



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 6

MAY 1969

PRICE 1/3

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

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

By the time this Newsletter is published all its readers should have received a letter from the President of the Regimental Association, in which he gives details of the Regimental Memorial which, with the permission of the Dean and Chapter, is to be established in the North Transept of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Memorial has been designed for two purposes, namely:

1. To provide a lasting home for our Colours and a memorial to our Regiment.
2. To provide the Cathedral with a new and more fitting baptistry.

All the existing Middlesex Regiment memorials now in the Cathedral, which include that of Sir Thomas Picton, those to the 57th and 77th commemorating the Crimean War, and that of the 2nd Battalion commemorating the South African War, will be centralised in the North Transept and surmounted by our colours hanging from the walls.

The Colours to be laid up in the North Transept are:

57th Foot (1853-67)	6th (Militia) Battalion (1881)
77th Foot (1835-76)	
1st Battalion (1908-25)	8th Battalion (T.A.) (1908-61)
2nd Battalion (1876-1925)	
3rd Battalion (1925-49)	9th Battalion (T.A.) (1913-50)
4th Battalion (1902-22)	
5th (Militia) Battalion (1881)	9th Battalion (T.A.) (1950-61)

Chairs will be provided for the transept and, in conjunction with the Chapter and the Order of St. Michael and St. George, we shall share the expense of modernising a portable organ normally situated in the North Transept.

The baptistry will be formed by moving the font from the south to the north transept, then mounting it on a marble platform slightly raised from the ground and surrounding it with a glass screen and wooden posts linked by maroon and old gold cord.

The cost of establishing the Memorial is £10,000, and the President sincerely hopes that every Die-Hard will subscribe what he can towards raising this large sum of money to ensure that the glories and the traditions of the Middlesex Regiment do not pass into oblivion.

At the time of going to press, which is before the Appeal has been formally launched, the following donations have been most gratefully received and acknowledged:

	£	s.	d.
Middlesex T. and A.F.A.	500	0	0
Middlesex Regimental Association	250	0	0
10th (T.) Bn. The Queen's Regt. (Mx.)	150	0	0
Major-General C. M. M. Man	100	0	0
Col. W. D. Ellis	100	0	0
Col. J. G. E. Reid	100	0	0
Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox	100	0	0
Major D. V. Littlejohn	100	0	0
Major H. A. Neal	100	0	0
Major H. Sherwood	100	0	0
Capt. A. P. L. Blaxter	100	0	0
Lt.-Col. J. T. Dear	50	0	0
Sir Myles Abbott	10	0	0
Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton	10	0	0
Miss Ellma Kelly	10	0	0
Chaplain General's Fund	10	0	0
Charlton Athletic F.C.	10	0	0
Crystal Palace F.C.	5	5	0
Watford F.C.	5	5	0
Capt. E. A. Bull	5	0	0
Mr. D. R. Harris	5	0	0
Miss Aileen Woods	5	0	0
Capt. H. S. Lyons	3	3	0
Mr. E. Hawkshaw Powell	1	1	0
Mr. A. C. Ashworth	1	0	0
Major R. W. J. Smith	1	0	0

Total as at April 17 £1,831 14 0

The February Issue (No. 5)

The Editor much regrets that, owing to totally unexpected circumstances, the February issue of the *Die-Hards Newsletter* was considerably delayed in publication.

NEW TERRITORIALS

The 10th (Territorial) Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) was disbanded on March 31, 1969. The majority of serving soldiers have transferred to 5th (Volunteer) Bn. The Queen's Regiment, who have established detachments at Edgware and Hounslow.

The Ministry of Defence have, however, decided to form a Cadre at Edgware on which a Territorial Battalion can be raised in the future in the event of need. This Cadre has been called 10th Bn. The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) and has been established since April 1, 1969. Its establishment is eight all ranks and the Officer Commanding is Major M. J. Beaumont, T.D.

The Cadre, which is the successor unit of the Middlesex Territorial Battalions, is also to have an Honorary Colonel, and Major-General B. P. Hughes, C.B., C.B.E., who was Honorary Colonel of the 10th Battalion, has been appointed to take over this post.

J. D. G.

HIGHGATE SCHOOL C.C.F.

Major-General C. M. M. Man, C.B., O.B.E., M.C., has been invited to carry out the Annual Inspection of Highgate School C.C.F. on Tuesday, June 17, 1969.

Peter McRae

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REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following are recent acquisitions to the Museum:

Messages re Commandant Conroy

Gorget of Lt. James MacGregor

Medals of ex-C.S.M. J. T. Jenkins

Regimental walking out canes

Photographs of 25th Battalion.

MESSAGES AND RECEIPT IN RESPECT OF BOER COMMANDANT CONROY

These documents cover the period May 22-25, 1902, during the closing stages of the Boer War. The earliest, dated 22nd, is from General Stephenson giving instructions for an escort of an officer and two men to take "the rebel Conroy" to De Aar (a railway junction, Cape of Good Hope). The second is to Lt. P. B. Allott from the same officer with personal instructions, viz., "Conroy is not to be allowed to hold communication with anyone on any pretence whatever; also he should not be allowed to look out of window during the journey", etc., etc.

When Lt. Allott and his prisoner arrived, the senior officer was not prepared to accept him as the area of the capture was on the borderline of two generals and neither wanted to deal with the matter, therefore he was left with the high-ranking prisoner.

The next message contains the instructions for action and return to Victoria Road, an order later cancelled until, three days later, further instructions were received. These instructions were to hand Conroy over to Col. Bethune (later Lt.-Gen. Sir E. C. Bethune) which he did. The last document reads as follows:

"Received from Lt. P. B. Allott the rebel Conroy at Richmond Road on May 25, 1902. W. S. Fraser, Capt. S.O. Col. Bethune".

Presented by Major P. B. Allott, the officer named in the documents.

GORGET OF LT. JAMES MACGREGOR

This gorget is the gilt universal pattern of 1812-1830 with the royal cypher "GR" within two palm leaves.

It was originally the property of Lt. James MacGregor, Royal Eastern Middlesex Militia, who was commissioned as an Ensign February 8, 1814, and Lieutenant, November 12, 1814, the latter commission being signed by Lord George Cavendish as Vice-Lieutenant to Wm. Hy. Cavendish Bentinck Scott, Duke of Portland, Lord Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex. The Commanding Officer of the Royal Eastern Middlesex Militia at that time was Thomas Wood, who held the appointment from April 1803 to January 1860.

James MacGregor was still serving in the unit in 1825. There were also two other officers by the name of MacGregor shown on the roll, Andrew and Alexander. The number of names of Scottish origin may be due to the Regiment serving in the north between 1783 and 1801. James MacGregor, it is believed, farmed near Amulree in Perthshire and joined the Regiment when it was serving in Dublin.

Presented by Miss Helen MacGregor, great-niece of Lt. MacGregor.

MEDALS, ETC. OF THE LATE EX-C.S.M. J. T. JENKINS

The group of six medals consists of the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Defence Medal and the Territorial Efficiency Medal. The 1914-15 Star and medals for 1914-19 bear the regimental number TF/2189, whilst the T.E.M. is engraved with the Army number 6188029 in addition to showing the rank of sergeant in the 7th Battalion. The other items are a Chinese flag and a red sash as worn by W.O.s and Sergeants of the Regiment. The flag was made by, and presented to, Jimmy Jenkins by the Chinese nationals of the battalion of the Chinese Labour Corps, to whom he was seconded for a period during the war of 1914-19, as a mark of the appreciation of his work for them as their cook sergeant.

Presented by the family of the late
ex-C.S.M. Jenkins.

WARRANT OFFICER AND SERGEANT PATTERN CANE, 1ST BATTALION

This pattern malacca cane was again taken into use during the 1920s. It is a walking-stick type as against the swagger type used by junior N.C.O.s and soldiers. The top is of white metal with a clear crown on which the owner's initials were engraved as a monogram whilst the skirt has an embossed wreath design and the old 57th Albuhera badge. These canes were purchased by their owners on promotion to the Sergeants' Mess.

On long loan from Mrs. Dollie Smith.

METAL TOP OF REGIMENTAL CANE

This crown portion of the top to a regimental cane has the 57 badge as described above and appears to be the same pattern as the "Stick" cane so eagerly competed for in the past when the smartest soldier of the Battalion Quarter Guard was chosen as commanding officer's orderly. The "Stick Man" was excused guard duties throughout the twenty-four hours of the tour of duty, but had his name registered as a member of the guard on the "Nights-in-bed" slip. His actual duties were to be the personal orderly to the commanding officer, and, in addition to carrying the special cane, he also wore a cross-belt and document pouch similar to that worn by the members of the regimental band. At Retreat his duties ended.

This interesting relic was found by Lt.-Colonel E. C. Simmons, late 52nd (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire) Light Infantry, whilst weeding in his garden at Alfriston, near Eastbourne.

Presented by Lt.-Col. E. C. Simmons.

PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC. 25TH (GARRISON) BATTALION

Amongst the eight photographs are two very interesting ones of the transport "Tyndareus" which was mined off Cape L'Agulhas on February 6, 1917. One shows the ship, well down by the stern, just after she had struck the mine, and the other, the ship in dry dock showing the damage to the hull. In this photograph, Pte. H. Coleman can also be seen standing on a length of the iron plates.

In a group of medical orderlies quite a number of the distinctive badges of the Pioneer Battalions

raised by Col. John Ward can be seen. These badges have the additional brass scroll bearing the legend "Public Works Pioneers" under the "Middlesex Regt." scroll.

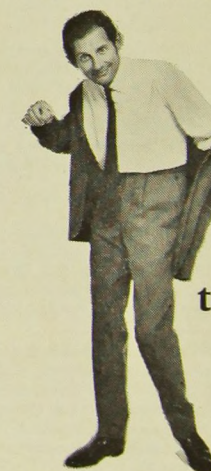
The last item is the card, bearing the regimental badge, presented to every survivor of the mined ship by the Citizens of Wynberg, with a message of appreciation of the bravery exhibited, and, on the reverse, a copy of the telegram from H.M. King George V to the Commander-in-Chief, Simonstown expressing His Majesty's admiration of the Battalion's discipline and courage.

Presented by Mrs. R. Coleman.

ARMY MUSIC GROUP COMPETITION

We congratulate the Die-Hards Steel Band on being placed equal first with "Olland Patches" (Group from 1st Staffords) in the Army Music Group Competition held at the Playhouse Theatre, London, on Thursday, April 10, 1969.

Austin Reed suits from £25 cost nothing



to try on.

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of Regent Street

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

We were very pleased to get an enquiry recently from an old member of the 2/7th Battalion, ex-Sgt. D. C. Barr (6208127), as a result of which we hope that we may see him at the Albuhera Service of Remembrance on Sunday, May 18.

Congratulations to Lt. Harry Barstow on again being selected for the Army Rugby XV during the past season.

Just before going to press we were pleasantly surprised to get a telephone call from Northern Ireland from ex-C.S.M. R. Chapman (6207747), who served throughout the last war with the 2/8th Battalion, which became the resuscitated 1st Battalion in 1942.

He is Managing Director and Secretary of a large advertising firm in Belfast, and lives at Portglenone in County Antrim.

He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

A recent old soldier to join the Regimental Association is ex-Pte. Stanley W. Charles (PW/3509) who enlisted in June 1915 when Colonel John Ward, M.P., was recruiting for the 25th Battalion. After this unit changed its role from that of a Public Works Battalion to that of a Garrison Battalion he was transferred to 19th (Second Public Works Pioneers) Battalion. On July 15, 1916, he was badly wounded in the shoulder during the Battle of the Somme. As a result of this wound he was eventually discharged in October 1917.

During the past season Cpl. J. Clements (23965699), serving with 4th Queen's, was frequently chosen to play for the Army Soccer XI in representative matches, including that against the Royal Navy. Heartiest congratulations!

On April 10, which was the actual anniversary of his call-up for National Service in 1959, we were very pleased to welcome Lt. David Everard when he visited us at Edgware. He is on leave from Tanzania, where he has been a successful manager for the firm of Olivetti. At the end of his leave he is not yet sure whether he will be returning to Tanzania or taking up a similar post in Bangkok.

Our friend on the office staff at Lord's, C. F. Farley, who served in 1/7th Battalion during the last war, has been finding it difficult to attend Branch meetings owing to pressure of work but, in a letter recently received from him, he says "I live in hopes".

We have at last been able to track down Capt. William Fletcher who, after being Orderly Room Colour Sergeant and R.Q.M.S. of the 2nd Battalion in pre-war days, was commissioned as a Quartermaster and served in this capacity throughout the last war with the 2/8th Battalion, which became the resuscitated 1st Battalion in 1942.

He now lives at Fovant, near Salisbury, and, in order, as he puts it, to save his brain from becoming rusty, spends a couple of days during the week working in a Salisbury antique shop.

We have had a report that ex-Pte. H. E. Georgeson (2322529), a National Service soldier who served with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus, having had the misfortune to lose possession of his accommodation in Brighton, is now living with his wife and three children in a council maisonette in Ilford.

Capt. George Goring is to give up command of No. 4 Cadet Training Team in June on posting to the Ministry of Defence, Chessington, Surrey, as Staff Captain (Q 6a (A)).

Cpts. Peter Gybbon-Monypenny and Roger Pitman were successful in the recent Staff College examination, and we send them both our heartiest congratulations.

Lt.-Col. John Herapath has written to let us know that he has now settled in Somerset and that he is enjoying life there very much.

Congratulations to Sgt. T. C. R. Hutton (23925921), 10th Queen's, who has been promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant in the Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve as from December 13 last.

Those readers of this *Newsletter* who served in the 19th (Second Public Works Pioneer) Battalion during the 1914-18 War will be interested to know that their Commanding Officer at that time, Lt.-Col. (now Brigadier) Arthur Innes-Irons, is still in circulation, though not in very good health. He won the D.S.O. and Bar whilst with the Battalion.

During the 1939-45 War he was on General Eisenhower's staff in North Africa and later in England, and was awarded the C.B.E. for his services.

Major Chris Lawrence went as Ground Liaison Officer to the R.A.F. detachment which formed part of the Force sent recently to Anguilla.

On his return he paid a welcome visit to the County Office at Edgware, and judging from his appearance, the sunshine of the Caribbean seems to have done him good.

We were very sorry to learn that Lt.-Col. "Doc" Lloyd-Williams, for many years the Medical Officer of the 9th Battalion, had a nasty accident in his home in Anglesey last December when he tripped over a carpet and crashed against a radiator. As a result he had to spend some weeks in hospital to recover from the effects of this unfortunate experience.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Association held at the Middlesex Guildhall on January 29, 1969, a warm welcome was given to Major-General Christopher Man, who had been elected as President of the Association for 1969 in succession to the Right Honourable Sir Frederic Sellers.

Those who remember him when the 1st Battalion was stationed in Palestine and later The Canal Zone

may be interested to know that ex-Pte. Walter Matthews (6198284) is now living at Harlow in Essex. He completed his Colour Service in December 1935. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he was called up from the Reserve and transferred to The Royal West Kent Regiment.

One of our younger ex-soldiers, whom we welcome as a member of the Regimental Association, is ex-Pte. W. G. Moreton (23882902). He served in the 1st Battalion from September 1961 to December 1964 when applying to join the Regimental Association, wrote "I am immensely proud to have served in the Regiment and to be able to say I am a Die-Hard". That is the spirit of which we are so proud.

Ex-Pte. E. G. Moss (22058302) is another of our younger ex-soldiers to become a member of the Regimental Association. He served in the 1st Battalion from August 1948 to February 1953, and fought with the Battalion in Korea. Although he lives at Gravesend in Kent we hope that he will attend our functions whenever possible.

One of our regular readers, ex-Pte. E. Newman (60319) of the 2/10th Battalion, hopes to pay a visit to the County Office at Edgware in the near future. He is sure of a good welcome when he can make the trip.

From Ipswich ex-Pte. E. N. Nunn (14990186), who served in "B" Company of the 2nd Battalion in Palestine in 1947, writes to ask if we can help him locate a friend, ex-Pte. Reg. Davis, who served with him in the same Company at the same time. Unfortunately we have not been able to trace his friend. If, therefore, any reader should know of Reg. Davis's present whereabouts it would be appreciated if he would get in touch with the Editor.

In a recent letter ex-C.S.M. Alf Page (6201260) mentioned that Blacon Camp, Chester, the site of the M.G.T.C. during the last war, has now been developed into a big housing estate with a shopping centre and a large school and sports field.

He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

On completion of his training for Holy Orders at Cuddesdon College, Oxford, Lt.-Col. Peter Pearce would be ordained a deacon at Bristol Cathedral on Sunday, June 1, next. He afterwards is to take up a curacy in the large, well-known parish of St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol.

We heard recently that ex-C.S.M. T. G. (Nobby) Perry, late 1st and 7th Battalions, is employed as a porter at Christ Church College, Oxford, and that he is popular with the undergraduates.

Capt. Jack Riseley paid one of his fleeting visits to the County Office at Edgware on March 5, looking the picture of health.

He wishes to be remembered to all his old friends, especially those who were in the Band and Drums of the 2nd Battalion in Ahmednagar days.

We congratulate Pte. J. Ryan (2411739), 4th Queen's, on being selected to box in the light middle-

weight division for the Army in a match against the Royal Air Force in March 5.

In a very recent letter Lt.-Col. John Shipster, who is a G.S.O. 1 at the U.S. Army Chemical School at Fort McClellan, Alabama, mentioned that, for the most part, he feels very cut off in the South in "Dixie Land", but that his job has many compensations, particularly as regards travel.

He sends his greetings to all Die-Hards.

One of our most loyal Die-Hards, ex-C/Sgt. Ted Tulley (L/8177), who is now aged 82, has for some months been suffering badly from arthritis. This has prevented him from being present at regimental functions, which he used to attend most regularly.

All his old friends send him their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Just before going to press ex-C.S.M. W. B. (Jack) Ure (6199252), who lives at Newark-on-Trent, wrote to say how sorry he is that he has been unable to get along to meet old comrades at regimental functions, but he finds it difficult to do so since his wife is handicapped through polio and he has to afford her every assistance.

He sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

An old comrade who made perhaps the longest journey to attend the 1/7th Battalion (1914-18) O.C.A. Dinner on March 14 was ex-Cpl. David Vincent, M.M. (3500 TF). He came all the way from Wilmslow in Cheshire and spent a thoroughly enjoyable evening in the company of many of his old friends.

Those who remember him will be interested to hear that ex-Pte. Thomas Wallis (6198983) is now employed by the G.P.O. as a postman. After being transferred to the Army Reserve in April 1937 he worked as a civilian labourer at the Depot until he was called up for war service in September 1939.

One of our regular readers, ex-L/Cpl. R. J. Weedon (14843), who served in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions and is now the Honorary Secretary of the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association, writes to say that he is hoping to be present at the Albuhera Service of Remembrance on Sunday, May 18.

He sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

We were so sorry to hear only recently that Albert White, the energetic Honorary Secretary of the Ealing Branch and a most loyal ex-member of the 8th Battalion, has been ordered by his doctor to take things very quietly for the time being.

A recent visitor, whom we were pleased to welcome at Edgware, was ex-L/Cpl. E. C. Wibrow (6207120). During the 1939-45 War he served in the 2/8th Battalion (afterwards 1st Battalion) and became a wireless operator.

He is now General Manager of a large engineering firm in Southall, Middlesex.

Major Pat Wollcombe has been appointed Chief Instructor of the Mortar Division of the Support Weapons Wing, School of Infantry, at Netheravon.

THE REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

(NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF REGULAR SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN)

This Association is part of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service and its object is to find suitable civil employment for men and women when they leave the Services, and in the years thereafter.

All who have not taken commissioned rank in the Regular Forces and who leave them with characters of "Good" or better after three years service are eligible for the Association's Services.

The Association gives all its services free.

In 1968 the number of men and women leaving the Services increased as a result of the reduction in the strength of the Armed Forces and, although there was a slight reduction in unemployment during the year, the competition for employment became all the more keen.

It was in these conditions that the Association placed 11,140 men and women from the Services in employment, nearly all of which was of a permanent nature. This was done through the Association's 44 Branches which cover the whole of the United Kingdom and are run by Employment Officers, all of whom have been in the Services themselves and are in close touch with employers and with the Department of Employment and Productivity.

Of those found jobs by the Association, 4,476 were from the Army and 22 were from the Middlesex Regt.

The Association is at your service and the addresses and telephone numbers of its Branches can be obtained from your Corps or Regimental Association; from the nearest Post Office; or from your local Employment Exchange.

SINGAPORE

The British Forces Broadcasting Service wishes to contact people with memories of Singapore between the world wars or who have family memories going further back in order to record their voices for two historical broadcasts to Servicemen in July during the period leading up to the 150th anniversary of Singapore. The loan of letters and documents would also be appreciated.

In view of the fact that both the 1st and 2nd Battalions were stationed in Singapore between the wars some of our readers who served in either of those Battalions may wish to be considered for these broadcasts; if so, they should get in touch direct with: Director BFBS, Box 1000 CMM, London, S.W.1.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

SPRING MEETING 1969

A most successful meeting was held in fine, sunny weather on the North Hants Golf Club Course at Fleet on Friday, April 18. There were 27 entries and the results of the various competitions, each decided over 18 holes, were:

Stableford Singles

	Points
Mr. H. J. Chillery (Winner)	49
Capt. R. D. Latham (Runner-up)	37
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	35
Mrs. A. M. Hendry	34
Major P. A. S. Wollcombe	31
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle	31
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle	30
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey	29
Major A. R. Bisset	29
Sgt. T. Pryor	29
Capt. M. S. Gedye	28
Cpl. A. J. Reide	28
Bdsm. R. F. Abrahams	27
Capt. R. D. Lay	26
Mr. M. R. T. Walden	26
Capt. R. J. Tarrant	25
Sgt. I. Routledge	25
Col. M. Crawford	24
Capt. R. H. Graham	21
Major C. W. Summers	20
C/Sgt. M. Flynn	20
Major S. E. Honess	18
Major H. K. Hardcastle	16
Major J. M. Hewson (Divot)	14

Stableford Foursomes

	Points
Major A. R. Bisset and Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle (Winners)	33
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and Capt. R. D. Lay (Runners-up)	31
Col. M. Crawford and Mr. M. R. T. Walden	28
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle and Mrs. A. M. Hendry	27
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey and Major P. A. S. Wollcombe	27
Capt. R. H. Graham and Sgt. A. G. Torrie	27
Capt. M. S. Gedye and A. N. Other	25
Major H. K. Hardcastle and Capt. R. D. Latham	24
Major S. E. Honess and Mr. H. J. Chillery	21
Major C. W. Summers and Major B. A. M. Pielow	19
Major J. M. Hewson and C/Sgt. M. Flynn	19
Cpl. A. J. Reide and Bdsm. R. F. Abrahams	19
Capt. R. J. Tarrant and Sgt. T. Pryor	16
Lt.-Col. K. J. Carter and Sgt. I. Routledge	12

Hidden Holes Competition

	Points
Mr. H. J. Chillery (Winner)	16
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle (Runner-up)	16
Capt. R. D. Latham	12
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	12
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey	11
Major P. A. S. Wollcombe	11
Major A. R. Bisset	11
Sgt. T. Pryor	11
Sgt. I. Routledge	11
Mrs. A. M. Hendry	10
Capt. M. S. Gedye	9
Capt. R. J. Tarrant	9
C/Sgt. M. Flynn	8
Bdsm. R. F. Abrahams	8
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle	7
Col. M. Crawford	7
Capt. R. D. Lay	7
Capt. R. H. Graham	7
Cpl. A. J. Reide	7
Mr. M. R. T. Walden	6
Major C. W. Summers	6
Major J. M. Hewson	6
Major S. E. Honess	5
Major H. K. Hardcastle	4

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. "Tossie" Worton, whom we were delighted to welcome back after her recent illness, kindly presented the prizes.

OBITUARY

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

BARBER—On March 29, 1969, Capt. Cyril Henry Taylor Barber, aged 58. He was a former Adjutant of the 9th Battalion when it was a R.A. unit, and he had been a member of our Regimental Officers' Club for many years.

COOK—On December 1, 1968, Lt.-Col. Herbert Cook, M.C., aged 83. He served with the Middlesex Regiment during the 1939-45 War and commanded the 10th Battalion. His previous service was with 22nd London Regiment, which he had commanded in 1918, and in which he won his Military Cross in June 1917.

HAVILAND—On March 25, 1969, ex-Sgt. Frank Haviland (G/1228) aged 94. He enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment on September 9, 1914, having had previous service in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment and then the Metropolitan Police. He joined the 1st Battalion in France in 1914 and later was posted to the 11th (Service) Battalion. He was discharged on July 30, 1920.

NORTHCOTT—On February 18, 1969, ex-C.S.M. William Henry Ernest Northcott, M.M. (TF/3443 and 6194542), aged 72. He enlisted in September 1914 and joined the 2/8th Battalion. In April 1916 he was transferred to the 1/8th Battalion in France and served with that Battalion until he was wounded in November that year. In September 1917 he was posted to 3/10th Battalion and, when the B.E.F. was re-organised in February 1918, he was posted to the 4th Battalion, in which unit he won his Military Medal. After the 1914-18 War he re-enlisted on a Regular engagement. He joined the 1st Battalion, and served with it until his discharge in April 1939. During the 1939-45 War he served in the Home Guard.

He was a well-known Regimental sportsman at cricket, football, hockey and tennis.

ROBERTSON—On February 23, 1969, in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, ex-Pte. Jesse Leonard Robertson (6201859), aged 55. He enlisted on September 6, 1934, and was serving with the 1st Battalion at the time of the fall of Hong Kong.

He was a P.O.W. in Japan (Osaka) until October 1945 and, on return to the U.K., he transferred to the Army Catering Corps, being finally discharged in April 1958.

STEWART—On April 3, 1969, Colonel William Archibald Stewart, O.B.E., aged 88. He was a grandson of General Alexander Stewart, who served throughout the greater part of the Napoleonic Wars and whose kinsman, Sir William Stewart, was the Divisional Commander at Albuhera. He was gazetted to the 2nd Battalion on August 12, 1899, saw active service during the Boer War, and was the last surviving officer of the Regiment who fought at Spion Kop. In 1907 he joined the 1st Battalion at Allahabad. In 1912 he was appointed Adjutant of the Rangoon Volunteer Rifles, and it was this appointment which prevented him from serving with his Regiment on the outbreak of war in 1914. In 1917 he was despatched to Mesopotamia where he held various staff appointments until 1920 when he rejoined the 1st Battalion as Second-in-Command. He commanded the 1st Battalion from September 1924 to September 1928, which were years of great success for the Battalion in all military and sporting competitions.

SYDENHAM—On January 23, 1969, ex-Pte. Walter John Sydenham (L/16317), aged 71. He enlisted on a Regular engagement on October 28, 1915, and, in September 1916 was posted to the 3rd Battalion, then serving on the Struma Valley front in the Balkans. He was discharged on April 4, 1918, on account of disability due to active service. A small man of great pride, he was of the family of Thomas Sydenham, the English physician who fought with the Parliamentarians during the Civil War.

Stop Press

Notification that the following has died has been received, but no further information is available at present:

HAYES—ex-C/Sgt. C. G. (L/11927), late 3rd Battalion.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1, 1969, to March 31, 1969, the sum of £518 was spent from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 44 ex-members of the regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges a donation to the Charitable Fund made by Capt. J. R. C. Riseley.

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EALING BRANCH

On April 25, 1915, Nos. 15 and 16 Platoons, "D" Company, 8th Battalion went in to "plug the gap" at Gravenstaffel Ridge, where the French coloured troops had left the line. Not one of those brave men returned to the Battalion in the line. Nearly all were killed but one, Lt. J. H. Brough, was taken prisoner. The Germans amputated both his arms at the shoulder and Capt. Brough (as he is now), will tell you why, if you care to visit him at his home:

33 St. Albans Avenue,
Bournemouth, BH8 9EG.

Capt. Brough is an example to us all of how a disability can be overcome with courage. He does almost anything with his feet and his paintings (holding the brush with his teeth!) are better than any Picasso. Ably helped by his wife, he leads a fairly full life, and when I visited him last September he escorted me to the bus and did not look a bit like his 80 years. If any ex-8th Battalion officers are in that area, I am sure that this old "Die-Hard" would be pleased to have a chat.

I am glad to say that Mrs. Ruston (widow of Major Ruston, who was in command of "D" Company and who was killed on that day) is still well and active at 90 years of age.

Our plaque in the old Drill Hall is polished every 2nd Friday of the month and our toast is "Absent Comrades".

ALBERT WHITE.

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

A very successful meeting was held at the R.A.F.A. Club on April 11, 1969. We were pleased to welcome Major and Mrs. Smith, Major and Mrs. Honeybun and Mr. Honeybun. It was a night of surprises. Ginger Parker of the 2nd Battalion Signals turned up and a new member, Mr. Charles.

We are looking forward to a memorable day on Sunday, May 18, when we join the Albuhera Day Parade at Mill Hill and hope to see many old friends.

Bogey West has decided that he has been Secretary of the Branch long enough and the job has fallen into my lap—a most unusual choice. However, I am very fortunate because Bogey has offered to help me learn the job. With a bit of luck, I can make that last for years. I must place on record our appreciation of the sterling work done by Bogey since the inception of the Branch. He has indeed been a tower of strength.

Peggy O'Neill has relinquished the chairmanship and our new chairman is Mr. Harry Norfield.

I was very fortunate recently to meet Col. MacDonald of the Gordon Highlanders who was taken prisoner by the Japanese at Singapore with their 1st Battalion. He tells me he sees quite a lot of Major P. D. ff Powell, who is a neighbour of his.

It was with real regret that I read of the death of Major "Ginger" Lawrence. He was my first Company Commander when I joined the 2nd Battalion at Colchester in 1933. I still remember, most vividly,

his foot inspection after route marches and his suggestions (?) for improvement of the feet.

My first contribution is finished. My notes for the next one commence.

BERT HASTIE.

9th BATTALION BRANCH

On Saturday, March 29, Capt. Cyril H. Barber passed away after a long illness. He was Adjutant to 595th LAA/S.L. Regiment R.A. which originally was the 9th Battalion.

At the Service at the North East Surrey Crematorium, Morden, on Thursday, April 3, the congregation consisted of a large number of the past members of the 9th Battalion and 595th Regiment including four colonels, several officers and men who had served with Capt. Barber. The Regiment was represented by Col. F. Walden. Besides these gentlemen, several of his old colleagues of his tennis club and of the National Health Service attended. The minister of his church conducted the service and spoke of his service to the Church after the disbandment of the Regiment.

Capt. Barber supported our Branch so well, that in his passing, a gap will be left in the ranks of the Branch that can hardly be filled.

The Committee have been very busy these last months in finalising the details of our Annual Reunion at the Victory Club, 63-79 Seymour Street, W.2, on May 17. Letters have been sent to all members of the Branch, nearly three hundred. With these letters, a copy of a resolution has been sent, which will be presented to the A.G.M. before the Dinner. This resolution concerns a sum of money called the C.O.'s Private Fund, which was started in the days of the 5th West Middlesex Rifle Volunteers. Also a note, accompanying the Resolution on how the fund was formed and its history. Any member of the Branch who has not received a copy, please write for one.

The name of the Middlesex Regiment will not be forgotten if the National Press still takes an interest in us. In the "London Day by Day" of the April 9 issue of the *Daily Telegraph* mention was made that our President, Major-General C. M. M. Man, had been given permission to use the North Transept of St. Paul's Cathedral for the laying up of the Colours of the Regiment and that a dedication service will be held on October 11.

The project will involve the moving of the font from the South Transept to the North. The last paragraph states "Bearing the Badges of the Middlesex and Queen's, the North Transept is intended to become a centre of inspiration for the future as well as memorial to the past".

Let us not forget.

R. T. M.

W.O.s AND SERGEANTS' BRANCH

Owing to the disbanding of the 10th Queens and the closing of their Sergeants' Mess we now hold our monthly meetings in the recreation room at the T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road. This new venue is not strange to our members as they all belong to the Mill Hill Branch who also hold their monthly meetings therein.

Our first meeting held in this room in February was marred by the very bad weather, only five stalwarts braving the arctic weather managed to make it. A much better attendance at both the March and April meetings gives us hopes that the change of venue will not blunt our keenness in keeping this Branch alive. We are now looking forward to the brighter weather in the hope that it will be an inducement to all members to attend.

The Deputy Colonel of the Queen's Regiment, or as we still like to think of him, the Colonel of the Die-Hards, Major-General C. M. M. Man, has expressed a wish to attend a Branch meeting prior to his retirement. It goes without saying that we shall be delighted to welcome him and are looking forward to this meeting, especially those members who served with him in Hong Kong and with whom he shared the privations of the prison camps, where once again men of the Middlesex Regiment proved themselves worthy of the name Die-Hards. In order to fit our meeting in with the General's many other commitments we are bringing our June meeting forward to June 7, when we are looking forward to a record attendance. A hearty welcome also awaits any new member who may like to make this night his first appearance at this Branch.

Although the Editor has allowed us space for 300 words I find it rather difficult to use this, as it only seems about a week ago that I wrote the last contribution. For this my apologies. I hope that by the next issue I shall find something to write about. Until then on behalf of all members of this Branch I send greetings to all Die-Hards past and present and to all Branches best wishes for the future.

L. R. JOHNSON.

1/7th BATTALION (1914-18) O.C.A.

The Annual Reunion and Dinner took place on Friday, March 14, at Beale's Restaurant and was well attended, members and guests totalling 73. Major Sir Harold Gillett was in the chair and welcomed our guests, among whom were Col. W. E. Pringle, Col. F. Walden, Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell, Major R. W. J. Smith, also the sons of many of the old 7th. It was a great pleasure to have with us again Col. J. K. Maitland, Major G. A. H. Bower, also Bob Douthet, Bill Moutry, who travelled from Newark, Jim Percival

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from Pagham, Fred Moore (Nottingham), Freddie Birdsell (Colwyn Bay), Dave Vincent (Cheshire) and many others who travelled long and short journeys and braved the cold March winds. Many of us are now in our seventies and a few in their eighties and over, and we thank them all for the wonderful support and effort they make each year in attending this Reunion. Unfortunately Beale's restaurant will be closing down later this year and we shall have to find another place for our future Reunions. The service at Beale's has always been excellent and our thanks go to the staff for the very good dinner they provided on this last occasion, when a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to our Secretary, Stan Edge, and his committee for the arrangements.

R. H. FERGUSON (2458).

BRANCH SECRETARIES

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

<i>Branch</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
Ealing	Mr. A. White, 56 Warkworth Gardens, Isleworth, Middlesex.

<i>Branch</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
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. A. J. Hastie, 46 Locarno Road, Copnor, Portsmouth, Hants.
Uxbridge	Mr. R. F. Pennings, 69 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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Wednesday, June 4	Special Coach to the Derby.
Friday, June 6	Officers' Club Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1.
Sunday, July 6	Regimental Depot Open Day at Canterbury.
Sunday, July 13	Church Service at Royal Hos- pital, Chelsea.
Sunday, July 27	River Trip.
Thursday Aug. 21 to	Visit to Mons for ceremonies in connection with 55th anni- versary of the Battle of Mons.
Sunday, August 24	2/7th Battalion (1939-45)
Friday, October 3	Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, Lon- don, W.2.
Friday, Oct. 10	1. Opening of Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle, Tottenham (to be con- firmed). 2. Officers' Club Cocktail Party at the County Hall, London, S.E.1.
Saturday, Oct. 11	1. Dedication of Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral. 2. Annual Reunion at Por- chester Hall, Queensway, London, W.2.
Friday, Oct. 17	Autumn Golf Meeting on West Wilts Golf Course, Warminster.
Saturday, Nov. 8	Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.
Sunday, Nov. 9	Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at T.A. Centre, Edgware.

