



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 13

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Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

FORMATION OF 4th BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT COMPANY

In October last the Ministry of Defence gave formal approval to those units which had been nominated for reduction in Phase II of the Army rundown to be retained at company strength. This, of course affected the 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment who were the successors to the 1st Battalion (57th/77th) The Middlesex Regiment (DCO). Subsequently, the Army Board of the Defence Council formally approved of the following title to be adopted by the Company:

4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment Albuhera Company.

The Company was formed at Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe, on January 1, and has been allocated the role of recruiting duties for the Queen's Division.

The initial strength of the Company will be 2 Officers and 36 soldiers, plus 4 attached.

The Queen's Regimental Information Team is to be absorbed into the Company and its first Company Commander is to be Major G. Mason, Queen's.

ANNUAL REUNION 1971

Arrangements have been made to hold the Annual Reunion this year at Porchester Hall on Saturday, May 15, from 7 p.m. to 11.45 p.m.

Charges for admission will be the same as in previous years, namely:

Single tickets, 2s. 6d. (12½p).

Double tickets (admitting lady and gentleman), 4s. (20p).

Further details will be issued in due course.

ALBUHERA DAY 1971

The Service of Remembrance this year will be held in the North Transept Chapel (the Baptistry) of St. Paul's Cathedral at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, May 15.

Further details will be notified to all Die Hards in due course.

REMEMBRANCE DAY 1970

Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance

The annual ceremony at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey took place on Saturday, November 7.

A large number of ex-members of the Regiment were present, as well as civic dignitaries, headed by Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, CB, MC, DL, Assistant Lieutenant of the Middlesex Area of Greater London, and by the Right Honourable the Chairman of the Greater London Council, Peter Black, Esq., JP.

This year the Mayors of the various Boroughs themselves were able to attend since the ceremony did not clash with the Lord Mayor's Show. This also enabled Major Sir Harold Gillett, BART, MC, a past Lord Mayor of London, who has a place in the City Procession, to be present and to represent the 1/7th Battalion.

After the usual short service at the County Memorial in the Middlesex Guildhall, conducted by the Rev. P. L. Pearce Gould, OBE, a procession formed up and moved to the Regimental Plot.

On arrival at the plot Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment, after saying "We plant these crosses today in memory of our fallen comrades of the Middlesex Regiment", planted the first cross. He then invited Her Majesty's Lieutenant for the Middlesex Area of Greater London to plant a cross. These were followed by the Chaplain, and the following representatives of Battalions:

	1st Battalion Major-General	
	Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB	
2nd	Mr. L. C. West	
3rd	Brigadier B. B. Rackham,	CB, MC, DL
4th	Mr. C. Ashby	
1/7th	Major Sir Harold Gillett,	BART, MC
2/7th	Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell, TD	
1/8th	Col. M. Crawford, DSO, JP	
2/8th	Col. I. R. Burrows, OBE	
9th	Mr. R. T. Meers	
1/10th	Mr. A. D. Scudamore, OBE	
2/10th	Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, MC	

Crosses were then planted by the civic dignitaries present, followed by members of our Association and their relatives.

Regimental Services

Remembrance Day on Sunday, November 8, broke fine and not too cold.

The service in the Garrison Chapel, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, and the ceremony at the Regimental Memorial, both conducted by the Rev. P. L. Pearce Gould, OBE, were very well attended.

After the ceremony at the Regimental Memorial, at which Mr. George Chacksfield sounded beautifully the Last Post and Reveille, wreaths were laid in the following order:

- Regimental Association by Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Battalions and Depot by Col. I. R. Burrows, OBE
- 5th and 6th (Militia) Battalions by Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE
- 4th Battalion The Queen's Regiment by 2/Lt. A. H. Carter.
- 10th (T) Battalion The Queen's Regiment by Major M. J. Beaumont, TD.
- "D" Company, 5th Battalion The Queen's Regiment, by Major M. L. Muirhead.
- Mill Hill Branch by Major E. A. Bull, MM.
- 9th Battalion Branch by Major H. H. Grey, TD.
- WOs and Sergeants Branch by WO I R. G. Roberts, MBE

At the march past which followed the laying of wreaths the salute was taken by Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, who was accompanied by Col. J. W. Holmes, RE, Commanding the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot RE.

The parade over, those who had taken part, or had been spectators, went by coach or private car to the T & AVR Centre at Edgware, where a reunion was held, which went on till late that evening.

THE REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL St. Paul's Cathedral

Since the dedication of the Regimental Memorial in St. Paul's Cathedral six children of, or associated with, the Regiment have been baptised in the Bapistry. Their names, which are recorded at the County Office, Edgware, are:

Date of baptism	Name of child
January 24, 1970	Andrew Donald, son of Lt. and Mrs. Robin Crosher.
April 19, 1970	Derek Paul, grandson of Major and Mrs. L. T. Honeybun.
May 30, 1970	Elspeht Jennifer Robertson, daughter of Capt. and Mrs. K. D. Murray.
July 9, 1970	Christopher Newton, son of Capt. and Mrs. R. M. Fox.
October 11, 1970	Hannah, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Burroughs.
October 24, 1970	Victoria Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Holmes.

THE HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS)

Her Majesty the Queen has recently approved the grant of the title "Royal" to The Hong Kong Regiment and has also approved the incorporation of the words "The Volunteers", so that their official title is now:

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

We send our heartiest congratulations to our friends on the grant of this honour and our best wishes for the future prosperity of the Regiment.

PUBLICATIONS—FAMOUS REGIMENTS The Red Devils

This new volume in the Famous Regiment series, which is edited by Lt.-General Sir Brian Horrocks, tells the story of the British Airborne Forces from the earliest days. There are over 90 illustrations and maps and Major Geoff Norton, the Curator of the Airborne Forces Museum, tells in a readable and lively fashion the story of one of the greatest and most romantic of all our fighting arms from the earliest days up to the present time.

This book, which is to be published on March 25 next, may appeal to many members of the Officers' Club and Regimental Association, who served in the Parachute Regiment. It is written by Die Hard and edited by our most famous Die Hard today, so it has a decided Middlesex flavour.

Regimental Museum

Curator: Maj. R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TA & VR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex

The following are recent acquisitions to the Museum:

- RELICS OF THE LATE COL. C. D. DREW, DSO, OBE.
- MEDALS OF THE LATE EX-PTE. S. W. CHARLES.
- PHOTOGRAPH OF 2ND BATTALION AT SWAY, 1906.
- SMALL REGIMENTAL FLAG AND CRICKET CAPS.
- COPIES OF *The Chad*, ETC.

Relics of the late Col. C. D. Drew, DSO, OBE.

- The relics are:
- a. The flag of No. 1 Special Company, Middlesex Regiment.
 - b. Officer's cane, 3rd Battalion.
 - c. Steel helmet—original pattern.

The flag of No. 1 Special Company, Middlesex Regiment, "Syren" Force, North Russia, 1919, was originally 2ft square with scarlet badge and scrolls on lemon yellow ground. The lettering is in white and in chief dexter union, a white five-pointed star on a blue ground. Due to trimming, an inch has been taken from the fly edge. The flag was made by L/11152 Pte. H. Baker, the Company Tailor, from bunting given by HMS *Glory*, at Murmansk.

The Company was almost exclusively composed of NCOs and men who had seen long service on the Western and other fronts; several wore the DCM and MM and many had been wounded. There was a good stiffening of regular soldiers who had served before the war. The ship on which they embarked was the *Porto*, formerly the *Prinz Heinrich*, the German ship which carried the German Crown Prince on his Colonial tour.

To our roll of Battle Honours they added that of "Murman, 1919", and to their own uniforms they added 21 British decorations and nine Russian Orders and medals. Only two soldiers lost their lives during the fighting, Pte. L. Thompson, the first casualty, being killed on May 15. He was not the only casualty that day; a prisoner who deliberately gave false information to cause our troops to walk into ambush, was executed that night in the presence of the details of the Company. The next day, Albuhera Day, an advance was made and a railway siding occupied.

With the North Russian Expeditionary Force were Italian, Serbian, American and units from the Allies, all helping the White Russians. An interesting remark by Major Drew, on taking over from the White Russians was, "The relief was not a very orthodox one; most of the sentries were asleep, and the picquets simply disappeared when we arrived and no attempt to hand over orders was made". This was in July 1919, a month after two companies of the North Russian Rifle Regiment had encountered the enemy and were unwilling to advance!

OFFICER'S CANE

The cane has a round German silver knob, the crest being the distinctive 3rd Battalion pattern. Above the "Albuhera" scroll is the figure "3" surmounted by St. Edward's crown. Below the scroll, and above the knot in the jointed laurels is the Duke of Cambridge's cypher. Both 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions had their individual and distinctive crests.

STEEL HELMET

The steel helmet is the now scarce original pattern. The rim is sharp and the chin-strap is all leather, fastened to a staple each side of the helmet. The later patterns all had a spring, or elastic, device in the strap, as so many casualties were caused by necks being broken when shell blast blew the helmet back from the head. The head was jerked violently by the strap which had no "give". The sharp rim was liable, when flying through the air, to cut off the top of a head in much the same way as the top of a boiled egg is cut off.

Presented by Mrs. C. D. Drew

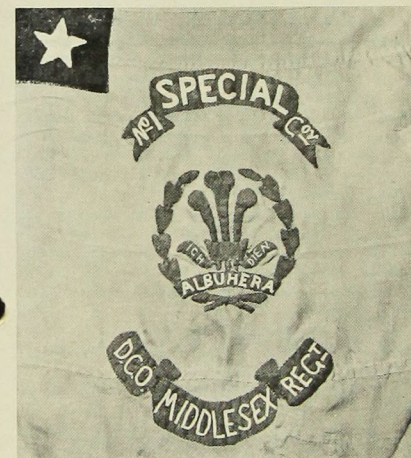


Photo by Rodney Brewster

No. 1 Special Company was formed at the Depot, Mill Hill, April 3, 1919, the NCOs and men having been selected from regular soldiers forming the nuclei of the 2nd and 4th Battalions, then stationed at Mill Hill. The following officers were detailed for service with the company: A/Major W. E. Williams, DSO, Capt. G. N. A. Curzons, MC, and S. Fitz M. del Court, MC, Lts. G. A. Druce, C. T. Whinney, MC, F. T. Sobey, O. C. Barker and A. M. Toye, VC, MC. Commanding the Company was that experienced and battlewise commander, Major C. D. Drew, DSO.

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MEDALS OF THE LATE EX-PTE. S. W. CHARLES (PW/3509)

This group of medals consists of the British War Medal and the French medal given to all who had fought on the Somme 1914-1918-1940, these dates being embossed on the reverse.

Stanley Charles, whose obituary was published in the November 1970 *Die Hards Newsletter*, was discharged in October 1917 as medically unfit due to gun-shot wounds received when serving with the 19th (Second Public Works Pioneers) Battalion, one of the four battalions raised by Col. John Ward.

Originally joining the 25th Battalion, recruited and formed by Col. John Ward, MP, he was one of the soldiers who had enlisted under the impression that they were to be paid 3s. a day for special engineering work. Whilst on a route march during training prior to going overseas, he and his comrades, when marching at ease, broke out lustily with the Battalion song, sung to the tune of "John Peel", the words of which were:

*"D'ye ken John Ward and his blokes so gay
Three bob a week, not three bob a day
Old John Ward is a . . . old fraud
And we're not going home in the morning"*

After which they marched to attention for three miles!

Presented by Mrs. Carole Charles.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE 2ND BATTALION AT SWAY 1906

This photograph was taken during training in the days when there were eight companies in an Infantry Battalion. Being postcard size, very little detail can be picked out in regard to individuals. The Battalion at this date was stationed in Cambridge Barracks, Portsmouth, and took part in Brigade and Divisional Training at Bordon and Army Manoeuvre near Chichester. It was in the eight-company organisation when it went to Malta, September 1913. The next month, October, was to see the formation of the Battalion into four companies and the introduction of the rank of Company Sergeant-Major and the appointment of Company Quartermaster Sergeant, the effective date being October 1, 1913. Up to that date, each of the eight companies had, as its senior non-commissioned officer, a colour-sergeant, known as "the Flag", due to his badge of crossed Colours above his three chevrons. The only sergeant-major was the man who held the rank now known as Regimental Sergeant-Major. The CSMs originally appointed were C/Sgts. Deighton, Dew, Edwards and Sgt. Anderson. The CQMs were C/Sgts. Cox, Clifford and Hall, and in December Sgt. Rogers was promoted to fill the vacancy. The introduction of the four-company organisation brought no change in the badges of rank, both CSMs and CQMSs retained the badge of rank of Colour-Sergeant, that meritorious rank introduced by the Prince Regent on July 6, 1813, to express his appreciation of the service of non-commissioned officers of the army during the war in Peninsula, "An honourable badge of a regimental colour, supported by two cross swords". It was not until 1915 that the rank of second class Warrant officer was introduced. The infantry badges then adopted were WO1 (RSM), Royal Arms; WO2 (RQMS), Crown within a wreath of laurels; WO2 (CSM), a Crown, the badges worn below the elbow. Colour Sergeants in Service Dress had been wearing the Crown above their chevrons for some time although they wore crossed Colours in Regi-

mentals or full dress. The badge of rank of a CQMS was now, officially, the crown above the chevrons. For the benefit of veteran readers who were then serving, given below is the organisation of the 2nd Battalion in its new formation after receiving the "Turnover" from the 1st Battalion returning home from foreign service:

Commanding Officer: Lt. Col. R. H. Hayes
Second in Command: Major W. C. C. Ash
Adjutant: Capt. A. G. Wordsworth
Quartermaster: Lt. (QM) H. A. Wiemers.
'A' Coy: Capt. F. W. Ramsay, Lt. J. J. Macartney, 2/Lt. R. J. Young, 244 NCOs and men.
B' Coy: Capt. R. M. Heath, DSO, Lts. A. Ferguson and J. Dixon, 226 NCOs and men.
'C' Coy: Capt. H. L. Homan, Lt. D. T. C. Rowley, 2/Lt. C. M. Harvey, 229 NCOs and men.
'D' Coy: Capt. F. Bicknell, 2/Lts. T. L. Mills and R. S. Lindsell, 220 NCOs and men.

The RSM was George Rapson, a noted battalion sportsman and Drum-major, later Lt.-Col. G. Rapson, DSO.

Five years later seven of these officers headed the Roll of Honour of the 2nd Battalion above the names of 1358 of the Rank and File who had served and given their lives while doing so during World War I, many of whom were serving in the last days of the eight-company battalion and were present when the photograph was taken.

Presented by Major J. E. Dobbs, MC.

SMALL REGIMENTAL FLAG AND CRICKET CAPS

The two cricket caps are those presented to members of the Battalion teams and are of special interest as both 1st and 2nd Battalions had their distinct pattern badge. The 1st Battalion cap has the old 57th badge, i.e. the figure 57 within a wreath of laurels, surmounted by St. Edward's Crown and the honour "Albuhera" on a scroll above the knot at the bottom of the wreath. The 2nd Battalion has the figures 77 above which is the Prince of Wales Plume and motto 'Ich Dien'.

The Regimental flag is the last one flown on the staff car by the Last Colonel of the Die Hards. It was also used on purely Middlesex Regimental occasions, after the regiment lost its name—but not its honour—by the Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment.

Presented by Major General C. M. M. Man., CB, OBE, MC, last Colonel of the Die Hards.

COPIES OF "THE CHAD", ETC.

The Chad was the magazine of the 2nd Battalion, published whilst the battalion was in Egypt and Palestine, 1945 and 1946. These copies Nos. 1, 2 and 4 make interesting reading, especially as some issues are illustrated. The copies received have helped to fill in a gap as the Regimental Museum needs all the parochial histories and journals as well as the standard histories. Also with these journals was the message sent to all ranks of the 8th Battalion concerning the surrender of the German Army in 1945 and the Second Army Thanksgiving Service booklet on conclusion of the campaign in N.W. Europe.

Presented by Major I. D. McLean

In view of the extra space available in the museum, it would be appreciated if readers of the *Newsletter* would look in the odd wardrobe, cupboards, boxes and the attic to see if there is any item of uniform, medals, badges, buttons or documents of regimental interest they may be prepared to donate to the museum. No matter how worn, torn or moth eaten or indistinct the item is, a use can always be found for it. The small item may be able to complete a uniform or set of equipment. All, and any type of arms, are also of great interest. The Battalion publications such as *Chad*, *One Seven*, *Mortar Board*, etc., are so very acceptable. Each item donated will be acknowledged on receipt and also in this *Newsletter*.

Free Newsletters

The Editor wishes to thank Mr. D. G. Bennett, Mr. F. H. Nash, MBE, Mr. W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, Major H. H. Grey, TD, Major L. T. Honeybun, Lt.-Col. H. P. Lambert, Col. L. G. Lohan, MBE, TD, Miss Dorothy Longe, and Mr. K. R. This for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving old comrades.

DERBY SWEEPSTAKE

A sweepstake on this year's Derby is being organised by the Middlesex Regimental Association in aid of the Regimental Charitable Fund.

Tickets, costing 6d. (2½p) each, or 2s. 6d. (12½p) for a book of five, will be available shortly.

Application for tickets should be made to Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, Regimental Headquarters (Middlesex Office), Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

The following prizes will be awarded:
1st prize — 20% of net proceeds.
2nd prize — 15% of net proceeds.
3rd prize — 10% of net proceeds.

In addition, 5% of the net proceeds will be divided between those who draw horses, other than the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize-winners.

The result of the draw and the amount allocated to the Charitable Fund will be notified to all concerned and published in *The Die-Hards Newsletter* in August next.

OFFICERS' CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY

A total of 80, including official guests, attended the Club cocktail party held at the United Service Club on Saturday, November 7, 1970.

Following the usual custom the nearest relatives of former members were invited as official guests, and the following attended:

Mrs. C. R. Atkins, widow of Lt. L. T. Atkins.
Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Bicknell, son and daughter-in-law of the late Lt.-Col. H. P. F. Bicknell.
Mrs. M. A. Condron, widow of Major M. A. Condron
Mrs. M. del Court, former wife of the late Lt.-Col. S. F. W. M. del Court.

Mrs. H. J. Jennings, widow of Capt. H. J. Jennings.
Mrs. H. A. Palmer, widow of Major H. A. Palmer.
Capt. A. Sander, brother of the late Lt. G. Sander.
Mrs. A. V. Weller, widow of Major A. V. Weller.

7TH MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 43rd annual dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the United Service Club, Pall Mall, SW1, on Thursday November 5, 1970.

Col. J. K. Maitland presided. Others present were:

Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton (guest)	Hon. Colonel 10 Queen's (guest)	Major M. L. Muirhead (guest)
Brigadier B. B. Rackham	Col. W. E. Pringle	Major M. F. Pearson
Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell	Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall (guest)	Major B. St. G. A. Reed
Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson	Lt.-Col. V. H. Sykes	Major R. W. J. Smith (guest)
Major M. J. Beaumont	Major G. A. H. Bower	Major R. Sykes (guest)
Major R. M. Cain (guest)	Major Sir Harold Gillett, BART.	Major H. N. Wigan
Major A. J. Hughes	Major R. J. Leighton	Lt.-Cmdr. R. D. F. Gillett (guest)
		Capt. M. J. S. Doran
		Capt. S. le M. Enthoven
		Lt. J. R. Spooner
		Lt. F. Ware (guest)
		Lt. R. Ware (guest)
		Mr. Hughes (guest)
		Mr. H. D. Milne (guest)

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PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Major Peter Bellers was evacuated from BAOR just before Christmas and admitted to the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, for an operation which, we are pleased to be able to report, was very successful. He is now on leave convalescing at his home at Taunton.

Congratulations to Captains Gavin Bulloch and Andrew Cowing on their promotion to Major with effect from December 31, 1970.

We heartily congratulate Lt.-Col. Nick Carter, the last Commanding Officer of 4 Queen's on being selected for substantive promotion to the rank of Colonel. By the time this *Newsletter* is published he will have taken over his new appointment of Deputy Colonel, 39 Airportable Brigade, in Northern Ireland.

On successfully completing his course at the Staff College, Camberley, Major Peter Clarke has been posted to 1 Queen's in Berlin.

Since last November Lt.-Col. Norman Clayden has been attached to the Protocol Office at the Ministry of Defence for duty as Projects Officer for the SEATO Conference, 1971.

An old Die-Hard who has recently got in touch with us is ex-Sgt. Henry Crockett (G/3259). He served in the 12th (Service) Battalion before being transferred to the Royal Flying Corps during the 1914-18 war. In 1924 he enlisted as a Supplementary reservist in the RAOC, was called up on mobilisation in September 1939 and was eventually transferred to REME when that Corps was formed in 1942.

We are glad to be able to report that ex-RSM Jim Davis, who has had rather a lengthy spell in hospital, is now fit and well again.

We send our heartiest congratulations to ex-Sgt. A. T. Dickinson (4794046), one of our former 7th Battalion stalwarts, on receiving Her Majesty The Queen's sanction for admission as a "Serving Brother of the Order of St. John", in recognition of his 21 years of devoted service in the St. John Ambulance Brigade at North Finchley, of which he is the Divisional Superintendent.

One of the oldest members of our Association, Jack Ellis, aged 88, a former Bandsman in the 2nd Battalion, sent his remembrances to all Die-Hards in a letter received recently.

Major Malcolm Gilham, who is at present serving with 2 Queen's, has been selected for the appointment of Training Major to 7 Queen's, one of the new T & AVR units, which is being raised shortly. He is due to take up his new appointment on March 1.

The former Bandmaster of the 7th Battalion, Mr. W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, is certainly not idle in his retirement. He does much good work by playing for clubs for the blind and pensioners' clubs in the Harlow

and district area, where he lives. Needless to say, his efforts are much appreciated.

Lt. David Hayward, who is a keen horseman, writes from Dublin where he is working to let us know that he has bought a horse, which he has named "Albuhera", to take part in four-year-old events. He adds that when the horse's name is pronounced with an Irish accent it is unrecognisable!

Lt. Hayward is the son of the late Brigadier Bill Hayward, who was killed in action in North Africa during the 1939-45 war.

One of our most recent visitors was ex-Pte. J. W. Hayward, who was for some time batman to his former Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, Lt.-Col. John Shipster. He was most interested to get the latest Regimental news, and intends to keep in touch with us.

He now lives and works at Stanmore in Middlesex.

Major Mike Hayward, on completion of his course at the Joint Services Staff College, has joined 3 Queen's in Northern Ireland.

Major John Hewson has completed his tour of duty as a Deputy Assistant Military Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, and has been posted to 5 Queen's at Canterbury as Training Major.

We are delighted to welcome ex-Pte. Michael Higgins (23915476), a Die-Hard of the younger generation, as a member of the Regimental Association. He recently joined the Mill Hill Branch, and we hope that he will be able to attend some of our Regimental functions, where he is sure to meet old friends.

One of our Hong Kong veterans, ex-Pte. Len Hipgrave (6202976), has recently been in touch with us. After the fall of Hong Kong he was a guest of the Japanese Emperor in Osaka Camp. This did not increase his weight but it did increase his command of the invective. We hope to see more of him in the future.

Through the good offices of Major Dobbs we were recently put in touch with an old Die-Hard, George Holding (L/10480), now in his 86th year. He enlisted in the 4th Battalion in August 1905 and was posted the following year to the 3rd Battalion, serving with that Battalion in Hong Kong, Peking (on the Legation Guard), Singapore, Calcutta, Lebong and Darjeeling. He was transferred to the Army Reserve in 1912, but was mobilised on the outbreak of the 1914-18 war and posted to the 1st Battalion. He was severely wounded in April 1915 and, as a result, was later transferred to the Labour Corps. He was finally discharged in 1919.

In his younger days he was a good athlete and was in the 3rd Battalion athletics team.

One of our most public-spirited Old Comrades is ex-RQMS Les Hosslen (6211132). Not only is he a

member of the Regimental Association Executive Committee and the Housing Sub-Committee, but he is also Vice-Chairman of the Hornsey and Enfield Branch and a member of the Mill Hill and WOs and Sergeants Branches of our Association. We are indeed most grateful to him for all that he undertakes.

During the 1939-45 war he served with the 1/7th Battalion in Africa, Italy, France and Germany, and rose to the rank of WO2 (RQMS).

Those of our readers who remember ex-L/Cpl. T. L. Hoy (618700) when he served in the Regiment between 1928 and 1936 will be sorry to hear that he is in hospital as the result of a stroke and far from well.

Len Johnson, the indefatigable Honorary Secretary of the WOs and Sergeants Branch, caused us some anxiety when he had to go into the Edgware General Hospital before Christmas for an operation. All, however, is well and he is now fit again and doing yeoman service for his Branch.

Capt. John Lofting writes to let us know that he is getting used to being a civilian and that he enjoys working for Watney's. He adds that he finds his work interesting and hopes that the public will not stop drinking beer!

Major N. R. Low, who was commissioned into the 9th Battalion as a Second Lieutenant in 1914 and later during the 1914-18 war was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry in action, has recently got in touch with us. He now lives at St. Albans and hopes shortly to pay a visit to the Regimental Museum.

Ex-Sgt. Reginald Macmurdie, who served in the Regiment on a 12-year engagement from 1920 to 1932, and again during the 1939-45 war is now, most regretfully, housebound owing to a severe heart complaint. He and his wife, who is also housebound through acute arthritis, live in a council flat in the Edmonton area of North London.

Those who served with him in the 1st Battalion during the Korean War will be sorry to hear that ex-Cpl. Dennis Mardle (19031898) was last year permanently disabled as a result of multiple injuries sustained whilst employed as a machinist with a firm at North Mimms, Herts.

Capt. W. McEwan, who enlisted into the Regiment in 1940 as no. 6209401 and was later commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, is now a schoolmaster at Blair Atholl, Perthshire, and so a nearby neighbour of Major-General and Mrs. Christopher Man.

Brigadier Harold Murray, the well-known Commanding Officer of the 7th Battalion during the early

1930s, has been in hospital since before Christmas as the result of a stroke, and is making slow but, we hopefully believe, steady progress towards a complete recovery.

Ex-RSM Frank Nash, MBE, who is still doing excellent work with the cadets in Sussex, asks us to send his best wishes for a prosperous New Year to all Die-Hards.

Ex-Sgt. "Dolly" Pain (L/14720 and 6188992), in a letter received with his annual subscription to the *Newsletter* sent his best wishes to all Die-Hards for a happy New Year.

Col. Dennis Rendell, on completion of his tour of duty as Commandant of the RMP Training Centre at Chichester has been posted as Provost Marshal to BAOR, and took up his new appointment quite recently.

Ex-Cpl. Bob Stilwell (L/15886) is another old Die-Hard who has been in touch with us recently. His seven years of Colour service were spent with the 3rd Battalion, where he was Post Corporal, the Depot and No. 1 Special Company. He now lives at Cricklewood and hopes to attend some of the Mill Hill Branch meetings so that he can regain contact with comrades of 50 years ago.

Col. Dennis Thomas, one of our pre-war 7th Battalion veterans who was commissioned into, and had a most successful career in, the Royal Corps of Signals, recently wrote to apologise for not being able to attend any of our regimental functions recently owing to pressure of business.

Ex-Sgt. Bob Tuvey (23686396), who was discharged last December, served with our regular Battalion through the years of its greatest changes. Enlisting in December 1958 he joined the 1st Battalion and remained with it until the last two years of his service which he spent with 42 Army Youth Team. He now lives at Harrow.

In a letter received early in the New Year ex-CSM Jock Ure (6199252), one of our splendid Hong Kong veterans, sends his best wishes to all Die-Hards.

We were very sorry to hear quite recently that Capt. Ron Vaisey, that most loyal supporter of all our Regimental functions, had been in hospital for nearly four months for operations on his left knee, which had been giving him trouble for some considerable time. He was eventually discharged early in January, but he is still under the doctor. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him again at our various functions in the near future.

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NEW YEAR HONOURS LIST

We send our heartiest congratulations to the following past and serving members of the former Middlesex Regiment (DCO) who received the awards stated in the recent New Year Honours List:

CBE

Brigadier J. T. Stanver, OBE, Director of Ordnance Services, BAOR. He started his military life in the Regiment and was Adjutant to our 2nd Battalion in Palestine in 1947, before transferring to RAOC.

MBE

Lt.-Col. H. J. A. Moore, recently returned from a tour of duty with the Sultan of Muscat's Armed Forces, and is now awaiting posting as Military Attaché to Cambodia next May.

Mr. J. O. Taleen, late 16th (Public Schools) Battalion. He has been a leading figure in the British Legion in France for some years.

MBE

Col. F. Walden, DL, Area Secretary (Middlesex), The Queen's Regiment.

Major (QM) P. Donovan, recently retired after more than 36 years' service in The Middlesex and The Queen's Regiments.

REGULAR FORCES EMPLOYMENT ASSOCIATION

(National Association for Employment of Regular Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen)

If you are shortly going to leave the Services or are an ex-Regular in search of a job, no matter how long ago you left the Services, the Regular Forces Employment Association will help you. It is part of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service, working closely with the Services and the Department of Employment and Productivity, and it keeps in close touch with employers through the forty-four Branches covering the whole of the United Kingdom, each of which is run by an Employment Officer. The Employment Officers attend Final Resettlement Interviews and Boards held within their areas, and they are kept informed of good jobs by employers.

The Association works exclusively for men and women who have not taken commissioned rank and have served continuously in one of the three Services for more than three years, and who left with good character. It gives all its services free and places over 10,000 men and women a year.

There is sure to be a Branch of the RFEA within reasonable distance of your home, and if you seek advice or help about civil employment while you are still serving, or after your discharge, you would be well advised to get in touch with the Employment Officer in whose area your homes lies. You can find his address and telephone number at your local Post Office or Employment Exchange.

CORRESPONDENCE

From—Mr. L. R. Johnson

78 Deans Lane,
Edgware, HA8 9NP
Dec. 30th, 1970

Dear Sir,

My apologies to General C. M. M. Man and to all readers of the WOs and Sgts. Branch notes in the August issue of the *Newsletter*, who, through my inability to express in a few words of what I mean were given the wrong impression.

I know only too well the great effort the General has made to keep alive the traditions and spirit of the Die-Hards and I, like many more, am behind him and have no doubt whatever that our successors in the Queen's Regiment will do their part to maintain these traditions. Similarly, I and those who are proud to call themselves Die-Hards will do our utmost to co-operate and give active support and encouragement to ensure that all our old traditions of which we are proud, live on in our successors.

I was born and raised in the County of Middlesex and have lived in the County since, and am as proud to have served in a Regiment with that County's title as I am that they were also named the Die-Hards. There has, I think I am right in saying, always been a connection between the County and a Regiment, in that somewhere in the Regiment's Title the name Middlesex appeared—57th (West Middlesex), 77th (East Middlesex) and the 1st and 2nd Battalions Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex) Regiment. The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), 4th Queen's (Middlesex) Regiment. It was to this link that I referred. I agree that the 4th Queen's lost (Middlesex) some time before talks of their disbandment was known but while they remained the link seemed to be there.

Self-pity, No! Sorrow, Yes! that the only connection one will see of Middlesex appearing in the talk of a Regiment will be in a fictitious Regiment in some comedy or play on TV or films.

Once again my sincere apologies for any wrong impression I have given, but assuring you all I shall in the future, as I have done in the past, do my utmost to maintain the traditions of our Regiment and live up to the Motto "Die Hard".

Yours sincerely,
L. R. JOHNSON,
Hon. Sec. WOs and Sgts. Branch



OBITUARY

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

BUCKLE.—On January 6, 1971, ex-CSM Sidney Herbert Buckle (L/13138 and 6188693) aged 74. He enlisted on September 30, 1910, and was posted to the 4th Battalion at Aldershot. In October 1911 he joined the 3rd Battalion then serving in India, and returned with that Battalion after the outbreak of the 1914-18 war to join the BEF in France. During that war he spent 3 years and 7 months with three different Battalions in the actual firing line, which must be as good a record as any in the Regiment. He rejoined the 3rd Battalion on its return from Constantinople early in 1919 and served with it in Germany and Upper Silesia until September 1922 when the Battalion was disbanded under the Geddes axe. He then with many other good Die Hards was transferred to the Royal Sussex Regiment and served with their 2nd Battalion overseas. In 1926 in India he was transferred at his own request to his old Regiment and joined the 2nd Battalion at Ahmednagar. In December 1928 he was posted for a tour of duty to the Depot until he was discharged to pension in November 1931. During the 1939-45 war he served with the RAF originally as a ground gunner and later as a gunnery instructor until July 1943 when he was found to be medically unfit for further service and was discharged.

Sid Buckle was as smart a soldier as ever served in the Regiment. Of upright carriage, immaculately dressed whether in uniform or plain clothes, and with a crisp and articulate manner of speech, he was the recruit's ideal of the British Army warrant officer and senior NCO.

DOUTHET.—On Christmas Eve 1970 at Welwyn after a long illness courageously borne Ida, wife of Lt. R. T. Douthet.

GOWLAND.—On December 5, 1970, in hospital after a coronary thrombosis, ex-C.S.M. Gilbert 'George' Gowland, aged 52. He enlisted at Mill Hill in January 1940 was posted to 1/7th Battalion in June 1940, and served with that Battalion throughout the 1939/45 War. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Hornsey and Enfield and the WO's and Sergeants' branches of the 'Die-Hards' Club.

GRAY.—On November 29, 1970, ex-Pte. James Gray (L/8905) aged 86. He enlisted in June 1903 and joined the 4th Battalion. On completion of his Colour service in June 1911 he was transferred to the Army Reserve and became a postman. He was recalled to the Colours on mobilization in August 1914 and went to France with the 4th Battalion. During the Battle of Mons he was taken prisoner after being badly wounded. He was subsequently interned in Switzerland and eventually repatriated. Being no longer fit for war service on account of his wounds he was discharged in November 1917.

HARMAN.—On November 14, 1970, in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Sir Charles Eustace Harman, aged 75. He was commissioned into the Regiment shortly after the outbreak of the 1914-18 war and posted to the 13th (Service) Battalion. Whilst serving with that Battalion in France he was wounded and taken prisoner on September 30, 1915, shortly after he had been promoted to Lieutenant.

He was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1921 and took silk in 1935. He was a judge of the Chancery Division for 12 years before 1959 when he became a Lord Justice of Appeal. He retired last June.

A classical scholar, he was one of the most colourful characters of the High Court. He was 6ft. 3in. in height and always wore a shining top hat with his immaculate morning dress when he left court for a lunchtime break. When he left in the evening he was unrecognisable in a trilby hat and a raincoat. He would sometimes take a glass of beer in a public house.

LEWIS.—On November 14, 1970, suddenly at his home ex-Pte. Morgan James Lewis, MBE. He enlisted in the 11th (Service) Battalion after the outbreak of the 1914-18 war and was wounded whilst serving with that Battalion at Loos on February 13, 1916. As he was unfit for further active service he joined the clerical staff of Cambridge University OTC in 1916. He faithfully served that Corps in a clerical capacity continuously for the next 46 years until his retirement in 1962. From 1928 onwards he was Chief Clerk and as such became well known to a host of undergraduates and others connected with the OTC, who will mourn his sudden death.

MONTGOMERY-CAMPBELL.—On Boxing Day 1970, in Westminster Hospital, Dr. Henry Colville Montgomery-Campbell, PC, KCVO, MC, DD, Bishop of London from 1956 to 1961, aged 83. He was ordained a priest in 1911 and during the 1914-18 war he served as a Chaplain in the Forces, and gained the Military Cross. For some years between the wars he was Chaplain to the 7th Battalion until he was appointed Suffragan Bishop of Willesden in the thirties. He always took a keen interest in the Battalion and frequently attended its social functions. Behind a manner which some found gruff there lay a warm kindness and deep humanity which was much appreciated by those with whom he came in contact.

RUDD.—On November 22, 1970, ex-Pte. Edward Rudd (L/11485) aged 80. He joined the Regiment in February 1907 and, after two years service at home, was posted to the 1st Battalion then serving in India. In January 1914 he was transferred to the Army Reserve, but was recalled to the Colours on mobilization in August 1914. He was posted to the 4th Battalion and fought at the Battle of Mons

where he was wounded and taken prisoner. On recovering from his wounds he was put to work on the railways in Germany and Belgium, where he set about causing as much damage as he could, especially to troop trains. Eventually he was caught, tried and sentenced to death for sabotage. The sentence, however, was not carried out as he was saved by the Armistice which came into effect on November 11, 1918. He eventually returned to this country and was demobilized.

SWADLING.—On January 18, 1971, ex-Sgt. Edward Griffiths Swadling (6197478) aged 63. He enlisted into the Regiment on June 10, 1927, and served with the 1st Battalion and the Depot until 1933, when he was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He remained with that Battalion until his transfer to the Army Reserve on May 4, 1934.

"Joe" had been a sick man for the last eight years of his life, having a leg amputated and spending many months in Edgware General Hospital where he died.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Friday, March 26	Uxbridge Branch Buffet Dance at the Battle of Britain Club, Hillingdon Road, Uxbridge.
Saturday, April 24	1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at T & AVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N8.
Friday, May 7	Spring Golf Meeting on North Hants Golf Course, Fleet.
Friday, May 14	Officers' Club Cocktail party at United Service Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.
Saturday, May 15	(1) Albuhera Service of Remembrance in St. Paul's Cathedral at 2.30 p.m. (2) Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2. (3) 2/10th Battalion Annual Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Sunday, May 16	ALBUHERA DAY.
Saturday, May 22	9th Battalion Branch Dinner at Victory Ex-Service Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Wednesday, June 2	Derby outing.
Sunday, June 13	Summer outing to Windsor Safari Park.
Saturday, June 26	Divisional Depot Open Day at Bassingbourn Barracks, near Royston, Herts.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the period September 1, 1970, to December 31, 1970, the sum of £437 15s. 4d. was expended from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 53 ex-members of the Regiment, or their dependants.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Baldry, Mr. G. W. Brown, Lt. P. M. Dubbery, Mr. R. H. Green, Mr. J. J. T. Hall, Col. A. M. Man, DSO, OBE, Mr. F. H. Nash, MBE, Mr. G. Pocock and Lt.-Col. J. D. Robbins, OBE, TD.

Membership—Associated Group

At the last Executive Committee Meeting it was unanimously approved that those members of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regimental Association who served in the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment when it formed a part of our Regiment should be accepted as an associated group.

We are delighted to welcome our old friends into "the family" and we look forward to welcoming them at any of our functions which they wish to attend.

Wembley Ice Show — "Jack and the Beanstalk"

A party of 45 members, their relations and friends attended the above pantomime on ice on Thursday, January 7, in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

A most enjoyable evening was marred by the collapse and death of the wife of ex-CSM Walker, during the first part of the performance, and we extend our deepest sympathy to all members of the family in their sudden and tragic bereavement.

F. W.

EALING BRANCH

The old year has gone and a new one is with us and we all hope it will be a good one. 1970 was bad for us at Ealing. Capt. Bonnamy, Ernie Witts and Art Yeoman died and two others said they could not come all the way to be with us at the Old Drill Hall. Let us hope that the old "Die-Hard" spirit is not waning because the two hours we spend together each month (excepting January and February) is the best spirit you can get anywhere.

We also had some burglars in who pinched all our games and glasses but left one large pint glass which is reserved for Dick Smith when he calls to see us. Anyway we have replaced them all and you can now hear the rattle of dominoes or "one for his nob" together with "Good Health Mate". That is music to a Branch Secretary's ears and worth all the work it does.

We had a nice letter from our old "Machine-gun Officer", Brigadier J. White from Guildford. He sends good wishes to all old (and young) Die-hards and although he is crippled with arthritis and very shortsighted, his letters are cheerful and nice to receive.

My wife and I had tea with Mrs. Ruston (93) widow of our old Company Commander, Major Ruston, just before Christmas. She is as lively as ever and takes a great interest in the Branch.

Our Christmas Buffet supper went off very well although the numbers were low, but they managed to get through all the "eats" together with a drop of something for the occasion. Our thanks to the provider of the feast.

I have just finished reading "The Fall of Hong Kong" by Tim Carew and now realise most of the sufferings of Capt. Man, as he was then, and all those who were there during those tragic (and gallant) 17 days. To all those who are still alive (and that includes Topsy) we say "Thank You".

We have just heard of the tragic death of Mrs. Walker (wife of Hooky) whilst at Wembley with the Association party. Our sympathy goes out to Hooky in his sad loss. He is a good member of our Branch.

We send our best wishes to all old "Die-hards" and may your thirsts always be quenched during 1971.

ALBERT WHITE.

HORNSEY & ENFIELD BRANCH

Once again the time between letters seems to have flown and we sincerely hope that all of you had a Happy and Carefree Christmas, and we wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Our Wednesday evenings at Hornsey could do with many more of you showing up, not only for the pleasure of seeing you again, but also to enable us to find out what social events we can arrange that will please everybody and will be supported. Our Committee, led by Lt.-Col. Simpson, is very enthusiastic but it is your attendance that makes a success of any event, so please let's hear from you and see you soon!!

We had a really excellent Christmas Draw Social on December 19, and it was great to see our Enfield contingent in full strength, Bill Llewellyn, Dixie Dean, Bob Bowden and "Ollie" Bliss with their ladies, Eddie Johnson, Harry Thornton with their families and friends, to name but a few.

Our Honorary members from the "Burma Star Association" also turned up in strength as usual, and although we were disappointed that Mrs. Simpson was too unwell to attend, we were delighted that Lt.-Col. Simpson in spite of this and also having a bad cold himself, managed once again to be with us all the time.

We were also most happy that Brigadier and Mrs. Rackham were able to be with us and share the enjoyment.

The buffet was excellently laid on, and we had a very good band, which by the crowded floor, was obviously appreciated. There were a number of very welcome prizes and all in all, a very good time was had by everybody.

Our thanks to all "The Workers" and once again to Joan and Bert Mellor who among other things kept the liquid refreshment flowing well.

It is with sadness I report the sudden passing of a staunch and well loved member, Gilbert "George" Gowland—ex-CSM 1/7th Battalion, and we extend our deep sympathy to his wife Iris and daughters

Susan, Sally and Diane. Wreaths were sent on behalf of the Association by our Branch and the WOs and Sgts. Branch, and Cyril Evans and Tony White were able to represent us at the funeral in Darlington.

Please remember you are all very welcome at Hornsey.

LES HOSSLEN.

MILL HILL BRANCH

We have a new year, a new committee, new money—not much—but retain our old outlook and loyalty. The new year is 1971, the new committee consists of Harry Seldon, Secretary; Tom Christman, Treasurer and Charlie Ashby, Ernie Colebeck, Bob Ferguson and Bert Mellor as members; the Chairman remains the same—me!

Our old outlook is that we welcome all Die-Hards at any of our gatherings and loyalty is summed up in the words of the ancient regimental song "Be they Highlanders, Riflemen, Lancers or Guards, they are not like the boys called the Jolly Die-Hards".

The Grim Reaper has been busy since the last publication of the Regimental *Newsletter*, our own branch losing Sid Buckle (L/13138), Jimmy Gray (L/8905) and Ted Rudd (L/11485). In addition to the three old Die-Hards, whose obituaries will be found elsewhere in this publication, another member, ex-CSM A. J. "Hookey" Walker, MM (L/13323) lost his wife when she collapsed and died in her seat whilst with the Regimental party attending "Jack and the Beanstalk" at Wembley on January 7. To all relatives, we tender our condolences.

New and rejoined members send greetings to their comrades of service days. They are F. Clark, MM (L/15625) who won his decoration with the 4th Battalion and a Bar to his medal in North Russia with No. 1 Special Company; J. Dann (23704802) who being only 6ft. 5 in. was right-hand man of the front rank nearly all the time he was serving with our Regular Battalion (he was later in his service with 4 Queens', overlooked by a Bandsman who towered 6ft. 8in.); J. Ellis (22204627) 2nd Battalion (Korea); ex-CSM F. Firman (6200579); J. Farnborough (6211116); Joe Fairclough (L/15334) who also served in Russia with No. 1 Special Company; Cpl. D. Goodman (23945925) of our Regular Battalion, now on the staff of RHQ Queen's Division; Capt. Bill Hughes ARCM (L/9155); W. Harrison (TF/200857) 1/7th Battalion; Peter Kane (4613981) 1st Battalion (Hong Kong); W. F. Lee, 1st Battalion; C. Matthews (6202798) 1st Battalion (Hong Kong); J. Percival (TF/721); Sgt. L. Plumb (22466825), serving with 4 Queens'; Jimmy Redmond (2235416); A. Ridler (L/6480) who as Guard Commander in Hong Kong over 60 years ago failed to cop Bob Douthet when a corporal breaking into barracks after a night out; K. Stevens (62013169) of 70 YS Battalion and RAPC; Bob Stilwell (L/15886) 3rd Battalion and No. 1 Special Company; R. Tuvey (23686396) who has just taken his discharge and is now a postman preying to play Father Christmas next December, and B. Trott (TE/1246) 1/7th Battalion.

Capt. Bill Green (6193220) who during 1970 spent many weeks in hospital is now home and gradually regaining his health and strength. Bobbie Burns (L/11992) is also now in good fettle for an octogenarian whilst ex-RSM Jim Davis is another of our invalids on the mend. Len Johnson (6194200) who

recently had a major plumbing job on his tummy now looks forward to joining us at our monthly meetings. It is the sincere prayer of the writer of these notes that there are no invalids at all during the coming 12 months and belatedly wishes all readers a year of contentment and accomplishment in 1971.

Accomplishment in 1970 was recognised in the New Year Honours List by the award of the honours published on another page of this letter. That of the OBE to Lt.-Col. John Moore, one of our members since the branch was formed at Mill Hill in 1947, giving delight to so many of us. John Moore has served in many climes and with various races up to I now verily feel that there is only the Eskimo and Red Indian left for him to serve with.

There is much to write, but little space in which to write it. If I do not cut this short, the Editor will. As in my previous closing paragraphs, I remind all Die Hards, whatever age group, battalion or degree, you are *very* welcome at Deansbrook Road on the last Saturday of each month.

MAJOR DICK SMITH.

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

We had a very happy Christmas Party on December 11. There were presents for everyone, but you had to buy a raffle ticket first. The ladies provided a first class buffet which was very enjoyable. Our next meeting will be the AGM on March 12. We are looking for a record turnout.

I have to report, with deep regret the death of Sid Buckle who died suddenly on January 6. He was cremated at the Portchester Crematorium and the Regimental Association was represented by Col. Walden, Mr. O'Neill and myself. No doubt more will be written by others more fitted to the job than myself, but I would like to say what a great impact Sid made on our members by the courage and fortitude with which he faced his disabilities. To his wife Gladys go our heartfelt sympathies and condolences and we hope to see her whenever she cares to join us.

BERT HASTIE

9TH BATTALION BRANCH

Last November I received news from his brother-in-law that Jack Bowles had died on June 7, 1970, and that he would have been 82 in August 1970. He joined the 5th West Middlesex Volunteers, our predecessors and, on disbandment of the Volunteers, carried on in the 9th. Jack was a sergeant in "E" Company when the Battalion was mobilised in 1914 and subsequently promoted Company Sergeant-Major when in Mesopotamia, where he received the MSM. After the war he went back to his previous employers, Messrs. Bumpus, the booksellers of Oxford Street, London, who have now moved to Oxford. He remained with them until he retired.

We were very pleased to see so many of the 9th Old Comrades at the Remembrance Day Service at Mill Hill Barracks where the Royal Engineers stationed there joined us in the Service conducted by the Rev. P. L. Pearce Gould, OBE, MA, one-time a Colonel in the Regiment.

A very pleasant surprise happened just before Christmas. Mrs. E. Midgley, a daughter of one of our stalwarts, Joe Birch, who died in 1968, asked if we would like some copies of the 9th Battalion's Magazine, which was published in India. The first copy

was printed in July 1916 and then every month afterwards until October 1917, 16 issues in all. I think that it is the complete issue, as in that month we went to Mesopotamia and the copies ceased. I should be very pleased if I can have any information about that.

Our ultimate desire is to place them in the Regimental Museum and if they could be bound, better still.

Quite a number of the Battalion helped to produce it, including Morley Dainnow, Victor Nightingale, J. R. Allen, A. E. Watts, J. C. Hickling and many contributed articles that were published. I know M. Dainnow died but of the others we seem to have lost all trace. There are some very good accounts of our travels in India and the North West Frontier. Together with the Magazines Mrs. Midgley sent us some photos of India and the Frontier, which her father had obtained. We are indeed very grateful to Mrs. Midgley and we hope to see her at our Annual Dinner where we hope the magazines and photos will be on display.

A letter was received from Charlie Woodbridge at Christmas. He went with his family to Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1925. Charles writes to say he is a little feeble on his legs now and very much wishes to be remembered to all his comrades of years ago.

Major H. Sherwood wrote to say that he had travelled from his home in Dorset for the Armistice Celebrations, but was taken ill on arrival in London and had to return home. He is much better now, and we shall look forward to seeing him at our Dinner. Good luck to you Dickie.

Percy Warrin, who is 93, now informs us that he will miss our dinner unfortunately, as he will be in South Africa on that date. He is still going strong.

Other old Die-Hards who sent cards at Christmas were Percy Fice who still has to take it easy, Fred Varelman who is in the British Legion, Maurice House, at Westgate on Sea, Kent, Sgt. Con King from the Royal Hospital Chelsea and Secretary an. I staff at Headquarters.

The most pleasant news of the Regiment is that a good deal of activity is now to be seen at Headquarters, Edware, where the 10th Battalion Queen's (Middlesex) Regiment is in training for the TA & VR. Is the old Saturday Night Brigade coming back? It looks like it. This was the finest club of them all.

May I remind you that owing to the activities of the 10 Queen's, our monthly meeting at Headquarters, Edware, is now on the last Tuesday in the month and please don't forget our Dinner on May 22 at the Victory Ex-Service Club. Best wishes to all.

R.T.M.

WOS & SERGEANTS BRANCH

My apologies to the Editor and all readers for failing to come up with our usual contribution in the last quarter's issue. At the time it should have been submitted I was in hospital and I am afraid not able to put pen to paper. But as can be seen now, I have made sufficient recovery to try and make up for that omission.

The year 1970 is over and we now embark on 1971. Last year was a good one for this Branch, for not only did our membership increase, but attendance at the monthly meetings improved. It certainly went out with a bang for us, for at the December meeting, when we also held our Christmas Draw, 50 members

and guests turned up, despite the weather, and possibility of a blackout through power cuts. I am happy to say the latter did not happen, although we were well prepared, I having obtained 50 candles as a standby. Everything went our way that evening. The draw, I think, was a huge success, thanks to the committee who ran it and to the willing friend of the Branch who did the buying. The buffet was excellent, thanks to Charlie Banks, who also looked after the liquid refreshments. I am sure that seeing everyone enjoying themselves and the smiling faces, was to those responsible as it was to me, ample reward for the efforts put in to make this a fitting end to 1970. Col. and Mrs. Walden were our guests of honour that evening and I am sure that they like us enjoyed the party.

Now for 1971. As 1970 went out so 1971 came in. For at the January meeting, which has been in other years rather quiet, 35 members and guests attended. This shook me for I had not reckoned on that number when providing the buffet. Nevertheless, everyone had a bite I hope, if only small, and they all seemed to enjoy themselves. If this is a pointer to the New Year we can look forward to an even better one than last year.

The year did not, however, go out without sadness, for on December 5, George Gowland, one of our regular members, passed away. The funeral was on December 10 and, although no member of the Branch could attend, a floral tribute was sent. I will not attempt to write an obituary, for George was also a member of the Hornsey Branch, who I have no doubt can say more about him than I can. I will say however, that no matter what is said, it will be no more than what every member of this Branch feels. To Mrs. Gowland we offer our deepest sympathy in the sad loss of a dear husband and our comrade.

The hospitals too have had more than their share of members during the last quarter. For not only I but Peter Edwards was again admitted to Clare Hall Hospital and Jim Davis to Colindale, both I am sorry to say having been admitted just prior to Christmas, spent the festive season in hospital. Peter is still in and according to the latest report is making some progress but rather slow. Jim I am happy to say, was discharged on January 9 and from what I have heard is making progress back to good health.

Having counted the number of words contained in these notes I find I have exceeded the 300 allowed by the Editor. Let us hope he can't count; I may get away with it. So I am afraid I must end by wishing all Die-hards a happy healthy and prosperous 1971, and all Branches continued success in this New Year.

LEN JOHNSON

2/10TH BATTALION OCA (1914-18)

Our Annual Service of Remembrance was held on Sunday, November 8 last at Chiswick Parish Church, The Mall, W4. As usual, our Hon. Chaplain, Preb. G. A. Lewis Lloyd, conducted the service and gave us a warm welcome. Amongst the large congregation we were very glad to have Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton (Dep. Col. (Middlesex) The Queen's Regiment), and Mrs. Clayton and Col. F. Walden (Secretary, Middlesex Regimental Association) and Mrs. Walden. Poppy wreaths were placed on the Memorials of the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions; the Colours of these units which were laid-up in 1921 and had been renovated by the Royal School

of Needlework and re-hung during the year, were greatly admired. The OCA is sincerely grateful to the Regimental Association whose spontaneous generosity made this worthwhile project possible.

After the Service a reunion (with tea and light refreshments) was held in the Church Hall, when Col. Clayton brought us up to date on matters regimental.

Our 43rd Reunion Dinner will be held at The

Victory Ex-Services Club on Saturday, May 15 next under the chairmanship of our President, Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, MC. We are anxious to contact any ex-members of the 2/10th Battalion who may have lost touch over the years. Enquiries should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary at "Cleveland", Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon.

A.D.S.

BRANCHES

The following is an up-to-date list of branches, giving details of dates and places where meetings are held:

<i>Branches</i>	<i>Hon. Secretary</i>	<i>Meetings</i>	<i>Place</i>
Ealing	Mr. A. White, 56 Warkworth Gardens, Isleworth, Middlesex	Monthly on 2nd Friday except during January and February	Welfare Centre, Churchfield Road, W. Ealing, W13
Hong Kong	Lt. D. Crowther, c/o Volunteer Officers' Mess RHKDF, Beaconsfield House, 2nd Floor Queen's Road Central Hong Kong.	Annually, during 3rd week in January	RHKDF Volunteer Centre, Queen's Road, Central Hong Kong
Hornsey and Enfield	Mr. H. Thornton, 6 William House, Orchard Place, London N17	Quarterly, usually on a Wednesday	TA Centre Priory Road, Hornsey, N8
Hounslow	Mr. A. Kemp, 1 Frobisher Gardens, Stanwell Middlesex	Monthly, on last Thursday	TA Centre, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, Middlesex
Mill Hill	Mr. H. L. Seldon, 42 Bunn's Lane, Mill Hill, NW7	Monthly, on last Saturday	TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex
Portsmouth and Gosport	Mr. A. Hastie, 46 Locarno Road, Portsmouth, Hants	Monthly, on 2nd Friday	RAFA Club, Stoke Road, Gosport, Hants (near White Hart Hotel)
Uxbridge	Mr. J. Dickie, 139 Dane Road, Southall, Middlesex	Monthly, on 3rd Friday	Battle of Britain Club, Hillingdon Road, Uxbridge, Middlesex
2/7th Battalion	Major R. E. Robotham, MC, TD, 39 Cyprus Avenue, Finchley, N3	Yearly, on 1st Friday in October Dinner Club only	Victory Ex-Services Club, 73 Seymour Street, London, W2
9th Battalion	Mr. R. T. Meers, 87 Tudor Court South, Wembley, Middlesex	Monthly, on last Thursday	TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex
WOs and Sergeants	Mr. L. R. Johnson, 78 Deans Lane, Edgware, Middlesex	Monthly, on 2nd Saturday	Sergeants Mess, TA Centre, Deansbrook Road Edgware, Middlesex,

All Die-Hards are cordially invited to attend any of the above branch monthly meetings.