



*The* **WASP** and *The* **EAGLE**

*Regimental Journal of*  
**THE POMPADOURS**  
*The 3rd East Anglian Regiment*  
*(16th/44th Foot)*

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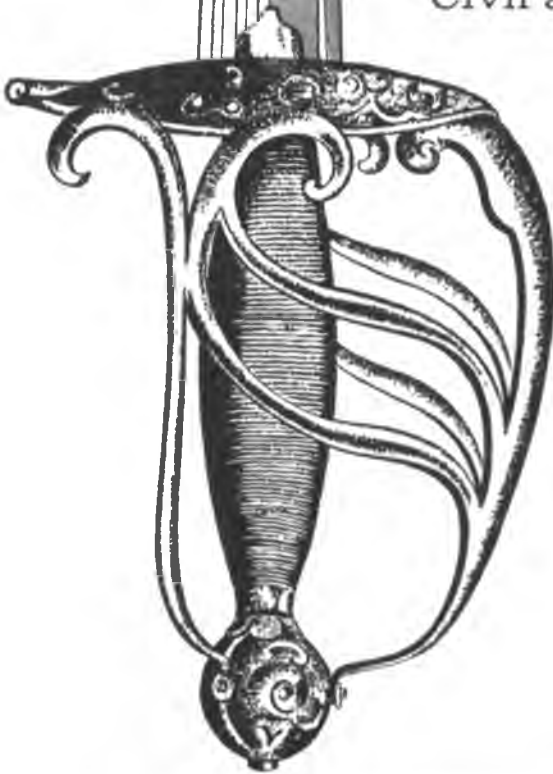
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# THE WASP and THE EAGLE

THE JOURNAL OF THE POMPADOURS, THE 3RD EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENT. (16TH/44TH FOOT)

VOL. 2. No. 1.

JUNE, 1963

PRICE 2/6d. (postage extra)  
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## CONTENTS

The Colonel-in-Chief ... ..	2
Regimental Notes ... ..	2
Regimental Calendar ... ..	3
The Brigade Week-end ... ..	4
The Brigade Golf Meeting ... ..	4
The Regimental Dinner Club ... ..	4
The Regimental Chapel ... ..	5
The Shelton Madels ... ..	5
S.S.A.F.A. ... ..	5
The Gothic Line Revisited ... ..	6
Regimental Christmas Card and Diary ...	7
Presentation of "The Essex Regiment"	
Nameplate ... ..	8
Our Contemporaries ... ..	9
The Army Art Society ... ..	9
The Bedfordshire Militia ... ..	10
N.A.E.R.S.S. and A. ... ..	10
Regimental Ties ... ..	10
Personalia ... ..	10
Extracts from The London Gazette ...	15
British United Provident Association ...	16
1st Battalion Notes ... ..	17
The East Anglia Brigade Depot News ...	21
1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) Notes ... ..	24
4th/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.) Notes ... ..	31
The Essex Army Cadet Force Notes ...	33
The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th), The Pompadours, Association ... ..	34
The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association ... ..	34
The Essex Regiment Association ... ..	38
Editorial ... ..	41
Editorial Notes ... ..	41
Engagements ... ..	41
Marriage ... ..	42
Births ... ..	42
Obituaries ... ..	42

## The Colonel-In-Chief

The Colonel of the Regiment sent a Christmas card, on behalf of the Regiment, to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief.

The following letter was received from Her Majesty's Private Secretary:

Clarence House, S.W.1.  
12th December, 1962.

My Dear General,

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother has bidden me write to thank you for your Christmas card, which Her Majesty has received with much pleasure.

The Colonel-in-Chief sends to you, the Deputy Colonel and All Ranks of the 3rd East Anglian Regiment, her warmest good wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

MARTIN GILLIAT,  
*Private Secretary.*

Lieut.-General Sir Reginald Denning,  
K.B.E., C.B., D.L.,  
Colonel, The 3rd East Anglian Regiment  
(16th/44th Foot).

### THE COLONEL-IN-CHIEF

Court Circular,  
Clarence House.                      November 7, 1962.

Brigadier J. A. Longmore had the honour of being received by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother on relinquishing his appointment as Joint Honorary Colonel of The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.).

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, has graciously consented to present New Colours to the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. The presentation will be made at Luton Hoo on Saturday, July 13, 1963. Permission for the parade to be held in the grounds of their home has been kindly given by Major-General Sir Harold and Lady Zia Wernher.

## Regimental Notes

The Colonel of The Regiment was among those present on March 25, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother dined with the Army Council in the State Apartments of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

\*                      \*                      \*

Approval has been given by the War Office for the Regimental March of the 4th/5th Bn.



The Essex Regiment (T.A.) to be an arrangement of the following marches:

The Queens (We'll gang nae mair to yon toun).

The Essex Bugles.

The Hampshire.

\* \* \*

The following messages were exchanged on Gallipoli Day, April 25:

"Gallipoli Day Greetings from Brigadier G. D. Browne, C.B.E., D.L., the Colonel, and All Ranks The Royal Hampshire Regiment."

"The Colonel, the Deputy Colonel and all All Ranks The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot) The Pompadours, thank the Colonel and All Ranks The Royal Hampshire Regiment for their Gallipoli Day Greetings which they sincerely reciprocate."

"To 29th Division Association, All Ranks First Battalion Third East Anglian Regiment, The Pompadours, send greetings in proud remembrance of Gallipoli.

—NORBURY, *Commanding.*"

\* \* \*

The following messages were exchanged with The Royal Leicestershire Regiment on the occasion of their joining The East Anglian Brigade on May 1:

General Sir Colin Callendar, R.H.Q.,

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

All Ranks Third East Anglian Regiment send you and all ranks The Royal Leicestershire Regiment their sincere greetings and welcome you to the Brigade.

—DENNING, *Colonel.*

PATON, *Deputy Colonel.*

Regimental Headquarters,

Third East Anglian Regiment.

General Sir Colin Callendar and all ranks The Royal Leicestershire Regiment thank General Sir Reginald Denning, Brigadier Paton and all ranks Third East Anglian Regiment for their kind message. We are delighted and honoured to join the East Anglian Brigade and look forward to a very happy association.

\* \* \*

The Colonel of The Regiment, as Chairman of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association, carried out a tour of Army and Royal Air Force Units in the Near East during May.

\* \* \*

The History of The Second World War — Victory in the West, Volume 1—The Battle of Normandy, has been published and can be obtained from Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Copies of The War in France and Flanders, 1939-40, are also available.

\* \* \*

The Colonel of The Regiment received, in March, the following letter from Colonel A. C.

W. Noel, M.C., of the British Defence Liaison Staff, South Africa:

BDLS/240

March 11, 1963

Dear General,

I have been asked by Mr. B. Margetson, the Chairman of the Northern Transvaal Soldiers' Graves Association (a purely voluntary organisation), to advise you that the remains of soldiers of your Regiment who died during the Boer War and who were buried at Boschkop, Balmoral, Wilge River, Hatherley, Bronkhorstspuit, Eland River and Rhenoster Kop in the Transvaal have now been re-interred at Diamond Hill midway between Pretoria and Bronkhorstspuit. A memorial with names has now been erected and on March 31 I am attending a Rededication Service, to be held at Diamond Hill, at which I will lay a wreath on behalf of all British soldiers whose remains now rest there.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) A. C. NOEL.

The soldiers concerned are:

2802 Pte. J. Bannick, 1st Bn. The Essex Regiment, and 6856 Pte. A. A. Perkins, 1st Bn. The Essex Regiment, who died on July 24, 1900, and August 5, 1900, respectively.

General Sir Reginald Denning wrote and thanked Colonel Noel for the information and his attendance at the Rededication Service.

## REGIMENTAL CALENDAR

July 7

The Essex Regiment Association. Annual Service of Remembrance and Reunion for all Battalions at R.H.Q., Warley. For details and for tickets for the Service in the Regimental Chapel apply to: The Secretary, The Essex Regiment Association, Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex.

July 13

Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, at Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire. For details apply to: The Adjutant, 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.), 28, St. Andrew Street, Hertford, Herts.

- September 21 Saffron Walden Branch, The Essex Regiment Association Reunion and Social, the Town Hall, Saffron Walden. For details apply: Hon. Secretary, E. W. Elsom, 11, Castle Cross, Saffron Walden, Essex.
- September 28 10th Bn. The Essex Regiment (1914/1918) O.C.A. Annual Dinner, Talbot Restaurant, London Wall, E.C. For details apply: Hon. Secretary, L. W. Bird, Esq., M.C., 38, Worrin Road, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex.
- September 29 Regimental Remembrance Service and Annual Reunion, Kempston Barracks, Bedford. Full details can be obtained from Major D. T. Tewkesbury, M.B.E., Secretary, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, Kempston Barracks, Bedford.
- October 5 1st/7th Bn. The Essex Regiment. Annual Reunion Dinner. Details from Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. F. Marr, "Herries," Links Green Way, Cobham, Surrey.
- October 12 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (1939-45) O.R.'s Reunion in London. Full details can be obtained from Mr. F. W. Eames, 72, New Park Drive, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
- October 19 Watford Branch, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, Annual Reunion Dinner. For details apply to: Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. V. Hackman, 34, Judge Street, Watford, Herts.
- October 26 London Branch, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Annual Dinner. Stewarts Restaurant, Victoria, London. For details, apply: The Hon. Secretary, W. G. Aldridge, 118, Valley Drive, Gravesend, Kent.

## The Brigade Week-end

JULY 19 — JULY 21, 1963.

### PROGRAMME

- July 19 Cricket v. Suffolk Gentlemen.  
Brigade Golf Meeting.  
Brigade Officers' Ball. Tickets—  
Single £2/10/-, Double £5.
- July 20 Golf Match v. Flempton Golf Club.  
Beating Retreat, followed by  
Officers' and Sergeants' Mess  
cocktail parties. Admission by  
ticket only (about 7/6).
- July 21 Cricket v. Ampton.  
*Cricket* run by Lt. M. Lewis, 3rd East  
Anglian Regiment.  
*Golf* run by Major T. E. A. Robinson (Retd.).  
*Brigade Ball and cocktail party* run by the  
D.A.A.G., H.Q., East Anglian Brigade.  
Address: Depot The East Anglian Brigade,  
Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk.

## The Brigade Golf Meeting 1963

The meeting will be held at the Flempton Golf Club near Bury St. Edmunds on Friday, July 19, 1963. It will be open to all officers, Regular and T.A., serving or retired.

The meeting will begin at about 9.30 a.m. and the events will include scratch, handicap and bogey competitions run concurrently during the morning, followed by a Stableford foursome in the afternoon. On the Saturday morning a Brigade team will be formed to play the Flempton Golf Club. Lunch and tea will be provided at the Clubhouse. Details and entry forms will be available during May.

## The Regimental Dinner Club

The fifth annual dinner of The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot) Dinner Club took place at The United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, on Friday, May 3, 1963. Ninety-seven members were present. The guests were H.M. Lieutenant for Essex, Colonel Sir John A. Ruggles-Brise, Bt., C.B., O.B.E., T.D., J.P., H.M. Lieutenant for Bedfordshire, Major S. Whitbread, J.P., and Colonel J. C. Denny, O.B.E., M.C., Brigade Colonel, The East Anglian Brigade. General Sir Henry C. Jackson, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., was unable to attend the dinner owing to indisposition. He sent his good wishes to all those attending, and a telegram of greetings was sent by the Colonel of The Regiment to General Jackson on behalf of all those present at the dinner. Among those present were a number of officers from the 1st Battalion now stationed in Northern Ireland.

Messages of Loyal Greetings were sent by

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My friend Mary, she's always laughing and talking. She's the life and soul, keeps us amused for hours. I sit here quietly, enjoy the jokes, enjoy the beer. That's what I like about our local, you can enjoy yourself just the way you want to.

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BEER, IT'S LOVELY!**

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The Colonel of The Regiment, on behalf of all present, to Her Majesty The Queen and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief. After proposing the Loyal Toasts, General Sir Reginald Denning read out the gracious replies received from Their Majesties. He then welcomed the guests who had honoured the Dinner Club with their presence that evening. The Toast to The Regiment was proposed by the Deputy Colonel, Brigadier Paton, who before doing so, reviewed the progress of The Regiment, including the Territorial Battalions, during the past year. After the Toast the company broke up and the remainder of the evening was spent in renewing old friendships and exchanging reminiscences of the past.

The following officers attended the dinner: Lieutenant-General Sir Reginald F. S. Denning, K.B.E., C.B., D.L., Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier C. M. Paton, C.V.O., C.B.E., D.L., Deputy Colonel, Brigadiers: G. W. H. Peters, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., E. C. Pepper, C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L., J. A. Longmore, C.B., C.B.E., T.D., D.L., Hanbury Pawle, C.B., T.D., D.L., and P. Young, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., F.S.A. Colonels: P. H. A. L. Franklin, G. M. Gibson, T.D., M. W. Holme, O.B.E., M.C., R. A. Humbert, O.B.E., T.D., J.P., D.L., R. W. Littlehales, O.B.E., A. Noble, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., S. C. W. W. Rea, O.B.E., N. R. Salew, O.B.E., D.L., G. L. M. Smith-Masters, G. R. Steel, M.B.E., and W. N. C. Waite, O.B.E. Lieutenant-Colonels: T. J. Barrow, D.S.O., H. L. H. Boustead, A. C. Clarke, O.B.E., J. S. Falkner, M.B.E., L. W. W. Marriott, D. F. Garrard, T.D., J. L. de V. Martin, R. H. H. Osborne, C. C. Norbury, M.B.E., M.C., B. J. Palmer, M.B.E., A. J. M. Parry, M.C., S. G. L. Pepys, J. C. Preston, M.B.E., I. S. Ross, M.C., C. A. Southey, G. L. Sprunt, M.B.E., G. E. J. Warland, F. H. B. Webster and A. C. Young. Majors: L. W. Allan, M.B.E., S. H. Andrew, M.B.E., D. G. M. Anstee, H. G. Aylmer, J. A. Bacon, W. Berridge, K. Burch, J. D. Castle, T.D., R. G. Chillingworth, T.D., M. H. Crocker, F. H. Crouchman, R. S. P. Dix, S. L. Edwards, L. S. Evans, V. A. French, R. J. Gresty, W. J. E. Hancock, J. P. Haythornwaite, R. L. Jackson, J. B. Kitto, A. F. Mackain-Bremner, G. C. P. Morgan, H. E. Mudford, H. O. Parker, P. L. Purdy, R. J. Randall, D. B. Riches, A. F. H. H. Robertson, J. W. Scragg, T. R. Stead, H. N. Stenning, D. T. Tewkesbury, M.B.E., F. W. Waddell, M.B.E., J. A. Ward-Booth and M. Whyte. Captains: G. R. Barnett, D. J. Bebbington, D. R. Brady, P. F. Chapman, M. L. A. Duffie, P. H. Gill, J. E. Hutchings, P. W. King, D. R. Palmer, J. R. Paxman, W. R. W. Pike, R. J. Sibley, W. L. Simmons, P. L. Sincock, M. S. Smyth, R. W. Start and D. G. Wells. Lieutenants: J. E. Bowers, V. J. Gee, B. A. R. Harrington-Spier, M. J. Lewis, A. R. A. Veitch, K. Woodrow and D. J. Wright.

## The Regimental Chapel

The very severe weather and the consequent difficult road conditions at Warley were responsible for some reduction in the numbers attending our monthly services in the first three months of the year, but attendance at our April service was a most encouraging one which augers well for the future. Additional services have included the wedding of Mr. Neville Francis Paul Carter, son of Mr. W. J. E. A. Carter, a former member of The Regiment, to Miss Margaret John Jackson, on March 16, and the baptisms of Michael Dentith and Neil Smith.

We have regretfully said goodbye, for the present, to the Reverend John Pickering, M.B.E., who, as Senior Chaplain, East Anglian District, has been such a source of help and encouragement to us, and to whom we are greatly indebted. It was typical of him to make the long journey on Christmas Day to conduct our special service. We wish him a very happy tour with SHAPE, and extend a warm welcome to his successor, the Reverend W. A. Williams, B.A.

## The Shelton Medals

The Shelton group of medals has recently been purchased by The Regiment, and is shortly to be handed to the Battalion, in Northern Ireland, to be added to their already fine collection.

The group consists of the following:

The Afghanistan Order of the Dooranee Empire—Brigadier J. Shelton, 44th Regiment.

Silver Breast Star with large central badge in gold and enamel, with pearls, and gold and enamel neck badge set with pearls.

Cabul Medal, 1842—William Shelton, Lt., 9th Foot.

Punjab Medal, 1849—Fred Shelton, Lt., 98th Foot.

## SOLDIERS', SAILORS' AND AIRMEN'S FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

S.S.A.F.A. are in urgent need of more voluntary workers, men and women. If you have a few hours to spare regularly during the week, and would like to help, please write to:

Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association,

23, Queen Anne's Gate,  
Westminster,  
London, S.W.1.

and you will be put in touch with the Secretary of your county.

## THE GOTHIC LINE RE-VISITED

BY BRIGADIER G. W. H. PETERS, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

### INTRODUCTION

In April, 1962, the writer was fortunate enough to be able to visit Italy and to retrace much of the route taken by the 1st Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) in the fighting of the Autumn and Winter, 1944/45. It is hoped that the account which follows may be of interest to those who took part in that campaign.

Many were soldiers for the duration only, who belonged to other Regiments and would not, therefore, normally have access to the Regimental Magazine. It is hoped to reprint this article and circularise those who can be traced in Regimental records. It would be a kindness if members of the Regiment would send names and addresses of anyone with whom they may be in touch, and who served in this campaign, to The Adjutant, 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.), 28, St. Andrew Street, Hertford.

Most members of the present Regiment were very young indeed when the events recalled took place, and will be unfamiliar with the geography of that part of Italy. Should they find time to read this story they will appreciate that the Regiment, whose honour they have volunteered to uphold, did well—in fact earned itself a considerable reputation—in the supreme test of war. They will realise that it is now up to them to see that this reputation is maintained. They may not realise that the older generation, while reserving their right to be sometimes a little garrulous about the past and critical of the present, have full confidence in their ability to do so.

### FLORENCE

On the night of August 21, 1944, the 1st Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment crossed the River Arno into Florence and took over forward positions from the 13th Frontier Force Rifles. Except for a little casual shelling the enemy made no attempt to interfere. The official record that the relief took place without incident is, therefore, correct in itself. In the minds of those of the Battalion who took part in it it was an occasion of much greater significance.

We were at that time probably unique in the British Army in that we had, since the beginning of the War, retained our identity, our Territorial outlook, a large portion of our pre-war members, and had never been in action. It was as if today's Battalion had suddenly been mobilised, given a period of intense training and sent into Battle. It was the start of a period of four and a half months of bitter fighting during

which the Battalion was hardly ever out of action. It began in warm sultry Mediterranean summer. It progressed through rain and mud to the intense cold of one of the hardest winters that Northern Italy had known for years.

The Battalion was green, nervously anxious to do well and desperately curious to find out what it really was going to be like. The take over was not accomplished without fault. The transport had to make a detour through another unit's area over a Bailey bridge. They took a long time, made a great deal of noise and—dare it be said, even now after eighteen years—did not all travel by the route intended. The Companies waded the Arno by a weir. During the take over Officers and N.C.O.s had some language difficulties with the Indian Guides and Junior Officers of the Frontier Force. The situation confronting Platoon Commanders in the morning was different from any that might have been imagined. The enemy were nowhere nearer than 800 yards. There were no proper fire positions or trenches. The Florentines did not appear to be taking the war seriously. They were still living in houses occupied by the troops. They went about their business in the open until temporarily discouraged by shell fire. They crowded round our positions and gaped in a manner most embarrassing for Platoon Commanders who took pride in their ability to conceal themselves from the enemy. Things didn't seem to bear much relation to the Book or any of the many training exercises the Battalion had been on during the years of waiting.

Visited in the glory of early spring Florence was a fair and virile city. The Italians have rebuilt all the bridges as only Italians can. The one house on the Ponte Vecchio Bridge which was damaged by shell fire has been restored. The river still crawls sluggishly over the weir. The hills on the Fiesole side were ablaze with blossom. The woods round the castle of Vincigliato have grown and thickened so that the Castle itself appears dwarfed. The only identifiable Battalion position was the pencil factory on the right on the east side of the town which was occupied by No. 2 Company. The city is prosperous with many new industrial centres and a University. The squares are tidy and well kept with flowering shrubs and herbacious borders. One can take a 'bus which goes along the old Divisional axis of advance—Arrow Route—to Borgo, San Lorenzo, Marradi and Bologna. The journey takes about three hours.

The Battalion's first offensive action was an optimistic but unsuccessful attempt to capture the Castle of Vincigliato. A patrol of No. 2 Company had reported that it was lightly held and that there were gaps in the wall. Today the Castle itself is closed and in disuse. The walls appear as solid as when they were built and about eight feet high. A little of the wire which

was on and about them still remains. The valley up which the approach was made is a maze of vines and growing wheat. The German positions overlooking Florence were lightly held and there were wide gaps between them which presented good opportunities for infiltration.

Next day, the Mortar Platoon under Capt. Round-Turner had a field day. They got themselves into position as a Battery in an orchard and loosed off an unrestricted and unspecified amount of ammunition on to a hill called Cereri, which was a tactical feature of importance overlooking the whole of Florence. In the afternoon No. 4 Company, under Major Andrews, had a go at this hill from the front. No. 2 Company (Major Sheppard) undismayed by the battle of the day before got round behind. The enemy always susceptible to threats from the rear departed in haste. The same evening No. 2 Company again and No. 1 Company (Major Kenyon) exploited and captured the town of Fiesole. There were a few casualties, mostly from mines and booby traps which the troops were too inexperienced to detect.

Today Fiesole is a thriving town well known for its art treasures and magnificent views. One hears as much American spoken as there was German in the War. The writer was able to identify the orchard used by Mortars. From Monte Cereri there was a magnificent view northwards for some 10 miles in the direction of Borgo San Lorenzo and the mountains across which had run the Gothic Line. In retrospect it is surprising that the enemy did not try to hold this important high ground more tenaciously. During the next few days there was to be some quite stiff fighting on ground much less favourable to him a few miles north. No. 2 Company led the next day's advance up the Arrow Route axis. They performed most dashing and fought two good Platoon battles in the second of which Lt. Firth was killed. They had to be halted because, owing to mines and rough ground, neither our carriers nor the tanks of the North Irish Horse, who were supporting the Battalion, could get forward to assist them. Next night No. 3 Company (Major Bone) had their blooding. Sgt. Collins and his platoon reached their objective about dusk and were sharply counter-attacked by some very determined enemy of the Hermann Goering Division. No. 3 Company won a most creditable little night victory. The enemy retired before dawn leaving a number of dead.

The following morning was misty. It was decided that No. 1 Company should relieve No. 3 Company. No one had seen the ground by day and there was some uncertainty as to whether the enemy really had withdrawn. In fact they had gone back to the next ridge, but when the mist lifted suddenly, No. 1 Company found themselves on a forward slope in full view of enemy O.P.s. The Company were still

sorting themselves out and had not had time to do any digging. Retribution was swift. Company H.Q. was badly mortared. Major Kenyon, Major Whitting, the Battery Commander, and C.S.M. Austin were knocked out in a matter of minutes. Capt. Matthews who went forward to take command was killed almost at once. The country over which these actions took place is now rolling and agricultural with vines, wheat and vegetables for the market gardens of Florence. The village of Bucciano on the axis has trebled in size. The road itself is first class. The small, rather squalid farmhouse which was Battalion Headquarters has been mostly rebuilt and modernised. There are two prosperous farms on the hill where Nos. 1 and 3 Companies fought. The stream in which the carriers were bogged has a new bridge over it.

Those of the Battalion who were killed in these early actions are buried in the Imperial War Graves Cemetery in Florence. Men killed in the same action have graves together. Capt. Foljambe, Capt. Matthews, 2/Lt. Firth and Pte. Eldridge are all in adjacent graves. The setting to the north-east of the city is right on the banks of the Arno, and below Castle Vincigliato is beautiful. The cemetery is most carefully tended. When signing his name in the visitors' book, the writer felt it appropriate to add a word of thanks on behalf of relatives and comrades to those responsible for the upkeep of this cemetery.

*(To be Continued)*

## Regimental Christmas Card

A Regimental Christmas Card for 1963 will be published on similar lines to that of the 1962 Christmas Card. Full details in regard to the inset and the price will be available from Regimental Headquarters and the Secretaries of the Regimental Associations in the late summer.

## Regimental Diary, 1964

A Regimental Diary for 1964 on similar lines to that produced for 1963 will be published and it is hoped be available for purchase in November. Prices—Leather Bound 6/-; Plexide Bound, 5/-. Further details can be obtained from Regimental Headquarters and the Secretaries of the Regimental Associations.

- *It would greatly help the Secretaries of the respective Associations if subscribers would notify changes of address at the earliest moment, so that records can be kept up-to-date.*



*The Essex Regiment Engine. The Nameplate after presentation. Brigadier C. M. Paton and Mr. Geoffrey Coaker are shown in the photograph.*

### PRESENTATION OF 'THE ESSEX REGIMENT' ENGINE NAMEPLATE

On November 1, 1962, at Headquarters, the 4th/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.) the nameplate of the former L.N.E.R. railway engine—'The Essex Regiment'—was presented to the Essex Regiment Association by British Railways.

The presentation was made by Mr. Geoffrey Coaker, the Movements Superintendent of the Great Eastern Line, and the nameplate was received on behalf of the Regiment by the Deputy Colonel, Brigadier C. M. Paton, C.V.O., C.B.E., D.L. Colonel A. Noble, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., Honorary Colonel, 4th/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.), was also present. A representative contingent from the Battalion was on parade to watch the presentation.

The nameplate was borne by the B.17 class steam locomotive number 61658, which was built by the London and North Eastern Railway at Darlington, and was originally named at Romford in June, 1936, during a two-day Railway Exhibition. On that occasion the Lord Mayor of London was present and received

Lt.-Col. A. E. Maitland, D.S.O., M.C., who named the engine on behalf of the Regiment. The Guard of Honour was provided by 4th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.) and the London and North-Eastern Railway Band played during the ceremony. A link between the two occasions was provided by Mr. J. H. Southgate, who was present at both. Mr. Southgate, who had been a C.S.M. in the 9th Service Battalion of The Essex Regiment, was the driver of the engine when it was named at Romford. He retired from British Railways in 1956 and is now living in Buckhurst Hill. Efforts to trace Mr. F. C. Cole, the stoker, unfortunately were not successful, but it may be of interest to record the fact that he was also an ex-Sergeant of the Regiment.

After the ceremony on November 1 the Officers of the 4th/5th Battalion entertained the Deputy Colonel, and the British Railways' officials, at a buffet supper in the Officers' Mess. Mr. Southgate was a guest of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

During its active life "The Essex Regiment" engine pulled trains in which every Battalion of the Regiment travelled at one time or another and it is to be hoped that the associa-





**THE ESSEX REGIMENT ENGINE**

*The naming ceremony at Romford in June, 1936.*

tion between the Regiment and the British Railways is not to end with the scrapping of the engine. Indeed, we look forward to the day when a new locomotive will bear the name of the Regiment.

### Our Contemporaries

We acknowledge with thanks:

*Invicta*, the Journal of the Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regiment.

*The Britannia and Castle*, the Journal of The 1st East Anglian Regiment (Royal Norfolk and Suffolk).

*The Thistle*, Journal of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

*St. George's Gazette*, A Regimental Paper for the Fifth Fusiliers.

*The Robot*, Journal of the Army Apprentices School, Chepstow.

*The Poacher*, Regimental Journal of The 2nd East Anglian Regiment (Duchess of Gloucester's Own Royal Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire).

*The Waggoner*, The Journal of The Royal Army Service Corps.

*The Covenanter*, The Regimental Journal of The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles).

*The Light Bob*, The Regimental Journal of

The Somerset and Cornwall Light Infantry.

*The Royal Army Pay Corps Journal.*

*The Red Hackle*, The Chronicle of The Black Watch, The Royal Highland Regiment.

*The Roussillon Gazette*, a Journal of The Royal Sussex Regiment.

*The Men of Harlech*, the Journal of The Welch Regiment.

*The Wish Stream*, Journal of The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

*The Lion and The Dragon*, Journal of The King's Own Royal Border Regiment.

*The Green Tiger*, the Journal of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

### The Army Art Society

The Society, which exists to encourage Art in the Army and sister Services, is holding its 32nd exhibition from September 30 until October 11, 1963, at The Chenil Galleries, King's Road, Chelsea.

All ranks of the Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, past or present, permanent or temporary, may submit works for consideration.

Intending exhibitors are invited to apply after June 1 for particulars. Applications should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, The Army Arts Society, W. A. Arnold, 4, West Drive Gardens, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

## The Bedfordshire Militia

*(Editor's Note: We are indebted to the courtesy of the Editor for permission to reproduce the following extract from "Touchstone's" Column in the April 19 issue of "The Bedfordshire Times.")*

"Mr. Percy Smith, of Leeds, an old Bedford boy and formerly an Officer in the Militia Battalion of our County Regiment, sends me an interesting cutting from "The Public Ledger" (established in 1759) relative to this stout old cohort. In January, 1813, the following appeared in the list of subscriptions for the relief of the people of Russia suffering the severest privations and distress in consequence of the French invasion: 'One day's pay of the officers, non-commissioned officers, drummers, fifers and privates of the Bedfordshire Militia, £29/1/1.' That represented a real sacrifice of meagre military pay."

## National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen

During 1962 the number of men and women from the Regular Armed Forces of the Crown placed in employment by the National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen was 15,665, which was 83 per cent of those who registered at one or other of the Association's 49 Branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom. It is of interest that of this number 5,657 were from the Army and 27 were from your Regiment.

Of these, thirteen were former members of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and fourteen former members of The Essex Regiment. Since our last number, fourteen former members of the Regiment have obtained employment through the good offices of the National Association.

If, when you get home, you have mislaid the address of your Area Jobfinder, apply at any big Post Office or to your own Regimental Association. They will be able to give it to you.

Regular Forces Employment Association,  
4, Buckingham Palace Mansions,  
Buckingham Palace Road,  
London, S.W.1.

## Regimental Ties

3rd East Anglian Regimental ties can be obtained on application to the Regimental Secretary.

Prices:

Rayon ... ..	13s.	post free
Bucket Weave ...	£1 1s.	post free

## PERSONALIA

R.S.M. D. Driscoll relinquished his appointment as R.S.M. of the 4th/5th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment (T.A.), at Peterborough in March. He has now taken up the appointment of Garrison Sergeant-Major, Bulford, and his address is: H.Q., Bulford Garrison, Bulford Camp, Wilts.

\* \* \*

We were delighted to hear from Major "Cap" Gaden of the birth of their grandson, which occurred on January 18; the formal announcement appears elsewhere in this number. Major and Mrs. Gaden were very pleased to see Capt. D. R. Palmer when he called on them during his attachment to the 1st Bn. The Royal Australia Regiment.

Their daughter, Valerie, is back in England and is spending six months with the University College Hospital.

\* \* \*

Their friends in the Regiment will be sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Lemon, wife of Major A. B. Lemon, which occurred on February 10. The 16th Foot was represented at the funeral service held at St. Paul's Church, Bedford, on February 13, by Colonel G. A. Anstee and Major D. T. Tewkesbury. Mrs. Lemon's friendly charm of manner will be much missed at the regimental occasions held at Bedford. A message of sincere sympathy was sent to Major Lemon, who is now in his 88th year. He was commissioned in March, 1897, and retired in January, 1923.

\* \* \*

We extend our congratulations to R.S.M. J. R. W. French on his award of the M.B.E. Mr. French first joined the Essex Regiment in November, 1930, and served with 1st and 2nd Battalions in India, Egypt and Palestine. In 1944 he was compulsorily transferred to R.E.M.E. and is now serving at H.Q., B.A.O.R.

\* \* \*

March 31 saw the retirement of Colonel R. A. C. Chell, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., D.L., from his duties as Managing Director of Messrs. A. Archibald and Co., Ltd., of Carter Lane. Colonel Chell, who served with such distinction with 10th Bn. The Essex Regiment first joined Archibald and Co. in early 1919, and apart from a period of six years during World War II had been with them since that time. He is succeeded as Managing Director by his son Robin.

With his many charitable and welfare commitments he is unlikely to have many restful moments, but we wish him many long and happy days in his retirement.

\* \* \*

It was good to receive a letter from Mrs. Le Huquet, who is living at 45, Nyewood Lane, Bognor Regis, Sussex. We were sorry, however,

to learn that she was expecting to go into hospital for an operation on her eyes.

\* \* \*

Major David Page, on completion of the tenure of his Staff appointment with H.Q., 11 Infantry Brigade Group, has rejoined the 1st Battalion for duty. Northern Ireland is quite familiar to him as he was A.D.C. to the Colonel of the Regiment when the latter was G.O.C., Northern Ireland.

Susan Page hopes to be with David in Northern Ireland with their two sons, the second of whom was born in the British Military Hospital, Rinteln, on September 29th last.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. F. Fiddes, D.C.M., M.M., M.S.M., formerly with 6th Bn. The Essex Regiment, has recently been touring in Canada and when at Windsor, Ontario, he paid a visit to Headquarters, The Essex and Kent Scottish, one of our Allied Regiments. Mr. Fiddes, with S/Sgt. Gary Brush, of The Essex and Kent Scottish, had an interesting discussion on the history and activities of the two allied Regiments.

\* \* \*

We were very interested to receive at the end of February a letter from Capt. W. T. Luff, in which he informed us that Mrs. Luff and he were sailing from Rotterdam on March 27 for New Zealand, where they intend to reside in the future. They hope to make their home in the North Island and their address will be: c/o Mr. P. Cain, 73, Ferguson Street, Palmerston, North Island, New Zealand.

On leaving they sent their best wishes to all their friends in the 16th Foot and were sent from R.H.Q. a message wishing them a good voyage and a happy settlement in their new surroundings.

\* \* \*

We are sorry to report the death of Mrs. Dann, which occurred on February 1. She was the widow of the late Brigadier-General W. R. H. Dann, D.S.O., who died on October 25, 1957. Brigadier-General Dann was transferred to the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1908 from the Manchester Regiment. He commanded the 2nd Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment from 1925 to 1929.

Mrs. Dann will be remembered for her charming friendliness and her great interest in all things regimental. For some years she had lived with her daughter, of which there were three, at Revesby, Cambridge, Tasmania, and it was there her death took place. A letter of sympathy was sent to her daughters.

\* \* \*

General Sir Henry Jackson, who read in the last issue of *The Journal* of the presentation to the Regiment of the v.c. won by the late Lt. Parsons, recalls that he and "Johnny" Parsons were great friends together at "prep" school.

Though both joined the Army at about the same time they did not meet again.

\* \* \*

It is with regret that we report the death of Mrs. H. Denton, widow of Mr. B. C. Denton, who served for many years with the 5th Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment (T.F.). The funeral service at the Church of the Transfiguration, Kempston, on January 16, 1963, was attended by Mr. C. C. Wells, Hon. Secretary, Bedford Branch. Miss B. Denton intends to stay on at 9, Stuart Road, Kempston, and has maintained her parents' connection with the 16th Foot by becoming a Friend of the Regiment.

\* \* \*

#### AN APPRECIATION

Mrs. Aline Coker and family have requested us to convey their sincere appreciation to all past and present members of The Essex Regiment for the considerate and willing assistance given at the time of their recent sad bereavement.

\* \* \*

We were interested to learn that Capt. and Mrs. Roger Bates have settled down in Port-of-Spain, where Capt. Bates is Adjutant of the 1st Bn. The Trinidad and Tobago Regiment.

\* \* \*

This year the Christmas card of Messrs. Glyn, Mills and Co., Holt's Branch, included a reproduction of the 16th Foot Regimental picture, "The Raising of the Regiment," which they were given permission to use by the Colonel of the Regiment.

A copy of this Christmas card came into the hands of Brigadier D. C. Barbour, O.B.E., who is the Secretary of the Royal County of Berkshire T. and A.F. Association at Reading.

Brigadier Barbour was most interested and wrote to R.H.Q. for further details of the picture. In his letter the Brigadier mentioned that some of the buildings in the background, including the church, are still recognisable. In consequence they were at Reading very interested in the picture. The details and history of the picture were sent to the Brigadier and the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association have sent a reproduction of the picture.

Brigadier Barbour also tells us that at the third Battle of Cassino he had the privilege of supporting the 2nd Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and he is glad to have the opportunity of renewing acquaintance with the Regiment which, on that occasion took the most appalling pasting and filled him with profound admiration.

\* \* \*

Mr. Percy Munn informs us that he has recently located ex-R.Q.M.S. Leslie Harrison, The Essex Regiment, who is now living in Laindon and he has also heard from R.S.M.

A. F. Jones, R.E.M.E., now in B.A.O.R. R.S.M. Jones is the son of ex-Educational-Sgt. ("Knocker") Jones, who was with 1st Bn. The Essex Regiment at Colchester in 1926.

We were interested to note in the "Gossip" Section of the November 15, 1962, issue of *The Luton News* a tribute is paid to Major G. Hickinbottom, who commands No. 3 Company of the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.), which is based on Luton.

Major Hickinbottom had had a very busy time during the first half of November with the visit of Her Majesty The Queen to Luton to open the town's new library. On this occasion Major Hickinbottom commanded the Guard of Honour. On Remembrance Sunday he was Parade Marshal at Luton's Remembrance Service and parade at the town memorial.

Major Hickinbottom is employed in the Town Clerk's Department at Luton Town Hall.

Major E. G. Knight, formerly The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, who retired some little time ago, has purchased a business in Wendover. His address now is: 25, Aylesbury Road, Wendover, Bucks.

It was with sincere regret that we learned of the death of Ann Adkin, wife of Capt. Mark Adkin, which occurred suddenly at Bury St. Edmunds on March 20, 1963.

Readers may like to know that Mr. W. H. Sougham, late of 1st Bn. The Essex Regiment, is now at Severalls Hospital, Colchester. He would be glad to hear from any old friends.

Mr. A. H. Timms, who has been Hon. Secretary of the Watford Branch of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association for many years, has been appointed Chairman of the Branch, an honour which he deeply appreciates. Mr. Timms has been a member of the Watford Branch and served it loyally and well for 25 years and his many friends in the 16th Foot will be delighted to know of the Branch's recognition of his valuable services. We also understand that Mr. Timms has now retired from business life after having been with his firm for 56 years.

Two old soldiers of The Essex Regiment recently had an enjoyable meeting at Stebbing when Mr. J. Drury, an active 90-year-old, met Mr. R. Sargeant, an old World War I comrade. They had not met since serving together at Warley Barracks 50 years ago, when Mr. Drury, a clerk in the Q.M. Stores, issued Mr. Sargeant with his first uniform.

S/Sgt. P. C. Smith, Army Catering Corps, who is Battalion Cook Sergeant of the 1st Bn.

The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.), is also a member of the T.A. Emergency Reserve (the "Ever Readies"). This year he was selected to attend annual camp in Hong Kong from April 16-30.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ambridge, of 15, Gardenia Avenue, Luton, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in March; they were married in St. Giles's Church, Cheddington, Bucks., on March 22, 1913. During the First World War Mr. Ambridge served in the 1st/5th Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment (T.F.) and was badly gassed.

The annual Dinner for 4th Essex Officers who survived the first Battle of Gaza, March 26-27, 1917, was held at the Trocadero Restaurant, London, on March 26.

Major R. W. Lee presided and those present included Colonels Arthur Noble, G. M. Gibson, Lt.-Col. D. F. Garrard, Squadron Leader S. H. Rogers, Capt. C. S. Attwood, E. Barratt, H. G. Cruse, C. H. Gadsdon, G. G. G. Johnstone, S. Smith and R. H. J. Stronge.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Turney, of Toddington, Bedfordshire, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on March 31. Mr. Turney served in the Bedfordshire Regiment during the 1914-1918 War and both he and Mrs. Turney are active members of the local Branch of the British Legion.

We extend our congratulations to the Rev. A. V. Kingston, O.B.E., Q.H.C., Assistant Chaplain General, Headquarters, Eastern Command, on his appointment as the first Dean of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, and Rector of the cathedral parish of St. John the Baptist, Bulawayo.

Capt. John Bushell writes from H.Q., Aden Garrison, where he is serving on the Staff. He tells us his tour in Aden has passed very quickly. He and Mrs. Bushell are due to arrive back in England this summer, when, after leave, they will join the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland.

Officers of the former 16th Foot will be interested to learn that Capt. and Mrs. Bushell have met on several occasions Flt.-Lt. and Mrs. Maurice Mallet. The latter is serving as an Administrative Officer with the Royal Air Force in Aden.

Mr. Bob Wash, who served thirty years with The Essex Regiment, wrote recently to tell us about the wedding of his son, Cpl. W. R. A. Wash, who was born in 1936, when Mr. Wash was serving at the Depot, The Essex Regiment, Warley, and who is now serving with the 1st Bn. The 3rd East Anglian Regiment, The Pompadours. Mr. Wash told us that he is keep-



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**BORN 1820 — still going strong**

ing well and is employed at Reed Hall Camp, Colchester, but Mrs. Wash, unfortunately, is not so well. Their home address is: "Pompadour," 56, Walton Road, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.

The circumstances in which Cpl. Wash met his bride are interesting. Apparently, while the 1st Battalion was stationed in Malaya, three soldiers of the Battalion (not Cpl. Wash) wrote to a national newspaper asking for girls to marry them so that they could leave the Army. Six London typists, among whom was Mrs. Wash, then Miss Hill, wrote to the paper and said they thought the soldiers were "Cissies." Later the girls' photographs appeared in the paper and Cpl. Wash saw Miss Hill's photograph among them and that is how it all began. An announcement of their marriage appears elsewhere in this number.

Mr. Claude W. Gilder retired in the early part of April from his appointment as Group Advertisement Manager of *The Luton News* and its associated newspapers. On his retirement Mr. Gilder had completed 50 years' service, having joined the staff of *The Luton News* in 1913. To mark the completion of his long service the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Directors of Home Counties Newspapers Ltd., gave a cocktail party for him at the Halfway House Hotel, Dunstable, on April 8.

Mr. Gilder served in the 1st/5th The Bedfordshire Regiment during the First World War and he is President of the 1st/5th The Bedfordshire Regiment (1914/18) "The Yellow Devils" O.C.A.

We were glad to learn that the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Major-General Sir George Burns is making a good recovery from his recent illness.

The annual reunion of the 7/59/459 Dinner Club was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, on Saturday, March 30. Members from the 7th Bn. The Essex Regiment, 59th H.A.A. Regiment and the 459 (The Essex Regiment) H.A.A. Regiment were present. Capt. C. J. Page presided.

It is understood that Sir Douglas Howard has bought Clophill House, Bedfordshire. Sir Douglas, who served with The Bedfordshire Regiment during the First World War, entered the Foreign Service in 1922 and served in many Embassies in Europe and South America. His last appointment was Minister to the Holy See. He retired from the Foreign Service in 1957 and since then has been living at Chester Terrace, Regents Park, London.

We regret to report the death of Mrs. Alice Portway, which occurred in October last. We

extend our condolences to Colonel Portway and the family.

Major Hugh Puttee, late 16th Foot, writes to say that he has retired from the Staff of the B.B.C., which he joined in 1933. He is now the Yorkshire circulation representative of the Conde Nast Publications and intends to remain at Coney House, Riccall, in Yorkshire, where he and his wife, Marjorie, have been happily settled for some years.

In the "Personalia" column of the December Number (see page 432) we published, by the kind permission of the Editor, *The Bedfordshire Times*, an article written by Mr. Percy Smith, entitled "Memories of Kempston Barracks," which appeared in the October 19 issue of the paper. This article was also seen by Mr. A. Lynch, who wrote to the Editor, also of his memories of Kempston Barracks. His letter was reproduced in *The Bedfordshire Times* of November 16, 1962, and the Editor has kindly given permission for it to be reproduced here:

#### MEMORIES OF KEMPSTON

Sir,—As one who spent his early childhood in Kempston Barracks (1904-1910), my father being an N.C.O. in the County Regiment, I found Mr. Percy Smith's recent article extremely interesting.

I wonder whether he remembers the delicious and nourishing soup (not out of tins) that the wives of soldiers were privileged to draw from the cookhouse across the square. Or such names as Colonel G. F. Poynder, the Medical Officer, an excellent physician, but one who had an uncanny knack of spotting the would-be malingerer.

Incidentally, he was the only soldier, other than King Edward VII, who was privileged to wear a beard.

Also Colonel Coates, the Commanding Officer; Major R. P. Stares, the Adjutant; the Hislop family; "Whiskey" Walker, a typical Regimental Sergeant-Major at that time; Bandmaster King; "Drummy" Harris, who performed some amazing feats with his silver-topped staff as he led the Band; and, of course, "Bugler" Noble, one of the most efficient trumpeters in the British Army.

As I pass Kempston Barracks, I reflect on how times have changed and am saddened with the thought that it no longer houses the County Regiment.

A. LYNCH.

Pembroke Street, Bedford.

We extend our congratulations to Mr. T. L. Wilson, the Lay Reader at our Regimental Chapel, Warley, on the recent award to him of the "Silver Acorn." This award, given by the

Chief Scout, was made in May at the District Association annual meeting at Brentwood. Mr. Wilson has been associated with the Scout movement for almost 50 years.

\* \* \*

Major C. J. Corkerton writes to say that he received some helpful response to his appeal for music for the Bedford Branch British Legion Corps of Drums, which was published in the last issue of this *Journal*. He is anxious to obtain still more copies of old flute music. His home address is: 12, Hardwick Road, Bedford, Beds.

\* \* \*

Major Harry Staff, who gives much of his time to visit Old Comrades of The Essex Regiment, recently visited Mr. Len Platts, now an in-patient at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, who after a serious collapse was rushed to Millbank Hospital. Mr. Platts was still very weak but was showing some improvement, which we trust will be maintained. Mr. Moore, another former Essex in-patient, was also visited by Major Staff and though he has been ill, he is now back at Chelsea.

\* \* \*

We were sorry to hear that Master C. H. Grundy, Senior Master and Queen's Remembrancer, is in the Middlesex Hospital, recovering from an operation. He was unable, in consequence, to attend the 6th Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment (1914-1918) O.C.A. annual dinner, which was held in London on April 27. He telephoned his good wishes to all there from his hospital bed. We wish him a speedy recovery.

\* \* \*

Lt.-Col. A. T. Hitch, D.S.O., President of the 6th Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment (1914-1918) O.C.A., was also another victim of illness and was also unable to attend the annual dinner. All present sent him their good wishes for a complete recovery.

\* \* \*

We have recently heard from Major Barney O'Hagan, now living at Godalming, who has had a long spell of illness. Despite his considerable disabilities which necessitate his keeping to a strict diet, he remains very cheerful and asks to be remembered to all his old friends.

\* \* \*

Capt. and Mrs. Stuart Green's Dalmations, "Pompadally" and "Pygmalion," were among the best breed winners at Cruft's annual show.

\* \* \*

On the occasion of the death of Lt.-Col. D. Rhys-Thomas ("Tommy"), which occurred on June 2, 1962, a very nice tribute to his memory was received from Lt.-Col. M. F. T. Baines, O.B.E., J.P., D.L., the Secretary of the Bedfordshire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, with whom "Tommy" worked for many years. Unfortunately, the pressure of space in

the December Number prevented us from printing it in addition to the Obituary Notice. Colonel Thomas served for fourteen years as the Secretary to the Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force and we reproduce Colonel Baine's tribute to his work as such:

"He didn't much like administration, his joy was training, and particularly training his boys to shoot, and it was an incredible triumph for him to carry off the Earl Roberts Imperial Cadet Trophy in 1958 with a small detachment from the village of Lidlington, a feat incidentally repeated by the Clophill detachment in 1961. This trophy has only been won four times by a United Kingdom team since its institution in 1907, so one can appreciate the worth of "Tommy's" work.

"During his time here his Cadets carried off every shooting trophy available in the Cadet world. The Montgomery of Alamein Cup twice (1947, 1948), the Watts Bowl at Bisley twice (1947, 1951), the Frankfort Shield at Bisley in 1954, and all the prizes in the various district rifle competitions, while the Earl Roberts Trophy crowned the lot.

"'Tommy' was a cheerful soul in his rather uncommunicative way. Only watching the Welsh match at Twickenham did he become extremely silent, especially when his native land was not doing so well! Now he has gone and in this county and this office particularly, where he worked so hard and loyally for so long, we feel his loss very much. I am so glad to have been able to pay this very inadequate tribute to his memory. — M.F.T.B."

\* \* \*

Major "Cap" Gaden has sent us a number of caricatures of officers which were drawn by Amies Milner in 1926, when the 2nd Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment was stationed at the Citadel Barracks, Dover. They are being placed in the Regimental Archives at Kempston Barracks, Bedford. Among the caricatures received are included: P. H. C. White (R.E. attached), R. M. Calvert (R.E. attached), D. Rossiter, E. G. Steele, A. J. R. Nutting, S. L. Edwards, C. H. Philpotts, R. H. H. Osborne, J. S. Falkner, R. A. Birch, the late H. H. Lake, H. C. T. P. Houchin, the late W. A. Shaw, D. F. Yate-Lee, the late R. T. Oldfield and "Cap" Gaden.

\* \* \*

We were pleased to hear from Mr. L. Judge, ex-C.S.M. (3049643), The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, and interested to learn that an account of his work with the School Orchestra of the Valence Special School, Westerham, Kent, had appeared in *The Tonbridge Chronicle and Courier*. This is a mixed school for physically handicapped children. It has been found that music and the handling of musical instruments is a valuable therapy in the training of these children.



Mr. Judge, it will be remembered, played a large part in the re-forming of the Band of the 1st Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) after the war. Mr. and Mrs. Judge entered child care work as wardens in 1954 and later transferred to the Education Department. They took up their present appointments as supervisors at the Valence Special School in 1960 and it has been a great joy to Mr. Judge that he has been able to exercise his musical talent in his work.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Judge are very happy in their work and consider it an ideal career for long serving Servicemen to take up on return to civil life.

\* \* \*

Mr. A. E. Day (ex-No. 9796, 13 Platoon, "D" Company, 2nd Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment) writes from Montgomery Hotel, 39, Kloof Street Gardens, Cape Town, and has sent an account of a visit he paid recently to Roberts Heights, Pretoria, the station from which the 2nd Battalion returned to England in 1914 en route to join the 7th Division in Belgium. It is hoped to publish extracts of his account in future numbers.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to the following on their awards in the New Year's Honours List:

Lt.-Col. L. F. Richards, formerly The Essex Regiment, now Royal Military Police, the O.B.E.

The Rev. K. A. Vine, Chaplain to the Forces (T.A.), the M.B.E.

Lt.-Col. S. S. Smith, D.L., the O.B.E.

Surgeon Commander A. W. Hagger, promoted Surgeon Captain.

\* \* \*

Owing to lack of space it was not possible to publish "Extracts from the London Gazette" in the December Number. The following is a summary of the promotions, retirements, etc., which occurred during the period June-November, 1962:

#### THE 3RD EAST ANGLIAN REGIMENT (16TH/44TH FOOT)

##### *Promotions*

Major B. J. Palmer, M.B.E., to be Lt.-Col. Major 20.

Cpts. R. L. Jackson and A. F. MacKain-Bremner to be Majors, July 14.

Lts. P. J. Sincock, M. Adkin and D. W. F. Taylor to be Captains, July 27.

2/Lt. C. A. Styles to be Lt., June 16; 2/Lt. P. B. Light to be Lt., August 15.

Officer Cadet T. D. A. Veitch appointed to commission from Sandhurst, August 4.

##### *Retirements*

Major M. V. McArthur, June 1; Major D. J. Cairns, O.B.E., June 8; Lt.-Col. (Staff Q.M.) P. Hale, July 4; Major G. A. Lucas, October 18;

Capt. C. B. Scott, on account of disability, August 20.

R.S.M. R. H. E. Luscombe appointed to a Short Service Commission as Lt. (Q.M.), May 22.

Capt. D. B. Riches relinquishes his short service commission on July 2, and granted hon. rank of Major.

The following officers having reached the age limit, cease to belong to Regular Army Reserve of Officers:

Colonel N. R. Salew, O.B.E., D.L., June 7; Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) J. H. Busby, M.B.E., May 16; Major H. D. H. Rance, May 19; Major A. M. J. Littledale, June 10; Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) G. B. Beer, September 5; Lt. (Hon. Capt.) A. M. S. Clarke, September 30.

## Extracts from The London Gazette

### REGULAR ARMY

#### *Staff*

The undermentioned Lt.-Col. to be Colonel on the date shown:

M. W. Holme, O.B.E., M.C., from Inf., July 31, 1962, with seniority February 1, 1961, and precedence next below D. A. Beckett, D.S.O., O.B.E.

#### *The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot)*

Lt.-Col. D. Milman, M.C., retires on retired pay, October 29, 1962.

Major C. C. Norbury, M.B.E., M.C., to be Lt.-Col., June 8, 1962.

Capt. (Q.M.) E. T. Stevart to be Major (Q.M.), August 14, 1962.

Capt. H. O. Parker to be Major, December 16, 1962, with precedence in the East Anglian Brigade next below J. B. Akehurst, 2 East Anglian.

Lt. W. T. Dodd to be Captain, December 21, 1962.

Lt. P. W. King to be Captain, December 21, 1962.

Capt. P. L. Philcox, M.C., to be Major, December 3, 1962.

Capt. J. F. Bushell to be Major, December 16, 1962, with precedence in the East Anglian Brigade next above H. O. Parker.

2/Lt. J. R. Elder to be Lt., January 29, 1963.

2/Lt. J. E. Bowers to be Lt., January 29, 1963.

Major J. S. Greene, M.C., to be Lt.-Col. (Emp. List (1)), June 27, 1962.

The undermentioned Officer Cadet from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, to be Lieutenant, December 21, 1962:

Christopher Paul McMillen.

Major I. J. D. Stevenson-Hamilton, D.S.O., to be Lt.-Col. (Emp. List 1), July 5, 1962.

#### SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION

The undermentioned Officer Cadet from Mons Officer Cadet School to be 2/Lieutenant, November 3, 1962:

Clifford John Brock (Direct Entry).

Major (Q.M.) A. J. Nudds relinquishes his commission on completion of service, January 1, 1963, and is granted the hon. rank of Major (Q.M.).

Capt. H. C. Clark relinquishes his commission, April 8, 1963, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain.

Capt. N. W. Nichols relinquishes his commission on completion of service, April 29, 1963, and is granted the hon. rank of Captain.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

##### *The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot)*

Major K. P. L. Wilson having reached the age limit, ceases to belong to the Reserves of Officers, October 30, 1962.

Capt. (Q.M.) F. W. Boutwood, M.B.E., relinquishes his commission, September 16, 1962.

Lt. R. Cherer relinquishes his commission, October 28, 1962.

Lt.-Col. R. A. W. Stevenson, D.S.O., having reached the age limit, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, November 6, 1962.

Major (Hon. Lt.-Col.) G. G. Stevens having reached the age limit, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, November 28, 1962.

Major A. I. Mulholland having reached the age limit, ceases to belong to the Reserve of Officers, February 10, 1963.

Lt. P. G. C. Brett resigns his commission, February 12, 1963.

#### TERRITORIAL ARMY

##### *The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment*

Capt. J. D. Blumson, from Queen's Surreys, to be Captain, September 12, 1962, with seniority July 1, 1957.

Lt. S. F. N. Humbert, from Reserve of Officers, Class III, Royal Signals, to be Lieutenant, January 30, 1963, with seniority January 28, 1960.

##### *The Essex Regiment*

L/Cpl. Roger Romney Brown to be 2/Lieutenant (on probation), September 19, 1962.

Capt. D. A. Tovey, T.D., to be Major, December 1, 1962.

Capt. (Acting Major) M. C. Portway, T.D., to be Major, June 24, 1960, with seniority October 11, 1955.

2/Lt. P. J. Wilson (on probation) relinquishes his commission, January 30, 1963.

## The British United Provident Association

The above-mentioned Association, usually known as BUPA, was formed in 1947, with the active support of Lord Nuffield, with the sole object of providing, as economically as possible, a service that would enable its subscribers to protect themselves against the heavy expenses of the private treatment of illness or accident. The Association is non-profit making, there are no shareholders, and the Governors give their service without fee.

The Association has now produced a special scheme for Army personnel, which may be of interest to Officers, Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s.

The main advantages of this special scheme are that if an Officer, Warrant Officer or N.C.O. applies to join the Army Group of the Association, he pays 20 per cent. less than the standard rate of subscription and becomes eligible for benefits immediately on acceptance, instead of having to undergo the three months' normal waiting period. If an Officer, Warrant Officer or N.C.O. is already an individual subscriber to BUPA he may apply to transfer his registration to the Army Group. These concessionary terms of membership will be available for wives and children of serving personnel, even though, because of Army facilities, such personnel themselves decide not to enrol. Whilst serving overseas, personnel (if they have enrolled) and their families, will be entitled to the full range of benefits. Personnel may continue Group Membership after leaving the Army.

Further information, brochures and forms of applications can be obtained from The Group Secretary, Army Association Group, Group Management Ltd., 10, Essex Street, London, W.C.2.

An example of the benefits provided by BUPA is as follows:—There are five scales of benefit numbered 7-11. If you are a subscriber under Scale 9, you are entitled to grants of up to 26 guineas a week for accommodation in a hospital or nursing home, and up to 80 guineas for each major operation. There are many other benefits obtainable, and if your wife and children (up to 18 years of age) are included in the registration, each will be entitled to similar benefits.

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## 1st BATTALION NOTES

The month of November, 1962, saw the culmination of the Battalion's summer training with our last big Exercise of the year, which took place from November 16-20 and the beginning of our ambitious winter training programme. Throughout the winter it was hoped to train many specialists in the Battalion and to also give the ordinary rifleman training for an alternative job within his Company.

On November 15 the Battalion moved out on Exercise "Winged Coachman." In this Exercise the Battalion, together with a Squadron Royal Tanks, were "enemy" to a Brigade which included 1/6 Gurkha Rifles and all their supporting arms. 1/6 Gurkhas, who flew over from England for the Exercise, were supported by the Foresters, who were already in Northern Ireland. The Exercise took place in the Antrim Hills in some of the worst weather seen in Northern Ireland for this time of the year. The most notable feature in this area was the famous "Slemish Mountain" which raises itself like a loaf of bread out of the Antrim Plateau. St. Patrick, the Patron Saint of Ireland, spent six years on Slemish as a slave and sheep herder. During the Exercise, despite the wet and the cold, the Battalion did extremely well under trying conditions. The following is an extract from the "Northern Whig," a local newspaper:



[Photograph by Direct Display Studios Ltd

A direct hit for Cpl. Coombes, "B" Company, and partner, on an enemy tank at the Narcop G.T.A.

"Gurkha troops who have fought in Korea, Malaya and Europe have just got through the worst week-end of their long Army careers—in Northern Ireland.

### STIFF BATTLE

"Hit by snow, sleet and icy gales, they rested up after an assault on 1,700-foot Slemish Mountain in County Antrim yesterday and said: 'We don't like it over here.'

"But the 'enemy' that they had just driven off the top of the mountain, men of the 3rd East Anglian Regiment, stationed at Ballykinler, took in their stride the snow-bound week-end conditions under which Exercise 'Winged Coachman' has been fought. After sitting in the open for three nights in the rough country on and around Slemish, they were still in good enough order to give the Gurkhas a stiff battle up the steep Slemish slopes."

Immediately after "Winged Coachman" the Battalion's Winter Cadres started. It was the Commanding Officer's wish that every man was given a chance to learn a new and interesting job during the winter months. To this end the following Cadres started on November 26:

N.C.O.'s Cadre; Corporals' and Lance-Corporals' Refresher Cadres; First and Second Class Education; Signals Cadre; Rifle Platoon Wireless Operators' Cadre; Recce Platoon Cadre; M.T. Cadre; Assault Pioneer Cadre; Anti-Tank Cadre; Mortar Cadre; Stretcher Bearers' and First-Aid Cadre; Third Class Education.

Somehow the initial squabbles over classrooms, lecture rooms, stores and instructors were at last overcome and the Battalion settled down to four weeks of intense activity. Christmas leave would form a pleasant "half term" and the remaining four weeks' training would continue after Christmas.

The Battalion block leave period began on December 21. Before this, however, the Battalion Christmas dinner took place on December 20, Junior Ranks were served their lunch by the Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants. Also on the 20th the Battalion pantomime had its premiere in No. 2 Gymnasium. All who saw it rated it just as good as any of the lavish pantomimes produced in London's West End at this time of the year. The success of the show was largely due, once again, to the efforts of Capt. Alderton and Sgt. South.

Few members of the Battalion were in Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinler, to see in the New Year. Most of the Battalion were in England on block leave. However, 1963 came in in a fairly mild manner in Northern Ireland. Those who had to remain behind in camp could at



February, 1963.—Clearing the snow near Crossgar  
—Pte. Watchorn and L/Cpl. Potter.

least get some little satisfaction from the fact that the weather was awful for those on leave in England. The Battalion block leave ended on January 14 and our Winter Cadres restarted.

We were pleased to be able to welcome C.S.M. Franks back to the Battalion after a tour with the Infantry Junior Leaders at Oswestry. C.S.M. Franks took over as C.S.M. of "A" Company. Capt. Parsons also joined the Battalion on a short attachment before leaving for the Australian Staff College in May. In January we were sorry to have to say goodbye to R.S.M. Baldry, who departed for the Brigade Depot at Bury St. Edmunds, having completed his tour with the Battalion. In his place we welcomed R.S.M. Jenns, who has returned to the Battalion after his short spell with the T.A.

On January 29 the Battalion was visited by the G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Ireland Command, the G.O.C.-in-C. spending the morning looking at some of the Battalion Winter Cadres in action as well as other parts of the Battalion which are usually visited on these occasions. The Quarter Guard was produced from "C" Company under the instruction of C.S.M. Watson and achieved a high standard.

2/Lt. C. P. McMillen joined the Battalion from Sandhurst on January 26 and was posted to "A" Company. Capt. R. H. H. Dinnin rejoined the Battalion after a tour with the K.A.R. on January 29 and is now Second-in-Command "H.Q." Company.

On January 26 the Battalion Inter-Company Cross-Country Championship was held. Winners were "B" Company, with "H.Q." Company runners-up. Individual placings were:

1st, Pte. Hayward; 2nd, L/Cpl. Sutton; 3rd,

Pte. Farmer; 4th, 2/Lt. Veitch; 5th, Capt. Alderton; 6th, Cpl. Randall-Wood.

On Tuesday, February 5, Northern Ireland had a taste of the type of weather that had been prevalent in England for some time. A tremendous blizzard struck during the late afternoon and by 4.30 p.m. all the electricity had failed, leaving the whole camp devoid of heat, light or any means of cooking. Members of the Corporals' and Lance-Corporals' Refresher Cadres, who were out on the heights of the Mourne Mountains on an Exercise, under Capt. Randall, managed to extricate themselves with difficulty and eventually returned to camp. Meanwhile, emergency measures had been taken to provide the Battalion with food. S.Q.M.S. Waddington (A.C.C.) and his cooks worked wonders to produce some excellent meals on No. 1 burners. By the next day Ballykinler was cut off from both Newcastle and Downpatrick. How great a disaster this was was discovered when the Paymaster could not get through to collect the pay from Downpatrick! All available personnel were organised into snow clearing parties. On Thursday morning, thanks to some hard work by "A" Company, under Lt. A. R. A. Veitch, the road to Downpatrick was opened. "B" Company had already cleared the lightly blocked road to Newcastle. A notable feat on this day was that of our N.A.A.F.I. Manager, Mr. O'Neill, who walked in the 12 miles from Downpatrick to open up the N.A.A.F.I. shop for the families. The Battalion was paid and morale rose greatly. However, our troubles were not yet over. The Belfast-Downpatrick road had to be cleared before there was any hope of restoring the power to Ballykinler. The road was eventually opened late on Thursday evening, thanks largely to the efforts of "A" and "B" Companies. Friday, the 8th, was spent in opening up a second road to Belfast and performing many acts of assistance to local farmers, doctors and old age pensioners. Throughout this period 2/Lt. Brock and a small party from "A" Company had been taking food and fuel to old age pensioners in the Newcastle area. On Friday evening the power was restored and by Saturday morning the crisis had passed. It was gratifying to receive numerous "thank you" letters, all of which praised the helpfulness and cheerfulness of all members of the Battalion.

On February 16 the Battalion team was narrowly beaten by the Foresters in the Northern Ireland Cross-Country Championship. The team had trained exceptionally hard under Capt. Alderton and 2/Lt. Veitch. Unfortunately, two of our runners had been injured a few days previously and yet two more were on courses. However, the team ran a good race and were narrowly beaten in an exciting finish. Team and individual placings were:

Teams: 1st, Foresters, 84 points; 2nd, 3 East Anglian, 112; 3rd, North Irish Brigade Depot, 119.

Out of 30 runners: Pte. Hayward, 3rd; Cpl. Randall-Wood, 4th; 2/Lt. Veitch, 5th; Pte. Watchorn, 14th.

On February 17 "A" Company moved to the Army School of Civil Defence at Devizes for two weeks of Civil Defence training. This was the first time that most of the Company had ever done any training of this sort, so it proved to be novel and of interest to all. At the very least, most people learned not to volunteer to be the "live" casualty when a stretcher was being lowered from a high building on a two point suspension. "B" Company followed "A" Company to Devizes on March 3.

On March 1 the Battalion won the Northern Ireland Hockey Championship by beating the Foresters 2-0 in the final. The Battalion team was: Sgt. Warren, R.S.M. Jenns, Capt. Pike, Sgt. Perry, Lt. Cross, Cpl. Blower, Major Carter, S/Sgt. Godfrey, Lt. Styles, Sgt. Smith, C.S.M. Ladley. Sgt. Harris and Lt. Light also played in the later stages of the Army Championship. In the quarter finals of the Army Hockey Championship the Battalion team beat the Training Regiment, R.E., 2-1 after extra time in an exciting game. The team had to travel to England for the semi-final against H.Q., Eastern Command, at Blackdown, on April 3. Unfortunately, the team did not have on its shooting boots on this day and we were beaten 1-0 when Eastern Command converted a penalty bully



"B" Company on Civil Defence training at Devizes.



[Photograph by Direct Display Studios Ltd.]

Cpl. Francis leads out a fighting patrol.



Classification Range,  
Ballykinler.

given in extra time. In the Northern Ireland Minor Units Championships "A" and "H.Q." Companies managed to make it an all 3rd East Anglian final by winning their respective sections of both the hockey and football competitions. For once we do not worry who will win the final matches which are to be played shortly, although respective readers will doubtless have their personal preferences.

In the rugger world the Battalion team reached the final of the Northern Ireland Championships, beating H.Q., Lisburn Garrison, 15-3 in the semi-final, but were beaten 17-3 in the final by the Royal Tanks. Those who represented the Battalion were: L/Cpl. Leonard, Ptes. Yeo, Faraway, Whitley, L/Cpls. Maskell, Blackwell, French, Potter, Missenden, Rozee, 2/Lts. Brock and McMillen, Lts. Light, Styles, Veitch, Capt. Pike and Major Lucas (team captain). Most of these were first year learners and will form a formidable side next season when they have more experience to match their dash and determination. In fencing the Battalion team qualified for the team event in the finals at Aldershot. In the individual events C.S.M. Day was the winner in the Sabre and Epee competitions in the Western Command Championships. Capt. C. M. F. Randall was runner-up in the Epee. Both now go forward to the Army finals as individuals. On March 25 the finals of the Inter-Company Boxing Competition was held "B" Company won the Boxing Shield, with "H.Q." Company runners-up. Individual results were:

Bantam: Winner, Pte. Leslie ("H.Q." 2). Feather: Pte. Stevenson ("H.Q." 2); runner-up, Pte. Young ("H.Q." 2). Lightweight: Pte. Witherstone ("H.Q." 2); Pte. Newstead ("B").

Light-welterweight: Pte. Denny ("B"); Pte. Ryan ("H.Q." 1). Welterweight: Pte. Bright ("B"); Pte. Hayward ("H.Q." 2). Light-middleweight: Pte. Walsh ("B"); Cpl. Bailiff ("H.Q." 2). Middleweight: Lt. Styles ("B"); Pte. Walton ("A"). Light-heavyweight: Pte. Leaver ("H.Q." 2); Pte. Collins ("B"). Heavyweight: Cpl. Dear ("A"); L/Cpl. Dobson ("B").

So we come to April and, at the time of going to press, the Battalion is preparing for the annual Administrative Inspection on April 25 and 29. Fortunately, the days of "if it moves, salute it; if it doesn't, paint it white!" are past and gone, but nevertheless a certain amount of preparation has to be done. Let us hope it will all be to good avail.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the last number hardly anything of general interest has taken place. With Christmas leave, winter Cadres and study days, there has not been a lot of time left for anything else.

Over the last six months there have been quite a few postings and promotions. Our greatest loss was the posting of R.S.M. Baldry to the Brigade Depot. We wish him all the best of luck in his new job and at the same time welcome back to the fold R.S.M. Jenns from the 4/5 Essex (T.A.) (he still says it was quite an experience! !). Our congratulations go out to Sgts. Hiscock, Conboy and Bullock on their promotions to W.O.II on postings to 1st East Anglian, to W.O.II Cotter on his promotion to R.S.M. on posting to 4/5 Essex (T.A.), and to Sgt. Tranham on his promotion to C/Sgt. within the Battalion. We are glad to welcome into the Mess Sgts. Wright and Johnson on promotion to Sergeant; also we are glad to see





[Photograph by Direct Display Studios Ltd.

"B" Company in the field.—C/Sgt. Braybrook and Pte. Chillingworth prepare a meal.

back in the Mess W.O.II (Drummie) Franks (honest, he has quietened down a little bit), C/Sgt. Shorter and Sgts. Appleton and Clifton.

In the field of sport the Sergeants' Mess has helped considerable towards getting the Battalion hockey team into the semi-final of the Army Cup (which, alas, we lost). The following members turned out in most of the games, R.S.M. Jenns, C.S.M.s Ladley, Day, S.S.I. Godfrey (A.P.T.C.), Sgt. ("Nipper") Warren, Sgts. Smith, Perry and Harris. Sgt. Baggardige is still convinced that he is the best first reserve the Battalion has ever had.

One of our very few remaining confirmed batchelors, Sgt. ("Chick") Fowler, has at last been caught up in the net and was married on Saturday, April 6. We wish him and Mrs. Fowler all the very best of luck for the future.

### Our Advertisers

*It is worth your while to read the advertisements in this magazine.*

Please mention "The Wasp and Eagle" when purchasing from firms who advertise in these pages.

## The East Anglian Brigade Depot

### GENERAL

Despite the East Anglian "Ice Age," the Depot has managed to keep going relatively well, though the Square was unusable from December 26 to March 4.

Colonel G. V. Martin, M.C., has left us and the Army at the end of his time as Brigade Colonel; we shall miss his guiding hand and help. The Brigade's success in recruiting is largely due to his foresight, planning and action and to him also goes the credit for the success of the last Brigade Week-end and many similar functions. We wish him and his family every success in their new sphere. Colonel J. C. Denny, O.B.E., M.C., has taken over from Colonel G. V. Martin and we wish him a successful and happy stay with us.

The Royal Leicestershire Regiment joined the East Anglian Brigade as the fourth Battalion on May 1. We welcome them most heartily.

Passing-out Parades have, owing to the weather, nearly all taken place in the Gymnasium. Among those who took the salute were the Mayor of Chelmsford; Lt.-Col. J. R. G. Stanton, M.B.E. (Royal Sussex); the Mayor of Ipswich; the Mayor of Sudbury; Colonel W. A. Heal, O.B.E.; Colonel G. V. Martin, M.C.

Our Administrative Inspection took place on December 13, 1962, and again was taken by Major-General I. H. Freeland, D.S.O., who was kind enough to give us a very cheery report.

### BRIGADE RECRUITING

Since October the Brigade has been placed on restricted recruiting, which means that it is given a quarterly quota of recruits. This is because it has nearly reached its establishment. Special recruiters have therefore been able to exercise a certain amount of discretion when interviewing prospective recruits, so that although the number of recruits has fallen their quality is improving. Another change in recruiting is that as the Brigade nears its target the number of people being employed on recruiting is being steadily reduced. The Brigade Recruiting Officer, Capt. P. H. Gill, 3rd East Anglian Regiment, was one of the first to work himself out of a job and he left in early February to work at the War Office under Brigadier G. W. H. Peters, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Honorary Colonel of the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.). The process is expected to continue throughout 1963 and should help Battalions who have provided many key Warrant Officers and Sergeants as special recruiters from their own establishments. These specials deserve a vote

of thanks from all of us as their work has been largely instrumental in raising the Brigade recruiting to such a high level. The workshop team at the Depot, all provided by soldiers of the establishment of Battalions has been wound up. Their magnificent work is, however, still regularly displayed in the Army Information Offices throughout the nine counties. Wherever an East Anglian Regiment diorama is on view there is always public to see it. The problem for the future is to reach the Brigade establishment, keep it topped up, and continue to raise the quality of our recruits. The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, with a wonderful recruiting record, have just joined the team, raising the County total to eleven from which we recruit.

#### OFFICERS' MESS

Major Robinson has been a most efficient P.M.C. now for six months. This is reflected in the excellent dinner which we had with all our wives at Christmas and two cocktail parties, to which more than 250 people came in February. We have also dined the Mayor and Aldermen of Bury St. Edmunds, and at the same time we dined out Colonel G. V. Martin.

Our Mess staff is now almost entirely civilian and they have done well to compete with all our activities.

We are always very pleased to see any retired Officers of the Brigade.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS

Since the publication of the last notes there has been a considerable change round in Mess members. R.S.M. Gell left us, in September, for Southern Command, prior to his transfer to the Longer Service List, and we wish him and Barbara all the best for the future. In his place, we welcome R.S.M. Baldry, who arrived in January from the 3rd East Anglian Regiment, and we hope he and his wife enjoy their stay at the Depot. Between the departure of R.S.M. Gell and the arrival of R.S.M. Baldry, Billy Baily, the 3rd East Anglian Regiment, filled the gap. He has since gone to British Honduras. We say goodbye to "Drummy" Moyes, the 1st East Anglian Regiment, and George Talkington, A.P.T.C., who has gone to the Guards at Chelsea Barracks. Other departures include Willie Pepper and Bill Ansell, of the 1st East Anglian Regiment, Paddy Smith of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment, and George ("Punchie") Oliver, the 2nd East Anglian Regiment, "Ginger" Clayton and Jock Moffatt, of the A.C.C., to civilian life. We wish them all the best for the future. In their places we welcome Fred George, "Lofty" Ferrier and Les ("Granddad") Childs, from the 1st East Anglian Regiment; other arrivals include Tommy Tucker from the T.A. and Sgt. MacKnight, A.C.C., and Drum-Major Hitchen

from the 1st East Anglian Regiment. We wish to extend a special welcome to Sgt. Jones, from the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, who recently joined us from the Forester Brigade.

Congratulations to Sgts. Graves, the 2nd East Anglian Regiment, on his promotion into the Mess, and to the following for obtaining subjects towards A.C.E. First Class: Alec Horne, Ray Hazelwood, Mick Law and "Muscles" Cooper, A.P.T.C., and to Bill Ansell for obtaining his A.C.E. First Class.

"Smudger" Smith, Superintendent Clerk, had a surprise for his Christmas dinner. He was expecting turkey, but a stork flew in instead and delivered a son, Richard.

The warmest house in the quarters during the cold spell belonged to Mick Law. A fire started in the loft and gutted most of the roof. He was extremely fortunate in obtaining another quarter, but soon he found out that besides all the pipes being frozen he had no electricity and the painters were in occupation of the ground floor.

We entertained 20 members of a Danish Battalion, training at Stanford P.T.A. in February and they had a most enjoyable time. As they were all conscripts, it was rather like a fathers versus sons evening, but they were as good, if not better, than the "dads" when it came to drinking.

In conclusion, we would like to say how much we have appreciated serving members dropping in when visiting this area and we hope to see many more in the coming months. Accommodation can usually be found.

#### "TRAINING" COMPANY

Although this quarter has been the busiest on our calendar we have maintained the cry "business as usual." The round of Christmas parties did not pass the Company by. The Permanent Staff dance being a particularly notable success.

Training was not forgotten: the weather unfortunately has been against us and we have had the usual burst pipes. The W.T.O. did us proud with a demonstration of platoon weapons at Fingringhoe, which is to be a permanent feature of training. With the training team from the Royal Leicestershire Regiment, Lt. Vigers, Sgt. Jones and Cpls. Brown and Sprason came the first 13 recruits. They are a very welcome addition to the Company in every way and we hope their stay will be a long and happy one.

We have had the inevitable departures; Cpl. Atherton, 2nd East Anglian Regiment, left us in October for civilian life, as did L/Cpl. Plant, 1st East Anglian Regiment; we wish them every success. Cpl. Berry, 3rd East Anglian Regiment, left us too in January; his P.T. knowledge will be sorely missed. 2/Lts. Harrington-Spiers and Bowers, 3rd East Anglian Regiment, and

Lt. Horrex, 1st East Anglian Regiment, have joined us and have quickly settled down; 2/Lt. Bowers has unfortunately been in hospital with a leg injury, we wish him a speedy recovery. Cpl. Graham, 2nd East Anglian Regiment, has also joined us.

#### "H.Q." COMPANY

During the period October, 1962, to February, 1963, the Permanent Staff of "H.Q." Company have seen numerous changes in personnel. To all those who have left or are about to leave we wish *bon voyage*.

"H.Q." Company Office has seen the arrival of C/Sgt. Childs, 1st East Anglian Regiment, vice C/Sgt. Mason, 1st East Anglian Regiment, who goes to Aden in April to serve with the Federal Army. Also we have a new Company Orderly Sergeant in Cpl. Blackburn, M.M., 1st East Anglian Regiment; he filled the vacancy made by the departure of Cpl. Stoner, 2nd East Anglian Regiment, who is now at Sennelegar, but we learn is due to return again shortly.

The M.T. Section has seen some changes, as Ptes. Catter, 3rd East Anglian Regiment, Riches, 1st East Anglian Regiment, and Ling, 1st East Anglian Regiment, have arrived.

#### JUNIOR SOLDIERS WING

##### BAND

The members of the Junior Soldiers Wing had a busy time during the Christmas period. The main engagements were the pantomime, carol service and ladies' night at the Officers' Mess. The highlight of the term was the carol service. This year the choir was provided by the Silver Jubilee School, correctly robed for the occasion. The service was well attended and there were many words of praise for our effort.

Bdsm. Haynes and J/Bdsm. Francis, of the 3rd East Anglian Regiment, have departed on a pupils' course to Kneller Hall, Royal Military School of Music, and Bdsms. Mills, who has returned from Kneller Hall, has since joined his Band, the 3rd East Anglian Regiment, in Northern Ireland. Band Staff-Sgt. "Willie" Pepper has rejoined his own Band and is succeeded by Band Staff-Sgt. Fred George, also from the 1st East Anglian Regiment. We wish them every success in their new appointments.

There have been some additions to the infants' branch of the staff: L/Cpl. La Traile, a son; L/Cpl. Hindmarsh, a daughter.

##### DRUMS

The Drums have done very well over last term in the Junior Soldiers Wing competition. Purcell Hut, under Cpl. (now Sgt.) Graves, won the hut competition; J/Cpl. Ghaut, of the

2nd East Anglian Regiment, was the Commanding Officer's bugler; and J/L/Cpl. Bryson, of the 2nd East Anglian Regiment, won the .22 Shooting Cup.

The Drums continue to play for most Passing-Out Parades and seem to be much appreciated.

#### GENERAL

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has progressed very well. Many Juniors have completed much of their Silver Award. As far as sport is concerned we entered the 1962-3 Junior Soldiers Wing challenge cup soccer competition. Unfortunately, we were knocked out in the first round by Home Counties Brigade. The score was 5-3 in favour of Home Counties. Three of the Juniors played well enough to be selected for the Depot team, J/Sgt. McCune, 1st East Anglian Regiment. The hockey team fared very well and won both of their games against the Silver Jubilee School.

Finally, we would like to welcome Capt. E. A. Malpas, from 2nd East Anglian Regiment, to the Wing as O.C. We hope his stay will be a happy one.

#### SPORTS NOTES

##### FOOTBALL

After last season, when the Depot had a lot of talent, we came down to earth with rather a bump, and had to work extremely hard to find a reasonable team.

After a disastrous start, winning only one match in the first six, we seemed to get going. After an exciting game at Felixstowe, against The 1st East Anglian Regiment, we lost 5-4, in the Eastern Command Challenge Cup Competition. In a return friendly against their "B" Team we beat them 8-0. This was our best result up to the end of December, and things looked very good for January onwards. However, not a single game has been played since December 19, owing to the weather.

We have been informed that the season has been extended up to May 20, and we hope that there will be a good report in the next edition.

Result Table so far:

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	For	Against
15	2	12	1	41	75

##### HOCKEY

The weather has proved to be a decisive factor in a season of frozen pitches and sodden grounds. Nine consecutive matches were cancelled because of Arctic conditions after Christmas. All the more pity, because this year the Depot hockey team proved themselves to be the most reckonable force, and as many games were won as lost.

Highlights of the season were 10—0 victory against H.Q., R.A.S.C., a bloody 3—3 draw against our rivals, R.A.F., Honington, and a 1—2 defeat by the Wednesday Nomads, who scored twice in the last five minutes.

#### RUGBY FOOTBALL

We have had great difficulty in finding a team, but with support from one or two enthusiasts from the local civilian club, have been able to field a fairly strong team at times under the captaincy of Lt. Halcrow, 2nd East Anglian Regiment.

Our cup game against 2 R.A., who had a very powerful team, saw us down to the tune of 25—0, but there was a battle for every point. The last game before Christmas, and because of the ice, the last game to date, was against R.A.F., Barnham, and after a very hard-fought contest, in perfect conditions, we conceded the game 6—5; Capt. Henderson, 1st East Anglian Regiment, and Chris Tilbrook made some very good runs.

#### CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

In early January, a Depot Cross-Country Team was formed, and training began for the East Anglian District Minor Units Competition, which took place at Colchester on Wednesday, January 23. The team ran extremely well against stiff opposition from 209 Signal Squadron, and were placed first in the team event. This competition was run in conjunction with the Major Units Competition, and Cpl. Thompson, 1st East Anglian Regiment, was placed fourth out of a field of 68 runners—a very creditable performance. Having won the District Competition, the Depot Team went forward to the Eastern Command Championships, which were held at Canterbury on February 12. This time, the standard was much higher, and the Depot was narrowly beaten by their old rivals, Depot The Intelligence Corps.

1st, Depot The Intelligence Corps, 21 pts.

2nd Depot The East Anglian Brigade, 27 pts.

Pte. Gater, 3rd East Anglian Regiment, and Cpl. Thompson, 1st East Anglian Regiment, both ran extremely well and were placed first and second in the Minor Units team event. Gater finished third in the race, which was run concurrently with the Major Units Competition, and qualified as an individual for the Army Championships. These were held at Blackdown, Aldershot, on February 22, and Pte. Gater ran very well, under trying conditions, to be placed fourth in the individual competition.

- Have you placed a regular order for a copy of the Journal. Why not do so now?

## 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.)

The Honorary Colonel,  
Brigadier G. W. H. Peters, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

Brigadier Peters, who is a serving Regular Officer, was commissioned in The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and joined the 2nd Battalion of The Regiment in 1931. He subsequently served with the 1st Battalion in India, Palestine and Egypt and went to France with the 2nd Battalion in 1939. He was present at the Dunkirk evacuation and was awarded the Military Cross. After attending the Staff College Course, he held various staff appointments until October, 1942, when he was appointed to command the 1st Battalion The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) and took the Battalion to Gibraltar and later on active service in Italy, where he was awarded the D.S.O. He was twice Mentioned in Despatches, in Palestine in 1931, and again during the 1939/45 War.

Since the war he has held a number of appointments which include the Secretaryship of the Joint Services Liaison Staff in South Africa, Commandant of the Tactical Wing of The School of Infantry, United Kingdom Training Liaison Staff in Pakistan, Brigade Commander 125 Infantry Brigade (T.A.), Liverpool, and Brigadier in charge of Administration, Near East, Cyprus. His present appointment is Brigadier, General Staff, in the Directorate of Military Training at the War Office. He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1956.

Brigadier Peter assumed the Hon. Colonelcy on May 21, 1962.

#### The Regimental Badges and Button

In the December issue of the *Regimental Journal* it was announced that Her Majesty The Queen had approved of the Badges and Button to be worn by the Regiment. Details of these, with those of the Battle Honours to be borne and the Regimental Marches are as follows:

#### THE CAP BADGE

"An Eagle displayed head to the sinister and Ducally crowned Or the body and wings surmounted of a Castle triple tiered Argent in front of the Legs and Castle on Water a Hart lodged under all a Scroll inscribed BEDFORDSHIRE & HERTFORDSHIRE all Gold." This blazon of the new Regimental Badge has been written specially for the Battalion by J. R. B. Walker, Esq., M.V.O., M.C., Lancaster Herald and Deputy Inspector of Regimental Colours at the College of Arms.



*Brigadier G. W. H. Peters, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., Hon Colonel, 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.).*



Following the Amalgamation of The Bedfordshire Regiment (T.A.) and The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) in April, 1961, a committee of serving and retired officers of the two former Battalions was set up to submit recommendations for the badge of the new Regiment. It was decided to recommend a design based on the Arms of the two County Towns, and Messrs. Henry Potter and Company were commissioned to submit designs based on this theme. The selected design was, after approval by the Honorary Colonel and The Colonel of The Regiment, re-drawn in a correct heraldic form by Messrs. Gaunt and Company Ltd., the badge-makers, and by the College of Arms, for submission to the Colonel-in-Chief, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, and to the Sovereign.

The Eagle and Castle form part of the Arms of the Borough of Bedford, and the Hart lodged in Water is the main device of the Arms of the Borough of Hertford. The Eagle has, of course, no connection with the Salamanca Eagle worn by The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot).

It is little realised that the form of the new badge has a close historical connection with the Regular, Militia and Volunteer Battalions of The Regiment. Unfortunately, there are few records of the badges worn by these former Battalions, but with the assistance of Brigadier P. Young, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., F.S.A., and Mr. W. Y. Carman, F.S.A., F.R.Hist.S., the noted authority on Regimental badges, some interesting details have come to light.

On November 9, 1874, H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge, Commander-in-Chief, sanctioned

the wearing by the Regular 1st Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment of collar badges bearing the Arms of Bedford. The design of these collar badges, which were worn until April 15, 1882, was a Castle surmounted by an Eagle, all in brass, and examples exist today in the 16th Foot Museum at Bedford, in the Hertford Museum and in the Royal United Service Museum in London (recently closed). During the same period The Bedfordshire Militia Cap Badge was a French bugle-horn with the same design of an Eagle and Castle placed inside the curl of the horn and inscribed "BEDFORDSHIRE MILITIA." This badge is also in the 16th Foot Museum. Although no firm dates are recorded, The Bedfordshire Rifle Volunteers (predecessors of the Bedfordshire T.A. Battalion) also adopted a badge of similar design. Their original badge had been a bugle horn inscribed "BRV." No specimen of the cap badge exists, but the 16th Foot Museum has a pouch-belt badge bearing the Eagle and Castle and inscribed "BEDFORDSHIRE RIFLES." The present Battalion has, however, some interesting contemporary photographs in which the badge is clearly discernible. One undated group photograph shows the officers of the Bedfordshire Rifle Volunteers and another is a personal photograph of Capt. T. C. Harris, O.C. No. 6 Company, Bedfordshire Rifle Volunteers, Luton, from 1877 to 1879. All these officers are wearing a cap badge with an Eagle and Castle surmounted by a very large crown. There is also a photograph of Lt.-Col. J. T. Green, v.d., the second commanding officer (1872-1895), wearing a pouch-belt badge of the same pattern as the one displayed in the Museum. Colonel Green and Capt. Harris can both be identified in the undated group photograph, so it is a reasonable assumption that The Rifle Volunteers wore the badge during the same period as the Regular and Militia Battalions. It is interesting to note that in all cases the Eagle faces in the opposite direction to the one on the new badge and that displayed on the Borough Arms.

The Hart crossing a Ford was the old County Badge of Hertfordshire and was worn from formation in 1785 by The Hertfordshire Militia, always known as The Harts Militia. After the reorganisation of the Army in 1881, when all Militia and Volunteer Battalions of the two Counties became part of The Bedfordshire Regiment, the 16th Foot replaced the numeral XVI in its badge by the Hart crossing a Ford as a compliment to Hertfordshire. In 1908 the 1st and 2nd Volunteer Battalions of The Bedfordshire Regiment (the original Hertfordshire Rifle Volunteers) were granted a separate identity as The Hertfordshire Regiment and adopted the badge of a Hart lodged in water within a circle inscribed "THE HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT" and surmounted by a crown. The

Hertfordshire Volunteers original badge was a plain bugle horn. Strangely enough, it is not known exactly when or why the Hart crossing a Ford was transformed into a Hart lodged in water, and although the question was raised in 1961 with the late Lt.-Col. Le Hardy, for many years the County Archivist, he was unable to provide any explanation for the change by the County or by the Borough. The Hart in both forms is still extensively used, and is in the standing position both on the fine 1914/1918 War Memorial in Hertford and in The Hertfordshire Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association Badge. In the present County and Borough Arms, the Hart is lodged in water.

Those members of The Regiment who deplore the passing of the old familiar and cherished badges may therefore take comfort in the fact that the new Battalion has in fact reverted to a more modern design of insignia proudly worn by men of the two Counties over 80 years ago.



#### THE COLLAR BADGE

A Hart lodged in water, all in silver. This is the former Collar Badge of The Hertfordshire Regiment with the County title scroll removed.

#### THE BUTTON

The former 16th Foot button of a Hart crossing a Ford and inscribed "BEDFORDSHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE" has been adopted. The former Hertfordshire Regiment button was of an almost indistinguishable design; the Hart being lodged in water and the Hertfordshire County title substituted.



## THE REGIMENTAL BUTTON

#### THE REGIMENTAL MARCH

"I'm 95" has been selected as the Regimental March. This march was composed in 1842 for the Rifle Brigade by their Bandmaster, William Miller, adapted from a popular English melody of the day. Both The Bedfordshire and The Hertfordshire Volunteers were originally Rifle Volunteers and adopted "I'm 95" as their Regimental March. The Bedfordshire Regiment (T.A.) retained this march up to the date of Amalgamation in 1961, but in 1897, following an attachment to the 2nd Battalion The Bedfordshire Regiment, the late Colonel, Sir Charles Longmore, introduced "The Young May Moon" as the march of The Hertfordshire Volunteers. This was the March into Barracks of the 2nd Battalion 16th Foot, and is an old Irish tune with words composed by the poet Thomas Moore in 1813. "Young May Moon" has been retained as the March on to Parade and as the March into Barracks.

#### BATTLE HONOURS

As the former Territorial Battalions formed part of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, the new Battalion, in accordance with precedent, retains all the Battle Honours formerly borne by the 16th Foot, as well as those awarded for service by The Bedfordshire Regiment (T.A.) and The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) Namur 1695, Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudernarde, Malplaquet, Surinam, Chitral, South Africa 1900-02, Mons, Marne 1914, Ypres 1914 '15 '17, Festubert 1915, Loos, Somme 1916 '18, Ancre 1916 '18, Arras 1917 '18, Pilckem, Cambrai 1917 '18, St. Quentin, Hindenburg Line, Sambre, France and Flanders 1914-18, Suvla, Gaza, Dunkirk 1940, Normandy Landing, North-West Europe 1940 '44, Tobruk Sortie, Belhamed, Tunis, North Africa 1941 '43, Cassino II, Trasimene Line, Montorsoli, Gothic Line, Monte Gamberaldi, Monte Ceco, Monte Grande, Italy 1944-45, Chindits 1944.

#### GENERAL NOTES

Two important events have taken place during the winter months.

On November 2, 1962, The Regiment was privileged to provide a Guard of Honour for Her Majesty The Queen, at Luton, on the



[Photograph by *The Home Counties Newspapers Ltd.*, Luton.

*Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by the Guard Commander, Major G. H. Hickinbottom, T.D., inspects the Guard of Honour provided by the Battalion at Luton, on November 2, 1962.*



[Photograph by *British Railways, L.M. Region, Public Relations Dept.*

*Diesel locomotive D56, "The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.)"*



occasion of the opening of the new Library. With her customary thoughtfulness, Her Majesty had let it be known that the guard should not be kept waiting in the rain, and it rained and thundered continuously before the ceremony. A few minutes before Her Majesty was due to arrive the rain stopped, and after a hurried consultation between the Lord Lieutenant and the Commanding Officer, the Guard and Band and Drums doubled out on parade just as the first outriders arrived. Unfortunately, flooding delayed the Royal Car, and when Her Majesty arrived, with The Duke of Edinburgh, a few minutes late, it was raining steadily. Despite the rain, Her Majesty graciously carried out a full inspection of the Guard. The Guard Commander was Major G. H. Hickinbottom, T.D., and the Colour Officer, Lt. G. H. Dunn, M.B.E.

On December 8, 1962, British Railways, London Midland Region, named one of their newest and most powerful diesel locomotives "The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.)" at Bedford Station—unfortunately on another very wet day. The engine, No. D 56, in green livery, was built at Crewe and was handed over by Mr. W. O. Reynolds, the Divisional Manager, in the presence of the Vice-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, the Mayor of Bedford and a Guard of Honour mounted by the Battalion. The Honorary Colonel, Brigadier G. W. H. Peters, received the locomotive on

behalf of The Regiment and carried out the unveiling ceremony of the Regimental Nameplate and Badge. Replying to Mr. Reynolds' address, the Honorary Colonel said that the locomotive was "up-to-date, versatile and speedy; qualities needed in the new Regiment and the modern Army of today." A blessing was given by the Regimental Chaplain, the Rev. J. E. Bowers, Vicar of St. Peter's, Loughborough. Watching the ceremony were many Old Comrades and, in particular, Mr. P. W. Pegg, of Kempston, a former member of The Regiment who had for many years driven the old steam locomotive named after The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (16th Foot) in 1938. Before the ceremony, officers were entertained to luncheon at The Bridge Hotel, and after the ceremony all ranks on parade were entertained to tea. The locomotive now hauls main lines expresses from St. Pancras to the North of England and averages 500 miles daily.

Training has continued well during the winter, despite the snow, and attendances have been good. In February, recruiting took a welcome upward trend, and for the past three months, high figures have been achieved, the best in fact for two years, and sufficient to meet our recruiting target, based on our training capabilities. The majority of new recruits have no former military service, but the standard is high.



[Photograph by The Bedfordshire Times.]

The naming ceremony of The Regimental Engine—Brigadier Peters, Hon. Colonel, unveils the name plaque. Also in the photograph are The Mayor of Bedford, Mr. W. O. Reynolds (British Railways), the Rev. J. E. Bowers and the Vice-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Lt.-Col. The Hon. Morgan Grenville.

## OFFICERS' MESS

In April, we officially opened our new Mess at Battalion Headquarters, and this was marked by an officers' dinner. The Mess, which has been constructed on the top floor of the block behind the main building, consists of a large and well-furnished ante room, which is also used for dining, and has the use on dinner nights of adjacent rooms and a well-fitted new kitchen. The Mess, which has been much admired and described as a "20th Century Mess," is always open and we hope that officers of the Regiment will drop in and see it—and us—when they are passing.

We welcome to the Mess Stephen Humbert, our new Signal Officer, and Ted Newman as Paymaster, but Ted has really only returned to the fold, as he left the 1st Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) on amalgamation for business reasons. We have lost Peter Simmons, on transfer to T.A.R.O.; Peter Price to Brigade H.Q., and David Casewell, Royal Army Pay Corps, who has joined the Bank of West Africa.

## SERGEANTS' MESS

The Sergeants' Mess ball was held at the Ware T.A. Centre on Saturday, January 26, 1963; although the weather was very bad, it was well supported by members and their guests. The Regimental Dance Band was in attendance and gave us music throughout the evening and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Since the last *Journal* we have had quite a few promotions and discharges. We welcome into the Mess Sgt. Albany and Sgt. Head, and also Sgts. Sutherland and Denton who have been transferred to us. Sgt. South has joined us from the 1st Battalion and has taken over the duties of P.S.I. "H.Q." Company, from Sgt. Tucker. Congratulations to R.Q.M.S. Crook-Rumsey, C.S.M. Dearman, C/Sgt. French and C/Sgt. Burrows on their promotion. Discharges have included R.Q.M.S. Hutchings, C.S.M. Webb, C/Sgt. Milligan, C/Sgt. Bryant, Sgt. Foster and Sgt. Chandler. We wish them the best of luck and hope they will still remain in contact with us.



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## 4th/5th Battalion The Essex Regiment (T.A.)

As these notes are being written, the Battalion is once again preparing to go to camp. By the time they are published camp will be behind us. We shall also have said goodbye to Lt.-Col. D. F. Garrard, T.D., and welcomed Lt.-Col. R. J. Randall as our new Commanding Officer. With the arrival of a Regular Commanding Officer, the Battalion will have a Regular Adjutant instead of a Training Major; Capt. P. R. Alderton has been selected for this appointment. We hope that both Lt.-Col. Randall and Capt. Alderton will enjoy their stay with us.

Other changes in the Permanent Staff during the past six months are:

DEPARTURES.—Capt. Crosier to the Regimental Pay Office at Brighton; W.O.I. Jenks to the 1st Battalion as R.S.M.; Sgt. Appleton to the 1st Battalion.

ARRIVALS (all from the 1st Battalion).—Capt. Bebbington, W.O.I. Cotter, Sgt. Higgins.

We are indebted to all the members of the Permanent Staff who have left us, and hope that they and their families will be happy in their new postings. Special mention should be made of Capt. Crosier, who completed two

tours with this Battalion, firstly as R.S.M. and later as Quartermaster. We are extremely grateful to him for everything that he did in both capacities. Capt. Crosier has been associated with the Territorial Army for a large part of his career, having enlisted in the former 5th Battalion well before the last war. Major D. A. Tovey, T.D., has taken over command of "A" Company at Dagenham.

On the week-end of October 20/21 last year, the Battalion entered four teams for the Tough Training Competition organised by The Essex Territorial Association. The competition consisted of seven phases, each of which was designed to test the skill and endurance of the teams. After a dash across country of approximately one mile, the competitors were immediately required to fire a range practice. They then completed a march of 14 miles against time. Having arrived at a given rendezvous, they were met by transport and ferried to Danbury Park, where they spent the night in bivouacs. As soon as each team had erected its bivouacs and cooked a meal, it was despatched on a night compass march. On the second day of the competition, teams marched from Danbury to Chelmsford and were required to get themselves and a "casualty" across the River Chelmer by using an improvised raft which they made from material available at the crossing site. This phase of the exercise provided a great deal of amusement. It is doubtful whether any member of the Territorial Army who competed was dry



[Photograph by The South Essex News Service.]

"H.Q." Company Team negotiating the River Chelmer in the Essex Tough Training Competition.

on arrival in Chelmsford. "B" Company were placed fourth in the competition; "C" Company was sixth and "H.Q." Company seventh. A total of thirteen teams took part.

The next major event on the calendar was the annual Administrative Inspection. This took place on November 24/25, and was carried out by the Commander of 161 Infantry Brigade (T.A.), Brigadier A. E. Harding, O.B.E., M.C. E.R.D. The inspection went well. As soon as the inspection was over, the Battalion embarked in earnest on a programme of individual training. This was designed to make every volunteer as expert as possible in his individual trade. In spite of the very bad weather, the syllabus was covered and, as the winter progressed, so our training advanced to section and platoon tactics. In addition to the training carried out in Companies, we have held an Officers' Day each month and, by the time we go to camp, we shall have studied the problems of each phase of war. A Battalion signals exercise, to be held on April 20/21, will complete our pre-camp training.

On November 1, British Railways presented the nameplate of the L.N.E.R. engine, "The Essex Regiment" to the Regimental Association. The presentation, which took place at Ilford, is covered in more detail elsewhere in *The Journal*. For our part, we are extremely pleased to have the nameplate in the entrance hall at Battalion Headquarters.

During the winter, the Battalion has devoted a great deal of time to small bore shooting. In the 54 (East Anglian) Division/District League, "A," "B" and "C" Companies were all placed second in their respective divisions, and "H.Q." Company was placed third. "C" Company has reached the final of the Divisional Knock-out Competition, which will be fired against the R.E. Wing of the Cambridge University O.T.C. on April 21. The Battalion also took part in The Edmunds Trophy and was placed fourth out of the 20 teams that entered from the Division. A score of 760 out of 800 placed us above all the other Infantry Battalions. Pte. Ward, of "C" Company, obtained a possible in this competition. For this achievement he has been awarded Battalion Colours.

The Regimental Band continues to flourish under the Bandmaster, W.O.I Baldwin. In the Divisional Band Competition, which was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on October 21, they were placed second, being beaten only by the Infantry Battalion of the Honourable Artillery Company. On January 26 they played at the wedding of the Honorary Colonel's elder daughter. On March 24, the Honorary Colonel, Colonel A. Noble, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., presented Territorial Efficiency Medals to Sgts. Curtis and Slee and Bds. Thorogood at Chelmsford. The Band has a

very full programme of engagements for the summer.

We were all very sad to learn of the tragic death, as the result of an accident, of Major J. N. Coker, M.C., T.D. As it is hoped to include an obituary notice elsewhere in *The Journal*, we confine ourselves to saying that he will be much missed. Seldom could a Regiment have had a more loyal and enthusiastic supporter. Major Coker's funeral took place at North Shoebury on March 13. Sgt. Maile and Cpl. Young of the Corps of Drums sounded the Last Post and Reveille at the side of his grave.

The Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess organised a highly successful ball at Dagenham on December 8. Another very successful dance was run by the Ladies' Club at Ilford on Saturday, February 16. On this occasion the Corps of Drums provided the three hundred guests with a demonstration of playing and marching. The Ladies Club, which meets regularly at Ilford, also organised a curry dinner to say goodbye to Mrs. Appleton and Mrs. Stephenson.

On February 28, the officers entertained the Mayor of Ilford and Major T. R. Stead, Secretary, The Essex Regiment Association, to dinner in the Mess at Ilford. Colonel A. Noble, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., was present at this dinner. Two successful guest week-ends were run in March. The aim, in each case, was to give our guests a normal picture of the out-of-camp life of the Battalion, and to identify potential recruits with the company and area in which they would do their soldiering. On the Saturday of each week-end, Companies organised static displays at their drill halls. These were followed by very successful socials. The guests were taken by coach to fire on the open range on the Sunday of each week-end. Here the main attraction was the self loading rifle and the Bren gun. Over 130 guests attended these two week-ends. In connection with the guest week-ends, the Corps of Drums marched through Braintree on March 2 and Ilford on March 16. They also gave a demonstration at the social held by "A" Company at Dagenham. Together with the Band, they were due to march through Harlow New Town and to beat Retreat in Epping on April 20. This will be the first of many parades together this summer. The Corps of Drums were placed second in the Divisional Drums Competition at Chelsea on October 21.

W.O.II Womack and Sgt. Easterbrook attended a drill course organised by the 1st Bn. The Scots Guards in the late autumn of last year. W.O.II Womack distinguished himself by being placed first on the course and Sgt. Easterbrook also obtained a very good report. They are to be congratulated on this fine result.

Approval has been given by the War Office for the Recorded Regimental March of The



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[Photograph by *The West Essex Gazette*, Epping.]

*Potential recruits firing the L.M.G. on Purfleet Ranges during the Guest Week-end on March 17.*

Essex Regiment (T.A.), to be an arrangement of the following marches: The Queen's (We'll gang nae mair to yon toun); The Essex Buggles; The Hampshires.

This arrangements supersedes the composition written by Bandmaster Botting. By giving their approval to this change the War Office has regularised an existing Regimental practice.

### **The Essex Army Cadet Force**

The County Cadet Force boxing championships were held on December 1, 1962, and attracted a good entry. The Cup for the best boxer was won by Cadet G. Andrews, of the Ardleigh Green Detachment, of the 3rd Essex Cadet Regiment. In the Eastern Command Boxing Championships, which were held at Woolwich on January 12, 1963, the Essex Army Cadet Force won seven titles. Cadet G. Andrews meeting and beating Cadet J. Schembri, of Kent, who was the 1962 national finalist. The semi-finals of the National Army Cadet Boxing Competition were held at Reading on January 26, and seven Essex Cadets took part in them, three of them winning their fights. They later travelled to Bristol for the finals of the Cadet Force boxing championships. All

three won their fights and thus placed the County equal second to Glamorgan in the Run took place at Chelmsford on March 16. The County Championship. Essex has not done so well since 1954, when they became the only County to beat Glamorgan since 1945.

The Essex Army Cadet Force Cross-Country entries were good and some good running was seen. The winners of the senior race were the 3rd Essex Cadet Regiment and the junior race was won by the Dovercourt (S. and N.Y.) Troop, the 8th Essex Cadet Regiment.

On April 21, the County Cadet Force held its annual .22 Rifle Meeting at Warley, the results were close and a shoot off was necessary in the individual competition. The Harlow Old Town (E.Y.) Troop, 6th Essex Cadet Regiment, won the Jacobs Trophy, and the County Trophy by the 1st Essex Cadet Regiment, who also won the Dale Trophy (under 16). The individual competition was won by Sgt. A. Clark, of the 7th Essex Cadet Regiment, after a shoot off.

The 7th Essex Cadet Regiment, whose H.Q. are at Prittlewell, won the Cadet competition in the 54 Division, East Anglian District Small Arms meeting, held on Sunday, April 28. Second were the Kempston Company of the Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force.

## The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot)

### The Pompadours Association

#### COMRADES' ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Comrades' Associations Committee was held at the Victory Ex-Services' Club, London, on March 1. The Regimental Secretary took the chair and the meeting was attended by the Secretaries of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire and Essex Regiment Associations, representatives from the following Branches: "The Yellow Devils," London, Hertford, Watford, St. Albans, Bedford, Ware, The Essex Regiment Association of Sergeants (Past and Present), 6th Bn. The Essex Regiment (Cedars) O.C.A., 7th Bn. The Essex Regiment "The Eagle and Gun" O.C.A., Brentwood, Metropolitan Essex and R.S.M. V. Herd, 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) and R.S.M. L. F. Cotter, 4th/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.).

At the beginning of the meeting members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the Hon. Secretary, the Saffron Walden Branch, Mr. C. H. King, who died on February 14th. The Chairman conveyed the greetings of the Colonel of the Regiment to the members present. The Minutes of the fourth meeting were confirmed. Members were informed the suggestion that the Regimental Journal should be published thrice annually was under consideration. The Regimental Calendar for 1963 was discussed and members noted the T.A. Battalions would be in camp from May 11-25. R.S.M.s Herd and Cotter informed the meeting that all Old Comrades would be welcomed if they visited the camp on the middle Sunday, May 19.

The following dates were particularly noted:

- July 7 The Essex Regiment Association Service of Remembrance and Reunion at Warley.
- July 13 Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) by Her Majesty The Colonel-in-Chief at Luton Hoo.
- Sept. 29 The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association Service of Remembrance and Reunion, Bedford.

Members of the Essex Regiment Association were informed that any of their members who cared to come would be welcomed at the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.).

Discussion then followed regarding the Bed-

fordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Service of Remembrance and Reunion in particular regarding a suggestion that a dinner should be held in Bedford on the Saturday evening before the Reunion and also in regard to a suggestion that the Service and Reunion should be held on a Saturday and not on a Sunday. After consideration it was agreed that the Service and Reunion should continue to be held on a Sunday. The Secretary, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association agreed to explore the possibility of providing a bar with buffet on the Saturday evening before the Reunion and Service. It was also agreed that, if possible, pack lunches would be provided on the Sunday.

The Chairman stated that the possibility of holding a Regimental Association Dinner in London in the early autumn would be explored and Branches informed of the result. The London Branch expressed the hope that Branches would join in the Inter-Branch Shoot organised each year by the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) and held on the open range. After a vote of thanks to the Colonel of The Regiment for his greetings had been passed the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

## Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association

### Notes From the Branches

1st/5th "YELLOW DEVILS" (1914-1918)  
O.C.A.

There was a marked improvement in the attendance at the monthly meeting in March of the "Yellow Devils" O.C.A., probably due to the fact that the Annual General Meeting of the Branch followed. Several letters of apology were received, enclosing donations to the Benevolent Fund, which were much appreciated. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Ward, reported on the Comrades' Association Committee Meeting of the 3rd East Anglian Regimental Association, held in London on March 1.

The President, Mr. C. W. Gilder, in presenting the balance sheet, stated that once again it showed the Branch was in a very healthy financial condition. This was despite the fact that grants during the year to members had considerably exceeded the figure of last year. He thought that this was a step in the right direction; all credit was due to the manner in which the Benevolent Committee had administered these grants to comrades. Congratulations were also due to the Treasurer, Mr. J. Ward, for the excellent manner in which he had



prepared the balance sheet, in addition to his other duties, and the President asked that a hearty vote of thanks to him be recorded in the Minutes. This was agreed to.

In an organisation such as ours, by virtue of its very nature, membership must decline each year but, despite diminishing numbers, the Branch was to be congratulated in remaining such a virile and active body. The President concluded by saying he was confident the Branch would continue to maintain its interest and that there would be regular attendances by all comrades at the monthly meeting. The following officers were then appointed for the coming year:

President, Mr. C. W. Gilder. Vice-Presidents, re-elected en bloc. Chairman, Mr. F. King. Hon-Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. J. Ward. Sick Visitor, Mr. B. Cox. Benevolent Fund Steward, Mr. C. Broughton. Committee, Messrs. J. Land, J. Hart, B. Cox, C. H. Plummer, with the officers *ex officio*.

The outgoing Officers and Committee were thanked for their services during the past year.

#### LONDON

It is with deep regret that we have to inform all members of the Association that our dear friend and comrade, "Sailor" Allen, passed away on Sunday, November 25, 1962, after a severe illness. "Sailor" served with the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment for the greater part of his service and was well known for his boxing ability. He made friends with everyone, and we fear that it will be a long time before our members get used to not seeing "Sailor" at our meetings. Since his discharge, he rarely missed a meeting or any Regimental function. Our Branch wish to thank all members and friends who were able to visit him in hospital. We are sure that this made his last days more bearable. God bless you, and keep you, old pal.

We also regret that one of our more recent members, ex-Sgt. "Jazzier" Green passed away on January 30, 1963. Many will remember him when he served with the Corps of Drums in the 1st Battalion, and through his long service in India and Palestine. "Jazzier" joined our Branch only last year, and owing to the nature of his employment was not able to attend as regularly as he wished, but whenever he could come along he always had the pleasure of meeting some of his old pals. Friends of ex-C.Q.M.S. Thorpe will be sorry to hear that Mrs. Thorpe passed away on February 8, in St. George's Hospital, after a long illness.

Since the last issue of the Journal, our President, Brigadier C. A. Dixon, O.B.E., and Mrs. Dixon have emigrated to Scotland. We wish them well and look forward to seeing them when they come south, which we hope will be often.

We are looking forward to July 13, when H.M. The Queen Mother will be presenting new colours to the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) at Luton Hoo. We hope to attend in strength and expect to see many of our friends from the other Branches, as these occasions are the only opportunities some of us get to renew old friendships.

Our Branch dinner takes place this year on Saturday, October 26, at Stewart's Restaurant, Victoria, right next to Victoria Underground Station. We hope as many as possible from other Branches will join us, and we can assure them of a most enjoyable evening.

#### HERTFORD

Although it rarely happens, we much regret we omitted to send any notes for inclusion in the December, 1962, issue of the Journal, and we offer our apologies to all our readers and friends.

First we must go back to the Remembrance Service and Reunion held at Bedford on September 9, 1962. Those of us who made the journey by coach thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it and were most impressed by the Service and the arrangements made for the well-being and comfort of all those who attended. It was nice meeting so many old friends again and we look forward to this year's Service and Reunion. Our congratulations go to our ladies' team on their victory in the Ladies' Darts Competition.

On Sunday, September 25, 1962, we entered a team in the Old Comrades' Shooting Competition, which took place at Piggotts End Range. It was good to see so many Branches competing and the standard of shooting was very high. We congratulate the Bedford Branch on winning the competition and also the London Branch for putting up such a grand finish. Our congratulations also to Capt. W. D. Folds (Bedford Branch) on winning the Individual Trophy with such a good score, and to Mr. Aldridge (London Branch) on being a close "runner-up." We take this opportunity of expressing our very sincere thanks to Major V. A. French for all the excellent arrangements he made for the competition and our comfort and well-being.

The Annual General Meeting took place at Hertford on October 26, 1962. The President, Major J. S. Townsend, took the Chair and twenty-three members were present. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were presented and passed, and revealed that the Branch is still flourishing and in a sound financial position. Major J. S. Townsend was unanimously re-elected President and Messrs. C. Mansfield and J. Farnham as joint Hon. Secretaries. The remainder of the Committee was re-elected en bloc. Our congratulations go to Major V. A. French on his election as Vice-President and

also our thanks for all his help and advice on all occasions.

The Annual Children's Christmas Party took place on January 12, 1963, when despite the very bad weather, forty-five kiddies assembled at the T.A. Centre, Hertford. After the usual "get-together" and distribution of paper hats, etc., the children sat down to a magnificent tea, which was followed by a film show. Before they left each child was given a suitable present in addition to oranges and sweets. Our thanks go to the members of the Committee who devoted so much time in organising the party, and to Major French who procured the films for us at very short notice and to C.S.M. Crook Rumsey for operating the projector.

Several social evenings have been held at the T.A. Club during the past season and have all been well attended and enjoyed by all present. At a social held on November 3, 1962, the Branch regained possession of the Darts Cup by beating the 8th Battalion team in the final. The annual dinner and dance was held at The Mayflower Restaurant, Hertford, on May 4, 1963, and a full report will be included in our next notes.

#### "HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY"

On the occasion of his eightieth birthday on March 6, 1963, Mr. R. (Bob) Woods, ex No. 4283, Pte. R. Woods, invited some twenty of his friends to join him at the Victoria Hotel, Cheshunt, that evening to participate in a pint or two plus a bag of crisps to celebrate the event. Mine Host of the Victoria Hotel, Mr. Tom Hannaford, however, had other views on how this occasion should be celebrated and laid on a surprise party for Mr. Woods and his friends, which included champagne (1949 vintage), hot dogs, various sandwiches and snacks with all the trimmings. Bob Woods must be the oldest customer of The Victoria Hotel. He had his first point there in 1899 and has been popping in for his "noggin" ever since.

Mr. Woods is a Boer War veteran with a row of campaign medals which include The Queen's South Africa Medal and those of the 1914-18 War. He is the proud possessor of silver tobacco box inscribed "4283 Pte. R. Woods, Hartford Militia" which was presented to him by Lord Salisbury on his return from the South African War on June 11th, 1902; he comments — "I treasure that box more than anything I possess because I was about nineteen years old when it was presented to me."

Mr. Woods treasures his medals, and they were given an extra polish for the occasion. He retired from active work about fifteen years ago after many years employment in the transport industry, as a driver of trams and 'buses. He has been a member of the Hertford Branch since 1949, and is a regular attender at Branch meetings and regimental functions. He now lives



[Photograph by The Hertfordshire Mercury and County Press, Hertford.]

Mine host of the Victoria Hotel, Cheshunt, Mr. Hannaford, pours out the champagne for Mr. "Bob" Woods on the occasion of the celebration of the latter's eightieth birthday, March 6, 1963.

at 155, Turners Hill, Cheshunt, Hants., with his wife, who is 78.

All members of the Hertford Branch send him their hearties congratulations on his eightieth birthday, and wish him and Mrs. Woods many more years of happiness together. We are proud of him.

#### WATFORD

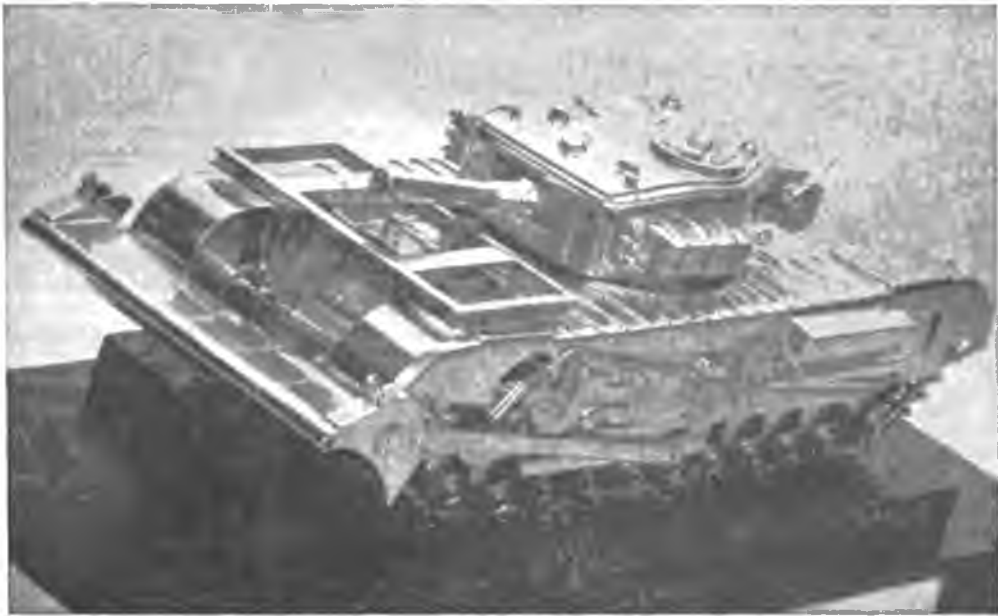
We regret to announce the deaths of the following members: Messrs. J. Hester, S. E. Eggleton, W. Littlechild (a veteran of the Chitral Campaign 1895) and R. T. Warner. The latter was instrumental in forming the Watford Branch. He gathered together ex-members of The Regiment living in the town and district, and the inaugural meeting was held in February 1937. Mr. Warner became the first Chairman of the Branch and afterwards held various offices until his health began to fail. We shall miss him and the other members very much in our Branch activities.

The Twenty-fifth Anniversary Dinner was held in the T.A. Drill Hall, Watford, on Saturday, October 20, 1963, when over 120 members, wives and guests were present. Among those present were our popular President, Capt. J. S. Payne and Mrs. Payne, the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress of Watford, Colonel I. W. S. Grey,



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Lt.-Col. C. Simmons (C.O., 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, T.A.), Major J. S. Townsend (President, The Hertford Branch), Major V. French, Major H. T. Wright, Capt. F. Boutwood, The Regimental Secretary, Lt.-Col. A. C. Young, the Secretary The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, Major D. T. Tewkesbury, the Rev. A. G. G. Richards (Chaplain to the Branch) and Mrs. Richards. Letters expressing their regret at their inability to attend were received from the Colonel of The Regiment, Colonel G. A. Anstee, Lt.-Col. G. L. Sprunt and Capt. J. Harrowell. During the evening, messages of good wishes were read from Her Majesty The Queen and Her Majesty The Colonel-in-Chief, in reply to messages of loyal greetings which had been sent earlier. The Loyal Toast was proposed by the Chairman, Mr. T. W. G. Thornton, and to the Colonel-in-Chief by the President, Capt. J. S. Payne. The toast to "The Branch" was proposed by Major J. S. Townsend, and the response by Capt. Payne. Music was provided by the Band of the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) by kind permission of Lt.-Col. C. Simmons. The M.C. was Mr. G. H. Down. It was a very happy occasion.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday, February 3. It was well attended, despite the arctic weather which prevailed at the time. The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Packer, reported that the Branch was in a sound financial state. The retiring Chairman, Mr. T. W. G. Thornton, decided not to seek re-election and Mr. A. H. Timms was elected in his place. Several of the rather more elderly members of the Committee offered to retire to make room for younger members and Messrs. L. Nunn, H. A. Saunders and K. Thomas agreed to serve in their places. Our social activities are thriving and members meet most weekends at the Drill Hall for Tombola and a sing-song afterwards.

#### ST. ALBANS

It is on a sad note that we write the Branch notes for this issue of the Regimental Journal, as we have lost our Chairman, Mr. S. R. Smith. He passed away on April 4, after a very short illness. He will be very much missed. His hard work for the Branch, his encouragement and zeal here have been an example to us all and have contributed a lot to the success of all our activities. We are glad and proud he was one of us. Our sincere sympathy goes to his wife and son.

The severe weather of the past winter slowed our activities down, nevertheless, our meetings have been well attended. At the Annual General Meeting the Branch officers were re-elected en bloc, with a grateful note of thanks for their services. We look forward to the Regimental functions to take place later in the year when

we hope to meet up with old pals who are still young in heart.

#### BEDFORD

The stalwart members of this Branch have continued to meet regularly through the bad weather although one meeting had to be postponed because of the snow. The continued support of these comrades is invaluable—thank you all, but there are a number of ex-members of the Regiment, who live in Bedford, whom we should like to see occasionally even if they cannot manage to attend our meetings regularly. The meetings are held in Kempston Barracks in the T.A. Centre (old Depot Sergeants' Mess) on the first Friday of each month. Although the business meeting of the branch begins at 7.45 p.m., and lasts for about an hour, a number of convivial spirits arrive any time after 7.30 p.m. and continue their nefarious pastimes (darts, cards, dominoes or just yarning within striking distance of the bar) long after official business has ended.

We continue to hold our own in the Bedford Games League, our present position is: Played 15, won 10, drawn 2 and lost 3, to which must be added our win over the Navy "A," played immediately after our April meeting. We stand second in the Harman Cup and our next game is an important one because our opponents are the present leaders, the R.A.

#### 6th BN. THE BEDFORDSHIRE REGIMENT (1914-18) O.C.A.

The 28th Annual Reunion Dinner was held at The Bath House Hotel, Dean Street, London, on April 27, 1963. Unfortunately owing to illness, our President was unable to be with us, and the Chair was taken by Mr. H. Long, M.M. Lt.-Col. A. C. Young, Regimental Secretary, was a guest. It was also unfortunate that Major D. T. Tewkesbury, M.B.E., Secretary, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, was unable to be present owing to indisposition.

Our numbers were fewer this year, and only nineteen members and guests sat down to a very enjoyable dinner. The toast to "The Guests" was proposed by Mr. "Vic" Craddock. In replying to the toast, Colonel Young remarked on the wonderful spirit which prevailed in spite of the small number of members present and then went on to give an interesting account of the activities of The Regiment. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. Johnny Day, thanked Mr. Long for taking the Chair at such short notice, and thanked Colonel Young for being with them on that occasion. He announced, with regret, that the deaths of Messrs. "Arty" Odell and W. A. Bacchuss had occurred since they last met, and that ten of the regular members of the O.C.A. were in ill-health. He thanked members

for their support and expressed the hope that it would be possible to continue the Reunion even if it meant amalgamation with another O.C.A.

During the evening Master C. H. Grundy telephoned from the Middlesex Hospital, where he is recovering from an operation; he sent his regrets at not being able to be present at the dinner, and his good wishes to all for a happy evening.

## The Essex Regiment Association

Members of The Essex Regiment Association should receive with this issue of the Regimental Journal a copy of the Annual Report, Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet, for the year ended December 31, 1962.

The affairs of the Association are now managed by the two Committees which are composed as follows:—

### COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Brigadier C. M. Paton, C.V.O., C.B.E., D.L., President of the Association and Chairman of the Committee; Colonel G. M. Gibson, T.D.; Colonel W. N. C. Waite, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. C. L. Wilson, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Lt.-Col. B. J. Palmer, M.B.E.; Major S. H. Andrew, M.B.E.; Major T. R. Stead, Secretary.

### GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Lt.-Col. C. L. Wilson, O.B.E., M.C., D.L., Chairman; Major G. H. Aylmer; Major H. J. Staff; Major F. W. Waddell, M.B.E.; Mr. P. C. Munn; Major T. R. Stead, Secretary.

The revised Rules of the Association are now due for final consideration and approval by the Committee of Management at its next meeting.

### WARLEY REUNION

The Annual Service of Remembrance and Reunion—all Battalions of The Essex Regiment will take place at Warley at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, 1963.

Applications for tickets for the service in the Regimental Chapel should be made to: Secretary, Essex Regiment Association, Blenheim House, Eagle Way Warley, Brentwood, Essex.

## Notes From Branches

### ASSOCIATION OF SERGEANTS (PAST AND PRESENT), ALL BATTALIONS THE ESSEX REGIMENT (44th/56th FOOT)

The 32nd Annual Reunion of the Association was held at the T.A. Centre, Gordon

Fields, Ilford, by kind permission of Lt.-Col. D. F. Garrard, T.D., commanding 4th/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.), on Saturday, November 3, 1962.

Thirty-three members attended also six invited guests which included Major T. R. Stead, Secretary, The Essex Regiment Association, and Major W. J. Barry, late 2nd Battalion 'The Pompadours.' The catering (buffet style) was supplied by Sgt. S. W. G. Bolt, an Association member serving with 4th/5th Battalion, who is to be complimented on a very high standard of catering. Letters were received from the following members who were unable to attend: G. Treacher (Portsmouth), L. Platts ("Spoof"), now an In-pensioner at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea, T. Judge (Wanstead), on a business tour in the Far East, W.O.I A. F. Jones, son of "Knocker" serving with R.E.M.E. in B.A.O.R., and Major H. R. Pouch, M.B.E., T.D., in retirement at Paignton, Devon. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all attending and it was gratifying to have the company of W.O.II M. Franks (Oswestry), C/Sgt. P. Nightingale (recently returned from Malta), C. Whymark (Colchester), B. Oliver, M.B.E. (Camberley), and P. J. Brady (Northwood).

As a result of the Reunion, four new Life Members were enrolled and welcomed, namely Sgt. V. White and Sgt. Appleton, P.S.I.s of The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot), Drum Major Conrad and Sgt. Blackman, 4th/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.), and Mr. C. Whymark. Much of the success of the evening must be attributed to W.O.I (R.S.M.) R. Jenns for the arrangements made and the splendid welcome afforded to all members attending.

### THE "1914-1918" POMPADOURS

The annual Old Comrades (Pompadours "1914-1918") Dinner took place at The Golden Fleece, Chelmsford, on April 6. The Chair was taken by a former Officers' Mess Sergeant—Percy ("Bondy") Page. Mr. Jack Finn, who arranged the function, reported the deaths during the past twelve months of two of the former regular attendants, ex-C.S.M. Jack Carnall, D.C.M., and a former Signaller, Mr. Tom Rayner. The number of survivors of the First World War are obviously getting fewer in number, but it is hoped to keep this annual event, fixed near the dates of the two Arras battles (April 9, 1917, and March 28, 1918), as long as possible. Others attending were Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Purser (Warley), Mr. and Mrs. E. Bright and Mr. and Mrs. F. Bright (Ilford), Mr. and Mrs. R. Burcham (Colchester), Mr. Chas ("Juicy") Allen (Ongar), Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Mitchell (Brentwood), Mr. G. Balaam (Chelmsford), Mr. H. J. Tucker and Mr. W. Rush (Colchester), Mr. A. Lyons



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(Chelmsford), Mr. and Mrs. A. Clark (Tye Green, Braintree).

A party of about twelve will be visiting the Belgian Battlefields in June, and will afterwards spend a day or two in Brussels. Any former member of the Pompadours (1914-1918) who is interested in the Annual Dinner or the Battlefields Tour might like to get in touch with the organiser, Mr. Jack Finn, M.M., "Magdalen," Stanley Road, Wivenhoe, Colchester, Essex.

#### 1st/5th BATTALION "TRIGNO" REUNION

The Third Annual "Trigno" Reunion which was held at the T.A. Centre, Market Road, Chelmsford, in November last proved to be another resounding success. A total of over one hundred 'old boys' were present and many Branches of The Essex Regiment Association were represented. The 'Regulars' included Major "Bill" Elliott, Capts Charles White and George Ainsworth, and many of the Warrant Officers, Sergeants and other ranks who have attended all three reunions. The Reunion for 1963 will have even more poignant memories as it will be held on Saturday, November 2, the anniversary of the actual "Trigno" operation.

#### 6th BATTALION ESSEX (T.A.) "CEDARS" O.C.A.

The annual O.C.A. reunion dinner took place in March at the T.A. Centre, East Ham, and all who attended spent a very enjoyable evening. Among our usual supporters we were glad to welcome two Old Comrades of over 80 years of age, also ex-C/Sgt. Pearson who is now 87.

Unfortunately owing to another official engagement our President, Colonel Sir John Ruggles-Brise, was unable to be with us, but the Chair was ably filled by one of our members who read a letter from Colonel Loftus, now in Southern Rhodesia, and also one from ex-Egt. Harry Moss, now a Prison Chaplain in British Columbia.

For details of next year's dinner apply to Mr. G. W. Leaford, Hon. Secretary, 71, Herschell Road, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

#### 7th BATTALION "THE EAGLE AND GUN" REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The annual Buffet Reunion was held at Forest Lodge, Whipps Cross, on Saturday, March 23. The attendance was rather disappointing for while over three hundred invitations were sent out, only sixty-odd members were present to enjoy a splendid evening together. Colonel H. Craig, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., our Chairman, made a short speech during which he thanked those present for their sup-

port, and he also spoke in appreciation of the excellent buffet meal provided by the caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. Grimley. To all those who gave us their support we tender our thanks. To all who were unable to get their passes signed we confirm that they missed a very enjoyable evening and we hope that they will be with us on the next occasion.

#### 7/59/459 DINNER CLUB

The Officers' annual reunion dinner was held at The United Service Club, Pall Mall, on Saturday, March 30, when thirty-four members from the 7th Battalion, 59th H.A.A. Regiment, and the 459 (The Essex Regiment) H.A.A. Regiment were present. As guests we were very pleased to have with us Lt.-Col. F. E. Wilkins, M.B.E., T.D., Commanding 300 Regiment R.A. (T.A.), and Lt.-Col. G. D. Thompson, M.C., T.D., Commanding The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry. We still maintain very close ties with 300 Regiment, and we are greatly indebted to the C.O. of The Inns of Court and City Yeomanry for the very kind interest he takes in our activities and for allowing us the continued use of our old headquarters at Whipps Cross.

The Chairman for the evening was Capt. C. J. Page, an officer serving with the 7th Battalion during the 1914-1918 War, and in a very amusing speech he concluded by saying it had taken him 45 years to get to the 'top of the table.' As is customary, the Chairman for next year's dinner was elected, the unanimous choice being Major H. J. Staff, a well deserved honour in view of all the hard work he puts in for the various O.C.A. activities. The dinner next year is being held on Saturday, March 21, 1964, and it is hoped that we will be able to maintain our numbers, and by a little extra effort we should be able to show a slight increase.

Owing to the bad weather the cocktail party that was to have been held on January 26 had to be cancelled, but it is hoped that we will be able to hold it later in the year.

#### SAFFRON WALDEN

The events of the past few months have been heavily overshadowed by the sad death of our much respected Honorary Secretary, Mr. Charlie King. His passing has left a great gap in our ranks, but with the full support of a splendid committee we shall continue the good work with which Charlie was so actively associated.

We are grateful to Mr. E. W. Elsom who has kindly taken over the duties of Hon. Secretary and to all Committee and other members who have given their helpful support during this difficult period. A fund to assist Mrs. King has been opened with Mr.

C. Meekins as the organiser, and the response has been most encouraging.

A very successful social evening and dance organised by Mr. Meekins and the Branch Committee was held at the T.A. Centre, Market Road, Chelmsford, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer 4th/5th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.) This function raised over £75 for the fund and we are most grateful to all who assisted and to those who generously presented prizes. We would especially mention the ladies who prepared the excellent refreshments and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gilder who did so much to help. Any member wishing to donate to the fund should please write to Mr. C. Meekins, 185, Warley Hill, Brentwood, Essex.

The big event in our future calendar will be our annual social and dance at the Town Hall, Saffron Walden, on Saturday, September 21, when we shall hope to have our customary 'full house.'

#### METROPOLITAN ESSEX

Whilst we have been unsuccessful in increasing our numbers, we have managed to maintain our strength. Branch membership stands at 65, a figure which, despite all our efforts, we have so far found it impossible to increase.

The Branch is pleased to report a further success on behalf of a member. In the June, 1962, issue of the Journal we reported that we have been successful in obtaining the award of the Territorial Efficiency Medal for one of our members, and we have now repeated this success for another. In the present case, however, the necessary qualifying period was completed twenty-five years ago, which makes our pleasure all the more satisfying.

We were very sorry to hear that Lt.-Col. C. V. Sharman, M.B.E., was in hospital suffering from a spinal infection. Colonel Sharman expects to be there for some time but the infection is responding to treatment. We wish "Joe" a steady recovery and improved health in the future.

The Branch would like to add to those of other Branches its own tribute to the memory of the late Mr. C. H. King, Saffron Walden Branch. Many of our members knew him personally and will miss his cheerful personality and efficient enthusiasm.

#### ROMFORD AND DISTRICT

The annual dinner of the Branch was held at the T.A. Centre, Upminster, by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, on Friday, April 5. A great deal of pleasure was given by the presence as guest of honour of H.M. Lieutenant for the County, Colonel Sir John Ruggles-Brise, Bt., C.B., O.B.E., T.D., J.P., and a

number of other distinguished guests. The President, Lt.-Col. J. C. Lockwood, T.D., J.P., was, as always, in suitably festive mood and was ably supported by our popular and respected Chairman, Colonel R. A. Chell, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., T.D., D.L. Stanley Court undertook with his customary efficiency, all the administrative arrangements. After a most excellent meal, the business of the Branch was speedily dealt with and the pleasant evening's get-together was continued in the refreshment bar.

#### SOUTHEND-ON-SEA AND DISTRICT

The annual general meeting held at The Spread Eagle Hotel, Prittlewell, on December 7, was well attended in spite of bad weather. The President, Brigadier G. Shenstone, C.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., said he would like to see a larger membership, but was very pleased to see the Branch on a steady financial footing. Major T. R. Stead, who is always a most welcome visitor, drove through the fog to be with us on this occasion. He reported on the activities of the Battalion and the Association.

Officers elected for 1963 were: Major Arthur Saunders (Chairman), Mr. "Alf" Smirk (Vice-Chairman), Capt. A. E. Cooper (Treasurer) and Mrs. Charles Harrod (Hon. Secretary). The snow in January slowed down our activities, and also brought a casualty—founder member "Doug" Deer broke an ankle, but with a leg in plaster and walking on crutches "Doug" continues to attend our monthly gatherings. We hope to see him back to normal very soon. It has been decided that this year some Branch meetings during the summer months will be held in outlying districts mainly for the benefit of members living outside Southend. All old comrades are invited to join us on the following dates: Friday, May 31, at The Castle Hotel, Hadleigh; Friday, July 26, at The Essex Arms, Warley Hill, Brentwood.

Finally, we at Southend convey our deepest sympathy both to relatives and comrades in Saffron Walden in the sad loss of a great Hon. Secretary and friend of us all, Charlie King.

#### 29th DIVISION ASSOCIATION

This year's annual parade took place on Sunday, April 28, when some 250 comrades, led by their President, General Lord Freyberg, V.C., assembled at the Horse Guards and marched to the Cenotaph. After the wreath laying ceremony, "Last Post" and Reveille" were sounded by buglers from the band of The Royal Fusiliers, which was on parade with the Old Comrades.

A fine lunch at the Corner House, Coventry Street, was followed by the annual general meeting of the Association. The Essex Regiment was represented by the following members: Mr. A. J. Harris, Mr. B. Garrett, Mr. J. E. Fuller, Mr. F. W. Vere, Mr. A. Perdeaux,

Mr. H. Pocknell, Mr. T. W. Isherwood, Mr. F. Walters, Mr. J. E. Tresadern, Major H. J. Staff, and Mr. R. Peel, from New South Wales, Australia. Two members who have always attended for many years were absent through sickness. They were Mr. L. A. Platts, who is in Milbank Military Hospital, and Mr. A. Wiltshire, age 84, sick at home. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

## EDITORIAL

It has always been part of the Editorial Policy that the death of any former member of The Regiment should be recorded in the Regimental Journal. The Editorial Sub-Committee have noted with regret that the number of these deaths have shown a very marked increase during the past year or two with an inevitable increase in the number of Obituary Notices, which now tend to take up quite a large amount of space in each number.

The Sub-Committee consider that with the pressure on the space, available in the Journal, to record the present activities of the Regiment and the necessity, due to economic reasons, to limit the number of pages in each issue, they must, in future, restrict Obituary Notices to a short but appropriate record of the death of the member concerned. The members of the Sub-Committee feel sure the readers of the Journal will understand and appreciate the position.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

*The Editor :*  
THE REGIMENTAL SECRETARY.

*Sub-Editors :*  
The Secretary, The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, Kempston Barracks, Bedford.

The Secretary, The Essex Regiment Association, Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex.

1. All correspondence should be addressed to THE EDITOR, *THE WASP AND THE EAGLE*, R.H.Q., Blenheim House, Eagle Way, Warley, Brentwood, Essex. (Tel. Brentwood 3051), or to the appropriate Sub-Editor.

2. The Editor will be glad to receive any contributions, such as short stories, articles, photographs, letters, etc., from past and present members of the Regiment.

3. All articles and notes for reproduction in *The Wasp and The Eagle* should, if possible, be typed on one side of the paper only, with double spacing. When photographs are submitted for reproduction in *The Wasp and*

The Editor regrets that owing to the large number of obituary notices submitted for this Number, it was not possible to include them all. Those held over will appear in the December Number.

*The Eagle*, please state whether permission to reproduce has been given by the owner of the copyright of the photograph and what caption is required.

4. ALL ARTICLES AND NOTES FOR THE DECEMBER NUMBER OF THE JOURNAL SHOULD BE SENT TO THE EDITOR BY NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 28, 1963.

5. The price of *The Wasp and The Eagle* to Non-Members of the Regimental Associations is 2/6 per copy, plus postage.

6. Our members can materially assist us in obtaining advertisements. Remember to deal only with firms who advertise in *The Wasp and The Eagle*.

## Engagements

MR. M. J. LEWIS AND MISS J. J. KNIGHT

The engagement is announced between Martin John Lewis, The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot), The Pompadours, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Lewis, of Chalmers, Westward Ho, Devon, and Jennifer Jane, youngest daughter of Mr. H. L. Knight, Bromley, Kent, and Mrs. J. Rosner, Sicklesmere, Suffolk.

MR. P. R. M. HUMBERT AND MISS F. A. FRENCH

The engagement is announced between Peter Robin Morten, eldest son of Colonel R. A. Humbert, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., and Mrs. Humbert, of Park Cottage, Park Street, near St. Albans, Herts, and Felicity Ann, elder daughter of the late Major A. E. French, 16th Foot, and of Mrs. L. G. M. French, West House, Gainsborough Avenue, St. Albans, Herts.

CAPT. P. G. LITTLEHALES AND

MISS J. R. A. de PREE

The engagement is announced between Peter Gough Littlehales, The Rifle Brigade, only son of Colonel and Mrs. R. W. Littlehales, Southlands, Danbury, and Jennifer Rosemary Anne, younger daughter of Major and Mrs. H. de Pree, of Forstal, Biddenden, Kent.

## Marriage

WASH—HULL.—On March 23, 1963, at Gidea Park Methodist Church, Cpl. Walter Robert Alfred Wash, The Pompadours, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wash, of "Pompadour," Walton Road, Frinton-on-Sea, to Miss Rosemary Anne Hull, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Hull, of 94, Cranham Road, Hornchurch.

## Births

WELLS.—On November 22, 1962, at The British Military Hospital, Colchester, to Sacha, wife of Capt. D. G. Wells, The 3rd East Anglian Regiment (16th/44th Foot), a son, brother for Cathinka.

GADEN.—On January 18, 1963, at Keith, South Australia, to Joan and Michael Gaden, a son, Peter Keith Burton.

## Obituaries

UNDERWOOD.—We regret to report the death, which occurred at Dortmund, Germany, on July 30, 1962, of Capt. (Director of Music) A. Underwood, Royal Artillery. Capt. Underwood enlisted in The North Staffordshire Regiment on September 14, 1928, and was transferred to The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment as Bandmaster on October 25, 1948. He served at The Depot and with the 1st Battalion until March, 1955. He was appointed to a Regular Army Commission in the Royal Artillery as Lieutenant (Director of Music) on June 17, 1955, and promoted Capt. (Director of Music) on January 10, 1957. At the time of his death he was serving with the Royal Artillery (B.A.O.R.) Band.

BACCHUS.—We regret to report the death in August, 1962, of Mr. Bacchus. He joined the 16th Foot in November, 1914, and after completing his training at Ampthill under the Duke of Bedford, was transferred to the 6th Battalion. He served in France throughout the First World War, being wounded twice.

TOTTENHAM.—Notification has been received of the death on August 22, 1962, in Suva, Fiji, of Major William Edmund Willoughby Tottenham, late 16th Foot. Born on March 3, 1878, he was commissioned into The Bedfordshire Regiment in May, 1900, and

served with the 2nd Battalion in South Africa before the First World War. He was promoted Major in September, 1915. In October, 1919, he was placed on the Half Pay List and retired in October, 1924. He had settled in Fiji for a number of years. The report received from Suva states:—"Major Tottenham passed peacefully away on August 22, 1962. He was buried the same day with full military honours before a highly representative gathering. It was an impressive and fitting mark of respect to a fine citizen of Fiji."

TRAIN.—On October 20, 1962, ex-7618 Sgt. George Train, aged 77 years. Mr. Train first joined The Essex Regiment at the age of 14 years and became a Sergeant Drummer. He served throughout the First World War with "The Pompadours."

REID.—In October, 1962. Mr. Alfred Reid served with 6th Battalion, The Essex Regiment, from 1925 to 1931, when it was stationed at West Ham.

BOVILL.—On November 6, 1962. Mr. J. Bovill, who was 84 years, was a member of the Old Contemptibles Association and also of The 7th Essex "Eagle and Gun" Regimental Association.

EDWARDS.—On November 9, 1962, at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Mr. William Edwards, of 1, Cuffley Close, Luton, at the age of 68. During the First World War Mr. Edwards served with The 1st/5th Bedfordshire Regiment (T.F.) in Gallipoli and Egypt.

CROFT.—On November 14, 1962. Mr. J. C. Croft served with The Essex Regiment during the First World War and was a member of "The Eagle and Gun" Regimental Association. He was 64 years of age at the time of his death.

LODGE.—On November 22, 1962. Ex-No. 8498 Sgt. H. A. Lodge who served with 1st and 7th Battalions The Essex Regiment from 1915 to 1919.

ALLEN.—On November 25, 1962, Mr. F. Allen, of 1, Cremar House, Deptford, London, S.E.8. "Sailor" Allen, as he was always known, served for many years in The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, mostly in the 1st Battalion. He was renowned for his boxing prowess. After leaving the Service he became a staunch and loyal member of the London Branch of The 16th Foot Regimental Association.



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ROBERTS.—The death last November is reported of Mr. J. Roberts, of 26, Boyle Street, Luton. He served in the 1st/5th Bedfordshire Regiment at Gallipoli as a Stretcher Bearer, and was a member of the "Yellow Devils" O.C.A. Branch.

LT.-COL. A. C. HALAHAN, O.B.E.

We regret to announce the death of Lt.-Col. Arthur Crosby Halahan at Torquay on December 7, 1962, at the age of 88 years.

Arthur Halahan was first commissioned into The Essex Regiment in 1896. He served in Burma with the 2nd Battalion and in 1900 left for the South African War with the Burma Mounted Infantry, subsequently rejoining the 2nd Battalion on its arrival there. Service in England, Malta and Ireland followed, filling the period up to 1914. The onset of the First World War saw him still serving with 2nd Bn. The Essex Regiment in Flanders, and later as Brigade Machine Gun Officer at the crossing of the Marne by units of the 4th Division, which included the 2nd Battalion.

He was promoted Major in 1915 and Lieutenant-Colonel in 1916, when he took over command of the 1st Bn. The Essex Regiment then engaged on the Somme. During his period with the Battalion he was twice Mentioned in Despatches, and in April, 1917, he proceeded to Italy to take up a Staff appointment. At the end of the war on the reforming of 1st and 2nd Battalions he joined the 1st Battalion and served again in Ireland during the period of 'The

Troubles,' becoming Second-in-Command in 1920. In 1922 he was awarded the O.B.E. and he finally retired in 1923 after the Battalion returned to England.

Lt.-Col. Halahan, though in his 70s, was one of the first to volunteer for the Citizens' Army in 1940. Having held every commissioned rank up to Lieutenant-Colonel, he affirmed that his life-long ambition was "to be a Sergeant Major," and this ambition was realised when he became one of the most popular Warrant Officers in the Torbay Home Guard. He will be much missed by his many friends.

FINCH.—On December 9, 1962. Ex-6010371 Mr. F. W. E. A. Finch, at Harold Wood Hospital, aged 67 years. Mr. Finch served for over 20 years with The Essex Regiment in both 1st and 2nd Battalions and at the Regimental Depot, Warley. He was wounded four times during the First World War and was a Life Member of the Association.

LT.-COL. R. NEAVE

Richard Neave was born on July 9, 1881, and came from a family which had its roots firmly in Essex. He was educated at Eton and Sandhurst, from where he was commissioned in January, 1901. Two months later he was to join The Essex Regiment and take part in the South African War. Between the South African War and the First World War, Richard Neave served in the 1st Battalion at home and in India. During the early part of the First World War, he was Brigade Machine Gun Officer to 88th Infantry Brigade, and he was with the Brigade in Gallipoli. After Gallipoli, Richard Neave was employed with the New Zealand Military Forces. He returned to the 1st Battalion in 1919 and served with the Battalion in Ireland, Bordon, Colchester and Pembroke Dock. He retired in 1930 and settled down in Essex. During the Second World War he commanded the 3rd Essex Home Guard Battalion. This brief description of a military career gives little impression of the man.

Richard Neave was a gay, friendly person with a nice sense of humour. He was particularly kind to younger officers as many of the subalterns of Bordon/Colchester days would testify. No one could describe him as an ambitious soldier (and he would have hated such a description), and so he enjoyed his life in the Army. Richard Neave will be remembered particularly as a good horseman. With an eye for a ball and a good wrist, he became a first class polo player and had a high handicap. He was a splendid judge of a young pony, and patience, good hands and kindness made him a wonderful trainer. He, with A. B. Incleton-Webber, J. H. Pattisson and R. H. Bowen, represented the 1st Battalion in the Army Inter-



The late Lt.-Col. A. C. Halahan, O.B.E.



*The late Lt.-Col. Richard Neave.*

Regimental Polo Tournament in 1924—a unique experience for an Infantry Battalion in post-war years. He did much to encourage younger players and one subaltern had good reason to remember his kindness, for on more than one occasion he was lent those two wonderful ponies Columbine and Little Mary on which to get extra Chukkers. The same subaltern was lent Little Mary for the tent-pegging with swords, at a Polo Club Gymkhana which Little Mary won.

In later years, he was an active member of the Mid-Essex Polo Club, and during his retirement he lived in Orsett for over 20 years. He kept in touch with the Regiment, and few retired Officers attended the Regimental Dinner more regularly.

Richard Neave will be missed by a host of friends. He died on December 14, 1962, and was buried in Ingatestone. The Regiment was represented at the funeral by Colonel N. R. Salew, Colonel R. W. Littlehales, and Major T. R. Stead.

**WAKELING.**—On December 19, 1962, ex-5998866 R.S.M. Douglas Frank Wakeling, M.B.E., aged 74 years. Frank Wakeling served for a total of more than 30 years, the first 23 of which were with The Essex Regiment. He enlisted in 1906 and by 1924 had reached the rank of C.S.M. He was twice wounded in World War I, and completed his engagement in 1929.

In June, 1939, he re-enlisted in The Suffolk Regiment and served with them throughout World War II. He was a prisoner of war for some time in Japanese hands, and was subsequently awarded the M.B.E.

Frank Wakeling will be much missed by his many friends.

**HESTER.**—The death occurred on December 31, 1962, of Mr. J. Hester, 124, St. James Road, Watford. He served with the 4th and 5th Battalions The Bedfordshire Regiment from 1914 to 1919. He was a member of the Watford Branch and of the 16th Foot Association.

**TAYLOR.**—On January 8, 1963, at 8, Wenlock Road, Kempston, Bedfordshire, Mr. William Charles Taylor, who served with The Bedfordshire Regiment during the 1914/1918 War.

#### MAJOR J. A. B. THOMPSON, M.C.

Major James Andrew Baird Thompson, who died on January 15, 1963, in his 80th year, soldiered in the Boer War and both World Wars. He was gazetted a Second-Lieutenant in the Essex Militia on May 2, 1900, and received the Queen's Medal for his service in South Africa. He resigned his commission in 1906 but came back as a Lieutenant in the R.A.R.O. in 1911.

In the First World War, Major Thompson's chief service was with the 10th (Service) Bn. The Essex Regiment which he joined in the Somme country in September, 1916, and was



*The late Major J. A. B. Thompson, M.C.*



involved for the remainder of the year in the fighting by the 18th Division which led to the capture of Thiepval, Schwabea Redoubt and the ground northwards of this famous ridge. For very brave patrol work by day he was awarded the Military Cross.

In April, 1917, he went to the Royal Flying Corps and was with the Corps and the R.A.F. until 1919. He retired from the R.A.R.O. in 1933 and was militarily unemployed until September 1939 when he was granted an Emergency Commission. He was then actively employed until 1942 and relinquished his commission in 1945.

**MANN.**—On January 25, 1963, Mr. H. Mann aged 68 years. Mr. Mann joined 1/7th Bn. The Essex Regiment in 1908 and served with them at Gallipoli and Gaza. A founder member of "The Eagle and Gun" Regimental Association he never missed a parade or function.

**HARDY.**—On January 26, 1963, ex-5998056 Sgt. William Hardy, M.M. "Bill" Hardy served for over 27 years with The Essex Regiment and enlisted at Braintree in 1904. During his long period with the Regiment he spent many years in India with 1st Battalion and also in Mauritius and the Mediterranean. He was twice wounded during World War I, and was awarded the Military Medal and also Mentioned in Despatches. He subsequently became Pioneer Sergeant of the Battalion.



*The late Mr. W. Hardy, M.M. (ex-Sgt. 8243)*

When finally discharged in 1932 he was one of the most popular and respected men in The Regiment.

**SAYER.**—On January 29, 1963, Mr. H. L. Sayer, D.C.M., M.M., who served with the 1st Bn. The Hertfordshire Regiment (T.F.) and later the Machine Gun Corps in the 1914-1918 War. For the past eighteen years Mr. Sayer had been Hon. Secretary of the Letchworth and Hitchin Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association, the members of which held him in high esteem.

**BICKLEY.**—After a long illness, the death occurred on January 29, 1963, of Mr. W. H. Bickley, of 30, Station Road, Borrowash, Derby. He was 80 years of age. Enlisting in March, 1900, he fought in the South African Campaign and served with the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire Regiment until his discharge in March, 1908.

**GREEN.**—On January 30, 1963, Mr. Green, ex-Sgt. "Jazz" Green, who served with the 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment for many years. He will be remembered for his work with the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion.

**WALDOCK.**—On February 9, 1963, at the age of 69, In-Pensioner J. Waldock died at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He had been an In-Pensioner since 1947 and had bravely suffered ill-health for much of his time at the Hospital. He served throughout the First World War and was discharged from the 16th Foot in 1924. The funeral service took place at Brookwood Cemetery on February 19, 1963, and R.S.M. V. Herd, 1st Bn. The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment (T.A.) represented The 16th Foot Association.

#### MR. C. H. KING

Mr. Charles H. King died in hospital, in Cambridge, on February 14, 1963, shortly before his 42nd birthday.

"Charlie," as he was affectionately known throughout The Essex Regiment Association will always be remembered as the very popular and hard-working Honorary Secretary of the Saffron Walden Branch of The Association.

His association with The Essex Regiment began before World War II, when he joined the local (Saffron Walden) Territorial Unit. At the onset of the war, he with many of his friends who later joined him on the committee of the Branch, found themselves as part of the 1st/5th Battalion. "Charlie" who, by nature, was always anxious to help those less fortunate, immediately joined the Battalion's medical unit, and subsequently served with the Battalion in



*The late Mr. C. H. King.*

Egypt, North Africa, Syria, Irak, and finally during the epic battles in Italy, tending the sick and wounded, and carrying out the duties of stretcher bearer. At the conclusion of the war, when it was decided to form a branch of the Association at Saffron Walden, he was a founder member and one of the first to be elected to the committee. Subsequently he became Hon. Secretary, a post which he so ably filled up to the time of his death. He worked unceasingly for the branch and succeeded in raising the membership to over 300. Many who were ill, unemployed or aged, or who were experiencing misfortune of one sort or another, found in "Charlie" a great friend and practical helper. His many friends and comrades throughout the Association and also from our sister Association of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment will miss him greatly.

His funeral, at Saffron Walden, was attended by almost all the committee members of the branch and many other members and local friends and organisations.

We extend our sincere thanks to 'Charlie,' and our sympathy to his widow and family.

**GUNTON.**—On February 15, 1963, ex-6003783 Mr. Charles Gunton died in hospital in London. Mr. Gunton enlisted in The Essex Regiment at Warley in 1923 and joined the 1st Battalion. He was invalided out in 1928 and subsequently, because of his leg injuries, he became totally disabled. Despite his infirmity, however, he was a most active supporter of the Association and member of the Romford Branch.

**LITTLECHILD.**—On February 24, 1963, Mr. Walter Littlechild, in his 91st year. He was born at Tyldenhangar Green on October 6, 1872. He enlisted in The Bedfordshire Regiment at Bedford on December 5, 1889, and served for twelve years. Of these, over seven years were spent overseas in India and South Africa. He fought in the Chitral Campaign and the South African War. He held the Indian General Service Medal with Clasp—Chitral, 1895, and the King's and Queen's Medals for the South African War, with the following Clasps—Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony, South Africa, 1901, 1902. On discharge in 1902, Mr. Littlechild returned to his original love of gardening, and was employed at Pinkerton's Nurseries, Watford. On the outbreak of the Second World War he was employed in an anti-gas



*The late Mr. W. Littlechild.*

factory and after the war went into the printing trade, where he remained until he retired at the age of 72. He was a very loyal member of The Regiment and a staunch supporter of the Watford Branch of The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment Association, whose functions he attended regularly until just over a year ago.

**KNIGHT.**—On February 26, 1963, aged 79 years. Mr. W. R. Knight was an old member of 1/7th Bn. The Essex Regiment and a regular and staunch supporter of the Association.

**MAJOR, J. N. COKER, M.C., T.D.**

Major John Nelson Coker, M.C., T.D., died on March 5, 1963, as a result of an accident near his home at Swiss Cottage. This tragic accident has robbed The Essex Regiment as a

whole, and the 4th/5th Battalion in particular, of one of its most respected and loyal supporters.

"Jim" Coker was born on November 7, 1889. He enlisted in the London Regiment (P.W.O. Civil Service Rifles) in February, 1909, and was granted a Territorial Army Commission in The Essex Regiment in July, 1915. He went overseas in January, 1916, and saw service in Egypt, Palestine and Syria, before returning home in April, 1919. Having been seconded to the Machine Gun Corps in April, 1916, most of his active service was spent as an officer of that Corps. At one time his guns constituted the main defence of a little post called El Alamein, which became known to a later generation of Essex soldiers. Whilst serving in Palestine, "Jim" Coker was Mentioned in Despatches and wounded. He was awarded the Military Cross at Gaza. The citation for this award, dated August 16, 1917, reads as follows:

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When a neighbouring Brigade was held up by machine gun and rifle fire, he worked up one of his guns to close range, under very heavy fire, assisting materially in reducing the enemy fire and enabling the Brigade to gain the position."



*The late Major J. N. Coker, M.C., T.D.*

With his return to 4th Bn. The Essex Regiment (T.A.) in May, 1920, "Jim" began an association which was to last until his death. His love and interest for the Battalion and all its affairs has been an inspiration to serving officers since that day. As far as is known, "Jim" attended annual camp with the Battalion every year between 1920 and 1962. Coming to camp was always a source of great pride and pleasure to him. In the earlier days he was a keen participant in Mess games and "rags," which he regarded as being nearly as important as military training. Promoted Captain in June, 1920, and Major in June, 1928, "Jim" transferred to the reserve in September, 1932.

In September, 1939, he was mobilised and served with 7th Bn. The Essex Regiment until February, 1941. During this period he helped to defend the Essex beaches against a possible invasion. He undertook this task with characteristic enthusiasm and spirit. He then served in a Record Office until released in August, 1945. "Jim" remained on the Reserve of Officers until November, 1949, by which time he had earned two bars to his Territorial Decoration. His eventual transfer to the Reserve was not effected without strong protests from this gallant old soldier, and it did not deter him from joining a local Home Guard unit until that was disbanded.

"Jim's" interest in the Regiment remained as keen as ever, right to the time of his death. He was a very active Vice-Chairman of the 4th Bn. Comrades' Association, and, as Secretary of the Gaza Dining Club, he did much to ensure the success of the annual dinner in London.

His kindly smile and amusing anecdotes will be sadly missed by his many friends in the Regiment.

#### MAJOR W. G. COWLEY

William Gerald Cowley, who died on March 7, 1963, aged 71, was educated at Marlborough and Sandhurst. He joined the Indian Army in September 1911, transferring to The Essex Regiment in February, 1914, with the rank of Lieutenant. He saw service in Gallipoli, where he was wounded, and was promoted Captain in 1915. He served with Egyptian Army for two years, from December, 1916, and was employed under the Colonial Office from 1922 to 1924. This was followed by a year with The King's African Rifles, and he joined the 44th at Colchester in 1925. In 1927 he married Mary Elizabeth Viva, younger daughter of General and Mrs. Hamilton Graham.

From 1929 until the end of 1931, he was in India with "The Pompadours," commanding "D" (M.G.) Company during the Kajauri Plain operations. He returned to England on promotion to Major for a tour with the 44th at Pembroke Dock. He was again posted to

India in 1933 and remained with "The Pompadors" until he retired in September, 1938, serving at Nasirabad, Ahmedbad, the Western Desert, Khartoum, and Warley, chiefly as Second-in-Command. His decorations included The Order of The Nile, 4th Class, The Indian General Service Medal with Clasp, N.W.F., 1930-31, The Sudan Medal with Clasp Aliab Dinka and the Coronation Medal. He was Mentioned in Despatches during the operations against Aliab Lah.

Bill Cowley was a firm disciplinarian and not always an easy taskmaster, but he took great interest in those serving under him and any Junior Officer or Soldier in trouble or difficulty could rely on his sympathy and help. He was adept at all games, representing The Regiment at cricket and hockey; he was a fine tennis player, had a single figure golf handicap, and was a first-class Bridge player.

When he retired from the Army, Major Cowley took a post in the then newly started Civil Defence at Braintree and later in Chatham, and after the War the Cowleys lived at Wootton-under-Edge, Gloucester, and Cheltenham, where "Bill" joined The Voluntary Hospital Car Service. The last few years of his life were marred by ill-health, and for two years before his death he suffered with great patience a long and weary illness.



*The late Major W. G. Cowley.*

AVIS.—The many friends of Lt. R. H. Avis will learn with regret that he died at Westminster Hospital on March 14, 1963, after four months' illness. He was 38. "Bob" Avis was commissioned in The Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in July, 1946, and was released in September, 1948. He was commissioned to The Bedfordshire Army Cadet Force in November, 1951, and served with the Bedford Company and Headquarters until September, 1959.

On October 16, 1948, he married Josephine, the third daughter of Major and Mrs. E. E. Ashby.

#### CAPT. S. WHITE

Capt. and Quartermaster Sidney White died on March 16, 1963, in his 80th year. Capt. White enlisted in The Essex Regiment at Warley on May 14, 1902, and served in Malta, Gallipoli, where he was twice wounded, in Mauritius and the Mediterranean. His service extended to the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 7th Battalions.

At the time of his discharge in September, 1926, Stanley White was Acting R.S.M., and he was then granted a Quartermaster's Commission in The 5th Battalion with which he had been serving since 1920. He remained with the Battalion until 1938, and during the Second World War he served with Civil Defence. Subsequent to 1945 he was employed as a Relieving Officer of the Public Assistance and Welfare Organisation. Capt. White lost his wife in 1952. He will be proudly remembered by his many friends.

#### LT.-COL ROBERT FORBES, D.S.O., M.C., J.P.

This gallant old Scots-Essex soldier died on March 24, 1963, after a rather long illness. For many years he had been farming at Balglassie, near Forfar, and had taken an active part in local government.

So far as The 10th Essex of the 1914/18 War went, there never was such a Scot. He came to join the Battalion a few days before the Somme battle of 1916 started. He came up to our front line position facing Montauban, dressed in a lovely kilt and bonnet, and told us that he had come to be our Transport Officer, that he belonged to some new corps of Transport Officers and a Transport Officer he must be till the war ended, and that he was eligible neither for promotion nor any other duty. "When in 1917 Forbes was wanted for Adjutant," says The 10th Essex history, "we were able to obtain a special dispensation from the War Office and get him out of the Transport Corps." But he loved his transport men and their horses and mules, and part of his honeymoon, in 1924, was spent motoring round Essex to look up these members of his first Essex command.

Poelcapelle, the Great Retreat, the Advance to Victory, all produce wonderful stories of Forbes' great courage and leadership. In the very last battle of the First World War when he was in command of the 10th Battalion up at the edge of the Mormal Forest and not far from Sassegny he found a two hundred yard gap in the German line through which he led the Battalion to its objective. Twice wounded badly, he somehow got back to duty before he should have done. He was awarded the D.S.O. and Bar, M.C., and Bar, and was several times Mentioned in Despatches.

Scattered about Essex there are many grey heads who are very proud to remember this lovable warrior who, year by year, so long as he was fit enough, journeyed from Angus to London to meet his old comrades at their dinner in a city tavern.

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