



# The Die-Hards

## NEWSLETTER

No. 40

DECEMBER 1978

PRICE 25p

*President:* Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

*Chairman:* Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

*Vice-Chairman:* Col I. D. Brotherton, TD DL

*Secretary and Editor:* Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE.

c/o RHQ Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY

Telephone: 0227-65281 Ext 21

### FORECAST OF EVENTS 1979

Date	Event
March 31	9th Bn Annual Reunion Dinner, Quality Inn, Victoria Street, London SW1
April 24	Middlesex Regt Golfing Society Spring Meeting, North Hants Golf Club
28	1/7 Bn (1939-45) Dinner at TAVR Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey
May 11	Middlesex Regt Officers' Club Dinner, Cavalry and Guards Club
12	Afternoon—Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral Evening—Annual Reunion—venue to be arranged
19	2/10th Bn OCA Luncheon at Victory Club, Seymour Street, W2
June 6	Derby Outing
Oct 2	Middlesex Regt Golfing Society Autumn Meeting, North Hants Golf Club
5	2/7th Bn Annual Dinner at Victory Club, Seymour Street, W2
21	Attendance at Church Parade Royal Hospital Chelsea
Nov 10	Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall and Westminster Abbey
11	1000 hours—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by reunion at TAVR Centre, Edgware
	1045 hours—7th Bn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Hornsey Parish Church by the Hornsey and Enfield Branch
	1500 hours—2/10th Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick

### FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance took place on Saturday, November 11, and was well attended by many ex-members of the Regiment and civil dignitaries headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Greater London Council, Mr John B. Ward, JP. The following senior officers were present: Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, Brig D. B. Rendell, CBE, MC, MBIM, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, Col I. R. Burrows, OBE, Col H. J. A. Moore, OBE, Col M. H. Sutmers, 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 W. E. B. Jones, Vicar, North Wembley, Middlesex, and former Chaplain to the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt (DCO). A procession headed by WO2 D. Harwood, 'B' Coy (Middlesex) 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt, followed by Mr S. Kerswill, carrying the Regimental Standard, escorted by three Chelsea Pensioners (I/Ps) Cater, Fulton and Worton), formed up outside the Guildhall under the direction of Major R. W. J. Smith, MBE, 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 Deputy Chairman of the Greater London Council, Mr John B. Ward, JP, to plant a cross.

The Deputy Chairman was followed by the Rev W. E. B. Jones, the High Sheriff of Greater London, Commodore Charles P. C. Noble, OBE, DSC, VRD, RNR, escorted by Lt Col R. M. Cain.

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



1st Bn, Col H. J. A. Moore, OBE; 2nd Bn, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB; 3rd Bn, Mr C. Baldwin; 4th Bn, Mr C. D. Ashby; 5/6th Militia Bns, Brig D. B. Rendell, CBE, MC, MBIM; 7th Bn, Mr J. A. Percival; 1/8th Bn, Maj R. A. J. Cheffins, MC; 2/8th Mr A. Gale; 9th Bn, Mr R. T. Meers; 2/10th Bn, Mr A. D. Scudamore, OBE; 16th Bn, Mr N. Peters; Band and Drums, Mr A. R. Drane.

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

1. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor V. S. Hockley BCOM(LOND), CA, FACCA, and Mrs Hockley escorted by Maj M. C. Mercer.
2. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of the London Borough of Enfield, Councillor Graham Eustance and Mrs Angela Eustance, escorted by Maj S. C. W. Weller, MBE, MM.
3. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of the London Borough of Haringey, Councillor Frederick Neuner and Mrs Neuner, escorted by Lt D. P. Austin.
4. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of the London Borough of Harrow, Councillor D. B. Rouse and Mrs Rouse, escorted by Maj F. Webb.
5. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of the London Borough of Hillingdon, Councillor L. J. Lally and Mrs Lally, escorted by 2Lt S. Blausten.
6. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Councillor Mrs N. J. F. Millar, escorted by Maj M. L. Muirhead, TD.
7. The Chairman, The Middlesex County Association, Mr R. C. Politeyan, MA(CANTAB) and Mrs Politeyan, escorted by Flight Lt R. J. Yerby.

The Chaplain then read the Collects of the Middlesex and Queen's Regt and gave the Blessing. After the ceremony the civil dignitaries and members of the Regimental Association attended a reception in the Middlesex Guildhall.

#### REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Following our usual custom we combined with the Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot, Royal Engineers, for the Sunday Remembrance Day Service in the Garrison Chapel, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, and the ceremony afterwards at the Regimental War Memorial on Sunday, November 12. 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 Scots Guards 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, Mr W. Hamlin; 'B' Coy (Middlesex) 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt by Maj F. Webb; Mill Hill Branch OCA by Mr D. R. Bennett; WOs and Sgts Branch OCA by Mr L. Shrubbs, MM; 9th Bn Branch OCA by Mr W. E. Lockyer, Hounslow Branch OCA by Mr M. Ward.

At the march past which followed the laying of

wreaths the salute was taken by Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, and Col A. V. Burge, MBE, BEM, Commandant Home Postal and Courier Communications Depot, RE. The Middlesex Regt contingent of Old Comrades was commanded by Mr L. T. Plumb. The saluting dais 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 enjoyable gathering was held.

The collection realised £35.44 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 by Mr R. Ambler 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 3pm on Sunday, November 12. The Rev Patrick Tuft, MA, Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Bn OCA, conducted the service which was well attended by Old Comrades and their families together with 'Friends of Chiswick'. Mr A. D. Scudamore, OBE, represented Maj B. K. Cattell, the Chairman of the 2/10th OCA, who was unable to be present owing to illness. Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association, accompanied by Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, and Mrs Clayton, attended the service. Lt Col T. W. Chattey read the lesson and laid a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association. After the service tea was served in the Church Hall.

#### DONATIONS—CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Charitable Fund from: Mr J. R. Barron, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE (in memory of the late Brig A. E. Green and late Maj A. E. Peasley), Mr D. Cavill, Lt Col R. F. Fendick, Lt Col G. L. Fox, TD, DL, Mr A. C. Gill, Mr W. R. Lee, Maj L. F. Shaw and Mr R. W. Sissons.

#### 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: Mr D. R. Bennett, Mr V. F. Brooks, Mr A. W. J. Brown, Mr A. T. Brown, Mr D. Cavill, Maj J. G. Chiverall, Mr E. C. Colebeck, Mr G. S. Hurlock, Mr S. L. Lloyd, Mr H. J. Mellor, Mr G. W. Pegram, Mr N. Peters, Lt Col E. P. Shanks, CBE, QC, Maj L. F. Shaw, Mr R. H. Taylor and Mrs G. Uwins.

#### A MESSAGE FROM MAJ GEN ROWLEY MANS, CBE—COLONEL OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

I am asking for the help of all Old Comrades of the Founding Regiments to increase the numbers of recruits for The Queen's Regt. We need good young men in the Regiment and I believe our best Recruiters are those like yourselves who can tell a young chap what soldiering is really like.

The Infantry has changed a lot in recent years—much more specialisation; many more vehicles to drive, and a great variety of weapons, radios, etc, to handle but the essential requirements for an infantryman remain the same: someone with a glint in his eye (if it is small at the moment The Queen's Regt will make it bigger!) and who wants to get away from the humdrum of modern life and seek adventure and comradeship.

We have many thousands of Old Comrades in the Regiments that created The Queen's Regt; if each one brought in a recruit we could man the British Army!

We are also looking for good youngsters from the age of 16 upwards; for these we can find a place in a Junior Soldiers unit where they receive a first-class training until they go on to a Regular battalion for adult service. The age of entry for adult recruits is 17½ to 30.

All the information required can be obtained from:

The Regimental Careers Officer,  
RHQ The Queen's Regiment,  
Howe Barracks,  
Canterbury, Kent

or from any Army Careers Office. If a would-be recruit goes to one of these offices he should say he wants to join The Queen's Regt and be a Queensman.

So come on all you Old Comrades—help me recruit for the Regiment.

#### THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

##### The Regular Battalions

We now know that the 1st Bn (Lt Col John Holman) is to move from BAOR to Howe Barracks, Canterbury (the Home of The Regiment) early in 1980 and that the 2nd Bn (Lt Col Crispin Champion) at present in Gibraltar, will be going to Colchester next year; thus, by 1980, we shall have all three regular battalions based in UK, two in the Regimental Area.

The 3rd (in Dover) will have a change of command early next year when Lt Col Gavin Bulloch, MBE (formerly Middlesex) takes over from Lt Col Stuart Anderson, OBE, MC. This battalion returned in August from a spell of training at Wainwright, Canada, and it has a busy programme until it goes to Northern Ireland in March next year—including the provision of a Royal Guard of Honour when HRH The Prince of Wales visits Canterbury in November.

The 1st Bn has been keeping the peace in Belfast since June and returned to Werl during October.

##### The TAVR Battalions

5 Queen's were in Camp during September and during its second week flew out to BAOR for

Exercise 'Bold Guard'. The 3rd Bn also participated in this Exercise. A successful camp was enjoyed by 6/7 Queen's at Stamford PTA in June.

#### Cadets

The Annual Weekend for Officers of our affiliated ACF Units was held at Canterbury, October 7-8, and was attended by all the County and Sector Commandants. The Conference was chaired by the Colonel of the Regiment. These get-togethers with our Queen's badged comrades are always happy affairs and included a Dinner night on the Saturday. Our splendid TAVR Band provided the musical backing.

#### Recruiting

So vital is this subject that a Symposium was held for all those connected with recruiting for the Regiment, at Canterbury, on July 20. It was chaired by the Colonel of the Regiment; attended by the Divisional Brigadier and his DAAG(R), Maj Pat Gwilliam, and a large number of Army Careers Officers, Schools Liaison Officers and Recruiting staff throughout our Regimental area.

## W. J. DARDRY FLORIST

for  
Flowers, Plants etc.

Telephone 346 5680

10 HOLDERS HILL PARADE  
MILL HILL · NW7 1LY

Opposite Hendon Cemetery & Crematorium



## WOs AND SERGEANTS BRANCH

Many of you who read these notes say to yourselves 'I must go along one second Saturday to see if "old so-and-so" is still around', but other attractions such as TV and bingo etc, intervene, with the result that you never do make it. With the New Year coming along make a resolution that you will make the effort. Our Committee can assure you that you, and wife or girl friend will enjoy a pleasant evening in friendly company, so much so, that you'll become regulars once you've made this first visit.

Two ex-Mess members who have been in touch recently are Bert Dew, ex-1st and 7th Bns and Alf Ellis, that renown boxer of the 1st Bn. Both these members are looking forward to seeing many more of their old friends at our meetings.

By the time you read these notes Remembrance Day will have passed once again and I'm sure that many of you who attended will have met up again with friends and chewed over the times, both good and bad, that you had together.

During the summer months Les and Dot Shrubbs visited America where they were the guests of Charlie and Margaret Banks, both Charlie and Margaret are in good health and wish to be remembered to all their old friends over here. Margaret says that if she can ever get Charlie on a plane again we may see them again one day. From the snaps that Les and Dot brought back it certainly looks a place well worth a visit.

Daisy and I went off for our annual visit to our family in Canada and caught the tail end of the best summer that they had had for a number of years. Everyone had a healthy tan and I felt sorry for those at home who had been experiencing nothing but rain.

Seasonal Greeting from your Committee for Christmas and the New Year with the hope that we will see many more of you in 1979.

E.C.C.

## 9th BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

In a letter recently sent to members of our branch we announced that the date of our next annual reunion and dinner will be Saturday March 31, 1979, at the Quality Inn, Victoria Street, London SW1, quite close to Victoria Railway Station.

We used this restaurant in April 1978 and found it was very satisfactory. More particulars of this event will be sent to members next February.

The last social event of our association was held on Sunday, October 22, 1978, at the Chelsea Royal Hospital, where we took part in a small way with the In-Pensioners Church Parade, which we enjoyed very much.

Some of us visited their club room. Here comfort abounded everywhere, carpeted floors, upholstered chairs, polished tables and (the most outstanding feature) the splendid display of regimental heraldic plaques that were fixed around the walls of the two large rooms. This must be a rare collection. There were some which must have been carved by hand, probably by a member of the regiment whose badge was depicted. A large bar stacked with plenty of nourishment was in the larger room, surely this was a place where one could relax after the stern realities of war and from those harsh sounds on the parade

grounds and drill halls, which nearly shattered the nerves of all those who were in the vicinity.

We also visited the In-Pensioners' dining room, a splendid long and lofty place illuminated by green shaded electric lamps on the tables which were well set out with flowers and cutlery. Large oil paintings, many of our departed Generals, were hanging on the walls. These must be worth many hundreds of pounds.

The church was rather unique in the method of seating the congregation. Long rows of pews stretched the length of the church except for the altar so that there were two sides of the aisle the congregation facing each other. The choir was in the middle of church. The organ was over the entrance and with a gallery on both sides. The walls were panelled with wood to about 8 feet high and there were particularly fine coloured carvings at the altar. The Royal Arms were displayed over the entrance to the church and permission is given for such display whenever the King or Queen have been a member of the congregation at any time.

There are many splendid exhibits to be seen in the buildings of the Chelsea Hospital and one is the Medal Room, where every medal of the campaigns in which the British Army was involved can be seen.

If one is intending to go to Chelsea, a visit to the National Army Museum next door should be undertaken.

I have given most of the news of our branch in a letter recently to our members on the mailing list, but one more item of news that should be of interest to many is that the Army Band Pageant, held bi-annually, will take place at the Wembley Stadium on June 23 and 24, 1979.

Now we thank all our members for their support and trust they are well and contented.

Our best wishes for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

R.T.M.

## 2/7th BATTALION OCA

Once more, on October 6, 1978, we held our annual dinner, the 32nd, at the Victory Club, Seymour Street. With 61 present the attendance was one down on the previous year.

We were delighted to welcome Les Eaglestone and Bert Bagshaw, who were putting in their first appearances also George Coster who had not been for many years. It was also good to see Bill Jones once more, all the way from Anglesey whilst our longest distance member present was Frank Edmunds from Munchen Gladbach.

Our collection, this time for the Battalion funds, was an all time record at £134.50 of which £61 was contributed by members who were unable to be present but tendered their apologies. Amongst these was a very welcome message from Col Robbins expressing the hope, which we all echo, that he will be able to join us on October 5, 1979, at the same venue when we shall hope to get our attendance figure back into the seventies.

As always we were very glad to have Maj Frank Waldron as our guest and he managed to convey the impression that he too was pleased even though he knew he would be leaving empty handed on this occasion!

R.H.T.

## DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

The Summer of 1978 was the most eventful on record since the Depot opened in 1969. The highlight was without doubt the Anglo-American week at the end of May. On 27th and 28th the air festival attracted well over 50,000 visitors, putting the Depot well and truly on the map. More than 5,000 people attended the Glen Miller style concert held earlier in the week. Hanger No 3 was the venue for the concert, the hanger in which Glen Miller performed shortly before disappearing in an air crash. A memorial, to commemorate American involvement at Basingbourn, in the shape of a flying fortress propeller mounted on a plinth, is in a beautiful setting just inside the entrance to barracks.

Each year since 1971 the Depot has been host to the Army Exhibition for Schools and in July 14,000 schoolchildren and teachers attended the three-day event. Next year the exhibition will be held on July 4, 5, and 6 with—note for your diary—an open day on Saturday, July 7. In addition to a vast number of static displays there will be an arena display lasting just over an hour.

Recently when I visited a school in Dunstable I met the teacher son-in-law of Ex-WO2 Sid Michel and as a result was able to renew contact. Sid and his wife Olive live at 196b Dukes Ride, Crowthorn, Berks, and jointly manage a Do-It-Yourself Centre. Sid had the misfortune six years ago to have his left leg amputated but this has not proved a handicap and both he and Olive are very happy in their new way of life.

My wife and I recently spent a weekend in Blackpool and on the way back stopped at Buxton in Derbyshire for lunch. Sitting opposite me was a man of my vintage who looked as though he had seen military service. It transpired he was John (Ginger) Stack who served in the 1st Bn from 1950-53. John was in 'A' Coy and a prominent member of the Battalion Boxing team, fighting at 9 stone 7 pounds (he never lost a fight at this weight). John lives with his wife at 89 Tension Road in Cambridge and works for the University Press.

A recent arrival at the Depot is CSM Bob Bartle who is a Platoon Commander in one of the Junior Soldier Companies. On arrival he was promptly made OIC Basket Ball, Canoeing and Swimming. Bob, the son of a true 'Diehard' (Slim), is a real chip off the old block—what greater praise can one give.

At the time of writing it is known that Lt Col Hugh Lohan will be handing over command of the Depot to Maj Kerry Woodrow, Royal Anglian Regt, shortly after Christmas. The Colonel does not yet know his next posting. During Col Lohan's reign over the past two-and-half-years the Depot has undergone many changes and his bright new approach to training has raised the standard of recruit, reduce the wastage rate dramatically and generated a happy atmosphere throughout the Depot.

I have just heard from Col John Pollard, who is the AAG here at Headquarters The Queen's Div, that Maj Buster Carlston will be residing in quarters at Basingbourn from December 12 to January 12, when he will be assuming the appointment of 2IC 2 Queen's. Each of the three regular Battalions of the Queen's Regt will then have a 'Diehard' 2IC.

A regular visitor to the Depot is Maj Peter Cheesman who is G2 Exercise and Planning at

Headquarters Eastern District. Peter lives with his family in quarters at Colchester.

All 'Diehards' at the Depot join me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.  
Capt Ken Beale.

## 1/7th BATTALION (1939-45) ANNUAL DINNER

How pleased I was to attend this dinner after a lapse of four years due to ill health. It was a tonic to see so many of my old comrades with our Brig Rackham in the chair.

Our guests this year were a very distinguished group with Gen Sir Ian Jacob and several of our Brigadier's Naval comrades from the 1914-18 war. The Dinner was held in the Officer's Mess at Hornsey by kind permission of the Officer Commanding 'B' Coy, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt.

We must again congratulate our hard working committee for such a good meal.

It was with great regret that I heard Les Hosslen would no longer be able to carry on as our Secretary. I would remind you that he took over this job from me in 1968 when I went to Canada, and has continued in the true 'Diehard' spirit.

A collection was made at the dinner and I was able to purchase for him something he has wanted for a long time, ie, lawnmower! He will now be able to sit back and watch Val cut the grass!

On behalf of you all I would like to thank Les for all the hard work he has put in over the last nine years.

## Peter McRae & COMPANY LIMITED

*Life Assurance Consultants  
Insurance and Mortgage Brokers*

14-16 West Street, East Grinstead,  
Sussex

Telephone: East Grinstead 25977

Did you know that besides protecting your family, life assurance can assist in other fields, such as education, house purchase, pension, and estate duty? We specialise in the needs of service personnel and would be pleased to advise.  
We make no charges

**We also have departments specialising in other forms of general insurances which are at your service**



I was sorry to hear the sad news of the death of Brig A. E. Green. I well remember when he joined the Battalion in February, 1940. He came to us as a Major from the 2nd Bn and was posted to 'A' Coy as Company Commander, at that time I was CSM. He soon adapted himself to his new Territorial Company and proved a first class officer and we were very grateful for his leadership back to Dunkirk. Our sympathy goes to his family. Rocky Knight.

#### MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLF SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING

The Autumn Golf Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 3, 1978, at the North Hants Golf Club. The detailed results each decided over 18 holes were as follows:

<i>Stableford Singles</i>	<i>Score</i>
Cpl R. F. Abrahams (Winner Horton Cup)	37
Mr S. Rogers (Runner Up)	35
Mr. T. F. Jones	32
Mr M. C. Quinn	32
Mr M. R. T. Walden	31
Mr A. G. Torrie	30
Mr N. Taylor	29
Capt M. S. Gedye	28
Maj A. R. Bisset	27
Lt Col J. R. B. Worton	26
Mr C. D. Holdford	26
Mr A. J. Reide	26
Lt Col T. W. Chattey	24
Mr L. Hill	23
Cpl D. Tilley	21

<i>Stableford Foursomes</i>	<i>Score</i>
Capt M. S. Gedye and Mrs Gedye (Winners Jay Cup)	30
Mr G. Taylor and Mr A. G. Torrie (Runners-up)	29
Mr N. Taylor and Capt R. J. Tarrant	26
Mr M. R. T. Walden and Mr A. J. Reide	25
Mr S. T. Rogers and Mr B. Pilgrim	24
Lt Col T. W. Chattey and Cpl D. Tilley	23
Mr L. Hill and Cpl R. F. Abrahams	22
Mr M. C. Quinn and Maj A. R. Bisset	21
Mrs N. Holdford and Mr M. West	20
Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Mr J. J. Rogers	19
Mr T. F. Jones and Col J. N. Shipster	19
Mr H. Clayden and Mr S. Rogers	16
Mr C. Holdford and Mr C. K. Holdford	11
Mr E. Johnson and Mr J. Turner	7
Capt R. J. Tarrant	21
Lt Col C. N. Clayden	20
Col J. N. Shipster	19
Mr H. J. Chillery	17
Maj P. D. H. Marshall	17
Mr C. K. Holdford	13
Mr J. Turner	10
Mr H. W. Kent (Divot)	9
Mrs N. Holdford	9
Mr J. J. Rogers	NR
Mr M. West	NR
Mr E. Johnson	NR
Mr B. Pilgrim	NR
Mr S. T. Rogers	NR

Before asking Mrs Jean Clayden to present the prizes Lt Col Tom Chattey thanked all those present for supporting the meeting and said that he was

encouraged by the very good attendance. The meeting had been most successful and enjoyable and the presence of Mrs Gedye and Mrs Holdford added glamour and charm to the meeting and he sincerely hoped they would come again and that their presence would encourage other ladies to make the plunge and show us their skills. Maj Crumley had to drop out at the last moment due to the exigencies of the service (arrival of 14 high ranking Chinese officers) and his wife Margaret very kindly motored to Fleet to tell us which was much appreciated. Regrets were also received from Harold Couch, Godfrey Lervill, Peter Ingham, Ian Burrows and Doug Matthews. The date for the Spring Meeting is Tuesday, April 24, 1979.

#### STAHNSDORF CEMETERY

The following very interesting letter written by Lt Col R. D. Fisher, MBE (MX), Queen's Regt (now serving as GSO1), British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany, to Col John Shipster, Regimental Secretary, The Queen's Regt, may be of interest to our 1914-18 veterans:

There is a little known cemetery near Stahnsdorf, not far from Potsdam in East Germany which contains the graves of 1,172 British and Commonwealth Servicemen who died in captivity during the first World War or during the Upper Silesian Plebiscite 1921-22. The official title of Stahnsdorf cemetery is 'Berlin South-Western Cemetery'.

As we are the only British Service unit which is permitted to travel in the DDR, for some years the practice was for the Chief of Mission with one of his staff, to visit the cemetery at some time near Remembrance Sunday each year. Since the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the UK and the DDR, naturally the British Embassy in East Berlin have been represented on these visits. For the last three years the practise has been for a fairly large military party, escorted by us in our cars, to attend a short service in the cemetery on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday, together with the Ambassadors of their representatives from the British and Commonwealth Embassies in East Berlin.

Last Sunday was no exception and the Brixmis party consisted of the Chief, Deputy Chief, myself as GSO1, the Adjutant and two G2s. We escorted the COs of the three battalions at present in Berlin (1st Bn Welsh Guards, 2nd Bn Royal Anglian and 2nd Bn Parachute Regt), and the DACG who conducted a short service. The Ambassadors from Great Britain, Australia, India, Ghana and Bangladesh were all present. The service went very well (the weather was very cold but fortunately dry) and some nine wreaths were laid on the central memorial. A most interesting facet of the whole afternoon was the very large numbers of East Germans who turned up and stood in a very orderly, quiet manner behind us and watched the simple ceremony. There must have been about 300 of them; I certainly do not know for how many years more they will be allowed to do this.

However, of particular interest to us is in the fact that I discovered four Middlesex Regt graves in the cemetery:

1. 200973 Sgt T. Kerry, MM, died January 8, 1919.
2. 44071 Pte C. Prendergast, died August 22, 1918.

3. 291247 Pte A. L. Carey, died May 13, 1918.
4. L/9471 Pte W. Jackson, died March 19, 1918.

I enclose photographs of two of them; they are black and white proof prints taken from a colour negative, but may be of interest. The cemetery is in good order although, of course, the headstones are showing signs of wear after 60 years.

*Editor's comment*—My thanks to Lt Col Ronnie Fisher for the trouble he has taken. Items such as this are of great interest to the Regiment. If anyone has a particular interest in the two photographs (Sgt Kerry, MM, and Pte W. Jackson) I shall be very pleased to pass them on.

#### SHORNCLIFFE MILITARY CEMETERY

I was recently attending a Conference at Shorncliffe and having time to spare visited the Military Cemetery on the hill.

The Cemetery is cared for by the Graves Commission and is a credit to all concerned.

I found the following graves of men who served in the Regiment:

- Capt and Adj A. G. Symons, MC, died 23.10.18
- Lt E. H. Macintosh, died 7.2.25
- Pte J. Baker, died 20.9.17
- Pte A. H. Slatter, died 2.10.17
- Pte G. H. Bloodworth, died 25.5.17
- Pte R. Bedford, died 27.7.17.

The headstones were all in good condition and legible with regimental badge.

#### ANNUAL CHURCH PARADE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

On Sunday, October 22, 1978, a contingent of members of the Regimental Association, paraded with the In-Pensioners of The Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The 'Die-Hards' falling in, in two ranks on the left of the In-Pensioners who were wearing their long scarlet coats, the uniform of our predecessors during the wars fought by that illustrious Commander John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough.

On parade were Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Lt E. C. Graham, Capt W. B. Hammond, ERD, TD, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Messrs R. Ambler, C. Ashby, C. Baldwin, A. Brown, G. Cadogan-Ogg, E. Cummings, R. Drane, A. Gale, T. Lack, MM, P. Maloney, A. Martin, R. Meers, W. Wright and A. Nonymous, MM.

The command 'On Parade' by RSM L. Lamb, BEM, an old soldier of the Lancashire Fusiliers, the old 20th of Foot, saw the two detachments fall in, our 'Die-Hards' in the two ranks of whom I had the honour, with great pride, to command. It is worth remarking here that I am often asked by members of various Units why we never have supernumerary ranks. My answer is always the same. We 'Die-Hards' fight shoulder to shoulder and we remain shoulder to shoulder. At all times.

The Duty Drummer beat the commands on his side drum and to hear the Officers call beat on the drum to call the parade commander on parade took back our memories to half-a-century ago when it was common practice. The parade Commander, the Captain of Invalids was Maj A. V. N. Bridge of the Dorset Regt, the old 39th of Foot, who were the East Middlesex Regt until 1807.

The Lieutenant Governor, Maj Gen J. H. B. Acland, CBE, of HM Scots Guards inspected the parade, speaking to each Old Comrade, asking quite a number of questions, showing great interest in each individual. After the inspection the parade marched to the beautiful chapel, paying compliments to the General as we marched past.

Our families also attended the church service, one of the highlights being the delightful choral solo by the choir whilst the congregation remained seated in their pews and listen enthralled.

A senior Officer who was once the Lieutenant-Governor of The Royal Hospital and who makes a point of being at the service when we are there is Maj Gen Sir Nigel Tapp, KBE, CB, DSO, DL, whose forebear was Maj Gen James Allan, CB, for 18 years Lieutenant Colonel of the 57th Regt, the longest term in command of the 57th. Two of his sons also served in the Regiment. Although not on the strength of our two predecessor units, he had seen action in the same battles in 1799 at Seringapatam with the 77th and in 1811 at Albuhera with the 57th. He was then with the Scots Brigade, disbanded in 1818.

Another Allen, this time spelt with an 'e' connected with the Royal Hospital and our parade was Allen Smith of the 57th Regt whose great-great-grandson is serving with 1 Queen's after originally being a 'Die-Hard' before the formation of the big regiments. He also was in the Peninsula.

He is my son Csgt Mervyn Smith. Allen Smith died in the Royal Hospital where he was an In-Pensioner.

In the colonnade can be seen a tablet to the memory of Maj Edward Brutton, 57th Regt, who was a Captain of Invalids at the time of his death there in 1911, after holding the appointment for 23 years. He had served in the China War of 1860, and the Maori War in New Zealand, 1863-65. Mrs Brutton was related to Brig Gen F. D. Lumley, CB, CBE, who will be well remembered by our older generation of soldiers. 'Daddy' Lumley did so much good for his serving soldiers, also for their welfare and employment on their discharge.

Yes, we have cause to be proud when we parade at Chelsea. R.W.J.S.

#### REGIMENTAL SONGS

A letter has been received from Mrs D. Hill, wife of Maj P. G. E. Hill, East Surrey Regt, asking for assistance in the preparation of a collection of soldiers' songs. Mrs Hill is proposing to publish these songs in book form in due course and would like to include any songs sung by the Middlesex Regt whilst on the march or in the canteen, including words sung to the Regimental Marches.

Some of you Old Codgers may remember the following ditty:

Sixteen annas one rupee,  
Damn and blast the bobaj,  
Sergeant major, hollow ground razor,  
Queen Victoria bloody fine man.  
Seven long years you . . . my daughter,  
Now you go to Blighty, Sahib,  
May the boat that takes you over, etc, etc, etc.  
All songs should be sent to Mrs D. Hill, Selwood,  
Mill Road, Heathfield, Sussex TN21 0XD.



## BELGIAN NATIONAL DAY ANNUAL PARADE, 1978

The Annual Parade of the Amicale des Anciens Combattants Belges en Grande-Bretagne, this year was held on Sunday, July 16. Supporting our Belgian Comrades were a number of our Regimental Association who had made the effort to rise and shine early this sabbath and be present. To mark our regimental position on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, our Regimental Standard was prominently flying for all to see before the influx of the score or so that were eventually on parade.

Immediately after the Guards Changing ceremony by the Household Cavalry, the Parade Marshal, G. Glorieux, Esq, formed up the numerous contingents in the respective positions. The members of the Regiment on parade were Maj Dick Smith, OC Detachment, Messrs Bob Ambler (1st Bn) Charlie Ashby (4th Bn), David Bennett (1st Bn), Tom Bridger (2nd Bn), Ron Dean (8th Bn), Bob Drane (2nd Bn), Alec Ellis (7th Bn), Albert Gale (8th Bn), Charlie Gerrard (8th Bn & RA), Bob Hurley (5th TA Bn), Stan Kerswill (9th Bn), Tommy Lack, MM (MX Home Gd), Bill Landreth (1st Bn), Pincher Martin (9th Bn), Arthur Matthews (4th Bn), Reggie Meers (9th Bn), Syd Mullett (2nd Bn), Joe Price (12th Bn), John Poyner, Mike Thomason, Henry Watson (Kens) and Bill Wright (4th Bn).

As is now usual, a large crowd of sightseers and foreign visitors who came to witness the Guard Changing ceremony remained to watch the parade. To the rousing tune of a robust quickstep the parade left the square and marched along Whitehall to the Cenotaph. Our Standard Ensign was Stan Kerswill who marched in front of our contingent, followed by Maj Smith, and ex-Sgt Landreth in his uniform of a Sergeant of the Corps of Commissionaires, who was the wreath bearer. This wreath from the Regiment to the memory of our Belgian Comrades-in-Arms who had made the supreme sacrifice was layed at the foot of the Cenotaph by Maj Smith.

On the return march, it was a cause for great pride when the spectators lining Whitehall broke into spontaneous applause as our contingent marched by. From the crowd we heard distinctly 'Good old Die-Hards'. I feel we all grew two inches taller.

During the inspection of the parade prior to the dismissal, His Excellency The Belgian Ambassador, Monsierr Robert Vaes and Col K. Dewulf, the Attache Militaire, made a point of speaking to Albert Gale, the oldest man on parade. Albert had marched all the way like a youth who had just passed his 16th birthday instead of a man who had said goodbye to his 90th.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, Bruce Castle, Tottenham, London N17.

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

### Earthenware Loving Cup

This utensil is a nice item of pottery, 7½ in high and 7 in in diameter. It has three handles in the form of running greyhounds at full stretch and two rows of figures in bas-relief. The bottom figures consist of

a stag being chased by a pack of hounds and a huntsman wearing a Derby hat. These figures of the chase go completely round the circumference of the cup with the stag making for cover depicted by a tree with a bush at the base.

The top figures are between the handles. In the first section is a countryman sitting on a barrel by a windmill. He is smoking a churchwarden pipe with an expression of great contentment on his face. The next section has a villager sitting by a tree by the village pound. He also is sitting on a barrel holding a large jug of ale with a foaming head in his right hand and a dudder (clay pipe) in his left hand. The third section has engraved within a floral frame in bas-relief the legend 'Won by Private E. J. Barron, 37th Middlesex RV, August 1869'. The artifact is Vauxhall ware, a small pottery in that neighbourhood that did not last very long, which makes the cup more interesting.

The 37th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers were raised in 1860 and on the consolidation of the Volunteers in 1880 became the 19th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers with their Headquarters at the Foundling Hospital and later affiliated the Rifle Brigade Volunteers at the same time as the 5(W.MX) RV and the 9 MX RV were affiliated to KRRC Volunteers. On April 1, 1908, when the Volunteers became the Territorial Force, all the Units above became the 9th Bn, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regt) TF.

Edward Jackson Barron was born in 1826 and died November 1918. He was a Freeman (born) of the City of London and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and was a Freemason who held high rank in Masonic affairs. Also a member of the Livery Company of the Armourers and Braziers he held successive office therein till he took his turn as Master of the Company. He became a solicitor with an excellent 'family' business with an office in Grays Inn.

This interesting addition to our museum will be on display in the 9th Bn showcase. Presented by his granddaughter, Miss Christine Henman.

### Framed Photographs of Tableau Albuhera Day 1915

This photograph shows members of the 1/9th and 1/10th Bns at Jalapahar, India, May 16, 1915. The group of 12 are wearing mock-up uniforms as worn by the 57th Regt in 1811, five of the front rank in the kneeling position and six in the rear rank in the standing position as was the drill when square was formed at this date. The twelfth member is a drummer on the left flank.

The clothing, shako and muskets are good imitations, the result of keenness and knowledge of whoever gave the 'darzi' and 'mistri' their instructions to make the uniforms and muskets.

It is also an excellent demonstration of the great pride and *esprit de corps* of these two Territorial Battalions whilst garrisoning this great sub-continent during the first year of the Great War.

The donor of the photographs is in the front rank of the tableau, but unfortunately, to date, the other members are not named. As with the loving cup, this exhibit will be on display in the 9th Bn showcase.

Presented by Capt P. F. Murray

## VISIT TO MONS 1978

Thanks to anonymous benefactors the Middlesex Regimental Association coach left on August 20 for Mons. Veterans representing the Middlesex Regt, Royal Fusiliers, Cavalry, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Machine Gun Corps, Royal Tank Regt and Chelsea Hospital travelled with the party. On arrival at Dover they were officially welcomed by the captain of the Ferry. During the trip they were accommodated at SHAPE.

The trip included a visit to the Countess De Hendecourt at the Chateau De La Haye, where Generals Haig, French and Smith Dowien planned the retreat from Mons in 1914. On August 22 a wreath was laid on the Casteau memorial, where the first shot of the war was fired and where 100 yards away coincidentally, the last shot of the war was fired, by the Canadians.

On August 23, the party marched, medals ablaze along the Avenue 4th Middlesex to 'A' Coy Farm, scene of bitter fighting. Col B. H. Marciandi, OBE, a 'Diehard' serving on the staff of SHAPE laid a wreath on the Belgian National War Memorial. Shiner Wright spoke the words of Bunyan when the wreath was laid at the Belfry Tower Memorial and local dignitaries gave a speech forging new bonds of friendship in this the 60th anniversary year of war ending at a champagne reception at the Hotel De Ville.

Joined by a group of Belgian and French Veterans Associations the Middlesex Regiment honoured their dead at a short service in St Symphorien Cemetery and laid a wreath on the grave of Maj Abell. He was the first British officer killed in 1914.

Later in the day joined by a large and impressive gathering of Belgians and French the original 4th Bn flag was paraded at a ceremony at Oboug Station, where the Battalion held out against tremendous odds. The Mayor of Oboug and Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, spoke, through an interpreter, about the need and strength of the friendship that links Belgium and Britain.

The Belgian Navy, SHAPE Headquarters held receptions for the veterans. Visits were made to the restored town of Ypres, the museum at Hill 60, Sanctuary Wood and the church at Albert. The bomb crater at La Boisselle, Cambrai, Theipval, Bray Vale, Lille Gate and the Menin Gate provided many emotional memories for the Old and Bold and in his final speech Maj Smith left no one in any doubt, that indeed there are many corners of foreign fields that will be forever England.

NORMA NORMAN.

## THE LASTING HONOUR

This book is about the Fall of Hong Kong 1941 and describes the Colony before, during and after the campaign. It is written by Maj Oliver Lindsay of the Grenadier Guards. It can be purchased from the Services Bookshop, 196 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2, at a cost of £5.95, plus postage.

Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, has reviewed the book and this is published below:

Although my recollections of my life as a prisoner of war are still as clear and vivid today as if the events had taken place only a few weeks ago, my memories of the 'Battle of Hong Kong' have never amounted to much more than a confused jumble of happenings, and, even then, only happenings that affected me and my immediate associates.

Oliver Lindsay has done a great and long overdue service to the brave men and women of all nationalities who gave everything they had in the defence of the Colony. By his painstaking research through official records, his personal approaches to survivors and his detailed knowledge of the ground, he has built up a balanced and fascinating chronicle of the events leading up to, during and immediately after the surrender of the garrison—something that for me no official history has hitherto been able to achieve.

After reading his book, for the first time I have been made aware of the course of the battle, the reasons for some of the decisions taken which were often quite incomprehensible to me at the time, but above all the many acts of heroism of individuals and sub-units.

Oliver Lindsay leaves the reader in no doubt that the war in Hong Kong was the epitome of lost opportunities, lack of communications and of ad hoc counter measures undertaken without adequate support or reconnaissance, conceived in haste and doomed to failure. He brings out vividly the inevitable results of shortages or total absence of essential equipment; the woeful lack of offensive training (I do not recall ever being rehearsed in set piece counter attacks); and the disastrous effects of the sudden reorganisation and re-allocation of roles for the defence. This shuffling of units and sectors sacrificed at a stroke all the local knowledge of ground and cover which had been acquired painstakingly over the months and years. None the less, Lindsay brings out wherever possible the reasons for the changes and deficiencies, leaving the reader with a marked feeling of sympathy for those in command, not recrimination. From his account, all concerned emerge as victims of circumstances, not incompetents.

## Parsons and Printing

### Over a Century-old Partnership . . .

Like the Services, we have a tradition to uphold, at the same time taking advantage of scientific progress in this age of mechanisation, yet maintaining, through a special department, a personal and helpful link with our customers, whom we are ever willing to advise and assist in the production of their journals

**F. J. PARSONS**  
WESTMINSTER PRESS LTD

Newspaper House, 8-16 Great New Street, London EC4P 4ER. Telephone 01-353 1030. Works at Hastings.



As one follows the progress of the fighting, against the peacetime background that Oliver Lindsay depicts, one is left with the clear impression that, just as the French had relied with disastrous results on the Maginot Line, so the defenders of Hong Kong had been lulled into a defensive frame of mind which virtually deprived them of the ability to break out and turn to offence. That individual sub-units, exhausted and debilitated, without adequate support and often unsure of their objectives, carried out counter attacks at all, illustrates vividly the almost inexhaustible courage and tenacity that Oliver Lindsay refers to continually in his book. Characteristics that continued to be in evidence during the four long years of starvation, torture and privations as prisoners of war.

This is a book that should be widely read by all students of the history of World War II, not only by the experts but by us all, as it has a clear message for us today. For 'Diehards' is has a special relevance and meaning, since the Battle Honour 'Hong Kong' was won by the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) and is borne on the Colours of our successors, The Queen's Regt.

Maj Oliver Lindsay is due our thanks for his moving and splendidly written account of an almost forgotten campaign of which 'Diehards' should all be proud.

#### ST DAVID'S HOME, EALING

St David's Home was founded in 1918 to provide a home where disabled ex-servicemen could find peace and comfort for the rest of their lives. It is ideally situated on Castlebar Hill, standing back from the road in its lovely gardens.

The Home is under the charge of the Sisters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. Men of all demoninations are welcomed, and Chaplains visit regularly. St David's is an Independent Charity and not part of the National Health Service. It is registered as a War Charity and also as a Nursing Home. Fifty-eight men are accommodated in premises all on the ground floor. Every effort is made to give the men every care and comfort. There are four wards, which vary in size, all fitted with coloured television with earphones for silent listening, and there are six private rooms. A large recreation room where the men can relax, enjoy concerts, play games or watch television, is much appreciated and is seldom empty.

The Physiotherapy Unit is equipped with every modern equipment through the generosity of our good friends the Army Benevolent Fund, and many of the men profit from the sessions given there twice weekly. There is also a room for Occupational Therapy.

The Library is well stocked with loan books from the St John and Red Cross Hospital Library, which the Librarian distributes weekly from her trolley.

Outings are provided throughout the year by the various 'Lest We Forget' Organisations and the 'Not Forgotten' Association, while the men enjoy many drives and outings in our own ambulance presented by the Army Benevolent Fund.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from:

The Secretary, St David's Home for Disabled Ex-Servicemen, Castlebar Hill, Ealing W5 1TE. Telephone: 01-997 5121.

#### THE FIRST TEN YEARS by Gregory Blaxland

Recently published as a Supplement to his 'A Guide to the Queen's Regiment' Gregory Blaxland has now chronicled Regimental activities during the first decade of the Queen's Regiments existence. Copies can be obtained from RHQ The Queen's Regt, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. Price 60p per copy 'A Guide to the Queen's Regiment' and 30p per copy 'The First Ten Years'.

#### PERSONAL JOTTINGS

The Late Mrs L. M. Anson who died on November 24, 1977, left her residuary estate to the Officers Widows Branch of SSAFA.

Mr Charlie Brust, Ealing Branch, who served with the 7th Bn (1914-18), now aged 85, sends his regards to all 'Diehards'.

Lt Gen G. C. Bucknall sends good wishes to all members of the Regimental Association.

Ex WO2 Alf Burford recently left the Army and has taken up employment at Canterbury as a housing manager.

Congratulations were sent to Capt T. F. G. Carless, MC, on celebrating his Golden Wedding on August 29, 1978.

Congratulations were sent to Maj C. F. Carvell, who served with the 3rd and 4th Bns, on the occasion of his 90th birthday on August 12, 1978. He tells me that he still feels very sad at the demise of the Regiment.

I was very pleased to meet Nellie Clark (Mrs Sims) daughter of the late Maj Nobby Clark again. She was unable to attend the Remembrance Service last year. She now lives with her family in Birmingham.

I was very pleased to see Mrs Ivy Clarke at Edgware after the Remembrance Service and I do apologise for failing to have a word with her.

Maj A. B. Cowing relinquished the appointment of 2IC 3 Queen's on May 30, 1978. He is now serving with the Royal Ulster Regt.

Another 'Diehard' who turned up at the Remembrance Service was ex-Pte John Cross, who was a PU driver with the 1st Bn in Austria. He now works as a printer and lives at South Ruislip.

Congratulations to Maj S. M. Dowse on promotion to Major on June 30, 1978.

A recent correspondent was Lt Col Rex Fendick, CD, who has just retired from the Canadian Army. He will be remembered as a Canloan officer who served with the 2nd Bn during 1944-45. He sends his regards to all old comrades of the 2nd Bn.

Congratulations to Mr A. C. Gill (6204647) on the award of the British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Mr Gill is a senior supervisor with the London Airport authority at Heathrow where he has worked for the past 32 years. He is also a member of the Institute of Supervisory Management. He joined the TA in 1937 at 16 years of age, served with the 1/8th Bn and was called up for service in August 1939. He was taken POW whilst serving with the BEF in 1940 and repatriated in August 1945. He was promoted Sergeant October 1939 and appointed A/CSM August 1945.

Mrs Ruth Green widow of Brig A. E. Green has asked me to publish in the *Newsletter* that she is now residing with her daughter in South Africa and her address is c/o Mrs D. J. Patoir, 13a Kinloch Avenue, Westville 3630, Natal, South Africa.

Ex-Sgt Frank Gribble was going to become an In-Pensioner at Chelsea but only stopped a few days. He has been very ill recently and I hope to find out how he is progressing soon.

Mr H. C. Griffiths (6197330), Ex-Sgt 2nd Bn, sends his regards to all 'Diehards'.

Maj P. J. Gybbon Monypenny has been appointed 2IC 3 Queen's wef May 31, 1978.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Pte M. A. G. Hewitt (23040569), who served with the 1st Bn in Cyprus 1955-56.

Mr W. F. Horn (16289) has been admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. He is 80 years of age and served with the Regiment from October 19, 1915, to September 27, 1917. He is in possession of the 1914-18 British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Mr Len Howell (senior) writes to tell me that he had the pleasure of seeing and hearing the 3rd Bn The Queen's Regimental Band at the Royal Marines School of Music, Deal, on October 29.

Congratulations to Maj Peter Hubert, MBE, on his appointment of 2IC 1 Queen's.

Ex-RQMS Jacko Jaques has not been too well recently and hoped that he would be able to attend the Remembrance Service. He did not attend so on behalf of all members of the Regimental Association, I wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr Len Johnson has now been ill for a long time and all members of the Regimental Association are thinking of him and wish him well.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Pte J. S. Kennedy (6205569) who joined in early 1939. He saw service with the 7th Bn, Kensingtons, RA and Royal Corps of Signals until being demobbed in 1946.

Another member to join the Regimental Association is ex-Pte K. J. Mankelov (22329472) who served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Korea 1950-52.

He served in the platoon commanded by then 2 Lt C. L. Lawrence. He emigrated to Australia, joined the Australian Army, was posted to the Royal Australian Artillery and reached the rank of WO2. In 1969 he joined the Military Historical Society of Australia and served a term as President. He has now opened a small museum which he has named the Albuhera Military Museum which is situated at Geelong, Victoria. He informs me that the museum consists of exhibits from 35 countries and comprises orders, medals, decorations, ribbons, insignias, badges, buttons, flags, uniforms, books, photographs, etc. He would be grateful for any surplus Middlesex items any reader may have to spare especially *Diehard* magazines particularly around 1950-51.

A regular correspondent is ex-Pte Jock Mannering who sends his regards to all 'Diehards'. Jock spends his spare time finding me addresses of 'Diehards'.

Mr Alf Mason accompanied by his wife called in at Canterbury and gave me a pleasant surprise. I gave his one by passing him on to Maj John Reed, East Surreys who shares the office with me. Alf served with the East Surreys during the war and is no stranger to Maj Reed.

Another new member is ex-Sgt W. McNally (1798862). He originally enlisted into the Royal Artillery on April 14, 1941. He joined the 8th Bn at Beyeaux, France on December 12, 1944. He was wounded at Zanten in March, 1945, and due to his wounds his discharge was deferred until August, 1947. He is in possession of the following medals—1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, King's Badge awarded for disablement due to war wounds.

A very welcome visitor to the Remembrance Service at Mill Hill and afterwards to the reunion at Edgware was Mr Harry (Olaf) Merlock (6700565) who was taken POW with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. He served from 1932 to 1950. This was his first visit for 10 years and he assures me that he will be joining the Regimental Association.

A recent correspondent was Mrs Pat Newman, widow of the late Maj Percy Newman. She sends best wishes to all her old friends and tells me that she may be moving to a smaller bungalow in the New Year.

In a recent Newsletter I stated that ex-Csgt Nicholson was employed at the BFES Mess, BAOR. This was incorrect, his wife works at the BFES Mess and they use the address for convenience. For a time Nick joined Flight (Csgt) Moyses in mid-air but has now landed and informs me that he started work with the NAAFI in BAOR in 1970 and became manager of Gifts and Durables in Hereford. He has now been promoted and has reached the dizzy heights of 'Official' and is employed on Stock Control at the NAAFI warehouse in Krefeld. After all that I hope his durables never wear out. Who said you cannot win. When I was Quartermaster of the 1st Bn Csgt Nick, was a staunch member of my staff.



Mr G. W. Pegram (43205) informs me that he is sorry that he cannot attend the Remembrance gatherings owing to advanced age, having to use crutches and a wheel chair. He was founder member of the 13th OCA branch, its Secretary for over 50 years and is the last active member.

Two well known 'Diehards' were recently mentioned in the *Manchester Guardian*. They were Lt Mike Pickard, Chairman of Grattan Industries and Lt Martin O'Regan now with Europa Airways.

Congratulations to Brig B. A. M. Pielow on his promotion to Brigadier on June 30, 1978. Also to Virginia on the occasion of her marriage to Capt John Russell of the Queen's Regt.

A recently joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Csgt J. Pritchard (22233303). Very nice to see him back.

Ex-Cpl J. E. Sheffield (22259767) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted into the Regiment on April 12, 1950, and served until July 31, 1963, when he was medically discharged due to disablement of the right leg. He joined the 1st Bn in Hong Kong in 1951 and later served in Cyprus and Hameln, until returning to Lydd with the Battalion. For a period he was QM Clerk. He is the son of ex-CSM 'Shiny' Sheffield who lives at 2 Albuhera Close, Enfield.

Mr John Soden writes to tell me that he attended the FEPOW Association Reunion but was disappointed that only a few members of our Regiment turned up.

Congratulations to Maj Paul Truman on his promotion to Major on June 30, 1978.

A recent welcome visitor to my office in Canterbury was Capt Walter Ward who served with the 7th Bn.

Our congratulations to Maj S. C. W. Weller, MBE, MM, on being awarded the Cadet Forces Medal. Notified in the *London Gazette* dated August 24, 1978.

Mr Harry Wilkes (22233293) has joined the Regimental Association. Her served with the Royal West Kent Regt and our 1st Bn during the period 1948-53. He is in possession of the United Nations and Korea medals.

Mr Gordon Young and Mr George Lewis of the Hounslow branch OCA have just returned from a holiday in New Zealand. Gordon informs me that he was able to get in touch with Ron Bush ex-1st Bn FEPOW. Ron and his charming wife made them very welcome. Ron is now a keen bowls player.

#### ST DUNSTAN'S

St Dunstan's for men and women blinded on war service have asked me for particulars of any member who suffered eye damage since the beginning of World War I. I would be grateful if any reader would let me know the name and address of any member of the Regiment who suffered in this way. I will then pass this information to St Dunstan's.

## OBITUARY

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

**BETTS**—On July 20, 1978, ex-Sgt Albert Betts (4130076) aged 61. He enlisted in the Cheshire Regt on February 14, 1940, and after training was posted to the Middlesex Regt with whom he continued to serve until taking his discharge on April 15, 1946.

**DUFFIELD**—On February 2, 1978, ex-RQMS George Henry Edward Duffield (L/7829 and 6188365) aged 92. George Duffield enlisted into the Regiment April 25, 1902, and was posted to the Corps of Drums of the 4th Bn, where he soon became an efficient flute player. He also gained his First Class Certificate of Education in record time, and in 1905 was promoted Lance Corporal (Drummer).

Of an erudite disposition, he was given employment as Assistant Clerk in the Battalion orderly room and promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1908 with the appointment of Orderly Room Clerk. In the days of the hard drinking soldier, he was a staunch teetotaler and a leading light in the unit branch of the Royal Army Temperance Association. From the 4th Bn, he was posted to the 6th (Special Reserve) Bn as a member of the Permanent Staff at the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill. Promoted Colour Sergeant (Orderly Room Sergeant) June 26, 1913, he decided to relinquish the life of a bachelor and became a Benedict in August 1913, when he returned to Devonport to be married in St Aubyn's Church.

When war was declared in August 1914, he was a tower of strength during mobilisation, showing great initiative and exceptional ability during very difficult and trying circumstances. The two Special Reserve Battalions the 5th and 6th moved from Mill Hill to Chatham and Gillingham, being housed in billets at first until occupation of Lower Barracks, Chatham, and the Great Lines Camp, Gillingham. These arrangements caused considerable work to the Headquarters staff, which was ably coped with by WO2 Duffield, his rank now being Orderly Room Sergeant Major, later to be Quartermaster Sergeant WO Class 2.

He was held in the highest regard by his Adjutants and Commanding Officers, his great organising power being fully appreciated, to such a degree that he appeared in the *London Gazette* of February 24, 1917, 'Brought to the notice of the Rt Hon The Secretary of State for War for valuable services rendered in connection with the successful prosecution of the war'.

Eight months later, his Commanding Officer wrote in his records, 'Knows his work exceedingly well. He works very hard indeed is a good organiser and thoroughly trusted in every way. Amongst many original methods of Orderly Room organisation he has instituted a card index system enabling every man to be accounted for at a glance which the War Office AG 8 stated they would introduce to every Reserve Unit. From the commencement

of the war to date, over 1,000 Officers and 30,000 men have passed through the department he has controlled. He has been a very great support to me and the Battalion at all times. I can with confidence recommend him for a commission either as combatant or a Quartermaster. I have recommended him for both. I should be quite willing to have him as an officer in this battalion.'

In July 1918, he attended an Officer Cadet Course and qualified at the War Office final examination for Commissioned Rank—'Best Cadet of term'. He was not commissioned due to cessation of hostilities, his course ending in February 1919.

Returning to the Depot, Mill Hill, as RQMS, he was in charge of Demobilisation Office—Secretary War Savings Committee and Secretary Regimental Employment Association. From September to December 1921, he was a member of the Quartermasters and QM Sergeants Course at the School of Military Administration, Chisleton, where he qualified 'Distinguished' being 2nd in Order of Merit out of 51 students.

Preparing himself for the return to civilian life, he attended a course of instruction in hygiene at the Royal Sanitary Institute during the first three months of 1922, where he qualified as a Sanitary Inspector under the Public Health Act and in June that year was elected an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institution, London. George remained at the Depot until taking his pension in August 1924.

He was a staunch, and vocal, member of the Regimental Association and a member of numerous committees and sub-committees. Shrewd and analytical, he suggested and introduced a number of improvements for our Association to cover the widened field of membership after having 46 battalions during 1914-18. Until the very last he remained in contact, his bold writing being instantly recognised when the envelope arrived in the office, to be greeted with 'a missive from George'. He paid a visit to RHQ in the middle of last year, when he was still as sharp as a needle, albeit a nonagenarian.

A staunch Freemason, he had held high office in the craft and as a public spirited person, did much good for his fellow men in his home town. As soldier and civilian, George carried out his tasks in an able and energetic manner. R.W.J.S.

**FISHER**—On November 5, 1978, CSM Alfred Fisher, MM (6209673), aged 60. He served with the 1/7th Bn from 1939 to 1946. He was a former Secretary of the Hornsey branch of the Regimental Association. He was awarded the Military Medal whilst serving with the 1/7th Bn and was also in possession of a certificate of commendation from General Montgomery. He was general manager of a catering firm.

**GOLDS**—On September 15, 1978, Cpl Wally Golds (6723266). He served with 'D' Coy of the 2nd Bn in France until the evacuation from Dunkirk and returned again for the invasion on D-day. He left the service in 1945 and took employment with the Naval authorities at Gosport. In 1975 he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal for his 30 years service with HMS *Deadalus* and HMS *Sultan* at the Gosport Naval establishment.

**GREEN**—On June 10, 1978, Brig Arthur Ernest Green (41130), DSO, OBE, aged 69 years.

Brig Green was educated at Tonbridge and Sandhurst. He retired from the Active List on February 13, 1961. 'Stumps' as he was known to all was commissioned into the Regiment on January 31, 1929.

After less than a year with the 1st Bn at Catterick he joined the 2nd Bn abroad and served with them in Madras and Khartoum and, on their return to the UK, in Colchester. This was followed by a three-year tour of duty as Adjutant at the Depot, Mill Hill.

The early part of World War II saw him as Adjutant of the 2nd Bn in NW Europe. Shortly afterwards he became Adjutant, and later 2IC, of the 1/7th Bn, and served with that Battalion with the 51st (Highland) Div throughout the North African campaign. In 1943 he was appointed GSO 2 to the XIIth Corps; later in the same year he took over command of the 6th Durham Light Infantry and saw service with them in Sicily, Italy and NW Europe. In these latter operations he was wounded. He was awarded the DSO in 1945.

After a brief spell in a GSO 2 appointment he was appointed to command the 1st Bn, then stationed in Germany, followed by a year as Chief Instructor of the Heavy Weapons Wing of the Small Arms School at Netheravon. Then followed in 1948 a period in Greece with the British Military Mission, after which he went to the War Office as a GSO 1.

In the New Year's Honours List in 1950 he received the OBE. From May, 1950, he commanded the 7th Bn for three years, after which he was seconded to the Arab Legion in Jordan, where he commanded the 2nd Infantry Bde with the rank of Brigadier. Changes in that country brought about his return to the UK in 1956. Some time later he was given command of a Port Task Force with Headquarters in Glasgow, and he held this appointment until his retirement.

He was in possession of the following medals—DSO, OBE, 1939-45 Star (8th Army), Italy Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

The funeral was held on June 16. The Rev P. L. Gould, OBE, MA, conducted the service which was attended by Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, and Mrs Clayton, Col A. M. Man, DSO, OBE, and Mrs Man, Brig G. Lerwill, OBE, MC, DL, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, MBE, and Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE.

During the funeral service the Rev P. L. Pearce Gould, a brother officer, gave the following address on the life of Brig Arthur Green:

We have gathered here to give thanks to God for the life of Arthur Ernest Green and to commend his soul into God's safe keeping.

We thank God for his life and for all that was accomplished in it and through it.

We give thanks for his steadfast faith in God, for the home he established with Ruth, for his love for her and hers for him and their delight in Diana and Nicola.

We remember in gratitude his long and distinguished service in the Army, especially the



Middlesex Regt, the Durham Light Infantry and the Arab Legion, to each of which he gave unswerving loyalty and devotion.

We give thanks for his love of sport which he played with such zest and for his encouragement of others to do the same; we remember too his love of country pursuits, the beauty of this county of Somerset and of his garden.

We thank God for one who was utterly straight, blunt and forthright and yet so kind and thoughtful of others; a splendid friend, a loyal colleague and a commander of verve and spirit.

We remember one with an impish sense of humour and an ever present twinkle in the eye which could take the sting from even the sternest of his rebukes and which was still there on the afternoon he died.

Above all we thank God that Arthur was one who lived life to the full and enabled others to do so too.

And now in a moment of silence let us thank God for what Arthur has meant to each one of us.

MACCABEE—On February 7, 1978, Pte F. MacCabee, aged 82. He served with the 7th Bn (1914–18) and had been a member of the Regimental Association for many years. He was one of the first snipers to be located in the enemy lines. See page 222 of the History of the 7th Bn Middlesex Regt. His Commanding Officer at the time was Lt Col E. J. King.

PEASLEY—On May 18, 1978, Maj Albert Edward Peasley, aged 66 years. The news of the sudden decease of Bert Peasley was greeted with disbelief, followed by a personal sense of loss by the majority of his vast number of friends when they heard the sad tidings. By so many soldiers and sailors—of diverse age and rank—Bert was looked upon as a man noble of spirit and courteous of tongue.

Enlisting into the Regiment December 12, 1931, he was allocated the Army number 6200331, and from Whitehall, despatched to the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill, where he was promptly named 'Sticks' due to his long limbs. Those long limbs were to bring honour to his Regiment and to himself.

On posting to the Home Bn, the 2nd, on termination of his recruit training, he became a member of the Battalion athletic team, and joining the Signals Section for specialist military training. His forte was as a long distance runner. By 1934 he not only held his first stripe, he also held first place in the Wing sports at 880 yards and 1 mile. Unfortunately, his health, never robust, failed and he was admitted to hospital, much to the dismay of the Battalion sports officer who writes 'Lcpl Peasley, who has run so well for us in the past, was medically unfit'. He was sadly missed during the Garrison sports.

In 1935, he qualified as an instructor at the School of Signalling, Catterick. 'Sticks' was also running well, a popular member of a happy and good athletics team. Then illness again brought him low, this time so grievous that the drill cadre practiced funeral ceremonial. Happily, the Grim Reaper passed by, much to the joy of the Battalion who recorded their pleasure, 'to welcome back to the fold, Lcpl Peasley'. Fit again, he was awarded

his colours for cross-country running for the season.

The year 1937 saw the 2nd Bn the Southern Command Champions in Athletics. The current photograph shows Lcpl Peasley flanked by two notable Battalion athletes Lt (now Maj Gen Sir John) Willoughby and Lcpl (now Maj Sammy) Weller. In the Battalion competition he was third in the 880 yards, first in the mile, and first in the three miles. From then on, it is repetition, his successes including area and command championships. He also earned and was awarded promotion for his military efficiency. Space is limited in this publication, but a gauge of his proficiency on the track can be seen by the array of trophies remaining on his sideboard. They include for 1938 a team bronze medal, 880 yards; team silver, 1 mile; Record holder, silver  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile. Hampshire County Championships, silver, 1 mile relay; Aldershot Championships, silver, winner 1 mile; Middlesex Regt HQ Wing cup, silver, 3 miles. 1939 Unit team championships cup, silver, plus five more silver cups not engraved to show the competition, or event in which they were won.

Posted to the Depot at Mill Hill, he had qualified as a machine gun instructor at the SAS, Netheravon. The approaching war clouds caused increasing activity in small arms training, during which time Bert Peasley gave hours of extra instruction to keen and willing recruits, also to reservists who returned to the Colours under the scheme then current. To his dismay, he was not permitted to rejoin the 2nd Bn on mobilisation, September 1, 1939.

When the Regular Army Emergency Commissions were introduced in 1939, Col Browne immediately sent for Sgt Peasley and told him to apply. This he did and he was appointed to a commission as Lieutenant, December 12, 1939, one of the first to be granted. Full of enthusiasm, he applied for a posting to a theatre of active service. To his chagrin and dismay, the Medical Board would not pass him as fit for overseas service. Frantically he approached his Commanding Officer to use whatever influence he could. All to no avail. He was fully qualified but not medically fit for the field. This haunted his thoughts throughout the war.

Joining the training staff of 24 Machine Gun Training Centre, he threw himself into the task of turning out good material for the field units, earning unstinting praise and golden opinions too numerous to record in the limited space available from all his commanders.

During the Berlin Air Lift, he was outstanding in his ability to keep personnel to a high standard of efficiency and smoothness. As Camp Commandant dealing with displaced persons he was again declared to be the right man in the right place. In his appointment as Camp Commandant Hanover Sub Area, his commander said of him, 'I consider Capt Peasley holds one of the most onerous and exacting appointments in my HQ. Not of robust health and sensitive to his physical condition he has nevertheless been unsparing of himself in faithfully and cheerfully discharging in the most efficient and courteous manner his innumerable duties'. Again,

from higher command during the period 1951–52, the end of a long eulogy says, 'By his perseverance and untiring efforts, his difficult and complex task has run smoothly and there is no doubt that he is a capable administrator and gets the best out of those under his command'.

As OC the Hong Kong Chinese Training Unit, based in Lyemun Barracks, he trained the recruits to a high standard. Col Aymar Clayton who was the Commanding Officer of The Hong Kong Regt (The Volunteers) in 1955, was very impressed at the standard of the soldiers when he saw them on a passing out parade on his arrival. This reflected great credit on Bert. He says, 'Bert did a first rate job with the HKCTU and I believe he was the first OC of the unit and had been responsible for organising and setting up this unit. This unit provided locally enlisted personnel for various military duties in the many administrative fields'.

On completion of his period of service in Hong Kong, Bert returned to the UK and took up the appointment of Adjutant, The Home Postal and Couriers Communications Depot, Royal Engineers, in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. This unit, as the reader will know, still occupies the barracks which was our Regimental Depot, until January 1961. For the Regiment, a happier appointment could not have been made. Here we had continuity and a fostering of a family contact that is so alive today, as can be witnessed by all who attend ceremonies in Inglis Barracks. There is no doubt that this closeness is due to the friendly approach of Bert Peasley to the new incumbents on the change of occupation, that remains so today. It is apt that the man who is responsible for this esprit de corps was the last to wear our regimental badge whilst holding office in our old Depot. Bert relinquished his commission September 8, 1965.

Anecdotes in abundance were told of his great help to the Sappers whilst holding military appointment. It was therefore with great pleasure, the news was received that Bert would continue his association with them with a RO appointment. From the date of relinquishing his commission, until May 1977, he was employed in the office of the Headquarters of the Home Postal Courier Communications, TAVR. During this period, he was the admirable liaison between our two units, attending, as a 'Die-Hard', all our ceremonies held in the barracks and elsewhere, including regimental committee meetings.

On Albuhera Day this year (1978), he had arranged to attend the annual ceremony at our regimental memorial in Inglis Barracks. At approximately 10 am, he telephoned to say that due to an attack of phlebitis, he would not be able to make the journey from Chingford. That evening he was taken to hospital and to the shock of all, including the medical staff, died suddenly the night of May 18. The news was not only heard with heartfelt regret, but in so many cases sheer disbelief. That is still so as this obituary is being written.

The funeral, held on Thursday, May 25, was attended by many of Bert's friends, including Brig Larry and Mrs Bennett, Brig Jack Bridge, Col Arthur Burge, Col Joe and Mrs Holmes, Col Don London, Lt Col Rolfe James, Lt Col Lance Noble,

Maj Terry Blackman, Maj Mike and Mrs Browne, Maj Mike Connelly, Lt Com George Goddard representing Royal Naval Reserve and SSAFA, Majs Stan Huggett, Ron Jackson, John Nicholls and Ken Patient, Capt Norman Lockwood, Lt David Summers, RN, RSM Jack Bulen, Mesdames Phil Loyd, Ethel Markham and Carol Smith, all of whom had been closely concerned with him at the HPCCD, RE. From the Regiment were Lt Col Tom Chattey, the President of the Regimental Association who also represented Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Maj Dick Smith also representing Maj Gen Christopher Man, Maj Sammy and Mrs Weller, Messrs David Bennett, Ted Collier, Bert Mellor, Jack Milroy and Mrs Norma Norman. The service was conducted by the Rev Eric Ford, a friend of the family and their pastor. As, with bowed heads, the coffin disappeared into the recess in the crematorium, the haunting call of Last Post was sounded by Cpl P. Morgan of HM Grenadier Guards. I have rarely heard the call so well blown.

After the service the thought was expressed 'Bert was a triumph of mind over matter'. Two days ago, a comrade who had known him since they were recruits together, summed it up, saying 'Bert was such a nice chap'. He was, and in that nice way he will be remembered by us all.

R.W.J.S.

SILVER—On February 12, 1978, ex-Pte Charles Edward Silver (6206040) aged 77, 'Jim' Silver originally served as a trench soldier in the King's Royal Rifle Corps, enlisting when 14 years of age, and given the regimental number C/3042. During a moment of aberration in the Recruiting Office he gave his age as 19 years. He attributed this to it being May Day when he enlisted in 1915.

Drafted to a Unit serving with the BEF, he suffered the bitterness of winter warfare, including the poisoning by gas. Due to the grievous injuries inflicted upon him by poison gas, he was discharged as unfit for further military service on August 24, 1916. He was then all of 15½ years of age.

When the clouds of war were looming in 1939, Jim Silver paraded at the Drill Hall, Algernon Road, Hendon, and enlisted as a soldier of our 9th Bn on March 13, 1939. With a number of his comrades he was posted to Royal Artillery on the first day of August 1940, serving until discharged in May 1945.

Jim had a great sense of humour and was very popular with his fellow men. We could never see enough of him at social gatherings due to the unsociable hours of his employment. He did night work on the *Observer* newspaper, which, as with all national daily papers, demands toil during the night to ensure early morning news. Once he retired, he was present at all ceremonies and functions taking place, making a cheery addition to the company.

His funeral, in addition to his mourning family, was attended by Major Dick Smith, Messrs Syd Breed and Len Howell (Snr) the two latter who had been his companions for many years. Such was the cheerful character and memories of Jim Silver, although there was a definite sense of loss, there was none of sadness. Jim would not have liked that.

R.W.J.S.



**SOUCH**—On May 5, 1978, ex-Bandsman (Lcpl) Albert Edward Souch (19488 and 6189341) aged 76 years. 'Ted' Souch enlisted into the Regiment July 27, 1920, being allocated the regimental number 19488 which was replaced by 6189341 when Army numbers were introduced. (This latter number caused confusion at times as it is in the group of soldiers who enlisted on a regular engagement in 1917). Posted to the 3rd Bn in December 1920, he was transferred to the 2nd Bn when orders were received for the disbandment of the 3rd and 4th Bns under the Geddes Axe. The draft that was on the Trooper *Huntsend* were stronger than the 2nd Bn who embarked on the ships in the Suez, January 1922. Sailing to Singapore, Ted Souch became a member of the Battalion concert party, often taking a humorous feminine role. He is remembered by a number of his contemporaries as 'Madame Ashby de la Zouch'. Completing his colour service when the Battalion were in India, he was transferred to the Army Reserve in November 1927, he then being a Lance-Corporal in the band and his instrument the tenor saxophone. After a short time as a civilian, he missed the comradeship of the Army and enrolled as a member of the 7th (Territorial) Bn and with them went to France in 1940 as a Regimental Medical Orderly. During the withdrawal to Dunkirk in May 1940, he was wounded during the action at La Panne, which caused him to spend many months in hospital and have a stirrup fitted to strengthen a shattered jaw. He continued to serve until July 7, 1945, when he took his discharge. Suffering poor health after his previous injuries, he retained contact as a member of the Regimental Association and had been a member of the Mill Hill Branch for many years, attending ceremonies whenever his health permitted, especially those held on Albuhera Day. Despite his poor physical health, he was very alert mentally, possessing a nice turn of wit coupled with dry humour, enjoying the robust company in which he was always joyfully acceptable.

MAJOR DICK SMITH

**THORN**—On August 30, 1978, ex-RSM Francis Walter Thorn (6198761) aged 68. 'Slim' Thorn enlisted into the Middlesex Regt, January 7, 1929, and after completing his recruit training at Mill Hill, was posted to the 1st Bn, serving in succession in 'B' Coy, 'A(MC)' Coy and 'D' Coy. Transferred to the Army Reserve in January 1936, he was in possession of two stripes as an efficient corporal with excellent prospects of soon becoming a member of the Sergeants Mess.

His sojourn in civilian life lasted until 1939, when he rejoined the regiment on mobilisation. In December 1939, he was posted to the re-formed 2/7 Bn, a unit which had proved its worth during World War I. With this battalion he remained for the duration of the war, serving in North Africa, Italy and Palestine.

Slim was invaluable to his Commanding Officer and Company Commanders when the Battalion, from a skeleton formation, was rapidly brought up

to War Establishment in April 1943. The personnel was completed by drafts from the Rifles, a proud regiment who were welcomed and treated as proud soldiers should be, so that today these men are staunch 'Die-Hards' who meet annually at their own reunion. Much of this esprit de corps is due to Slim Thorn.

After the normal vicissitude of active service, Slim was released from military service in January 1946. In civilian life he was a policeman, and as a Sergeant of Police, he often told me how the initiative and discipline he had learned, as he said 'in the happiest days of my life' had stood him in good stead whilst carrying out his duties as a keeper of the peace.

A staunch member and regular attendee at the 2/7 Bn Annual Dinner, he organised the collection box contributions to regimental and battalion funds, which is passed to each member at the table and indeed, augmented by donations of those not able to be present.

That cigar box, with its dates and totals inscribed on the surface, will be a lasting memorial to Slim Thorn as long as the veterans of the Battalion foregather.

R.W.J.S.

**WEST**—On July 9, 1978, ex-Pte Herbert James West (L/12614 and 6188392) aged 85. 'Joe' West enlisted into the Regiment July 1, 1909, and on completion of his recruit training was posted to the 4th Bn. He was on duty in Birdcage Walk for the procession to the Abbey on the occasion of the funeral of King Edward VII in 1910, the Battalion moving from Aldershot for this duty. Sixty-five years later, he was still expressing wonder at what his Company Commander expected to see down his rifle barrel at 1.30 in the morning before leaving Aldershot.

Posted to the 3rd Bn in January 1911, he proved to be an erudite soldier being awarded his First Class Certificate of Education at Cawnpore, India, in March 1913. With the 3rd Bn, he served in France in 1915 and was wounded in the left wrist during the Battle of Loos in September that year. He recovered from his injuries in time to go to the Struma front, Salonika, and to Constantinople on the signing of the Armistice 1918 as part of the Army of Occupation. On return home, he was transferred to Section 'B' of the Army Reserve.

With many of his comrades, he was called to the Colours in April 1921, during the Coal Strike and posted to the 1st Battalion then stationed in Dover. Two months later he again transferred to the Army Reserve, until finally discharged June 30, 1925.

A citizen of great public spirit, he took part in a number of civic organisations and for many years the Branch Secretary of the Royal British Legion, Cheam and Sutton Branch, also the Secretary of the local Royal National Lifeboat Association.

Although not able to attend on many regimental functions, as he wished, due to the distance to travel, and the infirmities of old age, he kept up a healthy correspondence at all times.

R.W.J.S.