

1955 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st Bn OXFORDSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LIGHT INFANTRY

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST BATTALION DIARY 1955

January 1st—Capt. J. H. Haddon joined the First Battalion and was posted to B Company as Second-in-Command.

January 10th—Major A. B. Gillespie-Hill rejoined the Regiment after attending the Company Commanders' course at Warminster.

January 28th—Lieut.-Colonel P. G. F. Young, O.B.E., reassumed command of the Regiment from Major R. A. St. C. Martin, M.B.E., on relinquishing temporary command of 61st Lorried Infantry Brigade.

January 29th—Lieut.-Colonel P. G. F. Young, O.B.E., handed over command of the Regiment to Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C. He directed that the following message to all ranks be published in Regimental Orders:

'Today I hand over command of the Regiment to Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C. I wish all ranks to know how deeply I appreciate their loyalty, support and cheerful co-operation during my two and a half years in command.'

Major G. J. F. White handed over his duties as Quartermaster to Major S. A. G. Cox.

January 31st—Major A. C. Mason assumed command of the Regiment with effect from January 31st, 1955, during the temporary absence on duty of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C.

February 1st—The Commanding Officer congratulates Capt. R. M. Colville and the Regimental ski team on coming 6th out of 47 teams in the Patrol Race at the B.A.O.R. Ski Championships.

February 3rd—Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C., reassumed command of the Regiment.

February 12th—2nd Lieuts. J. R. G. N. Eveleigh and E. W. B. Stanford joined the First Battalion and were posted to C and B Companies respectively.

February 15th—Major A. B. Gillespie-Hill rejoined the Regiment from a course and assumed command of C Company from Capt. A. C. Eyre.

February 27th—Major M. N. Harbottle rejoined the First Battalion and was posted to S Company as Company Commander.

March 10th—Capt. J. D. F. Mostyn took over the duties of Adjutant during the temporary absence on leave of Major R. R. W. Workman.

March 11th—2nd Lieut. J. D. Finny B Company to S Company prior to attending a Medium Machine Gun course at the Support Weapons Wing of the School of Infantry.

March 19th—2nd Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford joined the First Battalion and was posted to A Company.

March 23rd—Basic N.C.O.s' course started.
Section Leaders' course began.

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March 24th— The Commanding Officer congratulates Capt. A. H. Morley on obtaining an 'A' Grading on an M.T. Course.' (Extract from Regimental Orders.)

April 1st—First day of Regimental rifle meeting.
The Mortar Platoon moved to Munsterlager.

April 2nd — Regimental rifle meeting results:
Commanding Officer's Watch — Lance-Corporal Budd
Inter-Company Shield— C Company
Second equal —A and B Companies

April 3rd—Major R. R. W. Workman took over his duties as Adjutant from Capt. J. D. F. Mostyn after his temporary absence on leave.

April 4th —M.M.G. and Anti-Tank Platoons moved to Hohne.

April 5th —Basic N.C.O.s' cadre finished.

April 7th —Section Leaders' course ended.
Easter Break began.

April 8th— Easter Break

April 9th— Easter Break

April 10th— Easter Break

April 11th — C Company won the inter-company football league.

April 12th —The Regiment less S Company moved to Soltau training area.

April 14th —Wellington College and Bucks Cadets arrived in Osnabruck.

April 16th —2nd Lieut. Evelegh was promoted to Lieutenant.

April 18th —Wellington and Bucks Cadets joined the Regiment under canvas at Soltau.

April 20th — Regimental Headquarters took part in two-day Signal Exercise 'Mousehole'.

April 23rd — Regiment less S Company returned to Osnabruck.

April 24th — Cadets left for U.K.

April 26th—S Company moved to Putlos training area with the Regimental rifle teams.

April 27th —Major D. B. Fox rejoined the Regiment and took over command of A Company.

May 1st — Assault Pioneer Platoon moved to Hameln for watermanship exercises.

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May 5th—Day of restoration of German Sovereignty.

May 7th—Assault Pioneers returned from Hameln.

May 9th—Regimental Headquarters took part in three-day Exercise 'Lucky Chance'.

May 14th—The Brigade Commander, Brigadier C. L. Richardson, C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Regiment.

Regimental Quarter Guard provided by HQ Company.

The Commanding Officer congratulates S Company on winning the 61st Lorried Infantry Brigade Support Company Skill at Arms Competition.

The following officers joined the Regiment and were posted as follows:

2nd Lieut. C. J. Edwards to A Company 2nd Lieut. C. C. J. Foster to B Company

May 15th—A, B and C Companies moved to Sennelager for Company Training.

May 18th— Capt. T. D. R. D. Byrne assumed the appointment of Adjutant whilst Capt. J. D. F. Mostyn was in hospital.

May 21st— A, B and C Companies returned from Sennelager.

May 23rd—Wavell Cup Competition.

May 24th—Brigade Rifle Meeting.

May 25th—Brigade Meeting ends. Regiment third.

May 27th—Finals of inter-company sports:

First -C Company

Second -A Company

Third -B Company

Fourth - S Company

Fifth -HQ Company 'X' team

Sixth -HQ Company 'Y' team

May 29th— B.A.O.R. Small Arms Meeting started.

June 3rd— B.A.O.R. Small Arms Meeting ends.

Regimental team 4th of 31 teams:

Officers' team 1st

W.O.s and Serjeants' Match 18th

Unit Team Match 5th

Young Soldiers' Match 4th

L.M.G. Pairs 3rd

Sten Match 10th

June 6th— A and S Companies on Battalion Exercise 'Sea Trout'.

Section Leaders' course started.

Signal Platoon started signals concentration.

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June 7th — B and S Companies on Battalion Exercise 'Sea Trout'.

June 9th — Queen's Birthday — Regimental holiday.
C and S Companies took part in a Garrison parade at Roberts Barracks.

June 10th — C and S Companies on Battalion Exercise 'Sea Trout'.
Major G. J. F. White was awarded the M.B.E. in Her Majesty's Birthday Honours List.

June 13th —The C.R.A. congratulated all ranks who took part in the Queen's Birthday parade on a first-class parade, in particular on turnout, arms drill and march past.

June 14th — A Company to Munster for training with 2nd Royal Tanks.

June 15th — 61st Lorried Infantry Brigade Athletic Meeting.

June 16th — Regimental two-day Exercise 'Trouble Brewing' for all less C Company group.

June 18th —Waterloo Day — Regimental Holiday.

June 22nd —The Regiment was visited by the new Brigade Commander Brigadier R. A. Fyffe, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. (late Rifle Brigade).

June 25th — Section Leaders' course ended.

June 26th — Regiment moved to Sennelager.

June 28th —Major P. G. Thompson, M.C., T.D., rejoined the First Battalion and is to assume the duties of Adjutant as from July 1st.

July 2nd — Regiment moved to Haltern from Sennelager for Exercise 'Wet Bob'.

July 7th —Regiment returned to Osnabruck from Exercise Wet Bob*.

July 8th —Draft of 41 other ranks arrived from Cowley.

July 9th —Regimental holiday.

July 12th —Classification of buglers.

The undermentioned officers joined the First Battalion and were posted to companies as shown:

Capt. W. S. C. Chevis to C Company, July 26th, 1955.

2nd Lieut. R. G. Bradshaw to A Company, July 24th, 1955.

2nd Lieut. R. W. S. Ball to B Company, July 24th, 1955.

July 16th —C Company group moved to Soltau for training as a Motor Company with 2 K.R.R.C.

July 17th —The Regiment, less C Company group, moved to Soltau.

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July 19th —The Regiment acted as enemy and provided umpires for 1st Royal Sussex in Brigade Exercise 'Judo I'.

July 22nd— The Regiment acted as enemy and provided umpires for 1st Green Howards in Brigade Exercise 'Judo II'.

July 23rd—As a result of his visit to Exercise 'Judo II', the Divisional Commander Major-General R. W. McLeod, C.B., C.B.E., wrote some notes for the Brigade Commander. In these notes he said:

'I was most impressed by all I saw of 1 Oxf Bucks. Their interest and enthusiasm was excellent. In addition, not one single officer or man failed to salute me, whether he was standing up or in a jeep, whether I was looking at him or not. They were quite excellent.'

July 25th —Nijmegen marchers depart for Holland under command of 2nd Lieut. M. J. Massy-Beresford, to compete in the 100-mile march.

July 30th —Nijmegen marchers return to Osnabruck. All ranks completed 25 miles a day for four days and all were awarded medals.

Regimental Headquarters runs Signal Exercise 'Crooked Test' to practise umpire control for 6th Armoured Division Exercise 'Fair Trial'.

August 3rd—Exercise 'Fair Trial' starts. The Regiment, 1st Royal Sussex, two squadrons of 2nd Royal Tanks and two squadrons of 6th Royal Tanks act as enemy to 6th Armoured Division.

August 5th —The Regiment returns to Osnabruck.

C Company returned with the Regiment from Exercise 'Fair Trial' after the exercises with 2nd K.R.R.C. at Soltau.

The Commanding Officer congratulates 2nd Lieut. E. W. B. Stanford on coming 3rd in the 100 metres and 400 metres free style events and 23111291 Private Patruick C. (B) on coming 5th in the 1500 meters freestyle event in the B.A.O.R. Individual Swimming Championships.

August 11th —2nd Lieut. R. F. White joined the Regiment and was posted to A Company.

August 13th —2nd Lieut. R. D. Tait joined the Regiment and was posted to A Company.

Major R. A. St. G. Martin, M.B.E., took over the command of the Regiment during the Commanding Officer's temporary absence on leave.

August 14th —Draft of 1 serjeant and 19 other ranks joined from Cowley.

August 17th —Basic N.C.O. and Section Leaders' courses start.
Officers' drill parade.

August 18th —Officers' sword drill parade.

Inter-platoon hockey competition started.

Lieut. R. A. Pascoe took over the duties of Intelligence Officer from Capt. J. D. Mostyn.

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August 19th—Officers' sword drill parade.

Capt. O. G. Pratt assumed command of HQ Company during absence of Major A. C. Mason on leave.

August 20th—Major M. N. Harbottle assumed appointment of Second-in-Command vice Major R. A. St. G. Martin, M.B.E., who was posted as Military Secretary to the Governor-General of Australia.

August 21st—HQ Company went to Sennelager for Classification.

August 22nd—Inter-platoon drill competition for platoons of A, C and S Companies.

August 24th—B and HQ Companies change over at Sennelager.

August 29th—Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C., reassumes command of the Regiment on his return from local leave.

August 30th—Lieut. A. S. Payne promoted local captain.

August 31st—Basic N.C.O.s' courses finished.

September 1st—Inter-platoon drill competition for platoons of B, S and HQ Companies.

1st Signal Platoon commanded by Capt. W. S. Rawlings.

2nd Anti-Tank Platoon commanded by Capt. A. S. Payne.

3rd Mortar Platoon commanded by Lieut. C. St. C. Simmons.

September 7th—Regimental cricket team left for four-day tour in Berlin.

September 10th—Section Leaders' course finished.

September 14th—Major A. C. Mason reassumed command of HQ Company from Capt. O. G. Pratt on return from leave.

September 15th—General Sir Bernard Paget, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., handed over the Colonelcy of the Regiment to Major-General Sir John Winterton, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.B.E.

September 16th—The Regiment started Exercise 'Commonwealth IV'.

September 19th—The Regiment returned from Exercise 'Commonwealth IV'.

September 21st—C Company left for Exercise 'Full House' with the 2nd K.R.R.C.

September 24th—A congratulatory signal received from Lieut.-General Sir Hugh Stockwell, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Commander 1st (Br.) Corps:

'Most grateful for your enthusiastic and efficient co-operation in exercise Commonwealth Four. Your action has added materially to the realism of this exercise.' (Extract from Regimental Orders.)

September 26th—C Company returned from Exercise 'Full House'.

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September 27th —Lieut. C. St. C. Simmons took over the duties of Skiing Officer vice Capt. W. S. B. Rawlings.

October 1st —Lieut. E. W. Leask assumed the appointment of M.T. Officer vice Capt. A. H. Morley. The appointment of M.T. Platoon Commander became redundant.

October 6th —Draft of one officer, 2nd Lieut. C. Billson, and 25 other ranks arrived from Cowley.

October 10th —Company Serjeant-Major S. Abbott appointed Assistant Shooting Officer.

October 14th —Bicentenary Parade in commemoration of the raising of the 52nd Light Infantry. Old Colours of the 52nd trooped.

October 16th —Commemoration Service Bicentenary of the raising of the 52nd.

October 17th —Capt. J. D. Mostyn left to take up the appointment of Adjutant to the 4th Battalion (T.A.).

October 31st—Inter-company patrol competition won by the Assault Pioneer Platoon. Patrol commanded by Serjeant Bateman.

Signal Platoon second. Patrol commanded by Serjeant Bailey.

Inter-company small bore shoot won by No. 6 Platoon of B Company.

The Commanding Officer received a letter from Lieut.-Colonel C. W. Breffa, O.B.E., Commander 11th Accommodation Store Depot, which refers to the large amount of extra stores loaned to the Regiment for the Bicentenary celebrations:

'The Commanding Officer most warmly congratulates Major Cox and his staff on gaining such credit for the Regiment in an unspectacular phase of military duties.

'It has been brought to my notice that the return of stores issued to your Battalion under authority N 4515/5AE(b) dated August 15th, 1955, was conducted in such an efficient and organized manner as to be an example to the rest of the Command.

'The personnel concerned have obviously taken great pains to safeguard W.D. property and have shown considerable initiative and common sense in carrying out their duties.

'I feel therefore that such diligence deserves special mention.'(Extract from Regimental Orders.)

November 2nd —Capt. J. W. Haddon left to take up the appointment of Training Company Commander at Regimental Headquarters.

November 7th —Section Leaders' course started.

November 15th —Inter-company cross country, 1st C Company, 2nd S Company, 3rd B Company.

November 23rd —The Commanding Officer was officially informed that the Regiment will return to the U.K. in April and embark for duty in Hong Kong in May 1956.

November 26th —Section Leaders' course finished.

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November 10th —Regimental Serjeant Major Stevenson, D.C.M., received a short service commission in the rank of lieutenant and left to take up an Appointment with HQ Squadron of 91st Lorried Infantry Brigade.

No. 5380775 W.O. II Gilbey was promoted to assume the appointment of Regimental Serjeant-Major.

December 1st—Garrison Cross Country Race.

Team results:

1st	R.H.A.	— 138 points
2nd	1 Oxf Bucks	— 147 points
3rd	3 D.G.	— 185 points

December 2nd — The Commanding Officer congratulated the Regimental Education Staff on obtaining the following grading on the Annual Admin-Inspection of the Regiment's Education: Gradings:

(a) Education Training State — 68 per cent

(b) Effort and Organization — Outstanding.

December 4th and 5th—Annual Administrative Inspection by the Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. A. Fyffe, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.

December 7th — The Commanding Officer congratulated all ranks on the result of the Annual Administrative Inspection. The Regiment obtained a grading of 'Very Good'.

December 11th —Lieut. E. W. Leask was promoted temporary captain with effect from November 1st.

December 13th —Information was received that the Regiment will stage in the U.K. at Old Park Barracks (east), Dover, before embarkation for Hong Kong.

December 14th —Major M. N. Harbottle assumed command of the Regiment during the absence of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C., whilst sick.
Excellent company concert produced by C Company.

December 16th —Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C., reassumed command of the Regiment after his temporary absence.

December 18th —2nd Lieut. C. W. Gompertz joined the Regiment and was posted to C Company.

December 19th —A draft of 18 other ranks was received from K.S.L.I. Depot.

December 20th —Major M. N. Harbottle assumed command of the Regiment during the absence on local leave of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C.

December 23rd — Christmas break started.

December 24th —Warrant officers and Serjeants held a Christmas Eve ball to which the officers were invited.

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December 25th —Midnight service and carol service conducted by the Reverend A. N. E. Ward were well attended.

The officers were invited to the warrant officers and Serjeants' mess at 1200hrs. After this the officers, warrant officers and Serjeants served Christmas dinner to the Regiment.

December 26th —The officers invited the warrant officers and Serjeants to the mess at 1200 hours.

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FIRST BATTALION LETTER

Dear Editor,

You will not be surprised to hear that the Regiment has spent yet another very active and successful year. Any scepticism you may have at this annual claim should be dispelled by the diary and impressive number of congratulations, covering nearly every phase of the Regiment's activities. It is pleasant to record that they originate from friends and outside witnesses, some previously unknown to us, as well as our superior commanders at Brigade, Division, Corps and Army.

There is no doubt whatever that all ranks were very genuinely sorry to say goodbye in early January to both Lieut.-Colonel P. G. F. Young, O.B.E., and his wife. It is quite certain that his tremendous example, energy and flair for training on the principles of war efficiency gave the Regiment a very high standard and a workmanlike, self-confident Light Infantry approach to any task set it.

At the same time we were sad to say goodbye to Major (QM) George White, who had so ably carried the strain of meeting the demands of tremendous administrative flexibility against the rigid background of peace-time accounting.

Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, unusually well known to many of the junior officers in that he had shepherded them through Sandhurst, was sincerely welcomed as the new Commanding Officer. Both he and Major Steven Cox, the new Quartermaster, would, I am sure, agree that a posting to B.A.O.R. is rather like buying a horse ten minutes before the race. There is no time to study the animal nor the harness room before you are up in the saddle and the next race is on.

February was spent in extreme cold in a tented camp at Sennelager completing annual classification and a small amount of individual training.

The Regimental skiing team did well at the B.A.O.R. Championships over this period and came 6th out of 47 teams in the patrol race.

Early April saw a successful, if chilly, rifle meeting and the Support Company platoons moving to appropriate range areas. At the same time one of the ever-recurring basic N.C.O.s and Section Leaders' courses was being run.

It is interesting to record for posterity that these two types of courses are run at every opportunity throughout the year and not just during the individual training period. The rapid turnover among the junior N.C.O.s, who are 75 per cent National Service men, demands more than annual replacement.

Immediately after the Easter break the Regiment, less S Company, moved to Soltau for company training. Here Regimental Headquarters took part in a two-day Signal Exercise. Whilst in camp at Soltau we were visited by a party of cadets from Wellington College and the Bucks contingent who lived under canvas with us. They thoroughly enjoyed the small exercises and camp life.

At the end of April S Company moved to Putlos together with the Regimental rifle teams to train for the various higher formation competitions.

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On May 1st the Assault Pioneer Platoon moved to Hameln for watermanship and rafting training.

The advent of German Sovereignty Day on May 5th would have past unnoticed by a busy battalion except for the announcement in Regimental Orders. It did bring with it certain changes, however, which are worth recording. On this day we ceased to be an occupation force and became an Allied Army stationed in an ally's country. We are therefore now on the same footing as the American forces stationed in England.

The effect of gaining their independence did not, as some expected, result in local truculence. In fact relations became more normal and friendly. One major change in our status is that we are all now subject to prosecution by the state as nationals under German civil law for any offence not covered by the Army Act.

Examples of some cases so far are worth recording because they will bring home to those who have lived in Germany with occupation status the natural hazards of becoming an ally over night.

Major Denis Fox's wife had a very slight brush in her car with a German motorized bicycle. No one was hurt and she lost a hub cap. She stopped her car, retrieved it and drove away. Under German law anyone in charge of a vehicle in any form of accident must wait at the scene for the police to arrive. Mrs. Fox was summoned on a police charge (*Stadt v. Fox*) under a section of the law for which the maximum penalty was two years' imprisonment. Fortunately, in this case as in others, the Germans have been most sensible in their application of the law, especially where it differs from our own.

Other examples come from the German bye laws. It is an offence to have an untidy frontage to your house for which you are liable to prosecution on the evidence of any town official or neighbour. You are responsible at all times for the behaviour of your dog. The education warrant officer received a demand from a German solicitor for damages on behalf of his client to the tune of £30. The W.O.'s dog had run out of the garden into a German on his motor bicycle. The dog was killed, the girl on the pillion fell off and broke her arm and the machine and rider suffered minor damages. The solicitor was quite surprised to hear that the W.O. was not insured against damage caused by his dog. All German dog owners are apparently, and it was upon this assumption that the solicitor had largely based the claim.

In early May Regimental Headquarters again took the field in a three-day Headquarters Exercise called 'Lucky Chase'. S Company proved that they had not wasted their time at Putlos the month before by winning the Brigade Support Company Skill at Arms Competition. The rifle teams did not do as well as expected at the Brigade rifle meetings because they were let down by some of their bren-gunners. A crowded month ended in the Regimental sports, won by C Company. As last year, great credit goes to those who arranged the meeting and produced company teams amid the welter of other diverse events.

The B.A.O.R. Small Arms Meeting took place in early June. The shooting, particularly with the bren gun, improved. The Regiment was placed 4th out of 31 teams competing. The officers' team did very well indeed to gain first place in their match.

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A series of two-day exercises for each company group in turn was carried out this month. Many will remember 'Sea Trout'. All companies went to Munster for training with our affiliated tank regiment, 2nd Royal Tanks.

On June 9th C and S Companies took part in a Garrison parade to celebrate the Queen's Birthday. We were delighted to read this day that our late Quartermaster, Major George White, had been awarded the M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours List.

Waterloo Day was celebrated as a Regimental holiday on June 18th. An impromptu fair with side shows was set up on the square and the Regiment spent a happy day.

This month brought our first informal visit by our new Brigade Commander, Brigadier R. A. Fyffe, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. Particularly welcome to the Brigade as he is a rifleman.

The end of June saw the Regiment move to Sennelager again for a brush-up on company training followed by a move to Haltern for Exercise 'Wet Bob'. This was a river crossing unassisted by any engineer resources except assault boats. A difficult double obstacle was chosen to practise the Regiment in a type of crossing which would be likely to achieve local surprise because of the difficulty of the terrain. Even as an exercise considerable military skill had to be shown in thick woods, darkness and rain to ensure that serials did not get lost. The Commanding Officer, whilst hammering home the lessons brought out was very pleased with the tremendous spirit and initiative shown by everyone. The small parties of ferrymen, M.T. and Pioneers worked unceasingly to get loaded champs, trailers, anti-tank guns and ammunition across two fairly fast rivers on improvised rafts built by the Assault Pioneers. After a short spell in barracks the whole Regiment moved out to the Soltau training areas for a series of interesting exercises in which we were enemy to the other two Battalion Groups in the Brigade.

At this time C Company Group were attached to the 2nd/60th Rifles and on all subsequent exercises this year acted as a motor company under their command and affiliated with the 3rd Carabineers. C, or Major A. B. Gillespie-Hills company group, did very well in these exercises in their new role and have preserved the happiest relations with both the other regiments ever since.

Over this period the Regiment was really very stretched indeed, both in equipment and manpower. As already recorded C Company group was in the same training area but not under command. The Nijmegen marchers were away in Holland under command of Lieutenant M. J. Massy-Beresford for the first two exercises. Between July 19th and August 5th the remainder of the Regiment produced a force under the command of Major R. A. St. G. Martin, M.B.E., acting as controlled enemy on two Brigade and one Divisional Exercise. The Commanding Officer was Chief Umpire for all three exercises and Regimental Headquarters provided Umpire Headquarters and communications. They were also responsible for the introduction of atomized casualties, suitably made up, into the battlefield at appropriate target areas.

All officers without a tactical command were given the difficult task of umpiring an armoured battle in country which, in theory, lent itself to swift-moving tank tactics. Major A. C. Mason, Major M. N. Harbottle and Captain O. G. Pratt all commanded teams of umpires, all with their own wireless, all self-contained for rations.

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These teams had little or no sleep for 48 hours at a time, because a few minutes' relaxation might lead to an inextricable muddle through lack of a painted picture.

The system of wireless across the battlefield between opposing umpires worked extremely well. As a result of good communications and the untiring efforts by the umpires to let one another know their own sides' intentions, very real pictures were painted and a series of valuable exercises resulted.

A system was devised of umpiring large bodies of troops up to battalion group size completely out of the battle if they were in effective range of ground zero at the time of an atomic strike. This system consisted of Captain J. D. Mostyn, the Intelligence Officer, posting soldiers bearing notices 'Atomic Police' as a cordon round the affected area. Several charges were let off high up in trees to represent the burst and as a signal to the Atomic Police to emerge from hiding and prevent anyone inside the area leaving it. Umpires then moved in knocking all wireless sets off net and cutting all lines. The stricken force was then ordered to assemble and was moved out of the battle area by the best available route — usually accompanied by a few protesting gunners, staff officers and the odd Commanding Officer from a neighbouring unit who had got caught in the trap!

A note of the praise earned from the Divisional Commander after one of these exercises is shown in the diary entry for July 23rd.

A small example of the prevailing spirit of the Regiment at this time was produced by the Nijmegen marchers. They returned from Holland to Osnabruck on July 30th having completed their 100-mile march in four days in excellent order, all receiving a medal. During the next 36 hours the marchers badgered Michael Massy-Beresford who continually got through imploring messages to the Regiment in the field. They eventually won the day by getting a vehicle sent to Osnabruck to bring them up to take part in the last and major exercise of the period at their own urgent request.

During the remainder of August the Regiment remained based upon its own barracks. Each company in turn went for a four-day classification camp at Sennelager. Between these comings and goings a start was made on drill, and detailed planning for the Bicentenary Parade was completed. An inter-platoon drill competition helped to shape companies for the Regimental Serjeant Major's drill parades to come. The Band and Bugles started to get used to the idea of playing and marching in public by blowing retreat once a week. The retreat ceremony was well attended and the standard of drill by the Band and Bugles visibly improved. There were plenty of games of cricket and an evening inter-platoon hockey knock-out was started.

At the end of the month we said a regretful goodbye to the Second-in-Command, Major R. A. St. G. Martin, M.B.E., who was selected for promotion and the appointment as Military Secretary to the Governor-General of Australia. Major M. N. Harbottle gave up command of S Company and became Second-in-Command while Major R. R. W. Workman arrived back from the Company Commanders' course at the School of Infantry to take over S Company.

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In mid-September the Regiment again moved out to do battle. This was a Corps exercise called 'Commonwealth IV'. We were to represent airborne troops 'dropped' in the rear of a withdrawing Canadian Division by the Exercise Controller.

This proved for us a most interesting exercise. The very accurate reading of the enemy's probable reaction by the Brigade Commander and Commanding Officer resulted in the bulk of the Regiment being so disposed that they got a spirited fight. Never has Regimental Headquarters quite so longed for a battle, unfortunately, just as look-outs up trees reported the enemy closing up after overrunning part of B Company, the exercise ended.

A congratulatory signal was received through Brigade after this exercise from the Corps Commander and is shown in the diary entry for September 24th.

Back to barracks at Osnabruck with three weeks to prepare for the Bicentenary Parade. As the whole of the parade and other celebrations to commemorate the 52nd Bicentenary are well covered elsewhere in the *Chronicle* I shall not record more here.

At the end of October the Second-in-Command ran an interesting and instructive, if very chilly, patrol competition. In order that umpires should be strictly neutral the 2nd/60th provided some for us who endured identical rigors with the patrols and rendered most detailed and painstaking reports to the judges.

About this time we were sorry to see two officers away to Oxford, Captain J. D. Mostyn to take up the appointment of Adjutant to the 4th (T. A.) Battalion and Captain J. W. Haddon as Training Company Commander at Regimental Headquarters. David Mostyn in fact left immediately after the Bicentenary Ball before we had a chance to decant him. John Haddon successfully guarded the old 52nd Colours back to Oxford for use at the Armistice parade there and for subsequent laying-up in the Regimental Museum.

On November 23rd the Commanding Officer was officially informed that the Regiment would return to the U.K. in April 1956 and embark for Hong Kong in May.

The next day Regimental Serjeant-Major Stevenson, D.C.M., received a Short Service Commission and left to take up an appointment with 91st Lorried Infantry Brigade Headquarters. All ranks were very sorry to see him go after a long and outstandingly successful tour with the First Battalion. Regimental Serjeant-Major Gilbey was welcomed in his place.

In early December the Regiment was inspected most thoroughly by the Brigade Commander and his staff for the Annual Administrative Inspection. His report on the Regiment was a good one and the overall grading given was Very Good.

Between the inspection and Christmas, activities appeared to quieten down. The implications of the move to Hong Kong began to take shape. It is worth noting a few facts here so that some of the difficulties of modern soldiering are recorded. The Regiment has 450 men with insufficient residual service to embark for Hong Kong. National Service call up has only recently been retarded three months.

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The effect of this is that the bulk of reinforcements will not arrive until the Regiment is staging in the U.K. between April 8th, 1956, and embarkation in mid-May. This poses a considerable problem because of the establishment of 73 corporals, only 20 of those now with the Battalion are eligible to go.

These and other temporary difficulties were, however, successfully shelved over the Christmas break. A midnight carol service was held on Christmas Eve and the normal carol service on Christmas Day. The warrant officers and Serjeants gave a splendid ball on Christmas Eve to which all the officers and their wives were most kindly invited. Their hospitality was more than generous.

The children had two parties, one given by the Regiment and one by the Regimental Wives Club. The officers' wives were invited to Christmas dinner in the officers' mess on the 27th and we all enjoyed a most excellent meal in spite of previous rumours, spread by the Mess President, that 'something had gone wrong with the NAAFI order'.

On Christmas Day all the officers in station were invited to the warrant officers and Serjeants' mess before parading to serve the soldiers an excellent Christmas dinner. We attempted to return their hospitality on Boxing Day, but were defeated in the long run because the warrant officers and Serjeants gave an excellent fancy dress ball on New Year's Eve for which all officers and their wives received kind invitations to help close a very happy and successful 1955. As these celebrations lasted into New Year's Day it is fair to steal an item from next year's chronicles. It was with great delight that news was received that the late Regimental Serjeant Major, now Lieutenant J. Stevenson, D.C.M., had been awarded the M.B.E. in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours List.

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**THE BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE 52ND LIGHT
INFANTRY IN GERMANY**

PREPARATION FOR THE PARADE

THE Commanding Officer decided that the 200th anniversary of the 52nd should be celebrated well and truly, and that a ceremonial parade was to be the highlight of the celebrations. The date for the parade was not easy to select well in advance and it was his intention that we as a versatile Light Infantry regiment should not specially ask for time off to practise. We were fortunate, however, in having the period October 1st-14th free and in order that we should not have to 'increase the pace' then, he decided that the odd free hour would be devoted to drill and administration in September. There were not many odd hours — training for war and range practices came first.

A very successful inter-platoon competition was held in August/September and considering the few practices for it, platoons under very young commanders in most cases, were a credit to their companies. The Anti-Tank and Signal Platoon were favourites according to the Serjeants' mess form book. The Signal Platoon won by a short head. It was all very appropriate as these were the only two platoons commanded by captains. Officers on these parades carried swords.

The Commanding Officer received many suggestions (including one that only four companies of about 68 strong each be on parade — this he rejected at once). He decreed that every possible man be present on parade and on the practices for the parade, and he approved that six companies in four ranks should be formed in formation similar to that sometimes used at Sandhurst, i.e. two companies facing inwards with four companies in line with a space between these flank companies so that all companies could advance in review order. It worked — the square 135 yards long by 60 yards was not really square and the long sides were not exactly parallel. After quite a number of trials the Colonel approved that the six companies should each consist of twenty files of four, plus right and left guides and supernumerary rank Serjeants. There was a gap of four paces between Nos. 2 and 3 companies and 4 and 5 companies. These gaps were to allow for companies to turn left on the march prior to the march past without causing any "bunching". There was a gap of 7 paces between Nos. 3 and 4 companies for the 1st Battalion Colour Party.

The Band and Buglers presented a problem — in certain parts of the square the echo is just too much to bear — so after much experiment by the Bandmaster, the Commanding Officer approved of certain unorthodox movements, which of course were to be well executed. For instance after the 'troop' — the Band and Buglers were to move in rear of the Regiment, counter-march, halt and turn so that the left file of the Band and Buglers were in front, and by advancing and turning on the march they could later assume a normal formation. They were to do so playing, and well they did it on the day.

In order to get both Colour parties on parade in exact time with the music and because of the distance between the Colour parties and the Band (140 yards at least) the appropriate horn was sounded and the tune was struck up — the officers in command of Colour parties then stepped off in time with the music. This applied to the slow march too when the 52nd Colours were marched off parade.

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Sten guns are always a problem and rather than upset administrative routine too much, the Commanding Officer ordered that the rear ranks of Nos. 2, 3 4 and 5 companies would all carry stens. They did and it was a success — the different types of butt plates were grouped — it looked very good. Sten slings were under the shoulder strap and the carbines were held by the magazine opening which had been turned to point down. All were to be held at an angle of 45° from the ground.

Strengths of companies had to be carefully thought about — all rifle companies — A, B and C were over strong for parade numbers — S could not find two complete companies — HQ had a strong parade state. It was decided to form No. 5 company with 10 men from each of A, B, C and S Companies and a rear rank of sten-gunners from HQ Company — the necessary warrant officer was available in HQ Company and a left guide and supernumerary Serjeants were easily found (but not on the days that 1st Class education classes were held). This very mixed-up company was to do well and like the others “excellent” on the day.

Parade states showing numbers on parade and the exact whereabouts of the rest were rendered daily. They were always correct to the delight of some and the amazement of others. Sick men were few and generally were only those really ill. In fact as practises progressed and men returned from leave some were genuinely disappointed to miss the drill practises because of over-strength companies. (They were allowed to drill in extra ranks but just off the square.)

In September each company less C attended four drills, and four drills as a complete regiment less officers, Colours and C Company, under the Regimental Serjeant Major. The Adjutant drilled the Regiment complete at the end of the month and good progress was shown. Officers attended five drills in September, those included sword drill and skeleton parade practise with the Band and Buglers. Much 'shouting' practise was carried out and by the end of September all was not yet perfect but encouraging. C Company together with part of S Company had been on an exercise.

Details of dress for the parade were decided quite early by the Commanding Officer. Officers less those on Colour Parties were to be in No. 1 Dress and George boots. Regimental belts were worn together with swords. Sword knots were looped twice around instead of once as per the present instructions. They were looped twice to make them look neater and no other reason. Officers carrying Colours were in No. 1 Dress (ceremonial) which includes shoulder knots, dress swords and slings with white wash leather gloves - other officers wore leather gloves. All Colour officers and the Regimental Serjeant-Major wore crimson waist sashes. All warrant, non-commissioned officers down to the rank of serjeant were to be in No. 1 Dress with sashes, white blancoed belts, frogs and slings. Two corporals for sentry duty were to be in No. 1 dress with white belts and slings and the Band and Buglers were resplendent in No. 1 Dress. The other ranks on parade were to be in battle dress, with web belts and slings with green berets, polished boots and web anklets. They were really well turned out — shirt collar stiffeners were to be used and no small detail to be overlooked. It was all to prove worthwhile.

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Between October 3rd and 12th, eleven full strength practise parades were to be held, but progress was such that five of these were not held. The men realizing the importance of the occasion had performed as never before and apart from a few small details were really very good on all practises after October 3rd. Much attention was paid to steadiness on parade on all practises. Each practise lasted about one and three-quarter hours, no small faults being overlooked and on the first (and last) full-scale dress rehearsal it was obvious that all was well.

The music for the parade was selected by the Bandmaster and approved by the Commanding Officer. 'The Light Division March' which was played in quick time by the Band and Buglers marching in front of the Regiment before the Colours were trooped, was specially composed by the Bandmaster and is based on the 'Light Division Assembly' and the 'General Alarm'.

It was found necessary because of stands being in the way to concentrate all companies in one part of the barracks near the square and to have all step off on one word of command for the march on parade. This proved successful as in fact did all the arrangements.

The Commanding Officer himself suggested that his bugler should appear and sound 'Reveille' after the 52nd Colours had disappeared from view. To do so the bugler had to leave the Band and Buglers — move through the cookhouse and through a cellar before he appeared. He did it well and in good time.

THE PARADE

This is an account of the ceremonial parade held at Osnabruck to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 52nd at which the Colours of the 52nd were trooped and paid a final salute by the Regiment prior to their being laid up. The Colours had served the Regiment well since 1868 and they were in fairly good condition and their last important duty prior to this occasion was when they were carried in the coronation procession of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.

The day selected for the parade was fine. It was October 14th, 1955, and at 2.30 o'clock those present saw the Band and Buglers march on to the Regimental square playing '56th Brigade'. After a pause the 'Light Division Assembly' was sounded and the Band and Buglers marched off to the south end of the square in slow time rendering the march 'By Land and Sea'. After the Adjutant, Major P. G. Thompson, M.C., T.D., had ordered the 'Advance' to be sounded, the Regiment, 23 officers and 564 other ranks strong, and in four ranks, marched on to the square to the tune 'Light Infantry' and the 1st Battalion Colour Party formed up on the left flank ready to march to the centre of the Regiment. The six companies were now at open order and dressing was taken up on a bugle horn. After the Second-in-Command, Major M. N. Harbottle, had ordered the Regiment to attention, companies were told off as 'Escort for the Colours and Nos. 2 to 6 companies', reports were collected by the Adjutant, and the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read, D.S.O., M.C., took over command. By now many spectators had arrived, including many past and serving members of the Regiment. The British Ambassador, Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar, and the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Richard Gale, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., were shortly to arrive. The large and distinguished gathering from all over Germany were there to see how the 43rd and 52nd fared on parade — they were not disappointed.

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Colonel Read ordered the Colours of the 1st Battalion to be marched on parade and so all was ready to receive General Sir Bernard Paget who was to take the salute. He arrived at 3 o'clock and received a General Salute and before inspecting the Regiment, he gave permission for the Colours of the 52nd Light Infantry to be posted on the left of No. 6 Company. This was done in great style, the 52nd horn being sounded, followed by the quick march of the 52nd Light Infantry. The Colours were handed into the safe keeping of the Serjeants of the Colour party and the Colour officers saluted with their swords and fell in with the escort company. All this was performed without any word of command. Two corporals acted as sentries on the Colours.

At the conclusion of the inspection Colonel Read then ordered 'Troop' and the Band and Buglers acted in slow and quick time playing first 'The Troop' and then 'The Light Division'. After a short pause, the Regimental horn of the 52nd was sounded and Captain W. S. C. Chevis took over the escort company. Under his command the escort for the Colours marched down the parade ground towards the 52nd Colours. They were preceded by the Band and Buglers playing the Regimental quick marches. Regimental Serjeant-Major J. Stevenson, D.C.M., having saluted, took over each colour in turn and handed them to the officers, Captain A. S. Payne and 2nd Lieut. J. Leach. The escort then presented arms to the Colours which were now in their charge and the National Anthem was played in their honour. Whilst this occurred the Regiment was standing at attention and as the escort turned to the right in fours so Colonel Read ordered the remainder to present arms. The Colours were then trooped in slow time in front of the Regiment to the Band and Bugle march 'Raglan' and as they passed the 1st Battalion Colours, those lowered in salute. When the escort had returned to its normal position all was ready for the Regiment to march past in quick time with the 52nd Colours at their head and the 1st Battalion Colours in between Nos. 3 and 4 companies and so the march past was carried out. To do so, the Regiment stepped off in columns of fours and each company turned left on the march so that a column of companies was formed. Each company turned to the right after marching past and the original formation was taken up, after which the Regiment advanced in review order to give a General Salute.

General Sir Bernard Paget, who had been accompanied by General Sir John Winterton, the Colonel of the Regiment on the saluting base and during the inspection, now moved forward to address the Regiment in these words:

"This is a great occasion in the history of the Regiment, and one in which I am very proud to take part. For we are on parade today, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 52nd; to pay tribute to an unsurpassed record of distinguished service through two centuries; and to salute the old Colours which have been trooped for the last time.

The 44 battle honours on those colours are in themselves a wonderful record of the part played by the 52nd in the history of the past 200 years and we have still to be awarded the battle honours of the Second World War in which the 52nd had the great distinction of being the first to land airborne troops in Normandy on D-day.

A further distinction is that the 52nd was the first regiment to be made Light Infantry in 1803. In the following year they were joined by the 43rd and Rifle Brigade to form the famous Light Brigade under Major-General Sir John Moore, who was at that time Colonel of the 52nd.

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No soldier has had a more profound and lasting effect for good on the British Army than Sir John Moore. His greatest achievement was the scrapping of the old system of rigid discipline based on fear of punishment, and its replacement by intelligent discipline based on mutual respect and understanding between all ranks, and on *esprit-de-corps*, the pride of the individual in himself, and in the Regiment, which we have maintained ever since.

In training and tactics also Sir John Moore was far ahead of his time. He went all out for mobility and marksmanship. He trained the soldiers of the Light Brigade to fight as intelligent individuals within the framework of highly disciplined and mobile units, and not on the old system of 'theirs not to reason why, theirs but to do or die'.

Methods of warfare have changed vastly since Sir John Moore's time and so have the organization, equipment and way of life of the army. And now we are beginning to think in terms of atomic warfare.

But in spite of all these changes and the extraordinary development of new and powerful weapons, Sir John Moore's principles still hold good, and it is still the man and his qualities as an infantry soldier which are the decisive factors.

Modern developments in tactics and armament only serve to emphasize the importance of these qualities; as Field-Marshal Wavell said: 'the more mechanical become the weapons with which we fight, the less mechanical must be the spirit which controls them'.

And so it is that the qualities for which the Regiment is famed — intelligent discipline, teamwork and fighting efficiency — are of even greater importance than in the past. The need for dispersion combined with great mobility demands a high degree of quick decision and initiative on the part of all commanders right the way through the Regiment's chain of command; and of skill at arms, self reliance, courage and endurance on the part of all ranks. For even in atomic warfare the Infantry will continue to be the cutting edge of the battle; and it will be the Infantry who will do most to win our battles as they have always done in the past.

There is no doubt in my mind that Sir John Moore would be as proud today of the Regiment as I am. He would agree with me that you are living up fully to the great traditions we have inherited from him as regards intelligent discipline in barracks and in the field, teamwork, standards of training and fighting fitness. He would be particularly impressed, as I am, by the spirit of the Battalion — everybody doing his best at work and at play for the good of the Regiment.

This has been a very fine parade, and most worthy of the occasion, and for this I congratulate the Commanding Officer and all ranks.

In my 48 years' service I have never known the Regiment to be in better shape from all points of view than it is today. The great historian, Sir Arthur Bryant, recently described us as 'perhaps the most famous of all the surviving regiments of the British Line'. We may without boasting accept that verdict, but excluding the word 'perhaps'.

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But an important point for all of us to remember is that we can never afford to sit back on our laurels and expect to live on the reputation built up by the Regiment in the past. We must be constantly striving to maintain and enhance that reputation, as you are doing. It's like riding a bicycle — you either keep moving on or you fall off.

And it is important also to remember that our reputation depends, not on a few people in the Regiment, but on the team as a whole.

Everyone, be he officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or private soldier, who has the honour to wear the badge of the Regiment, carries with it a personal responsibility for upholding at all times and in all places, on and off parade, the good name and the prestige of the Regiment.

And now as Colonel of the Regiment, and with great regret, I bid you farewell, having reached the age limit. But it is some consolation to me to be handing over to that very distinguished member of the Regiment, Major-General Sir John Winterton. I wish you one and all good fortune and God speed.”

Colonel Read in reply said:

“Sir,

I speak for every man in the Regiment, when I say we are proud to be on parade today. The 52nd Light Infantry, Sir John Moore's own regiment, has handed to history a tradition and an imperishable fame. And to us, the successors, has been handed a standard of military achievement and prowess, that has never been surpassed. As you said, sir, we cannot rest upon our laurels, and upon the deeds of the Regiment in the past. But we can be, and are, inspired by those deeds and by the teachings of Sir John Moore. Our hope and ambition is that in 2155, when the next Bicentenary celebration falls due, history will show that we have maintained the standards set us.

In May last year, on behalf of Her Majesty, you presented new Colours to this Battalion, the 43rd and 52nd. These Colours, which are on parade today, are the symbol of the combined history and tradition of both Regiments. On that parade last May, the old Colours of the 43rd were trooped and marched off parade. Today the old Colours of the 52nd take pride of place; when they are marched off parade, for the last time, my bugler will sound the Reveille, to signify that, although we have said a final farewell to them, the 200 years of tradition which they represent is perpetuated in the Regiment on parade today.

Today is a proud day for us, but it is also a sad one. For it is your last appearance as Colonel of the Regiment. The world knows what you have done for our country, but only we in the Regiment know what you have done for us. You have directed our affairs with wisdom and shrewdness. Your sharp and discerning eye has picked out our faults and put them right. And above all, at all times, in adversity and success, you have set us an example of all that a Light Infantryman should be. No less a historian than Sir Arthur Bryant has pointed the similarities in career and achievement between yourself and Sir John Moore.

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In a minute, it is my duty to order the Regiment to give its farewell General Salute to you as Colonel of the Regiment. And I am sure, as the bugles sound, the spirit of Sir John Moore is with us paying tribute to you for all you have done for his Regiment.”

General Sir Bernard Paget then gave permission for the Colours to be marched off parade for the last time prior to a laying-up ceremony at Oxford. Both Colour parties now carried Colours and a General Salute was given after which Colonel Read ordered 'March Off the Colours of the 52nd Light Infantry — 43rd and 52nd present arms' and so the Colours of the 52nd, their duty so nobly done, passed along the front of the Regiment in slow time. The Band and Buglers played 'The 52nd Colours' — specially composed by the Regiment's Bandmaster H. A. Kenney, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., based on the 52nd Regimental horn and as they reached the left of the line — 'Auld Lang Syne'. Meanwhile the Regiment was at the present and as the Colours passed into the Serjeants' mess to be cased, escorted by the non-commissioned officers of the Colour party, so two sentries at the doors, came to the port and faced outwards. The Commanding Officer's bugler slow marched out just as the doors closed and sounded 'The Long Reveille' as a reminder that although the Colours of the 52nd had passed on, their spirit was ever present and that the battle honours of the 52nd were incorporated in the 1st Battalion Colours which were to do duty alone in the 43rd and 52nd from this day onwards. It was a most moving spectacle.

At the conclusion of the Reveille, Colonel Read ordered the Regiment to stand at ease and to march past again in column of companies with the 1st Battalion Colours in the centre and so off parade. As companies reached the south end of the square so they turned into column of fours — No. 1 to the right and No. 2 to the left and so on. The Band and Buglers played the Regimental favourite 'Old Monmouth' for the march past and off parade, and as they themselves moved forward in line and turned on the march they played 'Waterloo' and counter-marched. The Bugle Major saluted and so they marched off parade. The ceremonial parade was over, the Regiment had once again performed its duty, and shown that its officers and men were truly the descendants of the rugged veterans of the Light Division, men who never failed to show how a trench should be mounted and stormed. Truly a regiment unsurpassed in arms since arms were first borne by man. The 52nd's 200 years of honourable service had been celebrated in a fitting manner by this display of steadiness and cohesion on the parade ground, the outward sign of the moral qualities that had so often brought it success on many a battlefield.

SOCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Officers' Mess

Immediately after the parade about three hundred and fifty guests joined us for tea. This was served in the mess and had been arranged by Denis Fox and the officers of A Company. We had two large tents on the lawns as cloak-rooms, presided over by 'Gert' and 'Daisy' the glamour matrons who normally do the mess laundering.

The Colours of the 1st Battalion were in the hall and Ronnie White had zone a most attractive arrangement of flowers.

The meal itself was most enjoyable; for those who had been on the parade refreshment in any form was by then a fascinating thought, but particularly if it was for the most part the first time that they had seen the many friends who had come from England and elsewhere.

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Tea was made even more palatable by the ever pleasant sweetmeat of praise for the parade.

At 1715 hours the buglers sounded a long flourish outside the mess which is the warning that the time had come to collect hats and coats and repair to the parade ground to watch the Band and Buglers sound Retreat.

Thoughts about the ball had started early in the year when the Commanding Officer called the first of a series of meetings over which he presided. It was then decided that the mess was too small for the ball and that tents would not be satisfactory, particularly in the event of bad weather. The palace of the Prince Bishop of Osnabruck and the castle at Iburg were considered, but we could not get permission to use either of them. A fine looking building was found marked on a local map, but on investigation proved to be a lunatic asylum. In the end we decided upon a local inn which had a large hall and stage. It had in fact been used as a temporary opera house just after the war.

Various aspects of the preparations were split up among individual officers and companies. A 'Headquarters' was formed with David Mostyn as secretary and Arthur Morley combining mess secretary with ball treasurer, while John Southey looked after invitations and arranged accommodation. Supper and breakfast were the responsibility of Riley Workman and Company officers. In this they had the *incalculable* help of Ingrid Pratt, Oliver's wife. John Finny controlled wines and dance music and the Commanding Officer, Bill Chevis and Bandmaster Kenney between them produced a Regimental musical history with lighting effects by Bill Rawlings. Mike Hay-Will and the officers of B Company took on the job of decorating the inside and the outside of the building.

Tommy Thompson had a finger in many pies and Steven Cox produced any quantity of any known form of stores at any place and at any time. Charles Mason as mess president, brooded over all and played an unpopular part of squeezing *money* out of us with one hand and distributing it grudgingly to the committee members with the other.

Preparations increased in tempo and the day of the ball and that preceding it found most of us furiously decorating rooms, icing champagne or preparing food in addition to taking part in the parade. Tasting various dishes under the guise of 'mixing' or 'stirring' became a popular late evening pastime and had to be carefully regulated to avoid subsequent famine.

At ten o'clock in the evening, all that could be done was done and the guests started to arrive.

Champagne flowed and about 400 guests danced under the chandeliers in the flower-decked hall. Some presently deserted the main hall for the more intimate atmosphere of the 'honky-tonk' which took the form of a warm, but apparently roofless Bavarian inn in a snow storm. It also included soft music and a dance floor of pleasantly minute proportions. Cartoons on the wall brought out the least favourable physical characteristics of various officers.

Supper arrived shortly after midnight on a series of 'Emmett' trains. The columns of smoke rings rising from the engine funnels bore testimony to the weight of food they drew.

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When supper was finished, Bill Chevis with the Regimental Band and Buglers presented the musical history of the 52nd. This was a practical and very popular adaption of a series of fairly hilarious tableaux thought up by the Commanding Officer and Charles Mason in a deep dug-out earlier in the training season.

Dancing then continued until dawn when breakfast was served after which the guests departed.

It was a strange feeling for those on the 'home side' who were left to clean up the debris. The hall seemed very large and silent as indeed it was — the silence broken only by the clink of glasses being packed and the odd bottle being uncorked. Some of us finished just in time to return to barracks, change and present ourselves very wearily at the Serjeants' mess.

The week-end continued with a whirl of private dinner, luncheon and cocktail parties, and other activities including a most interesting, if somewhat hazardous, afternoon's clay pigeon shooting at Eversburg.

Serjeants Mess

No doubt, when the 52nd was raised just two centuries ago, vast quantities of liquor flowed. Judging from the mess accounts there is reason to believe that a comparable amount of liquor was consumed by present and past members during the weekend of October 14th, 15th and 16th. The spirit level was extremely high both inside and out.

We entertained some 200 guests amongst whom we were very pleased to see Serjeant Daniel Gorman, our 'young' soldier from Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Mr. and Mrs. Dean, Mr. Tingey, Mr. and Mrs. (Jim) Beesley, Mr. and Mrs. Turner, Messrs. Heath senior and junior, Mr. Bert Jones, Mr. Slater, Mr. Chantry, Mr. Dore, Mr. Smith, and so on. All guests from U.K. were welcomed in the mess on arrival at approximately 1300 hours just in time to taste our now world-famous Osnabruck beer. During this introduction to the qualities of our beer I might add that those members taking part in the parade made sure their glasses contained only soft drinks much to the amusement of some of the old hands.

After the parade an excellent tea was provided for all guests and members although we had to allow the ladies in first owing to shortage of space. The male members of our company made no complaints about these arrangements as they were adequately supplied with liquid refreshment in the billiards room. I suspect that quite a number of the males actually forfeited their share of solids and remained on the liquids thus making up for time lost during the lunch hour.

It was surprising to see how quickly the dining-room was converted into a ballroom once we had finished. During the moving of tables and chairs a number of best boots received little consideration which caused extra small circles on Saturday afternoon in preparation for the church parade.

Time for the ball — 2100 hours. The mess was filled to capacity and from then on not one sad face was seen until approximately 0545 hours when Company Serjeant-Major Besant, our President of the mess committee, was seen assisting the last guest, a lady, into her car. It is hard to say now if she remembered the incident or not.

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On Saturday the 15th all officers, including Generals Paget and Winterton and all Regimental guests were invited to the mess at lunchtime for the usual rounds of liquid refreshments. It was then that General Paget presented us with his photograph which has been given a place of honour between Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh. General Paget also read to us the message of congratulation from the Divisional Commander.

On Saturday evening a social was held in the mess which was confined to the members, their wives and our guests from U.K. The usual tombola was run and some very appreciative prizes were given at the raffle, some of which were opened there and then but we feel sure some found their way back to U.K. We wonder how the customs looked upon these gifts.

After the church parade on the 16th we had a cocktail party and as far as I can remember the subject was: Which was the best company on the march past? This, of course, varied according to which company the 'old soldier', who did the checkings, served with during his happy days.

Sunday evening found a number of mess members and guests in a wonderful party given by Company Quartermaster-Serjeant and Mrs. Arthurs in their quarters. While there we noticed that not only did the 'spirit' go down the gullet but also out of the window. The utter collapse of Jim Beesley's seance so upset Jim, that he was forced (?) to resort to the more aquatic type of plasma.

Sometime on Sunday the mess members, quite unknown to anyone in authority, decided to give General Paget his final farewell on Osnabruck station that evening. A party of 13 including Dan Gorman, organized by C.S.M. Gilbey and O.R.Q.M.S. Bayliss formed a Guard of Honour on the stairway leading to the platform. As General Paget mounted the steps each pair saluted and 8 buglers under Bugle Major Savage sounded a fanfare. It was a wonderful sight to see the look of appreciation and yet sadness on General Paget's face and it is a farewell that none of us will ever forget.

Monday saw our guests from U.K. making preparations for their departure from Osnabruck. During the day excursions were made to the local shops for the usual momentos and we gather that all concerned were pleased with their powers of bartering. At 6 p.m. a coach arrived to take them to the station and although all were outwardly happy we felt that inwardly the majority wished the week-end was just beginning. We are certain they will never forget their visit to us, not only for the liquid refreshments but for the bitter cold night they left us. Their passage across that little stretch of water was, we understand, more than some could bear, in consequence of which large amounts of Osnabrucker (beer) failed to reach Harwich.

We thank all our guests for their very kind letters of thanks and appreciation, and would like to let them know, that these letters have been placed in a scrapbook and added to the mess property, for future guidance of those who organize the next Bicentenary parade.

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COMMEMORATION SERVICE

Most readers of this *Chronicle* will have attended services of commemoration similar to our own held at Osnabruck in Germany on the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 52nd.

The service was conducted by the Assistant Chaplain General, the Reverend C. G. Gregory, M.A., C.F. and the Osnabruck Garrison Chaplain, the Reverend G. Bedford, C.F. (M). After the Preface the Assistant Chaplain General dedicated a Regimental Bible presented by Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read and Lieut.-Colonel R. A. St. G. Martin.

Facts dealing with attendance, that the service was held in our Gymnasium and the day was fine are incidental.

The full order of service is reproduced at the end of this report. The association of the psalm, hymns and collects to unselfish devotion to our Regimental tradition comes easily to the imagination. As chronicler of the event I therefore take it as my humble duty to try, however inadequately, to explain the effectiveness of the service upon those fortunate to be there.

This was a family service. It was therefore very personal to all the members of the Regimental family, present or absent, both men and women.

The pageantry of the previous Friday had been of a high order. Those who watched and those who took part were, I think, freshly conscious of their good fortune in belonging where efficiency without fuss is a long forgotten legacy, the dividends of which make our daily military life so much more comfortable.

If I could reproduce the brilliant address by the Assistant Chaplain General there would be no need for this chronicle. Unfortunately he spoke from rough notes which he claimed were afterwards unreadable. His perfect explanation of the tradition of Service, built and so unselfishly preserved by our predecessors and its relation to the tradition created and handed on by Christ himself, was enhanced by the fact that he was talking to a family over 700 strong so very conscious of its unity.

The Regiment, solid with pardonable pride at the meaning and execution of the parade two days before, humbled by the commemoration of high example in the first part of the address, seemed particularly receptive to the simple and clear reasons given at the conclusion of the need to rededicate itself if the tradition commemorated is to survive.

The Colours laid upon the altar were those of the 1st Battalion. They were escorted into church by the same Colour party which had carried them on the Ceremonial parade: Lieut. R. A. Pascoe, Lieut. J. D. Finny, C.Q.M.S. Young, Serjeant Kempster, Serjeant Bateman. The effect of disciplined, smart drill in the silence of a church is always effective. The precision and bearing of the Colour party represented the military tribute we, as a regiment, could pay to the consecrated emblems of our inheritance.

I cannot sum up the complete effectiveness of the service better than by quoting Rowland Hill. He wrote afterwards to the Commanding Officer: 'The Service on Sunday was too well done to be bearable; but it was a stroke of genius on your part to have succeeded in finding an army clergyman capable of conducting the Service with such dignity.'

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ORDER OF SERVICE

The Assistant Chaplain General will ask the Congregation to stand and the Service shall begin with the Preface:

Today, we are assembled here to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the raising of the 52nd Light Infantry, two hundred years of loyal and fearless service to your Sovereign and your countrymen; to commemorate it with thanksgiving before God.

It is right that on this memorable occasion you should pay tribute to the memory of those who have given, some their wounds, some their lives, all their utmost, to just and noble causes.

So let us now praise God; and in his presence seek inspiration to dedicate ourselves in no smaller ways to his service and our country's, giving way to none in the long fight for the good and the true.

Chaplain: Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us;

All answer: But unto thy name give the praise.

Chaplain: The Lord hath done great things for us already;

All answer: Wherefore we rejoice.

Chaplain: Praise the Lord, O my soul;

All answer: And forget not all his benefits.

The Assistant Chaplain General then dedicates the Regimental Bible presented by Lieut.-Colonel J. A. J. Read and Major R. A. St. G. Martin.

Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
To his feet thy tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Who like us his praise should sing?
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
Praise him still the same for ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame he knows; In his hands he gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes. Praise him! Praise him!
Widely as his mercy flows.

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Angels help us to adore him;
Ye behold him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before him;
Dwellers all in time and space,
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace.

Lesson: Joshua 1, Verses 1-9 but omitting verse 4.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Lesson: Romans 8, Verse 31 to the end but omitting verses 33 and 34.

Then all shall stand, and the Chaplain say:

Let us repeat together, with all Christian soldiers for nigh two thousand years, our Creed.

All repeat:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.
After which all shall kneel for the Commemoration.

ACT OF COMMEMORATION

Chaplain: Let us pray.

Let us remember before God all of this Regiment who have given their courage, their leadership, their endurance, their wounds and their lives to our country.
And first pray the prayer of the Regiment.

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Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, bless we pray thee our Regiment. We thank thee for the good example set by those who have gone before. We praise thee for the honour and tradition inherited from the past. We remember with gratitude those who have fallen in the service of the Regiment.

Guide and counsel those in authority with wisdom and understanding. Prosper our work and every worthy enterprise; and may the common ties of loyalty and devotion strengthen our comradeship together make us persevering and enable us to show the cheerful infection of a good courage. So in proud thanksgiving may we hand on the good name of our Regiment to those who follow after: This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember those who have given their wounds.

Accept, O Lord God, the wounds and hardships which the men of this Regiment have endured and given freely to the service of their Sovereign and country, in many campaigns and in many parts of the world; and as thou didst accept the sufferings of thy dear Son for the salvation of all mankind, so remember and reward these who stood fast and dared their all in the causes of right: through thy Son our Redeemer Jesus Christ. Amen.

Above all, let those be ever remembered who gave their lives.

O God our Father, the Giver of Life in this world and the world to come: We praise and thank thee for all who counted not their lives dear unto themselves, but laid them down for their friends; beseeching thee to remember for good their loyal service and faithfulness unto death, and to fulfil in them the loving purpose of thy perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them.

And all shall repeat:
We will remember them.

Last Post
Reveille

Hymn

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle-line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine —
Lord God of Hosts be with us yet,
Lest we forget — lest we forget!

The tumult and the shouting dies;
The captains and the kings depart:
Still stands thine ancient sacrifice,
An humble and a contrite heart.
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget — lest we forget!

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Far-called, oar navies melt away;
On dune and headland sink the fire:
Lo, all our pomp of yesterday
Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!
Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,
Lest we forget — lest we forget!

If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not thee in awe,
Such boastings as the Gentiles use,
Or lesser breeds without the Law —
Lord God of Hosts be with us yet,
Lest we forget — lest we forget!

For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And guarding, calls not thee to guard,
For frantic boast and foolish word —
Thy mercy on thy people, Lord!

ADDRESS

ACT OF DEDICATION

All shall kneel when he says:

Let us pray

We give thee thanks, O Lord God, for the honour of this Regiment sustained through so many years, in so many fields of duty and action; and pray that in the days to come, it may continue to meet all demands upon its devotion with like distinction and gallantry.

And to this end and in this hope, help us, O Lord, to dedicate ourselves before thee, each as a man, and together as a Regiment, to the highest service of all, thine own.

Then he shall begin the Act thus
Lo I come to do thy will, O God:

All answer: I am content to do it, yea, they law is within my heart.
Then, led by the Assistant Chaplain General, all shall say together, line by line

Look upon our lives, O Lord our God,
And make them thine
In the power of thy Holy Spirit;
That we may walk in the way,
Faithfully believing thy Word
And faithfully doing thy commandments;
Faithfully worshipping thee
And faithfully performing thy service on earth,
To the furtherance of thy glorious kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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OUR FATHER

Hymn

O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home;

Under the shadow of thy throne
Thy Saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is thine arm alone,
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Bears all its sons away;
They fly forgotten, as a dream
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be thou our guard while troubles last,
And our eternal home.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

BLESSING