

The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 "Mysore," "Beringsapatam," "Albuhera," "Ciudad Rodrigo," "Badajoz," "Vittoria," "Pyreness," "Nivelle," "Nive," "Peninsular,"
 "Alma," "Inkerman," "Sevastopol," "New Zealand," "South Africa, 1879," "Relief of Ladysmith," "South Africa, 1900-02,"
 The Great War—46 Battalions—"Mons," "Le Cateau," "Retreat from Mons," "Marne, 1914," "Aisne, 1914," "La Bassée, 1914,"
 "Messines, 1914," "Armentières, 1914," "Neuve Chapelle," "Ypres, 1915," "Gravenstafel," "St. Julien," "Frezenberg,"
 "Bellevue, 1915," "Hooge, 1915," "Loos," "Somme, 1916," "Albert, 1916," "Bazentin," "Delville Wood,"
 "Pozières," "Ginchy," "Flers-Courcette," "Morval," "Thiepval," "Le Transloy," "Ancre Heights," "Ancre, 1916," "Bapaume,"
 "1917," "Arras, 1917," "Vimy, 1917," "Scarpe, 1917," "Arleux," "Pillieux," "Langemarck, 1917," "Menin Road,"
 "Polygon Wood," "Broodisende," "Poelcappelle," "Passchendaele," "Cambrai, 1917," "St. Quentin," "Rosières," "Avre,"
 "Villers Bretonneux," "Lys," "Estaires," "Hazebrück," "Bailleul," "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," "Murmur, 1919," "Dukhovskaya," "Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (77th Foot).
 5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).
 6th Bn. (Royal East Middlesex Militia).
 Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Infantry Records, Warwick.
 Pay Office—Old Infantry Barracks, Canterbury.

Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th Bn. 30th Bn.
 9th Bn. 395 L.A.A., R.A., I.A.
 1st and 2nd Bns. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.
 1st, 2nd and 3rd Independent Coys.
 No. 1 Heavy Support Coy.

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Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Bn. Preston.

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The Taranaki Regiment New Plymouth.

Colonel of the Regiment:

Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.

Officer Commanding Depot:

Major R. C. H. Beller.

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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor.

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPLICATE, AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, The Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

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Editor: Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.

EDITORIAL

CHRISTMAS 1948

Message from the Colonel of the Regiment

I send to all ranks, past and present, my best wishes for Christmas, 1948.

The year which culminates in this great Christian festival has been a difficult and anxious one for us all. Many severe and unexpected blows have been struck at the former regimental system. Many of our ranks have been compelled to leave their Regiment and serve elsewhere, causing us all sorrow and a feeling of insecurity never before experienced in peace.

We must ever remember that we are all members of His Majesty The King's Army and all orders are derived from him whom we are in duty bound to obey.

I am confident that we shall all—wherever we may be called upon to serve—do so with that high regard for duty, and will carry with us those qualities of courage, loyalty and service for which our Regiment has ever been renowned. At this holy and festive season let each of us pray to God that we may never fail to do our duty and maintain unsullied by word, thought or deed the brave name of "Die-Hards" which we bear.

(Signed), M. BROWNE, Colonel,
The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.).

The chief regimental interest in the past quarter has been the taking over of guard duties at Buckingham Palace by the 1st Battalion on October 1. A full account of the ceremony is given in the 1st Battalion notes.

Readers will already have heard of the retirement of Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and will join in wishing him an early and full return to health from his wounds.

In the extract from the Colonel of the Regiment's newsletters will be found news of the whereabouts of individual members of the Regiment. Will those who are separated from the Regiment please write to the Editor from time to time so that we can keep touch with each other. Past and present members of the Regiment are also asked to keep the Regimental Journal an interesting and readable record by contributing articles on their own experiences and the interesting parts of the world they may have visited.

It is very important that the Journal should act as a link between the units and individuals that together make the Regiment. This can only be achieved through a wide circulation, which in turn can only be built up through the genuine interest value of the Journal. At the present time there is a danger of too many copies chasing too few readers than ever before. The interest value of this Journal depends on readers' contributions—at present we have very few.

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we have to record the deaths of three old "Die-Hards."

No. 3472 A. H. Parrott, at Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on October 21, 1948. Aged 76 years. This old "Die-Hard" was only admitted to the Royal Hospital on October 12, 1948.

No. 1735 late R.Q.M.S. A. J. Brice, at Chatham, on November 10, 1948. Aged 82 years.

Late Capt. "Bill" Blackman, at Surbiton, Surrey, on November 28, 1948. Aged 70 years.

The Regimental Association was represented at each funeral and wreaths were laid on behalf of all ranks, The Middlesex Regiment.

Obituary notices will appear in the March, 1949, issue of the "Die-Hards" Journal.

THE ROYAL BIRTH

The Battalion had the honour of providing The King's Guard on the night of November 14, 1948. Exceptionally large crowds waiting outside Buckingham Palace in anticipation of the Royal Birth followed the Guard to St. James's Palace to witness the Guard Mounting procedure.

At approximately 2130 hours the C.O. (Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.) telephoned to the Captain of the King's Guard (Major T. W. Chattey) to inform him that H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth had given birth to a son at 2114 hours. Immediately a telegram of congratulation was despatched to H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh from the officers, W.O.s and men of The King's Life Guard and The King's Guard.

The health of the new Prince was drunk in champagne in the Officers' Mess Guard Room by the Captain The King's Life Guard, the officers of The King's Guard and their guests, and the W.O. and sergeants of The King's Guard. The following was the composition of The King's Guard:

Captain of The King's Guard: Major T. W. Chattey.
Officer i/c St. James's Palace Detachment: Capt. R. J. P. Cummins.
Officer i/c Buckingham Palace Detachment: Lt. B. K. Clayden.
Ensign: Lt. W. G. Mitchell-Innes.
Warrant Officer: C.S.M. H. Jennings.
Buckingham Palace Detachment: Sgts. A. Cooper and R. Dodkins.
St. James's Palace Detachment: Sgts. A. Smith and Pres. D. Smith.
L. Cpls. R. Lee and C. Macer, Drm. A. Clarke, E. Dale, T. Heath, L. Burton, F. Nash, R. Wanstall, R. Phillips, F. McLaughlin, L. Whitley and J. Frett.
St. James's Palace Detachment: Sgt. S. Michel, L. Cpls. K. Pascoe and M. Hudson and Ptes. D. Briggs, D. Wood, R. Sanders, C. Mankelov, A. Harshorne, J. Parsons, S. Harris, F. Roberts, W. Milburn, M. Casey, C. Campion, R. Chenery, C. Delaney, H. Gould, A. Haigh and J. Patterson.

The following is an extract from the *Evening News* on November 15:

"JOYFUL SENTRY-GO"

"Five British soldiers with quite a lot to say today are Sgt. Aubrey Cooper, of Kensal Rise, and Ptes. L. Smith, D. Smith, E. Morley and C. Partridge, all Middlesex Regiment men. They formed the Guard outside Buckingham Palace at the time the Prince was born. It was a joyful 'sentry-go' for they had to weave their way through the large crowds in a happy atmosphere of mounting excitement. The sergeant (ten years in the Army) thought it a 'fine thing for the Regiment' to be on guard at the historic moment."



By courtesy of Messrs. Craine, Roche & Co.

THE SENTRIES WHO WERE ON DUTY AT 2100 HOURS ON NOVEMBER 14

Front rank (Buckingham Palace), left to right: Ptes. Partridge, Smith '01, Morley and Smith '21
Rear rank (St. James's Palace), left to right: Ptes. Briggs, Gould, Chenery and Paterson

NEWS BY THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

COL. M. BROWNE, M.C., D.L., J.P.

ROYAL GUARD OF HONOUR

Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, October 26, 1948

On the occasion of the opening of Parliament Col. Mervyn Crawford and myself were invited to witness the ceremony at Buckingham Palace connected with the departure and return of their Majesties to the State Opening of Parliament. We were placed in a privileged position in the inner quadrangle (not open to the public) and thus were able to witness our Guard of Honour commanded by Major Chattey giving to His Majesty a Royal Salute on the departure of the procession and on its return. The music was provided by our Band and Drums on parade with the Guard of Honour.

On alighting from the royal coach, His Majesty inspected the Guard of Honour, which then marched past the King, led by the Band and Drums, following the Royal Bodyguard of Household Cavalry which filed past. The whole spectacle was most impressive and the Royal Bodyguard being in full dress with the state carriages made the ceremony one we shall never forget, and we realised our personal presence was unique in the history of our Regiment.

During the March Past we were stationed only a few paces from His Majesty and there mingled with equerries and members of the Household in scarlet and gold.

On the conclusion of the ceremony we were presented first to His Majesty and a few minutes later to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth, whose charm, beauty and kindness to us both entranced us. The conversation was of a most informal and friendly nature, and praise of the Guard of Honour was given freely.

Later we were invited into the Palace to drink sherry with their Majesties. We were the only commoners in the small group of royal dukes, peers and high court officials, in all some 12 in number.

We left the Palace filled with pride at the honour paid us as representatives of the Regiment and with deep pleasure that our Guard of Honour had done so splendidly.

On August 5, accompanied by Lt.-Col. Crawford and Major Clayton, I visited the County Cadets in camp at Mychett, near Aldershot. The camp area was familiar to us all and both myself and Col. Crawford had been stationed in this same camping area during the period which the 1st Battalion spent at Aldershot in the Guards Brigade there from 1923 to 1926. On this same date the Cadet Camp was visited by the Chairman of the T.A. Association and the Secretary, Brig. Basil Rackham, C.B.E., M.C., and in addition the Chairman of the Middlesex County Cadet Committee, Brig. Baker, was also present. Col. Sherbrooke-Walker, Commandant of the County Cadet Force, Lt.-Col.

Pritchard, his Staff Officer, Major Jones, the Brigade Major, Col. Mirams, Hon. Colonel of one of the Battalions, Lt.-Col. Wilson, formerly O.C. 1st Cadet Battalion, Lt.-Col. Short and Lt.-Col. Petram, present C.O.s, were among those present, amid many others with whom I worked in 1939-45 whilst conducting Certificate "A" examinations, for which duty throughout the war I acted as President at Inglis Barracks and at other areas in Middlesex. Many hundreds of Cadets passed their Certificate "A" examinations in those years and thence passed onwards into the National Army, inclusive of our Regiment.

On July 15 I was present in the Officers' Mess at the Depot when Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E., received his farewell dinner on retiring from the Army after some 42 years' continuous regimental service. We are glad to have him still with us.

On September 17 I was proud to unveil a sacred memorial to the late Drm. Dudley Stagpoole. No. 2843 Drm. Dudley Stagpoole was born at Limerick in 1838 and died at Ware, Herts., on August 1, 1911, being buried at Hendon Park Cemetery on August 5, 1911. In some unaccountable manner no tombstone was ever erected over this brave soldier's grave.

He fought in the Crimean War, 1854-55, and in the New Zealand Maori War in which latter campaign in the space of one week in 1863 he won the D.C.M. and the V.C. The D.C.M. was awarded on September 25 for gallantry when a party of the Regiment was ambushed in the Taranaki District at Kaipakopako. On this occasion he killed a Maori chief, pinning him to the ground with his bayonet. Seven days later at Pontoko the redoubt held by 100 "Diehards" was surrounded. During the fighting he twice saved wounded soldiers of the 57th at imminent danger to his own life, for those Maoris were savages and gave no quarter. On the second occasion he was in company with Ensign Down granted the V.C. by Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria. Drm. Stagpoole served for 23 years in the 57th Foot, now the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). He was in other respects a remarkable man, for he married four times. One son, Dudley Stagpoole, served in the 3rd Battalion and 1st Battalion of the Regiment, and another in the 2/8th Battalion of our Regiment, and in the 2nd Battalion East Lancs. Regiment. Both their wives as well as the two sons were present at the ceremony, and his two daughters, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Dixon, were also present. In addition, four granddaughters and one grandson were present, making in all 11 members of the family present. A son by his first wife was killed at the Battle of the Atbara in the Sudan.

Drm. Stagpoole's unique set of medals and decorations is in possession of the officers of the 1st Battalion. These medals were in Singapore in the vaults of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, where the bulk of the Regimental Silver was sent from Hong Kong on the outbreak of the last war. Thus they were in Japanese control, although NO Japanese hands ever sullied these priceless possessions of our 1st Battalion.

After the tombstone was unveiled by myself it was dedicated to the Glory of God by the Rev. A. E. Gib-



bins, C.F., who offered up prayers accordingly. The Last Post and Reveille were sounded by buglers of the Regiment. Four sergeants stood on guard at the four corners of the grave.

In addition to myself the following officers, W.O.s and ladies were present:

Brig. G. B. Parkinson, C.B.E., D.S.O., New Zealand Forces, representing the High Commissioner for New Zealand. We were very honoured at this recognition by the Dominion of this regimental occasion. Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O. (O.C. 1st Middlesex), Capt. R. W. J. Smith (Temporary O.C. Depot) and Mrs. Smith, Major E. L. Heywood (retired) (Admin. Officer, Depot), Major A. W. Clark (retired) (Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association), R.S.M. S. S. Weller, M.M. (Depot), Mrs. Bagnell and Miss Ruth Manning (housekeeper to Col. Beach and myself).

After the ceremony the whole party had tea in the Corporals' Mess and the Regimental Museum was visited, where relics of the war (N.Z.), including his set of medals, were placed for the afternoon.

News has recently come from Lt.-Col. Green, D.S.O. ("Stumps"), that his valuable services are being retained in Greece, and my hope of his early return to U.K. has fallen through. In any case I gather he is earmarked for a Grade 1 Staff appointment on his return, and thus his regimental service is delayed to an unknown date. He has recently had some leave in Athens, but is now on the Yugoslav frontier, where guerilla warfare has again broken out in the attempt to cut their supply

route into Greece. I gather there is some hope of the award of a Greek decoration, but it is held up for reasons I need not repeat, but is no doubt connected with our desire that our ranks shall not be held to be serving in the Greek forces. He has met a Sgt. Hobson of our Regiment, now serving in the East Surrey Regiment, who yearns to return to his own Regiment. I think he was in the 1st Middlesex, as he was a P.O.W. in Hong Kong.

Col. J. G. E. Reid and Mrs. Reid were in London towards the end of September on leave from BAOR, and myself and Col. Crawford saw them. They are spending some of their leave in South Ireland, and then return to BAOR.

Lt.-Col. John Worton is home on leave from East Africa. A post has been found for him in BAOR in Col. Reid's department.

Col. F. Walden is home on leave from MELF, but returns to take up his post as colonel in connection with Labour Corps work early in October.

Major E. J. Unwin has returned to MELF.

Lt.-Col. Andrew Man is now A.Q.M.G., 2nd Division, BAOR, having taken up the post on July 27.

On September 18 Lt. V. A. D. Holding, who was with 2nd Middlesex in Palestine, visited the Depot. He had just successfully passed his Airborne Parachute Course at Maida Barracks, Aldershot, and told me No. 6204495 Cpl. J. Harrington had also passed his course there, and had been reported as the best student of his course—a most satisfactory result of which we are proud to hear.

On August 12 Capt. J. de Gaye, formerly 1st Middlesex, BAOR, wrote to Major Clark to say he had reached Egypt early in May where he was a G.S.O.3 in G.S. Int. at G.H.Q., MELF. He had there met Col. Walden, commanding 3rd Infantry Brigade, and Major Phillips, well known to many of us.

No. 6201036 W.O.2 K. Fisher, Grenadier Guards, has had conferred on him the Bronze Star by the President of U.S. of America. He served in the Middlesex Regiment from March 7, 1933, until February 11, 1934.

Major Brindley Ayre from BAOR writes to tell me how much he is enjoying his liaison work with the G.O.C. Danish Forces in Germany.

Major V. Garrow was awarded an M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours list. Both he and Major H. A. Jacob are employed on Control Commission work, the latter in the Intelligence Department at Bielefeld, and the former in charge of a Displaced Persons Camp in the Hamburg area.

No. 6201445 Sgt. H. Mellor is serving with the H.Q., British Services Mission at Mingaladon, Burma.

Major P. E. C. Tuckey, who is Secretary to the Commandant of the Joint Services Staff College, writes to say how pleased he is to hear Major Aymar Clayton is attending the course starting in October. He tells me Lt.-Col. R. A. Keane, D.S.O., Canadian Infantry, is also attending, and reminds me that this officer was attached to our 9th Middlesex in 1937-39.

Deaths

I am sad to report the death of Andrew Man's father, the former Army Chaplain so well known in the Regiment, and who was so helpful in the Hong Kong Fellowship Movement.

He had been a sufferer from asthma for several years and these attacks on top of a serious operation were the cause of death. Our regrets have been conveyed to his widow and to both sons in our Regiment. Lt.-Col. Andrew Man is now A.Q.M.G. with the 2nd Division in BAOR(4) and his younger brother Christopher is now in the Military Training Directorate at the War Office.

I have also to record the death on August 20 of the mother of Lt.-Col. Henry del Court, M.C. Many of the older members of the Regiment remember Mrs. del Court since he came to the 1st Middlesex in the British Army of the Rhine in 1922. He has lived with his mother in Upper Dicker, Sussex, for many years and retired at the end of the recent war. Col. del Court visited the Depot here towards the end of September. Our deep sympathy has been conveyed to him.

Sgt. William James Turner of our Regiment was fatally injured whilst riding a motor-cycle in Valley Road, Nairobi. He ran into a stationary lorry on the road. He was an officer's servant in the early days of the P.T.C., and went to the 2nd Middlesex in Palestine, where he became Orderly Room Sergeant. From thence he went to East Africa. I understand Sgt. Turner was with the 1st Middlesex in Hong Kong and became a P.O.W. I should be glad to receive any more details of him from friends still serving. Col. Walden spoke very highly to me of his services in the 2nd Middlesex and there is no surer judge of that duty.

I am deeply distressed to record the death of Major Perkins ("Polly" Perkins). He was a well-known golf professional in America and always attended all regimental golf meetings. He served in the 3rd and 4th Battalions, being a sergeant at Mons and, I believe, joined about 1904. During the Great War he became a captain in the 11th Middlesex. He retired after the Great War, but joined the Pioneer Corps in the 1939-45 War.

Col. Crawford, myself and Capt. Smith from Inglis Barracks, attended his funeral cremation service at Mortlake Crematorium on Tuesday, August 17. W.O.s and sergeants from the Regiment acted as pall bearers, and two buglers from the Regiment were present and the Last Post and Reveille were beautifully sounded during the divine service. The chaplain had served with our 3rd Battalion in the Salonika Campaign and ex-R.S.M. Furniss of that Battalion was present amongst several Old Comrades. Major Hunt and Major Anderson, who served in the 11th Middlesex with Major Perkins, were present at the service. We shall miss "Polly" Perkins at future golf meetings, where he had always been a welcome and genial golfer, who added much to the joy of such occasions. He was the donor of many prizes, including sets of golf clubs.

Retirement

I was very sorry to say good-bye to No. 6196357 W.O.2 C.S.M. R. J. Stretton. He enlisted at Whitehall for our 2nd Battalion as a Band Boy on September 22, 1924, and was posted from the 1st Battalion on January 8, 1926, so he arrived at Ahmednagar just before I did so myself, and I had known him also in the 1st Middlesex at Aldershot when I commanded the H.Q. Wing there.

He served with the 2nd Middlesex at Ahmednagar and Madras and was with the Battalion in Khartoum. He came home with the Battalion and remained in the Band until 1939. During the last war he served at Inglis Barracks and in 170 M.G. O.C.T.U. and later also to 162 M.G. O.C.T.U., whence he was posted to 26 M.G.T.C., and later, after the war, came to 57 P.T.C. In 1947 he was again posted to the 2nd Middlesex in Palestine. Thus I have known him all his service, and wish him every success in his new Corps (R.A.O.C.). He was an excellent musician and a good soldier in every way. I hope we shall see him at all future regimental functions, as he is not very far away at Feltham, Middlesex.

Historical Memories

Recently the Regimental Museum received a present of a November, 1914, leather-bound Army List in memory of T/Major George Raleigh Kerr Evatt, who was a Regular officer in our Regiment, and was killed at La Boutillerie on November 14, 1914. He joined on March 12, 1904. He was last serving in "A" Company, 1st Middlesex, then under command of Lt.-Col. H. P. Osborne, D.S.O., and was killed by a sniper at "Stand-to" in the first light. In addition to this beautifully bound book we also received from his sister, Miss Estelle Evatt, some pictures and a 57th China plate. Miss Evatt reminded me that a great uncle of that name also served in the 57th, joining June 20, 1811. I knew our Capt. Evatt very well and was serving in "D" Company at the time he was killed. My Company Commander in "D" Company was Capt. Skaife and he also was killed at that time and then I took over command of "D" Company until I became Adjutant.

A Major Broderip has very kindly presented some Maori weapons to our Museum. These weapons were secured by his relative—Edmund Broderip, who joined the 57th Foot as an ensign on July 29, 1862. He became a lieutenant on November 2, 1866, and served in the New Zealand War, 1863-65 (a contemporary of Drm. Dudley Stagpoole, who had joined eight years earlier). He took part in actions at Katikara, Hurford's Hill, Kakarama and various minor affairs in which this war abounded. He disappears from the Army List in 1871.

Guard-Mounting Duties over Royal Palaces

Col. Crawford very kindly asked me on October 1 to witness the first guard-mounting ceremony at Buckingham and St. James's Palaces.

I witnessed the Falling-in Ceremony at Chelsea Barracks and thence went by means of the regimental car to Buckingham Palace, passing the guard with Band and Drums *en route*. It was truly thrilling to see

again the Regimental Colours flying, carried by Lt. G. A. Dawe, and to hear the Regimental March as the column entered the Buckingham Palace quadrangle with the Band and Drums leading. As the column moved past Queen Victoria's statue I saw the staff carried by Drum-Major Holford fly skywards and return safely into his grasp. The March-Past Regimental tune carried me back all the years of my life in the Regiment, and I remembered the many occasions I have proudly marched to that music in the ranks, and I felt around us the unseen hosts of former "Die-Hards" who were marching with that column, and watching with pride the splendid performance made by all those present on the parade. It was indeed a brave spectacle and how proud all those present and past members of the Regiment watching were at 10.30 a.m. on October 1, 1948. There were a great number of "Die-Hards" present in body and I spoke to many, including a former Sgt. Russell who had taught me drill on the square in Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth, in 1903-4, and recognised me by my likeness to my father, then their brigadier. He reminded me that in this war his son served in the Regiment as an officer. I must hasten on. The old guard was found by the 1st K.S.L.I., a battalion of which regiment served in the 11th Brigade at Colchester with both 1st Middlesex and 2nd Middlesex, and are now quartered together in Chelsea Barracks. Later we moved to St. James's Palace, and saw the duty taken over there in the courtyard. I visited the guard's quarters, including the Officers' Mess and their quarters, all comfortably furnished, the walls lined with priceless books, and decorated with lovely coloured prints. His Majesty King Edward VIIth's picture hangs in the Mess Room, and I was reminded how H.R.H. never failed to note any error in dress down to the least detail.

The *Evening Standard* reminded us in an article on September 30 that the 1st Battalion had performed guard duties over His Majesty King George V and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary at Calcutta in 1911. That was during the Minto Fête there, and I myself was a subaltern in that very guard, and again also in the guard of honour at the fête ground itself. Those were spacious days and I can see the vast crowds of loyal Indians, who as their Majesties drove past, bent down to the ground, and dared not raise their eyes to see their Emperor and Empress of India.

Major Norman Gilbert commanded the guard on October 1, and the other two officers were Capt. Norman Clayden and Lt. P. J. Livemore, M.C.

R.S.M. McLoughlin, thanks to whose efforts this first ceremony passed off so magnificently, was present on the parade, and kept his finger on the pulse of everyone. Later he was presented by Lt.-Col. Crawford, from the 1st Battalion, with a silver salver in memory of this ceremony and I feel sure he will treasure this memento of a proud day for him, when he saw the fine fruits of all his work and care. He lived for its success all those weeks of preparation; and he must feel sad to leave the 1st Battalion for his work at Shorncliffe, from which he cannot be spared for regimental duty and sad though we all are we realised what an honour it was to be selected for so high a task.



Relatives of the late Drm. Dudley Stagpoole, V.C., D.C.M., with the medals awarded to Drm. Stagpoole (centre of middle row)



By courtesy of the "Dominion Press"
The King's Guard advancing in slow time in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace, October 1, 1948

1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

EDITORIAL

On our return from overseas in the summer, we settled down at Mill Hill with the dual role of assisting the T.A. and training the National Service soldier. We did not anticipate any National Service intakes until the spring of 1949, and so we made plans for the intensive training of all officers and N.C.O.s. Then, suddenly, the Guards were ordered to Malaya and we were instructed to take over their duties at Chelsea. Not only were we well below establishment in officers, but the man-power situation was desperate. Nevertheless, after a few hectic days of conferences, drafts began to arrive at Mill Hill, headed by our old R.S.M., Mr. McLaughlin. We were given four weeks to prepare for our new role and R.S.M. McLaughlin laboured all day and every day to bring us up to the standard required. From what we hear, his untiring efforts were amply rewarded.

The first day of October was warm and sunny—the perfect setting for our first guard mounting. A very large gathering of Old Comrades and serving members of the Regiment were at the Palace to watch the ceremony and many old acquaintances were renewed. Since that day the Regiment has mounted guard every third day, sharing the duties with the Welsh Guards and the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

Guards are also mounted at the Bank of England and the Tower of London. These two guards mount at Chelsea Barracks and are seldom seen by the public except as they march through London to their place of duty. The King's Guard mounts daily at Buckingham Palace when His Majesty is in residence, except on Saturdays and Sundays when the mounting takes place at St. James's Palace. When the Royal Family is out of London the mounting always takes place at St. James's Palace.

Perhaps the most important event for the Battalion during this quarter has been the State Opening of Parliament on October 26. On that day our original duty was to provide a Royal Guard of Honour at the House of Lords. His Majesty commanded that the Regiment should provide the Guard of Honour inside the Palace and so the Welsh Guards provided the guard at the Houses of Parliament in our place. We were indeed proud of our Regiment on this day. Major Chattey commanded the Guard of Honour. After the Guard of Honour had marched past the King, the Colonel of the Regiment and Lt.-Col. Crawford were presented to His Majesty. A further commitment on this day was the lining of the Mall, outside the Palace, by a party of 100 of all ranks.

Life is very full for battalions on public duties. We are always being called upon to provide troops for all the major London military events. The Band and Drums, especially, have a very strenuous time.

The Band will be parading in scarlet for the Lord Mayor's Show in November. This will be their first appearance in full dress for many years.

Although we have been more than busy militarily, we have still found plenty of time for sport. Our football team is unbeaten in the London District Mid-Week

League, but we still have many strong teams to meet. Our team is very much a team and their keenness and enthusiasm must certainly take them a long way.

Our Rugby and hockey teams are going strong and they both play off the first rounds of their Army Cup matches in the near future. Fuller accounts will be reported in the next issue.

We are continually receiving drafts of officers and O.R.s. We welcome them to the Regiment, especially those who have been posted to us from other regiments of the Home Counties Group, and hope that their stay with us will be happy.

"H.Q." COMPANY

The new "H.Q." Company formed on the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions started life at the end of July at Mill Hill. Commanded by Major R. C. H. Bellers from the 1st Battalion and drawn equally from officers and men of the 1st and 2nd Battalions, the Company soon settled down together and carried on the traditions of both Battalions in the new Company.

On the amalgamation we became by far the largest Company in the Battalion, including Battalion H.Q., Signals, Mortars (there being no Support Company on our present establishment), Pioneers, Admin. Platoon and, of course, the Band, Drums and, last but not least, the Boys.

In such a large Company it is impossible to mention all the personalities we should like to—many old friends and acquaintances are now brought together and many new friendships have been made. The Company has very quickly developed a spirit and character of its own.

Personalities

On formation we had Capt. R. J. P. Cummins, late Adj. of the 1st Battalion, as our 2 i/c and Major I. R. Burrows, late 2 i/c 2nd Battalion, as P.R.I., also in "H.Q." Company's fold. The latter has since left us on a course of study of Russian at London University and we wish him every success and hope to see him on frequent visits, as he is not far away.

Capt. Cummins has now taken over P.R.I. and still keeps his fatherly eye on the Band and especially the Drums. Other officers on our formation were Lt. B. K. Clayden (Signals), Lt. P. G. V. Bellers (Mortars), Capt. R. E. Orr, M.C. (M.T.O.) and Lt. C. H. Mievile, M.C. (W.T.O.).

In Company H.Q. we have C.S.M. Fuller (from "A" Company, 1st Middlesex) and C/Sgt. Taylor, who has served recently with both 1st and 2nd Battalions. Other old friends in the Company are: Sgts. Michel, Sharp (Signals), Sgts. Stone, Bartholemew, Landreth, Buckley, Spencely (Mortars), Sgt. Kenrick (W.T.), Sgt. Burgess is still in the Officers' Mess and Sgt. Bailey in the M.I. Room.

In August we welcomed the 4.2-in. Mortar Platoon from Warminster which now forms the nucleus of our new 3-in. Mortar Platoon. This Platoon under Capt. T. Tarmey has been at the School of Infantry for over eighteen months and has been many times congratulated on their fine work on demonstrations. We hope they will equally inspire the 3-in. Mortar

Platoon once we get a chance to train. So far, however, it has been impossible to settle down to much specialist training; at Mill Hill, employments were heavy ("H.Q." Company being the only Company up to strength) and lately, since our move to Chelsea Barracks to do public duties and Palace guards, all available men in "H.Q." Company have been either on King's Guard, Tower Guard or Bank Picquet. Our last few weeks at Mill Hill were spent in numerous drill parades and since we have started Palace duties there has been no time to arrange Signal or Mortar cadres.

We have had a few newcomers from Shorncliffe lately, but they are also fully employed on guard duties. It is hoped, however, that later on it will be possible to form cadres for specialist training, but at present, of course, all efforts are put towards a first-class standard of drill and turn-out for the King's Guard. Specialist N.C.O.s are, however, going on courses and three Mortar N.C.O.s leave for the Warminster Course shortly.

Move to Chelsea

We moved to Chelsea on September 27 and started public duties and our first King's Guard, on October 1, many "H.Q." Company men taking part.

During the move we were commanded by Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., from "B" Company, but now Lt. C. H. Mievile, M.C., is commanding, as Major Bellers has left us to take over the Depot at Mill Hill. He has been lucky enough to get a house right opposite the barracks gate which should be very convenient.

It is rumoured that the Pioneers once again proved invaluable in helping him to settle in! Lt. P. G. V. Bellers is still acting as Company 2 i/c and Lt. G. A. Dawe is M.T.O. Capt. R. E. Orr, M.C., left us in October to go to the Parachute Regiment and we are very sorry to see him go. However, we are sure he will land on his feet and we hope to keep in touch with him.

Sport

At Mill Hill, Platoons of the Company took part in a cricket knock-out competition with much enthusiasm and some success (especially the Band and M.T.).

Since our arrival at Chelsea we have not had half the time for games that we should have liked; however, we now have plans for soccer at Mill Hill and hockey, rugby and basketball at Chelsea, and we are preparing to produce teams for all these games.

We have already raised two teams for the hockey knock-out competition and our first team won the first round against "A" Company 5-0; we trust our second team will also do well. Under our Sports Officer, Lt. B. K. Clayden (late Signal Officer, 2nd Battalion) we are sure that the Company will get a chance to play plenty of games in between their guard duties.

"A" COMPANY

With the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions on August 1, 1948, many old friends were brought together in the Company. Under the command of Major Chattey the Company remustered at Mill Hill, appointments being filled by the undermentioned:

O.C.	Major T. W. Chattey
2 i/c	Capt. G. Kent
C.S.M.	W.O.2 R. Tarrant
C.Q.M.S.	C/Sgt. H. Carlier
No. 1 Platoon	Capt. A. D. C. Eales; Sgt. W. Toms
No. 2	Lt. K. J. Carter; Sgt. R. Biggs
No. 3	Lt. R. F. Coker; Sgt. R. Dodkins
Coy. H.Q.	Sgt. G. Bignell

The Company was composed mainly of Regular soldiers, since it was formed as a demonstration company for the T.A., and was to be located at the East Surrey Regimental Depot at Kingston-on-Thames.

On the Battalion taking over public duties in London the role of "A" Company was changed accordingly and we moved to Chelsea Barracks.

Whilst at Mill Hill training for guard duties commenced and "A" Company had the honour to find a very large percentage of the first King's Guard mounted by the Battalion on October 1, 1948. This included C.S.M. Tarrant, Sgt. Dodkins, L/Cpl. Cockburn, L/Cpl. Mayer, L/Cpl. Dowell, Ptes. Boardman, Briggs, Card, Curtis, Dolman, Killen, Parsons, Pegg, Richards, Winslade and Yerby.

Since the formation of the Company Capt. A. D. C. Eales has left for the Middle East and Lt. R. F. Coker has been demobilised; their places have been taken by Lt. W. G. Mitchell-Innes and 2/Lt. D. F. Reckitt. Cpl. Gornall has left on posting to Lancastrian Brigade Training Battalion and Cpl. Gould has joined us. Cpl. Foster and L/Cpl. Savage have been transferred to "H.Q." Company. Several small drafts have joined us from the Depot.

Whilst at Mill Hill No. 2 Platoon were the winners of the Mill Hill Plate Inter-Platoon Cricket Competition, meeting the Depot in the semi-finals and "B" Company in the finals. Ptes. Highfield, Pickering, Parsons and Stone formed a useful hard core for the team. At Chelsea in the Inter-Company Football League the Company have lost to "C" Company (5-0) and beaten "D" Company (4-0).

In the Hockey Inter-Company League we were unfortunate to lose our match with "H.Q." team (5-0). The Company provided four of the Battalion basketball players in the London District Championships: C.S.M. Tarrant, L/Cpls. Manser and Smith and Pte. Ewin.

An Inter-Company Basketball Competition has commenced and we have beaten "B" Company in the first round (19-9).

"B" COMPANY

The secret desire of the average present-day soldier is to be stationed near his home. For the large number of Londoners in the Battalion that desire was amply fulfilled in mid-July when we reached Mill Hill from B.A.O.R. Before the month was out, these "home birds," having armed themselves with R. and L. allowances, etc., could be seen each day at precisely 4.30 p.m. (save for the odd person who occasionally preceded the main body with a fast watch and a guilty conscience!) repairing to their various abodes, there to function for a little less than 12 hours as cherished husbands or dutiful sons. What of the bachelors and

grass widowers from more distant parts? There can be little doubt that to a man they were sighing for Hamburg with its cigarettes at 9d. for twenty and beer at 4d. per pint; for their daily hack in the lovely park set aside for the exclusive use of the English; for their regular "night at the opera," where for 5s. they could occupy the best seats in the theatre and always be sure that the production would be magnificent; some were missing the NAAFI clubs which were always beautifully decorated and luxuriously furnished, others among us were missing their sailing on the Alster (the great lake in the centre of Hamburg) where again for a meagre pittance a sleek six- or eight-metre boat could be hired for three to four hours. It seemed that the oddest whims and fancies could be indulged in in a life which, although artificial, was none the less extremely pleasant. It was not until mid-September that we began to recover from the impact of the high cost of living in England.

We have not really functioned as a Company since July, largely because of the acute shortage of man-power. Platoons simply have not existed save on paper. As these notes are written a thin trickle of reinforcements comes to the Company and we have before us the heartening prospect of ultimately regaining our strength. It came as a great shock to us when, immediately prior to our leaving B.A.O.R., C.S.M. E. Pike was whisked away to extra regimental employment. This was a bitter disappointment to the little knot of old "B" Company still remaining, for he was a man very much admired by all members of the Company. An extremely able man, he never failed to get the maximum effort from the Company on parade (woe betide the man who was idle). He had a great understanding of people and was at all times the friends of officers and men alike. We wish him and his wife all the luck in the world.

We have had three officers join us recently: Lt. D. R. C. Landels, 2/Lt. G. G. Norton and 2/Lt. C. E. R. Ousey. We hope it will not be long before the Company is up to strength and the old spirit returned to make them as proud as the writer has been to serve with it.

We offer our congratulations to C.S.M. E. Soden on his promotion to W.O. He was with the Company for a long time as C.Q.M.S. in partnership with C.S.M. Pike.

I have no doubt that a great deal will be written about London duties elsewhere in this issue. Suffice it for us to say that we thoroughly enjoy the Palace guards.

"C" COMPANY

The move from Germany, together with the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions in July, has, except for a few, resulted in a complete change-over of personnel in the Company. Pte. J. James, our hard-working clerk, seems to be about the only person who remains a permanent fixture; we congratulate him, as well as Pte. K. Pascoe, on their recent appointments to lance-corporal.

After approximately two months in Mill Hill, where we were able to get some cricket and soccer, thanks to the hard work of Cpl. M. Stroud and L/Cpl. J. Conroy, we are now stationed in Chelsea Barracks. Our Com-

pany strength continues to increase; we are now over 60 strong and think we shall now be able to make ourselves felt in the sports world.

We welcome to the Company Sgt. R. Budden, Cpls. C. Stimson and R. Bromilow; we congratulate the latter on his recent marriage.

We were sorry to lose Capt. D. Sax, who is now attached to the Staff. We welcome Capt. V. A. Thomas, M.C., Lts. J. S. C. Flavell and B. A. M. Pielow, who have recently joined the Company. C.S.M. H. Jennings, who has done so much in reorganising the Company, is just about to go on a well-earned leave. C/Sgt. F. Griffiths is now our No. 1, "Q," staff, having recently returned to the Company from hospital where he was sick with chicken pox!

"D" COMPANY

On August 1, 1948, the new 1st Battalion came into being and the new "D" Company was born, which is now a lusty child growing stronger daily. Major Kendall-Sadler, after an absence of six years from the Regiment, has returned to the fold and has taken over command of the Company. We hope his stay with us will be a long and happy one. Capt. C. N. Clayden is 2 i/c and the other "old hands" are C.S.M. Lomax, C/Sgt. Thom and Sgts. Markham, Cooper and Hummerstone. To begin with, our numbers were very low and any form of training was difficult; then came the news that the Battalion had received the honour of being selected to carry out public duties, and in no time drafts began to arrive and everyone got down to learning the ceremonial of the King's Guard and the other guards involved. The hard work put in by all has had its reward, judging by the many comments that have been passed about the smartness of the Battalion on guard. On September 27, 1948, we moved to Chelsea Barracks, which we share with the 1st Battalion the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and, in spite of the painters and decorators, we settled in quickly.

In the field of sport we are getting down to winter games and owing to the enthusiasm shown by all ranks, we have every reason to hope and believe that we have a successful season in all branches of sport.

THE CORPS OF DRUMS

Since our return from B.A.O.R. we have been joined by Cpl. Purdon, L/Cpl. Fleckney and Drms. Halsall, Padley, Shallcross, Simmonds-Smith, Sharp and Taylor. In offering them a very belated welcome it is pleasant to record how well they have all settled down.

The past few months have been extremely interesting, even if somewhat strenuous. Friday, October 1, 1948, was a red letter day in our history, when we had the honour of leading into the forecourt of Buckingham Palace the first King's Guard ever to be furnished by the Regiment. We were also present with the Battalion's Guard of Honour mounted in the quadrangle of the Palace on the occasion of the State Opening of Parliament. We are also to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show and in an Armistice Service being held at the Depot. At present we are assiduously preparing to beat Retreat before a most critical audience—those veteran

soldiers, the Chelsea Pensioners, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital.

One seldom associates the Battalion Orderly Room as a scene of pleasant events. However, on October 25, the exceptional happened when the C.O. presented to the Drum-Major on behalf of three Q.M.'s of the Regiment—Major P. F. (Percy) Newman, Capt. H. (Harry) Farrow, M.B.E., and Capt. R. W. J. (Dick) Smith—a most glittering set of drum-major's cords, worked in the finest of gold braid. It was fitting that they were worn for the first time on the State Opening of Parliament, when the full ceremony traditionally associated with that event was observed. All members of the Corps wish to convey to these three officers, whose combined service in the Regiment is over 90 years, their deep appreciation for this most generous gift.

Many old drummers have visited us since our return to U.K. and amongst those we were very pleased to see were Fred Cullen, Doug. Calvert, "Boy" King, "Blanco" White and "Rusty" Woodworth, the last named having an attack of nostalgia on his release leave!

Cpl. Phillips, a very old member of the Corps from pre-war days, and Dmr. Holland have both departed to the life where no piercing bugle intrudes. We wish them the very best of luck and look forward to seeing them again some time.

By the way, the broadcast made by us over the B.F.N. on Albuhera Eve this year has now been privately reproduced by H.M.V. on three 12-in. records. Ninety-nine sets only were made and the cost of a set £1 barely covers production costs. Anyone desirous of obtaining a set should contact the Officer i/c the Corps of Drums.

In conclusion we send to all our ex-drummers, wherever they may be, our very best wishes and to all our readers the hope that they will enjoy a merry Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

RUGBY

The season started for us in September when we accustomed ourselves to the shape and feel of the rugger ball. Numbers at the practices held were encouraging, although the greater percentage were learners.

One finds it increasingly difficult to make the young soldier play an energetic and robust game; he is, as in normal everyday life, content to do so much and no more. The brain is slow to react and as the old reliables fall out, it becomes harder to field a XV of good solid material.

We lack weight and experience, but the goodwill is there and, apart from cup matches, we will enjoy our season. Our first match was away against Old Twickenhomians, which we lost 16-0. Our forwards were slow and our marking outside was weak; we must learn that we have an opposite number which it is our duty to mark.

Our second match was a victory over the Exiles L.T.C. by 28-8, not a walkover by any means, the score being largely due to our opponents' errors and not our tackling. The first half the forwards were very weak, they did not bind in the tight or loose scrums, their heeling was slow and altogether they were a ragged eight. The threequarters were not much better.

The second half saw a great improvement, C.S.M. Jennings playing a hard and robust game. Sgt. Bartholemew and Carter worked up more spirit and greatly improved. Sgt. Carter unfortunately was playing out of position. Lt. K. J. Carter and Lt. B. K. Clayden were feeling the effects of lack of practice. Cpl. Stroud is not the hooker or fighter of the last season. Sgt. Thorogood tries hard and never gives up. Lt. G. A. Dawe has weight and height and is a great stayer, but he is not yet fit.

Of the threequarters, Knight has a beautiful pair of hands, a fair turn of speed and a good cut through, but he must go on and, of course, lands in trouble. Trew is a game defender if urged on; he has a very bad habit of fly-kicking and always looks at his opposite number when passing; consequently the ball is grounded. Sgt. Burland and L/Cpl. Cockburn are not fast enough as wings. Lt. Bellers and Pte. Holding are old hands and have speed and a very good defence. Pte. Bennett is a greatly improved man at full-back, but his kicking is still his weak point. Chubb at scrum-half is a little hesitant at collecting the ball; he is slow and his kick is weak, but he is young and will learn. Pte. Wenden and Corbitt are also up-and-coming scrum-halves. Capt. Clayden plays when not playing for Richmond. Of the other players, Sgt. Kenrick and Pte. Cooper have just returned to the game and are welcomed back. We also have 15 or 20 enthusiastic beginners—more about them next time.

We have another 15 fixtures ahead of us and more to come. I hope all players will benefit from the games this season.

SOCCER

The regimental soccer team has started the season in good form. After a series of trials in which many, both old and young, showed their paces, a promising team has developed. We were unfortunate in having to play the strongest team in London District, the R.A. Field Wing, in the London District Cup before we had settled down and were beaten 3-2 after a hard game. We have since played three games in the London District League, beating the K.S.L.I. at Mill Hill 4-1, the Scots Guards 2-1 and the Household Cavalry Training Regiment 3-0. Both these games were away victories. We have also won the first round of the Army Cup by defeating the Household Cavalry 5-1 at Mill Hill. After a close first half skill triumphed over the height and weight of the troopers and all five forwards scored.

The team contains old stalwarts in L/Cpl. Marable, still as good as ever on the left-wing, and Sgt. Jones, rock-like in defence. These two, together with Capt. Foster, the Dental Officer, and the Rev. A. E. Gibbins, C.F., on occasions provide a very welcome representation from the Depot which, though small in numbers, keeps its end up in no mean fashion in regimental sports.

The old 2nd Battalion provided us with our captain and left-half, C/Sgt. L. Shrubbs, M.M., another older but very valuable member. The Band's contribution is L/Cpl. Hilken at centre-half, whose ginger head is often utilised to stem the opposition's attacks, and another "Ginger," Bds. Stapleton, equally at home on the right-wing or at right-half. The 1st Battalion

brought two useful forwards from Germany in Ptes. Hartshorne and Harvey, of "A" Company. The same Company has also provided us with L/Cpl. Manser, a forceful half-back.

New drafts from the Training Company at Shorncliffe have contributed L/Cpl. Pascoe, the other full-back, and Ptes. Wallis and Hale for the forward line. The two latter are ideally built physically for their positions. Last but by no means least "H.Q." Company solved our biggest headache when they discovered Pte. Gould, our goalkeeper.

Thus all sections of the Regiment have combined in providing the material for a useful side and we are settling down now to making a team having the right blend of youth and experience.

The Company League is now under way and keen competition is expected for the Albuhera Shield.

ATHLETICS

Of the last season's athletic team we have 23 members still serving. They are Capt. C. N. Clayden, Lts. P. G. V. Bellers and Livemore, Drum-Major Holdford, Sgts. Bignell and Burland, Cpls. Crowther, Salmon, Shone and Walsh, L/Cpls. Winsborough, Ewin and Manser, Drms. Dandy and Leat and Ptes. Jenkins, Parsons, Harvey, Mouldsdales, Dolman, Holding, Munday and Burton.

These are all ex-1st Battalion athletes; the 2nd Battalion have a few remaining as well. Here is material enough to build a good team on. The 440 will again be our weak point, with the distance races our strongest. We have behind us that very excellent coaching of Gerhard Stoeck, who, by the way, wishes to be remembered to all members of the team, and is himself fully employed at Hamburg University. He recently competed in an inter-club meeting and produced the following results:

Discus 147 ft. 6 in.; Shot 47 ft. 4 in.; Javelin 201 ft.; High Jump 5 ft. 8 in.; Hammer 139 ft.; Hurdles (120 yds.) 15.9 seconds.

The cross-country team will commence to practice in early November for competitions in February.

CRICKET

We all had hopes that the cricket XI this season would follow in the most successful footsteps of the old 1st and 2nd Battalion teams of last season, but this was not to be. Major N. G. Gilbert, Sgt. Bailey and Dmr. Cullen remained from the 1st Battalion and only Lt. B. K. Clayden and C/Sgt. Carlier from the 2nd Battalion XI.

However, we did have fairly successful season, winning six of our eleven matches. Towards the end of the season we were playing more as a team and we did unearth some promising talent for next year. Pte. Stone, "A" Company, a left-hander, was perhaps the most correct batsman in the team; in due course he will become more forceful.

If the Test selectors had witnessed Major E. L. Heywood's sterling 63 against the War Office Signals, they may have wondered whether a cricketer ever grows old. Perhaps Major Heywood was the exception to the

rule that a player puts away the bat and ball at 40; he certainly proved it that summer's day. Another great hitter was the 2 i/c, Major N. G. Gilbert, his hits to the boundary and over it often lifting the team's score to a respectable total. At least we were never all out for 52!

Capt. R. E. Orr, M.C., and Dmr. Cullen were our stock bowlers. They both bowled extremely well and in particular Dmr. Cullen always maintained a beautiful length. Capt. C. N. Clayden batted and bowled extremely effectively and his fielding was always brilliant. Sgt. Bailey kept wicket throughout the season and, although not brilliant, he nevertheless was always sound.

In Company matches "A" Company beat "B" Company in the final of the Mill Hill Plate after a very thrilling match in the autumn gloom. "B" Company are to be congratulated for their sportsmanship in not appealing against the light, which undoubtedly may have robbed them of victory.

The Regimental Band beat the Signal Platoon in the final of the "Losers' Competition," which was a foregone conclusion to everyone but the Signals, who made the Band fight hard for their victory.

On the whole a most enjoyable season with great promise for next year. We all hope that the weather will be a little kinder next year as well as the results.

HOCKEY

Enthusiasm for hockey is great and from the form shown even at this early date it is possible to predict a good season for the Battalion.

It is very unfortunate that we have no ground of our own or indeed any ground within walking distance of Chelsea Barracks. We have a very short pitch marked out on part of the Battalion square and, through the hard work of our sole Pioneer, Pte. F. Draper, a set of good goalposts.

We have played against the 1st Battalion the K.S.L.I. Regiment at Acton and, after a game in which we were continually in their circle, lost 3—2, a most unfortunate result. Our only other Battalion game was played against the R.A.F. at Hendon on their field, which is part of the "take-off" ground for their planes. The pitch was extremely uneven, but after a hard-fought game we were the winners by 2—1.

The most promising players so far are Major G. O. Porter at full-back, Capt. C. N. Clayden, centre-forward, who will be dropping back to centre-half, and O.R./Q.M.S. Waldron at left-half. We have two good wingers in Lt. P. G. V. Bellers (right) and Lt. B. K. Clayden (left). Other regular players to date are Capt. J. N. Shipster, D.S.O., Capt. R. J. P. Cummins, Lt. P. J. Livemore, M.C., Lt. K. J. Carter and C.S.M. R. Tarrant.

We are still looking for a goalkeeper of outstanding merit, but with the Inter-Company Knock-Out competition which is now in progress we should fill the bill quickly. In the latter competition "H.Q." 1 have played "A" Company and have beaten them by 5—0. This is the first game of the competition and it appears that "H.Q." 1 will take a lot of beating. "D" Company are full of confidence and have a sneaking feeling

that they may beat all-comers in this competition, especially as they have drawn a bye with "H.Q." 2 into the semi-finals.

Our future fixtures are not numerous but we are looking forward with anticipation to the forthcoming London District and Army Championships.

Immediately after the present Inter-Company Knock-Out Competition there will be an Inter-Company League Competition.

Major G. O. Porter, Capt. C. N. Clayden, Lts. P. J. Livemore, M.C., P. G. V. Bellers, B. K. Clayden and K. J. Carter, and O.R./Q.M.S. Waldron were nominated for a trial for Iondon District.

Unfortunately on the day of the trial match Capt. C. N. Clayden and Lt. P. J. Livemore, M.C., were on duty in the Battalion and were unable to attend. So far no news has been received as to the result of the trial game. In the next hockey notes I feel sure that I shall be able to record a large number of wins and be able to give glowing accounts of our progress.

HAMBURG

Hamburg today presents a sorry and depressing sight and little remains of what was formerly a fine and magnificent city. As one drives through miles of rubble and desolation it would be perhaps a good thing to cast one's mind back and picture this city as it stood only a few short years ago before the fury of war had swept over it, and thence even further back to the days of its origin.

Hamburg's early history goes back many hundreds of years and had its beginning in a fortress erected in the year 808 by Charlemagne on a small hill lying between the rivers Elbe and Alster. Charlemagne called this town Hammerburg, because of the surrounding forest Hamme. Three years later Charlemagne built a church here and Hamburg became a great centre of Christianity in North-Western Europe.

From this early start the town gradually increased in size and, due to its strategic situation on the River Elbe, grew into a thriving and prosperous port, where merchants from every country set up their businesses and storehouses. If one had walked along the streets near the docks one would as like as not have heard more Flemish and English being spoken than German.

Due to Hamburg's unique position as a world port, and it is incidentally the largest port in Europe, the Hamburgers have always considered themselves to be somewhat different from the remainder of their countrymen and even today this difference can be noticed. For example, the Hamburger appears to have even now a more ready sense of humour than does his counterpart elsewhere in Germany. As a matter of interest Hamburg was never one of the strongholds of Nazism and Hitler never gained the popularity here that he did in other parts of Germany.

It seems strange when one now views the miles of ruins and destruction, dirty shops with empty windows, Black Marketeers carrying out their various affairs in the Hoffenmarkt and other public places, that here was a city that was only a short time ago producing such a variety of goods as cigarettes, oils, soap, hydraulic machinery, sewing machines, cars, cured hams, ex-

plosives and much other paraphernalia of war. It is stated that even if the rate of clearing the rubble and rebuilding was doubled it would still take 70 years to rebuild the city.

What of the military life of this city of ruins? It is impossible in such a short space to give a very adequate account of the life of a soldier employed on garrison duties, and of his life off duty.

The big NAAFI clubs, which are most excellently run, provide a very ample source of relaxation, as do the host of other clubs and institutes which provide for the wants of the soldier. Cheap beer, duty-free cigarettes are all things which the soldier's counterpart in England might well envy, but behind this thin façade of artificiality there lies the most blatant poverty and misery. As one trundles through the ruins in a three-ton lorry or jeep on the way to the Garrison Theatre or NAAFI club, life seems pleasant and the ruins seem rather remote, but if one pauses one moment to think one remembers that amongst these ruins there are thousands of people trying to eke out an existence.

Guard duties in various parts of the city account for a large period of the life of a soldier. The duties are many and the distances involved quite large when it is remembered that there is only one garrison battalion in the city itself. Guarding the town guard room, which is one of the main commitments of the garrison battalion, is possibly the least pleasant duty that one can be called upon to perform. It is here that a large portion of the thuggery in north Germany finds its way.

The Army of Occupation has as one of its main roles the job of assisting the civil power if the need arises. Luckily, so far, this need has not arisen and it appears even less likely than it did.

But the Army in Germany will remain, and amidst this city the British soldier will remain complete with his cricket pitches, rugby fields and NAAFI clubs, all of which are undeniably essential in maintaining a healthy Army, but let us also hope that before the Army leaves one can look back and see that progress has been made on the other side.

J.N.S.

DEPOT NOTES

The Depot is once again on its own and the barracks seem remarkably empty and bare after the departure of the Battalion with all its daily parades and activity. We hope that their absence will only be temporary and look forward to their early return.

From October 1 to 3 we ran for the first time a course for subalterns of the Army Cadet Force. They were accommodated in the Mess and carried out a full two-day programme consisting of lectures on Officer Duties and Man Management, Mess Etiquette, Regimental History and Camp Duties and practical periods of drill and other Certificate "A" subjects. All agreed that the course had been of good value and further courses are being held for senior Cadet Officers and Cadet W.O.s and N.C.O.s during the winter.

On October 5 the Cadets of Tottenham Grammar School, consisting of two officers and 45 Cadets, visited

the barracks. They carried out drill on the square, visited the Museum, fired on the 30-yds. range and their Corps of Drums beat "Retreat."

At cricket in the Mill Hill Plate the Depot were beaten in the semi-final by the ultimate winners, No. 2 Platoon of "A" Company, by 11 runs. Pte. Marable bowled extremely well and took seven wickets.

Football has started and we have the makings of a good side, but it is early in the season to forecast.

We were sorry to say farewell to Major Clayton on October 12, who leaves us to go to the Joint Services Staff College. We welcome Major Bellers from the 1st Battalion, who has taken over command of the Depot in his place.

ARMISTICE DAY, NOVEMBER 7

The Armistice Day Service was held in the Garrison Church in Inglis Barracks. The service was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Gibbins, C.F., and the church was filled by a good attendance of families, the Drums and a detachment of 30 men from the 1st Battalion under Major Sadler, 50 other ranks under the O.C. Depot, some 35 Old Comrades and a party from 10 Command Workshops R.E.M.E.

The lessons were read by the Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P., and Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., and the "Last Post" and "Reveille" were sounded by the 1st Battalion buglers. It had been planned to hold a March Past after the service by the detachment of the 1st Battalion, the Depot and Old Comrades, but at the last moment this was cancelled owing to heavy rain; instead, the Colonel of the Regiment addressed the Old Comrades in the Crawford Hut after the service and this was followed by the laying of wreaths at the Regimental War Memorial.

The following wreaths were laid on behalf of all ranks: The Middlesex Regiment: Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P.; 1st and 2nd Battalions 57th/77th: Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O.; 3rd Battalion: ex-R.S.M. Furness; 4th Battalion: ex-Sgt. Matthews, M.M.; 5th Battalion: Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E.; Diehards Club, Mill Hill: ex-Pte. Paris; Depot, Middlesex Regiment: Pte. Pluthero; 8th, 9th and 10 Battalions: By representatives of respective Old Comrades' Clubs.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE REGIMENTAL DEPOT IN RELATION TO DOMESTIC REGIMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Regimental Depot has four definite functions as under:

- It is the H.Q. of the Colonel of the Regiment.
- It is the home and H.Q. of the Regiment, and therefore it has duties not only towards serving officers and men, but also towards retired officers and ex-soldiers. Every officer and other rank serving or retired must always feel that his visits and letters are welcome and not a burden.
- It has duties of a regimental nature connected with its recruiting area.



REMEMBRANCE DAY 1948

Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., paying respects after laying wreath on Regimental Memorial on behalf of all ranks of the 1st and 2nd Battalions

- It has duties other than strictly military ones in connection with the T.A., the Junior Training Corps and Army Cadet Force. The closest touch must be kept with the County Council and the numerous Mayors of Boroughs and Chairmen of Urban District Councils.

Firstly, therefore to discuss its functions as H.Q. of the Colonel of the Regiment. The latter is being brought more and more into the active control of regimental affairs. This is partly due to the fact that there is not now, and will not be in the future, a Regular Battalion permanently stationed in U.K. Previously the Colonel transacted much of this business through and with the advice of the C.O. of the home battalion. Now he does all this through the C.O. of the Depot where he can be assured of the continuity so necessary for the conduct of these affairs. The O.C. Depot must always be prepared to inform the Colonel as to Army policy and ensure that in his correspondence he complies with current Army regulations. This duty is specially important in correspondence with the War Office and higher formations.

In this capacity the C.O. of the Depot deals, for example, with a wide variety of subjects on which he has to keep in continual touch with the Colonel of the Regiment. In addition, there is a constantly increasing quantity of business of a Home Counties Brigade nature,



REMEMBRANCE DAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1948

Group of 3rd Battalion veterans with the Drum-Major of the 1st Battalion wearing the presentation sash and holding the mace of the old 3rd Battalion. These two ceremonial articles are now used by our remaining Regular Battalions.

Back row: Capt. A. Zebedee, Mr. Archer, H. Simpson, G. Kerwill
Front row: Mr. J. Harrison, G. Sullivan, H. Hart, E. Furness, Drum-Major Holford, J. Ryan, W. Hollingsworth, C. Norcham

and in this the Colonel has to conduct much correspondence and discussion with other colonels of regiments, and must turn to the O.C. Depot for information and advice.

In so far as the Depot is the H.Q. of the Regiment, it must accumulate around itself all forms of regimental activity. The O.C. Depot will inevitably be involved in many aspects of regimental life, regimental rolls of honour, and card indexes of addresses and so on. He assists the editor of the regimental magazine and it is customary for him to interest himself in the regimental posting of both officers and other ranks. By keeping careful records he should have a wide knowledge of the capabilities of other ranks, and can consequently make very useful recommendations as to civil employment. He is automatically vice-chairman of the Regimental Association Committee and Officers' Club Committee in addition to being a member of the Finance Committee, War Memorial Cottage Homes Committee, War Memorial Appeals Committee and Journal Committee.

The Depot provides storage accommodation for the property of any Battalion on foreign service and on mobilisation.

The Officers' and Sergeants' Messes of the Depot are always open to any officers and sergeants at a loose

end. The Messes themselves contain a great quantity of regimental property and it is only fair that regimental money should be spent to some extent on its upkeep. Annual functions of a regimental nature are always held at the Depot and are open for all past and present members of the Regiment. Finally, under this heading, the Depot as H.Q. of the Regiment acts as Regimental Enquiry Office and can form a link between the soldier on service, his family, his friends and his employers. It provides a similar connecting link between all officers of the Regiment, Regular, retired, T.A., National Service, etc.

The regimental link with the T.A. recruiting area is a most important aspect. All counties hold their local regiment in high esteem. The physical manifestation of the Regiment is the Depot. Local dignitaries regard the Depot as part of the county set-up. The Depot should hold a position of standing. In the normal course of events the Depot Commander will be called upon to give his advice and active assistance in such activities as festivals, Remembrance Day, ceremonies and so on. In fact, on all military matters it is usual for the Depot Commander to be consulted by the civil authorities.

The Depot functions in connection with the T.A., the Junior Training Corps and the Army Cadet Force will increase as time goes on. There is no doubt that the Depot provides one of the main links between the Regular and T.A. battalions of a regiment. T.A. infantry battalions have always looked towards the Depot as the regular centre on which they have depended. At the Depot the Junior Training Corps and Army Cadet Force have a centre where they must always be welcome and in this respect the Depot can do much to inculcate the spirit of the Army in the youth of the country.

It would appear, therefore, that in spite of the Depot being a very small unit in the way of numbers, its affairs are many and varied and it occupies a place in life, not only of the Regiment, but of the Army as a whole.

OFFICERS' CLUB

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON

OCTOBER 21, 1948, AT 2 P.M.

Present: Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. D. Robbins, O.B.E., Major H. Marsh, Major R. C. H. Bellers, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., and Major A. W. Clark, O.B.E. (Secretary).

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., and Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. Secretary's Report. The Secretary reported that the paid membership of the Club to date was 365. He also reported that the number of tickets sold for the winter Cocktail Party was 117 and it was expected that over 120 tickets will be sold.

3. Election of New Members. The Committee approved of nine members as listed by the Secretary being accepted for membership to the Club:

Major D. Sax	1st Battalion.
Capt. W. M. Garner	3rd "
Major E. L. Stacey	1st Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.
Capt. H. E. Rawles	7th Battalion.
Capt. V. G. Oehl, M.C.	7th "
Lt. C. H. Mieville, M.C.	1st "
Lt. G. Norton	1st "
Capt. A. D. C. Eales	1st "
Lt. G. E. St. Clair	1st "

4. Resignation. The Secretary informed the Committee that he had received a letter from Major B. R. Wood tendering his resignation from the Club as from December 31, 1948. The Committee approved of his resignation with regret, and the Secretary was instructed to accept his resignation and notify Major Wood accordingly.

5. 6th Battalion Funds. Major H. K. Hardcastle reported at length on the legal and financial position of the 6th Battalion Funds. He explained that the Charity Commission and the Service Trustees would not agree to any scheme unless it was provided that the income of the funds should be applicable for the serving officers of the Regiment, and that the fund was not to be available for making grants to retired officers or their dependants. Major Hardcastle reported that this scheme had been accepted and was before the Charity Commission for settlement at the moment. The Committee requested, however, that Major Hardcastle would endeavour to arrange, if possible, for the income to be applicable for furthering the interests of the officers of the Regiment generally. Col. Browne's action in approving the scheme as originally prepared was approved. The Secretary was instructed that when the scheme had been started and the funds transferred, the moneys were to be kept in a separate account from any other funds.

6. Allocation of Funds. The Committee approved of the allocation of funds for 1949 as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Cricket	150	0	0
Tennis	20	0	0
Golf	50	0	0
Dinner	75	0	0
At Home	75	0	0
Total	£370	0	0

The above are contingent upon the allocation of funds from the 6th Battalion.

7. Other Business. The Secretary reported to the Committee that Rule 6 under "B" Cricket of page 8 of the rules is not in force and has not been applied during the past two years. The Committee decided that this subject to be deferred until the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.50 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee of the Officers' Club will take place on January 27, 1949.

AUTUMN GOLF MEETING

On October 28, 1948, the Golfing Society gathered at Hendon for the autumn meeting. The weather was kind, although the dawn had broken with a red sky and an early bright sun led the pessimists to foretell rain before we had finished. However, they were fortunately proved wrong and the only complaint was a cold and rather tricky wind which exaggerated the error of slices and pulls. One shadow was cast upon the proceedings by the absence of Lt.-Col. W. H. Samuel, who was most regrettably taken to hospital two days before the meeting suffering from severe lumbago. It is hoped that he will be fit and well again by the spring of next year in order to organise and captain the retired officers.

The scoring was high, the scratch cup being won by Gen. Bucknall with 86, which is 13 strokes over bogey. Lt.-Col. Stephenson and Lt.-Col. Crawford tied with this score, the result being decided on the last nine holes. Lt.-Col. Stephenson, who was out in 39, allowed victory to slip through his strong figures in the homeward half. Major Anderson once again triumphed in the handicap competition; his name will soon be added to those of Lt.-Col. Worton, whose absence from this meeting was very much regretted, and Major Ormiston, as golfers who can play to their handicaps. As he is a member of the handicapping committee, drastic reductions are expected before the next spring meeting. The Cooper Cup in the afternoon returned for the first time since the war to the Stapleford system, which was one of the original conditions laid down by the donor, Major Arthur Cooper. Brig. Weston and Lt.-Col. Stephenson, playing steady and at times brilliant golf, won the cup for the 2nd Battalion, in which they had both served together before the recent war, and which Brig. Weston had commanded during the North-West European campaign. Gen. Bucknall and Lt.-Col. Phillips did well, with their fewer allowances of strokes to take the prizes for second place.

After the meeting, a very successful cocktail party was held in the Officers' Mess at Inglis Barracks. There were 160 members of the Officers' Club and their guests in attendance and although the alcoholic consumption had to be rigorously controlled owing to the limited supplies available this did not in any way seem to cast any kind of gloom over the proceedings.

The golf results are as follows:

AUTUMN MEETING, OCTOBER 28, 1948

	RESULTS
MORNING	SCRATCH CUP AND REPLICA, AND SWEEP
1.	Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall 86*
	Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson 86*
	Lt.-Col. M. Crawford 86*
4.	Lt.-Col. H. Phillips 88
5.	Major G. B. Anderson 90
6.	Major J. W. G. Ormiston 92
*Lt.-Gen. Bucknall, winner, tie decided on best last nine holes.	



By courtesy of Messrs. Craine, Roche & Co.

Left to right: Major A. W. Clark, Mrs. A. W. Clark, Mrs. H. Farrow, Capt. H. Farrow, Col. M. Browne, Major P. Newman, Mrs. R. W. J. Smith and Mrs. P. Newman (Cocktail Party, October 28, 1948)

Handicap.	REPLICA CUP AND SWEEP	
1.	Major G. B. Anderson	90-15 = 75
2.	Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall	86-9 = 77
3.	Major J. W. G. Ormiston	90-13 = 77
4.	Lt.-Col. T. South	96-18 = 78
	Lt.-Col. M. Crawford	86-8 = 78
6.	Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson	86-6 = 80
	Major R. C. H. Bellers	98-18 = 80
8.	Capt. W. A. W. St. George	94-13 = 81
	Lt.-Col. H. Phillips	88-7 = 81
10.	Major N. G. Gilbert	100-18 = 82
11.	Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe	104-20 = 84
12.	Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn	107-18 = 89
13.	Major G. Lerwill	116-24 = 92
14.	Major J. G. P. Hunt	113-18 = 95

Also ran home without handing in their cards: Brig. B. B. Rackham, Major D. R. Pattison, Major T. W. Chattey, Capt. R. E. Guest, Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. del Court and Brig. G. P. L. Weston.

AFTERNOON	COOPER CUP (Inter-Battalion Pairs)	
	Cup and Tankards—Replica Cups for Second Pair	Pts.
1.	Brig. G. P. L. Weston and Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson (2nd Battalion)	30
2.	Lt.-Gen. G. C. Bucknall and Lt.-Col. H. Phillips (1st Bn.)	29
3.	Capt. W. A. W. St. George and Capt. R. E. Guest (1st Bn.)	27
4.	Lt.-Col. M. Crawford and Major T. W. Chattey (1st Bn., 57/77th)	27
5.	Major J. W. G. Ormiston and Major D. R. Pattison (2/7th Bn.)	25
6.	Major G. B. Anderson and Major J. G. P. Hunt (11th Bn.)	22
7.	Brig. B. B. Rackham and Lt.-Col. T. South (3rd Bn.)	20
8.	Lt.-Col. R. A. Gwyn and Major R. C. H. Bellers (1st Bn.)	19
9.	Major N. G. Gilbert and Major G. Lerwill (1st Bn., 57/77th)	15
10.	Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe and Lt.-Col. S. F. W. del Court (4th Bn.)	14

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL, WESTMINSTER, S.W.1, ON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, AT 3.15 P.M.

Present: Brig. B. B. Rackham, C.B.E., M.C. (Chairman), Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., J.P. (Colonel of the Regiment), Col. G. Beach, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P., Lt.-Col. C. P. Rooke, D.S.O., Lt.-Col. W. L. Roberts, O.B.E., M.C., Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, O.B.E., Lt.-Col. M. Crawford, D.S.O., Major R. C. H. Bellers, Major H. Marsh, Major H. K. Hardcastle, T.D., R.S.M. S. Weller, M.M., R.S.M. R. Overy and Sgt. E. Fletcher.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C., Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, M.C., and Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, T.D.

1. Minutes. The minutes of the last meeting having been circulated, were signed by the Chairman as correct.

2. Secretary's Report. The Secretary reported to the Committee that the number of cases assisted from January 1 to October 20, 1948, was 375. During the quarter ended September 30, 1948, 98 cases were assisted at a cost of £541 7s. 9d. against the £600 approved by the Committee. There was a decline in the number of applications in September, only 26 applications being received against an average of 44. It was thought that this was partially due to the application of the National Health Insurance Act. From October 1—20, 1948, assistance was given to 22 applicants at a cost of £103. In addition to the cases mentioned above the sum of £60 was obtained from the 51st Highland Division Trust Fund and £2 10s. 0d. from the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment O.C.A. to assist with grants. The Secretary of the 51st Highland Division Trust Fund has now informed the Secretary that they cannot assist the Association with any further grants this year as they have to "go easy" on their funds for the remainder of the year. The total amount received from this fund is £120.

3. Memorial Committee's Report. Col. G. Beach reported at length on the results of the appeal to date. The total amount in hand was over £20,000 and boroughs and districts reported that

they have a further £3,000 in hand. There are also two covenants, one of £500 and another of £1,500, and he hoped a further covenant for £1,500 would be completed in the near future. He also informed the Committee that the Middlesex County Council Cinema Fund were making a grant for a cottage of £1,500 or more if the cost of a cottage was larger. He also explained to the Committee the difficulties appertaining to the collections in cinemas during the week November 1-7, 1948. Whilst most boroughs and districts were most helpful, others have intimated that they were unable to obtain collectors, but he had hopes of covering all the cinemas in the county.

4. Report of Finance Committee.

(a) ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND. Income and Expenditure Account for the nine months shows a surplus of approximately £800, mainly due to an increase in the grants from the Army Benevolent Fund and M.C.C. Sunday Cinemas Fund. It is anticipated that the surplus at the end of the year will be approximately £500. The grants so far made (£1,280) have not come up to the original estimate of £1,800. It is possible there will be a seasonal increase in the current quarter.

(b) RENNLY FUND. Income and Expenditure Account for the nine months shows a surplus of approximately £150. Included in the income is an amount of £356 representing Income Tax recovered on dividends arising during the period this fund was being transferred from the administrators of the estate to the Regimental Association. This item will not recur. It is anticipated there will be surplus at the end of the year of approximately £170.

(c) JOURNAL ACCOUNT. Payments for the nine months show a small excess over the receipts amounting to £15. It is not anticipated there will be any material change in this position for the full year.

(d) COTTAGE HOMES FUND. There is a deficit for the nine months of approximately £10 and it is anticipated that this position will be the same at the end of the year.

(e) 1939-45 WAR MEMORIAL FUND. Invested funds now amount to £15,500. Two covenants are in operation, representing a total of £2,000. There is approximately £4,750 uninvested on current account, the majority of which has been received since September 30.

(f) RECOMMENDATIONS.

- That the Assistant Secretary be granted an additional £14 per annum to cover travelling expenses.
- That the Secretary's salary be reviewed.
- That the Executive Meeting consider the treatment of the anticipated surplus on the Association Charitable Fund.
- That the Finance Committee invest the surplus moneys in the War Memorial Fund after consultation with the brokers.

The Committee approved that the Finance Committee meet before the end of the year to review the position of accounts before audit.

The Committee approved that the Finance Committee have power to adjust the expenditure of the Association Charitable and Renny Funds as they consider to be of the best advantage.

The Committee approved, in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Committee, that the Assistant Secretary be granted an additional £14 per annum for travelling expenses. That the Secretary's salary be increased to £328 per annum from July 1, 1948, and that he be granted a bonus of £50 per year whilst the War Memorial Appeal is in operation.

Other Business. The Committee approved that the tender of Messrs. Piggott Bros. & Co., Ltd., of £18 to net the colours deposited in Mill Hill Church be accepted.

MEMORIAL FUND

DONATIONS FROM AUGUST 1, 1948, TO NOVEMBER 4, 1948.

£	s.	d.	
4,110	6	0	Mayor of Acton on behalf of the Borough.
250	0	0	Mr. Leonard Denny.
105	0	0	Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment O.C.A.
44	3	6	Capt. Desmond Ellis (sale of Stamp Collecting Cards).
21	0	0	C. J. Savill, Esq.
19	0	0	Mrs. M. C. Craig.
10	0	0	C. W. Beckett, Esq. J.P.; Lt.-Col. C. C. Cunningham, 13th Battalion.
9	13	0	9th Battalion O.C.A. Club, further donation.
5	0	0	Mrs. F. Gordon-Parker (sale of Stamp Collecting Cards); Major H. P. Lambert, R.A.P.C.
4	0	0	Major H. Marsh (sale of Stamp Collecting Cards).
3	0	0	Lt.-Col. C. H. Peppiatt, R.A.; Capt. C. E. Watson-Taylor.
2	17	2	Mrs. J. J. Kempster (Collecting Box).
2	2	0	Edgware District Synagogue; Chiswick Empires, Ltd.
2	0	7	Officers' Mess Depot (Collecting Box).
2	0	6	7th Battalion O.C.A. Club (Collecting Box).
2	0	0	Major J. G. P. Hunt (Stamp Collecting Cards).
1	5	6	Maggs' Pokie-Die Fiends, further donation.

£	s.	d.	
1	1	0	Mr. C. S. Goulding; Major A. W. Lewey, Mr. Alistair Macdonald; Capt. G. H. W. Flatau;
1	0	0	Major I. R. Burrows, M.B.E.; Capt. Walter Ward; Ald. R. M. J. Pendred (Collecting Card); Major N. H. B. Lyon, M.C. (Stamp Collecting Card); Mr. A. Todman (ditto); Mr. A. Bailey (ditto); Mrs. D. C. Percy Smith; Capt. R. M. L. Anderson, R.A.M.C.
10	0	0	Mr. F. Pantrini; Rev. P. E. Brassell.
6	0	0	Children of Lt.-Col. M. Crawford (Collecting Box).
5	0	0	Mr. W. Davis, further donation; Mr. W. Winny, M.M., ditto; Mr. R. H. Taylor.
3	0	0	Mr. J. Ryan, further donation.
2	6	0	Mr. N. Hitchcock.
2	0	0	Mr. Faulkner.

STATE OF FUNDS

	£	s.	d.
Post Office Savings	3,500	0	0
Savings Certificates	500	0	0
Nominal 2½% National Defence Bonds, 1949-51 Issue	10,000	0	0
Defence Bonds 2½%	1,500	0	0
Current Account	4,748	3	8
Cash in Hand	7	5	0
	£20,255	8	8

Plus covenant from McVitie & Price of £500 (already received, two instalments of £78 11s. 6d. and £32 2s. 10d., plus refund of Income Tax) and a covenant from Mr. Hillman of £1,500 (£117 17s. already received) and we have the promise of another covenant for £1,500.

Funds Held by Boroughs and Councils

	£
Hornsey	1,000
Chiswick	500 (appeal still operating)
Friern Barnet	425 " " "
Harrow	460 " " "
Potters Bar	120 " " "
Staines	500 " " "
Total	£3,005

Cinema Collections

At the time of going to press the collections in cinemas in the county have just been completed. Final results are not yet to hand, but it is known that thanks to the generous public and the valuable assistance of cinema managers and hosts of voluntary helpers £3,000 has already been subscribed to the Memorial Fund.

The Chairman of the Appeals Committee would appreciate it if any readers would assist in the Appeal by endeavouring to complete a stamp collecting card amongst their friends or neighbours.

These cards represent a cottage showing 40 blank bricks; immediately beneath are 40 6d. stamps which, when sold, are placed over the blank bricks by the purchaser. Stamp collecting cards may be obtained from the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7. Upon completion of cards, the card and revenue would be sent to the Secretary, who will, if desired, send further cards on application.

HOME COUNTIES BRIGADE TRAINING BATTALION, SHORNCLIFFE

It is hard to realise that the summer is over for the Brigade Training Battalion at Shorncliffe, but despite many dull days with overcast skies our summer activities have been in no way restricted.

It was with regret that in early October we said good-bye to Lt.-Col. P. H. Macklin, O.B.E., who left us on reaching the age limit for command, to assume the appointment of D.P.M., British Troops, Austria. We wish him and Mrs. Macklin every good luck in the future, while at the same time welcoming Lt.-Col. A. Martyn, R.W.K., who has now assumed command of the Battalion.

The Battalion has had a busy and successful summer in the field of sport. The cricket team played 34 matches, of which only three were lost, and Lt. Shepherd and Lt. Shearburn are to be congratulated on playing on a number of occasions for Sussex and Kent 2nd XIs respectively.

During June the Battalion provided a team to represent Eastern Command in the Inter-Command Obstacle Race, which was one of the events of the Royal Tournament at Olympia. We are pleased to be able to report that the team won all its eight matches against other command teams, thus winning the competition for Eastern Command. In addition to this success, the Battalion also won the Eastern Command Basketball Championship as well as providing a number of members for the District and Command swimming and athletic teams.

During the last week in August a very successful married families' outing took place at Dymchurch. The outing took the form of games, bathing, entertainments and tea on the beach and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were able to attend.

During June a meeting of all colonels of the Home Counties Group took place in London, presided over by Maj.-Gen. the Hon. P. G. Scarlett, C.B., M.C., Colonel of the Buffs. This meeting was a great success, allowing a number of Group policy matters to be discussed and agreed. Probably the most interesting item agreed was the proposal to adopt a Group flash, which will be worn by all members of the Group. The new sign, which has now been approved by all colonels, is a crest with seven sides, which aims to represent the seven regiments of the Group, forming a ring around part of the Arms of the City of London.

A recent suggestion has been made that in the spring of 1949 a Home Counties Golf meeting should be held at Littlestone, Kent, open to all officers, past and present, of the regiments of the Group. This matter is now being considered by regiments and further information will be published at a later date.

During the summer the Battalion have been pleased to receive visits from Maj.-Gen. the Hon. P. G. Scarlett, C.B., M.C., Colonel of the Buffs, Col. W. V. Palmer, a/Colonel the Queen's Own, and Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L., Colonel the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.). These visits are always very popular with all ranks of the Battalion.

It is very unfortunate that every few months always

sees the departure of a number of old friends of the Battalion and it is with regret that we have had to say good-bye to Majors Kealey and Brook, Capt. Irwin and Randall, R.S.M. Tasker and Drum-Major Patten-don. All ranks wish them the best of fortune in their new appointments.

In conclusion it is felt that it may be of interest to all regiments if an order of battle in the senior appointments in the Battalion are published. This is given below, with parent regiments shown in brackets:

C.O.	..	..	Lt.-Col. A. Martyn	(R.W.K.)
2 i.c.	..	..	Major R. Guy, M.C.	(Surreys)
O.C. "A"	..	..	Major F. Halliday	(Surreys)
O.C. "B"	..	..	Major S. Rose	(R.F.)
O.C. "C"	..	..	Major H. Marsh	(Mx.)
O.C. "D"	..	..	Major D. Nolda	(Mx.)
O.C. "H.Q."	..	..	Capt. W. Grimshaw	(R.W.K.)
O.C. "D"	..	..	Major P. Lewis	(Buffs)
O.C. "H"	..	..	Major B. Wills	(Buffs)
Training Officer	..	..	Major R. C. W. Thomas, O.B.E.	(R.W.K.)
Adj.	..	..	Capt. D. N. Court	(Buffs)
R.S.M.	..	..	R.S.M. J. McLoughlin	(Mx.)
R.Q.M.S.	..	..	R.Q.M.S. Grubb	(R.W.K.)
R.Q.M.S.	..	..	R.Q.M.S. Barham	(Buffs)
O.R. Q.M.S.	..	..	Q.M.S. Carr	(Buffs)
Bandmaster	..	..	Bandmaster Jackson	(R.W.K.)
Drum-Major	..	..	Drum-Major Watts	(R.W.K.)

"C" TRAINING COMPANY, SHORNCLIFFE

Though we still have 18 members of the Regiment on the Permanent Cadre in the Company, there are at present only ten recruits badged to the Regiment undergoing training with us. Sgt. Bartle has recently joined the Company as an instructor.

During the past three months most of the recruits trained in the Company have been R.E.M.E. personnel, and this appears likely to continue for some time to come.

Lt. Nigel Legge left us for civil life this summer and 2/Lt. Ousey did a short attachment here in September before joining the 1st Battalion at Chelsea Barracks.

Major Marsh left the Company temporarily during July and August to run a camp for some 2,000 Army Cadets at Swingate and both he and Sgt. Burrell, a/R.Q.M.S., were nearly blown away in the storm on August 8 which destroyed the camp. Three days later Mr. Shinwell, the War Minister, inspected the new camp at St. Martin Plain, which large working parties from the Company had helped to make ready.

On September 1 the Colonel of the Regiment honoured us with a visit and spoke to all members of the Regiment in the Regimental Room. We have also had many other regimental visitors, including Col. Hedgecoe and Majors Gilbert, Porter and Chattey.

"Die-Hards" Club meetings are now held on the first Thursday of each month and on September 2 we were delighted to entertain Lt.-Col. Johnson, Major Hughes and many other members of the 7th Battalion who were then in camp at Dabgate.

Our new C.O., Lt.-Col. A. Martyn, visited the Company and inspected the Regimental Room on October 15 and expressed the hope that some more interesting regimental relics would be soon available to place in the Royal Sussex Regimental Room, since

there could be no doubt that they are of interest to recruits of both Regiments.

On the sporting side the Company is fielding a strong football team and Sgt. Webb, Cpl. Betts, Cpl. Moran and Pte. King are regular-players, while Sgt. Palmer is much in demand as a referee. The Home Counties District Individual Boxing Tournament finals took place on October 1 and though unfortunately Cpl. Moran received a bad cut over the eye and was therefore not allowed to fight in the finals, two young "Die-Hards," L/Cpl. Mahoney and Pte. Lilly, won their weights and are well worth watching in the future.

The Novices Boxing Tournament, organised in the Garrison at the end of October, produced well over 100 entries, which shows that there is still plenty of fight in the new army.

News of C.S.M. Donovan's impending departure for Dehra-Dun as a drill instructor has caused considerable despondency, but we all wish him and Mrs. Donovan a very happy and prosperous three-year tour in India.

7th BATTALION

In the last copy of THE DIE-HARDS mention was made that preparations were in full swing for the Battalion's first post-war annual training. This took place as arranged between August 29 and September 5 at Dig-bate Camp and can be said to have been most satisfactory from every point of view.

Eleven officers and 24 other ranks attended which was, at that time, the full strength of the Battalion. We were extremely lucky in being able to secure the services of Lt.-Col. A. S. J. Clayton and Capt. Sax, who most kindly came and spent the camp period with us in order to help with the unit training. Unfortunately Capt. Sax was posted to H.Q. London District during the period we were in camp, but Col. Clayton stayed with us to the end, and his great help and enthusiasm for our welfare was greatly appreciated.

Shortly after our return from camp we began to prepare for the National Recruiting Drive which opened on October 1, and our first duty of this campaign was to provide six vehicles and crews for a mechanised drive organised by the County T.A. Association through Southall and Ealing. This drive was very well carried out and received a very fair "Press" and although it took place well outside our recruiting area we understand that units in that area benefited considerably from it in the matter of obtaining recruits.

In spite of the publicity in the national Press and over the B.B.C. recruits are not coming in as fast as we should like, although there has been a steady "trickle" to the Battalion since the campaign started.

The Battalion was invited to take part in a television display on October 30, and in this display our job was to show the weapons with which an infantry battalion is armed. Those members of the Battalion taking part showed the greatest enthusiasm and we understand that viewers considered the programme most interesting.

On Sunday October 31 the Battalion was represented in the Royal Review in Hyde Park, at which all units of

the T.A. were represented, and had the honour of being inspected by His Majesty and subsequently taking part in the March Past in the Eastern Command detachment. It was unfortunate that only ten vacancies were allotted to the Battalion for this parade, but owing to the fact that the whole review was limited to approximately 8,000 members of the T.A., our present strength did not entitle us to a larger representation.

We made reference in the previous edition of these notes to the fact that Mr. Overy had been replaced as R.S.M. of the Battalion by R.S.M. Britton, and we now have to report that after a very short stay with the Battalion R.S.M. Britton has been posted to East Africa and, as these notes are written (November 2), we are without an R.S.M. There is no doubt that this vacancy will shortly be filled, and it will then be our duty to record in these notes a welcome to the third R.S.M. the Battalion will have had since it was reformed on May 1, 1947.

11th PARACHUTE BATTALION (MIDDLESEX) T.A.

The month of August, which followed our annual camp, is usually a period of inactivity at our Drill Halls. However, this year was the exception and our numbers parading surpassed all expectations.

On September 18 the Battalion provided three sticks to jump from a balloon at the R.A.F. Station, Booker, to take part in their Battle of Britain Week and a collection was made on behalf of the R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. The day was brilliantly sunny and the demonstration provided a spectacular sight that had never been seen before by many of the spectators.

The weekends of September 25 and October 9 were both spent as guests of the Airborne Forces Depot, Aldershot, and we are most grateful for their hospitality, so necessary for a successful T.A. weekend.

Jumping from a balloon at Bushy Park on Sunday, October 3, provided excellent training. Facilities were available for families and friends to attend and lunch and tea were provided. Quite a number of the parachutists taking part were those who have only recently qualified and the standard achieved was remarkably high.

In our social activities we have not flagged. A Battalion football team has been entered in the Hounslow League under the captaincy of Pte. D. Winter and though not very successful are now getting together as a team. A Battalion Social was held on October 23 to mark the end of the T.A. year. Medals and prizes were presented for the three best drill attendances in the year by our C.O., Lt.-Col. S. Terrell: First prize, Cpl. McCready ("H.Q." Company); second prize, L/Cpl. Howe ("H.Q." Company); third prize, Sgt. Firman ("C" Company). Our chief guests at the party were the A.T.S. from the 69th H.A.A. (Mixed) who looked after us so well at annual camp. A party had travelled up by special coach for the evening from Bulford and returned in the early hours of the morning. As well as dancing a cabaret was provided and the

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The figure of the 1914-18 officer in service dress uniform and equipment is now on show. The figure looks somewhat like a senior medical officer who was M.O. i/c the Depot for many years. There is also a figure in Mess kit with the 2nd Battalion type buttons—the silver feathers only. This figure is complete except for wellington boots. The curator would be grateful if any reader of these notes could supply a pair to complete the figure. The state of repair does not matter in the least. Another uniform required is that of an officer's kit as worn in Mess by the 1st Battalion, i.e. with wreath of laurels around the badge on the buttons.

Two figures in uniform of the Military Knights of Windsor, one in levee dress and the other in blue undress, have also been added to our collection. These two uniforms were worn by Capt. C. G. Clarke, who served with the 57th Regiment in the Crimea and the Maori War in New Zealand.

A copy of the first guard report of the guard at Buckingham Palace on October 1, 1948, has been obtained from the O.C. 1st Battalion and has been placed in the Historical Records Book.

MONS

An Old Comrade who makes an annual pilgrimage to Mons has given me a list of the 1st and 4th Battalions' personnel who were killed and the locations of the cemeteries in which they are buried.

Mr. O. S. Taylor has kindly offered to look up any special grave or give any information he can. Any letters addressed c/o the Secretary, the Regimental Association, will be forwarded to Mr. Taylor.

The graves and cemeteries, he tells me, are kept in perfect condition.

In the Mons Museum they have on show the drum of Drm. Peck, which bears the scars of being hit with a shell. There is also a photo of Pte. Parr and another Middlesex soldier on sentry duty at Mons.

Below is given a list of the officers, N.C.O.s and soldiers of the 1st and 4th Battalions who were killed in action and buried in the local war cemeteries.

Abbreviations for cemeteries are as follows:
Hen—Hensies Ma—Maisieres S—Saint-Symphorien

1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)				
Name	Number	Rank	Date	Location
Greaves, J. T.	11896	Pte.	26/8/14	Hen

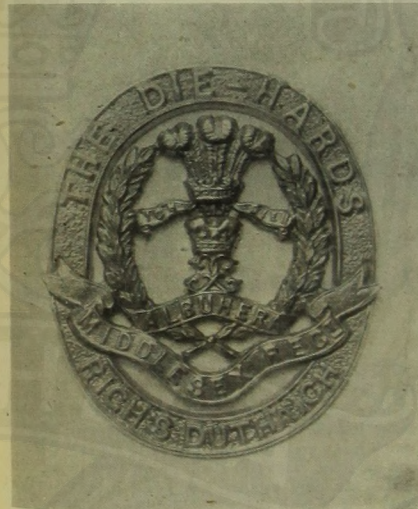
4th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)				
Name	Number	Rank	Date	Location
Abell, W. H.		Major	23/8/14	S
Knowles, J. E.		Capt.	"	Ma
Roy, K. J. (Mentioned in Desp.)		Capt.	"	S
Henstock, K. P.		Lt.	"	S
Wilkinson, J. R. M.		Lt.	"	S
Agger, F. E.	L/12880	Cpl.	"	S
Asher, F. V.	L/9826	Pte.	"	S
Barker, W.	L/11617	Lt.	"	S
Barling, P. W.	L/8966	Lt. Cpl.	"	S
Bates, P. J.	8853	Pte.	26/8/14	Ma
Beecham, T.	L/12918	Pte.	23/8/14	S
Blight, S. H.	L/13800	"	"	S
Boddy, A.	14167	Lt. Cpl.	19/14	M
Bond, T. H.	L/9256	Pte.	23/8/14	S
Boyle, H. C.	L/14449	"	"	S
Brandon, P. C.	L/8659	"	"	"
Brett, F. W.	L/14191	"	"	"

The above is a photograph of a badge in the possession of a Scottish collector of badges.

Although made in one piece and not a fake, it possesses two very curious features. One is that no regiment incorporates its "nickname" in its badge and the other is that no English regiment ought to have a Gaelic inscription. (The latter does not make sense, reading "King's Country.")

Our Old Comrades' badge shows the name "Die-Hards". This badge, therefore, may be one specially made for a Branch of the club in Scotland.

If any reader can help in tracing the origin of the badge would they please communicate with the Curator, "Die-Hards" Museum, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, N.W.7.



Name	Number	Rank	Date	Location
Bromhead, T. E.	9330	Pte.	24/8/14	Ma
Brown, J. E.	L/14060	"	23/8/14	S
Bryan, T.	L/9341	"	"	S
Cartwright, A.	8243	"	25/8/14	M
Caisey, H.	8097	"	27/8/14	M
Chandler, J. J.	L/13964	"	23/8/14	S
Clark, G. H.	L/14684	"	4/11/14	S
Collins, H.	L/10506	L/Cpl.	23/8/14	S
Connor, G.	L/7506	Pte.	"	S
Corradine, W. J.	L/14339	Pte.	"	S
Cowan, F. A.	11082	"	"	M
Crooker, H. T.	14355	"	29/8/14	S
Croome, J.	L/9616	"	23/8/14	S
Cross, G.	L/12062	"	"	Ma
Crump, A. J.	5766	L/Cpl.	24/8/14	S
Downes, G.	L/6002	C.S.M.	23/8/14	S
Dummett, G. F.	L/6509	Pte.	"	S
Duke, T. J.	L/11855	Sgt.	"	S
Eden, A. E.	L/14440	Pte.	"	Ma
Edge, T. N.	10211	"	25/8/14	S
Ellis, W. J.	L/7790	"	23/8/14	S
Emmerson, H. J.	L/12804	"	"	S
Foot, A. V.	L/10144	"	"	S
Forme, N.	L/8123	"	"	S
Gibbons, F. E.	L/10266	"	"	S
Gladman, J. W.	L/7624	"	"	S
Golberg, F.	L/10269	"	25/8/14	Ma
Graham, H. J.	7811	Sgt.	23/8/14	S
Hale, A. L.	L/8844	Cpl.	26/10/14	S
Haley, T. H.	L/9898	Pte.	23/8/14	S
Halford, F.	L/12601	"	"	S
Harding, W. W.	L/11168	"	"	S
Hargreaves, A. C. H.	L/14535	"	"	S
Harlow, C.	L/9466	"	"	S
Harris, G.	L/8567	"	"	S
Haywood, F. F.	L/13071	L/Cpl.	24/8/14	S
Herion, C.	L/10187	Pte.	23/8/14	S
Hurrell, E. A.	L/10232	"	"	S
Johnson, H.	L/13072	"	"	S
Keys, A. W.	L/10192	Cpl.	"	S
Knox, C. A.	L/12510	Pte.	24/8/14	S
Lawes, S.	L/8222	"	23/8/14	S
Lawford, J. G.	L/10432	"	"	S
Lay, I.	L/6217	Sgt.	"	S
Leedham, W. J.	L/9073	Pte.	"	S
Lowen, C.	L/10555	"	"	M
Lurie, C.	8687	"	"	Ma
Mait, A.	14454	"	25/8/14	S
Martin, F.	L/6157	Sgt.	23/8/14	S
Mason, E. W.	L/14230	Pte.	"	S
Merry, W. A.	L/14301	"	"	S
Moore, T. P.	L/10644	Cpl.	"	S
Mumford, D.	L/12784	Pte.	"	S
Murphy, A. H.	L/14185	"	"	S
Noakes, J.	L/11892	"	"	S
Parr, J.	L/14196	"	21/8/14	S
Pearce, H. F. T.	L/14502	"	23/8/14	S
Peck, G.	L/8113	Drm.	"	S
Perrins, T. J.	L/14546	Pte.	"	S
Reed, A. H.	L/14224	"	"	S
Rider, J.	L/9560	"	"	S
Ridgley, F.	L/12646	"	"	S
Ross, H. G.	L/13866	"	"	S
Russell, E. G.	L/10717	"	"	S
Salmon, W. W.	L/8619	"	25/8/14	S
Sanson, F. W.	L/6589	"	23/8/14	S
Scammell, A. H.	L/14460	"	"	S
Sharpe, H.	L/5696	L/Cpl.	"	S
Ship, J. J.	L/14295	Pte.	"	S
Simmonds, E. J.	L/9431	"	"	S
Sinton, J. W.	L/6915	C.S.M.	"	S
Southwell, G. A.	L/10447	"	"	S
Speller, H. E.	L/14083	"	23/8/14	S
Spence, T. J.	L/9509	"	4/11/14	S
Stratton, W.	L/13695	L/Cpl.	23/8/14	S
Taylor, C. H. L.	L/12505	"	4/11/14	S
Tiernay, M.	L/14500	Pte.	29/8/14	M
Townsend, P.	14448	"	"	S
Walker, C. C.	L/12736	L/Cpl.	23/8/14	S
Waldge, L.	L/7986	Pte.	"	S
Webb, H. C.	L/12156	"	"	S
Wilkinson, E. G.	L/11357	Cpl.	"	S
Wright, F.	L/10880	Pte.	"	S



Memorial at Saint-Symphorien Cemetery, Mons

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE EDITOR

35 Morley Road,
Leyton, E.10.
September 9, 1948.

The Secretary.
DEAR SIR,

I have just read in the September issue of the DIE-HARDS Journal of your stamp collecting card scheme. I think it is a great idea and I write to ask if you would send me some cards and I will do my best to get them filled. My only brother was killed in the last war while serving with the 17th Middlesex. He was the late Sgt. R. Ryus, and I like to think that in this small way I am helping to bring to reality such a grand memorial to all those brave lads of the Middlesex who gave their all.

I paid a visit to France on July 4 to see my brother's grave at Ranville, and perhaps some of the readers of the Journal might like to know how beautiful the graves are kept. There were the same flowers planted in between headstones for each and every grave, and although it was a very sad occasion for me, I came away much satisfied. Wishing the Memorial Fund every success, I am,

Yours sincerely,
R. E. MERRY (Mrs.).



By courtesy of the London "Evening News"

From : Brig. C. P. C. S. Bright, C.B.E.,
Deputy Director of Personal Services (Welfare).
The War Office,
London, S.W.1.
October 14, 1948.

DEAR COLONEL,

The Adjutant-General has asked me to write and draw your attention to the Home for Elderly Ex-Officers of the three Services which has been established at Frimley Park, near Camberley, Surrey, by the Officers' Association.

When this Home was first established, considerable publicity was given to it in the Press and elsewhere and, as a result, a large number of applications for admission to Frimley Park were received. From these the first selections were made and there are now nine ex-officers of the three Services in residence. A few vacancies, however, still remain.

You will see from the copy of the brochure on Frimley Park which I enclose, that the object is to provide a home for lonely aged ex-officers who have not the means to maintain a home of their own. Life at Frimley Park, of necessity, is conducted much on the lines of a Mess. It is therefore a communal life and is not the type of life that would appeal to, or be suitable for, many elderly

ex-officers. It is for this reason that so many applications have had to be turned down, as the introduction of one individual who does not fit into the community spirit may cause friction and spoil the whole atmosphere of the Home.

On the other hand, the Committee feel that from time to time there must be many ex-officers who are eminently suitable for and desirous of admission. Undue publicity for the few remaining vacancies, and any others which may occur from time to time, may lead to a large number of applications being made and so to many disappointments. I am writing to you personally, therefore, as the Adjutant-General feels that Colonels Commandant of Corps and Colonels of Regiments are generally in the best position to know the individual hardship cases and peculiarities of the ex-officers of their own corps or regiments. If, therefore, at any time you hear of any elderly ex-officers who would like to go to this Home and whom you consider are suitable for the type of life which they will be asked to lead, if admitted, would you forward their names direct to the General Secretary of the Officers' Association, 28 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

Yours sincerely,
C. S. BRIGHT.

"Albuhera," Westcliff Gardens,
Herne Bay, Kent.
October 9, 1948.

The Editor,
DIE-HARDS Journal.
DEAR SIR,

It may interest some of your older readers to know of a "get together" on October 1 of four old "Die-Hards" to celebrate the mounting guard by the 1st Battalion at Buckingham Palace.

The four were Capt. Dick Stephens, late 1st Battalion and "mine host" at the "Steam Packet," Whitstable, Kent, and whose father served many years in the Regiment; ex-Sgt.-Major "Fizzer" Grey, late 1st and 2nd Battalions; ex-Sgt. Bert North, late 3rd Battalion; and myself, late 4th, 2nd and 1st Battalions.

Our wives, all of whom had been on the married establishment, were also present and "mine host" provided a supper, while over our glasses (or were they tankards?) we talked of old times and of old comrades we had served with. I regret I did not find out what the combined service in the Regiment amounted to, but it must have been well over 80 years.

Let me say that we toasted the Regiment many times and also all the old pals of bygone days and a very pleasant evening ended with "mine host" calling, "Time, gentlemen, please."



By courtesy of the "Dominion Press"

Corps of Drums outside Buckingham Palace, October 1, 1948

If this catches the eye of any old pals they can be sure of a good welcome and of meeting us generally at the "Steam Packet."

H. E. CROSS,
late R.S.M., 9th Battalion and Lieut.

DEAR SIR,

As you may already have heard, the Overseas Food Parcel Scheme organised by the Association has now been in operation since January 1 of this year. Many parcels have been going out, but we feel that there must still be hundreds of disabled or unfit ex-prisoners-of-war who have not heard of the scheme. I should be grateful therefore, if you would publish the following notice in your magazine at the earliest possible opportunity.

"All ex-prisoners-of-war who are sick or disabled as a result of their captivity are invited to communicate with the Returned British Prisoners of War Association, 34 Eaton Place, London, S.W.1, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope, for full particulars of the Association's Food Parcel Scheme."

Yours faithfully,
p.p. KENNETH DOWNEY.

REMINISCENCES, MAY, 1940

BY CPL. W. SNELL

After the first mad rush from Hemm (France) to Louvain (Belgium) had quietened down a bit and we had a chance to look around we were impressed with one thing in particular, the never-ending stream of refugees that kept coming towards us. As we entered Belgium, the stream consisted of very expensive cars with magnificent trailers and caravans; one family had turned out in three very fine carriages drawn by thoroughbred horses. As we advanced further into Belgium the method of transport deteriorated somewhat until nearing Brussels we came upon real hardship and the pedestrian. One remembers the aged couple with their bits of belongings tied round their waists trudging along aimlessly, following the thousands going before them; also the boy aged perhaps ten years, pushing his grandfather, already dead, in a wheelbarrow, whilst his little sister walked along holding the dead man's hand. Then the Stukas, gunning the road, the "whistling bomb," and the burial services along the roadside, as the refugees gathered their dead together. Arriving at Louvain, we found a land of desolation and dead animals. Our H.Q. in a sunken road was shelled for 24 hours non-stop and . . . always the Stukas. One remembers the M.T. driver who chased a German paratrooper round a field with a machete and finally killed him with one blow. The C.O.'s car was then a Humber Utility and it was used as a recce car, ammunition lorry, ambulance and sometimes a hearse.

At the end of the first week of action there were no mudguards left; we used French petrol (which smelt of eau-de-Cologne) and I was reduced to using fat from the cookhouse to grease the springs.

By the end of the second week the supply units had become completely disorganised and we had to fend for ourselves as to feeding, etc. Well do I remember breakfast, dinner and tea consisting of bully beef and vintage champagne, drunk from the bottle. We machine-gunned a cow once, skinned, cleaned and cooked it within an hour and even the notorious eaters jibbed at the lumps of black meat that resulted.

I recall the night at "C" Company H.Q., a ruined farm, the farmyard pond completely ringed with large frogs, sitting shoulder to shoulder croaking at the top of their voices at the moon, perhaps the most frightening thing I experienced at that time. I also recall Pte. Roullier (killed on D-Day, 1944), the greatest provider of midnight meals the British Army has ever known, hiding behind the wooden dashboard of the car when, on turning a corner, we came face to face with a German tank. Whether the crew were asleep or taken by surprise, I do not know, but we were allowed time to do a perfect about-turn as laid down in the Highway Code and make off at 80 m.p.h. back the way we came. It was at this point that we were overtaken and passed by a Morris 15-cwt. truck of "B" Company whose occupants had, presumably, the same idea in mind.

Another amusing incident happened when we were told that a spy, disguised as a nun, was snooping around our area. There happened to be dozens of nuns always about at that time, so the resulting arrests and "examinations" caused great embarrassment all round. However,

we found the spy, gave him a huge dose of castor oil and tied him up securely in a pigsty to await the arrival of his friends.

Col. Horrocks left the Battalion then to take over 11 Brigade, and Major Reid, who had led us into Belgium, had the task of getting us out—no easy thing, as communications were reduced to D.R. only. Unit by unit, the infantry left. As the Guards of 7 Brigade marched past our H.Q. at the slope they gave "Eyes right" to Major Reid as if they were marching through London. Then came our own transport, or what was left of it, each truck carrying 20 or more men. The Navy had taken up the defence of the beaches by then and were shelling inland. Our H.Q. was considered "inland" so we had a few near misses before we finally pulled out to join the evacuation.

We arrived at the beaches in the hour before dawn and at first light our friends the Stukas arrived with a send-off. Fortunately, I had a bottle of rum and a few of us knew very little of the ensuing day. We picked up a wounded rifleman, both of whose legs were smashed, and promised to get him on to a boat. I saw a rowing boat heading for the shore, so I hailed it, picked up the wounded man, slung him over my shoulder and made off into the water. It was only when I was up to my neck that I thought of the chap lying over my shoulder with his head a few feet under water. We were dragged out by the boat crew eventually and transferred to a mine-sweeper. The rifleman, apart from being a little blue in the face, did not seem unduly put out, and all went well until the mine-sweeper was hit by something or other and started to sink. Some of us hung on to a lifeboat until picked up by another mine-sweeper on which I met Sgt. Lowe, now with the 1st Middlesex. We were disembarked at Dover, fed on meat pies and bananas and entrained for Aldershot (having been supplied with a pair of grey flannel trousers, fashionable in 1900 judging by the width of leg).

At Aldershot we came under supervision of the C.M.P. and they looked after us very well, or so I was told when I woke up three days later.

RHODESIA FAIRBRIDGE MEMORIAL COLLEGE

The Objects of the Scheme

The object of the scheme is to select children from Great Britain who wish to emigrate, to enable them to receive a sound education in Southern Rhodesia, in order to become permanent settlers out there.

The education imparted to the children at the College will qualify them to gain access to the professions, and to qualify for a career in industry or the public services.

Preference is given to those candidates who, on account of circumstances, either financial or compassionate, are in real need of such an opportunity. There are now 98 boys and girls at the College.

Situation

The College is situated at Induna, ten miles north-east of Bulawayo in Southern Rhodesia—the site of an R.A.F. training station during the war. There are

ample playing fields, tennis courts, squash courts, a gymnasium and a large swimming bath.

There is a holiday home at Kynysna by the sea where parties of children are sent.

Education and Religion

The Rhodesian State system provides free education up to and including University, matriculation or other approved school-leaving certificates. At the end of the primary school stage, the child passes into the secondary school. At the end of this course, the pupil is eligible for many valuable bursaries and scholarships, tenable at universities in the Union of South Africa, and in special cases at overseas universities. Pupils will also be eligible for three Rhodes scholarships at Oxford.

The College is entirely non-sectarian, but every child receives the religious instruction desired by the parents or guardians.

Finance

The Rhodesian Government provides accommodation, free education, medicinal and dental services and a capitation grant to help cover the cost of running the College. The British Government is paying half the passage expenses and a maintenance allowance of £26

per annum per child. The remainder of the expenses are paid by the Council in London.

Parents are not called upon to pay toward the upkeep of the child once it has been taken over by the Council in England unless they wish to do so. The Government will, if necessary, be responsible for the maintenance of the child until he/she reaches the age of maturity.

Qualifications

(a) The child must pass a fairly stiff medical and intelligence test, followed by an interview.

(b) The child must be desirous of going and the parent/s willing for the child to emigrate.

(c) In the event of the parents following the children to South Africa to take up residence during their educational period, the child would have to be withdrawn from the College after six months.

(d) The normal age for recruitment is 8—12 years. Application forms for admittance and further information can be obtained from:

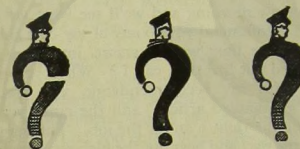
The General Secretary,
Rhodesia Fairbridge Memorial College,
Rhodesia House, 429 Strand, W.C.2.
Telephone: TEMple Bar 1133.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Regimental Association.



OFFICERS' CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY
Departing members and their guests photographed in a tube train

By courtesy of Messrs. Craine, Koch & Co.



CALLING ALL SERVICEMEN

What are you doing to do when you leave the Service? Do you know where to go and from whom advice and assistance can be obtained in happily resettling you into a congenial job?

This is to remind you of the National Association for Employment of Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, which is a large organisation at your service and is to a great extent supported by Service funds. In order that you may fully appreciate the working of this Association let us follow the future of ex-Pte. Blank who has arrived at the Demobilisation Centre preparatory to leaving the Service.

The Centre is most efficiently organised and he receives many and varied instructions with regard to civil life amongst which he is told about the National Association and the necessity of registering for a job while he is on leave. At the time this seems most unnecessary as ex-Pte. Blank is anxious to get home and have a bit of leave. "Let the job wait," he says to himself. He little realises that he is making a big mistake. By registering at once he gives the Association Branch Manager, or Jobfinder as he is called, plenty of time to fix him up in the right kind of job while he himself is still drawing Service pay on leave. There is no charge and all work done on his behalf is free. At the Demobilisation Centre his attention is called to a card which should be filled up and sent in to the National Association Head Office either by the Centre or by himself. He thrusts it into his pocket and thinks no more about it.

After three weeks' leave ex-Pte. Blank decides that he might as well start looking round for a job. He has no idea what he wants to do; as he was a qualified vehicle mechanic he thinks that any engineering firm will welcome him with open arms. "Surely they will want me," he says to himself, "I was the best vehicle mechanic in the Company." But no, he tries firm after firm but there seems nothing for him. In many cases the gate-keeper will not even let him in! Everything seems against him. Depressed and weary he suddenly remembers that he heard about some association or other which deals with finding jobs for ex-Servicemen. "Wasn't I supposed to fill up a card or something?" he thinks. Feverishly he goes through his discharge papers and the documents with which he was issued on demobilisation. The card is found and ex-Pte. Blank fills it up and sends it in (it is already stamped and addressed).

A few days later he receives a card asking him to call at the Association's local branch office in a nearby town. After his recent experience he feels somewhat dubious of ever getting a good job but he goes along as he is

now getting desperate and his leave is nearly finished. His spirits go up when he arrives and finds a nice waiting room and one or two other fellows sitting round waiting for their turn. He talks to them, one is a sailor and another from the R.A.F. Very soon it is his turn to enter the inner office. He is surprised at the informal atmosphere that prevails; he is asked to sit down and the interview begins. Very soon he finds himself talking about his Service experience, his hobbies and his hopes for the future. His particulars are taken down and all types of jobs available in the area are explained to him with the various wages he will get. Now and then the conversation is broken when the telephone rings and ex-Pte. Blank soon realises that employers are constantly ringing through for men of the right type. His spirits rise and he thinks that perhaps he will be one of the lucky ones soon! "There seem to be lots of jobs about," he thinks, "why couldn't I have found one? I've visited nearly every firm in the town." The answer is easy; by himself he was treated just as another man looking for work, but as one of the Association's men he carries a guarantee as to character and is supported by the high reputation and experience of the Association. Employers know that all Servicemen recommended by the Association are specially selected for the employment they require and are, in fact, "round pegs for round holes."

Ex-Pte. Blank considers a job in the Police and a job in the Post Office. Security for the future in such jobs as these is explained to him. He thinks about the high wages one of his pals is getting in a certain firm but suddenly realises that this will only last a short time as it was only temporary. After considering a number of jobs he selects one and is given an introduction card to one of the very firms he himself had visited only last week. He jumps on a bus and goes along that very afternoon. The gate-keeper, an ex-R.S.M., recognises him. "What, you here again, what do you want this time?" he asks. Ex-Pte. Blank presents his card of introduction. "Oh, you are from the Association are you, that's all right. I got this job through them. Come in."

Ex-Pte. Blank is accepted. He finds that although the basic wage is low for him at present he can increase this wage with certain bonuses and overtime so that his weekly pay packet is larger than he originally expected. He is determined to make a good show in this, his first job as a civilian, as he fully realises that the Service as a whole will be judged by his work. If he is a success other men coming after will be more likely to be accepted.

Ex-Pte. Blank is one of the many thousands placed annually. If Servicemen would only realise that during their service their units are paying for the upkeep of this Association and it is only a form of employment insurance, these payments corresponding to the yearly premiums. When they are demobilised is the time to receive that insurance by going to their insurance company, the National Association.

Regular Forces Employment Association, 14 Howick Place, London, S.W.1.

Owing to insufficient space in the last Journal we could not print this last article—here then is the follow-up.

CALLING ALL SERVICE MEN

Last time we followed the fortunes of ex-Pte. Blank from the time he was demobbed until he was happily settled by the National Association for Employment of Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen in a suitable and permanent job. Ex-Pte. Blank is a member of a large family and his young brother Sid will also shortly be demobilised from the Army. His own experiences of job-hunting being fresh in his memory, ex-Pte. Blank determined to help his brother as much as possible and dropped him a line warning him to look out for the National Association card at the Demobilisation Centre and be sure to post it.

Sid recognised the National Association posters displayed round the barracks and was relieved to learn that "hostility men" as well as Regulars are eligible, provided they have two years' service or more and a good character. Issued with the card he posted it.

Arriving home Sid was somewhat scornful of his brother's job. "What, only getting £5 a week," he scoffed, "I reckon I'm worth much more than that. I've been driving a heavy lorry for the last year. Any bus company or motor works will jump at me."

"Don't you believe it, you've got to start at the bottom and work up," replied his brother. "Service men have little to offer in civilian life unless they have a pre-war apprenticeship to back them up and a union ticket. Don't you get the idea that you are going to slip into a cushy job, you've got to work these days and learn a trade from the beginning. I'm not getting much now but I'm learning, and my job's a permanent one provided I stick at it. Go along and see Major X, the jobfinder of the National Association; he got me my job and he knows all the jobs that are going around here."

Sid duly received a card one afternoon asking him to call at the local branch office of the National Association. He was gardening at the time and without bothering to change his clothes or tidy himself up he hurried off to see what he could be done about a job for him. He had no difficulty in finding the office as it was centrally placed, well advertised, and the jobfinder was a well-known local man. He found one or two other men sitting in the waiting room when he arrived, but it was soon his turn and with a certain amount of uneasiness he went into the inner office. He need not have been uneasy, however, as the jobfinder was friendly and clearly interested in Sid's personal problem. They discussed his qualifications and the kind of work he wanted to do and the jobfinder then suggested one or two lines which hadn't occurred to Sid up to then. "Well," said the jobfinder at last, "it's too late to send you anywhere this afternoon. Think over what I've said and come

back tomorrow morning and we'll see what we can do, but I can't recommend you to any of my best employers for a job where they want a smart, intelligent man if you're turned out like this, can I? When you go to an employer with my recommendation you are, so to speak, a 'guaranteed article' and the employer knows he is getting the right man for the job. The man I send must look the part and bear out the high recommendation that goes with all our introduction cards. Didn't I get your brother a job the other day? His employer was delighted with his smart and alert appearance, so tidy up in the morning before you come back."

Sid, who quite saw the point, explained about the gardening and returned next morning shaved and tidy and altogether looking very workmanlike. Jobs were again discussed and Sid learnt that to become a bus driver he would have to start as a conductor. He did not like the idea of that. Alternative jobs in factories and works were suggested, but he did not like any of these either. "A pal of mine got a job at Slack-on-Sea recently and gets £8 a week," he said. "Why can't I get a well-paid job like that without all this 'learning to do'?" He wasn't a tradesman."

"Those sort of jobs are only seasonal and temporary," he was told, "and during the winter months your pal will be jobless with no guarantee that he will be given his job back next summer. Have you any accommodation at Slack-on-Sea?"

Sid had to admit that he had not thought of that. "I will get in somewhere," he said.

"I am afraid this accommodation problem is the main stumbling block to men getting jobs away from their homes these days," he was told. "In practically every case a man must be placed in a job near his home. There is a waiting list of over 1,000 for accommodation in this town alone. You take my advice now and accept this permanent job with a good firm. The wage isn't as high as that which your pal is getting, but it's permanent and there are good prospects of promotion. It's up to you to show the employer that you are a conscientious worker and are prepared to learn. Don't forget, you will probably want to get married some day and no girl is going to have you unless you have a good, steady job."

Sid was by no means a fool, just young and inexperienced. "All right," he said, "I'll have a go at that." He was given an introduction card and before leaving the jobfinder reminded him that other men coming after would be judged by the way he tackled his job. "I won't let them down," said Sid and off he went to the first stepping stone to civilian employment and a happy and useful life.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION
14 Howick place, London, S.W.1

THE REGIMENT

By LT.-GEN. SIR BRIAN HORROCKS

The other day as I was sitting in my office in Winchester Barracks a young orderly entered. He pointed to a shield bearing the Middlesex Crest and said, "I know that Regiment, Sir. I did my training at Inglis Barracks." "Did you enjoy your time there?" I asked. "Yes," he replied, "I wanted to get into that regiment. The Midds. have a great pride in themselves."

There is no doubt that this feeling of "A pride in themselves" has made the Regiment so successful both in war and peace.

On August 8, 1914, I was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment, and within a few days found myself in charge of a draft numbering upwards of 100 reservists which I was to take out to the 1st Battalion somewhere in France.

They looked somewhat tough old sweats to my youthful and inexperienced eye; the truth of the matter is that they really took me out to France and very well they looked after me. We arrived, plus two, because two soldiers had managed somehow to conceal themselves in the train. They wanted to get out to the sharp end, and were afraid that the war would be over before they could do so. There was a great spirit in those old "Die Hards."

Such was my first experience of the Regiment and my last was a visit to the same Battalion now doing guard on Buckingham Palace.

An old general of much experience wrote to me the other day and said, "It would do your heart good to see the 'Die Hards' Guard. It is one of the smartest I have ever seen." And the truth of this statement I can vouch for myself.

These two episodes cover a span of 34 years, and during this time much regimental history has been made—too much to include in this short article. There are, however, certain things which are worth mentioning because they show how the high traditions of the Regiment have been maintained, and why the "Die Hards" of to-day take this pride in themselves.

My first lessons came in 1914. For days we had been marching in the rain and everyone was completely exhausted. In the rear rank of my platoon marching just in front of me was a most miserable man who looked more and more depressed as the day went on. Suddenly a cheerful young soldier looked at him and said, "Why not give you face a 'oliday, chum, try a smile." The unconquerable cheerful spirit of the Cockney which always comes out when things are at their worst.

That evening we were praying for decent billets as we were all soaked to the skin, but instead we were led to our bivouac area in a swampy field which had recently been rather over-populated with cows. My spirits rose, however, as I heard the Adjutant say to my Company Commander, Capt. Gibbons, "We can get you into a house with Battalion Headquarters." "Certainly not," replied Gibbons. "If the men sleep out the officers of 'B' Company also sleep out."

Under this great Company Commander, who was killed later on, I learnt the real meaning of care of the

men. It was an unheard of thing for a platoon commander to have his own meal without reporting first that "all the men of his platoon were fed." This atmosphere went right through the many Middlesex Battalions of the first world war.

In between the wars we served in many places, The Rhine, Silesia, Ireland (during the trouble), Aldershot, etc., the Cockney, as usual, making friends wherever he went.

The biggest test of all occurred during the coal strike, when on a snowy day, a very young battalion arrived at Swingate Aerodrome to find a dilapidated camp on the top of the cliff with nothing ready, and not even a pane of glass in the windows. One hour after arrival 350 very disgruntled reservists marched into this scene of desolation, most of them old soldiers with much war service; they completely swamped our youthful serving soldiers, and to start with the atmosphere was very tense.

However, they were Middlesex men joining a Middlesex battalion; the old traditions held good, and in the course of a few weeks it was a going concern; unlike some regiments where the reservists proved a constant source of trouble.

At the beginning of this last war I took over command of the 2nd Middlesex as first contact was made with the Germans near Louvain in Belgium.

I was immensely impressed with what I found. I doubt if there ever has been a better trained Battalion than the 2nd Middlesex (no doubt the 1st Middlesex, who gained such a wonderful reputation in Hong Kong would not agree with this statement). Bill Haydon had done his work well, their speed in and out of action, plus their accurate shooting, were quite remarkable; their Divisional Commander, a certain Maj.-Gen. Montgomery, thought the world of them.

The Cockney humour was much to the fore during the withdrawal to Dunkirk. I remember well the hard-pressed Company Commander of the 7th Middlesex who looked at me cheerfully and said, "Don't look round, I think we are being followed."

It was not only the regulars who had the "Die Hard" spirit, as witness the 17th Middlesex who fought with the 51st Highland Division from Alamein to Bremen. In spite of their surroundings, they remained stubbornly and persistently English to the end—and the Jocks loved them.

In 1944-45 there were five Middlesex Battalions fighting in N.W. Europe; more battalions than from any other regiment in the British Army. They all served at one time or another in my Corps and never once did I hear a Divisional Commander complain of his M.G. battalion; a truly remarkable record when one remembers just how difficult Divisional Commanders can be on occasions.

My proudest moment came during the Reichswald battle, when I had under my command four battalions of my own Regiment sitting shoulder to shoulder firing a machine-gun barrage.

But what of to-day? After all great wars the Army goes through a difficult period and to-day is no exception. Instead of four regular battalions, as in 1914, we are reduced to one, and the men to form it come from

all over the Home Counties group; unfortunately they do not start with the "Die Hard" atmosphere.

Nevertheless, from what I saw of the officers, W.O.s and N.C.O.s at Chelsea Barracks, I am convinced that the future of the Middlesex Regiment is in safe hands. The youngsters from Kent or Sussex, etc., will soon realise what it means to be a member of an efficient team in which the officers and N.C.O.s really know and look after the men.

They will realise, like that young soldier in Winchester Barracks realised, "that the Middlesex take a great pride in themselves"; and why shouldn't they, with a record second to none in the British Army?

I depart from the Army on January 13, 1949, after 34 years' happy service, but, as you know, old soldiers never die, so I shall join the other old "Die Hards" standing on the touch line and will watch with a critical eye to see that the youngsters of to-day and of to-morrow are still playing the game as it should be played in our Regiment.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE EDITOR

Depot, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers,
Omagh,

Co. Tyrone,
N. Ireland.

November 3, 1948.

DEAR SIR,

A short while ago, while staying with my brother, I was looking through a book-case of old books and came across a copy of the *United Service Journal*, Part II, of 1829. In it, I found this letter to the Editor, which I think might possibly interest you.

"I am tempted, Sir, through the medium of your Journal, to record instances of coolness and intrepidity in Sir William Inglis, during the sanguinary struggle of Albuhera. The Regiment formed line on its destined position from open columns of companies. Sir William, close to and immediately in front of the colours, was dressing the line on the centre: he finished with the right wing and, having turned to the left, was coolly scanning the men as they formed, when a shot brought his charger to the ground, leaving his master erect on his feet. At that critical moment I observed his unchanged countenance and that while he extracted his feet from the stirrup he never once turned his eyes from the line he was continuing to perfect, and not until that was completed did he cast a glance on the remains of his noble steed. When subsequently shot down by a

grape-shot, which perforated his left breast and lodged in his back, he lay on the ground close to the Regiment, refusing all offers to be carried to the rear and determined to share the fate of his 'die-hards,' whom he continued to cheer to steadiness and exertion, and who, encouraged by the voice of their brave commander, continued to close in on their tattered and staff-broken colours, as their comrades fell in the line in which he had formed them. So destructive was the fire of the enemy, that in a short time the few survivors must have slept in peace with their fallen brothers, had not the Fusilier Brigade come up to their support by forced march from the trenches before Badajoz and, by a brilliant charge, turned and decided the day. The wreck of the 57th, cheered on by their prostrate and almost exhausted chief, was on the point of joining in the charge, when Marshal Beresford exclaimed, 'Stop, stop the 57th, it would be a sin to let them go on,' and when the remnants of the 'die-hards' retired, they carried with them the colours, shot to ribbons, but unpolluted by a moment's grasp of a 'foeman.'"

1829. "A DIE-HARD."

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. R. C. CROSSLE,
Lt.-Col. (Retd.).

REGIMENTAL MARCHES

Recently the Band of the Regiment recorded, in the E.M.I. Studios, the Regimental Marches of the 57th and 77th Regiments. Ninety-nine records only were made and the C.O. has authorised me to dispose of them at a guinea a time.

In view of the fact that all profits on the sale of these records are being allotted to the Regimental War Memorial Appeal Fund the purchase price can, in point of fact, be considered as a donation to the Fund in return for which the contributor is provided with a unique souvenir. With the possible exception of a Brigade of Guards Band there is no trace of a regimental band having made a recording of its own regimental marches. The records will not be available for purchase from any other source.

A record will be despatched to any required address on the receipt of £1 1s. 0d. Cheques or P.O.s to be made payable to P.R.I., 1st Battalion the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), Chelsea Barracks, London, S.W.11.

N.B. The cost of these records is now reduced to 7s. each.

To our Readers

Considerable inconvenience is caused to both the Editor and to the Reader owing to the fact that changes of addresses are not notified at once. If you change your address please let us know and so be sure of receiving your Journal regularly