



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 25

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

Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

(Tel: 01-952 2625)

REGIMENTAL VISIT TO LILLE NOVEMBER 23-25, 1973

As has been the practice for the previous two years a party of members of the Regimental Association made a pilgrimage to Lille to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the death of Capt Michael Trotobas, the "Capitaine Michel" of the Réseau Farmer-Sylvestre group, but remembered by his comrades in the regiment as P.S.M. Michael Trotobas (6200958), who was awarded a Mention in Despatches in May 1940, whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion. He was shot to death in a hand-to-hand fight with the Germans on November 27, 1943.

The party consisted of Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, President of the Middlesex Regimental Association, Col. and Mrs. F. Walden, Col. H. J. A. Moore, Major R. J. P. Cummins, Major and Mrs. W. Grogan, Major and Mrs. R. W. J. Smith, Major and Mrs. A. E. F. Waldron, Capt. T. D. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. G. Chacksfield, Mr. and Mrs. E. Colebeck, Mr. and Mrs. H. Gee, Mr. and Mrs. W. Golds, Mr. and Mrs. G. Hurlock, Mr. and Mrs. A. Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. J. Milroy, Messrs. C. Ashby, S. Breed, H. Clyde, J. Edmonds, C. Garrard, F. Hawes, P. Hutchins, MM, A. Kemps, A. Martin, N. Melhuish, W. Perkes, H. Rae, M. Thomas, C. Trindall, B. G. Young, and M. Ward who travelled on the coach driven by Mr. Tom Trebilcock, an ex-Coldstream Guardsman, who is now looked upon as one of the Regiment due to the efficient and generous service he has given us in the past 28 years.

During the ceremonies in France, the party was

augmented by nine who had travelled privately. They were Len and Michelle Arlington, Capt. Stephens, a former member of the S.A.S., Pc Barry Thomas of "L" Division, Metropolitan Police, with a police-sergeant and two constables of "L" Division, Mrs. Jenny Thomas (née Arlington), the wife of Barry Thomas, and Mrs. Bonny who during the occupation when her name was Brien, at great danger to her own life forged identity cards for Len Arlington who was a member of the group. He then was 6203442 Private L. Arlington of the 2nd Battalion and an escaped prisoner of war from the Germans with a price of 60,000 francs on his head, the equivalent of which would be 200,000 francs or more at present.

The journey to Dover was uneventful as was the trip on the car-ferry. At Calais our party was met by a delegation from the Réseau Sylvestre including M. Julien Gerekens, MBE (Commandant Jacky) and M. Alcidiade Caflers both now well known to the Regiment. They were our guides to Lambersart where the Police Barracks of No. 2 CRS is situated and where the unaccompanied members of the party were accommodated by the kindness of Col. Silberey, the Commander of the group. Members of the party who were not staying at the police barracks were then taken to the two hotels where rooms had been booked, the Hotel Londres and the Hotel Monte Carlo.

Later in the evening the whole party were enter-



The Regimental Association detachment drawn up at the official opening of the Square du Capitaine Michel in Roubaix. In front on the left of Colonel Clayton is Colonel Silberey, Commander of the Police Group stationed at Lambersart.



The scene at the official opening of the Square du Capitaine Michel at Wattrelos.



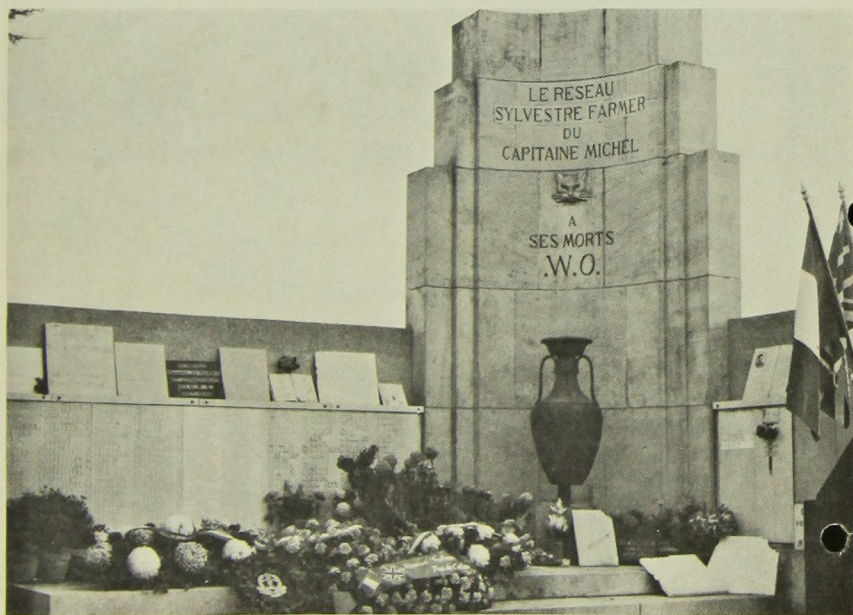
Three members of the Hounslow Branch at the official opening of the Square du Capitaine Michel in Roubaix. From left to right: Messrs. A. Kemp, M. Ward and C. Trindall.



The procession passing through the Southern Cemetery, Lille, on its way to take part in the Ceremony at the monument to the Réseau Sylvestre.



The scene during the ceremony at the monument to the Réseau Sylvestre. On the right of Col. Clayton is M. Marcel Fertin, President of the Réseau Sylvestre, who was the able Lieutenant of Michael Trobas.



The memorial to the Réseau Sylvestre in the Southern Cemetery, Lille.

tained to dinner at the police barracks as the guests of Col. Silberey and the members of the Resistance. The police in Lille are very close in friendship to the Regiment as it was in the disguise of a gendarme that Michael Trobas often used whilst carrying out his preparations for sabotage. In fact, he was wearing the uniform of the G.M.R.—Groupes Mobiles de Reserve—when he was shot, as is shown in the artist's illustration of the incident and recounted in "SOE in France" in the History of the Second World War series.

An early start the next morning Saturday, November 24, as the beginning of a long and eventful day which meant a ride to Roubaix where a number of the 2nd Battalion were billeted in 1939 after moving from Gondecourt. At Roubaix it was a pleasure to have Col. Maurice Buckmaster, OBE, with us. He was paying his respects to his subordinate whom he sent on three missions to France and who was being honoured that day by having three separate public places named after him. Michael Trobas is unique as probably being the only secret agent in history to have a monument erected to his memory and a street named after him, plus two public squares, recently opened. His commander of those years is too well known to tell his long story and accomplishments here.

After the speeches, followed by a solemn silence to the memory of those whose lives were sacrificed after the guns had ceased to roar, the "March of the Deported" was played. One could easily picture France stirring herself and hear the tramping of feet as she fought to regain her liberty after the German occupation. In our presence were men and women who had risked their liberty and lives, to help the allied cause and to give succour to our escaping soldiers and airmen and help to our agents to sabotage the German war effort. After the unveiling of the plaque denoting that the area was now the "Square du Capitaine Michel" we assembled at the monument to J. B. Lebas where a regimental wreath was laid by Col. Clayton and the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by George Chacksfield.

Just an hour later a similar ceremony was held at Wattrelos, another town well known and used by Michael Trobas, the small square also being named "Square du Capitaine Michel". In the cemetery nearby a wreath was laid to the memory of those who had forfeited their lives, and again the Last Post and Reveille were sounded. Here the main speech was made by M. Albert Prouvost, an industrialist and influential member of the community. After the speeches a procession was formed and made its way to the grave of 6199473 Pte. W. C. Coulson, 2nd Battalion, who died May 25, 1940, and was buried in the British sector of the cemetery. Here a wreath bearing the regimental badge was placed by the headstone by Col. Clayton.

After this ceremony we repaired to the Town Hall of Wattrelos where a number of speeches were made in both languages and reciprocal presentations made. The town presented the regiment with the Medal of Wattrelos whilst Col. Clayton on behalf of the regiment presented a Regimental Plaque to the Mayor and to M. Arthur Malfait who took over the leadership of the group after the death of Michael Trobas. It was at this ceremony that a welcome friend, M. Jacques "Jimmy" Deflandre, so helpful to us in

Mons where he now lives, joined us bringing greetings from our Belgian friends, especially Charles Ottevaere, the Secretary of the Friends of the Middlesex Regiment in Mons.

From the town hall the whole party of approximately 300 were entertained at a banquet in the Albert Prouvost factory. Here the presentation of a Regimental Plaque to M. Prouvost was made, he having met the finances of so many of the entertainments. At the same ceremony presentations of the Croix du Capitaine Michel were made to Col. Clayton, Col. Walden, Major Cummins, Major Smith and Mr. Wally Golds, the last named having served with the 2nd Battalion throughout the war of 1939-45.

It was hoped that a visit to the "Rue du Capitaine Michel" could be made at this juncture and a wreath laid on the memorial at the house where Michael Trobas was killed. This visit, to the dismay of a number present, could not be fitted in. After the banquet, a reception was held at the town hall of Roubaix where a Regimental Plaque was presented to the Mayor and the Medal of Roubaix presented to Col. Clayton for the Regiment. That evening a dinner for the regiment, members of Réseau Sylvestre and members of the local authorities of Roubaix and Wattrelos was given and after an enjoyable meal, an impromptu dance was held and appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed by all present including the two gendarme outriders.

Sunday, the 25th, began with a Mass at the Church of the Immaculate Heart of St. Mary at Lille Sud. This was a voluntary service as far as our members were concerned. After the service the members of the different bodies taking part formed up at the main entrance to the Southern Cemetery. Here gathered the Gendarmerie representatives, the Réseau Sylvestre, the Réseau Fer, British Embassy representative, the S.O.E. (Special Operation Executive) represented by Col. Buckmaster, the Ancient Combattants of Lille and numerous other local and patriotic bodies. All standards formed in one group, our own regimental standard borne by Mr. Fred Hawes, in Middlesex Regimental uniform complete with our now obsolete badges. The long procession made its way slowly to the Réseau Sylvestre memorial, a photograph of which appears in these columns. During the procession many graves of the victims of British bombing were passed. The graves would have been much more numerous but for the action of Michael Trobas in destroying the locomotives and works at Fives-Lille on June 27, 1943. To accomplish the same damage by air bombing would have cost so many more innocent lives. At the memorial, the Guard of Honour consisted of the armed Gendarmerie with the four representatives of the Metropolitan Police on the inner flanks. Our policemen were very impressive in their blue uniforms and helmets, causing many complimentary remarks from our French comrades. Speeches were made by M. Marcel Fertin, the President of Réseau Sylvestre, who was the able lieutenant of Michael Trobas and whose story was told by George Langlaan, an operative of S.O.E. who escaped from a German gaol with Michael Trobas after an earlier drop into occupied France. After the laying of wreaths, the regimental wreath being placed by Col. Clayton, the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by George

Chacksfield. The party then moved to the British War Memorial where a similar service took place and where lie the graves of 2/Lt. K. D. Tarr, 1/8th Battalion who died May 29, 1940; 3957598, Cpl. Empson, 2nd Battalion, who died May 29, 1940, and 6210034 Pte. A. Oakenden, 2nd Battalion, who died June 30, 1940. The last ceremony in the cemetery was then held at the grave of Commandant Bayart, who gave cover to Michael Trotobas for which he was executed by the Gestapo. Here the regiment showed its gratitude, as in past years, by placing a regimental wreath on his memorial.

After the wreath-laying ceremonies at the cemetery a civic reception was held in the town hall of Lille where, after speeches, the Medal of Lille was presented to Col. Clayton for the Regiment, and in return a regimental plaque was presented to the Mayor from the Regiment. At the end of the speeches, it was a delight to greet again two friends from Gondcourt, the Mayor, M. Edouard Montaigne, and M. Albert Buisette who make the regimental party so welcome when the programme allows a visit to be made to our first billet in France in 1939. As remarked above, it was a disappointment that visits could not be fitted in to all the localities of interest to the Regiment but there was a limit to the ground which could be covered during the spare time at our disposal, a very tight programme having been arranged by our French hosts.

From the town hall of Lille our hosts and our party adjourned for luncheon at l'Hôtel Marechal. At this point our generous host, M. Prouvost, had to leave us due to a business appointment overseas. He was given a rousing farewell by our members who sang "For he's a jolly good fellow" and clapping in time as he walked the length of the hall. We then settled down to aperitifs, our members sitting with friends they had made or met again during the visit. Pierre and Fifi Faucomprez, the father and mother-in-law of Len Arlington, both of whom had suffered imprisonment by the Gestapo for hiding Len, were holding court with their own family and the representatives of the Metropolitan Police. Little Marguerite Sobry, that sprightly tiny member of the Resistance, was always the centre of a merry throng; Professor Louis F. Gernez, a doctor, was renewing acquaintances, as was Francis Tachon who had proved so helpful, not only during this visit but also in the two previous visits. M. Marcel Fertin, the President of the Companions of Capitaine Michel, arranged for a recorded message from M. Henri Trotobas, the father of Michael and himself a 1914-18 veteran soldier of the French Army, to be played.

There were only a few speeches during this last meal as all present appeared to have a lot to discuss with their table companions, the language by this time proving no problem provided your arms and hands had good locomotion. This was a convivial gathering which, as for last year, had to be ended abruptly to allow time for the coach to embark at Calais on the early evening ferry.

As Col. Clayton wrote in his article after our first official visit in 1971, we must establish this event in our Regimental Calendar. It was an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

R. W. J. S.

NEWSLETTER ISSUES

It has been decided that in future the *Die-Hards* Newsletter will be issued in March, June, September and December.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

MAY 4, 1974

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, accompanied by Prince Henrik, will present Colours to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th (V) Battalions the Queen's Regiment on the H.A.C. Ground at Armo House, City Road, London, E.C.1, on Saturday, May 4, 1974, at 11.15 a.m. During this ceremony the Old Colours of the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) (presented in 1953) will be marched off parade for the last time.

It is interesting to note that the following former officers of the Regiment are very closely involved in the organisation of the Parade:

Lt.-Col. M. V. Hayward, MBE	Parade Commander
Major H. M. du V. Lohan	Parade 2IC
Capt. M. J. Ball	Parade Adjutant

Details of the Parade have been sent to all members of the Regimental Association and Officers Club.

ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 1974

The Albuhera Service of Remembrance this year will be held in St. Paul's Cathedral at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18.

At this service the following Colours will be laid up in the Cathedral:

1. The final of the Colours of the 1st Battalion, which were buried in Hong Kong in 1941 and recovered in 1945. This final is all that remains of the Colours, which were presented by HRH The Prince of Wales at Colchester on October 21, 1931.

2. The Colours of the 1st Battalion, which were presented by Field-Marshal Sir John Harding at Zelweg, Austria, on September 27, 1953. These Colours are to be marched off on the parade when new Colours are presented to battalions of The Queen's Regiment by HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark on May 4.

Detailed instruction will be issued to all who have informed the secretary of the Regimental Association of their intention of attending the service.

ANNUAL REUNION 1974

Arrangements have been made to hold the Annual Reunion this year at Porchester Hall on Saturday, May 18, from 7 p.m. to 11.45 p.m.

Charges for admission will be as follows:

Single tickets	15p
Double tickets (admitting lady and gentleman)	25p

Applications for tickets, together with a remittance for the tickets required, should be made to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

Bars and buffets will be open from 7 p.m. for the sale of drinks and light refreshments.

A Dance Band will be in attendance.

Full details have been issued to all members of the Regimental Association and Officers' Club.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator: Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Rd., Edgware, Middx.

Photo-copy of the manuscript letter written by Lt.-Col. Thomas Shadforth, 57th Regiment

The original letter was presented to the Regiment when the donor joined the 1st Battalion as a subaltern in 1935. It was unfortunately lost with other paintings and archives at the time of the fall of Hong Kong and Singapore in 1941. In an earlier publication of the Regimental Museum notes a printed copy of the letter was published, but I feel sure that newly enrolled readers would wish to read a good and God-fearing man's last letter to those he loved.

Camp before Sebastopol.

9 P.M. 17th June—1855

My own beloved wife and my dearly beloved children:

At 10 o'clock tomorrow morning I head the 57th Regiment to storm the Redan. It is, as I feel, an awful perilous moment to me, but I place myself in the hands of our gracious God without whose will a sparrow cannot fall to the ground. I place my whole trust in Him. Should I fall in the performance of my duty, I fully rely on the precious blood of our Saviour shed for sinners that I may be saved through Him.

Pardon and forgive me, my beloved ones, for anything I may have said or done to cause you one moment's unhappiness. To God I commend my body and soul which are His, and should it be His Will that I fall in the defence of my Queen and Country I most devoutly say "Thy Will be done".

God bless you and protect you, and my last prayer will be that He, of His infinite goodness, may preserve me to you. God ever bless you, my beloved Eliza, and my dearest children, and if we meet not again in this world, may we all meet in the Mansion of our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

God bless and protect you and

Ever Believe me

Your affectionate Husband
and loving Father.

THOMAS SHADFORTH

Lt. Col. 57th Regt.

Thomas Shadforth was the son of Lt.-Col. Thomas Shadforth of the 57th, who was severely wounded at the Battle of Albuhera, May 16, 1811, and was to receive the Military General Service Medal with two clasps, "Busaco" and "Albuhera". He was of mature age when he decided to don the King's uniform, being 26 years of age when he was induced to do so by his cousin, General H. Shadforth, then a subaltern home on leave. Born in 1772, he was commissioned as an ensign in 1798 in the 87th Regiment of Foot, later 1st Battalion The Royal Irish

Fusiliers. In September 1798 he was promoted lieutenant and posted to the 47th Regiment, later 1st Battalion Loyal North Lancaster Regiment, then serving in Bermuda, where he joined them in 1799. Whilst in Bermuda he married Frances Fitt, who was to bear him four children, Henry born in 1803, Frances born in 1806, Thomas in 1808 and Robert in 1816. On May 13, 1802, he was promoted to captain and posted to the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment. From 1804 to 1809 he served in Gibraltar, joining the Army in the Peninsula with the Regiment on posting to active service. He was present at the Battle of Busaco and the actions of Pombal and Redinha and the first siege of Badajoz. At Albuhera he was wounded in the arm and had his knee so shattered by a bullet that pieces of the bone continued to surface through his flesh; the wound never healed but required daily dressing up to the time of his death. He was promoted major on June 20, 1811, remaining in the Peninsula till embarking with the Regiment for America; he took no further active part in the war due to the severity of his wounds. On Napoleon's return from Elba, the Regiment was ordered to Europe but arrived too late to take part in the Battle of Waterloo, though it formed part of the Army of Occupation in Paris. In 1818 the regiment left France for Ireland, where Major Shadforth was promoted to lieutenant-colonel August 12, 1819.

In September 1824 the 57th assembled at Chatham ready for embarkation overseas. This was to be in Australia, to which colony they sailed in 16 different vessels as guards to convicts who had been sentenced to transportation. On this fleet sailed Lt.-Col. Shadforth and two of his sons. The elder, Lt. Henry John Tudor Shadforth, who had joined the Regiment in October 1819, sailed in the *Minstral* in March, served until 1829 when he retired on half-pay and later became Usher of the Black Rod, an appointment held by another distinguished Die-Hard, Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, a century later. Col. Shadforth and his family, including Ensign Thomas Shadforth, sailed on the *Mangles* six months later. Thomas was to fall at the head of his regiment before Sebastopol, an inspiration to his regiment.

The Commanding Officer was a very popular and admired man, not only among his officers and soldiers, but also with the colonists and the convicts, many of whom were highly educated men and women. In 1829 the anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera was celebrated in Sydney with more than usual ceremony by the 39th (Dorsets) and 57th, both of whom had "Albuhera" on their Colours and who were at that date quartered in the same barracks, Dinners were given to the civil magistrate and

principal private inhabitants of Sydney. Numbers of the townspeople also attended to witness the festivities at the barracks, which were brilliantly illuminated at night, the large central building displaying the word "Albuhera", surmounted by a crown. Col. Shadforth and Capt. Jackson, who had also been seriously wounded in the battle, on appearing on the square, were chaired by the men of the Regiment and carried amidst cheers to the steps of the mess-house. After dinner, when the cloth had been removed and the usual toasts drunk, the Governor made a speech in which he expressed his great gratification at meeting the officers of the gallant 57th on such an occasion, and after alluding to the bravery of that "wounded veteran, Col. Shadforth", paid compliments to the Corps, including Capt. Jackson, who had carried the King's Colour at Albuhera.

During his command Col. Shadforth had energetic, adventurous and courageous officers. Major Edmund Lockyer, of the 57th, annexed Western Australia to the British Crown on January 21, 1827 (his birthday), whilst Capt. Patrick Logan explored and discovered vast tracts of land and the Logan River. Capt. Logan was subsequently murdered by the aborigines in 1830, after which Col. Shadforth fought hard to obtain a pension for Mrs. Logan. Eventually a small pension was granted. The son of Capt. and Mrs. Logan became General R. A. Logan, who commanded the 57th during the Maori War (see footnote).

When the 57th were ordered to India in 1831 the marriage of two members of his family induced him to remain. He sold out his commission April 12, 1831, settling down to a useful life, becoming connected with most of the commercial companies that came into existence at this period as well as with almost every charitable and literary institution, including the Savings Bank, of which he was one of the earliest promoters and directors. He died in 1862 aged 91 years.

Lt.-Col. Thomas Shadforth, the son of the above was born on July 24, 1808, at Gibraltar, where the 57th were then part of the garrison of "the Rock" and was commissioned as ensign in the 57th at 16 years of age on April 8, 1825. With his father, then commanding the Regiment, he sailed from Chatham for Sydney on the *Mangles* September 8, 1825.

On arrival in Australia a number of detachments were quartered at various out-stations, supplying guards over convicts and hunting bushrangers, who were the scourge of the young colony. In 1826, whilst employed in the duty of hunting bushrangers, Ensign Shadforth had a very narrow escape. In following up a bushranger his party came across a boat lying on the shore bottom upwards, and going up to it he put his head under the gunwale to see if the man they were looking for was underneath. As it happened, the bushranger was a very small man, and instead of lying on the ground under the boat had curled himself up in one of the thwart, whence he saw the ensign's head pushed underneath—as he afterwards related when eventually captured—and immediately covered it with his gun, determined to blow young Shadforth's brains out if he should see him. However, Shadforth failed to discover him and withdrew his dangerous position, little knowing how narrowly he had escaped.

He was promoted to the rank of lieutenant on May 28, 1826, and to captain on April 12, 1831, the same day as his father sold out his commission. A month later on May 26, 1831, he married Eliza Powell in Sydney, New South Wales, two days before embarking on the *Red Rover* for India, arriving there in August, marching to Poonamallee and two months later moving to Fort St. George, Madras. The 57th served in India until 1846, when Major Shadforth, who had been promoted to field rank on March 29, 1844, was in command of Nos. 3 and 10 Companies on the *Mary Anne*. The ship ran short of provisions after leaving St. Helena and boarded five vessels in order to obtain a fresh supply. Coming up the channel her compass became unshipped and a disaster was narrowly averted. The voyage lasted 163 days and four men died on board and it was with relief that Major Shadforth settled at Chatham on September 29, 1846, 22 years after having embarked there for New South Wales.

Service in Ireland followed the return of the Regiment from overseas, during which time the 57th gained great popularity for the aid it gave to the citizens, especially in the service of saving property from destruction by fire. In 1853 Major Shadforth was in command of the Depot companies at Fort Elizabeth, remaining in command when the service companies moved to Corfu and obtaining his brevet as lieutenant-colonel on June 20, 1854. He was promoted lieutenant-colonel on November 7, 1854, and took command of the 57th on arrival in the Crimea the following day. His care for his soldiers during the bitter weather of the Russian winter was unrelenting and he was on several occasions complimented by the Commander-in-Chief, Field-Marshal Lord Raglan, on his constant anxiety for the comfort of his men and the efficiency of the 57th.

The assault on the Redan was selected to be on June 18, the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, when Lord Raglan had lost a hand. The 57th were chosen to form the storming party and were led by the Brigadier, Sir John Campbell, and Col. Shadforth. A tremendous fire was poured upon the 57th from the Russians in their fortress; the Brigadier was killed instantly and Col. Shadforth fell dead at the same time after giving orders to his officers on how to conduct the attack. He had led his regiment under a storm of missiles of every kind, in the midst of which he was as calm as if it was a parade he was conducting.

Had he survived Col. Shadforth would have been recommended for the Companionship of the Bath, an honour subsequently bestowed upon Col. Warre, who succeeded him in the command of the Regiment. Her Majesty Queen Victoria graciously assigned apartments at Hampton Court to Mrs. Shadforth in consideration of her husband's gallant conduct in the Crimea.

Presented by Major M. P. Weedon, MC (a descendant of Col. Shadforth).

Note—The uniforms of both Capt. Logan and General Logan are now on display in the Regimental museum.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

One of our recent recruits to the Regimental Association is ex-Drummer L. J. Armitage (21022008) who served with the 1st Battalion from 1947 to 1952. He states how very proud he was to serve in the Corps of Drums under Drum-Major Holdford.

He now lives in Wales.

When paying his annual subscription recently that staunch old octogenarian Albert Ballard (L/11612), who served in the 1st Battalion in India before the 1914-18 War, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards, especially those who served with him in India.

The engagement was announced in *The Daily Telegraph* of January 2 last between Clare, daughter of Col. and Mrs. Ian Battye, and Mark, son of Mr. and Mrs. Brian Meredith, of 128 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts, and Ottawa, Canada.

We were very pleased indeed to receive a visit at Edgware early in February from Capt. Denis Bayton.

After serving for some years as a bandsman in the Regiment he was selected to attend a Bandmasters' course at Kneller Hall. On successfully completing that course, he became a Director of Music to Colonial forces in Africa until his retirement. Since then he has become a successful freelance musician, both as a performer and a teacher.

Congratulations to Major Malcolm Beaumont on the award of the 1st Clasp to the Territorial Efficiency Decoration, notified in *The London Gazette*, dated January 14, 1974.

A recent recruit whom we welcome to the Regimental Association, is ex-L/Cpl. Philip Bignell (23777022). He joined the 8th (TA) Battalion in 1960 and served with it until our T.A. Battalions were amalgamated to form the 5th (TA) Battalion. He later rejoined the 10th (T) Battalion The Queens Regiment and served with it until the Battalion was reduced to a Cadre in 1971.

On completion of his tenure Col. Ian Brotherton relinquished the appointment of ADC to Her Majesty The Queen on November 5, 1973.

We were very pleased indeed last January to enrol one of our former war-time officers, Major C. D. L. Brereton, as a member of the Regimental Officers Club.

During the 1939-45 War he spent nearly three years at the Infantry Heavy Weapons School, Netheravon, ending up as Chief Instructor of the 42nd Mortar Wing. In September 1943 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion and served with that Battalion until he was wounded in June 1944—four days after landing in France. As a result of his wounds he was invalided out in July 1945.

He is now warden at the Village Cottage, Bottisham, Cambridgeshire.

Ex-WO2 R. R. Chaplin (6195306) has recently joined the Regimental Association. He is well known to older members of the 1st Battalion for his efficiency as the Documents Clerk in the Battalion Orderly Room in pre-1941 days. He was taken prisoner of war when Hong Kong fell in December 1941.

He recently found a sergeant's cane in a second-hand shop inscribed "Sgt. R. A. J. Wadsworth, 10th Middlesex", and he would like to restore this cane to the owner. If, therefore, any of our readers knows the present whereabouts of the owner it would be appreciated if he would get in touch with the Editor.

It was with much pleasure that we learned recently that Lt.-Col. John Doyle had become a member of the Regimental Officers Club.

He was the last Commanding Officer of 571 LAA Regiment RA (our 9th (TA) Battalion) before the amalgamation of our T.A. Battalions to form the 5th (TA) Battalion.

He is a staunch supporter of the 9th Battalion Branch Annual Dinner and Reunion.

The engagement of Roland, son of Col. and Mrs. Desmond Ellis, to Annette, daughter of Maj-Gen. and Mrs. Nigel Gribbon, was announced in *The Daily Telegraph* on December 6, 1973.

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One of our most newly joined members of the Regimental Association is ex-Pte. R. Evans, who as a National Serviceman served with the 1st Battalion in Hameln from 1960 to 1962. He was in "A" Company and will be remembered as a Regimental cook and a keen scoutmaster.

He now lives in Enfield, Middlesex.

Our heartiest congratulations to Lt.-Col. Graham Fox, on the award of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd clasps to his Territorial Decoration which was notified in the *London Gazette* of January 14, 1974. In order to become entitled to three clasps it is obligatory to have given 30 years' service in the Territorial Army, and no one has given more dedicated and devoted service to his beloved, old 9th Battalion. In addition to this he has given yeoman service throughout to the Regiment and has served on the Executive Committee of the Regimental Association for 36 years—10 of these as Chairman. This is a wonderful record, which has never been equalled since the formation of our Regimental Association.

In a letter received recently ex-Sgt. W. J. L. Fox (6200275) sends his best wishes and kind regards to all his old friends in the 2/8th and 9th Battalions, with whom he had so many happy times.

When paying his subscription last January Mr. W. J. Gillyatt, MBE, a former Bandmaster of the 7th Battalion, asked us to convey his best wishes to all Die-Hards for a prosperous 1974, which we now do.

Major Bill Grogan, who is now a leading figure with the Cadets of the Royal Anglian Regiment, is one of our recent members to join the Regimental Officers Club.

After nearly 30 years' service in the ranks of the Regiment, mostly in the Bands, he started his career with the Cadets when he was commissioned as a 2/Lieutenant in the Cambridgeshire Territorial Association in 1962.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is F. A. Hennah (6203538), who served with the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth and Gosport from 1936 to 1938 when he was discharged on compassionate grounds. He later joined the Royal Artillery and served with them until 1946, becoming a senior N.C.O.

He is now Welfare Officer to the London District Branch of the Dunkirk Veterans Association.

One of our former junior T.A. officers whom we have managed to enrol as a member of the Regimental Officers Club is Lt. R. H. H. Herriott. He served from 1956 to 1964 as a subaltern, firstly in the 9th Battalion and later in the 5th Battalion after our T.A. Battalions had been amalgamated.

An old Die-Hard who has given years of service to the Royal British Legion is Major A. H. Jacobs, who enrolled in the 15th County of London Regiment (The Civil Service Rifles) in 1912. He went to

France in 1914 with the 9th County of London Regiment (The Queen Victoria Rifles) and was commissioned in July 1915 as a 2/Lieutenant in the 8th (TF) Battalion. During the last eight months of the war he was attached to the 17th Battalion The Machine Gun Corps and, whilst with that unit, he was wounded in October 1918.

During the 1939-45 War he was Second in Command of a Home Guard unit in Newcastle upon Tyne.

A surprise, and very welcome, visitor to the County Office at Edgware recently was Bill Mathey (L/16689 and 6189297), who was an NCO in the 3rd Battalion Band from 1916 until the Battalion was disbanded in 1922.

In the Personal Jottings of the November 1973 issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* it was stated that WO2 J. Medland had been transferred to the RAOC in September 1956. This was incorrect, as it was to the RAPC to which he was then transferred.

He has done very well in his new Corps and is now Chief Clerk to the District Paymaster at Headquarters, London District.

Ex-Cpl. Les Milton (PS/823), one of our most loyal members, who served in the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion during the 1914-18 War and afterwards in the 4th Battalion in Gibraltar, sends his greetings to all Die-Hards, and especially to fellow members of the Mill Hill Branch.

Ex-C/Sgt. Tom Minski (6001799) is one of our latest recruits to the Regimental Association. He has a wide and varied experience of military service. He first enlisted into the Queens Royal West Surrey Regiment in 1917 and, whilst serving with the 1st Battalion of that fine old County Regiment, was wounded on the Somme in 1918. He was subsequently discharged in November 1919. After volunteering for, and serving with, the Defence Force in 1921 he joined the 6th Battalion The Essex Regiment (TF) and served with that Battalion for two years. He re-enlisted into the Essex Regiment in 1927 and the following year was transferred as Orderly Room Sergeant to the 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, which later became a unit of The Middlesex Regiment. In 1934 he was promoted Colour Sergeant and, in that rank, went to France with the Battalion in 1940. After serving in the Maginot Line with his Company he was taken prisoner in June 1940 at St Valery when "A" and "D" Companies of the Battalion were made POW with most of the 51st (Highland) Division.

Ex-C/Sgt. Alf Moreton, MM, is another of our most recent recruits to the Regimental Association. He was a member of the Transport Section of the 2nd Battalion before that Battalion was mechanised and completed his Colour service with the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

We were very sorry to hear that, as a result of overdoing things, ex-RSM Frank Nash, MBE, had a spell in hospital, but we are glad to know that he has made a rapid recovery, although he still has to go steadily.

We sincerely hope that he will soon be back to full health again, so that he can carry out his expressed wish of attending some of the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch meetings.

Noel Peters (PS/1841), that loyal member of the old 16th (Public Schools) Battalion, sends his kind regards to all Die-Hards wherever they may be.

He still lives at Portsmouth and has been a strong supporter of the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch since it started.

We send our heartiest congratulations to the following on their promotion to the rank stated with effect from December 31, 1973:—

To Lt.-Col.

Major J. S. B. Pollard

To Major

Capt. B. A. Carlston

Capt. R. H. Graham

In a New Year letter ex-Pte. Charlie Potter (6201244) who was serving in "B" Company of the 2nd Battalion when he was wounded at Dunkirk, wishes "all old and new comrades health, wealth and happiness for the New Year". He unfortunately cannot get around to visit us as he is still suffering from the effects of his wounds.

On a recent visit to the County Office at Edgware ex-C/Sgt. F. (Sandy) Powell informed us that he is retiring after 15 years' service as a Barrack Inventory Accountant at Mill Hill.

He was previously on the Depot Staff at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, and on his discharge therefrom in 1959 he took up employment with the Barrack Services.

Col. Jimmy Reid informs us that his son, James, who is a Lt.-Col. in the American Armed Forces, is now Military Attaché in La Paz, Bolivia.

We send our heartiest congratulations to Col. Dennis Rendell on his promotion to Brigadier with effect from December 31, 1973, and his appointment as Provost Marshal.

He arrived home from BAOR to take up his new appointment on February 15.

We were very pleased at Christmas time to receive a visit from Cpl. Phil Rogers, whilst he was on leave from 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment in Northern Ireland.

He enlisted in our Regiment in 1965.

Ex-Pte. Ernie J. Stebbing (6769309), a pre-war veteran of the 2nd Battalion, sends his very best wishes to all Die-Hards, and hopes to meet many old friends at the service in St Paul's Cathedral on May 18.

In his capacity as Chairman of the Bures District Branch of the Royal British Legion we are most grateful to him for putting us in touch with two old 1914-18 War Die-Hards—Mr. W. H. T. Alleman (170131), who served in the 19th (2nd Public Works Pioneer) Battalion from June 1918 to December 1920, and Mr. Rundle (1444), who was badly

wounded at Neuve Chapelle whilst serving with the 7th (TF) Battalion.

The engagement has been announced between Michael, son of Col. and Mrs. John Shipster, and Jackie Mann, daughter of Mrs. D. Greenwood, of Port Alfred, South Africa.

When paying his annual subscriptions for 1974 ex-Cpl. Kenneth Sutton (21124794) who was badly disabled as a result of wounds received whilst serving with the 1st Battalion in Korea, sent his best wishes to all members of the Regimental Association.

Congratulations to Capt. Peter Walden on being selected for the appointment of Senior Medical Registrar to the Department of Medical Oncology (Treatment of Cancer) at the Charing Cross Hospital.

In a recent letter, in which he enclosed a remittance for his annual subscriptions for 1974, ex-Pte. S. J. Wallace (6196203), who served with the 2nd Battalion in Ahmednagar in the 1920's, sent his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

Lt. Gerald William Webb, son of Capt. and Mrs. Gerry Webb, married Miss Dorothy Ann Gardner, eldest daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. Gardner, on February 2, and we send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

We were very pleased to be able to enrol Capt. John Wybrow as a member of the Regimental Officers Club at the end of last year.

After approximately 12 years' service in the ranks of the Regiment, mostly with the 1st Battalion, he was commissioned in 1941 and posted to the 8th Battalion. In 1945 he was extra regimentally employed for the next four years, and then served with the Royal Air Force in the rank of Flight-Lieutenant until he retired in 1957.

CORRIGENDUM

In "Personal Jottings" of the November 1973 issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* (No. 24) referring to Col. Dennis Rendell the anniversary of the great battle to be observed this year is the 60th and not the 68th.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. D. G. Bennett, Mr. T. R. Bennett, Mr. F. E. Birdsall, Mr. C. C. Bradish, Major T. F. G. Carless, MC, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, OBE, Mr. W. J. Gillyatt, MBE, Mr. F. C. W. Hammond, Major L. T. Honeybun, Mr. W. Lee, Mr. S. L. Lloyd, Mr. W. E. Lockyer, Mr. J. Long, Mr. P. F. Maloney, Mr. F. Nash, MBE, Mr. A. H. Naulder, BEM, Mr. A. G. Nicholson, Mrs. D. Sims (née Nellie Clark) and Mr. A. E. Tuthill for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free issues of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving old comrades.

NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

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

OBE

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment.

MBE

Lt.-Col. J. S. B. Pollard, O.C. Designate Northern Frontier Regiment, Sultan's Armed Forces.

Major R. D. Fisher, attached School of Infantry, Warminster.



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CORRESPONDENCE

From: Capt. W. B. Hammond, ERD, TD
The Spinney,
Cuffley Hill,
Goffs Oak, Herts.
January 7, 1974.

To: The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter
Dear Mr. Editor,

I am writing to ask you to publish this letter as I feel that it could be of interest to many fellow Die-Hards living in or within easy reach of the Metropolis.

After leading a very active life in the Armed Forces it is often felt that there is a gap in one's life after giving up. Most of all we miss the comradeship. As a member of the Metropolitan Special Constabulary of some years' standing I can thoroughly recommend this very interesting and worthwhile hobby.

In addition to the Land Division, there is Thames Division, which, as the name implies, is responsible for policing the River Thames.

I will be very pleased to arrange for full details to be sent to those interested in the MSC and perhaps arrange a visit to the division of their choice. I should mention that the age governing joining is between 18 and 50.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD HAMMOND.

From: Mr. H. Clayton, Hon. Sec., 6th Battalion
Cheshire Regiment Reunion Committee
24 Aintree Grove,
Adswold, Stockport,
Cheshire SK3 8QY.
January 20, 1974.

Sir,

I do hope that you won't mind me writing this letter to you. I am seeking many old friends from the Middlesex Regiment and I hope you can help me in my enquiries. I am going back now to the end of 1939, when many of the Middlesex joined The 6th Battalion The Cheshire Regiment at Napier Barracks, Avenue Street, Stockport. The boys, I think, came from the 8th Middlesex.

In Stockport we have 50 names of the 6th Cheshires and we have formed a Reunion Committee, and I thought how nice it would be if we could include our friends from Middlesex. If we could make contact with some of them, others may follow. It may be impossible, but if you could help in any way, sir, we would be more than grateful.

Yours sincerely,
H. CLAYTON,
Hon. Secretary,
6th Battalion Reunion Committee.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Date	Event
Thursday, April 18	Visit of members of the Regimental Association to the Regimental Museum.	Saturday, May 18	(1) Albuhera Service of Remembrance and Laying up of Colours and the Final of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) in St. Paul's Cathedral.
Saturday, April 27	1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N.8.		(2) Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2
Friday, May 3	Spring Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.	Saturday, June 1	2/10th Battalion O.C.A. (46th Reunion) Luncheon at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W.2.
Saturday, May 4	Presentation of Colours to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th (Volunteer) Battalions The Queen's Regiment by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark at Armoury House, City Road, London, E.C.1, and marching off of Old Colours of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO).	Wednesday, June 5	Derby Outing.
Thursday, May 16	ALBUHERA DAY	Saturday, June 8	9th Battalion Branch Dinner at Victory ex-Service Club Seymour Street, London, W.2.
Thursday, May 16	Officers Club Cocktail Party at United Service and Royal Aero Club.	Sunday, June 16 or Sunday, June 30	Party to Players' League Match at Lord's—either Middlesex v Surrey on June 16, or Middlesex v Lancashire on June 30 (firm date to be decided later).

OBITUARY

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

AYLWARD—On December 8, 1973, ex-Cpl. Raymond Aylward (6205011), aged 50. He enlisted as a Boy in the Regiment on September 5, 1938, and joined the Band of the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong in February 1939. He was taken prisoner when the Colony fell in December 1941 and taken to a POW camp in Japan, where he remained until he was repatriated in 1945. He went back to Hong Kong with the 1st Battalion in June 1949 and returned home in 1950 on completion of his Colour Service. After a few weeks he re-enlisted in the Gloucestershire Regiment and went with them to Korea, where he was again taken a POW—this time only for four months. He served with this Regiment in East Africa, Aden, Cyprus and BAOR, and finally took his discharge in August 1963, having completed 24½ years' service. He had had a truly remarkable career in the Army.

BALDRY—On January 27, 1974, ex-Sgt. Charles Clifford Baldry (L/4832), aged 96. He was our oldest Die-Hard in age and our oldest soldier in service, having enlisted into the Regiment on April 27, 1896. On completion of his recruit training at the Depot then in Hounslow he was posted to the 1st Battalion which was serving in South Africa under the command of Lt.-Col. Augustus West Hill. He was a "waiting man" for the draft from the 1st Battalion for the 2nd Battalion, who were shipwrecked when the *Warren Hastings* was wrecked off the island of Reunion on January 14, 1897. Posted to the Home Establishment he was a member of the Depot Staff when the Regimental Depot opened at Mill Hill in 1905. He later joined the 3rd Battalion at Tanglin Barracks, Singapore, before moving with that Battalion to India. Whilst in India he was seconded for duty to the Bengal-Nagpur railway and also as instructor to the Cawnpore Rifle Volunteers. During the Delhi Durbar in 1912 he was part of the escort when King George V travelled by train from Calcutta to Bombay. He returned to England with the 3rd Battalion in December 1914 and served with the Battalion in France where during the trench warfare in the winter of 1915 he suffered frostbite at Ypres.

He was discharged from the service in 1917 and for the next 30 years was employed as a clerical officer in the Ministry of Pensions. In 1951 he moved into one of the Regimental cottages in Albuhera Close, which he occupied up to the time of his death.

A placid, good-living man he was a great credit to his country and his regiment.

(With acknowledgements to Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE)

BELLERS—On January 30, 1974, in Axminster Hospital, Brigadier Eric Vernon Robert Bellers, aged 79. He was the eldest son of the late Col. E. V. Bellers, a brother of Major R. C. H. Bellers and father of Major P. G. V. Bellers. He was commissioned in 1914 and joined the Indian Army after serving an attachment to The Middlesex Regiment.

His Regiment was the 1st K.G.V.O. Gurkha Rifles and during the 1914-18 War he served in Chitral and Waziristan on the North-West Frontier of India, in Mesopotamia where his Battalion took part in the capture of Kut-el-Amara, and in Palestine where he fought at the Battle of Megiddo. Between the wars he served in Syria, Suez Canal, Egypt, Iraq and North-West Frontier of India, and commanded the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Gurkha Rifles in the Waziristan operation against the Fakir of Ipi. During the 1939-45 War he was on the staff in India and was Commander of the Peshawar Brigade until 1944 when he was appointed Director of Pioneer and Labour at G.H.Q. in Delhi.

He was a dedicated soldier and his Regiment was always close to his heart. In a message to his widow, Major-General S. K. Kovla, Colonel of 1st Gurkha Rifles, paid him this tribute: "He was a model of the perfect officer in the Regiment".

BROUGH—On October 26, 1973, Capt. J. H. Brough, aged 85. He was commissioned into the 8th (TF) Battalion and, at the time of his death, he was one of the few remaining pre-1914 members of that Battalion.

In 1915 as a subaltern he was knocked unconscious by a bullet wound in one arm, and left for dead. As he was regaining consciousness a German ran his bayonet through the other arm, whilst another German shot him in the neck. A German officer had him removed to hospital where, in spite of the good treatment he received, he lost both arms at the shoulders. Later he was repatriated to England on an exchange of wounded prisoners, and was in a hospital which was one day visited by King George V.

A popular and often repeated story is told of that visit. On being informed of the circumstances in which Lt. Brough received his wounds the King expressed a wish that he should be promoted to Captain. In the next *London Gazette* this promotion was confirmed.

Capt. Brough is remembered with affection by the very few members of the 8th Battalion who served with him, especially by Albert White (The Honorary Secretary of Ealing Branch) who was his runner for a time.

CHAVASSE—On February 7, 1974, suddenly in Oxford, Major Noel Willink Chavasse, MBE, MC, eldest son of the late Bishop Chavasse and of Mrs. Chavasse. He joined the 1/7th Battalion

in 1940, via Oxford University and OCTU, at a time when the Battalion was somewhat uncomfortably housed in a Dickensian Workhouse near Ipswich. Shortly after the Battalion joined the 51st (Highland) Division in the tribal areas of Northern Scotland he was appointed Battalion Intelligence Officer. This appealed enormously to him and he made a great success of it; so much so that, when the Division arrived in North Africa, he became first a liaison officer at Divisional Headquarters, then at Corps Headquarters and finally Army Headquarters. For this he was ideally suited and equipped. He tackled his duties with tremendous verve, dedication and complete disregard of his personal safety.

Field-Marshal Montgomery in his Memoirs describes his team of liaison officers in the following terms:

"Reference has been made to the team of liaison officers which I organised to keep me in touch with events on the battle front. These were young officers of character, initiative and courage. They had seen much fighting and were able to report on battle situations. I selected each one personally and my standard was high. It was dangerous work and some were wounded and some killed. They were a gallant band of knights: they had their own mess at my tactical headquarters and were well known throughout the armies I commanded.

"Sir Winston Churchill knew them intimately and one of his greatest delights was to sit in my map caravan after dinner at night and hear these young officers tell me the story of what was happening on the battle front".

His service was recognised by the award of the Military Cross and Membership of the Order of the British Empire.

Although he walked with Field-Marshal he did not lose the common touch and managed frequently to drop in on his friends in the Battalion.

The above is based on tributes received from his former Commanding Officers, Brigadier B. B. Rackham, CBE, MC, DL, and Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson, DSO, and a brother officer, Major A. C. Burton.

The following tribute has been received from Major-General Douglas Wimberley, CB, DSO, MC, DL, LL.D, who commanded the 51st (Highland) Division from 1941 to 1943:

During the battle of Alamein in October 1942 when all Battalions of my Division had their full complement of first reinforcement subaltern officers I used four or five of these as personal liaison officers. They visited all the various forward battalions daily, spent the night in the various battalion areas, and reported to me direct at daylight the next morning. One of these officers was Noel Chavasse and he came to my notice immediately as the best of the whole bunch. I accordingly kept him at Divisional Headquarters after the battle as a permanent liaison officer.

In the next few months in this capacity he motored many hundreds of miles over the desert in his own jeep. To do his work efficiently required not only first-class desert navigation but

also steady nerves, as in many areas he had to traverse hidden minefields which were not uncommon.

During the rapid advance to Tripoli in January 1943, on one occasion I was summoned to Montgomery's Tactical Headquarters in the middle of the night. This then lay some 15 or 20 miles inland from my own Tactical Headquarters.

I travelled in Noel's jeep with him, and he navigated unerringly and direct to the spot in the desert where the C-in-C. had that night halted his own Tactical Headquarters. Unfortunately from my point of view Noel's ability as a liaison officer had by now come to Montgomery's notice. Accordingly he was taken away from the Highland Division to become one of Montgomery's own liaison officers, and so we lost the services of a most efficient and gallant young officer.

After the war, I understand that for many years before he died he was a very sick man. He was when I knew him undoubtedly highly strung by temperament, so I have little doubt that throughout the war years he lived on his nerves. This strain, I feel sure, accounted for the breakdown of his health that was later to follow.

The Regiment mourns his passing and extend their sincere sympathy to all his family.

ESCUDIER—On March 2, 1974, ex-CQMS Charles Thomas Escudier (6196271), aged 66. He enrolled as a Boy Drummer in the 7th (TA) Battalion in 1924, enlisting later on a Regular engagement in July 1925. On completion of his recruit training he was posted to the 1st Battalion at Aldershot and served with that Battalion until 1931 when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion on their return from foreign service. During his service in both battalions he was in the Corps of Drums until he was transferred to the Army Reserve in July 1932. He was recalled to the Colours on the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, but having been trained as a stretcher bearer and not as a machine-gunner, he was posted to the RAMC, and served with the Corps in France, North Africa and Italy, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant. When the Territorial Army was re-formed after the war he enrolled in the RASC and retired with the rank of CQMS when the Territorial Army was later reorganised.

He was a deeply religious man and became a tower of strength to his local church, St Jude's in Midway Grove, London, N.1. The appreciation of his good work there was shown at his funeral which was attended by the Rector, Curate, Churchwardens and a large congregation.

GODFREY—On March 12, 1974, ex-Pte. Edward Bernard Godfrey (2952 and 200709), aged 76. He served with the 7th Battalion (TF) from 1914 to 1917 when he was wounded and invalided out.

HUDSON—On February 6, 1974, Colonel Eric Vaughan Hamilton Hudson, aged 73. He was one of a number of Haileyburians who joined the Regiment during and after the 1914-18 War. A fine all round athlete he captained the Haileybury College Cricket XI in 1918, played for the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and for the Royal Air Force, to which he was seconded later.

He was commissioned into the Regiment on December 17, 1919, and was posted to the 4th Battalion, which he joined at Gibraltar. There he met and married Molly Glass, whose father, Major Glass, then back again with the Battalion, had been wounded and taken prisoner at Mons. When the 4th Battalion was disbanded in 1922 he was seconded for four years to the Royal Air Force. At the end of 1926 he joined the 1st Battalion in time to go with it to China in 1927 with the Shanghai Defence Force. He remained with the 1st Battalion on its return to Catterick in 1928 and the following year when the 1st Battalion took part in the Royal Tournament, he commanded the Foreign Battalion Squad. Later he was seconded, and finally transferred, to the RAEC. After his retirement from the Service he was a regular visitor to the County Office at Edgware each year.

(With acknowledgements to Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton)

TROTT—On January 27, 1974, ex-Cpl. Bertie Clifford Trott (TF/1246 and TF/200036), aged 81. Bert Trott joined the Barnet Company of the 7th (TF) Battalion on December 31, 1910. He attended the Battalion's annual camps in 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914, and was embodied on the declaration of war in August 1914. He served with the 1/7th Battalion at Gibraltar in 1914 and in France when the Battalion joined the BEF in March 1915. During his service in France he became an able instructor in the Lewis Gun, which was then a new weapon for infantry units of the British Army. He was demobilised March 3, 1919, and, in later years after retiring from his civilian occupation, always kept in touch with the Regimental Association; he regularly attended all reunions and ceremonies. At least once a week he would travel from Barnet to Edgware to pay his compliments to the staff at the County Office. He was a most friendly man, and will be much missed by his many friends.

As all the information about them is not yet available, full obituary notices on the following, who died on the dates shown, will be published in the next issue of the *Newsletter*:

Capt. R. W. H. WILLUGHBY—February 2, 1974

Ex-Pte. W. C. PERKES—February 6, 1974

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

a. During the period December 1, 1973, to March 18, 1974, the sum of £352 was expended from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 25 ex-members of the Regiment.

b. We also have 9 ex-members of the Regiment who receive £52 each a year from the Army Benevolent Fund.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from—The Lilley Benevolent Trust, Major F. H. Blackburn, Mr. R. R. Chaplin, Major W. H. Grogan, Mr. W. P. Jones, Mrs. F. O. A. Lawrence, Lt.-Col. J. Lunch, R.E., Miss U. D. Nunn, Major C. E. E. Scott and Mr. K. V. Sutton.

Chelsea Hospital and Star and Garter Home

Col. F. Walden and Major A. E. F. Waldron visited the In-Pensioners of the above homes on Thursday, December 20, 1973, and gave them a Christmas present from the Regimental Association.

A. E. F. W.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

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

Tickets, costing 5p each, or 25p for a book of five, are now available.

Applications for tickets should be made to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

The following prizes will be awarded:

1st prize	25% of net proceeds
2nd prize	15% of net proceeds
3rd prize	10% of net proceeds

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

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

I hope it is not too late to wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and that your Christmas was really enjoyable. I sent out the promised letter to well over 200 addresses of past and present members of our branch and, although I have only received replies from just under 10%, I am pleased to say that a number of those are now subscribing to *The Die-Hards Newsletter*, and, who knows, I may still have more to come! In any case, it was jolly nice to hear from the few and also to see the 16 or so attending the Armistice church service at Hornsey. Likewise, I expect we shall still have a

ASSOCIATION NEWS

good gathering at the 1/7th Battalion dinner, which will be held on the last Saturday in April at Hornsey. Once again I shall be writing full details of time, cost of tickets, etc, to all the addresses I have on record very shortly. Talking of writing, I must thank Ernie Colebeck and his staff at Edgware, who kindly typed the stencil and produced the copies for the letter I sent out. Incidentally, you may recall in my last letter that Joan Mellor was sending regimental literature to some American visitors whom we met at Chelsea Hospital. Well, she did, also some regimental ashtrays, and she received a very warm reply from the three families concerned.

I am hoping to get more letters from our members and, in any case, some items of news from them when we meet at the dinner. This will enable me to mention a few names in my next letter, coupled with their news.

In the meantime, my thanks to all who responded with subscriptions and donations. Do please let me know if you have anything you would like me to mention next time.

Till then, keep fit and well. Kindest regards to all.
LES HOSSLEN.

MILL HILL BRANCH

The Branch continues to flourish with a good attendance at each of our monthly meetings by members who live within a reasonable distance of Edgware, plus a contact by correspondence by people who live miles away, one very regular attending member whose presence has been sorely missed the last few months is Bob Ferguson, who has had a couple of toes amputated. He is still in hospital at the time of writing. Bob has been our indefatigable worker for the branch for the past fifteen years, toiling away at a multitude of jobs always with unfailing joviality. I look forward to the time when he rejoins us again.

"Young" Bill Cook (TF/2291), an old veteran of the 8th Battalion, wrote from Lurnea, New South Wales, requesting me to pass his salutations to all Die-Hards with a special greeting to his old comrades at Ealing. Another member who keeps a regular contact by mail is Pip Connor, MM, living in Willowdale, Ontario. Pip is a veteran of the 21st (Islington) Battalion and the 2nd Battalion. It is encouraging to hear from Die-Hards who live an ocean's journey away or in the Antipodes.

The names of new members of the branch will I feel be found elsewhere in this newsletter, one of them being Tom Minski, who was the Colour-Sergeant of "A" Company, 1st Battalion, Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, when it was an integral part of the Die-Hards. Tom, as well as being a good soldier, is also a good man at wood-carving which occupied his time whilst he was a POW after capture at the defence of St Valery, 1940. Some examples of his work were shown at the exhibition organised by the *Daily Telegraph* after the war. A new member who will be remem-

WOS' AND SERGEANTS' BRANCH (continued from page 18)

1st Battalion) on his posting to 1st Queen's Regiment. Alf, who has been with the Army Youth Team at the Drill Hall, has been a very staunch supporter of the branch, missing out our meetings only when duty has prevented him from attending. We shall miss him and his wife and family, but sincerely hope that we shall enjoy the pleasure of their company whenever they are in this area again. As a farewell gesture Alf and his wife made themselves responsible for the buffet that evening. We wish them the very best of luck in the future and hope that they themselves are shown the same friendliness and comradeship in their new surroundings as they have shown to us since they became members of the branch.

Since the last issue of the regimental *Newsletter*

the following new members have been enrolled into the branch: G. Ambrose, late 2/8th and 1st Battalions, Don Bradnam, late 1st and 2nd Battalions; J. Baker, late 1st and 2nd Battalions; Sgt. G. Constant, 1st Queen's; W. Dyer, late 1st Battalion; F. Hennah, late 2nd Battalion; A. Moreton, MM, late 2nd Battalion and P. L. Kensington Regiment; P. Harris, late 2/10th Middlesex Home Guard; and W. Grogan, late 1st and 2nd Battalions. To each one we say "Welcome in, comrade; we hope to see you a lot in the future".

Our best wishes to all branches and to Die-Hards everywhere.

LEN JOHNSON.

bered by the 1st Battalion veterans of Hong Kong, ex-WO2 R. R. "Charlie" Chaplin, who after two years with the 9th Battalion served with the 1st Battalion from 1924 to 1946, the majority of his service being a member of the Orderly Room Staff. He hopes to join us at the Annual Reunion in May and will try to bring Sgt. Ginger Short, MM, with him. Bob Chaplin now lives in Ely, Cambridgeshire, where they have a beautiful cathedral, and only rarely makes the journey to London. Another member who has to make a long journey to join us is Col. A. M. Man, who lives in Narberth, Pembrokeshire, where they have a church with what appears to be a fortified tower. Col. Man is in touch with two other Die-Hards who live west of Swansea. They are ex-Sgt. Hughes and ex-Sgt. S. G. Pusey; the latter also served with the Kensington and is no doubt known to Tom Minski. Also Ginger Short, mentioned above, will be known to Col. Man as he was a member of the Guard of Honour at the latter's wedding in 1935, as was I. Maybe we will see all three from the West at the Annual Reunion.

Fred Sadler (6199853), who lost an arm during the early days of the fighting in the last war, is another branch member who wishes to be remembered to his friends of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. For many years Fred has been a staunch worker for BLESMA, who looks after old soldiers who suffered amputations. He sounds very lively or as a columnist said recently, "as spry as a jarful of tadpoles".

I look forward to meeting many of our members who find regular visits to London too time-consuming at St Paul's Cathedral and later in the evening at the reunion at Porchester Hall on May 18. It is always a pleasure to regain contact with long-absent friends and this is the time of the year which presents the finest opportunity.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

9th BATTALION BRANCH

The activities of this branch are still alive, as the following will testify.

A large number of our old comrades, both 1914 and 1939 vintage, attended the Armistice Day service at Mill Hill Barracks and at Edgware afterwards.

Here, during the consumption of a buffet lunch and drinks, many items of news were discussed.

One was of marriage, and from our Worthing correspondent we heard that W. W. Fitzgerald, colloquially known as "Fitz the Drums" of 1914 vintage, had on December 5 married Mrs. Lilian Lucas.

I am sure all the members who knew "Fitz" will wish him and his wife every happiness.

At Christmas many members exchange greetings and good wishes, so renewing those friendships of days gone by.

This is a way to keep our flag flying. Another is to support Col. F. Walden, the new chairman of the Social Sub-Committee, and Major A. E. F. Walden, the Association secretary, in their projects for a round of social activities during this coming year. There is a very good programme for this year which we hope will be well supported by the 9th and, of course, the other branches.

One event will be a visit in the evening to our museum at Bruce Castle, of which you will be notified in the usual way. Here I hope we shall be informed of our exhibits by the Curator, Major Dick Smith.

It would be a splendid note of approval to the illustrious Major if this event was well patronised.

To his efforts one can add those of Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, who is obtaining many decorations and medals of our own past members for display.

I am glad to state that our invalids are progressing and will be in circulation soon.

Please record the date of our own reunion and dinner on June 8, 1974, at the Victory Club and make every effort to attend.

We very much regret to hear of the deaths of our past comrades R. Devereaux, D. Howlett, D. J. S. Smith and W. H. Smith.

R. T. M.

WOs AND SERGEANTS' BRANCH

The year 1973, very successful as far as the branch was concerned, was brought to a close with gatherings of 57 at the November meeting and over 80 at the December meeting. The outlook for 1974 looks as good, for at the January meeting, a month when attendances are low, over 40 members and friends turned up, whilst at our meeting in February we had a gathering of over 50.

At our meeting in November a very pleasant surprise was sprung on us when Mrs. Pat Newman, widow of the late Major Percy Newman, MBE, paid us a visit. She was not only given a very warm welcome that evening by all those present, but was warmly welcomed at the reunion, which was held in the Drill Hall on the Sunday. The warmth of her welcome can be summed up by the remarks she made after that weekend when she said "that the welcome she received and the wonderful feeling of genuine affection she felt from everybody made it feel as though it was like coming back home to the family", but, then, that is surely what the Die-Hards clubs are all about and the purpose for which each branch has these monthly gatherings. I am sure I speak for you all when I say hurry up and come back home again, Pat, and we hope that many more old friends will return home for a visit.

The Christmas draw, held on the evening of our December meeting, was an even greater success than the previous years. A record number of 1,440 shares were taken up and 90 prizes drawn for. The same support was given to the raffle, which realised the sum of £30. The success of both the draw and the raffle was, I am sure, very satisfying to those who helped in their running and to those who donated prizes for the raffle.

In addition to those who attended our meeting in January, we were very pleased to welcome a party of 12 from the Hounslow Branch. They not only made themselves at home, but with Henry Rae at the piano they did their fair share of entertaining with song and dance. From the atmosphere they created I imagine they are a happy and successful branch and proved beyond doubt that inter-branch visits are what is needed to weld the bond of comradeship much stronger.

At our meeting in February we took the opportunity of saying farewell to Sgt. Alf Burford (late

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