



# The Die-Hards

## NEWSLETTER

No. 1

FEBRUARY 1968

PRICE 1/3

### EDITORIAL

This is our first effort at compiling the new *Die-Hards Newsletter*, which it is proposed to publish quarterly in February, May, August and November, and we sincerely hope that readers of *The Die-Hards Journal*, which it has replaced, will continue their support of this new venture. If they do, the future of the *Newsletter* is assured.

Although there are no special news items in this

issue from the Regular and T.A.V.R. III Battalions (4th and 10th Queen's) it is the intention to include some in future issues, whenever possible. Of course full details of the happenings in these Battalions are always given in *The Journal of the Queen's Regiment*, which is now to be published quarterly as from next March.

### PERSONAL JOTTINGS

We were delighted to hear that Lt. H. B. W. Barstow, now serving with the Battalion in Northern Ireland, had been selected for the Army Rugby XV, and offer him our heartiest congratulations.

Major Denis Binder, who will be remembered by many of our readers as a war-time Adjutant to the 2/7th Battalion, has recently changed his abode from Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire to Como in Western Australia.

Ex-C.S.M. Bobby Burns (L/1192), now living in Essex, writes to say that he finds the air there not so kind to him as that at Harrow, where he formerly lived.

A very smart and most efficient C.S.M. when serving with the 2nd Battalion in India in the 1920s, he is still spoken of with great affection by men who were then in his Company.

Congratulations to Lt. B. A. Carlston on his promotion to Captain as from September 7, last.

A recent welcome visitor to R.H.Q. at Edgware was Ex-C.S.M. Bob Cubitt (6203495). He joined the Regiment in 1938 but was unable to go on active service with the 2nd Battalion in 1939, so was posted to the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, which was then a part of the Middlesex Regiment. In 1941 he was accepted for the Army Commandos and with them took part in the Vaagso Raid in December of that year, and again in the Dieppe Raid in August 1942. Later he took part in the landings in Sicily and Italy, and later still in Commando operations in N.W. Europe. After the war he returned to the

M.G.T.C. at Blacon Camp, Chester, and in December 1945 he was posted to the 1st Battalion, where he stayed until 1954, when he was seconded to the Malay Regiment. His last three years of service were spent as a P.S.I. with the 7th Battalion. He retired to pension in March 1961 and is now a Security Guard.

After a long period of enforced rest since his return from Aden Major Pat Donovan has now taken up the appointment of Quartermaster at the Infantry Junior Leaders' Battalion, Oswestry.

Congratulations to Capt. Malcolm Gilham on his promotion to Major as from December 31, last.

On completion of his Staff College course he has been posted to 20 Trials Unit, Dundrennan, Kirkcudbrightshire.

That staunch member of the old 7th Battalion Band, ex-Bandmaster Bill Gilyatt, is a fairly regular correspondent with R.H.Q. at Edgware. In his last letter he regretted that he could not get to more functions on account of his wife's blindness and the difficulty of getting someone to be with her.

He sends his best wishes to all "Die-Hards."

Many of his old comrades will be sorry to hear that Major Fred Griffiths, the last Q.M. of the 8th Battalion, retired on January 12, and is now living at Barnstaple in Devon.

When the T.A. Battalions were amalgamated to form the 5th Battalion in 1961 the onus of the "Q" work involved fell on Fred, who made an excellent job of it in his usual cheery manner.



We were very pleased to read in the *London Gazette* last September that, included in the small list of officers on whom Her Majesty The Queen had been pleased to confer the award of the 1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration, was Major Gerry Gunnell, 21C of our T.A.V.R. 111 Battalion.

Unfortunately this information was not received in time to enable us to offer our congratulations in the final issue of *The Die-Hards* and, therefore, somewhat belatedly we do so now.

As we go to press we hear that Major Mike Hayward, now serving with the Battalion in Northern Ireland, is to be posted to Headquarters, Singapore District, as D.A.A.G. from May 1, next.

Another old "Die-Hard" to enter the Star and Garter Home recently was ex-Cpl. Frank Howell (TF/3418), who enlisted in the 2/8th Battalion in September 1914, and served with that Battalion in Gibraltar and Egypt until it broke up in 1916, when he was posted to 9th London Regiment (Queen Victoria Rifles). He was later taken prisoner at Polygon Wood, being released after the Armistice, and demobilised in April 1919.

He joined up again in January 1940 as a Sapper in the R.E., and saw service in France until the B.E.F. were evacuated. He was finally discharged as medically unfit in October 1940.

Capt. Hugh Lohan is yet another of our officers now serving in the Far East, where he has taken up the appointment of G.S.O. 3 (Ops.) at Headquarters, F.A.R.E.L.F.

Those who were serving with the 1st Battalion at the time of the hurried move from Singapore to Hong Kong in 1937 will remember Capt. "Doc" Maisie, who was then the Battalion's M.O.

We were sorry to read in the *London Gazette* recently that, having reached the rank of Colonel, he had had to retire on account of ill-health.

A recent caller at R.H.Q. at Edgware was ex-C/Sgt. Molly Morgan (6201818), who had travelled down from Peterborough to see the eye specialist at Manor House Hospital.

He sends his best wishes to all old friends and comrades.

Col. Douglas Parker, who served with the 1/7th Battalion during the campaign in N.W. Europe, retired on retired pay last November.

News has been received that ex-Pte. Fred Perrin (201016), who served with the 7th Battalion during the 1914-18 War and was discharged on account of war wounds, is now living at Worthing.

Any Old Comrade who wants to get in touch with him, can get his address from R.H.Q. at Edgware.

In the middle of January, Major David Pike flew out to Hong Kong to take over the duties of Camp Commandant at Headquarters, Land Force.

We were particularly pleased to hear recently from ex-Sgt. Harold Welden (3529598) who won the D.C.M. for leadership and personal courage of a very high order whilst commanding an M.M.G. Section of

No. 13 Platoon, "D" Company, 1/7th Battalion, in support of the 4th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, during the battle of Francofonte on July 13 and 14, 1943.

He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades, and especially to R.S.M. "Rocky" Knight.

Lt. Simon Yates was married to Miss Flora Ribeiro on September 30, last. We send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

#### NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST 1968

All Die-Hards were delighted to hear that Major-General C. M. M. Man had been appointed a Companion of the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (C.B.), and we send him our heartiest congratulations on this well-deserved honour.

We also send out heartiest congratulations to Lt.-Colonel P. J. Hall on his appointment as Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.).

#### CRICKET

##### Season Tickets for Lord's, 1968

Members of the Officers' Club are reminded that two season tickets for use at Lord's will again be available this year.

Applications for the use of these tickets should be made to the Secretary at least 48 hours before they are required and must be returned to him immediately after close of play on the day on which they are used.

In the event of applications exceeding the number of tickets available for any particular day a ballot will be held to decide to whom the tickets are to be allocated.

#### The Regular Forces Employment Association

(National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen) is part of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service and its object is to find suitable civil employment for non-commissioned men and women of the Armed Forces when they leave the Services and in the years thereafter.

##### IT GIVES ALL ITS SERVICES FREE

In 1967, despite the increase in the national unemployment situation, the Association placed 11,274 men and women from the Services in civil employment through its 44 Branches. These cover the whole of the United Kingdom and are run by Employment Officers, all of whom have been in the Services themselves and are in close touch with employers.

Of those found jobs by the Association, 4,296 were from the Army and 16 were from the Middlesex Regiment.

The Association is at your service and the address and telephone numbers of its Branches can be found in local telephone directories or by enquiry from a Post Office or Employment Exchange of the Ministry of Labour.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY, 1967

Remembrance Day, 1967, started on Sunday, November 12, with the placing of a poppy wreath on the memorials to our dead, erected in St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill.

Later in the morning the Annual Service of Remembrance was held in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. The Regiment had been given permission to use its Depot by Lt.-Colonel L. P. Bennett, R.E., commanding the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot, R.E.

A special service was held in the Chapel at 10.15 a.m. attended by families as well as old soldiers and serving personnel. This service was conducted by the Rev. Ralph Brown, the last Chaplain to the 5th Battalion, who had also served in the ranks of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment. A day of dry, bright weather, there were so many worshippers that the Chapel was full to overflowing, late-comers not being able to get into the building. At the end of this service, the congregation moved to the Regimental War Memorial, where on the various panels are inscriptions to those of the Regiment who gave their lives since its formation. Here the Exhortation was read, and responded to, followed by the Last Post; then Two Minutes Silence and Reveille, after which the service ended with a Prayer of Dedication. Wreaths were then laid by the following representatives: H.P.C.C. Depot R.E., Lt.-Colonel L. P. Bennett, R.E.; The Regiment and Regimental Association, Major-General C. M. M. Man, C.B., O.B.E., M.C.; 4th Battalion The Queen's Regt. (Mx.), Mr. Bob Ryder, v.c.; 2nd, 3rd and 4th (Regular) Battalions and Depot, Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E.; 5th and 6th Mx. (Militia), Major M. J. Beaumont; 10th (T) Battalion The Queen's Regt. (Mx.), Lt.-Colonel P. J. Hall, O.B.E., T.D.; "A" Company 10 Queen's (Mx.), Major R. M. Cain, "B" Company 10 Queen's (Mx.), Major S. L. J. Henshaw; "C" Company 10 Queen's (Mx.), Major K. Saxby; Die-Hards Club, Mill Hill Branch, Mr. R. H. Ferguson; Die-Hards Club, 9th Battalion Branch, Mr. R. T. Meers; W.O.'s and Sgts.' Branch, Mr. S. Bartle; Royal Hibernian Military School, Mr. D. W. Roberts.



(Photo: Rodney Brewster)

Leading contingent of Old Comrades march past under command of ex-R.S.M. C. Davis.



(Photo: Rodney Brewster)

Left to Right: Mrs. G. Edwards, Mrs. F. Toye, Major Gen. C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC and Mr. R. E. Ryder, VC.

After the religious ceremonies a march past took place. On the dais were both the last Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment (now Deputy-Colonel 4 Queen's, Middlesex), and the Officer Commanding H.P.C.C. Depot R.E., accompanied by three people wearing the Victoria Cross, our country's highest award for gallantry. They were Mr. Bob Ryder, v.c., Mrs. F. Toye, the widow of Brigadier A. M. Toye, v.c., M.C., and Mrs. G. Edwards, the widow of Patsy Edwards, v.c. Mrs. Toye is doubly a Die-Hard, as not only was her husband serving in the regiment at the time of their marriage, but she is the daughter of Bandmaster G. R. Robertson, of the 2nd Battalion, from 1886 to 1908. Brigadier Toye, as a captain, won his M.C. with the 2nd Battalion in 1917 and his v.c. with the same battalion in 1918. He was Mentioned in Despatches whilst serving as Adjutant with No. 1 Special Company Mx. Regt. in North Russia in 1919. Patsy Edwards, whose story was recently told in *The Die-Hards*, won his decoration at Thiepval in September, 1916.

During the march past the Association Standard was borne by Mr. Len Johnson, with an escort of four In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in scarlet jackets. These were Sgt. of In-Pensioners C. M. King, Cpl. W. C. Heavens, In-Pensioners C. C. Shaw and F. J. Worton. Although a solemn occasion, as are all memorial services, it was, nonetheless, a happy parade.

When the detachments had been dismissed after the parade, many of those who had taken part or had been spectators were taken by coach or private car to the Drill Hall, Edgware, where a reunion was held with refreshments of all kinds available. The younger generation were entranced at seeing so many Victoria Crosses in one small area, and this was so with many of our older members, too. These insignia of the acme of gallantry were well supported by eight Distinguished Conduct Medals and an equal number of Military Medals.



## CHARITABLE FUND DONATIONS

The Secretary of the Regimental Association gratefully acknowledges donations from the under-mentioned to the Charitable Fund:

Mr. J. W. Cleave, Capt. W. H. Craydon, Mr. W. Digby, Mr. F. H. Nash, M.B.E., Mr. F. Z. Pope, and Capt. J. R. C. Riseley.

## DERBY SWEEPSTAKE 1968

A Sweepstake on this year's Derby is being organised by the Middlesex Regimental Association in aid of the Charitable Fund.

Tickets costing 6d. each, or 2s. 6d. for a book of five, will be available shortly.

Application for tickets should be made to Major R. W. J. Smith, M.B.E., Regimental Headquarters (Middlesex Office), Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

The following prizes will be awarded:—

- 1st prize—20% of net proceeds
- 2nd „ —15% „ „ „
- 3rd „ —10% „ „ „

In addition 5% of the net proceeds will be divided between those who draw horses, other than the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners.

The result of the draw and the amount allocated to the Charitable Fund will be notified to all concerned and published in *The Die-Hards Newsletter* in August next.

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## REGIMENTAL TIES

Owing to the increased cost of production it has been necessary to raise the price of Regimental Terylene ties (Old and New Patterns) from 7s. 6d. to 8s. each.

## BRANCH SECRETARIES

The following is an up-to-date list of the names and addresses of Branch Secretaries:—

Branch	Hon. Secretary
Ealing .. ..	Mr. A. White, 56 Warkworth Gardens, Isleworth, Middlesex.
Hong Kong .. ..	Major W. G. A. Crumley, H.Q. Royal Hong Kong Defence Force, B.F.P.O. 1.
Hornsey and Enfield .. ..	Mr. L. A. J. Hosslen, M.L.O.M., A.M.B.I.M., 262 Kenmore Avenue, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex.
Hounslow .. ..	Mr. A. J. Wales, 143 Waye Avenue, Cranford, Middlesex.
Mill Hill .. ..	Mr. E. C. Colebeck, Belmont, Chilton Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
Portsmouth and Gosport .. ..	Mr. L. C. West, Grove House, 50 Gosport Road, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants.
Uxbridge .. ..	Mr. R. F. Pennings, 69 Raeburn Road, Hayes, Middlesex.
2/7th Battalion .. ..	Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 70 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3.
9th Battalion .. ..	Mr. R. T. Meers, 87 Tudor Court South, Wembley, Middlesex.
W.O.s' and Sergeants' .. ..	Mr. L. R. Johnson, 78 Deans Lane, Edgware, Middlesex.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### EALING BRANCH

At our November meeting a Poppy wreath was laid on the "Ruston Memorial Plaque" which stands with us at all our gatherings at the old Drill Hall, West Ealing. Our thoughts went back to that day in April 1915 when "D" Company, 8th Battalion filled that gap in the line, and at what cost. Those of us here send our best wishes to the sole surviving Officer, Capt. Brough, who lost both his arms in that action and we understand lives in Bournemouth.

On December 23 I visited Mrs. Ruston, who still lives in Ealing, and at the age of 88 years, still writes a very good letter. She graciously accepted a floral wreath from all members of the branch.

We heard from Brigadier J. White, of Guildford. His wife is making slow progress after a stroke and the Brigadier himself has a touch of sciatica. He is only 84 so will probably grow out of it! We wish them both well.

Arthur Wernley (82 years, late 1st Battalion) is back home after his spell in West Middlesex Hospital and sends his thanks to the Association for their generous help to him and his wife.

In spite of the snow and ice we had our January "get together" and were rewarded with a visit from a young ex-Airman, a relative of our own "Compo" White.

Our membership list grows slowly and our newest member is Mr. J. A. Walker, who tells me he was Sgt.-Major 8th Battalion.

We shall be glad to see any "Old Die-hard" at our monthly meetings held on second Friday in each month.

ALBERT WHITE ("Bony")

### HONG KONG BRANCH

There have been no Association meetings in Hong Kong recently, due to the Communist inspired disorders which have taken place over the past months. It is not even certain whether our meetings would be legal, as three or more people gathered together tended to be considered riotous assembly. The description may even be an apt one.

Happily our members have increased slightly. Colonel Bots has returned from leave, and Major David Pike has arrived complete with cricket bag. We do hear that W.O.2 G. Simmons is in the New Territories, from which position he will shortly be dug out. Capt. "Johnny" Bull is about to go on leave and we will miss his organising ability.

Our plans include a dinner on Albuhera Day, and with the help of The Volunteers, a wash and brush up for the Regimental Badge on the hillside at Fan Ling. We usually carry this out over the Chinese festival of Tsing Ming when we observe the local traditions of letting off firecrackers (if permitted) and consuming Chinese wine when the work is done. (Perhaps we consume the firecrackers and let off the wine—they are of equal potency and explosive content.)

The following headline in a local newspaper attracted our attention—"Biggest ever pre-Christmas Japanese invasion." As one member remarked "Nobody told us in 1941 that they were only tourists."

As the old lunar year draws to a close, and the year of the Monkey follows that of the Ram, we wish all members "Kung Hei Fat Choi."

### HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

We held our first Committee meeting for this year on January 24 and got down to work with a vengeance. Arrangements have been made to have the Branch accounts ready for approval at a meeting on February 28, the Rifle Club A.G.M. to be held on March 13 and the Branch A.G.M. on March 27.

Then, although the snow put us out for a while recently, and will quite probably try again, our friend "Barbara Castle" makes convivial meetings a lot more problematical. We decided on Social Evenings for the first Saturdays in February and March—February 3 and March 2 respectively.

It was also agreed that Theatre Parties would be organised, and the Rifle Club would have an outing in early spring.

Our Christmas Party for 1967 was a combined function with "D" Company 5th (Vol.) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, "Annual Dance and Christmas Draw," and was a great success; the description "Popular Group playing music for all" was very apt, and a really great evening was had by all.

The prizes for the Christmas Draw were excellently chosen and well received by the winners, our chairman, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., presenting them.

It was very pleasing also to see the large numbers, especially our Branch Contingent, most of whom can still "Shake a nifty leg" when it comes to dancing.

Again we extend a welcome to you all if you can manage to get to Hornsey any Wednesday evening, and take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

We also send our sincere wishes to our Editor for continued success with the new *Die-Hards Newsletter*.

LESLIE HOSSLEN

### HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Hounslow Branch continues to flourish now under new management and membership has grown since September. We continue to spread the message and hope more ex-members of the Regiment will come and enjoy the delights of the bar and meet old friends on the last Thursday of the month.



On December 9 we held our first social evening and while it started rather slowly we finished with a good number, in fact, nearly a "full house."

The New Year promises well, and with our very keen committee we are already arranging a variety of functions to please all. Another social will be held on February 3 and a General Meeting is planned for February 29. The possibilities of a Branch Dinner are being investigated and, if enough support is there, we will hold this on March 29.

Should any member of the Association happen to pass by on the last Thursday of the month we should be very pleased to welcome him and maybe he will meet one of his Regimental Comrades.

#### PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

This Branch, like most of the others, has been going through a period of poor attendance, mainly because of the bad weather, which seems to take a delight in going from bad to foul!! on the evenings on which our meetings are due to take place. On the evening of our Christmas Draw I'm certain that the weatherman said Ha Ha, and promptly sent a snowfall that put paid to the Local Transport system with the result that only our chairman, Mr. Paddy ("Peggy" to his old friends) and "Lofty Low," who arrived with his daughter and approximately 100 sausages on sticks, attended. The rumour that he sold his sausages outside the White Hart is apparently without foundation.

Due to the lack of numbers able to attend our meetings we have not at present been able to hold our Annual General Meeting. We are going to try to hold it in February and we hope that all our members will make a special effort to come along, even if only to ensure that your Committee is running the Club in the way that members want it run.

We are anxious to get in touch with one of our founder members, Charlie Miriams, again who appears to have drifted away. If any of you see him let him know that a visit from him on a Club night would be most welcome. Another chap I'm anxious to get in touch with is Mr. Lloyd who sometimes attends the Mill Hill Branch meetings. We were Squad mates together in Ladysmith Squad in 1924 when Joe Darby and "Busty" Hull had charge of it. Finally, here are the names of a few of our members, Len ("Bogey") West, "Peggy" O'Neil, Harry Norfield, Fred Wigg, Ron McNeil, "Lofty" Low, Franky Nash, Bill O'Connor, Les Delaney, Charlie Pratt, Jim Peters, Tommy Thomas and Bert Hastie, all of whom would dearly like to hear from old friends. I will always pass any letters on from Grove House, 59 Gosport Road, Stubbington, Nr. Fareham, Hants. How about a coach trip during the coming summer to Sunny Southsea and a social gathering with the Southern Section of the "Die-Hards" Club? A warm welcome can be expected from all of us here.

LEN WEST

#### 9th BATTALION BRANCH

In front of me, to aid me to pen this newsheet of the activities of this branch, lies the last issue of *The Die-Hards*, the journal of the Middlesex Regi-

ment. First of all, we would like to congratulate the Editor and his staff on producing such a splendid edition.

The new "Die-Hards" newsheet we are sure will be welcomed as much as the Journal, but, of course, will only deal with the detailed news of the Old Comrades.

This is most important. To keep the Newsheet going, news of Old Comrades must be obtained and the only way that this can be done is from you, Reader.

Our Committee meet, or at least we hope we shall, on the last Thursday in the month at 8 p.m. at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, and you will find us in the bar before moving off to our Committee Room, so if you require us, please call or let us have the information by letter.

Some of our members, we know, are too old to travel long distances; all the same we should be very pleased to hear from them.

This Christmas I had sent to me a greetings card from Capetown, South Africa. Some years ago Charlie Woodbridge, whose Regt. No. was 265, was made an honorary member of this Branch. Regularly his Christmas card has arrived every year. Even from that distance he has not forgotten the Battalion.

Another card was received from a member very well known, who must be a member of the United Service Club. For it was the card of that Club which came to hand and inside the card was a very good coloured print of the painting by Sir Arthur Cope, R.A., of Field-Marshal His Royal Highness, George, 2nd Duke of Cambridge, K.G., in his full uniform as Commander-in-Chief. This painting is still in possession of the Club and our Regiment bore his name. The spirit of the Regiment will never die as long as we can still recall all those who were associated with us. Incidentally, I can remember the funeral of the Duke of Cambridge in 1904. Our school, which was not far from the Harrow Road at Willesden, helped to line the route. His mausoleum is in Kensal Green Cemetery, but, as in other old cemeteries, the beautifully-kept grounds are a thing of the past, and today the surroundings of his last resting place are certainly not up to the standard of the early 'twenties.

The obituary notices still come in. We regret very much to hear of the deaths of Sgt.-Major Abemdroth, that gallant member of the Legion of Frontiersmen, who was associated with us at the Drill Hall, Honey Pot Lane, also of Mr. Jack Craker, "Scofi" Ransome and Mr. Harry Sillick.

Harry Sillick was a member of the 5th West Middlesex Volunteers, from which we were formed, but he did not actually re-enlist in the Battalion. When we formed the Association Harry was one of the first to apply and, of course, accepted.

Some of his colleagues in the 5th were R.S.M. Drinkwater, Jack Boyles, V. A. Tite and T. Wagstaffe. All these gentlemen are as well in health as can be expected at their great age. We should like to hear of any more members of the 5th West Middlesex still with us.

In another part of this newsletter, information is given of the Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks. Our Committee would welcome very much a larger attendance of members of our Branch; indeed, any member of the Battalion in any of its different forms, such as in the R.A., at future services.

Now, finally, please do not forget that the Branch will hold its Annual Reunion and Dinner on Saturday, June 15, this year at the Cavendish Ballroom, High Road, Willesden. We will send you our notice of this later with the details.

R. T. MEERS

#### W.O.S' AND SERGTS.' BRANCH

Despite the bad weather, the Breathalyser Test, and numerous functions during the latter part of the year, we were still able to muster a few members with their wives and friends at our monthly meetings. We now look forward to better and brighter weather in 1968, with the hope that the attendances at our future meetings will increase.

We did not hold our usual meeting in December, as on that evening the Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 10th Queen's held their Annual Christmas Draw and Dance. However, an invitation to attend that function was extended to our members, their wives and friends. The weather again was against us, keeping away many who had accepted the invitation. Those who did attend spent, I am sure, a very enjoyable evening, not only dancing to a very fine Band, but also in winning a fair share of the prizes in the Draw. On behalf of our members I would like to thank the president and the Mess committee for a wonderful evening, and also to congratulate them for putting on such a good show. Congratulations also to Charlie Banks for the catering arrangements and the excellent buffet provided.

Several members attended the Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks on November 2, where a wreath, on behalf of the Branch, was laid on the Regimental War Memorial by Mr. S. Bartle. The Branch was honoured on this occasion by my being appointed the Association Standard Bearer. I sincerely hope that this will not be the only occasion that the Branch has the honour of one of its members being selected to carry the Standard.

The year ahead, so we are told, is going to be a hard one and by the look of things we are going to be hit for six as far as our pockets are concerned. However, depressing as things may seem, I sincerely hope that all Branches of "The Die-Hards" will continue to flourish and be like "Die-Hards"—things with a smile, Back Britain and Back your Branch.

For those who may not know, we hold a social meeting each second Saturday of the month starting at 7.30 p.m. in the Sergeants' Mess, T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware. All serving and ex-members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess of the Regiment with their wives and friends are very welcome.

To all Branches of the "Die-Hards" we send our greetings and best wishes for a successful year

L. R. J.

#### FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. A. Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Baldry, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, Lt.-Col. J. H. Clowes, Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert, Mr. F. H. Nash, M.B.E., Major F. J. Nunn, and Capt. J. R. C. Riseley for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Fri., Feb. 23	9th Battalion Officers' Triennial Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.
Fri., Apr. 26	1/7th Battalion (1914-18) Dinner at Beale's Restaurant, Holloway Road, N.7.
Sat., Apr. 27	1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at T.A. Centre, Hornsey, N.8.
Fri., May 10	Spring Golf Meeting on North Hants Golf Course, Fleet.
Thurs., May 16	ALBUHERA DAY.
Sun., May 19	Albuhera Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware.
Sat., May 25	2/10th Battalion Annual Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, London, W.2.
Wed., May 29	Queen's Regiment Officers' Club Golf Meeting at Canterbury Golf Club.
Sat., June 15	9th Battalion Branch Annual Reunion and Dinner at Cavendish Ballroom, High Road, Willesden.
Sun., June 23	River Trip—Windsor to Marlow and return.

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## OBITUARY

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

**BOLDEN**—On December 30, 1967, ex-Pte. Arthur Victor ("Tim") Bolden (6191249), aged 66. His Colour Service was spent in the 1st Battalion. He was a very good sportsman and represented his Battalion at football and boxing.

**BRADLEY**—On January 26, 1968, Leslie Ripley Bradley, C.B., C.B.E., Director of the Imperial War Museum from 1938 to 1960, at the age of 75. On leaving Sandhurst in 1915 he was commissioned into the Regiment and served as a 2/Lt. with the 4th Battalion in France, being invalided from the Ypres Salient and returning to civilian life in 1917. He was made a C.B.E. in 1947 and a C.B. in 1961.

**FAIRBROTHER**—Early in October 1967, after a long illness and much suffering, ex-Sgt. Edward Fairbrother (6198561), aged 57. He was a staunch member of the Drums of the 7th (T.A.) Battalion for many years from 1928 onwards.

**HEDGECOE**—On December 27, 1967, at Mazabuka, Zambia, very suddenly, Colonel Sidney Frank Hedgecoe, aged 69.

He was adjutant of the 8th (T.A.) Battalion from 1925 to 1929, and of the 1st Battalion from 1934 to 1937.

He was serving with the 1st Battalion during the Battle of Hong Kong and was mentioned in despatches.

**HOBSON**—On November 13, 1967, ex-Pte. William J. Hobson (L/8317), aged 74. Served in the 4th Battalion and was present at the Battle of Mons in August 1914.

**INMAN**—On Christmas Day 1967, ex-Cpl. A. J. Inman. Spent most of his Colour Service with the 2nd Battalion. A very able clerk.

**KENNEDY**—On December 13, 1967, ex-Sgt. Frederick Kennedy, late 7th (T.A.) Battalion.

**KING**—On December 24, 1967, ex-Sgt. Edwin J. King, M.M. (T.F./7037), late 7th (T.A.) Battalion.

**PENNYCOOK**—On October 13, 1967, suddenly at his home, Brigadier George Hamilton Charles Pennycook, C.B.E., aged 70.

He was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion from 1923 to 1928 and received accelerated promotion in the rank of Captain into The Cheshire Regt. in July 1927.

He was made a C.B.E. in 1945, and was mentioned in despatches five times—once in the 1914-18 War and four times in the 1939-45 War.

**SCRIVEN**—On October, 25, 1967, in hospital at Cambridge, ex-Cpl. Leonard Scriven (1421834), late 1st Battalion and Princess Louise's Kensington Regt.

**SMITH**—On January 6, 1968, ex-C/Sgt. Walter Smith, aged 81. He was a Sergeant in the old 1st Volunteer Battalion and was one of those who re-engaged in the re-formed unit, which became the 7th Battalion (T.F.) in April 1908.

He had been a staunch supporter of the Regimental Association since its formation in 1913.

**WALLACE**—On September 20, 1967, in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, after a short illness, ex-Bdsm. Frederick Wallace, aged 83.

He was a member of the 1st Battalion Band for many years and a fine musician.

He took an intense pride in his Regiment and was a most loyal "Die-Hard".

Since leaving the Service he had been a staunch member of the Regimental Association.

**WILLIAMS**—On November 10, 1967, ex-Pte. Bill Williams (6203264), late 1st Battalion. He took part in the Battle of Hong Kong and, like

brother, Charlie, whose death was announced in the final issue of *The Die-Hards*, he was taken prisoner when the garrison surrendered on Christmas Day 1941, and remained a P.O.W. until December 1945.

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