



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 2

MAY 1968

PRICE 1/3

Editor: Col. F. WALDEN, D.L.

REORGANISATION OF THE INFANTRY

In May last year the C.G.S. announced that Infantry was to be reorganised on a Divisional basis. This reorganisation is now proceeding and will be firmly established by early next year.

The basic intention is to group existing large Regiments and Brigades into Divisions so that the Infantry may be in a better position to absorb any further reductions that might occur.

The Queen's Division will comprise The Queen's Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Anglian Regiment. It is the intention that these regiments will retain their identities within the Division. The Divisional Commandant is Major-General M. Forrester, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., the present Director of Infantry. The Divisional Headquarters is being set up at Colchester under the Divisional Brigadier—Brigadier M. W. Holme, C.B.E., M.C.

During this year the functions performed by the R.H.Q. for serving soldiers, such as officers and other rank personnel administration, will be progressively assumed by the Divisional H.Q. By early 1969 Divisional H.Q. will be in full control of these affairs and the Regimental Colonel and Adjutant at R.H.Q. will have been phased out. Remaining at Canterbury will be R.H.Q. The Queen's Regiment, consisting of two or three retired officers, who will continue to administer Queen's Regiment domestic affairs.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE III (T. & A.V.R. III)

As a result of the recent Government announcement that Civil Defence is to be reduced to a care and maintenance basis, with the consequent disbandment of various components of Civil Defence, consideration is being given by the Army Board of the Defence Council in consultation with the Council of Territorial and Volunteer Reserve Associations, to the method of implementing this decision in the case of T. & A.V.R. III. One object of the discussions is to see whether ways of preserving the skills and facilities of T. & A.V.R. III, in particular the military benefits which the Army and the country at large would gain from it, can be found and to try and work out a suitable framework which could achieve this result consistent with the Government's decision mentioned above.

Meanwhile, the following steps have been taken to begin the reduction of T. & A.V.R. III and produce the necessary immediate savings in its cost.

All existing Territorial units will continue in being during this phase based on their existing T. & A.V.R. Centres, and no Territorials need to be discharged unless they wish to be.

Territorial Officers and soldiers will not be paid for training or receive Training Expenses Allowance after April 1, 1968. Until further notice refund of travelling expenses will not be admissible.

There will be no annual camps in 1968 as hitherto planned, though any proposals to hold camps at no cost to public funds will be considered.

No public funds will be spent on recruiting or publicity.

COMMAND CHANGES

Strategic Command

The new Army Strategic Command, with H.Q. at Wilton, Wilts, came into being on April 1 last, and will be responsible for the command and training of the bulk of the Army's field force formations in the U.K.

It has two Divisions, namely, the existing 3rd Division, with H.Q. at Bulford, and consisting of the 5th, 19th and 24th Infantry Brigades and the 16th Parachute Brigade, and a new formation, 5th Division, with H.Q. at Wrexham, Denbighshire, which comprises the 2nd, 8th and 39th Infantry Brigades.

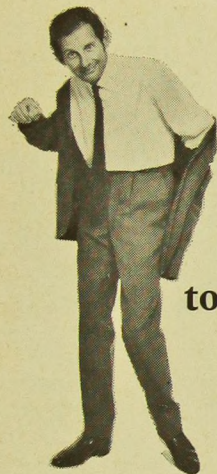
Southern Command

An enlarged Southern Command, with H.Q. at Hounslow, also came into being on April 1 last, and is responsible for Army administration in the area south of a line from the Wash to the British Channel, taking over the administrative responsibilities of the former Southern Command and also of Eastern Command, which has disappeared as such.

The new Southern Command has four Districts, namely, London District, with H.Q. in Whitehall, Eastern District, with H.Q. at Colchester, South-East District, with H.Q. at Aldershot, and South-West District, with H.Q. at Taunton.

Home Counties District has been absorbed into South-East District and Salisbury Plain Sub-District has been re-named Salisbury Plain Area.

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4th BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX)

The 4th Battalion has now moved from Northern Ireland to Warminster, where it is to take over the duties of Demonstration Battalion at the School of Infantry.

The full postal address is: Knook Camp, near Warminster, Wilts.

10th (T) BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX)

Major J. D. Gunnell was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel to command the Battalion in succession to Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall, with effect from April 1, 1968.

Whilst congratulating him on his promotion we send him our very best wishes in the difficult days ahead for T. and A.V.R. III.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Since the last publication of Museum notes the final issue of *The Die-Hards* the following items have been given to the Regimental Museum:

Sword of 2/Lt. J. E. Whitehead

Medals of C/Sgt. A. T. Green (L/7631)

Brief notes of the above are given below.

Sword of 2/Lt. J. E. Whitehead

The sword is the normal infantry officer's type as used since 1910.

James Edward Whitehead was born in November 1895, and enlisted in the London Rifle Brigade on August 5, 1914. With this unit he served in France until wounded in the second Battle of Ypres on May 13, 1915. On recovering from his wounds he was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment and posted to the 7th Battalion on August 24, 1915. After some months in England he returned to France and joined the 1/7th Battalion. Just under six weeks later he was killed in action at Bois de Leuze, Comblès, on September 15, 1916, in his 21st year.

Presented by his sister, Miss K. E. Whitehead

Medals of C/Sgt. A. T. Green

The medals consist of the Queen's South Africa medal with clasp "Cape Colony" and "South Africa 1902", the Africa General Service Medal with clasps "Jidballi" and "Somaliland 1902-04", British War Medal, Victory Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

C/Sgt. Green enlisted in November 1901 and after service in South Africa with the 2nd Battalion was posted to the 1st Battalion in India. In July 1903 he was one of a number of that Battalion who volunteered for service in Somaliland, for which he was awarded the General Service Medal.

Presented by his son, Mr. L. Green

Acknowledgment

The Editor would like to take this opportunity of thanking the many readers who have expressed to him, either in writing or verbally, their appreciation of the first *Die-Hards* Newsletter.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Ex-R.S.M. "Jock" Anderson, who lives at Tewkesbury, wrote recently and sent his best wishes to all "Die-Hards" who happen to know him. There are still a number of us who will remember him not only as a very smart and efficient R.S.M. of the 1st Battalion on its re-formation after the 1914-18 War, but also as a great sportsman. He was a first-class footballer and at right back was the mainstay of the Battalion Soccer team in those days. In that position he was selected to play for the Army on many occasions.

We send our very best wishes to this loyal old "Die-Hard."

Major Peter Bellers is to be posted as D.A.Q.M.G., Q2c (A) at the Ministry of Defence as from June 27 next.

From Aldershot we have news of Major A. R. Met (6198753) who, after serving as a "Die-Hard" for many years, transferred to the A.C.C.

He is a keen golfer and intends to take part in the Regimental Spring Meeting, which is to be held at Fleet on May 10.

A recent welcome visitor to Edgware was ex-Sgt. David Bolam (6201280) who enlisted in 1933 and served in the Band of the 2nd Battalion until 1938 and then in the Band of the 1st Battalion. He was with the 1st Battalion during the battle of Hong Kong and, as a P.O.W., was later sent to Tokio. He completed his Colour-Service in September, 1961, and now lives in New Barnet.

Another old "Die-Hard" who recently got in touch with us was ex-Capt. (Q.M.) W. Burrell. He joined the 2/8th Battalion in September, 1914, and served with that Battalion until it was disbanded in France in 1916. He then joined 1/8th Battalion and remained as a Drummer with that unit until he was gassed in March, 1918. He was demobilised early in 1919.

Throughout the 1939-45 War he served with the Royal Artillery, in which he was commissioned as a Quartermaster.

Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden writes from Singapore, where he is G.S.O. 1 at H.Q. Singapore District. He states that he has so far come across several "ex-Die-Hards" out there, including Ron Oakley who was with the 2nd Battalion in Palestine in 1947 and is now a Major in R.E.M.E., and Barry Eady who was with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and is now in insurance.

As we go to press we have heard that Lt.-Col. (Tom) Cubitt has returned from an extended stay in the U.S.A., and is back at his old home at Ashted in Surrey.

Capt. Mike Deakin transferred to the permanent Cadre of the Army Air Corps last January and went to the Army Aviation Centre at Middle Wallop to do a conversion course on a particular type of helicopter before going to Germany to take over the Air Troop of the Royal Scots Greys.

He takes a great pride in his old Regiment and intends to maintain as many associations with us as he possibly can.

Our best wishes go with him, and we shall look forward to welcoming him to any of the functions which he can attend.

Lt. David Everard, in a recent letter from Dar-es-Salaam, states that life there continues to be very pleasant. His chief hobby appears to be deep sea fishing, for which he has equipped himself with a fine fibre glass boat. He expects to be home on leave at the end of the summer.

Lt. Murray Fox was married to Miss Elizabeth Osborne at Horsell, Surrey, on April 19. We send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

We were very pleased indeed to welcome Lt. George Freeborn when he visited us at Edgware recently. He is now farming at Much Hadham in Hertfordshire, and thoroughly enjoying it.

That fine old warrior, ex-Drummer George Garrett (L/9904), who served in the 3rd Battalion and later in the 4th Battalion at the Battle of Mons, writes a very cheerful letter in beautiful handwriting. He sends his best wishes to all Old Comrades and ends with "up the gallant 'Die-Hards'." Such is his spirit!

Shortly after Christmas ex-Cpl. F. C. ("Dolly") Gray (6191650), who now lives in Gloucestershire, got in touch. He enlisted in July, 1919 and, after service in the 3rd Battalion, joined the 2nd Battalion on H.T. *Huntsend* whilst the Battalion was on its way to Singapore from Egypt. He was in the Signals Platoon under the late Major (then Lt.) E. L. Heywood and completed his Colour Service in India in 1928.

We were very sorry to hear that Brig. Arthur (Stumps) Green had had to go into hospital for an operation last March. After only a short spell "in dock" he has made a very good recovery, but it is doubtful if he will be fit enough to play in the Regimental Spring Golf Meeting on May 10.

Congratulations to ex-Sgt. Percy Hutchins, M.M. (TF/1797), late 1/7th Battalion, on the anniversary of his golden wedding on April 6.

Col. Andrew Man writes to say that recently in Narberth, Pembrokeshire, where he lives, he met Dr. J. D. Clinch, the former Irish Rugby International who, as a young officer, served with the 1st Battalion in the 1920s. He also met in the same place another doctor who had been Brigadier Godfrey Lervill's M.O. in Nigeria. It is a small world!

Old soldier H. G. Mander (L/11961), who recently left the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is very complimentary about the way in which he was looked after as an In-Pensioner. During his Colour Service he served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions and with the King's African Rifles.

Lt.-Col. Francis Morgan, having completed his tour of duty on the staff at the Ministry of Defence, has been posted as A.A. and Q.M.G. at H.Q. Wales District. This suits him admirably as he can now live at his home, which is within a few miles of his place of work.

In a recent letter Capt. Frank Redpath states that he has landed a good job with the Redifusion Organisation, which he is taking up early in June. We wish him the best of luck in his new venture.

An old veteran who has recently joined the Regimental Association is ex-Cpl. Alfred Saunders (G/8266), who was 90 last December. He originally enlisted in August, 1914, and was posted to 6th Battalion D.C.L.I., but was discharged on account of ill-health three months later. As soon as he was fit again he re-enlisted in February, 1915, in the Middlesex Regiment and, on completion of recruit training, was posted to the 2nd Battalion in France. As a result of wounds received in action in July, 1916, his left arm was amputated. Since his discharge from the Service in May, 1917, he has worked on behalf of disabled ex-service men and is a member of B.L.E.S.M.A. He is also a founder member of the Camberwell Branch of the British Legion.

Lt.-Col. John Shipster has been appointed G.S.O.1. at the U.S. Army Chemical School, U.S.A., and is due to take up this appointment in June.

Earlier in the year we had a visit from E. A. Smith (6198296), who was in the horsed Transport Platoon

of the 1st Battalion when it was popularly known as "Christie's Cavalry." For a time he was groom to Lt.-Col. (then Lt.) D. Y. Cubitt before becoming groom to the Brigadier in Colchester.

After a long bout of illness ex-Pte. Joe Smith (6197002), who for most of his Colour Service was with the 2nd Battalion, writes to say that he is gradually regaining his health and strength and that he intends to come down from Blackpool to see us when we get warmer weather.

Ex-Bdsm. Reg. Smith (6203540), who was serving with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong at the outbreak of the war with Japan and was later made a P.O.W., has joined the Regimental Association so that he can keep in touch with his old comrades. He lives at Colchester, which is the home of many other "Die-Hards."

We were very sorry to hear that ex-Sgt. Dave Stockman, late 2/8th and 1st Battalions, has had a bout of ill-health, which kept him from work about five months. He is, fortunately, making a good recovery and has returned to work, though he has to take things easily.

Ex-Pte. Con Sullivan (6188418), one of our small band of intently loyal ex-3rd Battalion members, was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on April 8 last. This brings our total number of In-Pensioners to six.

In a letter received quite recently ex-Pte. Robert Wright (816754), who was serving with the 1st Battalion at the time of the fall of Hong Kong, sends his kind regards to all ranks, past and present, of the Regiment.

A few copies of his book "I was a Hell Camp Prisoner" are still available from the Secretary of the Regimental Association, price 2s. 6d.

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Colonel and Mrs. W. A. Stewart.

On December 28, 1967 Col. Archie Stewart, who commanded the 57th from 1924 to 1928, and Mrs. Stewart celebrated their Diamond Wedding at their home, The Dower House, Heydon, Norwich, and we are indebted to their son, Lt.-Col. Duncan Stewart, for the following account of that unique occasion:—

My father has been deeply touched by the interest shown him by all ranks of the Middlesex Regiment in his old age. When he and my mother took a winter holiday in Gibraltar three years ago, they were treated with almost incredible hospitality and respect by the 1st Battalion there. Amongst incidents which I know particularly pleased my father were:—

- (i) A guest night when he was most thoughtfully placed before the centrepiece presented by the Brigade of Guards to mark the comradeship which existed between them and the Regiment in the 1st Guards Brigade at Aldershot during his period in command.
- (ii) An extraordinary happy visit to the Sergeants' Mess, when they imaginatively arranged for his photograph to be taken amongst them and

subsequently sent him a specially framed copy.

- (iii) The frequency with which he was recognised and saluted in the streets, even by private soldiers who had somehow got to know that he was a former officer.



Colonel and Mrs. Stewart at home.

For several years he has been delighted by telegrams on the anniversary of the Battle of Spion Kop (of which I suppose he is the last survivor), and again from Regimental Headquarters and both the Messes on his birthday. And he and my mother were once more very deeply touched by a series of Regimental telegrams (including one signed "from officers who served under your command") on the relatively unique occasion of their Diamond Wedding on December 28, 1967.

December 1907 may have been a good time to be married in Aldershot, but 60 years later, with Christmas occurring in the same week, it is a very difficult time to celebrate the anniversary in a tiny remote Norfolk village. My father is now quite blind and that disadvantage coupled with their age made it impossible for them to travel to London for a party which could have been more generally attended. In the event they had a most successful midday party in their own home for about 60 relations and friends. Both of them were in excellent form. When the guests were sufficiently primed, they once more cut an enormous "wedding cake" with father's sword, the village trumpeter sounded "Here comes the bride," and father made a very witty speech—not an easy task when one cannot see the guests. Afterwards there was an excellent fork lunch before people had to depart to get well on their homeward way before dark. But the day was by no means finished for my indomitable parents, who then held an evening party for the villagers, regaled by stories of life in India 60 years ago. Finally there was a family dinner party at which they had the additional happiness of the announcement of the first of their grandchildren to become engaged. And both were up betimes for Church Parade next morning.

In the days when Colonels were usually around 50 I fancy my father at 43 was once the youngest C.O. in the British Army. But that works both ways and it means that 1968, his 88th year, will mark the fortieth year since completion of his tenure of command. He is fond of the story that his backside was designed by nature for carrying the kilt and that it was pure accident that brought him to the "Die-Hards." This is, however, an accident that he has

never had cause to regret. It was then and has always remained a truly magnificent Regiment. I find it hard to think that there is another Regiment anywhere which so well shows its veterans they are not forgotten.

It is very difficult for the old couple to express their thanks for all the signs of kind remembrance which they receive, and these notes are perhaps the best way of reaching all concerned as an expression of their very deep appreciation and gratitude.

Lt.-Col. and Mrs. G. F. E. Rapson

Lt.-Col. George Rapson, who won the D.S.O. in the 1914-18 War, and Mrs. Rapson celebrated their Diamond Wedding at the Knoll, Tuffley, Gloucester, on February 3, 1968.

Friends at the Old People's Home, where they live, gathered for a sherry party. Among those present were Col. Rapson's nephew, Mr. Malcolm Tucker, and his wife; Ald. A. G. Neal (representing the Mayor of Gloucester) and members of the Zetland Masonic Lodge, Gloucester, of which he is a past Master.

The couple received many flowers, cards and telegrams. One telegram came from Her Majesty The Queen.

Col. Rapson, who is 85, enlisted into the Regiment in 1897. He was appointed Sergeant Drummer of the 4th Battalion in November 1906 and promoted to R.S.M. of the 2nd Battalion in April 1912.



Lt.-Col. and Mrs. Rapson with one of their many messages of congratulations.

He was commissioned in the field in February 1915 direct to the rank of Captain.

On retirement after the 1914-18 War he went to live in Gloucester. During the 1939-45 War he served in the R.A.F. Regiment.

In later years he was an official with the Gloucester branch of the N.S.P.C.C.

Between 1936 and 1945 Col. Rapson was a Gloucester City Councillor.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Annual Reunion

It has been decided that the Annual Reunion this year will now be held at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2, on Friday, October 11, and NOT at the T.A. Centre, Edgware, on Saturday, October 5, as previously notified.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Regimental Association will be held at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2, on Friday, October 11, at 8 p.m.

Summer Outing

A summer outing in the form of a trip by river steamer from Windsor to Marlow and return has again been arranged this year and will take place on Sunday, June 23.

Full details are being sent to all members.

Regimental Depot Open Day

The Regimental Depot Open Day will be held this year at Canterbury on Sunday, July 7, and arrangements have been made to hire coaches for members of the Regimental Association and their families to visit the Depot on that day.

Full details are being sent to all members.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations from Capt. P. J. A. Pielow and Mr. E. Newman to the Charitable Fund.

Lord Lieutenant's Appeal for Widows' Flatlets, Enfield

Apart from the covenanted subscriptions the Secretary gratefully acknowledges contributions to the above Appeal received from the following:—

Hornsey Home Guard O.C.A., Lilley Benevolent Fund, Col. I. R. Burrows and Mr. F. Z. Pope.

The total contributions towards the Appeal received up to December 31, 1967 amount to £8,389 9s. 4d.

Branch Secretaries

Mr. H. Thornton has taken over the duties of Honorary Secretary of the Hornsey and Enfield Branch vice Mr. L. A. J. Hosslen who, after a short term in office, has, unfortunately, had to relinquish the post on account of pressure of business.

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Balaclava Dinner

Lieutenant-General G. C. Bucknall, at the request of the Deputy Colonel, represented the Regiment on this traditional and hospitable occasion, on November 18, 1967.

Our Regiment's congratulatory telegram was read out after the Queen's message, and received hearty acclamation.

Most friendly enquiries and messages from many of our old friends were exchanged.

EALING BRANCH

It is with regret I report the death of ex-Pte. Charles Harding. He served with the 8th in Gibraltar and France and has since been in residence at Hanwell. The Branch was represented at the funeral.

Two new members of the Branch are Messrs. P. Cane and J. Turner who I understand were with General Man in Hong Kong. They hope to meet him at the Albuhera Parade on May 10.

We are still "lodgers" at the Drill Hall and have had several enjoyable evenings there but we still keep our fingers crossed and await the decision of the local council as to the future of the hall.

We are all looking forward to our Summer Outing which this year takes us to Eastbourne. It gives us a chance to make a fuss of our "Mums" and a change of air.

ALBERT WHITE,

Hon. Sec.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

Our Annual General Meeting was held on March 27, 1968, and although there were some new faces, the attendance was very disappointing generally.

Our Chairman, Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson, T.D., was re-elected and a vote of thanks passed for his efforts and support in the past, and it is very gratifying to know he will once again take the reins.

Les Hosslen unfortunately had to resign as Hon. Secretary due to pressure of business but has promised to give as much help as he can, when available, and I feel sure he will continue to be a good supporter. Doug Sankey was elected Vice-Chairman and was welcomed by us all as once again being a strong member of our team. Mr. Regester, although experiencing difficulties with his own business, agreed to remain as Treasurer very kindly, and a relief could be obtained. Having been elected Secretary myself, all letters should now be addressed to me—H. Thornton, 6 Williams House, Orchard Place, N.17.

Our Rifle Club is making every effort this year to swell its ranks, and the Entertainments Committee is also out to ensure a regular monthly social.

Generally it was agreed that every effort will be made to encourage not only past members to support us more frequently but to endeavour to encourage as many of the younger ex-members of the Regiment, to take an interest and join us.

"Rocky"—ex-R.S.M. W. Knight, M.B.E.—who has long been a very staunch supporter is retiring and emigrating to Canada this year and our Chairman on our behalf, wished him and his wife every success and happiness in the step they are taking. He will be missed, but well remembered.

H. THORNTON,

Secretary.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Since last going to Press we held our Social on February 3, which was very well supported, with 28 members, friends and wives present and, whilst this does not represent a large attendance, it is a wonderful leap forward for a Branch which before September was virtually non-existent. The A.G.M., however, was not attended as well as had been hoped for, only 21 members being present, but at least there were plenty of willing horses prepared to take on the Committee work. One wag in the bar on club nights has been heard to remark, "what about some music," obviously a dig at the old 8th Battalion Corps of Drums, which is well represented with Drummy Wales, Alex and Stan Kemp (side drummers) Ward, (Tenor Drummer) and Carrots Thomlinson (flute player), but it is always "Blondie" Rae who tinkles the ivories in the end.

Lt.-Col. Hall, O.B.E., T.D., has now delighted us all by becoming President of the Branch and he is very keen to recruit new members as he always was when commanding the 5th (T.A.) Battalion.

An event which the Branch is looking forward to is a shooting match with "B" Company, 10th Queen's which Major Henshaw is kindly arranging so that the volunteers in his Company can get some competition shooting, which is very hard to come by since rundown hit the T.A.

We have arranged a full social programme with our next social on April 28. We regret that a long weekend has been arranged for the Albuhera Weekend by "B" Company 10th Queen's and with so many members committed we shall not be at Edgware in the strength we would have liked; our apologies for this in advance. We do, however, hope for a large gathering on the river outing.

Finally we extend congratulations to Ginger Lee on his marriage to Tom Trindall's daughter, and to Gordon Young, who was with the 1st Battalion in Korea, and his wife on the birth of their daughter Sarah.

MILL HILL BRANCH

Our meetings have continued during the winter months, even though the weather has tended to keep some of our members at home by the fireside; not that I blame them, a warm fire with the telly very often has more appeal than to venture out into the icy blast, more so, when one has to rely on the vagaries of public transport.

I must apologize for the omission of Branch notes from the first issue of the new *Die-Hards Newsletter*, a complete lapse on my part for which I accept full responsibility.

Our membership, which is rapidly nearing the 500 mark, has the added attraction of being interesting to all ages, comprising as it does of Die-Hards from all Battalions of both wars and between the wars right up to the present day, including many National Servicemen. Therefore anyone joining is almost sure to meet someone from the same Battalion when old comradeships can be renewed, or, if not, new friendships made.

A full programme of reunions and outings has been planned for this year by the Association and I hope that all of you will take full advantage of these arrangements to join in the festivities.

As most of the Branch news is passed on to our members by means of our monthly newsletter it only remains for me to wish all our fellow Branches and their members every success for the future. I am sure that we shall see many of them at one or other of the annual "get-togethers".

ERNE COLEBECK.

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

Having just returned to the office after a perfectly delightful Easter break I now find that I have notes to write for the second Newsletter which have to be in by Friday. So here I am spending my lunch hour in an attempt to think of something that may possibly interest somebody.

Les Honeybun wrote to me some time ago and gave me the information that Sid Buckle was in the Portsmouth area and so he sent me his address. Our Chairman, Peggy O'Neil, and I called on him and Mrs. Buckle one evening. We were most cordially received and spent a pleasant couple of hours chatting about places, people and events, all of course, connected with the "Die-Hards." Both of them wish to be remembered to all of their old friends and would welcome visitors; in the case of Mrs. Buckle especially a visit from Col. Walden, who it appears is someone she greatly admires.

We have had little in the way of activities since our last report and because of Easter and other functions our next meeting will not take place until May 17.

With the Summer coming along we look forward to hearing from any of our old Comrades who should be planning a visit to this area. Please do not be backward in writing; you will always be welcome.

L. C. WEST
Secretary

9th BATTALION BRANCH

It is said that news is the life blood of the world and certainly the first issue of the *Die-Hards Newsletter* will keep the blood flowing in the members of the past and present "Die-Hards," despite the fact that the County and Regimental names have been put in the past records of this fair Isle of ours.

Here is an opportunity for you to send us news of any of these colleagues of ours who have not been in touch with us for some years and if it is news, it can with the Editor's permission, be published in our *Newsletter*. Remember there were thousands who wore the Middlesex badge.

Try and get some news of us published in your firm's magazines and the like.

As for us, the 9th Battalion Branch, not much news is to hand.

We received a letter from Mr. P. A. Fice (Tubby) recently and we were very sorry to hear that he is suffering from heart trouble and is attending hospital. We sincerely hope he will benefit from that attendance. Tubby recalls that splendid occasion at Wembley Town Hall some years ago when so many of the past and present members of the 9th attended. Now that included those members who were in 6th Searchlight Regiment of the R.A. and the L.A.A. Regiments and we still consider that they are 9th Battalion members, so please let us have a sight of you.

Our important function, the Annual Reunion and Dinner, this year is at the Cavendish Ball Room, The Spotted Dog Hotel, High Road, Willesden Green, on Saturday, June 15. The Committee has now made the final arrangements for that occasion.

The menu will be as good as last year, a band has been engaged and now it is up to the members to make the dinner a success by attending with their ladies or friends. If you do not hear from me regarding the tickets, etc., please write me and particulars will be gladly forwarded.

Lastly we hope to see you at the Social events organised by the Association such as the Derby Day Outing, the River Trip and the Annual Reunion and Dance at the Porchester Hall, Bayswater, the trip to Canterbury to see those budding recruits of the Queen's Regiment, and please do not forget Albuhera Day Service of Remembrance on Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m., at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

R. T. MEERS.

W.O.S AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

I do not know if it is because we are getting older, but time seems to pass very quickly these days. It only seems like a week ago that I wrote our last contribution to "The News Letter". This perhaps is just as well, especially when the weather we had over the latter part of last year, and the first couple of months this year is taken into account. Let us hope, however, that we are given plenty of time to enjoy the good weather when it comes along.

The weather and bad health were the two main causes of our having to cancel our January meeting. Two of our regular attenders—Peter Edward and Eddie Geary—were both laid up, the former with pneumonia and the latter under treatment for diabetes, and myself just shaking off a dose of the "Flu". The weather man kept away Ernie Colebeck, another regular, as well as others, who frequently attend. However, the February meeting went off well; ten members, some with their wives, attended. Though not so many turned up for the March meeting, we have, I hope, made a promising start for 1968. I also hope that, as the weather improves, so will our attendance. We were pleased to welcome Col. F. Walden to our meeting in February and hope that it was the first of many visits he will pay us.

I am pleased to say that both the invalids mentioned above are up and about again and have turned up at our last two meetings. Bob Hadley, another member whose health has prevented him from attending the meetings of late, is looking forward to an improvement in the weather, which will allow him to come along and have a chat and a noggin or two with some of his old friends.

We welcome the Battalion home from their service in Northern Ireland and look forward to a visit from members of the W.O.s and Sergeants Mess when they visit "the smoke". We can assure them of a very warm welcome.

And now as space in the letter limits us to 300 words, which is about as much as I can manage, we close with Greetings to all Branches, serving and ex-Die-hards everywhere, and a special welcome home to the 4th Queen's (Middlesex) Regiment. May their tour of duty in the Home Country be a very happy one.

L. J.

BRANCH SECRETARIES

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

	Branch	Hon. Secretary
Ealing	Mr. A. White, 56 Warkworth Gardens, Isleworth, Middlesex.
Hong Kong	Major W. G. A. Crumley, H.Q. Royal Hong Kong Defence Force, B.F.P.O. 1.
Hornsey and Enfield	Mr. H. Thornton, 6 William House, Orchard Place, London, N.17.
Hounslow	Mr. A. J. Wales, 143 Waye Avenue, Cranford, Middlesex.
Mill Hill	Mr. E. C. Colebeck, Belmont, Chilton Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
Portsmouth and Gosport	Mr. L. C. West, Grove House, 50 Gosport Road, Stubbington, Fareham, Hants.
Uxbridge	Mr. R. F. Pennings, 60 Raeburn Road, Hayes, Middlesex.
2/7th Battalion	Major R. E. Robotham, M.C., T.D., 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N.3.
9th Battalion	Mr. R. T. Meers, 87 Tudor Court South, Wembley, Middlesex.
W.O.s' and Sergeants'	Mr. L. R. Johnson, 78 Deans Lane, Edgware, Middlesex.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Major P. F. Newman and Mr. P. Maloney for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.

Forthcoming Events

Date	Event
Sat., June 15	9th Battalion Branch Annual Reunion and Dinner at Cavendish Ballroom, High Road, Willesden.
Sun., June 23	River Trip—Windsor to Marlow and return.
Sun., July 7	Regimental Depot Open Day at Canterbury.
Fri., July 19	Officers' Club Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
Thurs., Aug. 22 to Sat., Aug. 24	Visit to Mons for ceremonies in connection with 54th anniversary of the Battle of Mons.
Fri., Oct. 4	2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London, W.2.
Fri., Oct. 11	Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2.

OBITUARY

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

BAILEY—On December 29, 1967, suddenly ex-Pte. Harry William Bailey (6190188), aged 67. He enlisted in February 1918 and served with the 5th (Reserve) Battalion until March 1919 when he was posted to the 1st Battalion. He was discharged on completion of his short-term engagement in March 1922.

BURY—On March 9, 1968, Captain Herbert Vernon Bury, M.A., aged 79, son of a former Bishop of Honduras. He enlisted in our 16th (Public Schools) Battalion in August 1914 and was gazetted as a Second-Lieutenant a few weeks later and posted to the 5th (Reserve) Battalion. He served with the 11th (Service) Battalion in France and later was appointed a Staff Captain. He was a fine all-round games player, gaining a Blue for soccer and Half Blue for Fives at Oxford, as well as captaining Lincoln College, Oxford at cricket.

He was also a member of the famous Corinthian soccer team which toured South America about 1912.

CLARKE—On March 22, 1968, ex-Sgt. Henry Charles Clarke (L/10500) aged 84. He served with the 3rd Battalion from 1905-14 and then was posted to the 4th Battalion, with which unit he went to France at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war, and took part in the Battle of Mons. He later served with the 23rd (2nd Football) Battalion and finally with the 27th (Reserve) Battalion.

HARDING—Suddenly in March, 1968, ex-Pte. Charles Harding. He enlisted in the 8th Battalion (T.A.) in 1912 and served with it in Gibraltar and France. He was demobilised in 1919.

LEVETT—On April 16, 1968, ex-Drmr. George Levett (L/12518) aged 76. He was a son of the late C/Sgt. George Levett who served in the Regiment from 1884 to 1901. He enlisted in 1909 and spent the majority of his Colour Service with the 3rd Battalion.

PAYNE—On March 2, 1968, two months before his 80th birthday, ex-Cpl. John H. S. Payne (L/10723). He served throughout the 1914-18 war with the 4th Battalion and was discharged in 1920.

POPE—On February 11, 1968, at the age of 48, ex-Pte. William Charles Thomas Pope (6216519), the occupant of one of the Regimental Memorial Cottages at Albuhera Close, Enfield. He served with the 1st Battalion from 1940-46, and was taken prisoner after the fall of Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941.

ROOSEVELT—On March 30, 1968, in New York, Mrs. Belle Roosevelt, widow of Major Kermit Roosevelt, M.C., the Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.), son of Theodore Roosevelt and distant cousin of the late President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

SHAW—On April 4, 1968, suddenly at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, ex-Sgt. Charles Christopher Shaw (L/9328 and 6188401), aged 83. He enlisted in October 1903 and served with the 4th Battalion until February 1915 when he was seconded to the Army Gymnastic Staff for five-and-a-half years. He rejoined the 3rd Battalion in August 1920 and was seconded as a P.S.I. to the 7th Battalion from January 1921 until October 1926 when he was discharged to pension.

WHITING—On March 14, 1968, ex-Pte. George Whiting, who served with the 17th Battalion throughout the 1914-18 war.

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