



# The Die-Hards

## NEWSLETTER

No. 3

AUGUST 1968

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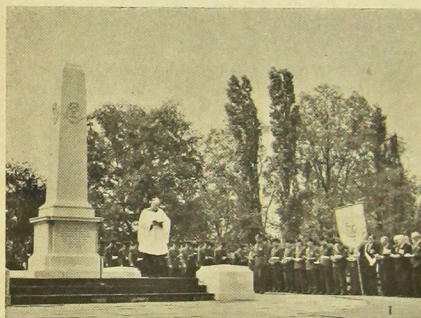
Editor: Col. F. WALDEN, D.L.

### ALBUHERA DAY

Regimentally, Albuhera Day was celebrated on Sunday, May 19, starting with a Service of Remembrance at the Regimental Memorial in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. For this it was most encouraging and impressive to receive such whole-hearted support from the serving elements.

The regular Battalion, now stationed at Warminster, provided their Band, Corps of Drums, and a

Regimental Guard of Honour commanded by Major J. M. Hewson with Lt. D. C. F. Gouda as the Colour Ensign. In addition all available officers, Warrant Officers and senior N.C.O.s were present. From the 10th (T) Battalion came a detachment commanded by Capt. R. G. Vaisey, whilst the Middlesex County Cadet Force sent a small uniformed party under the command of Lt. N. R. Kirby.



1. Lt.-Col. Pearce Gould conducting the service with, on the right, the Mons Banner flanked by young soldiers of 10th (T) Battalion and veterans of 1914-18 War.

2. Regimental Guard of Honour 4th Battalion.

3. Deputy Colonel talking to ex-members of 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th (TA) and 21st (Service) Battalions during his inspection.

4. Deputy Colonel inspecting the Mill Hill Branch. (Photograph: Ormonde E. Hunt)



Old Comrades, approximately 200 in strength, included men of all generations of Die-Hards, their service extending from the Boer War to recent actions in Aden and Borneo.

The Association Banner was carried by Capt. "Battler" Craydon (late 2nd Battalion) with Messrs. G. Pocock (late 2nd Battalion) and R. H. Ferguson (late 7th Battalion) as escorts.

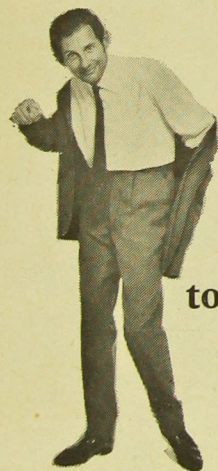
Old Contemptibles paraded under Mr. H. Bird (late 4th Battalion), marching behind the Mons Banner, which was carried on parade for the first time, the bearer being Mr. W. Wright (late 4th Battalion).

The service at the Memorial was taken by Lt.-Col. P. L. Pearce Gould, who recently retired and is now studying to take Holy Orders. As was to be expected of him he gave a very appropriate address on this special day of ours.

After the service the uniformed troops and Old Comrades were inspected by the Deputy Colonel, Major-General C. M. M. Man, who was accompanied by the two Commanding Officers—Lt.-Col. K. J. Carter, 4th Battalion, and Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell, 10th (T) Battalion—and Lt.-Col. R. D. Hutchings, Vice-Chairman of the Regimental Association, who was deputising for the Chairman, Col. W. D. Ellis. During the march past afterwards Bob Ryder, v.c., was with the Deputy Colonel at the saluting base, whilst the markers at the dais were two of our Chelsea Pensioners—ex-C/Sgt. C. M. King and ex-Pte. F. Worton.

The parade over, most, if not all, who took part

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made their way to Deansbrook Road where the usual "get-together" and social were held. That all who were there enjoyed themselves thoroughly is no understatement. It was a most happy occasion, and we are grateful, indeed, to the Regimental Steel Band for giving further pleasure by playing a popular programme of music during the proceedings.

This account would not be complete without expressing our appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Banks, the well-known caretakers at Edgware TA Centre, for their seemingly tireless efforts in producing no less than 480 excellent picnic lunches for those who came to the reunion after the parade at Mill Hill.

### THE REGIMENT

Two most important—and very sad—items of news have to be mentioned since we last went to press.

The first item was the announcement that, from July 1 last, suffixes would be dropped from the titles of regular Battalions of The Queen's Regiment. From that date "4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex)" is to be known simply as "4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment."

In the second item, which was announced only a few days after the first, it was revealed that, in the proposed cuts announced in the White Paper, 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment is one of the major units to be disbanded by September 1972.

Whilst the above information must be well known to most of our readers the sadness, nay bitterness, which so many feel is apparent from the stream of letters and telephone calls which have inundated Regimental Headquarters at Edgware since the announcements were made.

### BEATING OF RETREAT

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

On Monday, July 8, the Band and Drums of the 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (late Middlesex) beat Retreat at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. In honour of this memorable occasion our old In-Pensioners wore their scarlet uniforms, whilst the remainder were in blue uniforms. Our veterans present were Sgt. C. M. King, Cpl. W. C. Heavens, In-Pensioners W. C. Carvell, G. Sullivan and F. Worton.

The performance of the Band of Drums, which included their unique Steel Band, was most impressive, and that it was thoroughly appreciated was not only apparent from the comments of the In-Pensioners and other spectators, but also from the letter which the Deputy Governor, Major-General Sir Nigel Tapp, wrote afterwards.

### ANGLO KOREAN SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Anglo Korean Society, of which all past and serving members of the Middlesex Regiment are life members, is to be held at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1, on Tuesday, October 22. Members may bring guests.

The charge per head will be 50s. including table wines, gratuities, etc. Dress informal.

Application for tickets should be made to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Anglo Korean Society, 24 Lewes Crescent, Brighton, BN 2-1 GB.

### OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER 1968

The Regimental Officers' Club Dinner this year was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1, on Friday, July 19.

In the unavoidable absence of the President, Major-General C. M. M. Man, the chair was taken by Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall.

The guests of the evening were Major-General B. P. Hughes, Honorary Colonel 10th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex), and Major Kenneth Goodacre, Deputy Clerk to the Greater London Council.

Others present were:—

Air Chief Marshal Sir Leslie Hollinghurst, Brigadier E. E. Baker, Brigadier A. E. Green, Col. I. H. Battye, Col. I. D. Brotherton, Col. M. Crawford, Col. W. D. Ellis, Col. A. M. Man, Col. J. W. G. Ormiston, Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Col. F. Walden, Lt.-Col. K. J. Carter, Lt.-Col. S.F. Caulfield-Kerney, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, Lt.-Col. D. Y. Cubitt, Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell, Lt.-Col. A. S. Hewson, Lt.-Col. R. D. Hutchings, Lt.-Col. A. R. Joyce, Major M. L. Beaumont, Major P. G. V. Bellers, Major R. M. Main, Major R. J. P. Cummins, Major G. C. Dawson, Major J. W. Doyle, Major J. de Gaye, Major J. A. Hamilton, Major H. K. Hardcastle, Major G. Hartley, Major S. L. J. Henshaw, Major J. M. Hewson, Major R. A. Kaye, Major C. L. Lawrence, Major R. J. Leighton, Major Sir Arthur Lewey, Major A. E. McManus, Major E. J. Naish, Major L. F. E. Nichols, Major G. G. Norton, Major B. A. M. Pielow, Major J. S. B. Pollard, Major B. St. G. A. Reed, Major K. M. Saxby, Major P. R. Smethurst (private guest), Major R. W. J. Smith, Major M. P. Weedon, Capt. D. E. S. Ball, Capt. R. A. Bartlett, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, Capt. G. Bulloch, Capt. D. K. Cattell, Capt. J. S. C. Flavell, Capt. T. D. Jones, Capt. P. J. T. Lane, Capt. R. C. Pitman, Capt. A. W. Ramsay, Capt. R. G. Vaisey, Capt. M. Wild, Lt. J. A. Birch, Lt. R. N. Colbourne, Lt. D. J. Daniell, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Lt. E. C. Graham, Lt. J. C. J. Grobel, 2/Lt. P. Mosling.

Major-General Sir John Willoughby sent a message regretting very much his inability to attend the Dinner this year.

### MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING MEETING 1968

The decision to open our Meetings to serving soldiers and all ex-members of the Regiment resulted in a most enjoyable and successful Spring meeting which, as usual, was held on the North Hants Golf Club course at Fleet on May 10.

The meeting, which attracted an entry of 23, was supported by members of the 4th Battalion now stationed at Warmminster, and we look forward to their continued and increasing support whilst the Battalion is in this country.

The results of the various competitions, each decided over 18 holes, were:

#### Stableford Singles

	Points
Lt.-Colonel J. R. B. Worton (Winner) .. .. .	39
Mr. H. J. Chillery (Runner up) .. .. .	39
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	37
W.O.2 R. Ford .. .. .	37
Capt. R. D. Latham .. .. .	35
Mr. H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	35
Major P. A. S. Wollocombe .. .. .	34
Lt.-Colonel T. W. Chattey .. .. .	33
Sgt. A. Torrie .. .. .	31
Mr. M. R. T. Walden .. .. .	30
Lt. D. J. Daniell .. .. .	29
Major J. M. Hewson .. .. .	25
Major A. R. Bisset .. .. .	24
Sgt. I. Routledge .. .. .	24
Major R. H. Chappell .. .. .	23
Capt. R. J. Tarrant .. .. .	23
Major C. W. Summers .. .. .	21
Lt.-Colonel K. J. Carter .. .. .	19
Major H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	15
Sgt. M. Flynn .. .. .	15

#### Stableford Singles—continued

Major G. W. Kempster .. .. .	14
Major S. E. Honess .. .. .	5
Major B. A. M. Pielow (Divot) .. .. .	3

#### Stableford Foursomes

	Points
Lt.-Colonel J. E. B. Worton and Sgt. M. Flynn (Winners) .. .. .	32
Major R. H. Chappell and Sgt. I. Routledge (Runners up) .. .. .	31
Major A. R. Bisset and Mr. H. J. Chillery .. .. .	28
Mr. M. R. T. Walden and W.O.2 R. Ford .. .. .	28
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle and Lt.-Colonel T. W. Chattey .. .. .	26
Lt.-Colonel K. J. Carter and Major J. M. Hewson .. .. .	23
Major S. E. Honess and Capt. R. J. Tarrant .. .. .	23
Major G. W. Kempster and Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	20
Sgt. A. Torrie and A. N. Other .. .. .	19
Major B. A. M. Pielow and Lt. D. J. Daniell .. .. .	14

#### Hidden Holes Competition

	Points
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle (Winner) .. .. .	12
Lt.-Colonel J. R. B. Worton .. .. .	11
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	11
Mr. M. R. T. Walden .. .. .	11
W.O.2 R. Ford .. .. .	10
Sgt. A. Torrie .. .. .	10
Lt.-Colonel T. W. Chattey .. .. .	9
Lt.-Colonel K. J. Carter .. .. .	9
Major P. A. S. Wollocombe .. .. .	9
Capt. R. D. Latham .. .. .	9
Major A. R. Bisset .. .. .	8
Mr. H. J. Chillery .. .. .	8
Major J. M. Hewson .. .. .	6
Major R. H. Chappell .. .. .	6
Major C. W. Summers .. .. .	5
Capt. R. J. Tarrant .. .. .	5
Lt. D. J. Daniell .. .. .	4
Sgt. I. Routledge .. .. .	4
Major G. W. Kempster .. .. .	3
Sgt. M. Flynn .. .. .	3
Major H. K. Hardcastle .. .. .	2
Major S. E. Honess .. .. .	2
Major B. A. M. Pielow .. .. .	0

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The regimental museum was visited on July 20 by the Middlesex Society, a body whose hobby is everything connected with the old County of Middlesex. Some of its members have associations with both the County and the Regiment going back to the latter part of the eighteenth century.

Our two regiments, the 57th and 77th, played noteworthy parts in this war of 1854-1856, the 57th at the Battle of Inkerman and at Sebastopol, and the 77th at the Battles of the Alma, Inkerman and Sebastopol, the three honours being on our regimental colours. On display in the foyers locally had been the coatee worn by Lt.-General H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge, in 1854, the coatee of Capt. Henry Kent, later Colonel of the Regiment, and the coatee worn by Capt. Audley Lempriere when he was shot and killed at the taking of the Russian rifle pits April 19, 1855. In addition, the caped greatcoat of that firebrand, Lt. Acton, was on show with the shell jacket of Sgt. English, 57th Regiment.

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The receipts from the sale of tickets and the distribution of prize money were as follows:

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Received from sale of tickets				148	3	0
Less : Cost of printing ..	12	11	6			
Postage ..	1	9	6			
Registration Fee ..	1	0	0			
				15	1	0
Available for Distribution				£133	2	0

Association Charitable Fund (50% of net proceeds)	..	..	..	£	s.	d.
				66	11	0
<i>Prize Money:</i>				£	s.	d.
1st Prize (20% net proceeds)	26	12	5			
2nd Prize (15% „ „ )	19	19	4			
3rd Prize (10% „ „ )	13	6	3			
Other horses drawn (5% net proceeds)—12 at 11/1 each	..	..		6	13	0
				66	11	0
Total	..	..	..	£	133	2

3rd: Middlesex Regimental Association (per Mr. E. Fuller).

Colonel Ian Battye retired on retired pay on June 27, 1968, and is living at Woodbridge in Suffolk.

We were delighted quite recently to get a letter from Major "Hippo" Beadnell, who is still farming in Kenya, but under considerable difficulty. He has had to compete with a ghastly pest of eelworms, but he states that he has now almost brought this to a successful conclusion.

In April ex-Sgt. George Bignell, late 1st Battalion, wrote stating that he hoped to be present at the Albuhera Service of Remembrance at Mill Hill on May 19. As, however, no one appears to have tracked him down that day we can only assume that he was unable to attend.

He still lives at Romford in Essex and was fit and well when he wrote.

A letter was received last June from Capt. A. L. Bishop, who served with the 2nd Battalion during the 1914-18 War, making enquiries about his old Battalion.

He is a Canadian, was commissioned into the Regiment from the Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, in September 1914, and went to France with the 2nd Battalion the following month.

During the week which ended on June 15 last, Capt. Christopher Bower marked the 150th birthday of Bower, Cotton and Bower, the City solicitors of which he is senior partner, with a party for colleagues and clients in the Old Hall, Lincoln's Inn.

'Peterborough' in *The Daily Telegraph* of June 15 commented: "A century-and-a-half of practice is not unheard of for a firm of solicitors, but this one has passed successively from father to son since it began. Mr. Christopher Bower, now in his seventies, has no son".

News has been received that the Rev. Canon D. V. G. Brock, T.D., has been appointed Director of Education to the Solomon Islands. During the 1939-45 War he was 2IC of the 2/7th Battalion from August 1940 to May 1942 when he was pro-

moted Lt.-Col. to command 2nd Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment. He entered the Church after the war and, before going to the Solomon Islands, spent several years in the west country, including the position of Vicar of Princeton, which involved work connected with the prison.

Col. Ian Burrows retired on retired pay on May 21, 1968, and is now living at Thames Ditton in Surrey.

News has been received from C/Sgt. "Clem" Clements (22276303), who is serving with BATTKEN (British Army Training Team) in Kenya. He tells us that he does much travelling around the country and that he is enjoying life to the full. He sees a lot of Capt. Bayton, who is Director of Music, and is based on the same camp.

He sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

Ex-Pte. John McFarlane Crawford, M.M., one of the original pipers of the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion and now aged 79, is living with his daughter-in-law in Salisbury, Rhodesia. When that Battalion was disbanded in February 1918 he, with the remainder of the pipers and drummers, was transferred to the 2nd Battalion.

He won the Military Medal for gallantry in the severe fighting between May 27 and June 2, 1918, when all except 92 of the 2nd Battalion were wiped out.

Major George Dawson is another of our senior officers who has retired on retired pay. He left the Service on May 3 last and is living at Farnham in Surrey.

It came as a great surprise when we heard earlier this year that Lt. Malcolm Deakin, one of our most promising young officers, had been found medically unfit and would have to resign his commission in consequence. He has now done so, and left for Hong Kong in June to take up employment with Messrs. Butterfield and Swire. No doubt he will be joining the small Hong Kong Branch of our Association.

Our heartiest congratulations to ex-W.O.2 W. D. Fitzgerald (6192972) on his election as a Councillor on Worthing Town Council.

He enlisted as a Drummer Boy in the 9th (T.A.) Battalion in January 1912 and, on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War went with the Battalion to India. In 1917 he saw active service in Mesopotamia with the Battalion until the Turks were defeated in 1918. He was the first to re-enlist in the 9th Battalion on the re-formation of the Territorial Army after the 1914-18 War, finally retiring as a Company Sergeant-Major.

All who knew him well send their best wishes for his future success as a Councillor.



A former 9th Battalion officer living at Canterbury, with whom we had hoped to get in touch during the Depot Open Day on July 7, is Capt. J. L. Harper. We failed in our efforts, which is not surprising when it is taken into account that there were more than 10,000 people on the ground, so we shall have to try again in the near future.

During the 1914-18 War he served with the 2/9th Battalion from its formation until its disbandment in September 1917 when he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps.

We were very pleased indeed to learn that S/Sgt. J. C. Leat (14467216), now serving with the 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List, and send him our heartiest congratulations.

Major Ian Lloyd, serving a tour of duty with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, wrote in June that he was being kept busy with tactical exercises and parades, particularly the latter in view of the Sultan's birthday in July and his coronation on August 1.

Congratulations to Capt. John Lofting on being selected to play for the Army Cricket XI again this year.

Ex-Sgt. Herbert Charles Manders (6188507) was re-admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on July 8, 1968, having reverted to out-pension last December.

The Regiment now has seven In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital.

One of our old 4th Battalion soldiers, W. J. Moore, has got in touch with us with a view to rejoining the Regimental Association, which he first joined in 1920. He enlisted in 1911 and was posted to the 4th Battalion in 1912. At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War he went with the Battalion to France, took part in the Battle of Mons and, after 3½ years' active service, was invalided home as a gas casualty.

The new church of St. Giles, at the School of Infantry, Warminster, Wilts., was dedicated on Sunday, June 9, by the Venerable Archdeacon John Youens, Chaplain-General to the Forces.

The first soldier to be married in this new church was L/Cpl. John Murphy, 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

His many friends will be pleased and relieved to hear that Major Percy Newman has made a good recovery after his recent operation and is now spending three weeks in a convalescent home at Holt in Norfolk. In a note written from this home to the Editor he sends his best wishes to all.

Ex-Cpl. Alfred Henry Nicholls (6197621), who served in the 1st Battalion from December 1926 to November 1934 when he was transferred to the Army Reserve, has been suffering from acute bronchitis and pneumonia and has had to give up his employment, at any rate temporarily, with Charington's Brewery.

We wish him a speedy recovery and return to work.

A surprise and welcome visitor to Regimental Headquarters in May was Alf "Ginger" Parrott (6196352), who was on short leave from Kampala, Uganda. He returned via Amman, Jordan, early in July and expects to come home again next summer.

Brigadier and Mrs. Basil Rackham left by ship early in July to spend a well-earned holiday in New York with their daughter. Whilst there they got in touch with Col. and Mrs. Jimmy Reid, who were both in good form.

Major Ken Clayden retired from the Service on July 15 last, but intends, if possible, to carry on soldiering on a voluntary basis with a T. and A.V.R. III unit in the Manchester area, where he is now living.

Congratulations to Lt.-Col. Dennis Rendell on his promotion to Colonel with effect from June 30. He is at present Deputy Provost Marshal at H.Q. 1st (British) Corps in Germany, and is due to take over as Commandant, R.M.P. Depot and Training Establishment at Chichester in September.

Lt.-Col. L. C. Sharpe, one of our former Regular officers who transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, is now employed on the Directing Staff (General Division) at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham.



Councillor W. D. Fitzgerald (on right) with robed councillors leaving Worthing Town Hall for the Mayoral procession and church service. (See page 5.) (Photograph: Beckett Newspapers Ltd.)

We were very sad to get the news quite recently that one of our regular readers for some years, Mr. W. A. Stephens, had died. Although he himself served in the Royal Army Service Corps he was always most interested in the Die-Hards and had a soft spot for our Regiment because his father had, for many years, been the music writer and a clarinet player in the Band of the 1st Battalion.

We send our deepest sympathy to his daughter, Mrs. Pinson, and other members of his family in their bereavement.

Major Roddy Sword tells us that he has just sold his house in Wales and that he is going to Malta in October to see if he likes it enough to live there.

In a letter received recently, ex-Pte. S. F. Thompson, who served with the 1st Battalion as "B" Company cook in the Shanghai Defence Force in 1942, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

Major Ewen Tuckey has been ill in a nursing home at Goring-on-Thames, but is making a good recovery.

Ex-W.O.2 Charles Varrelman, who served in the 2/9th Battalion during the 1914-18 War, writes to say that he has been unable to attend any functions or parades lately as he has had a stroke which has partially disabled him. He sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards, and especially those of his old Battalion.

News has been received that ex-Pte. Sydney Wallace (6192075), who served in the 1st Battalion from 1919 to 1924 and again for a short period during the 1939-45 War, now has to live in a Residential Home at Islington, because he suffers from a heart complaint.

We hear that ex-W.O.2 "Jack" Warner (2221098) has now moved to the Surbiton area in

order to be close to his business interests. He is responsible for the entertainments side at Chessington Zoo—one-armed bandits, etc. He says that it is a good, but busy, life.

Those who remember him may be interested to know that we have been in touch with ex-Bdsm. Leonard Wood (6217132), who served with the 2nd Battalion in Palestine in 1947 and later with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. He now lives at Southall in Middlesex.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Thurs., Aug. 22	Visit to Mons for ceremonies in connection with the 54th anniversary of the Battle of Mons.
Sun., Aug. 25	
Wed., Aug. 28	Party to Grant Concert at Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, Twickenham.
Fri., Oct. 4	2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London, W.2.
Fri., Oct. 11	Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2.
Fri., Oct. 18	Officers' Club Cocktail Party at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
Fri., Oct. 25	Autumn Golf Meeting on West Wilts Golf Course, Warminster.
Thurs., Nov. 7	7th Battalion Officers' Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
Sat., Nov. 9	Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
Sun., Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware.

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## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### SECRETARY'S NOTES

#### Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1, 1968, to April 30, 1968, the sum of £870 3s. 8d. was spent from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 64 ex-members of the Regiment, or their widows.

#### Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from 12th Middlesex Home Guard Branch (on closing down), Major C. H. L. Travis, T.D., Lt. P. H. Denning, Mr. P. R. Batten, and Mr. G. L. Pargeter, D.F.C.

#### Annual Reunion

The Annual Reunion this year will be held at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2, on Friday, October 11.

#### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association will be held at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2, on Friday, October 11, at 8 p.m.

#### Visit to Passchendaele

A small party of eight members travelled to Belgium during the Spring Holiday. They paid a visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery, Passchendaele, where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Association by Mr Bob Ferguson to the memory of those of our comrades who are named on the Memorial.

#### Derby Outing

A total of 32 members and their families attended the outing to the Derby on May 29 and, from all accounts, enjoyed themselves very much indeed.

#### Summer Outing

In spite of the weather which, although not good, was better than last year, the river trip from Windsor to Marlow and return, organised for Sunday, June 23, was a great success.

A total of 70 attended and had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

#### Regimental Depot Open Day

This event, which was held at Canterbury on Sunday, July 7, was again very well supported by members of the Association and their families this year, an estimated total of 160, including Mr Bob Ryder, v.c., making the journey either in coaches arranged by the Association or in private cars.

#### Royal Tournament

There were 29 applicants for tickets for the party organised by the Association for the evening performance on Tuesday, July 9. Owing to heavy bookings, however, tickets could only be obtained for 21, who spent a thoroughly enjoyable and entertaining evening.

#### Annual Parade of Belgian O.C.A. in Great Britain

At the invitation of the Amicale des Anciens Combattants Belges en Grande Bretagne the Association sent a detachment with our Standard to their Annual Parade on Horse Guards and wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph on Sunday, July 21.

Although only very short notice of this Parade was given, 27 Old Comrades—mostly old Mons men—attended, and our thanks are due to Major Dick Smith, who was responsible for gathering this number together so quickly.

Mr. L. J. Johnson was the Standard Bearer, and Col. F. Walden laid the wreath on behalf of the Association.

On Monday, July 22, the Mons Section of Belgian O.C.A., who look after our party when I visit Mons each year and who had come over for this Parade, were entertained in the Officers Mess at Edgware.

#### HONG KONG BRANCH

Your poor scribe is attempting to write amidst the infinite variety and persistent cacophony of noise that seems to vibrate throughout Hong Kong Central these modern days. But enough excuses for not meeting the Editor's deadline!

Main news concerns the most successful Albuhera Dinner held at the King's Lodge Restaurant, Kowloon. The following officers and ladies attended:

Col. H. A. De Barros Botelho, O.B.E., E.D. (The Hong Kong Regiment), Major David Pike, M.C., Major and Mrs. Gordon Crumley, Captain and Mrs. Pat Pielow, W.O.2 and Mrs. George Simmons.

The cuisine was excellent and with the assistance of bumper portions of most palatable wine most individual reminiscences were exchanged and old battles refought. Even the ladies enjoyed themselves.

With regards to personalities, "Jacko" Jackson is still guarding Headquarters Land Forces as a Civil Security Officer; David Pike is still "pontificating" at the Hong Kong Cricket Club (in fact, he seldom seems to leave the place!); Gordon Crumley is still chasing the Volunteers in Happy Valley; Pat Pielow is still pretending to serve menu fit for a gourmet at the Military Hospital and "George" is still watching his "Q" ledgers in the "wilds" of the New Territories. Rumour has it also that Mr. Blm Deakin has now arrived in the Colony working for Butterfield and Swire. If the rumours are true, please show yourself, Malcolm!

In conclusion all "Die-Hards" in Hong Kong send their heartiest congratulations to Col. De Barros Botelho on his recent award of the O.B.E. "Bots" has always been a good friend of the Regiment and it was particularly pleasing to hear the news. J.I.D.P.

#### HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Since last going to press much has happened at Hounslow. The Social, which was held on April 28, was a great success and many old acquaintances were renewed. A large contingent from the Branch went on the "River Trip" which, with good weather, was thoroughly enjoyed. One member felt that it was as good as a cruise, although those members playing cards on the lower deck did feel a certain amount of trepidation when we passed the *Queen of the Thames* which had sunk last year; fortunately before it stopped a mad rush for the lifeboats.

Bob Bartholomew spent a very happy Whitsun holiday with "Topper" Brown, who has taken a pub "The Three Elms", North Wotton, near Sherborne, Dorset. "Topper" reports that he has seen Col. Brotherton and Lt.-Col. Hall and he will always be pleased to see Association members.

We now look forward to a full programme with a Social on July 26, a Rifle Match against "B" Company 10th Queen's on August 18, and a proposed trip to the coast in September.

Drummy.

#### MILL HILL BRANCH

With so many of our members enjoying their well-earned summer break—or are going to within the next few weeks—cards have been arriving from all parts of the United Kingdom, plus many from those who have managed to stretch their travel allowance and left for "sunnier climes," not India! Many thanks to all those who remembered us at R.H.Q.

Several ex-Diehards have joined our branch, renewing the comradeships of past years with those who served in the various battalions of Middlesex. We welcome A. Middleton, D. McGrath, J. Walker, M.M., M. Batten, G. Young, C/Sgt. Clements, T. Penman, J. Bromley, R. Bartlett, plus 19 members of our Volunteer Battalion recruited by Capt. T. D. Jones. We know that we shall see them often at our monthly meetings.

Alf "Ginger" Parrott visited us whilst on a brief spot of home leave. Let us hope that it will not be too long before he is with us again.

Many of our members took full advantage of the outings arranged for us by the Association. These are fully reported elsewhere in this edition but from all accounts everyone enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to repeats next year.

Good news has been received from Yarmouth about Major Percy Newman who is now convalescing and we feel sure that it will not be too long before he is able to visit us again.

#### PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

Once again the time has come to put pen to paper and concoct something for the newsletter and first and foremost we send best wishes for a quick return to good health to all sick "Die-Hards", especially to our very good friend, Percy Newman. Most of us in this branch were associated with Percy at some time during our service and to us he always appeared as the smartest man in the British Army.

Yesterday I had a card from our chairman, Peggy O'Neil, holidaying in the States and Canada. Today

I had a card from another of our members, vice-chairman Harry Norfield, holidaying in Great Yarmouth. Perhaps he will meet Percy Newman while he is there.

Charlie Kennett, although we do not see him at our meetings, has been rather "under the weather" and I know that he would welcome news from any of his old friends, as also would all of us.

We are hoping to plan a visit to the Regiment at Warminster during the summer months and I shall be writing to the Commanding Officer on this subject soon. Should this come about I shall have more to say about it in my next newsletter.

I shall be off on my holidays on Saturday, down to Ramsgate, and I hope once again to call on Jack Painter in the Oddfellows Club at Margate.

In conclusion, we, from this branch wish all other branches and all serving and old "Die-Hards" the very best wishes for success in whatever they are doing.

I should like to hear from anyone, and I don't think there is one who can claim the following distinction. In the year 1929 or 1930 the 1st Battalion Athletic Team were runners-up in the Army Championships at Aldershot. In 1939 the 2nd Battalion athletic team were also runners-up at Aldershot. I claim to be the only member who ran for the battalions on both of these occasions, or is there someone else?

L. C. WEST, Secretary.

#### 9th BATTALION BRANCH

In my notes in the third issue of the Diehards Newsletter, I write of our most important function, the Reunion Dinner held on June 15.

Thirty-two of our branch attended that evening and the guests brought the number up to 50 who sat down to a good meal and a jolly good pow-wow afterwards.

Some 60 members wrote to inform us of their inability to attend, but sent along their subscriptions and donations.

If this should catch the eye of any who did not answer our letter re the dinner we should be pleased to hear from them.

One of our members is 93 years old. I shall shortly be seeing him to hear some of his history of our early days.

Our Association is stronger than ever, especially as regards the Social Committee's events, which you no doubt will read of in another part of the Newsletter. Suffice it to say that all of the 9th, who attended these events, enjoyed them immensely.

The visit to Chelsea Hospital on Founders Day, May 29, by just a few of us, was great. I have never seen so many medals worn for a long time. The reviewing officer was Field-Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, K.G., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.S.O., D.C.L., who paid great respect to the In-Pensioners and was most emphatic in his address to the Parade, regarding the Government's abolition of some of the County names of Regiments, and to the absence of Ministers, whom he thought may be attending the Derby, which was held on that day.

We met our member, C/Sgt. C. King, who very kindly showed us around.



If you are in town any day, the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is well worth a visit. It is open to the public from 10-12 and 2-5 p.m. Also on Sundays the public may attend the Parade Service at 11 a.m.

R. T. Meers.

## W.O.s AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

It is with a sad heart that I write these notes on hearing the grave news that the name of our famous Regiment along with others, will, in the very near future, disappear from the list of Regiments of the British Army. Even though we have been incorporated with the Queen's Regiment, the name MIDDLESEX was retained in the title of that Regiment. Now that last link is to be severed. How sad, too, it is to think that those responsible, whether right or wrong, can, with a stroke of the pen, do that which no enemy, large or small, with all their might and power, could ever achieve. They say that tradition is way out. I do not think so, for I am sure that all those who have given their lives for their country were inspired by the traditions of the Regiment in which they served, in making that supreme sacrifice, and it would be the same again should those who are now serving be called upon to defend their country.

It is now up to all of us who have been proud to call ourselves "DIE-HARDS" to keep that title alive by giving our fullest support to our Branch of the Association, in order to keep it active, so that we have a place where we can meet and talk and boast of the glories of a Regiment which, not by defeat at the hands of the enemy but by the stroke of a pen, ceases to exist as an active part of the British Army.

Our meeting in May was a huge success. Sixty or more members and friends gathered in the 10th Queen's Sergeants Mess to drink a toast to those who fought and fell at "ALBUHERA." Our guests who joined us in the toast that evening were Colonel and Mrs. F. Walden, Lt.-Colonel and Mrs. J. D. Gunnell and Major and Mrs. R. M. Cain. We were hoping to have the pleasure of the company of our deputy Colonel, Major-General C. M. M. Man, but owing to a prior engagement which he could not break, he was unable to accept our invitation. He, however, sent us his best wishes for a successful evening.

Our meetings in June and July were not, I am sorry to say, so well patronised; only about half-a-dozen faithfuls turned up at each meeting, but we will still press on and hope that future meetings will show an improvement.

I am pleased to report that Major Percy Newman, who recently underwent an operation for an ulcer, is now on the road to recovery and is at present in a convalescent home. I am sure you will all join me in

hoping that the road to full recovery and to good health will not be too long.

To all branches of the Association we send our very best wishes and every success in the future.

L.R.J.

## 1/10th BATTALION OCA (1914-18)

The 35th and, unfortunately, the last, Reunion was held on Saturday, April 27. This annual reunion, formed by "D" Company, has joined many in correspondence and in meeting. And this year, 10th Battalion members, it met at the Victory Ex-Services Club, in Seymour Street, Marylebone.

We were fortunate in having members from Worcester, Cornwall and Wiltshire with their family escorts, but the total was only two dozen, and below our booking.

Again this year, Colonel Walden, on his way to a prior appointment, kindly opened our proceedings and reviewed the Regiment's new dispositions.

F.Z.P.

## 2/10th BATTALION O.C.A. (1914-18)

The 40th reunion of this unit was held at the Victory Ex-Services Club on May 25 last under the chairmanship of the president, Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, M.C. Seventy-two members and guests attended, including Major-Gen. C. M. M. Man, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., Col. F. Walden, D.L., Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., and Preb. G. A. Lewis Lloyd, M.B.E., B.A. (Hon. Chaplain to the 2/10th O.C.A.).

During the evening Major-Gen. Man accepted from the president for safe custody in the Regimental Museum the medals and decorations of the late Capt. N. B. McIvor, M.C. and Bar. It was announced that a gift of 100 guineas was being made to the Chiswick authorities, who in turn would undertake in perpetuity the maintenance and preservation of the Battalion's memorials at Chiswick.

The company were reminded that this year was the 50th anniversary of the disbanding of the Battalion in 1918. "On parade" was the silver drum presented to the Regiment by the O.C.A. to commemorate the command of the 1st Battalion by Lt.-Col. V. L. N. ("Porky") Pearson, D.S.O., who also commanded the 2/10th Battalion from July 1916 in the Palestine campaign.

The Battalion's annual Remembrance service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 10, next at Chiswick Church, The Mall, W.4. Enquiries from the Hon. Secretary, "Cleveland", Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon. A.D.S.

## OBITUARY

It is with much regret that we have to announce that the following Die-Hards have died:

DIGBY—On July 7, 1968, ex-Sgt. William Henry Digby (L/11248) aged 83. He enlisted in August 1906 and served with the 4th Battalion until September 1908 when he was posted to the 3rd Battalion in Hong Kong. He served throughout the 1914-18 War and was discharged in March 1920.

FRENCH—In February 1968, ex-Pte. Albert Robert French (TF/5319) aged 73. He enlisted in October 1915 and served with 1/8th Battalion until 1917 when he was discharged on account of wounds received in action.

GEARY—On June 9, 1968, ex-Pte. John Joseph Geary (S/5918 and 6189750) aged 83. He enlisted in the 6th (Special Reserve) Battalion in October 1910 and served with that Battalion until the outbreak of war in August 1914, when he was posted to the 4th Battalion. He was wounded twice, and on each occasion after recovering he was posted to a different Battalion—first to the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion and, after the second time, to the 20th (Shoreditch) Battalion. With this latter Battalion he was taken prisoner in April 1918. After the war he served with the 2nd Battalion until he was transferred to the Reserve in April 1926. He was a staunch member of the Regimental Association.

HAWKER—On June 9, 1968, ex-Sgt. James Hawker (L/6053) aged 84. He enlisted on January 1, 1900, and was posted to the newly-formed 3rd Battalion on completion of his recruit training. He saw service in South Africa until the end of the Boer War in 1902, when he joined the 2nd Battalion. He later was posted to the 1st Battalion in India and was transferred to the Army Reserve, on completing seven years' Colour service, in November 1907. He re-joined the 1st Battalion at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, during which he was awarded the Military Medal. He served in the Home Guard during the 1939-45 War.

JENNINGS—On April 29, 1968, suddenly, whilst returning from a holiday in Durban to his home at Bulawayo, Rhodesia, Captain Harold Jennings, aged 52. He enlisted in September 1935 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Colchester in 1934. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he went to France with the Battalion and returned to the U.K. in May 1940 to be commissioned as a Lieutenant on the introduction of the Emergency Scheme. He was then posted to the 2/8th Battalion, where, as a first class Machine Gun instructor, he was most successfully in imparting his knowledge to members of this, as yet untrained, M.G. Battalion. He saw active service with the Battalion in N.W. Europe and was mentioned in despatches. At the end of hostilities he was demobilised, and went to South Africa. Later he took an executive post with a large manufacturing firm in Rhodesia.

MAGGS—On July 20, 1968, ex-Sgt. Charles Robert Maggs (6196864). He enlisted in the 9th (T.A.)

Battalion in the early 1920s and served continuously with the Battalion until his discharge through ill-health during the 1939-45 War. He was a staunch Die-Hard, and a most loyal member of our Regimental Association, especially the 9th Battalion Branch.

MOORES—Early in 1968, ex-Sgt. Bob Moores, who served with the 8th Battalion during the 1914-18 War. Afterwards he was employed as a mechanic with the Uxbridge Gas Company and, in 1932, the present Chairman of our Regimental Association, Colonel Desmond Ellis, when he started his career with the same company, was Bob Moore's mate.

PATERSON—On June 26, 1968, Major Ernest Thomas Paterson (late Army No. 6196636). He enlisted in May 1925 and won promotion rapidly, attaining the rank of W.O.2 (C.S.M.) in March 1939. On posting from the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong to the Home Establishment he was granted an Emergency Commission as a Lieutenant in July 1940. During the war he was employed on the instructional staff of 26 M.G.T.C., retiring with the honorary rank of Major in 1948.

RAINBLE—On June 7, 1968, one day before his 68th birthday, Major William Albert Rainble (late Army No. 6189800). He enlisted on June 8, 1918, his 18th birthday, and was posted to the 53rd (Young Soldiers) Battalion. Except for a very short period he was with this unit until April 1919 when he was posted to the 19th (Second Public Works Pioneers) Battalion and served with it for four months in France and Belgium clearing up the debris of the battlefields. He joined the 3rd Battalion in August 1919 and served with that Battalion until it was disbanded in 1922 when he was posted to the 1st Battalion. After serving for 24 years in the ranks he was granted an Emergency Commission as Lieutenant (Q.M.) in July 1941, and spent most of his commissioned service at Headquarters, Eastern Command. On retirement in September 1948 he was employed by the Foreign Office in the Security Branch and travelled extensively. He was a staunch Die-Hard and took a keen interest in the Regiment until his final illness.

SMITH—On December 4, 1967, ex-Sgt. J. E. D. K. Smith (6212084), who landed with the 2nd Battalion in Normandy on "D" Day in 1944 and served with the Battalion throughout the campaign in N.W. Europe.

TURNBULL—On July 1, 1968, ex-Pte. Charles Edward Turnbull (6198401) aged 60. He enlisted in February 1928 and, on completion of his recruit training, served with the 1st Battalion until December 1935, when he was transferred to the Reserve. He was recalled to the Colours at the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, served with the B.E.F. in France and was wounded at Dunkirk. He was posted to the Rifle Brigade in July 1941 and served with that Regiment until December 1945.



