



# The Die-Hards

## NEWSLETTER

No.10

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Editor: Col. F. WALDEN, D.L., T. & A.V.R. Centre,  
Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

### MAJOR-GENERAL C. M. M. MAN, CB, OBE, MC

The most momentous happening since the publication of the last *Newsletter* has been Major-General Man's resignation as a Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Regiment, and as President of the Middlesex Regimental Association, which was notified in the following letter to the Editor:

"As I told you on the telephone, poor Topsy has had another serious set-back to her health which has resulted in being readmitted to hospital. It seems that she is suffering from the after effects of her very serious operation five years ago. On her surgeon's advice, she must from now on live a much quieter life and cut back on her activities.

This situation obviously affects me also, as the surgeon made it clear that a contributory cause of her illness is the worry caused by the frequent trips to London on Regimental business. This being so, he has advised me to cut back on my outside activities as well, so that I can be near her and keep a close eye on her. This means, of course, that I must immediately resign from the Deputy Colonelcy and my position as President of the Middlesex Regimental Association, and I have already taken the first steps to this end.

As you will appreciate, it takes time to get changes of this sort through, and I am happy to say that Colonel Aymar Clayton has agreed to act now as my representative, and further to succeeding me as Deputy Colonel in due course. All who know Aymar will agree that he is ideally fitted for the job and I personally can think of nobody to whom I would sooner hand over the appointment.

I hope that everybody will understand why I have to go. I can only say that I hate to leave the job before my time expires, though I have completed five years in all. It has been a wonderful experience for me and nobody could have been supported more loyally than I have been in spite of the fact that practically every decision I have had to take has been against not only my own personal inclinations but those of every member of the Regiment as well. None the less, we have adopted what I believe to be

the only course, to make a positive approach and to remember that the Regiment may have died as an active force but it lives on in the Queen's Regiment who are showing themselves already to be true Die-Hards.

With my thanks to everybody and very best wishes for the future."

This is indeed very sad news and will be much regretted by all our readers without exception.

Since he assumed the Colonelcy of The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) five years ago, and later a Deputy Colonelcy in The Queen's Regiment, Major-General Man has devoted himself tirelessly, not only to the interests of all Die-Hards but also to ensuring that his old Regiment should give every possible assistance to our successors, The Queen's Regiment.

As President of the Middlesex Regimental Association Major-General Man has become well known to a very wide circle of Old Comrades. This has been achieved because he has gone out of his way to attend as many of the Association and Branch functions as possible. Whilst this has taken up a great deal of his time his attendance at the various functions has been much appreciated by all concerned and we can never thank him enough for all that he has done in this vital field of the Association's work.

It is the earnest hope of all our readers that, by living a quieter life, Mrs. Man's health will improve and enable her to enjoy with the General the rest which they so richly deserve.

### Free Newsletters

The Editor wishes to thank Lt. G. D. Cripps and Mr. F. C. W. Hammond for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.





*Band and Drums of the 1st and 4th Battalions, The Queen's Regiment, marching past.*



*The Guard of Honour, headed by the Guard Commander, pays compliments to the Mayor.*



*The candelabra presented by the Middlesex Regiment to the London Borough of Barnet on permanent loan, with from left to right the acting Deputy Colonel, the Colonel of the Regiment, the Mayor and the Town Clerk of the London Borough of Barnet.*

*The Mayor salutes the Regimental Colour of the old 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) carried by the Colour Ensign, Lt. R. N. Colbourne. On the Mayor's left is the Guard Commander, Major H. M. du V. Lohan, and behind him Lt.-Gen. Sir Richard Craddock, Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel A. S. J. de S. Clayton, acting Deputy Colonel, the Town Clerk and Lt.-Col. K. J. Carter, commanding 4th Bn. The Queen's Regiment.*



## TRANSFER OF THE FREEDOM OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET

The Freedom of Entry to the Borough was formally transferred to the Queen's Regiment from the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) in a ceremony at Hendon on Thursday, April 16.

The Guard of Honour formed up in the car park at Egerton Gardens, Hendon, for inspection.

After inspection by the Mayor, Councillor Victor Usher, and the Colonel of the Queen's Regiment, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock, accompanied by the Town Clerk, Mr. Ronald H. Williams, and the Acting Deputy Colonel, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, the men marched down The Burroughs past the saluting base outside the Town Hall, led by the Corps of Drums and the Bands of the 1st and 4th Battalions The Queen's Regiment.

Later, at an official council meeting, an illuminated copy of the resolution passed by the council, transferring the Freedom of Entry to the Queen's, was handed to Sir Richard Craddock by the Mayor.

The Mayor said: "In one way we are losing what seems to be a very old friend, but we are gaining a regiment which is going to be a new friend, and of which we are going to be equally proud".

People must never dwell in the past, said the

Mayor. The Queen's would go on prospering, and would help anybody in distress.

"I hope that many young people of our town will join the Regiment and receive the same pleasure that their forefathers did".

Sir Richard Craddock told the council that the change in Britain's defence policy had meant a considerable reduction in the armed forces. This meant a number of difficult decisions had had to be made, and regiments with proud and honoured names had come together to form the Queen's Regiment.

"We thought it was for the best to come together as one regiment. It is probable that whatever decision we had made would not have been acceptable to everybody."

Sir Richard said the Queen's was doing all it could to carry on the traditions it had inherited from the county regiments.

In return, the council was presented by Col. Clayton with a pair of Middlesex Regimental candelabra made in 1835. "We wish to perpetuate in this way, the very strong links which always existed in the past between your Borough and the Die-Hards", said the Colonel.

## Regimental Museum

*Curator: Maj. R. W. J. Smith, MBE, T & AVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.*

The following are recent acquisitions to the museum:

UNITED NATIONS FLAG  
CRESTED POSTCARD  
MAP OF KEMMEL HILL

UNITED NATIONS FLAG

This flag, now happily an exhibit in the Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle, Tottenham, was originally flown in Trafalgar Square for one week prior to being sent to Major-General Coad in Korea in 1950.

The flag was taken by General Sir G. Ivor Thomas, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC (at that time Quartermaster-General), who personally handed it over to a pilot at London Airport, together with a personal letter for General Coad.

General Robertson, an Australian, commanding the base in Japan, handed the flag to General Coad in the presence of 27th British Commonwealth Brigade HQ at Pakchon, Korea, in November 1950.

The flag was the first to reach Korea and flew at General Coad's HQ, until the Brigade returned to Hong Kong in 1951, after relief.

It was flown once again at General Coad's 2nd Division HQ in Germany, when he was commanding a NATO Force in 1952.

Under this flag, the last Battle Honours of the Die-Hards were won. They are "Korea, 1950-51", "Naktong Bridgehead", "Chongju", "Chongchon II", "Chuan-Ni", "Kapyong-Chon", and "Kap-

yong", one of which, "Korea 1950-51", is to be borne on the Regimental Colour of the successor unit, "The Queen's Regiment".

*Presented by Major-General B. A. Coad, CB, CBE, DSO, DL.*

CRESTED POSTCARD

This photograph is one of those printed and sold during the years of intense patriotic enthusiasm, 1915-16. It bears a Middlesex Regiment cap badge, lightly embossed on the card in gilt, with a printed greeting on the front of the card and the normal section for personal message and address on the reverse.

*Presented by Major P. Donovan.*

MAP OF KEMMEL HILL

This photograph was taken in August 1918, and is really a sequence of photographs forming a panorama. The whole, taken by a camera with telescopic lenses, covers the ground from Fermoy Farm to the Belvedere-Belle Vue Cabaret, a distance of approximately 2,000 yards.

The 23rd (2nd Football) Battalion moved into the forward trenches during the night July 1st/2nd and at one period formed a composite Battalion with the American 108 Infantry Battalion—New York. The 23rd Battalion at that time formed part of the 123rd Brigade, 41st Division.

*Presented by Mr. Henry A. Oxley (G/87359) late 23rd Battalion.*



## PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Major "Pumbago" Allott, our oldest surviving Die-Hard amongst the officers, celebrated the 90th anniversary of his birthday on April 24, and on that day we sent him a telegram conveying the very best wishes of all Die-Hards.

This old Boer War veteran remains in good health. Long may this continue!

Heartiest congratulations to Brigadier and Mrs. Euston Baker on celebrating their golden wedding on April 5.

Most of our readers will hardly need reminding that Brigadier Baker is one of our most distinguished Die-Hards. He was commissioned into the Regiment as a Special Reserve officer in August 1914 and the following December was posted to the 2nd Battalion then forming a part of the BEF in France. His service throughout that war was largely with the 2nd Battalion and, at the very early age of 23, he commanded that Battalion during the final stages of operations on the Western front.



Brigadier and Mrs. Baker at a party held to celebrate their golden wedding.

After the war he devoted his services to the TA. He commanded the 8th Battalion and later the 7th City of London Regiment (Post Office Rifles) which, at that time, was incorporated in the Middlesex Regiment (DCO). When the Territorial Army was duplicated in 1938 he became the Honorary Colonel of the 2/8th Battalion.

During the 1939-45 war he commanded a Brigade. After the war he again devoted his services to the TA, and did a term of office as Chairman of the old County of Middlesex T and AFA on the Executive Committee of which he had served for many years.

He is one of the senior Deputy Lieutenants of Greater London.

His gallant services during the 1914-18 war were recognised by the award of the DSO, MC and Bar, and three mentions in despatches, and since then by being made a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (CB) and a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE).

We wish both Brigadier and Mrs. Baker many more years of happiness together.

We heard recently from Major Ken Clayden, who commands the T and AVR Cadre of the Manchester Regiment, that he had met ex-WO2 Tommy Burbage (6089896), who, as a Corporal, joined the 1st Battalion from the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment and fought in Korea. This cheerful old soldier, who considers himself very much a Die-Hard, stumps along on a false leg in Warrington, where he now lives.

Any of his old friends who wish to get in touch with him can get his address from RHQ (Middlesex Office), Edgware.

News has very recently been received of an old 2/7th Battalion soldier who was in No. 4 Platoon, which was reputed to have won the "Die-Hard Stakes" at Netheravon in 1940. His name is Dave Cory and he now lives in the Mortlake area. He states that he was compulsorily transferred to an RE (Railway) Company and that he served with that unit on the Russian supply line and also in Italy.

Do any of our readers from the old 2/7th Battalion remember him?

Congratulations to Col. Mervyn Crawford on being installed as Captain of the famous Prestwick Golf Club this year. We missed him very much at the Regimental Spring Golf Meeting, which he regularly attends, but, on that day he was heavily involved with his own Spring Meeting at Prestwick.

Earlier this year Capt. Mike Deakin wrote to let us know that on completion of his present tour as a GSO 3 at the Ministry of Defence, he expects to take command of the MOD/VIP Flight of Alouette helicopters at Netheravon for about a year.

A former Provost Sergeant of the 7th Battalion, ex-Sgt. A. T. Dickinson, has for some years been very interested in the work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and is, in fact, the Divisional Superintendent of No. 93 (Finchley) Ambulance Division, with headquarters at the Finchley Swimming Pool.

Ex-Bandsman "Brewer" Drane is still a great source of information about former bandsmen and drummers of the Regiment, and we are indeed most grateful to him for all the trouble he takes to keep us "in the picture".

Those who served in the 2nd Battalion during the last war will be very sorry indeed to hear of the death on February 10 last, after a long and painful illness, of Lt.-Col. Philip Earle, late Fifth Fusiliers, who commanded the Battalion for a period in 1942 and 1943. He was well liked by all ranks for his unfailing good humour, which brought out the best in everybody. He will be remembered by many for his twinkling blue eyes and his warm humanity.

When he moved into Hampshire last year Major Philip Elliott took over the joint honorary secretaryship of the Hampshire Hunt. He states, incidentally, that the Hampshire Hunt has long enjoyed the privilege of bearing the Prince of Wales's insignia on

its buttons—so he will be serving under a familiar badge!

Congratulations to Capt. and Mrs. Murray Fox on the birth of a son on April 9, 1970.

Ex-Drummer J. H. Ferguson (TF/1133), who won the DCM whilst serving with the 1/7th Battalion during the 1914-18 war, sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

Capt. George Goring was married to Miss Nicola Jean Gordon on September 20 last at St. Margaret's Church, Warnham, Sussex, and, although rather belated, we send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

The bride's parents live in Guyana at Albion Estate.

According to the latest Serving Officers' Location List issued by RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Major Mike Hayward, who has been a DAAG at HQ Singapore District, is due to attend the course now assembling at the Joint Services Staff College.

A most welcome visitor to RHQ at Edgware last month was ex-RSM "Rocky" Knight, who had timed his leave home from Canada so that he could attend the 1/7th (1939-45) Reunion Dinner at Hornsey on April 24. He looked very well indeed and there is not much doubt that the climate on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean suits him.

Accompanied by his wife he returns to Canada on May 11 and we wish them God speed and trust that their next visit will not be too long delayed.

A surprise visitor to RHQ at Edgware on March 6 last was Major Ian Lloyd, who looked a picture of health on his return from the Far East. He has now taken up a GSO2 appointment at Headquarters, Western Command, Chester.

Those who were serving with him in the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong will be sorry to hear that ex-Sgt. Jimmy Marable (6201236), that excellent Battalion footballer, has suffered a slight stroke and, although on the road to recovery, he is still mainly confined to his home at Bush Hill Park, Enfield.

Earlier this year SMI O. S. E. Meadows (14469311), APTC, who was attached to the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar and later in Guyana, was in touch with RHQ at Edgware.

Lt.-Col. Stanley Mirams now lives in a small flat at Headington, Oxford, and has to lead a very quiet life after a serious illness two years ago. This means that he is no longer able to attend any functions, since any form of excitement, pleasurable or otherwise, is too much for him.

It has been brought to our notice that the personal jotting on Major Freddy Nunn in the last issue of the Newsletter was not strictly accurate in that he was described as a former Adjutant of the 17th (Footballers) Battalion whereas, in fact, he was a

very able Company Commander and only answered for the Adjutant once when the latter went on leave.

An old soldier who has recently been in touch with us is Capt. Victor Oldacre. He is now aged 81. He served in the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion from November 1914 until he was commissioned in December 1916 when he went to the Leicestershire Regiment. In October 1918 he joined the Indian Army and during his service in India, which ended in 1922, he took part in one of the NW Frontier expeditions.

Ex-CSM Arthur Page (6201260), one of our Hong Kong veterans, who is still with the Civil Service at Western Command, Chester, always keeps in close touch with us.

He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

We heartily congratulate Sgt. F. J. O'Rawe (22560673), now serving on the Recruiting Staff at Hornsey, on winning the Light Heavyweight Boxing Championship of the Army this year at Aldershot. Apart from gaining this honour he also boxed for the Army in three representative matches—against the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and Wales.

We sympathise deeply with Brigadier and Mrs. Basil Rackham whose charming little house in St. John's Wood was recently burgled whilst they were away for only a few hours. Many items of sentimental value, which are irreplaceable, were taken.

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We have recently had news that the health of ex-Pte. James Sims (6196740), who served with the 1st Battalion in the Shanghai Defence Force in 1927, is not too good. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion in India in October 1927, and served with that Battalion in Madras and Khartoum until he was transferred to the Reserve in June 1932.

He is now a widower living in Poplar, and any of his old comrades who would like to visit him can get his address from RHQ at Edgware.

Ex-C/Sgt. L. W. Taylor (6203993) has been enquiring for news of anyone who was serving with him in "B" Company of the 2nd Battalion.

If any of our readers can help they are kindly asked to get in touch with the Editor.

Our heartiest congratulations to Capt. Peter Walden who, as a result of passing one of the stiffest of medical examinations recently, is now a Member of the Royal College of Physicians—a high honour for a comparatively young doctor.

Ex-L/Cpl. R. J. Weedon (14843), who served with the 2nd Battalion during the 1914-18 war and is now Hon. Secretary of the Brighton and Hove Branch of the Old Contemptibles' Association, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

The engagement was announced in the *Daily Telegraph* of April 1 last between Capt. Ian Weston, The Blues and Royals, son of Major-General and Mrs. G. P. L. Weston, and Marian, daughter of the late Major-General F. N. Mitchell and Mrs. R. H. Keenlyside.

Quite recently and quite by chance, contact was gained with an old Die-Hard of pre-1914 days. This veteran was ex-Sgt. A. G. Whiddett (L12401), who was dropped off at Malta when the 1st Battalion came home from Aden in December 1913 and served with the 2nd Battalion until the end of the 1914-18 war, in which he won the Military Medal for bravery in the field.

We were so sorry to hear that once again Albert White, the energetic Honorary Secretary of the Ealing Branch, has had on doctor's order to curtail his activities for the time being.

We trust that he will take care of himself and soon be completely fit again.

We were delighted to get a quite unexpected visit from Lt.-Col. "Blanco" Whiting on April 9, whilst on holiday in this country from the United States of America. Looking remarkably fit—and prosperous—he informed us that on his return he would be taking over the appointment of Superintendent of the Rafael Military Academy, of which he has hitherto been Assistant Superintendent.

On February 21, 1970, Miss Clare Willoughby, eldest daughter of Major-General Sir John and Lady Willoughby, was married to Capt. Michael Mounde, RE, eldest son of the late Mr. R. E. O. N. Mounde and Mrs. Gasson, at St. Giles' Garrison Church, School of Infantry, Warminster.

We send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

## Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society

### SPRING MEETING 1970

A most successful meeting was held on the North Hants Golf Club Course at Fleet on Friday, April 24. There were 19 entries and the results of the various competitions, each decided over 18 holes, were:

#### Singles Medal Competition Scratch and Handicap

	Gross	H'cap	Net
Michael Cripps (winner, scratch and Transvaal Cup) ..	80	12	68
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton (winner, handicap and Darjeeling Cup) ..	87	16	71
Sgt. T. Pryor (runner-up, scratch) ..	89	15	74
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey ..	92	14	78
Sgt. A. G. Torrie ..	93	14	79
Sgt. I. Routledge (runner-up, handicap) ..	94	18	76
Cpl. A. J. Reide ..	95	18	78
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle ..	98	14	84
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden ..	101	20	81
Major A. R. Bisset ..	102	13	89
Capt. R. D. Latham ..	104	18	86
Mr. P. Quinn ..	104	24	80
L/Cpl. R. F. Abrahams ..	114	18	96
Capt. R. J. Tarrant (Divot) ..	127	24	103
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle ..	NR	15	NR
Capt. G. Goring ..	NR	20	NR
C/Sgt. M. Flynn ..	NR	20	NR
C/Sgt. M. Quinn ..	NR	22	NR

#### Stableford Foursomes

	Points
Sgt. T. Pryor and Sgt. A. G. Torrie (winners, Cooper Cup) ..	35
Cpl. A. J. Reide and Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden ..	32
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle and Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton ..	26
Capt. R. J. Tarrant and C/Sgt. M. Quinn ..	25
Michael Cripps and Major A. R. Bisset ..	25
L/Cpl. R. F. Abrahams and Capt. G. Goring ..	25
C/Sgt. M. Flynn and Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey ..	23
Sgt. I. Routledge and Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle ..	19
Brig. A. E. Green and Mr. P. Quinn ..	19

#### Hidden Holes Competition

	Net score
Michael Cripps (winner) ..	24
Cpl. A. J. Reide (runner-up) ..	29
Sgt. I. Routledge ..	30
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle ..	31
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton ..	31
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey ..	32
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden ..	32
Capt. R. D. Latham ..	32
Sgt. T. Pryor ..	32
Major A. R. Bisset ..	33
Sgt. A. G. Torrie ..	33
C/Sgt. M. Quinn ..	34
L/Cpl. R. F. Abrahams ..	35
Mr. P. Quinn ..	35
Capt. R. J. Tarrant ..	41

Our heartiest congratulations go to Michael Cripps (the son of Lt. G. D. Cripps) who, at the age of 15, won the Scratch prize in the Medal Competition. It was a splendid effort and augurs well for his future.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mrs. "Tossie" Worton very kindly presented the prizes.

## Cricket

### Season Tickets for Lord's, 1970

Since the notice was published in the last issue (February) of the *Newsletter* that two season tickets would again be available for use at Lord's this year the Secretary of MCC has written to say that his Committee have decided to discontinue the issue of season tickets as from this year since the demand for them is so small.

## OBITUARY

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

**ARCHER**—On January 13, 1970, Capt. Robert P. Archer, after a long and painful illness, aged 50. He enlisted in the Regiment in 1941 and on completion of basic training was posted to 1st Kensingtons. He was commissioned in 1943 and was posted to 2nd Kensingtons, serving until the end of the war. He rejoined the Kensingtons in 1952 and served until 1957. He was Editor of *The Kensington* for 10 years.

**BROMLEY**—On February 20, 1970, ex-C/Sgt. Joseph Bromley (6200153), aged 53. He enlisted in the Regiment in June 1931 and was later posted to the 2nd Battalion, with which unit he served until 1935 when he was posted to the Depot Staff. He transferred to the Army Reserve in June 1938, but was recalled on mobilisation in June 1939 when he was again posted to the Depot (24 MGTC) as Sergeant Instructor in Musketry. In June 1941 he was posted to 1/8th Battalion and served with that unit until he was demobilised in September 1945.

**BROWN**—On April 1, 1970, at his home at Exmouth Col. George Langford Brown, DSO, aged 84. He was commissioned into the Regiment in August 1906 and posted to the 4th Battalion. In the 1914-18 war he saw active service in France, Belgium and Italy, was wounded twice, mentioned in despatches three times, and awarded the DSO and the French Croix de Guerre. After the war he spent some years on the Army PT staff, finishing up as Inspector of PT from January 1936 to August 1939 when he retired. He commanded the 1st Battalion from September 1932 to November 1935.

**CROUCH**—On April 12, 1970, ex-RSM Edwin Crouch, BEM (6190150), aged 84 years. "Dasher" Crouch started his service in the Territorial Army with the 1/7th Battalion, and embarked with that Battalion when it went to Gibraltar in September 1914. After the 1914-18 war he became a Regular soldier and served with both Regular Battalions and the Depot, from where he was discharged to pension in 1938 as a WO2. He then took on the appointment of RSM of the Mill Hill School CCF which he held for many years. Until age and failing sight curtailed his activities he was a staunch member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club.

**COURT**—On April 5, 1970, Lt.-Col. Servais Fitz Walter Marius del Court, MC, after a long and painful illness borne with remarkable courage and patience, aged 74. He was commissioned into the Regiment in December 1914 and served with the 2nd Battalion in France, being awarded the Military Cross for bravery in the field. In 1919 he was with No. 1 Special Company in Russia, and for his services there he was awarded a Bar to

the Military Cross. Thereafter he was posted to the 4th Battalion and remained with that Battalion until it was disbanded in 1922 when he joined the 1st Battalion. During the 1939-45 war he commanded the 2nd Battalion from June 1940 to April 1941. He retired with the honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in September 1944.

**DREW**—On April 1, 1970, ex-Drum Major Denis Drew (18938 and 6189737), aged 67. "Drummy" Drew enlisted at Mill Hill in March 1919 and joined the 3rd Battalion on its return from Constantinople. On the disbandment of that Battalion in 1922 he was posted to the 1st Battalion and later to the 2nd Battalion then stationed in India. When the change of the two Regular battalions took place in 1931, he decided to continue his service abroad and joined the 1st Battalion in Egypt. With that Battalion he served as Drum Major until he took his discharge in Malaya, when he joined the Prison Staff and the Volunteers. He fought with the Volunteers when the Japanese invaded Malaya in 1941, being wounded in action and later taken a prisoner of war. Whilst in captivity he was a tower of strength to his fellow men. After the war he remained in Malaya to complete his service with the Prison Staff and, on retirement therefrom, returned to this country.

**HAGGARD**—On February 8, 1970, suddenly in London, Capt. Christopher Amyard Haggard, aged 84. He was commissioned in the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment in 1915 and was severely wounded whilst serving with 7th Queen's in France. In November 1916 he was promoted Captain for distinguished service in the field and transferred to The Middlesex Regiment. He was posted to the 12th (Service) Battalion and in April 1918 he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre for gallantry on the Somme. He retired in 1922 on account of ill-health, but served again in the 1939-45 war at the War Office.

**HILL**—On March 7, 1970, Hon. Capt. Francis Henry Hill, aged 76. He joined the 5th (Special Reserve) Battalion at Chatham in October 1914, and was posted to the 2nd Battalion in the BEF in January 1915. He was wounded at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle in March 1915 and, on discharge from hospital, again joined the 5th Battalion until he was posted to a Home Service Battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 1916. On being passed medically fit in May 1918 he was posted to the BEF in France and served with the 4th Battalion until the Armistice. After the war he re-engaged and served with the 2nd Battalion until his discharge in September 1936. He was always proud of the fact that he was the Sergeant of the Guard when HRH The Prince of Wales visited the Battalion in Singapore.

On its formation in the 1939-45 war he joined the Home Guard, and served with it continuously until he retired with the Honorary rank of Captain in 1944.



HULL—On February 22, 1970, peacefully at Pinhoe, Exeter, on the eve of her 95th birthday, Helen Muriel, beloved wife of the late Major-General Sir Amyatt Hull, who commanded the 4th Battalion with great distinction at the Battle of Mons in August 1914, and mother of Field-Marshal Sir Richard Hull, Chief of Defence Staff 1965-76.

INNES-IRONS—On January 26, 1970, at his home near Dorchester, Brigadier Arthur Innes-Irons, CBE, DSO, aged 79. During the 1914-18 war he commanded the 19th (Second Public Works Pioneer) Battalion and was awarded the DSO and Bar. In the 1939-45 war he served on General Eisenhower's staff in North Africa and later in England in charge of civilian labour, and was awarded the CBE for his services.

MARGRAVES—On February 28, 1970, peacefully in his sleep, after a prolonged illness, ex-Sgt. Master Cook Stanley Margraves (6198522). In the 1914-18 war he served with the Royal Fusiliers and was wounded at the Battle of the Somme in 1916. After the war he returned to civilian life and in 1932 enlisted on a TA engagement in the 7th Battalion. When the TA was mobilised in 1939 he went to the BEF with the 1/7th Battalion and was wounded during the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940. Thereafter he served in the United Kingdom until he was discharged in 1945.

PYE—On March 3, 1970, at the Oporto British Hospital, Capt. Reginald Arnold Pye, aged 78. He was commissioned into the 16th (Public Schools)

Battalion on April 23, 1915, and served with that Battalion until it was disbanded in February 1918 when he was transferred to 29th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps. He was promoted Captain in March 1919 and relinquished his commission in July of the same year. During the war he was awarded the Belgian Croix de Guerre for services in the field. On demobilisation he became a partner in the firm of Rawes & Co. Ltd., shipping and insurance agents, Oporto, Portugal, and on retirement therefrom he was the senior partner. He had kept in touch with his old Regiment in recent years through the Regimental journal and this Newsletter.

TAYLOR—On February 27, 1970, Mary Taylor, widow of Capt. W. G. Taylor, aged 97. She was a "regimental wife" of the old school, who not only gave her time to the Regiment but also her two sons, who were killed in action during the 1914-18 war.

WEEKS—On April 13, 1970, ex-Pte. Walter William Weeks (G/105251), aged 69. He joined the 53rd (Young Soldiers) Battalion in October 1918 and was posted in March 1919 to the 23rd (2nd Foot-ball) Battalion, then serving with the Army of Occupation on the Rhine. He returned to the United Kingdom in November 1919 and was demobilised in April 1920. Although his military service was brief he joined the Regimental Association on his release from military service and remained a keen supporter until the day of his death.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Wednesday, June 3	Special regimental coach to the Derby.
Friday, June 5	Officers' Club Dinner at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.
Sunday, July 26	Summer outing to Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, including river trip to Abingdon.
Saturday, August 1	Depot Open Day at Basingstoke, Herts.
Friday, August 21 to Monday, August 24	Visit to Mons for ceremonies in connection with 56th anniversary of the Battle of Mons (Provisional).
Wednesday August 26	Party to Kneller Hall Band Concert.
Friday, October 2	2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Saturday, October 3	Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Secretary's Notes

#### Benevolent Cases

During the period September 1, 1969, to December 31, 1969, the sum of £493 18s. 0d. was spent from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 54 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

#### Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Lt. G. D. Cripps, Mr. A. R. Drane (in memory of "Drummy" Drew), Mrs. O. L. Jones, Col. D. C. L. Nolda, Capt. P. C. Prescott-Richardson, Capt. J. R. C. Riseley, Mr. J. Rowe, and Mrs. F. C. Wibrow.

#### Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral

Since the last list of contributors was published in the February issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* donations to the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral have been most gratefully received and acknowledged from Col. H. A. de Barros Botelho, Mrs. F. M. Donoghue and family, Lt. J. B. Hawkins, Hong Kong Prisoners of War Association, The Middlesex Society and Major-General Sir John Willoughby.

The total of donations, etc. received up to March 31, 1970, amounted to £11,253 16s. 7d.

### Ealing Branch

The annual general meeting of the Branch was held on Friday, March 13, 1970, in the Alhambra Bar of the old Drill Hall. With Mr. G. Ife in the chair and 12 members (out of 27) present a good meeting was held.

The most important discussion was "Where is the 1939-45 Die-Hard?" We have three younger men (1939) and 24 older men (1914) and we are all very concerned about the future of the Branch. If the younger generation will come along and help the Branch will survive. If they stay away it will die and that would be a tragedy. We are just hoping.

It is with regret that we have to report the death of ex-Sgt. Ernest Witts, late of the 8th Battalion, who died in West Middlesex Hospital, Isleworth, on February 21, 1970. Ernie Witts joined the 8th Battalion in 1911 and was posted to the Drums as a B flat flute player. He served in Gibraltar and France during the 1914-18 war and carried on after the cessation of hostilities to earn his Territorial Efficiency Medal. He had been a member of the Ealing Branch since our re-birth, although he had not been with us for some time. He was cremated at Mortlake Crematorium on February 26, 1970, and the Association was represented by Mr. E. Nicholls and the Hon. Secretary.

ALBERT WHITE

### Hornsey & Enfield Branch

On March 20 we held our AGM at Hornsey and although the members attending were not so large as we wished, the interest in branch affairs was lively and sincere. To our delight Lt.-Col. Simpson remains as our Chairman once again, Henry Thornton continues as our news ferreting and energetic Secretary and Doug Sankey, now known among other things as "Purse Strings", our Treasurer. I, too, am very pleased to help as Vice-Chairman. Our Rifle Club under the steady hand of Doug Sankey has promised more Bisley outings this year as well as indoor shooting at the Drill Hall, and the Entertainments Committee, consisting of Bert Mellor, Stan Hurlock and Eddie Johnson, can be relied upon to "do us proud" as always.

We had a Social and Dance on March 21, which was a great success—our thanks to Stan Hurlock, who ran the raffle in place of Bert Mellor, who, unfortunately, was not well, and some excellent prizes were won. Joan Mellor completely ran the bar in Bert's absence and well deserved our thanks, as do Mesdames Hurlock, Stokes, Milroy, Franklin and Penman, who worked hard and produced a very welcome buffet. The three-piece playing for us were top quality. Apart from the husbands of the ladies mentioned, we were pleased to welcome quite a

### The Royal Garrison Church PORTSMOUTH

On Sunday, March 1, a new stained glass window in the south sanctuary of the Royal Garrison Church on Governor's Green, Old Portsmouth, was dedicated by the Venerable J. R. Youens, CB, OBE, MC, QHC, Chaplain General to the Forces.

The Regiment was represented by Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, who felt deeply conscious of pride in his old Regiment whilst sitting in the regimental pew.

### Regimental Goods

The following Regimental goods are available:

Details	£	s.	d.
Ashtrays, glass crested .. .. .	each	5	0
Badges, blazer .. .. .	each	1	7 6
" car .. .. .	each	2	6
" OCA .. .. .	each	3	0
Cravats, Regimental (old pattern) Terylene .. .. .	each	1	0 0
" (new pattern) Terylene .. .. .	each	1	0 0
Key fobs, black or maroon background .. .. .	each	4	0
Ties, Regimental (old pattern) Terylene .. .. .	each	9	0
" (new pattern) Terylene .. .. .	each	9	6
" (new pattern) Silk .. .. .	each	16	0
" Officers' Club .. .. .	each	16	0
" Middlesex Association, Silk .. .. .	each	18	6
" Queen's Regiment, Terylene .. .. .	each	12	6
Heraldic Shields, Middlesex Regiment .. .. .	each	19	6
Books, "Diehards in the Great War" .. .. .	each	1	15 6
" (Vols. 1 and 2) .. .. .			
Both Vols.—cloth cover .. .. .		1	0 0
" —paper back .. .. .			15 0
Print, "Steady the Drums and Fifes" (coloured) .. .. .		1	1 0

Postage has been included in the cost of goods. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to "The Middlesex Regimental Association".

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crowd, among whom were Les Bull, Jock Easton, Tooky Poole, Frank Whitby and Harry Gribble, whom we are glad to say seems to have recovered and is going great guns again. We do hope more of you will visit us or write and let us have your news. Have just heard that Johnny Firth is unwell again; our best wishes for a speedy recovery, Johnny. Sincere wishes to you all.

LES HOSSLEN

### Portsmouth & Gosport Branch

The annual general meeting was held on February 13, 1970. Our Committee was re-elected for a further year of office, headed by our popular Chairman, Harry Norfield.

Both Mr. Charles and Mr. Peters were unable to attend through sickness. We are pleased to say Mr. Peters is now fully recovered and Mr. Charles is progressing favourably. We hope to see him at the meetings again in the very near future. Mrs. O'Neill has now recovered from her illness and is up and about again at home. We hope to see her at the Branch meetings when the weather picks up.

Sid Buckle is doing very well and wishes to be remembered to all his old pals. It is fairly safe to say that his good condition is due to the untiring efforts of his wife, Gladys. They, too, will be attending our meeting when the weather improves.

We were very pleased to welcome Major and Mrs. Honeybun to our meeting on March 13. I am afraid a number of our stalwarts were absent on other matters, but an enjoyable evening was spent by those present.

It should be realised, of course, that the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch covers a very wide area, contained in the triangle Portsmouth, Southampton and Chichester. Some of our members have some 30 miles to travel to attend the meeting, and that ferry is shocking after a couple of pints. It says a lot for the loyalty of our members that we have enough to hold a meeting on most occasions except when the weather is too bad.

Fred and Anne Wigg and I had a bit of fun returning from the meeting on March 13. I had thrown away the ferry tickets for bus tickets. When the collector asked for the tickets I promptly gave him three bus tickets. Was my face red? We laughed all the way home about it.

Our best regards to all our friends. See you Albuhera Day.

BERT HASTIE

### Uxbridge Branch

On the evening of March 25 came the culmination of a project that at one time seemed rather remote and to some appeared to be rather expecting a lot. I refer to the Branch Dinner.

The venue chosen was at a place well known to members of the old Battalion when stationed at Amersham—The Bell House Hotel, Beaconsfield—and the Beaconsfield Suite allocated to us was an ideal size for our function.

Pieces of Regimental silver were used to set off each table and completed a pleasant picture.

The guests of honour were some old friends whom

many of us had not seen for some time—Col. I. R. Burrows, Lt.-Col. and Mrs. T. W. Chattey and Major R. W. J. Smith.

The following members attended, most of them with their wives and/or friends: Lt. and Mrs. F. M. Waite and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Dickie, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Attwood, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. W. Crump, Mr. and Mrs. G. Eggleton and party, Col. and Mrs. W. D. Ellis and party, Major G. Hartley, Col. J. D. McFarlane, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Peggrem, Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Pennings, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rowe, Col. and Mrs. F. Walder, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Wales ("Drummy") and Mr. and Mrs. Walters.

At the end of the evening everyone expressed their enjoyment and their wish that this would be the first of many such pleasant "get-togethers" and the hope that the numbers would be even better next time.

Any old member would be welcome at our monthly meetings at Uxbridge "Battle of Britain" Club on the third Friday of each month.

J. R. DICKIE

### 9th Battalion Branch

When you receive this copy of the *Newsletter* it will be quite possible that our own Annual Reunion and Dinner has taken place. The date is May 16 (Albuhera Day). At present the applicants for a dinner ticket are few. I sincerely hope we shall have an attendance far in excess of last year's.

One of the objects of our Association is to promote social activities, and what is more pleasant than to dine and wine with one's colleagues and to augment that occasion with the introduction of relatives and friends?

I have always been very proud to know that I served in the ranks of the Middlesex Regiment and I believe that others do also acknowledge that fact.

Next year I hear that arrangements are being made for a service in St. Paul's Cathedral on or near Albuhera Day which, of course, is a very good idea and must be strongly supported.

Our own reunion, which has hitherto been held on or near May 16, may have to be altered. This will be debated at the annual general meeting before the dinner. Any suggestions would be very welcome.

One great decision, we must always keep the flag of our Association flying.

June and July of this year are going to be National Gurkha months in Britain. In view of this Battalion's close relationship with those splendid warriors during World War I in Mesopotamia and India, we are making a proposal at the annual general meeting to support the appeal by Field-Marshal Lord Harding, by contributing towards the fund which will assist the welfare of the Gurkhas and their families, after the Government's plan to retire more than 9,000 of the Gurkhas by 1971. Our best wishes to all those who have been associated with us.

R. T. M.

### W.O.s' & Sgts' Branch

Firstly, I must apologise to all who look forward to reading the various Branch notes each quarter for failing to make our usual contribution in the last issue.

It was with deep regret that we heard the sad news of the death of our comrade and member Joe Bromley, who passed away on February 20. Joe, although a member of only a few months, will be sadly missed and we tender our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Bromley. Unfortunately, I was not notified of this sad happening until after the funeral so was unable to pay our last respects to a friend and comrade. But I am sure he will always be remembered by all of us who knew and served with him.

Our meetings so far this year have been well attended. At each meeting the numbers have increased; this I hope is a good sign for 1970. Now that it looks as if we are getting the support needed, we can make arrangements for entertainment each month. In the past, not knowing if this support was forthcoming, it was rather futile trying to arrange anything.

We welcome John Brody and Bill Lewis to the Branch, both of whom served in the 2nd Battalion just prior to the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Though not known by many members I sincerely hope this will soon be rectified on their next visit to us.

We were also very pleased to hear from our old comrade, Rocky Knight who, although he was in hospital over the Christmas period with an ulcer, is now out and about. By the time these notes are published I hope many of us will have seen him, for he is, or should I say, was, on holiday in the old country.

The anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera will soon be upon us and with that day in mind we are looking forward to seeing those comrades who, though living some distance away, always manage

to attend the service and reunion which is held after the service.

To all Branches we send our greetings and best wishes.

L. R. JOHNSON

### 1/7th Battalion (1914-18) OCA

We held our Annual Reunion Dinner on Thursday, March 19, at Alexandra Palace, Wood Green. It was well attended, the numbers present, including guests, totalled 50. Our Secretary, Stan Edge, and his committee had a happy evening seeing so many present.

Under the chairmanship of Bill Moutie, DCM, who is now near his 82nd birthday and travelled from Newark, it was an undoubted success. Lt. A. C. S. Meynell proposed a toast to the Association and Absent Friends, and the Chairman proposed a toast to our guests, which was responded to by Capt. Walter Ward, who for many years has attended our reunions as a guest.

Col. J. K. Maitland made a short speech in which he spoke about Remembrance Day. He stated that the service at Hornsey Parish Church can no longer be held there and he hopes that the members who have attended for so many years will be able to attend the Regimental Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on that day.

After the dinner and toasts we settled down to meet old friends and talk of old times and old comrades, especially those who were unable to be present through ill health, age and/or being unable to travel.

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