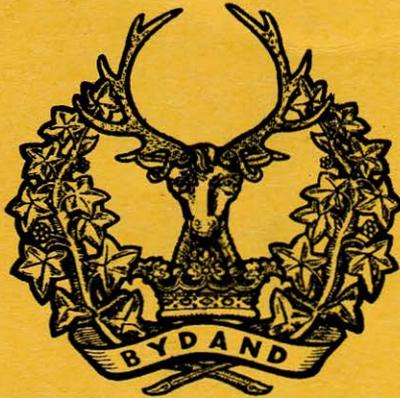


# THE TIGER



# AND SPHINX

JOURNAL OF

# THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS

MARCH, 1965

NUMBER 25



# THE TIGER & SPHINX

*The Regimental Journal of The Gordon Highlanders*

No. 25.

March, 1965

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"THE TIGER AND SPHINX" is published in March, July and November and may be obtained from the Editor at the above address.

Rate of subscription is 2/6d. per copy or 7s. 6d. per annum post free for individual subscribers. Units, Clubs and Associations may obtain special rates for orders of twelve copies or more of each issue.

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One of Winston Churchill's earliest contacts with the Regiment was at Doornkop during the Boer War of which he wrote—"The honours equally with the cost of victory, making every allowance for skilful direction and bold leading, belong to the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders . . .". And in an article written at the time to the 'Morning Post' he put it: "There is no doubt that they are the finest regiment in the world . . . The unfaltering advance . . . their machine-like change of direction . . . their final charge with the bayonet, constitute their latest feat of arms the equal of Dargai or Elandslaagte."

Here we reproduce a photograph of a later occasion when on 22nd August, 1942 he inspected the 5th/7th Battalion before they moved up to the Alamein defences.



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## EDITORIAL

### 1st BATTALION

As this issue goes to the Publisher the main body of the 1st Battalion is about to set out for a year's tour of duty in the Far East. On behalf of our readers we wish them the best of luck and a safe return.

### LONDON SCOTTISH

We welcome back to our pages 'News' from The London Scottish and trust that they are now with us to stay.

### KRAIT

As a result of the Appeal published in the issue for July, 1964 the sum of £17-2-0d. was received in individual subscriptions. A cheque for £50 has now been sent to Australia, the balance being made up from Regimental Funds.

### GEDDES TRUST

In memory of Colonel Godfrey Geddes members of his family — his widow, brother, sisters and daughters—have inaugurated a Fund to be used for Benevolent purposes. A Deed of Trust, which will be widely drawn, is being prepared to regulate the Fund which at present consists of 3,750 shares in the Culter Mills Paper Company Limited.

The Trust Fund will be administered by the Regimental Association of which Colonel Geddes was for many years a Trustee.

The thanks of the Regiment go out to those who have contributed so generously to this most fitting Memorial.

### OBITUARY

We record with deep regret the death of Brigadier Hon. W. Fraser and Brigadier B. J. D. Gerrard and offer our sympathy to their families.

## PERSONS AND PLACES

Who should come plowtering through the slush to accost us at the corner of Bon-Accord Street recently, but our old friend 'Hot Foot' Bradford, with whom we last served when he was a Sergeant in the 2nd Battalion in Gibraltar and Singapore pre-war. He progressed considerably in the service thereafter, let us hasten to add, and now holds down a job in the City and lives on the other side of the river, so far as we could make out in the teeth of the Force Nine gale. We were only sorry that we hadn't met him before, working as we do in the same burgh, and are sure that many of his colleagues will be glad to have word of him.

In the last issue we mentioned a welcome visit from Major Alan Wilson. We omitted to add that our usual enquiries as to whether his male offspring could be regarded as potential aspirants for the Regiment were greeted with the information that one of them had already opted for another corps, The Chelsea Pensioners, on the grounds that 'they had a nice uniform and not too many parades'. MOD (DR & L) (A) (Image Projection) please note.

In that same issue a warning should also have been broadcast that on the 18th of August there had burst upon an unsuspecting world—unsuspecting, that is, outside Annette's orbital trajectory around Musselburgh—yet another Ogilvie. Although several members of the Regiment and their wives participated in the subsequent Singeing Ceremony, it is felt that this occurrence should be made more widely known so that any of their friends as yet unapprised of the event can join us in consoling the parents.

Everyone will be glad to hear that Major George Slater came successfully through a tricky operation in London and, after convalescence at Frimley, has now been back in these airts for some time and is making good progress. He and Anjo have taken up residence at 23 Devonshire Road, Aberdeen, so are quite accessible to anyone in or visiting the City.

George's successor has meantime been installed in the Army Information Office in Market Street. He is Major 'Vic' Stewart, lately District Paymaster, but

one time Gordon Highlander and Adjutant at the Bridge of Don in 'Chuff' McKechnie's time as Depot Commander. His domestic establishment is in Ellon and all will join us in welcoming a former Gordon back to the Regimental area.

We were recently honoured by an invitation to a most delightful and uniquely entertaining Christmas Party held by the Staff of Aberdeen Journals Ltd. Needless to say our host and organizer was none other than our good friend Ken Peters. He was also, one has no doubt, the moving—and mischievous spirit—behind the great variety of surprise items during the evening. We came away feeling that here indeed were "many valuable lessons to be learned" in the providing of an evening's entertainment. Guest Nights could, we felt, be considerably enhanced without detriment to tradition or dignity if only one or two pages were taken from his book.

The office we normally like to think of as fairly spacious was abruptly reduced to doll's house proportions when visited the other day by a Major John Neish on the top of his form. He is, at the moment of writing, engaged in taking over from Major John Villiers-Stuart, Queens Own Highlanders, as DAAG (Brigade Adjutant), Headquarters The Highland Brigade at the Bridge of Don. John (N) and June are now installed in a Quarter in Gordon Barracks.

Colonel Billy Innes, we were glad to see, has recently added 'JP' to his DL. We now breathlessly await his sallying forth on circuit from the Old Manse of Marnoch to conduct a series of Bloody Assizes around Banffshire.

Congratulations to Colonel R. T. S. Macpherson on his promotion and appointment as Deputy Commander 56 (London) Infantry Brigade TA.

We offer our condolences to Martin Cruickshank on the recent death of his father. Colonel Cruickshank served for 27 years in the Indian Medical Service and on his retirement he was active for many years with Hospital administration in Aberdeen. He

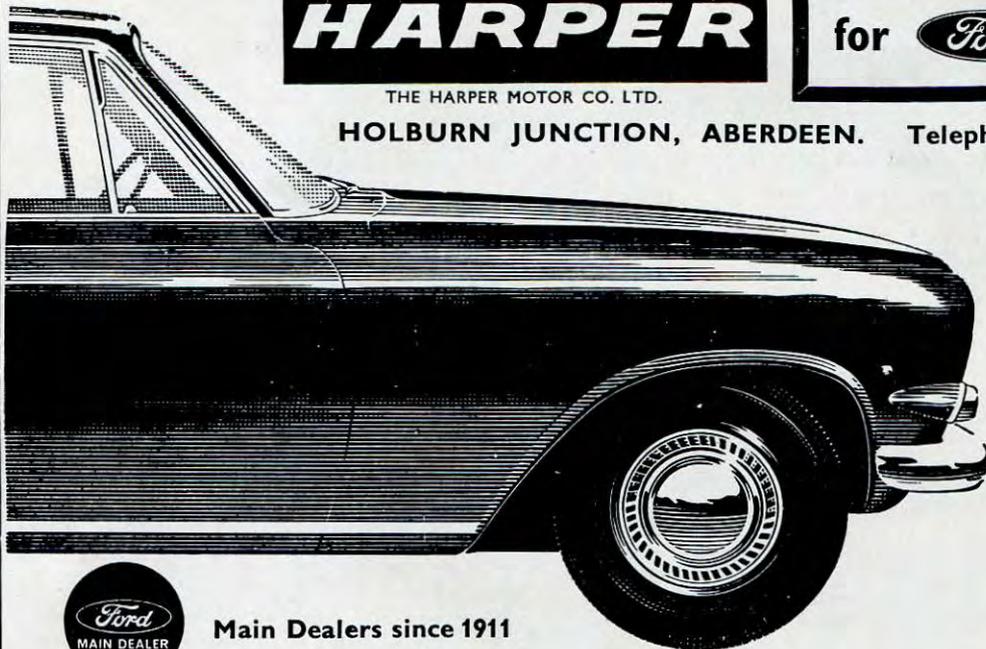
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was made CIE in 1942 and recently became a Knight of Grace in the Order of St John of Jerusalem.

The recent death of the Marquess of Aberdeen and Temair removes a familiar figure from the NE scene. Both in his private capacity as head of a famous branch of the Gordon Clan and as Lord Lieutenant for 25 years he always showed a lively interest in the well being of the Regiment.

To his brother Lord Dudley Gordon, a distinguished Battalion commander in the First World War, who

succeeds to the Title, and to his nephew Major David Gordon, now The Earl of Haddo, we offer our sympathy.

Congratulations to Captain Charles Michie on the award of the MBE in the New Year's Honours. After 14 years' service in the ranks and 10 years as Warrant Officer Charlie Michie was made Lieutenant (QM) in January, 1957. Promotion to Captain (QM) followed two years later and now comes this well deserved reward.

---

## CONTACT COLUMN

Mr Andrew Johnston (L/C 2872658) who served from 1927 to 1933 at Bordon, Delhi, Landi Kotal and Peshawar and is now a crofter-weaver of South House, Muckle Roe, Brae, Shetland wishes to contact L/C George McPherson whose home was at Keith. He also served at Delhi and Landi Kotal.

Lieut Colonel J. H. Stitt who served with the Regiment from 1916-1949 has for some years lived at Drumcairn, Blairgowrie where he is a Plant Nurseryman. He wishes to contact Major (or Lieut Col) J. E. Law late RIASC who was in the Regiment from 1915-1926 before transferring to the Indian Army. Others he would like to get in touch with are Sergeant Crone and Corporal Dippie of 1st Battalion and much later CSM Milton of 2nd Battalion in Singapore.

Captain J. D. Pratt now retired at 138 Earls Court Road, London, W8, joined 'U' Company 4th Battalion in 1908 and served through the First World War. He would like to contact J. Mackenzie, 13 Platoon Sergeant, 4th Battalion whom he last saw in Flanders in 1915 and who is believed to have gone to Australia.

Major (former Bandmaster) William Williams

whose service began in 1927 was Bandmaster of 1st Battalion from 1938-1955. He is now Director of Music, Royal Artillery Mounted Band and lives at 14 Woodland Grove, Farnborough.

Mr Eddie Matthews who served from 1944-1945 lives at 35 St Mary's Crescent, Ruddington, Notts. He works with Brush Electrical Engineering Co. and is Secretary of the Nottingham Branch of the Association. He wants to contact his former platoon commander in 'B' Company 6th Battalion, Captain Daniel Kerr.

This Column, had a recent success in reuniting J. W. Hutton (Sergeant) of Ilford, Essex with Sergeant T. Perks, HQ 6 Infantry Brigade. The latter writes— "I recently met Lieut Colonel D. Stuckey who met the Gordon Highlanders in Kenya, and the remarks he made about the Battalion made me feel proud that I had the honour to serve with the Gordon Highlanders in war and peace . . ."

**NOTE:** Only 6 forms out of 300 returned but in the belief that this Column serves a useful purpose we are persevering.

---

## OBITUARY

### BRIGADIER HON. WILLIAM FRASER, DSO, MC

The death occurred on 12th November, 1964, as a result of a motor accident, of Brigadier Hon. William Fraser at the age of 74.

Commissioned in 1910 he joined the 1st Battalion at Aldershot and was subsequently posted to the 2nd Battalion at Cawnpore and was serving with them in Cairo on the outbreak of the First World War. In September, 1914 he returned with the 2nd Battalion to the UK en route for the Western Front to take part in the First Battle of Ypres during which he was wounded.

As a comparatively young, but very able officer, he had a most distinguished career with the Regiment during the 1914/18 War. Promoted Captain in 1915, two years later as a temporary Lieutenant Colonel he commanded the 6th Battalion during the Battle of Cambrai and during the counter offensives of August, 1918 he commanded successively the 5th and 1st Battalions. He was awarded the MC in 1916 and the DSO in 1918, when he was made a Brevet Major.

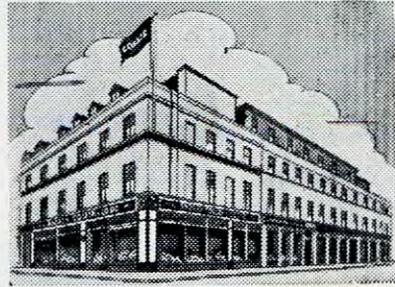
After being Adjutant of the 2nd Battalion in 1923 he went to the Staff and was promoted Major in 1927. Two years later he transferred to The Grenadier Guards, the 1st Battalion of which he commanded from 1937-38.

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He had been Military Attache at Brussels and the Hague from 1931-35 and after his command he took up a similar appointment in Paris.

He served in NW Europe in 1940, was wounded and mentioned in despatches. He retired in 1944 and was Chief of UNNRA Mission in Paris from 1945-47.

#### **BRIGADIER B. J. D. GERRARD, DSO**

Brigadier B. J. D. Gerrard died in the Middlesex Hospital after a long illness in January this year. Born in May, 1901, he was educated at Ampleforth College and the RMC Sandhurst, receiving his Commission in the Regiment in 1921.

Two years later he went to the 1st Battalion The Nigeria Regiment and for the next 20 years he served in Africa. It was while commanding that Regiment during the Abyssinian Campaign that he was, in 1942, awarded the DSO.

In 1944 he returned home from Nigeria, to command a Holding Battalion at Ayr and two years later he was selected for the command of the 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders immediately following the amalgamation of the two Regular Battalions.

In 1949 he was promoted to the rank of Brigadier and after two years commanding the troops in Sierra Leone he returned home to become Deputy Commander of the Lowland Division. After retirement in 1955 he was for some years Welfare Officer at Catterick before settling in South Africa in 1963. In the following year a severe illness from which he never fully recovered enforced his return to London.

In 1941 he married Pamela, widow of Commander Lindsay de Viliers, Royal Navy. His son is serving on a short service commission in the Regiment.



**Brigadier B. J. D. Gerrard, DSO**

## **ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO**

### **A PICTORIAL RECORD OF QUATRE BRAS AND WATERLOO**

#### **Dress**

Officers in blue web pantaloons without lace on the seams, and half boots, jackets buttoned across, and gorgets. Field Officers with the Highland scarf. The NCOs and men wore the Highland dress without purses. Except that half boots were replaced by shoes and gaiters this is the dress in which the regiment fought.

#### **Wellington on Copenhagen at Quatre Bras**

Wellington, who was in front when the Hussars charged, was carried away in their flight, and in danger of being taken; he galloped to the bank lined by the 92nd, and calling to them to lie still rode at the fence and jumped it men and all.

#### **Death of Colonel Cameron**

Cameron was struck in the groin by a shot fired from an upper window; he lost command of his horse, the animal galloped back to where the Colonel's groom was standing with his second horse. There it suddenly stopped and its rider was pitched on his head on the road.

#### **Scene—Battle of Waterloo**

The allied army amounted to 67,000 of all arms, of whom 12,500 were cavalry with 156 guns. The French were 74,000 strong including 15,000 cavalry and 246 guns.

#### **Gordons and Greys**

The French had reached the Ohain road crying 'Victory' when the 92nd were ordered to stand to arms. Their Brigadier, Sir Denis Pack, said "92nd all the troops in your front have given way, you must charge this column." He ordered the line to form fours deep and close on the centre. They were giving the enemy a volley at twenty yards when the Scots Greys came up, the pipers played, and the regiments mutually cheered each other, calling out, "Scotland for Ever!" As both regiments charged together many of the Highlanders caught hold of the Greys legs and stirrups to support them as they ran, determined not to be the last.

#### **Award of Battle Honour**

In the two days of fighting the 92nd lost 6 Officers killed and 25 wounded, 49 NCOs and men killed and 341 wounded.



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The Battle of Waterloo



Wellington on 'Copenhagen' at Quatre Bras



Gordon Highlanders at Brussels, 1815



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## 150th Anniversary Celebrations

In Belgium there will be a number of ceremonies between the 14th and 21st of June the chief of which will be the Memorial Drumhead Service at Hougoumont Farm on 18th.

In London a parade is to be held on Horse Guards.

There will be exhibitions in Belgium and in London. As the 1st Battalion and the Band will be on service in the Far East the Regimental Detachment at the ceremonies in Belgium is limited to 12 of all ranks. For this reason it has been decided that the offer of exhibits should be confined to the exhibition which HM Ambassador is arranging in the Wellington Museum in Waterloo village.



Horse Guards,

8th December, 1815.

My Lord,

I have received His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief's directions to acquaint you, that His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased, in the Name and on the Behalf of His Majesty, to approve of the 9<sup>th</sup> Regiment being permitted to bear on its Colors and Appointments, in addition to any other Badges or Devices that may have been heretofore granted to the Regiment, the Word "WATERLOO", in commemoration of its distinguished Services on the 18th June, 1815.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your most obedient

humble Servant,

Robt. Adair,  
A.C.

To  
General Lord. Kidderley L. Col.

or Officer Commanding

9<sup>th</sup> Regiment,

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## FIFTY AND TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

### 51st HIGHLAND DIVISION RE-UNION 1965

The GOC of the 51st Division, Major-General Ian Argyll Robertson, MBE, has decided to hold a Divisional Re-union at Aberdeen on Saturday and Sunday, 2nd and 3rd October.

This re-union will be held at the Highland Brigade Depot, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen and will range around the Divisional Games which will be held there on the Saturday.

Three reasons for the re-union are :—

1. The 25th anniversary of 'St. Valery'.
2. The 50th anniversary of the landing in France of the 51st Division in the 1914-18 War.
3. The 50th anniversary of the Battle of Loos in which more Highland Battalions served than in any battle before or since, and in which Highland Regiments covered themselves in glory.

The Highland Brigade Depot has now been established in Aberdeen and it is felt that a re-union at the Depot would be a good opportunity for establishing a closer liaison between the Territorial Army and the Regular Highland Regiments, and for letting visitors to the re-union see the conditions under which the young Regular soldier lives at his Depot.

On the Saturday afternoon, assembly of the old comrades will be at Gordon Barracks about 2 p.m. and they will watch the Games, meet in Regimental or Campaign tents and tour the new accommodation at the Depot. One of the highlights will be a Retreat Ceremony by the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Divisions. In the evening there will be a band concert

in a suitable hall in the City in which Pipe Majors and dancers may also take part.

On the following day (Sunday) there will be a morning service in Holburn Central Church, Aberdeen and afterwards a March Past the Lord Provost of the City.

Those who are eligible to attend will be :—

1. Ex-members of the 51st Division of All Arms and Services who served in the Division between mobilisation in 1939 and St Valery, 30 June, 1940.
2. Ex-members of the 1914-18 Division of All Arms and Services who served in the Division overseas in 1915.
3. Ex-members of the Highland Infantry Battalions who served in France in 1914 or 1915 and who are entitled to wear the 1914-15 Star.

Admission will be by ticket only, to the Re-union, the Band Concert and to the Church Service. All ex-servicemen wishing to attend should apply direct to Headquarters, 51st Highland Division (Re-union 1965), Highland House, Perth.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to accommodate ex-servicemen. They will have to make their own arrangements.

#### Souvenir Room

It is hoped to arrange a room of souvenirs covering the same periods as the service of those eligible to attend.

Offers of photographs or souvenirs of the years 1914, 1915, 1939 and 1940 will be welcomed at Regimental Headquarters, Viewfield Road, Aberdeen, but please do not send exhibits at this stage.

## BACKWARD GLANCES

### 19<sup>e</sup> REGIMENT D'INFANTRIE

On the occasion of the commemoration, by the Amicale du 19<sup>e</sup> Regiment d'Infanterie, of the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Maissin in the Belgian Ardennes in August, 1914, a message was sent on behalf of the Regiment to the President, Colonel Calvez from whom a reply was received.

The link between the Gordon Highlanders and the 19<sup>e</sup> Regiment will be known to many readers particularly of the 5th Battalion. Nor will be work done by the founder, the late M Pierre Masse, in maintaining a close relationship be forgotten.

### THE TUZLA CLUB

The annual dinner of the Tuzla Club took place at Boodles on October 30th.

### GORDON CEMETERY, MAMETZ

In the course of correspondence on another matter the Director General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission has kindly sent us some particulars and a photograph of the Gordon Cemetery, Mametz.

The cemetery lies about one mile south of Mametz village and a little east of the road to Maricourt. It is a battle cemetery of the 1st July, 1916, and here were buried in the British support trench, six officers and ninety-three other ranks of the 2nd Battalion The Gordon Highlanders who fell on that date; three Artillery men who fell on the 9th July were buried

beside them. Four of the Gordons and one of the Artillery men are unidentified. The headstones of the ninety-three other ranks are arranged in two semi-circles round the cross.

### FROM CANADA

Readers may remember the verses contributed to the July issue by a veteran in Canada. Mr Ronald Gordon-Cumming has now sent the following lines for—

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

Let us remember them  
Their care-free youth  
Who fought and died with us  
In ways uncouth.

They helped us storm the Ridge,  
They trudged the plain  
And held fast at the bridge  
Mid fear and pain.

What have they left for us  
For which one strives?  
They gave one priceless gift  
Their unspent lives.

They would not have us mourn  
Nor war decay  
Their fate lay in God's hand  
'Twas theirs to die.

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Let us remember them  
And proudly pray  
Their torch must be kept high  
Their trust always.

### 119 YEARS AGO

Mr Andy O'Brien of Tullamore Co Offally, who served with the HLI during the First World War sends us this cutting from the local paper of 1846.

#### "Officer's Bet"

Lieutenant Croker of the 6th Carbiners, quartered in Tullamore, has made a bet of 100 guineas with one of the Infantry Officers of the 75th also stationed in Tullamore, that he will walk 210 Irish miles in seven days. He commenced the performance on Sunday last by walking 30 miles which he completed at an early hour. The ground to be

travelled is from Mucklow Bridge to the cottage opposite the gaol."

### GENERAL SIR IAN HAMILTON, GCB, GCMG, DSO

The Annual Memorial Service organised by the British Legion Scotland, of which he was President for 16 years, was held at the Stone of Remembrance in the High Street, Edinburgh, on 15th January.

Wreaths were laid by Colonel Macleod of Glendale, OBE, TD, on behalf of the British Legion, Lieutenant Colonel R. W. Smith on behalf of the Regiment and by Mrs George Shield for the family.

Others present included Colonel C. M. Usher, DSO, OBE, MA (Hon), Colonel A. G. Close, Lieutenant Colonel M. Keith Murray and Major A. D. Spark, MC.

## HEADQUARTERS COLUMN

... DOTE ON HIS VERY ABSENCE ...

And no doubt you do. Nevertheless Sunray makes the formal gesture of apology for his lack of presence in the last issue. Other Business happily called him away at the critical moment.

But, if absence indeed makes the heart grow fonder, we now live in pleasurable anticipation of a Unique Experience—that dear Readers, of shortly being smothered by your corporate affection. Already we enjoy the vision of ourselves coyly rejecting protestations of undying admiration from droves of former Commanding Officers, crouched before us on baggy knees, and firmly resisting the tearful beseechings of 'CNB', 'AGC' and other well-known Critics to return to our literary treadmill.

For the Painful Fact is that Financial Difficulties once more threaten the Journal. Advertising Revenue has fallen off to a point where the present publishers will have to be regularly and handsomely subsidized on this account alone, over and above the payments for material in excess of contract. Circulation is also dropping even amongst our Regular Readers, though these, being without exception Agents of Foreign Powers, normally acquire their copies without the embarrassment of payment.

Even now there are sounds from the Editor's office next door of something, possibly the Oxo Kettle, and/or someone, possibly the Auditor, being mercilessly beaten with a rubber-tipped stick. Presumably the mail has brought yet another begging letter from Morecambe Bay.

All this means that we shall have to Cut Down. And where better to start than at the beginning? We shall not be sorry ourselves, in a way, since the composition of this Column is as much of a Challenge to us as is the reading of it to those of you who do—and Challenges in our unfortunate view seem to be a recurrent and increasingly tedious feature of modern existence.

Therefore let us all Come To Terms With Life, Evolve A Formula For Living, Identify Ourselves With The Proposition and nip round the corner to try Projecting Our Images on Jeannie MacPhairson.

... "CHANGE IS NOT MADE" ...

... as Brother Quill Hooker aptly remarked as recently as circa 1571 AD, "without inconvenience, even from worse to better."

"What hand cranks the Gestetner now?" he might have further enquired in our case, for the succession of departures, arrivals, promotions and appointments in the Clerical Section of this great throbbing Administrative Machine over the past year, could read like one of those exhausting serials on the radio.

Only recently, it seems, we reported the departure of Miss Jean Batchelor to illuminate the otherwise austere offices of the Brigade Depot at the Bridge o' Don and the importation to this Eventide Home of Youth and Beauty, in the shape of Miss Helen Williamson, to leaven the pervading senility and hep up our hard old arteries. Shortly thereafter Mr Dave Cochran left to supervise the Press Gang Base in Dundee. As his Mini Minor, the Red Menace o' Mastrick, motored madly out of the gate, in popped Mr Bill Reeves on his Sporadic Scooter. A little later we found ourselves sending congratulations to Jean Batchelor on passing her Cleric to Clerical Officer Staff/Promotion Exam, all unknowing that the early New Year would see her re-installed in our midst as Chief Clerk, while Bill Reeves careered cacophonously back to Edinburgh whence he had originally come and we were busy felicitating Helen Williamson, now Dingwall, on having achieved the Establishment of both Marital and Civil Service status.

For ourselves, we simply continue to grow old in your Service—but disgracefully, whenever possible, and not, we fear, particularly revered.

... "BEAUTIFIED" IS A VILE PHRASE ...

As to your Spiritual Home dreaming on the undermined banks of the junk-cluttered Johnston Burn, this too we are ever careful to improve and preserve as a Regimental Haven of Racial Purity in a world now terrorized by the Hybrid Brigade Depot and thinly veiled threats of further forced Military Mesalliances.

We had long been troubled by the steepness of slope on some of the Army Department's whimsically christened 'Grassed Areas'. In the face of the Department's continued inability to look after its own in this respect the task of mowing them falls to the Storeman/Caretaker or, in his absence, the RO II. The effort of coaxing a heavy motor mower across a face inclined at an angle of one in three resulted not surprisingly in a carotid stricture for the former and double hernia-cum-dypsomania for the latter.

In the summer, however, our problems were finally



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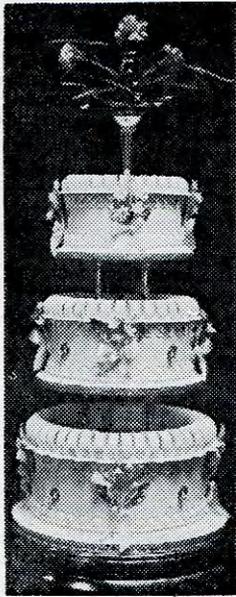
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Stone from Gordon Barracks

solved through the great generosity of Colonel Tony Bruce, whose Mobile Cornucopia disgorged at our feet vast quantities of building blocks, granite slabs, sand and cement. Through the herculean efforts of one Private Littlejohn from the 1st Battalion, the inclines have now been eliminated by retaining walls and slabbed surfaces. The result, if not 'beautifying', is practical, in harmony and not unbeautiful. We ourselves are so relieved that we are fawningly grateful to Colonel Tony and continually press him to share our tomato juice when we meet in the Club.

Mention of Monumental Masonry leads naturally to grateful acknowledgement of yet another generous contribution to the adornment of our policies.

This is a stone from the bombed Barrack Block at the Regimental Depot, which has been expertly engraved by Sapper Morrison of the 51st Highland Division Engineers and erected just inside the entrance to the Headquarters. The idea was mooted by the late CRE, Colonel Dick Bettison, and our thanks are due to him, his successor Colonel Cockburn, his staff and last and by no means least to the craftsman responsible for this skilled work.

Beautification is not only in the eye of the beholder.

... A KIND OF CONSECRATED  
OBSTRUCTION ...

"Although," remarked our Disenchanted Acquaintance morosely, "one likes to regard oneself in this World of Disintegrating Values as a sort of Seraph Abdiel, one is forced to admit that when one sees what happens to a Unit condemned to service, however brief, in a Home Command, it is increasingly

difficult to remain 'unshaken, unseduced, unterrified' and what have you."

In brooding silence he refilled his glass, absently marking it up to us on the Day Sheet.

"Not all that long ago one **knew** the chaps responsible for the direction of one's destiny. 'Old Thingummy and Old So-and-So in the 'War Box,' were colleagues and reasonable characters. There are those who hold that transmogrification into a Ministry has now rendered them remote from the world of men and elevated them to the Awful Anonymity of those Dictatorial Despots known simply as 'THEY'.

"Be that as it may, there is, one believes, a root cause for all this. There are Parallels to be Drawn between the Upsurge of Crimes of Violence perpetrated by the 'Mod' teenager and the patently pederastic tendencies of the MOD (Army Department) who so bountifully bedevil the existence of a Battalion Commander with 'B' Factors.

"The restlessness and antisocial behaviour of Modern Youth, is, of course, entirely due to the tightness of their trouserings. To sit down is for them a physical impossibility. They are therefore condemned to lean forever against walls or coffee bars. Violence is a logical distraction from the intolerable compression of their anatomies.

"Now it is well-known that military members of the Army Department go about their duties in plain clothes. It might be held that the daily forcing into a bowler hat of a head designed by nature for a Beret or Glengarry, giving rise to that angry red weal across the brow and the down-curved ears, would in itself provide the key to our problem. But the very arbitrariness of their decisions, their inhuman indifference to the views, opinions or feelings of others, their sadistic pleasure in the imposition of impossible conditions upon already unattainable requirements give one good grounds to suspect that a number of Officers in MS, AG, PS, and SD have in addition secretly taken to the wearing-out of their overalls or strap treads in the nightly seclusion of their suburban quarters.

"Knowing the cause, however, is small consolation for being knifed by some Chafed Chick goaded beyond endurance by her self-inflicted inflammation or for being sent to Bisley twice in seven years by a Vari-cosed Vulcan with a cranium shaped like an hour glass.

"To return to sanity we must eradicate these evils. But how? In the case of the Young, if one were not utterly disinterested, one could presumably attempt to woo them from their Constrictive Practices by the evergreen means of a Nation-wide Campaign advocating a return to Knicks, Bocker and Cami. The **Ministry** presents a somewhat different problem. Surely this should be a matter of top priority for the War Office Dress Committee?

"It would at least," he said, draining our glass with a detached air and moodily examining his cap, "give them something better to do than imposing on us this Thing in my bonnet, which looks more than anything else like a prototype of one of the new road signs, meaning, presumably, 'No Deer, not on the Motorway'".

Our Acquaintance thereupon rose abruptly, in a cascade of cancelled recruiting programmes and left rapidly in a far easterly direction muttering something about Sublimating a Love-Hate Relationship. We are still awaiting his return. It was **our** cap.

... LASTA NIGHT YOU SAY ME DUSKY  
PRINCESS ...

As a Tail Piece, the Painful Experience of our Recently Repatriated Acquaintance should serve, we feel, as a reminder to Young Officers about to embark for Foreign Climes, of the Importance of Preserving At All Times A Proper Demeanour towards the Indigenous Population of Developing Countries. Or something.

Langushing recently in a London hospital, our Acquaintance found himself being tended by a student nurse of obviously oriental extraction.

She spoke modern Fulhamese, which is something akin, he said, to Pappiamento pronounced by an Iban. She had a fine sturdy figure and a smile so expansive that it appeared at any moment liable to meet at the back of her neck and deposit the top of her head like a hospitably opened coconut in his lap.

In the course of conversation it transpired that her native country was the one from which he had just returned and, enjoying the luxury of human companionship in the otherwise clinical austerity of his surroundings, he regaled her with various reminiscences of his recent service.

In the midst of a particularly entertaining anecdote starting "I well remembah, when I was in Tengah, sittin' on my verandah, drinkin' a whisky and sodah . . .", he noticed that she was no longer with him, but resigned himself philosophically to awaiting her return.

"When she came back," he explained, "I'd been listening to the wireless—some ghastly chap called Les Swingles and his Dup-a-Dub-a-Dup Singers. Probably as a result I wasn't feeling quite up to the mark. In fact, more like Von Falkenhayn after the Somme—dead grotty.

"Did just think it a bit odd that she was carryin' a five gallon drum on her head and a length of hose. But damn' graceful these Asiatic women, y'know."

This time, however, the ivory smile was absent. Instead her dark features were full of darker purpose as she advanced upon him.

"Gotta 'ave yer nosh, Tosh," she said grimly. "Like it's medical Trad. Dad, see? Or you cain't never be Top of de Pops in Bed Pan Alley."

The next moment, he said, she had him in a submission hold as effective as the Boston Crab and he was being remorselessly inflated with lukewarm Life-

buoy Soap bubbles to the accompaniment of fervent cries of "Merdeka," "Uhuru," "Libertad" and the like.

"Never been the same since," he said to us, rather superfluously, we thought, in view of his drained appearance. "Turned out her father was a local terrorist I'd been obliged to put in the jug. Wouldn't have minded so much, if it weren't that I was only in to get the plaster off me arm. It just shows."

Is this a Moral which I see before me . . . ?

... ON TIPTOE FOR A FLIGHT ...

World-shaking controversies on subjects of vital importance to ourselves, and hence to the Nation, such as whether our future Leg Dress shall be the Eleven-Buttoned Gaiter, Highland, or the Nine-Buttoned Spatterdash, Scottish, seem lately to have become part of our daily lives.

We do not doubt, therefore, that you too turn for light relaxation to such mirth-provoking Television programmes as 'The Plane Makers'.

Hardly had we dried the tears of laughter from our eyes after the last hysterical episode of that series, when we were delighted afresh by a Panel of Experts discussing the problem of the TSR 2.

The hilarious climax, in our perverted opinion, was the concluding remark by the Lady Member . . . "I'm a Vertical Take-off Woman, myself."

Wondering if we could have heard it aright, we eagerly scanned the next day's pages of our less inhibited contemporary, 'The Press and Journal', for the heading 'Another Moon-Launch from Chelsea Pad?' But it would appear they didn't know the original story. Or perhaps, worse still, they did.

On second thoughts we would have been more likely to find something in one of their Transatlantic Associates under 'Pardon Us, But Your Blue Touch Paper is Showing.'

Keats, who, as you will have recognized, sub-titled this item for us, would have made something of this, we feel.

... SALAMAT JALAN ...

And so to our mutual relief, we once more take leave of you with the contemporary greeting, in the modern idiom, of one brave-faced Recruiter to another: "Hi there, Image! How's your Projector?"

SUNRAY SINISTER.

## KADUNA TO TIMBUKTU—AND RETURN

by M. M. Cruickshank

This is an account of an expedition to Timbuktu (or Tombouctou) undertaken at the most unfavourable time of the year by Mike Williams of the Royal Sussex Regiment and myself. The name 'Operation Sphinx' was adopted by the expedition, driving a Ford Consul (Classic 315) which had completed 11,926 miles prior to the outset of this venture. Because of the low mileage we made the error of not taking any of the spare parts which would have saved us much work and worry.

We set off from my house in Kaduna at 8-30 a.m. on Saturday, 8th August, 1964, and drove on surfaced roads by way of Zaria and Gusau to the catering rest House at Sokote in north-west Nigeria, where we spent the night. The 300 miles had taken just under seven hours, which was to prove by far the easiest day's drive.

The map told us that from Sokoto onwards various roads essential to our purpose were 'out' on account of the rains, and from this point people were to look at us with pity when we mentioned the direction of the next day's run—not to mention our ultimate destination! However, we left Sokoto at 8-30 a.m. on the 9th and headed north to the Niger Republic frontier town of Birni-n'Konni. Before even reaching the Nigerian border-policeman we had to stop to attend to a loose dynamo, and from the frontier to Birni-n'Konni there was a particularly unpleasant stretch of mud through which I only just succeeded in putting the car. Mike took over at the Niger customs post, and had some uncomfortable driving on badly corrugated partially flooded laterite between Dosso and Niamey, the capital of Niger. Rain followed us most of the way, and while we regretted the

Ford's lack of wind-screen washers on the muddy roads we were later to notice the absence of a sun-visor for the co-driver.

Our night in Niamey was spent in the Grand Hotel du Niger—in a room overlooking the River Niger. Little did we think at this stage that the following night would still find us in Niamey, and the a la carte at dinner received rather rash attention; after which we went into the town accompanied by a voluntary guide named Husseini, who took us to a scruffy little bar where we met Daniel Phillipe, a rough but very friendly Frenchman who was able to give us some information of the road to the north-west.

On the Monday morning the Mali (ex-French Soudan) embassy was feeling rather unco-operative towards foreigners, and we were told to come back in 24 hours if we wanted visas for that young republic. This not only necessitated a one-day delay when time was quite important, but meant that we would have the expense of a second night in the capital. So we decided to visit the Mission Militaire Francaise au Niger with a view to being accommodated in their officers' mess. On calling upon the etat-major he was found to speak no English, whereupon I was unceremoniously appointed spokesman for the expedition . . . and in the end we were wined, dined, and comfortably bedded in the French mess—for one third of what it had cost us to stay at the Grand.

There was no rain this day, and the 7 p.m. temperature was a modest 93 degrees Fahrenheit.

On Tuesday, the 11th we left Niamey at 11-30 with our passports duly stamped with Mali visas. The temperature rose during the day to well over 100 degrees, and we saw some warthog later on, which apart from some young gazelle and a couple of ostrich, were the only wildlife we were to see on the trip. This does not include some interesting birds of various sizes, and one or two snakes.

At the Niger—Mali border we had a long delay as at the frontier village of Labbezenga we had to exchange all our money including Nigerian pounds, and before doing this there was much palaver. The road, which had already given the car a rough time deteriorated even further in this backward and undeveloped country and in the end we had to camp in the bush for the night some 40 miles south of Ansongo.

All this time we had been following the Niger river and the mosquito did his best to give us an unpleasant night. Darkness lasted from 7-45 p.m. to 6-15 a.m. and at 5-45 on the morning of the 12th it rained—so we packed our camp kit hurriedly and set



The French Fort at Bourem

off again in the company of one of our worst enemies. It rained heavily till we reached Gao at 9-30 a.m.—1,017 miles out of Kaduna. To add to our troubles we found that there was no beer to be had anywhere in the town, so, after rejecting a room at the local so-called hotel, we headed for the airport (which lies on the Greenwich meridian) . . . and there we found one Russian aeroplane, several bottles of beer, and Jacques Feysac.

Jacques comes from Maine et Loire, and speaks good American. As soon as he heard of our plans we were immediately referred to as 'crazy guys'; nevertheless we were taken to his bungalow, where we washed and cooked some food, and such was his hospitality that we did not leave Gao until 4 p.m.—this time driving north to Bourem.

We were to drive the Gao-Bourem road twice in each direction, and on each occasion it became worse because of rain. Jacques told us that it was completely 'out' at two points just south of Bourem, and, true enough, we had to circumnavigate two gullies where there once had been a road. By this time we were driving through long patches of soft sand, and it was becoming more difficult to maintain momentum—something which did not help the car's petrol consumption.

There was no petrol in Bourem and, so we were told by M le Commandant, no petrol in Timbuktu some 230 miles to the west. This was a blow, as we carried sufficient to get us to Timbuktu, but would have to fill up there for the return journey. The local gendarmerie agreed to radio Timbuktu at 7-30 the next morning to enquire about the petrol situation, but as the road was 'out' and no vehicles had been through for some time it seemed unlikely that the news would favour us.

On the high ground overlooking Bourem and the great curve of the Niger stands a typically 'Beau Geste' fort deserted by the French since 1945. Looking out from the fort to the north one sees a vast expanse of rippled sand with a scattering of nomad tents pitched on the dunes. It was in this fort, having bought a drum of water for four cigarettes, that we spent the night of 12th August—lying on the moonlit battlements listening to a promenade concert from the Albert Hall!

The following morning saw us in the Gendarmerie by 7-30, but they failed to make contact with Timbuktu. After wasting two hours sitting by the radio, we decided that the chance of there being any petrol in Timbuktu was very remote, and we must therefore return to Gao and try to borrow some jerricans to enable us to carry enough petrol to get the



Nomads near Bourem



**Bogged down with a burnt-out starter motor**

car there and back, the total distance being 576 miles according to the map.

In order that the 13th should not be an entirely wasted day, we drove out of Bourem to the north, again having to circumnavigate a short stretch of washed-out road, and followed the Tessalit (trans-Sahara) track for about fifteen miles. The going was rough, but at least one had a definite route to follow, which was more than could be said for some parts of the Timbuktu track. During this comparatively leisurely drive we recalled that on each of the two previous nights we had been visited during the hours of darkness by English-speaking Africans, and it later transpired that in Gao an English English-master is in permanent residence.

By the time we got back to Gao we had decided to spend the night there to allow some time for administration. Mike had a good look at the car, and unfortunately discovered some trouble with the brakes; this coupled with the fact that everyone kept saying that NO vehicle—not even a Landrover—could get through to Timbuktu at this time of the year made him somewhat apprehensive about carrying on, but in the end it was agreed that we should press on until we came upon some concrete reason for turning back. Having borrowed three jerricans from the local garage owner, Monsieur Gaussens, who had failed to get through with a four-wheel drive vehicle in September, 1957 and thought we were 'fou' to try, we cooked and devoured a large curry preparatory to an early night. No sooner had we finished the washing-up, however, than Maurice Prevost of the Gao air traffic control invited us to dine with his family; despite our protests that we had already eaten we were persuaded to find space for more—in any case the wine was excellent, and we got to bed well after 1 a.m.

Mike's ardour was further dampened when it rained during the night; nevertheless, after a breakfast of bacon and sausages washed down by beer, we were off before 9 o'clock with 25½ gallons of petrol and 5½ gallons of water. After passing through Bourem once again and turning off the Tessalit track to the west, we found the ground generally firm. Initially there was no track, and an occasional concrete block or pile of rocks told us that we had not strayed, but eventually we found ourselves on a reasonably good track running generally parallel with and not far from the Niger through scrub desert and sparse cultivations. We bogged down once or twice, either in loose sand or mud, but a good push was sufficient to get the car going again. Then, as we approached the village of Bamba 86 miles from Bourem, the track became much wetter, and it was often necessary to make wide detours through the bush to avoid long

patches of murky water. Bamba was only 14 miles behind us when, as we left the track to bypass one of these small lakes, we bogged down rather badly. It was here, only 130 miles from our objective, that the starter motor burned out, and we were left without any means of starting the car mechanically—the Ford was not equipped with a cranking handle. Having dug out the car, we enlisted some local nomadic labour to help us push the car to some firmer ground where we might be able to start it; but having sweated and cursed for three hours until the car stood at the top of a small hill, and when it refused to start, our labour disappeared into the coming darkness, and we fell—depressed—on our camp beds without eating or washing. This looked like real trouble.

I have never moved so quickly without really knowing where I was or what I was doing . . . Just as the dawn was breaking I was aroused by the sound of a vehicle approaching from Bamba, and in seconds I was standing on the track. There were two Landrovers, and in the second were three mechanics, of whom one spoke English—and within a short time it was discovered by these excellent people that the starter was still engaged, and in an equally short time they disengaged it. We could do nothing but count our lucky stars and press on for Timbuktu—with the prospect of real trouble if the engine stalled in sand or mud, but with the mechanics' Landrover following us at some considerable distance.

At this stage the car was suffering from additional troubles such as a broken battery terminal, a fractured exhaust mounting, a damaged shock-absorber, and fading brakes—and was firing on only three cylinders. This raised our petrol consumption, which meant that we would no longer have enough petrol for the return journey.

Because of the state of the car, and in order to have an extra 'pusher', we stopped at a small village and gave a lift to the Chef de Brigade, a French-speaking gentleman called Muhammadu Musa, who appeared to want a week-end in Timbuktu. At noon we got very badly bogged in a long stretch of loose sand, and the Chef was immediately dispatched to recruit local labour. The temperature in the car had broken our thermometer, which was graded to 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

We were only 34 miles from Timbuktu. Muhammadu Musa could find only one volunteer: a wiry old man who was well rewarded when we eventually succeeded in starting the car. At 3 p.m. that day (Saturday, 15th August) we reached Timbuktu—1,522 miles out of Kaduna—to discover that we were the first vehicle to get through from Bamba for some



**Want a drink?**

time, and the first saloon car to make the journey that season.

We had planned to put the car on a river steamer and relax in comparative comfort on the return to Gao, but as luck would have it the downstream boat had left only a matter of hours before we arrived; so, after fighting most of the way up to Timbuktu, we were now faced with a further struggle on the return trip. To complicate matters we had by now an urgent requirement for at least one plug and, to be on the safe side, some thirty litres of petrol.

But our immediate concern was to get ourselves organised: having left all unnecessary kit 'chez Jacques' in Gao, we had only the clothes which we were wearing and these were in need of a good scrub. So we took rooms in the local hotel, which must have been very pleasant in French colonial days but was now indescribably dirty, and having washed our clothes and ourselves we indulged in our first food for 37 hours. There was no beer to be had anywhere in the town, and the wine which was served with our rather nauseating meal was severely rationed. But we had achieved our aim, and it was now time to prepare for the 'battle' back to Bourem and beyond.

We decided that one night in Timbuktu would be quite sufficient! But that night it rained, which meant more trouble on the way home. We discovered that the next steamer would not leave for Gao until the day before we were due back in Kaduna; and thanks to the rains no tankers had penetrated to Timbuktu recently, so there was no petrol in the area.

On the Sunday we split up to save time, and toured the town in an effort to find petrol and a plug. Mike set off to find an American missionary whom we had contacted the previous evening, while I tried in vain to locate the English-speaking mechanic who had saved us near Bamba, and who was due to get into Timbuktu that day. In the end Mike came across the mechanic, who had a fever but was willing to have a look at the car, and I had one or two limited assurances from the local administration that we would or might be able to obtain some petrol the next day. I had to contact a girl on holiday from Paris in order to get a sparking plug!

So for an extra day we laughed at the children who ran up to us in the streets to shake our hands and yell "ca va?"—and tolerated the excess of flies to the best of our ability. At night we sat out on the verandah drinking water and talking with an Egyptian education adviser who, when asked "are there many Egyptian teachers in Mali?" replied in something like the following manner: "Yes, we have many good shops in Cairo."

On Monday morning, having for the sake of petrol economy driven only five miles in Timbuktu, we were given two sparking plugs and succeeded in scrounging nearly twenty (officially fifteen) litres of petrol from the Administrator's reserve stock . . . and 10 o'clock saw us on the 'piste' to Bamba.

After only 75 miles we had to stop because the dynamo had worked itself loose again. This was followed by a long petrol-consuming stretch of bush and desert driving in first and second gears to circumnavigate an almost continuous lake-cum-bog which had developed during the previous 36 hours over the piste and its environs. At times we were driving on a very unpleasant surface within about a hundred yards of the river. Then, only nine miles beyond the spot where the starter had burned out on the westward journey, the car drifted in some mud, bogged down badly in sand, and the engine stalled while we were trying to get her out. In view of the critical petrol situation this was just as well, but it made the extrication problem even more acute.

Mike went off in search of local labour, leaving me to survey our two camp beds trapped uselessly under the wheels. I was so enraged by this state of affairs—I had been driving all day—that I gave vent to my feelings on the shovel . . . and by the time Mike returned (with no helpers) the car had been dug out, and with the help of two bushmen who spoke no known language I had pushed the car onto firm ground. We camped exhausted on a sand-dune four miles west of Bamba, and consumed a tin of soup—our only food for 44 hours. We had had some severe setbacks, but on the other hand we had been lucky to get through in the first place, and we had yet to meet an insuperable difficulty.

We reached Gao at 2 p.m. on the 18th after coping with a fractured dynamo bracket on the Bourem-Gao road. Despite the heavy rain west of Bamba, the Bamba-Bourem road had dried out considerably, and we had made good time with a reduced petrol consumption.

Once in Gao we took the car straight to Gaussens at the garage, and he who had called us 'fou' five days earlier had to admit that 'vous etes less champions'. We then treated ourselves to some cold beer, and camped once again 'chez Feysac'. We really thought that our troubles must surely be at an end, but the next day in the space of 137 miles to the Mali border at Labbezenga we had a fire in the back seat caused by a cigarette end which had dropped in a box of dirty clothes; we hit and killed a donkey; a rear-wheel blow-out followed; within 500 yards of the blow-out the front number plate fell off; a few miles further on water on the track wet the plugs and coil, and we bogged down and stalled in mud; this was followed by a puncture: we changed the wheel and then the tyre, the latter without any tyre levers; and shortly after this the petrol tank was perforated, but saw us back to Kaduna once the hole had been plugged with soap. Between Labbezenga and Niamey we had two more flat tyres caused by a faulty valve, and our late supper and bed at the Hotel Terminus in Niamey could not have been more welcome!

We bought a new tyre in Niamey, and left there with about £10 between us. Much to our disgust the new tyre blew out after only 198 miles, and we were back to driving on an unreliable rear tyre with no spares. However, we made Sokota that evening, with six bottles of Niger wine concealed in the back of the car; and the following day, Friday, 21st August we arrived at my house, having coped with yet another flat tyre on the way, at tea-time with 2,793 miles behind us driven over fourteen days, of which three had been 'wasted' on account of various delays and setbacks.



The Mosque, Timbuktu

## HIGHLAND BRIGADE CLUB CRICKET

The raising of sides last year was as difficult as forecast. It is interesting to record that in the Edinburgh matches only five of the team were serving soldiers. Three of the retired officers playing have now qualified for the Cricket LS & GC Medal, as Malcolm Wolfe-Murray first played 32 years ago; 'Choo' Maciagan 31 years ago, and Donald Callander 25 years ago. However, Malcolm Wolfe-Murray made the highest score of any batsman, 'Choo' Maciagan made one of the higher scores, and Donald Callander was the sheet anchor against the Grange when wickets were tumbling. The need, however, is for younger and more active players—two finds last year were Chris van der Noot and David White, both of the Gordons. As can be seen from the results, no matches were won but, on the other hand, a reasonable performance was given in all the games.

The dates for this year's matches are below, and would people willing to play please let the Hon. Sec. (Major D. F. Callander, MC, 25 Duke Street, Edinburgh, 1—Telephone Nos. Waverley 6894-5) know as soon as possible. It is doubtful if any Highland Battalions will be at home, and side-raising will be even more difficult, so please help the Secretary by letting him know about Highland Brigade cricketers of all ranks—particularly young cricketers home on courses; at ERE; in the TA; at the Depot; ex-National Service or any past or present members of the Highland Brigade in the UK.

'The Field' of 10th September reported on the game v The Grange and included a photograph.

### RESULTS — 1964

**Household Brigade v Highland Brigade (lost by two wickets) at Burton Court, Chelsea, on Thursday, 2nd July.**

Highland Bde 123 (C. van der Noot 28, J. A. Wolfe-Murray 31, Dennison-Smith 4 for 6);

Household Bde 124 for 8 wkts (J. A. Wolfe-Murray 4 for 36).

**Highland Bde v Lowland Bde (lost by 93 runs) at Edinburgh on 30th/31st July.**

Lowland Bde 290 for 5 dec (J. M. C. Rutherford 88, N. G. A. Mair 73, J. A. S. Taylor not out 65) and 126 for 5 dec;

Highland Bde 165 (C. van der Noot 57, R. D. Maciagan 27, P. G. A. R. Lobban 27) and 168 (C. van der Noot 56, Sir David Montgomery 23).

**Highland Bde v The Grange (lost by 9 wkts) at Raeburn Place on 1st August.**

Highland Bde 170 (M. V. A. Wolfe-Murray 55, J. A. Wolfe-Murray 27, H. F. Neilson 5 for 49).

The Grange 174 for 1 (G. S. Birrell not out 67, H. Fairweather 58, D. Craig not out 41).

### FIXTURES — 1965

Wednesday, 30th June v Household Brigade, Burton Court, Chelsea.

Thursday & Friday, 29th & 30th July v Lowland Brigade, Edinburgh.

Saturday, 1st August—Our normal fixture v The Grange is in abeyance for 1965 as India will be playing on their ground. Another game may be arranged in Edinburgh.

### NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Supporters and their families are very welcome at all games. Hospitality is extended and, in particular, on the first evening of the game versus The Lowland Brigade in Edinburgh, when an informal tea and cocktail party is held on the ground.

It is hoped that members in the South will come to the match versus The Household Brigade at Burton Court, Chelsea (behind The Duke of York's HQ)—there is usually strawberries and cream for tea, music from a Guards' band, and later, drinks in the pavilion.

## QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL, DUNBLANE

The School provides free boarding education for the sons of Scottish sailors, soldiers and airmen who have served at least four years in the ranks of the regular forces, or who have been on active service. The sons of officers are only eligible if the fathers have had four years regular rank service. Particular consideration is given to the applications of those who have lost their fathers, or whose fathers are still serving and are liable for overseas posting. Consideration is also given to the Service record of the father.

A two year Primary course is followed by either a Junior Secondary or Senior Secondary education. Those in the Senior Secondary department take the Scottish Certificate of Education at the Ordinary or Higher grade.

There are 250 boys in the School, organised in four Houses, each with a Housemaster and Housematron. The Junior House takes all boys under about 12 years. There are excellent facilities for a wide range of games, sports, hobbies and cultural activities.

Boys may be registered for entry at the age of 7 and are normally admitted between the ages of 9½ and 10½. There are a few vacancies each year for

boys up to the age of 13. New boys are admitted once a year, at the beginning of the Christmas term in September. Selections for admission are made by a Commissioners' Selection Board which sits at the School each May. To be considered by the Board applications must be received by the Commandant by the preceding 31st March at latest. Application forms and the School prospectus may be obtained by applying in writing to The Commandant, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane.

### DETAIL OF SONS OF GORDON HIGHLANDERS AT QVS

**ROBERTSON, Steve Andrew**

In Form IV. Taking 'O' levels next summer, then leaving to become a draughtsman apprentice. Plays for the School at Rugby. Born 17 July, 1948. Present home at Burnley.

**LEARMONTH, John Albert**

In Form IIA. Father killed in action in Korea. Hopes to join Gordon Highlanders. In School High-

land Dancing team. Present home Banff. Born 4 May, 1951. Commandant's Orderly 1963/64.

**WEST, Ronald Anneas Mackenzie**

Form 1B. Came September, 1964. Father Colour Sergeant in 1 Gordons at Edinburgh. Has taken up Highland Dancing. Has two younger brothers who hope to come to the School. Born 3 December, 1952.

**KENT, Gordon Edward Wilson**

Form Primary 6B. Came September, 1964. Father regular CSM with Gordons TA Bn Aberdeen. Hopes to join RAF. Has taken up Highland Dancing. Born 17 June, 1954.

**KENT, Rodger James**

Form Primary 7B. Elder brother to Gordon, born

19 May, 1953. Came in 1963. Also hopes to join RAF. Has taken up Drumming.

**COLLIE, Ian Arthur**

Father served in Gordons in Second World War. Now in business in Aberdeen. Ian hopes to go into REME as apprentice. Born 17 April, 1951.

**McKAY, Eric Sim**

Came September, 1964. Father retired from Gordons as CSM two years ago. Now in Customs and Excise, Aberdeen. Eric hopes to join the Gordons. Born 23 August, 1954. Form Primary 6A.

**McPHAIL, John Gordon**

Form IIIB. Born 30 September, 1949. Father retired from Gordons as C/Sgt with 36 years' service, about 1959. Wants to join the Royal Navy.

## EDITORIAL NOTICES

**BERTRAND STEWART ESSAY COMPETITION,  
1965**

Prize : £80.

Closing Date : 22nd June, 1965.

Subject :

"The resources of our defence forces have become increasingly stretched over the past two years. The Army has been particularly affected, and has had to provide lightly equipped forces for IS and counter-insurgency operations world wide while still maintaining more heavily equipped forces in BAOR.

"The other two Services suffer to a lesser degree, and are not faced with the same difficulties of having to train, equip and allocate manpower for two such different commitments.

"How can these difficulties best be met? Discuss any measures (including financial measures) which you consider might help the Army to meet its varying commitments more easily and without any loss of effectiveness."

General conditions for this essay competition will be the same as for the 1964 competition and can be found in ACI 397 of 1963, except that the address of the Army Quarterly and Defence Journal shown in paragraph 5 is now :—43 Cardington Street, London, NW1.

**HISTORY OF THE RWAFF**

This History was published on 30th September by Messrs Gale & Polden of Aldershot and covers the whole record of the RWAFF from its inception to the independence of the four former British West African Colonies. It has been written in two parts by Colonel A. Heywood, CMG, CBE, DSO, and Brigadier F. A. S. Clarke, DSO, both distinguished and experienced former officers of the Frontier Force.

Members of the RWAFF Dinner Club can obtain copies for 32/6d post free if they send their remittance to :—

Lieutenant Colonel G. H. C. Napier,  
Upper Flat,  
15 Magdala Road,  
Mapperley Park,  
NOTTINGHAM.

The price to the general public is £2. 2. 0. and the book can be obtained either direct from Messrs Gale & Polden or from any bookseller. If ordering by post 2/6d. should be added for postage.

**ROYAL SOLDIERS DAUGHTERS' SCHOOL,  
HAMPSTEAD, LONDON**

Conditions of Admission—Girls are normally admitted between the ages of 5 and 10. Preference is normally given to girls who are total orphans, or who have only one parent living, or whose fathers are still serving in the regular Army. All daughters of soldiers are, however, eligible and each case is considered on its merits and, if approved, placed on the waiting list. Candidates may be recommended by Regiments, Regimental Associations, by one of the Societies interested in the welfare of soldiers' dependants, or by a Governor or Life Governor of the School. Brief reasons for the recommendation should be given. The Parents or Guardians of girls accepted for admission to the School are urged to allow their girls, in their own interests, to remain until school-leaving age.

For further particulars apply—

The Secretary,

Royal Soldiers Daughters' School,  
65 Rosslyn Hill,  
London, NW3.

Tel.: HAMpstead 1201.

**KING EDWARD VII'S HOSPITAL FOR  
OFFICERS**

**Sister Agnes—Founder**

**BEAUMONT HOUSE, BEAUMONT STREET,  
LONDON, W1**

This Hospital, founded by Sister Agnes (Miss Agnes Keyser) in 1899 in her own house, 17 Grosvenor Crescent, was destroyed by enemy action in January, 1941, and the present building, Beaumont House, Beaumont Street, London, W1, was opened in October, 1948 by Her Majesty Queen Mary.

All commissioned officers of the three services, serving, retired or ex-temporary, are eligible for

admission. The Hospital has both private rooms and small wards.

The Council has as its object the provision of the best medical and surgical facilities at the lowest possible cost. Serving officers are entitled to free nursing and maintenance in the shared rooms. Other officers are asked to pay from 10 to 15 guineas for private rooms and 7 to 10 guineas for a shared room, or ward bed. The 10 guinea rate is the charge for a private room for anyone who has previously supported the Hospital, or belongs to a Regiment or firm with whom we have made an arrangement, but the ability of the patient to pay is always considered and there is a generously administered Samaritan Fund for those in straitened circumstances. Extra charges are kept to the minimum, and are constantly reviewed.

The Hospital is mainly for surgical and medical cases, and has its own Resident Medical Officer, X-ray and Physiotherapy Departments.

The Hospital has its own consultant staff, whose fees are in accordance with the patient's means, on a scale approved by the Council. Patients may, however, still make their own arrangements with any physician or surgeon of their choice if they so desire.

The Hospital is outside the National Health Service and is therefore entirely dependent on voluntary aid. Supporters are asked to pay £1, or more, by Banker's Order; these can be obtained from the Appeals Secretary, Admiral Sir Alan Scott-Moncrieff, 15 Ormond Yard, Duke of York Street, SW1, who will also be pleased to receive donations.

The above particulars are reproduced from The Army List Advertiser.

There is at present an Appeal in aid of Building Extensions for which Donations are invited.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS —

##### GILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS AT BRIGHTON COLLEGE

1. Up to four Gill Memorial Scholarships and Exhibitions are offered by Brighton College in 1965 for the sons of Regular Army officers (serving or retired), including extended service and short service commissions.

2. Awards are tenable for the whole of a boy's career at the college provided that his work and progress maintain the expected standard. The maximum annual value of an award is £100 for boarders and £50 for day boys. Candidates must be under 14 years of age on 1st June, 1965.

3. In addition, one Junior Gill Scholarship is available at Brighton College Junior School for boys who are under 11 years of age on 1st June, 1965.

4. Brighton College is an independent public school. The present fees are:

Brighton College—£480 for boarders; £276 for day boys.

Brighton College Junior School—£342 for boarders over 10 years of age; £183 for day boys over 10 years of age; £315 for boarders under 10 years of age; £165 for day boys under 10 years of age.

5. Candidates living in the United Kingdom are expected to attend the examinations at Brighton College. Arrangements will be made for candidates over-

seas to take the examination in their particular command. The senior and junior examinations will be held on 17th, 18th and 19th May, 1965. Successful candidates will enter the College in September, 1965.

6. The Adjutant-General, Quarter-Master-General and the Military Secretary have the power to nominate examination candidates from the sons of officers who hold or who have held commissions in the British Army as specified in para. 1.

7. Officers who desire their sons to compete for any of these awards may obtain entry forms and further details from the Ministry of Defence (A. Edn. 3), Stanmore, Middlesex.

8. The completed entry form, accompanied by the boy's birth certificate, together with school reports and a certificate of conduct covering the previous two years from the headmaster of the school which the boy has attended during that period, should reach the Ministry of Defence not later than 19th March, 1965.

#### THE URQUHART FUND AND BOYD BURSARY

These two funds are in operation at Winchester College and their scope and purpose are as follows:—

##### The Urquhart Fund

A capital sum was left to Winchester College by a Miss Edith Urquhart in memory of her brother, Edward Frederick Maltby Urquhart, late The Black Watch, who was killed while serving with 1st Battalion The Black Watch at Ypres on 23rd October, 1914. The proceeds of the bequest, are to be used to assist the education at Winchester of sons of former Wykehamists, preference being given first to the sons of all ranks who have served in The Black Watch and secondly to the sons of all ranks who have served in the other regiments of The Highland Brigade.

Former Wykehamists, wishing to benefit from the fund, should apply direct to:—

The Headmaster,  
The College,  
Winchester,  
Hampshire.

##### The Boyd Bursary

A second trust fund of direct interest to officers of The Highland Brigade was also instituted at Winchester College with the following instructions:—

"To the Governors of Winchester College to found a scholarship at Winchester in memory of my son Nigel John Lawson Boyd (died of wounds with 1st Battalion The Black Watch on 12 October, 1914), Second Lieutenant in The Royal Highlanders, The Black Watch, for the sons of officers in The Highland Brigade, with a preference to the sons of officers of the First and Second Battalions of The Royal Highlanders, The Black Watch and of Seaforth Highlanders."

The bursary is not confined to the sons of former Wykehamists. Any officer in the Highland Brigade, who wishes to send his son to Winchester may apply for a grant from the bursary, provided the son is accepted by the College and passes the entrance examination.

Applications should be made direct to:—

The Headmaster,  
The College,  
Winchester,  
Hampshire.

## OFFICERS' LOCATIONS

AS AT 1st MARCH, 1965

## REGULAR OFFICERS

Rank, Initials, Name and Decorations	Present Location
Lieutenant Colonel C. N. BARKER, MBE, MC	Ministry of Defence
Lieutenant Colonel R. W. SMITH	Commanding, 1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Lieutenant Colonel E. E. TOMS	Commanding, 3rd Bn The Gordon Highlanders (TA)
Major R. F. DAVIES	Youth Liaison Officer, North West District
Major J. D. S. YOUNG	Camp Commandant, Southern Command
Major (1/Lieutenant Colonel) I. C. S. MUNRO	United Nations Forces in Cyprus
Major M. A. C. STEPHEN	Camp Commandant, Scottish Command
Major A. J. C. RICHARDSON	Armament Research & Development Establishment
Major R. A. NICKSON, MC	British Military Mission, Libya
Major J. A. G. TINDALL	DAQMG (Movements) HQ BAOR
Major J. NEISH	DAAG Highland Brigade
Major M. H. BURGE	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Major A. T. C. BROWN	Army Air Corps
Major J. CARMICHAEL	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Major D. H. W. BROWN, MC	Brigade Major, 125 Infantry Brigade (TA)
Major I. McK. ROBERTSON	Aberdeen University OTC
L/Lieutenant Colonel R. C. B. CHANCELLOR, MBE	Staff College, Camberley
Major J. J. H. SIMPSON	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Major M. M. MAKGILL CRICHTON MAILLAND	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Major J. T. D. DURBIN	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Major R. D. L. SMART	Training Major/Adjutant, 1st Bn The London Scottish (TA)
Major I. D. MARTINEAU	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Major D. G. B. SAUNDERS	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain C. J. D. GORDON-STEWARD	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain R. W. C. MURISON	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain M. M. CRUICKSHANK	Ministry of Defence
Captain E. F. GORDON	Adjutant, Highland Brigade Depot
Captain W. D. R. WEST	Malaysia Rangers
Captain B. G. PATON	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain R. J. MACLAGAN	Attached RAOC
Captain P. W. GRAHAM	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
1/Captain A. N. M. SCOTT	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain K. I. H. LUMSDEN	Intelligence Officer/Interrogator FARELF
Captain R. G. D. BRUCE	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain N. F. M. OXLEY	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain I. FLEMING	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Lieutenant T. H. G. DUKE	Malaysia Rangers
Lieutenant C. H. VAN DER NOOT	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Lieutenant R. S. FAWCUS	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Lieutenant D. M. H. DU BOULAY	Highland Brigade Depot
Lieutenant A. M. CUMMING	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Lieutenant D. H. WHITE	82 Army Youth Team
Lieutenant G. H. PEEBLES	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Lieutenant R. M. KINGHORN	Highland Brigade Depot
Lieutenant J. R. URQUHART	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
2/Lieutenant I. G. H. WALLACE	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
2/Lieutenant R. S. HUNTER-BLAIR	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
2/Lieutenant D. M. NAPIER	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
2/Lieutenant R. D. ORD	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
2/Lieutenant M. N. B. N. ROSS	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Lieutenant Colonel (QM) F. KERNOHAN	Allied Land Forces Central Europe
Major (QM) R. B. WILKINSON	1st Bn The London Scottish (TA)
Captain (QM) C. MICHIE, MBE	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain (QM) G. DUNN	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
Captain (QM) W. J. R. DAWSON	3rd Bn The Gordon Highlanders (TA)

## SHORT SERVICE AND EXTENDED SERVICE OFFICERS

T/Lieutenant Colonel C. D. A. PROVO	Ministry of Defence
Major G. DUNCAN	HQ 1 (BR) Corps
2/Lieutenant R. J. GERRARD	Malaysia Rangers
2/Lieutenant P. M. MAHON	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders
2/Lieutenant A. W. DUNCAN	All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, Tonfanau
2/Lieutenant C. LYON	1st Bn The Gordon Highlanders

## GAZETTE

### REGULAR ARMY

Lt I. Fleming, MA (459458) to be Captain, 11th November, 1964.

2/Lieutenant R. M. Kinghorn (470877) from Short Service Commission to be 2/Lieutenant, 15th October, 1964 with seniority 15th October, 1964. To be Lieutenant 15th October, 1964.

Major P. B. Hay (77689) retires on retired pay on 7th January, 1965.

Lt Col B. C. A. Napier, OBE, MC (85692) to be Colonel, 15th September, 1964.

### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Major H. W. S. Chedburn (149568) having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, 23rd November, 1964.

### TERRITORIAL ARMY

David Munro Anderson (453590) (formerly Lt, BW) to be Lt 8th July, 1964 with seniority 4th May, 1961.

Major A. F. Niekirk, TD (374854) is granted the acting rank of Lt-Col, 31st October, 1964.

Major C. C. Wade (289937) from BW to be Major 1st October, 1964, with seniority 19th October, 1961.

23971118 O/Cadet David Murray Dickie (477640) to be 2/Lt (on probation) 7th October, 1964.

Lt Col R. T. S. MacPherson (90855) from London Scottish to be Colonel, 1st November 1964.

Captain J. R. Skene (432309) is granted the acting rank of Major 1st December, 1964.

### TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt (Hon Capt) R. W. G. MacPherson, TD (87911) having attained the age limit ceases to belong to the TA Reserve of Officers, 27th November, 1964, retaining the hon rank of Captain.

Maj (Hon Lt-Col) D. M. Annand, MBE, TD (70632) having attained the age limit ceases to belong to the TA Reserve of Officers, 8th January, 1965, retaining the hon rank of Lt-Col.

Lt G. Nornable, MC (316441) having attained the age limit, ceases to belong to the TA Reserve of Officers, 9th January, 1965 and is granted the hon rank of Lt.

### COMBINED CADET FORCE

#### Eton College Contingent

Lt Thomas Leslie Holden (442235) from TA Reserve of Officers, Gordons, to be Lt, 9th June, 1964.

## 1st BATTALION

### EDINBURGH — 4th DECEMBER, 1964

(End of Term)

On this day when the battalion proceeds on block leave prior to its departure for the Far East, I cast my mind back over the past year and reflect how the tempo of life in the Infantry has changed.

On the 4th December, 1963 we were in Kenya, which was still a British Colony, preparing to send our detachment to the 'Isle of Cloves' which was still a peaceful, sleepy Protectorate on the verge of receiving full independence under the Sultan. Around us, the Armies of the three East African territories were preparing to assume full responsibility for their own defence. It was on this day in 1963 that I was told by the Commanding Officer that the Battalion was definitely returning home early in 1964 and that I was to fly in advance of the Advance Party on 30th December, 1963.



Major 'Bombs Gone' Neish



Helicopter Training

By early January, 1964 the Advance Party was in Edinburgh and the Battalion was declared non-operational in Kenya, prior to its move. From which moment onwards we have had the busiest and most unsettled period since the war.

In mid-January, 1964 the New Zanzibar Government fell in a blood bath, the Sultan fleeing for his life. The Armies of the three East African territories mutinied and the British Army in Kenya, including the Battalion became fully operational. The Battalion remained operational until returning home in March.

Within two weeks of re-forming in Edinburgh in mid-May, we were running Bisley; immediately on our departure from Bisley we were preparing for 'flyout'; four weeks after leaving Bisley we were training at Otterburn; six weeks after Bisley we were

on 24 hours' notice for an emergency anywhere in the world.

On 20th October, 1964 we were air borne for Stanford PTA on Exercise Jigsaw V; immediately after which we launched our Recruiting Drive in the Regimental Area. We also had to prepare for our Annual Inspection on 1st December, 1964 at the same time as the Commanding Officer, Quartermaster Intelligence Officer and one Company Commander carried out a quick recce in the Far East, during which they covered 20,000 miles in nine days.

At the Annual Inspection, your Editor was asked if he considered that the Battalion was "fit for war" to which he replied, "you know what this past year has been like—I submit that if the Battalion had not been fit for war it would not have survived."

At least one can say that modern Infantry soldiering is not dull.



Helicopter Training

APPOINTMENTS AS AT 1st FEBRUARY, 1965

Appointment	Rank	Name	Remarks
CO	Lt Col	R. W. SMITH	
2IC	Maj	M. H. BURGE	Editor 'Tiger and Sphinx' Band President
Adjt	Capt	P. W. GRAHAM	
Asst Adjt	Lt	J. R. URQUHART	Historical Diary, Battalion Representative Regimental Association.
IO	Lt	C. H. VAN DER NOOT	Battalion Editor 'Tiger & Sphinx'. Cricket Officer. Welfare Officer
Padre	Rev	W. G. A. WRIGHT	
RMO	Capt	R. J. STEWART	
OC HQ 1	Maj	M. M. MAKGILL CRICHTON MAITLAND	PMC, Officer i/c 12 Bore Club Housing Officer. Football Officer. Officer i/c Civil Labour. Messing Officer.
QM	Capt	C. MICHIE	
PRI	Capt	R. W. C. MURISON	
Paymaster	Lt	A. A. BULL	
OC HQ 2	Maj	I. D. MARTINEAU	
RSO	Capt	R. G. D. BRUCE	
Recce Pl Comd	Lt	T. H. G. DUKE	
MTO	Capt (QM)	G. H. DUNN	Equitation Officer.
OC A Coy	Maj	D. G. B. SAUNDERS	
2IC A Coy	Capt	A. N. M. SCOTT	
Sp Pl Comd A Coy	Lt	A. M. CUMMING	
Pl Comd	2Lt	R. S HUNTER BLAIR	Golf Officer. Cross Country Officer.
Pl Comd	2Lt	C LYON	
OC B Coy	Capt	C. J. D. GORDON STEWARD	Boxing Officer.
2IC & Sp Pl Comd B Coy	Capt	N. F. M. OXLEY	Hockey Officer.
Pl Comd	2Lt	I. G. H. WALLACE	
Pl Comd	2Lt	C. M. OGILVIE FORBES	
Pl Comd	2Lt	D. M. NAPIER	
OC C Trg Coy	Maj	J. J. H. SIMPSON	Sports President, UEO.
2IC C Trg Coy	Lt	R. S. FAWCUS	WTO, Officer i/c Bn Shooting Team.
OC D Coy	Maj	J. T. D. DURBIN	
2IC D Coy	Capt	I. FLEMING	PRO. Pipe President
Sp Pl Comd D Coy	Lt	G. H. PEEBLES	
Pl Comd	2Lt	P. M. MAHON	Unit Fire Officer. Sailing Officer.
Pl Comd	2Lt	R. J. GERRARD	
Pl Comd	2Lt	R. D. ORD	
OC Rear Party	Maj	J. CARMICHAEL	

### MARRIAGES

Pte Dixon, J., HQ1—Married Miss Joan Elizabeth Gilmore at Lancaster on 31st August, 1964.  
 Pte Morrison, E., HQ1—Married Miss Nicolina Carroll at Aberdeen on 24th August, 1964.  
 Lcpl Hames, P., HQ1—Married Miss Elizabeth Ann Cass at Edinburgh on 5th September, 1964.  
 Pte Henderson, A., HQ2—Married Miss Maureen Elizabeth Chapman at Hull on 12th September, 1964.  
 Sgt Will, J., 'B'—Married Miss Evelyn Taylor at Laurencekirk on 19th September, 1964.  
 Lcpl Reid, G., HQ2—Married Miss Barbara Jean Parkinson at Mossneuk on 26th September, 1964.  
 Pte Peyton, T., HQ1—Married Miss Christine Mary Bowles at West Leigh on 15th August, 1964.  
 Pte Johnston, R., 'A'—Married Kathleen Milne at Fleetwood on 3rd October, 1964.  
 BdsM Robertson, N., HQ1—Married Jeanette Ritchie at Fraserburgh on 31st October 1964.  
 Lcpl Murdoch, W., 'A'—Married Miss Dorothy Carnegie at Tarland on 7th November, 1964.  
 Pte Simpson, G., HQ2—Married Miss Mary Harper at Old Meldrum on 7th November, 1964.

### BIRTHS

Pte Johnston, L., HQ2—Son Leonard William born at Perth on 16th May, 1964.  
 Pte Manders, D., 'B'—Daughter Helen McLeod Engles born at Edinburgh on 21st August, 1964.  
 Cpl Melville, J., HQ2—Daughter Paula born at Devonport on 24th August, 1964.  
 Sgt Sharp, J., HQ1—Daughter Geraldine born at Grangemouth on 30th September, 1964.  
 Pte Reid, W., HQ2—Son George Thomas born at Perth on 10th October, 1964.  
 Pte Simmers, R., HQ2—Daughter Elisa Murray born at Aberdeen on 1st October, 1964.  
 Lcpl Shand, H., HQ1—Son John born at Edinburgh on 11th October, 1964.  
 Pte Innes, G., HQ2—Daughter Karlin born at Perth on 17th September, 1964.  
 Maj J. T. D. Durbin—Son John born at Edinburgh on 19th August, 1964.  
 Lt C. H. Van Der Noot—Daughter Sarah Lucy born at Edinburgh on 23rd November, 1964.  
 Maj D. G. B. Saunders—Son Mark Hugh Bannerman born at Nairn on 13th December, 1964.

### 'A' COMPANY

*Company Commander:* Major J. Carmichael  
*Company 2IC:* Lieutenant A. M. Cumming  
*Company Sergeant Major:* WOII J. Ashley  
*Company QM Sergeant:* C/Sergeant D. Postill  
*Company Clerk:* Private M. Mackay  
*Company Piper:* Piper Hart

The period of these notes has been rather overshadowed by the illness of Major Carmichael who has been away since early October; we all wish him the speediest of recoveries. A hair raising week was filled by the 2i/c until Major Martineau returned from Australia with the Drums and Pipes only two days before the Battalion's departure for Stanford; he is still with us—just, at ground level—until January.

The odds on our instant despatch to overseas climes immediately rose with everyone standing about in a dawn easterly wind at Turnhouse on October 23rd, awaiting our journey in aid of Thane Cecil of Stanfordia or somewhere. Hearts turned as an RAF officer stepped into the plane on landing at Watton

(presumably) to say that we would be moving on to another airfield as soon as possible. It soon transpired that we were at Coltishall and there were ably looked after until the fog cleared at Watton five hours later. That night was the coldest anyone could remember since Germany.

Activities at Stanford were very rewarding yet familiar: digging in and marching and eating in the dark and sentry-go at night and platoon attacks and all the other jolly things we joined up for. There was however one interesting tactical innovation when Mr Lyon winkled out a very frightened enemy. Mr Urquhart and Pte Smart, by systematically bombing him with 2" Mortar Smoke. This is a revolutionary discovery and we feel that the Ministry of Defence would be overjoyed to hear that we have a budding strategist from that seminary for sound learning—Cambridge University.

It was an exhilarating and expensive sight to see (through the smoke) about £1,000 worth of training ammunition being let off by each Company at the end of Exercise Final Fling. There would have been many envious Arab gentlemen if they could have witnessed that joyous shoot.

The natives of East Anglia turned out to be just as friendly as those at Bisley but no one was sorry to be on that troop train to the North again. "The train now standing at Siding 6b is a special military train for Edinburgh and people should on no account attempt to board this train."

With the Annual Administrative Inspection now successfully over and everyone packing their kit for six weeks block leave prior to our year's stay in Sarawak there's a hint that the party's over for a bit. The Company scribe will be sending you the next thrilling instalment from the steaming jungle, under fire: we can hardly wait to get out there if only to be a bit warmer.

Congratulations to the following:

Matches:

Lieutenant Cumming to Miss Hilary Gray on Sept. 12.  
 L/Cpl Murdoch to Miss Dorothy Carnegie on Nov. 7.  
 Pte Johnston to Miss Kathleen Milne on Oct. 3.  
 Pte Nibloe to Miss Mary Rose Fannon on Oct. 10.

Hatches:

Cpl Webster, a son, Alexander George on Nov. 4.



**4 Platoon Mortar Section:**  
 L/C Erskine, Pte Mackie 40, Pte Reid 95,  
 Pte Bennet, Pte Byers



Lieutenant and Mrs A. M. Cumming leaving the Cathedral Church of St Mary, Edinburgh

We welcome CSM Ashley from 'C' Training Company and hope that there is not too much for him to despair about. Also hail to the following:

Sgt Burns from The Hong Kong Regiment.

Pte Rutherford from HQ 24 Bde BLFK.

Pte Eaglesham from the Recce Platoon and Ptes Anderson, Duguid, Kelly, McWilliam, Norrie, Sanderson, Tole, Ewen, Irvine, Linden, Marsh, Marjoribanks, Townsley and Withers.

L/Cpl McGuire has also returned to the Army fold and we welcome him to the ranks of 'A' Company; all these from 'C' Training Company.

We bid farewell to:

Lt Urquhart, as a wee cog in the hub of the Battalion as Assistant Adjutant.

CSM McAuley to 3 Div HQ as RQMS.

C/Sgt Campbell to 'D' Company as CQMS.

Cpl Buchan, L/Cpl Hellaby, and Ptes McLellan and Browning all on Medical discharge; our best wishes go with them.

Finally congratulations to L/Cpls. McGuire, Mackie 45 and Smith 28 on their promotions to L/Cpl.

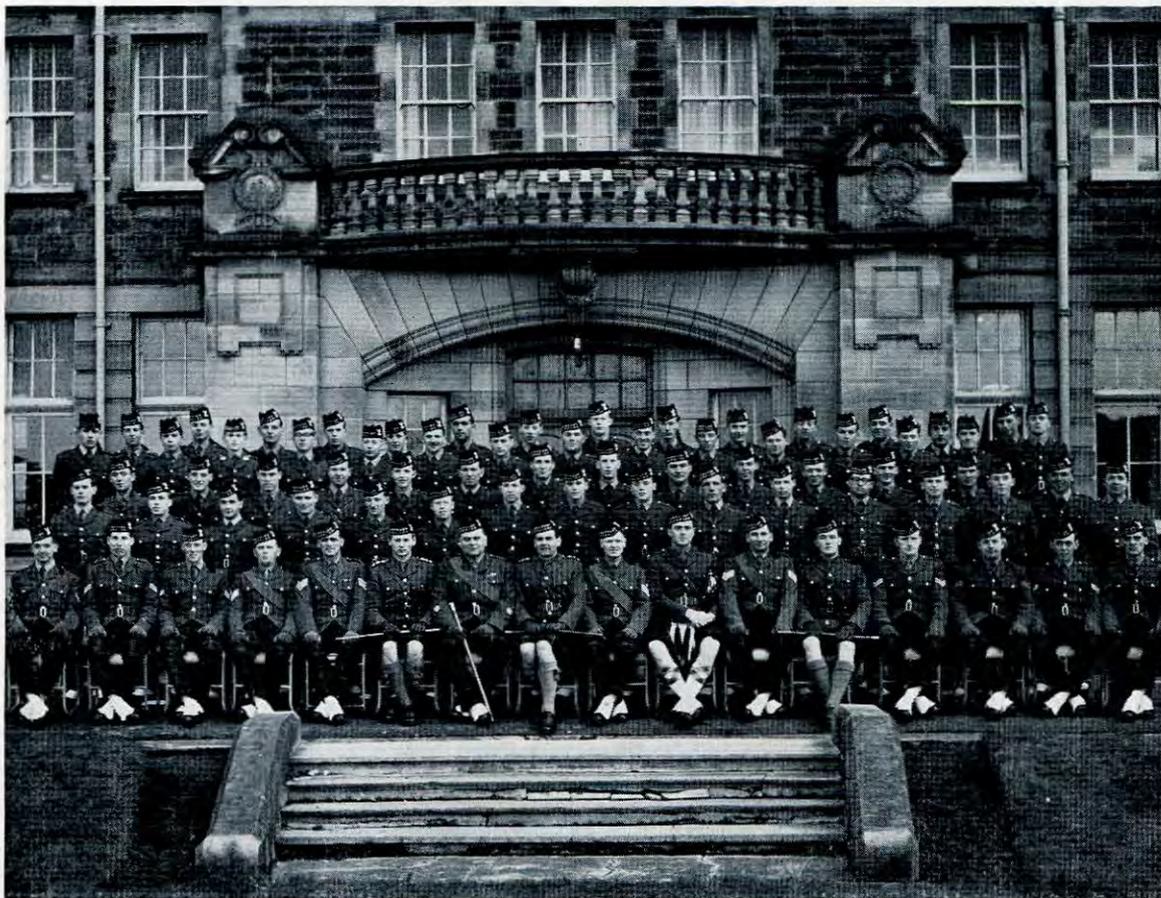
### 'B' COMPANY

As the Autumn wind whistles through the ill-fitting windows of my room and I thumb through my diary, I notice that today is 'Tiger and Sphinx' time once again. The biggest events include headings like Otterburn, Spearhead, Stanford, Recruiting and Administrative Inspection, with Boxing, Classifications and PE tests to fill in the gaps. Our last Company notes finished off by saying that we were just off to Otterburn so with this I shall start.

Our advance party there under Capt N. F. M. Oxley and Sgt Cameron arrived at this moorland training area on 3rd September in brilliant sunshine and by tea time, due entirely to the very helpful camp staff we had completed the take over of the camp. On Sunday, 6th September the Company rose before dawn and after the 74 mile drive were met by rain and wind which had the same hour replaced the sun. Having spent the Monday recce-ing the Ranges a sadly depleted Company was made into a composite platoon and put under 2/Lieut I. G. H. Wallace for the field firing training. Because we had done virtually no field work since Kenya it didn't take long to discover how rusty we had become and were thankful that our Company Commander had decided to concentrate first on individual training then build up to section tactics. The first week's training punctuated with local dances went very quickly. Most of the dances finished about midnight and because buses were non-existent the five mile walk back to camp proved sobering, but Cpl James fell upon a short cut and having crossed three rivers and walked 15 heathered miles, staggered into camp well after dawn. L/Cpl Reid might have been at the same party because on his return along the road he had the misfortune to attack a passing car, which resulted in a quiet week in hospital, for, guess who? That week-end the marrieds had the chance to return to their wives in Edinburgh and the bachelors were able to rush off to Newcastle. Most people took the opportunity to get away as this was the last week-end before coming onto our Spearhead role. On 15th September with 'B' Company as second to fly we started this task. In the second week of our Otterburn stay individual initiative was restricted as far as exercises were concerned because the recall system demanded to know the whereabouts of everyone at all times. This put paid to the carefully planned patrolling exercise organised for the penultimate night and instead we had the Company Smoker. A quick look around the village showed us the possibilities of the Stable Bar at the Towers Hotel and there we went.

Saturday, 19th September saw our return to Redford and for the next few weeks we stuck to doing Anti Ambush and IS Drills, with quick shooting on the 30 yds. range. In the first week of October this training reached its climax with an inter platoon competition in which 8 Platoon excelled at shooting and 5 Platoon, under 2/Lieut Duncan ran off with the Internal Security Drills prize. 6 Platoon came into their own the following weekend by fielding a strong 6-a-side football team consisting of 2/Lieut Napier, Cpls Donald and Cole, L/Cpls Cole and Ritchie and Pte Weir. These six beat the best of the other platoon teams. Over this period we became leading Company to fly out and it was most enlightening to study the location board of the key personnel of the Company. No names mentioned but Leith Walk seems quite popular. Whilst still on leading element we classified on the SLR and GPMG. We were particularly fortunate with the weather but any way it was no surprise when we produced a higher percentage of marksmen than the other companies. Sgt Lowe who is with 8 Platoon challenged Sgt Major Freeman in the SLR shoot with side bets, but the CSM coolly attained the better score by one hit and walked off with the stake.

Concurrently with the shooting there ran the inter-company Novices Boxing competition. Initially the return for volunteers was disappointing but a few days before the first round a quiet word from the CSM brought one half of the Company forward as



'B' Company - December, 1964

genuine volunteers. Right from the start we realized that 'D' Company were going to be our chief opponents. We made up for lack of training by fighting spirit and congratulate all the Company boxers on a great win and in particular thank 2/Lieut I. G. H. Wallace and Pte Cole for the points they attained by winning their weights. Pte Cole had a special revenge as he defeated Pte Firth who had knocked out his brother in the semi-finals. Other finalists were 2/Lieut A. W. Duncan, Ptes Low 43 and Reid 42. Pte Reid in particular put up an excellent fight against Lieut T. H. G. Duke.

On 22nd October, two days after the 67th Anniversary of Dargai the Company flew to Stanford, taking with it all the HQ Company attached personnel. In spite of careful thought given to the priorities of our first chinks who departed in Hastings very early that morning it was the Argosys taking off later and avoiding the fog that landed in the battle area first. Hardly had we put our rubber soles on the tarmac at Stanford Airfield than we were whisked off by Helicopter and dropped near Battalion HQ in the exercise area. By dusk, not only had the company consolidated but had done a two phase attack and captured a ruined farm house. Soon after dark the enemy, The Cameronians, were seen approaching, but a sharp Company HQ movement quickly routed them. The

following morning we pushed forward, leap frogging the platoons until the ultimate objective, which demanded a battalion attack, was taken.

We then marched to East Wretham Camp through game infested woods and met up with our kit. We had the week-end to sort our stores out and explore the countryside. In the morning on the 26th October, a Monday, Ex Tricorn, a three sided Company Exercise started. Digging, Patrolling, Radio Procedure and camouflage were thoroughly tested and nearly everyone enjoyed themselves. During a night of constructive and intensive patrolling L/Cpl Hamilton's toilet was disturbed by an 'A' Company projectile and the confucian theory about the sloth of men with trousers down was disproved. By dawn the patrols had found their way back to the position and a good picture was built up of the 'A' and 'D' Company locations. To round off the exercise we had a visit from our late Company Commander, Major 'Flying' Brown, who flew over our positions in a helicopter and tried to discover the individual trenches. After Tricorn we had a Company Advance exercise before the last Battalion exercise, Final Fling. For this we rose around 3 a.m. and moved into a concentration area, then breakfasted in a large pine wood where our one ton vehicle got stuck between two trees and needed the skill of Pte Donald 60 to extract it. After



Corporal James - Company Clerk

dawn we crossed the start line behind 'A' Company but quickly tragedy struck when our Company Commander was umpired out as dead. Wood clearing, consolidation, a powerful Right hook and a quick follow up soon brought the Battalion into a position from which to make its grand slam. 'A' Company were still fighting an unseen enemy on the right of the Axis but Major Simpson, now commanding, fearing a delay threw in a two company assault with 'B' Company on the right of the line. All too soon it was over and we had to return to East Wretham and then by train to Redford.

November was then upon us and thankfully Spearhead behind at last. We had a month before the Administrative Inspection in which to complete our classification on all weapons, PE Tests, TsOET and furthermore a recruiting campaign to fit in. Once it was over our programme was recheck and rehearse for the 1st December.

As we go off on block leave for six weeks and before the pen runs dry, congratulations must be extended to L/Cpls Smith and Reid on their promotion. Sadness filled us when on the 10th August Pte Rhind dropped off the tree of bachelorhood and succumbed to Marriage. Even more sad is the potential danger in which five of our valuable men have put themselves by becoming engaged. These are Cpl Davidson and Pts Christie, Nisbet, Baillie and Galbraith. Seriously though, good luck to you all and we hope in no time at all that you will catch up with Cpls McIntosh and Paterson who have just increased their broods. A dear little girl to each, Linda and



C/Sergeant Williams with Ptes Davidson and McKay

Moira respectively. We haven't lost many of our ranks yet, only Sgt Richardson who went off in November to the Junior Soldiers Company at the Depot and Cpls Morrison and Cole who were posted to the Training staff at the Depot. Finally we welcome Cpl Henderson back from Bridge of Don and give our best wishes to C/Sgt Murray firstly on his promotion and secondly on the mammoth task ahead of him in the Officers' Mess.



Corporal Donald, who often kept goal for the Company

#### 'D' COMPANY

##### Appointments :

*Company Commander:* Captain A. N. M. Scott

*Company 2/C:* Lieutenant G. H. Peebles

*Platoon Commanders:*

2/Lieutenant R. J. Gerrard

2/Lieutenant P. M. Mahon

2/Lieutenant R. Ord

*Sergeant Major:* WOII R. Carruthers

*Company QM Sergeant:* C/Sergeant Stevenson

The beginning of September saw the company preparing for platoon training at Otterburn. Most people were glad to get away from the barracks and into the field; it was not too cold and it rained only once so we were, indeed, fortunate with mother nature. We were kept busy and our field work, which was slow and uninspired to begin with, soon became more polished. During this period we came on 'Spearhead' but, as we were not the leading element we missed much of the flap, practice turnouts, etc., that naturally accompany such an operation. Nevertheless, we could

feel many of the moves afoot even in Northumberland! By 19th September we were still not fully trained but we were now fitter and able to move faster than before. We had the basic skill, the knowledge, and now, on return, we had to keep this going so as to be fit for our Company and Battalion training in late October. The 21st September saw us back in Edinburgh once again and the strain of the standby role was only too apparent.

However, September came to an end with more rehearsals and practices for flyout intermingled with fitness training and some Internal Security drills. A certain amount of range work was done and October saw us preparing in mind and body, for Battalion training at Stanford.

'D' Company came on to leading element duties just before flying down to Norfolk and the last few days were frantic ones. From the move down by air until we returned to Edinburgh by train on Saturday, 31st October, platoon commander Richard Ord takes up the story:—The dawn on the 21st October brought out the sun for probably the last time this year, certainly we did not see it again until 31st October! Mr Alexander's coaches rolled off the square at 1000 hrs and set us down on the tarmac at Turnhouse ready to fly. The chalk commander, Boy Gerrard, ushered everybody into line for emplaning and the Press took advantage to make their meagre headlines more exciting with a few snaps of the 'boys' doing the 'soldier' act! Many of the photographs were later published and Scottish Television had a few shots that evening on the programme 'A Quick Look Around.'

After an uneventful trip, apart from the landing which was a little bumpy, we landed in thick fog at RAF Watton. In fact we were fortunate as only one other plane was able to land that night. So 'D' Company plus, we hasten to add, Battalion Headquarters were on their own for the first few hours. We held the position for the first night despite constant attacks by the 'enemy'.

A cold first night enabled us to keep awake most of the time and our sentries found little difficulty in being alert! They could hardly keep still! Dawn found the whole company amove before being roused and it was a welcome sight to see the matelots from 'A' Company passing through our position by lunch-time.

For the remaining week the company returned to camp for the week-end, carried out a Defence and Patrolling Exercise, did some platoon and company attacks and took part in the Battalion's final exercise, 'Final Fling'.



Mohats

Great drive and speed were shown by the junior NCOs and this gave us a good rate of advance and enabled us to overcome the opposition quickly. Everything went extremely well for the company and all hostilities were halted at 1430 hrs on the 29th October. The CSM plus company headquarters including L/Cpl Ross, Ptes Angus and Cox, captured the Recce platoon commander, and the company commander had a fairly comfortable 'kip' during some of the chaos that was going on around him! He also managed a trip in the early morning to look at the positions by courtesy of Major Tony Brown and Captain Pat Duvall, the latter having served with him in Nigeria only last year.

November saw us back in Edinburgh, much fitter and more confident of being able to wage war on anybody who was at all interested in doing so. Mainly an 'Admin' month. Recruiting took up two full weeks for most of us including preparation, planning and a long week-end to follow.

On Sunday, 15th November Edinburgh Area asked us to lay on a demonstration for some CCF officers and 'D' Company took on the task. The aim of the day was, to bring CCF officers up to date with modern military equipment and remind them of basic infantry tactics. Sgt Bobbie Greenhowe, who ran the administrative side of the day now takes up the story:—We formed up on the 15th November—a cold and miserable day. We had hoped to commence round about 1000 hrs, but five minutes before this time only four of the officers had turned up! However, the day was saved when another twelve arrived to make a total of 16!

Rather late, but undaunted, Captain Scott gave his introduction which started off a rather tight schedule. After the introduction, a 'demo' by Cpl Robertson and his section explaining what each individual carried; what their duties were, etc., and this put the students in the picture concerning the modern Army. A more detailed, and very amusing description, of clothing and weapons was given by Cpl McKenzie and he found that he had an appreciative audience. We owe our thanks to the Signal Officer for his co-operation in displaying his valuable wireless sets, which, quite naturally, proved rather a little too technical due to the shortage of time allowed.

We moved out to the range to give the students an opportunity of firing the weapons used in today's Army. On the termination of firing we moved inside a large, 'drafty' hut which L/Cpl Gillies had done well to make comfortable. Most windows were boarded up and two fires roared.

At 1400 hrs we started once more and the students were given the opportunity of airing their views in the normal stages of conventional warfare. The Area Commander came to see how everything was going at 1500 hrs and Major Neish, a mine of information, was invaluable during the discussions.

The students showed their gratitude in a closing speech by the senior officer, which made the effort by all who took part worth while.

We enjoyed putting on this 'day' for the CCF officers and really hope that they gained a lot of benefit from it. Perhaps even a few recruits for us in a year or two!

The last week of November was spent rehearsing for the Administrative Parade which took place on 1st December. Lucky 'D' Company were 'selected' to go over the assault course but neither the company commander, with stick, platoon commander, 2/Lt Gerrard with hands, or any of three NCOs managed to get over the ropes! Perhaps we will be kind this time and not mention their names! The Area Com-

mander seemed to enjoy this outburst of energy and stayed until the end and seemed quite pleased.

### Farewells

We say goodbye to our Company Commander, Captain A. N. M. Scott, who leaves us either to go to Malaysia on secondment or to 'A' Company for our FARELF tour: to 2/Lt Gerrard who also hopes to go to Malaysia: to C/Sgt Stevenson who goes to the London Scots: to Sgt Watt who is now at Oswestry with the Inf Junior Leaders Battalion: to Sgt Greenhowe who goes, as training Sgt, to the Depot: to Cpl Young who leaves after a long service for civvy street: to Cpl Laing who has 'found' enough money to buy himself out!: to Pte Gilroy who has completed six years' service with the regiment and has decided to emigrate to Australia: to L/Cpl Barron who has been medically discharged. Good luck in civvy street: to Ptes Dalgarno and McShannon who have both left us, the former having been SOS for medical reasons and the latter leaving the Army: and finally to Pte Merchant who leaves us for a spell in the Sgts Mess. We wish all of them good luck in their new jobs.

### 'Congrats'

To the Company Commander and Company Sergeant Major on their substantive promotion within a day or two of each other; to Begg, who finally achieved a brilliant success in his 3rd class education examination. Third time lucky! to Norton who also leaped the same hurdle; 'G.I.' did not manage this time but we hope he will do better next time. Bad luck: Those who took 1st class are still waiting. To our boxers who put up such a fine performance in the Novices Competition. 'B' Company won but it was a very close second for 'D' Company.

#### Winners:

Heavyweight—L/Cpl Gillies  
Welterweight—Pte Merchant

#### Runners-up:

Light Heavyweight—Lt Peebles  
Lightweight—Pte Watson

### Welcomes

To a new (but yet familiar person!) our Company Commander, Major J. T. D. Durbin; to a new (but yet not so new!) 2i/c, Captain I. Fleming; (Congrats on your recent promotion); to newly commissioned 2/Lt Ord who has already made his mark in the company; to a new CQMS, recently promoted, C/Sgt Calum Campbell; to Sgt Baldwin from the Depot; to Sgt Warden who arrives on 10th December; to Sgt Buchan who arrives shortly; to Cpl Potter and Pte Whyte 15 who have returned from a six months tour in Aden; to Pte Murison, from 'B' Company; and, finally, a belated welcome to all those who recently joined us from 'C' Company.

### HEADQUARTERS (1) COMPANY

There have not been any changes in the Coy HQ Staff, or is it that life has been too hectic to notice them!

C/Sgt Somers after one or two trial packs of the G1098 boxed the whole lot up and handed it in to the Baggage Officer. From the end of the first week in September till arriving at Stanford on 24 October a mill-board covered with packing notes and issue vouchers became his office.

CSM Dunn sat bemused, his desk littered with nominal rolls, standing orders on this and that and

the odd one, two or three flight plans, wondering what was the difference between a chalk, Annexure 'B' to Appendix 'A', Annexure 'A' to Appendix 'B', battalion priority and flight numbers—all the while the Orderly Room ringing up to doubt the actual number of soldiers he thought he had. Strange to say the correct number of soldiers emerged from the planes when eventually they arrived at Watton Airfield.

Cpl Taylor sat behind a pile of Passports trying to work out who had out of date ones, who had current ones and who had two or more, meantime answering the ever-ringing telephone requests for up to date information about inoculations and vaccinations and such strange matters as blood-groups.

On the return from Stanford someone was inconsiderate enough to suggest that it might be a good idea to do such things as fire ones range course and perform one's PE Tests. What's more they suggested that HQ (1) Coy fire the GPMG. Now our chaps work under many different stones but by each stone appeared a GPMG surrounded by soldiers with one such acting as 'Master'.

"and more and more the wonder grew that one small head could carry all he knew."

(apologies to 'Goldsmith')

On looking back it was a wonder that so much ammunition was usefully used. Shortly after, there began a multilateral argument (we are modern in this company) with many protesting that they were in fact over 36, or at least looked it. Our Company Documents really can't be that wrong. It was surprising what feats of physical endurance were coaxed from all and sundry by none other than Sgt Sharp, the Provost Sergeant.

In the company office we have always been a little bit mystified by the whereabouts of the two bands we are supposed to look after, but eventually we turned out on the Administrative Inspection return a total of—181—out of a paper strength (certified by the CSM) of—186.

And now, at last, a little leave!

### QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

Since our last notes, the staff have been kept very busy indeed preparing for fly-out duties, packing, weighing of boxes, etc., and at the same time satisfying the demands of the remaining companies and departments, throughout the Battalion. The old cliché 'Difficult matters take 24 hours, impossibilities a little longer' certainly seemed to apply in this case. However, we are proud to say that we had the Battalion 'Fit to Fly' in the time allowed. The grand finale was the exercise in Norfolk when we completed our fly-out duties and returned once more to Edinburgh more or less as free men again. That is to say, we could go out without having to inform our respective offices as to our whereabouts in case of emergency.

The Command Secretariat paid a visit to the Battalion the week before we went to Norfolk, and surprised everyone by going, not to the clothing and G1098 stores, but straight to the ration stores, there to remain for most of the week. There is to be no escape however. He comes back on 30th November.

At present a stock-taking board of officers is going round in the Battalion and the clothing and G1098 stores have been checked twice already in case something should appear or disappear when it shouldn't.

The Advance Party of the staff for Borneo are just at the end of their leave now, and the Main Body disappear on leave on 4th December. The Quarter-

master has returned from a brief recce to Boreo, and latest reports don't make our next station sound like a holiday camp.

C/Sgt Arthur Varley has now left us to take up the post of Master Tailor at the Highland Brigade Depot. Before he left the staff presented him with a pewter mug, suitably inscribed, and a salad bowl and servers in recognition of his stay with us. Almost 10 years ago, C/Sgt Varley joined the Battalion as Master Tailor in Cyprus, and has been with us ever since. We wish him the best of luck in his new job and plenty of Brown Ale in his mug.

In closing we would like to welcome Sgt Dack RAOC who replaces C/Sgt Varley, Pte Low as Quartermaster's Orderly and lastly Pte Selkirk on his return from the Highland Brigade Depot. Pte Selkirk has been away on 'Temporary Loan' for about 9 months. We hope their stay with us will be a long and happy one.

### PRI

Since our last notes, and returning from Bisley, business for the PRI has been as brisk as ever, i.e., with Cpls Wilson and McGee on their morning paper deliveries, Sgt Haynes and Pte Drake looking after the PRI shop which is now at an end as the NAAFI did not agree with our strong competition. Mrs Bristow and her crew of 'Bapsreaders' are seen during breaks around the barrack area. The transport side have also been in great demand despite the number of Vivas attending the outpatients department with the help of the unit MT Platoon. Our two Regimental Juggernauts have also made weekly pilgrimages to the granite city 'noisily but safely'. The Military Band will bear witness to this having travelled many hundreds of miles in them. Jimmy Leggat, for his efforts at keeping the transport running was suitably rewarded with a crown to top his stripes, "Well done Jimmy!". It has been a long time. Whilst the battalion was at Otterburn, C/Sgt Leggat was dragooned into taking over the ammunition and running the nightly cinema performances, after which he managed to get his car overhauled, having used it for duty at Otterburn, now that his plea for a refund of petrol expenses has been successfully ignored.

Cpl 'Tug' Wilson has returned to 'D' Coy, but still he will not feel lonely as Thomson, McIvor, Murray and Cpl McGee will be accompanying him. McIvor presumably as Major Durbin's boot boy, not that the boots will appreciate this move (nor will Major Durbin).

Pte Thomson (ex Bus Driver) has handed in the bus for a wife; congratulations Tomo, we hope she handles better than the bus did! Fordyce (Viva Section) has left us for Rolls Royces in civvy street; best of luck Tony, no more free petrol though. By simple mathematics this leaves Sgt Haynes as sole survivor to carry the PRI Banner to Borneo.

Lastly we welcome Captain Murison as PRI Officer, and a hearty farewell to Major Durbin back to his beloved 'D' Coy.

### INTELLIGENCE SECTION

Shortly after our last notes it was confirmed that the Battalion was going to Norfolk for a period of training. The IO decided that since we had not been on exercise for quite a while, the machinery needed a little oiling. Therefore we embarked on a Crash Cadre.

A new aspect in our training was a short course in air photographic reading which was enjoyed by all except that it caused some argument. Can you tell the

difference between a muddy pond and a dirty tennis court on a photo taken from thirty thousand feet? We also covered wireless, and it was at this time that we discovered a new Battalion character. He is known throughout the Battalion as 'Unknown station,' but to his more intimate associates it is 'Who me?' I speak of none other than Pte Moir. 'Who me?' joined the section last August and promises to be another Willie.

L/Cpl Black has tired of the hectic life we lead and has become the new postie. Good luck in the new job and keep the letters coming Willie. Readers of this column may remember that L/Cpl Lindley and Pte Simpson were on an NCOs Cadre. They both did well and the outcome was that Pte Simpson was promoted to the dizzy heights of L/Cpl. He created a new record by being checked by the RSM for not having chevrons on his jacket, seconds after his promotion was published in orders. Congratulations Bert (sign on).

The next problem to arise was how could we pack our fly-out boxes, and still have room for Sgt Cameron's sleeping bag. The problem was solved and when we flew down to Norfolk, the sleeping bag came too. The following exercises proved that we hadn't lost our touch. The Command Post went up and down so fast that one small signaller, who got in the way, nearly found himself packed and stored away in our trailer.

The preponderance of pheasant in the area severely tempted our game experts and Messrs Black and Simpson, who could be heard to mutter something about "a bit of wire and a stick."

Between brewing up and roasting chestnuts, all the section had their share of duty clerk in the Command Post. At times the battle became extremely complicated and the off going clerk had to brief the incoming clerk on a battle such as no 'World War Two' ever experienced.

It has been suggested that I am some kind of a prophet. Every time I sit down to write these notes, the Battalion moves. Well once again, it's happened. The Battalion is moving to the Far East. Sgt Cameron, L/Cpl Simpson and Pte Dixon have been warned for the Advance Party. On reaching that Bastion of the latter day Empire, Singapore, they will attend a course at the Language School.

Bert Simpson's plans of a Hogmanay to end all Hogmanays were dashed when he learned that they were to fly-out in late December, 1964.

L/Cpl Lindley and Pte Moir are already having nightmares about packing and handing in kit.

As I write these notes Sgt Cameron and L/Cpl Simpson are on well earned leave after taking part in the Battalion Recruiting drive. Sgt Cameron managed to get some information back stating that things hadn't gone too badly. From the bad lands of Banff however (L/Cpl Simpson's area) nothing except a few rumours.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, L/Cpl Lindley and Pte Dixon have been lavishing loving care on the Battalion Briefing Room. They have turned a once pleasant room into a kaleidoscopic exhibition of information on Malaysia.

Our next notes will be from the deepest jungles of the Far East. The IO has just returned from a recce of the new posting. So far he has not let us in on all his secrets, and we treat his silence with the utmost suspicion. However with Swaziland, Zanzibar and the East African Mutinies emblazoned on our colours we can survive anything.

### BATTALION ORDERLY ROOM

As these notes go to press we are getting things moving for our tour in Borneo. The Orderly Room Advance Party consists of Sgt Dowding and Pte Falconer. Sgt Dowding is beginning to wonder if the place is full of oriental beauties by the way the clerks all want to go with him in January. He is quite sure it isn't that they want some hard work.

L/Cpl Gibson found himself alone once again after receiving a 'Dear John' whilst the battalion was at Stanford. He is now looking for someone about 6ft tall, heavily built, but looks do not matter. Anyone interested? The staff now plays his 'favourite' record (The Crying Game) every time they visit the NAAFI.

Something out of the ordinary happened during the month of September, which should go down in Regimental History—C/Sgt West managed to take a month's leave—I can assure you that all the clerks were amazed at the time they were getting their work finished during that period.

We congratulate Pte Salker on the birth of a girl on 23rd October. He is very proud of her as it is his first daughter.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Pte (Belt up) Graham, who has taken up a new appointment in the Medical Centre. Let us hope he is not let loose with needles, or there will be no Orderly Room Staff left to write our 'Tiger and Sphinx' notes next quarter!

Captain Graham has just returned from two weeks' leave in Skye. He says he enjoyed it very much, but would not accept a kind invitation to stay there! Nevertheless we were all very glad to see him back in the chair once again after having Lt Van Der Noot and Captain Oxley trying their hardest to work the staff off their feet. Hard luck Sir's, we managed to keep our heads above water. What can you expect when you finish at half past four?

RSM (Joe) Innes has decided to go home for his tea every day now, as the staff seem to forget him at tea times. Don't worry Sir, you will probably manage to arrange something in Borneo even though the Sergeants' Mess is so far away from your office and despite the fact that the staff will be too busy.

We must congratulate Pte Greig 763 on his recent engagement and wish him all the very best of luck in the future.

Pte Addison's dream has come true in a way, as he is now going to Borneo with us, but will NOT be joining his brother, as he has always been trying so hard to do. Never mind Ken, there are better things than brothers in Borneo according to the Recce Party postcards that have been received.

We welcome Lt J. R. Urquhart from 'D' Company who has joined us an Assistant Adjutant and Pte McGruer from 'C' Company.

We close these notes, in the middle of our Annual Administration Inspection and everyone is doing their best to convince the Inspecting Officers that the Orderly Room Staff are not having an Annual clean out—like everyone else.

### HEADQUARTERS (2) COMPANY

To start at the end we have recently said goodbye to Captain Gordon-Steward whose departure coincided with the END of road runs. We welcome Major I. Martineau from 'A' Company, Pte Flett to the Company store and Pte Mellis from Oswestry.

After our return from Bisley while the Platoons were training for operational readiness, we caught up with most of the backlog of paperwork, but as Spearhead approached we were suddenly interrupted again. Nominal rolls for X-rays, passports, Identity Cards,



Exercise Jig-Saw: HQ 2 Company emplanes at Turnhouse. Cpl Brechin, Ptes Dunn, Duncan, McDonald, Greening, Bruce, L/Cpl Hossack

inoculations assorted and blood groups, to name but a few.

Spearhead came and for five weeks left us unmoved—everything was packed and we had nothing to move. Then came the exodus to Stanford. Certain members of the Company who should normally be considered 'Key personnel' did not even know where we were located until thirty minutes before we moved off on return to Redford. One of the older hands remarked, after his Argosy had beaten all records for the long jump on landing in fog, that travel in the Middle East is much better, where the Argosys at least had comfortable seats and meals were served in flight. Office-wise nothing of note occurred. The weather, as has doubtless been noted countless times, was miserable and the order of dress by day and night was long johns and two pairs of laces.

Between flying for standby, and up to eighty thousand, for the Annual Inspection followed by a proper flyout for the Far East we are living high.

Cpl Lawes our pay clerk reckons we are way above our income in several cases anyway.

### THE SIGNAL PLATOON

We came back from Bisley to settle down to some training and perhaps some fun. The big thing on all our minds at this time was the new cadre. Things went on, the cadre sat their exams and most were accepted into the Platoon. This has increased our strength by quite a number, probably with much relief to the RSO who had quite a big problem of where he would get the men for Spearhead.

His problem partially solved, we proceeded to prepare for Spearhead with fingers crossed and hearts in mouths. It was not long before the hustle and bustle started, the 'phone in the office was constantly on the go. C/Sgt Mitchell and Sgt Harman were working like ants in the store as everything had to be in perfect working condition, from the smallest antenna to the largest set but with a lot of patience and hard work on everyone's part we finally achieved this aim and sat back to wait for our six weeks Spearhead tour.

Spearhead came, and went. I won't say it went quickly for it kept most of us confined to Edinburgh for at least two weeks and some of us for longer, however it was uneventful much to our relief. The thing it did manage to do was to split the Signal Platoon up; everyone was allocated to a particular



**L/Corporal Reid's Wedding :**

**l to r: Pte Adam, L/C Reid, Barbara Reid, Miss Stella Parkinson**

job and had to stay with it. The job began to get monotonous but the Battalion had the answer to this too. Why not try out what we had been practising for so long; a fly-out into mock action; so we found ourselves Stanford bound.

We arrived in Stanford on a cold, damp, dreary morning, and went on to find and fight a friendly foe. Here the Platoon was well split up into its small groups. As the ground there is ideal for VHF communications the Command Net operators had little enough to do. Line was laid at every excuse until eventually our line parties knew what was expected and could produce it, given time.

It seemed at times that something was wrong in Battalion Headquarters because there was no sign or sound of charging engines. After many years of struggle, and in our case after three months fairly hard endeavour, we contrived to have ourselves equipped with 24 Volt C42, radios which cut the requirement for heavy batteries to almost nil.

We look forward now, in this order, to, block leave, the arrival of our new RSO, Capt Bruce, and Borneo.

### **RECCE PLATOON**

Since the last time of writing the Recce Platoon has had its first chance to try out all the new skills it has learnt. At Otterburn we were able to field-fire the Vickers, probably for the last time ever, which is a sad thought for the hardened old machine-gun core. Despite being very rusty we had some quite good shooting and the more difficult night firing was quite encouraging. On the new Recce, by a marathon of driving by much-bullied Scott, our four new B47 radios arrived in time for us to use them during the second half of our stay at the AATC. Helped by the previous experience at Buddon we were able to achieve a very fair standard in the new job.

Getting back to Redford the platoon was almost immediately plunged into running the range for HQ1 and getting itself classified; many of us who consider ourselves 'old hands', had conspicuously little success with the new GPMG which was, of course, the gun's fault.

For Ex Jigsaw 5 we flew south except for the six drivers. We started badly, Reid 65 blew up his second champ ('the man's a menace') and was promptly snaffled by the MT. The Platoon commander's vehicle having successfully done 200 miles failed to start when he got out of the aircraft, and Scott had to wind under the noses of all the important people gathering to watch. To make it worse Cpl Philip was captured by the enemy within half an hour of landing.

Since returning we have completed our PE tests in a sea of blisters and gasping. For the Annual Inspection the Recce Platoon reverted to a demonstration of Machine-Gun work involving a large amount of unpopular digging.

Outside purely military activities the Platoon has provided three vehicles and crewed one of them in the Command Motor Rally, and, as reported, got nowhere. Two Recce Platoon vehicles, complete with crews, went up to Aberdeen for the Cavalcade, and three of the crew remained to recruit afterwards. History does not relate how many possibles they scared away with their fund of horrific stories.

In the realm of sports, for which the great majority of us have been too busy, L/Cpls Philip and Kerr have played for the Battalion football side. HQ2 boxing team was chiefly made up of the Recce Platoon, and although no great skill was shown, much blood was shed and those not taking part thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle.

For the future it appears likely that the Platoon will train as skilled trackers; we hope under Sgt Waters' experienced eye; and will then be dispersed as trackers-sections to each company. That is all except Scott who hopes he will be allowed to endanger some poor harmless helicopter pilot by 'mucking about' with these machines.

### **MOTOR TRANSPORT PLATOON**

Since we last went to press our experiences have been varied, funny and at times frustrating. Ptes Henderson and Simmers for instance in early September completed together a detail, which in all covered no less than 1,125 miles. An analysis of the journey is, we hope, given elsewhere in this edition by Pte Simmers himself.

September also found us all busily preparing to take over the role of Spearhead Battalion. One of the jobs for which the MT Platoon was held responsible was bringing into barracks all the living out men should an emergency arise. To familiarize the drivers with the location of the houses in the married quarters and private housing areas, a number of practices were held during the day and night. A little humour crept in during the wee sma' hours one day when Pte Greig was doing the rounds. Due to a slight error on Greig's part a house whose front door got a polite hammering had civilian occupants. Imagine his surprise when the front door was flung open to emit a figure in full fire-fighting regalia of the local force, shouting "where's the fire?"

On September 7th we took the rifle companies and the support platoons to Otterburn training area and stayed there with them to assist in their training until 21st September. During this period Cpl Parrott our REME man on the spot did a very good job in keeping the wheels turning.



**Driver Donald takes his landrover into the aircraft at Turnhouse, Edinburgh**

During this month also the MTO, Sgt Bell and Pte Donald 94 with others of the Battalion visited the Royal Air Force station at Leuchars. This was to have been the airfield from which we would have flown had the need arisen. They were attending a conference dealing with the business of making such a move easy for both services. After lunch all three, with Capt Young our RMP officer, were given a most instructive conducted tour of the hangars by a very experienced RAF officer. It was agreed by all of our party that the Lightning aircraft is a most impressive machine.

September 26 and 27 saw the Edinburgh Area and 52 Lowland Div/Dist Motor Rally. Despite rather short notice and no previous experience two teams of three vehicles were entered. Sgt Fryers and his team were well placed but the other team, each vehicle officer-led, had bad luck either with mechanical or geographical problems. However, despite some severe weather and a 'hard day's night' at the wheel, a good time was had by all competitors. L/Cpl Caley did a very good job in coming in at the last moment and putting up the best crew score out of our six vehicles.

In October a fly-out exercise was staged from Turnhouse to Stanford Practical Training Area in Norfolk. Fourteen of our vehicles with their trailers were flown out in Argosy aircraft. The remainder of our establishment travelled by road. Assisting the RAF with loading and lashing the vehicles into the aircraft were our well trained experts, Sgt Bell, Cpl Plowman, Ptes Duncan 85, Johnston 60 and McKnight. The Royal Air Force personnel were, not unnaturally, a little dubious about the unknown ability of the L & L Team. However all was well when, after Sgt Bell and Co had corrected some rather inexperienced RAF lashings they grudgingly admitted "you've got to hand it to them, the b...s know what they are on."

Our team of boffins has finally broken up. It is not easy to recall when some of them joined us, they have been around so long. Cpls Brennan and Parrott have left us and Cfn Campbell goes soon. Cfn Hudspeth is leaving after nearly six years with us. L/Cpl Caley is due to depart for Hong Kong although he is a much more recent arrival. To them all we send good wishes and will be pleased to see them when our paths next meet. So far we have received in return Sgt Sanderson, Cpl Sanders, Cfn Walker and Cfn Ramsay and welcome them to the bench.

At the time we sit tapping away with our two fingers at the infernal machine we have safely passed the ordeal of audit, or Sgt Fryers and L/Cpl Gill have anyway. The annual Fitness For Role inspection has also been hurdled with a good degree of skill, now we proceed to the annual Technical Inspection and believe it or not all three followed on successive days. These inspections have called for a great deal of work from the whole team. Well done.

And so to Borneo. We look forward to dealing in helicopters, motor sampans and the odd land vehicles. More anon.

### **A DRIVER'S DILEMMA**

**by Pte Simmers**

Most people think that the MT drivers have an easy time and that when we go on a driving detail, it's just a case of going there and back. I admit that is the normal procedure, but I would like to tell you of a trip that turned out like something from a comic opera.

Tuesday, 1 Sept., '64, at about 1700 hrs. in the evening I had just got back from a detail, when C/Sgt McDonald got a 'phone call from the Transport Office RASC about a vehicle to go down to Abingdon near Oxford. He told me Pte Henderson would be my co-driver.

From the start everything seemed to go wrong, for we were told to go to the guard room and collect six jerrycans of petrol which were to be left there by RASC Transport Office as the local petrol pump was closed. When we got there we got the cans alright but whoever left them forgot to fill them, so here we were with some 500 miles to go with six empty jerrycans, and a half tank of petrol.

About the detail; we had to go first to Glasgow to pick up 40 drums of brake fluid and deliver them to Abingdon so they could be taken by plane to Germany. After we had sorted out the petrol situation we started off about 1845 hrs, a bit late, for we had to arrive at Glasgow before 2015 hrs, or we would not get the load. On arriving in Glasgow we found the firm alright, loaded our drums on the truck, so up to now the only thing that had gone right was at the civilian end of things.

We returned to Edinburgh, then set off for Abingdon at about 2230 hrs. We had to be down at Abingdon by 1800 hrs on the 2 Sept., '64 as there was a plane flying for Germany and the drums of brake fluid had to be aboard.

Driving down the A1 everything was going fine, then all of a sudden there came some banging from the back of the truck. We stopped to find that the drums had broken loose, and that one of them had burst open spilling five gallons of brake fluid all over the back of the truck making it like an ice rink. We arrived at Abingdon at about 1630 hrs and were sent straight to a hangar, where we were to be unloaded (So we thought). On inspecting the drums, the Air Traffic Control Officer told us that the seals on the drums were not the right kind, and that we would have to take them back to Glasgow. Well you should have heard what we said to each other, it's unprintable, and on top of that they told us that there had been a 'phone call from Edinburgh telling us to proceed to Donnington, near Wolverhampton to pick up some urgently required stores to take back to our own unit.

I got on the 'phone to our MTO right away, and explained the situation down here; he told us just to proceed on our journey the next day after we had a good night's sleep. The journey to Donnington was

uneventful and on getting there we picked up the stores, and were just getting ready to start home about 1630 hrs (Thursday) when we were told there was a 'phone call for us; we looked at each other, then said "What next". It seemed that the Army Department had been wondering where their brake fluid had got to, and as you see, they had caught us. We were then told we had to go back to Abingdon and that they would transfer the brake fluid from the drums to some safer containers. That just about did it as far as Pte Henderson was concerned, for here was a man getting married the next weekend, and was going on leave the next day (Friday) to make all the arrangements for his wedding, but it seemed by now that we would never get back, so here I was on the 'phone again to our unit. C/Sgt McDonald answered—I started to explain, but he knew everything, as it seemed that 'Q' Movements, Scottish Command, had been in contact with them, also about our whereabouts. I told him how Pte Henderson was feeling, and how he was wondering if he would ever get married. He told us to carry on down south, again, and that he would let the MTO know all about it. In our instructions we had to take them (the drums) back to RAF Abingdon, and on arriving there we would unload, and under no circumstances would we move until I had got orders personally from them over the 'phone. So once again we were off, we arrived back at Abingdon at about 2030 hrs (Thursday) and found that a party of RASC were waiting to unload us. We asked if we were free to go back to our own unit, and would you believe it, the answer was 'yes'. Stopping there for a couple of hours, we set off about midnight for home, but even then our luck was out. We had hardly left Abingdon when our truck broke down; sorting the trouble out, we said surely nothing else will happen. But as you guessed something did, even the weather turned against us, for nearly all the way to Doncaster, we could hardly see the road for fog.

But to cut it short we finally arrived back home at 1530 hrs (Friday afternoon), so you see it doesn't always go the way you plan things, you just have to take things as they come. The miles we had travelled worked out at over 1,100.

By the way Pte Henderson got married alright, but at times he wondered if he would.

## 52 LOWLAND DIV/DIST AND EDINBURGH AREA MOTOR RALLY, 1964

It was with decidedly mixed feelings that most of us received the news that we were to spend a weekend driving over the windswept hills of Scotland's many bleaker areas in an open champ. However the six crews soon entered into the spirit of things and the sports ground was strewn with two-dimensional oil drums by the 'skilled drivers', while Dreghorn Hills took no small amount of punishment at the hands of those 'brushing up their cross country driving.'

Saturday, 26th September saw us all at the start point in Edinburgh, accompanied by the Commanding Officer and the MTO who had come to see us off. Morale was somewhat lowered when we saw the gear of the professionals—dashboard desks, map-reading gadgets, mileage charts and stopwatches and their crews nonchalantly taking fractional tyre-pressures and sparking timings with a cool assurance. ?

We crossed the start line 100 points down because 'B' Company had fielded too high-powered a team (rank-wise rather than ability wise) although C/Sgt Murray more than made up for the rally-driving 'abilities' of his team captain as he had been at the game before.

We all reached Doune by way of Kincardine Bridge and Loch Leven and seemingly everywhere else without a mishap and proceeded by devious routes towards Cultybraggan. Coming round the corner of a narrow lane in the dark, a local inhabitant, showing ample evidence of having imbibed more than a few drams over the prescribed eight, was seen to stagger in front of the vehicle and try to climb aboard, an effort only thwarted by a well delivered punch on the nose and his marked inability to climb aboard anything.

We arrived at Cultybraggan where we refuelled, had a meal and realised that most of the other 300 odd competitors from the Regular Army, TA and University OTCs were as new to this sort of thing as we were.

We left Cultybraggan for the night driving phase, much of which consisted of narrow lochside roads with hairpin bends and treacherous cambers coupled with the off-chance of going off the road into a loch. We later discovered that a crew of WRACs from Glasgow University OTC did just that. Chivalry was noticeably absent, the order of the day being 'each man for himself and the devil take the hindmost.'

The whereabouts of the checkpoints soon became evident as they were advertised by queues of 4-tonners parked just round the corner by the side of the road waiting to time their arrival to the minute.

Arriving back at Cultybraggan we snatched some sleep and breakfast before starting on the last leg to Lanark. This consisted of choosing one's route via two nominated checkpoints and arriving at a given time. At Cumbernauld Station, one of the checkpoints, map-reading proved to be at a premium since the railway track had been torn up and the old station was sjaip in the middle of a new town and a complex of dual-carriageways all unmarked on the map.

At the second checkpoint someone, employing low cunning, had placed a diversion sign in the middle of the road and the odds that that someone was connected with Lanark UDC were fairly long.

The Recce Pl crew were unlucky to have a breakdown on this leg as they were well in the hunt and taking closer order on the leaders by the minute.

We arrived at Lanark to do the last stage, which was the skilled driving test before the critical eye of the MTO who had sportingly turned up to cheer us home. This stage called for bluff and we put those deemed the most incapable of passing between the first pair of barrels at the wheel hoping that the judges would change him for one of his more competent passengers—they did!

Although we by no means swept the board of prizes, it was our first venture into that sort of motor-ing and we are grateful to 52 Lowland Div/Dist for organising this rally as not only was it of practical value in driving experience under relatively difficult conditions, but great fun and more than enjoyed by all those who took part.

### Team 'A'. The Gondoliers

- 1—Recce Pl: Lt T. H. G. Duke (Capt), Cpl Melville, L/Cpl Reid.
- 2—'D' Coy: 2/Lt R. J. Gerrard (Capt), Cpl Robertson, Pte Greig 93.
- 3—'B' Coy: 2/Lt I. G. H. Wallace (Capt), C/Sgt Murray, Pte Robertson 19.

### Team 'B'. The Shandeliers

- 1—MT: Sgt Fryers (Capt), L/Cpl Gill, Pte Fyvie.
- 2—MT: Cpl Douglas (Capt), Pte 'Doc' Lamb, Pte 'Gus' Donald.
- 3—MT: L/Cpl Caley (Capt), Pte Sutherland, Pte Henderson.

### OFFICERS' MESS

The Mess has settled down quickly and since September has provided hospitality, some planned and some unplanned, to many friends and visitors.

On 3rd September we held the first of a successful series of Guest Nights. Sir Gerald Mahon came, also Wing Commander Richardson, who was later to give the battalion invaluable help when we flew to Stanford.

By the 10th September the battalion was seriously considering the problems of flying and Captain Terry Mayo paid his first visit to advise on our efforts. He has since returned more than once and has become a well-known and welcome figure in the Mess.

On 12th September Lt Alastair Cumming kindly invited us all to his wedding at St Mary's Cathedral. The reception afterwards was in the Mess. A fine day and a Mess resplendent with flowers and silver contributed to an excellent party. Alastair and Hilary left for their honeymoon with our best wishes.

It is not often that two previous Commanding Officers visit the battalion on the same day, but on 21st September Major General Victor Campbell came from his home in Devonshire, and Lt Col 'Scrappy' Hay visited us on his way to Aberdeenshire.

A few days later Col R. A. G. Murphy arrived in the capacity of Secretary of the TA Sports Board to see a TA football team play a team from Catterick. We were worried by his late arrival but were very relieved that he survived such rough treatment on his train journey north.

Colonel George Ramsay, who will be remembered from Kenya where he commanded the Scots Guards, also visited us at about this time.

On 14th October Lt Christopher Van der Noot greeted Captain Patrick O'Callaghan, of the French Army as he arrived for a fortnight's 'au pair' visit. Patrick soon recovered from the shock and after firing his range course and studying our fly-out preparations realised that the British Army in the UK is really rather busy. He flew to Stanford with us and left on 30th September for a weekend in London before returning to his regiment in Metz.

Major Alan Bovington and Capt Donald McKay, both from the London Scottish arrived in time to fly to Stanford. Apparently they preferred the plane lift and the rigours of Stanford in winter to Dartmoor in summer. We hope they managed to reach 59 Buckingham Gate in time for Halloween.

At Stanford during the last week in October the Mess at East Wretham Camp was used for occasional meals and sometimes for sleeping in. But despite the dreams of certain officers pheasant never appeared on the menu, at least as far as the PMC knows. Major Dick Smart called in on us before taking a night in the open with the London Scottish, and Major Tony Brown just managed to find the place when flying through fog in his helicopter.

On 12th November, back again in Redford Barracks we dined some well-known friends. There were Colonel Usher and Lt Col Moffat; Lt Col Pat Forbes came down from RHQ and Lt Col Ted Toms from the 3rd battalion. Major M. A. C. Stephen came over from Scottish Command, and Majors George Morrison and Ran Ogilvie completed the list. A very successful night ended just in time for the Commanding Officer to catch his train, en route for Singapore.

Officers, as usual, come and go. But this time we are welcoming arrivals rather than regretting departures. 2/Lts Derek Napier and Richard Ord have arrived from Sandhurst. Lt Johnny Bull has come to

be our Paymaster. Captain Roddy Stewart, whom we had met before, especially at Stanford, has now come to stay as our Doctor. Captain Bob McLagan has returned from Aden, but departed on well-earned leave as soon as possible.

The Mess Staff have remained much the same and have done much to make Mess life a success. Sgt Artngstall has handed over to Colour Sergeant Murray, whom we welcome for a spell as Mess Sergeant. L/Cpl Patterson and Pte McAskill are preparing to be barmen in civilian life. We wish them success, but are sorry they will not be coming East with us.

### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

Already our thoughts are centred on the Orient and in a few weeks we will be bidding farewell yet once again to Auld Reekie. Our sojourn in Edinburgh has indeed been a short one and with our sporadic forays over the border we feel that we have not been firmly enough established to feast the social gaieties of mess life.

Bisley was our first commitment, followed by Otterburn and more recently our Spearhead commitment with a practice flyout to Stanford PTA where the Battalion followed up with a series of exercises.

Jess proved a busy bee at Stanford and established a mess far in excess of comforts one normally expects on field exercises, and his compo soup was unanimously voted superior to anything the television commercials could offer. Our leisure hours were frittered away in diverse ways and the old school amid great gnashing of teeth were to be seen hunched over a dice that cost the Chief Clerk more mixed drinks than the dice boasted spots. We have since wondered why Alastair volunteered to relieve the duty officers of night duty and our guess is that the dice were barking in staccato with the typewriters behind locked doors. We all admire your gameness Alastair, and perhaps with a bit more tuition in 'liarship' and with Quartermasters and Padres well apart you may yet make a worthy opponent.

On our return from Stanford the Dargai Ball committee got to grips with the task of preparing for the big night and on the 27th November we centred on the command gymnasium to share this event with our officers and their ladies, amongst whom we were especially pleased to welcome the Colonel of the Regiment.

The Dargai Ball foregatherers Gordon Highlanders from all parts and the colourful spectacle enjoined with the mood of reminiscence brings home to the Regiment shades of glory that surely kindled the traditions we live by.

We welcomed our guests at 8-30 p.m. and as is usual the ladies were gorgeous and fashionable as only modern women can look. The officers were in full dress and the mess members were displaying our new home dress which on this occasion proved a trifle out of step with the centigrade reading.

Music was provided by the Regimental Band and the buffet was a gastronomic success to which everyone did full justice and we trust that our guests had an enjoyable evening with us.

At the moment we are geared for our annual administrative inspection and visitations by the command secretary after which we hope to disperse on leave prior to leaving for the Far East.

We have had our first briefing from the recently returned Far East rece party and if the Intelligence Officer's air photos (taken at Hovercraft level) are anything to go by we look forward to our spell of jungle bashing with visions of Eastern promise.



The Recruiting Cavalcade sets out from The Castlegate

*By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.*

### DRUMS AND PIPES

The band's first engagement in the current quarter was to play at the opening of the Forth Road Bridge by Her Majesty the Queen. We were positioned at the North end of the bridge, having travelled by way of the Kincardine Bridge in the PRI bus early in the morning. As soon as the Queen's motorcade had crossed we were permitted to march and play our way across to the South side earning the distinction of being the first body of troops to cross the new bridge and incidentally getting a grandstand view of the naval flotilla beneath the bridge.

Australia and the British Military Tattoo at Sydney, directed by Brigadier Alastair MacLean, was our next destination. Although we had to work hard throughout this engagement—never finishing before 11 p.m.—we all welcomed it as an opportunity of seeing another new part of the world. We were lucky, however, in that we managed to get a few days' leave before we returned to Scotland. Gordon drummers and pipers were scattered throughout Australia, while those who remained in Sydney carried out a very thorough investigation of the night life around the

King's Cross area and in particular the 'Pink Pussy Cat' and the 'Golden Nugget'.

We arrived back in Edinburgh just as the battalion was about to fly down to Stanford on exercise Jigsaw V. Miracle of miracles—the Defence platoon were not required and we remained with the Military Band in Edinburgh to prepare for the recruiting drive in the Regimental area, in which we undertook numerous public appearances in Aberdeen and throughout the North East.

Perhaps the most enjoyable engagements were when we played massed with 3 Gordons and the City of Aberdeen Police Pipe Bands. These performances were supervised by Captain Fleming and by the time we finished we had built up an impressive repertoire of marching and playing displays which culminated in the Christmas illuminations 'switch on' in Union Street when countless thousands jammed the thoroughfare from end to end.

Congratulations to Captain Fleming on his recent promotion and reappearance as Band President for a short while. We hope we have got the order right, sir. A welcome to Drummer John Sievwright who has



With the Aberdeen Police Pipe Band at the ceremony of 'Switching on the Lights.'

*By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.*

joined us from the depot in time to take over Corporal Stokes' bass drum. We have unfortunately lost to civvy street Pipers Hart, Laing and Welch. Musically and socially this is a big loss but we wish them well.

As we go off on block leave it is nice to think that the next notes will be written by your scribe away from the frigid cold of Edinburgh. We look forward to seeing, and if the Pipe President can arrange it, playing together with our friends in the Scots Guards and Argylls in Borneo. Our main task next year is to double the strength of the Pipe section so to any former member of the battalion who may read these notes, if you know of any young piper who wants to improve his technique and see the world, send him along to the depot, or contact Pipe Sergeant Wilson at the Recruiting Office in Market Street.

#### THE SYDNEY TATTOO

Sydney Harbour Bridge? Nevil Shute and a "Town like Alice"? Cattle stations? Koala bears? What mental picture does the average British person conjure up when thinking of Australia? For most of us at any rate, our scant knowledge comes from travel maga-

zines or films or perhaps from the few Australians we have had the good fortune to meet. I would venture to suggest that even in these days of modern travel, 12,500 miles is a distance which has not yet shrunk to a manageable size. Some of us therefore still regard Australia as a place too far away to concern us. Those of the Drums and Pipes who had the good fortune to spend 5 weeks there in the Autumn have now been 'brain washed'. I believe it would be true to say that we all came back pro-Australian having had the time of our lives.

This was no ordinary Band Tour in the usual sense. On this occasion British Overseas Fairs were running a British Fortnight in Sydney. The aim was to promote the sale of all kinds of British goods. The centre piece of the fortnight was an exhibition at the Royal Agricultural Society Showground. The sponsors had decided that the exhibition needed a 'gimmick' and we were part of that 'gimmick'—a Tattoo.

The British Military Tournament and Tattoo, to give it its full title, was a vast undertaking. Not only were the numbers taking part greater than anything any of us had seen before, but also the arena itself was rather bigger. When we arrived in Sydney, the

Edinburgh Tattoo had only been over some 10 days. We thought a capacity crowd of 8,000 people with about 400 performers in the arena for the Grand Finale was quite something. We were in for a shock. The Sydney Show Ground held 35,000 and there were 900 of us in the arena for the Finale.

The size of the arena is worth mentioning further as it did have a far reaching effect on the character of the Tattoo. Despite considerable alterations carried out on the ground to reduce the arena floor space, 900 people could never hope to fill it. Of course, for most of the items, the numbers engaged at one time were far less. The result was that for a spectator much of what was going on must have appeared rather remote. To use the words of our producer, Brigadier Maclean, the crowds were seldom, if ever, 'with it'. They couldn't be, as we weren't 'with them'. We were just too far away.

Our time for rehearsal was very short. We arrived in Sydney on 17th September and our first full performance was on the 25th. Before this, we had both a Dress Rehearsal and a Preview. Tickets were sold for both of these, so we really only had 5 days for rehearsals on our own. It need hardly be said that they were 5 very full days and we were often on the ground till eleven o'clock at night. However, we got

there somehow, even if the first few performances may have appeared to us rather unprofessional.

What of the reactions to the Tattoo? Let it be said first of all that the advance publicity both on the radio, on TV and in the Press had been magnificent. Indeed, we appeared on television within 24 hours of arriving in the country. The public relations firm hired by the sponsors could hardly have been faulted. But when it came to selling tickets something went badly wrong. This is certainly not the place to examine the reasons for this, suffice to say that it appeared that tickets were not distributed for sale nearly widely enough. Many people who wanted to come gave up trying to get tickets under the impression that they were sold out. This was never so and in fact only about three-quarters of the total seating capacity was sold. Undoubtedly those who came saw a Tattoo the like of which few of them will see again. But there was some general criticism of the ticket system for which we, the performers, unfortunately took a large share of the blame.

On the face of it, we had little spare time outside the Tattoo and other engagements connected with it. There were, in reality, two nights free during the fortnight. During the day we had a number of engagements in outlying parts of Sydney. These were all con-



Grand Finale - Sydney Tattoo

nected with the British Fortnight and most were in department stores. To the Britisher, Sydney seems enormous. Indeed, it has a population of some 2½ million. But in comparison with a city in this country it occupies an area out of all proportion to its population. The narrow streets with small closely-packed brick houses so typical of our bigger cities are not found in Sydney. Everywhere is space, trees, gardens, large shopping centres and a general feeling of plenty of elbow room. Parramatta, Eastwood and Bondi, all of which are outlying parts of the city and now well known to us, all conformed to this pattern. Life in the centre of Sydney revolves round the harbour. The water is covered with small boats, and some not so small, at weekends. Everyone who wants to can sail. The writer found it curious to note that, in an apparently classless society, those who lived in the South shore of the harbour undoubtedly had the social edge over those on the North shore. No one could tell me why!

Although we apparently had little spare time, the entertainment we received both officially and privately was on a lavish scale. Early nights did not figure often in the calendar. The interest shown in us was most touching. It is perhaps worth mentioning one small thing which many people in this country will not be aware of. That is that every Australian of whatever upbringing and background refers to Great Britain as 'home'. This is despite the fact that he has never been there and possibly has no chance of doing so. This in itself might go some way to explaining the warm-hearted welcome we received on all sides.

Few of us, unfortunately, had much chance to see any of the country outside Sydney. We had five days only between our final performance and our return to this country. The Drum Major went to visit some relations in Brisbane. The writer was fortunate enough to spend four days on a sheep station about 350 miles North West of Sydney. I am not quite sure what I expected. I think in this case, a Nevil Shute outback type landscape was certainly at the back of my mind. But not a bit of it. The country there lay mostly at about 4,000 feet. It was green and lush and not unlike the uplands around Molo in Kenya. However, I did see some wild kangaroos to give a little local colour.

What then are the impressions we have brought back with us? For myself, the vastness of the country and the opportunities it offers must certainly head the list. Second must come the kindness of the people, whose scale of entertainment seems to be in direct proportion to the size of their country. One cannot but wonder how many of us who had good fortune to make the trip will attempt to return from Borneo next year.

### MILITARY BAND

*Band President:* Major J. Neish  
*Asst. Band President:* Captain I. Fleming  
*Bandmaster:* WO1 C. A. Harper, ARCM  
*Band Sergeant:* B/Sgt J. Thomson

At the conclusion of the Summer Tour, which was mentioned in great detail in our last notes, the Band went on 10 days leave, and returned a few days before we were to play at the Burma Star Reunion Parade on the 27th of September. We marched the Veterans from Edinburgh Castle to St. Giles Cathedral, then did a 'Jilly' move back to Redford to play at the Garrison Church.

Band engagements during the Autumn were few and far between, and with the Fly Out of the Battalion to Stanford, the Band once again took over the

duties of Rear Party, which entailed Barrack and Castle guards. One feels that the Castle guards were quite popular, with some members of the Band actually volunteering for an extra twist, notably BdsM McIntosh and Wilson. We wonder what the attraction was!!

During the Battalion's absence we still managed to travel to Sheffield for a Grand Concert on the 25th of October, which was well received by a large audience.

On the return of the Battalion we carried out the normal routine of playing around the barracks at 0815 hrs daily, and giving lunchtime concerts in the dining hall every Wednesday. The main feature of these concerts was the appearance of the Beat Group, which went down well with the Jocks. The Beat Group consists of Cpl. Rosie (lead guitar), BdsM Greig (bass guitar), Cpl. Massie (tenor sax) and BdsM Seivwright on drums. We are still trying to find a suitable name for them to appear under, so if any readers have any bright ideas, please contact the Bandmaster.

The Annual Novices Boxing Finals took place in October, the Band performing as usual. This turned out to be a most enjoyable evening and one wonders where the boxers got the courage from. By far the best finals seen in the Battalion for a number of years.

The annual Administrative Inspection takes place on December 1st, and most of our time has been devoted to rehearsals for the parade. However recruiting played a large part in our activities in November. Both Bands and about 80 of the Battalion proceeded to Aberdeen on the 7th of November. The first part of the Recruiting Tour opened with a March Past in Union Street, led by the Military Bands and Drums and Pipes of the 1st and 3rd Battalions, contingents from both Battalions, with the Regimental Colours of the 1st Battalion, marched from the Beach to Rubislaw Terrace. The salute being taken by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. Thereafter the Band played at various towns in the recruiting area, notably Peterhead where CSM 'Willie' Ogg was there to greet the Band, and after a march through the town, provided beer and hot pies which was very much appreciated by all the Band. During this tour we made a flying visit back to Edinburgh to play at the Battalion Officers Mess Guest Night, and returned to Aberdeen the following day to continue our recruiting. The final performance of the tour was a Retreat by the combined Bands of the 1st and 3rd Battalions.

It was a pleasure to see old friends at Aberdeen, particularly C/Sgt 'Duggie' Thow, who looks just as young as ever. The Highland Brigade Depot arranged our accommodation, very efficiently as always. All in all a very good tour.

Back at Redford Barracks we are on the eve of 'The Admin', and hope the weather will be kind to us.

The Dargai Ball has just been held and the Dance Band performed wonderfully, playing cool music during a cool evening. Once again the Beat Group excelled themselves at the interval and comments were favourable.

We have not had the time for sport which we normally have, nevertheless we managed a few fixtures in both football and hockey. The results being:

### Football

Band 4 Signal Squadron Dreghorn 1  
 Band 5 Cameronian Band 2  
 Band 5 Cameronian Band 4

**Hockey**

- Band 3 Battalion 4
- Band 15 Cameronians Band 0
- Band 2 Lowland Brigade 0.

Incidentally in Malaya in 1951 the Cameronians Band were our superiors at hockey, beating us on numerous occasions, and by the latest result it seems our team were out for sweet revenge. The Band have supplied five players for the Battalion team this season. Sgt 'Rab' Owen, Cpl 'Bob' Forsyth, Cpl 'Stevy' Gordon, L/Cpl 'Roger' Goodsell and L/Cpl 'Shorte' MacDonald.

Still on the subject of sport, we congratulate the Highland Brigade Depot football team for a fine win against the much fancied Cameronians in the Army Cup. Also to be congratulated are the Junior Soldiers of the Highland Brigade, who were narrowly beaten in the final of the Army Cup (Boys), by the Scots Guards after a replay at Aldershot. We may inherit a few of their team in the not too distant future.

We take this opportunity of welcoming to the Band BdsM McIntosh and Brown and hope they will have a happy and interesting stay with us. BdsM Lamond, Begg and Carton have left us to attend a 12 month pupils course at Kneller Hall. We wish them much success and look forward to their return.

Congratulations to the Bandmaster and B/Sgt on the award of the Long Service Medal, which will be presented to them by the Area Commander on the Administration Parade.

On closing our notes we would like to say a welcome to Drum Major 'Nobby' Hall, his past experience as a Bandsman will be a great asset to him in future associations with the Band.

**FOOTBALL**

At last we are able to give you a limited amount of news of what has been going on in the Football circle within the Battalion!

Due to various commitments which the Battalion had to undertake during the past six months, there has been very little time or opportunity for football. However after the hustle and bustle of preparing for Spearhead Duties were over, football enthusiasts managed to bring their boots into use.

A team was entered for the Wednesday League, the first game being played on 23rd September. Although most of the players were a little bit out of condition, they soon settled down and held their own against opposing teams, as the following results will show.

Battalion versus:	Score	Result
Postal United FC (League) .....	1 2	Lost
1 Cameronians (League) .....	4 3	Won
St Cuthberts Athletic (League) .....	13 4	Won
South Side Police (League) .....	7 4	Won
St Cuthberts Athletic (Murray Cup) ...	8 1	Won
Royal Dick Vet. College (League) ...	3 7	Lost
St Cuthberts Athletic (League) .....	3 2	Won

Due to Block Leave and the move of the Battalion to FARELF the team will unfortunately be unable to complete the league fixtures.

The following have represented the Battalion: Sgt Swinlock HQ1, Cpl Robertson D Coy, Cpl Wisley HQ1 (Captain), L/Cpl Cole B Coy, L/Cpl Downie D Coy, L/Cpl Murray HQ1, L/Cpl Philips HQ2, L/Cpl Ritchie B Coy, Ptes Adams, Cheape A Coy, Ptes Alexander, Cardno, Cole B Coy, Pte Breton D Coy, Pte Smith HQ1, Ptes Duncan 85, Kerr HQ2.

**RUGBY**

As on previous occasions everybody managed to turn up at the beginning of the season for some training and four games were played before December. However, changes and moves meant fewer players were available and two periods of training at Otterburn and Stanford interrupted the season. Nevertheless, we had a reasonable turnout during the first three weeks of September for training. Due to numbers, though, we trained with a civilian rugby club 'Kenmore'. The president of Kenmore Rugby Club is Mr Gordon Sinclair and he offered the regiment affiliated membership to his club for as long as we were in the country. This enabled several soldiers to have a game of rugby even when the Battalion did not have a game. Several took advantage of the offer and have since played many games for Kenmore. Among the most frequent players is Pte Manson of 'B' Coy who now regularly enjoys his Saturday games. We are extremely grateful to Mr Gordon Sinclair for this opportunity but, of course, it worked both ways as his teams were strengthened by Gordon players!

On 16th October we were extremely fortunate in having Colonel Reidy, for one afternoon, to give us some valuable instruction in training and in the skills of the game. He has recently run the Army Coaching and Referee's Course and his technique was superb. Even in the short time that he was with us we learned a great deal and also lost a good deal of sweat! Our thanks go to Col Reidy for giving up some of his time to coach us. Now we know most of the new rules and how to apply them to the game.

Now for the matches played: On the 30th September, 1964, we played a trial game against Kenmore at Redford. Because of the fading light we had to cut the time to 2 x 20 min periods. With both sides able to change players at will, it gave us, in particular, a good chance to look at the players we had. It was a hard game with the final score being 0-5—Kenmore scoring during the first period and converting the try.

A second game, on the same lines as the one on the 30th September, was played at Redford on 6th October. This was a great improvement on the first one and the team was fitter and more active. Several scores were made but no result is given as several of our players played for the opposing side to make up numbers.

The third game took place at Redford on 14th October and this time it was against the Cameronians. This was Army Rugby in the best light. Two equally matched regimental teams and no thought of a loser! Considering how early it still was in the season some splendid rugby was played. It was an open and fast game and the lead changed several times before we finally allowed the Cameronians to cross the line to clinch the match by 17-14. Scorers were Scott, Hunter-Blair, Duncan and Ord with one conversion by Ord.

Our last game was also played at Redford on 3rd November, this time against the Lowland Brigade Depot. Although they looked a determined side we soon realised that they were weak outside and from then on tried to move the ball about from wing to wing as much as possible. The first 10 minutes were spent sizing each other up but it was the Lowland Brigade who opened up the scoring with a good try. This was unconverted. We lost our centre, Gordon-Steward, with a pulled muscle and remained short for the remainder of the game. Soon after this it was much more the Gordons game and the pressure was on. Time after time we were just stopped near the line. The equalising score came a few minutes later

from Scott, who dropped a goal from near the touch line, to make the score 3-3.

Ten minutes before half time Oxley cleverly slipped his opponent and put Hunter-Blair away on a long run for the latter to touch down about half way out. The try was not converted. Despite a very hard second half the Gordons never looked like losing but just could not get over the line again. The game ended with the score remaining at 6-3.

Three of our players have been chosen to play in the Army Trials on 24th November. They are Capt Scott, 2Lts Gerrard and Ord. We congratulate them on their selection and wish them luck in the trials.

Our thanks also go to 2Lt Napier who is our referee and a very promising one.

The following played for the Battalion: Capt Gordon-Steward, Capt Oxley, Capt Scott (Team Captain), Lt Duke Lt Fawcus, Lt Urquhart, Lt Peebles, 2Lt Gerrard (Team Vice-Captain), 2Lt Mahon, 2Lt Duncan, 2Lt Hunter-Blair, 2Lt Wallace, 2Lt Ogilvie-Forbes, 2Lt Lyon, 2Lt Ord, Sgt Bristow, Sgt Dooley, Cpls Burnett, Murphy and Donald, L/Cpl Gibson, Pte Manson, Pte Adam, Pte Farmer, Pte Lloyd.

We have just heard that 2Lt Gerrard played in an Army Trial XV on November 25th and has been chosen to play against the Navy on Boxing Day. We congratulate him. 2Lt Ord was a reserve on the 25th but, unfortunately had to play 'tight head' as opposed to 'open'. Capt Scott was unable to take part in the trials due to a broken finger. We offer him our sympathy.

The season, as far as we are concerned, is now over as everybody has now gone on Block Leave.

### HOCKEY

Before selecting our Battalion team we had two trial games, both in the latter half of September. The first took the form of a challenge match between Pte Stalker's XI vs the Military Band. It was quite a surprise when the band were narrowly beaten and it suggested that we had some good talent from which to choose.

Because we were often away from Redford it was only possible to arrange friendlies and here are the results of the few we played:

Oct. 5 v Lowland Brigade Depot .....	Won 9-0
„ 14 v 1 Cameronians .....	Won 6-1
„ 21 v WRAC Dreghorn .....	Won 11-5
Nov. 8 v Aberdeen Select .....	Lost 0-2

We were fortunate to play the Lowland Brigade Depot first because we were not really tested and had a chance to work together right from the start and gain valuable confidence which is so vital at the beginning of the season. Sgt Owen in spite of insisting on his being a Back, played a very forceful game at Inside Left and with Cpl Breen and 2Lt Hunter-Blair scored the goals, 4, 3 and 2 respectively.

The Cameronians we played on 14th October and though the score was convincingly in our favour we were not so well-knitted as in our first game. Sgt Owen was in excellent form and scored five of the goals with right wing 2Lt Hunter-Blair scoring the single.

With a WRAC Unit so near we took advantage of most of our strong players being away and fielded an 'A' team. I have never heard such an enthusiastic audience and in no time 6 goals had been scored. However we slowed down and thoroughly enjoyed a most amusing game. Newcomers to the team included Cpls Young, Rosie, Davidson, L/Cpls Hamilton, Baillie and Pte McKay.

During the Recruiting Tour in November I had hoped to get a game against the Highland Brigade but it fell through and instead we played a strong Aberdeen select team. We had two guests players, Lt D. H. White, who played for the Battalion in Kenya, and Lt D. N. A. Blair of the Queens Own Highlanders. Throughout this game the backs were continually menaced and goalie, L/Cpl Mackie, made many gallant saves. It was unfortunate that WOII Dunn could not play as his experience is always welcome.

Those who played included Capt N. F. M. Oxley (Team Captain), 2Lt Hunter-Blair, WOII Dunn, Sgts Haynes and Owen, Cpls Forsythe, Breen and Gordon, L/Cpls MacDonald, Mackie and Goodall. Though it was rather a short season it proved most entertaining and we were extremely fortunate to have Cpl Massey and Sgt McCulloch to call on as umpires.

### SQUASH

Competitive Squash has been away from the Battalion since Germany days, so we are lucky to have players who have been able to maintain their standards over the last three years.

We are extremely grateful to Major Ian MacLachlan the Scottish Command squash representative, who appears to have all the squash playing talent of Edinburgh at hand. Certainly it only required a two minute discussion as to when—and another match was arranged.

Block leave and the move to the Far East have unfortunately resulted in no Scottish Command team taking part in the Inter Command Championships in December, as we were given to understand that the Battalion team would provide the 'backbone' of the Command team. However, Capt Oxley is entering for the Individual Championship in London and we wish him the best of luck.

In the matches that we have played we have so far been very successful. The shortfall in the match against the Edinburgh Academicals on 13th November was due to the departure of Lt Van der Noot to Borneo for two weeks' holiday in the sun, and a broken finger on the left hand of a right-handed player. Protestations that we should nevertheless have won would be countered with the observation that there was a Guest Night in the Mess the evening before.

In addition to the matches mentioned we played two other friendly games and won both.

v Lowland Brigade/EUOTC on 17th Aug. at Redford, won 4-1;

v Edinburgh Select on 2nd Sept. at Redford, won 5-0;

v Edinburgh Academicals 2nd V on 13th Nov. at Raeburn Place, lost 2-1.

The Battalion team usually played: 1st string, Capt N. F. M. Oxley; 2nd string, Lt C. H. Van der Noot; 3rd string, 2/Lt R. G. Hunter-Blair; 4th string, Capt B. G. Paton; 5th string, Capt A. N. M. Scott.

### 12 BORE SHOOTING

After our initial forays in pursuit of grouse and pigeon on our shoot at Kirconnel military activities prevented further efforts till late in September.

CSM McAuley, who has now left to find his own shooting on Salisbury Plain, Sgt Watt, Bandmaster-Harper, L/Cpl Williams, Ptes Smith and Young all assisted at four interesting days shooting up to the end of October. Our main hopes were partridges,

which were scarce and elusive, blackgame, which usually came over the line too fast and too unexpectedly, and some pheasants (hens rationed). But the four days yielded 36 pheasants, 4 partridges, 3 blackgame, 2 grouse, 24 hares, 5 rabbits, 3 snipe and 5 duck. The bags might have been bigger if it had not been for some weather which was definitely not conducive to good marksmanship.

Our total bag is now 190 head.

Now that our pheasant poults have had time to learn to fly our hopes of larger bags and increased cartridge expenditure are coming nearer to fulfilment.

### FLYING NEWS

by 'Slipstream'

During the Battalion's time in Edinburgh interest in flying has died a natural death, and apart from the airlift in October, not a single soldier has been airborne.

Congratulations to Major A. T. C. Brown on successfully completing his helicopter course with the Army Air Corps. Major Brown brought his scout helicopter over to Stanford to be with the Battalion for a day and took many officers for flights over defensive positions, which had been camouflaged from the air by the companies. Major Brown was not disappointed by the standard of his old company, 'B' Company, who had succeeded in camouflaging their position very well. It is hoped that Sgt Will of 'B' Company will succeed in following in Major Brown's footsteps, and so be the first member of the Sergeant's Mess to qualify as pilot in the air platoon of two Bell helicopters which the Battalion is due to receive in 1965.

Captain R. D. G. Bruce has been flying Tiger Moths in the Midlands and should soon obtain a Private Pilot's licence. Captain R. W. C. Murison did seven hours in a Chipmunk of the Turnhouse Aero Club in October and so was able to renew his licence for a further two years. He took Captain C. J. D. Gordon-Steward, who was his fifty-fifth passenger, for an hour's flight. Captain Gordon-Steward was considerably unnerved at being airborne without a parachute, and continually shouted 'Stuka' into the intercom, with results that unnerved him even more.

Flying will be cheaper in the Far East and with two Battalion pilots attached from the Army Air Corps, living in the Officers Mess, there may well be a revival of interest in 1965.



Company Commanders on Aerial Recce :

l to r : Captain Murison, 2 AAC Pilots, Major Tony Brown, Captain Scott, Major Martineau, Captain Gordon Steward

### RECRUITING — 1964

In the short time that we have been in the United Kingdom this year, there are few military activities in which we have not taken part. As a result of restrictions on recruiting brought in, in 1962 we have experienced a constant shortage of recruits and it was inevitable that, despite our full programme for the year, we should make some attempt to influence direct recruiting.

Our aim being 'to publicise the Regiment in the Regimental Area with a view to attracting regular and territorial recruits', planning started soon after Bisley when the Commanding Officer held a conference in Edinburgh at which Lieutenant Colonels P. W. Forbes of Corse and E. E. Toms were present. It was decided to use the method we had found successful before—



Recruiting by Helicopter :  
CSM Symon welcomes three 'County Lads' on the Depot Square

By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd

local boys living at home organised as teams covering the entire area. Their efforts were to be supplemented by the public appearance of both bands, displays of military equipment and lectures. Lieutenant Colonel Toms generously offered to augment our plans with the full support of 3 Gordons personnel and facilities. We were in addition provided with a splendid new office as a control room at his own Headquarters in Woolmanhill.

Although it had been hoped to spend at least two weeks in the North East, we were severely handicapped by being Spearhead Battalion, Exercise Jigsaw V, and the uncertainty of whether or not we would be in the country. The tour in fact took place between 7th and 15th November.

Impressively large crowds packed Union Street to watch the opening march and display of vehicles and equipment. The Lord Provost, Mr Norman Hogg inspected the parade, commanded by Major J. J. H. Simpson, and later took the salute from the steps of the Music Hall, accompanied by the Commanding Officers of both Battalions. The next day saw teams and individual drummers and pipers attending Remembrance Sunday services all over the North East, while the Military Band marched from the Depot to St. Machar's Cathedral.

Over the next seven days, seven teams worked hard looking for potential recruits. One team commanded



**Switching on the Christmas Lights**

*By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.*

by Corporal Rosie flew to Shetland and based themselves in Lerwick.

The Drums, Pipes and Military Band played in most of the major centres and the dance band sections played at various functions. The Brigade Caravan, demonstrations, film shows and talks were used to explain life in the Regiment today. Amongst our best audiences were those who attended at Territorial Open Nights and members of the Cadet Force.

The tour was concluded by the Beating of Retreat by the massed bands of both Battalions in the Station Square, which British Railways kindly made available, on Sunday, 15th November.

The immediate results in terms of men enlisted were very encouraging but there was unanimous agreement that the tour itself was too short and because of our very tight programme it had to be cut short at the very time when a further fourteen days would have achieved a considerable influence on our direct recruiting.

Publicity had in fact started much earlier and continued after the actual tour had finished. There was

comprehensive coverage by the Press, radio and television at all times. Indeed our old friends 'Aberdeen Journals' carried up-to-the-minute reports and photographs in each of the many daily editions of the Press and Journal and 'Evening Express'.

This was particularly the case during Exercise Jigsaw V when the Press and Journal and Grampian TV cameraman accompanied Captain Fleming on the Battalion's air lift to Stanford and sent almost hourly reports from the 'battlefield'. No account of publicity would be complete without mentioning Mr. K. J. Peters, Managing Director of 'Aberdeen Journals', whose friendship and assistance to the Regiment over the years has been outstanding.

We are also indebted to the news editor of Grampian Television, Mr Charles Smith, who ran a special feature film covering exercise Jigsaw V, which was shown at a peak viewing period, and numerous other news items.

The two events during the 'follow up' process which excited most interest in the national Press were the inauguration of Aberdeen's Christmas illuminations



**Beating Retreat at the Joint Station, Aberdeen**

*By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.*

on Thursday, 26th November and the helicopter lift, to the Depot, of Gordon recruits on St. Andrew's Day. For the illuminations the massed bands of both battalions were combined with the City of Aberdeen Police Pipe Band for a spectacular evening for tens of thousands of people crammed Union Street from end to end. Our thanks to our many friends at police headquarters.

The enthusiastic interest in the Regiment which the people of the North East always show on these occasions makes us determined to visit our home area a great deal more when we return from Borneo.

**FROM A YOUNG OFFICER TO HIS  
BANK MANAGER**

"My loan *must* come", on bended knee,

The passing ages pray:  
This problem of economy  
Is with us every day.

Though wise to save, without a doubt,  
And not our monies drain,  
Thin Callaghan and Wilson stout  
May tax our market gain.

So ski I would, in far Norway,  
Increase that import gap,  
For soon to Borneo I'm away—  
No spending place is that!

So now, Kind Sir, I must entreat,  
Nay beg and still implore,  
If I must make my ends to meet,  
You've got to give me more!

Anon

*Editor's Note*—Surprisingly the Bank Manager was impressed with the above lines so I am able to report that the officer concerned is solvent once more.

## 3rd BATTALION (TA)

## EDITORIAL

*Commanding Officer:* Lieutenant Colonel E. E. Toms  
*Second in Command:* Major R. Bannerman, TD  
*Adjutant:* Captain H. Foster, MBE  
*Quartermaster:* Captain (QM) W. J. R. Dawson  
*RSM:* WO1 E. J. T. Coggle

A TA recruiter discussing, with a prospective recruit, the activities a TA Infantry Battalion has to offer will, somewhere during the discussion, be asked, "Yes, that's all right, but what do you *actually* do?"

Unfortunately there are many young men, and these of the type one would like to see in the TA, who retain an image of life in the TA which is confined to the Canteen. The Canteen they see is 'full, well pressed down and overflowing' with beer-swilling soldiery. The average young man of today—looking for an active and worthwhile pastime still seems to be suspicious of the TA and most feel that time given to the TA would largely be spent in a Canteen, drinking or watching other people drink, something they don't want to do.

A glance at the diary of events which have taken place since the last issue of the Regimental Journal will show it should satisfy even the most energetic recruit. The list of events looks rather like a crowded 'What's On' booklet of a popular holiday camp. Superimpose on this list Company activities, cadres, training, getting ready for this exercise or clearing up after that—and even the most sceptical must realise there's little time left for 'beer and skittles':

- | <i>Date</i>   | <i>Event</i>  |
|---|---|
| Oct. 3/4—51 (H) Division M/C Trials                               | <i>Remarks:</i> 2nd Team, 2nd and 3rd Individuals.  |
| Oct. 11—Soldier Sunday  | <i>Remarks:</i> Church Service in Coy locations. B Coy Ceremonial Church Parade. Provost taking the Salute.   |
| Oct. 17/18—Coy Clerks Course                                      | <i>Remarks:</i> Bn Ord Room Staff pass on the 'Know How'.   |
| Oct. 17/18—Audit of Regimental Accounts                           | <i>Remarks:</i> 13 Accounts to audit. All available officers.   |
| Oct. 17/18—Army M/C Trials  | <i>Remarks:</i> Best TA Team, 1st and 2nd Class individuals.  |
| Oct. 17/18—BAMA Rally   | <i>Remarks:</i> Bn car rally team find their way—and getting better (3rd individual).   |
| Oct. 17/18—Colours Ceremony                                       | <i>Remarks:</i> More Ceremonial. B Coy represent the Bn. Full dress rehearsal Sat.; St. Machars Cathedral Sun. Both Bands. The final position for 5th Bn Colours. |
| Oct. 24/25—Bn Ex 'Grey Ghost'                                     | <i>Remarks:</i> 2 days midst snow and ice and ghost finally laid in Glenbuchat area.  |
| Oct. 31/Nov. 1—Audit of Regimental Accounts                       | <i>Remarks:</i> Still auditing but finished at last.  |
| Nov. 7/8—Review of Gordon Highlanders by Lord Provost of Aberdeen | <i>Remarks:</i> 1st and 3rd Bn detachments march through Aberdeen. Each Coy 3 Gordons represented. Both bands on parade.  |

Nov. 7/8—Armistice Sunday

*Remarks:* Church Parade; in Coy locations. All involved including both Bands.

Nov. 14/15—Officers Annual Dinner/Dance

*Remarks:* RHQ Viewfield Road for conferences. lectures and discussions.

Nov. 21/22—Div HQ hold Annual Study Period

*Remarks:* Selected officers attend.

Nov. 26—The lighting up of Aberdeen

*Remarks:* Both bands play and march in Union Street in the evening.

Dec. 5/6—Officers and Senior NCOs Tactical Training Week-end

*Remarks:* Officers entertain Sgts' Mess members to dinner. Battle Drills in detail cloth model and live battles.

Jan. 16/17—ACF Officers Tactical Training

*Remarks:* Tactical. A repeat performance and a buffet supper.

For company activities please read company notes, for the future Bn events call in at Bn HQ. The programme will be just as full, interesting and varied.

For Annual Camp 1965 the battalion will be moving to Devizes—how we get there is as yet undecided. Aircraft, trains, road transport, all are possibilities—we may have to resort to a ferry service using the bus and canteenette so kindly loaned to us by the 1st Bn. Already selected NCOs are disappearing southwards to learn of Civil Defence matters and it would appear that there will be no shortage of qualified instructors. All ranks are looking forward to a camp as a battalion combined in one place and away from their own doorstep.

Recruiting continues to hold a steady rise, at the time of writing the battalion is 500 plus. Perhaps if this article with the diary of events reaches some of the young men who ask, "What do you *actually* do?" we may get a few more before Annual Camp 1965.

## 'A' COMPANY

*Company Commander:* Major N. V. R. Simpson  
*Second in Command:* Captain J. Lobban  
*Duftown Platoon Commander:* Captain J. Lobban  
*Keith Platoon Commander:* Lieutenant D. A. Young  
*Buckie Platoon Commander:* Lieutenant A. T. Bruce  
*Duftown Platoon Sergeant:* Sergeant MacDonald  
*Keith Platoon Sergeant:* Sergeant Burgess  
*Buckie Platoon Sergeant:* Sergeant Milne  
*Company Sergeant Major:* Warrant Officer II Watson

Things started slowly after the break following Camp and 'A' Coy's training gradually built up to the much cancelled 'Exercise Grey Ghost'. Up until the particular weekend, the exercise, which had so much effort and preparation expended on it, seemed to be doomed to perpetual 'jinx-dom'. However, at last, with apprehension looming in the minds of most of the participants as we plunged by transport farther and farther into the frosted Cabrach to our various F.U.P.s, we were on our way.

'Alaska is definitely out!' we thought, as a certain pinched faced private remarked that he had forgotten his huskies.

Camp was set up and a patrol sent to the brow of Ladylea hill on a recon mission. C/D Coy Camps and HQs were sighted and that night two patrols slipped out into the darkness, intent on attacking these two



'A' Company dance - Sergeant Milne (Buckie) as MC

positions. One patrol, however, came to a sticky end at HQ whilst the other had a certain amount of success in roughing up C/Ds camp.

At night we camped on a hillside camouflaged by a belt of trees. Lt Young (of last issue's 'boot' fame) was sharing a tent with myself and at 3 a.m. I awoke to find him gone! Remembering Scott's last journey into the frozen wastes of Antarctica, and still recovering from the depths of sleep, I thought with a pang of anxiety, 'Has he done an Oates then?'

At that moment, however, my knee encountered something hard. It was his head.

The extreme slope of the hill coupled with the shiny base of his sleeping bag had caused him to slip four feet out of the tent and his feet slumbered restfully on the snow clad base of a pine. Having decided rather I incur his wrath than his feet incur frostbite, I duly awakened him and he clambered back into our nest muttering dull oaths under his breath.

We were up at the crack of dawn and soon after breakfast, three patrols set out into the hillsides—one to recover survivors, one to find the wreckage and the other to capture parachutists. Each patrol had a certain amount of success and the first managed to 'capture' four survivors and bring them back to base Camp.

We were delighted to have with us on this exercise Cadets from Banffshire and they really worked splendidly. There was never a complaint and although some of the smaller ones must have found it hard going in the deep snow, they kept up very well. Indeed, one rather small Cadet—Colin Cross from Keith—was a marvellous morale booster. After we had captured the survivors, he was offered the remains of a flask of tea, which he duly gulped down and after a suitable pause to regain his breath he said: "Ta, Sir. Are wi ga'in hame noo?"

All things considered, the exercise was a success and to many of us it was our first real experience of cold weather conditions.

On the social side, quite a lot has been happening in 'A' Coy. Dufftown Platoon held their annual children's party on the 26th December and 415 children attended! Some party! Dufftown again entertained 140 old age pensioners in early January, whilst Keith are in the throes of their children's party.

Buckie Platoon held their annual Dinner Dance in December to which many Keith and Dufftown personnel came. We all had a brew time and there was a total turnout of seventy-four—twenty up on last

year. The photographs possibly show best the success of the evening.

Our annual Company Smoker was held, also in December. Our field of operatic artistes is ever widening and the highlight of the evening was a song from 'Dukie'. To those personnel not belonging to 'A' Company, the significance of this may not dawn, but a sweet rendering (this sincere) of an old Scottish song from our champion potato peeler was quite something!

Unfortunately, at our Smoker we officially said goodbye to PSI Sergeant MacDonal and his wife. 'Mac' earned a very great respect from all in 'A' Company, not only for his knowledge of Army matters, but also for his endless toil to make us better soldiers. His eagerness to help anyone—on or off duty—was greatly appreciated and we sincerely wish Sergeant MacDonal and his good lady every success for the future.

We welcome PSI Sgt Fraser to our fold and hope that after two years with 'A' Company he won't find it necessary to seek admittance to the Massachusetts State Home for the Bewildered.

Congratulations to Sgt Stewart on his promotion to Sgt Major of Cadets. They will find his experience invaluable and although we are sorry to lose 'Hank' we wish him all the best in his new duties.

Craftsman Stuart of REME is off to Nkana in Northern Rhodesia. We hope he has every success in his new life.

Last, but certainly not least, Lt Donald Young is transferred to the Signals Platoon. We hope, however, that he will be joining us on some of our weekend exercises. We certainly don't wish to do without him at our socials. A Ceilidh isn't a Ceilidh without 'Leibster's Bonny Braes'. Success in your new posting, Donald.

All in all, it's been a full three months . . . ?

### 'B' (BUCHAN) COMPANY

*Company Commander:* Maj J. M. Gray

*Second in Command:* Lt R. D. Buchan

*Platoon Commander:* Peterhead/Ellon:

*Platoon Commander:* Fraserburgh:

Lt J. C. Hutchison.

Lt R. D. Buchan.

*Company Sergeant Major:* WOII A. Sim.

*Company Quartermaster Sergeant:* Sgt A. McWilliam

*Platoon Sergeants:*

Peterhead—Sgt J. Chalmers

Fraserburgh—Sgt W. Hadden

Ellon—Sgt L. McKen

*PSIs:* WOII J. Ogg and Sgt. A. Pattillo

The last quarter of 1964 was very hectic for 'B' Company. After many cancellations Ex 'Grey Ghost' was at last with us. Lt R. D. Buchan and company personnel were part of the 'Abies' commanded by Major Simpson. Officer Cadets Barclay and Hardie were patrol and search party leaders from the company. When we landed in Glenbuchat an 'Arctic' scene greeted us. Because of conditions, transport was difficult and we had to find a new base as our original one was inaccessible. During the exercise the Company was well tried in map reading, patrolling, camp discipline and search techniques. For many of the company bivouacing in below zero conditions was a new experience and washing in a mountain stream at 0500 hours certainly diminished their sense of humour.

In October the Company had the honour of providing the detachment for laying up the Colours of

the 5/7th Bn The Gordon Highlanders (TA) in St Machars Cathedral. The detachment was commanded by Major J. M. Gray. Colour Ensigns were Lieutenants R. D. Buchan and J. C. Hutchison who carried the Queen's and Regimental Colours respectively. The Colours were delivered to Lord Dudley Gordon and Lord Balerno. After the service the detachment was inspected by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen who took the salute.

Lt R. D. Buchan and thirty other ranks from the Company took part in the Review of Troops of the 1st and 3rd Bns The Gordon Highlanders. Major R. Bannerman, TD, commanded the detachment composed of all companies of the 3rd Gordons. The Lord Provost inspected the troops at the Beach Boulevard and took the salute at the Music Hall. The review was the forerunner to a week's intensive recruiting drive for both battalions.

On Army Sunday the Company was 'kirked' at the Old Parish Church, Peterhead. The service was conducted by the Reverend G. Francis and the lesson was read by Major J. M. Gray. After the service, Provost R. Forman of Peterhead was to have inspected the company and taken the salute on the Kirk Square, but the weather intervened. A quick change of plans and the Provost agreed to inspect the Company in the TA Centre. Even then the weather was unkind and water poured through every leak in the roof. The Company paraded with the Ellon branch of the British Legion at the Ellon Armistice Parade. Capt. Wolridge-Gordon was Parade Commander.

We welcome our new officer cadet, David Third, to the Company. We are now in the healthy position of having an officer cadet at each of our three platoon locations. We welcome the following new boys to the Company—Ptes Clark, Wilson, Souter, Higgins, O'Rourke, McDougall, Morrison and Strachan. Congratulations to Lt and Mrs Buchan and Pte and Mrs Rhind on having finally taken the plunge into matrimony. It is rumoured that Mrs Buchan gives her address as c/o TA Centre and it even said that claymore drill was practised during the honeymoon.

#### 'D' (MEARNS) COMPANY

Before we go into a New Years training let us look back to the training from Camp '64. We have had some very good training weekends but the most interesting of all was Exercise 'Grey Ghost'. It was something new and interesting although the weather was against us. The equipment and rations were 'bang on' with combat jackets, sleeping bags and the excellent cooking of the C/Sgt and his confederates. The only thing that Charlie Oscar forgot to issue was skis, sleighs and snowshoes. I think he must have missed the Long Range Weather Forecast.

We had a most interesting visit from Sp Company for a weekend, who stayed overnight in the Hall. The 'D' Coy men were most interested in the Support weapons and a great deal was learnt about the weapons. Not forgetting the capers of Sgt 'Beastie' or is it now 'Beardie' Hay.

We had a very successful Buffet and Dance, well organised by the Entertainments Committee. With roast pig, curry salmon, chicken and all the *fol de rols*, S/Sgt Webster was in his glory and a very fine buffet he made. It was fit for a Queen and the men made short work of it. What was left soon went the following morning during the mopping up. I think Monty the Labrador was best off as 'Troopie' took home the pig's head and Monty thought it was his birthday.

The new bar is well under way with a good few of the men helping out under the supervision of CSM Johnnie Taylor who did all the planning and designing himself and a very nice job too. By the way, if anyone can think of an appropriate name for the new canteen please let us know post haste but *please* not the following: 'The Creep Inn', 'Black Bear Inn' or the 'Bydand Hotel' which have already been listed.

We come now to Christmas, when we had 61 kiddies plus the parents to entertain at the Christmas Party held at Stonehaven this year. Congratulations to Cpl. Masson on the very fine job he made on the baking. The highlight of the party was the arrival of Father 'Lammie' Christmas who was met at the door by Lt 'Bull' Simpson. Once again the Kensitas camera was flashing.

We are now looking forward to future training in store for us. C/Sgt Cahill has just returned from a course on Rescue and First Aid, etc. and assures us of a very interesting time at Camp. I overheard a conversation between Lt Bruce of 'A' Coy and the C/Sgt at a certain 'W/E'. Lt Bruce had split his finger and the Colour was doing a bit of first aid was telling Lt Bruce he had just returned from a course on first aid and rescue. The reply came: 'Hell! Did you pass?'

We have enrolled seven new recruits since camp, and I see one or two of the phantoms are starting to reappear so I say 'Welcome one and all and lang may ye bring ithers wi ye'.

Congratulations to the Company Commander on his promotion to Major and a sad farewell to Lt 'Bull' Simpson who has left us to join HQ Coy. There is a saying in the Company, 'Officers may come and officers may go but the Jocks go on for ever'.

'A' Company remarked about their Tug o' War team and 'D' Coy team in their notes in the last issue of the 'Tiger and Sphinx'. I approached the coach of 'D' Coy team for his remarks. All he had to say was 'We'll gie them a pull ony time they like, even if we are only at quarter strength'.

#### SUPPORT COMPANY

The period under review has been quite an eventful one in many ways. Live shoots, demolitions and mountain rescue were just a few of the more interesting pastimes in which we were heavily engaged. They were all much appreciated and they were more than a little beneficial to all of us. We are now looking forward to bigger and better things in 1965.

Our Xmas Party and Dance turned out to be a great success and the children appeared to be none the worse for a surfeit of 'pop' and sticky buns. They were all present at the end, too, which says much for the vigilance of the organisers. This seems to be the opportune moment to thank the Company Entertainments Committee and all the other helpers who rallied round to help in the decorating, and all the other 'behind the scenes' tasks which are necessary to success on these occasions.

Recruiting at the end of 1964 seemed to be picking up and we seemed to be signing someone on every training evening. There are some 'likely laddies' amongst them too and we hope that the effort will be continued into 1965 because we could use another five times as many if we could get them. As 1965 begins we look forward with great optimism and hope to have accomplished much by the time we go to Camp.

Congratulations to L/Cpls Mulloy and Reid on their hard-earned promotion. L/Cpl Mulloy hasn't got much weight to start with but we wonder if his

PT classes will get any rougher now that he has reached the 'dizzy heights'.

Our live 3in. Mortar shoot at Barry/Buddon was a most successful one, and we were only too pleased to add our own little bit to the general noise-making. We might not have reached the stage of 'belt fed' rapid Mortar fire but at least they went in and out of the right end of the barrel, and, what is more to the point, they went in the right direction too — generally.

Sgt Dooley has now arrived and joined our one-gun battery and we hope that he will enjoy his spell of duty with the TA. There are also welcomes to be extended to L/Cpl Graham who has joined us from 'A' Coy, and to our latest recruits, Ptes Wood, Brown and Gallie whom we hope to turn into Atk gunners in very quick time.

There has been a good amount of interesting training for us and on the 26/27 September we had a live shoot at Barry/Buddon which was most instructive. Whilst we didn't beat the Black Watch (due to the gun being off zero—that's our story), we did at least manage to make the biggest bang in the Coy, leaving Sgt Hay and his 'Rocky Mountain Pioneers' a very chastened lot.

Ex 'Grey Ghost' found us all out in the hills and debating where the 'Grey' came from because it could not have been whiter or colder and the rum ration was a very pleasant necessity.

Congratulations to L/Cpl Mutch on his promotion and we hope that it will not be long before he gets another stripe to keep that one company.

The children all appeared to enjoy their Christmas party at Bucksburn and this did much to set the pace for what proved to be a most enjoyable festive season and the resulting gloom on Jan. 1st, or was it the 2nd?

Here we go, the Assault Pioneers, last but by no means the least, and first we would like to welcome to the Platoon Ptes Wood, Merson and Brown and hope that they enjoy hard work—this will make their stay a happy one. We would also like to congratulate Pte Forbes on becoming a 'dad'.

Training for us has been pretty down to earth since Camp but we had an excellent weekend at Barry/Buddon in September, blowing up tree stumps and all manner of things—fortunately not each other. The prize for the biggest bang went to Sgt Prati and his BAT which proved to be too much competition altogether, although we still claim that we hit more tree-stumps than he hit tanks.

Grey Ghost made a good change in routine and proved to be most enjoyable, even if the Pioneer Sergeant did look more like a white ghost once the frost got into his whiskers.

We had a good weekend at Stonehaven in December when we managed to cover a lot of ground in the mines and booby-trap department. The Hall is still standing at Stoney so perhaps they will have us back for another day or two some time.

Cpl Riddell received his second stripe and we were very pleased to see him promoted. Well done, Charlie, keep it up.

## HEADQUARTER COMPANY

*Coy Comd.*: Maj R. Bannerman, TD  
*2iC*: Capt A. D. M. Hendry  
*Sigs Officer*: Lt D. A. Young  
*Recce Pl Comd*: Lt A. D. Simpson  
*Recce Pl Officer*: 2Lt C. G. H. Clark  
*MTO*: WO1 E. J. T. Coggle  
*C3M*: WOII A. Burnett  
*CQMS*: C/sgt J. Watt  
*PSI*: WOII R. Kent

We had just settled our paunches comfortably on the edges of desks after the physical efforts of Camp and Wapinschaw behind us when the PSI announced with 'ghoulish' delight that Exercise 'Grey Ghost' was but a few weeks away. The frantic preparation necessary revealed to the more junior members of the company that the hinged plywood contraption was in fact the Battle Board and not a miniature table tennis table and the nets which hold multi-coloured balloons on festive occasions are actually to make a 3-tonner look like a mis-shapen fir tree.

On the great day we stowed 2 tons of kit on each 1 ton truck, tucked in a few bodies, and set off on the long haul to Glenbuchat. As we pushed inland, weather conditions deteriorated steadily and, after much skidding and shoving, the Company settled in around Bn HQ's location which was some farm buildings. Before long the wireless nets and the cooking stoves were working and 'battle commenced'. In daylight things went smoothly with the defence platoon providing various refinements which, because of the cold, few people used.

Darkness brought some activity in the form of some abortive attacks on BHQ by patrols from the rifle companies. After a good bacon and egg breakfast we resumed plotting the progress of the various patrols up in the hills. Although HQ Coy had a fairly passive role on this occasion much was learned about the running of a Command Post and its many details.

The Company's Christmas Dance turned out to be a great success as was the Childrens' Party the following day. 200 children were entertained including 12 from the Aberdeen Childrens' Shelter. Each youngster got a wonderful gift from Santa (Wullie Allan) Claus and enough good things to eat. Both events were splendidly organised by Pte Mackie and his committee composed of S/Sgt Beaton, Cpls Byllie, Sutherland, Duell, Ferguson, L/Cpl Galbraith and Ptes Saxton and Yeats. The food on both occasions was prepared by S/Sgt Webster and his cooks. We have learned not to ask how he does it so cheaply but would assure him that we are extremely grateful for the excellent spreads he sets before us.

After rumour and counter rumour we regret to announce the posting of our Medical Officer Major David Proctor to the Field Ambulance. We will miss his smiling face and ready wit but have little doubt that he will find time to visit us now and again. We wish him all success in his new appointment.

Lt D. A. Young from 'A' Coy and Lt A. D. Simpson from 'D' Coy have joined our 'corps elite'—the communications group. Transferred from 5/6 HLI are Cpls Brown and Doherty and new enlistments are Officer Cadet I. R. S. Forbes, Ptes D. Geddes, R. Bruce W. Barron, R. Hutton, A. Geddes, G. Anderson, J. Green, R. Sutherland and Boy McBain. We welcome all of them and hope that their stay with us will be both fruitful and happy.

Although by the time these notes are in print the New Year will be well advanced may we in 'HQ' Coy wish all other Gordon Highlanders a happy and prosperous 1965.

### M.T. AND RECCE PLATOON

Since our last notes we have eagerly been entering all competitions from Bingo to Moto-Cross in order to test our drivers on two wheels and four wheels, and we are pleased to say we held our own!

We congratulate our BAMA Rally team on a good try, and a special applause for Cpl McLeod of Bucksburn and his team for a victory of 3rd place individual entry. Cpl McLeod (SP Coy), Sgt Beattie (HQ Recce), and Pte Dow (HQ Sigs) comprised the winning team. Well done!

Our stalwart team on two wheels have really done the Regiment, and us in particular, proud indeed. On 3/4 October they ventured forth to the Highland District M/C Trials at Cultybraggan and came home with 2nd place in the team event, 2nd and 3rd best individuals, and Best Novices.. October 17/18th saw the team, S/Sgt Duncan, Cpl Allerton, Cpl Phillip and Pte Watson at Longmoor Camp, Hants, for the Army Trials and our luck held, for they finished Best Reserve Army Team, with 1st class and 2nd class individuals. (Sgt Duncan and Cpl Allerton). This Trophy has been won by the team for three years running now. A proud record indeed!

These lads not content, went to Glasgow on 22nd November for the 'Lion' Motor Cycle National event, and again scored a hit, judged the best Army team entered, and Willie Allerton the best Army rider.

In our humble way we do give applause to the team, for proud we are of you. In passing, it would be unfair not to mention the people behind the scene, for a lot of paper work, and general running is needed to keep the team going, namely our MTO (WO I E. J. T. Coggle), a strong supporter *mentally* if not physically in these events, our garage lads and office staff, Willie Allan, Jackie Clifford, Neil McPhail, and Davie Thouless. Without the back-room boys some things wouldn't happen.

Alas, we have growing fears for Jimmy Duncan our S/Sgt and father of the M/C team has decided to become an 'Aussie'! Jimmy will have emigrated by the time the press rolls on these notes. A very sad



The Army Reserve Champions with 1964 Trophies :  
Standing : S/Sgt Duncan, Cpl Allerton, Cpl Phillip.  
Seated : Lt Col E. E. Toms, WO I E. J. T. Coggle.



Army Reserve Champion Motor Cycle Team, 1964 :  
S/Sgt J. Duncan, Cpl M. Phillip, Cpl W. Allerton,  
Pte J. Watson

*By courtesy of Aberdeen Journals Ltd.*

and fond farewell will be said. We shall miss you, Jimmy, but we sincerely wish you and your family the best of luck 'down under'. We hope we won't have to compete with an 'Aussie team' at next year's trials, so don't try it!

Training wise the platoon has progressed at a steady pace, with numerous weekends out in the hills.



Sgt Beattie, Cpl McLeod and Pte Dow receive their prizes for 3rd place in the BAMA Rally

*By courtesy of Wilson Groat*

One which was notable was 'Grey Ghost' when we ventured forth, with fingers crossed, with every vehicle we possessed on the road. But Lady Luck was behind us and not one vehicle let us down (thanks due to our garage staff). The exercise is no doubt well reported on in our general notes, but it is felt small notes from the platoon are worthwhile. Our camouflage on the hills wasn't all that could be expected, but as the saying goes, we learn the hard way. The Recce Platoon need never fear of being surrounded again during darkness, they can also call for help to the RSM and no doubt he will chase off all the bad men who attack them! It is for the record that a platoon, heavily armed, came to BHQ for help when surrounded, who in turn got surrounded themselves because of it. 'Well played, lads'!

The Recce Platoon for once left the vehicles in moth balls on October 4th and lay down all over the Joint Railway Station and on the tracks and looked their normal selves by acting dead or injured, as part of a Mobile Police Rescue from a railway smash. They played the part so well that the Chief Constable has written thanking all concerned for a great show. The people of Aberdeen wondered at the time if it was a practice, as all looked so 'life-like'. So it's obvious that the Recce are good actors too.

Alas, our notes come to a close, and in doing so wish all our readers 'A Happy New Year'.

To our 1st Battalion, 'Bon voyage, haste ye back'!

#### OFFICERS' MESS

On 20th September 1964, after the parade to mark the final positioning of the 5th Bn Colours at St Machars Cathedral, a buffet lunch was held in the Mess. Guests at this function were Lord Provost N. Hogg, Lord Dudley Gordon, Lord Balerno, Col. G. W. Bruce (Honorary Colonel of the Bn), Lt Col Moffat, Lt Col Gray (father of Maj Gray, OC 'B' Coy) and Major Craig.

During exercise 'Grey Ghost' a small Officers Mess was set up and Cpl Thompson (acting as Mess Sgt) and Pte Mackie performed wonders in producing meals at all times during night and day for officers, umpires, press, police, etc.

The big event of our social calendar was the Dinner Dance held in the main hall of Woolmanhill on 12th November, 1964. The total number attending was 78. After a first-class meal (produced by S/Sgt Webster and his cooks) dancing continued into the 'Wee sma' 'oors'. Sgt Newman and his dance band provided the music, assisted in the Highland dances by the Pipe Major and four pipers. Sgt Chesser (Mess Sgt) and his team of waiters again worked extremely hard and contributed in no small way to the success of this evening. The Mess committee are also due a 'pat on the back' for all their hard work—in particular Doc Proctor (our 'fabulous' food member, who at one time was seen kneeling on the mess floor counting forks and knives) and Mr MacRae (our wines member) who attended to the liquid refreshment. We hope our guests and their partners from the 1st Bn enjoyed their brief visit with the 3rd Bn.

History was made on 14th December when some 40 of our sergeants were entertained to dinner. The scene was a colourful one, with capdelabra on the table and with the sergeants in their new mess kit alongside officers in 'scarlets'. It was a 'great' night, ending (officially) when RSM Coggle invited the officers to a goodnight drink in the sergeants' Mess.

During a training weekend on 16/17 January a

buffet supper was held in the Mess for some 30 officers of the North Eastern Cadet Force—and so it goes on from strength to strength!

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Alas! alas! The never-ending cry seems to be 'Tiger and Sphinx' notes, and the subsequent hustle and bustle, and scampering about for bits of news. However, our scribe saves much work by recording all the events as they happen.

A grand social was held on the 5th September when the wives of Mess members took charge and ran a first-class social evening, including a buffet. We congratulate Mrs Coggle, Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Burnett, Mrs Newman, Mrs Reaper and Mrs Stephen. A grand night, ladies.

The Mess Dinner took place at the TA Centre, Bucksburn, with Lt Col and Mrs Toms, Capt and Mrs Dawson heading the guest list. This was our first real get-together since the typhoid epidemic and it turned out to be a first-class evening, with 75% members and wives from all over the North-East in attendance. The Highland dancing after the dinner was notably praiseworthy, especially the Eightsome Reel, when the Commanding Officer was observed to wave a white flag of surrender several times. Perhaps he now has second thoughts on climbing mountains.

In November we greeted a detachment of Regular troops from the 1st Bn, Edinburgh, on a 10-day recruiting drive. Further details appear in our Bn general notes. We were disappointed we were unable to entertain the Mess members but they seemed like 'Will o' the Wisps', as we hardly saw them to say 'Hullo'. Generally in the Mess, improvements have been completed, wall heaters are being installed to make the lounge more a home from home than ever.

The Mess has had quite a few visitors from afar, namely 'Willie' Joss, George Symon, Benny Boyd and nameless senior NCOs from Edinburgh. Our own Mess members are branching out to far flung places also, headed by the RQMS (Johnny Mitchell) and Alex Burnett, who ventured to the Dargai Ball, assisted in their movements by Willie Ogg. We await for stories of what happened with eager ears! Jackie Clifford (CSM 'C' Company), it is rumoured, is applying for a membership ticket for the Highland Brigade Depot Mess. Our scribe reports he is a pretty frequent visitor.

On the PSI side we gave our farewells to Sgt Sammy Warden of Sp Coy to the 1st Battalion (Borneo). Well, Sam, at least you won't have to worry about drills and you won't be able to shave and answer the RSM on the phone at the same time in the jungle. Or can you? Farewell also to Wee Mac (Sgt McDonald) of Keith. We will miss your wit and questions at the PSIs Conferences. We welcome Sgt Dooley, and Sgt Fraser and family. We hope your tour will be a happy one.

We have also lost an old friend and TA member—S/Sgt Jimmy Duncan, the MT expert, who has left for Australia. Jimmy has given 11 years of service in the Mess and is well known in the North-East Motor Cycling circles, having captained our team in their many victories. We wish him the best of luck 'down under' and trust we will hear from him.

At long last our past members of a year or so ago are being presented with gifts to mark their departure. It is rumoured that the RSM has sighed with relief on agreement being reached on the problem of gifts.

During the course of the quarter the members of

the Mess were invited to dinner by the Commanding Officer and officers at TAC Woolmanhill on 5th December, 1964. 90% Sergeants' Mess members attended in mess kit. It turned out to be a most enjoyable night. For most members it was the first time ever to be seated in an Officers' Mess. The procedure of a dinner in proper Regimental style was well worth watching. As the RSM remarked later in the Sgts' Mess, 'It was an honour to be there and something he and all present would cherish'. This sentiment was shared by all the Mess members. We trust it will not be our one and only get-together of the Messes, and the Sgts' Mess will endeavour to

obtain a high standard when they return the compliment to the Officers' Mess.

#### *PSI Situation*

Aberdeen—WOI E. J. T. Coggle (RSM); WOII R. Kent (HQ Coy)  
 Keith ('A' Coy)—Sgt G. Robb; Sgt R. Fraser  
 Peterhead ('B' Coy)—WOII J. Ogg  
 Fraserburgh ('B' Coy)—Sgt A. Pattillo  
 Banchory ('C' Coy)—Sgt G. Girling  
 Laurencekirk ('D' Coy)—S/Sgt G. Skene  
 Bucksburn (Sp Coy)—S/Sgt L. Ross  
 Inverurie (Sp Coy)—Sgt J. Dooley

## 1st BATTALION THE LONDON SCOTTISH

*Commanding Officer:* Lt Col A. F. Niekirk, TD  
*Training Major/Adjutant:* Major R. D. L. Smart  
*Quartermaster:* Major (QM) R. B. Wilkinson  
*RSM:* WOI W. A. Stewart

Most memorable occasion for the London Scottish since its anniversary celebrations in 1959 was Halloween, 1964. Always the Regimental Day, Saturday October 31st last was a unique occasion when serving members and Old Comrades foregathered at dinner to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Messines. This in itself was a moving enough event, especially as there were present London Scots who took part in that action on Halloween 1914—'our living history' as it has been put.

But the knowledge that the Honorary Colonel, HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, was guest of honour was the real reason that London Scots, old and young, rallied with an enthusiasm notable for even the wearers of the hodden grey.

The welcome which the Queen Mother received as she entered 59 Buckingham Gate threatened to bring down the lofty roof of HQ. To a storm of cheering and clapping from the crowded balconies, she was met at the main doors by the Joint Honorary Colonel, Colonel Torrance Law, DSO, TD, and CO Lieutenant Colonel Tommy Macpherson, MC, TD, and the 2IC Lieutenant Colonel Alan Niekirk, TD. Led by Pipe Major de Laspee, incidentally HM's own personal piper, in full skirl, the Royal Honorary Colonel was escorted across the drill hall to the Officers' Mess. When the Queen Mother returned a few minutes later to take her seat at dinner, the crowds on the balconies had somehow found their way to the floor and were politely waiting behind chairs for their beloved Honorary Colonel to occupy the place of honour.

There was first however a simple ceremony when all turned to face the 1914-18 war memorial and a poppy wreath was laid at its foot in tribute to the Fallen of the two world conflicts. This gesture completed, Rev. J. Fraser McLuskey, MC, DD, Honorary Chaplain, said Grace and dinner commenced. It had not long progressed when Colonel Law rose to relay a Royal Command—the Queen Mother wishes to take wine with those present who were at the Battle of Messines on Halloween 1914.

Shyly some 50 veterans rose to their feet amid resounding cheers, none giving louder acclaim than the younger serving members who saw a legend before their eyes. Soon afterwards came the Loyal Toast but there was a significant omission from the established London Scottish formulae for such occasions. The health of the Honorary Colonel, the Queen

Mother, was omitted. It became clear why when Colonel Law proposed 'The Guests', as ably as has even been heard at '59', and said how proud the Regiment was to have the honour of her presence that evening—'your presence has made this special occasion doubly memorable'.

Colonel Law also referred to the presence of Colonel Reggie Lees of the London branch of the Gordon Highlanders, and to the Gordon Permanent Staff, including Major Dick Smart, Adjutant, and Major Reg Wilkinson, Quartermaster. He also told of that now far-off Halloween which was responsible for so much of the high reputation and historic tradition associated with the Regiment.

HM Queen Elizabeth rose in gracious reply. 'May I thank you most warmly for the very kind way you have drunk my health. I am especially glad to be with you on the occasion of your Halloween Dinner. This gathering marks the 50th anniversary of the first battle fought by the Regiment in the 1914-18 war and I am delighted to know that there are some here tonight who fought in that memorable campaign.'

'The great heritage of the London Scottish laid down on that splendid Halloween was confirmed by the Regiment in the Second World War. Their high standard has been maintained ever since.'

'It was a great pleasure for me to see the Regiment in Scotland two years ago; it says much for the physical fitness of those who took part that they successfully upheld their record with the Corrie-yarrick Pass.'

'In its fitness, the Regiment will continue to uphold all the great traditions of the past. I now ask you to join me in drinking a toast to the Regiment'.

Again the drill hall shook in acclaim to our Royal Colonel's presence, and the applause continued as Colonel Tommy Macpherson, with but an hour or two to go before passing over command, replied to Her Majesty's toast. For him it was a sad and proud occasion and his words vividly conveyed this to the listeners.

With the singing of Auld Lang Syne and The Queen, the official programme came to an end but there was still part of the unofficial happenings which would remain to be remembered for a long time by those present. Before the Honorary Colonel took her leave, she circulated around the hall, speaking to serving members and Old Comrades in that way which so readily wins the love and admiration of those fortunate enough to have had such an experience.

So, for the last time that night, cheers rent the air. One final gracious wave and our Honorary Colonel

left the remainder of the Haloween Reunion for London Scots to use as they felt appropriate—and this meant wholesale talking and many private reunions, some after many years, until the wee hours.

Truly a Halloween to remember and a fitting memorial to those few hundreds of 'Saturday afternoon soldiers' who withstood the vicious onslaught of crack professional enemy troops in an encounter, the fame of which rang around the world.

For one present in particular, as 2359 hours came

and went, the occasion was of great and lasting significance. Lieutenant Colonel Alan Frank Niekirk became CO at midnight, the first CO for 50 years not to have known battle and campaign experience in either World War but as fine and efficient a soldier as the Scottish might ever expect to find in command, assured of loyal and devoted support from every member and Old Comrade, and a tour of duty which will make its own traditions to add to the lustre that has been handed on.

## HIGHLAND BRIGADE DEPOT

### Commanding Officer:

Lieutenant Colonel J. Davie, MBE, MC, QO  
Hldrs

Adjutant: Captain E. F. Gordon, Gordons

OC HQ Coy:

Major R. Ritchie, MBE, MC, A and SH

OC Trg Coy:

Major O. R. Tweedy, Black Watch (RHR)

OC Junior Soldiers Coy:

Captain N. J. C. Sutherland, QO Hldrs

2IC Junior Soldiers Coy:

Lieutenant E. N. de B. de Broe Ferguson,  
Black Watch (RHR)

### Training Subalterns:

Lieutenant A. V. M. I. St J. Harmsworth,  
QO Hldrs

Lieutenant D. M. H. Du Boulay, Gordons

Lieutenant N. J. Ridley, QO Hldrs

Lieutenant R. M. Kinghorn, Gordons

The last four months have not been very encouraging from a recruiting point of view. Only nineteen Gordon recruits have passed out compared with thirty in the previous four months.

However, the situation has improved somewhat as we now have twenty-six Gordons under training.

The annual Administration Inspection took place on the 22nd Sept. The Depot got a very good report indeed and this was achieved with no disruption of training whatever. A far cry from the old type of administration inspection!

There have been large numbers of changes in the training staff in the last four months. Lt N. J. Ridley has arrived in place of Lt D. N. A. Blair. Lt S. J.



### Imphal Squad :

Pte McPherson, Pte Buchanan, Pte Gibson (all from Edinburgh),

Lindsay has left and has been replaced by Lt de B. de Broe Ferguson, who has in turn taken over as 2IC Junior Soldiers Coy from Lt R. M. Kinghorn who is now in Trg Coy.

Lt D. H. Mitchell has also left and we are still awaiting the arrival of Lt S. F. Sloane. Captain A. J. Dudgeon has been replaced by Captain N. J. C. Sutherland.

Junior Soldiers Company has now been divorced from Headquarters Company and has its own administrative organization. All Training Subalterns who arrive at the Depot will normally spend their first few months as 2IC of the Junior Soldiers Company before moving across to the Training Company to complete their tour at the Depot.

In the sporting world we have had a very successful time. The Depot soccer team reached the second round of the Army Cup having beaten two regular battalions, 1 Kings and 1 Cameronians. However they were defeated by 45 Signal Regt. Junior Soldiers Company were runners-up in the Junior Soldiers Minor Units Challenge Cup and were beaten after a replay by the Junior Guardsmens Company, Pi-bright.

Falaise Squad passed out on the 3rd October under the command of Lt S. J. Lindsay. Sir Ian Forbes-Leith took the passing out parade and awarded the prizes for the best SLR and LMG shot to Pte Galbraith. On the 31st October Abyssinia Squad passed out. Lt Mitchell was platoon commander, with Sgt Baldwin as platoon Sgt. Ptes Campbell, Rapley and Weir were the Gordon Highlanders to pass out with this squad. Group Captain Farr, who at that time



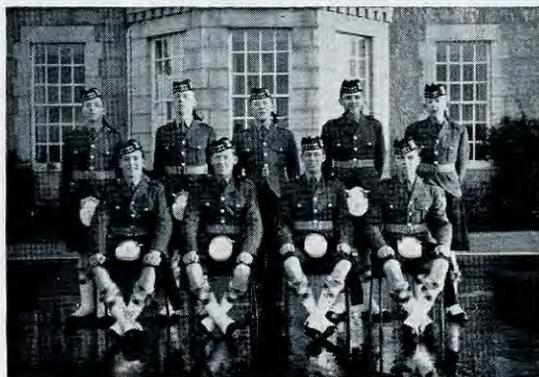
### Abyssinia Squad :

Pte Campbell (Laurencekirk), Pte Hunter Blair (Colchester), Pte Rapley (London), Pte Weir (Edinburgh)

was station commander of RAF Kinloss took the parade. Brigadier Baker-Baker took the passing out parade of Impfal Squad on the 28th November. Lt Harmsworth commanded the parade with Ptes Gibson, Buchanan and McPherson as the Gordon recruits who passed out. The last passing out parade of the year was that of Mareth Squad. Brigadier Maitland-Makgill-Crichton took the parade. There were nine Gordon recruits on parade and Lt Du Boulay was the platoon commander.

At present, Mandalay, Burma and Anzio squads are under training and there is also a three week cadre being run for ex-Junior Leaders and ex-Junior Tradesmen.

Rheichswald Squad is due to form up on the first of February and, like the other squads, it looks as though it will contain its fair share of Gordon recruits.



**Mareth Squad :**

Standing : Ptes Wisnicki (Buckie), Kelly (Attenboro'), Dale (Luthermuir), Booth (Aberdeen), Menzies (Aberdeen).

Seated : Ptes Harvey (Drumlithie), Williams (Aberdeen), McAllan (Duns), Munro (Aberdeen).

#### OFFICERS' MESS

There have been many changes of face in the Mess since August apart from those already mentioned. Bill Sontor has joined a large practice in Aberdeen but still comes back between surgeries and calls to play hockey for us. Brian Grassick has taken over from him and is living in. Don Mahoney has taken over from Mike Buckley and his Welsh war cries add a multi-racial air to the mess. The living in dog population has risen from one to three.

Roddy Kinghorn has now become a regular and after an anxious wait has been promoted. David White is often to be seen having breakfast at ten-thirty a.m. but he does have to work so late at night.

The Game Book now has over four thousand head entered in it and reflects the extreme kindness of all those who have invited us to fish and shoot.

Christmas and New Year were very quiet as the depot went on block leave but the Sergeants' Mess invited us to their Christmas draw which was the greatest fun. Lt Du Boulay won more food in prizes than was good for his waistline.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

The highlight of this quarter was undoubtedly the St Andrews Ball held in the Gymnasium on 20th

November. The very hard work put in by the decorating committee transformed an otherwise bare gymnasium into a magnificent ballroom. The Ball was very well attended by both military and honorary members and their ladies. The messing staff too deserve high praise for the wonderful buffet they produced. During the evening RSM and Mrs Pater-son were presented with gifts as a memento of their stay in the Depot. We take this opportunity of wishing them every success in their new station.

It was a somewhat nostalgic moment on Saturday, 5th December when we said our farewells to Sgt Major 'Paddy' Brown who was carried out in the traditional manner, his car being driven to the gate by Margaret to await his being lowered in the chair to accept a dram from Lt Kinghorn whom, incidentally, we congratulate on the short but very apt speech he made on the occasion. It is not often we see anyone who gets beyond the gate dry-eyed but we're willing to bet that 'Paddy' had not gone very far when that lump came in his throat. He will be sadly missed in tug o' war circles and if your scribe's intentions hold good, readers will hear more of Paddy in a future issue of the magazine. In whatever venture he may choose, and it may be 'mine host' somewhere in the Doncaster area, we wish Paddy, Margaret and the three boys the very best of luck.

We look forward now to the festive season with its usual whirl of social activities, the first being our Christmas draw on the 19th to which, as is the custom, the Commanding Officer, all officers and their ladies have been invited. It will be a tight squeeze in our rather cramped Mess, but we'll 'tramp them in'.

Other activities now over New Year had best be mentioned at a later date, when 'sair heids' are better and empty pockets filled up again. We welcome Sgt Bill Richardson to the Depot Staff and are about to say our goodbyes to Sgt Fraser who has been with us for the past two years. We wish them both success in their respective new stations.

#### JUNIOR SOLDIERS COMPANY NOTES

Whilst the juniors' company, reinforced by a number of new boys, look ahead to a new term and all that it might bring, let us pause to look back over the Christmas term. Immediately springing into mind is the success we achieved in the sports field. It was without a doubt the most successful sporting team the junior soldiers' wing have had for a year or two. But before recalling our proud moments, I should like to spend a little time on our main aim in the Wing, that of producing musicians.

When the term started and Pipe Band and Military Band formed up, things did look glum. The former was pathetically thin on the ground and the latter simply did not exist, as a result of the mass exodus of Seniors to Training Coy. However, thanks to the excellent instruction and very hard work of both band NCOs things began to take shape. Before very long we were taking part in each of Training Company's passing out parades. Whilst we did not find ourselves as heavily committed to outside engagements as in some previous terms we did keep ourselves in the public eye. The Pipe Band appeared for spells before and at half-time in the Aberdeen v Celtic football match. The Military Band, determined to go one better, appeared twice. The first was at a British Legion Show and the second was at Nazareth House Orphanage in Aberdeen. The latter proved to



Highland Brigade Depot Junior Soldiers Football Team :

Standing : l to r : J/Dmr McMartin—A & SH, J/Ppr Dickson—Royal Scots Greys, J/Dmr Jenkins—A & SH, J/Ppr Campbell—Gordons, J/Bdsm Peters—BW, J/L Cpl McKay—A & SH, J/Bdsm McDonald—BW, J-Ppr Davies—Gordons, J/Bdsm Mitchell—QO Hldrs, J/L Cpl Henderson—Gordons, J/L Cpl McLure—QO Hldrs.

Seated : l to r : Captain N. J. C. Sutherland—QO Hldrs, J/Cpl Burt—BW, Lt Col J. Davie MBE MC—QO Hldrs, J/Dmr McKenzie—QO Hldrs, Captain D. A. Robinson—RAEC, J/Cpl McLay—QO Hldrs, C/Sgt E. Rice—BW.



J/Sgt Coventry—Gordons lands a right cross to the head of his opponent on his way to a well deserved points win in the 7 st 7 lbs class.



l to r : J/Sgt Coventry, J/Bdsm Innes, J/Bdsm Merchant, three of the Gordons who represented the Depot against Junior Tradesmen's Regt, Troon. Coventry and Merchant boxed extremely well to win their weights at 7 st 7 lbs and 8 st 7 lbs respectively, whilst Innes though beaten on points in his bout thoroughly deserved the award for the pluckiest fighter of the evening.

be one of the most enjoyable performances the band have given and was voted a success by both performers and audience alike. Sgt Richardson, a very new arrival at the time, it being a Christmas show, ably assisted the band by some talented accordian playing.

Educationally, a section we don't normally include, this term has seen some enterprising new ventures. Captain Don Robinson RAEC, despite three years spent with another Highland Regt, has produced some interesting ideas, and in this has been well supported by Mr Sandy Rankine, our civilian teacher from the West coast or somewhere. Most popular of these new slants on education was the trawling expeditions arranged for several seniors. J/Sgt Seivewright and J/Bdsm Innes will doubtless testify to this.

To return to the sports news. Whilst we have been fairly active in an all-round fashion, football, then boxing have featured. Our boxing meeting with the Junior Tradesmen from Troon has been dealt with separately. Our football team did exceptionally well in the Junior Soldiers' Minor Units Challenge Cup. They won their way to the final round by three very good victories over Lowland Bde Boys, Fusiliers Bde Boys and Junior Guardsmens' Coy (Coldstream and Grenadier). They drew in the final against Junior Guardsmens' Coy (Scots, Irish and Welsh) but were unfortunately beaten in the replay. A fine effort by the whole team amongst whom were Gordons JL/Cpl Davies, J/Cpl Henderson and J/Ppr Campbell.

To finish, as we started, on a musical note, J/Cpl

Riddell is at present undergoing further instruction at Kneller Hall after doing very well here. Another J/Cpl progressing well is Henderson, who has on several occasions piped on his own on Dining-in Nights in the Officers' Mess.

### DEPOT BOXING

On Saturday, 31st October, the Junior Soldiers had a match versus the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment, Troon, at Gordon Barracks.

CSMI Mackley and his staff made a wonderful job of the ring and the official desks and are to be heartily congratulated as all this hard work really started the evening off to a great success.

All the Regiments were represented in the Depot team, these being 1 Black Watch, J/Lcpl Brown; 2 Queens Own Highlanders, J/Bdsm Currie and Pte Anderson; 5 Gordon Highlanders, J/Sgt Coventry, J/Bdsm Merchant, Wood, Innes and Pte Dale; 1 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, J/Bdsm Fraser; 1 R. S. Greys, J/Ppr Milne.

Difficulty in matching weights was experienced as there were only the 70 Juniors to get our boxers

from, as opposed to 720 of the Junior Tradesmen's Regiment.

We started off in excellent style with Coventry and then Merchant winning the first two bouts. Coventry's boxing was clean and aggressive. He looked a winner right from the word go and is to be congratulated on an excellent bout. Merchant's was a much closer match. He is not an aggressive boxer but his counter punching had the desired effect. Our only other win was Fraser's, who made good use of a strong left hand in every round.

Innes put up an excellent show for a complete novice. He was boxing Troon's most experienced boy, and put in some really hard punches. Experience counted, but Innes won the statuette, presented by Capt E. F. Gordon, for the 'Pluckiest Boxer of the evening'.

The Junior Soldiers Band were in attendance under the watchful eye of Mr Henderson and played before the boxing started and again during the interval.

The prizes were presented at the end of the last bout by the Commanding Officer, and then the boxers, officials, and the band all went to the Junior Soldiers dining hall where they had a buffet supper.

## SCOTTISH NORTH EASTERN AREA ARMY CADET FORCE

'In dreams I oft wonder what next I may chance  
to be,  
Fiji Prime Minister or Marshal of France,  
Or Bashi-Bazouk with a ten-foot lance—  
Still on my checkered career!'

This old saw might well reflect the thoughts of Major Allan Brodie, who resigned command of the 4th (Kincardineshire) Battalion at the close of 1964. For Allan was SNEACF's most colourful personality—former Scotland Yard man, RAF officer, bomb tester, parachutist, Malayan Police terrorist-hunter and athlete.

Allan joined the Metropolitan Police several years before the war and 'graduated' to the Flying Squad as detective-sergeant. In 1934 he competed in the Empire Games in London as the Scottish light-heavyweight 'champ' in wrestling. He volunteered for the RAF and trained as a bomb-aimer in the US and in Canada and in 1942 was commissioned.

He wears the ribbon of the Distinguished Flying Cross, won while on 'ops' over Italy. The award was made for his part in bringing back an aircraft after it had been badly shot up over the target area and also for his outstanding record in bombing and aerial photography.

When he was a flight-lieutenant Allan was trained as a parachutist and opened up landing strips in Yugoslavia. He helped to supply the partisans with guns, 'ammo' and food and took part in urgent rescue missions to bring out their wounded. Allan also served in the Middle East and in Iran.

SNEACF's 'James Bond' ended his RAF career at West Freugh, near Stranraer, with a bomb-trials unit testing prototype bombs—the danger's self was lure alone for Allan Brodie. He rejoined the 'Metro' on being demobbed, but the wanderlust was still with him and in 1951 he opted for the Malayan Police and spent five years on jungle duties in charge of field forces and with the anti-riot squads. He was appointed instructor in unarmed combat to this branch.

Superintendent Brodie, as he was then, lived hard and relaxed hard. In his off-duty time he took part in sports meetings and became hammer, shot and discus champion of the Malay Straits and turned several of these gatherings into miniature Highland games.

When Malaya became independent Allan, a fishin', shootin', huntin' man, returned to the North in 1958. His hobby reflects his variety of talents—he makes a range of attractive souvenirs from deerhorn. He came into SNEACF in the early '60's and was commissioned as a Lieutenant, later becoming CO of the Aboyne unit. Further promotion came his way and he took command of the battalion in 1962.

During his eventful 'reign' Major Brodie—who hails from Lochfyneside—furthered sporting activities along with the normal indoor and outdoor cadet training programmes, and 'Brodie's loons' had a number of successes. When he regretfully intimated his resignation Allan added that he would maintain his enthusiasm for the movement and keep contact with the many friends he had made in it. So he's nae awa' tae bide awa'!

Within a few weeks of his resignation Major Brodie was presented with a silver-mounted sgian dhu ornamented on the hilt with a cairngorm. Inscribed on the gleaming blade is: 'To Major A. Brodie from the adults and cadets of the 4th (Kincardineshire) Battalion, ACF. Mrs Brodie also received a gift from the Battalion.'

Essentially a man of action his words were few but as straight as the sgian dhu he brandished that night in Banchory TA Drillhall. 'In my five years with the ACF I have found 99 per cent of the lads here a credit to any youth movement in this or any other country . . . and the remainder of his thanks was drowned in a resounding cheer.'

Major Brodie is succeeded by his second-in-command, Captain A. M. Nicolson, a former commander of the 3rd (Banffshire) Battalion and a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme pioneer in the North. Recently promoted Major, he was commissioned in 1950 and is well known throughout the four battalions of

SNEACF. His advice, guidance and leadership made him a popular figure, particularly with the cadets at Dufftown and Aberlour. In 1952 he was promoted Lieutenant and later to Captain.

The 1st (City of Aberdeen) Battalion also has a new commander—Major James Kyles, TD—who took over command in the late autumn on the resignation of Major J. J. Gray. Major Kyles, who has served in the UK and abroad with the Indian Army, joined the 4/5 Battalion The Royal Scots in 1934 as a ranker and later wore a corporal's chevrons.

In 1937 he entered Edinburgh University OTC and in 1939 volunteered for active service with the Royal Engineers. On being commissioned he was seconded to the Bengal Sappers and Miners and later commanded an Indian field company. He was demobbed in 1946 and in 1951 rejoined the TA and retired from the Royal Army Service Corps in 1963. He commanded transport companies in Edinburgh and Dundee and experienced tours of duty with the 52nd (Lowland) Division and the 51st (Highland) Division.

And Major Kyles has a 'plus'—a warden instructors' 'ticket' gained at the Home Office Civil Defence School, Taymouth Castle, in 1960. After a pleasant 'getting to know you' session with City Battalion officers Major Kyles was the prime mover in establishing the battalion's new 'home' in Rubislaw Place, Aberdeen—a long overdue officers' mess.

The facilities are also available to the officers of the other battalions in SNEACF—ideal for an after-parade rendezvous, entertaining visiting officers, or dropping in with a friend of an evening. And it's just the place for battalion officers' meetings, etc. Attractively furnished 'on the double' it was hanelled with a cocktail party on the eve of the Christmas/New Year festive season.

Major Kyles welcomed the officers and presented each with a set of keys. Then the company—representative of the 'Gunnery', Gordons, Engineers, Signals and Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse—launched the assault on the bar led by the battalion commander. The attack was supported by a full-scale barrage—of popping corks! Among the guests were Colonel J. W. Nicol, former Commandant SNEACF, Colonel J. C. King, Hon. Colonel of the Area, Major the Rev. Canon C. Glennie, senior chaplain SNEACF and Mr E. Walker, assistant secretary of the local TA Association.

Major Gray, City Battalion's former commander, entered the movement in 1948 on being commissioned and took over Woodside Company. In the succeeding years he was promoted Lieutenant and then Captain and in 1960 was awarded the Cadet Force Medal. Soon afterwards he was appointed Battalion Commander. Major Gray was presented with a chiming clock at a ceremony after the boxing contests at the Highland Brigade Depot on January 9, the gift being handed over by Lt Col J. H. Moonie, Deputy Commandant, SNEACF.

Captain James Wallace, City Battalion's popular and energetic second-in-command and also its training officer—who was awarded the Certificate of Merit several months ago—now has an assistant training officer. He is Captain W. S. Diack, formerly of Torry (El Alamein) Platoon. Bill Diack joined Westburn Platoon as a cadet in 1942, and, when the Torry unit was formed, he transferred to it as a corporal, later becoming cadet sergeant-major.

In 1947 he joined the 2nd Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders and experienced terrorist-hunting in Malaya for two years. In 1949 he returned to Torry

Platoon as an adult warrant officer. He was commissioned and took over command of the unit in 1951. As a Lieutenant he received the Cadet Force Medal in 1963 and was promoted Captain.

Captain Diack has been succeeded in Torry Platoon by Lieutenant W. H. Clark, from North Platoon. Mr Clark, an 'old boy' of the Torry unit, now commands the detachment in which he once was a cadet. Lieutenant Clark joined it in 1948 and from 1956 to 1959 served in REME attaining non-commissioned rank. On demob he rejoined the ACF, was commissioned and became detachment CO.

Lieutenant A. Bryson, from RE Troop, Hardgate, has gone to North Platoon. He too has had Regular Army service, in his case with the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots. He had tours of duty in Germany, Egypt and Korea.

The officer who succeeds him in the RE Troop is Lieutenant J. Symons, formerly of the Royal Signals Troop, Fonthill. Lieutenant Symons thus puts up again the badge he wore over 20 years ago. He was a TA soldier with the Artists Rifles and during the war served in the Royal Engineers, becoming a warrant officer, class II. Jack, who had his war in North Africa and Italy, joined SNEACF in 1960. He first donned khaki as a cadet in the Queen's Westminster, London, in 1932.

Second Lieutenant Alan Johnston, who has taken over command of the Royal Signals Troop, Fonthill, on the departure of Jack Symons, is another personality of SNEACF. He is rather a 'Scarlet Pimpernel'—he played hide and seek with the Nazis. And, appropriately enough he then wore the distinctive beret of the 'Red Devils'.

Alan joined The Sherwood Foresters in 1940 but transferred to the 'paras'. He was in the Oudna drop, near Tunisia, and was later captured by German 'paras' when he landed in the Primesole Bridge battle area, in Sicily. The scene changes to the Muncih area. Alan escaped from a POW 'cage' but was recaptured. He again eluded the Nazis, this time at a camp on the banks of the Elbe, but once more he was brought back.

He made his third break while on the march to a prison camp in Thuringia. And it was a case of 'They seek him here, they seek him there, those Jerries seek him everywhere—that damned elusive Pimpernel'. Alan kept going and fell in with US General Paton's advancing column—and his hunters became the hunted! 'Pimpernel Johnston' was repatriated and served with an RAOC unit in Warwickshire until demobbed. Alan joined SNEACF some two years ago.

City Battalion's Royal Artillery Troop, in Ruby Lane, has been reformed—given the kiss of life after being in suspended animation for some time. Officer appointed in this case is Lieutenant A. R. Elrick, from Woodside Platoon. Lieutenant Elrick served with the Royal Artillery in Hong Kong and his unit has a particular appeal to the sons of 'Gunnery'. And he wants more of them!

A former Aberdeen Grammar School 'boy' is the first CO of this battalion's new Royal Signals Troop (B). Commissioned from under-officer as a second-lieutenant, he is Mr. G. J. H. King. Second-Lieutenant King was a national service man in the RAF from 1959 to 1961.

But the wind of change and the expansionist trend is not confined to City Battalion. In the 2nd (Aberdeenshire) Battalion area a new unit is being formed at Turriff. In command will be ex-Sergeant Richard McAllister, a former TA soldier of the 5/6 Gordons.

And it is hoped that a detachment may ere long take shape in Ellon. So 2nd Battalion is keeping its fingers crossed.

SNEACF's Best Cadet Competition for the Nicol Trophy—always keenly contested—was won by CSM S. Milne, North Platoon, City Battalion. Since promoted Area RSM, the Cadet of the Year is now with Torry (El Alamein) Platoon. The Nicol Trophy—in the form of a statuette of an Army Cadet—was donated for annual competition by Colonel J. W. Nicol, former Area Commandant. Colonel Nicol presented Stewart Milne with the award. Runner-up was Sergeant L. Hamill, Bucksburn Platoon, 2nd (Aberdeenshire) Battalion. He was awarded the trophy presented for annual competition by Lt Col D. D. Law (late Deputy Commandant, SNEACF). Corporal D. Walker, also of Bucksburn Platoon, was third.

Two units—Portsoy Platoon, 3rd (Banffshire) Battalion and RE Troop, 1st (City of Aberdeen) Battalion—received above standard reports as a result of the annual inspection visits during the training year (Aug. 1, 1963—July 31, 1964). The visits were made by Brigadier E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, OBE, commander of the affiliated formation, 152 Brigade. All detachments, in fact, received highly satisfactory gradings.

In the thirteen ACF areas in Scotland SNEACF is in fifth place regarding numbers. Four more cadets and it would have been fourth! Several regions report decreases but SNEACF has retained its appeal to adventurous lads in city and county. Boys of 17 may now join the TA provided their parents consent. This may attract some cadets to the TA but it is understood the possibility of lowering the age for entering the ACF is being discussed—also the introduction of a new uniform.

There was rather a flap when City Battalion received 24 hours' notice to provide a guard of honour for the Lord Provost at the Gordons Week Parade in Union Street. But 18 smart cadets paraded and the 'LP' chatted with most of the lads when he inspected them, accompanied by the guard commander, Captain W. S. Diack. General reaction: 'Good show, chaps!'

And City Battalion again featured in Gordons Week. Second-Lieutenant W. Pratt Paul, the Area public relations officer, led a composite formation of cadets from Gordons ACF detachments to the Regimental Museum. Captain R. Fogg Elliot, the Curator and Editor of 'The Tiger and Sphinx' gave them a rundown on the saga of the regiment and conducted the party round the museum.

And a new portrait has joined the 'gallery' of former Commandants in the ante-room at the ACF Training Centre, Schoolhill. It is that of Colonel J. W. Nicol, who commanded SNEACF from 1958 until 1963, during a difficult period. Colonel Nicol made an outstanding contribution to the progress and welfare of the movement in the North.

City Battalion hope to raise a football team reinforced by players from nearby county units. It is intended to take on all comers in the under 18 category. After a lapse of several years the Alamein Cup is being revived to stimulate friendly rivalry.

About 40 cadet 'gladiators' had a glorious punch-up in the gym at the Highland Brigade Depot early in January. They were classified according to weight and age and from the winners a team was selected to represent SNEACF on January 19 at Troon in the Scottish ACF championships. Last year this area had four 'champs' and the team was placed third. We're

tough, mighty tough in the North, so a more spectacular result is anticipated on this occasion.

Officers from the four SNEACF battalions went into action with the 3rd Gordons during the weekend January 16/17. The battlefield was Woolmanhill TA Centre. Here the Battle of Hechtel was re-fought—but on a cloth model, so the medical services relaxed! The 3rd extended their traditional hospitality and provided a buffet supper on the Saturday evening.

A new venture this year at the Highland Brigade Depot is a weapon training course to qualify ACF adults in supervising range procedure. First course will probably take place on March 6/7 with an estimated attendance of 16. A repeat course is likely in the autumn.

Three parties consisting of one adult and 12 cadets are to visit the Junior Tradesmens Regiment at Dundonald, Troon, in the spring. Cadets in this area have always shown a keen interest in the Regular Army and an appreciable number have joined up. With the apprenticeship position in the North rather tight more lads are turning to the Army for a career. Quite a few go to the Highland regiments, particularly the Gordons.

Throughout the past year the various courses were well attended, including War Office courses and local training 'stints'. And the football and boxing skills organised by Scottish Command at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, attracted numerous cadets. The Part I and Part II examinations also yielded highly satisfactory pass rates.

In the autumn SNEACF had a welcome 'reinforcement' of 16 adults who qualified as Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme instructors following a week-end course at Schoolhill. Under the expert tuition of Mr. Frank Barham, ACF Association, London, they all 'graduated' in camp cuisine and now they are passing on the 'message' to their units.

A most instructive hygiene course, also for adults, was provided by Major J. A. Howell, commanding No. 6 (Aberdeen) Section, 1st Field Hygiene Company, RAMC (TA). The standard of hygiene, including the handling and preparation of food, cooking and service at the ACF Training Centre at Schoolhill, was commanded by Major Howell. This well deserved 'bouquet' gladdened the hearts of Major G. Michie, the 'Quarterbloke', SMI J. Skene, master cook, and their staff.

On Christmas Eve 50 pensioners in Aberdeen, Stonehaven, Fyvie, Macduff—and places in between—received a visit from Santa Claus—in KHAKI. A group of cadets from City Battalion presented the OAPs with hampers of groceries, each valued at £2, and wished them a merry Christmas.

Operation Santa Claus, launched from Great Southern Road Camp, was made possible by the generous donations from members of the ACF Parents Club of this battalion. The youthful Santas were dispatched on their errands of good cheer by the Chief Santa—RSM Percy A. Catto. It was 'Shun! Pick up your hampers and go, lads, go!'

The annual camp for the four battalions in the area has been fixed for July 10/24—the Trades Fortnight—at 89 WETC, Anzio Camp, Blackshaw Moor, near Leek, Staffordshire. The 1964 camp here was cancelled owing to the typhoid epidemic.

Other highlights of the 1965 programme are: First Aid course (Feb. 6/7); Mountain rescue course (to be arranged); SNE Wapinschaw (May 22/23); a trek through the Larig Ghru (June 5/6); and the TA Wapinschaw (June 11/13).

And wouldn't it be quite a sensation if SNEACF formed a ski-platoon on the lines of Italy's Alpini or France's Alpine Chasseurs? Well, you never know. But HQ are taking the names of those interested in attending a ski weekend in the Cairngorms (March 20/21) with a hotel at Grantown-on-Spey as operational base, plus instruction by a qualified tutor.

Maybe the Commandant, Lt Col A. W. MacDonald, MC, TD, has ambitions of an expedition to the Himalayas to bring back an abominable snowman. If this project interests Aberdeen's zoo any deal made should materially benefit SNEACF funds!

Scotland's top soldier, Lieut General Sir George Gordon Lennox, KBE, CB, CVO, DSO, GOC-in-C Scottish Command, had to concede pride of place to 16-year-old Cadet Sergeant Ian Philip at a ceremony in Portsoy Town Hall on January 14 when he presented him with his gold award in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. The General shook hands with and congratulated the young sergeant who was one of 27 cadets who won D of E awards—a Scottish, and possibly UK record.

Sergeant Philip, of Portsoy Platoon, received serious multiple injuries in a cliff fall several months before entering for his 'gold'. While making his 54 mile hike through the Cairngorms he was visited by the umpires who found him suffering from badly swollen ankles. They advised him to give up and have another go at a later date.

Sergeant Philip refused and pushed on to cross the finishing line hobbling on two sticks. That's the kind of youth who proudly wears the badge of 'Na Gordanach'—The Gordon Highlanders—in SNEACF.

On handing over the awards the General congratulated the cadets and added 'Thousands get their kicks out of watching others doing things but that doesn't get them anywhere. What you do is what you will be

judged by and it is only by learning to aim higher you will get anywhere. You are the do-ers,' he emphasised.

Gold awards were also presented to Sergeant D. Shaw, Corporal J. Cooper and Corporal A. Mair, all of Porsoy Platoon. A silver award was gained by Corporal A. Donn, Cullen Platoon. Twenty-two cadets—or ex-cadets—were presented with 'bronzes'.

Lt Col A. W. MacDonald, MC, TD, Area Commandant, added his congratulations and expressed his thanks to the cadets' employers who co-operated wholeheartedly and pointed out that a Duke of Edinburgh award winner was the type of lad likely to do well in his job.

Portsoy Town Hall was packed to capacity to honour the cadets of Banffshire's 'Dandy Third' Battalion which is commanded by Major W. Stephen Smith, OBE, MC, a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme enthusiast and instructor. The gathering of over 200 included civic and military dignitaries, county personalities, parents, cadets' girl friends, a group of junior soldiers from the Highland Brigade Depot, Bridge of Don, and representative parties of officers from the other cadet battalions in the area.

On the 'stage' was a display of Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme expedition kit, equipment, cooking utensils, etc, a mock-up of a camp scene complete with glowing fire, awards and trophies, models made by the cadets, posters and photographs sent from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme HQ, London, and maps and cloth models showing the routes taken by the 'gold' parties.

After a buffet tea there was a 'hop'. It was a night to remember for the Banffshire battalion and its two record-breaking platoons. And the visit of the GOC-in-Command was a wonderful tribute from the Regular Army to the Army Cadet Force.

## CAPE TOWN HIGHLANDERS

The year 1964 is behind us. A year with perhaps more frustrations than usual, although we did chalk up a few successes; a year which had some of us doubting whether the paper war would ever be won. This latter mainly due to our increase in numbers.

During the year four additional drafts of ballottees were posted to the unit putting an increased load on the A & Q staffs. We did receive the good news that a permanent force warrant officer was to be posted to the unit (also to be shared by two other C.F. units) to assist in the routine work. Not surprisingly this Warrant Officer has not yet arrived, but we live in hopes.

The continuous training this year was conducted at Oudtshoorn—a place well known to most of us. The theme was to be conventional warfare developing from internal security operations.

On 24/8/1964 the advance party, commanded by the second-in-command, left for the training area. Units were not as previously billeted in the military training camp itself but had to make do under canvas some miles out of the camp. The Kaffrarian Rifles who were training with the unit had the good fortune of taking over the camp of a previous unit—tents already pitched and laid out. No such luck for us and we had to get down to the solid graft of drawing stores, laying out the camp and pitching tents in preparation for the unit's arrival. To cap it all the unit was delayed for

some five hours by a mishap to the locomotive. However, everybody set to with a will and in a remarkably short time we were organised and ready to start training.

Over the first weekend our medical officer and his 'gun bearer' visited us. Of their hunting prowess the less said the better.

The training was all done by unit instructors and proceeded smoothly. We were most unfortunate in striking three bad days for range practices and as a result the scores were rather below par. In spite of the shortage of senior ranks in camp, the scheme was very successful due to a lot of hard work and enthusiasm by all concerned.

During the final week it rained almost continually and conditions were extremely unpleasant. The notorious Oudtshoorn mud made handing back and clearing camp a difficult and unpleasant task.

The home coming dance was as usual arranged by the ladies of the Regimental Association. The turnout was poor but the dance was enjoyed by all who attended. The major trophies competed for during the year were presented. Congratulations to 'B' Coy on winning the 62 Cup.

Non-continuous training was mainly run by the companies themselves. This step has become necessary due to the increase in numbers. We did have one evening of films arranged by the doctor with our RSM acting as projectionist.

There was a change in venue for Hogmanay dance. Instead of a small family party a big show was organised at 'Unitie' the naval training establishment in Cape Town docks. This show was a tremendous success. A last minute rush for tickets meant a capacity crowd, in fact some latecomers had to be turned away. The brunt of the organising and work was done by Mr. 'Shorty' Hendricks. He was assisted by a few, too few, helpers from the regimental family.

On Sunday, 13th December, the officers and sergeants spent a most enjoyable day as guests of the Hon. Colonel at his home at Gordons Bay. It had been traditional for the whole regiment to march to his home—this when he was living considerably closer to the Regimental HQ, where everybody had a bun and a cool drink. As the Colonel now lives some 35 miles from the HQ this was obviously impractical—hence the invitation to the officers' and sergeants' messes.

During December, the end of the training year, we said goodbye not only to the usual crop of time expired men, but also to one of our senior officers and to several extended service sergeants. Our best wishes go to all of them and our thanks particularly to the long service personnel for the time and effort expended in the service of the regiment.

#### HQ COMPANY

Camp in September threw a great deal on to the shoulders of the senior NCOs and it is a pleasure to record how well they carried responsibilities not normally within their province. Again Sergeant McQuade did a stout job in charge of signals and a newly promoted Sergeant van Blerk revealed himself as having considerable talents in matters affecting the Vickers Machine Gun.

The increase in strength has resulted in an increasingly large Company, with attendant administrative problems. Cpl Sharp has taken over as Company Clerk and shows already a good grasp of the job.

At the moment we are battling for an anti-tank gun and a Vickers to keep weapon training up to standard. We live in hopes that these items will be forthcoming.

Shortage of officers is a serious drawback, but for the first time in history we have a Light Workshop Troop Commander, Asst. Fd. Ct. Laubscher, who is slowly collecting a diversely qualified troop of experts round him.

#### 'A' COMPANY

The troop train left Cape Town station nearly on time on 26th August bound for the regiment's annual camp at Oudtshoorn. This year everything went smoothly and we did not have a repetition of last year when the baggage detail were left behind. On the morning of 27th we were in the mountains above George where the train stopped to take on water at a siding called 'Power'. Strangely enough this is just what we needed to get us through the mountains.

In building up the necessary pressure needed to give the engine sufficient power to pull the train through the last few miles of the mountain, a pressure valve was blown. As a result we were delayed for the whole morning. The missing part had blown out and fallen into one of the numerous gorges in the vicinity. A search party of some of the more adventurous chaps quickly scampered down the gorge and in a very short time the part was found. A call had meanwhile been put through to Mossel Bay for help and thus we were soon on our way.

From Oudtshoorn the whole regiment was conveyed by trucks to our bivouac area about 3 miles out from the camp proper. What a dismal site greeted us when we arrived! It was in actual fact a great bulldozed area, clear of bushes with about half a dozen pitched tents and great heaps of canvas tents waiting to be pitched—not the pleasantest of jobs. After the initial shock, disappointment, moaning, grumbling and cursing everybody got stuck in. By nightfall the tents had been pitched, bedding and equipment had been issued and we were more or less settled.

No time was lost and our training started next day. There was a pretty tight schedule with hardly any time wasted. But as in armies all over the world there are always moaners who never seem to be without something to say. These and loafers seem nowadays to cause the most trouble. Comics and entertainers normally also seem to be ever present in the army. 'A' Coy was certainly not without this last mentioned group who did much to cheer up our camp as a whole. They made life more bearable and deserve a hearty vote of thanks.

This camp saw the regiment without any CSMs present. Their duties were taken over by certain sergeants who performed very well. Thanks must go to Sergeant George Vinello-Lippert who did the job for 'A' Company. What an unenviable job he had! Sergeant Janke of 'A' Company took over as CSM of 'C' Company—the 'rebel' company.

Manoeuvres were short affairs lasting only 3 days and nights. For this exercise 'C' Company was divided between 'A' and 'B'. The first phase of the exercise was that 'A' and 'B' were required to take up temporary bases which was done at night. This phase went off very well indeed, especially for a certain sergeant acting as platoon leader who took No. 2 platoon of 'A' Company right on target and then promptly hid his whole platoon so well that neither his own company nor the enemy nor the umpires could find him. He even managed to ambush a jeep belonging to one of the umpires without giving away his position.

During the second phase on the second night we were required to take up defensive positions. What a night this was! For some reason or other the Permanent Force had it in for us and led us on a crazy route march through thick bush, up hills and down dales in the dead of night. The regiment however survived to fight another day. After difficulty in finding the rendezvous points we finally took up positions. The following day was spent digging-in and that night saw us in the thick of it as the enemy attacked. Guy Fawkes night never had a better display. A certain sergeant of No. 2 platoon acting as platoon leader had great fun when he began to make life uncomfortable for certain umpires and other groups with 2 inch mortar smoke bombs. They are probably still suffering. From the point of view of the men it was a successful exercise and thus we will not quote certain remarks made by the Permanent Force.

The end of camp was in sight but first life had to be made miserable. The heavens agreed and so it poured with rain for the last four days. Within half an hour everybody and everything was drenched! The whole camp area soon turned into a quagmire with vehicles bogged down all over the place. Only on the last day of camp did the sun come out.

The country around Oudtshoorn abounds in tortois, and every day at least one would be brought into camp. These almost inevitably found their way to the Sergeants' Mess when they were placed in a

special boxed-off area. On the last day they were all brought out and one was earmarked for each sergeant and each officer. A race was then held which was eventually won by the medic sergeant's tortoise—maybe it had been given some pep pills!

We arrived in Cape Town on 18th September right in the midst of the rush hour. Many traffic jams were caused when we marched through town to our RHQ.

Other important events towards the end of 1964 were the transfer of Field Cornet Burger on business to Bloemfontein, the marriages of Corporal Martin and Rifleman Vos (to Sergeant Janke's sister), the birth of a daughter to CSM de Reuck and the promotion of Corporal Cerff to Sergeant. Mention must also be made of those whose time expired in the regiment. In particular one thinks of willing persons such as Corporals Martin and Wilkinson who have meant much to 'A' Company and to the regiment. We in 'A' Company look forward to the new year expectantly, knowing that we will be willing and able.

### 'B' COMPANY

As 1964 draws to a close in the usual social whirl let us pause for a moment to review the events of the months which have passed since we last appeared in print.

Camp this year was held at Oudtshoorn from 26th August to 18th September and was notable for the unfortunate absence of officers and senior NCOs. This lack of senior ranks made 'battle conditions' even more realistic as corporals and riflemen had to take over these positions, and in the circumstances acquitted themselves very well.

The theme of this year's camp was Internal Security developing into conventional warfare. 'B' Company were highly honoured with the presence of half of 'Charlie' Company to form 'Bravo' battle company, during the manoeuvres. Both companies worked well and the morale was extremely high. Ast. FD/CT Wright, who commanded the company in camp, has recorded his views and interesting reading they made for those of us who were unable to attend. Unfortunately these cannot be published due to censorship.

Return to Cape Town was celebrated in the usual manner by the home-coming dance which was, as usual, well supported by the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. We are very proud to record that we were awarded the '62' Cup for the second year in succession and in addition won the cup for shooting and dart.

In November we said farewell to Captain Parker-Forsyth who, after 14 years in the unit—the last 3 in command of the company—was forced to retire for business reasons. We wish him, his good lady and their young family every success for the future. We also said cheerio to Ast. FD/G Mike Mayne, who has been transferred to Graaff-Reinet. We hope that this move will only be for a brief period and that he will be back with us shortly.

In handing the Company over to FD/CT Fate, Capt Parker-Forsyth no doubt recalled an occasion 12 years ago when FD/CT Fate handed over a platoon to him just after he had received his commission. We welcome FD/CT Fate back to the company, which he served in as a corporal two years before being appointed to commissioned rank in 1950.

Congratulations to Cpls Boshoff, McLeod, Woods and Woolidge who qualified at a recent course held at the Infantry School and we hope that their stay with the Company will be a long and happy one.

### 'C' COMPANY

The period covered by these notes has been fairly active, both from a Company and a Battalion point of view.

Our Company bivouac was held over the period from Friday evening the 31st July to Saturday the 1st August. With a good turnout of members, the Company moved out to the exercise, Cape East, previously a Royal Navy Radio Station.

In spite of pouring rain and a very reluctant 3-tonner we reached Cape East without major mishap. Training commenced at 0800 hours on Saturday and continued until 1600 hours when the clean-up of the area was tackled and completed.

Training covered certain aspects of guerilla operations and some refreshing on conventional warfare at platoon level.

The general consensus of opinion amongst those who attended was that it proved constructive and most enjoyable. All benefited considerably from the exercise, and in particular our kitchen personnel under Cpl Norman, Admin. and Q personnel under Cpl Kahn and the drivers. No one could fault this army's cooking (or drivers).

A special word of thanks must go to FD/CT Tate who, as Quartermaster went well beyond the call of duty to provide for our needs. We are also most grateful for his assistance with FD/CT Burger from 'A' Company, in the training and field exercises.

We were very pleased to have a visit on Saturday afternoon from the CO and 2IC. This always serves as a good boost for morale.

Camp this year covered the period from the 26th August until the 17th September and was once again held in Oudtshoorn.

Unfortunately the battalion went into camp sadly depleted of officers and NCOs. Each Company had to operate with only one officer, but 'B' Company who had two. In each case the officer was an Assistant Field Cornet attending his first camp with the Regiment. A/FD CT Feist acted as Company Commander, 2IC etc. for 'C' Company. Sgt Janke was seconded to the Company from 'A' Company to act as CSM. Our sincere thanks to him for the spirit in which he entered into the Company life.

The high morale (witness the somewhat noisy arrival in Cape Town Station) was in no small way due to his efforts.

The posts of Platoon Leaders were filled by Cpls Castle and van der Westhuizen and L/Cpl Venter. All other NCO posts, including Platoon Sgts, were filled by L/Cpls and Rfn. In spite of the difficulties encountered, all acquitted themselves well and valuable experience was gained.

Regrettably 'C' Company was split and joined to 'A' and 'B' Companies for the main exercise, but, although disappointed that they could not operate as a company, the members put their whole heart into working for their new temporary companies.

It looks as if 'C' Company has acquired a valuable aid for interrogation purposes. Although Rfn Miller obtained promising results when working on Rfn Lake, a test on an evening is awaited with interest!

Congratulations go to A/FD CT Geoff Misplon and Cpl Roos on their respective engagements. We would also take this opportunity of congratulating Sgts Castle and van der Westhuizen on their promotions from Cpl and Cpls Kahn and Norton on their promotions.

This period has also seen the advent of the new Jiminy Cricket brought up to date with correct dress

and FN Rifle. We can only trust that he has as illustrious a life as Company Flag, as his predecessor.

A hearty welcome is extended to the 30 new members who joined the Company during November. We look forward to long and happy camaraderie.

### OFFICERS' MESS

There was an excellent turn out from the Mess at the annual Citizen Force Officers' Ball held at the Arthur's Seat Hotel on 14th August. The event was so well attended that dancing was of the night club shuffle variety. It has subsequently transpired that a profit has been made out of this year's effort.

The continuous training camp was for various reasons not well attended by the members of the Mess. All credit to those that were there. Their hard work and enthusiasm were a tower of strength. Question: What gave the Doctor and his 'gun bearer' the idea that they were hunters? Anyway, thanks for the porcupine—run down by (very unsporting) a car.

As usual most of the Mess activities have taken place towards the end of the year. At the December meeting we had the sad duty of saying goodbye to Capt Edmund Parker-Forsyth who goes on the Reserve for business reasons. Joining the Regiment in July, 1951, he was commissioned in 1952 and was commanding 'B' Company at the time of leaving. He was awarded the John Chard Medal in December 1963 after a valuable 12 year stint. It is hard to part with one of the post war hard core of the Mess and Capt Forsyth's well deserved election as an honorary member of the Mess means that we will see him from time to time and continue to enjoy his support. He leaves a gap in the Mess and we will be without his cheerful company.

On Sunday, 13 December, our Honorary Colonel, Colonel H. J. C. Stephan, entertained the officers and sergeants at his home in Gordon's Bay. The order of dress was informal, summer South African that is, shorts plus bathing costumes were taken as the Colonel's house edges on to the beach. There was a well equipped bar and a magnificent chicken braai (the Americans stole the idea and call it a barbecue) which had us a little somnolent after lunch. We would like to thank not only the Colonel but his son and very efficient chief of staff, Mr. Harry Stephan, for a delightful entertainment.

The last purely Mess function was cake cutting on the 21st. The cutting was done by the Grand Old (most respectfully meant) Warrior, Col Sam Sumner. There was a heart-warming turnout of the old and bold. A tankard was presented to Mr Bobby Lundie, for years secretary of the London Scottish Old Comrades in Cape Town, from the Mess in appreciation of his services to the Regiment. He has been transferred to Johannesburg and we will miss him a great deal.

The last matter to be reported is the Hogmanay Ball. This is arranged by the Regimental Association but there was a good turn out by the Mess. The Commanding Officer and the 2IC arrived later after calling on the Chief of the Caledonian Society at the City Hall, a call returned later in the evening. It has been the most successful function of its kind for a number of years.

### SERGEANTS' MESS

The advent of August saw the oldest member of the Sergeants' Mess, 'Grandpappy' Meezer qualify for the award of the John Chard Decoration. This decoration is awarded to members of a Citizen Force Regi-

ment after completing 20 years' loyal and efficient service.

Twenty years from the life of any individual is a long spell to dedicate to any one service. In addition it must be remembered that this period of service was completely voluntary, requiring attendance at parades after normal working hours and often necessitating the forfeit of annual leave in order to attend compulsory training camps.

'Grandpappy' is congratulated on this truly magnificent achievement. It is hoped that some of the junior members of the Mess will follow in his footsteps. With regard to the 'wetting' of the award, we still want to know who diluted Grandpappy's whisky with pure gin.

August also saw the Regiment departing for continuous training at Oudtshoorn. Once bitten twice shy, according to the old saying, and this was certainly true in as far as the entraining of the Regiment was concerned. This year, unlike 1963, everything was loaded by the time the green flag was waved.

Unfortunately, due to business and various other reasons, the numbers of the Mess were depleted during training. However, those who did attend camp certainly pulled their weight, and again the prestige of the sergeants' mess was held high. This achievement is even more remarkable when considering that during camp the Regiment again undertook all their own instruction.

On this score we must say that to the Regiment and the Mess, camp was a completely new experience. Gone are the luxuries of bungalows, flush latrines, hot and cold running water, soft beds with sheets and pillow slips, electric light, etc. In lieu thereof we found tents, tents and more tents. Added thereto was dust, sand, heat, rain and then mud. Dust in your food for added flavour; sand in your bed to irritate worse than fleas. Dust to cling and stick to you after a hard day's work. Showers—yes! But to have them meant a 4-mile journey to camp cramped in the back of a 3-tonner.

On return to camp it often felt as if one was worse off than at the start. Mud? it seemed as if the mud was placed there by the authorities to test your ability to roller skate on a pair of army boots.

What a wonderful experience though—being in army tents at Oudtshoorn during the rainy season. Imagine what happens when the tents are 'too' well ventilated as was the case with us. No wonder our favourite song was 'Ah Oh, Oh no don't let the rain come down'.

We also renewed our acquaintance with the sergeants' mess of the Kaffrarian Rifles where RSM Young is still reigning. Once again our dealings with this unit were very pleasant and it is indeed pleasing that esprit de corps among the regiments is of such a high order.

During camp Sgt Adams attained the age of 21 years. This, needless to say, was sufficient reason for celebration and that needs no more enlarging. Then, again, there were the tortoises. These reptiles are found around camp and various members of the mess collected tortoise, nicknamed these 'pets' and organised races among them.

On our return from camp the Ladies Committee of the Regimental Association arranged a Homecoming Dance.

It is unfortunate that these splendid dances are not supported by the riflemen and it will be a pity if the traditional dance must be discontinued purely because of lack of support.

This year the mess made history in that a Xmas tree was organised for the children of members. The suggestion was originally made by that old stalwart, Pipe Major Marwick—better known as 'Pipey'—and we thank him for his brainwave. The entertainments committee, convened by CSM Feldman (and the good ladies who assisted) is to be congratulated on a very stout effort. To echo the words of RSM Lowton 'This will certainly become an annual event in the sergeants' mess'.

A few days afterwards, we were back between the four walls of the mess—this time enjoying the annual Xmas party which certainly went over with a bang. Here again we congratulate the back room boys on all the hard work put into making the show a success.

During the past quarter there were a number of promotions in the mess. Again we congratulate Staff Meezer on being promoted to Staff Sergeant.

We also congratulate Sgts Ring, Castle, Cerff, van der Westhuizen and van Blek on the promotion to sergeants. May they shoulder the responsibilities which will be coming their way and keep up the name of sergeants' mess at all times.

CSM and Mrs de Reuck are congratulated on the birth of their daughter. Never mind, Mr. Feldman—you are still ahead and let's hope you keep it that way.

In closing I would wish everybody, on behalf of the Mess, a very prosperous New Year.

#### REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Under the guidance of 'Little Mac' the Association continues with its regular meetings and functions.

##### October Meeting

We were privileged to have Mr Nicol give us a talk on air survey and map reading. His talk was well illustrated and it is a pity that only 25 members were present.

##### El Alamein Dinner, Friday, 23rd October

The ninety who attended this Dinner at the De Waal Hotel voted it as 'the best ever'. The drinking facilities were excellent, the service good and the food to the satisfaction of all. The toast of the evening was very aptly proposed by a gentleman from Egypt in the person of Mohammed Ali George Innes, to which Commandant Hone responded giving an up-to-date picture of the Regiment's activities.

##### December Meeting

We were again privileged to have an excellent speaker in the person of Commander Van Alphen, who is now resident in Cape Town attached to the Canadian Trade Commissioner's Office. His talk on submarines was most interesting and entertaining and those who attended came away feeling that this was an evening well spent.

##### Christmas Tree

Our new Father Christmas was Warrant Officer Steyn, who did an excellent job and who has been voted in to perform this function for the next 10

years. The games organized on the spur of the moment by Sergeant Major Feldman, were an inspiration and the parents hope that this will be repeated in future years as well. The presents were up to their usual standard and it was pleasing to find that some of the Old Guard still have up and coming children.

##### Old Year's Night Dance

This was held at s.s. Unitie and was on a far bigger scale than previous years. Well over 300 attended this excellent show and our congratulations go to 'Shorty' Hendricks who was the sole organizer of this function. What the Regimental Association would do without 'Shorty' we do not know. Our thanks also go to those members of the Regiment, particularly the Sergeants, who assisted 'Shorty' in his terrific job.

As is the custom, Commandant Hone and his 2IC, Major Albertyn together with their wives, made the customary call on the Caledonian Society who were holding their Hogmanay Ball in the City Hall. It was after midnight when the Chief of the Caledonian Society, Mr. Curry and his wife, returned the call. Our Pipe Band was in attendance and their performance was worthy of the high applause which they received from the happy crowd.

##### Mr Ken Westwood

and his family sailed for Australia on Christmas Day. Ken was our able Secretary for some years and we hate to lose a guy like this. Our loss is Australia's gain and our best wishes go with him and his family for their future happiness down South.

##### Mr John Tidpratt

underwent an operation recently but we are happy to report that TP is once again fit and flourishing.

Similarly, **Reg Briggs** is back in harness again after a spell in hospital. We are happy to learn of his excellent recovery.

##### Obituary: Mr John Gold

It was with a touch of real sadness that a number of Association members said goodbye to John Gold who died suddenly in October. John had served the Regiment throughout the war and has been a very loyal and excellent supporter of the Association throughout the years.

During the war he rose to the rank of CQMS and distinguished himself as probably the greatest Scrounger and Racketeer that you could wish for in a Quarter Master who puts the interests of his men above himself. John's extraordinary qualities came to the fore when the Regiment had their big fete back in 1951. The enormous amount of goods which the various stalls had for sale were due to John's enterprise. We will all miss his cheery presence and to his wife and family we extend our sincerest sympathies.

The Association takes this opportunity of extending to all members of the Gordon Clan a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

### LONDON BRANCH

#### ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

On Saturday November 7th the London Branch held their annual re-union dinner in the London Scottish Headquarters under the chairmanship of Lieut Colonel R. G. Lees. At 7-30 p.m. Pipe Major de Laspee of the London Scottish sounded dinner pipes and 56 members and guests sat down to dinner. Amongst those present were Major General E. C. Colville, Colonel W. J. Graham, Lieut Colonel A. F. Neikirk, Commanding London Scottish; Mr Baker and Mr McLearn from Edinburgh; C/Sgt Assiter and Sgt McKenzie from the 1st Battalion. We were pleased to see so many of all ranks attending which made a good cross section of the Regiment.

During the evening Pipe Major de Laspee and Sgt Ferguson of the London Scottish gave us a very entertaining selection on the pipes which everyone enjoyed. Major Harry Gordon, MC, organised a raffle of bottles of wine and spirits of which there were so many bottles that it was difficult to miss winning a prize. We heartily thank all those who so generously contributed towards the raffle which raised the sum of £18 for the Benevolent Fund.

We were happy to welcome John Bulloch from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, who will be remembered by many Old Comrades as a long distance runner in the 1st Battalion Band.

The official part of the evening broke up at 9-45 p.m. and we were then able to gather round the bar and get down to the real re-union.

The chairman and committee wish to take this opportunity to thank the London Scottish for the use of the hall and the wonderful meal served by their most efficient staff.

#### Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 8th November a small party including some of the ladies gathered at the Regimental Plot in the 'Garden of Remembrance' at Westminster Abbey to pay our respects to those who had passed on.

Crosses were planted on behalf of 1st and 3rd Battalions, the Depot, and the Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Nottingham and London Association. There were also a number of crosses from individuals.

Lieut Colonel R. G. Lees officiated at the Ceremony.

\* \* \*

### NOTTINGHAM BRANCH

Hon. Sec: Mr E. Matthews, 35 St Mary's Crescent, Ruddington, Notts.

After a hectic festive season, the mind still buzzes with the thought of our Hogmanay and a drop of the 'Cratheir', and New Year's Day and a drop of the 'Cratheir', old friends and a drop of the 'Cratheir'.

What a shock it was therefore to be brought back to earth and told there are other things to do and think about than a drop of the 'Cratheir'. That's what our secretary said when he reminded me these notes had to be written. He's got no soul; another week and I could have written a book on the joys of it, and included the following toast in a glowing fashion.

To all serving Gordon Highlanders wherever you are, the thoughts of those who have served are with you. Wishing you all a happy, prosperous and safe New Year.

To all who have served and to all who read the magazine, best wishes for a happy and prosperous 1965.

The period under review is the quietest of the year, though the gatherings each month have been well attended and very well organised by our social secretary M: L. Howlett ably assisted by Mr E. Matthews. The quietness was I believe merely a form of battery charging in preparation for the Hogmanay party. The venue was the Dunkirk Hotel where forty members and their wives sat down to an excellent meal. Our main guest was Mrs Martell, widow of the late Frank Martell, one of our founder members. Our two pipers were well on form.

On a more sombre note there was a good turn out at the Armistice parade for which we thank all who attended. Our treasurer, Mr A. McLean, laid the Branch wreath, while the Secretary, E. Matthews, laid a wreath on behalf of the British Legion, Nottingham Central Branch. John Runcie and Les Howlett played a lament whilst the wreath laying ceremony was in progress, though how John Runcie got his fingers thawed out is a mystery. He had travelled from Grantham on a motor cycle and though the weather was dry it was bitterly cold.

All Scots please note the parade was led to and from the War Memorial by a Pipe Band, in kilts of the MacDonald Tartan, supplied by the 17th Coy Boys' Brigade, Beeston.

Hadrian, I'm afraid, built his wall in vain!! Robin Hood is retreating from the forest to the skirl of the pipes.

\* \* \*

### GORDON HIGHLANDERS ASSOCIATION — HAWICK BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of this branch was held in the Victoria Hotel, Hawick, on 16th January, 1965, and was attended by 22 members under the chairmanship of Mr Alex Aitken. The Toast of the Regiment was proposed by Lt Col J. R. Robertson McIsaac of Burnfoot, Langholm and that of Absent Comrades by the Rev. J. W. Duncan of Burnfoot, Hawick.

The evening was one of song, story and reminiscence and the branch continues to have no shortage of talent in this direction. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr J. Grierson.

## LATE NEWS

### RECONNAISSANCE, 1964

by Acorn

"Time on Reconnaissance is seldom wasted". This old maxim still holds good today although the picture it conjures up of a platoon commander crawling forward on his belly a few yards to have a quick look round before darkness falls may be a little old fashioned, certainly the Reconnaissance of the Far East carried out by the Commanding Officer and his party in November was vastly different from that of platoon commanders and the time was most definitely NOT wasted.

In mid November 1964 a Recce party went out to the Far East with a view to spying out the lie of the land before the battalion move there in early 1965. The Commanding Officer took with him, Major John Durbin (Company Commander and ex PRI), Captain Charlie Michie (Quartermaster) and Lieutenant Christopher Van Der Noot (Intelligence Officer), thus hoping to cover every contingency. Experience of the Far East was anyway most varied, with the Quartermaster making his third trip (the first was before the war), the Commanding Officer had served both with the battalion in Malaya and on the Staff in Singapore. Major Durbin had only left Singapore less than two years before and the Intelligence Officer had been only once before East of Suez and then only as far as East Africa. This happy party was shot off skywards from London Airport late at night on Friday, 13th November. The next 24 hours was true to the now familiar air trooping pattern—comfortable seats, attentive air hostesses, disruptive children and distraught parents, a kaleidoscope of plastic trays, innumerable breakfasts, Istanbul, Bombay, bleak airport lounges, cups of coffee, coca-cola and cups of coffee. "Captain Hoskins and his crew welcome" . . . "Please fasten your safety belts, in 10 minutes we, etc."—all the while putting on our watches so that 24 hours after taking off at 2200 hours from London Airport on Friday 13th November we landed at Singapore at 0630 hours on Sunday 15th November.

It was very refreshing to arrive at Payer Lebar Airport at Singapore to be greeted by the jolly, cheerful face of Major Dick Burge who although at present serving on the staff of Headquarters Far East Command, is to be our Second-in-Command next year and who was to accompany us on our Recce.

We were soon at work for, after a refreshing shower and yet another breakfast, we all attended an opening conference at HQ FARELF at 1100 hours that day. The afternoon was spent by most members of the party sleeping off the effects of the flight, before having dinner with Dick and Bin Burge in their home. There was a very early Reveille next morning at 0300 hours all in aid of a 0645 hours take off in an Argosy of Transport Command from RAF Changi. We were destined for a most uncomfortable flight of four hours sitting in the paratroop seats along the side of the aircraft with our legs cramped by cargo which reached to the roof.

No sooner had we landed at Labuan, a small island off the mainland of Borneo which contains the Headquarters of Comlandbor (Commander Land Forces

Borneo) and the Headquarters of the Director of Borneo Operations, then we attended a conference at Comlandbor followed by a quick lunch before we took off in a Twin Pioneer of the Malaysian Air Force for Kota Belud which is near the North West Coast of Sabah, formerly North Borneo. On this flight we had our first glimpse of the jungle and swamps of Borneo, and just before we touched down on the airstrip at Kota Belud we saw from the air, the area in which the battalion is to train for 2½ months next year before becoming operational. This training area contains terrain unlike the rest of Borneo; it is an expanse of open plain land covered with long grass and isolated patches of scrub. In fact it was chosen for training Gurkha troops in conventional warfare, therefore it is ironical that it should now be used by a British battalion to train for jungle warfare. The camp, known as Paradise Camp, consists of a large number of tin godolphin huts and has had nearly half a million pounds spent on it since it was started in 1959, but there is very little to show for the money and only 7 units have used the training area and camp since it was opened, and none for over two years. We were met at the airstrip by the Camp Commandant, Lt Col Baker, a retired officer who lives alone in this outpost of the British Army. A quick tour of the camp site followed and we all began squeezing the battalion into these tin huts in our imagination. The party used the MRS, the most substantial and clean building in the camp, as our dormitory, apart from the Commanding Officer who stayed with the Camp Commandant in his quarter on stilts, in the village of Kota Belud.

Early next morning on Tuesday, 17th November, a more detailed survey of the camp site was carried out whilst the Quartermaster inspected some of the stores. Later before the departure of the Commanding Officer and the Intelligence Officer for Kuching, a brisk recce of the training area was carried out when the tank tracks and vast fields of fire were noted, though there were one or two patches of jungle!

At 1230 hours the Commanding Officer accompanied by the Intelligence Officer set off by road to Jesselton from Kota Belud which is basically tarmac the whole way but throughout its twisting length vast stretches of road had been washed away by the torrential rains. For those that know the Rift Valley escarpment, it doesn't compete with the hairpin bends and escarpments of this road. At Jesselton which was decorated for the visit of the Federal Prime Minister during solidarity week, we boarded a Malaysian Airways Fokker Friendship. Throughout our flight with Malaysian Airways we were very impressed with the cabin service which included free newspapers and magazines, and sweets for landing and taking off (none of these amenities are provided on air trooping). After a 25 minute flight we landed at Brunei, where we had a brief stop to buy and send off postcards before taking off again for Kuching. After a two-hour flight we landed in a downpour, where we were met by the Adjutant of 1st/7th Deo Gurkha Rifles and quickly taken off to their Battalion Headquarters camp arriving in time for dinner. The following morning we attended their daily operational briefing, after which we received a very full briefing from the

Quartermaster, the Intelligence Officer, Second-in-Command and finally their Commanding Officer. There remained just enough time for a quick visit to Headquarters West Brigade where we met Brigadier A. G. Patterson, DSO, OBE, MC. More postcards were despatched from Kuching before emplaning in a Malaysian Airways Fokker Friendship once more for Brunei. On arrival at Brunei we were whipped off to see Brigadier H. C. Tuzo, OBE, MC, who had commanded 3 RHA at Gilgil when we first arrived there, and who was now commanding Central Brigade. We then raced back to the airport in time to catch an RAF Twin Pioneer back to Labuan to join up once again with the remainder of the party who had stayed a further night at Kota Belud and who had in our absence carried out a detailed survey of Paradise Camp, earmarking each tin hut for a particular part of the battalion.

The Commanding Officer and the Intelligence Officer rejoined the party at HQ Comlandbor just as a conference was finishing at which the remainder of the party had been present. Each party put the other in the picture as to what they had done in the last 24 hours before we retired to the Hotel Victoria in Labuan which was to be our accommodation for the night. Before being entertained to drinks in the Director of Borneo Operations Mess we were given an excellent Intelligence brief covering all aspects of operations from the start of operations in 1962, by the GSO Intelligence.

The morning of Thursday, 18th November, was spent tying up loose ends with HQ Comlandbor, sending postcards, taking photographs and visiting the Commonwealth War Cemetery which included four Gordon Highlanders killed in Borneo during the war. After an early lunch we were in the air again, this time aboard an RAF Hastings bound for Singapore.

We were met at RAF Changi by Lt Col M. R. Wallace, the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and were whipped off to Selarang Barracks, which the Quartermaster said had hardly changed since before the war! At a cocktail party that evening we met Brigadier W. W. Cheyne, OBE, who is soon to take over command at West Brigade from Brigadier A. B. Patterson.

On Friday, 20th November, we all spent some time with our opposite numbers in the Argylls, picking up tips and useful information. By lunchtime that day the Intelligence Officer was in the air once more, having been excused the final conference at HQ FARELF on the Saturday, to take the opportunity of flying up to Ipoh via Kuala Lumpur to spend 24 hours with Captain and Mrs. Russell West. Captain West is serving with 1st Battalion Malaysian Renjers. The Intelligence Officer arrived back in Singapore on Saturday evening just in time to join the rest of the party on a most enjoyable evening visiting the old haunts of Singapore, including Princes and the Tanglin Club.

The next morning we were surprised and delighted to see Colonel B. C. A. Napier, OBE, MC at Singapore airport. He had just flown down from Saigon where he is the Military Attache, and he gave us a most interesting talk on the situation in Vietnam and expounded his theories on Communist China. Thus stimulated we climbed aboard our Britannia for the return journey to London. The pattern was similar to the outward flight though the children seemed less

excitable. We landed at London Airport at 0900 hrs on Monday, 23rd November, and as we stepped into the Customs hall, the Intelligence Officer received a message that his second daughter had been born early that morning. A fitting end to a most successful and both interesting and beneficial Reconnaissance.

For the statistically minded by the time the Intelligence Officer arrived back in Edinburgh he had travelled 19,951 miles, had travelled in 5 different aircraft, been flown by four different airlines or air forces, made 17 landings, eaten 14 breakfasts, and posted 37 postcards, all in the space of 10 days!

## LATE NOTICE

### Adjutant — Royal Hospital, Chelsea

1. The above appointment is expected to become vacant next Autumn and it is considered that it would be suitable for a retired Lieutenant Colonel between the ages of 50-55.

Pay is at the rate equivalent to an RO II.

**Accommodation.** A Quarter is provided for which the usual rate is paid by the individual.

**Term of Appointment.** The appointment is for a term of five years, renewable from time to time on the special recommendation of the Commissioners.

**Special requirements.** The Officer to fill the appointment should have tact and kindness as well as instinctive sympathy for the old soldiers in his care.

2. Any Officer wishing to be considered for this appointment should submit his application to Regimental Headquarters.

## GORDON HIGHLANDERS CLUB, ABERDEEN

### The Past

The closure of the Club at 151 King Street in April 1964 was quite naturally the occasion for considerable comment, some in public and a great deal more privately. It is clear that efforts made to explain the position were not wholly successful since misconceptions still appear to exist and it is hoped that the following statement will put the matter in perspective.

The Club was instituted firstly in memory of Gordon Highlanders who had fallen in the service of their country and secondly as a meeting place for all Gordon Highlanders, past and present.

The property and funds we re vested in trustees whose duty it was to buy or rent a property in Aberdeen suitable for a club and to allow its use free of rent to members of the club. The trustees also were to pay for putting the premises in order and for the furnishing and fitting up generally.

These duties were performed when, in 1924, 151 King Street, furnished and equipped as a Club, was handed over to a committee elected by the members. It is this committee, elected annually by members, which for 40 years had the responsibility for the general management of the club. The trustees had no vote in the management and could only act in an advisory capacity.

For many years the Club prospered and it was possible, from the profits, to maintain the building and its contents in a good state of repair. During the war this could not be done and it took many years to make up the leeway. The building was sound, but it was large and in some respects old fashioned; the bedrooms and dining room did not pay and these occupied the greater part of the premises.

About 10 years ago increasing costs and falling membership were both evident, but as recently as 1957 there was a profit of £700. From that date the decline became serious—population was dispersed to the new housing areas, the loss of old members was not made good, other attractions caused a fall in attendance, the change in licensing laws and other factors worked to the detriment of the Club.

In 1962 the year's working showed a loss of £560, and the trustees had a special meeting with the committee to warn them of the serious position. To keep up the membership the proportion of honorary members to Gordon Highlanders had greatly increased.

In 1963, despite takings of £700 from a fruit machine, there was a loss of £300 and it was at this stage that the trustees exercised their right under the Constitution to 'resume possession of the premises if they are satisfied that the Club is not being properly

conducted, or if for any other reason they think it expedient to do so."

At 30th April, 1964, when the Club closed, the accumulated deficit was £1,590.

#### The Present

The premises at 151 King Street were advertised for sale in the spring of 1964 and were viewed by a number of parties. Only one offer, however, was received. The offer, which was a low one and conditional on future planning etc. permission, was rejected by the trustees.

In the late summer the premises were readvertised on a much wider scale and again created some interest, but only at the end of the year was an offer made, which the trustees felt able to accept. While the price received is well in excess of the book value of the property it does no more than compensate for the fall in value of the pound.

#### The Future

The trustees are now taking steps to acquire new premises for a Club and at the same time the Constitution is to be revised. A more central site, further West, is contemplated for a building which will not provide facilities for residence or catering. It is the intention that the Club will be largely equipped with new furniture and furnishings.

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Published by

**MORECAMBE BAY PUBLISHERS LTD.**

**BRIDGE ROAD, MORECAMBE**

and

Printed by

**THE MORECAMBE BAY PRINTERS LTD.**

**BRIDGE ROAD, MORECAMBE**

