



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 11

AUGUST 1970

PRICE 1/3

Editor: Col. F. WALDEN, D.L., T. & A.V.R. Centre,
Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

OUR NEW DEPUTY COLONEL

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, was appointed Deputy Colonel (Middlesex), The Queen's Regiment, with effect from May 12, 1970, on the resignation of Major-General C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, announced in the May issue of this *Newsletter*.

Col. Clayton started his military career as a member of the Cambridge University OTC whilst an undergraduate at Christ's College. He was granted a Regular Commission in the Regiment in August 1935 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion as a Second-Lieutenant. He served with that Battalion at Portsmouth and Gosport and, when it was on active service, with the BEF in France.

In 1942 he took part in the operations in Madagascar and was Principal Military Landing Officer for those operations. Later that year he joined the Movement staff in Burma and India and, in September 1944, he was appointed to the important post of Deputy Director (Movements) Combined Operations with the temporary rank of Colonel. In this appointment he had much to do with the preliminary arrangements for the intended invasion of Malaysia, which was called off when the Japanese surrendered.

In January 1947 after his return to the United Kingdom he was AA & QMQ at Headquarters, Combined Operations, until April 1948 when he relieved Col. Mervyn Crawford as Officer Commanding The Depot. His period of command at Mill Hill was short-lived for in October 1948 he was selected to attend a course at the Joint Services Staff College. On completion of this course he was posted to the 1st Battalion and served as a Company Commander and later as Battalion Second-in-Command in Hong Kong and Korea until October

1951 when he was posted to Q (Movements) Logistics Division of SHAPE with the temporary rank of Colonel.

On completion of his appointment at SHAPE he returned to regimental duty and served with the 1st Battalion in Austria until October 1955 when he was selected to command the Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). He completed his period of command in February 1958 when he retired and was appointed Secretary of the Middlesex T & AFA, a post which he held with much success until April 1, 1968, when, on the reorganisation of the Territorial Army, he became Secretary of the East Anglian TA & VR Association.

He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex in June 1961 and is now a Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

Free Newsletters

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. A. Bailey, Major C. F. Carvell, Mr. T. F. Christman, Mr. R. J. Cubitt, Mr. L. M. Dyer, Capt. F. K. Gladden, Capt. O. G. Johnson, Mr. P. Maloney, Sgt. J. L. Meacock, Major G. G. Parr-Head, Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Major D. Watterson, Mr. L. C. West, Mr. F. E. Wookey and one member, who wishes to remain anonymous, for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.

ALBUHERA DAY

Albuhera Day this year was celebrated regimentally on Sunday, May 17, and, as usual, started with a Service of Remembrance held by kind permission of Lt.-Col. L. P. Bennett, RE, Officer Commanding The Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot, RE, in the Garrison Chapel, at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

After the service Col. Clayton, the newly appointed Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment, laid a wreath at the Regimental War Memorial, and then inspected the detachments of serving soldiers

from 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment and the Old Comrades before taking the salute at the march past.

The parade over, most, if not all, who took part made their way to Deansbrook Road where the usual reunion took place.

We were particularly glad to welcome on this great regimental occasion four of our In Pensioners from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, namely Sgt. W. C. Heavens, I/P Joe Packer (aged 91), a veteran of Spion Kop, I/P Con Sullivan and I/P F. W. Worton.



- 1 Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, our new Deputy Colonel, inspecting the detachment of Old Comrades after the service.
- 2 The Deputy Colonel and Lt.-Col. K. J. Carter, the last CO of the 1st Battalion, with the oldest, I/P Joe Packer (91 years), and the youngest, Cpl. Godfrey (21 years) to attend the Parade.
- 3 The Deputy Colonel inspecting the detachment (commanded by Capt. (now Major) P. J. Gymbon-Monypenny) from 4 Queen's, who were attending their last Albuhera Parade before disbandment of the Battalion.

DUNKIRK REVISITED

Dunkirk slept in the July sunshine as the British Legion coaches drove into the old seaport, for in France the shops stay firmly shuttered for two hours from 12 noon. The streets were quiet and deserted, providing a striking contrast to the town when I last saw it on June 1, 1940.

There were about 70 of us, including wives and families, breaking our holiday at Blankenburgh in Belgium to pay our respects at the British cemetery. Our road lay through Oostdunkerke, where the headquarters of the 1/7th Battalion spent three uneasy days before the final drama of the beaches. The place has changed beyond recognition and blocks of high-rise flats now overlook the North Sea where before there were only scattered houses behind the ubiquitous sand dunes.

At Dunkirk (the name means "the church on the dunes") we saw the historic harbour where thousands of servicemen passed to home and safety over a flimsy wooden jetty. The cemetery, at the rear of the town, is immaculately maintained by the Imperial War Graves Commission. A memorial arch containing an etched window depicting the battle of the beaches commands a view of a neatly kept lawn with columns of inscribed tablets, classified by corps or regiment. The cemetery itself is adjacent, with hundreds of identical headstones growing in ranks of

military precision in beds of roses and other flowers. The indigenous red Flanders poppy seems to be an almost extinct species, though I did see a few growing by a tram-track near Ostend.

The British Legion had gone prepared and four local standards were carried to the steps of the arch. They belonged to the Hornsey, Muswell Hill and Tottenham branches and to the women's section of the Muswell Hill branch. The FMC (Association of Belgian ex-Servicemen) had sent a standard-bearer with us. The flags dipped in homage as the words of the Legion ritual were spoken and wreaths of poppies were laid by the three branches.

Dunkirk had not awakened from its midday nap when we recrossed the frontier to picnic on the sands of La Panne, where the 1/7th Battalion spent a last night of concentrated bombardment before trying its luck on the sands. Where weary boots once trudged, the promenade was bright with the awnings of the cafes and the beach was in full cry with bathers and baskers. Only the powdery sand from the dunes remained immutable, infiltrating the sandwiches as it did the iron rations 30 years ago.

STAN COLE

(We are grateful for this interesting little article written by a member of the Hornsey and Enfield Branch of the Regimental Association.—Editor)

Regimental Museum

Curator: Maj. R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TA & VR Centre Deansbrook Road, Edgeware, Middlesex.

The following are recent acquisitions to the museum:

- Medals of Major-General Sir C. P. Amyatt Hull, KCB.
- Framed Photograph of Major-General Sir C. P. Amyatt Hull, KCB.
- Framed picture and Sports Medals, etc. of 9th (TA) Battalion.

MEDALS OF MAJOR-GENERAL SIR C. P. AMYATT HULL, KCB.

This group of decorations and medals consists of the breast star and neck badge of The Most Honourable Order of the Bath, the Queen's South African War Medal with clasps "Cape Colony", "Tugela Heights" and "Relief of Ladysmith", the 1914 star and clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal with Oak Leaf, The Russian Order of St. Vladimir 4th Class, French Croix de Guerre 1914-17 with palm and French Croix de Guerre 1914-18 with palm. General Hull will be remembered in the regiment as the Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion at the Battle of Mons and the subsequent Retreat from Mons when his soldierly ability and leadership not only sustained the spirits of the Die-Hards but also the remainder of the troops in 8th Infantry Brigade of the 3rd Division. The soldiers of the Territorial Force serving with the 7th and 8th Battalions (TF) also remember him with

pride and gratitude as the Divisional Commander of 56th (London) Division in which they served with the 167th Brigade.

Presented by his son, Field-Marshal Sir Richard Hull, GCB, DSO, MA, LLD.

FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OF MAJOR-GENERAL SIR C. P. AMYATT HULL, KCB

The photograph is of General Hull when Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) at Devonport, 1914, prior to the outbreak of war. The photograph was taken at Raglan Barracks and shows him in service dress uniform and mounted on his charger.

Presented by his groom, Mr. G. J. Smith, MM.

FRAMED PICTURE AND SPORTS MEDALS, ETC. OF 9TH (TA) BATTALION

The picture shows the 1/9th Battalion, wearing tropical uniform when stationed at Dinapore, India, 1916, when the donor was serving under the command of Lt.-Col. J. L. Blumfeld, TD, the Battalion being part of the 44th Division.

The 10 medals include those for prowess in sports and rifle marksmanship, the obverse of some being a replica of the splendid Middlesex Justices Shield, which was recently on display during the exhibition of regimental relics at Church Farm House Museum, Hendon.

Presented by Major Henry Sherwood, TD.

The above items presented to the museum, as with our other recent exhibits, will soon be on view to the numerous visitors of all ages who call at Bruce Castle to see the two museums. In addition to the Regimental museum there is also a most interesting collection of the early days of the Postal Service. Sir Rowland Hill, the reformer who advocated the penny post, lived in the building after he and his brother bought it in 1827 and many references are to be found there.

Not only the old, but the young and very young, visit the museum in their scores. At times there are as many as 50 children in the rooms. This is especially so when the teachers bring their classes for a short address followed by the youngsters viewing the collections. Pride in the county, and in the Die-Hards, their county regiment, is obvious by the queries put by the children. In many cases their fathers and grandfathers and sometimes great-grandfathers have served in the regiment, the area always having been a good recruiting ground for both the Regular and Territorial Battalions.

On May 13 last, the Curator addressed 30 boys and girls telling them a little of our glorious history. They were pupils from North Haringay Primary School in Falkland Road, Hornsey. At the end of the afternoon a bright young lad, whose father had won the Military Medal, gave Major Smith an envelope in which there were ten shillings and the following verse:

Dear Major Smith,

*The Old 57th
The lads were raised in Middlesex,
Where Moselle meets the Lea.
And Lea meets Thames and all of them,
Roll onward to the sea.
They marched and drilled on village greens,
And meadows drenched in sun.
The ale was cheap, the wenches kind
And soldiering was fun.*

*But then at last befell the fateful day
When sounding bugles called them far away,
Over the hills and over the Main,
To Flanders, Portugal and Spain.
They marched, and trudged and fought with will
And died, in rank on Albuhera's blood drenched hill.*

*The years roll on. The old gives way to new.
The "Diehards" are no more. What Soult had failed
to do*

*On Albuhera's ridge, with thirty thousand men,
One pallid clerk has done, with stroke of subtle pen.
The "Diehards" are no more, but still their fame inspires
The lads of Middlesex and bordering shires.*

*And when doubts arise, to vex their schoolboy lives,
They rally to the call "Steady the Drums and Fifes".
And when in later years life hedges them about,
They gain courage to endure from Inglis' dying shout.*

*And so, in gratitude, we offer this donation,
To the "Old Diehards" from England's younger
generation.*

Our thanks, Sir, for a pleasant day.

Yours truly,

The children of North Haringay.

The Curator went home that evening as happy a man as was to be found in the length and breadth of the land.

REGIMENTAL DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1970

The Derby sweepstake organised by the Regimental Association in aid of their Charitable Fund was again well supported this year.

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

Receipts and Expenditure

	£	s	d
Received from the sale of tickets and donations	165	0	0
Less			
Printing and stationery	£19	11	0
Postage	£2	11	0
Registration fee	£1	5	0
Available for distribution	£141	13	4

Distribution

	£	s	d
Association Charitable Fund (50% of net proceeds)	70	16	8
Prize money			
1st Prize (20% of net proceeds)—£28 6 8			
2nd Prize (15% " ")—£21 5 0			
3rd Prize (10% " ")—£14 3 4			
Other horses drawn (5% of net proceeds)—6 at 10/2 and 8 at 10/1	£7	1	8
Total	£141	13	4

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

- 1st Mr. W. C. Perkes, 82 Cawdor Crescent, Hanwell, W7.
- 2nd M. Embassy Club, c/o Captain T. D. Jones, Deynecourt, Harrow Park, Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex.
- 3rd Mrs. V. Hutchins, 2 Mead Close, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following Regimental goods are available:

Details	Each
	£ s. d.
Ahrtrays, glass crested	5 0 0
Badges, blazer	1 10 0
Badges, car	2 2 0
Badges, OCA	3 0 0
Cravats, Regimental (old pattern) Terylene	1 9 0
Cravats, Regimental (new pattern) Terylene	1 9 0
Key fobs, black or maroon background	4 0 0
Ties, Regimental (old pattern) Terylene	9 6 0
Ties, Regimental (new pattern) Terylene	9 6 0
Ties, Regimental (new pattern) Silk	16 0 0
Ties, Officers' Club	16 0 0
Ties, Middlesex Association, Silk	18 6 0
Ties, Queen's Regiment, Terylene	19 6 0
Heraldic Shields, Middlesex Regiment	1 15 0
Books, "Diehards in the Great War" (Vols. 1 and 2)	
Both vols.—Cloth cover	1 0 0
Both vols.—Paper back	15 0 0
Print, "Steady the Drums and Fifes" (coloured)	1 1 0

Postage has been included in the cost of goods. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "The Middlesex Regimental Association".

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

In a letter received recently that great Regimental and Army footballer ex-RSM "Jock" Anderson, sent his remembrances to all his old comrades.

He has been in hospital for an operation on his eyes (cataract), and we are pleased to be able to report that all has gone well.

We are sorry that Capt. Harry Barstow who, during his comparatively short service with the Regiment, made a name for himself as an Army rugby player, retired from the Active List on May 20 last.

We wish him the best of luck and trust he will keep in touch.

On a recent visit to the Rear Party of 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment at Knook Camp near Warminster we were pleasantly surprised to meet ex-Cpl. A. Bennett (6206903) who, at the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, was the Company Clerk of "A" Company, 2/8th Battalion. He now has a shop in Heytesbury and is doing well.

He intends to keep in touch with the Regiment and, in order to help him do so, he has become a regular reader of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*.

Those who know Col. Barros de Botelho, "Bots", as he is affectionately called, will be interested to hear that he was the manager of the Hong Kong bowls team, who won a gold medal at the British Commonwealth Games held recently in Edinburgh.

"Bots", who is an honorary member of the Officers' Club, was Second-in-Command when Col. Aymar Clayton commanded the Hong Kong Regiment (the Volunteers), and is now their Honorary Colonel.

In a recent letter "Pip" Connor, who won the Military Medal whilst serving with the 21st (Service) Battalion during the 1914-18 war and now lives in the land of the Maple Leaf, sent his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

Major Harold Couch, the former Commander of "D" (Middlesex) Company of 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, has now been transferred to the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve in his present rank with seniority from July 6, 1965.

The engagement was announced in *The Times* of June 9 last between Guy, the younger son of Col. and Mrs. Mervyn Crawford, and Maud, younger daughter of Sir Charles Richmond Brown, BT, Stonely Woods, Falmoor, York, and Mrs. C. K. Mullan, West Ardhru Dervaig, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.

Ex-Pte. L. M. ("Deadly") Dyer, a former stalwart of "B" Company, 2/8th Battalion, writes a cheerful letter from Malawi, where he has for some time been teaching at the Lilongwe Technical School. He appears to be enjoying his work thoroughly and sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

Congratulations to WO1 (RSM) Michael Eastap (22229443) on being granted a Short Service Commission with seniority as a Lieutenant from June 9, 1970.

We were very sorry indeed to hear of the misfortune which befell ex-Sgt. Stan Edge, DCM, that indefatigable Honorary Secretary of the 1/7th Battalion (1914-18) OCA. On the very last day of a wonderful holiday in Brittany his wife caught her foot in an obstruction in a pavement and fractured her leg. After considerable difficulty and expense Stan managed to get his wife back home, where we are glad to know that she has made very satisfactory progress.

A welcome visitor to the County Office at Edgware recently was WO2 (RQMS) R. Ford (22812279), now serving with 2nd Battalion The Queen's Regiment in Northern Ireland, and shortly to become RSM of 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment at Aldershot.

He is still a keen golfer and has played for the Army in Northern Ireland.

At Church End, Finchley, recently our Editor met quite by chance ex-Pte. J. Freedman (6211590), of "A" Company, 2/8th Battalion, who was one of the Battalion barbers in Northern Ireland. He now

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lives in Finchley and proposes to start up in business again as a barber very shortly.

Ex-Sgt. Tich Freeman (6209932) who served in the MMG Company of "C" Group 2/7th Battalion in North Africa and Italy, sends his greetings to all Die-Hards.

Capt. Bill Garner, one of the few remaining 3rd Battalion officers, writes from Somerset to say how much he appreciates getting news of the old Regiment through the medium of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*.

Ex-Pte. P. E. Gates (22950093), who joined the Regiment from the Boys' Infantry Battalion in 1955 and served in "C" Company, 1st Battalion until he was discharged in September 1958, is now living in South Australia and wishes to join the Regimental Association.

Capt. John Gerrard, a former officer of the 1st Battalion, who gained a very well-earned Military Cross during operations in NW Europe, is now a Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police and stationed at New Scotland Yard. In his present post, to which he was promoted last February, he is responsible, *inter alia*, for dealing with the many demonstrations, etc. in the London area with which the Metropolitan Police have to cope these days.

Capt. Frank Gladden is one of our regular correspondents and keeps in close touch.

We congratulate him on passing the Army Interpreters' Examination last February as an interpreter in Russian—no easy feat.

Major Fred Griffiths writes a cheery letter from Barnstaple where he has lived since his retirement from the Active List. As he could not face office work he branched out on his own doing decorating and household maintenance. He finds it most interesting work renovating old houses and patching up new ones.

Major Mike Hayward was made a Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List this year. Heartiest congratulations!

In June Sergeant of In Pensioners W. C. Heavens was one of a party of Chelsea Pensioners who went on a most enjoyable visit to Guernsey. There he met Lt.-Col. Ernest Shanks, who has been an important official on the island for some years. In a letter of thanks for the wonderful time he had Sgt. Heavens expressed his delight in no uncertain terms when he found that the Colonel, whom he had never before met, was wearing a Regimental tie.

Contact has recently been established with ex-Pte. W. R. ("Bumpy") Hills (670050), who was in "C" Company, 1st Battalion, and later a prisoner of war after the fall of Hong Kong. He now resides at Exmouth in Devon and is very pleased indeed to have got in touch with old friends again.



By courtesy of the Dundee Courier

On May 28 last at Blair Castle, Major-General Christopher Man, who is deputy factor of the Duke of Atholl's Perthshire estate, was one of 11 new recruits to be enlisted as a Private in the Atholl Highlanders, the Duke's private army. This is the only private army allowed in Great Britain and permission to have it was given to the sixth duke as the result of a favour he did for Queen Victoria.

Our pictures of Pte. Man, Atholl Highlanders, were taken on the parade on May 28.



By courtesy of the Daily Record

Major John Lofting, the last Adjutant of the Depot the Queen's Regiment, retired from the Active List on July 2, 1970.

We wish him the best of luck in his new civilian employment, which we hope will not interfere unduly with his cricketing activities.

Congratulations to Major John Moore on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel with effect from June 30, 1970, and also to Capt. Peter Gybbon-Tompenny on his promotion to Major with effect from March 1, 1970.

C/Sgt. A. Nicholson (19039445) recently wrote to let us know that he has now most reluctantly retired from the Service and is at present employed by the BFES in Herford, West Germany, where he has a comfortable little flat, to which he would welcome a visit from any Die-Hard, past or present.

In sending his best wishes to all Die-Hards he has asked that his congratulations be conveyed through the medium of *The Newsletter* to Sgt. Frank O'Rawe, whose success in winning the Army Lightweight Boxing Championship this year was reported in our last issue.

We send our congratulations and best wishes to Capt. and Mrs. Ramsay on being elected the Deputy Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of the City of Westminster this year.

Ex-Pte. Ernie J. Stebbing (6769309), a pre-war veteran who served for fourteen years with the 2nd Battalion and is now Chairman of the Bures and District Branch of the British Legion, sends his sincere good wishes to all Die-Hards.

The request made in the "Personal Jottings" of our May issue for news of anyone who was serving with ex-C/Sgt. L. W. Taylor (6203993) in "B" Company of the 2nd Battalion brought a prompt reply from ex-Pte. T. D. Knowles (14404863) who sent a photograph taken at Fayid in 1945 or 1946, showing the Guard Room and Company designation board.

Another old Die-Hard living at Portsmouth, with whom we have got in touch through the good offices of Mr. Noel Peters (PS/1841), an energetic member of the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch, is ex-Pte. W. L. Walker (L/14642), an Old Contemptible who was serving with the 4th Battalion in 1914.

Notification has just been officially received that Col. Rex Waller retired on retired pay on February 6 last. Since his retirement he has taken up an appointment with the National Trust at Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury, Bucks.

The latest ex-member of the Regiment to gain admission to the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen at Richmond is ex-Pte. R. S. Way who, on transfer from the 3/19th London Regiment, served as a Die-Hard from 1918 to 1923.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Capt. T. F. G. Carless, MC

Laver Cottage,
Langham,
Colchester, Essex
22 May '70.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter.

Dear Col. Walden,

I thought you might be interested to know that as a result of the regimental *Newsletter* three members of the 17th Middlesex renewed contact after over 50 years.

One, an old friend of yours, Freddie Nunn (83), No. 2 was Spencer Parker (73) who had been one of Freddie's platoon commanders, and No. 3 was yours truly (72), last Adjutant of the 17th. It was most interesting to find out how much we remembered and how much we had forgotten.

The item in the *Newsletter* that brought this about was your reference to a spritely 80-year-old Freddie, you kindly readdressed a letter from me to him, and he, being in regular contact with Parker, who lives at Mildenhall, gave me his address and we all met for lunch.

So long may the *Newsletter* continue.

Yours sincerely,

T. F. G. CARLESS

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER 1970

The Officers' Club Dinner this year was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, SW1, on Friday, June 5.

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton presided and the guest of the evening was Major-General J. B. Sloane, late The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Others present were:

Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall
Col. I. H. Bartye
Col. I. D. Brotherton
Col. I. R. Burrows
Col. W. D. Ellis
Col. D. C. L. Nolda
Col. J. W. G. Ormiston
Col. D. B. Rendell
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. B. H. Marciandi
The Rev P. L. Pearce Gould
Lt.-Col. B. A. M. Pielow
Major M. J. Beaumont
Major R. M. Cain
Major J. G. Chiverrall
Major H. E. Couch
Major W. G. A. Crumley
Major R. J. P. Cummins
Major P. Donovan
Major R. D. Fisher
Major H. K. Hardcastle
Major G. Hartley

Major S. L. J. Henshaw
Major J. M. Hewson
Major C. L. Lawrence
Major I. M. E. Lloyd
Major J. G. Lofting
Major P. D. H. Marshall
Major F. J. Millard
Major M. L. Muirhead
Major L. F. E. Nicholls
Major G. G. Norton
Major J. S. B. Pollard
Major L. F. Shaw
Major R. W. J. Smith
Major M. Wild
Capt. M. J. Ball
Capt. S. de M. Enthoven
Capt. G. Goring
Capt. R. H. Graham
Capt. A. F. Hill
Capt. D. J. Margand
Capt. P. F. Murray
Capt. R. G. Vaisey
Lt. R. N. Colbourne
Lt. E. G. Graham
Lt. C. J. C. Grobel
Lt. D. C. F. Gouda
Lt. P. G. Truman

OBITUARY

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

AMIS—On July 1, 1970, Major Ivan Roll Amis aged 70. After the 1914-18 war, in which he was just too young to serve, he got a commission as soon as recruitment in the TA was reopened and served in the London Rifle Brigade from 1921 to 1927 when he left to get married. He rejoined the TA in 1936 and served with the 9th Battalion until 1943 when, due to ill-health, he had to leave the Service. He thereupon joined the Civil Defence as a fire-watcher. In 1952, when the Home Guard was reconstituted, he was appointed a Company Commander with the rank of Major, and remained so until the final disbandment of the Home Guard.

BARRELL—On July 25, 1970, ex-Pte. Allan Barrell (TF/3192) aged 71. He answered the call to arms on the outbreak of war in August 1914, and joined the 2/7th Battalion. Shortly afterwards he was posted to the 1/7th Battalion and served with that Battalion in Gibraltar in 1914 and in France in 1915. He was only 15 years of age when he left England and 19 when the war ended. He must, therefore, have been one of the youngest Die-Hards to serve in the line in France.

In 1940 he immediately answered the call for seamen to evacuate the BEF from the Dunkirk beaches, bringing home many of our soldiers on the many trips he made in his own small motor boat.

BECKER—On April 30, 1970, ex-Sgt. Frank Becker (L/13169) aged 77. In his younger days he was an excellent rifle shot and signaller in the 2nd Battalion. After recovering from wounds received at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle on March 10, 1915, he was posted to the newly-formed Machine Gun Corps, and served with that Corps until the end of the war.

BONNAMY—On May 6, 1970, Capt. Sidney Reggie Bonnamy aged 73. In 1914-18 war he was one of Kitchener's Army who enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment. Joining the 1st Battalion in 1916 he was wounded at High Wood on July 15, 1916, when the Battalion suffered 321 casualties, the command devolving on Capt. (now Lt.-General) G. C. Bucknall. He again volunteered for service in 1940, being one of the original members of the LDV, later the Home Guard. For the greater part of the 1939-45 war he was the Liaison Officer of 12th Battalion Middlesex Home Guard.

DALE—In July 1969, ex-Pt. Patrick Dennis Dale (24080817) aged 22. He enlisted on February 1, 1966, and was discharged on medical grounds from 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment in November 1967. After his discharge he was never able to hold down a job for any length of time due to his health. He was finally admitted to hospital in November 1968 suffering from leukaemia from which he eventually died.

FOSSEY—On June 17, 1970, ex-Cpl. Lemuel Roland Fossey, aged 89. He enlisted into the Royal Fusiliers in May 1909 and transferred to our 7th Battalion in 1915, continuing his duties as a medical orderly until he was himself down-graded medically, when he was posted to a Labour Company.

LEETHAM—The Very Reverend Claude Richard Harbord Leetham, in Rome, aged 70. He served as a young officer in the 5th (Special Reserve) Battalion on the Great Lines, Chatham, in 1918 and later went to the Royal Air Force. On leaving the Service he studied for the Church and, in due course, became a most distinguished member of the Roman Catholic hierarchy. He was president of Ratcliffe College, Leicestershire, from 1948 to 1962 and Chairman of the Conference of Catholic Colleges from 1954 to 1962. On leaving Ratcliffe College he represented the Holy See on the Cultural Committee of the Council of Europe. In 1965 he went to America to take over the appointment of Lecturer to the Mount Mercy College of the University of Pittsburgh. He devoted a great deal of time working for the negroes of Pittsburgh.

NASH—On June 19, 1970, ex-Pte. William Patrick Nash (6202329) aged 53. He joined the Regiment in 1935, serving with the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth until 1937 when he was posted to the 1st Battalion. As a POW he was one of the survivors of the sinking of the *Lisbon Maru*, and returned home at the end of the war, when he was placed on the Reserve. He re-enlisted in 1947 and served for 12 months in Palestine with the 2nd Battalion.

TITE—On July 12, 1970, ex-RQMS V. A. Tite (TF/44 and TF/265008) aged 84. He enrolled as a Volunteer in the 5th West Middlesex Rifle Volunteers in 1903. On the formation of the Territorial Force in April 1908 he transferred to the freshly named unit, 9th Battalion, Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). He was promoted RQMS in 1912, and served with the 9th Battalion in India and Mesopotamia, being discharged in February 1919. During the 1939-45 war he again served his country as a member of the LDV and Home Guard.

WALLIS—On June 27, 1970, Lt. Frank Vernon Wallis aged 76. He enlisted in 1915 and was commissioned in January 1918. He was posted to the 23rd (Second Footballers) Battalion in May 1918 and served with that Battalion until discharged in 1919.

STOP PRESS

As we go to press news has been received that Mr. A. Todman, late 9th Battalion, has died.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1, 1970, to April 30, 1970, the sum of £567 5s. 0d. was spent from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 51 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Sir Myles Abbott, Messrs. C. Baldry, E. D. Malcouronne, J. A. Mulcahy, J. P. Osborn, R. H. H. Pawsey, H. C. Rose, A. V. Seemark, Lt.-Col. E. P. Shanks, Messrs. A. W. Sharp, J. O. Taleen, H. Waller, and two members who wish to remain anonymous.

Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral

Since the last list of contributions was published in the May issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* donations to the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral have been gratefully received and acknowledged from His Worship The Mayor of Hillingdon (Councillor C. C. Rogers, JP), Mrs. F. M. Donoghue, Mrs. F. V. Parsons, Mrs. W. H. Weallans and Major-General Sir John Willoughby.

The total of donations, etc. received up to June 30, 1970, amounted to £11,436 18s. 9d.

Annual Reunion

The Annual Reunion will again be held this year at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2, on Saturday, October 3.

General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association will be held at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2, on Saturday, October 3, at 8 p.m.

Derby Outing

A total of 45 members and their relations and friends went by coach to the Derby on June 3, 1970, and spent a most enjoyable time, with an excellent view of the race from Tattenham Corner.

This outing appears to gain popularity each year. This year the attendance had increased by 13.

Belgian OCA in Great Britain

The Association has taken part in two Parades organised by the Belgian OCA in Great Britain.

On Sunday, May 3, a detachment with our Standard was provided for the dedication of the new Standard of the National Federation of the Veterans of King Albert I at the Belgian Memorial on the Embankment opposite Cleopatra's Needle.

On Sunday, July 19, a detachment with our Standard attended their Annual Parade on Horse Guards and wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, when Col. F. Walden laid a wreath on behalf of the Association.

On both occasions Major R. W. J. Smith was the Detachment Commander and Mr. L. J. Johnson the Standard-Bearer.

Players' League Match, Lords

As an innovation this year it was decided to take a

party to one of the Players' League matches at Lord's, and that between Middlesex and Kent on Sunday, July 5, being somewhat of the nature of a local derby, was selected.

A total of 14 availed themselves of this opportunity and saw a very exciting match, won by Kent in the last over of the day.

With the greatest help and co-operation from Mr. C. F. Farley, a former member of the 1/7th Battalion now on the staff of the Secretary, MCC, a box was reserved for our party from which we had an excellent view of the match in the most comfortable surroundings.

Summer Outing

By popular request the summer outing this year was exactly the same as that arranged last year, namely, a visit to Bladon, the resting place of the late Sir Winston Churchill, followed by a visit to Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, and ending with a river trip from Oxford to Abingdon.

A total of 61 members and their relations and friends attended the outing this year, which took place on Sunday, July 26. Although the weather was none too good and not comparable with the glorious day experienced last year, the rain held off for the main events of the outing, which everyone enjoyed very much indeed.

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EALING BRANCH

Once again I have to report the death of two of our members, namely, Capt. Bonnamy and Drummer Yeoman, both very old and respected members of Ealing Branch.

Drummer Yeoman joined the 8th Battalion in 1912 after being a member of the Church Lads Brigade and served with the Battalion for some years after the end of the war. He was on the staff of St. Bernard's Hospital service. He never missed a meeting or any gathering of the Association and we shall miss him greatly.

Capt. Bonnamy was a member of the old 2/8th but we do not remember much of him. In 1939-45 he served with honour in the Home Guard at Ealing and was still living in the Borough when he died.

We have had some very good meetings lately although the number of members is going down at an alarming rate. We all wish that some of the later members of Ealing TA would come along and help.

We had the burglars in the Albuhera Bar a few weeks ago and they "pinched" everything that was movable. Games, glasses and lights went, so we have now got to buy a new outfit. But they left our own Memorial, which is the main thing.

Our chairman, Mr. G. Ife, is entering the local hospital for an operation to remove a "ghoosy". We wish him well and a quick recovery.

Also we have had a wedding in the Branch. Mr. Eddie Nicholls, age 76, was married at Acton Register Office on June 27 to one of his old school friends. We wish them many years of happiness and good company.

I am getting on the move again and hope to meet my old friends in the near future.

Best wishes to all readers.

ALBERT WHITE

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

Since our last letter we had the pleasure of seeing our old friend RSM "Rocky" Knight over here on holiday from Canada. Both he and Mrs. Knight looked extremely well and we were very glad that "Rocky" appeared to have got over his previous stay in hospital. They have settled down very well over there but, of course, wherever "Rocky" is, he will still count the Regiment and Hornsey as "Home".

He has his "Regimental Corner" organised in his new home, with many reminders of and from all of us, and you can well imagine that his new friends in Canada will quickly get to know as much about the Middlesex Regiment as we know!! His holiday was timed so that he could be at Hornsey for the 1/7 Battalion's Dinner on April 25, and I believe he is planning to make this a date bi-annually.

The dinner, as usual, was a great success and went on into the early hours, but we were sorry to hear from Brigadier Rackham that his home had been burgled, and our sympathies went to both him and Mrs. Rackham for the loss of many items of sentimental value. On May 16, "Our Day", a very successful dinner and dance was held at Hornsey for the 1st Battalion, their friends and relatives, and this again was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed. A very nice gesture by Bert Mellor was a box of chocolates for each lady and a cigar for the gents.

Many of you will have heard with distress that General Man's wife has had another set-back in health and we wish her most sincerely a speedy

recovery and our good wishes are with them both.

Finally, may I remind you—every Wednesday we meet at Hornsey—do please visit us.

Sincere wishes to you all,

LES HOSSLER

PS. The caterer at both the above dinners was the brother of Len Johnson (WOs and Sgts. Branch) and is to be congratulated and highly recommended.

MILL HILL BRANCH

The letter on my table said, "Please do your best to let me have something". It was from the Editor to the Branch Secretary, who promptly passed it on to me. Well, the last Mill Hill Branch notes were published in the August, 1968, *Regimental Newsletter*, so I suppose a few paragraphs will not be amiss.

Culling through the last notes published, I see the last chap to join the branch was George Young who served with our 3/9th and 2/10th TA Battalions. Since then we have welcomed to the club as members, Henry Bale, 10th Battalion, M. Batten, 7th Battalion, A. Billingham, 2/8th, Harry Bettles, 1st, Cyril Cox, 1st (Hong Kong), Harry Cross, 9th, Walter Charlton, 4th, Pat Decker, 2/7th, F. Dandridge, 1st (Hong Kong), Tich Freeman, 2/7th, D. Francis, 1st (Korea), P. Franklin, 1/7th, C/Sgt. Flynn, serving, Jeff Haward, MM, 1/7th, Jeep Hanshaw, 1st (Hon Kong), Albert Howes, 9th, Bumpy Hills, 1st (Hong Kong), Brian Jelley, 1st (Korea), Edward Jones, 1st, Tim Kirk, 4th, Major Bill Lovell, Ted Moss, 1st (Korea), W. Moreton, 1st, Bob Maile, 12th and 4th, J. Marshall, 17th, Jock McKenzie, 1st, Henry Oxley, 23rd, L. Pratt, 2nd and 1/8th, G. Pegram, 13th, E. Prosser, 2nd, 1st and 4th, R. Pile, 1st (Korea), Sgt. Plumb, serving, Noel Peters, 16th and 23rd, D. Reynolds, 16th, 17th and 24th, G. Robins, 1st (Hong Kong), Dick Stokes, 2nd, Albert Seemark, 1/10th, D. Stavart, 2/9th and MGC, Ron Smith, 1st (Hong Kong), Pte M. Smith, serving, A. Smith, 1st and 1/7th, Sgt. Terry, serving, L. W. Taylor, 2nd, George Worman, MM, 1/7th, E. Wibrow, 2/8th, and S. Whitby, 1st (Hong Kong). In addition to the foregoing, we have a number of honorary members who served in various regiments who have been garrisoned with us in the past. All generations and all kinds of battalions regular, territorial, special reserve, service and reserve are to be found at our gatherings, so, if ever any reader is near the Drill Hall in Deansbrook Road, Edgware, during the evening of the last Saturday of the month, remember the call of the Salvation Army—"Come and join us, come and join our happy band".

Our members, now domiciled in the Commonwealth and elsewhere, keep in contact, their letters bringing a ray of sunshine during our dark, wintry months. One of our musicians, P. Aburrow, is in South Africa, Major Dennis Binder, TD, is in Western Australia, Major Johnny Bull, MM, Hong Kong, Pip Connor, MM, Ontario, Alf Danion, Tasmania, P. Gillies, Zambia, Lt-Col. John Moore, Muscat and due, I believe, to move to Cambodia after a spell in the UK, and Lennie Taylor is in Sydney, where he has whetted people's appetites with his special home-pickled onions, and is doing a roaring trade.

The space allotted for a branch letter has now run out. I must therefore leave it until our November publication to continue the movement.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

9th BATTALION BRANCH

Our Annual Dinner at the Victory Club on Albuhera Day was successful. We were honoured by the President of the Association, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, and Mrs. Clayton, in accepting our invitation to dine with us.

Col. Clayton spoke of the Regiment and of the Baptistry of St. Paul's Cathedral and how it was his wish that it should be used in a practical manner, by introducing the children of the Regiment into the church. The Secretary of the Association would be very pleased to help any ex-member of the Battalion who wished to take the advantage of having his children or children's children baptised at the font.

It was announced at our Annual General Meeting that the Committee had decided to send a donation from our funds to the Gurkha Appeal Fund. The 1/9th Battalion was closely associated with the Gurkha Regiment on the Indian Frontier and in Mesopotamia during the 1914-18 war. I have noted, with pleasure, that other members have also contributed. The story of the plight of the Gurkhas has been told in the national newspapers.

Our Annual Dinner next year has been fixed for Saturday, May 22, at the same venue, The Victory Club. The Committee hope for a better attendance than in previous years. Several of the older members are now dropping out on account of infirmities and distance and it is hoped that the younger members will support this function. Indeed, this year brought new faces, particularly with the ladies who served with the forces during the last war and were attached to the Battalion in its various roles. Our thanks to them.

The reason why we are a week behind Albuhera Day, is that the Association hopes to hold an Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St. Paul's Cathedral either on the previous Saturday the 15th or on Sunday the 16th. It would not be correct to bring too many events into the same weekend. This was proved this year.

I noticed in a current issue of the *T.V. Times* that our well-known Adjutant of former years, Sir Brian Horrocks, is giving a talk in the near future on that famous Londoner, the Duke of Wellington. I hope all members who can, will be very attentive that evening. By the way, a visit to the Wellington museum at Hyde Park Corner is well worth it, despite the visit of the criminal who took some of the late Duke's batons.

News has been received that Mr. A. Todman, one of our great stalwarts, has had to enter hospital. We sincerely hope he will have a speedy recovery and be with us again in the very near future.

R. T. M.

(As we go to press the sad news has been received that Mr. A. Todman has died.—Editor)

WOs. AND SGTS. BRANCH

I am pleased to report that our monthly meetings are still being well patronised by members and their guests. Of late we have seen the reappearance of faces that have, for some reason or other, been missing for a while, and we sincerely hope that they, with many others, will continue to support our monthly social evenings. The support given to our monthly raffles, especially by the ladies and members who have so generously given something as a prize, has enabled us not only to put a few bob in the "kitty", but also to put on a free cheese buffet at each meeting.

We were very pleased to see Rocky and Mrs. Knight at our May meeting, they being as I said in the last issue, in England on holiday. It was, I think, rather appropriate that Mrs. Rocky should have won a prize in the raffle that evening. Our best wishes to them both in the land of the maple leaf.

We were also pleased to welcome at our June meeting Mr. G. Gowland who, with his good lady, was introduced to and joined our branch by Les. Hossler. It is very pleasing to see members not only bring along new members but also guests. I only hope they enjoy the evening as much as I do.

Albert and Mrs. Geary, two of our regulars, were at our July meeting looking quite brown and fit after their fortnight in Majorca, and by the snaps they showed me, they certainly enjoyed themselves.

I am sorry to report that Peter Edwards, one of those who has had to miss our meetings until just recently through ill health, has been admitted to Clare Hall Hospital. We extend to him our best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery.

With the disbandment of the 4th Queen's and the severing of our last link with the Service, we hope that all those who wish to maintain their connection with the Die-Hards, and continue to enjoy the comradeship they have enjoyed in the past, will if not already members of a Branch, become one. All members of the WO's and Sgts. Mess are welcome at our monthly meetings held on the second Saturday of each month in the Sgts. Mess, TA & VR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, at 7.30 p.m. Come along with your wife or friend, we will be very pleased to see you.

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

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2/10th BATTALION OCA (1914-18)

The 42nd Reunion Dinner was held at the Victory Ex-Services Club on May 15 last under the chairmanship of Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, MC. The 55th anniversary of the Battalion's embarkation at Devonport for Gallipoli in HMT *Huntsgreen* (ex-German SS *Derfflinger*) on July 19, 1915, was especially remembered. Amongst the guests were Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL (Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment), Col. F. Walden, DL (Secretary Regimental Association), Major Dick Smith, MBE (Curator Regimental Museum) and Preb. G. A. Lewis Lloyd, MBE (Vicar of Chiswick and Hon. Chaplain to the 2/10th Middlesex OCA). An attendance of 47 was recorded.

The OCA's Annual Service of Remembrance will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, November 8 next at Chiswick Parish Church, The Mall, W.4. Tea will be served in the Church Hall, Bennett Street, W.4, after the service and it is hoped that all present will take the opportunity of reunion.

The Queen's Colour which hangs over the Battalion's Memorial and Roll of Honour has recently been renovated and re-hung; it was deposited in the church in September 1921.

Copies of the Battalion's Roll Of Honour can be obtained on application to the Hon. Secretary, "Cleveland", Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon.
A. D. S.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Friday, October 2	2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Saturday, October 3	Annual Reunion at Portchester Hall, Queensway, London W2.
Tuesday, October 13	Autumn Golf Meeting on North Hants Golf Course, Fleet.
Saturday, November 7	1. Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey. 2. Officers' Club Cocktail Party at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.
Sunday, November 8	Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at TAVR Centre, Edgware.

