



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 12

NOVEMBER 1970

PRICE 1/3

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

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our Readers

56th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MONS

At 8 a.m. Sunday, August 23, 1914, "D" Company, 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, were in position at the railway station of Obourg, rifle magazines charged, actions cocked, awaiting their baptism of fire. Among these men were reservists who had served their "ponton" and youngsters of 17 years who had unblushingly declared they were 20 years of age when they learned that was the minimum age to be included in the British Expeditionary Force. In position with them in line or in support was the remainder of the Battalion. Every man was keen to show his mettle. Approaching Obourg was the 31st Regiment of German Infantry with strong artillery support. The Germans advanced with confidence, to walk over the "Contemptible Little Army" as their Emperor, Kaiser Wilhelm, had told them. Fritz himself called them the "flat caps" due to the Tommies' headdress, whereas he wore a spiked helmet in service dress.

At 8 a.m., Sunday, August 23, 1970, three old-age pensioners stood in position at the railway station of Obourg, commemorating the day 56 years ago. There, Harry Bird, who was present on both occasions, placed a wreath by the regimental plaque on the wall of the station. A minute in silence, a smart salute, an acknowledging nod of the head from the spectral host of departed Die-Hards, whose earthly remains lie nearby, and the small party returned to Mons, the church bells calling the pious to service as they had at the same time over half a century ago.

The regimental party this year consisted of Col. and Mrs. Walden, Major Dick Smith, Messrs. C. Ashby, H. Bird, W. Bishop, J. Edmonds, R. Ferguson, E. Fox, A. Field, A. Dyson, W. Dyson, P. Hutchings, MM, W. Perkes, N. Peters, and G. Smith, MM, also Mesdames Bird and Ferguson. The majority had travelled from Edgware by minibus driven by Tom Trebilecock, a friend of the

Regiment, arriving at Mons before breakfast on the 22nd to be welcomed by M. Charles Ottevaere, the Secretary of the Friends of the Middlesex Regiment, in Mons.

Although there had been the small private pilgrimage to Obourg early on the 23rd the day's ceremonies regimentally began at 9 a.m. when the party, accompanied by a number of our Belgian friends and representatives of the Anciens Combattants with their standard, left for the Avenue of the 4th Middlesex, the thoroughfare named by the people of Mons to commemorate the gallantry of the battalion who had fought on the identical ground in August 1914. The march route was from the beginning to the end of the crescent shaped thoroughfare, watched by the majority of the householders who included a senior British Officer on the staff of SHAPE. The Regimental Standard, carried by Bob Ferguson, was flying freely, and proudly, in the gentle wind, as was that of the Anciens Combattants Belgique.

From our regimental road, the party next formed up outside the Hotel de Ville of Mons, where our Regimental flag was flying from the balcony, flanked by the national flags of Great Britain and Belgium and in company with the flag of the City of Mons. The "Old Contemptibles" leading, the column marched to the Belgian Memorial where wreaths were placed in memory of our Belgian comrades-in-arms who had made the supreme sacrifice. Then on to the Belfry where stands the memorial to the two battles of Mons, those of 1914 and 1918. Here, on the soil collected from every battlefield of 1914-18 we stood in silence and then placed our tributes. Col. Walden, representing the Deputy Colonel, laid our wreaths on both Belgian and Belfry memorials.

After this ceremony a reception was held in the Hotel de Ville, during which the Mayor of Mons presented the Medal of Mons to Mr. Charles Ashby

(L/14437), who had served with the 4th Battalion during the whole war, seeing the opening battle in August, 1914 and being present with it when the Cease Fire sounded on November 11, 1918. He now joins the company of a number of our regiment so honoured.

The next parade of the day was at 4 p.m., when the party left for Saint Symphorien Cemetery. Here lie the mortal remains of so many soldiers, young and old, friend and foe, who met face to face in the first trial of strength of British and German soldiery. Recently, a slur was cast on our army as to their conduct and ability as soldiers. Let the poor fool who made the mis-statements go to Saint Symphorien and count the graves British and German. He will soon discover that every Tommy took an escort of at least four of the enemy with him on his journey to Valhalla. He will also see a huge memorial erected by the Germans to all soldiers, British and German, who fell during the battle and in addition, a special memorial erected by them to "The Royal Middlesex Regiment". This memorial is placed in a peaceful and picturesque little glade where our Die-Hards sleep. On this memorial, a wreath was laid and the exhortation recited by Major Smith.

The next, and final ceremony of the day, took place at the railway station of Obourg. Here it was that the initial battle of 1914 was fought between the British and German armies. We formed up in column with our Belgian comrades on the road across the canal opposite to the station—the same road along which Germans advanced in 1914. With numerous banners to keep company with our Regimental Standard, we marched over the bridge to the station, halting in front of the flag-covered plaque erected to commemorate the opening shots fired nearby and also to the unknown hero of "D" Company who remained alone, protected by some sandbags on the roof of the station, and killed with his rifle about 20 Germans, including a Company Commander. He kept firing until mortally wounded, thus covering the retreat of the rest of the company. In the end a field gun was brought up to dislodge him from his position. Present with the company was M. Licope to whose initiative the erection of the memorial is due. Also present were many who had attended its unveiling by Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe in September, 1951, in the presence of the representatives of H.M. The King of The Belgians. The old soldiers, who as young men had fought in the battle, the elder townsmen who as children had watched the fight and seen the wounded cared for by their parents, one of whom was M. Langouche whose father was then the Mayor and who had been forced by the Germans to march in front of the German troops whilst the firing was still taking place, all paid due honour to those who had fought the good fight.

After the ceremony at the station, where Harry Bird laid the wreath and Jimmy Smith gave the exhortation, the procession formed up and for the very last time, marched past over the bridge, paying compliments to M. Renaud, the Mayor of Obourg. The station bridge and thoroughfare are undergoing alterations which will be completed before August 1971, therefore the view will no longer be as it was in 1914 and in 1970. Our memorial plaque will still be publicly displayed in a position as near as possible to the place it has been since its unveiling, and our

pilgrimage will continue as heretofore. It is a pilgrimage which the present and coming generation should make efforts to attend even as we Die-Hards still visit Albuhera. "Remember Mons" was a call and a powerful stimulant during other encounters of the 1914-18 fighting, and recalled by Colonel Wollocombe in later years. The casualty list was 15 officers and 453 other ranks, everyone a professional soldier and some of the toughest the world has ever seen, their fighting ability acknowledged by allies and enemy alike.

After the parade, M. Renaud, as for so many years past, became our host in the Hotel de Ville Obourg. Toasts were drunk and reciprocal speeches made, the translating, as was the case at the Hotel de Ville, Mons, being well executed by M. Charles Ottevaere. After the official ceremony, a stroll to the estaminet just like a group of old friends, a splendid gesture to us British by our Belgian friends. They know we like to end a good day by a stroll to the local for a pint—and that is just what they do, the Mayor included, to show their appreciation to "Tommy" who manned the line August 23, 1914. We who were present on this anniversary left well content vowing to bring more pilgrims with us in the coming years. Will you come, too?

R. W. J. S.

Completion of Regimental Museum

When the Regimental Museum was officially opened at its new venue, Bruce Castle, Tottenham, by the Mayor of Haringey in October last year, one of the two large rooms allocated to us had to be used as a store-room until it could be properly laid out with exhibits. It was realised at the time that this would involve much more labour and time than that already given for preparing the room for the official opening. Such has, in fact, been the case, but it is with much pleasure and relief that we are able to report that the Museum has now been finally laid out, and that it is a splendid sight. That we have been able to get this formidable job completed is due almost entirely to the magnificent efforts of our Curator, Major Dick Smith, who has worked many hours of overtime in order to achieve his object. In this work he has been most ably assisted by his wife, Dolly, and Mr. Charlie Banks, the caretaker at Edgware, who have given yeoman service. It is, in fact, not possible adequately to express our thanks to this small band of willing workers, whose efforts to ensure that the layout reached such a high standard has been loudly praised by so many high officials of the Haringey Archives Committee, through whose good offices we have been able to locate our Museum in such a splendid place as Bruce Castle.

Our readers are reminded that the Museum is open daily at the following times, except on Sundays and Wednesdays:

10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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Royal Hospital, Chelsea

It may not be generally known that there are vacancies for In-Pensioners at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

There are many old soldiers who may well like to spend their years of retirement in the delightful surroundings of the Royal Hospital but who do not know about it.

There may also be a number of ex-soldiers who served in the two world wars and other minor operations, and are in receipt of disability pensions on account of wounds, or illness as a result of active service, who are also entitled to become In-Pensioners but do not realise it.

To be eligible for admission as an In-Pensioner a candidate must be:

- Of good character.
 - In receipt of a service or disability pension awarded for military service, or of the Victoria Cross annuity.
 - At least 65 years of age, or unable to earn his own living (though generally capable of looking after himself).
 - If unable to earn his own living, not less than 55 years of age unless in receipt of a disability pension for an Army disability.
 - Free from the obligation to support a wife or children.
 - Passed medically fit for admission.
- Any of our members who know of an old soldier of the Regiment fulfilling the above conditions and wishing to be considered for admission as an In-Pensioner is requested to get in touch with the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

Regimental Museum

Curator: Maj. R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TA & VR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex

The following are recent acquisitions to the museum:

KNIFE, PRAYER BOOK AND BIBLE OF PTE. H. G. NEVILL, 2ND BATTALION.

TRENCH DAGGER AND "CRICKET BALL" GRENADE. *Daily Express* PUBLICATION, "THE FIRST WORLD WAR".

Daily Express PUBLICATION, "COVENANTS WITH DEATH".

PHOTOGRAPHS OF RECIPIENTS OF THE VICTORIA CROSS AND GEORGE CROSS.

SOUVENIR CUP OF THE BOER WAR.

KNIFE, PRAYER BOOK AND BIBLE

The prayer book and the bible were issued to 64 Pte. Henry George Nevill when he enlisted, September 28, 1891. They are the hard-wearing, serviceable pattern which were issued to all recruits up to the early 1920s. The Royal Coat of Arms of Queen Victoria is firmly embossed on both back and front covers, those on the bible being within an oval bearing the legend "Official Copy", and in excellent condition, although it is obvious the copy has been well used.

The knife, with an unusual shaped blade, has a home-made haft with the owner's name and the words "South Africa, 1901" carved on either side. It was used mainly for killing pigs and chickens when the troops could boost their rations of hard tack. All three items were carried by Pte. Nevill, who was subsequently granted a special pension, during his service with the Regiment during the Boer War.

Presented by Mrs. A. J. Nevill Johnson.

GRENADE AND TRENCH DAGGER

The grenade is the normal "cricket ball" pattern as supplied before the introduction of the Hale and the Mills types. The dagger has been manufactured from an iron railing, the spear point top being the blade, and the handle, or grip, made by bending the shaft into the shape of an elongated "O". The scabbard is made of wood. It is a most efficient, albeit murderous, looking piece of work, which proved its worth on trench raids. There were a number of these made for this purpose and the mere drawing of the weapon was enough to scare the life out of the average person.

Presented by ex-L/Cpl. John Gover (TF/1789) 7th Battalion.

Daily Express PUBLICATION "THE FIRST WORLD WAR"

This book, published in 1933, is a brief photographic history of the war of 1914-19, in 298 pages. Many of the illustrations are shown paired, in satire, driving home the futility of propaganda and war. To the writer of these notes, it appears also as prophecy, its title suggesting that it was only the first of world wars, and at least one more was to come. It did! On page 289, it shows a selection of recipients of the Victoria Cross, including that of Lt.-Col. James Forbes-Robertson, VC, DSO, MC, of the Border Regiment. He is shown in the uniform of the Middlesex Regiment, taken when he was commanding the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion from August 1917 until it was disbanded in February 1918, being awarded a bar to his DSO whilst in command.

Presented by Capt. P. C. Prescott-Richardson (alias Schaefer, TF/1699) 7th Battalion.

Daily Express PUBLICATION "COVENANTS WITH DEATH"

This book, published for "the purpose to reveal the horror, suffering and essential bestiality of modern war, and with that revelation, to warn the nation against the peril of foreign entanglements that must lead Britain to a new Armageddon", was released in 1934. The title was taken from Isaiah XXV, 15.

Neither the title nor the warning were of much help in September 1939! It is a book full of grim pictures, all authentic, and not one to be read by the squeamish.

Presented by ex-Sgt. F. E. Birdsall (TF/2702) 7th Battalion.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF RECIPIENTS OF VICTORIA CROSS AND GEORGE CROSS

This collection of enlarged photographs are those of C/Sgt. George Gardiner, VC, DCM; Ensign J. T. Down, VC; Dmr. Dudley Stagpoole, VC, DCM; 2/Lt. R. P. Hallows, VC, MC; Pte. F. J. Edwards, VC; Capt. A. M. C. McReady-Diarmid, VC; Capt. A. M. Toye, VC, MC; and Col. L. A. Newnham, GC, MC.

Whilst the decorations and medals in the Museum are shown adjacent to the photographs in a number of cases, only miniatures are shown in others. It is a matter of personal anguish to the Curator that this is so of C/Sgt. Gardiner, the first soldier in the history of the British Army to be awarded both the Victoria Cross and the Distinguished Conduct Medal. The group of medals themselves are on loan to a battalion of The Queen's Regiment. The personal feeling is due to the fact that when the cross and medals came on the market early in 1948, the Curator, who was then serving at the Depot, heard of this from a numismatic friend. Inspecting the medals, prior to the day of the sale, he found them to be genuine, although for some years said to have been lost. In company with Major Henry Marsh, the 2IC Depot, he attended the auction, where they were purchased for £120—a bargain if ever there was one. For many years it was believed that Stagpoole was the only man to hold both VC and DCM, and, in fact, it was published in a number of histories by reputable authors. Our own early records of the 57th merely say that Gardiner had received an award for conspicuous gallantry at Inkerman. The

award of the DCM is not mentioned in the regimental histories by Warre, by Woollright or by Kingsford. If it had been known generally, and that the group was for sale, the price would, even then, have run into four figures.

The VC, DCM group of Stagpoole is the centre-piece of the Maori War section of the Victoria Cross Exhibition now being held at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth, where they are on loan from the Regiment.

Photographs copied, enlarged and presented by Mr. Rodney Brewster.

SOUVENIR CUP OF THE BOER WAR

This piece of pottery was taken from the River Thames near Richmond, Surrey, during river cleaning operations. It was then completely black, as indicated by the stump of the broken handle. On cleaning, it was found to be an interesting relic of the Boer War, manufactured by the Foley China Company. A normal sized breakfast cup, it shows, on one section of the exterior, a shield-shaped Union Jack with the outline of the Victoria Cross superimposed and the head and shoulders of Earl Roberts, VC, in the centre of the cross. The supporters are: dexter, a soldier of the Colonies, wearing a slouch hat, and sinister, a Volunteer wearing a Wolseley helmet, both in the uniform of the period. On the other side, within a wreath of laurels, surmounted by St. Edward's crown, are the names "Roberts", "Buller", "Kitchener", "White", "Baden-Powell" and "French". Inside the cup is an illustration of a trumpet, on the banner of which is emblazoned, "An Empire founded on Liberty".

The cup may now be empty in the material sense but it is certainly full of history for the student of the British Army, and the Boer War in particular.

Presented by Mr. A. R. Drane.

Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society Autumn Meeting 1970

It is much regretted that, owing to entirely unforeseen circumstances, this meeting had to be cancelled at short notice.

Free Newsletters

The Editor wishes to thank Col. M. Crawford, Lt.-Col. P. Lloyd-Williams and Capt. S. le M. Enthoven for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving old comrades.

Newsletter No. 11

The Editor much regrets the delay in the publication of the August issue (No. 11), which was due to circumstances quite outside his control.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Major Oliver Bagley, who at the age of 82 must be the oldest surviving officer of the 3rd Battalion, informed us in a letter written last August that it was then exactly 64 years ago that he received his commission signed by the late King Edward VII.

He has lived in the USA for most of the time since his retirement after the 1914-18 war, but he remains a staunch Die-Hard, and keeps in touch by occasional letters and by being a regular reader of our *Newsletter*.

We had news recently of ex-Sgt. D. C. Barr (6208127), formerly of "B" Company, 2/7th Battalion, who wrote to tell us of the death of his wife. Our heart-felt sympathies go to him and his family in their bereavement.

Thomas John (Ginger) Batson (6539610), who served with the 1st Battalion from 1931 to 1938 when he reverted to the Home Establishment, now works for the GPO and can generally be found at the top of a telegraph pole! During the war he served with the 8th Battalion from 1940 to 1942, and then with 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment until 1945 when he was demobilised.

After a long silence we have just heard from Capt. Dennis Bayton, who tells us that he has now finally settled down to become a free-lance musician, both as a performer and as a teacher, and is enjoying life.

He sends his best wishes to all old friends in the Regiment and is looking forward to meeting them again in the near future.

He is at present living at Surbiton in Surrey.

A very recent and welcome visitor to Regimental Headquarters was Major Johnny Bull, who was the Armourer to the 1st Battalion during the fighting in Hong Kong in December 1941, and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. Now home again he is looking forward to catching up with many of our veterans of those days. By the time these notes appear in print he may already have done so, since he is probably paying us a visit during the Remembrance weekend.

Through the good offices of Major Pat Donovan we have gained contact with ex-Pte. F. C. Clark (L/15625), an old Die-Hard who had been out of touch with the Regiment since his discharge in May 1920. He served with the 4th Battalion in France from 1915 to 1918 and then did a period of duty with the Special Company in Russia. He was awarded the Military Medal whilst with the 4th Battalion and a bar to the Medal whilst with the Special Company in Russia.

He has now joined the Regimental Association and we were delighted to meet him at the Annual Reunion on October 3.

A most welcome new member to the Regimental Officers' Club is Mr. T. W. Deeves. In the 1914-18 war as a young officer he served in our 16th (Public Schools) Battalion and was badly wounded at Cambrai, losing one arm. For his bravery on active

service he was awarded the Military Cross and later a bar to the Cross. Between the wars he was employed at Somerset House on executive work. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he was seconded to the Ministry of Food where he served as an Assistant Secretary until the war was over. For his services he was created a CBE. After the war he was seconded as a Head of Department to the Foreign Office Administration of African Territories—a new branch formed to take over the administration of the ex-Italian Colonies in Africa, and to prepare them for independence. He remained with this Branch until it closed down in 1952, and for his services he was made a CMG. He was afterwards posted as a Counsellor to the three British Delegations to NATO, OECC (Paris) and the Council of Europe (Strasbourg). By 1954, after completing 45 years of continuous Government service, he decided to retire and now lives at Gerrards Cross where he takes an interest in local affairs, especially the British Legion.

After approximately 37 years' service, Major (QM) Pat Donovan retired on August 26, 1970, and has now settled down in Essex, where he has secured a very good job as an Assistant Works Manager with Explosives and Chemical Products Ltd.

During the summer, Col. Desmond Ellis took his family holiday down at Seaview in the Isle of Wight. There, he writes to tell us, four Die-Hards quite by chance gathered together on the beach—Majors Ken Clayden and Barry Reed, Capt. Alec Ramsay and Col. Desmond himself.

From South Africa Major David Fetters sends his best wishes to all old friends, and especially those who attended the Annual Reunion on October 3.

One of the newest members of our Regimental Association is ex-Pte. R. Gilbertson (2223756), who served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and Korea in 1950 and 1951. His joining was the result of a surprise visit which he paid to the Rear Party, 4 Queen's at Knook Camp during his summer holidays and meeting there Major Jimmy Wild, whose powers of persuasion no doubt helped him to make up his mind. We were delighted to see him at the Annual Reunion on October 3 and we hope that he will be with us at many other Association functions.

Ex-Sgt. Paul Gillies, MBE (23460940), who has spent the last 12 years in Zambia, has decided to return home and settle in the west country. He left Zambia in October, travelling to England via East Africa and Greece.

We wish him the best of luck in his job-hunting and look forward to seeing him again at our Association functions.

We recently received a letter from ex-CSM Arthur Page (6201260), one of our Hong Kong veterans. With his letter he enclosed a cutting from his local paper in Chester, which mentioned the appointment of Mr. K. R. G. Hannis as a divisional manager of the Merseyside Passenger Executive. Mr. Hannis, who

comes from Bristol, joined the Regiment and later served as a Sergeant Instructor in the Small Arms School Corps. He was discharged in 1947. If any of our readers know him it would be appreciated if they would get in touch with the Editor.

Congratulations to Lt.-Col. R. T. D. Hicks, one of our former 7th Battalion officers and a regular reader of this *Newsletter*, on his marriage, which took place in London on August 18 last.

He now lives at The Anchorage, Kingsdown, near Deal, Kent, and would welcome a visit from any of his old friends.

We congratulate Lt. A. C. D. Lowrie on his promotion to Captain with effect from July 31, 1970.

One of the few surviving officers of our 11th (Service) Battalion—our senior Service Battalion of the 1914-18 war—is Donald McDonald, who has been a member of our Regimental Association since September 1914—surely a record. He was gazetted a temporary Service Lieutenant on August 22, 1914, in the same batch as 2/Lt. W. J. Slim (later Field-Marshal Sir William Slim), with whom he served in the same Officers' Training Corps at Epsom before joining the 11th Battalion. He went with the Battalion to France in May 1915 and in November of that year he was badly wounded at the Hohenzollern Redoubt and sent home. This was the end of his active service, for he was not passed fit again, and was demobilised in 1919.

For many years after the war he attended the 11th Battalion Officers' luncheon which was held annually in London on Albuhera Day until 1967 when it was discontinued for lack of numbers.

When renewing his subscription recently S. J. Meadows, an old soldier of the 9th Battalion, wrote to let us know how much he enjoyed reading the *Newsletter*. Needless to say, this unsolicited testimonial is much appreciated.

Major Chris Mievile, on completion of his tour of duty on the staff of HQ, Allied Forces Central Europe, in connection with Nuclear Operations, has returned to this country and taken up the appointment of DAQMG (Movements) at the Ministry of Defence.

He was relieved at HQ AFCENT by Major Chris Lawrence who, until recently, was in command of the Rear Party of 4 Queen's.

Lt.-Col. John Moore paid us a visit at RHQ Edgware quite recently on his return from Muscat where he has been employed for some time with the Sultan's Armed Forces. He is now doing a language course pending posting to Phnom Penh as Defence Attaché, Cambodia.

Major Donald Peckham, a former Paymaster to the 1st Battalion and one of our regular readers, in a recent letter stated that he is due to retire on April

30, 1971. He intends to reside in Tunbridge Wells, where he has been stationed for some time.

We are pleased to see that ex-C/Sgt. Jimmy Redmond (22354186) has settled down well in civilian life. He is working hard in his garage—no cheap petrol!—and has promised to keep in touch.

We have just heard that ex-L/Cpl. Fred Richardson (6198320), who served in the Regiment from February 1928 until October 1945, will be unable to work again as he has collapsed lungs. He was formerly employed at the Edgware General Hospital as a Rations Storeman.

Ex-CQMS Alfred Ridler (L/6480), now aged 88, is another of our old soldiers who has been admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, as an In-Pensioner. He enlisted in September 1900, and after serving with the 4th Battalion at the Tower of London, was posted to the 3rd Battalion in South Africa, where he became Officers' Mess Sergeant as well as A/CQMS of the Mounted Infantry Company.

As a result of wounds received on active service during the 1914-18 war he was discharged in February 1916 with the rank of CQMS.

In a letter received during the summer, ex-Pte. Robert J. Wright (816754), one of our Hong Kong veterans, sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

10th (T) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex)

Her Majesty The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, as Honorary Colonel, 10th (T) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) in succession to Major-General C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, with effect from May 12, 1970.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date—1971	Event
Thursday, January 7	Special Army Night for the Wembley Ice Show—"Jack and the Beanstalk"—in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.
Saturday, April 24	1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at T & AVR Centre, Hornsey, N8.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Major-General C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC
The Old Schoolhouse,
Struan, Calvine,
Perthshire.
October 4, 1970.

My dear Fanny,
Thank you so much for my copy of the *Newsletter*. It is a splendid way of keeping us all in touch, and this last copy was well up to the first-class standard of its predecessors.

I was particularly glad to read the news of the Branches and it is good to know that they are thriving. One point, however, shocked me. It was the penultimate paragraph of Len Johnson's excellent account of the WO's and Sgts Branch. I quote "with the disbandment of the 4th Queen's and the severing of our last link with the Service . . ." I sincerely hope that this is not the view of all Die-Hards, because if it is, I have obviously failed sadly in getting across the link that goes on with our successors, The Queen's Regiment as a whole. I feel passionately that unless we appreciate this fact we are letting down the young men of Middlesex who have followed us into their County Regiment. I have often quoted the analogy of the "Supporters Club" in this connection. We are their Supporters Club, and if we let them down we are going a long way towards ensuring that our beloved Middlesex Regiment dies when we die rather than being a source of pride and an example to those who have followed us. Memorials are wonderful as a reminder of what has gone before, but there is no memorial like that of tradition mirrored in young soldiers who have taken our place, whatever their cap badge. To me, any other attitude smacks of self-pity and is so utterly contrary to the motto "Die-Hard".

With very best wishes,
Yours ever,
"CHRIS"

From: Major I. D. McLean
Harewood Cottage,
Kingston Vale,
London SW15.
October 5, 1970.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter,
Deansbrook Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.

Dear Col. Walden,
I was interested to read in the "Personal Jottings" of the August edition of the *Newsletter* that ex-C/Sgt. L. W. Taylor (6203993) in "B" Company of the 2nd Battalion had heard from ex-Pte. T. D. Howles (14404863) who sent a photograph of the Guard Room and Company designation board taken at Fayid in 1945 or 1946, which I would be interested to see, as I was commanding "B" Company at that time.

I remember ex-C/Sgt. Taylor and recall that the Company Sergeant-Major at that time was CSM Wild who, I understand, is now a Major Quartermaster. The Battalion was commanded at that time

by Col. Herapath, who I believe is now retired, and the second-in-command was Max Langley. Major I. D. Marjoribanks, who was commanding "D" Company, is still a close personal friend whom I see regularly.

The 2nd Battalion at that time was alternating duties in Egypt and Palestine as it was then called, and looking back on this period it is very easy to picture the state of unrest which now exists in that troubled area.

Yours sincerely,
I. D. McLEAN

(This is the photograph to which Major McLean refers:



It has been reproduced as it may be of interest to other readers who were serving with the 2nd Battalion at that time—Editor.)

From: Mr. R. E. C. Jewell
15 Gresley Road,
London N19 3LA.
October 5, 1970.

Dear Colonel Walden,
I was very pleased to receive the August issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*. As a writer myself, I should like to compliment you on this publication.

I enclose my cheque for five guineas as a donation to the Charitable Fund. As I am not quite sure how to describe the Fund on a cheque, I have made it out to you personally.

My wife and I very much enjoyed the summer outing to Bladon and Blenheim Palace. You may be interested to know that, although I was in the 1/7 Battalion the Middlesex Regiment from '39 to '42, this was the first time I had ever been near to the Mill Hill Headquarters!

Please give my best wishes to Major Smith; I read the article on the Regimental Museum with great interest.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
R. E. C. JEWELL

(This generous donation has been most gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary of the Regimental Association.—Editor.)

OBITUARY

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

BURBAGE—On March 29, 1970, ex-Sgt. Thomas John Moody Burbage (6089896), aged 53. Although basically a soldier of the Queen's Royal Regiment from April 4, 1939, when he enlisted, until October 1, 1960, when he was discharged to pension, he served with the 1st Battalion (57th/77th) between 1949 and 1952 during the Korean War.

CHARLES—On September 8, 1970, ex-Pte. Stanley Walter Charles (PW/3509), aged 70. He enlisted in June 1915, adding the necessary years to his age to answer the appeal of Col. John Ward, MP, who was recruiting to raise the 25th (Garrison) Battalion in the North London district of Hornsey. In July 1915 he was drafted to the 10th (2nd Public Works Pioneers) Battalion during the build-up for the Somme battles. Very shortly afterwards he was in action with this Battalion and received a gun shot wound in his right shoulder which disabled his right arm to such an extent that he had to be discharged as medically unfit in October 1917. He was a great correspondent and his letters, which he typed with his left hand, contained a wealth of information about uniforms and the early days of the 25th Battalion. His last years were spent in Portsmouth, where he became a member of the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch. On his death his widow complied with his very last wish, which was that he should be buried in North London at Southgate. There he rests, with a cap badge of his beloved Regiment clasped in his hands.

HARPER—On June 28, 1970, Capt. John Lindley Harper. At the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he joined the Honourable Artillery Company and was later commissioned into the 2/9th Battalion. He eventually transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, and served in the BEF in France with a unit of this Corps until he was invalided home in 1918. By profession he was a chartered accountant and a partner in the London firm of Messrs. Dearden, Harper, Miller & Co.

HARRIS—On September 14, 1970, ex-Sgt. T. W. Harris (G/53). He enlisted in the 11th (Service) Battalion immediately on its formation in August 1914 and went with the Battalion to join the BEF in France in May 1915. On September 25, 1915, he went into action with the Battalion at the Battle of Loos, the first occasion in the 1914-18 war when "Service" Battalions took part in a set battle. Although a member of the Mill Hill Branch he had not, in recent years, attended many functions. His decease leaves another gap in the rank of the survivors of our senior Battalion of "Kitchener's Army".

HODDING—On June 8, 1970, at Fleet Hospital after an illness borne with great courage, Major George Wilberforce Petch Hoddling. He was one of the original officers of the 2/7th Battalion, join-

ing it on its formation in July 1939. He was commissioned as a Lieutenant, having already held a commission in the Indian Army for six years. In May 1942 he was appointed Second-in-Command and held that appointment until the end of the war. After the war he applied for, and was granted, an extended service commission and for a number of years served in extra-regimental employment until retiring to civilian life.

HOLLINGSWORTH—On August 7, 1970, ex-Pte. Walter Hollingsworth (L/10874), aged 83. He enlisted in the Regiment in 1905 and was posted to the 4th Battalion on completion of his recruit training. Five years later he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, then on foreign service, and continued in his employment as a company cook. During the 1914-18 war he served in this capacity both with the Battalion and at Divisional Headquarters. At the end of hostilities he took his discharge and, although without trading experience, soon prospered as a result of his natural business acumen. Whilst his good health held he regularly attended Regimental functions, gathering together his old 3rd Battalion veterans and showing his pleasure at doing so by generously supplying the drinks.

MACGREGOR—On August 7, 1970, ex-Pte. Thomas MacGregor (L/12596), aged 80. He enlisted in June 1909 and joined the 4th Battalion to complete his field training before being posted to the 3rd Battalion, then on foreign service. In September 1915 he was transferred to the Royal Norfolk Regiment and served with that Regiment until January 1916 when he was posted to the Essex Regiment. In May 1916 he was posted to the Suffolk Regiment and served with that Regiment until his discharge on medical grounds in February 1918. He was an In-Pensioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and was buried at the London Necropolis, Brookwood, where so many old Chelsea Pensioners are laid to rest.

NUNN—On August 17, 1970, Major Frederick James Nunn, aged 82. He enlisted into the 16th Lancers at Aldershot in 1907, later moving to the Curragh where his regiment was stationed at the outbreak of the 1914-18 war. He was commissioned into the Regiment on February 6 1916, and posted to the 17th (Footballers') Battalion. In 1917 he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery in the field. After the 1914-18 war he was posted to the 1st Battalion and served with that Battalion until his retirement in 1929.

During the 1939-45 war he served as an Administrative Officer in the 9th Battalion. After the war he returned to civilian life in Surrey. In 1950 he moved to Cheveley, near Newmarket, where he took an active part in the local branch of the British Legion. He was the local Poppy Day organiser for 16 years. Last year he was awarded the Legion's Gold Badge for his services. He was a member of the Cambridge branch of the "Old Contemptibles Association" and had been president for several years.

PERCY-SMITH—On October 19, 1970, peacefully in hospital, Margery Helen, widow of Lt.-Col. D. C. Percy-Smith, DSO, OBE.

SMITH—On September 4, 1970, ex-Lt. (RNVR) Joseph Bernard Smith (6197002), aged 64. He enlisted in the Regiment in December 1925 and the following year was posted to the 2nd Battalion then serving in India. He remained with this Battalion for the remainder of its foreign tour and returned with it to the United Kingdom in December 1931. A year later he transferred to the Army Reserve. He was recalled to the Colours in September 1939, but was discharged as medically unfit in 1941. He volunteered for service with the Royal Navy in September 1939 and, to his great surprise, not only was he accepted but he was also granted a temporary commission. As a naval officer he was one of the first to return to France in the Normandy invasion; later he was present at the final operations in the Far East. He retired from the Royal Navy at the end of hostilities in 1945. A regular correspondent, who travelled all the way from Blackpool to attend as many regimental functions as he could, he will be sadly missed by a host of old comrades.

SPIVEY—On August 12, 1970, ex-Pte. Les Spivey. When the TA was re-formed after the 1914-18 war he served for many years in the 9th Battalion and afterwards in an honorary capacity in connection with the Battalion Rifle Club. He was a very keen shot and he put in many hours at the Musket-ry Camps at Purfleet and elsewhere helping young soldiers in the science of shooting. In addition he and his wife ably organised the popular "Good Luck" Shoot held every year in the 9th Battalion at Christmas time. He suffered a set-back in his health in 1963, and this was followed two years later by the amputation of a leg.

TEMPLAR-SMITH—On September 6, 1970, Col. Sir Harold Templar-Smith, KBE, DL, LL.D. He was Chairman of the Gas Council from 1952 to 1960, and President of the Institute of Gas Engineers in 1937-38. He was appointed a deputy lieutenant, Middlesex, in 1943 and Greater London in 1955.

During the 1939-45 war he was a prominent member of the Middlesex Home Guard, and he had been a member of the Regimental Officers' Club for some years.

TODMAN—On July 28, 1970, ex-CSM Arthur Todman, aged 73. "Toddy", as he was known to all his friends, enlisted into the 9th Battalion (TA) in 1913 and, on mobilisation in 1914, went with the Battalion to India, subsequently serving in the special expedition to Persia and Mesopotamia. After five years abroad on war service he returned home and was discharged. When the TA was re-formed after the war "Toddy" again joined up and became one of the stalwarts of the 9th Battalion.

He was selected by his Battalion as the model for the silver statuette, which now adorns the Officers Mess at Edgware. It serves as a memorial not only to the 9th Battalion but also to "Toddy", who was one of the most loyal members either our Regiment or our Association has ever had. He was, in fact, the epitome of loyalty, and he served his old Battalion faithfully and well right up to the time of his death.

WHITLOCK—On October 9, 1970, at his home Lt. Harold Shirley Whitlock, aged 72. He was commissioned into the Regiment on April 7, 1916, and promoted to Lieutenant on October 7, 1917. There is, unfortunately, no regimental record of his service during the 1914-18 war. Afterwards he was posted to the 4th Battalion and he served with that Battalion until his retirement in 1922.



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the period May 1, 1970, to August 31, 1970, the sum of £632 14s. 6d. was expended from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 45 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Messrs. D. C. Barr, B. A. Crawley, F. Firman, R. E. C. Jewell, M. G. Jones and A. V. Semark.

War Memorial Fund

As a result of the customary collection made at the 2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner on October 2 in aid of the War Memorial Fund the sum of £25 1s. 0d. was handed to the Secretary, which he gratefully acknowledges.

Grand Concert, Kneller Hall

A total of 29 members and their families attended a Grand Concert at Kneller Hall on Wednesday, August 26, 1970, under arrangements made by the Regimental Association.

For the first time since organised parties had been arranged for these concerts the seats allocated to us were poor, since they were located so far back that it was difficult to hear the Band.

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Church Service at Royal Hospital, Chelsea

A party of about 50 members and their families, headed by the Deputy Colonel and Mrs. Clayton, attended a Church Service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Sunday, September 27.

Prior to the Service our Old Comrades, under the command of Major R. W. J. Smith, and with the Association Standard carried by Mr. L. R. Johnson, were inspected by the Deputy Governor, Major-General Sir Nigel Tapp, KBE, CB, DSO.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. R. A. W. Hambly, CF, who had been Chaplain to our 1st Battalion in Gibraltar.

After the service an excellent buffet lunch was provided in the Pensioners' Club.

Annual Reunion

The annual reunion was again held this year at Porchester Hall, Queensway. It took place on Saturday, October 3, and whereas last year we had bumper attendance of 880 this year the attendance dropped to 273—almost, if not quite, the lowest on record. Admittedly, last year the attendance was exceptional in view of the number of regimental functions which took place during that weekend, and the fact that a reasonably large contingent from 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment was present. Nevertheless, there were many familiar faces missing this year, whom so many would wish to have seen.

There is little doubt that those who came along this year thoroughly enjoyed their evening out, and it is to be hoped that next year our numbers will at least increase to the average of between 400 and 500.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

How sad we all are to learn of Major-General Man's resignation as Deputy Colonel and, equally, of the ill-health of Mrs. Man. As a Branch we extend our grateful thanks for all they have done for us and our very sincere wishes for the speedy improvement of Mrs. Man's health—coupled with a long, happy and richly deserved retirement.

At the same time we offer our congratulations to Col. Aymar Clayton on his appointment as Deputy Colonel, and in wishing him every success, we record our assurance of loyal support in all he undertakes.

Since our last letter, a number of successful outings have taken place, enabling many "Old Comrades" of all branches to get together and enjoy themselves—to name Blenheim, Bassingbourn, Kneller Hall and Porchester Hall are but a few—and at Hornsey we have had a couple of dances which have been thoroughly enjoyable, although marred by the poor attendance of actual "Die-Hards" members, other than the "Old Faithfuls"—our thanks to these for their support and also to Joan and Bert Mellor who are always busy working at these functions, as well as Bert's enthusiasm in organising them.

It would be nice to see more of you at Hornsey on our Wednesday "Sessions". I am sure you would enjoy yourselves and at the same time give us some ideas for functions which you would like organised and which you would be willing to support. Many of you live within walking distance and those of you who do not could write to us occasionally and

give us news. I hope by the time the next letter is due I have heard from many of you. We were sorry to learn that Jed Mulcahy was ill and wish him a speedy recovery and our sincere wishes also go to Len Johnson who is shortly going into hospital.

Best wishes to you all.

LES HOSSLEN

MILL HILL BRANCH

No sooner do we read the current issue of the Newsletter than on the table is a letter from the editor, asking for the next contribution. There is an essay which says, "When needs must, the devil drives." I make no further comment in case Old Nick, or one of his environs, produces a forked trident to stress a point—or three!

In the last Branch notes I mentioned a number of members living outside the United Kingdom—or disunited kingdom if you live in Belfast—they are now augmented by our serving soldier members in Berlin with the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment. All appear to be in good fettle and enjoying their soldiering. It will be mighty cold for them when this letter is published as I gather the winter in Berlin even prevents brass monkeys from leaving the house. Before the cold weather sets in they are off to Holstein for training. One of my old tomes says of the Holsteiners, "It has been observed that the Holsteiners are more like the English than any people of Europe. A traveller who was at Flansburgh in 1632, says, amongst other things, 'I put myself to mark the carriage of the Holstein gentlemen, as they were going in and coming out of the Parliament House, and, observing well their physiognomies, their complexions and gait, I thought verily I was in England; for they resemble the English more than either Welsh, or Scot—though cohabiting upon the same island—or any other people I saw yet; which makes me verily believe that the English nation came first from this lower circle of Saxony. And there is one thing that strengthens me in this belief, that there is an ancient town hard by, called Lunden, and an island called Anglia'. I hope my son sees these folk as, soon, we'll be able to tell an Englishman by how he wears his turban.

Major Johnny Bull, MM, who was the Armourer to our 1st Battalion during the campaign in Hong Kong is now back from the Orient. He called in to see me, and pay his subs, making inquiries about old friends. By the time you chaps read this, he will, no doubt, have caught up with many of our veterans of the fight in December 1941. Another veteran member, Tom Boswell, who lost an arm at Neuve Chapelle, March 1915, has been *hors de combat* for the last few months, as has May, who looks after him so well. I trust that by now they are fit and their normal cheery selves.

A number of our "country members" managed to meet at the 2/7th Battalion dinner in the Victory Club on October 2. They were Slim Thorn, Allan McShorne, Topper Brown (53) and Bill "Taffy" Jones. Another of our members present at the dinner was Major Geoffrey Bower, who belies his 82 summers—and winters—by still putting in a day's toil to earn the dripping to put on the daily crust.

The evening following, a number of our members renewed acquaintance at Porchester Hall during the Annual Reunion. Those two old friends of 53 years ago when they were in the Corps of Drums together

before going to North Russia in April 1919, George Pocock and Harry Poulter, had a minor reunion, whilst Harry's sons and their wives joined in the tilting of beer-mugs. Jeff Haward, MM, took time off from his job as Mine Host of the "Golden Lion", to join us: a noble effort on a Saturday evening. Syd Turner must have been nursing his latest great-grandchild as he was absent from parade. Brewer Drane was in great form and busy hunting for any of our regimental musicians. Brewer is our chief contact man for "ex-badgies", keeping up a regular correspondence with so many. Charlie Brust, MM, had an additional reason to celebrate. He was enjoying his 78th birthday. However, he was not boasting of his age as we had our earliest enlisted Die-Hard with us, Cliff Baldry, now approaching his ninety-third birthday, who was moving his boots up and down again, in South Africa 74 years ago (1896) when he was with the Die-Hards at Wynberg. He told me he doesn't nip around so smartly as he used to do. I assured him I fully understood. Pongo Rodgers produced a photograph of the grave of one of our Peninsular War officers, General Bradshaw, in Kensal Green cemetery, adjacent to that of the Duke of Cambridge, whilst George Chandler showed me the photograph, taken at Arnhem Military Cemetery, of the grave of 14424606 Cpl. S. J. Fry, of our 8th Battalion, 90 years separating the two deaths. I hope this talk of cemeteries does not appear morbid. It only proves that our Regiment is still as interested in our forebears as we are in our contemporaries.

This introduces my closing paragraph. Do come and visit us on the last Saturday of the month, except December. Unlike cemeteries, which have walls and iron railings around them—dunno why; those inside cannot get out and those outside don't want to take up residence—the Drill Hall has a door which opens, with joy, to welcome any old Die-Hard and his family whatever your vintage or length of service.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

I open my notes with the sad news of the death of Syd Charles. He was a member of the Edgware Branch until he transferred to Pompey in 1968. He attended the St. Paul's Memorial Service although he was then in failing health and he always attended the Branch meetings when his health allowed. We extend our sincere condolences to Mrs. Charles. I am pleased to say that Mrs. Charles has accepted Honorary Membership of the Branch and so we hope to see her at various functions.

We are pleased to extend a welcome to two new members: (1) Sam Shawyer ex-2/8th Battalion, and (2) Mr. McDowall ex-2nd Battalion.

Sam Shawyer lives at Haslemere and will find it difficult to attend our Branch Meetings but he has promised to attend our AGM. We picked up Sam on our way to the Annual Reunion, and I must say what a grand day it turned out to be. We managed to visit the Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle and then went on to St. Paul's Cathedral. We finally arrived at Porchester Hall ready and willing for a good evening and this we certainly had.

Mr. McDowall attended our Branch meeting on October 13. All you 2nd Battalion people will remember him as the Battalion's light heavy-weight. We've now got someone to keep Lofty Low in his

place. Lofty managed to win the raffle, a beer mug and a can of beer. I am sure he will forget his temperance for this one occasion.

We were sorry that Len West was unable to attend the Annual Reunion and the Branch meeting due to his heavy duties with the British Legion but he has asked me to send respects to all his old friends.

May I take this opportunity of wishing all our friends a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

BERT HASTIE

2/7th BATTALION BRANCH

The 25th Annual Dinner of the Branch took place at the Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2, on Friday, October 2, 1970.

There were 55 members present and it was a great pleasure once again to have Lt.-Col. Stanley Mirams as President. He certainly looked very well indeed and we trust that he will continue to enjoy good health.

During the dinner, in accordance with the usual custom, a collection was made, as a result of which the handsome sum of £25 1s. od. was handed over to the Secretary of the Regimental Association, to be placed to the credit of the War Memorial Fund.

9th BATTALION BRANCH

In the last *Newsletter* information was given that Mr. Arthur Todman had entered hospital, and at the end of the Notes the Editor had inserted that dear old Toddy had died. As the notes were going to the press, nothing more could be added of his death at the time. The late CSM A. Todman died in Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, on July 29, 1970, at the age of 73. The cremation took place at the Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip, on July 30. A large number of his old comrades attended, including the Secretary of the Association, Col. F. Walden, Col. H. W. W. Gray and Major H. Sherwood. Our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Dorothy, his daughter, Joyce, and his son, David.

Soon after this, information was sent to Col. F. Walden that RQMS V. A. Tite had died on July 12. A letter expressing the sympathy of the Association was sent to his wife. Unfortunately, owing to the news of his death arriving some time after it had happened, the Association was not represented at his funeral nor were any floral tributes sent.

Then on August 12 we learnt of the passing of Les Spivey at his home. Again, our deepest sympathy goes to his wife, Rose. At his cremation at Hendon Park Cemetery NW4 on August 19, a very large number of his colleagues attended including Col. H. W. W. Gray who represented the Association, his old commanding officer, Col. J. R. Doyle, and Ted Lockyer, one of his great friends who travelled from Cheshire to be present.

Another sad loss was hearing of the death of Major Frederick J. Nunn, MC, who passed away on

August 17 at the age of 82 years, at his home in Newmarket. A letter expressing our deepest regrets from the Branch, was sent to his daughter, Una.

On Tuesday, October 27, a memorial service was held at the beautiful old St. Andrew's Church at East Hagbourne near Didcot, Berks., to the late Major F. Findlay, and in the congregation of his many friends and relatives were Col. H. W. W. Gray and Major H. K. Hardcastle. At the wedding of Major Findlay, Major Hardcastle had acted as his best man.

The social functions, which the Association projected since the last issue of the *Newsletter*, have been well received, especially the Church Parade at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, which was on Sunday, September 27. Here we met our old Chelsea Pensioner, C/Sgt. C. King and had a good yarn with him and his colleagues in their Mess.

We have heard from one of our staunch supporters, Major T. A. Barton, that he is leaving his Kingsbury home and proceeding to Bluntisham on his retirement. We thank him for his help in the past, we shall miss his figure, but we wish him and Mrs. Barton happy times and good health in their new home.

In closing may we again remind you of the Annual Reunion and Dinner of this Branch, which will take place at the Victory Club (Ex-Services), Seymour Street, W2, on Saturday, May 22, 1971. Our best wishes and good health to all.

R. T. M.

2nd BATTALION (77th) (JUNE 1918—APRIL 1919) REUNION

As far as we are able to trace this is the first time that this intimate little gathering has been reported either in the Regimental Journal or this *Newsletter*. This reunion is always held on or about October 17, the anniversary of the capture of Douai by the 2nd Battalion in 1918, and it is a wonderful tribute to the President (Brigadier E. E. F. Baker, who was commanding the Battalion at that time) and the Honorary Secretary (The Rev. A. Montgomery Mann, who was a captain in the Battalion) that it has been held every year since the end of the 1914-18 war, although with the passage of time, the numbers attending inevitably grow smaller each year.

This year the reunion took place on Friday, October 16, at the Casa Prada Club, 33 Borough High Street, London SE1.

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker presided and the guests of the evening were Col. F. Walden, Secretary of the Regimental Association, and Major R. W. J. Smith, Curator of the Regimental Museum.

Others present were:

Lt.-Col. G. E. Carter, Major P. C. Brooker, The Rev. A. Montgomery Mann, Captain H. B. Birdwood, ex-S/Sgt. S. Weller (guest), ex-Sgt. A. H. Wallace.

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