



# The Die-Hards

## NEWSLETTER

No. 41

JUNE 1979

PRICE 25p

*President:* Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

*Chairman:* Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

*Vice-Chairman:* Col I. D. Brotherton, TD DL

*Secretary and Editor:* Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE.

### EDITORIAL

YOUR SECRETARY AND EDITOR RETIRED ON JUNE 27, 1979. HE WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT ALL REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS AS IN THE PAST. HE WILL OPERATE FROM HOME AND ALL FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED—Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Secretary Middlesex Regimental Association, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE. Telephone Stelling Minnis 445.

### FORECAST OF EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Oct 2	Middlesex Regt Golfing Society Autumn Meeting, North Hants Golf Club
Oct 5	2/7th Bn Annual Dinner at Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2
Oct 21	Attendance at Church Parade Royal Hospital, Chelsea
Nov 10	Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall and Westminster Abbey
Nov 11	1000 hours—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by Reunion at TAVR Centre, Edgware
	1045 hours—7th Bn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Hornsey Parish Church followed by Reunion at Hornsey Drill Hall
	1500 hours—2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick

### BENEVOLENT CASES

(a) During the period January 1 to December 31, 1978 the sum of £3,080.97 was spent in assisting 76 members of the Regiment. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £587.00.

(b) During the period January 1 to June 30, 1979, the sum of £1,070.22 was spent in assisting 26 members of the Regiment. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £410.00.

### DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

(a) The Lilley Benevolent Trust has again donated £200.00 to the Regiment and in accordance with the Trusts wishes £100.00 has been credited to the Regimental Association Fund and £100.00 to the 9th Bn Regimental Museum Fund to be held for maintaining and/or acquiring exhibits for their display in the Regimental Museum.

(b) From Maj G. D. Paterson the sum of £50.00 for credit to the Charitable Fund.

### SWANSEA CENOTAPH

A donation of £10.00 was made to the Cenotaph Committee to assist with the resiting of their War Memorial. A number of names of men of the Middlesex Regt are inscribed on this memorial. The Buffs, Queen's Surreys and Royal Sussex also made a donation of £10.00.

### DONATIONS TO CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Charitable Fund from: Mr E. J. Bermingham, Maj F. H. Blackburn, Mr A. Chant, Mr A. G. W. Cooper, Mr B. A. Crawley, Sir Hildreth Glyn-Jones, Maj L. F. E. Nicholls, Capt J. R. Riseley, Mr H. F. Stillwell, Mr S. Stinton, Maj M. Wild, MBE, Mr A. Wraith.



## BOB RYDER, VC

Bob Ryder, VC, who died on December 1, 1978, aged 82 years, served with the 12th Bn The Middlesex Regt during the 1914-18 World War. Two days after the outbreak of war he had joined the Royal Sussex Regt but was posted to the Middlesex Regt. Bob Ryder won his Victoria Cross on September 26, 1916, at Thiepval whilst serving with the 12th Bn The Middlesex Regt.

The official citation which appeared in the *London Gazette* of March 25th, 1917 reads:

'His Company was held up by heavy rifle fire and all his officers had become casualties. For want of leadership the attack was flagging. Private Ryder realising the situation, without a moments thought for his own safety, dashed absolutely alone at the enemy trench and, by skilful manipulation of his Lewis Gun, succeeded in clearing the trench. This very gallant act not only made possible, but greatly inspired, the subsequent advance of his comrades but turned a possible failure into success.'

He was the holder of eight war medals, including the Italian equivalent of the Victoria Cross, awarded in 1917 after he had swam the Piav river under the eyes of the enemy when on patrol.

As an Army boxer he fought 15 rounds with the former featherweight champion Jimmy Wilde.

His heroism was recognised in many unusual ways. He was the model for the statue of a soldier at the Middlesex Guildhall and his portrait appeared in a series of cigarette cards of the First World War.

Bob Ryder was buried at St Mary's Church, Harefield, Middlesex, on December 11, 1978. The Queen's Regt Divisional Depot provided a bugler to sound Last Post and Reveille and a Sgt and six Cpls to act as bearers. They were absolutely first class and a credit to our successors, The Queen's Regt. So passed the last surviving holder of the Victoria Cross who served with the Middlesex Regt.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow Edna, who was his third wife, three daughters, three sons (two of whom served in the Regiment) and 14 grandchildren.

The funeral was attended by Lt Col T. W. Chatter, OBE, President, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Secretary, Col M. H. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL, representing our TA Bns, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, Maj J. E. Pinfold, ERD, Mr D. R. Bennett, Mr N. Peters, Mr P. Maloney, Mr A. H. Parrott and Mr Rogers.

The medals of Bob Ryder, VC, have been presented by his widow to the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1, and the medals went on display on June 15, 1979.



Bob Ryder, VC, laid to rest by members of The Queen's Regt.

## FREE NEWSLETTER

The Editor wishes to thank the following members for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of the *Diehards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades: Mr J. (Lofty) Baker, Mr C. F. Baldwin, Maj W. H. Bean, Maj F. H. Blackburn, Mr C. C. Bradish, Mr A. J. Briggs, Mr C. T. Bull, Mr R. R. Chaplin, Mr H. J. Chillery, Maj J. G. Chiverall, Mr C. J. Cox, Mr R. J. Cubitt, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, MBE, Maj P. Donovan, MBE, Lt E. C. Graham, Mrs R. Green (widow of Capt R. F. Green), Mr F. G. Gurney, Mr G. C. Higgins, Mr R. H. Johns, Mr W. E. Lockyer, Mr P. F. Maloney, Mr K. J. Mankelaw, Mr J. M. Mannering, Maj G. Mason, MBE, Mr K. Partridge, Maj A. W. F. Peal, Mr L. T. Plumb, Capt J. R. Riseley, Lt Col E. P. Shanks, CBE, QC, Mr M. H. Short, MM, Mr Ron Smith (ex-RAOC, HK), Mr E. J. Soden, Mr E. Seward, Mr A. E. Tuthill, Maj M. Wild, MBE, Mr L. Woodman, Mr S. R. Woolner.

## ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Service of Remembrance took place in the Regimental Memorial Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, May 12, 1979, at 2.30pm. The Service was conducted by the Archdeacon of London, the Rev Frank Harvey, assisted by the Rev Samuel Curt, Succentor of St Paul's and the Rev P. L. Pearce Gould. The Service was well attended and enjoyed by all. At the end of the Service the organist played the Regimental March which I regret to say was unrecognisable.

## ANNUAL REUNION

The Annual Reunion was held on Saturday, May 12, 1979, at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2, from 7pm to 11pm.

A total of 280 attended and a splendid evening was held. It was good to see a number of Old Comrades attending for the first time and I hope not the last.

## OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The Officers Club Dinner was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1, on Friday, May 11, 1979.

This year a break with old customs was made by inviting wives. This proved to be a popular innovation and a very entertaining and successful evening was held. It was so successful that members asked for it to be repeated in 1980.

Official guests present were:

Maj Gen R. S. N. Mans and Mrs Mans, Colonel The Queen's Regt.

In accordance with our usual custom the nearest relatives of former officers were invited as guests and the following were present:

Mrs M. Bower, widow of Maj G. A. H. Bower, Mrs M. Crawford, widow of Col M. Crawford, Mrs F. Jennings, widow of Capt H. J. Jennings, Mrs F. Neal, widow of Capt H. A. Neal, Mrs D. Pike, widow of Maj J. I. D. Pike, Mrs M. Walden, widow of Col F. Walden.

Members present were:

Lt Col T. W. Chattey and Mrs Chattey, President and Chairman, Col I. D. Brotherton and Mrs Brotherton, Vice-Chairman, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton and Mrs Clayton, Col J. N. Shipster and Mrs Shipster, Lt Col G. L. Fox, Lt Col J. C. du Parc Braham, Lt Col E. P. Shanks, Maj R. A. J. Cheffins, Maj W. G. A. Crumley and Mrs Crumley, Capt M. J. S. Doran, Capt M. S. Gedyne and Mrs Gedyne, Maj W. H. Grogan and Mrs Grogan, Maj C. L. Lawrence and Mrs Lawrence, Maj I. M. E. Lloyd and Mrs Lloyd, Maj R. W. J. Smith and Mrs Smith, Capt C. G. Webber and Mrs Webber, Brig B. A. M. Pielow and Mrs Pielow, Col H. J. A. Moore, Col D. R. W. Thomas and Mrs Thomas, Lt Col R. D. Hutchings and Mrs Hutchings, Lt Col J. S. B. Pollard and Mrs Pollard, Maj F. J. Bennett and Mrs Bennett, Maj J. G. Chiverall, Lt J. P. A. Day and Mrs Day, Maj B. K. Finch and Mrs Finch, Lt E. C. Graham, Maj S. L. J. Henshaw, Maj D. V. Littlejohn and Mrs Littlejohn, Maj A. F. Lockwood, Maj A. E. F. Waldron and Mrs Waldron, Maj D. M. W. Young and Mrs Young and two daughters.

## 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 51st Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club was held at the TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey N8, on Thursday, November 9, 1978.

Lt Col J. D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: F/O J. A. Rook, Rev W. S. Shire and Maj R. W. J. Smith.

The following members attended: Lt D. Austin, Maj M. J. Beaumont, 2Lt S. Blausten, Maj H. E. Couch, Capt M. J. S. Doran, 2Lt D. Harwood, Maj S. L. J. Henshaw, Lt F. Holm, Lt S. B. Hurst, Maj R. J. Leighton, Maj M. C. Mercer, Maj E. J. Naish, Lt P. J. Ottino, Capt P. Roberts, Lt Col G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, Lt Col D. E. Simpson, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Capt P. A. Stocken, Maj R. F. Sykes, Col D. R. W. Thomas, Maj F. Webb, Capt G. J. Young and Capt M. Gedyne.

## BROUGHTON HOUSE

Broughton House is an ex-servicemen's home known as 'East Lancs Home for Disabled ex-servicemen', it is a Charity home, situated in Salford two miles from the centre of Manchester. Founded in 1916, the home now takes in any ex-servicemen on a short stay or permanent basis. Admission is determined on medical grounds, and nursing care is supervised by a matron and qualified staff. Disabling need not be from war wounds. Applications from ex-servicemen should be made to: Chief Executive, Broughton House, Park Lane, Salford M7 0JD. (Tel: 061-740 2737.)



## THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

On January 1, 1979, Brig Charles Millman, OBE, was appointed Deputy Colonel of The Regiment vice Brig Roy Coleman.

At RHQ, we have a new Regimental Careers Officer, Maj David Gouda, who took over from Maj Roddy Mellotte on January 12. The latter relieved Maj Jimmy Reid as 'Our man in Denmark' in March.

The 1st Bn (Lt Col John Holman) successfully defended their Army Championship title at Werl on December 20, 1978, by beating 2 LI 8-3. In January next year Maj David Dickens (now Bde Maj 39 Infantry Bde) takes over command. The 2nd Bn (Lt Col Peter Barrow) returns to UK from Gibraltar in the autumn of this year and will be stationed at Colchester.

The 3rd Bn (Lt Col Gavin Bulloch) took over from Lt Col Stuart Anderson in January and departed for Northern Ireland in March on a four month Op Banner tour.

On March 19, Pte Woolmore, aged 21 of London was killed and three other members of the Battalion were wounded during a terrorist mortar attack on a joint Army/Police post in South Armagh.

In the New Years Honours List, Lt Col Cecil West was made a OBE whilst Maj Victor Abplanalp and Buster Carlston received the MBE.

Maj Frank Waldron, one of the ROs at RHQ retires on age in June and we shall welcome, in his place, Maj Dick Waite, previously with the 3rd Bn.

## DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

Although Lt Col Hugh Lohan has now left us we are pleased to welcome Maj Peter Cheeseman as Second in Command. Peter is busy settling in but assures me he will not be desk bound for longer than is necessary.

The number of Diehards serving at the Depot is on the increase. In the last *Newsletter* I mentioned CSM Bob Bartle, who is thriving as a Junior Soldier Platoon Commander.

Sgt Vincent Paul Daly is a training Platoon Sgt in 'B' Coy. He joined the Army at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, in December 1963 and after his initial training was posted to 1 Mx in Gibraltar. He remained with 1 Mx and 4 Queen's until the Battalion was disbanded and was then posted to 3 Queen's, coming to the Depot at the end of last year. He played hockey at Battalion level and was prominent in cross country. He lives in Married Quarters with his wife and three sons. The name 'Busty' Hull will bring back memories to many of our older readers. His son Cpl Christopher Henry Victor Hull is an instructor with the Junior Band and specialises in percussion instruments. Henry or 'Flogger' as he is best known lives with his wife Pauline and six-year-old daughter in Married Quarters. When he is not involved in Band work he delights in instructing the junior bandsmen in the art of sailing.

Cpl Peter Beadley is a staunch member of the QMs staff. He joined 1 Mx in 1961 and was for many years a member of the Assault Pioneer Platoon. Peter has recently been promoted to Cpl. In addition to his work as Equipment storeman he is the Unit Projectionist.

Maj Carl Blackwell has now finished his military service and has just started a new career in the Metropolitan Police.

In the last *Newsletter* I mentioned that an 'Open Day' would be held in Bassingbourn Barracks on July 7. Unfortunately this has had to be cancelled. Very best wishes to Diehards everywhere.

Capt Ken Beale

## 9th BN THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

I was intending to write a few words on the state of the country and of the recent strikes we have been subjected to lately, but hearing of the splendid news of a new government elected and their policies, this has given me a more optimistic view for the future so I may keep these words for a later date. One thing that 'go slow' attitude of some postal workers, prevented many of our members from getting their letters re our dinner and in some cases hinder their arrangements so stopping them attending the dinner.

Our Dinner and Reunion was successful, least, we have not received any complaints. We shall have another dinner next year about the same period of time and the same venue as this year. Those present at the Dinner were as follows: Col H. W. W. Gray (Chairman), Lt Col G. L. Fox, Maj R. Elson and D. V. Littlejohn, Messrs K. G. R. Anderson, G. Arrowsmith, T. R. Bennett, H. A. Burroughs, Archie Brown, G. R. Cadogan-Ogg, H. G. Edwards, G. Goldstraw, D. H. Goodman, H. W. Kent, C. H. Jones, H. A. Lane, W. E. Lockyer, P. Maloney, R. T. Meers, S. J. Meadows, K. Pedlar, E. J. Frendall and S. R. Woolner. Some of the members were accompanied by their wives and friends. Our guests were the Chairman, Secretary and Curator of Museum of the Association accompanied by their wives making a total of 50 all told. Two members Tom Barton and Will Heath after sending for tickets were unable to attend through circumstances beyond their control.

A nice number of members sent along their contributions and donations and their regrets for non attendance. They were all acknowledged and we are grateful.

Just recently I went to St Mary's Church, Harefield, Middx, where our last holder of the Victoria Cross, Bob Ryder is buried. Alongside that area where Bob is buried is the Australian and New Zealand Cemetery of 1914-18. This place has been kept in very fine condition. Each year on Anzac Day a service is held and the children of the local schools place flowers on the graves of the fallen. The Governments of Australia and New Zealand also send their wreaths in remembrance. They were at the foot of the memorial cross when I was there.

At our Albuhera Service at St Paul's Cathedral the ceremony was excellent, with a large number in the congregation. Our Battalion was represented by Lt Col G. L. Fox, Maj R. Elson, Messrs B. J. Askew, Archie Brown, P. Maloney and myself.

It was noticed by many that the Colours of the Regiment hanging in the Baptistry, were identified by the badge of regiment over a small plaque underneath each Colour. This does help visitors and so

enhances the traditions of the Regiment and we are pleased that this has been done.

This great Cathedral has many visitors during the year as portrayed on the day of our Service and so perhaps the Regiment will not be forgotten even though disbanded.

Our best wishes and good health to all members.

R. T. Meers

## 1/7th BATTALION—1939-45

The Annual Reunion of the 1/7th Battalion 1939-45 was held at Hornsey on Saturday, April 28, 1979.

Several guests were present including Lt Col G. L. Fox of the 9th Bn. The 9th Bn were great friends and rivals in the old days when the 7th, 8th and 9th Bns were in the same Brigade. The layout of the tables were first class and it was wonderful to see so much silver on parade. Many thanks to the Officer Commanding the Edgware Company for making this possible. What a pity he could not attend to see all those smiling faces. I was very pleased to see so many of our old officers present, but we would like to see many more of them, so what about it gentlemen. Come and have a drink and a chat with those who served under you, they are still a grand lot of chaps, and would like to see you again. I must take this opportunity of thanking our respected and loved leader Brig B. R. Rackham. Many thanks also, to 'Blanco' White and not forgetting Eddie Johnson for all the hard work they put in to make this first-class reunion. Our dinner next year will be held on Saturday, April 26, 1980, at Hornsey. If any of our members will be in Devon this year or passing through, do drop in to see me. I feel sure I could find a drink for you and your family. 'Blanco' White will I know, let you have my address and telephone number. Looking forward to seeing you all next year. Have a good time, you deserve it.

Rocky Knight

## OFFICERS' SWORDS

There is an urgent requirement for swords and leather scabbards for use, on appropriate occasions, by officers in all three regular battalions of The Queen's Regt. The high cost of these items today (£150) precludes many newly-commissioned officers from purchasing them; certainly, the outfit allowance which they receive on commissioning is quite inadequate to cover such expenditure.

Note—This particularly applies to the three-year Short Service Officer.

The Queen's Regt is now appealing to all retired officers of The Regiment and the former regiments from which it stems, to donate their swords and scabbards to The Regiment so that a 'pool' of these items can be maintained at RHQ for issue on loan to regular battalions.

If any retired officer is willing to present his sword and scabbard for this purpose, would he kindly write to: The Regimental Secretary, RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY, who will be happy to make the necessary arrangements for collecting it.

## THE ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS

This home is primarily intended for elderly widows of WOs, NCOs and soldiers of the Regular Army, married whilst their husbands were serving but it will accept a number of other soldiers' widows when vacancies permit.

To be eligible to enter the home, the widow must be at least 60 years of age, and be passed by the Home's Medical Officer as capable of looking after her room.

The home is at East Molesey, Surrey and consists of two adjoining houses with a connecting wing and gardens. They have lifts, are centrally heated and each has its own dining room and sitting room with television.

Each widow has a furnished bed-sitting room with radiator, electric fire, boiling ring and fitted basin with hot and cold water.

There are Sick Wards with trained nurses in charge, and therefore widows need not leave the home when ill or infirm.

Widows contribute towards their maintenance according to their pension retaining sufficient money for their personal needs.

For further information, application should be made to: The Secretary/Superintendent, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows, 82-84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 9AH. (Tel: 01-979 3788.)

## Peter McRae & COMPANY LIMITED

Life Assurance Consultants  
Insurance and Mortgage Brokers

14-16 West Street, East Grinstead,  
Sussex

Telephone: East Grinstead 25977

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

We make no charges

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



## BOOKS

Mrs Katharine Lohan, the wife of Col Sammy Lohan has written a book 'de Vassart, DA/Q', published by Eureditions, 35 Station Road, Harrow HA1 2UA, priced £3. The author has dedicated the book to The Middlesex Regt (Duke of Cambridge's Own). The cover was designed by her son, Lt Col Hugh Lohan, who commenced his career with the Diehards and is now serving with The Queen's Regt and at present holding a staff appointment as GSO1 (Ex/Plans) UKCICC. Previous to this he commanded the Queen's Divisional Depot. The book is a series of stories about people and the problems they created for the Army. Maj de Vassart is the sort of person people send for when they have problems. These accounts provide a portrait of the man and how he put his individual stamp on the work of a DA/Q.

A splendid book which makes pleasant and amusing reading.

## MONTGOMERY STATUE FUND

Since the death of Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein two years ago, a number of church windows and plaques have been dedicated to him in various parts of the United Kingdom. There have now been calls for a suitable memorial in London. We believe that the most suitable place for an outdoor memorial to 'Monty' would be in Whitehall, where on the grass outside the western frontage of the Ministry of Defence there is a superb position for a statue.

So far as we know, Mr Oscar Nemon is the only sculptor to whom the Field Marshal gave sittings in his lifetime. Mr Nemon has already cast a small statue of the Field Marshal in bronze, and this would be the basis for a larger model about 9ft high, which would seem to be the right scale for the surroundings.

Official approval has been received and is supported by senior serving officers in the Army, subject to planning permission from the Westminster City Council. A committee has been formed from a group of the Field Marshal's generals and staff officers, with the support of the Field Marshal's son, the present Viscount. It is hoped to unveil the statue early in 1980.

The cost of the statue, together with a sum for further maintenance, will be £30,000. There is to be no charge on public funds. We feel that there are many people from all over the world who would like to make a contribution in memory of a commander who had the capacity to lead a British and Commonwealth army to victory. We feel such a statue would give inspiration not only to those who remember him as a leader who contributed so much to our survival, but would also be an inspiration to future generations. We believe there will be an immediate response in Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan from those who served under him. If donations should be above the required amount, the balance of the money will be given to the Army Benevolent Fund.

Those who feel they would like to contribute should send their donations to the Montgomery Statue Fund, Barclays Bank Ltd, 54 Lombard Street, London EC3. To save postage they will not be individually acknowledged, but a book will be pre-

pared containing the names of the donors and placed in the Imperial War Museum where the Field Marshal's wartime caravans are now exhibited.

*Editor's note*—The Regimental Association made a donation of £25. Former members of the 1/7th Bn made a collection and forwarded a donation. The 1/7th Bn served under the Field Marshal longer than any other unit.

## THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLF SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

A very successful and enjoyable meeting was held at the North Hants Golf Club on April 24. A total of 26 members took part.

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

### Stableford Foursomes

	Points
Mr G. Taylor and Mr T. Jones (Winners Cooper Cup)	30
Capt P. S. Ingham and Mr N. Taylor (Runners-up)	29
Capt R. J. Tarrant and Mr H. Clayden	28
Capt M. S. Gedye and Mr M. Gedye	27
Mr A. G. Torrie and Mr D. Miles	23
Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Lt Col J. R. B. Worton	22
Mr J. Rogers and Mr S. Rogers	20
Mr M. R. T. Walden and Mr A. J. Reide	18
Maj W. G. A. Crumley and Maj H. E. Couch	17
Brig G. Lerwill and Lt Col T. W. Chattey	16
Mr C. Holdford and Mrs N. Holdford	14
Cpl R. Abrahams and Cpl D. Tilley	13
Maj A. Bisset and Mr M. West	11

### Medal Competition—Scratch and Handicap

	Scratch	Handicap	Nett
Mr S. Rogers (Winner Scratch and Transvaal Cup)	92	24	68
Capt M. S. Gedye (Winner Handicap and Darjeeling Cup)	83	9	74
Mr H. Clayden (Runner-up Scratch)	85	9	76
Mr G. Taylor (Runner-up Handicap)	87	13	74
Mr A. G. Torrie	95	18	77
Mr M. R. T. Walden	96	16	80
Maj H. E. Couch	101	21	80
Mr T. Jones	89	8	81
Mr D. Miles	90	8	82
Capt R. J. Tarrant	104	22	82
Cpl D. Tilley	106	24	82
Mr A. J. Reide	100	18	82
Cpl R. Abrahams	97	14	83
Mr M. Gedye	96	11	85
Mr J. Rogers	104	18	86
Lt Col C. N. Clayden	109	22	87
Mr M. West (Divot)	111	20	91
Lt Col T. W. Chattey	NR	12	NR
Mr N. Taylor	NR	12	NR
Capt P. S. Ingham	NR	14	NR
Mr C. Holdford	NR	21	NR
Brig G. Lerwill	NR	24	NR
Maj W. G. A. Crumley	NR	24	NR

Heavy rain caused the last six competitors to desert the course for shelter and so led to a NR card.

Before asking Mrs Jean Clayden to present the prizes, Lt Col Tom Chattey thanked all those present for supporting the meeting and especially those who had travelled long distances: for example Col Aymar Clayton and Brig Godfrey Lerwill from Somerset, Mr and Mrs Dave Miles from Plymouth, Mr Reide from Eastbourne and Cpls Abrahams and Tilley from 3 Queen's Dover. Our number one supporter, Mrs Tossie Worton came during the morning and remained for lunch. Mrs Nora Holdford played well during the morning but rested in the afternoon and was presented with a special prize of two golf balls. Come on you ladies we must not let Nora have all her own way. Regrets were received from Cpl John Shipster, Col Max Summers (who kindly gave a donation towards expenses), Maj Philip Marshall and Col Ian Burrows who has promised to play in the autumn meeting. Mr and Mrs Chilly very kindly visited us in the afternoon.

It was unanimously agreed that the new format of having the foursomes in the morning and pairing competitors in order of arrival was a great success and should be continued. The first appearance of Col Aymar Clayton who came to see what goes on at a Regimental Golf Meeting and who acted as a scorer, was I hope a pleasant surprise. I have since heard from him and he told me that it was a splendid day but that I should have consulted the Almighty regarding the weather. He got wet! This I shall do in the future.

A.E.F.W.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, Tottenham N17.

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

### Photogravure Picture of 'Steady the Drums and Fifes'

The celebrated photogravist, Mr Goupil, in 1902, consented to engrave the picture by Lady Butler, if between 40 and 50 subscribers for Artist's Proof Copies at 5 guineas each was forthcoming. These copies were autographed by Lady Butler and measured 30in by 19in exclusive of the mount. Eventually 47 were bespoke, the 46th by 2Lt Arthur Frederick Skaife, who had joined the 1st Bn at Secunderabad in January 1903. The brass plate on the frame says that this was once the property of Capt Skaife.

Arthur Skaife was a young man of artistic bent whose coloured sketches once adorned the Officers Mess of the 1st Bn, which were lost in Hong Kong after the fall of the fortress in the last war. A promising young subaltern, he was posted to 'K' Coy, or the Light Coy as the Company Commander, the redoubtable Colonel Elgee insisted on calling it when he commanded. He was also a historian and wrote a number of short articles on the 57th. In 1914, he was with the 1st Bn when it went to France, August 10, as 2IC 'B' Coy. His Company Commander, Maj Ross, was appointed a member of the staff of Lord Kitchener's Army, the command of the company therefore devolving on Capt Skaife.

Present at the Battles of Mons, the Marne and the Aisne, it was at La Boutillerie he was killed on November 1, 1914. At this time, the area was infested by German snipers, and it was by a sniper's bullet he was killed whilst visiting his soldiers in their trenches. He was buried in a field only 400 yards from the German line, the Rev Webb Peplow buried him by the Soldier's graves at 0pm. He was the 10th officer of the Battalion to be killed or wounded. The command of the Company was taken by Lt M. Browne who often spoke to me of this officer he so much admired. As will be known by readers of this *Newsletter*, Col Maurice Browne, CBE, MC, DL, was Colonel of the Regiment, 1942-52.

Bequeathed from the estate of the late Brig A. E. Green, DSO, OBE.

### German 20 millimetre Canon Shell

This souvenir of 1944 has the normal brass case with the anvil removed. The projectile is yellow with the Nazi Eagle, P345 Bc 39115g inscribed in black, and on the aluminium cap AZ4744 80Z.

The shell was collected at Fort Lent, Nijmegen when the donor was a member of 429 Battery of the 9th Bn of the Regiment when they were part of the AA defence of the bridge and river from November 1944. It will now take its place in the 9th Bn show cases on the top floor of the Regimental Museum in Bruce Castle.

Presented by Mr S. R. Woolner, late 429 Battery, 9th Bn.

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## Medals and Badges of John A. Mason

This group of medals consists of the 1939-45 Star, the Africa Star, the Australian Service Medal and the British War Medal. The four badges are the Rising Sun badge, the Returned from Active Service, the Australian Legion badge and the current Royal Australian Infantry Corps badge.

The stars and the War medal are common to all our armies issued for the war of 1939-45. The Australian Service Medal (1939-45) was instituted in November 1949, and awarded to the Australian Armed Forces, the Mercantile Marine and civilian personnel serving in operational areas. The obverse bears the crowned head of King George VI, and the usual legend, and the reverse, the Australian coat of arms with the words 'The Australian Service Medal 1939-45'. The dark blue of the ribbon represents the Navy, the khaki, the Army, the pale blue, the Air Force, and the red, the Mercantile Marine. Each medal is engraved with the recipient's number and name, viz WX 7366 J. A. Mason.

John Mason was born in St Loy's Road, Tottenham on September 19, 1904, an area, or maybe it should be said a stronghold of the Middlesex Regt. He went to Australia in 1923, his brother already serving in the county regiment. On the outbreak of war in 1939, he joined the Australian Forces and saw action in Crete, Greece and the Western Desert. In the latter theatre of war, he was badly wounded and invalided home to Australia. The severity of his wounds caused him to be discharged as medically unfit. He died in Perth, Western Australia in February 1965. A single man, his medals and badges came into the possession of his elder brother, who presented them to the Regimental Museum.

Presented by Mr Alf Mason, MSM (20101 and 6190630) late Middlesex Regt.

## Postcard from Prisoner of War Camp 1915

This postcard is headed 'Offizier-Kriegsgefangenen-lager Guterloh'. It is dated by the writer 19.3.15 and postfranked 29.3.15. Addressed to the writer's mother, it was written by 2Lt B. G. Horrocks, 1st Middlesex Regt.

The card reads, 'Thanks very much for parcels and letters they are all coming through splendidly. So glad to hear Daddy has got his step he is doing well. My leg going on all right although I cannot walk much yet. Life here is much the same as ever—very boring. I have managed to buy a deck chair which is more comfortable. I am sorry you think I am gambling but *qu'est ce qu'on peut faire*'. We are all longing for the end of the war. Could you send me cigs, tinned things and a pipe and tobacco. All the parcels have been ripping. Brian.'

The young subaltern who wrote this card, in pencil, is now known to the world as Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD. His father's

'Step' refers to the promotion of his father Col W. H. Horrocks, MB, KHS (later Sir William) of the Royal Army Medical Corps, to the rank of Colonel, March 1, 1915. He was at this time a Honorary Surgeon to HM King George V and a member of the Advisory Board.

Young Lt Horrocks was wounded and made POW on October 21, 1914, after six weeks in the line as a Platoon Commander. During this fight his Commanding Officer, Lt Col B. E. Ward (known to the troops as 'Glass eye' to differentiate from Lt Col J. E. D. Ward who was known as 'Cabby' Ward), was mortally wounded as was 2Lt A. B. Trewman who was made POW at the same time and died in the civilian hospital at Lille, a place with a none too salubrious reputation at this date. The capers of the young Horrocks as an escaping prisoner makes most interesting reading as you can read in 'Cage Birds'.

The card was returned to Gen Horrocks by a star collector living in Winchester. It will now join the other interesting exhibits of our famous Diehard in our regimental museum.

So much more could be written, but I feel the interesting point is that from the British Tommy to his commander, whenever in difficulty or strain, the cry is, 'Give us a fag', then all goes well.

Presented by Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD.

## Model of a Battlefield South Africa 1897 (Zulu War)

This model depicts the Battle of Gingindhlovo, the last action in which the Colours were carried into battle.

The layout shows the Zulu attacking the laager on an eminence near the Gingindhlovo kraal, the laager held by the 57th Regt at this spot with details of the other Units ie 60th (King's Royal Rifle Corps), 91st (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), 99th (Wiltshire Regt) and the Naval Bde with Gatling guns and rocket tubes. There are also model figures of the various other individuals who followed an army in the field during the nineteenth century. Two figures appear to be soldiers of the 3rd Fort (The Buffs) who were also at the battle.

Casualties among both the defenders and the attacking Impi are realistically shown, soldiers with two yards of spear protruding from their scarlet tunic and a group of Zulus mowed down in front of a Gatling gun.

The Colours of the 57th can be plainly discerned in the centre of the line. When the model is moved to a display case, it is intended to show it in the same case as the medals of the late Col Charles Wallace Warden who was a Colour Ensign during the battle. The case is adjacent to the painting of this veteran Officer who died in 1953 at the age of 98 years.

Model constructed and presented by Mr M. E. De Caville (late 2405311 Middlesex Regt).

# PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Mr John (Lofty) Baker that well known Orderly Room 'Bod' sends his regards to all his old friends especially Brian Wright and Harry Seldon.

Our congratulations to Maj Mike Ball and his wife Ann on the birth of a daughter, Sarah Felicity, on June 20, 1979, and also his promotion to Major. He is serving with 3 Queen's who are at present doing a tour in Northern Ireland.

Mr Fred Blowers (6211727) was admitted to the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, Surrey, on November 2, 1978. He served with the 1/7th Bn from January 18, 1940, until September 30, 1944. He was badly wounded on July 23, 1944, and invalided out from the service. I quote an incident I found in our history 1919-52. 'On June 1, 1942, their Majesties The King and Queen arrived in Aldershot to inspect the 51st (Highland) Division. During the afternoon they watched No 7 Platoon of 'B' Coy give a demonstration of a section taking up an alternative position, showing exceptional interest and asking many questions. Their Majesties recognised and showed great pleasure in meeting Pte F. Blowers, who was a footman at Royal Lodge, Windsor, before joining the Battalion.'

Mr C. C. Bradish who served with the 1st Bn 1939-45 and whose father was in the 2nd Bn 1914-18 sends his regards to all Diehards.

Mr Tony Briggs, working with the British Military Government, Berlin, tells me that Lt Col R. D. Fisher arranged a party at his house in Berlin to celebrate Albuhera Day which he attended together with Maj Ron Morris and ex-Drum Major and later RSM John Lewis.

Capt N. G. Brock, 2/7th Bn, has been appointed The Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford.

Mr Chas T. Bull, aged 85 years, and a member of the Ealing Branch, when sending his subscription asked to be remembered to all Diehards who mustered at Hampton Court Green in 1914 and who became the 2/8 Bn and proceeded to Gibraltar and Egypt. They reinforced the 1/8 for the opening battle of the Somme in 1916. His number was 3257. He was taken POW in 1917 and was in Camp Scheidmuhl, Germany, until the war ended in 1918. He wonders how many still survive.

Our congratulations to Col Rex Cain on his promotion to Colonel and appointment to command London North West Sector of the Army Cadet Force. He is very desirous of recruiting ex-Diehards or Queensman under the age of 55 years to help train the young entry.

Congratulations to Maj B. A. (Buster) Carlston on the award of the MBE in the New Years Honours List 1979. He is serving with 2 Queen's as 2IC.

Capt Don Carson, LTCL, psm, has been selected for the appointment of Director of Music of the Royal Army Medical Corps Staff Band and assumed the appointment on May 7, 1979. He was previously with the King's Div. Diehards certainly travel. We wish him every success in his new appointment.

Col Nick Carter retires later this year and he will be remaining in Australia. We wish him and his family a long and happy retirement. He was the last Commanding Officer of 4 Queen's.

Another old soldier who has recently been in touch with me is Mr Albert Chant now aged 83 years. Albert served with the 1/8th Bn joining in early 1912. His number was 240116 and he was with 9 Platoon, 'C' Coy. He was one of four brothers who served in World War I. Albert's letter was most interesting and I regret that I have not the space to quote it in full. A man so proud of his Regiment. Come to think of it I have never met a Diehard who was not proud of his Regiment.

Maj Peter Cheesman has assumed the appointment of 2IC Queen's Divisional Depot, Basingstoke.

We wish a speedy recovery to Mr Ted Collier of Albuhera Close who has been admitted to hospital for the removal of certain varicose veins. The surgeon will have no trouble in finding them, Ted being on the bony side.

Maj Bob Cummins has now retired and earlier this year visited Australia, watched the Test matches and met many old friends.

Mr Taffy Evans, ex-1/7th Bn, of Albuhera Close has had a very nasty period in hospital and was for a period in the intensive care unit. He is now home and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

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Maj David Falcke has been posted from the Infantry Junior Leaders Bn, Shorncliffe, to the appointment of Public Relations Officer, South East District, Aldershot. On handing over Albuhera Coy he tells me the Company strength was 57!

Congratulations to Capt Mick Flynn on his promotion. He is serving with 2 Queen's in Gibraltar.

A recent correspondent was Lt Col Patton Foot who served with the 10th Bn, later 1/10th, from July 27, 1912, until September 30, 1916. He was granted a regular commission in the Middlesex Regt on October 1, 1916, in the rank of Captain. He was transferred to the Royal Signals on formation in 1920. He was promoted Lt Col May 20, 1933, and retired on November 20, 1937. Lt Col Foot will be 90 years of age this coming October.

Capt Reg Ford has taken over the appointment of Cadet Executive Officer to the North West Sector vacated by Maj Sam Weller on his retirement. His office is in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. I have now heard that he has been promoted Major. Belated congratulations Reg.

Maj David Gouda has assumed the appointment of Regimental Careers Officer and works from Regimental Headquarters at Canterbury.

A newly joined member is Mr W. A. Hammett (6190501) aged 80 years. He served with the following battalions during the period 1917-22, 1st, 1/8th and 4th. In the Second World War he was with 4th Div RASC 1939-40.

Our very sincere sympathy to Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks and Lady Horrocks on the tragic death of their daughter, Mrs G. Herbert, on May 16, 1979. A letter of condolence was sent by our President, Lt Col T. W. Chattey.

Ex-Drum Major Charlie Holdford retired on March 7, 1979. He is enjoying life and together with his wife Nora taken to golf seriously.

Mr Jock Hughes, ex-1st Bn, Hong Kong, has now retired and moved to Bretton, near Peterborough. He has recently had a spell in hospital but is now much better.

Mr W. R. Humphreys, who was a Sgt when the 9th Bn were mobilised in 1914, has joined a happy band of old soldiers in the Royal British Legion's Home, Maurice House, Westcliffe on Sea, Essex. We wish him a long and happy stay.

Mr A. W. King (242940) now aged 84 years is a resident of the Royal British Legion home at Galanos House, Long Itchington, Rugby, Warwickshire. He enlisted on November 21, 1913, and served until July 4, 1919. He served with our 1/10th Bn for the majority of his service but saw some service with 1/5th Buffs.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is Mr W. F. Limmer (6213535). He served with the 2nd Bn from June 13, 1940, until August 15, 1949.

Mr Jock Mannering, ex-1st Bn, sent me a card from Malta to tell me that he was having a glorious holiday and wonderful weather.

A recent correspondent was Maj Geoffrey Mason who is now serving with the International Support Coy, Headquarters Support Command, BAOR. He sends his regards to all Diehards and tells me how much he enjoyed serving with us.

We extend a very warm welcome to Mr Doug Matthews and his wife Mary who have recently occupied 64 Albuhera Close. We hope their stay will be a long and happy one. Doug was with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and did his POW stint with usual Diehard fortitude.

Lt Martin O'Regan has resigned his directorship with Davies and Newman (the Dan Air Owners) and joined Mr Harry Goodman to form Air Europe.

Our congratulations to the Rev Peter Pearce Gould and his wife Carole on the birth of a daughter, Anna Mary, on January 15, 1979.

Mr George Pocock (6189323) who gave 30 years' service to the Regiment sends his regards to all Diehards. He resides at Great Cornard, Sudbury, Suffolk, and regrets he is unable to attend functions due to distance but says 'my thoughts are always with you'.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is Robert John Redding (6201427). He served from January 30, 1934, until March 31, 1947. All his service was with the 2nd Bn. He was at Dunkirk. He now resides at Basingstoke, Hants.

Mr Tommy Rowntree (6199859) has recently had two weeks convalescent in the Rustington Home, Littlehampton, after suffering two heart attacks. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr S. R. Scott (24013045) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted on May 19, 1964, and was discharged at his own request on December 29, 1970. He served with the 1st Bn, 4 Queen's and 42 Army Youth Team. He now lives at New Southgate.

Mr John Soden is working for the Camping Club of Great Britain & Ireland Ltd, and is at their site, East of England Agricultural Showground, Alwalton, Peterborough. He sounds very content with life.

Mr C. H. Stevens (2249087) has joined the Regimental Association. He served as a National Serviceman with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Korea 1951-53. He was a Lcpl in the Corps of Drums. He attended the annual reunion and met many old friends.

A recent correspondent is Mr Sidney Stinton, aged 94 years. He tells me that he enlisted at Hounslow on November 22, 1901, was allocated regimental number 7666 and posted to the 3rd Bn. He served in Africa, India, Burma, St Helena Island and France 1914-18. On taking his discharge in 1919 he had completed 18 years and 232 days service. He is in possession of the Queen's South Africa Medal (two bars), Mons Star 1914, Victory Medal and General Service Medal. He sends his regards to all Diehards and Old Contemptibles and says Good Luck and Good Health. As far as I know he is our oldest Diehard—unless you know different. He is very well cared for by Mr and Mrs Abrahams and resides with them at Kelvedon near Colchester.

All members of the Regional Association wish Mr Stokes our senior male occupant of Albuhera Close a rapid recovery from his latest period in hospital. He is now over 80 and in the last few years has suffered a lot of illness.

Mr Ken Sutton who served with the 1st Bn in Korea and was so badly wounded sends his regards to all his old friends. He is now happily settled in Sharrington, Melton Constable, Norfolk.

Mr R. Topley (14216768) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted on June 16, 1942, and served with the 1st Bn until leaving the service on July 13, 1947.

Capt Bob Tarrant has retired and moved from Ash, near Aldershot, to Hayling Island. He is a member of the Hayling Island Golf Club and will accept a challenge from anyone with a handicap of 25. He won't admit it but I taught him to play hockey.

Another invalid is Mr W. J. Webb who served with the 2nd Bn at Dunkirk under the command of Lt Col J. W. A. Stephenson. He is suffering from chronic bronchitis and angina. His wife has also been ill. To them both we wish a full recovery.

Mr F. Webb who served with the 1/7th Bn has recently undergone open heart surgery. He is progressing well and we wish him a full recovery.

Maj Sam Weller retired on February 2, 1979, from his appointment as Cadet Executive Officer to the Army Cadet Force at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. We are very pleased to report that he will be carrying on as housing manager to our Regimental Homes at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

Mr S. J. Wallace (6196203) sends his regards to all Diehards and says we could do with some of that 'Nagar' sunshine.

A recent correspondent was Mr Doughie Baker (6201138) who enlisted at Mill Hill on March 9, 1934. After completing his recruit training he was posted to join the 2nd Bn at Colchester. In 1935 he was posted to the 1st Bn and was a member of the 'Save Egypt' draft. In 1936 he moved to Singapore with the Battalion and on to Hong Kong in August 1937. He was taken POW at the fall of Hong Kong and spent his time in the Japanese POW Camp at Shinagawa. He was badly beaten by the Japanese and still suffers from his experiences. He has just had a hip removed and replaced with a plastic joint. He was a groom for Lt Col Chattey and worked under that famous old character Sgt Christie. We all wish Dougie a speedy recovery and we shall be keeping in close touch with him.

## LOST TRAILS

Maj Dick Smith is anxious to trace L/11060 CSM Charles Stokes, DCM, MM, who served from 1906 to 1920 with the 1st Bn. Any information concerning his whereabouts or what happened to him would be appreciated by the young Major.

## THE JOLLY DIEHARDS

When our bugles for battle did merrily sound,  
Do you think in our ranks one coward can be found?  
'No', reckless in danger, right forward we go,  
Then up with the Colours and down with the foe.

## CHORUS

Be they Prussians or Austrians, Germans or Huns,  
Be it storming a rampart or capturing guns,  
Neither bullet or bayonet our progress retards,  
For its all the same to the Jolly Diehards.  
We're not Lancers or Royals,  
Nor Rifles nor Guards,  
We're better by far,  
We're the Jolly Diehards.

Now soon we'll leave our country to tread the battlefield,  
It matters not to us—we'll die but never yield.  
Our fathers won honours and laurels of fame,  
And we must add to their story, for we bear their name.

Dying hard as they did in the battles of old,  
For ever they live in the hearts of the bold.  
For God and the King and England's dear race,  
We're ready to conquer, or Diehard in their place.



## OBITUARY

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

**BARR**—On March 8, 1979, ex-Sgt D. C. Barr (6208127), aged 57 years. He served with the 2/7th Bn 1938-46.

**BALDRY**—On March 18, 1979, Mrs E. Baldry, widow of Sgt C. C. Baldry, 3rd Bn. The late Mrs Baldry occupied one of our Regimental Homes at Albuhera Close, Enfield. The funeral was attended by Maj S. C. W. Weller, MBE, MM, and Mrs Weller, Mr E. Collier, Mrs Midlane, Mrs Williams and Mrs Worley.

**CAPEL**—On March 14, 1979, Mr Donald Capel, DCM (L/14319 and 6192255), aged 85 years. He served in the Regiment from 1912-22. He was brother of Tommy and George Capel both of whom served in the Regiment and were all well known Battalion sportsmen. The father also served in the Regiment and his name appears in our Roll of Honour.

**COOPER**—On March 18, 1979, Mr G. B. Cooper, aged 82 years. He served with the 9th Bn 1914-18.

**ELLIS**—On March 3, 1979, Lt Col R. H. Ellis, OBE. Served with Princess Louises Kensington Regt.

**FITZGERALD**—On January 16, 1979, ex-Sgt Desmond James Fitzgerald, aged 62 years. He served with the 1/7 Bn and the Princess Louises Kensington Regt. He regularly attended the 1/7th Bn annual dinner.

**GREEN**—On March 13, 1979, Mr C. B. Green, aged 84 years. He served with the 7th Bn 1914-18.

**HOWRIHANE**—On December 6, 1978, Mrs Mary Howrihane, wife of Mr C. J. Howrihane.

**KERSWILL**—On June 1, 1979, Mr Stanley Kerswill, aged 51 years. A staunch and active member of the Mill Hill Branch. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of the *Diehards Newsletter*.

**PARKER**—On January 6, 1979, Col Douglas Gordon Parker, OBE, aged 62 years. He was commissioned to the Royal Scots on January 27, 1938. He commanded our 1/7th Bn 1944-45.

**PHELPS**—On January 14, 1979, Mr B. R. Phelps, aged 96 years. He served with the 1/8th Bn 1914-18.

**PIERCY**—On May 18, 1979, Lt Eric Piercy, aged 86 years. He was admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, on April 12, 1979. No other information is available.

**SYMMONS**—On March 8, 1979, Lt Col P. A. Symmons, MC, DL, JP. Served with the 3rd Middlesex Home Guard T Zone.

**TOYE**—On January 16, 1979, Mrs Flora Toye, widow of Brig A. M. Toye, VC, MC.

**BELL**—On December 20, 1978, ex-WO1 J. R. Bell, MBE, aged 79 years.

He enlisted into the South Wales Borderers in 1917 at the age of 18 years and was discharged at the end of 1918 on conclusion of World War I. In 1921 he joined the Grenadier Guards and was a substantive Sgt by 1935. In 1936 he was posted to 'D' Coy, 8th Bn The Middlesex Regt, at Uxbridge, as a PSI and by 1938 had doubled the strength of 'D' Coy. At the outbreak of the Second World War the TA CSM was medically downgraded and Bob Bell took over as CSM. In 1942 he was promoted WO1 (RSM) and was later in the year posted to the 5th Bn The Buffs with whom he served in North Africa and Italy. He was awarded the MBE for bravery at Longstop Hill near Tunis on April 26, 1944, whilst serving with 5th Buffs.

Col W. D. Ellis informs me that he was a newly joined subaltern with 'D' Coy when he first met RSM Bob Bell but on his posting to 'B' Coy as 2IC their ways parted and did not come together again until after the war when a Diehards Club was set up at Uxbridge. Bob Bell was one of the main props. For many years he was the Secretary of the branch. He will be sadly missed by his family and members of the 8th.

The Editor thanks Col W. D. Ellis and Mr Frank Waite for assisting with information to enable this obituary to be written.

**BLACKBURN**—On April 11, 1979, ex-Pte Arthur Stephen Blackburn (6200746), aged 64 years.

He enlisted into the Regiment on December 2, 1932. After completion of his recruit training he was posted in 1933 to the 2nd Bn then stationed at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester. On November 14, 1934 he proceeded to join the 1st Bn stationed in Egypt. He was a member of the draft named 'Save Egypt draft'. The 1st Bn moved to Singapore on March 16, 1936, and remained in that location until the emergency move to Hong Kong on the cargo ship *SS Menelaus* on August 19, 1937. He remained in Hong Kong until hostilities broke out and he was taken POW by the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. He was amongst the first draft of POWs to be transferred from Hong Kong to Japan in mid 1942. After enduring the usual privations he was freed in August 1945 and was repatriated to UK via New Zealand. He was discharged from the service on April 25, 1947, having completed 14 years 145 days Colour service.

During his service he was a Regimental Policeman serving under that well known Provost Sgt 'Tommy' Little who lost his life in 1942 on the ill fated *Lisbon Maru*. Arthur Blackburn will be sadly missed by his family and regimental friends. His funeral was attended by Mr Limey Gardner, Mr Mellor, Mr Milroy and Mr Matthews.

**CATTELL**—On November 24, 1978, Maj Bernard Kingston Cattell, in his 90th year. 'Bernard' as he was known to all, enlisted in the 2/10th Bn of the Regiment at Stamford Brook in 1914, and after training with that unit at Ashford, Middlesex, Cambridge and Bedford, took part in the Suvla Bay (Gallipoli) landing in August 1915, where he was wounded. On rejoining the Battalion he served in Egypt (Wardan, Fayoum and Sinai Desert), taking part in the First and Second Battles of Gaza in March and April 1917, having in the meantime attained the rank of CSM. Prior to the Jerusalem campaign he was commissioned in his own Battalion, and in October 1917, joined a small, but heavily armed, mobile force detailed to ambush the Turks retreating from Beersheba: this force suffered heavy casualties, and having exhausted its ammunition, was obliged to surrender. Bernard thus became, so far as we are aware, the only 2/10th man to survive captivity by the Turks.

In the Second World War, he rejoined from the Officers' Emergency Reserve in 1939, and in 1940 became Captain and Adjutant of the 10th (Home Defence) Bn The Middlesex Regt. Subsequently, he went to the War Office as a ADQM, being concerned with the inspection and organisation of fighting equipment for 'D' Day units. He was finally demobilised in July/August 1945. In 1918 he became a founder member of the 2/10th Bn Old Comrades' Association and Honorary Treasurer (a post he held for 60 years). He was indefatigable in progressing the Association's interests, and was specially concerned with the various projects undertaken such as the erection of the Battalion's Memorial in Chiswick Parish Church. He became President of the Old Comrades Association in 1974, succeeding the late Lt Col D. B. Watson in that position which he retained until the end. He will long be remembered by all having the good fortune to know and serve with him as a loyal Friend and Comrade, and, above all, as a true Diehard; in his own words—'The thing in my life of which I have been most proud is that I was of their company'.

**COOK**—On April 19, 1979, ex-Pte David James Cook (6141207), aged 66 years. He joined the Territorial Army and the East Surrey Regt on June 25, 1935, and served until January 22, 1936. On January 23, he joined the Regular Army and the Middlesex Regt. On the completion of his recruit training at Mill Hill he was posted to the 1st Bn joining them in Singapore on February 5, 1937. He moved with the Battalion to Hong Kong in August 1937 and served with the Battalion until being taken POW Japanese on December 25, 1941. In 1943 he was transferred from Shamshuipo Camp, Hong Kong, to a Japanese POW Camp at Osaka Japan. He was released from captivity on August 15, 1945, and repatriated to UK arriving home on October 31, 1945. He was discharged from the Army on September 6, 1946, having served 10 years 226 days. He was a trained driver mechanic and a first-class driver. A fine man who will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

The funeral was attended by Maj R. W. J.

Smith, MBE, Mr J. Milroy, Mr H. J. Mellor, Mr C. D. Matthews, Mr James and Mr Foulkes.

**CROCKET**—On a date in February 1978, ex-Sgt Henry Crocket (G/3259) aged 82. Henry Crocket was one of Britain's youth who rushed to the Colours in 1914 when the Kaiser let loose the Dogs of War. The Depot at Mill Hill was overflowing with keen young men, many who had to sleep on the floor on September 3, 1914, when Henry was enrolled as one of Kitchener's Army. From Mill Hill he went to Middlewick Camp, Colchester, chumming up with another young volunteer Joe Price (G/3256), this friendship lasting until the decease of Harry last year.

To France in July 1915, where the fighting qualities of this elite Battalion of tough little scrappers soon became recognised. Every soldier was volunteering to take part in the raids including Harry Crocket. A report reads 'they tried to bring in a prisoner who became unmanageable, he had to be abandoned, dead'. Harry and comrades stood no nonsense. On September 26, 1916, the attack on Thiepval of the 12th Bn took place. In this epic fight there was won two Victoria Crosses, one DSO, five MCs, three DCMs, 31 MMs and 37 Gallantry Cards. The casualties were 17 out of 21 Officers, 414 out of 900 Other Ranks. Harry Crocket was one of the wounded.

On recovery from his wounds, his ability as a mechanic surfaced and he was transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and given the Corps number 51743, retaining this when the Corps became The Royal Air Force on the amalgamation of the RFC and the Royal Naval Air Service on the first day of April 1918. He was discharged on February 25, 1919. In 1924 he enrolled as a member of the RAOC, Supplementary Reserve, being allotted the Corps number 7582495 which he retained when the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers was formed in 1943 from personnel of the Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

Mobilised on September 1, 1939, he served at home, until 1945 at the end of hostilities with the rank of Sergeant and adding the Defence and War medals to the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory medal he had earned in WWI. A member of the Mill Hill Branch of our Association, he retained regular contact by letter and his old comrade Joe Price. His home was Brixham, South Devon which prevented him attending our ceremonies as much as he wished.

**GOVER**—On May 16, 1979, ex-Lcpl John Gover (TF/1789 and TF/200185) aged 83. John Gover enlisted into the Territorial Force on March 26, 1913, becoming a member of the 7th (Imperial Service) Bn of The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regt), a proud and efficient Battalion. Embodied on the outbreak of war in August, 1914, the Battalion was at first posted to garrison the Rock of Gibraltar in September 1914. The Battalion were so incensed at being given garrison duties instead of being sent to the battle front that Private soldiers wrote to their Members of Parliament complaining bitterly. This had its re-



ward in February 1915 when the Battalion returned to England, re-armed and joined the BEF in France the following month.

In the line, John Gover was in his element. He was one of the men who enjoyed going on trench raids to the German lines and had armed himself with a special dagger. This was constructed from an iron railing with a spear point top, such as used to be seen in the front gardens in years gone by and can now be seen in parks. He had the armourer turn the iron shaft into a loop to fit his large and strong hand, and honed the two edges of the spear head to razor-like sharpness. With this business like and vicious weapon he became a formidable fighting man, dear to the heart of his company commander Capt D. W. Hurd who was killed in action on September 17, 1916, during the Battle of the Somme.

Capt Hurd sent for John at the end of October, 1915, to give him the sad news that his brother William (G/578) had died of wounds whilst serving with the 11th Bn. John returned to his position in the trench and later, was seen slipping off his equipment. His Platoon NCO asked, 'What are you doing' to receive the reply, 'I'm going over the bags'. And out of the trench he climbed. Returning about an hour later, he was covered in gore, clutching his trench dagger which showed signs of recent use. Sent for by his Company Commander for his highly irregular action in leaving the trench without authority, he explained that after hearing of his brother's death, he had gone to pay the blood debt. It was an action which would have endeared him to our Anglo-Saxon forebears of twelve hundred years ago, who believed in the paying of such a debt, and whose poetry is of the clash of 'hammered blades' and 'the shields of linden wood'. Capt Hurd forgave him this dereliction of duty, understanding cause and effect.

The raids, eventually came to an end when John was sorely wounded, causing his evacuation to England and posting to the 7th (Reserve) Bn until discharged July 26, 1917, as being no longer fit for War Service.

John visited the Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle, his home being in Edmonton. In the 7th Bn show case can be seen his workmanlike and frightening trench dagger. The iron loop which forms the grip appears rather large. It needed to be. On shaking hands with John Gover the average hand was engulfed; it was like shaking hands with a shovel.

This typical product of a good territorial unit visited me in the museum a number of times, always having an interesting anecdote to relate. His large and powerful hands were accounted for when I learned that his trade in early life was a boot laster where manual strength and dexterity was essential.

His funeral was attended by his loving family and a host of friends who filled the chapel and under the canopy of the Regimental flag and to the haunting strains of the Last Post, a good Diehard was bid goodbye.

Maj Dick Smith

GRIFFLE—On January 25, 1979, ex-Sgt Frank Gribble (L/15537 and 6189121) aged 79 years. 'Grumble' Gribble enlisted into the Regiment on his 16th birthday, April 9, 1915. Posted to the band of the 2nd Bn, he served in England until being posted to the BEF in March 1918. During his service at home he was one of the original garrison at Bovington Camp, seeing the arrival of the first tank. On arrival in France, he was rushed to the line to help stem the Jerry Push, the German High Command last desperate fling. Not being able to join his own Regiment, he was attached to the N Staffordshire Regt, serving with them until returning home in February 1919. On returning to England, he rejoined the 2nd Bn band, then at the Depot, Mill Hill. A happy little man, his instruments were the E flat clarinet, the flute and piccolo, instruments to suit his physique and clarity of expression. The Battalion, due to resume its foreign tour which had been interrupted in 1914, served in Meaneer Barracks, Colchester and Napier Barracks, Shorncliffe, until embarking for Egypt in August 1919, where the Battalion were stationed in Abbassia Barracks, Cairo. In Cairo, the band was in great demand at the various entertainments that were held now that 'the rollicking days of peace' had returned. It was also called out to dispel the rampaging students during the Zaghol Pasha riots. All 5ft 2in of BdsM Gribble was a member of the squads policing the trouble spots. In January 1922, the Battalion moved to Singapore to be stationed in Tanglin Barracks. In Malaya the band led the life of gentlemen. It was then a gentle country. HRH The Prince of Wales, Colonel in Chief of the Regiment visited the Battalion on April 1, 1922, which meant a busy programme for the band, who played at numerous ceremonies and functions in Singapore city and the barracks, including dinner in the Officers Mess. Grumble's piccolo was heard trilling merrily on all occasions, not only in Singapore, but also in Kuala Lumpur and Penang during the royal visit. When the American Opera Company visited Singapore, a number of their musicians had been taken ill. Their band was augmented by a number of the Regimental musicians, one of whom was Frank Gribble who shone during the play 'Abraham Lincoln' when he played the recruiting and marching tunes—off stage—to simulate the movements of the Union Army.

In October 1924 he moved to the sub-continent of India, being stationed in East Ridge Barracks, Ahmednagar, on the edge of the Deccan Plain. Here he led a different life. India was an arid country in comparison to the lush areas of Malaya. The training consisted of long, tiring and dry marches over the hard and dusty roads. As a bandsman, Frank had been trained and was qualified in sanitation and stretcher bearing duties. On exchanging with the piccolo player in the Corps of Drums on the express wish of the newly appointed Sgt Drummer who had been in the band prior to appointment, he now became a musician on the march. The bandsmen were stretcher-bearers attached to various companies during training, but Drummers played their music whenever the Battalion were in column of route.

Grumble became one of the best known figures in the Battalion, his piccolo could be heard trilling away even by the rear files on the long dusty roads of India. He, and his piccolo, both small, loud and clear and dependable. In December 1928, he moved to Madras, stationed in Fort St George. Here again, Frank now an NCO in the Corps of Drums was called out on riot duty. This time on the 'Salt riots' of Mahatma Gandhi. There were many pleasant days also to be spent on the beaches until April 1931, when the Battalion moved to Khartoum in the Sudan. This was his last station of the foreign tour, spent on the sands of the desert under an unrelenting sun as the tour had commenced in Egypt in 1919. Also, as the Battalion had reformed in 1919 at Colchester, it was again to Colchester it came in December 1931. Frank Gribble was then stationed in Hyderabad Barracks, on the opposite side of the square to Meaneer where he had been in 1919.

Soldering on his regular engagement until July 1936, he was discharged to pension on July 3, 1936, from Clarence Barracks, Portsmouth. His military testimonials were all of a high degree.

Enlisting with Section 'E' Army Reserve in November 1938, he was mobilised in September 1, 1939, serving at home until discharged in June 1949, when he promptly re-enlisted into the Territorial Army until reaching the age limit. Frank received his nickname when as a very small lad on enlistment he was raising his voice in dissent, his NCO said 'Shut up Tich, you aint big enough to grumble'. The name stuck, but the appellation was just the reverse to the character of this nice and likeable man.

Maj Dick Smith

HOGG—On May 5, 1979, ex-Sgt Frederick George Hogg (6196374) aged 69. Fred Hogg enlisted into the Regiment on October 17, 1924, being posted to the band of the 1st Bn, joining the 2nd Bn in India, in January 1926, when the Battalion were stationed in Ahmednagar.

A popular member in the Boy's Room, he accepted the appellation 'Ugly' given to him by a band NCO who shall remain nameless, with the greatest of sang-froid, and in later years signing his letters as such. With the 2nd Bn, he served also in Madras, Khartoum, Colchester, Portsmouth and Gosport. Posted to the 8th Bn, King's Own Royal Regt in February 1940, he served with them until November 1941, when joined the Cheshire Regt (No 2 Transit Camp) until June 1948. From the Cheshire Regt, he was posted to the 1st Bn, North Staffs Regt in June 1948 where he, for a time, held the appointment of RQS, until returning home in February 1949, to rejoin the Cheshire Regt at No 22 Primary Training Centre. Whilst with the unit, he met an old Diehard comrade, Maj Bert Peasley, with whom he had much in common. He took his discharge to pension on November 10, 1951, wearing the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

After his discharge, he was employed as a tram conductor in Leeds but missed his military life so terminated that employment to work for the TA

with 49 Infantry Div. Column RASC (TA) as Technical Storeman. After 18 months, he was exchanged to 49 Inf Div Signal Regt (TA) in the same employment. Eight years later, he exchanged to 249 Field Regt RA (TA) with whom he served until illness caused him to retire.

His later years were of continuous suffering, his eyesight requiring operations, plus haemorrhage, all of which he bore with placidity. His letters were always in a lively vein and he kept in contact with the Mill Hill Branch from his home in Leeds, also with the friend of his early years Mr A. R. 'Brewer' Drane.

When Fred answered the Last Roll Call, his son wrote giving me the sad news, telling me that it was Fred's wish that his medals should join our collection in the Regimental Museum. To the last, Fred was a Diehard.

Maj Dick Smith

HONEYBUN—On February 27, 1979, Maj (QM) Leslie Thomas Honeybun, eight days short of his 76th birthday. Les Honeybun enlisted into the Middlesex Regt on November 18, 1921, and given the army number 6195147. Completing his recruit training the following June, he was posted to the 1st Bn with whom he served until 1938 when he transferred to the Home Establishment with the 2nd Bn, then stationed in Gosport.

Appointed a Lance Corporal in November 1922 and Corporal in May 1925, he became a member of the Sergeants Mess in March 1927. As a young and promising junior NCO, he attended a course at the School of Education, qualifying as an instructor. In June 1928, he was posted to the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill, where he instructed the recruits enabling many to gain their 3rd Class Certificate of Education, prior to joining the Battalion. He returned to the 1st Bn in June 1930, and qualified as an instructor on Rifle and Light Automatic at Hythe a year later.

He was now ready for the foreign tour about to be taken by the 1st Bn, although not his first overseas service, he having served in Cologne in 1922 and 1923 and in China from January to December 1937, during the Japanese border incidents. In December 1931 he went to Palestine and then on to Cairo in January 1932. From Egypt he went to Singapore in March 1936 and to Hong Kong in August 1937. Having completed his tour of overseas service he rejoined the 2nd Battalion in 1938 being promoted colour Sergeant in June 1938 and WO2 (RQMS) a year later. It was as the RQMS, he worked hard to kit the Battalion on mobilisation in 1939, going with them to France on the last day of September. On the evacuation from Dunkirk at the end of May 1940, he returned home with the remnants of the 2nd Bn and was kept busy re-arming and re-kitting the Battalion who had arrived home with the clothes they were dressed in, plus their dial sights from their machine guns.

In September 1941, the 8th Bn needed a good Quartermaster. To fill the vacancy, Les Honeybun was promoted Lieutenant (Quartermaster) on September 1941 and with this pre-war Territorial Battalion took part in the Normandy landings, serving with them until the end of the war. He was



promoted Captain (QM) on September 15, 1944.

For a while he left the service, but later rejoined and will be remembered by many officers and soldiers in transit as the Quartermaster at the Deep Shelter in Goodge Street. When this department closed down, he was posted to Cyprus, having been promoted Major (QM) on January 19, 1953.

In later years and on retirement, he moved to Lee-on-Solent where he became a staunch and regular member of the Royal British Legion.

A measure of the regard in which he was held was demonstrated at his funeral. The Royal British Legion Padre conducted the service, the Rev Ken Kendra, who had served with Maj Gen Christopher Man, the undertaker was also a fellow member, arranging both the Union Jack and the Regimental flag on the coffin. The Standard Bearer was Mr J. Coleborn, late King's Dragoon Guards whose drill was impeccable throughout the solemn ceremony. Lining the porch as the body was carried into the chapel were his comrades and friends of the years he spent in the Regiment, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Col Ian Brotherton, Maj Dick Smith, Capt Bob Tarrant, Messrs R. McNeill, C. Miriam, H. Norfield, J. O'Neill, N. Peters and L. West. It was a soldiers funeral, conducted by soldiers to a congregation of old soldiers and their wives.

After an admirable address by the soldier padre, one in which we felt we were personally spoken to, giving the sorrowing family pride, during their grief, we stood for the last good bye. The two senior officers, both of good physique who dwarfed me, pulled back their shoulders on the haunting note of the final salute to our country's servicemen, and so Les Honeybun was laid to rest.

Maj Dick Smith

JOHNSON—On December 6, 1978, ex-WOI (RSM) Leslie Rueben (Len) Johnson (6194200), aged 75 years.

He enlisted into the Regiment at Mill Hill on April 18, 1921. Posted to the 2nd Bn he served in Germany, Egypt, Singapore, India and the Sudan, returning home when the Battalion completed its tour of foreign service in December 1931. On arrival in UK the 2nd Bn was stationed at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, and he remained with this Battalion, with the exception of a tour of duty at the Depot, Mill Hill, until taking his discharge at his own request on April 21, 1939, having completed 18 years' colour service. He attended courses at the Small Arms School, Netheravon (1932) and the Small Arms School, Hythe (1935) and obtained a Distinguished grading on each course. No mean achievement. At the outbreak of World War 2 he was called up for further service on August 24, 1939, and served with the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery until his release on July 23, 1945, and transfer to Class Z Reserve on September 18, 1945. He again enlisted on May 1, 1947, this time with the Territorial Army, serving with the Royal Artillery until August 6, 1948.

Len Johnson was a founder member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Old Comrades branch who still meet at Edgware on the second

Saturday of each month. So passed another very well known member of the Regiment who was a true and staunch Diehard. Our thanks must also be recorded to Mrs Ivy Clarke, his landlady for so many years, who gave him so much care and attention when he needed it most. A true friend.

The funeral was attended by Mrs Ivy Clarke, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, and Mrs Smith, Mr L. Shrubbs, MM, Mr A. Mason, Mr and Mrs Ambler, Mr and Mrs Chacksfield, Mr and Mrs Parrott, Mr J. Milroy, Mr G. Hurlock and Mr P. Maloney.

KING-FARLOW—On February 10, 1979, Maj Patrick Arthur Vernon King-Farlow, aged 65 years.

He was granted a TA Commission on July 1, 1939. He served with the 2nd Bn during the period June 1944–8 May, 1945, commanding 'A' Coy. He was mentioned in despatches, awarded the C-in-C's certificate for gallantry and twice awarded the GOC's Commendation Card.

MAN—On April 7, 1979, Mrs Evelyn Dora Man in her 96th year.

Mrs Man was the mother of Col A. M. Man and Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, who have both given such distinguishing service to the Regiment.

Dora Man as she was known to all her friends took a great interest in the Regiment all her life and was a great lover of cricket. She herself had been a champion gymnast and cricketer. At the memorial service held at Tenterden Parish Church on April 18, 1979, the Rev T. E. Roberts, ended his address as follows:

Here was a woman of courage—she never whined. She will be remembered for many things, for those letters that seemed to come out of the 'blue', for her special service to West View Hospital as President of the Friends of the hospital, her flat refusal to use the Christian names of certain people. We shall all remember with gratitude her glowing personality. She showed us how to live

'There's little worth the wear of winning  
Save laughter and the love of friends'—

that was a saying of hers; and there was also that other saying she loved from the Old Testament:

'The eternal God is Thy refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.'

Dora Man believed those words absolutely and relied on them all through her life.

NEWMAN—On January 16, 1979, ex-Bdsm William Edward Newman (7488) aged 93 years. 'Pickles' Newman enlisted into the newly raised 3rd Bn of the Regiment on July 1, 1901, and was posted to the band, quickly becoming an efficient performer on the cornet. In March 1902, he left Cambridge Barracks, Woolwich to serve on the island of St Helena, a British island in the South Atlantic, where the Battalion were guards to Boer prisoners of War. From 1815 until 1821, it had been the home of Napoleon after his defeat at Waterloo. 'Pickles' and his comrades were bid adieu by Gen Henry Kent, the Colonel of the Regiment to the

tune of the 'Jolly Die-Hards' and 'Auld Lang Syne'. At Deadwood Camp he was a member of the band entertaining both the members of the Battalion and the Boer prisoners, also at the Governor's Residence, where the civilian residents came in their scores to listen to the music and to see the troops in their scarlet tunics and white 'jampot' cuffs and collars. Moving to South Africa, he was at Middleburg and at times on duties in Stellenbosch, both in the Transvaal. At Middleburg on February 3, 1904, he was on parade when the Colours were presented by HE Viscount Milne GCB, GCMG, the High Commissioner for SA. At this date, the Battalion were resplendent in the yellow cuffs and collars which had been restored in 1902, after 21 years of white facings. Four months later, on Sunday, June 5, 1904, 'Pickles' was presented with the Queen's South Africa medal, as were all those present with the Battalion who had taken part in the Boer War 1899–1902, either on the continent or on St Helena.

Christmas Day, 1905, 'Pickles' was with the band as they marched around the lines, playing 'Roast Beef of Old England' as the troops went into their gaily decorated dining halls for the Christmas fare and visit by the Commanding Officer to wish them a Merry Christmas. Two months later, in February 1906, he was on ceremonial parade for the inspection of the Battalion by HRH The Duke of Connaught where the clear notes of his cornet were a great asset as they were when the Duke visited and dined in the Officers Mess.

September 1906, saw the 3rd Bn move to Hong Kong with detachments in North China at Tientsin, Peking and Shanghai. 'Pickles' visited all these places when the band gave musical concerts in addition to again playing for the benefit of The Duke of Connaught when he visited Hong Kong in February 1907. At this time he also had to become efficient in the use of the newly adopted short rifle, the SMLE (Short, Magazine, Lee Enfield), which replaced the long rifle. The new No 1 bayonet was also issued to take the place of the double-edged 'pig sticker' bayonet. Both weapons and the new pattern web equipment being adopted at this date. Smartness was paramount in the 3rd Bn, the unit being acknowledged the smartest of all the Legation Guards at Peking, the guards consisting of American, Austro-Hungarian, Belgian, British, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Russian troops, each competing to show how good they, and their country were.

In November 1908, the Battalion moved to Singapore where they remained, earning commendation, of which 'Pickles' and his fellow bandsmen did so much to earn. Three years later, he went to India, stationed at Cawnpore, from where he was discharged in 1913, returning to England and leaving the regiment on November 1, 1911, in possession of three Good Conduct badges, an Exemplary character and the rank of Bandsman which gave a pensionable rate of Corporal. A staunch tea-totaler and reliable man, he had excellent references to take with him to civil life.

In civil life, he was employed as a tea blender and as such was employed on the outbreak of war

in 1914. His first attempt to re-enlist was thwarted, but in January 1917, he was accepted into the Royal Artillery, becoming a Gunner in the Royal Field Artillery on the last day of January. Gaining a 1st Class Signalling Certificate, he became a Signaller with A/148 Brigade FRA, and holding the number 207467. His active service overseas gave him the British War Medal and the Victory Medal to add to the Queen's South Africa Medal, his second spell of soldiering ending February 24, 1919, when he transferred to the Army Reserve. On his decease, he was our oldest Die-Hard in addition to being our earliest enlisted soldier.

Maj Dick Smith

PETERS—On June 12, 1979, ex-Pte Noel James Peters (PS/1841) aged 81. Noel Peters enlisted into the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion of the Regiment in April 1915, when this Battalion, mostly ex-Public school men, were at Woldingham. It had been decided at this time to extend recruiting to other suitable men from outside the public schools class. The choice, however, was very selective. With this Battalion, Noel joined the BEF in November 1915, serving in the trenches at Bethune and La Bassée. On July 1, 1916, Noel was one of the assaulting troops at Beaumont Hamel where 22 of 23 of the officers and 500 of its 689 Other Ranks were killed or wounded or missing. That splendid Battalion of public school men had been reduced to less than Company strength. The action was still vivid in the memory of Noel Peters when I met him on the Somme 50 years later, July 1, 1966. From Beaumont Hamel, Noel went to Ypres, Albert and Arras.

He was sent to Chatham when it was decided that the younger soldiers, quite a number under age, were to be sent home. After a short stay, he was at short notice drafted to join the 23rd (Second Football) Bn, in Italy. He left on Boxing Day, 1917, joining the Battalion who were in position on the Piave River.

In March 1918, the 23rd Bn were recalled to the Western Front and Noel found himself, as he said, making the second longest journey of his life. Taking his place in the trenches at Albert near to the position he had been in 1916, although employed as a cook, he was in action on March 25. The Germans advanced in massed formation, causing our troops many casualties. The CO of the 23rd Bn, Lt Col Haig-Brown, who was a Master at Lancing College in civil life was killed as were two other Officers, four others wounded whilst Other Ranks casualties were 13 killed, 61 wounded and 38 missing. One of those reported missing was Noel Peters who, with eight comrades were captured at the point of the bayonet. His new address became 'Gefangenenlager 3, Munster in Westfalen' until the end of hostilities when he returned home to be demobilised from Crystal Palace in April 1919.

Out of uniform, Noel retained constant touch with his comrades, attending every function and ceremony at home and overseas. Always clean, tidy and smart, he was a credit to the Regiment wherever he went. Quiet and gentle of manner,



he was an excellent listener, and amusing and knowledgeable narrator. He had a host of friends in all walks of life. When I broke the news of his decease to one, he exclaimed 'Oh no, not that nice man'. That is how so many of us will remember him—that nice man Noel Peters.

Maj Dick Smith

**WALES**—On November 1, 1976, ex-Drum Major A. J. Wales. Drum Major Wales originally enlisted as a Grenadier Guardsman and joined the 2/8 Bn on the expansion of the Territorial Army

when he formed the Corps of Drums at Battalion Headquarters at Northolt. He served with this Battalion (later 1 Mx) at home and in North West Europe. Col Ellis tells me that when he was commanding HQ and Support Coy 11 Para (8 Mx) Drum Major Wales helped form a Diehards Club which was set up at Hounslow and he was Secretary for a period. Drum Major Wales again enlisted and once more formed a Corps of Drums. Col Ellis informs me that they used to meet at intervals in Marlow where he came to live after his retirement from London Airport.

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