



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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Editor: MAJOR A. E. F. WALDRON, M.B.E.

T.A.V.R. Centre

Deansbrook Road, Edgware Middlesex.

Telephone: 01-952 2625

MESSAGE FROM LT COL T. W. CHATTEY, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

Re-organisation of The Queen's Regt RHQ and
County Office

Following the recent Defence economies and requirements for reductions in the Ministry of Defence civilian manpower, the establishments of RHQs of Infantry regiments have been under close scrutiny and review by the Staff Inspection Team of the Ministry of Defence.

As a result it has been decided that the RHQ of the Queen's Regt should be re-organised and concentrated at Canterbury by the end of 1978, and it is planned to close the County Office at Edgware by December this year.

This decision closely affects the Middlesex OCA because, of course, our Secretary and his staff and office accommodation are provided from within the MOD civilian manpower establishment of the Queens Regt and henceforth, therefore, will be located at Canterbury in Kent instead of Edgware in Middlesex.

Together with Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby and

our Secretary, Maj Frank Waldron, I attended a conference recently at the MOD under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Colonel of the Queens Regt (Maj Gen R. S. N. Mans, CBE) to discuss the proposals and repercussions in more detail. It is the intention now that those aspects which are of most concern to the Middlesex OCA will be examined by the Executive Committee of our Association to decide how the present functions of our Secretary can best be carried out so as to ensure both the short and long term interests and continuity of our OCA. In this respect it is already clear, however, that it is the intention of the MOD to continue to provide support for the Associations of the former regiments and their responsibilities, and therefore I do not anticipate any drastic changes in the scope of either the charitable work or the social activities which are undertaken by our Association.

Meanwhile the Association Trust Funds, our Memorial Homes, and our Regimental Museum remain and will continue to remain within our care and responsibility. These are in a healthy condition and are in good shape. I am confident, therefore, that all Diehards and their dependants can continue to be assured of the benefits and comradeship brought about through membership of your Old Comrades Regimental Association.

REGIMENTAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1977

Date	Event
Saturday, April 30	1/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner at TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N8
Wednesday, May 4	Spring Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet
Saturday, May 7	2/10th Bn OCA Luncheon at Victory Club, Seymour Street, W2
Saturday, May 14	Afternoon—Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral Evening—Annual Reunion, Porchester Hall, Queensway, W2
Wednesday, June 1	Derby Outing
Friday, June 17	Officers Club Dinner, Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, SW1
August 23 to 26	Pilgrimage to Mons for ceremonies in connection with the 63rd Anniversary of the Battle. Private Parties
Wednesday, October 5	Autumn Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet
Friday, October 7	2/7th Bn OCA Dinner at Victory Club, Seymour Street, W2
Sunday, October 7	Attendance at Church Parade, Royal Hospital, Chelsea
Saturday, October 23	Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
Sunday, November 12	1000 hours—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a reunion at TAVR Centre, Edgware.
Sunday, November 13	1045 hours—7th Bn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Hornsey Parish Church by the Hornsey and Enfield Branch
	1500 hours—2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick
November (date to be fixed)	Visit to Lille, private parties
Make a note of these dates now.	

DONATIONS—CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Charitable Fund from: Maj F. H. Blackburn, Mr R. R. Chaplin, Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, Mr W. R. Lee, Lilley Benevolent Trust.

DONATIONS TO ST PAUL'S

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges a donation from the Duke of Cambridge Wine Club to the St Paul's Fund.

BENEVOLENT GRANTS

During the period January 1, 1976, to December 31, 1976, the sum of £2369.25 was spent on assisting 110 members of the Regiment.

FREE NEWSLETTER

The Editor wishes to thank the following members for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of *The Diehards Newsletter* can be sent to deserving Old Comrades:

Mrs L. Anson, Mr C. F. Baldwin, Mr T. R. Bennett, Mr E. J. Bermingham, Mr C. C. Bradish, Mr C. T. Bull, Mr R. R. Chaplin, Mr W. R. S. Clark, Mr E. J. Collier, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, Mr T. D. Forgham, Mr T. G. Forrester, Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, Lt E. C. Graham, Mrs R. F. Green, Maj W. H. Grogan, Mrs E. T. Hastie, Mr F. Hennah, Mrs E. Herepath, Maj L. T. Honeybun, Mr L. Hosslen, Mr W. Knight, MBE, Maj W. T. J. Lane, Mr W. R. Lee, Maj A. F. Lockwood, Mr P. F. Maloney, Mr J. M. Manning, Mr A. Mason, Mr R. T. Meers, Mr F. H. Nash, Maj A. W. F. Peal, Maj C. E. E. Scott, Mr S. F. Sibley, Mr A. E. Tuthill, Mr C. Unwins.

ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA FOUNDERS DAY 1977

The Founders Day Ceremony will take place this year on the afternoon of Thursday, June 2, 1977, at 3pm, when his Royal Highness The Prince of Wales is to inspect the In-Pensioners.

30 'Stroller' tickets are available and application for tickets should be made to the Editor.

EMPLOYMENT

Mr Phillip Gwyn, younger son of Brig R. A. Gwyn, has built up a fairly large business in London called the Reliance Services Group—Main office in Victoria with his own office in 74 Ebury Street.

One of the Companies in the group is called the Reliance Security Company. Main Depot is in Brixton with one at Ealing and a further one planned in NE London.

The group is anxious to get more 'recruits' of the right type and anyone leaving the service is particularly welcome. If you are interested write to the Personnel Manager, Reliance Security Company, 74 Ebury Street, London SW1.

DONATIONS

A very generous donation of £250 has been received by the Regimental Association from the Trustees of the Lilley Benevolent Trust. £100 to be allocated to the Association Charitable Fund and £150 to the 9th Bn Branch to be held for maintaining and/or acquiring exhibits for their display in the Regimental Museum. A letter of thanks has been sent.

THE EVERSLEIGH STAR

The date of the introduction of the Eversleigh star, worn on the epaulettes of the Officers of the Regiment, is at present a matter of conjecture, due to the loss of valuable records in Hong Kong. If any reader has specific knowledge of the date this badge of rank was introduced the regimental archivist would be grateful for the information.

ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE 1977

The Albuhera Service of Remembrance this year will be held in the Regimental Memorial Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, at 2.30pm on Saturday, May 14. The Rev P. L. Pearce Gould, OBE, MA, Rector, of Backwell has once again very kindly agreed to assist with the Service. Wives and friends are welcome. No tickets are required. Decorations and medals should be worn.

ANNUAL REUNION 1977

Arrangements have been made to hold the Annual Reunion this year at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, on Saturday, May 14, from 7.15pm to 11.30pm. Charges for admission will be as follows:

Single ticket, 25p; Double tickets (admitting Lady and Gentleman), 50p.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or by application to the Secretary with the necessary remittance.

A Dance Band will be in attendance. Bars and buffets will be open from 7.15pm.

DERBY OUTING 1977

The Derby outing will be on Wednesday, June 1. Members on the Derby outing list of previous years will receive details in due course. Anyone else interested in attending should contact the Secretary for details.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY

Members of the Golfing Society are reminded that the Spring Golf meeting takes place on Wednesday, May 4. Details will be issued shortly. Any golfer who has not previously had correspondence and who would like to play should write to the Secretary for details.

FORMER COLONEL OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

Lt Gen Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO, died on February 14, 1976. He was Colonel of The Queens Regiment from 1966 to 1973.

The thanksgiving service held on Friday, February 18, 1977, was attended by:

Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB; Maj Gen G. P. L. Weston, CB, CBE, DSO; Col J. N. Shipster, CBE, DSO, Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queens Regt; and Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, former Deputy Colonel.

DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

At Christmas the Depot distributed food parcels to old age pensioners in the Royston area. It was indeed a coincidence that one of the recipients was Mr P. H. J. Beale and even a greater one to discover he was a Diehard. Percy Beale who is now 84 lives with his wife at 32 Green Street, Royston. He enlisted in 1914 and served initially in 13th Bn Middlesex Regt. After being wounded at Ypres he spent a period of convalescence in England before returning to Flanders to join the 2nd Bn. Percy left the Army in June 1919 but, to this day, he has vivid memories of the first World War and above all he is proud to have served in the Diehards.

T & AVR Basic Training Cadres are often held at the Depot and invariably one of the instructors is PSI Sgt Jack Dann (CONRAT). 'Flash' Dann served in the Middlesex Regt from 1959 until leaving 4 Queens in 1971. He served mainly in 'A' Coy and because of his height and smartness was an automatic choice for right marker duties. 'Diehard' Dann as his other nickname implies was a staunch member of the Regiment and after a period in Civilian Life the call to service was too great and he returned to active duty in October 1975.

In my last notes I mentioned that WO1 Michael Flynn was to be commissioned in April. This was brought forward to January and he is now serving with 2 Queens.

'Brewer' Drane wrote to me recently and mentioned a number of Diehards who are living in East Anglia. Through the medium of the Newsletter I invite anyone who would like to attend the Reunion on May 14 at the Porchester Hall and requires transport, to contact me.

It is our intention to run a minibus from Bassingbourn.

Although there will not be an open day at Bassingbourn this year the Depot will celebrate HM The Queen's Silver Jubilee by having a beating of Retreat Ceremony on Thursday, June 23. The ceremony will be open to the general public.

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'B' COMPANY, 6/7th QUEENS (VOLUNTEER) REGIMENT

Shouts of 'The British are coming' were heard at an American Air Force base in the last week of January as Territorial Army volunteers from Edgware and Hornsey tried to make up some of the ground lost in 1776. The 'B' Coy of the 6/7th Volunteer Bn of the Queen's Regt at the TAVR Centre in Deansbrook Road, Edgware, took part in a training exercise with UK-based Americans at Molesworth in Huntingdon. They were joined by the fellow 'B' Coy members based at Hornsey. Lt Gordon Andrew (who can be found teaching chemistry on weekdays) led the British advance party and secured the munitions compound that the company guarded as a key point throughout the battle of the Minute Man. The 'gate' was defended by Cpl Alan Frater. Although this section was overwhelmed three times the 'Hornsey Hustlers' were able to recapture it throughout the battle. However, the exercise ended on a happy note of alliance when Maj Martin Donley, commanding the US 10 Security Police Sqn, and Maj Roger Lowans, commanding 'B' Coy, exchanged Regimental shields. The latest dispatch from the area indicates that Sgt Trevor Pidgeon had great difficulty getting his Edgware men back into trim after the Americans had sabotaged them with breakfast bribes of strawberries and waffles.

Editor.—The interesting thing about the trophy is that the Americans have inscribed it 'to the 57th Regiment'; 'B' Coy, 6/7th Queen's Regt being our Territorial Army successors.



Maj Martin Donley, USAF (left), presents Maj Roger Lowans with a shield as a souvenir of Exercise Minute Man. The Training exercise in Huntingdon was named after the volunteers in the US War of Independence

Photograph by B. J. Parker

1/7th BATTALION 1939-45

We are looking forward to the 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner at Hornsey Drill Hall on Saturday, April 30. I sincerely hope we have a large gathering once

again. If you are not on our mailing list but wish to come by all means telephone me at 01-907 4901 for details of times and cost (not yet finalised), you will be most welcome.

'Our' Brig B. B. Rackham, CBE, MC, DL, will be in the chair again, and it is always a very heartwarming evening.

We are still looking for members willing to take part on the Committee so that we may organise regular meetings and functions at the Drill Hall on a monthly or quarterly basis.

It seems a great pity to lose touch after all these years and we've spent many happy times together in the past so let's see what we can do once again!

I am assured of every co-operation and encouragement from the 'Queen's' based at Hornsey, and this was most evident during our Armistice Sunday Parade.

The Chairman of the Hornsey and Enfield Branch, Lt Col D. E. Simpson, TD, has for many years shown great enthusiasm and effort to keep the branch going and certainly deserves our backing—so what about it 'Diehards'—show us you are still alive and kicking and let's hear from you.

Kindest regards to you all.

LES HOSSLEN

MILL HILL BRANCH

Jubilee year is here, the two sevens make it also the year of the Pothooks. I therefore consider these notes should start by wishing jubilation to three of our members who are wearing a medal bearing the effigy of Her Majesty's great-great-grandmother. The three veterans who have the Queen's South Africa medal are Maj 'Plumbago' Allott, Quartermaster Bob Douthet and 'Ticky' Morden whose ages total up to 281 years. Our remaining nonagenarians whose ages had reached double figures when Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee should, of course, be remembered. They are Albert Gale, 'Dabsy' Clarke, George Duffield, F. Chennery, Bill Bishop and 'Pickles' Newman. Our two lady nonagenarians are Mesdames Lewin and Baldry. The young men have a total of 548 years whilst the 'girls' have a total of 185, making a grand total for the three groups above, a matter of 1,014 years.

At our February gathering the members present celebrated, very vocally, the birthdays of two other members of the distaff side, Mrs Rose Lowe and Nadine Faulkner, the latter being one year old and the grand-daughter of Stan and Vera Kerswill. Mrs Rose Drane, 'The Duchess', was mistress of ceremonies and conducted the birthday table orchestra with great zest and flailing arms. The male-voice choir sounded somewhat like the Muppets and maybe looked like them by 10pm! Whilst writing of sevens and birthdays it is an opportunity to mention an associate member who has her 77th birthday this year and who married 57 years ago, thus combining both our regimental numbers. She is Mrs Ivy Clarke, who is always one of the first to register in at our monthly meetings. However early I arrive at our gatherings I find Ivy Clarke, Len Johnson and Charlie Ashby already on parade.

From Berlin ex-CSM Tony Briggs sends greetings to comrades he served with in Korea and other places less noisy. He is now with the Administrative Section of the British Military Government. Other members who send belated greetings for 1977 and who find time taken by travel prevents them from joining us as often as they wish are Bill Cook, from Lurnea, NSW, Alf Damon in Tasmania, 'Cock' Groombridge from Adelaide whose comrade of the Signal Section 20th (Shoreditch) Bn 'Bumble Bray' Barclay has been ill for some time, and Pip Connor, MM, that regular correspondent from Willowdale, Ontario. Pip hopes that, Deo Favente, he will be able to visit Blighty this year.

Three of our members have recently changed their location. They are Sqn Ldr Jim Abell, the son of Maj W. H. Abell, the first officer to be killed in action in 1914, ex-CSM Hookey Walker, MM, and 'Pongo' Rodgers. Jim has now retired and as he has joined the wheelchair ranks, decided to move from Oxted to Old Oxted. Hookey is now an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, whilst Pongo has moved from Marylebone to Hillingdon.

During the winter, we have had a number of members *hors de combat*, and I sincerely hope they will be fit and mobile in time to join in our annual Albuhera ceremonies. Our casualties due to illness have been Col Mervyn Crawford, DSO, DL, JP; ex-RSM Jim Davis who served with the Guernsey Militia during World War I, and for many years with the 2nd Bn immediately after the war; 'Ugly' Hogg, for many years a regimental musician; ex-RQMS 'Jacko' Jaques who has recently become eligible for a free bus pass; Blood Ormes who has the refreshing air of Clacton-on-Sea to give him verve in the summer months ahead and Hookey Walker now in the infirmary at Chelsea where Shiner Wright, an old comrade of the 4th Bn of 1914, recently visited him.

Our Regimental Secretary Maj Frank Waldron, MBE, and Mrs Grace Waldron recently celebrated their Pearl Wedding when the writer was able to convey congratulations to them at the same time as hearing from two of his comrades of Hong Kong and the 'Lisbon Maru', those old soldiers being 'Deadhead' Nesbit and Arthur Page, the latter keeping me informed about the present condition of Blacon Camp where so many of our machine gunners had their initial training.

Very much in training and in tip-top physical condition is Maj Ken Clayden who takes his family along the roof of England as often as he can escape from his office. He knows his way along the Pennines as well as I know my way over to 'The Mill' at Kelly's Corner. Very fit also is Capt Battler Craydon, who still leads his Pipers and Drummers plus his cadets whom he is training to play flutes and drums. It is a treat to see Battler in full Highland garb leading the parade with great clan, albeit he is now nearer 80 than 70.

On the note of pipes, flutes, drums and bugles, these notes must end as the hour of Tattoo is far past and morpheus calls.

DICK SMITH

EALING BRANCH

Since the last issue of the Newsletter I have managed to visit a few of our members who cannot get about much. First I called on Arthur Wernldy (1st Bn) who is coming up to 90 and we had a chat about old times. He told me he enlisted in 1904 and although he is very deaf and nearly blind his memory is very good, recalling the days when Col Elgee was in command of the 1st Bn. Arthur and his wife have been happily married for 63 years and have a very nice home in West Ealing. Next visit was to Harry Springle (1/8th Bn) and I found him at home with his brother-in-law (who served 25 years in the Border Regt) both with mugs of rum and coffee. Needless to say that I joined them and we had a real old natter. I have yet to decide who won the 1914 War, the Diehards or the Borders, but I must say they had a good brand of 'Nelson's Blood'.

Also called on George Parr-Head (2/8 1914) but the old chap was in bed, and I handed good wishes from the boys to his daughter.

Ernie Duffield is back in hospital owing to a temporary relapse but his son hopes he will be out again soon. A nice letter from Johnny Priske (1/8 1914) who now lives at Poughton and one from Charlie Brust, MM (1/7 1914), and Eddie Nicholls (1/8 1914). Both are reasonably well. As far as I know all the others are well and join with me in sending good wishes to all Diehards, everywhere.

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9th BATTALION BRANCH

All members of the Branch received a letter from us in March in which we related the news up to then, one important item being the Reunion and Dinner being held on the 26th, which we hope will be of interest to our Members. Please note that this article was written before the Dinner was held and news of that will be in the next issue.

In our last notes in the December issue we spoke of the special corner in our Museum in which there were a growing number of exhibits concerning our Battalion and that another interesting display would be shortly announced. Actually that interesting display was portrayed on page 9 of that issue, and was the photograph of the Decorations and medals of Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD.

We wish to state how proud the members are of the honour that the General has bestowed on us.

The Branch is also very pleased to know that the medals of the late RSM L. Drinkwater, who was promoted into that rank whilst we were on active service and as the notes of our Curator explained, joined the new constituted 9th in 1908.

Lt Col G. Fox, whose indefatigable efforts have produced the exhibits, or most of them, in the Museum relating to our Battalion, wrote recently so we can now enumerate the contents of the display cabinet which contains the decorations and medals of former members of the 9th. They are Col W. P. Hewett, TD, Col G. Beach, CB, OBE, TD, Col A. G. Bartholomew, OBE, TD, Maj P. V. Cotton, OBE, TD, Col G. W. Tupper, TD, Col J. N. Lamont, MC, TD, Capt L. M. Hewlett, TD, Capt The Right Hon Lord Somerville, PC, OBE, Capt Sir Vivyan Holt, KBE, CMC, MVO, Maj H. Sherwood, TD, Capt A. F. H. Mieville, Capt J. C. Campbell, MC, Maj H. W. Thompson, MBE, Lt W. G. Lane, RSM L. Drinkwater, MSM, and Pte W. G. Wilkins.

Also on the wall near the cabinet are photographs of all the Commanding Officers of the 9th since it was formed in 1908.

There is a water colour picture by Seppings Wright, ARA, of the crossing of the Lesser Zab and a sketch of Nejf from a picquet drawn by a member of 'B' Coy when we surrounded the town in March 1919. Maj P. V. Cotton's full dress uniform with the helmet the dagger and Turkish Order surrendered by Sheik Mahamud to Maj H. W. Thompson, MBE (see Curator's note in September 1976 issue) also in exhibit.

We hope this will encourage more people to visit our Museum.

With best wishes to you all.

R.T.M.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

A recent correspondent is Mr Tommy Carr (6202774) who is employed as Estates Secretary, Urban Areas, Hong Kong. I notice he is in possession of the Colonial Police Medal. He tells me that Jack Lapsky (6210669) is still in Hong Kong running his printing business which has become a subsidiary of Wheelback Marden.

Tommy just missed seeing Charlie Bellchambers (6204475) who was recently in Hong Kong from Australia.

Maj Alan Carter visited RHQ recently and tells me he is going to Canada in April to see his daughter. Alan Carter was Adjutant to the 1/7th Bn during the 1939-45 War.

Ex-RSM Jim Davis when paying his subscriptions tells me that he very seldom leaves his home these days and gets around with the aid of a walking frame.

He sends his regards to all Diehards and regrets that he cannot attend any functions.

Sgt L. R. Day (LS/6400286) who is employed as Recruiting Sergeant at Finchley, was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in January 1977. He will be remembered as a Sergeant in the Band of the 1st Bn 1961-65 and from 1965-67 as instructor to the Junior Soldier Company at Canterbury. His original unit was the Royal Sussex.

A recent letter from Ex-Bandmaster W. J. Gilyatt tells me that he was recently knocked down by a car at Tottenham Hale. He was on the way home after playing his cornet at an Old Peoples Club in Walthamstow. He suffered cuts and bruises, spent a week in bed, but is now almost well again.

Ex-Sgt Frank Gribble (6189121) has recently been in hospital suffering from bronchitis but is now back home. Frank a very well known character in the Regiment served from 1915-36, and from 1939-45. We wish him a full and speedy recovery.

The engagement has been announced between Patrick Haslett, son of the late Maj P. H. Freke Evans, of Cambridge, and Susan Penelope, daughter of Maj and Mrs G. Kent of Furzen Lodge, Abinger Common, Surrey.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is Mr A. G. Horne (19036854) who served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Korea and was a Lance-Corporal.

He left the Army in 1952 but re-enlisted later into the RAOC and later transferred to the Intelligence Corps and was discharged to pension in 1973 as a Staff-Sergeant.

Whilst serving with the 1st Bn he learnt Cantonese and then Mandarin Chinese. He tells me he still keeps in practice.

The daughter of Mr P. R. Hutchins, MM, tells me that Percy has been in hospital again and is gradually getting better. We wish him a very speedy recovery and thank Mrs Edmunds for keeping in touch.

Maj W. T. J. Lane writes to tell me that he has now retired from the Bath College of Art and is living at Corsham, Wilts. For many years he was Quartermaster of the Hong Kong Volunteer Regt.

Mr Bill Lee, Lcpl retired, regrets that he has been unable to attend any meetings recently but the weather has not been good to his chest. He ends his letter by saying 'Still it is not fatal unless it kills me'. Our best wishes to Bill.

We wish a speedy recovery to good health for Mr W. F. Lee (6195668) who tells me that he has not been able to get out for some months. He sends his greetings to all his friends in the Regiment.

Mr J. M. Mannerling has not been too well of late but is now recovering. He tells me he is no longer allowed to drink alcoholic liquor or smoke, and he has not the strength to do anything else.

He spends a lot of his spare time in recruiting Diehards to the Regimental Association.

The engagement has been announced between Archibald, younger son of Sir Arthur and Lady Duncan of Castlehill, Dumfriesshire, and Isabel, daughter of Maj and Mrs Kenneth McKenzie Biggs, of Merkland, Auldgrith, Dumfriesshire.

Maj M. J. Montgomery successfully completed Division 3 of No 10 Army Staff Course at the Royal Military College of Science from October to December 1975 and at the Staff College, Camberley, from January to October 1976, and is now entitled to the symbol 'psc' against his name in military records.

Mr Frank Nash sends greetings to all Old Comrades but regrets it is no longer possible for him to attend Regimental Functions.

A recent correspondent was Maj A. W. F. Peal who is now retired and lives in Exeter, Devon.

A recent correspondent is Ex-Sgt W. A. Phillips (6201806) Ex-1st Bn who emigrated to New Zealand after the war. He was part of a draft who left Hong Kong under command of Capt Vic Cooper, prior to the outbreak of the war in Hong Kong and got caught up in the Middle East on the way home. Mr Phillips was a very good lightweight boxer. He is coming home for three months leave in April and has promised to attend the Annual Reunion.

Lt J. M. Pickard who as a National Service Officer served with the 1st Bn in Cyprus from 1956-58 and was mentioned in despatches, also held the appointment of Intelligence Officer in the Battalion

He has recently joined the Board of Grattan Warehouses Ltd and has been appointed a Deputy Chairman prior to him being appointed Chairman in due course. In addition to this appointment he is Deputy Chairman of the British Printing Corporation, a Director of Bestobell Ltd, the International Engineering Group, and also has his own business of Michael Pickard Ltd, Comprising Happy Eater Ltd (Restaurant chain), All Weather Sports Activities Ltd (Squash Club/centre)—of all of which he is Chairman.

Lt Col J. S. B. Pollard, MBE, back in UK after commanding the Northern Frontier Regiment in Oman, has assumed the appointment of AAG, HQ The Queens Div, Basingbourn.

He has also become a member of the Regimental Association Executive Committee.

Mr A. Pretlove (6199003) has joined the Regimental Association. He served with the 1/7th Bn TA from 1929-33. In 1940 he was called up for service and joined the DCLI until 1941 when he was posted to the 1/7th Bn and served with them throughout the war until taking his release on December 20, 1945.

Birthday greetings were sent to Mr G. W. Prosser on his 84th birthday. He served with our 1st, 2nd and 4th Bns in the 1914-18 Great War. He states he is still in fairly good shape and can still do a few odd jobs in his workshop.

Brig D. B. Rendell, CBE, MC, MBIM, has retired after 38 years service, the last 23 having been served with the Royal Corps of Military Police. The first Diehard to have held the appointment of Provost Marshal (Army), he also served with the Parachute Regt at Tunis and Armheim and commanded 'A' Coy of the 1st Bn in Korea.

He is now residing at Selsey, West Sussex.

A most welcome caller at RHQ was ex-Lcpl Reg Shore (6201889) who enlisted at Mill Hill on November 6, 1933, and took his discharge in 1946 after service with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Japan. Taffy, as he was known, was on the MT and is still mixed up with vehicles working at Vauxhalls Luton. He looked very fit and happy.

Our congratulations to Capt J. K. E. Slack, TD, on being appointed to become a Circuit Judge as the Circuit Bench has only recently been open to Solicitors as opposed to Barristers and John is one of five Solicitors first appointed to the Circuit Board.

He was a member of the Territorial Army serving with the 9th Bn from 1952-61 and the 5th Bn from 1961-65.

Capt George Simmons honoured RHQ with a visit. He is now based at Maidstone where he commands a Queens Regiment Information Team. He enlisted 1948 and served for many years in the 1st Bn and was a popular Sergeant Major. His son Stephen is at present attending RMA, Sandhurst.

Ex-Cpl K. V. Sutton, who was so badly wounded in Korea, tells me that he has settled down very happily in the village of Sharrington, Melton Constable, Norfolk. Last year he was elected to the parish council and is now Vice-Chairman. He also organises and runs the local self help rural transport manned by volunteers. His wife is one of the drivers having had to pass a PSV test.

Ex-CSM J. A. Walker, MM (6188727) was admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on December 13, 1976. He served in the Regiment from January 13, 1911, to January 14, 1930. He is aged 83 years.

Capt Walter Ward, ex-1/7th Bn and the Kensingtons, has now retired and moved to Westgate-on-Sea, Kent. We wish him a very contented retirement.

Mr R. J. Weedon when paying his Newsletter subscription for 1977 reminded me that he enlisted on March 15, 1913, and served in the 2nd and 3rd Bns. He also said 'I find much interesting news concerning our dear old Regiment alas now extinct except in the thoughts of us old Diehards. It was a grand Regiment to soldier in, grand Officers and comrades. I send my very best wishes to all Diehards wherever they may be'.

EX-1st BATTALION POW NEW 'OWNER' OF CAMP

After 50 years the Army is moving out of most of Sham Shui Po Camp in one of the world's most densely populated areas to the North of Kowloon.

It was a moment for nostalgia when Maj Gen Ronnie McAlister, Deputy Commander British Forces, handed over the first five acres to Mr David McDonald, Director of Public Works for the Hong Kong Government. It was particularly poignant for two men who had suffered in Sham Shui Po as prisoners of the Japanese.

One was Col Henry De Barros Botelho, who was a wartime captain in the Hong Kong Volunteers. Outside Block 19, in which he was quartered as a

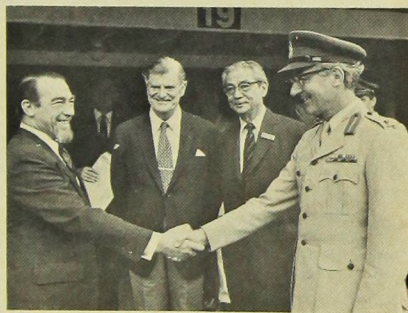
prisoner for several months, he recalled how his fellow prisoners had scrounged material for a Union Jack. The flag was kept hidden until liberation and on August 18, 1945, it was hoisted at a parade in Sham Shui Po and the prisoners sang 'God Save The King' to the accompaniment of their own band, in which Capt Botelho played the saxophone.

The other was Mr Thomas Carr who went to Hong Kong in 1937 and was quartered in Sham Shui Po as a Corporal in the Middlesex Regt, working in the Force headquarters; after the battle he was prisoner in Sham Shui Po for a year before being shipped off to Japan.

When the ceremonial handover was complete, an envelope with documents relating to Sham Shui Po was handed to him. As estate Secretary in the Public Works Department he took charge of the site and its 25 buildings.

'I never thought I'd end up as "owner" of the place', he said.

Since World War Two, Sham Shui Po has been used mainly by the Royal Army Service Corps, Royal Corps of Transport, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Gurkha Signals and Gurkha Transport Regt. By the end of next year the total of 33 acres of Sham Shui Po camp will have been handed over to the Hong Kong Government: its future development is to be housing, schools, community facilities and open space. The Army will keep another 13 acres which house 50 Command Workshop REME and the freight section of the Joint Service Movements Centre.



Picture shows a handover with a handshake from Maj Gen Ronnie McAlister to Mr David McDonald. Watching are Mr Tom Carr (left) and Col Henry de Barros Botelho

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REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

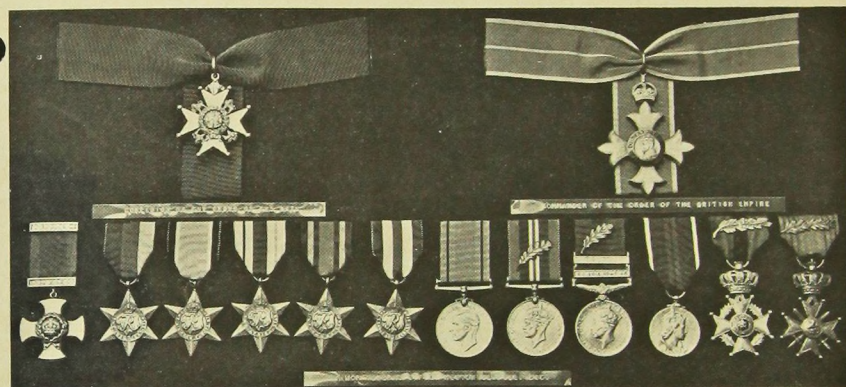
The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

Medals of Maj Gen G. P. L. Weston, CB, CBE, DSO

This group of decorations and medals consists of the Order of a Companion of the Order of the Bath, Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, 1939-45 Star, Air Crew Europe Star, Africa Star, Burma Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 with Oak Leaf, General Service Medal with clasps 'SE Asia' and 'Malaya' with Oak Leaf, Coronation Medal Queen Elizabeth II, Order of Leopold with Palm, Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm.

The combination of the Air Crew Europe Star and France and Germany Star is unique. Maj Gen Weston earned these awards due to his commanding a squadron of the Royal Air Force, in France in 1940, the France and Germany Star was awarded for his service whilst commanding our 2nd Bn in NW Europe as can be read in the Battalion history by Maj Moberly and the Regimental history by Lt Commander Kemp. The medals have been on display for over 12 months but have not been written up in the Newsletter as Maj Gen Weston expressed a wish that I should not make a fuss. He has now to my pleasure permitted me to acknowledge his generous loan. This enables me to inform all who served under their commands that we have the decorations and medals of two of our five living general officers on display, surely unusual for a regiment of the line.

Photograph by Rodney Brewster



Ten Chapters

This little book is a short and personal record of the activities, in outline, from August 1942 to May 1945, kept by the late Field Marshal The Viscount Montgomery of Alamein. It covers the long journey from Alamein to the Baltic Sea. The Prime Minister, Mr Winston Churchill, wrote a page in Monty's autograph book and recorded his impressions. These pages have been photographed, exactly as they were written. There are many more interesting autographs in the book, such as Field Marshal Smuts (South Africa), Mr Mackenzie King (Canada), Mr Peter Frazer (New Zealand), Gen de Gaulle, and lastly the German delegation who made the unconditional surrender at Luneberg Heath, Gen Admiral von Friedeburg, Gen Kinsel, Rear Admiral Wagner, Maj Friedel.

The book has written on the fly leaf, in the Field Marshal's handwriting:

To: Jorrock,

Who has accompanied me during much of the journey referred to in these pages.

(Signed) B. L. Montgomery, Field Marshal Germany, July 9, 1945.

Presented by Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD.

Medals of the late Csgt W. H. Laker

The medals of the late Colour Sgt William Laker (PW 4724), consist of the British War Medal, Victory Medal 1914-19, the Special Constabulary Long Service Medal and the Defence Medal for service with the Special Constabulary 1939-45. William Laker was one of the men recruited by Col John Ward, CM, CMG, MP, who raised the 18th, 19th and 26th (Public Works Pioneers) Bn and the 25th (Garrison) Bn who served in Siberia July 1918, returning home in 1919. At the time of writing little is known of the service of William Laker, but research is still going on and any further information will be added to these meagre notes as they come to light.

Received from the Secretary of the Royal Anglian Regimental Association.

Letters from Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, KG, GCB, DSO, and Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC

This correspondence covers the period June 29, 1967, to April 25, 1968, whilst Gen Man was the President of the Regular Army Commissions Board. The letters from the Field Marshal are in his own, distinctive handwriting. The Field Marshal had never been present at the selection procedure and

as the correspondence shows wished to see for himself how it was done. In the event the visit was a complete success. One amusing incident occurred when he was addressing the candidates. That part of Salisbury Plain was always very active with aircraft flying overhead and while he was speaking a succession of jets made talking difficult. He asked Gen Man if that was a normal occurrence and when told that it was, he rapped out: 'Then stop it'. Another incident was when the Field Marshal was shown the candidates' accommodation. When he reached the huts, the civilian responsible for that block was standing at the door. The Field Marshal was in uniform with the front of his jacket festooned with row upon row of medal ribbons. He asked the batman, an ex-soldier if he had been in the last war. The man, who was very overawed by the occasion replied 'Yes Sir. Were you?'. After a pregnant silence, Lord Montgomery burst out laughing, much to the relief of the bystanders.

The last letters of the collection refer to a later visit made to the RCB by Field Marshal. This was something of a compliment as he was en-route to another engagement and wished to stay at Westbury where he said he had been so comfortable on the previous occasion. The 2nd Bn had been in 9th Infantry Bde while they were stationed in Portsmouth before the war, and Field Marshal Montgomery was the Brigade Commander. Gen Man, then a Second Lieutenant, was serving in the Battalion at the time. Lord Montgomery when reminded of this was delighted and continually referred to the association when he was touring the RCB. He also said some very complimentary things about the Battalion, about which he was still well informed. It is so typical of the Field Marshal that all the correspondence and the planning for his two visits was done in his own hand and by himself. The Christmas card which Gen Man received at the end of the year was another nice gesture and vividly portrays the personal touch that made Lord Montgomery such a great commander. The curator is indebted to Gen Man for the information enabling him to write these notes.

Presented by Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC.

Medals of the late Sgt M. J. Fox, DCM

Montague John Fox enlisted into the Regiment July 24, 1903, being allotted the number 9059, later to have the prefix 'L' added. He served with the 4th Bn and was with them at the Battle of Mons, August 23, 1914. During the war he was twice posted to the 6th Bn at Chatham from February to March 1917, when he returned to France, and again on his return from the 4th Bn on March 27, 1918, until the 6th Bn personnel were absorbed by the 5th Bn November 16, 1918. He was discharged on termination of his service March 31, 1920, in possession of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. He also wore two wound stripes, one red and two blue Active service chevrons. After a long life he died on February 29, 1976, aged 90 years and 40 days, and bequeathed his medals to his old Regiment.

Received from Mrs H. F. Twitcher (executrix).

Four Staff Car Pennants

The first is a black triangular pennant 5 x 9in dark navy blue in colour with the Lancashire rose worn on the staff car of Maj Gen (then Brigadier) C. M. M. Man when commanding 125 (West Lancashire) Infantry Bde, TA, 1959-62.

The second is a triangular pennant 5 x 11in light navy blue in colour with a scroll bearing the word 'British Commonwealth Forces' under a crown all embroidered in silk cotton. This emblem was worn by the staff car of Maj Gen (then Brigadier) C. M. M. Man when Chief of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission to United Nations Command, Korea 1962-64 and British Representative on the Military Armistice Commission, Panmunjom.

The third is a rectangular union jack 6 x 9in with the Army badge of crossed-swords and crown. This is the Military Attaché pennant worn by the staff car of Maj Gen (then Brigadier) C. M. M. Man when Defence Attaché at the British Embassy, Seoul, South Korea 1962-64.

The fourth pennant is swallow-tailed, red in colour 6 x 9in with an embroidered 49th Diamond emblem, a polar bear on a black background worn on the staff car of Maj Gen Man, when GOC 49 (West Riding and North Midlands) Div, TA, 1964-67.

All four pennants will join that of the Middlesex Regt already on display in the Museum worn on the staff car when Maj-Gen Man was Colonel of the Regiment, the ninth and last Colonel of our splendid Regiment.

Presented by Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC.

Pocket Watch

This watch is the normal issue pattern, numbered P25276, was issued to Sgt Roy Bishop (6210278), Platoon Sgt, 13 Platoon, 'D' Coy, 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt (DCO). During the action at Montchamps, Estrie Calvados, France, August 8, 1944, Sgt Bishop was hit by mortar shrapnel which penetrated his platoon roll book, wallet and finished up by smashing the watch in his breast pocket of the battle dress blouse. Roy Bishop has no doubts whatsoever that the watch saved his life. Three pieces of shrapnel which were very hot fell out of the blouse after burning holes, one of which accompanied the watch as a gift for the Museum.

Presented by ex-CQMS Roy Bishop.

Knitted Money Belt

During every war, the British Tommy never let his hands remain idle when he had moments of rest and had written to his loved ones at home. Ashtrays from brass shellcases, carved chalk chessmen and woollen articles, including money belts. This belt has a soft leather backing with a sovereign pocket—lucky was the soldier who had a sovereign—and a coloured ornamental knitted front. At the buckle end and at the tongue end, there is a union jack, between them the words 'Arras' and 'Boulevard', plus the owner's name and particulars G. F. Parker 89129, 'C' Coy, 17 Middlesex Regt. George Frederick Parker, made the belt whilst he was convalescing from the internal injuries received

during a gas attack, and continued to wear it after he was demobilised in 1919.

Presented by his nephew Mr Dennis Carrington.

THE 57th ON PARADE IN THE CRIMEA

The parade is undoubtedly one of the earliest photographs of an entire Regiment and it is certain that the 57th must have 'posed' for the occasion as the collodion process which used the very first type of negative plate required complete stillness for some 30 seconds in those days. The initial impression is that the photograph is very indistinct. Obviously the photographer¹ had to stand well back to record so many men but the aid of a magnifying glass shows far more detail than is apparent at first glance. The interesting point, however, is where and when in 1855 was it taken as there is no mention of the photograph in the historical records of the 57th at that time.

From the landscape and dress it seems certain that it was not taken in the winter as probably there would be evidence of snow. Also it is clear that the 57th are not wearing either greatcoats or 'bunnies'.² Another point is that the panoramic view behind the parade shows an extensive camp consisting mainly of tents and with only a few wooden or corrugated huts to be seen. The records of the 57th mention that they were not accommodated in huts until the Regiment returned from Kinburn³ in November 1855 when the men brought the necessary planks and roofing from Sebastopol 'to their old Camp at Cathcart Hill'.⁴ (The 57th had used this Camp prior to embarking for Kinburn at the end of September 1855.) It would seem logical to assume, therefore, that Cathcart Hill did not become a completely huddled Camp until the end of 1855.

If it is accepted that the location is in or near the Camp at Cathcart Hill and the time sometime in the summer of 1855, then the records of the 57th state that the Regiment held ceremonial parades in their Camp on the following occasions during this period:⁵

19th June: Funeral of Lt Col Shadforth and Lt Ashwin (both 57th) who were killed on the Redan, June 17, 1855.

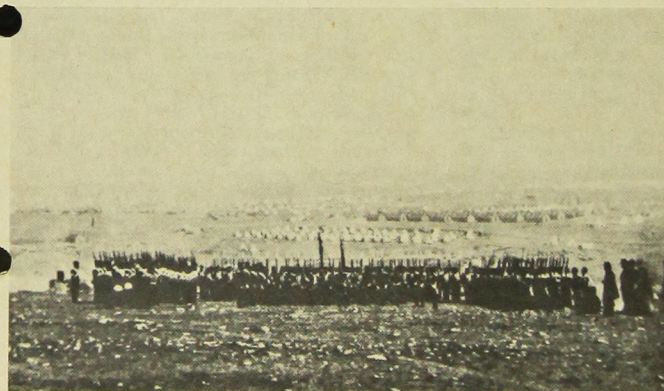
15th Sept: Inspection of the 57th by the GOC 4th Div—Maj Gen Sir H. Bentinck.

16th Sept: Presentation of the Crimean medal Balaclava and Inkerman 'claps', the 57th parading in 'heavy marching order'.

Perusing the photograph in detail it can be ascertained that the 57th is drawn up in a rough 'hollow square' formation although the company to the left rear appears to be facing in a different direction to the remainder. In the centre of the front company facing the camera stands a lone officer with his right hand resting on his sword hilt and behind him are a group of officers including the two Colour ensigns. The Colours appear to be 'cased' but the unfurled appearance could be due to the ensigns standing to attention. Whether the Regiment is in 'heavy marching order' is difficult to establish except the company on the extreme right appear to be wearing packs and all the men are clearly well accoutred. What can be certain is that the 57th were armed with the new Minie rifle as their 'Brown Bess' muskets had been handed in for exchange in February 1855 at the same time as their 'old rags' had also been exchanged for new uniforms.⁶

Overall it seems hardly likely that the grouping caught by the camera would be a parade formation for receiving a general officer. Nor is it likely if the photograph had been taken whilst the Regiment was in the process of reforming at the conclusion of the parade for an address by the divisional commander that Gen Bentinck would have been excluded. The 'lone officer' is not wearing a cocked hat and in any case there is no mention in the 57th records of any address on September 15.

Possibly the 'hollow square' could have been used for a funeral service—which would account for the 'cased' appearance of the Colours—yet the drums seen on the left do not appear to be draped. It seems very unlikely, however, that the Regiment would have used the burial service of their late commanding officer⁷ as a proper occasion for a posed photograph. Perhaps it can be assumed, therefore, that the date was September 16, 1855, and that the 'lone officer' in front was Lt Col Warre⁸ who



57th Regiment on Parade in the Crimea, 1855
Now 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), it had won the name of 'The Diehards' in the Peninsula

as the 'second Lieutenant Colonel on establishment' had taken over command on the death of Col Shadforth. It also seems very probable that Col Warre used the medal clasp presentation parade⁹ (the clasps were presented by the commanding officer himself) as a suitable occasion to inspect his Regiment in heavy marching order as the 57th were due to embark for Kinburn shortly afterwards.

The figure standing alone on the extreme left could be Colour Sgt Cumming who was the acting

1. Probably Fenton or one of his assistants. Two ensigns of the 77th—Brandon and Dawson—had been sent on a 'crash' course on photography by the War Office before being posted to the Crimea in 1855 and it is just possible that the photograph could have been taken by one of them. But the majority of their work never saw the light of day. The plates were badly stored at the War Office on their return and disintegrated after a few years. (The Victorian and Edwardian Army from old photographs by John Fabb 1975.)
2. Fur clothing sent out by public subscription and issued to the troops early in 1855.
3. Near the mouth of the Dneiper. The 57th were part of the 1st Bde command by Maj Gen the Hon A. A. Spencer, for the other Regiments being the 17th, 20th, 21st and 63rd. The expedition captured Fort Kinburn and drove the enemy from the village of Schadoffka but otherwise there was little opposition. The allied Fleet returned to Kazatch Bay, near Sebastopol, on October 30, 1855, and the 57th, at least, did not disembark until 12 days later. The enterprising Col Warre, however, decided to use the long march from Sebastopol to advantage as his men returned to their camp at Cathcart Hill each carrying some portable item of building materials required for the erection of their winter huts. Capt H. H. Woolright in his book 'History of the 57th West Middlesex Regiment' published 1893 quotes from the 57th records '... and there was no fear of a repetition of the miseries of the preceding winter as nothing was wanting for their well being'.
4. Capt Woolright. The Camp had been named after Lt Gen the Hon Sir George Cathcart, KCB, who had been killed commanding the 4th Div at Inkerman. In 1855 the Camp cemetery contained several graves of the 57th who had fallen at Inkerman. Brig Gen Thomas Leigh Goldie who had brought the Regiment to the Crimea and was killed in the battle leading the 1st Bde of the 4th Div was buried

Sergeant Major at the time, Sergeant Major Fallon having fallen during the attack on the Redan.

The group of spectators shown on the extreme right, who appear to be wearing civilian clothes, could be Maltese traders who had established several 'shops' in the Camp by that time.

The photograph appeared in the book 'Red Coat' written by E. W. Sheppard and published in 1952.

J.I.D.P.

- there, Gen Penefather—who had been in temporary command of the 2nd Div at Inkerman—wrote afterwards to Col Shadforth 'He was the most popular officer in this army—beloved by his brigade, and beloved by all who knew him, and no man has fallen more thought of or more universally regretted'. (Capt Woolright). Capt Edward Stanley was another and whose tombstone was inscribed 'Here lieth the mortal remains of Capt Edward Stanley, 57th Regt, killed at the battle of Inkerman November 5, 1854, to whose memory this stone is erected by the men of his Company—Cast down but not destroyed' 2 Corinthians, v. (W. H. Russell in his book 'The British Expedition to the Crimea' published 1856.)
5. 'Historical Records of the 57th or West Middlesex Regiment of Foot' by Lt Gen H. J. Warre, CB, published 1878.
6. Capt Woolright.
7. He was a much loved officer. Csgt Cumming wrote to Mrs Shadforth '... he was the father and friend of the Regiment and watched over it in a manner that gained for him the adoration of his men; and never was there more genuine grief amongst a body of men than was seen in the 57th Regiment for the poor Colonel'. (Capt Woolright). Queen Victoria gave Mrs Shadforth a 'grace and favour' residence on hearing of her husband's death. Col Shadforth's father had fought at Albuhera with the 57th.
8. Subsequently Gen Sir James Warre, KCB, FRGS, FRHS, after a long and distinguished career. In addition to writing the historical records of his Regiment he was also an artist of note and wrote 'Sketches in the Crimea 1855'. His last appointment was commander in Chief of the Bombay army. He died in 1898 aged 70.
9. The design of the clasps was very unpopular in the Crimea at the time. The officers referred to them as decanter labels. ('British War Medals' by W. H. Long published 1893.)

OBITUARY

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

AKLEY—On December 7, 1976, ex-Pte Frank George Oakley (G24244), aged 79 years. He died in the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, where he had been a patient since being admitted on November 7, 1924.

Frank was wounded on September 23, 1916, when serving with the 20th Service Bn (Shoreditch) and it was as a result of this wound that he was admitted to the Home.

Although confined to a wheel chair for over 50 years he remained bravely cheerful and a wonderful inspiration and example to all the other patients. When I (Editor) visited Frank at Christmas he always made me go to his locker and pour out two tots of whisky and we then drank the health of all Diehards. After this I had to wash the glasses for his next visitors. Frank had no hands. A truly remarkable man.

POTTER—On January 8, 1977, ex-Pte L. C. Potter (6539721), aged 63 years. He enlisted on October 8, 1932, and served until January 14, 1946. He was with the 1st Bn in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong, but returned to UK in February 1939. During the war he served with the BEF and in NWE. He was awarded the 1939–45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal and War Medal 1939–45.

POULTER—On November 27, 1976, ex-Drum Major Henry Thomas Poulter (2524 and 6189316), aged 76 years. 'Drummy' Poulter enlisted three times in the Regiment eventually serving 28 years regular service and eight years Territorial Forces. During regular engagement he had reached the rank of Warrant Officer, but it is as 'Drummy' he is remembered and also. I am convinced, how he would have wished to be remembered.

He originally enlisted into the 3/7th Bn (TA) at Hornsey, a third-line unit formed in February 1915, declaring he was 19 years of age, although he had only just entered his 15th year, his date of birth being November 1, 1900. Recruits were becoming difficult to find at this date, most of the keen young men had already flocked to the recruiting offices to make sure they reached France before Christmas 1914 when so many were sure the war would be finished. Harry Poulter, a tall lad for his age, made a welcome appearance and was enrolled immediately. At the time he was employed by David Grieg the grocers as errand boy delivering his baskets of goods, with the aid of a tradesman's tricycle. Seeing the poster saying 'Lend your strong right arm' on display outside the Drill Hall at Hornsey, he dismounted from the tricycle, went in and enlisted.

He then left the machine outside a shop three doors away from Grieg's. He neither went back to the shop nor notified his parents. The unit, in March 1915, moved to Barnet Barracks and he was issued with breeches, red tunic and blue cap, a combination quite common in the early days of the war when khaki was in such short supply. He then went home as proud as could be for his parents to see their brave soldier son. This caused a prompt application from the family for his discharge as under age, which duly took place. The next year, he again managed to enlist again giving a false age and was posted to the 18th (First Public Works Pioneer) Bn and given the number 2524. From Pelham Down Camp, he was sent on draft leave when again his father wrote to the Commanding Officer with the result he was again discharged as under age. Again, in 1917, he enlisted at Mill Hill declaring his correct age and was enrolled as a Boy in the Band, the Bandmaster at this date being Bandmaster 'Soapy' Hudson, the Bandmaster, of the 3rd Bn. Given a trombone, he for a few weeks practised scales in a barrack room, much to the anguish of his comrades within hearing. The Bandmaster deciding he was hopeless on wood or brass wind instruments, put him on the drum stand where he eventually managed to play a drum solo at the end of a selection which was *not* on the musical score. The BM then posted him to the Corps of Drums where he became bass drummer.

Too young to be sent overseas before the Armistice in 1918 he was training with the 53 (YS) Bn when the Armistice was signed, the Battalion being named originally The 102nd Training Reserve Bn. Harry Poulter was at the Depot when No 1 Special Coy were formed for service in North Russia. Having missed overseas service during 1914–18 he approached his Sergeant Major and said he and his friend George Pocock wished to volunteer. The Sergeant Major replied 'You have no need to volunteer you are the first two on the list and I shall be b——y glad to see the back of you'. The draft left in April 1919, and served in Murmansk as can be read in the Regimental history.

On his return from Russia, he was posted to the 2nd Bn then in Abbassia Barracks, Cairo, Egypt, where he joined the Corps of Drums remaining with them during the battalion's overseas tour of duty in Singapore, India, where he was appointed Drum Major on October 13, 1928, and in the Sudan. In July 1936 he was promoted Colour Sergeant and appointed Company Quartermaster-Sergeant and was granted his Warrant as WO2 (CSM) on November 11, 1937. During the last war he did not serve overseas but was retained at home as an instructor for which he was awarded the Defence Medal and War Medal to add to the British War Medal and Victory Medal of 1914–19

and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. After his discharge from the Regular Army he enrolled with the Territorial Forces and appointed Drum-Major to the 7th Battalion (TF). Here he had his two sons Pte T. Poulter and Boy A. Poulter in the Corps of Drums. He and Mrs Poulter catered for dinners, etc, both in the Officers Mess and the Sergeants Mess as well as being at the centre of all battalion functions far too numerous to detail here. He was a member of the Enfield Silver Band, as was his son T. Poulter, and played at First Division Matches at Tottenham Hotspurs during the periods of musical interludes. It was a source of pleasure and pride for him when he was in charge of the ceremony of sounding

the fanfare at the Middlesex Guildhall on Friday, February 8, 1952, at the Proclamation Ceremony for Queen Elizabeth II. His service with the 7th Bn was terminated in 1953.

He moved to Goole, Yorks, a few years ago, but as he felt the approach of the Grim Reaper he expressed the desire to return to the locality he knew in his youth. This wish was granted him. A service of 36 years accountable service, which would have been 38 had his original date of enlistment counted commenced in the 7th Bn and terminated in that same battalion, albeit he had wandered far and wide between the alpha and omega of his service, 20 years of which the writer of these notes accompanied him.

MAJ DICK SMITH

LETTERS

From: Ex-Sgt E. H. Webster (G/3249)

'D' Coy,
12th Bn Middlesex Regt,
Royston Park,
Adelaide,
South Australia 5070.
October 21, 1976.

To: The Commanding Officer,
Middlesex Regt

Sir,

I hope you have the patience to read this letter, as I think you will find it interesting.

After the retreat from Mons in 1914, Lord Kitchener asked for 100,000 men in order to form a new army. I answered that call and enlisted at Whitehall on September 3, 1914. I was taken to Colchester and with others we were transferred from a mob into a Battalion and so, the 12th Bn Middlesex Regt was created. We were trained and then sent to Salisbury Plain to complete that operation. In July 1915, we went to France, and made straight for the Somme where we learnt trench warfare. On July 1, 1916, we attacked and took seven lines of trenches. On July 14, 1916, we took Trones Wood. The newspapers gave the credit to the RW Kents. They took it, but allowed the enemy to infiltrate and re-occupy the wood. We went over, threw the Germans out, and released the RW Kents. Next came Thiepval. The 49th Div had four goes and got thrown back each time. Our Colonel submitted a plan of attack which was accepted; we led the attack on September 26, 1916. We took Thiepval, but lost our Colonel—he was promoted to Brigadier General. In April 1917 we marched to Arras. On May 3, 1917, we attacked Chertisy. We met strong opposition and I was told only 53 men got back. I got about 15 yards from the enemy line, when a shell (presumably British) dropped close behind me and blew me several feet into the air. I rolled into a shell hole and found two pieces of shrapnel in my behind. These I pulled out and dressed the wounds then found I had no feeling

in my legs. I could not dig myself out as my entrenching tool was smashed. I stayed put for six days and on May 8, 1917, a German found me and carried me in. I am full of praise for the care and attention I received and after spending time in three hospitals I was restored to health and sent to Hameln No 17—an NCOs POW camp near Osnabruck. At the end of the war we were given permission to march to Holland. We did the 100 miles in four days and reached Enschede on December 23, 1918, and so to England where I found newspaper reports that I was missing—believed killed! On May 15, 1919, I returned to civilian life. I have two sons married, one joined the Army in 1944 and served in the RASC (re-named RCT) and came to Australia in 1969. David joined the Royal Navy in 1948. Years of service to the crown—Maurice 26, David 24 and myself five (active). This makes a total 55 years—we feel quite proud. David and I came out here in 1972. My two sons are busy working whilst I enjoy a life of retirement. After all at the age of 80 years what else can I do? I am still full of life—and what not—after all I am still a Diehard.

(Sgd) ERNEST H. WEBSTER.

Editor's comment.—I have sent Mr Webster a copy of *The Diehards* in the Great War 1914-18. These books should keep him out of mischief. I am sure he would like to hear from any Ex-12th Bn members who are still around.

From: Mr H. A. Lane

13 The Crossways,
Wembley, Middlesex.
(Served 9th Battalion
1914-18)

To: The Editor
Diehards Newsletter

Mesopotamia Revisited

It may seem odd that anyone who served in Mesopotamia during the First World War should have any desire to see it again, but so it was with me.

Early last year I was one of a party visiting the country whose main interest was in the remains of ancient palaces and cities of two to five thousand years ago. On this occasion my wife accompanied me, and although we had only fourteen days there, modern transport made it possible to cover more miles than I did in the far off days of 1917-18.

There has been a considerable growth in the population and in the towns and cities the men's dress has in the main become European. Baghdad itself has spread in all directions with its two to three million people. The Tigris, spanned by two modern bridges has a wide promenade along the eastern bank. We drove about a mile through one long street from the centre of the city where every shop on each side was a motor repair establishment and all with jobs to do—there must be a high accident rate! Near our hotel at the junction of several wide well paved streets there is a fountain representing Ali Baba dealing with the forty thieves concealed in their jars.

We visited Babylon, Kish, Ur of the Chaldees, Shargat, Hattra and Nineveh, all places of great archaeological and historical interest.

The highlight for me was the day we drove from Baghdad past Babylon, through Hillah, over a modern bridge across the Euphrates to Kufa and Nejef. Early in 1918 I was one of the 9th which was ordered to go down hurriedly from Baghdad to help in siege of Nejef, where a pro-Turkish party had killed a British Political Officer, the main object being to bring the assassins to justice. The road from Kufa to Nejef was then a dirt road surmounted by a horse tramway the principal purpose of which was the transportation of Euphrates water to Nejef. The tramway has now gone, replaced by a wide tarmac motor road with houses on both sides for most of the four or five miles to Nejef. The great wall surrounding the city has disappeared but the many tombs outside remain. Nejef was established so far away from fresh water supplies as the camel bearing the corpses of Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law, came to rest there after wandering from Kufa where Ali had been assassinated. We visited the shrine at Nejef where the body of Ali now lies under the great golden dome, and also the mosque at Kufa at the place where Ali was killed. From there we went through desert country to Kerbala, another of the holy cities of the Sh'ah sect. Here lies the body of Hussein, a younger son of Ali killed in battle at Kufa. Due respect must be shown to these places of pilgrimage. A year or two ago a German visitor and his wife were so insistent in taking pictures and treading on forbidden ground in the shrine at Nejef that they were lynched. Looking back I feel specially favoured in being allowed into the precincts of the mosque at Khazimain near Baghdad to take photographs. A custodian at the gate took a head covering from a woman sitting there and put it on my wife so that she too could enter the courtyard and have a closer view of this truly beautiful example of Islamic architecture. A most unexpected gesture.

Sixty years ago we sometimes travelled by rail, sitting or standing in closed or open trucks, but still a welcome change from foot-slogging. In contrast this time we travelled overnight from Baghdad to Nasiriyah in a very comfortable sleeping compartment. We arrived at 3.00am and after an uneasy

sleep on the floor of the Rest House and breakfast we were taken to the remains of Ur to wander along the streets which had been trodden by a civilisation of 5,000 years ago. To obtain a fuller understanding of the people of the ancient cities of Mesopotamia we visited the excellent museums at Baghdad, Mosul and Babylon and saw the numerous exhibits of artifacts, sculptures, tools, ornaments, jewellery and pottery taken from the excavated cities. One cannot but admire the skill of the craftsmen who produced these articles without modern tools and power at a time when Britain was inhabited by a few primitive people.

One morning we left Baghdad by motor coach in very heavy rain on a two and a half hour journey to Samarra near which the 18th Indian Div was camped for much of the summer of 1918. The unique spiral Minaret of the old mosque, now disused, still towers its 150ft above the flat countryside. This wet overcast day was a great contrast to the many days we had there under blue cloudless skies. It was during this time that the influenza epidemic ran through the Division. Here too once a week a regimental band gave a programme of music under the clear bright starlight. The next day in bright sunshine we went to Ctesiphon to see the great palace with its tremendous arch. The Sassanian rulers of the Persian empire had their capital here for several hundred years before being displaced by the Arabs. The whole area is now a National Park well patronised by the local inhabitants. I derived great satisfaction from being able so many years later to have a closer look at this monument of ancient magnificence instead of the distant view from a wooden seat in a train trundling along a narrow gruge line a mile or so away.

Whilst at Mosul, apart from visiting Sennecherib's Palace at Nineveh and the Assyrian Palace at Numrud, we travelled northwards towards the mountains and stopped at two villages for a while. We were such unusual visitors that we were followed around in the first village by a small crowd mainly of teenagers with school books under their arms. The second village, nestling in the foothills was grouped round a shrine containing the remains of the founder of a religious sect based on a mixture of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and beliefs from a more distant past. They had certain taboos including a ban on anything blue. Also one had to be careful not to step on the lintel of the doorways on the way to view the tomb of the founder—something to do with keeping on the right side of Shaiton, the Devil. The young village girls in colourful dresses danced and sang. The present leader of the sect, the Baba, a stout bearded gentleman in a white robe and turban welcomed us and seemed proud to have his picture taken surrounded by his attendants, all male.

It would have been interesting to have followed closely my tracks of 1917-19 and to have taken another look at Basra, Amara, Kut-el-Amara the Jebel Hamrin and the Fathah gorge but this was not possible. The two weeks touring was well worthwhile and added much to my knowledge of ancient and modern Mesopotamia.

Editor's comment.—I feel sure that this letter will recall many memories for the old and bold members of the 9th Bn.

THE 'POTHOOKS' OF THE CZAR

By MAJ DICK SMITH

The year 1977, being the year of the Pothooks, I have elsewhere written of the salient dates and occurrences of our 77th (East Middlesex) Regt later the 2nd Bn and finally the 1st Bn, The Middlesex Regt (DCO) (57th/77th). I feel that a story of an allied unit of Pothooks may be of interest.

During World War I, there existed a bond of comradeship between the 2nd Bn of the Regiment and the 77th (Tenginsky) Infantry Regt of Russia, the oldest in the pre-revolution army. Greetings were sent by the British Pothooks to the Russian Pothooks at Easter 1916, the greetings card depicting the colourful uniform worn by the Regiment from its formation. This gesture of comradeship resulted in a reciprocal gesture at Easter, 1917.

At Petrograd, now Leningrad, in April 1917, a deputation of the 77th (Tenginsky) Infantry Regt consisting of Capt Poliakov, Ensign Verbitski and Lt Mikhailov, handed to the British Ambassador, Sir George Buchanan, an album of regimental photographs as a present to the Duke of Cambridge's Own Regt (77th Foot).

Handing over the present, Capt Poliakov, made the following speech:

'Nearly three years of the great war have united the regiments of the two armies of Great Nations. At Easter 1916 the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regt have honoured us by sending us artistic greeting cards, portraying officers and soldiers of the Regiment.

'The 77th (Tenginsky) Regt, separated from their comrades-in-arms by land and water, has in its complete personnel of officers and men taken the liberty of asking Your Excellency, the Friend of Russia and the representative of Great Britain, to accept our present and convey it to the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regt.

'Taking advantage of the happy moment, we, officers and men, of the Tenginsky Regt, exalted by the national wisdom of the British race, and the bravery of its Army, exclaim, "Long live King George V, Great Britain, and her Army. Long Life to the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regt and long life to Sir George Buchanan, the Friend of Russia".'

Sir George Buchanan, a British Diplomat, entered the diplomatic service in 1875, at the age of 21 years. After serving in Rome, Berlin, Sofia and The Hague, he was appointed British Ambassador to Russia in 1910 holding his appointment until 1918, throughout the momentous days of the Russian Revolution. He died in 1924 aged 70 years.

Capt Poliakov delivered a letter to the Ambassador for the Commanding Officer of the British 77th, at this date Lt Col J. Hamilton Hall, DSO, who had received notification of the award of a Bar to his DSO for distinguished conduct at the capture of Heudecourt on the same day as the album and letter were delivered. The letter from the Tenginsky Regt was signed by Col Lebedeff the Commanding Officer and Lt Pristavko the Adjutant, a photograph of both these officers being in the album. Also in the album is a portrait of Lt Mikhail Lermontov, the Russian poet, a turbulent chap whose family of

small nobles traditionally descended from a Scotsman, George Learmonth. He was shot dead in a duel in July 1841, at the age of 27. Although his life was short, he won a commanding position in Russian poetry.

The letter received was as follows:

From: The Commanding Officer
77th Tenginsky Regt
To: The Commanding Officer
77th Middlesex Regt
(Duke of Cambridge's Own)

April 1, 1917
On active service

Dear Colonel,

Nearly three years of Great War has brought Russia nearer to Britain and united the two armies into one in the fight for right and justice.

The Officers and soldiers of the Regiment under my command, animated by the feeling of admiration for the national wisdom of Great Britain, and for the achievement of its glorious armies, touched to the heart by the act of attention of the Regiment under your command in the Holy days of Easter, 1916 we beg of you to accept our modest gift to the 77th (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Middlesex Regt.

The bonds of union which unite us with the Regiment under your command and express the brotherhood and love of the two great Nations induce me to exclaim 'Long live Great Britain', 'Long live its Army', 'Long live the 77th Duke of Cambridge's Own, Middlesex Regt'.

Commanding Officer,
Col Lebedeff
Regimental Adjutant,
Lt Pristavko.

The initial illustration in the album is a coloured drawing of the exploit of the Immortal Archip Osipov of the Tenginsky Regt, March 22, 1840. The translation of the story is given as received from Col Lebedeff.

Commanding Officer,
77th Tenginsky Infantry Regt,
(The Field Army)

April 1, 1917

EXPLOIT OF THE IMMORTAL ARCHIP OSIPOV

(of the Tenginsky Regiment)

March 22, 1840—March 22, 1917

In 1840ad by the might of the Russian Arms the greater part of Caucasus was annexed to Russia. It seemed as if the wild, yet grand hills of the Caucasus, stubbornly defended by proud sons of the Black Mountains, by Chechents, Lezgines and other Mountain Tribes, ought never to see any traces of the Russian soldier, but Russian brains, Russian culture and Russian bayonets completed the great task. Along the slopes of the wild hills, down to the shores of the Black Sea, stretched hamlets, villages and green pastures, where wild sheep and wolves flourished. The people of the Mountain felt that the end of their ascendancy over the Black Mountains was approaching, and the various tribes, hitherto separated, each under the persuasive influence and willpower of their own elders, began to unite for a single purpose, thanks to which they soon had a numerous army with very good cavalry, excellent infantry and, even

artillery. The struggle with the hill tribes was made all the harder by the fact that the Russian troops had to protect the labour of peaceful farmers, whom the hill tribes never left in peace, and often unexpectedly raided their hamlets and villages, putting all to fire and the sword, and carrying off women and children.

To secure the safety of life and property from the vocacious raids of the hill tribes, along the shores of the Black Sea were constructed a series of forts in the shape of a rectangle, by a stone wall and a rampart of earth with loopholes. In the centre of this were situated barracks and other buildings for the garrison. One of these forts, named the Michaylovsky Fort, situated almost on the very shores of the Black Sea, was occupied by the 9th Coy of the Tenginsky Regt and a company of the (Black Sea) 5th Bn of the line. It can be seen that the garrison was not very large, all the more so because at that time, when quinine was a very expensive medicine, caucasian fever mowed men down without mercy and the ranks of the defenders of the Michaylovsky Fort became reduced, hardly amounting; by March 22, 1840, to 500 bayonets. The Hill tribes unexpectedly collected in bands of 5 to 10,000 and poured like snow on the heads of the little garrison and annihilated the defenders. A similar fate threatened the Michaylovsky Fort, but its garrison with its Commander, Capt Leeko, at the head, with no hopes of any help, awaited the enemy, preparing a formidable reception for him. Mountain scouts, friendly to the Russians, reported that on March 22, 14,000 hillmen were about to attack the fort at daybreak. With his body exhausted with malaria, but in spirit still a hardy Russian warrior, Capt Leeko devised a secret plan, which he gave to the War Council—this plan sank deep into the hearts of the brave men and found a response in the heart of the immortal Archip Osipov, of the Tenginsky Regt.

Capt Leeko assembled a council of war on which, by his orders, were present all the old soldiers, who had served 20 years, or who had won the St George's Cross. The council was not long. There was not much talk; but they decided one thing; to fire the powder magazine and blow up the fort without surrendering it to the enemy. At night on March 22 bonfires were seen some distance away from the fort, noise and songs were heard; these were the preparations in the enemy's camp for the attack on the fort. According to the reports from the scouts, the hill tribes mustered not less than 14,000 mounted and on foot. An old soldier, SM Kamlev, of the 9th Coy, reported to the Company Commander, 2 Lt Kraumsgold, that Archip Osipov begged to be detailed for this firing of the powder magazine. Capt Leeko was informed of this. Each defender of the fort knew his own place and what he had to do, and soon without any noise, after a short prayer, the rampart of the fort was lined by the 500 bayonets.

At daybreak the huge body of 14,000 hillmen with yells and cries hurled themselves on the fort, but their front ranks stopped in confusion—brought up by the formidable silence of the defenders.

The dim silence of the dawn is suddenly broken by the sound of a shot; then from the ranks of the defenders of the Michaylovsky Fort rings out a volley, another, and then another. The enemy was completely surrounded them, they are already under

the walls of the fort and are climbing up the ramparts. The ranks of the defenders are getting thinner. The enemy are already inside the fort . . . With swords drawn, with daggers in their teeth they rush on the handful of Russian heroes. A last uneven hand-to-hand fight takes place.

The brave Leeko has fallen; glorious Kraumsgold is down bleeding to death; the dashing Sub-Ensign Koretzky, and SM Kamlev with him, pierced by the daggers of the enemy, are down mortally wounded. At this moment—the moment of the last breath of the Michaylovsky Fort—a soldier of 38, with bright blue eyes and fair hair steps out from the ranks of the Tenginsky Regt . . . He is the never to be forgotten Archip Osipov.



Photographer : Rodney Brewster

Deed of Private Archip Osipov, March 22, 1840.
Copy of water colour

'It is time, my lads', rings out the firm voice of Archip Osipov. The lids of Kraumsgold's eyes open, his right hand is raised as if for the sign of the Cross, and SM Kamlev crushing down for the moment his terrible pain crawls up to him and with weakened hands raises his head so that he may see the great deed of a member of the Tenginsky Regt for the glory of the Russian Arms.

Archip Osipov is surrounded by 20 of the Tenginsky boys—he is in the middle with a lighted torch and they with bayonets are making way for him towards the powder magazine . . . 'Brothers, remember my deed', and he disappears into the cellar. A minute . . . then a terrible explosion. Smoke, fire, bodies and debris, all are mixed together.

Out of the 14,000 of the hillmen, not more than 3,000 were left. Throughout the Black Sea mountains from village to village among the enemy the fame of the great deed of the defence of the Michaylovsky Fort spread and those mountaineers, who considered themselves kinsmen of the Russians, published it abroad.

But is it possible that not a single man of the defenders of the Fort was left?

Yes—there was one left, badly wounded and taken prisoner by the hillmen—a private of the 9th Coy of the Tenginsky Regt, Joseph Miroslaysky.

In spite of their tremendous losses the hillmen looked with delight at one of the survivors and, respecting his wounds let him go back to the Russians.

This hero, with difficulty moving on crutches, the only eyewitness, from among the members of the Tenginsky Regt, of the great defence of the Michaylovsky Fort, and the never to be forgotten deed of Archip Osipov, died as a Second Lieutenant—in the city of Vladicavcas, where our Regiment was quartered at the time, at the beginning of his 80th year.

The Emperor, Nicolas I, hearing of the great-deed of Archip Osipov gave orders that his name should be retained on the list of the 1st Coy of the Tenginsky Regt for ever and that his name should be called every day at night roll call—the private on the right flank answering, 'Fell, for the glory of the Russian arms, at the Michaylovsky Fort, in 1840'.

In the city of Vladicavcas, in memory of the heroic defenders of the Michaylovsky Fort a monument was erected in the shape of an obelisk, the top of which is crowned with a double eagle holding a wreath of laurels in his beak.

The never to be forgotten names of Leeko, Kraumsgold, Koretsky, Kamlev and Archip Osipov are inscribed on this obelisk together with the last words of Osipov 'Brothers, remember my deed'. When our beloved Regiment, the oldest in the Russian Army, parades in full strength for prayers, the solemn moments of the evening roll-call draw near. The Orderly Officer of the Regiment in loud voice calls 'Archip Osipov'—'Fell for the Glory of Russian Arms at the Michaylovsky Fort in 1840'—answers the private on the right flank of the 1st Coy. Silence . . . and then the melancholy but grand words 'Requiescas in pacem'.

In 1900 the Regiment celebrated the 200th anniversary of its existence, in memento of which a crest was designed to be worn on the left breast.

This crest has been fixed on the cover of the album, which the members of the Tenginsky Regt present to their brothers in arms and namesakes, the members of the Middlesex Regt.

Commanding Officer
Col Lebedeff
Regimental Adjutant
Lt Pristovko

The above narrative makes heroic reading, 'Ivan' the Russian contemporary of the British 'Tommy' has many such epics written in the history of the Russian Army. It is interesting to read in the second paragraph of the epic the combination of the 77th (Tenginsky) Regt and the 5th (Black Sea) Bn of the Line. This recalls a parallel combination of members in our own history which took place at the Battle of El Bodon, September 25, 1811, claimed to be the first time in modern history when infantry successfully charged cavalry. In his 'Minor Tactics', Gen C. F. Clery writes:

At El Bodon where Montbrun, with 14 battalions, 30 squadrons and 12 guns, attacked a small force of allied troops of which two battalions—the 5th and 77th—alone were British, they checked the advance of the cavalry by fire, charged them at bayonet point, and retired in square, which resisted every effort to destroy it.

Col Napier the historian waxes more lyrical, writing in his history of the Peninsular War, 'Then, the 5th and the 77th, two weak battalions formed in one square, were quite exposed, and in an instant the whole of the French cavalry came thundering down on them. How vain, how fruitless to match sword with the musket! To send the charging horseman against the steadfast veteran. The multitudinous squadrons rending the skies with their shouts, and closing upon the glowing square like the falling edges of a burning crater, were as instantly repulsed, scorched and scattered abroad, and the rolling peal of musketry had scarcely ceased to echo in the hills when bayonets glittered at the edge of the smoke and with firm and even step the British regiments came forth like the holy men from the Assyrian's furnace'.

In the year of the Pothooks it is apt to recall such epics of two regiments of that ilk, the recording of which I hope has not bored the reader.

Note.—The order of St George was founded in 1769 by the Empress Catherine. It was awarded only for conspicuous bravery against the enemy. In the album, there are a number of officers and soldiers of the 77 (Tenginsky) Regt wearing this decoration. A number of these awards were made to our own regiment during World War I.