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The Green Machine



The "On Line" Magazine
Of
The Royal Green Jackets Association

Volume 2 Issue 9

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September 2002

The Royal Green Jackets - the early years

We wonder if in 1966, the Regiment could have even dreamt about the changes that would occur, the countries it would be posted to, and the involvement in so many things worldwide, that it was about to undergo in the 36 years since then.

In the year 1966 there were three regular battalions, a Territorial battalion, the Queen's Royal Rifles which in the year 1967 was to sponsor the new 4th (Volunteer) Battalion, The Royal Green Jackets. Did we not have three bands and also one at the Depot?

Read the last in a short series covering the 3 Battalions as they faced a new future. This month "*The Rifleman*" looks at 3 RGJ through the Regimental Chronicle of the day



War heroes share their memories

Former members of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, whose brave and selfless acts led by Major John Howard at Pegasus Bridge were commemorated on film in *The Longest Day*, were reunited on Sunday. Eight members of D Company, now in their late 70s and SOs, came together again at a ceremony at Bletchley Park. The celebrated heroes were among those glider borne troops who captured Normandy's Pegasus Bridge from the Nazis, marking D Day's first Allied action



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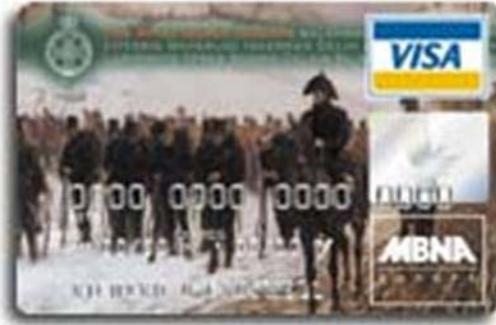
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Editorial



Hello and welcome to this months edition of the 'Green Machine'

August turned out to be the sort of month I have been hoping for - quiet !! It gave me the chance to catch up on some back emails, tidy up the Green Machine a bit etc.

There have been a few changes to the Green Machine this month, I have temporarily dropped the Green Forum. This was not being used, in its place I have added the Guest Book which I hope people will use to record their comments on the Green Machine. The links on the left hand side have gone, again temporarily while I try out something new for October.

There are a couple of other cosmetic changes which should improve the overall download speed of each page. Inevitably there will be a few errors which I hope people will notify about. A new expanded link bar has been added to the top of the page Also added are "drop down" menu

bars in various areas which should make navigating the magazine a little easier. This is another area I am keen to improve upon.

Please notify me if a broken or incorrect link is found. There are something like 400 links within the Green Machine and I may have missed one or two !!

Mail Forwarding.

Many of you are now using the mail forwarding service which is great. From a Website Team point of view it serves 2 main purposes, the first it allows me to check your email address against the master held on a zip disk and update it accordingly and secondly and probably more importantly it has cut dramatically the number of viruses being passed amongst our members. However many of you are not using it as it was intended and are sending messages through the Website Team. Please read the instructions and adhere to them. All you should be doing is sending us a blank email which will have the heading filled in. We will reply with the

wanted persons email address and then it is up to you to write to them. We really do not want to read your personal emails. Thanks

Finally, I had cause to move my PC last week. In doing so I dislodged the keyboard connection and on rebooting received the following message : "Keyboard not found. Press F1 to continue." I will leave you all to ponder that.

Until next month,

Regards to you all

Kevin

Editor



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This month sees the last of the articles talking about life in the Regiment in its new Regimental title, The Royal Green Jackets. Perhaps unrealised by many the bracketed titles were not dropped until June of 1968, therefore until then those in the 3rd Battalion would have been known as, 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets(The Rifle Brigade) It was of course the same for the 1st and 2nd battalions.

3RGJ had moved with ten days notice from Felixstowe to Hong Kong for six months and then six months on operations in Borneo, arriving back almost a year later to Felixstowe. If you were to ask was Felixstowe a happy posting, the answer might be found in the amount of all ranks, who met young ladies and settled down there.

The Rifleman



Last year's letter closed in November 1965 with the Battalion holding the border of the Balai Ringin District of Sarawak, and looking forward to relief and return to the U.K. early in January 1966. Our relief and return did in fact take place as planned, but, throughout our last few weeks in Borneo, operations continued at high pressure and proved to be not without incident.

We continued throughout this last phase to dominate the border area by intense patrolling and ambush operations, sometimes under intermittent and inaccurate mortar fire from the other side of the border. The success of these operations was proved by the fact that in these last few weeks no further enemy incursions took place in our area, and no further physical contacts were made. Towards Christmas, too, a most heartening rise in the morale of the inhabitants of the kampongs on our side of the border became evident and information as to the doings of the enemy beyond the border began to flood in. To encourage this flow, trading posts were set up at both Nibong and Gunan Gajak under the supervision of the forward companies, and proved extremely successful.

In early December however a new threat occurred; mining. Rfn. Masterman of "B" Company, returning eighth in line along a border ridge from a company ambush operation, stepped without warning on an enemy laid plastic anti-personnel mine. This produced a nasty problem for the Company Commander, David Ramsbotham, who himself, with his F.O.O. and Mike Dewar, Masterman's Platoon Commander, had already walked over the mine. The area was steep and covered with high primary jungle, and movement off the ridge, now clearly suspect, was very difficult indeed. However, during the next very hectic three hours, Masterman was successfully carried to an area where it was just possible to cut a helicopter pad and a helicopter evacuation operation, covered by smoke and D.F. to prevent possible enemy interference, was laid on. This was successfully completed, due in great measure to some very skilful flying by the pilot as the winch ropes only just reached the ground. Mas-

terman was safely evacuated to Kuching hospital where he made an excellent recovery, losing unfortunately one leg below the knee. It had however been a close run thing, as, by the time he had reached hospital, he had lost a great deal of blood.

Just before Christmas also we had our second, and fortunately last, mining incident. By now we had welcomed the advance party of the 1st Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, who were to relieve us. Operations were directed towards showing them the form and familiarising them with the area. 7 Platoon (Alistair Stewart) were therefore sent to prove a helicopter pad in an area which had not been visited for some time, so that David Ramsbotham and the relieving Company Commander could fly in to join them for the next stage of the patrol. Radio contact had been lost, and, on arrival overhead, the two company commanders were considerably disconcerted to find themselves warned away from the pad by the platoon. When radio contact was re-established shortly afterwards it proved that the pad had been mined. During the ensuing clearance operations a total of 8 mines were found, and all concerned were lucky that the first one seen had had its camouflage washed away by rain. During our last few days in Borneo therefore we concentrated on mine clearance patrols to ensure that we handed over the border clean. Luckily no further mines were found.

In spite of these activities, it proved possible to enjoy our Christmas. This was a great success. All companies held most successful Childrens Christmas Parties for the children of the local kampongs. Shyness wore off very quickly in the face of the mass of jellies, cakes, crackers, balloons and squeakers



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provided by the hosts, and the astonished faces of a small party of Indonesian cross-border traders who visited the Nibong trading post whilst "A" Company's party was in progress had to be seen to be believed. A Battalion concert party got up by Stephen Cave, and starring Simon Adams, Martin Nascimento, Cpl. Jackson (compère), Rfn. Hughes (and snowy), the band detachment and others, toured all bases by helicopter and played to packed houses. Certain senior officers are still smarting from one song which brought the house down! At Gunan Gajak too, on Christmas day, the Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command, visiting the company to offer their good wishes, found a splendid "Sanders of the River" scene. The whole kampong was en fete, watching childrens sports being run, judged by the Company Commander, Mark Scrase-Dickins (the Company 2nd in Command), the headman of the kampong, and the schoolmaster, operating from a table groaning from the local rice wine. Clearly the "Hearts and Minds" campaign had been won.

Finally, on 2nd January 1966, we handed over our responsibilities to 1st Durham Light Infantry and the forward companies were evacuated in one morning by a fleet of helicopters to Balai Ringin and thence by road to Kuching to embark on the new LSL Sir Lancelot. After a quick and comfortable crossing they disembarked at Singapore on 4th January and moved to Nee Soon Transit Camp to hand in equipment and await aircraft for U.K. At Nee Soon they found most of H.Q. and "C" Company (now reconstituted once more under Stephen Cave) who had crossed from Kuching to Singapore by air.

The move from Singapore to U.K. was done in Britannia Charter air-

craft spread over ten days, the last "chalk" getting away on the 15th. The move was uneventful and the waiting time in Nee Soon reasonably pleasant, with plenty of opportunity to enjoy once more the welcome delights of civilisation after 6 months in the jungle. Bugis Street once more proved a popular starting point for some interesting evenings' entertainment!

We took the opportunity during this time to hold a memorial service in the military cemetery in Singapore to our dead who lie there, including not only Sgt. Martin and Rfn. Gray whose deaths were recorded in the last letter, but also Rfn. Donoghue and Rfn. Reece. The former was unfortunately killed in a patrol accident and the latter died of leptospirosis, a little understood jungle disease; both during the last few weeks in Borneo.

On arrival in U.K. we went straight to our homes from London airport for a very well earned six weeks' leave. We reassembled here at Felixstowe on 21st February and plunged straight into a strenuous programme of cadres to make up for those we had not been able to carry out for the last two years. John Cornell, who relieved Mike Carleton-Smith as O.C. "A" Company on return, was given the N.C.O.'s Cadre to run and found himself with fifty students, most of whom successfully completed the Cadre and were confirmed in their appointments or given new "tapes". The Driving and Maintenance Cadre too had fifty students. The Signals, 81 m.m., Mortar and Wombat Anti Tank Cadres had thirty each. A drive was made once more on education and also on bugling, in order to re-establish the Bugles, who, as 13 Platoon, had had six months of patrolling in Borneo without setting lip to bugle throughout the period. Meanwhile Stephen Cave, with "C"

Company, took on the training of those not on cadres, with his emphasis on regaining the fitness lost on leave and preparing for classification. Most of the marrieds during this time enjoyed a short period of normal family life and the number of families living in the Felixstowe area rose by leaps and bounds.

During February and March many changes of personalities took place. Mike Carleton-Smith and David Ramsbotham left for staff appointments, being replaced by John Cornell and Charles Simmons, from the 1st Battalion. C.S.M. Arnold has left for the Recruiting Staff and O.R.Q.M.S. Williams (now W.O. 1) to be Superintending Clerk, both at the Depot. In exchange we have gained C.S.M. McGrady from the Depot and C.S.M. Newman from ERE. Chris Cornell has joined us as 2nd in Command "B" Company. Most important of all Colonel Mark-Bond after a most interesting and successful tour of command in Cyprus, Felixstowe, Hong Kong, South Malaya and Sarawak, as a result of which he was awarded a well-earned Mention-in-Dispatches, handed over command on 10th March to Lieut.Colonel Peter Hudson, whom we were delighted to welcome back to the Battalion.

Shortly after his arrival Colonel Peter reviewed the situation after discussions with the Brigade Commander, Brigadier Dick Bishop, and issued his operational and training directive. From 1st April we were to assume the operational role of the Allied Military Land Forces (North) Battalion of the Strategic Reserve. We were not however to train in this role but instead that of a normal counter-insurgency and limited war task Strategic Reserve Battalion. It was thought we were unlikely to be put on "Spearhead" before late summer (a forecast that has proved correct) and we were to be given



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until September free from major exercises to complete our cadres, classify, refresh our airportability techniques, and carry out the platoon, company and battalion collective training in a European setting that we had last practised four years ago in B.A.O.R. So programmes were written, ranges and training areas booked and "I" Company reconstituted, under Charles Marriott, for the first time for several years. It was to hold the Recce Platoon, the Signals Platoon, the M.T. Platoon and the fighting elements of Battalion H.Q., thus relieving the pressure of the H.Q. Company empire, by then over 230 strong.

But this was not to be. In early April, whilst the Signals and Driving and Maintenance Cadres still had two weeks to run, the Colonel was ordered to report at once to the Ministry of Defence to be briefed for what we later called Exercise "Iron Grip". This involved the move of an advance party, consisting of "A" Company (John Cornell) and part of Battalion H.Q. to Palace Barracks, Holywood, Northern Ireland four days later, to be followed by the remainder of the Battalion the following week. We were to go for a month's intensive training. Short shrift was given to those members of the Battalion who were inclined to relate the suddenness of the move to the 50th Anniversary of the Irish Revolt which chanced to occur then. Both parties were to move partly by special train and regular passenger steamer via Heysham and Belfast and partly by road convoy via Liverpool and Lame. Colonel Peter with a small party carried out a quick visit to Northern Ireland to see Brigadier Shaun Blair, Commanding 39 Infantry Brigade, under whose command we were to come on arrival. Some hectic movement instructions were written, and then we were off.

On arrival in Northern Ireland the Advance Party were accommodated in Palace Barracks, Holywood, Belfast—occupied by the Rear Party, 1st Battalion the Middlesex Regiment, that Battalion itself being on an unaccompanied tour in Guyana. From arrival they were ordered to take over some static guards on service installations in Belfast and to maintain one platoon at short notice in Palace Barracks for IS. emergencies. No untoward incidents however occurred and by 19th April the Battalion was completed in Palace Barracks after a dull but uneventful move, except for the road party who met a lightning dock-strike on arrival at Liverpool and were diverted another 250 miles via Stranraer in Southern Scotland.

The Battalion thoroughly enjoyed its month in Northern Ireland. Palace Barracks was comfortable, within easy reach of Belfast and, very quickly, contact was made with the civilian population. Throughout the tour, duties proved light and emergencies nil. Training facilities however were excellent, so a strenuous programme of training involving Rifle Companies being away in turn for two weeks based either on Magilligan Camp on the North Antrim Coast, or on Ballykinler Camp on the edge of the Mourne mountains in County Down, was arranged. Both camps had good facilities and excellent ranges, and from them companies found they could train where they like over most interesting and attractive country with the permission of the local farmers. So pre-classification shooting was completed, the Battalion got fit, Physical Efficiency Tests were completed and a good start was made on Section and Platoon training in a far more interesting setting than would have been possible in England. Battalion H.Q. too carried out a 72 hour Command Post exercise

across South Armagh using the grounds of Ballyards and Gosford Castles and other private property throughout. The only fly in the ointment from the training point of view was the weather, which was lovely when it was neither wet nor cold, which was seldom.

The outstanding memory of this tour in Northern Ireland, however, was the hospitality we received. Colonel and Mrs. Peter Brush gave us a most enjoyable dinner dance for all officers, scouring Northern Ireland for partners. Major and Mrs. Bill Brownlow not only threw the Downpatrick Roll Club open to all officers, but entertained every officer to a succession of dinner parties. Many others entertained us either to dances, dinner parties, cocktail parties, pre-race meeting lunches, had ourselves and our wives to stay, or threw their fishing open to us. We are most grateful to them all, and we were delighted to be able to repay this hospitality, to some extent, by a small party and dance in the Officers Mess at Palace Barracks before we left.

Meanwhile our Sunday evening dances in the Junior Ranks Club at Belfast were most successful, girls always outnumbering men. Apart from being most enjoyable these were also very profitable to the P.R.!, girls and men being charged 2s. 6d. per head at the door, but most men coming in, through the back, free! Another highlight of the social life was "C" Company's week's camp at Ballykinler Camp where they found themselves sharing a hatted camp with the Ulster W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Battalion. To Stephen Cave's great relief no serious incidents took place, the girls entertaining the men in the N.A.A.F.I. on their pay night, and the Company giving a dance for the girls on their pay night, which proved a great success. The high-



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light of this dance was the presentation by Rfn. Lamb on bended knee of new Battalion Colours (a red P.T. Vest on a broomstick) to Dame Joanna Henderson, Commandant of the W.R.A.C., who was visiting the Ulster W.R.A.C. (T.A.) Battalion, and was guest of honour at Stephen Cave's table. All the girls turned out to see the company leave, and rumour had it that several tears were shed.

We left Northern Ireland in mid May to return to Felixstowe. as we came, by steamer, rail and road convoy, just in time to avoid being caught by the seaman's strike.

On our return we reassembled after a long weekend at Felixstowe, to say goodbye almost immediately to R.S.M. 'Nick' Carter, on commissioning and posting to the London Rifle Brigade Rangers. 'Nick' had had an outstanding tour with the Battalion, particularly in the capacity of Helicopter Tasking Officer in Borneo where his relations with the R.A.F. were always firm, usually cordial, but left no doubt who was in control. Mrs. Carter too was a great loss to the Wives Club, now reconstituted once more, Mrs. Hudson having taken over the chair from Mrs. St. Aubyn on her arrival. C.S.M. Bagley was promoted R.S.M. to replace 'Nick' Carter, being relieved as C.S.M. "B" Company by C.S.M. Smythe also on promotion. Sgt. Taylor too joined the Battalion as Chief Clerk, replacing Sgt. Cambridge who has left the Army.

Now at last we were able to settle down to Classification, and to get on with some sport. "B" Company won both the Inter Company Rifle and G.P.M.G. competitions with some excellent results, particularly creditable being their totals of 83 Marksmen on the rifle and 66 Marksmen on the G.P.M.G., out of 88 and 94 firers respectively. This was despite

the fact that everyone was classifying on the G.P.M.G., a more difficult weapon than the old L.M.G., for the first time.

The overall Battalion classification totals included 255 Rifle Marksmen, and 176 G.P.M.G. Marksmen, out of 383 and 361 respectively.

"A" Company won the Battalion Athletics meeting held in Felixstowe in late May, and "C" Company won the Battalion Novice Boxing Competition held in July. "1" Company have won the Inter Company Cricket Competition, so the Company shield, with Football, Hockey, Basket Ball and Cross Country running to come later in the year, looks wide open. Nor have minor sports been neglected. We have a thriving Battalion Free Fall Parachuting Team under Christopher Freeman. The Fishing, Judo, Cycling and Clay Pigeon Shooting Clubs are in full swing, and for the benefit of the few helmsmen in the Battalion, comprising Colonel Peter, Major and Mrs. Mole St. Aubyn, Captain Simon Marriott and L/Cpl. Slater, we have a new Bosun sailing dinghy. There has sadly been all too little time to train Rfn. in these more individual sports, but there is always a "next season" to look forward to, and the facilities for them at Felixstowe are good.

Once Classification was over Company training started in earnest. Each company completed a practise "Spearhead" turnout and then went off for a fortnight's training in turn. "B" and "C" Companys went to the Catterick and Feldon training areas in North Yorkshire, and "A" and "1" Companys to the Otterburn training area in Northumberland. Both areas are mainly high and open moorland but the weather was reasonably kind and some very useful training was done. The highlights of the "B" and "C" Company training

period was an inter-company battle involving the use of helicopters and strike aircraft controlled by John Spedding. "A" Company were unable to obtain any helicopters for Otterburn, but were able to exercise with the London Rifle Brigade Rangers whose annual camp coincided with theirs. They were able to welcome, jointly with the L.R.B.R., our Colonel Commandant, Field-Marshal Sir Francis Festing, to a joint dinner party held in Otterburn camp during the fortnight.

As a battalion, too, we had been delighted to welcome the Field-Marshal when he visited us in Felixstowe in early March, shortly after the Battalion reassembled. He appeared thoroughly to enjoy the visit which included one of our rare Dinner Nights in the Officers Mess, a visit to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, and a tour of the barracks during which he was able to speak to many of the Riflemen as they were carrying out their normal cadre training.

Unfortunately however the Field-Marshal was unable to come to the Officers Dance held in the Officers Mess in June. This was a gay and informal affair held on a Saturday evening which included an excellent supper, a casino complete with roulette and baccarat presided over by head croupier Stephen Cave, dancing to the cacophony of a long-haired public school quartet, a nightclub complete with discotheque and an impromptu cabaret given by Simon Adams and Christopher Freeman. Guests included General Sir Victor and Lady Paley, who had kindly entertained many of the Officers and their partners to lunch before Newmarket races the same day, and Gris and Diana Davies-Scourfield who were on leave between Ghana and Cyprus. We were lucky with the weather and the weekend was rounded off by a se-



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series of cocktail, lunch and tea parties given by the married officers, all of whose homes were overflowing for the weekend.

Early in the year the Battalion had been selected to provide the British Army Team to shoot in the annual C.E.N.T.O. Rifle Meeting, against teams provided by the U.S., Turkish and Persian armies, which was held this year for the first time in England. Team practise started in June under Dick Gaisford, and C.S.M. Young. As classification had been delayed by the Northern Ireland tour, we were unable to send a full team to the A.R.O. Meeting at Bisley, our participation being limited to five individuals only. All these however shot well, Cpl. Brooks shooting outstandingly to win H.M. The Queens Medal, an exceptional performance indeed on the last year in which the A.R.A. Meeting is to be held at Bisley. This performance gave a great fillip to our C.E.N.T.O. Rifle Meeting Team who left for Bisley on 25th July for a final practise period before the Meeting itself on 16th and 17th August. The results of this Meeting are given elsewhere.

On 25th July also the remainder of the Battalion started to pack for an air move, represented in fact by luxury coaches, to Salisbury Plain for Battalion training. The move was carried out at "Spearhead" scales, and in every respect except actual means of transport and destination, as if it was a real short notice operational air move to an overseas theatre. After four days of packing, checking etc., the exercise was broken off for the weekend. Then the actual move to Airfield Camp, Netheravon, for five days Company training on Salisbury Plain, followed by a week's Battalion exercise, took place on 1st August.

For the first ten days the companies put the final polish on their own

training and recces. and detailed arrangements for the battalion exercise were complete. The weather was abysmal for these first days, in particular for the company test exercises and everyone got soaked to the skin several times. But the sun shone for the Battalion exercise and ensured its success in the closing stages when we had a lot of air support. As well as parachute resupply, fighter/ground attack sorties, photographic and armed reconnaissance we were lucky enough to have some Wessex helicopters and to do three company assaults by day and two by night. It all ended with a dawn attack, a fine display of pyrotechnics and a light hearted, non-tactical lift by helicopter back to a staging area in Erlestoke Park.

The control of this reasonably ambitious exercise, never easy when you have to provide enemy commanders, umpires and a "spectator organisation" from within your own resources, was made more difficult when Mole St. Aubyn contracted mumps on the day we left Felixstowe. Needless to say mirth rather than sympathy greeted the news. He was reported out of bed at 0800 hrs on the Thursday morning—but to be back in bed less than 30 seconds later, his batman openly accusing him of "skiving". Luckily he did not spread his affliction, though there were many worried faces in the mess for several weeks.

This meant that Robin Alers-Hankey had to become 2nd in command, key planner, controller, inventor, improviser and co-ordinator. This he did with outstanding verve and skill, although even he failed to extract a favor of any sort, from bombardier upwards, from the Strategic Reserve in the many thousands at Larkhill, to act as BC or FOO's on the exercise

Amid the welter of red hats which

arrived to breathe down the Colonel's neck during the last 36 hours we were delighted to see General Peter Young, who seemed to enjoy himself enormously and took part in at least one helicopter assault. Block leave followed immediately afterwards. Except for two soldiers, everybody returned on time and a week later we were off to Catterick to start a large scale exercise which included all the Strategic Reserve including the R.A.F. and some R.N. elements for which every training area in England and Wales had been booked.

We spent 36 hours in Catterick, defending a "Sovereign Base" in a country friendly by treaty but hostile in practice. We then shot off by air, at very short notice, to Sennybridge to restore law and order in a large and mostly trackless area of the Welsh Mountains.



QUEEN'S MEDAL WINNERS

Corporal V. C. Brooks (1966) Corporal A. G. Notley (1963) Both are serving with the 3rd Battalion.

This was, for us, the best part of the exercise. We had eight Wessex helicopters under operational control, a company group from 1 K.O.S.B., armoured cars, a gunner battery, a sapper troop, a section of the field ambulance and an Army Air Corps helicopter, under command. We were supplied by air, had



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a call on fighter ground attack, armed and photographic reconnaissance aircraft. All in all a formidable little army which Corporal V. C. Brooks (1966) Corporal A. G. Notley (1963) Both are serving with the 3rd Battalion. battled successfully against the revolting Celts for three days before being whisked off to Salisbury Plain, sadly no longer in an independent role, for the rest of the exercise. Sennybridge was not without its moments of hilarity. For example, few of us will forget the Hastings which suddenly appeared one morning and which circled Battalion Headquarters with its dispatcher standing in the doorway gesticulating in an unmistakable way that he had something for us, and where was he to drop it? Drop it he certainly did

A hundred and one parachute loads from three Hastings arrived that morning with supplies that we had desperately needed thirty six hours earlier, but of which we now had plenty. This, moreover, as we were packing up to move.

Merry, too, was the laughter which greeted an "Operational Immediate" signal saying that all Scout Helicopters were to be grounded, at once, because of a serious defect which had been discovered in one of them. Not very funny, perhaps, on the face of it, but quite amusing when one realised that the C.O. and Graham Wemyss were airborne that very moment over a remote part of Wales. The message was passed to them immediately.

Last year's letter closed with the Battalion on operations in Sarawak. This year we close with the Battalion preparing to move North to defend Northumbria against the ravages of Pictoria. We are reasonably confident that we shall succeed, if for no other reason than that we believe that the Brigade Com-

mander has planned the exercise to end that way.

Life in the Battalion during the past twelve months has not been dull.

BATTALION WEAPON TRAINING

After four years during which we were unable to attend Bisley and knowing also that this was going to be the last Bisley as such, we were determined to enter as strong a team as possible this year. Then, out of the blue, the Battalion off to Northern Ireland for a month on an "Exercise", at the time when classification should have been taking place. It was therefore decided only to send five individuals, all of whom had previous shooting experience. As can be seen by the results, Cpl. Brooks had an excellent meeting and we all congratulate him on winning the Queen's Medal. A great achievement when one considers his last appearance at Bisley was in 1960, when, as a young soldier he won the Rifle Brigade Cup.

Our next fixture was the C.E.N.T.O. match, details of which appear separately.

Our last meeting was the 54 (EA) Div/Dist meeting held at Colchester on the 24th and 25th September. Here again, this time due to a Brigade exercise, we were unable to enter a full team, but this did not stop us from having a good meeting, even with only a four man team, as the results show. The hardest trophy to win was the Regular Army versus T.A. Falling Plate when we were up against the L.R.B.R. We not only had to compete against their good shooting but also their barracking.

Non Central Matches are now fired concurrently with annual classification, and we have sent in some quite reasonable results. Time will tell if they are good enough. Finally,

it may be of interest to know that Graham Wemyss has been appointed Captain of the Army VIII.

C.E.N.T.O.

In February this year we were told that we were to represent the United Kingdom in the C.E.N.T.O. Rifle Meeting. This was welcomed by a few but most foresaw their companies depleted of anyone who could fire a rifle.

We had not taken part in any major Rifle Meeting since the Prix Le Clerc in 1961; however we had kept our hand in by winning competitions in Cyprus and Jordan. Plans were made to pick a team as a result of classification in March and the Battalion Rifle Meeting later on. The team would then be able to practice and take part in the N.R.A. meeting at Bisley in June, this would be good competition experience and give the opportunity to assess the team on the results. The announcement that the battalion was off to Northern Ireland put an end to such a simple plan.

On return from Ireland battalion classification was soon underway and the result of individuals assessed both in their practice shoots and their final score. The result was a list of 40 riflemen, these included the Second-in-Command of "B" Company and the C.S.M. of "A" Company. This led to varied opinions of "Gravel bellies" being voiced by all and sundry. However, all protests were overcome and practice started on 1st. July

At this stage a short explanation of C.E.N.T.O. would be appropriate. This competition was initiated in 1964 to promote friendly relations and a high standard of shooting between member nations of C.E.N.T.O. It is an exact counterpart of the Prix Le Clerc for N.A.T.O. countries. The nations in-



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involved in C.E.N.T.O. are as follows: U.K., U.S.A., Pakistan, Turkey and Iran. The competition is held by each member nation in turn. Last year Turkey were host nation and this year Pakistan were due to run the meeting, however they were otherwise involved and the burden fell on U.K. It was finally decided to be Bisley in preference to the shingle beaches of Hythe.

The first part of our practice was held on Middlewick ranges at Colchester. This period was mainly taken up with trying out everyone on the three weapons fired in the competition mainly G.P.M.G., S.L.R. and pistol. The final team had to consist of: 2 officers, 7 old soldiers (max). and a minimum of 15 young soldiers (under 4 years service). No officer or W.O. was allowed to fire the machine gun and no one must fire more than one weapon.

After a fortnight at Middlewick this team was slightly reduced and moved up to Bisley for the remainder of their training. During this period the L.R.B. most kindly let us stay at Bunhill. The scores at this moment were equalling the winning scores put up by Iran last year in this competition; so hopes were quite high. The main worry being how the team would react in what was to be their first competition.

A great deal of correspondence had been flying about asking for permission to use spikes in the "feet" of the G.P.M.G.s and to lengthen the butts. At last both of these were passed as permissible and morale rose since they were worth 30 pts to each gun pair. It was with the machine guns that our hopes lay, not only to win the machine gun shoot but to gain a large enough margin to give us the match. The rifle shots were also putting up some good scores under the excellent coaching of C.S.M. McGrady: up to now

C.S.M. Young had been with the guns and pistol shots.

The foreign teams arrived on Sunday 7th August and all nations moved into Hammersley Barracks, Aldershot. The following week consisted of uncontrolled and controlled practice. This enabled us to fire under near competition conditions. No sooner did we turn up for the first day of controlled practice than trouble started. The round snap targets were protested against by Turkey; the result ended in square ones. Persia protested against our spikes; the result was that we had to take them off. This meant that we had to re-zero completely. An official protest was submitted in favour of us retaining them but the result would not be known until just before the competition. During both the uncontrolled and controlled practice we remedied many faults and although the other teams were shooting well we were in the running. Then we heard that our spikes had been disallowed. This was quite a blow, but despite this the team were in high spirits on the morning of the match. After an opening ceremony— (we spent more time drilling for this parade than on the range practising) C.S.M. Young started off with a tremendous score of 146. This was a great example and he was unlucky to be beaten into second place. At the end of the first day we were pleased with our results. Nerves had stood the test and the only "blow out" was the W.T.O. had a "screw loose". It was doubted by some where exactly it was!

The second day saw the end of the rifle in the morning. Pistol went well but Rfn. D'Cruze was very hard done by to lose 4 points for a technical error. However, we knew that whenever anything went before the C.E.N.T.O. Committee we were bound to lose. The guns opened with a superb score of 270 from Cpl.

Notley and Rfn. Clifford. With spikes they would have broken 300! Every gun pair fired magnificently and we finally lay second to U.S.A. overall (not too bad for 6 weeks practice starting from scratch). But this was not to be, Iran objected to our stamping in (nothing in the Rules to prevent it). Cpl. Notley and Rfn. Clifford were penalised, they dropped from winning pair, as a result the team fell to 3rd place with Iran 2nd to U.S.A. it was a bitter blow to all the team who had achieved so much in a short time. At least we returned with the machine gun team Cup, Cpl. Robb and Rfn. Mangles won the machine gun pair Cup and C.S.M. Young had the second highest score on the rifle. Cricket, this season, was limited to an inter-company, twenty over a side, League. This played on the Felixstowe Town Ground gave rise to some amusing matches with exciting finishes. "C" Company were convincing winners with "I" Company second.

.FREE FALL PARACHUTING

This year has seen the start of a new sport for the battalion, although parachuting for fun has been practised in the Army for some years. It was with some alarm that John Cornell accepted the post of Parachuting Officer in February; but all his fears were allayed when, at the first meeting held in early March, he found it well attended by a large number of potential Free Fallers.

The problem now was to fit the numbers into the limited amount of vacancies available on the courses. However, after much hard work, letter writing and telephoning, John dispatched the first four to the Army Parachute Association centre at Netheravon, on Salisbury Plain, at the end of March. The course itself, run by a Warrant Officer and three N.C.O.'s is not inexpensive, costing



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on an average about £20. This includes 15 descents, the hire of equipment and other "extras", but this is about half the cost of a civilian run course. When the course is completed it is hoped that each man should have done a 15 second delay. This, with some people, is not always possible in 15 jumps!

FOOTBALL

The football team is run by Mike Dewar assisted by R.Q.M.S. Sainsbury, and S.Q.M.S. Woodward, A.C.C. They formed their team when they arrived at the beginning of the year, but by the time it had got going the end of the season was upon them.

BOXING

During the past two years boxing has not been one of the Battalions foremost activities, but since our return to England, we have formed a team which began training under Robin Alers-Hankey in August. This was because we believed the first round of the inter-unit competition would take place in September. At the time of writing—mid October—it still had not taken place, and we do not yet know when it will.

SERGEANTS MESS

The tour in Borneo drew to its close, and the journey home commenced with a sea voyage from Kuching to Singapore aboard H.M.S. Lancelot on which a Sgts. Mess was quickly established. It proved to be a roaring success and may have been the cause of so many pale faces, although the unfortunates claimed that it was the motion of the ship that made them feel ill.

On arrival at Singapore we were quickly transported to the transit camp at Nee Soon, and it was a pleasure to once again use the excellent Mess that so many of us know from tours in the Far East.

The short stay was highlighted by a party at the home of one of the R.A.F. Helicopter pilots who did so much good work with the Battalion in Borneo. From Nee Soon we were despatched in our "chalks" to be reunited with our families, with some of the members looking forward to seeing the newest arrivals for the first time. It is rumoured that one of our present C.S.M.'s had in his suitcase a pair of rigger boots and a ball for his 8 month old son, purchased after a "Shopping Spree" in Singapore.

On return from leave departures and arrivals were many, far beyond the scope of this letter, but we would like to say farewell to O.R.Q.M.S. Denis Williams captured by the Depot, to Sgt. Joe Lakeman who has left for civilian life, and welcome all new arrivals.

Many congratulations to Sgt. Paddy Walker also on the award of a very well earned British Empire Medal, and Lieutenant K. Carter on his commission.

The mess at Felixstowe has been improved by the addition of a very modern bar, using the old billiards room to build in. This has added considerably to the comfort of the mess, and anyone who has been kept away by the thought of the cold East Wind that kept them company in the old bar should forget it and visit us once again at least to sample the well-stocked bar. A vote of thanks also to the Green Jackets Trustees for help in the purchase of some of the fittings.

Now that the tempo of training is falling off, and for this we have used every training area in England and Northern Ireland, more socials are the order of the night, so use up all the invitations you receive, and overnight accommodation can always be found by those requiring it.

CORPORALS CLUB

We first mentioned the idea of opening a new Corporals Club at Felixstowe in our last month of the tour in Borneo. The necessary letters were written and we owe a large debt of thanks to Major Alers-Hankey, then OC. Rear Party, for his help and persuasion in getting us the buildings for what is now our flourishing, successful and very happy club.

A tremendous amount of hard work had to be done in order to convert the old Q.M.'s store into a club and without the assistance of M.P.B.W. and for once an almost overhelpful R.Q.M.S. and W.O. II Accommodation it would not have been possible. Our own members did a lot too and the results of our semi-professional labours are now available for all to see—on invitation, of course.

THE BAND

As far as the Band is concerned we can safely say that 1966 was the "Year of the Weddings". No less than 5 members of the band took the plunge. Bandsmen 'Dave' Jenkins, 'Ken' Swann, Keith Lewis, George Caldwell and Colin Taylor made up the "Quintet" and we wish them all the very best for the future.

The busy summer season is now over and the Band is now settling down to the annual winter hibernation after an enjoyable 2 weeks' leave. Bandsmen Porter, Cull, Sanger, Cross and Hazel are off to Kneller Hall on a pupils' course for a year. We wish them good blowing and hope they do well on their various instruments.

(For the full unabridged version please read the Green Machine On Line)



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War heroes share their memories

Former members of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, whose brave and selfless acts led by Major John Howard at Pegasus Bridge were commemorated on film in *The Longest Day*, were reunited on Sunday. Eight members of D Company, now in their late 70s and SOs, came together again at a ceremony at Bletchley Park. The celebrated heroes were among those glider borne troops who captured Normandy's Pegasus Bridge from the Nazis, marking D Day's first Allied action

ans were treated to a Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Fly Past.

search and setting up the Bletchley exhibition.

Attending the reunion was Major John Howard's daughter, Penny Bates, who officially opened a permanent exhibition of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry memorabilia at Bletchley a year ago. Major Howard died aged 86 in 1999.

In the 1962 film, *The Longest Day*, his part was played by Richard Todd, who had himself been among the first parachutists to land in Normandy.

Mastermind behind the Bletchley exhibition and the groups reunion was Geoff Baulk, 22, from Bletchley. Geoff, a member of The Royal Green Jackets and Territorial Army has been fascinated by the infantry's efforts since he was 14



."WE MEET AGAIN"

Sgt Titch Rayner, Penny Bates, Major John Howards daughter, and Col David Wood

Titch Rayner, 82, from Broughton, near Aylesbury, was one of 181 troops who captured the bridge. "We had a great day on Sunday," said Mr. Rayner. "It's very important to try to keep in touch with old comrades. It does become difficult as we get older and we are all over the country.

"But when, we do get together we do have a marvelous time. We are very devoted to remembering what we have done; we did lose some very good friends.

Mr. Rayner travels across England giving talks about his time in the Light Infantry. In June he joined former comrades on a week long pilgrimage to Pegasus Bridge in Normandy where a museum provides a tribute to their heroic work.

To close the day's events the veter-



"COMRADES IN ARMS"

War veterans meet up to talk of their exploits and has since devoted hours in re-





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General Sir John Moore

Sir John Moore, a distinguished military commander, was born at Glasgow, on the 13th of November, 1761. He was the eldest son of Dr John Moore, the subject of the preceding article, by a daughter of John Simson, professor of divinity in the university of Glasgow. His education commenced at a public school in Glasgow, and, afterwards advanced at the university of that city, was completed under the eye of his father, then acting as travelling tutor to the duke of Hamilton. The subject of this memoir accompanied Dr Moore during five years of continental travel, by which means he acquired a knowledge of most European languages, and a degree of polish and intelligence very uncommon in young men of his rank, either in that or the present age.



An early painting

Having chosen the army as a profession, he obtained, through the Hamilton interest, a commission as ensign in the 51st regiment, which he joined at Minorca in 1776, being then only fifteen years of age. A

lieutenancy in the 82nd regiment was his first step of promotion; and he seems to have held that station, without much distinction or any censure, during an early drawing of Sir John Moore during the several campaigns of the American war, at the end of which, in 1783, his regiment was reduced. In 1788, he was appointed major in the 60th; but this he soon exchanged for a similar post in his original regiment, the 51st: in 1790, he purchased a lieutenant-colonelcy in the same regiment.

Such was the rank of Sir John Moore at the commencement of the French revolutionary war. From Gibraltar, where he was then stationed, he was ordered, in 1794, to accompany the expedition for the reduction of Corsica. The bravery and skill which he displayed on this occasion, especially in storming the Mozello fort, where he received his first wound, introduced him to the favourable notice of general Charles Stuart, whom he succeeded soon after in the capacity of adjutant-general. Returning to England in 1795, he was raised to the rank of brigadier-general, and appointed to serve with Sir Ralph Abercromby, in the expedition against the West Indies. There he assisted in the reduction of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice, and afterwards in that of St Lucie; in which last enterprise, he had an important post assigned to him, the duties of which he executed in such a manner, that he was characterized by general Abercromby as "the admiration of the whole army," and afterwards intrusted with the government of the island. This charge, undertaken with reluctance, and rendered full of danger and labour from the hostility of the natives, and the number of Maroon negroes who constantly infested the country, was managed with a decision and activity that

overcame every obstacle.

Two successive attacks of the yellow fever, soon compelled general Moore to leave the West Indies; but, in company with Sir Ralph Abercromby, he was destined to reach yet higher distinction. The first scene in which they again acted together, was the Irish rebellion of 1798. The victory gained over the rebels at Wexford, mainly owing to the talents of general Moore, was the prelude to the suppression of that luckless movement of an irritated people. This field of exertion was not that in which a soldier of good feelings can be anxious to gain distinction; nor was there much scope for military talent in the enterprise. It is, therefore, highly creditable to general Moore, that he acquitted himself of all the duties intrusted to him on the occasion, with universal approbation.

In 1799, the subject of our memoir, promoted to the rank of major-general, served under Sir Ralph Abercromby in the unfortunate expedition to the Helder, where he displayed his wonted bravery, and was slightly wounded. In the subsequent campaign in Egypt, under the same commander, he found a wider and more favourable theatre for the display of his military talents. In the landing at Aboukir, he led the way, and carried by assault the batteries with which the French endeavoured to prevent that movement. In the subsequent battle of Aboukir, March 21, 1801, he conducted himself with signal gallantry, and was severely wounded.

At the end of the campaign, he returned to England, and received the honour of knighthood, with the order of the Bath. For some time after this, he held an important command



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General Sir John Moore

in Kent, and afterwards succeeded general Fox in the command of the army in Sicily, whence he was recalled in the end of the year 1807. In the month of May, 1808, he was sent to the Baltic, with an armament of ten thousand men, on behalf of the king of Sweden, who was at this time threatened with simultaneous attacks from France, Russia, and Denmark. With this force, Sir John reached Gottenburg on the 17th, but was not permitted to land the troops; he himself however, repaired to Stockholm, to consult with the Swedish cabinet. Here, to his astonishment, he learned that the Swedish monarch, despising the tame idea of defensive operations, was wholly engrossed with dreams of conquest. He proposed that some Swedish regiments should be collected at Gottenburg, with which the British troops should be joined, and that this united force should take possession of Zealand. The British general represented this to be impossible, on account of the number of French and Spanish troops which occupied the island of Funen, and which could not, in present circumstances, be prevented from passing over to Zealand. It was next proposed to land the British alone in Finland, where they would have had the principal part of the whole effective force of the Russian empire to contend with. Sir John having, in reply to this proposal, modestly hinted that ten thousand British troops might not be found equal to such an undertaking, the impatient Gustavus ordered him to be instantly arrested. He had the good fortune, however, to make his escape, and with the troops returned immediately to England. Without being permitted to land, general Moore was ordered to proceed, under the command of Sir Harry Burrard, to Portugal, in order to give the aid of his talents to the expedition already formed in that

country, for the assistance of the Spanish patriots, in expelling the French from their territory.

Sir John did not arrive in Portugal till after the signing of the convention of Cintra, and thus escaped all participation in the odium which was attached to that transaction. Disgusted with the manner in which the affairs of Portugal were conducted, Sir Arthur Wellesley, now duke of Wellington, applied for leave of absence, which was granted. Sir Hew Dalrymple was recalled, and Sir Harry Burrard having resigned, Sir John Moore was left commander-in-chief of the army. In this command he was formally confirmed by a letter from lord Castlereagh, dated September 25, 1808, which informed him, that an army under his orders, of not less than thirty-five thousand men, five thousand of them cavalry, was to be employed in the north of Spain, for assisting the Spanish government. Fifteen thousand troops, it was stated, were to be sent to join him by the way of Corunna; and he was to make immediate preparations for carrying the plan into effect, it being left to his own judgment to march for some point in Galicia, or on the borders of Leon, by land; or to transport his troops by sea, from Lisbon to Corunna, whither the reinforcements for his army were to be sent. Sir John Moore lost no time in entering upon the duties of his important charge, though he seems to have done so under a melancholy foreboding, sufficiently warranted by the miserable condition of his army, of what would be the result. "At this instant," he says, writing to lord Castlereagh on the receipt of his commission, "the army is without equipments of any kind, either for the carriage of the light baggage of regiments, military stores, commissariat stores, or other appendages of an army, and

not a magazine is formed in any of the routes (for he had determined on the expedition by land) by which we are to march." By a subsequent letter, written ten days after the above, we find that the army was also in a great measure destitute of money, and, amongst other necessaries, particularly in want of shoes. On the 27th of October, he left Lisbon, the greater part of the army being already on the route for Burgos, which had been assigned by the Spanish government as the point where the British forces were to be concentrated; Madrid and Valladolid were the places appointed for magazines: and Sir John Moore was officially informed, that he would find sixty or seventy thousand men, assembled under Blake and Romana, in the Asturias and Galicia, ready to act along with him. These were stated to be independent of the armies in the front and on the left flank of the French position; the latter of which, under the command of the marquis De Castanos, was supposed to be numerous, and well appointed. The enthusiasm of the Spaniards in defence of their national independence, was also stated to be such, that it would be utterly impossible for a French army to enter the defiles of the Asturias, without being cut off by the armed peasants alone.

All these flattering representations the British general soon found to be utterly destitute of foundation. In marching through Portugal, he was hardly treated with civility, and everything furnished to him by the authorities was charged at a high price. Specie, in Britain, was at the time not to be obtained, and not only government bills, but even promissory notes, were refused, which subjected the army to great inconvenience, and much extra expense. The ignorance, too, of the Portuguese, was so extreme, that



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that the state of the roads could not be ascertained, but by sending British officers, stage by stage, a-head of the advancing columns. With all these disadvantages, however, the general and a part of the army reached Almeida on the 8th of November. The weather was exceedingly rainy, but the troops moved on, and hitherto had conducted themselves with a propriety and moderation which surprised the inhabitants. Here, however, it was found that some soldiers had committed several serious crimes, and it being judged necessary that a signal example should be made to prevent their recurrence, one of the most notorious offenders was put to death. The general orders on this occasion, we lay before the reader, as illustrative of the highly dignified and amiable character of Sir John Moore.

"Nothing could be more pleasing to the commander of the forces, than to show mercy to a soldier of good character, who had been led inadvertently to commit a crime; but he should consider himself neglectful of his duty, if, from ill-judged lenity, he pardoned deliberate villany.

"The crime committed by the prisoner now under sentence, is of this nature; and there is nothing in his private character or conduct, which could give the least hope of his amendment, were he pardoned. He must, therefore, suffer the awful punishment to which he has been condemned. The commander of the forces trusts that the troops he commands, will seldom oblige him to resort to punishments of this kind; and such is his opinion of British soldiers, that he is convinced they will not, if the officers do their duty, and pay them proper attention. He, however, takes this opportunity to declare to the army, that he is determined to show no mercy to plunderers and marauders, or, in other

words, to thieves and villains. The army is sent by England to aid and support the Spanish nation, not to plunder and rob its inhabitants; and soldiers, who so far forget what is due to their own honour, and the honour of their country, as to commit such acts, shall be delivered over to justice. The military law must take its course, and the punishment it awards shall be inflicted."

On the 11th of November, the advanced guard crossed a rivulet, which divides Portugal from Spain, and marched to Ciudad Rodrigo, the governor of which met the British general two miles from the city. A salute was fired from the ramparts, and the general was afterwards hospitably entertained in the principal house in the town. The state of the country, and the manners of the people, they found here to be remarkably changed, and the change highly to the advantage of Spain. At Ciudad Rodrigo they were received by the people with shouts of "Viva los Ingleses." On the 13th, Sir John Moore arrived at Salamanca, where he halted to concentrate his forces; Burgos, the place appointed for that purpose, being already occupied by the French. On his arrival at Salamanca, Sir John Moore addressed a long letter to lord William Bentinck, a few extracts from which will put the reader in possession of the knowledge of Sir John's feelings and views, and of the state of the country at this period. "I am sorry to say," he writes, "from Sir David Baird I hear nothing but complaints of the Junta of Corunna, who offered him no assistance. They promise every thing, but give nothing; and, after waiting day after day for carts which they had promised to procure for the carriage of stores, his commissary was at last obliged to contract for them at an exorbitant price, and then got them. This is really a sort of conduct

quite intolerable to troops that the Spanish government have asked for, and for whose advance they are daily pressing. On my arrival here, and telling colonel O'Lowlar that I wished to have supplies immediately provided on the road from Astorga to this place, for the march of the troops from Corunna, he began by telling me, that a power which he should have got, and which it was promised should be sent after him from Madrid, had not been sent; that he had thus no authority, and had hitherto been acting upon his own credit, &c. I run over all this to you, though perhaps it should properly be addressed to Mr Frere, but to you I can state it with more ease; and I shall thank you to speak to Frere upon it, when I hope he will have some serious communication with the Spanish ministers, and plainly tell them, if they expect the advance of the British army, they must pay somewhat more attention to its wants. Proper officers must be sent to me, vested with full powers to call forth the resources of the country when they are wanted, and without delay, the same as is done, I presume, for the Spanish armies. We shall pay, but they are not to allow us to be imposed upon, but to tell us what is paid by the Spanish government in such cases. We find no difficulty with the people; they receive us everywhere well, but the authorities are backward, and not like those of a country who wish our assistance. With respect to magazines, it is impossible for me to say where they ought to be made. With respect to those at Madrid, it is very likely to be a proper place for Spain to collect a considerable depot of various kinds. It is their capital, and they know best; but it does not seem to me to be a place where the British could be called upon to make any collection. We shall establish small magazines, for consumption, in the neighbourhood where we are



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acting. Those great resources which a country makes for general supply, should be made by Spain, that when we approach them, we may draw from them, and pay for what we get: but Spain should make them, and be at the expense and trouble of their conservation. As I believe we are giving money to Spain, part of it may be applied by them in this manner; but it is they that should do it, not we. I have no objection to you or Mr Frere representing the necessity of as many more British troops, as you think proper. It is certain that the agents which our government have hitherto employed, have deceived them; for affairs here are by no means in the flourishing state they are represented and believed to be in England, and the sooner the truth is known there, the better. But you must observe, my lord, that whatever is critical, must now be decided by the troops which are here. The French, I suspect, are ready, and will not wait. I differ with you in one point,—when you say the chief and great obstacle and resistance to the French, will be afforded by the English army: if that be so, Spain is lost. The English army, I hope, will do all which can be expected from their numbers; but the safety of Spain depends upon the union of its inhabitants, their enthusiasm in their cause, and their firm determination to die rather than submit to the French. Nothing short of this, will enable them to resist the formidable attack about to be made upon them. If they will adhere, our aid can be of the greatest use to them; but if not, we shall soon be out-numbered, were our force quadrupled. I am, therefore, much more anxious to see exertion and energy in the government, and enthusiasm in their armies, than to have my force augmented. The moment is a critical one,—my own situation is peculiarly so,—I have never seen it otherwise;

but I have pushed into Spain at all hazards. This was the order of my government, and it was the will of the people of England. I shall endeavour to do my best, hoping that all the bad that may happen, will not happen, but that with a share of bad, we shall also have a portion of good fortune."

The despondency here expressed by the general was not lessened by the information he received in two days afterwards, that the French were not only in possession of Burgos, but also of Valladolid, within twenty leagues of Salamanca, where he now lay with only three brigades of infantry, and without a single gun; and, though the remainder of his army was coming up as fast as possible, he was aware that the whole could not arrive in less than ten days. Instead of the Spanish army of seventy thousand men that was to have joined him here, there was not so much as a single Spanish piquet to cover his front, or to act as guides in the country, of every portion of which the British army, both officers and men, were perfectly ignorant. Sir John Moore immediately communicated the intelligence to the Junta of Salamanca; telling them that he must have the use of all the carts and mules in the country to transport his magazines to Ciudad Rodrigo should it become requisite, and that the troops with three days' provisions should be kept in readiness; but he added, that as he had not yet stopped the advance of the rest of the army from Portugal, he was desirous of assembling it there, and would not retire without an absolute necessity. All this was listened to with calm acquiescence. The general in the mean time found, that though a patrol of horse had neared Valladolid, none of the French infantry had yet passed Burgos, and he gave orders to generals Baird and

Hope, to advance upon Salamanca with all speed, but to be upon their guard on the march. The junta of Ciudad Rodrigo about this time ordered twenty thousand dollars to be placed at his disposal, and a letter from lord Castlereagh brought him intelligence that two millions of dollars had been despatched for him on the 2nd of the month, and were already on the way to Corunna. His lordship at the same time told him, that the scarcity of money in England was such, that he must not look for any further supply for some months, and recommended it to him to procure as much money on the spot as possible. Encouraged so far by these advices, Sir John Moore continued to concentrate his forces at Salamanca, though upon what principle does not appear; for he seems to have been filled with the most dismal anticipations. "Every effort," he says, writing to lord Castlereagh on the 24th of November, "shall be exerted on my part, and that of the officers with me, to unite the army; but your lordship must be prepared to hear that we have failed; for, situated as we are, success cannot be commanded by any efforts we can make, if the enemy are prepared to oppose us." To add to all his other grounds of despondency, he considered Portugal as utterly indefensible by any force England could send thither. "If the French succeed in Spain, it will be in vain," he says, in another letter to lord Castlereagh, "to attempt to resist them in Portugal. The Portuguese are without a military force, and from the experience of their conduct under Sir Arthur Wellesley, no dependence is to be placed on any aid they can give. The British must in that event, I conceive, immediately take steps to evacuate the country. Lisbon is the only port, and therefore the only place whence the army with its stores can embark. Elvas and Almeida are the



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only fortresses on the frontiers. The first is, I am told, a respectable work. Almeida is defective, and could not hold out beyond ten days against a regular attack. I have ordered a depot of provisions for a short consumption to be formed there, in case this army should be obliged to fall back; perhaps the same should be done at Elvas. In this case, we might check the progress of the enemy whilst the stores were embarking, and arrangements were made for taking off the army. Beyond this, the defence of Lisbon, or of Portugal, should not be thought of."

The news of Castanos being defeated having reached him on the 28th of November, he determined to fall back upon Portugal, and sent orders for general Hope to join him by forced marches, and for Sir David Baird to retreat upon Corunna; desiring the latter, however, to send back his stores, and keep his design, and the fact of his retreat, as much out of view as possible. He wrote to lord Castlereagh on the 29th, that he had so done, and requesting that transports might be sent to the Tagus to receive the troops, as he was still of opinion that Portugal was not defensible by a British army. On the 5th of December, he wrote again to his lordship, that the junction of general Hope had been secured, and that Bonaparte had directed his whole force upon Madrid, in consequence of which he hoped to reach Portugal unmolested. The idea of a retreat, however, was exceedingly disagreeable to the army, and in this letter Sir John Moore gives his reasons for adopting such a measure at considerable length, and seems extremely anxious to justify it. He did not propose, however, wholly to desert the Spaniards; but he thought they might be aided upon some other point, and for this cause

had ordered Sir David Baird to tail with his troops to meet the remainder of the army at the mouth of the Tagus, if he did not receive other orders from England. He had also written a long letter of the same kind, on the 1st of December, to Sir Charles Stuart at Madrid, in which he also requests that some money might be sent him from that place. "Such," says he "is our want of it, that if it can be got at a hundred per cent., we must have it; do, therefore, if possible, send me some at any rate." To this letter Sir John Moore received an answer, softening down the defeat of Castanos, which was followed by a requisition on the part of the Junta, military and civil, of all the united authorities of the kingdom, that he would move forward to the defence of Madrid, which was threatened by the enemy, and preparing to make the most determined defence. This was seconded by Mr Frere, the British resident, and by another person who had been an eye-witness of the extraordinary effervescence at Madrid. Sir John Moore, in consequence of this, on the 5th of December, the same day that he had written to lord Castlereagh, ordered Sir David Baird to suspend his march, and determined to wait in the position he occupied till he should see further into the matter, and afterwards to be guided by circumstances. Sir David luckily had proceeded but a little way back, so that little time was lost. General Hope had brought up his division close to Salamanca, which made the little army complete, having both cavalry and artillery; and by a single movement to the left, Sir John Moore could make his junction with Sir David Baird a matter of certainty. Madrid, however, had capitulated on the third of the month, and was in the hands of the enemy two days before Sir John Moore had resolved to countermand the retreat. The

intelligence upon which he had acted was, in fact, void of any real foundation; and the prince of Castelfranco, and his excellency, Don Thomas Morla, had already commenced a treaty for delivering up Madrid to the French, when they signed the pressing requisition of the Junta to him to hasten to its relief. Mr Frere, too, the dupe of his own warm fancy, or of the interested representations of the feeble but sanguine spirits who at this time held the government of Spain, was weak enough to assist this imposture, and to take the most unwarrantable liberties. He sent to Sir John Moore a flippant Frenchman, named Charmilly, with a demand, that before he commenced his proposed retreat, the said Frenchman should be examined before a council of war. To mark the opinion he entertained of Charmilly, Sir John Moore ordered the adjutant of the army to give him a written order to retire, and he requested Mr Frere, when he had such messages to deliver, to employ some other person, as he entertained a strong prejudice against all such characters; otherwise be treated Mr Frere with the usual deference. Anxious to be useful to the cause of Spain, the British general wrote to the marquis de la Romana, to suggest measures for their acting in concert, that they might, if possible, support Madrid. On the 7th, Sir John Moore was favoured with a most patriotic address from the Junta of Toledo, which declared that the members of the Junta were determined to die in defence of their country. Pleased with this manifestation of public spirit, though it was only on paper, Sir John sent one of his officers to form with them a plan of defence for the city; but, as the French approached, the Junta prudently retired, and the duke of Belluno took peaceable possession of the place. Nothing could be more hopeless



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than the condition of the Spaniards at this time. Bessieres was driving the wretched remains of the centre army, as it was called, on the road to Valencia; Toledo was occupied by Belluno; the duke of Dantzic, with a strong division was on the road for Badajos, with the design of seizing upon Lisbon or Cadiz. The duke of Treviso was proceeding against Saragossa. The duke of Dalmatia was preparing to enter Leon, and Bonaparte at Madrid was ready to second all their movements, together or separately, as events should require. It was in circumstances of which he was totally unaware, that Sir John Moore found himself called upon to commence active operations. He was necessarily prevented from advancing upon Madrid by the knowledge that the passes of Somosierra and Guadarama were in the hands of the French; but, having ordered Sir David Baird to advance, he himself moved forward to Toro, intending to unite with Sir David Baird at Valladolid. The object of this movement was to favour Madrid and Saragossa, by threatening to intercept the communication with France. On the 12th, lord Paget, with the principal part of the cavalry, marched from Toro to Tordesillas; while brigadier-general Stuart, commanding the 18th and king's German dragoons, was moving from Arevolo. In his march, general Stuart, with a party of the 18th dragoons, surprised a party of French cavalry and infantry in the village of Reveda, and killed or made prisoners the whole detachment. This was the first encounter of the French and British in Spain, an earnest of what was yet to be there achieved by British skill and British valour. On the 14th, the head quarters of the army were at Aloejos, when, by an intercepted despatch, Sir John Moore was put in possession of the real state of affairs, with the objects

which Bonaparte had in view, by despatching after him the duke of Dalmatia, with whom he was already almost in contact. This intelligence determined the general, instead of going on to Valladolid, as was intended, to face about, and hasten to unite himself with the part of his army which was under Sir David Baird, and, if possible, to surprise the duke of Dalmatia at Saldanha before he should be further reinforced. Writing of his intended junction with Sir David Baird, to lord Castlereagh on the 16th, he adds, "If then marshal Sout is so good as to approach us, we shall be much obliged to him; but if not we shall march towards him. It will be very agreeable to give a wipe to such a corps although, with respect to the cause generally, it will probably have no effect, Spain being in the state described in Berthier's letter. She has made no efforts for herself; ours came too late, and cannot, at any rate, be sufficient."

The armies were now near one another. The patrols of the cavalry reached as far as Valladolid, and had frequent and successful skirmishes with the enemy. On the 20th, Sir John Moore formed a junction with Sir David Baird; the headquarters of the army being at Majorca, but the cavalry and horse artillery were at Monastero Milgar Abaxo, three leagues from Sahagun, where a division of the enemy's cavalry were posted. The weather was extremely cold, and the ground covered with snow, yet lord Paget set out at two o'clock of the morning to surprise the French position. General Slade, with the 10th hussars, approached the town along the Cea, while his lordship, with the 15th dragoons and some horse artillery, approached from

another direction. Reaching the town by the dawn, they surprised a piquet; but one or two escaping, gave the alarm, and enabled the enemy to form outside the town. The ground was at first unfavourable to the British, but the superior skill of lord Paget overcame the difficulty. The French having wheeled into line, to receive the shock of the British charge, were overthrown in a moment, and dispersed in all directions. The 15th hussars, only four hundred strong, encountered seven hundred French, and completely routed them. Many of the French were killed, and one hundred and fifty-seven, including two lieutenant-colonels, were taken prisoners. Sir John Moore reached Sahagun on the 21st, where the troops were halted for a day, to recover the fatigue of the forced marches they had made. On the 23d, every arrangement was completed for attacking the duke of Dalmatia, who, after the defeat of his cavalry at Sahagun, had concentrated his troops, to the amount of eighteen thousand, behind the river Carrion; seven thousand being posted at Saldanha, and five thousand in the town of Carrion. Detachments were also placed to guard the fords and the bridges. The corps of Junot, Sir John Moore was aware, had also its advanced posts between Vittoria and Burgos. The spirit and the feeling under which he was now acting, were not at all envious. "The movement I am making," he writes, "is of the most dangerous kind. I not only risk to be surrounded every moment by superior forces, but to have my communication intercepted with the Galicias. I wish it to be apparent to the whole world, as it is to every individual of the army, that we have done everything in our power in support of the Spanish cause, and that we do not abandon it until long after the Spaniards had abandoned us." As already said, however, the



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preparations, for attacking the duke of Dalmatia, were completed. The generals received their instructions, and the army, burning with impatience, was to march to the attack at eight o'clock in the evening. Unfavourable reports through the day, and a letter from the marquis de la Romana, confirming these reports, led to an opposite line of conduct. The march to the Carrion was countermanded, and immediate steps taken for retreating upon Astorga. The duke of Dalmatia had been daily receiving strong reinforcements for some time, and his army was already greatly superior to the British. The duke of Abrantes had advanced from Burgos to Valencia, and threatened the right flank of the British. Bonaparte himself had left Madrid on the 18th, with thirty-two thousand infantry, and eight thousand cavalry, part of which had reached Tordesillas on the 24th, and before the British had begun to retreat from Sahagun, they were moving with all haste upon the same point with the latter on Benevente. The duke of Dantzic, too, was recalled from his march towards Badajos, and ordered for Salamanca; and even the duke of Treviso, sent to take vengeance on Saragossa, was ordered to join in the pursuit of the British. Every preparation having been made, general Fraser, followed by general Hope, marched with their divisions on the 24th of December to Valdinias and Majorga, and Sir David Baird to Valencia. This movement was concealed by lord Paget, who pushed strong patrols of cavalry up to the advanced posts of the enemy. The reserve followed from Sahagun on the morning of the 25th; and lord Paget, in company with Sir John Moore, with the cavalry, followed in the evening. On the 24th of December, the advanced guard of Bonaparte marched from Tordesillas, which is a hundred and twenty

miles from Madrid, and fifty from Benevente. Strong detachments of artillery had been pushed forward on the road to Villalpando and Majorga, one of which lord Paget encountered at the latter place, on the 26th. Colonel Leigh, with two squadrons of the 10th hussars, was ordered to charge this corps, which he did, and completely routed it, taking more than one hundred prisoners. Nothing could exceed the coolness and gallantry displayed by the British cavalry on this occasion. The 10th dragoons had already signaled their valour, and been victors in six several attacks, At Valencia, captain Jones, with only twenty men, charged a hundred French dragoons, killed fourteen of them, and made six prisoners. Generals Hope and Frazer reached Benevente on the night of the 26th. On the 27th, the rear-guard crossed the Eslar, blew up the bridge, and followed the same route. After resting a short time at Benevente, and publishing general orders to the troops, whose conduct, since the commencement of the retreat, had assumed a disgraceful character, the army moved for Astorga on the 28th. Lord Paget, being left with the cavalry to bring up the rear, observed some of the enemy's horse attempting a ford below the bridge which had been blown up, and between five and six hundred of Bonaparte's imperial guards dashed into the river, and passed over. The piquets, who had been divided to watch the ford, amounting only to two hundred and twenty men, retired slowly before such superior numbers, disputing every inch of ground, till lord Paget, with the 10th hussars, coming up, they wheeled round, and plunged into the water, leaving behind them fifty-five men killed and wounded, and seventy prisoners, among whom was general Le Febvre, the commander of the imperial guard. Some doubt, it

would appear, hung upon the general's mind, whether Vigo or Corunna was the most eligible place for the embarkation of the troops; and wishing to have either of them still in his choice, he sent general Crawford, with three thousand men, lightly equipped, on the road to Orange, so far on the way to Vigo. With the rest of the troops he proceeded to Astorga. The marquis de la Romana had been left to destroy the bridge of Mansilla; and after having performed that duty, had been desired to turn to Asturias, in the fortresses of which he might find safety, and at the same time make some small diversion in favour of the British army: but he had left the bridge in charge of a small guard, which delivered it up to the cavalry of Soult; and he possessed himself here of a great part of the accommodations which were intended for the British troops. His half naked troops carried away a part of the stores which had been collected at this place, a great part of which had to be destroyed for want of means to remove them. At Astorga, another general order was issued, respecting the moral conduct of the troops, which had not improved since they left Benevente. The advanced guard, and the main body of the British army, marched on the 30th for Villa Franca; Sir John Moore, with general Paget, and the reserve, followed on the 31st. The cavalry reached Camberas at midnight, when the reserve proceeded, and arrived next morning, January 1, remaining at Bemilene, as the preceding divisions were marching off to Villa Franca. Here an unparalleled scene of debauchery presented itself. The stragglers from the preceding divisions so crowded the houses, that there was not accommodation for the reserve, while groups of the half naked wretches belonging to the marquis of Romana, completed the confusion.



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The French were following so close, that their patrols during the night fell in with the cavalry piquets. When Sir John Moore with the reserve and the cavalry, marched for Villa Franca, on the 2d of January, he left colonel Ross, with the 20th regiment, and a detachment of cavalry, to cover the town; while parties were sent to warn the stragglers, amounting to one thousand men, of their danger, and to drive them, if possible, out of the houses. Some few were persuaded to move on, but the far greater number, in despite of threats, and regardless of the approaching enemy, persisted in remaining, and were therefore left to their fate. The cavalry, however, only quitted the town on the approach of the enemy, and then, from the sense of immediate danger, was the road filled with stragglers, armed and unarmed, mules, carts, women and children, in the utmost confusion. The patrol of hus-sars which had remained to protect them, was now closely pursued for several miles by five squadrons of French cavalry, who, as they galloped through the long line of stragglers, slashed them with their swords, right and left, without mercy, while, overcome with liquor, they could neither make resistance, nor get out of the way. At Villa Franca, the general heard, with deep regret, of the irregularities which had been committed by the preceding divisions. Magazines had been plundered, stores of wine broken open, and large quantities of forage and provisions destroyed. One man who had been detected in these atrocities, was immediately shot; and a number of the stragglers, who had been miserably wounded by the French cavalry, were carried through the ranks, to show the melancholy consequences of inebriety, and the imprudence of quitting their companions. Failing of his aim of intercepting the British at

Astorga, Bonaparte did not proceed farther, but he ordered Soult, with an overwhelming force, to pursue, and drive them into the sea; and on the 3d of January, they pressed so hard upon the rear of the retreating army, that Sir John Moore resolved upon a night march from Villa Franca to Herrerias. From the latter place he proceeded to Lugo, where he determined to offer the enemy battle; and for this purpose he sent forward despatches to Sir David Baird, who was in front, to halt. He also enclosed the same orders for generals Hope and Fraser, who commanded the advanced divisions. These he forwarded to Sir David Baird, by his aid-de-camp, captain Napier, accompanied by an orderly dragoon. Sir David again forwarded them to the respective officers; but the orderly dragoon, having got intoxicated, lost them: in consequence of which general Fraser marched on a day's journey on the road to Vigo, which he had to countermarch next day, in dreadful weather, by which he lost a number of his men. It was now determined to march upon Corunna, as being nearer than Vigo; and an express was sent off to Sir Samuel Hood, to order the transports round to that place. On the road to Nagles, the reserve fell in with forty waggons with stores, sent from England for the marquis of Romana's army. As there were no means of carrying them back, shoes, and such things as could be made use of, were distributed to the troops as they passed, and the rest destroyed. On the 5th, the rifle corps, which covered the reserve, was engaged with the enemy nearly the whole day, while everything that retarded the march was destroyed. Two carts of dollars, amounting to twenty-five thousand pounds, were rolled down a precipice on the side of the road, which the advanced guard of the French passed in less than five min-

utes thereafter. It was afterwards ascertained that this money fell into the hands of the Spanish peasants. At Lugo, another severe general order was issued, and a position taken up for battle. The French made an attack on part of this position on the 7th, but were repulsed with ease. On the 8th, everything was disposed for a general engagement; Soult, however, did not think fit to make the attack, and the British army not being now in a state to undergo a protracted warfare, it was resolved to continue the retreat. The different brigades accordingly quitted the ground about ten o'clock at night, leaving their fires burning to deceive the enemy. Great disorders still reigned among the troops, who were suffering dreadfully from the severity of the weather, and from long marches on bad roads; yet, at Bitanzos, it was judged preferable to keep the troops exposed to the cold and rain rather than to the irresistible temptations of the wine houses in the town. Here a new order was issued, and particular duties demanded to be performed by the officers. The last day's march, on the 11th, was conducted with more propriety than any that had preceded it; yet eight or nine stragglers were detected, who had preceded their column, and taken possession of a wine house, and all that was in it. They were seized, and brought before the general, who halted the army, and sent for the officers of the regiments to which they belonged. The culprits' haversacks were then searched, when the general declared that, had he found any plunder in them, their owners would have been hanged; but that he would have considered their guilt in a great measure attributable to the negligence of their officers. On finishing this inquiry, Sir John Moore rode on to Corunna, and examined every position in its neighbourhood. The troops were



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quartered, partly in the town, and partly in the suburbs; General Paget, with the reserve, at El-Burgo, near the bridge of the Moro, and in the villages on the St Jago road. Adverse winds had detained the transports, otherwise the whole army would have been embarked before the enemy could have come up. Only a few ships lay in the harbour, in which some sick men, and some stragglers who had preceded the army, and represented themselves sick, had embarked. The army, though much fatigued, arrived at its destined position unbroken, and in good spirits. Bonaparte, with seventy thousand men, had in vain attempted to impede its progress; and its rear-guard, though often engaged, had never been thrown into confusion. But the greatest danger was still to be incurred. The situation of Corunna was found to be unfavourable; the transports had not arrived; the enemy was already appearing on the heights, and might soon be expected in overwhelming force. Several of his officers, recollecting, perhaps, the convention of Cintra, gave it as their advice, that Sir John Moore should apply to the Duke of Dalmatia for permission to embark his troops unmolested. This, however, he positively rejected. The officers, in the first place, were busied in attempting to restore some degree of discipline among the troops, and in providing such refreshments for them as the place would afford. The ground, in the mean time, was carefully examined, and the best dispositions that could be thought of made for defence. On the 13th, Sir John Moore was on horseback by the break of day, making arrangements for battle. He returned about eleven, worn out with fatigue; sent for brigadier-general Stuart, and desired him to proceed to England, to explain to ministers the situation of the army. He was, he said, so tired, that he

was incapable of writing; but that he (general Stuart) being a competent judge, did not require any letter.

After taking some refreshment, however, and resting two hours, the ship not being quite ready, nor general Stuart gone, he called for paper, and wrote his last despatch. On the 14th, the French commenced a cannonade on the left, which the British returned with such effect, as to make the enemy draw off. On a hill outside the British posts, were found this day five thousand barrels of gunpowder, which had been sent from England, and lay here neglected, though the Spanish armies were in a great measure ineffective for want of ammunition. As many barrels as conveyance could be found for, which was but very few, were carried back to Corunna; the remainder were blown up. The explosion shook the town of Corunna like an earthquake. This evening the transports from Vigo hove in sight. On the 15th, the enemy advanced to the height where the magazine had been blown up; and colonel Mackenzie, of the 5th regiment, in attempting to seize upon two of the enemy's guns, was killed. The artillery was this day embarked, with the exception of seven six-pounders and one howitzer, which were employed in the lines of defence, and four Spanish guns, kept as a reserve. On this and the preceding day, the sick, the dismounted cavalry, horses, and artillery, were carried on board the ships, and every arrangement was made for embarking the whole army on the following evening. Next morning the enemy remained quiet, and the preparations being completed, it was finally resolved that the embarkation should take place that evening, and all the necessary orders were accordingly issued. About noon, Sir John Moore sent for colonel Anderson, to whom the care of the embar-

kation was confided, and ordered him to have all the boats disengaged by four o'clock, as, if the enemy did not move, he would embark the reserve at that hour, and would go out himself as soon as it was dark, and send in the troops in the order he wished them to be embarked. At one o'clock, his horse was brought, when he took leave of Anderson, saying, "Remember I depend upon your paying particular attention to everything that concerns the embarkation, and let there be as little confusion as possible." Mounting his horse, he set out to visit the outposts, and to explain his designs to his officers. On his way, he was met by a report from general Hope, that the enemy's line was getting under arms, at which he expressed the highest satisfaction; but regretted that there would not be daylight enough to reap all the advantages he anticipated. Galloping into the field, he found the piquets already beginning to fire on the enemy's light troops, which were pouring down the hill. Having carefully examined the position, and the movements of the armies, he sent off almost all his staff officers with orders to the different generals, and hastened himself to the right wing, the position of which was bad, and which, if forced, would have ruined his whole army. This dangerous post was held by the 4th, 42nd, and 50th regiments. As the general anticipated, a furious attack was made on this part of his line, which he saw nobly repelled by the 50th and 42nd, whom he cheered on in person, calling out to them to remember Egypt. Having ordered up a battalion of the guards, captain Hardinge was pointing out to him their position, when he was beat to the ground by a cannon ball, which struck him on the left shoulder, carrying it entirely away, with part of the collarbone. Notwithstanding the severity of the wound, he sat up,



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with an unaltered countenance, looking intently at the Highlanders, who were warmly engaged; and his countenance brightened, when he was told that they were advancing. With the assistance of a soldier of the 42nd, he was removed a few yards behind the shelter of a wall; colonel Graham of Balgowan and captain Woodford, coming up at the instant, rode off for a surgeon. Captain Hardinge, in the mean time, attempted to stop the blood, which was flowing in a torrent, with his sash; but this, from the size of the wound, was in vain. Having consented to be carried to the rear, he was raised up to be laid in a blanket for that purpose. His sword hanging on the wounded side seemed to annoy him, and captain Hardinge was unbuckling it from his waist, when he said with a distinct voice, "It is as well as it is, I had rather it should go out of the field with me." He was borne out of the field by six soldiers of the 42nd. Captain Hardinge remarking, that he trusted he would yet recover, he looked steadfastly at the wound, and said, "No, Hardinge, I feel that to be impossible." When this officer expressed a wish to accompany him, he said, "You need not go with me. Report to general Hope that I am wounded, and carried to the rear." A sergeant of the 42nd, and two spare files escorted the general to Corunna, while captain Hardinge hastened to carry his orders to general Hope. The following is his friend colonel Anderson's account of his last moments. "I met the general in the evening of the 16th, bringing in, in a blanket and sashes; he knew me immediately, though it was almost dark; squeezed my hand, and said, 'Anderson, don't leave me.' He spoke to the surgeons while they were examining his wound, but was in such pain, he could say little. After some time he seemed very anxious to speak to me, and at intervals

expressed himself as follows: 'Anderson, you know that I have always wished to die thus way.' He then asked, 'Are the French beaten?' a question which he repeated to every one he knew as they came in. 'I hope the people of England will be satisfied. I hope my country will do me justice. Anderson, you will see my friends as soon as you can. Tell them everything. My mother'—Here his voice quite failed, and he was excessively agitated. 'Hope—Hope—I have much to say to him—but—cannot get it out. Are colonel Graham, and all my aids-de-camp well. (A private sign was made by colonel Anderson not to inform him that captain Burrard, one of his aids-de-camp, was wounded.) I have made my will, and remembered my servants. Colborne has my will, and all my papers." Major Colborne then came into the room. He spoke most kindly to him, and then said to me, 'Anderson, remember you go to * * and tell him it is my request, and that I expect he will give major Colborne a lieutenant-colonelcy. He has been long with me, and I know him most worthy of it.' He then asked major Colborne if the French were beaten; and on being told that they were, on every point, he said, 'It is a great satisfaction for me to know we have beaten the French. Is Paget in the room?' On my telling him that he was not, he said, 'Remember me to him; it's general Paget I mean. He is a fine fellow. I feel myself so strong, I fear I shall be long dying. It is great uneasiness—it is great pain. Every thing Francois says is right. I have the greatest confidence in him.' He thanked the surgeons for their trouble. Captains Percy and Stanley, two of his aids-de-camp, then came into the room. He spoke kindly to both, and asked if all his aids-de-camp were well. After some interval, he said, 'Stanhope, remember me to your sister.' He pressed my hand

close to his body, and in a few minutes died without a struggle."

Thus died Sir John Moore in the forty-seventh year of his age, after having conducted one of the most difficult retreats on record, and secured the safety of the army intrusted to him. Few deaths have excited a greater sensation at the time they took place. The house of commons passed a vote of thanks to his army, and ordered a monument to be erected for him in St Paul's Cathedral. Glasgow, his native city, erected a bronze statue to his memory, at a cost of upwards of three thousand pounds.

The extent of his merits has not failed to be a subject of controversy; but it seems to be now generally allowed by all, except those who are blinded by party zeal, that, in proportion to the means intrusted to him, they were very great.

The famous historian Sir Arthur Bryant wrote of him: "Moore's contribution to the British Army was not only that matchless Light infantry who have ever since enshrined his training, but also the belief that the perfect soldier can only be made by evoking all that is finest in man - physical, mental and spiritual"

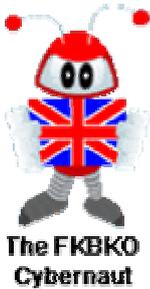
"Succeeding achievements of a more extensive and important nature," says the author of the Pleasures of Hope [Edin. Encyc. art. Sir John Moore], "have eclipsed the reputation of this commander, but the intrepidity and manly uprightness of his character, manifested at a time when the British army was far from being distinguished in these respects, are qualities far more endearing than military fame. They extorted admiration even from his enemies; and the monument erected by the French officers over his grave at Corunna, attests the worth of both parties."



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The Virus Page



Once I had started writing this month's Virus Page, Holly and Jessica disappeared in Cambridgeshire and the Police indicated at one point that a computer chatline might be involved. I want to ignore viruses for a moment to take this opportunity to pass on a website that every child, parent, or even grandparent ought to look at. It's called www.fkbko.net (which stands for "For Kids By Kids Online") and is full of sensible information about how to safely use chatlines. It's written in a form that kids will understand and appreciate and also has instructions on tracing unpleasant emails. I had a look at it myself and was very impressed. When I was working at an FE College, the use of chatlines was banned – partly because the Internet was really only provided for assisting coursework – but also because of the content. On the occasions when I found students using the sites, the messages were usually of an explicit sexual nature, far more than the students would use in face-to-face conversations – and these were supposedly adult 16-20-year-olds. Even if chatlines were made illegal in the UK the law could only apply to websites on servers physically located here, or belonging to UK companies. Foreign-based and owned chatlines could still be accessed, so www.fkbko.net is doubly important. Please take the time to have a look.

In Kevin's covering email with last month's Cog, he mentioned the number of infections of Wscript.KakWorm he had received from incoming emails. I am going to try and institute a policy of explaining in future exactly WHAT DAM-

AGE is done by each virus that I cover on this page in the hope of further encouraging readers to get some sort of antivirus protection rather than simply passing on infections to comrades' machines.

Kakworm Effects: The worm arrives embedded in an email message. If you are using Outlook or Outlook Express with Internet Explorer 5, the machine will be infected as soon as you open or preview the infected email. The virus changes the Outlook Express settings so that the virus code is automatically included with all outgoing mail. On the 1st of any month after 5 pm, it displays the message 'Kagou-Anti_Kro\$oft says not today' and shuts down Windows.



A patch to close up this loophole in IE5 and Outlook can be downloaded free from the Microsoft website (and ONLY from the Microsoft

website!)

The following viruses are among the top five being detected by the free virus scanner on the Green Machine index page:

W32.EIKern

is a virus that exists on its own, or is delivered to computers by the KLEZ worm. It tries to infect all executable files in the \Windows\System folder. If it is started up under Windows NT/2000, then this virus crashes. If it is activated under Windows 9x and your computer is part of a network that is write-protected, then this virus crashes the computer after a short period of time.

This virus has a payload that destroys all files (by filling them with zeros) on locally connected drives (including mapped drives). This payload becomes active on 13th

March and 13th September. When the virus is executed, it has a very small chance of randomly activating this payload no matter what the date. Some files that become infected with this virus do not change in size.

W32.Nimda.A@mm

is a mass-mailing worm (first discovered on 18th September 2001). It gets its name from the reversed spelling of "admin". The worm sends itself out by email. Once a machine is infected, the worm checks to see if the computer is part of a network, and attempts to copy itself throughout the server.

Microsoft are aware of the problem and have issued a free, downloadable patch to prevent servers using their software from being infected. Symantec have provided a special stand-alone removal tool.

The website for the Microsoft information regarding this virus is:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/topics/nimda.asp>

If you visit an infected Web server, you will be prompted to download an .eml (Outlook Express) email file, which contains the worm as an attachment. You can disable "File Download" in your Internet Explorer 'internet security zones' to prevent this happening

The Nimda payload causes the following damage: firstly it carries out mass emailing using your Outlook address book, sending itself out as Readme.exe (which may NOT be visible as an attachment in the email received). Next, it modifies files in the infected computer, replacing legitimate files with copies of itself. It may cause your computer to slow down. Finally it opens drive C to any connected network so that you have no security. During this



The Green Machine



The Virus Page

process the worm creates a guest account with Administrator privileges.

W95.Hybris.worm

Discovered on: September 25, 2000, W95.Hybris.worm is a smaller file that the W95.Hybris.gen worm copies to a hard disk when an infected email attachment is opened. It can also be detected in the original attachment that is received from an infected computer. Like the worms detailed above, it carries out mass emailing, and allows external intrusions into your computer.

Just arrived on the scene:

VBS/Lubus.C

This is a worm that spreads via e-mail in a message which has the subject "TH" and an attached file called "THWIN.VBS". Every time it is run, VBS/Lubus.C deletes five randomly selected files from your machine with the same extension chosen among the following: "XLS", "DOC", "WAV", "DWG", "MP3", "BAK", "WAV", "BMP", "HTM", "HLP", "CHM", "JPG", "GIF", "SCR", "TTF", "MID", "CDR", "MDB", "DBF" and "ICO". The worm also drops another worm, called VBS/Redlof.A,

to the system and runs it.

As if that wasn't bad enough, VBS/Lubus.C creates three files in the Windows system: "MSWORD.VBS", "THWIN.VBS" and "LISTWIN.TXT". The first two, which are copies of VBS/Lubus.C, are used by the worm to infect the computer, whereas the third one contains a list of the files the worm has deleted. Moreover, VBS/Lubus.C inserts two entries in the Windows Registry in order to ensure it is run every time the system is started up. In addition the worm overwrites every file with a VBS extension in floppy disks, copies itself back to the floppy disks under the name UNSCH.DOC.VBS and displays a fake error message.

VBS/Tom

This is another new worm that is generated through the SSIWG (Senna Spy Internet Worm Generator) tool which I've mentioned before being used by virus writers. This worm sends itself out via e-mail as a message attachment to every contact listed in the infected user's Outlook Address Book. VBS/Tom also copies itself to the Windows directory under the name

VD4QW8Y9.VBS. The worm will modify the Windows Registry so that this file is run on every system start-up. Finally, the virus code is encrypted through a series of functions that make it impossible to read the message texts, or the names of the files it copies to the system.

Information: Windows 2000 Service Pack 3 released.

Microsoft has released Service Pack 3 (SP3) for the Windows 2000 family of operating systems, which includes all improvements and fixes included in the last 26 security bulletins for these operating systems. Although it does not include patches for Internet Explorer 5.5 and 6.0, it does contain the security updates for Internet Explorer 5.01. You should be able to download this free from the Microsoft website.

More (alas) next month!

If in doubt, delete it out!

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The Last Post

Once more I have managed to get to the end of the magazine, and for once get it posted out on time !!

Just as I was putting this month's edition together I received an email from Keith, my brother and the previous editor, offering his services to the Green Machine. He is still involved with promotion courses but finds he has some time on his hands. Naturally I almost bit those hands off and as a result he has taken over the Regimental historical archival section of the Green Machine and plans to expand it.



Last month I published a picture of

myself in a rather bright waistcoat. This month I am playing safe and leaving you with one of my favourite photographs which I found somewhere. I believe it could well have been my local council who painted this. It is certainly their style !!

Until next month then,

Best wishes to you all

Kevin

Website Team