye to Lance Corporal Gay, who has returned to his unit, and welcome Lance Corporals Davidson and Kay. Our congratulations must go to Bandmaster Williams on his passing the Advanced Certificate of Music, with honours.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

### The Uniform Rooms

The display of uniforms is divided between two rooms, the first dealing with the 75th, 92nd and early Militia, and the other from the amalgamation of 1881 to the present day.

Some idea of the method of display can be seen from the general view of part of the earlier room. The case in the foreground shows a 92nd Officer's doublet, plaid and dirk of the Peninsula-Waterloo period, as well as a fairly complete uniform of about twenty years later. Also to be seen are Coatees of the Aberdeenshire Local Militia of 1810 and one or two examples of Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders uni-

form of mid-nineteenth century. In the reverse side of this case, amongst others, are a fine 92nd Colonel's uniform of the William IV period, a 75th Officer's tunic of 1850 and the kilt and jacket worn by General Sir Ian (then Lieutenant) Hamilton at the Battle of Majuba in 1881.

On the right of the picture in a long case against the wall is a collection of belt plates and buckles, plaid brooches, badges, buttons, dirks, sporrans, etc., some sixty items in all, forming a fairly comprehensive collection of the period; much more comprehensive of course, than it is possible to make the display of uniforms but here we are exceptionally fortunate







in having Major P. D. Clendenin's collection of water colours. There are twenty nine of them in this room depicting the uniforms of the 75th, 92nd, Aberdeen Militia and Royal Aberdeenshire Highlanders from the raising to 1881. The seven statuettes in the central case were acquired from the Scottish United Services Museum and were painted by Major Clendenin.

Starting in this room and running through the Library (which will be included in the next article) and into the other uniform room, is a collection of pictures, and prints portraying incidents in the life of the Regiment, and amongst these will be found such relics as the Duchess of Gordon's bonnet, Colonel Cameron of Fassifern's epaulettes and Colonel Parker's case of ornaments.

The room covering the later period is laid out on the same lines and includes uniforms of the Volunteers and Territorials, to which Major Clendenin has contributed twenty-one water colours, seventeen of uniforms and four of Colours. The Field Marshal's uniform of Sir George Stuart White is shown here together with a reminder of the occasion when, as a

Major, he won the Victoria Cross at Charasia in October, 1879. This is the message which he sent on a scrap of paper to Major General Sir Frederick Roberts, commanding the British forces in Afghanistan—"I have taken possession of the Pass and the 92nd have all the Afghan guns (12)—Geo. S. White. Please wire the Times as I cannot. I will hold it all night."

The last Colours of the 2nd Battalion are also in this room. They were presented by H.M. King George V at the Delhi Durbar in 1911 and placed in the Museum on the amalgamation of the two battalions in 1947.

There is also a small collection of weapons, the chief ones with which the infantryman has been armed since the Regiment was raised. They are on loan from H.M. Tower of London and are, left to right—Flint Lock Musket—1785-1820. Snider 1864-70—the first service breech loader with centre fire cartridge. Martini-Henry 1869/70-1888—calibre .45. Lee Enfield—303 short magazine, 1903-41. The revolver is an Enfield Mark II, 1884 calibre .476.

(to be concluded)

## THE FRENCH MILITARY ACADEMY, ST. CYR, COETQUIDAN

St. Cyr has been in the news recently as the French are proposing to rebuild their military academy outside Paris, which was destroyed in the last war by allied bombing. This famous military academy is the equivalent of the R.M.A. Sandhurst. Since the war, St. Cyr has been situated at Coetquidan, in Brittany, in the barracks of a pre-war infantry training camp. The move back to Paris will no doubt be welcomed, as the conditions at Coetquidan are rather inadequate. The officer cadets live in barrack blocks which have poor heating arrangements and which have no hot water system. They have no ante-rooms and cadets have to make use of the halls of study in the barrack blocks instead. The only place where cadets can relax in comfort are in the bars. The parade ground is not made up and in fact in bad weather the whole area of the barracks becomes very muddy. A gymnasium does not exist, and another disadvantage in British eyes is that there are not any playing fields, the grounds of neighbouring villages

having to be used. But the French in any case say they have little time for games.

Officer cadets spend two years at the academy and undergo a strenuous training. For the first year the cadet is a junior in the 2nd Battalion, and in the second year he is a senior cadet in the 1st Battalion, which has the honour of being the senior battalion in the French army. The cadets either come to St. Cyr straight from school, or are N.C.O.s who have been selected for officer training. The instruction is so different to that of Sandhurst that perhaps a short description of what the French cadet has to accomplish may be of interest. In contrast to Sandhurst, almost all the instruction is given by subaltern officers and the staff of warrant officers is quite small.

The emphasis of training is on combat and leadership. The field work is carried out in all weather, and long days are spent at it. There is maximum noise and reality; plastic grenades and wooden bullets not infrequently causing casualties. One day a cadet is a platoon commander, another a platoon sergeant and on other days he does the job of various members of a platoon. Night exercises are held as well twice a week. In all this training the chief value comes from the experience gained in handling a platoon, which has more stress laid upon it than the actual tactics which are concerned.

Weapon training has not the same importance attached to it as at Sandhurst. The French rifle is an inaccurate weapon in any case, but they insist that it is simple and a good weapon for the private soldier in the heat of battle. Very few periods of drill are taught and there is very seldom a parade. Every cadet learns to ride and to drive. Map reading and a little academic work is carried out under the instruction of military officers. There is also fencing and judo.

St. Cyr's site at Coetquidan has few advantages, except that the countryside of Brittany is good for combat training which plays such a large part in the training of a French officer. No doubt when St. Cyr is rebuilt, the living conditions will be considerably improved and buildings will be made adequate for the cadets' two years training, as it was before the last war.

The Watcher, Paris.



French Officer Cadets.



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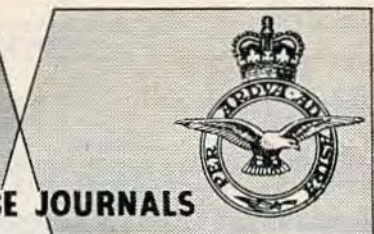
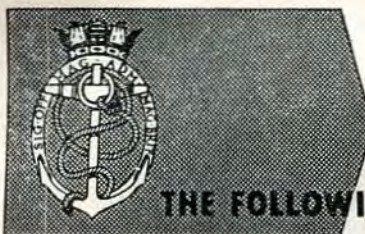
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## 5/6th BATTALION THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS (T.A.)

The customary lull has now, more or less, come to an end, which happens after Camp. We start the New Year by wishing all members of the 5/6th Gordons, past and present, old, not so old, and new, a Very Prosperous New Year.

Since last going to press, we have had one Battalion Exercise for officers and other ranks. This was done on the subject of Advance to Contact. During the T.E.W.T., the new Brigade Commander, Brigadier L. A. Stevenson, D.S.O., O.B.E., visited us, spoke at the T.E.W.T., and attended the Officers' and Sergeants' Dinner given in the Officers' Mess on the Saturday night. This was a great success and was also attended by the Honorary Colonel, and Lt.-Col. Petrie, M.C., the late Commanding Officer.

Now in the New Year we look to a new "Atomic" line in Training, and a surge of new recruits which not even the greatest optimists would have forecasted six months ago. In fact, the number of recruits, that is new recruits, and not re-engaged men, since last October, has been forty-two. The detachment at Dufftown has doubled its strength as has "C" Company at Oldmeldrum.

### "A" COMPANY

The Company, this year, is likely to feel the loss of the Week-end Training Centre at Elgin, and as a result we shall have to find some other suitable way of getting the training done. The most satisfactory way seems to be a mixture between the drill nights every week, and week-end training in Aberdeen.

The badminton club promises to have its most successful year, and it is hoped that matches will be played against other detachment teams.

### "B" Company

All quiet on the Eastern Front; however, things have not been quite so quiet. Sgt. Strathdee has arrived to take the place of Sgt. Brown, and we would like to welcome the new P.S.I., who was formerly a 5/6 Gordon, though from some wee place in the hills! Heads!

We would also like to congratulate Pte. Proctor who has been making a name for himself in the Peterhead team of the Highland League.

Our only departure is Willie Thomson, the caretaker, to whom we give our good wishes for the future.

### "C" COMPANY

Having doubled our numbers at a most successful weekend that we held at Oldmeldrum, we are feeling rather full of ourselves. However, we would like to welcome all of our new recruits and we hope their stay with us will be long and happy.

### "D" COMPANY

As the range at Mormond Hill is now nearly ready for use we are looking forward to a good year with a range handy to us.

We were very sorry to see Cpl. Smith leave us and go South, and also L/Cpls. Burnett, Dick and Thom who have also left us. We would like to thank them for what they did for the Company.

The big social event was the wedding of Pte. Noble and we would like to congratulate him on his marriage.

### SUPPORT COMPANY

The New Year safely past, we are now collecting our dampened wits for the coming year which we hope will be a good one.

We would like to congratulate Pte. Milne on a very good effort. He joined us in September and by Mid December had completed enough drills, and had been excused from his work to do a week at the Regimental Depot, to qualify for a bounty. A good effort and congratulations.

### "HQ" Company

We are now settling down after the Children's Christmas Party and the New Year gaiety.

We are having a small dance soon just to see how things go.

Weekend training will be restarting again this month as the Recruits have been taking up most of the available weekends at the Drill Hall, Keith.

We too would like to wish all and sundry a Very Happy 1958.

## QUEEN'S OWN CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS

Since last going to press the restrictions on our last exercise has been lifted and it is now possible to mention that it concerned guerilla operations. As this is the first time that South African troops have had experience in this type of operation it proved most interesting. Our sister Regiment, the Dukes, acted as the enemy very effectively and added considerable realism to the show. It must be noted, however, that determined endeavours by the enemy to put the Commanding Officer and the 2 I/C. "in the bag" were without avail. Possibly this is accounted for by the the long apprenticeship served by both persons concerned in the Infantry.

The big news flash of the quarter concerns the recent publication of the 1939-45 Battle Honours for the Regiment. The list extracted from UDFO.159/57 is as follows:—

Western Desert, 1941-43  
Gazala  
Alem Hamza  
Best Post  
Alamein Defence  
El Alamein

Italy, 1944-45  
Casino II  
Chiuri  
Florence  
Gothic Line  
Monte Stanco  
Monte Pezza  
Sole/Capraia  
Po Valley

The publication at this stage is most useful as the Regiment is overdue for new Colours and it will now be possible to include the new honours with the corrected designs.

On 5th October the unit was requested to put on a Retreat Ceremony in aid of the Army Fund Fete but, at the last moment, it was literally washed-out by a heavy rain-storm. It was most disappointing as there was an excellent turn-out of the troops.

From early November we have been busy with the N.C.O.'s course which, this year, is being run in two sections. Weapons and drill being covered before Christmas and the remainder of the course being com-



pleted from about the middle of January onwards. The initial showing is most promising.

A few more promotions were published during November and we would extend hearty congratulations to all concerned—they are:—To W.O.II—Sergeant I. M. Mullins; to Corporal—Rfn. W. E. Dallas and C. O'Brien; to temporary Corporal—Rfn. A. L. Dalton, R. E. Janke, C. B. Levitt, M. J. M. Sargeant and C. W. Stembridge.

### OFFICERS' MESS

On 31st October the Commanding Officer represented the Regiment at the London Scottish Hallowe'en Dinner. Though the numbers of London Scottish are small they make up for it in enthusiasm and it was a most delightful occasion.

On 3rd November the long-outstanding golf match against the Dukes Officers' Mess took place. Though some of us lacked adeptness at the game and the final count looked more like a cricket match, it was a most enjoyable day which everyone is convinced must become an annual event.

On 13th November a number of officers gathered at a Ball at the Muizenberg Pavilion arranged by the Mayor of Cape Town in honour of the centenary of the 1st Field Regiment (C.F.A.P.A.O.). As it was an almost entirely service show a most pleasant evening was spent amongst friends from the various arms.

Congratulations are due to Lt. and Adjutant W. G. Hearn whose temporary Captaincy has recently been published. Lt. C. C. C. Albertyn for coping with the Lieuts. to Captains promotion course very adequately. He came third on the course. Lt. M. Hugo-Brunt, still lecturing in architecture in Hong-Kong, on his marriage which takes place on 22th December. He is marrying a New Zealand nursing sister so it will be a Commonwealth occasion.

### "A" COMPANY

(Arrived just too late for last notes)

It is with great pride that we note the winning of the "62" Cup for the second time after an interval of far too many years. The cup was presented to Major Niemann at the very successful Home-coming Dance. At the same time we would like to congratulate H.Q. Coy. in making a clean sweep of all the other trophies.

Belatedly we would like to congratulate our new C.C., Comdt. D. M. Loveland, on his promotion and appointment and Major Hone on his appointment as 2 I/C., at the same time, very sadly, saying farewell to Comdt. G. W. Thomas. Another cheerio is to C.S.M. Johnny Kahn, who has gone on to the Reserve; to him many thanks for his sterling services. At the same time we are happy to welcome Sgt. Mullins who has been promoted to C.S.M. in his place. And while on this vein, congratulations to Cpl. Beguley and L/Cpls. Rod, Steel and Gee on their promotions.

Although the annual training camp is now well in the background it is seemly to note that the Company did extremely well at Oudtshoorn, especially in cleanliness of barracks and during the exercise where some of our members received high praise from the P.F. umpire staff. Unfortunately the Company Commander, Major Niemann, had to be replaced by his deputy, Lt. Hearn, due to an injured knee during a rugby game. Pity these old men do not know when it is time to hang up their boots.

We would like to thank our ex-Coy. Cmdr., Major Hone, who commanded the Coy. during most of the past year, and Cpls. Cook and Olinsky, our Orderly Room staff, for their stout efforts towards winning the "62" Cup.

Congratulations also to Cpl. Olinsky who very creditably completed a Platoon Sergeant's course at the College. Acting C.Q.M.S., Cpl. Cook, has been on a "Q" course and Rfn. Dalton, Janke, Levitt, Sargeant and Stembridge on Bren Instructors course—we feel sure they will acquit themselves with honour.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

The calm before the storm of the festive season was broken by a party to celebrate the 25th wedding anniversary of Drum/Sgt. and Mrs. Meeser. The occasion was well attended by members of the Mess and our thanks to these recently wedded persons for giving us such an entertaining evening. So much so that the various types of refreshments were served in separate rooms. (This fact can be verified either by the R.S.M. or the Pipe/Major.)

The Mackie Cup shoot was, unfortunately, poorly attended but, once again full marks must go to the R.S.M. for his fine performance, under adverse conditions, in winning the event. An inter-Mess shoot against the Officers' Mess took place at the same time and the Sgts.' team is to be congratulated for allowing the Officers to beat them. (Let this point not be belaboured.—Chief Scribe.) While on the subject of shooting it is fitting to thank the Committee of the Rifle Club for inviting us to the delightful dinner they organised at the White House Hotel.

Congratulations are due to Sgt. Tony Allen on his marriage to Miss Bloemfontein, 1955 (factual), and to Sgt. Mullins on his promotion to W.O.II.

### BAND

The Band has had a busy quarter although their scribe is apparently too tired to tell us of it. Amongst the commitments were a show for the M.O.T.H.s on 19th October, an engagement at the Paarl Tercentenary on 22nd October and another show for the M.O.T.H.s on Remembrance Sunday, 10th November.

It is distressing to note, however, that a very apathetic spirit has appeared in the Band. Attendance, both at practices and engagements, has fallen off sharply and the Band performance is suffering as a result. It is to be hoped that this will be remedied in the near future.

### RIFLE CLUB

The final shoot of the year took place on 30th November against S.A.S. "Unitie". This shoot was, in all respects, a friendly one but the air of keen competition was always present. This time the Club was more successful and we managed to defeat our local "salts" by 40 points. It is hoped that this match will become an annual event.

The winding-up of the year's business took place at the White House Hotel on 22nd November when the Club held its annual dinner. The presentation of the trophies by Mrs. Loveland was the highlight of the evening. The dinner was well attended by Club members and was a great success.

Comdt. D. M. Loveland, in his speech, paid tribute to those members of the Club who went to spend an afternoon on the range in all kinds of weather and looked after the interests of a small, but important, section of the Regiment. He also said that the unit was extremely lucky in having a little Club whose members, though small in numbers, were great in enthusiasm and he hoped that the Rifle Club would continue to function through the years to come, so that, as in the past, the older members of the Club could impart the knowledge they had gained during the pursuance of their sport to the other members of the Regiment. In conclusion the C.O. proposed a toast to the long and continued well-being of the Club.



In his reply, R.S.M. Schwormstedt said that the Regiment occupied a unique position amongst A.C.F. units in that it had had an active Rifle Club since 1902 with the exception of the war years when the shooting took place elsewhere. A notable achievement during the year was the century put up by S/Sgt. Higgins, who also held his title as the most outstanding shotist of the year. The R.S.M. said that the last time a century had been scored was in 1937 by S/Sgt. MacCleod. In conclusion he remarked that rifle shooting was an excellent sport and thanked Major Fort for the miniatures he had presented for the runners-up in certain competitions.

The trophy winners are as follows:—

- Patterson Cup—R.S.M. Schwormstedt. Runner-up—S/Sgt. Baxter.
- Cape Town Rifle Club Cup—S/Sgt. Higgins.
- Jardine Cup—R.S.M. Schwormstedt. Runner-up—S/Sgt. Higgins.
- Lipman and Silverman Cup—S/Sgt. Higgins. Runner-up—Rfn. Pankhurst.
- Stewart Solomon Cup—Cpl. Ellis.
- Hare Cup—S/Sgt. Higgins.
- McCleod Cup—Rfn. Pankhurst.
- Binedell Cup—Rfn. Fabre.
- Gradner Cup—Rfn. O'Brien.
- Grand Aggregate Cup—S/Sgt. Higgins. Runner-up—R.S.M. Schwormstedt.
- Webb Cup—S/Sgt. Higgins.
- Century Cup—S/Sgt. Higgins.

And so into the New Year with the wish that "good shooting" may be the reward of all Club members for their endeavours.

### REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Every year the attendance at the annual El Alamein dinner is a source of pleasure—and amazement too—to the Chairman and Committee of the Association. As the years pass and the number of the "old stagers" dwindle, the disheartening effect is felt and the future of the Association is pondered over gloomily. But every October the dinner is planned and, inexplicably, there are no signs of apathy.

Last October 25th, 106 members of the Regiment, past and present, sat down to dinner in an atmosphere of enthusiasm and gay abandon. There cannot be many Regiments which can gather together so many of its war-time personnel twelve years after the cessation of hostilities.

On 14th December the Christmas Tree party was held in the Green Point Football Club's premises on Green Point Common. The delight of the 123 "small fry" who received presents from Father Christmas was evident—more so, perhaps, because of the cancellation of the party last year owing of the polio precautions.

There were nostalgic references to Tel Aviv, Moascar, Gaza, Suez, Haifa and Cairo when Mr. Cyril Swiel addressed the last quarterly meeting at the beginning of December. Mr. Swiel, an ex-fighter pilot of the Israeli Forces, gave a most interesting account of his experiences during the Sinai Campaign.

### SNOOKER CLUB

Changes were found in the committee for the new season. It consists of:—

- Chairman—Mr. I. M. Mullins.
- Secretary/Treasurer—Mr. J. Locke.
- Selection Committee—Messrs. A. Cohen, "Dagga", "Heyns" and "Hoedjie".

Congratulations to Stan Karstens and his band of merry men for once again winning "B" section division and, at the same time, hard luck on not reaching the K.O. finals. To the "A" team all we can say is—(censored).

The annual snooker handicap was won by "Kokkie" de Kock, Mike Terry being runner-up. This was followed by the annual Smoker and we were honoured to have the C.O., Comdt. Loveland, present to hand out the trophies which were won as follows:—

- Winner—K. de Kock. Runner-up—M. Terry.
- Semi-finalists—J. Kahn and "Ice Cream" Swanepoel.
- Highest Break—K. de Kock.

A special vote of thanks to Jimmy Locke and his catering staff for organising probably the best smoker we have ever had and to Tommy Staak for maintaining our snooker table.

## "HOW TO FARM AN OSTRICH"

A hundred years ago Ostrich farming was somewhat more difficult than it is today, if for no other reason because you had to hie yourself off into the high veld of the South African Karoo and catch yourself some birds which are capable of running at 40 M.P.H. and of ripping you from neck to knee with one kick if they take a dislike to you at close quarters.

There is only one area in the world where the Ostrich has been successfully raised in captivity and that is in the Oudtshoorn valley of Cape Province, roughly half way between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. Here there are some 36,000 ostriches on 200 odd farms.

Nowadays to farm the ostrich you require a farm in this dusty valley, but the market for feathers has been subjected to a series of booms and slumps, so that all farming is mixed and in addition to the ostriches, Lucerne (three leafed clover) which ostriches eat and is a profitable cattle feed crop, and bees, required to pollinate the clover, are the other main items to be found.

The chicks are taken from their mothers at 6 days old and raised in an incubator as in their extreme youth they are more delicate than turkeys. At three months they are put out in paddocks with 50 to 150 birds to a paddock. Between the ages of 6 months and 8—12 years birds produce marketable feathers and are plucked twice a year, a different set of feathers being taken each time. Once the birds cease to produce marketable feathers, the best birds are selected for breeding and the remainder slaughtered. Those which come to an untimely end are put to good use; the skins are tanned and made into handbags and shoes, the bones converted to fertilizer, the feet into ashtrays and knickknacks, and the meat into biltong (dried and salted raw meat—very nourishing and actually quite tasty!)

Those lucky ones selected for mating are put in pens roughly 60 yards by 60 yards to get to know their opposite numbers, and here they stay for the rest of their days which may be up to the age of 40—60. The ostrich is a remarkably faithful bird and if one of a pair should die the other bird will never take another mate. The cynics say this is because the





Highgate Ostrich Farm, Oudtshoorn, South Africa.

hen bird has no vocal chords, only the male is vocal and makes a roaring sound when mating or roused to anger. The fact remains that some birds have been together for a long as 40 years and divorce is unknown.

In captivity, they raise three families a year, the cock bird surprisingly doing more than his fair share of the family raising. He scrapes a hollow in the ground and here the hen lays her eggs (each weighing 3 lbs. and equal to 2 dozen hens eggs). When all are laid (normally about 10) sitting begins, Mum doing the day shift from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for which her brown grey plumage ideally suits her, and Dad in his magnificent black and white does the night shift from 3 p.m. to 9 a.m. Neither is ever late for duty, and you can set your watch on the change over.

The way an ostrich sits on its nest gives rise to the fallacy that it buries its head in the sand. In fact it lays its long neck flat on the ground so that on the bare scrub covered veld it merely looks like another hillock. If frightened or approached by a human, it will often do this as well under the impression that it becomes invisible.

It is normally only in defence of its nest and mate that the male bird becomes savage, and his war dance has to be seen to be believed. He stamps his feet on the ground and waves his neck in circles working himself up into a furious passion. For a man the only defence against an ostrich attack is to lie down when his vicious kick can do no harm, although Mr. Ostrich is likely to sit on his victim and carry on his war dance and peck. For the ostrich itself, nature has provided a defence against such attack in the form of a half inch thick breastplate of bone.

The ostrichs' diet is simple, consisting of lucerne (which they will not eat cut) and stones to aid digestion. Their system of eating is that of a gravity feed—getting what they can in their beaks and then sticking their necks upright so that the interested observer can watch the progress of their lunch. As they live in their natural state in desert or semi-desert areas they can go for months without water, getting such moisture as they require from the dew on the clover.

Before any reader takes up Ostrich farming, he should remember that the economics of it depend largely on the vagaries of fashionable women. At present there is a slight boom and best feathers fetch up to £13. 0. 0. a pound, but there will always be some demand for feathers so long as feather dusters are required and the human male continues to enjoy watching young and shapely females dancing behind fans and little else.

J. J. H. S.

## HUGH ROSS — A GORDON HIGHLANDERS LAST WISH

With a piper playing the lament, and soldiers and sailors standing to attention, the ashes of Mr. Hugh Ross—the man who had been the world's oldest Gordon Highlander—were scattered in the Moray Firth on 20th December.

The ceremony took place on board the *Britannia*, flagship of the Lossiemouth Seine net fishing fleet, with which 104-year-old Mr. Ross had gone to sea as a boy.

The *Britannia*, with flag at half-mast, tossed in a foam-flecked sea as Provost Lyon Dean consigned the ashes to the waters of the firth, thus fulfilling Mr. Ross's last wish before he died in Durban, South Africa, last September.

Before the ashes were taken on board, a short service was conducted at the local fisherman's institute by Superintendent J. Stewart.

Then, headed by Piper T. Smith, playing the march, and watched by a large crowd, the company marched in procession to the *Britannia*, Lieutenant Charles Michie, Keith, bearing the casket containing the ashes.

Mr. Ross, a native of Portmahomack, lived in Lossiemouth until the age of 20.

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