



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 20

November 1972

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

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MONS 1972

Our annual pilgrimage to Mons this year, to take part in the ceremonies to mark the 58th anniversary of the great battle, was unique inasmuch as it was covered by a BBC television camera team.

A total of 32 formed the coach party, of whom seven were survivors of the battle in 1914, namely, Charles Ashby (L/14437), William Beart (L/14037), Harry Bird (L/14343), Charles Carey (L/14097), George Garrett (L/9904) and Arthur Matthews (L/14557) of the 4th Battalion, and Bill Bishop (L/10630) of the 1st Battalion. The senior member of the party was Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, accompanied by Mrs. Clayton, who were with us last year.

Owing to the activities of the BBC team, which started as we boarded the coach at Edgware and continued *en route*, we reached Dover too late to catch our ferry to Ostend. We did not, however, have to wait long because we were lucky enough to get a ferry to Calais, and in the end we got to Mons on time. On arrival there we were able to take over the accommodation already arranged for us by our good friend, M. Charles Ottevaere, the secretary of the Friends of the Middlesex Regiment in Mons.

Although Tuesday, August 22, was officially a rest day the BBC team did not allow us to go entirely free, for that evening our party re-enacted a scene

in an estaminet at Obourg, called the Cellar of Ghlin, which had occurred before the fighting started in 1914. In his book "The Phantom Brigade" (published in 1930), Cpl. A. P. G. Vivian (L/11683) as he was in 1914, the actions of men of the 4th Battalion are described as follows: "Someone started a mechanical organ, whereupon we, initiating the ladies into London customs, changed headgear with them, and indulged in wild dances and, in fact, behaved ourselves to the prejudice of good order and military discipline generally".

Wednesday, August 23, was a day of marching, ceremonies and meetings. At 9.30 a.m. the 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 Sgt. Mervyn Smith, the youngest member of the party, at the head of the parade, marched the length of the road. At the end, and before moving back to Mons there was a presentation of the Cross of the Veterans of King Albert I of Belgium to Charlie Ashby and Bill Bishop.

At this stage the 4th Battalion veterans mentioned by name above left the main party in charge of Major Dick Smith and were taken to the actual

position occupied by "A" Company of the 4th Battalion on that morning 58 years ago. There the BBC team had arranged for them to meet some German survivors of the battle who had been specially brought to the scene from Germany.

On the return of the main party to Mons the next parade was at 11 a.m. when the party joined up with the sadly reduced 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 moved by coach 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, as usual on these pilgrimages, the regimental flag was flying proudly beside that of the city of Mons. Here the Burgomaster and other civic dignitaries held a reception at which toasts were drunk and speeches made.

The next parade of the day was at 4 p.m. when the party left for the military cemetery at St. Symphorien, which must be the most beautifully laid-out cemetery of its kind either in Belgium or France. It was opened in 1916 by the Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria and a memorial to "The Royal Middlesex Regiment" erected by the Germans stands in the plot where 46 of our soldiers rest. Here in the presence of our party, our Belgian friends and the German contingent brought over by the BBC, Col. Clayton laid the regimental wreath, and Mr. Beart recited the exhortation. Another wreath was then

placed by his batman, George Garrett, on the grave of Major Abell, on behalf of his son, Mr. Jim Abell, and his daughter, Margaret. The last ceremony at St. Symphorien was at the monument to the British and German soldiers who are buried in the cemetery. Here the German contingent placed a wreath to the memory of their dead whilst we dipped our standard and stood in silence.

From St. Symphorien the party travelled to Obourg for the final parade of the day. This took place at the regimental memorial at the railway station where the plaque stands to commemorate the first shots of the battle and the heroism of the known gallant Die-Hard who held the post alone until he was killed. After a speech on behalf of the Burgomaster, to which our Deputy Colonel replied, wreaths were laid and the following special exhortation recited by Noel Peters:

"4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment August 23rd 1914.

They went with flowers to the battle

They were young

Straight of limb, true of eye, and steady and aglow.

*They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted
They fell with their faces to the foe
Greater love hath no man than this
That a man lay down his life for his chums
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."*

The parade, British and Belgian, then formed up in one mixed body and marched back under the command of Major Dick Smith to the club room of the Old Comrades of Obourg, paying compliments to the Burgomaster's representative and our Deputy Colonel en route. At the club room toasts were drunk and speeches made and, after a very pleasant interlude with our Belgian friends, we returned to Mons.

The following day, August 24, we left Mons for home, each with his own memories. It was a pilgrimage not only for those who fought there, but also for those of us who read the news as it came off the press more than half a century ago.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 45th annual dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the United Service and Royal Aero Club, Pall Mall, SW1, on Thursday, November 9, 1972.

Col. W. E. Pringle presided. Others present were:

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton
Col. I. D. Brotherton

Col. F. Walden
Lt.-Col. J. D. Gurnell
Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe
Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson
Major M. J. Beaumont
Major Sir Harold Gillett,
Bart.

Major A. J. Hughes
Major R. J. Leighton
Major E. J. Naish
Major B. St. G. A. Reed

Major R. W. J. Smith (guest)
Lt.-Comdr. R. D. P. Gillett
(guest)

Capt. M. J. S. Doran
Capt. M. S. Gedyne
Capt. J. S. Richards
Capt. P. A. Stocken
Capt. R. G. Vaisey
Capt. G. J. Young

Lt. P. I. Phillips
Lt. J. R. Spooner
Mr. H. D. Milne (guest)

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

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

The following are recent acquisitions to the museum:

Souvenirs of 21st (Islington) Battalion.

Medals of the late Sgt. F. J. Hocking, DCM.

Certificates presented at the Presentation of Colours 1931.

"C" Company flags, etc. 1/7 Battalion.

SOUVENIRS OF 21ST (ISLINGTON) BATTALION

The souvenirs consist of a New Testament given to G/19511 Pte. P. C. Connor when stationed with the 21st Battalion in Albuhera Barracks, Marlborough Lines, in 1915, prior to joining the BEF in France.

There is also a photograph on silk of Nurse Edith Cavell who was shot by the Germans in the Tir National, Brussels, on October 12, 1915. Both were carried by "Pip" Connor through all the war. On the flyleaf of the bible is a copy in script of a message by Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, VC, written on August 24, 1914, "I ask you to put your trust in God. He will watch over you and strengthen you. You will find in this little book guidance when you are in health, comfort when you are in sickness, and strength when you are in adversity". Pip writes from Canada to say that both of these treasures gave him comfort during the years 1915-18 when he was in France. Nurse Cavell he calls a noble woman. She certainly was. The country in which he now lives respects her memory, there being a peak in the Rockies named Mt. Edith Cavell.

Another souvenir is a certificate from the National Broadcasting Committee of Canada on the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation of Canada, dated July 1927, affirming that Pip's name is inscribed in the Book of Remembrance in the Peace Tower, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. Against his name is shown "21st and 2nd Batts Middlesex Regt, BEF" (Pip won his Military Medal with the 2nd Battalion after the 21st Battalion was disbanded in February 1918). The Dominion of Canada came into existence on July 1, 1867, with the passing of the British North America Act of that date. Also included in the gift are two cards of the Canadian Red Cross Society to certify that Pip was a regular blood donor from 1942 to 1945, the first card emphasised that donations were given regularly in the permitted intervals. One card says, quoting Shakespeare's Henry V, "For he today that sheds his blood for me shall be my brother", whilst the other proclaims "Your blood is now in the fight". Our veteran was too old to fight in the line, but he made certain he did his share. The last enclosure was a poem, written by Mr. Connor, published in the *Islington Gazette* in September 1965. He writes of Islington's Own and its first Commanding Officer, Col. Edward St. Aubyn Wake, a popular and very experienced officer. Col. Wake had served for many years in India and had seen service on the N.W. Frontier under Sir William Lockhart in 1897 with the Kurram-Kohat Force when he was Mentioned in

Despatches and also with the Tirah Expeditionary Force as Aide de Camp to Sir A. P. Palmer when he was again Mentioned in Despatches. When the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal was instituted by Queen Victoria in 1900, he was invested with the highest of the three classes of this decoration—that in gold. He formed the 21st (Islington) Battalion but to his chagrin was not, due to age, permitted to take them to the front.

Presented by ex Pte. P. C. Connor, MM, late 21st and 2nd Battalions.

MEDALS OF THE LATE SGT. F. J. HOCKING, DCM

The medals of TF/1027 Sgt. Francis James Hocking are the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. All are in mint condition. Frank Hocking enrolled in the 7th Battalion (TF) on January 3, 1910, and became one of the original "Imperial Service" Volunteers of the Territorial Force. He left for Gibraltar on September 4, 1914, returning to England on February 13, 1915. With the 7th Battalion he went to France, landing on March 13, 1915, and on May 7 won the first Distinguished Conduct Medal to be awarded a member of the Middlesex Territorial Battalions. This was in hand-to-hand combat, the German opening up at five yards distance and rushing the post in the dark, 15 against 7 in the enemy's favour. Sgt. Hocking was severely wounded early in the fight but continued to act with the greatest courage and coolness, and gave a fine example to his men of steadiness and devotion to duty. He died from his wounds in the 1st London General Hospital, Camberwell on May 18, 1915, and is buried in Highgate New Cemetery, where a memorial was erected to his memory in July 1916. His memory is held in esteem by the surviving members of the 7th Battalion who speak of him with pride whenever discussing their first year of war.

Purchased.

CERTIFICATES PRESENTED AT THE PRESENTATION OF COLOURS 1931

Two certificates were presented to members of the 1st Battalion on the occasion of the Presentation of Colours, by the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, on October 21, 1931. One was given to all who were serving with the Battalion on that date and the other to personnel who were members of the Colour Escort during the ceremony. Both certificates are shown as being presented to 6191681 L/Cpl. S. Sibley and bearing the signature of Lt.-Col. V. L. N. Pearson, DSO. The certificate, presented to all who were serving at that date, has the Prince's address to the Battalion published in full. Unfortunately the address contains a number of inaccuracies in respect of our history. It says the date of renumbering of the 59th to be the 57th was in 1756 whereas, in fact, it was 1757. On adoption of the

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territorial designation it says (a) the 57th became the East Middlesex and (b) the 77th became the West Middlesex whereas the reverse is the case. It gives the number of Battle Honours awarded in World War I as 81 whilst the true figure is 93. I am sure those errors must have been noted before and they do not in any way detract from the pleasure of being the recipient of such a valued document.

The second certificate, a document half the size of the above, says the recipient, in this case L/Cpl. Sibley, had the honour of being selected to be one of the Escort to the Colours on this very special occasion. It then gives the names of the Warrant Officer, Non-command Officers and Private soldiers who were chosen for this honourable duty. (The Warrant Officer was CSM Jack Tungate, DCM, who had won his award for gallantry at the age of 16 whilst serving as a sergeant with the 20th (Shoreditch) Battalion of the Regiment.

These Colours no longer exist. They were buried in Hong Kong to prevent them being defiled when this fortress surrendered to the Japanese forces. Only a single final is in possession of the Die-Hards and this will, in due course, join our other treasured relics in the Regimental Baptistery in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Presented by Mr. S. Sibley.

"C" COMPANY FLAG, ETC. 1/7 BATTALION

This gift to the Regimental Museum consists of a photograph of "B" (S) Company, 7th Battalion, taken on Remembrance Sunday, November 8, 1936, then under the command of Capt. A. K. Johnson. In the photograph are four other officers, which must have been a record number for a company in the Territorial Army at that date. Another item is the Territorial Army Badge, registered number 102318, issued to serving members on expansion of the TA in 1938 with the certificate confirming it was issued to 6198115 Sgt. W. Ward. This badge was one proudly worn by the recipients in this battalion. Next, chronologically, is the Calling Out Notice in 1939 when Sgt. W. Ward is called out for military service to join the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regt (DCO). The last documentary item is an invitation from Capt. J. T. Panks, MC, commanding "C" Company 7th Battalion, dated December 23, 1941, to the members of the Sergeants Mess to join the officers and sample aperitifs on Christmas morning "until dinner time or until incapable". The Company were then at Ballater, Aberdeenshire, training for the move to North Africa with 51st (Highland) Division. The Company flag is halved diagonally red on top and yellow below with a white letter "C" in the centre (18in. x 16in.) and was carried by the Company Headquarters from El Alamein to Sicily, Italy, and through to victory in N.W. Europe. For many years it was cared for by Cpl. Reynolds, the driver for Coy HQ, and was eventually given by him for presentation to the Regimental Museum.

Presented by ex-Cpl. Reynolds.

In the article of Sgt. P. Redmond, 57th Foot, on page 2 of the *Die-Hards Newsletter*, May 1972, Lt.-Col. Shadforth and his grandson, Major F. E. Day, were referred to. It was not until later that it was realised that another relative of this gallant

Commanding Officer had been omitted. He is Major M. P. Weedon, MC, a direct descendant of Col. Shadforth. Martin Weedon presented to the Regiment a photograph of Lt.-Col. Shadforth and the copy of a letter on the eve of the attack on the Redan which is produced below:

Camp before Sebastopol,
9 pm, 17 June 1855.

My own beloved wife and my dearly beloved children,

At 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, I lead the 57th to storm the Redan. It is as I feel, an awful, perilous moment to me, but I place myself in the hands of a gracious God without whose will a sparrow cannot fall to the ground. I place my whole trust in Him. Should I fall in the performance of my duty, I fully rely on the precious blood of our Saviour shed for sinners that I may be saved through Him. Pardon and forgive me, my Beloved Ones, for anything I may have said or done to cause you one moment's unhappiness. To God I commend my body and soul which are His. Should it be His will that I fall in the defence of my Queen and Country I most devotedly say—"Thy will be done".

God bless you and protect you and my last prayer will be that He, in his infinite goodness, may preserve me to you. God ever bless you, my beloved Eliza, and my dearest children and if we meet not again in this world may we all meet in the Mansion of our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ.

God bless and protect you and ever believe me, your affectionate husband and loving father.

Thomas Shadforth
Lt Col 57th Foot

Major Weedon was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry during the Battle of Hong Kong when commanding "B" and "D" Companies, 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment, from December 18, 1941, during the Japanese onslaught. He was wounded in the left shoulder on Christmas Day and was a survivor of the sinking of the *Lisbon Maru* when the ship was torpedoed by the American submarine *Grouper*.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. R. E. Booker, Major C. F. Carvell, Mr. T. G. Christman, Mr. W. S. Clapp, Mr. E. S. Duffield, Mr. G. S. Hurlock, Mr. M. G. Lloyd, Miss Dorothy Longe, Mr. H. J. Miller, Mr. A. Nicholson, Lt.-Col. E. P. Shanks, Mr. K. R. Thiis 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.

NEWSLETTER EXPENSES

The Editor gratefully acknowledges donations from Mr. T. W. Deeve, CMG, CBE, MC, and Mr. W. H. Rippin towards the expenses of producing *The Die-Hards Newsletter*.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

We recently heard that ex-Pte. Albert Baker (14646193), who enlisted in the Regiment for war service in July 1943 and served with us until he was wounded in 1944, is now living in Mill Hill.

Our heartiest congratulations to Cliff and Nell Dry, who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on November 8. Amongst the many telegrams of good wishes which they received was one from Her Majesty The Queen. Apart from these telegrams and other congratulatory messages they had many callers with whom they spent a most happy time reminiscing over the past.

Long may they enjoy life in their neat and comfortable Regimental Cottage at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

We were delighted to hear that that old 1st Battalion veteran, Ginger Batson (653610), has been awarded the Imperial Service Medal for his long and faithful service to the public. On behalf of his many friends and old comrades, we send him our heartiest congratulations on this very well-deserved award.

News has been received that ex-WO2 L. Bolingbroke (6198754), who served in the Regiment from 1928 to 1945, is now stranded in Australia unable to work because of blindness. His case has been taken up by the Regimental Association with a view to getting him a disability pension.

One of our old 14th (Service) Battalion veterans, ex-L/Cpl. Arthur Bradford (5999862) has recently been put in touch with us. At the end of the war in 1919 he re-enlisted on a special four-year engagement and served with the Essex Regiment. He now lives at Edmonton.

We were very sorry to hear that ex-Pte. Charlie Brust, who won the Military Medal when serving with the 1/7th (TF) Battalion during the 1914-18 war, had to go into hospital for an operation a week after his 80th birthday.

He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades, and hopes soon to meet up with them again.

In the Supplement to *The London Gazette* dated October 3, 1972, Col. Nick Carter was Mentioned in Despatches in recognition of his distinguished service in Northern Ireland during the period February 1, 1972, to April 30, 1972. Heartiest congratulations.

That stalwart of the 2/10th (TF) Battalion, Major Bernard Cattell, who, since the death of his wife last May, has had to move from his house in the West End of London, still maintains a keen interest in his old Battalion and is honorary treasurer of their Old Comrades Association, a post he has held for some years.

Ex-Pte. Stephen Chapman (6192384), who served in the 2nd and 4th Battalions in Egypt and Gibraltar after the 1914-18 war, has been dogged with illness

during the past year, and has been helped by the Regimental Association to have a convalescent holiday in the Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home at Lowestoft. He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

We send our heartiest congratulations to Lt. Roger Colbourne on his promotion to Captain with effect from July 29 last.

During his four weeks' holiday in Canada in the late summer Ernie Colebeck, our chief clerk, actually met Captain Paul Truman, who is doing a tour of duty with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry in Winnipeg, and Pip Connor, that loyal veteran of the 21st (Service) Battalion, who lives in Willowdale, Ontario. He also got in touch by telephone with Lt.-Col. John Pollard who is serving as liaison officer with the U.S. Army at Fort Carson and Lt.-Col. Tom Cubitt, now living in Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Ex-Bdsm. Sidney Cook (6200341), who served in the 2nd Battalion from 1930 to 1935, when he had to leave the Service on medical grounds, is now living at Bognor Regis in Sussex.

Ex-Pte. George Duthoit (6205165), one of our former 2/8th Battalion members during the 1939-45 war, has had a difficult time through illness which kept him unemployed for nearly two years.

He is now living at Streatham, London SW16.

We have recently been put in touch with another of our old soldiers, ex-Pte. Joseph Everitt (6196032), who served with the 2nd Battalion in India in the 1920s. He now lives at Carshalton in Surrey.

A recent recruit to the Regimental Association is Charles Haynes, aged 82, who was discharged from the 3rd Battalion with a disability pension in 1919. He lives at Brighton and has promised to visit us at Edgware when he next goes to stay with his son at Watford.

Ex-RQMS "Jacko" Jaques (6200175) sends his greetings to all Die-Hards. In a letter recently he enclosed a cutting from his local paper in Belvedere, Kent, which was, in fact, a memorial notice to the late Ptes. B. Woolley (6200754) and J. Thomas (6200965), who were both drowned when the *Lisbon Maru* was torpedoed in October 1942.

Ex-Sgt. Alfie Jones (L/16515), who served in the 1914-18 war in the 23rd (Second Football) Battalion before going to North Russia with No. 1 Special Company, and afterwards with the 2nd Battalion in India, sends his regards to all his old comrades.

A welcome visitor to Edgware last September was ex-Sgt. Keith Lloyd (22375925). He was on the last day of his terminal leave and has now settled in Mill Hill. He has joined the Regimental Association and intends to visit us frequently, bringing his cameras!!

Ex-Sgt. R. K. (Monty) Lowe, who now lives at Ryde in the Isle of Wight, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards. During the 1939-45 war he served with the 1/7th Battalion.

As we go to press we have been successful in enrolling another ex-member of the Regiment in the Regimental Association. He is ex-Pte. John Mannering (22541620). He served with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus and was discharged whilst there on medical grounds.

In a letter recently received, S. J. Meadows (6196067), late 9th Battalion, sends his best wishes to all old comrades.

Another ex-member of the Regiment to join the Regimental Association recently is ex-Pte. D. O. Pam (6212816), who served in "D" Company, 2/8th Battalion, when it was stationed in Northern Ireland during the 1939-45 war.

He now lives at Enfield and is employed as reference and information officer to the London Borough of Enfield.

Earlier this year one of our former National Service soldiers, ex-Pte. Douglas Page (23262930), who served with the 1st Battalion from November 1955 to December 1958, was put in touch with us. As a result, the Regimental Association were able to help towards the cost of a holiday for his family under the Children's Holiday Scheme sponsored by the Army Benevolent Fund.

Our heartiest congratulations go to Lt.-Col. Tony Pielow on his promotion to the rank of Colonel on

taking up the appointment in October of Chief of Personal Staff to the Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Central Europe.

Lt.-Col. William L. (Bobs) Roberts has retired after 20 years as a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London.

Another newly-joined member of the Regimental Association is CSM A. E. (Whipper) Sills, now serving with the Army Cadet Force. He is a veteran TA soldier having joined the 7th Battalion in September 1929 and served with it continuously until 1950, when he volunteered for service in Korea and was posted to the "Glorious Gloucesters". On return from his spell of active service in Korea, he rejoined the 7th Battalion and remained with that Battalion until it became part of the Queen's Regiment (TAVR), when he took his discharge.

Amongst the congregation at the Church Parade held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on October 8 was the Rev. Hugh Wake, whose father, the late Lt.-Col. Edward St. Aubyn Wake, raised our 21st (Service) Battalion in May 1915. He will no doubt be remembered by those members who were serving in the Battalion at that time.

One of our war-time soldiers, ex-Pte. William Webb (6215802), has been in touch with us. After two years' service in the Regiment he transferred to the Royal Navy in September 1943 and served in the Senior Service until January 1945 when he was invalided out.

He now lives at Walthamstow, Essex.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

Autumn Meeting 1972

A most successful and enjoyable meeting was held on the course of the North Hants Golf Club, on Friday, October 13, when a total of 26 took part—a record for an autumn meeting.

The chief feature of this meeting was the success of Richard Hardcastle, the son of Major and Mrs. Ken Hardcastle, who not only put up an excellent score of 39 to win the Stableford singles, but he was also successful in the Stableford foursomes.

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

Stableford Singles

	Points scored
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle (winner Horton Cup)	39
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden (runner-up)	35
WO2 M. Quinn	34
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey	33
Major G. Goring	33
Mr. H. J. Chillery	33
Master Howard Clayden	33
Mr. T. F. Jones	32
Cpl. D. J. Miles	31
Mr. C. D. Matthews	30
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	28
L/Cpl. R. F. Abrahams	27
Capt. R. J. Tarrant	26
Mr. A. G. Torrie	26
Mr. M. R. T. Walden	26
Major J. I. D. Pike	25
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle	24
Major R. C. H. Bellers	21
Major A. R. Bisset	20
Mr. N. Brooks	17
Major H. K. Hardcastle	16
Major J. M. Hewson	14
Mrs. C. N. Clayden	11
Mr. E. Johnson (Divot)	6
WO1 R. Ford	NR
ORQMS M. J. Flynn	NR

Stableford Foursomes

	Points scored
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle and Mr. C. D. Matthews (winners, Jay Cup)	33
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle and Mr. T. F. Jones (runners-up)	32
Cpl. D. J. Miles and L/Cpl. R. F. Abrahams	30
Major G. Goring and Mr. A. G. Torrie	29
Lt.-Cols. C. N. Clayden and T. W. Chattey	28
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and Mrs. C. N. Clayden	27
Major A. R. Bisset and Mr. Roche (N.H.G.C.)	26
Capt. R. J. Tarrant and Mr. M. R. T. Walden	26
Mr. N. Brooks and WO2 M. Quinn	26
Major R. C. H. Bellers and Master H. Clayden	24
ORQMS M. J. Flynn and Major J. M. Hewson	21
Major J. I. D. Pike and Mr. E. Johnson	17
WO1 R. Ford and Mr. H. J. Chillery	NR

Hidden Holes Competition

	Points scored
Mr. T. F. Jones (winner)	15
Mr. C. D. Matthews (runner-up)	14
Mr. R. H. K. Hardcastle	13
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden	12
Capt. R. J. Tarrant	11
WO2 M. Quinn	11
Mr. H. J. Chillery	11
Master Howard Clayden	10
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey	10
Mrs. H. K. Hardcastle	9
Major A. R. Bisset	9
Mr. A. G. Torrie	9
Mr. M. R. T. Walden	9
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton	9
Major R. C. H. Bellers	9
Cpl. D. J. Miles	9
Major J. I. D. Pike	8
L/Cpl. R. F. Abrahams	8
Major G. Goring	7
Major H. K. Hardcastle	5
Mr. N. Brooks	5
C. N. Clayden	4
Major J. M. Hewson	3
Mr. E. Johnson	1
WO1 R. Ford	NR
ORQMS M. J. Flynn	NR

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date 1973	Event
Saturday, April 28	1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N8.
Friday, May 4	Spring Golf Meeting, at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet.
Friday, May 11	(1) Officers' Club Cocktail Party at United Service and Royal Aero Club. (2) 2/10th Battalion OCA Annual Dinner at Victory ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Saturday, May 12	(1) Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St. Paul's Cathedral. (2) Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2.
Saturday, May 19	9th Battalion Branch Annual Dinner at Victory ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.

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CORRESPONDENCE

From: Mr. T. G. Christman
The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter

94 Hatherleigh Road,
Ruislip, Middx.

October 3, 1972.

Dear Sir,

The account of the visit of King Edward VIII to the 2nd Battalion in 1936 given in the *Newsletter* for August recalls to my mind a visit he made to the 1st Battalion at Aldershot in 1926 when he was the Prince of Wales. I was serving with the 1st Battalion then and the day of his visit was a typical English summer's day—pouring with rain. However, punctual to the minute H.R.H. arrived and ignoring the rain proceeded with his inspection. He did not hurry, he took his time moving along the ranks and stopping every few paces to speak to the men as if it had been a glorious summer day, as it should have been. I think he endeared himself to every man on parade that day as we had been on parade thirty minutes before H.R.H. arrived and were very wet and we rather expected him to hurry his inspection to avoid getting wet himself, but he did not. As I heard a fellow remark when we got back to the barrack room "Blimey, he's a real toff, he got as Blankety-Blank wet as we did".

Yours truly,
T. G. CHRISTMAN.

From: Mr. E. J. Stebbing
The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter

The Bungalow,
Pot Kiln C.P. School,
Great Conrad,
Sudbury, Suffolk.
September 25, 1972.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for sending a copy of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*, received a couple of days ago. Having read with great interest the item on page 1 re the visit of H.M. King Edward VIII to the 2nd Battalion in 1936, this has prompted me to add

my recollections of that memorable occasion. I have special reason to remember that important event as, on the previous day, I was Battalion Orderly Corporal, awaiting the last bugle call of the day, "Lights Out" to be sounded, but instead "Orderly Sergeants" was sounded. Customary as it was, I, as Battalion Orderly Corporal, answered the call. Outside the guardroom in all his splendour of mess kit, stood Major I. D. S. Gordon, the Adjutant. When all Orderly Sergeants were present, Major Gordon made the historic announcement, "The King is inspecting the Battalion tomorrow." At this stage R.S.M. W. Ward, MM, appeared not quite knowing whether the Adjutant was serious or not. However, R.S.M. Ward gave out detail which to my memory was—"Lights Out" to be extended to 2300 hrs, a rehearsal parade at 0800 hrs tomorrow, and all living out personnel to be warned. What a task that was at that hour of the night !!!

However, the Battalion rallied to the call magnificently. Did Brig. Procter forget or overlook the fact that the Battalion Band was away at Tidworth Tattoo? The Corps of Drums made a most noble effort of the National Anthem with their fifes. I believe the Drummer who sounded the seldom used Battalion call "Royal Salute" was Drummer Savill and he made a really first class job of it. I also have a copy of the photo of H.M.'s departure on the steps of the Officers Mess at Victoria Barracks. I suggest one who may know the mess waiter in the background is Vic Corner who, I recall, was himself a mess waiter at Portsmouth and I know Vic is still around. He lives at Sandy in Bedfordshire and is a member of the Regimental Association.

Well, Brig. Procter has given his version of the visit of His Majesty from the "Upper Deck" point of view, I have given my impression from the "Lower Deck" hand side of it. Writing of Pompey makes me feel all nautical. Should this letter find a space in the next *Newsletter*, I trust it will make as interesting reading as that of Brig. Procter.

With very best wishes to all Die-Hards both young and old.

Yours sincerely,
ERNIE J. STEBBING.

OBITUARY

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

BELLCHAMBERS—On October 14, 1972, ex-Cpl. William Edward Bellchambers (L/12759 and 6188624) aged 80. He enlisted in the Regiment in December 1909 and, except for the time he spent in the trenches in the 1914-18 War, he was a member of the band throughout his service. He played with ability in the bands of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions, 11th (Service) Battalion and the staff bands of the 5th and 6th (Militia) Battalions. He was wounded in the right eye whilst serving with the BEF in France, and this eventually caused him to be discharged as medically unfit for further service in November 1920.

CHILD—On October 11, 1972, ex-Pte. Frederick John Child. He served in the Regiment during the 1914-18 War. The last years of his life were spent in the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen at Richmond, where he was given the special care so necessary for his mental and physical disability.

DAMS—On August 11, 1972, at the White House, Weybridge, peacefully after a long illness, Muriel Selma, aged 93, beloved wife of the late Col. Louis Dams, TD, a former Commanding Officer of the 8th (TA) Battalion.

MACKENZIE—On August 10, 1972, at Hythe Hospital, Southampton, Brigadier Hugh Fraser Mackenzie, CBE, aged 63. He was commissioned into the Regiment as a 2nd-Lieutenant on August 30, 1928, and served with the 1st Battalion until August 1931 when he transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps. During the 1939-45 war he was mentioned in despatches three times, and, in October 1945, he was made a CBE for his war services. In 1956 he became Deputy Director of Ordnance Services, Northern Command, and, in 1959, he took up the same appointment at HQ Eastern Command.

NEWTON—On July 17, 1972, Major Willoughby Chaplin Newton, aged 68. He was commissioned into the Regiment as a 2nd-Lieutenant on August 30, 1924, and was posted to the 1st Battalion. Almost his entire service was with this Battalion. He was promoted Captain on April 2, 1936, and Major on August 30, 1941. He eventually retired on January 25, 1948.

PAIN—On August 12, 1972, Lt.-Col. Edward Thomas Pain, aged 75. He was commissioned into the Regiment as a 2nd-Lieutenant on July 7, 1916, and served with the BEF in France from September 1916 until he was wounded on March 3, 1917. After the 1914-18 war he was posted to the 2nd Battalion and served with that Battalion until November 1925, when he was seconded for a

two-year tour of duty with the West African Frontier Force. In December 1937 he was appointed Adjutant of the 8th (TA) Battalion. On the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he became Second-in-Command of this Battalion and later commanded the Battalion from March 1941 to May 1942.

STAFFORD—In July 1972, Lt.-Col. R. S. H. Stafford, DSO, MC. At the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he was given a commission in the Special Reserve of the 60th Rifles. He commanded our 17th (Footballers) Battalion from June 1917 until its disbandment in February 1918. The following is a brief appreciation from Capt. T. F. G. Carless, MC, who served under his command at that time:

"He was a grand CO and the Battalion under his Command was really great, and it was very sad that we had to be disbanded to provide reinforcements for other Battalions on the reorganisation of the Army from four to three-Battalion Brigades. The only time I saw Stafford's emotional side was when he took the salute when half of the Battalion marched away from camp en route to another Battalion".

WALLIS—On July 30, 1972, ex-Pte. Reginald Godfrey Wallis (G/19865) aged 76. He enlisted as a "Kitchener's Army" man in the 21st (Islington) Battalion in November 1915. After training at Aldershot and Woking he went with the Battalion to join the BEF in France, and served with it until February 1918 when it was disbanded. He was then posted to the 2nd Battalion and served with this Battalion until October 1918 when he was wounded. He was sent to England and was finally discharged in February 1919.

WATSON—On August 17, 1972, suddenly and peacefully at home, Irene Mildred, beloved wife of Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, MC.

WEBB—On August 10, 1972, ex-Pte. George Webb, MM (G/54496) aged 73. He volunteered as a line soldier in 1916 whilst under age but, by adding a couple of years to his real age, he was able to be posted to the BEF in France. He joined the 19th (2nd Public Works Pioneers) Battalion as a stretcher bearer and served with the Battalion until 1919, when he enlisted on a special four-year regular engagement and joined the 2nd Battalion. He was finally discharged in March 1923.

He was awarded the Military Medal for his bravery during the fighting in 1918.

STOP PRESS

As we go to press news has been received that the following have died:

Ex-CSM F. Firman (6200579).
Ex-Pte. Freddy Cook (6193667).

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the quarter ended September 30, 1972, the sum of £436 was expended from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 24 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Lt. R. T. Douthet, Mr. C. J. Hourihane, Mr. F. A. Jackson, Capt. P. C. Prescott-Richardson and Major R. W. D. Sword, M.C.

Player's League Match, Lord's

A total of 12 Old Comrades and their relatives took advantage of the facilities arranged for members of the Regimental Association to attend the Player's League Match at Lord's on August 20, 1972, between Middlesex and Warwickshire.

A most exciting match, which Warwickshire won by one run, 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.

We are specially indebted to Mr. C. F. Farley (formerly 1/7th Battalion), who holds an important post on the staff of Lord's, for the excellent arrangements he made for this visit.

Grand Concert, Kneller Hall

A total of 20 members and their families attended a grand concert at Kneller Hall on Wednesday, August 30, 1972, under arrangements made by the Regimental Association.

Summer Outing

The outing organised this year was a visit to Whipsnade Zoo. It took place on Sunday, September 24, and was attended by 53 members and their relations and friends.

There is no doubt that this outing was far less popular than that arranged last year to the Royal Windsor Safari Park. On that occasion there was a record attendance of 85.

Middlesex/Kensington Association Social Evening

Although the number of our Old Comrades attending was disappointing a very enjoyable "get-together" was held at 190 Hammersmith Road, London, W6, on Friday, October 6, 1972.

We were particularly glad to see, amongst those who attended, our most senior Chelsea Pensioner, C/Sgt. Cornelius King.

Church Service at Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Our annual church service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, took place this year on Sunday, October 8, when a party of 59 members, their relations and friends, headed by the Deputy Colonel and Mrs. Clayton, attended.

Prior to the service our Old Comrades, under the command of Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, and with the Association standard carried by Mr. H. W. Kent,

were inspected by the Deputy Governor, Major-General Sir Nigel Tapp, KBE, CB, DSO.

After the service, a buffet lunch was provided in the Pensioners' Club.

F. W.

EALING BRANCH

I paid a visit last week to one of our oldest members, Arthur Wernley, late of the 1st Battalion, aged 86. Arthur is nearly blind and very deaf but with the help of the latest type of hearing aid he is able to have a good talk with anyone who likes to visit him. I spent a very interesting couple of hours listening to these people (Arthur and his wife) who have overcome many difficulties both physical and financial, and still come up with a smile. With special aids a book is read, and a very interesting talk is given on subjects which the blind person can choose. What a boon these things are to afflicted people!

Arthur joined the 1st Battalion in 1903, serving in India. Called up at the outbreak of war in 1914 he served right through and eventually found himself back in Ealing. He has been a member of Ealing Branch for years and although he cannot come up to see us I go to him and give him all the news. Several of our members are confined to their homes owing to age and infirmity but I manage to arrange a call occasionally and let them know what is going on.

Another old 'un, Alf Crawford, 85, late 1/10th (1914), sends his best wishes to any old pal who may remember him.

The builders are still busy at our old home and a crisis is fast approaching in more ways than one, but as Asquith said in '09 "Wait and See".

That's the lot for this time. Cheerio Die-Hards.

ALBERT WHITE.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

Since last writing, I am pleased to say that some of our members were able to attend the Association Summer Outing on September 24, and had a very enjoyable time at Whipsnade Zoo. Once again it was a great success and I was disappointed at being unable to go myself. Rumour has it that Bert Mellor forgot his spurs and could not have his elephant ride, but Stan Hurlock obliged by giving him a Pick-a-back. Seriously though these functions are not only excellent in their own right, but provide the opportunity for old friends to meet, and have a "noggin" and chat together.

Another really good example of this was the parade on Sunday, October 8, at Chelsea. This I was able to go to and can assure those of you who did not, that they missed a very colourful and heart-warming few hours. Stan Hurlock made an excellent marker for our contingent, and Major Dick Smith's words of command left us in no doubt to what to do and when to do it!!! I am sure we were all very impressed with the turnout and bearing of the In-Pensioners who can still put a few youngsters to shame.

The point that always strikes me very forcibly at all our get-togethers is the camaraderie between all ranks and their ladies—this obviously speaks highly of the individuals as well as the Regiment and makes me feel proud to "belong".

We are still experiencing problems at Hornsey inasmuch as getting members to attend, but we will persist in trying. I hope we can at least get enough to turn up for a monthly visit even if it is not convenient for all every week.

Let me take this opportunity of wishing you all a very Happy Christmas—lots of Good Health—and a Happy and Prosperous New Year—may more of us get together more often in 1973.

LES HOSSLEN.

MILL HILL BRANCH

Like "Ole Man River", we keep on rolling along. Perhaps a little unsteady and choppy in places but the current carries along all who drop in. Only a few monogenarians, quite a number of octogenarians, a score or so septuagenarians, a host of sexagenarians—a misnomer that I am told by some of our less able members—and an ample number of middle-aged and young (anyone under 40 years coming under the category "young").

The Branch flourishes, not only in the number on the membership roll but, more exciting, in the number of members and their friends who attend our monthly gatherings. Any special function arranged by the Regimental Association is always enthusiastically supported by our members who are liable to mob their old officers and comrades they meet on these domestic occasions.

The Branch was very well represented on the annual pilgrimage to Mons and at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Details of both ceremonies will, I'm sure, be found on other pages of this newsletter. At the time of going to press, a visit to Gondecourt and Lille is being arranged. Lille is where Capt. Michael Trotobas's code name in the Resistance, "Capitaine Michel", is commemorated on the Reseau Sylvestre—Farmer Monument. Again, the branch will be represented in the limited number it is possible to take.

Ernie Colebeck, on his holiday in Canada, was able to meet Pip Connor, MM, who served with the 21st (Islington) and 2nd Battalions in that order. He was unable to contact Col. "Nick" Cater who also is now in Ontario. It is possible that Col. Nick and Pip will be able to meet in the near future.

Due to visit England next year is Alf Damon who served with our 16th (Public Schools) Battalion and who has lived in Tasmania for many years. A comrade of his days of soldiering with the 16th, John Gates, has now left England's shores and taken up domicile within short flying distance of Alf, both being in touch with each other.

A well-known member of our Territorial Army and who is now a CSM in the Cadet Force has joined the Branch. He is A. E. "Whipper" Sills who has served continuously for 43 years. This service covers the years in England, France, Belgium, North Africa, Italy, Normandy, and Germany. He also saw active service with the "Glorious Gloucesters" in Korea. In civilian life he is an instructor of driving for London Transport, teaching drivers how to handle a bus in London traffic.

Great help to the branch during the past 12 months

has been given by Stan and Vera Kerswill, who have consistently organised our monthly raffle in a very successful manner. A cheery, happy couple, no task is too much for them to undertake. We are indeed fortunate in having a younger generation Die-Hard to help out in committee work. Stan is the son of the late RSM "Kicker" Kerswill, who was a stalwart of the branch.

As these notes are being written the diamond wedding of Cliff and Nell Badry is being celebrated. Cliff joined the 1st Battalion in 1896 and is our oldest soldier in service; he is now 94 years of age. During his service he saw the draft embark in the *Warren Hastings* to survive shipwreck with great courage, his Sergeant-Major had the Regimental number "1" and the older soldiers in the Battalion when referring to "the war" meant the Zulu War.

On behalf of the members of the Mill Hill Branch, my closing note is to bid all Die-Hards of our brother branches a Merry Christmas and contentment in 1973.

MAJOR DICK SMITH.

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

Not so much to report in this issue, things have been slack—but we manage to keep our heads above the water line. Meetings have been sparsely attended, but visitors to the Branch helped to swell our numbers on two occasions and we hope these visitors enjoyed their stay, even if it was only to natter over days gone by.

During this period we have had visits from Colonel and Mrs. Walden, Major and Mrs. Honeybun and son, Mr. J. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Wadsworth, Mr. Lambourne, Mr. F. Nash and friend and Mr. L. West—some of these we know are members, but have not seen for a time.

During this period we were depleted in numbers, our Chairman, Peggy, holidaying in Dublin's Fair City, Pat O'Connor in Munich (lucky blighter), Mrs. Buckle holidaying in Bermuda, and Mrs. Charles, who has left the district to reside in Swindon.

We were pleased to see Jim Davis looking remarkably well—it seems that our southern air did him the world of good.

Our stalwarts, namely Peggy O'Neill, Bert Hastie, Noel Peters, Charlie Kennett, Lofty Lowe and myself—also the ladies Mesdames McNeill, Buckle, Deans, Kennett—send their best wishes to all Branches and members known to them.

Our old member, Jack Deans, is still far from well but we hope, although his progress is slow, that we shall soon see him with us again.

By the time these notes appear Christmas will be upon us so here's wishing one and all—A Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

R. S. McNEILL.

2/7th BATTALION BRANCH

The 27th annual dinner of the Branch took place at the Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2, on Friday, October 6, 1972.

Lt.-Col. Stanley Mirams presided and there were 75 members present.

The guest of the evening was Col. Ian Burrows, chairman of the Regimental Association.

During the dinner, in accordance with the usual custom, a collection was made, as a result of which the

handsome sum of £51 was handed over to the Regimental Association to be placed to the credit of the Charitable Fund.

9TH BATTALION BRANCH

I am afraid there is not much news to impart this time and in a way that is good.

The news that I do not like to discuss is that of the deaths of our members. Up to now none has been reported since the last issue.

This is the season when nearly all the social events have taken place except that of Armistice Day. That indeed will be past when you receive this issue. I can always remember the first Armistice Day fifty years ago—the huge crowds in Whitehall, the bands of the various forces starting at the Horse Guards Parade and marching to the Cenotaph to take their places in that huge phalanx of uniformed men. That solemn two minutes' silence broken only by the birds that were fluttering around, which was not only at the Cenotaph but in every street, factory, home, field and on the sea. If a person moved during those two minutes he was told of it afterwards. Even all the motors were stopped and the drivers stood by their vehicles.

Customs grow old and are forgotten, but the memory of those chaps, who gave all in the two world wars, should not be allowed to fade away.

Perhaps those who were and are prepared to hold the community to ransom in the wage disputes of the past and future, should think of this.

Our old drill hall in Pound Lane, Willesden, is still standing and has not been structurally altered much on the outside. Now it is the social committee's premises of the Borough of Brent and very different from the place where those keen young Terriers congregated.

The Committee send their very best wishes for Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

R. T. M.

WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

When I received the Editor's request for our contribution for the November issue of this *Newsletter* I realised that we were nearing the end of another year, which caused me to look back at what has happened so far. The thought of what has happened in the World in general was not very cheerful so I turned my thoughts to what has happened within the Branch, and if my wishes for good health and success, as expressed in the February issue, had been fulfilled.

This was more cheerful and warming, for with a couple of exceptions all our members appear to have maintained good health. Even those of us who were not in the best of health at the beginning of the year

have improved and have had no serious setbacks, so I think we can say our first wish has been granted.

The wish for continued success has certainly been granted, for not only have attendances at our monthly meetings grown, our membership has increased also. During the past 10 months we have welcomed in 10 new members, Bert Peasley (Major), Ken Partridge, Don Jones (Capt.), Pat Donovan (Maj.), George Lambourne, Freddie (Bughole) Bugden, Frank O'Rawe, Alf Burford, Dick Stokes and Jack Milroy.

The larger attendance at our meetings has resulted in increased support to the monthly raffles and Christmas Draw. The continued success of the former is not only the number of prizes put up but also the amount which can be credited to future entertainment is largely due to the ladies and members who so generously give gifts as prizes to our two Committee Members who twist our arms and make sure that all present participate. The help-yourself snack buffet (free) has I think contributed towards the success we have enjoyed. For this we thank the organiser, Mrs. Ivy Clarke, a keen supporter of the Branch and a Di Hard since 1920.

Last, but not least, this success is due to all those members who with their wives and friends, give the support needed by regularly attending each month, thus proving what has been said before "The success of a Branch is dependent upon the support given by its members", and I can honestly say we get that.

Although we look forward to each monthly meeting we are looking forward just that bit more to our meeting on Saturday, December 9, when we shall be holding our Christmas party meeting and the Christmas draw. From the look of things it should be a very successful evening, for not only does the entertainment account look healthy enough for an enjoyable evening but also the Christmas Draw so far has been supported far better than at this time last year, pointing towards a more successful Draw as regards prizes than the one held in 1971.

Before closing I would like to express our sorrow when we heard that Freddie Cook passed away peacefully after being ill for some time, on Sunday, October 1.

Although Fred was not a member of this Branch he was known by many, he was a boxer of no mean ability and a regular member of the 2nd Battalion Boxing Team in Cairo, Singapore and India. He has on several occasions given gifts of fresh fruit as prizes for our monthly raffle. To Daisy and his four daughters we tender our deepest sympathy. R.I.P. comrade.

This being our last contribution for 1972 we wish all Die-Hards everywhere a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous 1973, and may all Branches experience such success in 1973 as we have had in 1972.

LEN JOHNSON.