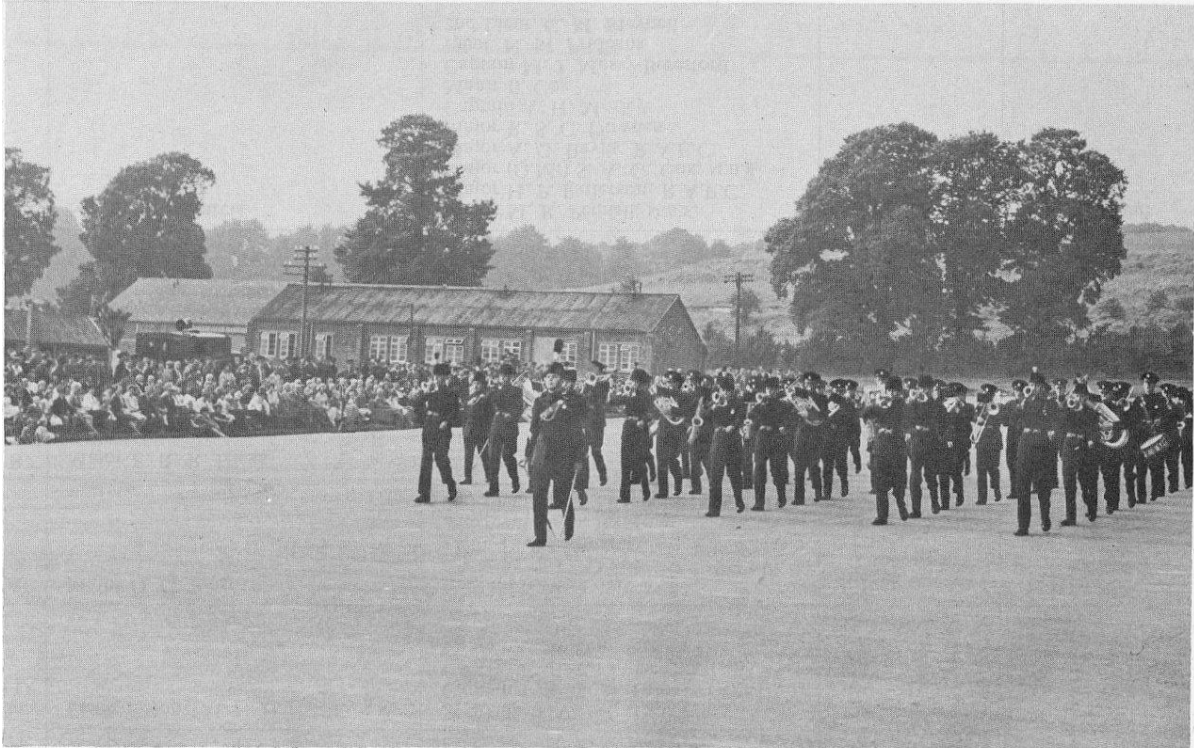


**1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd.**

**"WHAT ARE WE ABOUT?"**  
**The 43RD and 52ND LETTER**  
**M. N. H.**

The pattern set by my adjutant, Captain Robin Evelegh, in the Regimental letter in the last issue of the chronicle, is the pattern we want to see continued. Nothing is duller than the dry bones of day-to-day events, catalogued on the lines of an Old Moore's Almanack. We feel that it is of more interest to our readers to be told about the changing mood of the Regiment and how we are meeting the problems created by the requirements of the new regular army; and particularly how we are trying to meet the needs and aspirations of the modern soldier.

In the last issue Captain Evelegh explained in some detail how a new system of man management and administration had been introduced in the past two years, to encourage greater self-responsibility in the soldier by giving him greater freedom of personal liberties. We have from time to time in recent editions touched on the subject of adventurous training and sports of all kinds in which we encourage as many soldiers as possible to take part. I myself have spoken about it at the very successful "at homes" that we have held here at Warminster both this year and last, and at certain other social occasions. Some of you will have seen the exhibitions given by our sky-divers at Newport Pagnell and Kidlington, while the Regiment was touring Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire in September. To my mind, all forms of adventure training, though part military, are an essential ingredient in the overall training of the young soldier; and young they are when you realise that there are several Serjeants in the Serjeants' mess with less than five years' service.



Regimental AT HOME, Warminster, 1961  
The Band and Buglers led by Bugle-Major Dunwell

## **1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE** **1st GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd.**

The whole importance of adventure training is to encourage in the soldier greater resilience, self-reliance, guts, determination, self-confidence and a sense of achievement. There are many who start out on this form of training who have never attempted anything like it before and have little confidence that they will make the grade. It is surprising how many of them return with a completely new set of values and with a new respect for their own capabilities. This is what we want in the young leader of tomorrow, for his task in war is going to require a greater individual effort and sense of responsibility than ever before. I am sure that it is a need that must be met and I hope that we shall continue to be given the opportunities to further our adventurous activities in the future.

Let me now write briefly of another kind of need—the need for the Regiment to be known throughout our two counties. This September, for the first time for many years, we sent a large contingent into Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire for three weeks, as part of the army's campaign to keep the army in the public eye. The "Kaper," as it was colloquially called, was an undoubted success. Many of you will have seen one or other of our performances. The most important single factor to my mind was the tremendous liaison that was achieved between us and the local authorities, quite apart from the enormous support they gave us. Secondly, the support given by the general public by their attendance at our many displays, once and for all established our title as that of their county regiment.

Another sidelight on the Regiment's life in Warminster over the past two years has been its photographic or maybe its photogenic accomplishments. We have already made a full-length training film and may take part in another one before we leave. We have appeared on both channels of TV, once in our own right when the Gurkhas were with us, and then as part of the army's recruiting advertising campaign.

Recently, the Regiment's history has been the subject of a 25-minute TV programme in which the Colonel Commandant appeared, and finally, last September, we sent a party of nearly 100 to take part in the Pegasus Bridge sequence of the film being made of Cornelius Ryan's book, "The Longest Day," by the famous American producer, Darryl F. Zanuck. This will be an epic of "D" Day and should hit the screens in the summer or autumn of 1962. The Regiment's part in the film was to re-enact the role played by the coup de main party of the 52nd under Major John Howard, which captured those two bridges on the night of 5th/6th June 1944. A fuller account of this "Hollywood Holiday" appears elsewhere, but the sum total of it was that our soldiers soon realised that it was not all glamour being a film star, but on occasions very much the reverse. The hours were long and much of the time was spent in waiting for the shooting to begin and in repeating each shot anything up to 12 times before the director was finally satisfied. However, they did very well judging from the letters I have since received from members of the film company. Frankly, I know they enjoyed themselves, though I doubt whether many of them would volunteer to do it again.

The best news that has come to the Regiment for a long time was the news that we were going to Penang. It is interesting that the recruiting figures for the Regiment for the month after this announcement were over double those for the month before it. There is no doubt that a young man joins the army to see the world.

The move looks as difficult as moves always do. The problems at the time of writing seem insurmountable, but no doubt we shall get there. One bright spot, however, is that we have been granted the privilege of mounting a guard of honour for Her Majesty The Queen at High Wycombe in April. This is indeed a fitting end to the 43rd and 52nd's tour of duty in England.

**1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd.**

**RECRUITING 1961**  
**T. D. B.**

Hark! I hear the tramp of thousands,  
And of armed men the hum;  
Lo! a nation's hosts have gathered  
Round the quick alarming drum,—  
Saying, " Come, Freemen, Come!  
Ere your heritage be wasted," said the quick alarming drum.

" The Reveille,"  
by Bret Harte.

Although we have no "quick alarming drum" and recruits have not come forward in their thousands, our recruiting efforts during 1961 have produced encouraging results. As a result of this the Regiment will sail for Penang in April 1962.

The announcement in Parliament that national service would end in 1962, highlighted the need for regular recruiting. In October 1960 Riley Workman was appointed as our first-ever regimental recruiting officer. He was given an office and two or three riflemen to assist him to perform his Herculean task. From this small beginning the recruiting organisation has steadily grown. It is now concentrated at the Green Jackets Brigade Depot at Winchester, and consists of a small H.Q. and three recruiting teams. One of these teams spent a total of 159 days in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire during 1961. Our own recruiting team has now been absorbed within the Brigade organisation.

We also have special recruiters stationed at Bletchley, High Wycombe, Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Birmingham and Forest Gate (London).

Apart from our regimental "cell" at Winchester and regimental special recruiters, the Regiment has been well placed during 1961 to support the recruiting drive in many ways. Examples of this were the performing of minor tattoos at events like the Southampton speedway meetings and a more ambitious display at the Highcliffe (Bournemouth) tattoo, where the Regiment provided the majority of items.

In April a special drill squad was formed, which carried out drill movements to the sound of the bugle horn, no words of command being given throughout the display. This squad was extremely well received wherever it went. One of the highlights of its tour was at the Royal Show at Windsor, where it received a warm ovation from a large number of guardsmen as it marched out of the arena.

Another innovation was the appointment of a Regimental publicity officer, whose task it was to persuade editors of local papers to publish articles about the Regiment. This normally took the form of "local boy" stories. Although we concentrated on the papers of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, every opportunity was taken of getting space in any local paper.

Apart from these outside activities everything was done within the Regiment to make regimental soldiering attractive to the modern young man. Examples of this are the discontinuance of reveille, the introduction of the report system, and allowing soldiers to arrange their barrack rooms more or less as they wish.

**1961 REGIMENTAL CHRONICLE**  
**1st GREEN JACKETS, 43rd & 52nd.**

The Regiment has also encouraged adventure training in all its aspects. These have already been discussed in detail by John Tillett in the chronicle of 1960. Mention must, however, be made of the parachute club, which has gone from strength to strength and is now one of the most popular "extra-mural activities " within the Regiment.

In August we held an "At Home" to which we invited our old comrades and the families of men serving in the Regiment. During the afternoon we showed them as many of our varied activities as time allowed. We hope they liked what they saw and that they will tell others so.

As a part of the War Office campaign of "Keeping the Army in the Public Eye," a detachment of the Regiment toured Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire from 31st August to 21st September. The detachment was based at Bicester, whence it sallied forth to perform on village greens, recreation grounds, market squares, in the air (sky-diving), on the water (canoeing), in public houses (darts matches), at professional soccer matches, speedway meetings and agricultural shows. Items performed included the band and bugles, drill squad, platoon attack, support weapons competition, soccer matches against local teams, and the various forms of adventure training activities.

The highlight of this tour was the display at Kidlington Airfield, near Oxford, which attracted a crowd of 10,000. At the time of writing it is too early to assess the value of this tour.

Perhaps the greatest boost to recruiting was the announcement by the Commanding Officer on the 7th November that the Regiment would sail for Penang in April 1962.

Undoubtedly all the various recruiting activities mentioned above have been of value, but there seems to be little doubt that the best recruiter of all is a good overseas station for the Regiment.

It is of interest to compare the recruiting figures for the Regiment for the last two months of 1960 with the corresponding period in 1961, after the news of the move to Penang had been announced.

They are:

1960 November	6
December	3
1961 November	29
December	26

And so, through the efforts of all those concerned with recruiting in 1961, the Regiment was able to secure sufficient regular soldiers to enable it to get a really attractive posting.

There is little doubt that within the next year the Regiment will be fully up to strength, or as Bret Harte puts it:

Thus they answered,—hoping, fearing,

Some in faith, and doubting some,

Till a trumpet-voice proclaiming,

Said, " My chosen people, come! "

Then the drum,

Lo! was dumb,

For the great heart of the nation, throbbing, answered, " Lord, we come! "