



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

ARMY COMMAND STRUCTURE CHANGES

The system of Army Home Commands started in 1904-06 came to an end on April 1 with the establishment of Headquarters, United Kingdom Land Forces (UKLF).

At the same time Southern Command, Hounslow, closed and Army Strategic Command was absorbed into the new Headquarters, based at Wilton, near Salisbury.

Headquarters, Western Command, Chester, will close on August 1 and Headquarters, Northern Command, York, on December 31.

The Army Command structure in the United Kingdom will then have been reduced from four Command Headquarters to one, and from 12 District Headquarters to 10. The two reductions are to be achieved by incorporating the present East Midland District (Headquarters, Nottingham) into Eastern District (Headquarters, Colchester) and by amalgamating the present Yorkshire (Yarm), Northumbrian (Catterick) and North West (Preston) Districts to form North East District (Headquarters, York) and North West District (Headquarters, Preston).

Scotland and Northern Ireland Districts will continue to be commanded by Lt.-Generals. South East District (Headquarters, Aldershot) has been upgraded to a Lt.-General's command, whilst the remaining seven Districts will continue to be commanded by Major-Generals.

The first commander of the new headquarters is General Sir Basil Eugster, formerly GOC-in-C, Southern Command, who will command all troops in the United Kingdom—regulars, reservists and cadets. He will be responsible for planning and mounting the Army's part in overseas operations and the security of the home base and, on Ministry instructions, for Army mobilisation.

The new headquarters is deliberately being kept small and compact as it will be an executive headquarters and will not get involved in the day-to-day detail of administration, which will be handled at district level. There will, therefore, be a considerable degree of delegation of authority, particu-

larly to District Commanders who, without constant reference upwards, will be able to take many of the day-to-day decisions necessary for running the Army in the United Kingdom. They will have far wider financial powers and, for the first time, their own financial advisers to help them. These advisers (district secretaries) and their staff will be an integral part of the new district headquarters and will also manage civilians employed by the Army in their districts.

So, 68 years after the Esher changes the Army in the United Kingdom has been reduced to one command and 10 more-autonomous districts to create a greater sense of awareness and purpose at all levels, to improve efficiency and maintain the British Army as the finest professional force in the world.

One UK command—and at the turn of the century there were 17 commands each headed by a Lieutenant-General or a Major-General!

PRESENTATION OF NEW COLOURS

The presentation of new Colours, notified in the February issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* as taking place at Tidworth on Saturday, June 24, 1972, has had to be postponed until 1973.

ANNUAL VISIT TO MONS 1972

Arrangements have been made for the visit to Mons this year in connection with the ceremonies commemorating the 58th Anniversary of the Battle of Mons to take place from Monday, August, 21 to Thursday, August 24.

Those interested in making this impressive pilgrimage should get in touch with the secretary of the Regimental Association for further details.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator: Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TA & VR Centre, Deansbrook Rd., Edgware, Middx.

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

Photograph and discharge documents of Sgt. P. Redmond, 57th Foot.

Presentation clock, shooting medals, etc., of ex-Sgt. A. A. Jones.

Medals of the late Cpl. C. V. Tighe, DCM, 17th (First Football) Battalion.

PHOTOGRAPH AND DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS OF SGT. P. REDMOND, 57TH FOOT

Peter Redmond enlisted into the 57th (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot on March 7, 1846, at the age of 17 10/12 years, when the Regiment was serving in the East Indies, as the garrison of India was referred to at that time. He remained with the Depot Company for his recruit training at Weedon after crossing from Dublin, his home and place of enlistment.

When the service companies arrived home, they were at first stationed in Brompton Barracks, Chatham, where they were joined by the depot. The Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. George E. Jones, KH (Knight of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order) had preceded it overland, and was the first commanding officer of the Regiment to be seen by the young recruit. A week after the 57th had assembled at Chatham they marched to Canterbury with young 1879 Pte. Peter Redmond, a sprightly chap of 5ft 5in, taking his place in the column with the veterans of India, New South Wales and a few who had fought in the Peninsula. Two months later he was again on the march, this time to Dover, and in April 1847, he travelled on the railway to Weedon, from which station he had the honour of marching with his regiment through London, led by the new Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Harry Shakespeare Phillips, who had won glory at the battles of Budewal, Alwal and Sobraon, the latter battle with great distinction. The conqueror of Alwal, Sir Harry Smith, said of him, "He was the coolest fellow under fire, and the hottest out of it, he ever met". The 57th must have been pretty hot, too, as the CO sold his commission after one year in command and died in 1849!

The easy life in English garrisons came to an end in April 1848, when the 57th were ordered to Dublin to reinforce the troops in Ireland to deal with "the trouble" caused by William Smith O'Brien, who, after being sentenced to death, had the penalty commuted to transportation to Tasmania. From Dublin, young Peter, with the 57th, went the rounds of towns and villages so well known by the British Army until 1922—and some very well known today, Enniskillen, Londonderry, Omagh, Rathmelton, Ballyshannon, Belleek, Mohill and Ballynannon. As well as learning how to become good soldiers,

the 57th were also learning how to become policemen and firemen. In August 1849, the town of Ballyshannon was saved from destruction by fire by a company of the 57th who, after putting out the conflagration, had the duty of protecting the property from looters who appeared as soon as danger was past. In Cavan three private soldiers were mentioned by name in Regimental and Command Orders for their creditable conduct in assisting the police. Four months later, the 57th earned the gratitude of Lord Enniskillen and the townsfolk of Enniskillen in saving the town from fire, his Lordship writing, "The heroes of Albuhera will carry with them the lasting gratitude of the inhabitants of Enniskillen". A month later the Regiment returned to Dublin where again it extinguished a big fire at Summer Hill and Mountjoy Square. For this conduct, the Duke of Wellington wrote that he considered it "in the highest degree creditable to them as British soldiers". Pte. Redmond was having his share of activities in all respects—soldier, policeman and fireman.

There was also plenty of ceremonial going on, as well as more onerous duties. The General Officer Commanding Dublin District at that time was HRH Prince George of Cambridge, later our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH the Duke of Cambridge, and it was he who held the half-yearly inspections. It is well known that he could be irascible in his later years and the writer of these notes wonders if he was not a little tetchy in his earlier days. It was at this date that the 57th regimental quick step was altered; the one usually played was said to be "All drum and damned noise!" Our records do not say who made that remark, so one can only wonder.

Moving in 1851 to Kilkenny, known as "The Marble City" due to the thirteenth century cathedral built of black marble and its marble works, Peter was treading ground familiar to the Regiment, it having been stationed there previously in 1775 and 1819. Here he saw an influx of recruits, our records saying "Recruiting was energetically carried on, several strapping young paupers in the Kilkenny workhouse took the shilling to the mutual satisfaction of the ratepayers and the 57th recruiting sergeants". The Regiment may have needed more firemen as, five months after the recruiting spree, the detachment at Wexford again assisted in extinguishing a fire and saving valuable property. To the sorrow of the inhabitants, who held the 57th in great respect, the Regiment marched away to Cork in August 1852. The next year Peter Redmond went with his regiment to Corfu, the largest of the Ionian Isles, where, old soldiers declare, the story of the Mediterranean virgin originated, the island being noted for its goats! Prior to leaving Cork, Pte. Redmond was to see the presentation of new Colours to the Regiment by Lord Hardinge, who had succeeded as Commander-in-Chief on the death of

the Duke of Wellington. Field-Marshal Lord Hardinge was Colonel of the 57th from May 1843 until his death in December 1856. It was he, when defeat was imminent, who turned the tide of affairs at the Battle of Albuhera by, on his own responsibility as a staff officer, bringing up Sir Lowry Cole's division to attack the French flank. He is one of the Regiment's most illustrious officers.

After 17 months' service in Corfu, considered in those days to be a good station, the Regiment was ordered for service in Turkey where preparations were being made for the invasion of the Crimea. Not only did Peter, now a soldier of service and experience, have extra equipment to wear, he also had a moustache. For years, the upper lip had to be shaved, but now it became optional, and later, as can be seen by photographs and prints of our troops in the Crimea, shaving became a matter left to the discretion of the officer commanding.

Peter Redmond arrived in the Crimea in September 1854, when the commanding officer, a well-loved man, was Thomas Leigh Goldie, who had commanded since August 1848. He was appointed brigadier immediately he joined the Field Force and was mortally wounded at Inkerman on November 5, 1854. The Russian bullet which killed him is now on display in the Regimental Museum. The commanding officer who succeeded Brigadier Goldie was a gallant and devout man, Thomas Shadforth, whose father had been wounded at Albuhera and whose two brothers were serving in the Regiment. He was in command of the attack on the Redan, June 18, 1855, and was leading the assault when he was killed within a few yards of the abatis. Peter had leaders of men, and men of courage to view whichever way he turned his head in the Regiment. (Col. Shadforth's grandson, Major F. E. Day, served for six years in the ranks of the Middlesex Regiment. He also inherited his grandfathers' courage and leadership, being killed in action in a bayonet charge at Givency, December 22, 1914.) Pte. Redmond served for 18 months in the theatre of war and was then posted to Malta where the Regiment served until May 1858, when it went to Bombay. Two years later, February 1860, Pte. Redmond was presented with the Turkish medal for the Crimea, to add to the British Crimea medal already proudly worn by him. Nine months later he was on board a transport on his way to New Zealand where he was to earn another campaign medal.

After two months at sea, when one officer and nine men died and a disaster was prevented by SM Cummins, who, with a few NCOs and men, put out a fire on board, the Regiment arrived at Taranaki. George Cummins had been promoted sergeant-major, the appointment we now know as RSM, from ORC after the death of SM Fallon on the Redan, June 18, 1855, when his commanding officer, Lt.-Col. Shadforth, also was killed. (SM Fallon was the grandfather of CSM Dorricott, MC, of our 2nd Battalion, who was killed in action on the first day of the Somme, July 1, 1916.) They were soon in action against the rebel Maori. At this time the Maori were fighters and cannibals with a reputation of being the wildest and most intractable race known. They were quick to react to the treatment they received. If consideration was shown to them, they were appreciative, peaceful and tractable. If treated harshly, they exacted a terrible revenge, slaying and eating their oppressors.

After two months of fighting in the bush, hostilities ceased and Cpl. Redmond was able to settle down and enjoy the beautiful scenery of New Zealand, or "Ao Tea Roa", the long white cloud, which is the Maori name for this country. In July 1861, he was a member of the detachment sent to Wanganui. Two years later, two officers and seven rank and file were ambushed, only one man escaping with his life. This meant war again as it was the Maori custom to announce their intention to open up hostilities by making such an attack. The action caused fury among Sgt. Redmond and his comrades of the 57th. They were soon in action at Pontoko, where Ensign Down and Dmr. Stagpoole each won the Victoria Cross, the first of the two occasions the Regiment have won this coveted decoration twice in one action; in each case a drummer was a recipient. There were also actions at the Katikara River, Oakura and numerous other places. Sgt. Redmond and the soldiers of the 57th were trojan fighters as can be gathered from the writings of Col. "Maori" Hamilton-Browne. "Close up behind these marched, in line, a company of the 57th, the old Die-Hards, whose fathers had fought at Albuhera as these men had fought at Inkerman and the Redan. Oh! but my heart did beat fast at the sight of their gallant Irish faces, for at that time hardly an Englishman was in the Regiment, as they swung through our skirmishing line and advanced to the grim and silent Pah—and with a yell wilder even than the Maori war-cries, every man able to move rushed forward. At the double, howling for blood, the supporting companies rush past—Yell on yell goes up, the shots lessen, the bayonets flash, the smoke blows away, and we can see the wild Irish, cheering like mad, pouring through the breach into the trench". The "strapping young paupers" from the Kilkenny workhouse had certainly been taught their business by the veterans of Sgt. Redmond's ilk, who had soldiered well in peace and fought manfully in war.

Minor wounds and the hard service Sgt. Redmond had suffered caused his health to deteriorate to such an extent that he was marked as "Being unfit for future service" in January 1865, whilst at Wanganui, and he was finally discharged under authority of the Horse Guards (War Office) in June that year, receiving a pension of 1/6d per diem. His discharge parchment says "His character and conduct have been 'very good' and should had he not been promoted would have been in possession of four (4) Good Conduct stripes". The Commanding Officer at that date was Robert Abraham Logan, CB, who commanded during the absence of Col. Warre on staff duties. He was the son of Capt. Patrick Logan, a 57th Peninsula veteran and explorer in Australia, who was murdered by the natives in New South Wales in 1830. Five years later, the medal for those who had served during the fighting in New Zealand was given to men of the Regiment. The medal, as in the case of the Military General Service medal for the Peninsula War, was awarded only to those who survived the campaign.

The photograph shows Peter Redmond in the uniform of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, his three medals with very worn ribbons and the New Zealand medal on a floral suspension bar instead of the unmistakable "eucalyptus" pattern suspension bar unique to this medal. (When the writer of this brief article on a most interesting period of our history saw the photograph, his memory jumped to

Peter McRae

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C/Sgt. George Gardiner, VC, DCM, whose group of medals was purchased by the Middlesex Regiment Depot 22 years ago. The Turkish Crimea medal in the group is suspended from the pattern particular to the New Zealand medal, instead of from a ring. No doubt, the shades of the two 57th Crimea veterans, both Irish, are chuckling at the quandary.) In-Pensioner Peter Redmond looks out, very alert wearing a full set of whiskers, snow-white as is the thatch on top, with the confidence of a soldier, tried and not found wanting. The photograph, with his documents, are now in the care of his old Corps, a reminder of the years that stir the pride of today's Die-Hards.

Presented by his grand-niece, Miss Zealia McKave.

PRESENTATION CLOCK, SHOOTING MEDALS, ETC., OF EX-SGT. A. A. JONES

The clock, a pendulum, Westminster chimes, oak-cased timepiece was presented to Sgt. A. A. Jones on his discharge in 1934. On a brass plate is the inscription "To Serjt. A. Jones from the members of the Serjeants Mess, 2nd Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) on his leaving the Regiment, 1934". At this time the rank was, in all battalion orders, etc., in the 2nd Battalion, spelt with a "j", the original spelling of the word. It was, and is, the practice to present a member of the Mess leaving the service, a token of appreciation. In the majority of cases, it was a timepiece. The medals are (a) a small silver medal inscribed "1st Bn Mx Novices Tournament, Gravesend, Feb 1920, Middle Weight; Winner, Pte A. Jones, 'D' Coy"; (b) a small silver medal with the 77th badge and inscription "A Coy Javelin, 1st

Pte Jones"; (c) a silver medal inscribed "2nd Bn Middlesex Regt Runners up, Bangalore Cup, 1924. L/Cpl. A. Jones"; (d) a bronze Maltese cross of the Army Rifle Association, inscribed "Winners Ruthven Cup 1930 SCRA". All the above, with the exception of (a), were won whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion in India. Sgt. Jones originally enlisted, well under age, in 1915 joining The Black Watch and was in the trenches that year. He had run away from home to join the army, but was discovered by his mother on reading a newspaper report on his returning home wounded. She claimed him out. He was soon off again, this time enlisted under the name of Martingdale (L/16515) and, after serving with the 6th Battalion at Chatham, joined the 23rd (Second Football) Battalion in France in June 1916. He later served with the 18th Battalion. At the end of the war in 1918 he was at Mons when he was sent to Mill Hill, and, in April 1919, went to Russia with No. 1 Special Company, until the Force returned to Gravesend at the end of the year. After a short time with the 1st Battalion, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Cairo, serving with that Battalion in Egypt, Singapore, India, the Sudan and Colchester until being discharged at his own request on a modified pension. Many of the Battalion of those days will remember his son, Kenny Jones, who was the Battalion mascot, dressed in regimental colours at all our football matches and regimental events. Kenny was killed in Crete whilst serving with the Black Watch. Sgt. Jones was called up on the outbreak of war in 1939 and served with the "Desert Rats" during the war in the desert, as A/RSM with 58 Company RASC. Here he received serious injuries, causing him to be discharged with a 70% disability pension, with which he now lives quietly at Leigh-on-Sea.

Presented by 6189268 ex-Sgt. A. A. Jones.

MEDALS OF THE LATE CPL. C. V. TIGHE, DCM, 17TH (FIRST FOOTBALL) BATTALION

This group of medals consists of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. All are engraved to F/453, C. V. Tighe, in the rank of Corporal, with the exception of the 1914-15 Star which shows his rank as Lance-Corporal. The award of the decoration appeared in *The London Gazette*, January 1, 1918, and was in recognition of his gallantry during the Battle of Cambrai, November 20 to December 3, 1917. "Cambrai, 1917" is one of the Regiment's "Colour" Honours, and one of the six awarded to this first-class Battalion. During its short existence the 17th (Service) Battalion (First Football), The Middlesex Regiment, won many awards for bravery, including the Victoria Cross, by Capt. A. M. C. McReady-Diarmid. The Battalion was raised by the Rt. Hon. W. Joynson-Hicks, MP, in December 1914, and joined the BEF in France in November 1915. On one occasion the Battalion football team consisted of L/Cpl. Jack Doran (Irish international); Cpl. P. Gallacher (Tottenham Hotspur); Pte. Spick (Nottingham Forest); Pte. J. Webster (West Ham); SM Tommy Gibson (Nottingham Forest); Pte. J. Woodhouse (Brighton and Hove); Pte. J. Dodds (Grimsby); Pte. D. Kenny (Grimsby); Capt. Percy Barnsfather, captain of the team (Croydon Common); Pte. Sammy Nuttall (Millwall) and Pte. Stewart (Croydon Common).

When Sir Douglas Haig, under instructions from the Army Council, reduced the number of battalions in each division, the Regiment lost five of those with the BEF, 3/10th (TF), 11th, 12th, 16th and 17th, the officers and other ranks being posted to other battalions in the Regiment where possible and to line regiments within their division. These battalions lost their identity in the Army List, but they retain their glory and pride as did Cpl. Tighe until his decease.

Presented by Mr. F. W. Dawson

Owing to lack of space further gifts received will be acknowledged in the next *Newsletter*.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. D. G. Bennett, Major P. Donovan, MBE, Mr. T. Emerson, Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert, C/Sgt. J. Meacock, Capt. P. C. Prescott-Richardson, Mr. S. F. Sibley and Mr. A. F. Wright, MBE, 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
Sunday, July 16	Attendance of members of the Regimental Association at the Annual Parade on Horse Guards of the Belgian OCA in Great Britain.
Sunday, July 30	Party to Player's League Match (Middlesex v. Somerset) at Lord's.
Monday, August 21	Visit to Mons for ceremonies in connection with the 58th anniversary of the Battle of Mons.
Thursday, August 24	
Wednesday, August 30	Party to Grand Concert, Kneller Hall.
Sunday, September 24	Summer Outing—Visit to Whipsnade.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

SPRING MEETING 1972

Although the weather was not too kind, a very successful meeting was held on the course of the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Friday, May 5, when a total of 18 took part.

We were very pleased indeed to welcome Major Geoffrey Mason, who commands the Albuhara Company at Shorncliffe and last played regimental golf when serving with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong at the time of the Korean War, and Major David Pike, who is a newcomer to these meetings.

We were also pleased to meet up with Brigadier Neville Procter again. He lives at Fleet and never fails to pay us a visit during our spring and autumn meetings. Between the wars he was one of our best golfers and regularly played in the regimental teams in the Army Golfing Championships.

The chief features of this meeting were the excellent scratch score by Mr. Charlie Matthews in winning the Singles Medal Competition, and the success of Lt.-Col. Tom Chattey in all three competitions.

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

Medal Competition—Scratch and Handicap			
	Scratch	H'cap	Net
Mr. C. D. Matthews (winner, scratch and Transvaal Cup) ..	78	10	68
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (runner-up, scratch and winner, handicap and Darjeeling Cup) ..	91	16	75
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton (runner-up, handicap) ..	92	16	76
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden ..	96	20	76
Major G. Goring ..	99	20	79
Mr. A. G. Torrie ..	97	16	81
Major G. Mason ..	105	24	81
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle ..	99	17	82
Major C. W. Summers ..	105	23	82
Major A. R. Bisset ..	95	11	84
Master Howard Clayden ..	115	30	85
Major J. I. D. Pike ..	115	24	91
Capt. R. J. Tarrant ..	116	24	92
Bdsm. R. F. Abrahams ..	111	18	93
Mrs. C. N. Clayden ..	146	36	110
Mr. E. Johnson (Divot) ..	136	24	112
Mr. T. F. Jones ..	NR	10	NR

Stableford Foursomes		Points
Capt. R. J. Tarrant and Mr. T. F. Jones (winners, Cooper Cup) ..		32
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden and Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (runners-up) ..		32
Mr. C. D. Matthews and Mrs. Hardcastle ..		30
Mr. A. G. Torrie and Master Howard Clayden ..		27
Major G. Mason and Major G. Goring ..		26
Major J. I. D. Pike and Major C. W. Summers ..		25
Bdsm. R. F. Abrahams and Major A. R. Bisset ..		18
Lt. J. R. B. Worton and Major H. K. Hardcastle ..		18
Mrs. C. N. Clayden and Mr. E. Johnson ..		6

Hidden Holes Competition		Scores
Mr. C. D. Matthews (winner) ..		27
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (runner-up) ..		29
Major A. R. Bisset ..		30
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden ..		31
Mr. A. G. Torrie ..		32
Major G. Mason ..		32
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle ..		34
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton ..		34
Bdsm. R. F. Abrahams ..		35
Major J. I. D. Pike ..		36
Major C. W. Summers ..		36
Master Howard Clayden ..		38
Capt. R. J. Tarrant ..		41
Major G. Goring ..		47
Mr. E. Johnson ..		47
Mrs. C. N. Clayden ..		48

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

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

On April 5, a telegram was sent to our senior "Pothook", Brigadier Freddy Baker, in celebration of his 77th birthday, to which he replied "Greetings to you and all Die-Hards and Pothooks on this my 77th birthday".

We were very pleased to hear that that old 2nd Battalion comrade ex-Cpl. R. W. Baker (6199467) who had been on the sick list through a heart attack at Christmas time, is now much better and eager to get back to work again.

In a letter received recently, Capt. Harry Barstow apologises for his failure to attend our various functions at present since he is now a student at St. Luke's College, Exeter. He promises to remedy this as soon as his studies are completed.

Since April, Capt. Bob Bartlett has been seconded for a tour of duty with the Abu Dhabi Defence Force.

We were very sorry to hear that one of our older members of the Regimental Association and regular *Newsletter* reader, A. C. Bate, who lives at Hove, Sussex, is at present unable to attend any of our functions in London owing to a fractured hip. We wish him a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him again soon.

Earlier this year we heard that ex-Pte. John Berryman (6195665) who, between the wars, served for 12 years with the Colours, mostly with the 2nd Battalion in India, had had to give up work on the advice of his doctor. He is now living on a retirement pension in a council house at Isleworth, Middlesex.

At Easter-time we managed to get in touch with ex-Sgt. H. W. Bolden (G/41228) who was badly wounded on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, July 1, 1916, when serving with the 2nd Battalion. He is now living in Mill Hill and so we are hoping that he shall see more of him in the future.

Ex-C/Sgt. J. "Ginger" Breame (6204927), who now lives at Farnborough, Hants, sends best wishes to all his old friends and comrades, and hopes to visit us soon.

Dan Cavill (6201835), one of the most loyal supporters of our Regimental Association, would like to hear from any of the 1st Battalion who were captured with him in Hong Kong and later incarcerated in Osaka Prison Camp.

Any letters addressed to Dan, c/o Middlesex Regimental Association, will be forwarded on to him.

Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden was posted to Headquarters, United Kingdom Land Forces, on its formation on April 1 last, as a GSO 2.

One of our Hong Kong veterans, Cyril Cox (6200934) in a letter from Hemel Hempstead recently, sent his best wishes to all his old friends.

Major George Dawson, who is employed as a retired officer at the Staff College, Camberley, figured prominently in the press recently when he made a marvellous model for the official portrait of Field-Marshal Viscount Montgomery by that famous artist, Terence Cuneo, for the Staff College.

The Field Marshal loaned the artist his original desert beret, pullover and shirt, from his private collection for the model to wear. The famous beret, however, was two sizes too small. Luckily, Major Dawson was able to provide a beret of his size with the General Officer's and Tank Corps badges on it which he was able to wear.

Lt. "Taps" Eastap writes to let us know that he was unable to attend the Albuhera Service of Remembrance in St. Paul's Cathedral or the Annual Reunion this year owing to the fact that his Battalion would be in Canada at that time. He hopes to visit us at Edgware later in the year. In the meantime, he sends his best wishes to all his friends.

Congratulations to ex-WO2 Brian Edey (22671574) formerly of the 1st Battalion, on being granted a Short Service Commission as a Second-Lieutenant with effect from February 12, 1972.

He has been posted to, and is serving with, 3rd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment in Germany.

We are very pleased to be able to report that Col. Desmond Ellis, who had a very successful operation earlier this year, has now recovered and is undergoing a period of convalescence. On account of this we shall miss him at the various Albuhera weekend functions, which he normally attends so regularly.

We send our heartiest congratulations to Lt. R. Gancz on his promotion to Captain with effect from January 22 last.

In a letter received recently, ex-Sgt. John Hall, one of our 2/8th Battalion veterans of the last war, stated that he had been on the sick list since February following a major operation, but that he hoped to be resuming work soon.

One of our recent new readers, ex-Cpl. E. S. Hannant (6136182), has expressed himself as eager to join the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club, and it is hoped that, if he has not already done so, he will be enrolled shortly. He served in the 2nd Battalion in France during the early part of the 1939-45 war and was evacuated via Dunkirk in 1940.

W. R. (Bumpy) Hills (6700507), one of our Hong Kong veterans, has been in touch with us recently with a view to making a presentation to the Regi-

mental Museum, which we shall be very pleased indeed to receive. He is now living at Exmouth, in Devon.

Capt. J. D. Jonklaas, who was serving with 2 Queen's in Germany, has been posted for a tour of duty at the Divisional Depot at Basingstoun.

Ex-Cpl. Tom Kimber (TF/1622) is another loyal old comrade who keeps in close touch with his Branch of the Regimental Association. Now living at Brixton he served in the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions as well as doing a stint with the 19th (St. Pancras) Battalion The London Regiment.

He enrolled in the 1/10th Battalion in 1913 and was badly wounded in France in the 1914-18 war. During his service he was a keen drummer, and was, in fact, the solo drummer in both the 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions. He continued as such after his discharge in December 1919 in a civilian Corps of Drums, which was later honoured with the title of "The City of London Drums". During the 1939-45 war he served in the Home Guard.

Lt.-Col. Brian Marciandi, on completion of his period in command of the Junior Infantryman's Battalion at Shorncliffe, was appointed a GSO 1 at the newly-formed Headquarters, United Kingdom Land Forces, on April 1 last.

Recently on the radio programme "Where are you now?" James Alexander McMullin, late of HQ Company Signals Section of the 1st Battalion, was anxious to trace any of his former colleagues of 1947. At that time the Battalion was stationed at Rensburg in BAOR. Anyone who would like to get in touch with him should write to 1 Bayford Road, Littlehampton, Sussex.

Sgt. R. L. Mead (23887501), at present serving with 2 Queen's, is still a very keen Die-Hard and always keeps in touch. In a letter received quite recently he stated that he was going up to Berlin, together with his RSM and four others, to keep Albuhera Day with the many Die-Hards serving in 1 Queen's.

Ex-Sgt. John Molbury (10905), a former member of the 3rd Battalion, emigrated to America after the 1914-18 war and is now settled in Florida. In a recent letter he sent his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

Capt. Peter Packham, who was formerly serving with 1 Queen's, is now in Northern Ireland attached to HQ 39 Infantry Brigade.

Those who were serving in the 2/8th Battalion during the early part of the 1939-45 war will be very sorry indeed to learn that their popular Medical Officer at that time, Capt. Ivan Page, has died in Australia. This sad news came to us through a friend of Col. Desmond Ellis living in Sydney. Apparently, shortly after the war "Doc" Page returned to Australia, and practised medicine for about 10 years. Then in 1960 he gave up medicine in order to take control of the large family interests centred around Grafton, some 470 miles from Sydney.

On completion of his tour of duty on the staff at HQ FARELF, Capt. Roger Pitman has been posted to 2 Queen's in Germany.

Ex-Pte. "Ginger" Rochester, a 2nd Battalion signaller of Ahmednagar days, has recently had a serious operation from which, we are pleased to be able to report, he has fully recovered. He sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

Writing from St. Paul's Cray, Kent, where he lives, Fred Shepherd (6198766), a survivor of HT *Lancasteria* when she was bombed and sunk during the evacuation from France in 1940, sends his salutations to his many friends, especially those in the Mill Hill Branch.

Ex-Cpl. D. W. Stopp (22308723), that stalwart of the PRI shop, called in at RHQ Edgware recently to tell us that he was emigrating to Australia, where he was taking up a Security appointment with an Australian firm in New South Wales.

As we go to press news has reached us that ex-Sgt. "Paddy" Walker, who served in "B" Company of the new 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland during the last war, is recovering from a severe operation which he has had to undergo.

The Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle continues to attract a number of our old soldiers. Quite recently we met Charles Ward (TF/3241) there. During the 1914-18 war he served in the 1/7th, 2/7th, 3/7th and 4/7th Battalions (TF). His brother, F. W. Ward (L/14220), was a Regular soldier in the 4th Battalion and fought at Mons in August 1914.

In a recent telephone conversation, Frank Wooley (6201000), one of our Hong Kong veterans and a survivor of the *Lisbon Maru*, sent his best wishes to all his old comrades, many of whom he hoped to meet at the Annual Reunion.



PETS GRAVES IN INGLIS BARRACKS

The Editor is most grateful to those readers who have been kind enough to write to him in response to the request which he made in last November's *Newsletter*. He hopes shortly to have enough information to be able to decide to whom all these pets belonged.



OBITUARY

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

BIRDSALL—In December 1971, ex-Fitter Gunner Albert Victor Birdsall, aged 77. He enlisted into the 2/7th (TF) Battalion on its formation in September 1914 and served with it at home and in Gibraltar until August 1915, when, as a signaller, he was transferred with a draft of specialists to 1/7th Battalion, then serving with the BEF in France. In view of his civilian trade of fitter engineer and the heavy demand by the Royal Artillery of experienced fitters after the heavy fighting in 1916, he was in February 1917 transferred to the Royal Garrison Artillery and remained with a Heavy Battery until he was disembodied in June 1919.

BOEDRY—On March 31, 1972, Joseph Bernard Boedry, aged 60. Joe Boedry, a staunch member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club, was a soldier, sailor and patriot of three nations. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was serving with the French Foreign Legion, being released to join the Belgian Army when his country was overrun. On the German occupation of Belgium in 1940 he escaped to England and immediately enrolled with the British Forces. He was then attached to the Free French Mercantile Marine. His military service was with "B" Company, 1st Middlesex Home Guard until the "Stand Down" in 1956. His services were rewarded with two Croix de Guerre (Belgian and French), in addition to Belgian, British and French war medals, his much-bemedalled chest calling for comment when he was wearing all his awards. The friendship between Belgian nationals in London and our soldiers is largely due to the kindness and encouragement of Joe, who will be sadly missed by so many of our old comrades.

BOWER—On November 15, 1971, Capt. Christopher Walter Bower. He was commissioned into the 2/7th (TF) Battalion, which was formed in September 1914, and it was a disappointment to him that, owing to poor vision, he was unable to serve overseas with the Battalion when it was sent to relieve the 1/7th (TF) Battalion as part of the garrison of Gibraltar. At the time of his death he had been a member of the Regimental Officers' Club for some years.

CATTELL—On May 10, 1972, in a nursing home after a long illness, Betty, beloved wife of Major Bernard K. Cattell, formerly 2/10th (TF) Battalion.

DOBBS—On April 22, 1972, passed peacefully to rest at St. Leonard's Hospital, Ringwood, Hants, May, beloved wife of Major J. E. Dobbs, MC.

FULLER—On January 16, 1972, ex-RSM Edward Fuller, aged 63. Sam Fuller, a most popular and public-spirited man, will be sadly missed by

his numerous friends and by the sponsors of appeals from our Regimental Association, which he supported wholeheartedly. His tall figure and benign manner endeared him to all who served with him, both in The Middlesex Regiment and The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment; he was also a firm supporter of the latter. He enlisted at the Depot in December 1931 and, on completion of his recruits' training, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He served with that Battalion until December 1938 when he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. Returning to the UK in February 1940 he was posted to 2nd Battalion The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, then being mobilised for active service. He served with that Battalion in Iceland and North West Europe until the end of the war. After the war he was seconded for service with FARELF but, owing to ill health, he was posted to the Home Establishment in March 1950 and eventually as a PSI to the 5th (TA) Battalion The Queen's Regiment where he received the written appreciation of his commanding officer for the excellent work he had done in the military training of the NCOs and soldiers. He was discharged with a disability pension in December 1953.

GUNNELL—On March 1, 1972, after a short illness Jean Lesley, beloved wife of Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell, TD.

LATHAM—On November 24, 1971, Capt. Roger D. Latham, aged 71. With seven other officers he was commissioned into the Regiment from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, on August 21, 1918, and was posted to the 52nd (Graduated) Battalion stationed at Taverham Camp, near Norwich. Shortly before the Armistice he joined the BEF in France but he was not there long as he was posted to the pool of officers at Clipstone Camp, near Mansfield, formed by the 5th (Special Reserve) Battalion, whence those with Regular commissions were posted to the Regular Battalions then re-forming on the Peace Establishment. Roger Latham went to the 3rd Battalion and served with that Battalion in the British Army of the Rhine until he resigned his commission and joined the Reserve of Officers in 1920. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he rejoined the Regiment in the rank of Captain and served on the staff of the MGTC at Mill Hill. Between the wars and after the 1939-45 conflict he had a very successful career as an actor, both on the stage and in films, under the name of Roger Maxwell. He was a keen and most competent sportsman, especially as a wicket-keeper at cricket and as a goalkeeper at hockey, in both of which he was of County standard. He was also a very keen golfer and, as a strong supporter of the Regimental Golfing Society, he played regularly in the Spring and Autumn meetings, where he was a most popular figure, as was his

Royal Marine Hospital ambulance which always accompanied him. He had a wonderfully keen sense of humour which attracted a wide circle of friends. This is borne out by the following write-up in the *Golf International* for the week ending April 15, 1972, which is published by kind permission of the Editor:

"Roger Maxwell, break-in artiste supreme, has died. Two of his best friends, Peter Alliss and Hedley Muscroft, raised a respectful hat at the sad news. 'A great character', said Peter. Mr. Maxwell was a retired actor and his last part was that of a Russian Colonel in the film *Dr. Zhivago*. When he quit work he followed golf and used an ambulance to help break in to events. He always paid for his ticket, but after the tournament. 'He entertained in his ambulance', says Peter. 'The year I won the Agfa at Stoke Poges he invited me in for smoked salmon and he had a magnificent cocktail cabinet inside that ambulance'. An ambulance, with bell ringing, is almost certainly the best method of bursting into the British Open. Officials wouldn't dream of asking for a ticket and Mr. Maxwell always wore the desperate look of a driver bent on saving the body from further loss of blood. It worked every time. Now he's died in the Isle of Man. He'll be missed by the golf followers who know a character when they see one".

MAILE—On March 8, 1972, ex-Pte. Robert Ekens Maile, aged 86. He enlisted in the Regiment on the outbreak of war in August 1914 and was posted to the 12th (Service) Battalion which was then forming. He went to France with the Battalion in 1915 and served with it until July 1916 when he was wounded in the Somme battles. On recovery he was posted to the 4th Battalion and remained with it until October 1917 when he was again wounded during the fighting at Passchendaele. His wounds this time were so severe that, at the end of 1917, he was discharged as medically unfit for military service. His last years were spent at Portsmouth where he enjoyed the company of many members of the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch. He was, in fact, a member of the Mill Hill Branch, and was a good correspondent and kept in touch with Regimental affairs.

NAISH—On February 11, 1972, ex-C/Sgt. Charles Ernest Naish, aged 88. He was a Volunteer of the old school and was serving with the 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) prior to the formation

of the Territorial Force in April 1908 when this Battalion became the 7th (TF) Battalion. A sergeant of two years seniority in 1914 he was appointed Company Quartermaster Sergeant on the introduction of that rank in the Territorial Force. He served throughout the 1914-18 war, and was discharged at the end of 1918. For many years afterwards he was an active member of the 7th Battalion Old Comrades Club, arranging their reunions until age and failing sight caused him to be less active. In civilian life he was a printer, working for the *Evening Standard* for 20 years and the *Sunday Times* for 10 years.

NEIGHBOUR—On February 25, 1972, ex-Dmr. William J. Neighbour. He enrolled in the 8th (TF) Battalion as a Drummer in 1911 and served until he was demobilised in 1919.

SAWYER—On February 12, 1972, ex-CSM Harry Sawyer, DCM, aged 76. "Bunny" Sawyer was a stalwart of our senior Territorial Battalion, having enrolled in the 7th (TF) Battalion in 1913 at the age of 17. During the 1914-18 war he was awarded the DCM for gallantry on May 5, 1917, at the 3rd Battle of the Scarpe. He was discharged as medically unfit in January 1919 and this prevented him from continuing as a Territorial soldier. He then joined the Special Constabulary and eventually was awarded the Special Constabulary Long Service Medal for his services. During the 1939-45 war he served with the 27th (Reserve) Battalion during the whole of its existence, holding the rank of CSM. He was a very regimentally minded person and his bright and cheerful face will be sadly missed by his many old comrades.

YOUNG—On January 24, 1972, ex-Pte. A. Young, aged 74. He joined the third line of our 9th (TF) Battalion in June 1915 and in January of the following year he was drafted to the 2/10th (TF) Battalion, who were reorganising after Gallipoli and preparing for the campaign in Egypt and Palestine. He fought through all the Middle East battles with this Battalion until it was disbanded in August 1918. Then he joined the 1/7th Battalion The Royal Welch Fusiliers and remained with that Battalion until August 1919 when the Territorial Force was disembodied.

Apart from his war medals he was also in possession of the Imperial Service Medal which he was awarded for his services to the community after his return to civil life.



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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the quarter ended March 31, 1972, the sum of £694.50 was expended from the Charitable Fund in grants to 36 ex-members of the Regiment or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Mr. W. Beyer, Mr. D. E. S. Cavill, Mr. R. P. Chapman, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, Capt. W. E. H. Grayburn, MC, Mr. J. J. T. Hall, Mr. R. T. G. Haylett, Mr. G. C. Herbert, Mr. E. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Malcouronne, Mr. E. Orme, Capt. P. C. Prescott-Richardson, Capt. Q. T. Robinson, Mr. D. R. Sankey, Mr. H. F. Stilwell, Mr. D. Vincent, MM, Major M. Wild, MBE, and Major D. M. W. Young.

Hounslow Branch—Change of Secretary

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, Mr. Gordon Young has had to vacate the post of Honorary Secretary of the Hounslow Branch, which he has so ably filled for such a comparatively short time.

The new Secretary is Mr. G. Large, 9 Monarch Close, Feltham, Middlesex, and we send him our best wishes for a successful term of office.

Regimental Goods—Revised Prices

Owing to the increase in the cost of production it has been necessary to raise the cost of the following to the price, which includes postage, shown against each:

Badges, Blazer	£1.50
" Car	£2.50
Ties, Regimental (Old Pattern)	
Terylene	£0.55
(New Pattern) Terylene	£0.55
(New Pattern) Silk	£1.10

Middlesex Kensington Regimental Associations

A very enjoyable "get-together" was held at 190 Hammersmith Road, London W6, on Friday, April 14, and was attended by a goodly number from both Associations, including our most senior Chelsea Pensioner, C/Sgt. Cornelius King.

F. W.

EALING BRANCH

There is not much to say this quarter about the Branch except that we are two less numbers since the last *Newsletter*. Sad to have to report the death of Mr. W. (Bill) Neighbour of Hayes, Middlesex, and Mr. S. (Maud) Fletcher, of Melksham, Wiltshire. Both were members of the 8th Battalion Drums 1911, and after demobilisation in 1919 entered into the business side of the community. Bill Neighbour had a coffee shop opposite the station at Hayes and I am sure many an ex-Die-Hard has called in and had some liquid refreshment before heading towards one or other of the factories in the district. He retired from the shop about 1968.

Sid Fletcher was a builder and decorator in Hanwell, and after a successful business career he returned to Melksham, Wilts. He kept in touch by post but never came up to our meetings.

We had a good A.G.M. in March and 50% of the Branch turned up. Although we were not very comfortable and had to sit with our overcoats on, we had a good old "natter" about old times after the official meeting was over. I am glad to report that members of the Branch were assisted from the funds of the Association and both are very grateful. "There but for the Grace of God go I" is a very true quotation and we should all remember it. All the best to readers of the *Newsletter*.

ALBERT WHITE

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

Meetings have been held regularly each month since the last issue, sparsely attended by the few, the few being Peggy O'Neill, Bert Hastie, Noel Peters, Lofty Lowe, and myself, ably assisted by the ladies, mesdames McNeill, Charles, Deans and Buckle.

Socially, things are slack, but we do round the evenings off with a good old natter and an occasional game of darts. By this we keep the flag flying in the hope that we shall get some of the old faces back again.

We had a welcome visit at our March meeting from Col. and Mrs. Walden accompanied by Major and Mrs. Honeybun. This visit made a pleasant evening, and we hope that they enjoyed themselves. Also at this meeting we were pleased to welcome back to the fold Mr. Charlie Kennett, together with his wife and daughter. We are now making final arrangements for our visit to the Albuhera Service and Reunion, to which we hope to bring the usual party.

This, I think, is one of the things that helps to keep the Branch alive, as individually we would find it hard to attend these functions, when we look forward to seeing our ex-comrades.

We were pleased to see that Les Honeybun was well on the way to recovery; also we have news that Jack Deans is on the mend and, with a bit of luck, will be able to be with us on our visit.

R. McN.

9th BATTALION BRANCH

As this letter is on the way to the Press the Branch will shortly be sitting down to the annual dinner at the Victory Club. So far, the response to our letter re the dinner sent in March has been very good. Actually, 80 persons will be at the dinner—one of the highest figures in recent years.

We have also received the subscriptions and donations from many members. For all this we are exceedingly grateful.

With all this also comes news, and sadly we have to report the deaths of the following members: Whyman, G. Young, F. C. Stevens, P. N. Hitchcock and C. O. Fraser. The last member, C. O. Fraser, was on holiday in Spain with his brother Leslie when he died. Our deepest sympathy goes to the relatives of the above.

Reminiscent of past years in our history, Stanley Timms, who joined the Battalion in 1912, has sent a

copy of Battalion Orders headed as such by Lt.-Col. J. L. Blumfeld, Commanding 9th Battalion Duke of Cambridge Own (Middlesex Regiment) for the quarter ending June 30, 1912.

A few of the items are, the week-end camps to Pirbright, a Battalion march to Mill Hill for the weekend, the annual camp at Falmer, near Brighton, for a fortnight, and church parades.

For drill order bandoliers were worn and on other occasions the webbing belts, braces, and pouches.

For register keeping on the ranges an allowance of 2s. 6d. half day and 3s. 6d. for the whole day was made.

All the new recruits joining the Battalion, those discharged free medically unfit, discharged on payment of £1, etc. are enumerated under the heading of "Casualty List". Of the recruits, the following are known to us at the present time: S. W. Timms, H. L. Craker, P. Fice and W. D. Fitzgerald. A good many others have been reported dead and the rest we have lost trace of.

R.S.M. L. Drinkwater, who died a few years ago, was then a Colour-Sergeant and the honorary secretary of the sports club.

Mr. Timms also sent a copy of the "Brief History of the 53rd Indian Infantry Brigade" whilst in Mesopotamia from November 1917 to August 1919, which is very interesting reading. The Brigade was composed of the 9th Middlesex, 1/3rd Gurkhas, 1/7th Gurkhas and 1/89 Punjabis. The history of the Nejf blockade is given. Here we saw one of the ancient biblical cities which, then, was not visited by many Christians, only by the Mohammedans. We also passed through the land which was inhabited by the Hittites long before the birth of Christ. A section of the British Museum is devoted to that area.

With this book Mr. Timms also sent copies of the *Baghdad Times* and the *Basrah Times* printed in 1918. An article dealing with the Germans' intention of capturing Baghdad is related, also a very good description of Najaf (or Nejf) is given in another article.

All these documents will be handed to Major Smith for inclusion in the Museum and, perhaps, could be perused, by persons interested.

We hope to see you at St. Paul's on May 13 and/or at the Reunion at Porchester Hall on the evening of that day. Our best wishes to all.

R. T. M.

WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

We did not, I am sorry to say, get off to a very good start to 1972, due, I imagine, to the fact that our January meeting was held so soon after the Christmas and New Year festivities and the fear of a black-out period during the times our meetings were held. Luckily, though, this fear proved groundless as we had clear periods in our area on the dates on which our meetings were held. There was an improvement at the April meeting, when the attendance was 21, even though several of our regulars were unable to attend owing to having other commitments that evening.

We were all deeply grieved to hear of the passing of Mrs. J. Gunnell. Col. and Mrs. Gunnell had many friends among the members of the Branch and it was always a pleasure to see them at the functions they attended. Though these visits were few they

always remarked on the pleasure and enjoyment they derived from meeting up with their old friends.

For the first time since the formation of our Branch we have been forced to cancel a monthly meeting, as our May meeting clashes with the Regimental Annual Reunion which takes place on May 13. Nevertheless, as we shall be meeting up at St. Paul's Cathedral and Porchester Hall on that date, we shall not miss it so much.

Our A.G.M. was held on the evening of our April meeting, when myself and Ernie Colebeck were re-elected as hon. secretary and hon. treasurer respectively and Stan Hurlock and Peter Edwards elected as committee members. With their help I am looking forward to a successful year, and by the way they took over after the A.G.M. closed, I am sure my hopes will not be in vain.

I am pleased to report that our invalids of 1971 are all progressing. Our chairman, Les Honeybun, is now able to get about without a stick and is back to business; Jim Davis is able to get about a bit; Pat Maloney is plodding along with half his bellows, Peter Edwards is getting about OK, and, myself, I am able to take part in things a little more than I have in the past.

The first quarter of 1972, like that of previous years, has been on the quiet side, an excuse I am using for not being able to contribute a more lengthy epistle, so I end by sending to all Die-Hards everywhere our very best wishes for good health and good fortune and to all Branches continued success.

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