



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 16

NOVEMBER 1971

PRICE 6p

Editor: Col. F. WALDEN, M.B.E., 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

57th Anniversary of the Battle of Mons

The annual pilgrimage to Mons was well supported this year, a total of 27 forming the coach party and five others, already on holiday in Belgium, joining up for the ceremonies on August 23, the 57th anniversary of this great, historic battle. The senior member of the party was Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, accompanied by Mrs. Clayton, whilst the oldest member was Bill Bishop, formerly 1st Battalion, who is now in his 87th year.

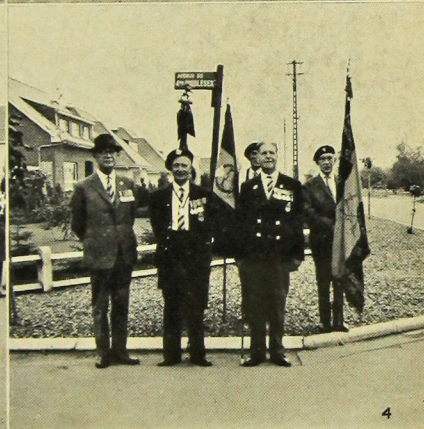
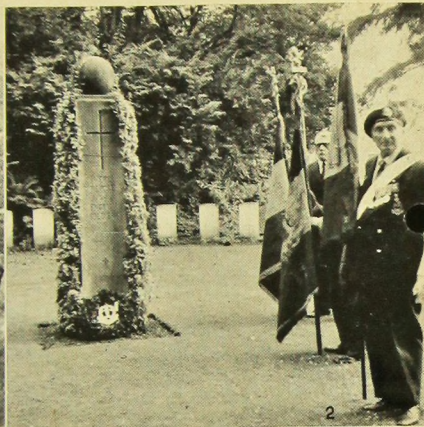
The party arrived at Ostend on the afternoon of August 21 where they were met by Major Dick Smith, who had gone over previously to fix the accommodation, and our good friend M. Charles Ottevaere, the Secretary of the Friends of the Middlesex Regiment in Mons.

Early on the morning of Monday, August 23, a small party of four went by taxi to Obourg where a little ceremony was held at 8 a.m. at the railway station where the first shots of the Battle of Mons were fired by "D" Company of the 4th Battalion in 1914 at that hour. In charge of this party was Major Dick Smith, who was accompanied by Mr. Jim Abell, the son of the late Major W. H. Abell who, as Officer Commanding "A" Company, 4th Battalion, was the first officer of the Regiment to be killed in the 1914-18 war, and Messrs. Arthur Matthews and Charlie Ashby, who were both serving in the 4th Battalion in 1914 and took part in the battle.

On their return, the small party from Obourg joined up with the regimental party and that of our Belgian comrades assembling at Mons railway station. From the station the whole party went by coach to the Avenue 4th Middlesex, a crescent-shaped thoroughfare named by the citizens of Mons in honour of the Regiment. On arrival, the party debussed and formed up and, with the Association Standard borne by Bob Ferguson at the head of the parade and with various standards of the Anciens Combattants Belgique, marched the length of the road before returning to the main square in Mons.

The next parade was at 11 a.m. when the party joined up with the visiting contingent of Old Contemptibles outside the Hotel de Ville and went to the Belgian Memorial to the dead of two world wars, where a wreath was laid on behalf of the Regiment by the Deputy Colonel. From there the party marched to the Belfry, where a wreath was laid by the Deputy Colonel on the British Memorial commemorating the two Battles of Mons—those of 1914 and 1918.

After this ceremony the party returned to the Hotel de Ville where the Regimental flag was flying proudly next to that of the City of Mons. Here the civic dignitaries held a reception at which toasts were drunk and reciprocal speeches made. A note of sadness was felt during the reception by those members



1 Mr. J. M. Abell standing beside the grave of his father, the late Major W. H. Abell, in St. Symphorien Cemetery.

2 The German memorial to the 'Royal Middlesex Regiment' in St. Symphorien Cemetery, showing the wreath laid by Mr. J. M. Abell. On the right is our standard bearer, Mr. R. H. Ferguson.

3 The scene at the Belgian War Memorial as the banners of the Old Contemptibles and our Association are lowered in salute to the Belgian dead of two World wars.

4 On completion of the march along the Avenue du 4th Middlesex. From left to right in front of the standard bearers, Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Mr. C. Ashby and Mr. B. C. Trott.

5 The parties assembling for the final Ceremony at Otour railway station.

(Photos by Mrs. Barbara Clayton)

of the party who had attended the ceremonies in recent years. This was the absence of M. Freddie Carlier, who had been the Chef de Cabinet to the Burgomaster since our official visits started, and who had died shortly after last year's visit. He was a great friend to the Regiment and his cheery smile was much missed by all who knew him.

The next parade of the day was at 4 p.m. when the party left for the beautiful military cemetery at St. Symphorien. Here the regimental wreath was placed by Mr. James Abell at the foot of the memorial to 'The Royal Middlesex Regiment' erected by the German Army in 1916. Another wreath was then placed by Mr. Abell on his father's grave whilst the final ceremony at the cemetery was the placing of a floral tribute at the memorial by Mrs. Barbara Clayton in memory of her uncle, Capt. J. E. Knowles, who as Second in Command of "A" Company, 4th Battalion, was killed a few hours after Major Abell.

From St. Symphorien the party travelled to Obourg for the final parade of the day. Here, with standards flying, we marched over the canal bridge, defended by "D" Company in 1914, and on to our regimental memorial on the wall of the railway station where the plaque stands to commemorate the firing of the first shots of the battle and the heroism of the unknown, gallant Die-Hard who alone held the post until killed, thus enabling his comrades time to fall back to new positions. This may be the last time that the area is the same as it was in 1914, since reconstruction is due to take place in the near future.

After the placing of the wreaths by the Burgomaster and our Deputy Colonel, the parade, British and Belgian in one mixed body, marched back under the command of Major Smith to the Town Hall, paying compliments to the Burgomaster and our Deputy Colonel en route.

At the Town Hall toasts were drunk and reciprocal speeches made, followed by a visit to the "local"—a gesture made by our Belgian friends in appreciation of "Tommy's" habit of calling in for a drink after the day's work is done.

Those who were present at the various ceremonies this year found them, as usual, most moving and came home with the firm intention that the pilgrimage should continue. If this is to be so it must be supported by the younger generation of Die-Hards since those who fought in the battle in 1914 are getting thin on the ground.

Free Newsletters

The Editor wishes to thank Col. I. H. Battye, MBE, Mr. D. G. Bennett, Mr. T. R. Bennett, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, OBE, Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD, Major G. G. Norton, Col. R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, CBE, TD, DL, and Mr. L. C. West for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving old comrades.

VISIT TO 3 QUEEN'S IN NORTHERN IRELAND

This visit was carried out by Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment, on October 7 and 8, 1971, on behalf of and at the request of the Colonel of the Regiment.

The following are some notes which he has made as a result of this visit.

My plane was delayed by fog at Heathrow for some two hours so we did not touch down until about 1245 hrs. Major J. R. Stephenson, Battalion 2IC, was on the same plane and made his number with me before take-off. He had been over for a few days in order to find the married quarters position at Tidworth to which the Battalion moves just before Christmas on finishing their tour in Northern Ireland, and to discuss the problem of the Colours Presentation Parade on the ground with the Colonel of the Regiment.

The staff car whisked us to Battalion Tactical HQ in Belfast where I was met by the Commanding Officer, Lt.-Col. Ken Dodson, and promptly ushered into the Tactical HQ Sergeants Mess for a drink and a quite excellent curry luncheon. I met and spoke to a great number of Warrant Officers and Sergeants, some of whom had been called in from Company locations, and I was particularly pleased to meet Pte. David Bennett, whose award of the BEM had been announced the previous day and of which I had read in the *Evening Standard* that evening. Tactical HQ is located in an old-mill-cum-factory and clearly was not the most salubrious location—yet everything had been jazzed and tarted up with silver, pictures and creature comforts in both Officers and Sergeants Messes. I got, from the instant I walked in, the clear impression that this Battalion was not prepared to live in any old state and insisted on making the best of the most difficult conditions—all most heartening and encouraging.

After luncheon I changed into uniform and various missing bits—such as beret, stable belt and bullet-proof waistcoat—were kindly loaned to me by C.S.M. Moody. Alas, I had to let out the stable belt rather more than I had anticipated although I hasten to add that C.S.M. Moody has a sylph-like figure!

Then Major Stephenson took me on a tour of Company locations. We moved in two Land-Rovers in each of which were two men standing on the rear platform with their weapons very much at the alert.

Our first port of call was "B" Company where I was met by the smiling face of Major Mike Hayward whose Company "mothers" the Peace Line. I met many of his officers and men and did a detailed trip around their accommodation. Again, as at Tactical HQ, they were not prepared to live in squalor and the whole place had been made as homely and cheerful as possible. I was amazed to find, as in all the other Company locations, that there was a discotheque to which the local lasses were invited three or four times a week. I was pleased to hear that the lasses who turned up for these functions came from both sides of this ridiculous "religious curtain" and mucked in happily together. I asked how the Company could be certain that some foul device had not been hidden by these girls in their handbags and so on—I got the expected devious answer to a devious question and this answer was confirmed by the various "trophies" I saw later on display. I went no

Peter McRae

& COMPANY LIMITED

Life Assurance Consultants
Insurance and Mortgage Brokers

14-16 West Street, East Grinstead,
Sussex

Telephone: East Grinstead 25977

Did you know that besides protecting your family, life assurance can assist in other fields, such as education, house purchase, pension, and estate duty? We specialise in the needs of service personnel and would be pleased to advise.

We make no charges

We also have departments specialising in other forms of general insurances which are at your service

further, as I knew the Company knew the form and knew the answers—but it was an amusing side issue. I cannot in these columns describe these “trophies” other than to say that they formed part of accepted female apparel!

We then visited Major Peter Hiscock's Company—again in strange surrounds but, again, the Company “knew its stuff” and has made the most of things.

Lastly, that afternoon I called on Major Tony McManus and looked around his cohort. His task was different to the others but the same air of confidence, ability to arise over any difficulties and determination to make the most of things were identical to the other Companies.

I should add that I was most interested in the food aspects and I was delighted to see the splendid grub and the variety which was provided by the cooks almost around the clock. They have a most difficult task but provided a most acceptable, plentiful, varied and palatable solution—and with a smile. Their efforts were clearly much appreciated.

On my return, around 1815 hrs., to Tactical HQ I discovered that the Commanding Officer had arranged a Guest Night to which all available officers had been invited plus, to my delight, their Deputy Brigade Commander (Col. Nick Carter) and the GSO 1 (Plans and Operations N. Ireland Command)—Lt.-Col. Anthony Millen, 5th R. Inniskilling Dragoon Guards, and lately, when I was in Hong

Kong in May, Commanding Officer The Royal Hong Kong Regiment. Unfortunately, at the very last minute Lt.-Col. Millen had to cry off as some unprintable superior had placed an awkward conundrum on his plate for immediate action.

We partook of a superb dinner in candlelight and amid some lovely silver as if we had been back in barracks.

After dinner the Commanding Officer, Col. Carter and I set forth on the rounds of Company locations, Police posts, adjacent posts of nearby units and so on.

We moved again in two Land-Rovers with our armed escorts standing in the back but this time augmented by the RSM, WO1 Morris who, I am delighted to report, is to be commissioned shortly to a Short Service Combatant Commission.

We went around, including “A” Company (Major McManus), where some rude fellow had thrown a small bomb some half-hour after our departure in the afternoon. Then a report came in of another bang and the suspicion that there was also another bomb—unexploded—lying nearby. Off we dashed but we were put out to find this unexploded bomb had been dealt with before our arrival.

We eventually returned to Tactical HQ around 0100 hrs. and soon afterwards there was an almighty bang. However, this took place outside the Battalion area—it could have been the bang that fixed some water supplies of which I read in the papers next day, but I might be wrong.

About 0130 hrs. Col. Carter departed for his Brigade HQ and I retired to bed leaving the Commanding Officer and his Battalion 2IC to discuss married quarters in Tidworth and the Colours Parade—until, I believe, well after 0300 hrs.

Next morning the Commanding Officer, accompanied by Major Christopher Dunphie who is Commanding “R” Company, 3rd Royal Green Jackets (and under command 3 Queen's) and myself, set forth for Abercorn Barracks, Ballykinkier.

On arrival, I changed from civilian clothes into uniform (again assisted by the provision of some accoutrements but this time provided by Lt.-Col. Dodson as opposed to CSM Moody) and visited the Sergeants Mess for a drink and a natter. I met many Warrant Officers and Sergeants, including several “late Middlesex” ones, most of whom were members of the Band. Eventually, we returned to the Commanding Officer's house where he and his wife arranged a most delightful luncheon party at which General Sir John and Lady Anderson (whom I had not met for 30 years), Mrs. Pauline McManus and Mrs. Hubert were fellow guests. A most enjoyable interlude which goes to show that Lt.-Col. Dodson had gone to tremendous trouble in finding out that the Andersons and Claytons were friends of long standing and it was a kind thought also to produce two “late Middlesex” wives.

After luncheon I toured barracks, met the Guard saw and heard the Band making impressive and tuneful noises, visited the Signals Cadre, the MT, etc., etc. It is interesting to note that the defence of the rear base is virtually in the hands of the Band (plus four dogs and their handlers—Queensmen, of course) and they are, I can assure everyone, “on the ball” and there is no nonsense at all. The Bandmaster had only arrived some 10 days before my visit and he ob-

viously had been thrown in at the deep end—but no matter—he has taken it all in his stride and, in addition, I gather he will be of great assistance to the Battalion rugby team!

I then changed back into mufti, returning borrowed things whence they came, and set forth for the Airport via Tactical HQ where the Commanding Officer took up the reins once again from his 2IC.

I eventually arrived home around midnight, the plane having been delayed for an hour, the electric unloading gear at Heathrow having packed in, my taxi driver going like a jehu, my train from Liverpool Street Station having been switched from its usual platform (so that I missed it), then getting into the wrong train on Platform 17 (having no IO to guide my steps) and, finally, finding a friendly Irishman in this train who told me where to get off in order to get on the correct train at the next stop.

To summarise: A first-rate professional Battalion of which we can all be supremely proud, really high-grade leadership at all levels from Commanding Officer down to each Patrol Commander, no fuss and no bother as everyone knows his job backwards, every soldier, including the most recently joined, is alert, confident and most cheerful and, what is more, the families are being well looked after, kept informed and kept entertained to the best of everyone's ability—not least of all by Mrs. Dodson, the Commanding Officer's wife, who is doing a splendid job in very difficult circumstances.

You may rest assured that our traditions, our beliefs and our spirit are carried on, without diminution, by our successors, The Queen's Regiment.

I left 3 Queen's with a very full but most happy heart.

PETS' GRAVES IN INGLIS BARRACKS

During the reconstruction work in progress at Inglis Barracks it has come to light that stones with the following inscriptions have been erected in the past over the graves of dogs buried on the other side of the hedge behind the War Memorial:

Mike — 27 Jan '37.
Hamish — A faithful heart—28 Oct. '47.
Smut — A faithful friend—29 Nov. '47.

If any reader knows to whom any of these pets belonged it would be appreciated if he would send details to the Editor.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY Autumn Meeting 1971

A most happy and successful meeting was held in beautiful weather on the course of the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Friday, October 8, when a total of 18 took part.

It was very encouraging that we were able to welcome four new players—Major Stanley Pinks, who served in the 2nd Battalion PL Kensington Regiment with Lt.-Col. John Worton; and is a staunch member of our Regimental Association and Officers' Club; Mr. Eddie Johnson, one of our 7th Battalion

veterans; and Mesdames Clayden and Matthews. In addition, we were delighted that Major Dick Bellers, now that he has retired, can find the time to take part.

The chief feature of the meeting was the success of young Howard Clayden, the nine-year-old son of Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden, who figured very prominently amongst the prize-winners. He is undoubtedly a most promising young golfer and will go far if he is properly coached.

The detailed results of the various competitions were as follows:

Singles Medal Comp—Scratch and Handicap

	Gross	H/cap	Net
Mr. C. D. Matthews (winner, scratch)	90	10	80
Mr. T. F. Jones (runner-up, scratch)	90	8	82
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (runner-up, handicap)	91	18	73
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	93	16	77
Mr. M. R. T. Walden	93	12	81
Major A. R. Bisset	95	11	84
Capt. R. J. Tarrant	100	24	76
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	103	20	83
Master Howard Clayden (winner handicap and Horton Cup)	106	36	70
Mr. H. J. Chillery	106	17	89
Major R. C. H. Bellers	113	20	93
Mr. E. Johnson	126	24	102
Mrs. C. N. Clayden (Divot)	142	36	106
Mr. A. G. Torrie	NR	14	NR
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle	NR	15	NR
Major S. R. Pinks	NR	18	NR
Col. I. R. Burrows	NR	24	NR
Mrs. C. D. Matthews	NR	36	NR

Bogey Foursomes

	Score
Lt.-Col. C. N. and Master Howard Clayden (winners, Pinks Cup)	All Square
Major S. R. Pinks and Capt. R. J. Tarrant (runners up)	2 down
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle and Mrs. C. D. Matthews	3 down
Mr. T. F. Jones and Mr. A. G. Torrie	5 down
Major A. R. Bisset and Major R. C. H. Bellers	6 down
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey and Mrs. C. D. Matthews	7 down
Mr. E. Johnson and Mr. M. R. T. Walden	8 down
Col. I. R. Burrows and Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	9 down
Mr. H. J. Chillery and Mrs. C. N. Clayden	9 down

Hidden Holes Competition

	Net Score
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (winner)	29
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and Mr. T. F. Jones (runners-up, tied)	30
Major A. R. Bisset	31
Mr. C. D. Matthews	32
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	32
Capt. R. J. Tarrant	35
Mr. M. R. T. Walden	36
Master Howard Clayden	36
Mr. H. J. Chillery	39
Major R. C. H. Bellers	42
Mr. E. Johnson	43
Mrs. C. N. Clayden	45

At the conclusion of the meeting we were very grateful, indeed, to Mrs. “Tossie” Worton for so kindly presenting the prizes.

Regimental Museum

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

The following are recent acquisitions for the museum:

Medals, etc. of the late Col. W. A. Stewart, OBE.
Medals of the late Major H. E. Foster.
Maps, photographs, etc. of Messines, June 1917.
Group of medals of L/5866 RSM W. J. Longley, DCM.

MEDALS, ETC. OF THE LATE COL. W. A. STEWART, OBE.

Group of medals
Belt unions
Full dress tunic
Shako plate from the Field of Inkerman
57th cross belt plate
Fragment of the Colours carried at Inkerman
Embroidered regimental badge
Two letters written during the Boer War
Scrap-book of press cuttings, etc. 1924-28, the period of Col. Stewart's Command.

The nine decorations and medals are very interesting as they cover the three major wars of this century. The OBE; Queen's South Africa Medal; King's South Africa Medal; 1914-15 Star; British War Medal 1914-1918; Victory Medal 1914-1919; Defence Medal 1939-45; War Medal 1939-45 and Delhi Durbar Medal 1912. The Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Military Division) bears the monogram of King George V and was awarded for his service in World War I. The Queen's South Africa Medal has five clasps for "Cape Colony", "Tugela Heights", "Orange Free State", "Relief of Ladysmith" and "Transvaal", the King's South Africa has the two clasps "S. Africa 1901" and "S. Africa 1902" shown on all issued. The Queen's S.A. has the rank of Lieutenant inscribed on the rim, whilst the King's S.A. shows the rank of Captain. The 1914-15 Star, BWM and Victory Medal are the normal pattern, each inscribed with the rank of Major. The Defence and War Medals for 1939 are unnamed as is the Delhi Durbar Medal, the latter being awarded to him when he was Adjutant of the Rangoon Volunteer Rifles at the time of the Durbar.

The two belt unions are those worn on the white buff belts of the Regiment. The officers pattern 1881-1902 is interesting as it shows the arms of the County of Middlesex, one of the only two pieces of equipment so embossed. (The other was the officers cross-belt plate of the 57th as worn during the Peninsula War.) Belt buckles went out on the change of dress in 1902 when sword belts were worn under the tunic and red sashes worn around the waist over the tunic of officers. Other ranks continue to wear a universal pattern on a white plastic belt.

The red tunic is the regimental pattern, i.e. red with yellow facings and gold lace, with the insignia of a Lieutenant-Colonel on the epaulettes. Accompanying this tunic is a photograph of Col. Stewart

wearing it on one of the last occasions when "regimentals" were worn.

The 57th shako plate is that of the Grenadier Company as worn by other ranks on the Albert Shako during "The Soldiers Battle" at Inkerman, November 5, 1854, when the gallant Capt. Stanley encouraged his men calling on them "Remember Albuhera" and died at their head in a hand-to-hand fight against superior numbers of the enemy Russian columns. This badge was picked up on the Field of Inkerman in 1928 and presented to Col. Archie Stewart, then Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, "The Die-Hards".

Cross-belt plates were worn up to 1855 by the English Line, although retained by the Line of Scotland. The cross-belt plate presented is the all brass of the 57th as worn by the rank and file at the time of its abolition. It has embossed on a rectangular plate the number "57" with the honour Albuhera and wreath, and the St. Edward's crown.

Presented by Lt.-Col. Duncan Stewart and Mrs. Harold Phelps, son and daughter of the late Col. and Mrs. W. A. Stewart.

MEDALS OF THE LATE MAJOR H. E. FOSTER

The medals of Major Foster are the Queen's South Africa Medal with three clasps, "Tugela Heights", "Relief of Ladysmith" and "Cape Colony" and the Coronation Medal of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, June 26, 1902.

Major Hubert Edmond Foster was commissioned July 13, 1892, as Second-Lieutenant, promoted Lieutenant October 17, 1894, and Captain March 14, 1900, whilst in S. Africa with the 2nd Battalion, with which Battalion he was the Regimental Transport Officer during the fighting at Vaal Kranz, Spion Kop, Tugela Heights, Pieters Hill, Natal, Cape Colony and the Orange River. He left South Africa to join the newly formed 4th Battalion of the Regiment and was appointed its Adjutant, holding this post from May 22, 1900, until May 3, 1904. On termination of this appointment he was posted to the 1st Volunteer Battalion of the Regiment (later 7th (TF) Battalion) May 4, 1904, until February 29th, 1908, retiring on March 14, 1908, after having served 15 years and 8 months.

In 1914 he was recalled from the Reserve of Officers, joining the 11th Battalion, the first of our "New Army" Battalions with the rank of Major, August 20, 1914. In February 1915 he was posted to the Infantry Record Office, Hamilton, serving with the Scottish Command for the remainder of his active service.

Presented by Lt.-Col. Duncan Stewart and Mrs. Harold Phelps, son and daughter of the late Col. and Mrs. W. A. Stewart.

MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC., MESSINES, JUNE 1917

These most interesting items are concerned with the Battle of Messines June 7-14, 1917, of which the historian writes, "It would be difficult to point to a more successful limited attack during the Great War than to the operations between the 7th and 14th June, known as the Battle of Messines, 1917". The 23rd (Second Football) Battalion had the task of capturing the Damstrasse—or Damm Strasse—which it did brilliantly and with minimum casualties. For this operation, a model of the German trench systems and objectives assigned to the 41st Division was made by Lt. Cecil Thomas, 23rd Battalion, the eminent sculptor and friend of "Tubby" Clayton. The plan and model were inspected by Lord Plummer and staff who decided that all commanders down to Platoon Sergeants should view it. So highly regarded was it that Philip Gibbs referred to it in his history "From Bapaume to Paschendale". It is the two photographs of this model that are now in the archives, together with a number of items previously given by Henry Oxley, all concerning his beloved 23rd Battalion. The donor of the photographs is Cecil Thomas, now in his 86th year and as mentally alert as ever. His message pad contains the duplicate messages he sent to ASO3, 41 Div. which began at 4-7 a.m. when the Damm Strasse had been stormed and captured, and the last message timed 7 p.m., the messages between giving a running commentary of the battle.

Presented by Messrs. Cecil Thomas, OBE, FRBS, and Henry Oxley.

GROUP OF MEDALS OF L/5866, RSM W. J. LONGLEY, DCM.

The group consists of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, Queen's South Africa Medal, British War Medal, Victory Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. William Longley enlisted in 1899 and was posted to the 3rd Battalion on its formation in February 1900, under the command of Lt.-Col. E. V. Bellers, a 57th veteran of the Zulu War. The young soldier soon earned promotion after posting to St. Helena, guarding Boer prisoners, becoming a member of the Sergeants Mess in 1904.

At Middleburg, Transvaal, South Africa, in January 1905, he was one of the prize winners at the Annual Rifle Meeting, receiving half a sovereign for his score. When the British Army expanded in 1914, good instructors were required to train the recruits flocking to the Colours. The 3rd Battalion found many NCOs for those duties, Sgt. Longley being one of the chosen. As a WO2 (Company Sergeant-Major), he served with the 11th (Service) Battalion in the trenches and on January 1, 1918, put up the badge of rank of RSM, this appointment appearing in the War Diary. All his medals are named in this rank with the exception of the S. Africa medal which shows his rank as Corporal at the time of its issue to him after Church Parade, Sunday, June 5, 1904. His decoration

was awarded by the Commanding Officer, 11th Battalion, Lt.-Col. T. S. Wollocombe, MC, in the Battalion's final list of awards on its disbandment, February 1918, for his conduct in the trench warfare at Fleurbaix and Bois Grenier.

Presented by his nephew, Mr. Charles W. Longley.

Contributions not appearing in this issue will be acknowledged in the next Newsletter.

Hillings Ltd. FLORISTS

for Flowers, Plants, etc.

MEMBERS of INTERFLORA



*(Flowers by wire,
any time and any-
where throughout
the world)*

Phone: MILL HILL 1387

145 BROADWAY, MILL HILL, N.W.7

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

One of our old soldiers with whom we have gained contact recently after many years is E. G. Aird (6190609). He enlisted at Mill Hill in 1916 and, after completing his recruit training, he saw active service in France and finished the war with the 23rd (Second Footballers) Battalion. He afterwards signed on as a regular soldier and was posted to the 2nd Battalion at Shorncliffe. He served with that Battalion in Egypt, Singapore and India. Whilst in India he transferred to the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and rose to the rank of WO1 (Conductor). In 1942 he was commissioned and in 1947 he retired as a captain.

He now lives at Edmonton and has taken the opportunity of visiting the Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle.

Ex-Pte. S. W. Blyth, who served in the 12th (Service) Battalion during the 1914-18 war, is anxious to trace any member of a party, in particular the Sergeant in charge, who took part in a tunnelling operation under the German first line at Ypres. Since short men were required for this particular operation they were nicknamed "the Small Boys". The night before the operation was due to take place the Sergeant gave instructions to the effect that, if the engineers failed to arrive, they were to do the task themselves. Something went wrong, and just before the time set for the explosion the Germans fell into the tunnel with the result that Pte. Blyth was wounded and a number of others killed or wounded.

If any ex-member of the 12th Battalion has any knowledge of this incident it would be much appreciated if he would write to the Editor who will pass on the information.

In the Supplement to *The London Gazette* dated August 23, 1971, it was announced that Colonel A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, had relinquished the appointment of Honorary Colonel, 10th (T) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) on March 31, 1971, on reorganisation, and that he had been appointed Deputy Honorary Colonel, 6th (V) Battalion The Queen's Regiment on April 1, 1971, in a new appointment.

Congratulations to Lt. S. M. Dowse, now serving with 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment, on his promotion to Captain as from July 30 last.

We are glad to know that that staunch Die-Hard Sam Fuller (6200343) has recovered from his illness and has now settled down at Dymchurch, near Hythe in Kent.

He sends his best wishes to all old friends who have been enquiring after him.

An interesting veteran of the 7th Battalion who got in touch with us recently is ex-Sgt. C. L. Holton, MM (TF/1560) and TF/200105. He was a pre-1914 Territorial Force soldier and was originally in the band. When the Battalion went on active service he became a stretcher-bearer. Later he was a sniper, then a scout, and, finally, the Battalion Lewis Gun Sergeant.

He won his Military Medal in France in April 1917.

Len Johnson, the conscientious Honorary Secretary of the WOs and Sergeants Branch, caused us considerable anxiety recently when he was admitted once more to the Edgware General Hospital. There the "medics" seem to have found, at last, the cause of the trouble which had for some time been keeping him so much "under the weather", and the resulting operation appears to have been most successful.

All his friends are glad to see that Len is able again and looking fit and well.

A most pleasant surprise awaited us on September 1 last when, quite unannounced, ex-RSM "Rocky" Knight paid a visit to RHQ at Edgware. He had just returned from Canada and now proposes to settle down in Cornwall.

We are glad to note that ex-WO2 Pat Maloney is now making a good recovery after many months of illness and a major operation.

His many friends wish him well and look forward to seeing him again at our functions.

Serving with the Royal Air Force, Hendon, is Ft.-Lt. Harold McCone, who, 19 years ago, enlisted in the Regiment at Mill Hill and was allotted Army number 2002915. Soon after completing his recruit training he made the first of many moves, which have taken him in succession to the RAEC, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, the Rhodesian and Nyasaland Staff Corps, the Rhodesian Air Force and, lastly, the Royal Air Force. In spite of this formidable list of changes he declared quite recently that he still regarded himself as a Die-Hard.

On completion of his tour of duty on the Staff at HQ BAOR, Major Tony McManus was posted to 3 Queen's last July and is now serving as a Company Commander with that unit in Northern Ireland.

Lt.-Col. Francis Morgan retired on retired pay on October 2. We hope that, in spite of the fact that he will be living in Wales, he will be able to attend some of our functions.

On Saturday, October 23, the Reverend Peter Pearce Gould was married to Miss Carole Anne Hockridge at the Cathedral Church of St. Andrew, Wells, by the Right Reverend E. B. Henderson, DSc, Bishop of Bath and Wells.

We send them our very best wishes for their future happiness.

A faded note on a scrap of paper has sent the Post Office looking for a former Private of the 10th (Home Defence) Battalion. The note was found at the Post Office Research Centre at Dollis Hill, Finchley, recently. It was discovered tucked inside a 2½-ton armoured steel door of an old air-raid dug-out as it was being dismantled, and read:

"Air-raid dug-out. Private 8570 Joseph Antony Rosenthaler, 10th Middlesex Regt. at Dollis Hill Experimental Station GPO—7-10-40.

"My birthday—being 48 to-day.

"I wonder how many years it will take before this 2½-ton door in which I am depositing this note is broken up and this note found? I will give it 100 years".

The Post Office would like to trace Pte. Rosenthaler or his family so that they can return the note to him 70 years earlier than he forecast !!

(With acknowledgments to *The Evening Standard*)

As the health of that veteran 9th Battalion stalwart, Major Henry Sherwood, does not allow him to travel up to London from his home in Dorset, four of his comrades, who had served with him in the 9th Battalion in pre-1914 days, decided to motor down to Wimborne and visit him. They made the journey on Sunday, September 13, and after entertaining him and his wife to lunch and spending the rest of the day talking over old times, returned home, having given the greatest pleasure to their old Company Commander.

This act of kindness is a fine example of the wonderful spirit of true comradeship which exists in our Regiment.

Although the post of RO III at our County Office was made redundant as from October 1, it is a great relief to know that Major Dick Smith is to continue his dedicated service to the Regiment as Assistant Secretary of the Regimental Association. He will, in fact, be carrying on just as before, and we are all delighted that it has been possible to make this arrangement, for the County Office at Edgware would never be the same without him.

Brigadier John Stanyer, a former Adjutant to the 2nd Battalion in Palestine before transferring to

RAOC in 1947, has recently been appointed Commandant of the COD at Bicester.

Congratulations to Lt.-Col. J. G. Stevens, another of our officers who transferred to RAOC, on being granted the acting rank of Colonel on his recent appointment as Deputy Commander to the HQ RAOC Training Centre.

Capt. Paul Truman has been seconded for a tour of duty with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

One of our most recent recruits to membership of the Regimental Association is ex-Sgt. A. E. (Ginger) Wadsworth, who was a very able Platoon Sergeant in "D" Company of the 1st Battalion in Singapore and Hong Kong before the war. He was posted to the Home Establishment in December 1937 and joined the 2nd Battalion in January 1938. Since completing his Colour Service he has, for the past 20 years, been with the Barrack Services and is at present holding the appointment of Civilian Assistant Officer i/c Barracks, Aldershot.

He sends his best wishes to all old Die-Hards who remember him.

We heard recently from Major Bill Ward, who will be remembered by many as RSM of the 2nd Battalion and as Quartermaster of the 1/8th Battalion when he was wounded on the way to Dunkirk in 1940. He lives in New Brighton, Cheshire, and is now the Head Warden of "Concordia" (Youth Service Volunteers) with boy and girl students between the ages of 17 and 21 from almost every country in the world, who come over to learn all about this country.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date—1972	Event
Saturday, April 22	9th Battalion Branch Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Saturday, April 29	1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at T & AVR Centre, Hornsey, N8.
Friday, May 5	Spring Golf Meeting on course of North Hants Golf Club, Fleet.
Friday, May 12	(1) Officers' Club Cocktail Party at United Service and Royal Aero Club, Pall Mall, London SW1. (2) 2/10th Battalion Annual Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Saturday, May 13	(1) Albuhera Service of Remembrance in St. Paul's Cathedral at 2.30 p.m. (2) Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2.
Tuesday, May 16	ALBUHERA DAY.
Wednesday, June 7	Derby outing.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL
Lodge House, Twinstead, Nr. Sudbury,
Suffolk.
September 16, 1971.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter
Dear Sir,

Regimental Pilgrimage to Mons 1971

My wife and I were members, for the first time, of our Regimental Pilgrimage to Mons for the ceremonies held at Mons and Obourg on 23rd August each year. We are so impressed with all that took place and the very obvious affection and respect in which our Regiment is held in Belgium that I feel it is only appropriate to express our sincere gratitude and thanks in your *Newsletter* to those who made this visit possible and arranged the complicated itinerary—in other words, to Col. F. Walden and Major R. W. J. Smith.

The trip, covering four days in all, including travel, was extremely interesting and most moving—but it also had its lighter moments. It is a trip that every Die-Hard should experience and one which should make each one of us feel even prouder, if this were possible, of our Regiment.

Anyway, in case anyone still has any doubts, I can only say that my wife and I are already booked for the visit in 1972—and, we hope, many years to follow. Full details are available from our RHQ at Edgware.

Yours sincerely,
AYMAR CLAYTON.

From: Col. W. D. Ellis, OBE, TD, DL
Lea Barn, Winter Hill, Cookham Dean,
Berks SL6 9TW.
September 30, 1971.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter

Dear Sir,

Nearly a year ago I was forced to move my office to the Eastern fringe of the City. Ever since, I run into a continual stream of Die-Hards working in the area and all we seem to do is to pass the time of day round a lamp post. We must all need to eat midday and I wonder whether it would be possible to start a Regimental City Luncheon Club. I would suggest quarterly, in a private room on a warning in basis—no treating, and simple fare such as "gala pie and beer or spirits". This should be open to all Die-Hards regardless of race or creed.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. ELLIS.

From: Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott Lowe, TD
Bell House, 80a Havant Road,
Emsworth, Hants PO10 7LH
October 9, 1971.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter

Dear Mr. Editor,

I read with great interest in the "Personal Jottings" column in the August *Newsletter* the piece about Colonel Stallard as I had the great honour to dine with him a year ago today at his farm not far outside

Johannesburg. One of my friends in the City knew him well and was very anxious that I should meet him. Accordingly, it was arranged and so I had the honour of dining with the Grand Old Man of the English Speaking world in South Africa. I did not realise that he was a Die-Hard and suppose that I must have been the last member of the Regiment to see him.

Rather deaf in one ear, eyesight not too good, and slightly bent, nevertheless he was in tremendous form and showed astonishing vigour for his age. He sat at the head of the table dispensing the soup and organising the wine whilst engaging us in lively conversation. After dinner he entertained us with anecdotes and quoted whole poems, including Tennyson's "Crossing the bar". We discussed his 100th birthday arrangements and he invited me to come out and join in the fun, especially as we shared the same birthday.

You have had details of the great day, June 4. He addressed his guests without a microphone which he would never use. At the end of the day he said he had enjoyed every minute but felt a little tired. He never recovered and died a few days later, one of the best-loved and most honoured men in the country.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK SCOTT LOWE.

From: Mr. Tom Barton, TD
"Riverview", Station Road,
Bluntisham, Hunts PE17 3LL.
September 28, 1971.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter

Dear Mr. Editor,

Being in the Shorncliffe area at the end of September I took the opportunity of visiting Albuhera Coy there. I was greeted by Major G. Mason and the 2IC, Capt. Tony Ward, who both made me feel very much at home.

The Company was on the range at Hythe, zeroing rifles; so we made our way to "D" range via the Company lines and cook-house. The men are accommodated in the Staff quarters of the MRS in Hospital Road overlooking the sea. They live one or two to a room, each with H & C, there are a couple of sitting rooms, one with TV and the other with games, and altogether I reflected that I had seen officers quarters of a lower standard.

On reaching the range, SM Roy Scott continued with the cordial treatment, introducing me to many of the members of the Company and allowing me to go forward with the Details to inspect the groups on the targets and to discuss them with the fliers.

Major Mason told me that their recruiting comments are so heavy that it is possible to tackle individual training only. But such is my judgment of the high morale of the chaps that I am sure that a high standard of operational efficiency could be achieved in a very short time when conditions permit them to undertake sub-unit training.

On leaving, I managed to get bogged down in shingle whilst turning my car, but the Company

made a joke of it and lifted me out in no time. So off I went with the pleasantest memories of the Die-Hards of today.

Yours sincerely,
TOM BARTON.

From: Mr. L. R. Johnson
78 Deans Lane, Edgware, Middlesex.
September 29, 1971.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter

Dear Sir,

May I take up a little of the valuable space of the *Newsletter* by asking you to publish this letter of thanks to the Branches and those comrades and their wives who so kindly either visited me or sent letters and cards with their best wishes for my recovery during my spell in hospital, all of which did so much to assist me and give me that fighting spirit to overcome rather a nasty period. I hope all will excuse me if I say a special thanks to the members and their wives of the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch whose card I first received; it came at a particularly serious time. It was their thought of me so far away that gave that extra uplift I needed to overcome the low spirit and depressed feeling that I felt at that time. To you, sir, and all those comrades I say once again my grateful thanks for your visits, thoughts and kind wishes without which my recovery, I am sure, would not have been so rapid.

Having experienced what this meant to me, and it was not the first occasion, may I ask all those who read this letter to make it a point that should they hear of any old comrade, who is unfortunately admitted to hospital or even taken ill at home, to try and visit them or drop them a line. Should you be unable to visit them, or even if you can, please give the details either to his Branch secretary or to the secretary of the Regimental Association.

You may say that with visits from relatives and intimate friends, one would not miss a visit or line from an old comrade; that to me is a wrong thought. With relatives and friends you talk of home affairs and things of a personal nature, whereas with an old army acquaintance the topic of your conversation is of a different nature which adds that little variety to things. Variety, they say, is the spice of life and it's that spice one needs when feeling depressed and in low spirits.

I do hope that through this letter others in a period of illness may benefit as I did from the knowledge of not being forgotten by their former comrades, and if this is so I shall feel that I have repaid a little for the thought and kindness shown to me by comrades of the Die-Hards.

Good health to you all,
Yours very sincerely,
LEN JOHNSON.

OBITUARY (Continued from page 12)

TALEEN—On September 3, 1971, ex-Pte. John Otto Taleen, OBE (PS/1608), aged 72. He enlisted into the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion in September 1914 when he was not yet 16 years of age. He went to France in November 1915 and, as a result of being seriously wounded at Beaumont Hamel on July 1, 1916, he spent 4½ weary and painful years in hospital. For many years he had lived in Paris, and joined the Paris Branch of the British Legion in 1924. From 1954 up to the time of his death in a car accident whilst on holiday in Scotland he was vice-chairman of the Branch. In recognition of his outstanding work for the Royal British Legion, he was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours List this year. On October 6 a memorial service was held at the Embassy Church in Paris attended by his many friends, one of whom wrote, "John was a perfect gentle knight, *sans peur et sans reproche*. May his spirit rest in peace."

WILCOCKSON—On October 3, 1971, Capt. John Henry Arthur Wilcockson, aged 78. He enlisted as a Boy in August 1908 and served with the 2nd Battalion until October 1912 when he was posted to the Depot. On completion of his tour of duty at the Depot in June 1916 he rejoined the 2nd Battalion in France and served with that Battalion until the end of the war. For his great dash and determination at Moreuil Wood on March 30, 1918, he was awarded a Gallantry Card by his Divisional Commander (General Heneker). After the war he served continuously with the 2nd Battalion until December 1923 when he reverted to the Home establishment and joined the 1st Battalion. He was eventually discharged to pension on June 21, 1933, with the rank of Colour-Sergeant. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he was recalled and in 1943 was granted a temporary commission on the General List (Infantry). He retired in 1949 on reaching the age limit, and was subsequently employed on the staff of the Command Workshops, REME, at Mill Hill.

Newsletter Expenses

The Editor gratefully acknowledges donations made by Mr. T. W. Deeves, CMG, CBE, MC, and Mr. F. H. Farmborough towards the expenses of producing *The Die-Hards Newsletter*.

**Parsons
and
Printing**

Over a Century-old Partnership...

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals

F. J. PARSONS LTD
The Adelphi, John Adam St., London WC2N
6AY. Telephone 01-839 7151. Works at Hastings, Folkestone, Bexhill and Lewes.

OBITUARY

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

ADAMS—On May 18, 1971, ex-Pte. Joseph Adams. He enlisted in "D" Company, 1/9th Battalion and served in that Battalion in India and Mesopotamia throughout the 1914-18 war. On being demobilised in 1919 he became a very active member of the Battalion OCA from its inception and was honorary secretary of the Hendon Branch for many years. During the last few years of his life ill-health kept him away from many of the functions of the Association.

ANDERSON—On July 26, 1971, ex-RSM Henry Anderson, MC (L/9108 and 6188555), aged 85 years. "Jock" Anderson enlisted in August 1905 and was a salient figure in the Regiment throughout his military service. Remembered by many as the RSM of the 1st Battalion he was also a notable figure in the 2nd Battalion from the time of his enlistment until he was posted to the 1st Battalion at Clipstone Camp at the end of the 1914-18 war. Prior to 1914 he represented the Army at soccer on many occasions, was runner-up in the Army putting the weight championship as well as being a fine hurdler and jumper. In addition to being an outstanding athlete, he also excelled in military skills, being a marksman rifle shot throughout his service and an expert judge of distance before scientific instruments were introduced for this purpose. He won the Military Cross when RSM of the 2nd Battalion for gallantry and devotion to duty between the Aisne and the Marne in June 1918. He took his discharge to pension on August 14, 1926. At that time he was still RSM of the 1st Battalion, and he left it in first-class condition in all forms of sport and soldiering. The Battalion was, in fact, the most outstanding unit in the Aldershot Command, and was held in the highest esteem by all concerned. On taking his discharge he joined the War Department Constabulary and remained with that organisation until he finally retired—an honoured and upright man admired by all with whom he had served.

DEVEREAUX—On July 4, 1971, ex-RQMS Alfred Devereaux. When he enlisted in the 9th Battalion before the 1939-45 war he was the best recruit of his year. He reached the rank of WO2 (CSM), and when the Battalion became an RA Unit he was appointed a Battery Sergeant-Major. After the war he became a Regimental Quartermaster-Sergeant and retained this appointment until he completed his service with the TA. Afterwards he was an active member of the 9th Battalion Branch Committee. In civil life he was employed for many years with Daimler Motors, where his father had also been employed for most of his working life.

HARRISON—On August 16, 1971, ex-Sgt. William Harold Harrison, aged 79. He enlisted on the outbreak of the 1914-18 war and was posted to 2/7th Battalion and served with that Battalion in Gibraltar until 1915 when he was posted to 1/7th Battalion in France. He was wounded at Flers-

Courcelette on September 15, 1916, and evacuated to this country. In January 1918 he was passed fit for active service and returned to the BEF when he was again wounded, being blown up by a shell on April 4, 1918. He was discharged as unfit in February 1919 and received a disability pension. In 1940 and 1941 he was injured on four occasions during the bombing of London. After being physically shattered in the two wars, he ended his days in the peaceful surroundings of the Star and Garter Home at Richmond, where he was well cared for.

JOHNSON—On October 9, 1971, suddenly in Ashford Hospital, Marjorie Alice, dearly beloved wife of Lt.-Col. A. K. Johnson.

NEAL—Suddenly on Albuhera Day 1971, Major Harold A. Neal, TD. On leaving school in 1915 he joined the Army and was commissioned into the East Surrey Regiment. After service in France he transferred in 1917 to the Indian Army, joining the 125th Napier Rifles that year in Jubbulpore, and subsequently serving with the Regiment in Palestine. In 1920 he obtained a regular commission and served in India with his Regiment which, since he first joined, had been redesignated the 6th Rajputana Rifles. Unfortunately, owing to his wife's ill-health in India, he was compelled to resign his commission and in 1934 he returned home. This was a great blow to him for he was a soldier at heart. When Mussolini started his Abyssinian escapades, Harold decided that he should try to obtain a territorial commission and he applied to the 9th Battalion who accepted him in 1937. He served with the Battalion in the 1939-45 war, taking over as Adjutant from Major M. Crawford in 1939. He was most loyal to the Regiments in which he served, attending their functions regularly and contributing most generously to Regimental charitable funds.

His death is a great loss to his wife and family and to his many soldier friends.

(With acknowledgments to Lt.-Col. G. L. Fox, TD, DL.)

OVERELL—On October 20, 1971, peacefully in the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, Evelyn May, beloved wife of Lt.-Col. A. N. Overell.

STALLARD—On June 13, 1971, on his farm at Cape Woolth, near Johannesburg, Colonel the Hon. Charles Stallard, QC, DSO, MC, TD, our oldest Die-Hard, nine days after his 80th birthday, the celebrations for which were mentioned in the "Personal Jottings" of the August issue of this *Newsletter*. Born and educated in England, he arrived in South Africa in 1900 during the Boer War. He stayed in the country to become the doyen of South Africa's fighting forces, of the South African War, and of the country's politicians. After having commanded a South African Battalion in France with distinction he was, in October 1917, posted to the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) and employed on the staff in a legal capacity.

(Continued on page 11)

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the quarter ended September 30, 1971, the sum of £380.75 was expended from the Charitable Fund making grants to 30 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Mr J. M. Abell, Mr H. Austin Kaye (in memory of the late Major H. A. Neal), Mr. G. Hurlock, Mrs. Celia Osmond (in memory of the late Major H. A. Neal) and Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, TD.

War Memorial Fund

As a result of the customary collection made at the 1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner on October 1 in aid of the War Memorial Fund, the record sum of £56.50 was handed to the Secretary, which he most gratefully acknowledges.

It will not be generally known that, since these collections at their annual dinner were started, a total sum of approximately £283 had been handed over to the Secretary for the War Memorial Fund up to, but not including, this year's handsome contribution. This is a truly remarkable effort, for which the Chairman and members of the Executive Committee wish to express their grateful thanks.

Kensington Regimental Association

The "get-together" organised in celebration of the affiliation of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association with our Regimental Association held at 190 Hammersmith Road on Friday, September 3, was attended by over 60 Old Comrades who had served in the Kensingtons when they were an integral part of The Die-Hards. In view of the known absence of many members on holiday, this was a fairly satisfactory response to some 200 letters sent out.

Our Vice-Chairman (Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey), in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, represented the Regimental Association, and was accompanied by the Secretary. They were welcomed by the Chairman (Major J. J. Evans) and some eight members of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association. The atmosphere of the gathering was so obviously enjoyable and cordial that it was decided to omit short speeches to mark the occasion.

As a result of this happy meeting it was recommended by many present that a further occasion on similar lines should be arranged, and it is hoped to do so in the New Year. In the meantime, our very best wishes go to our friends in the Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association, and our grateful thanks for the arrangements made for our first "get-together".

Player's League Match, Lord's

A total of 12 old comrades, their relations and friends, took advantage of the facilities arranged for members of the Regimental Association to attend the Player's League Match at Lord's on August 29 between Middlesex and Notts.

The match was much enjoyed by all present from the comfort of a specially reserved box, in which an

excellent picnic lunch and tea were provided by the caterers at Lord's.

1st Battalion (1939-45) Dinner/Dance

A most successful Dinner/Dance, organised primarily as a "get-together" for those members of the 1st Battalion who were serving in Hong Kong when the Colony fell to the Japanese in 1941, was held at Hornsey on September 4, and was attended by 125 Old Comrades and their wives. An account appears elsewhere in these notes.

The brain-child of this function—the second of its kind—is Mr. Bert (Tich) Mellor and the Association's grateful thanks go to him and his small band of helpers for all the hard work they put in to make it such a success.

It is hoped that, provided it gets sufficient support, it will become an annual event in the Regimental Calendar.

Summer Outing

The annual outing organised this year was a trip to the Royal Windsor Safari Park. It took place on Sunday, September 19, and was most popular.

A total of 85 members and their relations and friends attended the outing, which was blessed with perfect summer weather.

The drive through the reserves housing the baboons, lions and cheetahs held the interest of many, but the highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the exhibition in the dolphinarium, where the bottle-nosed dolphins and the killer whale had everyone enthralled by their amazingly clever antics.

THE CHALET HOLIDAY HOME, SELSEY, SUSSEX

A former officer of the Regiment is offering his chalet at Selsey in Sussex for the use of members of the Regimental Association, at a rental of £7 per week, during the following periods each year:

March 1 to Easter

September 1 to October 31

The chalet consists of a main living room with large windows admitting maximum sunlight, Venetian blinds and Marley tile flooring. There are two double bedrooms, a bathroom and separate lavatory. The kitchen is divided from the living room by a counter with large cupboards. Kitchen equipment includes an electric Belling cooker, an electric toaster, a modern sink unit, electric refrigerator, crockery and cutlery for six people, cooking and cleaning utensils. Three blankets, a candlewick cover and a pillow are provided for each bed, but no linen. There are one double bed, two single beds and a studio couch, which will sleep two, in the living room. Blankets for the studio couch are provided on request. Hot water is supplied by an electric immersion heater, and an electric convector provides the heating. Television is also provided.

The address of the chalet is 58 Granada, Little Spain, Golf Links Lane, Selsey, Sussex.

Anyone interested in renting this chalet should write to the Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association, who will put him in touch with the owner.

EALING BRANCH

During the years our old Drill Hall has been in existence it has had many different types of occupant and the latest is "Squatters". Unbeknown to the authorities, they occupied some of the old rooms that are now used by the Borough of Ealing Welfare Department in their occupational centre for elderly people. They slept and cooked their meals but were always off the premises by 8 a.m.

When I was invited by the work supervisor (Mrs. Prior) to take a look I was shocked at the sight and smell. The Town Hall people have now boarded up all the windows and put new locks on the doors and the place looks like a Police Station in Northern Ireland.

In last week's *Middlesex County Times* I see the Borough Council have authorised the sum of £8,000 to turn the place into a Youth Centre. When this will take place we do not know, but to me it sounds like the death sentence on our Branch.

At our last meeting (attendance 4) there was a feeling of despondency as nobody really seems to be interested in us "old uns".

We are pleased to announce that our over-80s are back to their respective homes after a spell in the local hospital. One of our members, Jack Priske, called in whilst on a visit to town from his home in Wellington, Somerset, and it was nice to see Major Byham at Lord's together with Capt. Dark.

Brigadier J. D. White, DSO, MC, is still at Godalming but unable to get about owing to arthritis; it is nice to hear from him and to know he thinks of us.

Those of us who met at the Safari Park outing agreed it was a good show and congratulated the organisers.

We hope to be able to report more cheerful news in the next *Newsletter*, but !!! Cheers to all Die-Hards.

ALBERT WHITE.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

The weeks seem to fly by and I expect most of you have had your holidays by now and I hope you had the benefit of good weather and enjoyed yourselves. September 4 saw a very successful dinner and dance at Hornsey for ex-members of the 1st Battalion and their friends and once again Bert Mellor excelled himself. A thoroughly good time was had by all; it was great to see so many of our Branch supporting this event and obviously enjoying it fully. "Rocky" Knight was especially pleased to be over from Canada with his wife in time to attend.

We were delighted to learn that Rocky and Mrs. Knight are planning to remain over here now, and although they intend living in Cornwall, we shall see much more of them than before. Any Die-Hard visiting the area will be most welcome to call in and see them; we will have the address at Hornsey as soon as they have settled in.

Our August Bisley meeting, unfortunately, met with unforeseen problems, as also did our October 2 dance, and both had to be cancelled.

The Windsor Safari was a great success and everybody looked as though they were thoroughly enjoying themselves. Again it was very pleasing to see so many as well as a few who joined us at Windsor.

Incidentally, I quoted the wrong date for our Christmas Party at Hornsey in the last issue—my apologies, it will be Saturday, December 18. Do try

and be with us; it will make an enjoyable evening and even more so if we see some of you who have been unable to attend in the past.

I shall look forward to seeing some of you soon, and best wishes to you all.

LES HOSSLEN.

2/7TH BATTALION BRANCH

The 26th Annual Dinner of the Branch took place at the Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London, W2, on Friday, October 1, 1971.

Lt.-Col. Stanley Mirams presided and there were 84 members present—a considerable increase on the numbers in previous years.

The guests of the evening were Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, President of the Regimental Association, and Col. I. R. Burrows, chairman of the Regimental Association.

9TH BATTALION BRANCH

During these last three months holidays have taken a good deal of our time and the meetings and functions have been few, so news suffers.

Anyhow what I can tell you is, that the Summer Outing to the Royal Windsor Safari Park was thoroughly enjoyed by the two coachloads of members, relatives and friends.

It was a glorious day and the coach ride to Windsor did not take long. On arrival there, we had the choice of either a river trip, visiting the Castle, or a "pow-wow" over the tables of the hotel where we were going to have our lunch. That "pow-wow" did help to lubricate the tongues of many.

One was impressed by the great numbers of foreign visitors visiting Windsor, especially the castle. I noticed that the Metropolitan Police still patrol the castle grounds, as they have done for many reigns. It is a glorious old place, and here one can see what medieval England looked like.

The Safari Park had some attractions which were good. The jungle ride started with passing through the Baboons Reserve. Up to all kinds of mischief were these animals and they seemed to be friendly as they kept jumping on the cars and peering inside. The lions looked very majestic and seemed a trifle bored. But the most fascinating show was the Dolphinarium. I can remember how the porpoises and dolphins one encountered on sea voyages, kept jumping across the bows of the ships but at Windsor it seemed wonderful what the dolphins were called upon to do, all to the tune of a whistle. Perhaps their trainers had a little army experience of how to move by the whistle. Much better than the RSM's voice, musical!! Anyhow, all thanks to our Secretary and his staff for such a grand day.

In my last notes I mentioned that Major H. Sherwood, TD, could not attend our Reunion Dinner, so four of us decided to visit him at his home at Wimborne in Dorset. We took the Major and his wife to lunch. Photos of the group were taken and the Major has kindly forwarded us each a copy. On returning to his house after lunch, yarns were swapped and some interesting books, particularly one on the travels and treks of the 18th Indian Division, were viewed. The 9th were part of that Division, the badge of which was an elephant. They don't forget, nor do we.

Sadly, I have to record the death of another member, W. F. (Taffy) Harris, which occurred at his home

at Felixstowe on September 3. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, daughter and son-in-law.

Finally, though the festive season is some way off, I sincerely hope you will enjoy a very happy Christmas. Best wishes.

R. T. M.

WOS AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

I did not think some weeks ago, that I would be able to write our usual quarterly notes but, thanks to the skill of the surgeons, the expert knowledge of the doctors, and care and attention of the nursing staff of Edgeware General Hospital, I am happy to be fit and able to make our usual contribution to this issue.

It is with sadness, however, that I have to record the passing of Bill Lewis, who died in Billericay Hospital on October 8, 1971, after a bad heart attack. Bill, who was one of our later members, served with the 2nd Battalion under the command of Col. F. Walden, in Palestine. Although he was unable to attend all our monthly meetings owing to his health, he came along when he could with John Brodey, who served with him in the 2nd Battalion, and who represented the Branch at the funeral. To his wife we tender our deepest sympathy.

Jim Davis and our Chairman, Les Honeybun, are both making steady progress back to health and fitness. Jim gave me a surprise the first weekend I was out of hospital by visiting me at home, and when I say it is some distance from where he lives to where I live and that he walked both ways, this shows how determined he is to get back to normal. Les also surprised me by turning up at our October meeting. He is now able to get about a bit more, aided by the help of two sticks.

Although only a few members turned up at our July and August meetings, which was only to be expected during the holiday period, things picked up at the September meeting, and we were back to our usual standard at the October meeting when 27 members and guests were present.

Col. F. Walden, the Association Secretary, still shows interest in the Branch as he does with all branches by attending our and their meetings. It would be nice to see other officers of the Association take the same kind of interest by an occasional visit; they would be very welcome.

Our Christmas draw is going well and we hope to put on a bumper party at our December meeting to be held on Saturday, December 11, when we hope to see all our members present. Any ex or serving member of the WOs and Sergeants Mess who would like to come along will be made very welcome.

As this is the last news letter to be published for 1971 may I on behalf of all members of this branch wish all Die-Hards and their friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 1972 and to all branches success and a bright future for the New Year to come.

LEN JOHNSON.

2/10TH BATTALION OCA (1914-18)

The 43rd Reunion Dinner was held at the Victory Ex-Service Club on Saturday May 15 last, with the President, Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, MC, in the Chair. The 56th anniversary of the landings on the Gallipoli Peninsula on April 25 and August 7, 1915, was especially remembered. The company of 51 present included Major-General C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC (last Colonel of the Middlesex Regt.), Col. A. S. J.

de S. Clayton, DL (Dep. Col. (Middlesex) The Queen's Regt.), Brigadier B. B. Rackham, CBE, MC, DL (President, the Gallipoli Association) and Preb. G. A. Lewis Lloyd, MBE (Vicar of Chiswick and Hon. Chaplain to the 2/10th Bn. OCA). An early start and careful timing enabled the principal guests to leave in time to join the Annual Regimental Reunion held on the same evening. A contingent from the OCA attended the impressive Regimental Service in St. Paul's Cathedral in the afternoon.

The 44th Reunion Dinner will be held at the Victory Services Club on Friday, May 12, next. Details will be circulated in due course by the Hon. Secretary to whom enquiries should be addressed at "Cleveland", Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon.

A. D. S.

1ST BATTALION (1939-45) DINNER/DANCE

On September 4, 1971, a dinner/dance was held at the Drill Hall, Hornsey, for the old members of the 1st Battalion and other ex-members of the Regiment.

A delightful evening was enjoyed by 125 Old Comrades and their wives. The meal was excellent and Mr. E. Johnson, an old 1st Battalion man who was responsible for the catering, did us well. Our thanks to him and his staff.

Dancing to a good band went on until 1 a.m. and the ladies and gentlemen present made every effort to make the evening the success it was.

I am sure that all readers will agree with me when I say what a grand effort it was on the part of the 14 members of the Portsmouth Branch who attended. They had to leave Portsmouth early on Saturday afternoon and did not arrive back until approximately 9 a.m. on Sunday, travelling about 160 miles in the process.

Most men attending we see maybe three or four times a year, but it is their old officers they ask me about, and it is their officers they like to see and wonder how they are getting on. Those present, therefore, were very disappointed that so few of their old officers were with us on this occasion. We were particularly pleased that Major Henry Marsh was one of the few. It was a fine effort on his part to come all the way from Bath to attend the dinner.

I have had many letters requesting to make it an annual event, and maybe we will if we get the support. I would like to thank all who helped me with the arrangements, and my appreciation to the officers and their ladies who did join us. My appreciation also to Dan Cavell who sent me £5 to use as I thought fit. I gave it to the Portsmouth Branch towards their coach fare. Thanks, Dan.

BERT (TICH) MELLOR.

2ND BATTALION (77TH) (JUNE 1918—APRIL 1919) REUNION

This intimate little reunion, the numbers attending which are now getting appreciably smaller, was this year held on Friday, October 29, at York House, Rickmansworth Road, Watford, Herts, the home of the new Honorary Secretary, Major Percy Brooker, who took over when the Rev. Archie Montgomery Mann died suddenly last December.

Brigadier E. E. F. Baker presided and the guests of the evening were Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment, and Col. F. Walden, Secretary of the Regimental Association.

