

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL B. B. N. WOODD HANDS OVER TO LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. P. D. F. ALLEN, M.B.E., 9th JUNE, 1954



# HAWK

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#### EDITORIAL

Editors frequently use their editorial to become boringly personal. In addition to the usual appeals for financial support and apologies for their hasty and clumsy presentation of the Regimental chronicles, they permit themselves one or two observations on Life. This is to be no exception. A few months ago, returning to the Regiment after an absence of some years, I arrived with a clear and reasonable idea as to what I should find. I was fully ready to play my part in the relaxations of a semi-tropical Mediterranean station. There would, I thought, be much time for contemplation and for the sipping of iced drinks. It would be hot but, taken easy, life would be more than tolerable. Compared with other forms of soldiering, it was going to be pretty good.

Of course, this was all a pipe dream. I find that in reality exertion, both mental and physical, is the order of the day. There is no place for a good honest drone round these parts. There is a distinct emphasis on work. Not just ordinary work like polishing buttons and tanks. Things like taking the Regiment lock, stock and barrel up a steep precipice and thence into mountainous desert some 250 miles away for five weeks. The outcome of this

foray will, if we ever get back, be reported in our next edition.

Other forms of activity are reported in the pages that follow. It will be seen that there is plenty going on apart from work, and indeed the Regiment is in great heart. Naturally many are looking forward to returning home at the end of the year. There we hope to find time to welcome our Old Comrades, before we move on elsewhere. In this edition, our frontispiece shows two well known Regimental personalities. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lieut.-Colonel Allen, who took over command in June, and at the same time to express our best wishes to Lieut.-Colonel Woodd on his departure,

# Foreword by

# LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. P. D. F. ALLEN, M.B.E.

1954 has seen the Regiment pass the half-way mark in its probable stay in Sabratha. Our location, 45 miles from other troops in Tripoli, and the absence until recently of another major unit in the District leave us somewhat isolated. On the other hand we have escaped the restrictions and guard duties of the Canal Zone, where the 1st Infantry Division of which we form part is situated, and are able to get on with training and other activities without interruption, for which we can be thankful.

After various Winter excursions into the desert during which "A" Squadron took their tanks up the thousand foot escarpment of the Gebel, a feat hitherto considered impossible, the Spring and Summer were occupied with individual training, mainly at Squadron Camps by the sea. In the Autumn, the Regiment had its Annual Administrative and Vehicle Inspections, the latter being distinguished by the Technical Stores obtaining a grading of "Excellent". Then troop training: and in January and February we return to the Gebel for regimental training for which a startled G.H.Q. has met our request for anti-freeze.

In November, we had the great pleasure of another visit from our Colonel, General Sir Richard L. McCreery, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L. He inspected the Regiment on parade and at normal work, attended the Finals of the Novice Boxing, played polo with us, and happily took back with him a useful souvenir from the roulette tables at the Casino Uaddan. On his return he was kind enough to send the following message which was published in Regimental Orders:—

"I want to thank you all very much for a most enjoyable visit to the Regiment.

"I was most impressed at the fine spirit, enthusiasm, and efficiency shown in every department and activity that I saw.

The turn-out and marching for the Regimental Parade were excellent, and I congratulate you all. I was particularly impressed with the feeling I got

everywhere of good team-work and pride in working together as members of a 'good show'. Well done, and all good wishes for the remainder of your foreign service."

We also had the honour of visits from General Sir Charles Keightley, C-in-C M.E.L.F., and Lady Keightley; Major-General R. B. B. B. Cooke, D.R.A.C.; and Major-General T. Brodie, our Divisional Commander.

In December, tank trials were successfully concluded, after a year's endeavour in a particularly scorpion-ridden area of desert. Great credit is due to Captain McClure and his Trials Troop for their achievements with these temperamental monsters, and his reports on them have won warm praise from the War Office and Ministry of Supply.

The successes gained in the District Small Arms Meeting were amply confirmed in the Army Rifle Association matches for 1953/54. The Regiment won several trophies, including the Duke of Connaught's Cup which returned to its proper place in the Sergeants' Mess, and came second in the Queen Victoria Trophy; our best result since we won it in 1924. Much credit for these successes goes to Captain Mossé and his assistant coaches. The former has since left the Regiment for civilian life, and our best wishes go to him and Mrs. Mossé in their new venture.

Equitation and polo progress, and our stable has expanded. The Inter-Squadron Polo Cup was played off, being won by "H.Q." Squadron; and a Regimental team visited Malta, where they were most hospitably entertained by Lord and Lady Mountbatten. During the Summer, Major Sturt trained the Tripolitanian Police Ceremonial Mounted Troop, concluding with an interesting parade to the music of the Police Pipe Band before a distinguished Libyan audience.

The year has seen various changes in personnel. R.S.M. Charlton receives our warm congratulations on a commission as Lieut. (Q.M.), and we are sorry to lose him and Mrs. Charlton to the D.L.O.Y. We welcome R.S.M. and Mrs. Moore from Bovington in their place. Recently, Mr. Hurst terminated a career full of distinction as a Bandmaster, culminating in the award of the Regimental Medal and an M.B.E. in quick succession. Our best wishes go with him and Mrs. Hurst to Bromsgrove School where he has assumed the appointment of music master.

Finally, in June, Lieut.-Colonel B. B. N. Woodd concluded a very successful and popular tenure in command of the Regiment, which he joined from Cambridge 24 years ago. He served with it in Hounslow, in Egypt, where he became the youngest Captain in the Army, and in India where he was Adjutant. He passed the Staff College, Quetta in 1941 and went on the staff until rejoining in Italy in 1945. Thereafter he served with the Regiment continuously except for one staff tour, finally bringing it out to Sabratha. His strong and unruffled personality, enjoyment of parties, and expansive smile only partially concealed his intense concern for the Regiment's well-being and reputation. This combined with his high ability entitle him to a worthy place among the distinguished company of Commanding Officers whose portraits grace the Orderly Room walls. We wish him further success in his military career, and hope to see him and Mrs. Woodd frequently on our return home.

## **REGIMENTAL DIARY OF EVENTS-1954**

- 19th January—General Sir Charles F. Keightley, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., C-in-C M.E.L.F., inspects the Regiment.
- 24th February—Regimental Team comes second in the Tripoli District Cross-Country Running Championship.
- 13th March—1953 Polo Tournament is won by "H.Q." Squadron, who beat "A" Squadron 9—4.
- 15th March—The L.A.D. beat Admin. Troop "B" Squadron 2—0 in the Final of the D'Arcy Hall Inter-Troop Football Competition.
- 5th April—Major-General R. B. B. B. Cooke, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., the D.R.A.C., visits the Regiment.
- 10th April—1954 Polo Tournament is won by "H.Q." Squadron, who beat "A" Squadron 6—4.
- 14th April—Regimental Athletics Meeting which was won by "H.Q." Squadron.
- 17th April—The Regimental Race Meeting is held on a course on the Sorman Salt Flats.
- 24th April-Busetta Spring Race Meeting in Tripoli.
- 16th May-Regimental Polo Team plays in Malta Tournament.
- 28th May—Tripoli District Athletics Meeting is held on the Seaview Track.

  The Regiment wins the Team Cup and has seven individual winners.
- 9th June-Lt.-Col. B. B. N. Woodd hands over the Regiment to Lt.-Col. R. P. D. F. Allen, M.B.E.
- 27th June—District Athletics Team competes against the Italians. The Regiment gains three individual victories.
- 18th July-Regimental Cricket Team plays the Rest of Tripoli District.
- 21st July—Major-General T. Brodie, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., G.O.C. 1st Infantry Division, visits the Regiment.
- 3rd September—Annual Administrative Inspection. The Parade is taken by Colonel W. P. E. Walton, C.B.E.
- 26th September—The U.M.I. Team arrive. The Regiment obtains an overall grading of "Good."
- 20th November—The Regiment beat the Royal Marine Commandos in a Polo match by 11—3½. The Ramnuggur Ball is held in the Sergeants' Mess.
- 26th November—The Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir Richard L. McCreery, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., visits the Regiment.
- 28th November—"A" Squadron win the D'Arcy Hall Inter-Squadron Football Cup.
- 29th November—The Novices Boxing Competition is won by "H.Q." Squad-
- 22nd December—The Hawk Dramatic Society's first production "While The Sun Shines."
- 31st December-Sergeants' Mess New Year's Eve Dance.

# "A" SQUADRON NOTES

In our last issue, we concluded by looking forward to the Christmas festivities. These went on, including a Squadron Smoker held in our .22 Range. The Squadron had just been through the Gas Chamber lit by hurricane lamps; the same hurricane lamps were in use to heat the Rum Punch for the party.

causing chaos all round.

Wonder how many remember the party? Looking at the nominal roll of the Squadron and comparing it with last year's, the astounding fact is that nearly 60 names are missing. What a turnover indeed. However the 60 "deserters" are in the main living in the luxurious comfort, freedom and ease of Civvy Street, or so they would have us believe. The remainder are roughing it in various other units at home and abroad. The changes are too numerous to mention.

One joker was heard to remark: "It's a pity, but every Regiment has its 'A' Squadron." True enough, but our excuse for this is that someone has to keep the workshops, recovery section, Air Sea Rescue and Courts of Inquiry active. As the Squadron moves out all the services mentioned are alerted. There is a rumour that someone "runs a book" on what will happen

next. Press on regardless.

A recce was organised to prove the route to Ghadames prior to the Squadron doing a "B" Vehicle exercise. Our trials and tribulations started when we invited the half a dozen Foreign Legion chaps to dinner at Derj, after which some half a dozen of us went down to their mess. They may be hard drinkers, but it was "Q" Collins who managed to "walk out" with a beautiful blue burnous, after putting their Sgt. Major to bed. A "little aperitif" which lasted over two hours with the Legion at Ghadames was tame compared to the night life in the Oasis Town. An excellent recce was marred by the unfortunate turning over of the water truck. We owe thanks to the American Air Sea Rescue Flight for excellent assistance.

The Squadron represented the Regiment by sending the S.Q.M.S., Cpl Jones and Tpr. Stokes to Egypt for the Motor Cycle Trials. Now came "Lost



Wiles, Claxton,
Scoffield, Robson, Darkin,
Hughes, Carpenter, Hatfield, Brown, Bruce, Dodds, Fouweather, Walker,
Easton, Cobb, Nicholson, Cook, Gibson







Dorr, Dyer, Wilmot, Burgoyne, Hibbs, Giles, Hulse

Horizon." It wasn't really lost you know! It was just that a wee bit of cigarette ash got mixed up in the map reading—good job it wasn't "cigars." The "Q" being off in Egypt caused the precedent of the S.S.M. being promoted to S.Q.M.S. and, in true style, when water was extremely low he had lashings of beer for sale. Rations in one particular case were pleasantly supplemented by gazelle and even bustard (brought to the pot by the Squadron Leader who at the time was aiming at a gazelle).

The Squadron spent a pleasant three weeks during the Summer at a holiday camp near the sea at Zavia Ranges. For once rations were rough. Through various changes we finished up on "Tinned Element" consisting of bully and biscuits: day after day. Troop Committees had the pleasure of choosing how they would have it served the next day. Special mention must go to Tpr. Cosgrove who tried his hand at making rolls, working until three o'clock in the morning. They were a success as well.

1st Troop did well by winning the Inter-Troop Shooting, and in the water sports again took the two crates of beer away. The Squadron Leader won the long distance race and the S.S.M. the old soldiers. In the Inter-Troop Sports, 1st Troop must still have been on form, closely followed by 2nd Troop, who were level until the final event. Cpl. Overy won the 100 and 200 yards and later ran for the Regiment. Sgt. Macgregor won the shot and discus and is still striving to increase his distance. We will skip the Regimental Sports, apart from saying that the Tug-o-War came our way with hardly any effort, considering the competition pull was our first one.

The Squadron has just won the Inter-Squadron Football Cup and we are proud to see that half the Regimental Team comes from us. We were "also rans" in the Novices Boxing which is no disgrace—"We aint no novices." Wait for the Opens.

Lazy week-ends, consisting of small parties who went out along the coast mainly in the Zuara direction catered for sunbathing, swimming and fishing. Wonder if Christina's Bar caused the inclination to go West? They tell me that the fishing was no good—at the bar and in the sea. The "come hither" looks proving as unfruitful as the Sgt.-Major's rod.

Quite a lot more of the Squadron have taken advantage of leave this year, both in Malta and locally in Tripoli. This must have boosted morale quite a bit if the U.M.I., Admin. and other inspections are anything to go on, as we've had some very good reports. Five tanks were graded "Excellent" by

the U.M.I. of which two belonged to 2nd Troop.

Our final fling was at Tarhuna on a combined operations with the Marine Commandos. It was a final fling, and in 1st Troop they make no mention of the tracks that were flung, and they close their ears when someone sings of "Cross the bridge, Mr. Bridges." Chuck, the American Marine attached to 3rd Troop, doesn't really like the British way of roughing it. Maybe he's right!

May we briefly welcome all newcomers to the Squadron and congratulate all promotions, including "Legs Eleven." Our Christmas Party is on us, as is a six-week Gebel jaunt—using of course the route we blazed last year. Yes,

every Regiment must have an "A" Squadron.

# "B" SQUADRON NOTES

The last year has been a busy one and the Squadron has played an active part in the many Regimental activities. There have been a number of changes in the Squadron and an up to date nominal roll will be found elsewhere in the Journal. Capt. G. R. D. Beart has retired to the fleshpots of London to study Serbo-Croat. We welcome 2nd/Lt. P. V. Burnand from Sandhurst, Sgt. Gardner from Lulworth and Sgt. Hurd from Catterick. We have lost a number of valuable men who have gone to civilian life. We hope that our recently joined reinforcements who have replaced them will be happy with us.

We survived the Annual Administrative Inspection and, although one trooper had left his identity discs in England, the District Commander seemed



WINNERS OF THE A.R.A. SQUADRON SHIELD — "B" SQUADRON Hunter, Hollingsworth, Kidd, Harmer, Prattley, Horsted, Bird, Batty, Scarr, Lt.-Col. Woodd, Mossé, Tennent



"B" SQUADRON MARCH PAST

to be happy with what he saw. He was royally entertained to hot sweet tea in the Squadron Leader's Office, in fact the tea was so hot his programme was somewhat delayed.

The Unit Maintenance Inspection was our next excitement. The Squadron put up a good show especially in view of the fact that our tanks have done a far greater mileage than any others in the Regiment and great credit is due to all those who slaved at their vehicles in the burning sun before the inspection. The best tank was probably 2nd/Lt. Hicks' with that well-known character Tpr. Vissian as driver. The success was much needed as Vissian's reputation had not then recovered from having driven his Troop Leader into a large hole in the desert where they had to remain for twelve hours. The S.R.O. Troop were in their element during the U.M.I. Their hard work and advice were, as ever, appreciated by everyone.

The most enjoyable part of the year has been on the Squadron camps. These have included all kinds of activity including maintenance, small arms shooting and tank shooting. The camps were held in countrified parts of the coast where there was good bathing and where we didn't feel right on top of R.H.Q. Sergeant-Major Vale organised several entertaining Squadron parties which included Tombola, a sing-song and inter-troop choir competitions. The officers entered the choir competition but everyone was too polite to say what they really thought. Tpr. Lewis distinguished himself as a choir leader and everyone drank lots of beer.

A notable event of the camp held near Zavia, was the families party. The wives were obviously determined to find out how their husbands earned their pay, so a visit was arranged for a Sunday afternoon. We all had a jolly tea in the Sgts. Mess tent, and mothers and children had rides on tanks and other vehicles. All are agreed that Mrs. McGregor made a splendid Tank Commander. In view of her husband's efforts (assisted by L/C Forster) in knocking down the deep trench latrine with a tank, it is felt that a change-over in role is desirable. That is when Sgt. McGregor isn't too busy attacking poor innocent "Sharks" in the Mediterranean.

In the Novices Boxing Competition, the Squadron came second, one and a half points behind the winners. The following represented the Squadron:—Cfn. Ashpole, Tpr. Hackett, Tpr. Scott, who all won their weights. Cfn. Rickards, Tprs. Fardell and Berriman lost in the preliminary rounds after close fights. Tpr. Graham reached the finals where he lost to Tpr. Arnold of "H.Q." Squadron in a very close fight. Cfn. Goudge and Morrison, Tprs.

Allsopp and Hardaker also put in much hard work in training under Lt.

Joynson's energetic supervision.

In the District Football League, we have so far won five matches, drawn two and lost three. Six members of the team, L/C Wood, L/C Bird, Tprs. Scott, Urquhart, Atkins and Parfitt have represented the Regiment. We are fortunate in having Cpl. Formby as captain of the team and Sgt. Stokes as manager. In the Inter-Troop Basket Ball Competition, the S.R.O. Troop reached the Regimental final. We also reached the final in the Cricket Competition, being liquidated unfortunately by "H.Q." Squadron.

We are now preparing for the trek to the Gebel, where we hope the weather will not be too unkind. An account of our doings there will appear in next

year's Journal.

# "C" SOUADRON NOTES

So much has happened since our last Squadron Notes that it is impossible to fit everybody and everything into the space that we are allotted—so we start by apologising to those who think they deserve a mention but haven't

got one.

We lost our Squadron Leader, Major Walsh, in May to G.H.Q. M.E.L.F., but were not allowed to mourn the fact for long as Major Sturt arrived back to guide us on. Of Captain McClure we have only had fleeting glimpses as he did not leave his private army, the Trials Troop, for long. They were all doing something very important with a new type of tank, exactly what we never found out, but we are pleased it is all over and they are back with us.

During the earlier months of the year we took part in a Regimental scheme, where, to start with, the Squadron had to make itself invisible on a flat desert. This brought many colourful remarks, but all was done by the time the C.O. paid us a visit and all went well until he suggested that the air sentry should blow his whistle. When he found one that would blow the Squadron all came out of their holes thinking that they were wanted for the S.S.M's fatigues. The C.O. made no comment.

The next time the Squadron went out it was to Zuara for a Squadron Camp and exercise with the Fleet Air Arm from Malia. A number of pilots spent 24 hours with us—they were duly impressed by the awful conditions we lived under, and so were we. For all that, we were sorry to leave the shores of the Mediterranean and go back to Sabratha.

The Squadron put out again, as soon as possible, to do the Annual Small Arms firing on the Range. We made ourselves really comfortable once we got our vehicles across the sand sea. The main purpose of this camp was to

fire Small Arms; although this was done with great success, most of our attention was focused on the C.O's vehicle inspection at the end of the camp, with the promise of a Squadron Smoker if all went well.

The Smoker was a great success and took the usual form, namely an excuse



"C" SQUADRON MARCH PAST



Adams (on 'dozer) Bourne, Brooks, Jackson, Cox, Stokes

to have a good drink, a good sing-song, and a good laugh at all those who got up to entertain us. The highlight of the evening was Cpl. (Houdini) Walsh and Tpr. Johnston with their Marvellous Mysterics-the Squadron is still wondering who fooled who. Vickers recited a poem made up for the occasion which managed to bring out the failings of most of the Squadron personalities. That evening, as on many others, we were thankful to Ali who kept us from starving with his 3 piastre sandwiches.

One afternoon during the camp we persuaded the ladies of the Squadron and the C.O's wife to pay us a visit. We entertained them with tank rides and swimming, followed by tea. Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Sturt were duly impressed by the efficiency of the Tannoy System in the tank. No matter how loud the Commander shouted "Driver HALT—for - - - - - sake!", the tank still continued to reverse towards a 3-tonner close by. As usual S.S.M. Witney came to the rescue by going mad where the driver could see him.

Since then the Squadron has been on a number of small three-day recces—each with its own incidents. On one of them we had our only scorpion bite of the year. Having heard all the awful stories of the pain you go through, Tpr. Roberts expected the worst. He is still alive, which makes us more con-

fident about sleeping on the ground at night.

1st Troop visited the Commandos for a week and learnt a great deal about track bashing and doing without sleep—as well as how to ride Arab ponies, with gentle words of instruction from Sgt. Sansom. He took over the Troop from Sgt. Berry who is now Regimental Signals Sergeant, and whom we wish

the very best of luck in his new job.

When 1st Troop eventually returned from Tarhuna the whole Squadron went to the Gunnery Range. The gunners got rid of their rounds with great success, and gave local Arabs plenty of bits of targets to pick up, including bits of an old friend—the Humber Scout Car: L/C Bown was nearly in tears when the first round hit it. The tank drivers had a go, and proved that they could hit things not only with their tanks.

Some of the Squadron have just returned from the only Desert Air Rescue of the year. The crash was near Pisida—thankfully there were no bad casualties. They guarded the wreck until the R.A.F. arrived, two days later, and learnt that "the R.A.F. does not work on Sundays". Although they saved no one from the crash, they did rescue two French ladies and a man whose

car had broken down.

Our lucky man of the year is Cpl. Haven, who won the Christmas Draw with a first prize of a B.O.A.C. ticket home and back (or the cash). His luck however did not prevent him, and a few others, from suffering from a "morning after" feeling the next day, but first prizes are not won every day.

We are now getting ready for the Regimental Rifle Meeting, which comes off next March. Luckily we still have a few of our old team with us that did so well last year—Sgt. Shakespeare, Cpl. Haven, Cpl. Bogg, Cpl. Hedges and Tpr. Swift—just to mention a few who are as good as ever.

In the Sports line we are well represented in the Regimental Football Team with Cpl. McGinley, Tpr. Tolhurst, Tpr. Hughes and L/C Dickinson. In the Novices Boxing Match Cpl. McGinley, L/C Ball, Tpr. Stafford, Tpr. Cooper, Tpr. Hughes, Tpr. Murie, Tpr. Clay, Tpr. Huson and Tpr. Horton all put up a very good show.

Before giving these Notes to Tpr. Wimbush, who now uses two fingers to type instead of one, the Squadron wishes all its older members good luck in the future and they may rest assured that their successors are now being put

through it in the correct way.

# HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON NOTES

The "Departmental Store" has in the last year shown both profits and losses as usual, and all investors have had a good dividend. We have had an enormous changeover both in officers and men, and all were very sorry to say goodbye to: - Captain James, who defeated the examiners and left for the Staff College, Captain Mossé, and Captain Beart, who is trying to learn the almost unknown language of Serbo-Croat, for what reason no one quite knows, except we believe that the female species of that country are quite attractive. Also to Captain Jackson (R.E.M.E.), who is hoodwinking the public into buying the houses that he is building, Captain Goodfellow (R.A.M.C.), 2nd/Lt. Morris (R.E.M.E.), R.S.M. Charlton, who has now taken a commission and is with the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, and S.S.M. Moore. Our replacements, a no less distinguished group, are Captain Wreford, Captain English, Captain Giblett (R.E.M.E.), Captain Garbutt (on temporary loan only Biggins (R.A.M.C.), 2nd/Lt. Allison Squadron), Captain (R.E.M.E.), R.S.M. Moore and, finally, S.S.M. Le Maitre from "C" Squadron. The last named, during a discussion over a drink one night, happened to say to Colonel Woodd that "H.Q." Squadron required organising. He found himself S.S.M. of the Squadron the next morning. Sgt. Urquhart has found his niche in the stables, and there are many others too numerous to name.

The Squadron created a precedent by getting out some surprising people on schemes. People who had been lost and forgotten in Tech. and Q.M. Stores and Provost Staff; A.C.C. Cooks who were only known on paper and had never been seen. Highlights during these schemes were when "A" Echelon were attacked by "B" Echelon, which was quite uncalled for, and Captain Beart, after a gallant fight, was captured. After his fiery temper had been quietened, socks, shoes and glasses removed, he escaped and was last seen running towards Zuara barefooted and puce in the face. He was rescued by some

kindly driver who was returning to Sabratha.

On Exercise "Swansong" the Squadron Leader was told to form a raiding party to attack the Gunners (36 H.A.A. Regt., R.A.) who had their H.Q. near Sabratha. Some ten toughs including Cpl. Noble, Cpl. Duggan, Tpr. Arnold, Sgt. Grant (on loan), Cfn. Lancaster, S.S.M. Le Maitre and Tpr. Murie were selected and set off across a salt flat on a very dark night-aim to get the enemy's H.Q., create havoc and return in one piece. This was achieved, but not without some difficulty. Ten men pushing a Land Rover for ten miles in the softest of sand is exhausting. The salt flat was easy going until the Squadron Leader, who was driving, hit a pot-hole full of water and shot S.S.M. Le Maitre and Tpr. Arnold off the tailboard into the water, where they were left shouting abuse and endeavouring to get to dry land. On arrival at the Gunners H.Q. the party was halted by two sentries who, on being asked the way to the Battery H.Q., politely stated that it was 100 yards down the track; this caused the Squadron Leader such surprise that he drove straight into a slit trench and all ten had to dismount to lift the Land Rover back onto the track. The two sentries lent a hand. It was only afterwards that they became suspicious and gave the alarm. Our thunderflashes, blanks and the speed of the Land Rover did the rest.



Tasker, Le Maitre, White, Urquhart, Sharrock In Front: Steel, Hector

Our last exercise was entirely a Squadron affair at Zuara, combining an exercise and camp, and summer was most successful: we even made friends with a section of R.M.P's from Tripoli who came out with us to act as enemy (very appropriately). Sgt. Blake (R.A.P.C.) was brought along to run the Sgts' Mess bar. He now needs no further training for the post of bartender in the largest pub in England.

On return from Camp we started thinking about the Annual Administrative Inspection. This took place early in September and once again the Squadron surprised everyone by being exceedingly smart. On the Inspection itself the Squadron Leader was rather hurt and surprised at being only asked one question by the visiting team—"May we see your Confidential File?" As Cpl. Steel had taken the precaution of marking all files "Confidential" only the day before, this was not difficult to produce.

Immediately after this the Squadron went into Camp by the sea near Zavia Ranges, in groups that stayed out a week at a time to carry out annual classification. We achieved the impossible by getting out 90 per cent of the Squadron and only having 15 failures, by fair means too. Sgt. Oliver made his new name, that of Flag Lieutenant, by shooting down the red flag at the butts, some twenty feet away from his target. In spare moments there was some bathing, and someone saw some sharks; fish were also reputed to be seen in beer. A small smoker was held at the end, where Tpr. Wheatley excelled himself with his turns. The route from Camp to the Ranges was very sandy but Captain English found he could do it in two wheel drive, with a little help at times.

In sport we have done extremely well and won the D'Arcy Hall Cup which was presented by Lt.-Col. Woodd to the Squadron Leader on a parade for General Sir Charles Keightley, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., A.D.C. We managed to win at Cricket, Boxing and Athletics. The L.A.D. won the Inter-Troop Football. A very good show was put up at the Rifle Meeting by the old firm of Captains Mossé, Roberts, Goodfellow, R.S.M. Charlton, S.Q.M.S. Reynolds, S/Sgt. Walker, Sgt Smith and Cpl Morris.

We are now preparing ourselves for the strenuous business of quenching our thirst and assuaging our hunger at Christmas. The New Year will see most of the Squadron out in the Gebel joining in the Regimental Exercises, though a few will stay behind in Sabratha to attend to the needs of the camp and the families.

We look forward to another year of sunshine, which we expect will be brought to a shivering end by our return to U.K.

# "X" TROOP, ROYAL SIGNALS

THERE have been many changes in our small but able troop since the last time we went to press. First we lost Sgt. Carney, who is now somewhere in the Canal Zone; after that came Sgt. Brill. Next was Sgt. Breslofsky who is known to "H.Q." Squadron as "Smiff" and to the R.S.M. as the man with

the long hair.

The working side of the troop is still as busy as ever. If only a photo had been taken of Cpl. Watton's face when the Stables Sgt. told him that the Colonel wanted a 19 Set mounted on his horse and would insist on the aerial being placed between its ears. I wonder if anyone in the Regiment can answer this. Is it true that Mr. Fenwick put a set in his car and when on the move never received a whistle? Is that what is meant by faster than sound?

On our operation side we are running a cadre to teach the Morse Code to the Regimental Signallers. One Sergeant-Major was heard to remark "the dits and dots were longer in my day." Our drivers are still providing a headache for M.T. Troop but our motto says "Swift and Sure," and although we only have Jerrim and Lewis left, we still get to Zavia at least once in six months. One day a stubble-faced chappie by the name of L./Cpl. Long staggered into camp after a long trip into the wilds with the 2 i.c. Anyone who wants to know how to make a Land Rover fly inquire at the Battery Shop.

Before we sign off we must mention our three Regimental Exchange Operators who, in spite of a board which was condemned in 1066, still get you the Officers' Mess if you want the Squadron Office. Is it true that L/Cpl. Leyland rang up the R.M.P's and tested the line in this manner: "This is the exchange testing. Repeat after me 1, 2, 3, 4, I cannot eat my currant bun"? The R.M.P's did this and were then told what to do with it. Farewell you

men in mobile mess tins.

# L.A.D. REME NOTES

THE L.A.D. takes this opportunity to wish Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Woodd and family all the best on leaving Sabratha, and to welcome Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Allen. We hope that the Ministry of Supply will learn as much about Land

Rover modifications as we did.

The year opened with the Regiment taking an even further stride away from horses in the change over from Comets to Centurions. The addition of stabiliser equipment led to a welcome increase in strength in the L.A.D. by the introduction of Cfn. Cook, Rowson, Roberts and Smith. One of the first exercises with the new tanks was held along the coast, supposedly preventing the landing of aquatic tanks. When the enemy failed to put in an appearance 00 ZR 38 was sent out to rout them out, with disastrous consequences. It was unable to swim as well as its imaginary foes, but did provide some practical experience for those interested in recovery.

The annual range camp provided its share of incidents, not the least of which was when a Craftsman, unable to make his rifle fire, shouted "Rifle will not fire." Captain English, who obviously understood the mechanism, came to the rescue with some technical advice: "Push the safety catch forward you idiot." The Craftsman is still blushing with shame, although he did pass

his annual range course when told his pay was in jeopardy.

The year has seen many changes in the L.A.D. personnel. 2/Lt. Brian Morris departed in August full of strong spirits and in his place we welcome 2/Lt. Bill Allison, who may be an expert on Tank Trials but apparently not in motor cycle trials and as a result has spent some time on recovery in B.M.H. 2/Lt. Ian Stark, his successor, has already joined us and is welcome to the



L.A.D. FOOTBALL TEAM

Back: Thompson, Giblett, Barber, Marshall, Russell, Campbell,
Front: Weaver, Shadbolt, Brien, Burton, Noble

fold. "Civvy Street" has also gained a number of our stalwarts in S./Sgt. Docking and Sgts. Smith, Hoskings, Foster and Southwell to whom we wish every success in the future. New arrivals include S./Sgt Furley, who is with the H.Q. L.A.D. workshop, and Sgt. Munro, our small arms expert. To them and the many others we extend a most hearty welcome.

Congratulations on promotion are extended to S./Sgt. Shadbolt, Sgts. Clark and Foster, and Cpls. Campbell, Russell, Noble, Prattley, Duggan, Hughes, Weaver and Barber. Both S./Sgt. Bailey and Cfn. Durey returned from supposedly normal U.K. leave proudly announcing their marriages. We wish them every happiness. Congratulations are also due to Sgt. and Mrs. Marshall on

the birth of their son.

In the sporting world, the L.A.D. has acquitted itself very well by winning both the Inter-Troop Football and Basketball Cups. Cfn. Burton is a prominent member of both Regimental and Squadron Soccer Teams, and the L.A.D. usually supply two or three members of the Squadron team. Captain Giblett, Cfn. Slade and Darby were members of the successful cricket team; Cfn. Slade deserves special mention for his sparkling innings of 126 not out against "B" Squadron in the Tripoli League. His was the highest score of the season.

These notes would be incomplete without some mention of those who "got their knees brown" with Trials Troop. A.Q.M.S. Thompson and Sgt. Clark became so familiar with the new tank that at a word of command from either the contents of the engine compartment would positively leap out and form up beside the tank. The third member, Cpl. Hobley, the motor cyclist/electrician/misguided photographer, also did much to add interest to a desert otherwise devoid of landmarks. Finally, our most heartfelt thanks are due to Mrs. Thompson, whose delicious additions to an otherwise uninteresting diet, did so much to raise morale.

#### **BAND NOTES**

THE past year has been a critical one from the view of manpower. Reinforcements have been very few indeed and losses many. Despite such a handicap, the record of achievement is perhaps better than in previous years. The standard of performance is as high as ever, due to the greater experience of

individuals and concentration on team work.

We have had to say goodbye to no less than eight members of the Band this year including the Band Sergeant—Sgt. Ainsley, Trumpet Major Hughes, Sgt. McCann, Cpl. Palmer, L./Cpl. Harris, Bandsmen Sinclair, Phillips and Jones and we wish them every success in their new spheres of occupation. Newcomers are Bandsmen Allport, Boswell and Bennett. They are very welcome and settling down to Band work in good style. It is an ill wind that blows no one any good, so that consequent on our large losses among the N.C.O's of the Band many promotions have been possible. Sgt. Kinsman, who joined us as a boy in 1947, took over the onerous duties of Band Sergeant. Congratulations also to Sgt. Watkins, T/M Wainwright, Cpls. Dickinson, Trego and Lunt, L./Cpls. Burnett, Moores, Poulter, Bateman and Cobbin on their promotion

Our musical activities have followed the lines laid down last year, i.e., Tuesdays, Band Concert; Thursdays, Officers' Mess; Dance nights in the Sergeants' Mess; one or two very successful dances in the Corporals' Mess; and some further broadcasting sessions from F.B.S. Tripoli. The latter have been discontinued, however, since February last, as unfortunately the standard of recording and transmission never did justice to the Band. Outside duties have again occupied much of our time, notably the first ever passing out parade for Officer Cadets of the Libyan Army. This historic event was concluded with much handshaking and paying compliments in true Eastern style, and the eating of the sweetest cakes and confectionery imaginable. The Band on this occasion outnumbered the parade by about two to one so we were spared the usual complaint from the rear files that we could not be heard. The Bandmaster arranged a General Salute for the occasion which was later accepted as the official General Salute of the Libyan Army. The 10th June found us again playing at the British Embassy at a cock-

tail party in honour of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.

At the time of writing there is no doubt that the climax of our year's activities came with the departure of the Band to Malta in order to accompany the Mediterranean

Fleet on its second Summer Cruise, an account of which appears elsewhere.

Finally, we were very sorry indeed to say goodbye to Mr. R. Hurst, our Bandmaster since 1947. We congratulate him on his M.B.E. award and wish him and Mrs. Hurst the best of luck in their new venture.

# THE DUKE OF LANCASTER'S OWN YEOMANRY

THE YEAR was an "A" year in the cycle of T.A. training and this meant that the main emphasis was on Crew and Troop training. In practice, the result is that we were very much confined to work that could be done in Drill Halls, since we have still failed to find a training area in Lancashire where even the most elementary Troop scheme can be carried out on tracks.

Perhaps the most important event of the year from the training point of view was the change over from Valentines to Charioteers which took place in February. This new vehicle, though by no means ideal, has at least the great advantage of a 20 pdr. gun on a 360 degree traverse and makes it possible to feel that we have some advantage over the anti-tank gun of the Infantry with

whom we have to co-operate.

We have as usual had to say goodbye to a large number of our friends of the P.S. during the year. There has been a considerable decrease in the numbers allowed to us and we have gradually decreased from 27 to 19. We were sorry to say goodbye to Major Desmond Scarr in September after the completion of a tour of duty which has seemed all too short. We also regret the loss of two older members of the P.S.—Major A. J. Jones and S.S.M. Prescott, both of whom have been with us since the re-formation of the Regiment in 1947. Major Jones has retired from the Army and taken up a post in the Textile



(Photo, Manchester Evening News)

Royal Guard of Honour

Her Majesty the Queen inspects the guard accompanied by

Major M. A. A. Birtwistle, T.D.

Industry, and S.S.M. Prescott has received a posting to Malaya. We wish them

both the best of luck in their new jobs.

In the meantime, we were very pleased to be able to welcome Lt. Charlton as our new Q.M. His hair is rapidly turning grey as he learns of all the terrible things that happen to a T.A. Q.M. Our P.S. is now as follows:—Captain P. L. J. Groves, Lt. (Q.M.) L. R. Charlton, W.O.I Easto, R., W.O.II Hardwidge, W., W.O.II Bentley, W., Sgt. Elliott, C., Cpl. Carter, E., Cpl. Jones, E., Cpl. Hart, R. Cpl. Marshall B., L./Cpl. Burney, W., L./Cpl. Burke, A., Tpr. Bell, A., Tpr. Dodd, C., Tpr. Howard, A., Tpr. Haven, J., Tpr. Hunter, T., Tpr. Jackson, W., Tpr. Smith, G.

Annual Camp was at Kirkcudbright this year from 22 August to 4 September. We were one of the last Regiments to go to Camp and we therefore had the opportunity of hearing a series of harrowing stories of other Regiments as one after another they were washed out as a result of this incredible Summer. Our Camp was by no means dry but on the whole we were luckier than most. The bulk of the rain fell at night and we suffered no interruption of our training, which was centred mainly on the A.F.V. Ranges, with

results which gave us confidence in our new gun.

As soon as we returned home we plunged into preparation for a great event in our life. Our Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. The Queen, was to pay a visit to Lancashire on the 21/22nd October and to us was granted the privilege of mounting a Guard of Honour to greet her on her first arrival in the County, at Wigan. The Guard comprised 100 men, drawn from every troop and Squadron in the Regiment, and was commanded by Major M. A. A. Birtwistle. We were extremely lucky to have a crisp and sunny morning for Her Majesty's Inspection. The event went off like clockwork, due in a large measure to the tremendous amount of hard work put in by Captain Groves and other members of the Permanent Staff.

#### SERGEANTS' MESS NOTES

ONCE AGAIN it has been a very successful year in all aspects of Mess life. We welcome R.S.M. Moore who arrived during April and took over from S.S.M. Le Maitre, who had been ably handling the reins during the first part of the year. Quite a number of changes have taken place since the last notes, and the "annexe" of married quarters at Zavia, which had been slowly emptying, rapidly filled up again.

During the Summer, members decided that a day's outing for both married and single by the side of the Mediterranean would be just what the doctor ordered, so at about 9 a.m. on a Sunday morning everyone moved out to Zuara some thirty odd miles away. All the trucks arrived except one. They were checked and rechecked. Yes, the tents had arrived, the tables, chairs, sunshades, crockery, food, and the donkeys too, but—the truck containing the liquid refreshment was nowhere to be seen! 11 a.m. came, and still no truck; by the look on some faces you would have thought it was a funeral instead of an outing. Worst still, the language, due to the presence of so many ladies, had to be kept to the blast! blow! and dash! sphere. Happily the truck (well laden) soon arrived and members retired to the refreshment tent and commenced to make up for lost time. The children enjoyed themselves immensely with donkey rides and races on the beach; even the "last man home" always managed to get a prize.

On the arrival of Lt.-Col. R. P. D. F. Allen, M.B.E. to take over command from Lt.-Col. B. B. N. Woodd, the Mess decided to hold a "Hail and Farewell" Dinner and guests sat down to an excellent dinner ending in a presentation to Col. Woodd of a silver ink stand. All members join in wishing him and Mrs. Woodd good luck and every success in the U.K.

Space prevents us from going into many other details, so we jump forward to Ramnuggur. Once again we were flat out to make it the entertainment of the year and so it was. The committee got down to brass tacks some weeks before the event and planned the whole thing down to the last detail. The whole evening (and early morning) went with a swing; yet again the attendance was enormous, and, with about three hundred seats provided, finding somewhere to sit was still a problem for some people. The original plan was for the Colonel of the Regiment to be our guest of honour at Ramnuggur. Unfortunately, he was delayed and did not arrive until the 26th November, so it was decided that a dinner in his honour would be held on Saturday, 27th November, followed by a dance. This evening was a great success. Sixtyeight sat down to a first class meal at an excellently laid table. Our thanks are due to the hard work of S.Q.M.S. Cundy, S.Q.M.S. Sheen and Sgt. Barker for the dinner, and the entertainment committee headed by S/Sgt. Walker, for the pleasant evening's dancing that followed it. The dinner, by the way, produced a few budding after-dinner speakers who didn't even begin "unaccustomed as I am . . .

After these activities, the Mess relaxed and started to take things a little easier. But not for a long time. Christmas is perilously close and that means the Mess Draw, the children's party and the panto. Oh! the panto. You'll have to hang on grimly for another twelve months to hear about the greatest show on earth (entrance free—we dare not charge unless all artistes are guaranteed police escort). What did you say? "What about the New Year Ball?" Give us a chance old chap, we are still looking for the Ramnuggur week-end.

# THE RAMNUGGUR BALL



The R.S.M. presents the Ramnuggur Cup to the Colonel



A PRIDE OF WARRANT OFFICERS Boulter, Norris, Prevett, Vale, Metcalfe, Witney



RECEPTION COMMITTEE - Centre, Mrs. B. Moore

# HONOURS AND AWARDS

We congratulate the following on gaining the awards shown:—

Bandmaster R. Hurst—M.B.E.; R.S.M. R. Easto (attached D.L.O.Y.)—M.S.M.; R.Q.M.S. L. Norris—L.S. & G.C. Medal; S.Q.M.S. J. Reynolds—L.S. & G.C. Medal; Sgt. G. Urquhart—L.S. & G.C. Medal, and the following on being awarded the Regimental Medal:—



Mr. R. Hurst being congratulated by S.S.M. Le Maitre on his award of the Regimental Medal.

Lt.-Col. B. B. N. Woodd—"In recognition of twenty-four years valuable service in the Regiment, culminating in his tenure of command, and for his leadership in mounted sports, particularly polo."

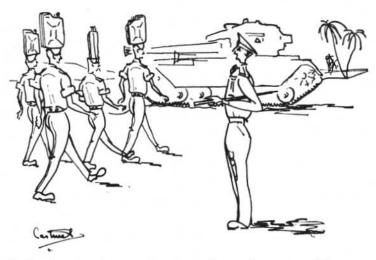
Major B. C. L. Tayleur—"For meritorious and tireless service in the Regiment, especially in training and leading to success the Regimental Pentathlon team in 1953, and in the promotion of all forms of mounted sports."

Bandmaster R. Hurst—"For his loyal and valuable contribution to the benefit and prestige of the Regiment, in forming the Regimental Band in 1947, raising it to a high standard, and maintaining its efficiency in the face of many difficulties and adversities."

## CORPORALS' MESS NOTES

This is the first time that Corporals' Mess Notes have appeared in "THE HAWK", but we hope that from now on they will become a regular feature. On our arrival in Sabratha the Mess was not a very welcoming place, but

with re-decoration, a few interior improvements and some work on the garden, it has now taken on a more pleasing appearance. Lately we have acquired two Arab waiters and are now able to sit in luxury and be served



"The local customs have made quite an impression on our daily routine."

with egg and chips, instead of standing in a long queue; although perhaps the queue method is sometimes quicker.

The past year has seeen a lot of functions, among them a games night between ourselves and the Sergeants when the "Hollis Cup" was played for, for the first time. The Corporals were invited to the Sergeants' Mess for this "do" and all arrived in a very optimistic frame of mind, though this did not help very much. We distinguished ourselves at Table Tennis and made a fair showing at Snooker, but the opponents came right out on top at Darts, having more experience at this "beer in hand" game. The outcome of the evening was that the Sergeants won the Cup, which was duly presented to them by Major P. F. W. Browne, D.S.O., M.C.

Our dances have achieved great popularity, one being held in our own Mess and two others in the Troopers' NAAFI, where we were able to entertain more guests and use a greater space for dancing.

Every Wednesday evening a hush settles over the Mess and all that can be heard is the shuffle of playing cards, hoarse exclamations and occasional shouts of "M.C."—another Whist Drive is in progress. This is one of our less strenuous forms of entertainment, and it has become a regular weekly feature being well attended by senior N.C.O's and their families. We wish to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Le Maitre and Mrs. Raine for their great help in making the sandwiches, which are greatly appreciated during the interval.

Preparations are now being made for the Christmas and New Year celebrations, and when this journal goes to press the good times and the sore heads will be behind us. All that remains for us is to congratulate the Mess members who have become husbands during the year, welcome the many new members to the Mess and to wish the very best of luck to any "Old Boys" who may read these Notes.

## OLD COMRADES' NEWSLETTER

The following notes have been received from Major G. H. Swallow.

The Re-union Buffet Dance for 1954 was again a notable success. A large number attended, but there is still plenty of room for more to come along, and all are welcome. We were fortunate in getting Lt.-Col R. P. D. F. Allen, who was on his way to take command of the Regiment, to come along and tell us briefly what the Regiment had been doing over the past twelve months. His report, based on notes received from the Regiment, was very inspiring with news of the many successes the Regiment has gained in the field of sport, and it was very much appreciated by us all.

The-following attended the Re-union:

General Sir Richard L. McCreery, Col. E. J. Bridges, Col. H. A. R. Tilney, Lt.-Col. J. M. Hamer, Lt.-Col. R. P. D. F. Allen, Lt.-Col. R. J. Stephen, Lt.-Col. O. J. F. Fookes, Lt.-Col. E. B. Studd, Majors W. J. Smith, J. P. S. Pearson, A. R. Sturt, P. T. Drew, C. F. Johnston, P. Clifford, D. E. R. Scarr, Captains G. S. Sanders, P. L. J. Groves, C. A. Camburn, M. A. Urban-Smith, P. H. Moffat, Messrs. M. H. Goodhart, J. Maitland, P. Bromley, L. R. Charlton, E. Clark, S. A. Wheeler, S. W. Wheeler, H. V. Nalty, G. H. Nichols, F. Crossley, R. E. Luck, H. V. Smith, D. R. Staniford, B. E. Birtchnell, W. Brown, S. Scott, J. W. Spooner, J. W. Dawson, R. Sherwood, J. S. F. Jackson, H. M. Brodie, R. W. Jones, M. Drury, C. F. Bishop, H. St. Pierre, G. E. Hall, R. G. Wordward, A. Dixon, A. Sandham, H. Parr, J. M. Houcher, J. Blake, C. T. Smith, H. V. Britton, E. J. Clayton, C. V. Shepherd, J. R. Loxham, C. J. Pilborough, W. J. Adams, R. Seth, J. McDermott, E. Wooton, J. Duffield, E. Kirby, P. Harmer, J. Shepherd, T. W. Corbett, R. Jones, J. P. Murray, D. Hales, C. G. Smith, D. A. Walters, C. H. Harris, F. Blackwell, Smith, J. E. Jones, P. W. Challis, W. A. Wilson, W. S. J. Evans, G. H. D. Sheekey, H. E. Freeman, L. E. Moore, P. W. Jones, S. Stonehouse, S. G. Penfold, W. A. Bradley, F. Stacey, T. C. L. Aston, H. E. Clift, J. Pearl, J. H. Tissington, J. H. Taylor, B. G. Young, H. Hallard, E. Scott, A. J. Bunce, H. C. Harris, J. R. Burnett, J. M. Pentland, R. Brant, J. Grogan, F. G. Coath, T. O. Morris, H. Wise, T. Weston, L. Berge, J. Morris, F. F. Lander, J. Morris, C. A. Terry, L. E. Powell, C. Hawkes, A. McKay, H. J. Gayton, J. Kitson, T. Crowley, Sgt. Coles, Sgt. Charlton and Sgt. Volley.

For the Combined Cavalry Memorial Service Parade in Hyde Park on the Sunday following the Re-union, we mustered about 80 strong. General Sir Richard L. McCreery commanded the whole of the parade for the March Past and Lt.-Col. J. A. T. Miller commanded the Regimental contingent. His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester took the salute. Five Cavalry Bands were in attendance on a rather cold bleak morning and a few minutes after the "Dismiss" had been sounded, there was a torrential downpour of rain which continued for some time and very soon scattered everyone to their

usual "haunts", where no doubt re-unions began all over again.

Anyone paying a visit to South Wales will always find a warm welcome accorded by Les H. Stock, Mine Host at the "Coach and Horses", Tenby. Here's the best house in town and should you drop in, just as I did, you are likely to meet more than one who served with the Regiment. You will think yourself lost when you first look in and see the place decorated with nautical pieces, but among them you will discover the Regimental Badge painted on a shield, and on the wall in one of the rooms you will find a picture of "Medecina". Stock would like to meet all his old friends again. There's lots to talk over. Try it if you are that way.

Ex-Trooper Sillett, who finished his National Service with the Regiment when they went overseas, has so far had a very successful season in the

Amateur Boxing World. However, Sillett, ex-Army Bantam Weight Champion, now a scale maker at Acton, fought and won his last amateur fight against a team from Germany at the Albert Hall in November. He has now applied for a licence to fight as a professional. We all wish him every success in his new venture.

Mr. A. Herbert, now living at 27 Green Street, Smethwick, Staffs who saw service with the Regiment in Ireland, South Africa, India and Mesopotamia, wishes to be remembered to his old friends. James "Jock" Sutherland, residing at 11 Hutchinson Cottages, Edinburgh 11, also wishes to be remembered to any old friends who may still remember him. W. J. Bradley, aged 74, of Wirral, Cheshire, wishes to be remembered. F. R. D. Paveley, now employed in the National Bank of India, Berbera, Somaliland, sends greetings to all who were with him during the war.

The following old and younger members of the Regiment joined the O.C.A.

during the past year:-



A GROUP OF OLD COMRADES

with Seated-Lt.-Col. R. P. D. F. Allen, Lt.-Col. J. M. Hamer, Col. The Rev. H. A. R. Tilney

A. Chamberlain, A. W. Beck, P. Buckland, A. G. Brown, K. D. R. Dix, T. W. A. Docking, M. Hoskins, G. Imlay, B. Jenkins, T. Limbert, G. J. Miller, D. B. Morris, R. McCormack, F. O'Brien, W. Perry, P. J. Smith,

S. Stonehouse, D. W. Smith, H. Wise, and W. J. Williams.

The Annual Dinner of the 43rd Gurkha Lorried Bde. was again held at "Simpsons in the Strand" during the Motor Show week in October. It was a very enjoyable party and one would like to see more of the Regiment attending. The "Gurkha Boys" are only a small party but they do like to meet up with those with whom they made contact during the war, and this was shown in their appreciation of the speech made at the Dinner by Lt.-Col. B. B. N. Woodd on behalf of the Regiment. Field Marshall Sir John Harding will be the chief guest at the Dinner next year. If you would like to attend, let me know and I will be only too pleased to give you all particulars. I can get you a 43rd Gurkha Bde. Tie if you wish-Price 12/6 each.

A number of vacancies exist in the War Department Constabulary. Candidates of up to 50 years of age considered. Some marriage accommodation provided. Anyone interested please apply to Major G. H. Swallow, 20 Courtlands Avenue, Langley, Bucks, for further information.

During the week 3rd—IIth November the Field of Remembrance at Westminster was open and remembrance crosses were planted to the memory of those of the Regiment who gave their lives for their country.

#### **OBITUARY**

Major G. L. Scott.—It is with great regret that we announce the death of Major Gerald Scott, as the result of a motor accident on 4th June, 1954, near his house in Kenya. "Gerry" Scott, after gaining his B.A. degree at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, was gazetted to the Regiment, at that time stationed at Aldershot, on 23rd October, 1928. Service in Egypt and India followed, and during those years he was able to indulge to the full in all those Field Sports of which he was so fond. Never was he happier than when he had a scatter gun or game rifle in his hands. His long partnership in game shooting enterprises with then S.Q.M.S. (later to be R.S.M.) Slatter will long be remembered as a sure producer of good sport, and those who partook may well look back to happy days of good comradeship and well-filled game bags.

Others will recall his administration of the Gogra Tent Club and nostalgically remind themselves of days "pig-sticking" in his company over Lionel
Hearsey's territory in the Terai. At the outbreak of war, he was on leave in
England and went off to France with the B.E.F., but returned to the Regiment
in October 1941. He then served continuously with the Regiment until 1945
and was one of those who steadfastly declined repatriation on the grounds of
long service abroad, feeling that, though our fortunes were then far from our
taste, he could not leave his Regiment in the hour of need. Later he served
with the British Military Mission to Greece and after that with the Somaliland Scouts, to the discomfiture of the "shifta" on the Abyssinian border. He
retired from the Army in 1950 and went to live in Kenya. In him we, his
contemporaries, lose a good friend, a good officer, and a good sportsman,
the memory of whom will remain always as a souvenir of the happiest years.
We join in offering our deepest sympathy to his wife in her great loss.

P. F. W. B.

Corporal Clover.—Cpl. Clover joined the Regiment in September 1950 and was posted to "C" Squadron. He soon settled down and became a very popular and efficient member of the Squadron. He was killed on 4th June, 1954 in a tank accident. He will be a great loss to all his many friends throughout the Regiment and especially to his Squadron to which he was always so loyal. He was buried with Military Honours in Tripoli on 5th June 1954. Our deepest sympathy goes to his parents and family.

Trooper G. Dickson.—Tpr. Dickson joined the Regiment on 20th May, 1954 and was posted to "C" Squadron. He had only been in the Regiment a fortnight when he was killed in a tank accident on 4th June, 1954. He was buried with Military Honours at the Military Cemetery, Tripoli on 5th June, 1954. The sympathy of the whole Regiment is extended to his parents and family.

Lesley Bruniges.—Lesley Bruniges, daughter of Sergeant and Mrs. Bruniges, died on 5th December, 1954 as the result of an accident. All members of the

Regiment wish to express their deepest sympathy to Sergeant and Mrs. Bruniges on their loss.

- S. Wallis.—14th/20th Hussars, ex "C" Squadron and "M.G." Squadron, died January 1954.
- A. T. Trowbridge.-ex-Sgt.-Major 20th Hussars, died March 1954.
- H. W. Saville.—20th Hussars, late of 5 Eastern Avenue, Waltham Cross, died March 1954.
- E. Bourner.—20th Hussars, late of 40 Hartfield Crescent, Wimbledon, died March 1954.
- C. Rix.—20th Hussars, late of 58 Ferrers Road, Hammersmith, died 1954.

Major C. H. F. Prescott-Westcar.—Died August 1954. Brigadier J. G. Browne writes that Major Prescott-Westcar joined the Regiment at Aldershot when they mobilised in November 1899, and left with them on the Cattleboat "Victorian" in December the same year for service in South Africa. They shared the same cabin. Together they served in the Spion Kop operations and then, just after the battle of Vaal-Kranz, Prescott-Westcar was taken ill and invalided home.

# MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS MARRIAGES

We congratulate and offer our best wishes to the following on the occasion of their marriages: Major and Mrs. G. L. Sullivan, Major and Mrs. D. E. R. Scarr, Major and Mrs. G. L. Scott-Dickens, Captain and Mrs. R. W. English, S/Sgt. and Mrs. A. Bailey, Cpl. and Mrs. L. Bates, Cpl. and Mrs. F. Haldenby, Cpl. and Mrs. R. Lunt, L/Cpl. and Mrs. J. Alexander, L/Cpl. and Mrs. C. Windle, Tpr. and Mrs. G. Atkins, Tpr. and Mrs. C. Harper, Tpr. and Mrs. T. Murphy, Cfn. and Mrs. K. Durey, and Bdsm. and Mrs. A. McComb.

# **BIRTHS**

Congratulations to Major and Mrs. G. N. Loraine-Smith (twin sons), Captain and Mrs. W. D. Garbutt (a son), W.O.II and Mrs. Witney (a son), W.O.II and Mrs. Boulter (a son), Sgt. and Mrs. Marshall (a son), Sgt. and Mrs. Kinsman (a daughter), Sgt. and Mrs. Watkins (a son), Cpl. and Mrs. Jackson (a son), Cpl. and Mrs. Perry (a daughter), Cpl. and Mrs. Trego (a son), Cpl. and Mrs. Urquhart (a daughter), Cpl. and Mrs. Hilker (a son), L/Cpl. and Mrs. Windle (a son), and Tpr. and Mrs. Anderton (a son).

## **EQUITATION**

During the last year great changes have taken place in the stables. Firstly we now own twenty-two ponies and secondly we are the proud possessors of some first class new stables which were entirely built by soldiers of the Regiment. This "self-help" team did a splendid job, but it is best not to enquire too deeply from whence came the building materials.

Our twenty-two ponies are all shapes, sizes and colours, gentle mannered and man-eaters, but Sergeant Urquhart and his grooms have worked long and late hours caring for them and great credit is due to them. Trooper Brookes was so conscientious infeeding that he was actually sampling the foods before giving them to the ponies, with disastrous results when Epsoms were given

without warning him.

In addition to the regular staff, many other soldiers in the Regiment, too numerous to mention by name, helped enormously by riding ponies to and from the polo ground. This has meant that they have given up many afternoons of leisure and have worked late in the evenings cleaning and bedding down the ponies. Both the stable staff and the pony owners are most grateful to these voluntary helpers and thank them for their willing assistance.

We were lucky to secure ponies from the First Infantry Division Saddle Club when it disbanded, and we also purchased half a dozen ponies from the Tripolitania Police Force when they mechanised. Most of those new ponies

took straight to polo as soon as they arrived.

#### RIDING SCHOOL

Throughout the year, before the break of dawn, the younger officers, not always clear-eyed and eager, have been seen doubling down to the stables for

riding school.

Two rides have been run. One, a polo ride under the Colonel's instruction assisted by Captain Roberts, and the other a beginners' ride under Major Tayleur. The Colonel's ride has produced several officers who can now successfully school their own ponies. The beginners' ride has been doing well and is frequently reinforced by new officers.



Major A. R. Sturt on "Iraq"

#### RACING

In April, the Regiment ran two race meetings. The first was a domestic affair held on the local Sorman salt flats about two miles from the barracks, and the second was a full-fledged meeting held Busetta Race Course Tripoli.

The Sorman races were a little unusual because course was triangular and each



REGIMENTAL RACE — BUSETTA Capt. W. D. Garbutt being presented with the Cup by the Wali

side was only a furlong. This presented the jockeys with the problem of deciding whether to take a three hundred degree corner fast and wide on a slippery surface or hook up and nip round the corner flag closely. Suffice it to say that the spectators laughed their heads off and a good number of ponies came down at the first corner. Mick Batty fell "out of the side door" on the straight, and this gave the race to Lt.-Col. Woodd on Norfolk—the only pony that remained upright throughout.

There was also a race for local Arabs which was unusually entertaining. Some fifteen highly excited locals clad in their baracans were lined up with difficulty by Major Douglas Scarr, the starter. He dropped the flag and was nearly cut down by a flood of rearing ponies, yelling Arabs and flailing whips. Quite a number of the gentlemen failed to make the first corner at all and were last seen disappearing towards the Tunisian border. One Arab took his corners so wide that he galloped through the crowd, knocked down a man and a boy, passed through the car park, unsettled the Band and rejoined the race at the next corner. He was most hurt when he was disqualified.

The Libyan Police Race was equally wild and entertaining. One local Arab punter was so disgusted with the result of this race that he threw his bicycle in front of the winning horse just after it passed the finishing post, bringing horse and rider crashing to the ground! No assistance was offered to the fallen jockey, but the owner of the bicycle was removed to hospital after the

jockey's police friends had finished with him.

The meeting at Busetta a week later was a more conventional one and had all the trimmings of bars, restaurant, the Band and well dressed women. Lt.-Col. Woodd's Fileur won the Open Race with ease. Captain Garbutt on his Iraq won the Regimental Race for Class I horses, this for the second time. His Excellency the Wali Sadik Muntasser presented the prizes.

#### POLO

In the last year the standard of polo has improved enormously thanks to Lt.-Col. Woodd's efforts in instruction and enthusiasm. We played the Inter-Squadron polo tournaments for 1953 and 1954 in March. In each case "H.Q."

Squadron played "A" Squadron in the finals and won.

In May, the Regiment sent six players and ten ponies to Malta for a week to play three matches. The ponies were shipped in the cattle boat "Dorabella" and had a very rough crossing. Major Tayleur, the grooms and the ponies looked very queer on arrival in Malta's Grand Harbour, but nevertheless the first match was played within two hours of landing.

This match was against the combined Gunners in Malta who beat us 7 goals to 2. The Regimental Team consisted of Lt.-Col. Woodd (3), Major



Lt.-Col. Allen on "Fileur" during the Boxing Day paperchase.

Tayleur (2), Mr. Stoddart (Back) and Mr. Baxter (1). The second match was against Lord Louis Mountbatten's team the Haf Med, who finally beat us 3 goals to 2½ but had to fight hard for it. None of us were really a match for Lord Louis' hard and accurate hitting nor his first class ponies. In this match the Regimental team was Lt.-Col. Woodd (3), Major Tayleur (2), Captain Palmer (1) and Mr. Stoddart (Back). The last match was against H.Q. Malta, known as the Castillians, in which the G.O.C., General Daunt, and the C.R.A., Brigadier Beville, played. We beat them 5 goals to 4 in spite of an excellent lunch with General Daunt before the game. The team for this match was Lt.-Col. Woodd (3), Major Tayleur (2), Captain Garbutt (Back) and Captain Palmer (1). It is surprising that Major Tayleur and Captain Garbutt could play polo at all as

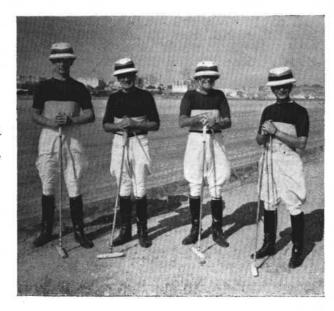
they were staying with the Royal Australian Air Force at Takali and their hosts did their utmost to keep them permanently out of bed and in a state of anaesthesia.

In December, 45 Commando Royal Marines were temporarily at Tarhuna and they challened the Regiment to a four chulche the could provide the propies. We

challenged the Regiment to a four chukka match if we could provide the ponies. We gave them a handicap of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  goals and managed to beat them by 11 goals to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . The Royal Marines had a little difficulty with certain of our ponies but they gave us an excellent game and pressed in the attack frequently.

In the New Year we are hoping to send another team to Malta, or perhaps even two teams.

THE REGIMENTAL TEAM AT MALTA Palmer, Tayleur, Woodd, Garbutt





DESERT RECCE PARTY

Behind: Muftah, Mahmud, Hamilton-Browne, Browne, Knabe, Scott, Chuber, Frost Front: Fasbender, Freeman, Long, Caldo

#### DESERT JOURNEY

On October 10th, 1954, a small caravan left Tripoli to hunt for oil in the Southern Desert of Libya. To it were admitted those noted "scientists"—Sgt. Freeman L.A.D. R.E.M.E. L/C Long, "X" Troop Royal Signals, Tpr. Scott and myself. Needless to say there were other specialists in the party including Tony Hamilton-Browne, late of the L.R.D.G., as navigator and general adviser on the country, Bob Knabe, Stewart Chuber, Jim Fasbender and "Professor" Frost, all of the Socony Vacuum Oil Company Inc. "Caldo" Aldo, Mahmud and Muftah completed the party. The whole arrangement as far as we were concerned was at the very kind invitation of Mr. Gubbins, who directs the activities of the Socony Vacuum Oil Company in Tripoli. He, unfortunately, was unable to come himself.

Now to come straight to the point—Did we find oil?—No. To put the situation squarely, it was never envisaged that we would, except in the 1000—1 chance of finding a "seep". The real purpose was to make a geological reconnaissance of the ground traversed, with the object of collecting data on which the likelihood of finding oil at a later date could be assessed. So neat little linen bags were filled with samples of rock and fossils and labelled with the location from which they had been taken, and copious notes on "dips" and the quality and types of rocks taken. The results of all this will take weeks, if not months to collate, and the "findings" will no doubt be placed in the Top Secret file of Socony Vacuum Oil Company until the time is ripe for action. Our particular assignment was to produce a "going" report of the area traversed, the results of which have now been edited in the form of a sort of "Travel in the Sahara Without Tears"!

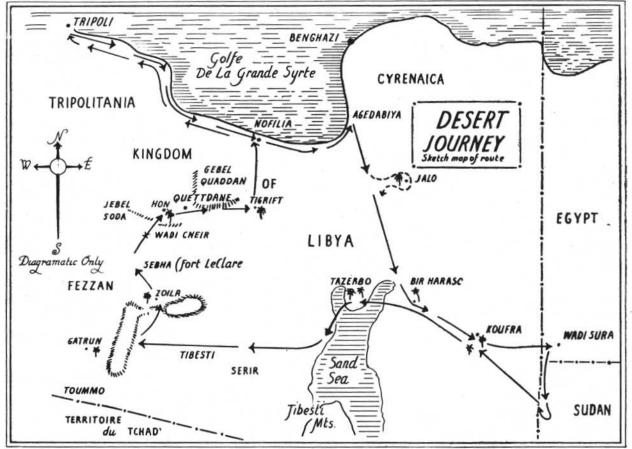
What of the journey? We completed the leg to Agedabia in a raging ghibli, spending the night just outside Syrte on the way. Then, after taking up

petrol and re-adjusting the loads, we took off for the South. To Bir Harasc the route travelled takes in some of the best desert one is likely to find anywhere and high speeds are to be expected. All the way we were buoyed up by Tony Hamilton-Browne's promise that he had built a little swimming pool in the oasis during the war. Though the remains were there, the well had sanded up and the pool filled in. Over this stretch the geologists had little use for their hammers, and Stewart Chuber and I, who were travelling together, amused ourselves making a little collection of stones, taken for their aesthetic value rather than for any promise of oil. En route a short visit was paid to Gialo, an oasis which has little to commend it but which did "come good" with a barrel of petrol. From Harasc to Koufra the route lies through ironstone hills (Nubian to the professionals), rather grim looking country, but which, I am informed, may hold commercial quantities of iron. My own view is that anyone can have it! At Koufra, the next port of call, we left the heavier vehicles and went on to the Egyptian frontier at Wadi Sura. It was disappointing that we did not, in fact, see the Neolithic cave paintings there, but at least we did not have to scuttle from suspicious frontier patrols. Other examples of neolithic paintings were seen later at U'Weinat which we reached a day and a half later, after a certain amount of sand trouble. U'Weinat is, in a forbidding way, rather attractive and we camped comfortably amid hills, which consist of enormous boulders, and dined off a gazelle, which I had "bagged" earlier in the afternoon.

The return journey to Koufra was without incident. There we collected our heavy vehicles and headed for Tazerbo. It was unlucky that most of us missed Captain Booth's party from the Greys, who passed through in our absence at Wadi Sura. To Tazerbo we covered much the same ground as the last leg of the outward journey, and it was not until we entered the Sand Sea that the character of the country changed.

This remarkable place is not a "Sand Sea" in the general meaning of the term, although so marked on the map. It is, in fact, long lines of high dunes in between which is most excellent going. We were clear of it in one day's travelling. After a fairly auspicious start over flat gravel plain of the Northern Tibesti Serir, we ran into our first really bad going—in Arabic "Fesh, Fesh". I for one will not forget it in a hurry. For many miles across this area, which occupied the next two days, ditching boards were much used.

Our time there was interesting as there was a great deal of marine fossil in the hills and wadis, and also it was here that we came upon a neolithic flint implement factory. My own interpretation of this part of the Sahara, which was, I think, supported by the technical comments of the geologists, is that a great branch of the sea lay over this part of Africa. Probably it existed as a prolongation to the South of the present Gulf of Syrte stretching down as far as the foothills of the Tibesti, and probably, by the present conformation of the ground, down to Lake Chad. As the years went by parts of it became isolated into great lagoons which gradually dried out as the North African climate changed to approximately what it is today, leaving behind enormous shell-beds. These might well have been the relics of a gargantuan feast of some prehistoric "Walrus and the Carpenter". Judging by the size and obvious use of the flint implement "factories" one is led to assume that this area once supported quite a sizeable population. Therefore there must have been game, and if game, then vegetation. Now, through the perverseness of the European climate (possibly the end of the Ice Age ?), all that remains is "Fesh, Fesh", though perhaps the spirits of the departed hunters live on in the many hawks that soar over the desert. These prey on



CORRECTION-Fort LeClare to read Fort Leclerc

all the migratory birds that pass that way. I think that the saddest sight among the many little victims in their killing grounds was that of an ordinary little English Robin struck down as he fled from the European winter, on his way towards the sun.

Our intention had been to call in at Gatrun on our way to Sebha, but the Gebel Gheneni interposed itself as an impassable barrier, so we turned North and went by way of Zuila. Certainly the little white fort at Sebha with its tricolour on top is a grand sight, and even better when you know that a bath is in the offing. We made the most of it while there, though we saw none of the old faces of the 3me Compagnie de la Legion who entertained us so royally on our last visit. For those who remember it, it is all very up to date now—"Drinks at Le Peroquet", "Dinner in the Restaurant" (and quite a good one too!).

The road from Sebha up to the Dunes de Cneir now has road gangs on it, but still retains its reputation for pot-holes of enormous size. Thereafter we could press on fast to Hon only slightly delayed by the road over the Jebel Soda, which though much improved since our first crossing two years ago, is still very moderate. That night in camp at Ouettdane we dined off another gazelle, shot this time by Scott with the active co-operation of the "Professor". This was shot earlier in the day than mine and as a result somewhat tenderer. A delicious meal! From Ouettdane on the going deteriorated but geologically was of considerable interest in the fossil line.

This area of the Gebel Ouaddan was, I am told, a happy hunting ground for the late Marshal Balbo when viceroy, and, though none were seen, there are "ouaddan" (wild sheep—moufflon) there.

From Ouaddan via Tigrift and Nofilia took us three days to Tripoli, the last half of the journey being along the coast road. So ended a journey which had traversed about 5,000 miles of little known and certainly sketchily mapped country. The vehicles had gone splendidly and though the long wheel-base Land Rovers, of which we had four, had their springs in pretty peculiar shape, they lasted out. Our load carriers (4 x 4 Dodge Power Wagons) though loaded to the gunwhales, had been faultless and though one did once "jump off" its body, it was rectified by Sgt. Freeman within the hour. Bob Knabe's meticulous "quartermastering" had been a first rate complement to Tony Hamilton-Browne's superlative dead reckonings in navigation. The company had been of the best, and I should like, through these columns, to express our thanks for the kindness and the hospitality we enjoyed throughout the trip; also to wish Mr. Gubbins and his team from Socony Vacuum Oil Company the best results as the outcome of this trip, and all luck in their future quests,

P. F. W. B.

#### THE LAST BRITISH CAVALRY CHARGE?

BY MAJOR-GENERAL H. L. DAVIES, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.

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Editor of the Royal United Service Institute Journal.)

The interest that has been aroused by the publication of Cecil Woodham-Smith's book "The Reason Why" leads me to describe briefly a little-known affair which, unless I am very much mistaken, marked the last charge with the "arme blanche" ever made by a complete regiment of British Cavalry. This occurred in July, 1919, in Anatolia, during the events immediately preceding what is generally known as the "Chanak incident."

In the Summer of 1919, a British-Indian force was in occupation of Ismid, preventing the infiltration of Turkish Nationalist bands into the Ismid Peninsula on the north coast of the Aegean Sea. The land communications of this force ran along the coast and at one place passed over an important bridge called the Gebze bridge.

Gebze village, a mile or so from the bridge, was on a plain dotted with vineyards, and dominated by a great hill bastion called the Beghlich Dagh. Early in July, a band of Turkish Nationalists, some 400 strong, infiltrated from the north, seized Gebze village, blew the bridge, and remained in occupation.

It became a matter of some urgency to restore the communications. Consequently a force of all arms was concentrated at Touzla, 15 miles west of Gebze, with orders to evict the Nationalists, secure the village and bridge, and repair the latter. The striking force comprised the 20th Hussars, the 30th (H) Battery, R.A., the 2/39th Royal Garhwal Rifles, and a detachment of Engineers. This striking force set off on the evening of 12th July, 1919 from Touzla with the object of reaching positions of assembly by first light, from which the attack on Gebze could be developed.

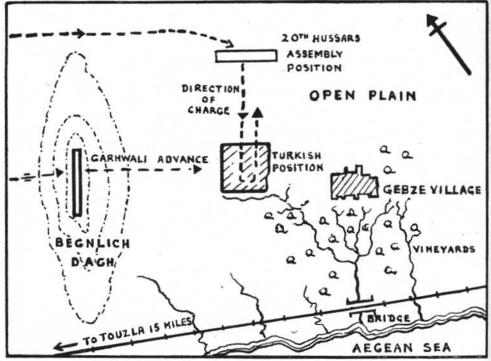
The 2/39th Royal Garhwal Rifles, supported by the artillery, were to secure the Beghlich Dagh by a night attack. The 20th Hussars were to assemble north of the Beghlich Dagh and to operate, as the situation developed, against the flank and rear of the Turks opposing the further advance of the infantry from Beghlich Dagh on to the village.

Beghlich Dagh was found to be occupied by a Turkish outpost. This was rapidly eliminated by the Garhwali night advance and by first light on the 13th July the hill features were in our possession, while the cavalry were ready in their assembly position on the north flank.

As the Garhwali attack on the village developed from Beghlich Dagh, the Turks moved forward from Gebze and occupied prepared positions covering the village. The 20th Hussars, being very suitably placed on the Turkish flank, promptly proceeded to charge.

It was a magnificent spectacle as seen from the top of Beghlich Dagh. The Hussars charged with two squadrons up, each in column of troops. The ground was flat and not unduly broken, so the charge was carried out at a fast pace over the 1,000 yards or so that separated the cavalry's assembly position from the Turkish flank.

The Hussars went right through the Turkish position, wheeled, and passed through the enemy a second time, their sabres flashing in the early morning



CORRECTION-Begnlich Dagh to read Beghlich Dagh

sunshine as they slashed their way through the somewhat disorganised riflemen. The Turks for their part, though completely taken by surprise and tactically quite unbalanced to deal with this threat from their flank, behaved most admirably. There was no panic. Little groups of Turkish riflemen disposed themselves to fire into the onrushing squadrons and, even after the reverse charge, they were still a coherent unit standing their ground.

The threat of the now rapidly advancing Garhwalis against their disorganised front, however, was too much even for the dour Turkish infantry, and they withdrew deliberately, and quite coolly, through the village, dispersing into the tangled mass of vineyards and ravines south-west of the plain.

As might be expected in a surprise attack of this nature, the Hussars' casualties were very light. They had one officer badly wounded in the shoulder and several horses were hit. The Turks lost 20 to 25 men sabred.

There was no more opposition after the Turkish withdrawal. The village was occupied, detachments established at tactical points, and the bridge secured. Repairs were put in hand immediately and the communications were re-established within three days. The Turks never ventured into the peninsula again after this action, and shortly afterwards the Greek army took over the occupation of the area from the British.

After reading "The Reason Why" it is satisfactory to be able to record that the last British cavalry charge was well planned, well handled, and entirely successful.

#### LIBYAN MOUNTED POLICE

By LT.-Col. L. Allen, Superintendent, Police Training College, Tripoli

WHEN, in 1945, the Administration of Tripolitania decided to mechanise the police force, a number of horses were retained, which included forty selected stallions and geldings, for ceremonial purposes in Tripoli. Special uniforms were made and equipment obtained from England, but no Police officer was available to train the forty mounted policemen in the use of the sword and lance. Fortunately the 14th/20th King's Hussars were stationed just outside Tripoli and the Commanding Officer Lt.-Col. R. P. D. F. Allen, M.B.E.,

authorised Major Sturt to take on the task.

The first party of police arrived at Sabratha on 6th July, 1954 under Sergeant Regheb Ramadan, who fortunately speaks English and acted as interpreter. Most Arabs are able to ride a horse well in their own way, but a considerable amount of training is necessary to get uniformity of style and seat and to learn how to drill with swords and lances. The month passed quickly and the men and horses responded well under the able instruction of Major Sturt. Their drill was so good that it was decided to hold a passing out parade at Sabratha on 6th August, 1954, and many notables were present including the Nazir of the Interior and other members of the Government, the Commissioner of Police, and Libyan and British Police Officers and families.

This course was such a success that more police reported to Sabratha for training on 7th September. The full extent of the training received by the Ceremonial Troop under Major Sturt was well demonstrated on 13th November when they gave a grand display of drill and skill at arms during a passing out parade at the Police Training Ground, Busetta. The Governor of Tripolitania took the salute, with the President of the Executive Council and other prominent members of the Government, and representatives of the British and American Armed Forces were present. This was the first opportunity that the Ceremonial Troop had had to show the public what they had learnt at Sabratha and, during the twenty minutes they occupied the arena, they convinced everybody present that the Troop had a future.

At the appointed time the Troop trotted on smartly in sections and swung into line facing the Governor. The red facings of their blue uniforms showed a bright contrast to the sober white gauntlets; and the sun flashed on

their sword scabbards and lance heads. smart salute, and away they wheeled to perform the intricate movements of troop. drill. Later lances were planted and after an exhibition of sword drill they trotted off to the accompaniment of hearty clapping from spectators. thrilling display horsemanship followed



MOUNTED POLICE

with jumping, tent-pegging and swordcraft, and then as a grand finale the whole troop galloped past with a final salute to the Governor.

Such a mounted display has not been seen before in this country and the Ceremonial Troop is now "on the map"—thanks to the very kind and able assistance of the 14th/20th King's Hussars.



TRIALS TROOP

#### TRIALS TROOP

TRIALS TROOP was formed in October, 1953 to conduct War Office User Trials of two of our latest tanks. The arrival of the first tank was a great event. Most of Tripoli was at the docks to see it unloaded. The journey to Sabratha was a triumphant procession, with policemen clearing the roads before us and a Field Security sleuth warding off the beautiful spies.

The first few weeks were spent finding out how it worked, and we also acquired a Centurion, which was to follow us around for comparison purposes. We then spent three weeks on the Gefara Plain and a lot was learned by everyone. Shortage of spares reduced our running, and many days and nights were spent digging in. After Christmas we tried the tank out on some reinforcements and selected Tpr. Wood as a driver. We also acquired Tpr. Hoddinott, who became our ace welder, producing many excellent but unauthorised modifications. In February, the second tank arrived and we went out to the plain for good. The private army had grown and we now had two 3-tonners, a dozer, and a water cart with those most reliable of drivers Tprs. Trigg, Lamb, Bradbury and Slater.

For three weeks, we moved around living in our vehicles and enjoying the "ghiblis." These are hot winds blowing from the South and raising every grain of sand and dust with them. They last for two or three days and make life quite impossible so that one has to follow the example of the snakes and scorpions and retire to one's tent. This pleased L./Cpl. Robinson who for some reason enjoys chasing snakes. Our worst ghibli came in May. Tents came down and the pay departed across the desert at speed, hotly pursued by the 2 i/c and Sgt. Sharrock. On another occasion, a ghibli blew Tpr. Lamb's truck 1,000 yards away into a wadi and intermixed flying stones from the hill behind us, sheet metal travelling waist high, and scantily clad soldiers, all at 2.00 a.m.

Among several visitors came a representative from an electrical firm, who carried out modifications and taught Cpl. Hobley all about electricity. He had been warned about the scorpions and refused to enter a tent. By now

mechanical trouble was rife, and from Sgt. Clark, doing 1st, 2nd and 3rd line repairs mostly by himself, was often heard the cry, "I wish those ——scientists would come and try to take this —— brake drum off," followed by a rain of assorted tools upon the desert.

At one period we adjourned to the coast where the days of maintenance and repair (and swimming) were enlivened by pilots of 803 Squadron R.N. who came to strafe us periodically. They sportingly agreed to let us fire Verey Pistols at them and to arrange explosions on the beach through which they had to fly when they came in low. Some nasty man persuaded Tpr. Field that they didn't like us and were dropping bombs.

After this break we chose the hottest days of the year for our return to the plain. It reached 107° at night and 125° by day before settling down to 100° plus for the next three months. We were more than grateful for our newly acquired desert camouflage nets, which were ideal for keeping out flies which arrived in their millions. In July from the M of S came two more boffins. Their presence had a salutary effect on the tanks which covered a record day's mileage.

August saw more digging and air photography, tanks on fire and tanks broken. In September, 2/Lt. Hinton, our popular 2 i/c, was released. We were sorry that he could not finish the trials with us and we wish him every success in civil life. His successor, 2/Lt. Rollinson, proved no less adept at borrowing Sunray's kit. We also welcomed 2/Lt. Allison, R.E.M.E., a qualified horologist but not motor cyclist and a crash deprived us of his services in October.

Our last two visitors, again from the M of S, stayed for a week and conducted lengthy tests which probably proved something. We were glad to find a snake and a scorpion for them on their first day, and were delighted when the tanks did naughty things for their benefit. On their last night in camp they very kindly allowed themselves to be heckled by the crews for three hours.

When they had gone, the weather turned cold and wet, and Tpr. Wood's tank made up for all its previous bad behaviour by completing its continuous running trials. For hour after hour L/Cpl. Dickenson's voice could be heard, "2 Able—we are still motoring," until at 04.45 hrs. they drove into camp to the accompaniment of a considerable display of pyrotechnics, tired but happy. And that was that. Our job was completed in December and we had covered nearly 6,000 tank miles.

The story of Trials Troop would not be complete without mention of Mrs. Thompson's "home cooking." Every week a tin of the most delightful delicacies arrived, and did much to lessen the dullness of "tinned equivalent," while any member of the Troop in hospital received a special ration.

Our final party was in some ways a sad occasion, because it marked the end of the "private army." But it was greatly enlivened by the temporary lapse of those two staunch teetotallers Tprs. Pugh and Wood.

And so, as the sun sets behind the Gebel, we leave the lovely oasis of Bir el Ghnem with its delightful memories of ghiblis, heat, flies, bully, herrings, changing springs, digging-in, de-briefing, boffins, extra guards, bottles of pop and the lilting strains of "Once I lived in a shack" by Tpr. Mitchell, with Sunray's voice in the background, encouraging Tpr. Greenwood to move a little faster. And as we pass the "T" junction for the last time and "Seventy Four" starts to splutter once again, comes the quiet lament from 2 Able, "——'em, I knew this would happen!"

R. A. M.

# PLAYING FOR THE NAVY

ON September 16th, the destroyer H.M.S. Chaplet came to Tripoli harbour to embark the Band of 14th/20th King's Hussars—"Negative Horses" (as it appeared in Naval Orders) for Malta. This combined operation was the introduction to five weeks' experience the like of which few Bands of the

British Army can claim to have undergone.

Once at Malta, our base was the Submarine Depot Ship H.M.S. Forth, and from the Quarterdeck we played appropriate music as the Mediterranean Fleet under command of Admiral the Earl Mountbatten put to sea for the Second Summer Cruise of 1954. Now the words "Mediterranean Cruise" have a magical sound with the suggestion of leisure, romance, long sunny days and brilliant moonlight nights, with pleasure as the only aim of passengers and crew. We got the sunny days all right, during which the most incredible Naval exercises were carried out, such as torpedo attacks by invisible submarines on our ship. Unfortunately, the Fleet goes on a Summer Cruise with the idea of making the conditions as much like war as possible. The order "Darken Ship" which therefore emanated from the ship's loudspeakers each evening at dusk took much of the romance out of our moonlight nights at sea in the Mediterranean!

On arrival at Palmas Bay, Sardinia, the whole Fleet steamed in formation to an area off-shore mainly in order to have the annual Fleet Regatta. We were asked if we would do something to liven things up on this occasion, and accordingly it was arranged to split the Band up into three small combinations who took it in turn to accompany the boats-crews to the starting point of the races, follow behind playing like mad, and then escort the crews back to the ship, making appropriate noises according to whether the crews were victorious or otherwise. The same evening we were honoured by being asked to play at a cocktail party given by Lord and Lady Mountbatten on board H.M.S. Surprise. Since there were Marine Bands and Orchestras on board both the Flagship H.M.S. Glasgow and on the cruiser H.M.S. Gambia, we appreciated this thoughtful gesture on the part of the Commander-in-Chief, and we must record our delight at the exceptional interest taken in our

performance.

Later during our cruise, we were often called upon to give "performances" which previously we would have considered highly unorthodox. The Navy is well-known for its habit of requiring individuals to perform acts designed to show initiative and powers of improvisation. That habit shows itself particularly strongly when the Fleet is on a Cruise and at "evolutions", as these playful manoeuvres are called. A host of highly fanciful directions are put out over the loudspeakers, and at a given signal these directions are to be simultaneously carried out. "The ship's writers will fire a saluting gun." "The Wireless Telegraphy Department will man the forward capstan." "The Engineers will fly a kite from the boat deck." These are a few of the things which memory records as going on, whilst at the same time the Band played "Oriental Music"! On another occasion thirty astonished Bandsmen were to be seen marching around the complete length of the enormous deck of H.M.S. Forth in single file playing "Sussex By The Sea."

Our musical activities on board ship were not entirely unconventional however, and we look back to numerous concerts given on the welldeck of H.M.S. Forth to the ship's company. There was never any need to worry over the compilation of programmes: Jack would listen to any kind of music, and though the ship rocked to the reception given to such items as "American Patrol", operatic selections or even a movement of a symphony were received

with unexpected acclamation.



THE BAND ON THEIR AUTUMN CRUISE

We also played ashore on several occasions, notably at St. Antioch in Sardinia, where we massed with the two Royal Marine Bands from H.M.S. Glasgow and Gambia. Mention must also be made of two concerts given in a perfect setting in Bone, North Africa. Here in the main street laid out in boulevard fashion, is a magnificent bandstand. Bone is a town somewhat larger than Tripoli with a French colonial population. Our audiences were massive and expectant, and the reception given to the Band on both these

occasions must be considered as our best yet.

Our last experience before our return to Tripoli was as spectators on board a frigate at the manoeuvres carried out in honour of the Emperor of Abyssinia off Malta on October 9th. This experience was highly appreciated by the Band and our enthusiasm, if not our bodies, remained undamped in drenching rain as we transferred from H.M.S. Forth to the frigate H.M.S. Roebuck at 6 a.m. on that morning. The Fleet put to sea at 8.30 a.m. and Roebuck took up her proper station whilst we sorted ourselves out into the various messes to which we were appointed. From that moment, however, our world assumed a totally different aspect from any to which we had hitherto been accustomed. We had been at sea for five weeks, we had experienced overcrowding in a submarine depot ship and now and then a few days of unpleasant rolling. But to describe life on board a frigate in a rough sea manoeuvring at top speed (35 knots) is quite impossible. It was certainly an unforgettable experience for us and, in retrospect, one would not like to have missed it. The sight of the Fleet at sea carrying out at high speed a kind of "musical ride" is one which only the highly privileged can expect to witness.

At last the Roebuck set course for the shores of Tripoli where we arrived next morning after a shaking and a pounding guaranteed to wring forth from the throat of the most nautically minded of us the words: "Thank God we're in the Army!" In conclusion, our grateful thanks go to the Royal Navy for their kind hospitality during our long and memorable cruise, which we shall never forget.

R. H.

## REGIMENTAL SHOOTING

The Regimental Shooting Notes in the last issue of The Hawk finished with the words "We are hoping for the best". It is with pleasure that we can now record winning "The Duke of Connaught Cup". This was of course in the "abroad series" for 1953, which ended in April, 1954. Members of the Revolver Team also fired individually in "The Revolver Cup" and S.Q.M.S. Cundy is to be very warmly congratulated on winning it and becoming Overseas Army Champion Shot for Revolver. S.Q.M.S. Reynolds was third, Sgt. Tasker fourth and Sgt. Shakespeare sixth.

In addition, the Regiment entered for a number of A.R.A. Matches. These matches are not confined to Regiments or Units of one arm, but are open to all arms and Units of the army. The Squadron Shield, in which "B" Squadron were the winners and "A" Squadron the runners-up was the only exception, being limited to R.A.C., but it counted towards the "Queen Victoria Trophy". This trophy is presented to the unit scoring the greatest number of points in the King George Cup, Royal Irish Cup, The Young Soldiers' Cup, The Squadron Shield and the First Army Cup added together. Because of the diversity of the matches which comprise the "Queen Victoria Trophy" any gladiatorial feats were precluded and all the more credit is due to those unfortunates, who, thinking they were safe from the attentions of the Musketry Officers, suddenly found themselves doing "snap" and "rapid" practices on Zavia Range. Under the expert tuition of the hardened Bisley warriors like Captain Mossé the Musketry Officer, S.Q.M.S. Cundy and Reynolds, Sgts. Tasker, Williams, Shakespeare and Smith, the team rapidly took shape, and their shooting soon acquired a professional gloss. The Sten Gun Team for the First Army Cup, consisting of S.Q.M.S. Cundy, Sgts. Macgregor, Tasker and Williams didn't need any coaching, for the rivalry was intense and the "Hop Leafs" that changed hands were numbered as the sands of the desert.

The matches took place on three successive days. Gone then was the banter and gay repartee of friendly rivals practising together, and in its place could be observed the set faces of those carrying the burden of victory or defeat. How well they did their task can be seen from the results, which were as follows:

# ARMY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Non-Central Matches for year ending April, 1954 (Abroad Series)

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT CUP Result—Won by 14th/20th King's Hussars

Revolver Team of six of any rank.

(Captain Mossé, R.S.M. Charlton, S.Q.M.S. Reynolds, S.Q.M.S. Cundy, Sgt. Tasker, Sgt. Shakespeare.)

#### THE REVOLVER CUP

An individual Revolver Match open to any member of the Armv.

ARMY CHAMPION-S.Q.M.S. Cundy

3rd-S.Q.M.S. Reynolds

4th-Sgt. Tasker

6th-Sgt. Shakespeare

## THE QUEEN VICTORIA TROPHY Result—14th/20th King's Hussars Second

Open to all units of the Army. This Trophy is presented to the unit that obtains the highest aggregate score in the undermentioned five matches.

#### THE ROYAL IRISH CUP

Result-Won by 14th/20th King's Hussars

Rifle and Bren Team of six Warrant Officers and Sergeants.

(S.Q.M.S. Cundy, S.Q.M.S. Reynolds, Sgt. Tasker, Sgt. Shakespeare, Sgt. Williams, Sgt. Macgregor.)

#### THE FIRST ARMY CUP

Result-Won by 14th/20th King's Hussars

Sten Gun Team of four of the rank of Corporal and above from one Squadron or Company.

("A" Squadron-S.Q.M.S. Cundy, Sgt, Macgregor, Sgt. Tasker, Sgt. Williams.)

#### THE SQUADRON SHIELD

Result—Won by "B" Squadron 14th/20th King's Hussars Second—"A" Squadron 14th/20th King's Hussars

Rifle and Bren Team of eight from one Squadron below the rank of Sergeant,

#### THE KING GEORGE CUP

Result-14th/20th King's Hussars Fourth

Rifle and Bren Team of six officers.

(Captain Mossé, Captain Beart, Captain Roberts, Captain Goodfellow, 2/Lt. Batty, 2/Lt. Tennent.)

#### THE YOUNG SOLIDERS' CUP

Result-14th/20th King's Hussars Sixth

Rifle and Bren Team of 16 young soldiers including one officer.

(2/Lt. Batty, Cfn. Turner, Darby, Darkin, Newton, Horsted, Hunter, Parker, Cpl. Morris, Tprs. Hollingsworth, Swift, Scriven, Throup, Sell, Betson, Dyer.)



# "MISCELLANIA"



Urquhart, Hughes, Ramadan Stafford, Brookes



Behind: Shenton, Amor, Kelly, Hardaker, Banks, Walters, Swainston, Beddows



Robinson, Barrett, Lander, Sherington, McGrath Tumelty, Summersgill, Robinson



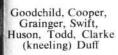
Collins, Jones, Stokes



Behind: Lamb, Harrison Field, Shanks, Smith, Redfern



Oliver, Le Maitre, Till, Blackhall, Coles





## FOOTBALL NOTES

Football in the Regiment, as last year, has been mainly on a Squadron basis, there being no other major unit in the District. All the Squadrons entered for the Tripoli Minor Units League, and at the moment "H.Q." Squadron are in a very strong position, and we hope that they may be at

the top of the League by the end of the season.

The Regimental team is now taking shape well, after playing some friendly matches against the Ittihad Football Club. We then opened the challenge to 22 Field Engineer Regiment who had just arrived from the Canal Zone with the reputation of having an almost unbeaten side. However, we were pleased to record a 2-1 victory on our home ground and the return match in Tripoli, which we hope to play soon, should be an exciting match to watch. In the Inter-Squadron Football Competition, "A" and "B" Squadrons met

in the final, and after a hard-fought struggle "A" Squadron just managed

to carry away the Cup.

To end, we would all like to express our gratitude to Mahfud Turky, the Libyan International player, who, of his own free will, has raised the standard of football in the Regiment by helping us train and being ready to referee on all possible occasions.

#### CRICKET

Cricket in the District has taken much the same course as last year. The lack of major units has, with a few exceptions, restricted the level to Squadron games. Squadrons have taken part in the District League and knock-out competitions, and the Regiment has made a fair contribution to various District representative matches. The D'Arcy Hall Cup rounds produced the usual excitement, and were full of twists of fortune. Finally, the Regiment played the might of Tripoli in two matches, honours being even at the end.

Although no Squadron emerged as outstanding in the District League or knock-out competitions, each in turn proved a stumbling block to the "fliers". Perhaps the best example being that of "H.Q." Squadron in beating R.A.F. (A), the hot favourites, by one run. Effective contributions being made by L/C

Smith (4 for 25), L/C Betson (4 for 28) and Captain Giblett (61).

The D'Arcy Hall competition opened with a match between "H.Q." and "C" Squadrons. "H.Q." amassed 234 for 4 in the first innings, due primarily to Captain Roberts who, being coaxed out of retirement, produced a monolithic and undefeated 97. "C" Squadron replied with the creditable figures of 172 and 145: Tprs. Hewson (37) and Springthorpe (50) and 2nd/Lt. Baxter (36) being main contributors. "H.Q." knocked off the required runs quickly; Captains James (51) and Giblett (41) taking up the cudgels, the Q.M.

having by now exhausted his energies.

"A" and "B" Squadrons had an exciting round in which "B" managed to slip into the final by 5 runs. At one stage, "A" Squadron were comfortably placed and their supporters understandably confident but their last five wickets fell for five runs, bringing them defeat and dismay. The Final saw "H.Q." collect 131 for 9 declared and 62 for 3, to which "B" Squadron replied with 61 and 131 all out. Notable for "H.Q." were Tpr. Taylor (4 for 23), S.Q.M.S. Reynolds (4 for 24), Captain James (3 for 4), Captain Giblett (41), and Cfn. Slade (30), while for "B" Squadron Cfn. Hunter and Tpr. Thompson each made 31. The Cup was therefore retained by "H.Q." Squadron once more.

Two excellent matches were played against the Rest of Tripoli in which we lost the first by three wickets and won the second by five wickets. The second match was won against the clock, thanks to a very quick 34 not out made by Tpr. Springthorpe in the last twenty minutes.

## ATHLETICS

The Regiment again had a successful season. "B" Squadron won the Inter-Squadron Cross Country run fairly comfortably from "A" Squadron. L/C Rodham (H.Q.) put up a very good performance and was an easy winner. In the District Cross Country Championships the team was second to the R.A.S.C.

The Regimental Athletics sports meeting was on 14th April in the camp, using the road round the Square as a track. The Cup was won by "H.Q." Squadron and the best performance was put up by Tpr. Whelan in the 3 Miles. From the results a team was selected and trained for the District Meeting, which was held in Tripoli on 29th May. The following gained places:—

100 yards Capt. Giblett 1st. 220 yards Capt. Giblett 1st. 880 yards 2nd/Lt. Hicks 1st. Mile Tpr. Williamson 6th. 3 Miles Sgt. Bury 3rd. Javelin L./Cpl. Cox 1st. High Jump 2nd/Lt. Rollinson 2nd. Shot L./Cpl. Bown 1st; Lt. Joynson 2nd. Discus Sgt. Walters 1st; L./Cpl. Dickenson 3rd. Hammer Sgt. Walters 1st; S./L. Davidson 5th.

Walters 1st. S/I Davidson 5th.

Mile Medley: 1st R.A.S.C., 2nd 14th/20th King's Hussars. The Regiment won the 1st Infantry Division Challenge Cup.

On June 27th, a combined Italian team challenged the District to a match at the Municipality Stadium. Their sprinters proved too fast for the Englishmen, but we held our own in the distance races and field events, winning the match 60—42. All those listed in the District results above competed and outstanding performers were Captain Giblett, Sgt. Walters and L/Cpls. Bown and Cox—the last named increasing his best Javelin throw by some thirty feet with a distance of 145 ft. 7 in.

# **BOXING**

As there were no other major units within reach, we had to rely on Inter-Squadron Boxing and individual boxing championships as our only contests this year. Although the potential standard may be high, without fights a boxer cannot be developed beyond a certain degree and, perhaps more important, the good open boxer tends to get slow and lose his cunning.

The D'Arcy Hall Cup and the Individual Boxing Championships produced some promising boxers. Of those who are left, Cpl. McGinley, L/Cpls. Fouweather and Long, and Tprs. Lumley, Hughes and Robson put up good fights in both contests. The D'Arcy Hall Cup was won by "H.Q." Squadron with

23 points. "A" Squadron was second with 19 points.

With the help of a home-made boxing ring designed by Major Browne, and constructed by S/I Davidson and the H.Q. L.A.D. fitters, we have been able to make a good start by holding our novice competition in November, 1954. After the difficulties of training without a gymnasium had been surmounted, and with the able help of Sgt. Walters and S/I Davidson, all Squadrons were able to produce teams, although there was, as in normal in novices boxing, a

certain juggling of weights. The usual coaxing and flattery was needed to get the best but unwilling novice into the ring. The definition of a novice, although well described in "Games and Sports in the Army", always seems to allow the cunning trainer or S.S.M. to produce the occasional "old fashioned" novice.

The preliminaries produced many good fights but the most outstanding show of "guts and determination" was given by Cfn. Thomas ("A" Sqn.) when fighting Tpr. Murie ("C" Sqn.) Tpr. Murie was the stronger boxer and Cfn. Thomas took some severe punishment but counter-attacked with grim determination after having been put down three times. The Finals consisted of 9 novices bouts and 2 "Special Contest" open fights between known Regimental boxers. Among the best fights of the evening were Tpr. McGahey ("A" Sqn.) versus Tpr. Walmsley ("H.Q." Sqn.) in the bantam weight contest. Tpr. Walmsley, in spite of giving away nearly a stone in weight, was able to out-box a stronger boxer and won his fight. In the welter weight contest, Tpr. Hackett ("B" Sqn.) versus Tpr. Stafford ("C" Sqn.) was a very hard fought fight; Tpr. Hackett, who won by means of a good straight left and a longer reach, had a difficult time keeping Tpr. Stafford at bay. "H.Q." Squadron won with 25 points, "B" and "C" Squadrons were runners-up each with 18 points.

## THE HAWK DRAMATIC SOCIETY

On December 22nd, the newly founded Dramatic Society presented its first production, "While the Sun Shines", by Terence Rattigan. To say that it was a great success would be an understatement. The standard of the performance took even this critic by surprise. It was slick, it was funny and, on the whole, it was audible, even in the "gods". For this, much credit must go to Tpr. Hooper, the producer, whose professional touch could be detected throughout.

The lead was played with casual assurance by 2nd/Lt. Hicks "a real Earl, but failed W.O.S.B.". Opposite him Mrs Sturt gave a refreshing impression of an innocent young thing from the wilds of Scotland, eager to learn about men but always keeping both feet on the ground. Except, that is, when Sgt. Bruce, as Mulvaney, introduced her to her native liquor. Sgt. Bruce made the most of a good part, and his American accent would have passed unnoticed on the sidewalks of the Bronx.

Perhaps the most difficult part, played with professional charm by Miss Cocks, was that of Miss Crum, the girl who like men for their own sake. Everybody was sorry she didn't get the Earl, but felt sure she would do well for Zippersnaps.

S.Q.M.S. Winstanley was a "natural" for the rakish Duke, but one is glad his stage maths are not reflected in the P.R.I. accounts, nor his gambling proclivities, which would soon have us in the red. As the Frenchman, 2nd/Lt. Fenwick taught us something about putting over white hot burning passion in railway trains, and he remembered to stand behind the sofa when he was not wearing trousers. We could not have wanted a more convincing valet than Lt. Joynson and wished he had a larger part. Lastly, the settings and decor by Captain English and Messrs. Pickin, Holmes, Sinclair and Cartmel Crossley reflected much careful thought and visible artistic talent.

In short, it was a very successful beginning in what we hope will be the first of many productions by the Hawk Dramatic Society.

D.E.R.S.



Fenwick, Baxter, Roberts, Goodfellow



Marnham smartening up for Malta



One way to recover a Tank



DONKEY POLO Marnham, Sturt, Tayleur

## HOCKEY

The 1953-54 hockey season produced some very enjoyable games. It did not take long for players to get accustomed to playing once again on hard pitches, and before the 16th/5th left we were able to better ourselves from a 6—0 defeat and hold them to a draw. We came third in the Tripoli District League. Apart from these games we played some very enjoyable games against visiting Royal Navy teams who showed us they were equally adept at pitching and rolling both at sea and on land.

A six-a-side hockey festival was held in Tripoli at Easter for which we produced an "A" and a "B" Team. The "A" Team played extremely well and managed to get into the final. The lack of competition being very limited in this locality we were obliged to play many more games than usual amongst ourselves with teams like Over 30 v Under 30, North v South, Bachelors v Wedded and Officers v Sergeants, all of which greatly improved our play.

The season was not without its usual crop of outstanding players, in particular Captain Giblett who maintained excellent form at centre half throughout the season. Good work was also put in by S.Q.M.S. Collins, S.S.M. Vale, Sgt. James (R.A.E.C.), Lt. Giuseppi, 2nd/Lt Baxter, Captain Garbutt, Major Tayleur, Captain Mossé and veterans like Nifty Coles and Colonel Woodd, who were often seen hitting out from the back.



## GUILD OF SAINT HELENA BAZAAR

The St. Helena Bazaar took place on November 6th. The Square looked very gay with its umbrellas, swings and roundabouts, its stalls, and the Band in red hats in the middle. Mrs. Walton, the District Commander's wife, having declared the Bazaar open, and having received a bouquet from Pat Moore, the R.S.M's daughter, the fun began.

"A" Squadron had laid on an immense variety of things of which one remembers best a Raffle (won by one of their own Sergeants) an indefatigable goalkeeper, and a donkey-selling Squadron Leader. "B" had a skittle alley. If you rolled the ball gently it bounced off the skittles; if hard, it flew over them. Very capable chaps "B"! "C" did Horse Racing. Enormous effort produced a lot of fun and excitement. "H.Q." had camels and donkeys. S.S.M. Le Maitre promised a thousand pounds (and finally gave away ten piastres), Sergeant Blake organised odds in the Bazaar's favour and the R.S.M. organised the camels. R.E.M.E. produced a lot of bad temper with their electrical gadgets and a lot of pure delight with their Children's Corner. The Band as usual played well and lustily all afternoon.

Altogether it was a splendid afternoon and £61 was made for the orphan daughters of soldiers. Special praise is due to all the wives who worked so hard to produce the articles for the Sale and to the Padre who organised the whole affair.

## OFFICERS WITH THE REGIMENT ON 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. R. P. D. F. Allen. M.B.E.

2nd i/c and P.R.I., Major P. F. W. Browne, D.S.O., M.C.

Training Officer. Major D. E. R. Scarr.

Adjutant, Captain J. M. Palmer.

Assistant Adjutant, 2/Lt. P. T. Fenwick

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON Officer Commanding, Major P. H. Marnham.

Squadron 2 i/c, Captain R. W. English.

Wreford.

Technical Adjutant, Captain Lt. C. H. J. R. Joynson. W. D. Garbutt.

M.T.O., 2/Lt. P. B. Warrington, R.A.C.

Ouartermaster. Captain (O.M.) R. M. Roberts.

Medical Officer, Captain J. Biggins, R.A.M.C.

"A" SQUADRON

Officer Commanding, Major B. C. L. Tayleur

Squadron 2 i/c, Lt, A. H. I. Bridges.

2/Lt. M. J. Simmons.

2/Lt. T. W. Hart.

2/Lt. T. F. Villiers-Smith.

"B" SOUADRON

Signals Officer, Lt. C. C. G. Officer Commanding, Major D. P. R. Scarr.

REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS P.M.C., Captain D. E. Squadron 2 i/c, Captain M. A. Urban-Smith, M.C.

2/Lt. S. J. Tennent.

2/Lt. E. J. N. Hicks.

2/Lt. P. V. Burnand.

"C" SQUADRON

Officer Commanding, Major A. R. Sturt.

Squadron 2 i/c, Captain R. A. McClure.

Lt. J. A. Henderson.

2/Lt. R. D. Baxter.

2/Lt. G. T. Vernon.

2/Lt. J. A. Pharo-Tomlin.

2/Lt. J. E. B. Johnson.

LIGHT AID DETACHMENT

Officer Commanding, Captain A. F. Giblett.

2/Lt, W. A. Allison.

2/Lt. I. S. Stark.

## OFFICERS DETACHED ON 31st DECEMBER, 1954

Major G. L. M.B.E., M.C., Sullivan, M.B.E., M.C., R.A.C. Depot. Attached

Major G. N. Loraine Smith, R.A.C. Ranges, Kirkcudbright.

Major R. J. W. Fletcher, Malavan Regiment.

Maior E. G. W. T. Walsh, G S O. 2 (M.T.), G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.

Maior G. A. L. C. Talbot, Mil. Div., B.M.E.O., B.M.E.O.,

G.H.O., M.E.L.F. Major G. L. Scott-Dickens, R.A.C. Depot. Major W. F. Crotty, M.B.E.,

C.I., 65th Trg. Regt. R.A.C.

Captain J. F. Beaumont, B.A.O.R.

Captain J. R. Thomas, G.S.O. 3, H.Q., M.E.L.F.

Captain D. A. Heath, M.C.,

Captain M. A. James, M.C., Staff College, Camberley.

M.C., R.A.C. Depot.

Captain J. D. Malayan Armd. Car Sqn.

Captain P. L. J. Groves, 2/Lt. P. F. Rollinson, 65th Adjutant, D.L.O.Y. Trg. Regt, R.A.C.

Lt.-Col. B. B. N. Woodd, Maor (Q.M.) P. T. Drew, Captain G. R. D. Eeart, Ministry of Supply. M.B.E., R.A.C. Depot. Course at Intelligence Corps Centre.

> M.C., Air Liaison Duties, Captain R. E. D. Harris, Tech. Adit. 65th Trg. Regt. R.A.C.

> > Lt. G. St. A. Giuseppi, 65th Trg. Regt. R.A.C.

G.S.O. 3, H.Q., 6 Armd. Lt. M. H. Goodhart, R.A.C. Centre.

> Lt. P. F. Fuller, P.A. to C. of S., M.E.L.F.

Captain W. A. L. Reid, Lt. N. E. Bain, Course at Cambridge University.

> Gowlett, Lt. (Q.M.) L. R. Charlton. Q.M., D.L.O.Y.

# NOMINAL ROLL OF PERSONNEL SERVING WITH THE REGIMENT AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1954

"A" SQUADRON

S.S.M. A. Prevett S.Q.M.S. B. Collins

Sgt. T. Baker Sgt. H. Bruce

Sgt. E. Bruniges Sgt. J. Macgregor

Sgt. D. Williams Cpl. W. Atkins

Cpl. G. Cochrane

Cpl. M. Layton
Cpl. N. Overy
Cpl. A. Taylor
Cpl. J. Thompson

Cpl. B. Walker L./Cpl. R. Eonfield L./Cpl. R. Leather

L./Cpl. D. Lumley L./Cpl. R. Malin

L./Cpl. T. Price L./Cpl. C. Reid L./Cpl. D. Walton L./Cpl. C. Windle

Tpr. M. Adams Tpr. R. Atkins Tpr. R. Beddows

Tpr. G. Bingham

Tpr. G. Bishop

Tpr. J. Brookes Tpr. F. Burgoyne Tpr. E. Carpenter

Tpr. L. Claxton Tpr. J. Comrie Tpr. J. Cook

Tpr. J. Cooney Tpr. P. Cosgrove Tpr. A. Crompton Tpr. P. Davey

Tpr. M. Docking Tpr. A. Dorr

Tpr. B. Duncan Tpr. D. Fitzpatrick

Tpr. G. Fletcher

Tpr. M. Fowler Tpr. L. Gardiner

Tpr. D. Gell

Tpr. D. Giles

Tpr. D. Goddard Tpr. R. Griffiths

Tpr. D. Gray Tpr. G. Hatfield

Tpr. L. Hempenstall Tpr. S. Hibbs Tpr. W. Hill

Tpr. G. Hoe

Tpr. D. Hubble Tpr. L. Hulse

Tpr. A. Kelly Tpr. P. Kent

Tpr. T. Kettles

Tpr. H. Lawson Tpr. T. Little Tpr. D. Martell Tpr. W. McGahey Tpr. P. Neary

Tpr. F. Niblett

Tor. G. Nicholls Tor. T. Parker

Tpr. R. Peachey

Tpr. J. Pickin

Tpr. D. Pippen Tpr. D. Price Tpr. J. Rainer

Tpr. R. Reeves

Tpr. A. Robinson Tpr. J. Robson

Tpr. G. Ross

Tpr. F. Russell

Tpr. G. Scoffield Tpr. J. Sharrock

Tpr. A. Smith Tpr. S. Stokes ~

Tpr. D. Taylor

Tpr. G. Taylor Tpr. F. Tennant Tpr. L. Tovey Tpr. H. Turk

Tpr. P. Walton Tpr. L. Wiles

Tpr. D. Wilmot

## ATTACHED PERSONNEL

S./Sgt. W. Walker Sgt. P. Veale Cpl. H. Hughes

L./Cpl. J. Brown L./Cpl. D. Dodds

L./Cpl. H. Fouweather

Cfn. G. Cook

Cfn. C. Darkin Cfn. T. Easton

Cfn. D. Gaskin

Cfn. P. Gibson

Cfn. E. Grant Cfn. B. Hart

Cfn. D. Lomas

Cfn. R. Nicholson Cfn. G. Thomas

" B" SQUADRON

S.S.M. T. Vale

S.Q.M.S. A. Cundy
S.Q.M.S. E. Sheen
Sgt. W. Bingham
Sgt. J. Gardner
Sgt. T. Hurd
Set. L. Jones
Set H McGregor
Set I Noran
Set P Stokes
Crl W Ruchanan
Cel A Formby
Col. M. Formor
Cpl. M. Forrest
Cpl. C. Hunton
Cpl. H. King
Cpl. D. Perry
Cpl. L. Saywell
Cpl. D. Stafford
Cpl. W. Zbierajewski
L./Cpl. G. Archer
L./Cpl. C. Badham
L./Cpl. G. Bird
I /Cpl R Burkey
L/Cpl K Davies
L/Cpl C Foreter
L./Col. M. Fowler
L./Cpl. M. Fowles
L./Cpl. B. Gray
L./Cpl. S. McCarrick
L./Cpl. B. Sharp
L./Cpl. S. Thompson
L./Cpl. J. Walker
L./Cpl. A. Ward
L./Cpl. A. Ward L./Cpl. T. Wood
S.Q.M.S. A. Cundy S.Q.M.S. E. Sheen Sgt. W. Bingham Sgt. J. Gardner Sgt. J. Gardner Sgt. T. Hurd Sgt. L. Jones Sgt. H. McGregor Sgt. J. Noran Sgt. R. Stokes Cpl. W. Buchanan Cpl. A. Formby Cpl. M. Forrest Cpl. C. Hunton Cpl. H. King Cpl. D. Perry Cpl. L. Saywell Cpl. D. Stafford Cpl. W. Zbierajewski L./Cpl. G. Archer L./Cpl. G. Bird L./Cpl. G. Bird L./Cpl. R. Burkey L./Cpl. K. Davies L./Cpl. K. Davies L./Cpl. S. McCarrick L./Cpl. B. Gray L./Cpl. B. Sharp L./Cpl. S. Thompson L./Cpl. J. Walker L./Cpl. J. Ward L./Cpl. J. Ward L./Cpl. T. Wood Tpr. D. Allsopp
Tpr. G. Atkins Tpr. K. Ball Tpr. R. Barker Tpr. L. Berriman Tpr. R. Birch Tpr. I Blair
Tpr. K. Ball
Tpr. R. Barker
Tpr. L. Berriman
Tpr. R. Birch
Tpr. J. Blair
Tpr A Broster
Tpr. A. Broster Tpr. R. Brown
Tpr. K. Bryan
Tpr. K. Bryan Tpr. G. Buck
Tor I Burns
Tpr. J. Burns
Tpr. A. Charnock Tpr. P. Clav Tpr. R. Cox Tpr. G. Dalton Tpr. C. Davies
Tpr. P. Clay
Tpr. K. Cox
Tpr. G. Dalton
Ipr. C. Davies
I DI. O. DOW
Tpr. L. Edwards
Tpr. J. Falconer
Tpr. J. Falconer Tpr. J. Fardell
Tpr. G. Fullelove Tpr. R. Gladden Tpr. M. Glover
i br. R. Gladden
Tpr. A. Graham
Tpr. T. Hackett
Tpr. F. Hargreaves
Tpr. J. Henderson
Tpr. E. Hollingsworth
Tpr. F. Holmes
Tpr. J. Hughes
Tpr. J. Hughes Tpr. L. Johnson
Tpr. V. Jones
Tpr. J. Kidd
Tnr I Lewis

Tpr. J. Lewis

Tpr.	M. McQuaid
Tpr.	D. Marks
Tpr.	R. Mason
Tpr	S. Murphy
	T. Murphy
	W. Murray
	R. Osborne
Tpr	D. Parfitt
Tpr	P. Porter
	L. Press
Tor.	J. Roberts
Tpr.	W. Scott
Tpr.	I Scoley
Tpr.	L. Sealey
I pr.	L. Sealey T. Shakespeare T. Shaw
I pr.	1. Snaw
I pr.	R. Southey
I pr.	F. Stillings D. Taylor O. Thompson
Tpr.	D. Taylor
Tpr.	O. Thompson
Tpr.	D. Thornton
Tpr.	S. Urquhart
Tpr.	J. Wager
I pr.	F. Wakefield
Tpr.	R. Wilkins
Tpr.	J. Williams
Α	TTACHED PERSO

## ATTACHED PERSONNEL

S./Sgt. A. Bailey Sgt. W. Freeman Cpl. P. Bramwell Cfn. A. Ashpole Cfn. L. Burrows Cfn. P. Chadwick Cfn. G. Collins Cfn. G. Collins Cfn. D. Goudge Cfn. F. Horsted Cfn. R. Hunter Cfn. K. Low Cfn. W. Morrison Cfn. S. Rickards Cfn. R. Smith Cfn. P. Williams

#### "C" SQUADRON

S.S.M. P. Witney
S.Q.M.S. T. Cripps
Sgt. P. Baker
Sgt. E. Grant
Sgt. M. Gates
Sgt. S. Jude
Sgt. A. Raine
Sgt. E. Sansom
Sgt. G. Shakespeare
Sgt. W. Sharrock
Cpl. F. Haldenby
Cpl. F. Harrison
Cpl. B. Haven
Cpl. J. Hedges
Cpl. P. Jackson
Cpl. P. Julian
Cpl. J. McGinley
Cpl. J. Rudge
Cpl. E. Walsh
L./Cpl. J. Alexander
L./Cpl. A. Ball
L./Cpl. W. Dickenson

L./Cpl. R. Franklin L./Cpl. J. Heyes L./Cpl. H. Robinson L./Cpl. C. Wheat Tpr. R. Allen Tpr. A. Aldridge Tpr. J. Bestford Tpr. D. Boorman Tpr. E. Bourne Tpr. T. Bratt Tpr. P. Brooks Tpr. M. Browning Tpr. B. Conroy Tpr. L. Cooper Tpr. F. Campbell Tpr. D. Clark Tpr. T. Clarke Tpr. J. Clay Tpr. R. Couchman Tpr. N. Davies Tpr. C. Duff Tpr. R. Fenwick Tpr. A. Field Tpr. A. Gamble Tpr. E. Goddard Tpr. D. Goodchild Tpr. J. Goodchild Tpr. N. Greenwood Tpr. J. Greaves Tpr. D. Harper Tpr. T. Hardy Tpr. R. Hastings Tpr. R. Hollins Tpr. D. Hoddinott Tpr. T. Horton Tpr. W. Hughes Tpr. R. Huson Tpr. P. Johnston Tpr. P. Kellow Tpr. L. Luxton Tpr. F. Marrin Tpr. G. McCallum Tpr. G. Mitchell Tpr. P. Newman Tpr. R. Osborne Tpr. A. Pitt Tpr. K. Powell Tpr. A. Ramsay Tpr. G. Redfern Tpr. M. Roberts Tpr. R. Sakalauskas Tpr. J. Sanderson Tpr. W. Shanks Tpr. R. Skuse Tpr. J. Sloan Tpr. V. Smith Tpr. R. Smith Tpr. C. Springthorpe Tpr. A. Sproson Tpr. K. Stafford Tpr. B. Swift Tpr. R. Thomas Tpr. J. Tolhurst Tpr. K. Tomlins Tpr. P. Trigg Tpr. R. Veness Tpr. J. Walmsley Tpr. F. Warner Tpr. P. White

Tpr. B. White
Tpr. G. Wimbush
Tpr. L. Wood
Tpr. J. Blackhall
Tpr. L. Stone
Tpr. J. Wiltford
Tpr. J. Blazey
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Wiltford
Tpr. J. Blazey
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Wiltford
Tpr. J. Blazey
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Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. S. Clarke
Tpr. R. Summers
Tpr. M. Taylor
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Wilter
Tpr. J. Craib
Tpr. J. Thompson
Tpr. J. Craib
Tpr. J. Virley
Tpr. J. Craib
Tpr. J. J. Virley
Tpr. J. Craib
Tpr. J. J. Virley
Tpr. J. Craib
Tpr. J. J. Virley
Tpr. J. Williams
Tpr. D. Ward
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Williams
Tpr. D. Waltser
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Stone
Tpr. J. Williams
Tpr. J. Garwell
Tpr. B. Williams
Tpr. D. Ward
Tpr. J. Williams
Tpr. J. Garwell
Tpr. J. Williams
Tpr. J. Garwell
Tpr. J. Williams
Tpr. J. Garwell
Tpr. J. J. Dickenson
Tpr. J. Garwell
Tpr. J. J. Dickenson
Tpr. J. J. J. Dickenson
Tpr. J. Lamb
Sgt. J. Barker
Tpr. J. Lamb
Sgt. J. Walters
Tpr. J. Lamb
Bdsm. J. Daniels
Bdsm. J. Daniels
Bdsm. J. Daniels
Bdsm. J. Daniels
Bdsm. D. Dowodraft
Tpr. J. J. Lamb
Daniels
Tpr. J. Lamb
Daniels
Tpr. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. J. Lamb
Daniels
Tpr. J. Lamb
Daniels
Tpr. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. J. Lamb
Daniels
Tpr. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. London
Tpr. D. Reyload
Tpr. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. J. London
Tpr. D. Reyload
Tpr. J. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. J. London
Tpr. D. Reyload
Tpr. J. Sagn. A. Listed
Tpr. J. J. London
Tpr. J. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. Medllister
Tpr. J. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. Parker
Tpr. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. Parker
Tpr. J. Lockey
Tpr. J. Parker
Tpr. J. Lockey
Tpr

ATTACHED PERSONNEL ROYAL SIGNALS

Sgm. K. Matthews Sgm. W. Morley

A.C.C.

Sgt. F. Edwards Cpl. L. Bates
Cpl. C. Goodey
L./Cpl. W. Grimes
L./Cpl. T. Rushmore
Pte. W. Blacoe

Pte. W. Blacoe

S./I. W. Davidson

L.A.D.—R.E.M.E.

A.Q.M.S. J. Thompson
S./Sgt. W. Furley
S./Sgt. W. Furley Pte. G. Bradford Pte. C. Cartledge Pte. W. Davis Pte. A. Donohue

Pte. J. Foskett Pte. L. Ginno Pte. R. McGill Pte. R. McNab Pte. F. Norris

Pte. F. Parker Pte. B. Porter Pte. J. Smith Pte. D. Thorpe

R.A.E.C. W.O.II P. Metcalfe R.A.P.C.

Sgt. W. Blake

A.P.T.C. S./I. W. Davidson

A.Q.M.S.
S./Sgt. W. Furn.,
S./Sgt. W. Shadbolt
Sgt. G. Marshall
Sgt. C. Munro
Cpl. J. Campbell
Cpl. A. Russell
Cpl. A. Russell
Cpl. J. Wallis
Cpl. B. Weaver
L./Cpl. D. Duggan
L./Cpl. C. Tumelty
Cfn. W. Baker
Cfn. K. Ball
Cfn. D. Beckett
M Bond
Cfn. D. Turner
Cfn. D. Turner
Cfn. D. Turner
Cfn. H. Westwood
Pte. A. Doran

Cfn. R. Burton

Cfn. R. Collingwood Cfn. D. Darby

Cfn. K. Durey Cfn. E. Dyer Cfn. B. Felton

Cfn. R. Galsworthy Cfn. R. Gumbleton Cfn. W. Harrison