



# The Die-Hards

## NEWSLETTER

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## SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MONS

The annual pilgrimage of the Die-Hards to Mons took on a special significance this year, since it was the diamond jubilee of the battle fought on Sunday, August 23, 1914, and the ceremonies connected therewith were in the hands of the Burgomaster and the Municipality of Mons.

Although there were many applicants who originally wished to be included, the numbers had to be restricted, priority being given to those who had taken part in the battle. Then illness at the last minute prevented five of those who intended to come from being with us. Eventually the mini-coach party consisted of Col. and Mrs. F. Walden, Major and Mrs. Dick Smith, Messrs. C. Ashby, R. Groombridge, T. T. Morris and W. T. Trebilcock. A small party consisting of Squadron Leader and Mrs. Abell, Mrs. Mallam (daughter of the late Major Abell, killed at Mons) and Mr. George Garrett travelled by private car. Mons veterans who were prevented by illness from joining the party were Messrs. H. Bird, W. Bishop, A. Chinnery, A. Matthews and G. J. Smith, MM.

Accommodation for the party was made available in various hotels due to the able administration of M. Jacques Deflandre, who has succeeded that great friend of the Regiment, the late M. Charles Ottevaere. "Jimmy" Deflandre was invaluable to all from the early reconnaissance until the moment of our departure. Accompanying him to the conference at the Hotel de Ville on August 21, Major Smith found himself in the chair as the delegate for the British groups amongst all the Executive Committee, with, among others, representatives from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, USA, France, Italy and

Luxembourg. The varied uniforms and conversations carried on in the various languages prior to the opening of the meeting gave him a good, imaginative picture of the Tower of Babel after Jehovah confused the builders' tongues.

Whereas for the last few years the programme for the annual visit has been one of our own making, this year it was one prepared by a special committee of the City of Mons. The programme was interesting, varied and of long duration, covering two days, that of the 22nd and 23rd. Our first ceremony was at Casteau, a village five miles north-east of Mons, where Cpl. Thomas of "C" Squadron, 4th (Irish) Dragoon Guards, fired the first British rifle shot of the Great War at daybreak on Saturday, August 22, 1914, towards the outposts of the 4th Cuirassiers (the first British rifle shot to be fired in Belgium since Waterloo). Here at the stone memorial we paid our respects, an armed guard of honour of Belgian soldiers flanking the memorial as Col. Walden placed our regimental wreath beside that of Belgium. All nationalities as mentioned in the preceding paragraph sent representatives. Opposite this memorial is a bronze plaque commemorating that the outposts of the 116th Canadian Battalion stopped at this very spot upon cease fire on November 11, 1918, at 11 a.m. After the ceremony a reception was held at the Hotel de Ville, Casteau, all participants being the guests of Dr. Leborque, the Burgomaster, and the Council amidst an atmosphere of great comradeship and bonhomie.

In Mons at 3.30 p.m. on the 22nd a long column was formed by the representative groups, many in very colourful uniforms and unique head-dresses,



including steel helmets, some with plumes, others wearing tricorns, some in shakos, whilst one group had enormous cocked hats as worn by the staff in the early days of the last century. Personal sidearms and weapons ranged from the latest automatic rifle of the American contingent to lances, swords, cutlasses and great cavalry sabres, the hilts of which reached halfway up the trunk towards the left armpit. In the tribune specially erected in the Grand Place of Mons were the Ambassadors, General Sir John Mogg, Deputy Supreme Commander, SHAPE, and other personalities, including Col. Walden as the representative of the 4th Middlesex Regiment. Also seated in the tribune were George Garrett, who is now too infirm to march, and the ladies of our party. The view they had of this colourful column, marching from a side road on to the bunting-draped square to the martial music of the military bands in full dress and trumpets twirled like arcs of brass, was impressive indeed.

Headed by the Belgian military band, the Belgian Army units marched in the following order: 2nd Light Infantry with Colours, 4th Light Cavalry, the Colours and parties of 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th Infantry, 8th Cavalry and 10th Artillery Regiments of Hainault, a squad of the 3rd Lancers and finally the Logistics School with the Colours of the 11th Artillery. Following the Belgian groups were the Colours and guards of honour of Australia, Canada, America, France, Italy, Luxembourg and New Zealand. Then came the ex-Servicemen groups of Belgium, the Lancers in traditional uniform, a unit akin to our Legion of Frontiersmen, followed by those in plain clothes, many festooned with crosses and medals, giving the impression that they had been in every war since the Norman Conquest, the British ex-Servicemen, including the Old Contemptibles of Edinburgh with their secretary, Chum J. Norrie, and the Birmingham Branch with its standard under the command of Chum Edwin Farley, MM. It was indeed an honour for Major Smith to command the British ex-Servicemen including so many Old Contemptibles, especially the men of Mons who were present on this ground on the Sunday of August 23, 1914. We came by at our own pace as befitted veterans who had passed their three-score years and ten, including one of four score and five, who was aided on each side by less aged comrades, these youngsters being two years short of 80! The oldest Old Contemptible present was George Garrett, who is 88. Instead of giving the command "Quick march", which would have been a misnomer for our rate of progress, Major Smith gave the command "Advance!", which was suitable on this occasion. The British party were advancing towards our position of honour, advancing towards the end of a long and useful life, advancing into history and advancing into the high regard of the multitude of spectators present. As we left the Rue de la Chaussee and entered the square tumultuous clapping and cheers greeted us with occasionally the grateful expression "Our English defenders", albeit we were English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish. It was a very rewarding and moving homage which was very touching to all in our column, one old veteran remarking that he felt he could grizzle, and he was not alone. Heading our party and proudly flying free was our regimental standard, borne *par excellence* by Tom

Trebilcock, who filled the breach as Colour Ensign at a moment's notice. His carriage throughout did credit to his early training as a Coldstream Guardsman.

Here it may be apt to explain why the different representative groups were present who had nothing to do with the battle of Mons fought in August 1914. The ceremonies were, in addition to commemorating the 60th anniversary, commemorating the First battle of 1914, the Second of November 1918, the Third of May 1940 and the Fourth of September 1944.

The full story of the flag-saluting ceremonies is too long to tell in the limited space available. A bugle call heralded the national anthems of each country. As the respective country's flag was raised the Colour parties faced their national flag, presented arms and dipped their Colours, compliments at the same time being paid by all other groups present. The various renderings of the "Last Post" and "Silencio" in Italy were musically interesting, the flag-raising ceremonies finishing with the British national anthem and "La Brabanconne" of Belgium.

After this ceremony M. Abel Dubois, the Burgomaster of Mons, made a speech recalling the heroism when exactly 60 years ago the soldiers of the 4th Middlesex Regiment resisted the 1st German Army of Von Kluck, finishing his speech by addressing our group specially, saying, "In the name of the town of Mons and its population I would like to reiterate our gratitude and our friendship. Here you are at home, on the territory which you have defended and reconquered". As he said these words his eyes lifted to the iron balcony above the entrance to the Hotel de Ville, where our regimental flag had been tied so as to show the full three panels and badge, an even more illustrious position than it normally occupies on our annual pilgrimage. This speech was followed by General Lonay, president of the Mons ex-Servicemen's Entente, who in his turn paid homage to his companions and to his comrades of the British Expeditionary Force, of whom he praised their sacrificial spirit and heroic courage. His speech was one of vehemence and gesticulation, making the loud-speakers hum and rattle. The last speech was by Col. Walden, which was succinct and full of feeling. He said the British Army, and our own regiment in particular, were glad to be there in 1914 and delighted to be there again to take part in the diamond jubilee celebrations. He hoped he and his comrades would be in Mons again next year, as is our annual practice. Thanking the citizens for the honour they have paid our regiment by naming a thoroughfare after the 4th Battalion, he stepped from the dais, applauded by all and especially by the Old Comrades, who had been standing for a long time on a very warm afternoon. His very few words brought a sigh of relief from veterans with tired feet and aching bones.

The parade then formed up and made a circuit of the streets near the square, followed by a march past, we again marching in our suitable steady step. As we came once more on the square, we again received ovation as the paper *La Province* said, "Whereupon once again the public reserved a warm ovation for the English ex-Servicemen who were defiling in a dignified manner and in a truly British way beside their Belgian fighting brothers".

The "fighting brothers" then made their way to the Grand Salon Gothique in the Hotel de Ville, a very large room with extremely interesting cameos depicting the Gothic wars of the Middle Ages. Also interesting was the champagne poured with liberality by our hosts into our ready glasses.

So ended the ceremonies of the 22nd, with the promise of a full day to follow on the 23rd, the day of special significance to all Die-Hards.

Our first ceremony on the 23rd was at the Belfry Memorial, the monument to the two battles of Mons, of 1914 and 1918. In the socle at the base of the two pillars is earth taken from the graves of the Allied dead who fell in the two battles. Here the ceremony was dominated by the Birmingham Branch of the Old Contemptibles, it being felt, rightly, that they had priority at this intimate ceremony. Unfortunately this was the last we were to see of this party of veterans, as it appears that three different programmes were being worked. We were conforming to that published by the Executive Committee and in ignorance of the other two. The veterans from Birmingham also had to depart from Mons soon after this ceremony. Wreaths from the Old Contemptibles and the Die-Hards were placed on the memorial, ours being laid by Col. Walden. From the belfry we made our way to Saint Symphorien British Military Cemetery, where we were joined by the Old Contemptibles from Edinburgh and the Anciens Combattants of Obourg and St. Symphorien. At the memorial to the 4th Battalion we had both parties as our guests, the honour of placing our wreath and declaiming the Exhortation falling on Major Smith. The next ceremony, a family one, was at the grave of Major W. H. Abell, the first British officer to be killed in action in 1914. His son, Squadron Leader J. M. Abell, and Mrs. Abell and his daughter, Mrs. Mallam, had come to pay their respects to his memory at the grave. To the silence of all and the dipped ensigns of British and Belgian groups ex-Dmr. George Garrett, who in 1914 was his bugler and at his side when he was killed, laid the wreath by the headstone, saying, "God rest his soul. He was a good officer—and a gentleman". There could be no finer epitaph.

Next was the ceremony at the Cross of Honour. Here the Old Contemptibles of Edinburgh took priority, Chum J. Norrie giving the Exhortation after the placing of wreaths in the following order: Old Contemptibles, Diehards and our Belgian comrades. Col. Walden placed our wreath on the memorial. After the ceremonies in the cemetery our Belgian friends insisted on being our hosts in St. Symphorien village for a period of about 45 minutes, where friendships were renewed in the local estaminet.

In the afternoon the ceremonies at Obourg took place, beginning with the welcome in the Grand Place, where there was a renewal of individual friendships formed in the past years, among these comrades being Premier Maître Transmetteur Jean Claude Blivet of the French Navy and now at SHAPE. One great pleasure was the simultaneous arrival of our friends from Lille, the Companions of Capitaine Michel, Reseau Sylvestre, consisting of Marcel Fertein, Jean Descamp, principal organiser for south-west Lille, Brigadier Chef Charles Vandael and Brigadier Chef Jean Joveniaux, the three latter in their gendarme uniforms as members of No. 2

CRS, the strong figure of Jean towering over the crowd around him. The natural effervescence of our Gallic comrades added to the gaiety of our party before the beginning of the solemn ceremonies.

At 3.45 p.m. the procession started towards the church, the Belgian band leading, dressed in a uniform similar to that worn by the Belgian infantry in 1914, including the kepi head-dress. The British Ambassador was represented by the Military Attaché, Col. W. H. Atkins, the remainder of the groups being senior officers from SHAPE, Belgian Service personnel, civic authorities, patriotic associations, French representatives as above, Belgian ex-Servicemen and British ex-Servicemen, including the Old Contemptibles from Edinburgh. The church was crowded to capacity, the orchestra and choir in the south transept in line with the congregation, whilst all the standards and ensigns were formed in a semicircle in the apse, our own distinctly coloured standard being prominent and Tom Trebilcock in particular as he was the only one wearing gauntlets, which showed up brilliantly. The solemn mass was impressive in every detail. The priest was strong in build, handsome in features and earnest in elocution and delivery. The service was to the memory of the heroes and victims of the two world wars. The soloist was superb in his rendering of "Ave Maria", "Kyrie Eleison" and "Sons of the Brave". After the service we again formed up behind the band, by which time a number of the Friends in Mons of the Middlesex Regiment, wearing their lapel badges, joined our group behind our standard. To our delight the priest had changed into mufti and he also was on the march with us.

## Peter McRae

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The next ceremony was in the communal cemetery of Obourg, where wreaths were laid, ours by Col. Walden, our national anthem and "La Brabanconne" being played whilst the military guard of honour presented arms and standards were lowered. We then marched to Obourg railway station, the streets and houses bedecked with bunting, the Union Jack—not always right way up—being prominent. The younger locals saluted us on the streets, whilst in many houses the aged and infirm sat on chairs in the open doorways, waving and blowing kisses. Yes, Obourg certainly has a love for our regiment. This esteem is due to a large extent to M. Rene Langouche, a prominent citizen and long-established friend of the Regiment, who in 1914 as a youth watched our soldiers fight the battle which the inhabitants call the Battle of Obourg.

short reply by Col. Walden similar to the address in Mons, but on this occasion expressing pride in the lone stand by the unknown Die-Hard mentioned above. Our wreath was once more on a special hook on the wall by our plaque. Here it will remain, as in years past, until the morning of August 23 the following year. At each ceremony where a regimental wreath was laid the wreath bearer until the moment of ceremony was Mr. T. T. Morris, whose assistance was greatly appreciated.

With the band playing and standard flying we marched past the dais, paying compliments, the dais being adjacent to our memorial plaque. During every ceremony and march the greatest support and allegiance was given by Mr. Charles Ashby, a true Man of Mons whose bearing and conduct were beyond reproach. He was there in 1914 when



M. Rene Langouche, wearing our OCA lapel badge, handing to Colonel Walden the painting of Obourg railway station, presented by the citizens of Obourg.  
By courtesy of "La Province"

The last ceremony was at Obourg station, which had been freshly repainted for the occasion. Our bronze plaque on the wall, recalling that it was at this spot that the first shots of the battle were fired by the 4th Battalion on the morning of August 23, 1914, and commemorating the gallantry of the unknown hero who held up the Germans until killed, thus allowing his comrades to withdraw to a new position. Belgian and British flags flanked the memorial, as did two cut-out regimental badges. Above flew our regimental flag, the flag staff topped by another large Middlesex badge. There was no doubt to the visitor that the Middlesex Regiment were there when they were most needed. A similar service to that at the cemetery ended with "Present Arms", "Last Post", "La Brabanconne" and "God Save the Queen". Then a speech by Alderman Ducobu, representing the Burgomaster, followed by a fiery address by M. Langouche giving fervent expressions of gratitude to our soldiers who fought so well at Obourg. A very

Belgium needed his help and 60 years later he was again ready and willing when the Regimental Association needed his support.

At the reception later in the evening each participant in the diamond jubilee celebrations was presented with a commemoration certificate signed by the Burgomaster and Council depicting the archer Angels of Mons above the belfry tower. Also presented to the Regiment by the citizens of Obourg was a painting of Obourg railway station, showing the flat roof as it was on August 23, 1914, when held by "D" Company, 4th Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). A full description will be found under Regimental Museum notes on page 7.

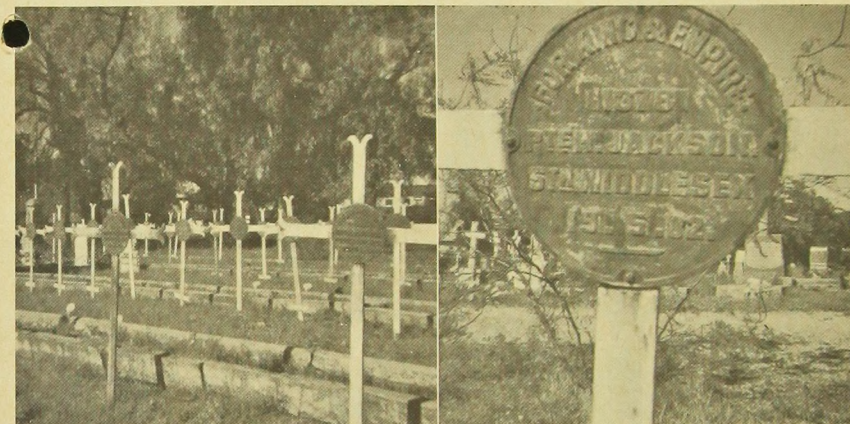
For the Old Contemptibles this was the last official parade. For the Men of Mons of the Middlesex Regiment the last parade lies in the future. May it be many years ahead.  
R.W.J.S.

## A CEMETERY IN MAFEKING

We have received a most interesting account from Miss Penelope Teesdale, sister-in-law of Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, of a visit she made last year to a cemetery in Mafeking. Penelope ("Penny") knew the 1st Battalion well when she stayed a few months with Col. and Mrs. Chattey at Zeltweg in Austria. She is living in New York and visited Mafeking whilst on holiday travelling throughout South Africa.

Naturally, "Penny" became more than interested when she found that a small part of the cemetery

"I am sure that you know much more about the siege of Mafeking than I do—that 800 men held out for 217 days, from October 12, 1899, till May 5, 1900; that much entertainment and tea parties went on; that Winston Churchill's aunt was there (emerging from a tent in fabulous clothes!). But I still got a great thrill being entertained by Mr. Minchin in the little building that the then Col. Baden-Powell used as his official lookout; it was then a one-storey building with a flat top which he found so useful for his purpose. Now a second storey has been added on to



Left: A general view of some of the military graves in the Cemetery  
Right: The inscription on the cross of the grave of Pte Jackson

contained the graves of some Middlesex men who died during the siege of Mafeking. She is an excellent raconteur and the following is a short summary from an absorbing letter describing her visit:

"The cemetery did not seem to have any special name. We just walked in through a small wrought iron gate from the pavement. As we did a lot of driving during my stay at Mafeking I cannot remember the exact address of the cemetery, but it is within the town of Mafeking itself. It is still being used today—it seemed quite a general cemetery—for there were sections of quite modern graves. The old military graves were in just one area of it. The inscription on the cross of the grave of one old Die-Hard buried there reads:

For King and Empire  
1378  
Pte. H. Jackson  
5th Middlesex  
19.5.02

"It certainly brings to mind Rupert Brooke's immortal words 'that there's some corner of a foreign field that is for ever England'.

the flat top and the building is the offices of Minchin and Kelley, estate agents and conveyancers. Mr. Minchin's wife is the mother and leading light of the little museum which has now been opened in Mafeking and in there can be seen some of what were the last silver buttons used by the British Army before it switched to brass buttons".

We are indeed most grateful to "Penny" for the trouble which she has taken over this account and for the two photographs which are reproduced in support of it.

The 5th Middlesex, as inscribed on Pte. Jackson's grave, were raised during the latter part of the eighteenth century as the Royal Elthorne Light Infantry (Militia), which, in 1881 under the Cardwell system, became the 3rd Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) (Militia). On the formation of the 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions in 1900 the title changed to 5th Battalion (Militia). Under the command of Lt.-Col. V. Rolleston the Battalion was embodied on January 6, 1902, and sailed for South Africa on February 22, 1902. The Battalion was stationed in Mafeking after the siege, when it lost eight soldiers killed, who are buried in this cemetery.



## TWO LENS

By Major Dick Smith

In the Mill Hill Branch notes in the *Die-Hards Newsletter* of June 1974 I mentioned the regaining of contact by Len Arlington (6203442) and Len Wilson (6205016). The reunion of the two Lens took place at Edgware on July 27, at the monthly gathering of the Mill Hill Branch. They had last met in 1940, when both were escaped prisoners from the German Army.

After the evacuation of the BEF from France and Belgium in May and June 1940 a number of our soldiers who had been made prisoner during the fighting managed to escape, fondly imagining, with the typical optimism of the British Tommy, that our troops would be back in a matter of weeks to ensure their liberty. Among these optimists were the two Lens.



*The reunion of the two Lens. Left to Right: Maj. R. W. J. Smith, MBE, M. Marcel Fertein, Len Wilson, Len Arlington, M. Faucomprez, Colonel F. Walden, MBE, DL*

Len Arlington, after his freedom dash, made his way back to Gondecourt, where he had made a number of friends during the time the 2nd Battalion had been billeted there during 1939 and 1940. For most of this period he had been the batman of Capt. Gerry Porter, an employment which enabled him to move freely in the village and meet people. It was to these friends that he made his way for refuge and succour after eluding the German patrols who were mopping up stragglers from the Allied forces. He was received with open arms and given shelter and eventually a forged identity card, supplied by a small group who were assisting escaped Allied prisoners of war.

A short time after he had settled in as a farm worker he was called by an excited French girl who said there were two men who declared they were escaped British soldiers. Would he come and check if they were bona fide Britishers? One was a Guardsman (George Young) and the other was Len Wilson. Neither of the two Die-Hards recognised each other in their disguises, but as soon as Len Arlington heard

the name Len Wilson he was amazed. Len Wilson was a much older man, having enlisted under the Hore-Belisha scheme, and had been in the same barrack room at Gosport when war was declared in September 1939, so instead of completing his training and going home to his wife he was embodied and remained with the Battalion. He was then employed as batman to Major C. M. Baldwin, the Officer Commanding "D" Company, at which time I was the CSM. Before leaving for France with the advance party Len Arlington had sold a small radio to Len Wilson for half-a-crown, so to the great astonishment of Len Wilson said, "How is that radio going which I flogged you in Gosport?" After a moment's scrutiny Len Wilson exclaimed "Good God, Len Arlington! You look a right Froggy in that outfit. I did not recognise you".

The three men took up their hiding place in an empty farm, having a number of interesting experiences of which there is no space to tell here. In the meantime plans were laid on for their passage back to the United Kingdom. The waiting was boring, especially for the two, who could not move around the villages as could Len Arlington, due to his knowledge of the patois of Northern France and possession of an identity card. It so happened that on one occasion the two who were known to most of the villagers of Gondecourt were taken into a café and given a liberal supply of drink. Then, out of the blue, a platoon of German soldiers arrived and also began to make merry. Before long the Germans, who were in a cheerful mood and trying to become friendly with the inhabitants of the occupied territory, were singing loudly. George Young and Len Wilson by this time were tipsy and joined in the singing, much to the delight of the German troops, who were under the impression that they were French farm labourers.

Unfortunately for the blood pressure of Len Arlington, who was now outside figuring out how to get his two drunken friends and himself away in safety, they began to sing the song "Tipperary" in English. The Germans joined in with great zest, fondly believing that the labourers were showing appreciation of the victorious German Army.

To go into the café and persuade his friends to come away was inviting trouble, as in their condition they were sure to expostulate in their mother tongue and so cause all to be recaptured. Len then requested his comely housewife friend to go into the café to persuade them to leave. In a flash of genius she stormed into the café and in the role of the irate wife boxed Len Wilson's ears, berated George Young as the accessory and pushed both of them out of the door of the café, all this to the loud whoops and cheers of the German soldiery.

A soon as the rescue was completed, and after sobering up, the two errands were supplied with bicycles and passed along the escape route. Len Wilson was quizzed at Marseilles, his Geordie accent giving cause for suspicion as a soldier from a Cockney regiment, and later passed to North Africa, where he was eventually liberated by the American forces. The full story of the two Lens leaves much to

be told, one I hope to tell at a later date.

Since Len Arlington returned home after the liberation of France he had made numerous enquiries of the present whereabouts of Len Wilson, but I could not help him. Two months ago I was in the "Wellington", High Road, Wood Green, and wearing my regimental blazer. The chap sitting next to me remarked "Ah, the old Die-Hards, eh?" I promptly asked him his vintage and battalion, to receive the reply that he was "D" Company, 2nd Battalion, and was the Company Commander's batman. He then recognised me as his CSM of Gosport and Gondecourt. I asked, "Surely you must be Len Wilson who

was put in the bag by Jerry at Dunkirk and then escaped?" "Yes, that's me" was the reply. It was then, after 34 years, that I was able to arrange a reunion of the two Lens.

The photograph on page 6 shows also two French patriots, M. Faucomprez, who suffered imprisonment for harbouring Len Arlington, and M. Fertein, an able lieutenant of Capt. Michael Trotobas, the "Capitaine Michel" of the Réseau Farmer-Sylvestre Group. Also present on this occasion was Madame Bonny, who in 1940 was Mademoiselle Marcelle Brien, one of two sisters who supplied Len Arlington with the forged identity card.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

*Curator: Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Rd., Edgware, Middx.*

The following are recent acquisitions for the museum:

- Framed painting of Obourg station.
- "Wanted" poster of George Grivas.
- Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.
- German field compass.

### Framed Oil Painting of Obourg Station

This painting shows the railway station of Obourg as it was when defended by "D" Company, 4th Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) under the command of Capt. H. E. L. ("Gussy") Glass. In the foreground can be seen the canal and the road bridge, the approach to which was dominated by the position of the troops in the upper rooms of the building and on the flat roof at the end of the edifice. This portion now has a sloping roof the same as the remainder of the construction. It was here that L/14301 Pte. W. A. Merry was killed, our first soldier of the Regiment to be killed in action in World War I. He was, in addition, the first battle casualty of this Battalion's history, as it was their optimism of fire. The official history relates how shots were exchanged between "D" Company, posted at the Obourg bridge, and the German cavalry at 6 a.m. The artist has faithfully copied a photograph taken at the time, depicting the terrain, now in the course of modernisation, one change being the resiting of the canal itself.

At the top left corner of the painting he has drawn the regimental cap badge and underneath the words "Obourg 23 August, 1914", Signed at the bottom right corner "A. Bordignon 1974".

The presentation was made by M. Rene Langouche, President de l'Entente des Groupements patriotique, Obourg section.

*Presented by the citizens of Obourg.*

### "Wanted" Poster—George Grivas

George Theodoros Grivas, the much wanted leader of the militant and military terrorists in Cyprus, in May 1956 had a price of £10,000 on his head. A cunning, ruthless and efficient leader, he was a thorn in the side of the British forces on the island and an adversary who always, through the loyalty of his followers, was a step ahead of his opponents.

The poster gives four photographs of him, the first as an officer of the Greek Army and three in mufti and obviously taken many years later, as they depict him much heavier in build and the lines of strain showing on his features.

The poster reads:

£10,000 REWARD  
£10,000 will be paid to any member of the public who gives information leading to the arrest of  
**GEORGE THEODORUS GRIVAS**  
whose photograph and description are given below:

DESCRIPTION—Age about 58, height 5 feet 6½ inches; medium to broad build (possibly less thick set than indicated in photograph), strong



broad face, small Hitler-style moustache, chestnut hair, bald on top (hair greying above ears and on temples), chestnut eyes, dark and bushy eyebrows, EARS ARE LARGE AND SET LOW ON HEAD, wide mouth with firm jaw.

ANYONE who gives this information will be given

£10,000 IN CASH

(or the equivalent in other sterling currency); will, if he or she desires, be taken into protective custody; and will be given a free passage by sea or air with British protection to any place in the world he or she desires outside CYPRUS. The journey will be kept secret and so arranged that the destination will not become known.

BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS.

3rd May, 1956.

Presented by Mr. D. R. Bennett (2310446), who served in Cyprus with the 1st Battalion.

### Long Service and Good Conduct Medal

The Long Service and Good Conduct Medal dates back for Army personnel to 1830, when it was instituted by King William IV. The early issues had the recipient's rank, name, regiment and year of award stamped or engraved on the rim and were awarded to soldiers of irreproachable character who had served 21 years in the infantry or 20 years in the cavalry. It is now awarded to warrant officers, NCOs and men of 18 years' service whose character and conduct throughout have been irreproachable. The original pattern had a trophy of arms on the

obverse and the legend "For long service and good conduct" on the reverse. The obverse was altered when King Edward VII ascended the throne, the trophy of arms being replaced by an effigy of the monarch, and has remained so since. The original ribbon was plain crimson, whereas now it is crimson with white edges, being changed in the early days of World War I due to the newly recruited soldiers of "Kitchener's Army", confusing it with the ribbon of the Army Victoria Cross, which also was crimson but wider, as are all ribbons of Orders. This particular medal has the effigy of King George VI on the obverse and suspended from a bar denoting "Regular Army" with the inscription on the rim "6191681 Pte. S. F. Sibley, Middx R". Stanley Sibley served continuously in the 1st Battalion from July 22, 1919, until August 13, 1938, when he retired to pension at his own request. He is a member of the Regimental Association and attends reunions and ceremonies with regularity.

Presented by Mr. S. F. Sibley.

### German Field Compass

This small compass in a metal and wooden case 2½ x 3 in shaped like the letter U was given to the donor by a wounded German prisoner as they were being taken in the same ambulance, a horse-drawn Red Cross wagon, after the attack by 23rd (Second Football) Battalion on the hamlet of Korentje, September 29, 1918, during the fighting on the Comines Canal. The Battalion during the battle won most praiseworthy acknowledgement, capturing 110 prisoners (one in the possession of a compass!), five medium machine guns, one light machine gun and four field guns. The Battalion casualties were five officers wounded, 25 other ranks killed and 105 wounded, one of whom was the donor of this relic, ex-Sgt. H. Oxley (G/87359). Henry Oxley is a well-known name in cycling championship circles and still holds the record made at Herne Hill on October 25, 1938, of 42 miles in the hour from a standing start.

Presented by Mr. Henry Oxley, late 23rd Battalion.

### DIE-HARDS NEWSLETTER

Owing to rising costs it will be necessary to increase the annual subscription to *The Die-Hards Newsletter* from 25p to 50p per year as from January 1, 1975.

The cost of individual copies has had to be increased to 12p.

### FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Messrs. A. Bailey, F. E. Birdsall, Roy Bishop, R. E. Booker, A. Brown, E. S. Duffield, L. M. F. Dyer, J. D. Forgham, C. Harper, E. A. James, M. G. Lloyd, W. Morton and W. H. Rippin for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free issues of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving old comrades.

## PERSONAL JOTTINGS

We send our heartfelt congratulations to ex-Sgt. Roy Bishop on completing over 25 years with the Hector Powe tailoring organisation, most of the time as manager of the Worthing branch. To mark the occasion a reception was held at the firm's Regent Street, London, branch, when he was presented with a gold watch by the board of directors.

During the 1939-45 war he served in the resuscitated 1st Battalion and, during the later stages, was No. 13 Platoon Sergeant to Capt. John Gerrard.

An old veteran who takes a keen interest in his branch of the Regimental Association is ex-Sgt. Archie Brown (6205970). It is understood that he has been a committee member of the 9th Battalion (TA) Branch for 40 years, a wonderful record on which he is to be heartily congratulated.

During the 1914-18 war he served in the 1/9th and 2/9th Battalions (TF) until 1916, when he was attached to the 13th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment. In the 1939-45 war he again served with the 9th Battalion under their new title, 60th SL Regiment, which later was changed to 126 LAA Regiment, RA, until 1942, when he was seconded for service in India with the Indian Royal Artillery.

Ex-Cpl. R. W. ("Topper") Brown (6201258) is one of our newly joined members of the Regimental Association. He joined the 1st Battalion ("B" Company) at Moascar in December 1935 and served with the Battalion at Singapore and Hong Kong, where on the fall of the colony he was a PoW at Camp "S" (Shamshuipo) until the end of the war with Japan.

Congratulations to Major Peter Cheeseman on successfully completing the 14th General Staff course (Army) at the Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr, Hamburg, from April 1971 to September 21, 1973, and on being awarded the symbol "OSC (GE)" against his name in the Army List.

He is now serving as a company commander with 2 Queen's.

A recent welcome visitor to RHQ Edware was WO2 J. Dickens, who is now the CSM of Adm. Company, 1 Queen's. He has just returned from Canada, where the Battalion has been on a training exercise.

He served with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus, Hameln and Lydd and will be well remembered by those who were serving at that time.

His present company commander is Major Bob Bartlett, also ex-1st Battalion.

The engagement has been announced between Major Peter Gybbon-Monypenny, younger son of Mr. H. R. D. Gybbon-Monypenny, CBE, and the late Mrs. M. L. Gybbon-Monypenny, and Doronée Pelicia, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Campbell, Sydney, Australia.

The Antwerp Branch of the Royal British Legion is trying to trace ex-L/Cpl. W. Hall (6212767), 2nd Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment,

who was stationed in Belgium from September to December 1944 and billeted with Mr. and Mrs. De Wilde at Vorseelaar, near Antwerp.

Mr. and Mrs. De Wilde are now both over 90 years of age and would dearly like to hear from him again.

Any reader who may know the present address of ex-Cpl. Hall is requested to notify the Editor.

Major John Hesketh is one of our recently joined members of the Officers' Club. He was commissioned in the 9th Battalion (TA) in August 1938 and served with 431 Battery until the middle of 1943, when he was posted to India.

Congratulations to Major Hewson on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel and selection for command of 6th (V) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, which took effect from April 26 last.

We wish him every success in his new appointment.

A quite unexpected, but very welcome, visitor to RHQ Edware recently was ex-Sgt. C. J. Howes, who served with the 9th Battalion (TA) from 1911 to 1923. He is now 81 years of age and lives at Borehamwood. He had two brothers who also served in the Regiment.

We have just heard that not only has Capt. Peter Hubert been promoted to the rank of Major, but that he has also been awarded the MBE for gallantry in N. Ireland whilst serving with HQ 39th Infantry Brigade, and we send him our heartfelt congratulations.

He is now serving with 2 Queen's.

Whilst setting out on the pilgrimage to Mons on August 21 last the coach party, when embarking on the ferry at Dover, met one of our younger Die-Hards, ex-Pte. A. Kelly (14700884), who had served in the resuscitated 1st Battalion in NW Europe. He has now been enrolled as a member of the Regimental Association and is anxious to attend some of our functions, where he hopes to meet some of his old comrades. He is employed in the docks at Dover where he has his home.

We send our heartfelt congratulations to the following on their promotion to the rank states, as notified in the half yearly promotion list dated June 30, 1974:

To Colonel:

Lt.-Col. B. H. Marciandi.

Lt.-Col. H. J. A. Moore, OBE.

To Major

Capt. R. A. Bartlett.

Capt. P. F. Packham.

In a letter just received Lt.-Col. Geoff Mason, at present serving on the British Army Training Liaison Staff, Kenya, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards who know him.

One of our former National Service officers, 2/Lt. Anthony Morden, has recently been enrolled as a

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member of the Regimental Officers' Club.  
He did all his service with our 1st Battalion.

After the annual regimental dinner we were delighted to get Brigadier Douglas Parker to rejoin the Officers' Club.

During the 1939-45 war, on completion of his tour as a MMG instructor at Netheravon, he was posted as 2IC of our 7th Battalion (TA) and served with that Battalion in Normandy. He eventually succeeded to command when Col. Andrew Man was given a senior staff appointment.

As we go to press news has been received that Major Michael Rose, who is serving as a contract officer with the Sultan's Armed Forces, stepped on a mine on September 13 during an operation which he was leading in the western area of Dhofar. As a tragic result of this both his feet have had to be amputated. He has now been evacuated to England and is undergoing treatment in Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.

In the last two issues of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* the publication of the unusual award of three clasps to the Territorial Decoration of two of our senior Territorial Army officers has prompted Lt.-Col. David Simpson to write and inform us that he also has three clasps to his Territorial Decoration, the last being awarded in 1958.

On August 31, 1974, Bruce Waldron, the only son of Major and Mrs. Frank Waldron, was married at Elham Church, near Canterbury, Kent, to Angela Cox, and we send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

Ex-Pte. Harry G. Woodward is another newly joined member of the Regimental Association. He enlisted in 1942 and served in the 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion until after the war, when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion as a driver-mechanic. He ended his service with the 1st Battalion and was discharged in 1946.

He was a very keen boxer and footballer and played cricket for Middlesex Schoolboys.

## CORRESPONDENCE

From: Major C. H. K. Fisher, MC, DL, JP, President, Middlesex Committee Army Benevolent Fund

Beverley,  
56 Twyford Avenue,  
Acton, W3.  
August 20, 1974.

Col. F. Walden, MBE, DL,  
Editor, *The Die-Hards Newsletter*,  
Deansbrook Road,  
Edgware, Middlesex.

Dear Col. Walden,

Thank you for the June issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*. I was interested to read under benevolent cases the help received from the Army Benevolent Fund.

I would like to bring this fund to the notice of members, as it is not too well known.

I formed the main Middlesex Appeal Fund Committee in 1964, and was chairman till 1974, when I became president. During this time approximately £20,000 has been raised.

I have appeal committees working in each London borough in the Middlesex area of Greater London except Haringey.

If any member would like to help with this appeal I would be pleased to put them in touch with the appropriate chairman.

The fund does so much for soldiers, ex-soldiers and their families it needs all the support possible.

Yours sincerely,  
HOWARD FISHER.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date 1974	Event
Sunday, October 27	Attendance at Church Parade, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
Saturday, November 9	Ceremony at Field of Remem- brance, Westminster Abbey.
Sunday, November 10	Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by Reunion at TAVR Centre, Edgware.

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## OBITUARY

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

AMBLER—On July 14, 1974, after a long illness courageously borne, S/Sgt. Christopher Ambler, son of ex-Sgt. and Mrs. R. E. Ambler.

BICKNELL—On September 7, 1974, in hospital, Dorothy May Bicknell, widow of Lt.-Col. H. P. F. Bicknell, DSO, who commanded the 2nd Battalion from September 28, 1924, to September 27, 1928.

COOKE—On August 22, 1974, Lt.-Col. Cedric Paul Cooke, JP, late 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment, aged 59. When in 1943 the Support Companies of the resuscitated 1st Battalion were reorganised into groups he was posted to the Battalion and served with "A" Group under the command of the late Major R. W. D. Sword, MC.

DAWSON—On August 27, 1973, Edith Marion, aged 92, widow of Lt.-Col. A. G. Dawson, late 3rd Battalion, who was killed in action on April 22, 1917, and beloved mother of Major G. C. Dawson.

ELSE—On April 4, 1974, Col. Francis Herman Else, aged 67. He was commissioned on August 30, 1926, as a Second-Lieutenant in the Regiment from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where he achieved considerable success both as a senior under-officer and as captain of the Sandhurst Rigger XV. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion, then stationed in India at Ahmednagar, and served with that battalion until he attained the rank of Captain in 1937, when he transferred to the RAOC as an Ordnance Officer 4th Class. He eventually reached the rank of Colonel (and Ordnance Officer 1st Class) and retired as such on June 2, 1960.

HERAPATH—On June 16, 1974, Lt.-Col. Lionel Henry John de la More Herapath, aged 66. He was commissioned on September 1, 1927, as a Second-Lieutenant in the Regiment from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was posted to the 1st Battalion and served with that Battalion in Palestine and Egypt until January 1936, when he was seconded for service under the Colonial Office in East Africa. There he served with the King's African Rifles both as a regimental officer and as a staff officer, attaining the temporary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, until April 1944, when he returned to this country and was posted to 26 MGTC. From October 1944 onwards he served in NW Europe until the end of the war. He was appointed temporarily to command the 2nd Battalion July 12, 1945. On relinquishing command in June 1946 he held second-grade staff appointments at the War Office and Northern Ireland District until September 1948, when he was appointed temporary Lieutenant-Colonel again and AA & QMG in Ceylon. This was followed by a similar appointment with the British Military Mission in Ethiopia in July 1950. On return to the United Kingdom in June 1951 he was appointed Military Assistant (GSO1) to the Assistant Controller of Supplies (Quartering). This was followed by another staff appointment as AQMG (Quartering) at HQ British Army of the Rhine from October 1952

until November 1955. Whilst holding this appointment he was promoted to substantive Lieutenant-Colonel in April 1953. He retired in November 1955 and was then employed as a retired officer Grade 3 at HQ Hanover District and Rhine Area, and later at HQ Wales District, Brecon.

NORRISH—On August 22, 1974, Millicent, aged 82, widow of Capt. W. Norrish, who was killed in action at Ypres on August 27, 1917, whilst serving with the 4/10th (TF) Battalion.

ORMES—On September 8, 1974, ex-L/Cpl. Harry George Ormes (6196036), aged 66. He enlisted in February 1924 and served continuously in the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion for 12 years until his discharge in February 1936. He was one of four brothers who served in the Regiment, two of whom are now deceased, the eldest and the youngest.

It was unfortunate that news of his death was not received in time to enable a representative to be sent to the funeral.

OSBORN—On July 7, 1974, ex-Pte. Leslie William Osborn (6192509), aged 69. "Ginger" or "Rusty" Osborn enlisted into the Regiment on June 2, 1920, and two days after enlisting he was posted to the 3rd Battalion, then on strike duty at Dover, having been recalled from the British Army of Occupation on the Rhine. He served with this Battalion at Cologne (Kronprinz Barracks, Kalk) and in Upper Silesia (Beuthen) when it was part of the Upper Silesian Plebiscite Force. He was one of a large draft sent from the 3rd Battalion to join the 2nd Battalion, then stationed in Cairo, and about to move to Singapore in HMT *Huntsend*, on which the draft was also sailing. He served with the 2nd Battalion in Singapore and Ahmednagar, India, where he completed his seven years' Colour service. On return to the United Kingdom in December 1927 he was transferred to the Army Reserve.

He kept in touch with the Regiment and was a friend of Mr. S. J. Wallace (6196203), to whom we are indebted for the news of the decease of this old Die-Hard.

REDMOND—On August 14, 1974, ex-Sgt. J. Redmond, aged 41. He enlisted early in 1953 and took a premature redundancy discharge in 1972. Most of his service was spent with the 1st Battalion.

He was a very good sportsman, especially at Association football.

SEAMARK—On September 19, 1974, ex-Pte. Albert Victor Seamark (TF/292825), aged 87. He enlisted in February 1916 and was posted to the 3/10th (TF) Battalion when the third line TF units were recruiting to fill the gaps in their ranks. He was later posted to the 1/10th (TF) Battalion in India. When that battalion was preparing to return to this country to be disembodied Albert Seamark was one of a draft of signallers sent to 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment, who were on active service in the Khyber Pass. After six months on the frontier he was posted home for



discharge and was eventually awarded the Indian General Service Medal with clasp "Afghanistan, NWF 1919".

**SLOAN**—On June 22, 1974, ex-Pipe Major William Sloan, BEM (PS/2178). He was a member of the pipe band of the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion, and subsequently became a notable figure in the piping world. He was Pipe Major of the band which won the world championship four times and latterly the honorary president of the Scottish Pipe Band Association.

**STEWART**—On September 4, 1974, ex-Cpl. Donald Ernest Stewart (F/1039), aged 82. He enlisted in the 17th (First Football) Battalion in March 1915 and served with that unit throughout its active life and was discharged at the end of hostilities in 1919. He re-enlisted again into the Regiment in October 1941 with the Army number 6216318 and was posted to the 7th Battalion. He was later trans-

ferred to the Royal Military Police ("Blue Caps") and served with that Corps until he was discharged in 1945.

He was a member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association and kept in touch until shortly before his death.

As all the information is not yet available, a full obituary notice on Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, MC, who died on August 29, 1974, will be published in a subsequent *Newsletter*.

## ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Secretary's Notes

#### Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1 to September 30, 1974, the sum of £858 was expended from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 57 ex-members of the Regiment.

#### Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Mrs. F. Beesley (in memory of her late husband, Pte. F. Beesley, 2/10th Battalion) and Mr. P. Hartnett.

#### Annual Parade—Belgian OCA

A party from the Regimental Association attended the annual Belgian OCA parade on Sunday, July 21, at the Horse Guards and marched to the Cenotaph. The Standard was carried by Mr. F. Hawes.

#### Cricket—John Player League Match, Middlesex v Kent

Our visit to Lord's cricket ground this year was spoilt by rain. On arrival we were given a box together with a fully equipped bar and we waited all day in great comfort for play to start. Finally at 4 p.m. the authorities decided that no play was possible and

we left for home in good spirits even though we had not seen a ball bowled. Our grateful thanks go to Mr. Gus Farley (ex-1/7th Battalion), who is on the staff at Lord's, for making our party so comfortable.

#### Summer Outing

The outing organised this year was a visit to Brighton. It took place on Sunday, September 22, and was attended by 52 members and their families. We stopped for lunch at the White Horse Inn, Hurstpierpoint, and then proceeded on to the coast. Luckily the weather remained fine although windy. We were well supported by the Hounslow and Mill Hill branches. Numbers were restricted to one coach-load owing to the difficulty in finding a place to seat more than 52 for lunch.

#### Branches

*a.* The secretary of the Hong Kong Branch of the Regimental Association is now Capt. Simon Yates, who has taken over from Lt.-Col. M. F. Leonard, who is returning to the UK in February next year. Capt. Yates is serving with HQ, Land Forces Staff Captain "Q" (Quartering). He was originally in the Middlesex Regiment and became Queen's Regiment on the amalgamation.

*b.* Mr. Gordon Young has taken over the duties of secretary of the Hounslow Branch.

A. E. F. W.

### EALING BRANCH

There is very little to write about in this issue. Ninety per cent. of our members have voted to amalgamate with the Hounslow Branch and we hope they will accept us, although it will not increase the attendance at their meetings to a great extent. I called in the other Thursday and it was a treat to have a glass of something in comfort—a nice bar, nice people. Let us hope that the Ministry of Defence keep it so. Several of our members have taken advantage of special coach tours for the elderly and all report a very good holiday, including myself. Our elderly and lame members keep going and I pay them a visit when I can.

They all send good wishes to Die-Hards everywhere.

ALBERT WHITE

### HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Once again it has been the unfortunate duty of the writer of these notes to apologise for the long omission of news concerning the Hounslow Branch. Nevertheless I have been instructed by our benevolent board of committeemen to get some editorial experience and see to it that we use our allocation of space in the *Newsletter*.

Our branch has managed to maintain its strength over the last couple of years of about 30 members, but we hope over the next few months to find ways of increasing this figure substantially. We, along with other branches, no doubt, with the same intentions, will be looking for ex-Queen's men as well as Die-Hards to join our ranks.

Now a few words about our activities. We were delighted to welcome "Fanny" Walden and Frank Waldron on one of our Thursday evening gatherings during August and we hope they enjoyed seeing how we behave ourselves on club nights and look forward to more visits in future.

We held a very successful social-disco on the last Saturday in August, when we were ably assisted in the catering, etc., by Clive Stock and his band of merry Cadets. Thank you for your efforts. Despite the fact it looked at one time like a takeover attempt by "Taffy" Roberts and some ex-colleagues of the 11 Para and 8 Mx TA days in the shape of Sergeants Mess stalwarts Arthur Russell, Len Underdown and Joe Phelan, we who know them let bygones be bygones and then welcome and hope they call again and perhaps rope them in as members! Of course, things were never the same in our days.

I must say a few words about our very good relations at Hounslow drill hall with the resident Queen's TA platoon, who always support our social functions so well and manage to keep us in touch with events within the Regiment. One wonders at times whether Mick Ward has ambitions of becoming the Mayor or maybe a governor-general when one considers his twin loyalties of still being a serving TA soldier and also a branch member and our treasurer. Keep it up, Michael! Henry Rae (our resident communist) manages to pop in now and then, but rumour has it that he was seen skulking around the alleys of Famagusta just prior to the current troubles in that part of the world, ostensibly on holiday! What with his frequent forays across the Channel we were beginning to think he was taking the European Community a bit too seriously.

In conclusion, it goes without saying that any Die-Hard member will be welcome on any Thursday evening at Hanworth Road, and we send greetings to our other branches from us all at Hounslow.

G.Y.

### MILL HILL BRANCH

Births, marriages and deaths, or as Brigadier Procter used to declare when he was Adjutant, "hatched, matched and despatched", appear elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, therefore I will write about those who correspond or appear during the quarter.

Since the last *Newsletter* we have had some rain. No doubt you chaps have noticed it. One chap who has spent some time away from the rain is "Tiny" Goddard, MM, BEM, who, with Mollie, has just paid a visit to Hong Kong. His letter is a combination of sadness, reminiscence and pride which he found difficult to pen on his return. He was impressed by the wonderful tribute at the main war graves plot and took photographs of the headstones of some of his comrades. The names he mentioned are Col. L. A. Newnham GC, MC, Capt. D. West, Lt. M. H. Falconar, 2/Lts. W. A. Mackinlay, P. B. Wynter, Sgts. T. H. Johns, J. Rich, Cpls. A. W. Rymer, E. Winfield, L/Cpls. S. W. Cheal, P. A. Nelms, Ptes. K. W. Alexander, E. C. Geary, S. J. How, J. A. Merry, S. Niborwich, W. G. C. Stutz and F. W. Toomey. Our old soldier will gladly send a photograph to any relative or friend who desires one. Whilst in Hong Kong he met ex-Pte. Jackson, who is now a security guard at Land Forces HQ, and Joe Lapsky, who has a printing business in Icehouse Street. A query from "Tiny": he wants to know what became of L/Cpl. "Dinky" Dunne who was to be beheaded.

Jimmy Smith, MM, one of our veterans of the Battle of Mons and now chairman of the Leeds Old Contemptibles Association, was sorrowful he could not make the trip to the battlefield with us this year due to ulcers on his legs. He remains in touch with the family of Col.—late General—Hull, the Commanding Officer of the 4th Battalion, to whom he was groom. General Hull's daughter, Mrs. Swinburn, whose husband, General Swinburn of 51 Div, was on the staff of General Hull as a young officer, has just written to tell Jimmy that her two sons are about to take up new appointments, Lt.-Col. David Swinburn to take command of a Sapper regiment and Major Richard Swinburn to be an instructor at the Staff College, the third generation in that job.

Jack Tipping keeps up a lively correspondence from Victoria, Australia, whilst "Pip" Conner, MM, cheerfully writes from Ontario, Canada. Bill Lee, "L/Cpl. (ret'd)" as he normally signs off his screeds, is now feeling much better after his bout of indisposition and has thoroughly enjoyed his convalescence and holiday; he looks forward to joining us at future reunions. Major Bill Lane, MBE, writes from Pickwick, Corsham, Wilts, and requests me to pass on his salutations to old friends. A similar message was contained in a letter from that old 2nd Battalion Bandsman, Fred "Ugly" Hogg, who has not been so well recently and finds the journey from Leeds to London a bit too much for him. A contemporary of "Ugly" is Arthur Lewin, whose father was killed in action with the 13th Battalion in 1915. His grand-



father was the Sergeant Instructor of Musketry in 1879, when the 77th was the best shooting regiment in the Army. His mother, who for many years lived in married quarters, was 91 on October 7 last. His brother, Bill, was a Bandsman in the 1st Battalion and a contemporary of the Chillery brothers. He should know how to fix his cap badge.

The last two soldiers to be mentioned in these brief notes did not serve in our ranks but had contact—violent—with us on August 23, 1914. Both send greetings to you all and wish you pleasure in the years ahead with admiration from soldiers to soldiers. They are Generalleutnant Helmuth Beukmann and Paul Glindemann. Both were subalterns in the regular German Army in August 1914 and fought at Mons.

I also send greetings on behalf of our members to members of all our sister branches and to Die-Hards who may read these notes and who are more than welcome to swell our numbers.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

#### WO'S & SGTS BRANCH

How times flies! It seems that no sooner has one submitted one's contribution for one quarter's issue of the regimental *Newsletter* than one is called upon for notes for the next issue. This may be because these last few issues of the *Newsletter* have been delayed by disputes at the printers, over which our Editor has no control. The Editor has, however, when apologising for this delay, said that, having taken this up with the printers, he hopes that future publications will be back to normal.

We welcome into the branch the following new members, with hopes that they will become regulars at our monthly gatherings: Conductor A. N. Carman, RAOC, WO2 J. Medland, RAPC, E. J. Thompson and J. Turner.

This bright news, however, is overshadowed by the sad news of the sudden death, after a heart attack, of that very popular and ever cheerful member, Jimmy Redmond, who passed away on August 14 and was buried in Coventry on August 20. Prior to him and his family moving to Coventry, Johnny was a fairly frequent visitor to the branch meetings, although owing to working on a Saturday he could not arrive until rather latish and always brought along something for the raffle; often when unable to attend he sent along something by another member. His smiling face and cheerful countenance will be

sadly missed by all who knew him. A floral tribute from the branch was sent and although Keith Lloyd attended the funeral as a personal friend I am sure he represented us all by showing our last respects in a silent prayer to a respected comrade. May you rest in peace, old comrade. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his wife and family.

This last quarter has been the period of summer holidays, when many of our members got away from the daily grind and toil. However, although it made a certain amount of difference in the attendances at our meetings, we still managed to muster well over 30 each month, which is a creditable reflection on members' interest in the branch.

A regular visitor to our monthly meetings whom we are always delighted to see is Col. "Fanny" Walden. His interest in branches and their activities grows stronger as time passes. He always manages to spend time at each table for a chat and a joke and makes sure that before he leaves he has had a word or two with all those present, never leaving until he has said good night to everyone individually. This is a very good example of the showing of one who led us into war leading us in peace.

The monthly raffles continue with the same support as in the past and our annual Christmas draw, which has just started, has aroused the same interest as all previous ones. The support for the latter is very encouraging; so far we have exceeded the number of shares sold over the same period last year. A promising outlook for an even better draw this year than last and with the entertainment account looking very rosy it promises to be an even better Christmas meeting than those we have held in the past.

At our AGM held in June we were reluctantly called upon to accept the resignation of the office of chairman from Major Les Honeybun. During his term in office his encouragement to us all and the help he gave us were a major contribution to the success we have experienced. Although we shall miss him we have in his successor, Major Bert Peasley, one who I know will carry on where Les left off, giving that same help and encouragement with the same amount of enthusiasm as did his predecessor.

And now before I get a blister from our worthy Editor with a reminder that our contribution is overdue I will say cheerio with best wishes to all Die-Hards and success to all branches.

LEN JOHNSON



