



# *The Die-Hards*

## NEWSLETTER

No. 38

DECEMBER 1977

PRICE 15p

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### **CLOSURE OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION OFFICES AT THE TAVR CENTRE, DEANSBROOK ROAD, EDWARE**

The Regimental Association Offices at the TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edware, will close on December 31, 1977, and reopen at RHQ Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, on January 1, 1978. My telephone number will be 0227-65281 extension 21.

All correspondence, subscriptions for Officers Club, Regimental Association, Newsletter, and Regimental goods should be addressed to Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Secretary, Middlesex

Regimental Association, RHQ Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.

The Mill Hill Branch OCA and the WOs and Sgts Branch OCA will continue to meet at the TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edware, Middlesex.

Please keep in touch with me just as you have done so in the past. Your support is now needed more than ever.

#### **COLONEL THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT**

Maj Gen R. S. N. Mans, CBE, is to succeed Maj Gen F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, as Colonel of The Queens Regiment on December 31, 1977.

#### **DEPUTY COLONEL THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT**

Brig B. R. Coleman is to be appointed Deputy Colonel, The Queen's Regiment, on December 31, 1977.

#### **DEPUTY COLONELS FORMER REGIMENTS**

The Four County Deputy Colonel appointments will lapse on December 31, 1977. This means that Col J. N. Shipster, CBE, DSO, will cease to be Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) on that date.



## REGIMENTAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS 1978

Date	Event
Wednesday, March 15	9th Bn Officers Club Dinner, Venue later
Saturday, April 8	9th Bn OCA Dinner at Quality Inn, 191 Victoria Street SW1
Saturday, April 29	1/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner at TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey N8
Wednesday, May 3	Spring Golf Meeting at North Hants Gold Club, Fleet
Friday, May 12	Officers Club Cocktail Party at Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1
Saturday, May 13	Afternoon—Albuhara Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral
Saturday, May 20	Evening—Annual Reunion at Porchester Hall, London W2
Wednesday, June 7	2/10th Bn OCA Luncheon at Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W1
August 23-26	Derby Outing
Tuesday, October 3	Pilgrimage to Mons—Private Parties only
Friday, October 6	Autumn Golf Meeting at North Hants Golf Club, Fleet
Sunday, October 22	2/7th OCA Dinner at Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2
Saturday, November 11	Attendance at Church Parade, Royal Hospital, Chelsea
Sunday, November 12	Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey
Mill Hill Branch OCA	1000 hrs—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by a Reunion at TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware
WOs and Sgts Branch OCA	1045 hrs—7th Bn wreath laying at Hornsey Parish Church by the Hornsey and Enfield Branch
	1500 hrs—2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick
	Meet at TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware at 7.30 pm on last Saturday of each month
	Meet at TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware at 7.30 pm on second Saturday of each month

### FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance took place on Saturday, November 12, and was well attended by many ex-members of the Regiment and civil dignitaries headed by the Vice-Chairman of the Greater London Council, Mr Stanley Bolton. The following senior officers were present: Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, CBE, MC, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, Col I. R. Burrows,

OBE, Col H. J. A. Moore, OBE, Col M. H. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL.

The majority of the boroughs lying within the old county of Middlesex were represented. A short service was held at the County Memorial situated in the entrance hall to the Middlesex Guildhall, conducted by the Rev P. L. Pearce-Gould, OBE, MA. A procession headed by WOII D. Harwood, 'B' Coy (Middlesex), 6/7th (V) The Queen's Regiment, followed by Mr S. Kerswill, carrying the Regimental Association Standard, escorted by three Chelsea Pensioners (I/P Carter, Fulton and Worton), formed up outside the Guildhall and moved to the Regimental Plot in the Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey.

At the plot the President of the Regimental Association, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, after saying 'We plant these crosses today in memory of our fallen comrades of the Middlesex Regiment', planted the first cross. He then invited the Vice-Chairman of the Greater London Council, Mr Stanley Bolton, to plant a cross.

The Vice-Chairman was followed by the Rev P. L. Pearce-Gould, OBE, MA; the High Sheriff of Greater London, Lt Col D. C. Tichner-Barratt, TD, escorted by Lt Col R. M. Cain; and the Director General and Clerk to the Greater London Council, Sir James Swaffield, CB, RD, escorted by Maj F. Webb.

Members of the Regiment representing the following Battalions then in turn planted a cross:

1st Bn, Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, CBE, MC; 2nd Bn, Col I. R. Burrows, OBE; 3rd Bn, Mr W. A. Wright; 4th Bn, Mr C. Ashby; 5th Bn (TA), Maj M. J. Beaumont, TD; 7th Bn (TA), Mr A. H. Ellis; 1/8th Bn (TA), Maj R. A. J. Cheffins, MC; 2/8th Bn (TA), Col M. H. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL; 9th Bn (TA), Mr C. Edwards; 2/10th Bn (TA), Mr A. D. Scudamore, OBE; 16th Bn, Mr N. Peters.

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

1. The Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Charles S. Hancock, of the London Borough of Ealing, escorted by Maj V. Williams, MBE.
2. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor John G. Payne, FCA and Mrs Margaret Payne, of the London Borough of Enfield, escorted by Capt G. G. Andrews.
3. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Les Collis, of the London Borough of Haringey, escorted by Maj M. L. Muirhead, TD.
4. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Barry Turner, JP, of the London Borough of Harrow, escorted by Mr R. T. Meers.
5. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Councillor Raymond J. Padley and Councillor Audrey H. Padley, JP, of the London Borough of Hounslow, escorted by Maj S. C. W. Weller, MBE, MM.
6. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress, Councillor J. L. Hargreaves and Mrs Hargreaves, of the London Borough of Twickenham, escorted by Lt P. I. Roberts.
7. Mr and Mrs Politeyan, MA., Chairman, The Middlesex County Association, escorted by Capt W. B. Hammond, ERD, TD.

8. Members of the Regimental Association and their friends.

Apologies were received from the Deputy Mayors of the Boroughs of Barnet and Hillingdon for their non-arrival who were to have been escorted by Maj R. E. Lowans and 2 Lt D. P. Austin.

After the ceremony the civil dignitaries and members of the Regimental Association attended a reception in the Middlesex Guildhall.

### REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Once again in conjunction with the Home Postal Courier Communications Depot, RE, our Annual Regimental Remembrance Sunday Service was held in the Garrison Church, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday, November 13, and was followed by the ceremony at the Regimental Memorial. Both services were conducted by the Rev David Parker, M. Theol, Curate of St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, assisted by Miss Margaret Robertson. A bugler from The Guards Depot, Pirbright, sounded 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

Wreaths were laid in the following order: Home Postal and CC Depot, RE, by Col A. V. Burge, MBE, BEM; Regimental Association, by Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Militia Bns, by Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, CBE, MC; 'B' Coy (Middlesex); 6/7th (V) Queen's Regt, by Maj F. Webb; Mill Hill Branch OCA, by Mr J. A. Percival; Wos and Sgts OCA Branch, by Mr L. Shrubbs, MM; 9th Bn OCA Branch, by Mr C. Brown; Middlesex Home Guard, by Mr A. R. Drane.

At the march past which followed the laying of wreaths the salute was taken by Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association, and Col A. V. Burge, MBE, BEM, Commanding Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot, RE. The Middlesex Regiment contingent of Old Comrades was commanded by Maj A. E. Peasley. The saluting dias was flanked by our Chelsea Pensioners, IPs Cater, Fulton and Worton.

After the parade those who had taken part or who had been spectators made their way to the TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, where a most successful reunion was held.

The collection realised £37.50 and this has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion Earl Haig's Poppy Appeal.

### ST PAUL'S CHURCH, MILL HILL

It has always been the custom to lay a wreath at our Regimental Memorial in St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, and this year the duty was carried out on Sunday, November 13, by Flt Lt R. J. Yerby, ex-1st Bn, accompanied by Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE.

### 2/10th BATTALION REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The 2/10th Bn held their annual remembrance day service at the Parish Church of St Nicholas with St Mary Magdalene, Chiswick, at 3 pm on Sunday, November 13. The Rev Patrick Tuft, MA, Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Bn,

OCA, conducted the service which was attended by 60 to 70 Old Comrades and their families.

Mr A. D. Scudamore, OBE, represented Maj B. K. Cattell, the Chairman of the 2/10th Bn OCA, who was unable to be present owing to illness. Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, accompanied by Mrs Clayton, attended the service. Col Clayton read the lesson and laid a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association, Mr Scudamore laid the other wreath.

After the service tea was served in the Church Hall. Mrs Ann Webster (daughter of the late Lt Col D. B. Watson, MC) and her husband were present.

As in past years, Mrs Ann Webster produced those delightful sausage rolls.

Col Clayton gave a short address bringing members of the 2/10th OCA up-to-date with Regimental Association affairs.

### DONATIONS—CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Charitable Fund from: Maj K. R. McBiggs (in memory of late Col M. Crawford), Mr A. W. J. Brown (2/7th Bn), Mr D. Cavill, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton (in memory of late Maj Gen G. P. L. Weston and Maj J. I. D. Pike), Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, and Lt Col J. D. Gunnell.

The 2/7th Bn (1939-45) OCA at their annual dinner on Friday, October 7, 1977, collected and donated to the Charitable Fund the magnificent sum of £112.00.

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## FREE NEWSLETTERS

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: Mr A. J. Brown (9th Bn), Mr A. E. J. Brown (2/7th Bn), Capt W. Burrell, Mr D. Cavill, Maj J. E. Chiverall, Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, Maj A. E. Peasley and Col D. Sax.

## 15th (SCOTTISH) DIVISION WAR MEMORIAL

The 15th (Scottish) Div War Memorial situated at Tourville-Sur-Odon and erected in memory of those who gave their lives during the North West Europe Campaign 1944-45 requires funds to assist in its maintenance.

As you well know our 1st Bn fought in this campaign with great distinction.

Col Desmond Ellis informs me that this memorial is looked after by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission through a small original endowment but alas as elsewhere expenditure is exceeding income. He would be very grateful to receive some contributions from any old 'Diehards' who served in the Battalion during this campaign which would be put to a fund to maintain the memorial. Contributions should be sent to Col W. D. Ellis, OBE, TD, DL, Lea Barn, Winter Hill, Cookham Dean, Berks SL6 9TW, made out to Mr K. Parker and crossed Glyn Mills Bank Ltd 15th (Scottish) Division.

Other units who formed the 15th (Scottish) Div are being asked to help.

The Regimental Association have made a donation of £20.

## 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The 50th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club was held at the TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey N8, on Thursday, November 10, 1977.

Lt Col J. D. Gunnell presided and the principal guest of the evening was Maj Gen B. P. Hughes.

Prior to sitting down to Dinner 'B' Coy (Middlesex) 6/7th (V) The Queens Regt provided a Guard of Honour and gave a display of drill movements. The Guard of Honour was commanded by 2 Lt D. P. Austin and consisted of CSM D. Harwood, Csgt R. Bird, Sgts L. Cowland, D. Cadywould, B. Williams and 22 soldiers. The guard was inspected by Maj Gen B. P. Hughes and Lt Col G. L. Fox accompanied by Lt Col J. D. Gunnell and Maj R. E. Lowans. The General congratulated the guard on their turnout, smartness and drill movements.

Others present were: *Guests:* Maj Gen B. P. Hughes, Councillor D. Clark, Lt Col G. L. Fox, Lt Col F. B. Head, Maj R. W. J. Smith, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, Maj G. Ward-Hunt.

*Members:* Capt G. Andrew, 2 Lt D. P. Austin, Maj R. Bartram, Maj M. J. Beaumont, 2 Lt S. Blausten, Maj H. E. Couch, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, Capt M. J. S. Doran, Capt S. J. E. Enthoven, Lt Col J. D. Gunnell, Maj A. J. Hughes, Lt S. Hurst, Maj R. J. Leighton, Maj R. E. Lowans, Capt D. O. Mansfield-Thomas, Maj E. J. Naish, Maj B. St G. A. Reed, Lt P. Roberts, Capt J. M. Robertson, Capt G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, Lt Col D. E. Simpson, Lt Col

J. Spencer-Richards, Lt P. Storie-Pugh, Maj R. F. Sykes, Col D. R. W. Thomas, Lt J. A. van de Pol, Maj F. Webb, Capt G. J. Young.

The following members expressed their regret for being unable to attend the Dinner, but sent best wishes and greetings to their friends:

Col I. D. Brotherton, Mgr R. Brown, Lt Col R. M. Cain, Lt Col S. F. Caulfield-Kerney, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Col W. D. Ellis, Brig E. W. Flavell, Maj Sir H. Glyn-Jones, Maj S. L. J. Henshaw, Lt Col P. J. Hall, Capt P. S. Ingham, Maj A. T. Jones, Lt W. G. Kay, Capt M. A. H. Lanyon, Maj C. L. Lawrence, Col A. M. Man, Maj D. Margand, Capt F. S. Mayman, Mr M. H. Milne, Maj G. G. Norton, Lt P. J. Ottino, Lt P. I. Phillips, Maj M. Pearson, Brig B. B. Rackham, Capt O. G. Richards, Lt Col J. D. Robbins, Lt J. R. Spooner, Maj E. L. Wallis.

## EALING BRANCH

It is going to be a short contribution this time as we have very little to talk about. I met an old 2nd Bn man by the name Frank Redwood who was in India with them and played cricket, soccer and rugby for the Battalion for some time. He now lives at 40 Warkworth Gardens, Isleworth, near Gillelles and that is as much as I know.

Had my usual tour round to see the old un's and found most of them in fair trim but nearly all house bound. Still I suppose it does a bit of good just having a chat, although I cannot get to them all. As Branch Secretary and also one of his old Platoon I am a bit worried about Capt (Tim) Dark: have had no answers to letters and no reply to the phone. If any member has any news of Tim I should be grateful to hear it.

Amongst my calls was The Cedars Old Peoples Home at Norwood Green, to see Ernie Duffield. The Cedars is run by Ealing Borough Council and its a very nice place for old people, a bit 'pricey' I believe but very nice and Ernie appeared quite happy.

Cannot think of anything else so cheer up 'Diehards' and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you and yours.

Albert White.

## WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

As Christmas is approaching fast our thoughts are turning to celebrations, draws and all the jollifications that go with this 'annual event'. Most of us usually find that there are not enough days to attend all the parties that we would like, so some have to fall by the wayside. However, I'm sure most of you will get your normal share of cheer and goodies that go along with Christmas and the New Year.

Our monthly meetings still bring visitors from far and wide and we are always pleased to welcome those of you who pass nearby on the second Saturday of any month. We can assure you of a night to remember!

Although the Queen's RHQ is being consolidated at Canterbury and our Association Secretary will operate from there from the New Year it will not interfere with our Branch meetings which will still be held at this location on the same basis.

To finish, our Chairman and Committee send the season's greetings to 'Diehards' everywhere wishing you all that you would wish for yourselves.

Ernie Colebeck.

## 9th BN MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

In my last notes of the *Diehards Newsletter* issued in August, I wrote of our Reunion and Dinner held at the Quality Inn, 310 Regent Street on March 26, and although the food and drinks were satisfactory, it was thought that space was insufficient and more cloak room and bar facilities were required for future occasions.

Inquiries have been made and we have found such a suitable place at the Quality Inn, 191 Victoria Street SW, which is controlled by Trust Houses Forte Ltd.

This restaurant is situated at the junction of Victoria Street and Buckingham Palace Road, on the west side of Victoria Station, a very suitable terminus for British Rail, underground and buses besides the coach station quite alongside. Cars can be parked in suitable places close to the restaurant from 1.30 pm on Saturdays. We shall be expecting you on Saturday, April 8, 1978, at 6.30 pm and sitting down to the Dinner at 7 pm. More news of this function next year.

The last function of the Association before going to the press was that a contingent of our members attended the Church Parade at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Sunday, October 23.

The members paraded with a section of the In-Pensioners, with our own Standard and Maj R. W. J. Smith as the Parade Commander.

The Lieutenant Governor of the Hospital inspected the parade and spoke to every man of our contingent.

The Chairman and the Secretary of the Association were present together with several wives of members.

The Service was good, based on the book of Common Prayer and the Church Hymnal, which so many of the members knew in their youth. I really enjoyed the Sermon which was on discipline and how that word was connected with 'Disciple' of the Bible. I am sure it would have done a lot of good if some of the community here and abroad would have heart it.

The Royal Hospital should be visited by all who have served the Colours and its chapel with the beautiful carved wood furnishings and the stained glass windows. The organ loft bears the Royal Cypher.

Perhaps some more of our members will come along to the service next year.

When visiting the Royal Hospital, do not miss the National War Museum next door to it. There are many fine exhibits including the Colours of several old Regiments, Orders and Decorations of Army Commanders and many interesting trophies of wars, long forgotten.

Its free and open every weekday and on Sunday 2-6 pm.

Naturally I must mention our own Museum at Bruce Castle. When I visited there a few weeks ago, an exhibition on our Regiment and its local connection with Tottenham, now known as Haringey, from the days of the Volunteer forces until the Regiments disbanding was in progress. This was apart from our own Museum and held on the ground floor.

Some of our own silver was on exhibit which was the Todman and Lamont Statuettes and the model of the Nijmegen Bridge.

Most of the photos and material that was on show

depicted the 7th Bn and how it was formed from the Volunteers and Militia.

There was a form on conscription occurring in 1803, according to the document, to raise a force of men. A ballot was held in various parishes and those named, could get a volunteer to take his place or the men could volunteer. A rate of 3p in the pound was made to pay the expenses of this force. A small book was on sale giving a lot of information of the 1/7th Bn. The project was controlled by the Haringey Archives committee and jolly well done.

We are very sorry to state that two of our members who attended our Dinner on March 26, Ron Humphries and Albert Brown have passed away, also the deaths of Sgt Arthur Potter and Major T. W. Low on May 23, have been announced.

The sympathy of us all goes to the relatives and friends of our late loyal members.

Our salutations and best wishes to all.

R.T.M.

## THE MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION

Our Annual Church Service at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, took place on Sunday, October 23, 1977.

A party of 40 members and their wives attended headed by the President of the Regimental Association, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, and Mrs Chattey.

The Old Comrades under the command of Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, were inspected by the Governor.

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The Association Standard was carried by Mr G. S. Hurlock.

After the service the party moved to the 'Blue Room' and enjoyed drinks and sandwiches and were able to entertain our In-Pensioners Cater, Fulton and Worton. In-Pensioner Walker was in the Infirmary and we wish him a speedy recovery.

#### 'B' COMPANY 6/7th (V) BN THE QUEENS REGT

Maj Roger Lowans, OC 'B' Coy 6/7th Queens (V) (Edgware and Hornsey) presenting a Silver Jubilee medal to Cpl Bill Murphy who joined the TA more



Maj Roger Lowans presenting a Silver Jubilee Medal to Cpl Bill Murphy

than 18 years ago when he enlisted in the 9th Bn. He is the signals NCO in 'B' Coy and is often an organiser of the Company's social events. He works as a supervisor in the GPO.

Hugh Rossi, MP for Hornsey, visiting 'B' Coy 6/7th Queens (V) at their annual camp at Westerdown, Salisbury Plain. Mr Rossi is talking to Cpl E. Hunte who was instructing on the recruits cadre. Some 26



Hugh Rossi talking to Cpl E. Hunte

recruits from 'B' Coy passed out from the cadre. Also in the picture is Keith Hinde, Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, who have adopted 'B' Coy as their TAVR unit, Maj Roger Lowans and Lt Piers Storie-Pugh.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

A very enjoyable meeting was held on the course of the North Hants Golf Club on Wednesday, October 5, 1977. A total of 20 members took part.

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

Stableford Singles	Points
WOII M. C. Quinn (Winner Horton Cup)	32
Maj H. E. Couch (Rupper up)	31
Mr C. Holdford	29
Maj J. I. D. Pike	29
Capt P. S. Ingham	29
Mr M. R. T. Walden	26
Maj W. G. A. Crumley	25
Mr J. Rogers	24
Capt R. J. Tarrant	23
Lt Col T. W. Chattey	23
Lt Col J. R. B. Worton	23
Mr N. Taylor	21
Maj A. R. Bisset	20
Mr C. D. Matthews	19
Mr G. Taylor	18
Lt Col C. N. Clayden	18
Mr M. West	16
Lt Col H. N. du V. Lohan (Divot)	14

Stableford Foursomes	Points
Mr N. Taylor and Mr C. Holdford (Winners Jay Cup)	27
Lt Col T. W. Chattey and Maj H. E. Couch (Runners up)	27
Mr J. Rogers and Maj W. G. A. Crumley	27
Mr G. Taylor and WOII M. C. Quinn	25
Maj J. I. D. Pike and Mr A. Reide	20
Capt P. S. Ingham and Mr M. R. T. Walden	18
Maj A. R. Bisset and Lt Col H. M. du V. Lohan	15
Capt R. J. Tarrant and Mr M West	12

Before asking Mrs Jean Clayden to present the prizes Lt Col Tom Chattey thanked all those present for supporting the meeting and especially those who had come long distances. He reminded those present that Col M. Crawford who had been a very keen member of the Golfing Society, had recently died and all members rose and stood in silence to his memory. Brig Lerwill sent his best wishes and regretted that he was unable to attend owing to a recent operation but stated that he would be fit for the Spring Meeting. Regrets were also received from Maj G. Goring, Maj Ken Hardcastle, Mr T. Jones and Col Burrows.

#### PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Another new member of the Regimental Association is Capt (QM) Bill Bean. He enlisted into the Regiment in 1926 and served with the 1st and 2nd Bns until 1942. In 1942 he was commissioned as a Lieutenant (QM) and continued his Regimental soldiering until 1948. His last nine years' service until 1957 were with the Royal Artillery as a Captain (QM). He will be well known to the pre-war members of the Regiment.

Another long lost 'Diehard' has been traced. He is ex-Pte E. A. (Lardy) Brett (6189535) who enlisted on February 13, 1919, and continued to serve in the 1st and 2nd Bns until taking his discharge at his own request on February 5, 1938. Lardy was a well known character in the Regiment. He now lives at Donnington, Telford, Salop.

Capt W. Burrell who served with the 8th Bn (1914-18) would like to hear from any ex-Drummers of that Battalion. He tells me the story that when serving on the Somme with Compo White and his twin, Compo screamed with pain at the precise moment his brother was hit in the eye by shrapnel.

Mrs A. Carrington, 28 Bronwen Court, Brove End Road, London NW8 9HH, would like to hear from anyone who remembers her grandfather. He was L/12951 George Carrington who enlisted March 4, 1910. He was transferred from the 1st Bn to the 2nd Bn at Malta December 23, 1913. He went to France with the 2nd Bn in 1914 and was transferred to the Royal Engineers August 3, 1915. He died of wounds June 27, 1916.

Lt Col Mike Deacon is now commanding 3 Regt Army Air Corps, British Forces Post Office 106. He was commissioned into the Middlesex Regt in 1956.

Mr R. E. Dickinson (23581636) was a recent visitor to RHQ and he promptly joined the Regimental Association. He served as a National Serviceman, August 1958 to August 1960. He was the Regimental butcher of the 1st Bn and is very well known to the Editor. He emigrated to Tasmania some years ago and this was his first visit to the UK.

A surprise visitor to RHQ on Monday, September 19, 1977, was Mr G. H. Duffield, aged 91 years.

Another 'Diehard' gathered to the fold is ex-Sgt Alf Ellis (6197742). He was captured in Hong Kong with the 1st Bn but carried on serving after 1945 and was in Zeltweg, Austria, with the 1st Bn. He was in the Bn boxing team for many years. Some weeks ago he suffered a mild stroke but tells me he is on the

upgrade. He sends his regards to all his old friends. He is living at Gunnersbury, near Chiswick.

Congratulations to Lt M. J. Flynn on the award of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal without gratuity. Lt Flynn is serving with 2 Queens.

Mr J. H. Farmborough visited RHQ and tells me that his brother-in-law Mr W. J. L. Fox has recently been discharged from the St George's Hospital, Hyde Park, after undergoing heart surgery. He had four valves inserted and is recovering at home. Mr Fox served with the 9th Bn as 6200275.

Congratulations are also due to Maj C. H. K. Fisher, MC, DL, JP, on being awarded the Jubilee Medal.

Lt Col M. C. D. L. Gilham retires on retired pay on August 15, 1977.

Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE (ex-Bandmaster) 7th Bn tells me he hopes to attend the Remembrance Services provided his leg (ulcerated) permits the journey.

Mr K. C. Greenberg (6215018) has been admitted to the Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond, Surrey. He served from 1940-46. Further details will be published in my next Newsletter.

A recent correspondent was ex-Private C. W. (Jeep) Hanshaw (6203241) who was taken POW whilst serving with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and spent three and a half years in Japan.

He has recently suffered a mild heart attack but is now improving. He sends Christmas and New Year greetings to all Old Comrades.

A surprise visitor to RHQ was ex-Lt Jim Hawkins who emigrated to Australia some ten years ago. He is in the antique business and is a frequent visitor to UK. He tells me that he often meets Col Nick and Sue Carter. Jim is a keen collector of Regimental Silver.

All members of the Regimental Association wish Mr Les Hosslen, 1/7th Bn (1939-45) a speedy recovery. Les suffered a heart attack in August and had a spell in Colindale Hospital.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is Sgt S. Howick (24045258), currently serving with 1 Queen's. Sgt Howick enlisted into the Middlesex Regt on February 1, 1965. He served with



the 1st Bn until April 1968, joined 4 Queens until March 1970 when he was posted to 1 Queens. We look forward to seeing him at one of our Regimental functions.

Maj C. L. Lawrence, MC, has been appointed GSO 2, Individual Training (B) at Headquarters, Land Forces, with effect from August 19, 1977.

Brig G. Lerwill recently underwent a major operation but is now home again and making steady progress. He tells me he intends to play in the Spring Golf Meeting. Our congratulations to him on being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Cornwall.

Congratulations to Capt John Lofting and Geraldine on the birth of a son on September 10, 1977.

Congratulations to Maj R. E. Lowans commanding 'B' Coy 6/7th (V) Bn The Queens Regiment on the award of the TAVR Efficiency Decorations.

Mr Alf Mason (6190603) tells me that he has been selected for the annuity to the Meritorious Service Medal with effect from July 1, 1977.

He was awarded the medal in 1953.

The engagement has been announced between Capt Christopher Mievile, The Royal Green Jackets, younger son of Maj and Mrs C. H. Mievile and Miss Nicola A. Prescott, daughter of Capt T. R. Prescott, RN.

A recent visitor to RHQ was ex-Sgt Arthur Pace (6201213). He enlisted in July 1933 and after Depot training and a short spell with the 2nd Bn proceeded to join the 1st Bn. He left Hong Kong in September 1939, to attend a course at the School of PT Aldershot. Owing to the outbreak of war he did not rejoin the 1st Bn but was posted to the 2nd Bn. He was badly wounded at Dunkirk and was invalided out of service in 1946. He now lives at Grays, Essex.

Best wishes to Lt Col F. Gordon Parker for Friday, December 2, 1977, on reaching his 80th birthday.

The engagement has recently been announced between Anthony, elder son of Maj and Mrs A. W. F. Peal and Miss Fiona Kerr.

Congratulations to Col B. A. M. Pielow on his promotion to Brigadier and posting as Defence Attache, British Embassy, Paris, as from December 2, 1977. He tells me that he hopes to be able to get home more often and thus be able to attend a few Regimental functions.

Mr L. I. Priddy (6195275) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted into the Regiment on February 13, 1922, and served with the 1st and 2nd Bns. He was one of the last NCOs to get posted from the 1st Bn in Hong Kong leaving on November 5, 1941, prior to the fall of Hong Kong. He went as instructor to the Bush Warfare School, Burma, and then to the 13th Kings Liverpool Regt, until December 24, 1942. After various postings he left the service on January 21, 1953, having served 23 years 271 days. He then became a civil servant now retired and resides at Retford, Notts.

Mr E. A. Sales (6204046) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted in November 1937 and served until February 1946. He was in the 2nd Bn Corps of Drums from November 1938 to September 1939. Most of his service was with the 2nd Bn but he did serve with the 30th Bn from November 1943 until his discharge in 1946. He resides at Ockenden in Essex.

Col R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, OBE, TD, DL, who Commanded the 2/8th Bn at the outbreak of the 1939-45 war, tells me that he has now topped four score years. He and his wife have been settled in Bath for the past two years. He was very sorry that he had to miss the last Officers Club Dinner.

Col J. G. Stevens informs me that he retired from the RAOC at the end of last year at the ripe old age of 55 years. He enlisted with the Kensingtons as 6204199 and on commissioning served with the 2/7th Bn before making his career with the RAOC. His last appointment was Colonel Ordnance Operations and Plans at HQ UKLF.

He now resides at Taunton, Somerset, where he is keeping himself occupied by looking after Somerset,

Dorset and Channel Islands for the Save the Children Fund.

Maj Paul Truman is now serving with Depot The Queens Division Bassingbourn as a Company Commander.

The promotion of Capt (QM) F. Webb 'B' Coy 6/7th (V) The Queens Regt, Edgware, to Major (QM) has been approved from March 27, 1977.

A recent correspondent was Mr W. G. Webb who was with the 2nd Bn at Dunkirk. He has recently been discharged from hospital after a slight heart attack. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Ex-WOII D. P. Weller (14476662) has joined the Regimental Association. He served with the 1st Bn from August 1948 to 1954 and then became PSI to the 7th Bn from August 1954 to November 1956 when he rejoined the 1st Bn until taking his discharge in 1961. He now lives at Maidstone, Kent.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Sgt E. Wilson (3235 and 204913) who enlisted on September 10, 1914, and served with the 2/8th Bn from September 1914 until March 1917. He was wounded on the Somme and evacuated to UK. On being marked fit he was posted to the 2nd Bn, and served with them until demobilisation in March 1919. He is now in his 80th year and resides at Leatherhead, Surrey. He would be very pleased to hear from any of his old comrades.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The Middlesex Regiment Museum Trust is dated December 7, 1976, and is registered with the Charity Commissioners.

The Trustees are:

Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE (Chairman); Maj Gen B. P. Hughes, CB, CBE, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, The Mayor of the London Borough of Haringey, Lt Col J. D. Gunnell, TD, Maj W. G. A. Crumley, Maj C. L. Lawrence, MC, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE (Curator), Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE (Secretary).

The trustees meet twice a year usually in April and November.

The majority of medals stolen from the museum last April have been recovered by the Civil Police and handed over to the Curator.

The following are recent acquisitions for the museum:

From the Queens Regiment

The Queens Regiment have very kindly presented to the museum two framed scrolls giving the details of our various Colonels-in-Chief and Colonels of the Regiment since our origin. They also show all the Commanding Officers of both the 1st and 2nd Bns

since 1881. Col J. N. Shipster, CBE, DSO, had this work done when he was Commanding the 1st Bn in 1965-66.

The following items were also presented by the Queens Regiment: two Guidons, one button press with Regimental crest, two mounted cross belt plates, the framed fragments of both the Regimental and Queens Colour of the 57th Foot (November 1887-March 1908). A.E.F.W.

## Medals of Sgt C. C. Baldry

This group of medals consist of the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal and the Long Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal. The three campaign medals are marked L/4832, Sgt C. C. Baldry and the LS and GC medal shows the rank of Corporal Enlisting, April 27, 1896. Charles Clifford Baldry was, at the time of his decease in 1975, our oldest 'Diehard' in age and our oldest soldier in service. He was serving with the 1st Bn in South Africa under the Command of Lt Col A. A. Hill, who was later to command the 2nd Bn during the Boer War, when he was detailed as 'waiting man' for the draft from the 1st Bn to the 2nd Bn serving in India. This draft were on the *Warren Hastings* when it was wrecked off the island of reunion on January 14, 1897. Posted to the Home Establishment, he was a member of the Depot Staff when the Regimental Depot opened at Mill Hill in 1905. He later joined the 3rd Bn at Tanglin Barracks, Singapore, later moving with the Battalion to India. Whilst in India he was seconded for duty to the Bengal-Nagpur railway and also as instructor to the Cawnpore Rifle Volunteers. During the Delhi Durbar in 1912 he was a member of the escort when King George V travelled by train from Calcutta to Bombay. He returned to England with the 3rd Bn in December 1914 and served with the Battalion in France where during the trench warfare in the winter of 1915 he suffered frostbite at Ypres. He was discharged as unfit for active service in 1917 and for the next 30 years was employed as a clerical officer in the Ministry of Pensions.

Presented by his widow Mrs C. C. Baldry of Albuhera Close.

## Medals of Pte A. H. F. Cumming

This group of medals consist of the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. All three medals are engraved 2636 Pte A. H. F. Cumming. Archie Cumming was one of two brothers who served with our 2/10th Battalion in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine. During the latter campaign the ancient city of Jerusalem was captured from the Turks in December 1917, and appears on our Colours as one of the ten chosen battle honours for 1914-19. He was a valued stretcher bearer who without doubt saved many a wounded soldier, some of whom are walking about today who would otherwise be resting in the sand of the desert at Gaza, where lie Israelites, Philistines, Turks, Crusaders, Napoleon's soldiers and 'Diehards'. After demobilisation Archie Cumming was for many years the Secretary of the 2/10th Bn OCA, giving his service voluntary to the comrades-in-arms of his youth.

Presented by his nephew, Mr P. Cumming.

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## Gold Cigarette Case

This hall marked cigarette case has the Regimental crest engraved on the front and the initials R.T.V. in monogram on the back. Inside the case is engraved 'To Commemorate The Great European War 1914-1918 'H.V.' 11.11.18'.

The Regimental crest is that known some years ago as 'the 3rd Battalion pattern' and has the Duke of Cambridge's Cypher between the honour scroll and the junction at the bottom of the two laurel branches. Above the honour scroll is a Royal Dukes coronet surmounted by the Prince of Wales's Plume and motto 'Ich Dien'. The name scroll bears the legend 'DCO Middlesex Regt'. A similar crest is to be found on the covers of the Country Life series, 'The story of The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regt)' published in 1916, the most authoritative history of the regiment, as against individual Battalions published up to that date. Unfortunately, the crest on this publication shows a crown instead of a coronet which is an error.

Robert T. Venn, Esq., was granted a Temporary Commission as a Second Lieutenant, March 25, 1915, the same day as the 19th (Service) Bn (Second Public Works Pioneers) was formed by Lt Col John Ward, MP, the 'Navvies MP', who also raised the 18th (First Public Works Pioneers), 25th (Garrison) and the 26th (Third Public Works Pioneers). The 19th Bn were recruited from Staffordshire miners as were the 18th, John Ward being Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent. The Colours of the 18th Bn were laid up in the Parish Church of Stoke-on-Trent, where they remain to this day.

The 19th Bn went to France in May 1916, as Pioneers to the 41st Div in which the 23rd (Second Football) Bn of the Regiment was also serving, the Commanding Officer being Lt Col A. Innes Irons, who remained in command throughout their existence. The Battalion did trojan service in France building duck board tracks and roads to enable a smoother and more comfortable mode of movement for our armies. In November 1917, they moved to Italy when British troops were sent to this theatre of war to help the Italian Army against the Austrians who were making territorial advances. A quick return was made to the Western Front in March 1918, when Lt Venn and his men joined the Allied Forces resisting the great German Offensive, the cry being, 'They shall not pass'. On March 23, the Pioneers downed their picks and shovels and went into the line, using their rifles and bayonets. The units on the flanks withdrew, but the Pioneers held on and inflicted casualties on the enemy until, at last, they were compelled to withdraw. After three days rest they were once again in the line, remaining there for three days when they were then relieved by the 23rd Battalion. The battle honour 'Bapaume 1918' was one of the nine awarded to the 19th Bn, one that was well earned as a fighting unit.

After the signing of the Armistice, November 11, 1918, the Battalion went to Germany as part of the Army of Occupation where at Unter-Eschbach, the presentation of Colours to the Battalion was made by the Army Commander, Gen Sir Herbert Plummer, February 12, 1919, the Colour Ensign being Lt R. T. Venn. This Colour was laid up in St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on November 5, 1923. A duplicate Colour

is on display in the Regimental museum at Bruce Castle. Lt Venn left the Battalion from Unter-Eschbach, returning to civil life where he later took Holy Orders, becoming a Chaplain in the Royal Navy from which he has now retired.

Presented by the Rev R. T. Venn.

## Note

Col A. Innes Irons, DSO, was interned when the Germans overran Poland in 1939, where he was a business executive. The Germans respected him as a soldier, allowing him to retain his decorations and medals. In 1945 the Russians occupied Poland and confiscated the property of Col Irons including his military souvenirs and his medals. The Regimental Association was later able to help him to have a replacement made.

R.W.J.S.

## Medals of Lcpl S. Coates (L/12174)

This group of medals consist of the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal, also the bronze plaque given to the next-of-kin of service personnel who died during World War I. Sydney Coates joined the 2nd Bn after completing his recruit training at the Depot, Mill Hill, and remained with this Battalion until killed in action at Bacquerot, November 28, 1914. A tall thin lad, he was promptly given the nickname 'Razor', and as Razor Coates, he remains in the memory of his surviving comrades. An efficient soldier, he was awarded the badge of an expert Judge of Distance at the annual Field Training in 1912, one of 'A' Coy, 'star men'. The year following he qualified as a marksman and as a first class soldier sailed on the troopship *Soudan* for Malta, September 3, 1913, being appointed Lance-Corporal the same month. On the outbreak of war in August, 1914, the Regular Army returned home from overseas garrisons as quickly as possible to join the BEF in France, and Belgium. The 2nd Bn went out to the Western Front, November 5, 1914, and occupied the trenches at Neuve Eglise on the 14th where on the 17th the first casualties occurred. Ten days later Lcpl Coates' section was on the fire-step at Rue de Bacquerot, covering the change-over as the Battalion relieved the West Yorkshire Regiment. It was here that Razor Coates was killed in action being either the fourth or the fifth other rank of the Battalion to be killed in World War I.

Presented by his sister-in-law, Mrs N. E. Coates.

## BELGIAN NATIONAL DAY ANNUAL PARADE

The Annual Parade of the Amicale des Anciens Combattants Belges en Grande-Bretagne, this year was held on Sunday, July 17. As has been the practice for many years since the last war, the Regimental Association supplied a contingent of old soldiers and the Regimental Standard.

Immediately after the Guard Changing ceremony by the Household Cavalry the Parade Marshall, G. Glorieux, Esq; formed up the 20 contingents on the Horse Guards Parade. Members of the Regiment present on parade were Maj Dick Smith, OC Detachment, Maj Bert Peasley, Messrs Charlie Ashby

(4th Bn), Tom Brider (2nd Bn), David Bennett (1st Bn), A. R. Drane (2nd Bn), Alex Ellis (7th Bn), Albert Gale (8th Bn), Charlie Garrard (8th Bn and RA), Tim Harrison (3rd Bn), Stan Kerswill (9th Bn), Tommy Lack (RF), F. Long (9th Bn), Reggie Meers (9th Bn), Arthur Matthews (4th Bn), A. J. Martin (9th Bn), Syd Mullett (2nd Bn), H. W. Watson (Kens) and Bill Wright (4th Bn).

Quite a large crowd of spectators watched the parade many of them foreign visitors who originally came to witness the Guard Changing ceremony and remained to watch our parade. Headed by the Middlesex Yeomanry OCA Military Band under the command of the President Col S. J. Williams, MBE, TD, the brother of our Maj Vic Williams, MBE, playing a good robust quick-step, the parade marched through the Archway paying compliments to the dismounted sentry and swinging into Whitehall with great pride and élan. Compliments were again paid at the Cenotaph on arrival, where the parade halted and formed three sides of a square. Our Standard borne by Stan Kerswill then took up position in front of our contingent whilst Maj Smith took up position with the personnel who were to lay wreaths on the steps of the Cenotaph, Maj Peasley being the wreath-bearer for this solemn ceremony.

After the laying of wreaths had been completed the buglers sounded the Last Post and Reveille, followed

by the band playing the Brabanconne, the Belgian National Anthem, and God Save The Queen, after which His Excellency The Belgian Ambassador, Monsieur Robert Vaes, and staff moved to take up their positions on the dias on Horse Guards Parade, ready for the March Past.

The parade made the return march to the Horse Guards Parade paying compliments to the sentries and to the Ambassador as we marched past the Saluting Base. The March Past was followed by His Excellency visiting each contingent. On reaching our own contingent he asked 'Where is the old men you have on parade'. He was informed we had no old men on parade, but Albert Gale who is coming up to 92 years was present fit, proud and ready for his inspection. Monsieur Vaes immediately made his way to Albert, shook his hand and complimented him as did Col K. Dewulf, the Attache Militaire. Both these dignitaries left our contingent with happy smiles.

The parade was then dismissed by the Parade Marshall some making their way to the London District Sergeants Mess in Scotland Yard whilst others repaired to their homes. The sun had shone throughout, the comradeship between our Belgian Allies and the British re-affirmed, making a proud parade and successful ceremony.

Maj Dick Smith.

## OBITUARY

**BIRDSALL**—On October 3, 1977, ex-Sgt Ernest Birdsall (TF/2702), aged 83 years. Freddie Birdsall enrolled in the 2/7th Bn (TF) of the Regiment when this second line Territorial Battalion was formed in September 1914, and with this Battalion served in Hornsey, Barnet, Egham, Gibraltar, Cairo, El Dabrah, Mersa Matruh, Solum, La Ventie and Romen where the Battalion was disbanded in July 1916. Promoted Corporal 19 days after joining he was one of the quick-learners of the Battalion of youngsters becoming adept quickly at all military exercises. This was proved when the results were published after a course at the Guards School at Zeitoun, Egypt, in October 1915, when the four NCOs of the Battalion finished with the highest marks. Sgt Birdsall's results were: Engineering Sanitation and Administration, 86 per cent; Practical Musketry, 94 per cent; and Drill, 100 per cent, the highest awarded. This result he said were due to the training he received from RSM Bob Douthet, a soldier of the old school whom a number of us remember as RSM of the 2nd Bn in 1919. On disbandment of the 2/7th Bn, July 1916, Freddie was posted to the 1st Bn London Rifle Brigade, serving with them until wounded at Leize Wood, September 10, 1916. On discharge from hospital he was posted as an instructor to the 5th (Reserve) Bn The London Regiment at Dawlish in January 1917, remaining with this unit until demobilisation in February 1919. A loyal member of the Regimental Association, he kept in correspondence from his home in Colwyn Bay, North Wales, when age and infirmities prevented him making his annual journey

to join his comrades at the annual reunion. When the 1st Bn of the Regiment were serving in Gibraltar, 1963-65, he visited the Rock and had his photograph taken standing by the gun in the same pose as he did in 1915, and was a guest of RSM Ken Beale, and the members of the WOs and Sg/s Mess a memory he retained with pride and affection until the end.  
R.W.J.S.

**BROWN**—On September 28, 1977, ex-Pte Albert Brown (6197838). Aged 68 years. He served with the Middlesex Regiment from 1927 to 1935 and with the Royal Engineers from 1937 until 1943, when he was discharged medically unfit.

**DARK**—On December 14, 1976, Capt E. F. Dark, aged 84 years. He served with the 1/8th Bn in 1914-18 and after service in Gibraltar went to France with the Battalion on March 6, 1915. He was in the first and second gas attacks. He was also the last known officer who served with the 1/8th (1914-18).

**BEADNELL**—On August 31, 1977, Linda, wife of the late Maj Lawrence Beadnell.

**FARROW**—On August 11, 1977, Violet, wife of the late Maj H. Farrow, MBE.

**CLAYDEN**—On September 14, 1977, Lt Col Harry William (Bill) Calyden, aged 83 years. He enlisted into the Household Cavalry, Regular Army and joined the 2nd Life Guards (No 3018) on September 11, 1914, and proceeded



to join the BEF in France on May 18, 1915. He returned to the UK on November 11, 1917. He was appointed to a Regular Commission as Second Lieutenant, The Middlesex Regiment, and joined the 5th (Reserve) Bn on February 27, 1918, and proceeded to join the BEF in France and was posted to the 4th Bn on September 27, 1918. He was evacuated to UK on October 8, 1918, after an accidental injury and after convalescence joined the 2nd Bn on July 4, 1919.

On August 21, 1919, he embarked for Egypt. Promotion to Lieutenant took place on August 27, 1919. He accompanied the 2nd Bn to Singapore on January 21, 1922, and to India on October 6, 1924. On April 11, 1926, he was posted from the 2nd Bn in India to the Depot for a tour of duty and was appointed Adjutant Depot on October 4, 1926. He vacated this appointment on July 10, 1929, and was posted to the 1st Bn UK. On October 1, 1931, he was posted to the Depot for a tour of duty. On October 2, 1933, he was posted to the 2nd Bn UK. Promotion to Captain came on April 14, 1934. He was Adjutant of the 9th Bn TA (UK) from December 21, 1934, until December 6, 1938. He was promoted Major on August 6, 1938. He retired on April 20, 1939. He was employed as a retired officer at the Depot from April 20, 1939, until December 11, 1939. He was recalled for service and was posted to the MGTG on April 20, 1940. On October 22, 1940, he assumed duty as Local Defence Commander, Lichfield Aerodrome and on September 12, 1941, was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. He ceased to be the Local Defence Commander at Lichfield Aerodrome on June 12, 1942, and was appointed Home Guard Training Officer No 3 Zone, Lichfield. He joined the 26 Machine Gun Training Centre on November 1, 1944, and was released from Military Service on August 14, 1946.

He was in possession of the following medals: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Defence Medal, War Medal, 1939-45.

The funeral took place on September 20, 1977, at Worcester Crematorium, as was attended by Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, who also represented Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, and Lt Col R. W. Chattey, OBE.

**CRAWFORD**—On July 26, 1977, Col Mervyn Crawford, DSO, DL, JP, aged 76 years. Col M. Crawford was appointed to a Regular Army Commission as a Second Lieutenant Middlesex Regiment on December 23, 1921, and was promoted Lieutenant on December 23, 1923. He was appointed Garrison Adjutant and Staff Captain Cairo Brigade Area 1933 to 1936. Promotion to Captain was on August 21, 1935. He was Adjutant to the 9th Bn, December 6, 1938. Between these appointments he served with the 1st and 2nd Bns. He was promoted to Major on December 23, 1938. On September 27, 1940, he was appointed 2IC of the 2nd Bn and on May 13, 1942, appointed to Command the 18th Battalion. Col Crawford took the Battalion to Normandy in June 1944 with the 43rd Wessex Div and led them through France, Belgium and Holland and over the Rhine to Germany and the end of the war in Europe.

He was appointed Deputy Colonel 6th Air Landing Brigade MEF on July 10, 1945, and was granted the Acting rank of Colonel. He relinquished this appointment on March 22, 1946. On June 1, 1946, he was appointed to command Haifa Base until December 11, 1946.

On May 11, 1948, he was appointed to command the 1st Bn and took the Battalion to Hong Kong in 1949. He was promoted substantive Lieutenant Colonel on June 2, 1948. He relinquished command of the 1st Bn at the end of 1949 and was Officer in Command RPC Training Centre, March 28, 1950.

He retired on retired pay from the Active List on August 21, 1950, and was granted the honorary rank of Colonel.

He was in possession of the following medals: DSO, Mention in Despatches, 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal, 1939-45 General Service Medal with Clasp Palestine.

He was appointed Deputy Lieutenant, County of Dumfries, on June 12, 1973.

The funeral took place on July 29, 1977, and was attended by Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President Regimental Association, Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC and Mrs Man, Brig R. A. Gwyn, OBE and Mrs Gwyn, Lt Col G. L. Fox, TD, DL, Maj Mc K. R. Biggs and Mrs Biggs, Maj F. J. Bennett, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Capt R. M. Fox and Lt G. Freeborn.

**DEEVES**—On September 11, 1977, Lt Thomas William Deeves, CMG, CBE, MC and Bar, aged 84 years.

During the First World War he served with the 16th (Public Works) Bn of the Middlesex Regt and was awarded the Military Cross and Bar. He was in possession of a 90 per cent disability pension having lost an arm during the hostilities.

He joined the Civil Service in 1904 retiring in 1954. Former assistant Secretary Ministry of Food and Foreign Office. He was awarded the CBE 1949 and the CMG 1953. He was for 20 years the President of the Chalfont St Peter Branch of the Royal British Legion retiring 18 months ago due to illness. He also served on the committees of the Football and Cricket clubs and on the Parish Council. He was very proud of his Regiment and was a staunch member of the Regimental Association and in his younger days regularly attended Regimental functions. The coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag and two buglers from the RAF sounded 'Last Post' and 'Reveille'.

**DOUTHET**—On May 10, 1977, Lt (QM) Robert Thomas Douthet (L/7495 and 6188351), aged 91 years. Bob Douthet enlisted into the Regiment July 12, 1901, aged 16 years, but by adding two years to his age enlisted into the ranks of the newly formed 3rd Bn keen and eager to join the Field Army in South Africa, then in action with the Boers. Before his Regular Army enlistment he had served in the Militia Battalions for two months enrolled as a member of the 6th Bn (Militia) and attached to the 5th Bn (Militia) at Hounslow due to the 6th Bn being in South Africa. At this date

Hounslow was the Regimental Depot, shared with the Royal Fusiliers. In 1902 the 3rd Bn sailed for South Africa on the Transport *Assaye* on March 11, the destination being St Helens to guard Boer prisoners. The troops were in great spirits and under the command of Lt Col E. V. Bellers who had served in the Zulu War of 1879, with the 57th 'The Jolly Diehards', the special tune of the 57th and 1st Bn was played as they sailed. At Deadwood Camp on July 31, the War Gratuity was paid to the troops, the Boer War having ended on May 31. In August 1902 Bob had his foot on the first rung of promotion ladder, being appointed Lance-Corporal on the 5th. The 3rd Bn was next garrisoned at Middelburg Transvaal where rumours of disbandment were dispelled, the Battalion being chosen as one of the permanent Battalions in South Africa. Lt Col Douthet was on parade when HE The Rt Hon Viscount Milner, GCB, GCMG, High Commissioner of South Africa, presented Colours to the Battalion, February 3, 1904, the only Colours they were to have. A grant was made from the Battalion funds for the men's dinner on this occasion, the troops recalling the feast for many years after. On April 1, 1904, Bob was promoted Corporal to complete the establishment. Two months later, he was presented with the Queen's South Africa medal, after church parade, Sunday, June 5. Due to the Medal given to the Battalion who served in St Helena as guards not taking part in an action there were no clasps awarded, the medal becoming known in the Regiment as 'the bare-arsed South African', and still so known to this day. Christmas Day 1905, was spent at Middelburg, the troops being visited in their Company dining room by the Commanding Officer, Lt Col W. Scott-Moncrieff, whilst the band played 'The Roast Beef of Old England'.

The Battalion's next move was to China, where detachments were at Peking and Tientsin as well as on the island of Hong Kong. At Peking there were ten Legation Guards, American, Austro-Hungarians, Belgian, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian as well as the British. Naturally this caused much competition between the different nationalities in the smartness of their turnout and drill. Current reports in the local papers gave great commendation to the British guard of whom Cpl Douthet was one. Appointed Lance-Sergeant, January 15, 1906, he remained overseas until December 13 of that year, when he was transferred to the Home Establishment joining the 4th Bn. A good instructor his promotion to Sergeant came on March 3, 1909, he remaining with the 4th Bn until posted to the 7th Bn (Territorial) as a Permanent Staff Instructor, May 1, 1912.

His humour and ability, plus understanding of his keen volunteers made him immensely popular with his 'Saturday-Night Soldiers', as the Territorial was named prior to 1914. He taught his Territorials how to become good rifle shots as he was himself and during World War I. The 7th Bn had fought in 25 major actions and were awarded 19 Battle Honours. When the 2/7th Bn was formed September 5, 1914, he was promoted to be its first Regimental Sergeant Major serving with this unit in Hornsey, Barnet, Egham, Gib-

raltar, Cario, Mersa Matruh, Solum, La Valentine and Rouen until July 1916, when the Battalion was disbanded. Posted to the 4/7th Bn at Purfleet on July 25, 1916, he was transferred to the newly formed 7th (Reserve) Bn, a training unit formed from the amalgamation of the 4/7th, 4/8th, 3/9th and 4/10th Bns on September 1, 1916. In September, 1917, he was loaned to the Royal Flying Corps as an instructor at Bexhill returning to the 7th (Reserve) Bn at Tunbridge Wells on February 1, 1918.

When the 2nd Bn was re-forming at Shorncliffe in 1919 in preparation to continue its foreign service, he was posted to this Battalion as Regimental Sergeant Major remaining with the Battalion during its service in Cairo and Singapore when he was commissioned as Lieutenant (QM), June 13, 1923. As RSM, he encouraged all ranks to become good rifle shots and himself won the gold medal as best shot in the Battalion in 1921, whilst stationed in Cairo. He returned to the 2nd Bn, then serving in India, as QM after a furlough and commissioning, remaining with this Battalion until returning on half pay, January 11, 1930, retiring on Retired Pay, June 11, 1930.

For many years he was a publican and a very popular one too as will be recalled by a number of his many good friends. His company was much sought at Regimental reunions and the annual Officers' Dinner, the company seated near him being entertained by his reminiscence and humorous anecdotes his wit remaining razor-sharp to the end. With the decease of Bob Douthet, the Regiment has lost one of its renowned characters. R.W.J.S.

**FINCH**—On October 21, 1977, ex-WOII (ORQMS) Albert Edward Finch, MBE (6190175), aged 80 years. He first served in the Regiment from April 11, 1915 to February 12, 1919, during the First World War. On February 13, 1919, he enlisted at Chatham on a Regular Army engagement and served continuously until taking his discharge on August 26, 1946, having completed 31 years' service. Whilst with the Regiment he saw service in Germany, Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and China. For very many years he was the Orderly Room Quarter Master Sergeant of the 1st Bn. He was a staunch member of the Regimental Association. He was in possession of the following medals, MBE, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Defence Medal, War Medal, 1939-45, LS and GC Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, GOC's Certificate for Good Service.

*Editor's comment:* When I was a young soldier serving with the 1st Bn, Bert Finch was very kind to me and I always remember him with respect and affection.

**JOYCE**—My last newsletter stated that no details were available about the death of the late Lt Col A. R. Joyce other than the notification I had received from his solicitors. Maj C. F. Carvell has kindly informed me that Lt Col A. R. Joyce served with the 3rd Bn from 1915-18 and was at Ypres, Loas, Egypt, Salonika, Macedonia and Constantinople. He was also appointed Adjutant of the Battalion in



August 1917, and held this appointments until August 1920.

He embarked for UK in April 1919 and returned to Germany and Cologne in 1920, and also saw service in Upper Silicia until 1921.

In 1922 he transferred to the Royal Tank Corps.

**LEWIS**—On August 6, 1977, ex-Ltcl Rupert Lewis (TF/1959) and TF/205237, aged 82 years. 'Robby' Lewis enrolled in the 8th (TF) Bn of the Regiment on March 12, 1913. In 1915 he was with the Battalion when it joined the BEF in France where he saw violent action at Ambers Ridge and Zonebeck. In 1916 he was invalided home suffering from Trench fever but he was soon back with his Battalion on the Somme. At Cambrai in November 1917, he was severely wounded by the bursting of a German egg bomb and lay out in No Man's Land for four nights until picked up by a German officer who had heard his cries of distress. He was then a POW until the end of hostilities. One of his vivid memories of the war years was the occasion when a NCO who was foraging in Zonebeck discovered a Belgian woman hiding in a cellar. At first the corporal thought he had unearthed a spy but as his eyes grew accustomed to the dim light he saw the fugitive was in the late stage of accouchement. He immediately sent a man to Ypres to bring the MO, remaining with the woman until the arrival of the doctor whom he gave assistance at a successful delivery. The Corporal was known to Robby and his comrades of the Battalion as midwife for the remainder of their service. It was a story ably told by a man who was the grandson of a parson and a nice man in his own right. His medals were the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal for World War I and the Defence Medal for his Civil Defence services in World War II. R.W.J.S.

**PIKE**—On October 17, 1977, Maj Joseph Ian David Pike (383555), MC, aged 52 years. David had a very interesting military career so I (Editor) have decided to publish full details which are very interesting:

Enlisted into General Service Corps, Territorial Army 11.6.43  
 Joined for embodied service 5.8.43  
 Transferred to Royal Army Service Corps 16.9.43  
 Transferred to the Royal Scots Fusiliers 15.3.45  
 Transferred to Army Air Corps 15.6.45  
 Discharged (Sergeant) on appointment to a Commission 19.9.47  
 Served in North West Europe from 18.8.44 to 3.1.45  
 and India from 14.4.45 to 8.1.47  
 Appointed to an Emergency Commission as Second Lieutenant Royal Army Service Corps and promoted WS Lieutenant 20.9.47  
 Posted to North West Europe, Special Air Freight Unit (Berlin) 8.9.48  
 Appointed from Emergency Commission to a Regular Short Service Commission as Lieutenant, Royal Army Service Corps 2.12.48  
 Served in Air Freight Units RASC from 10.12.48 to 8.2.50

Returned to UK Depot Bn, RASC 9.2.50  
 Relinquished Commission on completion of service, retained the rank of Lieutenant and appointed to RARO 10.2.50  
 Appointed from RARO to a Territorial Army Commission as Lieutenant, Glider Pilot and Parachute Corps and posted to 11th Para Bn (MX) TA 4.4.51  
 Transferred to 7th Bn Middlesex Regt TA 2.5.51  
 Appointed Acting Captain 1.10.51  
 Promoted Captain 28.2.52  
 Appointed from TA Commission to a Regular Commission as Lieutenant, The Middlesex Regt 15.7.52  
 Posted to 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt, UK 1.12.52  
 Proceeded with 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt to Austria and taken on strength BTA 23.4.53  
 Promoted Captain 31.1.54  
 Returned to UK 23.5.55  
 Posted to FARELF for 5 Malay Regt, Malaya 4.7.55  
 Joined 5 Malay Regt 5.8.55  
 Posted to 2 Malay Regt 16.6.56  
 Returned to UK 27.5.58  
 Posted to Federation Military College, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya 7.11.58  
 Posted from Federation Military College to Federation of Malaya Armed Forces 21.1.60  
 Returned to UK 15.2.60  
 Posted to 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt, BAOR 18.4.60  
 Promoted Major 4.12.61  
 Returned with unit to UK 23.5.62  
 Posted as Permanent Staff to Depot and Trg Bn ACC 11.2.63  
 Posted to 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt, Gibraltar 1.6.65  
 Returned to UK with unit 2.10.65  
 Emergency tour—British Guiana from 4.4.66 to 22.9.66  
 Re-designation of unit to 4th Bn Queen's Regt 31.12.66  
 Struck off strength 4th Bn Queen's Regt 2.1.67  
 Posted to HQ Cyrenaica Area 5.1.67  
 Appointed Camp Commandant, HQ Cyrenaica Area 16.1.67  
 Returned to UK to Depot Queen's Regt 27.10.67  
 Posted to HQ Land Forces Hong Kong 17.1.68  
 Appointed Camp Commandant HQ Land Forces Hong Kong 31.1.68  
 Returned to UK Depot Queen's Regt 31.7.69  
 Posted to HQ Southern Command UK 16.9.69  
 Appointed SO2 (Trg) HQ Southern Command 14.1.70  
 Relinquished above appointment 14.10.71  
 Posted to Depot, Queen's Division 15.10.71  
 Attached to Army Youth Centre, Harrogate from 28.2.72 to 17.8.72  
 Posted to 1st Bn Queen's Regt 15.9.72  
 Retired on retired pay 1.4.76

He was in possession of the following medals: Military Cross (London Gazette) 29.7.58, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, General Service Medal with clasp

Malaya (1955), Federation of Malaya Active Service Medal (Pingar Khidmat Barbakti).

The funeral was attended by the following: Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President Regimental Association, Col J. N. Shipster, CBE, DSO, Deputy Colonel, Queen's Regt (Middlesex) and Mrs. Shipster, Brig A. E. Green, DSO, OBE, Col I. H. Battye, MBE and Mrs Battye, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, Col M. V. Hayward, OBE, Mrs Jean Clayden, Lt Col J. R. B. Worton and Mrs Worton, Mrs J. G. W. Davidson, Lt Col N. F. Legge and Mrs Legge, Lt Col H. M. du V. Lohan and Mrs Lohan, Lt Col J. S. B. Pollard and Mrs Pollard, Maj P. Donovan, MBE, Maj C. H. Mievill, MC, Capt A. C. Mievill, Maj W. G. A. Crumley, Maj G. Goring, Capt P. J. A. Pielow and Capt R. J. Tarrant, MSM.

**PRINGLE**—On October 22, 1977, Col William Ernest Pringle, MC, TD, DL, JP, aged 79 years. He served with the Middlesex Regt throughout the 1914-18 war. He commanded the 7th Bn 1936-39. Honorary Colonel 7th Bn from 1959. Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex 1947. Past President British Jewellers Association.

The funeral was attended by Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, Lt Col J. D. Gunnell, TD, Lt Col G. C. D. Scott-Lowe, TD, Maj R. Bartram, TD, and Mrs Bartram, Maj M. J. Beaumont, TD, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Maj E. L. Wallis.

**TIPPING**—On July 23, 1977, ex-Sgt John Henry Tipping (L/12579), aged 82 years. Jack Tipping enlisted into the Regiment from the Royal Hibernian Military School on Albuhera Day 1909, a military school which has produced some notable Regimental characters such as Julius Coughlan, MC, DCM, the last of a family of 'Diehards', and Patsy Edwards, VC, in addition to Drummer M. Gill of the 77th who captured the Russian bugle after a hand to hand fight during the Crimea War. Jack Tipping joined the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Bn then serving in Guernsey, and immediately became a member of the sports team, having been one of the school's outstanding runners prior to his enlistment. He remained a member of the track team until made a POW in March 1917 on the Hindenberg Line. He was with the Battalion when it went to Malta in September 1913, at the start of a tour of foreign service, the tour being cut short on the outbreak of war in August 1914. Joining the BEF in France in November 1914, under the command of Lt Col 'Digger' Hayes he was in action during the first engagement at Neuve Eglise and on March 10, 1915, was in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, the fiercest bombardment that had so far been fired by our artillery took place before the attack. Unfortunately the shells had missed the German trenches and wire entanglements in a hollow where the Battalion were attacking, the German machine-guns decimated the Battalion to the extent of nine killed and seven wounded officers, 70 killed, 300 wounded and 89 missing other ranks by the end of the battle. Three companies, were almost wiped out. From this maelstrom of fire, Jack Tipping was one of the

few survivors who answered the roll call following the battle. He was present at all the actions, fought by the 2nd Bn, including that of Albert, July 1, 1916, the first day of the Somme battles. Again he was to see his Battalion suffer dire casualties, the losses being 22 out of 23 officers and 600 out of 650 other ranks, in the first few hours of fighting, Cpl Tipping being one of the 50 men, the remnants of a fine Battalion whose battle casualties were the greatest of our Battalions in the war of 1914-1918, as they were in the whole of the army during the Crimea War of 1854-56, when they were the 77th Regiment of Foot. Promoted to the rank of Sergeant after the battle, he was with the Battalion when it returned to the Somme after being brought up to strength by drafts and was present at the attack and capture of Zenith Trench where again heavy casualties were suffered. Jack Tipping was one of the pre-1914 members of the Battalion remaining, the men who could be counted on the total fingers of the hands. On March 16, 1917, during the retreat by the Germans to the Hindenberg Line, patrols from the 2nd Bn were sent out to hurry the enemy a leader of one of these patrols was Sgt Tipping, who did not return being wounded and made POW. Returning home after the signing of the Armistice, he was discharged as medically unfit in December 1918. On discharge he became an employee of the London General Omnibus Company, later emigrated to Australia where he became a leading light in the Old Contemptible Association of Australia. A man of great public spirit, caring more for his fellow men than for himself, he made and kept friends throughout this great land, but retaining the closest of contact with the Motherland. During the last war he organised parcel clubs sending much valued and appreciated parcels to our soldiers in all theatres of war and to the UK. On receiving the news of the victory of British armies at El Alemein, he wrote to the Commanding Officer of the 17th Bn, expressing his joy and pride on a later generation of 'Diehards'. He also kept up a great volume of correspondence with all the comrades of his youth, his remarkable memory recalling most interesting incidents and anecdotes of their service, including that of the late Capt Charles Richards (L/9567) of Alderney who joined as a recruit at Hounslow wearing a bowler hat! As secretary to the Victoria Branch of the Old Contemptibles he read the 'Soldier's Service' and carried the Branch Standard in 1976 Remembrance services. He also won a prize for an essay in the 'True Story' section of the Department of Veteran Affairs last year, the prize being a book 'Australian Criminal History', which caused much hilarity among his old cronies. He penned a line, thanking me for the monthly letter for June and the next letter was from his widow, Mrs Rose Tipping, telling me he was speaking to her on the evening of July 23 when he paused then fell off his chair. He had fell in with the ranks of his 1,450 comrades of the 2nd Bn whose names are to be found in the Roll of Honour of World War I. R.W.J.S.

**WESTON**—On October 26, 1977, Maj Gen Gerard Patrick Linton Weston, CB, CBE, DSO, aged 67 years. The General was commissioned as Second



Lieutenant into the Middlesex Regiment on January 29, 1931. Commanded 2nd Bn 1943-45. Java 1945-46. Commanded 6 Parachute Brigade 1947-49. Director Operations Staff Malaya 1953. Commandant Army Air Corps 1958-60. Director Land/Air Warfare, War Office 1960-64. CBE 1960, CB 1962, DSO 1945. The funeral was attended by Lady Willoughby, Brig A. E. Green, DSO, OBE, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, Lt Col J. R. G. Worton and Mrs Worton, Mrs Jean Clayden, Lt Col N. F. Legge and Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE

#### Col Mervyn Crawford

Maj K. R. Mc K. Biggs writes:

Col Mervyn Crawford, an Elder of the Church since 1952, passed away at Dalgona on July 26, 1977. He was commissioned in the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridges Own) in 1921 and by 1939 he had served on the Continent of Europe, in Egypt and the Middle East, and in South-East Asia. His undeviatingly high standard of duty and conduct, his personal integrity, a talent for getting quickly to the point and shrewdly assessing both men and situations, conjoined with fair-mindedness, kindness and smiling good humour earned him the affection, regard and, indeed, the devotion of all who served under him. As a senior officer he was known to his soldiers as 'Daddy Crawford'. His professional ability and inner strength were demonstrated when for three years he held command of the 8th Middlesex, the Machine-Gun Battalion of the 43rd Wessex Div, known to its rivals as 'the most overtrained division in the British Army'. For his part in the Operations which took that Division from Normandy to the Cuxhaven Peninsula in 1944-45, Mervyn Crawford earned the DSO and promotion to full Colonel.

On his retirement from the Army in 1950, Col Crawford devoted himself to fresh public service as County Councillor, Justice of the Peace and Elder of the Kirk. A man of deep religious faith, perhaps service to the Church and the members of the Church in his Parish meant most to him. Certainly, in the last years of his life it was this which seemed to be foremost in his thoughts. From 1953 until a stroke forced him to curtail his activities in 1972, Col Crawford was Session Clerk and Presbytery Elder. All those who knew him in that capacity have testified to the excellence of his work and at his funeral the Rev D. C. Alexander testified movingly to the special relationship he found as Minister with Col Crawford, as Session Clerk and afterwards, and particularly the friendship, guidance and encouragement which he received.

After a second stroke, shortly before Christmas 1976, Mervyn Crawford fought the last battle of his life against failing health, supported by the devoted care of his wife and family. He died at home, peacefully, and those of his friends who saw the last look of recognition in his eyes, and heard his laugh for the last time, will never forget a good and overwhelming modest man, who in his time served well his Country, his Regiment, his Church, his fellow men, and was an example to all.

#### Col W. E. Pringle, C, TD, JP, DL

Appreciation by Maj R. Bartram, TD

I first met Willie Pringle when I was commissioned as a TA officer in 1929. He was then commanding 'D' Coy, of the 7th Bn at Tottenham and I have enjoyed his friendship until, sadly, he died on October 22.

The Tottenham Company, under his leadership, was pre-eminent in nearly all fields both military and sporting. He himself, as he would have been the first to admit, was not an active sporting participant but his enthusiasm, understanding and ever present good humour communicated itself, to all under his command with formidable results.

In turn he became 2IC under Col H. A. Murray and took over command in 1938. He led the Battalion to France in January 1940 where it was attached to the 3rd Div (Maj Gen B. L. Montgomery—as he then was). Willie Pringle was bitterly disappointed that he, in common with most TA Battalion commanders with the BEF was sent back to England, it being felt that regular officers should take over. (In our case we were again lucky as having Basil Rackham as an outstanding CO.)

I lost touch with him until after the war but then once again my wife and I were privileged to have his friendship and that of Polly, his wife, and their two sons.

To my mind his outstanding qualities were his generosity, unfailing kindness, immense sense of humour and an intense dislike of humbug. He could debunk the pompous and pretentious in one devastating comment. Most of his pronouncements on life in general would be quite unprintable for this journal but were greatly enjoyed by all those who heard them. I understand these qualities extended to his work as a magistrate on the Highgate bench.

All who knew him have lost a great and valued friend and our deepest sympathy goes out to his widow and family.

Lt Col G. C. D. Scott-Lowe writes:

He served in the Middlesex Regiment in the First World War gaining Military Cross in the final advance in 1918. After the war he joined his local Territorial unit, the 7th Bn, The Middlesex Regiment, in 1921 which he eventually commanded in 1936. Finally he was appointed Honorary Colonel of the unit in 1959, a fitting reward for one who had devoted much of his life to the Battalion. In civilian life he was involved in the family jewellery business where he also achieved distinction. He was a Liveryman of the Goldsmiths Company and of the Clock Makers Company and one-time President of the British Jewellers Association. In 1947 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex. He was also a Knight of the Order of St John of Jerusalem and as a JP he sat on the bench at Highgate for many years.

In spite of all these activities William enjoyed life to the full and he had a tremendous sense of fun. He was indeed a great companion to his many friends and he will be greatly missed. To his widow, two sons and four grandchildren we send our deep sympathy.

#### WHAT IS AN OFFICER TO DO?

Retirement is a traumatic matter but, like death and the Presidency of Audit Boards, absolutely inevitable for the Regular Officer. (This short article was originally written for the 'Funeral Directors Gazette' and subsequently offered to the 'RAPC Journal'; however, as both of those publications pay so badly, it has been re-written for BAR, famed among journalists for the open-handed, generous, and abandoned way that it dispenses bags of gold coins for each original work.)

Retirement to an officer is usually the result of one or several of the following situations:

- His propensity to pinch ladies' bottoms in public whilst having drink taken. This drink having been purchased with PRI funds.
- His attainment of the age of 55 years.
- His failure to pass his promotion examinations.
- His inability to agree with his Commanding Officer on anything from the design of the new new table mats for the Mess to the internal organisation of HQ Coy.
- His qualification for a gratuity after ten years commissioned service.
- His realisation that he is not to be:
  - Chief of the Defence Staff.
  - Chief of the General Staff.
  - Commander in Chief Land Forces Hong Kong.
  - A Lieutenant Colonel anywhere.
- His completion of 16 years' service and qualification for a pension.
- His children leaving school and his independence of boarding school allowance.
- His appointment as SO2 (Cadets/Rangers/NAAFI Liaison).
- His need to buy either a new service dress or a new dark suit.
- His attraction to the generous offer made to him by Acme Enterprises (UK) inviting him to be their representative in British West Hartlepool at a salary of £12,500.

In summary, retirement is either punitive (a), involuntary (b-c), or voluntary (d-k). Let us first consider punitive retirements. Punitive retirements are when HM indicates that she doesn't consider an officer quite so 'trustworthy and well beloved' as she did and what's more doesn't 'repose' as much 'especial trust' as she has in the past. Fortunately, situations like the one used as an example are rare.

Involuntary retirements are rather sad. In each case, they involve officers who want to stay but for whom no place can be found. The officer who fails his promotion examinations is not necessarily doomed. An inability to give a deep appreciation of the logistic problems at Anzio or to write an Operation Order for an Army Corps in a nuclear attack, without question, fits an individual for a successful career in commerce. An officer who arrives at the magic age of 55 still breathing fire is to be envied and given a degree of flexibility, there's no reason why he should not

wreak similar terror in the hearts of the cricket club committee as he did in the hearts of those who attended the staff conference every Tuesday morning. He is assured that if he takes up rose growing, his floribunda will flourish because they wouldn't dare not to.

Let us now move on to that large category of officers who voluntarily sever themselves from the Service. Show me an officer who has never ever said, 'I'll put my paper in!' and I'll show you a fisherman—and you know what they say about fishermen. All of us are potential members of this group and it is appropriate to consider examples d-k in rather more detail.

'Clash of personalities' is the euphemistic phrase the Army uses to describe two officers who do not get along. The Army also has the unwritten but clearly understood rule that the junior has to get along with the senior and if he can't, he should either arrange to get posted, detached, sick or retired. A word of warning here. A number of officers seeking to draw attention to the crass idiocy of their superiors have taken the terminal course and resigned their commissions. The result invariably seems to be an increase in the rose growing population and the promotion of the senior antagonist. Resignation 'on principle' is laudable but it will be noted that very few Generals tread this path. Successive defence cuts have caused no depletion in the general Officer ranks and readers are advised that if 'resignation on principle' had anything going for it, it would be much more popular and a DCI would have been written on the subject. But more of this later.

The officer who retires, or more correctly resigns at the ten-year point, is invariably a Captain and the judgement of Captains being notoriously poor, it will not be discussed further in this article.

Professional frustration means promotion, or the lack of it. A number of officers retire having seen the writing on the wall which says, 'passed over'. We all know someone in this group and invariably agree that the individual has done the right thing.

There is no little skill in convincing a rival that he has been or is about to be passed over for promotion. The expert will let it be known that 'Bill isn't going to make it', will leave brochures on Bill's desk extolling the virtues of a career with Zenith Snow Ploughs (SA), and will mention to the Old Man that 'it's a shame we're going to lose Bill'. Bill, if he is wise, will not contemplate retirement on being passed over the first time. He should merely indulge himself by eating a corner of his carpet and wearing a fixed smile. He should, however, at this stage, hint at a large legacy expected to come his way, together with a sizeable chink of northern Hampshire. The stage having been set, he can now manufacture a situation in which he tells the GOC publicly that the Army policy on silk worms is immoral, unrealistic, and a danger to health. He then resigns with a flourish as 'a matter of principle' and leaves his place in regimental folklore secure.

The officer who opts to retire at the 16-year point is usually a rather shallow character attracted to civilian life so that he can enjoy the fruits of his pension and establishing a reputation as a playboy. 'There are people to whose head money goes, if you know what I mean. The lure of beautiful women, a



yacht, skiing at St Moritz, scuba diving off the Dry Tortugas, fine wine, gaming. In combination, these attractions are too much for some officers to resist. The handsome pension offered at the 16-year point simply turns some chaps heads.

Boarding School allowance for which we should all be most grateful, gives us the privileges of continuity of education for our children. To be fair, BSA is better than nothing; but when the children leave school, the officer, is at yet another decision point. He is probably between 45 and 48 years of age and having all sorts of regular discussions with himself about 50 not being old these days. Unless this individual is quite convinced that he is going to be a General the chances are that he will resign—thereby giving great pleasure to those junior to him who will put their already prepared papers in the top right hand drawer of their desk until the next 'list' is published.

SO2 (Cadets/Rangers/NAAFI Liaison) is a grimy sort of job and the officer so appointed should ask himself if someone is trying to tell him something. He should, at the very least, protest to the Military Secretary and may, with luck, win an appointment as DAQMG (Drains). Should he not receive satisfaction, he has excellent reasons for opting to retire.

We now move on to the three most common reasons for an officer's premature retirement. The first and very prevalent is his pressing need to buy either a new service dress or a new dark suit. Service dress is an expensive item these days and one only enters into a deep and meaningful relationship with Brothers Moss if one can be sure that one is going to get full value from their wares. It is uncanny that a service dress usually exhibits a mirror like surface on the seat of the trousers and on the elbows as its owner first thinks of the grass being somewhat greener on the other side of the employment fence. His dark suit invariably follows suit, if you'll pardon the pun. 'Twould be madness to take lessons in water skiing and then move to Alaska or the Falkland Islands. Similarly, 'tis madness to buy a new SD and leave the service or conversely to buy a new dark suit and stay in the Service.

The attraction of civilian life is often the promise of enhanced job satisfaction and those officers who do not leave because their SD has worn out, invariably leave because they feel unfulfilled. A note of warning here to readers who fall into this category and who may be precipitate in their actions. We, all of us, from time to time experience minor frustrations but these are usually offset by the rewarding jobs, that come along. I recall that when serving in HQ London District, I suffered a temporary 'down'. No doubt having been affected by the close proximity of so much commercial activity with all its obvious advantages, like luncheon vouchers, I considered forsaking khaki for a company car key but then fate took a hand. 'The Major General personally selected me to head a tender board, charged with selecting a

contractor, to dispose of the manure that accumulates in the barracks of the Household Cavalry and the King's Troop RHA. Jobs like this make it all worth while. I hope that my exclamation of '\*\*\*—who me?' to the DAQMG when he told me of the Major General's decision was correctly interpreted as an expression of humility and gratitude on being selected. One would not wish to brag but it is appropriate to mention that one was later selected to head the vitally important tender board concerned with placing a contract for the cleaning of all the windows at the Horseguards (skylights excepted). Suffice to say that a good job well done brings its own high rewards, and I determined not to leave the Service until I reached advanced middle age, that is to say the ten-year point.

The chances at 27 years of age, of commanding one's Armoured Division in a thrust across northern France in pursuit of the enemy, are much reduced these days, mostly because the French wouldn't care for it and also because a period of peace has caused the wastage rate among officers to slow down and with it, the prospects of accelerated promotion. It is in the interest of the Army that some officers should retire. For those determined to stay, it would be comforting to record that they who retire prematurely fail to negotiate the change from military to civilian life. Unfortunately most of them seem to come back each year to the 'Past and Present' Dinner looking disgustingly fit with astrakhan on their collars and concern for the driver of the Rolls on their lips.

What is an officer to do? The decision is not an easy one. I am now pensionable filing a most important job here on Rockall which, if you like fishing and short walks, is an ideal place to live. The CO is a trifle difficult. I do admit that we aren't soul mates, but despite the four major scenes we've had in the last couple of months over the radio I expect us to rub along quite well when I pay my annual visit to his headquarters on the mainland.

One has to be a realist; I appreciate that there is a large element of luck in this promotion thing. One hears talk of people 'coming out of the hat' and I was delighted to hear of Smither's good fortune. He was one of my subalterns and I've always expected him to do well. Once I won a spot prize at the cricket club dance so I have dined with chance and won before this. I don't doubt that my name is going to come up pretty soon.

The children having left school allows my wife and I to travel when on leave. In this job we shall probably go to the mainland. It will be nice to see some shops again—Oh—yes, that reminds me. My SD really is getting a little shabby and these damned seagulls have played havoc with my cap. The opportunities to dress up here are pretty limited but a chap does like to be in good order because, when the wind drops below Force 8, visitors could just pop in. This retirement thing is a personal matter, it's not easy, and I ask again 'What is an officer to do?'.  
  
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