



THE DIE-HARDS

The Journal of

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

September 1944

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The Die Hards

THE JOURNAL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

(Duke of Cambridge's Own)



VOL. VII. No. 1.

SEPTEMBER, 1944

PRICE 1/-

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)

(57)

The Plume of the Prince of Wales. In each of the four corners the late Duke of Cambridge's Cypher and Coronet.
 " Mysora," " Seringsapatam," " Albuhera," " Ciudad Rodrigo," " Badajoz," " Vittoria," " Pyrenees," " Nivelle," " Nive,"
 " Penninsular," " Alma," " Inkerman," " Sevastopol," " New Zealand," " South Africa, 1879," " Relief of Ladysmith," " South Africa, 1900-02."

The Great War—46 Battalions—" Mons," " Le Cateau," " Retreat from Mons," " Marne, 1914," " Aisne, 1914-18," " La Bassée, 1914,"
 " Messines, 1914, 17, 18," " Armentières, 1914," " Neuve Chapelle," " Ypres, 1915, 17, 18," " Gravenstafel," " St. Julien," " Frezenberg,"
 " Bellewaarde," " Aubers," " Hooge, 1915," " Loos," " Somme, 1916, 18," " Albert, 1916, 18," " Bazentin," " Delville Wood,"
 " Pozieres," " Ginchy," " Fiers-Courcelette," " Morval," " Thiepval," " Le Transloy," " Ancre Heights," " Ancre, 1916, 18," " Bapaume,"
 " 1917, 18," " Arras, 1917, 18," " Vimy, 1917," " Scarpe, 1917, 18," " Arleux," " Ploeghem," " Langemarck, 1917," " Menin Road,"
 " Polygon Wood," " Broodseinde," " Poelcappelle," " Passchendaele," " Cambrai, 1917, 18," " St. Quentin," " Rosières," " Avre,"
 " Villers Bretonneux," " Lys," " Estaires," " Hazebrouck," " Bailleul," " Kemmel," " Scherpenberg," " Hindenburg Line," " Canal du Nord,"
 " St. Quentin Canal," " Courtrai," " Selle," " Valenciennes," " Sambre," " France and Flanders, 1914-18," " Italy, 1917-18," " Struma," " Doiran, 1918," " Macedonia, 1915-18," " Suvla," " Landing at Suvla," " Scimitar Hill," " Gallipoli, 1915,"
 " Rumani," " Egypt, 1915-17," " Gaza," " El Mughar," " Jerusalem," " Jericho," " Jordan," " Tell Asur," " Palestine, 1917-18,"
 " Mesopotamia, 1917-18," " Murman, 1919," " Dukhovskaya," " Siberia, 1918-19."

Regular and Militia Battalions.

1st Bn. (57th Foot). 2nd Bn. (77th Foot).
 5th Bn. (Royal Elthorne Militia).
 6th Bn. (Royal East Middlesex Militia).
 Depot—Mill Hill. Records Office, Ashford, Mdx.
 Pay Office—Kensington.

Territorial Army Battalions

1/7th Bn. 2/7th Bn. 8th Bn.
 9th Bn. (— L.A.A.R.A.).
 1st and 2nd Bns. Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

Affiliated A/A Units of the Territorial Army

— (7th City of London) Searchlight Regiment R.A.
 — (St. Pancras) Searchlight Regiment R.A.

Agents—Lloyds' Bank Limited, Cox & King's Branch.

Allied Regiments of Canadian Militia.

The Prince of Wales Rangers (Peterborough Regiment) (M.C.) Peterborough, Ontario.
 The Wentworth Regiment Dundas, Ontario.
 The Middlesex and Huron Regiment London, Ontario.

Allied Battalion of Australian Infantry.

57th Bn. Preston.

Allied Regiment of New Zealand Military Forces

The Taranaki Regiment New Plymouth.

Colonel of the Regiment:

Colonel M. Browne, M.C., D.L.

Officer Commanding Depot:

Major A. W. Clarke, O.B.E.

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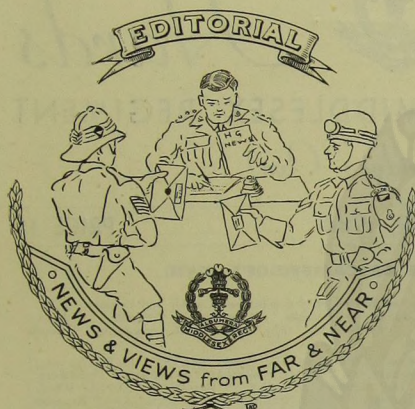
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NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"The Die-Hards" is published in March, June, September and December, and copies may be obtained by application to the Editor, enclosing 1/- for each copy, plus 2d. postage.

All Contributions intended for publication should reach the Editor not later than the 1st of the month previous to that of issue. CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE TYPED IN TRIPPLICATE (FOR PURPOSES OF CENSORSHIP) AND BE ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and signed, stating whether it is desired to publish the contributor's name or not. Rejected manuscripts, etc., will only be returned if accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope. The Editor will thankfully receive Contributions from past or present members of the Regiment or others interested, but necessarily reserves to himself the right of publication. All communications concerning the paper, including Advertisements, should be addressed to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, Beehive Works, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex. Telephone: WORMSWORTH 4321. Subscriptions should be forwarded to the Editor, "The Die-Hards" Journal, to whom all Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable, and crossed "— & Co."

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION 5/- (Post Free)



Editor: Capt. G. E. Moore, 24th Middlesex Bn. H.G.

In August 1939 this column was written for what was to prove to be the last occasion for five years, although that fact was not realised at the time.

Now, like the Phoenix, arises from the ashes of this five-year-old war, "The Die-Hards," albeit in a slightly unfamiliar form, though with the old familiar cover.

As you will see by the messages from Col. Browne, Lord Rochdale, W. R. Clemens and others, the policy of this revived Journal is to foster a far greater and more active interest in its Regiment on the part of the County.

In this first austerity issue, the emphasis is placed on messages of goodwill both for now and post-war.

During the years between the appearance of Vol. VI No. 9 and Vol. VII No. 1 so many things have happened that it is impossible even to touch on all the events, and we hope that our readers will accept the gaps which are evident and have patience until "SECURITY" and "PAPER CONTROL," those two hydra-headed monsters, which beset any present-day Editor, have been finally laid in the dust.

But all these things of the past five years can be classified as being either transient or permanent in effect, and in the latter category we like to consider the existence of the Home Guard; although as these words are being written there is considerable upheaval in their ranks and uncertainty in their minds as to their future fate. Perhaps before another issue of "The Die-Hards" is published the Home Guard may be "stood-down," but we sincerely hope not.

Nevertheless, whatever the official fate of the Home Guard, it is our hope that the splendid spirit which permeates their organisation in this County will manifest itself in their continued and unremitting "voluntary" help to this Journal and to "THE MIDDLESEX SCHEME."

In this and subsequent issues you will find a strong emphasis on the Home Guard and the reasons for this are very fully stated in the message from our Colonel. It only remains for us to welcome our

new comrades wholeheartedly and to express the assurance that this association can only redound to our mutual advantage.

In more general matters, it is our hope to commence in the December issue a series of articles, illustrated by maps and photographs, telling of our Regiment's participation in this War.

Editorship has fallen upon the writer due to wartime difficulties and certainly not from ability; furthermore, it is part-time—very much part-time, we are afraid—and for these reasons members of the Regiment, past and present, and friends who are interested are earnestly requested to co-operate by submitting articles, etc., in accordance with the Notice to Contributors on the previous page.



MESSAGE FROM THE COLONEL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

This Journal has been produced by Lieut.-Col. F. Baden-Powell Weil, Commanding 24th Middlesex Battalion Home Guard, in order to assist in making the name, the history and traditions of their County Regiment better known to the people of Middlesex.

The design of the Journal follows that of the pre-war quarterly publication called "The Die-Hards" Journal, which was issued by the Middlesex Regimental Association, and discontinued on the outbreak of war. The bulk of the present copy is devoted to news from Middlesex County Home Guard and takes the place of the pre-war items, which came mainly from the Regular and Territorial (including Cadets) Battalions of the Regiment. Some news from the Battalions of the Regiment in the Field Armies is included, but owing to the exigencies of Army service in war-time, and the regulations regarding "Security," this portion of the new Journal is limited. Part of the Journal is set aside for information from the Middlesex County Cadet Force, which is included in the County Regiment. Readers will note that the Home Guard takes a prominent place in the Journal. The County Home Guard bears the Crest of the Middlesex Regiment, and all ranks are thus closely connected

with it, although not actually forming a part of the Regiment. As Colonel of the Middlesex Regiment, supported by the Middlesex Territorial Association, I was anxious the County Home Guard should form part of the Regiment. The War Office was unable to approve my proposal, but fully recognised and welcomed the interest taken by the Regiment in the Home Guard, and the inclusion of the latter Force in many of its Regimental activities such as the Officers' Club. Later in these pages will be found notes on the work of the Regimental Association, and all readers will realise the need for increased funds to carry on its purpose of giving direct financial aid to all members of the Regiment, both past and present, who are in difficult circumstances.

Lieut.-Col. Weil hopes that the Journal will receive generous support throughout the County of Middlesex, and intends that its profits shall be devoted to the objects of the Middlesex Regimental Association, which include arrangements for sending cigarettes, and personal parcels to prisoners of war in Europe.

In regard to the Middlesex Regimental Association, I am anxious to make clear to all our readers that the funds of the Regimental Association assist all other ranks of the Middlesex Regiment whether Regular, Territorial, or those who have joined the Regiment for service in this war. This same policy applied to the Association after the Great War, when there were over 40 Battalions in the Regiment. Thus, it will be realised that a very large number of members have to be taken into account and the more our Association funds can be increased the greater will be the aid that can be given to those in distress.

Anyone who desires to subscribe towards the purposes of this Association is requested to send the gift, however small, to the Chairman of the Middlesex Regimental Association, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

Cheques and postal orders should be crossed and marked "Not Negotiable," and be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

In conclusion, I desire to express the thanks of our Regiment to Lieut.-Col. F. B.-P. Weil for the many additional hours of hard work he has devoted to this cause, apart from those given up to his own Home Guard Battalion, and to the work of great National importance in which he is engaged in civil life.

Without his personal help this Journal could never have been issued.

M. BROWNE, Bt.-Colonel,
Colonel, The Middlesex Regiment.

15th August, 1944.

FROM THE LORD-LIEUTENANT OF THE COUNTY.

THE OLD HALL,
HIGHGATE VILLAGE,
LONDON, N.6.

5TH SEPTEMBER, 1944.

I am very glad to address this message to those of the Armed Forces of the County of Middlesex who are serving under the historic badge of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own).

During recent months I have taken steps to form a representative Committee responsible to myself

as Lord Lieutenant, and designed to bring the Armed Forces of the Crown into closer touch with the County to which they belong or in which they are called upon to serve.

As an Officer who has fought in more than one campaign, I am well aware of the help to the morale of fighting troops which a strong County interest can bring to bear.

This new Journal, which is based on the peacetime publication of the Middlesex Regiment, will be widely read throughout the County of Middlesex, largely owing to the members of the Home Guard who have promised to support this effort. Every town and village in Middlesex contains members of the Home Guard, and thus news about our Fighting Forces will be widely disseminated. I understand also that the Journal will contain items concerning the work of the Middlesex Regimental Association and the Middlesex Territorial Welfare Committee in dealing with distress and immediate requirements among members both past and still serving in the ranks. Now that Battalions of our County Regiment are serving overseas and facing the enemy in more than one Campaign, I feel sure the people of Middlesex will take a renewed interest in those Forces which they have raised, and which are at this very moment freeing Europe from the grip of the German Army and ensuring the maintenance of our National liberty and the future prosperity of our British Empire.

The population of Middlesex is extensive, and no words of mine are needed to remind everyone that the work of a Regimental Association in dealing with distress and the relief of prisoners of war calls for large funds, if the sums so urgently required are to be given generously and in adequate measure, which is so desirable.

I wish the Journal every possible success in the task which it has undertaken.

ROCHDALE,
Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

CHAIRMAN'S ROOM,
GUILDHALL,
WESTMINSTER, S.W.
20th September, 1944.

I am very pleased to be able to contribute a few words of encouragement to the Editor of the Middlesex Regiment Magazine on the revival of that interesting and useful publication.

I have always been of the opinion during my 17 years on the Middlesex County Council and before I joined it, that there was little or no publicity given to the County of Middlesex and its many activities. Other large bodies in and around London were continually "in the news," but our County never seems to have much reference made to its importance and standing as the largest public authority outside London. Your publication, therefore, will serve a most useful purpose, among its many others, of assisting to impress upon its readers the name of Middlesex.

I suppose the oldest established organisation now connected with the County must be the Middlesex Regiment, as it has been named thus and connected definitely with us since 1782. Its magnificent record, both in war and peace, cannot,

by any expressions of mine be eulogised more highly than it has been, I am proud to be an inhabitant of a County that possesses such a Regiment. Its glorious tradition and reputation stand second to none, for never in all its long history has any act ever occurred to bring even the suggestion of discredit upon it. It is certain that when its record in the present great struggle is known, even greater fame, if possible, will attach to the old "Die-Hards."

My pleasurable and easy task in this letter is to assure all Units in the Regiment of the solid enthusiastic backing which it has among the rate-payers of this County. It will be supported by all means in the power of the many public bodies in Middlesex, above all the County Council. The lead given by our respected Lord Lieutenant, Lord Rochdale, in establishing a Committee representative of all the local authorities in the County should give concrete evidence of the sincerity of that statement. I trust that through it as much publicity can be given to every function and activity of the Regiment and thus guarantee a steady flow of monetary support to the same. I, personally, know the struggle which the many Officers of the various Units organising their social activities have had to raise sufficient funds to pay for the modest cost of the same. Support hitherto has had to come largely from a few friends of the Regiment, but I sincerely hope a wider circle of support will soon be available. There must be, at any rate, adequate preparations made for the celebrations we shall soon be holding to welcome the return of the old Regiment.

My message, therefore, is to assure you of all the help I can give or influence to the Middlesex Regiment during my chairmanship and afterwards. May the best success attend your efforts, which I know will be untiring and unstinting. The men want a cheery, interesting periodical to read and they will get it. Do not forget to let them know all that the County Council tries to provide for them and their families, giving them the cheapest and most effective service of its kind in the country. The "payment for such advertising" will be the thanks of all the many families who can benefit therefrom in health, education and happiness in the new world we are all striving to inaugurate.

Yours sincerely,

W. R. CLEMENS.

Two of our County local papers have been most helpful in allowing us to reprint certain details of our Regiment's activities, they are the "Hornsey Journal" and the "Middlesex Independent," and while making this acknowledgment we also offer them our sincere thanks.

FROM THE G.O.C. LONDON DISTRICT

Lieut.-General Sir Charles Loyd, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

I have been asked to remark on the Rehabilitation Scheme being introduced into the County of Middlesex Regiment. I have heard the details with the greatest of interest.

Shortly, the Scheme entails the assistance of Home Guard Officers and men, who are also employers of labour, making room in their undertakings for men demobilised from Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment, and also other Service men belonging to the County of Middlesex.

It would be difficult to over-emphasise the importance of a measure of this kind, when for a moment one considers the debt which we in the United Kingdom owe to our fighting men, who have risked their lives in fighting the battle for our freedom. It is sincerely to be hoped that this scheme will become wholly effective and that the circulation of "The Die-Hards" to men of the Regiment now serving with the Forces will ease any doubts as to post-war employment that may be in their minds.

It will be understood that if these men feel a sense of security as to their future, they will be able to concentrate on the job of winning the war in the field to the fullest degree.

I wish the scheme the utmost success.

(Signed) H. C. LOYD,
Lieut.-General.

MESSAGES FROM TWO LONDON SUB-DISTRICT COMMANDERS

SOUTH-WEST LONDON SUB-DISTRICT,
LONDON, W.8.

1ST SEPTEMBER, 1944

I am very glad of this opportunity of wishing "The Die-Hards" well, and of commending to you "The Middlesex Scheme."

After a lapse of five years your Regimental Journal once more makes its appearance and that fact alone must give great joy and cheer to you.

There is, in its contents, a very strong association with the Home Guard and that must serve as my introduction to you. As South-West London Sub-District Commander, it is my fortune to have eight General Service Battalions of the County Home Guard under my command as well as a Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, and what my connection with the County lacks in strength it makes up in sincerity. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that I wish "The Die-Hards," both the Regiment and the Journal, every success for the future.

You are reviving your Journal at just the right time, when events in Europe are shaping themselves so rapidly to so fine a conclusion. It has been a long and hard road that has had to be travelled to arrive at our present position, and it could not have happened without considerable foresight and long-term planning in every department of endeavour.

In view of this I am more than pleased to learn

that your Regimental Association is sponsoring "The Middlesex Scheme." I have had the opportunity of going into the Scheme very thoroughly and I heartily endorse all it sets out to achieve. Nothing that we can do for our fighting men can ever be enough—they have done so much for us!

Elsewhere, in this issue, you will find an exposition of the aims of "The Middlesex Scheme," and it is sure to have a very heartening effect on all ranks of the Regiment to learn that even now thought and planning for their future welfare is going on, with the same intensity as was lavished on the plans which now bear the fruit of our daily giant strides towards our European goal.

Once again my heartiest congratulations and my best wishes to you all, and I can promise you to support "The Die-Hards" and "The Middlesex Scheme" as fully as lies in my power and I shall watch their progress very keenly.

(Signed) V. COPLAND-GRIFFITHS,
Brigadier,
Commanding
South-West London Sub-District.

NORTH-WEST LONDON SUB-DISTRICT,
LONDON, W.1.

It is with much pleasure that I hear that "The Die-Hards" is to be resuscitated after a lapse of five years, and particularly since it will be an instrument in the great fight which lies before us now. Victory is won.

I feel very strongly that those of us who have not had the fortune to serve overseas have a most important duty to carry out and that is, to ensure that the soldier when he returns is found a suitable place in industry.

Modern history has shown us that the soldier does not want a "home for heroes" to live in, but, rather, good steady employment.

A very large number of men who will be leaving the Services during the coming years will have attained a high degree of technical skill in various trades, and I feel confident that their abilities should be recognised and utilised by employers, and I hope that they will be given preference over those who have stayed at home.

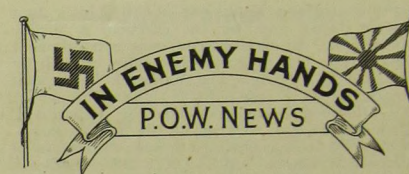
This Magazine should be a very valuable medium for uniting employers with demobilised men, and, in the process, the Advertisement pages are filled the finances of this worthy object will benefit.

I feel confident that all Home Guardsmen in the North-West London Sub-District will agree with me that they owe a debt to those who have fought the enemy overseas and so relieved the Home Guard of the necessity of fighting in our own country.

This debt can best be repaid by placing a man in a job.

(Signed) ALAN SWINTON,
Brigadier
Commanding
North-West London Sub-District.

4th September, 1944.



Were you shocked to see these enemy symbols heading this column?

Was your first feeling one of anger or revulsion?

How, then, do you imagine the men feel who are doomed to be confronted daily by constant evidence of these hateful signs and of all the things they stand for?

It is the constant aim of the Regimental Association to alleviate as much as possible the sufferings and privations of all the Regiment's prisoners of war whether in Europe or the Far East and in these columns each quarter we shall report, as fully as possible, such help as we have been able to give our less fortunate comrades.

During the month of June, 1944, arrangements were made for the despatch of 43 parcels at the Association's expense, each parcel costing approximately £2. Two consignments of cigarettes have been sent to European prisoners of war, costing £37. 13s. 6d. Each prisoner receives 200 cigarettes per consignment, and these despatches represent those for April and May, 1944.

Regimental prisoners in the Far East have much for which to thank Mrs. O. H. Tidbury, who is the wife of Brigadier O. H. Tidbury, M.C., who has had such a long connection with the Regiment. Mrs. Tidbury is the originator of, and secretary to, the Hong Kong Fellowship.

The H.K.F. was originally formed to link together relatives of prisoners of war of the 1st Battalion of our Regiment now in Japanese hands. It was decided to extend the membership to others who had relatives in the Colony, and there are now about 4,000 Members and Fellows.

Membership is free to the following: Wife, Widow, Parent, Brother, Sister and Children (over 16 years of age) of all British subjects who were in Hong Kong on Christmas Day, 1941. Although membership is restricted to near relatives, all others who care to join are welcomed as Fellows, for which the minimum annual subscription is two shillings.

A News Letter is published three or four times a year, giving all available information of interest to members and meetings, followed by tea, are held in London, where many members with similar anxieties and interests have met, and have had the opportunity of hearing speakers from the Red Cross, etc.

In this connection a very successful entertainment was given by the Regimental Association in the Y.W.C.A., Great Russell Street, on Saturday, 22nd April, 1944, to all next of kin of our 1st Battalion prisoners of war in the Far East. About 500 people were present, including approximately 100 children of all ages and sizes. A brief account of the 1st Battalion (57th Foot) and about Albuhera was given by the Colonel of the Regiment. Three films were shown by the Army Kinema Section; one was a Japanese propaganda film about the

capture of Hong Kong, one about China's fight against Japan and, for the children, a Mickey Mouse film. An excellent conjuring entertainment followed the films and was thoroughly enjoyed by both old and young. The Middlesex Regimental Dance Band played suitable music throughout the afternoon, being conducted by Band/Sergt. Stenning, an old member of the 1st Battalion. A splendid tea was provided through the activity of Major A. W. Clarke, O.B.E., O.C.R.D.P., Middlesex Regiment, ably assisted by the staff of the H.K.F. Mr. King, the Controller of the Far East Section of the British Red Cross Society, was at the meeting to answer questions, and an official of the Red Cross spoke about clubs for next of kin of P.O.W. which are in the London and Middlesex area.

A church service for members of the H.K.F. was held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday, 6th May, and was taken by the Rev. Canon Alan C. Don, D.D., Vicar of St. Margaret's, Westminster, assisted by the Honorary Chaplain to the H.K.F., the Rev. M. L. Man, and the Band of our Regiment played throughout. The Lesson was read by the President of the H.K.F., Lieut.-General A. E. Grasett a former C-in-C. at Hong Kong. After the Service tea was provided in the National Gallery.

The officials of the Hong Kong Fellowship are :
President : Lieut.-Gen. A. E. Grasett, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Vice-Presidents : Admiral Sir Charles Little, G.C.B. Sir William Homell, C.I.E., LL.D. Mr. A. Morse, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, C.B.E.

Hon. Treasurer : Mrs. L. G. Allen.
Hon. Secretary : Mrs. O. H. Tidbury, Heathway, Oxshott, Surrey.

Assistant Hon. Secretary : Mrs. Gordon Parker.
Mrs. Tidbury, founder of the H.K.F., and Mrs. Gordon Parker (as wives of two Die-Hard Officers, who each have commanded Battalions) always feel that the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment is the heart of the H.K.F., and are delighted that so many relatives of men of this unit are such keen members and support the meetings in strength.

It is hardly necessary to state that the Regimental Association, the Colonel of the Regiment, the O.C. Regimental Depot Party, and, indeed, all members of the Regiment who know of what the Fellowship is doing for our Far Eastern prisoners of war, give this movement every possible help.

The lot of the P.O.W. in Japanese hands in the early days after the fall of Hong Kong was certainly very hard, but there is evidence that lately conditions have improved. Many prisoners have been transferred to Japan.

Tokyo and Hong Kong are among the few places in the Far East where International Red Cross Delegates have been recognised by the Japanese and are allowed to visit and report on camps. These reports are fairly satisfactory; health is improving and morale has at all times been very high. Frequent concerts are held and there is a certain amount of sports gear available.

The latest Japanese restrictions limit correspondence to postcards of 25 words, and for this reason the recently arrived mail is disappointing from the point of view of news though it has given great joy to the recipients.

It can now be announced that the War Office, after lengthy correspondence, has at long last agreed

to pay a portion of compensation for lost property to wives of Other Ranks of the 1st Middlesex Battalion who were evacuated from Hong-Kong before the Japanese assault, and who have since returned to this country and set up new homes.

In December, 1941, these wives were permitted to take with them on evacuation one small suit-case, leaving all their remaining property on the Island to fall into Japanese hands.

Full compensation will **NOT** be paid until the war is over and is a matter for the Board of Trade to settle, but these wives will shortly be asked by the War Office to state their claims.

This concession is owed to the efforts of Mrs. Tidbury, who approached Capt. L. D. Gammans, M.P., to plead our cause with the Secretary of State for War, which he did, obtaining a considerable victory, for which we are very grateful.

THE 'DIE-HARDS' PRAYER

On 16th May, 1944, at the local celebration of Albuhera Day held by the 2nd Cadet Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment at Harrow, there was published for the first time "The Die-Hards' Prayer."

Its author wishes to remain anonymous, but we feel that even so it deserves a far wider public. It has been reprinted in the Harrow local paper and we give it below in its entirety, hoping that its inspiration will be of help to all members of the Regiment at home and overseas.

Oh God, like Inglis, make of me
A Die-Hard, brave and true;
Like Picton, give me Will to see
Each conflict bravely through.

And when, oh God, like Stephenson
Thou callest me to rest,
Give me Thine arms to rest upon
And pass the final test.

And if in manhoods' dawning hour
Thy Bugle Call I hear,
Give me, as Hallowes, Faith and Power
To follow without fear.

Sustain those Die-Hards following on
With Courage, Love and Strength,
Lend them Thine Arms to rest upon,
And give them Peace at length.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL BAND

Since the start of 1944 our Regimental Band has played at 26 towns in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge and Essex in connection with various local "Salute the Soldier" Campaigns.

Letters of grateful thanks have been received from all the Local Councils.

At Waltham Cross the Band, under Bandmaster C. Dennis, A.R.C.M., was thanked personally by Mrs. Winston Churchill for their aid to the cause. This special notice was much appreciated by all ranks in the Band.

The Band has been exceptionally well treated on all these occasions.

Our only regret is that due to the Band being allotted outside London District we have been able only on rare occasions to play in our home county. It was, however, possible to do so at Acton, Finchley and Chiswick.

CASUALTY LIST

The Colonel of the Regiment regrets to announce the following casualties:

OFFICERS

Killed

SICILY.—2/Lieut. G. Smullen.
ITALY.—Lieut.-Col. G. M. de B. Monk, M.C., Capt. J. B. Entwistle, Capt. J. R. Asling, Lieut. L. G. Hooper, Lieut. W. F. Bartlett, 2/Lieut. E. R. Barnett.

BURMAH.—Capt. C. A. P. Gaydon.
NORMANDY.—T/Major E. L. G. Passy, Capt. F. N. Shippam, T/Capt. L. G. McDowell, Lieut. H. Dixon, Lieut. L. H. Jones, Lieut. F. R. Waiting, Lieut. F. V. Handship, Lieut. A. W. Bettell.

Died of Wounds

ITALY.—Lieut. K. R. Pickard, M.C., Lieut. J. G. Waddell.
NORMANDY.—Lieut. L. H. Lottenberg.

Died Overseas

ITALY.—Lieut. J. A. Churchill, Lieut. A. L. Bright.

Died at Home

Lieut.-Col. Harvey Goodwin, D.S.O., 27th June, 1944.
Major C. Kitchin, D.S.O., 2nd April, 1944.

Missing, Presumed Killed

Capt. A. J. Warren.

Wounded

SICILY.—2/Lieut. W. A. Impey.
ITALY.—Major H. A. C. Page, Major A. Jefferson, Capt. J. A. Nurse, Lieut. E. Etchells, Lieut. F. S. Mortimer, M.C., Lieut. F. D. J. Grimsdale, Lieut. E. K. Roberts, Lieut. D. W. Habgood, 2/Lieut. J. Coakley, 2/Lieut. Cunningham.

BURMAH.—Capt. R. H. R. Hewson.
NORMANDY.—Major W. D. Ellis, T/Major C. D. L. Brereton, Capt. A. C. Burton, Capt. W. D. Cavenish, Capt. W. O. Nicholl, Capt. H. Fenwick, Capt. C. W. Flatau, Capt. J. K. Fox, Capt. R. J. P. Cummings, T/Capt. C. E. Cullen, T/Capt. L. J. Delaney, Lieut. P. F. Edwards, Lieut. M. E. Morton, Lieut. L. F. Baker, Lieut. D. S. Fulton, Lieut. E. W. Startup, Lieut. J. R. Gray, Lieut. R. B. Betts, Lieut. L. T. Atkins, Lieut. H. J. Dawson, M.C., Lieut. K. O. Shaw, Lieut. J. F. C. Hayward, Lieut. K. G. Wright, Lieut. G. H. Kramers, Lieut. H. McP. Page.

Prisoner of War

ITALY.—Capt. J. G. Stevens, Lieut. J. L. A. Ceaton, Lieut. J. H. W. Mould, Lieut. R. C. H. Saunders.

N.C.O.s AND OTHER RANKS

Killed

ITALY.—L/Sergt. W. W. Hebbard, Cpl. F. A. Tucker, Pte. S. G. Bass, Pte. A. L. Gray, Pte. L. Gray, Pte. W. G. Higgins, Pte. A. F. Kanborn, Pte. W. Worrall.

NORMANDY.—Cpl. F. J. Eyles, Cpl. E. A. Green, Pte. K. Seaman, Pte. T. J. Chambers, Sergt. E. Poole, A/Cpl. H. Biddell, Pte. V. Baker, Pte. R. A. Harper, Pte. R. Hine, Pte. T. Jeffrey, Pte. H. C. H. Jennings, Pte. C. Nelson, Pte. W. A. Taylor, Pte. H. Tomlinson.

Died of Wounds

NORMANDY.—Sergt. L. S. G. Morris, A/Sergt. E. A. Palmer, Cpl. W. J. Roullier, Pte. P. J. Gulvin, Pte. T. E. Miles, Pte. K. Paul, Pte. P. H. Richardson.

Previously Reported Wounded Now Reported Died of Wounds

Pte. G. E. Brazear, Pte. C. L. Howard.

Wounded

NORMANDY.—Sergt. A. L. Buckingham, Sergt. F. Dollin, Sergt. F. L. Deering, Sergt. C. J. Cooper, Sergt. F. Chester, Sergt. G. Palmer, Sergt. D. Segal, A/Sergt. F. V. Stevens, L/Sergt. F. Gazzard, L/Sergt. E. G. Mount, L/Sergt. G. H. Claydon, Cpl. E. Yates, Cpl. F. T. Armitage, Cpl. H. J. Turner, Cpl. E. N. Wilcox, L/Cpl. J. Halford, L/Cpl. J. A. Hobbs, L/Cpl. F. G. Dean, L/Cpl. E. W. C. Goodfellow, Pte. K. A. Bray, Pte. W. C. Monkley, Pte. W. Robson, Pte. J. Carter, Pte. A. Everson, Pte. H. D. Kirby, Pte. C. R. Kitchenham, Pte. W. J. Akam, Pte. A. W. H. Arnold, Pte. H. Caird, Pte. M. Cooper, Pte. B. G. W. Fenn, Pte. K. G. Gray, Pte. G. Lewis, Pte. A. McKinley, Pte. J. Noble, Pte. S. G. Salo, Pte. J. Sharp, Pte. L. T. Truss, Pte. H. C. White, Pte. F. F. Byrne, Pte. A. H. Grimshaw, Pte. O. Link, Pte. S. A. Myland, Pte. J. Salik, Pte. P. Wasley, Pte. A. Yates-Southgate, Pte. E. Brooks, Pte. E. J. Feeney, Pte. J. W. Flemming, Pte. J. Hay, Pte. M. Hodge, Pte. J. McArthur, Pte. J. J. Morgan, Pte. J. W. Wilson.

Previously Reported P.O.W. Now Reported Died As Prisoner Of War.

L/Cpl. V. J. F. Linton.

Previously Reported Missing Now Reported Prisoner of War

Pte. A. J. Willis.

Died

No. 6212525 Sergt. T. N. Lyon.

The drawings for the blocks used as column headings in this issue were made by an ex-Sergeant of the Regiment, Mr. A. T. Dickinson, of 49, Ingleway, North Finchley, who was for many years a member of one of our Territorial Battalions. We owe him our thanks for this concrete expression of his continued interest in the Regiment.

THE TOUCH OF TO-MORROW IN THE PLANS OF TODAY

The future starts with your first thought about it, and the future of many ex-Service men was planned on Saturday, 26th August, when an event of singular interest took place.

For what is believed to be the first time all the Battalion Commanders or their Seconds-in-Command of the Home Guard in the whole County of Middlesex were invited to a luncheon at the Savoy given on behalf of the Middlesex Regimental Association to meet the G.O.C., London District, Lieut.-General Sir Charles Loyd, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., and to discuss the problem of placing the ex-Service man in congenial post-war employment, also to celebrate the rebirth of "The Die-Hards" after five years of non-publication.

Not only was every Battalion of the Home Guard, whose members wear the badge of the Middlesex Regiment, represented, but the Deputy Adjutant-General, Major-General the Viscount Bridgeman, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.; the Deputy Director-General of Army Welfare, Brigadier M. C. Morgan, M.C.; the Deputy Director General Home Guard, Brigadier J. A. Longmore, M.B.E., T.D., D.L.; the Home Guard Adviser London District, Brigadier J. Whitehead, C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O.; the North-West London Sub-District Commander, Brigadier A. H. C. Swinton, M.C., and Col. A. M. O. Anwyl-Passingham, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., representing the Middlesex Territorial Association, were there.

Brigadier V. Copland-Griffiths, D.S.O., M.C., the South-West London Sub-District Commander, was unable to be present, but each of the four Sectors concerned were represented either by their Commanders or the Seconds-in-Command. "S" Sector Commander Col. Sir Philip Carlebach, C.M.G., C.B.E., T.D., and "X" Sector Commander Col. P. E. Colman, D.S.O., M.C., were there, and the Seconds-in-Command of "Y" and "T" Sectors, Lieut.-Col. J. S. Crosby, O.B.E., M.C., and Lieut.-Col. F. W. Mackenzie represented their Commanders.

Col. S. A. Wise, O.B.E., H.G., H.A.A., and Capt. I. M. Floor, of the Belgian Army, were also there and the gathering was under the presidency of the Colonel of the Regiment, Col. M. Browne, M.C., D.L.

Everyone present had, instead of the usual place-card, a small booklet entitled "Rehabilitation," with their name on as a means of marking their place at the tables. This booklet struck a very arresting note, as the following quotation from its first two pages will show:

"THIS IS THE TOUCH OF TOMORROW IN THE PLANS OF TODAY—and this small booklet is given to you with a big purpose.

"If you are on any type of war work you are an Industrial Soldier.

"If you have only half-a-dozen people under you on war work you are the Commander of a fighting formation as much as any Field Officer in battle.

"This booklet contains the essentials of a plan for the future and THE FUTURE IS NOW!

"You would not dream of undertaking a new contract without planning in advance, and the FUTURE STARTS WITH YOUR FIRST THOUGHT ABOUT IT.

"It is as much your solemn duty in the future

to help to your utmost the rehabilitation of ex-Service men as it has been your duty in the past, and is still your duty now, to achieve maximum wartime endeavour.

"The Dictionary's definition of REHABILITATION is 'Restoration to former rights,' and surely nothing can be more certain than that the man returning from the Forces deserves his former rights to be restored to him.

"Do you remember two of the Four Freedoms of the Atlantic Charter?

"Freedom from Want. Freedom from Fear.

"Have you ever known the sickness of Fear? Not necessarily the fear of sudden death, but the suffocating, ever-present fear of not being able to provide for wife and children; or the destroying fear of not being in a position to plan for the future because you have no present!

"Do you remember what happened after the last war?

"Do you complacently say, 'That cannot happen again, and if it could it won't happen here?'

"Don't be smug and sit back and say, 'The Government and their officials are there to do this job.' Assist them to achieve this object.

"Are you prepared to back your words and thoughts with the necessary vision and action?"

The booklet went on to outline in draft form the broad principles of "THE MIDDLESEX SCHEME," which can be summarised as follows:

(1) To encourage members of the Home Guard, who are in all branches of trade, industry, commerce and the professions (and in whose ranks even many privates are employers of staff), to realise the importance of the rehabilitation of the serving man, and to use their best endeavours in every way to obtain congenial work within the County of Middlesex for (a) returning soldiers of the Middlesex Regiment, and (b) ex-Service men who are Middlesex men by domicile.

(2) All employers within the County will be approached with a view to their compiling a list of vacant positions that would be suitable, and/or the number and type of vacancies they are prepared to make in their organisation. The Home Guard Battalions in the County form a ready-made organisation for the compilation of this list, details of which would be sent to the County Territorial Association, who would consolidate the lists and forward a County List to the Ministry of Labour, thus giving the Ministry advance information and co-operation.

(3) It will also be the duty of the County Regimental Association to stimulate among the potential employers within the County and the Home Guard the goodwill, tolerance and general assistance that is so vitally necessary over that most difficult period when the returning Service man has to settle down to a new life.

"REHABILITATION" and the re-birth of "THE DIE-HARDS," together with its affiliation with the Home Guard, was conceived by Lieut.-Col. F. Baden-Powell Weil, and the booklet was written by Capt. G. E. Moore, of the 24th Middlesex Battalion Home Guard, who is also acting as Editor of this Journal.

Lieut.-Col. F. B.-P. Weil has a very special three-fold interest and qualification which enables him, better than most people, to create a rehabilitation scheme.

Firstly, he is the Managing Director of a group of organisations which employ a total of more than 3,000 people in and near Middlesex.

Secondly, he has for four years been a Battalion Commander in the Middlesex Home Guard.

And, thirdly, he has been since the early days of the war, an Army Welfare Officer in the County of Middlesex, and as such has dealt with and handled three thousand cases within the County.

So, he has first-hand knowledge of all sides of the question and strong personal contacts with each party to the problem.

The Colonel of the Regiment, COL. M. BROWNE, M.C., when introducing the guest of honour, Lieut.-General Sir Charles Loyd, said: "First of all I would like, on behalf of us all, to thank Col. Weil and his partner, Capt. Floor, for the arranging of this very fine luncheon. It was Col. Weil's idea to bring us together in this way so that we might discuss plans for the reception of our boys who will be coming back from the various fronts. And it has been arranged at no expense to the Middlesex Regimental Association. For that we owe our thanks to Col. Weil.

"Secondly, I would like to say a word to those officers of the Home Guard who are with us today.

"As you know, I have been trying for some time past to have the Home Guard of Middlesex accepted as part of the Middlesex Regiment, but, unfortunately, the War Office have not been able to agree. Nevertheless, although we can't call you members of the Regiment, wearing the badge of the Middlesex we look upon you as belonging to us.

"During the past year our chief aim has been to improve the touch between the County and the Regiment, and in that you of the Home Guard have been very helpful. The Middlesex Regimental Association is becoming known partly through the Home Guard.

"With so large a proportion of our Regiment serving overseas we have been unable to help as much as we would have liked, but I can assure you that all that can be done will be done.

"Thanks to Col. Weil it has now become possible to reissue "The Die-Hards," the Regimental Journal, which ceased publication on the outbreak of war, and with Col. Weil's support and Capt. Moore, his Personal Assistant, as Editor, we hope in the future to knit the Regimental, Territorial, Welfare and Cadet Forces together and spread the existence and achievements of the Middlesex Regimental Association more widely throughout the County.

"Then there is the matter of our responsibilities for the men of our Regiment, who will be returning from the battle fronts. By that, I do not mean that they will be returning tomorrow or even within the next few months. First there are the Germans to settle and then the Japanese. Indeed, I cannot see any of the boys of my Regiment returning until the Japs have been finished with. But sooner or later the time will come when they will be discharged and work must be found for all. And that is where you employers of labour among us can help.

"The soldier of today is not like the soldier of 1914, untrained in modern things. Warfare today is a mechanical thing and a large percentage of the returning men will be highly skilled craftsmen in many spheres of civilian employment. It is up to you and your colleagues to see that they get the chance of that employment.

"For my own part I can only say that we can't repay even a hundredth part of what we owe to them—the British soldier.

"It is now my happy duty and privilege to introduce to you the G.O.C. London District, Lieut.-General Sir Charles Loyd, who will speak to us."

In the course of his speech, SIR CHARLES said: "... The next question is a most important one—the employment of the returning soldier. The scourge of unemployment on a large scale must never happen again. What I want to see is total employment, not total unemployment. In this the Association can help by assuring among its members who are employers of labour that work is found for these men, who have fought so gallantly and magnificently for their country. With this in mind, therefore, I hope that all employers of labour here today will rise to the occasion and see that everyone of the magnificent fighting men who will be returning will find employment and good homes as well, for it is indeed a pleasure to do anything for the British soldier."

MAJOR-GENERAL LORD BRIDGEMAN said: "I would like to say three things. First I would like to thank Col. Weil for the very excellent lunch which he has arranged for us here today. "Secondly, after three-and-a-half years' association with the Home Guard I would like to tell you how very much pleasure it gives me to see you all again, with your sleeves up and ready for the task as usual.

Thirdly, I should also like you to know that when I see the Adjutant-General I shall certainly tell him of the enthusiasm and work you are putting into such a good cause, and I can assure you that you will find him generous in his support.

"The problem of rehabilitation is one which cannot be dealt with too soon or too thoroughly. The Army in peacetime depends upon the treatment of those who came back in time of war, how well they are looked after and placed in employment. A good Regiment looks after its own soldiers. When they do that their reputation will make recruiting easy. That is where the value of the Middlesex Scheme comes in, both from the point of view of the returning soldier and the country of the future.

"But the handling of such returning soldiers is a problem and a very special one at that. "Nine years as Chairman of the Employment Committee has particularly impressed upon me two aspects of the problem which have not been touched upon today.

"One is the importance of dealing as individuals with the types who need our help most—the regular soldier with no training for civilian life, the Prisoner of War and the disablement case.

"The second is training. Modern employment is of a high standard and such men must be handled carefully if they are to take their place with the other competitors in that world. I hope, therefore, that any rehabilitation scheme will involve some form of professional training which will help to fill the gap that war has made in the soldier's life and enable him to return to a normal and successful life as soon as possible.

"To that end I wish you of the Middlesex Scheme every success, both in the preparations for rehabilitation and in the re-introduction of the old 'Die-Hards.'"

BRIGADIER SWINTON then spoke and commended the Scheme from the point of view of the Home Guards' participation in it:

"I have been asked to speak in support of the 'Die-Hards' on behalf of the Home Guard. As regards the 'Die-Hards,' as someone who has assisted with the Brigade of Guards Magazine for the past twenty years, I can only extend to Capt. Moore my sincere sympathy for the task he has taken on. But I know that, together with our host, Col. Weil, he will ensure that its success will never be in doubt.

"As regards the rehabilitation scheme, to those of us who have not had the good fortune to play a part in the fighting overseas, it is a grand opportunity to do something for the gallant boys who have borne the brunt of the battle, and particularly the boys of the Middlesex Regiment.

"After the peace millions of Service men will be returning to their homes, expecting to find jobs waiting and open for them. Many of them will have been hearing of the high wages earned by their brothers, sisters, wives or fathers during the war years, and return expecting the same standard. It is up to us to see that, as far as possible, they get those jobs and standards. If the jobs are not there we can make them.

We might even send the £15 a week people of the past five years out to look after Germany—led by the Home Guard—while the boys come home to carry on here.

The returning soldier is a most difficult man. There is something in military training which unfits a man for civilian life. The returned fighting man will need careful handling and patience on the part of the employer. He must be given just as much responsibility as he is accustomed to, no more and no less.

"But, above all, he must be given the training that will enable him to feel the confidence in himself that is essential to speedy rehabilitation and a fresh start in the world he knew before 1939."

COL. ANWYL-PASSINGHAM supported the scheme wholeheartedly on behalf of the Territorial Association:

"I would like first of all to pay tribute to the grand idea of Col. Weil in bringing us together in this way today for such a magnificent cause. And I can assure you that we of the Middlesex Territorial Association would like to co-operate with you not only in the revival of your Magazine 'The Die-Hards,' but also in the rehabilitation and employment of returning Middlesex men in the Army.

"I would, indeed, like to see bureaux established all over the country, so that Middlesex men wherever they may be would be assured of every assistance and support in their every effort to re-fit themselves for civilian life.

"I have, in fact, been told that it is the intention to extend the scheme even further than it has gone at the moment and that such bureaux will eventually be established. In that I can only assure Col. Weil of our every possible support.

"I will be seeing the Lord Lieutenant of the County, Lord Rochdale, shortly, and I shall certainly mention to him the very fine work you have been doing on behalf of such a magnificent cause. I have already spoken to him about it, and you not only have his approval, but he has also given you his blessing in the work.

"We should indeed be very grateful to both

Col. F. B. P. Weil and Capt. G. E. Moore for their part also in the revival of 'The Die-Hards,' which will, no doubt, be invaluable in the binding of all Middlesex men together and in the furthering of the rehabilitation scheme.

"About the Home Guard, I can only say how proud I am that they are along with us today. No one can under-estimate the wonderful part they have played in the Allied victory of the very near future. What their fate will be after the war no one can say at the moment. But overtures are already afoot which will, I hope, allow them to carry on as today, and I have no doubt that the part they could play in the placing, training and assisting of men returning from the battlefields would be no mean one, but in every way comparable with the services they have rendered to the country over the past five years of trial and triumph."

Then LIEUT.-COL. WEIL spoke on "The Middlesex Scheme," and said: "I merely wanted to arrange this lunch because the news today is so heartening, and I thought it would be a good idea if we could get together to further the prospects of rehabilitation. For much of the work I am indebted to my friend and co-partner Capt. Floor, of the Belgian Army, who is, nevertheless, ninety per cent. an Englishman. He was educated here and lived here for many years. I won't tell you much more about him, for I know that it would only embarrass him.

"Another thing was that we believed this lunch would be a good send-off for 'The Die-Hards,' which is to be re-issued shortly under the editorship of Capt. Moore. Eighty per cent. of the advertising has already been arranged, but there is still room for more, and I hope that those of you who can help will do so.

"The profits will go to ameliorate conditions of the Prisoners of War, particularly in the East, where there are so many men of the Middlesex Regiment.

"About rehabilitation, it is easy to say 'the Government is going to do this and the Government is going to do that,' but we must also do our share by keeping the men, even the lowest soldier, in the picture. I know the Government will do the right thing, but there is one little criticism I should like to make, and that is that the British public could be kept in the picture just a little more, particularly in the matter of policy.

"I know the Government will do its part, but it is up to us to play our parts also.

"These men returning from the Fronts must be treated with tolerance and kindness. They must get back into business as soon as possible. They must be given a break. That is where we come in. We must prepare the ground so that when the Government policy on rehabilitation is announced—and I can tell you that it will be announced very shortly—we will be ready.

"We of the Middlesex Regiment and the Home Guard who are employers can find work for these men. If we can't find it we must make it. We must never be content with merely filling vacancies from their ranks, we must try to make vacancies—to squeeze the extra one in.

"We must give them a chance. Not only for six months—that is of no value at all—but for years, even if it means returning a dividend of twelve per cent. instead of the usual eighteen. In the end the reaction of the men to whom we owe so much

will be the real dividend—both for you and for them.

"And with that, and every good wish for the success of the new 'Die-Hard,' I thank you, my Lord, Officers and Gentlemen."

CAPT. I. M. FLOOR was prevailed upon to speak and said: "I feel that it is rather an impertinence that I, a junior officer, should address so distinguished a gathering of my seniors, but as a Belgian I feel that I have the right to tell you how much I admire the idea of Officers realising that their responsibilities towards their men do not end with war, but continue after, and how glad I am that soldiers who have done so magnificently have Officers who worry so about their welfare.

"Here, in Britain, the task is easier than in my own country, where you have the case of a people forced abroad on work against their pro-nationalist feelings. But I shall, with your permission, report to the Belgian authorities the efforts you are making for your men, while most people are thinking only of victory and not of afterwards.

"That, my Lord, Officers and Gentlemen, is all I have to say."

All this is only the beginning, and there is much more to do, but it is a beginning well made. With such co-operation as was promised at the meeting, "The Middlesex Scheme" cannot fail.

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

It is with feelings of pride that we record the following details of Decorations and Awards conferred during this war upon past and present members of the Regiment and we send our sincere congratulations to all the recipients.

From the beginning of the war up to the end of April, 1944, the Regiment has received the following Awards and Commendations:

D.S.O. 3, O.B.E. 2, M.B.E. 9, M.C. 17, D.C.M. 6, M.M. 20, B.E.M. 4, Mentions in Despatches 17, and Commanders' Certificates for Good Service 17.

Awards of the 1939-43 Star and the African Star are too numerous to be detailed here.

These details, together with what follows, constitutes by no means a complete list, but is as up-to-date as war-time records will allow.

FOREIGN DECORATIONS

His Majesty the King has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the following Decoration which has been conferred by the King of the Hellenes for distinguished services in the cause of the Allies.

Commander of the Order of King George I

Lieut.-General B. G. Horrocks, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., late Middlesex Regiment.

On the same occasion Field-Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, late Royal Warwickshire Regiment, and late Divisional Commander of the 3rd Division with whom the Regiment fought in France in 1940, was made a **Grand Commander** of the same Order.

BRITISH DECORATIONS

Commander of the British Empire

Brigadier N. P. Proctor, M.C.

Order of the British Empire

Major A. W. Clarke, O.C.R.D.P.

Member of the British Empire

Capt. F. W. Gilbert, R.S.M. A. F. Wright, C.Q.M.S. A. Vitel, Q.M.S. J. Wright.

Distinguished Service Order

Lieut.-Col. J. W. A. Stephenson.

Military Cross

Lieut.-Col. G. M. be B. Monk, Major R. W. D. Sword, Major R. E. Robotham, Major M. E. Pearson, Capt. A. G. Howitt, Capt. G. Jenkins, Capt. V. A. Thomas, Capt. H. N. Wigan, Lieut. H. J. Dawson, Lieut. J. P. Cross, Lieut. A. F. D. Shelley, Lieut. K. R. Pickard.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

Sergt. H. Weldon, L/Cpl. H. Sleeth, Pte. P. J. Crowhurst.

Military Medal

Sergt. F. W. Addison, Sergt. W. R. Calland, Sergt. H. Nevill, Sergt. K. Lambourn, Sergt. A. H. Fisher, L/Sergt. V. Busolini, Cpl. F. Ashton, Cpl. J. V. E. Avery, Cpl. F. Dean, Cpl. L. Wiltshire, Pte. E. Dickson, Pte. H. Rivett, Pte. W. E. Eccles, Pte. J. G. Roskilly, Pte. T. W. Latham.

British Empire Medal

Cpl. W. Jacobson.

Certificate for Meritorious Service

Sergt. R. McNeill (O.R.C.).

Certificate of Good Service

C.S.M. R. Handman, C.Q.M.S. W. Christie.

In the operations in NORMANDY the Commander-in-Chief has approved the following Immediate Awards for gallantry:

Military Cross.—Major H. B. Neve.

Distinguished Conduct Medal.—Sergt. E. G. Rawlings.

Bar to the Military Medal.—L/Sergt. W. G. Davis, M.M.

We have been asked to notify our readers that H.M. Commissioners of the Queen Victoria School for the sons of Scottish Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen, Dunblane, Perthshire, have a Fund at their disposal available to aid financially pupils of the School who have recently obtained, or are undergoing, training to qualify them to obtain, Commissions in the Royal Navy, the Army, or the Royal Air Force. Former pupils desirous of availing themselves of the benefit of this Fund should apply, in writing, for an Application Form to the Hon. Treasurer, Lieut.-Col. C. L. Addison-Smith, C.B.E., W.S., at 19 Heriot Row, Edinburgh.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NOTES

The Colonel of the Regiment has supplied the following notes of the Association's activities for the six months January to June, 1944:—

The undermentioned are subscriptions received from Units, etc., for the Middlesex Regimental Association during past six months January to June, 1944, for Special Aid Account including Regimental P.O.W. Fund, exclusive of subscriptions from individuals:

Unit, etc.	P.O.W. Fund		Special Aid Account	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Middlesex and Kensington Battalions	706	14 4	12	18 10
R.D.P. Middlesex Regiment	8	2 6		
2nd Middlesex H.G., "A"				
Company	20	2 6		
16th Middlesex H.G.	52	10 0		
21st Middlesex H.G.	60	0 0		
24th M.G.T.C.			2	0 0
Middlesex Sunday Entertainments Committee			200	0 0
R.E. Services, Bittacy Farm	3	1 0		
Old Comrades L.G.O. (Romford)	2	0 0		
Elstree Rural District Youth Club	2	2 0		
189 A.A. "Z" Battery, H.G.	5	0 0		
Highgate White Elephant Shop	145	0 0		
Oakwood Senior School	1	1 0		
Roe Green School	19	0 0		
Dollis Hill School	1	0 0		
Keystone Mills	8	8 0		
Philip Flooring Company	4	4 0		
D.I. Players, A.R.P. Services, Finchley	100	0 0		

The following subscriptions have been paid into the Main Association Account apart from individuals:

	£	s. d.
Middlesex Battalions	232	0 9
No. 1 Ind. Company, Middlesex Regiment	2	2 0

The subscription of £182 from one Middlesex Battalion is a very remarkable feat, as this Unit was serving overseas at the time, and it is inspiring that men in the heat of battle and facing death should remember their colleagues in distress at home and act in so generous a manner.

EXPENDITURE FROM P.O.W. FUND AND SPECIAL AID ACCOUNT

Seventy separate cases have received aid from the Middlesex Regimental Association funds during the period, involving expenditure of £287 from Regimental Association Funds, and £54. 5s. od. from The Renny Fund.

Ninety-four parcels have been sent to Prisoners of War at our expense during the period at a cost of £1. 10s. to £2 per parcel.

Six parcels of cigarettes, each containing 200 cigarettes, have been sent to each individual prisoner of war at a cost of £109. 3s. 6d.

Donations amounting to £50 have been made to Red Cross P.O.W. Funds, and £15 to Hong Kong Fellowship Society. A sum of £25. 14s. 8d. has been expended on giving a party to the next of kin and their children of our 1st Battalion Middlesex

prisoners of war in Far East on Saturday, 22nd April, 1944. £5. 15s. has been expended on purchase of wreaths for Regimental Association.

Pocket money has been provided for our Chelsea pensioners.

The Chairman of the Middlesex Regimental Association, owing to the present uncertainty about financial restrictions on private incomes, has decided to suspend the proposed Covenant Scheme for subscriptions to Regimental Association funds until after the conclusion of the present war.

THE MIDDLESEX WERE THERE 17.11.44

One of the proudest boasts of our Regiment—formations of which are still in Italy—is that it has been the only English Battalion in the famous 51st Highland Division.

At the end of a particularly fierce action in the EL ALAMEIN battle, the O.C. of a Black Watch Battalion flashed this message to the Middlesex C.O.:

"Thank God for the Middlesex. If it hadn't been for you I don't know what would have happened."

During our Regiment's fighting in Italy as a Battalion in a Division on the right of our line on the old beach-head, it played its part in the British advance during the last days of May, sweeping up the ALBANO road before the end of the month, past CARRACETO to the west of CAMPOLEONE. Fighting on the flank of American troops, the Middlesex did fine work as machine gunners and as infantrymen firing heavy mortars.

The first rounds were fired on the ANZIO coastal strip early on the morning of 22nd January, but no part of the Regiment was heavily committed until the 26th during the advance of the Guards to CARRACETO. During one of the extremely heavy counter-attacks Corpl. (now Sergt.) V. Busolini, who was in a sorely pressed Machine-gun Company, showed great gallantry and skill in holding off the enemy and was the first member of the Battalion to be given a decoration for his conduct in action. He was given an immediate award of the Military Medal.

After the fall of CARRACETO some of the Regiment's Mortars supported a Brigade advance towards CAMPOLEONE. The progress of the Brigade was eventually halted on the line of the railway running east and west of CAMPOLEONE. The Hun was firmly established and able to bring up reinforcements. The Brigade was stretched out for some five miles along the ANZIO-ROME road with highly vulnerable flanks. At one stage, Brigade Headquarters was established in some open ground, adjoining the road, with a Company H.Q. of the Regiment close to it.

The Company Commander saw several enemy tanks barely a thousand yards away, with the crews standing beside them. On the night of 3rd/4th February, the expected enemy attack came in, preceded by a violent Artillery and Mortar barrage. In order to strengthen the line, Machine-guns and Mortars of the Regiment were deployed forward, and many of their positions were knocked out by intense fire before they were able to engage the enemy.

The attack came in frontally and from both flanks. Major A. T. Jones was captured, but managed to escape after some hours of captivity. He rejoined another infantry unit and manned a machine-gun with great skill. The Major's escape was largely due to his runner, who joined forces with him in flinging grenades at the enemy. The runner, Pte. W. Smith, was last seen charging towards the Hun firing his tommy-gun.

Many enemy attacks failed to materialise owing to the cool and accurate fire control exercised by Lieut. K. R. Pickard. Regardless of his own personal safety, he directed fire from a very exposed position for a considerable period. He was rewarded with an immediate Military Cross, later receiving wounds from which he eventually died.

One Machine-gun Platoon held its ground, isolated and in an exposed position, for 24 hours, during which time it was subjected to heavy fire of all kinds. A Corporal in this Platoon continued to engage the enemy with his rifle when his machine-gun ammunition was exhausted.

Eventually, when all the Platoon ammunition was gone, and the Platoon strength reduced to nine, the Platoon Commander decided to withdraw. For their conduct during this action Lieut. E. S. Mortimer was awarded the M.C. and Cpl. F. Ashton the M.M.

During the French Campaign in 1940 the Regiment was represented by four Battalions, one of which fought in the 3rd Division then commanded by Field-Marshal Montgomery. From LOUVAIN to DUNKIRK they were used as a rearguard and were in constant touch with the enemy. On the Belgian frontier the Battalion had for a while to hold four miles of front unsupported by other infantry. Later they held the NIEUPORT CANAL—part of the perimeter defences of DUNKIRK—while most of our troops were evacuated.

It has recently been revealed that our Regiment arrived in Normandy within a short time of the assault on the shores of France. Its formation, with which it is serving as a machine-gun unit, soon distinguished itself by capturing bridges at BENOUVILLE on the 10th June.

Taking part in a great deal of hard fighting on the flank of the 6th Airborne Division, it was engaged repelling enemy counter-attacks east of the ORNE from the 12th June onwards.

Elements of this Division captured ST. HONORINE LA CHARDONNETTE on the 13th June, and ten days later were engaged in much savage fighting in this area when they crushed a counter-attack at the cost to the enemy of 15 tanks.

Our formations played their part in several fierce actions near ST. HONORINE, and also in frustrating enemy attempts to infiltrate in the ESCOVILLE area.

Elements of their division were engaged near COLOMBELLES, on the CAEN CANAL and barely two miles east of CAEN itself, during the second week of July.

The representatives of our Regiment share in their formation credit for the cutting of the road between CAUBORG and CAEN, and for the creation and enlargement of an important salient which menaced the approaches of TROARN, which the most determined attacks the Germans were able to throw in could not reduce.

CADET FORCE NOTES

There are now in Middlesex eight Cadet Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment and the 61st A.A. (Middlesex) Cadet Regiment R.A., representing a total strength of some six thousand. The force is under the Command of General Sir Guy Williams, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., the County Commandant, and the Headquarters are at 18, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

Since March last year, the main efforts have been directed towards recruiting, and raising the standard of bearing, turn-out and efficiency. Certain Units, notably the Gunners and the 5th and 7th Cadet Battalions, have achieved considerable increase in strength; it is to be hoped that the efforts of the others will be crowned with equal success during this autumn when a further intensified recruiting drive will be opened.

All Units are now making good progress with technical and specialised training on the lines recently laid down by the War Office. In addition to I.C. Engine Training, which is being carried out by all Battalions, several Units have now formed Signals Platoons, and as equipment becomes available, more of them will be formed. A great deal of salvaged I.C. Engine equipment for instructional purposes has been provided by the War Office, and courses have been running for some time under R.E.M.E. and certain technical Colleges. Many Cadets have also been giving valuable assistance to Ordnance Depots in loading equipment, cleaning and servicing motor transport and guns for overseas.

Headquarters are now concerned to a large degree with post-war plans. If the Army Cadet Force is to continue after the war, there will have to be greater inducements to boys between 14 and 16½ years to join and to foster their interest than qualification in Certificate "A" and the prospects its possession affords, of recognition and better chances of promotion on joining the Army. The needs for adequate permanent accommodation, provision of social club facilities and permanent staff instructors are essential; ways and means of obtaining these are being explored in anticipation of the necessary financial support being forthcoming from the War Office in due course, where these problems are also receiving sympathetic consideration.

This article in the Army Cadet Force column of "The Die Hards" has been purely to introduce "The Junior Die-Hards" or the Middlesex Army Cadets to all readers of the Journal of our parent Regiment. In future issues we shall include as much descriptive matter on the activities of the various Cadets Units as space will permit. Meantime we wish "Good Luck" to all members of the Regiment wherever they may be serving, from all ranks of THE MIDDLESEX ARMY CADET FORCE.

WHAT WELFARE MEANS IN MIDDLESEX

By COLONEL A. M. O. ANWYL-PASSINGHAM,
C.B.E., D.L., J.P.,
County Welfare Officer

I am particularly glad to have this opportunity of writing a few words on the activities of Army Welfare in the County as I have, for a long time, been anxious to bring to the notice of the County and the Regiment the excellent and untiring efforts of the County Welfare Officers who devote their time and energy unstintingly to such good purposes, and I have no hesitation in saying that a more enthusiastic and capable band of workers could not be found throughout the country.

In order that the "layman" may understand how Welfare operates in the County and what it means, the following is a brief resumé of the Organisation.

Soon after the outbreak of war the County T.A. Association formed a Comforts Committee for the purpose of providing comforts for the Regular Middlesex Battalions and the Territorial Army Units raised and administered by the Association. This Committee, under the chairmanship of the Chairman of the County T.A. Association (Colonel Sir Edwin King), has, during the period of the war, provided nearly 200,000 woollen garments and innumerable amenities, not only to Middlesex Units, but to the considerable number of troops that have been stationed in the County from time to time. In this connection I must refer to the great services rendered by the late Colonel Sir Howard Button. Sir Howard became the Treasurer and, I might say, Managing Director, and was largely responsible for the great success of the organisation. I should also like to mention Mrs. Brinley-Richards, to whom we are most grateful for the splendid services she has rendered as Organising Secretary and as Organiser of the County Flag Day. I cannot leave out Colonel Walters, to whom we are greatly indebted for all he has done, and is doing, as Appeals Secretary.

The official War Office Welfare Scheme on which the present organisation is based did not materialise until some few months later and provided for a County Welfare Committee, a County Welfare Officer and a number of local Welfare Officers.

The County Welfare Committee was formed without any delay and Colonel Sir Edwin King was appointed Chairman. The original Comforts Committee has recently been merged into the Welfare Committee, the Joint Committee being designated "The Middlesex Welfare and Comforts Committee," under the chairmanship of Colonel Sir Edwin King.

Simultaneously with the formation of the County Welfare Committee, the County Welfare Officer and eight local Welfare Officers were appointed, six of whom, I am glad to say, are still serving. With the progress of the war and consequent disruption of family life, the number of local Welfare Officers has been increased in order to cope with the great volume of work, and we now have a complete organisation to deal with all the various aspects of Welfare, i.e. comforts, amenities, family and domestic cases, canteens, entertainments, horticulture, etc. The details of the organisation are given in the next column:

Army Welfare Branch (Middlesex)

County Welfare Officer:
COLONEL A. M. O. ANWYL-PASSINGHAM,
C.B.E., D.L., J.P.
Assistant County Welfare Officers:
MAJOR W. W. BURTON, D.L.
MAJOR A. W. COOPER, D.L.

Headquarters Staff:

Canteens ... COLONEL R. R. KIMMITT,
O.B.E., D.L.
Entertainments ... CAPT. J. R. SLAMON.
Horticulture ... MR. G. W. PYMAN.
Hospitals ... JNR. CDR. LADY KING,
A.T.S.
A.T.S. and W.A.A.F. JNR. CDR. K. M. CROSSE,
A.T.S.

Army Welfare Officers:

LT.-COL. A. B. WALTERS	} Staines, Ashford, Shepperton, Hampton.
CAPT. CRANE	
COL. R. G. WHITMAN, T.D.	} Chiswick, Whitton, Brentford, Twickenham
COL. SIR JOHN PERRING, D.L., J.P.	
CAPT. MELLUISH CAPT. J. O. WINSLEY	} Heston, Hounslow, Isleworth.
LT.-COL. F. W. MACKENZIE	
CAPT. WISE CAPT. CLARIDGE	} Harrow, Pinner, Hatch End.
LT.-COL. BADEN-POWELL WEIL	
MAJOR C. ASERMAN, M.C.	} Wembley Wealdstone, Stanmore, Harrow Weald.
COL. G. BEACH, C.B., O.B.E., T.D., D.L., J.P.	
LT.-COL. J. HUGH-JONES	} Finchley, Friern Barnet, Highgate, Hendon, Willesden.
MAJOR W. SCHONFIELD T.D.	
MAJOR LONG CAPT. ALEXANDER	} Hornsey, Tottenham, Potters Bar, Southgate, Edmonton, Wood Green
LT.-COL. WILSON, M.B.E.	
CAPT. BUTTON	} Hillingdon, Uxbridge, Swakeleys.
CAPT. BELSHAW CAPT. G. C. BARNETT	
	} Ealing, Hanwell, South Greenford, Southall.

County Organisations Connected with Army Welfare Branch

MIDDLESEX TERRITORIAL ARMY ASSOCIATION
Headquarters: 20, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.
Chairman:
COLONEL SIR EDWIN KING, K.C.B., C.M.G., T.D.,
D.L., J.P.
Secretary:
COLONEL A. M. O. ANWYL-PASSINGHAM, C.B.E.,
D.L., J.P.

Middlesex Welfare and Comforts Committee

Headquarters, 18, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1
Chairman:
COLONEL SIR EDWIN KING, K.C.B., C.M.G., T.D.,
D.L., J.P.

Secretary, Joint Committee: CAPT. M. WISE
Secretary, Executive Committee:
MRS. D. R. BRINLEY-RICHARDS

It will be observed that under the County Welfare Officer there are certain Officers with particularised duties covering the whole County, i.e. canteen, entertainments, horticulture, hospitals and A.T.S., and the remaining Welfare Officers have a definite area in the County for which they are responsible. It is on these Officers that the bulk of the work descends, and their duties are continually increasing with the lengthening of the war. Their most important work now is in connection with the family and domestic worries of serving personnel, and I give below a few facts and figures of this important aspect of the Welfare Officers' work.

On receipt of enquiry from serving personnel, Welfare Officers visit the homes of soldiers and do all possible to assist the relatives in their various troubles.

If, during the period of separation, soldier and wife become estranged or some misunderstanding arises, the Welfare Officers do all in their power to effect a reconciliation.

Help is also given to wives who, during confinement or in case of illness, have other small children to be cared for.

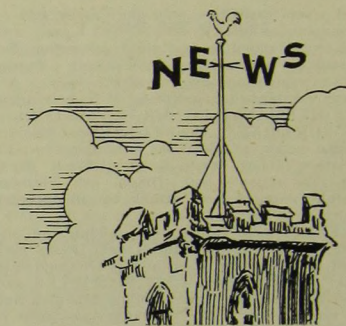
Although it is a very difficult problem at the present time, Welfare Officers do their utmost to find accommodation for those who urgently require it.

The approximate number of cases dealt with during a year is 2,500 and, from this figure and the above facts, it will be observed that the Welfare Officers' work not only varies but also requires a great deal of tact and a large amount of hard work.

The many other duties that fall to the lot of the Welfare Officers include the air-raid enquiry scheme, maintaining contact with all units within the area, co-ordination of effort of all local organisations formed for the benefit of Army Welfare and the tactful dealing with innumerable and varied problems put to them by either the serving soldier or his dependants. Every effort is always made to ensure that the serving soldier is relieved of as much home worry as possible and I can say, in all sincerity, that the Army Welfare Branch in Middlesex has played no small part to this end.

The work of Welfare Officers is entirely voluntary, and they will doubtless be called upon still further with the coming of peace to assist in the straightening out of the many difficulties that are bound to arise through the disruption of family life over a number of years.

I feel I must say a word of thanks to the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Families' Association and the various local committees in the County, also to other voluntary organisations, such as the W.V.S., the Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Help Society, and to all those who are acting as assistants to the local Welfare Officers, for their unfailing support and co-operation in this national work. It has been a source of great satisfaction to me, as County Welfare Officer, to have so many willing helpers animated by the one desire to serve, and it is entirely due to the concerted efforts of all concerned that it has been possible to make a substantial contribution in Middlesex to the Welfare of serving personnel now scattered over the world, and the wives and families of those soldiers whose homes are in Middlesex.



FROM SOME OF THE BATTALIONS

Home.—Our Independent Companies have been busy helping to repair fly-bomb damaged homes, and to prepare some of the beaches for use by civilians.

The — (M.G.) O.C.T.U. is responsible for training Officers for the Machine Gun Regiments, and up to the time of going to Press a satisfactory number of Officer Cadets have been commissioned and appointed to the Regiment.

The O.C.T.U. was very fortunate in having a two-day visit by Lieut-General B. G. Horrocks, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., just before he left for France. They are also fortunate in having Major H. S. Emery, M.C., as the District Welfare Officer, who does more than enough in the interest of the Unit and All Ranks are grateful for his help.

The following members of the Regiment are on the Staff:

Lieut.-Col. E. C. K. Sadler	Commandant
Major D. G. Paterson	Company Commander
Major L. A. Carvosso	Company Commander
Capt. P. E. Greville	Asst. Chief Instructor
Capt. I. D. McLean	Instructor
6769309 Sergt. Stebbing, E.	"
6584906 Sergt. Stone, J.	"
6207601 Sergt. Hacon, D.	"
6208164 Sergt. Weston, E.	"
6206171 Sergt. Feaver, S.	"
6215058 Sergt. Hill, H.	"
6206735 Sergt. Gray, S.	"
6211551 Sergt. Williams, R.	"
6206297 Cpl. Girdler, D.	"
14261685 Cpl. Cooke, C.	"
3518573 Pte. Dimelow, H.	Batman
6216943 Pte. Heath, G.	G.D. Man.

Abroad.—One of our Battalions embarked on a L.C.T. about 10.00 hrs. on 3rd June and two Companies embarked later in the morning. On account of a strong wind the move across was delayed for 24 hours and the men disembarked on the 4th June and had baths in the Naval Quarters. On the 5th June the convoy moved out and lay off the port until soon after 12 noon, when it sailed for FRANCE. On landing on 6th June "A" Company came under heavy Artillery and Mortar fire and suffered casualties. No. 1 Platoon gave assistance to a Royal Marine Commando and the Platoon Commander, Lieut. Betts, was wounded. To the left, No. 3 Platoon, under Lieut. Milne, came under heavy fire from an anti-tank gun and

suffered severe casualties, only one Carrier and 11 men escaping unhurt. Next "C" Company and two Platoons landed to find great congestion, but soon transport was able to move inland. During the late afternoon and evening of 6th June, "A" Company established a defensive M.G. belt along the line HERMANVILLE-SUR-MER to COLLEVILLE-SUR-ORNE. One Platoon of mortars went into action at Battalion Headquarters and one Platoon about one mile on the left flank. During this action Lieut. Dixon, 9th Platoon, successfully supported an attack by an Infantry Company on a four-gun battery in the PERIER-SUR-LE-DAN area which was holding up the advance. Sergt. Rawling and Lieut. Dixon were both hit and the latter died later of shrapnel head wounds. This Platoon reached BIENVILLE and engaged a hostile M.G. post, killing ten men and taking one prisoner. No. 8 Platoon remained in position on the main road all night and was heavily shelled.

The Battalion has been thoroughly acclimatised to battle and all ranks have learnt the value of digging; there is no need now to encourage the men to do so, it is done automatically! The 4.2 mortar has proved itself an accurate weapon and all prisoners testify to their loathing of it.

During July two major offensive operations were carried out by the Division to which the Battalion belongs, the first being the capture of CAEN, divided into three phases: Phase One, the capture of LEBISEY; Phase Two, the capture of HEROUVILLE; and Phase Three, the occupation of CAEN; and the second operation was an attack on TOUFFREVILLE, SANNERVILLE and an advance to positions west of TROARN. In all these operations the Battalion played a prominent part, and in addition the M.G. Companies and Mortar Companies perpetually carried out harassing and counter Mortar shoots when the Division was in a defensive role. One of the interesting developments has been our use of captured German Panzerwerfer, which has attracted a lot of attention to the Battalion, both on our side and the enemy's.

In a letter dated 12th August, 1944, Lieut. General B. G. Horrocks, a distinguished Corps Commander of our Regiment in France, writes to say: "Things are going well out here, but the Boche is still fighting hard. We are hitting him all the time and never let up. The signs are that he may crack in the near future."

His prophecy has come true. To what degree it has come true can be evidenced from General Horrocks's words when on 7th September he spoke in Brussels at the end of a spectacular dash from the SEINE—206 miles in six days against steady opposition. He pointed out that the drive to BRUSSELS was not a push round the flanks, but a steady drive against defended villages ahead. The key-point of the advance came when the armoured columns which had already advanced 25 miles to the BEAUVAIS area, were ordered to push on all night for AMIENS. The tanks covered the additional 43 miles during the night and captured the Amiens bridges intact by the first light.

They used the same tactics as in their advances in the desert, and covered the 40 miles in the day, leaving their flanks open.

The advance began with the capture of MONT

PINCON in NORMANDY. It was captured in 24 hours' heavy fighting by tanks and infantry.

"A little classic" was his description of the crossing of the SEINE at VERNON. The entire British Corps was moved across the American lines of communication at the same time as our Allies were pulling back.

At 6.30 p.m. on 26th August all available Artillery and Mortars suddenly laid down a barrage, and the Infantry began crossing the Seine. All the armour for the push to BRUSSELS moved east across the SEINE and was ordered to start the push from a position which General Horrocks described as untidy. "We had to keep the Boche going, and it wasn't the time for tidiness," he said. By 30th August the main armour was up and the fast push to the east began.

"They were magnificent," General Horrocks said of his men. "When we bumped into opposition the tanks got behind it and the Infantry followed up."

The Germans so trapped between the British and the coast were estimated at 200,000.

TRIBUTES FROM THE FIELD

Certain Battalions of the Regiment have been serving in various theatres of operations since the beginning of the war. Owing to restrictions imposed by "Security" we are not allowed to mention these Battalions by their recognisable numbers or titles until long after the period of their particular activity we may be reporting.

We can, however, now reveal that our — Kens. and — Middlesex have both been engaged in stiff fighting in Italy. Our — Battalion Middlesex has been engaged on the ANZIO BEACHHEAD. This Battalion has gained several awards since its arrival in the C.M.F. theatre. It paraded near Rome before the Divisional Commander on 3rd July, 1944. The Commander presented the M.C. to Major R. Rowbotham and Capt. G. Jenkins. The G.O.C. reminded the Battalion how well it had done in the tense operations on the Anzio Beachhead and congratulated the Battalion on the very fine ceremonial parade demonstration it had displayed. He said the steadiness, arms drill, and marching were excellent, and stated, "You have set a very high standard in every way, and I know you will maintain it."

As you will see on another page, formations of our Regiment have been serving in NORMANDY since just after the initial landings.

The following excerpts from letters received by the Colonel of the Regiment deserve as wide a publicity as is possible in these days.

From Field-Marshal Lord Cavan, Colonel of the Irish Guards:

"I have had an opportunity of seeing the War Diary of my Regiment, the Irish Guards, at ANZIO, and I should like to express to you my intense admiration and gratitude for the co-operation of the Die-Hards at critical stages of the battle."

"I think the defence of the beach-head will even rank as one of the most stubborn and valuable of British Battles and that we can be proud of the noble part played by our Regiments against what was very nearly overwhelming force. With sincere thanks and good wishes."

From H.Q., Inf. Brigade, C.M.F.:

To Capt. D. G. Asling, Middlesex Regiment.

"When I saw them fire at SOUSSE I was at once impressed—you have a first-class lot of soldiers. I will write your C.O. and let him know how well you and your Platoons did with the Brigade. I wish you were still with us. Thanking you and your 'braves' for their magnificent co-operation with us."

From Col. de Chimay:

"I am very pleased to tell you that the Unit has done well and its name is high amongst those we are with. General Alexander was here a short time ago and seeing some of our chaps along the road went over and told them that they had made their name throughout his Army let alone this beach-head. It has been very hard going most of the time and weather has been cold and at times appalling with heavy rain, sleet and hail, which has turned the ground into a sea of mud. Some of our chaps have performed terrific feats of endurance in these adverse conditions and have at the same time lived up to the fighting conditions of the Regiment."

A copy of a letter received by a Major commanding a portion of one of our Battalions of the P.L. Kensington Regiment in Italy from his Brigade Commander:

"I would be grateful if you would tell all ranks of 'B'—how much I—and I know I can speak for all C.O.s, too—appreciate the excellent work performed by the Battalion since the Division came over from the Adriatic coast last February. Your Mortar Platoons did sterling work on the RAPIDO and MONASTERY HILL, and I am sure their counter mortar fire did much to keep down casualties in the Brigade during those two months. During the advance from the GUSTAV LINE there have been many calls on the Battalion, and I know that at times they have been asked to operate for days and nights on end without rest. There is no doubt that on occasions their fire has had a direct and decisive effect on the course of the battle. In particular, I remember the losses inflicted on the enemy who attempted to re-occupy the ridge opposite the Surreys to the west of SANFATUCCHIO and the attack by the L.F. at STOPPA. I am glad casualties were light and this I attribute to good selection of positions by officers and good training on the part of the men. Again many thanks for your good work."

Extract from a letter written by Rev. George Hewitt, father of Capt. and Adjutant A. C. Hewitt, who escaped to Chungking on 2nd February, 1942:

My son says "all men of the Middlesex Regiment fought without exception with great valour. Col. Newnham, G.S.O.I., after the battle, wrote to Col. Stewart the following: From the General down to 'other ranks' of other Units there is nothing but admiration for the way the men of your Regiment have fought. They have up-held the traditions of the 'Die-Hards' and relived the glories of Albuera."

ONLY ONE GROUSE!

In a previous page you will have read remarks made by the Lord Lieutenant of the County on the help to the morale of fighting troops which a strong County interest can generate. We are indebted to the Editor of one of our County newspapers, "The Hornsey Journal" for permission to reprint a letter which the Mavor of Hornsey (Alderman H. G. J. Williams) received from the C.O. of a Battalion of our Regiment now fighting in Normandy.

"In view of the ties which bind this Battalion to Hornsey and Highgate and in view of the keen interest which you and the people of Hornsey and Highgate have always taken in the activities of this Battalion, and particularly recently during the North African campaign, I feel sure you would like to hear as much as the censor will permit of the part we are taking in the present operations in France."

"As you will probably have heard on the wireless, we have been in these parts since the beginning and have taken our full share in the various events which are now culminating in a resounding victory. After many weeks in that cramped bridgehead, every inch of which we got to know intimately and almost every inch of which had become pitted with shell holes and bomb craters, we find it exceedingly pleasant to have debouched, as we have now, into a countryside which bears few signs of enemy action."

"As I write, the nearby road contains a stream of refugees, with their belongings on bicycles, in perambulators, on their backs or in carts, returning to their homes which they had had to leave hurriedly as the war approached them, all of them tired and covered in dust, yet all of them smiling happily at us and waving as they pass. It is grand to be able to help these people as we have done and to find them so obviously grateful."

"Of the operations in which we have taken part I am not allowed to say anything except that they have been for the most part not very spectacular until recently, though at all times of great importance. As you have heard, it has been the duty of the British and Canadians to contain the greater part of the German forces, while the Americans made their amazing and spectacular advance round the German left flank. The Battalion has been very well spoken of by the Divisional Commander, who told me personally that we had done all that we had been told to do and had done it well. To date we have one Military Cross and two Military Medals to our credit and more, it is hoped are on the way."

"The German soldiers have undoubtedly fought well from the first day of the invasion. None of us out here can deny that, but man for man there is no question as to who will eventually be victorious."

"We have had our casualties, fortunately not nearly as many as might have been expected, yet, nevertheless, quite heavy enough. Perhaps I should explain here while on this subject for the benefit of any relatives in Hornsey and Highgate who may be interested, that we are not, any of us, permitted to write to relatives of anyone who becomes a casualty until fourteen days have elapsed, in order to give the War Office time to despatch the official notification, which sometimes, for good reasons, takes a little time."

"It has been very gratifying to have entered upon this campaign as we have, so very well equipped in guns, ammunition and all other warlike requirements. It says a great deal for the organisation of the authorities concerned and for the hard work of the masses in factories and elsewhere in Great Britain that this has been possible and we are all indeed grateful for everything that has been done by all concerned.

"If we might be allowed one grouse it is that stocks of books and magazines could still be increased, although we have had a fair proportion of each to date.

"On behalf of all ranks in the Battalion, and particularly those with homes, relatives and friends in Hornsey and Highgate, I send you our best wishes and our assurance that we will do all in our power to hasten that victory which is now so clearly in sight. To those of you who have suffered from the flying-bomb menace, I would add that as our forces approach the launching sites, so our eagerness to demolish the sources of these horrors, together with those who launch them, increases."

WHAT IS THE TERRITORIAL ASSOCIATION ?

Territorial Army Associations were created in 1908, when the Yeomanry and Volunteers were combined to form the Territorial Force.

Recruiting, clothing and equipment, administration, finance and the maintenance of buildings and rifle ranges in respect of the Territorial Force were their main duties.

Each County had its own Association, and in Middlesex the original establishment was fixed at 32 members, exclusive of the President. Membership was in three categories, i.e. military members 18, representative members appointed by the County Council 7, co-opted members 7. These figures have been increased from time to time with the expansion of the Territorial Army and the present establishment is as follows :

Military members	..	..	..	28
Air Force members	..	..	..	6
Representative members	..	..	..	7
Co-opted members	..	..	..	11

making a total of 52 members.

During the present war a special increase of 10 Home Guard Representatives and the County Cadet Commandant has been made to the above figures.

The President of the Association is the Lord Lieutenant of the County during his period of office and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are elected annually. The Secretary is appointed by the Association, subject to the approval of the Army Council and the Air Council, and is appointed for five years in the first instance and re-appointed for further periods of five years, subject to an age limit.

The existing appointments are as follows :

President :	Col. the Right Hon. the Lord Rochdale, C.B.
Chairman :	Col. Sir Edwin King, K.C.B., C.M.G., T.D., D.L., J.P.
Vice-Chairman :	Group Capt. A. S. W. Dore, D.S.O., T.D., D.L.
Secretary :	Col. A. M. O. Anwyl-Passingham, C.B.E., D.L., J.P.

During the 36 years of its existence the Middlesex Territorial Army Association has passed through various stages of development. The above-mentioned period embraces two World Wars and during the three years prior to the outbreak of the present war the Association had to cope with rapid expansion which involved extensive recruiting propaganda, the planning and building of new Drill Halls and the numerous administrative problems consequent on the formation of new arms of the Service in the County, etc. With the addition of an Auxiliary Air Force Squadron and two Balloon Squadrons the designation of the Association was changed to the "Territorial Army and Air Force Association of the County of Middlesex."

The extent of the development of the Territorial Army in Middlesex can best be judged by the fact that in 1936 the Association administered six Units, whereas on the outbreak of the present war the number of Units administered had increased to 33.

On completion of mobilisation of the Territorial Army in September, 1939, County Associations were left with comparatively little to do other than the maintenance of various Drill Halls and care of Units' private property, T.A. furniture, etc.

In Middlesex steps were at once taken to set up a County Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Welfare and Comforts Committee with local committees in all borough and district council areas.

Shortly afterwards the War Office Army Welfare Scheme was inaugurated which gave County Associations an opportunity to utilise again their organisation for the rapid development of Army Welfare.

The most important duties of Associations during the present war has been in connection with the Home Guard.

This force, raised in May 1940 on a semi-civilian basis in association with the Police Force, was originally known as the Local Defence Volunteers. Shortly after the Force was raised it was brought under the administration of the County Associations, and in Middlesex the number of men in the Home Guard that have been clothed, equipped, etc., runs into six figures.

The administration of the Home Guard by the County Associations includes clothing, equipment, arms, ammunition, records, finance, provision and maintenance of accommodation, disablement claims, issue of petrol, "G" Licences, Military Identity Certificates, publications and all general administrative matters connected with the Force.

The value of stores, buildings, etc., that this Association has been responsible for during the four years the Home Guard has been in being runs into several million pounds, and it will no doubt be realised that the organisation and smooth running of such a vast undertaking was a considerable strain on the members and the comparatively small staff. The fact that it has been successfully accomplished is a source of satisfaction to all those connected with the Territorial Association and has again proved that County Associations, with their extensive knowledge of local conditions and past experience, are the best medium for the administration and development of any non-professional military forces.