



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 19

AUGUST 1972

PRICE 6p

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

FUNERAL OF HRH THE DUKE OF WINDSOR

As His late Royal Highness The Duke of Windsor had been Colonel-in-Chief of The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) when he was Prince of Wales and later when he was King Edward VIII, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) and Mrs. Clayton had the honour of attending the funeral of the Duke at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, on June 5.

HM KING EDWARD VIII's ONLY VISIT TO AN INFANTRY REGIMENT

Following the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Windsor, Brigadier Neville Procter was prompted to put into writing his recollections of a historic and unique occasion in the history of the Regiment and, in view of the interest they will arouse, especially amongst those who were serving in the 2nd Battalion at that time, they are published below.

Among the multiplicity of memories of the late Duke of Windsor, recorded in the papers, there is no mention of one incident during his short reign, which was of historical interest, I feel, and to none more so than all personnel serving in the 2nd Battalion in Portsmouth in 1936.

I have no doubt that many survivors still have one of the photos showing Lt.-Col. Job Jefferd and his Adjutant, Capt. Ian Gordon, bidding farewell to two Naval officers, H.M. King Edward VIII and Lord Louis Mountbatten, outside our Officers Mess in Portsmouth.

As this was the only photograph of HM in our midst, other than on parade, I wonder who claims the distinction of being the Mess waiter seen in the background?

It may be of interest to some to know the circumstances of this unique visit of HM King Edward VIII to an Infantry Battalion.

It had been known that HM was to visit the Royal Marines at Eastney and we had been informed that it was regretted that his programme would not permit him to include a visit to the 2nd Battalion of *his* Middlesex Regiment.

It was a disappointment, but, as the Battalion was "At Home" to Portsmouth the following day, we were all busy with our various preparations for welcoming the public.

That evening I was dining with Job Jefferd and his sister when the CO was summoned to the phone urgently. After a time the CO returned—"It was Lord Louis to say that HM has said that, as he is down here, he must visit the Battalion. He said 'I'm afraid that it's very short notice and HM has only Naval uniform. I have pointed out that we cannot possibly get his Middlesex uniform down here in time and he has said that he is your Colonel-in-Chief and you receive him in Naval uniform at 11.30 am (?) or not at all.'"

This was the gist of the message as an old man remembers. The receipt of it cannot have been before 8.30 or 9 p.m. and then the proceedings discussed and orders issued would have eaten up more time and I seem to remember the Barracks, having dwindled into near "Lights Out", suddenly becoming fully "Lights On" as the news got round.

Such a visit would have been an excitement anyhow at such short notice, but we still had the "At Home" on our hands.

As I remember it, we got decorating and preparing for the "At Home" until probably breakfast. Then, into sufficient dress to run through a quick reception parade and March Past and back to bunting hanging until it was time to get properly dressed to receive HM.

One instruction was quite clear. The visit was to be a private personal visit to the Battalion and no Staff or outsiders were to be allowed. As Brigade Headquarters was within the Barracks this was not popular.

A stand had been erected for spectators to watch displays during the "At Home" and this was fortunate as the married families were able to occupy this for a close-up of the parade and the king. The Brigade Staff might be barred but the Brigadier's wife got her view as she hurriedly joined the married families.

I have already referred to the lack of photographs of HM with the officers or warrant officers and sergeants as one might expect. It was no fault of the king that there were none taken as HM was quite willing and expected it. The CO, however, did not want groups taken as various members of Messes were away from the Battalion.

Little did he or any of us realise what a historic occasion it was to become and what treasured groups the photographs could have been within months, and priceless now.

Historians could no doubt draw lessons from the king's conduct over this visit with their usual hindsight, but I should be surprised if, as I listened to the Abdication Announcement in the solitude of the library of my club, I was alone in recalling that visit and finding that my cheek was unusually damp. Like many non-U incidents in HM career, that was a human touch which made it all so memorable.

VISIT BY THE RESEAU SYLVESTRE

June 2-4, 1972

The return visit by members of the Reseau Sylvestre from the Lille and Gondrecourt area, where Captain Michael Trotobas had led their resistance with such distinction and gallantry, took place over the weekend June 2-4, 1972 and all the functions were well attended by our Old Comrades. It is fair to say that this visit went off extremely well and was a resounding success.

The party, some 47 strong, were led by M. Marcel Fertein and M. Julien Gerekens and it included M. Edouard Montaigne, Mayor of Gondrecourt, Colonel Berman of the CRS, M. Pladys of "La Voix du Nord", many other distinguished members of the Reseau and several wives. Their coach was met at Dover by Colonel Walden and Major Smith, who conducted them to London where they carried out a milk round distributing the party between the six locations where they were to stay for the two nights of the visit. Colonel Clayton was awaiting their arrival at their first port of call—the Special Forces Club—where they turned up eventually around midnight.

This was the first visit to England for many of the party and it had therefore been arranged that they would have Saturday morning free so that they could browse around shopping or sight-seeing. Rumour hath it that Marks & Spencer will soon announce an increased dividend as a result of that one morning! The party met up again soon after noon and after luncheon the coach set forth for

Bruce Castle to see our Regimental Museum. Judging by the interest displayed and the questions asked this trip was more than worthwhile. The coach then took the party to visit our Regimental Chapel and Baptistry at St. Paul's after which it did a tour of various interesting landmarks including the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace before depositing the visitors at their various locations so that they could repair the ravages of the day before a dinner in their honour which had been arranged that evening. All went well although we gathered later that M. Gerekens (Resistance Code name—Jacky) had what can best be described as key trou which caused Colonel Walden to show his prowess as a locksmith.

The dinner that evening at the Chevrons Club was a very happy occasion and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves greatly. Wisely, because of the 47 potential or actual "Cordon Bleus" in the visiting party, we had asked for a typically English meal which the club did very well indeed (in the view of the scribe the texture and flavour of the roast beef could not have been bettered). We eventually broke up around 11.30 p.m. and most of us repaired to our downy couches. However some intrepid few were keen to stretch their legs and see the bright lights. We learned next morning that the strongest drink they were able to obtain was black coffee and I only hope we were forgiven for our strange licensing laws.

Next morning, Sunday, June 4, at around noon, we all met again at Mill Hill where respects were paid and wreaths laid at our Regimental War Memorial. Our guests were delighted to see so many "melons" (French for bowler hats) and, after the ceremonies, several were seen to borrow these "melons" for photographic purposes.

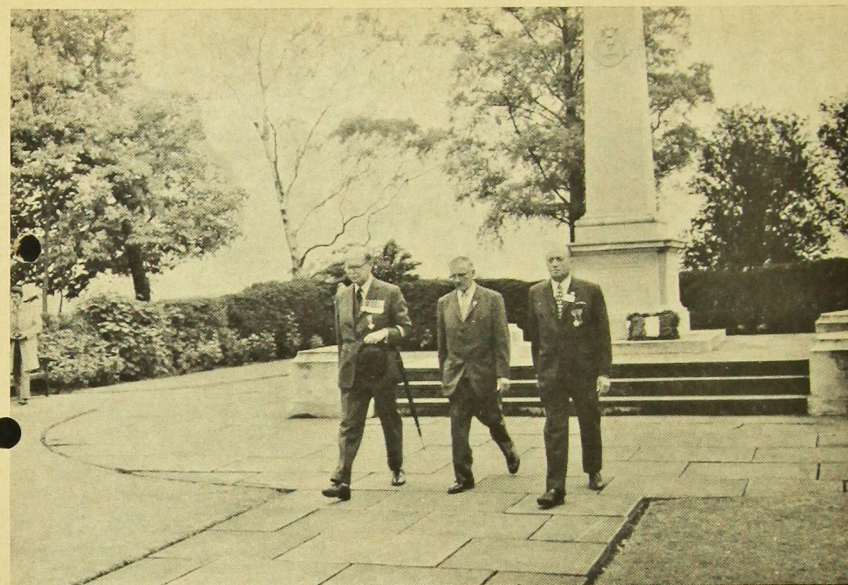
We then repaired to RHQ at Edgware where Mr. and Mrs. Banks had arranged a splendid buffet luncheon and well-stocked bar. It was a most enjoyable occasion which was enhanced when Tich Mellor suddenly appeared pushing a piano. He also found a splendid and versatile pianist who seemed to know every possible French and English song that anyone could suggest.

However, time was getting on as the coach was due to leave at 3 p.m. so, after many rousing melodies, Auld Lang Syne was played and our visitors gradually wended their way to their coach passing down a long line of Old Comrades saying their farewells and thank yous. We understand that the singing in that coach continued non-stop until it reached Dover!

It was a most memorable visit which will not be forgotten for many years to come. We only hope our visitors enjoyed themselves half as much as we did.

Our grateful thanks are due to Colonel Walden and Major Smith without whose very hard work and good planning this visit would not have been possible. We are also very grateful to Miss Eileen Amos who had been Deputy Consul in Lille at the time of our visit last November and who gave much practical help and advice both in Lille and on this occasion.

A. S. J. de S. C.



After the actual laying of wreaths at the Regimental War Memorial. Left to right: Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, President of the Regimental Association, M. Marcel Fertein, President of the Reseau Sylvestre, and M. Julien Gerekens MBE, Vice-President of the Reseau Sylvestre.



Old Comrades of the Reseau Sylvestre and of the Regimental Association gathered at the Regimental War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, for the wreath laying ceremony on Sunday, June 4.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator: Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, T & A VR Centre, Deansbrook Rd., Edgware, Middx.

The following are recent acquisitions to the museum:

Medals of the late RSM E. R. Furniss.

Medals of the late Pte. W. E. Edwards.

Souvenir programme, 20th (Shoreditch) Battalion.

Two memorial tablets from St. George's Church, Singapore.

MEDALS OF THE LATE L/7409 & 6188348, RSM E. R. FURNISS

The medals of "Shan" Furniss are the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps "Cape Colony" and "South Africa 1902"; the 1914-15 Star; British War Medal; Victory Medal, 1914-1919; Oak leaf for Mention in Despatches; Delhi Durbar, 1911; Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. The award of the Delhi Durbar Medal was made in recognition of his work in pitching the tents for the gigantic camps set up for this magnificent ceremony, he being especially loaned to the Bengal Government for the occasion. During his service he served with the 4th Battalion in the Tower of London until joining the 3rd Battalion in St. Helena, where the Battalion was guarding Boer prisoners. The draft of which he was a member went via South Africa which entitled him to the two bars on the S.A. Medal. He then served at Naauwpoort Junction, Middelburg and in the Transvaal, Pretoria, Durban, Hong Kong, Tientsin and Pekin, Singapore, Calcutta, Dum Dum, Dinapore, Lebong. During World War I he at first served in France, including the Battle of Gravenstafel, and from France to Egypt and Salonica until the Turkish surrender, when he went to Constantinople as part of the occupation forces. With the Post Bellum Army he served on the Rhine and in Upper Silesia and in the UK until the 3rd Battalion was disbanded in 1922.

Presented by his daughter, Mrs. D. Heywood.

MEDALS OF THE LATE L/5765, PRIVATE W. EDWARDS

This group of medals consists of the Queen's South Africa Medal, 1899-1902, with clasps "Cape Colony", "Orange Free State" and "Transvaal"; the Africa General Service Medal, 1902-20, with clasp, "Somaliland, 1902-04"; the 1914 star and clasp; the British War Medal and Victory Medal for 1914-19. The Queen's South Africa and the medals for 1914-19, have been described often in earlier journals and newsletters and are common to the Regiment, but the Africa General Service is not a common award to us, being awarded to those who were present as Mounted Infantry during the Fourth Expedition (October 26, 1903, to April 25, 1904) against the Mad Mullah. The obverse shows King Edward VII in uniform, facing left and legend "Edwardus VII Rex et Imperator", the reverse, a standing figure of Britannia holding a palm branch and scroll in her extended left hand, and trident in her right.

In the exergue is the word "Africa". The ribbon is

yellow edged with black with two green stripes towards the centre.

A draft of 35 volunteers who held Mounted Infantry Certificates left the 1st Battalion, then serving in India, to join the Expeditionary Force in Somaliland in July, 1903. Most of these men had joined the 1st Battalion from the 2nd Battalion after service with the latter in South Africa during the Boer War. Pte. Edwards was one of these men, being posted to "E" Company ("Scatty E") in January 1903. He also rejoined this company after his return from his second bout of active service. His third war was in 1914 when he went to France with the 4th Battalion and helped to make history both for his country and his regiment. On all the medals is stamped his regimental number (those of 1914-19, having the prefix "L") and rank, initials and name. The medals are now in the process of being re-ribboned prior to being placed in the regimental museum.

Presented by his daughter Miss A. M. Edwards.

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME, 20TH (SHOREDITCH) BATTALION

This programme, much battered and worn, was one of three given to returned members of the 20th Battalion at a Reunion and Celebration held at Shoreditch Town Hall, on Saturday, October 11, 1919, with Sir Henry Busby Bird, the Mayor of Shoreditch, in the chair.

As a response to the notable appeal by Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener in 1914 to form a new army Sir Henry Busby Bird appealed for volunteers to form a battalion from the Borough. The appeal was promptly answered, the unit becoming the 20th (Service) Battalion (Shoreditch) The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). It was originally to be named the "Boxer's Battalion" but the above title was subsequently adopted, under the authority of the War Office, on June 4, 1915.

After initial training at Columbia Market it was moved to Aldershot, where its final military training was completed. The Battalion then joined the BEF in France on June 5, 1916, where it was posted to 121st Infantry Brigade, 40th Division. Whilst fighting in the Loos Sector, the Battalion suffered heavy losses, capturing a position against heavy German resistance after the blowing of a mine. This position was known as "Shoreditch Crater".

Returning to the rest sector the 20th Battalion were chosen from amongst the regiments on that part of the front to supply a guard of honour for the President of France, M. Raymond Poincaré, at Bethune, a distinction much appreciated. The Battalion, with the rest of the 40th Division, suffered very heavy losses during 1917 and 1918. Of the capture of Bournon Wood, November 23-28, 1917, the official despatches say "During the terrible fighting which took place when the Division captured Bournon Wood and village the losses amounted to

4,800 men in three days' attack". At the Lys April 9-11, 1918, during the German offensive, the Battalion Headquarters were surrounded as the overwhelming forces attacked the Division, the report reading, "In all fighting round Lys the men of the 40th Division were called upon for the greatest valour which they gave to the death." Then from Bois Grenier, we read, "For the next two days there was terrible fighting, and only 1,200 men remained out of two brigades". The casualties of the Shoreditch Battalion alone during its fighting service were 10 Officers and 314 rank and file killed, 32 officers and 2815 wounded and 305 missing. So decimated had become the battalion, that it was reduced to a training cadre on May 16 (Albuhara Day), 1918, returning to England, re-forming and returning to France on July 1, 1918, with the 43rd Infantry Brigade, 14th Division.

This fine battalion was disbanded on June 17, 1919, after four years of service and gaining honours and adding lustre to the "Die-Hards". The Colour of the 20th Middlesex is the only "service" battalion colour with the 10 World War I honours emblazoned on the silk. Mr. David Lloyd, Director of the Royal School of Needlework, said it was one of the finest examples of needlework of all our colours. This colour now hangs over the drum case in Shoreditch Parish Church.

During its existence the 20th Battalion was commanded by Lt.-Col. F. P. Dunlop until July, 1917 and by Lt.-Colonel C. E. Melville Richards from that date until demobilisation on June 17, 1919.

Many good men served in the ranks of the Battalion, one being Cpl. Emmett, the nephew of General Louis Batha, the first premier of South Africa, who had shown abilities as an enemy commander during the last Boer War.

Awards for gallantry to the 20th Battalion were DSO 4, MC 15, DCM 5, MM 22, MSM 3, MID 7, Foreign 5 and numerous gallantry cards.

Prior to the dinner during the evening of October 11, 1919, the veterans, headed by the Shoreditch Borough Silver Prize Band, marched through the borough, stepping off at Columbia Market at 3.30 p.m., arriving at the Town Hall at 6 p.m.

The donor of this programme is a veteran of the 20th Battalion who has resided in Australia for many years, but always makes a point of duty to call at our headquarters whenever he visits "Blighty". It was during his present visit that he presented this programme for our archives.

Presented by Mr. R. Groombridge, late 20th Battalion

MEMORIAL TABLETS

Independence having been granted to Singapore, the memorial tablets which were on the walls of the Garrison Church (St. George's) in Tanglin Barracks, have now been returned to the respective units. Two were returned to the "Die-Hards". The earliest is a stone tablet 26in by 21in bearing the inscription "Sacred to the memory of the undermentioned men of the 3rd Battalion Middlesex Regiment who died at Singapore 1909-1910". Then follows the names; "Pte. W. Schuster, Pte. J. Overend, Pte. J. Palmer, Pte. T. Watkinson, Pte. F. Reddington, Pte. A. English". Above the wording and at top centre is the 3rd Battalion crest, viz. the normal regimental badge of wreath of laurels, Prince of Wales plume and motto, Duke of Cambridge's cypher surmounted by

the coronet of a Royal Duke and the legend "DCO Middlesex Regiment" inscribed on the bottom of the wreath (not a separate scroll). Under the cypher is the honour scroll bearing the battle honour "Albuhara" and between that and the base of the wreath the Roman numeral "III".

The other tablet is brass with the engraving "To the glory of God. This tablet is erected by the 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regt. (Duke of Cambridge's Own) in memory of their comrades who died at Singapore 1922-1923". The following names are below: "Lieut. L. G. W. McArthur (died at sea), 6192560 Pte. Wm. Edward Smith, 6192692 Pte. James Kempson, 6192835 Pte. John Marchant, 6191099 Pte. E. J. T. Arrowsmith". The brass plate measures 27in. by 18in with the lettering engraved in black.

Both the above now join those already on display in the Regimental museum at Bruce Castle.

Exhibitions

Recently there have been two exhibitions of Regimental relics on loan from the Regimental Museum, plus the last colours carried by the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) and now in the custody of 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment, Albuhara Company. The first exhibition was at the Ealing Road Library, Wembley, which was well attended and caused favourable comment. A précis of our Regimental history was available, gratis, for people viewing the exhibits. The demand for these histories exceeded the supply.

The second exhibition was held in July at the Army Careers and Information Office in the Strand, just opposite Charing Cross Station. As well as the normal exhibits generally loaned for exhibitions, on this occasion the embroidered table cloth showing the name of every recipient of the Victoria Cross from its institution up to and including those awarded in Korea was also on display. This tablecloth was embroidered by Mrs. Ryder, wife of Bob Ryder, VC, of our 12th Battalion, was an eyewitness, especially as the VC, GC garden party was held during the time the exhibition was open. It was very satisfying to be informed by the officer responsible for arranging the various exhibitions held at this venue, that at least twice the number of general public had viewed the exhibits than any exhibition held there previously. Major S. M. Manthorpe expressed to the writer of these notes his intense pleasure at the reaction of the visitors to the items on display.

Visitors to the Regimental Museum

Visitors to the Museum give cause for satisfaction both in numbers and variety of age. There is also satisfaction in the different nationalities who take the trouble to visit Bruce Castle. Recently there have been conducted tours of parties from Sweden and from France. In addition to parties, there have been interested individuals who have Regimental connections and historians searching for details of past campaigns. Two visitors from Northern Ireland were the great granddaughter and the great-great-grandson of C/Sgt. George Gardiner, VC, DCM, 57th Regiment, the first recipient of both the Victoria Cross and Distinguished Conduct Medal. To make the visit a memorable one for the lad, aged 14 years, he was given a photograph of his great-great-grandfather in the uniform of a sergeant-major wearing all his medals and decorations and the current badge

Hillings Ltd.

FLORISTS

for Flowers, Plants, etc.

MEMBERS of INTERFLORA



(Flowers by wire,
any time and any-
where throughout
the world)

Phone: MILL HILL 1387

145 BROADWAY, MILL HILL, N.W.7

of rank at that date, i.e. four chevrons surmounted by a crown worn below the elbow on the right arm. The last historian to visit is Alderman Peter G. Spillett, JP, MASA, the president of the Historical Society of the Northern Territory of Australia, who served in the Royal Australian Air Force. He is interested in the officers and men of the 57th who garrisoned Fort Dundas on Melville Island 1824 to 1829.

A Note on Bruce Castle

Bruce Castle was once the home of the Townsend family and it was a Townsend who was the first Commanding Officer of the 57th after the renumbering of the line in 1757. Another of the family was also our first officer battle casualty, Ensign William Townsend, who was killed in action at sea when the 57th were Marines. This also was in 1757. Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, was a member of the family who originally held the manor, which came into their possession from the men of William the Conqueror. When an attempt was made to take the heart of Robert the Bruce from Melrose Abbey to Jerusalem two of the ancestors of Capt. Patrick and Col. Robert Logan of the 57th Regiment were chosen as members of the expedition. The Regiment has connections with Bruce Castle more than is generally known. The church of the manor, All Hallows, is said to have been founded by David I of Scotland (1084-1153), who was an ancestor of Robert Bruce. In this church hangs the King's Colour of our 2/7th Battalion, which is unique in having 11 battle

honours for 1914-19 emblazoned on it instead of 10, as have all other colours for World War I. It was an oversight by the War Office and Honours Board as all other colours in the Regiment and in the Army were only authorised to show 10 of the numerous honours granted for that war.

It is comforting to know that our revered relics are housed in a home historically associated with the Regiment and in an area where well over a thousand were recruited who wore our cap badge with pride in peace and capability in war. R.W.J.S.

★ ★ ★

REGIMENTAL DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1972

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

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

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE

	£
Received from Sale of Tickets and Donations	174.92
Less	£
Printing and Stationery	23.10
Postage	3.27½
Registration Fee	1.25
	<hr/> 27.62½
Available for distribution	<hr/> £147.29½

DISTRIBUTION

	£
Association Charitable Fund (50% of net proceeds)	73.65½
Prize Money:	£
1st Prize (25% of net proceeds)	36.82
2nd Prize (15% of net proceeds)	22.10
3rd Prize (10% of net proceeds)	14.72
	<hr/> 73.64
Total	<hr/> £147.29½

The following were the prize-winners:

- 1st—Col. L. G. Lohan, MBE, TD
Villa Pendohan
Pinpol, Devoran
Truro, Cornwall
- 2nd—Mr. L. K. Lewis
95 Manor Road
London Colney, Herts.
- 3rd—Mr. C. Miller
6 Greenwood Gardens
London, N.13.

Since 1967, when these Derby sweepstakes were organised in aid of the Charitable Fund, a total of £453.11 has been handed over to the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

OFFICERS CLUB DINNER

The Officers Club Dinner this year was held at the United Service and Royal Aero Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1, on Friday, July 21.

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton presided and the official guests were Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, Colonel of the Queen's Regiment, and Lt.-Col. K. Dodson, Commanding 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment.

Others present were:

Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall
Major-General C. M. M. Man
Brigadier E. E. F. Baker
Brigadier B. B. Rackham
Col. W. P. M. Allen
Col. I. H. Battye
Col. I. D. Brotherton
Col. I. R. Burrows
Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker
Col. M. H. Summers
Col. F. Walden
Lt.-Col. G. E. Carter
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey
Lt.-Col. J. D. Gannell
Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall
Lt.-Col. M. V. Hayward
Lt.-Col. A. S. Hewson
Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson
Major M. J. Beaumont
Major R. M. Cain
Major R. A. J. Cheffins
Major J. G. Chiverall
Major C. Churn (private guest)
Major P. D. J. Clarke
Major H. E. Couch
Major P. Donovan
Major S. L. J. Henshaw
Major J. M. Hewson
Major R. J. Leighton
Major A. F. Lockwood
Major E. J. Naish
Major L. F. E. Nichols
Major G. G. Norton
Major C. E. E. Scott
Major L. F. Shaw
Major H. Sherwood
Major R. W. J. Smith
Major M. P. Weedon
Major M. Wild
Major L. C. Wright
Capt. B. A. Carlston
Capt. M. J. S. Doran
Capt. S. le M. Enthoven
Capt. C. A. Lamb
Capt. P. F. Murray
Capt. J. S. Richards
Capt. D. G. Sherwood (private guest)
Capt. D. O. M. Thomas
Capt. R. G. Vaisey
Capt. C. G. Webber
Lt. E. C. Graham
Lt. J. A. Van de Pol.

Most appropriately the total number who sat down to dinner was 57, of whom 53 were members of the Club—an increase of three members over last year's total.

The oldest member present was that veteran "Die-Hard", Major Henry Sherwood, who made the long journey up from Dorset to be present at this important Club function. In view of his recent state of health, this was a most noble effort and gave great pleasure to his many friends at the dinner.

It was very disappointing that Major Ken Hardcastle, who has regularly attended the dinner for many years, was prevented from coming this year owing to his being laid low only a few days beforehand with pleurisy, from which we are very pleased to be able to report, at the time of going to press that he has now recovered.

OFFICERS CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY

A total of 83, including official guests, attended the Club Cocktail Party held at the United Service and Royal Aero Club on Friday, May 12, 1972.

In accordance with the usual custom the nearest relatives of former Officers were invited as official guests and the following attended:—

- Mr. J. M. Abell, son of the late Major W. H. Abell, and Mrs. J. M. Abell.
- Mrs. C. R. Atkin, widow of Lt. L. T. Atkin, and daughter.
- Mrs. E. J. B. Budden, widow of Capt. E. J. B. Budden.
- Mrs. M. Fuller, widow of Capt. Fuller, and daughter.
- Mrs. H. J. Jennings, widow of Capt. H. J. Jennings.
- Mrs. H. A. D. Murray, widow of Brig. H. A. D. Murray.
- Lt.-Col. Duncan Stewart, son of the late Col. W. A. Stewart, and Mrs. Duncan Stewart
- Mrs. A. V. Weller, widow of Major A. V. Weller.

Peter McRae & COMPANY LIMITED

Life Assurance Consultants
Insurance and Mortgage Brokers

14-16 West Street, East Grinstead,
Sussex

Telephone: East Grinstead 25977

Did you know that besides protecting your family, life assurance can assist in other fields, such as education, house purchase, pension, and estate duty? We specialise in the needs of service personnel and would be pleased to advise.

We make no charges

We also have departments specialising in other forms of general insurances which are at your service

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

After holding the post for 10 years and three months Sir Myles Abbott, who was a subaltern with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and was taken prisoner when the Colony fell on Christmas Day, 1941, retired as Chief Justice of Bermuda on December 31 last.

An old comrade who has recently regained contact with the Association after a long absence is Bill Ambridge. After serving as a regular soldier, mostly with the 2nd Battalion in India in the 1920s, he enlisted in the 7th (TA) Battalion and was a well-known figure in "C" Company at Hornsey for some years. He now lives at New Barnet, Herts.

Congratulations to Capt. Michael Ball on being awarded last March the Sultan's Bravery Medal whilst serving with the Sultan's Armed Forces in Oman.

A recent recruit to the Regimental Association is ex-Drummer C. J. Bestonso (TF/265991), who is now a member of the Mill Hill Branch. Enlisting in April 1915, he joined our 3/9th Battalion and was later transferred to the 2/9th Battalion. In 1916 he was posted to the 21st (Islington) Battalion, with which unit he served in France until 1917, when he was posted to the 1/8th Battalion. He remained with this battalion until he was demobilised in April 1919.

Ex-Cpl. Roger Bourne (2367921) is one of thirteen who were enrolled as members of the Regimental Association on the evening of the Annual Reunion. After some years with the Die-Hards and 2 Queen's he is now serving with the City of London Police.

That stalwart of the old 7th (TF) Battalion, Major Geoffrey Bower, sends his greetings to all who served with him in the Hornsey Company of that Battalion. He is now living at Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

We are very sorry indeed that one of the staunchest supporters of the Regimental Association, ex-Cpl. Tom Christman (6196621), has recently moved up north to Whitley Bay. As honorary treasurer of the Mill Hill Branch he has been most conscientious in carrying out his duties and helpful in every way. He will be sadly missed by his many friends here, and we only hope that it may be possible for him to come to some of our functions. We wish him and his wife, Marjorie, happiness in their new home.

Walter Clark (6188193), a pre-1914 soldier, who served in both the 3rd and 4th Battalions, sends his greetings to all old friends, especially those whom he last saw at Gibraltar before the 4th Battalion was disbanded. He is now one of our veterans in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

Although Leslie Eggleton (14414207), one of our recently enrolled members of the Regimental Association, only served in the Regiment for about a year from 1942 to 1943, when he was discharged as medically unfit, he is becoming an enthusiastic supporter of branch and other functions, and we are very pleased indeed to have him with us.

His job in life is with the Corps of Commissionaires.

After a period away from work last May suffering from an acute attack of arthritis, we were glad to welcome back Bob Ferguson (TF/2458), that loyal member of the old 1/7th Battalion (TF) (1914-18), who, as one of our small staff at RHQ, Edgware, is a tower of strength to us.

Our latest admission as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is ex-L/Cpl. George Fulton (6974684). He originally enlisted in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in November 1921, and was transferred to the Regiment in August 1937, when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion. In February 1938 he was posted to the Depot for a tour of duty until July 1941, when he re-joined the 2nd Battalion. He was downgraded medically in September 1942 and after being extra-regimentally employed for nearly five years, he was finally discharged in June 1947.

One of our old soldiers who recently got in touch with us is ex-Sgt. S. J. Gage (6200520). He served in the 2nd Battalion, mainly as a pioneer, from 1932 until he was transferred to the Army Reserve in April 1939. On mobilisation in September that year he again saw service with the 2nd Battalion and, as a corporal, took part in the fighting in Normandy after "D" Day. On promotion to sergeant he was posted to the 1/7th Battalion and completed his service at Lubeck in Germany, from where he was demobilised in 1945.

Congratulations to Capt. David Gouda on his engagement to Mlle Colette Georgette Rose Lugol, of Oyonnax, France.

We were delighted to get a visit just recently from that veteran of the 20th (Service) Battalion (Shoreditch), Robert Groombridge, who had come to England on holiday from South Australia, where he settled after the 1914-18 war. Whilst in this country he is intending to be one of the party of old comrades of the Regiment to make the pilgrimage to Mons to take part in the ceremonies in connection with the anniversary of the Battle on August 23.

In a recent letter Sgt. W. C. Heavens, one of our In-Pensioners in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea,

who has had a spell in the infirmary as a result of wounds received whilst with the 1st Battalion in 1917, sends his greetings to all Die-Hards.

Major Gordon Kent is now the Deputy Chief Appeals Officer for the Cancer Research Campaign and operates from 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.

After a comparatively short tour in Scotland Lt.-Col. Maurice Leonard has been posted as Assistant Provost Marshal in Hong Kong and moved to take up his new appointment in June.

News came to us recently that one of our oldest Die-Hards, Major Sir Arthur Lewey, although lame and unable to get about much, remains very cheerful. For many years he has regularly attended the 2/10th Battalion Annual Dinner.

Another younger ex-member of the Regiment who was recently enrolled as a member of the Regimental Association is John Love (23915791). He served in the 1st Battalion and later the 4th Queen's from June 1962 until June 1968. As a Regimental policeman when the Battalion was stationed in Belfast it was his sad duty to lower our Regimental flag for the last time on Vesting Day, December 31, 1966, when the Die-Hards became 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex).

At the end of June we were surprised and very pleased indeed to receive a visit from ex-Pte. Alan A. J. Moody (19042720) who, after serving as a "Redcap" at Brentwood, was drafted to Hong Kong in 1949. With 27th Infantry Brigade he went to Korea and then transferred to the Regiment, where, to quote his own words, "I had the privilege of joining 'D' Company under the command of Major (now Major-General Sir John) Willoughby". His tour in Korea ended in 1951 and he was discharged in December 1952. He is now employed with the Metropolitan Police.

As a result of his visit he has now been enrolled as a member of the Regimental Association and joined the Mill Hill Branch.

One of our octogenarians from the old 7th (TF) Battalion is ex-CSM T. A. Percival (721), who joined the Highgate Company in 1909. Throughout his service in the Territorial Army he was always a very good shot. His keenness and enthusiasm for shooting still persist for this year he spent a week at the National Small-Bore Association meeting at Bisley.

Congratulations to Capt. Roger Pitman on his promotion to major as from June 30, 1972.

Major John Pollard, now serving with the 4th US Mechanised Infantry Division, has written with enthusiasm about a gathering of Die-Hards in Fort Carson, Colorado, last Easter. Apparently he was joined there by Capt. Paul Truman, who motored 1,000 miles from Winnipeg, where he is with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, and Lt. Amedée Mieville, son of Major Chris Mieville and a subaltern in the Queen's Regiment,

who was over from the UK. They spent three days together and aroused considerable interest amongst their American counterparts, who are curious about, and envious of, our Regimental system.

We have recently been in touch with ex-Sgt. W. Price (6199283), who is about to join the Regimental Association. He enlisted in the Regiment in December 1929 and served with the 2nd Battalion at Catterick and Colchester, after which he was drafted to join the 2nd Battalion in Khartoum. He went to the Army Reserve in 1937 and on mobilisation in 1939 he was posted to the 2/7th Battalion at Woolwich. Before he had a chance to settle down, though, he was seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force and posted to 4th Battalion The Gold Coast Regiment, where he remained until his health broke down and he was discharged as medically unfit in 1952.

Capt. Frank Redpath writes to tell us that he is now well settled in at his work at Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire and that he rarely has a chance of coming up to London. He hopes, however, to get up for one of our functions before long.

We have at last regained contact with ex-WOI (Superintending Clerk) Peter Soper, who is living in Adelaide, South Australia, and is doing well as manager of the Messrs. Thorne & Atlas Co. in Adelaide.

One of our older Die-Hards who recently joined the Regimental Association is Donald Stewart (F/1039 and 6216318). He originally served with the 17th (Service) Battalion (First Football) from 1915 until its disbandment at the end of the 1914-18 war. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he again enlisted in the Regiment and later transferred to the Royal Military Police, with whom he served until demobilised in 1945.

With the help of Capt. John Sharpe, a newly-joined member of the Officers' Club, we have been able to get in touch with one of the oldest ex-members of the Regiment, Sidney Stinton (7666), who lives at Aldham, near Colchester. This old Die-Hard is approaching his 88th birthday. He enlisted in November 1901 and joined the 3rd Battalion. He was later posted to the 1st Battalion and during the 1914-18 War served with the 11th Battalion, our senior Service Battalion, and with the 20th (Service) Battalion (Shoreditch). He was finally discharged in March 1920.

In a letter written last May, in which he tells us that his birthday falls on May 16, ex-Pte. Robert Wright (816754), one of our Hong Kong veterans, sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. A. T. Brown and Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, TD, FCA, for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.

CORRESPONDENCE

From Major G. Mason, Commanding 4th Battalion
The Queen's Regt. Albuhera Coy.

Risborough Barracks,
Shorncliffe,
Kent.

July 6, 1972.

The Editor,
"The Diehards" Newsletter.

Dear Editor,

Memorial Service for those who fell in the
Korean War

Members of the Regiment, and particularly those who served in Korea, will be interested to hear that a Memorial Service for those who fell in the Korean War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) was held at the Royal Parish Church, St Martin's-in-the-Field, London, on June 23 this year.

The service was arranged by His Excellency The Ambassador for Korea and the invitation to attend was addressed to "The Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, 27 Brigade". Fortunately it was sent to the Ministry of Defence and found its way to Colonel Clayton, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex), The Queen's Regiment. Unfortunately Colonel Clayton was unable to attend and it was my honour to represent the Regiment at this service, as the officer commanding Albuhera Company, although I was only sorry that a more worthy officer who served in Korea was not in my place.

After overcoming the strangeness of being greeted into this well-known London church by Koreans from the Embassy, I found the whole service most moving. The church was full to capacity with representatives from the three services and all Regiments who served in Korea together with representatives from the Government, the Ministry of Defence, and other embassies. The service took the conventional form of a memorial service, and the 23rd Psalm and four hymns were led by the choir of St. Martin's-in-the-Field. The lesson (Revelations 21, vv. 1-7) was extremely well read by the Korean Defence Attache, Colonel Dong Ho Kim, and the address was given by the Korean Ambassador, His Excellency Kyun Nok Choi, who served with the Korean forces during the war. In his address His Excellency said:

"We meet here today, 22 years after the tragic Sunday of June 25, 1950, when the legendary morning calm of my country was suddenly shattered by an all-out Communist attack, to remember and honour once again those who gave their lives in defence of the Republic of Korea.

"I speak for her Government and people in expressing deepest gratitude to all who helped us through those difficult times. As one of the front-line commanders of that moment, I still vividly remember the confusion, surprise, and ensuing tragedies that brought about a million casualties in the following three years.

"I witnessed also countless acts of heroism and sacrifice by so many common men in uniform from all over the world. These men were not fighting for protection of their own homes or properties or for their own personal well-being. Only men of the highest motivation could have shown such valour and dedication: the Korean War was the severest testing ground for the noblest form of humanity.

"Thus, we are met here not only to honour those gallant men. It is indeed for us to be honoured by their highest standards of dedication and courage in the struggle to preserve the meaning of humanity, freedom and individual dignity.

"As Korea stands today, she is a fitting tribute to those who fought to defend her freedom. The growth and prosperity of my country since then would give satisfaction to everyone who shared in that struggle.

"In remembering those who gave their lives, we are not only paying tribute to their sacrifice, but also renewing our determination to defend and protect our land so hardly fought for, and so nobly won. It is our duty to them to nourish and develop that land; to make it the home of a happy and free people. Nothing less would meet the obligation, which all of us living today owe to them.

"In our deepest sympathy and gratitude to them, we pledge to commit ourselves to sterner vigilance, and passion for peace and freedom.

"The Korean people will keep in their hearts forever the memory of those who fell; whose spirit compelled that fall on Korean soil—so far from home; and whose selfless struggle in another's cause was a shining example to the world of the true brotherhood of man".

After the service a reception was held at the Royal Air Force Club, Piccadilly. Although there was no one I knew personally it was a most friendly and relaxed occasion and the Regiment's presence was much appreciated by the Koreans and by the representatives from Regiments who served alongside the Die-Hards in Korea. Our contribution and sacrifice were certainly well remembered.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY MASON.

OBITUARY

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

BATTEN—On June 15, 1972, suddenly at his home, Major-General Richard Hutchinson Batten, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, aged 63. He was commissioned into the Regiment from the RMC, Sandhurst, on January 31, 1929, and served with the 1st Battalion until 1936, when he received accelerated promotion to Captain and was transferred to the Royal Hampshire Regiment. He served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany during the 1939-45 war, and in Korea in 1953, when he was made a CBE. He was Chief of Staff at Headquarters Eastern Command during 1959 and 1960, and at Headquarters Northern Army Group from 1960 to 1963. From 1964 to 1971 he was Colonel of the Royal Hampshire Regiment. In 1967 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Hampshire.

CARVELL—On May 25, 1972, ex-RQMS Walter Robert Carvell, aged 85. He was one of four brothers who served in the Regiment. He served in the 2nd Battalion from April 1903 until August 1912, when he was transferred to the newly formed Signals Branch of the Royal Engineers. He was eventually transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals and was discharged to pension on December 6, 1925. At the time of his death he had been an In-Pensioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for some years.

JACOB—On May 17, 1972, Major Maurice Alexander Jacob, aged 68. He was commissioned into the Regiment from the RMC, Sandhurst, on August 30, 1924, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then stationed at Ahmednager in India. He served with that Battalion until January 1938, when he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. During the 1939-45 war he was extra-regimentally employed and subsequently with Civil Affairs in the British Army of the Rhine. He retired on January 7, 1952.

MAITLAND—On June 20, 1972, Col. John Kenneth Maitland, MBE, MC, TD, DL, JP, aged 79. He was granted a TA commission in the 7th (TF) Battalion on October 17, 1912, and, except for a short period during the 1914-18 war when he was a Company Officer at the RMC, Sandhurst, he served with that Battalion until February 18, 1928, when he gave up command. He always maintained close contact with his old Battalion and, from 1953 to 1957, he was its Honorary Colonel. He was High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 1954 and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Hertfordshire in 1963.

STOP PRESS

As we go to press news has been received that Major W. C. Newton has died.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Friday, October 6	(1) 2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London, W.2. (2) Middlesex/P.L. Kensington Regimental Association's social evening at 190 Hammersmith Road, London W.6.
Saturday, October 8	Attendance of members of the Regimental Association at Church Parade, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
Friday, October 13	Autumn Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet.
Saturday, November 11	Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
Sunday, November 12	Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at T&AVR Centre, Edgware.
Saturday, November 24	Visit of delegation to Gondecourt and Lille for the observance of 29th anniversary ceremonies organised by Michael Trotobas Society.
Sunday, November 25	

**Parsons
and
Printing**

Over a Century-old Partnership...

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals

F. J. PARSONS LTD

The Adelphi, John Adam St., London WC2N
6AY. Telephone 01-839 7151. Works at Has-
tings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the quarter ended June 30, 1972, the sum of £526.89 was expended from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 20 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Major G. A. H. Bower, Mr. D. W. Butler, Capt. H. A. B. Claypole, Mr. J. P. A. Day, Lt. R. T. Douthet, Mr. G. D. Emery, Mr. C. F. Farley, Mrs. R. T. Freezor, Mr. C. H. Goff, Mr. R. Groombridge, Mrs. F. O. A. Lawrence, Col. L. G. Lohan, Mrs. D. M. O'Connell, Mr. R. H. Pawsey, Capt. J. R. C. Riseley, Major L. F. Shaw, Lt. J. R. Spooner, and Capt. C. G. Webber.

Diaries

Owing to the rapid rise in the cost of production the Army Sports Central Board have decided not to print any Service Diaries in future.

Albuhera Day

Arrangements were again made this year for the annual Service of Remembrance to be held in the Regimental Memorial Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral. The service took place on Saturday, May 13, and was very well attended by approximately 350 Old Comrades, their relations and friends. The sermon was preached by the Rev. P. L. Pearce Gould, OBE, MA.

At 11 a.m. on Albuhera Day itself a beautiful wreath in regimental colours was laid by Col. F. Walden, who was deputising in the unavoidable absence of the President, at the foot of the Regimental War Memorial in Inglis Barracks.

Annual Reunion

The annual reunion was again held this year at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, on Saturday, May 13. The attendance was 355 which, in spite of the railwaymen's work-to-rule, was a considerable increase on last year's attendance of 290.

Derby Outing

A party of 36 Old Comrades, their relations and friends went by coach to the Derby on June 7. All had a most enjoyable day there and for some it was a financially profitable one, too.

A special word of praise is again due to Mr. Banks for providing such excellent picnic lunches, which were much appreciated by every member of the party.

Founder's Day, Royal Hospital, Chelsea

The Founder's Day Ceremony this year took place on Thursday, June 8, when Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne was the Reviewing Officer.

In addition to our Vice-Chairman who, with his wife, were invited as official guests, 24 Strollers tickets allocated to the Regimental Association were used by members.

Belgian OCA in Great Britain

A detachment of 22 Old Comrades with the Regimental Association Standard was provided for the Annual Parade of the Belgian OCA in Great Britain which was held on Sunday, July 16, on Horse Guards followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, where Col. F. Walden laid a wreath on behalf of all Die-Hards.

Major R. W. J. Smith was the Detachment Commander and Mr. H. W. Kent the Standard Bearer.

F. W.

EALING BRANCH

At the meeting held on Thursday, June 8, 1972, only three members, plus the secretary, were present, so we were unable to hold an official meeting owing to a lack of a quorum. All the same we had a good "natter" and at 9 p.m., after the toast of "absent comrades", we had a short talk on local matters and then decided to call it a day. As the secretary it is very disheartening but I am proud that Bobby Williams (80), Ernie Duffield (81) and Charlie Dranch (79) travelled some four miles to be present. Real Die-Hards.

One of our regulars, Fred Beesley (2/10th 1914) has just had a spell in hospital with intestinal trouble but after a major operation at King Edwards Hospital, Ealing, he is now back home and hoping to have a short convalescence in Scotland. I am glad that he is better as he was a regular attender at most Regimental functions.

Major George Parr-Head has just returned from a holiday at Teignmouth, and tells me that after half an hour at his hotel, he discovered the landlord was an ex-Die-Hard of 1939-45. George has come back in the pink, the food was good and the whisky was better and he will be pleased to give the name and address of the hotel to anyone interested.

Bobby Williams is better after his holiday at Paignton and appreciates the assistance given him by the Regimental Association.

I called in at the Old Drill Hall the other evening and was very interested in the activities of the Leeland Youth Club, who now use it.

A very strenuous game of "quash" was going on between young coloured and white boys and the girls were dispensing soft drinks when not listening to the juke box. Let's hope our old home (and present meeting place) will carry on the good work for many years yet.

To all Die-Hards, old and young, we send our good wishes.

ALBERT WHITE

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

I regret omitting a contribution to the previous Newsletter but once again I was under the impression that Harry Thornton, our branch secretary, had received the reminder letter and was dealing with it, and likewise he thought I had, etc.,—do excuse this lack of liaison—only apologies! The drop in attendance of members during the last few months at Hornsey has been dreadful and whilst I appreciate it may be early holidays and/or business commitments playing a big part in this, I must say I feel a lot of you would call in at least once a month, and give us the pleasure of your company and news. Lt.-Col. Simpson manages to come regularly from Beaconsfield in spite of his many commitments, I come from Harrow and Stan Hurlock, Dick Stokes and Jack Milroy from Enfield on many occasions and ladies, too, so I'm sure it can be done and I'm equally sure it is a great pleasure. We are looking forward to Mrs. Simpson being well enough to resume her visits soon also.

Joan and Bert Mellor, of course, are always on the spot, gaily attending to our "liquid" refreshments.

So—where are you all? I refuse to believe any Die-Hards are shy! There are so many pleasurable occasions to be had if only you will come along. Why not give a try or at least drop us a line and tell us what nights you think you could come or your reasons for not coming. Perhaps we can get our teeth into the latter and sort something out! Those mentioned above are very fond of each other's company, but it would be great to add to this. Bring your wives in for a drink and a "natter", also your friends. Help me out at least by giving me more names and jolly times to write about, also your committee more opportunity to show you what they can do and the functions they can organise. Believe me, they are very capable and only too willing when they have the members to cater for. Sorry I appear to be moaning, but members of this branch must pull their fingers out and show an interest—even show us you can do better than us!

I've exceeded my quota of words, but I'm sure the Editor will give this plea the extra space. Please let's hear from you! Sincere wishes to you all.

LES HOSSLEN

MILL HILL BRANCH

The last time Mill Hill Branch submitted notes for the Regimental Newsletter was for the publication of August 1971. No doubt readers will be under the impression that we only make an annual contribution, but this is not so; it was simply a matter of procrastination.

On the last Saturday in June the Branch held a social evening with a small dance band in attendance and refreshments both solid and liquid to rejuvenate body and soul of the exponents of mental and physical espionage. Capt. "Battler" Craydon, in full highland garb, was a good leader on the floor, having led his pipe band during the afternoon. He was also a member of the massed pipebands at the evening performance at the Tower of London, on Wednesday evening, July 19, during the Festival of London celebrations.

Monthly meetings held at Edgware on the last Saturday of the month are well attended by "Die-Hards" of all generations. A number who find distance or age prevents them from attending write

to enquire about old comrades who shared rations with them in the same barrack room. One chap out of the blue is Arthur Chawkey (L/15572), who was enquiring about the Painter brothers, especially Charlie Painter, with whom he served in the 3rd Battalion band. They were close friends both before Charlie went to Russia and on his return.

A "Die-Hard" who served in Korea with the Regiment is a recently enrolled member of the Branch. He is Alan Moody, who is very keen to contact his comrade, Bill Smallman, whom he has not heard of since his discharge. Maybe some of our Korea veterans can help. Chaps I call to mind who were in Korea and who may be reading this are Bob Ambler, John Ellis, D. Frances, Brian Jelly, Ted Moss, Ron Pile, F. Salt, Ray Sharp, A. (Tug) Wilson and Bob Yerby. There are also quite a number of officers, including the then Commanding Officer, Col. A. M. Man, DSO, OBE, now living in Pembrokehire. Can any of you soldiers help with this query?

A Territorial soldier who commenced his service in April 1915 has also joined our band of happy pilgrims. He is ex-Dmmr. C. J. Bestonso, whose elder brother John was killed in action at Gaza in April 1917 whilst serving with our 2/10th Battalion. Our old soldier served with both second and third line battalions of our 9th (TF) as well as with 1/8th and 21st (Islington) Battalions. Another Territorial of the old brigade is William Cox, who joined the 9th Battalion as long ago as 1911, also as a drummer. He later re-engaged in the band of the 7th Battalion when that band was reformed in 1932 under Bandmaster Sammy Lang.

Of more recent vintage is ex-Sgt. William Price, who after serving with the 2nd Battalion from 1929 to 1937 was recalled in 1939 and found himself serving with the 4th Battalion The Gold Coast Regiment in Gambia, British West Africa. He was eventually discharged medically unfit due to gunfire exposure. Another new member who was discharged as medically unfit after lengthy service is George Fulton, now an In-Pensioner in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. George enlisted for the first engagement in 1921, when he served with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. In 1937 he became a "Die-Hard" and served with us until his discharge in 1947. We now have nine old soldiers who served in our ranks who are In-Pensioners in the Royal Hospital.

Richard Irving, who occasionally trots over from the Star and Garter Home at Richmond-upon-Thames, joined us at our June gathering, bringing salutations from all patients there and a request that I would pass their greetings to all our members. This I do with pleasure. Our inmates at the Star and Garter are George Oakley, 20 (Shoreditch) Battalion; Dick Irving, 2nd Battalion; F. Child, F. Way, 19th London, 1st and 2nd Middlesex; H. Dorney, Walter Clarke, 4th and 1st Battalions; and Arthur Smithers, 3rd Battalion.

If I do not stop writing the Editor will say "for goodness' sake do not write for another 12 months; you are taking up valuable space". I end with the words of the Salvation Army song and call: "Come and join us, come and join us". We welcome you all on the last Saturday of each month.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

Since my last notes meetings have been sparsely attended—at time just enough to have a talk over a few drinks.

All members enjoyed their trip to the Annual Reunion, renewing their acquaintance with all their old pals. In this respect we would like to see a few more of our Exe's rally round, attend our meetings, and so swell our numbers on these trips—one night a month in which to meet your old pals and for us to have a strong healthy branch.

Our July meeting was a little brighter with the aid of back-room boy, Les Honeybun. Although the response to his appeal was disappointing, it was not entirely in vain as we were able to welcome new faces, namely, Major Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Chillery and our old friend Pat O'Connor.

Major and Mrs. Honeybun together with their son also attended this meeting, together with our old Brigade, namely, Peggy O'Neill, Bert Hastie, Lofty Lowe and myself, and not forgetting the ladies: Mesdames McNeill, Buckle and Deans. This made a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

We are sorry to hear that Jack Deans is still far from well, but hope that he will soon show some improvement and be with us once again.

All the best to our Die-Hard friends.

9TH BATTALION BRANCH

As we predicted in the last issue of this Newsletter, our Annual Dinner at the Victory Club on April 22 was a success and the diners were over 80 in number. This is a very good omen. The committee wish to thank all those who helped to make this dinner a fruitful event. The spirit of the 9th is still strong, as shown by the fact that we have received nearly a hundred contributions this year from members.

Correspondence has been received from members who have not been in contact with us for years. For instance, ex-Sgt. R. Why (6196402) met ex-C.S.M. W. Fitzgerald, colloquially known as "Fitz", at Worthing recently, and that involved a narrative of the past and present events, hence a letter from the ex-sergeant enrolling again in our ranks.

Again we had a letter from Mr. Frank Woods, late of D troop 429/126LAA Regiment, which was formerly the 9th. He lives at 10 Edward Street, Walton-le-Dale, Preston PR5 4AQ, Lancs, and informed us that he is a house-bound invalid, which we are very sorry to hear.

Frank asked for the address of some of his old pals. We were able to supply a few. We are sure that those of you who knew him will get in touch with him. He states that this is good mental therapy, with which we concur.

A few of the old 9th again motored down to Wimborne in May, to be entertained to lunch by Major H. Sherwood and his wife at a lovely old inn. This we did enjoy and afterwards viewed some of the lovely country around Wimborne.

We took with us a replica of a Middlesex Regiment drum in the form of an ice-box as a presentation to the Major and his wife for the many years which he has supported the Branch. As you have already been informed in previous Newsletters, the Major cannot make the journey to London now, but he did so every year until recently. May his shadow never grow less.

R.T.M.

WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

The hopes I expressed in the last issue of *The Newsletter* for a more successful year, seem not to have been in vain. For not only have we welcomed in six new members since then but also the attendance at our monthly meetings has improved. At the meeting in June, 36 members and guests turned up, whilst at our July meeting, despite the absence of a number of regular attenders, we had 25 present. This support is most encouraging to the chairman, myself and our two committee members, which is reflected in the eagerness of the latter to get crack and "doing their bit" at the monthly meetings.

The monthly raffles seem to be as popular as ever by the support given to them, and, thanks to lady members who so generously give prizes, we are able to credit our Entertainment Account with a pound or so in addition to buying a couple of prizes and putting on a cheese buffet at each meeting.

Among the guests at our June meeting were Brig. and Mrs. Rackham. Although they both attended our Christmas Party meeting last year this was their first visit to an ordinary monthly meeting, and they appeared to have enjoyed it. They visited each of the tables and had a chat with those seated there and before leaving they expressed their delight at meeting old friends, of the enjoyment they had, and remarked on the number present and the family party spirit. We all look forward to seeing them again in the very near future.

We would also like to receive visits from other officers of the Regimental Association, especially those who serve on the Executive Committee. I know I have the backing of our chairman when I say, pay us a visit and see how his branch, like other branches, do not intend to let the name of the Die-Hards be forgotten until there are none left. Should you be one of the above reading these notes, an open invitation is extended to you from the chairman and members to visit us on any of our "get togethers" which are held on the second Saturday each month in the W.O.'s and Sgts. Mess, Deansbrook Drill Hall, from 7.30 p.m. onwards. This invitation is also extended to any ex-W.O. or Sgt. of the Die-Hards. Oh! and don't forget this invitation is extended to your ladies; they too can see that our lady members show the same Die-Hard spirit as we do.

I am pleased to say that Jim Davis, despite another minor operation to remove a growth from his wrist, is gradually improving. We were able to supply private transport to enable him to attend our June meeting, and although he was unable to move around and chat to those present, they came across to where he was seated and had a little natter, which made an enjoyable evening for him. Being more or less confined to his home and dependent on private transport can be pretty depressing, but like a true Die-Hard Jim takes it in his stride with the same old cheery smile.

Our Christmas draw got off to a very good start at the July meeting and looks like beating last year's. As in the past the draw will take place at our December meeting when we hold a Christmas party. Last year's was very successful and I am hoping to make this year's will be more so.

Many readers no doubt will either be on or going on their holiday about this time. May I on behalf of all our members wish you good weather and a happy and enjoyable time.

LEN JOHNSON