



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 31

SEPTEMBER 1975

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REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL IN ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Since my last list of contributors was published in the June issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* donations to the fund for the provision of Kneelers/Hassocks for our Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral have been most gratefully received and acknowledged from the following:—

Brigadier and Mrs E. E. F. Baker, Col and Mrs I. H. Battye,
Maj P. G. V. Bellers, Mrs D. L. Binder, Col H. A. du Barros
Botelho, Maj R. H. G. Boys, Col I. D. Brotherton, Mr E.
Bryant.
Mr R. M. Cain, Capt D. K. Cattell, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton,
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Mr E. C. W. Hammond, Mrs A. J. Hastic, Lt D. E. B. Haydon
and sister, Mrs L. H. J. de la M. Herepath, Lt-Col A. S.
Hewson, Lt-Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, Mrs K. M. Hughes.
Mr. H. W. Kent.
Capt C. A. Lamb, Mr R. H. Lawford, Lloyds Bank Ltd, Mill
Hill Branch, London, Borough of Richmond on Thames.
The Rev. M. V. Malone, Mrs T. L. Marks, Lt D. McDonald,
Mrs J. E. M. McDowell, Mr R. T. Meers, Maj M. L. Muir-
head.
Ninth Battalion Branch, Die-Hards Club.
Lt-Col and Mrs Gordon Parker, Capt E. J. Pike.
Maj J. B. Redman, Réseau Sylvestre Lille.
Capt T. Sarl-Williams, Mr E. J. Soden, Lt J. R. Spooner.
Maj C. A. Trestant, Mr R. S. R. Turner.
Maj A. E. F. Waldron, Cpl Walsh, Mr R. J. Weedon, Lt Col
J. R. Worton, WOs and Sgts Branch Die-Hards Club.

The total of donations received up to August 31
amounted to £2,003.65, the target figure of £1,720
having been reached on July 21.

VISIT BY THE RESEAU SYLVESTRE

Members of the Réseau Sylvestre from the Lille
and Gondecourt area visited the Regimental Associ-
ation over the week-end June 6-8, 1975.

Their party numbered 12 and was led by M Marcel
Fertein and M Julien Gerekens, and it included Col
H. Farret, Commandant of the CRS, M A. Buisette,
Professor and Madame Gernez, M and Madame
Pringuez, M P. Dumoulin, M M. Picavez, M R. Van
Houtte and M P. Faucomprez.

They were met at Victoria Station by Col Clayton,
Majs Waldron and Smith who conducted them to
the Great Eastern hotel at Liverpool Street, where
they were to stay for the period of the visit.

Arrangements had been made for the party, plus
25 members of the Association, to attend the Final
Rehearsal of the Queen's Birthday Parade at Horse
Guards on Saturday morning. Our Old Comrades in
true Regimental style all turned up at the Great
Eastern hotel and conducted their guests by under-
ground to the Parade. The day was hot, the seats
were good and all present were thoroughly impressed
by a grand parade. Our French visitors were vobule
in their praise for the splendour and magnificent
spectacle they had been privileged to witness.

After the parade we all met in the Clarence public
house in Whitehall for a drink. Our friends were then
taken off shopping and sightseeing and entertained
to lunch by various members of our party and ar-
rived back at their hotel in the late afternoon.

A dinner party had been arranged in the evening
at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, for

our visitors plus 38 old comrades and their wives. A splendid evening was enjoyed by all and we eventually dispersed at about 11.30pm. A few wandered out to the bright lights and eventually arrived home in the early hours of Sunday.

On Sunday morning a coach collected the party from the Great Eastern hotel and conveyed them to Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, where respects were paid and wreaths laid at our Regimental War Memorial. The ceremony was well attended by our Old Comrades and we then all moved off to Regimental Headquarters for refreshments and a buffet lunch. Col Clayton thanked our visitors for making the journey and stressed the bond of comradeship that now existed between us. Marcel Ferrein replied in French and Maj Waldron read the translation.

Our pianist tickled the keys, our visitors and members commenced to sing and dance and a happy party resulted.

Mr and Mrs Jim Torbet, the new caretakers, had laid on a splendid buffet and must be congratulated on a fine debut in the catering line.

However, time eventually won the day and at 3pm our visitors finally reached their coach, passing through a passage of Old Comrades saying their farewells. Cameras clicked, arms waved, goodbyes were called and an eventful weekend sadly ended.

Capt Michael Trotobas who had led and given his life in the cause of the Réseau Sylvestre had been remembered.

A. E. F. W.

Sixty-first Anniversary of the Battle of Mons

The annual pilgrimage to Mons this year was one of brief duration and of small numbers. The official regimental party consisted of Col F. Walden, Maj Dick Smith and Mr Charlie Ashby. This party was augmented in Mons by Mr Trevor Morris, who has joined in our yearly ceremonies for the past four years. Also, the members attending all parades and services held in Mons and Obourg were increased by the arrival of two Gunners who had been present in 1914, Mr Frank Reeves and Mr Tom Blake, MM, and whose guns gave the 4th Battalion supporting fire during the later stages of the battle. Mr Norman Reeves, the son, was chauffeur to this small party who were continuing their visit by making a tour of the various battlefields of 1914-18. During the afternoon of the 23rd, Mr Matthews joined us in Mons and took part in the last ceremony of the day. This party of eight is, by coincidence, the same strength as the original party of 1927, none of whom now survive.

This year the journey was by rail and cross-Channel ferry and not by coach as it has been for the last few years. The transport of wreaths made the outward journey a little awkward and uncomfortable during embarkation, disembarkation and changing of trains, but being a labour of love was accomplished satis-

factorily. Maj Smith and Mr Ashby arrived in Mons in the evening of August 21, being met by M Jacques Deflandre, the Secretary of the Friends in Mons of the Middlesex Regiment, who had been able to bespeak hotel accommodation for the party as he had done so ably last year. This is again in par with the visit of 1927 when M Niser Gustave who had been a great friend of the 4th Battalion on their arrival in Obourg in August, 1914, was able to help the visitors on the original pilgrimage.

Due to the efficiency and co-operative manner of M Albert Languet, the Chef du Cabinet de Monsieur le Bourgmestre, whose outlook in regard to our regiment is, "there are no problems", made the task of completing arrangements at such short notice for the various ceremonies to take place next day, one of ease and contentment of mind for Maj Smith who was the liaison officer for the visit. Col Walden arrived in the evening of the 22nd when a dinner was served to the party by the kindness of Madame Ottevaere, the widow of Charles Ottevaere who had looked after the regiment's interests for a number of years.

The programme was similar to that of past years, beginning at 9.30am August 23, with a circuit of the 'Avenue 4th Middlesex Regiment' and a visit to the position occupied by 'A' Company during the battle. Here we made a social call on M Abel Lhermite, whose father owned the farm at the time of the fight. As on that Sunday morning in 1914 when M Lhermite senior was preparing for Mass as the German army advanced on to the farm, so in 1975,

the son was about to leave the farm for a religious service as we arrived to visit the ground where Maj W. H. Abell, the first officer to be killed in 1914, had become a casualty and where his bugler, George Garrett, now a veteran member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Association, was wounded. He gave permission for us to go wherever we wished on his property. At an adjacent building we viewed a wall pockmarked with German smallarms bullets and a rafter with a piece of shell casing, approximately eighteen inches by six inches, embedded in it. This walk around the memorial thoroughfare to our Regiment, which is unique and a positive expression of appreciation of the ancient city of Mons to our splendid regiment, was followed by the placing of a wreath on the Belgian National Memorial to the Dead of the Two World Wars by Col Walden. Our party here was joined by Premier Maitre Transmetteur Jean Claude Blivet, a member of the French Marine at SHAPE. In his uniform he added a touch of colour to our delegation. This ceremony was followed by the placing of a regimental wreath on the Monument to the two battles of Mons by Maj Smith.

We then made our way on foot and by car to the Hotel de Ville, where we were received by the Deputy Burgomaster and M Albert Languet, where reciprocal toasts and speeches were made. The Deputy Burgomaster, apologising for the absence of the Burgomaster, who was away from the city, said in his speech that it was a great pleasure to be host on the occasion of the commemoration of the Battle of Mons and it is always an honour to greet us, which he did with great heartiness. They did not forget the sacrifices made and the city of Mons is equally our city and that we will be always welcome there and sincerely hope to see us again in 1976. August 23 was a date which will never disappear from their minds. Sixty-one years ago this day the British soldiers, the old contemptibles, the men of the 4th Middlesex, won great love in our city and glory for ever. We will never forget. Mons has become on August 23 a British town. The name is written on all the flags of our regiment and we are deeply proud of that.

As the Deputy Burgomaster was making his speech and remarking of 'MONS' on our Colours, the regimental flag was flying free from the balcony of the Hotel de Ville in line with the Belgian National flag and the flag of the city of Mons. Our regimental flag was thus very prominent in each zephyr of wind, making our hearts glow who are no longer able to see it flying as we did in the days of yore when it was daily on the flag-staff.

This speech is certainly true as regards the esteem held by the citizens of Mons to our regiment. As I have written before, Mons and the Middlesex Regiment are synonymous. The different generations of this ancient capital of Hainault show this as they have done since the fifteenth century when an Englishman said, 'Who shakes a Hainault man by the hand holds an Englishman in his heart'.

The afternoon programme was delayed due to an unnecessary interruption which caused the party to leave at different times for the next rendezvous at Saint Symphorien Military Cemetery, where Mr Ashby placed a regimental wreath at the base of the memorial erected by the Germans to the Royal

Middlesex Regiment. It was fitting that Mr Ashby should be chosen for this solemn task. He has, as a private soldier, carried his rifle with the 4th Battalion from Mons to Caudry, where the battalion were on November 11, 1918, when they heard of the signing of the Armistice at 11am. The War Diary says, 'The men cheered wildly'. Caudry is approximately 30 miles from Mons as the crow flies. Whilst in the cemetery which is reputed to be the most beautiful military cemetery in Flanders and France the grave of Maj Abell was saluted during a period of silence.

The next and final ceremony was at Obourg where our party was welcomed by M Rene Langouche and our Belgian comrades of the Obourg FNC. Owing to the building of new roads and a flyover, our route to the station at Obourg was different from that of past years. A short march with the Belgian standards in the front rank and our regimental flag carried on this occasion by M Jean Baptiste Ducarroz. This may seem strange but in the circumstances was apt. Ever since our flag has flown over the memorial plaque on the wall at Obourg station, it has been hoisted or placed by M Ducarroz, who will allow nobody else to touch it. This year, due to the delay mentioned at the beginning of the foregoing paragraph, there was no time for him to put it on the staff and mount the staff on the wall-socket. He therefore put it on the staff which has our regimental badge as a finial and carried it in front of the procession as a standard. It was in his home that Capt H. E. L. (Gussy) Glass, the officer commanding 'D' Company, was taken when wounded during the battle. The sofa on which Capt Glass was placed is still in use in the home of M Ducarroz.

M Langouche, in his address of welcome, once more extolled the conduct and heroism of our regiment on August 23, 1914, and the affection the people of Obourg had for our soldiers, his long and enthusiastic speech being translated by M George Licope, that font of knowledge of the Battle of Mons. M Licope also performed this duty for the speech of acknowledgement by Col Walden, which was in a similar vein to the one he had made in the town hall of Mons earlier in the day.

Throughout the ceremonies, Mr Morris was the bearer of wreaths until the actual moment of their being laid. As for last year, the visit was made much easier by the continuous help of Jimmy Deflandre, who has now enrolled Andre Ottevaere as a member of the 'Friends in Mons of the Middlesex Regiment'. Two other members were also of great assistance on the return from Obourg, placing their cars at our disposal. They were M Jean Moreau and M Willy Dubrelle. This help allowed the Regimental party to have a short spell of relaxation before catching the train to Brussels to connect with the Ostend train, finally reaching Victoria at 6.45am, Sunday the 24th, a duration of 67½ hours for two of the party and 43½ hours for one. During the stay in Mons, as short as it was, the accumulated friendship of 61 years was freely demonstrated to prove that as with bread and cheese, fish and chips, ham and eggs, one can conjoin Mons and the Middlesex Regiment.

May the bond remain and the pilgrimage continue.

R. W. J. S.

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THE KOREAN WAR, 1950-53

A wreath-laying ceremony in remembrance of those who fell in the Korean War, 1950-53, was held by The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, June 25, 1975, followed by a reception at the Royal Air Force Club.

The following attended on behalf of the Regiment at the invitation of His Excellency:

Col J. N. Shipster, CBE, DSO, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regt.

Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association.

Maj B. St G. A. Reed, MC.

Mr A. Curd, a National Serviceman who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea.

OFFICERS CLUB DINNER 1975

The Officers Club Dinner was held this year at the United Service and Royal Aero Club, Pall Mall, London SW1, on Wednesday, July 16.

Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton presided.

Others present were:

Lt-Gen G. C. Bucknall	Maj C. H. K. Fisher
Maj-Gen Sir John Willoughby	Maj W. H. Grogan
Brig D. B. Rendell	Maj P. J. Gymbon-Monypenny
Col I. D. Brotherton	Maj S. L. J. Henshaw
Col W. D. Ellis	Maj R. J. Leighton
Col R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker	Maj P. D. H. Marshall
Col J. N. Shipster	Maj A. E. McNamara
Col D. R. W. Thomas	Maj R. E. B. Morris
Col F. Walden	Maj E. J. Naish
Lt-Col T. W. Chattey	Maj G. G. Norton
Lt-Col P. J. Hall	Maj J. I. D. Pike
Lt-Col A. S. Hewson	Maj R. C. Pitman
Lt-Col J. M. Hewson	Maj B. St. G. A. Reed
Lt-Col J. S. B. Pollard	Maj C. E. E. Scott
Lt-Col D. E. Simpson	Maj R. W. J. Smith
Maj R. A. Bartlett	Maj A. E. F. Waldron
Maj M. J. Beaumont	Maj V. Williams
Maj R. M. Cain	Capt M. J. Ball
Maj R. A. J. Cheffins	Capt P. F. Murray
Maj J. G. Chiverall	Capt J. Spencer-Richards
Maj P. D. J. Clarke	Capt P. A. Stocken
Maj M. Cloote (private guest)	Capt C. G. Webber
Maj H. E. Cough	Lt J. P. A. Day
Maj R. J. P. Cummins	Lt A. E. C. Graham
Maj P. Donovan	Lt A. P. O'Gorman
Maj H. J. Evans	Mr H. S. Watson (private guest)

The total number who sat down to dinner was 53, of whom 51 were members of the club—an increase of nine over last year's total.

1974

Owing to an oversight the names of those who attended the Club Dinner last year were not published. In order, therefore, to complete the records it has been decided to publish the details in this issue.

The Dinner was held at the United Service and Royal Aero Club on Wednesday, July 17.

Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton presided and the official guest of the evening was M Julien Gereken, Vice-President of the Reseau Sylvestre, of which

the late Capt Michel Trobas was the first President.

Others present were:

Lt-Gen G. C. Bucknall	Maj H. K. Hardcastle
Brig D. B. Rendell	Maj G. Hartley
Col I. D. Brotherton	Maj S. L. J. Henshaw
Col W. D. Ellis	Maj A. M. H. Jones
Col R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker	Maj R. J. Leighton
Col J. N. Shipster	Maj D. V. Littlejohn
Col F. Walden	Maj A. F. Lockwood
Col A. R. Waller	Maj F. J. Millard (with private guest)
Lt-Col T. W. Chattey	Maj L. F. E. Nichols
Lt-Col G. L. Fox	Maj C. E. E. Scott
Lt-Col J. D. Gunnell	Maj L. F. Shaw
Lt-Col P. J. Hall	Maj R. W. J. Smith
Lt-Col J. M. Hewson	Maj A. E. F. Waldron
Lt-Col E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Maj M. P. Weedon
Lt-Col D. E. Simpson	Maj V. Williams
Maj M. J. Beaumont	Capt S. le M. Enthoven
Maj C. D. L. Brereton	Capt A. R. K. Hardcastle
Maj R. M. Cain	Capt J. Spencer-Richards
Maj R. A. J. Cheffins	Lt J. P. A. Day
Maj J. G. Chiverall	Lt A. Morden
Maj C. H. K. Fisher	

The total number who sat down to dinner was 44, of whom 42 were members of the club—a decrease of 12 from the previous year's total.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION AND

OFFICERS CLUB

OUR NEW PRESIDENT

When announcing the name of our new Deputy Colonel in the last (June) issue of the *Die-Hards Newsletter* it was stated that, for the time being Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, DL, would continue to serve in the appointment of President of our Regimental Association and of our Officers Club.

Col Clayton has now decided to hand over this appointment and has nominated Lt-Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, to succeed him as from November 1 next.

For almost 15½ years Col Clayton has been our President and we would like to take this opportunity of thanking him very much indeed for all that he has done over this long period. We also welcome Lt-Col Chattey and wish him well as our new President.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Mr G. Bignell, Mr F. E. Birdsall, Maj J. G. Chiverall, Maj B. B. Cowing, Mr C. Harper, Mrs P. Malcournne, Lt-Col G. Mason, Mr A. Moody, MM, Mr W. H. Rippin, and Lt J. R. Spooner for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of the *Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.

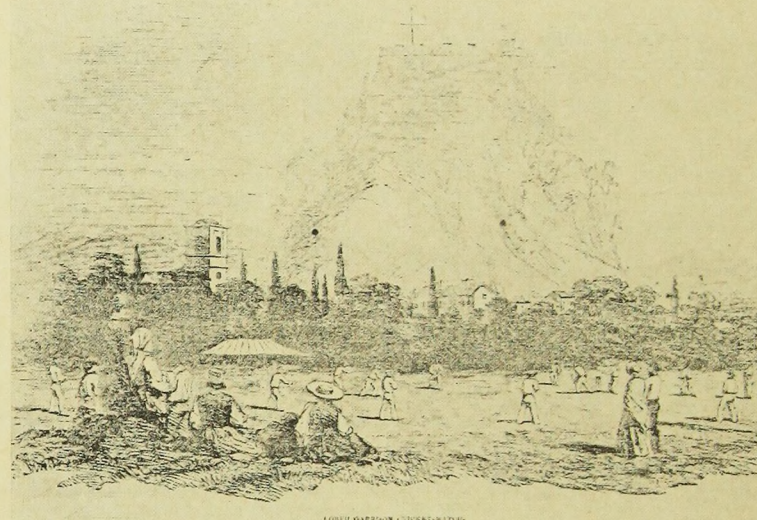
CRICKET IN CORFU

An article entitled Introduction to Corfu cricket terminology by Maj John Forte appeared in *The Cricketer* last April, and was accompanied by the captioned sketch, which is produced by the courtesy of the editor, *The Cricketer*.

The match was played on the Esplanade, which was the Corfu Cricket Club ground during the

Protectorate (1815-64) and has remained so ever since.

In 1917 the Anglo Corfiot Cricket Association was formed at Lord's under the presidency of Lord Orr-Ewing and under the sponsorship of *The Cricketer*, who organise the annual Corfu Cricket Festival.



Corfu cricket during the Protectorate with Messrs Croyke and Wright of the 56th Regt batting (scores not disclosed). A cricket correspondent of *The Illustrated London News* reported: 'Match played on May 28 between the 57th Regt and the island of Udo: which after some excellent play on both sides terminated in favour of the former by six wickets. The ground although not quite equal to Lord's or The Oval was in fair condition: and the scene was much enlivened by the presence of numerous Greeks and Albanians in their national costume who appeared to take great interest in the game. His Excellency the Lord High Commissioner and party visited the ground during the afternoon, and watched the play for a considerable time.'

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	
Friday, October 3	2/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2.	Sunday, November 9
Wednesday, October 8	Autumn Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet.	
Sunday, October 26	Attendance at Church Parade, Royal Hospital, Chelsea.	Thursday, November 20
Saturday, November 8	Ceremony at Field of Re-	
		membrance, Westminster Abbey.
		Morning—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at TAVR Centre, Edgware.
		Afternoon—2/10th Battalion Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick.
		Officers' Club Cocktail Party at Armoury House, City Road, London EC1.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

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

The following are recent acquisitions for the museum:

*Medals of the Dobbs family
Medals of the Savage family
Medals of the late Capt E. J. Blake Budden
Medals of the late Maj D. V. Johnson, MC*

Medals of the Dobbs family

The three sets of medals consist of those of Maj J. E. Dobbs, MC, and those of his father and of his son. The medals of Maj Dobbs are the Military Cross, the 1914 Star and clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal with oak leaf, 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 with oak leaf. With this group are also two Mentions in Despatches certificates and the Royal Humane Certificate for saving life at sea. The medals to C/Sgt J. J. Dobbs, father of Maj Dobbs, are the India General Service Medal 1854 with clasp Burma 1887-89, the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. The medals of 785012 Sgt J. E. F. Dobbs, Royal Air Force, are the 1939-45 Star and the 1939-45 War Medal. Sgt J. E. F. Dobbs was a fighter pilot who was killed in action in 1941. Details of the service of Maj Dobbs were published in the Regimental Newsletter No 29 of March 1975.

Bequeathed to the regiment in the will of Maj J. E. Dobbs, MC.

Medals of the Savage family

The two sets of medals are those of the late John Henry Savage and of his father, who had the same christian names. The medals of the father, WO2 J. H. Savage, are the British War Medal, the Victory Medal and Territorial Forces War Medal, 1914-19, plus the Territorial Efficiency Medal of King Edward VII with clasp. The medals of C/Sgt J. H. Savage are the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914-19, the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star with First Army clasp, Italy Star, War Medal 1939-45, the Territorial Efficiency Medal of King George V and the Efficiency Medal with 'Territorial' suspension bar and effigy of King George VI on the obverse and with clasp plus the Imperial Service Medal. The details of service of J. H. 'Sandy' Savage were

given in the last Regimental Newsletter No 30 of June 1975.

Presented by his daughter, Mrs Doreen O'Neill

Medals of the late Capt E. J. Blake Budden

This group of medals consists of the British War Medal, Victory Medal with Oak Leaf, and the Russian Order of St Stanislas. Capt Budden, who was fluent in the Russian language, was for this reason chosen to be a member of the staff when 'Syren' Force formed for service overseas with the North Russian Expeditionary Force in April 1919. The award of a Mention in Despatches for services at Murmansk was one of five to the regiment. That and the granting of the Order of St Stanislas were dated November 11, 1919. The Russian Order consists of a Maltese-cross badge of gold and coloured enamel. The centre is filled by the letters SS, and a laurel wreath encircles them. Each point of the cross is tipped with a small ball and a rising sun is placed between each pair of balls. In the angles of the cross Poland's eagle appears, and the whole is supported by a red and white ribbon.

Details of the service of Capt Budden appeared in the Regimental Newsletter No 17 of February 1972.

Presented by his widow, Mrs E. J. Blake Budden

Medals of the late Maj D. V. Johnson, MC

The group of medals of Maj Johnson consists of the Military Cross, 1914 Star and clasp, British War Medal and Victory Medal with oak leaf. Maj Johnson was originally a member of the Honourable Artillery Company and with this elite corps took part in the early battles of the war which gained for him the 1914 Star and clasp. This officer-finding unit was to supply many officers to the Die-Hards during the course of the war, seven of whom won the Military Cross. It was as a company commander in the 23rd (Service) Battalion (2nd Football) that he was to win the award of the Mention in Despatches and the Military Cross. An appreciation of Maj Johnson was published in the Regimental Newsletter No 29 of March this year.

Presented by his brother, Athol G. P. Johnson, Esq, late HAC.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Mrs Peggy Baldwin, who has for some years regularly attended the monthly meetings of the Mill Hill and WO's and Sgts Branches, has now moved to Guildford.

She will be much missed and, in thanking her for her support and the interest she has taken in the Regimental Association generally, we wish her every happiness in her new surroundings and hope that she will still keep in touch.

A recent correspondent is ex-Sgt D. C. Barr (6208127), who in the 1939-45 War served in 'B' Company of the 2/7th Battalion, and has lately been 'under the weather'. He writes to say that he would welcome anyone who knows him to call at 1 Biggins Wood Road, Folkestone, where he will be pleased to provide the usual refreshment!!

We are pleased to be able to report that Col Barros de Botelho, 'Bots' as he is affectionately called, who has recently had a spell in hospital, is now out and about again.

'Bots' is an honorary member of the Officers Club and was Second-in-command when Col Aymar Clayton commanded the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

Surrounded by many of his old comrades at the June gathering of the Mill Hill Branch was ex-Pte R. Bush (3907663), who had travelled from Auckland, New Zealand. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 War he was serving with the 1st Battalion and was a PoW in Japan after the fall of the Colony.

Ex-WO2 'Charlie' Chaplin (6195306), that well-remembered member of the 1st Battalion Orderly Room staff in pre-1941 days, still keeps in touch with us by correspondence. It is a pity that, as he lives some distance away at King's Lynn in Norfolk, he is unable to attend our monthly meetings often.

A recently-joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Cpl J. Clements (23965699), who served with the 1st Battalion from 1964 to 1969 in Gibraltar, Northern Ireland and British Guiana.

Ex-Drummer W. F. Cole (23782186) attended the Annual Reunion for the first time this year and was enrolled as a member of the Regimental Association. He served with the 1st Battalion from 1960-69 and now lives at Waltham Cross.

He is anxious to get the address of ex-Drum Major P. J. Howells. If any of our readers knows this it would be appreciated if he would get in touch with the Editor.

Capt R. N. Colbourne retired from the Services on August 1, 1975, and intends to become a contract officer in Dubai. At the time of his retirement he was Adjutant of the 5th (V) Battalion The Queens Regiment.

Through the good offices of that enthusiastic Die-Hard, 'Brewer' Drane, we have quite recently

been put in touch with an old Die-Hard, named Lewis Dascombe, who has just celebrated his 90th birthday. He joined the 2/8th Battalion on September 14, 1914, and served with that Battalion for 7 or 8 months before going to Egypt to do garrison duty. In 1916 when he joined the BEF in France and was attached as a signaller to the 16th Battalion he was wounded at the Battle of the Somme and later invalided home. He finished his service as a short-hand typist at the Royal Tank Corps Headquarters at Bovington.

In civilian life he was on the staff of the former Twickenham Borough Council from 1903 to 1945 and later served as a member of that authority for 11 years.

He has a remarkable memory and is still physically active apart from failing eyesight.

He now lives at 77 High Street, Berkhamsted, Herts, next door to his daughter and family.

Ex-Sgt Patrick Dehnel (6197849) is another recently-joined member of the Regimental Association. He served with the Regiment from 1930 to 1937 and again from 1939 to 1945.

As he had not put in an appearance for some time it was good to see ex-Bandsman Bill Duncan (6217141) at the Mill Hill Branch meeting in July. He was a member of the Metropolitan Police Band when it broadcast from Golders Green Hippodrome recently in the series 'Friday Night is Music Night'.

A newly-joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-WO2 M. A. Elston. He served with the 1st Battalion for many years and later with 4 Queen's.

He is now the landlord of the 'Spread Eagle' public house in Guildford and any ex-member of the Regiment who likes to pay him a visit will be assured of a warm welcome.

Congratulations to Capt Hubert Finch on his promotion to major as from June 30. He is now serving with 2 Queen's.

We were very pleased quite recently to get news of ex-WO2 Arthur Goodge, formerly of the 1st Battalion. He has been enrolled as a member of the Regimental Association and we shall look forward to seeing him at one of the Branch meetings at Edgware in the near future.

He now lives at 17 The Chase, Rayleigh, Essex.

Maj Richard Graham, on successfully completing courses at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, and at the Staff College, Camberley, is now entitled to the symbol 'psc' against his name in military records. Hearty congratulations!

'Cockney Bob' Groombridge, a veteran of the 20th (Service) Battalion (Shoreditch), is another of our invalids. He normally travels from Adelaide, South Australia, each year to join us for our Mons pilgrimage.

He was 81 in August and has to take things easily after spending two months in hospital.

He sends his best wishes to all old friends.

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Ex-Sgt F. R. Groves (6211620) is another new member of the Regimental Association. He served in 'A' Coy of the resuscitated 1st Battalion during the 1939-45 War, and we shall look forward to seeing him at some of our future meetings.

In a letter received last June Maj Ken Hardcastle gave us news of a meeting he had had at Huntstanton with ex-Bandsman Tom Barton, another old 9th Battalion member of the Pound Lane, Willesden, days. Apparently Tom Barton had booked a seat on a coach going on a day trip from his village near Huntingdon to Huntstanton, and at short notice arranged a meeting with Maj Ken Hardcastle, who tells us that they had a very welcome and nostalgic chat in the 'Local' about the old days.

It always gives pleasure to meet old comrades whom we have not seen for some time. This applied recently to ex-Sgt Jeff Haward, MM (6204205), late 1/7th Battalion. He was the last member of the Battalion to be awarded the Military Medal in the 1939-45 War—for bravery at the Reichswald on February 8, 1945.

In July Charmian Honess, the younger daughter of Maj and Mrs Kim Honess, was married at St Nicholas Church, Elstree, to Mr Michael Rogers, of Mill Hill, and we send them our best wishes for their future happiness.

It is good to see some of our younger members taking such an interest in the Regimental Association. This particularly applies to ex-Pte Stan Kerswill (21192370), son of the late 'Kicker' Kerswill, a former RSM of the 3rd Battalion.

He and his wife, Vera, are a great help to the Regimental Association in general and to the Mill Hill Branch in particular, and we do thank them for all their unselfish efforts.

Our apologies to Bill Landreth for the misprint in the Mill Hill notes in the last (June) issue of the *Die-Hards Newsletter*, in which, as one of the Korean War veterans, he was shown as Bill Mandreth.

The letter received by the Editor from ex-Lcpl Bill Lee (6191867) and published on page 9 of this issue, will be of considerable interest to those who served in the 2nd Battalion in the 1920s.

We are glad to know that he has now recovered from his illness and that he was able to attend the monthly meeting of his Branch in August.

We were sorry to get news that ex-Lcpl Tom ('Lofty') Lowe (6193270) had very recently been admitted to St George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Our heartiest congratulations to Col and Mrs Andrew Man, who celebrated their Ruby Wedding anniversary on July 10, 1975.

We wish them both many more years of happiness together.

Maj Tony McManus completed his tour of duty as a GSO2 on the staff of HQ, UK Land Forces on July 8, 1975.

One of the earliest employees of the War Graves Commission in France after the 1914-18 War was ex-Pte Bert Lee (G/49202), who, except for internment by the Germans in the 1939-45 War, remained with the Commission throughout until his retirement recently.



Photo by Noel Peters
Ex Pte Bert Lee, aged 83

A veteran of the 25th Battalion he served under the command of the late Lt-Col John Ward, MP, in Russia during the 1914-18 War.

He was visited at his home in France this summer by Noel Peters, ex-16th and 23rd Battalions, and, through him, sent his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

In a letter recently received that old 9th Battalion veteran, ex-Pte S. J. Meadows (6196067), sent his best wished to all Die-Hards.

We send our hearty congratulations to WO2 Jack Medland, now serving in the RAPC, on his promotion to WO1 on taking up the appointment of Camp Sergeant-Major at Worthy Down, Winchester.

It has been brought to our notice that, in the last Queen's Birthday Honours List, Miss Gwendoline Ethel Meers, the eldest daughter of our 9th Battalion Branch Secretary, Reggie Meers, was awarded the MBE, and we send her our heartiest congratulations.

Miss Meers has been nursing for 34 years and is now Sister in Charge of a Children's Unit at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton.

One of our Boer War veterans, ex-RQMS 'Tickey' Morden (L/765), who is 90 years old, was one of a party from the 'Not Forgotten Association' invited to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on July 15, followed by a visit the next day to the Royal Tournament.

Ex-Sgt 'Dolly' Pain (6188092), who lives at Colchester and celebrated his 82nd birthday on August 27, is still remembered kindly by those who were recruits in his squad at the Depot when he was a Sergeant Instructor.

In his younger days he was no mean 'Scraper' and fought as a bantamweight in the 1st Battalion boxing team.

Our congratulations to Lt-Col Leslie Sharpe, who, in the Army Target Pistol Meeting this year won the Standard Pistol Competition and the Pistol Aggregate.

Col John Shipster, CBE, DSO, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment, attended the laying up of the Colours of the Queen's Surrey Regiment at Guildford on Sunday, June 15, 1975.

On completion of two years of his short service commission Lt George Simmons, serving with 1 Queen's, was promoted to captain on July 30, 1975. Congratulations.

Ex-Pte D. W. Spice (22466594), who served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, Austria, Cyprus and Jordan from 1951 to 1956, is a recently-joined member of the Regimental Association.

He is now employed at the Queen's Divisional Depot, Bassingbourn.

We have just learned as we go to press that that dedicated old 8th Battalion officer, Col Max Summers, has been in hospital again. Happily we are able to report that he has now fully recovered and is fighting fit again.

Our heartiest congratulations to Lt-Col and Mrs E. L. Taggart, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on July 12 last.

As a subaltern Lt-Col Taggart was an outstanding signals officer in the 2nd Battalion in the 1914-18 War and gained the Military Cross in the operations

leading to the capture of Douai in 1918.

For many years he organised an annual dinner for wartime (1914-18) officers of the 2nd Battalion.

A welcome visitor from Australia, who attended Branch meetings at Edgware in June and July, was ex-Pte Lennie Taylor (22116665), who, as a National Serviceman, served in the 1st Battalion and afterwards settled in Newport, Sydney.

Ex-Sgt Jack Tipping (L/12579), a pre-1914 2nd Battalion bandsman now living in Melbourne, Australia, has been in touch with us recently. It is obvious from the correspondence that at the age of 80 he is still full of life and eager to get news of the Regiment.

We wish a speedy recovery to full health to ex-Cpl David Vincent, MM, a 1/7th Battalion (1914-18) veteran and an expert campanologist, who has been laid low in hospital.

The engagement has been announced between Dr Ian J. Leslie, son of the late Mr J. Leslie and Mrs J. Leslie of Brisbane, and Jane, younger daughter of Col and Mrs Rex Waller.

We were surprised to hear that Lt-Col John Worton has had a spell in hospital necessitating an operation, as a result of which his doctor told him that he was not to lift anything heavier than a glass of beer for a month!!

We trust that he will be quite fit for the Autumn Golf Meeting on October 8.

LETTERS

From: Ex-Lcpl W. Lee

The Editor,
Die-Hards Newsletter.

Dear Sir,

Among the many old Die-Hards mentioned in the June issue, three especially brought back happy memories of my days in the Regiment in the 1920s—Sgt John Judd, DCM; Bob Douthet and Mick Ellis, or Sim, whose photo I still have amongst the many I collected with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions.

I first met Sgt Judd when I arrived at the recruiting office at 8am on Monday, February 16, 1920, after a long walk from my home in Stoke Newington. In 1917, when fourteen years old, I had no trouble in fiddling my age to get into the 2/9th City of London Volunteers, where I served as an A/A Lewis gunner at Ely's Wharf, Edmonton, but trying to pass as 18 in peacetime was another matter, and several bumps had come adrift with a request for a birth certificate.

Sgt Judd came into the waiting room, where I was the sole occupant, and I made the nearly-fatal mistake of jumping to attention, which at first made him think I might be on 'french leave' from some other regiment. Finally I told the whole story,

30 Tresco Road,
Peckham SE15 3PX.
July 21, 1975.

that I was only sixteen, my previous service as a 'Saturday night soldier', and how I wanted to join the Middlesex, adding, as an extra, that I was a strong 'Spurs' supporter.

After helping to light fires in the waiting room and medical office, Sgt Judd sent me over to the cookhouse, where I was given a basin of 'Sgt Major's char', half a loaf and a large plate of pork and beans, the solid foundation on which my love of the Die-Hards was built.

When I was finally enlisted Sgt Judd told me to 'act like a rooky' and hide my previous training, which I did, and my apparent quickness in learning the art of soldiering pleased both my squad Sgt, Donaghue, and RSM Joey Morgan, who, after spotting chaps escorting 'Mill Hill Kate', used to exhort us to 'Keep away from the barracks and take your nimble sixpence to the other side of Church End, Finchley'.

Mick Ellis and I met when I joined the Signal section in Cologne and served with him, and Freddie Denchfield, now Franklin, in Singapore and India after a short spell ashore in Egypt.

Who could ever forget Bob Douthet, one of the few RSMs who was also a human being? My first meeting with him was when, mistaking him for an

officer, I 'chucked him one up' only to receive the 'That's one I owe you lad', I never discovered how he got the Spurs results so early, but remember a Monday morning guard mounting in Singapore; he called out 'They won three-one, now let's get on with it'.

When he rejoined us in India as our QM he had not changed, and when we received our new Colours in Ahmednagar, the smartness and precision with which we performed the various drill movements was in no small measure due to the help given by Bob in the preparation.

I served with many of the lads in the Signal section for nearly seven years, and when, owing to my mother's health, I had to give up hope of signing on, it was pretty hard leaving. I still have the album of photos I collected in Germany, Singapore and India, including one of the 'Rovers Cup' we won three times.

'Teddy' Heywood, our signals officer, gave me a

letter of recommendation which helped me when I joined the Police in 1927 and the Civil Service in 1958, and I still treasure it. It is in such glowing terms that I wonder if he was thinking of someone else when he wrote it, but it is very typical of his consideration for those who served under him, and his sisters have good reason to be proud of him.

I still get letters from our old padre, the Rev J. H. McKew, CBE, who is now living in Winchester. Of all the clergy, both in and out of the service, he is the only one whose name, face and, above all, dedication to his job that I remember, even though we had him for less than two years. He has lost none of his kindness or wit.

Several things have prevented me from attending the last few meetings but I hope to rectify that soon.

Meanwhile my best wishes to all,

Yours sincerely,
BILL LEE, Lcpl (Retd.).

OBITUARY

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

BALLARD—On June 15, 1975, ex-Pte Albert Ballard (L/11612), aged 84 years. Albert joined the 5th (Militia) Battalion of the Regiment on May 5, 1906, and transferred to the Line two years later. He served with the 2nd Battalion from 1907 until 1909 when he was posted to the 1st Battalion, then serving at Allahabad, India. A smart soldier, he was selected as one of the guard during the visit of the German Crown Prince to India in 1911. The next year he was a member of the Half Battalion, who formed part of the garrison at Aden, being stationed at Steamer Point and Crater Barracks, where he served under the command of Maj Elgee. On return to England in December 1913, he was transferred to the Army Reserve but rejoined the Colours on mobilisation in August 1914. Joining the 1st Battalion in France he was wounded, the wounds being so severe that he was discharged on July 30, 1915. During the last war he became a member of 37 County of London Home Guard, in which unit he served for three years. He was a member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association, keeping up a lively correspondence until quite recently. His wife predeceased him by eighteen days, the shock no doubt bringing on the heart attacks which proved fatal.

BARBER—On August 3, 1975, after a long illness, Gillian Driffeld, much-loved wife of Col F. G. Barber, OBE, DL.

BOSWELL—On July 5, 1975, ex-Pte Thomas Boswell (L/14107), aged 86 years. Tom Boswell enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment on June 5, 1912, joining the 2nd Battalion and posted to 'C' Company, where he became one of the good shots of a good shooting battalion. In 1913 he fired both his recruits course and the annual musketry course and qualified as a Marksman. He sailed for Malta on the trooper *Soudan* in September 1913 ready for a spell of service in the Colonies of our then vast empire. This dream of peaceful policing of our contented overseas garrisons was rudely shattered in August 1914 on the outbreak of the First World War. Tom returned home with the battalion and was in France in November 1914, in time to earn the 1914 Star and clasp. At the Battle of Neuve Chapelle on March 10, 1915, he was sorely wounded in the right arm, which, after expert treatment, remained paralysed and demanded amputation in Aylesbury Military Hospital in January 1917.

Tom was in robust health until three years ago when he gradually began to decline. He even then kept in touch with the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association right up to his decease. A popular man, his funeral was attended by many neighbours and Maj Dick Smith, the Chairman of the Mill Hill Branch, to bid a last farewell to an old soldier who signed his letters 'a second battalion bloke ALL the time'.

BOUTELOUP—On June 26, 1975, suddenly at his home in Jersey, CI, Edward Bouteloup, aged 78. Leaving school at the age of 13 he started his

trade as a hairdresser in his brother's salon in Charing Cross. During the 1914-18 War he served in the 2nd Battalion and afterwards went on some of the large liners on the Atlantic Crossing as a hairdresser. On returning to Jersey he opened his own salon and continued in business there for many years.

As a young man he was a fine amateur boxer.

CROUTHERS—Ex-Pte William Gregory Crouthers, aged 75. He served with the 2nd Battalion during the latter part of the 1914-18 War and was taken prisoner. He signed on for three years immediately after the war and served with the 2nd Battalion in Egypt, returning to the United Kingdom for discharge in 1922 when the Battalion moved to Singapore.

GEARY—On August 14, 1975, ex-Sgt Edwin Albert Geary (6194534, 6216142 and T/22533758), aged 71 years. 'Oscar' Geary enlisted into the regiment on July 7, 1921, and was posted to the 1st Battalion with whom he served until 1923, when he was cross-posted to the 2nd Battalion then serving in India. From the Duty Companies he decided to become a musician and was transferred to the Band, remaining with this section of the battalion until going to the Army Reserve in 1928 on termination of seven years' Colour service. He took his discharge from the Reserve in 1933 but re-enlisted in 1941, when he was posted to the 30th Brrtalion. In 1944 he transferred to the Corps of Military Police, serving with that Corps until

1946, when he took his discharge after serving in France and Germany. Four years later he enlisted into the Territorial Army and became a member of 513 Company, RASC (TA), serving from 1950 until 1954, when he completed his term of service, holding the rank of sergeant. A clean, smart man, his immaculate turn-out was always noticeable at regimental reunions. This and his pleasant disposition gave him a host of friends, who will regret his passing away but will be relieved to hear that it was quiet and peaceful without pain.

TREVOR—On June 27, 1975, when he was found dead in bed at his home, Tara, Parc de l'Oeillere, St Brelade, Jersey, CI, Lt-Col Eric Nathaniel Trevor, aged 70. He joined the Territorial Army when he was 17 and the following year, 1923, he was commissioned in the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment. During the 1939-45 War he served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Austria. He was promoted Lt-Col in 1943 and awarded the Territorial Decoration for 20 years' service. He was a Freeman of the City of London and a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Upholders.

As all the information about them is not yet available, full obituary notices on the following, who died recently, will be published in a subsequent *Newsletter*:

Ex-Sgt H. Gribble
Ex-Cpl A. Jackson
Ex-Cpl H. J. Moyle

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1 to August 19, 1975, the sum of £1,728 was expended in making grants to 61 ex-members of the Regiment.

The Army Benevolent Fund assisted with 10 cases and contributed £744.

The Regimental Association has received the sum of £1,001 from the Queen's Regiment Day's Pay Scheme for the period January 1 to September 30, 1975.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Mr D. C. Barr, Mr F. H. Bird, Mr R. Groombridge, Lt J. H. Hogeley, Mrs P. Malcournonne, Mr A. Moody, MM, and Maj L. F. Shaw.

Derby Outing

As in previous years an outing was organised to attend the Derby. Fifty-one members and their

families made the trip. Once again the weather was kind and a good day was enjoyed by all.

A few lucky punters beat the bookies. No mean achievement.

Summer Outing

The outing organised this year was a visit to the Aldershot Army Display held on the Rushmoor Arena on Sunday, June 27, 1975.

Thirty-five members and their wives attended.

Military Musical Pageant

A party of 50 from the Regimental Association attended the Military Musical Pageant at Wembley on Saturday, July 5, 1975.

A wonderful show thoroughly enjoyed by our members.

Belgian OCA in Great Britain

On Sunday, July 20, a detachment of 17 Old Comrades attended the Annual Parade of the Belgian OCA in Great Britain, which was held on Horse Guards, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony, at

the Cenotaph, where Col F. Walden, MBE, DL, laid a wreath on behalf of all Die-Hards.

The oldest member of our detachment was that 8th Battalion veteran Albert Gale (TF/4435), now approaching his 90th birthday.

Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, was the Detachment Commander and Mr Stan Kerswill the Standard Bearer.

A.E.F.W.

EALING BRANCH

Having nothing special to write about this time I have tried to put into words some thoughts of our dear old 8th Battalion which passed through my mind recently.

Today, August 3, 1975—Time 1645 hrs—Have just been listening to the radio broadcast of The Living World. Have not got a TV so sit and think.

August 3, 1914—Outside Bordon Station—Ealing (13 and 14 Platoons) 'D' Coy, 8th (Imperial Service) Battalion The Middlesex Regiment.

We pile arms. Sentries are posted as a precaution and the remainder told to fall out but keep within hailing distance.

I see Col Garner, CO, Maj Anson and Maj Ruston, OC 'D' Coy, Capt Dumsday and 2/Lts Brough and Dark. At 21 Tim Dark is our platoon commander. The talk appears to be very serious. After what seems to be hours of waiting and no grub we pile into the train. Memory here is a bit dim but what's this? Five golden sovereigns as mobilisation bounty —24 hours leave and report here at Ealing Drill Hall—Inspected by Maj Ruston—How old are you? 17, Sir. Good, just the age for a war. March to Feltham Station then Sittingbourne, Gibraltar, France and Belgium, Ypres, Neuve Chapelle, Gravinstafel Ridge, gas and mud.

July 1, 1916—The 1st Somme Rebruiette and Gommecourt—dead everywhere.

August 1916—Maj Chipp, Adjutant—How old are you? 17, Sir. You are going back to England—what a lovely war!

September 26, 1918—'No longer physically fit for service', KR para 392—Civvy Street—19 years old and 7/6 per week for 6 weeks—a Die-Hard for 6 years and 113 days.

What are you dreaming about, Father? And what is the date of your next meeting?

September 11 answers the dreamer and there will be present:

Ernie Duffield	83	
Myself	76	1/8th 1914
Charlie Branch	82	1/7th 1914
George Parr-Head	82	2/8th 1914
and our old friend and treasurer:		
Andy Andrews	58	2/8th 1939

All the rest are housebound but we shall have a good natter, a few sausage rolls and a glass or two of home brew, ending with a goodwill message to all Die-Hards everywhere.

ALBERT WHITE

HONG KONG BRANCH

The only news from this very small Branch is the sad news of the death of ex-Cpl Arthur 'Jacko', Jackson, who died in the British Military Hospital, Hong Kong, after a long illness.

He was cremated at the Cape Collinson Military Crematorium in his Middlesex uniform with his medals and beret atop the coffin proudly displaying his regimental badge.

The Rev G. H. Hall, BA, CS, Chaplain to the 51st Infantry Brigade, conducted the service at which Maj R. T. W. Mellotte, the Queen's Regiment Liaison Officer in Hong Kong, represented the Queen's Regiment, the Middlesex Regimental Association (in the unavoidable absence of Capt S. J. Yates), officers, soldiers and friends from Victoria Barracks and the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

S. J. Y.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

Due to being away from home I unfortunately missed the previous issue, so at last I can give an account of the 1/7th Battalion Annual Dinner at Hornsey in April. In spite of changing the date which we have kept to for some years, the attendance was extremely good, some 70 or more sitting down to dinner, which was excellently served by our caterers.

Naturally enough a number of regulars were unable to be present but this disappointment was balanced by quite a few faces coming to join us. The meal itself was very good and, as a pleasant change from the Drill Hall, we all managed to be comfortably seated in the Officers Mess, which everyone agreed was quite an event.

Space will not allow me to attempt to give the names of all those present, but once again the chair was occupied by Brig B. B. Rackham, CBE, MC, DL, whom we all affectionately refer to as 'Our Brig B.B.R.'. We were also fortunate enough to have Lt-Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Chairman of the Regimental Association, Maj Frank Waldron, MBE, the Secretary, the late Secretary and current Editor of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*, Col F. Walden, MBE, DL, who is also Chairman of the Membership and Social Sub-Committee. Our Padre, Canon W. Davis, and Lt-Col D. E. Simpson, TD, were also with us, along with Maj Dick Smith, MBE, who, among his many functions, is Curator of the Regimental Museum.

It was to Maj Dick Smith that the medals of our late and well-loved 'Sandy Savage', who joined the Regiment in 1914, serving long and well in both wars, were presented by Capt W. Ward for inclusion in the Museum.

Good wish messages were received from many who could not attend, among those being one from ex-RSM 'Rocky' Knight, MBE, whom we are glad to say was recovering from a serious operation, Col Aymar Clayton, Col Stephenson, Capt Panks, Dr F. R. Gedy, ex-Sgt 'Monty' Lowe. All in all a good time was had by everyone, and the Queen's Volunteers who manned the bar were kept well occupied and looked after us in true Die-Hard fashion.

In conclusion our best wishes are extended to all Die-Hards and we hope all branches will continue to flourish. God Bless.

LESS HOSSLEN

MILL HILL BRANCH

August 29, 1975, brought the 25th anniversary of the 1st Battalion landing in Korea. We at Edgware celebrated this event by holding a reunion on Saturday, the 30th organised by Maj Dick Smith and aided by Bob Yerby, whose idea it was. The 'get together' was an unqualified success; 24 veterans of the campaign were on parade with five of their ladies. The evening was enhanced by a most excellent buffet expertly prepared by Jim and Anne Torbet, our caretaker and his wife; their efforts are very much appreciated by us all. Some interesting items were on display from the regimental museum; all but two were 'captured' weapons or clothing. A copy of the scroll presented to HMS *Unicorn* brought back memories to its creator, Mr A. W. Croxton, who, along with our other guests, had a most enjoyable evening. Unfortunately Bob Yerby was unable to attend owing to business commitments in Kuwait.

The Derby outing proved to be a success; two of our members who shall remain nameless were to be seen riding on a roundabout. As they are both well used to going round in circles, an art learned in various QM stores, they survived the trip.

Our branch gatherings on the last Saturday of every month are still very well supported even though a lot of our members have been away on holiday during the last quarter. As always the Kerswill clan (family motto 'if it moves raffle it, if it doesn't, put it in the Christmas draw') have put more than their fair share of time and energy into making each evening an enjoyable one, many thanks to the three of them. No Saturday evening would be complete without the sight of Charlie Ashby festooned in table cloths and french loaves preparing the buffet. How he manages to perch on the cash box baffles me.

The 'Belgian parade' went off very well and the after-parade drinks were appreciated by all concerned. No it wasn't sister Susanah under the banner; it was Stan Kerswill. August 23, 1914, a date never to be forgotten, was relived when our veterans returned to Obourg to visit again the scene of the battle fought 61 years ago. Arthur Matthews, who was put in the bag there, celebrated the occasion this year by falling and breaking his wrist; the full details are not yet known. We wish him a speedy recovery as the plaster may prevent him from getting his hand in his pocket on Saturday nights.

The Christmas draw is again proving to be a popular place to invest the family nest egg. Vera Kerswill is the organiser, as usual, and so far has sold 400 top tickets. There is no limit to the number of tickets available so even if you are unable to get to Edgware, buy some through the post. The more the merrier. Before closing these notes I would like to ask all members to publicise their local branch as much as possible. Only by doing this shall we live up to our hard-earned nickname, which can only survive if we all, Pay Up, Turn Up and Truly

'Die-Hard'.
LES PLUMB

WOS AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

During this last quarter three new members have joined us, namely, Arthur Goodge, ex-WO2 1st Battalion, who also served in the 2nd Battalion Corps of Drums, Ron Muchacre, ex-1st Battalion P.L. Kensington Regiment, and Arthur Russell, ex-1st Battalion P.L. Kensington Regiment, and 11th Parachute Regiment. To all three we say welcome and hope that they will, as we older members have done, enjoy the convivial atmosphere that exists at our meetings, as well as the company of old comrades and friends.

We offer our congratulations to Jack Medland on his promotion to WO1 on taking up the appointment of Camp Sergeant-Major at Worthy Down, Winchester, and wish him success and the best of luck in his new job. It means, however, that we shall be seeing much less of him in the future. While he was employed in the London District Pay Office, he and his family resided in Married Quarters at Inglis Barracks. However, this appointment has meant taking up residence at Winchester, making the journey to Edgware that little bit more difficult. Nevertheless, Jack has promised that he will visit us whenever possible.

Another regular who will be missing from our monthly meetings will be that of one of our ladies, Peggy Baldwin, who has moved to Guildford. Since the Branch was formed in 1967 Peggy has been one of our regulars, seldom missing a meeting, and nearly always brought along a gift as a prize for the raffle. With our thanks to her for the interest she has

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shown and the support she has given us we wish her every happiness and the best of luck in her new surroundings.

To both Jack at Winchester and Peggy at Guildford we say, although you may be out of sight, you will not be out of mind, and we know that you'll both keep in touch with your old friends.

Although we continue to have the pleasure of seeing many members present at our monthly gatherings, there is still room to accommodate more. I am sure I speak for all those who regularly attend, that nothing is more pleasing than meeting up with old friends and comrades each month.

Our monthly raffles, which give us a source of income, continue to be well supported and our annual Christmas Draw is well on the way to breaking previous records, all of which reflect the interest our members have in the branch.

And now having overstepped the 300 words we are allotted and having to get this to the Editor by the time he has requested, is good enough excuse for not speaking the truth and saying 'I have shot my bolt and have nothing more to write about'. So I will close with the best of Die-Hard greetings to all Die-Hards and best wishes to our sister branches.

LEN JOHNSON

The Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows

This home is primarily intended for elderly widows of WOs, NCOs and men of the Regular Army, married whilst their husbands were serving, but it will accept also a number of other widows in the following order of priority:

- (a) The widow of a Regular NCO or man who married after he left the Army.
- (b) The widow of an NCO or man (non-Regular) who served in the Army during either of the two Great Wars.
- (c) The widow of an officer who spent the greater part of his service in the ranks of the Regular Army or in the ranks during either of the two Great Wars.

To be eligible to enter the home the widow must be at least 60 years of age, and be passed by the home's medical officer as capable of looking after her room, and managing stairs.

The home consists of two adjoining houses in their own gardens at East Molesey. They are centrally heated and each has its own dining room and sitting room with television.

Each widow has a furnished bed-sitting room with radiator, electric fire and boiling ring. Most of the rooms have fitted basins with hot and cold water.

There are Sick Wards with trained nurses in charge, so widows need not leave the home when ill or infirm.

Widows contribute towards their maintenance according to their Pension, retaining sufficient money for their personal needs.

For further information, application should be made to The Secretary, Royal Cambridge Home for Soldiers' Widows, 82-84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey. Telephone Molesey 3788.



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