



The Die-Hards

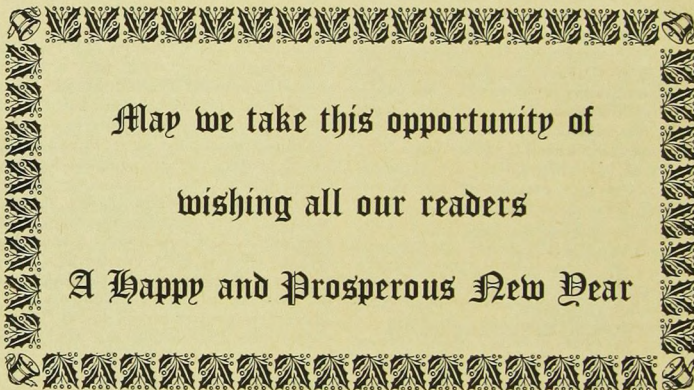
NEWSLETTER

No. 32

DECEMBER 1975

PRICE 12p

*Editor: Col. F. WALDEN, M.B.E., D.L., T. & A.V.R. Centre,
Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.
(Tel: 01-952 2625)*



REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES

1975

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual ceremony at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey took place on Saturday, November 8, and was attended by a large number of ex-members of the Regt, as well as civic dignitaries headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Greater London Council (Francis Bennett, Esq., CBE).

All the boroughs lying within the old county of Middlesex were represented, except Brent and Hillingdon.

After the usual short service at the County Memorial in the Middlesex Guildhall, conducted by the Rev P. L. Pearce Gould, OBE, late 1st Bn, a procession headed by Sgt M. D. Smith, as acting RSM, and Mr S. Kerswill, as Regimental Association standard bearer, escorted by two of our Chelsea pensioners (IPs Fulton and Worton) formed up and moved to the Regimental plot in the Field of Remembrance.

At the plot the ceremony followed the usual procedure. The President of the Regimental Association, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, after saying 'We plant these crosses today in memory of our fallen comrades of the Middlesex Regiment' planted the first cross. He then invited the Deputy Chairman of the Greater London Council to plant a cross. The Deputy Chairman was followed by the Chaplain and, after him, the representatives of the under-mentioned battalions in the order shown:

- 1st Bn—Col J. N. Shipster, CBE, DSO
- 2nd Bn—Maj P. Donovan, MBE
- 3rd Bn—Maj L. T. Honeybun
- 4th Bn—Mr C. Ashby
- 7th Bn (TA)—Mr H. S. Sills
- 1/8th Bn (TA)—Col M. H. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL
- 2/8th Bn (TA)—Maj R. A. J. Cheffins, MC
- 9th Bn (TA)—Mr R. T. Meers
- 12th (S) Bn—Mr J. Price
- Bands and Drums—Mr A. R. Drane

Crosses were then placed by the civic dignitaries present in the following order:

1. The High Sheriff of Greater London (Mark Baring, Esq., CVO, JP)
2. The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs R. W. Middleton) of the London Borough of Barnet
3. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs J. Wood) of the London Borough of Ealing.
4. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs P. G. Elridge) of the London Borough of Enfield
5. The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Ron Turner) of the London Borough of Haringey

6. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs A. J. Lovell) of the London Borough of Harrow.
7. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Alderman and Mrs R. D. Flynn) of the London Borough of Hounslow
8. The Deputy Mayoress (Miss J. R. F. Brown) of the London Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames
9. The Chairman (R. C. Politeyan, Esq) of the Middlesex County Association

After the ceremony the civic dignitaries attended a reception given by the Officers' Club at the Middlesex Guildhall.

REGIMENTAL SERVICE

As usual we combined with the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot Royal Engineers for the Remembrance Day Service in the Garrison Chapel, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, and the ceremony afterwards at the Regimental War Memorial on Sunday, November 9.

Both the service and the ceremony were again this year conducted by the Rev A. K. Chesterton, MA, Curate of St Paul's Church, Mill Hill. There was a large congregation present both in the chapel and at the Regimental War Memorial. Amongst them we were very pleased to notice that Highgate School CCF still continues its loyalty to the old Regt and was again represented by its Commander, Sqd Ldr M. G. Baker, and its Sergeant-Major, RSM G. Chittock, BEM.

Drawn up in hollow square round the War Memorial were detachments from Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot, RE, 12 Coy WRAC, 'B' Coy 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment, 211 (Edgware) Cadet Coy, Mill Hill, and 9th Bn branches of the Die-Hards Club, with the Association standard carried by Mr G. S. Hurlock.

After the Exhortation the bugler, Mr G. W. Denton, sounded the 'Last Post' to signal the beginning and 'Reveille' to signal the end of the Two Minutes Silence.

Wreaths were then laid at the foot of the War Memorial on behalf of the following in memory of those members of the Regt who had made the supreme sacrifice:

- Regimental Association, by Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Bns and Depot, by Col F. Walden, MBE, DL
- 5th and 6th (Militia) Bns, by Maj J. I. D. Pike, MC
- 'B' Coy (MX) 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt, Maj D. J. Margand
- Middlesex Home Guard, by Maj C. E. E. Scott
- Mill Hill Branch, The Die-Hards Club, by Mr L. T. Plumb
- 9th Bn Branch, The Die-Hards Club, by Mr R. T. Meers

WOs and Sergeants Branch, The Die-Hards Club, by Maj A. E. Peasley

At the march past which followed the laying of wreaths, the salute was taken by Col J. W. Bridge, Commandant of the Home Postal and Courier Communication Depot, RE, who was accompanied by our President, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE.

After the parade those who had taken part or had been spectators made their way to the Drill Hall at Edgware, where a very happy and, for many, nostalgic reunion took place.

A retiring collection taken after the service on behalf of the Royal British Legion Poppy Fund amounted to £30.78.

Following a custom which has been observed for many years Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, prior to the above service and ceremony in Inglis Barracks, laid a wreath on the Regimental Memorial in St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, in memory of those Die-Hards who made the supreme sacrifice.

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL IN ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Since the last list of contributions was published in the September issue of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* donations to the fund for the provision of kneelers/hassocks for the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral have been most gratefully received and acknowledged from the following: Mrs L. C. Beadnell, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, Mrs D. E. Hogg, Middlesex Knot of Friendly Brothers of St Patrick, Maj F. J. Millard, Lt Col J. S. B. Pollard, Maj G. O. Porter, Col L. C. Sharpe.

The total of donations etc. received up to November 30, 1975, is £2,123.65.

A letter of thanks dated October 31, 1975, from the President of our Regimental Association to all those who have contributed to the Kneeler/Hassock Appeal is published on page 6.

CRICKET IN CORFU

The Editor deeply regrets the printer's error in the first line of the caption to the sketch published on page 5 of the last (September) issue, which stated that Messrs Creyke and Wright were of the 56th Regt. They were, of course, of the 57th Regt.

ANNUAL VISIT TO RESEAU SYLVESTRE, LILLE

The Regimental representatives to visit Lille this year to mark the 32nd anniversary of the death of Capt Michel Trotobas, the Capt Michel of the Reseau Farmer-Sylvestre group, were Col F. Walden and Maj Dick Smith, who crossed by channel ferry on Saturday, November 22, and then by road from Calais to Wattignies, the kindness of M Julien Gerekens in meeting the party and transporting them to their first destination being much appreciated. At Wattignies a reception at the home of M Marcel Fertein immediately introduced the family atmosphere, emphasizing the amicable relationship between our French comrades. A visit was then made to the home of M Pierre Faucomprez at Chemy, the transport on this occasion being supplied by Len Arlington, the son-in-law of M and Mme Faucomprez, who suffered imprisonment by the Germans for sheltering him when he escaped after his capture whilst serving with the 2nd Bn in May 1940. Again it was a period of animated conversation and the toasting of personalities and respective countries. On Sunday, the 23rd, a procession was formed at the back entrance to Lille Sud Cemetery, the standards of the various French groups and the Royal British Legion leading the formation. Our own Regimental standard regretfully was not among those emblems of pride. At the monument of Capt Michel, wreaths were placed by Col Walden, Col Farret and M Marcel Fertein, the President of the Companions of Capt Michel, as marks of respect from the Die-Hards, No 2 CRS and the Reseau Sylvestre respectively. Orations at the monument were made by M Arthur Malfait and Marcel Fertein, the Exhortation being given by Maj Dick Smith. A regimental wreath was then placed at the base of the Cross of Honour in the British section of the cemetery as a mark of respect to the Die-Hards who now rest in the plot. It was twice in four days that 2/Lt K. D. Tarr had been remembered. The first time was at Armoury House, where the page on the Roll of Honour showing his name was open during the Regimental Cocktail Party, and the second was at his headstone, which is close to the memorial. This wreath was placed by Maj Smith. The next ceremony was at the grave of Commandant Bayart, the Police Commander who gave cover to Michel Trotobas and paid for his courage at the face of an execution squad. This wreath was placed by Maj W. H. Lovell, a close and personal friend of Michel Trotobas when they were both corporals in the 2nd Bn—Major Lovell had travelled up from Ostend that morning. The final ceremony was at the house where Michel Trotobas was killed, the wreath being hung on the wall by Len Arlington simultaneously with one by Marcel Fertein. At all the ceremonies on the 24th a small private party who had travelled independently were present.

Our French friends expressed again and again how they look forward to a larger delegation being present in November 1976. The salient impressions from our own party was the happy atmosphere and aura of comradeship among our charming and generous hosts.

R.W.J.S.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

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

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

Photograph of the officers of 2/8th Bn (TF)
Documents of the late Capt W. T. Hughes, ARCM
Medals of BdsM W. Clarke
Photograph of the officers of 2/8th Bn (TF)

This photograph of the officers of the Bn which was formed on September 14, 1914, is unique in that it is autographed by each individual in the print. The Commanding Officer was Lt Col L. C. Dams whilst the Second-in-Command was Maj H. Y. Richardson, who compiled an exhaustive history of the 8th Bn, returning to Middlesex in 1914 to join his old battalion. The 2/8th relieved the 1/8th Bn as part of the Gibraltar garrison in February 1915, sailing on the *Grantully Castle*. As the ship was about to sail, a small draft of three officers and a few men arrived to bring the Bn up to strength: the men wore scarlet tunics! From Gibraltar the Bn sailed for Egypt and saw service and fire its first shots at Mersa Matruh, where there was trouble with the Senussi under the command of the head of the tribe, Ahmed Es Sherif Es Senussi. The 2/8th later went to France where it was disbanded, the personnel being absorbed by the 1/8th Bn, where they served with distinction.

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Documents of the late Capt W. T. Hughes, ARCM

The documents, which are in addition to those already presented by Mrs Hughes, are a letter from Buckingham Palace in 1918 and addressed to 9155 Sgt W. T. Hughes, Middlesex Regt, and a cutting from a PoW publication from The Hague. The letter reads:

'The Queen joins me in welcoming you on your release from the miseries and hardships, which you have endured with so much patience and courage.

'During these many months of trial the early rescue of our gallant Officers and Men from the cruelties of their captivity has been uppermost in our thoughts.

'We are thankful that this longed-for day has arrived and that back in the old Country you will be able, once more, to enjoy the happiness of a home and to see good days among those who anxiously look for your return.

George RI.

The cutting comments on the special musical programme arranged by the PoW orchestra, the first number being a stirring march, 'Albuhera', composed by Band Sgt Hughes.

Mick Hughes was a Platoon Sergeant in the 1st Bn when he was wounded and taken prisoner at Le Cateau, August 26, 1914. He was repatriated to Holland in January 1918 and returned to this country in December 1918. A brief record of his service appeared in the obituary column of *Newsletter* No 26, June 1974.

Presented by his widow, Mrs W. T. Hughes.

Medals of BdsM W. Clarke, 8th Bn (TF)

This group of medals consists of the British War Medal, Victory Medal, Territorial War Medal 1914-19, Defence Medal 1939-45, King George V Silver Jubilee Medal and the Territorial Force Efficiency Medal with bar. Wally Clarke was a pre-1914 Territorial soldier, and one of that fine breed of men who donned uniform and equipment the moment war was declared in 1914. The British War Medal and Victory Medal have the number 76266 imprinted on the rim, whilst the Territorial War Medal and Territorial Efficiency Medal have his original number (123) imprinted before his name, the Territorial Efficiency Medal also having '8 Middlesex' engraved on the rim. The older generation of 8th Bn veterans will remember Wally Clarke as a first-class cornet player in the band at Hounslow, the appreciation in which he was held being shown by the award of the Jubilee Medal which was an award by selection. The particulars of all the medals have been published in past issues of the *Die-Hards* Journals and Regimental Newsletters.

Presented by his brother-in-law, Mr A. Edwards.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

Autumn Meeting 1975

A most enjoyable and successful meeting was held on the course of the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Wednesday, October 8, 1975.

Conditions were ideal. A total of 20 took part. We were pleased to welcome Mark, the son of Capt M. S. Gedye, who was playing for the first time. We missed the presence of Howard Clayden, son of Lt Col C. N. Clayden, who was unable to play as he had just begun his first term at Wellington College. Maj Dick Smith, the Curator of our Regimental Museum, attended as a guest. It has taken him 55 years to make the effort; he thoroughly enjoyed his visit and will come again. Brig N. P. Procter, who lives nearby, and who, in his younger days, was a regular competitor, came to see us and his visit was much appreciated.

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

Stableford Singles

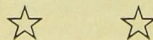
	Points
Mr C. D. Matthews (winner, Horton Cup)*	32
Maj J. I. D. Pike (runner-up)	32
Capt M. S. Gedye	31
Lt Col C. N. Clayden	30
Mr M. Gedye	30
WO2 M. C. Quinn	30
Mr G. A. Taylor	30
Maj G. Goring	28
Capt R. J. Tarrant	28
Lt Col J. R. B. Worton	28
Mr H. J. Chillery	27
Csqt J. Rogers	26
Mr M. R. T. Walden	25
Mr N. A. Taylor	24
Mr T. F. Jones	23
Lt Col T. W. Chattey	21
Mr C. Holdford	20
Maj H. E. Couch	18
Maj R. C. H. Bellers	15
Lt Col J. M. Hewson (Divot)	12

*The winner was decided on the better score over the last nine holes.

Bogey Foursomes

	Score
Mr C. D. Matthews and Maj G. Goring	6 down
Maj J. I. D. Pike and Mr C. Holdford (runners-up)	7 down
Maj H. E. Couch and Capt M. S. Gedye	8 down
Lt Col J. M. Hewson and Mr M. Gedye	9 down
Mr M. R. T. Walden and WO2 M. C. Quinn	9 down
Capt R. J. Tarrant and Mr G. A. Taylor	11 down
Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Mr N. A. Taylor	11 down
Mr T. F. Jones and Mr H. J. Chillery	12 down
Maj R. E. H. Bellers and Csqt J. Rogers	14 down

Before asking Mrs 'Tossie' Worton to present the prizes, Lt Col Tom Chattey thanked all those present for supporting the meeting and especially those who had come long distances.



OFFICERS CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the arrival of the 1st Bn in the Korean war zone, the cocktail party this year took the form of a reception held on Thursday, November 21, at Armoury House, City Road, London EC1.

A total of 160, including official and private guests, attended.

The official guests were:

His Excellency the Right Honourable Mr Tong Shik Kim, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea.

Col James M. McGarity, representing the Ambassador of the United States of America, and Mrs McGarity.

Col R. O. Conover, representing the High Commissioner for Canada, and Mrs Conover.

Col R. A. Gray, representing the High Commissioner for Australia, and Mrs Gray.

The Worshipful the Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor Norman Hirshfield, and Mrs Hirshfield.

Maj Gen J. B. M. Sloane and Brig A. D. R. G. Wilson, with their wives, representing the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Col Bishop, Col L. C. Sharpe and Lt Col J. H. S. Burgess, who served with the 1st Bn in Korea, and their wives.

The Rev W. E. B. Jones, C of E Chaplain to the 1st Bn in Korea, and Mrs Jones.

Father Terence Quinlan, RC Chaplain to the 1st Bn in Korea.

In accordance with our usual custom the nearest relations of former officers were invited as official guests and the following accepted and were present:

Sqn Ldr J. M. Abell, son of the late Maj W. H. Abell, first officer killed in 1914-18 War whilst serving with the 4th Bn.

Mrs M. Fuller, widow of Capt M. Fuller

Mrs S. F. Hedgecoe, widow of Col S. F. Hedgecoe

Mrs W. T. Hughes, widow of Capt W. T. Hughes

Mrs F. Jennings, widow of Capt H. J. Jennings

Mrs H. A. D. Murray, widow of Brig H. A. D. Murray

Members present were:

Lt Col T. W. Chattey, President	
Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby	Maj C. H. K. Fisher
Brig R. A. Gwyn	Maj W. A. Grogan
Brig B. B. Rackham	Maj A. M. H. Jones
Brig D. B. Rendell	Maj G. Kent
Col I. H. Batty	Maj C. L. Lawrence
Xol K. J. Carter	Maj A. E. McManus
Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton	Maj M. L. Muirhead
Col W. D. Ellis	Maj G. G. Norton
Col A. M. Man	Maj J. I. D. Pike
Col C. C. L. Nolda	Maj R. C. Pittman
Col J. N. Shipster	Maj B. St. G. A. Reed
Col D. R. W. Thomas	Maj C. E. E. Scott
Col F. Walden	Maj R. A. Smith
Col A. R. Waller	Maj R. W. J. Smith
Lt Col C. N. Clayden	Maj A. E. F. Waldron
Lt Col G. L. Fox	Maj S. C. W. Weller
Lt Col P. W. Galvin	Capt M. J. Ball
Lt Col J. D. Gunnell	Capt R. J. Durnell
Lt Col M. V. Hayward	Capt S. le M. Enthoven
Lt Col J. M. Hewson	Capt D. M. Falcke
Lt Col E. A. H. Jeffcoat	Capt J. S. C. Flavell
Lt Col G. C. D. Scott Lowe	Capt R. M. Fox
Maj K. P. Baxter	Capt R. Gancz
Maj M. J. Beaumont	Capt J. H. Gerrard
Maj F. J. Bennett	Capt J. G. Lofting
Maj R. A. Bennett	Capt B. M. O'Regan

Maj R. M. Cain
Maj R. A. J. Cheffins
Maj H. E. Couch
Maj A. B. Cowing
Maj P. L. Crutchfield
Maj R. J. P. Cummins
Maj P. Donovan
Maj H. J. Evans

Capt A. W. Ramsey
Capt F. Redpath
Capt P. A. Stocken
Capt R. J. Tarrant
Capt P. G. Truman
Capt C. G. Webber
Lt J. P. A. Day
Lt J. E. Phillips

and
Mrs J. S. B. Pollard (representing her husband, who could not be present)

LETTERS

From Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, DL.
Lodge House,
Twinstead,
Sudbury, Suffolk.
October 31, 1975.

The Editor,
The Die-Hards Newsletter
Dear Editor,

Since I hand over the reins of office as President of our Regimental Association tomorrow I feel that this is an appropriate time to record the very real and most heartfelt thanks of all Die-Hards to all those who have contributed so very generously to the 'Regimental Kneelers/Hassocks for St Paul's Appeal' and at the same time to close the Appeal as we have now reached the magnificent figure of £2,113.65. This total well exceeds the target we set out to obtain and it is our intention to use this most welcome surplus to help meet the cost of the plaques which are proving to be rather more costly than we had anticipated.

The timing of the Appeal could hardly have come at a worse time with so many Jeremiahs mournfully shaking their heads at the state of our national economy and mouthing words of doom and gloom as to the future, but I pressed on since I felt it was a matter of now or never and I had an unshakeable belief in the pride in Regt, loyalty and generosity of all Die-Hards.

Yours sincerely,
AYMAR CLAYTON.

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PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Lt Col Peter Galvin retired on retired pay on August 3, 1975.

Maj Charles P. Granville is one of our most newly joined members, whom we welcome to the Officers' Club. He served throughout the 1939-45 war in the 2/7th Bn.

That old Die-Hard, ex-Sgt Charles Haynes (L/21499), who served with the 3rd Bn from 1915-19, and was mentioned in the 'Personal Jottings' of the *Newsletter* last March, is still going strong at the age of 85. He sends his best wishes to all his old comrades.

We were very pleased to get news that Lt A. M. Hendry, one of our Officers' Club members, who formerly served in the 9th Bn, has been elected captain of the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club for 1976.

In spite of his commitments as captain of the Royal Wimbledon, and these are very considerable, we much hope that he will be able to attend our next Spring Golf Meeting on April 26, 1976, for at any rate part of the time.

As a result of years of effort on the part of 'Brewer' Drane, ex-Cpl George Holt (6197007), a former member of the 2nd Bn band, was finally tracked down to his home near Rochdale, Lancs, and has now joined the Regimental Association.

He was taken prisoner in France in 1940 and was released after the end of hostilities in Europe in 1945.

We were very sorry indeed to learn that our most famous Die-Hard, Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, had been in hospital. In a letter written on October 31 he said that he had been told to take things very quietly, which meant that he could not be a very active supporter of regimental functions. He had then just returned from a month in hospital with a brand-new hip and he hoped in a couple of months time to be much more mobile.

All Die-Hards send their best wishes to Sir Brian for a complete and speedy recovery.

Congratulations to Capt J. D. Jonklaas on having qualified for selection for staff training.

He is at present serving on the staff at HQ 48 Gurkha Infantry Brigade.

On having successfully completed a course at the NATO Defence College, Rome, Col Brian Marciandi is now entitled to the symbol 'nade' against his name.

During a visit to Brighton in September the Editor quite unexpectedly met Lt Peter McRae in the famous Old Ship Hotel.

He is still at the head of the well-known firm of Insurance and Mortgage Brokers bearing his name at East Grinstead, which he started after leaving the service.

Ex-Csgt A. C. Nicholson (19039445), who has been employed by the British Forces Educational

In a letter recently received Alf Bailey (6200233), who lives at Brentwood, sends his greetings to all comrades with whom he served in the 1st, 2nd and 1/7th Bns. He is now on the nursing staff of a large hospital in the Brentwood area.

He should not be confused with 'Butch' Bailey, the 2nd Bn medical orderly before and during the 1939-45 war, who lives at Dover.

A recent correspondent was ex-Cpl R. W. Baker (99467), who has been ill for the past four years and is now confined to a wheel chair. The council at Edmonton, where he lives, have now moved him to a ground-floor flat, which is a considerable help to him.

In October we had news that ex-Cpl Rodger Bourne (2367921) who, on leaving the service, enrolled as a constable in the City of London Police, emigrated to the USA towards the end of 1974 and married a local girl in San Antonio, Texas, last July.

It was a great pleasure to meet that cheerful veteran of the 21st (Islington) Bn, Pip Connor (G/19511) last October during his visit from Ontario, Canada, where he has taken up residence for some years.

After the disbandment of the 21st Bn in 1918 he joined the 2nd Bn and it was whilst serving as a signaller in that Bn that he was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry.

As a result of his attendance at the wreath-laying ceremony held by the Korean Ambassador at Westminster Abbey last June in memory of those who fell in the Korean War, Mr Alan Curd, a National Serviceman who served with the 1st Bn at that time, has now joined the Regimental Association and we extend a hearty welcome to him.

Ex-RSM Jim Davis, who is now home after a spell in hospital, sends his salaams to all his old friends.

A welcome visitor to Regimental Headquarters at Edgware last October was WO2 J. Dickens, now serving with 1 Queen's in BAOR.

Another welcome visitor to Regimental Headquarters at Edgware last October was Capt David Falcke, who is Staff Capt (A) at HQ 19 Airportable Brigade, Colchester.

Through the good offices of Lt Col Maurice Leonard we have gained a new recruit to the Regimental Association in ex-Sgt John Furber (14259359), who, during the 1939-45 war, served in the 9th Bn after its conversion to 126 Light AA Regt, RA.

When he eventually returned to civil life he joined the Police and is now the Assistant Chief Constable (Administration) of the Cheshire Constabulary.

During his police service he has been awarded the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and has been made a serving Brother of the Order of St John.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 48th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the Army and Navy Club on Tuesday, November 11, 1975.

Lt Col J. D. Gunnell, TD, presided and the official guest of the evening was Maj Gen B. P. Hughes, CB, CBE.

Others present were:

7th Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner.....
Col I. D. Brotherton
Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton
Col W. D. Ellis
Col D. R. W. Thomas
Col F. Walden
Lt Col P. J. Hall
Lt Col G. C. D. Scott-Lowe
Lt Col D. E. Simpson
Maj M. J. Beaumont
Maj H. E. Couch
Maj R. J. P. Cummins
Maj S. J. L. Henshaw
Maj A. J. Hughes
Maj R. J. Leighton
Maj E. J. Naish
Capt M. J. S. Doran
Capt S. J. M. Enthoven
Capt D. O. Mansfield Thomas
Capt R. J. Owen (guest)
Capt B. B. Pollecoff
Capt J. Spencer Richards
Capt P. A. Stocken
Capt A. L. Sumner (guest)
Capt F. Webb
Lt S. B. Hurst
Lt P. J. Ortino
Lt J. A. Van de Pol
S/Lt A. C. B. Hurst (guest)
Mr M. H. D. Milne (guest)

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Mr A. W. J. Brown, Mr D. Cavill, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Mr D. J. Fitzgerald, Mr J. D. Forgham, Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD, Mr S. Kerswill, Mr A. C. Nicholson, Mr G. W. Pegram, Mr E. J. Soden, Mr C. G. T. Uwins and Mr G. H. Woodward for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of the *Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades.

Service in Herford, West Germany, since his retirement from the Service, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards and for the continued success of *The Die-Hards Newsletter*.

We are very pleased indeed to welcome Lt Joe O'Gorman as a member of the Officers' Club. After some 16 years in the Regt, during which he rose to the rank of WO2, he was granted a Short Service Commission last year and posted to 1 Queen's.

Congratulations to the Rev Peter and Carole Pearce Gould on the birth of their son, Hugh, on October 3 last.

The Old Comrades Association of the 13th (Service) Bn was formed in 1930 and one of its founder members was George Pegram, who, as Honorary since its formation 45 years ago, has done a wonderful job.

He served with the Bn for two-and-a-half years in the 1914-18 war until he was badly wounded in March 1918 and discharged as unfit for further war service.

One of our latest recruits to membership of the Officers' Club is Lt David Pennycook, son of the late Brig George Pennycook. As a National Service Officer he served with the 1st Bn in Cyprus and, about 18 years ago, emigrated to Canada and trained as a chartered accountant. He married in Canada and has four daughters.

Having successfully completed a Long Armour Infantry Course Maj Roger Pitman and Capt Roger Ganz are now entitled to the symbol 'aic' against their names in military records.

Brig Basil Rackham presided at the Gallipoli Association dinner, held at the Cafe Royal on November 19, at which the Duke of Edinburgh was the chief guest.

A newly-joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Pte J. Rodgers, who, as a National Serviceman, served with 'D' Coy of the 2nd Bn in Palestine in 1947-48. When the Bn moved up north of Haifa his company was detached to Caesar's Camp and worked very closely with the Palestine Police.

Our congratulations to Lt Col Leslie Sharp on his promotion to Colonel with effect from June 30 last.

After serving with the 1st Bn in the Korean War he transferred to the RAOC. He is now a Colonel (Q) and looks after the provision of clothing for the Services.

On a recent visit to Regimental Headquarters at Edgware ex-CSM John Soden informed us that he is shortly retiring from his post as a court bailiff and moving from Wilstead in Bedfordshire to the Colchester area.

A few months ago we had news through his brother of the whereabouts of one of our veterans of the 2nd Bn, Maj W. S. Tennent, who joined just prior to the 1914-18 War.

He served firstly with the 2/8th Bn in Gibraltar and later, when that Bn was disbanded in France, with the 1/8th Bn. He was wounded in September 1916 and later invalidated home. In September 1917 he rejoined the Bn in France and in August 1918 was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty.

One of our Dunkirk veterans, Mr W. G. Webb, formerly of the 2nd Bn, has appealed through the press to some of his long-lost Army colleagues to contact him.

His address is 3 Crowfield, Station Road, Woodmancote, near Cheltenham, Glos GL52 4HA.

As the result of a visit to Regimental Headquarters at Edgware last October WO2 G. Whittle joined the Regimental Association and was welcomed as a member of the WOs and Sergeants Branch. He is now serving with 'A' Coy, 5 Queen's, at Guildford.

He enlisted as a Die-Hard in 1952 and took his discharge in 1955. He re-enlisted in 1959 and served at the Depots at Mill Hill and Canterbury and then with 4 Queen's. In 1970 he was posted to 1 Queen's and served with them until October 1975.



REGIMENTAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1976

The following Calendar of Events approved for 1976 is published now so that readers can make a note of the various events and, it is hoped, support as many as possible.

Further details will, of course, be issued in connection with each event nearer the date on which it is due to take place.

Date	Event	Date	Event
Saturday, April 24 (to be confirmed)	1/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner at TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey N8	Friday, October 1	2/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner at Victory Ex-Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2
Wednesday, April 28	Spring Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet	Saturday, October 2	13th (Service) Bn OCA Annual Luncheon at the Rising Sun, 44 Ebury Bridge Road, London SW1
Saturday, May 15	Afternoon—Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral Evening—Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2	Wednesday, October 6	Autumn Golf Meeting, Fleet
Saturday, May 22	9th Bn Dinner at the Quality Inn, 310 Regent Street, W1	Sunday, October 24 (to be confirmed)	Attendance at Church Parade, Royal Hospital, Chelsea
Wednesday, June 2	Derby Outing	Thursday, November 11	7th Middlesex Officers Club Dinner
Saturday, June 5	2/10th Bn OCA Annual Luncheon at Victory Ex-Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2	Friday, November 12	Officers' Club Cocktail Party (venue to be decided)
Sunday, July 18	Annual Parade on Horse Guards of Belgian OCA in Great Britain	Saturday, November 13	Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
Sunday, August ? (firm date later)	Party to John Player League Match	Sunday, November 14	1015 hours—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a reunion at TAVR Centre, Edgware
Saturday, August 21 to Tuesday, August 24	Pilgrimage to Mons for ceremonies in connection with the 62nd Anniversary of the Battle	1100 hours—7th Bn wreath laying at Hornsey Parish Church service by the Hornsey and Enfield Branch	
Wednesday, August 25 (to be confirmed)	Party to Grand Concert, Kneller Hall	1500 hours—2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick	
Sunday, September (firm date later)	Summer Outing	Saturday, November 27 to Monday, November 29	Visit to Reseau Sylvestre, Lille



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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the period January 1 to November 30, 1975, the sum of £1,514.58 was expended in making grants to 91 ex-members of the Regt.

The Army Benevolent Fund assisted with 11 cases and contributed £900.

The Regimental Association has received the sum of £1,396 from the Queen's Regt Day's Pay Scheme for the period January 1 to December 3, 1975.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Sqn Ldr J. M. Abell, Mr J. R. Barron, Mr A. A. Bradley, Mr A. W. J. Brown, Mr D. Cavill, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Mr J. H. Dorrington, Mrs B. Ferguson (in memory of the late Mr J. H. Ferguson, DCM), Mr D. J. Fitzgerald, Mrs F. O. A. Lawrence.

The 2/7th Bn (1939-45) at their Annual Dinner on October 3, 1975, collected, and donated to the Charitable Fund, the magnificent sum of £64.27.

The 3rd Bn Dining Club, which has been in existence for nearly 50 years, has finally had to give up owing to diminishing numbers and in order to close the account the sum of £9.86 was donated to the Charitable Fund.

Mr A. Edwards when presenting the medals of the late Mr Wally Clarke to the Regimental Museum also made a donation to the Charitable Fund.

Church Service at Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Our annual Church Service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, took place on Sunday, October 26, 1975. A party of 40 members and their wives attended, headed by the President of the Regimental Association, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, and Mrs Chattey.

The Old Comrades under the command of Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, were inspected by the Governor. The Standard was carried by Mr G. S. Hurlock.

A. E. F. W.

EALING BRANCH

Since our last Newsletter I have had a long letter from Bill Cook in Australia, which was very welcome as we had not heard from him for a very long time.

He tells us that he is nearly 79 but leading a very active life—bowling during the summer with members of the Eastern Command of the Australian Army and in the winter he is fond of an evening at billiards and snooker.

He has been following the fortunes of us here in Ealing through the pages of the Newsletter and appears to be well informed on matters in general. We hope he continues to enjoy life for many years to come.

I heard also of our Chairman, George Ife. The country air is doing him a world of good and he is able to get about quite a bit. We may see him again at our very small meetings but it takes him three hours to get here.

I had a short chat with Bobby Williams over the phone and up to now have had no complaints from the Post Office. Not such good news about Ernie Duffield. He had been an In-Patient at King Edward's Hospital, West Ealing, for a few days when I had a phone call from his son, so I took myself up to see Ernie and I did not like the look of him. Still he is pretty tough and I feel sure he will be up and about soon. All the rest of us are still vertical and send our good wishes to all Die-Hards everywhere.

ALBERT WHITE.

HONG KONG BRANCH

At the Remembrance Day Parade held at the Cenotaph on Sunday, November 9, the Middlesex Regimental wreath was laid by Capt Simon Yates.

In view of the fact that a flyover is to be built through the Happy Valley Cemetery it has been proposed by the Deputy Assistant Chaplain General HQ Land Forces, as a result of a meeting held on November 12, that all military graves be exhumed and re-interred at Chai Wan Military Cemetery in a mass grave with a suitable memorial recording the names and details of those buried. Obviously before this action can be taken notices are to be published in the UK papers in order that surviving relatives may be informed of the proposals.

S. J. Y.

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

Once again members of the Hornsey and Enfield Die-Hards Club assembled for the Hornsey Remembrance Service at the old Church Tower on the path where the 7th Bn and the Old Comrades always paraded, and then across to the Parish (temporary) Church.

During the course of the Service in the church wreaths were laid in accordance with tradition on behalf of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club, by Lt Col D. E. Simpson, and for the Hornsey and Enfield Branch, by ex-Lt Col Mann.

There were about 14 members in church to remember, in the presence of the Colours of the 7th Bn, those who had fallen in two World Wars.

For the first time there was no Old Comrade who served in the 1914-18 War present, but I am sure their spirits were with us; let us hope that next year there will be a bigger attendance of their successors who served and fought in the Bn between wars and during the 1939-45 one.

The Rector told me that he hoped that by next November definite signs might be seen of the start of the new Parish Church which will include a 7th Bn Memorial Chapel; the new Bishop of Edmonton, who preached at the Service, also indicated to that he was very anxious to get the Church started.

After the Service we retired, as usual, to the Hornsey Drill Hall, where we were joined by a few more ex-members of the 7th Bn and others, over a glass or so of refreshment.

D. E. S.

MILL HILL BRANCH

The last Saturday in September was an excellent evening of dancing organised by Stan Hurlock and helpers, the music was enjoyed by everyone and the generation gap in musical taste was firmly bridged. The evening was further enhanced by the buffet prepared by Jim and Anne Torbet. Although the buffet was opened with the words 'Ladies to the buffet' I noticed a few 'Ladies' wearing lounge suits or blazers; there's no accounting for taste in evening dress these days. Prior to the dancing we all did a short course in furniture removing, which gave us a hearty thirst.

October saw the return of a serving Die-Hard to Mill Hill when Sgt Mervyn (Fritz) Smith, son of Maj Dick Smith, joined 42 Army Youth Team at Edgware. He was instantly co-opted to run the bar for our monthly social, and we all thank him for his efforts. In spite of him suffering the barman's nightmare (no draught beer) we all had a good time. The raffle and Christmas Draw were well supported, as always, and bingo was extended to make up for the absence of Mac, our regular pianist, who was unable to attend owing to ill health; we missed his playing and wish him a speedy recovery. The month was blessed with a wedding when Val Kerswill was married on the 11th; we all wish her and Steve every happiness.

Also during October, I handed in my Army kit at Inglis Barracks, having come to the end of my colour service. Some of the items were issued from the same stores in 1951 when I was a young Die-Hard. I shall, however, keep up contact with Mill Hill as a constable with the MOD police at 30 Workshops REME.

November brings us to our annual pilgrimage to Westminster Abbey and our service at Inglis Barracks, both of which were well supported by the branch. The Standard was carried by Stan Kerswill and the escorts were In-pensioners Fulton and Worton; the parade was marshalled by Sgt Mervyn Smith.

Our Annual Parade and Service of Remembrance was held at Inglis Barracks on Sunday, November 9. The Standard-bearer was Stan Hurlock and the bugler 'Babe' Denton.

The highlight of November will be our Christmas Draw on the 29th; more about that in the next Newsletter.

I close on a sad note. In October we lost our Treasurer, Tom Minski. His obituary appears elsewhere in this Newsletter. He was a fine man and is greatly missed. We at Edgware extend our sympathy to Dorothy and Pam in their bereavement.

On behalf of all members may I wish all Die-Hards a happy and prosperous 1976.

LES PLUMB.

9th BATTALION BRANCH

At the Remembrance Day Service at Mill Hill a good number of the members of this Branch were present and also at Edgware afterwards.

Amongst these, whom we were very pleased to meet, were Ted Lockyer, who came from his home at Stockport, Cecil Howes and Percy Fice, whom we have not seen for some time. Cecil and Percy

are octogenarians, having served in the Bn in 1914 and afterwards.

Also present were our regular members who attend every year and so keep the ranks of the 9th Branch well maintained.

It was a pleasure to see many of the garrison stationed at Mill Hill in the Chapel and at the Memorial afterwards. Actually the Chapel was full and I am sure this was greatly appreciated by the Rev. A. K. Chesterton, MA, who conducted the Service and gave the Address.

On the previous day members assembled at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey and here it was greatly enhanced by the presence of several civic dignitaries.

We were escorted from the Guildhall and back again by a very charming lady wearing the uniform of the Metropolitan Police and I was not the only person to notice this.

The Executive Committee of our Association decided that all members of this gallant body should have a membership card. One has been sent to all our Branch members with our last letter in October. Perhaps there may be a little confusion over the column marked Newsletter in that I did not mark some, for I did not know if the member had asked for the Newsletter.

Members have written to me about this, I am sure you will receive note of this, regarding your subscriptions, from our worthy Editor, when they are due.

Amongst the correspondents is Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD, who was one of the 9th former Adjutants.

The Lt Gen always sends his monetary contribution, which is appreciated by all. In his last letter recently received, we are told that he is now in possession of a new hip after a spell in hospital and hopes to be fully mobile in the future. Sir Brian also wishes to send his greetings to the Branch members, but owing to age and distance does not think he will be able to attend our functions in London.

Maj H. H. Grey, TD, informs us that he has moved from Finchley Road to Newcastle upon Tyne, but will keep in touch with us.

Maj Reg Elson also has changed his address from Ely to Royston, Herts.

Maj H. M. N. Price has moved to Porthcotham Bay, Capt E. Crook, DCM to Swindon, Maj J. F. Millard, OBE, TD, to Chipping Campden and Mr R. Parker to Burghfield Common, near Reading.

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of two of the original 9th Bn who were with us on our journeys in 1914—C. E. Mallows and J. P. S. Salter. Their deaths were not known to us until after the funeral, so we could not be represented or send floral tributes.

We are holding our Annual Reunion Dinner next year on Saturday, May 22, at the Quality Inn, 310 Regent Street, W1. Please make a note of this in your diary. We shall be sending details of this event in April next year.

Best wishes and a happy healthy life for Christmas and the New Year.

R. T. M.

WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

The issue of this quarter's *Newsletter* marks the end of another year and leaves us wondering what next year has in store for us, not only personally but for the branch.

We can, however, look back over this year with, I think, a certain amount of satisfaction and pride, to what has been a successful 12 months. This has been achieved by the interest shown and the loyal support given by our members. For despite the increase in the cost of living, transport difficulties and other hazards of life, attendances at our monthly meetings have been all that can be desired.

Although over the past year we have lost such loyal members as Harry Parnell, Oscar Geary, Harry Gribble and Tom Minski, the blank files caused by their departure were soon filled by new members joining up.

Our monthly raffles, a popular feature at our meetings and which gives us an extra source of income, have been well supported by members participating and by many of our ladies who each month so generously donate gifts as prizes. This extra income coupled with donations made by members has enabled us to meet the increase in postage, hire of the room for our meetings and cost of the snack provided at such meetings and still leave us in the black without calling on members for an increase in their subscriptions. The ever-popular Christmas Draw has also been well supported and the fact that over 2,000 shares have been taken up this year, which is far beyond that of previous years, shows that support and how wise it was to retain the price per share to 5p. Although the draw does not take place until Saturday, December 13, I am sure we can look forward to it being a success, for having over £100 to spend on prizes, the majority of which will be bottles of wine and spirits, between 80 and 90 prizes will be drawn for.

OBITUARY

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

BIGNELL—On October 18, 1975, in Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, as the result of a coronary thrombosis, ex-WO2 George Bignell, aged 64 years. He enlisted in 1931 and after completing his recruit training, was posted to the 2nd Bn. During the 1939-45 War he served with the 2/8th Bn before and after it became the resuscitated 1st Bn and remained with it until completing his Colour Service in 1952.

During his service he was a good disciplinarian and always took a keen interest in the training of company and battalion athletics and boxing teams. He was a popular member of the Sergeants'

Yes! Looking back I am sure we can say we have had a successful 1975.

Many of our members attended the Annual Church Parade at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, in October and also the Remembrance Services at Westminster Abbey on Saturday, November 8, and the Chapel and Regimental War Memorial at Inglis Barracks on Sunday, November 9. I, unfortunately, was unable to attend these ceremonies owing to not being in the best of health, and so much to my sorrow could not place our wreath on the Memorial. This duty was carried out by our Chairman, Maj A. E. Peasl. I did, however, manage to get along to the reunion at Deansbrook Drill Hall, and there met up with not only many of our members but several comrades with whom I served, notably Charlie Donaldson, Bill Lee, Blanco White and John Rolfe to name but a few. Meeting old comrades and chatting about old times makes one realise how worthwhile it is to be a member of a branch, and to attend their meetings and, of course, to attend if possible the functions held by the Association. So what about making this one of your resolutions for 1976?

Now for the New Year, which will soon be upon us; can we look forward to the same success that we have had over the past year? I sincerely hope so, and providing the same support is given and the same interest is shown, as has been in the past, then whoever writes our notes at the end of next year will be able to speak of another successful year enjoyed. Who knows, they may also be able to record a meeting when every member was present, or is this wishful thinking?

And now as Father Time gets ready to welcome the birth of a new year, we wish all Die-Hards and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous 1976, and may all branches experience the same success as we have over the year that is now ending.

LEN JOHNSON.

Mess and will be remembered by those in Germany for his skill in carving up stags after the shooting parties. On leaving the service he joined a branch of a well-known chain of butchers but, after becoming manager, decided that he much preferred an outdoor life, and so he left and became a postman. A series of minor heart attacks led to his early retirement and, after a long rest in hospital, he accepted light work in the offices of the car-parking department of Havering Borough Council, where he was shortly before his death promoted to superintendent.

At his funeral on October 23, the Regt was represented by Capt Frank Redpath and ex-Drum Major and Mrs C. Holdford.

COLEMAN—On September 30, 1975, ex-Dmr Albert Edward Coleman (L/19933 and 6190544), aged 70 years. Tim Coleman enlisted into the Regt on April 9, 1919 and was posted to the 3rd Bn as a member of the Corps of Drums, he then being on Boy Service. Serving with the 3rd in Germany when that battalion formed part of the Army of Occupation he later served in Upper Silesia. He was cross-posted to the 1st Bn and with them returned to the UK in April 1921, when the Bn was on strike duty at Dover. When a large draft was called for to make up the 2nd Bn then serving in Egypt, to Foreign Service Establishment, Tim was a member of this draft. At Malta he was put ashore for medical treatment and forgotten by Records for two months which caused him to miss joining the 2nd Bn in Egypt. He eventually joined the Bn at Tanglin Barracks, Singapore, when he became a valuable member of the Corps of Drums as an efficient performer on the 'F' flute. On completion of his Colour Service in 1928, he transferred to the Army Reserve and was finally discharged on April 8, 1931. His first employment was as a male nurse at Colney Hatch Mental Hospital. This did not suit his temperament and he was later able to join the staff of the Electricity Board with whom he remained for 40 years. During the 1939-45 war his was a reserved occupation, Maintenance Engineer, but allowed him to be a member of the Home Guard and First Officer in the Auxiliary Fire Service. In recent years his health gave cause for concern, and he had to undergo a number of operations. He was a member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club and a frequent visitor to the Regimental Museum at Bruce Castle.

ELLIS—On July 5, 1975, at his home in Eastbourne, Col Charles Howard Ellis, CMG, CBE, TD, aged 80. He was granted a commission as a temporary 2Lt in the 5th (Special Reserve) Bn in September 1917 and was a member of the British Military Mission to Transcaspia from June 1918 to June 1919. He was released from service in May 1920 and was repatriated to Australia, where he was born. He returned to the United Kingdom later and in February 1922 he was appointed to a commission in the Territorial Army Reserve of Officers as a Captain on the General List Infantry.

At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he was specially employed with the MT Directorate at the War Office and appointed an acting Major. By October 1942 he had risen to the rank of local Colonel and was employed on various liaison duties and military missions in USA, Canada and Egypt until being released from service in August 1945.

He was the author of 'Soviet Imperialism' in 1970, and other works.

FLAMENT—On September 16, 1975, Chevalier Robert Julien Jean-Baptiste Flament, aged 62. Bob Flament was a Belgian National and an Honorary Member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association. His pleasant personality and his organising ability impressed all his British

comrades with whom he came in contact, especially members of the Belgian club and ex-Servicemen who attended the annual Belgian National Day Parades in Whitehall. Bob did his conscript service of 12 months from September 3, 1933, serving with the 25th Bn Genie Cyclists (RE on bicycles) until September 3, 1934, and was promoted corporal during this term of service. In 1938 he again served in the same battalion and division during the Munich crisis but by now the unit had special trucks. Called up again on September 3, 1939, when the Germans invaded Belgium, he was a front-line soldier until taken prisoner on May 28, 1940, but escaped to join the Belgian Resistance in 1941, later becoming 2IC of a section in C120, Zone 1, then under orders from London. With the Resistance he remained until the liberation of Belgium. On September 3, 1944, he was with the Resistance forces who liberated Charleroi for the 1st American Army who fully entered on the 5th.

His military decorations and medals were Belgian Chevalier Ordre de la Couronne, Resistance Medal, Volunteer Medal and clasp, Commemorative Medal with bar, Albert Medal (government issue), the Combattant Cross and the AS (Armee Secrete) Medal—for cloak and dagger work. He also held six other medals for public service. For a number of years he was the President FNC Section, Great Britain, which brought him into contact with many British ex-Servicemen. The last time many of us saw and spoke to Bob Flament was on the Belgian Parade in June last, acting in his capacity as President. He then looked in frail health but insisted on doing his duty to the last. That is how we will remember him.

GOODALL—On October 11, 1975, ex-Capt Charles Edwin Goodall (7733212), aged 80. He enlisted in the Regt on May 2, 1915, and served with the 1st Bn in France from 1915-16 and again from 1917-18. He was wounded twice. For the period 1920-26 he served with the Corps of Military Accountants and rejoined the 1st Bn on March 17, 1926, serving with them in China, Egypt and Singapore. He was discharged on June 30, 1940, on being granted a Quartermaster Commission in the Sherwood Foresters. He retired in 1945 after 30 years' service. He was in possession of the following medals: MBE, 1914-15 Star, General Service and Victory Medals, 1939-45 Star, Defence Medal, War Medal and King George VI Coronation Medal. On leaving the Service he was employed by Southern Railway at Hounslow as a clerk, finally retiring in 1961. He moved to Hedge End, Southampton, and lived there until his death. He became a very well-known member of the community and a staunch member of the local church. He was a very popular member of the Regiment and will be sadly missed.

GRIBBLE—On August 29, 1975, ex-Cpl Harry Gribble (390832), aged 63 years.

He enlisted in the South Wales Borderers in 1932 and was later claimed into the Regt by his elder brother, Frank. Although he served in three

of our Bns—the 1st, 2nd and 1/7th—his great love was for the 1st Bn, in which he was a keen and active sportsman, representing the Bn at boxing and tug-o-war. In 1941 he was one of a small draft posted from the 1st Bn in Hong Kong to the Middle East, where he saw active service in the first Desert campaign. At the end of this campaign he, with the remainder of the draft, were sent back to base to form a bomb disposal squad under the supervision of a bomb expert RE Officer. He did considerable valuable and dangerous work with this squad before joining the BEF in France, where he was posted to 1/7th Bn and saw much active service with that fine battalion up to the end of the war.

After his discharge he returned to his former civilian occupation of barrow boy in the Paddington and West End areas but later he decided to join London Transport as a ticket collector on the underground—a job he held until his death.

HAYES—On November 18, 1975, ex-Bdsm William Hayes (L/11552), aged 86 years. Bill Hayes joined the Regt on February 6, 1907, having been employed as a baker prior to his enlistment. Posted to the 3rd Bn, he served with them during the latter part of their foreign service until returning to England in December 1914, ready for active service with the BEF. In addition to being a musician, he was also a marksman with the rifle. Trained as a sniper, he was employed in this capacity with the 3rd Bn in the trenches when he was sniped by an enemy sniper, the wound causing his grievous injuries leading to his discharge. For many years a tenant in the Regimental Memorial Cottages at Mill Hill he finally moved to the new flats in Graham Park, Hendon, on the site of the old flying grounds. Of late he had been ill, suffering from lapses of memory and hallucinations, his eventual decease being a happy release. A member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club, he often, in former days, played the piano at various gatherings in the Crawford Hut in Inglis Barracks.

JACKSON—On July 17, 1975 in Hong Kong, ex-Cpl Arthur Jackson (6196911), aged 67. Cpl Jackson enlisted into the Regt in 1927 and served in Madras with the 2nd Bn. He was discharged in 1930. He re-enlisted in 1936 and after his recruit training was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong in 1937. He was taken PoW on Christmas Day 1941, and was repatriated to the UK on October 31, 1945. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on May 27, 1946.

He again rejoined the Colours on June 24, 1949, and in that year rejoined the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and went with them to Korea. The 1st Bn returned to Hong Kong in 1951 and 'Jacko' became Post Corporal with HQ Land Forces and remained in this post until 1966 when he was discharged on termination of his engagement. He then became a Security Guard with HQ Land Forces in Hong Kong until he was forced to retire owing to ill health on April 1, 1975. He was in possession of the following medals—1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal,

Korea Medal and United Nations Medal.

Maj R. T. W. Mellotte, Queen's Regt, very kindly represented the Regt at his funeral.

KITCHENER—On October 20, 1975, Jenny, dearly loved wife of Capt G. Kitchener.

MINSKI—On October 10, 1975, ex-Csgt Thomas Welsh Minski (6001799), aged 75. Tom Minski enlisted originally in 1917, joining the 1st Bn, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt, being given the Regimental number 70373, and with this unit served in the trenches until gassed and wounded on the Somme in 1918. Transferred to the Army Reserve in 1919, he engaged with the Territorial Army in July 1921, as a member of the 6th Bn The Essex Regt, and served with this unit until July 1923. During 1921 he served 96 days with the Defence Force during the Emergency, which gave him invaluable experience when he once again answered the call for volunteers during the General Strike of 1926. On that occasion he served in Edinburgh where the Volunteers were armed with steel helmets and a chair leg to deal with the rioters who wielded much more lethal items of hardware. On January 13, 1927, he re-enlisted into the 6th Bn, The Essex Regt, being given the rank of Sergeant, and in 1928 transferred to the 1st Bn Princess Louise's Kensington Regt as Orderly Room Sergeant. In 1934 he was promoted to Colour-Sergeant and was holding this rank in 1937 when 'The Kensingtons' changed their title to Princess Louise's Kensington Regt, The Middlesex Regt (Duke of Cambridge's Own) in place of being affiliated to the KRRC. In April 1940 Tom was the CQMS of 'A' Coy when the Bn joined the BEF, eventually joining 51st (Highland) Div. Tom was one of the casualties of the fighting in June 1940, being made a PoW. As PoW, he was a tower of strength to his comrades during their incarceration, his avuncular manner and advice bringing comfort to younger men in their distress.

He set an admirable example, taking up wood-carving, examples of his work later being exhibited at the exhibition organised by the *Daily Telegraph*. A member of both the Kensington and the Die-Hards OCA, Tom was treasurer of the Mill Hill Branch at the time of his decease and his passing is much lamented by the members with whom he was a popular comrade. In addition to holding the British War Medal and Victory Medal for 1914-19, plus the 1939-45 Star and War Medal, Tom was also in possession of the Territorial Efficiency Medal with two clasps marking his military efficiency in both war and peace. And in peace may he rest is the fervent wish of his many friends.

PERRY—On October 12, 1975, Capt Frederick Walter Perry, DCM (L/14822 and 6189005), aged 80. Fred Perry enlisted into the Regt on February 2, 1914, and on completion of his recruit training was posted to the 2nd Bn. Serving with this battalion from August 1914 to March 1915, he was one of the soldiers experienced in trench warfare to be posted to the 3rd Bn, leaving the

2nd Bn just prior to the Battle of Neuve Chapelle. Promoted to Lance-Corporal on joining his new battalion he remained with them until he was wounded at Ypres in April 1915. On discharge from hospital he joined the 4th Bn in August 1915 and was promoted Corporal. His promotion to Sergeant followed in October 1915. The award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal was made for his gallantry between August 20-26, 1918, when he was with 'D' Coy of the 4th Bn at Bucquoy, Bihucourt, Bapaume Road during the Battle of Albert. A German strong-point put up a great fight with trench mortars and MGs but was rushed by Capt Jamieson and Sgt Perry and about three or four men. They got to the final objective about 5.30 am, capturing in all about 50 prisoners and killing a large number. In addition to the prisoners, seven MGs and eight trench mortars were captured. Shortly after the objective was captured, the enemy barraged it heavily. Fred Perry was later A/CSM and A/RQMS. He was discharged in February 1926. In 1940, he formed a LDV force of platoon strength of 94, later to become the Home Guard 23rd Pln, 'F' Coy, 41st Bn, London Regt. He remained in charge of this platoon until Stand-down in December 1945. In addition to the DCM, he held the 1914 Star with clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal, 1914-19 and the Defence Medal 1939-45. A member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Die-Hards Club, he was a regular correspondent although unable to travel to Edgware, to join in branch and regimental functions. His welcome letters will be missed.

VALENTINE—Suddenly on May 7, 1975, at Worthing, aged 69. 'Jim' Valentine joined the Corps of Drums of the 7th Bn as a boy in 1920. After a break of some years he rejoined the 7th Bn serving in 'C' Coy at Hornsey. He was a first-class rifle shot and soon gained a place in the Regimental team.

Valentine was amongst the first to go to the Machine Gun School at Netheravon on the senior NCOs and WOs course when the Bn was converted from infantry to machine-gunners in 1938. He excelled in training the young recruits that flooded into the TA in 1938-39 infusing them with his enthusiasm and instilling a true sense of Regimental pride. He was one of the first to be promoted to Platoon Sergeant-Major and took his platoon to France with the Bn in January 1939.

He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for conspicuous gallantry in the operations around Dunkirk in 1940.

Having returned safely from Dunkirk he spent a brief time with the 7th Bn before being commissioned into the Royal Pioneer Corps. Shortly afterwards, he went to East Africa and the Middle East, where he saw much service as both pioneer and infantryman, attaining the rank of Captain. After the war, although he left the Army, he saw much overseas service in East Africa, Singapore and Hong Kong supervising building and major works projects for Government agencies in those countries. He returned to England in the late 1960s continuing with similar projects until his death. He was always happy when he had more than a full day's work to do and his untiring energy and sense of humour always made the day seem easy to others as well as himself. He was a devoted Die-Hard throughout his life.

He leaves a widow, Mrs D. M. Valentine.
(With acknowledgements to Col D. R. W. Thomas, MBE.)

The following have also died recently and obituary notices will be published as soon as sufficient information is available: Capt H. R. F. Butterfield; Capt W. N. Vare, TD.

Printed in England
by F. J. Parsons Limited
Newspaper House, Great New Street, London EC4P 4ER.
and Hastings