

**Historical Records of the  
Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders**



HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE VI. IN SERVICE DRESS, MAY 1943  
(Taking the Salute during the Inspection of the 51st Highland Division)

Historical Records  
of the  
Queen's Own  
Cameron Highlanders

1932-1948

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS*

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" THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS AT ALAMEIN " . . . . .	50
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## CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDA

### Page 302

For Colin Stewart Duncan *read* Colin Stuart Duncan. *Delete* 2nd Battalion in the particulars following his name and *substitute* 1st and 2nd Battalions.

### Page 334 (Index)

Captain G. E. M. Yates. *Delete* page 245 and *substitute* page 425.

## CORRIGENDA AND ADDENDA

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- Page 5  
For Lieutenant I. H. MacDonald *read* Lieutenant I. H. Macdonald.
- Page 7  
For 2nd Lieutenant J. M. Kerr *read* 2nd Lieutenant J. M. M. Kerr.
- Page 45  
For Captain J. H. F. McEwan *read* Captain J. H. F. McEwen.  
For Mr Harold MacMillan *read* Mr Harold Macmillan.
- Pages 47, 271  
For Captain J. A. MacDonald *read* Captain J. A. Macdonald.
- Pages 47, 49, 61, 67, 69  
For Captain W. J. MacGregor *read* Captain W. J. Macgregor.
- Page 48  
For Lieutenant D. MacIver *read* Lieutenant D. Maciver.  
For Pipe-Corporal I. Campbell *read* Pipe-Corporal A. Campbell.
- Page 51  
For W. B. Thompson *read* W. R. Thompson.  
For C.S.M. W. A. McBride *read* C.S.M. W. A. MacBride.
- Page 52  
For Lieutenant E. McDonald, D.C.M., *read* Lieutenant E. Macdonald,  
D.C.M.
- Page 55  
For Captain I. C. Pitman *read* Captain L. C. Pitman.
- Page 69  
For Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro (of Auchenbowie) *read* Lt.-Colonel  
A. G. F. Monro (of Auchinbowie).  
For Lieutenant A. I. Macnab *read* Lieutenant A. L. Macnab.  
For Alan Macleod *read* Alan MacLeod.  
For R. G. Parry *read* R. A. Parry.
- Pages 69, 159, 160  
For Lieutenant J. R. MacKay-Smith *read* Lieutenant J. R. Mackay-  
Smith.
- Page 77  
For Sergeant J. A. MacLean *read* Sergeant J. A. McLean.
- Page 81  
For Lt.-Colonel A. H. Fausset-Farquhar *read* Lt.-Colonel A. H. F.  
Fausset-Farquhar.
- Page 82  
For Lance-Corporal D. J. MacKay *read* Lance-Corporal D. J. Mackay.

## Page 92

For Lieutenant Arnot *read* Lieutenant Arnott.

## Pages 93, 95, 151, 162, 163

For Major A. R. MacLeod or Major A. R. Macleod *read* Major A. R. McLeod.

## Page 101

For C.S.M. J. A. Maclean, D.C.M., *read* C.S.M. J. A. McLean, D.C.M.

## Page 106 (Map : Operation " Totalize ")

For Fontenay-le-Marnon *read* Fontenay-le-Marmion.  
For Aisy *read* Ussy.

## Page 107

For General Simmonds *read* General Simonds.

## Page 116

For Hecqueville *read* Heuqueville.

## Page 132

For Corporal S. Leadbetter *read* Corporal R. Leadbetter.

## Page 141

For Lieutenant E. Smith *read* Lieutenant H. N. Smith.  
*Add* new sentence after ". . . village." (line 34), " Lieutenant H. N. Smith subsequently died of his wounds."

## Page 156

For Lieutenant J. M. MacKay *read* Lieutenant J. M. Mackay.

## Pages 159, 161, 162

For Lieutenant I. MacDonald *read* Lieutenant I. Macdonald.

## Pages 162, 163, 164

For Lieutenant J. C. MacKay *read* Lieutenant J. C. Mackay.

## Page 163

*Delete* name of Lieutenant J. Gentleman (" A " Company) : Lieutenant Gentleman, who was wounded during the Second Battle of Ste Honorine, was not present at the First Battle.

## Page 165

*After* " Lieutenant F. L. J. Arnott (wounded) (Canloan) " *add* " This officer died of his wounds."

## Page 176

For J. E. C. McNair *read* J. E. C. Macnair.

## Page 203

For Camp Brassechaet *read* Camp Brasschaet.

## Pages 212, 213

For Major-General Sir James S. Drew, K.C.B., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., *read* Major-General Sir James S. Drew, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

## Page 247

For Lt.-Colonel F. Sublet *read* Lt.-Colonel F. W. Sublet.

## Page 271

For Captain A. D. Macleod *read* Captain A. D. MacLeod.  
For Captain C. MacLennan *read* Captain C. MacLennan.

# Historical Records of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders

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## THE REGIMENTAL DEPOT DURING THE WAR

At the outbreak of war, Major G. P. Miller, M.C., was in command, and six days later, in accordance with the mobilisation scheme, the Depot became No. 34 (Cameron Highlanders) I.T.C., Major Miller assuming command with the rank of Lt.-Colonel. Major J. Ford, D.C.M., remained as Quartermaster.

In the same month, however, Lt.-Colonel R. N. Stewart, O.B.E., M.C., joined from the Reserve and took over command. Colonel Stewart remained at the Depot for just under a year, and on 6th September 1940 Lt.-Colonel A. P. C. Hannay, M.C., took over command of the I.T.C. In the interval of three weeks between Lt.-Colonel Stewart's departure and the arrival of Lt.-Colonel Hannay, the I.T.C. had been commanded by Major A. F. MacGillivray.

Colonel Hannay held command until 10th February 1941, when he was succeeded by Lt.-Colonel R. P. Haig, who, however, was posted to command the 7th Camerons some two and a half months later, when Lt.-Colonel H. S. S. Pringle-Pattison, M.C., arrived to command the I.T.C.

On 15th August 1941 the amalgamation of the Seaforth and Cameron I.T.C.s took place at Fort George, and thereafter during the war the barracks were occupied by various units—No. 5 A.T.S. Training Unit; No. 10 I.T.C. (consisting of Royal Scots, Royal Scots Fusiliers and King's Own Scottish Borderers, and 30th (Young Soldiers) Training Battalion). The last named was commanded during the latter part of its stay at Cameron Barracks by Lt.-Colonel A. G. Fairrie, M.B.E., Cameron Highlanders.

For a time, from September 1943 to April 1944, the White Ensign flew from the flag-pole on the lawn when a combined Naval and Military



Headquarters, controlling operational troops then stationed in various parts of the North of Scotland, occupied the barracks. Personnel of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines and W.R.N.S., and Headquarters 3rd Division, then commanded by the late Major-General T. G. Rennie, C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E. (later, in 1944, Commander 51st Highland Division), formed this combined Headquarters.

On 10th July 1946, No. 8 Highland Holding Battalion, commanded by Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, D.S.O., moved into Cameron Barracks, where it remained until its disbandment on 21st November 1946.

During all the period since No. 34 I.T.C. moved out of Cameron Barracks until the end of 1946, a Regimental Depot Party under the command of Major A. F. MacGillivray had remained at the barracks guarding the interests of the Regiment. This proved no easy task: at times the Regimental Depot Party was in danger of being exiled from its home. Indeed, for the six months during which the Combined Headquarters occupied barracks and all available office accommodation therein, it was forced to take refuge in the Pioneers and Armourers Shops. The Regiment was lucky to have such a sturdy upholder of its interests as Major MacGillivray at Cameron Barracks during this period.

The Regimental Military Band consisted mainly of boys of the 1st and 2nd Battalions and repatriated prisoners of war, under Bandmaster D. A. Pope and later Bandmaster V. E. Webster, and was at the Depot throughout the war. The Band carried out excellent work entertaining the troops and civilians in North Highland District, and raising money by playing at public concerts for regimental and local charitable and welfare funds.

On 21st November 1946, after a lapse of over five years, Cameron Barracks was reoccupied by a purely Cameron unit on the formation of No. 79 Primary Training Centre and Depot The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. The Commanding Officer was Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, D.S.O.

On 27th October 1947 the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, Field-Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, K.G., G.C.B., D.S.O., accompanied by Lt.-General Sir A. F. Philip Christison, Bt., K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, visited Cameron Barracks. After a tour of the barracks the C.I.G.S. lunched in the Officers' Mess.

No. 79 Primary Training Centre was disbanded on 21st April 1948, when the Regimental Depot was re-formed on its own establishment under the command of Major R. G. Borradaile, M.B.E., M.C.

## REGIMENTAL INFANTRY TRAINING CENTRE

No. 34 (Cameron Highlanders) I.T.C. marched out of Cameron Barracks, Inverness, on 14th August 1941, to form a combined Seaforth and Cameron I.T.C. at Fort George.

Lt.-Colonel J. E. M'Connell, O.B.E., Seaforth Highlanders, was the first Commanding Officer and Major D. Macdonald, Cameron Highlanders, the first Second-in-Command, of No. 11 (Seaforth and Cameron) I.T.C.

The I.T.C. contained the normal Recruit Companies to train recruits and Depot Companies to retrain and post trained men who for various reasons belonged to no battalion.

In July 1942, owing to accommodation difficulties at I.T.C.s, it was decided to concentrate certain Depot Companies at No. 1 Infantry Depot at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, which was commanded throughout its existence by Lt.-Colonel F. S. Waldegrave, O.B.E., M.C., Cameron Highlanders.

The Seaforth Depot Company spent a period there, and the Cameron Depot Company was there the whole time until No. 1 Infantry Depot ceased to exist in 1944.

On 14th September 1942 the I.T.C. was honoured by a visit from His Majesty The King. His Majesty, wearing the service dress uniform of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, inspected the I.T.C., which was drawn up on the cricket ground. His Majesty was accompanied by Lochiel, K.T., C.M.G., Lord Lieutenant of the County of Inverness, and by Major-General R. N. Stewart, O.B.E., M.C., Commander, North Highland District.

Lt.-Colonel A. P. C. Hannay, M.C., Cameron Highlanders, was appointed to command in October 1943, on the retirement of Lt.-Colonel M'Connell.

On 2nd November 1943, owing to the need to practise for "D"-Day in the area of Fort George, No. 11 I.T.C. was moved to Pinefield Camp, Elgin, there to remain until the 16th March 1946, when the I.T.C. was moved to Redford Barracks, Edinburgh, there to become, on 1st April 1946, the Highland I.T.C. The other Highland Regimental I.T.C.s joined later to complete the establishment—one training company for each Regiment, and this company bearing the name of the Regiment and being staffed with officers and N.C.O.s of that Regiment.

During the next eighteen months, the title of the unit kept changing at frequent intervals, becoming in turn the Highland Group Training Centre, the Highland Brigade Group Training Centre, and the Highland Brigade Training Centre.

In May 1946 Lt.-Colonel A. P. C. Hannay, M.C., on retirement

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from the Active List, gave up command. He was succeeded by Lt.-Colonel J. G. MacKellar, D.S.O., O.B.E., Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Lt.-Colonel Hannay was awarded the O.B.E. for distinguished services during his long period of command.

Late in 1947 the number of training companies was reduced from six to three, and once again Seaforths and Camerons were combined to form one of these companies.

Headquarters of the Highland Brigade Training Centre, now commanded by Lt.-Colonel The Hon. H. C. H. T. Cumming-Bruce, D.S.O., O.B.E., Seaforth Highlanders, moved to Fort George in April 1948, the move of the training companies being spread over from January to May 1948.

On 1st August 1948 the Training Centre was merged into the establishment of the 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry, which, as the newly formed Highland Brigade Training Battalion, took over the functions of the Training Centre.

**No. 11 (SEAFORTH AND CAMERON) HOLDING  
BATTALION****No. 8 HIGHLAND HOLDING BATTALION**

IN July 1942, accommodation difficulties at the Infantry Training Centre made it necessary to move certain Depot Companies to No. 1 Infantry Depot, Redford Barracks, Edinburgh. The Cameron Depot Company was with No. 1 Infantry Depot during the whole of this Depot's existence. The Seaforth Depot Company also joined the Infantry Depot.

In 1944, due to the opening of the campaign in Europe, these Depot Companies began to swell in size and it became necessary to form Holding Battalions to conform to I.T.C.s. The Seaforth and Cameron Depot Companies were then formed into No. 11 (Seaforth and Cameron) Holding Battalion at Forres in November 1944. The Commanding Officer was Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, D.S.O.

On 24th January 1945 the Holding Battalion moved to Strathpeffer, where it remained until 19th November 1945, when it was moved to Stobs.

The Battalion was greatly honoured at being selected to send the Pipe Band to Edinburgh during the visit of Their Majesties the King and Queen for three days from 25th September 1945.

The Cameron Company was selected on this occasion to find the Guard, which was commanded by Captain R. W. Leah, with Lieutenants I. H. MacDonald and A. C. Mackesy as subalterns. On the day of Their Majesties' departure, Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, D.S.O., was congratulated by the King on the smart appearance and efficiency of the Guard.

Early in 1946 the unit moved to Stewarton, where it amalgamated with the Depot Companies of the other Highland Regiments to form a Highland Holding Battalion in conformity with the Highland Infantry Training Centre at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

No. 8 Highland Holding Battalion, still under command of Lt.-Colonel Miers, moved to Cameron Barracks, Inverness, on 10th July 1946, where it remained until, on formation of No. 79 Primary Training Centre and Depot, The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, it was disbanded on 21st November 1946.

## 4TH BATTALION

THE duplication of Territorial units, that resulted in the formation of the splendidly revived 5th Battalion, really marked the beginning of mobilisation for the 4th Battalion ; at any rate, ever since duplication had been ordered, early in 1939, preparations had been continuous. Rebuilding of the Rose Street Drill Hall necessitated the removal of the Orderly Room to the Northern Meeting Rooms ; the hall itself was filled with building materials, and training had to contend with many difficulties. But everyone responded in the most praiseworthy spirit, and recruiting for the duplicate Battalion was completed before Annual Camp at Barry. The provision of uniform for all these new recruits was impossible ; all, however, were supplied with greatcoats and boots. An even greater difficulty than the recruitment of privates was the selection of officer candidates ; yet it says much for the care exercised that all proved deserving of their commissions.

Completion of annual training did not mean a slackening of work. The close proximity of war was appreciated by everyone, and there was no relaxation of effort. To divide the old 4th Battalion into two, and make up each half to battalion strength by the addition of the partially trained recruits, was now the next task. This was done, and by the beginning of August the 4th Battalion was nearly back to the standard required of it before the duplication. The actual declaration of war took nobody by surprise. Calling-up notices were sent out on 30th August, and the Inverness men assembled in the Artillery Drill Hall in Margaret Street, made available when the Inverness Battery moved to Invergordon. A stricter medical examination than that carried out in peace-time resulted in a fair number being found unfit ; but there was no dearth of volunteers to take the place of those rejected. Under the new National Service Act, recruiting for the Territorial Army closed all too soon—so that many first-rate men had to be turned away.

While these activities were going on at Inverness, men were reporting at all the Battalion drill halls on the mainland and on the islands of Harris, Uist and Skye, and these reached Headquarters on the third or fourth day of mobilisation. Headquarter Company, being recruited from Inverness, presented no billeting problem, because all were accommodated in their own homes : " A " Company, comprising men from Beauly, found billets in Dochgarroch Hall ; " B " Company, from Harris and Skye, went to Dochfour, as did " C " Company from Uist ; and " D " Company, from Foyers and Fort Augustus, were allotted





LT.-COLONEL HON. G. E. M. BAILLIE, M.C., T.D., D.L.

the Dr Black Memorial Hall in Bank Street. The directors of the Thistle Football Club very kindly gave, without any charge, the use of their playing-field.

There were many difficulties to contend with in these early days. Specialist equipment was in short supply, and a single Bren carrier was alone available to train thirty men under 2nd Lieutenant G. A. M. Panton. An epidemic of German measles broke out in "B" and "C" Companies, so that collective battalion training could not be carried out. It was also very unfortunate that the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel The Hon. G. E. M. Baillie, M.C., T.D., Captain J. South, 2nd Lieutenant The Hon. A. C. V. Elphinstone, and 2nd Lieutenant I. C. MacArthur were found medically unfit for service overseas, and therefore had to sever their connection with the Battalion. Lt.-Colonel Earl Cawdor, T.D., who had been Second-in-Command to Lt.-Colonel A. Cattanach, T.D., in the 5th Battalion since the duplication, assumed command. Everyone was extremely sorry to bid farewell to Lt.-Colonel Baillie, for he had been most popular, and responsible for the success achieved in the rapid expansion of the duplicated units. Among the senior N.C.O.s disqualified on grounds of age from proceeding overseas were Pipe-Major W. Young and Sergeant W. Mackenzie. Both had rendered very good service and they were largely responsible for the consistently high standard of the Pipers and Signallers they had respectively trained.

Early in October the Battalion (less "B" and "C" Companies still in quarantine) left for Aldershot. Sir Murdoch Macdonald, M.P. for the County of Inverness, addressed all ranks on parade in the Farraline Park Square, and the salute was taken by Provost Hugh Mackenzie and Colonel Sir D. W. Cameron of Lochiel, K.T., C.M.G., Hon. Colonel 5th Battalion and Lord Lieutenant of the County of Inverness, as the Battalion passed the Town Hall on its way to the station. At Aldershot the Battalion shared Tournai Barracks with the 6th Seaforth Highlanders. The officers, however, were quartered in Ramillies House. Accommodation for the men was cramped, but Major S. H. Hill and P.S.M. D. Orr arranged a system of "staggered" meals, which overcame the difficulty of messing.

Under Captain D. B. Lang, the Adjutant, the Battalion carried out much drill on the square, and in due course a great improvement was apparent in the smartness of the men. Section, platoon, and company training followed, and by now there was plenty of equipment. Musketry owed much to the work of 2nd Lieutenant D. A. H. Wills, while the training and efficiency of the transport drivers under 2nd Lieutenant P. H. F. Walker and later (on 2nd Lieutenant Walker's transfer to the Royal Engineers) 2nd Lieutenant J. M. Kerr, was proved by the fact that not a single truck was lost either in England or in France as the result of any accident.

The Island companies had to be housed in what had been the



married quarters of the barracks when they rejoined the Battalion. There were sporadic cases of German measles still, and this necessitated a continued quarantine—with, for example, separate Church services, each Sunday, held by Captain The Rev. Gordon Fraser in the vehicle shed that also did duty as a “theatre” for the concerts the Padre organised.

Three large-scale training exercises were carried out during the Aldershot period.

At the end of November the Battalion moved to Bordon in order to make room for the Canadian Division. There it was accommodated in “spider huts,” and the Mess was shared with the 6th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, with whom the very best relations were established. A restricted training area resulted in attention being concentrated on indoor work: but this was valuable so far as “specialists” were concerned. The weather conditions made the use of transport limited and precarious. An increased tempo of training was noticeable after New Year’s leave, for now the Battalion was preparing to proceed overseas. Stores and equipment were finally completed to scale, transport was overhauled, and surplus kit handed in. The Battalion had still been fighting to retain the kilt, so the order requiring that only sufficient kilts to provide for the Pipe Band were to be taken to France was liberally interpreted to allow for “replacements.”

The first party to leave for France was one of twenty men, detailed to operate a transit camp at Havre, under Major T. M. Threlfall. 2nd Lieutenant R. C. Robertson-Macleod left next, for attachment to the 1st Coldstream Guards (in order to learn duties in the field). On 15th January 1940 the advanced Billeting Party, consisting of Major Hill, Sergeant J. Fraser, the Provost Sergeant, and Lance-Corporal I. Bethune, left for Havre.

On 18th January the whole 51st Highland Division was visited by Their Majesties the King and Queen. Their Majesties were welcomed by the massed bands playing the Royal Salute, after which the Queen inspected her own regiment, the Black Watch, and the officers of the 4th Battalion were introduced to the King. Some of the officers were recognised by His Majesty, and he spoke to almost all; he then inspected the Cameron Platoon of the Anti-Tank Company under 2nd Lieutenant A. N. MacLeod and showed interest in the new 25-mm. guns with which the platoon was equipped. On the way down the long avenue lined with troops, His Majesty stopped to speak with R.S.M. A. E. Heggie, C.S.M. J. H. Savage, M.M., and some of the other warrant officers. The troops accorded His Majesty a most hearty cheer as he passed them.

The day of departure was the 26th of January and the Battalion paraded on Martinique Square for the last time. The transport, with the code number “8005” painted on every vehicle, had already gone ahead. It may here be mentioned that the Brigade Major of the 152nd



INSPECTION BY H.M. THE KING

(Next to His Majesty is Lt.-Colonel THE EARL CAWDOR. In the line of officers can be seen, on the right, Captain the Rev. F. S. G. FRASER, Captain J. A. ROBERTSON (M.O.), in breeches and leggings, and Lieutenant (Q.M.) J. R. COOPER.)





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Infantry Brigade, to which the Battalion belonged, was Major R. P. Haig, Cameron Highlanders. Major V. D. G. Campbell relieved him on 8th March 1940, on Major Haig being posted to the 1st Battalion.

Reaching Havre after an uneventful crossing in *The Lady of Man*, the Battalion had a long wait before entraining for its first billets overseas. "A" Company was left at Bolbec, the point of detrainment, and the first French village the men had seen. Here the snow lay deep on the streets. "B" Company moved from Bolbec to Gruchet, while the remainder of the Battalion did not reach their billets in the Lanquetot and Bolleville areas till late at night.

In the hard weather it was difficult to occupy the men; the roads were so ice-bound that route-marches could not be carried out. The "Café des Sports" became a social centre for the N.C.O.s, and Headquarter Company organised concerts in the men's billets, which proved a great success (particularly the songs composed by Private M. D. Matheson). Most of the transport moved to Airaines on 3rd February, just as the thaw had turned the fields into morasses, and the carriers were needed to extricate many of the vehicles.

The Battalion received orders to move to a new area on 4th February, though the transport remained where it was till the frost disappeared.

Leaving Bolbec by train, the Battalion travelled all night and half the next day before reaching Lillers. Here it detrained and marched 3 kilometres to Bourecq, where Battalion Headquarters, "H.Q." and "B" Companies were billeted. The other three companies went on to the next village, St Hilaire. At Bourecq the Battalion were met by Major Hill and the *Agent de Liaison*, M. Lucien Duchesne, who was to prove a popular and very helpful officer. In this new area, in spite of snow and rough weather, advantage was taken of every moment to train the men. Route-marches were carried out through Ham (where the 6th Seaforth Highlanders were billeted) and Ecquedecques (where the 4th Seaforth Highlanders were billeted); but it soon became certain that Bourecq was only a staging area, and on 9th February another billeting party proceeded to Bailleul—where the 239th and 329th Battalions of the French Army were holding the line. Reconnaissances were carried out, but almost three weeks went by before the Battalion moved, and not to Bailleul after all. Meanwhile, at Bourecq much was done to improve conditions in billets: bathing facilities were improvised; field ovens constructed (deservedly named "Orr ovens," after P.S.M. Orr, who devised them), and recreation included a combined Seaforth-Cameron football match against a French team.

On 29th February, after a fantastic road journey shared by French vehicles of every description, the Battalion reached Billy-Berclau. Here the men met with a frigid reception, apparently because the last troops there had been "tough," in the worst sense of the word; yet it is pleasant to be able to record that the Camerons behaved in such a way as to win the confidence and friendship of the inhabitants.

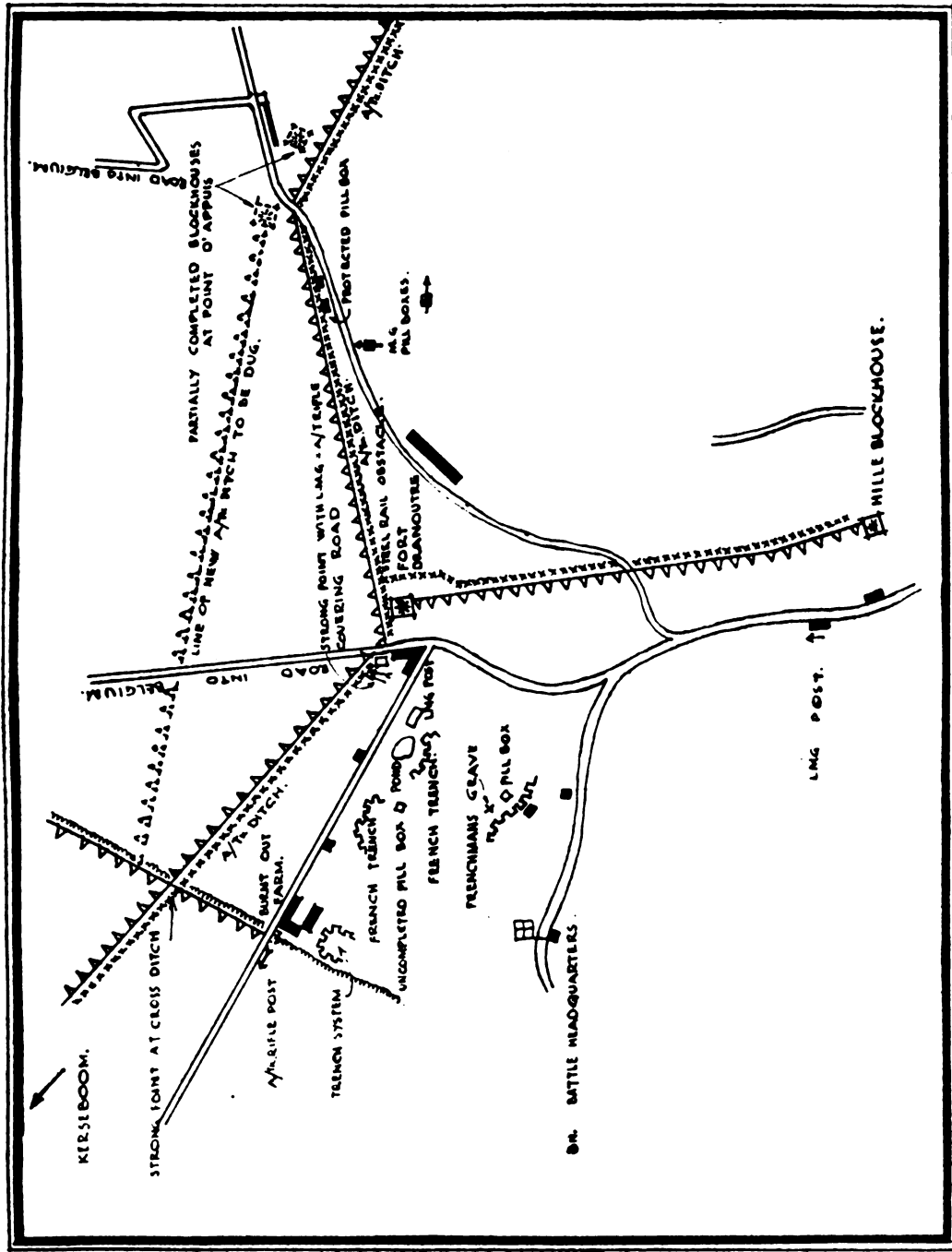
"H.Q." Company was billeted in a cinema and a dance hall in Billy-Berclau itself; the rifle companies in the neighbouring villages of Salome and Hantay. There were no training areas available, so a programme of specialist courses and cadres was drawn up.

Another move was soon warned, and reconnaissances of company positions at Roubaix were carried out. The city of Roubaix seemed to be suffering from a "depression," and the battle preparations there were equally disappointing. On the whole front to be occupied by the Battalion there were only two blockhouses and a highly offensive sewage ditch (supposedly for anti-tank defence). The actual move to Roubaix was made on 7th March.

On 8th March the Battalion was honoured by a visit from H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by Lord Robert Scott. Great interest was shown in all the Battalion's activities. Indeed, there was much to be done, and much already being begun. Signal communications had been given priority (for hitherto none of the company areas had been linked up); also the billets had to be made habitable. Fortunately, the Battalion was really only taking the place of a unit that had gone to the Saar for training, so its trials were short-lived. 350 men were taken daily to assist the Royal Engineers; and, in addition, the Camerons had to give up any men with experience in concrete construction: so companies sometimes found themselves with only 15-20 men to carry out their own defensive and administrative tasks. On 17th March the Battalion returned to Billy-Berclau.

For ten days at Billy-Berclau there was work to do that everyone thoroughly approved. An anti-tank ditch of a new and excellent design was to be included in the switch-line behind Lille. The men were keenly disappointed when the work had to be left incomplete; nevertheless, they had done all they could in the time. In the Bailleul sector, to which the Battalion was now going, the Camerons would be taking over a part of the line that included one of the biggest blockhouses on the Belgian frontier—and a guard of honour was sent ahead with a view to rehearsing a ceremonial "take-over."

A "road exercise" was arranged by Divisional H.Q., for all the units, to coincide with the move; but the extreme cold, followed by a blinding snowstorm, robbed the scheme of its interest, and the men were glad to reach Bailleul. From the Town Square the companies were diverted to their areas: "A" Company went to Hille, "D" to Dranoutre, "C" to a farm on the edge of the town, and "B" to a reserve position in the town itself. Battalion Headquarters was in the Rue de Collège; "H.Q." Company in the Rue de Cassel. The French unit the Camerons relieved was the 75th Regiment, which had, in turn, relieved the 329th and 239th. As soon as the men had begun to settle down, the Band and the Guard of Honour were taken by truck to a point on the road near Fort Dranoutre, where the handing-over ceremony was to be carried out. Here the Guard waited for the arrival of



PLAN OF DEFENCES BAILLEUL.



the Divisional Commander, Major-General V. M. Fortune, C.B., D.S.O., and Brigadier H. W. V. Stewart, D.S.O., Commander 152nd (Seaforth and Cameron) Infantry Brigade. When these officers had passed, the band struck up and played the Guard into the open space in front of the fort, where the French Guard and band received it. The keys of the blockhouse were then handed over with due ceremonial. 2nd Lieutenant R. C. Robertson-Macleod commanded the Guard, comprising three picked men from each company and two warrant officers (C.S.M. R. Macdonald and P.S.M. N. Maclean).

At Bailleul the policy of putting one Regular battalion into each Territorial Brigade was implemented, and the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders took the place of the 6th Seaforth Highlanders.

On 28th March the Commanding Officer and Major W. A. Macleay toured the Bailleul front in order to lay out a defensive line on which work could be started : it was no easy task. Owing to the necessity of respecting the neutrality of the Belgian border, the line could not be entirely tactically chosen. The defensive scheme included four French blockhouses : Dranoutre, built in 1937 ; two, at Point D'Appuis, in the course of construction ; and Hille, on the switch-line of the anti-tank ditch. The French units had dug few, if any, new defensive works since September, so much had to start from "scratch." There was the added difficulty of fitting in the French fire-plan for the sector, because the organisation and armament of French and British battalions were so different. Corporal J. D. Greenwood, Lance-Corporals S. Thomas (R.A.O.C.) and A. Campbell were instrumental in adapting the Mitrailleuse mountings for the Bren guns.

(Referring to the sketch-plan of the positions.) On the left front the tank ditch ran from the French blockhouses, Kerseboom Nord and Kerseboom Sud (at the foot of Mont Noir), to Dranoutre. The general layout was designed as a continuous zig-zag ditch, with blockhouses at the inner apex of each zig-zag ; and, accordingly, the guns were defiladed and the blockhouses protected from frontal fire by huge mounds of earth. Dranoutre Fort was fitted with a heavily armoured cupola with ball-jointed light-automatic emplacements. The garrison was supplied with an independent water system and sufficient rations to withstand a protracted siege. But the blockhouses still under construction were as yet of no value, and pill-boxes intended to thicken up the line of defence were no more than shelters against the weather in their existing form. Fort Dranoutre became quite a "show-piece" : but work on less spectacular sites was handicapped by the lack of stores—particularly revetting materials.

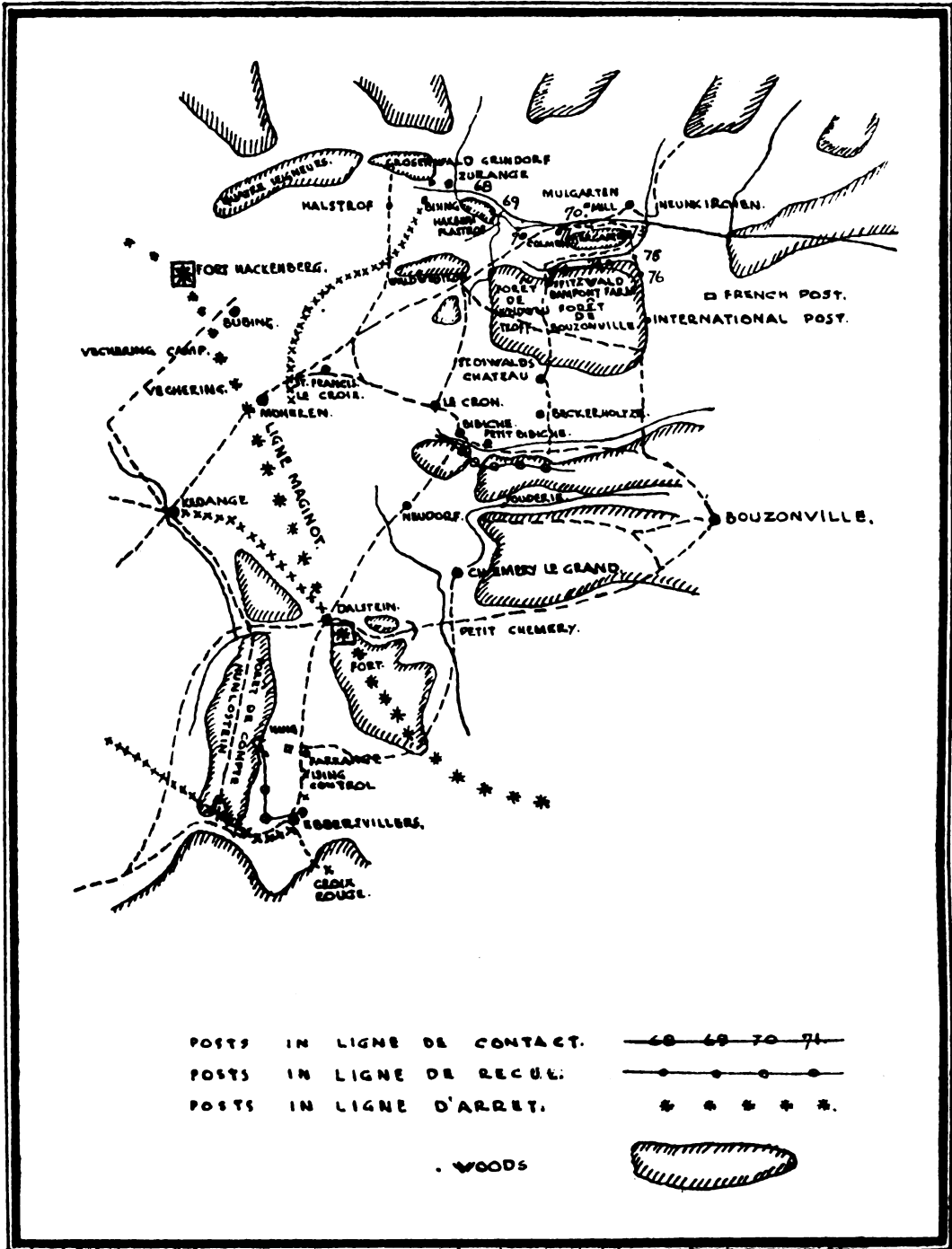
Recreation for the men was limited. A cinema was persuaded to show British and American films, however, and this resulted in "full houses" whenever they were announced. On 7th April the Massed Pipe Bands of the Division played in the Square, much to the delight

of the townspeople of Bailleul. A fortnight later the Cameron Pipe Band played at Cassel, headquarters of the French Corps on the left of the Battalion front.

Before the Battalion left Bailleul for the Saar, on 23rd April, much good work had been done both on the defences and towards the training of patrols. The defences were improved by (amongst other things) the improvised construction of a strong-point at "Burnt-out Farm," a position of tactical importance on the inter-Battalion boundary. Major Hill organised the patrol exercises in the Forêt de Nieppe; and it was from these that, later, the Battalion "Gladiator Patrol," led by Lieutenant D. N. Cochrane, was chosen. Company training and cadres had continued during the whole period, and a good system was devised that enabled officers and N.C.O.s of one half of the Battalion to pass on what they had learnt on the alternate day when the other half was receiving its instruction.

The journey to the Saar was by train to Maizières-les-Metz, and thence by march route (8 kilometres) to La Maxe, a village of one long, straggling street. Wet weather made conditions very unpleasant, and the billets left much to be desired. But soon permission was obtained for relays of twenty-four men to go each evening to Metz, where there were many amenities. A modern swimming pool on the banks of the Moselle was one of the special attractions.

On 1st May the Commanding Officer reconnoitred the part of the line the Camerons were to take over. The main Maginot Line consisted of a single line of fortresses, spaced at intervals of a quarter to three-quarters of a mile apart. Between these fortresses there were blockhouses covering an anti-tank ditch. In front of each fortress was a phalanx of half-buried steel rails and a considerable area of barbed-wire obstacles. Depth was given to the whole defensive system by three other lines besides the Maginot; two in front of it and one behind. There was the Ligne de Contact, or Outpost Line, about five miles in front of the Maginot; the Ligne de Recul—intended to be sufficiently strong to give the fortresses ample time and about a mile and a half in front of them; finally, a mile or so behind the Maginot, there was the Ligne d'Arrêt, on which the defenders of the forward lines could fall back. Gaps were allowed to enable the falling-back process to be effected; and these were covered by V-shaped works ("Brisants"), to be held until all were back and the gaps could be closed. The fire-plans were most complete, and beautifully drawn on innumerable tracings; but, alas, neither the Brisants nor the defences of the Ligne d'Arrêt were worthy of their theoretical effectiveness. The Brisants consisted of a few shallow pits, and the Ligne d'Arrêt of a series of isolated light machine-gun posts; and there was no continuous trench system. On going over the section of the Ligne d'Arrêt allotted to the Battalion, it was estimated that 80,000 sandbags, 2000 "A" frames,



SKETCH MAP OF POSITIONS ON SAAR.

2000 sheets of revetting material, 600 coils of barbed wire, and 1200 wiring pickets were the minimum requirements to put the line in a fit state for defence.

On 2nd May the Battalion moved to Ising Barracks, about half a mile behind the main Maginot Line. Half the transport accompanied it; the other half had to be hidden in the Bois du Compte d'Hunolstein, as there was insufficient cover at Ising. The Black Watch were still in the barracks when the Camerons arrived, but they moved out early next morning. The barracks were new, yet the Black Watch had been obliged to leave them still requiring much to be done to make them habitable (in spite of their efforts). Tons of dirty straw had to be burnt, and the rooms scrubbed with disinfectant.

It was decided by Brigade that the unit stationed at Ising would supply the garrison for the Brisants, and those positions not yet prepared were to be situated between Chemery-les-Deux and the gap in front of Dalstein. "D" Company, under Major Threlfall, was detailed for this duty, and the men were billeted at Le Petit Chemery. A few days later "D" Company was joined by "C" under Captain R. Burton—so leaving the Battalion with only three companies to continue the work on the Ligne d'Arrêt. The Battalion front was about 3000 yards long, which meant that a considerable time would be needed to complete the essential tasks.

Meanwhile, until the Engineer stores were available, the three companies at Ising carried out musketry and anti-gas training; also, for the first time, the men had an opportunity to fire the Boyes (.55 anti-tank) rifles.

On 7th May the Battalion left Ising, after dark, in the order "A," "H.Q.," and "B" Companies, and a skeleton "A" Echelon transport. Captain J. A. Tweedie commanded "A," Major Macleay "H.Q.," and Captain The Viscount Fincastle "B" Company. Marching through Dalstein and the Maginot Gap, it was joined by "C" and "D" Companies (from the Brisants), before continuing all night to the cross-roads in the centre of the Forêt de Bouzonville. Here, under cover of the trees, the companies were fed and rested before leaving for their various positions in the Ligne de Contact. The stores were now unloaded, and "A" Company under 2nd Lieutenant D. F. Ross, one platoon of "C" Company under 2nd Lieutenant S. H. Johnston, one platoon of "B" Company under 2nd Lieutenant F. Clark, and the Mortar Platoon under P.S.M. F. Garden, left for Flastroff. This party was commanded by Captain Tweedie, and it left before the rest of the Battalion because its stores had to be carried  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Headquarters was the last to leave—moving from the forest at 5 P.M. so as to complete the relief of Dampont in time to allow the Seaforths to get out in daylight. Dampont had, externally, the appearance of a prosperous farmhouse with the usual outbuildings; but it had been converted into a place of considerable strength. The relief of the 2nd Seaforths

was carried out in other areas as follows: "D" Company, Colmen; "C" Company, the Tiergarten; and "B" Company in the Spitzwald.

At 3.30 A.M. on 8th May, officers and men had just "stood-to" at Dampont when a message was received that "C" Company had been attacked in strength and had some men missing. It transpired that a determined raid had been carried out—supported by mortars—and four men had been captured. The cutting of the telephone wire during the night had enabled the raid to take place without the early knowledge of the Company Headquarters. Four other men had lucky escapes; a Bren gun at their post was completely stripped of woodwork (apparently as the result of some French grenades, left in the position, having been detonated by the mortar-fire), and the gun-team were all badly shell-shocked, though otherwise uninjured.

Enemy patrols were active on "A" and "B" Company fronts during the night of 8th-9th May, but there were no casualties.

Work on the Tiergarten positions (the ineffectiveness of which had already been proved) was begun at once, and the Pioneers, with all available men from Headquarters, constructed a post of an improved type that was intended ultimately to become the Company H.Q. While the work was in progress, the Artillery Observation Officer (who had an observation post in the Tiergarten) reported the movement of armoured fighting vehicles north of Neukirchen Mill. The mill was bracketed successfully, and the roads and woods "pasted" with great accuracy. Enemy shell-fire on "B" Company's positions during the afternoon of the 9th did no material damage, but the "overs" skimming the trees on the Tiergarten hill hindered the working parties. "A" Company at Flastroff had a quiet day except for sniping which proved troublesome—particularly as ration parties supplied by the Company had to cover a considerable distance to supply the isolated posts.

On 10th May Lieutenant J. A. Crawford completed an overhaul of the telephone lines. The system was necessarily complicated, since (for example) "A" Company had an exchange with lines to four different posts. That day hundreds of enemy aircraft passed over on long-distance bombing raids; and the Battalion learnt that Germany had invaded Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg.

Hitherto it had been the practice to regard daytime as a period of "peace," but now conditions had clearly altered. It was evident that the enemy intended to force the Ligne de Contact. On the British side a start was made to use the Brigade Fighting Patrol commanded by Major Murray Grant of the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders. This was composed of three sections: one from the 2nd Seaforths, under 2nd Lieutenant C. Blair; one from the 4th Seaforths, under 2nd Lieutenant H. Mackenzie; and one from the 4th Camerons, under 2nd Lieutenant D. N. Cochrane. These sections were stationed at Beckerholtz, and they took it in turn to carry out the patrols required by the Battalion holding the line. But the Germans had been in occupation of their

positions since the previous September: they had developed a technique of raiding, using specially designed clothing, skilfully trained dogs, and the services of local smugglers and foresters who had gone over to their side at the outbreak of hostilities. On the day on which Luxembourg was invaded, the patrol was supplied by the 4th Seafortths. Just after leaving Post 74, the patrol was met by bursts of automatic fire, and the leader decided to return to the (Cameron) post. Unfortunately, having mistaken the returning patrol for the enemy, fire was opened and the officer in command was wounded. That same day the Intelligence Section observed no less than seven separate enemy groups on "A" Company's front, and heavy machine-gun fire was opened on Post 68, which was commanded by 2nd Lieutenant F. Gilmour. 2nd Lieutenant Gilmour later located the enemy and reported to Company H.Q. However, acting on his own initiative, 2nd Lieutenant A. R. P. Cameron filled his battle-dress blouse with grenades and made his way towards Post 68. He came under fire whenever he reached the open, but he threw his grenades and succeeded in getting back to Post 70. The enemy activity then ceased, though some shrapnel-fire was clearly intended for the ration party sent out not long after—showing that every movement was liable to be noticed. In fact, there was little doubt that the Germans had taken advantage of the distances between posts, and the amount of dead ground, to prepare "hides" in the Bouzonville Wood, and from there (supplied with rations for a tour of 3-4 days' duty before being relieved) to work their way right through behind Battalion Headquarters, and even to St Oswald's Château and Beckerholtz, where some of the 25-pounders were! They signalled with extraordinarily realistic "cuckoo" whistles; moreover, they used platforms in the trees, from which apparently they tapped into the overhead telephone wires. The boldness of these men was demonstrated when Major Hill found the impression of a German mortar-base a few feet from 2nd Lieutenant Gilmour's post. (Incidentally, the Germans made much use of the mortar as a weapon of offence; whereas 2-inch high-explosive bombs were not available to the British platoons.)

The Germans, however, did not continue to have it all their own way. Signalling communications were improved by running a new arterial wire in the open and away from all trees; and deficiency in infantry weapons was compensated by good liaison with the supporting artillery, under Major Hoare, R.A. On one occasion, during the second week of May, a report by Captain The Viscount Fincastle that a party of Germans dressed in green capes were erecting camouflage netting in the woods, on "B" Company front, resulted in a successful shoot that owed no little to the close co-operation of the company observers, who "corrected" the ranging salvos. "B" and "C" Companies both enjoyed a quiet night after this strafe.

The 13th of May was an unlucky one for "B" Company. Shelling

and mortaring lasted most of the morning, and one shell struck Company Headquarters, killing Lance-Corporal N. Macdonald, Private N. Macleod, and Private D. M. Grant. "A" Company, on the other hand, although occupying a reputedly dangerous sector, escaped the shelling that their neighbours suffered; an infantry raid on Flastroff had been beaten off, and they had accounted for one of the Germans and secured identification. "D" Company had continued to be fortunate at Colmen, and Major Threlfall had been able to assist "C" Company in the Tiergarten area.

The normal relief was carried out on the 14th of May by the 4th Seaforth Highlanders. An attempt by the relieving unit to clear the Bouzonville Wood, before taking over, was not a success: the woods were too thick, and there had been no opportunity of thorough reconnaissance. The relief was necessarily delayed, so the Camerons were very tired and hungry by the time (4 A.M.) they reached Ising.

Until the 51st Division took over a sector of the Saar front at the beginning of May 1940, only one British Brigade had been in the line there. The relief programme for the initial tours of duty was as follows:—

Ligne de Contact . . .	2nd Seaforth.	4th Camerons.
Ligne de Recul . . .	4th Seaforth.	2nd Seaforth.
Ligne d'Arrêt . . .	4th Camerons.	4th Seaforth.

But circumstances made it impossible to adhere to this.

On the night of 9th-10th May the French 2nd Colonial Division, which was on the left of the British sector, lost an important position near the River Moselle and was obliged to pull back the Ligne de Contact until it practically merged with the Maginot Line proper. The high ground the Germans had gained gave them excellent visibility and seriously weakened the potential power of resistance on the British front. Orders were accordingly issued that the 51st Division would be withdrawn from the Ligne de Contact by midnight on the 15th-16th May.

The Camerons had looked forward to their first day of rest after their exhausting days in the line, and Reveille on the 15th was ordered at 9.30 A.M. Then, shortly after midday, instructions were received to man the Ligne d'Arrêt—because the 4th Seaforths were being withdrawn and the Ligne de Contact evacuated! Everything that had just been unpacked had to be packed up again to be taken to the new positions. There was more to come, too. Orders succeeded orders, and in addition to manning the Ligne d'Arrêt the Camerons were required to occupy the Brisant defences in and behind Chemery-les-Deux. A new plan for the Brisant defence had been worked out by the Brigade Commander and Lt.-Colonel Barclay of the 2nd Seaforths; the work was to be begun immediately.

The two companies that had had the quietest time in the Ligne de

Contact, "A" Company (Captain Tweedie) and "D" Company (Major Threlfall) were detailed for the Brisant duty, and left during the night. Major Hill co-ordinated the work of these two companies. In fact, this was a very responsible task, and nobody could feel sanguine as to the fate of the Brisant garrison if it became necessary for it to cover the retirement of all the troops in advance of the Maginot Line before withdrawing itself through the Dalstein Gap.

The move of the remainder of the Battalion had scarcely been carried out when the Commanding Officer was told to take up a position farther to the right. "B" Company now had to take up positions on the right of the Ebersviller-Aboncourt road; and, with the exception of a post called Croix Rouge, this new line existed only "on paper." "C" Company's positions were centred round Ebersviller.

While work on the company posts and battle headquarters continued, news was received on 18th May that 2nd Lieutenant D. N. Cochrane had been killed at Beckerholtz, and that Lance-Corporal G. Laing and Private J. Grant of his patrol section had also been killed at the same time. The patrol had been operating under instructions of the 2nd Seaforths, who were holding the Ligne de Recul, and a daylight raid was being carried out to ascertain in what strength the enemy held Beckerholtz and St Oswald's Château. They had just passed through Beckerholtz when they were met by the fire of a concealed machine-gun. The deaths of 2nd Lieutenant Cochrane and his men was a very sad loss to the Battalion.

On 21st May the Battalion received orders to move into Corps Reserve. It was particularly unfortunate that Lieutenant and Quartermaster J. R. Cooper had not returned with the leave party from Ising. Lieutenant Cooper was retained at home on account of ill-health, and his services at the time of yet another move were much missed; but, deputising as Quartermaster, 2nd Lieutenant R. D. Dundas carried out unfamiliar duties very well. The Battalion moved off at 10 P.M. and travelling via Aboncourt, Maizières and Corflans, reached Brainville about 3 A.M. Owing to the great number of enemy aircraft over the Metz area, the journey had to be done without lights.

After three days devoted, with advantage, to "cleaning up," a sudden order was received that the Battalion was to be ready to move at short notice; and half an hour later this was followed by an order to be on the move in twenty minutes. A train was held at Jarny (about 8 kilometres away), and with a minimum of equipment the men marched off in the blazing heat of the afternoon. First of all, the destination was given out to be Le Mans—surprising enough, since the journey originally warned had been "about 40 kilometres"; but thirty-six hours later at Le Mans the Railway Transport Officer issued another ticket, this time for Rouen, with a vague indication that *Brest* was to be the final destination.

It is easier now to excuse the uncertainties and complications of



that very trying journey. At Rouen no arrangements had been made to receive any of the 51st Division, and it was only after a prolonged search that some tents were found to serve the Camerons for what remained of the night. Equally haphazard were the orders next day ; but at any rate it appeared likely that a further move by French troop-carrying vehicles might be expected. The Battalion prepared to move, and at 8 A.M. on the following day a collection of old Paris omnibuses arrived. Three hours later the convoy leader turned up, and off the strange-looking column went. Yet the vehicles seemed to be mechanically sound, and even a tremendously steep hill on the far side of the Rouen bridge was taken in style.

At a point on the road where it dipped towards Blangy, the buses turned off to the left and so into the huge Haute Forêt d'Eu. Here the Battalion was set down ; and here were the battalion guides, under Sergeant J. F. Michie, who were able to give the scant yet significant information that two days ago German motorised troops had been seen at the north edge of the wood. The guides then led the companies to their areas, " A " and " B " on the right, " C " and " D " on the left, with H.Q. in the centre ; all about a mile inside the forest. At the point selected as Battalion Headquarters there was the first agreeable surprise anyone had experienced for some time. The Battalion transport was there, carefully camouflaged, and all present and correct ! In spite of a nightmare journey across France, Major Hill had succeeded in leading it there without mishap.

Although the Battalion was only destined to remain a day in the Haute Forêt d'Eu, it made the most of it. Trees were cut down to clear a field of fire ; road-blocks were constructed and defensive positions were prepared without any delay. An ammunition dump, discovered by Major Jefferies (R.E.), provided the companies with anti-tank mines as well as a reserve of grenades and small-arms ammunition. Indeed, there was good cause to regard these measures to be important, and to give immediate attention to the defence ; for the Germans had already reached the River Bresle. However, the Camerons had become accustomed to what seemed a continuous process of packing up and unpacking ; at any rate, they were required to move again. During the afternoon of 29th May a unit of the Armoured Division announced that they were taking over, and they waited impatiently till the evening—when it was less likely that the roads would be under air observation. Companies then marched off at wide intervals. After leaving the forest, the Battalion passed through several half-deserted villages, crossed the Bresle at Blangy, and continued along the Route Nationale, through Le Translay and Biencourt, to Doudelainville.

Doudelainville was reached at 4 A.M., and there the Battalion found billets. Next morning a proclamation warned the civilians to evacuate their homes, and there followed the pathetic sight of old men and women removing their belongings (such as they could take away) in





BATTALION HEADQUARTERS AT CHÂTEAU DE HUCHENNEVILLE



GERMANS ATTACKING CHÂTEAU DE HUCHENNEVILLE

(Reproduced from an illustration in the *Völkischer Beobachter*, 1940)

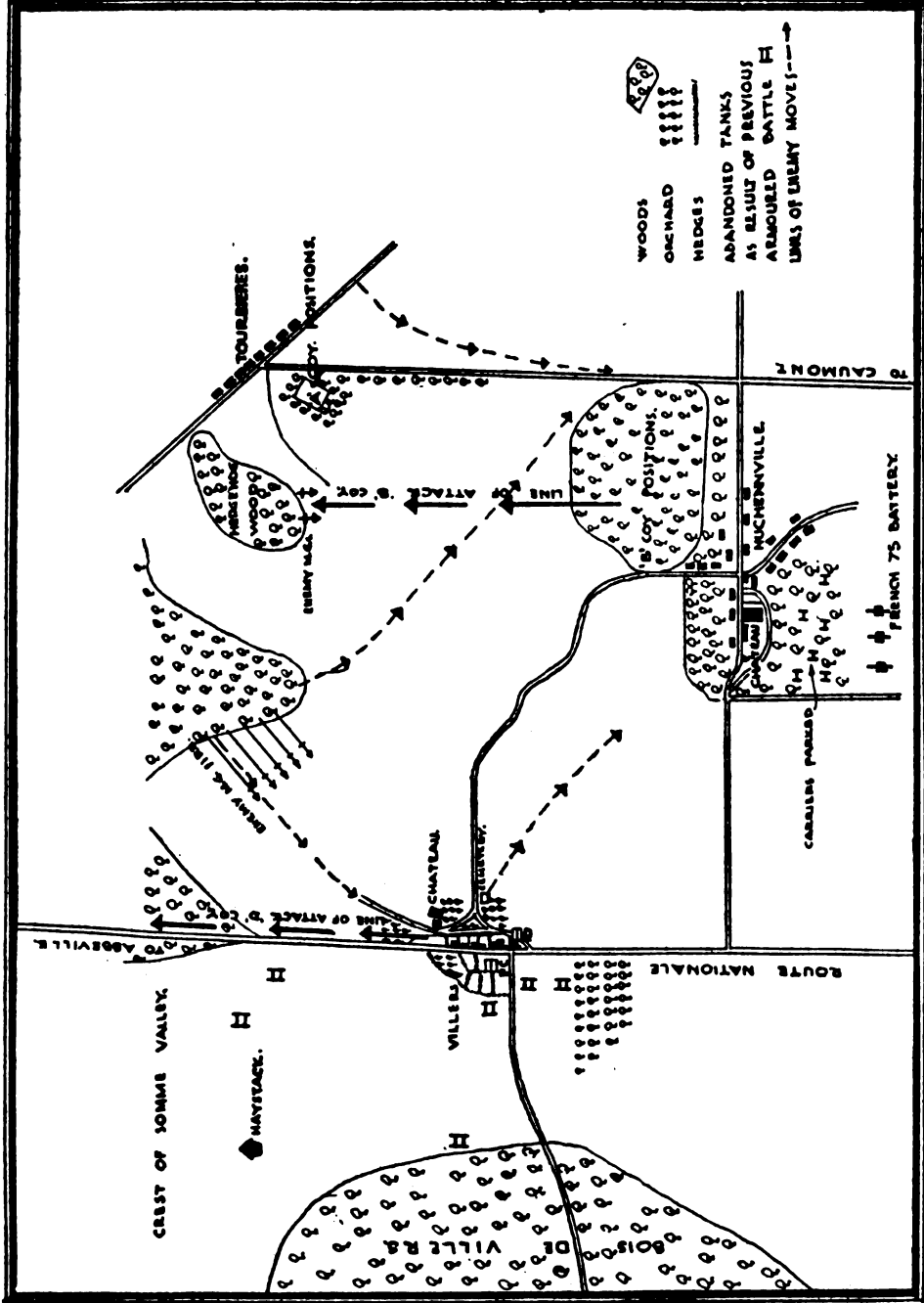
wheelbarrows and perambulators. The move was resumed in the afternoon to Limeux,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  kilometres on ; but a covered route had first to be reconnoitred because the main road was being shelled.

"A" and "D" Companies occupied woods in front of Limeux, "H.Q." Company was in the village, and "B" and "C" Companies behind it. Limeux stood in a hollow, with woodland to the north and south ; so the enemy were denied direct observation, although (having occupied it) they must have known every feature of the place. At any rate, the village was built round the intersection of the Oisement-Moyenneville, Doudelainville-Hallencourt roads, and was therefore a natural target for artillery fire ; and counter-battery fire was also directed against the French artillery concentrated in the immediate vicinity. Rarely was the sky clear of German aircraft, circling overhead, and dive-bombing began at noon and lasted till 7.30 P.M. on the first day. Shelter pits had been dug at once, so casualties from aircraft were few ; but a French convoy was severely bombed. It was on this occasion that two of the pioneers, Private F. Mackie and another whose name is not recorded, did brave work in rescuing the French wounded drivers while shells were exploding in the burning trucks.

During the evening of 31st May the C.O. returned from a reconnaissance, at Huchenneville, with the news that the Battalion was going to take over from a French regiment (equivalent of a British Brigade). The move was carried out twenty-four hours later. Battalion Headquarters occupied the Château de Huchenneville and the outbuildings ; "A" Company took up positions, on the right, on high ground immediately behind Tourbieres ; "B" Company were in the wood just in front of Huchenneville village. "C" and "D" Companies were at Villers, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Battalion H.Q., holding a position of importance, because Villers straddled the Route Nationale ; and here, too, was the Brigade Anti-Tank Platoon (attached to the Battalion), under 2nd Lieutenant MacLeod.

It would give a false impression of the conditions then obtaining, however, if the occupation of these positions was mentioned merely as a *fait accompli*, without noting some of the many difficulties with which companies had to contend. In the first place, "D" Company had a number of casualties while they were forming up at the north end of Doudelainville, and they were obliged to make their way to Huchenneville independently of the rest of the Battalion. Secondly, all companies had to adjust their limited resources in men and weapons to the very extensive French layout—which allowed for forty-four light automatic machine-guns instead of the nine that the British companies had. Thirdly, "C" and "D" Companies were machine-gunned and sniped while getting into position, and neither found any properly prepared defences to take over.

By daybreak on 2nd June the companies began work of pressing urgency. "H.Q." Company had their hands full making Huchenne-



SKETCH OF COMPANY POSITIONS ON SOMME.

ville Château into a battle headquarters and connecting companies by a proper signal system. Shelling of the château grounds hampered operations. According to the French, this shelling came from a quarry at "Caesar's Camp," a feature of the Mont de Caubert (a long hill to the left of the Route Nationale), where the Germans found cover for a large number of guns. Other companies were equally well employed in improving their positions; the only noteworthy incident being on "A" Company's front. A reconnaissance car of the 9th Lancers had been shot up, set on fire and abandoned, when it was realised that there were important papers in it which the Germans were striving to reach. 2nd Lieutenant A. R. P. Cameron rushed towards the blazing car and made a gallant attempt to forestall the enemy; but he was wounded and taken prisoner.

By the afternoon of 3rd June very considerable progress had been made in the improvement of all company areas: then, at a Company Commanders' Conference, the C.O. broke the news that the Battalion's rôle was not to be confined to defence; the 152nd Brigade was to take part in a general advance intended to drive the Germans across the Somme and to re-take the Abbeville bridgehead. Lt.-Colonel Earl Cawdor then outlined the plan, as it affected the Camerons: "A" Company, on account of its advanced position, was to remain where it was. It would, however, support the advance of "B" Company (across open ground) towards their objective, "Hedgehog Wood." "D" Company would follow "B," fifteen minutes later, to capture the cross-roads at Mareuil. "C" Company was to thin out their present defences in order to take over the positions vacated by "D" when they advanced. Battalion H.Q. would remain at Huchenneville Château until the new line on the bank of the Somme had been secured. Strong air support had been promised.

Shortly after this important conference had been held, a message was received from "D" Company, at Villers, to the effect that one of their platoons had sustained heavy casualties. Major Threlfall immediately bicycled off to see for himself what the situation was. It transpired that the right-hand platoon of the company, which was commanded by 2nd Lieutenant N. C. Gunn, had been subjected to such intense mortar-fire that they had moved out of their incomplete defences—only, unfortunately, to be shelled in the open with even greater loss, as the result of the enemy's prior registration. Casualties in this platoon made it necessary to detail No. 14 Platoon of "C" Company, under 2nd Lieutenant S. H. Johnston, to replace it for the impending Battalion attack; and eighteen reinforcements that had just arrived were also allotted to "D" Company.

Meanwhile, the detailed preparations for the attack continued. Major Threlfall had no easy task in taking the reinforcements up to Villers; and he had, in addition, to bring forward two carriers placed under his command. The cemetery cross-roads near Villers was always

a dangerous spot, being under direct observation from Mont de Caubert, and the party found the road blocked by a truck (belonging to the Northumberland Fusiliers) which had been struck by a shell. While negotiating this obstacle the "D" Company men were themselves shelled, sustaining casualties, including Private C. Hay, who lost his life when he left the carrier he was in because he was under the impression that Major Threlfall had been wounded by a shell which had burst close beside him.

All day long on 3rd June there was a tremendous amount of enemy aerial activity, and it is probable that the mortaring of the machine-gun posts of the Northumberland Fusiliers was attributable to air observation. These two posts were situated in "A" Company's area, and when one of the guns had been put out of action, 2nd Lieutenant H. K. Junor volunteered to share the dangers of the position and took his place beside the gunners. Enemy patrols succeeded in getting into the orchard during the night.

Zero hour on the night of 3rd-4th June was at 3.30 A.M. But by midnight every man was in his place.

It will be remembered that "B" Company was to lead the attack, and now they went forward towards Hedgehog Wood. "A" Company was covering their advance, and they moved with 2nd Lieutenant F. Clark's platoon forward on the right, 2nd Lieutenant W. R. Robertson's platoon forward on the left, and Captain The Viscount Fincastle following with Company Headquarters and the third platoon under 2nd Lieutenant A. J. Spiers. The barrage came down as soon as the company came into view of the Hedgehog; but, alas, it fell short, and the leading platoons were pinned under a withering fire from the edge of the wood. When the barrage lifted it still fell short; the Germans reinforced the front edge, and in spite of gallant efforts (which at least drove back one of the German machine-gun posts), "B" Company could make no further progress. 2nd Lieutenant Robertson's platoon had got within 20 yards of the wood.

Just at this time Captain The Viscount Fincastle was shot in both legs and the remaining Bren gunners in 2nd Lieutenant Robertson's platoon were killed. Already the intensity of the fire had deflected the axis of the attack towards "A" Company, and Captain The Viscount Fincastle ordered all that remained of his men to rally in that area; he himself had done all he could, and he remained in command of his company until he could do no more: he was killed by a shell shortly after receiving medical attention. "B" Company had lost over seventy men.

The original plan, under which "D" Company would follow "B," had been designed to protect "D" Company from flanking fire. But the plan could not be altered, for it had depended on a timed advance—the fifteen minutes allowed before Hedgehog Wood might be deemed to have been neutralised. In fact, "D" Company was not able to



know when it crossed the start-line that any advance from Villers would expose its right flank to fire from the wood. "D" Company was unfortunate from the outset. While actually forming up, the leading Platoon Commander, P.S.M. W. Noble, was killed by shell-fire, and a last-moment reorganisation had to be carried out—Captain R. Burton, now Second-in-Command of "D" Company, took over P.S.M. Noble's platoon, 2nd Lieutenant I. Macdonald took over Captain Burton's platoon, which was to follow on the left, and Major Threlfall followed with Company Headquarters and 2nd Lieutenant Johnston's platoon (from "C" Company). The line of advance was along the right-hand side of the Route Nationale.

Three attempts were made by Major Threlfall to get forward, only to be checked by withering machine-gun fire that could not be avoided by any line of approach. The platoon led by Captain Burton made some progress; then further advance became impossible. The rest of the company had been held up only a short distance from the start-line, and casualties were heavy.

A report now reached Company Headquarters that Major Threlfall had been seen to fall, to get up and to fall again, close to the Route Nationale. His death in action was confirmed later. 2nd Lieutenant Johnston had been severely wounded and was lying out in the open, from where he could not be brought in during daylight; and Captain Burton was missing. In fact, 2nd Lieutenant Johnston managed to crawl back after dark, in spite of his severe wounds, and Captain Burton returned safely.

The remnant of "D" Company, together with a number of Seaforth men, totalled about fifty in all. C.S.M. Simmonds placed this party at the disposal of 2nd Lieutenant D. F. Ross ("C" Company), whose platoon was occupying a position on the right of the Route Nationale previously held by "D" Company. The "D" Company and Seaforth men were formed into two groups, one under C.S.M. Simmonds and the other under Sergeant A. M. M'Leod, and again attempted to get forward. They advanced through the orchard and covered about 200 yards, but intense machine-gun fire from the woods 400-500 yards on their right made further progress impossible and they were withdrawn under the scant cover of a ditch.

"C" Company, under Captain W. D. Ross, had assumed responsibility for the defensive positions vacated by "D" Company when the attack went forward, in addition to their own: but it will be recalled that one of their platoons had been taken away. The whole of the Villers position was therefore now only held by two platoons. Captain Ross was faced with a worrying time, for the telephone line to Battalion Headquarters was broken by the shelling of the Villers-Huchenneville road.

Company Headquarters, consisting of what was known as "The White House" and other smaller buildings, was soon the centre of



heavy artillery bombardment, and the south end of the village was subjected to an air attack: nevertheless, 2nd Lieutenant Ross and 2nd Lieutenant A. N. MacLeod (commanding the Brigade anti-tank guns) were active in keeping touch with the situation and both contacted companies of the 4th Seaforth Highlanders. 2nd Lieutenant Ross also organised parties to collect the many Seaforth wounded.

About midday Major Hill visited Villers and discussed the plan of defence with Captain Ross. Major Hill reported the situation to the C.O. on his return to Battalion Headquarters at 2 P.M., and it was then decided to send forward a platoon of the Norfolks (Pioneer Battalion) under 2nd Lieutenant F. Slater to strengthen the position. The remainder of the day was spent in reorganisation and in evacuating casualties.

The night of the 4th-5th June was comparatively quiet, but there were ominous sounds of motor-transport movement in the Somme Valley that might well be the prelude to a German attack. About 5 A.M. it was reported that considerable numbers of the enemy were advancing towards the château from the woods in front. These were engaged with effect and forced to take cover. Soon after first light enemy fire from the woods became heavy and continuous, and once more aircraft were circling overhead. By 7 A.M. the enemy had succeeded in infiltrating through "C" Company's dangerously extended line. 2nd Lieutenant Slater had taken over the right of the Villers position and, in addition to the platoon of the Norfolks, he had a dozen survivors of "D" Company and also the machine-gun section originally allotted to cover the attack. In order to deal with the enemy pressure, which was now coming from the rear as well as from the front, 2nd Lieutenant Slater and Lance-Corporal C. Walsh (the only N.C.O. surviving in his platoon) crawled out to an isolated shell-hole from which Lance-Corporal Walsh accounted for a number of the enemy before he was killed.

The position was at last overrun by superior numbers, who had advanced from three directions. The gallant survivors, fighting at close quarters, were made prisoners.

In the meantime, 2nd Lieutenant Ross had discovered that the Seaforths on the left had vacated the positions they had been holding, and he proceeded to Company Headquarters to give this important information. 2nd Lieutenant Ross was instructed to remain at Company Headquarters, as orders for the retirement of his platoon were expected at any moment; but, while he was there, a message came back from the forward platoon position to the effect that the enemy was attacking, and he hurried forward to join his men. It was very soon apparent to 2nd Lieutenant Ross that the enemy had penetrated to such an extent that the platoon's present position was untenable, and he withdrew his men to the White House.

But, in the meantime, while 2nd Lieutenant Ross was with his

platoon, the Company Commander (Captain Ross) proceeded to Battalion Headquarters and explained that the forward platoons could not hold their positions. Accordingly, it was decided that the most effective method of stopping the enemy's advance along the Route Nationale would be a concentration of artillery fire on Villers, and this was arranged.

In the White House area, in addition to Company Headquarters, there was No. 15 Platoon, under P.S.M. N. Maclean, and while P.S.M. Maclean issued ammunition and grenades, 2nd Lieutenant Ross disposed his sections in suitable fire positions. All the rooms at the east end of the house had been wrecked during the dive-bombing, and when 2nd Lieutenant Ross reached the west gable he saw a number of Germans just 30 yards away. Helped by P.S.M. Maclean, 2nd Lieutenant Ross succeeded in getting a Bren gun into action and doing considerable execution. It became evident that the White House was entirely surrounded and that the garrison could hold out only so long as their ammunition lasted; but, in this apparently critical situation, there was suddenly most unexpected relief, for the artillery concentration Captain Ross had asked for fell on Villers with splendid accuracy, though marvellously leaving the White House unscathed! To the great joy of the garrison the enemy were seen to be retiring.

2nd Lieutenant Ross allowed time for the Germans to clear the village and then sent Private A. Lowder to find out whether anyone remained at "C" Company Headquarters. In a short time Private Lowder returned to report that 2nd Lieutenant D. F. Cavaye, C.S.M. W. J. Fox, and about twenty men (some of them wounded) were still in position. On hearing this, 2nd Lieutenant Ross went to "C" Company Headquarters himself and learnt that the party had put up a spirited action (despite a German attack of considerable force), in which C.S.M. Fox and Lance-Corporal L. M'Cuish had distinguished themselves. They had been surrounded by the enemy until the German withdrawal; since then everything had been quite quiet. After returning to the White House, 2nd Lieutenant Ross learnt that Huchenneville had been vacated, and accordingly he knew he was at liberty to withdraw. Stretchers were improvised for the wounded (including Lieutenant J. Anderson of the Seaforth Highlanders) and the dangerous journey down the side of the Route Nationale began. Enemy aircraft repeatedly forced them to take cover, and the carrying of the wounded by men thoroughly exhausted themselves made progress painfully slow. Lance-Corporal Black deserved high praise for his leadership on this occasion.

At Limeux, 2nd Lieutenant Ross contacted the 2nd Seaforth Highlanders and arranged for the wounded to be given medical attention; at Limeux, too, he heard that the Camerons had gone to St Maxent.

With the aid of a small-scale Michelin map only, 2nd Lieutenant Ross led his men to Doudelainville and thence to St Maxent—and there,

though he did not find the Camerons, he at least learnt that Brigade Headquarters was only 6 kilometres farther on! Unable to obtain a lift in the full trucks they saw on the road, the men struggled on till at last they came on the remainder of the Battalion halted at the roadside. For the moment their troubles seemed to be over.

At this point we may leave "C" Company to turn to the situation on the "A" Company front, which by now had become more precarious. "A" Company had done what they could to support "B" Company in its initial task: they had expected to carry on the attack themselves with their three platoons and what was left of "B" Company, but Battalion Headquarters had expressly told them that the attempt was not to be renewed and that they were to defend their present position. Captain Tweedie, O.C. "A" Company, was, however, obliged to order his men to prepare a new line in order to economise manpower and, so far as possible, to offset the weakening of the defence resulting from the situation of the other companies. By nightfall on 4th June, "A" Company were well advanced with their digging, and enemy interference had been relatively slight. There was good news by telephone from Battalion Headquarters—"A" Company were to be relieved by a company of the 5th Gordons. At first light on 5th June the Gordons arrived, and Captain Tweedie arranged that 2nd Lieutenant H. K. Junor would take the company out of the line, while he, himself, remained till the Gordons completed their take-over. Hardly, however, had the Gordons come when the Germans launched a strong attack and both companies had to stand-to. The Germans were beaten off, but by then it was broad daylight and Captain Tweedie realised that the relief would have to be delayed till the evening, particularly as the enemy seemed to be preparing for a further attack. Battalion Headquarters could not, unfortunately, be informed of this very necessary decision. The telephone line to Huchenneville was dead, and although Captain Tweedie made his way to the Lothian and Border Horse position on the Route Nationale, their line was also out of action.

At 9 A.M. the Germans attacked again; this time from two sides. This attack was also beaten off, though enemy snipers remained in the vicinity of the old Company Headquarters and had to be cleared by patrols sent out both by the Gordons and Camerons. By this time "A" Company's food supplies were exhausted and Captain Usher, O.C. the Gordons Company, arranged to supply rations from his own company. Water had to be obtained, at considerable risk, from outside the defended area.

During the afternoon a German anti-tank gun crew was engaged at close range, but it was not until 7 P.M. that any large numbers of any infantry were seen. The enemy were joined by other troops, who came out of the woods about a mile and a half behind the position, until they were estimated at fully 800. They seemed to be searching for any men (or perhaps anti-tank mines) that might have been concealed

in the standing corn. About the same time, twenty armoured vehicles were spotted in the area of the woods.

The night was quiet ; nevertheless, the enemy had succeeded in surrounding the position. Two men, Lance-Corporal A. Ross and Private (17) Ross, had been sent back before stand-to to report the " A " Company's situation to Battalion Headquarters ; they had, it was learnt afterwards, found Headquarters vacated, yet they could not inform Captain Tweedie, for they were captured while trying to make their way back. Enemy aircraft now prohibited any movement, and even thinning-out was impracticable, for the enemy could now be seen very clearly advancing from Huchenneville Wood. It was only a matter of time before the Germans closed in.

The capture of " A " Company and the company of the Gordon Highlanders coincided with the relief of " B " Company by another company of the Gordons (under Captain Lawrie) that same morning. 2nd Lieutenant Robertson brought " B " Company back to a position in front of Huchenneville village and reported at the château ; but Headquarters were already packing up, and he was told to bring his men into the woods in readiness to join the remainder of the Battalion.

Ordered to evacuate Huchenneville at short notice, Earl Cawdor had directed Captain Ross to lead the transport to " A " Echelon at Limeux, collect the stores there, and meet the Battalion at Cerisy. The carriers remained to cover the withdrawal of all that was left of the depleted companies.

The day was extremely hot and many of the men were utterly exhausted, so that the last files of officers and men were loaded with the arms of those who could no longer carry them. A halt was called at Cerisy, and then the Battalion plodded on. At 9 P.M. it was ordered to take up a position on the railway line behind St Maxent. To hold this line the Battalion was divided into two companies : men of " B," " C," and " D " Companies forming one, under Major Hill ; all H.Q. personnel who could be spared the other, under Major Macleay. The position straddled the Route Nationale, and on the sector to the left of the road defences had been partially prepared by the 236th Field Company, R.E., and were actually being held by a French company ; it was decided that the latter would be included in an International Post, and Captain Ross was put in charge of a platoon of " H.Q." Company (made up of Pioneers and clerks) to garrison part of it. The other positions allotted to " H.Q." Company were the buildings of a beet-sugar factory, which was in front of the railway cutting ; this consisted of a main block, two open-sided drying sheds, and a rectangular earthwork standing 12 feet above the surrounding country. Major Hill's composite company was distributed along the front edge of the railway cutting from a point about 400 yards to the right of Major Macleay's and extending to some 800 yards. Battalion Headquarters

was in a house just behind the embankment about half-way along the right company front, and the transport was in an orchard farther back.

The morning of 6th June was quiet and a start was made to rebuild the French defences and to construct new ones. The defences prepared by the R.E.s had been vacated by the French at daybreak as being considered by them to be too far forward. About 2 P.M. considerable enemy movement was observed in the woods in front; then a truck came into the open and the Germans started to unload a mortar and ammunition. Major Hill ordered 2nd Lieutenant MacLeod of the Brigade Anti-Tank Platoon to open fire, and the truck was struck, although it was driven off. The mortar crew was engaged by company Bren guns and apparently with good effect, since the mortar never came into action while the railway line position was held.

At 3 P.M. shelling and mortaring of the International Post started. The trench occupied by the Pioneer Platoon received a direct hit, which caused a number of casualties. The wood where the enemy mortars were situated was subjected to a heavy artillery concentration, but although it seemed impossible that anything could survive, the mortaring continued. Sniping from some houses near the railway line became very troublesome and the ration lorry could not be sent forward. The snipers were probably parachutists dropped on the previous night. Captain Ross managed to get through this village and to reach Headquarters unnoticed; he returned to Major Macleay with orders from the Commanding Officer that the position was to be held until 9.30 P.M., unless it became untenable before that time.

At about 6.45 P.M. the mortaring and shelling began again, and Major Hill, who was acting as artillery observer, directed a concentration on the left of the Route Nationale. The mortars were silenced, but a 6-inch howitzer battery still kept up a steady fire. In the meantime, Major Macleay moved such men as he could spare back to Battalion Headquarters in order to reduce casualties. Enemy machine-guns were now firing down the railway and cutting off intercommunication between the left company and Battalion Headquarters. From the direction of the enemy fire it was concluded that part of the 31st Division front must have given way and so had enabled infiltration of the machine-guns to be effected.

Shortly after 8 P.M. the enemy in the village opposite the railway were reinforced, while on the right company front machine-gun fire became very heavy and groups of German infantry were seen advancing across the open ground. 2nd Lieutenant Robertson's platoon pinned the enemy down 400 yards from the company position.

About 8.30 P.M. Major Hill received a message from the Gordon Highlanders (on the right) saying that they had been ordered to retire at 9.30 P.M., though their Carrier Platoon would remain until 10 P.M. to cover their withdrawal. At 9 P.M. Major Hill sent his right-hand platoon back to the high ground 800 yards in the rear. Twenty minutes

later he filtered back his left platoon and Company Headquarters, and at 9.30 P.M. he withdrew the centre platoon and so completed the evacuation of the forward area. At 8.45 Major Macleay had reconnoitred the line of withdrawal for the left company. An attempt to filter the men towards Major Hill's position was frustrated by the presence of an enemy machine-gun post between the two companies, but fortunately the route reconnoitred was defiladed and the men were withdrawn without loss. After holding a series of rearguard positions, the company was gradually withdrawn until it reached the high ground, where the men formed into file and began the long march back over the River Bresle.

Avoiding the Route Nationale as far as possible, Major Hill approached Le Translay with due precautions and there he met Captain Lang, the Adjutant, who told him that Major Macleay had just passed through. Blangy was packed with troops and progress became increasingly difficult. Both companies finally reached their destination at "B" Echelon in the Haute Forêt d'Eu without enemy interference, but they were dead beat and they lay down to sleep just where they halted. Battalion Headquarters had already been established in the forest. Personnel of the International Post were brought back safely under Captain Ross, in spite of severe shelling during the early stage of their withdrawal: they had remained until 10.45 P.M. in order to conform with the time of withdrawal of the French troops.

On the morning of 7th June Reveille was made very late, and the rest of the day was spent in rest and reorganising. During the evening, however, orders were received to stand-by in readiness to move to Cuverville on the south bank of the River Yeres to prepare defensive positions there. French transport, promised, failed to materialise, and although some men could be carried on unit vehicles, the bulk of the Battalion made the move by march route, protected by the carriers and by road-blocks manned by those who had been "lifted" forward in advance. Cuverville was reached in the early hours of 8th June.

The Brigadier had been wounded on 6th June, his place being taken by Lt.-Colonel I. C. Barclay, M.B.E., C.O. of the 2nd Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders.

During the morning of the 8th, Earl Cawdor, who was worn out and ill, was told by the Divisional Commander that he was to be given a rest at last, and that Major J. R. Mackintosh-Walker (Seaforth—then on Divisional Staff) would take over command until Major C. M. Barber returned from leave at home.

Everybody was extremely sorry to say good-bye to Earl Cawdor, who had served with the 4th Battalion since the end of the First World War and who was regarded as a personal friend of every officer and man; but everybody also knew that he was in real need of a respite from the strain he had shouldered during an appallingly critical period.

Another move was imminent. The Battalion was to embus that

afternoon. At 2.30 P.M. the troop-carrying vehicles arrived, and, over roads congested with French and British transport, the column slowly proceeded to its destination in the Forêt d'Arques. Major Mackintosh-Walker met the Battalion on its arrival, and then he and Major Hill carried out an immediate reconnaissance of the ground to be held. It was no easy task to decide on the direction from which any enemy attack might be anticipated. The B.B.C. news, received on a portable set, gave the information that German Armoured Divisions had broken through the lines and were operating to the south of the area allotted to the Battalion. However, as the bridges had been prepared for demolition, and were to be blown, it was decided to cross the river and take up a line facing south-east.

The Battalion was divided into three fighting companies and a Headquarters Company. Reinforcements (about 120 in all) brought up by Captain W. K. R. Murray, made up one company; while the remainder of "B," "C," and "D" Companies were divided between Captain Ross and Captain Burton to form the other two. Captain Murray's company held the low ground covering the river; Captain Ross's the road and railway, and Captain Burton's the high ground in rear. Battalion Headquarters was established at a château at Rouxmesnils-Bouteilles. The position was held for a day and night only, and then orders were received to take up positions at Ouville.

Everyone knew by now that it was the ultimate intention to embark the Division. Although still under command of the French, agreement had been reached that the Division would pull northwards to the coast. Being so near to Dieppe, it was thought that embarkation might be from there; but Havre was now the port decided upon. By this time supplies from the back areas were not reaching forward units and they were living on the country as they went. Havre had been heavily bombed and the port installations put temporarily out of action. Cherbourg was still being used, but this was a far cry from the Highland Division. The Germans were reported to be moving fast westwards from Amiens, and it was a question of which arm of the pincer movement would reach the Division first, and whether, in fact, the Division could evade it.

At first light on 9th June the Battalion marched down the hill joining the main road close to Dieppe. After marching inland for about a mile, it turned right and continued to Ouville. At Ouville, Major Hill, who had gone forward to carry out a reconnaissance, led the Battalion across the bridge, down a side road to the left, and into a wood which gave good cover from aircraft. During the march the roads had been thronged by thousands of refugees.

The Camerons were required to guard the bridges at Ouville, but until the Gordons arrived it was also decided that they would hold two unguarded bridges at the village of Gueures, about 4 kilometres off. One company (under Major Macleay) was detailed for the Gueures

position, two companies for the Ouville position, and one company (under Captain Murray) covered the ground as far as possible between these two positions.

No enemy were observed during the day, though a very sharp look-out was maintained, particularly on the right flank, which was also covered by the Carrier Platoon, in view of a warning received from that quarter. At 9 P.M. orders were unexpectedly received to close on Ouville, and an hour later the Battalion was marched to a convoy of R.A.S.C. trucks and embussed. The sudden move took the Battalion first to the village of Neville, which it reached just after day-break. Originally the Camerons were to have held the south side of the position and the 1st Gordons were to have been on their left ; but the positions of the Camerons and Gordons were exchanged by mutual agreement when it was discovered that the latter were already on the ground. As things turned out it was lucky that this exchange took place, for the Gordons had to resist two heavy attacks during the afternoon and evening, whilst all was quiet on the Cameron front.

It was now no secret that the purpose of the defensive position taken up was only to cover embarkation at St Valery-en-Caux. The little fishing town of St Valery, roughly half-way between Dieppe and Havre, had been chosen as the nearest port to which the British Forces could make for in the expectation that the Navy would be able to take them off. At any rate, the Germans were in Rouen and turning north all too quickly towards Havre.

As dusk fell the familiar indications of enemy penetration were observed on the right of the Battalion area : white Verey lights, orange balls, machine-gun tracer fire, and bursts of mortar shells. Touch with Brigade Headquarters could not be obtained (although officers and despatch riders were sent out to try to establish contact) until 11.30 P.M. —and then an order was delivered personally by 2nd Lieutenant R. C. Robertson-Macleod, Brigade Liaison Officer, instructing the Battalion to rendezvous at St Valery immediately.

It would have taken three hours to reach St Valery on foot, but Major Mackintosh-Walker succeeded in organising sufficient transport from the Battalion resources, and in spite of the chaotic state of the traffic on the roads and the pitch darkness of the night, the move was carried out without delay and without the loss of a single vehicle.

The journey to St Valery was unforgettable. The Battalion passed blazing cottages and blazing châteaux, and in the distance the burning buildings of St Valery lit up the sky. It was indeed like daylight ; so many buildings had been set on fire when the column reached the town and descended the steep streets into the upper square. Under instructions issued, the Camerons were to take the first turning to the right past the station ; but that street was utterly impassable owing to conflagration. There was nothing for it but to debus the men and to destroy the vehicles where they stood.



Cylinder blocks and heads were smashed with picks and hammers and the vehicles were rendered so completely useless that the enemy could never drive a truck that had carried the regimental "15" on it.

While the work of destruction was in progress, Major Macleay and Captain Lang tried to find an alternative route, and they were fortunate in meeting a military policeman, who gave them directions for reaching the harbour via the esplanade—extending along the sides of the estuary round which St Valery stands. Captain Lang returned to Major Hill (who was acting C.O. in the absence of Major Mackintosh-Walker) with the information gained, while Major Macleay continued towards the harbour. But Major Macleay learned that it was extremely unlikely that any boats would be available, and even if they were, the way to the beach was barred by enemy machine-gun fire.

In the meantime, since the enemy held the south-west cliff above the estuary, Major Hill found cover from view, and shelter from the continuous rain, under some trees behind the houses on the esplanade. Here a message was received from Brigade Headquarters to the effect that St Valery was to be evacuated and that the Battalion was to form a defended locality at a sunken road outside the town. The first difficulty to be overcome was the lack of weapons, because anti-tank rifles and Brens had been destroyed, under orders, on the previous night. A search of trucks and ditches was, however, rewarded, and about twenty Brens and four anti-tank rifles were distributed. Major Hill organised the defensive position along the banks of the sunken road and occupied the lower half of the road while the upper was manned by men from a number of other units. Major Hill then went to Divisional Headquarters in order to obtain more definite information regarding the general situation. In the meantime, steps were taken to issue the Battalion with food, though the Germans had begun to shell the road, and any movement was difficult. On his way to Divisional Headquarters, Major Hill met a senior staff officer, who told him authoritatively that the Division was no longer to fight on. Already the French Corps Commander had given orders for a white flag to be hung on the Church in token of surrender, and it was emphasised that if the British disobeyed his orders, and continued to offer resistance, the German shelling would continue and involve the French in unnecessary slaughter. Major Hill returned to break this most serious and unwelcome news to the Camerons.

In after years the enforced surrender of the 51st Division could be viewed in the fuller knowledge of the circumstances. The left arm of the "pincer," to which reference has been made (see page 32) had won, and starting about midday on 11th June the 2nd Seaforth on the right of the St Valery bridgehead had been attacked by motorised troops. Yet the 4th Camerons were well installed on the Seaforth's left and news was then cheering. The Royal Navy was reported to be

lying off-shore, and a naval liaison officer was with Divisional Headquarters. The Divisional perimeter was tight and strong and fully prepared to do battle for a few days if necessary. The troops could see warships lying a mile or two off-shore, and, in sure expectation that the Navy could most certainly be relied upon to do what it had done before in many a desperate situation, the troops' spirits never flagged. Not until the end of their captivity did those who so bitterly deplored the sudden apparently needless decision that the 51st Division should follow the voluntary fate of their allies learn that, in fact, it would have been utterly impossible for the Navy to rescue them. A treacherous coast and an unpredictable fog had denied the Navy the precious time needed to complete a task that would have been most hazardous even under ideal conditions; to wait until those conditions might have improved could only have resulted in appalling losses, and, above all, the Commander of the British Forces owed not only loyal adherence to the French but, in fact, he came directly under the orders of the French Commander.

Those who were left in St Valery on 12th June were taken prisoner there and then; others, who obtained permission to break away in small parties and endeavour to escape, were for the most part picked up later; some got away from the little fishing village of Veules-les-Roses, five miles east of St Valery, but they were the lucky few.

So ended the tragedy of St Valery, an epic which will go down through the years in the annals of all the Highland regiments. It was a blow, shattering enough to those who took part, but to those in Scotland waiting in suspense for news, as day by day passed after Dunkirk and the announcement that the last British troops had been evacuated from there, it must have been sheer torture—so much pride and love had gone into the making of this Highland Division. Then, ten days after the first momentous announcement about the B.E.F., came the news of the capture of the entire 51st Division. A groan that was almost felt echoed throughout Scotland. It was a particularly ghastly shock to Inverness-shire, with its small population. From the 4th Battalion of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders had gone out, for the second time within living memory, the cream of the regimental district, and there was hardly a home or croft that did not mourn its loss.

Reconstituted in Inverness in July 1940, and commanded by Lt.-Colonel C. M. Barber, D.S.O., the Battalion sailed from Liverpool on 9th August 1940 in H.M.T. *The Empress of Australia*. The Battalion reached Halifax, Nova Scotia, on 19th August. Leaving Halifax in two other ships on 23rd August, it arrived at Aruba, in the Dutch West Indies, on 3rd September 1940, having dropped a detachment of 250 at Bermuda.

At Aruba the task of the Battalion was to guard the oil refineries.

On 5th February 1941 Lt.-Colonel Barber returned to the United Kingdom to take up a Staff appointment on promotion, and Lt.-Colonel I. E. Begg, M.B.E., relieved him as Commanding Officer.

The Battalion remained at Aruba until 12th February 1942, sailing the night before German submarines bombarded the port. The Battalion returned to the United Kingdom via New York, where all ranks received the most lavish hospitality and entertainment.

The Battalion arrived in the Clyde on 24th March and were engaged on training in England and the Shetlands until December 1942, when it was renamed the 2nd Battalion.

In November 1942 Lt.-Colonel I. E. Begg, M.B.E., was forced, through serious illness, to hand over command to Lt.-Colonel C. S. Clarke, M.C.

## APPENDIX 20.

ALLOTMENT OF OFFICERS FOR THE OCCUPATION OF  
THE SAAR POSITIONS, MAY 1940

Commanding Officer	.	.	.	Lt.-Colonel The Earl Cawdor.
Second-in-Command	.	.	.	Major S. H. Hill.
Adjutant	.	.	.	Captain D. B. Lang.
Intelligence Officer	.	.	.	Lieutenant C. D. Hunter.
Medical Officer	.	.	.	Lieutenant R. Mackay, R.A.M.C.
Liaison Officer	.	.	.	M. Lucien Duchesne.

## " H.Q. " COMPANY

Major W. A. Macleay.  
 Lieutenant J. A. Crawford, Signal Officer.  
 2nd Lieutenant J. M. M. Kerr, Transport Officer.  
 2nd Lieutenant G. A. M. Panton, Carrier Officer.  
 2nd Lieutenant R. D. Dundas, Quartermaster.

## " A " COMPANY

Captain J. A. Tweedie.  
 2nd Lieutenant D. F. Ross.  
 2nd Lieutenant F. Gilmour.  
 2nd Lieutenant A. R. P. P. Cameron.  
 2nd Lieutenant H. K. Junor.

## " B " COMPANY

Captain The Viscount Fincastle.  
 Captain W. D. Ross.  
 2nd Lieutenant W. R. Robertson.  
 2nd Lieutenant R. C. Robertson-Macleod, Brigade Liaison Officer.  
 2nd Lieutenant A. J. Spiers.  
 2nd Lieutenant F. Clark.

## " C " COMPANY

Captain R. Burton.  
 2nd Lieutenant F. L. Mackie.  
 2nd Lieutenant I. Macdonald.  
 2nd Lieutenant S. H. Johnston.

## " D " COMPANY

Major T. M. Threlfall.  
 2nd Lieutenant D. N. Cochrane.  
 2nd Lieutenant N. C. Gunn.  
 2nd Lieutenant G. W. Walker.

## The Officers at Dampont were as follows :—

Lt.-Colonel The Earl Cawdor.  
 Major W. A. Macleay.  
 Captain D. B. Lang.  
 Lieutenant C. D. Hunter.  
 Lieutenant J. A. Crawford.  
 Lieutenant R. Mackay, R.A.M.C.  
 Major L. C. D. Doidge (13th London Regiment, M.G.).  
 Major Hoare (R.A. Liaison Officer).  
 Lieutenant The Hon. A. B. Money Coutts (R.S.F. Pioneers).  
 2nd Lieutenant C. H. Cairns (Lothian and Border Yeomanry, R.A.C.).

## With " A " Echelon :—

Captain The Rev. F. S. G. Fraser, Chaplain (C. of S.).  
 Captain The Rev. Kenneth Grant, Brigade Chaplain (R.C.), attached  
 to the Battalion.







THE HONORARY COLONEL INSPECTING HIS BATTALION

## 5TH BATTALION

## EARLY DAYS IN SCOTLAND

IN April 1939, when the decision was reached to double the strength of the Territorial Army, the 4th Battalion set about its task most vigorously, and 100 per cent reserves were recruited from the regimental area. Recruiting went forward at great speed until, on 26th May, the target was reached, leaving just sufficient time to concentrate on "drills" before the double-strength Battalion was due to go to Barry Camp, on 10th June, under the command of Lt.-Colonel The Hon. Evan Baillie, M.C., T.D.

Although the 5th Battalion had not yet officially been formed prior to camp, all the officers and other ranks who were soon to compose it were present on the first parade. In the second week of camp the "split" was made, and the original and duplicate Battalions trained side by side, so that the 5th Battalion, unlike other duplicated Territorial units, gained the big advantage of a flying start which enabled it from the outset to work as a separate Battalion, though still administered by the 4th Battalion.

The first inspection of the new Battalion was carried out at Barry Camp by the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General N. J. G. Cameron, by Major-General J. S. Drew, and by the Honorary Colonel, Sir D. W. Cameron of Lochiel. It was Lochiel who had raised and commanded the old 5th Battalion in the historic month of August 1914—and General (then Lieutenant) Drew had been the first Adjutant. In fact, the new 5th Battalion was called into being with the blessings of veterans who had made "Lochiel's Camerons" famous in the First World War; and although the official embodiment, under Lt.-Colonel A. Cattnach, T.D., was dated 8th August 1939, the memories of its splendid predecessor were unimpaired by the lapse of the twenty years since a so-called "final disbandment."

Lieutenant E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton was posted as Adjutant from the 1st Battalion, and R.S.M. W. M. Milne, from the 1st Liverpool Scottish, was gazetted as Lieutenant and Quartermaster.

Calling-up papers to key personnel were sent out on 23rd August 1939, and the 5th Battalion concentrated at Inverness between the 2nd and 7th of September, with Headquarters at Eileanach House. On 8th September it was inspected by Lochiel before marching through the town to entrain.

At Tain the Battalion now formed part of the 26th Infantry Brigade, 9th Highland Division. Here there began considerable drafting, both



in and out. 200 men were sent to the 4th Battalion, thus considerably weakening the Territorial basis on which (as in 1914) the 5th had been raised. However, large Army Class intakes, 70 and 34, each of 100-120 strong, were posted to the Camerons on 19th October 1939 and 19th January 1940, and complicated matters still further, though these men were eventually to prove the backbone of the Battalion. On first arrival they had nothing but civilian clothing to wear and were entirely unused to military life. That they settled down so well, and ultimately produced so many of the Battalion's best N.C.O.s, is a tribute to the standard of the material at the period. It was reckoned that 25 per cent of the first intake came from the Highlands ; the rest being drawn from all parts of Scotland.

On 9th October the War Diary notes the arrival of Major Wollaston, Seaforth Highlanders, "to give instruction in Training Cadres." Major Wollaston tackled his task with tremendous energy, and officers and N.C.O.s were to owe much to his excellent instruction. An issue of a second pair of boots per man enabled route-marches to progress from a modest start of 5 miles to a distance of 25.

The Battalion's tasks, whilst in Tain, included the protection of oil containers at Invergordon, and companies were necessarily dispersed. A submarine scare at Christmas 1939 caused the whole Battalion to stand-to ; this false alarm was long remembered—coming as it did at a singularly inappropriate season.

Many difficulties had to be overcome at Tain during these early days. There was only one Bren gun per company, besides the wooden Bren guns of doubtful training value. The Battalion transport consisted of three W.D. vehicles, the rest being requisitioned civilian lorries ; and, until November (when a second was received), there was just one Bren-gun carrier.

The Nairn Company of the A.T.S., under command of Senior Commander Mrs Davidson of Flemington, moved with the Battalion from Inverness to Tain, and from then onwards carried out most efficiently many and varied duties in the Orderly Room, Cookhouse, Dining Hall, Quartermaster's Stores, and Officer's Mess. All ranks greatly regretted the departure of this A.T.S. Company, and the Pipe Band played them off with due honour.

With the fall of France the Battalion was moved in late June 1940 to Halkirk. There its task was aerodrome defence, covering the Fleet base of Scapa and the Fleet lines of communication on the north-east coast. The men were under canvas, on the banks of the River Thurso, and slit-trenches were dug in earnest for the first time. The Battalion assumed the rôle of Caithness Striking Force on 9th July, but far-reaching changes were in the air. During the last week of July the 51st Highland Division was re-formed, and the Battalion became part of the 152nd Brigade, together with the 2nd and 5th Seaforth Highlanders, with whom it was destined and proud to fight alongside

until the end of the war with Germany. It now moved to Thurso (evacuating Halkirk completely on 3rd September) and, under Brigadier D. N. Wimberley, M.C., began serious training.

Emphasis was laid on road discipline, mobility, and physical fitness. A Motor-Coach Company was attached to the Battalion, and long motor-transport moves were constantly practised. Inter-company "forced marches" of 20 miles, starting early in the morning and finishing at lunch-time, with shooting on the range, were a normal feature of training. Equipment was still scanty, but enough was on hand to allow the organisation of one Specialist Platoon to be contemplated. Full-scale issues were impossible, and it is recalled that, on the day before the September stand-to alarm, when the invading forces were believed to be on their way, tommy-guns were issued to the Motor-Cycle Platoon for the first time. On the actual day of the stand-to, several men, newly armed with these unaccustomed weapons, could be seen studying their pamphlets—to discover how to load and fire.

In the first week of November 1940 the Battalion moved to the Muir of Ord-Beaully district in order to take part in Divisional training. River-crossings of the Nairn, Findhorn and Spey, a field-firing demonstration by Lord Lovat's Commandos from Inverailort, and large Divisional exercises were among the items of this training period. On one "Scheme" the 153rd Brigade carried out a most unexpected flanking movement against the Battalion, by embarking in drifters at Buckie and landing at Nairn, where they successfully captured almost the whole of "B" Echelon. On another, the Battalion was snow-bound in Turriff for two days, and lived in billets "off the country"—the "country" was more than generous! One of the outstanding memories of this particular exercise was the spectacle of the Brigade Commander riding on a snow-plough—the only means of locomotion available at that time and place!

Operational tasks in this area consisted mostly of erecting coastal defence works in the Fraserburgh-Peterhead district, and at one time all five companies were engaged on that task, leaving only skeleton staffs at Muir of Ord. Other features of this period were the inspection of the Battalion by the Inspector of Training, Lord Gort, V.C. (who, it is recorded, "asked a great many awkward questions"!), and the Brigade March Past, on 17th February 1941, when the salute was taken by the Lords Lieutenant of Inverness-shire and Ross-shire.

In a series of competitions among the various units of the 152nd Brigade, the 5th Battalion had by now already distinguished itself. "B" Company won the Field Firing and Marching on 12th December; the Battalion won both the Brigade Individual Piping and the Team Cross-Country Running Competitions held on 18th January; a platoon of the Battalion won the Night Patrolling Competition on 21st February; and on the next day the Battalion won the Brigade Small-Arms Meet-

ing—with eight firsts, two seconds and one third, out of the eleven events.

About this time R.S.M. T. K. Cochrane was commissioned, and returned to the Battalion as an officer. Lieutenant Cochrane had shouldered the responsibility of R.S.M. of a newly-formed unit since its "birth," and to him the Battalion was indebted for much that marked the state of efficiency now obtaining. R.S.M. R. Mackenzie succeeded him as R.S.M., relinquishing a commission in the Pioneer Corps in order to take up the appointment.

In April 1941 the Battalion moved to Turriff, the move embracing a "Scheme" *en route*. The object of this move was to concentrate the defences of the Aberdeen-Elgin sector. One company in turn was detached to erect coastal defences in the Fraserburgh area. This task included a 20-mile march known officially, and also popularly, as "Exercise Blister."

There were several changes in command of the Brigade and Division at this time. Brigadier G. Murray, M.C., took over the Brigade from Brigadier D. N. Wimberley, M.C., who, for a short period, commanded the 43rd Division before returning as Divisional Commander of the Highland Division.

The Battalion's "Summer Location" at Turriff was, under canvas, in the grounds of Hatton Castle, residence of Lt.-Colonel G. B. Duff, D.S.O., late Cameron Highlanders, and C.O. of the 5th Battalion in the 1914-1918 war. One of the best stories, not apocryphal, told of the Battalion's stay at Turriff is of the occasion when it was inspected by the C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal Sir John Dill. Great efforts had been made to improve the appearance of company lines, and, in an excess of zeal, one N.C.O. whitewashed the entire coal-dump!

Early in August the Battalion, less a skeleton staff, moved to Balmoral, charged with the duty of guarding His Majesty The King during his three weeks' residence in Scotland. This historic occasion was reported in 'The 79th News' (October 1941):—

"Up to the day of departure, not one man in the Battalion knew the location to which he was going or the duties he was to perform. . . . Five miles from Ballater the news was broken to all ranks. It was good news, and the whole Battalion was quick to appreciate the importance and the great honour which they were fortunate enough to have bestowed upon them. The duties required of the Battalion were at once arduous and enjoyable. For half the Battalion, night was turned into day, and they supplied guards, continuous and alert, throughout the hours of darkness. Other duties consisted of supplying a large number of beaters, all correctly dressed in the kilt, for the King's grouse drives. On Sunday, 24th August, by command of H.M. The King, the Pipes and Drums of the 5th Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders beat 'Retreat' on the lawns in front of Balmoral

Castle. After 'Retreat' all the officers of the Battalion were presented to Their Majesties and the two Princesses. On the following Saturday, 30th August, the Battalion Pipes and Drums again beat 'Retreat' at Balmoral Castle. One interesting episode which occurred is worth recording. Pipe-Major Ross, of Edinburgh, composed a pipe tune intended, after approval by Her Majesty, to be the March Past of the A.T.S. It was unknown, and had not yet been heard in public. No. 2925838 Drum-Sergeant William Fraser, of the Battalion, composed the drum beatings for the March, which added not a little to the beauty of the tune. The Queen, on hearing the new March, took the Battalion Pipe Programme and struck out the entry for the March that was being played, which was merely shown as 'Nameless,' and in her own hand wrote, 'Queen Elizabeth's March,' and gave her approval for its adoption as the March Past of the A.T.S.

On Sunday, 31st August, the Battalion paraded on the lawn at Balmoral Castle for inspection by H.M. The King. The Battalion was formed up in two lines of two companies, the two front companies being dressed entirely in the kilt. At 10 A.M. the King, dressed as was his custom at Balmoral as a Cameron, came out of the Castle on to parade, accompanied by the Queen and the two Princesses. The weather was glorious, and the parade went off without fault or hindrance; it was filmed at the time, both in sound and colour. Immediately after the parade, Their Majesties were photographed with the officers and also with all members of the Sergeants' Mess.

On Wednesday, 3rd September, the King asked the Commanding Officer to organise and run a Ghillies' Ball to be held in the Ballroom at Balmoral Castle. The Battalion Dance Band played, and Pipe-Major Ross, Pipe-Sergeant White, and Drum-Sergeant Fraser played for the Highland dances. . . . Each Sunday, 100 men of the Battalion, dressed in the kilt, attended Morning Service in Crathie Church. On the departure of the King and Queen for the south, the Battalion lined the drives of Balmoral Castle to bid them farewell. Their Majesties paid informal calls on the Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, and with their usual thoughtfulness and kindness went out of their way to put at its disposal all the buildings and amenities of the Castle that they thought the Battalion could possibly require. A small part of the good fortune which befell all ranks can easily be imagined when it is mentioned that the King threw open to all members of the Battalion the whole of his fishing rights on the River Dee, asked officers out to shoot with him on his grouse drives, and daily invited four officers to go out stalking."

In late September the Battalion, less "B" and "C" Companies, who were left to guard the Princesses, moved back to Turriff. This move was followed by a large and rather chaotic exercise, which finished up with a 36-hour battle against Poles and the local Home

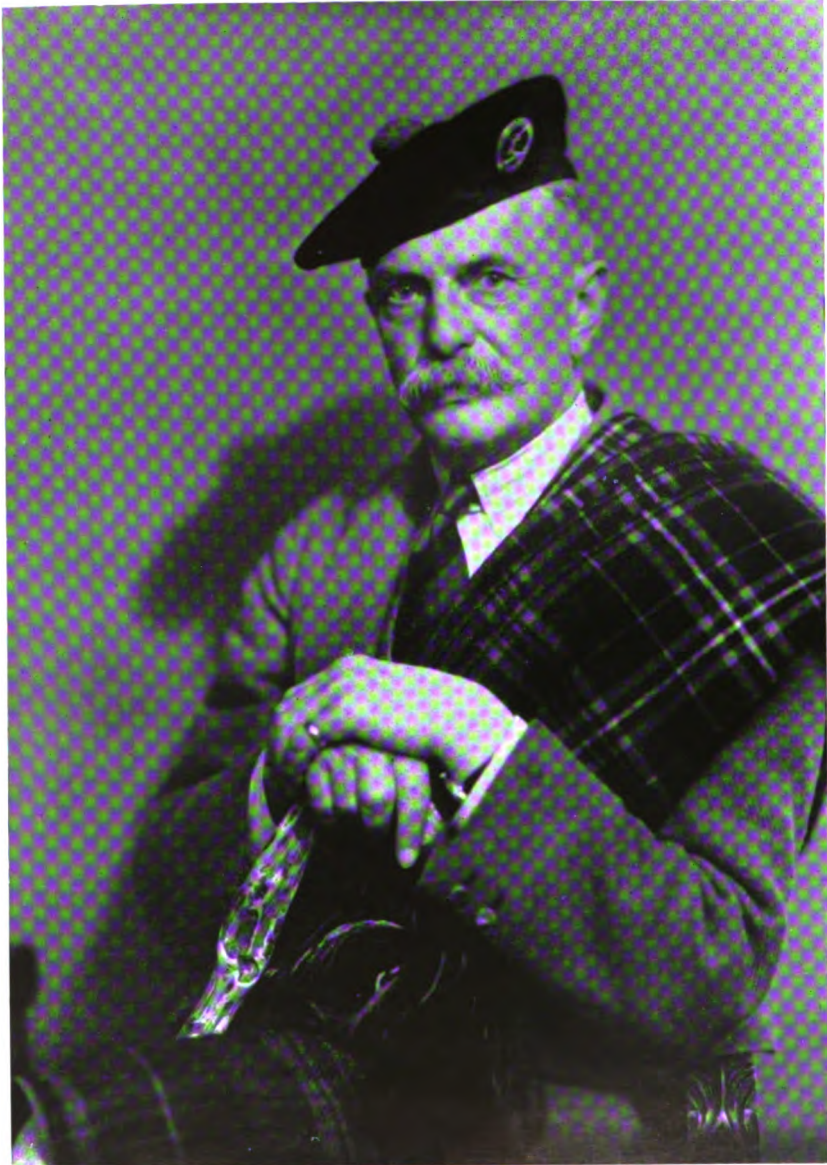
Guard on the outskirts of Dundee. From Turriff the Battalion moved complete to Hayton Camp, Aberdeen, at the end of October. Aberdeen was a most popular station, despite the fact that the whole Battalion was very fully occupied. One company was engaged in erecting tubular scaffolding on the local beach defences ; one company was the special Training Company for another large draft that had been received straight from civilian life, and one company was standing by as part of the Aberdeen Garrison. Two companies took over aerodrome defence at Kirkcaldy and Arbroath from the 70th Battalion The Black Watch, whose young soldiers' training was made a Battalion responsibility. Despite all these duties the Battalion had to find time to clear snow from the railways and roads after Christmas. Here, within a few days of each other, both the C.O. and the Adjutant left the Battalion they had served with distinction since its inception in May 1939. Lt.-Colonel Alex. Cattanach had commanded for nearly three years, three most important if unspectacular years for the Battalion, in view of what the future held in store for it. A fine administrator, his ability to handle men and his great knowledge of all things Highland, and more especially Cameron, were of the greatest value during these early years ; his successors in command were to acknowledge the sound grounding and framework he had given the Battalion. Lt.-Colonel A. Cattanach, T.D., on his promotion to Colonel, was succeeded by Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers ; the Adjutant, Captain E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, was posted to Divisional Headquarters in early January, Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison being appointed Adjutant in his place.

During the Aberdeen " Warship Week " the Battalion created a most favourable impression by its march past the Lord Provost, and further enhanced its local reputation by reaching the final of the Aberdeen Junior Soccer Cup. A platoon under Lieutenant R. Cahill won the Brigade Drill Competition, and two platoons under Captain T. K. Cochrane were detached for commando training in West Argyllshire. But towards the close of its stay in Aberdeen it became apparent to all ranks that the Battalion was destined, in the not-too-distant future, for service overseas ; and training, discipline, and enthusiasm intensified accordingly. Though the Battalion had not as yet gone overseas, it had already contributed many officers and other ranks for duty outside the United Kingdom.

#### MOBILISATION AND THE MOVE TO EGYPT

On 2nd April 1942 the Battalion moved to England and reached Heckfield Camp (near Basingstoke, Hants.) next day. Training now became as realistic as it was possible to make it. The Battalion was " passed over " by tanks, was dive-bombed, and practised in advancing





COLONEL SIR DONALD CAMERON OF LOCHIEL, K.T., C.M.G.

under fire : a most successful N.C.O.s cadre, which paid rich dividends in the subsequent battles, was also held. The emphasis during this period was essentially on individual training.

The order to mobilise was received on 8th May 1942, and there followed a period of intense activity. All kit was inspected and renewed where necessary ; tropical kit was issued and inspected in conditions of utmost secrecy in the nearby woods, and the Battalion was completely re-equipped with new vehicles. Between 12th and 13th May ten drafts joined the Battalion from the Liverpool Scottish, the Royal Scots, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the South Staffordshire Regiment, the Royal Warwicks, the Leicesters, the Green Howards, and the Royal Berkshire Regiment. These varied in size from *one* man of the 9th Royal Berks to forty of the 6th R.S.F.

The Battalion was visited by the King and Queen on 1st June, and Their Majesties recognised several of the men who had been at Balmoral. The Secretary of State for War and the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, General Sir Alan Brooke, also visited the Battalion. Lt.-General B. L. Montgomery, C.-in-C. S.E. Command, gave a lecture to all officers of the Division. Major-General N. J. G. Cameron, Colonel of the Regiment, spent the nights of 29th-30th and 30th-31st May with the Battalion and made a thorough inspection. He was present for the visit of Their Majesties and saw the Divisional Pipes and Drums play on the Aldershot Athletic Ground.

The Honorary Colonel, Lochiel, spent the night of 6th-7th June with the Battalion. There was a Guest Night on the 6th, during which Lochiel fell ill and was taken to hospital in Reading. With indomitable spirit he returned on Sunday morning and attended church parade. He subsequently addressed the Battalion and took the salute at the march past. The Battalion was delighted to have Lt.-Colonel Guy Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, D.S.O., M.C., and Captain J. H. F. M'Ewan, M.P., two veterans of the original 5th Battalion, present on that day. The former commanded the old 5th, and the latter wrote the history of the Battalion.

Mobilisation was completed on 29th May, and on that day the first part of the Battalion left for Glasgow—where the motor transport was embarked complete. On 17th June the whole Battalion detrained at Liverpool and embarked on the *Duchess of Richmond*, to sail from Prince's Dock three days later for an " unknown destination."

The voyage was to take fifty-two days and was made in a 22-ship convoy that included a very powerful escort of destroyers and the battleship *Malaya*. In the *Duchess of Richmond*, with the 5th Camerons, were the 128th Highland Field Regiment, R.A., destined to support the Brigade so ably throughout the years of war, Brigade Headquarters, 2nd Seaforth, and a part of the Divisional R.A.S.C. Training on the voyage consisted for the most part of P.T., boxing [including a Brigade Competition], and such weapon and individual training as was possible



on the crowded deck space. Freetown was reached on 3rd July, and there Major-General Wimberley, G.O.C. 51st Highland Division, came aboard and inspected the Battalion. At Capetown, reached a fortnight later, came a pleasant break in the long voyage. On the first day after arrival the Battalion set out on a long march through the town. Shore leave was granted, and the men saw for the first time in three years a city free from black-out. The dark bulk of Table Mountain in the background was something to remember.

At Durban the ship was obliged to lay off, owing to a submarine scare, but the convoy got together again without mishap. The escort was now (early August) reduced to one cruiser and one merchant cruiser; the old escort was "played out" by the Massed Pipes and Drums of the Brigade.

After a most uncomfortable voyage through the Red Sea, the Battalion arrived at Port Tewfik and disembarked on 11th August. From Port Tewfik the Battalion proceeded by train to El Quassassin, and thence to Tahag Camp, a huge tented area 40 miles from Cairo. Here the men were to become inured to sand-fly fever and "Gippy tummy." Training consisted largely of learning desert formations (using flags to represent transport vehicles) and in learning desert navigation. At Tahag the Battalion was visited by the Prime Minister; there were also opportunities to meet officers and men who had served with the 2nd Battalion but had not been at Tobruk.

Here also the 5th Camerons were issued with anti-tank guns (a mixture of 6- and 2-pounders), and a platoon of these was formed under Captain A. R. P. Cameron, with Lieutenants D. H. Cameron and C. H. Strettle as Section Commanders.

At this time Rommel was expected to launch his attack at El Alamein, which he hoped would carry him through to Alexandria and Cairo, and consequently the Brigade was moved to Mena Camp, nearer Cairo, with the task of blocking the Fayoum road. The plan included using the Great Pyramid as the 128th Field Regiment's observation post! But on 12th September Rommel's attempted break-through having been smashed at Alam el Halfa, the 51st Highland Division moved up into the desert battle area.

#### EL ALAMEIN

There followed six weeks of intensive preparation for the whole Division for the coming battle, on which so much depended. After a short period spent in "Hurricane Camp," the Battalion moved into a Brigade defensive area, known as "E Box," 25 miles east of Alamein: this was a strongly wired and closely mined area, with only one entrance and one exit. It was here that the Army Commander, General B. L.

Montgomery, inspected the Battalion and was introduced to all the officers.

A move to a similar area, "F Box," preceded a period in "M" Desert Training Area, where the Battalion's rôle in the forthcoming battle was practised down to the minutest detail, including some realistic uses of artillery and small arms. From here, officers paid visits to the coastal sector of the line, held by the 9th Australian Division, who gave them invaluable advice and assistance from their past experience of desert warfare. Several moves into various "Boxes" followed, and then, on 20th October, the Battalion moved up to positions 2 miles behind the line, then being held by the 2nd Seaforth. The following day there was some shelling of the H.Q. area, and No. 2939238 Private R. Russell of the Carrier Platoon was killed, the Battalion's first battle casualty. At this stage the C.O. addressed all the officers and released the information that the Battalion was about to take part in the 8th Army offensive, due to open in a few days.

The first task of the Division at the battle of El Alamein was to effect the "break-in." This was to be achieved as a result of the Divisional attack with two Brigades up, the 153rd Brigade right and the 154th Brigade left. The 152nd Brigade were to act as "stage managers." The 2nd Seaforth were in Corps Reserve, whilst the 5th Seaforth were to lay out the Divisional start-line, assembly areas, and the routes leading to and from them.

The 5th Camerons were split in order to carry out two separate tasks. As the first task, the Battalion, less two companies, was to provide eight covering parties to protect R.E. parties making vehicle gaps through the enemy minefield after the capture of the first objective. Battalion H.Q. was to establish a Signal control station to keep touch with these covering parties. As the second task, two companies were to come under command of the 154th Brigade in order to capture a portion of the first objective on the extreme left of the Divisional front; subsequently, the 7th Black Watch (154th Brigade) were to pass through them to the final objective.

During the morning of 22nd October Captain J. A. MacDonald and Corporal Fleming went out on reconnaissance and failed to return, thus causing considerable alarm from the security point of view. It subsequently transpired that they got lost and ran into enemy positions, Captain J. A. MacDonald (*Sleat*) being killed and Corporal Fleming captured. During 23rd October final preparations were being made throughout the 8th Army for the attack that night.

The Battalion plan was for "B" Company (Captain C. A. Cameron (*Lochiel*)<sup>1</sup> and "C" Company (Captain W. J. MacGregor) to carry out the attack alongside the 154th Brigade. Major I. A. G. Davy was given command of these two companies, with Lieutenant I. G.

<sup>1</sup> There were two officers, C. A. CAMERON; *Lochiel* is used, or *Ceylon*, to differentiate them—ED.]

Inch, the Battalion I.O., acting as his Adjutant and Lieutenant J. C. Hamp as in command of the companies' motor transport. Despite considerable casualties the attack was a complete success, Major Davy's "Inverness" being the *first* operational success signal to reach Divisional H.Q. Pipers, playing the "Inverness Gathering," led the companies into the attack and all ranks fought with the utmost gallantry, capturing some fifty prisoners. Major Davy was badly wounded early on, but got into a carrier and continued in command until relieved next day. Lieutenants R. H. Fawcitt and D. MacIver were killed leading their platoons, as was C.S.M. W. Macpherson of "B" Company. Captain C. A. Cameron (*Lochiel*), Lieutenants I. G. Inch and B. Henderson were wounded, as was the Padre, Captain The Rev. H. G. Reid, and the Medical Officer, Captain Milnes. As a result of their gallantry, Lieutenant J. C. Hamp and Captain D. T. Milnes, R.A.M.C., both received the M.C., whilst Pipe-Corporal I. Campbell and Sergeant J. Milne both received the M.M. (Pipe-Corporal Campbell was the original "Bearded Piper" in the Division; he subsequently found a good rival in Pipe-Major G. Asher of the 5th Seaforth).

"A" Company (Captain H. F. Cameron) and "D" Company (Major A. J. Noble) were allotted the task of providing covering parties for the eight R.E. gapping parties. These vehicle gaps went through in remarkably quick time; their communications, ably laid on by the Battalion Signal Officer, Lieutenant I. Nicolson, worked perfectly, and the information collected from these sources, which covered the whole Divisional front, proved of the utmost value to Divisional H.Q. Lieutenant C. H. Strettle was wounded in command of one of these covering parties, but otherwise casualties in "A" and "D" Companies were light.

During the morning of 24th October Captain G. D. S. Black, M.C., relieved Major I. A. G. Davy, who was evacuated. "B" and "C" Companies were later withdrawn and the Battalion concentrated in the area it had started from. In the evening, both the 5th Seaforth and the 5th Camerons moved up into reserve behind the 154th Brigade, a tiring march for "B" and "C" Companies, who were retracing their footsteps for the second time after a hard night's fighting. Thus ended the first phase of the battle, so far as the Battalion was concerned.

On 26th and 27th October two large drafts arrived to replace casualties, including ten officers, Lieutenants Farley, Campbell-Colquhoun, Burrows, Stewart, Brankin, Melven, Sinclair, Roberts, Purvis, and Coutts. During the night of 27th-28th October the Battalion took over a sector of the line from a unit of the 9th Australian Division until the night of 30th-31st October; a continuous armoured *mêlée* was raging all round during this time and casualties, particularly from air-burst shells and sniping, were quite considerable, Lieutenants G. D. Stewart and C. E. Coutts being wounded. During the night of 30th-31st October the Battalion was relieved in order to take part with

the Brigade in Operation "Supercharge," designed to be the final "break-in" of the battle prior to the release of the armour (10th Corps) into the open country behind the enemy lines.

The Brigade plan for "Supercharge" was simple—to advance 4000 yards on a 4000-yard front; and it was to be carried out under the command of the 2nd New Zealand Division. The 152nd Brigade were to advance on the left, with the 5th Camerons left and the 5th Seaforth right, each with a 1000-yard frontage. The 2nd Seaforth were to follow with the task of mopping-up, and finally, wheeling left on reaching the objective, to form a defensive flank. On the right was the 151st Brigade of the 50th Division, consisting of three D.L.I. battalions, who had a similar rôle to that of the 152nd Brigade.

On 31st October Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb was unfortunately wounded by a mine, and Lieutenant A. J. Spiers had trouble with an old wound received in 1940, and both were evacuated. During the evening of 1st November the Battalion moved up to its assembly area, losing Lieutenant H. B. M. Farley (killed during the move), a great loss, as he was an experienced fighter from the 2nd Battalion. By dusk all was ready. As usual, due to excellent arrangements for lights, guides and tapes, made by the Brigade staff, there was a complete lack of confusion. The leading companies were "B" Company (Captain G. D. S. Black, M.C.) on the right and "D" Company (Major A. J. Noble) on the left; behind them came "A" Company (Captain H. F. Cameron) on the right and "C" Company (Captain W. J. MacGregor) on the left. Behind "A" Company moved Battalion H.Q.; the fighting vehicles, under Captain T. K. Cochrane, were ready to move forward as soon as the gaps had been made in the enemy minefields.

At 0100 hours, 2nd November, "Supercharge" began. The advance took place behind a murderous barrage and all companies reached their objectives, which proved to be amidst the enemy armour! One problem, ably solved by the Adjutant, Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison, was to get the large numbers of men in Battalion H.Q. dug in before daylight. Casualties were heavy, particularly amongst officers and N.C.O.s: Lieutenants E. de L. C. Norrish and N. G. Grundy were killed on their company objective, and Captain Cochrane received mortal wounds from a tank whilst leading up the fighting vehicles in the dark. Major A. J. Noble, Lieutenants L. W. Campbell-Colquhoun, C. F. Burrows, G. Brankin, R. N. Roberts, E. H. Purvis, S. H. Johnston, and H. Sim were all wounded and evacuated; unfortunately Lieutenant Sim died of wounds some nine months later. Captain H. F. Cameron, who throughout the battle had suffered severely from dysentery, at last succumbed and was evacuated. Lieutenant I. N. Bragg, the Mortar Officer, went sick and soon afterwards died from sleepy-sickness—a finer Mortar Officer probably never existed, and his courage in this battle was outstanding. Private Nardini of the Regimental Police was of great value here: an Italian speaker, he was able to interrogate

some of the prisoners, which resulted in much useful information being sent back to Brigade H.Q. Of the ten officer reinforcements who arrived on 26th and 27th October, all but one had become casualties by 3rd November.

With morning came a sight keenly awaited by all members of the Battalion, our armour streaming through the minefield gaps into the enemy rear areas, whilst blazing enemy tanks were all around. Shelling was intense for the next two days, after which the battle passed on and the pursuit began. During these two days Lieutenant N. G. Steele joined the Battalion.

Major A. J. Noble was awarded the M.C., and C.S.M. J. Ahern, "D" Company, and Lance-Corporal J. Mightens, "B" Company, the M.M. for their gallant conduct during "Supercharge." C.S.M. Ahern had commanded "D" Company when all the officers had become casualties, whilst Lance-Corporal Mightens had engaged an enemy tank single-handed, shooting the commander dead and then hurling a grenade into the turret, thereby killing the remainder of the crew.

So ended the battle of El Alamein for the 5th Camerons. The Battalion had entered its first battle with confidence and determination, and, in spite of considerable casualties, had taken all its objectives. From these confident "beginnings" was the hard core of the Battalion formed, which later was to carry it so successfully through the next three years of war. Impervious to casualties, it was to guard most jealously the Battalion's traditions and *esprit de corps*, proudly displaying them to all its new members, who quickly learnt "the why and wherefore" in their turn. Very great credit was due to the C.O., Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, for his handling of the Battalion at El Alamein; if further proof were needed of this, it should be remembered that his D.S.O. was the first awarded to a Commanding Officer in the Division, a certain mark of the Battalion's success in its first action.<sup>1</sup>

#### MERSA BREGA—BUERAT—TRIPOLI

On 5th November Lieutenant C. J. Henry joined the Battalion, and on the 6th the Battalion moved forward to Daba, where it remained until the 16th. During this period two days were spent in searching a certain area for German prisoners: all that was found was one camel!

<sup>1</sup> In a note written to Major-General D. N. Wimberley, G.O.C. 51st Highland Division, Lt.-General Sir Bernard Freyberg, V.C., the Commander of the 2nd New Zealand Expeditionary Force, said: "After a short but very distinguished attachment to our Division, your 152nd Brigade returned to you last night. I cannot let them go without expressing to you the admiration of the Division for the way in which the 152nd Brigade carried out its part in the operation—I was very much impressed by the training and efficiency of all ranks, and everyone who came in contact with the 'Jocks' formed the highest opinion of them."

"THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS AT ALAMEIN"

ALAN CAMERON, Inverness

The image displays a musical score for the piece "The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders at Alamein" by Alan Cameron. The score is written on eight staves, each beginning with a treble clef. The music is characterized by a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with frequent use of beamed eighth notes and sixteenth notes, creating a lively and energetic feel. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings, typical of a piano or guitar accompaniment. The overall structure of the piece appears to be a single melodic line with a consistent rhythmic drive.



Major I. P. Grant and Lieutenants W. B. Thompson and A. B. Fallow rejoined from Divisional L.O.B. (Left out of Battle), and Captain L. C. Pitman returned from a course. Lieutenant A. Sinclair, having recovered from a bout of dysentery, rejoined. Captain C. A. B. Malden joined from the Divisional Staff, and Captain I. M. Matheson and Lieutenants C. L. Gruning and J. M. Mackay came up as reinforcements.

On 16th November the Battalion moved to Sidi Haneish by march route, taking three days. This was a very pleasant march in ideal weather conditions, and got everybody fit. Here, Brigade Transport and Drill Competitions were held, and Lieutenants P. East, A. L. T. M'Allister, and F. E. Bright joined as reinforcements, with seventy-four other ranks.

On 21st November the Battalion was on the move again, and passed through Mersa Matruh, Sidi Barrani, Halfaya Pass, Capuzzo, Sidi Rezegh and El Adem, arriving at Acroma on 23rd November. On the last day C.S.M. W. A. M'Bride and C.Q.M.S. R. G. Holmes were picked up, both of whom had been captured at Tobruk with the 2nd Battalion, and who, by continual escaping and dogged determination, had avoided evacuation to Italy, and had finally been released in Benghazi by the 11th Hussars. All ranks were delighted to see these two gallant Camerons, and, having refitted them with clothing, sent them off in excellent spirits; we were more pleased later on to hear they had both been awarded the M.M.

The 5th Battalion remained at Acroma until the 28th November, and were thus able to visit the Tobruk battlefield. On 28th November the Brigade started in desert formation for Agedabia, which was reached on 1st December. On 2nd December the Battalion moved forward to Mersa Brega, taking over from elements of the 7th Armoured Division, and were thus once more in contact with the enemy.

It was the intention that the 152nd Brigade should attack this very strong position, but fortunately the enemy, having been out-flanked by the New Zealand Division, pulled out the night before, as had it taken place, casualties would have been very heavy owing to the enormous number of mines. As it was, the only casualties sustained in this position were on the night of 5th December, when 2nd Lieutenant M'Allister took his platoon out to attack an Italian position with a view to capturing a prisoner, and was unfortunately killed with seven other ranks when they walked into a minefield. Their bodies were subsequently recovered and buried. On 14th December, the enemy having withdrawn during the night, the Battalion moved forward to El Agheila. As the whole road was mined and cratered, progress was extremely slow, and, at the end of the day, the Battalion thankfully went into a bivouac area, where it remained for a week. During this advance Captain D. F. Melven was unfortunately killed with Sergeant G. D. Linton in Mersa Brega whilst trying to rescue a wounded gunner who had been blown up by a mine, and Lieutenant C. A. Cameron



(*Ceylon*) was wounded while the Carrier Platoon worked with the tanks. During this time Lieutenants A. I. H. Macfarlane and J. H. Latta joined the Battalion, and Major E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton rejoined from H.Q., 153rd Brigade.

On the 21st December the Battalion reached El Agheila and encamped at a delightful site by the sea, where they remained until 12th January for a well-earned rest. The time was spent in intensive training for the next battle, together with drill and detailed inspections; football and games of all descriptions took place on the salt flats, where conditions were ideal. Christmas dinners were a masterpiece of organisation, both by 8th Army and by Captain and Quartermaster W. M. Milne: never at any time have better dinners been seen. On Christmas Day Captains E. N. Mainwaring and J. Elliot arrived just in time to enjoy the dinner. Lieutenant E. M'Donald, D.C.M., of the S.A.S. (an old pre-war member of "A" Company of the 2nd Battalion), called with his three companions in two jeeps bristling with weapons, having just returned from Tripolitania. Lieutenants H. C. Archibald, D. M. L. Ainslie, and R. G. Smith joined here. New Year was celebrated with a Guest Night attended by the following Cameron Highlanders: Major-General D. N. Wimberley, D.S.O., M.C., Majors A. A. Ferguson and N. D. Leslie, and Captain T. A. Nicol, M.C.

A very bad epidemic of jaundice swept through the army about this period. It particularly affected officers and N.C.O.s, and the C.O.'s Order Group, complete, were in hospital with this disease. The Battalion was delighted while at El Agheila to welcome back Padre Captain The Rev. H. G. Reid.

On 9th January the C.O., with a reconnaissance party, drove forward to Buerat, closely followed by the Battalion. The attack on the Buerat positions was made on the night of 15th-16th January by the 153rd Brigade, and on the 16th January the Battalion moved in desert formation through the Buerat positions as advanced guard to the Division. This was a very unpleasant day, because the enemy had some eight guns of all calibres on high ground commanding a view of the whole country. Shells fell incessantly, but fortunately casualties were extremely light. The Carrier Platoon, working in advance of the supporting tanks, did yeoman service, for which the Platoon Commander, Captain E. N. Mainwaring, was later awarded the M.C.

Lieutenant W. R. Thompson was severely wounded in both legs, and the C.O. got a slight wound in the chin. Major I. P. Grant, one of the victims of jaundice, returned that evening, bringing a reinforcement in Captain G. A. Nixon.

The following day Misurata was reached. The Battalion then spent several days in filling in a road-block, but on the 24th January drove into Tripoli, which had been captured the day before, exactly three months after the battle of El Alamein.

The Battalion remained in and around Tripoli for just over three

weeks. The Division was bivouacked outside the city, each Brigade taking it in turn to move into it for the garrison duties. Tripoli is an attractive place, with a pleasant climate, and everyone enjoyed the change from desert life. Fresh fruit, vegetables, and meat were in abundance, together with beer and "vino." Perhaps the greatest treat was fresh eggs. These were exchanged with the local Arabs for tea, and at every turn the well-known "Egg-is for Chey" transaction could be seen. It seemed odd once again to be able to spend money, though there was nothing much to buy except bazaar curios and numerous very bad knives and cooking stoves.

From 24th January to 3rd February the Battalion encamped in an almond grove south of the city, where equipment and clothing were thoroughly overhauled. A word about the unit transport would not be out of place here. Under the able leadership of Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, the Battalion vehicles were brought from Alamein to Tunis without loss, except by enemy action: a notable feat. At all times of day and night they were available without demur. Many and varied were the sources of supply of paint, which kept them "as new" at all times.

The Battalion carriers had appropriate names painted on their sides. The C.O.'s carrier was Inverness. The twelve carriers of the Carrier Platoon were Nairn, Beaully, Foyers, Lochaber, Badenoch, Invermoriston, Glenmoriston, Glen Affric, Glen Urquhart, Skye, Uist, Harris. The six mortar carriers were named after clans—Clan Donald, Clan Chattan, Clan Grant, Clan MacLeod, Clan Fraser, Clan Chisholm, and the Mortar Platoon Commander's carrier was Clan Cameron.

While in this location the following officers rejoined from hospital: Major C. A. B. Malden, Lieutenants J. C. Hamp, M.C., G. D. Stewart, and S. H. Johnston. Major J. Sorel-Cameron and Lieutenant A. S. N. Black arrived as reinforcements, the former to be Second-in-Command of the 5/7th Gordons.

On 3rd February the Battalion moved into Tripoli and occupied the Governor's Palace (now known locally as Balbo's Palace, after the late Marshal Balbo, its last Italian occupant). Guard duties included two large petrol dumps, a wine factory, and the racecourse—where all the motor-cycles in Tripoli were collected. The Battalion was thus enabled to fill up to 100 per cent petrol capacity, and to renew its motor-bicycle section with some luxurious machines, apart from obtaining adequate and very good "vino" free of charge. The remainder of the Battalion worked in shifts unloading in the docks, a task of paramount importance if the speed of the pursuit was to be maintained.

The highlight of the time spent in Tripoli was undoubtedly the march past and inspection by the Prime Minister on 4th February. The Division was organised with a composite battalion of each regiment of infantry and R.A., and composite units of the other supporting

arms. The complete 5th Battalion was on parade, with the officers, warrant officers and sergeants, and the whole leading company dressed in the kilt.

It was a most imposing sight. The Castello square was closely lined with tanks, their crews in spotless new uniforms. The saluting base was beneath the walls of the old Castello, in front of which were drawn up the massed Pipes and Drums of the Division. Accompanying Mr Churchill on the dais were the C.I.G.S., General Sir Alan Brooke; Commander 8th Army, General Sir Bernard Montgomery; 30th Corps Commander, Lt.-General Sir Oliver Leese, Bt.; and the Divisional Commander, Major-General D. N. Wimberley.

The Prime Minister first inspected the troops while being driven in a jeep, and then returning to the saluting base took the salute at the march past. He was visibly moved by the spectacle.

The following day the Divisional Pipes and Drums had the honour of playing for the 2nd New Zealand Division at a similar parade at the airfield at Castel Benito.

The Battalion moved out of Tripoli on 10th February and were billeted in some rather wet fields. During this period the Army Commander and the 30th Corps Commander held a most interesting series of discussions on the lessons of the campaign to date. High Commanders from all theatres flew to attend these discussions, including Generals Eisenhower and Alexander from North Africa and General Paget from the United Kingdom. The officers were very pleased to have, in consequence, Lt.-General J. A. H. Gammell, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., to dinner one night and he very kindly flew home messages to the wives of married officers.

Throughout the Division's stay in Tripoli, R.S.M. R. Mackenzie of the Battalion acted as Garrison Sergeant-Major; he now went back to Cairo for interview by a Commissions Board. His good services to the Battalion and to the Division were rewarded by an M.B.E.; his successor as R.S.M. was R.Q.M.S. W. Munnoch.

#### MARETH


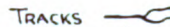



On 17th February the Battalion left Tripoli *en route* for Mareth, where Rommel had been hastily repairing the old French defences (originally designed to keep out the Italians) in order to stop the victorious advance of the 8th Army. It marched 12 miles the first day along the railway before bivouacking for the night, and a further 12 miles on each of the next two days. On the 21st a move by motor transport brought it to Ben Gardane, and, on the 22nd, a further move by motor transport via Zarzis found it at Medenine. Here, both Captains C. A. Cameron (*Ceylon* and *Lochiel*) rejoined, on recovery from wounds, on the morning of 23rd February, and later the same



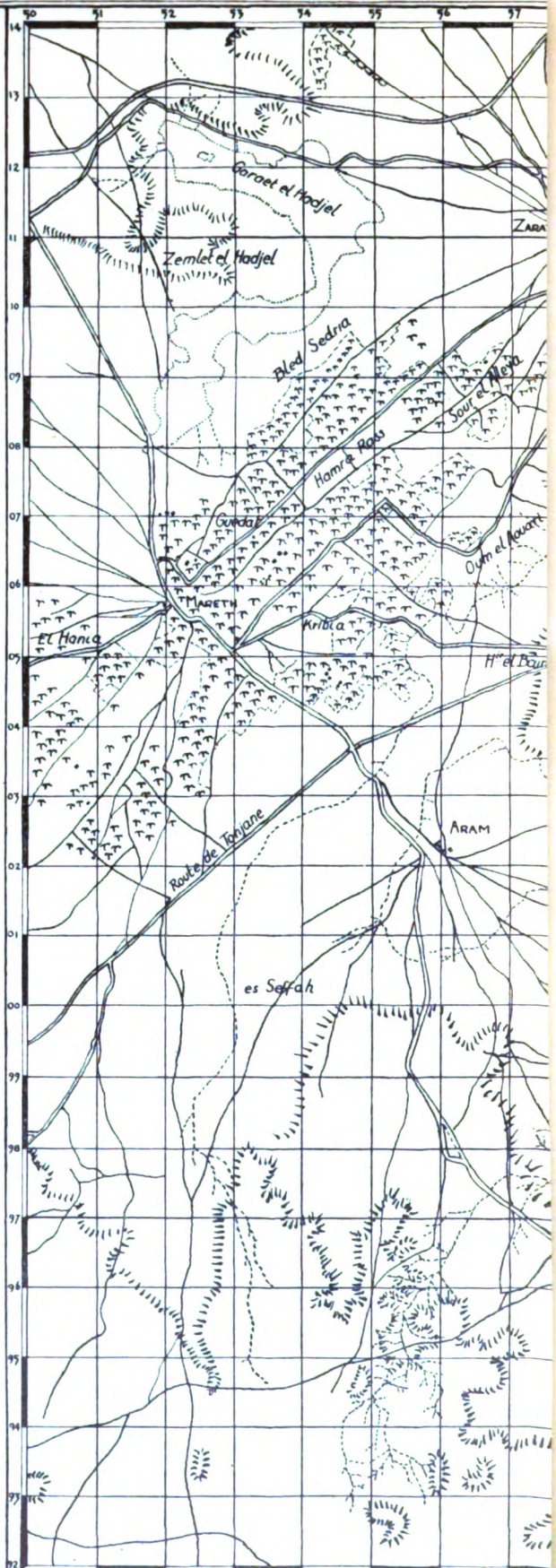
# THE MARETH BATTLEFIELD

23 FEB ~ 28 MARCH 1943

## LEGEND

- ROADS  TRACKS 
- PERENNIAL WATERCOURSE 
- AREA OF CULTIVATION 
- AREA LIABLE TO FLOOD 

SCALE  
Miles



day the Battalion was moved forward to the Wadi Zessar, from where a panorama of the Mareth position, some 6 miles away, could be seen.

It would be as well here to give a brief description of the country, which the Battalion was to know only too well during the next month. Between the Wadi Zessar and the main Mareth position was a sandy plain, broken by sand-hills, wadis, and desert scrub. About half-way between was the Wadi Melah, and half-way between this wadi and the main position was the Wadi Zeuss. The enemy's main defensive position was behind the Wadi Zigzau, an anti-tank obstacle which had been prolonged south-westwards by an artificial anti-tank ditch. The country generally became hillier and more broken when observed from the sea south-westwards towards the Matmata Hills.

As the enemy were heavily attacking the Americans in Southern Tunisia at this time, orders were given to General Montgomery to demonstrate forcibly against the Mareth Line in order to create the impression that the 8th Army were about to attack earlier than had actually been planned.

It was known that the enemy was then holding the ground between the Wadi Zeuss and the Wadi Zigzau with outposts, so accordingly on the night of arrival the Battalion sent out patrols to the Wadi Zeuss. The next two days were spent in constructing a crossing over the Wadi Zessar, capable of taking heavy motor transport, which became known as "Cameron Causeway."

On the night of 25th-26th February the Battalion moved forward, with "A" Company (Captain I. C. Pitman) right and "D" Company (Major E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton) left, to the Wadi Zeuss, with the other two companies and Battalion H.Q. directed on to the Wadi Melah. This proved to be a tiresome night, as the Wadi Melah turned out to be extremely boggy. A good crossing was found for "A" Company, but no crossing materialised for "D" Company, and many of their vehicles stuck fast. Manhandling of kit forward became necessary, but fortunately, helped by bright moonlight, the last vehicle was freed and under cover by dawn. The Battalion withdrew during the following night to a prominent hilly feature in front of the Wadi Zessar, which later became known as "Fort George"; this time, a heavy-recovery vehicle from R.E.M.E. greatly assisted in the release of bogged vehicles.

On 28th February a further move brought the Battalion back to its old position at "Cameron Causeway" on the Wadi Zessar, while "B" Company (Captain G. D. S. Black, M.C.), with a section of carriers (Lieutenant A. I. H. Macfarlane), moved forward to the Wadi Zeuss after dark.

All this moving about, annoying and tiring as it was, had the desired effect on the enemy, for Rommel left the Americans and prepared to attack the 8th Army. On 2nd March the Battalion, with the rest of the Brigade and the 128th Field Regiment, R.A., moved into

the Fort George position and prepared it as a strong-point, with ammunition and rations for fourteen days. " B " Company and the carriers remained forward as covering troops for the Brigade. On the afternoon of 3rd March the Italian infantry began to advance, so " B " Company and the section of carriers started to make a fighting withdrawal into Fort George ; unfortunately, in the dark, the carriers got bogged in the Wadi Melah and had to be destroyed.

The Italian infantry kept at a respectful distance from Fort George, so the only part played by the Battalion in this action was by the Carrier Platoon (Captain E. N. Mainwaring, M.C.), who went forward each day with some 3-inch mortars to harass the enemy.

On 6th March Rommel attacked the left flank of the 8th Army at Medenine with three Panzer Divisions, and was driven off by the 8th Army anti-tank artillery, losing some fifty-two tanks ; enemy infantry attacks later in the day received similar rough treatment from the Field Artillery. The same day the Italian infantry confronting the Brigade withdrew, and thus ended the battle of Medenine.

On 8th March Captain G. A. Nixon was wounded by shell-fire, and on 11th March Lieutenants F. Greenwood and D. Reid joined and were posted to the 5th Seaforth, who were short of officers at the time.

The Army Commander gave out his orders for the attack on the Mareth Line on 9th March. The 50th Division was to make the main frontal attack on the enemy's position on the right-hand (sea) sector, supported by the 23rd Armoured Brigade. The New Zealand Corps, later assisted by the 1st Armoured Division, was to carry out a wide turning movement round the enemy's western flank in order to reach its objective, the Gabes area, thereby cutting the enemy's communications and supply lines to the north. The 51st Highland Division was to make a few preliminary attacks and then form a firm base for the main operations.

The 5th Camerons were ordered to take up their old positions on the Wadi Zeuss as a firm base, which they did during the night of 15th-16th March. Unfortunately, soon after arrival, " B " Company came under heavy enemy defensive mortar-fire, and Captain G. D. S. Black, M.C., and Lieutenant S. H. Johnston were wounded. Captain Black had won his M.C. with the 1st Battalion in France and had served with the 5th Battalion continuously since 1941 ; Lieutenant Johnston had been wounded with the 4th Battalion at Abbeville, and again with the 5th Battalion at Alamein. They were not, however, destined to return to the Battalion on recovery from their recent wounds.

During the night of 16th-17th March the 5/7th Gordons (153rd Brigade), commanded by Lt.-Colonel J. Sorel-Cameron, crossed the Wadi Zeuss and cleared out enemy outposts on the high ground immediately overlooking it. The 5th Camerons withdrew to the Wadi Melah that same night, but returned to the Wadi Zeuss position during the night of 20th-21st March.

Meantime, Lieutenant C. F. Burrows rejoined on 15th March on recovery from wounds, and on 19th March Major Foster of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, one of a party from the 56th (London) Division, recently arrived in the Delta, joined "to get battle experience." Lieutenant R. G. Smith, attached to the 5th Seaforth, was captured while on patrol the previous night.

The 8th Army attack started during the night of 20th-21st March, and the 50th Division successfully crossed the Wadi Zigzau, capturing a considerable portion of the main fortified Mareth position. Owing to heavy rain, however, they were unable to get their fighting echelon vehicles and (most important) their anti-tank guns across the wadi, which for some considerable distance had precipitous sides. The construction of a causeway fit to take tanks and motor transport was being seriously hampered by fire from enemy posts between the wadi and anti-tank ditch on their left flank.

During the night of 21st-22nd March the 5th Seaforth were ordered forward to the anti-tank ditch, and thus accordingly would have to gap a 600-yard minefield. Their orders were to occupy the ditch and scupper the enemy posts interfering with the construction of the 50th Division's causeway. After clearing out the occupants of these enemy posts early next day, they later came under heavy fire of all descriptions, which smashed all communications, made movement suicidal, and allowed the re-manning of these self-same posts by the enemy.

In the early morning of 22nd March the C.O. and Second-in-Command, Major I. P. Grant, were called to Brigade H.Q., at this time on the coast road near the sea, for orders. About noon the Battalion was ordered by wireless to move from the Wadi Zeuss to the area of Brigade H.Q., which necessitated a circuitous march owing to intervening minefields. By noon it had been ascertained that enemy interference with the construction of the 50th Division's causeway had not ceased, and it was estimated that 1000 yards of anti-tank ditch remained unoccupied on the right of the 5th Seaforth. Various projects were discussed by the Divisional Commander, who spent most of the day at Brigade H.Q., and at about 4 P.M. it was decided that one company of the 5th Camerons should move up to the ditch during the forthcoming night, coming under command of the 5th Seaforth, for the purpose of liquidating these vitally important enemy posts. The Divisional Commander then returned to his H.Q. and the Brigade Commander moved forward to open his Battle H.Q., while the Battalion was ordered by wireless into an assembly area close to Brigade H.Q. where a hot meal was to await their arrival.

The C.O. was standing in the road, directing companies to their places in the assembly area, when a Liaison Officer from Brigade brought him fresh orders to the effect that two companies were now to go forward that night; that Major I. P. Grant was to command them, and he was to report to Brigadier Murray for orders as soon as possible.



Fresh orders were then issued to cope with this change in plan. At that juncture the Anti-Tank Platoon (Captain A. R. P. Cameron) arrived in the assembly area, and, on moving to its allotted place, the Platoon Commander's jeep blew up on a mine. Fortunately no one was hurt, and (as a contemporary record put it) "needless to say, this officer dealt adequately with the situation."

Not long afterwards a further Liaison Officer informed the C.O. that a new plan now entailed the move forward of the whole Battalion, that night, to occupy the vacant portion in the anti-tank ditch on the right of the 5th Seaforth, and that he was to report to Brigade H.Q. for detailed orders.

On arrival at Brigade the C.O. found Major I. P. Grant with the Brigadier. At this time Brigadier Murray was receiving fresh instructions from the Divisional Commander on the telephone to the effect that the 5th Camerons, supported by a troop of the Divisional Anti-Tank Regiment (four guns) and a platoon of the 1/7th Middlesex (four machine-guns), were to move forward that night, through the 5th Seaforth's minefield gap, turn right and occupy the 1000-yard vacant space in the anti-tank ditch, sending forward two companies about 500 yards to scupper the enemy posts interfering with the 50th Division's crossing.

The C.O. at once protested that there would be no time before first light to dig in these anti-tank guns, which would otherwise be left in full view of the enemy, and also that, as the Battalion was entering an area previously defended by the enemy with minefields, an attack by enemy tanks was improbable. This view was supported by both the Brigadier and the Anti-Tank Battery Commander, so eventually the C.O. was left to use his own discretion in the matter. It was also planned that the Divisional artillery should fire token concentrations on the vital enemy strong-points with "star-shells," which would be observed and corrected by the 5th Seaforth meantime.

On these orders the Battalion plan was made. Two companies, "B" Company (Captain J. Elliot) right and "C" Company (Major C. A. B. Malden) left, were to lead the Battalion through the minefield gap and, on reaching the anti-tank ditch, were to climb out of it and advance at the close of the artillery concentrations and scupper the enemy posts. "A" and "D" Companies, Battalion H.Q., and the platoon of the 1/7th Middlesex were to occupy the anti-tank ditch, while the Anti-Tank Troop were to dig in behind the minefield.

Time was now getting short, and the distance to the minefield gap still considerable, so the C.O. decided to stay with Major Grant at the entrance to the gap to check the elements of the Battalion group as they passed through; the Adjutant, Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison, led the Battalion through the minefield.

On arrival at the ditch it was quickly apparent to the Adjutant that the available unoccupied space within it was barely 500 yards,



ANTI-TANK DITCH, MARETH

(Photographed in 1950)



and not the 1000 yards as originally assumed. At this moment the enemy put up star-shells over the area, turning night into day and making it impossible for "B" and "C" Companies to climb out of the ditch. This information was immediately sent back to the C.O., who sent Major Grant forward to the 5th Seaforth to see if they could make any room in the ditch to the left of the minefield gap. While all this was going on, the entrance to the minefield gap, which had been in full view of the enemy by day, was being heavily shelled, causing the Middlesex machine-gunners to unload their guns from their trucks somewhat prematurely, preparatory to manhandling them forward. The bravery and *esprit de corps* of the "Diehards" under these extremely trying circumstances was magnificent and continuous throughout the next twenty-four hours.

The complete Battalion group having passed the entrance to the gap, the C.O. hurried forward, met the Second-in-Command, and appreciated that there was insufficient cover for everyone in the ditch. He therefore ordered "A" Company back, to take up a position with the troop of anti-tank guns at the entrance to the gap. Instructions were given to C.S.M. R. Stoddart of "A" Company to this effect, as Captain Pitman was not readily available.

About this time our artillery concentrations, destined for the vital enemy posts, opened, unfortunately short, and naturally provoked at the same time enemy defensive fire, laid on the ditch. Caught between two fires, and packed like sardines in this anti-tank ditch, heavy casualties were inevitable, as when the fire was heaviest it was impossible to move for periods of ten minutes at a time. All means of communication to Brigade and the Divisional artillery were destroyed almost at once, and by dawn every wireless set in the Battalion had been put out of action. When the shelling ceased, shortly before dawn, it seemed impossible that anyone could have moved out of the ditch; this was not so, however—Major Malden reported that his company had moved forward out of the ditch and was in position as ordered, and likewise did Captain Elliot. During "B" Company's advance Lieutenant A. Sinclair, an officer of small stature, but possessing great courage and determination, was blown back into the ditch by a mortar bomb as he was climbing out of it; emerging unscathed, he led his platoon forward until a second bomb blew him to the ground, killing his batman beside him. Undeterred, he again pressed on and got his platoon dug in before daylight.

Lieutenant J. R. Sim, who, as Brigade Liaison Officer, accompanied the Battalion forward, made his way back to Brigade H.Q. just before first light and reported the situation. On his way out he managed to put "A" Company into position at the entrance to the minefield gap, as the Company Commander, Captain L. C. Pitman, and Lieutenant N. G. Steele, the only officers in that company, had both been killed before the fresh orders reached them.

Intermittent enemy shelling continued until midday of 23rd March, when it was possible to check up on casualties. Apart from the two officer casualties already mentioned, Major I. P. Grant, Captain I. M. Matheson, Lieutenants A. S. N. Black, J. M. Mackay, C. J. Henry, and I. Nicolson were evacuated, wounded. The loss of Major Grant (*Glenmoriston*) was a severe blow, as he was not destined to return to the Battalion again. He had served in the Battalion continuously since it mobilised, and his efficient and tireless efforts had proved of inestimable value. Certainly, Major Foster of the Royal Berkshire Regiment, who had been of the greatest assistance to the Battalion during the past twenty-four hours, gained the battle experience he was meant to acquire. Pipe-Major R. W. White and the Intelligence Sergeant, Sergeant I. M. MacDonald, alas, lost their lives during this battle: both key men, and a sad loss to the Battalion.

Unfortunately, during the afternoon of 22nd March, the 50th Division, who had still found it impossible to get their fighting echelon vehicles across the wadi to support them, were heavily counter-attacked by enemy tanks and infantry and were driven out of most of their hard-won positions; as a result the Army Commander ordered their withdrawal to the south side of the wadi during the night of 23rd-24th March.

There was therefore no object in 5th Seaforth and 5th Camerons remaining in the anti-tank ditch any longer, so orders for withdrawal behind it, to slightly more salubrious positions, were received from Brigade on 23rd March. The Battalion withdrew in due course behind "D" Company (Captain C. A. Cameron [*Ceylon*]) to its new position, helped considerably by the discovery of a covered approach to the ditch through the minefield, by which the Battalion's walking wounded were evacuated. The number of stretcher cases for removal presented quite a problem, which was not eased in any way by an 8th Army smoke barrage, laid on to enable Lt.-Colonel Seagrim (subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross) and eighty men of the Green Howards to withdraw across the Zigzau. This barrage provoked a further spell of enemy defensive fire on the ditch. In recognition of their gallantry during this affray in the anti-tank ditch, Major C. A. B. Malden, Lieutenant A. Sinclair, and Lieutenant J. R. Sim were awarded the M.C.

Life was a degree or so quieter in the Battalion's new position, though both enemy shell- and mortar-fire were much in evidence. The end, however, was in sight, as the New Zealand Corps had successfully carried out its left hook and had practically reached El Hamma by the 27th March, after inflicting a severe defeat on the enemy in that area. On the morning of the 28th March the forward companies reported that they could see no enemy activity: as this had happened previously at both Mersa Brega and Buerat, the C.O. ordered up the transport at once from "B" Echelon in readiness for a move, and ordered Captain E. N. Mainwaring, M.C., to go forward with a Carrier

Patrol to investigate. Captain Mainwaring very soon reported that the enemy had gone.

The Brigade, including the Battalion, at once pushed on in pursuit ; the enemy minefield was gapped again, and a vehicle-crossing was made over the anti-tank ditch. Unfortunately a truck struck a mine and Captain C. A. Cameron (*Lochiel*) was wounded for the second time. The Battalion pressed forward all day (28th March) with the best speed possible, but was unable to catch up with the enemy. The pursuit was continued next day at dawn, behind the Carrier Platoon, which, under Captain E. N. Mainwaring's command, entered Gabes at the same time as the New Zealanders and close on the enemy's heels.

The Battalion remained in the Gabes area for two days, reorganising and enjoying some welcome bathing. Thus ended the Mareth battle and the small, but extremely unpleasant, part that the 5th Battalion took in it. Memories of the twenty-four hours spent in the anti-tank ditch were disagreeable indeed : the whole Battalion felt happier when they left it behind them and took up the pursuit once again.

Mention must here be made of the affair of the 2nd Battalion's kilts. While in Tripoli, rumours had reached the C.O. that Ordnance were about to take back the six hundred kilts left by the 2nd Battalion in store in the Citadel, Cairo. He therefore made arrangements for these kilts to be transported to Alexandria and placed on board a destroyer for delivery in Tripoli. Captain W. J. MacGregor was sent back to Tripoli to fetch them, which he duly did, returning to the Battalion on 4th April with Lieutenant I. Nicolson (ex hospital) and the kilts. For the remainder of the war, until disbandment, there was to be a kilt for every man in the 5th Battalion.

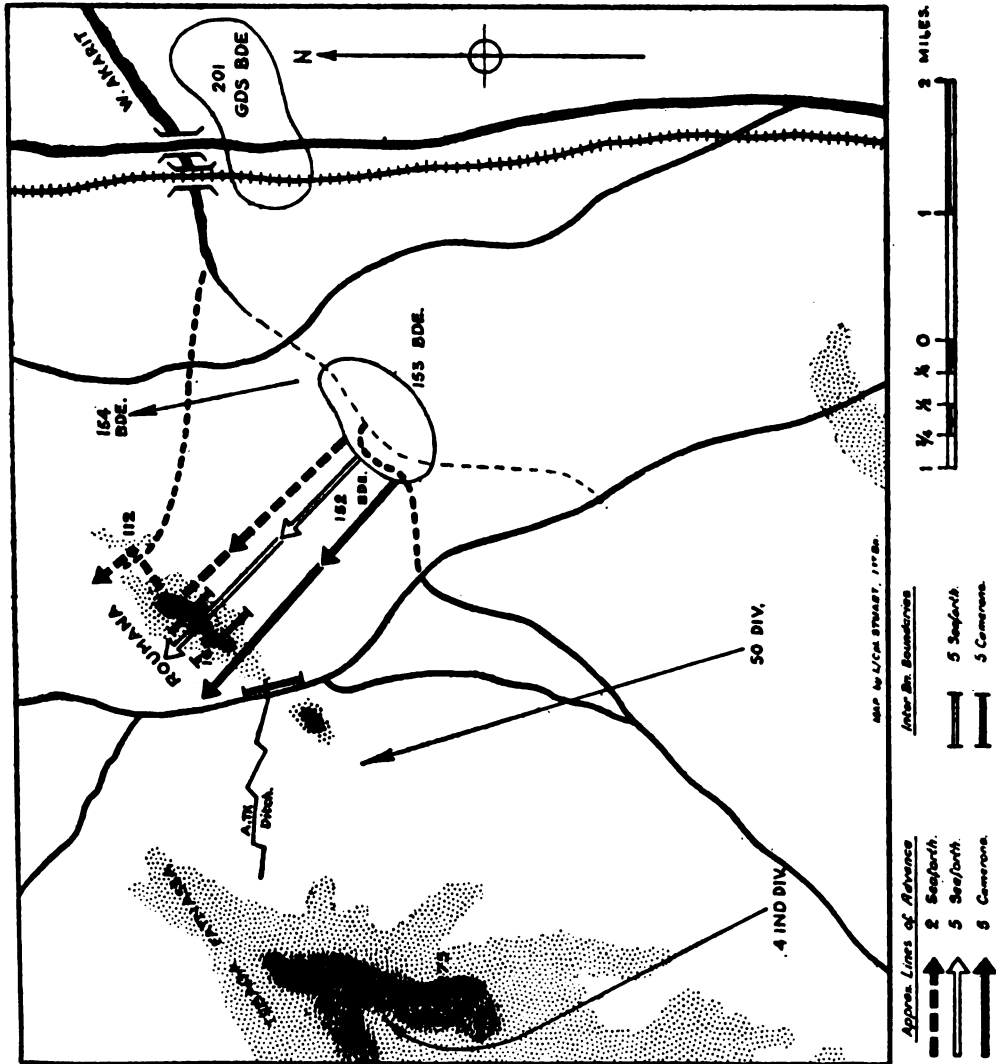
#### WADI AKARIT

On 1st April the Battalion moved forward from the Gabes area and bivouacked in the gun-lines of the 2nd New Zealand Division, who had already made contact with the enemy holding the Wadi Akarit position. Preparations now went ahead for the swift eviction of the enemy from this naturally strong delaying position.

The setting of the battle was, to eyes tired of the sandy wastes of the desert, a most attractive change. A wide plain, covered with luscious green grass, studded with red poppies and other spring flowers, rolled away into the defined distance, where it ended abruptly in the precipitous sides of the Djebels Tebaga Fatnassa and Roumana, occupied by the enemy.

The plan of attack was as follows. On the left the 4th Indian Division was to make a silent night attack in order to seize the Djebel Tebaga Fatnassa commanding the pass through which a metalled road ran westwards to Gafsa. In the centre the 50th Division was to

clear the enemy from their positions in the foothills linking the two Djebels, while on the right the 51st Highland Division was to clear the Djebel Roumana and the coastal plain. In the event of these night attacks proving successful, the Army Commander intended letting



loose the 1st and 7th Armoured Divisions the next morning into the open plains beyond, to hasten the retreat of an already very weary enemy.

The 152nd Brigade was ordered to capture the Djebel Roumana

SEAFORTH



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with the 5th Seaforth right and the 5th Camerons left, next to the 50th Division. The 2nd Seaforth were to follow behind the 5th Seaforth initially, and, on reaching the Djebel, were to wheel right and then left to prolong the Brigade right flank towards the 154th Brigade, a complicated manoeuvre in all good conscience! The 154th Brigade were to attack through the minefields on the coastal plain, while the 153rd Brigade provided the Divisional firm base. After seizing the Djebel, the two leading battalions were to exploit forward into the open plain north of all the wadis apparent from air photos, which clustered round the foot of its northern slopes.

The C.O.'s plan was for the Battalion to advance on a two-company front, "D" Company (Captain C. A. Cameron [*Ceylon*]) left and "A" Company (Captain D. M. Watson) right, with the intention of scaling Roumana and consolidating in the wadis north of it. "C" Company (Lieutenant A. Sinclair) was to be in reserve. "B" Company (Captain J. Elliot), with an R.E. party under command, was to move under Brigade orders to the gap between Roumana and the foothills of Tebaga Fatnassa, seize it and clear it of mines, and make a tank-crossing over the anti-tank ditch known to exist there. On conclusion of this operation, "B" Company was to revert to the C.O.'s command, who ordered them to consolidate on the "left-hand bump" of Roumana. "B" and "C" Companies were finally to pass through "D" and "A" Companies and to consolidate well north of them. (This move never took place.)

On 6th April, at 0330 hours, the Battalion crossed the start-line in the open plain, and, at 0400 hours, the barrage opened on Roumana. The rate of advance, 100 yards in two minutes, was too slow in this open country, and so it was difficult to prevent the rear companies telescoping the forward companies. The leading companies moved well up to the barrage and, as dawn broke, the outline of Roumana could be seen just ahead through the dust, smoke, and showers of sparks set up by shell splinters striking the rocky hillside.

A wait of two or three minutes caused by the shells failing to get crest clearance followed, and then the leading companies swarmed over the Djebel, while "C" Company, assisted by the Carrier Platoon, mopped up the Italian defenders who had come to life again with the dawn. The Germans had, as usual, left their Italian allies defending the forward slopes of the feature: they had wisely kept their heads down during the barrage and had been missed by the leading companies. Some 400, however, eventually gave themselves up. "B" Company and the Sappers cleared the gap, completed the tank-crossing of the anti-tank ditch, and consolidated as ordered on the left-hand bump of Roumana.

The Battalion position was, however, far from healthy and was soon to deteriorate. The 50th Division had not yet arrived on the left, and the enemy on their front kept the Battalion under heavy

long-range machine-gun fire, to which it could not reply. The German 90th Light Division reacted violently and began a counter-attack, which came in from the north-east: elements infiltrated on to the main feature of Roumana (5th Seaforth) and sniped "A" Company from the right. The Italians in the wadis, having temporarily escaped the worst of the barrage (owing to bad crest clearance) and encouraged by the appearance of the "90th Light," held out against "D" and "A" Companies, now very thin on the ground.

At this juncture the 50th Division could be seen advancing across the plain towards their objectives under heavy shell-fire. It was a most heartening sight, as they kept perfect formation and never wavered. Their objectives were quickly captured, which thus secured our left flank.

The C.O. immediately asked Brigade for assistance for "D" and "A" Companies from the armoured regiment supporting the Brigade for this attack. This was readily granted, but, unfortunately, the tanks took the wrong track to "B" Company's gap and some of them blew up on mines. It proved impossible to convince them that a mine-free track to the vital gap existed, so (exasperating as it was) no more tanks were seen that day.

The situation within the Battalion during the afternoon became hazardous. The C.O. ordered "C" Company on to the top of the right-hand bump in the Battalion area in order to secure the general position and stop further infiltration by the "90th Light" from the north-east: he had been ordered by Brigade not to move "B" Company from the hill overlooking the gap. Consequently, the 5th Black Watch (Lt.-Colonel C. N. Thomson) of the 153rd Brigade were ordered to reinforce the 5th Seaforth on the main feature of Roumana, and, on arrival, restored the position, not without incurring fifty casualties: the Carrier Platoon (Captain E. N. Mainwaring) was ordered to assist the 5th Black Watch.

Throughout the entire day the forward companies fought with the utmost gallantry against the "90th Light" in the wadis, and undoubtedly saved the situation. During the advance of "D" Company Captain C. A. Cameron (*Ceylon*) had been severely wounded: Lieutenant J. C. Hamp, M.C., who took over from him, was killed soon after. This left Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie in command of some twenty-odd men. A similar number of men of "A" Company were commanded by Lieutenant G. D. Stewart, Captain Watson having returned to report to Battalion H.Q. and being unable to get back. Around midday, Lieutenant Stewart was wounded by a grenade, rendered unconscious, and so captured. Lieutenant Ainslie then assumed command of both companies, by this time reduced to some twenty men. C.S.M. Ian Macrae of "D" Company led three bayonet charges against the enemy, personally killing nine of them: yet his total disregard for his own safety, alas, resulted in his own death.

By nightfall the Djebel was firmly held, but the constant shelling and wide dispersion of the companies made it impossible to issue the men with a hot meal, the only occasion in the North African Campaign when they did not get one.

In the morning the enemy was found to have withdrawn. Casualties in the Battalion had been heavy: in addition to those mentioned above, Captain J. Elliot and Lieutenants R. N. Roberts, A. Sinclair, L. W. Campbell-Colquhoun were wounded. Lieutenant D. Reid was killed and Lieutenant F. Greenwood was wounded while serving with the 5th Seaforth. C.S.M. R. Stoddart of "A" Company, who had come unscathed from Alamein, was badly wounded.

Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie was awarded an immediate M.C., while Sergeant J. D. Gordon of the Carrier Platoon, Corporal J. Gallacher, and Privates W. Darling and P. Wilson received immediate awards of the M.M. Lieutenant G. D. Stewart was awarded an M.C. on his return from a prisoner-of-war camp at the end of the war.

Within a space of a few hours the whole scene of battle had changed, and north of Roumana the plain, which had previously been deserted, was soon black with transport. Tents sprang up and it was soon hard to realise that what was now apparently a normal camp area had less than twenty-four hours earlier been the scene of some extremely bitter fighting.

On 8th April a R.S.M.'s drill parade was held, and the Pipes and Drums played "Retreat" in the evening. The Corps Commander, Lt.-General Sir Oliver Leese, visited Roumana and said that of course it should have been a Divisional objective and not a Brigade one.

The storming of the Djebel Roumana was to be the last set-piece attack which the Battalion was to take part in in the North African Campaign now drawing to its inevitable close. The Battalion was thin on the ground before the attack, but its morale and *esprit de corps* more than offset its lack of numbers; once the attack was launched, it became a Junior Commander's battle, and how gallantly and doggedly the two leading companies fought can only really be appreciated by visiting the battlefield. Those who fought with the Battalion at Akarit may well be proud to have belonged to the 5th Camerons.<sup>1</sup>

#### THE CLOSE OF THE NORTH AFRICAN CAMPAIGN

On 12th April Lieutenants A. Sinclair and L. W. Campbell-Colquhoun returned. On 14th April Brigadier G. Murray, D.S.O., M.C., inspected the Battalion on parade in review order and congratulated them on their fine achievements during the battle of Wadi Akarit. During the afternoon the Battalion moved forward by motor

<sup>1</sup> Reuter's correspondent at the time wrote of the attack by the Seaforths and Camerons at Roumana: "Their assault is described by military observers as one of the greatest heroic achievements of the war."

transport to a delightful area among olive groves 5 miles out of Sfax. All ranks bathed in the sea, went to the cinema, and relaxed generally. On 16th April Major C. A. H. M. Noble arrived as Second-in-Command, and Captains J. B. Black and C. MacLennan, Lieutenant E. P. M. Brown and Lieutenant P. East arrived as reinforcements, together with Captain the Rev. W. C. B. Smith, C.F. On 21st April, contrary to expectations, the Battalion was once again ordered forward and moved by motor transport via Sousse to an assembly area south of Enfidaville.

On 22nd April the Maori Battalion of the 2nd New Zealand Division captured the hill of Takrouna in broad daylight, no mean feat of arms: the defenders were members of the Italian Folgore Division (Parachutists), their best troops in Africa. On 23rd April the Battalion was ordered to relieve them, which was done during the following night. "A" Company (Captain C. MacLennan) occupied the forward slopes of the hill, "C" Company (Major C. A. B. Malden, M.C.) the summit, "D" Company (Captain J. B. Black) occupied a ridge to the right of Takrouna, and "B" Company (Captain E. P. M. Brown) was in reserve behind "D" Company. Battalion H.Q. was in a small cave immediately beneath the summit of the hill.

On the morning of 24th April a rumour started in the back areas that the enemy had once again withdrawn. This was known at Battalion H.Q. to be untrue; however, a patrol was ordered forward from "D" Company. It ran into an enemy strongpost, and Lieutenant P. East was killed. The same morning the Corps Commander visited the position, and a Corps artillery shoot was fired for him to witness. This brought down the complete German artillery on Takrouna in retaliation. As a result, Lieutenant H. C. Archibald, the I.O., was mortally wounded and died that night.

Takrouna was a dirty and flea-ridden Arab village perched on a solitary hill, jutting out from the main massif into the Enfidaville plain. The enemy had registered the hill with pinpoint accuracy and it was often almost completely hidden by the great clouds of dust that followed a bombardment. The close and consistent attention the enemy paid to the hill was not the only unpleasant feature, as all food, water and ammunition, weapons and wireless sets had to be man-handled up its rocky and exposed sides; in addition, the flies and stench pervading the whole place were at times almost unbearable. Movement of any kind, by day, provoked an immediate retort in the most violent form from enemy artillery, mortars and machine-guns, which invariably destroyed line-communications. On 25th April the Divisional Commander visited the position and was sniped at from an enemy post. That night the Battalion was relieved by the 2nd Seaforth and got an undisturbed night's rest in the area of the gun-lines.

On 26th April the Battalion moved to a defensive position below Takrouna. From this position the Mortar Platoon (Lieutenant A. B.





COLONEL A. CATTANACH, T.D.



LT.-COLONEL R. D. M. C. MIERS, D.S.O.



LT.-COLONEL A. G. F. MONRO

Fallow) had a magnificent day's shooting as a battery. Their fire was covered by two rounds of gun-fire from the 128th Field Regiment, R.A., and they plastered an enemy battalion position, causing heavy casualties.

On 28th April the Battalion once again ascended Takrouna, changing places with the 2nd Seaforth, and the positions were again reversed on 1st May.

On 3rd May Captain G. A. Nixon returned. Captain W. J. MacGregor was at this time sent to assist a battalion of the Queen's Regiment of the 56th Division, who were about to go into their first action. He had a lively experience, nearly losing his life, but returned with a letter, full of gratitude and praise for his work, from the C.O. of the Queen's.

On 4th May the Battalion ascended Takrouna for the last time, for, on 6th May, they were relieved by a mixed battalion of Fighting French, who took the whole night to complete the hand-over! The general relief felt throughout the Battalion on leaving Takrouna in other hands for good was immediately evident, and a well-earned rest away from battle noises soon put all in the best of spirits once more. Private J. W. Reid of the Signal Platoon received an immediate award of the M.M. for his gallantry in restoring line-communications on Takrouna under heavy shell-fire.

On 7th May Major J. Sorel-Cameron joined, together with Lieutenants F. Greenwood and H. A. J. Guess, and 10th May saw the return of Captain J. Elliot from hospital.

On 11th May the C.O., Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, D.S.O., handed over the command of the Battalion to Lt.-Colonel J. Sorel-Cameron and left the 8th Army by air to take over an appointment at the Middle East Training Centre. Colonel Ronnie had commanded the Battalion for eighteen months, during which he had completed the training so ably begun by Colonel Cattnach in the early days, mobilised the Battalion and brought it overseas, and finally fought it with outstanding success from El Alamein to Tunisia. He will be remembered by all members of the Battalion who served with him as an outstanding personality to whom the 5th Camerons rightly meant everything. His leadership in battle was as forceful as his battle-planning was clear and efficient, which both contributed in no small way to the high state of morale existing throughout the Battalion during his period of command. He set the Battalion a high standard of administration as well as fighting efficiency, both of which were to be maintained by his successors until the end of the war. His departure, coming as it did at the end of the North African Campaign, marked the end of a definite phase in the life of the Battalion, the end of the beginning, and how sound had been this beginning was evident still in the Battalion at the end of the war. Mention must here be made of his great friend, Lt.-Colonel W. A. Shiel, D.S.O., Commander of the



128th Field Regiment, R.A., who was as great a character as Ronnie and almost as well known to the 5th Camerons. The magnificent support the Battalion received throughout the campaign from this Field Regiment could hardly have been bettered, due in no small degree to the firm friendship between the two Commanding Officers, which filtered through even to the rank and file in both units.

Thus ended the campaign in North Africa. With the departure of the C.O., Captain D. A. C. M'Killop and Captain and Quartermaster W. M. Milne were the only two officers left who had journeyed throughout with the Battalion from Egypt. A word of appreciation is due to the staff of the 152nd Brigade, who were the Battalion's firmest friends and never failed it. Majors A. Maynard, J. M. Sym, the Hon. H. C. Horell-Thurlow-Cumming-Bruce, and I. A. Robertson, all of the Seaforth Highlanders, who in turn held the post of Brigade Major, were imbued to the full with the spirit that "the Staff existed for the benefit of the troops"; as also was that staunch Cameron Highlander, Captain J. Mitchell, late of the Battalion, who had performed the duties of Staff-Captain alone and almost unaided from Alamein to Enfidaville. No battalion could have asked for a better spirit of co-operation between its Brigade Headquarters and itself.

#### SICILY : PRELIMINARY TRAINING AND THE INVASION

The end in Africa came on 12th May 1943, when all enemy resistance, now concentrated in the Cape Bon peninsula, ceased. The 51st Highland Division had already been relieved from the line near Enfidaville and by this date was happily settled in and around the small port of Djidjelli, on the Algerian coast between Bougie and Philippeville.

The Battalion moved by road through Kairouan, Sbeitla, Kasserine, and Feriana to Tebessa in two days, completing the journey in a further two days after passing through Ain Beda and Setif *en route*. It was a long and tiring journey for those travelling in the backs of 3-tonners, although enlivened somewhat by casual meetings with American troops, anxious to buy battlefield souvenirs with special emphasis on pistols. Some good bargains were made! Lt.-Colonel J. M'K. Gordon, M.C., of the Regiment, visited the Battalion at its bivouac area outside Tebessa: even he must have been slightly surprised at the rate his fluid offering to the Officers' Mess disappeared!

Djidjelli was a pleasant spot. The countryside everywhere was green, the Battalion's camp site was half a mile from the sea and an excellent bathing beach, N.A.A.F.I. really did very well, beer arrived fairly regularly for this stage of the war, and there was plenty of "vino" for those who wanted it. The weather was hot without being oppressive: in fact, the Battalion could hardly have asked for better living and training conditions. Training could be carried out almost any-

where inland, which provided almost European conditions, with thick cork forests, high hills, deep valleys, with odd hamlets and cultivated strips interspersed. Emphasis initially was placed on physical fitness, so the C.O. organised Battalion individual hill climbs. From camp he pointed out a certain hill as the objective for the day—the whole Battalion then set off in twos and threes to get there. A check was taken on the top, when the midday meal was issued—non-arrival meant no meal, so stragglers proved few. The climbs started with all taking part wearing little or no equipment, and gradually worked up to battle order. Company marches followed, and then came the Brigade's turn to train with the various landing craft, which had by now been collected in Djidjelli's small harbour.

This part of the Battalion's training was the most important and most interesting to all who took part. Owing to shortage of craft, damages due to collisions, and the fact that the Divisional plan only called for the 154th and 153rd Brigades to be "assault loaded," the Brigade had few opportunities to practise the drill of loading battalions into landing craft, infantry (L.C.I.s), and from L.C.I.s into landing craft, assault (L.C.A.s), from which the actual assault landings were to be made.

Many officer changes took place in the Battalion during the six weeks spent in Djidjelli. As a result of the disbandment in Egypt of the 14th H.L.I. (late 51st Divisional Reconnaissance Regiment), the Battalion received some badly-needed officer and other ranks reinforcements, which included Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro (of Auchinbowie) and Major P. C. C. Tweedie, both of The 79th. Major Monro was appointed Second-in-Command in place of Major C. A. H. M. Noble, who took over command of "H.Q." Company, while Major Tweedie was eventually posted under Divisional arrangements to the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as a Company Commander. Major I. A. G. Davy returned, on recovery from wounds, and was flown to the United Kingdom shortly afterwards as a Divisional Liaison Officer to the 1st Canadian Division, the second Division in the 30th Corps. Other officers who joined the Battalion during this period were Captain C. W. R. Hill, Lieutenants H. V. Dawson, R. C. MacCunn, Alan Macleod, A. I. Macnab, R. J. A. Cook, R. G. Parry, J. Gentleman, R. Roan, W. Dobie, J. J. S. Lunn, J. R. MacKay-Smith, and H. Hoggan. Lieutenant C. J. Henry returned, on recovery from wounds.

Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison relinquished the appointment of Adjutant, which he had held so successfully since the end of 1941, and was succeeded by Captain I. G. Inch; Captain W. J. MacGregor relinquished his command of "C" Company on appointment to an instructorship at the Mountain Warfare School, Syria.

This period in the history of the 5th Camerons cannot be closed without mention being made of Brigadier George Murray, D.S.O., M.C. The Brigadier, a Seaforth Highlander, had taken over command

of the Brigade from the future Divisional Commander, General Wimberley, in 1941, and had trained and finally fought it with complete success throughout the North African Campaign. The oldest officer in the Division, as he was wont to say, he had not been fit during the six weeks spent at Djidjelli, and at the end of June handed over command to Brigadier G. H. A. MacMillan before returning to the United Kingdom on posting. Brigadier Murray, a true Highlander, was greatly beloved by all who had served in the 5th Camerons while under his command. He had brought the 152nd Brigade to a high state of efficiency and morale, as a result of his gallant leadership and example over the past two years: the whole Battalion were very sorry to see him go.

By mid-June, many members of the Battalion were either collectively or individually trying to work out what was to be the Division's next objective. Italy, Sicily, and Sardinia were all possibilities; other more dashing planners foresaw the south coast of France. Naturally, the objective itself was well-hidden under a cloud of secrecy and uncertainty, and when initial briefing became necessary, it was found that all maps and plans of the objective were furnished with suitable code-names, thus further delaying the hour of total enlightenment.

The Battalion was divided into its three invasion echelons by about 20th June—*i.e.*, "D"-Day party, "D+2"-Day party, and "D+7"-Day party. "D"-Day party consisted of 90 per cent of the marching personnel of the Battalion, divided into two L.C.I. loads, with the overflow packed into a third L.C.I. One L.C.I. took Battalion H.Q., a portion of "H.Q." Company, and two rifle companies; the other took a further portion of "H.Q." Company with the other two rifle companies. Wireless communications were duplicated for each L.C.I. load, so that each could operate as an entity on landing should the other, in the worst case, not arrive. The Carrier, Anti-Tank and Mortar Platoons, together with one 3-tonner per rifle company, two 3-tonners for "H.Q." Company, and the C.O.'s jeep, accompanied this party, but in a different convoy, in L.C.T.s (Landing Craft, Tank). "D"-Day party was really the fighting echelon of the Battalion, with a minimum of administrative personnel.

"D+2"-Day party consisted of the "non-immediately-essential" vehicles of the "D"-Day party and overflows from "H.Q." and rifle companies not included, because of space, in the "D"-Day party—about fifty men in all.

"D+7"-Day party was composed of the remainder of the Battalion, almost entirely administrative personnel, such as the P.R.I.'s staff, tailors, Pipes and Drums, and others. Officers and N.C.O.s L.O.B. (Left out of Battle) were attached to this party.

Between 20th and 25th June the Battalion split up into its three echelons, and the motor transport and carriers moved back by road to Sousse for completion of water-proofing by R.E.M.E. personnel prior

to embarkation. "D+2"-Day party left for Bougie, from whence it was to embark, while "D"-Day and "D+7"-Day marching personnel were embarked in L.C.I.s at Djidjelli on 25th June and moved round by sea to Sousse, the Divisional marshalling area. This was a pleasant and entirely uneventful trip and allowed the Battalion to shake down to life afloat within the restricted space of an L.C.I. On arrival at Sousse on 26th June, "D"-Day and "D+7"-Day parties were led off to the Brigade assembly area, where final arrangements and briefing of all ranks from air photos and plaster-models of the Divisional invasion area took place; code-names were, however, still in force.

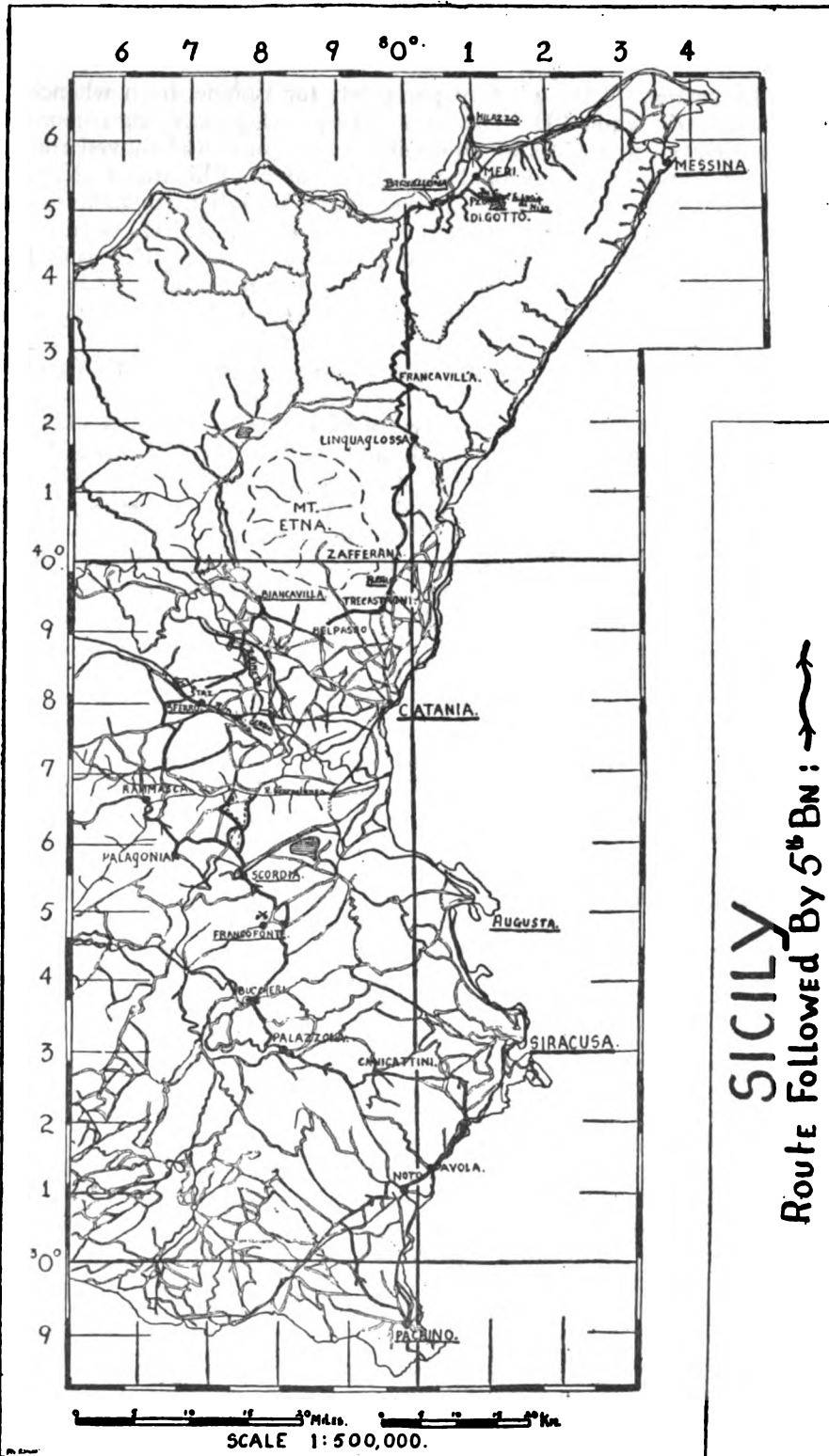
Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb rejoined at Sousse from hospital. Various new rations for the invasion, together with inflatable lifebelts, water-proof tins of cigarettes, and chocolate were issued to all ranks, and the "Compo" ration was demonstrated and issued for the first time. Each man was given two tins prior to embarkation, each containing one day's compo ration, while the Quartermaster took one day's compo for the whole Battalion in the "D"-Day cookers. Anti-seasickness pills were issued to all ranks, and officers were issued with morphine tubes in case of casualties during the crossing. Mention must be made of a visit from Lt.-Colonel C. B. Mackenzie and other officers and other ranks of the 5th Parachute Battalion, late 7th Camerons, who were in the vicinity, which was celebrated in true Cameron fashion.

The army plan for the invasion of "Eilengaria" (Sicily) was on a big scale: the 13th and 30th Corps, having landed on the south-east coast, were to advance northwards up the east coast of the island, the 30th Corps moving inland. General Patton's American 7th Army was to operate in the western portion of the island, both armies eventually meeting in its north-east corner. The 30th Corps, still commanded by Lt.-General Sir Oliver Leese, Bt., consisted of the 51st Highland Division and the 1st Canadian Division, the latter due to arrive for the invasion by convoy from the United Kingdom.

The 13th Corps' objectives were briefly the ports of Syracuse, Augusta, Catania, and finally Messina on the east coast; the 30th Corps' objectives were the main road centres in their sector between the south coast and Mount Etna, including the important Gerbini airfields on the Catanian plain. The 30th Corps' plan was for the 51st Highland Division to land in the Cape Passero area on the right of the Corps sector, the 1st Canadian Division landing in the left-hand sector.

The Divisional plan was to assault with two Brigades initially, the 154th Brigade right and the 153rd Brigade left. The 152nd Brigade were to be the follow-up Brigade, prepared to exploit forward from the initial Divisional bridgehead. The 154th Brigade were to land first in and around the little fishing village of "Brora" (Portopalo) and seize the high ground behind it, which conveniently overlooked the 153rd Brigade's beach and Pachino and its airfield.

The 153rd Brigade were then to land on the left portion of the



SICILY  
Route Followed By 5<sup>th</sup> BN: ↗

Divisional front and clear the remaining beaches, finally joining the 154th Brigade on the high ground overlooking Pachino. The 152nd Brigade were then to land prepared to break out of the bridgehead and seize Pachino and its airfield.

From air photos and other information available, there appeared to be little or no wire on the Division's beaches. A few machine-gun posts and one coast defence battery could be identified, but it was not possible to say with any certainty whether any minefields existed. A report from one of our submarines, recently returned from a reconnaissance, reassured the Division on this point, as the commander stated he had seen a good deal of mixed bathing going on from these beaches. But for the general uncertainty pervading a big invasion of this nature, the Italian enemy appeared to have nothing exceptional up his sleeve with which to greet the Division.

The enemy forces on the island consisted of some low-grade Italian coastal Divisions, who had little or no transport, and even less hope of stopping any attack on their homeland. The German hard-core (two Panzer Divisions) were sited centrally, ready to spring in any direction: they succumbed, however, to the army cover plan, which managed to lure them over to the west end of the island about the time that the assault was arriving in the south-east corner. As a result, several most valuable days were lost to them before they could concentrate their main striking force once more against the invaders.

The Battalion's "D"-Day party left the Brigade marshalling area on 5th July, marched into Sousse, and embarked at 1000 hours, the whole party having had a bathe in the harbour before embarkation. As practised in training, this party embarked in three L.C.I.s, one carrying the C.O., Battalion H.Q., and "A" and "B" Companies; the second O.C. "H.Q." Company, with a small H.Q., and "C" and "D" Companies; and the third, the remainder under Captain R. C. MacCunn. The L.C.I. flotilla, containing the Battalion L.C.I.s, was some thirty strong and was escorted by four M.T.B.s, who cruised up and down its flanks: from occasional glimpses and smoke, it was clear that bigger ships in the background were also interested! "Finance" (Malta) was to be the first stop and the flotilla arrived intact at about 1500 hours on 6th July after an uneventful voyage. The next two days were spent in small transit camps, erected by the Malta garrison, where a good deal of washing and general cleaning up took place: the invasion scale of one shirt per man could not remain clean very long aboard an L.C.I. in the Mediterranean in July. General Montgomery visited the Battalion in its three transit camps on 8th July.

On Friday evening, 9th July, the Battalion re-embarked in its L.C.I.s and at long last came the final briefing and the disclosure of the objective. All ranks in the Battalion were quietly confident of success on the morrow; so were the crews of the L.C.I.s, whose morale was excellent. While in Malta, one crew had painted a large Cameron

tartan patch on the front plating of their bridge-cum-wheelhouse ! Security came down on it like a ton of bricks, with the result that a large hessian awning covered the patch when the Jocks came aboard, but it was revealed in all its splendour once dusk had fallen.

The Brigade flotilla sailed at 0200 hours, the hour at which the 154th Brigade were due to make their initial landing, but ran into bad weather almost immediately on leaving harbour. The L.C.I.s rolled considerably, but neither the general chaos in the troop spaces, ably assisted by seasickness, nor the officers' congestion in the minute ward-room, damped morale. With the dawn, coupled with the dying-down of the wind, came the good news that the 154th Brigade had got ashore with little difficulty and were firmly sitting on their objective. ....

The 153rd Brigade met with a little more opposition, but dealt with it quickly, and when the time arrived for the 152nd Brigade to land, there was no opposition left and the landing was carried out without incident. No enemy air attacks were made on the L.C.I.s carrying the Brigade ; our fighters, however, were seen throughout the day in considerable strength.

The Battalion started to land about 1400 hours, through four feet of water, and moved off to its concentration area at once. The battle transport arrived soon after, having disembarked from the L.C.T.s on a nearby beach, and the Brigade advance on Pachino started before dark. (Pachino had already been entered by the Canadians and the 231st (Malta) Brigade, who had landed on the left and right respectively.) Soon after dark, enemy bombers came over and bombed Pachino fairly heavily, as well as craft on the beaches. The display of tracer from the many landing craft discharging on the beaches and lying-off was truly remarkable ; no apparent damage was, however, inflicted by either side, though many near misses were recorded, R.Q.M.S. Clark of the Battalion (" D+2 "-Day party) receiving a slight wound in the leg from a near miss to his L.C.T. while watching the " show." After a lengthy hold-up the Brigade advance was resumed through Pachino towards Rosolini at 2300 hours, the Battalion then acting as advanced guard. A further 8 kilometres was covered before meeting any resistance, when the Carrier Platoon with " C " Company came under anti-tank fire. As the country had become very close, the Battalion was disposed astride the road, with " D " and " C " Companies forward, and the C.O. decided to dig in for the remainder of the night.

At 0800 hours, 11th July, " B " Company attacked a small rise, which contained approximately one company of Italians, about 1000 yards in front of " C " Company. They took their objective, in spite of resistance, without casualties. " D " Company moved forward at 0830 hours, supported by a troop of Sherman tanks, and occupied a little hill commanding a very considerable stretch of the road, again without casualties. At 0900 hours " A " Company moved through

"D" Company and occupied an enemy position 1000 yards farther on without resistance, taking six Italian guns. The 5th Seaforth then passed through the Battalion, which remained where it was until 1300 hours, when it moved off again and marched a further 5 miles before night fell.

The 12th of July brought the news of the Canadian occupation of Rosolini, so the Brigade advance was re-directed on to Cassibile, via Avola and Noto. Syracuse having already fallen, the Battalion's transport was sent on in front to dump its loads in a concentration area. "D+2"-Day party now rejoined, so the Battalion was the proud possessor of a total of twenty 3-tonners and eight 15 cwts., together with anti-tank gun portees, carriers, and mortars. This transport picked up the marching troops at Noto and lifted them to an area north-west of Cassibile, a great boon, for the Sicilian climate in July is unpleasantly hot and stuffy.

On the 13th of July the Brigade advance was again re-directed, this time on to Palazzolo and Francofonte. With the 5th Seaforth as advanced guard to the Brigade, the Battalion went on towards Palazzolo, each company followed by a tail of commandeered Sicilian farm-carts, with high wheels and brightly painted bodies, carrying the heavy kit which the men did not require for immediate action. At about 1500 hours the Battalion motor transport dumped its loads by the roadside, picked up the marching troops once more, and lifted them through Palazzolo to within 3 miles of Francofonte, where the night of the 13th of July was spent.

#### FRANCOFONTE—BARCELLONA

The 5th Seaforth had run into determined German resistance on trying to enter Francofonte the same evening, and a hastily laid-on attack had been brought to a halt in the dense orange groves surrounding the town. These Germans later proved to be the 2nd Parachute Battalion, who had recently been flown in to Sicily from France and had only arrived in Francofonte a matter of hours before the Brigade.

Brigade orders, issued at 2300 hours that night, stated that the 2nd Seaforth, supported by artillery concentrations, would attack Francofonte next morning, passing through the 5th Seaforth, while the 5th Camerons would move up the road northwards to the T junction where it joined the Lentini-Francofonte road, and, turning south-west, would advance on Francofonte astride this latter road. As it was not known at this time whether the Battalion's road to the T junction had been blocked by the enemy, the Brigade Commander ordered the C.O. to provide a Carrier Patrol to go out forthwith to find out, and incidentally to discover whether the road had been mined or not. This patrol, commanded by Captain E. N. Mainwaring, M.C., and



consisting of one carrier and a Dingo Scout car with an R.E. officer, left about 2230 hours from Battalion H.Q. It got within 400 yards of the T junction when an enemy anti-tank gun opened fire at close range, knocking out the Dingo. The carrier turned about in double-quick time and made for the nearest orange grove, where it and its crew spent the night ; they rejoined the Battalion next morning, who, not getting any report back, had feared the worst. Captain the Rev. W. C. B. Smith, C.F., scenting a possible " midnight affair," joined the carrier crew on this patrol and was not disappointed !

Next day, 14th July, the 2nd Seaforth launched their attack on Francofonte at about 0800 hours, the Battalion moving up in motor transport soon after towards its first objective, the T junction. Orange groves abutted the road on its west (Francofonte) side almost throughout this move, so the Battalion soon debussed and marched the rest of the way—Rumours of German paratroop movements were many and diverse. Some hostile mortaring enlivened the advance but no close contact was made until half a mile from the T junction, where the orange groves diverged from the sides of the road. As the leading company, " A " Company (Captain C. MacLennan), came out into the open, Spandau-fire opened up on it from both flanks, wounding the Company Commander and one Platoon Commander almost immediately. The company dispersed at once, two platoons under Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb following up the enemy in the orange groves on the left, while Captain Watson and Company H.Q., with one platoon, in an endeavour to liquidate the enemy occupying a farmhouse on the right, were pinned to the ground and unable to extricate themselves. Thus a gap of 400 yards, swept by enemy machine-guns, separated the two portions of " A " Company.

The C.O., seeing that the T junction was held in some strength, decided to neutralise it, while at the same time sending " C " Company (Captain H. V. Dawson) through on the left of " A " Company with orders to get astride the Francofonte-Lentini road and then advance against Francofonte. As " C " Company had to move off through the orange groves, no Battalion supporting arms were able to accompany them : the lack of an anti-tank gun was to be felt later on. " B " Company (Captain G. A. Nixon), with two anti-tank guns, moved forward on the right of " A " Company up to a small ridge overlooking the T junction and the road, from where they could shoot at all traffic using either. " D " Company (Major C. A. B. Malden) was in Battalion Reserve, near Battalion H.Q., which was established just off the road and behind where " A " Company had originally come under fire.

Soon afterwards the C.O., while observing the course of the battle from the roof of a small house near Battalion H.Q., was severely wounded by a " premature " from one of the Battalion's mortars and had to be evacuated ; the M.O. and F.O.O. were also wounded with him. Colonel " Jock " had spared no pains in the training of the Battalion

both for the invasion and the type of fighting expected thereafter ; it was only cruel hard luck which deprived him of seeing the campaign through with it. His wounds were to keep him out of action for the next eighteen months, but the Battalion was gratified to hear later of the award of his D.S.O. for his spirited leadership after the landing. In the absence of Major A. G. F. Monro, the Second-in-Command (L.O.B.), Major C. A. H. M. Noble took command of the Battalion, and was ordered by the Brigade Commander to hold on at all costs in the Battalion's present positions, at the same time pushing " C " Company on towards Francofonte as quickly as possible.

Major Noble, arriving about 1130 hours at Battalion H.Q., found little change since the C.O. had left. The day had turned out very hot and it was stifling in the orange groves. Lieutenant Lamb's platoons kept up their pressure on the enemy throughout the day, while the anti-tank guns with " B " Company and the 6-pounder at Battalion H.Q. helped to make the use of the Lentini-Francofonte road by enemy armoured fighting vehicles and motor transport a hazardous venture.

" C " Company had meantime made slow but steady progress, had managed to leap-frog platoons across the road in quiet moments, and was now approaching the junction of the Lentini-Francofonte and Scordia-Francofonte roads.

The attack by the 2nd Seaforth had not proved much more successful than that of its sister Battalion the evening before. Determined and very mobile resistance, together with the very close country, slowed down its momentum till a standstill was reached ; a further attack was laid on by the Brigade Commander for 1600 hours, in which the 2nd Seaforth were to partake once more.

At about 1530 hours " C " Company had reached the road junction mentioned above, and was forming up to cross the Scordia road, when, unfortunately, two armoured cars drove up and opened fire on them. A plot was swiftly hatched for dealing with these, when the 128th Field Regiment opened up in support of the second attack of the 2nd Seaforth ; as a result, the armoured cars moved off and were not seen again. " C " Company pushed on at once and had advanced about 800 yards when they were held up by an enemy post at the side of the road, which later proved to contain two 75-mm. anti-tank guns and one 20-mm. parachutist gun. Sergeant J. A. MacLean's platoon, having worked its way round the right and behind this position, formed up and led by MacLean went in with the bayonet ; the occupants fled, leaving the guns and nine prisoners in the platoon's excited hands. For his gallantry and outstanding leadership in this action, Sergeant MacLean was later awarded the D.C.M.

A lot of firing of small arms began on " A " Company's front about 1815 hours, but no attack developed : it was really the enemy signal for withdrawal, and by 1900 hours the carriers and Lieutenant Lamb's two " A " Company platoons were in occupation of the T junction.

The enemy parachutists began evacuating Francofonte just before dusk and the two Seaforth battalions entered the town about 2100 hours; the Battalion spent a peaceful night in the vicinity of the T junction.

Apart from the C.O., Captain C. MacLennan, O.C. "A" Company, and Lieutenant L. W. Campbell-Colquhoun, "A" Company, were both wounded, as also was Captain J. S. Montgomerie, the Medical Officer. Captain MacLennan eventually died of his wounds nearly three months later, while Campbell-Colquhoun's was the third wound he had received while serving with the Battalion; he was not destined to return. Captain Montgomerie's successor was Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C., who was to prove as fine a Battalion Medical Officer as any battalion could wish to have.

The Brigade's objective for 15th July was the town of Scordia, and the Camerons again found the advanced guard. Little opposition was met *en route*, and, assisted by two Sherman tanks, Scordia was taken by "D" and "B" Companies in a converging attack in which both companies met to the north of the town and encountered no resistance. The Carrier Platoon entered from the south about 1300 hours and were met with great enthusiasm by the inhabitants, all of whom appeared to be brandishing some portion of white bed-linen. The town, it seems, had housed an Italian gunnery school, which would account for the large number of prisoners, including one Major-General, who passed through the Battalion's hands that day, some 970 in all. Padre Smith organised the prisoner-of-war cage with much zest, and in spite of unwelcome attention from some marauding Messerschmidts—that frightened his already very nervous prisoners almost to escaping point!

The next day, 16th July, saw the Brigade on the move once more, this time to the line of hills due north of Scordia, overlooking the wide Catania Plain and the Gornalunga River, some 4 miles in front. The Battalion held a gap in the hills through which a main road ran down to an old bridge over the Gornalunga, which the enemy had inconveniently blown. Observation across the plain was first-class, save from midday to 1600 hours, when a heat haze almost as bad as the desert mirages descended; this haze accounted for a reported move of thirty enemy tanks from the east on to the Divisional front—a shoot by the 128th Field Regiment failed to move them. They later turned out to be some rather large but inoffensive haystacks! The Battalion was in position by 1500 hours and dug in with the two Seaforth battalions on its right and the 5th Black Watch on its left. The Brigade Commander then ordered the Battalion to provide two mobile patrols to move down to the river at last light to operate in the area of the blown bridge and another crossing 3 miles west of it; these crossings rejoiced in the improbable names of "Fanny" and "Lovat" respectively. "Fanny" was held by an enemy company with heavy mortars, while "Lovat" was unoccupied, the enemy having withdrawn to the Dittaino crossing, a mile farther north, as the patrol was later to discover.

The two patrols left the Battalion about 2100 hours; that bound

GORNALUNGA CROSSINGS ~ STIMPATO ~  
 GERBINI ~ SFERRO ~ SFERRO HILLS (Pt 224)  
BIANCAVILLA. 16<sup>th</sup> July ~ 7<sup>th</sup> August.



Bn's. Route → ~ → ---> COY. LOCATIONS - A. B. C. D.

for "Fanny" under command of Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, and that for "Lovat" under Lieutenant F. E. Bright. Each consisted of two carriers, 3-inch mortar detachment, and one 2-pounder anti-tank gun portee. A section of Vickers was to join each patrol later. Lieutenant Cameron made himself thoroughly offensive during the night and next morning crossed the river, but was unable to dislodge the enemy. Lieutenant Bright, after an uneventful night, decided to reconnoitre forward to the next crossing (River Dittaino) during the following evening in one carrier with a despatch-rider. Just short of this crossing, his carrier was knocked out by an enemy anti-tank gun, which killed the driver and mortally wounded the carrier sergeant; Lieutenant Bright was killed by small-arms fire as he jumped out of the wreck, which had caught fire. The despatch-rider, Lance-Corporal E. J. Brady, had run his motor-cycle into the back of the carrier after it had been hit, and damaged it hopelessly. Finding the occupants beyond human aid, he picked up the third member of the crew, Private M'Kinnon, who had been blown out of the carrier by the impact of the shell and was lying semi-conscious in the ditch, and managed to drag and carry him out of the ambush. A further carry of half a mile brought both men to the remainder of the patrol waiting at "Lovat" crossing, where Lance-Sergeant Black of the Mortar Detachment decided to take two men forward to investigate; he was able to corroborate Lance-Corporal Brady's story, and narrowly missed being hit by four anti-tank shells for his pains! For his gallantry and presence of mind, Lance-Corporal Brady was awarded the M.M.

About 2030 hours (17th July) orders were received that the Division was moving that self-same night round the west end of the Catanian Plain in an endeavour to get to its northern side. The "Lovat" and "Fanny" patrols were withdrawn after some difficulty with traffic blocks on the road, but the Battalion finally left in its own motor transport about 0100 hours. It moved through Palagonia towards Ramacca, outside which town it snatched a hasty four hours' rest at the side of the road. Soon after daylight and breakfasts it was on the move once more to form a bridgehead over the River Dittaino, near the farm of Stimpato, covering a road bridge the enemy had this time luckily forgotten to destroy. This was "Lion Crossing," where the Battalion was to stay for five days.

The Battalion was on the ground by 1000 hours and dug in by midday, with "B" Battery, 11th R.H.A. (H.A.C.), in support with their self-propelled 105-mm. guns. Patrols sent forward to the cross-roads south of Gerbini reported them held by about a company of infantry, with an immobile self-propelled gun firing straight down the road. Observation being poor in the battalion area, "B" Company (Captain G. A. Nixon) corrected the battery's fire and produced some effective shelling on all enemy movement seen in the cross-roads area. That afternoon the C.O. and I.O. (Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb) were

bidden to meet the Brigadier on the high ground to the north overlooking the Dittaino valley and the little village of Sferro. On arrival, the Brigade Commander ordered Colonel Walford of the 5th Seaforth and the C.O. to move down to Sferro on reconnaissance forthwith, in view of possible orders being received for the Brigade to break out of the Sferro bridgehead, established by the 153rd Brigade two days previously after bitter fighting. The drive down to the village was no pleasure trip ; both jeeps moved as smartly as shell-holes and damaged bridges permitted, being hastened on their way by the odd shell from an enemy sniping gun, by now well versed in the art of picking off individual vehicles. Lt.-Colonel A. H. Fausset-Farquhar, D.S.O., late of the Regiment and now commanding the 1st Gordons, conducted the reconnaissance of the village ; but little of value could be seen of possible objectives, as movement in the village was severely restricted. Both C.O.s were relieved to return to their Battalions intact, the return journey, however, being uneventful, because an observation-post controlling the sniping gun had been obliged to evacuate hurriedly as a result of the 127th Field Regiment's attentions.

The next day, news was received that the Sferro attack was " off," and that the alternative, an attack by the 154th Brigade on the Gerbini area, would be " on " that night. The 154th Brigade, led by the 1st Black Watch, passed through the Battalion after dark, taking the cross-roads and the self-propelled gun with little difficulty. Soon after dawn came the news that the 154th Brigade had taken its immediate objectives but that the 1st Black Watch, in view of strong resistance, had been unable to penetrate through to the station area and had, therefore, formed a defensive flank along the line of an irrigation ditch 800 yards north of the cross-roads. During the day the position did not improve, so orders were issued for a night attack by the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to clear up the Gerbini area north and north-east of the 1st Black Watch.

Dawn on 21st July produced a confused picture of what was going on in Gerbini, but it eventually transpired that the Argylls had met with stiff resistance and a counter-attack ; their supporting Shermans had been rapidly knocked out, and their C.O. and the Squadron Commander had both been killed. Major P. C. C. Tweedie of the Regiment, commanding the right-hand Argyll company, " C " Company, had been severely wounded during this attack and lost his right arm as a result. Brigadier Rennie of the 154th Brigade immediately got permission for the release of the 5th Camerons from the defence of the " Lion Crossing," and the Battalion, less " D " Company, moved up on foot to fill in the gap between the 1st and 7th Black Watch, which had recently been filled by the 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The Battalion was in position and dug in by midday, with " A " and " C." Companies up and " B " in reserve, but took no more active part in the battle. The struggle continued throughout the day, but

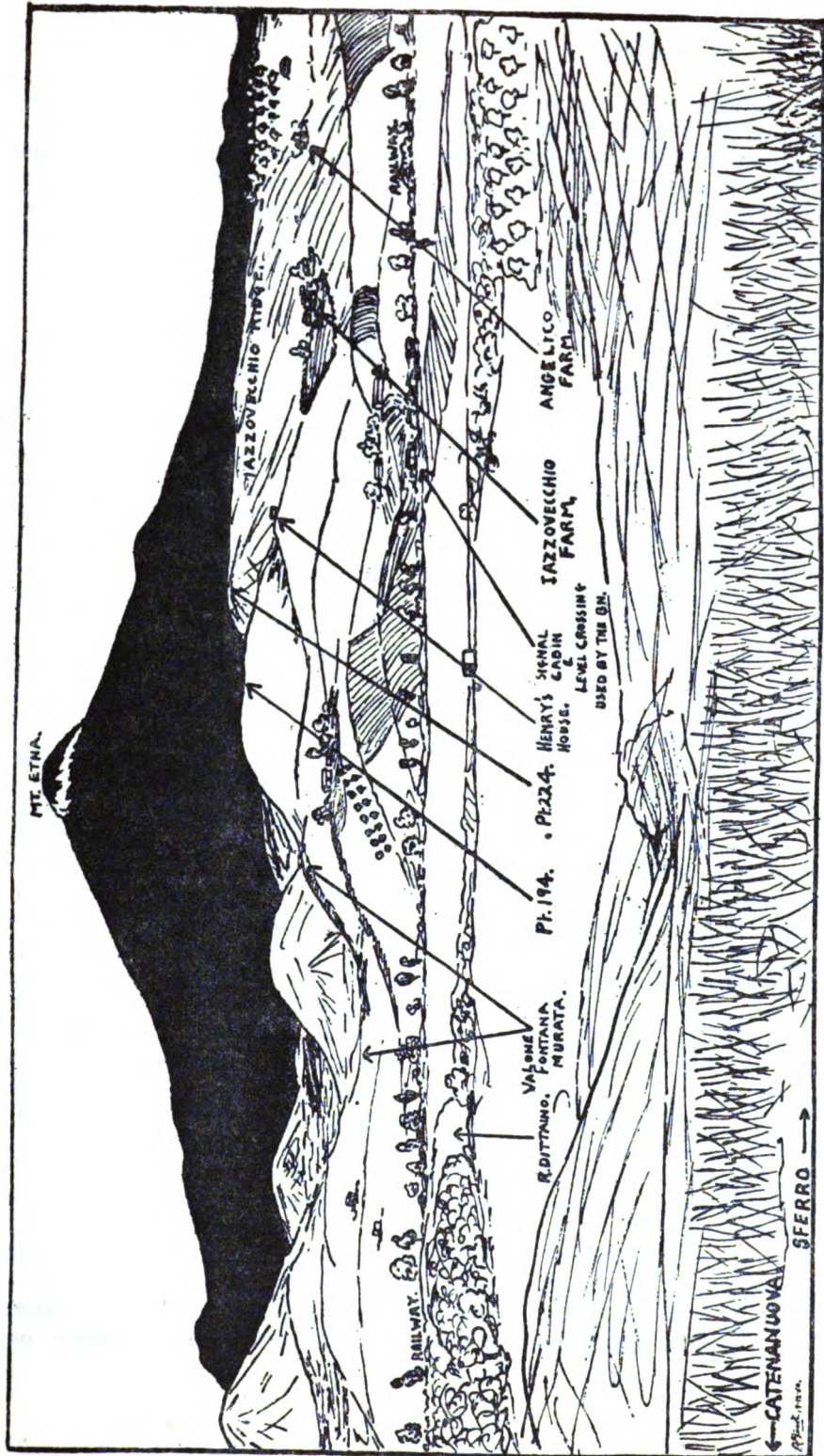


the Divisional Commander ordered the withdrawal of the 154th Brigade during the following night. This was carried out uneventfully, the 5th Camerons acting as rearguard. Major A. G. F. Monro arrived that afternoon, and took command on the arrival of the Battalion behind "Lion Crossing," which was handed over to the 7th Black Watch of the 154th Brigade. Major C. A. H. M. Noble assumed the appointment of Second-in-Command.

The Battalion now moved to a very commanding position on the heights which overlooked the Dittaino valley from Sferro to Gerbini, about 2 miles north of "Lion Crossing." Here C.S.M. J. Milne, M.M., of "C" Company, lost his life as a result of enemy shelling, a loss the Battalion felt very keenly. He had served continuously with the Battalion since El Alamein. Some successful patrols were made into Gerbini by Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C., and others, when contact with the enemy was made and identifications obtained (Panzer Grenadiers of the Herman Goering Division). It is of interest to note that the enemy evacuated Gerbini on the same night as the 154th Brigade, both sides equally weary of the struggle; he returned later, but not in strength, nor did the 51st Highland Division have cause to interfere with him again there.

The attention of the Division became focused on the Sferro bridgehead and the hills behind it to the north-west. The Army Commander had decided that the main axis of the 30th Corps should now be moved farther west from Paterno to Adrano; as a preliminary to the taking of Adrano, the Sferro hills between the Dittaino and the Simeto rivers must be cleared of the enemy. So planning on a Corps and Divisional level took place for an attack to take place at the end of the month.

Meantime the 5th Battalion had taken its turn of duty (forty-eight hours) in the Sferro bridgehead, relieving the 1st Gordons during the night of 24th-25th July and being relieved by them again during the night of 26th-27th July. Sferro was a death-trap and it stank of death—Completely overlooked, the enemy could see every movement of the garrison, and was most meticulous in dealing out rapid retaliation for any careless movement. Three companies were dug-in in a semi-circle round the north of the railway station, while the fourth company was in reserve in a dry stream-bed west of the railway. Battalion H.Q. occupied two dug-outs in the goods yard behind the station wall north-west of the station buildings. It was here that the Battalion first met the German Nebelwerfer or "Moaning Minnie," a vicious multi-barrelled mortar, firing rocket-propelled bombs, which made an unearthly moaning sound as they flew through the air. As a result of careful briefing, the Battalion only suffered two men killed and three wounded during their forty-eight hours at Sferro; the platoon of the 1/7th Middlesex machine-gunners lost four killed and nine wounded in the same period. One of the wounded would certainly have died but for the gallantry of the C.O.'s jeep driver, Lance-Corporal D. J. MacKay,



MT. ETNA.

JAZZOVECCHIO FARM

ANGELOGICO FARM

JAZZOVECCHIO FARM

SIGNAL HENRY'S CABIN

PI. 194.

V. FORTANA MURATA

LEVEL CROSSING USED BY THE G.M.

RAILWAY.

SFERRO

CATENANUOVA

A. P. 194.



who volunteered to drive the medical jeep, fitted with stretcher racks, back to the advanced dressing-station with the casualty, over 2 miles of shell-swept road. He achieved his object and returned to the Battalion safely; he was later awarded the M.M. for his gallantry. Eventual relief by the 1st Gordons was carried out after dark without incident, in spite of a background of burning freight wagons in the goods yards which must have disclosed the Battalion's intentions to any vigilant enemy observation-post, and the noisy antics of a carrier which got stuck in the rails. Everyone's relief at leaving Sferro was apparent and understandable: it was comparable to the relief felt at leaving Takrouna for the last time, some ten weeks earlier.

The Battalion found itself in Divisional Reserve on its return and was to spend the next three days free from enemy shelling; the only sounds of war were provided by the medium guns of the Scottish Horse, whose gun-lines adjoined the Battalion area. Meantime planning had progressed for the attack on the Sferro hills, and Brigadier Mac-Millan gave out his orders during the afternoon of 27th July for an attack during the night of 31st July-1st August.

The Sferro hills consist of the Iazzovecchio Ridge, with its two features, Point 224 and Point 194, and the Monte Pietraperiala feature, rising to Point 254: both these features command the Dittaino valley, across which any Divisional attack must pass. The Iazzovecchio Ridge was to be the 152nd Brigade's objective, while the 154th Brigade were to take the Monte Pietraperiala feature.

The Brigadier's plan was to attack at night on a one-battalion front, expanding to a two-battalion front at a later stage in the operation. The 5th Camerons were to be the leading Battalion, whose objectives were to be Point 224 and the north-west portions of the ridge: after the capture of Point 224 the Battalion was to exploit forward to the Strada di Palermo before withdrawing to the ridge once more, which was to be held in reverse slope positions. The 5th Seaforth were to follow the 5th Camerons, and after reaching Iazzovecchio Farm, were to move south-east to Angelico Farm and clear the ridge from there onwards in the same direction until they made contact with the left-hand battalion of the Sferro garrison. The 2nd Seaforth were to be in Brigade Reserve, following the 5th Seaforth, and were to take up a position on the lower slopes of Point 224, prepared to counter-attack Point 224 should it become necessary. The 7th Black Watch (154th Brigade) would be attacking simultaneously objectives on the Battalion's left flank. The 5th Camerons' attack would be preceded by a heavy barrage: the start-line was to be the Sferro-Catenanuova railway.

The topography of the Battalion's objective can be briefly summarised as follows. The Iazzovecchio Ridge runs roughly north-west-south-east, with Point 224 and Point 194 at its north-western end and the Angelico feature, above Angelico Farm, at its south-eastern end,

with an olive orchard linking the farm with the ridge. About the middle of the ridge and about 500 yards from its crest lies Iazzovecchio Farm, the Battalion's right boundary. Running north and west from Point 224 are two subsidiary spurs ending in Points 181 and 194 respectively: between them lies a deep volcanic depression containing the Fontana Murata, whose spring water flows down into the Vallone Fontana Murata, the glen bounding the left flank of the ridge, which was known to contain enemy anti-tank guns.

It was known from a very successful patrol which had been carried out previously that Point 194 was strongly held, and it was realised that Point 224 could not be captured without including Point 194 as well. Accordingly, the Battalion plan was for "A" Company to clear up Point 224, and having exploited down to the "strada," to return and dig in on the reverse slopes. "B" Company was to do the same at Point 194, and "C" Company was to follow "A" Company, and to come into position in reserve. "D" Company was to follow with the special task of clearing up the Fontana Murata. One squadron of Sherman tanks were placed under command of the Battalion, whose rôle was to join the Battalion on its objective at first light and act as mobile anti-tank guns within the Battalion position.

A lot of time was spent in reconnaissance between 27th and 28th July, with the result that all officers and full-rank N.C.O.s got an opportunity of seeing the ground beforehand from the slopes of Monte Turcisi. In order to assemble the troops taking part in this attack as close as possible to their start-line, thus reducing the distance to be marched, the 5th Camerons and 5th Seaforth both moved forward during the night of 30th-31st July to a lay-up area amongst the foothills north of Monte Turcisi, where they remained for the whole of 31st July. There was no water or cover in the area; the heat was very trying, as no breath of wind managed to penetrate into these bare valleys, and all concerned were much relieved to move on when the time came. Had the enemy sent over *one* reconnaissance aircraft during 31st July, it could not have failed to see this large concentration of troops; but no enemy aircraft appeared.

The route out of the lay-up area to the main track leading down to the start-line was a goat-track along the face of Monte Turcisi, quite impossible even by day for the fighting echelon vehicles of the Battalion. As a result, these vehicles, including rear-link wireless set to Brigade, had to move up by another route, and finally rejoined the Battalion at Turcisi Farm, the junction with the goat-track.

At 2130 hours on Saturday, the 31st of July, the head of the Battalion debouched from its lay-up area and moved down the goat-track to Turcisi Farm. Each company was led by an officer who had been on patrol at least as far as the start-line, and, in addition, the track was to be lighted by Brigade. The lights led down the track for some distance and then branched off on an alleged short-cut. Having taken

the Battalion well off the track it knew and deposited it in unknown country, the lights suddenly stopped, leaving it to find its way over very difficult country to Turcisi Farm. In consequence of this delay the Battalion was late in getting there and meeting the transport, and it only got to the start-line at 2345 hours—five minutes before zero, and with no tape. The bed of the Dittaino River, though nearly dry, was very bad going, and, though the Sappers were working on it as the Battalion passed, this did not prevent the scout car carrying Captain Inch, the Adjutant, and the rear-link wireless set from getting stuck in the sand.

The Battalion got formed up somehow and moved off behind the barrage. The rate of advance was 100 yards in three minutes, and this was not at all too slow considering the darkness and the heavy loads the men had to carry. Tools to dig in, and water and food for the next day were all of necessity on the men's backs. The Battalion moved forward steadily, though on that still night the smoke and dust from the barrage made visibility almost nil. About 200 yards from Iazzovecchio Farm, Battalion H.Q. came under heavy Spandau-fire and began to sustain casualties. It consequently withdrew into a small wadi and dug in.

Both leading companies reported by wireless strong enemy resistance and fierce fighting on the approaches to the top of the ridge, but soon after, Captain A. D. MacLeod (*Skeabost*), commanding "A" Company, went off the air and was heard of no more that night. It was found next day that he had been killed on the objective. "B" Company reported steady progress, and eventually the capture and consolidation of their objective, though, in the heavy fighting on the ridge, the two Company officers were killed and the Company Commander, Captain Nixon, reported that he had only twenty men left for consolidation.

Captain MacCunn, "D" Company, reported that he was in position behind "B" Company and engaged in a fire fight with enemy posts west of the Vallone Fontana Murata. "C" Company were in position in reserve and, at about 0200 hours, they got orders to proceed to Point 224; then to contact "A" Company if possible, and to carry out their exploitation rôle to the Strada di Palermo. "C" Company carried out this successfully and returned to their positions in reserve about 0430 hours, reporting that they had seen nothing of "A" Company.

Meanwhile, at about 0300 hours, the Adjutant, having extricated himself from the Dittaino crossing, arrived with the rear-link wireless set, and the situation was reported to Brigade. The Brigadier immediately placed "B" Company of the 2nd Seaforth under command of Lt.-Colonel Monro, and they were despatched to Point 224 to consolidate "A" Company's original reverse slope positions, through which "C" Company had withdrawn. A further company of the

2nd Seaforth, "D" Company, was placed under command at about 0430 hours, when the reduced condition of "B" Company was reported, and one platoon of this was sent to reinforce "B" Company at once.

Just before dawn the most appalling traffic jam occurred in what had already received the name of "Spandau Alley," where Battalion H.Q. was situated. A Seaforth anti-tank portee became entangled with the Honey tank of an artillery F.O.O. of the Scottish Horse, and the jam ensued. Only by the most herculean effort was it cleared before light. This was just as well, because, though the objectives were everywhere held, pockets of resistance still remained, in many cases quite close to where our men were digging in. These isolated posts, which were all manned by Germans, caused great annoyance and some casualties before they were liquidated.

About 0700 hours (Sunday, 1st August) the Brigadier arrived with Lt.-Colonel Shiel of the 128th Field Regiment, R.A. Under concentrations and smoke from the gunners, "C" Company was sent finally to clear Point 224. This relieved "B" Company, 2nd Seaforth, and they withdrew, bringing with them the indomitable remnants of "A" Company, now consisting of Lieutenant Ainslie and ten men, eight of whom were armed with automatic weapons, both British and German. For his gallant conduct in this action, Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie was awarded a bar to his M.C.

Battalion Reserve at this time consisted of two platoons of "D" Company, 2nd Seaforth, and some of the anti-tank guns which, in spite of the untiring efforts of Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, had been prevented by the ground from getting into forward positions. Two troops of the squadron of tanks originally under command had been withdrawn at this time to assist the 5th Seaforth in the mopping-up of the Angelico feature. By noon on the 1st of August some thirty prisoners had passed through Battalion H.Q.: about half of them were German.

The 5th Seaforth had taken their objectives successfully (not without difficulties and casualties) and linked up with the Inniskilling Fusiliers in the Sferro bridgehead, so that by midday, 1st August, the Iazzovecchio Ridge was firmly in the Brigade's hands.

About 1300 hours the inevitable counter-attack came in; but the German infantry were so badly shelled, as they debussed, that they never got within range of small-arms fire. Three Mark IV. tanks appeared on the Battalion front, but were all destroyed by the fire of anti-tank guns and tanks.

Enemy shelling was intermittently heavy all day. After dark the amalgamated "A/D" Company occupied Point 194, thus relieving "B" Company and the company of the 2nd Seaforth. The former came into reserve, while the latter returned to their own battalion. "B" Company did not have much rest, for at dawn on Monday they

took over Point 181, which had been captured by "A" Company, 2nd Seaforth, during the night. Battalion H.Q. moved forward to a cottage on the slopes of Point 194, where the body of Lieutenant C. J. Henry, "B" Company, was found. He had met a brave man's end, for beside him lay the body of a hulking German Feldwebel.

About midday on Monday, 2nd August, it became evident that the Germans were pulling out. Accordingly, a Carrier Patrol was sent out along the Strada di Palermo towards the crossings of the Simeto. This patrol, under Captain J. Elliot, captured a battery of ten Italian howitzers intact. One gun was actually loaded. The feelings of the Jock who pulled the lanyard can be imagined! In addition, some valuable loot was taken from the abandoned German command posts and vehicles, the equipment, as usual, being of the highest quality.

On 3rd August about sixty German and Italian dead were buried on the positions taken by the Battalion. Casualties were five officers and forty other ranks. That evening the Battalion moved into the vicinity of the Fontana Murata, whose abundance of clear water did much to remove the stains of battle.

On 5th August it became apparent that the enemy's next line of resistance would be the foothills of Mount Etna, overlooking the River Simeto, and including the towns of Paterno, St Maria, Biancavilla, and Adrano. Accordingly, on the 6th, the Battalion was moved to a concentration area south of the crossings over the Simeto, leading to Biancavilla. Commanding Officers were briefed by Brigadier MacMillan for an attack on the town at dawn on the 8th, after a bridgehead over the river had been established. On Saturday morning, the 7th, the entire Battalion "O" Group had a bird's-eye view of the 1st Black Watch attack to establish the bridgehead, and saw its rapid success.

At 1400 hours Lt.-Colonel Monro was called to Brigade Headquarters, which everyone was surprised to learn was across the Simeto and half-way to Biancavilla. On arrival at Brigade Headquarters, considerable doubt seemed to prevail as to the situation, but the Brigadier was convinced that the enemy were evacuating, so he decided to motor forward in order to obtain information. There was the sound of heavy artillery fire from the direction of Adrano, but near at hand all seemed quiet. About two miles from Biancavilla, Brigadier MacMillan and Colonel Monro met a squadron of the Royals, who informed them that Biancavilla was unoccupied. They therefore motored on, but, though unoccupied by hostile troops, the town was very much occupied. The streets were thronged with the local inhabitants, determined to ensure that the conquerors were not without welcome. White flags were waved, flowers and grapes were thrown into the jeeps, and soon the crowd was so thick that they could not proceed at all. As soon as a jeep stopped, its occupants were heartily kissed on both cheeks by whoever was nearest, but as this was always a very unwashed and unshaven member of the male sex, the Brigadier and the C.O. were soon standing up in the jeeps, shouting at the drivers to beat a hasty retreat.

Back at Brigade, Lt.-Colonel Monro met the Battalion "O" Group, whom he had summoned by wireless, and reconnaissance of an area just outside Biancavilla was carried out; the Adjutant, who was bringing up the Battalion on foot, was given a more forward rendezvous. As it turned out, the unexpected departure of the enemy caused such congestion at the one ford over the Simeto that the Battalion was held up for several hours and did not arrive at the new location until after midnight. Even the presence of the Divisional Commander at this ford, in one of his most persuasive moods, was unable to speed matters up to mutual satisfaction!

The next day, 8th August, Lt.-Colonel Monro was appointed Commander of Biancavilla and meetings were held at the Town Hall with the local Maresciallo and the Commander of the Carabinieri. The most pressing administrative crisis was in the hospital, where, the local doctors having fled, no attention had been paid to the patients for over forty-eight hours. The Battalion Medical Officer, Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C., undertook this work and order was gradually restored.

The joy of the population to see the Camerons appeared genuine, for it meant a cessation of bombing. Many of the people were definitely hungry, because the Germans had commandeered all food — and destroyed what they could not take away. Several affrays, resulting in casualties to both Germans and Italians, had resulted from this policy, for the Italian troops always sided with the Sicilian population.

It was in Biancavilla, exactly four weeks after the initial landings, that the battalion "D+7" party rejoined it; considerable light-hearted banter greeted their arrival, which was hardly deserved. The shipping for their transfer from Africa to Sicily had not become available earlier owing to the priority move of the 78th Division, though that had not been catered for in the original plans. Their presence, in fact, added to the Battalion's comfort considerably, and more than offset their late arrival.

On the 13th a further move was ordered for the Battalion in the hope that one more blow could be struck by the Division at the enemy before he finally escaped across the Straits of Messina. The Battalion moved round west of Mount Etna; but, so thorough had been the German demolitions, that further advance was impossible, and, on the 16th, the day the campaign officially closed, the Battalion found itself near Zafferana. Thus ended just over a month's strenuous campaigning, in great heat, during which the Battalion advanced some 170 miles over difficult country against every kind of opposition.

At Fleri, a small hamlet south of Zafferana, the Battalion spent its first few days of rest. It was here that, after an impromptu Guest Night in the Officers' Mess (a local farmhouse), a farewell ceremonial parade was held on 19th August for the "much admired and greatly respected" Divisional Commander, who had completed his time in command and was going home to fill the appointment of Commandant of the Staff

College. Every man was dressed in the kilt ; the parade-ground was a straight stretch of road bounded at each end by the burnt-out wreck of a German Tiger tank ; to provide a saluting base, the wall on one side of the road was levelled. General Wimberley inspected the whole Battalion, took the salute at the march past, and spoke to the Battalion at the end of the parade in a few simple sentences which moved him as much as his audience. It was a sad yet triumphant farewell ; the Division owed its superb morale almost entirely to Douglas Wimberley's untiring efforts, while he as Divisional Commander had achieved his object of producing a Division " Second to None." The Battalion was to see him next in Germany, some eighteen months later. Hard on his departure came that of Brigadier MacMillan, who also returned to the United Kingdom with richly deserved promotion, to command the 15th Scottish Division. The Brigadier's outstanding personality and great enthusiasm had made their impression on all ranks in the Battalion in his short two months' tenure of command ; however, like all true members of the Division, he succeeded in returning to it at a later date in Germany, this time as Divisional Commander.

From Fleri the Battalion moved back to Zafferana, where it occupied a large villa belonging to an Italian Prince who was then, however, residing in lowly surroundings nearby. After some essential clearances, Battalion H.Q. and two companies moved into the house, while the remaining companies bivouacked in the grounds. It was while in Zafferana that each company had a day off to enable its members to climb Mount Etna.

On 28th August the Brigade, now under the command of Brigadier J. A. Oliver, D.S.O., late 7th Black Watch, moved to Barcellona, on the north coast of the island, and near the small port of Milazzo. A delightful position in the foothills looking out to sea, with a fine view of Stromboli, smoking in the distance, was chosen for the Battalion camp, where the 5th Camerons were destined to spend a warm and pleasant six weeks' rest. Lack of space precludes detailed mention of the many pastimes indulged in by members of the Battalion during this period, but sport and bathing played a big part in the Jocks' daily round. General Montgomery presented medals at a Brigade Parade to those members of the three Battalions who had received decorations as a result of the recent campaign, and disclosed his intention that the 51st Highland Division should return to the United Kingdom to take part with him in the opening up of the " Second Front." Great enthusiasm greeted this statement. The new Divisional Commander, Major-General D. C. Bullen-Smith, M.C., arrived from the United Kingdom, having handed over the 15th Scottish Division to the Battalion's late Brigade Commander. Italy collapsed suddenly, causing Padre Smith some anxious moments as far as his guests were concerned that evening. The Commanding Officer and Major Noble repaired to H.Q., 154th Brigade, on the heights above Messina, for a

grandstand view of the invasion of the Toe of Italy—The support was impressive, but, fortunately, the opposition was almost non-existent. The Quartermaster's mobile shanty and clutch of young turkeys hatched out W.O.A.S. and in sound of the guns will long be remembered, to say nothing of the piano which returned to the United Kingdom (Inverness) from Biancavilla Station, when its original destination was Catania! And what of the Battalion's respirators?

#### RETURN TO ENGLAND AND PREPARATION FOR "D"-DAY

The Battalion moved south by road to Catania on 10th October. It was here that it split into two portions for the journey home. On 23rd October, exactly one year after the night that the 5th Camerons first went into action at El Alamein, the main portion of the Battalion left in convoy (H.M.T. *Dunnottar Castle*) from Augusta, arriving in Gourock early in November. "B" and "C" Companies, under the Second-in-Command, returned later with the 2nd Seaforth and the 154th Brigade, but, before they left, a representative party motored out to be present at the dedication of the Divisional War Memorial commemorating those gallant members of the Division who had laid down their lives for their country in the brief five-week Sicilian Campaign. The ceremony was marred by driving rain, but all present were impressed by the simple style of the memorial and its fine situation overlooking as it did the Dittaino valley, the Sferro hills and village, and the Gerbini battlefield to the south: the monument was erected by the Divisional R.E.

"B" and "C" Companies arrived safely at Liverpool in early December in an American trooper, and found the remainder of the Battalion billeted in Hertford. The Division was laid out in a semi-circle round the north of London, from Slough, Aylesbury-Berkhamstead, to Watford-St Albans-Hertford. What a splendid welcome the Battalion received from the good people of Hertford! All members of the Battalion were soon wearing the ribbon of the Africa Star on their blouses, which assured them of open-house in all the many Hertford inns for that first week after the Battalion's arrival. Hard on disembarkation leave followed Christmas and the New Year, so little serious training took place until January. The Battalion's stay in Hertford was notable for visits from the Colonel-in-Chief, H.M. The King; the Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General Sir James Drew, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and the Honorary Colonel, Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, K.T., C.M.G. His Majesty, accompanied by the Queen and the two Princesses, visited the Division in late January, paying individual visits to all major units in their normal locations. The 5th Camerons, however, were formed up on the cricket ground at St Albans, every man dressed in the kilt, for inspection by



His Majesty, who expressed himself as being well pleased with what he had seen. The Battalion marched past their Colonel-in-Chief at the end of the parade. The Colonel of the Regiment and its Honorary Colonel visited the Battalion together, and, after a Regimental Guest Night, a ceremonial parade was held on the playing-fields opposite to the Hertfordshire County Buildings, in the course of which the original Commanding Officer and Adjutant of "Lochiel's Camerons" inspected the young and rightful descendants of that famous Battalion. After "Retreat" had been played in the town by the Pipes and Drums, dressed in service dress jackets and spats, the two guests and the officers retired to an extremely successful Officers' Ball, held in the local Corn Exchange. Other visitors to the Battalion were General Eisenhower, Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, and General Sir Bernard Montgomery, who saw the Battalion training in the grounds of Panshanger, the estate of Lord Desborough, just outside Hertford. About this time, Brigadier H. S. Haugh, M.C., late Seaforth, took over command of the 152nd Brigade from Brigadier J. A. Oliver, D.S.O., who had succeeded Brigadier Rennie as Commander of the 154th Brigade. Major E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, of the Regiment, who had succeeded Major I. A. Robertson in September 1943, remained on as Brigade Major. In April the Division moved farther afield from London, and the Battalion found itself lost in the depths of Suffolk, billeted in the small town of Haverhill. There more varied training could be carried out and efforts were made to train and fit the many new faces now to be seen in the Battalion into the gaps left by their predecessors. Mention must here be made of the affiliated Camerons of Canada, both the Regiments having their Battalions in the south-eastern counties of England at this time. As it was not possible to meet each other on a large scale, representative parties from each Battalion visited their opposite numbers, with unqualified success. At this time the "Canloan" scheme started, whereby young Canadian officers were lent to units of the British Army: the Battalion received three first-class young Canadian subalterns as a start—Lieutenants Arnot, Pearce, and Pennington—who were to be followed up by others of equal calibre, finally culminating with that enthusiast, Captain Archie Fox.

The invasion of the Continent, and the establishment of the long-awaited Second Front, was at the back of every member of the Battalion's mind during this period of training and waiting, and with the arrival of the summer came the prospect of the necessary fine, settled weather required by the Navy to land the Army on the shores of Europe and maintain it initially. An inter-brigade T.E.W.T. outside Brighton with the officers of the 8th Armoured Brigade was brought to an abrupt end one May afternoon, and Seaforth and Cameron officers returned hot-foot to their units in Suffolk. The Battalion was again split into three portions for invasion purposes, including this time



INSPECTION OF THE BATTALION BY LOCHIEL AND  
GENERAL DREW, HERTFORD, JANUARY 1944

Major-General Sir James S. Drew, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.; Colonel Sir D. W. Cameron of Lochiel, K.T., C.M.G.; Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison; and the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro.



Home Details to clear up after its departure overseas. These portions were very similar to those used for the Sicilian invasion, but were due to arrive somewhat later—*i.e.*, “D+1,” “D+7,” and “D+14.” Almost before anyone could realise what was happening, the “D+1” party had left Haverhill for a camp on the common at Snaresbrook, North-East London, where it arrived on 16th May; “D+7” and “D+14” parties remained in Suffolk meantime.

Certain officer and warrant officer changes had taken place in the Battalion since its return home. While in Hertford, Major H. W. Cairns, of the Regiment, had joined the Battalion and assumed command of “C” Company, while Major C. A. B. Malden, M.C., had left the Battalion for an instructorship at the Guards O.C.T.U. in Aldershot; Captain E. P. M. Brown had taken over the appointment of Adjutant from Captain I. G. Inch, who was appointed G.S.O.3 at H.Q. 152nd Infantry Brigade. Major I. A. G. Davy left the Battalion on posting to the School of Infantry as an instructor, and Major A. R. MacLeod succeeded him in command of “A” Company. Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb continued to hold the appointment of Intelligence Officer, which he had taken over in Sicily. R.S.M. Munnoch left the Battalion and was succeeded by R.S.M. L. G. Slee, M.B.E., from the Depot, a well-known Cameron Highlander, who had spent the majority of his service with the 2nd Battalion, while R.Q.M.S. J. Warren, who had succeeded R.Q.M.S. Clark in Sicily, continued to hold the appointment on Clarke’s return; the latter loyally serving on with the Battalion as a Colour Sergeant.

To return to invasion preparations, camps such as Snaresbrook had been prepared all round the south-east, south coast, and south-west ports of England to hold invasion forces prior to their embarkation. They were surrounded by a triple Dannert wire fence, as part of the treatment of the occupants, after a certain amount of essential briefing had been completed, was to “lock them up,” for security reasons, from the outside world. Many of the Battalion will not have forgotten the group of Italian prisoners of war, standing outside the camp, watching with amazement, as well as amusement, the Jocks incarcerated behind the wire, and hearing the Quartermaster’s somewhat irate and unrepeatable retorts to their obviously insubordinate remarks and gestures! Rations and the normal extras required for an invasion were issued to individuals in these camps, but on a far more lavish scale than for the Sicilian invasion, which all helped to raise morale, if indeed it required raising. Documentation also seemed to take up a good deal of time, but in fact ten days only were spent in this camp, of which five days were spent “closed down.” The Battalion was visited in Snaresbrook Camp on 26th May by the Colonel of the Regiment, who spoke to all ranks and wished the Battalion all good fortune in this new adventure: he was accompanied by Brigadier Fitzroy Maclean, C.B.E., M.P., and Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, M.C., both of the Regiment. Many officers

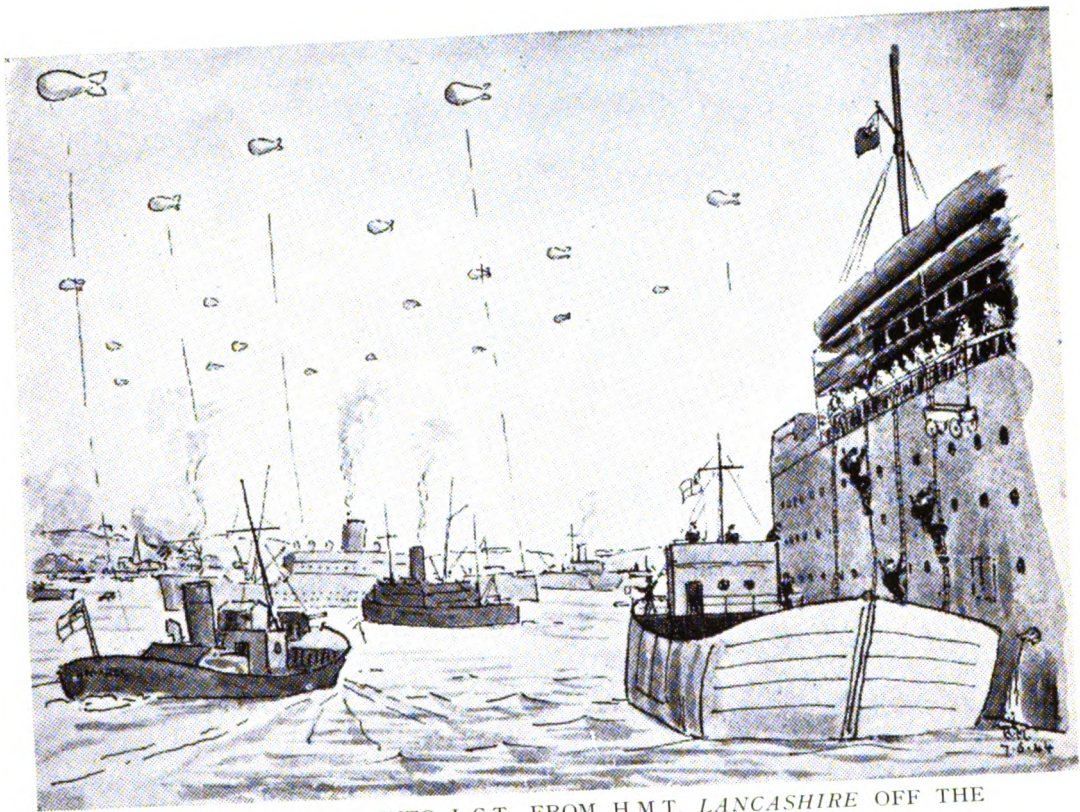
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and other ranks of the Battalion were not fully in a position at that time to appreciate the highly efficient planning and training carried out under the direction of General Drew at the Combined Operations School at Largs during the preceding years, which perfected the technique of landing and maintaining large forces in enemy-occupied Europe: it is surely only fit and right that members of his own Regiment, who took part in this operation, should respectfully testify to his great foresight and ability.

On 27th May the "D+1" portion of the Battalion left Snaresbrook under heavy C.M.P. escort and marched to yet another similar camp, known as "T7," about two or three miles distant. It was from this camp that embarkation finally took place at Tilbury in H.M.T.s *Cheshire* and *Lancashire*; these ships sailed in convoy from Southend on "D"-Day, 6th June.

#### INVASION OF NORMANDY AND THE FIGHTING IN THE ORNE BRIDGEHEAD

The overall plan for the invasion is now known to most readers, so it will be sufficient to say that the 51st Highland Division, now under command of the 1st Corps (Lt.-General Crocker), was the follow-up Division in that Corps, of which three British and three Canadian Divisions were the assaulting formations. The 5th Camerons, the first Battalion in the Brigade to land in Normandy, landed during the afternoon and early evening of "D+1"-Day (7th June) on Juno Beach, about two miles west of Courseulles-sur-Mer. To get into their L.C.A.s, all ranks had to swarm down the sides of their liners in full battle order, using ropes or nets, not an easy matter to the unpractised Jocks, with a fair swell running; however, though certain pieces of equipment were lost in the "drink," no Jocks or weapons suffered damage. It was not a dry-shod landing, 4 feet 6 inches of water having to be negotiated before the beaches were reached. The Canadians had dealt well and truly with the local defenders on the previous day, so no enemy were in evidence to interfere with the Battalion's landing. Knee concentration area, about one mile north of La Riviere and on the high ground west of Courseulles, was the Battalion's bivouac area for the night, when it was joined by its "D+1" carriers and motor transport. That night there was a fairly heavy air-raid in the beach-head area, and the Battalion suffered a few casualties. Moving a mile or so to the south of La Riviere next day (8th June), the Battalion had started to dig in when orders were received to move farther into the beach-head to clear the woods east of Fontaine-Henry. Here some trouble was experienced with snipers, and the whole area had to be thoroughly sprayed with light machine-gun fire to "flush" them out; but before this cleansing action had been taken, "A" Company,

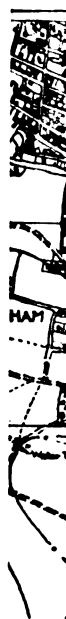


CAMERONS GETTING INTO L.C.T. FROM H.M.T. LANCASHIRE OFF THE  
NORMANDY COAST, 7TH JUNE 1944









under Major A. R. Macleod, had captured a number of the enemy, releasing at the same time thirty British and Canadian wounded, who had been held captive in the local caves. "A" Company were then ordered to clear the east bank of the River Mue as far south as Barbriere, while "B" Company were ordered to clear the west bank down to Thaon, in the course of which "A" Company captured a further twenty-four prisoners, who had been manning four field-guns on the escarpment, and destroyed the guns. During the afternoon of the 9th the Battalion moved eastwards, out of the woods, and took up positions to contain the enemy still holding out in a large radio-location centre at Douvres-la-Delivrande; it was relieved here by the 41st S.S. Battalion (4th S.S. Brigade) on the 10th, and moved over to Benouville in the Orne Valley to take over the guarding of the Orne bridges.

The 6th Airborne Division was the only large formation east of the Orne at this time, and its bridgehead included the villages of Hauger, Breville, Herouvillette and Longueval, reading from north to south. The position in Breville and the road running along the wooded ridge south of it was very fluid throughout this day, and enemy infantry with machine-guns were still in possession of the 30-metre contour north-east of Longueval. To appreciate fully the stern fighting in which the Battalion took part during the following fortnight, it must be remembered that the Orne bridgehead was the hinge on which the whole Allied bridgehead hung, and, further, it was the nearest portion of the main bridgehead to Paris. The enemy was extremely sensitive to any allied threat from this quarter, with the result that he pinned his 1st S.S. Panzer Corps to the Caen sector of his front continuously until the American break-out in August; his re-formed 21st Panzer Division watched the Orne bridgehead. Every sign of allied action in that quarter gave cause for swift reaction of a most violent kind, and undoubtedly assisted materially in keeping this Panzer Corps fully engaged, while the western sector was freed for the eventual break-out.

About 1100 hours on 10th June the C.O. received orders for the Battalion to seize the village of Ste Honorine la Chardonnette during the night of 11th-12th June. As a result of the C.O.'s submission that tank support would be essential in an operation such as this, permission was asked from higher authority for armoured assistance; this was, unfortunately, not forthcoming, but the attack, in consequence of the request, was postponed for twenty-four hours.

The village of Ste Honorine stands out alone in the open plain on a slight rise surrounded by orchards, from which any hostile movement from the south, and especially from the Colombelles suburb of Caen, could be seen at an early stage of development. With the village in Allied hands, the enemy would be yielding advantages he was not prepared to lose at this stage; the bitter fighting about to follow was the result.

Colonel Monro gave out his orders for the attack on Ste Honorine

at Benouville during the afternoon of 11th June. The Battalion was to assemble in the orchards 500 yards south of the east end of the Pont Tournant during the afternoon of 12th June. The start-line would be the south-eastern edge of the orchards south-east of Longueval—the route to the start-line would be along the tow-path into Longueval. The Battalion would attack with two companies up, "C" Company right, "B" Company left (company objectives are shown on the map). Leading companies would go straight through the orchards west of the village to their objectives, while "A" and "D" Companies mopped up behind them. Sp. Company would move, on signal, by the road (marked with arrows on the map) into Ste Honorine, as the slope from the tow-path into Longueval was too steep for loaded carriers. A troop of 6-pounders from the Divisional Anti-Tank Regiment would accompany Battalion H.Q. and rifle companies, being towed up the steep slope at Longueval by jeeps. The attack would be preceded by a barrage—zero hour was to be 0400 hours, 13th June. A battalion of Devons from Le Bas de Ranville would attack the 30-metre contour north-east of Longueval at the same time as the Battalion's attack, in order to clear the route forward for Sp. Company. That afternoon the C.O. took all Company Commanders to Longueval for a daylight reconnaissance, and visited the Devons himself.

On 12th June all went smoothly, and to plan, and the Battalion reached its F.U.P. without incident. At Z-4 down came the barrage as arranged, but, in the C.O.'s words, "to my horror a great many shells fell amongst the forward companies. I ran to where our Battery Commander was in his half-track already frantically trying to stop the whole barrage, for though he thought the 'shorts' were mediums, he could not be sure." However, in spite of casualties, companies crossed their start-line and followed the barrage through the fields of standing corn towards Ste Honorine. It was now about 0420 hours, and the C.O. continues: "The barrage had lifted from the orchards west of the village by now, and I counted at least seven Spandaus in action on fixed lines on the right, which had come to life after the barrage had passed over them. 'B' Company on the left were very chatty on the wireless, reporting progress, while 'D' Company also reported they were mopping up the orchards. It was fast growing light, so, realising it would be sheer murder for Battalion H.Q. to be caught in daylight here in the open, I ordered a left incline through the corn to the north-west corner of the Ste Honorine orchards, where ample cover was available. From here we could see the Devons' attack on the 30-metre contour succeed; in fact, Battalion H.Q. had some shooting at the enemy withdrawing."

Battalion H.Q. being now established, disquieting reports over the wireless showed that matters were not going too well with "A" and "C" Companies in the southern part of the village. As the troop of anti-tank guns which had accompanied the Battalion to Longueval

had not yet come forward, the C.O. immediately ordered up Sp. Company, who arrived intact about 0600 hours. The Anti-Tank Platoon Commander, Captain A. L. Macnab, was immediately sent forward with three of his guns with orders to site them as quickly as possible in "B" and "D" Companies' areas, facing east. About this time Captain E. P. M. Brown, the Adjutant, was hit by a shell which broke his leg, and he was evacuated: Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb, the I.O., took over from him. Eventually, "A" and "C" Companies got the village cleared and the C.O. was able to visit all companies and co-ordinate the defence plan of the village: the troop of anti-tank guns had appeared by now and took up positions in "A" Company's area, facing south-west; positions from which, as it later transpired, they never saw a tank. The remainder of the Battalion's 6-pounders came into action in "A" and "C" Companies' areas, facing south. "It was ominously quiet at this time, as one knew that one's every move could be seen from the factory chimneys of Colombelles"—(C.O.).

The Brigadier arrived at Battalion H.Q. about 0800 hours and fixed "H"-hour as 0915 hours for the attack already planned for the 2nd Seaforth against the village of Cuverville, which was to start from the Herouvillette-Ste Honorine road. At about 0830 hours the enemy opened up some most vicious and concentrated mortar- and shell-fire on the village, making any movement suicidal. About 0845 hours heavy machine-gun fire was added to this already very heavy concentration, and all company wireless sets, less "D" Company, went off the air. "D" Company reported a counter-attack developing on their front with infantry and some fourteen tanks. The tanks sat back at some 600 yards range and pumped lead over their infantry's head, until three of them were hit by a battalion 6-pounder under command of Sergeant A. Mackenzie and put out of action: the remainder then retired. Sergeant Mackenzie was later awarded the M.M. for his gallantry and leadership in this action.

From now on the Battalion's fortunes deteriorated rapidly in the village, mainly due to casualties and the extraordinary heavy support the enemy counter-attack was receiving. Shells, mortar bombs, and "Moaning Minnies" exploded in the trees with an almost continuous roar, scattering their fragments far and wide and deep into the slit-trenches of the companies. With communications well-nigh non-existent, and the enemy infantry reported to be mopping-up in the orchards, the C.O. applied to Brigade for permission to use the leading 2nd Seaforth company, now in position opposite Battalion H.Q., to help restore the situation. This permission was refused, as the Brigadier still held hopes of carrying out the attack on Cuverville.

A withdrawal, therefore, seemed inevitable, unless the Battalion was to be liquidated where it stood. "A," "B," "D," and Sp. Companies, believing Battalion H.Q. to be wiped out owing to the breakdown of all communications with it, and believing "C" Company to

have been eliminated, decided to disengage and endeavour to fight their way out of the village with the remnants of their companies. Withdrawal started about 0945 hours and resulted in "D" and Sp. Companies moving to the start-line of the night before, where they were eventually joined by Battalion H.Q., while "B" Company and the remains of "A" Company moved via the 30-metre contour back to Le Bas de Ranville. Ste Honorine had apparently been left to the tender mercies of the enemy and our gunners by 1030 hours. The C.O. immediately drove off to report the situation to the Brigadier, as the battalion rear-link wireless set had gone off the air. On arrival in Le Bas de Ranville he found Major Nixon, O.C. "B" Company, with the Brigade and Divisional Commanders, and was ordered to take over the defence of Longueval from its present holders as soon as possible. Returning to Longueval again about 1230 hours, Colonel Monro was amazed to find W. G. Chalmers, a "C" Company subaltern, who reported that Major Cairns, with about fifteen men of "C" Company, were still holding out in Ste Honorine, and that there was not a German for miles as a result of the vigorous shelling our gunners had given the village after the Battalion had evacuated it! The C.O. immediately reported this startling information to Brigade, and offered to re-occupy Ste Honorine at once, if adequate anti-tank support could be provided. The Brigadier, however, ruled that Ste Honorine should be evacuated and that the relief of the garrison of Longueval must proceed, so the gallant remains of "C" Company withdrew in good order in daylight without a shot being fired! Later, the taking-over of the defence of Longueval was postponed for twenty-four hours, and the Battalion spent the night of 13th-14th June peacefully in the quarries alongside the tow-path, north of Longueval, before taking over on the following day.

Longueval was by no means an easy place to hold, and it was found that to stop the enemy infiltrating a minimum of one complete rifle company strength was essential for listening-post and sentry duties each night. Rifle companies were now reduced to an average of sixty men and five light machine-guns. On 15th June "it shelled like blazes all day, and though we had only about fifteen casualties, few men got any sleep." However, respite was at hand, as the Battalion was relieved by the 5th Seaforth during the night of 15th-16th June, and gratefully moved into Brigade Reserve in Le Bas de Ranville, for a well-earned rest of seven days. For their gallantry in this, the first battle for Ste Honorine, Major H. W. Cairns, O.C. "C" Company, was awarded the Military Cross, while C.S.M. W. W. Clelland, "C" Company, was awarded the Military Medal; Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C., was awarded the Military Cross for great gallantry in attending the wounded under devastating fire, and one of his stretcher-bearers, Lance-Corporal J. E. Monley, was awarded the Military Medal for complete selflessness in the performance of his duty. Private G. P.

Sands, who though wounded in both legs had continued to fire his Bren during the enemy counter-attack, with great effect, was also awarded the M.M.

Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb was promoted Captain and confirmed in his appointment as Adjutant, while Lieutenant D. W. Milne was appointed I.O. in his place. Padre Smith, great friend of the Battalion, had been called to higher spheres just before "D"-Day, and was now to be found at Rear Division as Senior Chaplain; however, he was unable to tie himself entirely to Divisional H.Q. and frequently visited the Battalion, being seen in or on all forms of transport, from a Staff car to a motor-cycle! At this stage, his successor, Padre G. Elliot Anderson, arrived to take his place in the Battalion. Reinforcements, consisting of five officers and fifty-three other ranks, arrived while the Battalion was in Longueval, a more than welcome addition to the depleted strength.

During this period of respite, plans were being made by the Brigadier and the C.O. for a second attack on Ste Honorine, which was to take place during the night of 22nd-23rd June. The enemy still held the village, now, moreover, a harassing target for the Divisional R.A., so life was not exactly peaceful there. For this attack the Battalion was to have the tanks it had so badly required previously, a squadron of the 13/18th Hussars (Shermans), under the command of Major D. B. Wormald, M.C.

The plan for this attack was different from the previous one in most respects. It was to be a silent night attack, the battalion axis was to be the road from Le Bas de Ranville to Ste Honorine, and the attack was to be made on a single company front. Final orders were given out by the C.O. at 1400 hours on 22nd June, and all section commanders had an opportunity to study good air photographs of the village and surrounding country. The C.O. had been allowed an extra company to assist in the mopping-up and consolidation of the objective, and "C" Company, 2nd Seaforth (Major A. M. Gilmour, M.C.), was put under command for this purpose. Company objectives were the same as for the previous attack on 13th June.

The attack went in at 0300 hours, when "B" Company (Major G. A. Nixon, M.C.) crossed the start-line on the southern slopes of the 30-metre contour. "B" Company were followed by "D," "C," and "A" Companies, and finally "C" Company, 2nd Seaforth. A considerable measure of surprise was achieved, as by 0320 hours "B" Company reported themselves on the outskirts of the village and meeting no opposition. However, at 0330 hours, the battle flared up in earnest and the advancing companies came under heavy Spandau-fire, which caused casualties and slowed up the momentum of the attack. By 0400 hours the Battalion was well inside the village, as were also the tanks of Major Wormald's squadron. Enemy defensive fire was now coming down on the village itself and its approaches from

the north in considerable intensity, and the Battalion had to fight all out to gain its objectives. At 0500 hours Battalion H.Q. informed Brigade that, as far as could be ascertained in the *mêlée* going on, all companies were probably on their objectives. At 0618 hours the success code-word, "Haggis," was sent to Brigade over the air: by 0640 hours all Battalion supporting arms were in position. The situation in the village at this time was by no means quiet, as enemy snipers in trees came to life and picked off unsuspecting officers and N.C.O.s, while "Minnie" added her unwelcome attentions to the enemy artillery concentrations; the Battalion, however, controlled its objectives.

Enemy tanks appeared from Cuverville about 0700 hours, under cover of smoke, but three were knocked out quickly by artillery and anti-tank fire and the remainder withdrew. At 0820 hours Brigade was informed that all the supporting tanks were in position; mopping-up had been completed, and anti-tank defence organised. The first counter-attack materialised about 0930 hours, when some thirty-five Mark IV. German tanks, followed by infantry, approached the village from the south. The majority of these tanks sat back and shelled the Battalion, while some eight of them got amongst the orchards, assisting their infantry infiltrating forward. "C" Company again stood their ground doggedly, and in spite of enemy infantry in front and enemy tanks behind them, dealt severely with the infantry, while the tanks of the 13/18th Hussars quickly accounted for their opposite numbers. The main counter-attack at 1100 hours was beaten off by our gunners and tanks, and as a result of casualties the Brigadier ordered a company from the 5th Seaforth to reinforce the Battalion. Casualties, mostly wounded, had now reduced the rifle companies' strength so considerably that first "A" and then "C" Companies had to withdraw from their objectives to positions nearer the centre of the village, while "C" Company, 2nd Seaforth, went to reinforce "D" Company.

The enemy, however, had had enough, and withdrew after 1200 hours from Cuverville. Major Wormald reported thirteen enemy tanks and two half-tracks knocked out as a result of the morning's action. The Divisional gunners had been firing almost continuously, it seemed, since first light, and but for their valuable support it is unlikely that the Battalion would have been able to hold on as it did. The tanks of the 13/18th Hussars were excellent, and their crews full of enthusiasm for the battle: their support undoubtedly was of first-rate importance to the Battalion.

The village was still subjected to heavy and hostile mortar- and shell-fire after the withdrawal of the enemy, but with the arrival of further assistance from both Seaforth battalions the Battalion moved forward and occupied its original objectives. About 1630 hours, after more shelling, a small counter-attack started to form up, but was quickly dispersed by the Divisional artillery, and at 2300 hours the weary remains of the Battalion gratefully handed over the much-







A/LT.-COLONEL H. W. CAIRNS, M.C.



T/LT.-COLONEL C. A. H. M. NOBLE, M.C.



BRIGADIER J. SOREL-CAMERON, D.S.O.



LT.-COLONEL D. B. LANG, D.S.O., M.C.

fought-for Ste Honorine to the 2nd Seaforth and retired into Brigade Reserve in the area of the 30-metre contour, south of Le Bas de Ranville.

Casualties had been heavy amongst both officers and other ranks. A sad loss was the death from wounds of C.S.M. J. A. Maclean, D.C.M., of "A" Company; his conduct during this battle had been outstandingly fine. A small man, with the heart of a lion, he was an inspiration to both officers and men alike: his death was felt by every man in the Battalion. For their gallantry in this battle, Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers, "C" Company, was awarded the Military Cross, and Sergeant H. Fraser, "B" Company, the Military Medal. The whole Battalion was delighted to hear of the immediate award of the D.S.O. to Major Wormald, of the 13/18th Hussars, for his spirited leadership of his squadron during the battle.

On 24th June the "D+7" party, who had been delayed by the storm in the Channel, rejoined the Battalion, under the command of Major C. A. H. M. Noble, M.C. Their crossing had not been uneventful, as, while waiting in the anchorage of Ouistreham, their Liberty-ship had been shelled by hostile coast batteries, causing casualties amongst those on board, and later had narrowly missed being mined.

The 25th June saw the departure of Lt.-Colonel Monro to the United Kingdom on posting, and the succession of Major H. W. Cairns, M.C., to the command of the Battalion. "Sandie's" popularity in the Battalion was unusual, to say the least of it. Every officer and man counted him as a personal friend and were prepared to follow him anywhere. The high morale he instilled into the Battalion is remembered to this day by all who served under him, and is not likely to be easily forgotten when old members of the Battalion meet. Major R. M. Munro, of the Regiment, joined the Battalion at this time from H.Q., 153rd Brigade, and took over command of "D" Company.

About 30th June the "D+14" party rejoined the Battalion under command of Captain I. M. Matheson, and soon afterwards the Battalion moved eastwards to the small village of Herouvillette, when it occupied, amongst other positions, a racing stable! The five days spent here were "fairly quiet," and memorable for the view all ranks had of the 1000-bomber raid on Caen during the evening of 7th July: as the sun was setting, a steady stream of four-engined bombers from Bomber Command flew in from the north, all at different heights and different speeds. The bombs could clearly be seen leaving the aircraft, as well as the bursting flak, together with the dust-cloud rising from the target area. It was an inspiring sight! A sudden concentration of enemy mortar bombs on the village caused the death, from wounds, of Major W. J. Macgregor, "C" Company Commander. "Bill" had commanded "C" Company at El Alamein, and had fought with the Battalion in almost all of its major actions to date: a man of great charm and a proved leader, his death meant a personal loss to all old members of the Battalion.

It was just before the move from Ranville to Herouvillette that the command of the Brigade changed once more when Brigadier A. J. H. Cassells, C.B.E., succeeded Brigadier Haugh. The new Brigade Commander, a Seaforth Highlander, was destined to command the Brigade from now onwards to "V.E."-Day and to prove a tower of strength and a firm friend to the Battalion. Major E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, of the Regiment (Brigade Major), had been wounded on 13th June and evacuated to the United Kingdom. About this time Major G. A. Nixon, M.C., left the Battalion to attend a Staff College course at Camberley. He had served with the Battalion continuously since January 1943 and had won his M.C. at the Sferro Hills battle. A fine soldier and a most gallant Company Commander, his fighting record in the Battalion was outstanding: he was as sorry to leave the Battalion and "B" Company as they were to see him go.

It is of interest to note that the casualties the Battalion suffered in Normandy from 7th to 30th June were the heaviest it incurred in any other month of the campaign in North-West Europe. Two officers were killed and fifteen wounded out of an establishment of thirty-six: twenty-seven other ranks were killed, fifteen died of wounds, and one hundred and sixty-one were wounded, which accounted for a quarter of its other ranks posted strength.

From Herouvillette the Battalion moved with its sister Seaforth battalions into the woods facing the Bois de Bavent and the "Triangle" in relief of the 154th Brigade. The Battalion relieved the 1st Black Watch, who appeared pleased to leave. In spite of being in reserve the Battalion incurred more casualties here than either of the other two battalions, owing to "overs" of all sizes inconveniently landing in the area. The "Triangle" was a triangle of roads, occupied by the enemy and controlling the main approaches to Troarn from the west: its capture was clearly to be part of the Brigade's next objective, and plans were prepared for its elimination immediately.

These plans were a small part of the army plan to enlarge the Orne bridgehead and divert the enemy's attention from the American build-up in the west. The 3rd (British) Division had come into the bridgehead and was fighting on the right of the 51st Highland Division and to the south of it. Caen had fallen to the Canadians on 9th July. An armoured thrust by the 8th Corps had been planned to push south and east of Caen, while the 51st Highland Division and the 6th Airborne Division secured the left flank. The Brigade plan was to clear out the "Triangle" and secure the Troarn road for a further mile beyond it. Initially, the 5th Seaforth were to take the "Triangle": when they were in position, the Battalion was to move forward and seize a Château and a cross-roads beyond it—the 2nd Seaforth would be in reserve behind the Battalion. The attack was to be supported by a heavy bomber raid, and the Château, known to be an enemy H.Q., was to be

"treated" by rocket-firing Typhoons beforehand. "D"-Day was to be 18th July.

At 0600 hours, 18th July, the first heavy bombers arrived over the target and duly dropped their bombs, correctly: about 0900 hours the 5th Seaforth, assisted by preliminary concentrations, attacked the "Triangle" and took it with slight casualties; consolidation was completed by 1100 hours. About 0930 hours the Battalion moved up into the 5th Seaforth positions, ready for its attack, and awaited its "H"-hour. This was finally given as noon, the Battalion attacking on a one-company front, with "C" Company (Major A. L. Macnab) leading, followed by "D" Company (Major R. M. Munro), "B" Company (Captain C. F. Burrows), and "A" Company (Major C. W. R. Hill). "C" Company's objective was the area of the track junction leading to the Château on the edge of the wood. After capturing this, "D" Company then advanced to capture the Château—in the face of much Spandau-fire. "A" and "B" Companies passed through "C" and made for their objectives, "A" on the left and "B" on the right of the cross-roads, some 300 yards east of the Château. By 4 P.M. all companies had overcome resistance and were established on their objectives; but it took "D" Company about two hours more, with the help of two "Crocodiles" (Churchill tank flame-throwers), to clear the enemy out of the Château and the surrounding area, and it suffered several casualties, including the Company Commander, wounded.

After a short period of reorganisation, when Majors P. M. Hunt and A. N. Parker of the Regiment joined the Battalion, there began the ten nerve-racking days in the "Triangle" area, during which the Battalion, in common with all the other troops there, was shelled almost incessantly by nearly every calibre of weapon from 210 mm. downwards. There was a steady, daily drain of casualties, and on 22nd July Lt.-Colonel H. W. Cairns, M.C., was wounded. Hugh Cairns had only commanded the Battalion for a month, but during that brief period had proved himself a cool and deliberate commander. His wound might well have proved fatal but for the energy and efficiency of the M.O., Captain W. W. Yellowlees, M.C., who personally took him back to the M.D.S. and got him a blood transfusion *en route*. Members of the Battalion at this time will remember Colonel Cairns sitting out under an apple tree in an orchard in Battalion H.Q.'s area behind the "Triangle," quite impervious to the sniping self-propelled gun, which dropped many shells into this area at unpredictable moments, with generally unpleasant results: his gallantry and example at Ste Honorine will not easily be forgotten.

Two days later Major C. A. H. M. Noble, M.C., who had taken over command, was also wounded in an incident in which the Brigade Major was killed, the Brigadier slightly wounded, Captain MacCunn wounded, two other ranks killed and three wounded: all by the same shell.

Major P. M. Hunt then assumed command, the fourth Commanding Officer in seven weeks, and after relief by the 7th Black Watch on 29th July, brought the Battalion back to a rest area west of the Orne, close to St Aubin, the Brigade "B" Echelon area. It was here that Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, M.C., joined the Battalion from the School of Infantry and took over command.

Even here the troops were not entirely free from shell-fire, and an extremely heavy gun had a nasty habit of sending over an outsize projectile two or three times a day—just, as it were, to remind people that the Battle of Normandy was not by any means over. The Quartermaster, in particular, had cause to dislike this gun, for one shell landed at the mouth of his dug-out and reduced the stock of his precious menagerie. This menagerie, chiefly fowls, was a bonus to the rather monotonous field ration.

Despite the shelling the Battalion carried out a fair measure of training and reorganisation. Already since "D"-Day, less than two months before, the Battalion had "turned over" in large numbers, and although the men had earned a rest, it was considered imperative to concentrate on some basic training such as field-craft, patrolling, and weapon training. It was well-nigh impossible to shoot weapons with safety in such a confined space as the beach-head, which was by now overflowing with soldiery. However, a couple of bulldozers were borrowed, and soon fair replicas of 30-yard stop butts appeared along one end of a field. Most of the Brens and Stens and a large percentage of rifles were fired before the Commanding Officer yielded to pressure from units nearby. The 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who were getting most of the overs, decided in desperation, and with some justification, to repay in kind, and sent a few rounds back. Discretion was the better part of valour, and the shooting was stopped; but not before the Camerons' needs had been met.

A most important decision was taken during this period—the Carrier Platoon, which had served the Battalion in the past so faithfully and so well, was disbanded. Experience in the close country of Normandy, and of the conditions of European warfare generally, had convinced the Commanding Officer that the many highly trained men in the platoon could be better employed to reinforce the weakened rifle companies. The decision was not merely one of expediency; but in place of the Carrier Platoon, a small contingent of expert snipers, intensively trained by the intrepid Pipe-Sergeant, Sergeant A. MacRae, formed the nucleus of what was to become the Scout Platoon. This experiment proved on many occasions, in later battles, to be an outstanding success.

The Infantry Battalion establishment is essentially flexible. The name "Scout Platoon" covered much. It varied in strength from fifteen to thirty; it was organised into sections of four to six men—armed with anything from a sniper's rifle to a Vickers "K" type

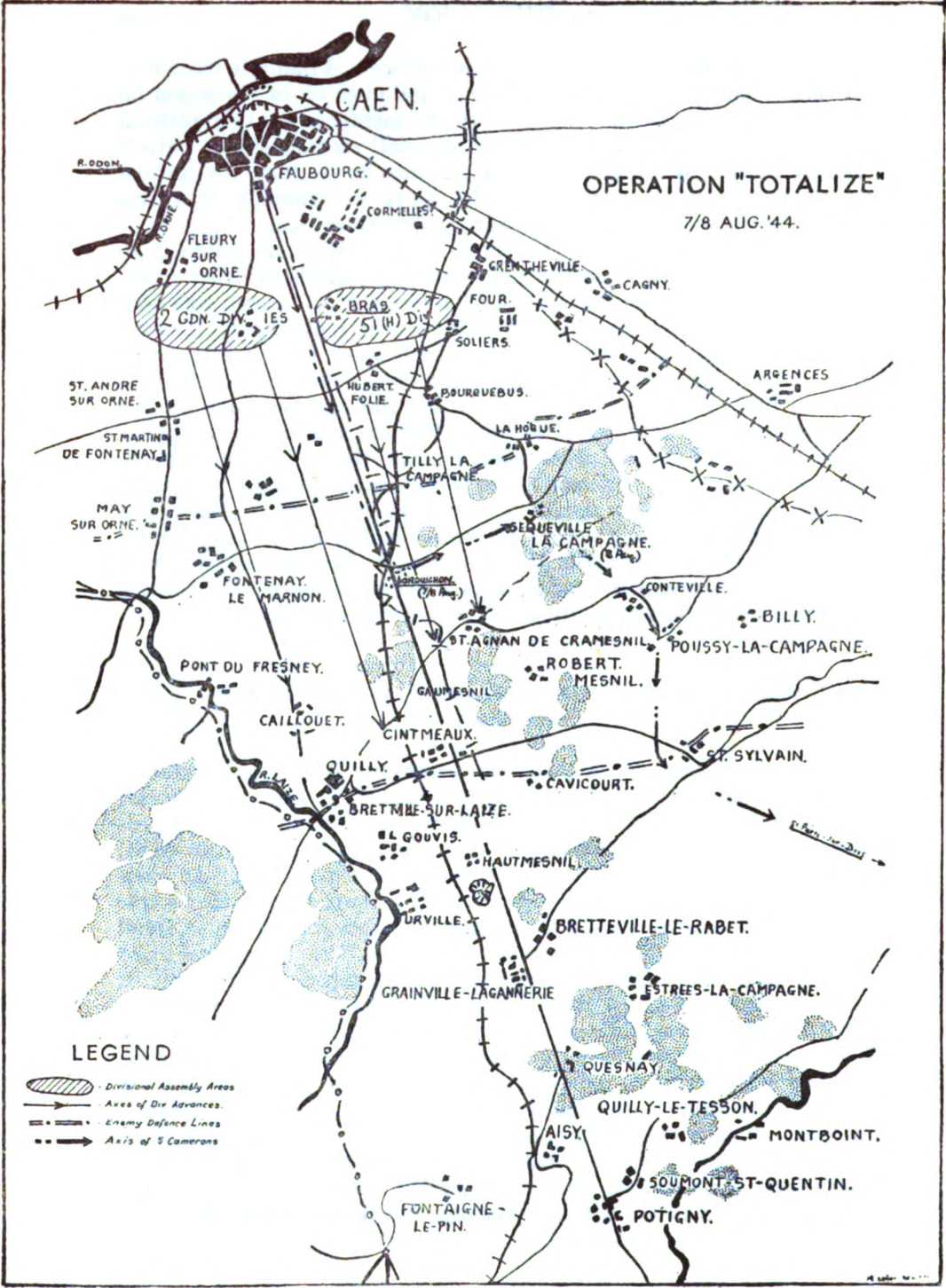
machine-gun (as used by the Special Air Service). Finally it went into action either on its flat feet or in carriers, and even on one occasion on horseback. In the more static positions, members of this platoon worked in pairs as orthodox snipers or in small reconnaissance patrols of two or three. When in pursuit or advance to contact, the normal carrier-platoon tactics were adopted. Only occasionally was this platoon used to supplement a rifle company in an attack.

The tasks carried out by the Scout Platoon were no different to those allotted to snipers, carrier platoons, and patrols of other units. The formation of this semi-specialist platoon of selected men was considered necessary to overcome the difficulty of individually training the large numbers of reinforcements which were posted after each action. Casualties were high from Normandy to Germany, and there was little time and opportunity to prepare the rank and file of rifle companies between actions. The Scout Platoon was nursed as far as possible, and kept for the more skilled tasks, though not necessarily the more hazardous. Its casualties were relatively light compared with the rifle companies, and in consequence its members reached a high degree of proficiency over a period. Finally, by forming such a sub-unit in place of the Carrier Platoon, both bodies and vehicles were saved. Each rifle company was allotted a second carrier for its stores—extra space for tools, ammunition, &c., was always required.

#### THE BREAK-OUT FROM THE BRIDGEHEAD AND THE PURSUIT TO THE SEINE

At long last, in early August, the break-out from the Normandy bridgehead was to begin. Under the 1st Canadian Army and the 1st (British) Corps, the 51st Highland Division struck south-west towards Falaise. After a deep penetration with the Canadians on the right, the Division turned east in the general direction of Rouen. To their south went the remainder of the 21st Army Group, and farther south again went the Americans. The country was close, consisting of small woods and orchards, ideal for enemy delaying tactics. Every few miles there was a village, and each one required a small action to clear it. Morale at this time was high, for the enemy was on the run, though never west of the Seine did he give up the struggle easily. It was a fatiguing period, where pursuer was given no rest. Higher Commanders, with good reason, drove the tired troops forward: only they, at the time, knew the value to be gained by speed. No sooner had a battalion completed its task than it was urged on to the next. There was no break from this headlong rush till the Seine was reached, and then the Division was luckier than most. Other Divisions of the 21st Army Group crossed the Seine, without pausing, and headed across Northern France to Belgium and Holland.





This phase, which lasted throughout August, took the Battalion from Caen, out along the Falaise road to Bourg Achard, via St Pierre-sur-Dives and Lisieux.

On 6th August 1944 the Battalion moved out of its rest area to take part in the last, decisive battle of the Caen-Falaise struggle. In spite of the shelling, the week's rest, training, and reorganisation had made a great difference: the Battalion was ready for battle, and everyone was in good heart. The whole field of the forthcoming operation had been studied thoroughly on a series of sand models, and on the night of 7th-8th August, when the 5th Camerons joined the vast flood of infantry and armour moving south, the objectives were known to all.

The Battalion moved by motor transport during the evening and travelled, via Caen, to Bras, a village two miles north of Tilly-la-Campagne and just east of the Falaise road. There was much evidence of the previous armoured battles in the area, and impressive new evidence of the battle about to begin. During the march to the dispersal point a few casualties were caused by artillery fire. A day of intensive reconnaissance and planning followed, while the Jocks rested comparatively undisturbed.

The "big plan," Operation "Totalize," was, briefly, this: The 1st Canadian Army (in which the 51st Highland Division was participating) was to attack southwards astride the Falaise road, with the 3rd Canadian Division on the right and the 51st Highland Division on the left. The 154th Brigade was to attack south-east towards Garchelles; the 152nd Brigade was to secure Tilly; the 153rd Brigade was in reserve. The whole operation was to be supported by Bomber Command and a medium artillery barrage.

The method of attack, conceived by General Simmonds, the Canadian Corps Commander, was unique at the time, and it can honestly be said that no attack of its kind was so boldly planned and yet so successfully carried out during the remainder of the campaign. It involved the employment of large columns of tanks and infantry armoured carriers, known as "Kangaroos," in a deep thrust straight through the main enemy defences by night. Its simple boldness was too much for the orthodox German, who failed to realise what was happening until it was too late. The armour was five miles behind the enemy forward positions by morning, and the lines were broken.

When studied in retrospect, Operation "Totalize" was hailed as a brilliant success, and so it was; but a few words on the picture presented to the Battalion on that night will perhaps show the reader that the German was not the only person out of control.

Under an arch of searchlights, aimed into the sky from some miles behind the start-line ("Monty's moonlight," as this artificial means of lightening the night became known to the troops), the Battalion moved up into its forming-up position. As the Camerons waited to cross the



start-line, stream after stream of heavy bombers coming from the Caen direction passed overhead; suddenly, a few minutes before "H"-hour, flares were dropped by the pathfinders, and following immediately after came the first bombs. It was both thrilling and frightening, for the parachute flares broke right overhead and the noise of bombs was deafening. A thousand "heavies" were involved, so the excitement was not surprising.

As soon as the last bomb had dropped, the barrage opened—the signal for the general advance. Armour rumbled beside the Battalion as it made its way, the only battalion of the Division involved in the deep thrust to be on its feet. The 154th Brigade, cramped up in their Kangaroos, were to go for the villages of Garcelles and Sequeville. The 5th Camerons were to move south along the line of the Falaise road to capture Lorquichon, a village that was a junction-point between Canadians and Highlanders, a mile or so short of the armour's objective. The other units of the 152nd Brigade were to capture a more limited, though none the less tough, objective, Tilly-la-Campagne.

The weather was warm and even sultry, and the dust was indescribable. Vehicles shuffled and jerked their way forward on every side. Ten minutes after crossing the start-line the German retaliation began. Guns, "Moaning Minnies," and Spandaus, firing tracer, opened up. The enemy, not knowing what was coming, nor from where, sent their shells mostly over the Camerons' heads, and the Spandaus were luckily very wide of the mark. Half-way to the first objectives the armoured columns became chaotic. Many of the guiding tanks went up on mines, and those following had to find their way by compass—aided by the occasional landmark outlined in a fire from a burning vehicle. It seemed inconceivable that the attack could be successful. Everyone started shouting "Where are we?" and "Who are you?" The Battalion, on a one-company front, was more easily controlled. At least it was in its natural element, on the ground, and it had a road to guide it.

The Battalion took more than two hours to reach the point at which companies diverged on their separate objectives. Many snipers lurked in the fields of green wheat; despite the hazards of the night, casualties were very light, and thirty-five prisoners were taken. By 4.30 A.M. all companies were reported to have gained their objectives. Battalion H.Q. moved with "A" Company during the morning, but later moved into pits near the Lorquichon cross-roads; afterwards it was learnt that they had spent twenty-four hours in the proximity of a time-bombed bridge! The Battalion moved forward again at noon on 9th August to help to clear the woods in the area of Sequeville. The clearing of these woods was carried out in stifling heat, but opposition was practically negligible. At nightfall the task was complete and the Battalion moved on to occupy Poussy, a village about two miles farther south. This was secured by 4 A.M. and the Battalion then dug in.

It had been a very exhausting day, and a very considerable advance had been made. Poussy was a singularly unattractive spot; not the least of its annoyances being swarms of bees, though shell-fire was conspicuous too. Here the Battalion remained until the evening of 14th August. Shell-fire was responsible for wounding fourteen men during this period—and on 12th August Sergeant Thomson of "D" Company was killed. During the Poussy period Major P. M. Hunt was appointed to the command of the 7th Seaforth Highlanders and was succeeded in command of "B" Company by Major D. F. Callander, M.C., of the Regiment, who had recently joined.

Valuable information was gained by patrols here (particularly by a patrol under Lieutenant E. Macdonald, D.C.M., on the night of 10th-11th), and the team of snipers now proved its worth.

Shortly before the Battalion was relieved at Poussy, the area was subjected to heavy shell- and mortar-fire: Lieutenant Hogg was killed, and there were other casualties. The Battalion moved to a concentration area west of St Sylvain that night (13th-14th August) and travelled next morning, embussed, to the high ground west of Ernes, before marching eastwards to St Pierre-sur-Dives as darkness fell. St Pierre was entered on the 16th. The bridge over the River Dives had been blown by the enemy, and the town was shelled and mortared at intervals throughout the day. About fifty prisoners were taken.

It was at St Pierre that the 5th Camerons were first greeted as "liberators." Patrols entering nearby villages were welcomed in news-reel fashion, and civilians provided much information about enemy movements and dispositions.

On 18th August the Battalion left St Pierre by the Lisieux road, with the crossings of the River Vie as the main objectives. The chief obstacle in this attack was the very high ground east of St Julien, which not only dominated all the ground the Battalion gained, but provided an enemy bird's-eye view of all its movements. The attack, however, was pressed steadily home, and a "Jock Column" was sent out on the left flank to capture Coupesarte. Opposition came from a number of Spandaus, and there were a few casualties, including Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C., wounded. Led by Major A. N. Parker, the now depleted "A" Company assaulted across two blown culverts, and, although under fire from three sides, it successfully held its objective. Corporal T. Williamson, who with his Bren gun personally disposed of two Spandau posts, was recommended for the M.M.: he received a Mention in Despatches, however, for his conduct in this action. A sad incident of the day was the accidental machine-gunning of the Battalion area by the R.A.F., as a result of which several casualties, a few fatal, were sustained. There was some grim humour to the incident, which did a little to offset the temporary anger felt for the mistake. About 10 A.M. a flight of five Spitfires cornered Battalion

H.Q. and "H.Q." Company in a narrow lane and, evidently deciding this was too good a chance to miss, circled around for a few minutes like so many preying eagles. In due course they swooped, despite the streams of yellow smoke pouring out from canisters lit to distinguish friend from foe. The Commanding Officer was seen, by those sheltering in a culvert, trying to take cover behind some saplings. One aircraft would dive, splattering the ground with bullets, and the Colonel would flatten himself against an apple tree for protection. Before he could swing round, however, another aircraft would come from the opposite direction. It did much for morale and incited the men to shout advice and encouragement to their harassed C.O.! For one person in particular, Major Bill Field, the Battery Commander, it was no laughing matter. He lost his vehicle with all his kit and a brand new pair of field-glasses. The vehicle, burnt to a cinder, lies in that French ditch to this day. The Battalion Command vehicle also suffered a similar fate.

The Battalion spent an uneasy night, in which carrying parties managed to get food to forward companies; next day it withdrew to behind St Julien, the movement being begun in the evening and well covered by a platoon of "C" Company under Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers, M.C.

After only two hours' rest the Battalion moved forward again at 5 A.M. on 20th August. A platoon of "B" Company was sent forward to establish a bridgehead over the River Vie, but on reaching the river it was found that both bridges had been blown. While "B" Company (Major D. F. Callander, M.C.) and "D" Company (Major I. M. Mathe-son) forded the river and began to tackle the opposition, "B" Company's gallant platoon held the bridgehead they had secured till the forward companies had passed through. Supported by "C" Squadron (Tanks) of the East Riding Yeomanry, the advance continued whenever an area large enough for the Battalion to assemble had been cleared; and the main attack, south and then parallel to the Lisieux road, began. Progress was slow but steady, and soon prisoners were coming in to Battalion Headquarters. On reaching the village of St Fressard-la-Chere, the enemy shelled and mortared the road, causing a number of casualties; but, as the fire fell near Battalion H.Q., it indicated that the enemy did not know how far the leading companies had progressed.

Supported by tanks, which were of the greatest assistance, the final objective ("Lobster") was gained just before dusk and the Battalion dug in for the night.

This small pursuit action from the River Vie to the objective "Lobster," a matter of 5 or 6 miles, marked one of the Battalion's proudest days. There was little opposition, and the action had little bearing on the general battle, but the strain was severe when everyone

was fatigued. Attacking under stress can sometimes be as exhausting as a withdrawal. The "Lobster" advance was a real test for junior leaders. Tank/infantry co-operation on a troop/platoon level was carried through successfully, time after time. The German habit of leaving snipers and machine-gunners as ambushers could be both trying and expensive, and two or three men could hold a battalion up for hours if the will to push on was lacking. These many small successful encounters boosted morale and did more than anything else to cement friendly relationship with the East Riding Yeomanry, who were to work with the Battalion for many months to come.

From 22nd until 26th August the Battalion remained in the area of St Pierre-des-Ifs. The well-earned short rest was spent in training; rifles were zeroed on an improvised range, and route-marches were carried out! It was here that Major R. M. Munro rejoined the Battalion from hospital and assumed the appointment of Second-in-Command. A draft of sixty other ranks arrived on the 25th. "We made the most of it," the "scribe" noted for 'The 79th News' (October 1944): "the Pipes, the wines, the freedom from shell-fire, and the good food, gave us perhaps our best rest since 'D'-Day—it certainly appeared to be the first time the Battalion was not under shell-fire since landing in France."

On 26th August the Battalion began a move to Bourg Achard, travelling in motor transport by Lisieux, Thiberville, Lieury, St Georges-du-Vieuvre, and Pont Authou. Bourg Achard was reached on the morning of the 28th, and patrols were pushed out towards the Seine. A troop of tanks supported a patrol by "C" Company (Major A. L. Macnab) towards Le Landin: sixty prisoners were brought in at the end of the day. The Battalion consolidated on high ground a mile from the river. It was from here that all available fire-power dealt with the Germans still trying to get across: there were the Camerons' 6-pounders; the 17-pounders of "K" Troop, in support; the medium machine-guns of "D" Company, 1/7th Middlesex Regiment; and the ever-present faithful friends, the 492nd Highland Field Battery, while dominating the immediate area ahead and all round were the battalion snipers of the Scout Platoon.

It was a glorious day, reminiscent of punt-gun shooting. There was only one ferry left to the enemy for retreat across the Seine in this area, and by good luck this was in range of small arms. All the weapons that could be mustered were unleashed over open sights at the unfortunate Germans cooped up on a small raft-like contraption in mid-river. "Every time a coconut!"—it was too easy. The toll taken of the enemy was indeed heavy.

## THE LIBERATION OF ST VALERY AND INVESTMENT OF LE HAVRE

During September 1944, when other formations were battling their way into Belgium and Southern Holland, the Highland Division, having crossed the Seine at Elbeuf, south of Rouen, turned north to the coast. A brief diversion to liberate St Valery-en-Caux was planned before the Highland Division, and the 49th Division, were turned against Le Havre. This "hard nut" was cracked more easily than expected, though the 5th Camerons' task proved no light one. The battle was over before mid-September, but the Division did not move north-east, to the main battle front, till the end of the month. The Allies had other ports farther north, such as Boulogne, Calais, and Dunkirk to capture, in addition to Le Havre; and so far were the lines of communication now stretched that the 51st was grounded and its transport removed to bolster other formations. The last fortnight of September was indeed a pleasant period, with the war a long way away.

By this time the rest of the B.L.A. were rushing headlong to the Dutch and Belgian frontiers, so it was an era of peace for the Highland Division. With much forethought and a touch of sentiment, the authorities had decreed that the 51st Highland Division and the Canadians should be allowed to avenge St Valery and Dieppe respectively. Accordingly, these formations turned north, away from the general advance east.

On the last day of August 1944 it was learnt that the Division was to move to St Valery-en-Caux, with the 152nd Brigade leading; and on 1st September the 5th Camerons embussed and covered the first stage of the long move. All along the route the reception given to the troops was heart-stirring; indeed, it seemed to compensate the men for the gruelling time they had undergone since setting foot on French soil.

It was decided that "D" Company (Major A. N. Parker) should have the honour of being the first to enter St Valery since the surrender there, in June 1940, of the 152nd Brigade, the 153rd Brigade, and Divisional Headquarters. As may well be imagined, the excitement was great! The Division had vowed to return to St Valery, and now the 5th Camerons were to be in the lead. Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, M.C., who had been taken prisoner while Adjutant of the 4th Battalion (though afterwards succeeding in making his escape), was received by the Mayor, in the centre of the Square, after "D" Company had made its triumphal entry into the town.

Two full days were spent in and around St Valery, during which time those last actions of 1940 were reconstructed. A Battalion Order of the Day was issued to explain to the "younger" branch of the Regiment's Territorials the significance of St Valery and all it meant to the Division. Parties were shown the bridgehead battlefield and



ST VALERY-EN-CAUX  
PIPERS MACNEILL (FORT WILLIAM) AND CHISHOLM (INVERNESS) WITH  
FRENCH GIRL IN CAMERON TARTAN SKIRT



ST VALERY-EN-CAUX  
GENERAL VIEW OF STATION SQUARE, WITH CAMERON PIPERS PLAYING





the West Wall defences built up between the years. Graves of 4th Camerons were traced and catalogued, and time was even spent (with ultimate success) searching for the Commanding Officer's kit, which had been buried in a flower bed on 11th June 1940. Among the first to welcome "D" Company were two French girls in Cameron tartan. The kilts they wore had been guarded and treasured all the war years, and it is improbable that they were taken back on charge! By a strange coincidence Battalion H.Q. was billeted with some refugees who, in 1940, had succoured many wounded Camerons in their "Villa Elizabeth" in the heart of burning St Valery on that fateful night before captivity.

The Division's deviation to St Valery was not activated entirely by sentimental motives. Le Havre, still in enemy hands and defended with formidable "Siegfried Line" defences, was urgently required by the Allies for logistic build-up. It was hoped the defenders would capitulate when they realised they had been left so far behind. To help them decide, the R.A.F. subjected them to heavy raids which, in the confined perimeter, produced devastating damage.

The Battalion received further movement orders in the early hours of the morning of 4th September. It was to lead the Brigade and to take up a position by the cross-roads south-west of Epouville—about 16 miles from St Sylvain (to which an initial move had been made the day before). This position was reached at 11.15 A.M., after a lengthy march, and the Battalion dug in. Le Havre, the objective of the impending attack, lay 9 miles off to the south-west, and the sound of battle could be heard throughout the day. Except for a patrol under Lieutenant Burns, which gathered useful information, there was no activity next day; but on 6th September Lt.-Colonel Lang briefed all officers for the forthcoming operations.

Patrols and reconnaissances occupied the next forty-eight hours, save for a morning drill parade, on the 8th, under R.S.M. Slee, M.B.E. Then, at 10.30 P.M. on the night of 10th September, the 5th Camerons proceeded to an assembly area at St Barthelemy.

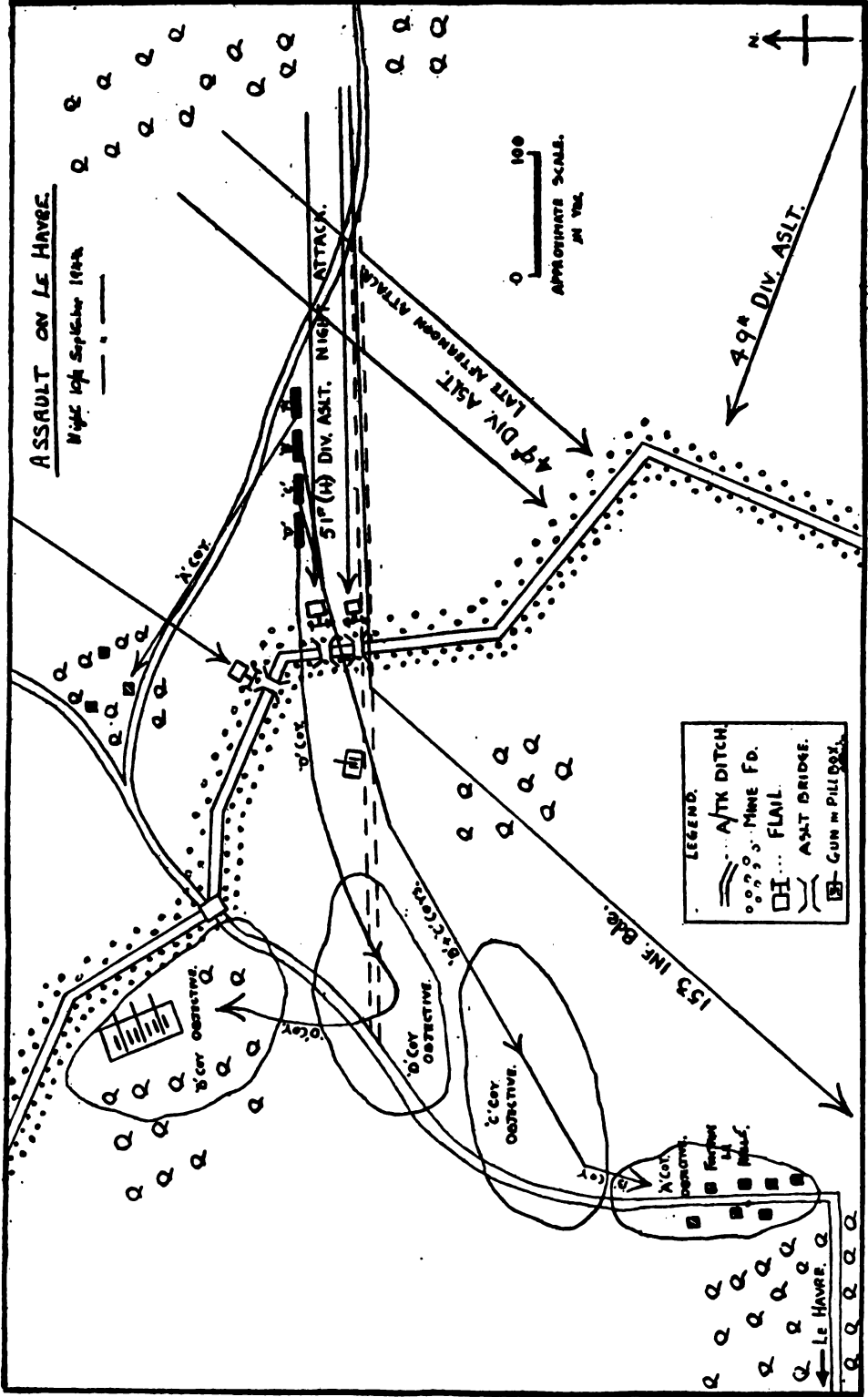
The fixed perimeter defences of Le Havre were the first of their kind the B.L.A. had encountered. They were most formidable, and the highly mechanised armoured equipment allotted for the assault was essential to success. There was to be a two-pronged attack across the minefields and anti-tank ditch; by the 49th Division on the left, starting in the afternoon, and by the Highland Division on the right, later that night. The 152nd were to be the leading Brigade of the 51st: the 5th Seaforth and the 5th Camerons were to make the breaches for the Brigade.

The mechanised equipment available consisted of Flails for exploding mines, assault bridges, carried on tanks, for bridging the ditch, and tanks carrying fascines for filling in the ditch as an alternative if the bridge-laying tanks failed. Finally, there were Crocodile flame-throwers



**ASSAULT ON LE HAVRE**

Night 14th September 1944



**LEGEND.**

- ATK DITCH
- o o o o MINE F.D.
- FLAIL
- ▭ ASLT BRIDGE
- ☒ GUN IN PILL BOX

Le Havre

A Coy. Objective

B Coy. Objective

C Coy. Objective

D Coy. Objective

E Coy. Objective

F Coy. Objective

G Coy. Objective

H Coy. Objective

I Coy. Objective

J Coy. Objective

K Coy. Objective

L Coy. Objective

M Coy. Objective

N Coy. Objective

O Coy. Objective

P Coy. Objective

Q Coy. Objective

R Coy. Objective

S Coy. Objective

T Coy. Objective

U Coy. Objective

V Coy. Objective

W Coy. Objective

X Coy. Objective

Y Coy. Objective

Z Coy. Objective

and A.V.R.E. (Engineer) tanks firing explosives—both required to reduce the pillboxes beyond the mines and ditch.

The technique to be employed was as follows: The Flails were to lead and start flailing. When they reached the near edge of the mine-field, the bridges and fascines were to be called up; then the Flails were to cross the gap and continue flailing the mines on the inner edge of the defences. Once the gap was through, the Crocodile flame-throwers and A.V.R.E. tanks could go forward, followed by the infantry. It was a complicated operation, made even more ambitious by being done at night.

The attack started well, with the Flails moving forward to the flailing line, guided by Bofors tracer fired overhead. Alas, after a time it was clear it was not going to be as easy as at first thought! Many Flails went up themselves on mines, and, at an hour when the breach should have been made and the infantry well into the defences, the bridge-layers and fascine carriers were still trying unsuccessfully to make the crossing. "D" Company, under Major A. N. Parker, got to the area of the gap and was subjected to murderously heavy defensive fire ranged on the ditch.

The leading companies at first felt helpless, not knowing whether to try to push on and ignore the supporting armoured vehicles, or to wait for them in their gapping activities. During this period of indecision they were in the open and receiving the full blast of the enemy artillery. Eventually "D" Company pressed on over the mines and ditch and, to their surprise and delight, found themselves beyond the fire. It was like reaching a sheltered lagoon across a rough sea. Casualties during this hectic time were severe. Major A. L. Macnab, commanding "C" Company, the second company in the attack, and Captain D. W. Milne (the Intelligence Officer) were killed.

Contrasted with the toll of battle, two stories are recorded. "D" Company, having negotiated the ditch, went forward to their objective. With great relief they established their H.Q. against a bank. As dawn broke they found they were hard by, not a bank but a pillbox, from which protruded a long-barrelled 88 mm., with its crew in residence. It is questionable who were the more surprised, the Germans or "D" Company. Luckily there were more of "D" Company!

The other incident relates to the crossing of the ditch. Before morning, two gaps, one on each side of a corner in the ditch, had been established. The Battalion carriers and anti-tank guns succeeded in crossing one of the gaps and getting inside the perimeter; but, in the confusion, they succeeded, equally efficiently, in crossing the other and so went outside again. ....

As dawn was breaking, "B" Company, taking over "C" Company's task, began to clear the village of Fontaine-la-Mallet, the first village to be met inside the perimeter, while "C" Company and Battalion H.Q. moved into the wooded area at Freville about 7 A.M.

"B" Company finished its work about 9 A.M. Fontaine-la-Mallet had indeed really ceased to exist, as a result of the attentions the Lancaster bombers had paid to it previously. On the following day Le Havre surrendered, and the Battalion was soon able to settle down to a fortnight of training and reorganisation.

#### THE ADVANCE TO THE MAAS NORTH OF THE NIJMEGEN CORRIDOR

This is perhaps the place to explain the positions on the 21st Army Group front at the end of September. In general, from north to south, the front ran from Antwerp inclusive but exclusive of the Scheldt estuary, across Northern Belgium and Southern Holland to Eindhoven and then down to the Ardennes. In the centre the British 2nd Army held a precarious and narrow corridor far into Holland, including crossings of the Maas and Waal at Grave and Nijmegen, resulting from the joint efforts of the 1st Airborne Corps and the 30th British Corps. Had the Arnhem airborne landing been successfully followed up, the Allies would have had no more major obstacles before the North German plains; but two major tasks faced them before the assault on Germany could begin. These were, first, the clearing of the Scheldt estuary, so that the port of Antwerp could be used, and, secondly, the widening of the corridor, both north and south, so as to bring the Allied line up to the nearest natural obstacle, the Maas.

This period, covering October and early November 1944, found the Division first moving into the line at the base and northern edge of the corridor near Eindhoven, preparatory to further attacks, and then driving north via Schijndel, Boxtel, and s'Hertogenbosch to the Maas. These attacks were made in conjunction with the Canadian operations for clearing the Scheldt islands.

The Battalion stayed at Hecqueville, close to the area where it had concentrated before the attack on Le Havre, from 13th until 30th September 1944. It was a real period of rest and refit. The Divisional transport was taken away to help the forces investing Boulogne and Dunkirk farther north, so there was little to be done but wait. Some Battalion games were held, during which the C.O. and the three senior Majors showed up the youth of the Battalion by beating all-comers in an open mile medley relay! To encourage junior officer and N.C.O. initiative, individual platoons were sent off to different areas an average radius of 30 miles from Battalion H.Q. and told to look after themselves as best they could. It proved conclusively who were entitled to the "ten talents" and who were not, and soon sifted the sheep from the goats. Major J. L. Melville of the Regiment, who had joined just before the battle for Le Havre, took over "C" Company, Major Callander had "B," Major Parker remained with "D,"

and Major Matheson with "A." R.S.M. Slee was in his element during this period of respite.

On 30th September the Battalion moved to Richemont, followed up by a further move next day to Lieu St Amand, where many of the men saw the battlefields of the 1914-18 war for the first time. There were also visits to the 1940 battlefields of the 1st and 4th Battalions.

When, on 3rd October, the Battalion again went into the line, the fighting had swept far north through Belgium and up into Holland. The sector in which the 5th Camerons dug in was in the area of Best, just north of Eindhoven; the 2nd Seaforth and 5th Seaforth were in Best itself and north-east of it; the 5th Seaforth were on the Battalion's left, and the 2nd Derbyshire Yeomanry on their right; the latter unit filled the gap between the 153rd and 152nd Brigades (right and left respectively) pending the arrival of the 154th Brigade from Dunkirk.

For almost three weeks the Battalion remained here, and an excellent place it was for putting into practice the theories learnt in the training period after Le Havre. Practically all young officers and N.C.O.s who had yet to win their battle-spurs had the chance of leading patrols. The Scout Platoon did invaluable work, capturing several prisoners for identification purposes, but they suffered a serious loss when Sergeant MacRae was badly wounded and evacuated home.

The line near Best provided officers and men with every variety of activity. It was the perfect training-ground. The enemy, at the date of the Battalion's arrival, was forceful, but by the time the Camerons left, it can honestly be said, he was dejected and worried. In many ways the situation was difficult, for the Battalion was required to be aggressive, and yet it was not permitted to advance the line ahead of the existing front until the time for the next offensive was ripe. The unit it had relieved was tired, as it had been embroiled in the chase all the way from the Franco-Belgian frontier. On arrival, therefore, the enemy temporarily had the upper hand. The Battalion, however, was fresh from training and rest, and soon started to swing the balance.

It was a curious position to hold. There were no natural features for defence on either side. The country was closely wooded, the enemy initially being only 100 yards from the F.D.L.s. Even then their positions were blind, and only patrols were to be observed. There were a few farm buildings in the sector, but on the whole both section positions and sub-unit H.Q.s were in slits and dug-outs. As already said, it was a heaven-sent opportunity to try out the patrolling, raiding, and deployment of Battalion weapons which had been practised in France.

The Commanding Officer decided to decentralise the control and planning of the day-to-day offensive operations to the Second-in-Command, Major R. M. Munro. A large air photo of the area was obtained and set up with talc. The Second-in-Command then set himself the task of harassing every inch of front methodically, over a period

of weeks, using varied means of assault, both orthodox and unorthodox. The snipers penetrated deep, and protected both gunner F.O.O.s and regimental mortar fire-controllers as they observed their fire from positions well forward in No Man's Land. At first reconnaissance patrols contacted the enemy by night, and very soon fighting patrols and raids were organised. Life became an exciting game, and all Commanders were asked for their views on original ways of hitting the German. One night, a platoon would creep out armed with two companies'-worth of Bren guns and let loose thousands of rounds against some small unfortunate and unsuspecting enemy post at point-blank range. On another, a similar trick was practised, but with all the Battalion's 2-inch mortars and half the P.I.A.T.s instead of the Brens. Even the supporting Bofors anti-aircraft guns and the Cameron anti-tank guns were given unorthodox opportunities of showing their worth. Clearly, after a week, the Camerons were right on top. The enemy realised it, lost heart, and withdrew out of direct contact; and the Battalion enjoyed it.

Just before moving up to Holland, the Battalion had been sent six Canadian subalterns. They were of the finest stock. They were not youngsters, but more than justified themselves in dash and endurance. They had started the war in Canada, in anti-aircraft and coast artillery regiments, but seeing no future in such a rôle, had volunteered to serve with British infantry. They were, alas, too brave, and all became casualties sooner or later, though only one was killed, we are thankful to relate. They deserved the sincere gratitude and respect they gained.

A few lines have been devoted to the Battalion's aggressive tactics. These tactics may appear even more unusual when considering what was going on behind the lines. Eindhoven was only a mile or two away, and Eindhoven was by now a gay city and the home of cinema and theatre. Every form of hospitality was showered on the troops. Although they were in the line, it was nothing for every man to have a civilised bath once a week in some generous Dutchman's house. Local leave was freely arranged, and, after a week in this area, the Battalion had anything up to a third of the troops out of the line by day.

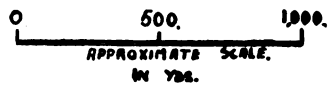
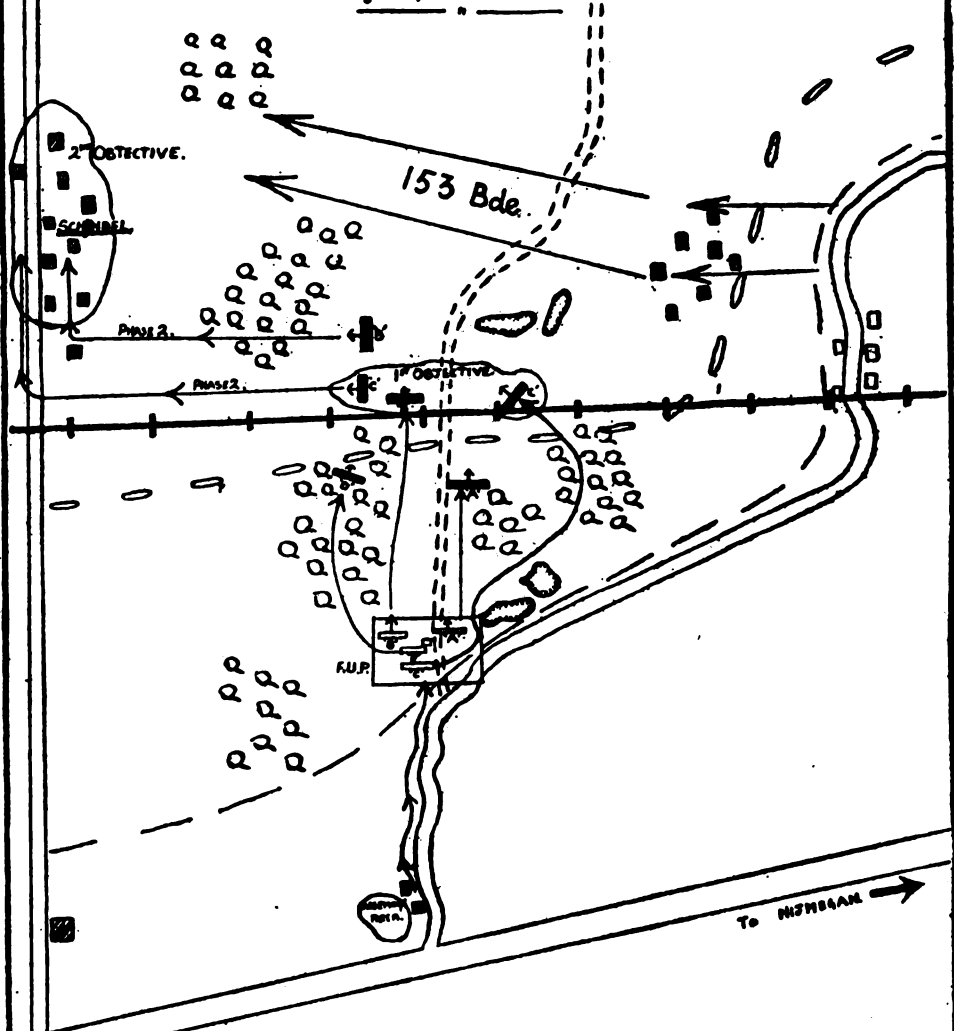
On 20th October the Battalion heard that it was to be relieved for more active operations. An attack towards s'Hertogenbosch, at Corps level, was impending. This attack was part of the vast clearing operations extending from the Nijmegen corridor northwards to the River Maas; and it was all to be co-ordinated with the clearance of the Scheldt banks and the opening of Antwerp port. Indeed, so important was this "drive" considered, that the Army Commander came personally beforehand to brief all Commanding Officers in the Division.

The break into the existing German lines in the north-eastern sector was to be effected initially by three Divisions, the 7th Armoured

To BOXTEL. AND  
S'HERTMEERBOOM.

ATTACK ON SCHINDEL.

Night 22/24 October 1944.



LEGEND.	
--- (dashed line)	OWNERS FILL
--- (solid line)	ENEMY FILL'S
A (with arrow)	A COMPANY.



and the 53rd (W.) Divisions, with the 51st Highland Division following up: the 15th (S.) Division were directed on Tilburg. Before dark on 23rd October (chosen as it was the anniversary of El Alamein), the Battalion moved up to its assembly area, some 1500 yards behind the start-line, for the attack on the small town of Schijndel. It was difficult, sand-dune country, with little or no cover, and hence the reason why the assembly area was so far behind the start-line. The night was very cold. Companies moved to the F.U.P. about midnight: they moved in single file and in succession, ready for the assault, which was to be supported by the usual weight of artillery, mortar, and machine-gun fire. The general plan was that two companies, "A" Company (Major I. M. Matheson) on the right, and "B" Company (Major D. F. Callander, M.C.) on the left, would seize their objectives by night; "C" and "D" Companies (Major J. L. Melville and Major A. N. Parker) would then pass through them during the night to form up ready for a second assault, to be supported by tanks, on the following morning. As things turned out, however, "A" and "B" Companies were met by intense fire in the open as soon as they crossed the start-line, and only "B" Company managed to reach its objective. "A" Company, which had attacked with equal and magnificent dash, sustained heavy casualties, including the Company Commander who was wounded. "D" Company was now launched round "B" Company's flank in an attempt to gain "A" Company's objective; but it also encountered exceedingly heavy fire and was held up. It was here that Major A. N. Parker, the Company Commander, was killed, and with him Lieutenant R. A. Iremonger, one of the few remaining pre-war officers of the 4th Battalion. Finally, "C" Company was ordered to begin a wide encircling movement round the right flank—and it succeeded before first light in securing the original objective allotted to "A" Company.

It was a grim night, when nothing seemed to go right. The Battalion was facing positions held by parachutists, who, as it was soon to be learnt, did not give in lightly. The country was bare of cover, while the artificial moonlight used seemed to give the enemy an advantage. Darkness on this occasion was not a friend. Once the last company had been committed, it was hard to know what further action to take. It was the longest night many of the Camerons could recall; it seemed they had failed. The death of Nigel Parker, commanding "D" Company, was a cruel blow. He had been with the Battalion as a Company Commander since the bridgehead days, and was loved and respected by all. He died, as was to be expected, personally leading the close assault. Not once but three times was he wounded, and each time he rose again and went forward, until finally he was killed. Although not decorated, as posthumous decorations are few and far between, he deserved recognition equally with most of our decorated members. The Battalion lost in Nigel Parker an old Cameron (he had been with







"C" COMPANY IN PROCESS OF MOUNTING SHERMAN TANKS  
FOR A PURSUIT TASK IN HOLLAND

the Supplementary Reserve for several years before the war), a very gallant officer and a dear friend.

Finally, before leaving this bitter night, mention must be made of Padre Smith. Now the Senior Chaplain at Divisional Headquarters, it is unnecessary to remind the reader of his connections with the Battalion in North Africa and Sicily. As the Battalion was without a padre at the time, he volunteered to accompany it into this action—In short, he splendidly exceeded his duties in this battle, for he spent most of the night forward of "B" and "D" Companies, carrying casualties back and ministering to the wounded under direct fire. The Battalion still regarded him as one of their number, though his responsibilities were now spread over a wider field. In this action he was an inspiration and all were indeed proud and grateful for his presence and gallant example.

First light found "C" Company dug in 150 yards from the enemy, and it was apparent from the activity in both positions that assaults were being mutually prepared. However, the enemy may have been influenced by the sound of tanks rolling up towards him; at any rate, the 24th October was to be a day of rapid advances. Blood was up, as a result of the night's fighting, and "C" and "B" Companies went off with a vengeance for the second objectives assigned to "C" and "D" Companies in the first plan. So fast were "C" and "B" Companies that the supporting tanks found it difficult to keep up with them. The south end of Schijndel itself, and the east-west railway line south again, were the final objectives; but, in addition, the Battalion was asked to clear a considerable area of ground still farther to the south of the railway—though, except for the strain on already very tired troops, this was not a difficult task. By evening the battle was over, and the companies settled down in some pine-woods west of Schijndel. The total casualties in the fighting had been eight officers and sixty-three other ranks, of whom a high proportion were, as usual, N.C.O.s.

Next day (25th October) was spent in reorganisation and rest. As a result of reduced numbers, "D" Company was disbanded in order to reinforce "A" and "B." Major E. N. Mainwaring, M.C., who had rejoined the Battalion, now took over command of "A" Company.

By now the battle for the River Maas was becoming really fluid; the rest of the Division had been committed, and the chase was on. Early on the morning of 26th October, the Adjutant, Captain T. B. M. Lamb, was roused by instructions from Brigade ordering the Battalion to concentrate near St Michiel-Gestel prior to joining the 5th Seaforth in mopping-up operations south of s'Hertogenbosch.

Rifle companies travelled on tanks, and the C.O. returned from a reconnaissance to find companies already in their new surroundings. On the 27th the Battalion again moved forward on Shermans, but this time to bring it into action. The attack was on a two-axis front,

directed on Vught, with " B " Company on the right and " C " on the left, each with a troop of tanks in support. Delayed at the start-line, owing to the bogging of tanks and carriers in soft ground, the advance of some 3000 yards to the north had to be carried out with only an hour of daylight remaining. Both columns were greeted with heavy machine-gun and anti-tank fire, and in the gloom it became a particularly trying time for the tanks ; nevertheless, the main axis was successfully switched to the right, and all objectives were gained by midnight.

As some visible reward for what had been accomplished, the local civilians were seen emerging from their hiding-places on the following day, and the enjoyment of freedom from enemy fire was very welcome. The Battalion was now astride the main east-west road from Nijmegen to Tilburg, and occupying the gaily coloured and attractive township of Vught. Vught in turn was a suburb of s'Hertogenbosch. This road became later the main Canadian Army supply route from Antwerp, known as " Maple Up "—The Camerons' efforts, therefore, on this drive played a large part in the higher tactical plan.

Vught had added significance, as it contained the first concentration camp the Allies had come upon. Terrible cruelties were perpetrated here. It was to give its liberators an insight into some of the more ghastly horrors yet to be revealed.

Then, in the afternoon, another move was carried out—the next task being " mopping-up " south of the Aftenvaterings Canal. By 29th October the Battalion, having advanced in support of the 153rd Brigade, occupied an area south-west of Last-sheuvel.

On the morning of 30th October, patrols reported that there were no enemy on the 5th Seaforth front, and at midday the 5th Camerons moved by march-route to Waalwijk, which was occupied during the early hours of the afternoon. A tumultuous welcome met the Commanding Officer and his escort as they led the way into the town. The crowd in the square cheered itself hoarse before the companies dispersed to their billets. The Battalion was in the embarrassing position that, no doubt, many other units experienced, of trying to fight a battle and receive the freedom of the city at the same time. The enemy settled the matter by shelling the main square at a time when every man, woman, and child must have been out to welcome its liberators. Never was an area cleared so quickly before.

The place promised very well ; there was observation of enemy positions, while the Cameron positions were concealed. But this situation was not to last long. After a successful day's sniping, companies were warned to move back to a concentration area, preparatory to more extended operations, and on 1st November they were relieved independently by the 1/5th and 1/7th Queen's. The new area was at Loensche Hoek, not far off, and the immediate task no more than the holding (with one company—" C "—up, and the rest of the Battalion back) of a sector of the Aftenvaterings Canal.

A crossing of the canal was planned for 4th November, so the intervening few days were spent in reconnaissance and preparation. The Germans showed surprising enterprise, however, in the meantime, and small parties crossed on several occasions. In fact, the rôle of the single forward company proved exacting. "C" Company was relieved by "A" on the 3rd. In the early hours of the 2nd, a group of over-coated enemy was surprised near "C" Company H.Q. The preparations for the attack across the canal were completed on the morning of 4th November. Overnight, Major R. M. Munro, the Second-in-Command, had supervised the carriage of assault boats into position in the assembly area, and before companies marched up to their boats, the route forward had been taped, and boat signs put into the F.U.P., which was laid out under the canal bank.

Carrying their boats, the assault companies, "A" and "B," went up the canal bank, over into the water, and across to the other side—without suffering a single casualty! The fact that the crossing was accomplished without loss is all the more remarkable when it is recorded that, within half an hour of reaching the far bank, the Battalion collected ninety prisoners! Part of the explanation is, no doubt, that tremendous supporting fire was put down; but the main reason was undoubtedly the magnificent dash of these companies. The Divisional artillery was as formidable as ever, and, in addition, "C" Company and most of Support Company were employed as a Fire Unit. These two sub-units crept forward on to the near bank and to a flank, and fired off in enfilade at the unsuspecting Germans in their dug-outs under the far bank only 40 yards away. It was a clear case of getting inside the enemy's guard before he knew what was happening. The assault went exactly as planned. "B" Company completed their task by 5 P.M.; "A" Company very soon after; and both companies dug in. "C" Company now began to mop up along the south bank, towards the 5th Seaforth (on the right), and eventually they held a bridgehead to protect the construction of a Class 9 bridge. About 9 P.M. the Battalion moved on along the Bund and into Firewood, where, after liaison with the 5th Seaforth, it struck out for Wolfshoek and Elshout, "C" Company leading.

The decision to follow up the crossing quickly, without waiting for the heavy fire-support that was on call, proved to be a wise one. The enemy was taken by surprise as a result of this silent infiltration. One German, caught by "C" Company, was trying to get his Spandau to fire—C.S.M. Gordon, M.M., snatched the weapon from him, cleared the stoppage that had baffled its proper owner, and, in front of the miserable prisoner's eyes, took it to pieces and cast it to the four winds!

At much the same time as this incident occurred, a German Quartermaster drove quietly into a hamlet occupied by the reserve company and started dispensing a hot meal for his troops, who, he fondly imagined, were well to his front. The timing was perfect from the

Camerons' angle, for they were cold and hungry. Captain Milne, loyal to his calling, tried to excuse his opposite number, but nevertheless had his leg pulled unmercifully. The opposition Quartermaster was beyond "leg-pulling."

Wolfshoek was soon cleared, with the capture of a few more prisoners, and then "A" and "B" Companies passed through to deal with Elshout. The whole area was secured by 3 A.M. on the morning of 5th November.

About 10 A.M. on the 6th the Battalion moved forward again. "B" Company led, and reported Oudheusden clear; "A" Company followed, pushing through into Heusden. Heavy mortaring of these places caused some casualties, for, with the width of the River Maas between himself and his pursuers, the enemy had become braver. During the evening, when the whole area had been occupied, reconnaissance patrols of the 131st Brigade came forward, in advance of their main body, to relieve the Battalion. A very protracted hand-over took place, and eventually a very hungry and wet Battalion marched back, to feed first and then to embus for Udenhout, far to the south.

#### THE ADVANCE TO THE MAAS SOUTH OF THE NIJMEGEN CORRIDOR

No sooner was the phase of operations described in the previous chapter completed than another phase, involving the move of the 51st Highland Division eastwards, started. Both phases were, in fact, complementary to each other, but there were not sufficient troops available to carry out both at the same time. This second phase lasted from approximately 6th November till the end of the month, and, from the 2nd Army's viewpoint, ended with the capture of Roermond and the establishment of the 21st Army Group along the Maas all the way north to Grave. Now only a small salient beyond the Maas from Grave to Arnhem remained to be watched. There was little risk attached. The river line required comparatively few troops to watch it, and the majority of Divisions could be freed for assault operations elsewhere when the time was ripe.

This phase finished for the 51st Highland Division some miles short of Venlo, at the end of the third week of November.

There was little respite. No sooner was the area up to the Maas cleared than the Division had to move, preparatory to widening the Nijmegen corridor to the south. A brief digression into higher Army Group strategy may perhaps make the reader's understanding of the Battalion's activities easier. On arrival in Holland from the Le Havre area, the B.L.A. was still holding the rather precarious corridor, a few miles wide, from Eindhoven through to Arnhem. As a preliminary to breaking into Germany, two major tasks faced the High Command.

First, as has been said, the port of Antwerp had to be freed to enable supplies and ammunition to be built up for the attacks against the Siegfried Line and across the Rhine ; and, second, the corridor had to be widened and the position made secure by gaining the line of the Maas both in the north, opposite Northern Holland, and in the south facing Germany itself. By holding a river line, troops in contact could be thinned out and concentrated for assaults at selected points. There always seemed, to the armchair critic, to be overwhelming numbers of Allied troops in North-West Europe, but the number of assault formations in the 21st Army Group was always limited : those few Divisions, in consequence, got little respite.

The Battalion's drive north, via Schijndel, Vught, Waalwijk and Heusden, was part of the northern drive from the Nijmegen corridor. This completed, it was required immediately for similar drives to the south.

Next day (7th November) the Battalion moved on by motor transport to Someren, where it took over from a unit of the 7th U.S. Armoured Division. Fortunately, the confusion caused by the exchange between two units, organised in totally different ways, must have passed unnoticed by the enemy, since he subjected the Camerons two days later to a bombardment of propaganda shells, whose pamphlets depicted well-known Americans as shameless war-mongers. A further relief was carried out on the 9th, this time by the 154th Brigade, and the Battalion then moved to Someren Zeide, where it found comfortable though widely-dispersed billets.

There were four peaceful days here, during which rest, "cleaning-up," and general administration filled the time before the Battalion was briefed for its next attack. On the 13th the Commanding Officer spoke to all ranks in a large barn near Battalion H.Q., and everyone learnt what the morrow held in store.

Conditions for another canal crossing (the Nederweert Canal) were a good deal less favourable than they had been at Waalwijk. The enemy dominated the near side of the canal bank for a full mile, and it was obviously impossible for troops to carry assault boats under such circumstances. An ingenious idea of loading the boats on sledges towed by tanks was, however, to prove a great success, and this was the method adopted by "B" Company to cross on the right flank. "C" Company, on the left, crossed in Buffaloes—and were played across the canal by Piper Maclean in the leading vehicle. This time "A" Company acted as Fire Group.

The advance on the canal was an extraordinary sight, reminiscent of mobile columns in the desert. Infantry on tanks, infantry in Buffaloes, infantry on their feet ; all rolled southwards through Nederweert, spreading out on a front of just half a mile—while the shells of a tremendous barrage screamed overhead. The great pains that had been taken over every detail paid a high dividend. Not only was the



crossing effected without difficulty, but all objectives were taken in less than the ambitious time allotted. The technique of "Beachmaster" was reintroduced. Captain A. W. Lee, who had joined the Camerons from the 43rd Light Infantry earlier in Normandy, was given this rôle. He did noble work tramping up and down the near canal bank, organising the boats. Bullets whistling by his ear passed apparently unnoticed. The attack successfully over, companies consolidated and spent a cold and uncomfortable night.

Next day found the Battalion in the same area, but a mobile patrol, mainly composed of the Scout Platoon under Major F. C. Q. Irvine of the Regiment, who had recently joined the Battalion, and Lieutenant J. R. Le Mesurier, one of the few remaining Canadian subalterns, encountered the enemy about a mile forward of the Battalion position. Lieutenant Le Mesurier is reputed to have accounted for two Bazooka crews personally. Then, on 16th November, the Battalion moved up through the woods to the village of Stokershorst, preparatory to the crossing of yet another canal—the Zig Canal—an action that was to earn high praise from the 12th Corps Commander, General Sir Neil Ritchie.

The 5th Camerons were astride the main road south of the bridge at Ruggleshe by last light on 16th November, and patrols were sent out to test the canal with a view to a further advance should no enemy be encountered. The patrol reported movement and small-arms fire from the canal junction and the area of a blown bridge. At first light on the 17th the Zig Canal area was subjected to a short but severe concentration from all weapons, and "C" Company was ordered to try to get across. At 7.55 A.M. the leading platoon dashed over the collapsed bridge, and twenty minutes later the whole company was over—despite the fire of Spandaus on the left. "C" Company then dug in as fast as possible.

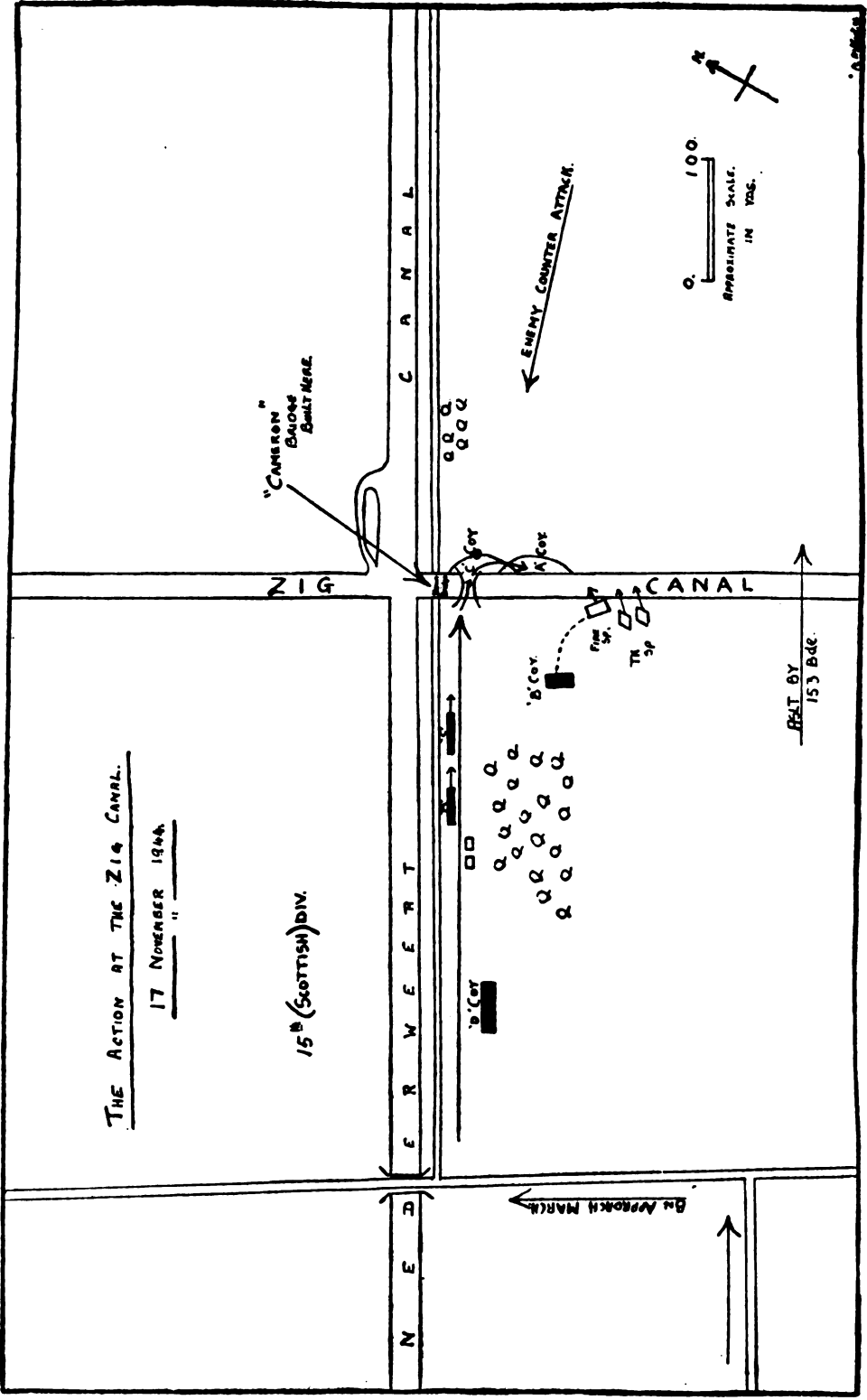
It took the enemy about an hour to realise how serious was the threat that had developed as a result of "C" Company's successful crossing, though, from shortly after 9 o'clock, their sniping, Bazooka-, shell-, and mortar-fire increased steadily in intensity. "B" Company Commander, Major D. F. Callander, M.C., greatly eased the situation for "C" Company by manœuvring his company Bren guns up to the canal bank, under cover of 2-inch mortar-fire, into a position from which they could search the area from which "C" Company were being sniped. By 9.15 A.M., "A" Company Commander, Major E. N. Mainwaring, M.C., contacted Major J. L. Melville, O.C. "C" Company, at the canal sluice-gates, with the result that "A" Company was over the canal, to reinforce "C," a quarter of an hour later. The next two hours saw an increasing intensity of enemy fire that reached its zenith by 11.30 A.M., when an enemy smoke-screen came down, designed to blind the covering fire being given to forward companies by supporting tanks from the home bank. As soon as the smoke was launched,



THE ACTION AT THE ZIG CANAL.

17 NOVEMBER 1944.

15<sup>th</sup> (SCOTTISH) DIV.



enemy infantry were seen charging across the open towards the two companies' positions. This attack was pressed on with the utmost determination, but it met with a great weight of fire from both field and medium artillery, called for by the Battalion F.O.O., Captain Douglas Tilly, M.C. (who had crossed with "A" Company). The Battalion Mortar Officer, Captain I. M. Townrow, also brought the weapons of his complete platoon to bear, and all this—combined with the small-arms fire of "A" and "C" Companies—wrought such bloody execution that the attack seemed doomed to failure even at that early stage. Yet these enemy troops were exceptionally disciplined and even fanatical. The first mad rush had been checked, but the enemy did not finally withdraw until 1 o'clock. By now both forward companies were very short of ammunition, though before nightfall carrying parties had succeeded in supplying them, despite continued sniping from the left.

At 10.30 P.M. the 2nd Seaforth passed through, and a little later the rain that had lasted all day ceased. The night passed quietly after a very hard and troubled evening. Before midnight another crossing had been made farther down the canal by the 1st Gordons (153rd Brigade), who wheeled left across the Battalion's front, relieving the immediate enemy pressure. During the early morning of 18th November the Divisional R.E. erected a Class 40 bridge over the canal at the point where "C" and "A" Companies had fought so hard to gain and hold a bridgehead. This later became known as "Cameron Bridge." Before noon the Battalion moved up to pre-arranged positions about half a mile forward of the canal. The Intelligence Officer, Captain W. R. Gwillim, while on a reconnaissance in the "B" Company area with the Commanding Officer, was severely wounded by an air-burst and died shortly afterwards. The War Diary records of Captain Gwillim: "The Battalion lost in him a good officer and a great friend."

Quite inadvertently, it appears, the Battalion crossing had been driven in between two German Corps. Their communications were dislocated and the two senior German Commanders could not decide who should accept the responsibility for dealing with the penetration! This was probably the Battalion's most glamorously successful action of the campaign in North-West Europe.

The 154th Brigade passed through the Cameron positions about 2 P.M. in the afternoon, while a Battalion advance party left later on to find billets in Heythuijen, a small town some 5 miles behind the lines. In a congratulatory message, after the action, the Corps Commander wrote: "Had not the 5th Camerons held on to their foothold on the east bank of the Zig Canal, the advance of the whole Corps might well have been delayed for an appreciable time." The Battalion was commanded on the night of 16th-17th November by Major R. M. Munro, owing to the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, M.C., suffering from slight indisposition (though he managed to return

during the next morning). Major Munro was later awarded the M.C. for his conduct in the action. Major J. L. Melville was awarded the D.S.O. for the great determination and personal courage he showed during the whole of the trying period of the crossing and the subsequent counter-attack. Captain D. H. Cameron, whose platoon was most threatened by the counter-attack, was awarded the M.C. for the manner in which, completely regardless of his own personal safety, and in face of heavy fire, he organised his men to repel the enemy. Sergeant D. Carlin was awarded the M.M. for the courageous example he set when his Platoon Commander was killed and he took over, steadying and encouraging his men.

Besides Captain W. R. Gwillim (attached), Captain F. A. Merchant, "C" Company (Canadian Army, attached), one corporal and five privates were killed. One corporal, four lance-corporals, and twenty-four privates were wounded and evacuated.

On 19th November the Battalion was relieved by a battalion of the 40th Division and moved into the already crowded little town of Heythuijen. Officer changes at this time were as follows: Major Irvine went to "A" Company; Major Mainwaring to Support Company; Captain D. H. Cameron took over "C" Company (in the absence of Major Melville, who had been slightly wounded). Captain W. F. G. Brabin took over "H.Q." Company, and Captain Lee became I.O.

#### THE DEFENCE OF THE NIJMEGEN-ARNHEM SALIENT

This was a static phase which lasted to mid-December and requires little explanation. Positions were easy to hold, for there was a river, the Neder Rhine, between the F.D.L.s and the enemy.

There was little activity anywhere at this time in the northern sectors from Nijmegen to the sea. In the south another Corps was fighting for a footing near Aachen, but this affected the 51st Highland Division little. It was now December and mid-winter, and all energy and thought were directed to preparing and planning the assault of the Siegfried Line, due to open at the New Year. The Division had only two Brigades in the line, the third being rested in rotation for a week at a time. This period is noteworthy for the 5th Battalion for the unpleasant experience of being flooded off the Nijmegen island.

After four days' rest, during which the rainy weather was cheered by concert parties—notably one given by Leslie Henson and Hermione Baddeley—the Battalion moved by motor transport to Nijmegen, and from there, by march-route, into the line. The change-over was carried out in heavy rain, and, since every place was thick with mud, it took the major part of the night. Nobody had any sleep. The 5th Camerons relieved a battalion of the 101st U.S. Airborne Division here. It was

one of the finest units the Battalion had been privileged to meet, and all ranks developed a handsome respect for it before it moved out. This was the Division that fought so magnificently at Bastogne, in the Ardennes, at the end of the year. Here, on the "Island," the area between the Waal and Neder Rhine, west of Arnhem, the Battalion faced an impassive enemy across the swollen width of the latter river.

Although there was no hand-to-hand contact, life was not easy. The approaches to the position were in full view—and lay opposite what must surely have been the only hill in Holland. Inspection of the forward company areas on 28th November showed that the flood-water, in front of the "Bund," was rising rapidly; so next day Lt.-Colonel Lang held a conference on the emergency plans (Operation "Noah") to be put into effect if the Germans flooded the "Island." Intermittent shelling and mortaring continued daily, but was insufficient to prevent a small but successful St Andrew's Day party being held within 50 yards of the F.D.L.s!

About this time "D" Company was re-formed under Captain R. C. MacCunn, who had recently returned from hospital in England after being wounded in the Orne bridgehead. "D" Company was situated near Nijmegen, and fifty reinforcements were posted to it.

At 3.30 A.M. on 3rd December the order was circulated to all companies to pack immediately. The Germans had succeeded in bursting the dyke in the 2nd Seaforth area, on the Battalion's right, so Operation "Noah" was being implemented. The island was being flooded. Trucks and transport were packed and off by 5 A.M.: the marching troops evacuated their positions at 2 P.M., withdrawing slowly across the island westwards and finally wading, in one place knee-deep, to higher ground. Nijmegen bridge was under fire, so everyone crossed the river to the mainland in outboard motor-boats—this in a sleet storm. It was never clear why the Germans had not flooded the area sooner; perhaps they always retained hope of counter-attacking to clear the island.

From here, motor transport brought the Battalion to the area of Oss, near s'Hertogenbosch. Better billets (a large Roman Catholic monastery and schools in s'Hertogenbosch itself) were made available on 6th December, and the Battalion settled down to what was to prove one of the happiest fortnights spent on the Continent. Out came the regimental flag, the quarter-guard, kilt, and best battle-dress. But there was more than just the barrack routine and the manifestations of ordinary life behind the lines; there were cinema shows, dances, and innumerable private parties given by the good people of the town. The monks were most hospitable and friendly, and, if their sense of humour by Scottish standards was sometimes lacking, who could blame them? One evening the Commanding Officer returned to the Mess to find an alarming but nevertheless amusing scene being enacted in the temporary ante-room. Most officers were out, so the

Quartermaster had decided to amuse himself at the expense of our hosts. Gathering them into a circle, still of course adorned in their brown cassocks, he explained to them the mystic rites of a Scottish religious dance. The poor unfortunate monks were, in all innocence, being put through the paces of the "Hokey Cokey"!

Other features of this period were the memorial celebrations at St Valery, attended by Lt.-Colonel Lang and selected members of the old 4th Battalion, and the Divisional investiture held at St Michiel-Gestel by Field-Marshal Montgomery. The Battalion was well represented at this investiture when the following awards were presented: Major J. L. Melville, D.S.O.; Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers, M.C.; Captain W. W. Yellowlees, M.C.; Sergeant A. Mackenzie, M.M.; Lance-Sergeant G. Sands, M.M.; and Corporal S. Leadbetter, M.M. Afterwards, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland came to lunch in the Officers' Mess, and all warrant officers attended to hear his memorable address. The very next day it was learnt that Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang had been awarded the D.S.O. for gallantry and outstanding service during the action at the Zig Canal. Finally, it gave the greatest pleasure to the 5th Battalion to be able to effect a change of officers with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, whose Commanding Officer and officers visited the 5th on the night of the Officers' Dance and on other occasions. An unforgettable item was the playing of "Retreat" by the Massed Pipes and Drums of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada, The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, and the 5th Battalion, both in Nijmegen and on the square at s'Hertogenbosch.

On 19th December the Battalion returned to the "Island" and took over from the 1st Black Watch. It was known to a few that the big attack into the Siegfried Line positions from Nijmegen was due to start at New Year. Brigadiers and C.O.s were now sent off in turn on ten days' leave. Colonel Lang, being the junior C.O., reluctantly watched the others go, and took temporary command of the Brigade. Major Munro, in consequence, took temporary command of the Battalion.

It was not, however, to be the quiet, peaceful sojourn expected: the Battalion was to remain at the village of Valburg for only twenty-four hours before beginning a long move south and east.

#### THE SEALING-OFF OF THE GERMAN COUNTER-OFFENSIVE IN THE ARDENNES

This bold thrust by the German 5th and 6th Panzer Armies in the Ardennes, opposite Liège, was in fact their last major counter-offensive. It fell on the American 1st Army front a little before Christmas. Before the attack was stemmed and the situation finally re-established, elements

of four Allied armies were involved: the 1st, 9th and 3rd U.S., and the British 2nd.

The worst enemy during this period, which lasted till the latter end of January 1945, was the weather. It was the only phase since the Normandy landings that broke the sequence of Higher Command's successful planning. In effect, all the Ardennes counter-offensive achieved for the enemy was to delay the Allied assault on Germany by one month. It was, however, a more dangerous threat at the time than that last statement infers.

To offset this emergency, the Highland Division was pulled out of the line at Nijmegen and sent, post-haste, with other Divisions of the 30th Corps, first to the Louvain area in Belgium to hold an improvised line guarding Brussels, and later, when it was apparent the Germans had exhausted themselves, further south, to help in the chase. From Louvain the Division moved via Maastricht to Liège. It was not till after the New Year that they went into action, by which time the seriousness of the enemy threat was over.

The purpose of this somewhat breath-taking move, so far as the Battalion was concerned, was the more obscure because of orders and counter-orders, though its object eventually transpired. The Battalion's route lay through Luyksgestel and Holzbeek (the latter reached on the night of the 21st), thence, next day, via Maastricht to Grijze-grubben—where the Battalion settled down for a short spell that included just enough time for a hurried Christmas dinner. During the evening of the 25th it reached Chaud-Fontaine, a former Belgian pleasure resort to the east of Liège. Here the night picquet had to be doubled on account of the new parachutist and "buzz-bomb" danger. The officers had their Christmas dinner at midnight!

The constant drone of "V.I."s, heading for Liège, was the only discordant note at Chaud-Fontaine. Welcome was especially accorded to the Camerons as the first "Tommies" to arrive in the area, and the period was a very pleasant one. Then, on 5th January 1945, the Battalion occupied a hill above Liège itself, which proved to be a preliminary to the move to Marche, three days later, right up on the now-diminishing bulge of the German salient in the Ardennes.

During their short stay in Liège a platoon of "D" Company received a direct hit on their billet from a "V.I.," which blasted the house to pieces. Amazing to relate, no one was hurt. At Chaud-Fontaine another "V.I." landed 50 yards from a "C" Company sentry, who, on inspection a few minutes later, was found still at his post, though naturally rather shaken.

The next two days were filled with the old familiar indications of an impending battle. The Battalion was faced with Arctic conditions. Snow covered the ground, and the roads were ice-bound. Tanks and carriers slithered across the roads, and often into ditches, and their tracks had to be fitted with special shoes to keep them mobile. The

journey to Marche, where the 53rd (Welsh) and 6th Airborne Divisions were already in action, was a most hazardous performance.

On 10th January the Battalion carried out an attack across the main Laroche-Marche road. Ground resistance, affecting the Camerons that is to say, was almost nil, though there were casualties from long-range 88-mm. guns—among them Major F. C. Q. Irvine, O.C. "A" Company, who was seriously wounded in the thigh. It was curious fighting. The Camerons had luckily missed the toughest part, and only got into the action when the enemy had shot his bolt and was withdrawing as fast as he could. Yet the Battalion advanced from one village to another, often across bare hillsides in full view of enemy observation posts. There was no alternative. On one occasion a battery of 88-mm. opened up on the leading company as they slowly made their way in lorries over a crest. One lorry had a direct hit and brewed up, causing many casualties. Many other shells, landing in the deep snow beside the road, luckily failed to explode, otherwise the toll would have been heavier still.

There was little fight left in the few enemy units remaining behind in the villages, and prisoners came in readily. It seemed these inferior units knew they were destined to be the scapegoats of the more efficient armoured formations pulling out farther east. There was a notable lack of officers picked up.

The Battalion was finally established in the village of Rendeux, and from there the Scout Platoon, under Captain E. Macdonald, D.C.M., and a platoon of "A" Company, under 2nd Lieutenant N. A. C. Rickaby, linked up with patrols from the 101st U.S. Airborne Division of the 3rd American Army, friends from Nijmegen days. This American Army had been moving up from the south, while the British Divisions struck down from the north, between La Roche and Champlon.

The German forces were now pulling out as fast as they were able, and the threat to the Meuse, and beyond, was over. It was not long, therefore, before the Battalion was on the move north again. It was, however, given two days before moving, during which companies were sent off in different directions to try their skill at stalking. Under the guidance of a few ghillies still to be found, parties set off to their allotted sectors. Results, though not particularly good, were adequate. Most companies had venison for dinner!

A long journey, on 18th January, via Laroche, Liège, St Trond, Diest, and Turnhout brought the Camerons to Beersee; but five days later they had passed through Eindhoven and Best once more to return to the well-known area of Vught, in which they had operated in October of the previous year. Lt.-General Brian G. Horrocks, 30th Corps Commander, visited the Battalion on 27th January, inspected a kilted quarter-guard, and met all the Company Commanders.

It was at the end of the fighting in the Ardennes that Captain and Adjutant T. B. M. Lamb left the Battalion on posting to H.Q., 56th

Brigade, as G.S.O.3. Tommy Lamb had served with the Battalion since being commissioned in 1941, and his good-natured, ever-willing example had made him an institution. C.O.s came and went, but Tommy's grinning face always seemed to be there, when wanted. His knowledge of the Battalion and battle experience were invaluable, and his loss, though temporary, a matter for considerable regret. Captain W. F. G. Brabin succeeded him as Adjutant.

OPERATION "VERITABLE"—THE ASSAULT ON THE SIEGFRIED LINE  
THROUGH THE REICHSWALD FOREST

Operation "Veritable," just like Operation "Overlord" in Normandy, was one of the turning-points of the war. By the end, it was clear the enemy was beaten and the carving up of Germany could begin. The 1st Canadian Army, with the 30th (British) Corps under command, was to attack from the north at Nijmegen in a south-easterly direction along the west bank of the Rhine. Its task involved the breaching of the Siegfried Line, the clearing of the focal points of Goch and Kleve, and the linking with the 9th U.S. Army at Wesel. The Highland Division, in the south of the thrust, was the right-hand Division of five under command of the 30th Corps Commander.

This phase lasted from 8th February till mid-March.

At Vught it soon became apparent that a major operation was impending, but the secret was well kept by the very few to whom it was communicated. Meanwhile, each company in turn was exercised in wood-clearing, under most realistic conditions: though, apart from this very necessary disclosure that the battle was to be in a wood, nobody was the wiser as to the locality or scope. Indeed, the most elaborate deception scheme since "D"-Day threw not a few of the curious completely off scent. For many nights there were disturbing sounds such as might have been made by the movement of armoured Divisions: yet this was no more than the calculated effect produced by part of a tank Brigade, repeating a performance of circular motion. This, coupled with a full Battalion Order Group reconnaissance (conducted with convincing thoroughness in just the opposite direction from that in which the Battalion eventually moved), ensured the full success of the deception plan. The C.O. and Company Commanders, however, were most indignant at having to parade themselves in full view of the enemy on a mission they knew to be bogus before they moved!

While not actually engaged in schemes, the Battalion was able to return to routine organisation—with football and evening entertainments in good measure.

The initial Divisional orders committed the 154th Brigade for the "break-in" to the defences on the western edges of the Reichswald,



with the 152nd Brigade in reserve behind, ready to pass through into the forest itself to clear the southern "through" track in an easterly direction. The 153rd Brigade were to assist with widening the "break-in" and were to move parallel to the 152nd Brigade later, but along the southern edge of the forest.

The Battalion's orders for the Reichswald battle, delayed as long as possible for security reasons, were issued on 6th February, and two days later it moved into its concentration area at Mook, a much-shelled village on the banks of the River Maas, 3 miles from the Dutch-German frontier. The 5th Camerons were now ready for their share in what turned out to be the vital and most severe battle for Germany.

A description of the forest itself (and the conditions obtaining at the time) will be quoted here from a first-hand account :—

"Its size will be familiar to anyone who has looked twice at even the largest scale map of Germany. Its density, however, was a surprise to the Battalion, who thought that only the Fourteenth Army failed to see the enemy until he was twenty yards away. It was divided by many muddy tracks at right angles to each other, with a main road running north-south almost dividing it in half. At the southern exit of this road was the small village of Hekkens. Intense shelling had all but severed many branches on the trees, and when the wind rose, these branches broke off and crashed down, giving rise to many unjustified but understandable reports of patrols and ambushes. The nature of the plan, too, added to the natural eeriness of the forest. Although, in fact, our flanks were well protected, the familiar Spandau rattle could be heard, on any of the first three nights, well to the rear, doubtless giving 'B' Echelon pause to think, as it toiled up the execrable, mud-covered path that was our main supply route for a week. But morale was never higher than it was before and during the Reichswald battle. With so many determined and well-trained German paratroopers about, large unfortunately as life, there was little time for seeing imaginary ghosts."

The initial breach having been effected with little difficulty, the 153rd Brigade turned south to widen it and to take the Mook-Gennep defences from the rear. It was now the 152nd Brigade's turn.

The Battalion left Mook by march-route after a hot meal at about 0230 hours, 9th February, for the long approach march to the forest. The leading companies reached the south-west edge at first light, without casualties, and found the Black Watch in control, but a pretty fluid situation prevailing with enemy snipers everywhere. The advance was on a one-company front, "D" Company (Captain R. C. MacCunn) leading initially into the forest, supported by a troop of three tanks. After only 200 yards, a large crater was encountered, which successfully held up the tanks, so "D" Company advanced alone. Various enemy posts were scuppered *en route* and eighty prisoners taken, before,

about 300 yards farther on, more determined resistance was met and "D" Company was held up.

Colonel Lang ordered "B" Company (Major Callander) "right-flanking" in order to try and turn the south flank of the enemy position and a very spirited engagement followed, in which "B" Company, and its Company Commander in particular, accounted for many of the enemy. The situation still being in the balance, Major J. L. Melville, D.S.O. ("C" Company), decided that the answer was a bayonet charge, and he himself led his company in, with great dash. Supported by the three tanks, which at last rejoined the Battalion and then fired high explosive point-blank into the enemy dug-outs, causing terrible casualties, the company achieved its objective, thoroughly demoralising the enemy, many of whom surrendered. The bodies of forty German dead were counted later, and a number of wounded were captured. This spirited attack, however, cost the Battalion Major Melville (wounded in the shoulder), who was evacuated and not destined to return. Jim Melville, who had been with the Battalion since Le Havre, had been an inspiration in action. His personal courage and coolness were an object lesson to all ranks. It was a mystery how he had evaded becoming a casualty before: his seemed to be a charmed life. It was the second occasion on which he personally had influenced a situation well beyond the normal capacity of a Company Commander. There are not many who earn an immediate D.S.O. as a Company Commander. Captain H. V. Dawson succeeded him in command of "C" Company till the end of the Reichswald battle.

The time was now about 4 P.M. and the Battalion advance was continued with "B" and "C" Companies on the left and "D" Company advancing astride the axis track, the tanks moving on "D" Company's right flank. A thousand yards or so farther on a cross-track was reached and enemy opposition encountered. At this moment, Captain Beaton ("C" Company) appeared on the scene with one of his platoons and, without further ado, dashed out towards the centre of the enemy position shouting to his men, who followed like a pack of hounds. Everyone expected him to become a casualty, but instead, those of the enemy who escaped bayoneting surrendered, and the cross-tracks fell into the Battalion's hands. Captain Beaton received the M.C. for his gallant conduct and leadership. It was now rapidly becoming dark, so the advance was halted and the Battalion consolidated in the cross-tracks area.

That first day's fighting reflected great credit on the Battalion. A penetration of 1500 yards into the forest had been made, and this against determined opposition. German paratroops fired until wiped out at point-blank range, while snipers who had not been flushed by the leading troops resolutely continued firing from the immediate flanks and rear.

During the night, 9th-10th February, the 2nd Seaforth moved

forward and took over the lead from the Battalion at first light. On reaching the main north-south road referred to previously, they met a strong enemy position manned by the determined paratroopers of the 7th Parachute Division, and the advance was held up. The 5th Camerons were immediately ordered to push through this enemy pocket. "B" Company managed to penetrate, but "C" Company following met firmer resistance and was held up while "D" Company, pushed round the right flank, found the going very sticky. The turning-point in this action was the gallant conduct of the crews of two Crocodiles (flame-throwing Churchill tanks), who followed the companies into action with great verve and effect, the Commander of one Crocodile, with a blood-stained bandage round his head, mouthing fearful oaths from the turret of his tank! As a result "C" and "D" Companies got through the enemy, and left them to the mercies of the 2nd Seaforth, who duly mopped them up. The Battalion's advance continued for another 1½-2 miles before darkness fell. The crash of grenades, 2-inch mortar bombs, and Panzerfausts in front indicated "B" Company in action at this time: they had surprised some Germans casually laying mines at a cross-tracks—the Battalion's objective—quite oblivious of the Company's arrival. The night was pitch black, bitterly cold, and a drizzle had begun to enshroud everything. Each man had to hold on to the bayonet scabbard of his fellow in front to avoid losing himself! "B" Echelon arrived with a hot meal, after a difficult journey over almost impassable tracks, lengths of which had to be covered with trunks of pine and larch to make the going possible for the 3-tonners. A few enemy shells arrived in the Battalion area, the first in the battle so far, except for anti-tank fire, as a result of which Sergeant A. MacKenzie, M.M., was wounded and evacuated.

While breakfast was being issued next morning (11th February) in the various company areas, a German fighting patrol infiltrated up the ditch along the main track and fired into Battalion H.Q.'s area. During the untoward action six H.Q. Company food containers were perforated with bullets, and many men lost their breakfasts, including several prisoners, who were obviously getting their first square meal for several days. After this patrol had been beaten off, the Battalion settled down in its position astride the cross-tracks for the day.

The immediate battle had now left them, as the two Seaforth battalions had passed through that night and the 53rd Division (North) and the 154th Brigade (South) had continued their respective advances. Casualties in the Battalion called urgently for reorganisation, and "D" Company was again split up amongst the other three rifle companies. For two days the Battalion remained in this position, two days of comparative quiet, the silence of the forest only broken by the arrival of an occasional shell or mortar bomb: the crash of shells some 800 yards to the south, however, seemed unceasing, where the imper-turbable Divisional Sappers were trying to rebuild the bridge in the

small village of Hekkens. It was here that the Battalion was visited by Lt.-Colonel J. Sorel-Cameron, D.S.O., of the Regiment, a late Commanding Officer of the Battalion and now a Liaison Officer with the 21st Army Group.

During the twenty days that the Battalion was involved in Operation "Veritable," it was always under fire, and on the majority of these days it fought actions of varying intensity. A complete picture of the fighting in the Reichswald is impracticable, but the most clearly defined incidents have been extracted from the documentary sources available—as, for example, the occasion on which Sergeant M'Lew of "C" Company won the D.C.M.

When his Platoon Commander was wounded in "C" Company's bayonet charge on 9th February, Sergeant D. M'Lew took over command at the moment when the platoon began its assault across an open stretch of a hundred yards to the enemy lines. He moved up and down amongst his men, rallying them—for twelve casualties had already been sustained as a result of machine-gun and mortar fire. This entailed his own exposure to bullets coming from every angle. He then led the remnants of the platoon on. More men fell wounded beside him, but Sergeant M'Lew charged ahead, shouting encouragement, and firing a Sten gun as he went. He and his platoon (now reduced to the size of a weak section) completely cleared the position and accounted for twenty enemy killed and wounded—twenty who had been manning and firing five machine-guns.

The whole of the Reichswald battle was an affair of close-quarter fighting, and, in yet another bayonet charge (by "B" Company on 10th February), Major D. F. Callander, M.C., formed up his men for the assault. During the forming-up the company suffered many casualties; but Major Callander, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved about in the open, under continuous fire, organising the assault and encouraging his men. Once organised, he led the two forward platoons over a fifty-yard clearing. Major Callander was the first to reach the enemy position with a handful of men, and with these behind him he accounted for ten of the enemy dead or wounded. For his great courage and example during this action Major Callander was awarded a Bar to his M.C.

It was in the same assault as that just described that a "B" Company Platoon Commander, Lieutenant J. R. Le Mesurier (Canadian Army—attached), having fired all his ammunition, charged two of the enemy with a shovel—the only weapon he had left. A "B" Company signaller, Lance-Corporal A. H. Childs, also displayed the highest courage when his co-operator was wounded. Lance-Corporal Childs removed the 18-set from his comrade's back, although under continuous and heavy small-arms fire in the open, and, after carrying and operating the set by himself, he rejoined his Company Commander at once. In this battle, when visibility was on many occasions almost nil, com-

munications were of the greatest importance, and his gallant conduct undoubtedly contributed to maintaining the speed of the advance. Lance-Corporal Childs was later awarded the M.M. for this action.

An incident will illustrate how confused the Germans were. "B" Company reached the final Battalion objective about 11 P.M., 10th February, after a silent, infiltration approach. Instead of being greeted with machine-gun bullets, they found to their astonishment a party of Germans, completely oblivious of their presence, laying mines in their path. Major Callander could not resist the opportunity and, stalking the German N.C.O. in charge, said quietly in pigeon-German, "Little man, you must be more careful or those things will blow up." The poor chap thought he had seen a ghost!

The Reichswald was entirely an infantry battle, and it says much for the morale of the Battalion at this time that it made such a rapid advance—when casualties to leaders of all ranks were as high as they were. Two other incidents, not without humour, will further illustrate how confused the fighting was at this stage. A corporal of "B" Company was walking from the cook's truck to his platoon position, with both hands occupied with full mess-tins. He saw three figures come towards him on the same track, and these three also appeared to be carrying mess-tins: in fact, he was sure they were men of his own platoon on their way to draw breakfast. No one will ever know who was most astonished when they were sufficiently near one another in the half-light for the Germans to realise they were heading for the wrong cookhouse! However, the corporal was quicker on the draw and he brought in the prisoners with his bacon! On the same day, "C" Company surprised a bewildered Feldwebel carrying up a bag of mail to what had been his company area.

As this period of comparative rest came to a close, "C" Company was called upon to help out the 1st Black Watch, who were being heavily counter-attacked south of the forest, and filled a gap between them and the 7th Black Watch. Sixty reinforcements arrived from "B" Echelon and once again "D" Company was resuscitated. The Battalion then moved down nearer Hekkens, preparatory to launching an attack on Hervorst.

This village was dominated by a tree-covered hill, some 2 miles south-west of Goch, which formed part of a reserve line of the Siegfried Line: the latter consisted hereabouts of enormous pill-boxes, buried deep under hillocks of ground, all mutually supporting and housing 150-mm. guns.

Behind a powerful barrage the Battalion left the forest at last light on 16th February, crossed the river at Hekkens, and advanced on Hervorst. "A" Company (Major A. W. Lee) followed the barrage so closely that several men of his company were wounded by our own shells, and the Company Commander himself had a very lucky escape. Apart from mines and the odd by-passed Spandau, little resistance was

met with in the darkness. Hervorst was taken and "C" and "D" Companies (Captains Dawson and MacCunn) exploited a further  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile in the direction of Goch. During the advance, to add to the fog of war and darkness, a thick mist came up off the river and made visibility so bad that many Germans were captured before they realised who their captors were.

"C" Company found three of these large pill-boxes in their area fully occupied. A treatment of "36" and phosphorus grenades down the ventilators helped to smarten up the inmates, who replied by firing their weapons up the same way. Eventually, charges placed by the Assault Pioneers blew in the doors and that was the end. A further three pill-boxes, which were dubbed "Shem," "Ham" and "Japheth," were taken on by "B" Company the same day and treated somewhat differently. Two fell to infantry assaults, supported by the Assault Pioneers, while the third proved of sterner stuff. Covered by fire from both Spandaus and self-propelled guns, to get to close quarters with it was not as simple as it looked. The problem was finally solved by the supporting tanks firing smoke and high explosive to cover the infantry assault, assisted by Assault Pioneers, who showered smoke and "36" grenades down the ventilators. The occupants gave themselves up before the approaching Crocodiles waddled on to the scene!

During the night of 17th-18th February "D" Company moved in towards "C" Company and then eastwards of the wooded hill of Hervorst to clear the intervening ground between and link up with the 5th Seaforth. "A" Company (Major A. W. Lee) cleared a further three pill-boxes to the south-east, this time "Faith," "Hope," and "Charity": they claimed 127 prisoners taken on this day, while the Battalion's total since the battle began was now 230.

After "A" Company's relief by the 2nd Seaforth, the fighting passed Hervorst, though an unlucky bomb from an enemy jet aircraft (the first jet seen) killed Lieutenant A. N. M. Douglas and two other ranks, as well as seriously wounding Lieutenant E. Smith, on the last day the Battalion was in the village. The Battalion then took over a sector of the line from the 5th Seaforth, south of Asperden, where intermittent shelling and mortaring, combined with active patrols, occupied it for three days. During this period the Jocks were regaled by the heartening spectacle of rocket-firing Typhoons "treating" a known German H.Q., always an edifying spectacle when watched from a distance.

On 25th February an attack was made on a nearby village which, on paper information, seemed to be a very hard nut to crack. It contained three pill-boxes, and it was surrounded by an anti-tank ditch on three sides, with a river on the fourth: the garrison consisted of two infantry companies at full strength.

"C" Company led the attack at 10 P.M. after a heavy barrage, and an hour later they were safely across the anti-tank ditch and firmly

established on their objective at a cost of only one casualty. "A" Company followed, sharing the same experience as "C": the enemy surrendering without resistance. Then "C" Company was pushed on towards the third pill-box, but locating it proved much harder than capturing it! Convinced that he had not taken the wrong turning, the leading Platoon Commander could, nevertheless, find no pill-box. Lieutenant Van Rockel, the Dutch Liaison Officer, then adopted the simple but resourceful expedient of taking one of the many willing prisoners to guide the company. The pill-box was found, but so well disguised as a farmhouse that it defied detection even in daylight. Questioning of prisoners later revealed that every officer of the garrison was away at a conference when the Battalion attack went in, and the German other ranks had agreed amongst themselves that the only shots that would be fired would be at any Germans who attempted to repel the attack. More than 200 prisoners were taken in this action. Casualties only amounted to six: four of "A" Company and two of "C." Thus ended Operation "Veritable" so far as the 5th Camerons were concerned.

The Reichswald had cost the 5th Camerons 3 officers and 20 other ranks killed; 11 officers and 145 other ranks wounded. But the final reckoning with the enemy was at hand—the reckoning that proved that those who had given their lives had not died in vain.

#### OPERATION "PLUNDER"—THE CROSSING OF THE RHINE

Certainly "Plunder" was the most elaborately conceived and organised operation since "Overlord," and, although it proved both tough and unpleasant for many of the units in the Highland Division, it did not vie with "Veritable" for ferocity and severity.

The assault was made on 23rd March 1945, and the break-out across Germany started less than a week later. March was perhaps the most momentous month of the campaign for the Allies on the Western Front as a whole, for seven armies attacked almost simultaneously. Within the British 2nd Army, two of the three Scottish Divisions were given pride of place as assault troops. The 51st, on the left, crossed the river opposite Rees, and the 15th, on the right, between Rees and Wesel.

On 28th February the Battalion moved to Nijmegen, where it enjoyed an eight days' rest. On 4th March the Pipes and Drums played (with the massed Pipe Bands of the Division) at Hervorst during the visit of the Prime Minister.

The next move, on 8th March, was to Belgium—and its importance was obvious. In the village of Kinrooi, near Maeseyck, on the west bank of the Meuse, the Battalion began its preparation for the crossing of the Rhine.

The battle west of the Rhine was virtually over by the end of February 1945, and the forthcoming operations for British and American forces alike were to be the climax of the war in Europe. Although the Reichswald plans had been concealed with such success, there was no hiding of the Battalion's next task. Thoughts of how, when, and where the 5th Camerons were to cross the last remaining barrier covering the German armies needed no encouragement: it had only been a question of whether the 51st Highland Division was to be "in the party"—but all doubt was dispelled by the move into Belgium on 8th March.

On 20th March the Battalion left Kinrooi and reached its concentration area, north-east of Udem, 7 miles from the Rhine. Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, D.S.O., M.C., had just returned from leave the day before, and Major J. Macdonald had joined in time to take over "B" Company from Major D. F. Callander, M.C., who was going to a Staff attachment. Major C. Kerr had now joined the Battalion and was in command of "C" Company. Colin Kerr had seen much action and service with Cameron battalions, having served with the original 2nd Battalion in the Desert and Eritrea, then later with the re-formed 2nd Battalion in Italy. He was a skilled veteran and the 5th Camerons gladly welcomed him. Major Lee, commanding "A" Company, completed the picture. There was no "D" Company for the Rhine crossing.

At Udem the company areas were carefully camouflaged, and the results examined from the air, for local concealment was of great importance. Fortunately, there were a number of spacious barns and farm buildings, so guns and vehicles were well hidden. The weather was fine, and life in the bivouacs was much more pleasant than had been anticipated. Orders were issued on 21st and 22nd March, and on the morning of the 23rd only last-minute details remained to be checked. Twenty-four-hour ration packs, lifebelts and recognition triangles were issued, and weapons finally examined. Then, at 9 P.M., the Battalion moved off, led by "C" Company, and at 11.30 P.M. it was complete in the assembly area, on the near bank of the Rhine, where tea and rum were issued.

The 51st Highland Division had the honour of being the first to assault in the British 2nd Army. It was a memorable night. Two British and two American Corps, all under command of Field-Marshal Montgomery, were assaulting across this vast water obstacle within an hour of one another. The river, flowing at 5 knots, was, in the Highland Divisional sector, a quarter of a mile wide. Special equipment of every description was employed. Assault Brigades were carried in amphibious "Buffaloes," while follow-up formations, such as the 152nd Brigade, went later in the faster, but more vulnerable, R.E. storm-boats. The enemy, luckily much thinner on the ground than they should have been, were nevertheless of the best material—the



respected parachutists, who fought like tigers in small parties every inch of the way, supported by Panzers. The Division was to have two enemies, the parachutists and the water obstacle; the latter, it was known, would delay the arrival of supporting weapons and equipment for more than twenty-four hours after "H"-hour. So vast was this operation that individual units expected to be in continuous action for two or three days and nights without hope of hot food and shelter. At the same hour at which the 5th Camerons moved towards the marshalling area, the 153rd Brigade carried out their assault on Rees (supported by the 2nd Seaforth, 152nd Brigade), while the 154th Brigade went in on a bend in the river farther to the left.

In order to relieve the men, an advance party under Captain J. R. Broadbent, O.C. "H.Q." Company, had gone ahead to the assembly area with two 3-tonners carrying all the Brens, 2-inch mortars, and P.I.A.T.s: "F" and "A" Echelons were left behind in the concentration area, under Brigade control. The march to the Rhine was some 8 miles, and with the extra loads of ammunition, lifebelts, and ration packs it was far enough. A piper led each company forward. On reaching the assembly area on the Rhine bank, slit-trenches were dug, as the Battalion was now well into the battle zone, and shells and mortar bombs were falling continuously.

The crossing was an extraordinary experience. The wait in the assembly area was far from pleasant, for, by the time the Battalion reached the river, the enemy guns and mortars had found its measure and were freely strafing the storm-boats as they lay against the west bank. Within half an hour of starting the ferry-crossing only a dozen of the thirty storm-boats originally available were serviceable. The time allotted to the 152nd Brigade for the crossing had therefore to be increased threefold.

"At 0045 hours," to quote from the War Diary of 24th March 1945, "the leading platoon of 'C' Company moved into the Storm Boat Waiting Area and embarked a few minutes later. The rear platoon of 'C' Company suffered four casualties, including Lieutenant J. W. Richard, on their way to the Storm Boat Waiting Area—but these were the only casualties inflicted on the west bank of the Rhine. By 0330 hours the Battalion had landed complete on the east bank of the river. It was already over two hours behind schedule, as by this time it had hoped to be past the assaulting Brigades and well on towards its objective beyond, a mile and a half from the river. The C.O. called Company Commanders forward to a rendezvous south of Esserden, while companies were moving up from the river bank, and gave orders for an attack on the original objectives, but by a modified route. By now it was almost first light. At 0515 hours the Battalion moved off to the start-line through the 2nd Seaforth. During the latter part of the move up, the Battalion had to work its way along ditches, owing to the presence of snipers on the left flank."

The timings planned proved in the event to have been too optimistic, and when the Battalion reached the 5th Black Watch in Esserden, it was apparent that the attack on Mittelburg, designed to go in at first light, would not in fact develop until full daylight. The area of Mittelburg, consisting of three or four large brick-works and some houses standing on the main axis north of Rees, was the Battalion's objective. After an "O" Group at 7.30 A.M. for Company Commanders, it was decided to push on, notwithstanding that the squadron of D.D. (Swimming) tanks which had been included in the revised plan had not yet come up, and in spite of the open nature of the ground, nearly devoid of cover. The War Diary is quoted again :—

"0815 hours. 'C' Company crossed the start-line but met heavy opposition from the area of their first objective. Casualties were inflicted by small-arms fire when the right-hand platoon of the company broke cover to reach their first objective—a farm building beside a flooded anti-tank ditch. This objective was secured, despite the presence of a self-propelled gun about 100 yards away on the right flank. Any movement in the area, however, invariably drew heavy and accurate fire from small arms and harassing fire from self-propelled guns sited farther back. The company consolidated in the area of the farm buildings, although the anti-tank ditch, besides being under close enemy observation, proved to be a most formidable obstacle."

"A" Company was ordered to go to "C" Company's assistance, supported by a troop of tanks which had just arrived; the tanks had hardly begun to move into position when three of the leading four were hit by self-propelled guns firing at short range from the cover of buildings in Mittelburg. Small-arms fire was also coming from the right rear, and it was obvious that a daylight attack would be a most costly operation. The situation by mid-morning could hardly have been more unpleasant. "C" Company was away forward and out of touch with the rest of the Battalion. "A" Company was straggled up a long ditch and in no order to be picked up and launched into an assault. "B" Company, only, was available to hand. Despite the precaution of allotting each company two wireless sets each, communications had broken down.

In the early afternoon the Brigadier sent for the Commanding Officer and O.C. 5th Seaforth, who both had an unnerving journey through enemy artillery fire on their way back to Esserden. There they found the Brigadier, bandaged about the head, and learnt the sad news of the Divisional Commander's (General Thomas Rennie's) death. The orders for the Battalion were sympathetic but brief—Mittelburg had to be taken, and taken that same night. The C.O. went back to Battalion H.Q. racking his brains as to how he was going to extricate the Battalion from the threatening muzzles of the enemy's self-propelled anti-tank and machine-guns, and move them

into position, on another axis, ready for an attack a bare hour after last light.

"C" Company was ordered to withdraw after dark; they had suffered 9 other ranks killed and 25 wounded. Lieutenant J. R. Le Mesurier, the Scout Platoon Commander, was severely wounded on his way back to his platoon from the final "O" Group, so orders for clearing a small factory on "B" Company's line of advance did not reach the platoon until just before the attack was due to go in. The platoon did, however, attack the factory successfully under the command of Sergeant L. Toogood—who was later awarded the M.M. for the courage and leadership he displayed during this action. Somehow, messages sent by runner got to "A" and "B" Companies, telling them to rally at the forming-up position after last light. The move was duly accomplished and with "A" Company on the left and "B" Company on the right, the Battalion crossed the start-line at 11 P.M. "B" Company met heavy mortar and small-arms fire at the entrance to the village, but succeeded in capturing and clearing their objective by 1 A.M. On the left "A" Company met similar opposition, and recourse was made to phosphorus grenades to dislodge enemy riflemen from the upper storeys of the buildings. For the great courage and leadership he displayed, Major A. W. Lee, O.C. "A" Company, was later awarded the M.C. The German paratroopers fought to the last, and there was a mêlée in the darkness before the companies mastered and occupied their objectives. Both companies were firmly established in the Mittelburg area by 2 A.M. "C" Company managed to extricate itself and rejoin during the night. The Battalion spent the next day reorganising, while the 153rd Brigade passed through to the north.

General MacMillan, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the Brigade Commander in Sicily, who had taken over command of the 51st Highland Division after General Rennie's death, came forward to see the Battalion in Mittelburg. Well known for his personal courage and cheerful disposition, his visit was like a breath of spring to the tired Battalion.

The bridgehead battle was virtually over and the enemy withdrawal had begun. Bridges were nearly across the Rhine, and follow-up formations were pouring over. Canadians were on the extreme left, with the 43rd (Wessex) Division on the Camerons' immediate left. The Highland Division now started to move east on the main 30th Corps axis from Rees to Isselburg.

Led by "C" Company, on the night of 27th March, the Battalion moved out of the Mittelburg area. "A" Company had some casualties from shell-fire on the way to the start-line for an attack on Isselburg, but, passing through "C" Company, they secured the centre of the village shortly after midnight. "B" Company then pushed on in turn, and at 2 A.M. the north end of Isselburg, with the bridge leading out of it, was taken. At 2.30 P.M. the War Diary records that Lieutenant J. M. Sutherland, the Signal Officer, was killed when the Medical

Officer's jeep was blown up by a mine : this was a sad loss, particularly felt by all members of Battalion Headquarters and the Signal Platoon. Isselburg was heavily shelled during the 28th of March, but that night a further attack was carried out to the north, and although " B " Company was pinned down by shell-fire soon after crossing the start-line at 9 P.M., " A " Company went through on the left and captured the first objective with little opposition. The Scout Platoon then succeeded in capturing some buildings on the right, thus enabling the attack to proceed according to plan. " C " Company occupied the rising ground and farm buildings on " A " Company's left at 3 A.M. on 29th March, and the Battalion was now firmly established on the line of the canal facing Dinxperlo. Dinxperlo was in Holland. The Dutch-German frontier makes a queer kink in that area, and it seemed to the Camerons most incongruous to find themselves heading once more for friendly territory. There was intermittent shelling during the day, but at 9 P.M. the 154th Brigade passed through to attack Dinxperlo, the Guards Armoured Division broke out, and the immediate task of the 5th Camerons was completed. 145 prisoners had been taken in the course of the Battalion's action at Isselburg.

On the afternoon of 30th March the Battalion moved a short distance to Schuttenstein, a charming, unspoilt village which the war had quite passed by, and a most welcome relief after the trail of ruin Germany had hitherto presented. There were reasons other than these rural charms, however, for the high morale of the Battalion at this time : experienced and battle-trying Camerons were unanimous in their opinion that the last phase of the war in Europe was at hand, and they listened with satisfaction to the news of the progress being made through Germany by the armour. Those members of the Division who had fallen in the Battle of the Rhine were specially remembered at a Memorial Service held at the Divisional Cemetery on 1st April. The Battalion had lost 2 officers and 31 other ranks killed, as well as 11 officers and 108 other ranks wounded, during the crossing operations.

Soon the Battalion began, in the words of the Commander-in-Chief's message, to " crack about the plains of Northern Germany." The " cracking about " started with a long road move to Enschede, still oddly enough in Holland, on 7th April. Although the Camerons were only there for two days, Enschede ranked with Vught and s'Hertogenbosch in their social record, for the welcome they received could not have been warmer had they been the original liberating troops. On 12th April the Battalion moved to a concentration area south-west of Vechta, with the task of passing through the 154th Brigade and maintaining the pace of their rapid advance. The battle was now very fluid and the original plan, issued at 2 P.M., was changed several times before the eventual move at 7.30 P.M. The Cameron column presented a strange spectacle that night. No troop-carrying vehicles were available, and the Battalion rode on anything that could con-

ceivably be used for carrying troops. Tanks, Flails, 17-pounder self-propelled guns, and, of course, all the regimental fighting vehicles were pressed into service. Just after first light the leading Company ("B") formed up in Vechta, while the forward company of the Argylls was still clearing the northern edge of the town. "B" Company moved off to the village of Oythe at 11.15 P.M. and thirty prisoners were collected there without opposition. In the early hours of the 13th, the advance continued to Amerbusch, 7 miles beyond the starting-point; here thirty-one prisoners were taken. Still riding on the assorted transport, the Battalion continued towards Visbek. "C" Company attacked and captured Visbek, meeting only slight resistance and capturing twenty prisoners. A blown bridge brought the Battalion to a temporary halt, but the demolition was circumvented by using a number of circuitous tracks to the next objective, Varnhorn, which was captured before midnight.

From now until the end, the Germans proved they were experts in demolitions. Every culvert and bridge was blown, and if there were no culverts, the roads and verges were methodically mined.

In twenty-four hours the battalion had advanced 28 miles and captured over 200 prisoners.

On 16th April the 5th Camerons were relieved by the 4th Wiltshire, and there was a short respite during which the War Diary (17th April 1945) notes: "The Pipes and Drums played 'Retreat' at 1615 hours."

The 18th of April found the Battalion in Great Ippener, the concentration area for an attack north through the 154th Brigade. The objectives for the (night) attack included two bridges, an airfield (Delmenhorst), and the village of Adelheide. At 9 P.M. the Battalion passed the starting-point. "A" Company's axis was on the left of the main road, and their orders were to attack the village from a flank while "C" Company assaulted from the south.

The first bridge was not blown, but was covered by some determined men, including one extraordinary fanatic who could clearly be heard "heiling" his Führer each time he fired a bazooka down the road. Mines were also encountered and one vehicle was blown up. "C" Company reached their initial objective about 11 P.M. in spite of opposition and casualties; they managed to get one platoon over the bridge, but it had to be withdrawn owing to the intensity of the small-arms fire from Adelheide. A second attack on the bridge and the buildings immediately beyond it, supported by artillery, was put in by "A" Company shortly after midnight. The bridge was then captured and held. Major A. W. Lee, M.C., O.C. "A" Company, was wounded in this attack.

"B" Company passed through "C" Company at 1.30 A.M. and secured their objective, though they lost Lieutenant J. M. Schofield and 6 other ranks killed, and 22 other ranks, including C.S.M. Middlemiss, wounded. They had the satisfaction of winning a bottle

of whisky from the R.E. Field Company Commander, who offered such a prize to any sub-unit who captured a bridge intact, and so saved him and his men from a task that was becoming far too monotonous. The airfield was then cleared by "D" Company: it was not defended.

In the afternoon of 19th April, "D" Company, supported by Crocodiles and Flails, attacked the cross-roads at the north end of the village to clear the axis for the 153rd Brigade's advance on Delmenhorst. The Crocodiles were boldly led, and the company was established in the area of the cross-roads within two hours and without great difficulty. Fifty-two prisoners were taken during the whole action.

On 20th April the War Diary notes: "0625.—The former Divisional Commander, Major-General D. N. Wimberley, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., paid the Battalion a visit and stayed a while."

The Battalion relieved the 2nd Seaforth at Ganderkesee on 22nd April, and for three days patrolled thoroughly north and east of the village. At Ganderkesee numerous Yugoslavs and Russians were evacuated through the Battalion to the Military Government. On 25th April the 2nd Canadian Reconnaissance Regiment took over from the Battalion, which then moved into a barracks just south of Delmenhorst. After subsequent moves to Holtum and Otterstedt, the Battalion was scheduled to carry out an assault crossing of the River Kamme and, with the 5th Seaforth, to capture Bremervorde. On the night of the 30th, detailed reconnaissances of routes and crossing-points were made; but second thoughts by the Divisional R.E. altered the whole plan, and an A.V.R.E. bridge allowed the 5th Seaforth to cross and capture the town. On 2nd May the Battalion passed through Bremer-vorde, mounted in Kangaroos, and occupied the little German village of Glinde. One self-propelled gun was knocked out for the loss of one of the supporting tanks; some prisoners were captured. The 5th Camerons had taken their last objective of the war. The hero of this last small action was Captain D. K. Beaton, who, single-handed, took on and knocked out the self-propelled gun. It was a "David and Goliath" act and Captain Beaton well deserved the M.C. he was later awarded for his action.

Rumours began to circulate of German isolated garrisons on the Divisional front surrendering, and on the 3rd of May expectations were great indeed when a projected "swan" in front of the 154th Brigade was cancelled.

Next day the news of the capitulation of the German forces in Holland, North Germany, and Denmark was received amid great rejoicing and with much firing of tracer and Verey lights. The Senior Chaplain of the Division, Major The Rev. W. C. B. Smith, M.B.E., conducted a Thanksgiving Memorial Service.

On 7th May the Battalion moved to Fickmuhlen, where it was given the task of checking German troop concentrations in the area

and searching for arms and ammunition dumps. At Bremerhaven, on 12th May, the Division marched past Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, Commander 30th Corps, and the 5th Camerons supplied the only fully kilted contingent on parade.

Three men from each company went to Stade on 14th May, when the C.-in-C. presented medals to officers and other ranks of the Division. The following members of the 5th Camerons received their awards: The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang—D.S.O.; Major R. M. Munro—M.C.; Major D. H. Cameron—M.C.; C.S.M. H. Fraser—M.M.; Sergeant L. A. Toogood—M.M.; Corporal A. H. Childs—M.M.; Corporal J. Holland—M.M.

A week later the Battalion went to Cuxhaven, and on the 24th of May a contingent was present at the formal handing over of the port. At Cuxhaven, planning was effected for occupational duties and for the preparation of the early Release Groups for civil life. The Battalion was split up into a Vocational Training Company ("A"), a Young Soldiers' Company ("B"), a N.C.O. Company ("C"), a Motor Transport Company ("D"), and an Administrative and Welfare Group ("H.Q."); Support Company, although many of its tried and trusted members were scattered throughout the Battalion, still retained its specialist training rôle.

#### FROM OCCUPATION TO SUSPENDED ANIMATION

Cuxhaven was a good place to finish the war. The 152nd Brigade, now commanded by Brigadier J. A. Grant-Peterkin, D.S.O., of the Regiment, were stationed there, less the 5th Seaforth, who were split between two villages about 4-8 miles to the east. Cameron companies were billeted in various houses, blocks of flats, wooden huts, &c., less "A" Company, who had moved down to Ohr, a small hamlet a few miles south of Hameln, some 100 miles away to the south. Ohr was a delightful spot, on the banks of the Weser, the Company being billeted in the local Schloss, which, it transpired later, belonged to a distant relation of Colonel J. Sorel-Cameron; an odd coincidence.

Non-fraternisation was in force for the first three months after "V.E."-Day, so all ranks were on their mettle to show the still somewhat bewildered enemy the truly scrupulous manner in which an occupation force should carry out its duties. General amenities in the town were good: the P.R.I. opened canteens, and Sergeants' and Corporals' Messes took on a more settled outlook on life. Sports grounds were many and good, and an excellent stadium was available for use for athletics. Morale, as might be expected, was at its highest, and turn-out and general alertness were at pre-war Aldershot standards. Guard mounting was watched by crowds of Germans every morning,





VICTORY PARADE, BREMERHAVEN

THE COMMANDING OFFICER, LT.-COLONEL D. B. LANG, D.S.O., M.C.  
*Right to left*—Captain H. V. Dawson, Lieutenant R. V. Marquis, Captain H. A. Ogilvie, Lieutenant J. V. Eastwood, Major D. K. Beaton, M.C.,  
and Captain W. C. Richardson





while the Pipes and Drums invariably carried with them an enveloping crowd of admirers, young and old. Everyone was on his toes.

Then came the departure of Lt.-Colonel Lang and R.S.M. Slee at the end of May, the former to raise and take command of the new School of Infantry at Sennelager, Paderborn, and the latter to return to civil life. Derek Lang had commanded the Battalion for eight months of almost continuous action, no mean feat in itself, and had guided it safely and surely from Normandy to Germany. In action he achieved the confidence of all ranks, and the high and genuine regard in which he was held did not arise from his personality alone but also from his great courage and ability as a leader. Out of action, he concerned himself equally wholeheartedly with the welfare and social activities of all members of the Battalion. It was a sad moment when the Battalion said good-bye to him. Jock Slee had already made his name as a Cameron Highlander before he joined the Battalion in Hertford. He must have been the oldest "other rank" in the Battalion by far, apart from having been a warrant officer in 1933 when Colonel Lang joined the Regiment as a 2nd Lieutenant. When many men of his age were carrying out sedentary duties more suited to their station, in base areas both at home and abroad, Jock Slee felt he could still serve the Camerons in action and yet maintain the high standard he had always set himself in the past. His success was complete and his presence a tower of strength both to his superiors and inferiors. He ended his service at the top of his form and a magnificent example to all Cameron Highlanders.

Occupational duties initially did not prove as irksome as some members of the Battalion may have imagined, and very soon football and athletics started up with competitions at all levels. Enthusiasm reached a high pitch, and all members of the Battalion prepared to show their abilities. The Battalion athletic team challenged a local American Air Force unit to a match, which it just managed to win. This was an excellent preliminary to the Brigade Games, when it was to "sweep the board" with the Seaforth Battalions and an R.N. team from H.M.S. *Royal Charlotte*, the local H.Q. of the N.O.I.C., Cuxhaven. The football team also proved it was to be a side well worth watching, and made a most auspicious start in the local league.

August saw the return of Major C. A. H. M. Noble, M.C., to the Battalion, this time as successor to Lt.-Colonel Lang, in command. Companies were commanded at this time as follows: "A" Company, Major A. R. MacLeod; "B" Company, Major I. A. G. Davy; "C" Company, Captain A. G. Cameron, M.C.; "D" Company, Captain D. A. C. M'Killop; Support Company, Major E. N. Mainwaring, M.C.; and "H.Q." Company, Major C. Kerr. A few weeks later saw the departure of Major R. M. Munro, M.C., to the United Kingdom on leave, and eventually on posting to the U.S.A., and the appointment of Major C. Kerr as Second-in-Command. Major J. Macdonald had

left the Battalion, with Colonel Lang, in order to instruct at the new School of Infantry. As can well be imagined, "V.J."-Day was celebrated with the enthusiasm its arrival deserved: it seemed hardly possible that six years of war had really come to an end.

With September came the Divisional Games at Verden, held in a magnificent stadium well suited to such a rôle. Four days of sport, fought out with the greatest enthusiasm, saw the 5th Camerons run out winners of the Games by a clear 43 points lead over the 7th Black Watch, with the 5th Black Watch third. The Battalion football team won the Divisional Knock-out Competition on the second day of the Games by 4 goals to 1 against the 154th Brigade Workshops; the Battalion tug-of-war team (catch-weight) won the Tug-of-War Tournament decisively, losing only one pull. Mention must also be made of the Highland dancers, who secured the first three places in two out of three individual events, and also won one team event and were second in the other: the pipers also did well. It was a great day for the Battalion and the Regiment, and reflected great credit on all who coached as well as those who took part; the team spirit and general level of sportsmanship were of an excellent order.

With October there came the order for a further move to Westertimke, a small village miles from anywhere (12 from Bremen and 60 from Hamburg), which had helped to house our sailors and merchant seamen captured in the war. The two prison camps now held some 5000 Nazis, brought in for screening and eventual release or disposal. The Battalion's rôle was the guarding and administration of these camps. The accommodation provided for the Battalion was well-nigh as bad as that provided for the Nazi internees, apart from the fact that it was spread out in company areas, one as much as 4 miles away in the neighbouring village of Tarmstedt. There was a football field, but the moles had already got a footing, and serious play was practically out of the question. Almost at the same time as the Battalion moved to Westertimke, the Release Scheme began to make itself felt. No fewer than six Majors left before February 1946, including Majors C. Kerr, D. H. Cameron, E. N. Mainwaring, A. G. Cameron, A. R. MacLeod, and W. F. G. Brabin, and amongst others, Captain A. F. Fox and Lieutenants R. J. A. Cook and J. A. Macdonald. The losses in W.O.s and N.C.O.s were equally heavy, including R.Q.M.S. J. Warren, O.R.Q.M.S. G. O. J. MacSkimming, and Colour-Sergeants C. Clark, G. Smith and Crockett, to say nothing of Sergeant J. Johnston, the P.R.I.'s right-hand man. All tried and experienced soldiers, their replacement was not easy, but their departure was offset to some extent by the arrival of Major R. G. Borradaile, M.B.E., M.C., of the Regiment, from the 15th (S.) Division to be Second-in-Command, and the return of Major A. W. Lee, M.C., to command "C" Company. C.S.M. W. W. Clelland, M.M., wounded after Ste Honorine, rejoined the Battalion as R.S.M. with Lieutenant A. A. Robertson, captured with

the 2nd Battalion in Tobruk, and Lieutenant G. A. M. Panton, captured with the 4th Battalion at St Valery, who joined for the first time.

The four winter months (November-February) spent in Westertimke contrasted sadly with the period of jubilation and enjoyment spent in Cuxhaven. Few opportunities for social or athletic functions were possible, and field training was quite impossible. Mention must be made here of the Catholic Women's League, which provided a canteen for the Brigade, ably and enthusiastically led by the Misses Edith Heaven and Fanny Fraser (Moniack). No weather conditions prevented their daily visits to Battalions, and their hard work was fully appreciated by all ranks. However, there were brighter moments, which included renewed acquaintance with the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (3rd Battalion), stationed in good quarters in Wilhelmshaven. Lt.-Colonel J. Tedlie, D.S.O., and Major "Buck" Buchanan, M.B.E., were frequent visitors, and the party they gave at Wilhelmshaven will not readily be forgotten by those members of the Battalion who attended it.

New Year 1946 was celebrated in traditional style, and an abundance of good food probably made most people forget the squalid surroundings in which it was eaten. The Battalion "owned" ten horses at this time, and full use was made of them by both officers and other ranks. The shooting of roe for the pot also became a popular and productive entertainment. Relief was, however, in sight, and with the arrival of February came the formation of No. 8 Civil Internment Camp, a unit designed to administer, though not to guard, the 5000 internees. "B" and "D" Companies of the 1st Gordons came on the scene soon afterwards, and the 5th Camerons moved with much rejoicing to Hanover on 27th February.

On arrival, the Battalion found itself billeted in the Herrenhausen quarter, a portion of the city which had not received such close attention from the R.A.F. as the "remains of the remainder"! Here Captain T. B. M. Lamb rejoined the Battalion and took over command of "B" Company. Major R. C. MacCunn was in command of "A" Company, Major A. W. Lee, M.C., of "C" Company, Captain J. J. Brankin of "D" Company (Motor Transport), and Captain R. V. Marquis of "H.Q." Company. Support Company had been disbanded by this time. The 152nd Brigade's rôle was the maintenance of law and order, in and around Hanover, with two battalions (as the 2nd Seaforth were billeted in Neustadt, some 10 miles to the north-east): so there were still many guards to be found. One of them was at the Hanover Central Railway Station, where fourteen Jocks were responsible for controlling some thousand Germans, men, women and children, stranded there each night owing to the very limited train services then available. In the overflowing "bunkers" beneath the station, where they spent the night, black market was rife. The main problem from the security angle was the thieving and even murderous propensity of

the D.P.s (Displaced Persons)—“C” Company (Major A. W. Lee, M.C.) had reason to remember their early-morning raids on the D.P. Camp at Empelde, an old dynamite factory, honeycombed with concrete dug-outs, as a result of which three murderers were brought to book.

The beginning of April saw a proposed move from Herrenhausen into Dempsey Barracks, one of the latest types of German barracks, on the outskirts of the city. Plans had been made for the conversion of existing buildings into Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, canteens, &c., and dates of the move had already been fixed, when all were cancelled: the 51st Highland Division and the 152nd Highland Brigade were to go into “suspended animation” by mid-May. The 5th Seaforth and 5th Camerons were to move to Brussels for guard duties, on the lines of communication, prior to their wasting out and reverting to “suspended animation.” For about a fortnight the Battalion occupied Dempsey Barracks, which was the scene of its farewell parade to the Divisional Commander, Major-General C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O. The kilt was worn by all ranks on parade for the last time, and, after the march past, the General addressed the Battalion. He briefly outlined the history it had helped to make in the late war, and complimented it on the steady and resolute way in which it had tackled all and every problem it had met.

The Battalion moved to Brussels by rail and road and finally concentrated in St Anne's Barracks, Laeken, by 20th May. From then onwards it carried out only garrison duties, of varied types and importance. St Anne's Barracks were politely described as the “Belgian equivalent of Wellington Barracks, but a long time ago”: modern improvements in barrack schedules had unfortunately passed it by. The next five months kept all and sundry extremely busy, as both officers and N.C.O.s changed with ever-increasing rapidity, and the duties to be provided normally exceeded by a substantial figure the number of men available. Sport was well-nigh non-existent. The high cost of living in Belgium, and especially Brussels, came as a shock to all ranks used to German standards. However, social occasions were possible, and the officers held a Ball in the Allied Officers' Club, Rue d'Arlon, in July, when they entertained about 200 guests. Visits to Waterloo, for parties of officers and other ranks, were made on Sundays, and the opportunity was taken to have the Regimental Memorial in the church at Waterloo cleaned and reset.

With the demise of the 5th Seaforth in Antwerp in August, the 5th Camerons, the last remaining Territorial Battalion of the 51st Highland Division, found itself the only remaining major British unit in Belgium, with but two months of life in front of it. October saw the end in sight, and on 21st October the Regular cadre of the Battalion, with the Commanding Officer, left by rail from Brussels for Inverness, where it was entertained to dinner in the Caledonian Hotel on 23rd

October (Alamein Night) by Provost Hugh Ross and the Magistrates and Councillors of the Royal Burgh. "And so to suspended animation"!

"The Battalion," recorded 'The 79th News' of October 1946, "has had a distinguished career in the late war, and has had the good fortune to be present at and to take part in probably more than its share of the many campaigns which made up that long-drawn-out struggle. . . . The Battalion has always taken a pride in the wearing of the kilt . . . throughout the North African Campaign the Battalion was the envy of many other battalions in the Division, because, whenever possible, as many men as possible were to be seen in the kilt—and so it went on, right through to 'V.E.'-Day, and up to the present time. . . ."

Thus ends the war story of the 5th Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders—a story of six years' good comradeship, of three years' fighting, and a record of which any Battalion might well be proud.

## APPENDIX

## LIST OF OFFICERS

*1st February 1943*

## TRIPOLI

Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, D.S.O., C.O.	Lieutenant (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne, Quartermaster.
Major I. P. Grant, Second - in - Command.	Lieutenant P. S. Methven, Company Officer.
Major C. A. B. Malden, Company Commander.	Lieutenant N. G. Steele, Company Officer.
Major E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton, Company Commander.	Lieutenant G. D. Stewart, Company Officer.
Captain L. C. Pitman, Company Commander.	Lieutenant R. G. Smith, Company Officer.
Captain G. D. S. Black, M.C., Company Commander.	Lieutenant A. Sinclair, Company Officer.
Captain G. A. Nixon, Company Commander.	Lieutenant R. N. Roberts, Company Officer.
Captain J. Elliot, Company Officer.	Lieutenant J. H. Latta, Company Officer.
Captain W. J. Macgregor, Company Officer.	Lieutenant A. S. N. Black, Company Officer.
Captain I. M. Matheson, Company Officer.	Lieutenant S. H. Johnston, Company Officer.
Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison, Adjutant.	Lieutenant C. L. Gruning, Company Officer.
Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.	Lieutenant J. M. MacKay, Company Officer.
Captain E. N. Mainwaring, Carrier Officer.	Lieutenant J. Robertson, Company Officer.
Captain A. R. P. P. Cameron, Anti- Tank Officer.	Lieutenant H. C. Archibald, Com- pany Officer.
Lieutenant C. J. Henry, I.O.	Lieutenant D. M'G. Watson, Com- pany Officer.
Lieutenant I. G. Inch, Company Officer.	Lieutenant J. C. Hamp, M.C., Com- pany Officer.
Lieutenant I. Nicolson, S.O.	Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie, Com- pany Officer.
Lieutenant A. B. Fallow, Mortar Officer.	Lieutenant F. E. Bright, Company Officer.
Lieutenant A. I. H. Macfarlane, Carrier Officer.	
Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, Anti- Tank Platoon.	
Lieutenant P. East, Anti-Tank Platoon.	





20th April 1943

Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers, D.S.O., C.O.	Lieutenant A. I. H. Macfarlane, Company Officer.
Major C. A. H. M. Noble, Second-in- Command.	Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, Anti- Tank Officer.
Major C. A. B. Malden, M.C., Com- pany Commander, "D" Company.	Lieutenant E. P. M. Brown, Com- pany Officer.
Captain C. MacLennan, Company Commander, "A" Company.	Lieutenant P. East, Company Officer.
Captain G. A. Nixon, Company Commander, "B" Company.	Lieutenant H. C. Archibald, I.O.
Captain W. J. Macgregor, Company Commander, "C" Company.	Lieutenant A. Sinclair, M.C., Com- pany Officer.
Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison, Adjutant.	Lieutenant D. M'G. Watson, Com- pany Officer.
Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.	Lieutenant F. E. Bright, Assist. S.O.
Captain J. B. Black, Company Com- mander, "H.Q." Company.	Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C., Company Officer.
Captain A. R. P. P. Cameron, Anti- Tank Platoon Commander.	Lieutenant L. W. Campbell- Colquhoun, Company Officer.
Captain E. N. Mainwaring, M.C., Carrier Officer.	Lieutenant C. F. Burrows, Company Officer.
Captain (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne, Quartermaster.	Captain J. S. Montgomerie, R.A.M.C., M.O.
Lieutenant I. Nicolson, S.O.	Captain W. C. B. Smith, C.F., Chaplain.
Lieutenant A. B. Fallow, Mortar Officer.	

LIST OF OFFICERS WHO TOOK PART IN "THE SICILIAN  
CAMPAIGN"

## BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Lt.-Colonel J. Sorel-Cameron. Wounded 14th July 1943.  
 Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro. Joined from "Left out of Battle," 21st July  
 1943.  
 Major C. A. H. M. Noble, M.C., Second-in-Command.  
 Captain I. G. Inch, Adjutant.  
 Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb, I.O.

## "H.Q." COMPANY

Major C. A. B. Malden, M.C.  
 Lieutenant R. B. Hamilton (S.O.). Evacuated sick, 29th July 1943.  
 Lieutenant R. J. A. Cook (Mortar Officer).  
 Captain E. N. Mainwaring, M.C. Evacuated sick, 30th July 1943.

Captain J. B. Black (Carrier Officer). Joined from "Left out of Battle," 9th August 1943. Evacuated sick, 23rd August 1943.  
 Captain E. P. M. Brown (Anti-Tank Commander). Evacuated sick, 31st July 1943.  
 Lieutenant D. H. Cameron (Anti-Tank Platoon).  
 Lieutenant F. E. Bright (Anti-Tank Platoon). Killed in action, 17th July 1943.  
 Captain J. Elliot (Carrier Officer). Evacuated sick, 7th August 1943.  
 Captain D. A. C. M'Killop (M.T.O.).  
 Captain (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne (Quartermaster).  
 Captain C. W. R. Hill. Wounded 15th July 1943.

## " A " COMPANY

Captain C. MacLennan. Wounded 14th July 1943. Died of wounds, 6th October 1943.  
 Major I. A. G. Davy. Joined ex 51st Highland Division, 6th August 1943.  
 Captain A. D. MacLeod. Joined ex Base, 31st July 1943. Killed in action, 1st August 1943.  
 Captain D. M'G. Watson. Evacuated sick, 29th July 1943.  
 Lieutenant J. Gentleman. Joined ex Base, 23rd July 1943.  
 Lieutenant K. D. H. Cattanach. Joined ex Base, 23rd July 1943.  
 Lieutenant L. W. Campbell-Colquhoun. Wounded 14th July 1943.  
 Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie M.C. Evacuated sick, 3rd August 1943.  
 Lieutenant G. W. L. Garroch. Joined ex Base, 23rd July 1943. Wounded 1st August 1943.

## " B " COMPANY

Captain G. A. Nixon, M.C. Wounded 1st August 1943.  
 Captain A. L. Macnab. Joined from "Left out of Battle," 27th July 1943.  
 Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers. Joined ex Base, 23rd July 1943.  
 Lieutenant C. J. Henry. Killed in action, 1st August 1943.  
 Lieutenant J. R. MacKay-Smith. Killed in action, 1st August 1943.  
 Lieutenant C. F. Burrows. Joined ex Hospital, 5th August 1943.  
 Lieutenant A. I. H. Macfarlane. Joined from "Left out of Battle," 9th August 1943.

## " C " COMPANY

Captain H. V. Dawson.  
 Lieutenant J. M. Mackay. Joined ex 2nd Seaforth, 12th August 1943.  
 Lieutenant J. R. Millar. Evacuated sick, 7th August 1943.  
 Lieutenant I. MacDonald. Joined ex 2nd Seaforth, 12th August 1943.  
 Lieutenant B. Henderson. Joined ex 5th Seaforth, 12th August 1943.  
 Evacuated sick, 21st August 1943.  
 Lieutenant H. A. J. Guess.

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"D" COMPANY

Captain R. C. MacCunn.  
Lieutenant G. Henderson.  
Lieutenant F. Greenwood, M.C.  
Lieutenant W. Dobie. Evacuated sick, 9th July 1943. Rejoined 4th August 1943.

ATTACHED

Captain J. S. Montgomerie, R.A.M.C. Wounded 14th July 1943.  
Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C. Joined 15th July 1943.  
Captain W. C. B. Smith, C.F.

LIST OF OFFICERS WHO SERVED WITH THE BATTALION  
AT THE BATTLE OF THE SFERRO HILLS

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro, C.O. Captain I. G. Inch, Adjutant.  
Major C. A. H. M. Noble, Second- Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb, I.O.  
in-Command.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Major C. A. B. Malden, M.C., O.C. Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.  
"H.Q." Company. Lieutenant R. B. Hamilton, S.O.  
2nd Lieutenant R. J. A. Cook, Captain (Quartermaster) W. M.  
Mortar Officer. Milne, Quartermaster.  
Captain J. Elliot, Carrier Officer.  
Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, Anti-  
Tank Officer.

"A" COMPANY

Captain A. D. MacLeod.\* 2nd Lieutenant G. W. L. Garroch.†  
Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C. 2nd Lieutenant J. Gentleman.

"B" COMPANY

Captain G. A. Nixon.† Lieutenant J. R. MacKay-Smith.\*  
Lieutenant C. J. Henry.\* 2nd Lieutenant K. D. H. Cattnach.

"C" COMPANY

Captain H. V. Dawson. Lieutenant H. A. J. Guess.  
Lieutenant J. R. Millar. 2nd Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers.

\* Denotes killed.

† Denotes wounded.

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" D " COMPANY

Captain R. C. MacCunn.                      2nd Lieutenant F. Greenwood.  
Lieutenant G. Henderson.

ATTACHED 2ND BATTALION THE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS

Lieutenant J. M. Mackay.                      Lieutenant B. Henderson.  
Lieutenant I. MacDonald.

ATTACHED

Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C.,      Captain The Rev. W. C. B. Smith,  
M.O.    C.F., Padre.

LIST OF OFFICERS—ZAFFERANA, SICILY

*21st August 1943*

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro, C.O.              Captain I. G. Inch, Adjutant.  
Major C. A. H. M. Noble, M.C.,              Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb, I.O.  
Second-in-Command.

" H.Q. " COMPANY

Major C. A. B. Malden, M.C., Com-      Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, Anti-  
pany Commander.                              Tank Officer.  
Lieutenant R. J. A. Cook, Mortar      Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.  
Officer.    Captain (Quartermaster) W. M.  
Captain J. B. Black, Carrier Officer.      Milne, Quartermaster.

" A " COMPANY

Major I. A. G. Davy.                              Lieutenant K. D. H. Cattanach.  
Lieutenant J. Gentleman.

" B " COMPANY

Captain A. L. Macnab.                              Lieutenant A. I. H. Macfarlane.  
Lieutenant C. F. Burrows.                      Lieutenant J. M. Mackay.

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" C " COMPANY

Captain H. V. Dawson.	Lieutenant B. Henderson.
Lieutenant I. MacDonald.	Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers.

" D " COMPANY

Captain R. C. MacCunn.	Lieutenant F. Greenwood.
Lieutenant G. Henderson.	Lieutenant W. Dobie.

LIST OF OFFICERS WHO LANDED WITH THE 5TH BATTALION  
IN NORMANDY

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro, C.O.	Captain E. P. M. Brown, Adjutant.
Major C. A. H. M. Noble, M.C., Second-in-Command.	Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb, I.O.

" H.Q." COMPANY

Captain I. M. Matheson, Company Commander.	Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O. Captain (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne, M.B.E., Quartermaster.
Lieutenant R. B. Hamilton, S.O.	

" A " COMPANY

Major A. R. MacLeod, Company Commander.	Lieutenant J. W. Pennington (Can- loan).
Lieutenant P. C. C. Gobourn.	Lieutenant J. Gentleman.
Lieutenant B. Wilkie.	

" B " COMPANY

Major G. A. Nixon, M.C., Company Commander.	Lieutenant D. K. Beaton. Lieutenant A. M'Intosh.
Lieutenant C. F. Burrows.	Lieutenant K. D. H. Cattanach.

" C " COMPANY

Major H. W. Cairns, Company Com- mander.	Lieutenant J. C. MacKay. Lieutenant J. G. Pearce (Canloan).
Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers.	

" D " COMPANY

Major E. N. Mainwaring, M.C., Company Commander.	Lieutenant F. Greenwood, M.C. Lieutenant F. L. J. Arnott (Canloan).
Captain R. C. MacCunn.	Lieutenant W. Dobie.
Lieutenant G. Henderson.	

## 5TH BATTALION

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### " S.P." COMPANY

Captain C. W. R. Hill, Company Commander.	Captain D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C., Assault Pioneer Platoon Com- mander.
Captain A. L. Macnab, Anti-Tank Platoon Commander.	Lieutenant R. J. A. Cook, Mortar Platoon Commander.
Captain J. Elliot, M.C., Carrier Platoon Commander.	Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, Anti- Tank Platoon.

### FIRST REINFORCEMENTS

Captain W. J. Macgregor.	Captain The Rev. W. C. B. Smith, C.F., Padre.
Lieutenant D. W. Milne.	
Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C., M.O.	

## LIST OF OFFICERS WHO FOUGHT IN THE FIRST BATTLE OF STE HONORINE LA CHARDONERETTE

### BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro, C.O.	Lieutenant T. B. M. Lamb, I.O.
Captain E. P. M. Brown (wounded), Adjutant.	

### " H.Q." COMPANY

Lieutenant R. B. Hamilton (wounded), S.O.	Captain (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne, M.B.E., Quartermaster.
Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.	

### " A " COMPANY

Major A. R. MacLeod (wounded), Company Commander.	Lieutenant B. Wilkie.
Lieutenant P. C. C. Gobourn (wounded).	Lieutenant J. Gentleman.
	Lieutenant J. W. Pennington (Can- loan).

### " B " COMPANY

Major G. A. Nixon, M.C., Company Commander.	Lieutenant D. K. Beaton.
Lieutenant C. F. Burrows.	Lieutenant K. D. H. Cattnach (wounded).

### " C " COMPANY

Major H. W. Cairns, Company Com- mander.	Lieutenant J. C. MacKay.
Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers.	Lieutenant J. D. Pearce (Canloan).

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" D " COMPANY

Major E. N. Mainwaring, M.C. (wounded), Company Commander.	Lieutenant F. Greenwood, M.C. Lieutenant F. L. J. Arnott (Canloan). Lieutenant W. Dobie.
Lieutenant G. Henderson.	

" S.P." COMPANY

Captain C. W. R. Hill, Company Commander.	Captain J. Elliot, M.C. (wounded), Carriers.
Captain A. L. Macnab, Anti-Tank Platoon Commander.	Lieutenant R. J. A. Cook, Mortars. Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C., Assault Pioneer Platoon.
Lieutenant D. H. Cameron, Anti- Tank Platoon.	

LIST OF OFFICERS WHO FOUGHT IN THE SECOND BATTLE  
STE HONORINE LA CHARDONERETTE

BATTALION HEADQUARTERS

Lt.-Colonel A. G. F. Monro, C.O.	Lieutenant D. W. Milne. I.O.
Captain T. B. M. Lamb, Adjutant.	

" H.Q." COMPANY

Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.	Captain W. M. Milne, M.B.E., Quartermaster.
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" A " COMPANY

Major C. W. R. Hill, Company Commander.	Lieutenant J. W. Pennington (wounded) (Canloan).
Lieutenant B. Wilkie (wounded).	Lieutenant J. Gentleman (wounded).

" B " COMPANY

Major G. A. Nixon, M.C., Company Commander.	Lieutenant D. K. Beaton. Lieutenant A. M'Intosh (wounded).
Lieutenant C. F. Burrows.	

" C " COMPANY

Major H. W. Cairns, Company Com- mander.	Lieutenant J. C. MacKay. Lieutenant J. D. Pearce (Canloan).
Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers (wounded).	

## 5TH BATTALION

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### " D " COMPANY

Lieutenant G. Henderson.	Lieutenant F. L. J. Arnott (wounded)
Lieutenant F. Greenwood, M.C.	(Canloan).
	Lieutenant W. Dobie (killed).

### " S.P." COMPANY

Captain W. J. Macgregor.	Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C.,
Captain A. L. Macnab.	M.O.
Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C.	Captain The Rev. G. Elliot Anderson,
Lieutenant R. J. A. Cook.	C.F., Padre.

*Note.*—Canloan denotes attached from Canadian Army.

## LIST OF OFFICERS

*26th August 1944*

Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, M.C., C.O.	Lieutenant G. Henderson, Company
Major R. M. Munro, Second-in- Command.	Officer.
Major A. N. Parker, Company Com- mander.	Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers, Com- pany Officer.
Major A. L. Macnab, Company Commander.	Lieutenant D. K. Beaton, Anti- Tank.
Major D. F. Callander, M.C., Com- pany Commander.	Lieutenant A. M. Hamilton, Com- pany Officer.
Major I. M. Matheson, Company Commander.	Lieutenant V. Burns (The Loyal Regiment, att.), Company Officer.
Captain W. F. G. Brabin, Company Officer.	Lieutenant A. M. Govan, Company Officer.
Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.	Lieutenant J. D. Pearce (Canloan), Company Officer.
Captain W. R. Gwillim (South Wales Borderers, att.), Company Officer	2nd Lieutenant J. G. Lord (The Loyal Regiment, att.), Company Officer.
Captain T. B. M. Lamb, Adjutant.	Captain (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne, M.B.E., Quartermaster.
Captain D. W. Milne, I.O.	Captain W. W. Yellowlees, R.A.M.C., M.O.
Captain E. Macdonald, D.C.M., Com- pany Officer.	

*November 1944*

Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, M.C., C.O.	Major F. C. Q. Irvine, Company
Major R. M. Munro, Second-in- Command.	Commander.
Captain T. B. M. Lamb, Adjutant.	Major D. F. Callander, M.C., Com- pany Commander.
Major J. L. Melville, Company Com- mander.	Major E. N. Mainwaring, M.C., Company Commander.



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Captain W. F. G. Brabin, Company Commander.	Lieutenant J. S. Henderson, Company Officer.
Captain D. A. C. M'Killop, M.T.O.	Lieutenant A. F. Fox (Canloan), Company Officer.
Captain (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne, M.B.E., Quartermaster.	Lieutenant J. R. Le Mesurier (Canloan), Company Officer.
Captain A. W. Lee, I.O.	Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers, M.C., Company Officer.
Captain N. L. MacLucas, M.B.E., Company Officer.	Lieutenant D. K. Beaton, Company Officer.
Captain D. H. Cameron, Anti-Tank Platoon Commander.	Lieutenant H. N. Smith (The King's Regiment (Liverpool), att.), Company Officer.
Captain I. M. Townrow (South Staffs., att.), Mortar Officer.	Lieutenant W. H. Agnew (Canloan), Company Officer.
Captain A. F. Tongue (South Staffs., att.), Company Officer.	Captain W. W. Yellowlees, M.C., R.A.M.C., M.O.
Captain J. R. Broadbent (The King's Regiment (Liverpool), att.) Company Officer.	
Lieutenant G. O. Carpenter (South Staffs., att.), Company Officer.	

*29th December 1945*

Lt.-Colonel C. A. H. M. Noble, M.C., C.O.	Lieutenant J. J. Brankin, Company Officer.
Major R. G. Borradaile, M.B.E., M.C., Second-in-Command.	Lieutenant G. O. Carpenter (South Staffs., att.), Company Officer (30th Corps).
Major I. A. G. Davy, Company Commander.	Lieutenant R. M. Duncanson, Company Officer.
Major A. W. Lee, M.C., Company Commander.	Lieutenant J. D. Gordon, M.M., Company Officer.
Major D. A. C. M'Killop, Company Commander.	Lieutenant K. H. Maxwell, Company Officer.
Captain D. M. L. Ainslie, M.C., Company Commander.	Lieutenant A. L. M'Call, Adjutant.
Captain H. V. Dawson, Company Officer.	Lieutenant G. A. M. Panton, Company Officer.
Captain R. V. Marquis, Company Officer.	Lieutenant J. W. Richard, Company Officer.
Captain N. M. Morrison, Company Officer.	Lieutenant A. A. Robertson, Company Officer.
Captain R. C. MacCunn, Company Commander.	Lieutenant A. Rowlett, Company Officer.
Captain H. A. Ogilvie, Company Officer.	Lieutenant W. Shaw, Company Officer.
Captain B. C. Purton, Company Officer.	Captain (Quartermaster) W. M. Milne, M.B.E., Quartermaster.
Captain R. I. Shanks, Company Officer.	Captain D. D. Duncan, C.F., Padre.
Lieutenant J. H. Bailey, Company Officer.	

## CASUALTIES—NORTH AFRICA AND SICILY

October 1942—August 1943

OFFICERS				
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
North Africa . . . .	11	38	2	51
Sicily . . . . .	4	7	1	12
Total . . . . .	15	45	3	63

OTHER RANKS				
	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
North Africa . . . .	126	295	93	514
Sicily . . . . .	17	41	10	68
Total . . . . .	143	336	103	582

DETAILS OF CASUALTIES BY COMPANIES <sup>1</sup>

23rd March 1943

(Anti-Tank Ditch, MARETH)

Company	Officers		Other Ranks		
	Killed	Wounded	Killed	Wounded	Missing
" A "	Captain L. C. Pitman Lieutenant N. G. Steele	..	8	9	1
" B "	..	Lieutenant J. M. Mackay	11	16	6
" C "	..	Lieutenant A. S. N. Black	14	18	1
" D "	..	Captain I. M. Matheson	5	10	..
" H.Q. "	..	Major I. P. Grant Lieutenant C. J. Henry Lieutenant I. Nicolson	4	10	..
Total	2	6	42	63	8

<sup>1</sup> Detailed casualty lists for any one action are generally not available, but in this instance the figures were supplied.—ED.

## CASUALTIES—NORTH-WEST EUROPE

*June 1944—5th May 1945*

	Killed	Wounded	Wounded, re- mained at duty	Died of wounds	Missing	Total
<i>Officers—</i>						
<i>1944—</i>						
June . .	2	14	1	..	..	17
July . .	1	11	2	2	..	16
August . .	3	9	2	..	..	14
September . .	1	..	2	1	..	4
October . .	2	6	1	1	..	10
November . .	2	1	2	..	..	5
December . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>1945—</i>						
January . .	..	2	..	..	..	2
February . .	3	6	5	..	..	14
March . .	1	5	4	1	..	11
April . .	1	1	..	..	1	3
May . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Total . .</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96</b>
<i>Other Ranks—</i>						
<i>1944—</i>						
June . .	37	154	7	15	..	213
July . .	18	129	13	10	..	170
August . .	28	113	14	10	..	165
September . .	2	26	3	..	..	31
October . .	19	78	10	4	..	111
November . .	13	49	5	2	1	70
December . .	1	..	..	..	..	1
<i>1945—</i>						
January . .	4	26	2	..	..	32
February . .	24	135	3	5	1	168
March . .	27	79	6	3	..	115
April . .	10	30	7	1	1	49
May . .	..	3	..	..	..	3
<b>Total . .</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>822</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1128</b>

## 6TH BATTALION

THE 6th (Home Defence) Battalion of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders came into being in November 1939 ; its nucleus the National Defence Company of the Regimental district. Two such companies, with a group headquarters, had been formed during that year, composed of ex-soldiers enlisted for home service ; but recruiting was slow and the change-over to Regimental status was considered essential for the formation of a force designed to guard the numerous posts, depots, stores, magazines, viaducts, &c., throughout the country and so set free the Territorial Army units for intensive war training unencumbered by routine garrison duty. The two companies separated into the 8th Seaforth at Golspie and the 6th Camerons in Inverness, the latter's headquarters being first in part of the Public Library and subsequently Rose Street Drill Hall.

Recruiting improved slowly, helped by attaching an officer and N.C.O.s to the Recruiting Centres in Edinburgh and Glasgow, where many Camerons of the first war rejoined. Younger men, unfit for general service, came in, and the temporarily unfits of the T.A. field units were transferred, some from other regiments, so that the Battalion strength steadily increased. Officers joined slowly, all of them previously commissioned—but not necessarily Camerons.

As personnel became available for guard duties, post after post was taken over from the Territorial infantry battalions, the first being the railway bridge at Invershin, where the detachment was accommodated in the hotel buildings and railway station.

By the spring of 1940 the Battalion was established in every place where guards were required within, and frequently without, its allotted area up to the limit of its strength. The infantry guards for the forts at the North and South Sutors of Cromarty, aerodrome defences at Evanton and Kinloss, radio station at Burghead, various ammunition dumps, Culloden and Tomatin viaducts, and several newly formed establishments over in the west, were among the locations and duties assigned to the unit. " C " Company was allotted to the No. 1 Protected Area and then had to supply a series of road, rail, and ferry posts from Beauly along the Great Glen to Fort William and over to Oban in the south-west. But every type of garrison, routine, and other duties were undertaken in addition to a definite rôle in the general defence scheme in the event of a hostile landing. Instead of the S.M.L.E. rifle, the Battalion was armed with the No. 3 (a straight-shooting weapon) and also with Lewis guns.

As time went by, the Battalion settled down to its multifarious duties, and gradually improved its accommodation and living conditions.

The men were quartered in barracks, halls, dwelling-houses, farm-houses, hutted camps, barns, tents, and railway carriages.

On 6th May 1940 Lt.-Colonel M. B. H. Ritchie, D.S.O., left the Battalion, subsequently to become O.C. Troops of H.M. Transports. Lt.-Colonel H. Leah took over command on 10th July 1940. The Battalion remained in much the same locations as already described, and, in addition, furnished detachments in the Outer Isles to guard radio-location stations, which were eventually taken over by the R.A.F. Regiment.

In April 1942 the Battalion became the 30th Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Lt.-Colonel Leah handed over command on 4th August to Lt.-Colonel H. S. S. Pringle-Pattison, M.C., who remained in command until the Battalion was split up into independent companies in February 1943.

A fine spirit of Regimental comradeship and *esprit-de-corps* was shown by the old soldiers, temporary transfers, and young soldiers unfit for general service or under age, who filled the ranks of the unit.

By good behaviour, turn-out and alertness, and efficiency on duty, the men of the 6th (H.D.) Battalion upheld the good name of the Regiment, to which all were so proud to belong.

## 7TH BATTALION

At the end of May 1940 the 50th Holding Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders was formed at Loughborough, with Headquarters at Beaumanor, Woodhouse Eaves.

The Commanding Officer was Lt.-Colonel H. S. S. Pringle-Pattison, M.C.

The original cadre was drawn mainly from the I.T.C.

The rôle of the unit was to receive intakes from civilian life and to post them, after training, to battalions. Its operational rôle was to man various static positions and to provide a mobile force to act in case of airborne or parachute landings.

In October 1940 the 50th Holding Battalion, after completing establishment and first-line reserves, moved from Loughborough to Wick in Caithness, and was renamed the 7th Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Thus once again came into existence the famous Battalion whose first Commanding Officer in World War I. was the late Lt.-Colonel D. P. Haig, O.B.E.; a unit that covered itself with such glory at the Battle of Loos under command of Lt.-Colonel J. W. Sandilands, D.S.O.

The Battalion was allotted a coast defence rôle and, in 1941, came under command of Brigadier G. P. Miller, D.S.O., M.C., Commander of the 227th Independent Brigade. The Battalion wore a blue flash with a red anchor, showing they were part of the Orkney Area.

On 2nd May, Lt.-Colonel R. P. Haig took over command and Lt.-Colonel Pringle-Pattison was posted to the Regimental I.T.C. Lt.-Colonel Haig was the son of the late Lt.-Colonel D. P. Haig, who had commanded the original Battalion.

Training was carried out enthusiastically during the summer and much work was done in improving the defences of Sinclair's Bay; for example, the Battalion built several miles of tubular scaffolding anti-tank defences. Various manning exercises, also mobile Brigade and Battalion schemes, were carried out. Much hard work was also done towards improving the accommodation. The main camp occupied by the Battalion had been a fish-packing factory in times of peace. There was a detachment in the town and a company stationed at Ackergill Castle in Sinclair's Bay. Headquarters was Ackergill Tower.

The Battalion was fortunate in having a good backbone of Regular officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s, and its standard of discipline and turnout was high. This continued all through its short life, and although the credit for this must be shared by all ranks, it was of course a reflection of the devoted service, hard work, and enthusiasm of the three Adjutants, who, in order of succession, were Captains M. G. M'Neill,

C. E. R. Dudgeon and N. C. Fraser, and of the efficient and successful R.S.M., A. MacLennan.

The smooth working of the administrative machine, which the unit almost took for granted, was due to the foresight and efficient hard work of Lieutenant and Quartermaster R. H. Higgins.

The Commanding Officer was on several occasions complimented by visiting Staff officers on the high standard of saluting and general bearing of the Battalion.

During this period strenuous efforts were made to form a Pipe Band, and the success with which these efforts were crowned was due to the unfailing enthusiasm and hard work of Drum-Major N. King and Pipe-Major R. M'Kay.

In October 1941 the Battalion left Wick and moved to Ayr, where it was stationed on the racecourse. The companies actually occupied the stands and the stabling accommodation!

While at Ayr, various officers had an opportunity of taking part in exercises with a special force which was training in combined operations on the west coast.

In November the Battalion moved again, this time to join the 15th (Scottish) Division in Northumberland. The Battalion was stationed at Alnwick and once again found that it had an old Cameron Highlander, Brigadier C. M. Barber, D.S.O., as its Brigade Commander, the other Battalions in his 46th (Highland) Brigade being the 7th Seaforth and the Glasgow Highlanders. Furthermore, it had the good fortune to have another distinguished Cameron, Major-General A. F. P. Christison, M.C., as its Divisional Commander.

At Alnwick the Battalion was very split up, three companies being detached. This, naturally, created various administrative problems and difficulties. Once again its rôle was coast defence. It was a hard winter; indeed the two Divisional exercises—"Tartan" and "Pipe Bag"—were carried out in deep snow. During this period the Battalion lost its popular and efficient Second-in-Command, Major M. G. O. Hill, who was posted to the Seaforth Highlanders in India.

The Battalion was not left long in the 15th (Scottish) Division, as in the spring of 1942, while the C.O. was away at the S.O.S., Devizes, another move took place, this time to Dovercourt, near Harwich. This proved once again to be a move of only short duration and the Battalion soon found itself in Romanway Camp, Colchester, its final destination. Although it here came under Brigade Command for training and administration, it was an independent Battalion only attached to the Brigade.

Once again its future seemed uncertain until in July the Commanding Officer received a visit from Major C. B. Mackenzie, who was then working at the War Office and who brought the news that the Battalion was shortly to assume an entirely new rôle. It was to have the honour of becoming the first Scottish Parachute Battalion. Shortly

afterwards, Major-General F. A. M. Browning, D.S.O., visited the Battalion and addressed the men, explaining their new rôle and giving details of the proposed conversion. There was, of course, no question of compulsory transfer, and all ranks for the new Battalion had to be volunteers. It was greatly to the credit of the Battalion that such a very high proportion volunteered for their new tasks, and so, in August, the 7th Battalion, still under command of Lt.-Colonel R. P. Haig, ceased to exist and the new 5th (Scottish) Battalion, The Parachute Regiment,<sup>1</sup> came into being.

The Battalion had not the chance to distinguish itself in action like its predecessor in the First World War, but during its short life it set a high standard of soldierly conduct and bearing and by its good behaviour and enthusiasm for work and sport it upheld the traditions of the Regiment.

<sup>1</sup> This unit, with its strong Cameron element, saw distinguished service in North Africa, Italy, the South of France, and Greece. The names of those twenty-two Camerons who laid down their lives while serving in it are recorded hereunder in honoured memory :—

<i>Number</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
2935456	Sergeant	F. Sheffler	13.9.43
2930275	Private	C. Mudie	12.12.43
2939396	Private	G. W. M'Neill	12.12.43
2939817	Private	H. Docherty	14.12.43
203948	Lieutenant	W. F. Edmiston	10.1.44
2931943	Private	E. Dolan	21.1.44
2935731	Sergeant	S. Robson	23.1.44
45422100	Sergeant	G. Morley	25.1.44
2939798	Private	W. Brown	27.1.44
2935498	Sergeant	J. Grant	4.2.44
2937777	Sergeant	J. Hughes, M.M.	4.2.44
2939531	Private	G. M'Arthur	4.2.44
14403360	Private	D. Burns	12.4.44
2927435	Lance-Sergeant	P. Peden	29.4.44
14410004	Private	J. Todd	3.5.44
2935745	Private	J. Thewlis	13.5.44
2939545	Private	A. Shaw	24.5.44
2937177	Lance-Sergeant	H. Rodgers	17.8.44
2937792	Corporal	A. Butler	18.12.44
2938002	Sergeant	A. Scoon	21.12.44
2939653	Private	W. Winters	27.12.44
2939524	Private	C. Moffat	30.12.44



## No. 1 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

In February 1943 the 30th Battalion the Cameron Highlanders was broken up and two independent Companies were formed.

No. 1 Company consisted of a Headquarters and nine platoons ; it was given the duty of guarding various R.A.F. installations which had been set up round the north and east coasts of Scotland. The H.Q. was established in Helmsdale. The vast majority of the personnel in the unit were of low medical categories, but, as time went on, some became fit and were sent on to first-line battalions.

The autumn of 1943 found the Company in Sumburgh, in Shetland, where its rôle was to form the outer perimeter of the defences round the aerodrome. This duty involved some collective training and exercises. The Lewis gun was replaced by the Bren and one platoon was converted and trained as a machine-gun platoon. Wireless sets were also taken into use.

Although the total strength remained at about 250, the Company was now organised into five platoons and took on a somewhat more effective appearance. However, no enemy landed in the Shetlands and in March 1944 the Company was sent to Ventnor, Isle of Wight. The very short notice given for the move led one to suppose that some urgent duty was required of the Company in its new station. This expectation was not realised and what is generally understood by the term "normal training" was carried out, intermingled with guard duties over some works of military importance.

There was one bad air raid on Ventnor during the time the Company was there, when C.Q.M.S. B. Henderson had a very lucky escape.

The more or less concentrated condition at Ventnor did not last more than three months, when orders were received to send small parties of personnel to the mainland. These detachments sometimes left for an unnamed destination and were afterwards found to be working in the Portsmouth-Winchester-Bournemouth area.

In May 1944 it was decided that the Headquarters of the Company was no longer in a suitable position, so it was transferred to Southampton. The scattered state of the troops continued and, as some were attached to other units for rations and accommodation only, pay, discipline, and welfare matters became exceedingly difficult.

The duties undertaken at Southampton were loading ships and the preparation of a prisoner-of-war cage.

As "D"-Day approached it became necessary to make arrangements for the possible postponement of the sailing of the landing craft. In this connection the Company, in conjunction with the R.E.

and A.C.C., converted some of the dock sheds into cookhouses, dining-halls, recreation rooms, ablutions, &c. During this operation the Company was inspected at work by some most important personages, including H.M. The King and the Rt. Hon Winston Churchill. Visits by very senior Army officers to the docks became an almost daily event.

When the work at Southampton was finished, the Company was sent for a short time to Winchester ; but on 8th August 1944 it returned to the Isle of Wight, this time to Shanklin. There its duty was the guarding of "Pluto," and all ranks were provided with rubber-soled boots as a precaution against sparks. The flying bomb was a great nuisance at this time.

In October 1944 the Company was sent to Orkney and became mechanised and equipped with 2-inch mortars. The novelty of mechanisation was much appreciated by the troops, but the enthusiasm died down as more and more vehicles became classified "off the road."

As time went on, it became obvious that the Germans were not going to attempt a landing in Orkney, and "V.E."-Day came without the Company having been in action. It remained in Orkney until July 1945, when it was sent to Methil.

The German merchant fleet was now being handed over to the British, and the crews had to be taken off and the ships guarded until British crews could be found to man them.

The foreign crews were sent to a camp at Woodhouselee, near Edinburgh, which was also staffed by the Company. As soon as this camp became full the foreign personnel were returned to Germany and used to ferry another lot of ships over to Methil.

This duty went on for about five or six months and all the time the Company's strength was gradually growing weaker as release by groups was now in operation and personnel were not replaced.

In November or early December 1945 the Company was disbanded. What was left of it by then was stationed at Dreghorn Barracks, Edinburgh, the work in connection with the enemy ships having been completed.

The following served with the Company throughout :—

Major C. A. MacLeod . . . . .	O.C. Company.
Captain J. T. Bookless, M.C. . . . .	Second-in-Command.
Captain J. R. Lamb . . . . .	Administrative Officer.
C.S.M. W. Steen . . . . .	Company Sergeant-Major.

## No. 2 INDEPENDENT COMPANY

No. 2 Independent Company (Cameron's) was formed at Fort Augustus on 27th February 1943 on the disbandment of the 30th Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

The Company was organised on the lines of a Battalion, and administered as such.

With Fort Augustus as Headquarters, the Company had detachments at Inverness, Fort William, Cromarty and Invergordon, their main rôle being guard duties.

The strength of the unit on formation was 7 officers and approximately 300 other ranks. Officers were :—

Major J. W. Fraser . . . . .	Commanding.
Captain A. M. Robertson . . . . .	Second-in-Command.
Captain D. Birrell . . . . .	Adjutant.
Lieutenant H. W. Sampson, M.C. . . . .	Platoon Commander.
Lieutenant J. J. Fraser . . . . .	Platoon Commander.
Lieutenant F. C. Colledge . . . . .	Platoon Commander.
Lieutenant J. E. C. M'Nair . . . . .	Platoon Commander.

Company Sergeant-Major was C.S.M. M. Grant, M.M., and Company Quartermaster Sergeant, C.Q.M.S. J. Emerson.

On 23rd August 1943 the Company moved to Bridge of Weir, directly under command of West of Scotland district. Rôle consisted of guard duties and parties helping to load and unload ships at Greenock and Glasgow.

On 17th October 1943 the Company moved out of Scottish Command to South-Eastern Command and were stationed at Rye and Winchelsea in Sussex, where the task was one of defence, with two detachments out.

On 15th January 1944 the Company moved to the Verne Citadel, Portland Bill, in Southern Command, where again the duty was one of defence, with three detachments out.

On 8th April 1944 the Company was split up.

Two platoons were detached to Corfe Mullan, Halton Heath; a detachment to Fort Southwick, Portsmouth, where they were attached for duty to B.U.C.O., 21st Army Group; a detachment to H. & D. Headquarters (Defence Platoon), and a platoon to Portsmouth garrison. Headquarters and one platoon moved to Southampton garrison.

Defence was again the rôle until "D"-Day, when the Portsmouth and Southampton garrisons took over the duties of burial parties at these ports.

On 4th July 1944 Headquarters and one platoon moved to Sandown,

Isle of Wight, and by 20th October 1944 the Company was concentrated at Sandown, where the guarding of "Pluto" figured among its other duties.

On 4th November 1944 the Company left the Isle of Wight for Lyness, Orkneys. Arriving there on the 6th, it occupied Haybreak Camp. After several changes of camp, the Company finally settled, on 30th January 1946, in Hatston Camp, where all troops on the Orkneys were concentrated. The Company was responsible for the guards and administrative duties.

By this time, owing to releases, the Company was considerably below strength, and except for a draft of former prisoners-of-war from the 4th Battalion, there were few replacements.

In March 1946, however, No. 1 Independent Company, Gordons, stationed in Shetland, was disbanded and the personnel were transferred to No. 2 Independent Company, Camerons, making the Company up to strength again.

During the life of the Company, approximately three years, it had various changes of station and duties, but wherever the station and whatever the task, it was ever the object, by strict discipline and hard training, to maintain the high standard expected of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

It was at Hatston Camp, Kirkwall, Orkneys, that disbandment orders were received, and the Company was disbanded there on 30th June 1946.

1ST BATTALION THE LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH,  
1939-1947

1939.—During the days of tension which preceded the declaration of war, the key party was called out. The National Defence Company, under command of Captain G. B. Davey, was the first party from Fraser Street to be embodied, and, at the same time, the 2nd Battalion embodied and took over guard duties in the docks of the Port of Liverpool. The 1st Battalion still awaited orders. At 1600 hours on 1st September the order came from Brigade and the notices to embody were despatched to all ranks.

The Munich scare of the year before had materially helped to perfect the organisation of embodiment and the smooth working of transport and administration.

At Fraser Street a selected team dealt with the embodiment procedure, each man passing through from table to table, for documents to be completed. Buses were waiting at the door to take completed parties to the concentration area, located at Sefton, Little Crosby, and Ince Blundell, on the north of Liverpool, with an operation rôle of landward protection to the Crosby Fort, at the entrance to the river, and aid to the civil power.

The Quartermaster, with certain "key men" and volunteers, had all available trucks ready loaded for the zero hour of 8.30 A.M. on 2nd September. These moved to collect stores from the R.A.O.C. depot at Burscough, to get food from wholesale merchants, and to prepare accommodation and a meal for the men arriving from Headquarters.

By nightfall 30 officers, the M.O., and 588 other ranks had joined the Battalion in the concentration area. The organisation at Headquarters had worked well. During the next few days more men arrived, and after medical examination the strength on 12th September was 33 officers, 8 warrant officers, 34 sergeants, 45 corporals, 26 lance-corporals, 513 privates, and 6 boys; a total of 632 other ranks.

The Colours were sent for safe keeping to the Depot, Inverness, and, on 20th September, Lieutenant M. G. M'Neill and 2nd Lieutenant H. S. M. Wood, with 22 other ranks, were posted there to form part of the I.T.C.

During the first month of the war the Battalion received subsistence allowance, a boon from the P.R.I.'s point of view. Contracts at wholesale prices had been made before the war for purchase of food. Cooking was carried out by companies on various stoves, Bluff ovens, a petrol cooker, improvised ovens, &c. Rations in kind were not issued until 3rd October.

The winter of 1939-1940, the " phoney war," was taken up with a short spell of guard duties, relieving the 5th Battalion The King's Regiment on the Liverpool and Birkenhead Docks, followed by moves to, first, Knutsford on 5th November, and then, on 30th November, to Ashby-de-la-Zouche in Leicestershire, where the 55th Division concentrated.

While the Battalion was at Sefton the first intake of militiamen arrived, and in the early part of January 1940 another large intake of 150 men from civilian life was posted for training and absorption, and the first call came for a draft of reinforcements which were later to join the 2nd Camerons in Egypt.

The beginning of the calls for volunteers also started with requests for men to serve at sea for the anti-aircraft protection of small craft.

On the invasion of Norway the Division was called upon to organise an Independent Company (No. 4), and a platoon with three officers was selected from volunteers from the 1st Battalion.

This Company, formed under command of Major J. R. Paterson, left on 7th May 1940 for Norway. Subsequently, many of the men became commandos.

In March a company was sent for guard duties to Finningly Aerodrome, the first of many such duties later undertaken.

On arrival in the Divisional concentration area, training started in earnest, but it was handicapped by the dispersal of the Battalion in companies, over a wide area, and a shortage of trained instructors. In addition, there was considerable shortage of training stores, ammunition, and ranges. The transport was made up of civilian impressed vehicles, which, in spite of the successful move from Knutsford to Leicestershire, were continually breaking down.

On 20th April the Battalion, with some 250 partially trained recruits, moved by train with the Division to Suffolk and was stationed at Woodbridge. With the withdrawal of the army in Belgium and France, the responsibility for what was considered one of the vital coasts became the operational task of the Division ; a task which necessitated at that time a constant watch, digging and improving defensive positions. In addition, it was necessary to find opportunity to organise and train the reinforcements, who had received a bare minimum of training.

This is not the place to comment on the shortage of our ammunition and equipment and the difficulties which had to be overcome. Few knew how defenceless Great Britain was !

On 23rd May Lt.-Colonel F. W. M'Guinness left the Battalion and Lt.-Colonel H. J. D. L. M'Gregor (Camerons) was posted to command.

Two officers, Captain F. E. Kite and Lieutenant E. N. Mainwaring, and a few other ranks with battle experience, returned to the Battalion after having been attached to the 1st Battalion Camerons and fighting back to Dunkirk. Enemy activity was fortunately confined to air

attacks on farms and airfields, but the preparation for defence, and practising mobile counter-attack when the Battalion was in reserve, went on throughout the summer and early autumn.

On 20th July the Battalion moved back from the coastal area into reserve at Needham Market.

During the period on the east coast the 55th Division ceased to be a Motor Division of two Brigades, and was re-formed as an Infantry Division by the inclusion of the 199th Brigade, a duplicate Brigade formed from Territorial battalions on the expansion in March 1939.

The winter of 1940-1941 was spent at Adderbury, near Banbury, Oxfordshire, where the Battalion moved by road on 10th November. Here Nissen huts made their first appearance; but few had been erected by the time of the arrival of the Battalion, and the Pioneers, with working parties, had many weeks of labour. The Battalion was fated to move in early winter to uncompleted accommodation.

The possibility of invasion, although unlikely during these months, remained a threat. The counter-attack rôle was carefully prepared, with the moves to various concentration areas behind the south and south-east coasts. These were reconnoitred and skeleton moves practised.

Leeway in the individual and specialist training of the men was pressed on, as well as exercises up to Brigade level. By the time spring arrived, and with it the renewed threat to our coasts, the Battalion, now up to war establishment with first-line reinforcements, was ready to move with the Division to one of the vital south-east sectors.

The Battalion again moved by road, staying at Shere, and finally reaching Eastbourne on 24th February.

The sector allotted to the Battalion was from the Crumbles, between Bexhill and Eastbourne (where there still existed the Martello towers that recalled Napoleon's threat), Eastbourne, Beachy Head, Birling Gap, to the Cuckmere River. The Downs, behind Beachy Head, were watched by a mobile force with the task of mopping up parachute troops, to which the Battalion contributed the Carrier Platoon.

The take-over was from a beach battalion, and in consequence considerable adjustments had to be made. The defences were being strengthened, with the erection of steel scaffolding, where the front was suitable for the landing of armoured fighting vehicles.

Through the early spring and summer the forward posts were manned, normally 60 per cent at dusk and dawn and 30 per cent at night. There was little rest for those in the forward positions; those in reserve, in addition to digging and wiring, continued training. The supply of small-arms ammunition, made in America, increased, and (for the first time) all ranks were able to fire a full war course and to go on to small field-firing exercises on the Downs. There was also a supply of 3-inch mortar ammunition available for practice.

Although the U.S.A. had not entered into the war, two U.S. officers stayed a night and were shown whatever they wished to see.

By the middle of the summer, 4th July, during the short nights the opportunity was given to both the 55th and 2nd Canadian Divisions to have a rest from their respective rôles and the 55th Division moved back into reserve at Aldershot.

The Battalion, for the first time for many years, went into barracks, Albuhera, which they took over from the Black Watch of Canada, but their stay of a fortnight was all too short ; for after cleaning up the premises they were ordered to move into tents, at Bourley Camp, on 27th July, to make way for the 3rd Canadian Division, which was then arriving in this country.

The training during this period was on a higher level than formerly, with Brigade exercises and extensive motor-transport moves.

Hopes were high that if these exercises were satisfactory, the Division (now at what was known as Higher Establishment) would be selected and trained for service overseas.

The move back to the coast on 14th September seemed an interlude to better things. Rumours of the next move and rôle were rife. Locations as different as Somerset, Surrey, and Yorkshire were mentioned.

At last, to the disappointment of all, the Battalion moved back on 12th October to the previous winter location at Adderbury, near Banbury, prior to moving into Yorkshire to take over from the 2nd Division, then under orders for embarkation.

It was here that news was heard of the serious injury on 12th October to the Divisional Commander, Major-General W. D. Morgan, while attending a Home Guard demonstration of a Blacker bombard. At the same time the Division was called on for drafts both of men and units and was reduced to a Lower Establishment Division. The hopes of overseas service receded, and the calls for drafts started, which were to continue until " D " -Day.

The embarkation of the 2nd Division was delayed, and eventually it was decided to exchange locations. The Battalion moved on 11th December to Boroughbridge, Yorkshire, taking over from the 1st Dorsets ; the 1st Camerons coming to Adderbury. During the nine months' stay in Yorkshire, hopes fluctuated. At times there seemed the possibility of the Division again being made ready for active service, but the hopes all ended in disappointment.

Drafts of officers and men were asked for and sent ; one was even sent off on Christmas Eve—after the best dinner that could be provided. It became necessary actually to disband one company for the time being.

A further intake from civilian life was, however, sent to the Battalion, and a Divisional I.T.C. was formed to train them before coming to the Battalion. Guards up to a company at a time were found for Church Fenton and Sherborn on ELMET aerodromes. Both officers and



men enjoyed this change of employment, and the opportunity of seeing the work, weapons, and administration of the R.A.F.

A number of Divisional sports and training competitions were organised. Battle drill came very much to the fore in the training, and stress was laid on marching fitness. The first lectures on mines, and how to detect them, were given.

During the summer the Battalion moved to the Catterick area and was under canvas from 6th June to 21st July at Gandale Camp. Here exercises up to Brigade level were carried out and a squadron of the R.A.F. Regiment was attached for training.

One exercise, "Dryshod" (1st to 10th August), was of real interest to the Battalion, as it took place in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, where two Brigades of the Division acted as enemy in what eventually proved to be an administrative exercise in preparation for the 1st Army's landing in North Africa. This was the Battalion's only visit to Scottish Command during the whole of its wartime wanderings.

Lt.-Colonel H. J. D. L. M'Gregor, who had been away during the exercise, was posted and relinquished command. Lt.-Colonel C. B. Mackenzie assumed command from 5th August, arriving at Boroughbridge on the 11th.

On 20th August, once again, there came a change of station, to the coastal area near Bridlington, with headquarters at Rudston, where the Battalion remained until 4th September. "D" Company was re-formed at this time, with drafts from the 7th Camerons, which had been changed to the Scottish Parachute Battalion, and other small drafts were received during the autumn. An anti-tank platoon was also formed with 2-lb. anti-tank guns. Companies were stationed at villages north and south of Bridlington with, once again, the operational rôle of coastal defence and counter-attack.

On 29th October a large draft of 7 officers and 144 other ranks was sent off to the 4th Camerons.

On 2nd December Lt.-Colonel C. B. Mackenzie was posted to command the 5th (Scottish) Battalion Parachute Regiment, and Lt.-Colonel R. P. Haig succeeded.

New Year's Day 1943 found the Battalion in Devonshire. The noteworthy fact to record is that, for once, the camp accommodation was well built, with excellent facilities, although *not quite* finished.

Once again the Battalion had an anti-landing rôle on the south coast, but unlike the two years before, the scale of attack thought likely was reduced to commando and parachute troop raids.

In addition to retraining the drafts received from the I.T.C., continual practices of the operational rôle were carried out, and the Battalion was reorganised on the new infantry establishment.

On two occasions the Battalion was called upon to give aid to the civil authorities after "hit-and-run" air raids on Dartmouth and Salcombe.

..... 1943.—Training continued through the spring and included combined operation training with naval training units at Dartmouth, field-firing exercises and night operations across the moors, and demonstrations of fire power, when the 4.2 mortars and P.I.A.T. weapons were seen in use for the first time. A river-crossing exercise with the Bailey bridge, and a move by the Battalion transport across it, showed the time taken for construction before use.

During 29th-31st May the Battalion moved to Eastbourne by road.

The war situation had changed considerably since the time when the Battalion was last stationed at this coastal town in 1941. No longer was there a threat of invasion. The general thought was more of when the attack on the fortress of Europe would start.

Eastbourne had suffered, and was continuing to suffer, the effects of air attack by "hit-and-run" air raids. By the time the Battalion arrived air-raid warnings had been improved, and about two minutes of warning of impending attack was given. The air defence, both by R.A.F. fighters stationed on local airstrips, on instant call, and light anti-aircraft guns, had been strengthened. Attack by ground troops was discounted, and the possibility confined to small parties seeking information.

On 1st June Lt.-Colonel R. P. Haig was posted, and he handed over command to Major J. R. Paterson, T.D., who was promoted to Lt.-Colonel.

On the 4th and 6th two "hit-and-run" raids took place; these, in fact, were the last raids on Eastbourne. In the raid of the 6th the 55th Division Provost Company had five killed in a house which was hit by a bomb. The only damage fortunately suffered by the Battalion was from machine-gun fire on a truck at Birling Gap.

The requisitioned houses in which the Battalion was accommodated had not been occupied for some time and needed a lot of cleaning up.

Training continued and the practice of counter-attack on small raiding parties. Colonel Sir Jonathan Davidson, C.M.G., Honorary Colonel of the Battalion, stayed two days at Battalion Headquarters.

On 15th August the Battalion moved to the Newhaven-Peacehaven area and provided guards, at three V.P.s, and night patrols along the coast as far as Brighton.

Exercise "Harlequin" took place; an exercise to test the move of units to the coast and embarkation at the Channel ports. It passed off without enemy reaction.

The C.-in-C. Home Forces (General Sir Harold E. Franklyn) visited the area on 18th September, and on 25th September the Battalion moved back to Eastbourne. Drafts into and from the Battalion continued to come and go, and they included one from the Lovat Scouts, whose rôle was being changed.

On 16th November another move was made, to the area north of the Downs behind Brighton, companies being at Hurstpierpoint,

Hassocks, Keymer, and Ditchling. Further drafts were received, including certain Python personnel (men who had four or more years' service overseas).

On 19th November the Battalion acted as enemy to the 61st Division in an exercise in Kent. The Battalion held a prepared defensive position and then withdrew while fully engaged by the enemy. A stand-fast was ordered at nightfall on the 21st, and late that evening a draft of 103 other ranks was ordered and was despatched direct from the field back to billets and thence on embarkation leave. The exercise continued in the area of Canterbury, and the Battalion returned on 29th November.

On 8th December orders were received for a move to Northern Ireland, and advance parties left on the 18th for Banbridge.

Equipment, weapons, and vehicles were all handed over to the incoming battalion (10th Battalion The West Surrey Regiment).

In spite of the move, Christmas dinners were eaten in the approved style, but the turkeys were reserved for a New Year's dinner in the new area.

The move was made in two parties, staying at the transit camp at Stranraer and crossing on the next day. The last days of 1943 were taken up in settling in at the mills converted into barracks. Once again the accommodation was scattered and companies were on their own.

1944.—New Year's Day was a holiday and large dinners were eaten.

By 7th January the rear parties had arrived, and the Battalion held its first dance in the location in which it was to stay for the next eighteen months, until the war with Germany had ended.

The training continued on similar lines to that in England—*i.e.*, for offensive operations overseas. The country was well suited to small schemes. The ranges, both classification and field-firing, although at some distance, were adequate.

Demands for drafts started at once with one for 58 other ranks, and it was difficult to find men of draftable age and in the right medical categories.

On the 31st the first exchange of attachments with the American Army took place; American troops in Northern Ireland were in considerable strength, and these exchanges were of very real use and interest to those who went, but the change of diet was not always appreciated!

On 10th March another draft of 114 other ranks left, and in the weeks following small reinforcements arrived from various sources.

In April a five-day exercise on a Brigade level was undertaken, including the crossing of the Rivers Mair and Bann.

On 1st June the Battalion moved to Ballycastle, a holiday camp,

where no work was done. "Pleasure petrol" allowed for journeys to Portrush and other places of interest.

It was here that the announcement of the landings in Normandy was made, and the remark was heard, "What do I say when I'm asked, 'What did you do on "D"-Day?' The answer was, 'I was part of the deception plan! We were on holiday at Ballycastle.'" But by 15th June a draft of 11 officers left the unit; on the 22nd, Major J. D. W. Renison, the Second-in-Command, was posted to the East Yorks. Regiment in Normandy; and on the 30th another draft of 121 other ranks left.

The reorganisation of the 55th Division with units on a cadre basis started immediately. The Battalion minimum cadre consisted of 15 officers and 276 other ranks; a limited number only to be of A.I medical category. Transport, carriers, and anti-tank guns were also reduced to a smaller scale.

The rôle of this cadre was to be prepared to receive and retrain lightly wounded officers and men from the 21st Army Group who had been in hospital.

The Battalion was once again to concentrate in a noted camp at Edenderry, Banbridge, which had been occupied by the 9th King's Regiment who left the Division.

The Battalion now consisted of Python personnel and category men, with a few A.I officers and N.C.O.s. A last draft of 53 men left for the 21st Army Group on 10th August.

By the end of the month the first trickle of lightly wounded men started with the arrival of 9 men of the Black Watch, instead of the 350 expected. By 1st September the flood had started with men from practically all the Scottish regiments. The War Diary remarks: "With the present weather, the Battalion shows that it is acquiring promising material for a military Noah's Ark." Officers also from various regiments arrived. Kitting-up and training for a four weeks' programme was organised, and new platoons formed as parties, announced and unannounced, arrived; in spite of the "A. Branch" agreeing to despatch in batches of thirty! By 20th September the strength of the Battalion was expanded to 60 officers and 1000 other ranks, and more were expected; additional accommodation was opened in adjacent camps.

The standard of individual training of these soldiers varied a lot; much of the basic training seemed to have been "skipped," particularly shooting, but the general standard of fitness was good, and the greatest care was taken that no man was re-drafted for service overseas who was not a fit and well-trained soldier.

On 2nd October the first draft left on embarkation leave, in good spirits, fit and anxious to rejoin their own battalions.

The Battalion continued to receive drafts, and the strength on 6th

October was 1050. About this time, too, the officers attended lectures on the Release Scheme.

On 7th December the first of a new type of draft was received, 137 other ranks from heavy anti-aircraft regiments, to be retrained as infantry soldiers during a ten weeks' intensive course. About this time Major H. W. Cairns, M.C. (Cameron), was posted as Second-in-Command in the place of Major G. F. Williamson who left for West Africa.

1945.—During the early months of the year the training continued. Recreation in the form of Ensa concerts, dances, soccer and rugby football, and hockey matches took place.

In April, Major Cairns, who had not really recovered from his wound, was again posted. On 7th May the Prime Minister's speech was welcomed with rockets. The Battalion kept "V.E."-Day as a day of rest and rejoicing. A salute of twenty-one guns was fired by the Anti-Tank Platoon two hours after the King's Speech. Bonfires and dancing in the main street of Banbridge took place at night! The following day was also kept as a holiday.

Certain officers from the Belgian Army, re-forming in Northern Ireland, were attached for training.

In June the Battalion started to receive a new intake of young soldiers, and a move to concentrate the 55th Division in South Wales was made. The Band of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders stayed with the Battalion and played in the Square of Banbridge on "Hooge Day."

On 27th June a final Dance and Party given by the inhabitants of Banbridge took place at the Orange Hall, where weekly dances had been held throughout the Battalion's stay.

On the 29th the move started; staying at Larne, the Battalion crossed to Stranraer the following day, and entrained for South Wales, arriving at Merrion Camp, Castlemartin, the following morning.

This camp was comfortable, and it had plenty of room, with good training areas adjacent.

The 55th Division was being re-formed as a Light Division for reserve. Drafts arrived from various regiments to make up the numbers. At the same time the release to civilian life started with Private Quaile, M.M., followed a few days afterwards by Lt.-Colonel J. R. Paterson, T.D., who was succeeded by Lt.-Colonel N. D. Leslie, O.B.E. (Cameron), on 13th June 1945.

In August the Battalion was being re-formed with late release drafts from B.L.A. and elsewhere. Low-category men were posted away.

"V.J."-Day, 15th August, was held with appropriate celebrations, and on the following day inter-company sports were held, but rain stopped play.

The war had ended without the Battalion leaving the country.

Few who had embodied remained, but whatever task had been set and whatever disappointment there had been, a *battalion* remained fit for service, with a spirit second to none.

When the 55th Division was disbanded, the Battalion embarked at Liverpool for Gibraltar, after marching past the Lord Mayor (Alderman Hogan) and being entertained at the local theatres. There it remained until February 1947, when it returned again to Liverpool for disbandment—almost the last Territorial Army Battalion to do so.

2ND BATTALION THE LIVERPOOL SCOTTISH,  
1939-1945

THE 2nd Battalion The Liverpool Scottish was re-formed when the Territorial Army was doubled in the spring of 1939. The Battalion was the successor to a former 2nd Battalion which had served with distinction in World War I. It was re-formed under the command of Colonel A. M. M'Gilchrist, T.D., who had formerly commanded the 1st Battalion between the wars.

As the threat of war grew ever closer, the Battalion worked hard training to prepare itself for the tasks ahead, and shortly after attending annual camp in the Gower Peninsula, in July 1939, it was obvious that war was inevitable.

On 27th August all ranks were warned to report the following day at Headquarters in Moorfields, and, on the 28th, the Battalion commenced embodiment, one of the first units in the area, and in fact in the whole country, to be called upon to do so.

At this time the Battalion was brigaded, together with the 1st Battalion The Liverpool Scottish and the 5th Battalion The King's Regiment, in the Liverpool Infantry Brigade (165th), part of the famous 55th West Lancashire Division.

The immediate task entrusted to the Battalion was that of security duties. This consisted of providing guards against sabotage or any other unforeseen circumstances which might arise, to say nothing of rendering assistance to the civil power in the event of air raids—naturally thought to be a very likely contingency at this stage.

The Battalion was responsible for the whole area of the Merseyside Docks, both in Liverpool and Birkenhead: a great undertaking that called for the employment of every available man. Nevertheless, in spite of the magnitude and the unfamiliar nature of the task before it, by 2150 hours on 28th August the last company had reported itself in position.

At this time the Battalion was commanded by Colonel M'Gilchrist, with Major L. L. Barclay as his Second-in-Command; Captain Peter Hunt (Camerons) as his Adjutant. Lieutenant J. M'G. Sinclair was the Quartermaster, and the Regimental Sergeant-Major, A. M. Young. The companies were commanded as follows:—

" A " . . .	Captain A. H. M. Stewart.
" B " . . .	Captain T. G. Pollok.
" C " . . .	Captain F. J. H. Daghish.
" D " . . .	Captain G. T. Floyd.

Headquarters and "Headquarter" Company were established at Altcar Camp, and the companies were deployed "A," "B," and "C" in Liverpool Docks, each being responsible for a roughly equal area territorially, with "D" Company responsible for the docks in Birkenhead. The final total of all ranks embodied was 23 officers and 611 other ranks.

The Battalion soon settled down with energy and enthusiasm to tackle its by no means unimportant labours. All ranks found it a strange metamorphosis from civilian life, working mainly by night and resting by day, for every man was needed to provide the numerous guards and patrols necessary adequately to protect such a labyrinthine area. However, all quickly adjusted themselves to the new life, and on 1st September the Battalion was mobilised and bounties and kit allowances were paid.

It was at this time that the Adjutant, Captain Peter Hunt, who had been attached to the Battalion from its formation, left to rejoin the 1st Camerons, much to our regret. He was succeeded by Captain T. G. Pollok.

On 6th September the honour of firing the first shots fell to "A" Company, when its anti-aircraft light machine-guns at Company H.Q. opened fire in conjunction with every other anti-aircraft gun in the Merseyside defences on three menacing-looking aircraft which were observed flying low up the river. Fortunately, the heat of this enthusiasm outweighed the accuracy of their aim, as the aircraft proved to be R.A.F. Hampdens which had flown in without giving the proper recognition signals.

On the 23rd, after nearly a month of arduous and unfamiliar duties, the Battalion was relieved by the 5th Battalion The King's Regiment and concentrated at Altcar Camp. After a brief period of reorganisation and limited leave, it settled down to a period of intensive training. A very thorough and successful course for junior leaders was instituted by R.S.M. Young. Officer training was carried out by the Colonel and Major C. A. MacLeod, attached to us from the Camerons. Individual training of all ranks was carried out by companies. A busy and happy period ensued throughout October and November. The first militiamen arrived and were smoothly absorbed into the life of the Regiment.

In the second half of November the tempo began to quicken, and after several false alarms the Battalion was ordered to a concentration area. Eventually on 15th November an advance party under command of Major L. L. Barclay left for Leicestershire.

On the 30th the Battalion moved to Gopsall Hall at Twycross in Leicestershire, a vast and stately house. It was not, unfortunately, ideal for billeting purposes.

The Battalion settled down once again to training, with the occasional enlivenment of Ensa concerts, and also sometimes by visits to



Nuneaton and Leicester. Unfortunately, an outbreak of meningitis occurred towards Christmas, and two men, Privates Lovegrove and Horesfall, died. However, matters improved with the advent of Christmas leave, and the Battalion faced 1940 in a cheerful frame of mind.

On 9th January, in order to relieve the situation at Gopsall Hall, "A" and "B" Companies moved to Lindley Lodge, about 9 miles nearer Nuneaton. On 26th January it commenced to snow and continued to do so. By the 28th the Battalion was practically isolated and the work of getting the rations from Loughborough became a major problem. Roads were blocked and vehicles snowed up, and virtually the only vehicles that could move at all were the carriers. Eventually two sheep were purchased from a local farmer in order to make up for the missing rations. There was plenty of work for the Battalion clearing main roads and the main railway line between Rugby and Nuneaton. However, on 3rd February it began to thaw and life became gradually normal again.

For the rest of the month and during March training continued normally, and some useful liaison was carried out with the R.A.F., who obliged by laying on two or three realistic raids on the billets. Also early in March volunteers were called for to man anti-aircraft light machine-guns on trawlers, and a full complement was provided.

On 18th April the Battalion moved with the rest of the Division down to East Anglia.

The first location in East Anglia was at Woolverstone Hall on the banks of the River Orwell, near Ipswich, a beautiful situation, with "B," "C," and "D" Companies detached in different locations in the surrounding countryside. The following evening, the 20th, the Battalion had its first sight of the real war when enemy aircraft raided Harwich. On this day also Captain J. T. Bannatyne (Camerons) assumed the appointment of Adjutant.

On the 22nd a party from the Battalion, consisting of 2nd Lieutenants D. W. Roy and L. Taylor, six N.C.O.s, and twenty-seven men, left to join the Independent Company under command of Major J. R. Paterson (1st Liverpool Scottish). This Company was formed from detachments from units of the Division and left later for Norway. Most of these men never returned to the Battalion, as after the Norwegian Campaign the Independent Company became a commando unit.

On the 23rd the Battalion was given a coast defence and anti-parachutist rôle in case of emergency.

On 10th May the Battalion was detailed to erect and man various road-blocks, which were ingeniously contrived out of various farm implements and other local materials.

At the same time a platoon was despatched to guard the small civilian airport at Ipswich, and that evening seven double-deck and

thirteen single-deck buses arrived to carry the troops if required to repel a parachute landing or similar sudden emergency. Most of these buses were straight from the streets—some even had passengers in them when commandeered by Higher Authority! Fortunately, they were of a more recent type than most of the impressed transport.

The tempo increased as the month progressed. Air raids and rumours, spy hunts, the issue of more rifles and ammunition, the arrival (great day) of thirty-two Bren guns: twelve of these were subsequently taken away and sent to another Division, but were later made good.

On the 22nd "A" Company was placed in Divisional Reserve and moved inland to Bosmere Hall, near Needham Market. On the 26th the rest of the Battalion moved to the Needham Market area. Extreme preparedness was now demanded of the Battalion. Twenty-five per cent were ordered to sleep with boots on and routine was as follows: Stand-to, 0300-0400; breakfast, 0500; parade, 0630; dinners, 1030; compulsory rest, 1230-1530; stand-to, 2130-2230. In addition, numerous standing patrols were maintained throughout the night. This routine was to continue with slight variations until the Battalion moved to relieve the 1st Battalion in defensive positions on the coast. On 26th June the Battalion was honoured by a visit from the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill, who took his usual lively interest in all that was going on. He saw the Battalion training, and witnessed a demonstration by the Carrier Platoon.

The lovely summer days passed busily, watchfully and happily, and on 20th July the Battalion relieved the 1st Battalion The Liverpool Scottish on the Suffolk coast, between the mouths of the Rivers Deben and Alde. "D" Company on the right flank at Bawdsey, "B" Company at Alderton, "C" Company between "B" and "D" Companies, "A" Company at Hollesley, "R" (Recruit) Company in reserve at Melton, and Battalion H.Q. and "H.Q." Company at Broxted.

In this rôle the Battalion felt it really had a worth-while job to do, and this was emphasised by occasional bombs dropped in the Battalion area, raids on the nearby R.A.F. airfields, and by one or two machine-gun attacks by enemy aircraft. On various occasions the Battalion had the satisfaction of hitting back with small-arms fire, and on 31st August an anti-aircraft light machine-gun of the Anti-Aircraft Platoon hit a low-flying Dornier, putting one of its engines out of action. Unfortunately, although when last seen the aircraft was losing height over the sea, it will never be known whether the Battalion could claim a kill.

After this, life continued normally until 7th September, when at 2120 hours the code-word "Cromwell"—presaging immediate invasion—was received. All ranks stood-to in the defences, but at 1020 hours on the 8th the code-word was rescinded and stand down ordered. By this time modified collective training had once again

become possible and on the 10th a scheme to exercise the Brigade Reserve, consisting mainly of the 1st Liverpool Scottish, was held. The "enemy" in this case was provided by Battalion H.Q., "H.Q." Company, and "R" Company of the 2nd Liverpool Scottish and elements of the 5th King's Regiment under command of Colonel A. M. M'Gilchrist.

On 10th November the Battalion was relieved by the 4th East Lancashire Regiment and moved to winter quarters in Banbury, where it arrived on the 11th.

A wonderful period ensued for the Battalion. The billets were good on the whole, and it was a great relief to have the whole unit together instead of being scattered over miles of coastline in isolated defence posts.

Much ground was made up in administrative work and collective training, worked up through section, platoon and company level to Battalion training. Ceremonial parades were also held for the first time for many months. In addition, all ranks were able to relax in social life undeterred by the alarms and excursions of air-raid and invasion warnings. For instance, on 30th November the officers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions held a combined St Andrew's Dinner, and it was an unqualified success.

During February the Battalion took part in Brigade training in the Cotswolds, but on the 23rd an enjoyable and useful sojourn in Banbury ended when it moved south to resume coast-defence duties at Bexhill in Sussex, to relieve the 5th Royal Sussex.

On 1st March Colonel A. M. M'Gilchrist relinquished command and handed over to Lt.-Colonel David Macdonald (Cameron).

Life at Bexhill was very similar to that in Suffolk, consisting mainly of work on defences, interspersed with training up to platoon level as opportunity offered.

In May training recommenced, and in June the Battalion took part in exercises on the South Downs under Brigade direction. On 4th July the Battalion was relieved by the Calgary Highlanders, a Canadian unit, and moved to Aldershot for a month's intensive training.

Here, once again the Battalion was concentrated as a unit first at Talavera Barracks and later at Bourley Camp. Ceremonial parades were held and training, first on a company level, and then graduating through Battalion training and skeleton wireless exercises, to a Brigade exercise known as Exercise "Albert."

Back at Bexhill the Battalion reverted to the former routine of work on defences, interspersed with occasional exercises. On 26th September Lt.-Colonel Macdonald relinquished command and handed over to Lt.-Colonel R. M. Riach, D.S.O. (Cameron).

On 14th October the Battalion handed over once again to the Calgary Highlanders and moved back to its old billets in Banbury.

The Battalion was not destined to remain long in Banbury this time,

however, and on 9th December moved to Ripon, Yorkshire, where it took over from the 7th Worcesters. Here the Battalion had comfortable billets in and around this very pleasant little town. The only operational rôle allotted was that of a counter-attack towards the north-east coast in the event of an emergency landing or of counter-attacks at various aerodromes, of which there were many in the neighbourhood, in the event of a parachute-landing on any of them.

About this time the 55th Division became a Lower Establishment Division. The reason for the change is beyond the scope of this story, but there is no doubt it was a bitter blow to many in the Battalion.

In May the first drafts left the Battalion.

On 1st June the Battalion marched to Gandale Camp, near Catterick, where it went under canvas. This camp was under Brigade arrangements and the lines were next to those of the 1st Liverpool Scottish.

Here it remained for Battalion training under Brigade direction until 21st July, when it returned to Ripon. From 1st to 9th August the Battalion, as part of the 165th Brigade Group, took part in a pre-invasion exercise, "Dryshod," in the Scottish Lowlands. Its rôle was to act as enemy to a force which was training for the North African invasion.

On 4th September the Battalion moved to Withernsea, but its stay there was brief. On 12th September it left the 55th Division on being transferred to the 218th Independent Brigade. Its place in the Division was taken by the 10th Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment. On transfer it moved to West Hartlepool, where its rôle was coast defence and guarding numerous vulnerable points in the area.

The highlights of interest at West Hartlepool were, first, the arrival on 8th October of two shells from the general direction of the sea (one of which failed to explode), and, secondly, the opportunity to meet the Royal Navy as represented by the local Minesweeping Flotilla.

At this time it was obvious that something fresh was in the wind for the Battalion. The C.O. made a hurried visit to the War Office and on 1st November it was announced that the Battalion was to be converted into the 89th Anti-Tank Regiment, Royal Artillery.

This news was received with mixed feelings. All regretted the loss of an infantry rôle and its associations. On the other hand, here was a new and much-needed interest in life, an end to drafting and drab coast defence work, and a prospect of a more active part in the war. The two other battalions of the Brigade were to be similarly converted, and the 218th Brigade ceased to exist.

On 3rd November the Battalion moved to Sunderland, to organise for its new task, and on the 10th, 9 officers, including the C.O. and 40 N.C.O.s, departed for a month's course at the Anti-Tank O.C.T.U., Ilkley, while the remainder were organised into three batteries and commenced to learn strange artillery terms from the 74th Anti-Tank Regi-

ment, R.A., of the 9th Armoured Division. The companies were organised as follows :—

" H.Q." Company . . . . .	" Q " Battery.
" A " and " B " Companies . . . . .	" R " Battery.
" C " and " D " Companies . . . . .	" S " Battery.

The newly formed Regiment also received six gunner subalterns, the first purely gunner personnel to join. Finally, on 27th November, twenty-four 6-pounder anti-tank guns arrived. On 9th December the first Ilkley course returned, full of strange knowledge. All who attended the courses at Ilkley appreciated the excellence of the instruction and administrative arrangements provided by Colonel Sebag-Montefiore and his staff. On the 15th the remainder of the officers and senior N.C.O.s left for Ilkley, and when they returned on 12th January 1943 the work of training the Regiment in its new task started in earnest. The batteries were now given their official numbers and Battery Commanders appointed as follows :—

" Q " Battery . . . . .	137—Major A. H. M. Stewart.
" R " Battery . . . . .	138—Major D. J. Brodie.
" S " Battery . . . . .	139—Major J. B. Mathison.

The days passed quickly, as the Regiment worked hard to master the arts of anti-tank gunnery, and were occasionally enlivened by small enemy air raids on the town. After one rather more ambitious one, on 14th March, the Regiment was called upon to assist in clearing debris in the centre of the town, and received congratulations from the Mayor for its good work.

At the beginning of April the Regiment visited Ross Links Range, Northumberland, for its first full-scale practice shoot. The results were good and showed that the time spent in initial training had not been wasted. A further visit to Harlech Range, North Wales, at the end of the month confirmed that the Regiment was rapidly becoming efficient in its new job.

Life in Sunderland continued its even tenor without excitement, apart from a land mine impertinently dropped outside the entrance to R.H.Q. on 24th May. However, much to the chagrin of certain members of the Regiment, it failed to explode. By this time the batteries were completing their tactical training and went in turns to an excellent training area round Wolsingham, a delightful village on the eastern side of the Pennines.

On 29th June the Regiment was reorganised into four batteries, each of three troops. The junior troops of each battery going to form the new battery, which was numbered 342 and commanded by Major C. C. B. Gordon, who had formerly been the Adjutant.

On 24th August the Regiment moved to Maiden Newton in Dorset,

where it arrived on the 26th after staging at Doncaster and Cirencester. Two short moves followed to Basingstoke and Nettlebed, near Henley, and on 12th November it arrived at Bognor Regis, where it came under command of the 47th London Division. This was something of a relief as, since the Regiment's conversion, it had not been attached to any formation and consequently was "nobody's baby."

On the other hand, it was a bit of a blow that the 47th Division, like the 55th Division, was now a Lower Establishment Division.

On 30th November Lt.-Colonel Riach, who had successfully seen the Regiment through a difficult and trying period, relinquished command and handed over to a gunner—Lt.-Colonel L. E. Sheppard, R.A. While at Bognor an American Field Artillery regiment was billeted nearby, and some pleasant and interesting liaison, both social and military, was carried out.

On 21st January the Regiment left Bognor and moved north again to Leyburn, Yorkshire, and on 10th February moved out to the Wolds training area to take part in Exercise "Eagle."

In this exercise the 47th Division provided the "enemy" for a force which a few months later was to play a successful and vital part in the invasion of Europe. In fact, this was a pre-invasion exercise under testing conditions. The Wolds, well-nigh cleared of civilian occupants, and churned up by tank tracks, already resembled a battlefield; and in the depth of winter, with the troops forced to live virtually in the open, provided a real test of stamina. The exercise lasted for about ten days and the Regiment acquitted itself well. The main force of the opposition consisted of the 11th Armoured and the 15th Scottish Divisions, and the 139th Battery did particularly well when assaulted by a strong force of tanks. They were credited with the destruction of forty-four of these vehicles and were commended by the G.O.C.

On 24th March the main body moved to Southampton to take over four camps—one per battery—designed to contain troops awaiting embarkation for the invasion. The guns and most of the vehicles were left in the care of a rear party under command of Major D. J. Brodie at Redcar, Yorkshire.

The task the Regiment was now called upon to carry out was tantalising. All around could be seen great preparations going forward, while its rôle was the humble one of hotelier, cook, and housemaid. Nevertheless, somebody had to do this necessary job, and in its way it was interesting. Characteristically the Regiment got down to making a good show of it. The guests were units of the 2nd Canadian Division.

On 25th May the camps were sealed, which meant no one could get in or out except for a few selected visitors, such as the C.O. or Second-in-Command.

On 5th June the movement of the vast concourse of men and vehicles to the docks and "hards" commenced, and on 6th June it was

known that "D"-Day had dawned. The camps were now unsealed, and a continual stream of units commenced to pass through as the Normandy bridgehead expanded.

It was now known that the 47th Division was to break up and the individual units were to be used for posting to the 21st Army Group, beginning with the officers.

On 9th July Lt.-Colonel Shepperd relinquished command and was succeeded by Lt.-Colonel W. B. Wilson, R.A.

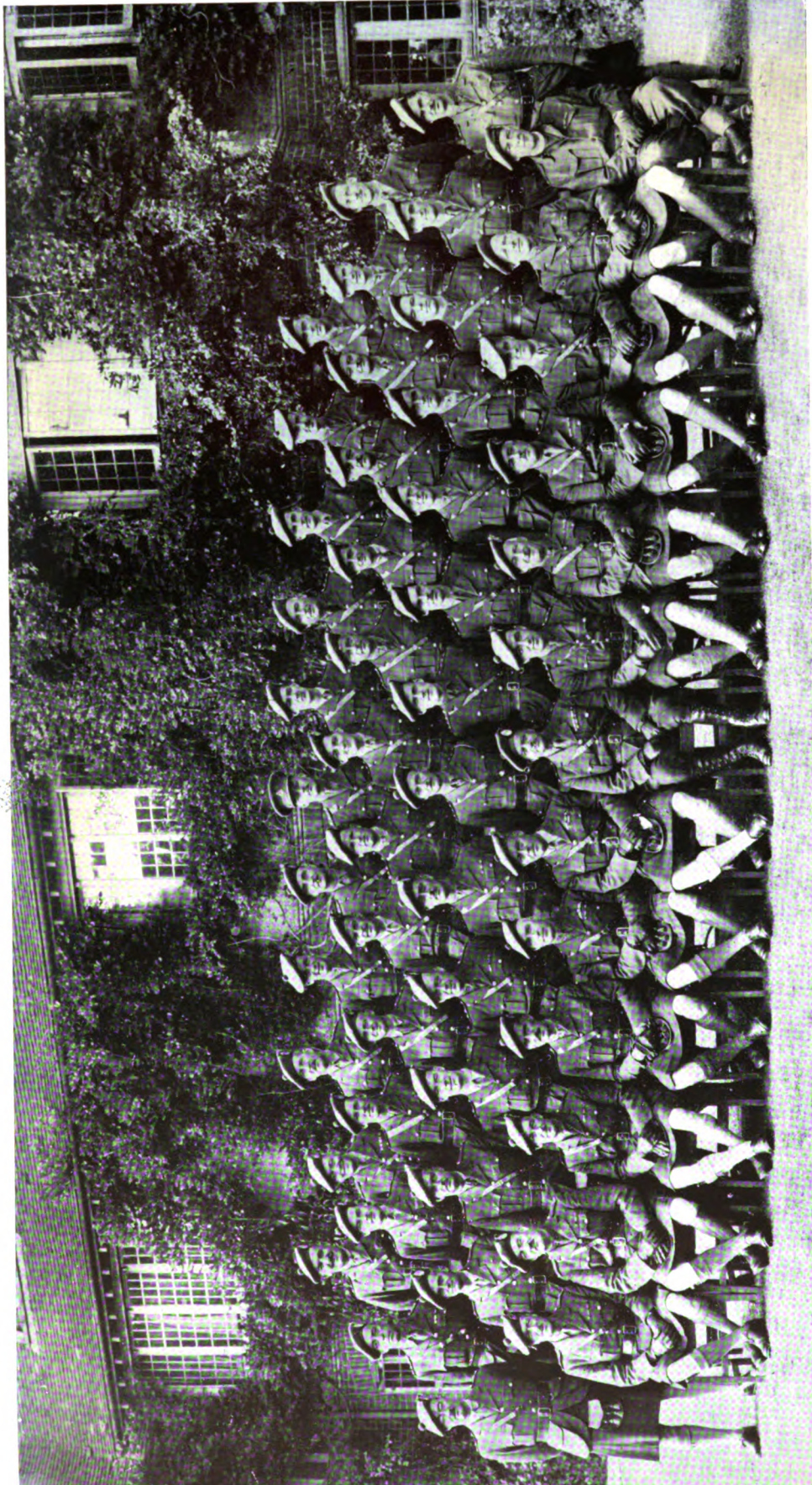
On 31st July the Regiment was visited by the Hon. Colonel of the Liverpool Scottish—Colonel Sir Jonathan Davidson—and on this day a draft of 450 other ranks left as reinforcements for the 21st Army Group. This draft contained a large number of the "old guard" of the former 2nd Battalion, and from now onwards all hope of any active participation of the Regiment as a unit in the war vanished.

On 12th August the task of "housekeeping" ended and the Regiment moved to Lavington, where it was used to receive, equip, and re-train light anti-aircraft gunners as anti-tank gunners. Then in November a move was made to Littlehampton, where the Regiment rejoined the 55th Division, and later, under command of Lt.-Colonel G. A. Marnham, M.C., R.A., was used to receive and rehabilitate wounded. Various moves followed: to Aberayron—where Lt.-Colonel Galloway, M.C., R.A., assumed command—Cranborne, and Salisbury, until in 1946 on the conclusion of hostilities it was disbanded.

Although it is sad that the Battalion was not enabled to take part in the war as a unit in the field, its work was far from wasted. Well-trained reinforcements went out from it, and so it met the continual demand of the fighting line—and faithfully fulfilled its duty.







1ST BATTALION THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA  
GROUP OF OFFICERS

front Row (left to right)—Major W. Warstick, O.C. Cameron Company; Major B. T. McFarlane, O.C. "C" Company; Major R. Thompson, O.C. "B" Company; Major A. T. Law, O.C. "H.Q." Company; Major A. S. Macdonald; Major A. Thomson, Second-in-Command; The Commanding Officer\*, Captain J. Runcie, Adjutant; Major R. Shankland, V.C., D.C.M.; Major C. E. Orton, M.C., O.C. "D" Company; Major N. H. Ross, O.C. "A" Company; Major D. G. Cunningham; Major W. G. M. Leitch, Senior Protestant Chaplain.  
 Second Row (left to right)—Captain W. E. Osler; Lieutenant T. H. Hoelges; Captain A. J. Auchen; Lieutenant S. Gee, Quartermaster; Lieutenant N. K. Gatseson, Transport Officer; Captain P. Jackson; Lieutenant N. A. T. Young; Captain R. M. Campbell; Captain D. D. Sweeting; Lieutenant J. S. Mitholland, Transport Officer; Lieutenant P. G. Wright; Lieutenant W. B. Goodhall; Lieutenant P. Jackson; Lieutenant N. R. J. E. Mavins.  
 Third Row (left to right)—Captain G. F. Honey, M.C.; Lieutenant H. G. Kent, Signal Officer; 2nd Lieutenant R. A. Wise; Lieutenant R. S. Snider; Lieutenant C. D. Roberts; Lieutenant R. L. Rutherford, Intelligence Officer; Captain C. W. Ferguson; Lieutenant J. T. F. Aitken; Lieutenant W. W. Wilson; Lieutenant D. D. G. Carmichael, Adjutant, Ordnance Depot; Lieutenant S. L. Davies, Judge Advocate's Office, C.M.H.Q.; Lieutenant E. P. Thompson; Lieutenant J. A. Thomson; Lieutenant E. W. Abel; Lieutenant J. A. Manahan; Captain S. A. Boyd, Medical Officer; Captain G. F. Davidson, Carrier Platoon Officer; Lieutenant F. F. Chisholm, M.C. Quartermaster; Lieutenant E. W. Mannus; Lieutenant J. D. H. Cameron, Instructor; Lieutenant N. R. Calder, Assistant Transport Officer; Lieutenant R. S. M. Hannesson; H. Captain J. P. Browne, Chaplain; 2nd Lieutenant W. W. M. Mannus; Lieutenant J. D. H. Cameron, Instructor; Lieutenant N. R. Calder, Assistant Transport Officer.

\* The Commanding Officer (whose name was withheld from this war-time photograph) was Lt.-Colonel G. F. Dudley, M.C., M.M., V.D.—[EM]



THE QUEEN'S OWN CAMERON HIGHLANDERS  
OF CANADA

In the years between the wars The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada carried on as a unit of Canada's Non-Permanent Active Militia. A high standard of training and efficiency was maintained, and when the call again came in September 1939 the Battalion mobilised to war strength quickly and smoothly.

Lt.-Colonel Hugh Mackenzie commanded the Battalion at the outbreak of war and retained command when the unit became part of the C.A.S.F. The Camerons' first wartime home was the old Robinson Store building, where they remained until moving to Shilo in May 1940. This was the scene of strenuous training until the Battalion moved to historic Quebec City in the late fall, remaining there until sailing for Great Britain, dropping anchor at Gourock Harbour, Scotland, in time to eat Christmas dinner aboard ship.

The Battalion was quartered in Delville Barracks, near Aldershot, until moving to Newhaven, on the Channel coast in Sussex, in the spring of 1941. Digging in along the cliffs, the Camerons became an integral part of the anti-invasion defences of Great Britain. With the exception of a short period, Newhaven was to be the Battalion's home until the spring of 1942, and the town holds many happy memories, as many Camerons were married there, and all enjoyed the generous hospitality of the townspeople.

Late spring of 1942 found the Battalion on the Isle of Wight undergoing vigorous training for the Dieppe raid. Shortly before this, Lt.-Colonel G. F. Dudley, M.C., had returned to Canada in poor health and the Battalion was commanded by Lt.-Colonel A. G. Gostling.

On the night of 18th August 1942 the Camerons secretly embarked from Newhaven Harbour for their first action against the enemy in the now famous raid on Dieppe. The Channel crossing was made in small boats on a beautiful calm night and dawn found the Camerons off the coast of France ready to go through a bridgehead formed by the South Saskatchewan Regiment.

Much has already been written of that epic day. Suffice it to say here that the Camerons, with their comrades of the rest of the 2nd Division, acquitted themselves gallantly at a heavy cost. One of the first to fall was Lt.-Colonel Gostling, killed as he stepped ashore. In all, 82 all ranks were killed in action or died of wounds, 94 returned wounded to England, 170 remained in France as wounded or prisoners of war, and 173 of the original 513 answered their names when the roll was called next morning.

ENGLAND—NORMANDY LANDING—BATTLE OF  
ST ANDRE-SUR-ORNE

The training for the invasion of France was carried out in England and Scotland under the command of Lt.-Colonel (now Brigadier) D. G. Cunningham, D.S.O., and Lt.-Colonel A. T. Law, D.S.O. Nearly two years after the Dieppe raid the Camerons landed on French soil at Graye-sur-Orne on 7th July 1944, and went into the bridgehead. Remaining in reserve a few days, they then advanced and took over the positions won by the Winnipeg Rifles at Carpiquet. Here they experienced their first taste of shelling, bombing, and mortaring. When vast hosts of bombers from England reduced the suburbs of Caen to rubble, the Camerons had a grandstand view: and next day they moved through the battered city to attack St Andre-sur-Orne.

At this time the enemy were attacking on the right flank of the bridgehead and there was heavy fighting all along the front. In order to allow the American forces to break out and start the drive for Paris, the British and Canadians launched a big offensive on the left flank south of Caen, and so drew the enemy reserves to that sector.

Waist deep in the thick wheatfields of the open country of Normandy, the Camerons lined up for the attack on 20th July 1944. Zero hour was postponed three hours and during the interval the enemy heavily shelled the area, causing many casualties. Phosphorus shells set fire to the dry wheatfields, and through the smoke and flames the Camerons went into the attack to the music of their bagpipes and under the heaviest barrage used by the Allies up to this point. Under enemy observation and direct fire from the front and the high ground west of the Orne River, the Battalion suffered heavily before closing in and driving the enemy from the town. Quickly digging in they threw back the Germans' immediate counter-attacks with heavy losses. The weather turned from intense heat to heavy rain, which put out the fires, but the mud caused serious difficulties in supplies.

On the flanks other units did not fare so well and they were forced to fall back, leaving the Camerons a mile in front and nearly surrounded. The Germans threw the main weight of the two S.S. Divisions on this sector against the town, and for ten days and nights they attacked with infantry, tanks, and artillery. Between battles the area was saturated with shells and bombs and casualties were high. On the second day the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Colonel N. H. Ross, D.S.O., was wounded and Major Jack Runcie, M.C., took over command. Reinforcements had to be brought up each night, with the ammunition and food, through the narrow gap still open to the rear. With numerous attacks and patrols the Camerons kept this gap open and carried the fight to the enemy at all times. Individual acts of heroism were performed constantly and every man held in the face of heavy odds. At

dawn the German tanks would roll through the mist to attack, only to "brew up" from the fire of the anti-tank guns, Piats, and the Sherman tanks manned by the Sherbrook Fusiliers. The enemy infantry was cut down by the Camerons and large numbers of prisoners were taken. So familiar were the enemy with the Battalion they had tried in vain to overrun, that some prisoners asked to be sent to Winnipeg prison camps. The Camerons and their supporting arms were credited with destroying sixty enemy tanks, three of which were knocked out inside the defences at night within a few yards of the Battalion H.Q. The Black Watch attacked along the flank to ease the situation but were forced back after a gallant fight with heavy losses. When the Calgary Highlanders went through, the Camerons threw everyone, from drivers to cooks, into the attack to help, and casualties were very heavy.

And so it went for ten long days until finally relieved, but the Battalion's first major battle was one of the hardest fights of the war, and they marched out having suffered terrible losses but proud of a job well done.

#### FONTENAY-LE-MARMION—FALAISE

After the battle of St Andre-sur-Orne, the Battalion had a two-day rest, during which one company put in a raid on a mine-shaft which was holding up the advance on the Divisional front. The Battalion then moved into position outside Varriers and spent a few days under shell-fire and doing patrols. The big break-through was being "teed up," and the Camerons' objective was Fontenay-le-Marmion, a strong-point that had to be smashed to allow the tanks through.

Dusk of 7th August 1944 found the Battalion in attack formation over a mile from Fontenay-le-Marmion. Allied aircraft was to smash the town at midnight in the first close-support attack, using heavy bombers with infantry. As far as the eye could see in the twilight there loomed hundreds of British and Canadian tanks lined up four abreast. At midnight the bombers roared over and the Camerons swept through the wheatfields, overran the forward enemy positions, and stormed the town. Casualties were heavy and only one hundred men reached Fontenay. After a sharp battle the town fell and word was sent back to send up every available man as reinforcements. Lt.-Colonel Jack Runcie, M.C., fell wounded in the attack, and Major Bill Ferguson took over command, later being mortally wounded in the fighting.

At dawn the enemy attacked in force but were beaten back when only a few steps from the Cameron positions. The town was in a valley with the enemy overlooking all around and the Battalion was cut off. Attack after attack was smashed and it was here that C.S.M. Arbour (later killed in action) won the Military Cross for outstanding

bravery. This was the first case of a C.S.M. winning this award in the Canadian Army.

Later in the afternoon help arrived and in the fighting that followed five hundred enemy were taken prisoners. The tanks had broken through towards Falaise and the fighting had moved south. At Fontenay, Sergeant Dave Middleton took one hundred and fifty prisoners and also rescued some wounded Camerons in German hands.

The armoured break-through was a success and they drove south until finally stopped near Falaise. The Camerons had lost many men and had to reorganise before pushing on south. One shell had wiped out Battalion H.Q., killing or wounding six officers and four other ranks.

After a two-day rest the Camerons moved down through the devastated towns of Normandy and made contact with the enemy near Gouvix. Here Lt.-Colonel Gregory of Regina took over command and led the Battalion in the fighting at Ussy on the drive for Falaise. The Padre, Captain T. Davies, M.C., of Edmonton, was wounded, and the Medical Officer, Captain Harry Marantz, was killed when the first-aid post was hit, causing many casualties. It was hard fighting all the way to Falaise in a rush to close the famous "Falaise Gap," and the Camerons fought for two days in this town before it finally fell on 17th August 1944. Moving on to Clair-Tizon, they were heavily bombed by aircraft and dug in along a line to hold the enemy caught in the trap.

Falaise was a key town to the Germans and the fighting was very bitter, with heavy casualties on both sides. Another name was added to the Cameron battle honours here, before orders were received to swing east and chase the broken German Army now racing for the Seine River.

#### ORBEC—BRIONNE—FORÊT DE LA LONDE

It was a tired but fighting Battalion that marched through Falaise on 19th August 1944 on the start of the long drive to the Seine River in pursuit of the fleeing remnants of Hitler's 15th Army. This drive was to last ten days before ending in a fierce battle on the banks of the Seine. Things moved so quickly that one meal per day was considered fortunate, while sleep was only a memory of better days. Forced marches night and day, skirmishes at every town, snipers everywhere, and here and there a hard battle where the enemy stood in force and fought to hold and gain time. German dead with their burnt-out tanks and vehicles lined the roads, a tribute to the excellent work of the Allied Air Forces. Each town had its bit of tragedy and humour as the Battalion advanced. At Vermoutiers two Cameron scouts

captured the German Commander and his staff, only to find that the town had not as yet been captured and they had to hide out with their prize in the local jail and weather the ensuing attack before the town finally fell.

Outside Orbec the Battalion was ambushed, so, after a stiff fight, swung left and crossed the river at another point. Orbec was taken by assault, but the main force of the enemy was in strength on the hills farther east. The Camerons were ordered to infiltrate and seize an important cross-road a mile to the enemy rear. Each of the four rifle companies took a different route and made their way via ditches and trails through the enemy positions, seized the cross-roads after a stiff fight, and then shot up German traffic to their heart's content. Cut off for two days they fought off attacks by infantry and tanks. When the general advance caught up again, the Camerons were once more on the road in the heavy rain. Men marched asleep on their feet, kept going by the thought that a last smashing effort on their part would mean the end of the war. Here the intensive training of the long months in Canada and England began to bear fruit.

Orders to cross the river north of Brionne were fortunately changed at the last moment, for it was later found that two thousand Germans were strongly dug in at the proposed crossing. Then a forced night march south and a river crossing to seize the vital Brionne bridge before the enemy could set off the demolition charges already in place. Driving the enemy from the town allowed the civilian population to emerge from deep caves on the outskirts, and in their hundreds they swarmed over the advancing troops to welcome the liberation. While engaged with a German rearguard the Battalion met an American patrol driving up from the south.

After a few hours' rest the Battalion set out on the last lap of the march to the Seine. As all bridges over the Seine had been destroyed, large numbers of enemy were trapped and tried to cross by rafts and boat. The Camerons attacked through the Forêt de la Londe, a large thick forest on the banks of the river. Fighting was very bitter, with heavy casualties on both sides; digging was impossible, due to the rocky ground, and shells bursting in the trees caught the troops in the open. After two days and nights of battle near the river's edge, during which Lt.-Colonel Gregory was wounded, the Battalion went into the final night-attack, with the South Saskatchewan Regiment on the right. By morning it was over, and what remained of the enemy on the way back to the prison cages, but this battle had cost the Camerons dearly. After six weeks of fighting across France few remained of the original Battalion. The next task of the Canadians was to clean up the Channel coast, mop up the rocket sights then blitzing England, and open the ports for the badly needed supplies.

## DIEPPE—LA PANNE—BRAY DUNES—DUNKIRK—DUFFEL

With the end of the fighting south of the Seine the Camerons moved across the river at Rouen, through the crowded streets of the badly smashed city. Moving by vehicle across country to the coast, the Battalion entered Dieppe, the scene of the Canadians' one-day raid two years earlier. This time the Camerons came from inland instead of out of the sea, and were met by cheering civilians instead of German gunfire. The enemy had fled north, so there were only isolated pockets, quickly mopped up.

The Division received a five-day rest, during which a memorial service was held at the Canadian Cemetery, followed by a parade through the crowded streets of Dieppe. The few who remained of the 1942 raid walked again over the ground they had once fought for so bitterly and saw again the cliffs and beaches that had taken such a heavy toll. Lt.-Colonel E. P. Thompson took over command here and had the distinction of being the youngest Battalion Commander in the Canadian Army.

Rested and reinforced the Battalion moved again by transport up the coast through last war's battlefields near the Somme, past Calais, and looped up into Belgium. Attacking near Furnes, the Camerons drove to the sea and then swung south, fighting down through La Panne and back into France. They attacked into the sand-dunes north of Dunkirk, from which the British Army fought their evacuation in 1940. With the sea on the right the Camerons fought through the thick minefields against the huge concrete forts that formed a portion of the West Wall. Casualties were heavy here and the Battalion swung inland to attack the town of Bray Dunes, which controlled the enemy traffic for the surrounded post of Dunkirk.

"D" Company infiltrated behind the enemy lines and seized the vital cross-roads, which they held for two days while the remainder of the Battalion fought bitterly to relieve them. When found, they firmly established themselves on the cross-roads, choked with the smashed vehicles and enemy dead.

Digging in, the Camerons held a sector of the line surrounding the large enemy force in the port, and made many active patrols into Dunkirk. Then turning this holding rôle over to other troops, the Division moved north through Ypres and Ghent and reorganised in the town of Duffel, south of Antwerp. There, too, the Battalion enjoyed a three-day rest, during which the Pipe Band played "Retreat" in the town square. Brussels had by this time been taken by the British and the Canadians were fighting to clear the port of Antwerp.

The three infantry battalions in the 6th Brigade were the Fusiliers de Mont Royal, the South Saskatchewan Regiment, and the Camerons.

In the Field Artillery supporting were the 13th Field Battery from Winnipeg.

The 2nd Division was to attack east of Antwerp after clearing the port ; to drive across the canals into Holland and then swing towards the sea, to clear the north bank of the Scheldt Estuary and open the port of Antwerp, which was badly needed by the Allies for supplies. The Royal Winnipeg Rifles with the 3rd Division were fighting at the time to clear the south bank of the Scheldt.

ANTWERP—TURNHOUT CANAL—LOCHENBERG—STERNHOVEN—  
CAMP BRASSECHAET

On 23rd September 1944 the Camerons moved up from Duffel in a heavy rain and after a day's march passed through the Calgary Highlanders, who had fought a crossing over the Albert Canal east of Antwerp. Moving north against scattered resistance, the Battalion bumped the main enemy positions on the Antwerp-Turnhout Canal near the town of Lochenberg. Clearing the near side of the canal, the Camerons took up position with the Germans only a stone's throw away on the opposite bank. Two attempts by the Brigade to force a crossing were thrown back with heavy losses, due to a concentration of enemy tanks.

The fighting here settled down to sniping and shelling over the canal for the next five days, with night patrols over the canal by boat and swimming. Then swinging back, the Battalion did a forced march, crossing the canal at the British bridgehead and started fighting along the enemy side of the canal in the direction of the Scheldt. Through St Leonard and on to Sternhoven, where the Battalion fought all night amid the blazing buildings, with heavy casualties, before taking the town. At dawn they attacked with a squadron of tanks, from the Fort Garry Horse, and in an open fight cleared a dozen miles of enemy positions and guns, ending with the capture of the De Nick Sanatorium and the town of Lochenberg, which were key positions in the enemy defence.

First light next morning marked the start of the attack on Camp Brassechaet, a heavily fortified enemy position which had formerly been the Belgium National Barracks. A day's hard fighting won the town, but the enemy had concentrated in the forest to the north, and in the attack the Battalion was stopped with heavy losses, after half a mile, and dug in in the dense woods. The enemy counter-attacked for the next three days and there was severe fighting and shelling.

The medical first-aid post was exposed to the enemy on the rear flank, and during a lull after midnight, when the medical staff were catching a few hours' rest, they were awakened by five Germans



requesting treatment for some wounded they had brought in from their lines. These five soldiers needed little persuasion to remain as guests of the Allies, but morning found the medicals moved to less comfortable but safer quarters.

Relieved by other troops, the Camerons moved north and took over a stretch of the line near Putten on the Dutch border. The Cameron front was so long that it was necessary to use troops other than infantry, and so the artillery, anti-tank, and anti-aircraft found themselves in the trenches together with bands of Belgian underground volunteers.

The enemy were trying to break through to Antwerp, and the Canadians were fighting to seal the neck of the narrow isthmus connecting the South Beveland Islands with the mainland. Battalion after battalion had been thrown back with heavy losses in the fierce fighting for this vital spot, and on 21st October 1944 the Camerons received orders to move from the defensive and go into the attack.

#### WOENS DreCHT—WILLEMDIGHE—GOES—WILLEBROECK

Woensdrecht is a small Dutch town on the neck of land connecting the South Beveland Islands with the mainland. Its importance to the enemy was enormous, as through it went the only supply line to the islands which controlled the entrance to the port of Antwerp. The land had been flooded, and only the road was usable for traffic. In a heavy rain the Camerons went into the attack on 22nd October 1944 against enemy paratroops. It was hand-to-hand and house-to-house fighting for two days, but in the end the town fell and the entire German forces were sealed up in the islands. Casualties were very heavy and many outstanding acts of bravery were later rewarded.

Stopping only long enough for a few hours' rest, the Battalion then advanced along the neck of land against well dug-in positions. Off the dyke roads the water was knee- and waist-deep in the fields, and with enemy guns covering the approaches, the attacks were mainly made through the water. The 27th October found the Brigade along the large canal splitting Beveland, with the enemy strongly defending the far bank. The Camerons mounted an attack at Willemdighe, so as to draw enemy reserves to the point and allow the South Saskatchewan Regiment to cross farther south. In the fighting the Battalion suffered heavy casualties and many boats were sunk, for the enemy fought stubbornly until driven from the canal banks.

A smashed bridge still stood held across the canal, and before the attack a Bren gunner dozed off as he waited for the signal to advance. Still asleep, he suddenly arose, shouldered his gun, and set off across the bridge. The combined fire of all the Germans in the vicinity roused him after a twenty-yard walk and he fled back to cover untouched but fully awakened.

With the enemy driven from Willemdighe the Battalion had its first glimpse of the Dutch island people in their picturesque costumes busily clipping the hair from the women collaborators and then tossing them into the canal amid loud shouting and jeering. Pushing on along the north dyke road the Camerons encountered only scattered resistance, and one three-man patrol that spoke German fluently brought in the entire garrison from Katenjdyke. In the ancient town of Goes the Battalion stopped, and other units went through to capture the island of Walcheren. In Goes the Pipe Band attracted thousands as it played "Retreat" in the town square.

The Canadians had been given until the end of October to drive the enemy from the banks of the Scheldt and the job was finished with one day to spare. Leaving the islands the Camerons went south for a short rest in Willebroeck, a few miles from Antwerp. During the five days here the Battalion paraded through the streets of Malines and Antwerp to the cheers of thousands of liberated Belgians. Reinforced and rested, the Camerons were ready again and orders arrived to move up to Nijmegen along the German-Dutch frontier.

NIJMEGEN—MOOK—REICHSWALD FOREST—CALCAR—HOCHWALD—  
XANTEN

The 2nd Division's next rôle was to take over from the British at Nijmegen along the Maas River, over which a bridgehead had been established. In November 1944 the Camerons had their first glimpse of German soil when they relieved a British unit at Mook, and dug in along the Reichswald Forest, which was the northern hinge of the Siegfried Line. This locality was to be the Camerons' sector for the next three months until the February drive.

Many local attacks were necessary to straighten the line and casualties at first were heavy. The entire area had been heavily mined and the enemy had every position pinpointed. With the Germans from fifty to two hundred yards away, no movement could be made during the day and the troops crouched in slit-trenches until dark, which was always very welcome, as it meant freedom of movement and food. Patrols and attacks were always done at night, frequently penetrating behind the enemy lines to lie up for one or two days for information. When the Germans flooded the Maas River it was necessary to supply the forward positions by boat. The Battalion was out of the line for Christmas dinner, while on an anti-paratroop rôle, but New Year's Eve was spent as reserve Battalion and midnight brought a heavy shelling from the Germans by way of greeting.

And so it went all winter until February, when the enormous preparations of the past three months took shape in the form of the heaviest and longest artillery barrage used up to that time. Heavy bombers

smashed the towns and cities in the path of the advance, and British and Canadian troops bashed the Reichswald Forest, broke the Siegfried Line, stormed Kleve and Bedburg, and dug in outside Calcar in heavy mud. In a big attack south of Calcar the Camerons went in on Kangaroo tanks and suffered heavy casualties in the minefields. In the bitter fighting that followed, Lt.-Colonel E. P. Thompson, D.S.O., was killed and Major R. H. Lane took over command. It was in this action that Major Dave Rodgers performed the heroic deeds for which he was recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Attacking farther south the Camerons drove into the Hochwald Forest, the major enemy strong-point still held west of the Rhine. Fighting here was the heaviest since Normandy and casualties were high. After five days the battle was over and the way open to Xanten, the last large town held by the enemy on the Rhine. After a fierce battle Xanten fell to a combined British and Canadian attack, and the Camerons moved up along the Rhine on 7th March 1945 to reorganise and await the Rhine crossing.

RHINE CROSSING—NETTERDEN—GRONINGEN—KIRCHATTEN—  
“ V.E. ”-DAY

The Camerons crossed the Rhine as break-out troops after the assault crossing, and after a few skirmishes near Emmerich pushed on to Netterden, Holland, where desperate groups of S.S. troops were putting up a last stand. After tough fighting the enemy here were eventually surrounded and after a brief armistice, during which both sides evacuated casualties, they were convinced by Captain Ralph Sutton, M.C., that resistance was hopeless and surrendered. The Camerons suffered heavy losses here and a large number of enemy were taken prisoner.

Moving on to Bocholtz area the Camerons fought a slow advance in the mud before resistance crumbled. On 8th April 1945 the Camerons piled aboard all available transport and with five days' rations drove seventy miles behind the enemy lines to cut supply routes, demoralise the enemy and capture Groningen, the key-point to the enemy on this front. By-passing all points of resistance and only leaving off platoons to clean up, the Camerons drove deep into Germany, fighting battles at Balkburg, Beilen, Mijken, and Assen. Collaborating traitor troops fought to the end, together with the fanatical Nazi Youth Battalions, in suicide resistance before the Camerons finally captured Groningen and fought a canal crossing for the town of Ten Boer.

After a fast move to Wildeshausen, the Battalion reorganised for the attack on Kirchatten. The last major action of the Camerons was fought here near the end of April, when, after a five-day battle, this point finally fell with heavy casualties to the Battalion.

Lt.-Colonel R. L. Rutherford took over command and the Camerons advanced on Oldenberg through scattered resistance. After a short attack the town was occupied and the Battalion awaited further orders. Here, on 5th May 1945, was received the long-awaited news that resistance had collapsed in Germany and fighting finished. The long road from Winnipeg to Berlin had reached its final turning, and after a short celebration everyone slept the first sleep of security and relaxation in many months.

After "V.E."-Day the Battalion moved to Norden and Emden on the North Sea, for five weeks, and then on to Amersfoort, until sailing for England at the end of September.

**2ND (R.) BATTALION THE QUEEN'S OWN  
CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF CANADA**

IN 1940 orders were issued for the 2nd (R.) Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada to be formed.

Lt.-Colonel J. M. Creighton was appointed Commanding Officer and it was due mainly to his efforts that the Battalion was raised, and that it accomplished so much during the war years.

On the return of the 1st Battalion on the 22nd November 1945 after more than five years of active service abroad, the 2nd Battalion carried on for a while until, early in 1946, it was reorganised under the new establishment regulations laid down by National Defence Headquarters, and The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada came into being once more as a Reserve Force Battalion.

On 15th April 1946 Lt.-Colonel Creighton was forced to give up command, on account of ill-health, and was succeeded by Lt.-Colonel R. S. Robertson, whose principal task was to recruit and reorganise the unit on its new establishment. The recruiting campaign proved more than satisfactory, many officers, N.C.O.s, and men who had served abroad on active service with the 1st Battalion offering their services.

## 1ST BATTALION THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF OTTAWA (M.G.)

THE History of the 1st Battalion The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa has already been published, under that title, by Lt.-Colonel R. M. Ross, O.B.E. Lt.-Colonel Ross, to quote from the Foreword to his book in the words of the Honorary Colonel, "having served through the various ranks to the command of the unit, is admirably qualified not only to speak from personal experience but to quote from official records." From that source the present writer has drawn deeply (very often in the same words as the original) to represent the salient items of the fine war service rendered by the Battalion. Colonel Cameron Edwards epitomises the career of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa from its mobilisation on 2nd September 1939 to its demobilisation on 12th December 1945 in two paragraphs of his preface:—

"The unit was organised, trained, disciplined, and led in the field by militiamen, and even the experience of ten months' garrison duty on the bleak island of Iceland did not impair its morale or prevent it taking its place as a unit, second to none, in the 1st Canadian Army.

During the successful operations of the 3rd Canadian Division throughout the summer and autumn of 1944, from the Normandy beaches, into Caen, clearing Calais and Boulogne, and finally the sump-hole of the Scheldt Pocket, the Camerons had practically continuous fighting under indescribable conditions, and praise has been freely bestowed upon its personnel for the part they played in the success of these operations."

On the outbreak of war, Lt.-Colonel G. H. Rogers, Officer Commanding, was ordered to recruit his Battalion to War Establishment. The entire officer-strength, less only those whose known medical category precluded posting for active service, immediately volunteered, and the response among the other ranks was most enthusiastic. Towards the end of September the Battalion moved from its headquarters at the Drill Hall, Ottawa, to Landsdowne Park: there, first under canvas, and later in the Horse Coliseum, they carried out a gruelling, intensive machine-gun training. And so the winter wore away—with all the attendant monotony of gun-drill, route-marches, and dull routine. Yet the unit had taken shape, and a strong Regimental spirit took root.

On 12th May 1940 the Colours were paraded for the last time. The Battalion proceeded to Camp Borden, Ontario, and wild guesses as to its final destination were already rife. Then, on 30th June, the Camerons, in company with the Fusiliers de Mont Royal, boarded the *Empress of Australia* and left Halifax Harbour under sealed orders. Little did

they realise that almost four years to a day would elapse before they were to come to personal grips with the enemy.

Disembarking at Reykjavik on 7th July, the men witnessed the anomalous ceremony of two buglers sounding "Lights out" when, at 10.30 P.M. the sun was still high! The Camerons found that their Brigade ("Z" Brigade) comprised the Royal Regiment of Canada, the Fusiliers de Mont Royal, and themselves—all under command of "Alabaster Force," the British garrison, mostly made up of the 49th (W.R.) Division recently evacuated from Norway.

As their insignia, the Force chose a white polar bear on a black background, and this was eventually worn by all ranks.

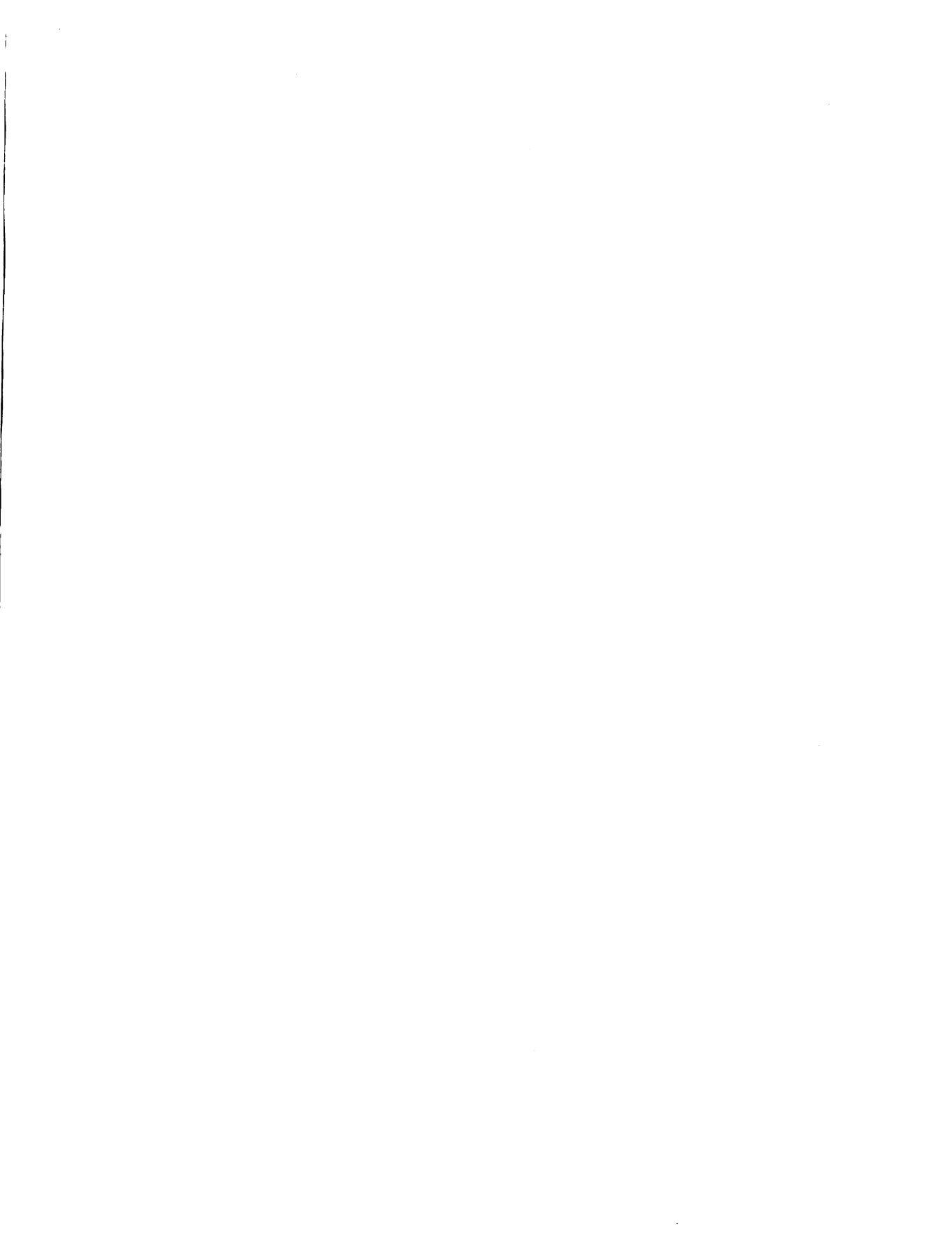
The Camerons were the machine-gunners of the Force and they were for the most part deployed in defence of Reykjavik and an airfield at Kaldadarnes, about 45 miles south-east of Reykjavik. They were required at once to construct emplacements and communication trenches—although forty-four out of the forty-eight machine-guns taken to Iceland were actually "drill purpose only"!

Weather during the summer was extremely variable, with sudden squalls blowing up. Night consisted of the sun passing behind a large mountain and reappearing half an hour later. For the most part the Icelanders resented the occupation, until, after many months, friendships were formed at last.

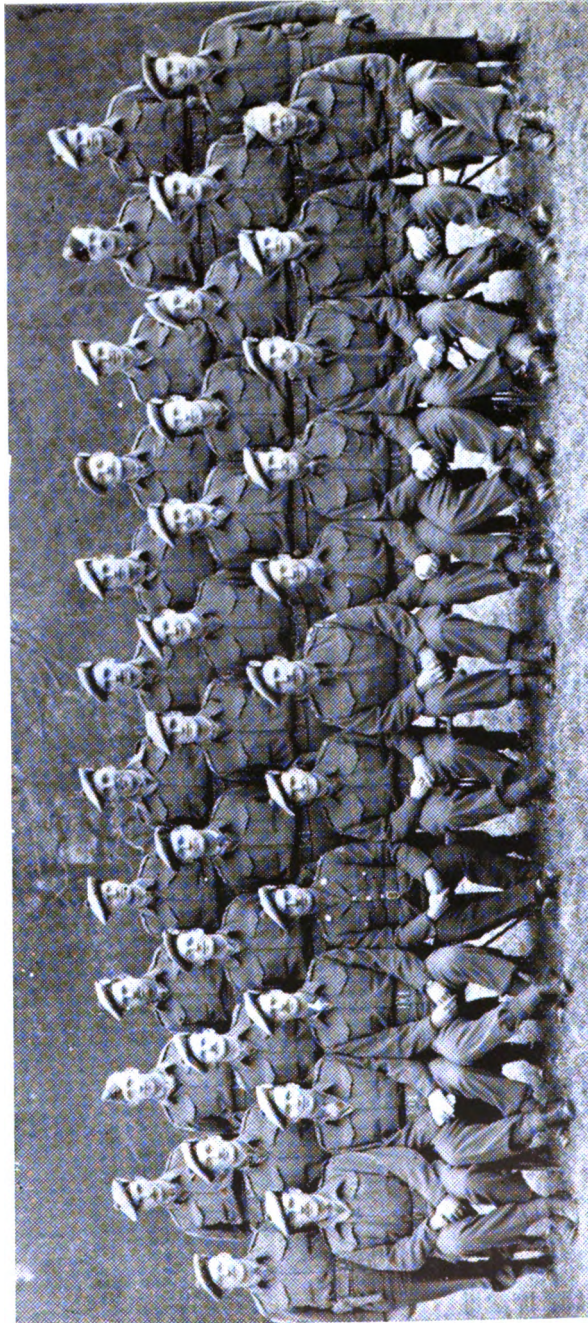
A hum-drum existence continued through autumn and winter, and though the bulk of "Z" Brigade left at the end of September to join the 2nd Canadian Division in England, the Camerons remained until relieved by the Manchesters on 27th April 1941.

After ten months in Iceland the Battalion could bear the discomfort of an ocean crossing in *The Royal Scotsman*; but conditions were very trying, for 750 men had to squeeze into accommodation intended for 300. Pipe-Major Scott's pipers struck up "My Home" as the ship drew in at Greenock. It was wonderful indeed just to see trees again. But the Battalion entrained almost at once for Great Bookham in Surrey. A few days later all ranks were sent off on "landing leave"—their first leave in eighteen months.

On arriving in England the Battalion came directly under command of Canadian Corps H.Q., together with the Royal Montreal Regiment; but this was only a temporary measure, since it was intended that the Camerons would be the Machine-Gun Battalion to the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division—which they became two months later. At the end of August, after Major-General Price had duly inspected the Battalion and welcomed it to his Division, there began a series of moves that included a concentration at Bulford Camp (Salisbury Plain) and two spells at Aldershot: the latter "remembered as a place of thousands of hob-nailed boots clattering on cobblestones in the black-out." Demonstrations carried out under the critical eyes of the Minister of National Defence, the Hon. J. L. Ralston, and the







1ST BATTALION THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF OTTAWA  
(WINTER 1942-1943)

*Back Row (left to right)*—Lieutenant G. R. Clarke; Captain R. H. Smith (Paymaster); Lieutenant A. C. Brookes; Lieutenant T. E. Body; Lieutenant I. S. Blair; Lieutenant G. R. O'Handley; Lieutenant C. M. Watts; Lieutenant S. H. Webb; Captain A. Mintz (D.O.); Lieutenant D. McGlymont (L.O.); *Centre Row (left to right)*—Lieutenant H. B. Jackson; Lieutenant L. W. Butler; Lieutenant W. J. Preston; Lieutenant M. Rinter; Captain E. C. Bradley; Lieutenant H. C. R. Gills; Lieutenant J. F. Lambert; Lieutenant L. C. Swift; Lieutenant H. B. Gonder; Lieutenant B. B. Scott; Captain T. R. Gillis; *Front Row (left to right)*—Major G. R. Addie (Chaplain); Captain G. L. Tripp; Captain J. M. Carson; Major W. S. Mackenzie (Second-in-Command); Lt. Colonel P. C. Kluehn; Captain J. P. C. Macpherson (Adjutant); Major R. Rowley; Captain C. C. Hill; Captain W. H. Armstrong; Major H. C. S. Elliott (M.O.).

Commander-in-Chief Home Forces, General Sir Alan Brooke, showed, however, that the lessons learnt on the Plain had borne good fruit.

The beginning of 1942 found the Battalion at Limpsfield Chart in Surrey, a very uninviting billet ; but there was a move in mid-January to Paxhill Park, near Haywards Heath, where accommodation in Nissen huts was a marked improvement. From the new station the companies carried out a number of exercises, and the South Downs became the scene of "hordes of Camerons fighting madly in all directions." Lt.-Colonel Rogers returned to Canada during this period, having been granted sick leave, and he was very greatly missed. Lt.-Colonel H. V. D. Laing, A.A. and Q.M.G. 3rd Division, assumed command until 9th April when Major Clingan took over.

In June the Battalion was visited by Major-General Neville Cameron, C.B., C.M.G., then Colonel of the Regiment, and by Lt.-General B. L. Montgomery, then G.O.C. South-Eastern Command. At this time there was another change of C.O., following Major Clingan's promotion and transfer to No. 1 Machine-Gun Reinforcing Unit, when Lt.-Colonel P. C. Klaehn of the Saskatoon Light Infantry (M.G.) arrived to assume command. The new C.O.'s first task was to guide the destinies of the Battalion through Exercise "Harold" from 25th until 31st July. After "Harold"—one of many strenuous battles in which it seemed that the Canadians were always obliged to fight a rearguard action in the face of the British formations (though on this occasion, at least, it was conceded that they had annihilated their opponents)—there was another move ; this time to Wiston House, Steyning. It was at Steyning that news came through of the gallant assault on Dieppe by the 2nd Canadian Division—and incidentally of the gallant conduct of Lieutenant I. T. Burr, a member of the Battalion, who was attached to that Division. Lieutenant Burr was stranded on the beach, but calmly struck out into the Channel and was picked up by a British ship : he thus was able to bring back valuable information by which he earned the award of the M.B.E.—becoming the first Cameron of Ottawa to receive a decoration in World War II.

With the lessons learnt at Dieppe, it was decided that a Beach Maintenance Group ("Brick") should be formed to supply the assaulting infantry in subsequent landing operations. It was difficult to understand why this duty was to be given to machine-gunners, but the Camerons were ordered to train forthwith as "Brick."

On 6th December 1942 the first group of officers and other ranks left for the Combined Training Centre at Castle Toward in Scotland, and another group followed on and, incidentally (on Christmas Day), created a record in moving heavy stores off drifters and landing-craft. The Battalion returned to Slinfold, near Horsham, on 1st January 1943.

Early in February orders were received to discontinue all beach "Brick" training ; instead, the Battalion was to study the organisation

of the new Support Battalion, with a view to a switch-over. This establishment comprised three Brigade Support Groups, each having a Heavy Mortar Company and a Light Anti-Aircraft Company.

The order to re-form arrived on 1st May, and the Battalion received reinforcements from many Canadian units, of which the greatest contributor was the St John Fusiliers (M.G.)—who were to prove as staunch Camerons as the originals, despite the fact that they came from an entirely different part of Canada.

With the expectation that the 1st Canadian Infantry Division and the 5th Canadian Armoured Division would probably be sent overseas before long, it was essential that Support Groups carried out training with their respective Brigades. Training Centres at Rothesay and Inveraray, in Scotland, catered for this important object, and the four weeks spent there by the 7th and 8th Groups were most valuable. The remainder of the year saw several changes of station for the Support Groups. Bournemouth and Hursley (near Winchester) were short-period camps where the two Groups supposedly recuperated from the rigours of combined training; but the latter was spoilt by mud and other discomforts. About this time Battalion H.Q. handed over Slinfold Camp to the Essex Scottish and moved to Mudeford Camp, Bournemouth. The 9th Brigade Support Group moved to Southbourne for their "recuperation," though an impending exercise rendered their stay anything but relaxing; indeed, Exercise "Pirate" was the first of the large-scale landing exercises "to test everything from seasick pills to swimming Sherman tanks."

The entire Battalion paraded on 11th November for an inspection by the acting G.O.C. 3rd Division. 980 all ranks were on parade, and it was a very impressive sight.

Support Groups continued their exercises and intensive training in November and December; then, on 14th January 1944, "a bomb-shell hit the Battalion in the form of another reorganisation": the Support Battalion was to be abolished, and the Camerons were to revert to a Machine-Gun Battalion rôle—with a new establishment of three machine-gun companies and one heavy mortar company.

Since the various Groups were so far apart, arrangements were made to concentrate the Battalion, and on 30th January billets were occupied in Southbourne.

On 12th February a picked body of men under the command of Major C. C. Hill was selected from the Battalion as a personal Guard for H.M. The King. A dress rehearsal for a part of the "D"-Day fire programme was to take place at Studland Bay, and His Majesty and members of the War Council were to be present. Ten days later the Camerons were inspected by General Sir Bernard Montgomery—and from then onwards preparations for "D"-Day went forward at full pressure.

Towards the end of March Major-General Sir James S. Drew, K.C.B.,

C.B., D.S.O., M.C., visited the Battalion and addressed the officers in the following words :—

“ Lt.-Colonel Klaehn; Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, I thank you for the privilege and pleasure of being with you to-day, and for the opportunity to say a few words. It has been my good fortune during the past two years to meet and work with your unit, or parts of it, on several occasions at the Combined Training Centre. I well know the various tasks that you have had to face, indeed exceedingly variable, during that period, even to the extent of having to reorganise more than once. But I have always been impressed at the thorough and cheerful way that you have dealt with the problems. You set a fine example of that Scottish motto, ‘ Wha tholis overcommis.’<sup>1</sup> For your weary years of waiting and working will, I am confident, be rewarded. We, Cameron Highlanders, are very proud of our Canadian connections. In fact, we speak of you to others with a considerable conceit! A high opinion derived from personal contact and knowledge—I only regret that more liaison with the other Battalions has not been feasible owing to their being out of reach. But I am confident that a strong link of mutual esteem binds us together: let us ensure that it continues. And now your burning wish to get at the enemy must surely be approaching achievement, when you will, I know, add further lustre to the name of our Regiment. I wish you all prosperity, and may God bless you in your great endeavour.”

H.M. The King inspected the 3rd Canadian Division on 25th April and the Guard of Honour was supplied by the Camerons. A final landing exercise, “ Fabius,” took place on 30th April, but by now the residue personnel not actually in the assaulting teams had been sent to a camp at Chobham. Then, on 26th May, all the camps were sealed as tight as a drum.

“ The 5th June dawned with a brisk wind and leaden skies. The wind held, but craft started to move late in the afternoon. At 6 P.M. it was announced that the operation was definitely ‘ on’ . . . As daylight faded into dusk, the greatest and most famous armada of all time lay sprawled across the horizon with bits and pieces of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa scattered over twenty-eight different craft. The immense Operation ‘ Overlord ’ was under way.”

In his History of the Battalion, from which we have just quoted, Lt.-Colonel R. M. Ross next succinctly describes the general plan for the invasion of Normandy :—

“ On ‘ D minus 2 ’ and ‘ D minus 1 ’ heavy strategic bombing on known enemy strong-points in the area in which we were to land. This, of course, was offset by diversionary bombing of the mouth of the Seine and Pas de Calais area so as not to compromise our intentions.

<sup>1</sup> (A former proprietor of Balavoulin, the Perthshire home of General Sir James Drew, inscribed the motto on the lintel over the front door.—Ed.)

Around midnight of 'D'-Day 6th Airborne Division was to be dropped astride the Caen Canal and immediately east of Caen. At 0730 hours on 'D'-Day, the 2nd British Army, with the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division under command, was to land with three Divisions up. On the left, in the area Lion-sur-Mer and Luc-sur-Mer, the 3rd British Division; in the centre, from St Aubin-sur-Mer to Graye-sur-Mer, the 3rd Canadian Division; on the right, near Arromanches, the 50th (N.) Division. Farther to the west toward the Cherbourg peninsula the Americans were to land a similar force. The 3rd Canadian Division was to land with two Brigades up, with the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade right, 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade left, and 9th Canadian Infantry Brigade as follow-up. Royal Marine Commandos were to land with the 3rd Canadian Division, with special tasks to perform.

The 7th and 8th Brigades were to establish a limited beach-head with the 8th Brigade taking out a radar station and pressing on to form up along the general line Villons-les-Buisson-Cairon. The 7th Brigade on the right to push through and cut the Caen-Bayeux highway and railway running parallel to it, at Norrey-en-Bessin and Putot-en-Bessin. As soon as this was accomplished, the 9th Brigade was to break out from the 8th Brigade's area with tanks of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade and, by-passing Caen, were to seize Carpiquet airfield. This was as far as the troops were briefed. It was considered that the 51st (H.) Division, which was to land immediately behind the 3rd Canadian Division, would pass through and streak for Falaise."

The Cameron companies were divided between the 7th, 8th and 9th Brigades, and the allotment of heavy mortars and machine-guns was proportionate to the Brigade tasks. One platoon of machine-gunners (No. 7) was, however, under direct command of the North Shore (New Brunswick) Regiment, whose rôle was to take out the radar station.

In spite of the intense bombardment of the beaches, a hail of small-arms and mortar-fire met the initial assault; but the chief difficulty was the large number of mines and under-water obstacles encountered. Nevertheless, the three machine-gun companies landed without fatal casualties. "A" Company supported the 7th Brigade on to its intermediate objective along the line Fontaine-Henry-le-Fresne-Camilly, where they firmed up for the night. No. 7 Platoon took up position at St Aubin-sur-Mer and shot the North Shore Regiment into Tailleville. "B" Company (Major J. M. Carson) successfully silenced an 8.8-cm. gun which had blocked the approach towards Beny-sur-Mer, and Lieutenant Woodward of that company earned the M.C. for his bold aggressive action. Later, Major Carson followed up the tanks of the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade into Beny-sur-Mer and Anguerny. His brilliant leadership and example were largely responsible for the 8th Brigade attaining its objective before nightfall. "C" Company landed without incident (except for the appalling traffic congestion)



and took up anti-tank positions for the night. Nos. 13 and 14 Platoons of "D" Company (under Major R. M. Ross), supporting the 7th Brigade, reached Banville and took up defensive positions in the growing dusk; Nos. 12 and 15 Platoons were unable to land until early on "D plus 2." Lt.-Colonel Klaehn and his Command Group had also been unable to land, though they got ashore on "D plus 1." The Padre, Major the Rev. J. Forth, was attached to a field ambulance and did yeoman service, for which he was later awarded the O.B.E.

On 7th June the 7th Brigade reached its objective at La Villeneuve, Norrey-en-Bessin and Bretteville l'Orgeuëlleuse, with No. 3 Platoon in support. The stickiest part of the front was on the 8th and 9th Brigades' sectors, where the 12th S.S. Panzer Division was trying to break through to the beaches. "B" Company (Nos. 6 and 8 Platoons) fired in support of their respective battalions in the 8th Brigade, and were instrumental in maintaining a firm line. "C" Company, with platoons under each of the three battalions of the 9th Brigade, supported an infantry and tank attack which almost succeeded in reaching Carpiquet airfield, and covered the withdrawal to the anti-tank ditch between Les Buisson and Buron, when the North Nova Scotia Highlanders were obliged to fall back.

There had been casualties in the action just described, but on the evening of 7th June a disaster overtook the reinforcements who had newly arrived and were starting inland for the assembly area. Almost the entire group of the Cameron reinforcements became casualties as the result of air-bombing: three officers and eleven other ranks were killed and fourteen other ranks were wounded.

On 8th June the 12th S.S. Panzer Division and the 21st Panzer Division were still trying to break through to the beaches, and "B" and "C" Companies fired continually in support of their Brigades. At about 3 P.M. a devastating attack against the 7th Brigade sector was launched and but for the tenacity of the Regina Rifle Regiment and the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, backed up by "A" Company and No. 13 Platoon of the Camerons, might have driven a dangerous wedge into the Division's right flank. Lieutenant Ashman, commanding No. 3 Platoon, found his platoon isolated; he elected to fight it out, but one after another his guns were destroyed. Although captured by the enemy and severely wounded, Lieutenant Ashman took advantage of the sudden intervention of a British tank to make his escape, together with other wounded men, on the back of the tank. He was subsequently awarded the Croix de Guerre for his gallantry. The mortars of No. 13 Platoon were rendered useless by the in-fighting, but the men joined No. 5 Platoon with their personal weapons. Captain Gonder was awarded the M.C. and Sergeant Stanley and Private Bond the M.M. for their gallant conduct during this determined resistance.

A hasty counter-attack by the Canadian Scottish succeeded in regaining all ground lost during the day, with the exception of La

Villeneuve: the attack was supported by No. 14 Platoon with high explosive and smoke. But "A" Company had suffered considerable casualties, and Major J. Rowley was forced to reorganise it on a two-platoon basis. Snipers picked off more men on the morning of 9th June, and though Private Wright accounted for six (and won the M.M. thereby), the losses for the two days amounted to eleven killed and about the same number wounded or missing.

"B" and "C" Companies had also suffered heavily while continuing in support of their Battalions. Major C. C. Hill was killed by mortar-fire while directing his platoons at Les Buisson, and shortly afterwards Captain J. W. Courtright was killed when an "88" shelled his platoon locality. Nos. 10 and 11 Platoons had nine casualties—among them Corporal G. C. Fraser, who earned the M.M. for continuing to man his gun although severely wounded.

On 10th June Nos. 12 and 15 Platoons supported an attack by the Highland Light Infantry of Canada south of Les Buisson, which was quite successful. The fighting had eased off somewhat, and next day the 8th Brigade moved from Anguerny to clear the line of the River Mue from Rosel to La Villeneuve. Nos. 11, 12, and 15 Platoons supported the Glengarry Highlanders in their very successful attack on Vieux Caïron. The next few days were mostly spent in improving positions and trying to obtain information. No. 5 Platoon supported the Winnipeg Rifles in their attack towards Le Mesnil-Patry on 16th June. On 18th June the 7th and 8th Brigades interchanged. At this time two large-scale operations began to take form, with the 49th (W.R.) Division planning to attack south through the 50th (N.) Division to capture Fontenay-le-Pesnil, and the 15th (S.) Division striking south through the 8th Brigade to cut the Villiers-Caen highway. One heavy mortar platoon was ordered to support the 49th Division, and a machine-gun company and two heavy mortar platoons to engage specified targets for the 15th Division. These operations ("Martlet" and "Epsom" respectively) started on 24th and 25th June.

No. 13 Platoon fired 500 bombs in less than an hour while supporting the 49th Division from an exposed position between Putot and Le Mesnil-Patry. In support of the 15th Division, Nos. 13 and 14 Platoons at Norrey-en-Bessin expended some 2000 bombs and kept Marcelet well occupied; and this most successful attack was the start of high-level strategy, which was to draw the enemy's Panzer Divisions towards the Caen hinge, while the Americans prepared to begin their wide-sweeping movements.

3rd July found the Camerons deployed over the entire 3rd Division front, under the direct command of Lt.-Colonel Klaehn: "A" Company in the 7th Canadian Infantry Brigade's area round Rots and La Villeneuve along the River Mue; "B" Company concentrated in the Marcelet area with the 8th Brigade; and "C" Company with the 9th Brigade in the area Vieux Caïron and Les Buisson. Nos. 13 and 14

Platoons were with the 8th Brigade, and Nos. 12 and 14 Platoons in the 7th Brigade area. Operation "Windsor," as it was called, was to open with a devastating artillery barrage at first light on 4th July. "A" Company's task was to support a feint attack towards Franqueville on the Caen-Bayeux highway; "B" Company was to give close support to the main attack; "C" Company was to neutralise Buron and Gruchy, so as to deny any movement towards Carpiquet from that area; and "D" Company was to engage selected targets from their positions near Marcelet.

At 5 A.M. the barrage opened up with earth-shattering intensity and all companies engaged their pre-arranged targets. The feint attack proved its value later, though "A" Company H.Q. was inadvertently shot up. "B" Company was subjected to accurate counter-fire whenever it opened up. "C" Company pumped thousands of rounds into Buron and Gruchy—and received only light reprisal. This attack, which was carried out by the 8th Brigade with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles of the 7th Brigade under command, was successful—though the last phase was cancelled on account of the resistance in and around Carpiquet. The 8th Brigade formed a salient "fortress" to consolidate the ground gained. The enemy counter-attacked early on 5th July, but although some of the forward elements of the Brigade were overrun, No. 6 Platoon (Lieutenant Woodward) held its position and knocked out a tank with an abandoned 6-pounder gun. Lieutenant Woodward was awarded a Bar to his M.C. for his outstanding leadership and gallantry. From 10 P.M. on the 5th of July until 2 A.M. on the 6th, enemy concentrations blasted the front of the North Shore Regiment; then the barrage lifted and the Germans attacked. Lieutenant Sharp kept No. 7 Platoon under central control till the attackers were within 150 yards—when he ordered "gun control." The machine-gunners, although hard pressed, slaughtered the oncoming enemy and broke up the attack. For his peerless leadership and refusal to give ground under withering fire, Lieutenant Sharp was awarded the M.C. Corporal Massey, in the same action, gained the M.M. for keeping two guns in action when the crew of one of them had all been wounded.

For the remainder of 6th and 7th July the enemy continued to shell the "fortress," but no further large-scale attacks were launched.

With Carpiquet village securely held, it was now decided that the time was ripe for a quick thrust towards Caen, and consequently reconnaissances for Operation "Charnwood" began. This operation called for a concentrated effort by the 3rd British Division on the left, the 59th Division in the centre, and the 7th and 9th Brigades of the 3rd Canadian Division on the right. The Camerons were required to support the 9th Brigade, initially, with "A" and "C" Companies; then, on the capture of Authie, "A" Company was to revert to the support of the 7th Brigade. "B" Company was to supply diversionary



fire and assist a feint attack by the 8th Brigade towards Bretteville-sur-Odon.

During the night 7th-8th July the enemy pounded the 9th Brigade's start-line and forming-up positions unmercifully. The attack went in at 4.20 A.M. on the 8th, and the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders broke through to their first objective at Gruchy after a sharp encounter. The H.L.I. of Canada and the 27th Canadian Armoured Regiment, on the left, bumped aggressive opposition and suffered heavy casualties. Now the Camerons were ordered to get a company on to ring-contour 80, slightly south and east of Buron, to provide flank protection; but the feature chosen offered no cover, and casualties were sustained while the men dug in. In the meantime, Captain J. Macpherson and "C" Company were having their hands full in Buron. After placing his platoons to fire into Authie, Captain Macpherson rallied the remnants of the H.L.I. (who had lost their C.O. and three Company Commanders) and was instrumental in helping to form a line. "B" Company in spite of their more static rôle at Carpiquet, was fully committed. No. 12 Platoon moved to Buron and No. 15 to Gruchy, and both contributed much-needed fire-support; indeed, the Canadian Scottish later informed Lt.-Colonel Klaehn that the intense fire of one of the mortars succeeded in breaking up an enemy counter-attack.

On the evening of 8th July the 9th Brigade broke through into Caen, and on the following day they were relieved by the 7th Brigade; but the Cameron companies had to remain deployed for another week before being brought in to refit in preparation for a "big push." Since all the bridges at Caen had been demolished, a new operation was being mounted for the crossing of the Orne—and Operation "Atlantic" was put into effect on 18th July.

The Cameron plan called for "A" Company to support the 7th Brigade's assault, and to cross the Orne as soon as a Bailey bridge was erected. "B" Company was to cross the Orne with the 8th Brigade and closely to support their advance. "C" Company was to concentrate with the 9th Brigade and to be ready to pass through either the 7th or 8th Brigades, and "D" Company was to position itself at Caen so as to take on targets inaccessible to the artillery.

The operation got off to a good start, with the R.A.F. making a shambles of the factory area—to pave the way for the 8th Brigade to move south and secure Giberville. The infantry met determined resistance, but the Queen's Own Rifles, with No. 6 Platoon (Captain Harris), managed to break through to Giberville. "A" Company supported the Regina Rifles in their assault-crossing and then covered the consolidation. "D" Company fired nearly 4000 bombs and crossed to Vaucelles late in the evening.

After the 7th and 9th Brigades had linked up in Mondeville on 19th July, both Brigades pressed forward to Cormelles. "C" Company

crossed the Orne and supported the 9th Brigade's attack south to secure Bras and Hubert-Folie. The attack was successful, but the enemy's shelling of the objective was extremely severe and there were a number of casualties: Lieutenant Kenmure was among the killed and Major Tripp was seriously wounded. Meanwhile "B" Company had moved forward with the 8th Brigade and occupied Four, Soliers, and Grentheville. No. 12 Platoon joined the Brigade and took up a position at Soliers, where, on the morning of 23rd July, they came under heavy fire, which knocked out two of their carriers, setting fire to one that contained seventy mortar bombs and about 3000 rounds of small-arms ammunition—Sergeant H. G. Bailey shovelled sand into the carrier and by ceaseless effort eventually got the fire under control. Sergeant Bailey's fearless example and devotion to duty earned him the M.M.

The next few days saw all the platoons digging in and continuing to harass the enemy day and night, while a new operation was formed to bring the Division closer to Falaise.

Operation "Spring" was to be carried out at night, with artificial moonlight supplied by searchlights. The Camerons were deployed with "A" Company in an anti-penetration rôle at Cormelles; "B" Company, with the 8th Brigade, was to fire on pre-selected targets on the left flank; "C" Company, with No. 9 Platoon in Bourguebus, was to shoot the North Novas on to capture Tilly-la-Campagne, and Nos. 10 and 11 Platoons were to be ready to shoot the H.L.I. on to Garcelles when the Novas gave their success signal.

The operation began at 3.30 A.M. on 25th July and went all right until the North Novas were ambushed at Tilly. "B" Company got off 100,000 rounds in carrying out their part of the plan; No. 9 Platoon gave intimate support from Bourguebus, though heavily shelled; No. 15 Platoon, in the same locality, continued to give support on call, in spite of a severe shaking up; and No. 14 Platoon, along the railway track at Soliers, also received its share of trouble. However, since the North Novas had been unable to hold their objective, the second phase of the attack was not launched, and the Division was ordered to firm up along the line and to patrol vigorously. During this period Private H. C. Colbourne won the Croix de Guerre for obtaining identification by stalking and bringing in a member of the 1st S.S. Panzer Grenadier Regiment.

"C" Company, round Hubert-Folie, was in a hot corner. Here, when one of the Platoon Commanders became a casualty, R.S.M. Brunet asked for and received permission to take his place. Two of the "C" Company platoons, and one of "D" Company's, supported an attack by units of the 2nd Division across the Caen-Falaise highway to take out a château, and this small action proved quite spectacular when the mortars drove the enemy into a killing-ground where the machine-gunners mowed them down.

After sixty-three days of continuous fighting, word was now received that the entire Division was to move back to Villons-les-Buisson and Colomby for a well-deserved rest. During the short rest period the Battalion took the opportunity to carry out some much-needed maintenance of vehicles and weapons. The officers held a Mess Dinner, to which were invited the G.O.C., Major-General R. F. L. Keller, Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, C.O. of the 5th Camerons of the 51st Division, and his Adjutant, Captain T. B. M. Lamb. Lt.-Colonel Lang loaned his Pipe Band for the occasion, and the combined Pipes and Drums of the two Battalions beat "Retreat." Changes in officer personnel arose at this time when Major Rowley left to take command of the Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry Highlanders. Major R. M. Ross became Second-in-Command, Captain J. P. C. Macpherson became O.C. "D" Company, and Captains Baird and Armstrong became O.C. "C" and "H.Q." Companies respectively, both in the rank of Major.

The Battalion returned to the line on 7th August. Companies joined their respective Brigades and moved towards Cormelles across the Orne. A night operation ("Totalize") by the 4th Canadian Armoured Division and the 1st Polish Armoured Division did not dislodge the enemy from his line along the Laison, and Operation "Tallulah" was accordingly planned to effect a crossing of the river and to gain the high ground overlooking Falaise. This operation began at noon on 14th August in conjunction with colossal bombing support. Unfortunately there was a period of two hours during which 500- and 1000-lb. bombs fell on the attackers, owing to a ghastly mistake, and caused many casualties. The enemy contested every inch of ground and the shelling was very heavy. "D" Company H.Q. received a direct hit, killing Corporal Coan and wounding several other men.

No. 12 Platoon carried out a crash action in the face of some hidden "88s" and lost Sergeant Duffy and eight others killed or wounded. Of those killed, Private Secord will be remembered for an act of supreme self-sacrifice and courage, when he lost his life in shielding a wounded comrade from the burst of a shell. No. 15 Platoon lost a brilliant young officer in Lieutenant Harrison Bennett, who was killed by the shelling of the platoon's observation post.

In spite of all, however, the momentum of the attack carried the Division on to the high ground. The grand-scale strategy of trapping the 7th Germany Army in a "pocket" was working out. The 3rd Division was now ordered to cover the River Dives and to move towards Trun to assist in sealing the trap. Soon the Canadians were overlooking the river valley and pumping bullets, shells, and bombs into the German-held territory at Trun, St Lambert-sur-Dives, and Chambois. At one stage an enemy tank and infantry counter-attack penetrated the forward line gained, yet Nos. 10 and 11 Platoons (Lieutenants H. B. Jackson and V. L. Leatherdale) not only stemmed the infiltration but

enabled 100 prisoners to be taken—and seventy-five of the enemy were killed.

With the capture of Falaise by the 2nd Division, and the general disintegration of the German 7th Army, the 3rd Canadian Division was ordered to press on to the Seine. On 26th August the 7th Brigade reached the Seine at Elbeuf. "A" Company supported the crossing by raft, on 28th August, and No. 13 Platoon crossed and gave valuable covering fire to the Brigade. "B" Company and No. 14 Platoon joined the 7th Reconnaissance Group and prepared to swan out and bounce the River Somme. "C" Company, with the 9th Brigade, crossed and shot the Brigade into Rouen. The advance continued north and east through Neufchatel-Eu-Abbeville-Montreuil up to Boulogne—where the first really determined resistance was encountered; although overcoming all the difficulties of road-blocks, blown bridges and minefields, as well as the inevitable strong-points.

Boulogne was now to be captured, and the Brigade began to spread out in a half-circle round the beleaguered garrison.

Operation "Wellhit" (Boulogne) was to be a Brigade attack with heavy bomber support and the employment of about twenty artillery regiments. It was to be carried out by the 9th Brigade, who were holding the south and south-east approaches to Boulogne, and their area was to be handed over to the Camerons. All the machine-gun companies now reverted to Battalion control for the operation and were positioned with "A" Company at the western edge of the Forêt de Boulogne and facing Mt Lambert. In addition to the Battalion, an assortment of sub-units of various arms made up what was called "Klaehn Force"; this being required to contain the enemy and, by patrolling, movement and sound effect, to create the impression of large numbers.

The operation began at 10 A.M. on 17th September. The 9th Brigade moved in to attack, after the bombers had engaged Mt Herquelingue, Mt St Etienne and Le Portal, with No. 14 Platoon supplying the only direct Cameron support. Klaehn Force then took up their positions and carried out a vigorous harassing programme with all available weapons. Late in the evening Brigadier Rockingham, Commander 9th Brigade, ordered the Camerons to send a patrol up on to Mt Herquelingue to see if it was occupied. Lieutenant Leatherdale and three of his men carried out this patrol and were able to report that the mountain *was* occupied. On the following day "C" Company was ordered to make plans for the taking of Mt Herquelingue. In the meantime "B" Company tried to push towards Boulogne from the south, but unfortunately one of their patrols suffered a number of casualties in a Schu minefield and Captain D. Cowie and Sergeant J. N. King were both killed.

Major Baird's platoon moved up under cover of darkness to attack Mt Herquelingue. "For sheer guts in a hand-to-hand struggle,"

Lt.-Colonel Ross records in his graphic account, "this action is paramount in the history of the 1st Battalion. Systematically closing in on four strongly fortified casemates, No. 9 Platoon took them out of play one after the other. The fourth casemate offered strong resistance, and while being cleared, a room blew up, severely burning five of the platoon. Lieutenant Leatherdale, effecting flank liaison, was severely wounded, and Corporal I. W. Merryship, attempting to evacuate him, was killed. Sergeant Lucas eventually managed to bring him out. No. 11 Platoon, finding themselves pinned down, rushed another casemate and took 23 prisoners. By late in the afternoon the feature was ours and the total haul for the operation was 7 killed, 20 wounded, and 164 prisoners. Weapons captured included eleven 75-mm. guns, one 105-mm., five 8-mm., and six 20-mm. All this for the loss of 1 killed and 13 wounded. For their sterling part in clearing the casemates, Lieutenant Peter Smellie was awarded the Military Cross and Sergeant M. S. Dickson and Corporal C. A. Spratt the Military Medal. Major W. C. Baird was later recognised when he received the Croix de Guerre for the brilliant execution of his daring plan."

Later, 400 Germans marched out from the deep underground passages under the mountain and surrendered to the 9th Brigade; but it was "C" Company who had occupied the feature!

On 22nd September the battle for Boulogne was officially declared over, and most of the Camerons were moved to Gravelines, on the coast between Calais and Dunkirk, where once more they had to simulate the presence of a large force.

Operation "Undergo" (Calais) was now mounted. A quick thrust by the 7th Brigade into Calais, from the south-west, was to be carried out under the usual heavy air bombardment. During the preliminary period the 9th Brigade, with Nos. 14 and 15 Platoons in support, silenced the huge German coastal guns that had for so long been firing at Dover and Folkestone. It was just at this time that the Battalion learnt with deep sorrow that Major John Carson had been killed while Second-in-Command of the North Shore Regiment. His name was a legend in the 8th Brigade for his coolness and daring.

On 25th September Operation "Undergo" got under way, but the going was slow: the enemy had flooded the area directly in the path of the 7th Brigade. All the Cameron companies harassed periodically to keep the enemy on the eastern approaches occupied. The following day the German Commander of Calais obtained a 24-hour respite to enable the civilian population to be evacuated; then the German Commander sent a message to say that the garrison would surrender at 3 P.M. Lt.-Colonel Klaehn asked Division to call off the artillery so that he could go in and take the German Commander, and eventually Lieutenant Ruiter brought him out as a prisoner and the battle for Calais was considered over.

On 2nd October the Battalion, less "C" Company and No. 12

Platoon, was suddenly moved to the area Herzeele-Winnelzeele; "C" Company and No. 12 Platoon moved on a secret mission under the 9th Brigade to an area north of Ghent. Next day Major-General Spry, D.S.O., G.O.C. 3rd Canadian Division, who had succeeded Major General Keller when that officer was wounded early in August, addressed the officers of the Battalion and hinted at future operations and the reason for security. Operation "Switchback" (Scheldt Pocket) was about to take place, and this was the start of the all-important operation to clear the approaches to the great port of Antwerp, which was vitally necessary to the Allied armies.

The 4th Canadian Armoured Division and the 18th Armoured Car Regiment had reached the line of the Leopold Canal, but this formidable water obstacle was stubbornly held. Just before dawn on the 6th of October the assault was carried out by the 7th Brigade; Nos. 13, 14, and 15 Platoons of the Camerons joined with the artillery in giving support from the south bank. Taking advantage of the demoralisation caused by a barrage fired by flame-throwers, the 7th Brigade secured a limited bridgehead; but the enemy proved extremely sensitive in this area, and a bloody struggle ensued that had not been equalled since Caen.

On 7th October No. 15 Platoon moved to the 8th Brigade, and Nos. 13 and 14 Platoons continued to cover the assault. "A" Company managed to get into position on the south bank of the canal and fired furiously in support of the 7th Brigade. In the meantime the 9th Brigade in its area south of Ghent was trying to fit itself into "Buffaloes" (a form of tracked amphibian) for an assault across the Savajaards Plaet. Since artillery was limited, No. 13 Platoon was detailed to join No. 12 Platoon. The assault went in on 9th October and took the Germans by surprise; but both Nos. 12 and 13 Platoons came under heavy shelling. The two beaches, Green and Amber, became unhealthy spots in which to linger. However, troops and stores continued to move across in spite of the shelling, and "C" Company landed without any casualties. On 11th October the 7th Reconnaissance Regiment came into the beach-head and "C" Company moved to positions in more intimate support of the 9th Brigade.

The 8th and 9th Brigades advanced slowly, fighting from dyke to dyke. The 8th Brigade linked up with the 10th Brigade of the Canadian Armoured Division, and on 17th October shot the Queen's Own Rifles into Ijzendijke. On the same day the 7th Brigade was relieved by the newly arrived 157th Brigade of the 52nd (Lowland) Division, though "A" Company remained two days longer to patrol a large stretch of the Leopold Canal near St Laurent before rejoining the 7th Brigade at Biervliet. The 9th Brigade slugged on to attack Schoondijke and Breskens, supported by "C" Company and No. 13 Platoon. No. 12 Platoon left the line to refit, after having done splendid work, and its

Commander, Captain H. Kent, was later awarded the M.C. for his aggressive action during the earlier stages of the beach-head.

"B" Company and No. 15 Platoon continued to give the 8th Brigade maximum support in their next advance to Oostburg on 26th October. The fall of Fort Frederik Henrik, an old Dutch fort on the coast, now allowed "C" Company to come out of the line with the 9th Brigade. The 7th Brigade, with "A" Company and Nos. 12 and 14 Platoons, made a quick thrust along the coast, by-passing Groede; the Brigade occupied Nieuwliet and almost succeeded in outflanking Cadzand from the north, but their leading elements were counter-attacked and a bloody battle ensued.

The end of Operation "Switchback" came when the 8th and 9th Brigades, supported by "B," "C" and "D" Companies, captured Westkapelle, Knocke-sur-Mer and Heyst—capturing, too, the German G.O.C. 64th Division. "A" Company fired at the pill-boxes on the coast north of Cadzand and managed to silence two 20-mm. guns, while the Regina Rifles put in the attack that ended one of the most gruelling and bitterly fought battles to date. The final count of 12,707 prisoners was proof that a man's job had been accomplished.

During the closing stages of the operation, Lt.-Colonel Lewis, Commander 8th Brigade, was killed in action, and Lt.-Colonel P. C. Klaehn took over the Brigade. A fortnight later Lt.-Colonel Klaehn was appointed full Colonel and left to take over the Canadian Training Schools in England. Major R. M. Ross was given temporary command of the Battalion, and of his predecessor he later recorded in his History: "He (Lt.-Colonel Klaehn) had brought the Battalion through three difficult reorganisation periods and had commanded us in the 'D-Day' assault. He was a shrewd soldier with a gift for organisation which had won the respect of all ranks. We were sorry to see him go, but pleased to know that his efforts were to be rewarded with a promotion."

On 4th November the entire Battalion, less "H.Q." Company and the Company "B." echelons, concentrated in Basserveelde and moved into Ghent as guests of the city for four days. All ranks were overwhelmingly welcomed by the people. At Ghent, on 5th November, Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery presided at an investiture at which officers and other ranks of the Battalion received the ribbons of the decorations they had gained. This period of rest and hospitality (Operation "Relax") ended with the orders that the Battalion would move to Nijmegen, and on 10th November the companies joined their Brigades. The 3rd Canadian Division was relieving the 82nd U.S. Airborne Division, who a month previously had been dropped with the 1st British Airborne Division and the 101st U.S. Airborne Division in their vain attempt to capture Arnhem and thus turn the northern end of the Siegfried Line. "C" Company was the first company into action, taking up positions east of Nijmegen and on the high ground near Beek. "B" Company, with the 8th Brigade, had two platoons

in action near Bergendal. "A" Company, with the 7th Brigade, took the right flank extending towards Groesbeek. With the 2nd Canadian Infantry Division on the right and the 50th (Northumberland) Division on the left, the 3rd Division was in a position to "hot up" the front that had necessarily been quiet without the artillery needed to support the airborne troops. Retaliation soon followed, and on 15th November the enemy harassed the main route to Bergendal. It was at this time that Sergeant Price was killed.

The 8th Brigade was withdrawn, and "B" Company with it, as a result of regrouping, which also took two Brigades of the 2nd Division out of the line to form a Corps Reserve; consequently the 3rd Division had to expand to fill the gap. Shortly after the 3rd Division's arrival at Nijmegen, the 51st Highland Division came to take over from the 101st U.S. Airborne Division, and the Battalion was able to form a liaison with its sister Battalion—the 5th Camerons. In due course the Pipe Bands of both joined with The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders of Canada to play "Retreat" at 3rd Divisional H.Q. Two days later, on 18th December, the bands played for the 51st Division at s'Hertogenbosch.

Christmas Day found all but "A" Company in the line, but the men's Christmas dinners were enjoyed in spite of the proximity of the enemy. Unfortunately the Germans shelled a platoon position in the afternoon and Private Lorrain was killed—being the only Canadian to lose his life on the entire front during the day.

"B" Company was relieved by "H.Q." Company on New Year's Day and so able to celebrate what was a doubly special occasion, since the Company Commander, Major J. Macpherson, had just been informed that he had been awarded the M.C. in recognition of his brilliant actions in the Caen area. Later in the day the C.O. and Pipe-Major Scott visited Divisional H.Q., where the Pipe-Major presented the G.O.C. with a March he had composed—"Major-General Spry's Welcome to 3rd Division."

Throughout January 1945 the Camerons continued to move in and out of action with their Brigades. Not a day or night passed but the machine-gunners and mortarmen did not plaster such well-remembered targets as Little Tobruk, Quer Damm, Zyfflich, Wyler, "K"-House, Den Heuval—and the inevitable German meal parade at its known map reference. Apart from the grim business of constantly harassing the enemy and denying him his evening meal, the stay in the Nijmegen salient had its lighter moments. A children's Christmas Party catered for 600 children living in the Battalion H.Q. area. In January the Division made arrangements for the ceremonial presentation of the 3rd Division standard to the city of Ghent, in recognition of the hospitality extended to the Division after the Scheldt Pocket operation, and the Guard of Honour was provided by the Camerons: it was under the command of Captain H. B. Gonder, M.C. On this occasion



the massed Pipe Bands of the Division were led by Major W. C. Baird and Pipe-Major Scott, and they performed admirably in spite of inclement weather.

As the month of January wore away, it became increasingly obvious that a large-scale operation was in the offing. Piles of ammunition and petrol grew in the rear areas: conference followed conference, and by the end of the month the plans for Operation "Veritable" (Siegfried Line). This operation was designed to be the biggest all-out attack of the campaign, with five Infantry Divisions, two Armoured Divisions, and two independent Armoured Brigades taking part. The 3rd Division, with its experience gained during the Scheldt operation, was given the task of clearing the slightly flooded "polderland" north of the Nijmegen-Kleve road to the River Rhine. The Division was to attack with the 7th Brigade right and the 8th Brigade left, with the 9th Brigade passing through the 7th to clear the area north of Kleve. The 8th and 9th Brigades were then to spread out along the Rhine, while plans were laid to cross the river. The 2nd Division on the right of the 3rd was given a limited objective, as they were to be required for a bigger subsequent task. The British Divisions on the left had the job of cracking the Reichswald Forest and Siegfried Line and capturing Kleve.

The "pepper pot" was given to the Camerons to organise, and they were given additional troops, including a squadron of the 13/18th Hussars, two troops of 17-pounders, and a battery of 40-mm. guns, to increase the fire-power. All were concentrated on the Wyler-Berg feature and ordered to dig in. The idea of the "pepper pot" was to keep up a steady rate of fire on selected targets and to deny the enemy the use of roads in their rear areas.

Plans were now made to capture the next formidable obstacle, the Hochwald Forest, and, if possible, to press on to the Rhine and capture Wesel and the illusive bridge which crossed the Rhine there. Operation "Blockbuster" (Hochwald Forest) involved three Divisions, with the 11th Armoured Division on the right, the 3rd Division in the centre, and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division on the left. The 3rd Division's part was to attack with the 8th Brigade, moving forward in "Kangaroos" shepherded by tanks, to take out Keppeln and the Sportsplatz immediately south of it; the 9th Brigade was then to pass through to secure Udem, and the 7th Brigade to move up on to the high ground south of Udem in relief of the 11th Armoured Brigade.

The weather deteriorated and the rain turned the ploughed-up roads into a sea of mud, but the attack went forward nevertheless. At 3.45 A.M. on the 26th of February the artillery and "pepper pot" opened up, and at 4.15 A.M. the infantry began to churn forward. The Camerons were called upon time and again to fire repeats on targets. Counter-preparation fire by the enemy continued all day along the line, but the Camerons bore charmed lives and no casualties

were reported. By late afternoon the 8th Brigade were on their objective. The 9th Brigade captured Udem by a lightning stroke in spite of its elaborate defences and ominous minefields. "C" Company and two platoons of "D" Company moved forward to support the 9th Brigade and each suffered casualties in the mined area. The 7th Brigade, with "A" Company and No. 14 Platoon, moved on to the high ground south of Udem and relieved the 11th Armoured Brigade. Shelling and mortaring continued along the ridge.

The 2nd Division had fought its entry into the Hochwald Forest in the north and the 4th Canadian Armoured Division was crowding forward to add to the congestion in the ruins of Udem. The 8th Brigade passed through the 9th Brigade and, supported by "B" Company and two platoons of "D" Company, shot them into the northern end of the Balbergerwald. It was here that C.S.M. M. A. Martin won the M.M. for picking off a number of Germans milling round his platoon (No. 7)—a culminating example of his fearless conduct throughout the campaign.

The 9th Brigade moved up with "C" Company to the western edge of the Balbergerwald. Here they came under heavy fire, and the number of Schu mines made their next advance to capture the high ground between the Balbergerwald and Sonsbeck slow. They reached their objective on the night of 6th-7th March, and the 7th Brigade attacked Sonsbeck, supported by "A" Company and Nos. 13 and 14 Platoons. "A," "C," and "D" Companies moved up on to the mined high ground near Sonsbeck and continued to harass the retreating enemy.

The 3rd Division had completed its task, but the Camerons were called upon to provide one more "pepper pot" in support of the 2nd Division's attack on Xanten. When this had been successfully carried out, it seemed likely that the Camerons would be required to support a crossing of the Rhine at Wesel; but aerial reconnaissance showed the bridge to have been blown. On the 4th of March the Division moved back to Kleve, and the Battalion, less "B" Echelon, concentrated for the first time since Ghent.

The rest at Kleve was welcome and put to good use in the matter of much-needed maintenance. With the Canadian, British, and American Armies facing up to the Rhine throughout its length, it became increasingly obvious that the next operation was to be an all-out effort to cross the river and strike into the heart of Germany. On the 15th of March the initial plan for Operation "Plunder" (Rhine River) was made known to the Commanding Officers of the Division, and planning started on a limited scale.

The first assault in this sector of the line was to be made by the 51st Highland Division, with the 9th Canadian (Highland) Brigade under command. They were to establish a bridgehead in the vicinity of Rees, after which the 43rd (Wessex) Division would pass through

and enlarge it. The 3rd Division was then to cross and spread north-west towards Emmerich and Hoch Elten.

The 9th Brigade concentrated with the 51st Division, and "C" Company with two platoons of "D" Company were despatched to join them and form the Brigade Group. The Brigade was to pass through the left Brigade of the 51st Division and consolidate their gains. The remainder of the Battalion was to position itself on the south bank of the Rhine and form part of another gigantic "pepper pot."

The artillery barrage opened with an earth-shattering roar at 5 P.M. on the 23rd of March, and at 7 P.M. the "pepper pot" got into action. Retaliation was sporadic, but some fairly large-calibre shells fell uncomfortably close to the platoons. At 8.55 P.M. the "pepper pot" ceased fire and platoons began to trickle back to Kleve, as the area was becoming rather congested. The assault was bitterly contested, but shortly after first light on 24th March the 51st Division was well across and the 9th Brigade began to go over. No. 9 Platoon was "lifted," and were the first Canadian machine-gunners to cross the Rhine. By last light Nos. 10, 11, 12, and 15 Platoons were over, too, and on 25th March they shot the North Novas into Bienen, switching later to support the H.L.I. Later still that night the North Shore Regiment was rushed across, and on the following morning Nos. 9 and 10 Platoons shot them into Millengen. It was here that Lt.-Colonel Rowley was killed, while leading the North Shore Regiment: a brilliant officer, he was mourned as though he had always remained with the Camerons.

On 26th March No. 11 Platoon supported the Glengarrians through the Highland Light Infantry; then, next day, "C" Company and Nos. 12 and 15 Platoons combined to break up an infantry-cum-tank attack that threatened the Glens at Heuth. No. 9 Platoon shot the Canadian Scottish of the 7th Brigade forward—which put that platoon in the unique position of having supported five different battalions in the last two days.

The 7th and 8th Brigades were across complete by dawn on 28th March; the 7th Brigade passed through the 9th Brigade on the 29th, and No. 13 Platoon supported the Canadian Scottish and Royal Winnipeg Rifles in their assault on the eastern outskirts of Emmerich. Platoons from "A" Company continued to cover this operation, and when the town was cleared, after grim resistance, two platoons of "D" Company were able to assist the Canadian Scottish. The 8th Brigade moved against the dreaded Hoch Elten feature, west of Emmerich, but surprisingly it was occupied without difficulty, and on 30th March No. 6. Platoon supported the Queen's Own Rifles in their advance. The whole company then moved up on to the feature to cover the Brigade as it spread north.

At 5 A.M. on 8th February the barrage opened, and at 5.30 A.M. the

Cameron "pepper pot" chimed in. After the cessation of this devastating fire there was only spasmodic and pitiful retaliation for the sound-rangers and flash-spotters to record. Fire was reopened at 7 A.M. on such targets as had been located. The main effort towards the Reichswald Forest went in at 10 A.M., but the 3rd Division, whose attack was to take place later, learnt that the enemy had breached a dyke on the banks of the Rhine and their area was becoming rapidly flooded. "Buffaloes" and "Ducks" were brought up, and the 3rd Division (gaining the nickname of the Water Rats) was to take to the water.

Late in the afternoon the 8th Brigade attacked towards Zandpol and Leuth, supported by two platoons of "B" Company and No. 14 Platoon. But the water continued to rise at an alarming rate, and the platoons were brought back to Beek. "A" Company supported the 7th Brigade from their "pepper pot" position until the leading troops reached Zyfflich, when they packed up and prepared to move forward if "Buffaloes" could be made available.

The 9th Brigade in "Buffaloes" passed through the 7th Brigade, and No. 9 Platoon, manhandling their guns and equipment, joined them on 11th February. A few days later the entire Battalion was concentrated in the Kleve sector. "A" Company supported the 7th Brigade with a miniature "pepper pot" on 20th February, and in an attack which resulted in the capture of a ridge overlooking Calcar the company expended 100,000 rounds. "D" Company's mortars were included in the "pepper pot" and fired 2000 bombs. After achieving their objective the 7th Brigade pulled back to rest, and the 8th and 9th Brigades moved up into position.

On 1st April the 9th Brigade crossed the Dutch-German border into Heerenburg, supported by "C" Company and two platoons of "D"; the 7th Brigade passed through and fought its way into Wehl, and the 8th Brigade, with "B" Company and No. 13 Platoon, spread out from Elten to Kilder and protected the western flank of the Divisional axis. The 9th Brigade entered Zutphen on 6th April after overcoming fanatical resistance by young Nazi paratroopers. "D" Company and No. 15 Platoon were then given the task of patrolling the Ijssel River from Zutphen to Bronsberg, with "B" Company and No. 13 Platoon extending the front patrolled for another 2000 yards on their left. The capture of Deventer by the 7th Brigade on 10th April, after three days of bitter fighting in which "A" Company and No. 14 Platoon participated, enabled an attack across the Ijssel to be mounted by the 1st Canadian Division—recently arrived from Italy. The Camerons were called upon to supply diversionary fire for this attack from "pepper pot" positions south of Zutphen, and the 1st Division was successful in negotiating the river. The 7th Brigade now closed on Zwolle, and the 8th and 9th Brigades by-passed it and struck north into Friesland. But the Division had become stretched out dangerously.

A holding force on the west bank of the Ijssel was supplied by the Camerons and a mixed force ("Ross Force"), which covered about 14 miles of the river. A patrol under Sergeant H. E. Bird of "A" Company crossed the Ijssel on 17th April, penetrated 5 miles into enemy territory, and returned with four prisoners. By this time Zwolle had been captured, and the 8th and 9th Brigades had penetrated deep into Friesland in an endeavour to secure the eastern end of the causeway across the Ijssel Meer (Zuyder Zee). The 8th Brigade, with a large area to clear, gave "B" Company the task of clearing a small town south of Joure, which proved to be more than a company operation. It was on this occasion that Sergeant K. B. O'Hara drove a carrier round in circles to draw the enemy fire so that casualties could be evacuated: he received a Mention in Despatches for his brave conduct.

The following day "B" Company moved towards Makkum and was ordered to patrol to obtain information. A patrol under Sergeant Coburn accounted for about fifty Germans. Sergeant Coburn was awarded the M.M. in recognition of his fine leadership and daring.

No. 6 Platoon moved north to support the H.L.I. in their attack on Harlingen, and Nos. 12 and 15 Platoons helped the 8th Brigade to secure the causeway across the Ijssel Meer. The capture of these places concluded the fighting in Western Friesland, and the Divisions began to move east towards the German border. Both banks of the Ijssel were now held, so Ross Force was withdrawn: "A" Company joined the 7th Brigade and moved to a position north-east of Groningen, and "C" Company moved to Winschoten with the 8th Brigade.

On 22nd April "B" Company came under the orders of the 8th Brigade, which was working up the west bank of the River Ems towards Weener and Bunde, and by the 26th of April all organised resistance east of the Ems had ceased. "B" Company now moved to a position opposite Leer to relieve the North Shores; the 7th Brigade and "A" Company moved via Papenburg to just south of the River Leda, and the 9th Brigade concentrated near Weener, ready to assault across the Ems to capture Leer.

At 3 P.M. on 28th April the town of Leer went up in smoke and the attack went in. No. 10 Platoon scrambled across in storm-boats with the North Novas and took up positions on the right flank of Leer, securing a number of prisoners. No. 9 Platoon was lifted across and moved into Leer without casualties in spite of much small-arms fire. Bridging the Ems proved much more difficult than had been anticipated. A Class 15 bridge was erected by 29th April and No. 11 Platoon drove over complete in support of the Glengarrians, who were having a hard time north-west of Leer. The platoon succeeded in breaking up an enemy counter-attack, and Lieutenant M. Ruiter was subsequently awarded the M.C. for his aggressive leadership on this and other occasions.



COMMANDING OFFICERS  
OF  
THE 1ST BATTALION THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF OTTAWA  
SECOND WORLD WAR



LT.-COLONEL G. H. ROGERS, E.D.



LT.-COLONEL H. V. D. LAING



LT.-COLONEL P. C. KLAHN, O.B.E.



LT.-COLONEL R. M. ROSS, O.B.E.

The 7th Brigade, with "A" Company and Nos. 13 and 14 Platoons, crossed and attacked east towards Loga. After bitter fighting, requiring the maximum support of the machine-guns and mortars, Loga was entered on 30th April. The 9th Brigade continued to work up the east bank of the Ems against small pockets of fanatical resistance. The 8th Brigade crossed the Ems on 2nd May and pushed out towards Aurich with "A" and "B" Companies and No. 13 Platoon.

At this time it was quite obvious that a general collapse of the German Reich was imminent, and just as plans were being laid to cross another canal which would enable Aurich to be entered, there came the historic message: "CEASE ALL OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS FORTHWITH. CEASE FIRE 0800 HOURS 5TH MAY. REMAIN PRESENT AREA." The war in the north-west theatre, so far as it concerned the Camerons, was at an end.

This was Operation "Eclipse"—the eclipse of the mighty Third German Reich. The 3rd Division was ordered to occupy and disarm the towns of Aurich, Emden and Norden, and, as soon as the demolition charges had been removed from the bridges, the Division surged forward. On 8th May the Battalion was united at Aurich, together again for the first time since Southbourne in April 1944. Arrangements were made for the Union Jack to be raised above the Town Hall, and the Camerons were, once more, asked to furnish a Guard of Honour. A hundred men were picked from all companies and the Guard was commanded by Captain J. A. Hogan.

The Battalion moved from Aurich into a large barracks on the northern outskirts of the town: here, on 13th May, a most impressive thanksgiving and memorial service was held—with Major J. Firth officiating; and here, next day, Lt.-General Simonds inspected the Divisional troops and thanked the men for the part they had played in the campaign.

On 16th May the Battalion proceeded to Apeldoorn, in Holland, where they had the necessary though unpleasant task of policing the Grebbe Line. Repatriation drafts now began to deplete the Cameron ranks: in addition, three officers and fifty-two other ranks volunteered to join the 3rd Battalion The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (M.G.), which was to be part of the Canadian Army Occupational Force. By 30th October the Battalion was reduced to 304 all ranks, and on that date it left for Nijmegen to begin the first stage of the long journey home.

On 4th November the Camerons arrived at No. 11 Canadian Reinforcement Depot at Sheffield Park, Sussex. There the men passed through the final documentation procedure; then, on 5th December, they left for Liverpool to embark on the *Mauretania*—sailing next day.

Arriving in Ottawa on 13th December, the Battalion was enthusiastically welcomed by the citizens, who had every reason to be proud of those who bore the name and motto of the city. At Lansdowne



Park the Battalion received a sincere address of welcome from Mayor Stanley Lewis. But when at 2.17 P.M. on 13th December 1945 the Commanding Officer gave the final "Dismiss," the famous 1st Battalion The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (M.G.) ceased to be.

The History of this splendid Battalion lives on in the fine record Lt.-Colonel R. M. Ross, O.B.E., has written; that record closes with a Roll of Honour inscribed with the names of one hundred and five officers and other ranks who gave their lives.

If, in these pages, the amount of space devoted to the 1st Battalion The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (M.G.) appears to be disproportionately large in comparison with the accounts of other affiliated units of the Regiment, it may be pointed out that in no other instance has the compiler had the advantage of being able to quote from such a source of information. At the present date (October 1949) there has been no published account of a Cameron unit's history in the Second World War except that written by Lt.-Colonel Ross.

2ND (R.) BATTALION THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS  
OF OTTAWA

*(Extracted from 'A History of the Second Battalion The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa,' compiled by Lt.-Colonel H. SLOMAN, M.B.E., E.D.)*

IN 1940 Canada strengthened her Military Forces and orders were issued that all regiments who had already raised a battalion for active service should immediately raise a second battalion to form part of the Reserve Forces. Training on a part-time basis was immediately instituted with the object of providing instruction for those who for various reasons were not at once available for the Active Forces.

Early in July Lt.-Colonel G. S. Macfarlane, M.C., V.D., who had commanded the Camerons of Ottawa (N.P.A.M.) from 1932-1936, was selected to raise the Battalion.

Many officers, N.C.O.s, and men who had served with the unit in peace but who, for reasons of age and slight physical disabilities, had not been accepted for active service, immediately came forward.

The Battalion went into training camp at Petawawa in August and September 1940, where elementary training was carried out. During the camp the Battalion received its first official call for officers and men for full-time duty with the Training Centres that were being established to train men of certain age-groups who had not joined either the Active or Reserve Forces. This was the beginning of what proved to be the main rôle of the Battalion throughout the war—*i.e.*, to take in recruits, give them preliminary training, and feed continually the Active Forces with officers and other ranks. Home defence was also an essential rôle.

From 28th June to 18th July 1940 the Battalion, with other units of the Reserve Forces, went into camp at Connaught Ranges, where recruiting for the Active Forces was extensively carried out and full use of the extensive ranges made. Following camp, the unit settled down to the routine of two nights per week training at the Drill Hall.

Personnel continually left the unit, however, for active units. It became increasingly difficult to replace them, due to the demands of industry and the Services for more and more man-power.

Early in 1942 the Reserve Army was organised into composite Brigades of all arms, capable of field operations, and training was directed with this possibility in view.

The Battalion, under the new scheme, became a part of the 33rd Reserve Brigade, and training was intensified.

Recruiting to maintain a reasonable strength had by this time

become a major problem. To overcome this difficulty Colonel Macfarlane organised platoons in the villages adjacent to Ottawa, which would give the men in the local area an opportunity to become trained in the use of weapons and thereby provide a potential reserve should necessity arise.

Summer Camp, 1942, was again held at Connaught Ranges.

An extract from B.O. No. 28 of 6th May showed that during the fiscal year 1942-1943 the Battalion had the largest percentage of unit strength enlist for active service, and the largest number of officers enlist for active service of the Brigade units.

On 15th May 1943 the first change in the command of the unit occurred when Lt.-Colonel G. S. Macfarlane went to the Reserve of Officers and was succeeded by the Second-in-Command—Major H. Sloman.

The Battalion left for annual camp at Connaught on 10th July. Routine training occupied the unit for the remainder of the year. Training and annual camp occupied the Battalion in 1944.

On 27th May 1945 the Battalion celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Regiment with a parade to Parliament Hill, at which were present members of the 43rd Association, the 38th Battalion C.E.F. Association, and veterans of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. The Mayor of Ottawa and the District Officer Commanding addressed the parade.

The second change in command also took place in May when Lt.-Colonel H. Sloman, E.D., gave up command and was succeeded by Lt.-Colonel G. H. Burland, M.C., who had served with the 38th Battalion in World War I. and had been with the 2nd Battalion since July 1940.

Colonel C. M. Edwards, D.S.O., was reappointed Hon. Colonel of the Regiment for a further period of five years from 1st November 1945. Our first Commanding Officer had held the appointment of Hon. Colonel since the death of Colonel Sir Percy Sherwood, K.C.M.G., M.V.O., V.D., in 1940, and throughout the war he was a great source of strength not only to the overseas unit but to the 2nd Battalion in Ottawa.

The 2nd Battalion carried on after the 1st Battalion returned to Ottawa on 12th December, and soon began to absorb officers, N.C.O.s, and men who had been on active service with the 1st Battalion and other overseas units.

Early in 1946 it was officially announced that the unit would become an infantry rifle regiment in the peace-time Reserve Army of Canada ; and thus the 2nd Battalion passed from the scene and once more became The Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa (R.F.).

### 3RD BATTALION THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF OTTAWA

THE 3rd Battalion was raised in Holland in June 1945 under the command of Lt.-Colonel E. G. Johnson, E.D.

During its stay in Germany as Occupational troops in the 3rd Canadian Division, a very cordial friendship was formed with the 5th Battalion The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders. Frequent visits were exchanged and entertainment provided, notably on St Andrew's Day 1945, when parties from both units visited each other at Wilhelmshaven, where the 3rd Battalion then was, and at Westertimke, where the 5th Battalion was stationed.

About December 1945 Lt.-Colonel A. J. Tedlie, D.S.O., took over command.

The Battalion embarked at Cuxhaven on 8th May 1946 for the United Kingdom *en route* to Canada. The Pipes and Drums of the 5th Battalion were on the docks to play the Battalion away.

### 37/52ND BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

ON 11th September 1942 the 37th Battalion, A.M.F., was serving with the other units of the 10th Brigade in camp near Landsborough. Orders came for the reorganising of the 3rd Division. Brigades were to be reduced in number from three to two, the 4th and the 15th Brigades.

The 10th Brigade was accordingly broken up and the Battalions regrouped. The Battalion with the highest number in each Brigade ceased to exist as a separate unit and became linked to one of the other battalions.

The 52nd Battalion, A.M.F., thus for the second time in its history became linked to the 37th Battalion and the 37/52nd Battalion, A.M.F., served under command of the 4th Brigade until the end of the war.

It will be necessary for the purposes of this account now to retrace our steps and to describe the war story of the 37th Battalion from June 1939 to the date it became the 37/52nd Battalion.

In the summer of 1939 the 37th Battalion, after its previous periods of linking with the other Victorian units, emerged as a separate unit. Curiously enough, it was composed at the outset of men of "D" and "B" Companies of the 52nd.

For the first few years of its existence as a separate unit the Battalion functioned as a training establishment, first being stationed at Rokeby Training Camp—Brigadier Stan Savige, who was later to be known as a Lt.-General at Madang in New Guinea, was then commanding the 10th Brigade—and later, in January 1941, at Nagambie Road, overlooking the Goulburn River.

The well-loved Colonel Albert Stewart was the first Commanding Officer, but early in October 1941 he was relieved in command by Major Charles Norton.

The war history of the Battalion really began when, following on Japan's entry into the war, all men were recalled to camp in December 1941. From that day on, Battalion training took on a realistic form in preparation for the forthcoming struggle against the Japanese.

During the preceding months there had been a continuous outflow of volunteers to the A.I.F. for overseas service. One hundred of the best N.C.O.s and men volunteered to join the 39th Battalion, A.I.F., being formed for service with Emu Force in New Guinea. These men subsequently shared in the conspicuous success achieved by the 39th Battalion in its determined resistance to the Japanese in the first clashes on the Kokoda trail.

Call-up of various age-groups had filled vacancies in the ranks from time to time, but shortage of trained leaders had been a major

difficulty in training. Some 3000 men had passed through the hands of the training staff.

In April 1942 the Battalion moved to Bonegilla Camp, near Albury, where Major John Minogue arrived to take over from Major Norton.

In May 1942, after a train journey of four days and three nights, the Battalion arrived at Jimboomba, a hamlet about 30 miles south of Brisbane, and moved into camp. It was here, on 2nd June 1942, that Major Minogue terminated his brief period in command and handed over to Captain Don Manson. Here, too, the vexed question of A.M.F. or A.I.F. was again raised—orders had been issued to ascertain the men's reaction to becoming A.I.F. The answer was that all would go anywhere together and were not concerned with exact interpretation of regulations or meridian boundaries.

The rôle of the unit in the Jimboomba area was to close with the enemy should he attempt a landing between Brisbane and Southport. After training had culminated in a Brigade exercise in the Tambourine Mountains, the Battalion moved to Maryborough Camp on 27th July; thence, after further training, to Landsborough.

At Jimboomba, on 23rd June 1942, Major J. G. Rowan, M.C., a veteran from the Middle East Campaigns, had taken over command.

The new-born unit soon moved north again to Nambour. Its rôle was still coastal defence. Training, including field firing practices, was vigorously pursued. Jungle tactics, as developed against the Japanese in New Guinea, were demonstrated and practised. In mid-December the Battalion left Nambour and marched to a new camp site at Buderin, near the beach town of Maroochydore, where Christmas 1942 was spent.

All looked forward to a momentous year. The fighting in New Guinea had reached its peak and signs appeared that the Battalion would not be kept waiting much longer.

The 37/52nd Battalion embarked in the S.S. *Both* at Brisbane on 15th February 1943, and after calling at Townsville and Port Moresby, where the previous C.O., Lt.-Colonel Minogue visited the Battalion, arrived at Milne Bay, New Guinea, on the 25th. Here the 61st Australian Infantry Battalion was met, and the men of the Cameron Highlanders of Queensland related entertaining stories of their campaign against the Japanese. Here, too, the first air raid was experienced. Small parties of Japanese were still in the hills, and the Battalion played a part in the active patrolling that took place in this area.

Rumours soon became current that another Allied offensive on the north coast was to take place, and later the 9th Australian Division began to arrive in the Milne Bay area.

The battle for Lae had already begun, the 9th Division having landed 19 miles west of Lae and the 7th Division having made an airborne landing, when the unit embarked on 9th September in L.C.I.s, the convoy grounding at Red Beach the following night.

The 4th Brigade now came under command of the 9th Australian Division.

The campaign proceeded well ahead of schedule, and as the 9th and 7th Divisions advanced on Lae the prospects of the 37/52nd Battalion joining actively in the campaign diminished. After the capture of Lae by the 7th Division, with the 9th Division moving on Finschhafen, all hope of the Battalion seeing real action had about died, when news was received at Malahang, where the Battalion was engaged on beach defence, road-making and unloading, that the 9th Division required additional troops in Finschhafen.

The chance for the Battalion to distinguish itself had come and in the ensuing clearing operations, which took place in the area of Finschhafen, thirty-five were killed and fifty-three wounded, mostly in patrol encounters and ambushes.

On 8th May 1944 the Battalion moved by air to Madang, where patrolling continued as Japanese stragglers were in the area. On 24th May the Battalion was ordered to Kar Kar Island, and on 2nd June the island was occupied, the assaulting troops being conveyed by L.C.M. No opposition was, however, encountered, the Japanese having evacuated the island some weeks previously.

Having returned to the Madang area after about a fortnight on Kar Kar Island, the Battalion embarked for Brisbane on 19th August, where all troops were given home leave, the Brigade re-concentrating near Brisbane during the end of October and beginning of November and resuming training.

On 20th December 1944 an advance party embarked for New Britain and two days later Lt.-Colonel Rowan handed over command to Major F. J. Embrey, a special parade being held in his honour.

On 19th February 1945 the unit embarked for New Britain, there, in the Open Bay area, based on the Sai River, to assist, by patrolling, the general plan of containing the Japanese in the Gazelle Peninsula until the end of hostilities.

In July Lt.-Colonel Embrey was evacuated through illness. Lt.-Colonel D. D. Pitt assumed command on 5th August.

During patrol encounters the Battalion suffered casualties to the extent of six killed and twenty-four wounded.

On 9th September the Battalion embarked for Rabaul to act as part of the Occupational force, remaining there until May 1946, when some 200 were despatched to Australia for the disbandment of the Battalion on 18th May 1946.

## THE 39TH BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

THE linking of the 39th Battalion with the 37th Battalion was ended on 29th August 1939, the Battalion being then linked with the 24th Battalion to form the 24/39th Battalion.

The first Commanding Officer was Lt.-Colonel Alan Walker, but he relinquished command soon afterwards on being appointed to command the 2/7th Infantry Battalion.

The 24/39th Battalion, as a Militia unit, began its wartime training at several camps, of a duration ranging from two weeks to three months, at Trawool and Nagambie in Central Victoria. Its strength, depleted by enlistments into the A.I.F., was replenished by compulsory trainees, who were mostly lads of eighteen to twenty-one years of age.

After Colonel Walker's departure Lt.-Colonel Alan Spowers became C.O., but he also relinquished command to go to the A.I.F. He was succeeded in July 1940 by Lt.-Colonel Alexander Falkiner.

In September 1941 the Military Board decided to raise two Militia Battalions which, with the 49th Battalion, would compose the 30th Infantry Brigade. The single identity of the 39th Battalion was restored, and it was directed that the unit should be formed specifically for service in the territory of Papua.

Lt.-Colonel H. M. Conron was appointed to command the unit, which was raised from original elements of the 39th Battalion, as well as volunteers and drafted personnel serving with other formations and training depots.

Of the original elements, four officers and about 150 other ranks chose to maintain their identity with their parent unit. The officers were: Lieutenant W. J. Pentland, commanding No. 2 Platoon (anti-aircraft); Lieutenant Noel Hall, No. 16 Platoon (rifle), "D" Company; Lieutenant E. B. Money, No. 19 Platoon, and Lieutenant D. J. Simonson, No. 20 Platoon (machine-guns), "E" Company. Lieutenants Pentland and Hall took with them into the re-formed unit most of the personnel of their platoons; a smaller proportion went with Lieutenants Money and Simonson.

The 39th Battalion assembled at Darley Camp, in Victoria, and was busy for some weeks receiving stores and equipment, while its components were acquiring cohesion. The Battalion entrained for Sydney on 26th December and, on the following morning, embarked in the *Aquitania*—and sailed for New Guinea on the 28th. The troops



were disembarked at Port Moresby on 3rd January 1942, to be assigned to the garrison defences to the east and south-east of the town.

The Battalion's duties during the next six months were concerned chiefly with the reorganisation of the garrison's defences and the discharge of the shipping bringing supplies and munitions for the forces which were slowly gathering strength.

After the seizure of Rabaul in New Britain on 23rd January, the Japanese occupied Salamaua, on the north coast of New Guinea, on 8th March. Their air offensive against Port Moresby began on 3rd February, but its only major achievement was the bombing of the motor ship *Macdhui*, in which the 39th Battalion had some casualties, including Captain Ross M'Leod and Lieutenant Money.

The successful outcome of the Battle of the Coral Sea early in May had prevented the Japanese from securing Port Moresby, which they had hoped to use as an important base for continued operations against the Australian mainland, but they were not deterred from this objective. Enemy reconnaissance parties were reported to be moving along the north coast in the direction of the Kumusi River, and the 39th Battalion, on 26th June, was ordered to proceed across the Owen Stanley Range to occupy Kokoda and impede any enemy activity along the north coast. The only forces already there were scattered coast-watching parties and a small unit of Papuan native infantry with white officers.

Captain Sam Templeton, commanding "B" Company, set out on 8th July from Iloilo, in the hills above Port Moresby, on the gruelling crossing over the range. The strength of "B" Company was 125 personnel. Simultaneously, a tenuous line of communication was laid down between Iloilo and Kokoda.

On the afternoon of 21st July the advance force of the Japanese Nankai Detachment, under command of Colonel Yokoyama, landed at Gona, at the northern end of the route from Kokoda to the coast. The strength of the Yokoyama force was some 2700 combat troops.

On 22nd July Lt.-Colonel W. B. Owen was appointed to command the Battalion in succession to Colonel Conron, whose health had been impaired by the tropics. Colonel Owen was one of the few survivors of the 2/22nd Battalion from Rabaul. He was flown from Port Moresby to Kokoda, and went forward, to find Templeton, with Nos. 11 and 12 Platoons, falling slowly back from the initial engagement at Awala with the marines and infantry of the enemy vanguard.

By signal to Port Moresby Colonel Owen requested the despatch of more troops, while Templeton withdrew across the Kumusi River, through Gorari, to a jungle clearing at Oivi. He was joined there by Lieutenant D. I. H. M'Clean, with part of No. 16 Platoon. They had flown across the range from Port Moresby, but the rest of the platoon, under Sergeant E. Morrison, followed several hours later, found that the Japanese had encircled Oivi, and were unable to break through.

Sergeant Morrison established a holding position on the Oivi-Kokoda track.

Templeton was lost on the same afternoon. He was ambushed, wounded and murdered by the enemy, in a vain attempt to find the reinforcements he hoped to receive. His small force was not annihilated at Oivi but broke through during the night, with Lance-Corporal Sinopa, a native police boy, as guide, and reached Deniki, on the lower slopes of the range, after a march of eighteen hours. Here the troops were freshly grouped, Sergeant Morrison having previously withdrawn to strengthen No. 10 Platoon originally left in reserve at Kokoda.

Situated at the base of the range, Kokoda consisted of a long, level, tongue-shaped plateau with a steep escarpment, at the junction of the Mambare River and two tributaries. It had been a government station, with a rubber plantation extending back along the plateau towards the hills.

The first battle of Kokoda was joined at dusk on 28th July amid the mists which cloaked the broad Yodda Valley. The Japanese strength was estimated to be between 300 and 500, and, after bombardment with mortars and machine-gun fire, they stormed the escarpment, only to be often repulsed by grenades and rifle-fire. At 0100 hours on the 29th, Colonel Owen was mortally wounded in a weapon pit far forward on the point of the plateau, but the stubborn Australian defence cost the Japanese about 70 dead for a loss of 5 killed and 8 wounded.

The small force withdrew to Deniki, to be reinforced there by "C," "A," and "D" Companies. Major Alan Cameron, Brigade Major of the 30th Brigade, was given temporary command of the small force on 4th August.

Armed now with a full issue of Thompson sub-machine guns, the 39th Battalion patrols, for the first time, demonstrated the superiority of the light, automatic weapon for jungle fighting. The men developed aggressive tactics and quickly mastered the Japanese methods of jungle warfare, with their own adaptations.

With fresh troops on hand, Major Cameron resolved to regain possession of Kokoda. His plan was for an attack down the main track by "C" Company on 8th August, while "D" Company cut the Oivi-Kokoda track, and "A" Company approached Kokoda by a circuitous route. It happened, however, that the Japanese had chosen the same day for an attack on Deniki, and the "C" Company operation only succeeded in exacting a heavy toll of the Japanese without other gains. "D" Company, on its march to its objective, encountered enemy foraging parties and became fiercely engaged.

"A" Company encountered none of these difficulties and succeeded in capturing Kokoda. The plateau was held only by the enemy's headquarters personnel, who hastily fled. Retention was not so easy. Repeated and progressively stronger Japanese attacks were repelled,

and it was not until dusk on 10th August, when food supplies were exhausted and ammunition desperately low, that withdrawal had to be ordered. Two Bren gunners of "A" Company can be cited as examples of the Australians' steadfast spirit. Private Trothe, with a wound on his face and two fingers of his right hand shot away, continued to man his gun for eight hours. Private Smythe, with a bullet in his upper arm, kept his gun in action for twenty-four hours, and carried it out during the withdrawal.

"A" Company reached Deniki on 13th August, to find that the Japanese, heavily reinforced, had resumed their attacks on the 39th Battalion's perimeter. The recapture of Kokoda had cost "A" Company 10 killed and 11 wounded. The estimated Japanese losses were 150.

The enemy continued to maintain almost ceaseless attacks on Deniki, which was abandoned on 14th August when the 39th withdrew to Isurava, an area of native gardens and jungle higher up in the Iora Creek valley along the main track to Port Moresby. Major Cameron estimated that 300 Japanese were killed at Deniki, although the enemy's strength could not be accurately determined, because they appeared to be continuously reinforced.

In the three weeks of fighting, the men of the 39th Battalion had been transformed from virtually untrained and ill-equipped jungle fighters: they used their weapons with speed and skill. They had delayed the Japanese advance and inflicted at least 500 casualties on some of the most seasoned veteran troops of the Japanese Army.

At Isurava, on 16th August, Major Cameron handed over his command to Lt.-Colonel Ralph Honner, M.C., who had been promoted and posted from the 2/11th Battalion of the 6th Division. The strength of the Battalion on that day was 26 officers and 381 other ranks.

The main body of the Nankai Detachment reached Gona and Buna on 18th August. It was commanded by Major-General Tomitaro Horii, who aspired to capture Port Moresby, in a combined operation with naval forces, by the middle of September. His renewed attack was timed simultaneously with the invasion of Milne Bay, which the Japanese hoped to seize before sending a naval task force around the south coast of Papua to attack Port Moresby from the sea, while Horii swept down from the Owen Stanleys on the fortress.

Australian operations in the Owen Stanleys had been hampered by the problems of supply, but the veteran 21st Brigade, under Brigadier A. W. Potts, D.S.O., M.C., was moving up when Horii's attack was launched against the 39th Battalion. With the arrival of these fresh troops, Colonel Honner was able to hold the Japanese on his front at the outset. His troops, with little shelter, few blankets and fewer ground-sheets, had existed in this rain-sodden jungle for nearly a month, and, although their morale had never been higher, their stamina

was deteriorating. They became known to the A.I.F. troops of the 21st Brigade as "the ragged bloody heroes." They were gaunt and pallid; many men were wasted by malaria; their clothing and boots were in shreds; but the Japanese still recoiled from the ferocity of their defence.

The battle of Isurava raged for five days until the enemy's weight of numbers compelled Brigadier Potts to order a withdrawal. It was the beginning of a long fighting withdrawal across some of the worst country in the world, which reduced the Japanese to a starving, emaciated force on Iorabaiwa Ridge, 30 miles from the objective they could never hope to attain.

The 39th Battalion's remnants had been withdrawn during the latter stage of the bitter fighting in the valley, and they returned to Port Moresby to be reinforced, while the enemy advance was contained, and turned to a retreat, at the hands of the 25th and 16th Brigades.

Kokoda was recaptured by troops of the 7th Division on 3rd November, and the Japanese, retreating across the Kumusi, constructed a strong chain of fortified bases at Gona, Sanananda, and Buna. For this final stage of the Papuan Campaign the Battalion was flown from Port Moresby to Popondetta, an airfield 20 miles from the coast, on 1st December. They were again in action against the Japanese at Gona North on the 3rd, and it was captured the following day, in conjunction with the 2/14th Battalion of the 21st Brigade. Gona Mission was captured on the 9th after a bloody battle. The count of Japanese dead amounted to 648, and 280 more were added with the occupation of Gona West on 18th December. The 39th Battalion shared in these honours with the battalions of the 21st Brigade, and then moved to the Sanananda track.

By now its numbers were again greatly depleted by casualties and sickness. The troops were relieved by Americans of the 32nd Division, moved back to relieve the 36th (Australian Militia) Battalion, and were again involved in fierce fighting for seven days. By 16th January 1943 the strength of the four companies of the Battalion engaged in the Buna-Gona operation was little more than 100 personnel, and they were withdrawn during the final stages of the onslaught, with aircraft, tanks and artillery, against the last Japanese positions on Papuan territory.

The remnants of the Battalion were flown across the range to Port Moresby, to be embarked there for Queensland. The fate of the Battalion was already being decided. It was camped on the Atherton Tableland, above Cairns, in March 1943, when Colonel Honner was directed to disband his gallant unit.

The 39th Battalion had won for itself a worthy battle record, as a Battalion which had provided a major contribution towards the security of Port Moresby and the Australian Commonwealth; as a unit which

had been trained along orthodox lines for home defence, but became the first Australian Militia Battalion to inflict a defeat on a mightier enemy in the dense, jungle country of Northern New Guinea.

Its traditions are carried on by an Association of its survivors, with all the pride of men who have accomplished a glorious achievement.

16TH BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES  
(THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS OF WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA)

THE RAISING OF THE BATTALION

EARLY in 1936, when the need for strengthening the Defence Force was apparent, and efforts were being made to increase Militia enlistments, an offer was made by Dr C. W. Courtney to raise a Scottish Battalion in Perth.

Plans were drawn up for recruiting the proposed battalion and raising the necessary funds for the purchase of kilts, &c., the work in this stage of preliminary organisation being carried out by Dr Courtney and Mr John Chappell, who joined forces on Anzac Day, 25th April 1936.

When recruiting arrangements, &c., had been completed, a number of Scottish citizens who had been approached and invited to participate in the undertaking were called together to form the W.A. Highland Regiment Association, the inaugural meeting of which was held in the vestry of St Andrew's Church, Perth, on 21st July 1936.

The following officers were elected: Patron—His Excellency the Lt.-Governor (Sir James Mitchell, K.C.M.G.); Vice-Patron—Lt.-General Sir J. Talbot Hobbs, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., V.D.; President—Hon. John Nicholson, O.B.E., M.L.C.; Vice-Presidents—Ross M'Donald, Esq., K.C., M.L.A., J. M'Callum Smith, Esq., M.L.A.; Hon. Secretary—John Chappell, Esq.; Hon. Treasurer—Hy. Greig, Esq.; Hon. Organiser—Dr C. W. Courtney.

The proposals for the raising of the Battalion were approved and put into operation immediately, the enrolment of recruits being commenced on the day following the meeting. It was a condition of enrolment that each recruit should pay a subscription of £2 to the Association.

Within six weeks, over 280 applications for enlistment had been received, the minimum stipulated by the Defence Department being 250. The second meeting of the Association was then held, and an appeal for funds launched.

In October, at the suggestion of the Military Board, the Association approached the Colonel of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (Major-General N. J. G. Cameron, C.B., C.M.G.) with a request for permission for the proposed battalion to adopt the tartan and the name of Cameron Highlanders in accordance with the unanimous

desire expressed at the inaugural meeting in July. This request was graciously acceded to.

Recruiting continued, and in November 1936 the Military Board authorised the formation of the unit and allotted to it the number of the 16th Battalion. The title, "The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia," was gazetted in due course when War Office approval had been granted.

Army Order No. 20 of February 1938 notified official approval of the alliance, and in February 1939 Major-General N. J. G. Cameron, C.B., C.M.G., then Colonel of The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, visited the unit.

#### WORLD WAR II

The history of the 16th Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia) during World War II. can be roughly divided into three general phases: (1) training; (2) garrison duty at Darwin; and (3) participation in the New Britain Campaign.

Two days after war broke out, on 5th September 1939, one half of the Battalion went into camp at Rottnest Island, off Fremantle, for one month's continuous training. Early in October the other half followed, and at the end of this camp the then Commanding Officer (Lt.-Colonel T. S. Louch, M.C.) expressed himself extremely pleased with the standard of efficiency reached by all ranks. From then on commenced a process which continued for just over two years, a gradual process of training men for the A.I.F. units which were formed at various times during that period, and which continued until war with Japan broke out on 7th December 1941.

There was a constant turn-over of men but not of officers and N.C.O.s, who in many cases were prevented from enlisting for overseas service themselves. There was always, in the early stages of the war, a strong feeling amongst the rank and file of the 16th that the unit should be allowed to go overseas *as a unit*. Perhaps it was just as well that this idea never commended itself to the authorities, since former members of the 16th enlisted in every conceivable arm and service and many rose to high rank in their unit of adoption.

A large number of officers and men joined the three infantry battalions furnished by Western Australia in 1939 and 1940 for service overseas, namely, the 2/11th, 2/16th and 2/28th Battalions, A.I.F. Each of these battalions was commanded at some time by an officer who had originally come from the Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia. For instance, the 2/11th was commanded in turn by Lt.-Colonel T. S. Louch, M.C. (now Brigadier, retired), Lt.-Colonel R. L. Sandover, D.S.O. (now Brigadier, Reserve of Officers), and Lt.-Colonel H. Binks (now Reserve of Officers). The 2/28th Battalion was com-

manded from its formation to the siege of Tobruk by Lt.-Colonel J. E. Lloyd, C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (now Brigadier, retired), while Lt.-Colonel F. Sublet, D.S.O., M.C., joined the 2/16th Battalion on its formation and commanded the Battalion from December 1942 to November 1945. This Battalion, also affiliated to The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, distinguished itself on service in the Middle East, Syria and, later, New Guinea.

When Japan came into the war the unit was mobilised and commenced intensive training under hard conditions on the Peel Estate south of Perth and later near Chidlow's in the Darling Ranges. During the next few months the unit, under the command of Lt.-Colonel W. L. Sanderson, M.C., moved through the wheatbelt area in the northern midlands on more or less continuous manoeuvres, until it eventually established a fairly permanent base at Dandarragan, about 60 miles from the coast. The situation created by the Japanese advance through Malaya and the Netherlands East Indies seemed to have temporarily settled, and the most vulnerable period, so far as Western Australia was concerned, was over.

Several units had been withdrawn from the Middle East and a Division of troops had arrived from the Eastern States. The 16th Battalion, as part of the 13th Brigade, was a unit in the command of Lt.-General Gordon Bennett, who was in charge of the 3rd Australian Corps. The 16th was engaged in coast-watching activities until the end of the year at lonely spots along the deserted coastline between the mouth of the Moore River and Jurien Bay. The troops also received a lot of tactical training in jungle warfare based on the Battle of Gemas in Malaya.

At the end of January 1943 the Battalion was withdrawn to a camp near Perth and during February it entrained for Adelaide *en route* for Darwin.

Lt.-Colonel R. J. Horley was now the Commanding Officer and he was destined to remain in command until the end.

In March the first elements arrived at the camp on the North Australia Road, 53 miles south of Darwin, which was to be the Battalion's home for the ensuing eighteen months. On the day they moved in, there was an air raid on a Beaufighter strip nearby, and Jap planes strafed the area without, however, causing any casualties. This was the first of twenty or thirty Japanese air raids on the area in which the unit was stationed. The wet season was just ending and the troops had to acclimatise themselves to tropical conditions. Then came the dry season. During this time the troops were practised in various anti-invasion exercises in the back country around the Darwin Fortress area. Members of the unit rarely saw Darwin. It was surrounded by minefields and the local strategy was based on countering enemy moves designed to encircle the town. The Japanese invasion had been expected almost hourly at one stage: it did not eventuate, but



" the wet " came again in October with its accompanying unpleasantness and skin complaints.

A great deal of time was taken up, about this period, in preparing fairly weatherproof shelters and huts against the day when torrential downpours would arrive. Health and hygiene matters had to be considerably reorganised. Fresh meat was scarce and the ration had to be supplemented with buffalo meat and wild boar. In February 1944, just before the rains really broke, the main body of the unit went on leave in the M.V. *Duntroon*. Although Perth and Darwin are relatively close by sea, evidently the authorities considered that the presence of the Japs on Timor made the passage unsafe, because the ship sailed to Perth via the east coast and Bass Strait.

After returning from leave, training and discipline tightened up, and the troops were unofficially told that a move overseas was afoot. Malaria precautions were enforced and stores, including the bagpipes, were packed in crates, and at last the long-awaited move eventuated. At about midnight on 21st November the unit embarked on the U.S. ship *Evangeline* in Darwin Harbour. When the ship was one day's sail out into the Arafura Sea the destination was announced—New Britain, the largest island in the Bismarck Archipelago, on which was situated Rabaul, the pre-war capital of New Guinea. According to intelligence reports, the island contained over 50,000 Japanese. (After the surrender there were found to be more than 90,000.)

Previous landings in New Britain had been effected. The 6th Australian Infantry Brigade had landed at Jacquinot Bay on the south coast a few weeks earlier, and at the time of their landing the Japanese had previously withdrawn to the Gazelle Peninsula. American troops were in the Cape Gloucester area, where the airfield was situated, with advanced posts at Gasmata on the south coast and at Talasea on the north coast.

These American troops were later to leave to take part in the operations which resulted in the reconquest of the Philippines.

The unit disembarked at Jacquinot Bay on Sunday afternoon, 26th November, as part of the 13th Infantry Brigade under the command of Brigadier E. G. H. M'Kenzie, D.S.O., M.C. The troops cleared away the undergrowth in the overgrown Palmalmal coconut plantation and soon roads and bridges were being built and a base camp was developed.

When not engaged in active patrolling, intensive jungle training was carried out, and early in March 1945 the unit was detached from the 13th Brigade and temporarily attached to the 6th Brigade under command of Brigadier R. L. Sandover, D.S.O., a former Company Commander in the 16th. The Battalion was moved by landing barges to Kalai Plantation at Wide Bay, 70 miles closer to Rabaul, and became reserve battalion of the 6th Brigade, which was then engaged in clearing the Japs from Waitavalo and Tol Plantations.

When the 6th Brigade was relieved by the 13th Brigade, three companies of the 16th Battalion were sent out to patrol strategic points on the Japanese lines of communication. At about the end of March the Battalion became forward battalion in the Brigade, with headquarters on the Bulus River and with companies in defensive perimeters in the area.

There were several patrol clashes in the ensuing two or three months. Preparations were made for further moves along the coast, and the possibility of a Japanese counter-attack was always present. After the surrender in August it was discovered that the enemy had in fact made plans for this.

In September the Battalion was conveyed by sea to Rabaul, which was occupied until January 1946, when the main body returned to Australia for discharge.

61ST BATTALION, AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES  
(THE QUEENSLAND CAMERON HIGHLANDERS)

THE 61st Battalion, raised in 1938 in the Brisbane area, became personally accredited to The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders in March 1939 on the historic occasion of the visit to Australia of Major-General N. J. G. Cameron, C.B., C.M.G., then Colonel of the Regiment. The alliance was officially approved by His Majesty The King in 1939.

In May 1940 the Battalion was in camp, employed as part of the 7th Brigade, A.M.F., but the following year it was permanently mobilised in defence of Brisbane.

On 26th April 1942 the Battalion went to Townsville in North Queensland, and from there, in August 1942, to New Guinea, for the defence of the Milne Bay area.

While it would be beyond the scope of this history to give a full account of an affiliated battalion's record, the period of August 1942 to April 1943, during which the 61st Camerons took part in important and major operations, will be described in some detail.

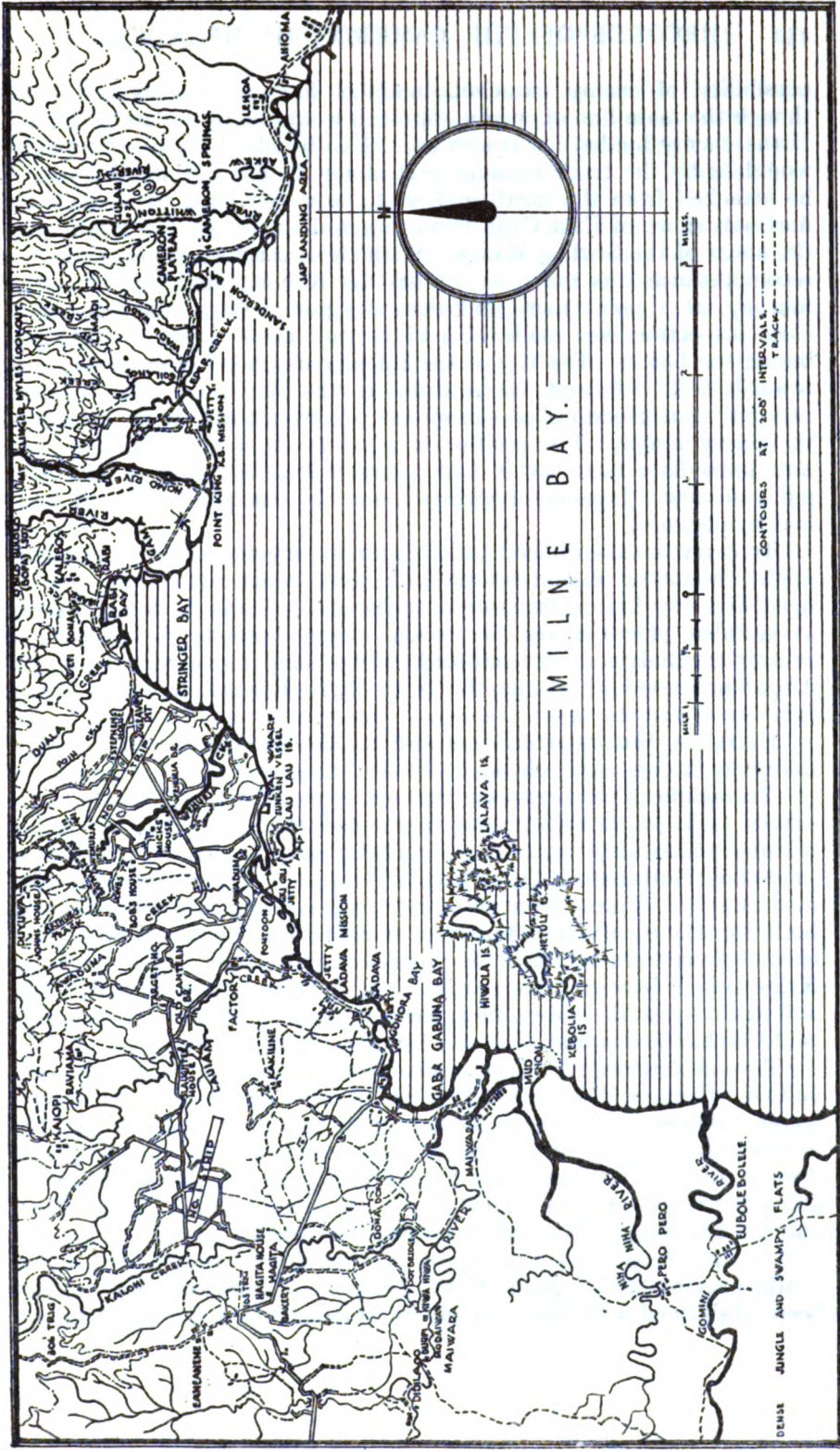
"From one example, learn all." Under the continuous and inspiring leadership of Lt.-Colonel A. Meldrum, D.S.O., the 61st acquitted themselves in accordance with the high traditions of the old Cameron Highlanders.

MILNE BAY, AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1942

On arrival at Milne Bay, the first task was the protection of the port area and, consequently, the Gurney airstrip [shown as No. 1 Strip on sketch map—ED.]. With this in view, the Battalion (less the advance party, which had already been allotted its rôle) went into bivouac at Mick's House on the western side of Wehuria Creek.

A reconnaissance soon showed that the area did not offer much in the way of suitable defensive positions. It was also necessary to bear in mind that another airstrip, probably between Wehuria and Poin Creek, was projected. Later, an American engineering unit was to put down a strip from which fighters and Super-Fortresses could operate, but 25 per cent of the area was sago swamp and subject to flooding.

Besides the immediate task, the Battalion was responsible for patrolling the country eastwards to East Cape, some 36 miles away, and northwards to Tapota over the Stirling Range that rose to a height of about 4000 feet. So the Battalion had to be deployed, and yet to have local depots from which patrolling could be carried out. The



MILNE BAY. AUG.-SEPT. 1942.

possibility of enemy parachute-landings had to be reckoned with, though the main line of enemy approach would be by sea from Rabaul. If the enemy landed his troops east of Gilli Gilli, his axis of advance would be by the track running west along the coast from Ahioma ; if he attacked from the north and west, he would have to land on the northern shore of East Cape Peninsula and thence by the tracks over the spurs of the Stirling Range. With these considerations in mind, a reconnaissance was made as far east as Ahioma, and on the return journey, at a point there and then designated CAMERON SPRINGS, a close inspection was made of a ridge that came down to the track beside the beach. The top of the ridge commanded observation both towards Gilli Gilli and the entrance to the Bay (also part of China Straits) ; but ground observation was nil, on account of the foliage of the heavy jungle. The position was too far from Gilli Gilli to be of any immediate use, yet it had many attractions from a defensive point of view. Japanese markings found on some trees may well have had significance.

To carry out the difficult task of anticipating the locality the enemy might choose for disembarkation, the only practical solution was to develop a firm base reasonably near the airstrip, and to detach parties at suitable places along the beach, strong enough, if engaged, to protect themselves until reinforced. Two companies were accordingly despatched—one to occupy the K.B. [K.B. Mission, see map MILNE BAY] area, and the other Ahioma.

Battalion Headquarters was still at Mick's House, with "H.Q." Company, stores, and vehicles in Bob's House area.

Meanwhile, work began on the new airstrip (No. 3), subsequently known as Turnbull Field ; and Stephen's Ridge, as well as the minor features and swamp in the area, enabled a co-ordinated defence system (including Battalion H.Q., "H.Q." Company, and all impedimenta) to be started. Tracks were cleared, Poin Creek was bridged, huts were built for stores, and Headquarters moved to Stephen's House. But elastic plans were retained for possible eventualities, since Stephen's Ridge might become involved in close fighting (as it actually did), and in that case the only sound place from which reserves and supplies could be handled would be Bob's House or Mick's House.

The development of the defensive area was fraught with many difficulties. Bridges built across Poin Creek were swept away by storm-water. Roads fit to carry vehicular traffic had to be built, despite the absence of metal deposits : there was no wire available, and the jungle was so thick that fields of fire for machine-guns were only obtainable along the tracks cleared. Time was a governing factor at Milne Bay ; and the advantage of the decisive hour lay with the enemy.

On 24th August 1942 a convoy of nine ships was sighted heading south, presumably for Milne Bay. Telephone communication had not been established with the company at Ahioma, so, on the suggestion of

Higher Authority, it was decided to withdraw the troops from there and use them on Stephen's Ridge. This was done, but the company could not be transported by road, and the two luggers that were employed for the purpose were sunk by enemy action. It was several days before the survivors again came under command.

During the afternoon of 24th August the port area was attacked by fighters, while a reconnaissance by two other enemy aircraft over the track between Gilli Gilli and K.B. pointed to the likelihood of a landing between these places. A final conference was held by the Commanding Officer that night. Emphasis was placed on the fact that there would be no withdrawal, irrespective of where the enemy landed: Stephen's and the partly cleared airstrip would be held. An American Coastal Defence Unit placed its men and weapons at the disposal of the 61st, and this provided an additional sixty tommy-guns—as well as the comforting knowledge that a reserve of manpower was available. (The men were never committed to action, though they did many useful jobs.)

After the enemy convoy arrived in the Bay, it was quite a relief when it was known that disembarkation had begun east of Cameron Springs under a naval bombardment by the escorting vessels; it meant that the enemy had only one narrow axis of approach, flanked by the sea on one side and with much jungle and sago swamp on the other. Had he called to inquire where to land, the 61st would certainly have suggested the spot he chose!

Now contact had been made definitely at Cameron Springs. The Commanding Officer moved to Bob's House and there established two companies of a sister battalion, which were placed under his orders. It was considered that if Stephen's Ridge and the western side of the partially cleared strip could be held, the track to Gilli Gilli would be secure. Determined fighting patrols maintained pressure on the enemy, and, although it had been expected that he would try to push forward during daylight, he made no serious attempt at advance. There was, however, the possibility that the enemy was waiting for further convoys. Two companies, with artillery and air support, were therefore ordered to advance along the track to obtain information—though without becoming seriously involved. An advance of 800 yards was made, and as there was no real resistance till the Cameron Springs area was reached, it appeared to be confirmed that the enemy was waiting for the arrival of more troops. The two companies returned to K.B. and Gama River area and went into perimeter defence.

During the night a further convoy of five ships arrived, and pressure was kept on the defence in the K.B. area by strong enemy patrols, who transpired later to have been specially trained personnel of the Kure Landing Force.

The enemy now seriously tested the strength of the defence on the track. This he did mostly at night, with strong parties equipped with



armour-plated waistcoats, light mortars, and flame-throwers. There was frequent and bitter close-quarter fighting. Even at this early stage the enemy showed his preference for night movement and a noisy infiltration that often attempted to confuse the defence with words of command shouted in English.

Incessant rain, mud, and jungle made conditions indescribable. Exhausted men were unable, without assistance, to extricate themselves from the swamps and quagmires. Nevertheless, the endurance, tenacity, and heroism of the individual soldiers was worthy of the highest traditions of their British breeding. Hard training and true discipline paid handsome dividends. In spite of the fact that the Japanese had made themselves masters of the Malay Peninsula, the Philippines, Sumatra, Java, American bases in the North Pacific, New Britain, and much of the British Solomons—here, at Milne Bay, their veterans were being held off. But to many members of the Battalion it must have seemed as if they alone were asked to delay and fight the whole Japanese invasion force; and in fact they were, because at this stage of the battle no Commander could afford to take risks by committing any slender reserves he might have at his disposal: the situation was not yet clear. There were, inevitably, to be three distinct phases of the battle—holding, counter-attack, and mopping-up. The first phase and part of the third fell to the lot of the 7th Brigade, and purely by force of circumstances with the 61st as spearhead. The second and third phase fell to the lot of the 18th Brigade.

Taxed beyond the expected capacity of human endurance, the Battalion was providentially assisted by the forward move of a sister battalion ordered to consolidate the right flank of the firm base. Resistance by the forward elements of the 61st Camerons on the track enabled these reinforcements to become well established; and the base eventually withstood the final enemy onslaught that was made some days later.

To relieve pressure on the forward troops, a reserve battalion was now ordered to pass through in an endeavour to gain the initiative. This battalion went into perimeter near the K.B. Mission buildings, evidently with the intention of resuming the advance on the morning of 29th August, after the men had fed and rested. At nightfall the position seemed quite secure, so much so that the Brigade Commander decided to withdraw the 61st into reserve. The withdrawal order was preceded by a congratulatory message, reading: "Congratulations, well done, Camerons; close your ranks and carry on with heads high." This message was immediately promulgated to all, and greatly heartened the weary troops, uncertain as they were of the general situation and quite unaware of the excellent work they had really done. Arrangements were then made for some of the sub-units that had been most consistently engaged since the landing to be taken out of the line by transport, and these got under way—though their respite was to be

short-lived. Fortunately, as it turned out, Battalion Headquarters and the troops at Stephen's Ridge remained where they were. The halt at the K.B. Mission by the battalion sent forward from Divisional Reserve was an opportunity the enemy wanted: it was close to his base, and he had ample time and troops to organise a major attack—and he launched it at about 9 P.M. He used tanks in the van of the attack, and simultaneously converged from both flanks. The Mission buildings were set alight, showing up the positions of the defence, and in the face of superior numbers the situation was hopeless. Artillery was blinded, for the F.O.s were killed.

After overrunning K.B., the enemy pushed along the track; at any rate, the troops at Gama River were forced into the foothills, and before daylight the enemy had reached the Kalebos area. Had he chosen at that stage to have put in his whole weight in an early morning attack, he might have succeeded in penetrating the main defence and opening the road to Gilli Gilli.

The possibility of a break-through had to be considered; nor was it possible to know whether other enemy ships had slipped in unobserved. There were two Australian ships—a hospital ship and a ship carrying guns and stores—lying in the bay without naval protection. The former the Japanese respected; the latter they sank (though without barbarously murdering the survivors, as their army personnel had done in the case of several men who had survived the sinking of the two luggers on 24th August). In short, the enemy's strength, reinforced or not, was unknown; but he had succeeded in dislodging a fresh and battle-experienced battalion from positions on the track, and he had advanced about eight miles.

The gravity of the situation was known to all Commanders, but at the request of Lt.-Colonel Meldrum, the Commander in the Wehuria area, it was decided that battle should be given to the enemy before he could reach the defence line that had been prepared by rear area troops during the "Battles of the Tracks" in the Hagita area south-west of Gurney airstrip. If the 61st Battalion was overwhelmed, then what was left of it would extricate itself, reassemble on the banks of the Wehuria in the vicinity of John's House, and attack the enemy's flank and rear while he was attacking at Hagita. So, less than twelve hours since being withdrawn into well-earned rest, the 61st Camerons were roused and loaded on motor transport. The road was appalling; the vehicles became hopelessly bogged, and the men were too utterly exhausted to be capable of continuing on foot. Two officers and four other ranks struggled to Battalion Headquarters to tell the fate of the motor-transport column; then they were on their way again—to add even six more to the odds and ends that attempted still to hold Stephen's Ridge.

Day at last dawned, 30th August; and it was a great day of preparation for the major engagement now inevitable and imminent.



But while the enemy's reconnaissance parties probed the tracks leading to Stephen's Ridge, their battle line rested. So, in the precious time gained, the Camerons were busy : pushing all available strength on to Stephen's Ridge, preparing machine-gun positions and co-ordinating fire-power on the partially cleared airstrip in front ; all of which was to stand the 61st in good stead before the sun rose again.

Meanwhile Higher Command had decided to send forward another battalion of the Reserve. A Brigade Conference was held, and the 2/12th Battalion (18th Brigade) was ordered to move through the 61st—who would afford it initial protection by clearing the ground west of Poin Creek and cover the left flank as far as Rabi. Even before the reconnaissance by the C.O.s of these two battalions, there were rumours of a break-through—caused by accidental explosions on a local minefield ; but although the choice of selecting the battleground was yet with the Australians, and the plan of passing the 2/12th through the 61st in the morning was perfected, the situation was fraught with danger. Sub-units of the 61st were depleted almost to extinction, and companies were very much mixed. When darkness fell, a listening post from Stephen's Ridge was pushed forward to watch the bridge area at Poin Creek—Rabi Road crossing. This area was repugnant with the unburied bodies of Japanese killed in previous actions, so when reports reached H.Q. that parties of the enemy had been seen there, it seemed likely that they were no more than burial parties ; yet the enemy succeeded in getting his whole assaulting troops into the area without molestation, for the thick jungle and soft ground made movement difficult to detect.

So far as the Camerons were concerned, the night was quiet, and there was no information or indication that the enemy was about to attack in strength until about 5 A.M., when he put up signal flares and his bugle calls sounded. Now the 25th Battalion's mortars opened up on the seat of the flares, followed by the machine-guns on the airstrip. It so happened that the Jap had been attracted by the less dense jungle there, to select it as an assembly and jumping-off point ! The gunners knew by the shrieks that they had him ; their fire was devastating, and accurately controlled by a Tank/Anti-Aircraft officer, who was later deservingly decorated for his work. The situation was unique. There, 200 yards away, the enemy was *en masse*, unseen, and being pounded without remorse. Some enemy machine-gunners tried in vain to retaliate, but the machine-gun and rifle fire of the 61st Camerons destroyed them. As the dawn advanced the noise of battle died down—and, although not at this actual time evident, so also died the enemy's hope of a further south-western advance. To those of the Battalion who had trained so hard to make themselves efficient with their various weapons, and to those who had studied tactical problems round Caloundra and Rollingsstone, this moment was one of justifiable satisfaction.

No claim has been made by the 61st to attribute the Japanese defeat to any one battalion; on the contrary, they pay a tribute to the fire-power of the troops on the airstrip that smashed the assault before it could be developed; and the strip was held by elements of two battalions. The 61st, however, by virtue of location, had been most consistently engaged and had succeeded in holding Stephen's Ridge, forced and shepherded the enemy into the guns, and prepared positions on the airstrip.

The situation at full daylight on the morning of 31st August was that the enemy's assaulting troops had been smashed, while no portion of the Australian defence had been penetrated or even endangered. The situation was again unique; for the counter-attacking battalion, the 2/12th, was now close up and ready to advance.

No Battalion Commander could wish for a more favourable opportunity or situation to launch a counter-attack. The enemy was disorganised and had no time to rest, recover, or reorganise: the attacking battalion was battle-experienced and fresh, and it was anxious to avenge the assault on its sister battalion at K.B. on the night of 28th August. In fact, however, though the forward elements of the 2/12th were met with spasmodic fire, there was no real resistance—the concentration of mortar and machine-gun fire had indeed done its work well. By midday the whole of the area west of Poin Creek had been cleared, and the 61st had protected the left flank to the point of responsibility agreed. So, now for the first time since the Japanese treacherous entry into the war at Pearl Harbour, the enemy's initiative on land had been wrested from him. Never at any time during the subsequent bitter fighting was he able to retrieve that initiative or to force his will on the Australian forces. The turning-point of the Pacific Campaign had come.

"Mopping-up" was doggedly pursued and eventually all formed bodies were dispersed. The 61st Camerons settled down to the task of reorganisation and to the preparation of defensive positions—against which it appeared (from an intercepted enemy message) another attack would be launched in a month's time. That attack did not come; it would have had a warm welcome from the Camerons, who had already taken the measure of the Jap and were anxious to meet him again.

The operations at Milne Bay, though of comparatively short duration and of an "unspectacular nature" (to quote a modest member of the Battalion) taught many valuable lessons; but, above all, they exploded the popular theory that the Jap was invincible in the jungle. The operations taught that lesson to the Australians, and to the Japanese—and the latter learnt that their hopes of a further south-western advance were forever over. A Japanese invasion of Australia had been rendered impossible.

After the Milne Bay operations, the 61st Battalion was kept for some months in that area; later, with other units of the 7th Brigade,

to be sent to Moresby, where it underwent intensive training, as the intention then was to use the Brigade in the operations against Lae. However, it was discovered that a large percentage was suffering from some form of beri-beri, so the Brigade was returned to the mainland for reconditioning and leave.

After a period on the mainland the Battalion was sent to Madang, and from there, late in 1944, to Bougainville, where American troops held a perimeter protecting the airfield, then of strategic importance to their operational plans for the reconquest of the Philippines.

After the Australians took over and the Americans had left to take part in the Philippine operations, offensive policy replaced the passive policy hitherto maintained in the perimeter, and in the operations on Bougainville the 61st Battalion was in active contact with the enemy for a continuous period of fifteen weeks.

During these operations the Japanese, who at the time of the arrival of the Australian troops were just about to stage a counter-attack rather than submit to starvation, were forced out of their cultivated areas and pushed back to the ends of the island.

At the time of the armistice some 30,000—35,000 Japanese surrendered.

Although this fine unit has been disbanded, there is good reason to hope that the disbandment will be temporary. The cadets of Scot's College, Warwick (Queensland), are safeguarding the traditions of the 61st Camerons in the meantime.

COMMANDING OFFICERS  
OF  
AUSTRALIAN AFFILIATED UNITS  
SECOND WORLD WAR



LT.-COLONEL H. M. CONRON  
39th Battalion, A.M.F.



LT.-COLONEL W. L. SANDERSON, O.B.E., M.C.  
16th Battalion, A.M.F.,  
Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia



LT.-COLONEL ALEX. MELDRUM, D.S.O.  
61st Battalion, A.M.F.,  
The Queensland Cameron Highlanders



## 1ST SOUTHLAND REGIMENT OF NEW ZEALAND

A SHORT history of the Southland Regiment was written by Colonel D. Farquharson-Leckie, O.B.E., E.D., and published in 'The 79th News' of April 1948. It is from that account the following notes have been taken in regard to the period of World War II.

Within a week of the outbreak of war, in 1939, the 1st Southland officers offered their services almost to a man. Twenty-one officers and 297 other ranks were absorbed into the 1st and 2nd Echelons. The small remainder who were not retained as training staff quickly followed for duty with the 2nd Division in the Middle East or with the 3rd Division in the Pacific.

The history of 1st Southland overseas is not that of a corporate body; but Southlanders served, and with distinction, in the First Libyan Campaign, Greece, Crete, Second Libyan Campaign, Battle of Egypt, Advance into Tripoli, and in the campaigns in Tunisia and in Italy. In the Pacific the 3rd Division, with quite a number of Southlanders, saw action against the Japanese at Vella Lavella, Bougainville, Treasury Islands, and Nissan in the Solomons. They also served as garrison troops in Fiji, Norfolk Island, Guadalcanal, and New Caledonia.

As a "feeder" Training Battalion, the Regiment passed over 2500 men to the New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

## CAMERON AND INVERNESS COUNTY COMFORTS ASSOCIATION

It would not have been possible for the Regimental Association to undertake the task of dealing direct with battalions and prisoners of war without adequate staff or finances. It was necessary, therefore, to create an organisation for this work, namely, the Cameron Comforts Association. Immediately on the outbreak of war, Lady Hermione Cameron of Lochiel inaugurated the "Cameron Comforts Fund," with headquarters in Room 3, Caledonian Hotel, Inverness; the room kindly placed at its disposal by Mr Airth, the Manager. With the co-operation of Major-General Neville Cameron, then Colonel of the Regiment, branches were started in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Liverpool. For Inverness-shire the Committee was soon formed, with Lady Hermione as Chairman, Mrs J. A. Mackintosh, Vice-Chairman, Mrs A. D. Macpherson, Honorary Secretary, and Brigadier-General A. D. Macpherson, Honorary Treasurer.

In March 1940, under the guidance and advice of Lochiel and Lady Hermione Cameron, it was decided that the existing Cameron Comforts Fund was strong enough to undertake an expansion to embrace all units of His Majesty's Forces connected with the County. To ensure fair working of the scheme and complete co-operation, a public meeting was convened in the Town Hall, Inverness. Briefly, the outline of the scheme was :—

From all efforts in Inverness-shire to raise money for comforts for H.M. Forces, the proportion to be expended on the various units would be settled by the General Committee. Any donations, whether in money or kind, sent to the Central Fund could, however, be earmarked by the donors for whichever branch they desired.

The tragedies of the retreat to Dunkirk and St Valery greatly enlarged the scope of the work of Cameron and Inverness County Comforts Fund. Fortnightly consignments were sent to St James's Palace for prisoners of war, while battalions at home only had to notify their requirements and they were supplied without delay. At that time, September 1940, it was only possible to send parcels to prisoners of war through the Red Cross, but preparations were being made for the time that help would be required by next-of-kin in sending personal parcels. Before the end of 1940 this work had begun and by the end of 1941 it had become one of the chief functions of the Comforts Depot.

The winter of 1943-44 was a very busy one for the Next-of-Kin Parcels Depot in Room 3, which was increased by the changes of camp

addresses subsequent to the surrender of Italy. Immediately word was received that men from Italy had arrived in Germany, parcels were despatched to the new address.

The death of Brigadier-General A. D. Macpherson on 22nd May 1944 was a great blow to the Cameron Comforts Association. From the moment that he had given his consent to undertake the duties of Honorary Treasurer, he had given his unremitting attention to its finances, and it was largely through his help and encouragement that the Association grew and expanded into a County organisation. He was most helpful where there were problems to be solved, for he never allowed details to obscure the long-term view.

Throughout 1944, Room 3 concentrated on assistance to prisoners of war, whose total had reached 1995. After the opening of the Second Front it was for a time impossible to get parcels through to Germany, and it was thought that few more, if any, would be required (for such was the spirit of optimism at the time). Work was temporarily diverted on behalf of the liberated Europe.

The Honorary Secretary, Mrs A. D. Macpherson, Brigadier-General A. D. Macpherson's widow, had unfortunately to leave Inverness towards the end of the war, and her resignation was received with the greatest regret. In spite of her numerous other duties and in addition to the vast correspondence which she kept up, she was a source of strength to the women of Inverness who daily crowded Room 3. Mrs C. B. Mackenzie took Mrs Macpherson's place as Honorary Organising Secretary, Mrs W. K. R. Murray became responsible for the welfare of prisoners of war, and Major A. F. MacGillivray succeeded Brigadier A. D. Macpherson as Honorary Treasurer. Major MacGillivray, in addition to being Honorary Treasurer of the Cameron and Inverness County Comforts Fund, was also Honorary Secretary of the Cameron Highlanders' Association and Editor of 'The 79th News': it was he who inaugurated a special "Cigarettes Fund" for the prisoners of war, and it was largely due to him that the very considerable sums of money raised by the Regimental Band became one of the main sources of the Association's income.

The work of the Cameron and Inverness County Comforts Association was responsible for an immense contribution towards the morale of Cameron Highlanders at home and abroad and whether in the field of battle or behind the bars of captivity. It was not alone at Inverness, indeed, that the spirit actuated friends of the Regiment and relations of serving soldiers to do all that they could to further the good work which had been inspired at the home of the Regiment. There must be scores of ex-prisoners of war who will remember with undying gratitude what was done to make their life more bearable, and others who, while remaining free during the war years, were kept warm and well provided on every front.



## DISTINGUISHED OFFICERS OF THE REGIMENT

Major-General Sir JAMES SYME DREW, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O.,  
M.C., D.L., Colonel of the Regiment, 9th October 1943

PROMOTED Major-General on 20th December 1937, he was appointed to command the 52nd Lowland Division on 30th March 1938.

In June 1940 the Division was moved to France, after the Dunkirk evacuation. It landed at Cherbourg, concentrated at Le Mans, and commenced to advance to the River Seine with the object of getting in touch with the 51st Highland Division. On the loss of that Division and the fall of France, the 52nd Division withdrew to the United Kingdom through Cherbourg. Certain vehicles had to be destroyed owing to the lack of shipping, otherwise the Division returned with all its equipment: it then moved into G.H.Q. Reserve in East Anglia. For this operation Major-General Drew was Mentioned in Despatches.

In March 1941 he completed his command of the 52nd Division, and in the following May he was appointed Major-General i/c Training, Combined Operations.

In January 1944 he was awarded the K.B.E., and after the successful landing in Normandy on "D"-Day (6th June 1944), his appointment in Combined Operations lapsed and he was, in July 1944, appointed Director-General of the Home Guard and Territorial Army, until his retirement on 27th December 1945.

Major-General N. J. G. CAMERON, C.B., C.M.G., Colonel of the  
Regiment, 25th May 1939 to 9th October 1943

During the whole period of his Colonelcy, his activities on behalf of the Regiment, described elsewhere in these Records, were ceaseless. He maintained, by personal visits wherever possible, the closest link with the life and interests of all units of the Regiment and the Regimental Association.

Before and during World War II. he allowed no difficulties to prevent him visiting Battalions within reach, but the war prevented him from visiting the Cameron Highlanders of Canada and the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa as he had hoped to do.

In addition to his duties as Colonel, Major-General Cameron, during residence at Bedford after he retired from the Active List in October 1931, occupied himself with work of a civil nature, holding the appointments of Secretary to the Council of Social Service from 1932 to 1940 and Chief Warden, A.R.P., from 1938 to 1940.





GENERAL SIR A. F. PHILIP CHRISTISON, Bt., G.B.E., K.C.B.,  
D.S.O., M.C.

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In 1940 his name was added to the roll of Deputy Lieutenants for Bedfordshire.

In July 1940, after moving to Edinburgh, he enrolled in the City of Edinburgh Home Guard, being commissioned with the rank of Lt.-Colonel in February 1941, and appointed Second-in-Command to the Zone Commander, City of Edinburgh.

He retired from the Home Guard, having reached the age limit for that Corps on 4th May 1942.

After almost fifty-one years of devoted service to the Regiment, Major-General Cameron, having then also reached the age limit for Colonelcy, was succeeded by Major-General Sir James Syme Drew as Colonel of the Regiment on 9th October 1943.

### Colonel Sir DONALD W. CAMERON OF LOCHIEL, K.T., C.M.G.

On the outbreak of World War II., Lochiel, to the great pleasure of all concerned, was appointed Hon. Colonel of the new 5th Battalion. His visits to the Battalion before its departure to the Middle East, and again after its return from Sicily before the Normandy landings, were evidence of the love he had for his Battalion, which he had raised in 1914.

In the dark days of 1940, Lochiel raised and commanded the Inverness-shire Battalion of the Home Guard, then called Local Defence Volunteers, and when a second Battalion was formed he became the Group Commander of both of the Inverness-shire Battalions. Early in 1945 he was appointed Home Guard Adviser to all the six Home Guard Battalions then in the area controlled by Inverness Sub-District.

In addition to his duties as Lord Lieutenant of the County of Inverness and his Home Guard duties, Lochiel took the greatest practical interest in the Cameron and Inverness County Comforts Association, and the Families of Prisoners of War Assistance Committee, Inverness Branch, both of which were under the Chairmanship of his wife, Lady Hermione, throughout the war years.

### General Sir A. F. PHILIP CHRISTISON, Bt., G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

At the outbreak of World War II. he held the appointment of Commander, 4th (Quetta) Indian Infantry Brigade. In March 1940 he became Commandant, Staff College, Quetta.

Returning to the United Kingdom in 1941 he became first B.G.S., 3rd Corps, and then from mid-1941 until May 1942 he trained and commanded the 15th Scottish Division.

Returning to India in the middle of 1942 he became a District

Commander, and then, in the same year, he was promoted to command the 33rd Indian Corps. In 1943 he was transferred to command the 15th Indian Corps in Burma.

In command of this Corps he conducted the brilliant campaign in Arakan early in 1944 and was the first British General to inflict a major defeat on the Japanese. In 1945 he had the supreme triumph of capturing Rangoon, after a number of successful combined operations down the Burma coast. During May and June 1945 General Christison was officiating Commander, 14th Army, and in July and August, C.-in-C., Allied Land Forces, S.E. Asia, when the final battles in Burma were taking place. He was the only British C.-in-C. engaged with the enemy when the end came.

He planned the operations for the reoccupation of Malaya and Singapore in 1945 and took the surrender of the Japanese there.

He was awarded the C.B. in 1943, the K.B.E. in 1944, and in 1945 he was awarded the D.S.O. for gallant and distinguished service in the field while in command of the 15th Corps, the only instance of an officer being awarded an immediate D.S.O., after having been knighted in the field. The Chinese Nationalist Government conferred on him the Order of the Cloud and Banner with Grand Cordon in recognition of the part he played in the defeat of the Japanese.

His last appointment overseas was that of Allied C.-in-C. Netherlands East Indies, and he returned home from this post to become G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command in February 1946.

On 31st January 1947 he was appointed G.O.C.-in-C. Scottish Command, and after vacating that appointment early in 1949 he retired on 27th June 1949.

General Christison is the third officer of the Regiment to have reached the rank of full General. He is Colonel of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles, and Hon. Colonel of the 414th (Forth) Coast Regiment, R.A. (T.A.).

In 1948 he was appointed A.D.C. General to the King and awarded the G.B.E.

Lt.-General Sir JAMES A. H. GAMMELL, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

In January 1939 Brigadier Gammell was given command of the 4th Infantry Brigade at Aldershot. With this Brigade he went to France on the outbreak of war. In February 1940 he became B.G.S., 4th Corps, and then Chief of Staff to General Auchinleck in Norway for the capture and subsequent evacuation of Narvik. For two months, on return, he commanded the 15th Infantry Brigade, and was then promoted to command the 3rd Division in the United Kingdom from July 1940 to November 1941. From November 1941 to September 1942 General Gammell commanded the 12th Corps, deployed for the





LT.-GENERAL SIR JAMES A. H. GAMMELL,  
K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.



MAJOR-GENERAL F. K. SIMMONS, C.B.E., M.V.O.,  
M.C.



MAJOR-GENERAL D. N. WIMBERLEY, C.B., D.S.O.,  
M.C.



MAJOR-GENERAL A. L. COLLIER, C.B.E., M.C.



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defence of Kent against possible invasion. From September 1942 to December 1943 he was G.O.C.-in-C. Eastern Command. In January 1944 he became Chief of Staff to the Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theatre (General Wilson), during the campaigns in Italy, Adriatic, Greece, and Southern France. From April 1945 to November 1945 General Gammell was the Representative of British Chiefs of Staff and Head of the Military Mission in Moscow.

He was awarded the C.B. for his part in the attempted invasion of Norway in 1940, the K.C.B. in June 1944 for his work in the Mediterranean Theatre, and, in the same year, the Order of Military Merit of Brazil (1st Class), Commander of the Legion of Merit (U.S.A.), and Order of the White Lion of Czechoslovakia (2nd Class).

He retired in May 1946 and now resides in Angus.

### Major-General F. K. SIMMONS, C.B.E., M.V.O., M.C.

In September 1939 Major-General Simmons was Commander, Shanghai Area. From 1940 to 1942 he was Commander, Singapore Garrison, and was taken prisoner by the Japanese.

After his release in 1945 Major-General Simmons retired and took up residence in Australia.

He was awarded the C.B.E. in 1939.

### Major-General D. N. WIMBERLEY, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., D.L., LL.D.

Lt.-Colonel Douglas Wimberley was in command of the 1st Battalion at Aldershot at the beginning of World War II. and took the Battalion to France. He remained in command until 28th December 1939.

Promoted Colonel with seniority from 1st January 1939, he was appointed Chief Instructor at the Senior Officers' School early in 1940. After some two months in command of the 13th Infantry Brigade, he was from July 1940 to May 1941 Commander, 152nd Highland Brigade (Seaforth and Cameron).

After a short spell in command of the 46th Infantry Division, Major-General Wimberley was appointed G.O.C. 51st Highland Division from June 1941 to August 1943, and commanded the Highland Division in the 8th Army throughout, from Alamein up to the end of the campaign in Sicily. At Alamein he gained the D.S.O., and at the conclusion of the Desert Campaign he was awarded the C.B.

From September 1943 to December 1944 Major-General Wimberley was Commandant of the Staff College at Camberley. His promotion to substantive Major-General was back-dated to December 1943. From 15th December 1944 to October 1946 he was Director of Infantry



at the War Office. He was then permitted voluntarily to retire to take up the appointment of Principal, University College, Dundee.

General Wimberley is a member of the Royal Company of Archers, The King's Bodyguard for Scotland, and in 1948 was made the Gentleman Usher of the Scarlet Rod of the Order of the Bath.

**Major-General A. L. COLLIER, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.**

On the outbreak of war Angus Lyell Collier was G.S.O.1 (Colonel) Scottish Command, where, at a time when resources were meagre, he played a major part in organising the anti-aircraft, coast and land defences of Scotland, and generally in putting the Command on a war basis.

During 1940-41 he commanded an Infantry Brigade. Late in 1941 he was sent to G.H.Q., Middle East Land Forces, in Egypt, where he was Military Secretary first to General Sir Claude Auchinleck and then to General The Hon. Sir Harold Alexander, during the period of the 8th Army's campaigns in the Western Desert.

He was promoted Major-General (temporary) in 1943 and commanded successively Cyrenaica District (1943), No. 3 District in Italy (1944), and Highland District (1944-46). From 1945 until he retired on 14th November 1946 he was A.D.C. to the King.

For his war services Major-General Collier was awarded the C.B.E., the Legion d'Honneur (Officier) and the Croix de Guerre, and was twice Mentioned in Despatches.

**Major-General I. C. GRANT, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., D.L.**

In September 1939 Brigadier Grant was on leave in the United Kingdom from command of the Cairo Brigade: on the outbreak of war with Germany he was retained at home as Deputy Director of Mobilisation, War Office.

From August 1940 to December 1941 he commanded the 156th Infantry Brigade and in December 1941 assumed command of North Highland District, an appointment he held until early in 1943.

He was then employed under the Joint Chiefs of Staff as Head of the British Mission (Foreign Office, Navy, Army, R.A.F., &c.) negotiating the lease of air bases in the Azores from the Portuguese Government.

Early in 1944 General Grant unfortunately underwent a serious





MAJOR-GENERAL I. C. GRANT, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.



MAJOR-GENERAL C. M. BARBER, C.B., D.S.O.



MAJOR-GENERAL H. MURRAY, C.B., D.S.O.



MAJOR-GENERAL R. N. STEWART, O.B.E., M.C.

operation, through which he was permanently down-graded and invalided from the service in August of that year.

General Grant was awarded the C.B.E. in 1940 for services in the Palestine operations, 1936-39, as a Brigade Commander and the C.B. in 1945. In 1944 he was appointed an A.D.C. to the King.

General Grant now lives in Inverness.

#### Major-General C. M. BARBER, C.B., D.S.O.

In September 1939 Major Barber was G.S.O.2 51st Highland Division. On 4th May 1940 he vacated this appointment and was on leave in the United Kingdom when the Germans invaded Holland and Belgium on 10th May.

He formed the leave details of the 2nd Division and commanded them in the field until Dunkirk. He was awarded the D.S.O. for gallant and distinguished services in action.

On return to the United Kingdom from Dunkirk he became Second-in-Command of the 1st Battalion until appointed to command the 4th Battalion on 21st July. He remained in command of the 4th Battalion up to 5th February 1941, when he returned to the United Kingdom to take up the appointment of G.S.O.1 45th (Wessex) Division at the end of March 1941.

On 18th October 1941 he became Commander, 46th (H.L.I.) Brigade [later 46th (Highland) Brigade], 15th (Scottish) Division, which he commanded until the beginning of August 1944, when he was promoted to command the Division. He remained G.O.C. 15th (Scottish) Division until after "V.E."-Day, becoming G.O.C. 51st Highland Division from 15th March to 30th June 1946.

Major-General Barber was awarded a bar to his D.S.O. on 19th October 1944 for gallant and distinguished services in North-West Europe. In 1945 he was awarded the C.B. for similar services in the field. He was also appointed Commander of the Order of the Crown, with Palm, and awarded the Croix de Guerre, 1940, with Palm, by the Regent of Belgium.

In June 1946 Major-General Barber left the 51st Highland Division and became G.O.C. Highland District at the end of August. When the Territorial Army was reconstituted in 1947, his command included that of the 51/52nd (Scottish) Division, T.A., but by a later reorganisation the 51st Highland Division was re-formed and came again under his command.

He was appointed G.O.C. Nigeria District on 8th June 1949, but left soon after to become Director of Infantry and Military Training at the War Office in October 1949.

## Major-General H. MURRAY, C.B., D.S.O.

At the beginning of World War II., Major Murray, as he then was, held the appointment of G.S.O.2, S.D.I., at the War Office. This appointment he held until June 1940, when he became G.S.O.2 3rd Infantry Division—first under Field-Marshal Montgomery and later under Lt.-General J. A. H. Gammell.

From February 1941 to November 1941 he was A.Q.M.G. (Ops.) British Troops in Northern Ireland, under the command of General Sir Harold Franklyn. From November 1941 to May 1942 he was G.1 (Ops.), G.H.Q., Home Forces, under General Paget.

Proceeding to the Middle East in June 1942 as O.C. 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, with the 51st Highland Division, he was wounded at the Battle of El Alamein, and from October 1942 to April 1943 he was in the hospitals at Nazareth, Suez, and Cairo.

From April to May 1943 he became in succession Acting O.C. 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders, Acting G.1 51st Highland Division, and Acting G.1 56th (London) Division. During this period, covering the last month of the campaign in North Africa, the rather confused circumstances then existing necessitated frequent changes in the appointments he held.

Promoted to command the 153rd Infantry Brigade, 51st Highland Division, in May 1943, he commanded that Brigade in the Sicilian Campaign, 1943, and was awarded the D.S.O. for gallant and distinguished services. He brought the Brigade to the United Kingdom at the end of 1943 and commanded it in the campaign in Normandy until 12th August 1944. On promotion, he then commanded the 6th Armoured Division in Italy and Austria until December 1945.

From January 1946 to November 1947 he was Director of Personal Services, the War Office. In December 1947 he was appointed to command the 1st Infantry Division stationed in Palestine until May 1948, when the mandate was terminated and the Division deployed over the Eastern Mediterranean area still under his command.

He was awarded the C.B. for gallant and distinguished services in Italy on 6th July 1945.

## Major-General R. N. STEWART, O.B.E., M.C.

At the outbreak of World War II., Lt.-Colonel Stewart, then on the Regular Army Reserve of Officers, rejoined the Regiment, and in September 1939 was posted to command the 34th I.T.C. (Cameron Highlanders) at Inverness. He remained in this appointment until

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August 1940, when he was given command of the 8th Infantry Brigade Group with the rank of Colonel.

From September 1940 to October 1941 he was Commander of the 208th Infantry Brigade, and from October 1941 to February 1943 he commanded the 207th Infantry Brigade.

In February 1943 he was appointed General Officer Commanding North Highland District, and he continued in this command until he retired on 30th December 1944.

## ROLL OF HONOUR

## OFFICERS

Captain P. M. Aldridge. Western Europe.	29.8.44	Major R. D. M. Emmerson. Burma.	10.6.44
2nd Lieutenant P. J. Alexander. Sicily.	1.8.43	Lieutenant H. B. M. Farley. Middle East.	2.11.42
Lieutenant I. C. Anderson. Italy.	16.5.44	Lieutenant R. H. Fawcitt. Middle East.	24.10.42
Lieutenant H. C. Archibald. North Africa.	24.4.43	Captain E. D. M. Viscount Fincastle. F. and B.	5.6.40
Major J. M. S. Bain. Burma.	25.2.45	2nd Lieutenant J. W. A. G. Forsyth. Middle East.	4.12.41
Lieutenant R. S. Boslem. Italy.	14.7.44	Lieutenant K. C. Gardner. Sicily.	1.8.43
Lieutenant I. N. H. Bragg. Middle East.	11.11.42	Lieutenant C. J. R. Gibson. At Sea.	7.12.42
Lieutenant F. E. Bright. Sicily.	17.7.43	Major A. Grant. Middle East.	31.1.42
2nd Lieutenant R. Brydon. North Africa.	8.3.43	2nd Lieutenant H. O. P. Grant. F. and B.	21.5.40
2nd Lieutenant E. E. Buzzard. Western Europe.	1.7.44	Lt.-Colonel I. P. Grant. Italy.	20.6.45
2nd Lieutenant J. A. Cameron. Eritrea.	15.3.41	Captain R. B. G. Gray. Western Europe.	18.7.44
Lieutenant W. N. Cameron. Italy.	1.10.44	Lieutenant N. G. Grundy. Middle East.	2.11.42
Lieutenant D. Campbell. U.K.	26.2.43	Captain J. M. M'V. Gubbins. Italy.	6.2.44
Lieutenant I. A. E. Campbell-Colquhoun. U.K.	17.5.42	Lieutenant J. C. Hamp, M.C. North Africa.	6.4.43
Lieutenant D. F. Cavaye. F. and B.	21.6.41	Lieutenant W. Hastings. Burma.	19.3.44
Lieutenant D. N. Cochrane. F. and B.	18.5.40	Lieutenant C. J. Henry. Sicily.	1.8.43
Captain T. K. Cochrane. Middle East.	5.11.42	Lt.-Colonel M. G. O. Hill. Italy.	9.8.44
Lieutenant J. M. Connell, M.B.E. Middle East.	9.12.41	2nd Lieutenant H. N. Hogg. Western Europe.	13.8.44
Lieutenant C. E. Coutts. Western Europe.	18.8.44	Captain J. B. J. Houghton, M.C. Norway.	23.10.42
Lieutenant D. G. G. Davidson. Burma.	2.3.45	Lieutenant R. A. Iremonger. Western Europe.	23.10.44
Lieutenant W. Dobie. Western Europe.	23.6.44	Captain I. Jack. Italy.	23.3.44
Lieutenant A. N. M. Douglas. Western Europe.	21.2.45	Captain J. Keir. Middle East.	4.12.41
Major A. S. K. Douglas. Burma.	5.6.44	Lieutenant W. L. Lamont. Italy.	24.2.44
Lieutenant W. Duguid. Western Europe.	25.2.45	2nd Lieutenant R. D. Langdon. Middle East.	7.12.41
2nd Lieutenant J. A. Duthie. Middle East.	4.12.41	Captain W. J. Macgregor. Western Europe.	1.7.44
Lieutenant P. East. North Africa.	24.4.43	Lieutenant D. Maciver. Middle East.	24.10.42
		Captain W. A. Mackay. Burma.	13.5.44
		Lieutenant J. R. Mackay-Smith. Sicily.	1.8.43

## ROLL OF HONOUR

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Captain A. D. Mackenzie. Italy.	6.10.44	Captain L. C. Pitman. North Africa.	23.3.43
Lieutenant G. Mackie. Italy.	7.3.44	Lieutenant G. M. Poe. Italy.	5.8.44
Captain C. MacLennan. Sicily.	6.10.43	Lieutenant R. E. Ramsay. India.	3.9.44
Captain A. D. Macleod. Sicily.	1.8.43	Lieutenant G. B. Reed. North Africa.	6.4.43
Major A. L. Macnab. Western Europe.	11.9.44	Lieutenant D. Reid. Middle East.	15.6.41
Lieutenant L. March. Western Europe.	1.7.44	2nd Lieutenant N. A. C. Rickaby. Western Europe.	10.2.45
Lieutenant D. May. Italy.	5.10.43	2nd Lieutenant D. A. Robert- son. Middle East.	9.12.40
2nd Lieutenant A. L. T. M'Allister. Middle East.	5.12.42	Captain I. D. Robertson, M.C. Middle East.	11.12.40
Captain J. A. M'Donald. Middle East.	22.10.42	2nd Lieutenant A. I. Ross. Middle East.	5.12.41
Lieutenant E. M'Intosh. Burma.	26.1.44	Lieutenant J. M. Schofield. Western Europe.	19.4.45
2nd Lieutenant P. B. G. M'Lean. F. and B.	26.5.40	Lieutenant H. Sim. Middle East.	5.6.43
Captain D. L. M'Millan. Burma.	18.4.44	Lieutenant N. G. Steele. North Africa.	23.3.43
Lieutenant J. C. A. M'Naught. Burma.	7.5.44	Captain W. R. Stevenson. Western Europe.	23.10.44
Captain D. F. Melven. Middle East.	14.12.42	Lieutenant J. M. Sutherland. Western Europe.	28.3.45
Lieutenant D. W. Milne. Western Europe.	11.9.44	Captain I. A. Tait. Western Europe.	9.6.44
2nd Lieutenant K. D. Milne. Eritrea.	15.3.41	Major T. M. Threlfall. F. and B.	4.6.40
2nd Lieutenant A. S. Morrison. Middle East.	5.12.41	Lieutenant T. H. Wood. F. and B.	9.6.40
Lieutenant E. de L. C. Norrish. Middle East.	2.11.42	Lieutenant J. Younie. Burma.	9.3.45
2nd Lieutenant A. G. Orr. Middle East.	9.12.40		
Major A. N. Parker. Western Europe.	23.10.44		

### WARRANT OFFICERS

2926049 R.S.M. J. Campbell. Italy.	3.9.44	2925883 C.S.M. J. Marshall. Burma.	8.6.45
2921992 R.S.M. D. D. Cassels. U.K.	26.6.44	2824467 C.S.M. J. A. M'Lean, D.C.M. Western Europe.	26.6.44
2930992 R.S.M. A. Moss. At Sea.	29.3.42	2932222 C.S.M. J. Milne, M.M. Sicily.	22.7.43
2928343 C.S.M. A. Campbell, M.M. Italy.	9.3.44	2923773 C.S.M. D. Watson, D.C.M., M.M. At Sea.	17.6.40
2927262 C.S.M. T. Cook, D.C.M. Burma.	4.5.44	2921865 P.S.M. A. B. Cockburn. F. and B.	27.5.40
2691266 C.S.M. J. B. Maclean. F. and B.	27.5.40	2921882 P.S.M. W. Noble. F. and B.	4.6.40
2924275 C.S.M. W. Macpherson. Middle East.	24.10.42	2928747 P.S.M. A. M. Paton. Middle East.	9.12.40
2930292 C.S.M. I. Macrae. North Africa.	6.4.43	396061 P.S.M. W. Rutherford. F. and B.	27.5.40



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COLOUR-SERGEANTS, SERGEANTS, AND LANCE-SERGEANTS

2926632 Colour-Sergeant W. Lawson. Middle East.	3.1.45	2929442 Sergeant W. Kennedy. Western Europe.	13.6.44
3766262 Colour-Sergeant E. Meacock. U.K.	21.3.41	2931152 Sergeant J. Lawless. U.K.	30.4.43
2929058 Colour-Sergeant A. Reid. Middle East.	16.1.43	2749122 Sergeant G. D. Linton. Middle East.	14.12.42
2928586 Colour-Sergeant C. D. Watt. Middle East.	26.2.42	2929130 Sergeant D. Macarthur. India.	21.6.45
2927011 Sergeant H. Agnew. Bermuda.	26.1.42	2930743 Sergeant I. M. Macdonald. North Africa.	23.3.43
2932965 Sergeant N. C. Allardice. Sicily.	1.8.43	2932639 Sergeant G. Macfarlane. Middle East.	24.10.42
3132807 Sergeant W. Anderson. Western Europe.	14.8.44	3185630 Sergeant J. Malcolm. F. and B.	4.6.40
2925929 Sergeant M. Auld. Burma.	5.5.44	2928677 Sergeant R. Mallinder. Middle East.	4.12.41
4917567 Sergeant T. Banks. Western Europe.	16.12.44	4393396 Sergeant D. J. M'Assey. Burma.	10.6.44
2928900 Sergeant D. Birrell. Burma.	4.6.44	2938062 Sergeant G. M'Crone. Middle East.	22.6.42
3063616 Sergeant A. Blackwood. North Africa.	23.3.43	2934260 Sergeant N. M'Dougall. M.M. Western Europe.	25.6.44
2933136 Sergeant T. M. Brennan. North Africa.	1.4.43	2928673 Sergeant A. F. M'Intosh. Middle East.	4.12.41
3769644 Sergeant R. A. Brown. D.C.M. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2930917 Sergeant W. J. M'Lagan. Western Europe.	18.7.44
2926655 Sergeant P. Cameron. Middle East.	2.11.42	2932275 Sergeant J. P. M'Naughton. Burma.	18.5.44
2929812 Sergeant J. A. Chisholm. Middle East.	9.6.41	2925264 Sergeant G. M'Queen. Middle East.	18.1.43
2930090 Sergeant W. A. Davies. Middle East.	5.12.41	2927248 Sergeant R. L. M'Skimming. U.K.	30.12.40
2931685 Sergeant J. A. Don. North Africa.	23.3.43	2928927 Sergeant R. J. Middlemass. Middle East.	18.6.41
2929086 Sergeant J. L. Eaton. Western Europe.	18.8.44	2930822 Sergeant J. W. Miller. Western Europe.	24.3.45
2927301 Sergeant P. C. Fisher. Middle East.	24.8.42	2926844 Sergeant R. A. Miller. F. and B.	26.5.40
2929691 Sergeant W. Godsman. Sicily.	17.7.43	2934321 Sergeant D. Mills. North Africa.	6.4.43
2820059 Sergeant A. Grant. Middle East. (approx.)	8.9.43	2934175 Sergeant D. Munro. Western Europe.	25.3.45
2927782 Sergeant D. F. Grant. U.K.	28.10.42	2929024 Sergeant H. Munro. F. and B.	4.6.40
2933819 Sergeant J. F. Hall. Middle East.	30.10.42	2927163 Sergeant T. B. T. Munro. Burma.	5.5.44
2929743 Sergeant J. Hammond. Europe.	6.8.45	2928554 Sergeant J. V. Murphy. Italy.	10.3.44
2928294 Sergeant S. Horbury. Eritrea.	31.1.41	2926214 Sergeant R. S. Murray. Western Europe.	29.3.45
2928254 Sergeant H. Kane. Eritrea.	3.3.41	823281 Sergeant S. Parry. Burma.	29.1.45
2934639 Sergeant T. Kelly. Western Europe.	23.4.45	2930809 Sergeant S. Pinnington. U.K.	26.6.41

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2926053 Sergeant R. W. Rae. Western Europe.	24.7.44	3320076 Lance-Sergeant D. B. Hayes. Burma.	13.4.44
2928360 Sergeant J. Ramage. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2929706 Lance-Sergeant W. P. Howard. Sicily.	1.8.43
4342773 Sergeant G. S. Ris- brough. Western Europe.	18.7.44	2934372 Lance-Sergeant J. Ingram. Sicily.	3.9.43
3320036 Sergeant H. Staples. India.	28.10.44	2932940 Lance-Sergeant R. Leggat. North Africa.	23.3.43
2929422 Sergeant J. D. Stewart. F. and B.	4.6.40	2928477 Lance-Sergeant G. F. Lloyd. Middle East.	9.12.40
2695559 Sergeant J. Tannahill. Western Europe.	4.11.44	2931514 Lance-Sergeant D. MacDonald. North Africa.	1.5.43
4036037 Sergeant C. Thompson. Western Europe.	18.8.44	2939711 Lance-Sergeant J. W. Mann. Western Europe.	23.10.44
774709 Sergeant J. A. S. Thomson. Western Europe.	12.8.44	2928418 Lance-Sergeant J. D. M'Guire. Western Europe.	19.4.45
2924009 Sergeant J. F. Thom- son. Middle East.	24.10.42	2927081 Lance-Sergeant J. M'Kiggan. F. and B.	4.6.40
2929101 Sergeant A. Tulloch. North Africa.	23.3.43	837005 Lance-Sergeant T. M'Mahon. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2926531 Sergeant R. W. White. North Africa.	23.3.43	2928493 Lance-Sergeant F. J. Nicoll. Middle East.	4.12.41
3606346 Sergeant R. Whyte. Western Europe.	23.4.45	2929127 Lance-Sergeant R. J. Parry. North Africa.	6.4.43
6085958 Lance-Sergeant A. W. Carman. Western Europe.	24.3.45	3778549 Lance-Sergeant E. S. Strachan. Middle East.	24.10.42
4541048 Lance-Sergeant W. H. Cavanagh. Burma.	30.4.44	2939301 Lance-Sergeant R. Thomson. Western Europe.	14.8.44
3131652 Lance-Sergeant H. Clearie. Western Europe.	9.2.45	2928499 Lance-Sergeant E. E. Tighe. Middle East.	13.3.42
2937501 Lance-Sergeant R. D. Hannay. Burma.	14.4.44	4392875 Lance-Sergeant J. Weatherhead. Burma.	25.2.45
2933677 Lance-Sergeant H. L. Harper. Western Europe.	9.10.44	3319986 Lance-Sergeant J. A. Woodall. Burma.	30.4.44

CORPORALS

2934190 Corporal W. H. Adam. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2939106 Corporal J. Burns. Burma.	4.5.44
2928462 Corporal L. G. Astell. Burma.	6.5.44	2931329 Corporal H. Campbell. Middle East.	29.10.42
2926313 Corporal J. Bain. Burma.	7.5.44	2933790 Corporal J. Chalmers. North Africa.	23.3.43
4393389 Corporal B. Beard. Burma.	10.6.44	5387764 Corporal E. A. Clarke. Western Europe.	19.4.45
2934012 Corporal K. Beevers. U.K.	10.3.41	3131199 Corporal A. A. Crawley. Western Europe.	23.6.44
2937634 Corporal F. Brown. Burma.	12.3.45	2927533 Corporal J. Crombie. Eritrea.	14.2.41
4343321 Corporal W. R. Brown. Western Europe.	25.3.45	2928577 Corporal R. Davidson. Middle East.	4.12.41
6976511 Corporal W. J. Bryans. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2933008 Corporal C. Dickens. North Africa.	23.3.43
2978431 Corporal D. Burns. F. and B.	10.6.40	2937766 Corporal A. Dickson. Burma.	4.5.44

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2934007 Corporal N. Docherty. Western Europe.	17.11.44	2928957 Corporal J. Macaskill. Middle East.	4.12.41
2929766 Corporal W. Duff. Middle East.	2.11.42	2926522 Corporal A. Macdonald. F. and B.	2.6.40
2937920 Corporal W. J. Edgar. Middle East.	1.2.42	2925036 Corporal J. Macdonald. Burma.	30.4.44
2928123 Corporal T. E. Flowitt. F. and B.	10.6.40	2929153 Corporal R. Mac- farlane. Burma.	10.6.44
2928705 Corporal W. C. Forsyth. F. and B.	27.5.40	2935082 Corporal J. M. Mac- gregor. Burma.	18.5.44
3769247 Corporal T. Francis. F. and B. (approx.)	5.1.41	3309674 Corporal D. Macintyre. Western Europe.	13.6.44
400382 Corporal J. Garden. F. and B.	4.6.40	2933784 Corporal I. R. Mac- kenzie. Italy.	3.2.44
2934232 Corporal J. Gillies. North Africa.	23.3.43	2927549 Corporal J. Mackintosh. Middle East.	10.12.40
2928138 Corporal D. C. Gourlay. F. and B.	21.5.40	2926074 Corporal J. W. J. Mac- pherson. F. and B. (approx.)	27.5.40
2928498 Corporal J. Grant. Middle East.	4.12.41	3308990 Corporal T. Martin. Burma.	7.5.44
3194249 Corporal J. Grant. Western Europe.	18.8.44	4393444 Corporal L. Massey. Western Europe.	23.10.44
2928219 Corporal S. Green. F. and B.	12.3.41	402090 Corporal J. A. P. Matthew. F. and B.	22.5.40
2934241 Corporal J. Harper. Western Europe.	18.8.44	2928622 Corporal G. M. Matthews, M.M. Middle East.	15.6.41
2933470 Corporal J. Hayes. Western Europe.	16.6.44	2991168 Corporal J. M. M'Arthur. Middle East.	2.11.42
2933867 Corporal R. S. J. Henderson. Western Europe.	11.4.45	2933373 Corporal J. A. M'Ausland. Italy.	28.2.44
2939700 Corporal W. R. Hoggan. Western Europe.	23.10.44	2927352 Corporal J. M. M'Callum. F. and B. (approx.)	5.1.41
3319985 Corporal F. Holmes. Burma.	25.2.45	2928585 Corporal G. P. M'Cann. Western Europe.	22.7.44
2932102 Corporal J. R. Innis. U.K.	2.1.42	2934256 Corporal T. M. M'Cleary. Middle East.	2.11.42
2933297 Corporal J. Jack. Italy.	25.7.44	2930458 Corporal A. W. M'Donald. Middle East.	24.10.42
2931826 Corporal R. Johnston. Burma.	4.6.42	2928834 Corporal W. C. M'Gregor. Eritrea.	1.2.41
2932856 Corporal S. Johnston. Burma.	25.2.45	2934163 Corporal J. M'Guire. Middle East.	9.6.41
801736 Corporal W. Kay. F. and B.	11.6.40	2928972 Corporal R. M'Kay. Middle East	9.6.41
3608551 Corporal J. H. Keeley. Italy.	4.9.44	2932698 Corporal J. M'Keown. India.	5.11.44
2935211 Corporal J. S. Kerr. Western Europe.	13.6.44	14214608 Corporal A. M'Leod. Western Europe.	14.11.44
2930913 Corporal T. S. Kerr. Middle East.	24.10.42	3188646 Corporal T. M'Nairney. Sicily.	14.7.43
2926987 Corporal S. Kissick. F. and B.	27.5.40	2928625 Corporal J. M'Turk. Burma.	10.6.44
3320495 Corporal C. H. Lan- caster. Burma.	4.5.44	2932870 Corporal D. G. F. Mercer. Burma.	4.5.44
2927529 Corporal F. E. Latimer. Eritrea.	17.3.41	2929965 Corporal G. Milnes. Sicily.	1.8.43

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2927732 Corporal R. Morrison. Italy.	10.3.44	2928955 Corporal T. D. Rennie. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2931633 Corporal T. J. Morrison. North Africa.	23.3.43	2935735 Corporal G. W. Shaw. Italy.	16.3.44
11007927 Corporal G. Nash. Western Europe.	23.4.45	2927645 Corporal R. Shearer. North Africa.	23.3.43
2933923 Corporal J. Obritis. North Africa.	23.3.43	2927656 Corporal W. Sinclair. F. and B.	6.6.40
2929190 Corporal A. M. Pater- son. F. and B. (approx.)	23.6.40	2929690 Corporal H. S. Souter. North Africa.	23.3.43
2931301 Corporal K. E. Payne. Western Europe.	8.7.44	2939924 Corporal H. M. Stod- dart. Western Europe.	21.7.44
2931125 Corporal V. Phizackerley. North Africa.	6.4.43	2928548 Corporal C. Taylor. Middle East.	31.1.42
5509625 Corporal J. Perry. Western Europe.	4.3.45	2932183 Corporal J. Thomson. Burma.	25.2.45
2934875 Corporal F. Pierce. Western Europe.	18.7.44	2928984 Corporal F. Vickery. Italy.	5.8.44
2926640 Corporal J. Quinn. Middle East.	3.12.43	2933146 Corporal J. Walker. Aruba.	29.9.40
2939016 Corporal H. Race. Middle East.	24.10.42	2924992 Corporal G. D. Watson. F. and B.	2.6.43
2927191 Corporal G. Ramsay. F. and B.	11.6.40	2935416 Corporal J. Wheeler. Western Europe.	14.11.44
2928969 Corporal J. A. Reece. Middle East.	16.6.41	2931431 Corporal D. E. Wills. Middle East.	5.12.42
402141 Corporal J. Reid. Western Europe.	23.6.44		

LANCE-CORPORALS

2934500 Lance-Corporal J. F. Ashurst. U.K.	3.6.43	2926360 Lance-Corporal C. B. Cromb. F. and B.	2.7.43
2934334 Lance-Corporal A. A. Ballantyne. Burma.	8.7.42	2930955 Lance - Corporal J. D'Arcy. U.K.	13.11.41
2933786 Lance-Corporal V. J. F. Bergamini. Middle East.	2.11.42	2929881 Lance-Corporal L. T. Davies. Western Europe.	23.6.44
2211026 Lance-Corporal W. J. Blackwell. Middle East.	3.6.40	4540716 Lance - Corporal W. Dawes. Burma.	25.2.45
14419929 Lance-Corporal H. Blench. Western Europe.	24.3.45	4538732 Lance - Corporal A. Dean. Burma.	11.3.45
2929578 Lance-Corporal J. W. Bone. Burma.	10.1.45	3320502 Lance-Corporal T. E. Dearn. Burma.	4.5.44
2937337 Lance-Corporal G. Brodley. Sicily.	1.8.43	7343781 Lance-Corporal P. J. M. Dickson. Middle East.	23.10.40
2937073 Lance - Corporal J. Carey. U.K.	28.12.43	2928651 Lance - Corporal A. Douglas. Middle East.	27.7.40
2927587 Lance-Corporal J. Clark. Eritrea.	1.4.41	2927421 Lance - Corporal A. Douglas. Italy.	3.9.44
2931055 Lance-Corporal G. Colquhoun. Burma.	11.5.44	2928874 Lance - Corporal J. Duncan. Middle East.	4.12.41
2932839 Lance-Corporal J. Connolly. Italy.	22.2.44	2934336 Lance - Corporal J. Finnie. Middle East.	2.11.42
3320380 Lance - Corporal J. Corrigan. Burma.	22.6.44	2928215 Lance-Corporal D. T. Galloway. F. and B.	22.5.40

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2939826 Lance-Corporal D. B. Gaul. Italy.	22.2.44	2927715 Lance - Corporal A. Macbain. F. and B. (approx.)	5.6.40
2929344 Lance-Corporal J. M. Gordon. Middle East.	15.6.41	2926536 Lance - Corporal D. Macdonald. F. and B.	5.6.40
2926870 Lance-Corporal R. A. Gore. Italy.	15.5.44	825981 Lance - Corporal J. Macdonald. F. and B.	22.5.40
2932741 Lance - Corporal J. Graham. Middle East.	18.6.41	2929757 Lance - Corporal L. Macdonald. Middle East.	1.2.42
2926328 Lance - Corporal T. Graham. F. and B.	31.5.40	2931095 Lance - Corporal N. Macdonald. F. and B.	13.5.40
1837917 Lance-Corporal S. E. D. Gray. Western Europe.	26.2.45	318086 Lance - Corporal J. Mackay. Italy.	6.3.44
3320515 Lance-Corporal L. G. Green. Burma.	4.5.44	2929998 Lance-Corporal D. J. Macpake. F. and B.	29.6.40
2930886 Lance - Corporal T. Gribbon. Middle East.	24.10.42	2932208 Lance-Corporal D. J. Macpherson. Middle East.	24.10.42
2926354 Lance-Corporal W. B. Haig. Italy.	8.3.44	2932112 Lance - Corporal B. Main. Italy.	7.3.44
5888939 Lance-Corporal F. R. Handley. Western Europe.	25.3.45	2821577 Lance-Corporal J. R. Manderson. Italy.	30.7.44
2933864 Lance - Corporal W. Hanna. U.K.	11.5.41	2935561 Lance-Corporal J. M. G. Matthews. U.K.	1.3.41
2930333 Lance - Corporal B. Hart. F. and B.	22.5.40	2932527 Lance-Corporal R. H. M'Bride. North Africa.	8.5.43
2927097 Lance-Corporal J. G. Hart. Burma.	4.5.44	2934118 Lance - Corporal M. M'Connell. Western Europe.	22.7.44
2927175 Lance - Corporal D. Hendry, M.M. Burma.	5.5.44	2927006 Lance-Corporal D. R. M'Culloch. Italy.	6.9.44
2926408 Lance - Corporal G. Hogarth. F. and B.	26.5.40	2933485 Lance - Corporal J. M'Grath. Western Europe.	18.7.44
2933154 Lance - Corporal J. Hughes. U.K.	6.8.42	2927510 Lance - Corporal A. M'Gowan. U.K.	8.10.42
2928739 Lance - Corporal M. Hughes. Middle East.	5.12.41	2925388 Lance - Corporal J. M'Ilvar. Middle East.	15.6.41
2934700 Lance - Corporal E. Hullah. Sicily.	14.7.43	2933344 Lance-Corporal D. P. M'Kenna. Italy.	17.8.44
2932492 Lance-Corporal F. W. Innes. Western Europe.	17.2.45	2933779 Lance - Corporal J. M'Kie. Sicily.	1.8.43
2932101 Lance - Corporal J. Innes. Middle East.	16.1.42	3319634 Lance-Corporal T. J. M'Laughlin. Burma.	5.5.44
2938094 Lance - Corporal F. Jennings. Middle East.	16.6.41	2927662 Lance-Corporal J. A. M'Lean. F. and B.	4.6.40
2935788 Lance-Corporal J. H. Jolly. Middle East.	24.10.42	3132946 Lance - Corporal J. Miller. Western Europe.	18.7.44
2930265 Lance - Corporal T. Kane. Western Europe.	24.3.45	2931896 Lance-Corporal R. S. Moore-Hemsley. Burma.	30.4.44
2932575 Lance - Corporal P. Kelly. Middle East.	2.11.41	14357600 Lance-Corporal D. L. Motion. Western Europe.	13.6.44
3243072 Lance-Corporal D. A. Kerr. Middle East.	21.6.42	2932403 Lance - Corporal S. Murray. Middle East.	24.10.42
2934143 Lance - Corporal T. King. North Africa.	23.3.43	2930160 Lance - Corporal J. O'Neill. Eritrea.	29.1.41
2928970 Lance - Corporal W. Lachlan. Middle East.	16.6.41	2932010 Lance - Corporal R. Paterson. F. and B. (approx.)	3.6.40
2930703 Lance - Corporal G. Laing. F. and B.	18.5.40	2930242 Lance-Corporal W. J. Redmond. Middle East.	16.6.41

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2934076 Lance - Corporal S. Rifkin. North Africa.	6.4.43	2931169 Lance-Corporal J. A. Stewart. Italy.	13.9.43
2933308 Lance-Corporal R. C. Robinson. Burma.	19.6.44	2925851 Lance - Corporal P. Stewart. North Africa.	23.3.43
3318783 Lance - Corporal H. Ronnay. Middle East.	15.6.41	2937607 Lance-Corporal T. A. Stewart. Burma.	14.5.44
854005 Lance-Corporal C. A. Ross. Eritrea.	16.3.41	4861459 Lance - Corporal H. Thompson. North Africa.	23.3.43
2932151 Lance-Corporal M. B. Ross. North Africa.	6.4.43	2930518 Lance-Corporal H. G. Thomson. Western Europe.	22.7.44
4614644 Lance - Corporal A. Russell. F. and B.	2.4.44	13021426 Lance-Corporal A. R. T. Ticehurst. Italy.	23.5.44
3320134 Lance - Corporal C. Seagrave. Eritrea.	27.1.41	2933544 Lance - Corporal J. Tipping. Burma.	25.2.45
2928616 Lance - Corporal A. Skinner. Middle East.	23.6.41	2928877 Lance-Corporal H. F. Urquhart. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2934185 Lance - Corporal G. Smith. Middle East.	24.10.42	2926992 Lance - Corporal D. Wallace. U.K.	26.9.41
2932611 Lance - Corporal J. Smith. Middle East.	6.12.41	2932269 Lance - Corporal C. Walsh. F. and B. (approx.)	5.6.40
2932191 Lance-Corporal J. D. O. Spence. Middle East.	7.10.42	2937048 Lance - Corporal J. Watson. Western Europe.	13.6.44
2931844 Lance - Corporal J. Sprout. Middle East.	3.11.41	2935417 Lance-Corporal J. F. Whitelaw. U.K.	4.3.41
2932164 Lance - Corporal J. Stevenson. F. and B. (approx.)	7.4.45	2939782 Lance-Corporal A. M. Young. Middle East.	24.10.42

### PRIVATES

1646811 Private W. Adams. Burma.	3.3.45	14490362 Private F. A. Ashmore. U.K.	9.5.45
4541259 Private C. W. Alcock. Burma.	4.4.45	2934737 Private W. Ashworth. Western Europe.	4.7.44
2930983 Private J. A. Alexander. North Africa.	6.4.43	1618840 Private E. D. Aston. Western Europe.	10.8.44
2928154 Private D. Allan. F. and B.	3.7.41	2938115 Private E. L. Atkins. Burma.	4.4.45
2932323 Private I. Allan. F. and B.	3.6.40	2932244 Private R. Atkinson. F. and B.	9.6.40
3318427 Private J. W. Allan. Middle East. (approx.)	16.6.41	2888492 Private W. J. Auchterlonie. Italy.	28.5.44
2935649 Private J. C. Allison. Middle East.	24.10.42	2932437 Private T. Babbington. F. and B. (approx.)	26.4.41
14578044 Private A. G. Alltree. Burma.	25.2.45	5733692 Private A. W. J. Bailey. Western Europe.	24.4.45
2930340 Private D. Anderson. Western Europe.	17.11.44	6290905 Private C. H. Bailey. Italy.	23.2.44
2932048 Private J. Anderson. F. and B.	25.5.40	3768743 Private T. F. Bailey. North Africa.	23.3.43
3325672 Private J. Anderson. Western Europe.	23.10.44	2927412 Private A. Bain. F. and B. (approx.)	5.6.40
2940187 Private T. Anderson. Italy.	9.5.45	2939193 Private A. Bain. Middle East.	24.10.42
2985122 Private W. Anderson. Italy.	14.9.44	2928685 Private R. Bain. Italy.	5.11.42

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2940163 Private T. W. Bain- bridge. Italy.	4.8.44	2930570 Private G. M. C. Bennett. North Africa.	6.4.43
2935606 Private L. Baistow. Middle East.	27.7.42	2933531 Private S. E. Bennett. Burma.	5.5.44
19800 Private J. Baker. U.K.	26.9.39	13020551 Private S. Bergliter. U.K.	29.7.43
5121138 Private J. Baker. North Africa.	23.3.43	3064411 Private R. Berry. Sicily.	26.7.43
6103145 Private R. J. Baker. Western Europe.	24.3.45	2932348 Private D. Blair. F. and B.	21.5.40
11419264 Private J. L. Barber. Western Europe.	21.8.44	2935434 Private D. Blair. Italy.	7.3.44
2938419 Private R. Barclay. Burma.	5.5.44	2932408 Private D. Black. Italy.	18.5.44
5342991 Private H. J. Barker. Western Europe.	19.4.45	2932049 Private E. T. Blount. Italy.	17.9.44
3975371 Private W. Barker. Balkans and Greece.	16.1.45	2929838 Private K. W. Blundell. Italy.	16.3.44
2937761 Private J. Barrie. Middle East.	15.6.41	14650917 Private R. F. Bonner. Italy.	5.8.44
2940189 Private W. Barron. Italy.	1.10.44	3132831 Private P. Booth. North Africa.	6.4.43
2828004 Private F. F. Barton. Burma.	25.2.45	744507 Private J. Borthwick. F. and B.	27.5.40
2934536 Private J. Basford. Burma.	6.6.44	14201323 Private J. R. Bouch. North Africa.	6.4.43
2932683 Private C. F. Bather. North Africa.	23.3.43	3652341 Private J. Bowes. Western Europe.	24.3.45
1824907 Private W. Baxendale. U.K.	6.7.45	1527836 Private A. D. Breen. Western Europe.	20.8.44
5350671 Private G. Bayley. Western Europe.	20.8.44	2927405 Private P. Breen. F. and B.	22.5.40
2881208 Private J. A. C. Baynes. Italy.	14.5.44	2940024 Private J. Brennan. Sicily.	1.8.43
2934666 Private R. Beacham. Burma.	11.3.45	2935444 Private W. Bresler. Middle East.	21.6.42
2932961 Private J. Beattie. Italy.	19.9.44	4462691 Private W. H. C. Briggs. Burma.	29.4.44
2937863 Private F. Beattie. Middle East.	5.12.41	2931642 Private J. Bromiley. F. and B. (approx.)	10.6.40
1799899 Private H. T. Beattie. Italy.	4.8.44	2985156 Private A. Brown. Italy.	11.6.44
2931690 Private A. W. Begg. Middle East.	14.12.42	14698564 Private A. J. Brown. Western Europe.	23.10.44
3187918 Private A. Bell. Middle East.	17.9.39	2927125 Private J. Brown. F. and B.	27.5.40
2930087 Private A. Bell. Eritrea.	15.3.41	14214530 Private J. Brown. Italy.	15.3.44
2938420 Private J. B. Bell. Middle East.	2.11.42	2932052 Private L. M'L. Brown. F. and B.	28.6.43
6985757 Private J. S. Bell. Italy.	7.5.44	2930727 Private P. Brown. U.K.	2.5.41
3318835 Private W. Bell. Italy.	7.3.44	6351182 Private W. J. Brown. Western Europe.	18.8.44
4864348 Private H. H. Bemrose. Western Europe.	30.12.44	1566272 Private W. J. Brown. Western Europe.	23.10.44

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14498340 Private W. P. Brown. Western Europe.	9.2.45	14741845 Private J. Campbell. Western Europe.	10.1.45
1793030 Private W. H. Brownlee. Western Europe.	30.4.45	2937383 Private J. Campbell. U.K.	14.1.45
3191704 Private W. R. Brownlee. North Africa.	6.4.43	2932271 Private J. L. Campbell. F. and B.	17.4.41
2931925 Private J. Bruce. F. and B.	9.7.40	2929944 Private L. Campbell. Middle East.	24.10.42
2939441 Private J. Bruce. Italy.	19.3.44	2931229 Private N. J. Camp- bell. Middle East.	5.12.42
329958 Private W. Bruce. Western Europe.	9.7.44	2933357 Private R. Campbell. Burma.	10.6.44
2933989 Private M. Bryant. Italy.	7.3.44	2932483 Private T. Campbell. U.K.	22.7.40
2939102 Private T. Bryce. Burma.	25.2.45	2928704 Private W. Campbell. Middle East.	15.6.41
2935447 Private C. Buchan. Middle East.	4.12.41	14211957 Private W. C. Camp- bell. Italy.	1.10.44
2939667 Private J. Buchanan. Middle East.	24.10.42	2937642 Private A. Cardow. U.K.	26.5.43
2937341 Private J. Buchanan. Burma.	25.2.45	2938959 Private C. Carey. U.K.	24.6.44
2937638 Private J. Buick. U.K.	15.3.41	14585601 Private A. W. Carless. Western Europe.	19.4.45
4541051 Private H. E. Burgess. Burma.	4.5.44	2930902 Private J. K. Carr. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2930140 Private G. Burnett. Eritrea.	31.1.41	2930317 Private P. Carr. F. and B.	8.1.41
2938585 Private J. Burnett. Middle East.	21.6.42	3320376 Private F. Carroll. Burma.	21.2.45
2932686 Private A. J. Burns. North Africa.	23.3.43	2933076 Private M. Carroll. Sicily.	13.7.43
14689024 Private H. W. Burt. Western Europe.	20.8.44	2933127 Private R. Carroll. Italy.	19.12.44
2935451 Private J. J. Byrne. Italy.	7.10.43	2933806 Private C. Carruthers. Western Europe.	16.6.44
2929289 Private P. Cairney. F. and B.	6.6.40	3320377 Private T. Carswell. India.	15.7.42
2937380 Private J. Caldwell. Middle East.	3.11.42	3320125 Private G. Carter. Middle East.	15.6.41
2815146 Private D. Cameron. F. and B.	9.3.40	2933781 Private J. O. Chaddock. Western Europe.	14.6.44
2930900 Private D. A. Cameron. U.K.	30.3.41	3776276 Private J. Chadwick. Western Europe.	23.6.44
2928722 Private G. Cameron. Middle East. (approx.)	21.6.42	4748983 Private C. Chamber- lain. Western Europe.	4.10.44
2937382 Private S. Cameron. Burma.	4.5.44	5990220 Private K. R. Childs. Italy.	1.10.44
2927851 Private A. Campbell. F. and B.	4.6.40	2930110 Private A. C. Chisholm. Middle East.	5.12.42
2927866 Private A. Campbell. F. and B.	6.6.40	2937646 Private J. Chisholm. Burma.	7.5.44
2930654 Private A. Campbell. Western Europe.	18.7.44	14796457 Private J. Clachers. Western Europe.	13.4.45
2928425 Private F. Campbell. Middle East.	7.12.41	2937647 Private J. Clark. U.K.	24.12.40



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2884065 Private J. Clark. Italy.	11.6.44	2937884 Private S. Crawford. Italy.	11.1.43
2928977 Private S. Clayforth. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2928134 Private J. Cronan. Burma.	17.5.44
2940134 Private O. Cockburn. North Africa.	15.4.43	14584154 Private T. E. Crook. Balkans and Greece.	6.12.44
2933444 Private G. Cockram. Western Europe.	8.8.44	2932627 Private R. A. Crowe. Middle East.	10.12.40
2926591 Private G. Coffield. F. and B.	27.5.40	2939813 Private J. M. Cruick- shanks. Western Europe.	13.6.44
14214536 Private K. R. Cole. Italy.	26.3.44	2934794 Private J. Cuffe. Italy.	12.3.44
14678018 Private J. H. Coleman. Western Europe.	7.7.44	14282448 Private T. H. Cumming. Sicily.	14.7.43
2928595 Private E. J. Collard. F. and B.	22.5.40	3778556 Private J. E. Cunning- ham. Middle East.	13.3.42
14675316 Private J. Collins. Western Europe.	20.8.44	2932056 Private J. Curry. F. and B.	18.10.40
2823226 Private P. R. Collins. Burma.	5.5.44	2933671 Private J. Cusick. Middle East. (approx.)	14.9.42
14434051 Private C. Colquhoun. Western Europe.	16.6.44	5501805 Private V. J. Cutter. India.	21.4.45
3066866 Private S. Colquhoun. Sicily.	1.8.43	14722303 Private A. Daines. Western Europe.	9.10.44
2936065 Private G. H. Connell. U.K.	30.11.40	2933435 Private M. J. Dake. Middle East.	8.7.42
2926004 Private E. Connelly. F. & B.	4.6.40	2935845 Private J. Dalrymple. Middle East.	2.11.42
3320378 Private A. Connor. Burma.	4.5.44	2933816 Private T. Dalton. North Africa.	6.4.43
2933545 Private J. T. Connor. U.K.	28.2.40	4535824 Private F. T. Danes. Middle East.	15.6.41
3130938 Private J. Conroy. Western Europe.	8.8.44	3320038 Private J. Darlow. Burma.	15.4.44
14709339 Private R. Cook. Western Europe.	17.2.45	2936237 Private D. Darroch. Middle East.	25.10.42
2935234 Private J. Corkell. Middle East.	31.1.42	14733714 Private R. P. Darvill. Western Europe.	11.1.45
2933412 Private D. Cormack. Western Europe.	9.2.45	2932888 Private D. S. Davidson. Eritrea.	5.2.41
2928842 Private G. M. Cowan. Middle East.	5.12.41	4928736 Private L. H. Davies. Western Europe.	13.8.44
2937883 Private J. C. M. Cowan. Middle East.	4.12.41	2932570 Private S. G. Davies. Middle East.	2.11.42
2940198 Private W. Cowie. Italy.	11.3.44	2927359 Bandsman J. A. Davis. Middle East.	17.6.41
3058821 Private R. M. Cowper. Middle East.	30.10.42	14421268 Private L. De-Haan. Western Europe.	1.7.44
2927168 Private G. Coyle. F. and B.	22.5.40	4809514 Private E. Deans. North Africa.	23.3.43
2932309 Private F. Crabtree. F. and B.	4.6.40	2934362 Private W. M. Dearie. Western Europe.	13.6.44
2931470 Private J.O. Crawford. Italy.	18.9.44	3779187 Private T. Deevey. Italy.	22.2.44
2934211 Private R. A. Crawford. Italy.	30.12.43	2930058 Private J. Delaney. Eritrea.	15.3.41

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2928879 Private J. Devlin. Middle East.	16.6.41	14607178 Private J. C. Dunlop. Italy.	13.9.44
2924600 Private J. Devlin. Middle East.	9.12.41	14790765 Private R. Duxbury. Western Europe.	23.2.45
3055177 Private J. Dick. Eritrea.	13.2.41	14648303 Private L. C. Earp. U.K.	2.1.44
3191388 Private R. Dickson. North Africa.	23.3.43	14780420 Private W. H. East- hope. Western Europe.	25.4.45
14340000 Private W. Diggle. Western Europe.	8.6.44	2929211 Private E. Eaton. Western Europe.	4.10.44
14201496 Private S. E. Dinenge. U.K.	21.1.45	2926919 Private J. Edgar. F. and B.	28.2.42
2935664 Private E. Ditchburn. Middle East.	4.11.42	14648304 Private R. C. Edney. Western Europe.	14.8.44
14852264 Private J. W. Dixon. U.K.	29.3.45	13106793 Private A. Edwards. Western Europe.	16.8.44
2933307 Private R. Dolier. F. and B.	14.4.45	14568795 Private J. Edwards. Burma.	26.2.45
2928342 Private A. Donald. Eritrea.	15.3.41	4538559 Private G. Elliott. Burma.	14.5.44
3059886 Private W. Dooley. Sicily.	2.8.43	3053902 Private F. Elsmore. North Africa.	23.3.43
2930167 Private J. Doran. Middle East.	9.12.40	14550510 Private G. H. Entwistle. Western Europe.	23.6.44
2935855 Private W. Dorman. Middle East.	5.12.41	2938300 Private A. W. Evans. Burma.	5.5.44
2937905 Private J. Dotts. Italy.	11.11.42	6985970 Private J. Everard. Burma.	11.6.44
2931148 Private I. W. Douglas. U.K.	10.11.41	2928596 Private H. Ewing. Middle East.	5.1.41
14633739 Private W. Douglas. Italy.	19.9.44	2935860 Private R. H. Ewing. North Africa.	23.3.43
2938531 Private B. Downie. U.K.	23.10.44	14595226 Private P. T. H. Fairbairn. Burma.	5.5.44
2932359 Private D. Downie. F. and B.	9.6.40	2940030 Private J. Fairclough. North Africa.	23.3.43
1658901 Private A. R. Downing. Western Europe.	10.1.45	2934672 Private J. Fairhurst. North Africa.	6.4.43
2929730 Private A. Drummond. F. and B.	4.6.40	2975652 Private J. J. Fairley. Western Europe.	13.6.44
2937911 Private D. Drummond. Middle East.	15.6.41	2928572 Private G. S. Falconer. Middle East.	16.6.41
3318848 Private J. G. Drysdale. Italy.	19.3.44	2934365 Private R. Falls. South Africa.	20.4.43
2939996 Private R. L. Duck- worth. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2939997 Private G. E. Fardoe. North Africa.	13.3.43
2932497 Private D. Duff. North Africa.	23.3.43	2933805 Private J. Farries. Middle East.	28.10.42
2929145 Private R. J. Dunbar. F. and B.	1.6.40	2933603 Private J. Farrimond. North Africa.	23.3.43
2939683 Private J. Duncan. Western Europe.	22.7.44	14657836 Private H. Fazakerley. Italy.	15.3.44
2938337 Private M. Duncan. Middle East.	5.12.41	2931090 Private E. Ferguson. Middle East.	15.10.43
2930369 Private F. Dunlop. Italy.	15.5.44	2937923 Private J. Ferguson. Middle East.	24.3.43

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2763525 Private P. Ferguson. Burma.	5.5.44	14324972 Private H. H. Gardner. Balkans and Greece.	16.1.45
4533505 Private G. Fillingham. Burma.	5.5.44	2934045 Private D. H. Gather- cole. Italy.	14.9.44
2926841 Private A. Finlayson. F. and B.	27.5.40	14795556 Private L. P. Gerelli. Western Europe.	25.3.45
2939686 Private D. Finlayson. Western Europe.	9.2.45	2935603 Private D. Gibson. Middle East.	6.12.41
2930472 Private D. W. Finlay- son. F. and B. (approx.)	4.6.40	2932823 Private J. Gibson. Middle East.	4.12.41
2886954 Private J. Flannigan. Burma.	6.5.44	2937770 Private J. W. Gilchrist. Burma.	18.5.44
1650123 Private A. W. Fletcher. Western Europe.	28.3.45	2925608 Private D. Gillan. F. and B.	10.6.44
1598999 Private E. J. Flynn. Western Europe.	8.8.44	2937771 Private D. Gillespie. Middle East.	21.6.42
2931333 Private A. Forbes. Middle East.	9.12.40	2932081 Private S. Gillies. Burma.	5.5.44
14717295 Private D. Forbes. Western Europe.	29.10.44	2932463 Private J. Gilliland. F. and B.	16.10.44
2933496 Private E. A. Ford. Middle East.	4.12.41	2932085 Private T. Glancy. Italy.	8.3.44
2929318 Private D. A. Forsyth. Middle East.	16.6.41	14668728 Private W. Gledhill. Western Europe.	10.2.45
4392784 Private W. Foster. Burma.	25.2.45	2937937 Private J. Godfrey. Italy.	11.3.42
4540841 Private T. B. Fothergill. Burma.	21.4.44	2933009 Private T. Gold. U.K.	27.2.42
830393 Private J. F. Fowler. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2934368 Private G. M. Goldie. Middle East.	24.10.42
2930027 Private A. Fraser. F. and B.	14.4.41	2935269 Private C. Gordon. Middle East.	2.5.44
2930831 Private D. Fraser. F. and B.	5.6.40	2934237 Private D. H. Gordon. Western Europe.	11.10.44
2932606 Private L. Fraser. Middle East.	24.8.42	4265469 Private G. Gordon. Middle East.	5.12.41
2934225 Private M. Fraser. Italy.	27.10.43	2932299 Private S. R. Gordon. Italy.	4.9.44
2934226 Private T. C. Fraser. Middle East. (approx.)	24.11.41	2928364 Private J. Gormley. Middle East.	17.6.40
2939689 Private W. Fraser. Western Europe.	5.10.44	3716041 Private J. Gormley. North Africa.	6.4.43
2934228 Private C. Frati. Middle East.	23.10.42	2937939 Private J. Gormley. Western Europe.	8.8.44
14216909 Private H. French. Western Europe.	23.10.44	2930082 Private R. M. Gorrian. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2928355 Private W. Frizzle. Middle East.	6.12.41	2937941 Private T. Gowran. Italy.	14.2.43
2939824 Private A. M. Frood. Western Europe.	24.3.45	2937943 Private A. Graham. Middle East.	4.12.41
4537170 Private J. Fryer. Middle East.	9.12.40	2930094 Private C. M'K. Graham. F. and B.	23.5.40
2938222 Private T. Gallacher. Burma.	25.2.45	2928956 Private D. Graham. Italy.	6.9.44
14612568 Private A. A. Gamble. Western Europe.	18.7.44	2937944 Private J. Graham. Middle East.	1.3.42

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2937945 Private W. Graham. Middle East.	15.6.41	2933829 Private J. Hannah. Italy.	22.2.44
2933719 Private A. Grant. Middle East.	24.10.42	2937301 Private G. Hanson. Western Europe.	25.3.45
2929926 Private D. M. Grant. F. and B.	13.5.40	2934371 Private A. Hardie. Middle East.	2.11.42
2931958 Private G. J. Grant. U.K.	12.7.45	2930398 Private H. Harding. F. and B.	(approx.) 5.1.41
2931014 Private J. Grant. F. and B.	18.5.40	2928865 Private W. R. Hare. U.K.	19.2.41
14390421 Private J. Grant. Burma.	16.3.45	4977942 Private W. H. Harley. Burma.	5.5.44
2890670 Private W. Grant. Italy.	5.8.44	1142065 Private K. Harpley. Western Europe.	18.7.44
14384987 Private A. E. Gray. Burma.	6.5.44	2929597 Private R. Harrison. Western Europe.	22.6.44
2930329 Private J. J. Greechan. F. and B. (approx.)	21.5.40	2933501 Private R. J. Harrison. Middle East.	5.12.42
3060749 Private F. G. Green. North Africa.	23.3.43	14577606 Private S. Hartill. Western Europe.	11.9.44
14423580 Private J. J. Green. Western Europe.	24.3.45	13050661 Private E. Hartley. Western Europe.	21.7.44
3318591 Private (T/Sergeant) R. Green. Middle East. (India Unattached List.)	31.10.41	2934242 Private P. J. Harty. U.K.	10.6.41
14686357 Private W. Greer. Western Europe.	8.8.44	2759401 Private J. Harvie. Italy.	9.8.44
2873759 Private J. J. Greig. F. and B.	18.5.40	14717315 Private R. Hawthorne. India.	21.11.44
2935275 Private H. Gribben. At Sea.	14.11.42	2931965 Private C. Hay. F. and B.	5.6.40
2933802 Private J. F. Grieve. U.K.	15.5.43	874263 Private R. Hay. F. and B.	26.5.40
2930107 Private W. Gunn. F. and B.	15.8.40	2932369 Private J. J. Healy. U.K.	20.7.40
14827705 Private J. Guttridge. Western Europe.	24.4.45	2932249 Private D. Hegarty. F. and B.	14.10.42
2929834 Private J. E. H. Gwynne. F. and B.	28.3.42	2930552 Private J. E. Henderson. F. and B.	4.6.40
14749067 Private F. Hailstone. Western Europe.	17.11.44	14993801 Private T. Hendry. U.K.	19.1.45
4349419 Private J. Hale. Western Europe.	18.7.44	4538225 Private J. W. Hepton- stall. India.	26.3.44
2940219 Private J. Halford. Western Europe.	29.8.44	2938092 Private L. Hey. Middle East.	15.6.41
2932404 Private J. Hall. Western Europe.	10.8.44	2930883 Private W. Hibbert. F. and B.	26.5.40
2984854 Private D. Hamilton. North Africa.	23.3.43	4915723 Private J. A. Hickman. Western Europe.	24.6.44
2935283 Private H. R. Hamilton. Middle East. (approx.)	9.12.43	2929331 Private C. Hill. F. and B.	24.5.41
14678092 Private J. D. W. Hamilton. Western Europe.	21.8.44	14217508 Private H. Hill. India.	26.8.43
6347006 Private E. Hammond. F. and B.	22.5.40	2931521 Private J. Hill. F. and B.	11.5.41
4393410 Private J. Hampson. Burma.	5.5.44	3975682 Private J. Hill. North Africa.	6.4.43

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2928045 Private A. Hialop. Eritrea.	26.3.41	14281980 Private T. M'E. Johnstone. Western Europe.	23.6.44
14209360 Private J. H. Hogg. North Africa.	6.4.43	2928695 Private W. Jolly. Middle East.	20.6.42
2930099 Private K. Holden. Middle East.	10.12.40	4922889 Private C. W. Jones. Western Europe.	10.2.45
3608363 Private W. Holden. Western Europe.	21.2.45	4698231 Private F. Jones. Western Europe.	8.8.44
14716294 Private H. Holder. Western Europe.	18.11.44	2989180 Private J. H. Jones. Italy.	26.5.44
14426461 Private M. J. Holland. Western Europe.	22.8.44	2940091 Private L. Jones. U.K.	23.1.43
3971721 Private E. G. Hooper. Western Europe.	8.8.44	2940002 Private N. K. Jones. Italy.	19.8.44
2932625 Private J. D. Horsfall. U.K.	20.12.39	283839 Private W. Jones. North Africa.	16.1.43
3056058 Private W. Howatson. U.K.	8.5.41	2766002 Private W. Jones. Italy.	7.3.44
3318997 Private J. E. Howe. Italy.	12.3.44	2933684 Private P. Keating. North Africa.	23.3.43
14432898 Private W. G. Howie. Western Europe.	19.4.45	7345526 Private W. Keddie. Middle East.	5.12.41
2940065 Private C. Hudson. North Africa.	6.4.43	2939369 Private J. L. Keil. Italy.	3.2.44
14401329 Private R. K. Hugh. Burma.	5.5.44	2937963 Private C. Kelly. Middle East.	6.12.41
14394192 Private A. E. Hughes. Western Europe.	9.2.45	2937964 Private E. Kelly. Middle East.	5.6.41
1509105 Private E. Hughes. Italy.	6.8.44	2933393 Private J. H. Kelso. Burma.	10.6.44
3062129 Private J. Humble. Western Europe.	16.6.44	1584543 Private C. Kemp. Burma.	25.2.45
2983138 Private J. T. Hutton. Italy.	8.7.45	2938095 Private G. Kendall. Middle East.	16.6.41
2930823 Private G. A. Ingram. Middle East.	30.10.42	2939370 Private G. C. Kennoway. Italy.	3.2.44
972377 Private N. Jackson. Italy.	25.7.44	2928678 Private T. H. Kerr. Eritrea.	15.3.41
14414323 Private R. James. Western Europe.	8.8.44	2937521 Private J. Kilmartin. U.K.	8.12.40
4916987 Private H. D. Jobling. Western Europe.	23.11.44	2928226 Private R. Kilroy. U.K.	29.6.40
14439614 Private R. Jobson. Western Europe.	17.2.45	2936217 Private R. S. King. Middle East.	1.11.42
14441901 Private F. G. Johnson. Western Europe.	9.10.44	3320430 Private W. Kirk. Western Europe.	10.2.45
2932382 Private J. M. Johnston. F. and B.	22.5.40	2766070 Private J. Knox. Burma.	5.5.44
2933368 Private R. H. Johnston. Italy.	6.9.44	4543145 Private C. T. B. Lamb. Western Europe.	17.2.45
2935883 Private B. J. Johnstone. Middle East.	4.12.41	3055302 Private C. Lang. North Africa.	23.3.43
2874754 Private D. M. John- stone. F. and B.	22.5.40	3322211 Private G. W. Langham. Western Europe.	16.6.44
2932282 Private R. A. John- stone. F. and B.	21.5.40	2934705 Private J. Langthorne. North Africa.	23.3.43

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2938235 Private T. Lapsley. Italy.	5.8.44	14498732 Private C. E. Macdonald. Western Europe.	18.11.44
2935314 Private J. Lavery. Middle East.	1.2.42	14620700 Private G. W. Macdonald. Burma.	4.5.44
2926310 Private J. R. Law. F. and B.	26.5.40	2929786 Private J. Macdonald. F. and B.	4.6.40
2934585 Private W. A. Lawton. U.K.	27.12.40	2930431 Private J. Macdonald. F. and B.	6.6.40
2989661 Private C. Lee. Italy.	13.9.44	2939636 Private J. Macdonald. Middle East.	24.10.42
1591391 Private A. E. Leigh. Italy.	15.9.44	2935908 Private J. Macdonald. Western Europe.	16.6.44
14798555 Private J. C. Lewis. Western Europe.	24.3.45	2929765 Private J. W. Macdonald. F. and B.	30.12.41
2928126 Private W. Lindsay. F. and B. (approx.)	19.5.40	2927789 Private K. Macdonald. Eritrea.	15.3.41
14442568 Private P. Little. Western Europe.	20.8.44	2935541 Private K. Macdonald. Middle East.	24.10.42
2939248 Private W. Lloyd. Middle East.	2.11.42	2926240 Private M. Macdonald. Western Europe.	16.6.44
2933443 Private W. Lloyd. Western Europe.	23.10.44	2929036 Private R. Macdonald. F. and B. (approx.)	4.6.40
2932272 Private D. M. Lobban. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2939217 Private W. C. Macdonald. Middle East.	2.11.42
5388168 Private B. Locke. Western Europe.	14.8.44	13014089 Private J. Macfarlane. North Africa.	23.3.43
2927502 Private A. Lockie. Middle East.	5.12.41	2993270 Private R. Macfarlane. Western Europe.	18.7.44
14719323 Private J. Lockwood. Western Europe.	23.10.44	2933107 Private J. Macgowan. North Africa.	16.3.43
14678728 Private T. Logan. Western Europe.	10.2.45	14411592 Private C. Machin. Western Europe.	9.2.45
3128715 Private B. Long. F. and B.	5.6.40	2930926 Private J. E. Macintyre. F. and B.	5.6.40
2934777 Private R. K. Lord. North Africa.	1.5.43	14214599 Private A. Macivor. Western Europe.	16.6.44
2938052 Private J. Lorimer. Middle East.	5.12.41	3318404 Private J. H. Mack. Middle East.	14.12.42
2939249 Private P. Loughrey. Middle East.	24.10.42	2938065 Private G. Mackay. Middle East.	22.6.42
2931214 Private W. J. Lovegrove. U.K.	12.12.39	2932512 Private G. J. D. Mackay. U.K.	19.11.40
2873995 Private C. J. Low. Italy.	18.5.44	2930881 Private A. S. Mackenzie. Middle East.	3.11.42
2928862 Private W. Loy. Middle East.	6.12.41	2929000 Private D. Mackenzie. Middle East.	23.10.40
14211168 Private J. Lumsden. U.K.	3.8.43	2930524 Private F. Mackenzie. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2940233 Private W. A. Lundie. Italy.	5.8.44	14364368 Private G. Mackenzie. U.K.	27.5.43
2929640 Private A. Macdonald. F. and B.	4.6.40	2933030 Private K. Mackenzie. Italy.	16.3.44
2931755 Private A. Macdonald. F. and B.	4.6.40	2939721 Private M. H. Mackenzie. Middle East.	24.10.42
407697 Private A. Macdonald. F. and B.	11.6.40	2931869 Private N. Mackenzie. F. and B.	12.8.40

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14634142 Private C. G. Mac- kinnon. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2931865 Private D. Martin. F. and B.	4.6.40
2932882 Private D. Mackintosh. F. and B. (approx.)	5.6.40	2930946 Private R. Martin. Norway.	30.5.40
2931365 Private D. A. Mac- kintosh. Eritrea.	3.2.41	2932844 Private W. Martin. F. and B. (approx.)	27.5.40
2930000 Private D. S. Mac- kintosh. Middle East.	2.11.42	4922206 Private W. Martley. Western Europe.	23.6.44
2930204 Private J. A. Mac- kintosh. Eritrea.	18.2.41	14653091 Private D. Massey. Western Europe.	14.8.44
2928906 Private M. Mackintosh. Middle East.	22.11.44	2939713 Private G. Masson. Middle East.	2.11.42
2930702 Private D. Maclachlan. F. and B.	5.6.40	14402256 Private J. T. Masters. Western Europe.	28.3.45
2820235 Private A. Maclean. Middle East.	4.12.41	2931740 Private M. D. Matheson. F. and B.	9.10.40
2938684 Private D. J. Maclean. Burma.	10.6.44	2931343 Private S. C. Matheson. Middle East.	12.5.44
2932210 Private A. U. Macleod. Middle East.	26.10.42	2928247 Private W. Mathie. F. and B.	21.5.40
2818093 Private G. Macleod. Italy.	6.3.44	2929383 Private J. L. D. Mawer. Middle East. (approx.)	15.6.41
2939394 Private N. Macleod. F. and B.	13.5.40	14390634 Private G. W. Maycock. Italy.	9.7.44
2933743 Private W. Macleod. U.K.	23.5.41	2928999 Private J. M'Allinden. Eritrea.	26.1.41
2938069 Private D. Macniven. North Africa.	23.3.43	2939851 Private J. M'Avoy. Middle East.	21.1.43
2932130 Private S. Macphail. F. and B.	10.6.40	2931296 Private A. M'Bain. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2929308 Private D. A. Macphee. F. and B.	5.6.40	2935538 Private W. M'Bride. Western Europe.	16.8.44
2932758 Private J. Macphee. F. and B.	7.6.40	4393456 Private P. M'Caffery. Burma.	14.4.44
2939739 Private J. H. Mac- pherson. Middle East.	2.11.42	2935502 Private H. A. M'Call. India.	23.11.44
2932001 Private R. G. Mac- pherson. F. and B. (approx.)	4.6.40	2932843 Private G. I. M'Callum. Italy.	5.3.44
2931166 Private W. E. Maddock. Western Europe.	24.3.45	2933092 Private J. M'Callum. Middle East.	6.11.42
3607987 Private C. A. Magee. Western Europe.	10.8.44	6980641 Private J. M'Callum. Burma.	26.4.44
2929007 Private J. Magee. Middle East.	24.3.42	2930073 Private B. M'Cash. Middle East.	10.12.40
4541068 Private W. Mageen. Burma.	15.5.44	14598916 Private W. G. M'Clelland. Western Europe.	23.10.44
2935015 Private A. Maguire. Italy. (approx.)	30.4.44	2932462 Private A. D. M'Coll. Italy.	4.3.44
2928115 Private C. Maitland. F. and B. (approx.)	20.5.40	3135252 Private R. B. M'Connell. At Sea.	24.7.42
2934418 Private H. Marsden. Middle East.	16.8.43	2930371 Private W. M'Conville. F. and B.	23.5.40
2930101 Private A. H. Marshall. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2932894 Private F. B. M'Cor- mack. Western Europe.	28.3.45
2939871 Private S. Marshall. Western Europe.	23.6.44	2930404 Private T. M'Cormack. F. and B.	11.4.42

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6209528 Private J. J. M'Cusker. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2934479 Private D. H. M'Kenzie. U.K.	13.8.41
2933258 Private J. J. M'Devitt. Italy.	19.3.44	2928863 Private T. M'Kirdy. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2928850 Private B. M'Donald. Eritrea.	31.1.41	3065385 Private A. H. M'Lachlan. Middle East.	2.11.42
2938414 Private J. M'Donald. Sicily.	1.8.43	2939865 Private J. M'Laren. Italy.	20.9.44
2931985 Private J. A. M'Donald. F. and B. (approx.)	13.6.40	2936167 Private R. M'Laren. U.K.	20.2.43
2929700 Private D. M'Donnell. F. and B. (approx.)	5.6.40	2933108 Private W. M'Laughlin. Burma.	30.4.44
2928915 Private W. M'Dougall. Middle East.	2.11.42	410344 Private D. M'Lean. F. and B.	27.5.40
2928736 Private J. M'Dowell. Middle East.	4.12.41	2985239 Private T. G. M'Lean. Italy.	15.3.44
2931715 Private N. M'Eachen. F. and B.	1.6.40	2939546 Private G. M'Leish. Italy.	4.9.44
2925860 Private J. P. M'Erlain. F. and B.	27.5.40	2937307 Private D. M'Leod. Italy.	4.3.44
3779153 Private H. M'Evoy. Middle East.	2.11.42	2935935 Private J. M'Leod. Western Europe.	13.6.44
2939857 Private J. M'Evoy. Italy.	28.2.44	2929107 Private J. A. M'Leod. F. and B.	4.6.40
2930370 Private J. D. M'Farlane. F. and B.	1.6.40	2931870 Private R. D. M'Leod. F. and B.	11.4.45
3130851 Private M. M'Farlane. Middle East.	24.10.42	2928781 Private I. M'Leod- Robertson. Middle East.	23.10.40
2939859 Private J. M'Garrity. North Africa.	23.3.43	14419251 Private T. M'Loughlin. Italy.	7.9.44
2939572 Private P. M'Govern. Western Europe.	19.4.45	14209168 Private A. M'Mahon. Italy.	5.3.44
2933624 Private F. M'Gowan. U.K.	31.3.41	991393 Private P. M'Mahon. Italy.	24.6.46
2940006 Private W. P. M'Grath. North Africa.	6.4.43	2937436 Private F. M'Millan. Middle East.	8.9.42
2932906 Private B. M'Hale. Burma.	5.5.44	2931859 Private J. M'Millan. F. and B.	5.5.43
2993467 Private S. M'Ilroy. U.K.	2.7.42	2933093 Private R. M'Millan. North Africa.	23.3.43
2930332 Private T. M'Inally. F. and B.	21.5.40	2927224 Private D. M'Menamay. F. and B.	16.6.43
14214598 Private A. M'Intosh. Italy.	23.2.44	2929600 Private T.A.M'Monagle. Western Europe.	26.7.44
2940248 Private A. M'Intyre. Italy.	18.9.44	2935356 Private J. M'Murrich. Italy.	28.2.44
2935547 Private W. M'Intyre. U.K.	20.8.43	2939274 Private E. J. M'Nairn. Italy.	19.3.44
2929066 Piper A. M'Kay. F. and B. (approx.)	3.6.40	1077188 Private A. M'Pherson. Italy.	1.10.44
2934887 Private J. M'Kay. Middle East.	5.12.42	2928688 Private J. M'Phillips. Western Europe.	13.6.44
2935984 Private J. M'Kechnie. U.K.	24.11.41	2938492 Private M. M'Queen. Burma.	9.1.45
14588007 Private H. M'Kellar. Burma.	4.5.44	2939277 Private D. A. M'Rae. Sicily.	17.7.43



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2931721 Private O. F. M'Rae. F. and B.	4.6.40	2933621 Private P. Morley. Western Europe.	13.6.44
4545769 Private W. Medley. North Africa.	22.3.43	2931097 Private A. Morrison. F. and B.	5.6.40
14207515 Private F. J. Meek. Western Europe.	17.11.44	14563695 Private J. Morrison. India.	8.11.44
3055449 Private W. Melrose. F. and B.	16.4.45	11409735 Private J. M. Morrison. Italy.	18.9.44
2932699 Private R. R. Meneely. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2939624 Private R. Morrison. Middle East.	29.10.42
2933789 Private A. D. B. Menziés. Western Europe.	24.3.45	2924181 Private R. E. Morrison. F. and B.	5.6.40
2934172 Private J. Michael. Burma.	4.5.44	4751125 Private C. D. Mortimer. North Africa.	6.4.43
14214579 Private D. M. Millan. Western Europe.	13.8.44	2940173 Private S. Mortimer. Middle East.	21.1.43
2930153 Private J. H. Millan. U.K.	12.7.41	2933691 Private S. Mottershead. North Africa.	23.3.43
2928155 Private S. Millar. F. and B.	23.5.40	14722324 Private F. C. Moyses. Western Europe.	10.1.45
2932413 Private W. H. Miller. F. and B.	7.6.40	2938377 Private J. Muir. Middle East.	4.12.41
2935364 Private M. W. Milligan. North Africa.	23.3.43	11052103 Private D. Mullen. Western Europe.	30.8.44
2929988 Private A. Milne. Middle East.	31.10.42	2926625 Private T. Mullen. Western Europe.	13.6.44
2930077 Private F. Milne. Middle East.	9.12.40	14437753 Private D. Mulvihill. Western Europe.	18.7.44
2934707 Private C. W. Minikin. North Africa.	16.6.43	2931492 Private A. Munro. F. and B.	5.6.40
14573461 Private G. W. Miree. Italy.	23.8.44	2928607 Private H. Munro. Western Europe.	9.2.45
2932113 Private J. E. Mirzan. Italy.	11.6.44	2928118 Private J. Munro. F. and B.	22.5.40
2933469 Private J. H. Mitchell. North Africa.	28.3.43	2930396 Private J. A. Munro. F. and B.	4.6.40
3320212 Private K. Mitchell. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2940098 Private J. A. Murchison. Western Europe.	3.7.44
2939258 Private P. Mitchell. Middle East.	14.12.42	2935950 Private W. Murphy. North Africa.	23.3.43
3320534 Private R. Mitchell. Burma.	25.2.45	2937667 Private J. Murray. U.K.	2.7.41
1808113 Private W. Mitchell. Western Europe.	26.3.45	2928371 Private J. Murray. Italy.	12.6.44
2928013 Private W. P. Mochan. Middle East.	16.6.41	2928064 Private J. H. Murray. F. and B.	4.6.40
2928489 Private F. W. Monaghan. F. and B.	27.5.40	403291 Private L. M'I. S. Murray. Italy.	6.9.44
2934173 Private A. Mont- gomery. Middle East.	2.11.42	2928797 Private W. Murray. Middle East.	13.8.42
2939872 Private J. Moore. Middle East.	24.1.43	2936092 Private T. Nash. U.K.	9.9.41
3601541 Private J. R. Morgan. Western Europe.	21.2.45	2929005 Private F. Neal. Eritrea.	15.3.41
4985598 Private D. Morley. Burma.	5.5.44	2990855 Private J. Neville. Balkans and Greece.	27.6.45

2932563 Private A. S. Newall. Middle East.	3.11.41	2932594 Private H. Pemberton. Middle East.	3.11.41
14782639 Private P. I. Newitt. Western Europe.	29.3.45	14417439 Private P. Peoples. Western Europe.	18.8.44
2940176 Private J. H. Nichol. Middle East.	21.1.43	5386692 Private F. G. Perkins. Western Europe.	15.8.44
2937739 Private D. W. Nicol. Middle East.	13.3.42	14624678 Private H. E. Perkins. Burma.	12.5.44
2932005 Private G. Nisbet. F. and B.	14.4.45	14727633 Private W. D. Perry. Western Europe.	23.10.44
2929890 Private J. F. Noll. Middle East.	24.10.42	14413373 Private D. A. Pett. Western Europe.	24.6.44
2928552 Private A. Noon. Middle East.	8.7.41	2935379 Private W. Phillips. North Africa.	16.7.43
4393452 Private G. Norbury. Burma.	7.5.44	14627882 Private F. Pike. Western Europe.	24.10.44
3317185 Private A. North. Burma.	5.5.44	919400 Private W. R. Poole. Western Europe.	20.8.44
2929268 Private A. Norton. Middle East.	4.12.41	14790433 Private J. Porteous. Western Europe.	24.3.45
4614537 Private R. Nugent. North Africa.	6.4.43	3136365 Private J. Pottles. North Africa.	26.4.43
2935637 Private W. Ogston. North Africa.	6.4.43	2932557 Private J. A. Povey. Middle East.	4.11.42
3131389 Private F. Oliver. Middle East.	3.11.42	2933600 Private A. E. Prescott. North Africa.	6.4.43
2930054 Private R. O'Neill. Middle East.	24.10.42	4912853 Private F. T. Price. Western Europe.	29.6.44
14742041 Private F. O'Reilly. Western Europe.	16.11.44	2928831 Private A. Pryde. Middle East.	15.6.41
14205461 Private A. Orr. North Africa.	6.4.43	3778393 Private R. Quayle. Middle East.	5.12.42
2817068 Private C. Orr. Italy.	5.8.44	14790847 Private R. Quigley. Western Europe.	17.2.45
2928450 Private J. A. Orr. Eritrea.	31.1.41	4863689 Private C. N. B. Quinn. Middle East.	24.10.42
2051906 Private A. W. Overy. North Africa.	23.3.43	2885693 Private J. Quirie. Italy.	5.8.44
2928351 Private B. Padden. Middle East.	15.6.41	2925819 Private W. Rae. F. and B.	21.5.40
2929272 Private F. Parfitt. U.K.	13.8.41	852917 Private J. Ray. U.K.	24.10.42
4746348 Private J. Parham. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2934671 Private J. Rayner. Burma.	18.5.44
4980916 Private T. Parr. Burma.	6.5.44	2938167 Private A. Redaelli. U.K.	9.3.41
14650168 Private J. E. Parry. Western Europe.	23.10.44	2890615 Private A. L. Reid. Italy.	9.9.44
2939748 Private A. C. Paterson. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2939918 Private D. Reid. North Africa.	23.3.43
2939162 Private J. Paterson. India.	25.2.45	2925514 Private K. Reid. F. and B.	5.6.40
14515850 Private J. D. Patterson. Italy.	7.3.44	2930635 Private S. C. Reid. F. and B.	4.6.40
4986228 Private J. W. Patterson. Burma.	10.6.44	2927083 Private J. A. Reith. F. and B.	27.1.45

14410115	Private A. E. Rennie. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2939238	Private R. Russell. Middle East.	21.10.42
2939751	Private J. Renwick. Middle East.	24.10.42	14724137	Private J. H. Salisbury. Western Europe.	17.11.44
2937990	Private J. H. Renwick. Middle East.	4.12.41	2925685	Private J. Salkeld. U.K.	14.6.42
2930172	Private D. E. Reynolds. Burma.	5.5.44	13020884	Private R. Sampson. North Africa.	25.4.43
14002895	Private J. Reynolds. Western Europe.	23.10.44	2929781	Private J. Sandlan. F. and B.	4.6.40
4393473	Private G. Rhodes. Burma.	14.5.44	3305054	Private A. Sannachan. F. and B.	22.5.40
2933128	Private R. Rice. Italy.	20.2.44	2940272	Private J. Savage. North Africa.	29.1.44
3055093	Private N. Rigby. North Africa.	3.1.44	14795588	Private C. M. Scarrett. Western Europe.	24.3.45
3188431	Private J. Rigg. North Africa.	23.3.43	4806420	Private E. F. Schmidt. Italy.	20.4.44
4462691	Private W. H. Riggs. Burma.	29.4.44	2935585	Private A. Scobie. Middle East.	24.10.42
2932267	Private G. Robb. Middle East.	30.10.42	4541755	Private T. Scorer. Burma.	10.4.43
2937993	Private J. Robb. Middle East.	5.12.41	14209259	Private C. Scott. Burma.	6.5.44
14656554	Private J. Robb. Western Europe.	6.6.44	2937594	Private J. Scott. Middle East. (approx.)	16.6.41
3245880	Private T. Robertson. Burma.	10.6.44	1830239	Private J. Scott. U.K.	23.6.45
2928043	Private R. Robson. F. and B.	29.5.40	2925640	Private J. Scullion. U.K.	5.12.43
2927426	Private R. S. R. Rodham. Middle East.	17.10.40	2928205	Private D. Semple. India.	9.9.44
2932043	Private J. M. Rooney. F. and B. (approx.)	5.6.40	2821464	Private A. J. Shand. Burma.	25.2.45
2928545	Private P. Rooney. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2932787	Private C. Shaw. F. and B.	9.6.40
6216077	Private F. A. Rose. India.	11.8.45	2927569	Private G. Shaw. F. and B.	28.5.40
2931773	Private A. Ross. F. and B.	5.6.40	2933446	Private H. Shaw. Middle East.	11.1.43
2937590	Private A. Ross. Burma.	25.2.45	14657890	Private E. W. Shearman. Italy.	5.8.44
2930225	Private H. J. Ross. F. and B.	27.5.40	14760791	Private R. Shelton. Western Europe.	9.2.45
410431	Private W. Ross. F. and B.	25.8.40	2927126	Private D. Sheridan. F. and B. (approx.)	26.5.40
2934382	Private W. Ross. Middle East.	17.1.43	3319050	Private G. L. Sherwin. Eritrea.	31.1.41
2928437	Private W. Ross. Burma.	6.5.44	2932838	Private A. D. Shields. Italy.	8.3.44
3710555	Private T. Rowe. Western Europe.	20.2.45	2931250	Private H. T. Shore. U.K.	8.9.39
2993488	Private J. Roy. Italy.	22.2.44	14649725	Private J. Shorter. Western Europe.	19.8.44
2932427	Private A. Russell. F. and B. (approx.)	23.6.40	2925650	Private R. M'D. Simpson. Western Europe.	13.6.44

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14208562 Private A. Sims. Western Europe.	23.6.44	4540922 Private J. A. Stead. India.	9.10.42
2932295 Private J. Sinclair. Burma.	6.5.44	2931060 Private A. Steel. F. and B.	5.6.40
2929009 Private J. R. Skewis. Middle East.	15.1.42	2040076 Private H. G. Stevens. Burma.	4.6.44
2932027 Private S. Slavin. F. and B.	14.10.44	2930652 Private J. M'Q. Steven- son. South Africa.	23.7.44
14863946 Private R. Sloan. U.K.	9.5.45	14653909 Private A. R. Stewart. Western Europe.	26.10.44
5388136 Private B. Smith. Western Europe.	29.3.45	3318414 Private C. Stewart. Middle East.	14.12.42
4809635 Private D. Smith. Burma.	25.2.45	2926617 Private D. W. Stewart. Italy.	7.3.44
2938732 Private F. C. Smith. Burma.	22.6.44	2930118 Private J. A. Stewart. Eritrea.	2.2.41
2825558 Private J. Smith. India.	3.9.44	2937037 Private J. H. Stewart. U.K.	7.7.42
2939760 Private J. D. Smith. Western Europe. (approx.)	13.6.44	2751922 Private R. Stewart. F. and B.	21.5.40
2935588 Private K. Smith. Burma.	25.2.45	3312796 Private R. Stewart. Middle East.	23.10.40
4541510 Private R. Smith. Middle East. (approx.)	15.6.41	2936213 Private T. Stewart. Middle East.	2.11.42
330041 Private V. M. Smith. Italy.	8.3.44	2930074 Private J. Stobie. Middle East.	23.10.40
14607387 Private W. Smith. Italy.	18.5.44	14240755 Private R. Stockdale. Italy.	3.10.44
4806266 Private W. A. Smith. North Africa.	23.3.43	2938387 Private A. Strachan. Middle East.	14.12.41
2932859 Private S. Snaddon. Eritrea.	5.2.41	2924982 Private J. Strutt. F. and B.	26.5.40
14717415 Private J. K. Sneddon. Burma.	25.2.45	2931306 Private L. Sutherland. F. and B. (approx.)	5.6.40
2939172 Private R. Sneddon. Italy.	7.8.44	5949346 Private C. T. Suttle. Western Europe.	14.11.44
1141149 Private R. M. Sneddon. Italy.	14.5.44	14612960 Private C. G. Swinford. Western Europe.	17.2.45
14209268 Private W. Snodgrass. Italy.	12.6.44	2926623 Private F. Swinton. F. and B.	22.5.40
2934754 Private S. Speak. Western Europe.	3.7.44	4868911 Private S. Sykes. Italy.	15.5.44
2937030 Private A. Speirs. North Africa.	23.3.43	2928700 Private A. M'G. Syme. Middle East.	4.12.41
2938383 Private J. R. Spence. Burma.	4.4.45	2885097 Private W. Tait. Burma.	5.5.44
3321803 Private L. Spencer. Eritrea.	19.3.41	14574066 Private G. J. Tanton. Italy.	4.8.44
3319149 Private J. E. Squire. Eritrea.	15.3.41	14669785 Private A. Taylor. Western Europe.	1.7.44
14562456 Private J. W. Staig. Western Europe.	22.8.44	14258861 Private A. J. Taylor. Western Europe.	11.9.44
2933681 Private J. Staniard. Burma.	25.2.45	2928852 Private G. Taylor. Middle East.	20.8.40
2930423 Private D. Stapleton. F. and B. (approx.)	4.6.40	2821581 Private H. Taylor. Italy.	7.3.44

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2936187 Private N. D. Taylor. U.K.	29.3.41	2937695 Private T. Ward. Sicily.	26.7.43
10602150 Private D. Thompson. Western Europe.	19.7.44	2938391 Private S. W. Warren. Burma.	22.6.44
4393367 Private W. Thompson. Burma.	6.5.44	2927576 Private D. Warwick. F. and B.	21.5.40
2983962 Private A. Thomson. Italy.	9.3.44	2932814 Private A. D. Watson. India.	7.11.44
2928171 Private C. B. Thomson. F. and B.	25.5.40	2090213 Private J. Watson. F. and B. (approx.)	11.6.40
2933811 Private D. Thomson. U.K.	24.3.41	2938037 Private W. Watson. Middle East. (approx.)	15.6.41
2939611 Private J. Thomson. Italy.	5.8.44	2932039 Private C. W. Watt. F. and B.	4.6.40
14297173 Private J. S. Thomson. Western Europe.	13.6.44	3051983 Private D. Watt. F. and B.	27.5.40
2934388 Private M. W. T. Thresher. U.K.	18.8.41	14642265 Private J. Watts. Western Europe.	24.3.45
14400772 Private A. J. Trim. Burma.	16.3.45	2986318 Private J. C. Waugh. Italy.	14.5.44
2932474 Private D. T. Trotter. Middle East.	19.7.43	14331116 Private R. Webb. Italy.	16.9.44
2933535 Private L. Tunney. North Africa.	23.3.43	14530434 Private W. Webb. Burma.	30.4.44
2932560 Private T. Turley. Eritrea.	10.2.41	13026630 Private A. Webster. Middle East.	23.12.41
2933229 Private J. Turnbull. Italy.	28.2.44	14002672 Private C. Webster. Western Europe.	17.2.45
2933499 Private C. Turpin. Middle East.	22.8.42	4535323 Private C. Welsh. U.K.	12.10.40
2930177 Private R. Urquhart. Middle East.	4.12.41	2926839 Private H. Welsh. Eritrea. (approx.)	15.3.41
2933254 Private W. Wade. Italy.	22.2.44	2930132 Private F. West. Eritrea.	15.3.41
2938108 Private S. Wadsworth. Western Europe.	13.6.44	14200711 Private J. Weston. North Africa.	23.3.43
2934324 Private J. Wales. Middle East.	2.2.42	3066881 Private J. Wheatley. North Africa.	23.3.43
3652330 Private J. Walker. Middle East.	3.5.44	4866197 Private W.H. Wheatley. Middle East.	2.11.42
4621104 Private S. Walker. Western Europe.	21.6.44	14497374 Private H. White. Western Europe.	18.2.45
2929047 Private D. J. Wallace. Eritrea.	15.3.41	2930112 Private J. Whitelaw. Middle East.	9.8.41
2939772 Private T. B. Wallace. Middle East.	24.10.42	1554924 Private F. Whiteoak. Western Europe.	17.2.45
2938033 Private W. Wallace. Western Europe.	28.3.45	2931682 Private K. L. Whitfield. U.K.	16.10.41
2940075 Private F. Walthall. North Africa.	28.3.43	2939620 Private R. Wickstead. Western Europe.	14.11.44
2935756 Private D. Ward. Sicily.	1.8.43	3320000 Private J. A. Wildish. India.	9.9.43
4388910 Private F. Ward. Eritrea.	6.2.41	4343853 Private R. Wilkinson. Western Europe.	24.3.45
6976019 Private J. J. Ward. Middle East.	24.10.42	11062778 Private E. J. Will- cocks. Italy.	6.9.44

## ROLL OF HONOUR

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2933523 Private S. A. Williams. North Africa.	23.3.43	14710691 Private K. Womersley. Western Europe.	9.2.45
3131956 Private A. B. Wilson. Middle East.	24.10.42	14434506 Private L. Woodhouse. Western Europe.	29.3.45
2939777 Private C. Wilson. North Africa.	23.3.43	2933651 Private R. Woods. North Africa.	6.4.43
2938764 Private E. G. Wilson. U.K.	12.11.41	14253904 Private F. S. Woolston. Italy.	1.10.44
3320410 Private J. Wilson. Burma.	4.5.44	14657920 Private S. Worthington. Western Europe.	23.6.44
3318443 Private J. D. Wilson. Western Europe.	13.6.44	2934657 Private A. Wright. Burma.	13.4.44
2934132 Private P. Wilson. Sicily.	1.8.43	2938329 Private J. Wright. Middle East.	4.12.41
2928404 Private P. Wilson. Italy.	5.9.44	5675994 Private R. F. Youde. Western Europe.	29.10.44
2935599 Private P. Wilson. Western Europe.	14.2.45	2932984 Private A. Young. F. and B.	22.5.40
3242528 Private R. Wilson. Aruba.	3.10.40	3314132 Private A. T. Young. Sicily.	10.3.44
2931075 Private R. Wilson. Middle East.	25.10.42	2933735 Private J. K. Young. Western Europe.	24.7.44
4393337 Private T. J. Wilson. Burma.	5.5.44	14742140 Private R. Young. Western Europe.	12.2.45
2932577 Private A. Winslow. Burma.	4.1.45	2937759 Private A. S. Yule. Middle East.	15.6.41
3053914 Private J. Winters. Middle East.	(approx.) 15.6.41	2934189 Private J. L. Zamansky. North Africa.	23.3.43

### NOTE

Care has been taken in the compilation of this Roll, but it cannot be regarded as altogether complete and accurate.—Ed.

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

## NOMINAL ROLLS OF RECIPIENTS OF HONOURS AND AWARDS

*K.C.B.*

Lt.-General J. A. H. Gammell, C.B.,  
D.S.O., M.C.

*G.B.E.*

Lt.-General Sir A. F. P. Christison, Bt.,  
K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

*K.B.E.*

Lt.-General Sir A. F. P. Christison, Bt.,  
C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Major-General Sir James S. Drew, C.B.,  
D.S.O., M.C.

*C.B.*

A/Major-General C. M. Barber, D.S.O.

Major-General (T/Lt.-General) A. F. P.  
Christison, M.C.

A/Major-General J. A. H. Gammell,  
D.S.O., M.C.

Major-General I. C. Grant, C.B.E., D.S.O.

A/Major-General H. Murray.

T/Major-General D. N. Wimberley, D.S.O.,  
M.C.

*C.B.E.*

T/Brigadier A. L. Collier, M.C.

Colonel I. C. Grant, D.S.O.

T/Brigadier F. H. R. Maclean, M.P. For  
distinguished services in the Field while  
commanding the British Military Mission  
to the Yugoslav National Liberation  
Army.

A/Brigadier A. G. L. Maclean. For dis-  
tinguished services while D.A. and  
Q.M.G. of the 15th Indian Corps during  
the successful series of combined opera-  
tions carried out by that Corps in  
Arakan, which culminated in the  
capture of Rangoon.

*D.S.O.*

Major (A/Lt.-Colonel) A. Anderson, M.C.

Major C. M. Barber [and Bar].

Lt.-Colonel I. R. C. G. M. Bruce, M.B.E.  
For distinguished service when in

contact with the enemy while com-  
manding the 1st Battalion The Gold  
Coast Regiment, Royal West African  
Frontier Force, in Italian Somaliland  
and Abyssinia, from December 1940 to  
June 1941.

Major V. D. G. Campbell.

Lt.-General Sir A. F. P. Christison, Bt.,  
K.B.E., C.B., M.C.

2nd Lieutenant J. A. Cochrane, M.C.

Lieutenant D. Douglas.

T/Lt.-Colonel C. S. Duncan.

T/Lt.-Colonel A. H. F. Fausset-Farquhar  
[and Bar].

Lt.-Colonel J. A. Grant-Peterkin [and  
Bar]. For distinguished services: (a)  
while commanding the 15th Scottish  
Reconnaissance Regiment in France,  
June-August 1944; (b) while Acting  
Commander, 153rd Highland Brigade,  
in the Battle of the Reichswald,  
February 1945.

Major S. H. Hill.

T/Lt.-Colonel P. M. Hunt. For gallant  
and distinguished services in N.W.  
Europe, 1945, while serving with the  
7th Battalion The Seaforth Highlanders.

T/Lt.-Colonel D. B. Lang, M.C.

T/Lt.-Colonel J. N. Lapraik, O.B.E., M.C.  
For distinguished service and inspiring  
leadership during raiding operations in  
the Ægean in March and May 1945.

T/Lt.-Colonel C. B. Mackenzie. For dis-  
tinguished services while G.S.O.1, 1st  
Airborne Division, Holland, September  
1944.

T/Brigadier J. F. Macnab, O.B.E. For  
distinguished services while command-  
ing the 21st (East African) Infantry  
Brigade in the monsoon campaign in  
Burma in 1944.

Major J. L. Melville.

Major (T/Lt.-Colonel) R. D. M. C. Miers.

Lt.-Colonel G. P. Miller, M.C.

A/Brigadier H. Murray.

T/Lt.-Colonel J. D. W. Renison, T.D.

Major R. M. Riach.

T/Captain D. W. Roy. For courage, leadership, and coolness under fire while in command of an assault group during the Commando raid at St Nazaire on 28th March 1942.

T/Lt.-Colonel A. J. J. Somerville-M'Alister [and Bar].

T/Lt.-Colonel J. Sorel-Cameron.

A/Lt.-Colonel W. A. Stevenson. For distinguished services while commanding the 1st Battalion The Gordon Highlanders in Normandy 1944.

Major-General D. N. Wimberley, M.C.

*O.B.E.*

T/Lt.-Colonel N. P. D. Caldecott-Baird.

T/Colonel I. C. Cameron. For distinguished services while commanding 84 Sub-Area, M.E.F., during the Syrian Campaign, 1941, and during 1942 in the Lebanon.

T/Lt.-Colonel V. D. G. Campbell, D.S.O.

T/Lt.-Colonel K. Campbell-Meiklejohn.

T/Lt.-Colonel A. P. C. Hannay, M.C.

T/Lt.-Colonel P. M. Hunt, D.S.O. For distinguished services while on the Staff, S.E.A.C.

T/Lt.-Colonel J. N. Lapraik, M.C. For distinguished and gallant service in the planning and execution of raiding operations in the Ægean, including the extremely successful operation at Piscopi.

Lt.-Colonel N. D. Leslie. For distinguished services while serving in N.W. Europe with Headquarters 51st Highland Division, 1944-1945.

Major (A/Brigadier) J. F. Macnab. For distinguished service while commanding the 1/1st (Nyasaland) Battalion King's African Rifles in the operations culminating in the capture of Tananarive, Madagascar.

T/Lt. - Colonel E. Maitland - Makgill - Crichton.

Lt.-Colonel I. J. Milne.

T/Lt.-Colonel R. M. Riach, D.S.O.

T/Lt.-Colonel F. A. Stanley.

T/Lt.-Colonel F. S. Waldegrave, M.C.

Major M. J. H. Wilson.

*M.B.E.*

T/Major J. T. Bannatyne.

T/Major G. D. S. Black.

Captain R. G. Borradaile, M.C.

C.S.M. G. Bruce.

Major R. W. Cairns.

Major A. G. Cochrane.

Lieutenant and Quartermaster J. M. Connell.

Major and Quartermaster J. R. Cooper.

T/Major H. N. Curwen.

T/Captain A. G. Dickson.

T/Major D. M. Geddes, M.C. For distinguished service while serving with the 4th (Uganda) Battalion King's African Rifles in Burma in 1944.

Captain I. G. Inch.

Captain and Quartermaster A. Leckie.

T/Major A. G. Macdonald.

R.S.M. R. Mackenzie.

Captain C. A. Mackintosh-Walker.

Major W. A. Macleay.

Captain N. L. MacLucas.

T/Major E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton.

Captain and Quartermaster W. M. Milne.

Captain J. Mitchell.

Major R. M. Neilson.

T/Major J. Ritchie.

R.S.M. L. G. Slee.

T/Major I. E. Stewart.

Major J. C. Thomson.

Captain and Quartermaster A. C. F. Wicks.

T/Major D. A. H. Wills.

*B.E.M.*

2935441 C.Q.M.S. J. L. W. Boyd.

2925655 Staff-Sergeant T. Cairns (A.C.C.).

4467368 A/Sergeant W. Hilton.

2928033 Sergeant T. Lennon, M.M.

2921076 C.Q.M.S. T. Mitchell.

14201508 Corporal D. W. Jenkins.

*M.C.*

Lieutenant D. M. L. Ainslie [and Bar].

Captain D. K. Beaton.

2nd Lieutenant G. D. S. Black.

T/Captain D. H. Burns.

T/Major H. W. Cairns.

Major D. F. Callander [and Bar].



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2nd Lieutenant A. G. Cameron.  
 Major C. A. Cameron.  
 A/Captain D. H. Cameron.  
 T/Captain E. A. Cameron.  
 T/Major H. F. Cameron.  
 Lieutenant P. R. E. Cameron.  
 Captain R. A. C. Cameron.  
 Lieutenant W. G. Chalmers.  
 Lieutenant R. C. H. Collier.  
 Lieutenant T. Cumming.  
 T/Major W. D. Davidson.  
 Captain the Rev. D. F. S. Dick (R.A.Ch.D.)  
 Captain J. Elliot.  
 Lieutenant J. Ellis (U.D.F.).  
 Lieutenant D. M. Fletcher.  
 Lieutenant D. R. Galloway.  
 T/Major D. M. Geddes [Bar]. For gallant  
 and distinguished services while serving  
 with the East African Armoured Car  
 Regiment in Italian Somaliland, Juba  
 River.

Lieutenant E. N. Grace.  
 T/Major D. B. Graham.  
 Captain W. G. Graham [and Bar].  
 T/Major C. Grant.  
 Lieutenant F. Greenwood.  
 T/Major H. R. Haig.  
 Lieutenant J. C. Hamp.  
 T/Captain J. B. J. Houghton.  
 Lieutenant C. D. Hunter.  
 Major D. R. Hunter.  
 T/Captain D. B. Lang.  
 Major J. N. Lapraik [and Bar]. For  
 consistent courage and leadership while  
 serving with the 51st M.E. Commando  
 during the Battle of Amber Alagi and  
 at Keren and for outstanding initiative  
 and command during the course of an  
 operation in the Aegean, during which  
 he occupied the island of Simi with his  
 detachment of S.B.S. and later success-  
 fully resisted a German landing, inflicting  
 heavy casualties.

Lieutenant N. J. Lawrie.  
 Lieutenant F. H. Leckie (R.A.M.C.).  
 A/Major A. W. Lee.  
 A/Captain N. Lockey.  
 Major R. D. C. M'Call.  
 Captain G. G. Macdonald.  
 Captain J. Macdonald.  
 T/Major J. H. Mackie.  
 2nd Lieutenant J. F. Mackinnon.  
 2924265 C.S.M. C. T. Mackintosh.  
 T/Captain J. M. Mackintosh.  
 Captain the Rev. F. J. L. Maclauchlan  
 (R.A.Ch.D.) [and Bar].

Captain E. N. Mainwaring.  
 Major C. A. B. Malden.  
 T/Captain C. P. B. Moggridge.  
 T/Major R. M. Munro.  
 2nd Lieutenant T. A. Nicol.  
 Captain G. A. Nixon.  
 T/Major A. J. Noble.  
 Major C. A. H. M. Noble.  
 A/Captain I. D. Robertson.  
 2nd Lieutenant R. C. Robertson-Macleod.  
 2nd Lieutenant D. F. Ross.  
 2nd Lieutenant E. M. Ross.  
 Lieutenant J. R. Sim.  
 Lieutenant A. Sinclair.  
 2nd Lieutenant G. Stewart.  
 Lieutenant G. D. Stewart.  
 T/Major R. T. Stewart-Macpherson [and  
 2 Bars].  
 Lieutenant C. S. Urquart.  
 T/Captain W. N. White.  
 Captain W. W. Yellowlees (R.A.M.C.).

*D.C.M.*

2983211 Sergeant G. K. Anderson.  
 3769644 Sergeant R. A. Brown.  
 3515161 Lance-Sergeant W. A. Challington.  
 2927262 C.S.M. T. Cook.  
 2928701 Lance-Corporal S. Gray.  
 4571946 Sergeant D. M'Clew.  
 2928608 Sergeant E. Macdonald (S.A.S.).  
 7260085 Sergeant W. H. M'Evoy.  
 2924467 Sergeant J. A. M'Lean.  
 2747338 P.S.M. W. M'Millan.  
 2926314 P.S.M. D. T. Milligan.  
 2615311 Corporal C. S. Pickett.  
 2929382 Lance-Sergeant D. C. Randall.  
 2928024 Lance-Sergeant W. M. Scobie.  
 2928537 Private M. Smith.  
 2929422 Sergeant J. D. Stewart.  
 2921936 C.S.M. J. Stott.

*M.M.*

2924987 C.S.M. J. Ahern.  
 7386430 Private G. K. Anderson.  
 2925929 Sergeant M. Auld.  
 Lance-Corporal S. Bolden.  
 2935823 Lance-Corporal E. J. Brady.  
 2875165 Private A. Brown.  
 2930105 Private D. Browne.  
 2930134 Lance-Corporal H. Bush.  
 4917981 Lance-Corporal A. Butler.  
 2928356 Lance-Corporal W. A. Caird.  
 2928411 Sergeant J. A. Cameron.  
 2925154 Sergeant A. Campbell.

- 2928343 A/Sergeant A. Campbell.  
 2934208 Sergeant D. Carlin.  
 5389974 Lance-Corporal A. H. Childs.  
 2928718 Sergeant J. D. G. Christie.  
 2975057 C.S.M. W. W. Clelland.  
 2928400 Sergeant W. Cuthbertson.  
 2928278 Lance-Corporal T. Darling.  
 3066611 Private W. Darling.  
 2656312 Sergeant J. M. Davidson.  
 2928577 Lance-Sergeant R. Davidson.  
 2983136 Corporal T. Dawson.  
 2927913 Corporal E. Douglas.  
 2937769 Lance-Sergeant M. C. Douglas.  
 Lance-Corporal C. V. R. Dunn.  
 C.S.M. H. Fraser.  
 2976167 Corporal J. Gallagher.  
 2932648 Corporal G. R. Gass.  
 2934653 Corporal J. Gordon.  
 2930400 Sergeant J. D. Gordon.  
 2934111 Lance-Sergeant J. Graham.  
 14364327 Private M. Grant.  
 2938643 Lance-Sergeant G. Gravatt.  
 2928701 Lance-Sergeant S. Gray, D.C.M.  
 1571041 Private G. E. Hawkins.  
 2927175 Lance-Corporal D. Hendry.  
 5392865 Corporal J. Holland.  
 2928482 C.Q.M.S. R. G. Holmes.  
 2930015 Private P. Honey.  
 Private H. Howard.  
 2940188 Lance-Corporal W. M'L. Humble.  
 2930785 C.S.M. W. E. Jack.  
 2926668 Lance-Corporal W. Jackson.  
 2928456 Private F. Jarvis.  
 2931662 Lance-Sergeant C. Jones.  
 2753755 Sergeant J. King.  
 2931396 A/Corporal R. Leadbetter.  
 2928033 Lance-Corporal T. Lennon.  
 2931296 Private A. M'Bain.  
 2688210 C.S.M. W. A. MacBride.  
 2929659 Private A. Macdonald.  
 2926790 Private D. J. Macdonald.  
 2927087 C.S.M. R. Macdonald.  
 2931991 Lance-Corporal D. J. Mackay.  
 2934260 Sergeant N. M'Dougall.  
 2933116 Sergeant P. M'Kenna.  
 2930651 Sergeant A. Mackenzie.  
 2937425 Sergeant R. B. Mackenzie.  
 2928863 Private T. M'Kirdy.  
 2932214 Private M. Maclean.  
 2926756 Lance-Corporal A. M'Lennan.  
 2930582 Corporal E. M'Manus.  
 2765814 Corporal G. M'William.  
 1428429 Sergeant F. Martin.  
 2928622 Private G. M. Matthews.  
 2929616 Private S. K. May.  
 2935942 Lance-Corporal J. Mightens.  
 2932222 Colour-Sergeant J. Milne.  
 2933197 A/Corporal D. Mitchell.  
 2934708 A/Corporal J. E. Monley.  
 3242419 Private M. Moon.  
 14241800 Sergeant S. J. Mullard.  
 2929529 Lance-Corporal D. Munro.  
 2927357 Sergeant F. Nicholls.  
 2933745 Private J. W. Niven.  
 2927305 C.S.M. A. Owens.  
 2931704 Corporal J. Parker.  
 2930122 Private W. Parkin.  
 2930945 Sergeant L. Perkins.  
 2931324 Private J. W. Reid.  
 2932481 Corporal D. Robin.  
 2933493 Lance-Sergeant J. G. Rogers.  
 2934077 Lance-Corporal G. P. Sands.  
 2938003 Private A. Scott.  
 2933041 Lance-Sergeant A. S. Sinclair.  
 2926712 Sergeant D. Smith.  
 3313146 Private J. M. Stewart.  
 2934656 Private H. Stubbs.  
 2935750 Private W. Thomson.  
 5384169 A/Sergeant L. A. Toogood.  
 2928157 Private J. Turnbull.  
 2937756 Corporal M. C. Watt.  
 2764474 Private E. Whiteley.  
 3769703 Corporal T. M. Wilcock.  
 2929883 Lance-Sergeant D. Wilcox.  
 3851955 Sergeant J. J. Williams.  
 2933314 Private J. R. Wilson.  
 2934132 Private P. Wilson.  
 2934825 Private W. Winterbottom.

*George Medal*

- 2934127 Corporal T. F. Scott. On 21st September 1943, Corporal Scott was dropped by parachute on Lisac forest in N.E. Serbia, together with two officers of the Yugoslav Forces. Breaking a leg himself, he succeeded in bringing one of the officers, who had been severely wounded, safely into the British lines. He displayed amazing courage and selfless devotion to duty.

*Mentioned in Despatches*

- T/Captain A. M. Allan.  
 2928154 Private D. Allen.  
 T/Brigadier A. Anderson, D.S.O., M.C.  
 2935426 Private A. Anderson.  
 2933530 Private J. Anderson.  
 Lieutenant R. Andrew-M'Intosh.  
 2930680 Lance-Sergeant J. Andrews.

- Lieutenant R. Andrews.  
 2931087 Sergeant F. Armstrong.  
 Captain R. M'D. Arnot.  
 14814306 Private W. Ashton.  
 Captain J. Bain.  
 Major-General C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O.  
 14621538 Lance-Corporal B. R. Barnes.  
 2933319 Private W. H. Barr.  
 5387155 Sergeant J. Barrett.  
 2927004 Sergeant M. Battersby.  
 Captain G. K. G. Bell.  
 2931828 Lance-Corporal E. Betley.  
 A/Captain A. S. N. Black.  
 T/Captain J. B. Black.  
 T/Captain R. G. Borradaile, M.C.  
 Major W. F. G. Brabin.  
 2925681 C.S.M. W. Bristowe.  
 14213499 Private J. Brown.  
 2981179 Private R. Bruce.  
 6985988 Lance-Corporal W. E. Brunt.  
 14211577 Corporal J. Burgess.  
 2928362 Sergeant A. J. Burnett.  
 T/Major R. W. Cairns, M.B.E.  
 2931810 Private J. Cairney.  
 Major N. P. D. Caldecott Baird.  
 T/Captain A. G. Cameron, M.C.  
 Lieutenant A. R. P. P. Cameron.  
 T/Colonel I. C. Cameron. For distinguished service while commanding 84 Sub-Area, M.E.F., in 1941 and 1942 during the Syrian Campaign and in the Lebanon.  
 2928411 Sergeant J. Cameron.  
 2928917 Lance-Corporal J. A. Cameron.  
 Lieutenant J. L. Cameron.  
 2930878 Private W. Cameron.  
 Lieutenant W. N. Cameron.  
 T/Lt.-Colonel A. E. H. Campbell.  
 2931630 Private F. Campbell.  
 2929449 C.Q.M.S. I. Campbell.  
 Lt.-Colonel Earl Cawdor.  
 T/Major W. J. Chalmers.  
 T/Captain W. R. Chalmers.  
 Lt.-General A. F. P. Christison, C.B., M.C.  
 2935198 Private A. M. Clapperton.  
 Lieutenant and Quartermaster A. G. Cochrane.  
 T/Captain A. R. Cochrane.  
 2nd Lieutenant J. A. Cochrane.  
 2978302 Private T. Collins.  
 3320528 Private F. Cox.  
 Lieutenant J. A. Crawford.  
 2925978 Sergeant G. Crossan.  
 2929648 Sergeant J. Cunningham.  
 2928441 Sergeant T. S. Currie.  
 2927153 Lance-Corporal R. Davidson.
- 2656312 Sergeant J. M. Davidson.  
 2927359 Bandsman J. Davis.  
 T/Major I. A. G. Davy.  
 2928861 Corporal P. Devlin.  
 Lieutenant A. G. Dickson.  
 Lieutenant J. Donaldson.  
 Lieutenant D. Douglas.  
 2928953 Sergeant S. Draycott.  
 Major-General J. S. Drew, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.  
 2935667 Corporal A. Duncan.  
 Major C. S. Duncan.  
 Lieutenant R. G. Dunn.  
 A/Captain J. W. Eade.  
 A/Captain T. H. Fairbairn.  
 T/Captain V. C. Fennessey.  
 T/Major A. A. Ferguson.  
 Captain the Viscount Fincastle.  
 2937925 Private J. R. Findlay.  
 2928845 Private B. Finlay.  
 2927301 Sergeant P. C. Fisher.  
 2928891 Corporal J. Flockhart.  
 2930432 Sergeant S. J. Fraser.  
 2695511 Private J. Galbraith.  
 2930247 Private J. Gallacher.  
 2928483 Private W. Gardiner.  
 2928497 Sergeant C. F. Garner.  
 T/Lt.-Colonel D. M. Geddes, M.C. For distinguished service while serving in 1944 with the 4th (Uganda) Battalion King's African Rifles in Assam.  
 2930471 C.Q.M.S. R. A. Gillies.  
 Major C. C. B. Gordon.  
 T/Captain J. A. Graham.  
 A/Brigadier J. A. Grant-Peterkin.  
 T/Major H. M. Grant, M.B.E., M.C.  
 Major I. P. Grant.  
 2928701 Lance-Sergeant S. Gray, D.C.M., M.M.  
 2928219 Corporal S. Green.  
 2930402 Private D. Greig.  
 793635 Private P. Greig.  
 Lieutenant L. E. Griffith.  
 2929834 Private J. E. H. Gwynne.  
 T/Major H. D. Hamilton-Hill.  
 Major J. M. Hannay.  
 Captain H. C. Harvey.  
 Lieutenant R. C. Hawthorth-Price.  
 14383225 Private A. Heatherington.  
 2568896 Private T. Hewitt.  
 3861444 Sergeant A. Holt.  
 2930640 Colour-Sergeant G. Houghton.  
 2940188 Lance-Sergeant W. M'L. Humble.  
 Lieutenant C. D. Hunter.  
 T/Lt.-Colonel D. R. Hunter, M.C.  
 14656491 Corporal H. Hunter.

- T/Captain W. R. Hunter.  
 Lieutenant R. L. Huntingford.  
 Captain I. G. Inch.  
 2928565 A/Sergeant A. Jarvie.  
 2563576 Private A. Jeans.  
 T/Major A. G. Jeans.  
 4541705 Corporal S. Joy.  
 Lieutenant H. K. Junor.  
 2932105 Lance-Sergeant J. Kelso.  
 A/Captain C. Kerr.  
 763344 P.S.M. G. Kerr.  
 2927197 Lance-Corporal J. Kerr.  
 2928584 Sergeant J. K. Kirkwood.  
 4541970 C.S.M. W. E. Lacey.  
 Captain T. B. M. Lamb.  
 A/Major D. B. Lang, M.C.  
 2934114 Corporal J. Lappin.  
 A/Major A. F. Lauder.  
 T/Captain L. A. D. Leslie.  
 T/Lt.-Colonel N. D. Leslie. For distinguished services while serving in North Africa with 1/5th Battalion The Queen's Regiment, 1943.  
 402357 Corporal G. Leitch.  
 2925489 Private J. W. Leys.  
 2930526 Private R. C. Lighthertwood.  
 309757 P.S.M. A. Little.  
 Major D. G. N. Lloyd-Lowles.  
 2930403 Private A. Lowder.  
 2928049 Sergeant W. M. Lumsden.  
 2935899 Private A. M'Arthur.  
 3766821 C.S.M. J. H. Macartney.  
 5437828 Private A. S. MacBean.  
 2928964 Private J. M'Bean.  
 2688210 P.S.M. W. A. MacBride.  
 2926607 Sergeant J. M'Callum.  
 T/Captain D. F. MacDonald.  
 2927683 Sergeant D. M'Donald.  
 2931066 Colour-Sergeant G. G. Macdonald.  
 2934260 Sergeant N. M'Dougall.  
 Lieutenant E. M'Duck.  
 2932274 Private P. J. M'Garry.  
 T/Captain W. J. Macgregor.  
 2930332 Private T. M'Inally.  
 2929949 Sergeant W. L. Macinnes.  
 2929766 Lance-Corporal P. A. Macintosh.  
 2929760 Private R. M'Isaac.  
 2929516 Corporal A. D. Mackay.  
 Lieutenant W. A. Mackay.  
 2925912 Private A. M'Kenzie.  
 Lieutenant R. T. M'Kenzie.  
 T/Captain D. A. C. M'Killop.  
 Lieutenant W. J. Mackillop.  
 2924265 A/R.S.M. C. T. Mackintosh.  
 A/Brigadier A. G. L. Maclean, C.B.E.  
 For distinguished services while serving as D.A. and Q.M.G., 15th Indian Corps, during the operations in Arakan, culminating in the capture of Rangoon.  
 Major W. A. Macleay.  
 T/Major R. D. M'Leod.  
 409654 Private A. J. Macmillan.  
 T/Lt.-Colonel J. F. Macnab. For distinguished services while commanding the 1/1st (Nyasaland) Battalion in the operations in the N.F.D. and Italian Somaliland and in the operations culminating in the capture of Abyssinia.  
 Lieutenant D. I. M'Namara.  
 T/Captain A. C. M'Nicol.  
 2924275 C.S.M. W. M'Pherson.  
 2927496 Lance-Sergeant A. MacRae.  
 2928034 Sergeant G. O. J. Macskimming.  
 Lieutenant E. N. Mainwaring.  
 T/Major E. Maitland-Makgill-Crichton.  
 2757919 Private J. Manzie.  
 29297777 Colour-Sergeant W. E. Matthews.  
 2926897 Lance-Corporal D. A. J. Menzies.  
 T/Major P. S. Methven.  
 T/Lt.-Colonel R. D. M. C. Miers.  
 T/Brigadier G. P. Miller, D.S.O., M.C.  
 Captain and Quartermaster W. M. Milne.  
 T/Major J. Mitchell.  
 T/Captain N. A. Morrison.  
 2930992 R.S.M. A. Moss.  
 2932753 Private J. I. Muirhead.  
 T/Major D. J. S. Murray.  
 Major W. K. R. Murray.  
 T/Major R. M. Neilson.  
 2934533 Private J. Nelson.  
 T/Captain I. Nicolson.  
 T/Captain T. A. Nicol.  
 T/Captain T. P. B. Nimmo.  
 T/Major C. A. H. M. Noble.  
 T/Major D. M. Noble.  
 6213861 Lance-Corporal K. O'Donovan.  
 2930122 Private W. Parkin, M.M.  
 4393312 Private J. Parks.  
 2928628 Lance-Corporal P. Pattinson.  
 A/Lt.-Colonel P. G. C. Peddie, M.B.E.  
 2930945 Sergeant L. Perkins.  
 2615311 Corporal C. S. Pickett, D.C.M.  
 2928145 Sergeant G. K. Piercy.  
 2930695 Colour-Sergeant D. A. Pirrie.  
 T/Captain A. R. G. Pringle-Pattison.  
 2933244 Corporal J. Pritchard.  
 2935574 Lance-Corporal T. Quinn.  
 A/Major N. B. Ramsay, M.C., T.D.  
 Lieutenant G. A. K. Reuss.  
 2nd Lieutenant R. G. Rhind.  
 T/Lt.-Colonel R. M. Riach, D.S.O.

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Lieutenant W. C. Richardson.  
 A/Captain D. Robb.  
 T/Captain A. A. Robertson.  
 T/Captain J. A. Robertson.  
 2nd Lieutenant W. R. Robertson.  
 2932481 Corporal D. Robin.  
 Lieutenant E. M. Ross, M.C.  
 1685440 A/Corporal J. Ross.  
 2928437 Private W. Ross.  
 T/Captain A. G. Rumbold, M.C.  
 2921458 R.S.M. F. P. Scott.  
 895324 A/Sergeant G. Shannan.  
 3052384 Private W. Shannley.  
 2928338 Private J. Sharkey.  
 3185953 Private G. Sheridan.  
 2927085 Private A. K. Simpson.  
 Lieutenant H. Smith.  
 6972523 R.Q.M.S. H. J. Seddon.  
 A/Colonel J. Sorel-Cameron, D.S.O.  
 T/Captain K. R. Standing.  
 Lt.-Colonel F. A. Stanley.  
 2927205 Private W. M. Stenhouse.  
 2928762 Private D. Stevenson.  
 Lieutenant G. Stewart.  
 2933748 Lance-Sergeant B. Stirling.

T/Major J. P. Stone.  
 2934656 Private H. Stubbs.  
 Captain I. A. Tait.  
 2695550 Sergeant J. Tannahill.  
 13021424 Private N. Thompson.  
 2935750 Private W. Thompson.  
 Major J. C. Thomson.  
 2931310 Lance-Corporal L. Thomson.  
 2934381 Corporal W. Thomson.  
 5384169 Corporal L. A. Toogood.  
 2926637 Colour-Sergeant T. Toomey.  
 2927003 Corporal H. Towers.  
 Major F. S. Waldegrave, M.C.  
 2928643 Lance-Sergeant D. V. Watson.  
 2934610 Corporal R. Wells.  
 4540896 Sergeant H. White.  
 2932173 Corporal R. Whyte.  
 3606346 Private R. Whyte.  
 1612497 Private T. Williamson.  
 A/Major D. C. R. Wilson.  
 Private J. D. R. Wilson.  
 Major-General D. N. Wimberley, D.S.O.,  
 M.C.  
 A/Captain H. P. Wood.  
 2935423 Private J. Young.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

*The Order of the Cloud and Banner,  
 with Grand Cordon*  
 (Awarded by the Chinese Nationalist  
 Government.)

Lt.-General Sir James A. F. Philip Christison, Bt.,  
 G.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

*Commander of the Legion of Merit*  
 (U.S.A.)

Lt.-General Sir James A. H. Gammell,  
 K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

*American Bronze Star*

A/Captain D. F. MacDonald.

*Order of Military Merit of Brazil*  
 (1st Class)

Lt.-General Sir James A. H. Gammell,  
 K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

*Order of White Lion of Czechoslovakia*  
 (2nd Class)

Lt.-General Sir James A. H. Gammell,  
 K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

*Legion of Honour. (France)*

Major-General A. L. Collier, C.B.E., M.C.  
 (Officer of the Order).

*Croix de Guerre, with Gilt Star.*  
 (France)

T/Major W. J. Chalmers.  
 Captain T. B. M. Lamb.  
 2932423 C.S.M. W. M'Ginnes.

*Croix de Guerre. (France)*

Major-General A. L. Collier, C.B.E., M.C.  
 Captain F. H. R. Maclean, M.P.

*Order of the Crown, with Palm.* (Belgium)

Major-General C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O.  
(Commander of the Order).  
T/Lt.-Colonel D. Macfie (Officer of the  
Order).

*Order of Leopold I., with Palm.* (Belgium)

Brigadier I. R. C. G. M. Bruce, D.S.O.,  
M.B.E. (Officer of the Order).

*Order of Leopold II., with Palm.* (Belgium)

T/Lt.-Colonel P. M. Hunt, D.S.O., O.B.E.  
(Chevalier of the Order).

*Croix de Guerra, 1940, with Palm.*  
(Belgium)

Major-General C. M. Barber, C.B., D.S.O.  
Brigadier I. R. C. G. M. Bruce, D.S.O.,  
M.B.E.  
T/Lt.-Colonel P. M. Hunt, D.S.O., O.B.E.  
293246 Lance-Sergeant J. M'Niven.

*Military Medal, Haile Selassie I.,  
with one Palm*

Brigadier I. R. C. G. M. Bruce, D.S.O.,  
M.B.E.

*Order of the White Eagle of Yugoslavia,  
with Swords (4th Class)*

Colonel C. S. Clarke, M.C.

*Knight Officer of the Order of Orange  
Nassau, with Swords.* (Holland)

T/Major F. G. Wood.

*Officer of the National Order of the  
Oaken Crown.* (Luxembourg)

T/Lt.-Colonel D. Macfie.

*King Haakon Liberty Medal.*  
(Norway)

Lt.-Colonel H. C. Methuen, D.S.O., M.C.  
T/Major A. W. Cunninghame.  
Captain S. J. Henry.

## APPENDIX

CONTINUED FROM VOL. IV., PUBLISHED IN 1931

### SUCCESSION OF COLONELS OF THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS

16. Major-General Sir James Syme Drew, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. 9th October 1943.

### SUCCESSION OF HONORARY COLONELS OF THE 4TH BATTALION (T.A.)

5. H.M. King George VI. 11th December 1936.

### SUCCESSION OF HONORARY COLONELS OF THE 4/5TH BATTALION (T.A.)

1. H.M. King George VI. 1st May 1947.

### SUCCESSION OF LIEUTENANT-COLONELS OF THE CAMERON HIGHLANDERS

Frank Keith Simmons, M.V.O., M.C. 4th November 1933. 2nd Battalion.  
James Alexander Symon, D.S.O., T.D. 11th December 1933. 4th Battalion.  
James Andrew Harcourt Gammell, D.S.O., M.C. 5th May 1935. 1st Battalion.  
Ian Colin Cameron. 4th November 1937. 2nd Battalion.  
George Evan Michael Baillie, M.C., T.D., D.L. 11th December 1937. 4th Battalion.  
Douglas Neil Wimberley, M.C. 19th December 1938. 1st Battalion.  
George Patrick Rose-Miller, D.S.O., M.C. 17th October 1940. 1st Battalion.  
Celin Muir Barber, D.S.O. 4th November 1940. 4th Battalion.  
Herbert James Dacre Lacy M'Gregor. 3rd June 1943. E.R.E. List.  
Adam Grainger Fairrie, M.B.E. 17th October 1943. E.R.E. List.  
Colin Stewart Duncan, D.S.O. 30th June 1946. 2nd Battalion.  
Ronald Douglas Martin Capel Miers, D.S.O. 10th August 1946. 8th Holding Battalion.

### SUCCESSION OF COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE 4/5TH BATTALION

Robert Malcolm Riach, D.S.O., O.B.E. T/Lt.-Colonel. 1st May 1947.

### SUCCESSION OF DEPOT COMMANDERS

Frederick Stanley Waldegrave, M.C. 28th February 1931.  
Angus Lyell Collier, M.C. 28th February 1934.  
Ian Colin Cameron. 15th January 1936.  
George Patrick Rose-Miller, M.C. 1st January 1938.  
Ronald Douglas Martin Capel Miers, D.S.O. 21st November 1946.  
Ronald George Borradaile, M.B.E., M.C. 4th March 1948.

## SUCCESSION OF ADJUTANTS

## 1ST AND 2ND BATTALIONS

Victor David Graham Campbell. 21st January 1933. 2nd Battalion.  
 Maurice George Oakley Hill. 17th March 1934. 1st Battalion.  
 Robert Einem Hickson. 29th August 1935. 2nd Battalion.  
 James Alexander Grant-Peterkin. 1st August 1937. 1st Battalion.  
 Charles Anthony Hay Mackintosh Noble. 18th August 1938. 2nd Battalion.  
 Robin Cameron Herne Collier, M.C. 15th August 1945. 2nd Battalion.  
 Ian Hesketh Macdonald. 19th January 1946. 2nd Battalion.  
 Patrick Alexander William Allan. 1st September 1947. 2nd Battalion.  
 Tom Bell Maxwell Lamb. 1948. 1st Battalion.

## 4TH BATTALION

Alastair Gillean Lorne Maclean. 19th March 1934.  
 Derek Boileau Lang. 1st October 1938.

## 4/5TH BATTALION

Captain R. C. Robertson-Macleod, M.C. 1st May 1947.

## THE DEPOT

Lieutenant P. G. C. Peddie, M.B.E. 13th May 1931.  
 Lieutenant A. J. J. Somerville-M'Alester. 13th May 1934.  
 Lieutenant C. B. Mackenzie. 14th October 1936.  
 Captain W. K. Wardrop, Black Watch. 21st November 1946.  
 Captain C. Grant, M.C. 4th March 1948.

## SUCCESSION OF QUARTERMASTERS

James Frederick M'Laurin, M.B.E. 27th April 1934. 1st Battalion.  
 Alexander Gauld Cochrane, M.B.E. 4th January 1935. 2nd Battalion.  
 Sinclair Manson, M.B.E. 15th March 1942. (First commissioned, 20th January 1940.)  
 Depot.  
 Alexander Leckie, M.B.E. 17th February 1948. (First commissioned, 3rd November  
 1941.) 1st Battalion.  
 Cecil T. Mackintosh, M.C. 7th September 1948. E.R.E. List.

## 4TH BATTALION (T.A.)

Harry Leah. 1st June 1935.  
 John R. Cooper. 1st November 1938.

## 4/5TH BATTALION (T.A.)

William Moir Milne, M.B.E. 1st May 1947.



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### SUCCESSION OF SERGEANT-MAJORS

#### 1ST BATTALION

A. W. Cooper. 1934-1940.	G. Kerr. 1945-1946.
W. Davidson. 1940-1943.	R. Macdonald, M.M. 1946-1947.
J. Hagart. 1943-1945.	J. L. Clarkson. 1948.

#### 2ND BATTALION

E. A. S. Robinson. 1935-1939.	R. Patterson. 1942-1944.
J. M'Swayde. 1940-1941.	J. Campbell. 1944.
D. Cameron. 1941.	A. Owens, M.M. 1944-1946.
T. Cameron. 1941-1942.	J. Douglas. 1946-1948.

#### 4TH BATTALION

C. A. MacNeill. 1934-1937.	D. D. Cassells. 1940-1942.
J. R. Cooper. 1937-1938.	R. Patterson. 1942.
A. E. Heggie. 1938-1940.	

#### 4/5TH BATTALION

C. Watt. 1947-

#### DEPOT

J. G. Tollerton. 1934-1937.	C. T. Mackintosh, M.C. 1946-1948.
L. G. Slee. 1937-1939.	J. Douglas. 1948-

### SUCCESSION OF BANDMASTERS

#### 1ST BATTALION

D. A. Pope, A.R.C.M. 1932-1943.	D. Start. 1948-
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#### 2ND BATTALION

V. E. Webster. 1939-1947.

*Note.*—The Bands were combined at the Depot, 1940-1947.

Bandmaster D. A. Pope, A.R.C.M. 1940-1943. Bandmaster V. E. Webster. 1943-1947.  
Bandmaster D. Start was employed as Bandmaster with other units. 1944-1947.

### SUCCESSION OF REGIMENTAL QUARTERMASTER-SERGEANTS

#### 1ST BATTALION

J. Sinclair. 1934-1936.	J. M'Intosh. 1945.
A. Binnie. 1936-1937.	W. Forsyth. 1946-1948.
A. Duncan. 1937-1943.	W. Jeffrey. 1948-
W. M. Lumsden. 1943-1945.	

## 2ND BATTALION

S. Manson. 1935-1939.	W. Bristowe. 1942.
D. Cameron. 1940.	J. Smith. 1942-1945.
J. M. Connell. 1940-1941.	A. Ward. 1946-1948.
H. J. Seddon. 1941.	

## 4TH BATTALION

D. King. 1935-1939.	H. Knocker. 1940-1942.
S. Vass. 1939-1940.	

## 4/5TH BATTALION (T.A.)

T. Higgins. 1947-

## DEPOT

J. R. Cooper. 1932-1937.	T. Mellon (Seaforths). 1946-1948.
J. Sutherland. 1937-1939.	

## SUCCESSION OF DRUM-MAJORS

## 1ST BATTALION

G. Balloch. 1936-1937.	J. Godfrey. 1945.
J. M'Pherson. 1937-1939.	J. Taylor. 1946-1948.
P. Scotland. 1939-1940.	G. MacDonald. 1948-

*Note.*—R.S.M. J. Hagart did duty as Drum-Major on various occasions between 1941 and 1945.

## 2ND BATTALION

R. Mackenzie. 1936-1938.	P. Rooney. 1943-1946.
R. Cooper. 1939-1942.	R. Cooper. 1946-1948.

## 4TH BATTALION (T.A.)

D. MacIennan. 1932-1940.	P. Rooney. 1942.
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*Note.*—Drum-Major Henderson, A. and S. H., performed the duty while the Battalion was in Aruba.

## 4/5TH BATTALION (T.A.)

No appointment made until 1950.

## SUCCESSION OF PIPE-MAJORS

## 1ST BATTALION

D. Wright. 1931-1933.	E. M'Rae. 1944-1945.
J. B. Maclean. 1934-1939.	J. Robertson. 1946-1947.
N. Scott. 1939-1943.	E. M'Rae. 1948-
D. Allan. 1943-1944.	

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### 2ND BATTALION

L. C. Haggerty. 1935-1937. D. MacRae. 1942-1946.  
A. Chisholm. 1937-1940. S. G. Macnaughton. 1946-1948.  
J. K. Neill. 1940-1942.

### 4TH BATTALION (T.A.)

J. Wilson. 1939-1940. D. MacRae. 1940-1942.  
D. Macdonald. 1940.

### 4/5TH BATTALION (T.A.)

J. K. Neill. 1947-

### DEPOT

J. Johnson, D.C.M., M.M. 1933-1937. A. Campbell, M.M. 1946-1947.  
L. C. Haggerty. 1937-1939. E. MacRae. 1947-1948.

## OFFICERS WHO PERFORMED THE DUTIES OF C.O. IN WORLD WAR II. 1939-1945

### 1ST BATTALION

Lt.-Colonel D. N. Wimberley, M.C. 3rd September 1939 to 26th December 1939.  
A/Lt.-Colonel M. J. H. Wilson, O.B.E. 27th December 1939 to 17th January 1940.  
Lt.-Colonel G. P. Rose-Miller, D.S.O., M.C. 18th January 1940 to 31st January 1941.  
T/Lt.-Colonel A. P. C. Hannay, M.C. 12th February 1941 to 30th November 1941.  
T/Lt.-Colonel R. E. Hickson. 1st December 1941 to 21st May 1943.  
A/Lt.-Colonel A. J. J. Somerville M'Alester, D.S.O. 22nd May 1943 to 3rd September  
1943.  
T/Lt.-Colonel T. P. Saunders, M.C. 4th September 1943 to 13th May 1944.  
T/Lt.-Colonel A. J. J. Somerville M'Alester, D.S.O. 14th May 1944 to 14th August 1945.

### 2ND BATTALION

Lt.-Colonel I. C. Cameron. 3rd September 1939 to 11th November 1940.  
T/Lt.-Colonel A. Anderson, M.C. 12th November 1940 to 28th September 1941.  
A/Lt.-Colonel T. P. Saunders, M.C. 29th September 1941 to November 1941.  
T/Lt.-Colonel C. S. Duncan. 10th November 1941 to June 1942.  
T/Lt.-Colonel C. S. Clarke, M.C. December 1942 to 5th March 1944.  
A/Lt.-Colonel G. H. Munro. 6th March 1944 to 10th April 1944.  
T/Lt.-Colonel M. G. O. Hill. 11th April 1944 to 9th August 1944.  
A/Lt.-Colonel J. C. Thomson. 10th August 1944 to 9th September 1944.  
T/Lt.-Colonel A. J. Noble. 10th September 1944 to 13th May 1945.  
T/Lt.-Colonel J. C. Thomson, M.B.E. 15th June 1945 to 15th August 1945.

### 4TH BATTALION (T.A.)

T/Lt.-Colonel Earl Cawdor. 1st October 1939 to 8th June 1940.  
Lt.-Colonel C. M. Barber, D.S.O. 21st July 1940 to 5th February 1941.  
T/Lt.-Colonel I. E. Begg, M.B.E. 6th February 1941 to November 1942.  
T/Lt.-Colonel C. S. Clarke, M.C. November 1942 to December 1942.

OFFICERS WHO PERFORMED THE DUTIES OF ADJUTANT DURING WORLD  
WAR II., 1939 TO 1945, AND IN THE DEMOBILISATION PERIOD AFTER  
THE WAR

1ST BATTALION

Captain J. A. Grant-Peterkin. 3rd September 1939 to 26th November 1939.  
 Captain P. M. Hunt. 27th November 1939 to 18th March 1941.  
 Captain N. C. Baird. 19th March 1941 to 21st February 1942.  
 Captain I. E. Stewart. 22nd February 1942 to 19th March 1943.  
 Captain P. A. M'Lean. 20th March 1943 to 8th March 1944.  
 Captain H. C. Harvey. 9th March 1944 to December 1944.  
 Captain P. J. T. Grant. January 1945 to 8th July 1945.  
 Captain A. Charters. 9th July 1945 to December 1945.  
 Captain N. Maclean. 1946.  
 Major D. J. S. Murray. 1946 to 1947.  
 Major C. C. B. Gordon. 1947.  
 Captain J. R. K. Sinclair. 1947.  
 Lieutenant M. D. Bois. 1947 to 1948.  
 Captain D. G. Cruden. 1948

2ND BATTALION

Captain C. A. H. M. Noble. 3rd September 1939 to December 1940.  
 Major D. B. Lang, M.C. January 1941 to June 1941.  
 Captain J. Keir. June 1941 to November 1941.  
 Captain D. Blair (Seaforths). November 1941 to March 1942.  
 Captain R. G. Borradaile, M.C. March 1942 to June 1942.  
 Captain J. M. Underwood. December 1942 to January 1943.  
 Captain G. H. Munro. January 1943 to August 1943.  
 Captain W. W. Watt. August 1943 to May 1944.  
 Captain A. F. Lauder. May 1944 to November 1944.  
 Captain A. Mackintosh. November 1944 to April 1945.  
 Captain J. A. Dingwall-Fordyce. April 1945 to 3rd July 1945.  
 Captain R. C. H. Collier, M.C. 4th July 1945 to 14th August 1945.  
 Captain R. C. H. Collier, M.C. December 1946 to January 1947.  
 Captain P. A. W. Allan. January 1947 to April 1947.  
 Captain R. C. H. Collier, M.C. April 1947 to August 1947.

4TH BATTALION

Captain D. B. Lang. 3rd September 1939 to June 1940.  
 Captain C. W. R. Hill. July 1940 to June 1941.  
 Captain H. H. Marshall. June 1941 to March 1942.  
 Captain J. M. Underwood. March 1942 to December 1942.

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OFFICERS WHO PERFORMED THE DUTIES OF QUARTERMASTER DURING  
WORLD WAR II. AND THE INTERIM PERIOD UNTIL REORGANISATION  
WAS COMPLETED

1ST BATTALION

Captain A. Leckie, M.B.E.    3rd November 1941 to 17th February 1948.

2ND BATTALION

Captain V. C. Fennessey.    December 1940 to April 1941.  
Lieutenant J. M. Connell.   April 1941 to December 1941.   Killed in Action.  
Lieutenant J. Bain, M.M.    December 1941 to January 1942.  
Lieutenant H. J. Seddon.    January 1942 to June 1942.  
Captain G. G. Peaston.      December 1942 to October 1945.  
Captain D. Cameron.        October 1945 to March 1948.

4TH BATTALION

Captain J. R. Cooper.      September 1939 to December 1942.

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