The Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment

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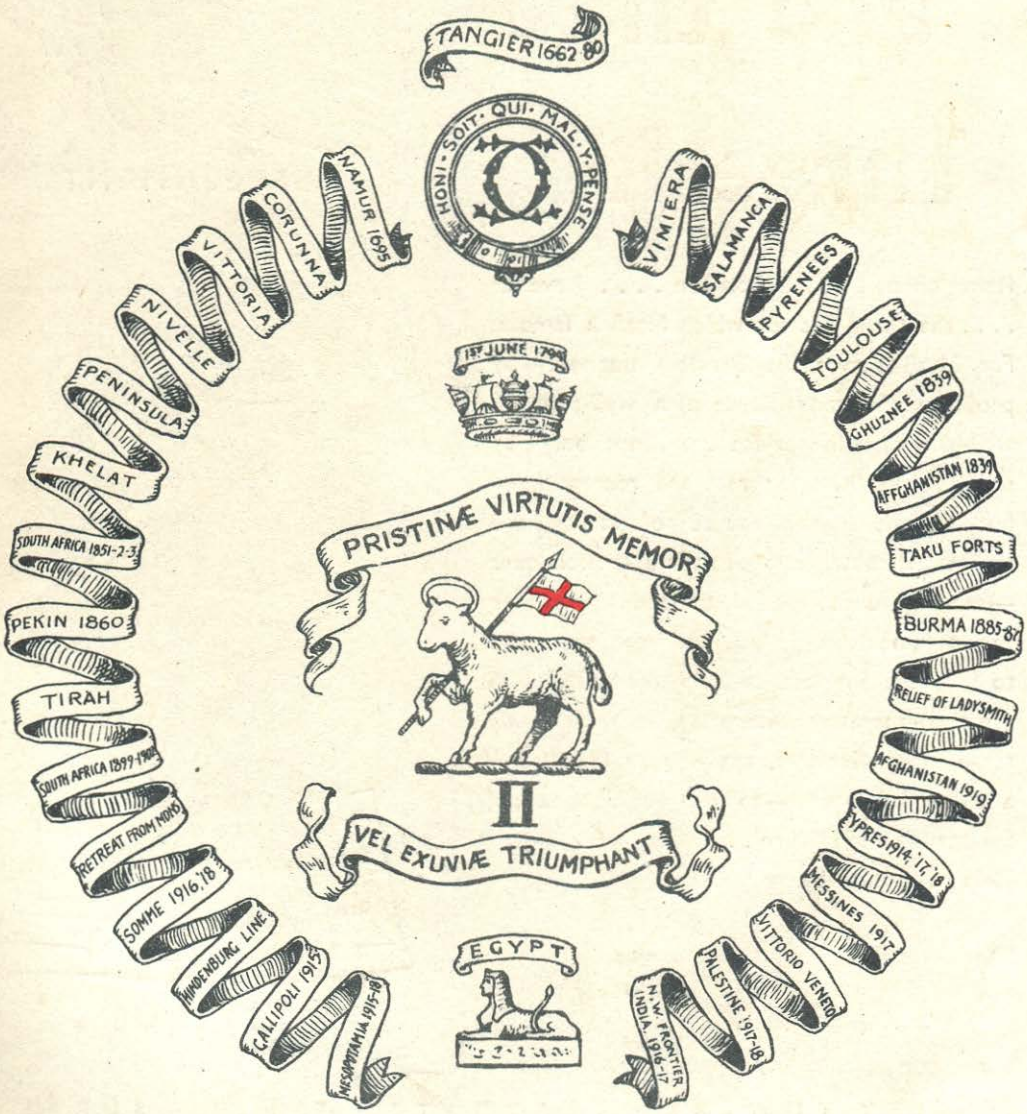

VOL. IX. No. 1 MAY, 1948

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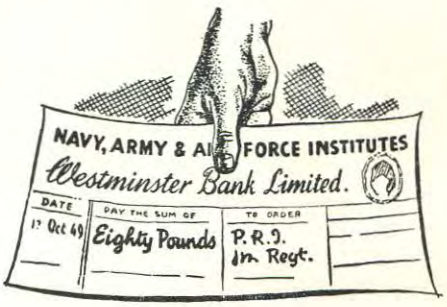

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The Journal of
The Queen's Royal Regiment

VOL. IX MAY, 1948 No. 1

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EDITORIAL

SINCE our last issue even more drastic changes have taken place in the organization of the Regiment. The Army Council decided during the winter that every infantry regiment was to be reduced to one Regular battalion only.

In a subsequent letter colonels of infantry regiments were asked whether they would bring this about by amalgamating the two existing battalions or by disbanding one of them.

The Colonel of the Regiment held a meeting of the Regimental Committee to discuss this problem, and after a full examination of all the factors decided to recommend to the Army Council the disbandment of the 2nd Battalion.

The 1st Battalion is at present in Cadre at Guildford, where it went on return from Singapore preparatory to going into suspended animation.

In due course this Cadre, with the Colours and all the property of the Battalion, will be taken over by the 2nd Battalion, which will assume the title of the 1st Battalion.

The Colours of the 2nd Battalion will then be laid up and the funds and property of the Battalion will become a trust vested in a Committee of which the Colonel of the Regiment will be Chairman.

It is a very sad blow that the 2nd Battalion should have to disappear after its grand record over the past 91 years, but it is essential that the 286 years of unbroken service of the 1st Battalion should go on. All wars entail reorganization and usually reduction of the Army. At this time the withdrawal of British troops from India and Burma, and in the near future from Palestine, has greatly reduced the number of battalions needed for overseas garrisons and the Army Council had no alternative to reduction of strengths. We shall have loyally to carry through this reorganization as did our predecessors in the days of the Cardwell reforms, which, though they did not actually affect the Regiment, caused a great upheaval throughout the army.

A sad loss will be the disappearance of No. 2 P.T.C. This, under the most enthusiastic command of Lieut.-Colonel Veasey, D.S.O., has maintained a very high standard indeed and has kept Stoughton Barracks in the spick and span order always expected of Queen's units.

Regimental recruits will in future receive their first training in the Group Training Battalion, the Battalion of a Royal West Kent Regiment, which will take the place both of the P.T.Cs. and the Home Counties I.T.C.

To change to JOURNAL affairs. This reduction of units will considerably reduce the bulk circulation, but a Committee meeting (as described elsewhere) decided in March that we were justified in maintaining the present style and issues for at least another year. This will entail some loss but it is hoped to keep this as small as possible by increasing the number of past and serving individual subscribers. The O.C.As. of the 6th and 7th Battalions have already given great help and in future a Subscription Form will be printed in each issue next to the frontispiece and it is hoped many people who casually see the JOURNAL may use it to become permanent subscribers.

The reduction of units must, of course, also reduce the amount of notes and news sent in, so it is hoped that units and individuals will make a great effort to send in full accounts of all doings of Regimental interest.

THE FRONTISPIECE

THIS picture of the action at Salerno (during the course of which six battalions of the Regiment were engaged) has been painted for the Regiment by Mr. Charles Cundall, R.A., whose Academy pictures of Dunkirk and the embarkation of Their Majesties on the *Renown* are well known.

It was first on view at the Officers' Club party on 24th February, and was then on show at Walker's Galleries, when it was seen and graciously approved by Queen Mary.

It is now in the Mess at Stoughton Barracks. It is proposed to have it reproduced in colour for the decoration of messes and drill halls and for private circulation.

The price of these reproductions will depend on the number ordered and will range from £7 7s. 0d. if only 50 are ordered, to £2 2s. 0d. (or less) for 250 or more.

A subscription form is printed behind the Frontispiece to enable subscribers to order a copy and state the maximum price they are prepared to give.

1ST BATTALION

THE HISTORY OF THE "RUN DOWN" OF THE BATTALION

11TH SEPTEMBER, 1947, TO 1ST APRIL, 1948

IN July, 1947, the 1st Bn. The Seaforth Highlanders, who were the only other British infantry regiment besides ourselves in Singapore, were reduced to a local cadre of a few Regular officers and other ranks. Whilst sympathizing and condoling with the Seaforths in their disappointment we were encouraged to think that we were going to be spared this fate of going into cadre.

However, it was not to be so. On the 11th September, 1947, our own hopes were dashed. We, too, were officially informed that we were to be reduced to cadre. This news was not at once widely published pending the return of the Commanding Officer from leave ; it was hoped that during this lapse in time—two days—firmer details of the method implementing our "run down" could be obtained.

On 13th September the Commanding Officer returned from leave and addressed the whole Battalion at 0900 hrs.

This tragic news was received with a profound silence and very deep regret by everyone, as naturally it was going to affect the destinies of all Regular soldiers and the immediate future of all non-Regulars.

It was learnt that a Battalion Cadre, consisting of Commanding Officer, P.R.I., Adjutant, Quartermaster, two Colour Officers, two C.Q.M.Ss./Sergeants, Orderly Room Sergeant, and fifteen other Regular soldiers, would return to the United Kingdom at the end of the year.

The following would also return to the Depot for duty with the P.T.C. at Guildford at a very early date : 4 Sergeant Instructors, 3 Corporal Instructors, 2 Buglers, 2 Clerks, and 13 general duty privates.

All remaining men of the Battalion would be available for posting in Far East Land Forces : Regulars and a percentage of non-Regulars to a battalion of the Regimental Group—2nd Buffs in Hong Kong—the remaining non-Regulars to E.R.E. appointments.

Considerable care had to be taken in forming the Cadre and P.T.C. parties. As far as possible it had been arranged that all those who wanted to remain abroad could do so, and that those who had strong claims—family, compassionate grounds, service and suitability—would return with the Battalion Cadre or P.T.C. party ; as can be imagined this latter task of differentiation was not easy.

On the 1st September, 1947, the Battalion strength was 37 Officers, 35 W.Os. and Sergeants, 62 Corporals, 621 other ranks.

In spite of the unsettling effect of this news and the fact that the Battalion would become very much smaller with the release of men, it was decided that the Battalion would carry on with all its planned arrangements : rifle meeting, classification of signallers and further shooting on the range for the benefit of those who had not already fired their course and so enabling them to improve their present star classification ; soccer and hockey matches were also played as previously arranged.

The Battalion took a prominent part in a very successful Singapore District Safety First Week, beginning on 6th October, 1947.

With age and service release groups leaving the Battalion and several officers of the Battalion taking up E.R.E. appointments as a result of this "run down" the Battalion had obviously to be reorganized.

On 7th October, 1947, the Battalion was reorganized into H.Q. Company, consisting of all employed personnel, "B" Company comprising all those available for posting within FARELF, and "C" Company of the Battalion Cadre, P.T.C. party and age and service groups up to 68, who would be released before or at the time the Battalion Cadre proceeds to the United Kingdom.

At the end of October the strength had fallen to 22 Officers, 20 W.Os. and Sergeants, 31 Corporals, and 421 other ranks.

On 11th November a ceremony was held at the Singapore Cenotaph. The Army was represented by one officer and twenty-five other ranks of this Battalion. The following took part : Capt. M. A. Lowry ; C.S.M. Chalcroft ; Sergts. Fry, Geeves, Caller ; Cpls. Roberts, White, Nannini, Le Moigne, Hawkes ; L./Cpls. Boley, Morris, Hull ; Ptes. Beck, Ward, Herbert, Ellison, Cater, Lloyd, Buckle, Hilder, Clark, Whall, Bird, Buckett and Cordery.

The 30th November saw the Battalion strength down to 18 Officers, 28 W.Os. and Sergeants, 15 Corporals, and 316 other ranks.

Guard commitments were still heavy: although we had been relieved of several guards, the Battalion still had to find forty-four N.C.Os. and men every night.

On 1st December, 1947, the advance party of 1st Devons, who were to take over from us some time around Christmas, arrived consisting of 4 Officers, 1 W.O. and 52 other ranks ; and a draft of 2 Officers and 102 other ranks for 1st Devons were intercepted on their way to Hong Kong on the 4th December.

Also on this date it was learnt that the party for the P.T.C. were no longer required as P.T.Cs. were closing down at their Regimental Depots in the spring of 1948. The Commanding Officer informed the men so earmarked and explained that should any vacancies ever occur amongst the cadre party they would be filled by them. It was in fact possible to get seven, who were eligible, back with the Battalion on L.I.A.P.

Major-General L. H. Cox, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the General Officer Commanding Singapore District, visited the Battalion on 16th December and gave a farewell address, thanking the Battalion for all that they had done and for the fine example that they had set other units in Singapore.

A draft of 84 Regular and non-Regular soldiers left the Battalion to join 2nd Buffs in Hong Kong on 19th December. A further 93 left on 22nd December for E.R.E. postings within FARELF.

The Battalion strength on this date had now fallen to 14 Officers, 21 W.Os. and Sergeants, 6 Corporals, 93 other ranks, but even this figure was to be lower by the time the Battalion embarked, as certain officers and other ranks were being retained until the last possible minute, to ensure a smooth administration and hand over, and it was also essential to keep back a few M.T. drivers. However, as from 18th December it was no longer possible to sound any bugle calls, as the remaining two buglers were to leave on the 19th December !

His Excellency The Right Honourable Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, The Governor-General, invited all the officers of the Regiment, those serving now with the Battalion and those in staff appointments and elsewhere employed in Singapore, to a farewell cocktail party to the Battalion, at Tyersall Palace, on 19th December.

Christmas in Selarang Barracks was as festive as Christmas could be anywhere. A children's party was held on 20th December in Lady Hilaria Gibbs' house. Christmas dinner in the men's dining hall was a great success ; numbers naturally being small gave the whole occasion an intimate and "family gathering" atmosphere.

On 29th December, at 1245 hrs., the Battalion finally left Selarang Barracks at Changi for Singapore docks and embarked, numbers, as follows at 1440 hrs. : 8 Officers, 4 Warrant Officers, 10 Sergeants, and 96 other ranks.

The following representing the Battalion Cadre embarked on this day :—

Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O. Commanding Officer.
Major C. F. Cole, P.R.I.
Major M. A. Lowry, Adjutant.
Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharp, Quartermaster.
Major I. P. Thomson, M.C. } Colour Party.
C./Sergt. F. Evans
Sergt. J. Norman
R.S.M. J. Kemp

C.S.M. A. Chalcraft.	Sergt. F. White.	L./Cpl. K. Beck.
C.S.M. F. Dowland.	Cpl. D. Le Moigne.	L./Cpl. D. Etherington.
C./Sergt. E. O'Loughlin (O.R. Sergt.)	L./Cpl. M. Morris.	Pte. P. Hall.
Sergt. C. Fry.	L./Cpl. J. Clare.	Pte. H. Bird.
Sergt. L. Caller.	L./Cpl. P. Walker.	Pte. J. Murphy.

The balance of the figures above were made up of release groups 65 to 71, "Python" and L.I.A.P.

Since arriving back at Guildford, it might be interesting to record the following run down of the Battalion.

	Officers	*W.Os. and Sergts.*	*Cpls.*	*O.Rs.*
22nd January, 1948 ...	7	12	3	40
26th February, 1948 ...	6	12	3	33
11th March, 1948 ...	6	8	2	31
13th March, 1948 ...	6	7	2	31
15th March, 1948 ...	6	7	2	30
19th March, 1948 ...	5	7	2	23
22nd March, 1948 ...	5	6	2	23
25th March, 1948 ...	5	4	1	22
31st March, 1948 ...	5	3	1	7

At the time of writing it is expected that all the affairs of the Battalion will be wound up on or about 20th April, 1948, at which time the Battalion Cadre goes into a representative cadre consisting of Major M. A. Lowry, R.S.M. J. W. Kemp, C.Q.M.S. E. O'Loughlin, Cpl. D. Le Moigne, and as such the Battalion will remain until its Cadre goes over to Germany with the Battalion Colours and takes over the 2nd Battalion which, as is now known, will shortly be disbanding.

"HOMEWARD BOUND"

ON 29th December, 1947, the 1st Battalion Cadre embarked on the 23,000 ton P. & O. ship s.s. *Strathnaver* at Singapore for the United Kingdom. The detail of the Cadre has been referred to in the description of the rundown of the Battalion.

Thus, after almost exactly twenty-one years' overseas service, the Battalion set forth for home. It had sailed for overseas service in 1927 under command of Lieut.-Colonel R. G. Clarke, C.M.G., D.S.O., as part of the Shanghai Defence Force. At that time the 2nd Battalion was completing its overseas tour, which it had begun in 1912, and was spending its last year at Khartoum. Messages were then (in 1927) exchanged between the two Battalions, the 1st as it sailed down the Red Sea and the 2nd from the other side of the Red Sea Hills.

Just before the 1st Battalion Cadre embarked at Singapore (in 1947) for home a letter was received from the Colonel of the Regiment giving the heartening news that, whatever should happen in the coming reorganization of the Regular component of the Regiment (and indeed of all Line Regiments), the remaining Battalion would be called the 1st Battalion. Thus a Regiment's continuity would in no way be broken. This was most cheering information since it had been supposed, up till the receipt of the Colonel of the Regiment's letter, that the Battalion was due to be placed in suspended animation.

Embarkation went smoothly enough. Before sailing (30th December) messages of good luck had been received from—General Sir George Giffard, Colonel of the Regiment ; General Sir Neil Ritchie, C.-in-C. Far East Land Forces ; Major-General L. H. Cox, G.O.C. Singapore District ; H.E. The Governor of Singapore, Sir Franklin Gimson ; H.E. The Special Commissioner for South-East Asia, Lord Killearn, over whom at one time (which he well remembered) the Battalion used to find the Legation Guard at Pekin when he was His Majesty's Ambassador to China ; the Royal Navy at Singapore ; Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Sheldon, The Queen's Royal Regiment, Commander Home Counties Training Centre at Shorncliffe.

The C.-in-C. and G.O.C. came aboard to bid farewell to the Battalion.

A large crowd of friends were present at the docks to bid the Battalion *bon voyage*. These included Major A. R. C. Mott, Major H. R. D. Hill, Major W. Griffiths, Capt. "Oscar" Palmer, Lieuts. Turner and Small, and C.S.M. Shephard (one time Saddler of the 2nd Battalion), and several other N.C.Os. who had been posted within Singapore District from the Battalion, some of whom, it was noted, had increased with surprising rapidity the number of stripes on their arms !

The Pipe Band of the 1st Bn. The Seaforth Highlanders, with whom the Battalion always got on very well, played the ship away.

Except for a few very rough days, the home side of Gibraltar, the voyage was uneventful, the sea smooth and weather quite lovely. The *Strathnaver*, as sea transports go, must be one of the best,

and conditions in her for personnel, although crowded, were good. The Battalion soon settled down and in its conduct, turn-out and general enterprise with regard to the several activities of the voyage was an example to all other personnel and was congratulated as such by O.C. Troops.

The Battalion was greatly stirred on its arrival at Southampton, on 22nd January, 1948, by the reception given to it by representatives of the Regiment and of H.M.S. *Excellent*. The following were on the quayside to welcome the Battalion—General Sir George Giffard, Colonel of the Regiment; the Captain and Commander of H.M.S. *Excellent*; Major-General G. A. Pilleau; Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, Commanding No. 2 P.T.C., Stoughton Barracks; Major J. W. M. Denton, O.C. Depot; Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Sheldon, Commanding Home Counties Training Centre; Lieut.-Colonel C. B. Gray; Major and Q.M. W. Watford; Capt. "Dizzy" Kirby, late of the 1st Battalion, who had accompanied the Battalion's Old Colours back to England in H.M.S. *Glory* the previous autumn.

General Sir George Giffard, Major-General Pilleau, Lieut.-Colonel Veasey, Majors Denton and Watford, sailed with the Battalion originally on 13th April, 1927.

The Captain of H.M.S. *Excellent* was the Naval Lieutenant in charge of loading of baggage in April, 1927.

The Bands of the Regiment and of H.M.S. *Excellent* played the ship into port and continued to play for sometime after docking.

As soon as the ship had berthed, the Colonel of the Regiment came aboard and inspected the Battalion and, in a short address, personally welcomed it home again.

The Colonel of the Regiment, the Captain of the *Excellent* and the other officers who had come to greet the Battalion, had lunch with the officers of the Battalion on board and then went ashore, since the Battalion was not due to disembark until the following day.

Telegrams of welcome were received at Southampton from the following: Colonel R. G. Clarke, Brigadier A. P. Block, Brigadier R. E. Pickering, and from Lieut.-Colonel L. C. East and all ranks of 2nd Battalion in Germany.

On 23rd January the Battalion disembarked early and entrained for Guildford, less Release Groups Nos. 65-68, which went straight off with other drafts to Demobilization Centres, and less L.I.A.P. personnel.

The Battalion Cadre and Release Groups 69-71 had a great welcome on arrival at the Regimental Depot, Guildford, and were very quickly and efficiently dealt with and despatched on leave.

Thus, after nearly twenty-one years' foreign service, the 1st Battalion came back home, in the form of a small representative Cadre of whom only one person, Capt. and Q.M. S. W. J. Sharp, had been with the Battalion on its departure overseas in 1927.

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

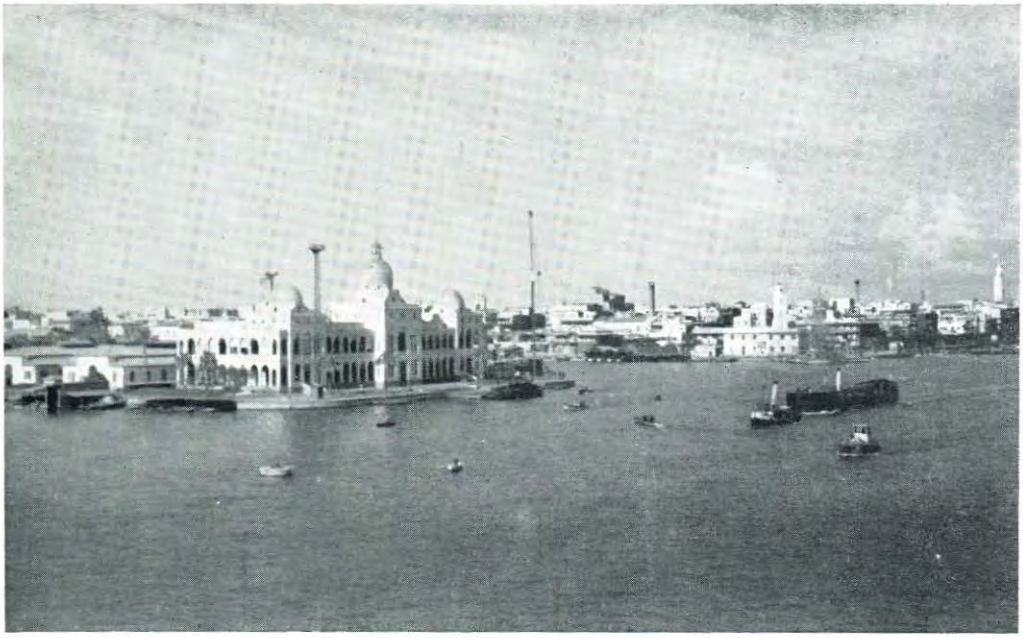
IT was shortly after the notes had been despatched for the previous issue of the JOURNAL that the C.O. broke the news to us that the Battalion was to go into Cadre and return to the United Kingdom. It was a very sad day and a great blow to the members, especially the Regulars. In spite of this, members put up a great show and kept things going as normal until we finally left Singapore.

The highlight of the entertainments in the Mess was the Farewell Dance, which was held on 2nd October and was attended by 200 guests. The members of the Dance Committee and the Cook Sergeant (Sergt. Garcia) were responsible for making the evening a great success.

Members had a very enjoyable evening when the officers invited us to the Mess for a games evening. The hockey match which was to have taken place in the afternoon had to be postponed owing to rain; various attempts were made afterwards for the match to be played, but it finally had to be cancelled owing to numbers.

A social evening was held in the Mess on 7th December as a farewell party to the G.H.Q. FARELF Signal Regiment, who had been attached to us since taking over the Mess in April. A very enjoyable evening was had by all and we wish them all the best of luck in their new Mess at Tyersall.

APPROACHING THE BITTER LAKES.
From s.s. "Strathnaver"



PORT SAID, from s.s. "Strathnaver"

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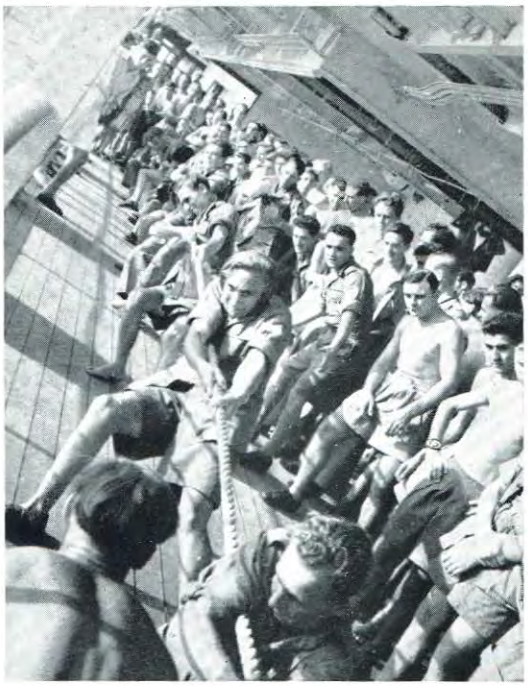

1st BATTALION TUG OF WAR
ON s.s. "STRATHNAVER"

Pte. MADSEN.
Cpl. CHART.
Sgt. HOLLOWAY.

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT, ACCOMPANIED BY LIEUT.-COLONEL D. L. A. GIBBS, D.S.O., INSPECTS THE CADRE 1st BATTALION ON s.s." STRATHNAVER" ON ARRIVAL AT SOUTHAMPTON, 22nd JANUARY, 1948.

We started losing members at the beginning of September, namely, R.Q.M.S. Wickens and C.S.Ms. Bolton and Struthers, who returned to England on H.M.S. *Glory*. R.Q.M.S. Wickens and C.S.M. Bolton as escort to the Old Battalion Colours, C.S.M. Struthers on L.I.A.P. and then to transfer to the Parachute Regiment, but we have since learned that he has returned to civilian life. C.S.M. Bohm went home on L.I.A.P. in August and did not return to us, but was sent to Shorncliffe to swell the numbers there. It has now come to light that he has taken the vows of matrimony and we all wonder if he sings his wife to sleep with that well-known lullaby of his—"Mr. Booze." The following members proceeded to United Kingdom for release: C.S.M. Smith, C./Sergts. Cover, and King ("Jive" King of Changi), Sergts. Tilbury, Turpin, Watts, Lucas, Richardson, Page, Buxton, Fetteroll, Shearman, Davis, Lambert, Hinton, M. Smith, A. Fry and Ingram. We wish them all the best in civilian life, and hope they are doing their best to earn some of the dollars which the country needs.

Owing to the Battalion going into Cadre we had few replacements and the numbers in the Mess soon began to dwindle, with the release groups going home. One bright afternoon, the well-known Sergt. (Jack) Shephard appeared from out of the blue. He was very welcome, also we welcomed C./Sergts. Hardie, Hedges (Q.O.R.W.K.), and McCarthy (Royal Fusiliers). All four were posted to various units in FARELF. We wish them all the best of luck in their new units.

Early in December the advance party of the Devons arrived and the awful business of handing over started. Christmas festivities were somewhat limited, but a good time was had by all. A joint Christmas dinner was held in the Mess with the Devons (who had then taken over the Mess) on Boxing Day. Some forty members and several wives sat down to an excellent dinner, thanks to the efforts of Sergt. Brown (Cook Sergeant, A.C.C.) and staff.

Then came the final day of embarking for the United Kingdom, which after numerous dates and rumours was the 29th December. The trip home on the s.s. *Strathnaver* was very good in spite of the crowded conditions, the weather was also very kind to us. On arrival at Southampton we had a great reception (reported elsewhere). We finally landed up at the Depot and after well earned leave most of the Regulars are joining, or have joined, the 2nd Battalion. It will not matter where we go, we will always remember the happy days spent with the 1st Battalion and it will always be the best Battalion in the finest Regiment of the British Army.

SPORT

SOCCER

Several Battalion matches were arranged during this period and the Quartermaster, Capt. S. W. J. Sharp, who played hockey, cricket and soccer for the Battalion, did much to produce a good team from ever-diminishing resources, a team which managed to win most of its matches.

In addition, he organized an Inter-Company League, which proved most popular and ran until release made it impracticable to continue.

The main Battalion fixtures were :—

Team	*Result*	*Score*
v. L.E.P. Training Centre, Johore Bahru	Won	3–2
v. 2nd Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers	Lost	2–3
v. L.E.P. Training Centre, Johore Bahru	Won	2–0
v. Headquarters, Singapore District	Won	4–0
v. R.A.F., Changi	Won	2–1
v. R.E. Fortress Squadron	Won	2–0
v. R.E.M.E. Base Workshops	Lost	1–2
v. 223rd Base Ordnance Depot	Lost	0–2
v. 1st Bn. The Seaforth Highlanders	Drawn	1–1

The final results of the Inter-Company League were :—

Position	*Played*	*Won*	*Lost*	*Drawn*	*For*	*Against*	*Total Points*
1. H.Q. Coy. ("C" Team)	5	4	1	–	14	7	8
2. "B" Coy.	5	3	1	1	11	7	7
3. H.Q. Coy. ("A" Team)	5	3	2	–	11	9	6
4. "A" Coy.	6	3	3	–	10	9	6
5. H.Q. Coy. ("B" Team)	5	2	2	1	6	6	5
6. "D" Coy.	5	1	4	–	7	11	2
7. "C" Coy.	5	1	4	–	5	15	2

The Battalion 1st XI was selected from the following : Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharp, Lieut. E. J. Norfield, Sergt. Caller, Sergt. Winfield, Cpl. Acteson, Cpl. Howe, Cpl. Riley, Cpl. Wright, L./Cpl. Wilton, Ptes. Riches, Bell, Dunk, Hawkins, Harding, Davies, Whiting, Thompson, Dunn and Snell.

HOCKEY

Once again the Battalion produced a good hockey side, but did not have a chance to prove itself in the Singapore League, which started just before we embarked for United Kingdom. The team did, however, meet the 1st Bn. The Seaforth Highlanders in the first round and won 4–0, and then had to hand over the second round fixture to the 1st Bn. The Devonshire Regiment who came from Hong Kong to take over our barracks and responsibilities in Singapore.

The organization and training of the hockey team was undertaken by Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E., until he left to take up a staff appointment with G.H.Q., Far East Land Forces.

The principal fixtures were :—

29th September	1st Indian Field Survey Company ...	Lost	1–3
30th September	G.H.Q. Signal Regiment	Won	1–0
3rd October	R.A.F., Seletar	Lost	1–5
10th November	H.Q. Singapore District Signals ...	Won	8–0
11th December	1st Bn. Seaforth Highlanders ...	Won	4–0

(Singapore League, First Round)

The Battalion 1st XI was selected from the following : Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., Major A. R. C. Mott, Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E., Major M. A. Lowry, Capt. J. B. C. Palmer, Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharp, Lieut. D. H. Small, R.S.M. J. W. Kemp, Cpl. Chart, L./Cpl. Holley, L./Cpl. Pedgrift, Pte. Waterman, Pte. Baddeley, S.S.I. Osborne, L./Cpl. Sharland.

CRICKET

The period under review was the off-season for cricket in Singapore and only one match was played. That was against H.Q., Singapore District, the scores being :—

1st Queen's	118 (Cpl. Twitchen, 18)
H.Q., Singapore District	74 (L./Cpl. Pedgrift, 7 for 23)

BATTALION RIFLE MEETING

The Battalion Rifle Meeting began on 19th September, 1947, and continued until 24th September, 1947, on the range at Seletar (3 miles south of the Johore Causeway).

The results of the competitions included in the meeting were as follows :—

Individual ... ... 1st, Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E.
2nd, Pte. Petken.
3rd, S.S.I. Osborne (A.P.T.C.).
4th, Pte. B. Powell.

Pistol ... ... Winning Team : Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., Major C. F. Cole, Capt. (Q.M.) S. W. J. Sharp, C.S.M. Chalcraft, Sergt. Johnson (Armourer, R.E.M.E.), Pte. Bernstein.

LADY HILARIA GIBBS (WIFE OF THE COMMANDING OFFICER) PRESENTING PRIZES AT 1st BATTALION RIFLE MEETING, SELETAR, SINGAPORE.

OFFICERS' FALLING PLATE TEAM DOUBLING UP THE RANGE.

Left to Right: Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., Lieut. D. G. Turner, Major M. A. Lowry (L.M.G.), Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E.

Sten	... ...	"B" Company Team: Cpl. Parsons, Pte. Boley, Pte. Bates, Pte. Sharkey.
Young Soldiers	...	"C" Company Team: Cpl. Dunn, L./Cpls. Wood, Pedgrift, Riley, Ptes. Perkiss, Berry, Tebenham, Hall 25, Sharman, Herbert, Pike, Cawthorne, Rich, Dancey, Reid.
Inter-Company	...	"B" Company Team: Cpls. Fairey, Still, Morgan, L./Cpls. Baker, Boley, Ptes. Shepherd, Bates, Brown, Wareham.
Falling Plates	...	H.Q. Company, "C" Team.
Officers v. Sergeants (King George Cup Rules) for the Pink Column.		Officers' Team (L.M.G. not fired): Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E., Major E. A. W. Lockyer, Major C. F. Cole, Major M. A. Lowry, Lieut. C. Finch, Lieut. D. P. Brooks.
Officers v. Sergeants (Falling Plates)		Officers' Team: Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E., Major E. A. W. Lockyer, Major M. A. Lowry, Capt. S. White, Lieut. D. G. Turner, Lieut. J. Stevens.

Prizes were presented by Lady Hilaria Gibbs, the wife of the Commanding Officer.

Full credit for the organization and smooth working of the meeting goes to the Second-in-Command, Major H. R. D. Hill, M.B.E., and the numerous working parties engaged on pitching tents, butt marking, distributing ammunition, transport and those concerned with feeding arrangements.

ENTERTAINMENT

The Battalion was fortunate in possessing a unit theatre at Selerang Barracks, Changi, in which the Army Kinema Corps put on film shows twice a week. Just before we left a static projector was fitted so that films could be shown every night.

In addition, the Singapore Stage Club came out three times and produced "Soldier for Christmas," "Laura" and "We Proudly Present." Each play was superbly presented and provided a welcome relaxation.

DEATH

14160649 Pte. Hargreaves W., A.C.C., 27th September, 1947.

The deepest sympathy of all ranks of the Battalion is extended to his family. He was buried at the Allied Military Cemetery, Kranji, Singapore, with full military honours.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

THE Naval Crown, the Paschal Lamb, in glory go before,
They are our emblems, comrades, can any man want more ?
For only those who've worn that badge know what the honour means—
The proud, undying privilege of service in THE QUEEN'S.

It knits a friendship through the world as strong as ties of blood,
For where the British Army's been there have our Colours stood ;
The rich man and the poor man are brothers when they meet,
With those two words of "Hello, Queen's !" the simple way they greet.

"Mindful of Ancient Valour"—the thread of ev'ry deed
Is wove in English history, that he who runs may read.
"Even The Remnant Triumph"—our foes know what that means !—
They've battered hard but could not break the spirit of THE QUEEN'S.

(Continued overleaf)

In Sixteen Sixty One, my friends, a Regiment was born,
And century after century the Royal Colours worn,
And shining bright and burnished, throughout the shifting scenes,
The escutcheon of our Regiment, of *Ours*, my lads, THE QUEEN'S.

In Flanders, France and India, in desert sand, in mud,
THE QUEEN'S have fought their battles, THE QUEEN'S have shed their blood.
The Guards are grand, the Gunners great, so are the Royal Marines,
But we need bow to none of them—*because we are* THE QUEEN'S.

1*st June*, 1948. E. H. ORGAN.

THE FATE OF THE REGIMENT

By ARTHUR BRYANT

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THE safety and honour of Britain depend not on her wealth and administration but on the character of her people. This in turn depends on the institutions which form character. In war it depends, in particular, on the military institutions which create the martial habits of discipline, courage, loyalty, pride and endurance.

In the British Army from time immemorial the most important of these has been the Regiment. The Regiment is not merely an administrative organization to be judged by its logistical convenience. Method and industry in the office and administrative tidiness—admirable qualities—avail nothing on the battlefield unless implemented by the courage and selflessness of the fighting man. War is a hateful thing. Yet, by a paradox not always realized, the soldier's is the noblest of callings. For no other man has to make such constant demands on his own nature. In him instinctive and spasmodic courage and selflessness have to be fostered and disciplined into second nature.

The Regiment exists to ensure this. It is something more than a vehicle for orders : it is a school for military virtue. Its value to our country is that it evokes men's love, pride and loyalty and, by doing so, enables them on the battlefield to transcend their own natures. This sacred and undying brotherhood, drawn from all classes and standards of education but knit together in a common pride and code, has repeatedly given the British Army a fighting strength in excess of its numbers and equipment. How many times, thanks to our national habit of neglecting our Army in peace time, has it needed it !

A PRICE TO BE PAID

For throughout our history there has been a price to pay for the immunity from invasion and the wealth and influence that have sprung from our command of the sea. That price is paid in part by the soldier. Britain, with her comparatively small population, cannot simultaneously afford a large Army as well as a great Navy, or its modern equivalent, a great Navy and a great Air Force. As soon as the memory of war recedes, the British have always demanded that the Army should be reduced in personnel and equipment to a strength far lower than those of their potential enemies. Thus, the British soldier has had to face utterly disproportionate odds in defence of military interests vital to our survival and future victory. So in the terrible winter of 1914 the little Regular Army had to defend the Channel ports, on which our sea strategy depended, almost ceasing to exist in the task while England buckled on her armour. So, too, in 1940 O'Connor's handful of Regulars in the Western Desert had to face—and defeat—forces six or seven times their own strength in order to secure the Nile Valley and the global strategy on which all our own and our Allies' future war efforts depended.

What is true of the British soldier in general is still more so of the infantryman. To none is that imponderable, morale, so important. The sailor has his ship, the airman his aircraft, the artilleryman his guns, the cavalryman his tank or horse to inspire affection and loyalty. But the infantryman depends in the last resort upon one thing : his tempered and unconquerable spirit.

It is no accident that the symbol round which in the past the British infantryman fought, and which again and again he died to defend, was the Regimental Colours. For these were for him the ark of his own peculiar covenant : the exclusive brotherhood in which he had voluntarily enlisted and which he would sooner die than betray. To let down the Regiment, to be unworthy of the men of old who had marched under the same Colours, to be untrue to the comrades who had shared the same loyalties, hardships and perils was more than even the least-tutored, humblest soldier would do. And it was always a peculiar and special pride, so dear to the hearts of the free men of our race. "Neither King's nor Queen's nor Royal," shouted the proud Colonel of the Gloucesters, "only old Bragg's Brass before and Brass behind ; Twenty-eighth Foot—shoulder arms !"

Regimental Pride

Again and again this pride in the continuing Regiment has enabled the infantryman to stand firm and fight forward when the bravest without it would have failed. It is a pride which turns disaster and injustice—the lot of the British soldier at the outset of all wars—into a challenge to endure and suffer. "Ah !" said the Iron Duke when a battalion had to be sacrificed to plug an awkward gap in his line, "The Twenty-third—that is the very thing !" There cannot have been a fusilier who did not glow with a grim pride when he learnt of the Duke's ominous words. Or as an officer of the same Regiment wrote during another test of endurance a century later :

Lucasta ! he's a fusilier !
His pride keeps him there.

It has been the realization of this that has caused those in high command to resist logistical arguments that a common Corps of Infantry would be easier to adminster than sixty-nine separate Regiments. During the 1914-18 war, and again during the late war, it frequently proved impossible when heavy casualties had been suffered by a particular battalion, to reinforce it with men from the same Regiment. For this reason men who had been trained to regard loyalty to, say, the Northumberland Fusiliers as the ultimate virtue might find themselves, to their disgust, in the hour for which all their training had been a preparation, fighting in the ranks of a Regiment equally glorious to its own men, but of whose traditions they knew nothing. The very purpose o Regimental *esprit de corps* was thus defeated.

It was to meet the criticisms of the administrator while preserving the priceless attributes of the Regiment that Major-General Wimberley, during his spell as Director of Infantry at the end of the war, devised the new grouping of the infantry into fifteen groups of Regiments, each, except those of the Guards, the Light Infantry, and the Rifles, based on an area whose inhabitants possessed a common regional pride. Thus the Devons and Dorsets—the "Bloody Eleventh" and the "Green Linnets"—the Gloucesters and the Wiltshires, the Royal Hampshires and the Royal Berkshires have been grouped together in a group or brigade based on Wessex man-power and patriotism. In principle, officers and other ranks in such a group may be posted to any of its Regiments in peace or war as need may dictate, but in practice every effort will be made to avoid taking men from their own Regiments.

There has been a further reorganization. Most of the Regiments of the British Line since the Cardwell reforms of 1881 have consisted each of two former Regiments, with their separate traditions, funds and charities. One constituted the first battalion of the Regiment, the other the second. The general rule was that, while one served abroad, the other served at home. The relinquishment of Imperial responsibilities and the reduction in the Army's fighting "teeth" in proportion to its technical and administrative "tail" have necessitated a peace-time establishment of only one battalion for every Regiment.

Surplus Battalions

The problem of the surplus battalion has presented Colonels of Regiments with grave difficulties as to Regimental funds and treasures, as well as with intangible sacrifices which mean more to a soldier than any civilian can comprehend. But the necessity for these evolutionary changes has been made clear and the all-important historic principle has been maintained.

The old soldier and the antiquarian must bid farewell to much that they hold dear, but what matters is that the recruit of the future should be strengthened by the same regimental loyalties and

esprit de corps as his fathers. All sixty-nine infantry Regiments are to continue their existence and will, it is hoped, in their new grouping continue to serve the great ends of their being. As Field-Marshal Montgomery wrote during the war: "We must be very careful what we do with the British Infantry. They are the people that do the hard solid fighting. . . . Their fighting spirit is based largely on morale and Regimental *esprit de corps*. On no account must anyone be allowed to tamper with this."

SELERANG INCIDENT

By Sergt. G. J. Jones, 2nd Battalion

IT was with interest that I learned from the Regimental Journal that the 1st Battalion was stationed in Selerang Barracks, Singapore, and it took my mind back to an "incident" that took place there five and a half years ago. This "incident," to chaps like myself who were P.O.Ws. in Changi at the time, was called "Bore Hole Square."

It was on a Sunday afternoon, to be precise the 30th August, 1942, while everybody was at church (an advantage, one of the very few, that many of us took in Changi), or resting in their billets, that a conference was going on at Japanese H.Q. with British commanders. It appeared that the Japanese Army wanted us to sign a form with the following working, "I, the undersigned, hereby solemnly swear on my honour that I will not, under any circumstances, attempt to escape."

The Japanese insisted that every man in the Changi P.O.W. area should be given the opportunity of signing this document. Company and unit commanders paraded all men and put the question to the men, reading out the wording of the document concerned. Every man refused to sign this document, despite the Japanese threat of "punishment of a severe nature."

The following morning at 0830 hrs. the Japanese held a check roll call of all personnel in the Changi P.O.W. Camp. This included sick on stretchers and the limbless war wounded.

During the morning of the next day rumour had it that we were all to be moved to Selerang Barracks. Rumour proved to be correct, and by 1400 hrs. that afternoon 19,000 P.O.Ws. were on the move to take up "residence" in Selerang Barracks, a barracks that was built to hold a peace-time battalion of about 900 strong. Well, anybody of the 1st Battalion who has lived there knows that the accommodation consists of seven buildings around an asphalted parade-ground. The move itself was an amazing sight, men with all their worldly possessions on their backs, small hand carts with rations piled up on them, medical supplies, the sick and wounded being helped along by their comrades, swarmed along the one narrow Changi road. Despite the scene of seemingly absolute chaos, the move was accomplished by 1800 hrs. that same night.

Into the small area of the seven buildings and the parade ground 19,000 of us were concentrated. Our guards were the Indians of the then New National Army. To step over the boundary line, *i.e.*, the curb, was to incur a jab of a bayonet or the butt of a rifle in one's ribs.

Water was very scarce, we only had the food we had brought in with us, cooking facilities were practically non-existent. The fuel situation was acute. Doors and windows were pulled down to be used as fuel. Sanitation did not exist. This was a vital factor and at once a scheme was put into operation whereby men worked in teams in digging up the parade ground and making wide trenches 18 feet deep. This went on from the time we entered Selerang to within an hour of our leaving the place four days later. The digging went on at night in the light of flares and any other means of illumination that could be made. During the whole of this time the men were packed into the buildings, over the roofs, passages, stairs, sleeping on top of each other, and the overflow keeping to the square. An area that was slowly diminishing as the work of digging latrine trenches went on and the men were forced to crowd back into the buildings. M.I. rooms were established under stairs and in any odd corner where a small tent could be erected.

We did think once or twice that the Japanese had crowded us into this one spot so as to eliminate us in a quick way. This supposition arose when various formations of Japanese planes flew directly overhead. In addition to the Indian guards the Japanese had fixed up machine-gun posts well back from the barracks and covering all points leading from the square.

When one thinks of the conditions under which we were placed at that time it is really wonderful how the men kept up their spirits, never cribbing once, despite the fact that food consisted of a small quantity of rice and tea three times a day. Needless to say the tea had neither sugar or milk in it. That was something that had disappeared a long time ago.

During this period our senior officers with our medical people were constantly in conference with the Japanese trying to get them to at least modify the working of the document. The whole matter was eventually referred to the Japanese Government with the result that not only the Imperial Japanese Army stated we must sign but the Government backed it up. Medical officers kept on dinning it into the Japanese that because of the lack of medical facilities and the rotten conditions under which we were being forced to live, disease was liable to break out at any moment. Thirty-five cases of dysentery already had broken out in addition to the people who already had it on the day of our incarceration. Suspected cases of diptheria were also beginning to show, in fact the whole outlook was becoming very grim.

The Japanese finding that they could not break us, said that they would turn out the 2,000 men who were patients in Robert's Hospital (war wounded, diptheria, malaria, and dysentery cases and beri-beri) and cram them in on top of us.

At last, on the 4th September, "Selerang Special Order No. 3," was published, when the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Holmes, of the Manchester Regiment (the then senior officer present, all other high ranking officers having been moved to Formosa earlier in the year), ordered us all to sign the form submitted by the Japanese. It was a tremendous decision for him to take the sole responsibility for such an order, but a finer officer could not be found anywhere. We did not sign voluntarily, but under duress, and would not have done so at all, if it had not been for the fact that the Japanese intended to put all the patients from Robert's Hospital in with us. Hundreds would have died in a matter of hours.

The "Selerang Incident" or "Bore Hole Square" as we called it was my first taste of things to come where the Japanese were concerned. By Easter of the following year I was on my way to Japan proper to work as a slave for a period of two and a half years, where things were even grimmer. Still all that is another story. The above is just an effort to draw a parallel with the present number of men occupying those very barracks, and the 19,000 of us that were there many years ago.

2ND BATTALION

THE 2nd Battalion is again spending a period of training at Vogelsang, way up in the mountainous Aachen region of the British Zone of Germany; this time the whole of April being spent in solid training, the Battalion had to endure the rigours of a particularly boisterous April, up to date including snow, howling gales, hail and rain.

We are very lucky in having barrack accommodation this time, as the last two training periods here were spent under canvas, sometimes in very adverse weather conditions.

Volgesang is remembered by many as the playland of the "Master Race," and many interesting relics may still be seen in the area. Although badly damaged by shell fire, the chapel tower dominates the skyline, and here fragments of stained glass windows are still discernible, faded monuments of a doomed regime. In this building was recently found a parchment of vellum, inscribed in red and gold, dedicating Vogelsang as a shrine to Hitler and the German youth.

In the main gathering of buildings there is a swimming pool of colossal dimensions which would dwarf the biggest thing even Hollywood could produce, and a series of mosaic tiles let into the walls and surrounds of the pool depict the various ideals of youth. Descending in tiers from the main building are a series of plateaux, the second of which forms a sports ground built in the arena fashion with a fine running track where the Battalion last summer practised for the forthcoming Brigade sports meeting. This arena is dominated by huge grotesque figures of various forms of sport.

There is little scope for after duty recreation at Vogelsang, but after a vigorous day's training most of the Battalion are glad of the chance of an "early night," although we are fortunate in

having the Regimental Band with us at camp, and they are giving some very enjoyable concerts under the able baton of B.M. Gaines. A cinema run by the A.K.C. is also in operation here, and a seemingly never-ending stream of mobile canteens is always in great demand.

As for the training side, section and platoon training blossom forth into company and Battalion exercises as the weeks pass, and the countryside resounds to the thud and crack of mortar shells.

Vogelsang is a valuable period out in the fresh air, with new interests and a change of scenery, and an opportunity of keeping a good Battalion on its toes. Although the weather is not being very kind to us, I'm sure that, on completion of the training period, we shall look back and say, "Well, it wasn't so bad after all."

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

We have said "Farewell" to many of our members since the last issue of the JOURNAL, and both socially and on the sports field they have been sadly missed, but we have been very pleased to welcome several older members of the Regiment who have been posted to us ; also the following who have joined us from the 1st Battalion: C.M.Ss. Wilkens and Motton, C./Sergt. Chalcroft and Sergt. Elliott, and, of course, we must not forget those who have joined us on promotion, and to them we offer our congratulations.

Now that several members have their families with them there is quite a homely atmosphere on Tuesday and Sunday evenings, and with the aid of a small band and local talent, not forgetting "Perry Lomo" and "Sophie Zucker," many a social evening has been enjoyed by all, and now that Bandmaster Gains and his merry men have joined us we hope to attain greater success in the social line. Since the departure of our near neighbours, the 53rd Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A., the advance party of the 10th Anti-Tank Regiment, R.A., have arrived, and in a fitting manner we made them welcome by inviting them to a social evening which was a great success.

Our efforts in the sports line have not been so successful owing to the losses we suffered at the hands of the "demob axe," and with several members away with the Demonstration Company at Paderborn we have been hard put to field both a hockey and soccer team, and quite a few strange faces have been seen wielding a stick or kicking a ball and the following day told quite a story. We hope that after Vogelsang in April we shall be able to get down to a spot of practice and produce some first-class teams, both indoors and out.

We all offer our congratulations to C.S.M. Wickens, Sergts. Higgins, Mannal, and Wilson, on piloting "B" Company through the Brigade and Divisional Drill Competition and running out winners.

We offer our best wishes to the following on their postings to civilian life, and a few appointments were made to purchase matches on the Embankment : C./Sergt. Cersell, Sergts. (Frankie) Schofield, Philpot, Trater, Rogers, Monk, Pfister, Taston, and Neely.

CORPORALS' MESS NOTES

Since the last issue of the Regimental JOURNAL a great deal has been accomplished by members of the Mess as regards social events and sport.

First, on the social side, came a very enjoyable games evening against members of the Sergeants' Mess, who visited us. The first event of the evening brought a decisive victory to the sergeants at darts. However, the corporals managed to even things up by beating the sergeants at table-tennis, the most outstanding game of the evening played was between C./Sergt. Elkins and L./Cpl. Palmer.

The following week brought forth yet another exciting games evening, when the corporals were cordially invited to the Sergeants' Mess. The occasion was started with a round of crib and was soon followed by darts and table-tennis.

Soccer has certainly played a big part in the outdoor activities of the Mess. The first match was played against the Officers' Mess and was rightly won by the officers, who fielded a very strong team, but nevertheless were given a very tough game.

Our second and most outstanding game was against the sergeants. From start to finish it was a very arduous affair. Great work was done by both forward lines which, whenever the chance arose, took full advantage of the opposition's weaknesses to try and break through and score. When the final whistle blew, the score was a 2–1 victory to the sergeants.

Our next game was once more against the Officers' Mess, and this time our team most certainly won an astounding victory. The score at half-time was 4–1 in our favour, and by the end of the game had mounted up to 6–1.

This well-earned victory helped a great deal in beating the Sergeants' Mess in a return match the following week. The pitch was rather sticky, but nevertheless it was a very fast game. The final score was 7–4 in our favour.

On the 1st April a Mess Dance was held at the Corporals' Mess. The Commanding Officer and members of the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes were invited. This was the first of many dances we hope to arrange in the near future. It was considered by all to be a very successful evening.

SOCCER SEASON, 1947–48

In the early part of the season little or no football was played within the Battalion, due to the fact that soccer kit was in extremely short supply in B.A.O.R., and also to the reason that the only ground available was the Battalion parade ground, a cinder pitch. However, by early December, sufficient soccer kit had been acquired and a football pitch of sorts allotted, and soccer started in earnest.

A series of trial matches was arranged and a Battalion XI selected, and a number of friendly fixtures arranged. The earlier matches were rather "scrappy," with rather more goals against than for the Battalion, but steadily the team began to mould itself and a spirit developed; in this respect a considerable amount of credit is due to L./Cpl. Johnson, of "C" Company, who was always willing to assist in whatever way he could.

On the commencement of the Brigade League, the Battalion XI started off in great form, winning their first two matches 5–1 and 5–2, respectively, against R.E. units within the Brigade; in our third game we had rather a setback when we met the Royal Horse Guards, who well and truly beat us to the tune of 7–0. However, since that date we have improved, and at the time of writing are fourth in the League, having collected 11 points out of a total of 16.

The Divisional Football Knockout Competition started some five weeks ago, and the Battalion have so far weathered the first two rounds, which they won in spectacular form, 9–0 and 6–1, against two R.A.S.C. sides; the third round, however, may tell a different story altogether, for we have been drawn to play the 1st Bn. Gordon Highlanders, reputed to be one of the strongest sides within the Division.

Like every other form of Battalion life the soccer side has had to deal with the steady drainage of players proceeding on leave, release, etc., but we now have a number of Regulars playing in the First XI on whom there are great hopes of building a first-class team for the next season.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Arrangements are now being made for The Queen's Royal Regiment Roll of Honour for the 1939–1945 War to be published in book form. Prices will vary from 30s. to 10s. per copy, according to the total number of copies required to be printed.

Relatives of deceased and others who would like a copy should write to the Secretary, The Queen's Royal Regiment War Memorial Fund, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford.

No remittance should be sent at this stage.

* * * *

The Regimental Depot is remaining as the home and Headquarters of the Regiment. The officers at present are Majors J. W. N. Denton, W. Walford and M. A. Lowry, and Lieut. Sandys.

Regimental Cricket Week

The Regimental Cricket Week has been altered as follows, all day matches start 11.30.

Monday, 31st May	... ...	*v.* East Surrey Regiment at Stoughton.
Tuesday, 1st June	... ...	*v.* Reigate Priory at Stoughton.
Wednesday, 2nd June	... ...	*v.* Guildford at Stoughton.
Thursday, 3rd June	... ...	*v.* West Kent Regiment at Stoughton.
Fri. and Sat., 4th and 5th June	...	*v.* H.M.S. *Excellent* at Portsmouth.
Sunday, 6th June	... ...	Grasshoppers at Stoughton.

There is one more Regimental match *v.* East Surrey Regiment, on Monday, 21st June, start 11.30.

The teams are being arranged by Brigadier A. P. Block.

* * * *

The Regimental Band have joined the 2nd Battalion in Germany.

* * * *

Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey retired in April and has bought a house at Shamley Green.

* * * *

Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs has been appointed to command of 164 (All Arms) O.C.T.U. at Eaton Hall, Cheshire.

* * * *

Lieut.-Colonel A. C. W. Upton is Honorary Organizer of the Guildford Festival Week which takes place from 19th–26th June.

* * * *

This coincides with the Guildford Cricket Week (Surrey *v.* Hampshire and Oxford University) at which a Regimental tent with teas and refreshments is being arranged.

* * * *

Major G. S. Grimston is in charge of the arrangements and training of the British Olympic Hockey Team.

* * * *

Lieut.-Colonel L. S. Sheldon has been until recently in command of the Home Counties I.T.C. We congratulate him on his marriage.

* * * *

Major D. H. Foskett has remained in Pakistan. He was formerly with the Zhob Militia, but has now transferred to the Chitral Scouts, the nearest troops to the area where Russia, China and India meet, and so a force of considerable interest and importance.

* * * *

Lieut.-Colonel H. P. Combe visited the Depot on 9th April. He is still serving in West Africa.

* * * *

The following ex-officers of the 1st/7th Battalion met for a reunion at the "Green Man" Hotel, Queen Victoria Street, City, on 17th December, 1947.

J. A. Beard	G. W. Bevan
R. Fairburn	J. Fracis
E. H. Ibbitson	P. C. Freeman
E. V. L. Isaac	K. A. Jessup
E. D. J. Martin	B. G. Meara
E. G. Sandys	O. R. True

Ex-officers wishing to attend the next reunion should communicate with E. G. Sandys, 35, Brunswick Park Road, New Southgate, N.11.

* * * *

A very successful reunion buffet supper for ex-members of 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) and 1st/7th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment, was held at the "Paviour's Arms," Westminster, on Saturday, 13th March, 1948.

About 150 members were present and the President of the 24th London Regiment (Queen's)

O.C.A., Brigadier R. H. Senior, D.S.O., T.D., made a short speech in which he welcomed members from as far afield as Northampton, Luton, Stoke-on-Trent, and Clacton.

The reunion was organized by the O.C.A. Social Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Major E. G. Sandys.

* * * *

We congratulate the following on their marriages :—

Lieut.-Colonel David Lloyd Owen and Miss Ursula Barclay.
Major P. G. T. Kingsley and Miss Priscilla Lovell Cameron.
Major S. W. Peet and Miss Frances Dobbins.
Mr. Stanley Sandford and Miss Betty West.

* * * *

Lieut.-Colonel W. H. Lancefield Staples, who served with the 2nd Battalion in Allahabad, Khartoum and Dover from 1924 to 1929, has since served 18 years with the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Welch Regiment and has just transferred to the R.A.O.C. He is now filling an appointment as A.Q.M.G. in the Quartermaster-General's department of the War Office.

* * * *

R. M. Burdon (2nd Battalion, 1914–1918) is now a well-known author in New Zealand and has been commissioned to write the New Zealand history of 1939–1945 war.

* * * *

P. G. Foster was one of the top pair in the winning Wykehamist Team in the Halford Hewitt Golf Competition.

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Lieut.-Colonel P. C. Hinde (The Essex Regiment) who commanded 2nd/5th Battalion in 1944-45 has, at any rate until recently, been commanding 9th Bn. The Parachute Regiment, our affiliated air regiment.

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Lieut. (Q.M.) Willans is out of the Army and back with London Transport.

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Mr. P. E. Rowley, whose retirement from work is mentioned in the O.C.A. Report, has had a serious illness, but recovery is on its way, and we were all pleased to see him out of hospital on 10th April.

* * * *

Pte. ("Chuck") Sheffield, who will have completed 40 years' service on 25th June, 1948, is still serving at the Depot. Notwithstanding the extra tax on beer, he hopes to celebrate in proper fashion at the dinner (all ranks). He may fade, but his colour increases.

* * * *

Ex-Capt. (Q.M.) A. D. Foster, is a Vice-President of Guildford branch British Legion, and serves on the Service Committee. He is also a representative on the Employment Bureau. It has been whispered that everyone with income tax worries runs to him (and he knows the answers).

* * * *

Bert Warner, Charlie Litton and Bill Halliday have now all taken up work in connection with preservation of health. They are to be found on the staff of a Guildford hospital. There is a shortage of beds. We want to know if their employment is the reason.

* * * *

Harry Warren ("Boy English") who is the Army Professional Bantam Weight Champion, has left Guildford for Shorncliffe. He still hopes to chase that elusive title.

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When "Darky" Hill was last seen it was found that one strand of hair was likely to interfere with his heading skill with a ball. To celebrate such enforced retirement he was presented with a wig.

* * * *

Bill Coldman's "Half Moon", Farnecombe, Games Team has been visiting others on their own grounds and successfully carried off the "gallon" on two occasions.

Reports from Sandfield Terrace indicate that Freddie Pullen's weight is decreasing—we are told that "Edna" May's beer hasn't the body to keep it up. A personal visit of inspection, however, disproved this accusation, and our judge acquitted Edna with honours.

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Harry Baxell spent his vacation in 1947 at Ramsgate. It was there he hobnobbed with some relatives of a noted O.C.A. member. We now wonder what Harry thinks.

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"Larry" Gaines has taken his band abroad. We now want to know how long "The Road to the Isles" is. It is rumoured that he has captured "The Spirit of Youth."

* * * *

Tom Oliver and Ted Ellsey hold a serious conversation every day. We wonder what the effect of their plotting will be. Their usual greeting is "What about it?"

* * * *

Wally Webb is looking for competitors from the Regiment whenever the Surrey Rifle Association holds a meeting at Bisley. We have been told that he puts up a good table.

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Ex-Sergt. Charlie Court has recently won a "Pool" of £947.

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We now have forty-five members in the Corps of Commissionaires and fifteen in the United Services Corps.

* * * *

Special Note.—When the 2nd Battalion proceeded on Active Service in Palestine items of personal property were packed. Some of this is now at the Depot. Anyone wishing to claim should call and collect or write to the Officer Commanding the Depot.

No. 2 P.T.C. and DEPOT

SINCE the last issue of the JOURNAL instructions have been received for the disbandment of P.T.Cs., and at the time of writing Stoughton Barracks presents a somewhat empty appearance. We have, however, great consolation in the knowledge that the Regimental Depot will be carrying on, possibly small in numbers, though sufficient, we hope to preserve our Regimental home in a worthy manner.

The final "passing out" parade of No. 2 P.T.C. took place on the 30th March; unfortunately the Regimental Band was not available, having rejoined the 2nd Battalion in B.A.O.R. We would like to take the opportunity of expressing our very grateful thanks for their services. They gave the final touch to our ceremonial parades, we were indeed lucky in having them at Stoughton but are happy to know that they have at long last rejoined the Battalion.

During No. 2 P.T.C.'s existence for just over a year, we have put 2,000 recruits through their Primary Training. We hope that we have in some small measure contributed towards the requirements of the post-war Army. Our permanent staff, both officers and other ranks, are gradually dispersing, some on posting to other units and some on release. We wish them all the very best of luck. The following officers have already left us on release from the Army: Capts. R. G. Syms, R. G. Bateman, J. W. Webb; Lieuts. H. J. T. Jewers, T. D. A. Alexander, D. C. Lewis, R. S. Jarvis, D. P. Brooks, and P. W. Jepson. We hope that Capts. Syms and Webb, both keen cricketers, will still have the opportunity of playing at Stoughton.

On the 22nd January Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., and Major J. W. M. Denton (O.C. Depot) and Major W. Watford, formed part of the Regimental reception party on the occasion of the arrival of the 1st Battalion at Southampton. A very hearty welcome was extended to Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs, D.S.O., and all ranks of the 1st Battalion on their arrival at Guildford. The Bishop of Guildford kindly conducted our weekly church service on 27th February, staying to luncheon with us after the service.

[*Photo: W. Dennett, Guildford*

OFFICERS, NO. 2 P.T.C. AND DEPOT THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT.

Standing. Left to Right. Lieut. A. S. Jarvis. Lieut. C. Sim (R.A.M.C.). Lieut. D. C. Lewis. Lieut. H. J. T. Jewers. Capt. D. Spafford, (R.A.D.C.). Lieut. H. J. Popper. Lieut. I. E. Scarlett, Lieut. J. D. Palmer.

Sitting. Left to Right. Capt. W. Williams (R.A.). Capt. G. A. Campbell. Capt. F. S. Tooley, M.C. Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O. Major J. W. M. Denton. Major W. W. Watford, Capt. J. W. Webb. Capt. B. P. Elverson.

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[*Photo: W. Dennett, Guildford*

SERGEANTS' MESS, NO. 2 PRIMARY TRAINING CENTRE AND DEPOT THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT.

Back Row. Left to Right. Sgt. A. Basford. Sgt. G. Ford. Sgt. G. Champion (R.A.E.C.). Sgt. P. Telling. S./Sgt. G. Joseph (R.E.). Sgt. E. Thatcher. Sgt. R. Cope (R.A.M.C.). Sgt. H. Bingham. Sgt. R. Leach.

Centre Row. Sgt. F. Northy. Sgt. R. Wildgoose. Sgt. J. Gough. Sgt. K. Williams (R.A.E.C.). C./Sgt. F. Gibbins, M.M. C./Sgt. H. Atkins. C./Sgt. C. Sleet. C./Sgt. J. Hargreav. Sgt. P. Smith. Sgt. R. Miller (Int. Corps). Sgt. A. Rushbrook (A.C.C.). Sgt. C. Campbell.

Front Row. Q.M.S.I. E. Jenks (R.A.E.C.). C.S.M. R. Huskinson. R.S.M. J. Nash (C.R.M.P.). B.M. E. Gains A.R.C.M. Capt. F. S. Tooley, M.C. Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O. R.S.M. F. Harcup. R.Q.M.S. L. Cousins. Q.M.S.I. J. Weaver (A.P.T.C.). C.S.M. C. Cronk, M.M. C.S.M. R. Hall.

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We have had the pleasure of entertaining the following guests during the period under review : Sir Malcolm Fraser, G.B.E. (Lord-Lieutenant of the County) ; The Mayor of Guildford, Alderman Williams ; the Deputy Mayor, Alderman Graham Brown ; Alderman Wykeham-Price ; the Town Clerk, Mr. H. C. Weller ; and Lieut.-Colonel J. W. Bowey, T.D., commanding the 5th Cadet Battalion of the Queen's. We were sorry that Sir John Jarvis, our local M.P., was unable to pay us a visit owing to pressure of work.

The Salerno picture has now been installed in the Officers' Mess dining room and been much admired by those who have seen it. Major M. A. Lowry and Capt. S. W. J. Sharp have been posted to the Regimental Establishment.

Other 1st Battalion officers who have temporarily joined us, Major I. P. Thomson, M.C., and Major C. F. Coles, now await instructions for posting.

Capt. F. S. Tooley, M.C., the Adjutant of No. 2 P.T.C., leaves us on release from the Army at the conclusion of the disbandment. Capt. Tooley served as Adjutant while the 30th Queen's were at Stoughton for a period of four years, and later did a further tour of duty of one year with the P.T.C. During the war years and since he has been closely connected with the activities of Stoughton. He leaves us with our very best wishes. As he will be residing locally, we hope he will still keep in contact with the Depot.

On the 17th April, Capt. B. Elverson and Lieut. J. D. Palmer leave us on release, while Major C. J. D. Haswell and Capt. G. A. Campbell await instructions for posting ; we wish them all the very best of luck.

Major W. Watford is retiring in the near future, after having completed 38 years' service. One of the oldest soldiers in the Regiment, his services will be sadly missed ; and, finally, our Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey, D.S.O., retires at the conclusion of his duties as P.T.C. Commander. Colonel Veasey has served in the Regiment for 33 years, he will be residing at Shamley Green, near Guildford. We understand he will continue to take an active interest in the Regimental Museum. To both these old Regular officers we wish the best of good fortune in their retirement.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Date	*Opposing Team*	*Home or Away*	*Score*	
1 October, 1947	R.A.F., Odiham	Home	Lost	2–6
7 October	31 P.T.C.	Home	Drew	3–3
16 October	3 P.T.C.	Away	Lost	2–4
23 October	7 P.T.C.	Home	Won	6–1
29 October	R.A.F., Odiham	Away	Drew	1–1
5 November	50 P.T.C., Maidstone	Away	Won	4–3
12 November	G.P.O., Guildford	Home	Lost	1–3
19 November	3 T.R.R.E.	Home	Lost	5–6
24 November	N.F.S., Guildford	Away	Won	2–0
26 November	35 P.T.C.	Away	Won	2–1
3 December	989 Company, R.A.S.C.	Home	Drew	2–2
15 December	989 Company, R.A.S.C.	Away	Lost	3–4
17 December	3 P.T.C.	Home	Drew	1–1
7 January, 1948	Q.A. Hospital	Away	Lost	1–3
14 January	7 P.T.C.	Away	Lost	2–6
28 January	Guildford Loco. A.C.	Home	Lost	2–4
2 February	7 P.T.C.	Home	Won	4–2
18 February	31 P.T.C.	Away	Drew	0–0
3 March	3 T.R.R.E.	Away	Lost	1–2
17 March	Q.A. Hospital	Home	Won	3–0

GOAL SCORERS

Sergt. Smith	15	L./Cpl. Albone	3
Pte. Sherringham	5	Pte. Casson	2
O.R.Q.M.S. Russell	4	L./Cpl. Bonner	1
Bdsm. Nicholson	4	Cpl. Taylor	1
Pte. Arpino	3		

SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

This is our third and last issue of JOURNAL notes as far as the Primary Training Centre is concerned, because we cease to exist as such as from 31st March, 1948. Where we shall all finish remains to be seen, so you see our fate is in the hands of the gods.

We were sorry to lose several members since our last notes, which include our P.T. chief, C.S.M.I. McLoughlin, who has left us for a six months' course in fencing and the following who have been claimed by the release machine and now become civilians—Sergts. Tate, Forster, Spencer, Calcutt, Smith, Stewart, Milton, and Ford, and W.O.II (Busty) House. We wish them every success in their new venture.

Although, as I have said in the foregoing paragraph, we have lost several members, we must not forget to say that we have, on the other hand, gained new members and we heartily welcome to the Mess the following on their promotion to sergeant and hope they will enjoy their stay with us —Sergts. Wildgoose, Lodge, Townsend, Vance-Cotsford, Thatcher, Telling and Phillips.

A Billiards and Snooker Tournament which was open to all members and honorary members provided much entertainment and we are glad to say that the honours were even as Mr. Mearing (hon. member) won the billiards and Sergt. Spencer won the snooker. While we offer these two our heartiest congratulations we must not forget to congratulate Sergt. Garnham and R.S.M. Harcup, who were the respective runners-up.

We have still been able to arrange one trip each month to a London show, and thanks to C./Sergt. Sleet's untiring efforts in this connection have visited "The Ice Review" at the Stoll Theatre, a good variety show at the Chiswick Empire, Bertram Mills Circus, and the Danny Kaye show at the Palladium. I have said we, meaning a full coach each time of thirty-two members or honorary members and their wives.

Our new P.T. chief, Q.M.S.I. Weavers, who had recently returned from overseas, joined the Mess towards the latter part of last year and we offer him a cordial welcome.

The Christmas draw gave us all a good laugh on the evening of 22nd December, and we would like to offer our belated thanks to both C.S.M. Edwards and Mr. (Len) Barton who so ably officiated in the drawing of tickets from the drum.

Having just mentioned Christmas, we offer our sincere thanks to the Sergeants' Mess of our sister Regiment in Canada, The Queen's York Rangers, who so kindly sent us a large parcel of sweets and foodstuffs at Christmas. The contents of this parcel were distributed at the Children's Christmas Party.

Several members of the 1st Battalion, including R.S.M. Kemp, arrived home about the second week in January but went straight on a much-needed spell of leave. However, they are now back and we offer them a very warm welcome.

A Mess dance was held on the 30th January and proved to be a great success and a further dance on the 18th March, which was, of course, our farewell effort, proved an even greater success and I am quite sure nobody can say that they didn't enjoy themselves.

It is with deep regret that we mourn the loss of a staunch supporter of the Mess for many years and I am sure that Mr. Charlie Dickinson will be remembered by all who knew him as a grand old man whose pleasant manner made him popular with everyone he came in contact with. Mr. Dickinson died on 23rd February, 1948, after a short illness.

We had a very unusual but welcome visit from the members of our friends at Kingston early in February and although they were unable to make a real evening of it, there was time for the renewal of many old acquaintances of the East Surrey Regiment, and we in turn paid them a visit later in the month, when we did in fact have a very enjoyable evening.

C.S.M. Cronk and Sergt. Basford left us in the middle of February for "Civvy street" and although they were not included in those mentioned above, we wish them well in their return to civil life.

Last, but by no means least, we offer a very warm welcome to W.O.II Church who joined the Mess towards the end of March after having been for the past three-and a half years on extra-Regimental employment in Northern Ireland.

5TH BATTALION

SINCE the last publication of the JOURNAL, the strength of the Battalion has increased to 17 officers and 55 other ranks. Capt. P. Markham and Lieut. S. Bruinvels have joined "C" Company (Dorking). Lieut. J. Fell, who works at the Admiralty, has come to us as Signal Officer and is running the Haslemere drill hall. 2/Lieut. Frend, at present with the Control Commission in B.A.O.R. is now our I.O. We regret that owing to pressure of work Major J. W. M. Mansell, T.D., and Capt. F. J. Street, have found it necessary to request transfer to the Reserve. We wish them both the best of luck and hope that, when they can spare the time again, they will return to the active list.

R.S.M. J. Henderson, M.M., has taken over Regimental Sergeant-Major from R.S.M. W. Spence, who has been posted to Austria ; and C.S.M. L. Church and Sergt. Wildgoose have joined us as P.S.Is. at Camberley and Guildford, respectively.

Recruiting has been slow, but men are gradually coming along. Chiefly due to an excellently arranged dinner for ex-Service men of all regiments at Dorking, which was organized by Major P. Blackstone, T.D., "C" Company have now got seven recruits and training is in full swing. "C" Company is to be congratulated on a satisfactory start.

At other companies men have been coming forward by ones and twos.

Training, mainly through the medium of the Cloth Model, 16-mm. projector, and indoor instruction in weapon training and vehicle maintenance, has gone ahead satisfactorily. All companies have zeroed their rifles and Brens on the open range and will be firing their annual course before camp. We are all looking forward to getting out on to the ground and putting our theory into practice, especially at annual camp, which is to be held at Dibgate (Folkstone), from 21st to 28th August, 1948.

SHOOTING

In January, for the first time since our reconstitution, the Surrey Rifle Association .22 T.A. Competition was held, and the Battalion teams distinguished themselves by taking first, second, fourth and eighth places. All taking part in the competition are to be congratulated on this result, especially the winners from H.Q. and "S" Companies, who were Capt. J. Clemson, Lieut. J. Fell, R.Q.M.S. F. Pullan, and C.S.M. J. Homersham. Special mention is also made of the achievement of C./Sergt. R. Ellis, "A" Company (Reigate), who was the only competitor in the whole competition to obtain a possible.

The Divisional Commander now awards twenty cigarettes to any man obtaining an inch group at 25 yards, or a four-inch group at 100 yards, with ten rounds. To date the Battalion stands top of the Division with nine awards. This must be partly attributed to the excellent miniature ranges which we have. A full landscape range is practically completed at Guildford and a similar one at Camberley is making good progress.

During the past few months individuals of the Battalion have been recipients of medals and awards, and our congratulations go to the officers and other ranks concerned :—

Major H. B. Watson, T.D.	Mention in Despatches.
Major C. W. Summers, T.D.	Mention in Despatches.
Major J. W. M. Mansell	Mention in Despatches.
R.S.M. J. Henderson, M.M.	L.S. and G.C. Medal.
C.S.M. A. Mitchell	L.S. and G.C. Medal.
C.S.M. L. Waite	L.S. and G.C. Medal.
C.S.M. J. Homersham	Territorial Efficiency Medal.

It is hoped that these awards will be presented on parade in the near future by our Honorary Colonel, Major-General R. K. Ross, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Much has been done to foster an interest in the T.A. as a whole, and the Battalion in particular, by holding of social gatherings. Experience proves that this type of function is welcomed and is an excellent way of bringing the T.A. to the notice of old members. Whilst all companies have run functions, it is thought fit that particular mention should be made of the highly successful Social Evening given by "B" Company (Camberley) on 17th March. Through the generosity of officers, both past and present, no charge was made for beer and it appeared likely, early in the evening, that stocks would run out, as numbers had been underestimated. However, through the assistance of Major Edwards and a local publican, reinforcements arrived in time and the day was saved! Mr. Prince and his family did a wonderful job providing refreshments. C.S.M. Beckett and L./Cpl. Pracy ran a most successful Pool Bull Competition throughout the evening on the miniature range. The dart boards and piano were in strong demand until the end of the party.

Among the officers who were welcomed at this function were Brigadier A. P. Block, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.; Lieut.-Colonel W. E. O. Favill, D.S.O.; Lieut.-Colonel J. H. Richie Dickson, M.C., T.D.; Lieut.-Colonel H. H. Marshall Harris, T.D., D.L.; Majors Adams, Edwards; and Capts. Eggar and Pescod. It is hoped that this St. Patrick's night Social Evening will become an annual function.

The full training year of the reconstituted Territorial Army is drawing to a close.

We, in common with all T.A. units, have had a year of struggles, wholly anticipated, against the natural reactions following the war. Hand-in-hand with the feeling of individuals that they have had their share of soldiering for the present, has gone the fully understandable feeling that a man's duty, at this time, lies more in the field of production than soldiering. Despite this our warmest thanks are due to those employers and organizations who have wholeheartedly co-operated with us at this difficult time.

We can now say, however, that the 5th Battalion is on the map. Both in the field of training and social activities we are rebuilding the good reputation always held by the Battalion. We are gradually building our cadre of instructors against the arrival of the National Service men.

This cadre is coming to us all too slowly. We need more instructors and we need them *now*.

6TH BATTALION

ON the 24th January we repeated our pre-war custom of arranging a children's party for children of serving members of the Regiment, and of those who fell in the war. We entertained about 200 children, ages 6 to 12, at our Drill Hall. The party consisted of a cinema show, tea, conjuror, and community singing, and was a great success judging from the way the children enjoyed themselves.

On the 14th February a reunion of the 2nd/6th Battalion was held at the Drill Hall, New Cross. This was the first reunion since the Battalion disbanded, and over a hundred of their members attended. The evening was arranged by "B" Company of the 6th Battalion (the old 1st/6th), a number of whom were also present.

Our Regimental Ball and Prize Giving were held at the Drill Hall, Bermondsey, on 28th February. As chief speaker and guest of honour we were delighted to welcome the Secretary of State for War, Mr. E. Shinwell, who presented the prizes. One of the most popular was that of the cup for individual shooting won by the Commanding Officer, Colonel J. Mason, D.S.O.

After the prize giving, dance music was provided by the Regimental Band.

Our weekly training has been as varied and wide in scope as circumstances would allow. Full use has been made of films, practical demonstrations, discussions and inter-squadron competitive training. Lectures—with realistic playlets enacted by the P.S.I.—have ranged from river crossings to methods of instruction.

Our Adjutant, Capt. R. S. Mans, as well as giving excellent lectures from an instructive point of view, has shown definite talent as a theatrical producer.

[*Photo : F. Robinson, Camberley*

MAJOR-GENERAL IVOR T. P. HUGHES, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.
(late The Queen's Royal Regiment)

Chairman, Surrey T.A. and A.F.A. ; Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms, The House of Commons ; late Commander 44th (Home Counties) Division

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[Photo : P. R. Stickells, Crowborough

6th BN. OFFICERS AT ANNUAL CAMP.

[Photo : P. R. Stickells, Crowborough

6th BN. SERGEANTS AT ANNUAL CAMP.

Recruiting progress is still slow, but like the tortoise, sure.

Several plans have been made to assist publicity of the unit, including a proposed motion picture record of activities at camp, etc., to be shown at local cinemas to encourage recruiting.

Total strength to date is 18 officers (a further 3 are awaiting the Selection Board), 52 W.Os., N.C.Os. and men (3 further not yet attested).

The names of the officers are as follows :—

Lieut.-Colonel Mason, D.S.O.
Major Flint
Major Stringer
Major Woolley
Major Nice
Major Greenwood
Major Lade (R.A.M.C.)
Major (Q.M.) Reynolds, M.B.E., M.M.
Capt. Jones
Capt. Tull
Capt. Pearson
Capt. Sayer
Capt. Beach
Capt. Janes
Capt. South, M.B.E.
Lieut. Cummins
Lieut. Clement
Lieut. Lloyd
Lieut. Deorie
Capt. Mans (Adjutant)

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622 (QUEEN'S) H.A.A. REGIMENT (T.A.)

ON 1st May, 1947, the 7th Queen's was activated in the re-formed T.A. Unhappily, it was not possible for the 7th Queen's to continue as infantry ; one of the battalions in the Queen's Brigade had to be transferred to H.A.A. and, of course, 7th Queen's being the junior, had to get the new job.

So the 7th Queen's was transformed to 622 (Queen's) H.A.A. Regiment, R.A. (T.A.) ; a tough decision to many. Lieut.-Colonel P. Adams, T.D., R.A., took command of the Regiment on inauguration and faced the hard problem of forming a new Artillery Regiment more or less from nothing. Colonel M. G. Simpson, C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D., retired early in 1947 from his duties as Honorary Colonel, and we were fortunate in welcoming Brigadier R. H. Senior, D.S.O., T.D. (one of the Army's most successful Territorial officers) to take his place. He continues to fill this office with his usual dignity and charm. Recruiting throughout has been most disappointing. Particularly officers.

After struggling along for about six weeks amidst many difficulties, Lieut.-Colonel Adams applied for relegation to the T.A.R.O., to the great regret of the Regiment. Command devolved on Major N. J. P. Hawken, M.C., R.A. (T.A.), on a temporary basis until 3rd November, when Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Akroyd-Hunt, R.A., a Regular R.H.A. officer, took over.

Colonel Akroyd-Hunt's arrival was most welcome and already he has helped the Regiment forward to a very great degree. On 9th November, 1947, a plaque was unveiled by the Hon. Colonel of the Regiment on the Unit War Memorial in Kennington Park. The plaque is inscribed as follows :—

THIS INSCRIPTION IS ADDED TO COMMEMORATE
THOSE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 1ST/7TH AND
2ND/7TH BATTALIONS THE QUEEN'S ROYAL
REGIMENT WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES
1939–1945

The parade was attended by the Mayor of Southwark, Deputy Mayor of Lambeth, and other dignitaries and supported by detachments of the Regiment, Cadets and other bodies. A large number of Old Comrades fittingly completed the gathering, with relatives of the fallen. We hope to go to Practice Firing Camp at Bude in August. Camp was not possible last year.

PRESENT STRENGTH
(Including Regulars, P.S.)

Officers	10
Other Ranks	39
Total ...	49

PERSONALITIES

Commanding Officer	Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Akroyd-Hunt, R.A.
Second-in-Command	Major N. J. P. Hawken, M.C., R.A. (T.A.)
Adjutant	Capt. H. Sands, R.A.
Quartermaster	Capt. J. Pincombe, M.B.E., R.A.
R.S.M.	N. Park, R.A.
Orderly Room Sergeant ...	H. S. Turner, R.A. (T.A.)

Whilst support from the Queen's officers and men has been disappointing, we are happy to record that B.Q.M.S. Sullivan (better known in the Queen's as "Colour Sully") is back on the job again. The Regiment trains at the Drill Hall, 71, Braganza Street (Kennington Station), on Mondays and Thursdays. On Friday evenings the Old Comrades Association of the 7th Queen's meets for social purposes in the Sergeants' Mess. Ex-members of 1st/7th and 2nd/7th Queen's who want to know more of the 7th Queen's O.C.A. should write to Mr. F. F. Rowley, M.C., c/o 71, Braganza Street, Walworth, S.E.17. Members and ex-members of the Queen's will always be most welcome at the Braganza Drill Hall. We urge all ex-Queen's who live locally to join us. We particularly appeal to ex-Queen's officers living in or near London to come and give a hand in preserving the Queen's spirit in the new Regiment.

DIARY OF A REGIMENTAL OFFICER OF 131 (QUEEN'S) BRIGADE

NORMANDY, JUNE–AUGUST, 1944

By Lieut.-Colonel B. E. L. Burton, The Queen's Royal Regiment

Foreword.—This account tells the story partly in diary form of the part played by the 131st Brigade (7th Armoured Division) in general and by the 1st/5th Queen's in particular during the operations in Normandy, culminating in the battles to close the Falaise Gap. It was originally written in August, 1944, from notes kept by the writer and reference to war diaries, etc., was not possible. The figures shown in brackets in the text refer to moves during the campaign and are shown on the sketch maps.

8th May, 1944.—The Brigade advance parties left Norfolk and moved by M.T. to their concentration area. The main body moved the next day. With the exception of certain armoured units, 7th Armoured Division concentrated in the area south of Warley in Essex. The advance party of 131st Brigade was housed in West Ham football stadium.

All troops destined for the invasion of Normandy moved first out of their normal stations into concentration areas near the coast where the waterproofing of vehicles was carried out. Then a day or two before embarkation the units moved to marshalling areas adjacent to the points of embarkation. Concentration and marshalling areas stretched round the coasts of England from Essex to North Devon. The handling of such large forces was a gigantic task, and the smooth running of the embarkation plan was a tribute to all those concerned. The camps in the concentration and marshalling areas were controlled and administered by H.Q. Formations and units under G.H.Q. Home Forces. They did a fine job.

3rd June.—Our advance parties embarked in a Danish coaster sailing under the Red Ensign. She was of about 2,000 tons, coal burning and therefore dirty. The captain, a Dane, was a very charming man who had had a valiant war record. We embarked with seven days' rations, plus two days' reserve rations. This made us wonder how long we were to be on board. Our ship lay in Royal Albert dock. The docks were crammed with ships of all sizes, from the large troop transports like the *Cameronia* and *Lancashire* to little coasters of a few hundred tons. On our ship we loaded thirty-five vehicles with their equipment and personnel.

4th-*5th June.*—Early morning on the 4th we reached the anchorage off Southend where we stayed until the evening of the 5th. The cause of our delay was the weather which was too boisterous, and D Day had to be postponed 24 hours.

The concentration of shipping here was huge. As far as the eye could see in all directions there were ships of all sizes—liners ; Liberty Ships carrying M.T. ; coasters, large and small ; tank, landing ships (large); and tank landing craft (small) ; and, last but not least, the Naval escort vessels. As the docks emptied, so more ships steamed up the Thames to take the place of the ships of the first-flights. One was impressed at the time with the colossal target presented to the enemy for air or sea attack. We got neither—thanks to the Navy and Air Force.

In the evening of the 5th our ship weighed anchor and joined in what seemed an everlasting convoy. Our course was through the Straits of Dover to some point at sea south-east of the Isle of Wight, and then south to the Calvados beaches.

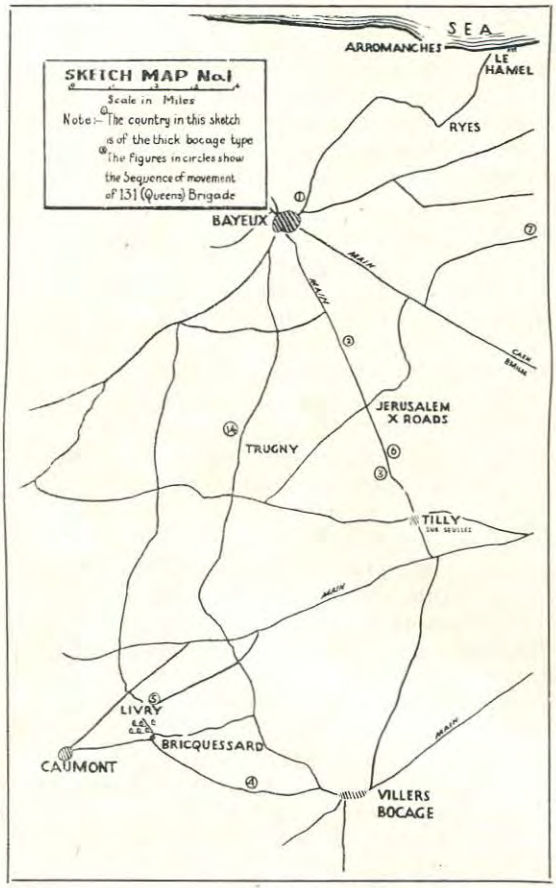
6th June.—During the night we had sailed through the Straits of Dover and by morning were round the corner off Hastings. To think that we had done this part of our journey without incident was a matter for marvel. Those narrow waters were within range of the German long range batteries situated in the Pas de Calais and within easy reach of tip and run raids by the German E-boats at Boulogne and other nearby places. In this area, too, the Germans had an efficient chain of Radar stations. Still, nothing happened, and during this period of 24 hours, so far as I know, the German guns did not fire a round. For this again we must thank the Navy and the Air Forces.

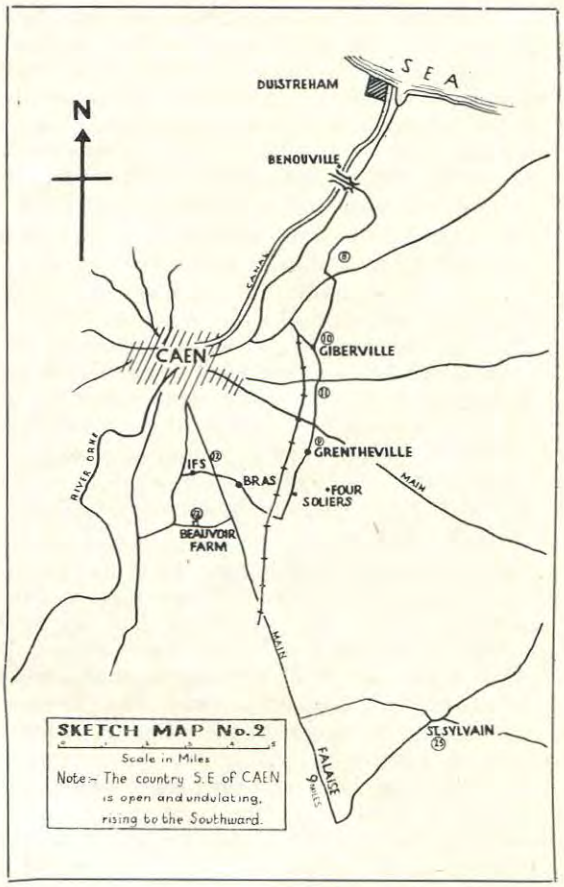
During the course of the morning we heard officially that the Allied armies had assaulted the coast of Normandy.

The point of attack had been a well kept secret. The planning proper for the invasion had started in about June, 1943, and as time went on more and more people were brought into the planning, with the result that before troops were actually briefed, there were many thousands of officers, clerks, typists, etc., who were in the secret. Yet, until briefed, none knew the point of attack. Guesses were made, of course, and they ranged from Norway to the south of France. The date of the attack seemed to have surprised the Germans. They knew we were ready, but it looked as if they thought that the weather on 6th June was a bit rough for the assault. The same had happened in Sicily the year before. As for the Germans, they could not afford to leave uncovered the Pas de Calais. They had however put up beach obstacles on the assault beaches during recent months.

7th June.—At dawn we had arrived at the sea rendezvous off the Normandy beaches. After a little delay we moved off again towards Arromanches. We were then directed to sail eastwards. It became clear that our ship was not going to "J" Beach which was our destination. One couldn't tell at the time whether the change was intentional or not. We sailed up the coast and dropped anchor off Ouistreham. After a time it became evident that a mistake had been made, and that we were in the wrong place. So we spent the day anchored off the shore. The concentration of shipping looked even bigger than it had done at Southend. Besides the troopships and landing craft, there were the naval flotillas which kept up a bombardment all day against targets on land. *Rodney* was there, also *Warspite*, *Frobisher* and many other famous ships. Signs of yesterday's rough weather included the wreckage of many assault landing craft lying high on the beaches. During the morning a formation of Ju. 88's came through the clouds from the east and attacked the beaches. They dropped a few bombs without doing any damage as far as one could see. Our A.A. opened up at once and down came a Ju. 88 in flames.

After a lot of persuasion and many inquiries, we got the captain of the ship to take the law into his own hands and steam back to our proper beach. Our return westwards was unchallenged by





the naval authorities afloat, and at last light we arrived off our correct beach and anchored, 12 hours late.

8th June.—Our first anxiety in the morning was to tell the Beach Organization that we had arrived and required unloading. This was easier said than done, and it was not until the afternoon that a "Rhino" ferry came alongside and unloaded us. We touched down on the beach about 1730 hours. As the tide was falling, we were properly aground in half an hour and so had a dry-shod landing. In the planning stages there had been a lot of excitement (it flared up continually) about the quality of the beaches. Photos had shown streaks of peat in the sand. Was it going to prove an obstacle ? To land on these beaches and see for oneself was therefore very interesting. There were out-crops of peat and they were soft ; but there were plenty of ways round.

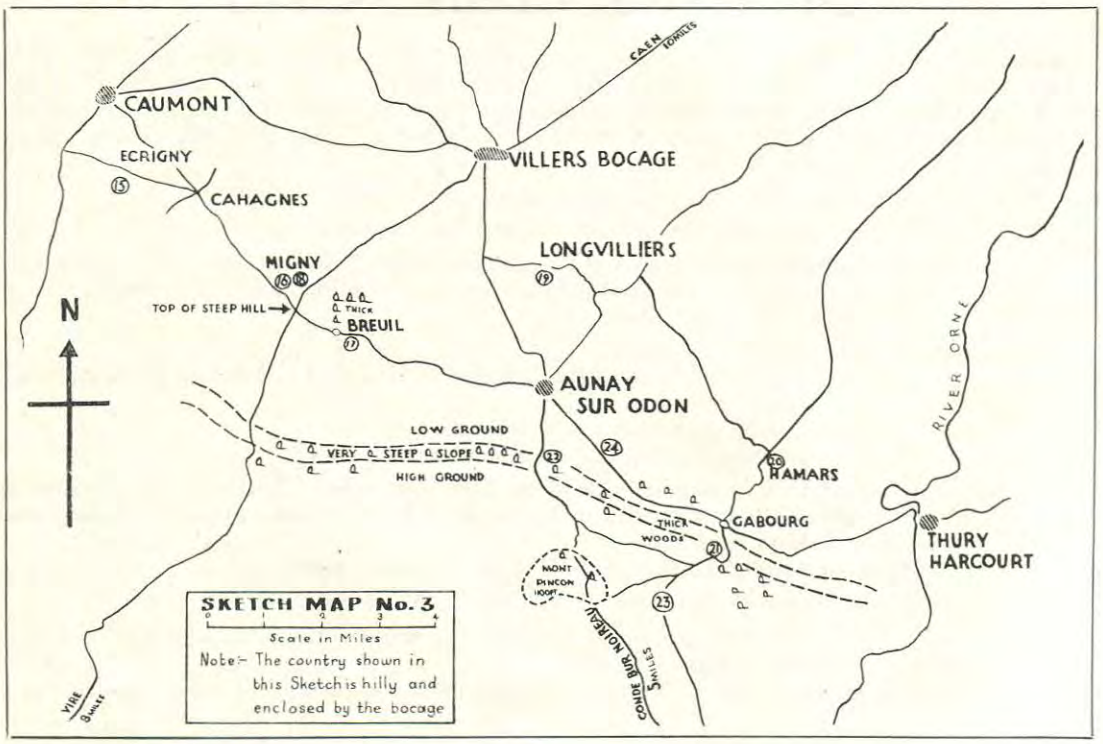
On landing we went off to an assembly area where we stayed for an hour to carry out the first stages of de-waterproofing. When this was done, we moved off to our concentration area, just north of Bayeux (1). The advance inland and the capture of Bayeux the day before had been a fine piece of work by 50th Division. To the west of 50th Division there was a biggish dent in our line inhabited by quite a large pocket of Germans. When we arrived at Bayeux this pocket still existed and 56th Brigade were having quite a sharp battle with the Germans at Sully. As a result of this 131st Brigade had to take up a covering position and dig in, in case any enemy infiltrated through. Some did and hid in the woods and had to be rounded up later.

9th June.—So far only the advanced party and marching troops had arrived. On this day the rest of our vehicles arrived. So, apart from the vehicles of the second flight, expected on D+8,

and the residue expected about D+21, we were complete. The day was spent in de-waterproofing our vehicles, checking equipment, and beating the local coverts for hiding Germans.

10*th June*.—We continued with our sorting out and preparations for the forthcoming battles during the morning. In the late afternoon we got orders to move to a forward concentration area (2). 50th Division had pushed far on and 56th Brigade were just north of Tilly sur Seulles. Our area was north-east of what was later and incorrectly called Jerusalem crossroads. The little village on these crossroads had been the scene of a sharp battle and was now a dusty scene of utter devastation. We leaguered amongst the Agra gun positions. As they were very busy, we had a noisy time.

11*th June*.—D+5 and Sunday. During the day we got our orders for our first battle and packages of photographs of the ground over which we were to fight. When we were briefed in England we were told that our task, as a division, was to break out of the bridgehead and make for Mont Pincon, a very high feature, half-way between Aunay Sur Odon and Conde Sur Noireau. Stage One of this project was to advance and capture Villers Bocage, a few miles north of Aunay. Up to date the invasion had gone well. All the beach-heads had joined up and a bridgehead several miles deep had been formed. We had learnt from previous landings in this war, and this time everyone pushed on inland as best he could. We hadn't got Caen—the Germans appreciated its value too much ; but we were nearly there. Then there was a bit of a salient in our line in the centre which bulged forward again towards Tilly. Between our right flank and the Americans the situation was rather vague. The Americans however had thrust forward rapidly and captured Caumont, the farthest point inland of all. The Germans had been slow to react to our landings and so far had brought up the 21st Panzer and 12th S.S. Divisions against us in the Caen sector and Panzer Lehr Division to Tilly. The situation seemed favourable for a thrust by our 7th Armoured Division. We were therefore given the task of probing forward and capturing or by-passing Tilly and, if possible, make a hole for the armour to go on to Villers Bocage. Reconnaissances were



carried out and contact was made with a battalion of 56th Brigade who were opposite Tilly. They got into Tilly on this day but were counter attacked out of it.

12th June.—1st/5th Queen's moved up to just south of Buceels (about a mile north of Tilly) which was to be our jumping off place (3). 1st/6th Queen's were on the right. 1st/5th Queen's had a squadron of tanks under command and were supported by a battery of artillery. We started off on a two company front and advanced a few hundred yards when we contacted the enemy. They were dug in in all the hedges with their spandaus and there seemed to be snipers everywhere. Behind, there were carefully concealed tanks. They soon brought our advance to a halt. This was our first experience of Bocage fighting. Bocage country was new to all of us. It consists of fields of all sizes and shapes, none very large, bounded by thick hedges usually with a bank and ditch as well. The hedges themselves, besides the lower growing thorn and hazel, etc., are full of taller trees, oak, poplar and limes. This has the effect of making the country very enclosed. There are plenty of lanes, but many of these are sunken and obstacles to tanks. Anyhow, to an attacking force the enemy is completely unseen. Infantry get held up by machine-gun fire, and call up the tanks to help. When the tanks come up they get shot at by the concealed enemy tanks behind.

As a result of all this our advance was stopped and it became obvious that the enemy was not going to fall back without making a stiff fight of it. The enemy were the Panzer Lehr Division, to whose fighting prowess 50th Division will bear witness. Our Corps Amroured Car Regiment, 11th Hussars, were operating in the meantime away to our right and as a result of reports from them it was appreciated that the German left flank was on the river Aure between Tilly and Caumont. Our battle was therefore called off and the whole Division was ordered to switch more to the west and try for Villers Bocage by another route.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

A COMMITTEE Meeting was held at the Army and Navy Club, on 20th February. The following were present: General Sir George Giffard; Major-General R. K. Ross; Brigadier N. Kemp Welch; Lieut.-Colonel D. C. Baynes; Lieut.-Colonel D. L. A. Gibbs; Lieut.-Colonel J. B. H. Kealy; Lieut.-Colonel H. G. Veasey; Major R. C. G. Foster; Major W. R. Goodridge; Major E. G. Sandys; Capt. D. F. Kellie.

1. The accounts for 1947 were presented and passed.
2. The following policy with regard to the JOURNAL was decided.
   (*a*) That for this year there should be two issues in the present style. Any deficit to be met from funds in the hands of the Colonel of the Regiment. The situation to be reviewed at the end of the year.
   (*b*) To increase the circulation.
      i. Copies should be sent to T.A. battalions and O.C.A. for disposal, especially at local reunions.
      ii. A small poster should be printed.
      iii. An order form should be printed in each issue.
3. (*a*) The Annual Dinner should be held on 17th September. To be as like a dinner as regulations allow. Cost and arrangements to be left to the Colonel of the Regiment and the Hon. Secretary.
   (*b*) The Reunion Garden Party to be held at the Depot on 17th July.
4. Colonel Veasey raised the question of the Officers' Memorial Fund.

It was decided to fill up the panel with the names of officer subscribers who have died since 1935 in order of priority of date of death.

If sufficient funds are left, to start a new panel for the remainder of those who have subscribed.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT—OFFICERS' CLUB

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Year ended 31st December, 1947

GENERAL PURPOSES FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Printing, Stationery and Postages	36	15	8	Subscriptions	52	17	6
Miscellaneous Expenses	9	11	9				
Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	6	10	1				
	£52	17	6		£52	17	6

ANNUAL DINNER FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Printing, Stationery and Postages	17	3	6	Subscriptions	106	10	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	4	10	1	Interest—Post Office Savings Bank	25	0	0
Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	109	16	5				
	£131	10	0		£131	10	0

MUSEUM FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Purchases	70	16	0	Subscriptions	106	10	0
Printing and Postages	4	11	0	Interest—3% Defence Bonds	3	12	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	18	17	11				
Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	15	17	1				
	£110	2	0		£110	2	0

ANNUAL REUNION FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Garden Party and Entertainment	80	10	7	Subscriptions	70	16	6
Printing, Stationery and Postages	12	1	9	Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	24	4	4
Miscellaneous Expenses	2	8	6				
	£95	0	10		£95	0	10

JOURNAL FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Printing Journal (Two Issues)	375	4	5	Subscriptions	186	2	6
Printing, Stationery and Postages	3	0	8	Interest—3% Defence Bonds	4	16	0
Miscellaneous Expenses	6	12	0	Stock of Journals at 31st December, 1947	35	10	0
				Excess of Expenditure over Income for Year	158	8	7
	£384	17	1		£384	17	1

REGIMENTAL PICTURE FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Miscellaneous Expenses		5	6	Donations	19	0	0
Excess of Donations over Expenditure for year	18	14	6				
	£19	0	0		£19	0	0

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT—OFFICERS' CLUB

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1947

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
GENERAL PURPOSES FUND :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	88 19 9	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	6 10 1	
		95 9 10
ANNUAL DINNER FUND :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	528 15 6	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	109 16 5	
		638 11 11
MUSEUM FUND :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	318 10 3	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	15 17 1	
		334 7 4
JOURNAL FUND :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	259 9 10	
Less Excess of Eexpnditure over Income for year	158 8 7	
		101 1 3
Creditor for Printing Journals and Subscription paid for 1948		159 1 4
ANNUAL REUNION FUND :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	40 9 2	
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for year	24 4 4	
		16 4 10
REGIMENTAL PICTURE FUND :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	168 13 10	
Add Donations received during year (less expenses)	18 14 6	
	187 8 4	
Less Provision for cost of painting picture		
Provision for cost of painting picture ...	... ...	187 8 4
		£1,532 4 10

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
CURRENT ASSETS :		
Stock of Journals	35 10 0	
£410 3% Defence Bonds, at Cost ...	410 0 0	
Cash at Lloyds Bank Ltd.	562 7 3	
Cash at Post Office Savings Bank ...	519 12 7	
Cash in Hand (including postage stamps)	4 15 0	
		1,532 4 10
		£1,532 4 10

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.—We have examined the above Balance Sheet. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion such Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the Club and is in accordance with the Books and Vouchers of the Club and the information and explanations given to us.

Dated this 17th day of February, 1948.
GUILDFORD.

(Signed) KELLER SNOW & CO., *Auditors*,
Incorporated Accountants.

With reference to the above it has been decided mainly on account of the greater reasonableness of the drinks to hold the dinner again at the Connaught Rooms. Further details of this and the Reunion Garden Party will be notified to members.

Membership continues to increase, but more slowly. It is now about 450.

As some compensation for the cancelled dinner a cocktail party (members only) was held at Grosvenor House on 20th February. About 150 attended, and it appeared a great success. The Salerno picture was on view.

OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1947

THE Committee presents herewith the Annual Report and Abstract of Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1947 :—

ASSOCIATION.

Membership.—Life Members, 1,563 ; Annual Subscribers, 767 ; total 2,330, as compared with 1946 : Life, 1,500 ; Annual, 865 ; total 2,365.

Employment.—The Association still maintains collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and the Regular Forces Employment Association. Placings during 1947 : O.C.A., 16 ; R.F.E.A., 180.

Loans.—A further £369 was advanced during the year, but only in a few instances have successful reports come in and some may have experienced difficulty in meeting their obligations to the Association.

CHARITABLE FUND.

Grants in Aid.—The increase in applications continues, 398 cases having been dealt with and 271 grants amounting to £1,138 14s. 11d. were authorized. Forty-eight cases were still under review when the year ended.

Summary of Grants :—

Illness of husband, wife or children	145	Removal Expenses	4
Educational Grant for child ...	1	Tide over till wages received ...	2
Clear family debts	13	Fares to take employment	8
Funeral expenses	7	Age and illness	6
Convalescent Grants	6	Resettlement and tools for work ...	6
Re-establish home	13	Help disabled work at home ...	1
Invalid Chairs, Cycles, Limbs ...	5	Replace stolen clothing	1
Replace stolen bedding	2	Tide over pending receipt of workman's compensation	2
Aid legal fees	1		
Widows :—			
Illness	5	Re-establish home	4
Removal expenses	6	Tide over pending pension	4
Clothing for children	9	Funeral expenses, children	2
Convalescent grants	4	Education fees and school clothing (children)	2
Dentures	4		

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE SCHEME.

The assistance of Local Representatives continues to be of great service in carrying forward the objects of the Association. We now have forty-two volunteers to whom we are extremely grateful for their good work.

REUNION CHURCH SERVICE AND GARDEN PARTY.

The first post-war reunion was held on Sunday, 20th July, 1947, at Stoughton. Two hundred members attended the church service in Emmanuel Church in the morning and between 700 and 800 (including families) the Garden Party at Stoughton Barracks in the afternoon.

The 1948 Reunion Church Service and Garden Party will take place at Guildford on SUNDAY, 18TH JULY, 1948. Church Service will be held at The Cathedral Church of Holy Trinity, Guildford, in the morning, and Garden Party in Stoughton Battacks in the afternoon. Applications to attend both or either to be submitted to the Secretary, stating number of tickets required before 26th June, 1948.

ALL RANKS' DINNER CLUB.

Membership.—Life Members, 351 ; Annual Subscribers, 474 ; total 825, as against 833 ind 1946.

Dinner, 1947.—The Annual Dinner for 1947 was held at Kennards Restaurant, Croydon, on 14th June, 1947. Four hundred members attended.

Dinner, 1948.—Reunion Dinner will be held at The Royal Horticultural Society's Old Hall, Vincent Square, London, S.W.1., on SATURDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1948, commencing at 6 p.m. Applications for tickets (with subscription, if not already paid) to reach the Secretary before 5th June, 1948.

WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

Balance in hand at 31st December, 1947, was £7,417 6s. 2d.

A Flag Day was organized in parts of Surrey on 2nd August, 1947, for the benefit of The War Memorial Funds of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment. As a result each Regiment received the sum of £500 13s. 7d.

In addition, The East Surrey Regiment operated a Joint War Memorial Fund Appeal and the sum of £250 was received during the year from this source. The Army Benevolent Fund has promised a donation of £1,000. Negotiations with The East Surrey Regiment and S.S. and A.F.A., in connection with the Holiday Centre, are in progress and conditions of the Trust Deed are under examination.

RETIREMENT.

It is with the greatest regret that the Committee has to report the retirement of Mr. P. E. Rowley, who was employed as clerk to the Association from 1938. His excellent work for the Regiment, both during military service and after, over a period of fifty-three years, has been of the utmost value and the good wishes of all go to him in his retirement.

CONCLUSION.

The Committee desires on behalf of all ranks, past and present, to express its gratitude to all who have shown a kindly interest by supporting the Association, The Charitable Fund, and The War Memorial Fund so generously.

The help given by The British Legion, the I.S.S. and A.H.S., the S.S. and A.F.A., the Family Welfare Association, and other Regimental Associations in collaborating both in cases of need and local organization for the Flag Day proved most valuable and their co-operation is greatly appreciated.

All subscribers are earnestly requested to notify changes of address as they occur. Please *keep in touch!*

Subscriptions for 1948 are now due, and should be sent to the Secretary, The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association, Stoughton Barracks, Guildford, Surrey.

MAJOR F. WASPE, *Secretary.*

LIEUT.-COLONEL H. G. VEASEY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

GENERAL G. J. GIFFARD, *Chairman.*

LIST OF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

COUNTY	NAME, DISTRICT AND ADDRESS
Berkshire	A. Chapman (Reading), 95, Grovelands Road, Reading.
Devonshire	C. A. S. Hall (Exeter), 81, Wykes Road, Exeter.
Durham	H. E. Nicholls (Tyneside), 6, Wallace Terrace, Ryton-on-Tyne.
Hampshire	B. E. Hopkins (Aldershot), 42, Weybourne Road, Aldershot.
Herts	E. W. Godden, M.M. (Cheshunt), Lynwood, Churchgate, Cheshunt.
	R. Catchpole (Buntingford), The Cottage, Wyddiall Hall, Buntingford.
London	F. J. Hesketh-Williams, (South-West), Verles House, Stone Street, near Sevenoaks, Kent.
	Capt. D. F. Kellie (Bermondsey and Rotherhithe), c/o The Drill Hall, 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.16.
	Lieut.-Colonel H. Cook, M.C. (Bermondsey and Rotherhithe), c/o The Drill Hall, 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.16.
	Major E. D. Mayhew, M.C. (Bermondsey and Rotherhithe), c/o The Drill Hall, 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.16.
	E. F. Townsend (Bermondsey and Rotherhithe), c/o The Drill Hall, 2, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, S.E.16.
	G. Steadman (Southgate), 34, Oakdale, Southgate, N.14.
	C. W. Metson (East Ham), 66, Langdon Road, East Ham, E.6.
	J. W. Grey (Norwood), 48, Whitworth Road, South Norwood, S.E.25.
	A. Hannington (Woolwich), 54, Swingate Lane, Plumstead, S.E.18.
	M. Scanlon, M.M. (Westminster), 24, Claredon Road, Westminster, S.W.1.
	P. H. Grou, (Finchley), 69, Hutton Grove, North Finchley, N.12.
	J. Bromige (Dagenham), 233, Lodeg Avenue, Becontree, Essex.
Middlesex	J. P. Evans (Hayes), 1, Hillbourne Close, Hayes. (Tel. Minerva 3128).
	C. N. Bradnock (Wembley), 54, Beechcroft Gardens, Wembley Park.
Shropshire	Lieut.-Colonel N. A. Willis, O.B.E. (Ludlow), 41, Mill Street, Ludlow.
Somerset	H. K. Reeves (Porlock), Hacketty Way, Porlock.
Staffordshire	Ben Evans (Willenhall), 109, Temple Road, Willenhall.
Surrey	R. E. T. Russell (Guildford), 1, Haydon Place, Guildford.
	Major R. Merrett (Croydon Borough), Shirley Lodge, Wickham Road, Croydon.
	H. Mann (Croydon Borough), 22, Woodland Way, Shirley, Croydon.
	V. Porrett (Croydon Borough), 5, St. Leonard's Road, Croydon.
	F. Gater (Thornton Heath), 12, Bridport Road, Thornton Heath,
	W. D. Twitchett (Thornton Heath), 135a Ecclesbourne Road, Thornton Heath.
	A. J. Harris (Surbiton), 15, Ravenswood Avenue, Tolworth.
	Major N. B. Avery, M.C. (Redhill and Reigate), 3, Brownlow Road, Redhill.
	F. Payne (Redhill and Reigate), Birdhurst, Wray Park Road, Reigate.
	Capt. C. R. Hurley (Chertsey), Wood Rising, Virginia Water. (Tel. Wentworth 2379).
	Lieut.-Colonel H. W. Bolton, D.S.O., O.B.E. (Banstead and Sutton), 47, Sanderfield Road, Banstead.
	C. W. Weeks (Haslemere), 1, New Mill Cottage, Shottermill.
Sussex	Major F. L. Simmons (Worthing, Goring and Lancing), 31, Angus Road, West Worthing.
	R. H. Hawkins (Hove), 94, Lansdowne Place, Hove, 2.
	Capt. R. E. Dowson (Uckfield), The Crows Nest, Fairwarp, near Uckfield.
	Sqdn. Ldr. V. C. Harvey, M.C., D.C.M. (East Grinstead), Oaklands, Furzefield Road, East Grinstead.
	F. J. Tree (Hastings), 42, Sandown Road, Hastings.
Warwickshire	Capt. G. P. Stevens (Leamington Spa), Yew Tree, Cottage Harbury, near Leamington Spa.
	E. Schnabel (Coventry), The Cabin, Meriden, near Coventry. (Tel. Meriden 220.)
Yorkshire	J. Tubbs, A.M.I.B.E. (Coneysthorpe), Coneysthorpe, Yorks.
	T. W. Guile (Castleford), 74, Front Street, Glasshoughton, Castleford.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT—OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Year ended 31st December, 1947

GENERAL FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Salaries, Wages and National Insurance	655	9	7	Subscriptions	362	14	7
Printing, Stationery and Postages	94	16	10	Donations	179	3	0
Garden Party	24	2	5	Life Members (Proportion)	66	13	2
Miscellaneous Expenses	22	3	3	Badges	4	18	0
				Interest	1	11	8
				Balance, being Excess of Expenditure over Income	181	11	8
	£796	12	1		£796	12	1

CHARITABLE FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Grants in Aid Donations and Subscribtions to other Organizations	1,348	13	11	Donations	2,886	15	8
				Dividends	507	7	0
Cheque Books	2	10	0	Interest	11	14	5
Balance, being Excess of Income over Expenditure	2,125	1	3	Income Tax recovered	70	8	1
	£3,476	5	2		£3,476	5	2

DINNER CLUB

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Salaries	20	0	0	Subscriptions	120	16	2
Dinner, 1947	200	0	0	Dividends	16	10	0
Printing, Stationery, Postages and Miscellaneous Expenses	11	14	7	Premium on Conversion of Defence Bonds	6	0	0
				Deposit Interest		14	5
				Life Members (Proportion)	26	19	0
				Balance, being Excess of Expenditure over Income	60	15	0
	£231	14	7		£231	14	7

WAR MEMORIAL FUND

Expenditure	£	s.	d.	Income	£	s.	d.
Stationery	9	8	3	Donations	2,222	8	10
Postages	2	1	4				
Miscellaneous Expenses	3	13	6				
Balance being Excess of Donations over Expenditure	2,207	5	9				
	£2,222	8	10		£2,222	8	1

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT—OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1947

LIABILITIES

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
LIFE MEMBERS ASSOCIATION :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	616 9 0	
Add Subscriptions received during 1947	49 4 2	
	665 13 2	
Less Proportion transferred to Income and Expenditure Account	66 13 2	
		599 0 0
LIFE MEMBERS (ALL RANKS) DINNER CLUB :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946 ...	233 10 8	
Add Subscriptions received during 1947	32 8 4	
	265 19 0	
Less Proportion transferred to Income and Expenditure Account	26 19 0	
		239 0 0
GENERAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT:		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	569 2 10	
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended 31st December, 1947	181 11 8	
		387 11 2
SIMPSON BEQUEST :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	30 0 0	
Less Payments during 1947	20 0 0	
		10 0 0
CHARITABLE FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	25,105 0 11	
Add Premium on Conversion of £500 3% Defence Bonds	5 0 0	
Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1947 ...	2,125 1 3	
		27,235 2 2
INVESTMENT RESERVE, CHARITABLE FUND :		
Balance as at 31st December, 1946 ...		1,060 13 7
ALL RANKS DINNER CLUB INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	726 19 3	
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year ended 31st December, 1947	60 15 0	
		666 4 3
WAR MEMORIAL FUND :		
Balance at 31st December, 1946	5,207 0 5	
Add Excess of Donations over Expenditure for the year ended 31st December, 1947	2,207 5 9	
		7,414 6 2
		£37,611 17 4

ASSETS

	Current £ s. d.	*Deposit* £ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lloyds Bank Ltd. :				
General Account ...	102 4 11	320 6 7	422 11 6	
Charitable Fund Account ...	357 19 11	8,981 10 9	9,339 9 10	
All Ranks Dinner Club Account ...	136 15 0	168 9 3	305 4 3	
War Memorial Fund Account ...	139 7 1	7,274 10 4	7,413 17 5	
Cash in hand of Secretary :				
General Account			18 19 8	
War Memorial Fund			8 9	
Cash in hand—United Services Trustee ...			5 0 0	
				17,505 11 5
CHARITABLE FUND :				
Investments at cost at 31st December, 1946			18,771 5 11	
During the year £500 3% Defence Bonds were converted to 2½% (held by United Services Trustee. Market value at 31st December, 1947, £19,258 17s. 3d.)				
National Savings Certificates (held by the Association)			180 0 0	
				18,951 5 11
ALL RANKS DINNER CLUB :				
£600 3% Defence Bonds at cost at 31st December, 1946, converted during the year to 2½% (held by the Association) ...				600 0 0
ADVANCES :				
Balance at 31st December, 1946			311 0 0	
Add Advances during 1947			369 0 0	
			680 0 0	
Less Repayments during 1947			125 0 0	
				555 0 0
				£37,611 17 4

AUDITORS' CERTIFICATE.—We have examined the above Balance Sheet. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required. In our opinion the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the Association and is in accordance with the Books and Vouchers of the Association and the information and explanations given to us.

Dated this 3rd day of February, 1948.
GUILDFORD.

(Signed) KELLER SNOW & CO., *Auditors*,
Incorporated Accountants.

4TH BATTALION OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Now that the news of the passing of our beloved Battalion is an accomplished fact, the need has become apparent to its past members to strengthen the Old Comrades Association, and with the demobilizing of the 127, 438, 439, 440 Batteries of L.A.A. (originally of the 4th Queen's) many of their members became Old Comrades and the membership is now getting near the 500 mark.

With the return of our Headquarters at "Queen's House," by the kindness of the Territorial Association, the 4th Battalion and the 2nd/4th Battalion O.C.A. decided the time had arrived to join hands and form a club. This has proved a great success and many grand social evenings have been spent together with the assistance of the bar under the licence of the club.

These social evenings have been the means of drawing together members from outlying districts—Caterham, Oxted, Limpsfield, etc., and groups meet once a month.

The Annual Dinner was held last year at Kennards Restaurant, Croydon, on Saturday, 20th September, when over 160 members were present. The chief guests of the evening were His Worship the Mayor of Croydon (Councillor Harry Regan) ; our President, Colonel Sir Frank Watney, D.S.O. ; Major Waspe, Secretary of The Queen's Old Comrades Association ; the Chairman, Lieut.-Colonel J. H. F. Johnson, presided.

The Annual Armistice Church Parade was held at Croydon Parish Church, on 9th November, 1947. The Association were supported by other Old Comrades Associations in the Borough and were played to church by the Pipe Band of the 3rd Cadet Bn. The Queen's and Air Training Corps.

A goodly number of members attended The Queen's Church Parade and Garden Party at Guildford in June, and spent an enjoyable time with those of our mother battalion.

The Association have forwarded the sum of £20 towards The Queen's Memorial Fund, and another donation is on its way.

The 3rd Cadet Battalion, in which the Association is kindly interested, and of which some of our members are officers or warrant officers, are leaving Queen's House for new quarters at Mitcham Road Barracks and we extend to them our best wishes for their success.

During the year the Committee plan to enlarge even more the social functions for its members by socials and outings, billiards and snooker tournaments and darts matches, so that the memory of the 4th Bn. The Queen's Royal Regiment is kept alive in Croydon by its old members of the 4th Queen's Old Comrades Association.

S. B. WALTER,
Hon. Secretary.

THE LONDON GAZETTE

(*Arrangements have been made for all entries concerning members of the Regiment to be published in the Journal in future.*)

23rd April, 1948

The following are awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (Military) without gratuity. Queen's Royal Regiment :—

Lieut. (Q.M.) now Hon. Capt. (Q.M.) R. E. Hawkins.
Lieut. H. R. Gill.

27th April, 1948

REGULAR ARMY

Lieut. M. R. H. Stopford to be Captain, 27/4/48.

EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

War Subs. Lieut. B. R. Whiting relinquishes his commission 28/4/48 and is granted hon. rank of Lieutenant.

Cadet M. L. H. Stent to be 2/Lieutenant, 6/3/48.

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major H. P. Snowdon, M.C., T.D., having exceeded the age limit relinguishes his commission 27/4/48, and is restored to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel and Brevet Colonel.

HISTORY OF 169 QUEEN'S BDE.

JANUARY TO FEBRUARY, 1944

(*Part IV.—Continued from page* 33, *November*, 1947, *issue*)

New Year's Eve, 1943, found the Queen's Brigade once more moving up into position in a new sector of the line on the southern banks of the Garigliano river near its mouth. The relief was successfully effected to time despite one of the worst blizzards in history.

The Germans were holding the north bank of the river, with bridgeheads on the south bank. Their positions here were very favourable as they had wonderful observation and covered approaches up to the river, whilst the country to the south of the Garigliano was completely open for several thousand yards. Our energies during the next ten days were mainly devoted to very active patrolling to find out all we could about the German defences and possible crossing places and to harrass the German defenders to the maximum.

The Brigade was then withdrawn for a few weeks' concentrated training for the assault crossing of the river and the capture of the high ground the other side. The Germans evidently thought that their positions were very strong, if not impregnable, with a wide, fast-flowing river backed up by extensive minefields and well and carefully prepared defensive positions on the high ground beyond.

On the night 17th/18th January, 1944, the Brigade crossed in assault boats on a two-battalion front on the stretch of river immediately south of the Valle Martino feature just where the river turns and runs due north. Great care had been taken in the preparation for this crossing to keep the actual crossing places secret, with the result that complete tactical surprise was obtained. 2nd/5th Queens on the right had many boats sunk at one crossing place by enemy mortar fire ; but were completely successful in crossing the whole Battalion at the left crossing place. 2nd/6th Queen's on the left got across on both company fronts. 2nd/7th Queen's and Brigade H.Q. followed after 2nd/6th Queen's.

Some delay was occasioned by the many mines encountered on the north side of the river, but the infantry forced their way resolutely through these and by dawn 2nd/5th Queen's were firmly established on the high ground of their first objective and 2nd/6th Queen's were making their way up the slopes towards their objective. 2nd/7th Queen's now attacked and captured the high ground near Sujo and made the left flank secure. During the next forty-eight hours hard fighting took place in which all three battalions, an R.M. and Polish Commando which had been placed under command 169th Infantry Brigade, were engaged. The result was the complete rout of all German defenders on the whole of the Valle Martino high ground, a great number being killed and more than 100 prisoners being taken. Much praise is due to the R.E. and men of the infantry battalions who kept the ferries and assault boats working, although the crossings during the period of building up our reserves of ammunition, food, etc., on the far bank came under almost continuous heavy German artillery and mortar fire.

The whole of this operation was a model of careful planning and every officer, N.C.O. and man knew his exact task. This was coupled with the dash and determination of the infantry who, despite deep minefields and determined German opposition, pressed home each attack to capture all their objectives.

The Brigade was now moved to the central sector, where very hard fighting was going on for possession of the dominating feature of Damiano and the valleys of Castelforte and the Ausenta river on each flank.

The task of clearing the left flank of the Salvatito feature immediately south of Damiano and Ausente valley was given to 2nd/6th Queen's. Under cover of very heavy artillery concentrations from the whole of the Corps artillery, they cleared the whole of the western slopes of Salvatito and the Ausente valley for 2,000 yards north of the main lateral road. This operation was carried out under difficult conditions as it was not possible to move tanks into the Ausente valley and the infantry had therefore to fight along the terraced slopes of the hill and clear up any pockets of enemy resistance remaining in the valley with fighting patrols afterwards. The operation was

entirely successful, many Germans being killed and some 20 prisoners taken. This was followed by a highly successful patrol operation against the Cericola feature in the Ausenta valley, when six German prisoners were taken and many Germans killed.

The next operation in which the Brigade took part was an attack by 2nd/6th Queen's with a company of 2nd/5th Queen's under command to establish itself on the left shoulder of Damiano while the Brigade on the right attacked to capture point 411, the highest feature of the whole mountain. 2nd/6th Queen's attack necessitated an uphill climb over very difficult broken, rocky country and the assault of a dozen or more spandau positions, protected by well-built sangars. The attack was carried out with great dash and, despite a German counter-attack, was successful in reaching and holding its objective. It remained in position throughout the following night despite the fact that the right-hand brigade had been unable to capture point 411 and was then withdrawn unmolested by the Boche.

The Brigade now took over the defence of the whole of the Damiano feature and held it firmly until relieved on 12th February. Though no further offensive action was taken, the maximum use was made of fighting patrols to harass and mislead the Germans as to our future intentions.

25TH ARMOURED REGIMENT—QUEEN'S YORK RANGERS

(1ST AMERICAN REGIMENT)

TO its great sorrow the Regiment was not mobilized as a unit of the Canadian Active Service Force. We are very proud, however, that no less than 155 officers and 3,100 men passed through our ranks to the active force. Their exploits will always be a source of pride to the Regiment as long as it exists. We also supplied the H.Q. of an administrative unit and a full battalion for home defence. Because we did not participate as a unit in the second World War, we are determined that the next shall not find us missing !

With the post-war reorganization of the Army, the unit has been reconstituted as an armoured regiment. This has meant a considerable change-over of officers and N.C.Os. but we have been fortunate in getting together a strong slate of officers and senior officers, nearly all with active service experience.

The present slate is :

Commanding Officer	... ...	Lieut.-Colonel J. W. G. Hunter, M.C.
Second-in-Command	... ...	Major C. W. Keslick
Training Officer	... ...	Capt. G. Pratt (Royal Canadian Dragoons)
"A" Squadron	... ...	Major J. J. Black, M.C.
"B" Squadron	... ...	Major R. B. Verner
"C" Squadron	... ...	Major J. F. Westhead, M.B.E.
H.Q. Squadron	... ...	Major D. O. Mongoman

Both Colonel Hunter and Major Keslick served as "Can Loan" officers with the British Army.

Like all units we are having recruiting trouble—but no worse than other units. The worst seems to be past, however. We have qualified instructors in every branch of armoured work, and as much training equipment as we can use. We look forward to the future with confidance.

The Queen's York Rangers will always cherish its affiliation with the Queen's Royal Regiment and we welcome the JOURNAL as a means of keeping in touch with you.

R. J. SUTHERLAND, *Captain and Adjutant,*
for LIEUT.-COLONEL J. W. G. HUNTER, M.C.,
Commanding 25th Armoured Regiment, Queen's York Rangers.

[Crown Copyright

QUEEN'S MOVING OUT OF LORENZO BEHIND THE TANKS ON A FIGHTING PATROL.

[Crown Copyright

QUEEN'S MOVING INTO ACTION BESIDE THE RAILWAY TRACK NORTH OF LORENZO, NEAR CASTELFORTE.

Face page 38

CRANLEIGH SCHOOL J.T.C.

THIS contingent has been affiliated to the Queen's Royal Regiment since one battalion of the Queen's was a Rifle Battalion, and even now, the contingent wear green Certificate "A" stars instead of the official red stars.

The War Office establishment of the contingent is 270 and the strength at the moment is 281.

One ex-Queen's officer is serving with the contingent—Capt. C. T. Reichwald, M.C.

Camp this year will be at Dibgate, and about seventy cadets will attend.

Seventy-three Certificates "A" were gained during the period March, 1947, to March, 1948; eighty-five cadets now have Part II and sixty-three in addition have Part I.

It would be appreciated if all ex- or serving Queen's who were at Cranleigh would get in touch with the Contingent Commander (Capt. A. W. Young).

A. W. YOUNG, *Captain*,
Commanding Cranleigh School J.T.C.

1ST CADET BATTALION

(*Notes on History—continued from page* 44, *November*, 1947, *issue*)

PART II

At the outbreak of the war, therefore, the state of the Battalion was as follows :—

"A" Company (Selhurst).
"B" Company (Whitgift Middle).
"C" Company (Croydon High School).
"D" Company (Reigate Grammar).
"E" Company (Merstham).

As a direct result of the war, late in 1940 "C" Company ceased to exist. Croydon High School was a privately owned school with a long and distinguished record of success, but the war conditions were too difficult for it to surmount and it came to an end, and with it, of course, its Cadet Company. It had been a splendid company—efficient and exceptionally well disciplined and had trained many Cadets who now hold commissions in His Majesty's Forces. In the end it became literally a "war casualty." (It is of interest to note that our present Commanding Officer, who was a close friend of the then headmaster, commanded the company for six months in the year 1920 as a temporary measure during a shortage on the school staff.) An ex-Cadet of "C" Company, who was killed while on a reconnaissance patrol with the R.A.F. on the morning of 3rd September, 1939, may possibly have been the first casualty of the late war.

Circumstances made it desirable for "B" (Whitgift Middle) Company to be transferred to another battalion in the latter part of 1942. It had been a most efficient company with a "Corps of Drums" certainly unsurpassed in the country. The admirable school grounds, always most kindly and willingly lent to the Battalion, were the scene of many of our parades and tattoos and more than one first-class Regimental Sergeant-Major came from this company.

The reason why there are at present no "B" or "C" companies will thus be seen. The letters of the old companies have not been given to others—nor will they be.

Further, it should be realized that until comparatively recently, our Battalion was the only one existing in Croydon (there being no non-school companies in that borough other than C.L.B.).

In 1938 an open unit—known as the Croydon Cadet Corps—was raised, and it seemed desirable to place it in the 3rd Battalion (which then consisted only of Purley County School and Russell Hill School Companies). Then for the first time the 3rd Battalion came into Croydon, which has now become its area, our own battalion having, as it were, "moved south" and retaining only "A" Company in a district which for many years it dominated.

The great expansion of the Cadet Force, now granted the title of "Army Cadet Force," took place early in 1942 and all our newer companies, except "I" Company, were raised during that year—in the order of seniority which their letters show.

It was decided that "E" Company should expand into Redhill and be renamed "E" (Redhill and Merstham) Company, and that a new company ("F") should be raised in Reigate.

"G" Company was raised in Horley and District, "H" Company in Dorking and, rather later (early in 1943), "I" Company in the rural district of Godstone.

The Battalion was originally affiliated to the 4th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment, Territorial Army, but when "D" and "E" Companies were formed they were affiliated to the 5th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment, T.A., being in that area, and the whole Battalion (with the exception of "A" Company) is now affiliated to the 5th. An additional affiliation was made when the Home Guard came into being—companies being affiliated to the Home Guard Battalion in whose area they were situated—these being the 7th, 8th and 9th Surrey Battalions.

Of the numerous activities of the Battalion during the past quarter of a century, it is impossible here to deal at any length. Colonel Atkinson was very keen upon the production of tattoos and displays and several were held in conjunction with the Territorial Army during his years of command. His successor continued the custom and a tattoo was held regularly every year until the war. These took place on at least two evenings and were sometimes held in the open air, with torchlight and searchlight effects, during the summer, and sometimes in the Croydon Baths Hall in the late winter. Many distinguished officers presided at them, and the programmes were varied and often ambitious. On the last occasion, early in 1939, the tattoo concluded with "The Pageant of the Citizen Soldier." Queen Elizabeth's song, "Peaceful England," was broadcast through the hall, a bugle sounded the "Fall In" ; squads correctly dressed in the uniforms of the citizen soldier in every crisis of national history from the time of the Train Bands to the First Great War, marched past to the music of the period represented, followed finally by "the Citizen Soldier of the Future"—a very smart platoon of very small Cadets under a diminutive sergeant ! St. George then entered (an officer over 6 ft. 4 in. in height), escorted by the flags of the three Services and the flags of all the British Dominions, and the tableau thus formed, the parade presented arms (in the manner of the various periods present) during the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory" and the National Anthem. It was our last big show before the war—our best and our most prophetic !

Another historic event was the visit of Queen Mary, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, to Croydon on 7th May, 1938, to present new Colours to the 4th Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment, T.A., on which occasion the Battalion was privileged to "keep the ground" in front of many thousands of spectators. An illuminated memento card, on which the Colours are correctly reproduced, was presented to every Cadet on parade by the kindness of the Commanding Officer, 4th Queen's (Lieut.-Colonel Ivor Hughes, now Major-General).

One officer and nine senior non-commissioned officers from the Battalion formed part of the Cadet Detachment drawn from all over the kingdom which was stationed on Constitution Hill, at the Coronation of His Majesty King George VI.

The Battalion was awarded the "Jeudwine Cup," given to the most efficient unit in the county, on three occasions, while, in addition to the County Shooting Shield mentioned elsewhere, the County Shield for First Aid was won by "A" Company more than once.

Field Days at Merstham on Easter and Whit Mondays have been an institution, as were also, until the war, the Easter camps held by "A" Company in the grounds of the Rectory—organized entirely by non-commissioned officers.

One whole-day field day was held in each year and, in addition, an expedition usually to the Royal Tournament at Olympia, but on one occasion to the Aldershot Tattoo and on another to view the liner *Empress of Britain* at Southampton. Until the war two Battalion church parades were held in each year—one during the summer and the other in November. The latter took place at St. James's Church, Croydon, when the Battalion joined the Old Comrades Association of the City of London Rifles in their annual visit to this church, which contains one of the Regimental War Memorials. The Band and Bugles of the City of London Rifles and the Bands of our Battalion made an impressive display on the line of march.

While the companies were drawn entirely from schools, the military side of Cadet training naturally predominated, but the advent of "E" Company—with its social club, football and cricket teams, dramatic performances, etc.—paved the way for activities which are so essential to the success of every non-school company and will become increasingly so in the future.

For the rest—the Battalion has always been "a happy family" with the utmost friendliness and good fellowship existing between all companies—school and non-school alike. Of its many officers it is only possible to mention here the names of Majors A. J. Barlow and H. A. Parkinson ("A" Company), the latter for some years acting as Adjutant; Major B. Lockey ("B" Company); the late Capt. P. P. Duffy ("C" Company); Capt. A. F. Garrett ("B" Company); and Major J. L. Jeffree; all of whom have given devoted service over an exceptionally long period of years. Thousands of its ex-Cadets have served their country during the war on every battlefront; many have gained distinction and not a few have laid down their lives. The constant letters received by the Commanding Officer and other officers from old boys of every company, speak nearly always of the Battalion with affection and of their training in it as something of great value which they will never forget.

Should any of our newer companies feel that they have perhaps received only scant mention in this history, they will, we trust, appreciate that it is a record of the past rather than of the present, but let them feel assured that they are indeed very worthy members of the family whose contribution to it is still in the making.

The boys who form the present Battalion must realize that they belong to a Unit with a long and honourable history and traditions which it is their privilege and responsibility to maintain. Whatever the future may hold in store for the Army Cadet Force as a whole, and the 1st Queen's Battalion in particular, and whatever difficulties and problems may arise in the post-war years, the Battalion will assuredly continue to perform good work for the nation if the spirit of its present and future members remains the same as that which animated the Cadets who have belonged to it in the past.

2ND CADET BATTALION

BATTALION NOTES

As usual during the winter months there has not been so much activity as in the summer, and we shall feel acutely the lack of instructors and the shortage of officers, which has been accentuated by the illness of our training officer. We made a good show, however, in the County Boxing, and although we could not retain the Queen's Shield, we managed to reach third place, being behind the 3rd and 4th East Surreys.

Some good work has been put in for Certificate "A" and 66 per cent. of the candidates for Part II and 59 per cent. of candidates for Part I were successful. We hope for bigger results shortly as Aldershot and Hants District H.Q. has now made arrangements whereby some twelve N.C.Os. of "B" Company will be coached at the Guards Depot at Pirbright, and two or three instructors will be sent to help with the rest of the Company. The R.M.A.S. have promised to help where necessary with "A" Company and give us very great help with the Signals Platoon who work in the Signals Wing at the R.M.A.

Some twenty-five Cadets of this Battalion were included in the Surrey contingent of 250 at the Rally at Sandhurst, when the salute was taken by the Minister for War, who afterwards addressed the parade. Major Farm and Capt. Pounds of this Battalion were the Commanding Officer and Adjutant, respectively, of the Surrey contingent.

"C" Company, in Woking, has the honour of providing buglers to sound the Last Post and Reveille on the first Sunday of the month at Brookwood Cemetery. This they share with the trumpeters of the Woking squadron of the Air Training Corps. "C" Company also have great schemes in preparation, building for themselves an extension to their hut at Kingfield, which is

hardly adequate for their requirements. Their Band will join with that of the 5th Queen's for various functions in Guildford and at the Military Tournament in the near future.

We shall, unfortunately, lose "F" Company from the Royal Albert School in July, when the school is to be transferred to the area of the 1st Queen's who will be thus reinforced.

We are looking forward again to our camp at Cliff End, Isle of Wight, from 8th to 22nd August.

"A" COMPANY (FRIMLEY AND CAMBERLEY CADET CORPS)

DURING the course of the 1939-45 World War the Committee of the above Cadet Corps realized the necessity of doing something to show their appreciation of all the splendid work being done by ex-Cadets of the Corps both at sea, on land, and in the air, and it was decided to set aside a sum of £200 (earned by letting out The Caird Hall for dances, etc., during the war years) and place it to the credit of The Old Comrades Association of the Corps, and they responded most generously to our thought for them ; and now that many of them have returned from active service overseas, they have held out the hand of real friendship, co-operation and help to the Corps in every possible way.

No sooner had they held their first meeting, when war was over, than the Old Comrades Association unanimously decided to take the following action :—

(*a*) To subscribe to, and purchase, a most beautiful "Book of Remembrance," perfectly executed by a real British craftsman, containing the names on vellum sheets, and done by hand, of all the sixty-two Old Cadets who laid down their lives for King and Country in both the 1914-18 and the 1939-45 Wars, preceded by the following inspiring lines : "Sleep lightly lads, you are for King's Guard at Daybreak ; with spotless kit turn out, and take your Place of Honour."

(*b*) A carved oak case to contain the Book, with glass lid, and a *permanent* electric light, showing up the names contained in the Book.

The ceremony of dedicating the Book was performed by the Rev. T. Partridge, the rector of St. Peter's, Frimley, on 26th October, 1947. The church was filled to capacity, many friends and relatives having come from long distances to be present. The officer commanding the Depot, Queen's Royal Regiment, Lieut.-Colonel Veasey, D.S.O., most kindly lent his band, and a good parade of serving Cadets and Old Comrades were also present at the ceremony.

The first representative dinner of the Old Comrades Association was held at Caird Hall in December, 1947, when eighty Old Comrades sat down to dinner, followed by a social. Brigadier-General R. G. Jelf, C.M.G., D.S.O., President of the Association, took the chair on the same evening. The Rev. T. Partridge, Chaplain of the Corps, bestowed his blessing on a new Memorial Tablet in the hall, containing the names of the sixty-two old members of the Corps who gave their lives for King and Country in both World Wars. The actual unveiling was carried out by Miss G. Reynolds, M.B.E., J.P., whose life work has been "the welfare of the Corps."

3RD CADET BATTALION

DURING the past few years the Battalion has been operating under most difficult circumstances, mainly due to lack of adequate and permanent Headquarters. Since Lieut.-Colonel J. H. F. Johnson (late 4th Bn. Queen's Royal Regt., T.A.) was appointed Commanding Officer, on 16th October, 1945, Headquarter's Training Staff has been augmented, the system reorganized and if it is possible to move into the permanent accommodation which has been allotted in Mitcham Road Barracks, in the near future, greater progress will be made. In spite of difficulties, numbers have been maintained and during the past few months recruiting has improved.

The Battalion entered five teams for the *News of the World* A.C.F. Competition. H.Q. Company qualified for the final stage, was placed nineteenth in the final shoot and was one of the five Queen's Regiment Teams who once again, for the fourth time in succession, made Surrey the Champion Shooting County.

The Battalion goes to annual training at Nodes Fort, St. Helen's, Isle of Wight, from the 8th to the 22nd August. Although it is still early to judge, 200 Cadets and all officers are expected to attend.

C.S.M. A. T. Smith, of "C" Company, was awarded a Certificate of Merit in the last New Year's Honours List.

Cadet Booker, also of "C" Company, won the County Boxing Championship in the 6 stone 7 lb. class, but failed in the London District Contest.

4TH CADET BATTALION

WITH the end of 1947, the phase of post-war reorganization and development in this Battalion may be said to have come to an end also. The intervening three years had not been an easy time. At the end of the war the strength stood at about 1,000 officers, adult W.Os. and Cadets, but the run-down was rapid. Many officers who had shouldered heavy burdens felt that the time had come when they should lay them down. Rock-bottom was touched in early 1946, and the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel S. J. Parker, O.B.E., had quite a few headaches. But he never lost heart, and the unit today has a stable officer strength and is the strongest Cadet battalion in Surrey, about 550 officers and other ranks.

The normal difficulties confronting the 4th Cadet Battalion are principally those of geography. The unit consists of seven companies widely separated. At the Headquarters in Marlpit Lane, Coulsdon—hutments recently taken over from the P.O.W. authorities—is "A" Company. Next door to B.H.Q. and this open company is Purley County School for Boys, which provides a school company known as H.Q. Company. At the pleasant surburban town of Purley is "B," at Coulsdon another closed company, the Coulsdon Boys' Club, "C" Company, actually launched by the C.I.G.S. when he visited Coulsdon to reopen the Boys' Club after the war. At Caterham, some miles away, is "D," with an outlying platoon, some more miles away, at the village of Warlingham. In a totally opposite direction is "E" Company, Wallington, and "F" Company completes the tale—the school company of the Middle Whitgift School in the heart of Croydon. The Battalion is thus very widely spread out, with difficult cross-country communication, and it is something, in these conditions, to have recovered and maintained strength to the degree noted above.

To a large extent the result is due, given the initial factor, which happily exists, of enthusiastic and able company commanders, of an adequate Battalion H.Q. staff to attend to the broad issues. Thus neither the training nor the sport and welfare programmes are allowed to flag, and a self-sacrificing adjutant, assistant-adjutant, R.S.M., P.S.I., and a volunteer lady clerk-typist, keep everybody well in the Battalion picture. It is a source of regret that the unit is so separated by large portions of Surrey from its own Regimental Depot at Stoughton, but it would be ungracious not to acknowledge the immense help and sympathy received from our nearest Regular Army neighbours, the Guards, at Caterham. With their aid, plus the unflagging interest of the County Cadet Commandant, Colonel S. L. Bibby, C.B.E., and his deputy for Queen's Cadet Battalions, Lieut.-Colonel Shelton, D.S.O., and South-West London Garrison, the Battalion as well as the company spirit are very much alive, and much training is done on a battalion basis.

An example of this is to be proved in the use by all companies of Ash Ranges, giving qualified cadets a chance to fire .303, and in the recent most successful cadre course for cadet W.Os. and N.C.Os. Originally postponed because of the snow earlier in the year, it was subsequently held in early April over a weekend at Headquarters. Here, again, co-operation played its part, this time in the willing assistance of the T.A., R-565 S.L. Battery, R.A., giving every possible help.

The next two big events are the annual inspection, to take place on a date yet to be announced, and the annual camp. This latter is again to be at Yaverland, near Sandown, Isle of Wight. The camp there last year, shared with the 1st Surreys, was one of the most successful of recent years. It is ideal for the purpose. Near a pleasant town, with an accessible foreshore, and immediately adjacent to the training area, it has everything. The Battalion's return this summer is also to some extent a reason for the excellent impression made by the bearing and walking-out behaviour of the cadets, which brought more than one unsolicited testimonial to the unit.

OBITUARY NOTICES

No.	*Name*	*Battalion*	*Service*	*Date of Death*
	Colonel Lord Ashcombe, C.B., T.D., D.L. ...	1st V.B. and 4th		1947
	Lieut.-Colonel W. L. Owen, D.S.O., M.C. ...	11th	1918	1948
	Sir Alexander Paterson	6th	1914-1918	1947
	Capt. H. B. Foster	1st and 2nd		15/10/47
	Lieut. (Q.M.) T. E. Beecham	1st, 2nd and 4th	1919-1945	13/2/45
	T. F. Tallents	2nd/5th	1914-1915	1948
6076143	L./Sergt. C. J. Dickinson	1st and 2nd	1900-1928	23/2/48
2603	Cpl. W. C. Stringell			15/12/47
6083284	Pte. B. Ray	1st	1929-1945	27/4/47
6077185	Pte. H. P. Harley	2nd	1917-1922	Nov., 1947
G/25104	Pte. A. R. Wheeler		1915-1918	8/1/46
G/3478	Pte. C. Cops	1st	1914-1917	June, 1939
5719	Pte. F. Syrett	2nd	1898-1915	11/4/48
	F. G. Percy		1914-1918	1948
	E. Munce	1st/5th	1914-1918	1948

SIR A. PATERSON

(From *The Times*, 10th December, 1947)

Faith in Human Nature

"Sir Alexander Paterson, M.C., one of the greatest of prison reformers, died in London on Friday, less than a fortnight before his sixty-third birthday.

"For more than 25 years Commissioner of Prisons and Director of Convict Prisons, he never wavered in his faith in humanity and he had the vision and faith to extend even to the most hardened criminals the system of enlightened training which was so strikingly successful at Wakefield. Not only in regard to men convicted of serious crime, however, did Paterson show the zeal of the born reformer. He was, if anything, even more concerned with the youth who got into trouble with the police. Borstal treatment meant to him that a wayward boy should be given all the advantages of a public school with the addition of a discipline which should not err on the side of leniency and he was proud of the youths who, having been trained as Borstal boys, made good after release.

"Throughout his life he was a zealous worker in boys' clubs and took a special interest in the activities of the Oxford and Bermondsey Club. On his experiences he based a book in 1911 entitled "Across the Bridges," many of the characters in which were taken from life. When recently the Archibishop of Canterbury and the Prime Minister attended the jubilee celebration of the founding of the Oxford and Bermondsey Boys' Club they and others were full of regret that 'Alec' could not be present because of illness.

"Paterson undertook many missions for Government departments, chiefly to investigate penal and reformatory establishments. He inspected prisons in America, in most European countries, and even in Burma. At the request of the Colonial Office he undertook in 1936 a tour of the West Indies, where he visited the penal and reformatory establishments of British possessions, and later inspected similar institutions in the northern part of South America.

"Alexander Paterson was born on 20th November, 1884. He was educated at Bowdon College, Cheshire, and University College, Oxford, where, an active member of the Union, his lifelong interest had already begun strongly to manifest itself. His first official post was as private secretary in the Irish Office, but it was while he was a teacher in an elementary school in Bermondsey later that he had his first opportunity to provide healthy, and to some extent exciting, leisure time activity for the lads of the neighbourhood, who chiefly spent it in wandering aimlessly in the streets, and were only too apt to yield to temptation. He threw himself with enthusiasm into the work begun by Dr. Stansfeld and young men from Oxford University and his interest never flagged. His appointment as assistant director of Borstal Association enabled him to use the fund of knowledge he had gained among the youth of Bermondsey. On the outbreak of war in 1914 while he was a lecturer at London School of Economics he characteristically joined the Bermondsey Battalion. He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the M.C. One outcome of his war

service was especially notable, his early interest in Toc H, of which he was chairman from 1922 to 1924.

"Paterson's capacity was recognized by his appointment at the end of the war as principal officer in the Ministry of Labour, but this office he relinquished in 1922 in order to become a Prison Commissioner. Thereafter, though his name seldom appeared in the news, all members of the Home Office who had come into touch with his work realized how much of the progress of penal reform in the past 25 years had been due to his initiative. He was vice-president of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission in 1939, and as such attended the American Prison Congress at New York in 1939. In 1940 he was appointed by the Home Secretary to visit internment camps in Canada, and to be director of the Czech Trust. He was made an Honorary Fellow of his old college at Oxford in 1944 and, after his retirement from the office of Commissioner of Prisons and Director of Convict Prisons last January, was knighted.

"He married in 1927 Frances Margaret, elder daughter of Mr. J. Bernard Baker. There was one daughter of the marriage."

From *The Spectator*

(The Lieut.-Colonel C. Pannall mentioned will be known to many readers.)

"Thousands of old lags will be mourning Alec—Sir Alexander—Paterson, for of all the Prison Commissioners of the past twenty-five years—a singularly humane and sympathetic body of men—he was the most sympathetic and the most humane. He was a little too individualistic to become Chairman of the Commission, but as other Commissioners came and went Paterson remained, innovating, experimenting, pushing always right away from the old, bad traditions of penal servitude (now to be definitely abolished), solitary confinement and the rest of it. I had known him for over forty years, since his days at Oxford and mine at Cambridge. His book 'Across the Bridges,' published in 1911, gave perhaps the best picture ever painted of South London as it is—as well it might, since Paterson acquired his knowledge in the surest of all ways, by teaching for a year in an elementary school in Bermondsey. In 1914 he enlisted in the Queen's Regiment as a private and conceived a considerable admiration for a Company Sergeant-Major named Pannall, who ended the war as a major. Paterson, I fancy, ended it as a captain. Anyhow when, a few years after the Armistice, he became a Prison Commissioner he was instrumental in making Major Pannall a Prison Governor, and when someone was needed to take over Dartmoor after the famous mutiny there Paterson managed to get Pannall sent for forthwith and appointed—a step which the new Governor's record abundantly justified."

"RESISTANCE"

By Major I. P. Thomson, M.C.

PART II

(*Continued from page* 49, *November*, 1947, *issue*)

Perhaps the greatest problem facing the Nazi Government in its plans for prosecuting an aggressive war was that of providing adequate man-power. Man-power to provide the vastly expanded fighting services with combatant and non-combatant troops many of whom, being highly skilled technicians, could be ill-spared from industry ; to provide labour, skilled and unskilled, for the semi-military Todt organization which was constantly expanding as the Germans annexed a country here and a country there ; to provide German industry with labour not only to maintain but to strive always to increase its output ; and by no means least of all, man-power was required for agriculture and the production of the ersatz food on which the Germans had lived to a great extent for so long. All this, of course, in addition to the many police, gestapo, and administrators required in a Police State to carry out the day-to-day government of the Reich and to supervise the day-to-day government of conquered countries.

Germany could obviously not supply all these wants and at the same time replace wastage and was forced, therefore, early in the war to take steps to provide this labour from other countries. The Nazis hoped that labour would come forward willingly but since the response was small they were obliged to recruit forcibly their foreign workers. The necessity for the Nazis to rely so much on foreign labour created yet another manpower problem since unwilling workers must be carefully controlled and constantly supervised and this could only be done by the master race.

France, like all other conquered countries had to provide a labour force for work in the Reich. All French men and women between certain ages and not employed in certain trades and professions which were exempt were obliged, on being called up, to leave France and go to Germany to work. Many thousands, reluctant to leave France, did not come forward when they were called up but chose to go into hiding or by moving to another part of the country hoped, with the aid of false identity papers, to avoid this service. The majority of those who evaded service in Germany ended up in the Resistance Movement. There were many organizations in France who assisted these "évadeurs" ; many were small and amateurish and could help little more than by providing money and ration cards but others were larger and more widespread. These had branches throughout large areas of France and facilities for hiding évadeurs or for placing them in exempt trades and had sufficient funds at their disposal to enable them to live in the black market where no incriminating documents were required. The Communist sponsored F.T.P.—France Tereurs Patriotiques—was one of the largest and best organized resistance movements concerned in harbouring évadeurs. To what extent their assistance was engendered by sympathy to individuals is hard to say but they did magnificent work and their prestige was high amongst the youths of the country. Few of the évadeurs realized at the time that the F.T.P. was Communist and it is disturbing to think that in view of current political trends in Europe, the assistance given to so many young men was given with one eye on the future.

Another source of recruits for the Resistance was from among the French prisoners of war in Germany. After the capitulation of France in 1940 well over a million able-bodied Frenchmen were transferred to Germany and with few exceptions were absorbed into the German Labour Force. As time went on these prisoners of war were supervised less and less in their work and had many opportunities of returning to France. A large number of prisoners did escape and, on return, found themselves in much the same position as évadeurs, without money and papers and forced to live in fear of detection and return to Germany for punishment. They were an embarrassment to their friends and families and the fear of reprisals against them drove the escaped prisoners into the Resistance Movement. They were valuable recruits since, unlike the majority of évadeurs, they were trained soldiers, sailors, or airmen, and could handle weapons without further training.

But the backbone of French Resistance was already in the country. It was formed by the French men and women who by the nature of their employment were exempt from work in Germany. They went daily about their legitimate work, with their personal documents in order and free from the fear of arrest, and could move about openly. Amongst these were the police, invaluable as a resistance intelligence force and with easy access to official stamps and passes. They were not always popular with the civil population who considered them unreliable, but history relates how hard the task has been, since the time of Judas Iscariot, of those who sought to serve two masters whether by force of circumstance or design. These police, the gendarmerie, were nothing to do with the police recruited by the Germans from the gaolbirds and apaches from the Paris slums. The latter who were merely traitors were rightly held in contempt by all good French people, as were another traitor corps, the Milice, to combat the maquis from amongst traitorous Frenchmen. Others employed on communications were equally valuable to the Resistance forces, railway men, transport drivers, and telephone operators and technicians, all under cover of their normal activities were in a position to give valuable assistance to Resistance forces and on account of their specialized knowledge were able to sabotage machinery and plant vital to German military communications in France. All in France were in a position to contribute in a greater or lesser degree to the efficiency of the Resistance ; agricultural workers by providing food for those in hiding or for maquis, and by lending land for dropping zones for parachutages, industrialists and smaller merchants by providing money and the ordinary man, woman or child by reporting any movement of German troops or material to the Resistance whom, if the odds were too great for them to tackle, would

pass on the news to England. In this connection, much information as to the location of V1 launching sites was passed on to England by the Resistance which enabled the R.A.F. to bomb precisely hitherto unknown and concealed launching sites. Many troop movements or movements of ammunition trains or armour held up by broken railway lines or bridges received attention from the R.A.F. following information wirelessed to England.

Thus, it might be said with truth that, but for a small minority, the whole country was lined up with the Resistance forces against the occupying power ; although many people were not in a position to resist actively they none the less played their part by sympathizing with the more active participants, and above all they assisted by keeping their eyes closed to things which they were not meant to see and their mouths shut about things which they were not meant to hear. No easy task this, since it is a very human weakness to want to appear to know more than one's neighbours about things which are going on in one's own district, particularly when these things have a mysterious flavour.

With the Resistance Movement composed of such varied types it was not surprising to find that the standard of military training varied considerably, not only between different Resistance groups but also within groups themselves. The older ones, who had previous training in the French Army, were by no means always competent to instruct the younger ones who had no training whatever. Nor was their task made easier by the fact that the weapons at their disposal were often of foreign manufacture and modern pattern.

It must have been a difficult task in England to pack the weapons which were to be dropped by parachute and, rightly, it was decided that the bulk of them should be of either specialist or the hard hitting variety. The most common single weapon was the British Sten, since it was hoped that ammunition could be replenished from German sources. A large number of Bren guns however were dropped, and were invaluable but needed, of course, large supplies of ammunition. They created many problems for the maquis since for a long time there was no French training manual dropped with them. Considerable ingenuity was required to explain to a young Frenchmen, with no previous experience of automatic weapons, the theory of the working parts. A number of Piats, bazookas, rifles and American carbines were dropped and a large number of .45 automatics, but the bulk of the offensive stores dropped consisted of explosives, demolition sets, limpets, and other stores necessary for successful sabotage of communication and industrial plant. The greatest difficulty in training with such diverse weapons was that of providing the inexperienced with a chance of practice, since except in the most inaccessible places, practice in live firing made so much noise that the Germans were bound sooner or later to show curiosity as to what was causing it. Also the movement of uncouth youths carrying an assortment of foreign weapons and ammunition to distant practice grounds invariably caused undesirable interest amongst the local inhabitants.

There was also in France at this time a great shortage of many other commodities necessary for a maquis to operate successfully so that a large amount of uniforms, particularly boots, had to be dropped. Small listening-in sets had to be dropped, together with spare batteries, to enable the Resistance to listen in to the European Service of the B.B.C., through which service many of the instructions to the maquis were passed. Comforts such as tea, milk, sugar and chocolate, were also dropped since all these were rationed in France. There was a great scarcity, too, of medical supplies, most of which had to be sent over from England.

When all these difficulties in supply are considered it will be realized what a *magnificent part* was played by the R.A.F. and those who organized the packing of supplies.

The reception of supplies, a parachutage, was always a great event in the district. The local leader of Resistance would select what he considered to be a suitable dropping zone. The ideal zone was one out of reach of the nearest German garrisons and of the prying eyes of curious Frenchmen, with cover near at hand for the hiding of containers and parachutes. It was seldom that containers could be unpacked and the supplies distributed the same night.

After selecting the dropping zone the area was indicated to London by wireless, by a map reference, in code, referring to the Michelin Guide Map of the area, together with an apparently meaningless code sentence. After this there was nothing to do but wait to hear if the selected zone was approved by the R.A.F. who had the last word in deciding on its suitability or otherwise.

In the meantime the Resistance listened in daily to the European Service of the B.B.C. hoping

to hear at the conclusion of the broadcast the same sentence which had been passed to London with the map reference. This would mean that the parachutage was on that night. The time of waiting was always a tedious and irksome one particularly since, through ignorance of the broad picture, one did not realize on what a vast scale these drops were being carried out all over Western Europe, nor what was the system of allotting priorities. One could not tell, either, the weather conditions between England and France and it was often forgotten that what might have been ideal weather in France for dropping might be far from ideal in England, due to fog or mist.

When the code message was finally received all despondency vanished and all was frantic bustle getting ready to receive the supplies. I never quite got used to the French ground organization which resembled rather a Sunday school treat than a military operation. The first time I attended a parachutage I arrived on the dropping zone after the majority of the local maquis had arrived. I had had fears that I might not find the ground in the dark but these were needless since I was guided to the place by the talk and laughing of those already there and by the glow of their cigarettes. When I arrived the three bonfires were being prepared which were to guide the aircraft to the zone. Those not employed on this were gathered in little groups enthusiastically discussing the coming events. To fill in the time I asked to be taken round the covering troops, but found that it was not considered necessary to have any out.

When all was ready there was nothing to do but wait for the arrival of the aircraft. There were many false alarms since there was a lot of German air traffic by night, mostly I think movement of supplies to the front and the evacuation of casualties. All aircraft were, nevertheless, signalled by a torch flashing pre-arranged code letters in morse. I often wondered what passing German aircraft thought of these flashes; apparently they did not concern themselves with them since they produced no reaction. Finally, the awaited Halifax would appear and the guiding fires would be lit. After circling round and perhaps after a trial run over the dropping zone the aircraft would drop its load and turn for home. On the ground the parachutes and containers were quickly collected and placed on a farm wagon to be transported to the prearranged hiding place, where as much as possible would be unpacked and distributed that night.

I could never understand how the navigators of the dropping aircraft managed to direct the pilot to one small field somewhere in the middle of a blacked-out France. The occasions when they failed to arrive were very few.

After receiving supplies the problem of distributing them to outlying Resistance groups was a formidable one. In the early days of resistance the original maquis were concentrated mainly in the mountainous region of Haute Savoie. The French here were highly organized and fought to such effect that they were containing several German divisions representing a force vastly in excess of their own numbers. Owing to the nature of the ground it was impossible to supply them direct by parachute. This meant that arms had to be carried to them through the German blockade, from places as far away as Burgundy and Normandy. Many methods were tried. One young Belgian who was working for the French Resistance made many successful journeys carrying Sten guns and ammunition in suit cases. Had he been caught he would, of course, have been shot. Stens, despite their faults, since they could be stripped down to a small size, were by far the most easily distributed weapon.

On one occasion, later on, when the Germans were trying desperately to avoid the Allied encircling movement and break out of the Falaise pocket the Resistance forces in Normandy were ordered to intensify their efforts at the sabotage of communications to the rear of the German lines. Owing to the nearness of the battle and the numbers of German troops in Normandy it had not been possible to drop supplies by air for some time, with the result that stocks of explosive and other demolition equipment had dropped dangerously low. Burgundy offered to replenish them but had small hope of being able to get the stocks through. The only hope was by road but this was known to be a difficult way owing to German control points on the road north and the security precautions taken near the battle area itself.

By this time a large proportion of German motor transport was driven by charcoal burners and it was hoped that it might be possible to pass the stores through to Normandy in a charcoal-carrying lorry.

A young lorry driver was found in Paris who was prepared to try and get the stores through to

Normandy. It is an interesting story as it gives an example of the sort of courage and enterprise shown by so many young Frenchmen in those days.

The driver reported with his truck to Resistance H.Q. in Burgundy and was thoroughly briefed as to where he should deliver the stores in Normandy. Whilst this was happening his truck was loaded with explosives, weapons and ammunition of all kinds, which were covered with a thin layer of sacks of charcoal.

When all was ready the driver set off by himself for Paris which he reached late that afternoon, having successfully passed through a German road check which fortunately for him inspected his load only cursorily. On arrival in Paris he realized that he would have to spend the night there and was faced with the problem of where to park his lorry with its embarrassing and dangerous cargo. He decided that boldness was the best policy and reported to the Paris police that he had a truck load of charcoal which was urgently needed at the front and asked where he might park his truck that it would be secure. The gendarmes arranged, since his load was allegedly for the Wehrmacht, that he should park it in a military guarded car park under German guard.

The following morning he set off early from Paris but broke down in the suburbs. The driver, emboldened by his success so far, reported his breakdown to the local German Kommandantura, explaining how urgent it was that his load be delivered as soon as possible. The German Commander ordered the truck to be pushed by German soldiers to the nearest military garage where it was repaired. The driver proceeded to his destination with a German soldier as escort. When quite near to his destination he got rid of his escort and alone delivered his load to the rendezvous.

It sounds easy enough this, on the face of it, but it was in fact a dangerous mission requiring coolness and courage for success. It is an example of only one of many acts performed by young men of the Resistance.

There were also many cruel acts and criminal acts for personal gain carried out in the name of Resistance, but these were rare. Cruelty breeds cruelty and the German treatment of Resistance men who fell into their hands was harsh. In general the deeds of the Resistance were performed with high morale based on a solid foundation of patriotism and *esprit de corps*.

CORRESPONDENCE

2758 W. 2nd Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.
9th January, 1948.

DEAR EDITOR,

I'm afraid that owing to a move and the consequent mislaying of your letter I have been a very rude young man, and I ask you to accept this, my apology, for not having written before this. My copy of the JOURNAL arrived yesterday and has proved most interesting reading, and if you would at some time pass on my change of address when writing to the printers I would be most grateful. I should hate to miss a copy. And in connection with this last remark I am enclosing a postal order for 22s. 6d. (I've almost forgotten how to write—perhaps you should delete the "almost" on second thoughts—in English currency). I'm not sure when that takes me up to but I shan't fall by the wayside again !

On Christmas Eve I received a phone call from Terence Close, who commanded us in the 2nd Battalion in 1944. He turned up in Vancouver while on an "indoctrination" tour of Canada before settling down at the Staff College in Kingston. It was a most pleasant meeting in every way ; he and his companion left for the east on the 29th so it was not merely a lightning visit. Perhaps—if I may follow Thorburn's lead as exemplified in the latest JOURNAL—you would extend an invitation to any Queen's officer to call should they find themselves in Vancouver. I'm in the phone book !

With very best wishes to you all for 1948.

Yours sincerely,
JIM COMRIE.

NOTICES

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Editor and Hon. Treasurer : MAJOR R. C. G. FOSTER. *Offices :* STOUGHTON BARRACKS, GUILDFORD.

The following are suggestions which may be of help to Battalion Assistant Editors and contributors in sending in material :—

1. Assistant Editors should frame their material on the following lines :
   (*a*) A general survey of things in which the whole Battalion has taken part—*i.e.*, Battalion General News.
   (*b*) Training, Musketry, etc., of the Battalion.
   (*c*) Battalion Games and Sports. In this connection it is suggested that short reports of important Battalion matches should be given, mentioning names of goal-scorers, good scores or good bowling performances at cricket, together with the names of teams in each match. Concerts, dances, etc., should be included under this sub-head.
   (*d*) Sergeants' Mess News.
   (*e*) Corporals' Mess News.
   (*f*) Company and Platoon Games and Sports.

2. Contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and should, if possible, be typewritten, but this is not essential. They should be submitted not later than 15th October, 1948.

3. Photographs should be marked on the back with the title, and in the case of groups, names should be invariably given. In this connection readers are invited to send all photographs likely to be of interest.

Subscribers are requested to notify at once any change of address. Unless this is done, the safe delivery of the JOURNAL cannot be guaranteed.

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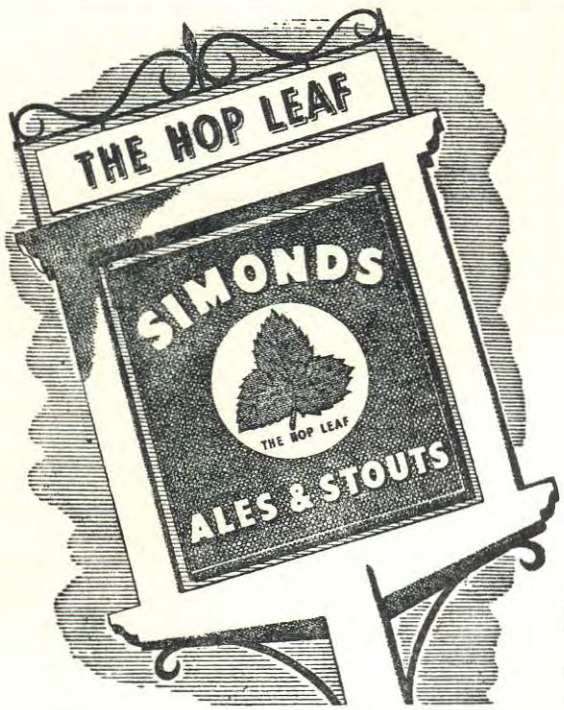

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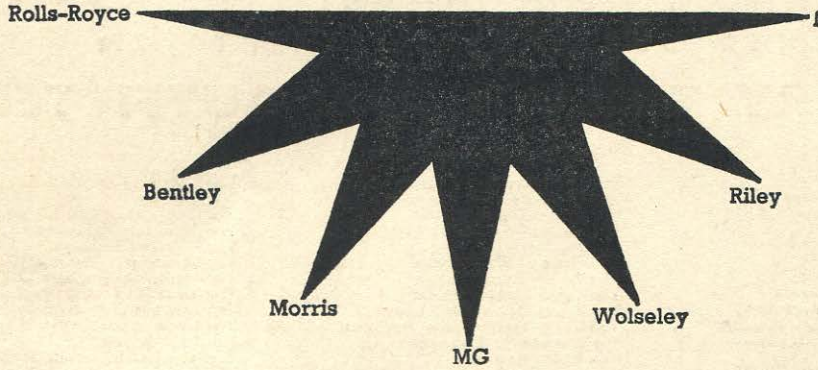

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