



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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Editor: MAJOR A. E. F. WALDRON, M.B.E.

T.A.V.R. Centre

Deansbrook Road, Edgware Middlesex.

(Telephone: 01-952 2625)

EDITORIAL

It is with deep regret we mourn the death of Col F. Walden, MBE, DL, on January 17, 1976, who had been Editor of the 'Newsletter' since February 1968. A 'Newsletter' was not issued for the Quarter ending March 1976.

NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST

We send our heartiest congratulations to the following serving members of the former Middlesex Regt (DCO) who received the awards stated in the last New Year Honours List:

MBE

Maj G. Mason, now on the Held strength of Queens Division

Maj P. F. Packham, now Regimental Recruiting Officer The Queens Regt and based at Canterbury.

MEMORIALS

Drummer D. Stagpoole, VC, DCM

The grave of Drummer D. Stagpoole is situated in the Hendon Cemetery. The memorial stone was erected by the Regimental Association. Information has been received from the London Borough of Barnet that it is intended that tombstones in this part of the cemetery should be removed and the area converted into a lawn cemetery.

It has been suggested to the council that this tombstone be allowed to remain on the proposed lawn as it is of great historical interest. The council have sent the following reply: 'It is not within the power of the council to override objections and if they wish to pursue the proposals in the case of this grave space, the matter will have to be resolved by the Secretary of State of the Environment'.

Drummer Stagpoole had the unique honour of winning the VC and DCM on the same day in New Zealand in 1863.

His medals were in possession of the 1st Bn and were handed over to the Queen's Regt on amalgamation.

COMPOSITION OF REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

The composition of Regimental Association Committees for 1976 is as shown below:

President:

Chairman:

Vice-Chairman:

Secretary:

Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby,

KBE, CB

Lt Col G. L. Fox, TD, DL

Lt Col D. E. Simpson, TD

Maj H. E. Couch, TD

Capt S. le M. Enthoven

Capt A. I. F. Goldman

Mr G. S. Hurlock

Finance Sub-Committee:

Chairman:

Lt Col G. L. Fox, TD, DL

Members: Maj A. E. Peasley

Capt R. M. Fox

Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

Col I. D. Brotherton, TD, DL

Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE

Col A. R. Waller, MBE, MC

Lt Col J. M. Hewson, MC

Maj M. J. Beaumont, MC

Maj A. E. Peasley

Capt R. M. Fox

Mr E. C. Colebeck

Mr G. Young

Mr A. White

Housing Sub-Committee:

Chairman:

Col I. D. Brotherton, TD, DL

Members: Lt Col D. E.

Simpson, TD

Maj H. E. Couch,

TD

Capt M. J. S.

Doran, TD

Capt E. J. Pike

Housing Manager:

Maj S. C. W. Weller, MBE, MM

Membership and Social Sub-Committee:

Chairman:

Members: Maj M. J. Beaumont, TD

Mr T. R. Bennett

Branch Secretaries

Capt S. le M. Enthoven

Mr T. Emerson

Days Pay Scheme

During the year 1975 the Middlesex Office has allocated the sum of £1,396 from the Days Pay Scheme by the Regimental Association of the Queens Regt. This sum was used to alleviate distress amongst 83 members.

REGIMENTAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1976

The following Calendar of Events approved for 1976 is published now so that readers can make a note of the various events and, it is hoped, support as many as possible.

Further details will, of course, be issued in connection with each event nearer the date on which it is due to take place.

Date	Event
Sunday, July 18	Annual Parade on Horse Guards of Belgian OCA in Great Britain
Sunday, August	Party to John Player League Match (Firm date later)
Saturday, August 21 to Tuesday, August 24	Pilgrimage to Mons for ceremonies in connection with the 62nd Anniversary of the Battle
Friday, October 1	2/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Services Club, Seymour Street, W2
Saturday, October 2	13th (Service) Bn OCA Annual Luncheon at the Rising Sun, 44 Ebury Bridge Road, SW1
Wednesday, October 6	Autumn Golf Meeting Fleet

Free 'Newsletters'

The Editor wishes to thank the following for their generosity for paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of the *Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades, Col I. H. Battye, MBE, Mr A. Bailey, Mr D. G. Bennett, Mr C. T. Bull, Mr R. R. P. Chapman, Lt-Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Mr J. C. Clark, Mr H. Clyde, Mr W. J. Crump, Mr P. F. Dyer, Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, Mr H. C. Griffiths, Mrs. E. T. Hastie, Mr F. A. Hannah, Mr P. F. Maloney, Mr A. A. Moody, Mr F. H. Nash, MBE, Maj L. F. E. Nicholls, Mr J. A. Percival, Capt Q. T. Robinson, Lt-Col E. P. Shanks, CBE, QC, Mr D. Sims, Col M. A. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL, Mr R. S. R. Turner, Mr A. E. Tuthill, Mr J. S. Ullman, Capt R. K. Valentine, Maj S. C. W. Weller, MBE, MM, Maj-Gen G. P. L. Weston, CB, CBE, DSO, Mr A. R. Whinney, Mr G. H. Woodward, Mr R. Yerby, Mr G. Young.

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL IN ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Kneelers/Hassocks

The following donations have been most gratefully received, Lt-Col A. K. Clark, OBE and Lt-Col R. F. Fendick, CD.

The embroidering of the Kneeler/Hassocks has now been completed and they have been passed to the contractor to be filled and backed. They will definitely be in use for the 1977 Service of Remembrance in St Paul's Cathedral.

Date	Events
Sunday, October 24	Attendance at Church Parade, Royal Hospital, Chelsea
Thursday, November 11	7th Middlesex Officers Club Dinner
Friday, November 12	Officers Club Cocktail Party Naval and Military Club 94 Piccadilly, W1
Saturday, November 13	1100 HOURS - Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
Sunday, November 14	1015 hrs—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by reunion at TAVR Centre Edgware. 1100 hours—7th Bn wreath laying at Hornsey Parish Church Service by the Hornsey and Enfield Branch 1500 hours—2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick
Saturday, November 27 to Monday, November 29	Visit to Reseau Sylvestre, Lille

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donation to the Charitable Fund from Maj F. H. Blackman, Mr R. R. P. Chapman, Mr H. Clyde, Lt R. T. Douthet, Maj Sir Hildreth Glyn-Jones, Mr C. H. Goff, Mrs Sue Hogg, Capt J. H. S. Hudson, Lilley Benevolent Trust, Maj A. E. McManus, Mr A. A. Moody, Mr J. A. Mulcahy, Mr R. W. Peatling (in memory of Mr W. A. Peatling 1/8th Bn 1917-19), Mr J. A. Percival, Capt Q. T. Robinson, Mr K. V. Sutton, Maj J. Wild, MBE, Mr G. H. Woodward, Sgt J. Williamson, Maj D. M. W. Young.

The following made donations in memory of the late Col. F. Walden: Brig E. E. F. Baker, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, TD, DL, JP, Mr C. F. Baldwin, Maj K. R. Mc K. Biggs, Col W. D. Ellis, OBE, TD, DL, Brig. A. E. Green, DSO, OBE (also in memory of late Brig. N. P. Proctor) Pamela Johnson-Hill, Maj C. E. E. Scott, Lt-Col E. P. Shanks, CBE, QC, ex-Csgt A. Stevens, Col M. H. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL, Col D. R. W. Thomas, MBE, Maj R. R. T. Whitehead.

Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1, 1975, to December 31, 1975, the sum of £2,823.10 was spent on assisting 133 ex-members of the Regiment.

Col Frank Walden, MBE, DL

A TRIBUTE

Maj-Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, at the Memorial Service held in St Paul's Cathedral on Monday, February 23, gave the following address:

'We have come here this morning to pay our tribute to and to give thanks for the life and service of Col Frank Walden—Col Fanny as he was affectionately known by so many of his friends.

I say *Give thanks for the life and service of 'Fanny'* Walden because to me his was a life which was built on the words 'Service before Self'. All his working life, carrying on into his later years when most of us sit back and take things more easily, he devoted himself to the service of the Regiment he loved so much. I don't think it occurred to him to stop—he was doing something that was his whole life. Serving His Regiment, and that was all there was to it.

In the 40 years that I knew Col 'Fanny', looking back I think of him almost as three different people.

First, as Adjutant of the 1st Bn of the Middlesex in Hong Kong in the 'thirties—immaculately turned out; from the subalterns point of view a bit crusty; setting himself the highest standards and expecting the same from all those in the Battalion both on and off duty. But, fiercely protective of his soldiers. Then, 20-year-odd years later, I met him at Mafrag in Jordan, when as one of the most senior Officers in the service of the King there, I met him inspecting the Battalion I was then serving with, after an exercise. He was surrounded by staff officers of the Arab Legion, and he was clearly held in very high regard by them. This was a 'Fanny' I had not seen before, as I had missed his two periods of command in the Regiment—'Fanny' the commander; lastly, and this was the 'Fanny' that I knew the best, as our Regimental Secretary.

It was here that I believe he made his biggest impact on and gave his greatest contribution to our Regiment, the Die-Hards. It took him no time at all to become a very real person not just a name. He was widely and affectionately known by young and old soldiers, and by the many officials and others of the County of Middlesex with whom his duties brought him in contact. It is not exaggerating to say that the name Col Walden and the Middlesex Regt were synonymous. I do not believe that I am overstating when I say that, in my view, he did more for our Regiment during that period than anybody else within living memory.

Col 'Fanny' was a man of strong and deep convictions tempered by a delightful sense of humour. However determined he might be—and he could be very determined—there was a twinkle in his eye and he was always ready to see the funny side. A stickler for detail and an eye for the big occasion—an abhorrence of showing off but never allowing any opportunity to slip which might add to the glorification of the Die-Hards, never the glorification of himself. When I was Colonel of the Regiment, it was his greatest comfort to know that he was there, in the background, and there he always was.

Col 'Fanny' was a devoted family man and you only had to stay in his home to feel the wonderful atmosphere of trust and affection that existed there, looking around the congregation here this morning it

is clear to me that this family spirit is extended to the Regimental family where to my vintage, 'Fanny' was a sort of elder brother and to the younger members, a father figure. It must be, and I am sure it is, a great comfort to his wife Mollie and her sons to know that their loss is our loss, and that we, like them share a common pride in his life of service.

It is so right that we should be together here in our beautiful Regimental chapel in this magnificent Cathedral because Col 'Fanny' played an important part in the events that led up to its adoption for this purpose and final dedication. I remember so well the many occasions that I came there with Col 'Fanny' and Col Graham Fox, firstly, to formulate our own ideas as to what we could ask the Cathedral Authorities to agree, and then, with Bishop Wand and Paul Paget to translate our ideas into realities. It culminated in what was, I believe, 'Fanny's' greatest Regimental triumph, the unforgettable service of Dedication. I feel his presence now, and I know that this is where he would like to be remembered by his family and friends.

This is not to mourn, but to give thanks for the life of a man who was an example of service before self. This is a moment of triumph.

When I heard the strains of the bugle calls, the Last Post and Reveille, most beautifully sounded at Esher Parish Church on January 23, die away in the air, I knew that a good and faithful Die-Hard, had, in the words of John Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress';

'Passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side'.

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THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

Spring Meeting 1976

A most enjoyable and successful meeting was held on the course of the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Wednesday, April 28, 1976.

Conditions were ideal and suited all the competitors.

A total of 19 took part. We were particularly pleased to welcome WO1 M. J. Flynn, Mr A. G. Reide, Sgt D. J. Miles, Csgt J. J. Rogers and Mr G. Clift, who were playing, some for the first time and others after a lapse of a couple of years. We missed Master Howard Clayden but were compensated by Mrs Clayden attending.

The detailed results, each decided over 18 holes, were as follows:

Medal Competition—Scratch and Handicap			
	Scratch	Handicap	Net
WO2 M. C. Quinn (winner Scratch and Transvaal Cup)	77	8	69
Mr N. Taylor (winner Handicap and Darjeeling Cup also Runner-up Scratch)	85	14	71
Maj G. Goring (Runner-up Handicap)	90	16	74
Lt Col T. W. Chattey	87	12	75
Lt Col C. N. Clayden	95	20	75
Capt R. J. Tarrant	98	22	76
Mr G. Clift	100	24	76
Maj J. I. D. Pike	98	21	77
Mr D. J. Miles	92	9	81
Mr G. Taylor	101	17	84
Mr J. J. Rogers	108	24	84
Mr C. Holdford	110	24	86
Mr A. J. Reide	100	13	87
Mr M. R. T. Walden	105	16	89
Mr C. D. Matthews	100	10	90
Maj H. E. Couch (Divot)	122	24	98
Capt P. S. Ingham	NR	NR	NR
WO1 M. J. Flynn	NR	NR	NR
Mr E. Johnson	NR	NR	NR

Stableford Foursomes		Points
Mr N. Taylor and Mr G. Taylor (Winner's Cooper Cup) ..	20	20
Capt P. S. Ingham and Maj J. I. D. Pike (Runners-up) ..	28	28
Mr M. R. T. Walden and Capt R. J. Tarrant	28	28
Mr G. Clift and Csgt J. J. Rogers	28	28
Lt Col T. W. Chattey and Maj G. Goring	27	27
Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Mr A. G. Reide	23	23
Mr C. D. Matthews and Mr D. J. Miles	23	23
WO2 Quinn and Maj H. E. Couch	12	18
WO1 M. J. Flynn and Mr C. Holdford	18	18

Before asking Mrs Tossie Worton to present the prizes Lt Col Tom Chattey thanked all those present for supporting the meeting.

A PILGRIMAGE TO ARNHEN

By RICHARD LAWFORD

After reading that great narrative 'A Bridge Too Far' by Cornelius Ryan, I decided on a nostalgic return journey to battlefields known so well to many Die-Hards and, of course, my comrades of the 9th Bn. I suggested to Maj Smith that I should represent the Regiment by taking two wreaths of poppies with the regimental crest to Nijmegen and Arnhem (Oosterbeek) British War Cemeteries, to which he wholeheartedly agreed.

On September 15 my wife, sister-in-law and self flew from Gatwick Airport to Schipol, Amsterdam, and then by train to Arnhem. We left Gatwick at 08.05hr arriving at Arnhem at 11.00hr. (Not bad, as it takes three hours to get from Gatwick to Bexhill on our wonderful British Railways!)

The first afternoon was spent wandering around Arnhem and looking at the bridge where so many gave

their lives in vain during the September of 1944. On Tuesday, 16th, we took a bus to Nijmegen, crossing the huge Waal Bridge, which brought back so many memories to me.

The Nijmegen Cemetery is situated in Goffert on the southern outskirts of the town in a beautifully quiet park, which should really be seen, as all my descriptions will be inadequate. As you enter the gates and go through a small chapel, where one can find names and numbers of all who gave their lives, one is confronted with a magnificent and awe inspiring sight of all the thousands of graves lying in a huge crescent of purple heather, each inscribed with regimental crest and, if unknown, engraved 'Know only to God'.

It was with great pride that I laid, on behalf of all Die-Hards, our regimental wreath. Needless to say, my vision was a little blurred. My sister-in-law was completely reduced to tears. I propose to Maj Waldron, with respect, that we write, on behalf of the Die-Hards, a short letter of thanks to both Burgomasters of Nijmegen and Arnhem for the beautiful way in which these cemeteries have been kept. I was hoping that the photographs I took of old comrades' graves would show regimental crests, names and numbers but this, unfortunately, was not so, owing to the sun being in the wrong direction at the time. However, there were two 9th Bn chaps at Nijmegen I can recall—Ptes Pike and Smith.

After leaving the cemetery we returned to the Valkhof, where bitter fighting took place. To old comrades of the 9th Bn—Fort Hof Van Holland is still there on the north bank of the Waal below the railway bridge surrounded by trees and well hidden—not open as it was when we were on the Bridgehead for six solid months in that bloody cold winter of 1944-45.

On Wednesday, 17th, the anniversary of the Airborne Drop, we proceeded to Oosterbeek to lay the second wreath. We found the cemetery, just a few minutes walk from the station and, again, in beautiful surroundings, enclosed by high trees and, as at Nijmegen, a superb memorial to those who made the supreme sacrifice. Many floral tributes had been laid when we arrived. I placed our wreath in the centre, where it stood out so magnificently against the white stone and other flowers.

I found the graves of Pte Potter and Cpl Snow Middlesex Regt, and that of Lt John Grayburn, VC, brother of Capt Grayburn of our 9th Bn (429).

After leaving the cemetery we took a taxi to the Airborne Museum in the grounds of Castle Doorweth, some three miles outside Oosterbeek. There was a tape recording commentary in English, Dutch, German and French which enabled one to follow the various stages of the battle on an excellent model of the area. We left the Museum, walking through the woods to the town centre, and returned by bus to Arnhem.

The older generation of Dutch people gave us a great reception—indeed, one old fellow stopped me on my way across the busy road opposite the station, saying 'English soldier—yes? Will you come and have beer with me?' I had to apologetically refuse explaining that I was dashing back to my hotel where my wife and sister-in-law had retired with a large bottle of gin, hoping to arrive before it had all been consumed.

On Thursday, 18th, we returned to Amsterdam, had a trip on the waterways and caught the 19.05 flight back to Gatwick, armed with gin, jenever, cigars, cigarettes and vodka.

EALING BRANCH

We are all very sad to hear of the death of Col F. Walden and send our deepest sympathy to all his family. We as an Association will miss him greatly although we did not see a lot of him at Ealing, but his advice etc., was always very welcome.

Also, I am sorry to report the death of our Chairman, Mr George Ife in his 79th year. He was created at Amersham on March 26 in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends, we shall miss him as he was a good Chairman and a real Die-Hard.

George joined the 8th Bn in 1912 and after attending all the camps he (like all of us) mobilised on August 4, 1914.

He served at Gibraltar and in France when the war finished he left the service.

In 1919 he joined the Metropolitan Police retiring on pension after 25 years when he became 'Mine Host' of a pub in Berkshire. After he had had enough of being an unpaid tax collector he returned to his native village of Hanwell and his membership of Ealing Branch. He was a very helpful Chairman up to the time of his death, and he put his hand in his pocket on many occasions to my knowledge. Cheerio George.

Bobby Williams returned his membership card to me saying he wanted nothing more to do with the Branch. Candid! Yes, but you wait and see.

Our old friend Ernie Duffield is back in circulation again after a spell in hospital. I know George Parr-Head and Jim Dark are OK as I have spoken to them over the phone. Charlie Branch, MM, had a couple of falls (he was quite sober) and misses his walk to see Charlie Bull (Two Guinness, please landlord).

How many of us will meet at our Annual meeting on May 13 rests with the gods. Still hope for the best. ALBERT WHITE.

MILL HILL BRANCH

The monthly meetings are still very well supported and we continue to remain solvent in spite of postal charges and our other expenses. We unfortunately had to cancel our March get-together as our host TAVR unit were using their building, we all missed a chance of a pre-budget drinks prices.

The April meeting was a good night for all. With over 25 raffle prizes every one had a good chance to win, we all missed Len and Ivy and we wish Len a speedy return to health.

To look forward we have the Annual Reunion and Derby Day coming up, these are two of our high days each year and I hope as many members as can attend, do attend.

I know the obituaries are published separately but I feel I must mention the sad loss to the Regiment and our Branch of Col 'Fanny' Walden, he regularly attended our Branch evening, outings and trips and we all miss his presence. He was truly 'A Jolly Die-Hard'.

LES PLUMB

PS—We need a branch Treasurer any volunteers?

Addendum by the Chairman

Our Secretary, Les Plumb passed the above notes

to me to give to the Editor, Maj Waldron, who has taken over the mantle of the late Col 'Fanny' Walden. On behalf of all our members I wish Frank Waldron success in editing the Regimental Newsletter. A continued success I am sure it will be as will all readers who know the dedication Frank puts into his work as Secretary of the Regimental Association.

A snippet of news after Les Plumb handed me his notes was from Jersey, Channel Isles, this was the local paper which showed six Old Contemptibles on parade on St George's Day. One of the veterans being Albert Chinnery (L/12193), who fought with 'B' Coy, 4th Bn at Mons on August 23, 1914, and who celebrates his 86th birthday on Albuhera Day. Albert is as sharp as a needle, possessing an earthy sense of humour, giving me delight whenever I hear from him and his dotting family.

St George's Day was a pleasurable one for me on two occasions. One was a visit to Waddesdon Manor where Col Rex Waller runs the house for the National Trust in a most efficient and entertaining manner, making the visit a pleasure. The other was to find a telegram from Buckingham Palace on the door mat on my return. A telegram had been sent to Her Majesty tendering our greetings on her birthday and assuring her of our loyalty and devotion. On St George's Day the following message was sent to you all, 'To Major Dick Smith. The Queen sincerely thanks the Old Comrades of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club for their kind message of congratulations on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday—Private Secretary'. DICK SMITH

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9TH BATTALION BRANCH

By the time that you read these notes of the affairs of this branch our Annual Dinner will be over.

The success of any Reunion Dinner depends on the number of persons attending and we hope it was successful.

We took note of the suggestions of some of the members and found a new venue and set a fashion in new menus.

Some 130 letters were sent to our members. A good many we know cannot attend. Age and travelling long distances for only a few hours prevent many, but in a good many cases, we have no word at all from these who could attend. Again, we the Committee ask for suggestions as to meeting places and other projects.

The sad object of thought is that through the lack of interest of a good many it may be that those tasks which we undertook many years ago may fall through. Please don't let this happen.

The Association has a jolly good Secretary and an able staff to assist him. Let us keep the name of the Battalion and Regiment alive.

The great projects, which have taken shape during the last decade is the Regimental Baptistery at St Paul's Cathedral and the Museum at Bruce Csatle, Tottenham.

An account of the latest Service in that Baptistery is written elsewhere in this *Newsletter* and of course it is a place to visit. I went there just recently and noticed the large numbers of foreign tourists admiring the contents of the Cathedral.

The museum exhibits are being constantly increased and our own cabinet of medals of those who served in the 9th are really worth viewing.

In the replies that I have received from sending the last letter we had one from our late Adjutant, Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks who informs me that he hardly goes out at all now so regrets very much that he will not be seeing us at the Dinner. He wishes to send his kind regards and stated that his days with the 9th were the happiest of his soldiering career.

Another was from Maj T. R. Low, MC, who is another whose age and distance prevent his attendance at the Dinner, others from Brig C. A. Gunston, Capt N. T. Neal, Maj H. M. L. Price and Maj H. K. Hardcastle all who will not be able to be with us but have assisted us by sending donations.

Others have also sent their applications for tickets and donations all of which we are very grateful no doubt many more such letters will arrive.

I wonder how many of you remember that wonderful dinner at Wembley Town Hall, now renamed Brent, where all those who had served in the 9th were welcomed that evening by the then OC of the reformed battalion, the L.A.A. Regiments of R.A., Lt Col J. R. Doyle; news has been received that his dear wife who partnered him that evening, died on March 7, 1976. I am sure all who knew the Colonel will wish to express with the committee, their deepest sympathy. On that sad note I will end this epistle, wishing you all the best of health and happiness and looking forward to seeing you in the near future if at all possible.

R. T. MEERS

1/7TH BATTALION 1939-45 DINNER CLUB

Once again we had a very enjoyable gathering for our Annual Dinner at Hornsey Drill Hall on April 24, marred only by the absence of our Chairman, Brig B. B. Rackham, CBE, MC, DL, or 'our Brig BBR' as he is affectionately known to us all. Unfortunately, for the first time, he was unable to make it, having moved recently although he has already booked for next year, April 30, 1977, in true Die-Hard fashion.

Our Secretary Maj M. F. Pearson, MC (Lofty) was a tower (in all respects!) of strength, however, and stepped into the breach to chair a very happy evening for us all, and we were fortunate enough to have Col Chattey and Maj Waldron, President and Secretary respectively of the Middlesex Regimental Association, also Lt Col David Simpson, Chairman of the Hornsey and Enfield Branch as our guests.

The meal was excellent and although the numbers were down to 48 many messages of goodwill were received from those unable to come for various reasons and these were read out during the evening, and a number sent donations which were gratefully received.

Whilst it is impossible to mention all the names I must report the regrettable absence of Col Aymar Clayton, who was attending the 96th birthday of Maj P. B. Allott, his father-in-law. Another Die-Hard to whom we extend sincere good wishes, is Maj Dicky Bartram a regular attender whose wife is in hospital and to whom we also extend our sincere wishes for a speedy recovery.

After dinner the medals of ex-CSM Valentine, another good old comrade who died last year, were presented on behalf of Mrs Valentine by Col Dennis Thomas to Col Chattey for handing to the Curator of the Regimental Museum.

To all who attended or sent messages, etc, my hearty thanks and best wishes, do not forget to book Saturday, April 30, 1977!

Finally, I would repeat 'Our Brig' message read out to us after dinner. 'Keep together. Don't let hands that are joined together fall apart. Don't let those sacrifices and associations, which grew in the white flames of the furnace of war, burn out into cold embers in the years of peace'.

LES HOSSLEN.

WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

Our Branch continues to flourish, thanks to our band of staunch supporters.

Visitors always comment on the friendly—one big family—type of atmosphere that prevails at our meetings.

The main event has been the retirement of our first Secretary, Len Johnson, due to ill-health. At the AGM Ernie Colebeck and Less Shrubbs were elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

A welcome is extended to all ex-Die-Hards and Queen's who are at a loose end on the 2nd Saturday in any month. We always welcome visitors.

News has just reached us that Len is again in hospital but is now well on the road to recovery, should be fit to drink the Albuhera Toast on the 16th. So get well Len!

Best wishes are extended to all other branches with the hope that we will see many of their members at the Annual Reunion.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Mr C. F. Baldwin (6200569) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted on July 7, 1932, and completed his recruit training at Mill Hill. Joined the 2nd Bn and served with them at Colchester, Southsea and Gosport. Employed with MT and was a Corporal on transfer to the Reserve in 1939. Later recalled to the Colours and after two years at the MGTC Mill Hill was posted to the 2/8th Bn (1st Bn) and served in Northern Ireland, France and Germany and was released in 1945 with rank of Csgt. He now lives at Barnet.

Mr and Mrs G. W. Barratt, have both been in hospital but are now back home and growing stronger every day. George Barratt served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was a POW.

A recent caller at RHQ was Lt P. W. Birch who served from 1952-55 at the Depot and in West Africa. He now resides at Golders Green.

Congratulations to Maj Rex Cain on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel and his appointment as Deputy Commandant NW Sector ACF with effect from January 1, 1976.

A surprise visitor to RHQ was Capt Donald Carson who is now Director of Music of the King's Div. He enlisted into the Regiment as a Bandboy in 1950 and served with the 1st Bn. In 1963 he was appointed Bandmaster of the Gloucestershire Regt. He tells me that he still plays hockey.

We wish Mr H. J. Chillery a long and happy retirement. He has moved to Farnborough and we were sorry not to see him at the Spring Golf Meeting.

A newly-joined member of the Regtl Assn is Mr H. Coxhedge. He served with 345 Company 36th Middlesex TA, RE, and was eventually remustered to RA, joining in 1938 and being medically discharged in 1943. He now resides at Lowestoft.

Lt Col C. N. Clayden who retired in July 1973 is employed as an ROI by the Ministry of Defence as Conservation and Environmental Officer for the whole of the United Kingdom including Northern Ireland.

He is responsible for the co-ordination of all conservation and environmental matters and for the education and liaison required on this subject. His parish is 800,000 acres. He is based at the Defence Secretariat 23, Tolworth Towers, Surbiton, Surrey.

The May 1976 issue of the magazine 'Soldier' gives a very interesting account of his recent exploits and how he has saved the Natterjack toad from extinction.

Mr R. F. Copeland has recently joined the Regimental Association. He will be remembered for his services to the Bands of the 1st and 2nd Bns from 1930-43.

He now resides at Kettering, Northants.

One of the clues in a recent *Daily Telegraph* Crossword was 'Obstinate political member of the old 57th Foot'. The answer 'Dichard'.

WO1 M. J. Flynn has been appointed Superintending Clerk, Depot The Queen's Div, Royston, Herts. He will be remembered as a former Company Clerk of HQ Coy, 1st Bn. We were very pleased to see that he attended the Spring Golf Meeting.

Congratulations to Lt R. G. Ford on his promotion to Captain. He is serving with 2 Queen's.

A recently joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Sgt E. J. Fuller (14403389). He served with the 1st Bn 1942-48 and was the Provost Sgt in Iserlohn, Germany 1947-48. On leaving the service he took employment with the Post Office and has been with them ever since.

Lt Col C. N. Clayden tells me that he has recently seen Mrs Anita Gilbert, wife of the late Lt Col N. G. Gilbert. She is residing in the Isle of Wight and has just retired from her job as Secretary to the Wootton JYacht Club. She is now breeding racehorses and dogs.

Ex Bandmaster W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, visited Regimental Headquarters on Monday, January 12, 1976. He had just returned from a holiday with some of his family in the Isle of Wight. He had just purchased a new cornet for £249. He tells me that the one that he has used since 1913 cost him £13. Although he is 78 years of age he still plays in a band. He tried out the new cornet in the office by blowing the Regimental March.

A recent visitor to RHQ was ex-Pte A. Goodbourn (22671539) who served with S and A Coy 1st Mdx from 1952-55. He has recently returned from Australia. He now lives at Palmers Green and is a coach to the junior section of the Haringey and Southgate Athletic Club.

Mr L. A. Graham, MM (ex-WO2 6398348) writes to say that he has become the first manager of the new Ross-on-Wye Unemployment Benefit Office which deals with all employment benefits, subsidiary allowances and the like. He retired from the Service in 1958. He hopes to come to the Reunion this year.

A recent correspondent Mr J. W. Hayes (ex-Cpl 1st Mdx) tells me that he has been in hospital for three months for a knee operation. I am pleased to say that he is now back at work and fully fit.

A welcome visitor to Edgware was Miss Patricia Hudson daughter of the late Col Eric Hudson.

Mr Jock Hughes (McEachran), recently suffered a heart attack and was admitted to Edgware Hospital. He has now been discharged and is at home making steady progress.

Mr Len Johnson well-known to all members of the Association also had a spell in Edgware Hospital. He is back home and making good progress.

A most unexpected and welcome visitor to Regimental Headquarters on Friday, January 9, 1976, was Maj Eric Kendall-Sadler. He is at present on holiday in the UK but returns to Tangiers on Thursday, January 15, 1976. He tells me that the Band of the resident Bn in Gibraltar often goes over to Tangiers to give a concert. The Band of 1 Queen's went over to Tangiers during their tour in Gibraltar. Maj Kendall-Sadler looks extremely well and is not at the moment contemplating returning to UK.

Lt Col Maurice Leonard is getting ready for retirement by completing a Pre-Release course in Bricks and Mortar. He is then taking up a Retired Officers appointment in the Provost Branch at York.

Capt John Lofting, Assistant Secretary to the MCC at Lords has recently returned from West Africa, where he was player manager of an MCC touring side. Whilst in West Africa he met the son of Col John Shipster. Capt Lofting recently visited RHQ and gave all his old uniforms to the Regimental Museum.

Belated congratulations to Maj Hugh Lohan on being 'Mentioned in Despatches' after service in Northern Ireland.

A recent visitor who called in RHQ was Mr Lofty Lowe (6917310) well known to all members of the 2nd Bn for his prowess as a Boxer. He served from 1926-53. He has retired having reached the age of 65. He resides in Gosport, Hants.

Mr Bert Mellor and family have recently occupied one of our Regimental Homes at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

Lt Col Stanley Miriams has recently spent three weeks in hospital undergoing Radiotherapy and is unable to do anything but lie in bed. Mrs Miriams tells me that part of the trouble is a crumbling spine. His expression being 'that old soldiers crumble away' instead of the usual phrase. We wish him well and sincerely hope that he will gradually get better.

Belated congratulations to Maj Roger Pitman on being 'Mentioned in Despatches' after service in Northern Ireland.

Our congratulations to Capt Alex Ramsay on his appointment as High Sheriff of Greater London for 1976-77.

Capt A. W. Ramsay was a National Service Officer with the 1st Bn during 1950-51 and served with the Bn in Korea.

A recent correspondent was Mr K. V. Sutton (ex-Cpl) who was so badly wounded in Korea. He now lives in Melton Constable, Norfolk and in the recent gales his house and car were badly damaged. We wish him well and hope that the insurance company will be kind to him.

A recent correspondent was Maj Gen G. P. L. Weston who tells me that his wife suffered a slight stroke recently and was for a time paralysed down the left side. She is now getting better and the doctors hope for a complete recovery. He says that one 'spin off' is that his cooking has improved no end. All members of the Regimental Association wish Mrs Weston a speedy and complete recovery.

Maj R. R. T. Whitehead has recently joined the Officers Club. He served with the 2/8th Bn which became the 1st Bn from September 1941 to July 1945 and then with the 1st Bn in BAOR. He will be remembered for his sporting prowess. He was later granted a Regular Commission with the Royal Artillery with whom he served until 1958. He is now Headmaster of Glebe House School, Hunstanton, Norfolk.

Mr R. J. Williams has joined the Regimental Association. He served with the 2/8th Bn from 1939-41 when he transferred to the Recce Corps and later volunteered and served with the Parachute Regt from 1943-46.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middx

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

Medals of the late Capt The Rt Hon Lord Somervell, OBE

Medals of the late Lt W. G. Lane

Medals of the late Capt A. F. Valentine, DCM

Medals of the late Capt F. V. A. Dyer

Miscellaneous items of the 9th (TF) Bn

Medals of Capt The Rt Hon Lord Somervell, OBE.—

This group of medals consists of the insignia of an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, British War Medal, with Oak Leaf denoting Mentioned in Despatches, Territorial War Medal, Silver Jubilee Medal of King George V and Queen Mary, and the Coronation Medal of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Donald Bradley Somervell was commissioned into the 9th Bn (TF) on August 14, 1912 and promoted Lieutenant, August 26, 1914. Appointed Adjutant on the day the Battalion sailed for India, October 29, 1914, he held this appointment for two years when the office was taken over by Capt E. Scott. With the Battalion as part of the 53rd Indian Infantry Bde, 18th Indian Div, he sailed for Mesopotamia on November 19, 1917. Employed at Brigade Headquarters in December 1917 and January 1918, he was subsequently appointed Staff Captain to 53 Bde in April 1918. holding this appointment until April 1919. His military services were rewarded by a Mention in Despatches October 1, 1918 and the award of the OBE on June 3, 1919. Returning to Civil Life after the war, he rose high in the legal profession becoming a King's Councillor in 1929. He represented Crew in Parliament from 1931-45 and was Solicitor General from 1933-36, receiving his Knighthood in 1933. Appointed Attorney General in 1936 he held this appointment until 1945, when he became Home Secretary. From 1940-46 he was Recorder of Kingston-upon-Thames and Lord Justice of Appeal from 1946-54 when he was created a Life Peer, adopting the title Lord Somervell of Harrow.

Presented by his nephew.

Medals of Lt W. G. Lane.—This group of medals consists of the British War Medal, Victory Medal, Territorial War Medal and General Service Medal with the clasp 'Iraq'. George Lane was a 1912 Territorial of the 9th Bn, sailing with them for India in 1914, then a Corporal with the Regimented number TF/968. Promoted Sergeant, he was in 1917, commissioned at Sialcot and posted to the Queens Own Royal West Kent Regt with whom he fought in Mesopotamia and he was later at Ramadi in Iraq for which he was awarded the General Service Medal which had been instituted in 1918. Returning home in 1920, he became a staunch churchman and was living a successful, contented and quiet life until 1939, when he became a firewatcher in the City of London. Whilst on duty in 1940 his own house in Willesden was destroyed, his family were lucky to escape alive. He continued to serve as Churchwarden of St Mary's Parish Church, Willesden, for many years and died on February 4, 1975, a much respected member of the community.

Presented by his widow, Mrs W. G. Lane

Medals of Capt A. F. Valentine, DCM.—The medals of Capt Valentine bring to the regimental museum the only Distinguished Conduct Medal bearing the effigy of King George VI. The group of seven medals consist of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, Territorial Efficiency Medal with clasps and the Dunkirk Medal. Details of the service of Jim Valentine were given in the last publication of the Regimental Newsletter, December 1975. The award of the DCM was dated September 3, 1940, and reads 'WO3 A. F. Valentine, 6192888. For leadership, gallantry and complete disregard to his personal safety during the operations at Nieupoort, Flanders 1940'.

Presented by his widow, Mrs A. F. Valentine.

Medals of Capt F. V. A. Dyer.—The medals of Capt Dyer are the 1914 Star and clasp, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Capt Frederick Vivian Alma Dyer went to France with the 1st Bn with whom he had been serving as a regular officer, on August 11, 1914, the Battalion being the first battalion to arrive complete on French soil. He was an able tennis player and a very fit, keen young subaltern. Taking part in every action which his battalion fought from the Battle of Mons August 1914, he had been promoted to Captain, the insignia of rank at this time being worn in the slash at the cuff end of each sleeve. As a company commander, he was in the trenches with his soldiers on September 25, 1915, when the British launched their first gas attack, at Loos, which was unsuccessful. When the battalion attacked at 6.30 am, they were met by a rain of fire from the German trenches which tore the ranks to shreds. The enemy were even standing on the parapet firing at our troops who were pinned down after an advance of only a few yards. The casualties of the battalion were 17 officers and 439 other ranks of whom 10 officers and 79 other ranks had been shot dead. One of these officers was Capt Dyer who had died with his men which is the way the Die-Hards have.

Miscellaneous items of the 9th (TF) Bn.—This collection of relics, among other items includes a very interesting photograph album and the Battalion magazine, published whilst the Battalion were serving in India prior to embarking for active service in Mesopotamia. The album records events in both India and Mesopotamia, recalling little-known incidents in the Regiment's history, which are nonetheless very interesting. The magazine is a cloth cover-bound book of the publications from its inception in July 1916 until the penultimate number published October 1917. The final number was that of November 1917, the month the Battalion sailed for active service, in which the editor announces that the magazine will not be publishing any future editions. Only two battalions of the Regiment published magazines during 1914-18, one being the 'Magazine of the Ninth Battalion The Middlesex Regiment' and the other, 'The Magazine published by the 25th (Garrison) Battalion'. Both record very interesting domestic incidents. Included in the pot-pourri of items is the menu for the re-union dinner 1919 as well as those of 1929 and 1939, each decade

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apart. That of 1929 gives the musical programme, played by the fine battalion band, which was recognised as one of the best of Territorial Army bands, the programme finishing with the Regimental Marches, God Bless the Prince of Wales and the National Anthem, which were a small programme in themselves. The menu for 1939, also includes the Tariff which caused the writer of these notes to burst into tears when he read 'Whisky—8d, Beer—3d'! Lack of space forbids the chronicling of everything presented but I feel the group of medals of the donor's father calls for inclusion. This most interesting group consists of the Afghanistan Medal of 1878-79-80, the Kabul to Kandahar Star, the Golden Jubilee Medal 1887, of Queen Victoria with Diamond Jubilee clasp of 1897 and the Coronation Medal of King Edward VII, the two latter being the pattern issued to the Metropolitan Police. The Afghanistan Medal has the clasps 'Ali Musjid' and 'Kandahar' when the recipient, Gunner J. Bennett was serving with the 1st Mountain Battery, 9th Bde RA. Two of the general officers commanding in this campaign were holders of our highest award, Lt Gen Sir Sam Browne, VC, and Maj Gen Sir Frederick Roberts, VC, the famous 'Bobs' whose campaign medals include the Indian Mutiny medal of 1857 and the 1914 Star. The clasp 'Ali Musjid' covers the action of November 21, 1878, whilst the 'Kandahar' clasp records the action of September 1, 1880. The Kabul to Kandahar Star of 1880 was awarded to those who had taken part in the famous march of 310 miles between August 9-31, 1880, the commander again being 'Bobs'. The Jubilee and Coronation Medals were presented to Police Constable J. Bennett of 'S' Div who was present on duty on each of those three historic occasions.

Presented by Mr T. R. Bennett, late 1/9th and 2/10th Bns.

Curator's remarks—Having only one orderly in the museum, prevents all rooms being open to the public due to the necessity of keeping an eye on the mischievous element at times to be found in public buildings. If past members of the regiment approach Mr Hutchinson, the museum orderly, explaining they wish to view the exhibits in the upper room, he will open up the room for them. The upper room covers the 'Khaki era', covering the two World Wars and special show cases devoted to the Territorial battalions.

The museum is well patronised, approximately 500 visitors each month visiting the building.

Items are still required such as buttons, shoulder titles, written or printed records. The former complete uniforms or show cases and the latter to record everyday happenings in our dear old regiment as well as incidents of historical interest. All is right nothing is looked upon as rubbish. Our pride remains even if as a separate regiment we have ceased to exist. This recalls a remark by Gen Kent, a veteran of the Crimea who was Colonel of the Regiment when I joined it. He said, 'It is glorious to be an Englishman. It is better to be an English soldier. But above all should he be proud to wear that little bit of Red and Yellow'.

DICK SMITH

LETTERS

Wm McGachie, MM,
14-15 Dumberdykes Road,
Edinburgh EH8 9UR.

May 6, 1976

Secretary,
Middlesex Regimental Association

Dear Sir,

I understand that the Annual Reunion of your Regiment is taking place on May 15, and with so many old Comrades you may be able to answer an incident that happened over 30 years ago, the memory has been with me all these years, as you no doubt know one of your battalions was serving with the 51st (H) Div during the second World War and the debt Scotland owes to the magnificent Vickers Gunners can never be repaid. During the Tunisian Campaign, I was serving as Platoon Commander in the Battle of Wade Cukari with the 5th Seaforths, it was the hardest action I ever took part in. My Platoon reached our objective but due to heavy casualties and a strong counter attack we were forced to withdraw, and on our way back I met a Sergeant of the Middlesex standing by his gun all alone, wearing a greatcoat because it was a cold morning. I stopped and spoke to him and offered to help him carry the gun and ammo back with us, but his reply took me aback 'I have no order to withdraw so here I remain', there he was calmly putting a belt through the gun and awaiting the enemy, who was he? Did he survive? Was he decorated? All these years I have thought about this gallant Englishman, because late in the afternoon we went back up that hill, the gun was gone hundreds of empty cases littered the area there was no trace of our friend. Possibly someone can solve this incident and I would be very grateful to know the outcome. My very best wishes to the 'Die-Hards' and I hope you have a very successful evening.

Yours respectfully,
WM MCGACHIE, MM.

Edward Smith,
The Royal British Legion,
Maurice House,
Westgate-on-Sea,
Kent CT8 8NN.

To: Maj A. E. F. Waldron April 29, 1976

Dear Sir,

I write to ask for details of Reunion of Middlesex Regiment at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2.

I was in the 3rd Bn Middlesex Regt serving under Col Miller who was made Brig Gen and Maj Lyons, taking over command of Regiment. I was with the Battalion two years and eight months, holding the Struma Line before transferring along the line towards Pette Coromi, where there were some fierce fighting and my Regiment captured a Fort made of solid rock and we were bombarded night and day, we were being driven crazy with the blasting of the

shell on solid road and of being a company stretcher bearer with three other stretcher bearers went out and brought them back. Eventually the rest of the division came in line with us and we all went forward with the Greek Army and drove the enemy in retreat and eventually the enemy surrendered and that war was the beginning of the end of the war.

Eventually the 3rd Middlesex Regt was detailed to take over Turkey, and we embarked, went through the Dardanelles and took over Constantine now Callesstambul. We had a great reception as we marched through with fixed bayonets. The inhabitants went crazy packed with people on top of houses. As we marched through we could hear shouts of English voices shouting God Bless you Boys. We arrived at some big hotel and on the opposite side was the German Army.

Eventually they suddenly went away and the next morning we were to find that they had suddenly left in darkness at night.

I received a pension on leaving the Army. I had a good job as a manager with J. Sears. Eventually, I had to go to Chelsea for examinations and I got a bit fed up constantly being examined. I told them I felt quite alright as it was interfering with my work and my pension came to an end.

I have not had a recurrence of Malaria fever and therefore I thought I was taking money I was not entitled.

I was able to concentrate on my work but one day I went down bang and was sent to the National Hospital, Queens Square. I was three years under Doctor Critchly. I had a wife and two little children

and I could feel myself slipping out of this life and the doctor said three words to me, Faith, Perseverance and Courage, I was so hurt by these three words that I did not go again to see him for six months, when he saw me he asked me where I had been. I told him the words he had said to me had stung me to the quick. He told me he had to say those words to pull me together.

I have not been to see him since. My firm gave me a good job without any responsibility. I retired at 65 and had four good years with the wife with what money I had saved. She passed away in 1970 and I was left alone.

Life became very lonely therefore I got my doctor to get me into the Royal British Legion and I have been here now for four years. My room mate and I were the two lucky ones to be chosen by the Not Forgotten Association to go to France for four days and we had a lovely time abroad.

I am now 84 and the home I am in is one of the best and well looked after. Now my whole idea of writing this letter to you is to find out if there are any of my comrades who served in the 3rd Middlesex out East. I would be very pleased if so to hear from them. If there is any living near the Royal British Legion who can give me a lift to London I will gladly accept.

It is a lovely day here but have been quite content to stay in and write this letter to you. I go for walks along the seaford.

Mr Jones, OBE, is our Chairman.

Yours respectfully,
EDWARD SMITH

OBITUARY

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

AYSCOUGH—On January 9, 1976, Maj Edwin Samuel Maurice Ayscough, aged 76 years. He was appointed to a Regular Commission in the Regiment on December 20, 1918. He was then promoted to Lieutenant on December 20, 1918; to Captain on April 4, 1935; and to Major on August 1, 1938. He served with the 1st and 2nd Bns and retired on March 11, 1944.

He was in possession of the Defence Medal and War Medal 1939-45.

CAREY—On December 15, 1975, ex-Sgt Charles S. Carey (L/14097 and 6188873), aged 86 years. The passing of Charles Carey sees another of the 4th Bn defenders of Obourg Station of August 23, 1914, join the Great Majority. Charles enlisted into the Regiment on May 25, 1912, and he had already passed his 23rd birthday. Completing his recruit training at Mill Hill, he was posted to the 4th Bn and in June 1913 was appointed Lance Corporal in 'H' Coy. In October 1913 the four company system known as 'Double Companies' to the old soldiers—was introduced to the Regular Battalions on the Home Establishment and 'H' Coy and 'D' Coy became one. One of the NCOs of the Scout Section of 'D' Coy was Lcpl Carey. Scouts at this time were specialists and wore a distinctive badge. On scouting patrol at Obourg on August 22, 1914, Sgt Carey saw a Uhlan patrol and reported this fact to his Company Commander Capt 'Gussy' Glass, Commanding 'D' Coy. It is quite possible that this was the first sighting of the enemy by a man of the Regiment. During the Battle of Mons, August 23, 1914, Sgt Charles Carey was wounded whilst commanding a Section of 15 Platoon 'D' Coy, and with his Company Commander, also wounded was made a prisoner-of-war by the enemy who treated them with deserved respect. During his incarceration from 1914, he was an example of the typical good British NCO, looking after the welfare of his fellow prisoners especially the much younger men who were captured in 1917 and 1918. Being respected and trusted by the German prisoners-camp authorities, he was able to explain transgressions and obtain lighter punishments for the turbulent characters that are always to be found among young and angry company. One of these very young soldiers Noel Peters of the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion, met Charles whilst on a pilgrimage to Mons in 1973, the first time they had seen each other since 1918, when the experienced NCO helped the distressed soldier with advice and practical actions. It was a touching reunion and one to give pride to we of the Regiment who witnessed it. On return to England Sgt Carey was at Mill Hill when volunteers were called for to form No 1 Special Coy to fight in North Russia.

Charles served in Northern Russia from April until October 1919—when he returned home and was posted to the 3rd Bn. With the 3rd Bn he served in Germany where he was the Sergeant Instructor of Musketry in Cologne until the Battalion was disbanded in August 1922 under the Geddes Axe. As a qualified Musketry Instructor, he was posted to the Black Watch, The Royal Highlanders at Perth and with this regiment served in India at Multan where he later transferred to the Auxiliary Forces India as an instructor to the Simla Rifles. In December 1931 he opted to be discharged with a modified pension and quietly ended his days at Canvey Island. He lived the life of a good and God fearing man, who had earned the respect of his comrades in peace, in war and in adversity.

COPE—On November 15, 1975, Lt Harry Douglas Cope, aged 92 years. Harry Cope was one of the eager volunteers who flocked to the Colours on the outbreak of war in 1914, enlisting in the then forming second line battalion of the 8th Bn (TF). His regimental number in the 2/8th Bn was TF/3154, his date of enrolment being September 12, 1914. In February 1915 he sailed to Gibraltar, with the Battalion to relieve the 1/8th who were to join the BEF in France. The following July the 2/8th Bn also joined the BEF in France where he served in the trenches until November 1915. Recalled to the UK, he was disturbed at the thought he had committed a military transgression, only to find on his arrival that he had been selected for training for a commission. He attended a course at the School of Young Officers, Colchester, until December 15, 1915, when he was gazetted and posted to the 10th Bn, the Border Regt and later to the 7th Bn, Border Regt with whom he went to France once more on Empire Day 1916. At Delville Wood, on August 7, 1916, he was severely wounded in the right arm, and brought in by a young soldier with whom he remained in contact until the latter's decease. After hospital treatment and convalescence which ended in January 1917, he was posted to the 74th Reserve Bn at Pries Heath, Shropshire, with whom he served until December 1917, when he joined the 1st Home Service (Garrison) Bn, The Royal Munster Fusiliers. A month later he became a member of No 1 (T) Wireless School, Farnborough, and attached to the Royal Flying Corps. He was transferred to 105 Sqn The Royal Air Force in August 1918 serving with them in Ireland until demobilised at Galway on March 27, 1919. Harry Cope, although he rarely left the house due to his infirmities was mentally alert until the end. A member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Association, he corresponded frequently, and last attended a regimental ceremony on Remembrance Sunday at Edgware five years ago, when the great pride he had in our Regiment was obvious to all.

GOULDING—On January 27, 1976, ex-Bdsm Maurice John Goulding, aged 62 years. He enlisted into the Regiment as a Boy at Mill Hill on August 23, 1927. He served with the Band of the 1st Bn at Catterick, Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was posted to the Home Establishment in 1938 and joined the Band of the 2nd Bn. He served in France with the 2nd Bn and was evacuated from Dunkirk. He was discharged at Mill Hill in 1945.

'Mog', as he was known by all Bandsmen, was an accomplished clarinet and saxophone player and won first-class honours in Greater London. An engineer in civilian life, he lived in Essex until recently moving to Greater Peterborough.

GRIFFITHS—On March 3, 1976, ex-Pte Cecil Griffiths (TF/3660) aged 80 years. Cecil Griffiths enlisted into the 3/7th Bn (TF) on February 15, 1915, joining the 1/7th Bn in the line in November 1916. With this battalion, he took part in the Battle of Arras on Easter Monday, April 9, 1917, and was with the 2nd Battalion at Villers-Bretonaux in April 1918 and the Hisne in May 1918. At the latter battle he was made a POW by the Germans. He was discharged in March 1919 becoming a member of the 1/7th Bn Dining Club, who met annually until the last two years. He was also a member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club since early 1971, joining in the pilgrimage to Mons and Lille. Frail health had kept him housebound for the last three years, but he remained in touch by correspondence until his decease. He was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal for his service, in World War I and the Defence Medal for his services with the Home Guard in World War II.

HEAVENS—On February 13, 1976, ex-Lcpl William Charles Heavens, aged 77 years. He served in the Regiment from April 12, 1915, until June 27, 1918. He was admitted to Chelsea Hospital on September 26, 1966, and was a Sergeant In Pensioner. He was a staunch Diehard and was a regular attender at Regimental functions.

He was in possession of the following medals: 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory Medals. He bequeathed these to the Regimental Museum.

LLOYD—On April 19, 1976, ex-Pte George Lloyd. He enlisted into the Regiment in 1926 and was posted to the 1st Bn at Aldershot. He later joined the 2nd Bn in India, serving in Ahmadnagar, Madras and Khartoum, returning to the UK in 1931. He was transferred to the Reserve in 1933. Recalled to the Colours in 1939 and, after various duties in London, was posted to the 1/7th Bn and served with them throughout the desert campaign. He was discharged in 1945.

MAYALL—On March 5, 1975, ex-Pte Charles Cecil Mayall (PW/5049) aged 81. Charles Mayall was one of the volunteers who enrolled under the Derby Scheme which was introduced at the end of 1915. All men between 18 and 41 were invited to enlist. The volunteers who attested were technically soldiers who after enrolling were sent home wearing the 'Derby Armllet' a khaki brassard on which was sewn a crown in red cloth. They were available to be called to the colours in groups beginning with the younger unmarried men. One of the earliest to be called was Charles Mayall, who was posted to the 18th (Service Bn (First Public Works Pioneers)), one of the 'Navvies' bns raised by Col John Ward, MP. He was in France until October 1916 when he was wounded joining the 6th (Special Reserve) Bn at Chatham. From the 6th Bn he was posted to the 21st (Islington) Bn, joining them in the line in December 1916, serving with them until transferred to the 2nd Bn, by this time under the command of the boyish-looking Lt Col E. E. F. Baker and in the same company of that redoubtable fighting man Sgt J. J. Hickman, who won three DCMs and two MMIs in addition to having also been mentioned twice in despatches. With the 2nd Bn, Charles ended his war in the last raid made by the Battalion before the Armistice. To his last days he would recall the words of his Commanding Officer prior to the attack, 'Sorry boys, it's got to be done'. A member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Association he kept in touch by correspondence after his health began to fail which prevented him attending in person.

MOUTRE—On December 21, 1975, ex-Lcpl (Drummer) William F. Moutre, DCM (TF/625 and 200014) aged 87 years. Bill Moutre enlisted into the 7th Bn (TF) on December 1, 1908, remaining with the battalion throughout his service. He served in Gibraltar until the battalion joined the British Expeditionary Force in France in March 1915. The story of Bill Moutre is covered by the story of the 7th Bn, he being a typical volunteer soldier of this generation of fine patriotic men. Of a helpful disposition, he was showing a newcomer to the trenches how to fire through a peephole when a bullet from a rifle came through which took off part of one of Bill's eyebrows and scored a mark along his forehead. The award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal was for his Gallantry on August 25, 1915, when he rescued a comrade under heavy rifle fire, carrying the man on his back as he ran for the cover of the parapet. This was one of a number of times he had rescued his comrades. The citation reads 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as a stretcher-bearer; he brought in many wounded under heavy fire'. On December 1, 1915, he re-engaged for a further four years on the duration of the war, and was given a short leave to England. March 2, 1916, saw him busy back in the trenches, when he was appointed Drummer and his pay increased by one penny a day to 11 pence per day. Discharged on the disbandment of the Territorial Force in February 1918, he retained contact with his comrades even when he moved to

Newark, where he was a Pitman's Certificated Teacher. Attending the Dinners of the 7th Bn 1914-18 Dining Club as long as he was physically able it was to his great delight that he chaired the last meeting he was able to attend, an honour of which he was very proud. In the early hours of Sunday morning December 21, his son who had travelled from Kent to take him home for Christmas heard a noise and by the time he reached the bedroom, Bill was on the floor and dead. His death was due to aortic aneurism and so a gallant Territorial soldier joined the brave in Vallallah.

NEWTON—On April 18, 1976, Elsie, widow of the late Maj W. C. Newton.

OVERTON—On April 19, 1976, ex-Sgt William John Overton (L/13624 and 6188488) aged 81 years. 'Bob' Overton enlisted into The Middlesex Regt in June 1911, after having served in the Special Reserve Bn of the Bedford Regt. After recruit training at Mill Hill, he joined the 2nd Bn in October 1911 and sailed for Malta on *HT Soudan* On September 3, 1913. On the outbreak of war in 1914, he returned home and sailed to join the BEF in Flanders in time to be awarded the 1914 Star and clasp. On March 10, 1915, when the 2nd Bn attacked at Neuve Chapelle, he was blown skyhigh and cussed, an injury which caused him agony all his life. After discharge from hospital, he served with the 8th (TF) Bn until the end of the war. In 1919 he was posted to the 4th Bn and with them served in Gibraltar and Egypt. When this battalion was disbanded under the Geddes Axe in 1922, he was posted to the 1st Bn with whom he served until December 1931 when the battalion left for foreign service in relief of the 2nd Bn on completion of their foreign service which had commenced in 1913, when Bob had sailed with them to Malta. He then rejoined his old bn remaining with them until he was discharged to pension in June 1932. During the last six years of his service he was an excellent Provost Sergeant with both battalions and the Depot. His understanding, kind but firm manner preventing Military offences instead of causing an apprehension of offenders. After discharge to pension he enrolled as a member of the Territorial Army joining a Royal Engineers Searchlight Unit at Chelmsford, where in addition to being a Lewis Gun Instructor he was Assistant Armourer Sergeant. He served with the TA until 1937, when he retired due to reaching the age limit. Too old for service in 1939 on the outbreak of World War II he immediately enrolled in the formation of the LDV later the Home Guard in 1940 and continued to serve with the 21st Bn Middlesex Home Guard until Stand Down in 1945. This service gave him the Defence Medal to add to his 1914 Star and clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal he already had. For many years, Bob attended every regimental function and parade, recording numerous incidents with his camera. He was a keen amateur photographer and developer with an instinct for popping up at the right moment to record an

interesting moment for posterity. This kind man will be missed by many of his contemporaries who enjoyed his nice company as well as his subtle sense of humour.

PARKER—On January 25, 1976, in hospital, Sybil Margaret (Peg), wife of Lt Col F. Gordon Parker.

PEAKE—On January 1, 1976, ex-Drummer Charles Algernon Peake (TF/2647) aged 80 years. Charles Peake, whose home in 1914 was in Bowes Park enlisted into the 2/7th (TF) on its formation on September 5, 1914, the day after it opened for recruiting. Enlisting at Hornsey, he completed his training at Barnet and Egham in Windsor Great Park where there were only 50 rifles to be shared by the recruits! He sailed with the battalion for Gibraltar on the 'Grantly Castle' on February 1, 1915, reaching The Rock on February 7, where the battalion relieved the 1/7th Bn en-route for France. In August 1915 he landed at Alexandria, moving on to the Citadel, Cairo. In December he was at Mersa Matruh, moving on to Sollum during the campaign against Serussi. On May 8, 1916, he embarked for France on the *Saxonia*, being camped at La Valente a day before Albuhera Day. From La Valente he was entrained for Rouen, where to his and his comrades dismay the Battalion was disbanded, the lucky ones being posted to the 1/7th Bn whilst other were posted to other Territorial units recruited from the Metropolis. Charlie was posted to the 9th (County of London) Bn, The London Regt (Queen Victoria Rifles) in July 1916, being given the regimental number 393816 and joining the unit on the Somme. He remained with this unit until the Territorial Force was disbanded at the end of the war. A member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club, he was a regular attender at all ceremonies and meetings until ill-health prevented him leaving his home.

PROCTOR—On December 23, 1975, Brig Neville Phillips Proctor, CBE, MC, aged 81. Neville Proctor was born in Kensington, the son of Col A. H. Proctor, JP. He was educated at Marlborough College and at Keble College, Oxford, where he graduated as BA. He was also a member of the Regular Rugby and Cricket teams at Marlborough. The outbreak of war in August 1914 saw an expansion of our Territorial Force, causing the formation of a second battalion to our 10th (TF) Bn in September 1914, one of the newly commissioned young officers being Neville Proctor whose commission as 2Lt, was dated September 18, 1914. With this battalion he served in Gallipoli from August 8, 1915, until Christmas Day of that year. In 1916 the Egyptian Expeditionary Force formed ready for the campaign against the Turks in Palestine. Neville Proctor took to the field again in March 1916 and on August 29, 1916, was pointed T/Captain. He continued to serve with the Battalion being wounded and awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry on November 11, 1917, at the Third Battle of Gaza when this citadel fell to the victorious British Forces. In February 1918,

he was seconded to the 21st Punjabis with whom he served until the last day of October, when he left Palestine for home. Posted to the 1st Bn in 1919, he resumed the rank of Lieutenant and was appointed Adjutant of the Battalion on March 18, 1920, holding this appointment until March 16, 1923. During his term of office, he had been promoted Captain on April 1, 1921, and had also written and published a short account of the Battalions activities in Germany, Silesia, Dover, Ireland and Aldershot. From March 1, 1924, to January 23, 1927, he was Adjutant to the 9th Bn (TA) rejoining the 1st Bn and serving with it in China from January 29, 1927, until October 15, 1927, when it was part of the Shanghai Defence Force. He then joined the 2nd Bn in India and appointed Adjutant August 3, 1929, serving in this office in India, Sudan and Colchester, relinquishing it on August 2, 1932. Appointed Major (Brevet) on January 1, 1934, he became the first Commandant of The Recruit Physical Development Depot, turning undeveloped but willing youngsters into physically fit and keen young soldiers. During his period as Commandant he was appointed Brevet Lieutenant Colonel on July 1, 1938. In April 1939 he was transferred to the South Lancashire Regt and served with the BEF from October 1939 until February 1940, when he was appointed to command the 2nd Bn South Lancashire Regt. On March 21, 1941, he was appointed A Brigadier and as Brigade Commander served in Iceland until August 20, 1942. His periods of Command as Brigade Commander were as follows: 146 Inf Bde 31.4.41 to 21.1.44; 164 Inf Bde 11.2.44 to 9.8.44; 209 Inf Bde 10.8.44 to 30.8.44; and 135 Inf Bde 1.9.44 to 13.2.45.

From February 2, 1945, to December 19, 1945, he was Deputy Commander of 45th Div. In 1944 he was created a Commander of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. In March 1946 he was employed with the Royal West African Frontier Force and commanded Sierra Leone and Gambia District from March 28, 1946, until February 20, 1949, when he returned to the UK and retired from the service on retired pay June 18, 1949. On leaving the service he became General Manager of Securicor Ltd and, on resigning, interested himself in Youth movements with Hants Association of Boys Clubs and later with Hants Association of mixed clubs and Girls Clubs. After retirement he was a well-known and popular resident of Fleet. A Memorial Service was held at All Saints Church, Fleet, Hants, on January 27, 1976. The following members of the Regiment attended, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB; Maj Gen G. P. L. Weston, CB, CBE, DSO; Lt Col and Mrs J. R. B. Worton, Mrs Norman Claydon; Maj G. C. Dawson; Maj J. I. D. Pike, MC; and Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE.

ROBERTS—On April 28, 1976, Lt Col William Lewis Roberts, CBE, MC, aged 84 years. He was commissioned into the Regiment on November 12, 1915, and retired April 14, 1934. He was recalled for service in 1939 and was granted the Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel on August 27, 1945. The funeral was private, no letters or flowers.

WALDEN—On January 17, 1976, Col Frank Walden, MBE, DL, aged 76 years. An appreciation of Col 'Fanny' written by a senior officer of the Regiment with whom he served at home and abroad will be found in the Newsletter. This contribution gives brief details of his military services. Frank Walden was born at Henley-on-Thames which gave him a love of the river and its sports which remained with him all his life. After serving as a Gentleman Cadet, Royal Military College, he was appointed to a Regular Commission as Second Lieutenant in The Middlesex Regt, August 21, 1918. He joined the BEF in France on October 27, 1918. This period until the signing of the Armistice on November 11, caused him to declare that he was awarded a medal for every week of his war service in World War I. Three days after the Armistice he joined the 24th (Sportsman's) Bn The Royal Fusiliers to which he stayed until he was appointed Assistant Adjutant on January 3, 1919, holding this appointment until joining the 5th (Reserve) Bn The Middlesex Regt at Clipstone Camp on July 14, 1919. Joining the 1st Bn, August 15, 1919, he was promoted Lieutenant on February 21, 1920, and with the Battalion joined the British Army of the Rhine on March 16, 1921, until returning to the UK on April 23, 1923. On August 21 following, he was seconded for service with the Iraq Levies with whom he served until the last day of March 1926. The next day he embarked for India to join the 2nd Bn in Ahmednagar and appointed Adjutant on August 3, holding this appointment until the same date in 1929. On February 15, 1930, he returned to the UK and was posted to Mill Hill as a member of the Depot Staff until rejoining the 2nd Bn on the same date in 1932. He was promoted Temporary Captain in the Territorial Army and seconded for service as Adjutant to the 7th Bn (TA) on September 1, 1932, being promoted Captain on the Regular List, April 4, 1934. Rejoining the Regular establishment on November 25, 1936, he was posted to the 1st Bn then serving in Singapore on February 5, 1937, and with them moved to Hong Kong on August 20 that year. Appointed Adjutant October 24, 1937, and promoted Major August 8, 1938. He returned to the UK on October 8, 1939, and posted to the Machine Gun Training Centre. Joining the 1st Bn Kensington Regt (part of the Middlesex Regt) on March 4, 1940, as 2IC he joined the BEF in France a month later, being evacuated with the remnants of this battalion on June 13, 1940. Posted as Commanding Officer of the 2/8th Bn, he continued in command when the Battalion was reconstituted as the 1st Bn of the Regt on May 28, 1942, to take the place of the old 1st Bn lost in Hong Kong. He was appointed Umpire Grade 'A' Eastern Command on March 11, 1944, retaining this appointment until joining 51st Highland Div as GSO1 (Liaison) on May 5, 1944, embarking with this Division for North-West Europe on June 3, 1944. Returning to the UK on October 1 he was posted as Chief Instructor and 2IC Small Arms School and the Infantry Heavy Weapons School, Netheravon, and whilst holding this appointment was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in June 2, 1945, having been T/Lieutenant Colonel since January 24, 1941. On termination of his

employment as Chief Instructor he was posted to the 2nd Bn in Palestine as Commanding Officer on April 11, 1947. Appointed Temporary Colonel January 25, 1948, he was on the same date appointed 21C 10th Inf Bde British Groups, Greece. Two months later, on April 4, 1948, he was appointed to Command Rafah Sub-District, Egypt, and appointed Temporary Brigadier on June 4, 1948. Holding the same rank, he was appointed Temporary Commander of 3rd Inf Bde, Egypt, relinquishing this rank when appointed DDPL, HQ British Troops in Egypt in October 1948. Returning to the UK on March 3, 1950, he was appointed Commandant, Arab Training Centre, Jordan, on May 12, 1950, and continued to serve with the Jordan Forces on his retirement on January 1, 1953, until 1956, and for his services was awarded the Jordanian Order of Instiklal, the personal award of King Hussein. But for the change in Jordanian policy he was earmarked to become successor to Glub Pasha. His appointments as Adjutant gave him the record of holding this office for longer than any other officer in the Regiment in the modern formation. On return to England he was for a short period employed as

officer IC Married Quarters in the London District, until employed as ROII at RHQ and as Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association. Col Walden was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex in 1963 and was gazetted as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the New Year Honours List, January 1, 1971.

WHITCOMBE—On February 12, 1976, ex-WO2 (CSM) Albert Ernest Whitcombe, MBE, aged 77 years. He enlisted in the Regiment on April 13, 1921, and served until October 25, 1952. He served with the 1st and 2nd Bns and was in 1937 PS. to 'B' Coy 7th Bn. During the 1939-45 war he served with the 7th Bn in the desert campaign. He was a very popular member of the Regiment and known to all as 'Doc'. After leaving the service he became caretaker of the Drill Hall at Enfield but had to leave when the Drill Hall closed down.

He was in possession of the following medals: MBE, 1939-45 Star, Italy Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.