

1960 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE
1st GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd.

SUMMARY OF THE 43RD AND 52ND DIARY 1960

MONTH: JANUARY 1960

Monday, 4th—The Regiment returned from 14 days block leave. The regular strength of the Regiment was 186 excluding officers.

Monday, 11th—2nd Lieuts A. P. Whitfeld and N. J. R. Sale joined the Regiment on first commissioning from R.M.A. Sandhurst and were posted to 'A' and 'B' Companies respectively.

Thursday, 14th — Major R. S. C. Dowden rejoined the Regiment and assumed command of Support Company.

Approximately 100 volunteers of all ranks from the Regiment answered a call from the Civil Police to assist in rescuing people who were stranded in deep snow near Wylie on the A303. Elements of the Signals and M.T. sections gave help and lifted people to safety on stretchers. The whole operation lasted from 2100 hours to 2300 hours, and this received considerable notice in the national press and undoubtedly laid the foundations of our excellent relations with local population.

Wednesday, 20th—2nd Lieut. N. C. Bennett joined the Regiment on first commissioning from R.M.A. Sandhurst and was posted to B Company.

Sunday, 24th—The Band and Buglers played at a church service in High Wycombe at the start of a Regimental Recruiting week. A presentation of Regimental history was given at the T.A. Centre.

Monday, 25th—Captain T. D. R. D. Byrne rejoined the Regiment and was posted to H.Q. Company.

MONTH: FEBRUARY 1960

Monday, 1st — Regular recruiting figures for January were as follows:

6 year engagement	11
3 year engagement	5
Junior Bandsmen	<u>4</u>
Total.	<u>20</u>

Sunday, 7th—A party of 14 officer cadets of the Oxford University O.T.C. fired S.L. Rifles and Sterling S.M.G.s on the ranges. Two officer cadets stayed the night in the officers' mess and saw the Encounter Battle demonstration the next day.

Friday, 12th—The officers, W.O's and Sjts of the Regiment attended a model exercise and lecture at the School of Infantry on the subject of civil defence. The programme, which included films and drops, was organised by Major Pratt, and run by the Commanding Officer and Mr Coulton, who is the chief officer from the Bristol area of civil defence.

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Friday, 19th—The officers, W.O's and Sjts travelled to Bristol for a day's training in civil defence. This was as a result of the lecture given at the School of Infantry. After a short introductory lecture in the well-equipped command post on the outskirts of Bristol, the party was taken to the training range which is an old bomb site in the middle of Bristol. A period was devoted to the inspection of the various vehicles and learning how to tie clove-hitches and bow-lines and then lunch was served by the Welfare Section. After lunch in groups of 7, the party practised the evacuation of stretcher cases and searching debris.

Saturday, 20th—The mess ran a luncheon tent at Larkhill for the Regiment and the School of Infantry at the R.A. (Salisbury Plain) Hunt Point-to-Point.

Monday, 22nd—Captain J. R. G. N. Evelegh rejoined the Regiment and assumed the duties of adjutant.

Friday, 26th—2nd Lieut. P. J. Lishman joined the Regiment on first commissioning from Mons O.C.S. and was posted to H.Q. Company.

MONTH: MARCH 1960

Tuesday, 1st — Regular recruiting figures for February were as follows :

Direct enlistment	27
N.S. Conversion to 9 yrs	1
N.S. Conversion to 6 yrs N.S.	1
Conversion to 3 yrs	<u>12</u>
	<u>41</u>

Saturday, 5th—Regimental Headquarters had a practise stand-to for war.

Monday, 7th—C.S.M. Abbott left the Regiment on appointment as R.S.M. of the Bristol University O.T.C

Wednesday, 9th—The band played at the Albert Hall at the 15th Butlin's Annual Spectacular. The band sounded a shortened version of retreat and in all appeared for a quarter of an hour. They were well received and a further performance was given during the week.

Thursday, 10th—The annual administrative inspection was carried out by the Commandant of the School of Infantry, Brigadier J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Due to the absence in London of the band, the band of the Durham Light Infantry played during the parade.

Monday, 21st—2nd Lieut. J. G. C. Goodwyn was promoted to lieutenant.

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MONTH: APRIL 1960

Friday, 1st—Regular recruiting for March was as follows:

Direct enlistment	20
N.S. men signing on for 3 yrs	<u>9</u>
	<u>29</u>

Wednesday, 6th—Bandmaster Kenney was posted to the Royal Artillery Band (Plymouth) and was commissioned as a director of music.

Bandmaster B. E. Simpson joined the Regiment as bandmaster.

Thursday, 15th — Letter C Company was disbanded and its personnel were posted as follows:

To H.Q. Company 5 Officers, 2 W.O.'s and 16 soldiers.

To Sp. Company 2 soldiers.

The Regiment dispersed for Easter leave.

Friday, 16th—The Regiment entered for the Devizes—Westminster Canoe Race. This was the first time that this event had been entered, and the results were as follows :

13th, L.-Cpl Griffiths ('B') and L.-Cpl Harrison ('A') 31 hrs 8 mins.

15th, Capt. C. St C. Simmons (H.Q.) and Cpl Jones (H.Q.).

Various members of the Regiment were at strategic points along the course to give encouragement.

Tuesday, 19th — The Regiment returned from Easter leave.

MONTH: MAY 1960

Sunday, 1st — The Regular recruiting figures for April were as follows:

Direct enlistment	14
N.S. enlisting for 9 yrs	1
N.S. enlisting for 3 yrs	<u>5</u>
	<u>20</u>

Monday, 2nd—Captain A. S. Payne rejoined the Regiment from Somaliland and was posted to Support Company as 2 i/c.

Twenty-four men of all companies moved to Plymouth for the first course of Adventure Training Camp which had been set up with the Infantry Junior Leaders Regiment at Plumer Barracks, under command of 2nd Lieut. Costley-White.

Wednesday, 4th—R.H.Q. exercise Try Out II. This was a movement and deployment exercise in the Imber training area.

Friday, 6th—Wedding of H.R.H. Princess Margaret. No holiday could be given but all ranks who could be spared watched the ceremony on television sets.

Sunday, 8th—Captain N. A. J. Anderson and 4 Gurkha soldiers arrived as the 1st advance party of the Gurkha contingent.

Monday, 9th—The Commanding Officer visited the Regimental Detachment at the Small Arms Wing, Hythe, Kent.

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Tuesday, 10th—Major J. M. A. Tillett left for a reconnaissance of Otterburn Camp, Northumberland. This was the camp where it was proposed the Regiment should go in September for a fortnight's training.

Friday, 13th—Major J. P. C. Bailey (2 Gurkha Rifles) joined the Regiment as Director of Music of the Gurkha Band. Five Gurkha soldiers also arrived by aircraft as second part of the advance party.

Sunday, 15th—2nd Lieut. R. P. Hay-Drummond-Hay joined the Regiment on first commissioning from Mons O.C.S. and was posted to 'B' Company.

Tuesday, 17th—The Commanding Officer motored to Lyneham Airfield at 2200 hours to meet the first party of the Gurkha contingent. However it was reported that due to a fault in their aircraft, they were grounded in Aden in sweltering heat and in battledress.

Wednesday, 18th—Twenty-four men left for Plymouth to attend the second adventure training course. The first course returned and extremely favourable reports were received as to the success of this new venture.

Thursday, 19th—Half the main body of the Gurkha Contingent arrived at Lyneham at 0830 hours. They were met by the Commandant of the School of Infantry and the Commanding Officer. They were interviewed by the Press and B.B.C. Television. The following Gurkha Commissioned Officers were in charge : Captain Lilbahadar Gurung, Lieut. Pahalman Gurung, Lieut. Khargendrasing Limbu.

Friday, 20th—Brigadier J. A. J. Read informally visited the Gurkhas in Camp. Letter 'B' Company Corporals reported that their garden flowers had been transplanted by the Gurkhas, however, this international situation was amicably solved.

Saturday, 21st—The band played at a fete in aid of World Refugee Year at Westbury and with the bugles sounded retreat at 6 p.m.

Sunday, 22nd—Second part of the Gurkha main body arrived at Lyneham. Major J. M. MacDonald (2 Gurkha Rifles) was in command.

Monday, 30th—R.H.Q. took part in a signals and movement exercise lasting 16 hours in the area of Netheravon and Imber.

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MONTH: JUNE 1960

Wednesday, 1st — The Regular recruiting figures for May were as follows:

Direct enlistment	17
N.S. engaging for 6 yrs	1
N.S. engaging for 3 yrs	<u>3</u>
	<u>21</u>

In the first five months of 1960, the Regiment has gained 141 regular recruits.

Thursday, 2nd—Nine officers attended a luncheon in London to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the Light Division. His Excellency the Portuguese Ambassador was present,

Thursday, 9th and Friday 10th—The Regiment and the Gurkha contingent took part in the annual demonstration at the School of Infantry. On the 9th, the pageant was spoilt by wet weather, but on the 10th the weather was warm and fine and everything went according to plan. The Gurkhas with their magnificent drill squad and band completely stole the show.

Wednesday, 15th—Major-General J. A. R. Robertson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., visited the Gurkha contingent.

The Gurkha massed bands and the Regimental band sounded a combined retreat at the School of Infantry in the evening.

Thursday, 16th—Captain I. G. Elliott assumed command of Support Company.

Saturday, 18th—Waterloo Day—Regimental At Home Day. On one of the hottest days of the summer, about 350 Old Comrades, Oxf & Bucks Lt Infy (T.A.) and families of serving members of the Regiment came to Knook Camp. The infantry pageant and the firing of infantry weapons demonstration were shown, after which tea was served. Drill demonstrations were given by 2 PI. 'A' Company and the Gurkha drill squad, which were followed by the sounding of retreat by the band at 1800 hours. Both messes were opened to guests after retreat.

Monday, 20th—Captain T. D. R. D. Byrne assumed the rank of temporary major.

Wednesday, 22nd—The Regimental chapel was dedicated by the Assistant Chaplain General, Southern Command, the Reverend K. C. Oliver, C.B.E., T.D., Q.H.C., M.A.

Friday, 24th—The Regimental dinner was held at the Hyde Park Hotel, London. The Colonel of the Regiment was in the chair.

Saturday, 25th—The Regimental cricket At Home was held on the University College Ground, Oxford. The Regiment played the 60th and the match was drawn. Many friends of the Regiment attended as well as serving officers, W.O's and N.C.O's and old comrades. The band played throughout the afternoon.

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MONTH: JULY 1960

Friday, 1st—Regular recruiting figures for June were as follows:

Direct enlistment	7
Re-enlistment and transfers	2
N.S. signing on	<u>5</u>
	<u>14</u>

Sunday, 3rd—Major P. E. Gerahty relinquished command of Letter 'A' Company on posting to the Depot, prior to taking up the post of G2 (Ops and Trg) at East African Command. Major R. R. W. Workman assumed command of Letter 'A' Company.

Wednesday, 6th — BISLEY.

(a) ROUPEL CUP (709 entered)	Lieut. J. G. C. Goodwyn	1st
Class B Placings	L.-Cpl Beasley	3rd
	L.-Cpl Paris	13th
Team was placed 4th out of 36.	Cpl Savage	24th

Thursday, 7th —

(b) HENRY WHITEHEAD CUP	Lieut. J. G. C. Goodwyn	32nd
Class A	L.-Cpl Beasley	4th
Class B	Cpl Savage	10th

Team placing 7th out of 36.

Friday, 8th —

(c) ROBERTS CUP	C.Q.M.S. Kettle	4th
Class A	Rfn Smith	1st
Class B	L.-Cpl Beasley	10th

Team placing 2nd out of 36.

(d) ARMY HUNDRED CUP

Cpl Savage	3rd
Rfn Smith	5th

Sunday, 10th —

(e) SMALL ARMS CUP. Won by the Regiment.

(f) WORCESTER CUP - L.M.G. Pairs

Cpl Savage	2nd
L.Cpl Beasley	2nd
L.-Cpl Paris	3rd
Rfn Smith	3rd

(g) K.R.R.C. CUP – UNIT CHAMPIONSHIP

4th Bn R.E.M.E.	1st
K.R.R.C.	2nd
1 Irish Guards	3rd
Rifle Bde	4th
43rd and 52nd	5th

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The massed band and buglers of the Regiment and Rifle Brigade gave a concert and sounded retreat at Eton College.



Regimental Shooting Team

C.Q.S.M. Kettle, Rfn Smith, L/Cpl Beasley, L/Cpl Faris, Cpl Savage, Rfn Clemenson, S/Sjt Seldon
Rfn Gardner, C.S.M. Hornblower, Major J. M. A. Tillett, Sjt Haydon, Cpl Sheffield

Roupell Cup.

Small Arms Cup.

Inset : Lt J. G. C. Goodwyn

Wednesday, 13th—Lieut. J. G. C. Goodwyn posted to the Depot Winchester for duty as a training subaltern.

Thursday, 14th—The Regiment took part in Exercise Hay-Fever on 24 hour Signals and Movement Exercise in the Exmouth and Honiton area.

Friday, 15th—The bands of the 43rd and 52nd and the Rifle Brigade gave a concert and sounded retreat at Winchester.

Wednesday, 20th—The Regimental band took part in the Bath Searchlight Tattoo an engagement which lasted the subsequent four days.

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MONTH: AUGUST 1960

Monday, 1st — Regular recruiting figures for July were as follows :

Direct enlistment	10
Output from Junior Leaders	2
N.S. signing on for 3 yrs	<u>7</u>
	<u>19</u>

Wednesday, 3rd—The permanent staff of the Adventure Training Camp arrived back from their summer quarters in Plymouth.

Friday, 5th—The Regiment went on 14 days block leave. The Gurkhas remained in Camp.

Monday, 22nd—The Regiment returned from block leave.

2nd Lieuts N. W. Gibson and C. K. B. Fetter joined the Regiment on first commissioning from R.M.A. Sandhurst and were posted to Letter 'B' Company.

2nd Lieuts J. N. B. Mogg and R. D. Letts joined the Regiment and were posted to Letter 'A' Company.

2nd Lieut. P. G. Costley White was promoted lieutenant.

Tuesday, 23rd—Seventy men from Letter 'B' Company searched the woods behind Knook Camp for a small boy reported lost by the Civil Police. He was later found in a barn.

Sunday, 28th—Major E. R. R. Hicks rejoined the Regiment and assumed command of H.Q. Company.

Monday, 29th—The Regiment left Knook Camp early in the morning in vehicle groups on Exercise Summer Madness. This was an initiative exercise of one night's staging for junior commanders. The whole Regiment was to arrive at Otterburn by 1100 hours the next day.

Tuesday, 30th—Everyone arrived safe and sound at Otterburn as scheduled.

The Camp consisted of bricked messes cookhouses and normal offices but sleeping accommodation was in tents.

Wednesday, 31st—Regiment settled in and began training by companies.

MONTH: SEPTEMBER 1960

Thursday, 1st — Regular recruiting figures for August were as follows:

Direct enlistment	14
N.S. signing on for 3 yrs	<u>5</u>
	<u>19</u>

Monday, 5th—Company group exercises began with companies bivouacking out for the night. Lieut-General Sir Michael West, K.C.B., D.S.O., G.O.C.-in-C. Northern Command, visited the Serjeants and officers messes.

Tuesday, 6th—A short exercise was held for Regimental Headquarters.

Members of the Regiment moved in troop carrying vehicles to watch the Edinburgh Tattoo.

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Wednesday, 7th—Brigadier J. A. J. Read, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., arrived to spend two days with the Regiment. He watched Regimental training and addressed all officers, W.O's, Sjts and Corporals.

Thursday, 8th—The Regimental Inter-Platoon Cross-Country race was held :

2nd Lieut. N. W. Gibson (B) was individual winner. 1.

Winning Platoon was:

1. 3 Platoon(Gurkha Coy)
2. 2 Platoon (Gurkha Coy)
3. 3 Platoon ('A' Coy)

Friday, 9th—Regimental Exercise Marshmallow. R.H.Q. was set up in Harbottle Castle, the ancestral home of the Commanding Officer. The Exercise lasted twenty-four hours with A, B and the Gurkha Companies mounting an attack and carrying out patrolling activities.

Monday, 12th—The Final of the Inter-Platoon Football Competition.

2 Platoon ('A' Coy) 3, 2 Platoon (Gurkha Coy) 0.

This competition had been going since the Regiment arrived at Otterburn and was run on a knock-out basis.

Tuesday, 13th—The Regiment left Otterburn Camp on a Regimental Road Movement Exercise. The night was spent at the Dukeries training area, outside Nottingham.

Wednesday, 14th—The Regiment arrived home again.

Friday, 23rd—The C.I.G.S., Field Marshal Sir Francis Festing, G.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., visited the Regiment informally. After inspecting a quarter guard found by H.Q. Company, he lunched in the officers' mess. In the afternoon he walked round barracks visiting the Basic N.C.O's and W.T. Courses, the Gurkha band and band lines. He was accompanied by his Military Assistant.

Wednesday, 28th—A number of officers and N.C.O's were invited to attend the Gurkha festival of Dasher in the N.A.A.F.I. canteen at Knook Camp. This unique ceremony was enjoyed by all who attended.

MONTH: OCTOBER 1960

Saturday, 1st — The Regular recruiting figures for September were as follows:

Direct enlistment	21
N.S. signing on	<u>4</u>
	<u>25</u>

Friday, 7th—A canoe regatta organised by Captain C. St C. Simmons was held on Shearwater. H.Q. Company won this event, but altogether everyone got rather wet both in the canoes and on the bank. It was a most amusing and enjoyable afternoon.

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Monday, 10th—The Inter-Company Cross-Country race was held at Knook Camp in drizzly and muddy conditions.

The results were:

1. A
2. Sp.
3. B
4. H.Q.

The individual winner was 2nd Lieut. N. W. Gibson (B).

Tuesday, 11th—The Inter-Company Boxing Competition was held in the gymnasium at the School of Infantry. There was a high standard of boxing and many exciting bouts. The Inter-Company Cup was won by Letter A Company.

Monday, 17th—2nd Lieut. R. K. Mullard joined the Regiment on first commissioning from Mons O.C.S. and was posted to Letter 'B' Company.

Monday, 24th—General Sir Gerald Lathbury, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., visited the Regiment. He went to the Serjeants' mess and had luncheon in the officers' mess, after which he watched a rehearsal for the guard of honour for the King of Nepal's visit.

Saturday, 29th—The Commandant of the School of Infantry held a dress rehearsal for the guard of honour for the King of Nepal.

Sunday, 30th—Their Majesties the King and Queen of Nepal visited Knook Camp to see the Gurkha contingent at home. They were received by the Commandant of the School of Infantry, inspected a combined Gurkha and Green Jacket guard of honour, watched the Gurkha company training and then left Knook Camp for luncheon at the School of Infantry.



H.M. the King of Nepal inspecting the guard of honour

Photo by E. W. White

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MONTH: NOVEMBER 1960

Tuesday, 1st — Regular recruiting figures for October were as follows:

Direct enlistments	5
N.S. signing on for 9 yrs	1
N.S. signing on for 6 yrs	1
N.S. signing on for 3 yrs	<u>6</u>
	<u>13</u>

Wednesday, 2nd—1st round Army Football Cup. The Regiment v. 17 Bn R.A.O.C. Match drawn at Knook Camp.

Thursday, 3rd—The Gurkha contingent main party left Knook Camp for Lyneham airfield and were seen off by the Commandant, The School of Infantry and the Commanding Officer.

Monday, 7th—Lieut. C. S. Downie (A) was posted to the Demonstration Platoon at Mons O.C.S.

Replay of the 1st round Army Cup at Bicester. The Regiment 0, 17 Bn R.A.O.C. 5. Many soldiers were granted leave to stay at home and watch the match, as well as several truck loads of supporters going from Knook Camp.

Tuesday, 8th—1st round of District Inter-Unit Boxing Competition v. 14 Bn R.A.O.C., at the School of Infantry gymnasium. Result: The Regiment 13 points, 14 Bn R.A.O.C. 15 points. Officers of the visiting team were entertained in the officers' mess to a buffet dinner.

Friday, 11th—Nonne Boschen Day. Serjeants' mess ball held in the Junior Ranks Club.

Sunday, 13th—Remembrance Day. Services and parades were held at Oxford, The School of Infantry and Heytesbury. Buglers played the last post at these services and the band played in Oxford in the morning and in Warminster in the afternoon.

Monday, 14th—The rear party of the Gurkha contingent left Knook Camp en route for Singapore.

Sunday, 20th—Captain E. W. Leask rejoined the Regiment and was posted to Letter 'A' Company.

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MONTH: DECEMBER 1960

Thursday, 1st—Regular recruiting figures for November were as follows:

Direct enlistment	6
Reservists rejoining	1
N.S. signing on for 9 yrs	1
N.S. signing on for 3 yrs	9
	<u>17</u>

Tuesday, 6th—Lieut. M. J. C. Draco rejoined the Regiment and was posted to Sp. Company.

Tuesday, 13th—The Regimental Cycling Club race was held and Rfn Fisk (H.Q.) was the winner.

The W.O's, Serjeants and their wives were entertained by the officers and their wives in the officers' mess.

Wednesday, 14th—Some 10 W.R.A.C. and Army Officer Cadets came from Bristol University and saw some weapons, the A.P.C's, and shot against the officers and Serjeants. They visited the officers' and Serjeants' messes. The corporals club held their annual dance in the Junior Ranks Club. A Seven-a-side Rugger competition was held and won by H.Q. Company.

Friday, 16th—A farewell parade was held for the Colonel Commandant.

The Colonel Commandant, the Commandant of the School of Infantry and officers visited the Serjeants' mess, after which Christmas lunch was served from the cookhouse. A luncheon party was held in the officers mess for the Colonel Commandant.

The Regiment proceeded on Christmas block leave, leaving behind a certain number for guards and essential duties.



Major-General Sir John Winterton, the retiring Colonel, inspects the Regiment at his farewell parade on the 16th December

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1ST GREEN JACKETS 43RD AND 52ND LETTER 1960

The 43rd and 52nd letter seems in recent years to have become a list of diary entries blown up into paragraphs. As the diary appears elsewhere there seems little point in repeating it in this letter.

It is felt that readers of the CHRONICLE would like to be given a picture of the state of the Regiment, not as it appears in dry records of fact, but as it lives and feels and is to those actually serving in it.

It is hoped that this letter will convey some of this. No apologies are offered for leaving out the date of the sanitary inspection, and only the highlights of the year's progress will be touched on.

It is not that there have been any great changes, it is just that prospects for the army and the Regiment feel better than they did five years ago. It is the need for recruits that has brought this about, together with the greater proportion of regulars as a result of recruiting efforts.

It is a sad reflection that minor reforms and a more sensible attitude to soldiers had to wait until the present crisis of low numbers. However, this applies to almost any aspect of life. Would women ever have got the vote if they had stuck to presenting reasoned cases, instead of taken to blowing up pillar boxes ?

What has happened is that once again the army as a whole has adopted the practices and attitudes that have been customary in the Regiment for the last fifteen years. Meanwhile the Regiment itself has taken a further step forward. If history ever repeats itself, it has done so this time, for this is exactly what happened throughout the army as a result of Sir John Moore's reforms.

On the face of it the reforms in the Regiment have not been spectacular. The results of them have been. The reforms include such things as no reveille, the introduction of the report system for minor breaches of discipline, the abolition of all restrictions on a soldier's use of his off duty time, and the freedom of soldiers to arrange their barrack rooms more or less as they please.

The most important results of these are the obvious increase in the individual soldier's sense of personal responsibility, and the reduction in crime. Whole weeks pass without a single soldier being brought for disposal by the Commanding Officer.

There has hardly been a case of a soldier abusing his privileges. Where this has happened, the offenders have been discharged from the army. This might seem a suicidal policy in these days of low numbers, but in fact it has paid off. Two soldiers discharged for misconduct in the early summer are still unemployed, and this fact has not escaped any who might feel like following their example.

Of course there are failures by soldiers to do things by themselves without supervision, and it requires patience and hard work to train them so that they will do this. At times officers and senior non-commissioned officers feel so discouraged that they suggest a return to the old ways. The answer to this is to point to Nigeria and to the Congo.

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These two new nations show very clearly the results of making subordinates do things for themselves and the results of doing everything for subordinates. In atomic warfare the individual soldier will be very much alone, and he must be trained for this aloneness throughout his military career.

Five years ago the remark was frequently heard, 'Get back to pre-war'. It has taken a crisis to bring home to all of us that there is no 'Getting back to pre-war'. There has been a complete social revolution in the meantime and, even if desirable, it would be impossible to make the soldier of 1960 think and react as his father did in 1939. A great deal of the friction and unhappiness of the National Service army sprang from this attempt to put the clock back. We have in our army now better educated, better cultured and, surprisingly, more morally aware men than ever before. If we mould this material as it is capable of being moulded, we can make an incomparably better army. If we aim at the limits set by the social conditions of thirty years ago, we will end with a second rate 1939 army.

Another development in the Regiment in the last year has been the re-emergence of the rank of corporal as a real force. In the national service army the corporal was often a national serviceman of one year's service. How could he command as he should have? He hardly knew what he was doing himself. This meant that all the work was done by the officers and Serjeants. It is now a very good soldier who becomes a corporal in under two years service. It now takes between four and six years to climb up the roll to the level where promotion to acting serjeant can be considered. This improvement in the standard of junior non-commissioned officers has had a steady effect on the Regiment.

These changes and developments in the life and spirit of the Regiment are the real events of 1960 and we have all been proud to take part in them.

As far as physical rather than spiritual happenings go, the demonstrations have been the centre of gravity. One would expect the repetition of these to have become intolerably boring. Strangely enough this has not been so. Few demonstrations go as smoothly behind the scenes as on the stage. There are frequent experiments and changes, and it is always possible to do better than last time. The record for demonstrations must be held by the Mons Platoon, who for more than a year did twenty-two demonstrations and five exercises to every twenty-one working days. It can be imagined what this meant in quick-change artistry, and such tricks as disappearing behind the bushes as a fighting patrol and re-emerging as an anti-riot squad with 'Cypriot' magistrates and other such odd characters.

For the first half of the year our problem was shortage of numbers. The difficulties caused by this can be imagined when it is realised that from time to time the entire orderly room and quartermaster staffs left their knooks and crannies and took to the plain in full war paint.

During the summer by masterpieces of planning, sufficient regimental training was fitted in to enable the Regiment to go to camp at Otterburn in September with a rough idea of its duties. Many were the moans and groans at regimental training and some even called it a waste of time or words to that effect. However, when it is realised that the last regimental training by the Regiment was in 1955, the need for this training will be understood. The fortnight we spent at Otterburn was invaluable, not only as training, but because it brought the Regiment together in a way that is impossible at Warminster.

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Following the policy of training for the loneliness of atomic warfare, the move to Otterburn was left to individual groups of two or three vehicles. Every soldier arrived on time and only one officer, lost by his men, was a quarter of an hour late. This proved that our soldiers are capable of looking after themselves.

The most publicised event of 1960 was the attachment to the Regiment of the Gurkha company and band from May to November. It is well known that this was an unqualified success. One of the objects of this visit was to see how Gurkha troops would fit into British units. The answer is: perfectly.

A word of warning must however be given: a good deal of alcohol is needed not to feel peculiar when waltzing a 'Doshera' in the arms of a Gurkha rifleman in a sari, wig and lipstick.

There are countless stories of strange happenings to people patrolling against the Gurkhas, and of their charm and friendliness. However, the climax of their stay was the visit of the King of Nepal. For this visit a combined guard of honour was found by the Gurkhas and by the Regiment. It can be reported that this was a great success, as was the whole visit of the King of Nepal to Warminster.

On the 16th December we paraded before General Sir John Winterton to say good-bye to him on ending his term of office as Colonel Commandant of the Regiment. We are most grateful to him for all he has done for us, and in particular for the skill with which he guided our entry into the Green Jackets Brigade. We all know that one of the main reasons for the smoothness and ease of this transition was that he was in control of our affairs at the time. We would like to wish him and Lady Winterton every happiness and to welcome General Sir Gerald Lathbury as our new Colonel Commandant. We hope to have the honour of parading to welcome him in February.