

REGIMENTAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS — 1967-1968

1967

- Saturday, November 4 Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware, in connection with 25th Anniversary of sinking of *Lisbon Maru* for all those who took part in the Battle of Hong Kong or were on board the *Lisbon Maru*.
- Thursday, November 9 7th Battalion Officers' Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.
- Saturday, November 11 Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
- Sunday, November 12 Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware.

1968

- Saturday, April 27 1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at T.A. Centre, Hornsey, N.8.
- Wednesday, May 15 Visit to 4 Queen's for Albuhera Day Ceremonies (Provisional). By air at Party rates.
- Thursday, May 16 ALBUHERA DAY.
- Sunday, May 19 Albuhera Service of Remembrance at the Regimental War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware.
- Saturday, May 25 2/10th Battalion Annual Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London, W.2.
- Wednesday, May 29 Special Regimental Coach to the Derby (Provisional).
- Sunday, June 23 River Trip from Windsor to Marlow and back, including coach to Windsor from Edgware and return.
- Sunday, July ? Coach to Regimental Depot At Home at Canterbury.
- Friday, July 19 Officers' Club Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
- Saturday, July 20 Visit of F.N.C., Mons Section (Provisional).
- July ? Regimental party to Royal Tournament—block booking at greatly reduced rates (Provisional).
- Thursday, August 22, to Visit to Mons for ceremonies in connection with 54th anniversary of the Battle of Mons.
- Saturday, August 24
- Friday, October 4 2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London, W.2.
- Saturday, October 5 Annual Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware.
- Thursday, November 7 7th Battalion Officers' Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
- Saturday, November 9 Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
- Sunday, November 10 Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware.

MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

DEAR COLONEL WALDEN,

The Membership and Social Sub-Committee has now been in existence for just under a year.

This Sub-Committee has endeavoured to produce a "new look" programme of events in 1967 to suit the varying age groups of the members of the Regimental Association. In 1968 we have expanded on these ideas and introduced new events.

We hope we are going in the right direction and we would be most grateful for advice from members—constructive ones whenever possible—but adverse ones too would be of the greatest help. It is very difficult working in a vacuum.

So far as the Sub-Committee is aware the 1967 River Trip, despite appalling weather, was a great success and therefore worth repeating in 1968 and the At Home at the Regimental Depot Canterbury was attended by some 150 of our members which speaks for itself and will be repeated next year.

Perhaps you might publish this letter in "The Die-Hards" and, if space permits, insert a tear-off slip under the letter so that members can inform the Sub-Committee if we are facing North, South, East or West and also allow you time to make block party bookings.

Yours sincerely,

A. CLAYTON, Chairman,
Membership and Social Sub-Committee

Proforma to be returned by December 31, 1967.
The Secretary,
Middlesex Regimental Association.

Membership and Social Sub-Committee

1. Visit to 4 Queen's in Belfast. I would/would not like my name put on the list.
2. I would/would not like to order . . . seats for the Royal Tournament.
3. (a) I would/would not like a Regimental Association Dinner.
(b) The dinner should be held in the winter/spring/summer/autumn.
(c) The cost, excluding drinks, should not exceed £
(d) The dinner should be stag/mixed.
4. Any suggestions with regard to the existing Association Calendar.
5. Any new proposed events which should be included in the Regimental Calendar.

Date..... Signed.....
Name and Address
(in Capitals)

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FROM MAJOR-GENERAL C. M. M. MAN, O.B.E., M.C.

Deputy Colonel, 4th Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex)

THIS issue of *The Die-Hards* brings to a close our Regimental Journal which has been published, with only small breaks, since the beginning of the century. Under the name *The Die-Hards Doings*, it started life in January 1901 until March 1909. Resuscitated in January 1913 as *Regimental News* it was suspended during the Great War, starting up again under its present title in August 1922. Since that date, and except for the years of World War II, it has appeared regularly, and has been widely read by countless members of the Regiment, past and present. Now, with the latest re-organisation, it has fulfilled its purpose, and in my view, it ceases at the very top of its form—one of the best Regimental magazines in the Army.

In its place, I particularly commend to all readers of *The Die-Hards* the new Journal of the Queen's Regiment, which, after March 1968 will appear quarterly, and not monthly as at present. This publication, which is of course the magazine of the newly formed Queen's Regiment of which our former 1st Battalion is part, gives up to date news of all our serving officers and men, together with items of interest concerning Old Comrades and their doings. Details of The Queen's Regiment Journal are given elsewhere in this edition and I sincerely hope that as many of our readers as possible will support it, and, in so doing, support our Regular Battalion, 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex).

For those who want more detailed news of Old Comrades of the Middlesex Regiment, a news sheet will be published from time to time, but this is not intended in any way as a substitute for either the old *Die-Hards* or *The Journal of the Queen's Regiment*.

For those readers who have not been in touch with Regimental affairs recently let me say that the change to the large Regiment, that is from the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment to 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex), has been a resounding success. We have joined forces with three famous and fine Infantry Regiments, and the result is a new Regiment of which all "Die-Hards" can be proud. In the light of the latest Defence Review, it would seem that the Ministry of Defence share this opinion.

For all "Die-Hards" now retired from active soldiering, the Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club and the Middlesex Regimental Association continue as before, and will continue so long as there are enough of us left to make a quorum. However, in the same way that all football clubs have their supporters club, our 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment, needs its supporters as well, and I mean you. I have recently visited the Battalion in Northern Ireland and I can assure you it is in great heart. When old "Die-Hards" foregather the talk is, and rightly so, about the past. May I ask you also to look to the present and the future as well, and remember your successors, and very worthy ones at that, our serving "Die-Hards"? All our old traditions, of which we are so proud, live on in them. They have a right to your active support and encouragement.

Finally, I want to thank all those who, over the years, have been responsible for the production of *The Die-Hards*. The Editors, and especially Col. Fanny Walden our present Editor; the Battalion and Company representatives; Secretaries of our Old Comrades Branches, and last, but not least, you, the readers who have so loyally supported *The Die-Hards* as its subscribers.

With very best wishes to you all.

Christopher Man.

The Die-Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

FINAL ISSUE

VOL. XVI No. 6

OCTOBER 1967

PRICE 2/6

57th
FOOT



77th
FOOT

"Mysore," "Serangapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajos,"

"Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nivello," "Nive," "Peninsula,"

"Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879,"

"Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02."

World War I—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914, '18," "La Bassée, 1914," "Messines, 1914, '17, '18," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915, '17, '18," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg," "Bellevue," "Aubers," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916, '18," "Albert, 1916, '18," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood," "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcellette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916, '18," "Bapaume, 1917, '18," "Arras, 1917, '18," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917, '18," "Arleux," "Pillkenn," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road," "Polygon Wood," "Broodseinde," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917, '18," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre," "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrouck," "Baillieu," "Kemmel," "Scherpenberg," "Hindenburg Line," "Canal du Nord," "St. Quentin Canal," "Courtrai," "Selle," "Valenciennes," "Sambre," "France and Flanders, 1914-18," "Italy, 1917-18," "Struma," "Doiran, 1918," "Macedonia, 1915-18," "Suva," "Landing at Suva," "Scimitar Hill," "Gallipoli, 1915," "Rumani," "Egypt, 1915-17," "Gaza," "El Mughar," "Jerusalem," "Jericho," "Jordan," "Tell Asur," "Palestine, 1917-18," "Mesopotamia, 1917-18," "Murman, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

World War II—7 Battalions—North-West Europe, 1940: "The Dyle," "Defence of the Escaut," "Ypres-Comines Canal," "Dunkirk 1940." South-East Asia, 1941: "Hong Kong." North Africa, 1942-43: "El Alamein," "Advance on Tripoli," "Mareth," "Akarit," "Djebel Roumana," "Sicily, 1943": "Francofonte," "Sierro," "Sierro Hills." Italy, 1944-45: "Anzio," "Carreceto," "Gothic Line," "Monte Grande." North-West Europe, 1944-45: "Normandy Landing," "Cambes," "Breville," "The Odon," "Caen," "The Orne," "Hill 112," "Bourgeois Ridge," "Troam," "Mont Pincon," "Falaise," "The Seine, 1944," "The Nederrijn," "Le Havre," "The Lower Maas," "Venrai," "Meijel," "Gellenkirchen," "Venlo Pocket," "The Rhineland," "Goch," "The Reichwald," "The Rhine," "Lingen," "Brinkum," "Bremen."

"Korea, 1950-51," "Naktong Bridgehead," "Chongju," "Chongchon II," "Chuan-Ni," "Kapyong-chon," "Kapyong."

Regimental Headquarters (Middlesex Office)

Location: T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
(Tel. 01-952 2625)

R.O.II: Col. F. Walden, D.L.

R.O.III: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.
Chief Clerk: Mr. E. C. Colebeck.

Curator, Regimental Museum: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

Officers Location Statement

(Corrected to September 1, 1967)

Serving Officers commissioned, or transferred, to The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

REGULAR OFFICERS

Major-General	C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., M.A.	President Regular Commissions Board
Colonel	A. R. Waller, M.B.E., M.C.	Colonel G.S. (Trg.) H.Q. AFCENT
Colonel	I. R. Burrows, O.B.E., M.A.	Colonel G.S., D.I. (M.I.) ₃ Ministry of Defence
Colonel	I. H. Battye, M.B.E., B.A.	Colonel A. (Pers. & Admin.) H.Q. AFCENT
Colonel	D. Sax	Colonel G.S., H.Q. FARELF
Lt.-Colonel	P. L. Pearce Gould, O.B.E.	Depot (H.S.)
Lt.-Colonel	F. de R. Morgan, M.C.	G.S.O.1, A.S.D.1, Ministry of Defence
Lt.-Colonel	C. N. Clayden	G.S.O.1, H.Q. Singapore District
Lt.-Colonel	J. N. Shipster, D.S.O.	Comd. 4 Queen's
Lt.-Colonel	E. A. H. Jeffcoat, M.B.E.	A.A.G., H.Q. FARELF
Lt.-Colonel	P. W. Galvin	A.A. & Q.M.G. (D.A.P.S.) H.Q. FARELF
Lt.-Colonel	K. J. Carter	Comd. 4 Queen's (designate)
Major	G. C. Dawson	14 Signal Regiment, Gloucester
Major	E. F. Thompson, M.C., T.D.	D.A.Q.M.G. (Maint & A.E.) H.Q. B.A.O.R.
Major	C. H. Mieville, M.C.	G.S.O.2 (Nuclear Planning Sec.) H.Q. AFCENT
Major	P. G. V. Bellers	D.A.Q.M.G., H.Q. 43(Wessex) Div./Dist.
Major	B. A. M. Pielow	2IC 4 Queen's
Major	H. J. A. Moore	G.S.O.2 (Ops. & Int.) H.Q. Western Command
Major	G. G. Norton	2 Para.
Major	B. K. Clayden	Depot (H.S.)
Major	J. I. D. Pike, M.C.	Camp Commandant, Cyrenaica Area
Major	B. H. Marciandi	Company Commander, R.M.A.S., Camberley
Major	C. L. Lawrence, M.C.	G.S.O.2 (G.L.O.) H.Q. 38 Group R.A.F.
Major	P. A. S. Wollocombe	4 Queen's
Major	J. S. B. Pollard	D.A.Q.M.G. (Qtg.) H.Q. Northern Command
Major	R. D. Fisher	D.A.A.G. H.Q. Rhine Area
Major	M. V. Hayward	4 Queen's
Major	A. E. McManus	4 Queen's
Major	J. M. Hewson, M.C.	4 Queen's
Major	I. M. E. Lloyd	Royal Brunei Malay Regiment
Major	W. G. A. Crumley	Adjutant, Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers)
Capt.	H. M. du V. Lohan	4 Queen's
Capt.	M. C. D. L. Gilham	Staff College, Camberley
Capt.	M. D. Legg	G.S.O.3 Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces
Capt.	P. V. Cheesman	Adjutant 4 Queen's
Capt.	M. F. Deakin	4 Queen's
Capt.	P. D. J. Clarke	4 Queen's
Capt.	P. Mallalieu	Adjutant 5 Queen's
Capt.	G. Goring	No. 4 C.T.T., H.Q. Eastern Command
Capt.	A. B. Cowing	S.C. Q. (Maint) H.Q. 17 Div/Malay Dist.
Capt.	R. C. Pitman	4 Queen's
Capt.	J. G. Lofting	4 Queen's
Capt.	F. K. Gladden	Depot (P.S.)
Capt.	G. Bulloch	4 Queen's
Capt.	P. J. Gybbon-Monypenny	4 Queen's
Capt.	P. J. Hubert	4 Queen's
Capt.	B. K. Finch	4 Queen's
Capt.	R. A. Bartlett	4 Queen's

Lt.	P. F. Packham	4 Queen's
Lt. (A/Capt.)	B. A. Carlston	4 Queen's
Lt.	R. H. Graham	4 Queen's
Lt.	J. B. Hawkins	4 Queen's
Lt.	D. J. Daniell	No. 42 Army Youth Team
Lt.	M. B. Montgomery	Infantry Junior Leader's Battalion, Oswestry
Lt.	D. M. Falcke	Junior Infantryman's Battalion, Shorncliffe
Lt.	M. W. Deakin	Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	A. C. D. Lowrie	4 Queen's
Lt.	S. M. Dowse	4 Queen's
Lt.	J. D. Jonklass	4 Queen's
Lt.	P. G. Truman	Depot (P.S.)
Lt.	D. C. F. Gouda	4 Queen's
2/Lt.	J. S. Ward Brown	4 Queen's
2/Lt.	R. N. Colbourne	4 Queen's
2/Lt.	M. J. Ball	4 Queen's
Major (Q.M.)	P. Donovan	Depot (H.S.)
Major (Q.M.)	F. L. Griffiths	Depot (H.S.)
Capt. (Q.M.)	M. Wild	4 Queen's

SHORT SERVICE OFFICERS

Capt.	T. I. McMillan	4 Queen's
Lt.	H. B. W. Barstow	4 Queen's
2/Lt.	S. J. Yates	Depot (H.S.)
2/Lt.	R. Gancz	4 Queen's

Warrant Officers and Senior N.C.O.s Location Statement

(Corrected to September 1, 1967)

Regular W.O.s and Senior N.C.O.s enlisted, or transferred, into The Middlesex Regiment (DCO)

Regt. Rank or Pos. Appt.	Name	Unit	Regt. Rank or Pos. Appt.	Name	Unit
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS I					
45	C.S.M. C. Partridge	5 Queen's	46	C.S.M. D. Lagden	A.P.R.E.
3	G.S.M. R. Dodkins	Bulford Garrison	47	C.S.M. R. Ford	4 Queen's
13	R.S.M. K. Beale	4 Queen's	52	C.S.M. M. Elston	4 Queen's
19	W.O.1 P. Soper, B.E.M.	I.R.O. Exeter	53	C.S.M. C. Shinn	4 Queen's
WARRANT OFFICERS CLASS II					
6	C.S.M. A. DaCosta	3 Queen's	54	C.S.M. C. Blackwell	4 Queen's
12	A/W.O.1 M. Eastap	6b Cadet Trg. Team	56	C.S.M. J. Williamson	4 Queen's
COLOUR SERGEANTS					
14	R.Q.M.S. G. Simmons	4 Queen's	1	C/Sgt. J. Potter	School of Infantry
18	C.S.M. E. Steward	H.Q. 1 (BR) Corps	14	C/Sgt. A. Nicholson	H.Q. 4 Division & Signals Regiment
25	C.S.M. D. Walters	4 Queen's	15	C/Sgt. W. Smith	4 Queen's
27a	C.S.M. J. Lewis	3 Queen's	21	C/Sgt. R. Clements	H.Q. BATTREN
36	C.S.M. R. Power	Depot (P.S.)	55	C/Sgt. W. Argent	4 Queen's
37	C.S.M. B. Warner	10 Queen's (att.)	57	A/W.O.2 B. Edey	4 Queen's
43	C.S.M. J. Martin, M.M.	3 Queen's			

Regt. Rank or Pos.	Rank or Appt.	Name	Unit
SERGEANTS			
5	Sgt.	R. Davies	A.A.C. Arborfield
20	Sgt.	B. Tarry	4 Queen's
45	A/C/Sgt.	B. Pritchard	3 Malaysia Rangers
47	A/W.O.2	A. Briggs	4 Queen's
49	A/C/Sgt.	J. Redmond	4 Queen's
52	Sgt.	J. Young	Depot (Held)
54	Sgt.	J. Kerr	3 Queen's
56	A/C/Sgt.	G. Overton	4 Queen's
56	A/C/Sgt.	J. Leat	4 Queen's
69	Sgt.	F. O'Rawe	518 Coy. R.P.C.
76	Sgt.	J. Barr	Depot (Held)
80	Sgt.	M. Quinn	3 Malaysia Rangers
81	Sgt.	R. Shave	4 Queen's
84	Sgt.	R. DaCosta	5 Queen's
85	A/C/Sgt.	M. Weston	4 Queen's
87	A/C/Sgt.	R. Scott	4 Queen's
88	Sgt.	J. Dickens	4 Queen's
90	Sgt.	D. Burke	4 Queen's
92	Sgt.	J. Meacock	3 Queen's
96	Sgt.	J. Whittle	4 Queen's
98	Sgt.	W. Kerr	A.C.I.O. Finchley
102	Sgt.	C. Barnes	A.C.I.O. Hounslow
107	Sgt.	F. Potts	5 Queen's
108	Sgt.	J. Reynolds	Depot (P.S.)

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Camberley 3829

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Regt. Rank or Pos.	Rank or Appt.	Name	Unit
112	Sgt.	P. McFadyen	Depot (P.S.)
115	Sgt.	L. Fisher	4 Queen's
118	Sgt.	A. Brumwell	Depot (P.S.)
121	Sgt.	F. Willis	4 Queen's
125	Sgt.	A. Stevens	Inf. Jnr. Ldrs. Bn.
135	Sgt.	B. Mullender	5 Queen's
136	Sgt.	J. Rogers	42 A.Y.T.
139	Sgt.	T. Fisher	4 Queen's
142	Sgt.	R. Seager	4 Queen's
149	Sgt.	T. Pryor	Depot (P.S.)
155	Sgt.	P. Stewart	4 Queen's
158	Sgt.	H. Dowsett	4 Queen's
159	Sgt.	I. Baxter	4 Queen's
163	Sgt.	E. Stubbings	4 Queen's
164	Sgt.	D. Ormerod	4 Queen's
171	Sgt.	H. Ward	4 Queen's
183	Sgt.	L. Plumb	4 Queen's
188	Sgt.	W. McLean	4 Queen's
NK	Sgt.	L. Hill	4 Queen's

BANDMASTER

2 B.M. J. McShane 4 Queen's

BAND SERGEANTS

5 Sgt. G. Beechey 4 Queen's

SERGEANTS IN THE BAND

4 Sgt. A. Torrie 4 Queen's
8 Sgt. L. Routledge 4 Queen's

ORDERLY ROOM SERGEANTS

2 A/W.O.I (S.C.) G. Cripps R.H.Q.
4 O.R.Q.M.S. E. Nash 4 Queen's
5 C/Sgt. A. Gibbs 1 Queen's
7 C/Sgt. A. O'Gorman Depot (P.S.)

ORDERLY ROOM CLERKS

143 Sgt. M. Flynn 4 Queen's

Regimental Ties

Are you wearing
your Regimental Tie?

See order form at the front of the book

Editor's Comments

A Soldier's Farewell

This is not always regarded as the politest form of "good bye" but we can think of no more appropriate comment for this, our final issue of *The Diehards*, which has been published under various titles for close on 70 years.

Apart from expressing our sincere gratitude to the Deputy Colonel for his farewell message, which forms the frontispiece of this issue, we would like to take this opportunity of saying "Thank you" to all those who have written on this special occasion, and whose letters are reproduced in the "Correspondence" column.

We would also like to say "Thank you" to all past Editors who have kept our Journal going—sometimes in the most difficult circumstances—and to all those who have sent in articles and contributions, especially Battalion Sub-Editors, on whose contributions we have relied for the continuance of the Journal.

And finally we say "Thank you" to the clerical staffs, especially that at Regimental Headquarters, Edgware, who have done so much of the donkey work behind the scenes to ensure that the matter for publication—sometimes voluminous—is dealt with expeditiously.

The Journal of the Queen's Regiment

From now onwards up-to-date news of our serving officers and men, both Regular and T.A.V.R., will appear in the Journal of the Queen's Regiment, together with items of interest concerning the Regimental Association and our Old Comrades.

We sincerely hope that many of our readers will support this. Those who intend doing so should complete the special Order Form inserted in the front of this issue.

Personalia

Congratulations to Lt. Bob Bartlett on his promotion to captain as from July 29.

Colonel Neville Blair, a former 8th Battalion officer, who, since 1947, has served in the security branch of horse racing, recently retired as Organiser of the Racecourse Personnel Branch of the Jockey Club and National Hunts Committee, a post he had held for the past 15 years.

News was received recently from Dr. John Buchan, who states that he was for a period during the last war Medical Officer to the 2nd Battalion. He is now living in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Leslie Butcher (6203472), now living in California, has been in touch with us. As a result we are hoping to enrol him as a member of the Regimental Association.

Lt.-Colonel Norman Clayden is now firmly installed as G.S.O.1 at Headquarters, Singapore District, having flown out to take up this appointment in April.

Capt. Andrew Cowing is another of our officers now serving in the Far East.

He left the Battalion in Northern Ireland in August to take up the appointment of Staff Captain Q (Maint) at Headquarters 17th Division/Malaya District.

One of our Hong Kong veterans, ex-Sgt. A. R. Dickens (6201812), now living in the West country, has been in touch with us. He is hoping to make the journey to London for the Hong Kong and Lisbon Maru reunion on Saturday, November 4.

Major Pat Donovan writes from Aden to say that he is to be posted to the held strength of the Depot and that, as from September 12, his address is 65 Days Lane, Bedford.

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. David Dowlen who celebrated their silver wedding on July 29.

George Duffield (ex-R.Q.M.S., L/7829 and /6188365), one of our holders of the Meritorious Service Medal, and an ardent Freemason, informs us that he has been promoted to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Freemasons Grand Lodge of England. Well done!

Major Ronnie Fisher has been appointed D.A.A.G. at Headquarters Rhine Area.

We hear that Colonel and Mrs. Frank Hedgecoe, who have been staying with their married daughter in Zambia for some time, are planning to return to this country within the next few months and then live a quiet life. No mushrooms!

News has been received that one of our "Old and Bold," Dennis Hogan, D.C.M. M.M., (ex-Sgt., L/16879), is now living in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

He married Miss Molly Dean, whose father will be remembered by older members of the Regiment as a Barrack Warden at the Depot after the 1914-18 War.

In a letter received from him last July W. H. Jones (14244050), who served in the 2/7th Battalion in the last War, sent his regards to all Die-Hards.

He owns an hotel in Cemaes Bay, Anglesey, and appears to have had a very busy time during the summer.

Lt.-Colonel Peter Pearce Gould relinquished his appointment of A.Q.M.G. at Headquarters, Eastern Command, on July 27, prior to retirement, when he intends to take Holy Orders.

Ken Pedlar (ex-R.Q.M.S., 6208715), one of our ex-9th Battalion members, is now Mine Host of "The Albion" at 74 Union Street, Barnet.

He will be pleased to welcome any Die-Hard who is around that way and is in need of refreshment—liquid or solid.

Capt. Pat Pielow informs us that he is Catering Officer to the Military Hospital at Terendak Camp, Malaya, and

Catering Adviser to the other two Military Hospitals in Malaya. In view of this he advises any Die-Hard who may find himself in that part of the world not to go sick for the next two years!

Those older members of the Regiment who remember, and served with, him will be interested to know that Lt.-Colonel George Rapson, D.S.O. (ex-C/Sgt. 4th Battalion and ex-R.S.M. 2nd Battalion) and his wife are now living at "The Knoll" Puffley, Gloucester—a residence for retired people.

The Rev. J. P. Stevenson, who was Chaplain to the 1/8th Battalion during those hectic days in France in May 1940, has just recently got in touch with us again. He is now Vicar of a parish near Melbourne, Australia, and Chaplain to the Victoria Branch of the Dunkirk Veterans.

John Taleen, late 16th (Public Schools) Battalion, in his last letter states that a hearty welcome will be given to any old Die-Hard, who may be passing through Paris, by the Paris Branch of the British Legion, of which he is Vice-Chairman.

Lt. Paul Truman was posted to the Depot as Training Subaltern in relief of 2/Lt. Simon Yates last July.

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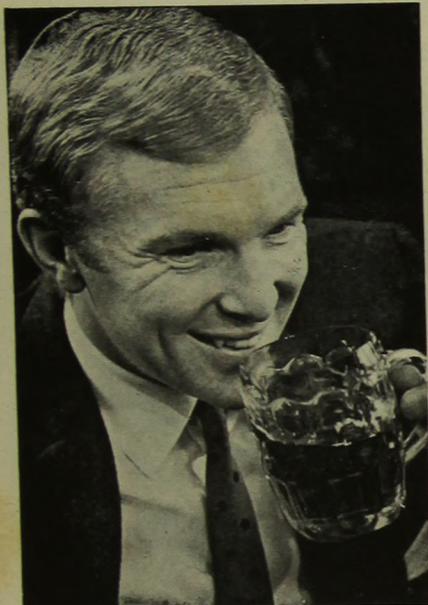


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Our local won the toss today

SAYS
Bobby Moore

WHEN my wife, Tina, and I go out of an evening we quite often choose to go to a pub. Nowadays there are so many fabulous pubs around you find you've got lots of favourites—so we usually toss up to decide which one to go to. This time, Tina called "heads"—and "heads" it was. So we ended up in Tina's favourite local.

We usually have a quiet drink and then sit down to a good meal. The food's terrific and the beer couldn't be better. Even when I'm in training, I enjoy a pint or two. I think it does you good. You meet people, you have a drink—you find yourself relaxing.

Tina and I have spent lots of great evenings in a pub. We enjoy the atmosphere—whether we're with friends or just on our own. Yes, atmosphere—that is what's special about a pub.

**Like Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Moore—
look in at the local**



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The members of our most newly-affiliated Regiment, the University of New South Wales Regiment, have conveyed, through their Commanding Officer (Lt.-Colonel P. C. Parsonage), their best wishes to all Die-Hards. These have been heartily reciprocated.

Lt. Peter Walden was married to Miss Delia Collett

on June 3. We send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

On Wednesday, November 15, at 3 p.m. Major-General Sir John Willoughby is to give a lecture at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, on "Problems of Counter-Insurgency in the Middle East."

BERTRAND STEWART PRIZE ESSAY

1. A legacy by the late Captain Bertrand Stewart provides a prize for the best essay submitted each year on a military subject selected by the Army Board of the Defence Council. The prize can be competed for by officers and other ranks who are serving, or have served, in any of the Armed Forces of the Commonwealth.

2. The following subject has been selected for the 1968 Competition:—

"It has been said that 'we may well be working towards a position in which the main purpose of the profession of arms is not to win wars but to avoid them: that is to say, by timely intervention to lessen the risk of general war'.

"Discuss the validity of, and the main implications

arising from, this statement."

3. The prizes offered by the Trustees are:—
a. First prize £80.

b. Second prize at least £15 (subject to the essay being of the required standard).

4. The closing date for the 1968 Competition will be June 20, 1968. Essays marked "Bertrand Stewart Prize Essay" on the envelope, should be addressed direct to:

The Editor,
The Army Quarterly and Defence Journal,
(c/o William Clowes and Sons Limited),
Dorland House,
14 and 16 Lower Regent Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

CHRISTMAS CARDS 1967

1. The Middlesex Regimental Christmas card this year will be a reproduction of Lady Butler's famous painting "Steady the Drums and Fifes." On the inside of each card the Middlesex regimental badge will be embossed in black above the greeting.

The price is 1s. each, or 12s. per dozen, to which must be added postage as under: for 1 dozen, 1s.; 2 dozen, 1s. 6d.; 3 dozen, 2s.; and thereafter adding 3d. for each additional dozen.

The Card is No. 1, which should be quoted when ordering.

2. In addition there are also the following cards available:

Card No. 2, the Queen's Regimental card produced by the Army Benevolent Fund, is a reproduction in full colour of "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Jan Hauicksz Steen (1626-1679).

On the inside of each card the Queen's regimental badge will be die-stamped in gold and silver above the greeting.

The price is 1s. 3d. each, or 15s. per dozen. The postage is the same as for Card No. 1 above.

Card No. 4, a plain double card with the Regimental badge on the outside and the greetings on the inside.

The price of each card is 5d. or 5s. per dozen, to which must be added postage as under: for 1 dozen, 10d.; 2 dozen, 1s. 4d.; 3 dozen, 1s. 8d.; 4 dozen, 2s.; and thereafter adding 3d. for each additional dozen.

Card No. 10, the Middlesex Regimental card for 1966, produced by the Army Benevolent Fund, is a full colour reproduction of "The Adoration of the Shepherds," by Reni (1575-1642).

On the inside of each card the Middlesex regimental badge is embossed in black above the greeting.

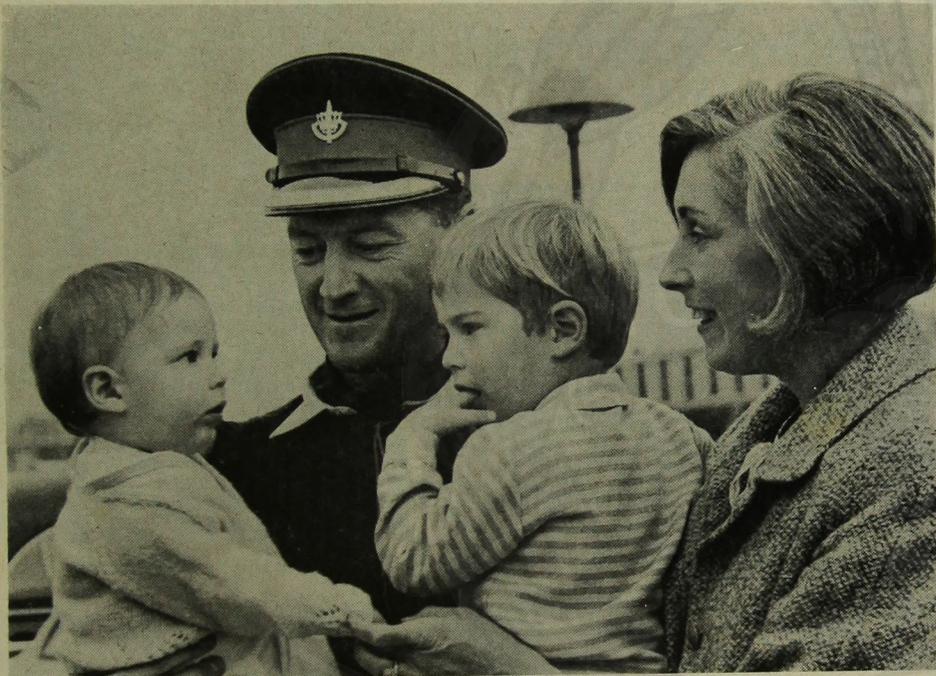
The price is 11d. each, or 11s. per dozen.

The postage is the same as for Card No. 1 above.

FREE JOURNALS

The Editor wishes to thank Majors F. J. Nunn and C. L. Lawrence for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.

Our New Commanding Officer



Lt.-Colonel K. J. Carter

Lt.-Colonel "Nick" Carter took over command of 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) from Lt.-Colonel John Shipster on September 25, 1967.

He joined the Army in June 1943 and, after training at Fort George, Inverness, with the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, he went to India in May 1944 where he attended the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun.

He was commissioned in January 1945 and shortly afterwards joined the 2nd Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers, then part of 89th Infantry Brigade, 7th Indian Division, in Burma. As a platoon commander he took part in the advance by 33 Corps down the River Irrawaddy to Rangoon.

At the end of the war in the Far East he returned with his Battalion to India and served on the North-West Frontier at Peshawar.

In 1946 he was granted a regular commission in The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), and in the following year he joined the Machine Gun Training Wing at Crowborough.

Early in 1948 he joined the 1st Battalion, then in B.A.O.R., and in 1949 he went with the Battalion to Hong Kong and Korea, and was appointed Adjutant. For his services in the Korean war he was mentioned in despatches.

He was Adjutant of the 7th Battalion (T.A.) from 1953 to 1955 when he rejoined the 1st Battalion at Zeltweg in Austria.

He attended the Staff College, Camberley, in 1958 and was afterwards appointed G.S.O.2 Ops. (Strategic Reserve) at Headquarters, Southern Command.

In May 1963 he was appointed Brigade Adjutant at Headquarters, Home Counties Brigade and in September 1965 he rejoined the 1st Battalion at Gibraltar as Second in Command, which appointment he has held since.

He was married in 1958 to Suzanne Louise Kellaway and has two boys—Nicholas (aged 3½), and Michael (aged 1½). The photograph shows the family reunion when the 1st Battalion returned from Guyana in September 1966.

FAREWELL TO THE COLOURS OF 7th, 8th and 9th BATTALIONS (T.A.)

A large gathering of Old Comrades met at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, March 12, to say farewell to the Colours of the 7th, 8th and 9th T.A. Battalions, which had been in the care of the 5th T.A. Battalion since the amalgamation in 1961.

The ceremony was a moving one. First came the march-on of the two guards of the 5th Battalion; and the Old Comrades, followed by the three Colour Parties.

The parade was inspected by the last Colonel of the Regiment, Major-General C. M. M. Man, who was accompanied by the last Honorary Colonels of the three Battalions—Col. W. E. Pringle, 7th Battalion; Brig. E. E. F. Baker, 8th Battalion; and Major-General B. P. Hughes, 9th Battalion.

After the inspection the parade marched past in quick time, when the salute was taken by Major-General Man.

Then in slow time, to the tune of Auld Lang Syne, the Colours were marched off the square. Die-Hard Old Comrades, some of whom had travelled from as far away as Chester, Glasgow and Great Yarmouth, saluted.

Among the many civilians showing their respect,

standing hat in hand, were the Deputy Mayor of Barnet, Alderman Stanley Head, the Mayor of Brent, Alderman George Marshall, and Brent's Town Clerk, Mr. R. S. Forster.

The ceremony closed with the departure of the inspecting officer and the march-off to the Regimental March.

History

The history of the three battalions dates back to 1797, when the Middlesex Loyal Volunteer Associations were formed during the Napoleonic Wars. These associations were kept alive in the form of shooting clubs until invasion was threatened after an abortive attempt was made on the life of Napoleon III.

Volunteer corps were raised in 1859. Men who had been members of the Loyal Association in the opening years of the century volunteered, bringing their sons with them.

In the 1914-18 war all three battalions saw active service gaining honours in Flanders, France, Egypt and Mesopotamia. Beside service in the field, the battalions garrisoned "The Rock" and stations in India.



Major-General C. M. M. Man inspecting the guards of the 5th Battalion.

(Photo—Pte. O. Hunt)

Farewell to the Colours of 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions (T.A.)—cont.



Major-General C. M. M. Man inspecting the Old Comrades detachment.

(Photo—Hendon Times)

In 1939, when war was again declared, there were two battalions of the 7th and two of the 8th, all four of which were machine gun units. They stayed in this role; on mobilisation, the 9th acted as a searchlight unit, then became a light anti-aircraft unit. Although Gunners, they still wore the cap badge and buttons of the Die-Hards.

As machine gunners, the 7th Battalion saw more years of service in the field than any of the other battalions in the regiment during World War II. The 8th Battalion helped to cover the withdrawal of the force which dropped by parachute at Arnhem.

Altogether, 38 battle honours were awarded to five units in the 7th, 8th and 9th battalions, eight of which are carried on the Queen's Colours.



The Colours being marched off in slow time to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

(Photo—Pte. O. Hunt)

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LAYING UP OF COLOURS OF
7th BATTALION (T.A.)

It was a proud yet sad occasion when the colours of the old 7th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (Territorial Army) were laid up in Hornsey Parish Church (St. Mary's) on Sunday, 12th March, in the presence of a congregation of more than 700 people, many of them relatives of men who lost their lives in two world wars serving with the battalion.

A guard from the 5th Battalion marched the Colours from the Territorial Army Centre in Priory Road to the church.

There the Rector of Hornsey, the Rev. P. E. Brassell, and the Chaplain of the 5th Battalion, the Rev. R. Brown, conducted a service.

The Colours were then marched, in slow time, to the tune of "The Caledonian" played by the Regimental Band, to the chancel steps.

Major J. D. Gunnell, the senior officer now serving in the 5th Battalion, who was in the 7th Battalion at the time of its amalgamation with the 8th and 9th Battalions to form the 5th in 1961, received both the Colours; with the Queen's Colour in his right hand the the Regimental Colour in his left, he turned about and at the altar rails said to the clergy:

After attending the Farewell Parade to the Colours, described in the preceding article, a well-known and popular ex-member of the 1/7th Battalion wrote his impressions. These are produced verbatim below since they express the feelings of so many of our loyal and devoted "Old and Bold" who were present at Mill Hill and Hornsey on that sad occasion on March 12, 1967.

I do not doubt that the youth of today knows little of what the Territorials did for the country during the late war, or, for that matter, the previous one. The tendency is to forget all about them. What those men and boys struggled through is the measure of their courage and sacrifice, and I trust that it will never be lightly forgotten.

Sunday, March 12, 1967

A sad, sad day, though one of glorious memories. It was a cold but sunny day high on the hills overlooking London when the "Die-Hards" took a final leave of the Colours they had served so well and for so long.

Drawn up on the old Inglis square in perfect formation

"These consecrated colours, formerly carried in the service of Queen and Country, I now deliver into your hands for safe custody within these walls."

The Rector received them and placed them on the altar.

The Colours will now hang in the Regimental Chapel in the church where names of those who died in action serving with the 7th Battalion are commemorated.

Regimental officers present included Major-General C. M. M. Man (Last Colonel of the Regiment), who read the Lesson, Major-General B. P. Hughes (Hon. Colonel of the 5th Battalion) and Col. W. E. Pringle (Hon. Colonel of the 7th Battalion).

Others present included Mr. Hugh Rossi (M.P. for Hornsey) and Mrs. Rossi, Lt.-Col. F. C. Cave (representative in Haringey of the Queen's Lieutenant for Greater London) and the Mayor and Mayoress of Enfield (Cllr. Charles Wright and Mrs. Wright). The Mayor of Haringey (Ald. Mrs. Annie Remington) was unable to be there.

After the service, the parade formed up and marched back to the Territorial Army Centre, led by a large contingent of 7th Battalion Old Comrades.

stood two guards of honour of the 5th Battalion awaiting the arrival of the Colours and their escorts, with the Band and Drums in attendance.

It was then the turn of the Old Comrades to take up their positions on the flank, which they did with true "Die-Hard" precision. Medals of many campaigns glistened on the breasts of the "Old 'uns" as they fell in, in columns of three.

In spite of the biting wind cutting into ageing limbs, the morale and steadiness "on parade" was unimpeachable, as with heads held high they stood rigidly to attention as the ceremony progressed, and with heads bared they paid their last tribute to their beloved Colours.

Believe it or not, there was many a damp eye and a furtive blowing of noses as the Band played out the Colours to the slow march of "Auld Lang Syne." This, to my mind, was a masterly stroke of the band, to fade away into history the proud battle honours of the past "Die-Hards." Congratulations to the Bandmaster, also to the Band.



Detachment of Old Comrades of the 7th Battalion marching to Hornsey Parish Church for the Laying Up Ceremony.

(Photo—Pte. O. Hunt)

Hornsey, 15.30 hours

This, for me, was a much more intimate occasion—my own Colours—and caused me some distress as I marched in column of route behind them to St. Mary's Church, there to pay my last respects as they were gently laid on the altar and given into the care and custody of the Parish Church for ever.

During my service at home and overseas I have taken part in many burial parades, but Sunday, the 12th, was the ultimate—it was so final, the end of an era. On the march back to headquarters I felt I had said farewell, not only to the Colours, but to many, many of my pals who had made the supreme sacrifice. I can still see them. At Hornsey, Aldershot, Colchester, Purfleet, Bisley, Rainham, France and Belgium, and so on. I felt proud, but very, very sad.

Yes, Sunday, March 12, 1967, will remain in my memory until I, too, pass on.

I expect you will be asking yourselves who is the author of this tribute. Well, I am ex-Sgt. A. T. Dickinson (Provost) of H.Q. Company, 1/7th Battalion, and my ties with the "Die-Hards" are very strong.

After leaving the Regular Army in 1921 (The Rifle Brigade and Lincolnshire Regiment), having served in France 1915-16, being wounded on the Somme (Le Transloy) on Dec. 11, 1916 (my birthday) I recovered and was again drafted overseas in 1918, where I caught another packet, this time at the Battle of Amiens in front of Villiers Bretonneaux in a Lewis-gun post. I was again returned to the U.K., where I served, taking part in the troubles in Co. Tipperary, returning home in 1921 with an honourable discharge.

Then came my first contact with the "Die-Hards," 19th London Regiment, Camden Town, which I joined in 1925. "D" Company, Company Commander Capt. J. V. North (Jockey North), and soldiered on for another six years. At this stage fate took a hand. I married, and so ended my military career—or so I thought!

In 1932 I attended an Armistice Parade at Mill Hill,

where I again came in contact with C.S.M. Stephenson (our old P.S.I.) and was introduced to the then Capt. Walden, who was interested in my exploits, and after some conversation—and a few pints!—agreed to visit the Drill Hall at Highgate on a drill night, then the old "A" Company.

A convivial evening was had by all, with Tommy Rockall in charge of the bar and Rocky Knight (then Sgt., now R.S.M.). After creeping home rather latish, I made an appointment with Battalion Headquarters at Hornsey and again signed on the dotted line. The rest we all know; 1938—the scare; 1939—up went the kite and we were away, destination unknown. Col. King bade us a "fare-thee-well" send off from Salamanca Barracks, Aldershot, and that was that.

The story does not end here. The family takes over at this point:

Son, No. 1. My eldest son, Frank, joined the Middlesex Cadet Corps while at school and did fire-watching duties at Hendon Lane H.Q. One day he approached the Army Recruiting Centre to enlist, but was told he was too young. So on my next leave I accompanied him to the Centre and saw the Sergeant in charge (an old "Die-Hard" whom I knew well) and it was arranged. So off he went to M.G. Training Centre at Chester, thence to Hounslow, where I was stationed as Provost Sergeant (70th Young Soldiers' Battalion). He later served in 1st Battalion, the Army of Liberation (landing on the beaches on D plus One), then Belgium, Holland, Germany, etc., finishing up in Palestine in 1947 (Captain of Military Police), where he received his first wound in an orange grove near Haifa.

He joined the Metropolitan Police and is now employed on the car patrols stationed at Hendon Grange. He is also a frequent visitor at the T.A. Centre at Edgware with the shooting team.

Son No. 2. Robert James. Joined the Regiment in 1949 and was with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, was present in Korea and saw his first action with the 27th

Infantry Brigade also on the Imjin River, attached to the Gloucesters, and received the American Citation for that action. He became a casualty during the action and was for a time in hospital at Kure, Japan. He recovered and, on his discharge, re-joined the 10th Battalion the Parachute Regiment (H.Q. Finchley), where he is at present serving as Sergeant Instructor, having flown and dropped many, many times in various countries, including Cyprus and Holland.

Son No. 3. Maurice Edward. Served with the Royal Air Force in Hong Kong as wireless operator for five years and is still on reserve. He now works as a welfare officer for the Ministry of Pensions. He went to Spain as a teacher of English and won two Diplomas in Spanish at the University of Madrid.

So ends the story of the Dickinson family—a story of service. For myself, I am now retired, living on my old age pension and serving as a Divisional Superintendent in the St. John Ambulance Brigade. In 1966 I was awarded the medal of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem for 16 years' efficient service. In October 1962, I was awarded the Royal Humane Society's Certificate for saving a life by artificial respiration on a drowning girl. And so life goes on. . . .

ALEXANDRA HOUSE

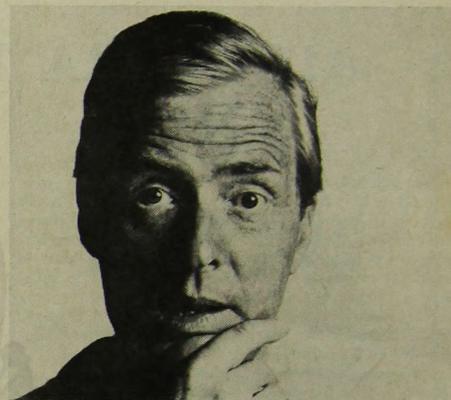
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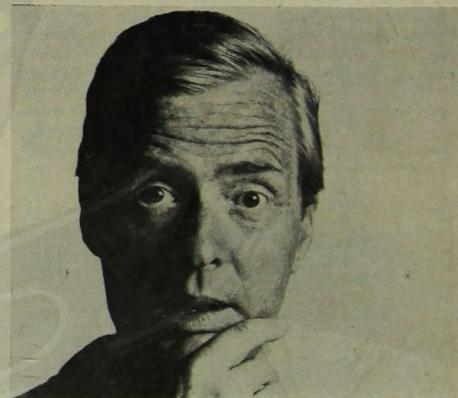
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ALBUHERA PARADE 1967

The 156th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera was celebrated in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, May 14. As on that memorable day over a century-and-a-half ago, when Colonel Inglis' "fighting villians" became "Die-Hards," the rain beat down on the assembly. It was not just a shower, so the decision was taken to hold the religious service and inspection in the gymnasium; permission to use the barracks for the ceremony having kindly been given by Lt.-Colonel L. P. Bennett, R.E., Commanding Home Postal and Courier Communication Depot, R.E.

The parade was commanded by Major R. W. J. Smith, whilst the Parade Sergeant-Major was R.S.M. F. Webb of 10th (Territorial) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex). This year it was predominantly a veterans' parade with khaki supplied by the officers of the 10th Battalion with their C.O., Lt.-Colonel P. J. Hall, and the uniformed detachment of No. 16 Company Middlesex Army Cadet Force, under the command of Lt. Norman Kirby. These youths were a credit to the badge they wore—it is only the Cadets who now wear the badge of our County Regiment—and their turnout and drill were also a credit to their commander and instructors.

The various branches of Die-Hards Clubs formed up under their respective commanders, the veterans in their ranks embracing successive generations of soldiers from the nineties of the last century, to the National Service soldier wearing the medals for Korea and Cyprus, and T.A. personnel who had served in Aden. In the hollow

square formed for the service was the Association Standard borne by Mr. Bill Bratby—a veteran of the Battle of Mons—with an escort of Capt. W. H. Craydon and Mr. A. Matthews, another veteran of Mons. In front of the Standard was a small and colourful group consisting of Mr. Bob Ryder, V.C., who, although crippled, had that morning driven from Hucknall in Notts, plus five of our In-Pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in their scarlet coats. These were ex-C.Q.M.S. C. King, who is a sergeant in the Royal Hospital, and In-Pensioners W. C. "Good" Heavens, Joe Packer, Charlie Shaw and Fred Worton. Old soldier Packer is a veteran of Spion Kop, the battle fought in January, 1900.

After the arrival of the Deputy Colonel, Major-General C. M. M. Man, who took his position in front of the parade, the religious service was conducted by the Rev. Ralph Brown, J.C.D., former Chaplain to 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (T.A.), whilst Lt. Richard Claydon provided the music at the piano.

At the end of the service, the Deputy Colonel laid a wreath at the foot of the altar in memory of those original Die-Hards of Albuhera. It was apt for General Man to pay this homage, for not only was he the last Colonel of the Regiment in its independent history, but he is also a distant relative of Lady Butler the celebrated painter of our famous canvas, "Steady, the Drums and Fifes," depicting the 57th on the Ridge of Albuhera, May 16, 1811. The General then inspected the parade, chatting



Albuhera Parade 1967.

Left to right: In-Pensioners A. J. Packer, F. J. Worton, Sgt. C. M. King, Major-General C. M. M. Man, Bob Ryder, V.C., In-Pensioners C. C. Shaw and W. C. Heavens.
(Photo—Hendon Times)

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with old and young alike. In the ranks, shoulder to shoulder, were not only Die-Hards of different generations, but those of great diversity of rank. Next to the drummer stood the brigadier and next to the provost sergeant stood the "janker wallah," all proud to be linked as Die-Hards. Feet that were at an angle of 30 degrees on that parade had, in the past, trodden many a continent; campaign medals bore witness to active service from 1899 to 1966, whilst the decorations covered all that an officer or a soldier can earn. Long service in the Volunteer Force was, in one case, depicted by the Territorial Decoration ribbon being completely hidden by its bars. Three hoary-headed old soldiers, each wearing Boer War medals, were noticeable by their erect carriage during the inspection and to augment the medals for military conduct were Imperial Service Medals and, in one case, the Police Medal. As one young Cadet remarked, "You should pay to come on a parade like this." I could fully understand his sentiments.

When the parade dismissed, the wreath was taken from its place by the altar and placed at the base of the Regimental War Memorial.

Later, the usual reunion took place in the Drill Hall at Edgware, where W.O.2 C. Banks had prepared an attractive and abundant selection of snacks. Here joyous incidents were relived, friendships renewed and future meetings resolved. It may not have been spring-like weather, but verily there was a spring in the step of the Old and Bold after their annual Die-Hard commemoration. May we all have the pleasure of being together on Albuhera Day, 1968.

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See Order Form

CANADIAN VETERANS VISIT HONG KONG TO MARK THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF HONG KONG

December 8, 1966 dawned in Hong Kong as it did in 1941, 25 years earlier. The sun shone brightly out of a cloudless sky. Fifty veterans of the Royal Rifles of Canada and The Winnipeg Grenadiers stood again beneath that sun, this time to remember their comrades in a simple ceremony of commemoration at Sai Wan Cemetery.

Alongside the Canadians stood many others who with them took part in the heroic defence of the Island, and with them shared the rigours of captivity under the

represented the Regiment and laid a wreath on its behalf. Our affiliated Regiment, The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) provided an Honour Guard under the command of Capt. A. Jack.

In the evening the mood changed, as it does when soldiers remember their comrades, from the solemn recognition of the sacrifice of the fallen to the happy recollection of them as men. The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) and the Hong Kong Prisoners of War Association jointly entertained the Canadians at what



Senator the Honourable Ross Macdonald P.C., Q.C., LL.D., representative of the Government of Canada, talks to Major Crumley

Japanese. It was for everybody present a particularly significant and moving Act of Remembrance. We stood, 25 years after the battle, on the battlefield, in a place where the fallen are perpetually remembered and in the company of men who fought beside them.

Our Regimental Association in Hong Kong, now few in number, attended the Ceremony. Col. H. A. de Barros Botelho, O.B.E., and Capt. E. D. Bull, M.M., although also representing the Volunteers and Prisoners of War Association, were as staunch members as any Association could possess. Major W. G. A. Crumley

turned out to be quite a party. Older "Die-Hards" will be pleased to learn that the Canadians cannot imagine us without our Vickers Guns, and were delighted to see two guns mounted in front of the Volunteers' Headquarters.

For all of us who were privileged to take part in the Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong there was at the end of the day one over-riding sense of fulfilment. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we had remembered them.

COMMONWEALTH DIVISION PLAQUE

In order to commemorate the assistance given by the Commonwealth Forces during the Korean War it was decided last year by the Commonwealth Liaison Mission at United Nations Command, Korea, to present to the Korean Ministry of National Defence a plaque containing the badges of all Corps and Regiments who served in the Division.

The Regimental Association contributed towards the cost of the plaque which was presented by Lt.-General Sir John Worsley, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., Commander British Forces Hong Kong to the Hon. Kim Sung Eun, Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea, on May 4, 1967.

The informal ceremony, which took place in the

"Minister Kim, on behalf of the British Commonwealth it is my honour to present to the Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Korea this commemorative plaque in memory of those Commonwealth Forces and British Armed Services and Regiments who participated in the Korean War.

"The plaque bears the National Emblems of the Armed Services of the Countries concerned and Regimental badges of British Regiments who played their parts here in Korea in preserving the cause of freedom under the United Nations Command.

"Members of our forces who paid the supreme sacrifice now rest on your territory in the United



Lt.-General Sir John Worsley presenting the Plaque to the Minister of National Defence (in civilian clothes).

Ministry of National Defence, was attended by His Excellency Ian Mackenzie (British Ambassador to the Republic of Korea), Brigadier Bancroft (United Kingdom Defence Attache to the Republic of Korea), Lt.-Col. Whyte (Australian Defence Attache to the Republic of Korea) and the Liaison Officers from the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. For the Republic of Korea the Minister and Vice-Minister of National Defence were accompanied by the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Army and Air Force Chiefs of Staff, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and about 12 Generals from the Ministry.

When making the presentation Sir John Worsley made the following short speech:

Nations Cemetery in Pusan. This plaque may, I hope, one day rest in your National War Museum which I understand, is to be built. It will be a permanent record of the British Commonwealth contribution to your fight to preserve those principles of freedom we all cherish. Those principles we shall continue to fight to retain.

"May I wish your Country and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea continuing success in the future."

In reply the Minister accepted the plaque gratefully as a record of the generous assistance given by the Commonwealth Forces during the Korean War and said that a place would be found for it in the projected National War Museum.

SIR JOHN WILLOUGHBY'S DEPARTURE FROM ADEN



1. General Sir John Willoughby, Inspector General of the Federal Army, talking to the N.C.O. i/c Camel Troop of the Federal Army at a Farewell Parade held to mark the departure of the General from Aden.
2. The General bids farewell to 2/Lt. Ahmed Saleh Audhali, Director of Music of the Federal Army.
3. Sir John inspects the Guard of Honour formed by the Fifth Fusiliers.



4. General Sir John and Lady Willoughby board the C. in C.'s barge.

(Photos—J.P.R.S. (Aden))

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR JOHN WILLOUGHBY LEAVES ADEN—AND THE ARMY

On Friday, May 12, 1967, Major-General Sir John Willoughby left Aden in the P. and O. liner Orsova on completion of his tour of duty as General Officer Commanding Middle East Land Force.

Before leaving the General inspected a Guard of Honour provided by the 1st Battalion The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, after which he drove in his land rover to the end of the H.M.S. Sheba jetty which was lined with troops under his command.

Whilst the band of the Fifth Fusiliers played appropriate music Hunter aircraft of Strike Wing and Wessex helicopters of 78th Squadron from Royal Air Force, Khormaksar, took part in an aerial salute as the General,

accompanied by Lady Willoughby, sailed away from the jetty in the Commander-in-Chief's barge, the crew of which was made up of The Commander in Chief, Middle East (Admiral Sir Michael Le Fanu, K.C.B., D.S.O., R.N.), the Flag Officer Middle East (Rear Admiral J. E. L. Martin, D.S.C., R.N.), and The Captain of H.M.S. Sheba, Aden Naval Shore Base.

As already reported in *The Die-hards Newsletter* for July Sir John arrived at Tilbury on May 26, when he was welcomed home by Colonel F. Walden on behalf of the Deputy Colonel.

After a long and very distinguished military career Sir John retired from the Army on August 21.

Have you made a note of the dates?

SEE THE LIST OF
FORTHCOMING EVENTS
ON THE REGIMENTAL CALENDAR

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MAJOR A. E. F. WALDRON, M.B.E.

An Appreciation

On May 9 Frank Waldron, one of the most popular and efficient Quartermasters the Regiment has ever produced, retired after 34 years' service.

He enlisted into the Regiment in 1933 and was commissioned in 1954. He served with the 1st Battalion in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong before the



1939-45 War and was taken prisoner by the Japanese in 1941. He was on the *Lisbon Maru* when it was torpedoed, and he spent six hours in the sea before being picked up by an enemy launch.

After the war he served again with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, Austria, Cyprus and Rhine Army, and went to Canterbury as Quartermaster of the Home Counties Brigade Depot in 1963.

At the time of his retirement he was Quartermaster of the Queen's Regimental Depot at Canterbury, and moved seven miles away to Bossingham where he is

"mine host" at the Star Inn. No doubt many of his old colleagues will visit him there to draw "provisions" from him without having to sign a voucher.

He was a fine hockey player and represented B.A.O.R., Hong Kong and Austria.

The high regard in which Frank Waldron was held during his active career is best summed up in the following tribute from a very senior officer of the Regiment who has known him well for the past 30 years:

"I first met Frank Waldron in 1937 when I joined the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. He was then employed in the Orderly Room, and I remember him very clearly as a typical Londoner, very alert and on the ball with a keen sense of humour. In those days it was not easy for Second-Lieutenants to get in to see the Adjutant and it was a great help to have a friend in the office, and Frank Waldron was always ready to help young officers to the best of his ability.

"From 1937 until the outbreak of war in Hong Kong I got to know Frank very much better as we both went up the promotion ladder—he rather more quickly than me. A keen hockey player and a good one, he took an active part in everything that went on in Headquarter Company which I commanded for a time, and in the Battalion. It was however as a prisoner of war that I got to know him really well.

"After the sinking of the *Lisbon Maru* and the very dark days immediately following it, Frank emerged apparently quite unscathed and his usual cheerful self. When we reached Kobe House, Frank somehow found his way into the stores. Here he was able to wield considerable power, and was wide open to all sorts of bribery and corruption. Never once did he succumb to the temptations that were put in his way—extra cigarettes, extra food, clothing and all the rest. In fact he took considerable risks by issuing clothes and equipment to those prisoners who were desperately in need in spite of dire threats from the Japanese. I think he was one of the only prisoners who had the respect not only of his fellows but of the Japanese as well, for his sheer integrity and guts.

"Since the war I am afraid our paths have seldom crossed although I have seen him from time to time. To my mind Frank Waldron epitomises the very best that our Regiment produces."

Christmas Cards

Full details and prices on page 447

Major Tuckey bids farewell to Joint Services

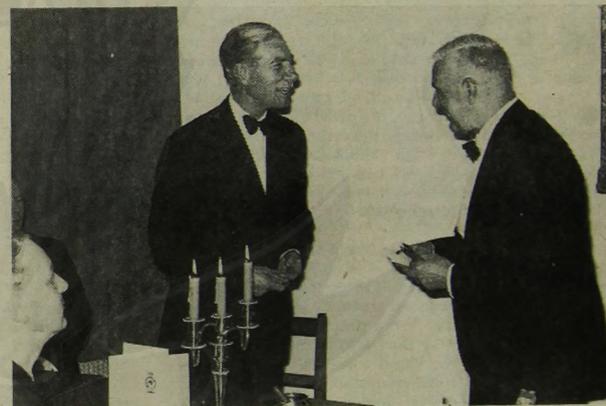
Staff College, Latimer

Major P. E. C. Tuckey, M.B.E., had been on the staff of the Joint Services Staff College, Latimer, since its inception, having been appointed Secretary to the Commandant on May 1, 1947.

After long and devoted service stretching over 20 years he vacated his appointment and retired from the Civil Service on June 6, 1967. During that time he served 9 Commandants, including Admiral Sir Cyril Douglas-Pennant, Lt.-General Sir William Stratton and Air Marshal Sir Lawrence Darvall, and met about 2,700 students, including many from the Commonwealth and

On Tuesday, March 14, 1967, the Commandant (Air Vice-Marshal S. W. B. Menaul) and all officers of the Directing and Permanent Staff gave him a farewell dinner in the candle-lit Dining Room of the Officers' Mess. The occasion, tinged with nostalgia and reminiscences, was graced by three former Commandants. Appropriate speeches were made, and a cheque presented to him representing spontaneous donations from many of his old friends who had passed through the College during his time there.

(With acknowledgements to *The Editor, The Cormorant*.)



Presentation of Cheque by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Lawrence Sinclair on behalf of the *Cormorants* (Old Boys) Club.

the United States Armed Forces. Amongst those from the Regiment who attended courses were Brigadier (now Major-General) G. P. L. Weston, Major J. E. F. (now Major-General Sir John) Willoughby, Majors (now Colonels) A. S. J. de S. Clayton, J. W. G. Ormiston and I. R. Burrows.

He will be remembered for his work as the Secretary of the "Cormorant Club"—an association of Old Boys of the College. He had an astonishing and unique facility for remembering names, places and faces, and conducted all the correspondence for the Club, invariably on a personal basis. It was a prodigious task, to which he gave long hours of his own time, and for which he will be sadly missed.

"A SOLDIER'S STORY"

This book, written by Brigadier J. O. E. Vandeleur, D.S.O., will be of interest to members of the immediate post-war 7th Battalion.

It is a professional soldier's story with a difference. The author comes from a long line of soldiers and, with the exception of his schooldays, spent his whole life in the Army.

This could have produced a conventional type, but it did not. His varied and unusual career, and inimitable descriptive powers, make fascinating reading.

The book, bound in full cloth and illustrated, can be obtained from Messrs. Gale and Polden, Aldershot. Price 35s. net (by post 37s.)

OUR DEPOT AT MILL HILL— ITS HISTORY

BY MAJOR R. W. J. SMITH, M.B.E.

In the complete history of the Middlesex Regiment claim can only be made for one place as its own regimental home. To thousands of men scattered over the globe who have served as Die-Hards, the expression "the Depot" means Mill Hill.

Before May 31, 1873, each regiment had Depot Companies which were stationed in various garrisons, housed by a unit who were the garrison proper. Both 57th and 77th had, at times, Depot Companies in Manchester, Cork, Birr, Channel Isles, Aldershot, Belfast, etc. On the last day of May 1873 the system of linked battalions came into being. The 57th (West Middlesex) and 77th (East Middlesex) became linked, their training establishment becoming 50 Brigade Depot at Woolwich. The 57th sent the reformed "A" and "H" Companies, nearly all in possession of Crimea or New Zealand medals, whilst the 77th sent "I" and "K" Companies. Under the Territorial Act each infantry regiment took the name of a county, etc., and the 57th and 77th became the 1st and 2nd Battalions, Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) and the Depot was renamed 57th Regimental District Depot. It then moved to Hounslow to share the Depot with the Royal Fusiliers, becoming the 7th/57th Regimental District.

Now in Middlesex, the Regiment still shared a depot until April 4, 1905, when it moved to Mill Hill—a truly rural district in those days. For the first six months it shared Mill Hill Barracks with the Rifle Brigade, but they moved back to Dalston. When the troops left Hounslow they were played out by the bands of the 21st Lancers, 2nd Lincolns and the Royal Fusiliers. "Auld Lang Syne," was played as the train steamed out of the station making its way to the latest thing in military accommodation in Great Britain.

After detraining at the London and North-Eastern Railway Station at Mill Hill, now Mill Hill East, the troops marched up Bittacy Hill, horse-transport taking the heavy baggage. The sight that met the troops' eyes in those days was really an eye-opener for the Cockney soldiers. The barracks are 100 ft. higher than the dome of St. Paul's and it was countryside for miles around. Each barrack room had only twelve beds and the washroom was segregated from the living rooms but in the same building. The barracks were referred to as a "Garden" Barracks. The civilian neighbours of the troops made gifts of saplings and plants and the officers of the Depot could be seen, themselves planting trees, as early-morning fatigues under the command of the Commanding Officer or Second-in-Command. Quite a number of these trees, until the outbreak of the war in

1939, had a small metal plate at the base giving the name of the officer donor and date of planting. One of these officers is still with us—Major P. B. Allott, now an octogenarian and Boer War veteran.

The first Commanding Officer was Major H. M. Eustace, D.S.O., whilst the Quartermaster was Lt. "Buster" Lee. The Commanding Officers from then on were Major H. W. E. Finch (1907-8), Major C. E. Pemberton (1908-10), Major J. H. Hall (1910-12), Major W. C. C. Ash, D.S.O., (1912-14), Major W. D. Ingle (January-October 1914), Colonel E. V. Bellets (ret.) (1914-18), Major W. D. Ingle (1918-19), Lt.-Colonel W. Y. Miller, D.S.O., (1919-22), Lt.-Colonel V. L. N. Pearson, D.S.O., (1922-26), Major W. W. Jefferd (1926-29), Major L. L. Pargiter, D.S.O., (1929-32), Major T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., (1932-34), Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., (1934-37), Major H. Phillips, M.C., (1937-39), Major F. G. Parker (1939), (from 1939 to 1946 there was a Depot Party under the jurisdiction of Colonel M. Browne, M.C., and Major A. W. Clark with the regimental band as the strongest party of Middlesex in the barracks), Lt.-Colonel M. Crawford, D.S.O. (1946-48), Major A. S. J. de S. Clayton (1948), Major R. C. H. Ballers (1948-50), Major G. O. Porter (1950-52), Major P. D. H. Marshall (1952-54), Major A. R. Waller, M.C., (1955-56), Major I. H. Batty, M.B.E., (1956-59) and Major R. D. Hutchings (1959-61).

At the time the Barracks were first occupied the Married Quarters were not ready for occupation so the families lived in hired houses in Station Villas, Harcourt Terrace, Bittacy Hill in Mill Hill and a number of houses in Dollis Road, Gordon Road and Elm Park Road in Finchley. The first child to be born after the regiment moved to Mill Hill was a daughter of C/Sgt. Joe Lambourne. She is now Mrs. Eva Honeybun, the wife of Major Les Honeybun. The last child born whilst the regiment still called Mill Hill their Depot was Alan James Redmond, the son of C/Sgt. and Mrs. Redmond, now with 4 Queen's (Middlesex) in Holywood. Originally there were 30 married quarters. The end quarter (No. 30) eventually fell down! There are now 310 quarters in Inglis Barracks which house personnel of London District, whereas the original houses were for the Middlesex Regiment only.

In the entrance hall of the Officers' Mess can be seen the first of the then new pattern crown emblazoned on a government building. Up to the end of Queen Victoria's reign, the crown shown above the coat of arms, or royal cypher, was St. Edward's crown, but on the accession to the throne of King Edward VII, the Imperial Crown was adopted and remained so throughout the reign of

male sovereigns, the St. Edward's crown again being adopted when Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, ascended the throne. Older readers may recall the old soldier years ago saying, as he placed his few coppers on the "crown" square of the crown and anchor board, "tuppence on Teddy's 'at." The troops, as is their wont, immediately named the new crown adopted as "Teddy's 'at."

Although not welcome at first, the redcoats became popular and a great many married local girls, settling down in the vicinity of their old barracks. Numerous friendships formed in the early days still survive. Relations with local public bodies were always good. The 2nd Battalion were adopted by Finchley during the last war and lastly the Freedom of Hendon was given to the Regiment with all the privileges appertaining thereto on October 22, 1955, two hundred years after the formation of the Regiment. An example of the bond between the Regiment and the public body was when L/Cpl. Hemmings of the Depot was presented with a silver watch by the Police of "S" Division in January 1914 in appreciation of his going to the aid of a constable who was attacked by a "tough" who was beating him with a cudgel at North Finchley in October, 1913. Earlier, Sgt. Major Mitchell had been presented with a handsome clock by Major Thomlin, Chief Constable of the Northern District, Metropolitan Police, for giving assistance to the police during a riot at Wood Green when the police were surrounded by a large hostile crowd. A bell suspended from ram's horns, presented by the Sergeants' Mess, Mill Hill, to the Police is still used by the Chairman at the Police Annual Dinner.

Until 1914 it was one of the recreations of the civilian population for the men to turn out in their straw boaters, the ladies wearing leg-of-mutton sleeves and daring skirts that showed the ankle, and the children in their sailor hats, on Sunday morning, to see the troops in scarlet uniforms and spiked helmets being marched to St. Paul's Church behind the regimental band. After church parade the men would dismiss and change their head-dress from the helmet to their Broderick, the most detested cap ever issued to the British soldier. This cap, with no peak made the soldier feel like a Manx cat who had had a change of direction! The soldier would then go about his own business, either to one of the public houses standing near by, the Three Hammers, the King's Head—demolished many years ago—the Adam and Eve or the Railway. If he was a wealthy soldier and still had half-a-crown on Sunday, he could travel by horse-bus from Finchley to Golders Green where he could catch a train. He usually walked back, though.

In 1914 the scene abruptly changed. Not only did the reservists report on mobilisation, but hundreds of recruits from all parts of London flocked in to enlist. Barrack rooms built for twelve men had as many as twenty-five men sleeping in the beds and on the floor. The square at night was covered with sleeping bodies. Under the trees were men who chummed up and decided to go to the same unit together and did so. From hundreds it grew to thousands. The Regiment eventually expanded to forty-six battalions—enough to furnish four Divisions of Infantry—most of whom first reported to

Mill Hill Barracks. The friendships formed in those days still exist to-day, and the first meetings under the trees in 1914 are still referred to at annual reunions. Of the men who passed through the gates during those years, 12,694 laid down their lives in various parts of the globe and in all theatres of war.

November 1922 saw the unveiling of the Regimental Memorial in the presence of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Middlesex Regiment. So far the barracks had no name except "The Barracks," Mill Hill. Writing paper embossed "Albuhera Barracks" can certainly be found amongst old correspondence but the name was never official. The different roads within the gates were named, in 1930, after notable personalities in the Regiment. They were Inglis, Arabin, March, Picton, Cambridge, Lawrence, Hardinge, Kent, Jackson and Veitch—Inglis after the gallant commander who called out to his men to die hard on that sanguinary field of Albuhera in 1811, Arabin and Marsh commemorating the two colonels who formed the 57th and 77th, Picton that hard fighting, hard swearing Colonel of the 77th killed at Waterloo, Cambridge after the Duke, our first Colonel-in-Chief, who also possessed an earthy vocabulary, Lawrence of the 77th of Seringapatam and father of Lord Lawrence and Sir Henry Lawrence of India, Hardinge who became Commander-in-Chief of the Army during the Crimea War and Jackson and Veitch who carried the Colours at Albuhera.

As the years went by the "Garden" barracks really did gain beauty in its surroundings. The trees lining the roads and messes looked glorious during the spring and the summer but proved to be a Hell's torment in the autumn when the leaves fell and covered the ground and blocked the drains. Unfortunately by some ill quirk of fate, the Annual Inspection took place at this time of the year. However much energy was put in to make the place neat and tidy it seemed that a great shower of leaves would cascade to the ground just as the G.O.C. started his rounds. Some sensitive drill instructor—if such a creature ever existed—would be sent demented when, just after having the area allotted to his squad cleared up, he would glance behind him and find the ground as profuse with leaves as when he started. It is known for recruits to climb trees and shake them the day prior to the inspection; one N.C.O. was seen to pick up leaves and stuff them in his pocket as the G.O.C. was approaching his area!

On the square was the highly polished brass "Seringapatam" gun, now gracing the square at the Queen's Depot, Canterbury. This gun was hauled from its position on New Year's night and dragged into the Gymnasium where the officers and sergeants would battle for its possession. The New Year's Dance was always a Sergeants' Dance where officers were invited. The gun would also be moved to the middle of the square on the night of St. Patrick's Day when the Corporals held their dance and all would dance around the gun in a large circle. St. Patrick's night was always celebrated in the Regiment up to 1939. It must be remembered that, for scores of years, both 57th and 77th were predominantly Irish. The writer often heard old soldiers referring to their recruit days as "Yes, I joined

up in the time of the Irish.' The first R.S.M. at Mill Hill, "Con" Sullivan, was a wild Irishman who had a yell like a strombus horn. In old photographs the beauty of the dark-haired, blue-eyed Irish wives and girls can still be discerned even though the clothes they are wearing give the impression that they are peering over the top of a clothing stall.

Other guns were two of the German guns captured at Nery by "D" Company, 1st Battalion. They were given to the Regiment after the break-up of the gun-park at Alexandra Palace where guns captured during the war of 1914-18 were kept. They were at first at the entrance gate Bittacy Hill, and later moved to the front of the Officers' Mess. During Colonel Pearson's tenure of command, many war trophies were buried in a very deep hole where the Corporals' Room was eventually built. Amongst these weapons were the cannons of Nery and some machine guns, one captured by the redoubtable "Busty" Hull, M.M.

1939 did not see a repetition of 1914 but nevertheless the place was a hive of industry. The Regiment was now a Machine Gun Regiment and, as no ground for training existed locally, the recruits were moved to Chester. For a time in 1941 and 1942 a company of the London Irish Rifles occupied some of the barrack rooms, although the band of the 2nd Battalion and Depot H.Q. Party remained.

The Royal Army Ordnance Corps then moved in and in 1942 a new unit, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was formed from specialists of the Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps. A very interesting ceremony took place on the drill square on this occasion. The personnel of the R.A.O.C. who were to transfer to the new corps formed up and marched past the senior officer, receiving the command "Royal Army Ordnance Corps, Eyes..." as they paid compliments. On reaching the far side of the square they halted, turned about and stood at ease. All then removed the cap badge of the R.A.O.C. from their headdress and replaced it with that of the R.E.M.E. They then marched past the senior officer, paying compliments to the command, "Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Eyes..." Not only had Mill Hill seen the birth of the only Depot we could really call our own, but it had seen the birth of a regiment. On the square a badge of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps was buried. It remains there to this day.

In a previous paragraph, it has been pointed out that the first baby born to the Regiment after the move from Hounslow was a daughter of C/Sgt. Joe Lambourne. It is also interesting to record that when the army decided

to employ female labour in the newly opened instrument shop in the Barracks, the first two ladies on the staff were another two daughters of Joe Lambourne. They had before this date been employed by the United Kingdom Optical Company and were experienced in the testing and assembling of binoculars. One of these ladies is the wife of the writer of this article.

After the 1939-45 War the Army was re-organised and the barracks became a training depot under the heading of "57 Primary Training Centre." Before this could take place the inhabitants had to be transferred. What a mixed bag it was too! The writer, who was the officer moved in for the task, found the Regimental Band, a party of R.E.M.E., some Royal Engineers, a detachment of the Free Polish Army, German Prisoners of War, and each day a squad of A.T.S. would arrive from their camp for clerical duties, and of course there was the Regimental Depot Party which was growing in numbers daily. A number were P.O.W.s from the Far East.

The Jubilee year of the Barracks, 1955, was commemorated by the erection of new gates at the main entrance, the ceremony performed by the Mayor of Hendon, Councillor S. Sharpe. He said, "Many famous soldiers have entered these portals. I am sure many more will go out of here and do honour in the world." That may well be so. The Die-Hards have now moved out and the buildings been taken over by the Home Postal Courier Communication Depot, Royal Engineers, a unit whose work brings joy to the soldiers stationed overseas. The Tommy—and his commander—will work without pay, little or no tobacco, and little or no rest from his labours, but as long as he receives his letter from home, he is content and will face difficulties with a smile.

On January 31, 1961, the Regimental flag of the Middlesex Regiment was hauled down for the last time in the presence of a small Depot Party and a contingent of old comrades. The parade was under the command of Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, the R.S.M. was R.S.M. S. Bartle, the Provost N.C.O. who hauled down the flag was Cpl. J. Rogers and the bugler was Dmr. J. Kenny. No bands, no trumpets, no cheering crowds or "Auld Lang Syne," just a damp eye here and there amongst the "Old and Bold."

The barracks had at last been given the name "Inglis Barracks" after the immortal commander of the 57th Regiment at Albuhera, and was occupied by one Die-Hard until January 1966 when Major "Bill" Heywood retired from his appointment as R.O.III at Regimental Headquarters. He was the last Die-Hard to occupy a room in the barracks—the only home the County Regiment had in the whole of its history to call its own. It now returns to what it had done from its birth 1755 until 1905, that is to share a training establishment with other units in another county.

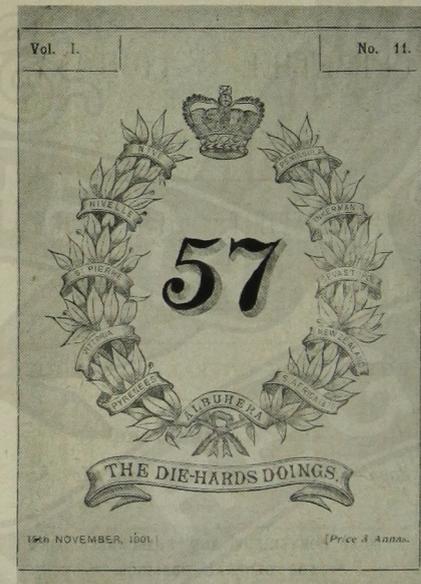
Twice a year we return to Mill Hill—Albuhera Day and Remembrance Sunday—when our hosts are the H.P.C.C.D., R.E., and our Middlesex flag flies bravely from the flag-pole. Already amongst the present unit there is the story of a ghost of the Middlesex Regiment which frightens the life out of the patrolling picquet at night as he goes his rounds. It appears we really do remain there in spirit, in every sense of the word. That is how it should be.

COVERS OF THE PAST

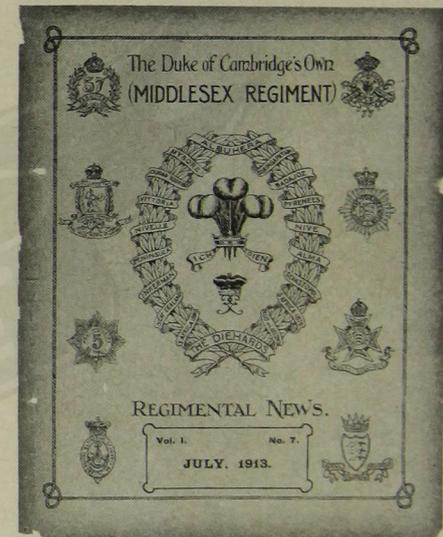
This final issue of *The Die-Hards* would not, it is felt, be complete unless it contained illustrations of the various covers which have been used since our Regimental journal was first published in 1901. On this and the succeeding pages, therefore, these have been produced, and are amplified by the following notes:

- No. 1. "The Die-Hards Doings" was printed on a yellow background with the badge and lettering in black. This cover was unchanged throughout the life of the journal from January 1901 to March 1909.
- No. 2. "Regimental News" was printed on a yellow background with the badge and lettering in red. The badge in the centre, after publication of the first number in 1913, immediately brought a protest from Col. J. Grove White because the words "The Die Hards" were incorporated in the regimental badge. He felt that they should be under the 57th badge in the top left corner as that was the only battalion entitled to the soubriquet. The Editor replied that the title "The Die-Hards" was now so closely connected with the name of the Regiment as a whole that its inclusion in the central portion of the cover appeared perfectly logical. This is quite true because every battalion in the Regiment has heard the exhortation both on the field of battle and in the sports arenas all over the world.
- This cover was used from January 1913 until July 1914 when publication ceased on the outbreak of the 1914-18 war.
- No. 3. White background with red and yellow frame, the badge and lettering in black.
- No. 4. White background with maroon frame, the badge and lettering also in maroon.
- No. 5. As for No. 4 with the addition of the figures of a drummer of 1750 and a grenadier of 1753. Although the Regiment was not formed until 1755 uniforms were the same at this date.
- No. 6. White background and a maroon frame with a border of yellow in the frame. The top panel was maroon with "The Die-Hards" in yellow, whilst the bottom panel was white with maroon badge and lettering.
- No. 7. Yellow background with black frame and a border of maroon in the frame. The top panel was black with "The Die-Hards" in maroon, whilst the bottom panel was yellow with black badge and lettering.
- No. 8. Maroon with the badge and "The Die-Hards" in yellow, whilst the remainder of the lettering was in black.

Nos. 9 and 10. Yellow with the badges in black and all printing in maroon.



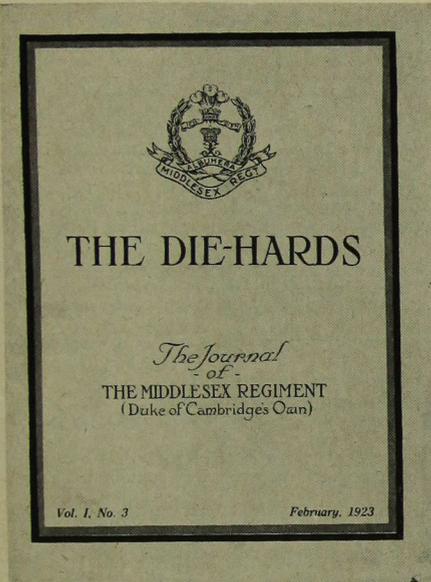
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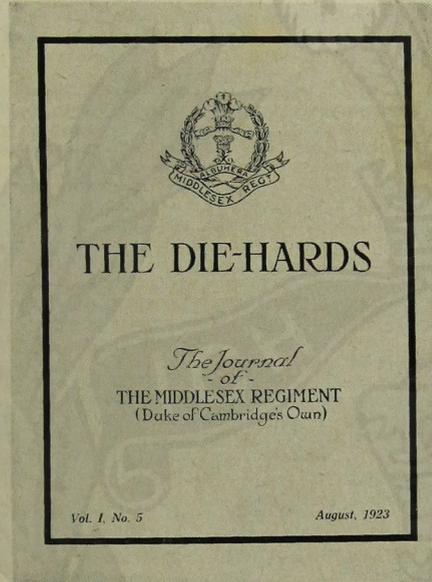
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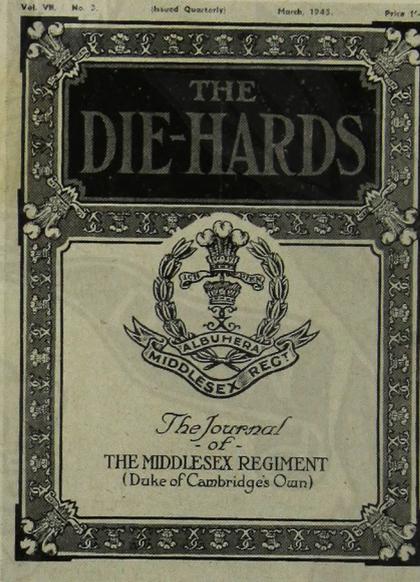
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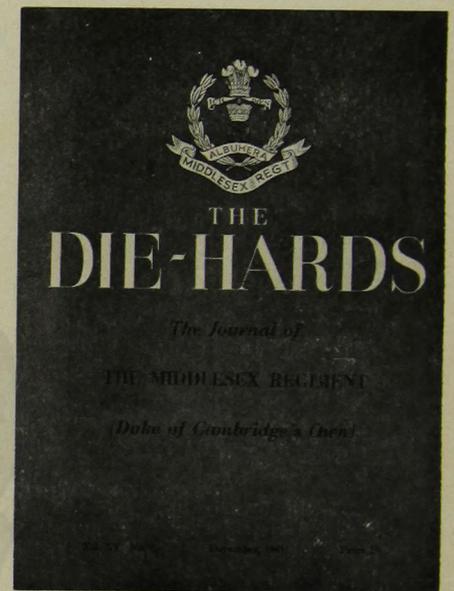
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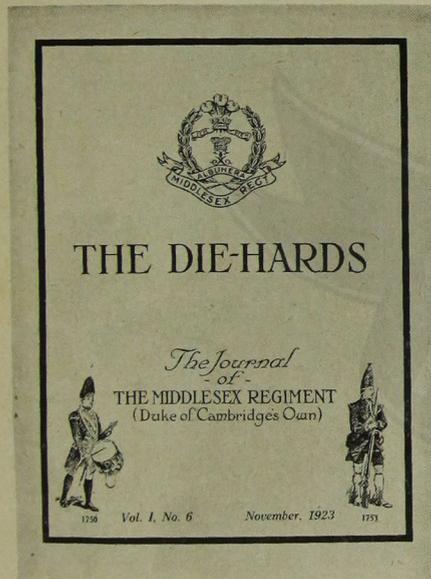
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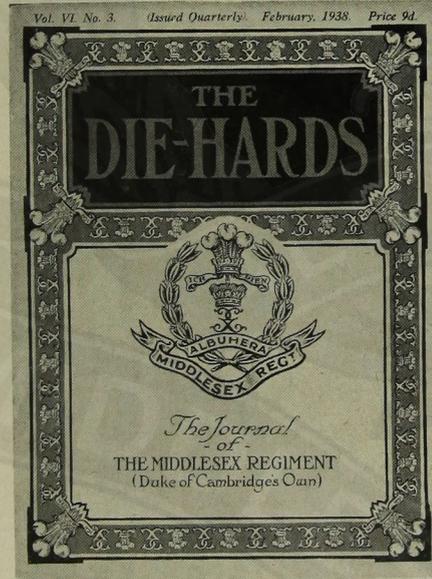
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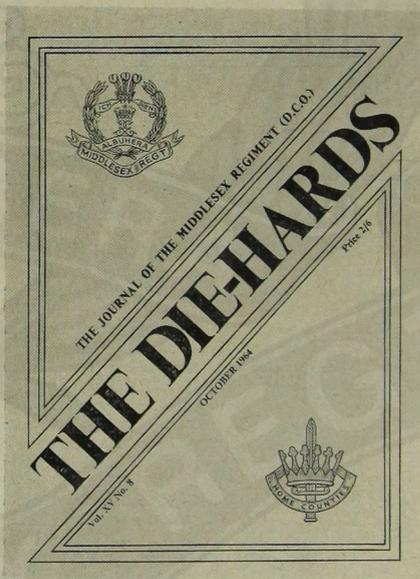
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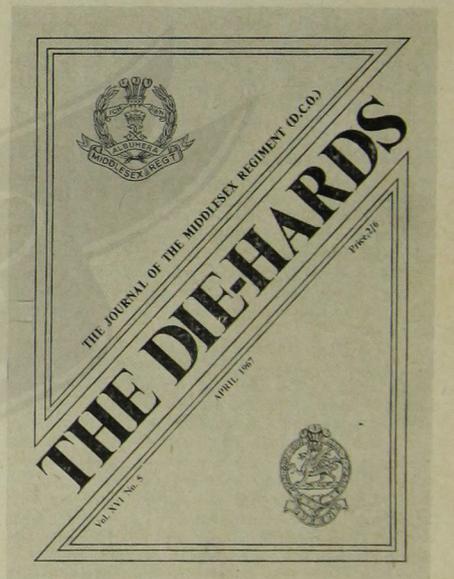
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RANDOM REFLECTIONS

I have been asked to make a contribution to the final issue of the Die-Hards on the grounds that I was once its Editor. In doing so, I am reminded that there has always been a struggle to find 'copy' and get it printed on time.

Most of us have at some time or another been concerned with writing for the Journal, and mostly against the clock, wondering what to include and what to discard, whilst images of past contributions with "At the time of going to Press" and "We say Hail and Farewell to—" flash by.

Journal writing is hedged in by convention and tradition and woe to him who tries to change the format. I recall an attempt to do so in Hong Kong, the brain child of Roly Gwyn whose mind was constantly brimming over with new ideas. One hot, sticky evening I was summoned to Bank House to discuss with Roly and Dorothy ways of livening up the Battalion contribution. Sitting out on the terrace overlooking the 7th green of Hong Kong's famous golf course, we talked late into the night and finally decided that in future the Battalion notes would be written as one narrative. Due regard would be given to Company and departmental notes but there was to be no duplication and a single thread would hold the whole together. I as Battalion sub-editor had the task of selling this to the company commanders, who, not surprisingly, agreed at once, as they saw one of their commitments being cut out. And so with a great flourish the new style was born, but despite some hippy verse from Dorothy, a profusion of exquisite drawings by Roly and a large section of Personalia (what a dreadful word) under the heading "We Salute," the first issue was a flop. The Sergeants' Mess, that bastion of conservatism, considered it pretentious, while the Company clerks backed up by the Company humourists were distinctly hostile, for they saw their past opportunities of tilting at authority vanishing. The new look lasted for another couple of numbers and then was discarded. The "no change" school had won the day.

If the form of Journal writing has remained unchanged, this is far from being so in most other aspects of Army life, particularly in matters of discipline and the relationship between officers and men. It is not, however, my purpose to ruminate on military philosophy but rather to touch on some of the lighter moments of my service.

I still recall vividly my first day in the Regiment. I left Cambridge one morning for the Depot at Mill Hill, sleepy after a May Ball but full of well-being and blissfully ignorant of the rigours that lay ahead. I reported to the Officers' Mess (always a safe anchorage in times of doubt) where I was met by Pickard Hall, that kindest of men, but at the time an awe-inspiring person to me. He was immaculately turned out and it was then that I began to have my first doubts and these were heightened when I learned that my uniform which I had ordered from Hawkes had not arrived. I fear that the first impression I had given was hardly a favourable one. Fortunately next morning the missing uniform arrived

and I paraded in it for the first time for the Adjutant's inspection. After some severe and well justified criticism, I was taken to Ffoliot Powell, the recruit company commander, who was to be my mentor for the next few weeks. He took one look at me and decided that my first subject of indoctrination should be "Discipline," and so we embarked on the company conduct sheet, which kept us occupied for the rest of the day.

That evening I met Jimmy Unwin, that irrepressible personality with an infinite capacity for enjoyment and an intimate knowledge of London night clubs. He was so well known in the Chorus Club, a Regimental favourite, that when he entered the entire band rose to acknowledge him. Later, during the early months of the war, I never failed to be amused by his daily morning skirmishes at the breakfast table with Maurice Browne, who alleged that he knew the exact time of Jimmy's return to the Mess, despite Jimmy's precaution of switching off his engine and coasting down the drive.

Also at the Depot was Peter Allen, whom I was to see so much of during my service and now in my retirement I am living in the next village to him. But at the time he was far too occupied courting Nancy to pay much attention to me.

My weeks at the Depot slipped by. As the only uniform I had was a single suit of Service Dress I was constantly having to change throughout the day. Service Dress for breakfast, change into denims and train with the recruits. Back into Service Dress for morning break (denims of course being prohibited in the Mess). Back into denims, change for lunch, back into denims and/or P.T. shorts for the afternoon. Dinner jacket for dinner, back into Service Dress for under-instruction duties with the Orderly Officer. Finally pyjamas and exhausted to bed.

During this time I failed dismally to master the intricacies of sword drill, had some difficulty in keeping in step and made little headway in getting my word of command on the right foot. Poor distracted Percy Newman, for never could he have had so awkward an officer to drill, but throughout he was very patient and understanding and by dint of emulating Pte. Shrub (the champion recruit) and C.S.M. Bullock, I managed to survive.

It was now time for me to go to the 2nd Battalion, stationed at Portsmouth. I arrived to find them packing up for a fortnight's machine gun concentration, and so off we went to camp near Warmminster. I was put to "D" Company which was commanded by Stanley Baldwin and housed among others Pat Lyon, Charles Gatehouse and Vic Thomas. Nobody could spare much time for me and I was literally thrown into the deep end and learnt as I went along, ably assisted by Pte. Le Maitre, the platoon runner, for whom the slide-rule and range tables held no terrors. Disaster nearly overtook me early and but for some timely help from Edmund Passy I would have succeeded in shooting up a platoon from "A" Company which was covering the Battalion's withdrawal. I did,

however, incur the wrath of the Second-in-Command, Bill Haydon, who addressed me in language that brought me to my knees.

From these early days I turn to Wimborne, Dorset, in the second year of the war, where once again I was in "D" Company, 2 Mx., commanded in quick succession by Musselwhite ("There is only one speed in my Company and that is Flat-Out"), Gerry Porter and Philip Marshall. At this time we were billeted in a large country house, which belonged to the Hambros, and it was here that I first met John Willoughby. He was then the Adjutant and had come to vet me for the job of I.O. I cannot recall much that was said, but on leaving, John went up to the panelling in the room, observed it minutely, tapped it and remarking "Bogus, quite bogus," left. I did not get the job and have often wondered since what, if any, significance there was to this remark.

It was later, when John was commanding 2 Mx. and I was his Adjutant, that I really got to know him. With his great appetite for life and his impish humour there was never a dull moment. Let me give you two gems which I recall with particular relish. Soon after our arrival in Scotland (where we were to train for the Sicilian landing; in the event a Canadian Division replaced us, on political grounds) the Battalion was paraded to be given the form by the Commanding Officer. John arrived with the most enormous shepherd's crook that could ever have been fashioned, so large that it even dwarfed him. This was his gesture to "honour" the "squeally bags" as he called the Highlanders. Then there was the occasion when he quaffed off the entire contents of a bottle of medicine which was labelled "It is dangerous to exceed the stated dose" to the sound of "Mountebank, damned quack," a reference to the wretched M.O. who had prescribed it.

We were not to serve together until many years later when I joined 1 Mx. in Korea. The Battalion was temporarily out of the line and I found Roly and John in an over-heated Korean hut, surrounded by "goodies" and working on the notes for the Journal. John had just completed some metaphysical verse in the style of Doctor Donne and armed with sabre in one hand and rapier in the other was setting about demolishing the American Command for their incompetence. Meanwhile Roly was producing with lightning strokes one of his many Korean sketches. This was of an old "Gook" refugee carrying an over-burdened "A" frame, whose lined face depicted the whole poignancy of the Korean conflict.

But more about Korea later. To go back, after Scotland it was not till 1947 that I returned to the Regiment, when I took over the Middlesex Company of the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre, which was detached at Crowborough. Ian Campbell had been commanding with great aplomb and, among other innovations, had introduced a new look to the teaching of Regimental History. The soldiers' favourite was "The Ghost of Colonel Inglis," a play written in somewhat bawdy verse and put to music by Johnny Bywaters. Irreverent it may have been, but it was most effective in getting the main facts over to the soldiers.

Will one ever forget the incorrigible Johnny, so

talented and yet prevented by cruel fate from getting a regular commission. I wonder whether he too remembers the Crowborough days—the shooting of Colonel Craig's decoy ducks; the serving of bubbling claret at a Dinner Night because J.B. had insisted that it should be brought in at room temperature; my failure to persuade/compel him to sleep on a bed—he much preferred the hard boards of the floor.

With the abolition of Machine Gun Regiments we returned to Shorncliffe and were absorbed by the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre, which was later taken over by 1 R.W.K. After a short spell commanding H.Q. Company (Henry Marsh took over the newly constituted Middlesex Company) I moved to "D" Company, where I first met Private Lawrence. The next time I was to see Chris was in Korea after he had won his brilliant M.C.

I felt the decision to abolish Machine Gun Regiments entirely correct and long overdue, but it was with some trepidation that I joined 1 Mx. in Korea in its new role as a Rifle Regiment, for I was lacking in basic infantry experience. Before taking over a Company I asked Andrew Man if he would give me the opportunity of studying the form. To my delight I was sent to "B" Company, commanded by Peter Allen, whose imperturbability was just the right medicine for me. Korea proved to be a splendid testing ground. Above all it demonstrated the ability and staunchness of the National Service soldier, who acquitted himself so well in exacting conditions, and once again the battalion acquired fresh laurels.

After its spell in Korea the Battalion returned to Hong Kong, where it was to remain eighteen long months and suffer all the frustrations and difficulties of the transition from war to peace, aggravated by being cooped up in an insanitary camp. This did not prevent us from training hard. With emphasis on physical fitness, Roly took a delight in walking all comers into the ground and I am sure that Aymar Clayton will recall one such incident, which ended in near disaster. Finally the day came for us to embark and this we did to the sound of fire crackers and George Hodding's Auld Lang Syne.

Apart from the usual troopship activities there was a general air of relaxation on the voyage home but with one exception. The first task that faced us on our return to England was an ambitious parade on Horse Guards, a prelude to marching down Whitehall to Westminster Abbey. Roly's only concern was that one of us would lose his voice on the crucial day and he believed that this could only be avoided by daily practice. So each morning the Company Commanders were assembled on the poop deck where we shouted our various commands into the uncomprehending waves.

Loss of voice was the least of my worries. As I was to command the leading guard I was far more concerned with matters of timing and getting my word of command on the right foot (for me it has always been an even bet that I would get it wrong). My further concern was the task of having to turn the Battalion to the left during the March Past. We were unable to rehearse the Parade on Horse Guards and had to make do with a quick recee. It was then that I marked an ancient cannon which providence had placed at the exact distance from the

saluting base for me to give my momentous command. But alas, on the day I found to my horror that the spectator stands had been put forward of my cannon and I was robbed of my visual aid. Whilst I was hesitating I saw Roly turn and look appealingly at me. I promptly shouted what I had to and all was saved.

My next flashback takes me to Liverpool Docks and the 1st Battalion embarking with its families for Cyprus, where an Emergency had recently been declared. The next three years were to be momentous ones indeed and the pace was set on the day of our arrival, Oxi Day, when we moved directly from our troopship to our operational stations.

John Willoughby, who was commanding, had gone ahead to get the form from his opposite number whose Headquarters were in Larnaca. On arrival there John found a riot well under way. Leaving the police station for a vantage point he was met by an enormously fat Cypriot policeman who was running desperately down a side street and, who, on seeing John, immediately discharged a tear gas shell in his general direction—whether in relief or defiance one did not know. Shortly afterwards Ted Fineron, the Police Superintendent, was seen making his way back along on foot, having been separated from his vehicle. There were many lessons to be learnt that day.

It did not take John long to get the form and bring Larnaca District under control. He and Ian Williams, the Commissioner, were both interested in archaeology and whenever the occasion allowed were to be seen on

their own dig in the Larnaca Bay area, which abounded with the relics of Mycenaean, and later, civilisations. For a time I was allowed to help the experts, but after some precipitate use of a spade I was dropped by Ian Williams for being too impulsive, although my action revealed a perfect specimen of a Roman tear bottle, which is now in the Larnaca Museum.

As I write, Cypriot images crowd my mind and selection becomes almost too difficult. Our first large operation was the rounding up of the local Communists and putting them into temporary detention in the old Dhekelia Club, aptly re-named the Lobster Pot by John for the occasion. Then there was Zylphagou, a combined land and sea operation which was dominated by "the red-faced Major," otherwise John Doyle, whose single appearance in the main street succeeded in keeping the villagers behind locked doors for many hours. Nick Carter made history with his night assault on the monastery at Stravrovrouni, long suspected of hiding terrorists. After the operation Nick was asked whether the monks had shown any resentment at being searched. "Not a bit," was his reply, "they were delighted, for I made them lay out their kits and each was goggle-eyed to see what the others possessed." Then there was the embarrassing occasion when Ian Williams produced his Visitors Book to show us the latest entry, obviously executed by a disgruntled soldier who was guarding the Commissioner's House the night before. It read "Four letter word EOKA, four letter word the Commissioner, LONG LIVE THE QUEEN."

Another story which is probably little known concerns the visit of General Horrocks. As our tented camp could not offer suitable accommodation for the General, Ian Williams offered to put him up overnight and to honour the occasion gave a small dinner party. I was included among the guests and accompanied John Willoughby. On arrival at the Commissioner's House I was taken aside by Ian Williams, who was unduly concerned that he could not provide his guest with a night vessel (what a splendid euphemism) and, as the visitor's bedroom was some way from the nearest lavatory, what was he to do—should he move out of his own bedroom, etc., etc.? I tried in vain to dispel his fears and finally in desperation I told him that I would arrange for something suitable to be brought down from the Battalion. Some weeks previously John had presented me with a tin jerry, one of a pair which the contractor had ceremoniously given to him. I now remembered that I had put it away in an old Hong Kong wicker basket and it seemed that this was the solution to Ian's problem. I promptly rang through to the Battalion, got hold of David Eales, the Officer of the week, and asked him to have the basket delivered to me. Hardly had we sat down to dinner when I was summoned to the telephone to find an agitated David on the line—he had found the basket but could he have permission to send a second jeep with it as escort, in accordance with Standing Orders. Permission was given and later in the evening I took delivery of the basket and its content was duly installed in the visitor's bedroom. But alas, it was never used and it was eventually returned to Alma Camp still in its virgin state.

Our three years in Cyprus were exacting and difficult

ones, but no one really minded because there was a man-sized job to be done. Once again the National Serviceman acquitted himself well and many a situation was saved by the alertness and inquisitiveness of a young nineteen-year-old. We were fortunate in the high standard of National Service officer that we were getting from Mons, due entirely to John Shipster's efforts. Most of them kept in touch after leaving the Battalion and I am reminded of one particular letter (was it written by Harold Couch?) at the time of the Suez affair. Harold had decided to go home overland from Turkey. Entraining at Istanbul, he was joined by a young Egyptian student who immediately challenged him to a game of chess, saying "I Nasser, you Eden." The writer concluded "I regret to have to report that Eden lost."

The Cyprus years are far too well documented for me to linger any longer here. To Germany is no long haul but the approach to soldiering we found markedly different. From now on fitness for war was not the only

criterion and much time had to be spent on other matters, such as ceremonial and social activities. The Battalion took it all in its stride and, having mastered the mysteries of the "nuclear posture" and all that that entailed, set about re-learning the techniques of co-operation in an infantry brigade group. We lacked experience in this field but there was considerable talent among the Company Commanders and in the Sergeants' Mess and much valuable training was achieved. This first year's grounding was consolidated and extended by Ian Battye in the following two years with resounding success.

The wheel for me has turned full circle and I am now adjusting to retired life. I feel that it is not for me to comment on the momentous changes that face the Army and the Regiment, for there are others who have served longer and who are better qualified to do so. Suffice it for me to repeat what has been said so often before, that the Army is the best Club in the world and to add that I have greatly enjoyed every moment of my membership.

D. C. L. N.

13.50

By MAJOR R. W. J. SMITH, M.B.E.

At 13.50 hours, July 19, 1918, Sgt. Nobby Clarke and Pte. Paddy Butler, 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, quietly wriggled out of the front line trench and crept towards the enemy positions. 13.50 hours, as we all know, is ten to two and this little expedition was to bring the tenth award to these two resolute soldiers whose medals now lie next to each other in the Regimental Museum at Edgware, as the recipients themselves so often lay shoulder to shoulder on their numerous raids and patrols. The awards of these two men are two Distinguished Conduct Medals, five Military Medals, one Mention in Dispatches and three Gallantry Cards; the eleventh decoration was won subsequent to July 1918.

The medals of Sgt. W. Clarke who died recently, an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, were given to the Regiment by his friend, Mr. G. Chalkley, so that they could be displayed with those of his fighting comrade.

August 1914, when the Allies went to war with the Central Powers, saw the great call by Earl Kitchener of Khartoum for a volunteer army to serve for the duration of the war. One of those answering the call was Nobby Clarke already a fully trained fighting man, he having served with the 1st Battalion from 1897 until June 1914. As soon as he was kitted and equipped he was drafted to the British Expeditionary Force to join the 4th Battalion which was licking its wounds from the brunt of the fighting at Mons where it had lost twice as many men as any other unit involved. He was with the Battalion and under fire in time to qualify for the 1914 Star.

At Fricourt on July 1, 1916, the 4th Battalion advanced into the murderous fire of at least six machine guns as well as rifle fire that was sweeping No Man's Land. The objective was taken and severe fighting went on for four days to hold this position until the worn-out remnants of the Battalion were relieved. During this fight Cpl. Clarke had shown great leadership when his officers had become casualties. He had also shown excellent aggressive fighting ability with bullet, bomb and bayonet. For his gallantry he was awarded the newly instituted decoration, the Military Medal. He learned of this award whilst in hospital recovering from wounds received during the fight.

In the same Company—"D"—was Pte. W. Butler who also had answered Kitchener's call and who had joined the Battalion in early 1915 after completion of his training. Paddy Butler had a great admiration for Cpl. Nobby Clarke and when the fighting was at its toughest could be found beside his Section Leader. He had already been mentioned in Dispatches in April 1915 and was, at a subsequent action, to be awarded the Military Medal.

After recovering from his wounds, Nobby Clarke returned to the B.E.F. with three stripes on his arm. He returned to the Line in June 1917, being posted, and welcomed back to "D" Company of the 4th Middlesex. None welcomed him back more eagerly than Paddy Butler. It was a case of two turbulent souls who understood each other. Nobby was soon at work at the job he seemed to enjoy. His forte was creeping over the area between the two lines in daylight, either making a lone raid, or with two or three similar intrepids

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fighting men, drop in a German trench and collect valuable information and occasionally bring back a prisoner nursing a sore head. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for "general good work in the Field which resulted in obtaining very valuable information during daylight expeditions."

The eve of the German Offensive in 1918 saw a number of patrols raiding the enemy lines for information. On the evening of March 6, a party from "D" Company, 4th Battalion, consisting of 2/Lt. R. A. K. Stuart, Sgt. Clarke and Pte. Butler, crawled towards the enemy positions. The official report from XXII Corps Intelligence Summary says "... The patrol then crossed the old trench and through the dug-outs, located a M.G. emplacement and took up a position some distance to the rear of it. Whilst waiting here a party of 12-15 men passed. In view of the size of this party, it was allowed to pass(1)." The official report then tells the story of the capture of prisoners and the Company mail from home ending, "The patrol had been sent out for preliminary reconnaissance and captured the prisoners entirely on their own initiative. Great credit is due to them."

What happened was that, after letting the party of the enemy go by, the patrol heard a German Sergeant-Major "tearing a strip off" an orderly. The two British soldiers glanced at each other and gave knowing nods. Both being experienced raiders they knew the drill, the two men, acting simultaneously, leapt over the parapet, a swift blow in the right spot and crawled back to our lines with two valuable prisoners complete with the whole of the German mail from home. For this action Sgt. Clarke was awarded a bar to his M.M. and Pte. Butler the second bar to his M.M. Both also received personal messages from the Divisional Commander for their gallant and successful raid. (2/Lt. Stuart was awarded the M.C.). Forty-eight years later, Nobby wrote to me saying, "We had a job to do and Mr. Stuart was after blood. He gave us a nip of whisky each and said we'd attack the M.G. post. Whilst debating about it we heard the German Sergeant-Major and the batman. That put paid to the M.G. attack and we put paid to their argument. He was satisfied with a couple of prisoners so we all returned safe and sound. I pinched a German automatic, fully loaded, and used to guard it all the time, but one day it was missing. Paddy always had a sub off me but this time 'no listen' so I immediately knew where the automatic went. Lt. Stuart wanted it very bad. However, that's history now, only

Remembrance Day Service

NOVEMBER 12, 1967

INGLIS BARRACKS, MILL HILL

memories, happy ones to me." The old soldier was then 85 years of age, but still enjoyed the memory of his fighting days.

July 19, 1918, again saw these two characters leave our lines to make a patrol of the enemy positions. They left at ten to two and later the following message was received by the C.O. from 37 Div. H.Q.—"The Divisional Commander directs me to commend the excellent daylight reconnaissance carried out by Sgt. Clarke and Pte. Butler, 4th Middlesex Regiment on July 19 which resulted in obtaining valuable information." The two Gallantry Cards awarded made the tenth award to these two fighting men.

Four days later "A" Company made a night raid, the raiders consisting of four Officers and 110 Other Ranks. Prisoners were taken and several dugouts destroyed. Attached to "A" Company for this enterprise were Sgt. Clarke and Pte. Butler of "D" Company. The War Diary which very rarely mentions the names of O.R.s wounded, shows the entry in the casualties column, "The wounded included Sgt. Clarke of "D" Company who had done much good patrolling work for the Battalion. General Sir J. G. Byng, G.O.C. IIIrd Army, sent a personal manuscript letter of praise regarding this raid. For Sgt. Clarke it was his last fight of the war.

Paddy Butler, after he lost his friend and mentor, took promotion and on October 8-12 won the D.C.M., "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. Near Briseux Wood on October 8, 1918, when the first wave were held up on a ridge by machine-gun fire, he volunteered to take a patrol into the valley in front. He remained out four hours, obtaining information of importance which greatly assisted later operations. He opened fire on the enemy gun teams, and brought one team down. On October 12, although wounded, he stayed with his wounded officer throughout the morning and finally succeeded in bring him in." This was Paddy's last fight.

He served with the Army of Occupation in Constantinople in 1919 until March 1920, when he came home for discharge. Just one year later, whilst passing through Daventry, he was taken very ill, and being a stranger to the place was placed in the Workhouse Infirmary where he died. When it was discovered what a valiant soldier he was, he was buried with full military honours. A firing party of the R.H.A. fired three volleys over the grave and the "Last Post" was sounded by their trumpeter. In addition to his relatives, there was a large crowd of ex-service mourners. The interment concluded with a downpour of rain.

Nobby Clarke was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea in January 1966, where I visited him occasionally until he died on June 16, 1967 aged 86 years. He was buried in the London Necropolis at Brookwood where so many of our Chelsea Pensioners lie. Not a shot was fired nor a bugle sounded; only a goods train clanking by as three of us stood to hear the committal. It was in bright sunshine.

As Mr. George Chalkley and Mr. George Seal who had been his friends for many years reached the station at Waterloo with me on our return home, I looked at the clock—it was 13.50. I decided to write this story.

BENEVOLENT WORK IN THE ARMY

For a long time now the various Corps and Regiments of the Army have regarded it as their duty and responsibility to assist those of their personnel who after discharge have fallen on bad times. During the early nineteenth century a number of Corps and Regiments created funds of their own, subscribed by their officers and the inhabitants of the localities in which they recruited, to help those who had served in their ranks who were in need of assistance.

In 1849, the Secretary of State for War took charge of all Regimental Benevolent Funds and, by an Act of Parliament, all Commanding Officers were obliged to hand over all existing funds. The Secretary of State placed these sums in the Bank of England, and authorised payments to Commanding Officers as and when required to make grants to those in need. In 1935, when the Regimental Charitable Funds Act superseded the Act of 1849, the United Services Trustee became the custodian of the capital of each Corps and Regimental Benevolent Fund, and the income derived from it was paid in to an account run by the commanding officer.

As well as these Corps and Regimental Benevolent Funds a number of national Service Charities came into being towards the end of the last century and the beginning of the present, financed largely by public subscriptions. Notable among them are S.S.A.F.A., instituted in 1885, and the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, instituted in 1899 specifically for disabled ex-Servicemen, and the British Legion in 1916.

The Army Benevolent Fund came into being at the end of the Second World War, with capital provided by the Army's share of the rebate accumulated from Service canteens and clubs at home and overseas. Its charter was, and still is, to provide financial support for the charitable funds of the Corps and Regiments of the Army and also for those national Service Charities which provide for the soldier, ex-soldier and his dependants. The internal resources of these organisations had become quite inadequate by themselves to provide for the cases of need amongst the millions who had served in the two World Wars, and for their dependants. Today, there are over a million soldier survivors of World War I who are now approaching old age, and some four million from World War II. Adding to these, those who have since served in the Army in Palestine, Korea, Kenya, Malaya, Borneo, Cyprus, the Middle East and elsewhere, keeping the Queen's Peace, there are now over five million soldiers and ex-soldiers. This is one-tenth of the total population of the United Kingdom. By the formation of the Army Benevolent Fund in 1944, it was intended to supplement the resources of the Corps and Regimental Associations and those national Service Charities which care for the soldier, and better enable them to cope with this huge potential case-load, which is now three times greater than that of the Royal Navy and five times greater than that of the Royal Air Force. The Army Benevolent

Fund gives this support by means of financial grants made according to the proven needs of each recipient. In this way and by this discrimination help is given where it is most required and hardship alleviated where it is most suffered.

For some years immediately following the end of World War II, the annual grants made by the Army Benevolent Fund were very large, because of the widespread dislocation and disruption of family life, and the variety and complexity of the many problems connected with resettlement and rehabilitation which arose from the war. This entailed drawing on the rapidly diminishing capital despite the fact that the need for benevolence amongst the millions of ex-soldiers of World War II could be foreseen until at least the end of the present century. In 1958, therefore, the Trustees decided to conserve what was left of the Fund's capital and make grants to Regimental and Corps Associations and national Service Charities from the annual income derived from it, together with whatever additional income could be raised from other sources. Although this meant that the Fund could be placed on a permanent footing, it also meant that grants to Corps and Regimental Associations had to be considerably reduced and those to national Service Charities reduced or temporarily suspended until additional income could be raised.

In February, 1960, the Control Board of the Army Benevolent Fund set up an Appeal Organisation to enable the Fund to become an active raiser of Funds, as well as a more passive distributor. By this means, it was planned to raise the whole standard of benevolent work in the Army to one more nearly equating with that in the sister Services. It is interesting to note that at this time the average grant which could be made amongst the 30,000 or so cases requiring help each year was only about £5—a quite inadequate sum in terms of the present day value of money—and cases requiring major rehabilitation were impossible to be dealt with. This Army "average" of £5 compared at that time with £10 in the Royal Navy, and £15 in the R.A.F.

The Fund's small Appeal Organisation set to work with the target of raising an additional £200,000 a year from the Army itself and an additional £150,000 a year from the nation at large. When achieved, it was then estimated that the additional £350,000 a year coming to the Fund and to Corps and Regimental Associations would enable the standard of the Army's benevolent work to stand comparison with the other Services.

The Appeal to the nation has over the past few years been conducted primarily towards commerce and industry, in a series of regional campaigns throughout the country. By now almost the whole of the U.K. has been covered, with only a few outlying areas remaining, such as South Wales, Staffordshire and Corn-

wall. These Regional Appeals seek to obtain subscriptions by Deed of Covenant, which thereby ensure an income for at least seven years and also enable the Fund to reclaim Income Tax. In addition to the Regional Campaigns the Fund has organised all kinds of money-raising enterprises, chiefly in London, such as royal variety performances, film premieres, boxing matches and military pageantry shows at the Royal Albert Hall. Many of these enterprises are conducted jointly with a Corps or Regiment which is particularly concerned, and whose own charitable fund receives a share of the profits. More recently, the Fund has marketed its own Christmas cards both in the Army and with the general public.

All in all, these campaigns and enterprises are now bringing in some £100,000 a year from the nation at large for Army benevolence. The prospect of reaching the target of an additional £150,000 a year from the country is, however, somewhat dimmed now by the credit "squeeze" and the additional fiscal burdens upon industry, and by the multiplicity of other appeals now flooding the country.

The Army has set about the task of raising its quota of the target with a will. The Day's Pay Scheme, whereby every soldier is asked voluntarily to subscribe a day's pay a year to his own corps or regimental association, was officially launched by the Army Board in 1965 and today nine-tenths of the corps and regiments of the Army have adopted it, whilst the rest are considering doing so. When fully implemented this scheme could provide a good £200,000 a year for benevolent work. These subscriptions by officers and soldiers are made to the man's *own corps or regimental association* to provide for its immediate charitable requirements. Where associations are receiving more than is required for their own use it is the Army Board's policy that any surplus be passed on to the Army Benevolent Fund to enable the latter to make increased provision for all corps and regiments for cases beyond their own resources, in particular for those regiments which are less fortunately placed financially but have big "case loads," for disbanded regiments such as the Machine Gun Corps and the old Irish regiments, or more recently formed regiments which have but few resources, and for the National Service charities in the name of the whole Army. This establishing of the Army Benevolent Fund as the central provider in the wider field of Army benevolent work is an essential feature of the Day's Pay Scheme, especially for the assistance of regimental associations in cases requiring grants for major rehabilitation. The unpredictability of these cases, both in origin and in scale of relief required, is such that they can only be dealt with adequately by a central Army Benevolent Fund. A strongly developing partnership is thereby formed in the wider field of Army benevolence, with the associations and the Army Benevolent Fund working closely together to provide on a really worth-while scale the measure of assistance required. This partnership is further extended to include the National Service charities, each one of which operates in a special field.

The increased income now coming to the fund and to the corps and regimental associations from

both the Army and the nation has already enabled certain positive improvements to be made in the field of Army benevolent work. Firstly, the total of annual grants by the Fund has been restored to the 1959 level and now considerably exceeds the level of the lean years which followed. The average grant per case which regimental associations can now make has risen from the 1961 figure of £5 to one of £11. The Navy's average case grant is still, however, considerably larger than the Army's, while the R.A.F.'s climbed last year to £75! The next big step forward is the field of major rehabilitation work. Last year for the first time the Army Benevolent Fund was able to make special large grants to regimental associations outside their normal annual financial support to enable them to deal with those cases needing major rehabilitation. These particular grants are running at the rate of some £50 to £200 per case. In 1965-66 the Fund made 180 such grants; in 1966-67 the total was nearly 400. Lastly, and by no means least, the Fund has now increased the scale of its financial support, in the name of the Army, for the National Service charities which care for the soldier and his dependants, or renewed its support to many of those which had to be curtailed in the period of financial stringency.

As well as these positive steps forward in the field of Army benevolent work, the Army Benevolent Fund is now embarking on several new projects. One of these is the institution of individual bursaries at selected schools or homes for children of soldiers and ex-soldiers in need. These vary from £50 to £250. Another is a system of supplementary pensions of £1 per week for aged widows of soldiers living on the barest minimum of subsistence, and already £7,000 has been earmarked for this service in 1967-68. Yet another, and of particular interest to the serving soldier who may wonder where his day's pay subscription is going, is the making of long-term loans, where need is shown, to serving soldiers to enable them to resettle in civilian life on termination of colour service, or to their widows if the husband is killed whilst serving. In many such cases this involves house purchase.

All will agree that the above represents great progress in the field of benevolent work in the Army, but we still have a long way to go before we can face the world in the knowledge that the Army's standard is second to none. This standard is attainable, partly by every soldier in every corps and regiment of the Army pledging himself to subscribe a day's pay to his own association and partly by the exciting prospect of a new and potentially lucrative source of revenue for the Army Benevolent Fund. This is the recent official sanctioning of gaming machines in messes and clubs in the Army, 10 per cent. of whose profits are to go to the Fund. If the instinct of the soldier to "have a go" with these one-armed bandits is anything like that of the members of London Service clubs, whose annual profit on each machine is believed to be in the region of a thousand pounds, then a very substantial sum could reach the Army Benevolent Fund every year. Have a try at working it out on the basis that these machines are humming and tinkling throughout the Army from the Hebrides to Hong Kong!

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Among the recent additions to the Regimental Museum and Archives are the following:

- Turkish mug and various documents**
- Buttons and collar badges, Volunteer and T.F. Battalions**
- Medals of Capt. E. A. E. Moir**
- Medals of Sgt. W. Clarke, D.C.M., M.M.**
- Medals of Sgt. W. Butler, D.C.M., M.M.**
- Medals of Sgt. J. Perren, M.M.**
- Booklet "Wanted Men in Cyprus."**

Brief notes of the above items are given below together with a correction of an error in the April 1967 issue of *The Die-Hards*.

Turkish mug and various documents

An oval shaped enamel mug taken from the Turkish position in 1917, has recently been given to the museum. For years it was in use as the personal shaving mug by the donor and has travelled to many parts of the world.

It was taken from the Turkish position at Tel el Khewilfeh after the fight on November 7 and 8, 1917, subsequent to "C" Company, 2/10th Battalion taking over a position from a battalion of 158 Brigade of the 53rd Welsh Division on the night of the 6th. The War Diary says of this action "About 16.15 hours the enemy advancing in force against the Tel, but were driven off by Lewis Guns, rifles and rifle grenades, and forced back at the point of the bayonet into our barrage which had meanwhile descended." It then goes on to describe the Turkish withdrawal and the capture of guns and prisoners, our losses being three other ranks killed and twenty wounded.

One of the documents relates to the action at Khirbet Amurieh where again "C" Company, 2/10th Middlesex were given a sticky job to do. This time, it was a reverse in which the company suffered the loss of one officer and fifteen other ranks wounded and two officers and 20 other ranks missing. No support was given to the troops who were attacking this strongly-held position and no previous reconnaissance had been made. The letter is from Major-General S. F. Mott to Colonel Lawrence who was temporarily in command of 160 Brigade. It was finally given to O.C. "C" Company and is, in some respects, some satisfaction in that it relieved the troops concerned of responsibility for the tragedy of Khirbet Amurieh. The letter reads:

"My dear Lawrence,

Will you please convey to the Middlesex Regiment my great grief at having to ask you to take on a place without sufficient reconnaissance and which I feel sure they would have turned the Turks off had they had half a chance.

The responsibility of their failure and sad loss of men is entirely outside the Brigade. As you know I had made the arrangements with you for the place to be carefully reconnoitred, but I am sure this gallant

Battalion will understand that risks must be run when it is a case of co-operating with another Division.

I so very much regret their losses, but know very well that they will turn the tables on their enemy next time.

Yours sincerely,

S. F. MOTT."

And turn the tables they did.

This second-line Territorial Battalion has the satisfaction of having added thirteen honours to the Regiment's roll of glory, of which two are carried on the Queen's Colour.

Another document is a congratulatory message from Brigadier V. L. N. Pearson to Lt. Procter on the award of the Military Cross for his gallantry at Khweilfeh already mentioned above.

The last enclosure was, "The Reading F.C. Record" No. 39 of March 20, 1937, which shows the Army v. R.A.F. football teams. In the Army team are three members of our former 2nd Battalion. They are right back. Bds. H. Phipps; left-half, L/Cpl. F. Vanner and centre-forward, Cpl. L. Delaney. This trinity of players were selected a number of times to represent the Army during the season. Cpl. Delaney played several times for Hampshire, all three played twice for the United Services League against the Aldershot Command and were chosen to play in Brussels v. Belgian Army. Harold Phipps played for Charlton whilst still serving and later as a professional.

Presented by Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C.

Buttons and Collar badges Volunteer and T.F. Battalions

These buttons are in white metal and without the scroll bearing the honour "Albuhera" under the Prince of Wales plume. One collar badge is similar in design to the current other rank collar badge but in white metal and without the honour scroll whilst the other is as worn by officers in No. 1 dress except that the honour scroll is completely plain, with no wording at all.

When Volunteer battalions adopted the insignia of the regiment, after wearing their own distinctive buttons and badges, they wore them of white metal whereas the regular battalions wore gilt or brass. The regular battalions—this was the same with all regiments—were sufficiently jealous of their hard-won battle honours as to object to Volunteer, later Territorial Force, battalions wearing them on their uniforms. After the Boer War of 1899-1902, a number of formations were granted the honour "South Africa 1900-02." This honour will be found on some collar badges and forage-cap badges worn by the T.F.

Also presented was the white metal brooch bearing the inscription "Imperial Service" which was worn on the right breast of both scarlet and khaki. This was worn

the Colonel of the Regiment and we managed to secure this unique distinction of valour as you all know. In all, the cost was £945.

To all my old soldiers who had promised their florins, half-crowns, dollars, "half-a-bar," "quids" and "flimsies" I sent out the glad tidings and the money poured in. Also I now approached everybody in the Regiment with whom we were in touch. Again the result was overwhelming and I only wish I could print all the encouraging letters received. One old nonagenarian wrote "Dear Sir, As you know, I'm an O.A.P. so cannot send you much towards the V.C. but here is my baccy ration (10s.) for a week, yours truly" etc. Yes, the subscriptions came in from Old Age Pensioners to Belted Knights of the Realm and from those who were persistent defaulters when serving to High Court Judges. The mail was a philatelist's dream. Letters came from Adelaide, Borneo, Canada, Denmark, Eire, Flanders, Gibraltar, Hamburg, India, Japan, Kuala Lumpur, Labuan, Malacca, Ndola, Ostend, Penang, Queensland, Rome, Sierra Leone, Tasmania, Uganda, Vancouver, Wales, Xmas Island, Ypres and Zambia. Officers and men who had served in the Regiment but were now with other units sent donations after reading of the plea in *Soldier* and other publications. Folk who had lost touch with us for many years wrote in, and, as well as boosting the fund, regained contact with friends with whom they had served years ago. The Regular Battalion made a collection, the Die-Hard Company of 5 Queen's at Hornsey held a dance and gave the proceeds to the fund, Cadet units subscribed, raffles were held, 12 Mx. Home Guard Branch helped, Pipe Majors played pipes to boost the funds, Old Boys of the Royal Hibernian Military School where Jerry, as he was known there, was educated (it was at this school that Drummer McGill who must be the youngest recipient of the D.C.M. as Boy Cornwall is the youngest V.C., was educated. McGill was in the 77th during the Crimea) gave a donation, tickets in the Derby Draw were given, and brewers who had brewed beer which was enjoyed by Patsy donated a welcome sum. Many people wrote in with their subscription to say that if they won the Pools "turn-up," they would buy the cross for us and, in one case, the chap sent the Postal Order he had received from the Pools, franked "Liverpool," direct to me as soon as he received it. As well as those who had served in the Regiment, friends of the regiment came, cash in hand, to help.

The letters received made the job a joy to do. Pride, humour, pathos, sentiment—all were there, as well as many congratulatory messages. I had said any donation would be acceptable and appreciated from the "Widow's Mite" to a healthy sum. One writer, with a sense of humour, sent a handsome cheque saying, "Dear Smith, I enclose the Widow's Mite. Reluctantly yours . . . PS. I will die hard . . . UP."

As well as the nonagenarian and his "baccy" money, I had a subscription from a schoolboy who has just reached his first decade.

Naturally, all was not smooth going. Of my initial offers of subscriptions, £450 did not materialise, which meant I had to find that amount in half-crowns from the "Old and Bold." I need not have worried, for they did

not fail me; two gave five subscriptions each, a little everytime they wrote or came to our meetings.

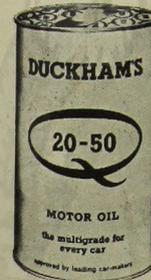
To each donor a special receipt was sent, the borders being of "V.C." and "MX." capitals. A number of correspondents inquired if I got writer's cramp because I answered, personally, every letter. Yes, at times I did, but it was a joyous pain to suffer. The Victoria Cross is now ours and it is with the greatest pride, I can enter in our records.

"Presented by the Men of the Regiment."

MAJOR DICK SMITH.

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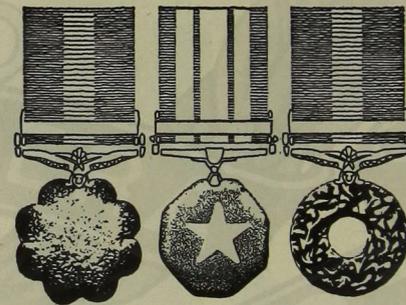
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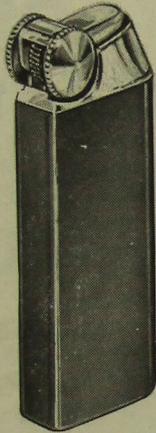


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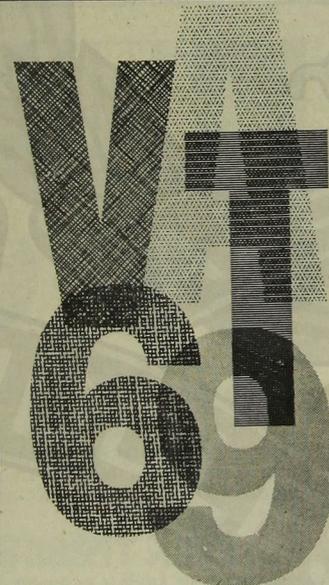
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I/P Joe Packer, Messrs. A. L. Page, E. D. Pain, Lt.-Colonel E. T. Pain, Messrs. J. E. Painter, H. J. Parnell, Major G. Parr-Head (2), Lt.-Colonel F. Gordon Parker, Mr. A. H. Parrott, Major D. R. Pattison, Messrs. R. H. Pawsey, C. A. Peake, Mrs. Peake, Major A. W. F. Peal, Mr. W. Pearce, Major A. E. Peasley, A. W. Penman Ltd., Brigadier G. H. C. Pennycook, Mr. N. J. Peters, Capt. A. G. Petrie, Messrs. F. A. Phillips, C. F. Pike, Major H. A. Pike, Major J. Pinfold, Messrs. G. Pocock, G. Povah, Major P. D. H. Powell, Major B. Prebble, Capt. M. I. Prevet, Mr. J. Price, Brigadier N. P. Procter, Mr. E. W. Prosser, Portsmouth Branch, Die-Hards Club.
4 Queen's (Middlesex) "A" Company, "B" Company "C" Company, "D" Company, "H.Q. Company, Officers' Mess, P.R.I., M.T. Platoon, 5 Queen's, Die-Hard Company.
Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Capt. A. W. Ramsay, Capt. F. Redpath, Mr. A. J. Reed, Major B. St. G. A. Reed, Mr. W. P. Reed, Colonel J. G. E. Reid, Capt. C. H. Richards, Mr. V. A. Riddell, Capt. J. Riseley, Lt.-Colonel W. L. Roberts, Capt. A. F. E. Robinson, Lt.-Colonel

J. D. Robbins, Major R. E. Robotham, Messrs. T. J. Rodgers, F. Rogers, Royal Hibernian Mill School Association.
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4th BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX) NOTES

Formerly 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

EDITORIAL

These last few months have produced the maximum amount of activity, and the seemingly predestined grey sky has, when really required, shown us that it can change to a quite surprising blue. The rifle companies have all seen a great deal of the Weekend Training Centres at Magilligan Point in Co. Derry and Ballykinler in the shadows of the Mourne Mountains. The accent on training has been preparation for the Battalion and Command Rifle Meetings also the 39 Inf. Bde. Platoon Patrol Competition. As we have not had a Battalion meeting for some time, the policy was to get as many people as possible taking part in Competition shooting rather than a hand picked few. This policy paid off, especially in the 39 Inf. Bde. Platoon Patrol Competition where we took the first four places.

The merry month of May brought Albuhera Day and its attendant celebrations. These started with a "Bang" on May 13 with an inter-company 57-a-side football knock-out competition. This sport closely resembles the Eton Wall Game and requires at least two referees with loud hailers to "try" and control it, the loud hailers being used mainly in the "heavy" role as a protective weapon against attack by players! "H.Q." Company and "A" Company provided a memorable spectacle firstly with a hard-fought draw and secondly with a 57-a-side tug of war "decider" in which the rope parted. This epic contest was eventually decided by a "boat race" between Capt. Deakin and Capt. Cowing, which was won by Capt. Deakin, a rank outsider.

May 15 started with a family sports day which offered rides on everything from armoured cars to donkeys and which ended up with a families lunch.

Albuhera Day itself was commemorated with a Drumhead Service in the morning at which Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., took the salute. We were all delighted to welcome the Deputy Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs. Man who stayed with us over the whole Albuhera period.

June brought with it the Brigade Exercise "Lisburn Stakes" which was important because we have not done an exercise of this size for some years. To get an exercise of this nature started at all was an achievement, for there are no large training areas in Northern Ireland. The three officers provided for "land clearance" visited over 170 land-owners and many others besides them had this job to do! More details of the exercise are published elsewhere in these notes.

Since our last publication we have lost Capt. H. M.

du V. Lohan and Capt. A. B. Cowing to the Far East and Capt. G. Goring to a dubious part of London, and the following have arrived—Major B. A. M. Pielow as 2IC, Majors R. H. Chappell, A. E. McManus, and P. A. S. Wollocombe.

In closing the Editorial of this last issue, nothing seems really appropriate for the occasion—not even a historical review. It is more often than not the case, that when something is going or being replaced, only then can its true worth be best measured, so it may be with "The Diehards." Officers and men of the Battalion will miss it, if for no other reason than it is our own.

As the 4th Battalion The Queens Regiment (Middlesex), we take pride in our Regiment and it is good to know that "Diehards" will remain "Diehards." It is fitting that at this time the Battalion is strong, has reached a good state of training, and is successful on the sports fields. We have started boxing, free fall parachuting, canoeing and a great deal of sailing and golf can be had by everyone.

It was a great relief to be spared any changes in the recent cuts of the Army and it means for the time being that we can get on and lead a full life unhindered by any black clouds over our heads. Future moves are not known and we could remain in Northern Ireland a big longer.

As a battalion we hope to support to the full Regimental Reunions and functions. Indeed this applies to all Middlesex events, and all members of the Regiment will be welcome at all times.

"H.Q." COMPANY

Time seems to have slipped by so quickly in "H.Q." Company since we last put pen to paper. Even though we try to keep the strength of the company down, it is always creeping up.

We have had over the last few months a quick succession of Company Commanders. Hardly had Major Hewson arrived than he disappeared to command "A" Company; he was then in turn followed by Capt. Cowing who finally handed over to Major Chappell. Our C.S.M., W.O.2 Eastap, left us at the end of May to take up his new post at Woolwich, and we wish him well. We welcome in his place W.O.2 Walters who has spent much time in livening up the company, amusing us with his pantagruelian humour.

This summer the weather has been really good for Ireland and the company took part in numerous exercises prior to a large Brigade Exercise called "Lisburn Stakes" in the middle of June. C/Sgt. Smith with his

excellent trained staff supplied all the departments with their needs, but he appeared to be much happier when all the kit was inside his stores rather than outside, especially the command post tentage.

After the big summer exercise, leave seemed to be upon us once more, and Pte. Ward, seconded as our extra clerical clerk, had to work round the clock to enable soldiers to get off on time. He was in turn closely supervised by the watchful C.S.M. What with regulated sailing dates and summer traffic it was surprising that any soldier went at all!

No sooner had the leave finished when we were faced with the task of preparing and sending everybody off to Otterburn. Luckily "H.Q." Company was not involved in this, only in seeing that all the soldiers woke up on time.

Sport has been flourishing in the Company. Earlier this year we won the Northern Ireland Minor Units Hockey Competition. In May we won the Battalion Novices Boxing Competition. We were knocked out of the Battalion Cricket League by "B" Company after having defeated the Officers Mess soundly in our first game. We entered a number of teams in the six-a-side Hockey Competition but unfortunately our successes were few.

In the field of athletics the company took part in the Minor Units Championships at Lisburn and among the results were Capt. Cheesman 1st in the Shot and Cpl. Graham 4th in 880 yds. There has also been an Inter Departmental Football League, which has kept members of the Company playing football non-stop. Now that Otterburn has arrived football will not be able to start again until September.

Finally we have just heard that Major Wollocombe will be taking over in the near future from Major Chappell, who is going to command "C" Company. His ability has obviously been noted. We all thank him very much for his efforts in the Company, and wish him all the best in his new appointment.

SIGNAL PLATOON

This last six month period has been a consolidation of all the hard work that has taken place in the first half of the year.

Capt. Cowing has handed over to Capt. Bulloch, (in one quick day), but apart from this the Platoon has remained the same. With leave and shooting finished in April, there was just a clear month to prepare for Exercise "Lisburn Stakes," which for the first time in many years, employed the complete platoon, and all the radio equipment. Miraculous to relate there were no radio casualties at all during this four-day exercise. A good comment on the ability of W.O.2 Williamson and L/cpl Kelly.

C/sgt. Scott has joined the platoon and now, having taken charge of the stores during Exercise "Lisburn Stakes," and the dreaded telecommunications inspection, he seems all set for great things. A course at Hythe has been arranged for him and either L/cpl. Hayes or L/cpl. Featherstone, and at present, all three are learning like mad to reach the required standard.

Cpl. Hamill continues to run well over long distances,

and impressed us all with an "A" grading on a Unit Adventure Training Course. Cpl. Ryan continues to amuse with his cartoons, and King now possesses a car.

The telecommunications inspection went through almost without a hitch, and a good report was the result of a lot of hard work put in by everybody.

Leave decimated the platoon and the training programme, but Ex Blue Chute VI was an unqualified success for those who attended. The final night in the Giants Causeway Hotel will be remembered for a long time.

Sgt. Stewart leaves the platoon after 9 years' long and continuous service, and we all wish him well for the future.

Otterburn training looms large in our thoughts, particularly the thought of man-packing the 62 set around the khudside, and long course of marching to please the feet; but with a Battalion manpack exercise in October this has to be.

M.T. PLATOON

So much has happened within the M.T. over the last few months that it is difficult to know just where to start. One thinks that the Annual Administrative Inspection has more than a fair place.

The Inspection was in the form of an air move and this involved much packing and marking of kit. Most of the platoon were involved in the parade and its rehearsals, and when the actual day came for the Battalion to be inspected by our Brigade Commander, Brigadier J. M. Strawson, O.B.E., there was more than one sigh of regret that we were not really flying off to an exotic land instead of standing on the parade ground "freezing."

The parade now over the Battalion once again got back into its Ireland routine, but not for us, for we then had to start thinking seriously of the approaching Unit Equipment Inspection; they say "there is no peace for the wicked!!" Much, much, much gimping and more than enough midnight oil burnt. The U.E.I. was upon us and over just as quickly. The results of the hours put in were more than favourable and we are glad to say that everything went by without any serious mishaps.

The platoon is more than holding its own at sport recently. The Battalion organised two boxing competitions—one for Novices and the other which followed, for Intermediates. The M.T. supplied three boxers in each of the competitions to represent "H.Q." Company. In the Novices L/cpls. Ekram Ramadan and Johnny Fenton plus Pte. Adrian Hall were the M.T. contingent. L/cpl. Ramadan was beaten on points but L/cpl. Fenton and Pte. Hall went through to the finals to win. L/cpl. Fenton and Pte. Hall were reinforced in the next competition by L/cpl. Barry Savage and this time it was L/cpl. Fenton who lost on points in the finals whilst L/cpl. Savage and Pte. Hall won their respective weights. Besides boxing we have our Battalion footballer, Cpl. Jeff Tydeman. This is not his only sport as he was too good to enter for the Intermediate Boxing owing to the fact that he is a Battalion boxer. He is now well on the way to being selected for the Battalion cricket team, having come runner up in the battalion single wicket

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT

The accounts are closed and regrettably, these will be the last notes from the Q.M.s Department to appear in *The Die-hards*.

For the record we wish to call the roll of the Department. It is:—

Lt. (Q.M.) R. E. B. Morris.	R.Q.M.S. G. Simmons.
<i>Accommodation Stores</i>	<i>G1098 Section</i>
C/Sgt. L. Weston	Cpl. French (Storeman).
Cpls. Long, O'Brien, Cousins,	L/Cpl. Chalmers (Clerk).
Grand and Histed.	Pte. Jewell (Storeman/Batman)
Pte. Rogers (Clerk).	
<i>Clothing Stores</i>	<i>Pioneer Section</i>
Sgt. Stubbings	Cpl. Jamieson
Pte. Hynes (Storeman)	L/Cpl. Carpenter.
Pte. Amor (Clerk)	Ptes. Russell, Gurr and
	Sutliff
<i>R.E.M.E. Attached (Armourers)</i>	<i>Equipment Repair</i>
S/Sgt. Webb, L/Cpl. Houghton	L/Cpl. Williamson
Cpls. Collins and Emerson.	

Although it is some nine months since we changed our name the staff basically has not altered and it can be said to be the last 1st Battalion Q.M.s Staff. However we continue to function under the new name but in the old style and traditions of Die-hards.

All the many exercises and activities of the Battalion appear elsewhere and, needless to say, the Q.M.s Department has been well represented in all. Even Sgt. Stubbings (without his teeth) went out as part of B Echelon in a recent exercise and is still recovering from the shock of leaving the clothing stores. Rumour (and the Q.M.) has it that he is going to Otterburn as well.

The R.Q.M.S. is delighted with his posting to H.Q. 48 Ghurkha Brigade in Hong Kong and is now busy brushing up his Cantonese and counting the days to his departure in October. Also counting days is Cpl. French who is due to marry in September; we all wish him well.

**CRAVATS
REGIMENTAL**

See Order Form

competition. There is a rumour going around that he sleeps in his track suit and has thrown away his coversalls. The platoon football team has many personalities, two of whom must be mentioned as they are our rearguard action against superior opposition, namely Cpls. Tootsy Toohey and Puncy McGlade.

In June the Battalion entered a team for the Lorry Driver of the Year Competition in Northern Ireland, which consisted of three M.T. Platoon drivers, Cpl. Ken Toohey, L/cpls. Yorky Ridsdale and Phil Roberts. This competition proved the superiority of our drivers when L/cpl. Roberts was overall winner of the Army entrants in Northern Ireland with Cpl. Toohey close behind in 3rd place and L/cpl. Ridsdale in 6th. L/cpl. Roberts did extremely well coming 4th in the complete competition which included civilians also, and he now goes on to the U.K. finals to be held at Nuneaton shortly, where we are sure he will more than hold his own.

On the social side the platoon held a very enjoyable and successful dance in the J.R.C. in May just after the Albuhera celebrations. The Albuhera celebrations etc. were so plentiful and enjoyable that one would have to devote the entire notes to them, so we will leave it to the reader's imagination and ingenuity as to what went on; "you name it, we did it."

On personalities, congratulations must go to L/cpl. McGlade on his promotion to Cpl. and Ptes. Savagem, Russell, Ridsdale, Keemer, Marsh, Elliott, Roberts, Fenton, Cfn. Tomlinson and Leighton on their promotions to L/cpl. We bid farewell to our M.T.W.O., C.S.M. Shinn, and we wish him all the best as C.S.M. "Charlie" Company. We also say goodbye to two stalwarts of the platoon who have left us for the wear and tear of civvy street; they are, Cpl. Tony Harding and L/cpl. Blossom Flowerdew. We wish them both the best of luck in their newly chosen occupations.

We welcome to our midst W.O.2 Elston who takes the place of our late C.S.M. (who was heard muttering as he left the yard for the last time "and the best of luck to him, he'll need it"). Also we welcome Sgt. Burke who has returned to the M.T. after a spell with the T.A. and, to strengthen our ranks, Ptes. Hall, Layton, Hadfield, Cleverly, Barton, Haynes and Jackson.

At the present moment we are in the midst of preparing ourselves for the Battalion's training in Otterburn. This involves quite a few of the M.T. vehicles and drivers who are all looking forward to the break the training in Otterburn will give them from barrack routine. The Battalion is moving on August 19 but the majority of the M.T. vehicles are leaving on the 16th with their drivers and various personnel, who make up the advance party, on the Larne-Stranraer ferry. The M.T.W.O. will be on the Larne-Stranraer ferry also over this period but he will be going on leave and not on training!

Immediately on arrival back here from Otterburn the M.T. has to run a driving cadre for learner drivers which is to be supervised by Sgt. Burke. Also over this time the M.T.W.O. will be holding an upgrading cadre for drivers. As can be seen from the above there is no chance of any peace for the platoon for some while yet but then if there was any form of peace and tranquility in the M.T. garages it would not be M.T.

"A" COMPANY

Looking back through a very full diary proves that the company has been extremely busy since April, in both training and on the sports field. We have been to Magilligan Training Camp on the North Coast more times than we can remember, working steadily through a packed programme designed to prepare us for the 39 Brigade Exercise, "Lisburn Stakes," which took place in June, and the Battalion Test Exercise due in October.

The Military side-shows included the winning of the Battalion Stretcher Bearing Competition by "Doctor" O'Connell and his team of experts. They then went on to be placed fourth in the Brigade Competition a few days later. This was a very creditable performance, the team being commended at each stand for its high standard of medical knowledge and application of first-aid principles. Following on from the Battalion Rifle Meeting early in April, at which the company results were not too inspiring largely due to lack of practice time available, we had in the Brigade Meeting several good shots of the company in various battalion teams. Our most outstanding success was C.S.M. Ford who was first in one of the individual S.L.R. competitions and also represented the Battalion in several other major triumphs. In addition to this success, the company falling plate team led by L/Cpl. Dann hung on desperately until finally knocked out in the closing rounds by the eventual winners.

We also achieved a degree of distinction in the field of sports. Our Novice Boxers and later the Inter-Company team were in both cases run narrowly into second place, firstly by an unfortunate interpretation of the rules, and secondly by a powerful team of H.Q. Company "All Stars," but in neither case without a tremendous battle on the part of the company representatives. April seemed to be our "Warming-up" month as we also forced a Seven-a-side Rugby team through to the Plate round of the Battalion Competition, due mainly to some fine running by C/Sgt. Miles. This side also for some extraordinary reason, included the Company Commander, Capt. Deakin, mentioned only at this point because he was "keeping the seat warm," while we were waiting for Major Hewson to arrive. Major Fisher by this time had handed over with a great sigh of relief and was heading for B.A.O.R. We would like to echo the wishes of good luck and our thanks to him and his family published in the April copy of the "Journal of the Queen's Regiment," and take the opportunity to extend a rather belated warm welcome to Major and Mrs. Hewson.

If April was our month for warming up, then May was surely our "Finest Hour." Where could there possibly be seen in this mechanical age a better example of the art of four-legged running than that displayed by Messrs. Shave, Ford and Deakin at the Albuhera Sports? As if that were not enough, the company tug-o'-war team established its superiority at the same time. Here surely was proof, if any were ever needed, that the canteen stock consumed whilst at Magilligan "is good for you."

While the magic spirit of Albuhera had every one firmly in hand, there was a more serious theme running through the company's actions. We were busy rehearsing for the Royal Ulster Agricultural Show's Military

Pageant. Along with detachments from the other rifle companies depicting the Royal Ulster Rifles during the period 1939-45 and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers of 1914-18, we provided a handsome body of men dressed in Boer War uniforms of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. Headed by Lt. Jonklaas and shepherded by Sgt. Robinson, this trusty band appeared in six performances over the period May 24-27. Such was their crowd appeal, that it prompted one of the show organizers to report to me that it was the first time in Belfast that he ever heard a man being propositioned by a girl. A fine achievement. Well done "A" Company!

Just before we disappeared into the depths of the Antrim countryside on "Lisburn Stakes," the company fielded an athletics side for the Command Championships which, although it did not win, was the leading team from the Battalion, and added the inter-company shield to our growing display of trophies.

"Lisburn Stakes," which took place from June 11 to 16, found the company with four Wessex helicopters to play with and a string of enemy guerrillas to its credit, not all fairly come by, we must add. This was an interesting, but extending exercise which everyone enjoyed but were glad to finish. Not, however, before we had reduced the sometimes cumbersome system of how to emplane and deplane to a really slick operating procedure. To cap it, the company so impressed one pilot that he was virtually eating out of our hands.

After a spell of well-earned block leave in July, we are now at Otterburn Training Area, knocking off all the rusty spots in preparation for Exercise "Coral Sea" in October. A variety of excellent ranges and exercises is helping to train us for what we have been promised is going to be "a bit of a flog." Never mind; let 'em all come.

"B" COMPANY

In April our time was split between boxing, shooting and a stay at Magilligan. Our first success was winning the Inter-Company Novices Boxing Competition. The Company team boxed well and we must congratulate the finalist, Pte. Slaughter, who won his weight, and L/cpl. Lake, Ptes. Seymour, and Denny, who were runners-up. Pte. Coulter deserves a special mention since he not only won his weight but also the deciding bout, thereby giving us the cup.

Despite the frustrations of Duty Company we managed to fit in sufficient training for the Battalion Shooting match so as not to disgrace ourselves. We started well with 6 Platoon coming second in the 39 Bde. Cup Match. In the remainder of the competition the final result—third overall—does not do justice to some very good individual scores. Sgts. O'Rawe, Hills and Ward, L/cpl. Herbert, Ptes. Denny and Kent, are now training for the Battalion team. Our young soldiers shot very well and won their match for the company.

We then moved to Magilligan where the first four days were devoted to platoon training, while Sgt. Hills ran an anti-tank cadre. The Company Commander ran a surprise exercise for the hierarchy—not however, a great success, since the final R.V. was closed when we reached it!

The other attractions of the week were the Inter-Platoon Mobat Manhandling Competition won (as expected) by 8 Platoon. The Officers and Sergeants' team came a close second—much to everybody's surprise. The company also held an athletics meeting which produced a great deal of amusement—and some athletes!

The day of rest was spent viewing the Giant's Causeway from various angles, usually through a haze of sweat, and on the return to camp the officers practised their voice procedure and became quite slick—provided the Company Commander was map reading.

On the last day the Rifle Platoons were put through an Advance to Contact climax exercise.

Our return to Palace Barracks heralded all sorts of evils—the Brigade Shooting Match, and Inter-Company Boxing amongst others.

The Company's activities in May were dominated by the celebrations for Albuhera Day and the hang-over which followed. Among the successes in the Albuhera family sports to be highlighted is the Company victory in the 57-a-side over all comers; this despite the worst that the padre could do with his referee's whistle. Monaghan's superb kicking ensured that the pressure was always in the opposing team's half: Sgt. Quilter the company's tactician gave voluble, continuous but ineffective advice to the team, whilst Major Hayward ably assisted by ensuring that none of our cheating was noticed by the hawk-eyed umpires! This combination ensured a 3-0 victory over "A" Company in the final. C/sgt. Argent being the best qualified man for the job, produced a beer bar for a pre-lunch drink for all ranks.

The coaching of Sgt. O'Rawe and 2/Lt. Gouda produced a good boxing team for the Inter-Company boxing competition in which Pte. Slaughter, L/cpl. Lake and Godfrey acquitted themselves well.

During the month the Battalion was treated to the eyebrow-raising sights of hordes of troops in museum uniforms performing antiquated drill. "B" Company contributed with a small First World War contingent under the command of that "veteran" officer, 2/Lt. Gouda. The rehearsals were in preparation for the Royal Ulster Agricultural Show which, as with all Irish field events, was held in pouring rain on a waterlogged field.

May was also a good month for turning over the company stock. Capt. Goring hastened off to an address somewhere near the Kings Road, Chelsea, and has now been replaced as zic by Capt. Hubert: C.S.M. Walters, after fond farewells, departed to the less distant shores of "H.Q." Company and was succeeded by C.S.M. Blackwell. Sgt. Ward came and went during the month, for the Bisley Season.

As with all companies, "B" Company spent the first half of June training for and partaking in Exercise "Lisburn Stakes." Lt. Lowrie more than once set everyone on "panic stations" to chase enemy he had seen; they turned out to be either cows or some innocent civilian. C.S.M. Blackwell, having fallen smartly on his face at the company commander's feet when trying to mount a helicopter, improved his boarding technique.

We hope that 6 Platoon have now discovered why breakfast always consisted of sausages and bean water.

Sgt. Quilter put a lot of effort into training the company athletics team for the Northern Ireland Command competition but there was an initial lack of talent so that the results were very poor indeed.

Support Platoon (as with all good Support Platoons) soundly defeated the Signal Platoon in the football league 14-2. Star players were Sgt. Quilter, L/Cpl. Herbert and Pte. Coulter; if they can keep this up for the remaining 200 games to be played in the league they look like winning over all.

Major Hayward is gradually increasing his naval empire; nautical terms and jargon fill the air, damp smelly sails clutter the only available seats and the phone is always engaged with enquiries on the state of the wind and tide. 2/Lt. Gouda (his zic afloat) has now qualified as a helmsman so 6 Platoon must also expect to be water-borne soon.

Mid-summer madness has brought an unusual rush of promotions—congratulations to the long suffering storeman, Coles, who now adds a stripe to his armoury.

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"C" COMPANY

We have enjoyed changes of personnel throughout the last half year. Capt. H. M. du V. Lohan left in July on a posting to Singapore and we hope some sunshine. We thank him for keeping us amused, but we must add we did not see much of him lately, what with his other duties as P.M.C. and Army Benevolent Fund Ball Organiser.

Since the last edition all three platoon commanders have changed. Lt. S. M. Dowse has come to 10 Platoon and we welcome 2/Lt. Ball from R.M.A. Sandhurst to 9 Platoon.

In April C.S.M. Lagden handed over the reins (or is it the whip?) to C.S.M. Shinn and in May Sergeant Seager joined 9 Platoon from the Depot.

In April and early May we concentrated on shooting and we are extremely pleased to record that at the Command Rifle Meeting 9 and 10 Platoons came 1st and 2nd respectively in the 39 Brigade Cup—a competition with S.L.R. and G.P.M.G. for Rifle Platoons. This



9 Platoon, "C" Company, winners of 39 Brigade Platoon Patrol Competition.

achievement was due to the effort of all soldiers in each team and was well worth the hard training in basic grouping and snapshooting in the weeks beforehand.

We are lucky in having a number of promising young shots in the Company and it was through their efforts that we were able to beat "A" and "B" Companies in the Battalion Rifle Meeting and provide a third of the Battalion team for the Command Rifle Meeting. Cpls. O'Sullivan, Bartle, L/cpl. Reardon and Pte. Robinson well deserved their selection to shoot for the Battalion at the Bisley Central Meeting in July.

Our young soldiers' team of 2/Lt. Gancz, Ptes. Robinson, Da Costa and Jones 97 (all three surprisingly from the Recce Platoon) won the Falling Plates at the Battalion Meeting.

The month of May features forty soldiers of the company under Lt. Dowse and Sgt. Dickens acting as 1939-45 war soldiers of the Royal Ulster Rifles in a Military Pageant at the Royal Ulster Agricultural Show

Centenary Year. This performance necessitated a change to Rifle Regiment Drill which caused vast amusement, and was seen by Royalty and television viewers.

June's main event was Exercise "Lisburn Stakes," an exercise for 39 Brigade set by H.Q. Northern Ireland Command. The Recce Platoon acting as enemy to the rest of the Brigade, were a group of itinerant terrorists and had to be hunted by the Brigade over the Sperrin Mountains in Co. Derry and Tyrone.

The Recce Platoon gave a most amusing and instructive debrief afterwards, telling us of their exploits. The rest of the Company enjoyed the glorious weeks and the novelty (to most) of travelling by R.A.F. Wessex Helicopter.

July was the month for leave, preceded by a Company Dance at which we were pleased to welcome so many of our new wives. There have been many marriages this year and we congratulate Cpls. Saunders, Goodman, Wittig, Ptes. Lee, Coolahan, Mason 41, Walsh 25, Roberts 79, Burge, Gore.

Congratulations are also due to the following on their promotion:—Cpls. O'Sullivan, Saunders, Hawkes, Bartle, L/cpls. Reardon, De Caville, Hall, Murphy 16, Milsom, Graham, Cox, Moore 42.

The Company M.T. do a fine job under L/cpl. Beall, though the 3 tonner never seems to last long. The Company Commander's landrover was lent to the Recce Platoon who managed to get a cow to back into it and dent the mudguard (or so the story goes).

The Company Office is manned by L/cpl. Milsom, who hopes one day to get a Clerk's Course. We hoped that Pte. Major would join him, but the day that he returned from his course he was whisked away to toil in the Battalion Orderly Room.

The Arms Kote is ruled by L/cpl. Cox who can deny entrance to the store effectively with his extensive frame. We now look forward to two weeks' training at Otterburn followed by a session of Annual Range Classification and Battle Efficiency Test.

"D" COMPANY

Since the last edition of *The Die-Hards* in April there has been a great deal happening in this Company. No doubt in the next four months to come a great deal more will have happened. The difference then will be that there will be no "Die-Hard" Journal in which to report. For all of us who have known the Journal well for a number of years, however much one accepts change, its loss will be keenly felt.

"D" Company "organization" continued to expand and contract according to Battalion needs, and accommodated during the period two short N.C.O.'s Cadres, a large Battalion Shooting Team and the "Command and Admin" set up for the Battalion Rifle meeting. In addition we retained our three permanent possessions—The Band, The Corps of Drums and the Adventure Training Wing. Sometimes we do manage to get together either on the sports field or at the occasional Company Party and somehow we manage to remain a happy if heterogeneous Company. Perched on top of this boiling pot is Company H.Q., whose loyalty and flexibility of mind by now is such that we are (almost) prepared to accept that black is white and 2 plus 2 make six, if told so by Battalion Headquarters ("if you can't find a hole for it, give it to "D" Company").

Added to this, during the last four months we have had three C.S.M.s, two W.T.W.O.s and two C/Sgts. It is perhaps timely that the writer of these notes is himself "moving on."

Adventure Training Wing

No mention has been made in the past in this Journal of this new but by now very vigorous activity in the Battalion, run by "D" Company.

To Lt. Hawkins must go the credit for starting the scheme. He returned from the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry where he spent two years on the Adventure Training Wing. If at Oswestry, why not here? The present vigour and success of the wing is in no small measure due to his initial enthusiasm, even though he no longer is around.

In brief, in the "basic" course, the wing aims to teach mountain walking, canoeing and abseiling and includes such horrors as the "death slide," and at the same time tests the reactions of the members of the course. This weekly-run course has been held in the Antrim hills and by now a very large proportion of the Battalion has gone through the scheme.

Lt. Barstow has now succeeded Lt. Hawkins, and with the arrival of Sgt. Elkington hot foot from the Army Outward Bound School the Wing is preparing a new series of courses in the Mourne Mountains and elsewhere in Ulster—perhaps with a greater emphasis on rock-climbing.

Meanwhile Lt. Hawkins is due to return to lead a final two weeks expedition in early September—his grand finale before he leaves the Army and this Country for good. We wish him every success in Australia in civilian life.

Canoeing (by L/Cpl. Herbert)

On July 12, 1967, L/Cpl. Anderson and I left Belfast for England, where we were to take part in the Army Canoe Trials at Shepperton. We arrived at Shepperton on Thursday evening, and were met by Capt. Kenyon who was the organiser of the meeting. There was only one event in which we were to take part that day namely, the 500 yards sprint. This turned out to be quite amusing. We had been given a canoe which was completely strange to us, so we decided to have some practice runs. L/Cpl. Anderson was seated in the front of the canoe, with myself in the rear, operating the rudder which was of a type, of which I have had no previous experience. The first trial run ended in disaster, and we found ourselves in the water after only about 40 yards. This turned out to be the first but by no means last soaking we were to get. A quarter of an hour later we were satisfied that we could handle the canoe, and were ready to start the race.

The flag fell, and we were off to a flying start. Unbelievably we found ourselves well in front of the other canoes and almost certain to win. Suddenly disaster struck a second time that day, leaving the other canoes to pass us and win the race. Although we were disappointed, we had done our best and hoped to do better in the long distance race, which was to be held on the following day. Saturday came with the sun still shining, and we were looking forward to the race. A draw had taken place for positioning of the canoes along the river banks. Due to the river being so narrow there were two single files with odd numbers on the left bank and even numbers on the right. There were about 150 canoes taking part in the race and we had drawn number 32, so we were quite well placed. We took up our positions and waited for the drop of the flag to begin the 18½ mile race. The signal was given and the race had begun with 150 canoes all racing towards the same first bend in the river. Needless to say there was chaos, with canoes overturning, some being holed and some ending up on dry land, much to the amazement of everyone concerned. During the first mile we ourselves overturned four or five times, but all that had to be done was to empty the canoe of water and continue the race. Canoes would pass us, but a few yards further on they would find themselves in the same position, in which we had been, and we would then pass them. It was long, hard and tiring; in parts the river was so shallow that we had to get out and push or carry the canoe into deeper water. However we overcame these problems and managed to finish the race. Some of the more experienced canoeists said later, that the race had been one of the hardest, if not the hardest, in which they had ever taken part. Although the race had proved expensive with so much damage caused to canoes, everyone agreed that it had been an enjoyable and worthwhile race. We felt quite pleased to have finished the race at all—and were still more pleased to learn later that we had in fact finished second in our class of canoe. The winners of our class were members of the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment.

These were the only races in which we entered, so all we had left to do was to spend a final day of watching the

canoeing and the presentations. The tents and equipment were then packed ready for travelling the next day.

L/Cpl. Anderson and I returned to Northern Ireland with a greater knowledge of, and experience in, canoeing. On arrival in Belfast we were greeted by a downpour of rain, after five days in glorious sunny England.

Band

We start our last publication by welcoming the following recently joined Bandsmen from Canterbury—Bdsm. Chester Blackman, David Cadd, John Gale, John Owen and (Sugar) Clifford Robinson, playing Bb Clarinet, Euphonium, Clarinet, Clarinet and Trumpet respectively. We trust and hope they will enjoy their stay with us.

We say farewell to Cpl. Barry Eldred, who has now left the Regiment and transferred to the Band of the 3rd Battalion The Queen's. We wish him and his family every success. L/Cpl. (Taffy) Brian Crompton left us to



The "Smoke City Stompers" playing at the Albuhera Sports.

fill a post at the Regimental Depot as an instructor for the Junior Bandsmen. We trust his new vocation will be a great success for him and his family.

The Band together with the Corps of Drums joined forces with a selection of Variety Artists from Belfast and gave a Concert in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, during the evening of March 10. The Concert was given for the Belfast Masonic Charities. The Hall was packed and the programme of light music was enjoyed by all attending. After the Concert the Band adjourned to England for a fortnight's leave. After leave the Band were faced with a full month's programme of local and military functions, including a beating of Retreat with the Drums in Hollywood on the evening of April 12 and a variety concert for the Hollywood Youth Centre.

We congratulate the following Bandsmen for participating in the Hollywood Music Festival:—Bdsm. John

Stanley (Oboc), winning 1st Prize, and Bds. Raymond Smith (Trombone), winning 3rd Prize, and the whole Band for entering as a male voice choir and gaining 3rd place.

The Albuhera celebrations went well with the Trad-Band, "The Smoke City Stompers," playing into the Beer Tents. The actual Albuhera Grand Concert held in the Gym was a great success.

"The Smoke City Stompers" (Jazz Band) won the Northern Ireland Beat Group Competition and later attended the final auditions in London for the Army Benevolent Fund Concert, in which they came second.

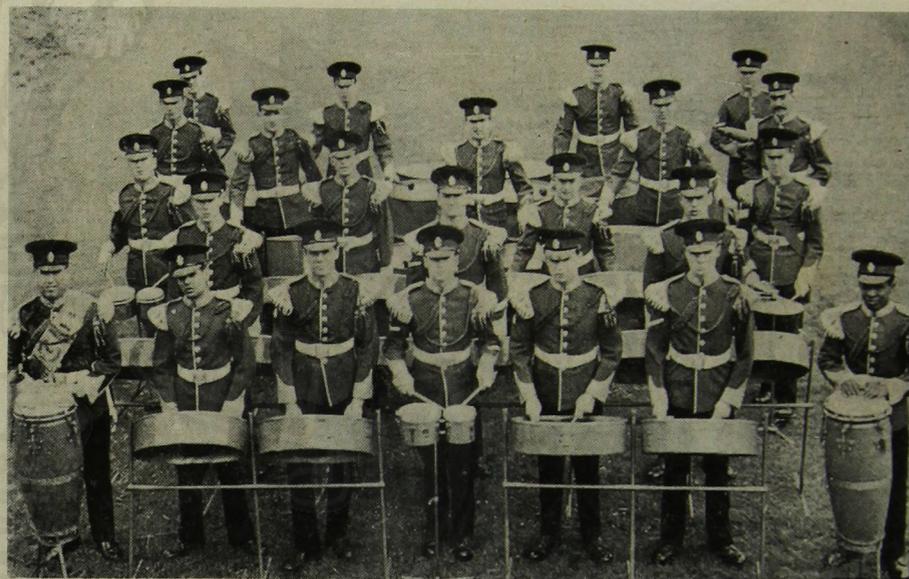
During the Ulster Agricultural Show in Belfast the Band joined forces with the Bands of the Royal Ulster Rifles and 1st Battalion Kings in a Centenary Pageant put on for the Show.

One of the main functions during the Summer was the Bangor United Services Week, when throughout the week ourselves with Bands of the Irish Guards, 1st

Kings, a Marine Band, and Junior Leaders Battalion R.A.C. plus many other assortments of Bangers, bashers and blowers, i.e. Pipes and Drums, joining in when they could. The Bands played in turn at the Promenade Bandstand, the Bangor Hospital, and various dance halls. The Grand Finale took place in Ward Park when all Bands and Drums massed and played (?) the "1812" overture (from march cards) with full pyrotechnics.

Der Kapellmeister John McShane, A.R.C.M.—cough—has taken the training of the Garrison Church Choir into his capable hands and Cpl. Bernard Yates is still the Garrison Organist!

Bdsm. Alfred Tubb has put a lot of hard work into a fund-raising concert to purchase robes for the Garrison Choir. The Concert was in the form of a musical evening in the Wives Club. The Finale was very much appreciated; they played "The Fireworks" music and



The Steel Band

two movements from the Water Music by Handel.

The Band Social Club gave a Sherry and Cider Party. As usual it was well supported and, judging by the absence of members of the Band next day, it must have been a great success. We are now looking forward to a Band Dinner Party which is to be held in the Midland Hotel in mid-September.

Tennis seems to be a popular sport with more Band members this year. Bds. Alec Wilson and Philip Taylor have been thrashing it out at a local Tennis Club in Holywood. As novices they are going to continue thrashing it out for the remainder of the season and we hope to hear from them next season, if not, before the end of the present one.

Steel Band

In March 1966 the Battalion was posted to British Guiana in South America.

It was decided to form a Steel Band from the Battalion's Corps of Drums. The main problem was to get the oil drums which form the back-bone of a Steel Band. However, in June a few were obtained and a local man by the name of Danny Sandiford was employed to make the instruments. Slowly but surely the instruments were beaten out by hand and hammer. Soon the people at Atkinson Air Field some 25 miles up river on the Demerara were able to hear the first efforts of the Steel Band to "make Music."

After one month the first tune "Black Orpheus" was being played reasonably well. Soon under Sandiford's

expert tuition the hot, sultry air was pulsating to the tunes of Archie, Wings of a Dove, and Downtown, and many other well known Caribbean tunes. After four months' training the Steel Band had made a record and were competing with local bands for playing at local parties. By August last year the repertoire had increased to some 20 tunes, including some well known European ones.

On returning to England, with Sandiford now a member of the Corps of Drums, the Steel Band played at several civic functions. Indeed at the Queens University Ball in December they received such a reception that they played for very much longer than they had been asked to do.

In July this year they were on a "Keeping the Army in the public Eye" tour where they displayed their versatility by performing as a conventional Rifle Platoon, as a Corps of Drums and as a Steel Band.

They all enjoyed playing on their West Indian instruments and have now achieved a high standard of performance.

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THE WAR DOG SECTION

A small but important group of soldiers in the Battalion, the War Dog section, lives in comparative seclusion between the Officers Mess garden and the barrack wall. However between them they are responsible for the security of the barracks by night.

There are six Alsatian War Dogs with names to match their ferocity, for instance Pte. "Bonzer" Braddick's dog "Cheeta," Pte. Clive Findlay's "Sprint," and "Czar" belonging to Pte. Taffy Fryers. All are highly trained and undergo rigorous daily training. It is said in the section that one is not a qualified handler until one has been "Chewed" by a dog—that only leaves Pte. Mick Ashton unqualified!

On May 12 three dogs were entered in the Northern Ireland Command War Dog Trials. Pte. Fryers and "Czar" were 1st, Pte. Findlay and "Sprint" 3rd and

Pte. Tom ("Lips") Marshall and "Caesar" 6th.

After this success "Czar" and "Sprint" were put through their paces in preparation for the Army Finals. Unfortunately "Czar" broke a foot within a week of the competition and was unable to take part—better luck next year!

At the time of writing Cpl. Don ("The General") Stopp is losing some of his Empire. Pte. Mick Chapple and Pte. Taffy Fryers are off to the Regimental Police on probation. We congratulate Mrs. Fryers on presenting her husband with a son in June. L/Cpl. "Icky" Norman for so long "A" Company Storeman and 2/I.C. Dog Section is due for discharge and a new arrival, Pte. "Bonzer" Braddick, is to be married in October and Pte. Mick Chapple on August 27. We wish them both the best of luck.



Northern Ireland Command
Dog Trials.

Left to right: Pte. Findlay with
"Sprint" (3rd prize) and Pte. Fryers
with "Czar" (1st prize).

OFFICERS MESS

Like most other places in the Battalion life in the Officers Mess is never dull. In April the officers scored a notable success over the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess in the Battalion Rifle Meeting. After drinking a bottle of beer and running 100 yards, the C.O., Majors Carter and Hayward and Capt. Cowing had all the plates down and the balloons burst before C.S.M. Elston, C/Sgts. Briggs and Beechey and Sgt. Cowan had even reached the firing point! It must be conceded, however, that the W.O.s and Sergeants finished their beer first.

Congratulations to Lt. Bob Bartlett on his marriage, which took place in England on April 1; we wish Bob and Angela every good fortune in the future. Also to Capt. Alan Acheson on his marriage, which took place in Belfast on April 6.

Roger Gancz is yet another "good man" lost to married life and we send him our congratulations and also to Jimmy Wild on being awarded the "Brewer of the Year" medal—we hope production will increase!

May's important functions in the Mess have been those associated with the celebrations in connection with Albuhera Day. The W.O.s and Sergeants visited the Mess before lunch and we returned the visit in the evening before our Albuhera dinner. A curry lunch was held in the Mess for officers and families after the Albuhera sports, but unfortunately the Mess croquet and tennis in the afternoon had to be cancelled because of the weather. On Albuhera Day we played golf against the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess and the Corporals Club. All the Albuhera functions were attended by Major-

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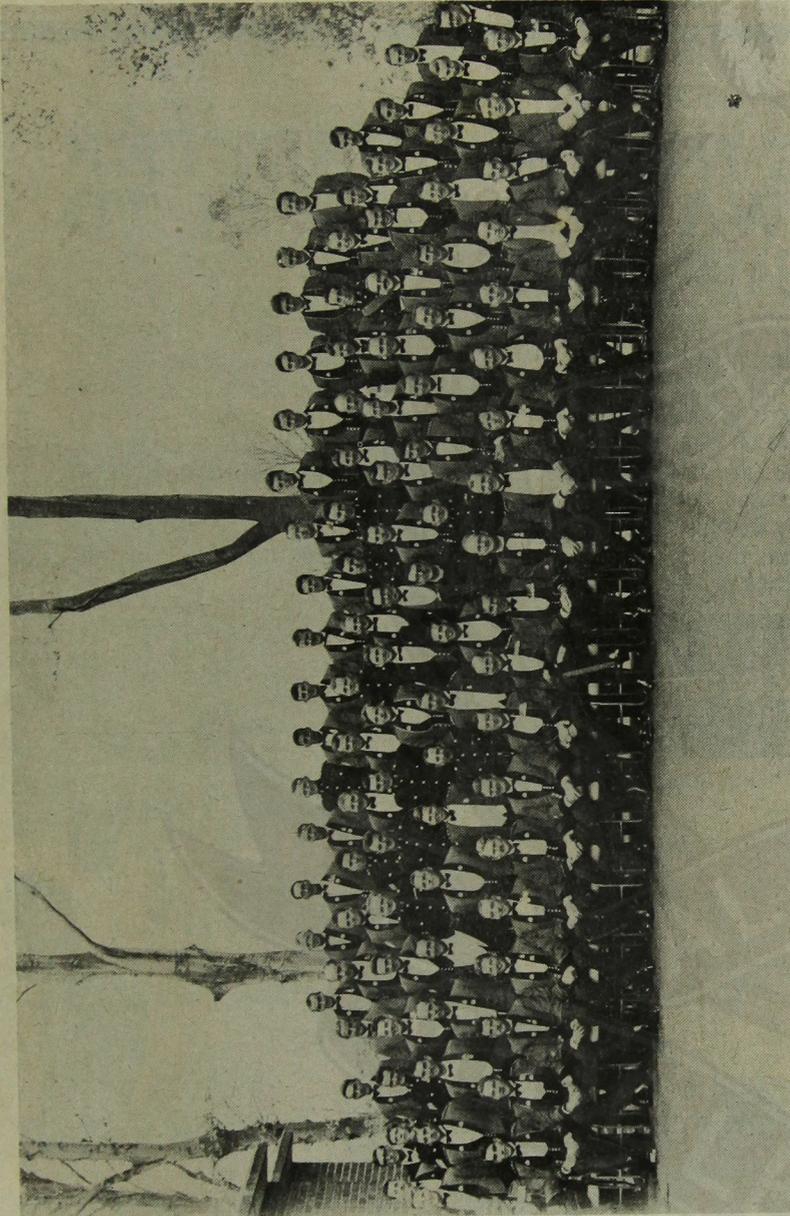
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The Deputy Colonel with members of the Officers' Mess and the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess.

General C. M. M. Man, our Deputy Colonel, and Mrs. Man.

Lt. Jim Hawkins gave a very interesting talk on old English clocks, illustrated by colour slides. As this coincided with Sir Francis Chichester's arrival at Plymouth, we had a break in the middle to watch the event on television.

An enjoyable Caribbean—style "Jump-Up" was held on Saturday June 3. The Steel Band provided almost non-stop music for several hours and it was agreed that the evening constituted better fitness training for Exercise "Lisburn Stakes" than early morning P.T.!

The living-in members held another Ladies' Night after "Lisburn Stakes." We hope to hold our third

party in September. There is no doubt that this method of paying back hospitality is very popular.

Major Chris Lawrence came over from London in order to find out what silver and property we had tucked away. His visit had an excellent side effect in that Andrew Cowing was able to begin the mammoth task of recording in detail all the silver, with photographs of each piece. Lt. Steve Dowse took photos, the majority of which came out well. Peter Hubert is carrying on where Andrew left off, as he now leaves us for Malaysia. We shall miss Andrew and Robin Cowing very much and hope it will not be too long before they return to the fold.

Lastly we hope that any past members of the Mess will always visit us if ever they have the opportunity.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS MESS

Time flies so quickly that, since our last notes, it is hard to believe that six months have passed.

So much has taken place in this time that one hardly knows where to begin. Perhaps one of the outstanding events was our Albuhera Celebrations which took place in the traditional manner. The day before Albuhera Day saw all our families enjoying the games and sports which had been very well organised. Numerous side-shows were dotted around the sports field and all were well supported. The weather on this occasion was not very kind to us. After the cessation of activities on the sports field, members and their families returned to the Mess for a very welcome buffet lunch.

On Albuhera Day we paid a visit to the Officers Mess where we were introduced to Mr. W. R. Taylor, a World War I Veteran, who has since become an honorary member of our Mess. In the evening we celebrated the drinking of the "Silent Toast" in the presence of our Deputy Colonel, Major-General C. M. M. Man. The Officers afterwards retired to their own Mess and we then let our hair down to a grand social and dance.

To move on to something different from our social whine, a mention must be made of the military side of life. Many of our members excelled themselves at the Brigade and Battalion Rifle Meetings. In particular our modern "Davey Crockett," Sgt. Trevor Fisher, came top not only in the Mess but in the Battalion as well—congratulations Trevor!

Not only are we good at shooting, we are also quite good at Free Fall Parachuting. W.O.2 Carl Blackwell started off this craze and now members of the Mess are disappearing across the water to complete the course at Netheravon. Sgt. Ron Seager is the second to do it and, in the near future, the R.S.M. will be going as well.

During June everyone was busy preparing for and taking part in Exercise "Lisburn Stakes." This was an internal security exercise and in conjunction with the R.A.F., who supplied Wessex helicopters for the occasion, we had some great fun chasing C/sgt. George Overton and his band of cronies across the Sperrin

Mountains. We never did catch him, although he tells us he was quite near all the time—probably one of those leprechauns we saw one early morning.

Personality-wise there have been quite a few comings and goings. Firstly Mike Eastap has left us on promotion



(Photo—Studio Seven Belfast)

The R.S.M. and the Bandmaster with the Winners of the Beauty Contest.

(Editor's Note—The beauties are in the centre)

to W.O.1 and moved, with his family, to train the C.C.F. at Woolwich. With him goes out best wishes on his new posting.

Frank O'Rawe was the next to go. He has landed somewhere in Aden and will be away from us for a few months—keep your head down Frank! We welcome back amongst us Geoff Leat, Ron Seager, Terry Pryor, Harry Ward. Promotion-wise, congratulations also to Sgts. Bill Murphy and Peter Watson (R.E.M.E.), to C/sgt. Geoff Leat and Roy Shave, and to W.O.s Brian Edey and Tony Briggs. Congratulations also to Sgt. and Mrs. Routledge on the birth of their son Martin on June 30.

The social life of the Mess continues to be full and variable. Normally a Social and Dance is held every other Saturday, a Whist Drive every Wednesday and a Curry Lunch once a month on Sunday, which is normally preceded by a football match. The Dining-in Night is normally held every Thursday or Friday when the single members invite guests. Recently C/sgt. and Mrs.

Pat Dive paid us a visit and dined with us. Pat was on his terminal leave having completed 22 years service. We all wish him and his wife Ann every happiness in their new life.

The Irish weather as everyone knows is seldom good and always unpredictable. Unbelievably the Irish love their cricket or it would be more correct to say there is a hard core of cricket lovers. Due to the weather and other snags it was only possible to play one match this year. This game, against a strong Belfast team, resulted in a win for the Mess by 27 runs to 26.

Bathing Beauty Contests also take place in Northern Ireland and one feels sorry for the goose-pimpled contestants. The R.S.M. and Bandmaster were recently called upon to judge the Miss Bangor 1967 Competition and apparently had a good time?

In conclusion our best wishes go to all ex-members of the Mess wherever they are and a reminder to them that there is always a welcome awaiting them in the 4th Battalion Mess.

CORPORALS MESS

During the past few months in the mess the keynote has been variety and I think everyone will agree that this has been achieved.

We were runners up to the W.O.s and Sgts. in a games evening between the Officers, W.O.s and Sgts. and ourselves and have been practising since for the next

Another old man of the Mess really made his name at this time—L/Cpl. Harry Creaser who although 20 years senior to most of the competitors gave some storming performances in the Battalion Novices Boxing Championships.

Two main functions were held over the Albuhera



Corporals' Mess Fancy Dress Ball

Left to right: Cpl. Blackman, Cpl. and Mrs. Smith, Cpl. Doran and Cpl. Jacklin.

round. The Officers Mess won the wooden spoon outright but everyone enjoyed a thoroughly good evening. Cpl. O'Brien and L/Cpl. Meehan were members of the "H.Q." Company team which beat "H.Q." Company 1 Kings in the Minor Units Basketball Competition.

period, the Albuhera Dance and the Families Luncheon.

The dance to which we invited the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess was a very enjoyable evening. Although things were rather cramped due to lack of space everyone fitted in well and our thanks go to the Regimental Steel

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Band, and Jazz group who gave us continuous music throughout the evening.

The Families Luncheon to which all the families came was voted by most to be a good idea, including the Deputy Colonel Major-General C. M. M. Man, who paid us a visit with the C.O. and spoke to many of the families.

We have held two Regimental Dinners since the last edition of *The Die-Hards*, the first described as the best mess function ever and the second even better.

The first was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and the food and wine were delicious. To the second dinner we invited the Commanding Officer, Major Pielow, whom we welcome back to the Battalion as second-in-command, Major Chappell who has joined us from the 3rd Battalion and Capt. Cheesman. Our guests have expressed their thanks for a very nice evening. Our thanks to R.S.M. K. E. Beale for presiding over us and to all the cooks, waiters and band for their hard work and assistance in making our evenings so successful.

Just recently we have held a Fancy Dress Ball and a Beatniks Dance, both of which were very successful and enjoyable evenings. There being an abundance of wine, women and song they just couldn't fail.

By the time these notes are published Lt.-Col. J. N. Shipster, will have left us and we would like to take this opportunity to wish him and his family the very best for the future. We are looking forward to dining him out on Friday, September 22.

We are sorry that this is the last publication of *The Die-Hard* Journal and would like to express our thanks to the Editor and all his staff.

Guardians, and escape before being marooned for a whole year. The Guardians were an enemy of unlimited cunning and resolve, their main object being zealously to guard The Prophet's Beard, a rare fungus found only on the Isle of Sperrin and giving unlimited powers to those who master its secrets.

Thus it was that on June 11 we all gathered on the beaches of Magilligan in the North of the Island. Many tales had been heard of the terrors of the elements in the mountains, but as luck would have it, the Sperrins experienced their first heatwave of the 20th century, which lasted the duration of the exercise.

The next five days saw the Battalion sweeping southwards through the Island in a series of leap frogging movements, with maximum use being made of the large number of helicopters available, both for reconnaissance and troop movement purposes.

Communications worked extremely well at Battalion and Rear Link level for the whole of the exercise, so well in fact that Company Commanders were able to control their platoons from the air in the numerous searches for our elusive enemy.

The Battalion had every reason to be well satisfied with its performance claiming 16 out of the 20 enemy captured, the main irritation being that the infamous Prophet's Beard was never found.

However, it was generally agreed to have been a most enjoyable exercise which tested to the full the Battalion's ability to deploy rapidly at all levels.

Bisley '67

As far as can be remembered it is nearly thirty years since we have sent a Battalion Shooting Team to Bisley.

We were very fortunate in being invited to stay with the 1st Battalion Kings Regiment at Ballykinler and practise shoulder to shoulder with their team; it was surprising to see how well 'Scouse' and 'Cockney' got on together, though tempers did get a little frayed when we beat them at Cricket.

Despite what the sceptics thought at seeing us in Holywood every weekend, we did spend five enjoyable weeks working hard on the range. During this period we took part in the Ulster Championships which gave us valuable match experience and gave Pte. McAndrews two third places, which was very creditable against such high powered competition.

On the journey over, Sgt. Harry Ward successfully took over the guards van on the train after a somewhat harassed guard experience we had guns in our boxes, and the whole party eventually arrived at Crookham, our home for the next ten days, without further incident.

For the first time electric targets were being used for the Army Championships which necessitated the use of three separate ranges all linked with Crookham by a very efficient bus service specially laid on for the meeting. As supplementary transport we were very kindly lent a 3 tonner by 5 Queens, which we shared with 1 Kings, and was piloted by one of their Sgts.

Exercise "Lisburn Stakes"

The month of June this year marked a stage in the regular battalion's recent history which must go down as nothing short of momentous. For the first time in nearly five years we found ourselves involved in a full Brigade scale exercise.

The aim of the exercise was to practise 39 Infantry Brigade in fast moving operations employing a helicopter force against a guerrilla-type enemy.

An enemy force of platoon strength was supplied by our own Recce Platoon, and pitted against them was the combined might of H.Q. 39 Infantry Brigade, H.Q. and 213 Signal Squadron, The Air Portable Squadron and two helicopters of The Air Squadron 4/7 Dragon Guards, 8 Wessex helicopters from 38 Group R.A.F., 1st Battalion The King's Regiment and 4 Queen's.

For the purpose of the exercise the Sperrin Mountains, which dominate the N.W. of Ulster, were completely surrounded by the raging Atlantic Seas and re-named Sperrin Island. We were told that the island's coast was so storm-ridden as to render it completely inaccessible save for the period of 11-16 June at which time a hazardous landing could be made on the beaches of Magilligan. Consequently 39 Infantry Brigade had a bare five days in which to clear the island of the enemy



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We got off to a very good start with 2/Lt. R. Gancz making the S.M.G. XXX and Pte. R. McAndrews and Sgt. H. Ward getting through to the second round of the individual rifle. Pte. McAndrews then went on to shoot himself into the Army Hundred which was a tremendous achievement for someone who has never been to Bisley before.

The zic visited us and witnessed 2/Lt. R. Gancz and Pte. McGregor attempting a short cut to heaven when running over the firing point on the L.M.G. run down. In the S.M.G. Team shoot we found ourselves on the firing point with 1 Queens and had the satisfaction of beating them by some 100 points.

Overall as a team we did better than we had expected and with the quite valuable experience gained this year we hope to go on to greater heights next year.

Results

	Place	Entries
Major Unit Championships	12	21
Britannia Trophy	5	26
Small Arms Cup	10	20
Eastern Command Cup	16	20
Parachute Regiment Cup	12	50
S.M.G. XXX—2/Lt. R. Gancz	30	349
Army 100—Pte. R. McAndrews	Place not yet known	488

Team

2/Lt. R. Gancz	Pte. McAndrews
Sgt. H. Ward	Pte. McGregor
Cpl. O'Sullivan	Pte. Hall
Cpl. Bartle	Pte. McLelland
L/Cpl. Reardon	Pte. Robinson

Our Advertisers

It would be greatly appreciated by the Editor if readers would mention "The Die-Hards" when corresponding with or purchasing from firms who advertise in this Regimental Journal.

Parachute Club

It was decided during the winter months of 1966 to introduce free fall parachuting to members of the Battalion who might be interested. The response received was most encouraging, some 60 soldiers applying to be sent on a course at Netheravon for which they were required to pay £20 for the privilege. The cost of the course was in fact reduced to £15 as the Commanding Officer subsidised any soldier attending a course with a grant of £5.

As vacancies on the course were limited, applicants first had to pass a confidence test, which reduced the figure to 18.

The Arms Parachute Centre at Netheravon runs 6 courses a year, each of three weeks duration starting in April and running into October.

The aim of the course is designed to bring a student up to the rating of a category IV Parachutist, that is to say, having completed 15 jumps, three of which must have been stable delays of 15 seconds.

The student parachutist is first of all required to carry out a minimum of 8 hours' ground training before being allowed to carry out his first static line descent in the stable position; he must also be capable of packing his own parachute. Six static line descents have to be made before the parachutist can progress to free fall, as he has to prove to the instructors that he can maintain the stable spread position and is capable of pulling a rip cord, the latter being rather important.

If he passes this test the student then goes on to carry out a free fall of 5 seconds' duration. This can be the longest 5 seconds in anyone's life, and the normal reaction is to "pull" too early. L/Cpl. Walker, on his first free fall jump, could have handed the ripcord back to the dispatcher in spite of being in mid-air at the time. However, he has proved to be one of our best parachutists and obviously enjoys the sport.

If the parachutist has carried out three good 5 second delays, he progresses up to 15 seconds, depending on his aptitude.

So far 14 soldiers of the Battalion have successfully completed 15 jumps, and the following eight, namely Lt. Gouda, C.S.M. Blackwell, Cpl. Blackburn, Cpl. Crookstone, L/cpl. Murphy, L/Cpl. Hills, L/Cpl. Walker and Pte. Chaves are to be congratulated on completing several 15 second delay descents. Pte. Chaves on one occasion had to use his reserve because of a bad spin, but he went up again undaunted and to everyone's amazement pulled his reserve again in spite of the fact that his "main" was in the process of opening. On being questioned why he did this, he said that he would rather be safe than sorry.

In the middle of July we were invited to send a team of four consisting of C.S.M. Blackwell (Team leader), Cpl. Blackburn, L/Cpl. Walker and L/Cpl. Murphy, to take part in a competition called "Exercise Parashoot," a competition largely dominated by the S.A.S., Parachute Regiment, and the Royal Marine Commandos. Although we had very little experience we felt that we would learn a lot by simply just entering.

The aim of the competition was to provoke interest and gain experience of the military aspect of free-fall parachuting and to practise other military skills, that is to say, a free-fall descent from 3,500 feet, map reading, fieldcraft, fast movement across enemy-held territory, anti-ambush drills, simple demolition, radio communication and procedure, helicopter marshalling and drills.

The competition was held in the Netheravon area. On arrival at Netheravon C.S.M. Blackwell learned that he had to dispatch the team himself, and as he had never done this before, he was horrified, but not quite so much as the remaining three he had to dispatch. They could see the headlines "Army Free Fallers land on Salisbury Cathedral."

The next day found them at 4,000 feet above Salisbury Plain seated on the floor of a Beaver and being treated to a howling gale that poured through the open door. When they were within five miles of the D.Z. C.S.M. Blackwell leaned out of the door to search for the sodium flare marking the D.Z. It was at this point that he learned his first mistake. He should have worn goggles as the slip stream nearly took his head. His second mistake was when he overshot the flare and dispatched three unsuspecting soldiers two map squares away from it.

The ride down was also quite eventful, C.S.M. Blackwell and L/Cpl. Murphy almost colliding at a

couple of hundred feet from the ground and Cpl. Blackburn disappearing in the direction of a very large manning wood. Three of the team landed within 20 feet of each other, but Cpl. Blackburn was not found for half an hour after landing. Fortunately he missed the wood by inches, due he said to his excellent canopy control.

Having dropped a long way off the D.Z. and lost a lot of points we struggled with our field-packed parachutes and rucksacks to the waiting agent who was to send us to another agent 16 miles across country, who was to issue instructions on where to blow up an enemy arms cache.

This was the phase of the competition in which we did best as we had the sixth fastest time out of 19 teams. Although we were trailing at the end of the competition, having lost a vast number of points for missing the D.Z., the experience gained was invaluable.

Next year with some hard training and a few practise jumps we will be able to enter three teams and be positioned much higher up in the field.

We hope that parachuting is here to stay in the Battalion. If the enthusiasm shown by the majority who have taken up the sport is anything to go by, it will. All we now require is some money and a few long weekends at Netheravon so that we can become more efficient and eventually produce somebody expert enough to become a qualified P.P.A. instructor.



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SPORTS



SOCCER

Although we were unable to enter a league last Winter, due to arriving back from Guyana well into the season, we nevertheless entered all Army Competitions and played many friendly matches. In Army competitions our performances were always creditable, whilst in friendly matches we were seldom beaten.

During the close season it was hoped the Army F.A. would permit us to enter a local Summer league but unfortunately this was not allowed and we were only permitted to play matches within the unit.

An Inter-Platoon Summer League was started and is now well under way. Fifteen teams are taking part and almost every day at least one match is played, mainly in the evenings. No. 8 Platoon of "B" Company are at present hot favourites having won all their matches bar one, which they drew with Battalion H.Q. The league will continue into the new season as there is still well over a hundred matches to be played.

The Irish F.A. organised a residential coaches course in July and we were fortunate enough to acquire two places on it. C/Sgt. Jimmy Redmond and Cpl. John

Clements attended the well organised course and mingled with the pro's gaining much experience. With their newly acquired knowledge and the assistance of the Cliftonville coach, Mr. Jackie Cummings, we are expecting great things this coming season.

The Battalion has entered the Irish Saturday Morning League and will come up against many civilian teams of varying standards. Several local Cup competitions have also been entered and everyone is looking forward to a full and successful season. All will, I am sure, be glad to know we have entered under the name of the "Die-Hards."

BOXING

So far this year, there have been, within the Battalion, two boxing competitions. The first, the Inter-Company Novices Boxing Competition, was held at the beginning of April. It was a very successful event which produced a wealth of new talent. The competition was finally won by "B" Company although the result was only decided by the last bout of the Finals. The complete results are as follows:—

Bantamweight	Pte. Slaughter
Featherweight	Pte. Cross
Lightweight	Pte. Fenton
Light Welterweight	Pte. Coulter
Welterweight	Pte. Sutcliff
Light Middleweight	Pte. Hall
Middleweight	Pte. McGlinchey
Light Heavyweight	Pte. Gardner
Heavyweight	Pte. George
Best Loser	Pte. Florey

Congratulations must go to all entrants for the competition and especially to the above winners.

The second event of the year was the Inter-Company Team Competition which was held in May. Again this produced very good results and was won outright by "H.Q." Company. The complete list of winners is as follows:—

Bantamweight	Pte. McGuire
Featherweight	Pte. Harris
Lightweight	Pte. Kelty
Light Welterweight (1)	Pte. Savage
Light Welterweight (2)	L/Cpl. Hayes 79
Welterweight (1)	Pte. Sutcliff
Welterweight (2)	Pte. Mowcoomber
Light Middleweight	Pte. Hall
Middleweight	Pte. McGlinchey
Light Heavyweight	Pte. Gurr
Heavyweight	L/Cpl. Gibson
Best Loser	Pte. Bennet

The standard of boxing, in the finals especially, was very high and once again all entrants must be congratulated.

CRICKET

Cricket is not perhaps a game for which Northern Ireland is noted mainly because of the dubious summer weather and lack of good grounds. Working on this factor alone we decided that we would not be backing a winner if we concentrated on this traditional summer sport, in winter conditions. The Soccer team also were hoping to join a Summer League which meant that there would be a battle for the sports ground.

However the cricketers in the Battalion have been catered for in one way or another. Major Chappell, Cpts. Cheesman, Lofting and Deakin, Lt. Graham, Pte. Crawford 09, and L/Cpl. Nash have all played for the Command XI, and Major Chappell and Capt. Cheesman gave the Irish Army in Dublin a terrifying lesson on how a cricket ball should be struck.

Some of us were lucky enough to get over to Canterbury for the Regimental Cricket and in the last match Lt. Graham took 6 wickets for 30 and Pte. Crawford carried his bat for 36.

We have played matches against North of Ireland C.C., H.M.S. *Sea Eagle* and Queen's University Staff. We lost to North, beat H.M.S. *Sea Eagle* (L/Cpl. Nash 5 for 6) and the last match was abandoned because of rain.

The Battalion were well represented in the Command Single wicket competition which was won by Capt. Lofting and we won the Brigade short Cricket Tournament beating 4/7 D.G. and 1 Kings. Our own single wicket competition was won by L/Cpl. Binns of the Band.

SAILING

The season began this year in May in the Northern Ireland Command Sailing Course at Lough Neagh (Europe's largest inland lake). The Course was attended by the Commanding Officer, The Reverend Ian Bull, L/Cpl. Murray, L/Cpl. Slater and Pte. Higgins. Major Mike Hayward was one of the instructors and we took along the Battalions two "Enterprise" dinghies for the use of the Course.

The weather was very rough on the first day out and Major Hayward fell off the blunt end of his boat and had to be rescued from the icy water by the rescue boat. Of course this gave the learners a big morale boost!, and sure enough the next day the Padre was in the drink as well when the boat in which he was sailing capsized. As

the other occupants of the boat were hauled from the water they were heard to be muttering rude comments about modern Jonahs.

Fortunately for those who got wet there was a "king" sized space heater in one of the supper sheds on the shore which dried us out in quick time. This process also had its lighter moments when the W.R.A.C. contingent was in need of drying off.

Despite the rather disastrous start we did manage to pick up a bit of nautical information and experience, which stood us in good stead when we took our boats back to Hollywood for the rest of the season.

A Battalion Sailing Club has now been formed and sailing takes place regularly in Belfast Lough from the Hollywood Yacht Club who have permitted us to use their facilities. Major Hayward has arranged a regular sailing schedule and instruction. The Commanding Officer, Lt. David Gouda and Bds. Bradford have qualified as Helmsmen.

We have recently purchased a Bonito single seat, single sail, fibre glass dinghy, which is great fun to sail. Its maiden voyage in company with the two "Enterprises" was across the Lough to Carrickfergus where the thirsty mariners found a congenial pub. On the way back the 4th Queens Flotilla was becalmed for a time and were a little pushed to get back before darkness set in.

One of the Enterprises was raced regularly for the first half of the season and was second overall in its class. Capt. Hubert, Major Hayward and Pte. Higgins have been very prominent in racing.

Lt.-Colonel John Shipster having duly qualified as a helmsman took his brave family for a short sailing holiday on Lough Earn in the Northern Ireland Command Silhouette. To their own and everyone else's surprise they returned safe and dry.

Capt. Hubert and Lt. Gouda had an interesting half hour when Mr. Gouda set off inadvertently without his crew due to a sudden gust of wind. We are told that he learnt more about sailing in that half-hour spent beating single handed against the wind trying to get back to shore, than he did in the rest of the season. Of course he got little sympathy from Capt. Hubert which is quite normal.

Owing to leave and the Otterburn training period we have not been able to do very much sailing during the past five or six weeks, but we are looking forward to a good end to the season should the weather hold. Despite the mishaps, sailing this year has been a great success.

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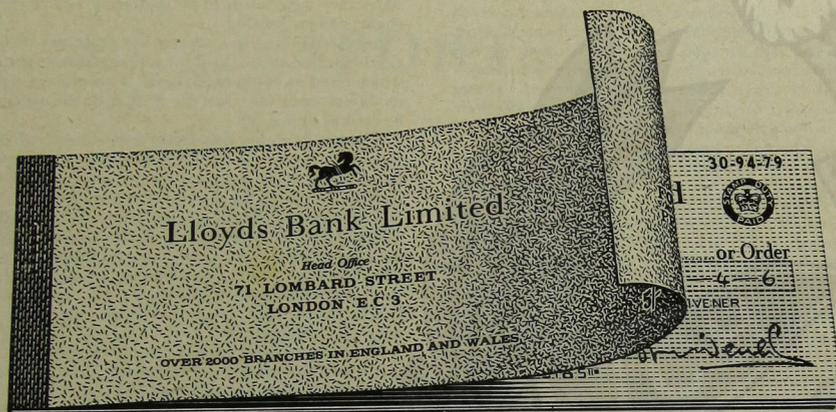
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10th (TERRITORIAL) BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX) NOTES

Formerly 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) T.A.

EDITORIAL

Most of the difficulties we encountered on re-organisation seem to have been overcome—some by hook and some by crook. We feel it would not be proper to omit the mention of an historic ceremony which took place on March 12. At a Farewell to the Colours parade held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, the old colours of the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions, The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) were trooped for the last time before Major-General Christopher Man, O.B.E., M.C. Many moist eyes could be seen amongst the host of Old Comrades who attended the ceremony. This was a truly fitting climax to the days we served under our old title of 5th Middlesex but since then it has been a case of off with the old and on with the new. The result is a unit of dedicated "Queensmen."

Our first task was to welcome to our ranks the officers and men from 101 Engineer Regiment R.E., who now form "C" Company. The mantle of infantrymen has now descended so firmly upon them that it is difficult to tell them from other footsloggers.

Camp, tented and blessed by good weather, was a complete success. Shortage of cooks and double-range bookings by Staff who live on the hill at Shorncliffe, were frustrations quickly overcome and we came back from Dibgate with "tails up," and morale high. The result is that, aided by campaigns organised by the Battalion's Public Relations Officer, Major Malcolm Beaumont, recruiting is going well—the count since camp is 40 with 10 more in the pipeline.

"A" COMPANY

Since April 1, 1967, our first priority has been recruiting and it is encouraging to be able to report that our efforts, ably directed by the Battalion Recruiting Officer, Major Beaumont, have borne fruit. In consequence, we were the strongest company at camp and have every intention of maintaining our lead.

The first camp in the new role was a success and, although we were necessarily restricted to fairly elementary training, time did not hang on our hands. Indeed Sgts. Hawkins and Purchase, who found themselves standing in for the C.S.M. and C.Q.M.S. in addition to their normal duties at camp, must often have been relieved that they were not faced with a second week.

On the social side a series of successful informal dances have been run in conjunction with recruiting days and the Thursday "club night" has proved a

popular R.V. for wives and girl friends. Our thanks are due to the Social Committee, Cpls. Murphy, Sergides and Newnham, for their efforts to build up a Company spirit in this way.

We welcome Lt. Mike Robertson to the Company as No. 1 Platoon Commander and hope his stay at Edgware will be long and happy. If camp is any indication it is unlikely to be dull.

Our congratulations are due to Cpl. Newnham, L/Cpls. Smith, Siden and Pitney on their respective promotions.

"B" COMPANY

The Company has now settled down to its new role in T.A.V.R. III and the change has not proved as catastrophic as once thought. The reduced evening commitment has enabled us to provide more interesting training on a Tuesday evening. The social side of our activities has not been neglected and since April 1, we have had a Company Dinner and a Wine and Cheese party.

We were fortunate to have a fine week for camp. "B" Company provided the nucleus of the composite Company for the exercise and one day was spent on improvised rafting. Sgt. Large took the opportunity of putting in some impromptu swimming instruction which was not on the programme. The Company party at camp was a great success and after being initiated in the old Kentish game of Tray Ball, the Company team beat one of experienced locals. This is a difficult game; one places one's ball on the end of a plank, hits the other end of the plank and then the ball.

C.S.M. Ward is to be congratulated on his promotion 13 years after joining the T.A. as a drummer after National Service.

"C" COMPANY

"C" Company, having been formed from 101 London Engineer Regiment on the re-organisation, is settling down in its new location at Acton.

Training is under way with an accent on the change from sapper work to the Company's new role within the Battalion.

On return from annual camp there is still no universal agreement as to whether running up and down hills on section attacks is more or less preferable to standing with water up to one's waist lifting Bailey bridge equipment.

To assist in retraining, Major K. Saxby of the Royal Australian Reserve has been attached to the Company and, even though he has only been with us for a very

short time, there is a very marked improvement which reflects in the enthusiasm of Company personnel now that an infantry "expert" is on hand.

The social aspect of the new Territorial life has not been overlooked and already three Company dances have been held since our move to Acton. These dances have proved extremely successful and, on one occasion, Mr. Gerry Reynolds, Minister of Defence (Administration), looked in following an inaugural cocktail party in the Officers' Mess.

The first week at the Acton location provided a double celebration for not only did we take possession of the Drill Hall but our C.S.M., W.O.2 Walker, was awarded the M.B.E. in the Yew Year's Honours List.

SERGEANTS' MESS

With 25 members at camp out of an establishment strength of only 23 shows what a good effort was made by all to attend annual camp.

A week is a very short time to be at camp and what with night training and Company parties, it was decided not to hold any official functions this year. Of course the nightly lubrication of dry throats was carried out with great enthusiasm in keeping with the old T.A. tradition.

We were pleased to welcome the Regimental Colonel to the Mess. He said that it was 30 years since he had visited a tented Sergeants' Mess. We hope he will come again next year and that we will be able to offer more palatial accommodation.

It must be admitted that there were mutterings by certain C.S.M.s that sleeping draft potions are to be

added to the R.S.M.'s beer at the next camp to stop him visiting their tents at Reveille with invitations to accompany him on a run.

Before closing we would like to bring to the notice of old Mess members of The Middlesex Regiment that a social is held in the Mess at Edgware on the second Saturday of each month. Why not come along and meet again those old comrades?

CORPS OF DRUMS

We have had to face some hard facts when considering the desirability of having both a Band and Corps of Drums. We reached the conclusion that an establishment strength of 80 would not cater for both sub-units and the Commanding Officer decided that in future the Battalion could only accommodate a Corps of Drums. This was a very sad decision and one not taken lightly.

Since the decision was taken recruiting for the Drums has gone well. The Drums are to be clad in scarlet wearing the spiked helmet circa 1881.

Tribute must be paid to the Drums of our 4th Battalion (Middlesex) who performed the ceremony of Beating Retreat in a local park and contributed much to our recruiting effort.

With a fast growing Corps of Drums the lack of a Drum-Major is becoming more acute as "Drummy" Holdford has now retired to the depths of rural Berkshire and we would appeal to any reader of this journal who knows of a suitable candidate to ask him to contact Capt. T. D. Jones, O.I.C. Corps of Drums, 10th (Territorial) Battalion The Queen's Regt. (Middlesex).

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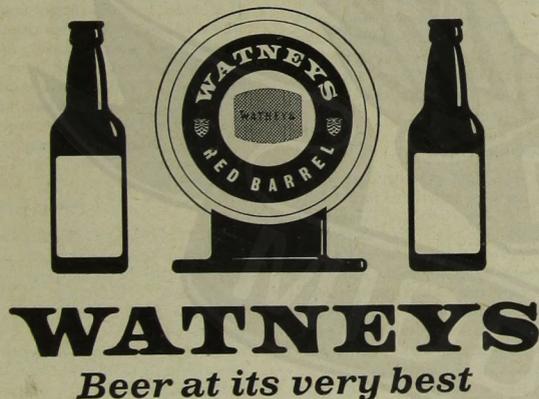
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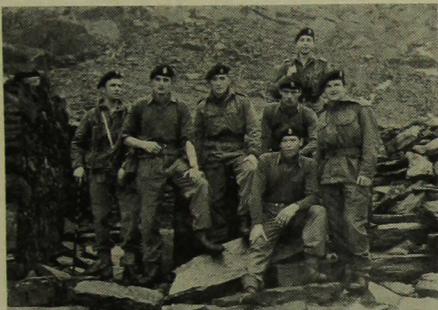
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'D' COMPANY (MIDDLESEX) 5th QUEEN'S



1. Members of "D" Company pause for rest during ascent of Snowdon. Left to right: Capt. M. L. Muirhead, Cpl. J. Smith, L/Cpl. J. Fowler, Cpl. E. Snook, Pte. D. Wallace, 2/Lt. R. P. Davis, Pte. N. McIntyre.



2. "D" Company climbers in thick cloud reach snow line on Snowdon.

3. "D" Company Section embark at Caernarvon at the start of Exercise "Sea Horse II."

4. The Regimental Colonel, Colonel D. S. Snowdon, T.D., with Major M. R. M. Newall, Training Major 5 Queens, presenting Pte. Skouros with the Best Recruit Cup at the Regimental Depot.



"D" COMPANY (MIDDLESEX) 5th (VOLUNTEER) BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT NOTES

Formerly "A" Company 5th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment
(D.C.O.) T.A.

The decision as to who should be mentioned in Journal notes has always been a problem and not least now in this, the final edition of *The Die-Hards*. We therefore, on this occasion, place on record all those who are serving at this time in the Company:

Company Commander	Major H. E. Couch	
2/c	Capt. M. L. Muirhead	
13 Platoon Commander	Lt. R. J. Clayton	
14 Platoon Commander	Lt. R. H. Crosher	
16 (S.P.) Platoon Commander	2/Lt. R. P. Davis	
C.S.M.	W.O.2 D. Harwood	
C.Q.M.S. (designate)	Sgt. R. Stone	
Platoon Sgts.	Sgt. B. Smith	
	Sgt. E. Kavanagh	
Cpl. D. Bartrick	Pte. P. Bryant	Pte. B. Lambert
Cpl. R. Aldridge	Pte. P. Bushby	Pte. J. Maharry
Cpl. T. Barton	Pte. D. Cadywouid	Pte. D. Mather
Cpl. D. Murphy	Pte. M. Capehart	Pte. N. McIntyre
Cpl. R. Bird	Pte. D. Cooper	Pte. M. McNairn
Cpl. A. Cowland	Pte. G. Dodd	Pte. A. Mills
Cpl. P. Drage	Pte. M. Dunne	Pte. P. Moylan
Cpl. A. Garrity	Pte. G. Edwards	Pte. R. Ockwell
Cpl. J. Smith	Pte. A. Egleton	Pte. J. O'Connor
Cpl. E. Snook	Pte. D. Fairweather	Pte. P. O'Shea
Cpl. S. Webster	Pte. M. Foster	Pte. K. Plues
Cpl. J. Colbert	Pte. A. Fox	Pte. J. Reeves
L/Cpl. D. Edwards	Pte. A. Fryer	Pte. K. Roper
L/Cpl. J. Bell	Pte. M. Gaughan	Pte. G. Skouros
L/Cpl. G. Lambert	Pte. J. Gill	Pte. M. Stone
L/Cpl. P. Lane	Pte. A. Goodbourn	Pte. T. Summers
L/Cpl. E. Jakob	Pte. D. Greenwood	Pte. R. Symonds
L/Cpl. A. Sergides	Pte. J. Hammond	Pte. M. Taylor
L/Cpl. J. Fowler	Pte. J. Harvey	Pte. R. Townsend
L/Cpl. T. Waters	Pte. R. Hooker	Pte. J. Vas
Pte. R. Armstrong	Pte. K. Humphreys	Pte. D. Wallace
Pte. A. Assing	Pte. H. Ireland	Pte. B. Williams
Pte. M. Bickerstaff	Pte. W. Kelleher	Pte. E. Wills
Pte. B. Britton	Pte. F. Knight	
Sgt. Dobson (R.A.M.C.)	Pte. Anson (A.C.C.)	Pte. Gobson (A.C.C.)

Our strength on formation day, April 1, 1967, was 51 all ranks and now on September 1, it is 83—an increase of some 60 per cent. in five months. Being realistic we do not expect to maintain quite this growth rate but at least we are making every effort to reach our establishment (115 all ranks including attached) by the end of our first year of existence.

We in A.V.R. II have been fortunate indeed and the re-organisation has brought a variety of new equipment, weapons etc. and although we still wait for our Mobats and 81 mm. mortars a number of new vehicles, weapons and items of clothing and equipment have appeared.

The very first weekend at 5 Queen's saw the officers

gathered together for a cocktail party on the Saturday evening and a study day on the Sunday in the Canterbury Training Centre.

In the third week of April we set off on a Friday evening to North Wales for the first exercise as "D" Company. Early on the following morning we landed on the north coast near Caernarvon and then in torrential rain we marched across country to the deserted village of Porth y Nant where we ran to earth the terrorist gang led by "Dai Da Costa." The next day we climbed Snowdon in snow and thick cloud to complete an energetic and adventurous weekend to mark the baptism of the new Reserve Army.

Activities since then have included annual classification on the automatic range at Hythe, a M.T. rally in S.E. England, rock climbing at Tunbridge Wells and an administrative and Internal Security weekend at Hornsey. Highlight of this period, however, has been annual camp at Sennybridge in South Wales. A rugged training area coupled with typically Welsh weather made this a tough camp but much was achieved and the "Die-hards" showed up well against their rival companies from Guildford, Hastings, Broadstairs and Canterbury.

Social events have featured prominently and a Cheese and Wine party before camp was followed by the Victoria Cross dance afterwards to raise funds for Patsy Edwards' v.c. Later in July we were delighted to have the steel band of 4 Queens providing their exotic brand of music at an impromptu but most successful company dance.

It would be easy to end on a note of nostalgia but although the passing of the Middlesex Regiment was a sad milestone in the evolution of the British Army we at Hornsey are full of enthusiasm for the future and as "D" Company (Middlesex) we feel it is appropriate to encourage the unofficial title of the "Die-Hard" Company thus building on the great traditions of a fine regiment.

Stop Press

On the latest two weeks' recruit course at Canterbury Pte. Skouros of "D" Company won the cup for the best recruit.



MIDDLESEX A.C.F. ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE



1. Eighteen-year-old Sgt. Brian Hume, of Muswell Hill, a member of 16th Hornsey Cadet Company, carrying the national Colours of the Army Cadet Force, and escorted by L/Cpl. Peter Beauchamp (left), of Wood Green and L/Cpl. Gerald Brennan (right), also of Wood Green, both aged 15.

2 and 3. Inspection by Major-General C. M. M. Man accompanied by the Deputy Mayor of Haringey (Councillor A. T. Prothero) and the Parade Commander (Lt.-Colonel H. T. Boga).



MIDDLESEX A.C.F. ST. GEORGE'S DAY PARADE

Watched by only a few spectators, a turnout of 150 cadets of the Middlesex Army Cadet Force provided a smart display of spit and polish when they paraded to the Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey, after attending a special St. George's Day service at St. George's Church, Cranley Gardens.

"Small Army"

It was a veritable small army, ceremonially tuned up, outside the church as Major-General C. M. M. Man, Deputy Colonel, 4th Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) inspected the ranks, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor of Haringey (Cllr. A. T. Prothero), Lt.-Col. H. T. Boga, parade commander, and senior officers, and took the salute at a march past.

Hornsey were well represented by the 16th Cadet Company, and other cadets came from Tottenham, Finchley, Edgware, Harrow, Willesden, Southall, Wembley, Staines and Kingsbury.

They were preceded in the parade by the band of the Middlesex Yeomanry and, as a special honour, the National A.C.F. colours, presented by the Duke of Edinburgh in 1960, were carried in Hornsey for the

first time by 18-year-old Sgt. Brian Hume, of Muswell Hill. The Middlesex A.C.F. colours were also on show.

Gift to Church

Among the guests of honour at the service, conducted by the vicar of St. George's, the Rev. A. H. Catt, was Lt.-Col. F. C. Cave, the unit patron and a Deputy-Lieutenant of Greater London.

During the service Major V. Williams presented the vicar with a silver ciborium to be used for Communion services as a gift from the 16th Cadet Company.

Lt.-Col. S. J. Williams led the reaffirmation of the cadets' promise to honour God, the Queen and the country, "to serve loyally and honourably at all times," and Major-General Man read the lesson on the text of "the tree that brings forth good fruit."

In a sermon, the Rev Philip Brassell, Rector of Hornsey, spoke of the importance of discipline, giving as examples the heroism of a Le Mans racing driver in the midst of a disaster and the wounded boy, Jackie Cornwall, who stood by his guns in the Battle of Jutland.

(With acknowledgments to *The Hornsey Journal*.)

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OBITUARY

Lt.-Colonel (Bt. Colonel) S. C. M. Smith, T.D., F.C.A.

Major G. A. H. Bower, M.C., T.D., a close personal friend for many years, has kindly written the following:

Sidney Cedric Mathews Smith, who died on May 27, 1967, was educated at Highgate School.

He was commissioned into the 1st Volunteer Battalion Middlesex Regiment in January 1908 which Battalion—on the creation of the Territorial Force at the end of March 1908—became the 7th Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), T.F.

Living in Highgate, he was posted to the Highgate Company at Northfield Hall, Highgate.

He so quickly made his mark that, at the Annual Camp at Arundel in 1909, he (in the absence of its Commander) commanded the Tottenham Company.

He was promoted Lt. in 1909 and assumed command of the Highgate Company in 1910. He was promoted Captain in 1911.

He was embodied on August 5, 1914 and—as a Company Commander—served with the 7th Battalion first in Gibraltar and—from March 1915—in France until in July 1916 he was posted as an Instructor to the newly-formed School for Company Commanders in England, being graded as a Brigade Major.

At the time of the armistice he was a student at the School for Battalion Commanders, the Commandant being that most able and forceful character, Brigadier-General R. J. Kentish.

Cedric Smith was twice mentioned in Despatches.

When the 7th Battalion re-opened for recruiting in the spring of 1920, Cedric Smith resumed command of the Highgate Company.

He commanded the 7th Battalion from 1929 to 1932. He was awarded the Territorial Decoration.

He was promoted Brevet Lt.-Colonel in 1925 and Brevet Colonel in 1932.

He was a member of the Battalion War Memorial Committee and was treasurer of the Committee which was concerned with Sir Edwin King's history of the 7th Battalion.

In 1950 he ceased to belong to the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers having attained the age limit.

During Hitler's War he served with the Home Guard at Tunbridge Wells.

Cedric Smith was a first class soldier by any standards and was much liked and respected by everybody.

He was selfless in his devotion to the 7th Battalion and to the Regiment.

His eldest son in 1940 (while serving with 5th Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment) died of wounds in a German Hospital and was awarded a posthumous Military Cross.

Both his brothers served in the 7th Battalion. Francis was killed in January 1916 when in command of the machine guns of the Battalion and Cyril was desperately (the word used by Sir Edwin King in his history) wounded on the Somme on September 15, 1916. On recovery Cyril rejoined the Battalion and, shortly before the Armistice, was appointed Adjutant and served in that capacity during the whole of the time that the Battalion formed part of the Army of the Rhine and until the Cadre of the Battalion was demobilised at Hornsey in November 1919.

Lt.-Colonel W. D. Coles, M.V.O., T.D., J.P.

William Dudley Coles died on June 7, 1967 at the Lonsdale Nursing Home, Tunbridge Wells, in his 81st year.

He enlisted in the 14th County of London Regiment on January 2, 1909, and was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment on March 1, 1915. During the 1914-18 War he served with the 2/9th Battalion and attained the rank of Lt.-Colonel before being transferred to the T.A.R.O. on September 1, 1919.

He was recalled for service in the 1939-45 War and transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

He was a Company director of Messrs. Harrison & Sons, the publishers. In addition he was a prominent J.P., being appointed in 1936 to the Panel of Justices to sit at Bow Street Magistrates' Court. In 1939 he became Chairman of Bow Street Panel of J.P.'s, and in 1949 he was elected Chairman of the Strand Bench (County of London). In 1956 the Lord Chancellor appointed him as a member of the Advisory Committee on the appointment of Justices of the Peace for the County of London.

He was awarded the M.V.O. in 1961.

At the memorial service held at The Queen's Chapel of the Savoy on July 14 Colonel F. Walden represented the Regiment.

Major E. L. Heywood

All regiments at times suffer the loss of one of their stalwarts which gives the feeling that life will never be quite the same again. This was so in our own case when news came through of the death of that well-known and well-loved character, Major "Bill" Heywood, on May 6.

Everard Lempriere Heywood was born on August 28, 1898. His father had commanded the 9th Battalion The Manchester Regiment, his cousin commanded our 4th Battalion from 1904 to 1908 whilst his great uncle, Capt. Audley Lempriere, the "Boy Captain," was killed when serving as Adjutant to the 77th Foot during the Crimean War.

Enlisting in the ranks of the Cheshire Regiment on May 6, 1917, he was immediately posted to No. 13 Officer Cadet Battalion and commissioned into the Regiment on August 29 that year. He joined the 5th (Reserve) Battalion and in December he was drafted to the 3rd Battalion, which was then in Greek Macedonia fighting the Bulgars. When the local armistice was signed in 1918 he went with the Battalion as part of the forces of occupation to Constantinople.

In 1919 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion, which was re-forming after the war at Shorncliffe, prior to going to Cairo to continue its overseas tour interrupted by the outbreak of the war in 1914. He did not go overseas with the Battalion, but remained in England to attend a Signal course. He rejoined the Battalion in Cairo after his course.

In January 1922 he sailed with the Battalion to Singapore. At that time he was the Battalion Athletics champion and was to remain so for the next two years. Always a keen sportsman he had been a member of the Haileybury College Rugby XV before joining up in 1917.

When H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, visited the Malay-Borneo Exhibition, he was chosen to be the Ensign of the Guard.

In 1923 he went with the Battalion to India and was stationed at Ahmednagar. Here he built up the Signal Platoon with an esprit-de-corps second to none.

During his early service in India he was for six months in Waziristan officiating as a G.S.O.3 and Cypher Officer. Later, under an exchange system then in force in India, he served for two years with the New Zealand Military Forces and was posted as Adjutant to the Nelson-Marlborough Mounted Rifles. Here he took an active part in all the sports associated with horsed units. Apart from these he also, on one occasion, represented New Zealand at hockey against Australia.

On completion of his tour in New Zealand he rejoined the 2nd Battalion which had then moved to Khartoum.

When the two regular Battalions changed over he was a supervising officer of the "Turnover" draft which went to Ismailia. On handing over the draft he rejoined the 2nd Battalion, which was then at Colchester.

He was promoted captain in February 1935 and joined the Depot Staff at Mill Hill as Training Company Commander a year later. On completion of his tour of duty at the Depot he was appointed to command the Recruit Physical Training Depot at Canterbury. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War this unit was disbanded and he rejoined the Regimental Depot.

In May 1940 he went to France to join the B.E.F. and was evacuated via Cherbourg on June 16.

When the B.E.F. was in the process of reorganising after Dunkirk he was posted as Second in Command to the 1/7th Battalion. He was later posted to the 70th Young Soldiers' Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment

and remained with that unit until he was appointed Second in Command of our own Young Soldiers' Battalion.

After the war he was on the staff of the Military Governor of Lubeck, repatriating refugees.

He retired in November 1947 and took up the appointment of Administrative Officer at the Depot.

In 1961 when the Depot at Mill Hill closed down and Regimental Headquarters was formed at Edgware he was appointed the R.O.III. He held this post until January 1966 when he retired on account of ill-health. The esteem in which he was held by his brother officers, both old and young, was expressed when, at a reception held in his honour at Edgware in November last year, he was presented with a beautiful silver statuette of an officer of the 77th Foot in the uniform of the period of his forebear, Captain Audley Lempriere. This gave him unbounded delight.

The funeral took place on May 11. A service was first held at St. Philip's Church, Alderley Edge, which was attended by the Bishop of Stockport, the Rt. Rev. Gordon Strutt. Other clergy present were the Rev. K. M. Maltby, Vicar of Alderley Edge, the Very Rev. H. C. L. Heywood, Provost of Southwell, Major Heywood's brother who officiated, and the Rev. F. T. Lynn. In addition to his two sisters there were present a host of relatives and a great concourse of friends. The church was full.

Regimental representatives present were Major-General C. M. M. Man, Colonel F. Walden, Mrs. I. H. Battye (representing Colonel. I. H. Battye), Lt.-Colonel K. J. Carter, Alderman Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. H. A. A. Howell, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. J. R. B. Worton, Major and Mrs. B. K. Clayden, Major C. L. Lawrence, Major H. J. A. Moore, Major and Mrs. A. E. Peasley (representing Home Postal Courier Communication Depot R.E.), Major R. W. J. Smith, Cpl. Parker, Cpl. M. D. Smith and Mr. D. Vincent, M.M.

At the end of a beautiful service the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Cpl. Parker and, as the last note echoed through the church, the regimental flag draping the coffin fluttered silent acknowledgment. From the church many mourners went to the crematorium at Macclesfield where the committal was taken by the Very Rev. H. C. L. Heywood.

Capt. E. A. E. Moir

Ernest Albert Edward Moir, who died on June 11, 1967, at the age of 59, enrolled as a Territorial soldier in the 22nd (County of London) Battalion The London Regiment (The Queen's) on February 7, 1925. After completing two years' service in the T.A. he took his discharge on February 17, 1927, re-enlisting as a regular soldier the following day. He was, thereupon, transferred to the Middlesex Regiment and posted to the 1st Battalion.

In March 1928 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion then stationed at Ahmednagar in India. He was soon appointed a Lance-Corporal and later, after the Battalion had moved to Madras, he was promoted corporal. In April 1931 he went with the Battalion to Khartoum.

When the two Battalions changed foreign and home

service stations he was one of the N.C.O.s on the turn over, leaving Khartoum for Ismailia to await the arrival of the 1st Battalion.

Returning to the Depot at Mill Hill after six years service overseas he was in 1936 posted to the 2nd Battalion, joining the newly-formed Anti-tank gun company as a sergeant.

In July 1939 he was employed as a staff instructor to the London University O.T.C., later joining the staff of 166 O.C.T.U. in the same capacity. From October 1939 to January 1941 he was on the staff of 170 O.C.T.U. as a W.O.2, and on February 1, 1941, he left this unit on being granted an Emergency Commission. Six months later he was posted to a Royal Artillery unit in an administrative capacity and was appointed a temporary captain for a short period.

In June 1943 he rejoined the Regiment and, on being again appointed a temporary captain in December that year, was posted as a company commander at 26 M.G.T.C. at Chester. He held this command until he left the M.G.T.C. in September 1945.

He was released from the service on November 23, 1945.

After leaving the army he was for over a year steward of the Mill Hill Golf Club. As a result of the experience gained there he decided to open a boarding house at Brighton. He could not, however, keep away from soldiering and, having been put on the Reserve of Officers in April 1949 he later applied for, and was granted, a short Service Commission in the Regiment as a Lt. with effect from June 18, 1951.

In August 1952 he was promoted captain and a few months later transferred to R.E.M.E. With this Corps he served in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong until 1961 when he retired.

After retirement he was employed by the R.E.M.E. Association, but remained a Die-Hard in spirit up to the day of his death.

At his funeral on June 16 Major R. W. J. Smith represented the Regiment.

ex-C.S.M. E. R. Green, M.M. (6188566)

Ernest Richard Green, who died on January 19, 1967, enlisted for his first term of service in the Special Reserve of the Regiment on April 24, 1908. He became fond of soldiering and signed on a regular engagement in January 1909, when he was posted to the 4th Battalion. Later he was drafted to the 3rd Battalion, then on foreign service, and joined the Signal Section, in which he qualified as a 1st Class signaller in March 1913. He was to remain a signaller for the greater part of his service and was a well-remembered and very efficient Signal Sgt., firstly with the 3rd Battalion until its disbandment in 1922, and afterwards with the 1st Battalion. His Colour service terminated on January 3, 1930, when he was holding the rank of Colour Sergeant.

During the 1914-18 War he was awarded the Military Medal in the *London Gazette* of April 26, 1917, for showing initiative and courage on active service.

When war threatened in 1939 he enlisted for his third period of service on June 17, 1939, and continued to serve throughout the 1939-45 War, attaining the rank of

Warrant Officer Class II. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on August 17, 1945, and finally discharged on February 10, 1954.

During the last five years of his life he had bravely borne a series of illnesses.

The Regiment was represented at his funeral at the West Herts Crematorium, Watford, by Mr. R. H. Ferguson.

ex C.S.M. V. F. Rogers (L/12630)

Victor Francis Rogers died on June 23, 1967, at the age of 70.

He enlisted into the Regiment well under age and, except for the years during which he was a prisoner of war, he spent his entire service with the 4th Battalion.

During the Battle of Mons he was wounded in the head at Obourg Station on August 23, 1914. He was taken prisoner and remained in captivity until the Armistice. He was discharged on March 31, 1919, on ceasing to fulfil Army physical requirements.

He served throughout the 1939-45 War in the Home Guard and attained the rank of C.S.M.

The following tribute has been paid by ex-Cpl. G. J. Smith, M.M., (L/12624), late 4th Battalion, his close, personal friend since 1909:

"On June 23, 1967, Francis Rogers, formerly No. 12630, Private, 4th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment passed away. His cremation was with Military Honours, mainly paid by the Chums of the Portsmouth Branch of the Old Contemptibles' Association.

Francis Rogers was posted to "D" Company of the 4th Battalion on July 12, 1909, then stationed at Aldershot. The Battalion later moved to Devonport and from there in August 1914 proceeded to France as part of the 1st British Expeditionary Force. "D" Company was in position at the Railway Station at Obourg (Mons) and in this engagement Francis was wounded and taken prisoner. He was firstly sent to a P.O.W. Camp in Russia, and from there transferred to a farm in Germany where he remained until repatriated after the Armistice. Then followed discharge from the Army.

In the depression following the 1914-1918 war Francis was, for a considerable time, one of the large army of unemployed. He was given a course in signwriting and from that point on he never looked back, a successful man of business with a high reputation for craftsmanship.

Francis never lost interest in his old Regiment; and his work for Ex-Servicemen was monumental. As Chairman of the Croydon Branch of the Old Contemptibles and as Treasurer of the South Eastern Area Council of that Association he was indefatigable in his efforts to help the Ex-Servicemen. He recently removed from Croydon to Portsmouth where he was elected vice-chairman of that branch, thus continuing his interest in the Association and in Ex-Servicemen and their welfare.

His loyalty to, and his high regard for, his old regiment never faltered. He made many visits to Mons-Obourg for the observance of the ceremonies connected with the stand of the 4th Battalion at Obourg Station. His interest and services were recognised by the award of the Gold Medal and the Freedom of Mons and by the Association of the Veterans of King Albert I and by other Belgian Ex-Service organisations.

In 1939 Francis joined the Home Guard, served throughout the war period and attained the rank of Company Sergeant Major.

This is then the biography of a pre-1914 old soldier who was a credit to the Regiment in which he so proudly served, who overcame difficulties on discharge to become a successful man of business but who never forgot the cause of his less fortunate fellow Ex-Servicemen. But then Francis Rogers was not just an average citizen; he had one of the kindest and most generous dispositions, generous in thought, word and deed, more so than any other man it has been my lot to meet. His sense of justice and fair play was in character, truly service before self, his like are too thin on the ground.

His passing has left a gap in the ranks of the remaining few survivors of the pre-1914 4th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment.

My sense of personal loss is difficult to express. True comradeship from 1909 to 1967 is a very precious possession and old men largely live on memories. Francis, my dear old pal, may your soul rest in the peace it so richly deserves."

Ex Sgt. Drummer J. G. Holmes (L/5737 and 6188311)

As briefly reported in the October 1966 issue of *The Die-Hards* John George Holmes died on August 30, 1966, at the age of 81.

He enlisted in February 1899 at the age of 14, and joined the 2nd Battalion, being posted to the Corps of Drums.

When two extra regular Battalions were raised in 1900 he was posted to the 4th Battalion and served with that Battalion until 1911 when he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, then stationed at Leborg in India.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he returned to England with his battalion and went with them to join the B.E.F. in France in January 1915. During the Battle of Loos he was wounded and for his gallantry was awarded the Serbian Silver Medal for Distinguished Conduct. Although awarded in 1915 it was not until December 1947 that the actual medal was presented to him at the penultimate passing out parade of 57 P.T.C. at Inglis Barracks.

As well as seeing active service in France during the 1914-18 War he was also in Salonika and Constantinople, returning to England in 1919.

On its re-formation after the war he went with the 3rd Battalion to the Rhine to form part of the Army of Occupation and later—in May 1921—to Upper Silesia as part of the British Upper Silesian Plebiscite Force, which was sent there to maintain order during the plebiscite to decide how that highly industrial province was to be apportioned between Germany and Poland.

In 1922 under the "Geddes Axe" the 3rd Battalion was one of the units to be disbanded. At that time "Chic" Holmes, as he was universally known, had over 23 years' service, and decided to take his discharge to pension.

After his discharge he held various jobs and, for some time after the 1939-45 War, he was employed on the civilian staff at the Regimental Depot. A very popular member of the Regiment whilst serving he was, after his

discharge, a staunch member of the Regimental Association and the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club. He regularly attended regimental functions and reunions.

At his funeral service at Golders Green Crematorium the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith, whilst the Mill Hill Branch was represented by Mr. C. Ashby. Other ex-members of the Regiment present were Messrs. D. F. Drew, E. R. Green, M.M., W. Hollingworth, G. Sullivan and Mesdames Furniss and Kerswill.

After the funeral his medals consisting of the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, and the Serbian Silver Medal for Distinguished Conduct were presented to the Regimental Museum by his widow.

ex-Sgt. W. Clarke, D.C.M., M.M. (5292 and G/360)

William Clarke died on June 16, 1967, aged 86.

He enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers on December 10, 1897 and five days later was posted to the Middlesex Regiment, both regiments at that time sharing a Regimental Depot at Hounslow.

On completion of his recruit training he was drafted to the 1st Battalion, then on foreign service in South Africa, and in 1898 he went with the Battalion to India. After eight years' Colour Service he transferred to the Army Reserve on February 22, 1906, and was finally discharged on December 9, 1909.

In 1910 he enlisted again, this time into Section "D" of the Army Reserve reporting annually for training. This, his second term of service, lasted until June 1914.

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he volunteered and enlisted for a third term of service on August 31, 1914. As soon as he was clothed and equipped he was drafted to the B.E.F. to join the 4th Battalion, then licking its wounds after the Battles of Mons, Le Cateau, the Marne and the Aisne.

During the severe fighting which took place at Fricourt on July 1, 1916, and succeeding days Cpl. Clarke showed great powers of leadership and excellent aggressive fighting ability with bullet, bomb and bayonet. For his gallantry in this action he was awarded the newly-instituted decoration, the Military Medal. He learned of this award whilst in hospital recovering from wounds received during the fight.

On discharge from hospital in March 1917 he was posted to the 6th Battalion at Chatham, where he remained for a short time until he was posted, and welcomed, back to the 4th Battalion in France in June 1917.

During the long period of trench warfare that ensued up to the German Offensive in March 1918 he became an expert in daylight raiding, either by himself or with two or three similar intrepid fighting men, to gain valuable information. For his good and fearless work in this connection he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

The eve of the great German offensive saw a number of patrols raiding the enemy lines for information. On the evening of March 6, 1918, a party from the 4th Battalion consisting of 2/Lt. Stuart, Sgt. Clarke and Pte.

Butler crawled into the enemy lines and, during a swift action, captured two valuable prisoners, of whom one was a German sergeant-major. For this action Sgt. Clarke was awarded a bar to his M.M., and Pte. Butler the second bar to his M.M., after having received personal messages from the Divisional Commander for their gallant and successful raid.

After the war Sgt. Clarke was transferred to the Army Reserve and finally discharged on completion of his engagement on March 31, 1920.

For many years after his discharge he lived in Tottenham where he was a familiar figure at the local ex-Servicemen's parades, his decorations and erect bearing making him a conspicuous figure.

In his later years he lived alone and, when poor sight and lameness overtook him, he applied for admission to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, where he was eventually admitted in January 1966. Here his health improved under expert care but, unfortunately, he had a fall early this year and fractured his leg. From this injury and old age he died in the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich.

At his funeral at Brookwood, where so many of our Chelsea pensioners are buried, the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith, who had visited this courageous old Die-Hard on a number of occasions whilst he was an In-Pensioner.

His medals, consisting of the D.C.M., M.M. and bar, 1914 Star, British War and Victory Medals, were bequeathed to this close friend and benefactor, Mr. G. Chalkley, who presented them to the Regimental Museum, where they now lie next to those of his fighting comrade, the late Sgt. W. Butler.

ex-Cpl. H. J. Riley (6191394)

Henry James Riley died peacefully at Gillingham, Kent, on February 7, 1967, after suffering for over two years from lung cancer. He was aged 63.

Having added two years to his age he enlisted into the Regiment on June 4, 1919. His entire service was spent with the 1st Battalion, during its heyday in the sporting world, until he was discharged on June 3, 1928. An outstanding hurdler he was a member of the Battalion Athletics team, his tall frame and long legs frequently helping the Battalion to victory.

The Regiment was not represented at his funeral since news of his death did not reach Regimental Headquarters until June.

ex-Pte. T. Barker (TF/4596 and TF/291697)

Tom Barker, a member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club since 1964, died on July 31, 1967, aged 73.

He enlisted on November 16, 1915, as a member of the Territorial Force and was posted to the 4/10th Battalion. On completion of his training he was posted to the 1/10th Battalion in India and served in Lucknow until 1917 when he was drafted to the 1/9th Battalion for service in a theatre of war.

With the 1/9th Battalion he served in Mesopotamia until the end of the war when he returned to England and was finally discharged on termination of his service on November 27, 1919.

His funeral took place at Sheen Crematorium on August 14, 1967, when Mr. R. H. Ferguson represented the Regiment.

ex-Pte. P. A. Emery (G/6799)

Percy Alfred Emery, who died on June 23, 1967, aged 72, was born in Montreal, Canada, and came to England with his parents in 1898.

Originally a cavalryman he transferred to the infantry and joined the 12th (Service) Battalion of the Regiment in France in 1915. He was wounded during the early days of the Somme battles and was posted to the 6th Battalion at Chatham in September 1916. On recovery he returned to France but was again wounded and, as a result, was discharged as medically unfit for further military service in February 1918.

After the war his health improved sufficiently to enable him to join the Shanghai Police Force. On retirement therefrom he lived for the rest of his life in Erith and Bexleyheath, Kent, and died in Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

Unfortunately news of his death was not received until the afternoon of the funeral, which prevented the Regiment from being represented.

ex-Pte. G. E. Ford (L/5633)

As briefly announced in the October 1966 issue of *The Die-Hards* George Ford, one of our dwindling Spion Kop survivors, died on August 27, 1966, in his 85th year.

He enlisted in the 2nd Battalion in June 1898, four months after its arrival home from India. To enter the ranks as a soldier he added two years to his age. This was later to enable him to claim the distinction of being the youngest man in the Regiment to fight at the Battle of Spion Kop on January 24, 1900.

After his initial training he embarked in December 1899 with the Battalion for South Africa to take part in the Boer War. He was wounded at Spion Kop and was evacuated to England in the Hospital Ship "Maine." On recovery he returned to South Africa and joined a Mounted Infantry detachment of the Regiment. During the fighting at Naawport West in March 1901 he was again wounded, but only slightly.

He returned to England after peace with the Boers was signed and in December 1902 was posted to the 1st Battalion then stationed in India. On completion of his Colour service he was transferred to the Army Reserve in January 1907.

When the Army Reserve was mobilised in August 1914 he rejoined the 1st Battalion and with them landed in France as part of the B.E.F. in the very early days of the 1914-18 War.

After the Armistice he was demobilised, but he remained a staunch supporter of the Regimental Association, being a regular and familiar figure at regimental functions.

A vigorous octogenarian, he was a night messenger for the P. and O. Cable Company, Royal Exchange. His hours of duty were from 10 p.m. until 6.30 a.m., and

he was working these hours up to three weeks before his death.

At his funeral the Regiment was represented by Major R. W. J. Smith.

ex-Pte. G. Grover (6201259)

George Grover died on February 3, 1967, at the comparatively early age of 54.

He enlisted into the Regiment on August 30, 1933, and, after completing his recruit training, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion.

In April 1935 he was posted to the 1st Battalion then stationed at Ismailia in Egypt. A year later he sailed with the Battalion to Singapore to occupy the newly-built Gillman Barracks. He was only in Singapore for seventeen months, for in August 1937 the Battalion was moved at 72 hours notice to Hong Kong when the Sino-Japanese war was spreading southwards to the Canton area.

On the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he was sent as a reinforcement to another unit and, although he was not with the 1st Battalion during the Battle of Hong Kong, he took part in the fighting in the Pacific theatre of war, being invalided home as a result of wounds in November 1942. As he was medically unfit for further military service he was discharged on February 6, 1953.

For the last few years of his life he was unable to travel far, but he kept in touch by correspondence and had been a member of the Regimental Association since the end of the 1939-45 War.

At his funeral Mr. R. H. Ferguson represented the Regiment.

ex-Pte. C. W. Williams (6203532)

Charles William Williams died on April 17, 1967, within four days of his 49th birthday.

He enlisted into the Regiment on February 18, 1937, and was with the 1st Battalion during the Battle of Hong Kong in December 1941. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese when the garrison surrendered on Christmas Day, 1941, and remained a P.O.W. until December 1945.

On his return to England after the war he was found to be unfit for further military service and was discharged on July 22, 1946. As a disabled member of the Regiment he was later allotted one of the Regimental Memorial homes at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

After his release from the service he took up employment on the staff of the R.A.F. Officers' Mess at Stanmore, where he was extremely popular, and remained in this employment up to the time of his death. In all he served the R.A.F. for 19 years—more than double the time he served with the Regiment.

Appreciation of his services was shown by the number of R.A.F. representatives who attended his funeral on April 24, 1967. Altogether five R.A.F. officers attended, including an officer representing the A.O.C. in C. (Air Marshal Sir Frederick Rosier).

Apart from Major R. W. J. Smith, who represented the Regiment, many of his old comrades living in Albuhera Close attended the funeral to pay their last respects.

Stop Press

Ex-Bdsm. P. Gower (6189414), the unbeaten 100 yards and 220 yards sprint champion in the 2nd Battalion for so many years, died on September 14, 1967.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, C.B., M.C., D.L.,
Colonel of The Regiment, 1952-1959.

25 Belvedere Avenue,
Wimbledon, S.W.19
September 8, 1967.

DEAR EDITOR,

All ranks of the Regiment will regard the passing of our Regimental Journal, *The Die-Hards*, with this final issue with deep regret.

For nearly 70 years since the South African war the Journal has kept us and our friends in close touch with Regimental affairs and with the activities of individual members. It has moreover commented with wisdom and judgment on wider issues affecting the Army and the other Services.

Through grave wars and in times of peace, through changes, some shattering, in Army Organisation and social development, a loyal and hard working staff has always kept the Journal at the highest standard of interest and production—never more so than at present. This has been achieved despite varying degrees of financial stress. We are all indeed grateful.

As a late Colonel of the Regiment I feel all my friends will agree that this sad event should not be allowed to occur without warm-hearted comment, and I believe in these few words I am expressing their views and feelings.

All ranks will desire also to send our best wishes to our Journal's Successor—"The Journal of the Queen's Regiment"—and to assure the staff, and our sister Battalions, of our loyal support in the future.

Yours sincerely,

G. C. BUCKNALL.

From: Major-General B. P. Hughes, C.B., C.B.E.,
Honorary Colonel 10th (T) Battalion, The Queen's
Regiment (Middlesex) and former Honorary Colonel
9th and 5th Battalions, The Middlesex Regiment
(D.C.O.) T.A.

September 12, 1967.

SIR,

As the last remaining Honorary Colonel of Middlesex Territorials, may I write to you on this occasion.

I write not only in the name of the present 10th Battalion, which I can represent, but, if I may do so without presumption, on behalf also of all the many Middlesex Volunteers who, serving in so many units with histories going right back even into the 18th Century, have always had a primary allegiance to the County and to its County Regiment.

In fact that they have been members of that Regiment has always been a matter of honour and pride, and the sharing of its great traditions and history has been a constant inspiration.

I think that we should all now like to acknowledge our debt to *The Die-Hards*, which has done so much to maintain, and remind us of, those ties; and that we should all like to thank all those who have been responsible for its production.

We shall miss *The Die-Hards*, but the spirit that it has encouraged so well is indestructible.

B. P. HUGHES,
Colonel.

From: Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O.,
M.C., T.D., D.L., J.P., Honorary Colonel, 8th and 5th
Battalions T.A., 1942-1963.

Stanbridge House,
Oakfield Corner,
Amersham, Bucks.
September, 7 1967.

DEAR EDITOR,

This farewell letter for publication in the final issue of *The Die-Hards* has brought home to me a fuller significance of the merging of our Regiment to form part of the new Queen's Regiment. Having been commissioned to the 5th (Special Reserve) Battalion, having commanded the 2nd Battalion and the 8th Battalion, and having been Honorary Colonel of the 2/8th and of the 8th, which became the 11th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and was finally merged with its sister Territorial Battalions to form a new 5th Battalion, I have many nostalgic memories.

Throughout my service I have looked forward keenly to receiving my copy of *The Die-Hards* and it is sad to think that regimental news must now come from other sources. I shall look forward with equal keenness to regular receipt of the Regimental Newsletter, and I urge all my old friends in the Regiment to support it as loyally as they supported the Regimental Journal.

So let us treasure our memories, hold our hopes on the future and be worthy of our glorious reputation by being Die-Hards to the very end.

Yours sincerely,

FREDDY BAKER.

MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATES

Details of the forthcoming events will be found on the Regimental Calendar of Events at the front of the book.

From: Brigadier H. A. D. Murray, O.B.E., T.D., D.L.,
Honorary Colonel, 7th Battalion T.A., 1948-53.

The Penthouse,
Crow Clumb,
St. George's Hill,
Weybridge, Surrey.
September 9, 1967.

DEAR EDITOR,

In sending you this letter for publication in the final issue of "*The Die-Hards*" it brings home to me, as it doubtless will to many others, a sense of personal loss at the severance of a link between past and present members of the Regiment. We have already experienced an acute sense of sadness following upon the reorganisation of the Army and the many changes this has entailed in our own Regiment. But we must recognise that modernisation must prevail.

The old 7th Battalion will at least retain some of its centres and forever its shrine in our memorial chapel at Hornsey Parish Church, where our Colours now rest. In looking back over past journals it is striking to find so many articles that have recorded events that have made history for the Regiment and for the County of Middlesex. For example one entry in 1932 tells us that for economy reasons there are to be no T.A. Camps in that year. In many ways, though it caused consternation at the time, it proved to be a blessing in disguise for in that year the bonds of friendship between the Regular and T.A. Forces were cemented for all time. From that time the massive help and kindness bestowed on us continued in the future until we became one Regiment in every sense of the word. The T.A. owes a great deal to their Regular brothers for what they did for us and also our everlasting gratitude for the Adjutants they sent to us.

We shall hope that the 4th Battalion will continue to keep us in touch with events which all of us will follow with pride.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID MURRAY.

From: Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L.,
Chairman, Middlesex Regimental Association

Lea Barn,
Cookham Dean,
Berks.
August 19, 1967.

DEAR EDITOR,

Writing to you at the time of the final issue of *The Die-hards Journal* my thoughts and thanks go to the few who, year by year and despite tremendous financial difficulties, have kept it alive. The reports of our battalions and individuals have enabled all your readers to maintain a contact with one another and, to some extent, this will continue through the new *Queen's Regimental Journal* and the *News Letter* being sent out from your office.

The Middlesex Regimental Association will continue as long as one Die-hard is still standing, to promote comradeship and give assistance where necessary. I hope all your readers will choose this occasion to get non-members to send in their names and addresses to you.

Yours sincerely,

DESMOND ELLIS.

From: Brigadier N. P. Procter, C.B.E., M.C.

Grove Two,
Fleet, Hants.
August 27, 1967.

DEAR EDITOR AND READERS,

It is an honour, but a sad one, to be invited to send a message for this final issue of *The Die-Hards*. Having accepted, I find it hard to know what to say, as I gather some eight other ex-Editors and others will be saying all I could wish to say—but much more adequately.

Perhaps this is an occasion upon which it can be forgiven if one looks a long, long way back, since it is for those who have known and worked for "*The Die-Hards*," have hoarded their copies and delved into them from time to time over the years, that the words "THE END" to "The Journal of The Middlesex Regiment" is particularly sad.

I had greatness, in the form of the Editorship, thrust upon me in 1950 when I was—in point of fact—a retired officer of the South Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales' Volunteers). I lasted until the end of 1953, and should think that was long enough because I had been away from the Regiment 13 years and most of the Regiment was unknown to me.

I doubt if many "Die-Hards" are as fortunate as myself in having four beautifully "Bumpus" bound volumes of *The Die-Hards* from Vol. I, No. 1, August 1922, to Vol. IV, No. 12, May 1934, and I have to thank R.Q.M.S. Bowles of the 9th Battalion who worked at Messrs. Bumpus's for starting me off by offering to get my loose copies of Vol. I bound for me. Having accepted this handsome volume I had to carry on until events occurred so fast that Vol. V never got bound.

Messrs. Bumpus included the covers of the first and last numbers of each volume. I was reminded, on looking at my Vol. I, that the original Vol. I, No. 1, was white with Regimental Colour rectangular surround and the Badge, etc. in Black. I rather like it, but by Vol. I, No. 12, anyhow, we have the much more ornate cover which was still used in 1934. I regret that I cannot quote the dates of later changes. Looking through my bound copies I find that I was a contributor and/or Sub-Editor from very early in Vol. I, and perhaps I may be forgiven if I record now that because of the lack of a Regimental Journal after the 1914-18 War until August 1922, I tried to fill the gap for the 1st Battalion (whilst we were at Gravesend, on The Rhine, in Ireland or Silesia and back to wherever we were hopping to and fro, with the help of many people in the Battalion) by producing a small pamphlet covering the sporting and social activities of the period of the gap.

I believe that there is a copy in the Museum; I have not one myself. The effort was not subsidised by the P.R.I. The copies sent to Cologne (from Silesia) were overlooked by a young officer put in charge, and as the mark had beaten all records in running down, before it was discovered that the young Ensign had been sitting on them regardless. I was not in pocket.

I have never tried to do anything so ambitious, at my own risk, again.

As far back as I can remember there has been the cry that the Journal was dull—repetition in that all sub-units were best, etc., etc., and much time and talk have been wasted on modernising it.

From the point of view of the immediate moment of production the Journal has never been, and could not be perfect, but it would have been of no value to those of us who returned to its pages to settle an argument as to who was where and when, if its form had got high-brow.

The Die-Hards dies and a new Journal is starting to cover a new Regiment in new and trying conditions. Let us wish the new Regiment a great future and may the new Journal give as much interest and pleasure to its Editors and readers as many of us have had in *The Die-Hards*, The Journal of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), and for the last time in 45 years may I apologise as usual to the typist who competes with my writing.

Yours nostalgically,

N. P. PROCTER.

From: Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.

6a Langford Place,
St. John's Wood,
London, N.W.8.
August 26, 1967.

The Editor,
"The Die-Hards,"

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

This is the final issue of *The Die-Hards*. To us, the Veterans of The Middlesex Regiment, it would be hypocritical to say that it is not a sad occasion. It is. But it is only the end of a phase.

After all, when Col. Inglis made his memorable battle-cry at Albuhera, he was commanding the 57th Regiment of Foot—not The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). Change when necessary is progress.

The Journal of The Queen's Regiment carries on the story. I wish it every success.

We shall continue to have the same sort of news of our Regiment.

Finally, let me pay my humble tribute to all the Editors and subscribers of *The Die-Hards* who, over the years have contributed such devoted work to the success of the Journal, and none more so than our present Editor, Col. Walden.

Yours faithfully,

B. B. RACKHAM.

From: Brigadier A. E. Green, D.S.O., O.B.E.

Little Steart House,
Babcary,
Somerton,
Somerset.

August 18, 1967.

DEAR SIR,

As a former Editor of the *Die-Hards*, 1957-61, at that time by remote control from Scotland, I feel that I cannot allow the passing of our Journal to go unmentioned. It has been and will always be an excellent historical record of the Regiment's activities and achievements.

In this context I must praise the numerous historical articles written by Dick Smith, particularly that series he wrote, called "Men of the Regiment." In this sphere Dick Smith surpasses Woolwright.

I consider, Mr. Editor, that you have made the Journal a very readable and personal publication, and I am sure that I write for many others, when I say, that *The Die-Hards* under your editorship will be sadly missed.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR GREEN.

From: Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.

Infield,
Dane Hill,
Sussex.
August 16, 1967.

The Editor,
"The Die-Hards,"

DEAR EDITOR,

I hope it will not be deemed inappropriate for me as a past-chairman of the Regimental Association to write a note of farewell just before you publish the last issue of our Regimental Journal.

For those of us who have been regular readers for more years than we care to remember it is indeed hard to realise that we shall no longer be receiving the news of the doings of our Regiment presented as it has been in such an attractive manner.

It would be invidious to mention by name the many editors who over the years have provided us with a Regimental Journal which we consider second to none, but may I on behalf of the readers place on record our gratitude and appreciation of their efforts.

It is always a good thing to fade out at the top of the wave, and you, the last Editor of *The Die-Hards* have achieved this by producing a publication during your period of office which has never been surpassed.

It is therefore with a sense of gratitude that we say farewell.

Yours sincerely,

G. L. FOX.

From: Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.

The Royal Automobile Club,
Pall Mall,
London, S.W.1.

August 21, 1967.

DEAR EDITOR,

The end of our Journal belies its name, for it will not "die-hard," it must passively pass-out. It is particularly unfortunate that this should occur when the Journal is being more brilliantly produced than ever before in its long history. The dedicated skill and energy of the Editor, Col. Walden, has inspired the splendid contributions which we have in recent years enjoyed so pleasingly.

I have found most refreshing the photographs of clean, smart soldiers with hair neatly cut and wearing their uniforms with distinction.

What a contrast to the pictures and sights of those long-haired "Pop" creatures who lounge about disgracing famous uniforms which they have no right to wear! Why cannot this degrading practice be forbidden or ridiculed? Perhaps our young women could show their contempt.

There is one consolation to the end of our Journal. Its production was so expensive that it had to be subsidised from Regimental Association Funds to the extent of nearly £400 a year.

This money will now be available to give temporary assistance to an extra 50 cases of our members and their families who regrettably may be in distress.

As an ex-chairman I know what a blessing our Association has been to so many, and still is anxious to help those in need. It already regularly assists over 150 cases every year.

Yours sincerely,

W. L. ROBERTS.

From: Major G. W. Kempster

"The Shielin,"

147 Barnett Wood Lane,
Ashstead, Surrey.

August 17, 1967.

The Editor,
"The Die-Hards,"

DEAR EDITOR,

At the conclusion of the last war I became secretary of the Regimental Association and *ipso facto* the Editor of *The Die-Hards*. To my surprise, I found that it was in being. A Home Guard officer had operated it as best he could for touch with the Battalions had been lost, very largely for security reasons. A sub-committee was quickly formed, headed by the late Col. Beach. We managed our advertising in our own way, and actually made the Journal pay its way, despite the reluctance of many serving soldiers to subscribe. I gave up the editorship with my appointment at the end of 1947. In my opinion the editions were then not very good; they were too sketchy. The fact was we were frightened of the appalling rise in costs.

Sometime about 1954 Col. Roberts asked me to take over the editorship again, and I acted for some two or three years. As an older and more experienced man my approach probably was better. It was so obvious that we had to get away from too much of the "Private Snooks was runner-up in the Inter-Platoon darts competition" type of reporting, not that in the past I had not helped to foster it myself, but now I campaigned for contributions with a broader interest and met with a measure of success. I was better pleased with the result, but still we had to watch the costs, and my pruning did not please always. However, whatever was accomplished, was due to the excellence of the contributions sent to me, but even so we never, in my time, produced such outstanding editions as we have seen under the present management. It is sad indeed that this final copy is published as our much loved journal attains perfection.

Yours very sincerely,

KEMP.

From: Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

12 Devonshire Road,
Mill Hill, N.W.7.
September 11, 1967.

The Editor,
"The Die-Hards,"

DEAR SIR,

It is with great sorrow that I write my first letter to you, Mr. Editor, for inclusion in what is to be the last publication of the Middlesex Regimental Magazine.

Admittedly, in the past I have written short articles for publication, the first dating back to the late twenties when I was detailed to write the Band notes of the 2nd Battalion, but this is my first letter. In those days, as ever since, I was an avid reader of the journal, especially of the article signed "G.W.W.S." This was the late Colonel G. W. W. Savile, "Old Vinegar Bottle," as the troops fondly called him due to his tall thin figure and long neck. It was an untold pleasure to meet and listen to his great fund and knowledge after I had returned home from overseas service. His knowledge of our Regiment was encyclopaedic. His keenness whetted my appetite to do the same.

May I, for the benefit of readers of this, our last issue, who may not know the story of our own regimental publication, tell a little of its history?

The predecessor of the present journal was first published on January 15, 1901, the brainchild of C/Sgt. (O.R.S.) Walter Amadus Grey, who was a well educated man, amiable and courteous. He was the first sub-editor to the appointed editor, Capt. and Adjutant H. W. E. Finch, the paper they edited being named *The Die-Hards' Doings*, a monthly paper costing originally three annas, later reduced to two annas. This publication was mainly for the 1st Battalion but it welcomed, and published, news from all battalions. Printed in Madras for the battalion then serving in Trimulgherry, the peculiar spelling and misprints were often of a hilarious nature. An editor of this early paper is, happily, still with us.

He is Colonel W. A. Stewart who was the editor sixty years ago.

Many interesting items appeared from the pens of various people who were to become well-known names. In the very first copy, a Mr. Winston Churchill writes to tell the readers of the courage of Lt. H. Wilson at the Battle of Spion Kop (2/Lt. H. A. C. Wilson was killed during the battle). Another signature which often appears at the end of contributions, was Edgar Wallace, then a correspondent for the *Daily Mail*. He wrote a number of "Smithy" articles and was very fond of the Middlesex Regiment and its soldiers whom he had met in South Africa. As an ex-soldier, his articles were read with great interest by the man in the ranks. *The Die-Hards' Doings* finally closed down in 1909 as it was then being published at a loss. It was still costing only 2 annas, the last issue having the misprint for the price, reading, "Pirce 2 Annas"!

In January 1913, a successor monthly paper, the *Regimental News* was published from the Depot at Mill Hill, each of the four Regular, two Special Reserve, four Territorial Battalions and the Depot having its own separate section in the paper. It also showed the old badges of each battalion as seen on the cover of this, our last issue. The price was twopence, the paper as with *The Die-Hards' Doings* being published each month. Full of interest, the *Regimental News* was published up to July, 1914. The outbreak of war caused it to cease. The publishers were Charles Orchard & Co., of Mall Yard, Church End, Finchley, Middlesex, where Pope's show rooms now stand. At the same time as this journal, covering the whole of the regiment, was being published, there was also a special monthly periodical, the *Gazette* of the 7th Battalion being published. This was parochial in its contents as it dealt with one battalion only and had done so for 29 years, having first been published in 1884.

This series of regimental journals was first published in August, 1922, under its present title *The Die-Hards*. This was a quarterly magazine at the cost of ninepence, originally printed by Gale and Poldens of Aldershot. The printers were changed in 1937 to F. J. Parsons who now print our last publication. There was a break from August 1939 when the last copy published before the 1939-45 War was printed, still costing ninepence per number, until it was restarted in September, 1944, at the price of one shilling. The Editor in 1944 was Capt. G. E. Moore, 24th Middlesex Battalion Home Guard. I am sure, Mr. Editor, that those who have been responsible for our journal since 1944 already have written to you. This I do wish to say, "Thank You" for the hours and hours of toil you have put in to make our journal so interesting, so readable, so current with news that Quartermaster Sergeant W. Amadus Grey who died in harness sixty-two years ago would join me with all *Die-Hards* in words of appreciation.

I hope I have not been too lengthy and too boring in this letter telling, briefly, the story of our *own* magazine and pray the indulgence of your readers. Some, I feel sure, would like to know what went before.

Having said this, I trust your subscribers will continue to support the Regimental News Letter you refer

to in the body of this issue and the new Queen's Magazine, a case of

"The King is dead; Long live the King."

Yours nostalgically,

DICK SMITH.

From: Mr. G. H. E. Duffield, M.S.M., ex-Depot Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant

"Norlington,"

54 Stevenage Road,

Knebworth, Herts.

September 3, 1967.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

Your announcement in the April, 1967 issue of "*The Die-Hards*," that the last issue will be in October, 1967, owing to the reorganisation of the Army in general and our Regiment in particular, makes this inevitable; but it is noted with pleasure that a "Newsletter" will take its place.

The end of "*The Die-Hards*" brings back some memories of the past and my connection with it and its predecessors.

I joined the 4th Battalion as a Drummer Boy at the wish of the then Adjutant, Capt. H. E. Foster, from The Gordon Boys' School, Woking, in April, 1902.

Shortly after I became one of the four holders of a First Class Certificate of Education and in consequence, in 1906, I was appointed a young Orderly Room Clerk—this brought me in contact with Lt. and Quartermaster (later Lt.-Colonel, O.B.E., D.C.M.) F. S. Steed.

The Journal was then known as "*The Die-Hards Doings*" and was entirely devoted to the news of the 1st Battalion, stationed in India, and produced by them.

Lt. Steed acted as a representative of the 4th Battalion for any news of interest, for publication, and I used to assist him.

We tried to increase its circulation but not very successfully, largely owing to almost inclusive 1st Battalion items and the long time lapse to and fro from India—it took about a month or so each way. The publication lapsed so far as we were concerned.

In 1913 I had been appointed Orderly Room C/Sgt. at the Depot. It was then decided to publish a journal from The Depot with news for the whole of The Regiment.

Lt. and Quartermaster (later Major) E. H. Amor was appointed Editor and I his assistant.

I recall obtaining the services of Lt. (later Brigadier) O. H. Tidbury to design the cover.

The publication continued until the outbreak of the First World War when it ceased.

In 1920 I was the Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant at the Depot, when Lt.-Colonel V. L. N. Pearson, who then commanded the Depot, asked me to assist in reviving the journal; this I did until I left in 1923.

The passing of "*The Die-Hards*" is sad, but time marches on and nothing can stop it.

Yours sincerely,

GEO. H. E. DUFFIELD.

OFFICERS' CLUB NOTES

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER, 1967

The Regimental Officers' Club Dinner this year was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1, on Friday, July 21.

Major-General C. M. M. Man presided, and the guests of the evening were Air Chief Marshal Sir Leslie Hollinghurst, formerly 3rd Battalion; Major-General B. P. Hughes, Honorary Colonel 10th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex); Col. de Barros Botelho, Honorary Colonel, The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers); Col. W. H. Godfrey, President of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association; and Lt.-Col. D. M. Gluckstein, Chairman of the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association.

Others present were:

Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	Major F. A. L. Lawrence
Major-General Sir John Willoughby	Major R. J. Leighton
Brigadier E. E. F. Baker	Major Sir Arthur Lewey
Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell	Major D. V. Littlejohn
Col. J. R. Burrows	Major H. J. A. Moore
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton	Major E. J. Naish
Col. W. D. Ellis	Major L. F. E. Nichols
Col. A. M. Man	Major J. S. B. Pollard
Col. D. C. L. Nolda	Major P. D. H. Powell
Col. J. W. G. Ormiston	Major L. F. Shaw
Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker	Major H. Sherwood
Col. F. Walden	Major P. R. Smedhurst (Guest)
Lt.-Col. K. J. Carter	Major R. W. J. Smith
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey	Major M. P. Weedon
Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox	Capt. D. E. S. Ball
Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall	Capt. S. R. Bonnamy
Lt.-Col. L. H. J. de la M. Herapath	Capt. N. J. Bryant
Lt.-Col. R. D. Hutchings	Capt. D. K. Cattell
Lt.-Col. F. de R. Morgan	Capt. P. D. J. Clarke
Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould	Capt. G. Goring
Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson	Capt. A. R. K. Hardcastle
Major M. J. Beaumont	Capt. P. J. T. Lane
Major P. G. V. Bellers	Capt. M. L. Muirhead
Major J. Pa Bromwich	Capt. P. F. Murray
Major R. M. Cain	Capt. C. G. Webber
Major R. H. Couch	Lt. D. J. Daniells
Major J. W. Doyle	Lt. R. T. Douthet
Major J. D. Gunnell	Lt. E. C. Graham
Major H. K. Hardcastle	Lt. J. C. J. Grobel
Major G. W. Kempster	Lt. R. G. Vaisey
Major C. L. Lawrence	

Before the Loyal Toast the President read out the following telegram which had been sent to Her Majesty The Queen:

"The Officers' Club of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) dining at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, on 21st July, 1967, present their humble duty and loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen."

and the following reply which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to have sent:

"Please convey to the Members of the Officers' Club of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) the sincere thanks of The Queen for their kind message of loyal greetings which Her Majesty greatly appreciates."

Before the toast "The Regiment" was proposed the President read out messages from 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) and from Lt.-Col. E. A. H. Jeffcoat, on behalf of all members serving in F.A.R.E.L.F.

GOLF

Regimental Spring Meeting

In an effort to increase the numbers taking part in Regimental golf meetings it was agreed by the Officers' Club Executive Committee at their meeting last February that for the Spring and Autumn golf meetings this year near relatives of officers who had served in the Regiment and officers of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment should be invited to take part; and that this experiment should be reviewed after the Autumn meeting with a view to deciding whether or not it should be continued.

As a result of implementing the experiment the Spring meeting held at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Friday, April 21, was most successful, a total of 15 taking part.

The results of the various competitions were:—

Singles Medal Competition (18 holes) Scratch and Handicap

	Gross	Hcp	Net
Capt. M. S. Gedye (winner, scratch)	82	10	72
Major P. A. S. Wollocombe (runner-up, scratch and handicap)	84	12	72
Lt.-Colonel T. W. Chattey	86	14	72
Capt. R. D. Latham	88	14	74
Lt.-Colonel J. R. B. Worton	89	13	76
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle (winner, handicap)	89	20	69
Mr. M. R. T. Walden	91	8	83
Lt. A. M. Hendry	92	14	78
Mrs. A. M. Hendry	94	15	79
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle (divot)	103	17	86
Colonel M. Crawford	NR	16	NR
Lt. D. J. Daniell	NR	18	NR
Major-General C. M. M. Man	NR	24	NR
Mrs. M. S. Gedye	NR	24	NR

Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows Flatlets Albuhera Close Enfield

Have you given your
contribution to this
worthy cause?

Stableford Foursomes

	Points
Colonel M. Crawford and Lt-Colonel T. W. Chattey	36
Mrs. A. M. Hendry and Mr. M. R. T. Walden ..	35
Lt.-Colonel J. R. B. Worton and Lt. A. M. Hendry	30
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle and Capt. R. D. Latham ..	30
Major P. A. S. Wollocombe and Lt. D. J. Daniell	24
Messrs Maxwell Holles and R. H. K. Hardcastle	15
Major-General and Mrs. C. M. M. Man ..	NR
Capt. and Mrs. M. S. Gedye	NR

Hidden Holes Competition

	Gross	$\frac{1}{2}$ Hcp	Net
Lt.-Colonel T. W. Chattey (winner)	24	5	19
Capt. M. S. Gedye (runner-up) ..	24	3	21
Major P. A. S. Wollocombe ..	26	4	22
Mr. M. R. T. Walden ..	26	3	23
Capt. R. D. Latham ..	28	5	23
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle ..	29	6	23
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle ..	30	7	23
Lt.-Colonel J. R. B. Worton ..	28	4	24
Lt. A. M. Hendry ..	29	5	24
Mrs. A. M. Hendry ..	30	5	25
Colonel M. Crawford ..	NR	5	NR
Lt. D. J. Daniell ..	NR	6	NR
Major-General C. M. M. Man ..	NR	8	NR
Mrs. M. S. Gedye ..	NR	13	NR

At the conclusion of the Meeting Mrs. Man very kindly gave away the prizes.

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THE NEWTON DRIVER SERVICES CLUB, RUSTINGTON, SUSSEX

The Newton Driver Services Club at Rustington was opened in 1948 as a leave centre for officers and ex-officers of the three Services and their wives.

This attractive club directly overlooks the sea and comprises a modern building and two annexes, all of which are centrally heated and very well furnished. A television room, sun lounge, sea terraces, an open-air sun bathing deck and croquet lawn are provided, and there is a pavilion with excellent facilities for bathing. Local facilities include golf, tennis, riding, river and sea fishing and sailing. The club is served by very good public transport services to Brighton, Worthing, Littlehampton and other centres where cinemas, theatres and concert halls are available.

Subscriptions. Those who stay at the club as residents are required to pay a membership subscription of 2s. 6d., which is included in their account and covers the period of their stay. The charges for day and annual membership are as follows:

Day membership subscription, 2s. 6d. a visit.

Annual membership subscription, £2 2s. if resident within a 25-mile radius of the club; £1 1s. if resident outside 25-mile radius. The annual membership subscription covers the period January 1 to December 31 and a membership card is provided for all annual members.

Accommodation and Terms. The club building and the two annexes can accommodate approximately 60 guests. The weekly terms for each person are from 12½ guineas and vary according to the position of the rooms and the time of the year.

Children. The club cannot accept children under 12 years of age.

Pets. The club is unable to accommodate dogs.

The nearest railway station is Angmering, to which there are fast trains from Victoria or London Bridge.

PLEASE SUPPORT

THE JOURNAL OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

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THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Headquarters: Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

President: Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C.

Chairman: Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L.

Vice-Chairman: Lt.-Col. R. D. Hutchings

Secretary: Col. F. Walden, D.L.

BRANCHES

Branches	Hon. Secretary	Meetings	Place
Ealing	Mr. A. White, 56 Warkworth Gardens, Isleworth, Middlesex.	Monthly, on 2nd Thursday.	T.A. Centre, Churchfield Road, Ealing, W.13.
Hong Kong ..	Major W. G. A. Crumley H.Q. Royal Hong Kong De- fence Force, B.F.P.O. 1.	Annually, during the 3rd week in January.	R.H.K.D.F. Volunteer Centre, Queen's Road, Central, Hong Kong.
Hornsey and Enfield ..	Mr. L. A. J. Hosslen, M.I.O.M., A.M.B.I.M., 262 Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.	Quarterly, usually on a Wednesday.	T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.
Hounslow ..	Mr. A. J. Wales, 143 Waye Avenue, Cranford, Middlesex.	Monthly, on last Thursday	T.A. Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex.
Mill Hill ..	Mr. E. C. Colebeck, Belmont, Chilton Road, Edgware, Middlesex.	Monthly, on last Saturday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
Portsmouth and Gosport ..	Mr. L. C. West, Grove House, 59 Gosport Road, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants.	Monthly, on 2nd Friday.	R.A.F.A. Club, Stoke Road, Gosport, Hants. (near White Hart Hotel).
Uxbridge ..	Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E., 127 Leybourne Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex.	Monthly, on last Friday	Battle of Britain Club, Hillingdon Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex.
2/7th Battalion ..	Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3.	Yearly, on 1st Friday in October.	Varies from year to year. Dinner Club only.
9th Battalion ..	Mr. R. T. Meers, 87 Tudor Court South, Wembley, Middlesex.	Monthly, on last Thursday.	T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
W.O.s' and Sergeants' ..	Mr. L. R. Johnson, 78 Deans Lane, Edgware, Middlesex.	Monthly on 2nd Saturday.	Sgts.' Mess, T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Donations

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from the undermentioned to the Charitable Fund:—

Mr. A. Bailey, Mr. J. W. Cleave, Lt. J. B. Hawkins, Mr. L. P. Levy and Mr. A. L. Nicholls.

Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widow's Flatlets, Enfield

The following contributions to the above Appeal were received between January 1, 1967, and August 31, 1967:

	£	s.	d.
Capt. N. T. Neal (covenanted)	25	0	0
Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association (covenanted)	15	15	0
Lt.-Colonel G. L. Fox (covenanted)	15	0	0
Major H. Sherwood (covenanted)	15	0	0
Colonel J. G. E. Reid	10	0	0
Lt.-Colonel H. P. Lambert (covenanted)	5	0	0
Lt.-Colonel A. E. L. Robey (covenanted)	5	0	0
Lt.-Colonel J. R. B. Worton (covenanted)	5	0	0
Major F. J. Bennett (covenanted)	5	0	0
Major P. D. H. Powell (covenanted)	5	0	0
Capt. C. H. Richards	5	0	0
Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks (covenanted)	3	3	0
Colonel A. Pritchard (covenanted)	3	3	0
Colonel M. H. Summers (covenanted)	3	3	0
Brigadier E. W. C. Flavell (covenanted)	3	0	0
Capt. F. I. T. Lane (covenanted)	3	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Spooner	2	2	0
Colonel D. Sax (covenanted)	2	0	0
Lt.-Colonel E. A. H. Jelfcoat (covenanted)	2	0	0
Lt.-Colonel F. de R. Morgan (covenanted)	2	0	0
Major J. G. Chiverall (covenanted)	2	0	0
Lt. M. F. Hedgecoe (covenanted)	2	0	0
Colonel J. W. G. Ormiston (covenanted)	1	10	0
Major C. H. K. Fisher (covenanted)	1	1	0
Major M. P. Weedon (covenanted)	1	1	0
Colonel I. R. Burrows (covenanted)	1	0	0
Bdsm. T. A. Barton (covenanted)	1	0	0
Capt. W. H. Craydon	1	0	0
Total	£144	8	0

The total sum of contributions received up to August 31, 1967, towards the Appeal amounts to £8,098 7s. 11d.

SUMMER OUTING

A summer outing in the form of a trip by river steamer from Windsor to Marlow and return for members of the Association and their families took place on Sunday, June 25, 1967.

Two coaches were laid on to take the party from Edgware to Windsor with picking-up points at Hendon, Neasden and Northolt. The start was arranged for 10 a.m. to allow sufficient time for travelling for those who had long journeys to make. Ginger Alma, D.C.M., had the long journey from Canvey Island, but was one

Branch Secretaries

Mr. L. A. J. Hosslen has taken over duties of Honorary Secretary of the Horneysey and Enfield Branch *vice* Mr. A. H. Fisher, M.M.

Mr. L. R. Johnson has taken over the duties of Honorary Secretary of the recently formed Warrant Officer's and Sergeants' Branch.

Addresses are given on the Regimental Association Title Page overleaf.

Mr. J. R. Bell, M.B.E.

Mr. Bell, who for some long time has had a very difficult task as Honorary Secretary in trying to keep the Uxbridge Branch going, is flying with his wife to New Zealand in November to visit his daughter.

We wish them both bon voyage and sincerely hope that they will have a very pleasant and enjoyable trip.

Middlesex Association Tie

A tie has now been designed for, and accepted by, the Middlesex Association, to which the Regimental Association is closely affiliated.

The tie is an overall motif design of the arms of the old county of Middlesex (three Saxon seaxes surmounted by the Saxon crown) in gold on a black background, and is obtainable on application to the Secretary at a cost of 18s. 6d. including postage.

When ordering the Order Form inside the front cover of the Journal should be used.

Army Department Constabulary

There are a number of vacancies in this Force and further information can be obtained from the Senior Constabulary Officer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield Lock, Middlesex.

of the first to arrive. Naturally, the last to arrive was an old soldier who was staying nearby after the previous evening's reunion in the drill hall. He was given a rousing cheer as he climbed on the coach, and answered with a serene and bucolic smile. It takes a lot to ruffle Basil Le Maitre. His stately approach to the vehicle was made all the more interesting due to a shapely young lady high-heeling by wearing a mini-skirt that must have started its life as an Elizabethan ruff, carrying a small transistor set with the air "La Sonambula"



(Photo—Richard Best (Photolux))

The Party on the Riverside at Windsor on return from the outing.

being played. It was the appropriate tune for Basil's rate of locomotion.

In fine weather we started off, picking up the remainder of the passengers en route. There was a little difficulty with the last R.V. as at first it was assumed that the cross-roads had been moved during the night, but it was a mix-up in the names of the inns that caused the trouble. However, within the time estimated we arrived at Salter's Landing Stage from where Windsor Castle could be seen in the bright sunshine with the Royal Standard flying denoting that the Queen was in residence.

Col. Aymar Clayton, Chairman of the Membership and Social Sub-Committee of the Regimental Association, welcomed the 70 passengers at the gangway of the *S.S. Sonning* to wish them fine weather and a pleasant journey. The embryo Sir Francis Chichesters clambered aboard, the last passenger being Col. Desmond Ellis whose tall erect figure—6 ft. 4½ in.—gave the impression of the ship having an extra mast. As the screw turned, so did most of the old soldier passengers, especially those who had been at the reunion the night before, with the inquiry, "Where's the bar—is it open?" No, it wasn't as yet. Then the fatal words were spoken. One old chap said "I want a wet." His rasping voice augmented his inquiry, but I'm afraid it was overheard by Jupiter Pluvius, who promptly cut the plug of the celestial dome and started off the wettest day of this century. The forecast, I gather, had threatened showers in most places. We must have had "most places" on board the *Sonning*. Those on the open deck dived for the parts covered by an awning, the timid souls who had been waiting for an excuse, dived for the bar, only to find a hard core of toppers well established in strategic positions, prepared to defend that position to the last.

Two old soldiers met on board who had not seen each other since the great mine was blown at Hooge on July 19, 1915, when both were with 4 MX. These were

Charlie Ashby and "Jenny" Wren, the latter, having written to R.H.Q. the week before giving details of his service amongst which he said the highest rank he ever held was "a salt-water Lance-Corporal." He was certainly in the right place on this occasion. The torrential downpour lasted all the afternoon, but could not take away the beauty of the riverside view. Beautiful houses and well-tended gardens in both private houses and by the lock keeper's cottages and huts were admired and enjoyed by all on the ship. The weather, as wet as it was, could not dampen the spirits of the "Die-Hards" and their families. To me, it seemed that the more dull the sky became, the brighter became the spirits of the party. They were out for a day's jollification and did not intend to let the chronic weather spoil their enjoyment. Witticisms galore were passing to and fro, one remark being that a duck had just gone by complete with broolly up, whilst it was said in all seriousness by one old soldier that he saw a frog in goloshes. Both these assurances were treated with disbelief.

Eventually the sun appeared, so did many cameras, the final stretches of the river on the return journey receiving their share of admiration by us people who are for so many months of the year hemmed in by bricks and mortar and whose view of the local landscape is a bank of dandelions as the train takes us to our daily toil. Brighter than the sun were the expressions on the faces of those on board. To our pleasant surprise, a number of people suggested a trip on the river to become a regular practice for members of the Association whilst others said they were sure similar outings would be appreciated. This was most encouraging. The catering arrangements were appreciated, both the lunch and tea meals being polished off with zest after a whetting of the appetite the river air gave us. The journey was extremely smooth although it rained so heavily.

R.W.J.S.

53rd Anniversary of The Battle of Mons

Mons and the Middlesex Regiment have been synonymous since August 23, 1914, when the Regiment had two battalions in action. The 4th Battalion opened the battle as the church bells were calling the local inhabitants of Obourg and adjacent hamlets to worship and bugles were calling the British troops to their positions along the front. Officers were still wearing swords as their personal arm and spectators stood on the high ground around "to watch the fun." Although the 1st Battalion were much lesser engaged, it did suffer its first fatal casualties of the war. These were L/11955 L/Sgt. W. H. Whiting the first man killed and L/9391 Pte. J. F. Brown.

For many years, individuals of the Regiment have made the pilgrimage to Mons and Obourg. This year a regimental party made the trip by coach from R.H.Q. at Edgware and return; the fares being generously subsidised by the Regimental Association.

The coach left Edgware at 6.30 p.m. on August 21 and old comrades, some accompanied by their wives, were as follows:—Colonel F. Walden, representing the Deputy Colonel, 4 Queen's (Middlesex), Major R. W. J. Smith, Messrs. C. Ashby (L/14437), H. W. Bird (L/14343), W. H. C. Bishop (L/10630), W. D. Bratby (L/12827), C. S. Carey (L/14097), H. Coxhill (L/13872), F. J. Dyson (L/12903), R. H. Ferguson* (TF/2458), P. Hutchins, M.M. (TF/1797), J. T. Jenkins (TF/2189), Sgt. of In-Pensioners C. M. King (L/15063), A. J. Matthews (L/14557), R. E. Ryder, v.c. (G/3281), A. White (TF/1765) and W. A. Wright (L/14621). Also travelling with the party were Mr. G. A. Smith who had served with the 1st Cavalry Division Supply Column A.S.C. at Mons and Mr. A. E. Thorne, M.B.E., of the Rifle Brigade.

To ensure that people knew the Die-Hards were once more on the move, each man was wearing a beret complete with regimental badge and flash. The coach itself was bedizened with four yellow streamers bearing the words "Middlesex Regimental Association" in maroon lettering and a large Middlesex Regimental badge at the front, rear and on each side.

Arriving at Ostend during the early hours of Tuesday, the 22nd, a stop was made for breakfast which had been arranged by Bob Ferguson, who has contacts in the catering business there. Once the inner man was satisfied the party continued its journey to Mons where it arrived before noon to be greeted by many old friends of the Regiment, some of whom, namely, M. Edouard Dupont, M. Charles Ottevaere, and M. Jean Jonas are honorary members of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club, whilst others who had been our guests at Edgware a couple of weeks before also welcomed the

party. After much shaking of hands, kissing of cheeks and slapping of backs, the party broke into small groups and sampled the wines of the country. The wines in some cases proved to be quite potent!

The next day, the 23rd, being the anniversary of the Battle, was one of many duties. The first was a visit by the whole of the party, plus Jimmy Smith, M.M. (L/12624), who was the groom to General Sir Amyat Hull at Mons to the "Avenue of the 4th Middlesex," a thoroughfare now built on the ground which was occupied by "D" Company 4 Mx. during the battle. This crescent was inaugurated in 1965 and was named after the 4th Battalion, who in the defence of Mons in 1914 had suffered in casualties 15 out of 27 officers and 467 out of its 970 men. "D" Company who had held the ground on which we now stood had lost 183 soldiers—75% of its strength. The party present, including many local citizens, then marched round the crescent, the Association Standard being borne by "Shiner" Wright and escorted by Bob Ryder, v.c., and Sgt. King, resplendent in his scarlet coat and gold braid of a Sergeant of Chelsea In-Pensioners and wearing his full-dress tricorn head-dress. At the rear Bill Bratby carried the Union Jack.

The two coaches—our own and that of our Belgian comrades—then, with its motorcycle police escort made its way back to the Hotel de Ville (Town Hall) where, flying bravely and prominently over the main entrance was our regimental flag. This gesture of honour was greatly and sincerely appreciated by all Die-Hards present. It was a case of: We came, we saw, we were thrilled.

At 11 a.m. two parties of veterans, the Old Contemptibles and the Die-Hards, formed up outside the Hotel de Ville. With the Old Contemptibles, under the command of Chum C. J. Bougourd, a Guernseyman who remembers our 2nd Battalion on the island leading, the parties moved off. With a slow, very slow, steady tramp the Boys of the Old Brigade marched from the Town Hall to its first shrine, the memorial to the Belgian fallen. On the route many citizens stopped walking and faced the marchers. On sight of our Standard the gentlemen doffed their caps, some stood erect and saluted and children questioned their mothers for the reason why.

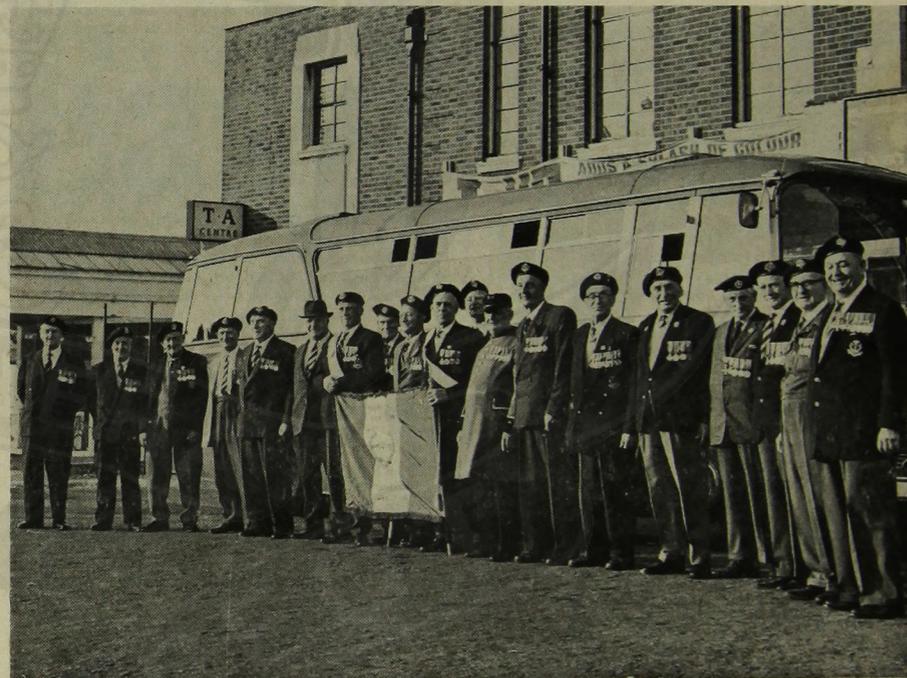
The cobbles on the old roads were uneven and the old feet on those old cobbles were unsteady, so unsteady in fact, that in one case a veteran fell but refused a lift and continued the march. As slow as we marched, we were not passed by the traffic. It was the day of the Britisher. Also, our escorting gendarme measured 6 ft. 2 in. in his socks!

At the Belgian Memorial the regimental wreath was laid by Colonel Walden deputising for Major-General Man, whilst the Exhortation was said by Jimmy Smith. The memorial was flanked by two uniformed Belgians, both well matched for smartness and size, who came to attention on the command of the parade commander and stood at ease as the parade stood down. It really emphasized an Entente Cordiale.

From the Belgian Memorial we marched to the Memorial to the two Battles of Mons. It must be remembered that the war we were commemorating not only began at Mons, but it also finished there in 1918 and amongst those present were men who were there when the second battle was fought. The last lap of this trek was a very steep and cobbled hill which the old soldiers insisted on climbing. Their view was, that they had climbed it in 1914 and gave Jerry a licking and they'd like to know who was going to stop 'em climbing it in 1967. That may be so, but in 1914, they climbed it and

could puff themselves with pride; in 1967 after they climbed it they could only puff—and laboriously at that—but climb it they did. Again we formed up around the memorial for the wreath-laying ceremony. As at the Belgian memorial, Colonel Walden laid the regimental wreath, the Exhortation being magnificently extolled by Mr. Bougourd, the organiser of the party of Old Contemptibles on parade. So well said was it, that the answer was given in block capitals "WE WILL REMEMBER THEM." I am sure everybody present did!

From the Belfry Memorial we marched or travelled by coach to the Hotel de Ville where, in the Portrait Gallery, we were given an official welcome. Again we had great pride in walking under the flag of the Regiment and the City of Mons, and the national flags of Belgium and United Kingdom, our Regimental flag being in a place of honour on the right. Also proudly borne throughout the day was our Association Standard by



(Photo—Hendon Times)

Mons Party 1967.

Left to right: Messrs. G. Smith, F. Dyson, W. Bishop, C. Ashby, H. Coxhill, Colonel F. Walden, Messrs. W. Bratby, C. Carey, R. Ryder, V.C., W. Wright, A. White, Sgt. C. King, Messrs. J. Jenkins, A. Matthews, R. Ferguson, A. Thorne, M.B.E., P. Hutchins, M.M., H. Bird, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.

"Shiner" Wright, the first time it has left our home shores. It was a pleasure to see two regimental emblems at Mons as we are the only regiment to hold two Mons Banners which now hang in the Regimental Museum. Perhaps, next year, all four will be seen in Mons together.

At the reception a veteran of the 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, now 82 years of age, who was making his first visit to Mons since he was wounded there in 1914, was given the freedom of the City. He is ex-Pte. Francis Carroll (9261) whom some of you old soldier readers may remember in P.O.W. camps during 1914-18. He was not the only octogenarian on parade as we had with us old soldier Bishop, now 83, who broke his leg playing football seven years ago! Bill Bishop served with the 1st Battalion at Mons, Le Cateau, Nery, the Aisne and First Ypres as did Fred Dyson who has made this pilgrimage since 1925. The Deputy Mayor expressed the city's appreciation of the aid given during Belgium's travail in war during this century, the speeches being interpreted by M. Licope (Curator of the War Museum) and M. Freddy Carlier (Principal Private Secretary to the Burgomaster).

Later that afternoon the combined party of Die-Hards and their Belgian friends travelled by coach to Saint Symphorien Cemetery, where a wreath was laid at the foot of the monument erected by the Germans to "The Royal Middlesex Regiment." The ceremony was carried out by Colonel Walden on behalf of Major-General Man as at the two previous places of tribute. It is of great interest to realise that here in the same small district are two memorials to our Regiment—one erected by our enemies in 1916 and the other by our allies in 1961—both paying tribute to soldiers they consider to be worthy fighting men. In this hallowed spot lie Pte. W. A. Merry (L/14301), the first man killed and Major W. H. Abell the first officer in the Regiment killed. It may well be that they are the first of their ranks in the whole of the British Army to be killed in action during the war of 1914-18 as the 4th Battalion were the first to fight a battle, although fire had been exchanged between cavalry scouts the previous day.

When each individual had signed the visitors' book and had visited the various sections of the cemetery, a move was made towards Obourg. A short halt was made at the monument to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, where a wreath was laid by Major Smith and the exhortation declaimed by Harry Bird. The 2nd Royal Irish and the 4th Middlesex were part of the Devonport Garrison before sailing to France, and there were many close friendships between the troops. It was at this spot that the photograph "Was he the first sentry at Mons?" which appeared in scores of national papers and periodicals was taken. It shows Pte. "Nick" Carter, 4th Battalion, on sentry duty at 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 22, 1914. The party then moved on to Obourg.

At Obourg Station a ceremony was held as in past years, to commemorate the firing of the first shots in the Battle of Mons by "D" Company of the 4th Middlesex and to the gallantry of the unknown Die-Hard who

remained behind on the roof of the station to hold up the enemy from crossing the canal. It began with a silence in memory of the recently deceased Francis Rogers (L/12630). The combined parties, after a speech by the Secretary of the F.N.C. and the Burgomaster, then paid their respects, Colonel Walden placing a wreath on a hook on the station wall by the plaque which reads:—

"Near this spot on August 23, 1914, the honour fell to the 4th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment to fire the first shots of the Battle of Mons. On the roof of this building an unidentified British soldier made the supreme sacrifice in order to protect the retreat of his comrades."

The wording is in the language of both countries. After the laying of wreaths, the parade marched to the Council Chambers where light refreshments were had and toasts drunk to the respective countries and comrades present. Accompanied by our hosts we then left to get on the coach for the return to Mons but the Burgomaster and townsmen of Obourg had different ideas. We were ushered in, individually or in small groups, into the "Cellar of Ghlin," an estaminet our men used in 1914, which stands on the opposite bank of the Conde Canal to that of Obourg station. It was an apt named place for us to finish our day's ceremonies. The War Diary of the 2nd Battalion has this to say for 1918.

11th November Armistice signed. Hostilities ceased at 11 a.m. Battalion moved to Ghlin. "A" Company moved to Meziere and took up outpost line. "C" Company moved to Bruyere and took up outpost line."

With the 2nd at this time were a few old soldiers who had been with the 4th at Mons in 1914. We may not have been at Ghlin itself but we had the next best thing. Playing in the room next to where we were was a mechanical organ where the instruments can be seen as you hear the music. It took my mind back to an incident about which I read some years ago in "The Phantom Brigade" by A. P. G. Vivian, who in 1914 was a Corporal in the 4th Battalion (L/11683). He relates how on the march through Belgium they stopped for the evening. Someone started a mechanical organ therefore the troops induced the fair sex to join them in a Cockney dance, changing their own caps for the ladies' hats and vice-versa, all indulging in a wild dance "to the prejudice of good order and military discipline" generally. Hearing the organ on the night of the 23rd in the same place as our soldiers had, in many cases, their last meal and tipple, rolled the years away so that I could really picture those keen young soldiers of our last really professional army. Especially so after I had a surreptitious glance at a photograph taken August 20, 1914, of our men halted at the roadside of a Belgian village. It made me proud to be in their company.

As in 1914, we fell back from Obourg to Mons, with the same promise that was given fifty-three years ago, "We'll be back, Mum." I hope to be with the party when we do return in 1968.

R.W.J.S.

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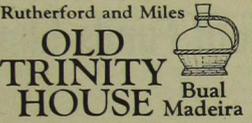
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NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

EALING BRANCH

The members of Ealing had a very enjoyable evening on Friday, April 14 when our oldest and most respected member joined us for the monthly talk and drinks, Brigadier J. A. White, D.S.O., M.C., aged 84 (but looks much younger). He joined the 8th Battalion in 1912 as Officer IC Machine Guns (the old water-cooled Vickers). He served with us in Gibraltar 1914 and commanded "B" Company until wounded for the second time at Cambrai in 1917. Transferred to the Tank Corps and then to the R.A.O.C. He continued to serve up through the second world war until 1947 when he retired with the rank of Brigadier to live at Guildford. We of the 8th are very proud of him and hope he will live many years to be with us!

On Sunday, July 2, 45 members and their wives had a coach outing to Eastbourne and some of us visited the site of our camp we had there in August 1913. What memories it brought back to us.

We at Ealing continue to grow slowly and we keep our fingers crossed that Ealing Council will allow us to continue meeting at our Drill Hall where most of us joined the "Middies" over 50 years ago.

We regret to announce the deaths of the following old "Die-Hards" in this area:

Sgt. Lawrence Alfred Titcomb, D.C.M., of 35 Alexander Road, Hounslow, late 8th Battalion.
 Sgt. Henry Kent, of 25 Hartham Road, Isleworth, late 10th Battalion (Prisoner of War).
 Two more of the old "Terriers" gone on.

Farewell to the Journal and may its words remain in the minds of all old "Die-Hards."

ALBERT WHITE.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

The Annual General Meeting of the Hornsey and Enfield "Die-Hards" Club was held on May 3, 1967 at Hornsey T.A. Centre.

Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., was re-elected chairman, Mr. A. Fisher, M.M., vice-chairman, Mr. L. Hosslem, M.I.O.M., A.M.B.I.M., secretary, and Mr. E. Register, treasurer, with Messrs. H. Hurlock, H. Grimes, D. Sankey and E. Johnson as committee members.

Instead of an Entertainments Officer, a committee of four was formed and the following were elected: Messrs. W. Knight, M.B.E., E. Johnson, S. Parkhouse, A. Thomas.

The chairman reported a good year following amalgamation with the Enfield Club, and recently-admitted Burma Star Members were welcomed.

We were all very pleased at the good attendance both at Mill Hill and Hornsey Parades for the laying up of our Colours (7th Territorial Battalion) which are now in the Chapel of Hornsey Parish Church.

Our chairman wrote to Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D., Commanding 10th Territorial Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) with our good wishes on their formation and also to Major H. E. Couch, Commanding "D" Company, 5th Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, on the formation of his Company and the carrying on of the traditions of the Hornsey Territorials. Letters of thanks and reciprocal good wishes were received in reply.

Our 5th Annual Dinner was held at Hornsey T.A. Centre on April 29 last under the chairmanship of Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; 111 attended and once again it was a great success. Our guests were Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C., Deputy Colonel of the 4th Battalion Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) who very clearly explained to us the re-organisation of the Reserve Army and stressed our required loyalty to the new "Queen's Regiment," and Brigadier Lorne Campbell, V.C., D.S.O., of the 51st Highland Division, who gave a very light-hearted talk of events during 1939-45 which reminded us of the close friendships formed between us of the 1/7th Battalion and the 51st (Highland) Division.

A highlight of this dinner was the presentation of a silver goblet, part of the original 1/7th Battalion silverware, to our well loved and respected wartime Commanding Officer, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L., and "Rocky" (late R.S.M. W. Knight, M.B.E.), our spokesman, put our thoughts into words most adequately.

The dinner itself was, of course, up to the standard we have got used to, and was excellently presented by Alf Fisher, M.M., 1939-45 Provost Sergeant and later C.S.M. "H.Q." Company, and his staff from Chefs of Berkshire, and although he "chased the pants" off some of us in those days, he certainly makes up for it with his grub.

It is a great "nattering and drinking" time of course, and it is really great to see all the old happy faces again.

Our next dinner is on April 27, 1968 and tickets can be obtained from Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E., 91 Dawpool Road, N.W.2, price £1 1s. Do please try and make this an even greater success—all reading this are welcome!

One final note to any late 1/7th member—I cannot believe you are happy to be silent!!! Please let me hear from you. Any suggestions will be welcomed, and with regard to the dinner, offers of help too. Our committee work hard to give us a good time and they succeed—then let's help them to help us.



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Every Wednesday at the Hornsey T.A. Centre is our Club night. Do please make an effort to be with us. The secretary will be pleased to receive and impart news of any old friends, so please contact him at 262 Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.

We extend our sincere wishes for the future to all Branches and will heartily welcome any visitors whenever they are in this area.

L. HOSLEM.

MILL HILL BRANCH

When the time comes around to put pen to paper—or to be more correct, put paper into typewriter—there is always a real effort to know where to start as there are always so many events to write about that some must be left out owing to lack of space. However this time I am lucky because most of the happenings that have taken place since my last notes are fully reported elsewhere in this edition.

Despite the burden(?) of having to write these notes, this will be a sad occasion for many of us, for with this effort on my part goes the last time I shall be called upon for "contributions should be submitted by—Editor," as this will be the final edition of "The Die-Hards" and I am sure that all members of our Branch will join with me in offering our grateful thanks to all past Editors, and to the present Editor, for their efforts to keep us in touch with each other and abreast of military affairs. I know only too well the "blood, toil, sweat and tears" which goes into the production of one edition in order to meet the printers' deadline, having been both ends of the pipeline for submission of notes for inclusion in the Journal.

Our meetings over the last few months have not been so well attended as normal. This, I am sure, has only been due to the lovely summer weather we have all been enjoying—judging by the number of dirty(?) postcards that have been received here. I am sure that everyone has made the most of the sunshine and is now well set-up for the rigours of the winter months ahead. Summer over, we can look forward to seeing many of the faces that have been missed lately back in the fold and enjoying our monthly gatherings, interspersed with the normal annual events which take place at this time of year, to wit, the Annual Reunion, Field of Remembrance and Remembrance Day Services and an addition this year, the Lisbon Maru Reunion, for those who took part in the Battle of Hong Kong or were on the Lisbon Maru, ending up with our own annual Christmas Draw, tickets for which can now be obtained. Full details of these events with dates are, of course, given in the "Forthcoming Events" column.

Most of our Club news is passed on to our members by means of our monthly newsletter, so it only remains for me to wish all our members all good wishes for the future and to pass on to our fellow branches of the Die-hards Club your good wishes and our earnest hope that we may see some of them at one of our meetings soon.

ERNIE COLEBECK

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

It is with much regret that we "Die-hards" from this part of the country submit these, our final notes, for inclusion in the last issue. The Journal to all of us has been a great source of information throughout our years of service, and even more so since leaving, and we can only hope that the *News Letter*, which we understand is to be issued in lieu of the Journal, will be just as informative and keep us in touch with events and with news of our Old Comrades.

At the time of writing these notes our Branch is in danger of splitting up and becoming two separate entities, known as the Gosport Branch and the Portsmouth Branch. This will be decided at our next meeting in September, so more of that later.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting up with two old friends at Margate, namely Jack Painter and Alf Mason, over a few jugs in the Oddfellows Club where Jack is employed as Steward.

For many years as a Regimental Education Instructor I taught Regimental History, and told many recruits and "old sweats" of how Col. Inglis, at the Battle of Albuhera, lay mortally wounded, exhorting his men to die hard. Imagine my surprise when visiting Canterbury Cathedral to read an inscription on the wall saying that the self-same Colonel had died at the age of 71. Has someone erred or did I learn my Regimental History wrongly?

Although we are all living on or near the coast, and feel sure that several of our comrades must have visited this area we rarely see or hear of them, and we should very much like to do so.

We were very pleased to have Major Les Honeybun at our last meeting which was held at Browndown Camp where Franky Nash is at the moment resident with the Sussex Cadet Force. Many of the 2nd Battalion who were stationed at New Barracks, Gosport, will no doubt remember the Browndown Ranges.

Peggy O'Neil, who is now a gentleman of leisure, is soon off on a holiday to Rome; marvellous what one can do on retirement. He is chairman of this branch, and sends all and sundry his very best wishes as do all of us down in the Sunny South.

And so, as the sun sets over the distant shores of Beaulieu we say a fond farewell to all readers of *The Die-Hards* which with this edition dies a sad and regrettable death. We can only hope that one day someone will see fit to dig up the ashes and return them to their rightful place, on any "Die-Hards" table, in the form we have known so well for so long, and the one and only Journal of the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)

L. C. WEST.

9th BATTALION BRANCH

When the Government decided to amalgamate various Regiments, they included the Middlesex and so took away the name and traditions of the Regiment for all time, and with this the *Diehard Journal*. Perhaps this is the real concern of the Old Comrades.

Happily the Association has decided to print a news sheet of the activities etc. of our Branches and it is hoped that our members will subscribe to this project.

Another feature of the Association is the social events that have been and are being promoted.

Two of these events have taken place recently and were supported by our members and thoroughly enjoyed.

It must be realized that the only way the Association can live is by the support of its members so please do all you can to keep the name of the Middlesex Regimental Association from dying out.

Our own Annual Reunion and Dinner took place at the Cavendish Ballroom on June 3 and although there was not so good an attendance as last year it was a very pleasant occasion.

Most of the old regulars attended again including Colonel Fox and Major Sherwood both travelling considerable distances to be with us.

Our guests included Colonel W. D. Ellis, Chairman of the Regimental Association and Major R. W. J. Smith, the genial curator of our Museum and Mrs. Smith.

At the Annual General Meeting which preceded the Dinner suggestions were made to try and increase the number attending this function.

One of the best was that every member should try and bring along an ex-member of the 9th who has not previously attended or done so for a long time.

Names and addresses should be sent to the Secretary who will then communicate with each ex-member. This is one way of keeping our Association alive, so please be on the lookout for any ex-member of the 9th who has not yet joined us.

R. T. MEERS

W.O.s and SERGEANTS BRANCH

Some 12 months ago R.S.M. B. Lyons, who was then R.S.M. of the 5th (T.A.) Battalion, was approached by many serving and ex-W.O.s and Sergeants of the Regiment, with a view to forming a Club. This proposal was put forward at the Regimental Association Executive Committee Meeting on November 21, 1966, the matter being referred to the Membership and Social Sub-Committee, and at the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 13, 1967, it was recommended that the proposal should be proceeded with, this recommendation being finally approved, provided it was called a Branch and not a Club.

A Meeting was held at the Drill Hall, Edgware, on April 22, 1967, attended by 20 potential members and the whole aspect of forming this Branch was discussed and agreed upon, and a committee consisting of the following was elected:

Secretary:	Mr. L. R. Johnson
Treasurer:	Mr. L. Shrubbs, M.M.
Members:	Mr. E. Colebeck
	Mr. F. Howes
	Mr. H. Holder

It was also agreed that membership would be open to all serving and ex-W.O.s and Sergeants of The Middlesex Regiment and 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment

(Middlesex) and that the membership fee would be 10s. per annum.

The first General Meeting of this Branch was held at the Drill Hall, Edgware on May 20, 1967, 19 members being present, at which it was agreed that a monthly Social Meeting to which members could bring their wives and friends would be held on the second Saturday of each month in the Sergeants' Mess 10th (T) Battalion Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware. This was made possible by kind permission of the Officer Commanding, and members of the W.O.s and Sergeants' Mess of that Battalion, to whom we extend our thanks. It was also agreed that R.S.M. F. Webb be elected Chairman of the Branch.

The object of forming this Branch is to revive and maintain that close bond of friendship and relationship we had as serving members of the Mess for, although as members of the Regiment we were part of a large family, as members of a Mess we were part of a family within a family. Whether serving at home or abroad and especially the latter, the Sergeants' Mess to the single member was home and to the married member his Club, where some very pleasant and memorable times were spent. It is to recapture those times that this Branch has been formed, and what better place and more appropriate than in a Sergeants' Mess?

There may be quite a few readers of these notes to whom the formation of this Branch is unknown. To you, the Committee send their apologies. Unfortunately we could only notify those whose addresses were known by



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us, and hoped that information might reach you through meeting up with someone "in the know." However, should any readers wish for further information please do not hesitate to drop the Secretary a line; his address is shown in the list of Branches published in this issue, and all the information required will be forwarded to you. Better still come along to a Social evening. We would also like to hear from any ex-W.O. or Sergeant of the Regiment with any news which he might think would be of interest to members. We send out a monthly letter to all our members, so passing on information and spreading news is an easy matter.

This is, I am sorry to see, the last issue of our Journal, *The Die-Hards*. Though over the years we have seen changes in the Journal from monthly to quarterly and to half yearly publication, price, size, and colours of cover I do not think that any of us thought the day would come when it would cease publication. This, however, will not prevent us from keeping in touch as contributions will continue to be made in the Quarterly Regimental News Letter which will succeed *The Die-Hards*.

We would like to record here our thanks to R.S.M. B. Lyons for the help and assistance he gave whilst serving as R.S.M. of the 5th Battalion, in the forming of this Branch, and sincerely hope that he will pay us a visit in the very near future. A hearty welcome is awaiting him. We are also looking forward to visits from our regular comrades of the 4th Queens, the Mess having joined the Branch as a whole.

All members of this Branch send their very sincere wishes for the future to the members of the W.O.s' and Sergeants' Mess 4th Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) and to members of all other Branches.

L. R. J.

1/7th BATTALION (1914-18)

The Annual Reunion Dinner was held at Beale's Restaurant, Holloway Road, London, N.7, on Friday, April 14, 1967, with Major G. A. H. Bower in the Chair. Altogether there were 65 present including Col. W. E. Pringle, Col. F. Walden, Major J. D. Gunnell and Major R. W. J. Smith as guests.

We were very glad to see some of our oldest members with us on this occasion, including Charlie Naish (T.F. 160) now in his eighties and unfortunately losing his sight, J. A. Percival (T.F. 721) and Bill Moutrie, D.C.M. (T.F. 675), who caught up after several years with a few of their pre-1914 acquaintances.

The usual toasts were proposed by Major Bower and Len Davall, and Major Gunnell brought us up to date with what has happened since the T.A. closed down. Although Stan Edge is a man of few words we did manage to get him to make a short speech, in which he told us that he would be moving to Hampshire in the summer. We wished him the best of luck in his new house; and expressed the hope that we should still see him—and many more—at our next Reunion.

R. H. FERGUSON.

1/7th BATTALION (1939-45)

The Annual Reunion of the 1/7th Battalion 1939-45 was held at Hornsey on Saturday, April 29.

We had many guests whom we were delighted to welcome. Several were serving members of The Queen's Regiment, headed by Major-General Christopher Man, Deputy Colonel of the 4th Battalion.

The Chairman, on behalf of all members, 1/7th Battalion (1939-45), wished the Queen's Regiment the best of good fortune throughout their service, knowing full well that they will nobly continue the high traditions of the Regiments which they succeed. General Christopher expressed his pleasure at being with us, outlined the organisation of The Queen's Regiment and thanked us for our support.

As always, the 51st Highland Division was very much in our minds. Brigadier Lorne Campbell, V.C., whom we were delighted to have with us, reminded us vividly of those memorable years of active service with the Division. The Reunion was an undoubted success.

Again we are more than grateful to all those, both as individuals and units, who co-operated so willingly and generously.

The Chairman was much surprised, but also very delighted, when he was presented with a handsome silver cup. He much appreciates the gesture. It will always remind him of many happy occasions and, more important, of many many friends.

Thank you all most sincerely.

But, of course, you all know the names of those who do all the work and to whom we all owe so much.

B. B. R.

"D" COMPANY, 1/10th BATTALION

The 34th Reunion for anyone who served with the Battalion met on the later date requested, April 22, 1967, with the Hotel "under new management" and a discouraging atmosphere.

Fortunately Edgware H.Q. contacted Colonel Walden for us (he had offered to join us briefly between other engagements) and he agreed to give our parade a start in his usual interesting manner. When he had to leave us it was with regrets from us all.

The acting Chairman, F. Z. Pope, having taken the Secretary's place, explained that Frank Parker, after many years of hard and loyal duties, had resigned that day after 7 weeks in hospital. It had been found that, whilst he was in hospital his deputy, Treasurer and Co-Trustee, Gus Dolley, had died on a visit to India.

It was fitting that Freddy Pope—who was in Dolley's platoon in India and Mesopotamia—should therefore carry out his late friend's duties at the Meeting.

A prepared extract from all the letters from distant and unfit comrades was read, to the interest of all, by the Chairman and the position of finances and the future was put to those present, who eventually voted for further Reunions.

THE EL OBEID EPISODE

The following account of an incident during the fighting round Jerusalem in December 1917 is based on survivors' recollections. We are indebted to the Editor of *The Newsletter* (journal of The Queen's Westminster and Civil Service Rifles Retired Members Association) for the print of the Ibn Obeid Monastery.

An episode of the Palestine campaign of 50 years ago was the defence of the monastery at Khurbet Deir Ibn Obeid (about 8 klm. east of Bethlehem) on December 27, 1917, by "B" Company of the 2/10th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, under Capt. J. C. Downie, M.C.—the only single Company specially named in General Allenby's Despatches of September 18, 1918, as follows:

"In the meantime the enemy had delivered attacks against various points held by the 53rd Division east of Jerusalem. On the extreme right at Kh. Deir Ibn Obeid, a Company of Middlesex troops was surrounded by 700 Turks, supported by mountain artillery. Although without artillery support, it offered a most gallant resistance, holding out till relief came on the morning of the 28th. None of the other attacks on this Division's front were any more successful."

Jerusalem was captured on December 9. On December 19 "B" Company, numbering 98 all ranks, plus a machine gun section, a signaller, and a couple of stretcher bearers, was sent as a detached post to Deir Ibn Obeid, a tedious climb from Bethlehem through broken country to the crest of the hill on which the monastery stood in solitude. Nothing indicated it was to be a vital point in the defence of the Holy City. The detachment depended for food and munitions on a few pack camels led over tortuous tracks made dangerous by heavy rains and entirely unsuited for camels; the journey took a whole day each way.

"C" Squadron of the Westminster Dragoons co-operated with the infantry, making essential daily patrols of the surrounding country, and providing escorts for the supply column camels.

The infantry spent each night on outpost with forward sentry posts around the monastery. It had rained almost continuously for a month and was bitterly cold. The men had great-coats, but otherwise were in summer kit. The troops celebrated Christmas Day with one tin of "bully" per man (an increase from one between two) with an extra biscuit and cheese. The supply of water from the monastery well was ample; and a thoughtful Q.M. had sent extra tea for the day. There was a moan from the monks because the men used their wood for fires to dry overcoats and brew tea. On Christmas night the monks slipped quietly away to Jerusalem leaving only one monk (if he was a monk) and (surprisingly) a rather old woman. Evidently the monastery grapevine had given a warning, for the next dawn patrol sighted the enemy closing in from the north-east. It had become known that a general move to recapture Jerusalem was expected.

The monastery was a rectangle enclosed by a high stone outer wall against much of the inside of which was a single storey building, the roof being below the top

The usual toasts intervened throughout the evening—with necessary briefness and suitable replies—and Harry Bedford stood by with his enduring music. This, alas, also could not be extended. Speakers included Noakes-Mooring; L. C. Bateman; W. E. Duckfield and others on behalf of "Absent Friends." Duckfield (as a "Visitor") actually had left the Battalion in India and had remained there until a few years ago. He spoke of present attitudes and was elected Chairman for next year, so we should hear more.

The evening concluded through lack of time and the happy participants hoped for meetings in 1968.

FRED Z. POPE.

2/10th BATTALION O.C.A. (1914-18)

The 39th Reunion of this Unit was held on May 13 last under the Chairmanship of Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, M.C.; an attendance of 65 was recorded. This was a special occasion commemorating the 50th anniversary of the First and Second Battles of Gaza (March 26 and April 19, 1917). Amongst the guests were Major-General C. M. M. Man, O.B.E., M.C. (Deputy Colonel 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex), Col. F. Walden, D.L. (Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association) and Preb. G. A. Lewis Lloyd, M.B.E., B.A. (Vicar of Chiswick and Hon. Chaplain to the 2/10th Battalion O.C.A.).

The Association's Annual Service of Remembrance will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 12 next at Chiswick Parish Church, The Mall, W.4, where the Battalion's Colour is lodged and a Memorial erected; the capture of Jerusalem by British Forces in December 1917 will be specially remembered. An article elsewhere in this issue describes an episode of this campaign involving "B" Company of the Battalion.

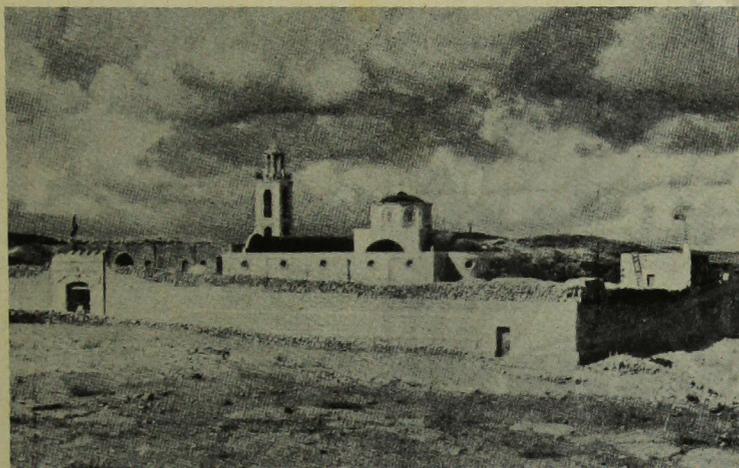
Copies of the Battalion's Roll of Honour and photographs of the Memorial can be obtained (price 6s. each, post free) from the Hon. Secretary, "Cleveland," Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon.

A. D. S.

Remembrance Day Service

NOVEMBER 12, 1967

INGLIS BARRACKS, MILL HILL



Ibn Obeid Monastery

of the outer wall. This provided a parapet for rifles and Lewis guns, the men lying on the roof. A good defence except that the top of the wall being flat and level all round, every raised head became a perfect skyline target for an enemy sheltered behind good broken cover. Along part of one side the building rose by a second storey and on this roof the signaller established himself.

The transport drivers who arrived with supplies the previous day had to remain with their camels on the 27th. That day the weather changed. The sun appeared at dawn for the first time for over a week and remained to co-operate with the signaller. This was as well, for the only communication between the detachment and Battalion H.Q. near Bethany, some five miles away, depended on this signaller with his heliograph and lantern—and sterling service he gave throughout the operation providing a running commentary as the action developed.

At 06.30 hours on the 27th the Dragoons came in touch with the Turk 7th Cavalry Regiment advancing from El Munter with an Austrian battery of four mountain guns. In a probing skirmish the Dragoons had two wounded, two missing, and lost five horses. "C" Squadron deployed to the threatened flank to remain mobile and later were joined by the remainder of their Regiment from Bethlehem and halted south of the monastery. Capt. Downie withdrew his outposts into the monastery to avoid piecemeal overwhelming.

This flank movement was part of the battle which developed over the wide front held by the 53rd and 60th Divisions covering Jerusalem. The Turk 7th Cavalry, estimated at 700, was poised for action if the flank gave way. The nature of the ground afforded this force complete cover for approach. Those engaged in the

attempt to destroy the monastery garrison advanced to the near summit of the monastery hill before coming under fire. The defenders were hardened infantry trained in rapid rifle fire and a very good match for dismounted cavalry at close range. The Turks' artillery could not effectively bombard the stout timber gate of the main entrance where a breach was possible. At first shells striking the stout outer wall caused only scars and those aimed higher mostly went beyond the target.

The monastery was surrounded by about 09.00 hours and from then on heavy rifle and machine gun fire continued. From the wall a Dragoon was seen approaching at full gallop. Quickly obstacles were pulled away and the main gate opened sufficiently for the rider to get inside. He yelled "Get my horse," but the faithful steed had already fallen to enemy bullets. Capt. Downie wrote: "He delivered a message informing me of the Dragoons' new position. A brave man determined to fulfil his orders at all costs."

The stock of Mills bombs was small but sufficient to break the several enemy attempts to get near enough to breach the gate or wall. The Austrian gunners later advanced their guns to the top of a ridge firing over open sights. A sustained heavy bombardment followed and shells fell freely within the monastery. Being high explosive they created a tremendous roar around the covered cloister, smashing windows and interior walls and raising a choking cloud of dust and smoke which hung as a pall over the buildings and led observers at H.Q. to think the monastery must be on fire. One of the camel drivers was killed by shell fire and some of the camels were wounded, but little other effective damage resulted. Eventually the machine gunners got into a position on a roof of the two-storey building to

bring their fire on to the exposed battery. It was extreme range, but must have been effective for the artillery drew back to cover. One of the machine gunners was killed; the third fatal casualty of the day was Sgt. Hawkes of No. 5 Platoon. Seventeen men were wounded.

There were four bells securely hung on a stout cross-beam well above the height of the wall. Bullets hit these with a resounding clang, and splinters of iron struck men beneath causing casualties. Charlie Hill, a fine cockney soldier, was below getting up ammunition as the big bell was struck. It must have reminded him of the "try your strength" machine at fairs for he gave a spontaneous shout—"Go on sir! You've rung the bell again! What'll yer 'av? Chocolate or a packet of fags?" The tension was broken; everyone laughed and were in good fettle for the day.

That night the moon was brilliant. It afforded good observation from the monastery walls and even a solitary approach could be seen. The fighting died down. After dusk a message was received that an 18-pounder had been dragged into the hills. A few shots were tried; a correct direction was obtained but even at extreme range shells burst some hundreds of yards short. So they gave up; but it was comforting to know that succour was near. However, the fierce Turkish effort to re-take Jerusalem in which the rest of the Battalion had done a fine job at Ras el Zambí and White Hill, had failed. The 10th and 74th Divisions were advancing to the north, and the morning found the Turk cavalry retreating. A patrol was sent out from the monastery to ensure all was clear; a number of dead were found.

We learned that the 1/4th Royal Sussex was coming to our aid, but this was not now needed. Orders were received via the heliograph for the Company to retire and leave the monastery undefended; so we started packing—and brought with us the bodies of our fallen comrades for burial on the Mount of Olives. The trek back was completed by about sunset.

Historical Note

The site of the monastery at Ibn Obeid is associated with the life of St. Theodosius, a native of Asia Minor, who lived here as a hermit in a cave reported to have been occupied by the Magi on their return journey after paying homage to the Christ Child at Bethlehem. His piety attracted many fellow hermits and a monastery was established here in 470 A.D. The Saint died at the age of 109 after 62 years of rigorous monastic life. The monastery became renowned as a centre of spiritual education and culture, but eventually suffered the fate of the rest of the Holy Land, finally passing into Bedouin occupation, when it became known as the "monastery of the slaves" (Deir el Abeed). The site was regained by a religious foundation in the 19th century and the buildings as they appeared in 1917 were constructed between 1881 and 1896. The tower and central domed building shown in the print did not exist in 1917 having been added between 1951 and 1955. We understand that one of the Austrian shells fired in 1917 remains embedded in the monastery wall and is protected by a wire cage.

"THE DIE-HARDS"—OLD COPIES

Copies of the following issues of *The Die-Hards* are available at a reduced cost of 1s. each (including postage):

April 1963	April 1966
October 1964	October 1966
April 1965	April 1967
October 1965	

Orders, accompanied by the appropriate remittance, should be sent to The Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

Have you made a note of the dates?

SEE THE LIST OF
FORTHCOMING EVENTS
ON THE REGIMENTAL CALENDAR

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of a Special Meeting held at T.A. Centre, Edgware, Middlesex on Tuesday, March 21, 1967

Alteration to Rules

1. The Chairman stated that this meeting was convened in compliance with Rule 53 in order to confirm the following Resolution, which had been passed by the Executive Committee at their meeting on February 13, 1967 and circulated to all Members of the Regimental Association with the Notice of this Special Meeting on March 3, 1967:

Resolution

That the Rules of the Association of The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) be amended in manner following, that is to say:

1. By deleting Rule 19 and substituting therefor the following Rule to be numbered 19.

"(a) The President of the Association shall be the Deputy Colonel of the 4th Battalion of the Queen's Regiment so long as such Deputy Colonel was gazetted or transferred to The Middlesex Regiment.

(b) In the event of the appointment of Deputy Colonel of the 4th Battalion of the Queen's Regiment lapsing or of the holder of that Office not having been gazetted or transferred to the Middlesex Regiment the President of the Association shall be elected by the Representative Members of the Executive Committee of the Association and shall hold office for three years from the date of his election but shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of three years."

2. By deleting the whole of Rule 21 and substituting therefor the following Rule to be numbered 21.

21. "The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

(a) As Representative Members
One representative in respect of each of the Regular Militia and Territorial Battalions of the Regiment, either disbanded, converted or in suspended animation; the Representative Members shall be appointed by the President of the Association on the recommendation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association.

(b) As Elected Members.
Four representatives of the Branches of the Association.

(c) As Co-opted Members.
Such Members (not exceeding three in number) of the Association as shall from time to time be co-opted to the Executive Committee by vote of the Executive Committee."

3. By inserting after Rule 22 the following Rule to be numbered 22A.

"No person shall be eligible for election as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee unless he was gazetted to, enlisted in, or transferred to The Middlesex Regiment."

4. By deleting the existing Rule 23 and substituting the following Rule to be numbered 23.

"All members of the Executive Committee serving on the date of the adoption of this Rule, shall continue as members of the Committee until December 31, 1967 when each such member shall be eligible for reappointment, re-election or re-appointment. All appointments to the Executive Committee shall take effect at the first meeting of the Executive Committee held after the appointment shall have become effective. If any Representative Elected or Co-opted member shall die or retire during his period of office, a new member may be appointed in his place, but such new member shall hold office only so long as the deceased or retiring member would have done had he continued in office. If a Representative Member shall die or retire during his period of office the President of the Association shall on the recommendation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Association have power to appoint a member in his place."

2. It was proposed by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Christman, and carried unanimously, that the Resolution be confirmed.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

24,000 Limbless Ex-Service Men await a word from you



A word of encouragement and a token of help—needed, now, by British Ex-Service men who have sacrificed a full life. Many of them are completely unable to help themselves. Money is urgently needed to help these men conquer their handicap—money to equip and maintain homes in which they can be given convalescence, or care and comfort in their old age. BLESMa is not aided by the State. Will you help?

Another way you can help. Do you know any British Ex-Service man or woman who has lost a limb and would benefit from specialist help and advice? Let BLESMa know.

Donations and information: Major the Earl of Ancaster, T.D., Chairman of Appeal (S.24) Midland Bank Ltd., 89, Charterhouse Street, London, E.C.1.

BRITISH LIMBLESS EX-SERVICE MEN'S ASSOCIATION

(Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act 1948 and, as a charity, under the Charities Act 1960).

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at Guildhall, Westminster, S.W.1, on Monday, June 12, 1967

Present: Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L., Chairman; Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.; Col. F. Walden, D.L.; Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D., D.L.; Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.; Major R. J. P. Cummins, M.B.E.; Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, T.D., F.C.A.; Mr. A. White; Miss E. J. Gardner, Acting Secretary.

Apologies for absence were received from: Lt.-Col. R. D. Hutchings, Vice-Chairman; Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, O.B.E.; Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D.; Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.; Major R. M. Cain; Major H. E. Couch; Major Kenneth Goodacre, T.D., D.L.; Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.; Major B. H. Marciandi; Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.; Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.; Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.

Birthday Honours List

1. The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould on his appointment as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the Birthday Honours List.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

2. The Minutes of the previous Meeting held on February 13, 1967 were passed and signed by the Chairman.

Secretary's Report

3. The Secretary stated that he had nothing to add to his Report.

4. There being no comments the Report was adopted.

Correspondence

5. A file containing ten letters of appreciation received for charitable grants was circulated for members of the Committee to read.

Finance Sub-Committee's Report

6. Lt.-Col. Fox presented the audited accounts for the year ended December 31, 1966, and explained them in detail.

7. The Secretary stated that, although since the re-organisation on December 31 last, contributions under the Day's Pay Scheme are now handed over to the Queen's Regimental Association, it had been decided that, until further notice, the old Regimental Associations could demand up to £150 per quarter under this scheme for charitable grants, on condition that money not spent by the end of the year would be handed back to the Queen's Regimental Association. He said that he proposed to apply for the first half year's allocation shortly.

8. After a short discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should find out if the two Renny legacies could be amalgamated, and report the result of his enquiries at the next meeting.

9. There being no further comments it was proposed by Mr. White, seconded by Lt.-Col. Pearce Gould and agreed that accounts for the year ended December 31, 1966 be adopted.

10. The Budget proposed for 1967, showing a margin of £65, was approved.

11. The Committee agreed that Major Couch should be asked to make a professional report as to the approximate value of the house referred to in Minute 8 of the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting held on April 18, 1967, and the condition of repair at the present time.

The Secretary was asked to write to the owner for her permission to inspect the house with a view to checking the amount of insurance cover in force in the light of the present valuation.

12. Lt.-Col. Fox referred to the details of cost of the Farewell Parade to the Colours of the former T.A. Battalions given in Item 9,b, of Annex "B," and stated that the cost of the Buffet should be amended to read £60, and that the charge to Association funds should, therefore, be amended to read £51 4s. 4d.

13. There being no further comments the report was adopted.

Housing Sub-Committee's Report

14. Brigadier Rackham presented his report which was based on the Minutes of the Sub-Committee Meeting held on April 17, 1967.

15. *Waiting List.*—As the result of a report on the case of Mr. R. Ryder, v.c., Brigadier Rackham was asked to draft a letter to the Deputy Colonel setting out fully the facts.

16. *Spare Land at Albuhera Close, Enfield.*—With reference to Minute 21 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 13, 1967, Brigadier Rackham stated that the spare land at Albuhera Close could be used in three ways:

- For horticultural purposes.
- For the ground to be kept clear at an approximate cost to the Association of £50 per year.
- For the erection of garages, which could be let at 12s. 6d. per week. This would take ten years to get the original outlay back and there would be administrative work involved. Lt.-Col. Pearce Gould stated that, with the high costs of such a service, it would only be an economical proposition if 12 garages were built.

It was agreed that all the Association could afford at present was to keep the ground clear.

17. There being no further comments it was proposed by Col. Clayton, seconded by Mr. A. White, and agreed that the Report be adopted.

Membership and Social Sub-Committee's Report

18. Col Clayton presented his Report which was based on the Minutes of the Sub-Committee Meetings held on March 2, 1967 and May 2, 1967.

19. *Uxbridge Branch.*—Mr. White stated that the main difficulty in trying to resuscitate this Branch was to find a room where meetings could be held.

Col. Clayton undertook to write to the Station Commander, R.A.F., Uxbridge, who was a member of

the Middlesex T. and A.F. Association, asking if a room could be made available on the Station for the Branch.

20. *River Trip and Depot "At Home."*—Col. Clayton gave details of the arrangements for the river trip from Windsor to Marlow and back on Sunday, June 25, and of the visit to the Depot at Home at Canterbury on Sunday, July 9.

21. Col Clayton stated that a large Notice Board was needed on which the Secretary could post information about future functions, and undertook to see if the T. and A.F. Association could help over this.

22. There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

Journal Sub-Committee's Report

23. Col Walden confirmed that the final issue of *The Die-Hards* would be published in October and that from January 1968 a Regimental Newsletter would be published quarterly.

24. The Chairman asked that a list of Branch Secretaries should be included in each issue of the Newsletter, and that every effort should be made to encourage Branch Secretaries to send in notes of Branch activities.

25. There being no further comments the Report was adopted.

F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I. Benevolent Cases

(a) During the period January 1, 1967, to April 30, 1967, the sum of £470 4s. od. was spent in making grants for the following purposes:

Bedding	1
Clothing	10
Convalescent Holidays	3
Extra Food	2
Fuel and Lighting	11
House Repairs	2
Outstanding Debts caused through illness	3
Radio and TV rental, etc.	2
Removal Expenses	3
Rent Arrears	4
Tax Arrears	1
Miscellaneous (small grants for out-of-pocket expenses, etc.)	7
TOTAL CASES ASSISTED	49

Three of the cases assisted were in co-operation with other Regimental Associations.

(b) The breakdown showing the period of service of those assisted is as follows:

1914-18 War	26
Between Wars	1
1939-45 War	17
Since 1945	4
Korean War	1
TOTAL	49

(c) In addition to the cases assisted in sub para. (a) above a major rehabilitation grant of £100 was obtained from the Army Benevolent Fund for an ex-member, who served with the 2nd Battalion throughout the 1939-45 War and was discharged in 1946 with a disability pension for war wounds, to enable him, on the recommendation of the Forces Help Society, to set up in business as a wood turner making articles popular with tourists visiting the lakes of Killarney.

2. Executive Committee—Representative Members

With reference to Minute 10 of the Executive Committee Meeting held on February 13, 1967, the President has appointed the following to hold office as Representative Members until December 31, 1967:

1st Battalion ..	Major B. H. Marciandi
2nd Battalion ..	Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, D.L.
3rd Battalion ..	Brigadier B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., D.L.
4th Battalion ..	Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., D.L.
5th Battalion (T.A.) ..	Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, T.D.
5th Battalion (Militia) ..	Major M. P. Weedon, M.C.
6th Battalion (Militia) ..	Col. I. R. Burrows, O.B.E.
1/7th Battalion ..	Major B. St. G. A. Reed, M.C.
2/7th Battalion ..	Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, T.D., F.C.A.
3/7th Battalion ..	Major R. M. Cain
4/7th Battalion ..	Mr. W. Knight, M.B.E.
1/8th Battalion ..	Major H. E. Couch
2/8th Battalion ..	Col. W. D. Ellis, O.B.E., T.D., A.D.C., D.L. (Chairman)
3/8th Battalion ..	Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, M.B.E.
1/9th Battalion ..	Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D.
2/9th Battalion ..	Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear, T.D.
3/9th Battalion ..	Mr. T. R. Bennett
1/10th Battalion ..	Major R. J. P. Cummins, M.B.E.
2/10th Battalion ..	Lt.-Col. R. D. Hutchings (Vice-Chairman)
3/10th Battalion ..	Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, O.B.E.

3. Members—Deaths

Notification has been received that the following members have died since my last report:

Col. S. C. M. Smith, T.D., F.C.A., late 7th Battalion.
Major E. L. Heywood, late 2nd Battalion.
Major H. T. Pemell, late 5th (SR) Battalion.
Ex-Pte. G. Burleigh, late 1st and 4th Battalions.
Ex-Pte. L. Groom, late 1st and 2nd Battalions.
Ex-Pte. G. Grover, late 1st Battalion.
Ex-Pte. R. H. Mardell, late 7th Battalion.
Ex-Pte. F. G. Smith, late 7th Battalion.
Ex-Pte. J. Trunley, late 1st and 1/8th Battalions.
Ex-Pte. C. Williams, late 1st Battalion.

4. Employment

The following ex-members of the Regiment have been found employment by the Regular Forces Employment Association since my last report:

M. Gillham (23784016) ..	Postman
E. Marquiss (23455188) ..	Process Worker
B. G. Perrott (23965550) ..	Clerk
W. M. Phillips (23854948) ..	Technician, G.P.O.
Roylance (23786960) ..	Security
C. Small (21125191) ..	Postman

5. Royal Hospital, Chelsea

The following have been admitted to the Royal Hospital since my last report:

Ex-Sgt. H. G. Manders (6188507) (aged 74).
Ex-Sgt. C. C. Shaw (6188401) (aged 81).

The total of In-Pensioners from the Regiment is now eight.

6. The "Not Forgotten" Association

Notification has been received that the "Not Forgotten" Association has very kindly provided tele-

vision sets to six disabled pensioners, who have served in the Regiment.

7. Commonwealth Division Memorial Plaque

At the invitation of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission the Regimental Association has made a donation of £3 so that the Regimental badge can be included on the plaque, designed as a shield, which has been presented to the Ministry of National Defence, Republic of Korea, to commemorate those Commonwealth Forces, which took part in the Korean Campaign from 1950 to 1953.

8. Reports, etc.—Charitable Organisations

Copies of the following annual reports have been received and are available to members on application to me:

The "Not Forgotten" Association, 1966
The Gordon Boys' School, 1966
F. WALDEN, Colonel,
Secretary.

TOC H HEADQUARTERS,
15 TRINITY SQUARE,
LONDON, E.C.3.

TALBOT HOUSE IS CALLING YOU

You need no introduction to Poperinge, of course. Perhaps you are familiar with the Talbot House leaflet. Maybe it will remind you of once familiar surroundings; or of the continuing life of the House. As the Main Resolution of Toc H puts it: "Remembering with gratitude how God used the Old House . . ."

It is still under the same management. It still exerts its influence on the men and women, boys and girls, who visit it. The Upper Room is no mere shrine or sacred place of visitation; it is in regular use. Inevitably, barely one tenth of those who come to Talbot House today are of the generation that founded it. But some of these are regular visitors and often share the fellowship of younger parties. For Talbot House is attracting a new generation in growing numbers.

These young people come with schools parties as well as with those organised by Toc H branches or areas. The Winant Volunteers, that annual contingent from the colleges of America that spends its summer in social work in Britain, always visits Talbot House.

Since the Bishop of Bruges pronounced the Upper Room a sacred place and blessed Toc H, more and more young Belgians are coming in.

In such ways our pledge to transmit to future generations the traditions of the Old House is being redeemed. The fact that the House itself has been transmitted in good working order has been a vital factor. Now it needs help.

A recent survey has revealed extensive dry rot. Immediate action has been taken to have the whole of the ground floor timbers examined and appropriate measures put in hand. Until the floors are taken up the extent of the damage will not be known but the surveyors think it may cost at least £1,000.

They also point out the necessity, now or in the near future, for other work to the roof, some of the stonework, the annexe, the hot water system and elsewhere. The need for indoor toilets has long been apparent. The Slessorium needs to be re-apportioned to cater for all the wives and daughters who come with their menfolk these days.

Thus some £2-3000 is needed. If more can be provided, more can be done to fit the Old House for new tasks. Toc H is battling to hold its own overdraft in check; it can hardly be expected to find even this modest sum.

We should like to make a gesture on behalf of our generation. The Old House served us memorably. We should like to hand it over in first class order to our successors. We invite you to help us to do so.

LANCELOT PRIDEAUX-BRUNE,
Hon. Treasurer,
Talbot House Appeal.