



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 24

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A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our Readers

REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES 1973

The Field of Remembrance

Our annual ceremony at the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey took place this year on Saturday, November 10, when an even larger number of ex-members of the Regiment than last year were present.

The civic dignitaries who attended were again headed by Lt.-General G. C. Bucknall, CB, MC, DL, Assistant Lieutenant of the Middlesex Area of Greater London and the Vice-Chairman of the Greater London Council.

All the boroughs lying within the old county of Middlesex were represented, except Brent and Richmond-on-Thames.

After the usual short service at the County Memorial in the Middlesex Guildhall, conducted by the Very Reverend Monsignor Ralph Brown, JCD, late 1st Battalion, a procession headed by Sgt. L. T. Plumb as acting RSM and Mr. S. Kerswill carrying the Regimental Association standard, and escorted by four of our Chelsea Pensioners (Sgts. Head and

Rathbone, and IPs Fulton and Worton), formed up and moved to the Regimental plot.

At the plot the ceremony followed the usual procedure. 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 the Assistant Lieutenant of the Middlesex Area of Greater London to plant a cross. The Assistant Lieutenant was followed by the Chaplain and, after him, the representatives of the undermentioned battalions in the order shown:

1st Bn.—Col. H. J. A. Moore, OBE
2nd Bn.—Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, OBE
3rd Bn.—Brigadier B. B. Rackham, CBE, MC, DL
4th Bn.—Mr. C. Ashby
5th Bn. (TA)—Lt.-Col. G. W. Webber, TD
7th Bn. (TA)—Capt. J. Spencer Richards
1/8th Bn. (TA)—Col. M. H. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL

2/8th Bn. (TA)—Mr. A. Gale
 9th Bn. (TA)—Mr. R. T. Meers
 1/10th Bn. (TA)—Mr. A. D. Scudamore, OBE
 2/10th Bn. (TA)—Lt.-Col. D. B. Watson, MC
 12th (S) Bn.—Mr. J. Price
 17th (S) Bn.—Capt. E. Crook, DCM
 19th (S) Bn.—Mr. J. H. Farmer

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

The Vice-Chairman of the Greater London Council and Mrs. Cooper

The Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. Frank Gibson) of the London Borough of Barnet
 The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. A. W. Surry) of the London Borough of Ealing

The Deputy Mayor (Alderman A. W. A. Poole) of the London Borough of Enfield

The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. Frederick A. Knight) of the London Borough of Haringey

The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. E. J. Harkett) of the London Borough of Harrow

The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. J. E. E. Walters) of the London Borough of Hillingdon

The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs. J. W. H. Coveney) of the London Borough of Hounslow

Finally a cross was planted by Mr. A. R. Drane in memory of those bandsmen and drummers of the Regiment who had made the supreme sacrifice.

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Regimental Service

As is now customary, we combined with the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot RE for the Remembrance Day service in the Garrison Chapel, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, November 11. The service, which was conducted by the Rev. D. M. T. Walter, CF, Chaplain to the 1st Battalion The Welsh Guards, followed the usual form. There was a large congregation present—slightly larger in fact than last year—both in the chapel and at the Regimental War Memorial. We were particularly pleased to have with us on this occasion that fine old 4th Battalion Battle of Mons veteran George Garrett (L/9904), now in his 88th year and looking in fine fettle. We were also delighted that Highgate School CCF were again represented by their commander, Major J. A. Coombs, and their sergeant-major, RSM G. Chittock, BEM, who was, as usual, immaculately turned out and wearing the badges of the Middlesex Regiment.

Drawn up in hollow square round the War Memorial were detachments from Home PCCD, RE, "A" Company (Mx), 6th (V) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, 211 (Edgware) Cadet Company, Mill Hill, and 9th Battalion branches of the Die-Hards Club.

After the Exhortation our bugler, Mr. George Chacksfield, sounded 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 Regiment who had made the supreme sacrifice:

Regimental Association, by Col. A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Bns. and Depot, by Col. H. J. A. Moore, OBE

5th and 6th (Militia) Bns., by Capt. E. Crook, DCM
 "D" Coy. (Mx), 5th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt.,
 by Lt. T. C. R. Hutton

"A" Coy. (Mx) 6th (V) Bn. The Queen's Regt., by
 Capt. F. Webb

Middlesex Home Guard, by Major C. E. E. Scott
 Mill Hill Branch, The Die-Hards Club, by Mr. A. M. Mason

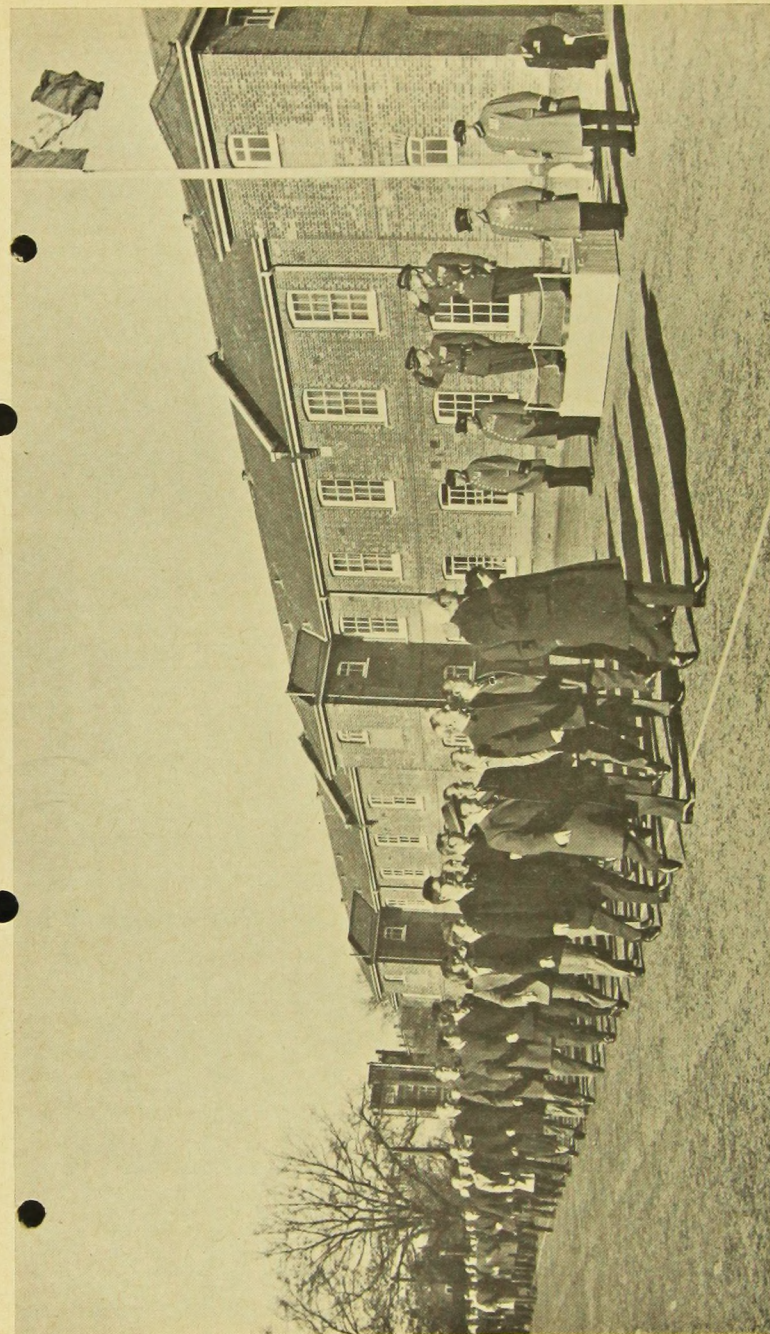
9th Bn. Branch The Die-Hards Club, by Mr. W. D. Fitzgerald

WOs and Sergeants Branch, The Die-Hards Club,
 by Mr. P. Edwards.

And a Poppy Cross by Mrs. Pat Newman in memory of her late husband, Major Percy Newman, 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. L. P. Bennett, Commandant of the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot RE.

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 successful reunion took place.



The March past of the Old Comrades, under the command of Major A. E. Peasley, after the Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. The salute was taken by Colonel A. S. J. de S. Clayton, DL, accompanied by Colonel L. P. Bennett, Commandant Home PCCD, RE, and escorted by four of our Chelsea Pensioners—Sgts. W. C. Heavens and A. Rathbone, 1/Ps G. R. Fulton and F. W. Worton.

Photo by Rodney Brewster

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

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

The following are recent acquisitions for the museum:

- Medals of the late Lt.-Col. G. Moss, DCM.
- Three copies of Officers Mess rules.
- "The Die-Hards in the Great War".
- The Holy Bible.

Medals of Lt.-Col. G. Moss, DCM

This group of medals consists of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, British War Medal, the Victory Medal 1914-19 with oak leaf, the Defence Medal 1939-45 and the Belgian Croix de Guerre. The 1914-19 medals are engraved to 200872 WO1 G. Moss, 2/5th Manchester Regiment (TF), whilst the Defence Medal is plain, as are all campaign stars and medals for 1939-45, unless privately engraved.

Serving as a Territorial soldier from December 1914 until demobilised in 1919, George Moss was mentioned in despatches by Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig on November 7, 1917, the award appearing in the *London Gazette* of the 18th of that month. He had been appointed A/RSM on October 15, 1917, under authority of ACI 717 of 1917. In the New Year Honours List in the *London Gazette* of January 1, 1918, he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and on February 9, 1918, was awarded the Croix de Guerre by Albert, the dignified and courageous King of the Belgians. During the German offensive in March 1918 he was twice wounded, the first occasion being on March 9 and the second on March 22, the second wound causing him to be invalided home to the UK. On recovery he returned to his home in Leigh, Lancashire, where his father had a builder's business. Two days before the Armistice he was presented by the Leigh Corporation with an illuminated address recording "an expression of appreciation of his valour and the distinction thereby conferred on the borough".

In 1928 he moved to Harrow, where he founded the firm of George Moss (London) Ltd, builders. On the formation of the Home Guard he was one of the first to enrol and in November 1940 was appointed to command the 10th Battalion Middlesex Home Guard with headquarters at South Lodge, South Road, Southall. He was one of the 319 original officers and was the subject in a column of the *Daily Express* published at the time.

Col. Moss died on September 12, 1973, aged 83 and was cremated at Golders Green. His medals were presented to the Regimental Museum and are to be seen in the special Home Guard display case at Bruce Castle.

Presented by his daughter, Mrs. Calderwood.

Officers Mess Rules

Three books of rules have recently been added to the museum archives. They are (a) 2nd Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment), issued at Ahmednagar, India, in December 1926; (b) 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), published in 1934 when the Battalion was garrisoned in Colchester; and (c) Depot The Middlesex Regiment of 1935.

The first-mentioned book of rules is in error as to the title of the Regiment; the change in title was effective from January 1, 1921. This was due to the title page being copied from the earlier Mess rules printed before the outbreak of World War I. The book itself was printed and bound in the Battalion printer's shop, which for many years produced excellent work on our old-fashioned hand press. In both of the 2nd Battalion books it is emphasised in Rule 28, relating to honorary members, "All Officers of the 5th Fusiliers are permanent members of the Mess, and the same courtesy is extended to Officers of the 77th Regiment by them". This rule had applied since September 25, 1811, when the two British units had fought so valiantly at the Battle of El Bodon. Wellington, in a general order, drew the attention of the whole Army saying, "A memorable example of what may be effected by steadiness, discipline and confidence", and recommended to the particular attention of the officers and soldiers of the Army an example to be followed in such circumstances.

Presented by Brigadier A. E. Green, DSO, OBE.

Volumes I and II, "The Die-Hards in the Great War"

The two volumes of our history covering the years 1914 to 1919 were written by Everard Wyrall and published by Harrison & Sons Ltd. These two volumes are the stiff-cover type and are no longer available, only the paper-cover type being on sale. Volume II covers the years 1916-19, giving the story of the gallant conduct of Capt. A. M. C. McReady-Diarmid, VC, of the 17th (First Football) Battalion at Cambrai, whose story was told in the *Newsletter* of May 1973. The donor of this addition to our archives was himself with Capt. McReady-Diarmid, who won the Victoria Cross on December 1, 1917, as the following extract from the *London Gazette* No. 30601 of March 1918 tells: "G/42nd A/Sergeant E. Crook, 17th Middlesex Regiment award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal. On December 1st 1917 at Cambrai. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when some troops of another unit were being driven back by a strong

enemy attack he on his own initiative took his machine-gun and men across the open ground under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, and by his accurate fire broke up the attack thus saving a most critical situation. Throughout this operation his coolness and gallantry were most remarkable".

Presented by Capt. E. Crook, DCM, late 17th (First Football) Battalion.

The Holy Bible

The edition of the Holy Bible recently presented was published in 1873 and printed at the Oxford University Press. It is typical of the good leather-bound editions of that date and holding great interest regimentally due to the written inscription on the front fly-leaf. It reads: "From an unknown friend to George Fenton, 77th DCO Regt, Cork, June 1876". Under these notes is written "Amicus certus in re inserta cernitur". The date of the gift is very interesting, as it was on June 20, 1876, that it was notified in the *London Gazette* that Her Majesty had approved of the 77th being in future designated "The Duke of Cambridge's Own Regiment". The Regiment had three weeks earlier taken up quarters in Cork Barracks with detachments at Carlisle Fort, Mitchelstown and Waterford.

George Fenton was an unusual character for those days in respect of having been commissioned from the ranks. He had enlisted on May 19, 1863, into the 36th (Herefordshire) Regiment, later the 2nd Battalion Worcester Regiment, promoted Corporal March 1, 1865, Sergeant January 9, 1867, and Colour Sergeant October 10, 1867. He finished his other rank service on September 1, 1868, and was commissioned as Ensign in the 77th Regiment September 2, 1868. Promptly appointed Instructor of Musketry, he continued to serve in the East Indies, as India was so termed at that date, until May 1870, when the 77th returned home. He had originally gone to India with the 36th on enlistment in 1863. George Fenton was one of the many Irish soldiers serving in the British Army in India at that time, he having been born at Elencarre, Co. Mayo, February 13, 1842. The 77th was still then predominantly of Irish stock. Promoted Lieutenant October 14, 1871, he was a tower of strength in training the 77th in the use of the Snider rifle and, in October 1874, in the use of the Martini-Henry, the rifle with the strongest breach block known. On August 6, 1879, he was given his company and promoted Captain. This was "A" Company, which he trained to become the best shooting company of the best shooting regiment in the British Army. In that year the 77th were reduced to a mere skeleton owing to having drafts being sent to the linked Battalion, the 57th, on active service in South Africa during the Zulu War. So under strength was the unit that only 30 men for duty could be found. This was rectified at the end of the year, when a number of men were retransferred from the 57th on its arrival in Dublin from South Africa.

Capt. Fenton soon had his company and the remainder of the 77th hard at work training at musketry. The 77th had been the best shooting regiment in the British Army in 1877-8, with "H" Company the best shooting company. This was repeated in 1878-9 and on May 1, 1880, it was notified in General Orders that the 77th for the third

time in succession was the best shooting regiment, and "H" Company (Capt. Fenton's) the best shooting company. Pte. H. Morgan was declared the best shot in the Army and awarded the Queen's Gold Medal and L/Sgt. A. McFarlane, of the Depot, the best judge of distance. The 50th Brigade Depot (57th and 77th Regiment) was again the best shooting depot. Capt. George Fenton was certainly an expert Instructor of Musketry, his instruction showing practical results.

When the 77th left for another tour in India in August 1880 Capt. Fenton was attached to the School of Musketry at Hythe, which had been formed in 1854. He was an Instructor at the School of Musketry when he was promoted Major on December 21, 1885. His name was still in Hart's Army List in 1906, shown under the heading of Officers on the Retired List. Maybe the unknown friend who sent him the Bible in 1876 was also still alive, as the writing, to the recorder of this article, appears to be that of General Sir William Forbes Gatacre, KCB, DSO—"old Back-acher" as he was fondly called by the soldiers of the regiment—who was a contemporary of Capt. Fenton and the senior captain when the 77th embarked for India on HMS *Himalaya* in August 1880.

Presented by Mrs. W. Kay Barford.

Request

The Curator would appreciate the gift of any regimental cap badges, collar badges, titles, buttons, insignia of any description. Duplicates of items already in possession of the Regimental Museum are often used in special displays in windows and Army Information Offices. It is also intended to present to the Army Benevolent Fund a frame of regimental insignia for auction to assist the funds of this very deserving body who have on numerous occasions assisted Die-Hards in need.

Items of uniform and insignia, however moth-eaten, tattered or torn, are acceptable. NOTHING is dross; all is grist to the mill.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date 1974	Event
Saturday, April 27	1/7th Battalion (1939-45) Dinner at TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey N8.
Friday, May 3	Spring Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.
Thursday, May 16	ALBUHERA DAY.
Thursday, May 16	Officers' Club Cocktail Party at United Service and Royal Aero Club.
Saturday, May 18	(1) Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral. (2) Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, Queensbury, London W2.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

Autumn Meeting 1973

Once again a very successful and enjoyable meeting was held on the course of the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Friday, October 12.

A total of 25 took part—one less than last year's record attendance of 26. Of the entrants, we were particularly pleased to welcome as newcomers Capt. Michael Ball and Lt. John Acworth from 1 Queen's, and our old friend Charlie Holdford, who has now added golf to his many other activities.

Another pleasing feature of this meeting was the support given by serving members. There were five altogether, including four from 1 Queen's headed by their CO (Lt.-Col. Mike Hayward), who were about to leave for Northern Ireland.

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

Stableford Singles	Points scored
Mr. M. R. T. Walden (winner, Horton Cup) ..	37*
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (runner-up) ..	37
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton ..	33
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden ..	32
Mr. T. F. Jones ..	31
Major A. R. Bisset ..	31
Master Howard Clayden ..	31
Lt.-Col. M. V. Hayward ..	31
Capt. P. S. Ingham ..	30
Mr. N. A. Taylor ..	28
Major R. C. H. Bellers ..	27
Capt. R. J. Tarrant ..	26
Mr. E. Johnson ..	24
Mr. D. Gratton (guest) ..	24

Stableford Singles	Score
Capt. M. J. Ball ..	24
Lt. J. C. Acworth ..	24
Mr. G. A. Taylor ..	23
Mr. H. J. Chillery ..	21
Mr. C. Holdford ..	21
Major J. M. Hewson ..	19
Major J. I. D. Pike ..	18
Major S. E. Honess ..	17
Mrs. C. N. Clayden ..	14
Brigadier A. E. Green (Divot) ..	14

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

Bogey Foursomes

Mr. T. F. Jones and Master Howard Clayden (winners Jay Trophy)	Score
Capt. M. J. Ball and Lt. J. C. Acworth (runners-up) ..	3 down
Major A. R. Bisset and Capt. P. S. Ingham ..	4 down
Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden and Mr. M. R. T. Walden ..	7 down
Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey and Mr. D. Gretton ..	10 down
Major R. C. H. Bellers and Mr. G. A. Taylor ..	10 down
Lt.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson and Mr. H. J. Chillery ..	12 down
Major S. E. Honess and Capt. R. J. Tarrant ..	13 down
Lt.-Col. M. V. Hayward and Mr. C. Holdford ..	14 down
Mr. E. Johnson and Mr. N. A. Taylor ..	17 down

Hidden Holes Competition

(Decided on the score obtained over the holes selected)

Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey (winner)	Score
Lt.-Col. J. R. B. Worton and Lt.-Col. C. N. Clayden (runners-up, tied) ..	28
Major A. R. Bisset ..	31
Lt.-Col. M. V. Hayward ..	32
Lt. J. C. Acworth ..	34
Major R. C. H. Bellers ..	35
Major J. M. Hewson ..	35
Capt. M. J. Ball ..	35
Major J. I. D. Pike ..	37
Capt. R. J. Tarrant ..	37
Mr. E. Johnson ..	38
Mr. D. Gretton ..	38
Mr. H. J. Chillery ..	NR
Mrs. C. N. Clayden ..	NR
Master Howard Clayden ..	NR
Brigadier A. E. Green ..	NR
Mr. C. Holdford ..	NR
Major S. E. Honess ..	NR
Capt. P. S. Ingham ..	NR
Mr. T. F. Jones ..	NR
Mr. G. A. Taylor ..	NR
Mr. N. A. Taylor ..	NR
Mr. M. R. T. Walden ..	NR

Before asking Mrs. "Tossie" Worton kindly to present the prizes, Lt.-Col. Tom Chattey thanked all those present for supporting the meeting, and especially the serving members and those who had come from a distance.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 46th annual dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the United Service and Royal Aero Club, Pall Mall, SW1, on Thursday, November 8, 1973.

Lt.-Col. J. D. Gunnell presided and the official guests were Lt.-Col. D. G. Wilson, commanding 6th (V) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, and Major W. G. Easeman, late RA, former Battery Commander of 264 Field Regiment RA, affiliated to the 7th Battalion.

Others present were:

The Very Rev. Mr. Ralph Brown	Major R. W. J. Smith (guest)
Brigadier B. B. Rackham	Capt. M. J. S. Doran
Col. W. D. Ellis	Capt. S. Ie M. Enthoven
Col. W. E. Pringle	Capt. M. S. Gedye
Col. F. Walden	Capt. J. Spencer Richards
Lt.-Col. P. J. Hall	Capt. P. A. Stocken
Lt.-Col. G. C. D. Scott-Lowe	Capt. G. J. Young
Lt.-Col. D. E. Simpson	Lt. D. H. S. Herriott
Major R. Bartram	Lt. F. Holm
Major M. J. Beaumont	Lt. P. J. Ottino
Major H. L. Harvey (guest)	Lt. J. R. Spooner
Major S. I. J. Henshaw	Mr. L. Hosslen (guest)
Major R. I. Leighton	Mr. W. Knight (guest)
Major "Naish"	Mr. M. H. D. Milne (guest)

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Capt. Bob Bartlett has now returned to this country on completion of his secondment to the Abu Dhabi Defence Force and has been taken on the strength of the Depot The Queen's Division pending his next appointment.

Those who were serving with the 2nd Battalion in Ahmednagar, India, in the 1920s will like to know that Mrs. Dorothy Bicknell, widow of Lt.-Col. P. F. Bicknell, DSO, and now a nonagenarian, still takes a keen interest in the old Battalion and is always anxious to get news of any of those who were serving in the Battalion during her husband's period of command.

We were delighted to get a visit from Major Peter Cheesman early in October, just before he was due to join 1 Queen's.

We understand that, owing to a leg injury, his rugby football days are over.

Ex-Cpl. Bert Chinnery (L/12193), who was with "B" Company of the 4th Battalion during the Battle of Mons in August 1914, sends his greetings to all Die-Hards.

He lives in Jersey and was one of nine Old Comtempibles who attended the Mons memorial service at St. Andrew's Church, Jersey on Sunday, August 19.

A recent recruit, whom we welcome to the Regimental Association, is Sgt. E. J. Constant (24070435). He is at present serving with 2 Queen's, who have just moved to Northern Ireland.

When circumstances allow we shall hope to see him at some of our functions.

Congratulations and very best wishes to Mrs. Flora Donoghue, widow of ex-RSM Michael J. Donoghue, MM, on reaching her 85th birthday on September 11, 1973.

We were very pleased indeed to learn from her daughter that she was in very good health and enjoying life to the full.

Two former officers of the 2/8th Battalion who have done extremely well in the gas industry are Col. Desmond Ellis and Capt. Paul Rhodes. Until his recent retirement the former was customer service and conversion manager of the British Gas Corporation and, on January 1 last, the latter was appointed deputy chairman of the North Thames Region of the same Corporation.

Congratulations and best wishes to that veteran 7th (TA) Battalion officer, Major Sir Harold Gillett, Bart, MC, who has just celebrated his 83rd birthday.

Since the end of September Major George Long has been attached for duty to HQ, Northern Ireland.

One of our most regular and welcome visitors to Edgware each year is Col. Eric Hudson. This year his visit took place on August 9, when he was accom-

panied by his two charming daughters.

Old soldiers of the 4th Battalion who were stationed in Gibraltar from 1919 to 1921 will remember Col. Hudson as a young and very athletic subaltern, and those of the 1st Battalion will remember him at the Royal Tournament in 1929, when he commanded the Foreign Battalion squad.

Ex-Pte. R. Hyatt, who served as a National Serviceman with the 1st Battalion from July 1960 to July 1962, has recently joined the Regimental Association. He was at Hameln and Rheindalen, where he was batman to the late Major-General R. H. Batten. When the Battalion returned to the United Kingdom and was stationed at Lydd he was batman to Major (now Col.) K. J. Carter prior to the completion of his National Service.

Ex. Pte. W. P. Jones (6463242) has recently joined the Regimental Association. He served in the 1st Battalion from 1949 to 1954 in Hong Kong, Korea and Austria. For a time he was batman to Major Sam Weller when he was RSM, and later storeman of HQ Company.

Capt. Tony Lowrie retired, receiving a gratuity, on July 15, 1973.

We were very pleased indeed to get a letter recently from one of our old soldiers, ex. Pte. W. McAuliffe (54171), late 20th (Service) Battalion. He was taken prisoner whilst serving in the BEF in France during the 1914-18 war, and would very much like to hear from any old comrade who left Soltau Camp, Munster, Hanover, in December 1918.

His address is 37 Sendall Court, Winstanley Estate, Battersea, London SW11.

Through the good services of Major Charlie Donaldson we have been able to keep in touch with the Rev. J. H. McKew, CBE, who was that most popular chaplain when the 2nd was stationed in Singapore some 50 years ago.

After his wife died last year he gave up his house and moved to a home for the elderly—he is 88—at The Friary, 19 St Cross Road, Winchester, Hants.

He will be affectionately remembered by the older members of the 2nd Battalion, and he would be delighted to hear from any who can write to him at the above address.

One of our recent recruits to the Regimental Association is WO2 J. Medland. He joined the 1st Battalion in Korea in 1950 and served in the Mortar Platoon. When the Battalion returned to Hong Kong he remained with the King's Shropshire Light Infantry battalion and was later evacuated on medical grounds to Japan. He was then medically downgraded and eventually returned to the Depot in 1953, where he remained until September 1956, when he was transferred to the RAOC on account of his medical category. He is now a pay clerk attached to the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot RE, at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

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On completion of his tour of duty as a Training Officer at Fort Benning, Georgia, Capt. Malcolm Montgomery has been taken on the held strength of the Depot The Queen's Division pending posting to 2 Queen's.

Major Geoff Norton has been in Millbank Hospital for an operation on his leg, from which, we are glad to be able to report, he has recovered well.

On the day that he was due for discharge he was visited by ex-Cpl. Long, who offered him a lift to Waterloo Station on his furniture lorry. Major Norton accepted and was duly transported to Waterloo. His departing words to ex-Cpl. Long were "Your driving has improved"!

A few of us recently were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of that elusive member of the Officers' Club, Major Paddy Orr, when he paid a fleeting visit to this country from Northern Ireland, where he carries on a flourishing business in County Tyrone.

We were delighted to see him looking so well and prosperous.

Major Herbert Prothero, MC, is one of our most recently enrolled members of the Officers' Club. During the 1914-18 war he served with the 11th and 23rd (Service) Battalions gaining his Military Cross with the latter.

After that war he emigrated to New Zealand and, during the 1939-45 conflict, he served with the New Zealand Forces.

When he returned on holiday to this country last September he took the opportunity of calling at Edgware to visit what remains of The Middlesex Regiment for the first time since he was demobilised in 1919.

Ex-L/Cpl. Arthur Redhead (6204960) is another recent recruit to the Regimental Association. He enlisted at Mill Hill in October 1939, and, after completing his recruit training, eventually joined the 1/8th Battalion in France and remained with that Battalion throughout the war.

We were very interested to hear from Col. Dennis Rendell, who is Provost Marshal at HQ British Army of the Rhine, that after our regimental pilgrimage to Mons last year he, with a friend, had carried out a similar pilgrimage later in the year. He, like all of us who go each year, found it an intensely interesting and deeply moving experience.

We sincerely hope that he will be able to join our party next year to observe the 68th anniversary of the great battle.

Capt. T. Sarl-Williams, who served in the 16th (Public Schools) Battalion during the 1914-18 war, is another recent recruit to the Regimental Association.

We are delighted to welcome him and, although he lives in Chester, we hope that it may be possible for him to attend some of our functions.

Col. Douglas Sax retired on retired pay on October 26, 1973.

Col. John Shipster, on completion of his tour of duty as Garrison Commander, British Honduras, is to be Commandant at the Nuclear, Bacteriological and Chemical Warfare School in May next year.

Congratulations to WO2 George Simmons on being granted a short service commission as from July 30, 1973.

He has been posted as a subaltern to 1 Queen's.

Having completed his tour of duty with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, Capt. Paul Truman is now awaiting posting to 1 Queen's in Northern Ireland.

On September 5, 1973, Capt. W. Normanton Vare was married quietly at St Paul's, Horn Hill, Chalfont St. Peter, to Joy Rafferty, and we send them all good wishes for their future happiness.

A recently joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Pte. R. L. Wilde (14254440). He was the armourer sergeant's driver-mechanic in the 1/7th Battalion in 1944 and 1945, and a vehicle mechanic in the 2nd Battalion in 1945 and 1946.

He now lives in Sheffield.

THE ROYAL WEDDING

At the special request of the Courts Administrator, Westminster, the Middlesex Regimental flag was flown from the Middlesex Guildhall on Wednesday, November 14, the day of the wedding of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne and Capt. Mark Phillips.

COLONEL, THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

Major-General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, succeeded Lt.-General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO, as Colonel The Queen's Regiment with effect from October 13, 1973.

CORRESPONDENCE

From: *His Grace The Duke of Atholl*
8-16 Great New Street,
London EC4P 4ER.
October 16, 1973.

Col. F. Walden,
Editor,
The Die-Hards,
Deansbrook Road,
Edgware, Middx.

Dear Col. Walden,

Thank you very much for the copy of your *Newsletter* and the interesting description and pictures of the visit of your Old Comrades to the parade of the Atholl Highlanders on May 31. Once again I would like to say how much we enjoyed having you and I do hope you will repeat the event on some future occasion. It was certainly a great reunion.

Yours sincerely,
ATHOLL.

From: *Col. A. M. Man, DSO, OBE*
"Castle Croft",
Ludchurch,
Narberth,
Pemb SA67 8JA.
November 12, 1973.

The Editor, *The Die-Hards Newsletter*

Dear Sir,

It is probably the wish of most old soldiers that a bugler from their regiment will be available to sound Last Post and Reveille over their graves when their respective time comes, but few—and particularly those who live some distance away from Edgware or Canterbury—may know how their widows should set about obtaining one, or what the chances of success may be.

A bugler from another regiment would certainly be better than no bugler at all, but it is from one's own regiment that he should ideally come.

For the benefit of Die-Hards of the older generation an informed statement of the procedure to be adopted and the chances of success would be much appreciated.

Yours,
ANDREW MAN.

(*Editor's Note*—In every case where a bugler is required application should be made direct to Regimental Headquarters (Middlesex), TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex. The application should state the date, time and place of the funeral.)

From: *Mrs. M. H. T. Whiteside*
161 Preston New Road,
Blackburn,
Lancs BB2 6BN.

Col. F. Walden
Dear Sir,

In reply to one of my letters to local papers I've had a letter giving me your name, suggesting you may help me publicise the reunion, after over 30 years, of patients and staff of Calderstones EMS (Emergency Medical Service) Hospital, Whalley, nr. Blackburn, Lancs.

Miss Robson (matron) and her nurses plan the reunion in April 1974 in the ballroom of the hospital, which is one of the largest of its kind.

Our patients included severely wounded casualties from the evacuation of Dunkirk and following campaigns, sick personnel from surrounding barracks, children and old people evacuated from Manchester hospitals.

You will appreciate I have undertaken a mammoth task. If you can help me I would be most grateful.

Yours faithfully,
MOLLY WHITESIDE

(*Editor's Note*—Any reader interested who was a patient in the EMS Hospital, Whalley, should write direct to Mrs. Whiteside at the above address for further details regarding the actual date and time fixed for the reunion.)

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank Col. I. H. Battye, MBE, Mr. E. Bradnam, Mr. J. C. Clark, Mr. T. W. Deeves, CMG, CBE, MC, Mr. C. H. Goff, Mr. G. S. Hurlock and Mr. W. H. Rippin for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Die-Hards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving old comrades.

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OBITUARY

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

ALLEN—On July 8, 1973, suddenly, Col. William Peter Marcus Allen, OBE, MC, aged 59. He was commissioned into the Regiment on August 30, 1934, and posted to the 2nd Battalion. In November 1935 he was posted to the 1st Battalion and served with that Battalion in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong, when he was posted to the Depot for a tour of duty. In September 1940 he was posted to the 2nd Battalion and was Adjutant from February 1, 1941, to January 19, 1942, after which he held two Grade 3 staff appointments for short periods before attending a staff course at Camberley. On completion of this he held a Grade 2 staff appointment at HQ 21st Army Group until December 1943, when he was posted to the 8th Battalion. After serving with that Battalion until May 1945 he was appointed DAAG at HQ 43 Division. He held this appointment for a few months only before taking over the appointment of DAA and QMG at HQ South Caribbean Area. In May 1950 he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and served with that Battalion mainly as 2IC until April 1952, when he again took up a Grade 2 appointment at HQ 27th Infantry Brigade. From September 1953 to October 1956 he was AQMG at HQ Eastern Command. This was followed by command of the 7th (TA) Battalion from February 1957 to August 1959, after which he again held various Grade 1 staff appointments until his retirement in August 1966.

AYRES—On October 7, 1973, ex-Pte. J. T. Ayres, aged 80. He served with the 1/7th Battalion during the 1914-18 war.

BEEDLE—On October 14, 1973, ex-Sgt. Gerald Howard Beedle (6197864), aged 64. He enlisted on October 31, 1927, and served with the Colours for nearly 28 years, being finally discharged in August 24, 1955. He spent most of his service overseas, being with the 1st Battalion in Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He reverted to the Home Establishment before the outbreak of the 1939-45 war and was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He went with that Battalion when it formed part of the BEF in France and was taken prisoner during the withdrawal to Dunkirk on June 1, 1940.

For his exemplary service with the Colours he was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal.

He was one of a regimental family, his father and grandfather having also served with the Die-Hards.

BENNETT—On September 26, 1973, at Williton Hospital, Somerset, the Rev. Frank Livesey Macaulay Bennett, aged 71. During the earlier part of the 1914-18 war he was the popular Chaplain to the 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, which was then an integral part of the Middlesex Regiment.

After leaving the service he became vicar of

Maidstone and a honorary canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

He was never afraid to express his views and, in doing so, clashed in public in 1959 with the late Lord Fisher of Lambeth when he was Archbishop of Canterbury. At the Canterbury Diocesan Conference the Archbishop several times took over the rostrum microphone when Frank Bennett was speaking. Lord Fisher, then Dr. Fisher, said that he would not stand for the suggestion that bishop's meetings "were a dark conclave which control the policy of the Church". Later he apologised for "getting heated" in replying to Frank Bennett, "an old friend".

BUGDEN—On October 27, 1973, ex-Sgt. Frederick Bugden (L/18983 and 6189775) aged 70. Freddy Bugden, or "Bugole" as he was affectionately known, enlisted in the Regiment in March 1919 as a boy in the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Battalion. He joined the Battalion when it re-formed after the 1914-18 war at Colchester, and served with it in Egypt, Singapore and India.

He was one of the most gifted footballers ever to serve in the Regiment and won great fame abroad. Even whilst still on Boy's Service he was a regular member of the Battalion team. The height of his success came in 1926 when the Battalion won the famous Rovers Cup in Bombay for the third year in succession. On that occasion he not only scored one of the three goals by which the Battalion won, but he also made the openings for the other two. The replica of the Rovers Cup, which he was given, is now in the Regimental Museum.

On the outbreak of the 1939-45 war Freddy, not being a machine gunner, could not serve with his beloved Die-Hards and opted to join the Royal Army Service Corps. At Anzio he was regularly running supplies to the 2/7th Battalion and volunteered at any time to make the trip just to retain contact with the Regiment. After taking his discharge at the end of the war he took employment at the Poppy Factory of the Royal British Legion where he remained until he retired on reaching the age limit.

Freddy died suddenly on October 27 a few hours before he was due at the Mill Hill Branch meeting, which he attended regularly. He was a thoroughly good man with a great and generous heart, and an excellent sportsman. He will be much missed by the many friends he has left behind.

(With acknowledgments to Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE)

COOPER—On May 25, 1973, Major Arthur Hamilton Cooper, DL, aged 92. He served in the South African War, 1901-02, with the 1st Royal Dragoons, and then in the Middlesex Regiment, retiring in 1910. During the 1914-18 war he served in the Essex Regiment, retiring as a major in 1919. In the 1939-45 war he was Assistant County Welfare Officer for Middlesex from 1941-45 and a

member of Middlesex T and AFA and Middlesex County Cadet Committee from 1940-47. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Middlesex in 1963 and of Greater London in 1965. He was a Freeman of the City of London.

He took a very keen interest in our Regimental Golfing Society meetings for, not only did he present a silver challenge cup, which is competed for annually at our Spring Meetings, but also, in celebration of the Queen's Coronation in 1953, he presented for the foursomes at the Regimental meeting two delightful glass Coronation goblets, which were won by Brigadier Neville Procter and Lt.-Col. John Worton.

DE CHIMAY—On October 1, 1973, at Alcaster, Warwickshire, Prince Alphonse de Chimay, aged 74. He was born of a Belgian noble family who settled in England, and was a descendant of an ancestor who was created Prince by Emperor Maximilian in 1486.

Shortly after the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he ran away from school and advanced his age in order to join the British Army as a private in the Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Later he entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and, on completion of his course, was commissioned in 1916 into the Scots Guards. He served with that Regiment until after the war in 1918, when he joined the Reserve of Officers. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he was a major in the 1st Battalion Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment and he served with that Battalion until 1942 when he was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel and took over command of our 2/7th Battalion. He held command until 1945 when he was appointed an Assistant Adjutant General at Allied Forces Headquarters.

After leaving the service and moving to Warwickshire he was, up to the time of his death, vice-president of the Alcaster section of the Royal British Legion.

FERGUSON—On October 2, 1973, Nancy Ferguson, the beloved wife of Bob Ferguson, a devoted old comrade of the 7th (TA) Battalion and a most loyal member of the staff at the County Office at Edgware.

Nancy's death is a severe blow to members of the Mill Hill Branch, especially those who attend the monthly gatherings at Edgware. For many years on these days she had been at the club early in the evening with Bob, making sure, without any fuss, that all was tidy and comfortable for the evening meeting. She was quite indefatigable and seemingly tireless. She was loved by all and will be deeply missed.

FOOT—On September 29, 1973, peacefully after a short illness, Muriel Lilian, loved wife of Lt.-Col. Patton Foot.

GILLIES—In March as a result of a motor car accident in Zambia, ex-Sgt. Paul Gillies (23460940). He enlisted into the Regiment on a three-year engagement and joined the 1st Battalion in Cyprus in 1956, where he eventually became Orderly Room Sergeant Clerk.

On leaving school he joined the Old Vic as an assistant stage manager, and he will be remembered by members of the Sergeants Mess for his reading of Shakespeare whilst perched precariously on the bar.

After leaving the Army he found it hard to settle in England and soon joined the Rhodesian Police, where he rose to the rank of Inspector and distinguished himself by winning the MBE for gallantry. Due to the Africanisation of the police he joined Northern Breweries as their Promotion Manager and travelled widely in Africa. He later became the East African Area Manager for Johnson and Johnson Ltd. His visits to this country were all too infrequent, but when he did come, a visit to Edgware was always included in his itinerary.

He will be sadly missed by all those with whom he came into contact for his charming personality and kindness.

(With acknowledgments to Mr. H. L. Seldon)

HODDING—On December 13, 1972, Capt. Edward M. Hodding. He was commissioned into the Regiment on January 22, 1913, and was promoted to Captain on January 2, 1916. After the 1914-18 war he was Adjutant to the 5th (Reserve) Battalion then stationed in Clipstone Camp, Nottinghamshire.

After his retirement he went to live in Hampshire and for some time was Assistant County Commissioner, Hampshire Scouts.

KING—On May 28, 1973, Ex-C/Sgt. Cornelius Michael King (L/15063 and 6189041) aged 82. "Shogody", as he was generally known, enlisted into the Regiment on a regular engagement in August 1914 and, as soon as he had completed his recruit training, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in France. He was wounded in the initial attack at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle and, on recovery, he was posted to the 13th (Service) Battalion. He served with that Battalion until he was posted as an instructor to the 53rd (Young Soldiers) Battalion in the United Kingdom. From after the Armistice in 1918 until August 1935 when he took his discharge to pension after 21 years' Colour service, he served with both Regular Battalions and at the Depot. On being recalled to the Colours at the outbreak of war in September 1939 he continued to serve until August 1944, mostly with the 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion.

After his discharge he resumed his employment as a postman until reaching the age limit. In February 1963 he was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where he was soon promoted to Sergeant and subsequently a Colour Sergeant on the staff.

LEWEY—On October 26, 1973, after a long and gallant fight, Major Sir Arthur Lewey, aged 79. At the outbreak of the 1914-18 war he joined the 2/10th (TA) Battalion, which was just forming at Stamford Brook. He served with that Battalion as a Company Commander at Gallipoli, but when the Battalion eventually moved to Palestine he left it on posting to the 8th (TF) Battalion. On the reformation of the Territorial Army after the war he

rejoined the 8th Battalion as Second-in Command to Lt.-Col. (now Brigadier) E. E. F. Baker and served with it for some years until his legal career took him abroad into Colonial appointments. He was a former Attorney General of Jamaica and of the Gold Coast, and Chief Justice of Northern Rhodesia. He was also a former Justice of Appeal of the West African Court of Appeal.

Until his death he retained a great love of his Regiment and his original unit, the 2/10th, whose reunions he regularly attended until he was physically unable to do so. He was a true Die-Hard.

(With acknowledgments to Brigadier N. P. Procter, CBE, MC)

Moss—On September 12, 1973, Lt.-Col. George Moss, DCM, aged 83. Full details of his service, etc. will be found on page 4 in connection with the presentation of his medals to the Regimental Museum.

WHITE—On August 20, 1973, Brigadier John Donald White, DSO, MC. He joined the 8th (TF) Battalion in 1912 and was promoted Captain in 1914. He commanded "B" Company of the 8th Battalion from February 1915 until he was admitted to hospital after being badly wounded in 1917. During that period he won both the DSO and the MC. On discharge from hospital he was transferred to the RAOC, in which Corps he took a regular commission on July 1, 1920. He eventually became an O.M.E. 1st Class with the rank of Colonel on February 8, 1937, and retired on November 4, 1941, with the honorary rank of Brigadier.

WIGG—On June 18, 1973, ex-C/Sgt. Robert Frederick Wigg (6005312) aged 66. He enlisted into the Regiment in 1926 and served with the 2nd Battalion. Owing to his very considerable ability as a clerk he was mainly employed on clerical duties during his Colour service, which ended in 1949. He will be well remembered by many old soldiers of the 2nd Battalion.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Secretary's Notes

Benevolent Cases

During the period July 1, 1973, to November 30, 1973, the sum of £794.98 was expended from the Charitable Fund in making grants to 39 ex-members of the Regiment.

Donations—Charitable Fund

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from Mrs. R. Freezor, Mr. J. Firth, Brigadier N. P. Procter, CBE, MC (in memory of the late Sir Arthur Lewey), Mrs. J. M. Beedle (in memory of the late Sgt. J. Beedle) and Squadron Leader J. M. Abell.

The 2/7th Battalion (1939-45) at their annual dinner collected and donated to the Charitable Fund the magnificent sum of £51.

Donations

A donation of £40 was made to the Alamein Memorial Church at Andover, Hants, for the purchase of the "Bishop's Chair" in memory of those who gave their lives at Alamein.

The 1/7th Battalion were involved in the Alamein campaign.

Summer Outing

The summer outing this year took place on Sunday, September 23, 1973. We visited HMS *Victory* at Portsmouth. 70 members and their relatives and friends attended.

The Portsmouth and Gosport Branch very kindly arranged tea for the whole party at the British Legion Club at Lee-on-Solent. On the way home we visited ex-WO2 Elston at his pub, the "Spread Eagle", at Guildford.

A truly regimental day out.

Church Service at Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Our annual church service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, took place on Sunday, October 14, 1973. A party of 55 members and their wives attended, headed by the chairman of the Regimental Association, Lt.-Col. T. W. Chattey, OBE, and his wife. Prior to the service our Old Comrades, under the command of Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, were inspected by the Deputy Governor.

The standard was carried by Mr. G. S. Hurlock, A.E.F.W.

EALING BRANCH

There's very little to talk about since the last *Newsletter* except that those of us who attended the summer outing to Portsmouth had a very enjoyable day and our congratulations go to those people (especially the ladies of the British Legion at Lee-on-Solent) who worked so hard to make it a success.

Another lady who deserves our thanks was the pianist in the pub at Guildford, who with her music took me back long, long ago to 1912 and a camp at Falmer. Here Eddie Nicholls used to play the piano to us in the canteen and the Sussex Downs used to echo with our melodious voices!

Eddie is still with us but can hardly see the piano, let alone the notes.

Our "Mighty Atom" is installed in an old people's home and tells me over the phone what a nice place it is. Our thanks are due to Major Neil Boys of SSAFA for his continued efforts to get Bobby in a decent place. If any old 1914-18 Die-Hards are near Northolt House, Haydock Road, Northolt, call and ask for Bobby Williams. He will tell you who won the war.

Well, that's the lot for now. I have got to have a look at my "home brew". Cheerio!

ALBERT WHITE

HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

We are still trying to keep going at Hornsey, although the difficulties seem to be ever increasing.

However, we have now decided to send a letter to each member to invite them to show up in strength at least twice a year—the Armistice Church Service at Hornsey Parish Church and the 1/7th Battalion annual dinner. At the same time we are asking them to become regular subscribers to *The Die-Hards Newsletter* and so keep in touch with all that goes on and many interesting items of news.

We are also reminding them that the Mill Hill Branch meets at Edgware on the last Saturday of each month and it may be more convenient for them to visit this very active and happy get-together.

The church parade at Chelsea Hospital on October 14 was once again well attended and a great success, and our standard bearer, another old faithful of this Branch, was Stan Hurlock, who did a great job. The spirit of being a Die-Hard was fully displayed by Len Johnson, the regular standard bearer, who, although unable through ill health to carry the standard, was there with us in support, and he still manages to be a very effective and hard working honorary secretary for the WO's and Sergeants' Branch at Edgware.

I think also a word of thanks should be given to our ladies, who always turn up in strength for many of these functions and are equally good Die-Hards (or should it be Die-Hardesses?)

In this respect I must mention one staunch supporter—Joan Mellor, who turned up although husband Bert was unable to do so. Joan talked to some American visitors who were taking photos and appeared quite interested and gave them a very good history of the Regiment in a short space of time, also



WO's & Sergeants Branch (Contd. from p15)

Before closing, we tender to Bob Ferguson and his family our deepest sympathy and condolences on the passing away of a dear wife and mother, "Nancy". Although Bob is not a member of the branch, both were well known by many members. They were both very keen supporters of the Mill Hill Branch, and were always at the forefront helping out with the entertainment. Her cheery smile and welcome to all attending that branch's meetings will be sadly missed.

To Die-Hards everywhere we send greetings for a very merry Christmas; may it be full of good cheer, jollity and friendship, and may the New Year be a happy, healthy and prosperous 1974.

LEN JOHNSON

Situation Vacant

A former officer of the Regiment is looking for a middle-aged couple who would like to live out their retirement in Amersham, Bucks, with his step-daughter and family.

A self-contained flat would be provided rent free. Electricity only to be paid. Wife to cook, the husband a few odd jobs. Terms to be negotiated.

A widow would also be considered. Anyone who is interested should get in touch with the Secretary of the Regimental Association, who will give further details and arrange interviews, etc.

promising to send them literature. How's that for support?

I could go on mentioning names of those I was happy to see, and those who were unable to attend and who I would have liked to have seen, but time is running out, so here's wishing you all continued health and success to show those clowns who erased our Regiment's name from the Army List they cannot erase Die-Hards.

LES HOSSLEN

MILL HILL BRANCH

This is the last publication of the Regimental Newsletter of 1973, therefore my primary paragraph must be one of greetings for a joyous Noel to ye all and a year of contentment in 1974. May your stars be benign, Mr. Bludsucker, the taxman, be kind and Mrs. Rising Price be left behind.

Now to dip my quill into the inkhorn to chronicle, briefly, the "doings", as was the expression at the turn of the century, of the members of the Mill Hill Branch. In the last letter Albuhera Day was the main topic. This was a ceremony followed by our annual pilgrimage to Mons. At Mons on August 23 ex-Drum. George Garrett (L/9904) was honoured by this ancient capital of Hainault with the presentation of the Medal of Mons, an honour awarded to those who are deemed to have helped the citizens of the old Roman fortress. George gave his help on August 23, 1914, when he was the bugler to Major W. H. Abell, the first British officer casualty of World War I. He was able to show the son and daughter of this gallant officer where their father fell, as a special visit was made to the battlefield of "A" Company, 4th Middlesex, commanded by Major Abell. Another Mons veteran member of our branch, Bert Chinnery (L/12193), now living in the Channel Islands, was, to his dismay, unable to be present, but hopes to be on parade next August, the diamond jubilee of the battle.

The most recent event of 1973 is described on other pages of the Newsletter. It was the Remembrance ceremonies at the old Middlesex Guildhall and Westminster Abbey on November 10, and at Inglis Barracks and Edgware on November 11. Members of our Branch who took a prominent part in the two days were Brigadier B. B. Rackham, CBE, MC, DL; Col. H. J. A. Moore, OBE; Capt. E. Crook, DCM; Mr. C. Ashby (L/14437), 4th Battalion; Mr. G. Chacksfield (6201836), our bugler; Mr. P. Edwards (6200354), a survivor of the bombing and sinking of the *Lancastria* in St. Nazaire Harbour, June 17, 1940; Mr. J. H. Farmer (G/103409), 19th (Second Public Works Pioneer) Battalion; Mr. A. Gale (TF/4435) 8th Battalion; Mr. G. Hurlock (6200777), 1st and 2nd Battalions, our Standard Ensign on Remembrance Day; Mr. S. Kerswill (21192370), 9th Battalion, who was our Standard Ensign on the 10th; Mr. A. Mason (6190630); Mr. R. T. Meers (TF/1412), 9th Battalion; Major A. E. Peasley (6200331), who commanded our detachment on the parade and march past; and Sgt. L. Plumb (22466825), a member who is still serving in the Queen's Regiment and was the Parade Sergeant-Major at Westminster Abbey. The other members of our branch to the forefront on both days were the In-Pensioners of the

Royal Hospital Chelsea, Sgts. W. Heavens (G/9909); A. Rathbone (6195916); I/Ps G. Fulton (6974685) and F. Worton (L/16101), who were escorts to the Regimental Association Standard. The close of the service at our memorial was marked by the slim figure of Mrs. Pat Newman laying a poppy cross in memory of her husband, the late Major Percy Newman, MBE.

During the weekend of Remembrance my poppy emblem caused a certain amount of interest. Instead of the normal poppy, I was wearing a combination of Australian and Canadian poppies. The Australian emblem, which, incidentally, has the year of purchase printed on it, was sent to me by Alf Damon (PS/963), a 16th (Public Schools) Battalion veteran, from Tasmania. This arrived on the 8th, whilst the Canadian poppy arrived on the 10th, just in time for it to be worn at Westminster Abbey. This was a gift from "Pip" Connor, MM (G/19511), a veteran of the 2nd and 21st (Islington) Battalions. Both were worn with pride by me, as were the additional ones sent and worn by other members at the ceremonies.

Quite a number of old Die-Hards have joined the branch since the last Newsletter was published. Amongst them are George Ambrose (6208169), who was the MT corporal of "the lively MT staff" mentioned in the history of the resuscitated 1st Battalion, when Major-General Carton de Wiart, VC, inspected the Battalion. In France and Germany George was the MT sergeant. Charles Gerrard, who started wearing uniform as a Middlesex Regiment cadet and after serving in the 8th Battalion (TF) joined the Royal Field Artillery, with whom he served in France and Flanders from 1914, is now a lively 78-year-old veteran. Percy Harris (3358), who served from March 1911 to March 1923 with the 5th Royal Irish Lancers, which took him to Belgium in 1914. During the last war he served with the 12th Middlesex Regiment Home Guard, to whom he was the HQ Signals sergeant. Another fresh member who was a sergeant with Signals is Richard Harrison (6211282) of the 2nd Battalion, who was discharged in April 1945 due to injuries from his wounds. Now living in Scarborough, he finds it a long flog to attend our monthly meetings. Albert Hayes (2392679) is another of our members who was serving when the 1st Battalion were renamed 4th Battalion Queen's Regiment (Middlesex). Len Hoare (6197850) is a re-joined member, who, after serving with the 7th Battalion (TA), served as a regular with the 1st and 2nd Battalions from February 1928 to 1935. On mobilisation in 1939 he originally served with the 2nd Battalion, but transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals in 1941, with whom he served until 1946, including fun and games in North Africa. George Hodgson (6207383), now living in Enfield, joined our 2/7th Battalion in May 1939 and, after two years, was posted to 4th Battalion The Gordon Highlanders for a short period before transferring to the Royal Regiment of Artillery. In September 1942 he exchanged the grenade of seven flames for the grenade of nine flames of the Corps of Royal Engineers, with whom he served until time expired in June 1946. Another chap who has worn more than one cap badge is Bill Jones (6463242), who served originally with the 1st Battalion The Royal Fusiliers—another grenade with a mass of flames—from 1939 to 1945, including a spell as a PoW in Germany, and from

1945 to 1949 with The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. He then served as a Die-Hard from 1949 until discharged on medical grounds in September 1954. During this period he served in Hong Kong, Korea and Austria and retains many happy memories. Space prevents me mentioning all the newly enrolled members of the Branch, so I will end up with one more only. He is Bert Lee (G/49202), now domiciled in France and who is one of our octogenarians. Bert is one of our 25th (Garrison) Battalion veterans who was on the *Tyndareus* when she struck a mine off Cape Town in February 1917. As a young man Bert was employed at the late Empress Eugenie of the French as an assistant gardener at her home, Farmborough Hill, where his father was a steward. On the declaration of war in 1914 all the male staff were told to report to the recruiting office to enrol for active service with the guarantee that if not marked fit "the gentry will take you back again". How times have changed!

My penultimate paragraph is about a long enrolled member of the Branch, Capt. "Battler" Craydon. This energetic and public-spirited septuagenarian recently covered 12 miles in a sponsored walk organised by the Royal British Legion, thereby earning £3.72 for the Help to Mentally Handicapped Children. In addition to this he led the Pipers and Drummers from Trafalgar Square along Whitehall to the Cenotaph on Remembrance Day afternoon, when a special parade was held on this solemn occasion. He tells me he felt ten feet tall. In my opinion he is ten feet tall when it comes to helping his less-fortunate fellow men!

I am sorry if my notes are over-long, but our roll of members is also long and something is always happening. If you wish to confirm this, come and join us at the Drill Hall, Edgware, on the last Saturday of any month. That includes the last Saturday in 1973, when a special social with music is being held to say goodbye to 1973. Maybe you will be able to hear the Gaelic pipes I mentioned above. All Die-Hards and their friends are welcome and I look forward to being present to extend a welcome to what I am sure will be an evening of good fellowship and fun.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

PORTSMOUTH AND GOSPORT BRANCH

Very little has been happening these days, just the usual half a dozen attending our monthly meetings.

All we seem to get from our exes whom we meet are promises. But I'm afraid these are like pie crust—broken.

Still, we did manage to muster a few and paid our long-awaited visit to the WOs and Sergeants Club at Edgware in September. I'm sure all those who attended enjoyed the hospitality that was shown to us and personally I think the evening was a great success, our only wish being that we could be much nearer so that we could make the visit more often.

Anyhow, thanks for the memory.

Also I heard that the Association trip to HMS *Porpoise* was well liked and that some of our members lined up with them at Lee-on-Solent.

Well, this is our brief effort this time, except finally to wish Ethel Deans well, as she is spending a short spell in Canada.

MAC

WOS AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

It is said that the success of an organisation is dependent on, and shown by, the support it is given. If that is true, then I think we can boast of such success. Although at the time of writing these notes two more months have to pass before we say farewell to 1973, our attendances over the last 10 months exceed those of any other 12 months, the attendances at our September and October meetings being the most outstanding, with 55 members and friends being present in September and 74 in October.

In addition to the 55 at the September meeting, a party of 13 from the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch journeyed up to fulfil the visit which had been postponed from April. A most pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent by all present and proved beyond doubt that inter-branch visits are just what is needed to cement more firmly the bond of comradeship and friendship, and to ensure that the names Middlesex Regiment and Die-Hards do not fade into obscurity. This was amply confirmed by the remarks passed and the thanks given to me by each of those who had made the long journey up, thanks I could not have received had it not been for the efforts put in by our committee, the support given by those members who attended, and to Charlie Banks, who not only put on a sumptuous buffet, but administered to our thirst, all of which contributed so much to a wonderful evening, making I hope our visitors' journey from and to Gosport well worth while.

That visit will, I hope, be the beginning of other branch visits, and here I would like to say is an open invitation to branches to visit us. Should you care to take us up on this, get in touch by letter, or phone to 78 Deans Lane, Edgware, Middx, HA8 9NP (tel. No. 01-959 2897) so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Among our visitors whom we were very pleased to welcome at the October meeting was Mike Ward of the Hounslow Branch, who has promised to bring along a party from that branch to our meeting in January. This I hope is a pointer to a successful 1974—a year when our hopes of furthering our comradeship with other branches will be fulfilled.

On Sunday, October 14, 12 members and ladies from the branch were among the party of Old Comrades who attended the church parade at the Royal Hospital, and although we had spent a late night on the Saturday at our meeting, all looked pretty fit and alert when we fell in on parade with the In-Pensioners, although we might not have felt it. However, it was pretty evident that by the time the service ended, a little of the hair of the dog that bit was needed, for no time was lost in getting to the bar in the clubroom for a livener, yours truly winning by a short head. A face sadly missed was that of Tom (Shoggo) King, who in previous years was always there to greet us on arrival.

Our monthly raffles continue to be well supported and, thanks to the generosity of those who so kindly give gifts as prizes, give us a source of income from which we are able to provide our free buffets. The Christmas draw is well up on last year and points towards another very successful Christmas meeting.

(Continued on page 12)

