

**1950 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY (43rd & 52nd)**

**SUMMARY OF THE FIRST BATTALION DIARY, 1950**

*January 2nd* — First Farewell shooting party: 6 officers with the Commanding Officer and Brigadier and 4 officers from Brigade. Bag: 1 Goose, 10 Duck.

*January 3rd* — Regiment "A" Team beat 1 Bedfords "B" Team by 3 goals to 2 in the final of the Brigade Hockey Competition on the Bedfords' ground.

A children's party for 200 Greek children, victims of the war against Communism, was given by the Regiment. General Grigoropoulos, Commanding Greek C Corps, gave a farewell Cocktail party for 2 Infantry Brigade Officers.

*January 4th* — Representative party of the Regiment visited the British Military Cemetery at Polycastron near Salonika.

Wreaths were laid on the graves of officers and soldiers of the 7th Battalion killed at the Battle of Doiran 1917, whose bodies are buried in the cemetery.

Lieut. R. S. C. Dowden and Private Merrilees, members of the 7th Battalion in 1939-1945 War, laid the wreaths.

*January 5th* — Lieut. D. J. Wood admitted to British Military Hospital with jaundice. Second Farewell shooting party. Bag: 1 Goose, 15 Ducks.

*January 7th* — Embarked in M.V. *Westralia* for Cyprus. Reverend B. V. Earle, C.F., ceased to be attached to the Regiment.

*January 8th* — Sailed from Greece at 0900 hours.

1 Bedfords wished us farewell from their position overlooking the harbour with many explosions, Verey lights and coloured smoke. Farewell messages were exchanged.

*January 9th* — At sea.

*January 10th* — Arrived Famagusta and disembarked. Met by District Commander, Brigadier A. A. Crook, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel R. V. Boyle, the Commanding Officer 1 Loyals and their Band. Embussed for Nicosia arriving at Wayne's Keep Camp at 1900 hours.

Lieut. R. S. C. Dowden left the Regiment on posting to Regimental Headquarters as Adjutant.

*January 11th* — Lieut. M. R. Pennell admitted to British Military Hospital with jaundice.

*January 12th* — T.E.W.T. on Internal Security. Major R. F. E. Hill attended. Performance of musical comedy *See How They Run* given for the Regiment by Cyprus Amateur Dramatic Society. Cast entertained by officers afterwards.

*January 14th* — 2nd Lieut. W. M. Cracknell admitted to British Military Hospital with jaundice.

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*January 15th* — Unofficial plebiscite held by the Church to vote for Cyprus's return to Greece. Trouble expected but no incidents were in fact reported.

A Regimental football team played the Turkish Club of Cyprus and was beaten by 6 goals to 1. Two to three thousand spectators were present.

*January 19th* — District Commander, Brigadier A. A. Crook, D.S.O., visited the Regiment and talked to all ranks in the N.A.A.F.I.

*January 21st* — Regimental team played football against the Olympiades F.C.

*January 22nd* — A Company and platoon of C Company arrived at Famagusta from Athens in L.S.T. *Humphrey Gale*.

*January 23rd* — Regimental Quarter Guard mounted ceremonially for the first time since Luneburg, Germany.

Lecture by General Sir Harold Briggs, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., on operations in the Arakan 1942-3.

Thirteen officers attended cocktail party given by officers of District Headquarters to welcome the Regiment.

*January 24th* — Commanding Officer, Company Commanders and Adjutant met the Commissioner and Chief of Police Nicosia and toured the town. Internal Security problems were discussed.

*January 25th* — Company Commanders visited Limassol with Commanding Officer to meet District Commissioner and Chief of Police and to discuss internal Security problems.

*January 26th* — Mr. Druce, District Security Officer, visited the Commanding Officer. Cocktail party given by the District Commissioner for 15 officers and wives of the Regiment to meet local people with whom the Regiment may have to work. Company Commanders visited Kyrenia to study Internal Security problems.

*January 28th* — Rear party with the Second in Command, Quartermaster and Motor Transport Officer arrived in H.T. *Windrush* from Salonika.

Major L. C. Puttick left the Regiment on secondment to the Brigade of Gurkhas. He embarked in H.T. *Windrush* at Famagusta.

The Commanding Officer and four other officers went shooting and bagged 4 brace of partridge.

*January 29th* — Band and buglers paraded in the Moat surrounding Nicosia and gave a twenty-five minute display to the public.

*January 30th* — First non-commissioned officers Cadre begins.

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*January 31st* —Regimental Guard mounted at Government House, relieving Cyprus Regiment Guard on their disbandment.

Visit of Lord Bishop of Croyden, who talked to the Regiment and lunched in the officers mess. A most human Bishop.

S Company defeated by Cyprus Signal Regiment by 2 goals to 1 in first round of Island Knockout Football Competition.

*February 1st* — Second in series of lectures by Lieut.-General Sir Harold Briggs, K.C.I.E., C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., “The Crossing of the Irrawaddy” and the “Battle of Mektillia”.

First vehicle rear party arrived from Salonika with a proportion of the Regiment's wheeled vehicles.

*February 2nd*—C Company defeated H.Q. in the first round of the Island Football Knockout Competition.

The Band played at the Pallas Cinema during the showing of the play *See How They Run* in aid of the Flood Relief Fund.

Lieut.-Colonel H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley and six officers dined with 1 Loyals at Famagusta.

*February 5th* — A very heavy fall of snow during the early hours of the morning (nine inches in two hours) made everything snowbound. This was the heaviest fall of snow in Cyprus since 1904. The appearance of camp changed suddenly from looking like a Bedouin encampment to Captain Scott's last expedition to the South Pole.

A rum issue was made to the ranks.

*February 6th* —Brigadier C. P. Jones, C.B.E., M.C., Commanding 2 Infantry Brigade arrived on a short visit from Greece. He lunched in the officers mess.

*February 8th* — Disbandment parade of Cyprus Regiment at Polymedhia. Salute taken by His Excellency The Governor. Commanding Officer, Second in Command and one officer and twenty other ranks from each company attended.

*February 10th* — Flag march through Nicosia. Band and three companies on parade.

*February 11th*—Island Football Knockout Competition. C Company 2, R.A.F. Wanderers 2.

*February 12th*— Regiment informed that it is to stay in Cyprus under Cyprus District. H.Q. 2 Infantry Brigade returns to United Kingdom in March, 1 Loyal to Akaba.

Regiment played football against the Turkish Club of Famagusta and were beaten by 6 goals to 1.

*February 13th* — Major R. R. F. T. Barry, M.B.E., assumed command of the Regiment vice Lieut.-Colonel H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley who proceeded on leave.

Visit by District Paymaster. Reports A and HQ Companies' documentation good.

Regimental Cross Country Race — Inter Company. Won by A Company.

*February 14th* — Replay of Island Football Knockout Competition. S Company 0; R.A.F. Wanderers 1.

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*February 15th* — Visit from Public Relations Officer, Captain Clifford, in preparation for the Royal Show at Oxford in July this year. Regiment is to have pride of place on the Army Stand and Captain Clifford was in search of material.

Football: A Company beat Cyprus Signal Squadron 4-1 in Island Knockout Competition.

*February 16th* — The Regimental Officers Squash Team defeated H.Q. Cyprus District by 4 games to nil. The team consisted of Major R. F. E. Hill, Capt. M. N. Harbottle, 2nd Lieuts. D. R. Peppiatt and C. H. C. Bacon.

*February 17th* — A party of 6 officers and 49 other ranks went to Troodos for three days skiing.

*February 18th* — Semi-final of Island Football Knockout Competition. A Company 1; R.A.F. Wanderers 4 (after extra time).

*February 20th* — Lieut.-Col. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley reassumed command of the Regiment on return from leave.

Colonel D. C. Colvill, D.S.O., M.C., visited the Regiment and stayed the night on his way from Tel Aviv to Athens on his official business.

*February 21st* — Visit by Colonel A. N. B. Odbert, C.B.E., Deputy Director of Army Health M.E.L.F.

Lecture by Mr. George Stewart on American Way of Life.

Island Cross Country Race. Regiment ran second to 1 Loyals, finishing 4 points behind: 1 Loyals 203 points, the Regiment 207.

*February 22nd* — HQ Company beat H.Q. Cyprus District in the first round of the Island Hockey Knockout Competition 1-0.

The Regimental Officers Squash Team consisting of Major A. de V. Gibson, Capt. M. N. Harbottle, 2nd Lieuts. W. S. B. Rawlings and C. H. C. Bacon drew 2 games all against the Nicosia European Club. Harbottle and Bacon won their games.

*February 23d* — Cocktail party given by His Excellency The Governor and Lady Wright to which the majority of the officers of the Regiment were bidden.

*February 24th* - Brigadier I. F. E. Wieler, C.B.E., Provost Marshall, War Office, visited the Regiment and 52 Military Corrective Establishment, which is under the Regiment's administration.

*February 26th* — Regiment played the R.A.S.C. at Rugby and were defeated by 21 points to 3.

*February 28th* — C Company drew 3 goals all with H.Q. Cyprus District Signal Squadron in the Island Hockey Knockout Competition.

*March 2nd* — First non-commissioned officers cadre ends.

*March 3rd* — HQ Company beat B Company by 2 goals to 1 in the Island Hockey Knockout Competition, after extra time.

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*March 4th* — Regimental officers cocktail party. Over 200 guests were invited, among whom were His Excellency The Governor and Lady Wright.  
D Company beaten 4-1 in replay of Island Hockey Competition against H.Q. Cyprus District Signal Squadron.

*March 6th* — Second non-commissioned officers Cadre began.

*March 7th* — Army Rifle Association Company Rifle Shield competition took place on Athalassa Range. B Company (Major A. de V. Gibson) were best with 408 points. A Company were next with 397 points and C Company last with 354 points.

*March 8th* — Middle East Messing Competition Preliminary Round. The Regiment's messing arrangements were judged by the District Catering Adviser and Deputy Assistant Director of Army Health.

Major M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O., joined the Regiment from Greece and is appointed Second in Command vice Major R. R. F. T. Barry, M.B.E., who becomes Officer Commanding HQ Company.

*March 9th* — HQ Company defeated Cyprus Signal Squadron by 6 goals to 1 in the Nicosia Area Final of the Island Hockey Competition.

*March 10th* — All officers, warrant officers and serjeants of the Regiment competed on the Athalassa Range for selection for the two Regimental teams to take part in the King George and Royal Irish Cups to be fired next month.

*March 11th* — HQ Company defeated S Company Loyals in the Final of the Island Hockey Competition by 1 goal to nil. The cup was presented by Mrs. Crook, wife of the District Commander.

*March 12th* — The Regimental Team won the Services Ski Cup at Troodos.  
Major R. F. E. Hill was the individual winner with 2nd Lieut. Edwards second.

*March 14th* — B Company moved to Polymedhia on detachment.  
The Regiment was visited by Lieut.-General Sir Neil Cantlee, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., K.H.P., Director of Army Medical Services. He toured the camp for an hour.

*March 15th* — The Regimental Boxing Team defeated H.Q. Cyprus District in the semi-finals of the Island Competition by 6 fights to 3.

*March 16th* — The Commanding Officer visited B Company at Polymedhia.  
Colonel Anderson, O.B.E., M.C., from War Office visited the Regiment to inspect the possibilities of making Wayne's Keep a permanent barracks.

*March 17th* — The Regimental Boxing Team beat R.A.S.C. in the All Island finals by 6 fights to 3.

*March 20th* — Brigadier General McNeil, the District Commander, and Lieut.-Colonel C. Lyall-Grant lunched in the officers mess.

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*March 24th* — Brigadier A. G. W. Heber Percy, D.S.O., B.G.S., Infantry and Training General Headquarters M.E.L.F., visited the Regiment. Later in the day he dined in the officers mess.

*March 26th* — C Company moved to Famagusta on detachment.

*March 27th* — Island final of the Inter Unit Messing Competition. The Regiment came runners up to the R.E.M.E.

*March 30th* — Lieut.-Colonel L. H. S. Mowbray, A.A.G. (A.G.8) General Headquarters M.E.L.F., visited the Regiment.  
The Regiment played the R.A.F. Station Nicosia at hockey and won by 3 goals to 1.

*March 31st* — The Commanding Officer visited C Company at Famagusta.

*April 5th* — Army Rifle Association non-central matches were fired off on Athalassa ranges under good conditions. Competitions fired were: King George Cup (Officers) and Royal Irish Cup (Serjeants). Results, Officers 487 points; Serjeants 461 points. Highest scorers were: Officers — Lieut. M. R. Pennell 116 points; Serjeants — Sjt. Dixon 84 points.

*April 10th* — Easter Holiday.

*April 11th* — Lieut. P. S. Hayes returned to the Regiment from Platoon Commanders Course at School of Infantry, Warminster.  
Lieut. R. M. Colvile and 2nd Lieut. L. P. Fennimore joined the Regiment and were posted to C Company.  
A draft of 1 warrant officer and 22 other ranks joined the Regiment.

*April 13th* — Major H. P. Patterson assumed the duties of Regimental Officer in charge of sports.

*April 14th* — H.E. The Governor, Sir Andrew Barkworth Wright, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.C., and Chief Justice Sir Edward Jackson were among the guests who dined with the officers this evening.

*April 15th*— 2nd Lieut. J. A. Rowlatt joined the Regiment from 1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and was posted to C Company. A draft of 251 other ranks joined the Regiment from the 1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

*April 20th* — 2nd Lieut. C. A. S. Hinton rejoined the Regiment from Regimental Headquarters and was posted to A Company.

*April 21st* — The Regimental Ski Team was presented with the Cyprus Ski Club Team Trophy, which it won March 12th, at the Annual Ski Club Dance in Nicosia,

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*April 22nd*— General Sir John T. Crocker, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., paid a farewell visit to the Regiment on relinquishing the appointment of Commander-in-Chief of M.E.L.F. to become Adjutant General of the Forces. He talked to the officers and men on parade and took the salute at the march past. The Commander-in-Chief was accompanied by his Chief of Staff Major-General E. A. B. Millar, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

An officers and wives team played a tennis match against Nicosia Club Team and were beaten by 8 matches 15 nil.

The Commanding Officer, Second in Command and Adjutant attended a cocktail party at District Headquarters mess to say goodbye to the Commander in Chief.

*April 24th* — The Regiment changed into Khaki Drill and reorganized on summer times of work.

*May 3rd* — First performance of the play *The Happiest Days of Tour Life*. Performed by Cyprus Amateur Dramatic Society. Officers of the Regiment taking part were Capt. Bright and his wife, and 2nd Lieuts. W. S. C. Chevis and Walding.

*May 6th* — Officers of C Company gave a cocktail party at Famagusta.

*May 10th* — Major J. A. Mansi, Staff Officer Physical Training M.E.L.F., paid a short visit to the Regiment.

*May 11th* — Regimental Athletic Meeting won by A Company with HQ Company second and B Company third. Held under bad conditions results were not as good as they might have been had the track been in better condition and the weather finer.

*May 12th* — Regiment notified by Army Rifle Association that our officers and Serjeants teams had been placed second in the abroad section of the King George and Royal Irish Cup respectively.

*May 15th* — 2nd Lieut. F. W. Edwards left the Regiment on completion of his National Service.

*May 16th* — Island Rifle Meeting began at Athalassa range.

*May 17th* — Island Rifle Meeting second day.

2nd Lieut. B. Eccles joined the Regiment and was posted to A Company.

*May 18th* — Island Rifle Meeting final day. Each Company of the Regiment won an event which was very gratifying. Of individual performances Sjt. Soar was runner up to the Island Champion shot. Sjt. Dixon was third and Pte. Page of C Company fourth.

*May 22nd* — Headquarters Cyprus District T.E.W.T. for officers sitting the promotion exam, to rank of Major. Attended by 8 officers of the Regiment.

*May 23rd* — Second day of Headquarters Cyprus District T.E.W.T.

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*May 25th* — All Island Athletic Meeting. Team events only. The Regiment won the Inter Unit Athletic Shield with 66 points, R.A.F. were second with 47 points and the Wireless Regiment were third. The Regiment won all events contested with the exception of the 440 yards relay in which it finished second.

*May 26th* — Island Athletic Meeting — Individual events. The Regiment provided eight firsts, eight seconds and five thirds in a total of fourteen events.

*May 27th* — Officers of B Company gave a cocktail party at Polymedhia.

*May 29th* — Whitsun Bank Holiday.

*June 5th* — Regimental Cricket Match *versus* H.M.S. *Chequers*. Regiment won by fifty runs. This game opened the new Regimental Cricket Ground. H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh played for H.M.S. *Chequers*. Afterwards nine officers of the ship including His Royal Highness and the Captain dined in the officers mess.

*June 8th* — King's Birthday. A detachment of the Regiment numbering 162 paraded with the R.A.F. and Cyprus Police in Nicosia Moat. H.E. the Governor took the parade. In the evening all officers of the Regiment stationed at Nicosia and their wives were entertained at a Government House reception. 2nd Lieuts. W. S. B. Rawlings, A. T. R. Walding, P. J. R. Spira and B. Eccles acted as additional Aide-de-Camps.

*June 13th* — Two day Air Liaison Course held at Nicosia attended by 6 officers of the Regiment.

*June 14th* — Air Liaison Course.

*June 15th* — Regimental Rifle Meeting. Major R. J. C. Willey won the Commanding Officer's watch. Sjt. Davies of B Company was runner up. At one period it seemed as if the Commanding Officer himself would win the prize.

*June 16th* — Regimental Rifle Meeting.

2nd Lieut. D. R. Peppiat left the Regiment on completion of his National Service.

2nd Lieuts. D. R. Micklem and J. P. Raison joined the Regiment from Eton Hall Cadet School.

*June 17th* — Regimental Rifle Meeting last day. Company Shield won by C Company with A Company runners up. The Lea Cup was won by the officers for the third year running.

*June 18th* — Waterloo Day.

*June 19th* — Demonstration of air support held at Morphou and attended by 10 officers of the Regiment. Ground to air wireless link was most unsatisfactory and the demonstration proved of little benefit to the spectators.

*June 20th* — Waterloo Day Holiday.



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*June 21st* — Training Conference held with representatives of 105 Battery 41 Field Regiment Royal Artillery and B Squadron 4 Royal Tank Regiment to crystalize plans for combined training with these two units in July.

*June 22nd* - Lieut.-Col. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley, Major R. R. F. T. Barry and Capt. M. N. Harbottle represented the Regiment at the funeral of Brigadier-General McNeil who died in Nicosia on Wednesday night. One warrant officer and 8 Serjeants of the Regiment acted as bearer party, while 4 buglers sounded the “Last Post” and “Reveille” at the graveside. A wreath from the officers was placed on the grave.

*June 24th* — A guard of honour commanded by Major H. P. Patterson was mounted for Admiral Sir John Edelsten, K.C.B., C.B.E., Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean Fleet, on the occasion of his visit to Cyprus.

Six officers and their wives attended a cocktail party given by H.M.S. *Gambia* and *Surprise* at Famagusta this evening.

22132441 Pte. G. Buckingham, the Quartermaster's soldier servant, died in the British Military Hospital as a result of an appendix operation.

*June 26th* — Pte. Buckingham was buried in the Military Cemetery, Nicosia, this evening with full Military Honours.

*June 28th* — Deputy-Chaplain General to the Forces M.E.L.F., the Reverend G. Druit, C.B.E., visited the Regiment.

*July 1st* — Regiment beat Nicosia Club at cricket by eight wickets. Nicosia Club 106, Regiment 108 for two.

*July 3rd* — Combined Training Period with tanks and gunners began with a visit of all Rifle companies to Dhekelia to get to know their opposite numbers and their weapons.

*July 5th* — Island Cookery Competition for Army Catering Corps corporals. Mrs. Ducat-Hamersley judged. Competition won by Cpl. Fryer Army Catering Corps attached to this Regiment.

*July 6th* — Island Cookery Competition for Army Catering Corps privates. Mrs. Darell-Brown judged.

*July 10th* — Brigadier F. S. Reid, C.B.E., visited the Regiment on taking up the appointment of Commander Cyprus District vice Brigadier A. A. Crook, D.S.O., who is returning to England.

*July 11th* — Demonstration of Tank/Infantry cooperation given by platoon of C Company and a troop of B Squadron 4 Royal Tank Regiment.

Brigadiers Anstice, A. A. Crook, D.S.O., and F. S. Reid, C.B.E., the past, present, and future District Commanders, dined in the officers mess. Officers of both 105 Battery 41 Field Regiment Royal Artillery and of B Squadron 4 Royal Tank Regiment and various staff officers were also present.

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*July 15th* — Regimental cricket match *versus* H.M.S. *Gambia*. The Regiment lost by 15 runs.

*July 17th* — Capt. M. N. Harbottle embarked in H.M.S. *Phoebe* to spend four days with the Mediterranean Fleet during bombardment exercises off Cape Arnauti.

*July 19th* — A Company exercise with tanks and gunners.

*July 21st* — A Company exercise ends.

*July 26th* — B Company exercise with tanks and gunners.

*July 27th* — Brigadier K. Bayley, C.B.E., Chief of Staff British Troops Egypt visited the Regiment ostensibly to watch the combined training with tanks and gunners.

*July 28th* — B Company exercise ends.  
Brigadier Bayley dined in the officers mess tonight.

*July 30th* — Brigadier Bayley left by air for Fayid.

*July 31st* — Major M. Darell-Brown, D.S.O., assumes command of the Regiment vice the Commanding Officer who is absent on leave in Famagusta.

*August 3rd*— Capt. D. J. Wood assumes the appointment of Adjutant vice Capt. M. N. Harbottle.

*August 7th* — August Bank Holiday. A general holiday.

*August 8th* — A draft of 29 National Service soldiers arrived, without previous warning of their movement having been given.

*August 20th* — Visit by Mr. Stewart, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for War, and Mr. Field, M.P.

*August 21st* — Lieut.-Col. H. J. C. Ducat-Hamersley returned from leave.

*August 23d* — Draft sailed for United Kingdom in *Empress of Australia*. It included Capt. E. F. Garcia and Lieuts. P. S. Hayes, J. Rowlatt, A. T. R. Walding, and C. Bacon, with fifty other ranks.

The Regiment was visited by Brigadier F. P. Roe, Education Officer-in-Chief.

*August 25th* — Capt. M. N. Harbottle promoted substantive Major.  
District cricket team left for Egypt. A number of officers and other ranks included in team.

*August 29th* — A Company moved on detachment to Polymedhia.  
B Company returned to Wayne's Keep.

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*August 30th* — Prime Minister announced pay increases for all ranks and extension of National Service to two years.

*August 31st* — Unexpected and almost unheralded visit by General Sir G. Ivor Thomas, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Quartermaster General, and Major-General A. M. Cameron, C.B., M.C., M.G.A.

*September 3rd* — Major H. P. Patterson returned after 42 days leave in England.

*September 4th* — R.E.M.E. Inspectorate arrived.

*September 5th* — Guard of Honour for Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F., General Sir Brian H. Robertson, Bt., C.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.G.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C. commanded by Major A. de V. Gibson. Paraded at R.A.F. Station, Nicosia, in conjunction with an R.A.F. guard.

Draft of 28 other ranks joined the Regiment ex-United Kingdom.

*September 6th* — Visit by Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. Quarter Guard at gate. Talked to all officers in N.A.A.F.I. Visited motor transport, cookhouse, and officers and Serjeants messes.

*September 8th* — Documentation team visited the Regiment.

*September 11th* — 2nd Lieut. D. R. Micklem transferred from A to B Company.

*September 14th* — Administration inspection of C Company at Famagusta.  
Island Motor Cycle Trials.

*September 15th* — Finish of Motor Cycle Trials. Regimental teams placed 1st and 2nd. Individuals placed 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 10.

*September 16th* — Battle of Britain Air Display at Nicosia Airport.

*September 19th* — Irish Cup Shoot. Score 590.  
2nd Lieut. Gerald Stacey arrived.

*September 20th* — Officers Day. Lectures on 'Motor Transport' by Captain Paul, and Combined Operations by General Staff Officer II H.Q. Cyprus District.

*September 25th* — 22157984 Pte. Drayton, S Company, was accidentally killed whilst travelling in a War Department vehicle.

*September 26th* — Funeral of Pte. Drayton.

*September 28th* — Lecture on China by Professor Magnus Irvine.

*October 5th* — Regimental Signals exercise — exercise HOPIT on Nicosia-Larnaca road.

*October 6th* — Regimental Signals exercise — exercise HOPIT.

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*October 10th* — Lieut. I. R. C. Greenlees arrived from United Kingdom with his family.

*October 17th* — Capts. A. B. Gillespie Hill and D. J. Wood sat for written promotion examination.

Colonel B. J. Clay, O.B.E., Inspector of Record Offices, visited the Regiment.

*October 19th* — Administration Inspection HQ Company.

*October 20th* — Officers Day. Lecture on Combined Operations by Major Bould.

*October 21st* — Administration Inspection HQ Company.

*October 22nd*— 2nd Lieut. W. S. B. Rawlings promoted Lieutenant.

*October 24th* — Major L. C. Puttick rejoined the Regiment and is posted to HQ Company.

*October 25th*—Commanding Officer inspected the Regimental motor transport.

*October 26th* — Administration Inspection — A Company at Polymedhia.

*October 28th* — H.M.S. *Devonshire* visited Limassol. Officers and men were entertained by Polymedhia detachment.

*November 1st*—Signal Platoon Cadre started.

*November 3rd* — Combined Operations Training at Famagusta.

Instruction in Waterproofing, Assault Landings, and the secrets of a Landing Ship Tank.

*November 4th* — Officers of the Combined Operations team were entertained to lunch.  
A Regimental "A" team beat H.M.S. *Sulva* 4—1 at hockey.

*November 6th* — Combined Operations Instruction at Famagusta.

*November 7th* — Assault Landing at Boghaz Bay.

*November 9th* — Anti-tank Platoon fired Armour Piercing and High Explosive on Salt Lakes at Larnaca.

All flags flown at half mast for King Gustav of Sweden's funeral.

*November 11th* — Nonne Bosschen Day. Whole holiday.

*November 12th* — Armistice Day Parade. Major A. de V. Gibson and fifty soldiers on parade.

*November 16th* — Administration Inspection of B Company by the Commanding Officer.  
Arrival of Royal Engineers Training team from Egypt.

*November 18th* — All ranks' dance held in the N.A.A.F.I.

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*November 21st* — Regimental Exercise Red Herring, directed by Major R. F. E. Hill.

*November 22nd* — Regimental Exercise Red Herring.

*November 27th* — Winter dress worn from today.

*November 28th* — Regimental Exercise Pepper. Directed by District Commander.

*November 29th* — Regimental Exercise Pepper.

*November 30th* — The Regiment again started to find a guard for Government House.

*December 1st*—Majors R. R. F. T. Barry, M.B.E., and H. P. Patterson left to take part in sand table exercise Desert Rat in Egypt.

*December 3rd*— Lieuts. W. C. S. Chevis and D. R. Micklem left for Egypt to act as umpires on exercise N.O.E.L.

*December 5th* — Royal Engineers Touring team arrived at Wayne's Keep and was attached to B Company.

*December 7th* — All officers answered a Military Law Paper set by H.Q. Cyprus District.

Disastrous fire at Polymedhia in which some money and all records were destroyed.

*December 9th* — Lecture on United Nations Organization by Dr. Halliday.  
The Commanding Officer became the father of a daughter.

*December 11th* — Visit by Brigadier Cole, Army member of the N.A.A.F.I. Council.

*December 12th* — Gapts. B. C. Innis, M.C., and D. J. Wood and Lieut. O. G. Pratt attended one-day course in English.

*December 18th* — Skeleton Exercise Brain Box directed by the Commanding Officer.

*December 19th* — Exercise Brain Box.

*December 20th* — Regimental Inter Company Cross Country Run won by C Company.  
Island Individual Boxing Competition at R.A.F. Station, Nicosia.

*December 22nd*— Board of Officers held to recommend replacement of King's and Regimental Colour of the 43rd Light Infantry.

2nd Lieuts. J. D. Mostyn and C. A. S. Hinton promoted Lieutenants.

*December 25th* — Traditional Christmas Day — excellent meal, well cooked, served by officers and Serjeants.

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*December 26th* — Comic football match. Officers *versus* Serjeants.

*December 28th* — Capt. D. C. Blake admitted to hospital.  
Regimental children's party.

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**FIRST BATTALION LETTER**

Dear Editor,

Rumours of moves and their accompanying selection of “authentic” stories are an integral part of the soldier's life in these uncertain times. It was not therefore unnatural that some of the more cynical among us should have doubted that our move to Cyprus would take place in early January. Such doubts were removed by the receipt of orders to embark from Salonika on the M.V. *Westralia* on January 7th, 1950.

Of the embarkation there is little to relate. It went smoothly enough as indeed it ought to when one considers the numbers of times it has been the subject of involuntary practices since the end of the war.

I think it safe to say that we left Greece with mixed feelings. We had been happy in the 2nd Brigade and this feeling was in no small measure due to the excellent relations we maintained with the Brigade Commander, Brigadier C. P. Jones, C.B.E., M.C., and with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment who were stationed along side us in Salonika. Field training had been the order of the day and we gained much benefit from the series of exercises which we were able to carry out as a Battalion — we were not to know at the time that such opportunities to train were to be denied to us soon after we reached Cyprus — but of this more anon. On the debit side our barracks in Greece left a great deal to be desired, the general administrative arrangements were singularly lacking in their ability to compete with our demands for stores of all kinds and expenses were high.

We arrived in Cyprus on January 10th and installed ourselves in the tented camp at Wayne's Keep, which is some three miles from Nicosia, the capital of the island. The advance party under Rowland Hill had done their work well in spite of weather, the like of which Cyprus had not seen for many years. We are now used to the fact that the weather alters beyond recognition as soon as we appear on the scene — it was exactly the same in Greece.

Wayne's Keep Camp was designed for a battalion and it undoubtedly has all the buildings which are laid down in the schedule, but it soon appeared to be wholly inadequate for the Regiment. This may in some way be explained by the marked ability the various companies and departments have for spreading themselves in every direction.

Our role in Cyprus was that of a garrison battalion. We were independent and responsible to District Headquarters, whose task it is to administer us and the various ancillary units in the island.

We made the most of our opportunities during the short time we were together. We marched round the walls of the town with the Commanding Officer and the Band at our head, and marched past the Governor at the conclusion of the tour. Not once during the remainder of the year were we to have such an opportunity again.

During March Mark Darell Brown arrived from the British Military Mission in Greece, and took over the duties of Second in Command from Rupert Barry, who went to Headquarter Company.

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In the last week in March the first of a series of bombshells exploded. It was decided that the Cyprus Regiment should be disbanded on the grounds of economy. This Regiment which had been raised during the war had been largely responsible for the security of a number of camps and establishments throughout the island and its disbandment meant that these duties would now be shared by the Loyals and ourselves. In addition the depot of the Cyprus Regiment at Polymedhia was now empty and it fell to our lot to send a company there on detachment. B Company, commanded by Tony Gibson, was selected for the job and it moved to Polymedhia Camp on March 28th. From a Regimental point of view it was not a good start. B Company, however, were well away and soon settled down to what must be a Company Commander's dream of a task. The detachment was some fifty odd miles from Regimental Headquarters; it had originally been built to a plan of Lord Kitchener's for the company which constituted the garrison of the island, and its guard commitments were the lightest in the island.

It was not long after this that the Loyals left Cyprus for Egypt, and it fell to our lot to provide a second company to go on detachment. This time it was C Company under John Willey who were chosen, and they moved down to Karaolos Camp, Famagusta, in early April. Karaolos Camp is beside the sea and is built of Nissen Huts. The snag about this detachment was the extraordinary high guard commitments which had to be undertaken in the area. One does not wish to harp continually on guards and the like but they fill so much of our everyday existence that it is difficult not to over emphasize the influence which they have had on every aspect of the Regiment's activities during 1950. In 1949 our bugbear was E.R.E. Employments — this year it was guards.

By this time we were beginning to lose National Servicemen in large numbers and our strength was falling fast. In the middle of April we received a draft of two hundred and fifty-one National Service soldiers from the 1st Battalion, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, who were going home to take over the duties of Brigade Training Battalion. The draft acted like a blood transfusion and was itself an extremely good illustration of the Group System at its best. The men settled down extremely well and the common bond of Light Infantrymen did much to overcome what could have been a major difficulty in receiving a draft of such proportions from another Regiment.

We had hoped that the Colonel of the Regiment would be able to come out to see us and we knew that he had been making efforts to obtain permission to do so for some time. It was extremely disappointing to learn that it would not be possible for him to come to see us at any rate with the assistance of the War Office. We have not given up hope but our faith in the powers that be, who are unable to appreciate the value of such a visit, has been sorely tried.

I have told you little enough about our sporting activities so far. With two companies on detachment it soon became no easy matter to collect a representative Regimental side together. Company sides were the order of the day. HQ Company won the Island Hockey Knockout Competition handsomely and A Company were runners up in the Football, being narrowly beaten by the R.A.F. in the final.

Pat Patterson trained our Athletics Team for the Island meeting, and his efforts were well rewarded by a clear win often events out of a possible eleven.



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In the cricket world some satisfaction was gained when Robin Peppiat bowled His Royal Highness Prince Philip for a duck, when the Regiment played H. M. S. Chequers in July.

Cyprus is ideal as a families station and it was not long before advantage was taken of the opportunities which exist for them to join their paterfamilias. To jump ahead a little we had fifty-two families in the island by the end of 1950.

The weather was getting warmer and we changed thankfully into khaki drill, Summer dress included green hosetops for all ranks, and the Regimental belt was faithfully worn with a flannel shirt, in spite of the somewhat caustic comments of our bush jacketed friends from District Headquarters. Douglas Bright was by this time D.A.A.G., so we had a friend at court, so to speak.

The King's Birthday Parade on June 10th was held in Nicosia and a party from the Regiment paraded alongside detachments from the other units and the various organizations. We stuck to our drill, thereby causing the organizers of the parade no little trouble in determining how it should be conducted. All went well and His Excellency Sir Andrew Barkworth Wright, K.C.M.G., C.B.E., M.D., represented His Majesty and took the salute.

Early in the summer, Support Company moved to Dhekelia to do some training and to prepare the camp for the arrival of a battery of gunners and a troop of tanks, who were coming across the water to carry out exercises with us. In due course the guns and tanks arrived, and each company in turn exercised with them. The tanks were the much vaunted Centurions and we learnt a good deal about their capabilities and armament.

Support Company managed to prolong their stay at Dhekelia until the guards at Famagusta became too heavy for C Company to compete with alone, and Rowland Hill moved there to lighten the burden.

At the beginning of August, Mike Harbottle handed over the reins to David Wood. Mike will be greatly missed both in barracks and on the field of sport, where his good eye and marked agility saved many a sticky situation.

Cyprus might well be dubbed the Mecca of all Inspecting Officers and we did not lack our share of visitors. Our new Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Brian H. Robertson, Bt., C.B.E., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.D.C., paid us a visit, and at once impressed us as a man whose knowledge of world affairs is outstanding. Others who paid us a call included the Permanent Under Secretary of State for War, Mr. Michael Stewart, and General Sir G. Ivor Thomas, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., the Quartermaster General.

B Company had had their share of Polymedhia Camp and at the end of August they came back to Wayne's Keep, and A Company went cheerfully enough to Polymedhia, whence they visit us at intervals between entertaining visiting ships companies and clearing up after major conflagrations.

About this time the District Commander, Brigadier Ainsley Crook, D.S.O., went home on Python and Brigadier F. S. Reid, C.B.E., arrived from Ceylon to replace him.

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Shooting has been given the attention it deserves this year, and our hopes are high. We entered teams for the Royal Irish Cup, the 1st Army Cup, the Company Shield, and the King George Cup. If our scores are as good as they appear to be when compared with last year's, we should make the highest score in at least one of these competitions and might pull off the Queen Victoria Trophy. John Willey won the Commanding Officer's watch during the Regimental Rifle Meeting, and it was his company who carried away the Company Shield and the Officers' Trophy.

September brought with it the Prime Minister's epic announcement about the extension of National Service and the increases in pay for regular soldiers.

The regular soldiers were pleased with the increase in their pay, but the National Servicemen received the news of his extension with singularly little enthusiasm. Our bacon was undoubtedly saved by the extension of service and those responsible for keeping the Regiment up to standard breathed again. Pay increases are undeniably generous, but seem quite unable by themselves to tempt the National Service soldier to sign on as a regular soldier.

November was brightened by the arrival of a Landing Ship Tank, H.M.S. *Suvla*, who brought with her a Combined Operations Training Team. We learnt much about the complexities of combined operations and finally carried out an assault landing at the beach at Boghaz. The value of such an exercise with so little training is debatable, but at least it gave us the opportunity of concentrating the whole Regiment for one brief day.

District set us an exercise during the last two days in November, and we were pleasantly surprised to find that we had not lost our touch, although we were a little rusty.

I fear I may tire my reader with this somewhat long winded account of our activities, and will therefore allow the year to close without referring to December and all its accompanying festivities — suffice it to say that there was a strong rumour about a move to the Canal Zone which, in spite of the fact that it was supported by a contractor's application to look after us when we reached Fayid, turned out to be wholly untrue.

It is now 1951 and we are still here, although few would be bold enough to predict where we shall be when this letter is written next time.

Yours ever,  
43rd/52nd