



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 7

AUGUST 1969

PRICE 1/3

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

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Since the appeal for the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral was formally launched on April 21 last, donations from the following have been most gratefully received and acknowledged:

Sir Myles Abbott, Miss T. P. M. Agnew, Lt. and Mrs. A. E. Allchorne, Col. W. P. M. Allen, Anonymous (through BBC), Army Physical Training Corps Association, Mrs. L. M. Anson, Mr. C. Ashby, Lt.-Col. G. B. Ayre.

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Mr. R. G. Yeates, Mr. M. T. Young.

At the time of going to press (July 24) the total of donations, etc., received to date amounts to £7,270 13s. 11d.

The Service of Dedication of the Memorial will take place on Saturday, October 11, at 2.15 p.m., and admission to the special part of the cathedral reserved for the service will be by ticket.

Ex-members of the Regiment who wish to attend should, therefore, apply for tickets to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware. Those, however, who have donated to the Memorial need NOT apply as tickets will be sent to them automatically.

MAJOR-GENERAL C. M. M. MAN, CB, OBE, MC

By the time that this *Newsletter* is published Major-General Christopher Man will be on leave pending retirement and will have taken up residence in the lovely old house which he has acquired at Calvine, in Perthshire.

Whilst he is due to retire from the Active List in September it is good to know that his tour of duty as Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) of the Queen's Regiment has been extended until 1973.

Both as the last Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment and as the present President of the Middlesex Regimental Association he has taken the greatest interest in everything connected with the Regiment and its Association, and has spared no effort to make himself known to the Old and Bold. His frequent presence not only at Association functions but also at some of the Branch meetings has been much appreciated by the many members and their families with whom he has come in contact.

A measure of the esteem and affection for him was shown quite recently when ex-members of the 57th who had served with him during the defence of Hong Kong and afterwards as Japanese prisoners of war, gave a dinner in his honour at Edgware on Saturday, July 19. The arrangements for this, which were in the capable hands of "Tich" Mellor, were excellent and did full justice to an occasion which will long be remembered by those present who, incidentally and by sheer coincidence, numbered 57. Not all those present probably realised that they were entertaining the last member of the pre-war 1st Battalion who was still serving.

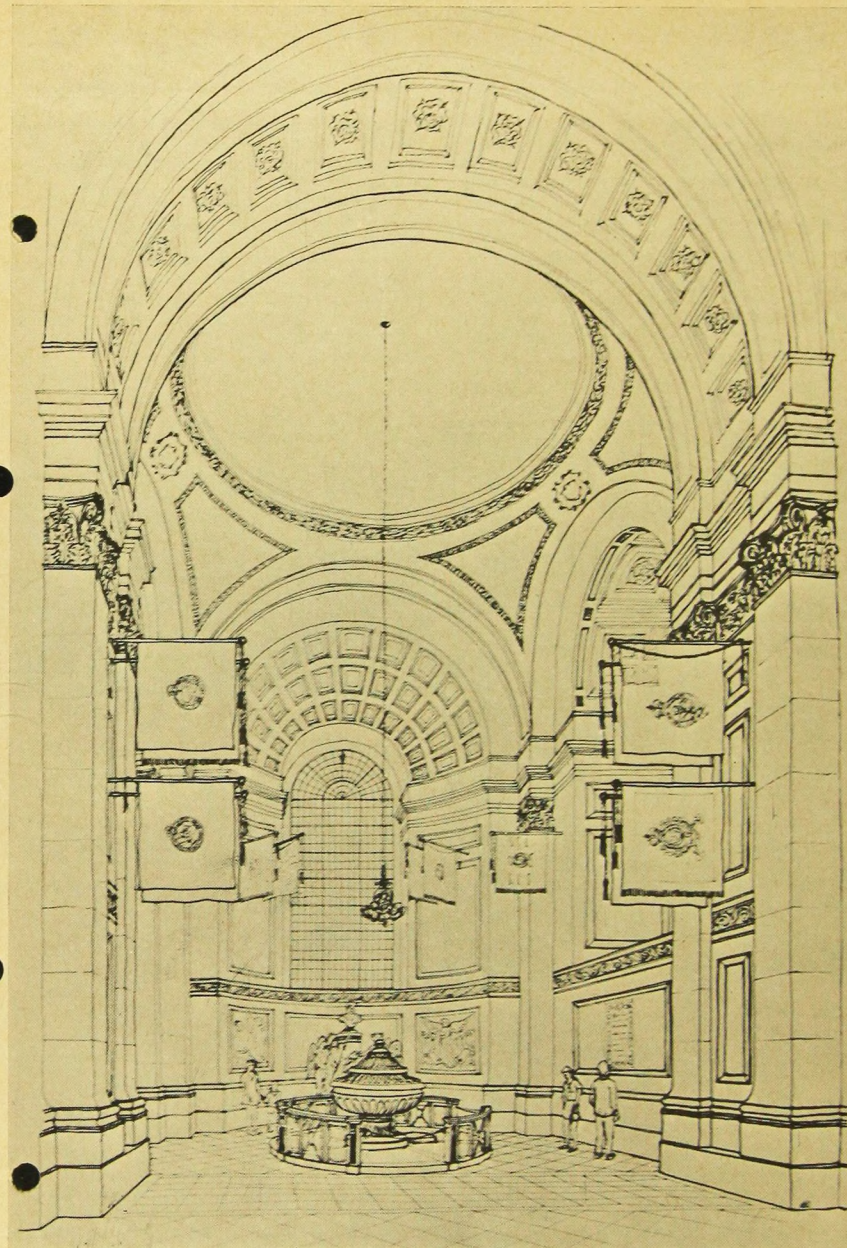
Now that the General has gone to live over the border we cannot, of course, expect him to attend functions as frequently as he has done hitherto, but at any rate we shall know that his interest in the affairs and functions of his old Regiment and its Association is in no way diminished. The same applies to him in his capacity as a Deputy Colonel of the Queen's Regiment. Whilst no one has regretted more the passing of The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) than General Man, no one has done more to ensure that the fusion of our Regiment into The Queen's Regiment has been achieved so smoothly.

It may not be generally known that, of all those who were taken prisoners of war in the Far East, General Man was the only one who subsequently became an Infantry Divisional Commander.

All Die Hards send their best wishes to him and to his popular wife, Topsy. They will always be assured of a hearty welcome whenever they come south to attend any of our functions.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Capt. O. G. Johnson, Miss Dorothy Longe, Major L. F. E. Nichols and Mr. D. R. Sankey for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.



Drawing of the Middlesex Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral.
(By kind permission of the Seely and Paget Partnership).

ALBUHERA DAY

Albuhera Day this year was celebrated regimentally on Sunday, May 18, and started, as is now the normal custom, with a Service of Remembrance. Owing to the inclement weather this was held in the Garrison Chapel and was taken by the Officiating Chaplain, the Rev. Michael Dean. After the service, which was very well attended indeed, the last Colonel of the Die-Hards, Major-General C. M. M. Man, unveiled a bronze plaque, which had been erected on the site of the old Orderly Room block, to commemorate the Regiment's occupation of Inglis Barracks from 1905 to 1961. For this the 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment, who are the successors of our 1st Battalion, provided their Band, Corps of Drums and a Regimental Guard of Honour commanded by Capt. G. Bulloch, as well as a large detachment of Warrant

Officers, NCOs and soldiers.

After the simple unveiling ceremony Major-General Man addressed the large assembly present. Then came the march past, which was led by the 4th Battalion and followed by a detachment of Old Comrades with the Association Banner carried by Mr. Len Johnson.

The parade over, most, if not all, who took part made their way to Deansbrook Road where the usual "get-together" and social were held.

This brief account would not be complete without expressing our deep appreciation to the 4th Battalion, not only for their whole-hearted support, but also for the impressive smartness of their troops on parade, which brought forth so many favourable comments from the onlookers.



1. Major-General C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, the last Colonel of the Middlesex Regt. (DCO), addressing the assembly after the unveiling of the bronze commemorative plaque.
2. The bronze commemorative plaque with, from left to right, I/P Con Sullivan, C/Sgt. C. M. King, Major-General C. M. M. Man and I/P F. Worton.
3. Guard of Honour of 4 Queen's commanded by Capt. G. Bulloch, marching past.

(Photos by Rodney Brewster)

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following have been recently acquired for the Museum:

- Medals of ex-Pte. C. F. Crump.
- Marksmen's trophies, etc., of Sgt. G. Challis, 3 Mx Rifle Volunteers.
- "Relief of Ladysmith" ribbon.

MEDALS OF EX-PTE. C. F. CRUMP

This group of medals consists of the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps "Cape Colony", "Transvaal" and "South Africa 1902", the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal, 1914-1918, and the Victory Medal, 1914-1919.

The South Africa medal was issued to Pte. Crump for his services with the 5th (Militia) Battalion during the Boer War. The Battalion was originally embodied at Hounslow on May 4, 1900, and stationed at Citadel Barracks, Dover, until October, 1900, when it was disembodied. It was again embodied at Hounslow on January 6, 1902, where it remained on the Heath until February, 22 when it embarked at Southampton on the *Roslin Castle*, arriving at Cape Town on March 15.

Although sufficient details of his service are not at present available, it appears that he was posted to the 12th (Service) Battalion at Middlewick Camp, Col-

chester, on his re-enlistment in September 1914, serving with that Battalion when it joined the BEF in July 1915.

This group of medals was purchased at a sale by the donor who kindly had them mounted before presenting them to the Regiment.

Presented by Mr. S. Kassell.

MARKSMAN'S TROPHIES, ETC., OF SGT. G. CHALLIS, 3 MX RIFLE VOLUNTEERS

This collection of trophies consists of two large silver cups and a number of photographs.

George Challis, one of two brothers in the same company, was for many years a member of "B" (Hampstead) Company of the 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, which later became "A" Company, 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (TF).

The two cups, or pots, were presented to him in 1885 as winner in the 1st Class competition and in 1887 for the same reason. Records held also show him winning prizes in various competitions both in the unit and in those open to all corps in the Volunteers. He won the McInnes medal in 1888 as best shot in the corps. This medal was the gift of Capt. J. R. McInnes who raised the 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers in September 1859.

On enlistment in 1876, George Challis was given the number 405 and continued to serve when the Battalion was renamed the 1st Volunteer Battalion Middlesex Regiment in 1898, and on the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908, on which occasion he was given the regimental number of No. 3 in the 7th Battalion (TF) of the Regiment. On retirement in 1911, he held the Volunteer Long-Service medal, living in Hampstead for all but the last five years of his life when he moved to Harrow where he died in his 90th year in November 1949.

Presented by his daughter, Mrs. G. M. Smithson.

"RELIEF OF LADYSMITH" RIBBON

This two-inch wide red ribbon with gold lettering, "Relief of Ladysmith, Feb. 28th, 1900" in letters half-inch high at the top of the ribbon, under which are the names "Buller" and "White" either side of clasped hands with the third line bearing the legend "Middlesex Regt", is a memento of the Boer War of 1899-1902.

These ribbons were worn round gentlemen's straw boaters and ladies' hats after the relief of Ladysmith by the force under the command of General Sir Redvers Buller, VC, etc. who had marched to the relief of the garrison, under the command of General Sir George White, VC, etc., which had been under siege since the early days of the war. It was during the march to Ladysmith that the action at Spion Kop was fought on January 24, 1900, after which a congratulatory message was received from Sir Redvers, voicing his admiration of the gallantry of the 2nd Battalion. The clasp "Relief of Ladysmith" on

the Queen's South Africa medal was awarded to all troops in Natal north of and including Estcourt between December 15, 1899, and February 28, 1900, both dates inclusive. (This is the single clasp on the medal of the men of our Regiment killed at Spion Kop.)

Presented by Mr. T. D. Slinn, late Northamptonshire Regiment.

R. W. J. S.

REGIMENTAL DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1969

The Derby sweepstake organised by the Regimental Association in aid of the St. Paul's Memorial Fund was well supported.

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

Receipts and Expenditure				
	£	s	d	
Received from sale of tickets				172 9 6
Less				
Printing and stationery ..	21	2	9	
Postage	2	3	7	
Registration fee	1	5	0	
				24 11 4
Available for Distribution				£147 18 2
Distribution				
	£	s	d	
St. Paul's Memorial Fund (50% of net proceeds) ..				73 19 1
Prize Money:				
1st Prize (20% of net proceeds)	29	11	9	
2nd Prize (15% of net proceeds)	22	3	9	
3rd Prize (10% of net proceeds)	14	16	0	
Other horses drawn (5% of net proceeds) 23 at 6/5 ..	7	7	7	
				73 19 1
Total				147 18 2

The following were the winners of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes:

- 1st—Messrs. T. Jones (Harrow) Ltd., 43 Masons Avenue, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex.
- 2nd—Mr. H. M. Syers, Little Orchard, Nine Acres Lane, Branscombe, Seaton, Devon.
- 3rd—Mrs. Cox, 24 Queen's Road, Sandy, Beds.

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PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Whilst attending the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on July 10, Major P. B. "Plumbago" Allott, one of our oldest veterans—he will be 90 on his next birthday—was sent for by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh and asked about his experiences in the Boer War when he was Divisional Adjutant to General French who, later, as General Sir John French, commanded the BEF in France in 1914.

Congratulations to Lt Harry Barstow on his promotion to Captain with effect from May 21, 1969.

Many still serving with 4th Battalion The Queen's Regt. will remember ex-Pte. Michael Bartlett (24045387) who, as a result of a fall whilst serving with our 1st Battalion in Guyana in 1966, was partially paralysed and was discharged with 100% disability pension. On discharge he married a nurse who had, in fact, been looking after him in hospital, and he is now living in Hexham, Northumberland. His general condition shows no signs of improvement and he is completely dependent on his wife for everything. As he is unable even to hold a book or, in fact, to turn the pages, the Regimental Association recently made him a grant so that he could buy an automatic page turning machine.

We were very pleased to hear recently from Mr. B. A. Crawley, who did his National Service with the 1st Battalion from 1951 to 1953. He is now about to join the Regimental Association and to become a regular *Newsletter* reader. Well done!

Another Old Comrade who has got in touch with us recently is Mr. G. J. Crowne. He served in both 1st and 2nd Battalions, and is now living at Manor Park, E12.

One of the many contributors from the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion towards the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral is Denis W. Dalby who, in the later stages of 1914-18 War, served with the 2nd Battalion.

He is now living in the Channel Islands.

A recently rejoined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Sgt. Bill Davis, MM and bar, who, during the early days of the Normandy landings, richly earned the bar to the decoration he won in 1940. He enlisted in December 1932 and served with the 2nd Battalion until January 1946. After a spell as a Class Z reservist he rejoined the Colours, was posted to the 1st Battalion and served with that Battalion until he was discharged as unfit for further military service in January 1950.

Mr. F. Edwards, who served in the 2/7th Battalion during the 1939-45 War, is now on the staff at NAAFI Headquarters in Germany.

Those who served with the 4th Battalion in Gibraltar immediately after the 1914-18 War will be interested to know that Mrs. Hamilton Finch, the widow of Lt.-Col. H. W. E. Finch, who commanded the Battalion at that time, is now the splendid age of 95 and still takes a great interest in the Regiment.

Lt.-Col. Peter Galvin has completed his tenure as an AA & QMG at HQ FARELF and is now held on the strength of the Queen's Regimental Depot pending his next appointment.

Ex-RQMS Percy Hale (6193713), who served with the 1st Battalion for many years up to the fall of Hong Kong in 1941, has now retired on pension from the British Launderers' Research, where he was employed as a technical illustrator. He will not be well known to a great many ex-members, since he could not attend the normal monthly meetings owing to his sufferings as a POW, but he is the staunchest of Die-Hards with a keen sense of humour, which is brought out in the many sketches drawn by him in the prison camp at Kobe and now in the Regimental Museum.

Few of us who watched and read about the great Atlantic Air Race in May, which kept millions throughout the world tense with the excitement for about a week, thought that it had anything to do with someone connected with the Regiment. Yet it was the brainchild of one of the members of our Officer's Club, Major B. V. C. Harpur, of whom Lord Northcliffe, at the gala dinner held to celebrate the great occasion, said "it was his idea to have this race, and all the success of it was primarily due to him."

Brian Harpur was commissioned into the Regiment during the 1939-45 War and served with the 1st Kensingtons, of which he became Adjutant. He is now a director of Harnsworth Publications. (With acknowledgments to *The Kensington*.)

Congratulations to Major Stuart Henshaw on the award of the Efficiency Decoration (T & AVR) notified in *The London Gazette* dated May 30, 1969.

Major-General B. P. (Bill) Hughes, the last Honorary Colonel of our 9th (TA) Battalion, presided over the annual dinner of the Mountain Artillery Dinner Club, which was held at the Naval and Military Club, Pall Mall, on June 20.

He has for some time been chairman of the Royal Artillery Institution at Woolwich.

Lt.-Col. "Jeff" Jeffcoat, on completion of his tour of duty as an AAG at HQ FARELF, Singapore, is now on the strength of the Regimental Depot at Canterbury, pending his posting to HQ BAOR in September.

A former member of the Regiment who served in the 4th Battalion from 1919 to 1923 as a Corporal in the Drums, has recently been in touch with us. He is ex-RQMS F. J. W. Kedge, BEM (6190104). On his discharge in 1923 he joined the 7th Battalion The City of London Regiment (TA) when that Battalion was a part of The Middlesex Regiment. In 1935 he transferred to the Royal Tank Regiment, with which he served throughout the 1939-45 War, rejoining the TA on its re-formation in 1947. He was formally discharged in 1961.

We were pleased to note that Capt. Mike Legg, who is a student at the Staff College, Camberley, Capt. Peter Cheesman, now serving at HQ 7th Armoured Brigade, and Capt. Peter Clarke, who is a Staff Captain at HQ 1st Division, were promoted to the rank of Major on June 30 last, and offer them all our heartiest congratulations.

Major Ian Lloyd, writing from the State of Brunei, where he is serving with the Royal Brunei Malay Regiment, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards. He hopes to be home for Christmas this year and then for a staff appointment in Germany.

Ex-Pte. Thomas MacGregor (12596), who served in the Regiment from June 1909 to September 1915, was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, as an In-Pensioner last April. This brings the total of ex-members of the Regiment who are In-Pensioners up to eight.

Our heartiest congratulations to Major Brian Marciandi on his promotion to Lt.-Col. as from June 30 last. He is about to take over command of the Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Shorncliffe, and, indeed, may well have done so by the time this *Newsletter* appears.

We were very surprised to get news last May from Major Chris Mievile that he had been in hospital for a couple of operations, from which we are glad to know that he has fully recovered. He tells us that he has recently learned to fly and can now explore the country by air as a private pilot!!

It is unusual, to say the least, that three past members of the Regiment should be Masters of

Livery Companies of the City of London in the same year. Yet this has happened, for this year Major Harold Neal is Master of the Loriners' Company, Major John Millard of the Tallow Chandlers' Company and Major "Lofty" Pearson of the Drapers' Company. What is more unique is that all had served in the 9th (TA) Battalion. This must surely be a record.

The publicity given to the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral has brought a number of Old Comrades in touch with the Regiment once again. One of these is ex-Cpl. Francis Mulliss (G9524) who joined the 4th Battalion in Flanders in July 1915 and remained with that Battalion until he was discharged in April 1919.

We are indeed grateful to C/Sgt. A. Nicholson (19039445) who, when renewing his subscription this year, sent his best wishes for the continued success of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*.

A recent recruit to the Regimental Association is ex-Bdsm. W. C. Norris (12783) who was serving with the 4th Battalion at the Battle of Mons and is, of

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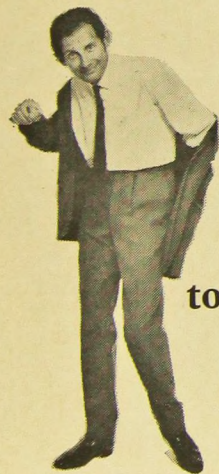
course, an "Old Contemptible." He is anxious to get in touch with any ex-Bandsmen serving with him at that time in the 4th Battalion. His address is 26 Crofton Avenue, Yeovil, Somerset.

A former officer of the Regiment who has been out of touch for some years is Capt. W. E. O'N. Owen. He was commissioned in April 1915, posted to the 3rd Battalion in France, and shortly afterwards so badly wounded that he has never fully recovered. After an extended spell of light duty he transferred to the Indian Army in November 1917 and served with 1st (KGO) Gurkha Rifles until the end of 1919 when, on conclusion of the 3rd Afghan War, he retired.

Major John Pollard has been awarded the symbol of "sq" against his name in military records, having qualified for entry into the first grade Staff Pool.

Lt.-Col. Thomas Reddy, a former 8th Battalion officer, is this year's Mayor of the Borough of Lympington, Hants, and we wish him every success during his term of office.

Austin Reed suits from £25 cost nothing



to try on.

AUSTIN REED
of Regent Street

An Old Comrade, C. R. Spicer (6196377), when sending his contribution to the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral, wrote "I shall always be proud to have had the honour of serving in such a fine Regiment." Well done! He has expressed the sentiments of so many Die-Hards.

A former member of the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion, Mr. J. O. Taleen, writing from Paris, where he has lived for some years, sends his remembrances to all Die-Hards.

Lt. Paul Truman has been posted to 4 Queen's on completion of his tour of duty on the staff at the Regimental Depot at Canterbury.

Ex-PSM A. F. Valentine, DCM (6192888), is Chairman of the Brighton Branch of the DCM League, and is anxious to enrol all holders of this decoration in the Regiment into the DCM League.

Application to join should be sent to him at 10 Selden Road, Worthing, Sussex.

In a recent letter, Old Comrade S. J. Wallace (6196203), who served with the 2nd Battalion in Ahmednagar in the 1920s, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

Major-General Sir John and Lady Willoughby had the honour of being invited to the luncheon party for the Ruler of Abu Dhabi which was given by Her Majesty The Queen on Friday, June 13, 1969.

In a letter written last May, ex-Pte. Robert J. Wright (816754), who was a POW with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, sent his best wishes to all his old comrades-in-arms.



CORRESPONDENCE

From: Major-General C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC.

The Regular Commissions Board,
Leighton House,
Westbury, Wilts.

22nd July, 1969.

The Editor,
Die-Hards Newsletter.

My dear Colonel,

On Saturday the 19th July I was the guest of honour at a Dinner at Edgware given to mark my retirement from the Army by my comrades of the old 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) of Hong Kong days. The organiser was ex-Sgt. H. J. Mellor, and 57 of us sat down at the tables. This number was in itself significant and quite coincidental.

It was for me an unforgettable occasion and a wonderful way to end my service on the active list. As well as the Dinner, I was presented with a portable radio and a walking stick inscribed on a silver band. This was not all, as my wife, who was present with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong before, during and after the fighting, was also given a magnificent fur cape. I have, of course, written to express my thanks to Mr. Mellor and I did my best to say a personal thank you to as many of those attending the Dinner as possible. I would, however, ask you to be kind enough to publish this letter so that all those who were present realise how much I value the honour they paid me.

May I, through you, wish my old friends of the former 1st Battalion and their families the very best of health and happiness in the future.

Yours very sincerely,
CHRIS MAN.

From: Colonel W. D. Ellis, OBE, TD, ADC, DL.

Lea Barn,
Winter Hill,
Cookham Dean,
Berkshire.

5th June, 1969.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter.

Sir,
As usual I read your excellent May *Newsletter*, and there catching my eye was the reference in the Ealing Branch report to Captain Jimmy Brough. He was the Assistant Engineer of the Uxbridge and District Gas Co. before the 1914/18 war as I was before the 1939/45 war. Probably he formed a platoon in D Company, 8 Middlesex, from the works as I did, but we have never met to discuss this. All I knew were the stories

told by the few that returned to the old company after the 1914/18 war, such as Bob Moores, Bladder Quelch and Bill Bloodworth. They all spoke of Jeremy Brough and how he lost both his arms, as reported in your letter, but what I think has been omitted from the report is the fact that King George V, on seeing Captain Brough in hospital after he had been repatriated, insisted on his promotion to Captain.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. ELLIS.

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER 1969

The Regimental Officers' Club Dinner this year was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, SW1, on Friday, June 6.

Major-General C. M. M. Man presided and the guests of the evening were Mr. Paul Paget and Mr. Roy Rushton, Architects of the Seely and Paget Partnership responsible for the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Others present were:

Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, Brigadier A. E. Green, Brigadier R. A. Gwyn, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, Col. I. H. Barrye, Col. I. R. Burrows, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, 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. T. W. Chattey, Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell, Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, Lt.-Col. R. D. Hutchings, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, Major M. J. Beaumont, Major R. M. Cain, Major J. G. Chiverall, Major H. E. Couch, Major R. J. P. Cummins, Major P. Donovan, Major H. K. Hardcastle, Major G. Hartley, Major S. L. J. Henshaw, Major J. M. Hewson, Major C. L. Lawrence, Major R. J. Leighton, Major A. E. McManus, Major D. S. Mitchell (private guest), Major E. J. Naish, Major G. G. Parr-Head, Major R. W. J. Smith, Major M. P. Weedon, Capt. H. B. W. Barstow, Capt. R. A. Bartlett, Capt. S. R. Bonnamy, Capt. G. Bullock, Capt. D. K. Cattell, Capt. A. R. K. Hardcastle, Capt. J. L. Harper, Capt. M. L. Muirhead, Capt. P. F. Murray, Capt. R. C. Pitman, Capt. R. G. Vaisey, Capt. C. G. Webber, Capt. M. Wild, Lt. R. N. Colbourne, Lt. E. J. Conyngham, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Lt. E. C. Graham, Lt. D. C. F. Gouda, Lt. J. C. J. Grobel.

Major-General Sir John Willoughby and Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, who were unavoidably unable to attend, sent telegrams of good wishes.

PRICE LIST

The following items are available for purchase from the Secretary of the Regimental Association:

Ashtrays, glass crested	5 0
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" Car	1 10 0
" OCA	3 0
Cravats, Regimental (Old Pattern) Terylene (New Pattern)	1 0 0
Ties, Regimental (Old Pattern) Terylene (New Pattern)	9 0
" " (New Pattern) Silk	14 6
" Officer's Club	16 0
" Middlesex Association, Silk	18 6
" " Terylene	12 6
" Queen's Regiment, Terylene	10 6
Heraldic Shields, Middlesex Regiment	1 15 6
"Die-Hards in the Great War" (Vols. 1 & 2):	
Both vols—De luxe	3 5 0
" —Cloth cover	1 0 0
" —Paper back	15 0
Print—"Steady the Drums and Fife" coloured	1 1 0

Remittances must accompany the application.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we have to announce that the following have died:

ALEXANDER—On July 9, 1969. Ex-Pte. R. D. Alexander served with the 1/7th Battalion in Gibraltar and France during the years 1914-1919. It is regretted that, to date, no further details are available.

BRATBY—On June 8, 1969, William David Bratby (L/12827 and 6192552), aged 77. Bill Bratby joined the 6th Battalion (SR) in August 1909, transferring to the Regular Army the following year. He served with this Battalion until September 1917, when he was then a WO2 (CSM). Appointed to a regular commission in September 1917, he served with the Royal Irish Rifles and Royal Ulster Rifles until retiring in September 1919. Re-enlisting in the ranks in July 1920, he continued to serve until discharged as medically unfit in January 1928.

CLELAND—On July 6, 1969, Mrs. Margaret Clelland, relict of ex-CSM H. A. (Jock) Clelland (L/5398). Mrs. Clelland was with her husband in Leborg and Calcutta with the 3rd Battalion prior to the outbreak of war in 1914. She remained in contact with the Regiment until her decease at the age of 87.

DEVONSHIRE—On July 21, 1969, ex-Cpl. Albert William Devonshire (6202157), aged 58. He enlisted in March 1935, serving with the 2nd Battalion until posted to the 1st Battalion in March 1936. He served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and as POW and was discharged on July 31, 1946.

EDGINTON—On June 6, 1969, ex-Pte. Frederick James Edginton (6203018) aged 65. Joining the 8th Battalion (TA) in 1935, he served with that Battalion until he was transferred from the Regiment in 1939. He served at Antwerp and the Rhine Crossing with the West Yorkshire Regiment until the end of hostilities in 1945.

FLEMING—On April 20, 1969, ex-CSM Edwin Matthew Fleming (L/14499 and 6188943), aged 74. "Tich" Fleming joined the Regiment in March 1913, serving with the 4th Battalion until he was made a POW in January 1915. After the First World War he served at the Depot and with the 1st Battalion until June 1935. During this period he won the Eastern Command Championship in 1921-23, and was ISBA Flyweight champion 1923-24; Bantam-weight champion 1922-25 and Army Fly-weight champion 1925. He also served from June 1939 until discharged as medically unfit in September 1943.

NOLDER—On May 13, 1969, ex-L/Cpl. Bert Nolder, aged 73. Apart from the fact that he served in the 8th Battalion (TF) during the 1914-18 War, no further details are known.

SAUNDERS—On June 19, 1969, ex-Pte. Alfred Thomas Saunders (G/8266) aged 91. Joining the Regiment in February 1915, he was sorely wounded during the initial attack by the 2nd Battalion at "La Boisselle," July 1, 1916, being shot in both arms and shrapnel wounds in the buttocks. After amputation of his left arm, he was discharged in

May 1917. He was a holder of the Gold Badge of the British Legion and founder-member of the Camberwell branch and did much benevolent work for the Dulwich branch. Before the formation of the Legion, he was a member of the Federation of Discharged Soldiers and Sailors in addition to being a member of BLESMA.

WAKELING—On May 23, 1969, George William David Wakeling (TF/2651 and TF/209582) aged 62. Joining the 2/7th Battalion in September 1914, he served with it in Gibraltar and North Africa until July 1916, when he was posted to the 1/7th Battalion. He remained with this Battalion until it stood down at the end of the 1914-18 War.

WOODCOCK—On July 28, 1969, Walter Charles Woodcock (L/9397), aged 84. Joining the Regiment in November 1903, he served with the 2nd Battalion until he was posted to the 1st Battalion in 1904. With that Battalion he served in Burma, India, Aden, France and Flanders until 1916 when, as a sergeant, he was posted to the 11th Battalion. From 1925 to 1938 he served with the 23rd Battalion East Surrey Regiment (TA) completing his service as WO2 (CSM). During the war of 1939-45, he was commissioned in the Home Guard and, on duty during the blitz of 1943, lost his left eye and received injuries to the right eye which left him with poor vision until his decease.

A tribute to Major Percival Frank Newman, MBE

A distinguished General once said, "Use superlatives only when you really mean them. You will be surprised how rarely you will then use them." This is one of those rare occasions. Everyone who knew Percy Newman will agree.

By his passing, so deeply mourned by us all, we have lost a perfect Diehard.

The memory of him and, above all, the superb example which he displayed, will remain with us always—as a target at which to aim. But which few of us can hope to achieve.

Perfection was the only standard of which he was aware, absolute devotion to duty and a superb practical application of that principle were the keynotes to his character and achievement.

His unique success, as a Regimental Sergeant-Major in particular, was mainly due to his consummate ability to assert his authority firmly and fairly with a deep understanding of human nature. His loyalty and ability were the greatest comfort to those under whom he served. If Percy Newman was there, you knew certainly that all for which he was responsible could be forgotten. All would be well. His turnout was simply remarkable. A brother officer writes: "He was so smart and well turned out. His ramrod straight back and his thin waist, with boots, chin strap and scabbard shining like diamonds, recall a picture to me of a quite remarkable character."

On retirement he devoted himself to the interests of his comrades. His leadership of the Mill Hill Branch will always be remembered by those who were privileged to benefit.

He was responsible for the inception of the Old Comrades Standard. There was no doubt as to who should receive it on the Presentation Parade.

This was one of the proudest moments of his career. He treasured the honour, and especially the words of the Field Marshal on handing it to him: "I bequeath this Standard to you and your comrades. See that it is well guarded and properly honoured."

Percy Newman has passed on. We have no doubt at all as to what has been written against his name in the context of:

"For when the One Great Scorer comes

To write against your name,

He writes—not that you won or lost—
But how you played the game."

Newbolt.

Well played indeed, Percy.

His widow, Pat, knows well how deeply we all sympathise with her.

B. B. R.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Sun., Sept. 28	Church Service at Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
Fri., Oct. 3	2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Fri., Oct. 10	1. Opening of Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle, Tottenham. 2. Officers' Club Cocktail Party at the County Hall, London SE1.
Sat., Oct. 11	1. Dedication of Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral. 2. Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2.
Fri., Oct. 17	Autumn Golf Meeting on West Wilts. Golf Course, Warminster.
Tues., Oct. 21	Annual Dinner of Anglo-Korean Society (full details to be notified).
Sat., Nov. 8	Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
Sun., Nov. 9	Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1, 1969, to April 30, 1969, the sum of £662 11s. 11d. was spent from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 57 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Major Sir Harold Gillett Bt., Mr. E. Barton, Mr. L. Baynard, Mr. J. W. Cleave, Mr. T. C. Skerry and Mr. H. Waller.

Annual Reunion

The Annual Reunion will again be held this year at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2, on Saturday, October 11.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association will be held at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2, on Saturday, October 11, at 8 p.m.

Kneller Hall Band Concert

Apart from a party from the Hornsey and Enfield Branch, a total of 40 members and their families availed themselves of the facilities provided by the Regimental Association to enable them to attend the opening Grand Concert of the season at Kneller Hall on May 28. This was much enjoyed by all, and we are looking forward to another visit for the final Grand Concert on September 17.

Derby Sweepstake

Details of the Regimental Derby Sweepstake appear elsewhere in this issue.

The Secretary would like to take this opportunity of thanking very much indeed those stalwarts who undertook the sale of tickets. By their efforts not only was it necessary to order a reprint of tickets but also the numbers sold showed a considerable increase on those sold last year.

Derby Outing

A total of 32 members and their families attended the outing to the Derby on June 4 and, from all accounts, spent a thoroughly enjoyable time, with a very good view indeed of the race from Tattenham Corner.

Regimental Depot Open Day

This event, which was held at Canterbury on Sunday, July 6, was again very well supported by members of the Association and their families. In spite of the rain an estimated total of 140 made the journey either in coaches provided by the Association or in private cars.

Annual Parade of Belgian OCA 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 20.

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

Royal Tournament

A party of 24 members and their families, organised by the Association, attended the evening performance on Tuesday, July 22, and, from all accounts, thoroughly enjoyed a most interesting and entertaining programme.

HONG KONG BRANCH

Our annual gathering on Albuhera Day was held this year in Major Crumley's flat. Here we could celebrate without the inhibitions imposed by gathering in a restaurant, and the day was well and truly marked. The following attended:

Col. H. A. de Barros Botelho, OBE, ED, Mrs. J. I. D. Pike, Major and Mrs. Crumley, Capt. and Mrs. Bull, Capt. and Mrs. Lyons, Capt. and Mrs. Finch, WO2 and Mrs. Simmons, Cpl. and Mrs. Manser. We were sorry "Jacko" did not make it.

Our old friends from The Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) are about to give the badge on the hillside at Fanling a wash and brush up, and there are also plans to smarten up the cases which hold the Rolls of Honour in the Cathedral. Thank you, The Volunteers.

Major Crumley will leave Hong Kong shortly, closely followed by Major Pike, and Capt. "John" Bull will take over as Honorary Secretary. Some will remember the name as the 1st Battalion's armourer in 1938-1941 who won a Military Medal during the battle. He is now the Paymaster of the Hong Kong Regiment. As his first duty he is sending Dick Smith some of his photographs, including one of Col. Tokanaga (*alias* The Fat Pig) deprived of belt and braces, marching to his well-deserved trial.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

Branch activities have been rather slack recently, probably due to the weather and the holiday season. However, we have had a trip to Kneller Hall and to the Depot At Home at Canterbury, which turned out to be rather damp, although the dampness was not entirely external!

The Rifle Club have had three meetings at Bisley and a good time was had by all members attending, and the weather was kind to us on each occasion.

Stan Lewis (1/7 Middlesex) has unfortunately suffered some heart trouble and is now in Barnet General Hospital. We all wish you well soon, Stan.

Les Hosslen has proved himself again! He has become a grandfather, so he informed us in a manner that left us in no doubt as to how he had been celebrating.

Our genial Steward, Bert Mellor, has returned to us from hospital, and we are pleased to see him back fully recovered, we trust.

The club still meets on Wednesday evenings and on the first Saturday of the month and we will be pleased to see anyone who is in the locality on those days.

H. E. THORNTON.

9th BATT LION BRANCH

One of our successful annual dinners of recent years was held at the Victory Club, Seymour Street, W1, on May 17, and to which I referred in the last issue of this *Newsletter*. The service provided was very good, the meal excellent and, indeed, when the company were asked the traditional question "Any complaints?", the response was very appreciative, so much so, in fact, that it was decided on that evening to book the same room for our Reunion dinner next year, the date being May 16, 1970, Albuhera Day.

The Annual General Meeting, which preceded the dinner, passed the resolution re the Commanding Officers' Private Fund, unanimously.

And now to the St. Paul's Memorial. The money for this is coming in and a great deal of support has been given but more is still required.

A few days ago I went to St. Paul's Cathedral for an annual service in connection with another organisation and I viewed the new baptistry. The font is in position on its black and white marble flooring. Incidentally, the font was carved by one Francis Bird, and finished in 1727, costing £350 then. The iron balustrade with the hand rails is in position also.

When it is finished and the Colours are installed, I think it will be a project well worthy to bear our name. So, if you can, visit St. Paul's during these summer days and see how the master craftsmen of today have brought to this wonderful creation of Sir Christopher Wren, which was so damaged during the last war, a beauty that is so enjoyable.

On entering the cathedral by the north-west door, which is to the left of the great west door, one passes into the north aisle on the left of which is the All Souls Chapel, containing the Kitchener Memorial. Two beautiful candlesticks enhance this chapel. They were the gift of the London Rifle Brigade, and made from silver trophies collected by the Brigade. Could we provide such at our Memorial?

Proceeding along the north aisle leads to the north transept at the base of the dome, and on the left is the font in the corner of the transept. As one enters this transept, high on the wall on the left is a plaque to the memory of Major-General Daniel Hoghton, who fell gloriously at the Battle of Albuhera. The beautiful statue to Lt.-General Sir Thomas Picton is also a part of the Baptistry.

A wonderful sight is the high altar and the canopy over it. This commemorates the men and women of the Commonwealth overseas who died in the two world wars.

The ironwork of Jean Tijou and the wood carvings of Grinling Gibbons are a joy to behold. What a wonderful place for our Colours to rest in! The Committee hopes to see you there on October 11 of this year.

R. T. M.

WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

Now that the holiday season is upon us many of our members will be taking a well-deserved rest. To them we offer our best wishes for a good holiday with bright weather but, at the same time, sincerely hoping that their holiday break does not coincide with our meeting dates.

It certainly made no difference to our meeting on June 7, when all but five members with their wives and friends turned up to wish our guest of honour, Major-General Chris Man, all the best of health and a happy retirement. Among our other guests that evening were Col. and Mrs. F. Walden, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. J. D. Gunnell, Major M. J. Beaumont, Major R. M. Cain and Capt. Don Jones, as well as representatives of the WOs and Sergeants Mess, 4 Queen's. Music that evening, thanks to Capt. Don Jones, was provided by a four-piece band, and Charlie Banks put on, as always, an excellent buffet. It was a very enjoyable evening, made more enjoyable to me when each of the guests came to me before leaving to say how very much they had enjoyed themselves and asked me to pass their thanks on to all members.

This last meeting can be, and I am sure will be, one of many future meetings. We are still looking for and hoping to get new members, so should you, reading this, not be a member, come along and join. We meet every second Saturday of the month in the TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware.

In response to the proposal made to all Branches by Major-General Man, this Branch has so far raised £34 towards installing a Regimental badge and a chair in the Regimental Memorial. To all those who so generously contributed by either giving a personal donation, taking part in the raffles or giving prizes for the raffles have, I am sure, the thanks of all Die-Hards, past and present.

We are now looking forward to the opening of the Memorial on October 11, when I am sure all our members will be present, to see for themselves the tribute that Die-Hards have made to retain the name of their famous regiment and to ensure that its memory will never be forgotten.

To all Die-Hards past and present we send greetings and best wishes.

L. R. JOHNSON.

