



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 44

DECEMBER 1980

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.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1981

Date	Event
Feb 11	Housing Sub Committee Meeting, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, SW3.
March 16	Executive Committee Meeting of Regimental Association, County Hall, London SE1.
March 28	9th Bn Annual Reunion Dinner, Quality Inn, Victoria Street, London SW1.
April 26	1/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner at TA Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N8.
May 5	Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society Spring Meeting, North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.
May 15	Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner.
May 16	Afternoon—Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral. Evening—Annual Reunion.
May 23	2/10th Bn Annual Luncheon at Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Oct 2	2/7th Bn Annual Dinner at Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Oct 6	Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society Autumn Meeting, North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.
Nov 7	Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall and Westminster Abbey.
Nov 8	1000 hours—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by reunion at TA Centre, Edgware. 1045 hours—7th Bn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Hornsey Parish Church. 1500 hours—2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick.

BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period January 1 to November 20, 1980, the sum of £2,637.26 was spent on assisting 64 members of the Regiment.

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Charitable Fund: members attending the 2/7th Bn OCA Dinner, Mr A. W. J. Brown, 2/7th Bn, Mr D. Cavill, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, Capt W. H. Craydon, In Pensioner G. R. Fulton, Mr W. C. C. Newton (in memory of the late Lt Col J. S. B. Pollard, MBE), Mr R. W. Sissons, Mr A. E. Tuthill.

Two members of the Regimental Association, who wish to remain anonymous, have donated £100 to enable every tenant at Albuhera Close to enjoy a 'rent free' week at Christmas. Lt Col T. W. Chattey has acknowledged this very generous gift, and in his letter he said and I quote 'I cannot think of a better Christmas gift for our tenants and it is a gesture which everyone there will so very much appreciate'.

DONATIONS

The Regimental Association has made a donation to the St Paul's Church, Mill Hill Restoration Fund.

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 D. F. Barrett, Mr E. J. Bermingham, Mr A. W. J. Brown (2/7th), Mrs W. A. Brust, Mr C. Burgess, Mr D. Cavill, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, Maj J. G. Chiverall, Capt W. H. Craydon, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, Mr W. Hamlin, Mr L. Hosslen, Mr S. Hurlock, Mr W. Knight, Mr A. Mason, Maj G. G. Norton, Mr J. Pullen, Mr H. Seldon, Lt Col E. P. Shanks, Mr R. W. Sissons.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance took place on Saturday, November 8, and was well attended by many members of the Regiment and civil dignitaries headed by the Vice-Chairman of the Greater London Council, Mr Sydney Clack accompanied by Mrs Clack. The following senior officers were present: Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, Brig D. B. Rendell, CBE, MC, Col I. R. Burrows, OBE, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE, Col W. D. Ellis, OBE, TD, DL, and Col M. H. Summers, DSO, OBE, TD, DL.

The majority of the boroughs lying within the old county of Middlesex were represented. The ceremony commenced with a short service at the County Memorial situated in the entrance hall of the Middlesex Guildhall. The service was conducted by the Rev W. E. B. Jones, MA, Vicar of North Wembley and former Chaplain to the 1st Bn. A badged poppy wreath was laid at the foot of the memorial by the President of the Regimental Association, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE.

Those present then moved to the road outside the Guildhall and were formed up under the guidance of Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, and former Sgt L. T. Plumb.

The procession headed by LCpl P. Duncan, followed by Mr A. A. Moody, carrying the Regimental Association Standard, escorted by Chelsea Pensioners, F. Worton and G. R. Fulton, 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 Sydney Clack, to plant a cross. He was followed by the Rev W. E. B. Jones, MA. Members of the Regiment representing the following Battalions then in turn planted a cross: 1st Bn Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB; 2nd Bn Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE; 3rd Bn Brig D. B. Rendell, CBE, MC; 4th Bn Mr C. Ashby; 5/6th Bns Maj J. G. Chiverall; 1/7th Bn Maj M. J. Beaumont, TD; 2/7th Bn Lt A. E. Allchorne; 8th Bn Maj R. A. J. Cheffins, MC; 9th Bn Mr R. T. Meers; 10th Bn Mr A. D. Scudamore, OBE; Band and Drums Mr A. R. Drane; R. Irish Rangers Mr P. J. Boyce, MBE, BEM (originally 6196099 Middlesex Regt).

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

1. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of

- Barnet, Cllr Victor Lyon, BA, escorted by Capt P. I. Roberts, 'B' Coy, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt.
2. Cllr Graham Eustance of the London Borough of Enfield, escorted by Maj S. C. W. Weller, MBE, MM.
 3. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Haringey, Cllr Brian Bullard, escorted by Maj M. L. Muirhead, TD.
 4. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon, Cllr G. A. L. Sullivan, escorted by Lt D. K. Wray, 'B' Coy, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt.
 5. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing, Cllr Lady Henniker Heaton, escorted by Capt W. B. Hammond, ERD, TD.
 6. Cllr R. J. Padley, of the London Borough of Hounslow, escorted by Maj F. Webb, MBE.
 7. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Cllr B. Franklin, escorted by Lt S. W. Borthwick, 'B' Coy, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt.
 8. The Chairman of the Middlesex County Association, Mr R. C. Politeyan, MA (Cantab), escorted by Lt A. M. Clement, 'B' Coy, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt.

The Chaplain then read the Collects of the Middlesex and Queen's Regts 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

The Regimental Association Remembrance Sunday Service was held on Sunday, November 9, in conjunction with the Postal and Courier Depot Royal Engineers and 12 Company Women's Royal Army Corps. The service was held in the newly erected gymnasium, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, and the congregation was again about 500.

This service was followed by the ceremony at the Regimental War Memorial. Both services were conducted by the Rev D. A. Dennis, QHC, Deputy Chaplain General, assisted by Miss Margaret Robertson, MA, Chaplains Assistant.

Following the sounding of 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' wreaths were laid in the following order:

Postal and Courier Depot, RE, by Col R. N. R. P. James; 12 Company Women's Royal Army Corps by Maj R. Cornwill; Regimental Association by Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE; 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Militia Bns by Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton, OBE; 'B' Coy (Middlesex) 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt by Maj P. A. D. Storie-Pugh; Mill Hill Branch OCA by Mr A. Mason, MSM; Hounslow Branch by Capt R. G. C. Thornton, TD; 9th Bn by Mr W. E. Lockyer; Korea by Mr K. Watkins.

The Standard bearer was Mr S. Hurlock.

At the march past which followed the laying of wreaths the salute was taken by Col R. N. R. P. James and Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE. The saluting base was flanked by four Chelsea Pensioners—I/Ps F. Worton and G. R. Fulton of the Middlesex Regt and two In-Pensioners belonging to the RE.

The Middlesex Regt contingent of Old Comrades was commanded by former Sgt L. T. Plumb. His

word of command came over loud and clear and our contingent marched with smartness and pride. It is the best march past that I have seen in the eight years that I have been Secretary. Well done Old Comrades.

The Church collection came to £99.96 and after dipping my long arms into my short pockets I found a further 4p and made the collection up to £100. A cheque for this amount has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion Earl Haig's Poppy Appeal Fund.

After the parade a reunion was held at the TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware. This was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The reason that I have to leave early is that I attend the Remembrance Service of the 2/10th Bn at Chiswick where I lay a wreath.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

On Wednesday, November 5, I planted a Middlesex Regt badged cross on the FEPOW Plot and Korean Plot at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster.

2/10th BATTALION (1914-18) REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The 2/10th Bn held their annual remembrance day service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, on Sunday, November 9, at 3pm. The Service was very well attended by Old Comrades, relatives and 'Friends of the 2/10th', and was conducted by the Rev Patrick Tuft, MA, Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th OCA.

Among those present were Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association, Col and Mrs A. S. J. de S. Clayton, Maj and Mrs A. E. F. Waldron. Lt Col T. W. Chattey read the Lesson. Poppy wreaths were laid by Mr A. D. Scudamore, OBE, President of the 2/10th OCA, and by Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE.

After the Service tea was served in the Church Hall.

HONG KONG

Liberation Day in Hong Kong is held on August 25, and it is remembered by an assembly in the Garden of Remembrance at the City Hall. This being the 35th anniversary of the liberation of Hong Kong from three-and-a-half years of Japanese occupation. The wreath ceremony began at 10.45am in the walled garden. A guard of honour was provided by the Royal Hong Kong Regt (The Volunteers).

Wreaths were laid in the following order:

1. HKPOW Association: Chairman, Mr Jack Mitchell, ISO.
2. CBF; Maj Gen J. L. Chapple, CBE.
3. Hong Kong Volunteer Memorial Fund: Col H. A. de Barros Botelho, OBE, ED, on behalf of the Chairman Dr the Hon Sir Albert Rodrigguese, CBE, ED.
4. The Royal Hong Kong Regt (The Volunteers): Hon Col Oswald Cheung, CBE, QC.
5. Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada: Canadian Commission.
6. The Middlesex Regt (DCO): WO2 J. Frost, BEM, The Queen's Regt.

7. The Royal Hong Kong Regt Volunteers Association: Col Edward Pepper, MBE.
8. BAAG: Mr Charles Leung, ED.
9. The Royal British Legion: Chairman, Col H. A. de Barros Botelho, OBE, ED.
10. Second World War Veterans Association: Mr Lo Wing Shiu.
11. National Federation of Far East POW Clubs and Associations: Mr Jack Edwards, FIH, MRSH.
12. Ex-Gunners Roll of Hong Kong: Hon Secretary/Treasurer, John K. Dashwood.

The wreath laid by WO2 John Frost, BEM, is a Middlesex Badged Poppy wreath supplied by the Regimental Association.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

On June 19, HM Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, our Allied Colonel-in-Chief, visited Her Regiment at Howe Barracks, Canterbury and, after drinks in the WOs and Sergeants Mess, lunched with the officers and their wives.

Prior to that, the 1st Bn (Lt Col David Dickens, MBE) provided a strong contingent for the 150th Anniversary of HMS *Excellent* at Whale Island. The programme included a parade reviewed by HRH The Prince of Wales; a pageant; and the traditional celebrations of the 'Glorious First of June'. (HMS *Excellent* won the cricket match for the second successive year!)

The 2nd Bn (Lt Col Peter Barrow) returned to Colchester in August after a four-month tour in North Armagh and in September took part in the NATO Exercise 'Crusader'.

The 3rd Bn (Lt Col Gavin Bulloch, MBE) spent six weeks in Canada during July and August, and in April next will start their BAOR tour in Falling-bowl.

Sunday, August 3, was a highlight in our affairs when over 3,000 Old Comrades and their families spent an enjoyable day at the home of the Regiment—Howe Barracks, Canterbury—sponsored by the 1st Bn.

On November 8, the Regiment provided a large contingent, including bands and drums, for the Lord Mayor's Procession. Representatives from the Royal Danish Life Guards and The Queen's Own Rifles of Canada (both allied to the Regiment), also took part. The Regiment is traditionally invited to participate in the Procession, but this year is particularly significant in that the Lord Mayor designate, Col and Alderman Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, GBE, TD, was a former Commanding Officer of 5 Buffs (TA) and specifically asked for maximum support from the Regiment.

In July next year, new Colours are being presented to the 6/7th Bn TA by Her Grace Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, at Ardingly. Following this, a ceremony for the Laying-up of 4 RWK TA Colours will take place at Maidstone.

A change in Command is to take place in our 5th TA Bn at the end of the year when Maj Richard Dixon, TD, takes over from Lt Col Simon Boucher.

Maj G U WEYMOUTH, MBE

9th BATTALION OFFICERS REUNION DINNER

The 9th Battalion Officers Dinner was held on

Tuesday, October 14, 1980, at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Lt Col G. L. Fox presided and the guests were: Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, Maj A. E. F. Waldron and Maj R. W. J. Smith. The following members attended: Maj Gen B. P. Hughes, Maj P. Blair, Maj D. A. Bond, Wing Cdr P. J. Cundy, Dr B. T. Davis, Lt Col D. E. Dowlen, Lt Col J. R. Doyle, Lt Col A. G. B. Drabble, Col H. W. W. Gray, Maj H. H. Grey, Lt Col H. G. Hansen, Maj H. J. Hesketh, Capt L. G. Holgate, Maj R. Hughes, Capt J. T. Kemp, Dr W. MacGregor, Maj F. J. Millard, Lt G. Reeson, Capt J. K. E. Slack, Capt P. K. G. Spencer, Maj J. R. Talbot, Maj D. C. Tomlins, Capt R. Wheatley.

MILL HILL BRANCH

To Diehards of all branches, also to those who read this *Newsletter*, the members of the Mill Hill Branch of the Diehards Club send seasonal greetings and trust that 1981 will be a year of good health and one of contentment.

Throughout 1980, members of the branch have attended all regimental and privately arranged ceremonies that have taken place. These will be recorded elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

In August, a number of members were in Mons to commemorate the first battle of World War I, fought at Obourg, August 23, 1914. Then September 20, a reunion was held in Inglis Barracks, attended by our members who had fought in Korea. Both functions being financed privately. Of course, the wreaths placed on the various memorials in Mons were supplied by the Regimental Association who never fail to meet the cost of these tributes. On October 20, Stan Hurlock, Jack Milroy and myself paid a social visit to our comrades of the Hounslow Branch in the 8th Bn drill hall in Hanworth Road, Gordon Young was our host and a most enjoyable evening was spent. The prices at their bar were such a pleasant surprise to Jack Milroy, that he thought a mistake had been made when he counted his change.

As I pen these notes, our last ceremonies have been those of the Remembrance weekend, both of which have been covered by the Secretary of the Regimental Association, Maj Frank Waldon.

On Remembrance Sunday, I was greatly assisted by, to give him his full title, Squadron Leader Bob Yerby, and ex-C/Sgt Les Plumb. There is a lot to do in the background whilst the ceremonial procedures are observed. Once, we had a full staff and an abundance of fatigue men, but now we are very light on the ground—plus the years making us heavy on our feet! Their help is greatly appreciated.

When the march-past took place after the religious service, I watched, with pride, as the young 'rips' of three or more decades ago marched past with great élan. The then dark curly-haired heads were now thinly thatched. The then cherubic faces now creased and lined, BUT, the eyes were still bright and purposeful. With firm step and swinging arms, they produced proof of our everlasting pride. The veterans of 1914-19 were also as spritely as teenagers. Silly old so-and-so that I am, I had a lump in my throat.

Folk who cannot be with us on these occasions, write and send greetings. Ron Bush, who was in Kobe Camp as a guest of the Japanese Emperor, has now changed his abode in New Zealand, having moved from Point Chevalier to Hendersen. He and Bill Phillips, who lives in Christchurch, recently had a little session together. 'Pip' Connor, MM, sent me Canadian poppies from Ontario as he does each year, and which I wear with pride during the Week of Remembrance. Mrs Flora Bechet, the daughter of RSM Donoghue, MM, sends greetings from Palma de Mallorca, Baleares, Spain, as does Mrs Blake Budden, the widow of Capt Blake Budden, from Tenerife, the other side of Spain. Bert Lee, a veteran of our 25th Bn, who is domiciled in Richbourg, France, had had thieves in but does not let that stop him wishing all you chaps a joyful time. Roger Bourne in San Antonio, Texas, is looking towards a visit from my son Mervyn, or 'Fritz', who is in Belize, Central America, with 1st Bn The Queen's Regt.

Two of our chaps have at different dates, recently visited Hong Kong and paid their respects at the cemeteries where a number of their comrades rest. 'Tiny' Goddard, MM, BEM, travelled from Armagh, N Ireland and Alf Bailey, who, as he placed a wreath on the memorial, said, 'Limey salutes you', referring to his comrade 'Limey' Gardner, who is a neighbour of his in Essex. Alan Moody, who was our Standard Ensign at Westminster Abbey Garden of Remembrance on November 8, had six days previous returned from a pilgrimage to Korea, where he had visited our cemeteries. It is comforting to know that our strong bond of comradeship not only exists over the seas, but also to the Great Beyond.

As in the opening paragraph, so in the closing. From all members of the Mill Hill Branch, we send greetings of comradeship to all Diehards where'er they may be.

MAJ DICK SMITH
(Chairman, Mill Hill Branch)

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS CLUB

The 53rd Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club was held at the TA Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey N8, on Thursday, November 6, 1980.

Lt Col J. D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: Cllr D. Clark, London Borough of Haringey, F/O J. A. Rook, Maj R. W. J. Smith, Lt P. C. M. Thorneycroft and Mr G. Whittaker. The following members attended: Maj M. J. Beaumont, 2Lt S. Bothwick, Maj H. E. Couch, Capt M. J. S. Doran, Capt S. le Enthoven, Lt Col P. J. Hall, Lt D. Harwood, Maj S. L. J. Henshaw, Lt F. Holm, Capt P. J. T. Lane, Maj R. J. Leighton, Maj A. E. McManus, Maj E. J. Naish, Lt P. J. Ottino, Capt B. B. Pollecoff, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Capt P. A. Stocken, Maj P. A. D. Storie Pugh, Maj R. F. Sykes, Capt D. O. Mansfield Thomas, Maj F. Webb and 2Lt D. K. Wray.

17th BATTALION (1939-45) OCA

At the 17th Bn (1939-45) Dinner on April 28, 1980, Mr C. P. White, the treasurer, made a presentation of the book 'The 51st Highland Division at War' to the Deputy Mayor of Haringey, Cllr Peter Bolland.

On May 8, he was asked to present the book again,

this time to the Mayor of Haringey, at an official reception attended by over 500 people. He made the following speech which is published below:

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year the London Borough of Haringey donated a sum of money to 'The Tree of Life Scheme' so that a grove of trees was planted on the battlefield of El Alamein in the Western Desert of North Africa, to commemorate your local Army battalion. I was in that battalion, in that battle. We were part of a famous Scottish division, when we first joined this division we had a very cool reception. They only wanted 'Jocks'. We came from another country indeed we did. We came from London. We never forgot our London heritage. Soon after joining this division a directive was issued that all units would learn Highland dancing; our battalion commander pointed out that being cockneys could we learn the Lambeth Walk! We never did learn Highland dancing! At El Alamein that all changed. From then onwards till the end of the war every single action the division took part in saw us there. The Jocks came to respect and love us as we them.

It is also our proud boast as a unit we served longer under 'Monty' of El Alamein than any other.

We felt that in response to this magnificent gesture on the part of the borough, we should do something to show our gratitude. I have here a copy of the '51st Highland Division at War' on the fly leaf it is inscribed:

To the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, the Councillors and People of the London Borough of Haringey from their local regiment the 17th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), the Machine Gun Battalion of the 51st Highland Division on this the 35th anniversary of VE Day I ask you to accept this on their behalf.

27th BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

Once again we assembled at the Victory Club on Friday, October 3, 1980, this time for our 34th Annual Reunion when we had another splendid evening under the Chairmanship of the ever youthful Brig Flavell. Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, attended as a guest.

We were all delighted to see Col Robbins once more, albeit only briefly, and sincerely hope that he will be fit enough to extend his stay next year.

For the third successive year we had, with the benefit of a latecomer, 62 present and well over 40 apologies for absence. The excuses offered were many and varied, ranging from Maj 'Taffy' Jones visiting his first great-grandchild in Canada to Joe Flack on business in Mexico City, and Ernie Case on holiday in Kenya. It is hoped that next year their staff work will be better and they will all be available and present on October 2, 1981.

We continue to get old comrades attending for the very first time and were delighted on this occasion to welcome Ron Money and Harry Hensman who assure me they will be 'regulars' from now on.

As we have come to expect, we achieved yet another record collection this time totalling £242.50, which is being used partly to make a modest donation to the Regimental Association, with the balance being made available to the Battalion Benevolent Fund for use as required for less fortunate members.

On the occasion of our 25th Reunion, we made a special appeal to all members to attend which resulted in a sizeable increase in those present as compared with the previous year, and we hope for the same response for our 35th in 1981. So please, if you read this and have not been along recently, do come and if possible bring another ex-member of the 2/7th with you. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

RON TAYLOR

DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

In the last *Diehards Newsletter* it was recorded that Lt Col John Pollard, MBE, died on May 30, 1980. A full obituary is published elsewhere in this *Newsletter*. I would like to take the opportunity, however, of paying a personal tribute. John and I joined 1MX early in 1952, he as a Second-Lieutenant from Sandhurst and I as a Sergeant from the Royal Norfolk Regt. We served together on and off for 28 years enjoying comradeship only possible in the army. He was always a source of inspiration regimentally and for me personally on the rugby field. For many years we played together in the scrum for the Battalion and as leader of the pack John was, through his own example and forceful leadership, a great inspiration, extracting the maximum effort from us all. John indeed was a man amongst men and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Last time round I mentioned that CSM Bob Bartle broke his leg playing football. Unfortunately there are complications and Bob is still undergoing treatment and has been posted to the 'Y' list. On the bright side, however, he is now the proud father of a baby daughter. His wife, Joan, gave birth to Kelly in Cambridge in August.

An old friend of mine from 'A' Coy days in Hameln called to see me in July. Leslie James Temple was passing through the depot on discharge. He enlisted at Mill Hill in March 1958 and joined 1MX in October of that year. After six years with the Battalion he went to the depot at Canterbury as a PTI. Leslie then served with 3 Queen's in Lemgo and then after a tour of duty at the School of Infantry in Netherhaven he was with 2 Queen's in Werl and afterwards with 1 Queen's. Shortly before leaving the army after 22 years' service Leslie served with the Black Watch in Germany. His German-born wife, Heidi and their two children, Patrick, age 18 and Susan, 16, will reside in Germany where Leslie will work as a storeman with the Army Air Corps in Soest. To complete the story Patrick has just joined the Bundeswehr.

The next five people I am going to mention are all serving or ex-Orderly Room staff.

I was very pleased to see 'Spike' Milligan at the depot a short time ago. He doesn't appear to have aged much and is still the cheerful chap I knew when we last served together in Holywood, N Ireland, in 1968. Spike is currently the Chief Clerk with 1 R Anglian in Celle and in January 1981 he will be posted to 5 Queen's in Canterbury as Chief Clerk. His eldest son, Colin, joined the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Shorncliffe, Kent, in September.

My headquarters is in Colchester, and whenever I visit HQ I invariably call on 3 R Anglian to see another old ex-Orderly Room Diehard. Lt Brian

Graham was commissioned from ORC in January this year and is currently the families officer. On one of my visits I spent a very pleasant evening with Brian and Capt Michael Flynn, who was then with 2 Queen's in the next barracks to Brian's. Michael has now left 2 Queen's and is currently serving on a staff appointment in BAOR.

In July WO1 (SC) J. T. Doran, BEM, was posted to the depot as Superintending Clerk. Alas it will only be a short tour as John has been selected for a commission in the Royal Pioneer Corps in February 1981. John enlisted at Canterbury on August 19, 1963, where he won the medal for the best recruit in his Platoon. He joined 1MX in Gibraltar in December 1963 where he commenced his career in the Orderly Room. Promotion to Lance-Corporal came in January 1966 and Corporal the following year. In March 1970 he was promoted to Sergeant and joined HQ SE District. After a short spell there he was appointed ORC of 3 Queen's and, in 1977, he was awarded the BEM in the New Year Honours List. In February 1977 he was elevated to the appointment of Staff Assistant to the Deputy Commander and AA & QMG The Royal Brunei Malay Regt. The two-and-a-half years spent in Brunei proved most eventful—he learned to speak Malay, was presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct and the Brunei General Service Medal, was promoted WO1 and his two daughters were born.

Shortly after his return to the UK, where he served with the Infantry Demonstration Battalion in Warminster, he was awarded the Most Blessed Order of Setia Negara Brunei by the Sultan. John has had a successful and colourful career to date and our best wishes go with him for an equally successful career in the Royal Pioneer Corps. His initial posting will be to Bicester where he will live with his wife, Trish and their two daughters.

Ex-Cpl 'Mitch' Fordham was called up for national service in February 1960. After basic training he was trained as a clerk and served throughout his time in the army in the Battalion Orderly Room. After a short period as a NS man he became a regular soldier and served in Germany, Greece, Norway, Gibraltar, Guyana and N Ireland. Whilst in Gibraltar he met his first wife. Mitch left the army in May 1967 and very quickly established himself in the swimming pool business, being mainly involved in the export and import of swimming pool equipment. In November 1971 he started his own company but this unfortunately went into liquidation in November 1974. Mitch's first marriage ended in divorce but he is now happily married to his second wife, Joanna, who hails from Brazil. Recently Mitch moved from London to Royston and he is now a close neighbour. He commutes to London daily and is a representative for a firm of international marine suppliers.

I will conclude these notes by wishing Diehards everywhere a very Happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing everyone at the annual reunion in May.

CAPT KEN BEALE

KOREAN REUNION

On September 20, 1980, the third annual Korean

Reunion took place in the splendid setting of the Officers Mess, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. Our host for the evening was the Commandant of the Royal Engineers Col Rolf James, who takes more than a passing interest in our Regimental gatherings.

The entire Mess was placed at our disposal, complete with extra bars provided and Messing staff, who shone with efficiency. One area that created enormous interest was the Silver Room; on display were Regimental silver and other mementos. Memories were being recalled at a fast and furious rate, from Maj Geoff Norton, who was recalling his wedding reception in the main dining room, to the unnamed soldier who whispered in my ear, 'the last bleedin' time I was 'ere was to fill the bleedin' coal buckets'. No matter what the reason, emotions ran high and to you, Col Rolf James, Sir, our eternal gratitude.

Approximately 100 persons were in attendance including veterans, their ladies, and guests; among the latter was our host and his wife, Brig and Mrs Jack Bridge, and Brig and Mrs Don London, whose warmth and friendship made all feel like 'Jolly Diehards'.

Several new and old faces were espied amongst those attending, Brig Brian Marciandi, OBE, Col John Burgess, OBE (who had travelled from SHAPE), Maj Sam Weller, MBE, MM, Charlie Holdford, BEM, Brian Jelly, 'Taps' Eastap, Derek Deamer, Jack Watkins, 'Paddy' Redmond, and 'Chippie' Wood, to name but a few. As usual our beloved Col Andrew Man, DSO, OBE, could be seen moving around from group to group and to be heard saying 'Good Lord, did I do that?' or 'Did I say that?'; whatever it was, his company was enjoyed by all.

Messages of goodwill were received from Her Gracious Majesty The Queen, together with those from Col Aymar Clayton, OBE, Col John Moore, OBE, Col Ian Burrows, OBE, Maj Ken Clayden and from everyone's friend Maj Chris Lawrence, MC. To Vic Corner, who suffered three breakdowns trying to reach us and finally telephoned his best wishes, our commiserations.

To Maj and Mrs R. W. J. Smith, Sid and Doreen Webb, Les Plumb, Iris Smyrk and to my wife Dorothy my grateful thanks for your invaluable assistance and to the latter for her patience and understanding; finally thank you all for attending.

In conclusion I regret to announce that the private sponsorship of our reunions will not be available next year; an appeal has been made to the Regimental Association to continue these reunions but I have been informed by the Secretary that he is unable to undertake this duty and suggests that a volunteer must be found from our own group.

If it is inevitable that our Korean meetings are to cease, I regret them not, for at least the effort has been worthwhile in reuniting many of you with old friends, acquaintances and 'THE REGIMENT'.

Good luck and God bless you all in 1981.

BOB YERBY

KOREA 1950-51

Thirty years ago today—on Sunday, August 20, 1950—I received orders at Brigade HQ in the Hong Kong New Territories for the 1st Bn to leave by sea on the following Friday, 25th, to join Gen

Douglas McArthur's United Nations Forces in Korea.

With this anniversary in mind, I have over the last few months managed to get in touch with Col I. B. Ferguson, DSO, MC, and Lt Col J. W. Moodie, DSO, who later joined us in Korea in command of the 3rd Bn The Royal Australian Regt and the 16th New Zealand Field Regt RA respectively.

In addition to expressing their deep regrets on the deaths recently of our then Brigade Commander Aubrey Coad and of Leslie Neilson, Commanding 1st Bn The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, and sending their good wishes to all of us who served with them in those days, their letters had much of interest, so I am summarising them now.

Col Ferguson lives in Canberra and has recently recovered from a mild stroke. He considers himself 'lucky to have served with men of such a wealth of experience' in the Korean War and wants to 'remind us 'that whatever happened in Korea always seemed to happen on a Sunday'! He is now known as the 'Godfather of the Regiment', and he recently took part in a documentary film about Kapyong at the invitation of the Korean Government. An excellent diorama depicting the Kapyong battle has been prepared as part of the Australian War Memorial and, in the Battalion's Officers Mess, there is now a painting of that battle by a well known artist. In Sydney, a 'bronze monumental piece' has been set up in a street renamed 'Regimental Place' in honour of those who served in Korea, and this has become a meeting place for all ex-members of the Battalion. Each year the Battalion holds a parade with other festivities, on the anniversary of Kapyong, and in Canberra there is also an official luncheon to which distinguished guests are invited. To cement links between Korea and Australia, the Australia-Korea Association has recently been formed to build 'a typical Korean village with its unique heating system'. A two-volume official history of Australia's part in the Korean War is due to be published in 1980, in which the Middlesex Regt receives 'favourable mention'.

Lt Col Moodie has suffered misfortunes in his business and private life. He lives near Dunedin. He emphasises that he volunteered, as a TA officer, to serve in Korea, and that of the total New Zealand force of 1,250, only 14 per cent were Regulars, and only 16 per cent had ever seen a 25-pounder gun before! His 2IC in those days retired in 1979 as Lt Gen Sir Richard Webb, KBE, Chief of the New Zealand Defence Staff. Col Moodie travels some 800 miles to Auckland from time to time to attend Korean Veterans Association Reunions, where 1 Middlesex are mentioned. He has quite a lot to say about the artillery support available to the Gloucesters when they were over-run.

ANDREW MAN, August 20, 1980

THE QUEEN'S DIVISION BEATING OF RETREAT ON HORSE GUARDS

June 9, 10 and 11, 1981

General

The massed Bands and Corps of Drums of The Queen's Division (The Queen's Regt, The Royal

Regt of Fusiliers, The Royal Anglian Regt and The Pipes of the Division's UDR Bns) will Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade next summer on June 9, 10 and 11. The performances will begin each evening at 6.30pm and will last approximately 50 minutes.

'The Queen's Regt Night'

The first night, Tuesday, June 9, will be termed 'The Queen's Regt Night' when the salute will be taken by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of London, Colonel and Alderman Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, GBE, TD, who is a former commanding officer of a TA battalion of The Buffs.

Attendance

Our Regimental hope is that this major event will create publicity for our Regiment and not only attract a large number of the general public but, as many Queensman and Old Comrades of our former Regiments as possible.

Further Details

Further details will be issued in due course but, for the time being, Tuesday, June 9 should be ringed in red in your diaries.

CHURCH PARADE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA

As has been the custom for the last few years, members of the Regimental Association attended the parade and service with the In-Pensioners of the Royal Hospital, on Sunday, October 18, 1980.

On parade were Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President of our Regimental Association; Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Secretary of the Regimental Association; Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, Commanding the Diehard Detachment; Capt W. B. Hammond, ERD, TD, 9th Bn; Capt R. G. C. Thornton, TD, 5 Queen's and President Hounslow Branch OCA; Lts E. C. Graham, 1st Bn (original) and Alan Allchorne 2/7th Bn; Messrs Bob Ambler, 1st Bn; Charlie Ashby, 4th Bn; Tom Barnet, 1st Bn; David Bennett, 1st Bn; Archie Brown, 9th Bn; Bob Drane, 2nd Bn; Charlie Garrard, 8th Bn; Stan Hurlock, the Standard Ensign; Tommy Lack, MM, MX HGD, Pat Maloney, 2/7th Bn; Bill Mann, RFA and Hon Member; Reggie Meers, 9th Bn; Jack Milroy, 1st Bn (original); Arthur Pace, 2nd Bn; Les Plumb, 1st Bn; and Bill Wright, 4th Bn.

A pictorial record was made on film by Gunther Scheiber which has come out quite well. Also supporting us during the religious service were Mesdames Ashby, Drane, Edwards, Graham, Hammond, Hurlock, MacDonald, Norman, Pace, Rolls, Scheiber, Smyrk and Waldron.

The Captain of the Invalids commanding the parade was Maj D. H. Donnelly of the Cheshire Regt who fondly recalled his memories of the late Col F. Walden, MBE, DL, when commanding the 2nd Bn in Palestine. RSM L. Lamb, MBE, of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers who had served with our sister regiment the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, the old 5th with whom we have been so closely allied to since 1811, and also The Lancashire Fusiliers, the old 20th of Minden fame, was parade Regimental Sergeant Major.

It is impressive to drill in the old order of tap of

drum to augment the verbal command, most noticeable when the Officers' Call is beaten by the drummer. The combination of the uniforms of the In-Pensioners, so much in design as the soldiers of John Churchill's army wore when the Marlborough battles were being fought and won, plus the drum commands brought history to the present.

After the inspection of his Pensioners by the Governor, Gen Sir Antony Read, CCB, CBE, DSO, MC, an officer of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, he inspected our Diehards, speaking to practically every man on parade.

The Governor and the Captain of Invalids marching together struck another historical note. In the past, their regiments had fought together on the Heights of Abraham at Quebec. The Light Infantry, then the 43rd as a regiment and the Grenadiers of the 22nd Foot. It was in the arms of Lt Henry Brown of the Grenadier Coy of the 22nd, that Gen James Wolfe died in 1759, the 'Year of Victories' for Britain.

The service in the chapel was, as always, enhanced by the choral anthem by the choir, we members of the congregation being able to sit quietly and enjoy the harmonious voices of both sexes and varied age. Also impressive was the dignified ceremonious dipping of our Standard by Stan Hurlock as we sang the National Anthem. His decorum and movements as he stood in front of the altar rails, carved by Grinling Gibbons, were perfect. The silken banner was level with my eyes during the Anthem, emphasising the motto 'Comrades in War and Peace', as I listened to our old soldiers singing with fervour.

After the service, we adjourned to the Ladies Room in the Pensioners' Club where our Secretary had organised a generous buffet. Here we met two of our own Pensioners, Fred Worton and George Fulton as well as a couple of other old soldiers who had accompanied us on our Mons pilgrimage in the past. Earlier, I had met I/P Fred Endersby (2871554) who had served with the 2nd Bn in India and Khartoum as did his brother, the late George Endersby (6190076).

Throughout the day, the sun shone which was comparable with the sunny disposition of those taking part. An enjoyable parade and service followed by a short period of reminiscence during the leisure period gave pleasure to we who attended.

DICK SMITH

REGIMENTAL MEMORIAL CHAPEL, ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

Since the creation of our Regimental Memorial Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral, very little has so far been done to involve the members of the Regimental Association and their families in the life of the Cathedral. The Regimental Association has recently become a Corporate member of the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral, and it has been suggested that some members of the Regimental Association or their families, living in or near London, might welcome the opportunity of becoming Wandsmen, who are Cathedral sidesmen under another name and assist with the stream of visitors.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of St Paul's Cathedral, please let me know, and as Secre-

tary of our Association I will gladly send you details. Minimum annual subscription is £3.

Friends support the work and witness of the Cathedral by their prayers supply volunteer guides to conduct people round the Cathedral

receive a membership card which admits them to the crypt and galleries without charge

receive a list of future events and the annual magazine 'Dome' which includes photographs and articles on the Cathedral

have a block of reserved seats for the performances of THE MESSIAH in Advent and Bach's PASSION MUSIC in Lent

and

have their own Festival Service each year.

It is clearly very desirable that links between our Association and the Cathedral, in which our Chapel is located, shall be as live and strong as is practically possible.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Another recent visitor to Hong Kong was Abe Bailey (6200133). WO2 John Frost and wife, once again, were most helpful and entertaining. Abe visited the graves of eight Diehards who died before the war and who are buried in the Happy Valley Cemetery. He tells me that the graves are in very poor condition and that they do not come under the care of the War Graves Commission. The graves involved are those of: Borrow, Brown, Hopwood, Williams, Stevens, Lawlor, Stemp and Thorn. I remember all these Diehards well and I am taking this problem up with the War Graves Commission. He also visited Gilman Barracks, Singapore, and reports that our Cap Badge on the hillside is in good condition.

Mr A. E. Barnden, 9th Bn, tells me that he spent a very interesting weekend in Norfolk, looking up old searchlight sites. He was accompanied by the two Teds, Lockyer and Thomas.

Drummer Brew and Agnes who have lived for many years in West Yorkshire are looking for a house in the Colchester area. Maybe we shall see more of them now.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is Cpl C. R. Broome, the Officers Mess Corporal of the Queen's Division, Bassingbourn. He served with our 1st Bn in Gibraltar and later with 1 Queen's. He is in possession of the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and GSM (Northern Ireland).

Csgt Burgess informs me that he will be unable to attend our remembrance services this year as he is a poppy seller for the Royal British Legion in his home town of Redditch, Worcs.

Congratulations to my old pal Csgt Bob Chaplin (6195306), Orderly Room, on receiving the annuity for the Meritorious Service Medal he was awarded many years ago. Spend it with care chum.

Another Diehard has surfaced. He is former Pte A. R. Cooper (128755 and 57769) who served in

WWI with the 53rd Bn and the 2nd Bn 1917-19. On his discharge in 1919 he re-enlisted into the RASC and retired with the rank of Major on January 30, 1950. Now 81 years of age he lives in retirement at Ammanford, Dyfed.

Mr W. P. Craddock now 83 years of age who served with the 12th and 26th Bns in WWI has joined the Regimental Association. A late entrant but very welcome.

Former Pte H. R. J. Cussell (6140801) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted in August 1935 and after recruit training joined the 1st Bn in Hong Kong where he was another one that was 'arrested' on December 25, 1941. In 1942 the Japanese shipped him off to Japan and Amori Camp, Tokyo. He returned to UK in October 1945 and left the Army in 1946. He now lives at New Addington Croydon, and is employed as a chauffeur.

Brewer Drane requires a photograph of the 2nd Bn Band for the years 1926 and 1927. Please help him if you can.

Sgt H. Firkins (6194373), now 75 years of age, tells me that he has been in hospital but is now on the mend and he hopes to be able to come to a Mill Hill Branch meeting soon. He joined the 1st Bn in 1921.

Maj Frank Gladden, at present the British Liaison Instructor at the French Military Academy, Coetquidan, is moving to a new staff appointment at HQ Afnorth (Oslo) in January 1981.

A recent visitor to Hong Kong was former Cpl Tiny Goddard (6202957), MM, BEM. He was Band Corporal of the 1st Bn and was also 'arrested' on Christmas Day 1941. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery whilst commanding a pill-box of 'C' Coy. In 1942 he was shipped to Japan and Osaka Camp. In October 1945 he returned to UK and left the Army. He has spent the last 35 years in telecommunications in Northern Ireland. In his spare time he looks after 38 youth clubs. He tells me that his holiday was a terrific success all due to WO2 and Mrs Frost for the wonderful way he was looked after. They really have looked after our Diehards who have gone back. Thank you both.

A new member of the Regimental Association is Cpl Charles Wilfred Hales (6200135). He enlisted at Mill Hill on April 29, 1931, and after recruit training joined the 1st Bn and was posted to 'A' Coy with whom he spent eight years. At the outbreak of WWII he joined the Depot and was posted to the 8th Bn. On April 29, 1942, he was transferred to the Army Catering Corps and was posted to 90 LAA Regt RA. He finally left the service on October 14, 1945. He is now retired and lives at Royston, Herts.

Just received a newspaper cutting from Mr W. Hammett a 4th Bn veteran, telling me that a member of the Colchester Police for 31 years, Mr William Mills died on August 3, 1980, aged 82. The cutting states that Mr Mills served with 'B' Coy, 4th Bn in WWI and was a heavy weight boxing champion.

The Company Commander was Maj Glass. Thank you Mr Hammett.

Pte R. G. Hugman (23736105) has joined the Regimental Association. He served during the period October 1959-October 1965. He spent three years in the Corps of Drums and three years as the Sergeants Mess cook in Gibraltar. He is now a Motor Parts Delivery Supervisor and I had the pleasure of meeting him and his wife at the Remembrance Service, Mill Hill.

Lt Alan Kendall a National Serviceman 1957-59, Cyprus, with the 1st Bn has joined the Regimental Association. He was my glazier and I am looking forward to meeting him again.

A recent correspondent was Mr W. C. C. Newton, son of the late Maj W. C. Newton. He lives in Cape Town, South Africa, and would be very pleased to meet and help any Diehard passing through, as he puts it, our 'Fairest Cape'. Let me know if you would like to take advantage of this offer and I will put you in touch.

Best wishes were sent to George Leadbeater, 4th Bn WWI, on the occasion of his 90th birthday. I also called on him. He lives in one of the Royal British Legion flats at Canterbury. He sends his regards to all Diehards.

Our congratulations to Brig Brian Marciandi, OBE, on his recent promotion and posting to the Military Assistance Department, Ministry of Defence, Old War Office Building, Whitehall.

Col Andrew Man has recently met Capt Stanley Boydell who was medical officer to the 1st Bn when they went to Korea. We hope that he will be able to attend a regimental function soon.

Sgt Jim (Killer) Moran is very ill in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Maj Geoff Norton was made a Freeman of the City of London on July 25. Our congratulations to him on receiving this unique honour.

Former Drummer Jim Pullen (6200396) who served with the 2nd Bn 1932-39, who was recalled in 1939 and served with the 1/7th Bn 1939-45 sends his best wishes to all his old friends and comrades. He asks are there any readers from Nivelle Squad, April-November 1932, and could anyone give him information about Les Delaney and Jack Cross-thwaite.

Maj B. St G. A. Reed, MC, DL, represented the Regiment at the Korean Wreath Laying Ceremony in remembrance of those who fell in the Korean War 1950-53, held at Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, June 25, 1980.

WO2 Les Shrubbs, MM, has retired and moved to Sandown, Isle of Wight.

Mr R. H. Stanbury has joined the Regimental

Association. He saw service with our 3/7th Battalion for a few weeks and then joined 'A' Coy, 1/7th Bn. He was wounded and discharged on February 4, 1919, having attained the rank of Lsgt. During WWII he served with the Home Guard. Mr Stanbury is now 83 years of age and lives at Barkingside, Essex.

Ssgt Peter Stewart whose last posting was as PSI to 'A' Coy, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt has now left the Army and taken up employment with the MOD Police at the Royal Clarence Yard, Gosport. He asked for number 57 but was allocated S1492. Good luck and keep your powder dry.

Ken Sutton who was so badly wounded in Korea has moved from Melton Constable, to Worthing, Sussex. Last year he had to undergo an operation for the removal of his gall bladder. Best of luck Ken from us all and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Col D. R. W. Thomas, MBE, 1/7th Bn, is at present on holiday in South Africa. He has recently moved to East Sussex.

Former CSM 'Curly' Waters (14470810) has joined the Regimental Association. It has taken him a long time and we extend a very warm welcome to this very popular CSM. He enlisted on August 21, 1945 (late again) a couple of weeks after his 18th birthday and served until August 25, 1969, when he was medically discharged due to a cardiac condition. He now lives in Warminster, Wilts, and is kept under control by Capt Tom MacMillan.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator: Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, 12 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London NW7. The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

Uniform of Maj Edward Jones, 77th Foot

The uniform consists of his 'bell' pattern shako, with badge and two plumes, silver epaulettes, gold epaulettes, sword and scabbard. The two pairs of epaulettes cover the period, that of 1832, when silver lace on the uniforms was replaced by gold. These items are in very good condition and were obtained on 'long loan' from the St Fagan Welsh Folk Museum, Cardiff. This is all due to Mrs Mary Walker of Glamorgan, who represents the present generation of the family, asking the Trustees of the Welsh Folk Museum to allow the transfer.

Mrs Mary Walker has also presented to our Museum his cut throat razor. The razor is stamped 'Edward Jones', 77th Foot.

Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Secretary of the Regimental Museum Trust, would like to place on record to Mrs M. Walker his thanks for all the assistance given in effecting the transfer of these items of historical interest. It has been a long and very pleasant correspondence.

Edward Jones was born in Cwmfyddur, Radnorshire, North Wales, on December 5, 1784. In 1804 he was commissioned as an Ensign in the South Essex Militia, transferring to the West Kent Militia

in 1805, in which unit he was promoted Lieutenant in 1806. In his first year of service, he married a namesake, Sarah Jones on June 6, 1804.

The 77th Regt arrived home in September 1807 after 19 years' service in India very depleted in strength, but was soon augmented by volunteers from the 3rd West Yorks, West Kent and North Hampshire Militia. One of the officers was Edward Jones who was gazetted as Ensign in the 77th, August 28, 1807.

In 1809, the 77th were part of the force assembled for the disastrous expedition to Walcheren. By now they were the 77th (East Middlesex) Regt of Foot, having been granted the territorial title October 30, 1807. This title had formerly been that of the 39th Regt who became the 'Dorsetshire Regiment'. Of the troops who garrisoned the island 7,000 died and many who returned home, half were permanently incapacitated. The 77th in August 1809, had 479 men fit for duty, in October there were 120. The Adjutant had a dismal task in recording the casualties. He was Edward Jones who held this appointment until 1815.

The Regiment returned home in October, the headquarters being at Chichester. Four months later, February 24, 1810, the 77th received the King's permission to bear the plume of the Prince of Wales on its colours and appointments. The badge had been worn since General, the Earl of Cavan was appointed Colonel of the Regiment in 1808, and and a coatee worn at Walcheren has the plume on the tails. No doubt the Adjutant was delighted to have the dress regularised.

June 1810, the 77th moved to Jersey where they were in the same garrison as the 2nd Bn of the 57th, the first occasion on which the two regiments who were to become the 1st and 2nd Bn of The Middlesex Regt, had met. In Jersey the 77th was brought up to strength by recruits and volunteers from the Militia. Lieutenant and Adjutant Jones was kept busy with this mobilising of his Regiment, but did not fail to keep his military arts, especially his swordsmanship, up to a high degree.

On June 25, 1811, the Regiment embarked for the Peninsula to join the army under the command of Wellington and gained distinction at El Bodon, September 25, 1811, where the 3rd Division, under Maj Gen Picton occupied the centre position. Picton was Colonel of the 77th from October 1811 until he was killed at Waterloo. He well knew the 77th as they had been under his command in Walcheren. It was at El Bodon that a unique action of infantry successfully charging cavalry took place. Gen C. F. Clery in 'Minor Tactics' writes: 'At El Bodon, where Montbrun, with fourteen Battalions, thirty squadrons, and twelve guns, attacked a small force of allied troops, of which two battalions—the 5th and 77th—alone were British, they checked the advance of the cavalry by fire, charged them at the bayonet's point, and retired after in square, which resisted every effort to destroy it.' Wellington, who was present, published an order a week later which read, 'a memorable example of what may be effected by steadiness, discipline and confidence'. This order was read by the whole army. Among those bayonet points was the flashing blade of Lieutenant and Adjutant Jones.

Four months later, the 77th were engaged in the attack on Ciudad Rodrigo, January 19, 1812. This was the first town which the British in the Peninsula had taken by assault. Among the casualties was Lieutenant and Adjutant Jones who was one of the officers wounded. Three months later, he was back in action, taking part in the assault and capture of the fortress of Badajoz on April 6, 1812. Badajoz was the first operation in which the 57th and 77th were employed together. The 77th were at the siege and attacked the stronghold, whilst the 57th was with the covering forces nearby. The story of Badajoz is far too long to recount here. Napier's description of this siege (Peninsula War Vol IV) is one of his finest pieces of descriptive writing. 'The History of the Peninsula War' by Oman also tells a graphic story.

The defenders were provided with several muskets each, long poles for pushing back the scaling ladders, as well as heavy beams of timber, large rocks, live shells and hand grenades to hurl at the attacking troops. Added to this, there was the hail of grape and case shot from the cannons poured into them. Attacking Fort Picurina were the 77th. On the walls of Picurina, by the light of the fires could be seen the dark figures struggling furiously on the ramparts. The solid mass of 4,000 British troops had charged. An hour later, no impression had been made, the ladders, complete with soldiers scaling them were hurled to the ground. At last a foothold was gained. One of those who was to the fore was Edward Jones. A memorial to him says:

'His promotion was the reward of Valour and Good Conduct. Distinguished by personal prowess and use of the sword; he was one of the chosen 500, who, at Badajoz, took Fort Picurina, when with ladders, 4 feet short, the entire Division, Picton's, amid great slaughter, gained possession of the castle.'

The British lost nearly 5,000 men, and took a terrible revenge in the pillage of the town. That pillage is one of the most unsavoury incidents in the history of our army.

After Badajoz, the 77th had less than a hundred men fit for service, and were ordered back to base and did not participate in the later victories of Salamanca and Vittoria.

Promoted Captain November 10, 1822, Edward Jones served in Ireland, then in Jamaica from 1824 to 1832. In September 1825, the Regiment had lost 12 officers, 11 sergeants, 4 drummers and 226 rank and file, due to remittent fever of a malignant nature, out of less than 600 all ranks who had landed in Jamaica 18 months before.

On June 10, 1826, Edward Jones was promoted Major, continuing to serve with the Regiment until 1832 when he was transferred to the Unattached List and is shown on this roll until his decease in 1857.

His last years were spent in Wales, where he now rests beneath a tombstone, recording his military valour.

Mrs B. McCarthy, of Mayfield, Sussex, has very kindly presented to the archives of Regimental Music a copy of the music of a patriotic song called 'Just a Soldier'. Words by Stretchworth Ashley, Music by Tim Gray. The inscription on the music reads this song was dedicated to the Middlesex Regt (The

Famous Diehards) and it was published by and for the funds of the Ealing Cadet Corps of the 8th Middlesex Regt, The Drill Hall, West Ealing, during World War I.

Photograph of Edward Brutton, 57th Regt

A photograph of Edward Brutton, 57th Regt, taken in 1858, was recently purchased on behalf of the Regimental Museum by the Secretary of the Ogilby Trust. It shows him in scarlet mess kit with pointed yellow cuffs and long revers of yellow. The waistcoat has bobble-button fastening, with a long gold watch-chain looped from the top to the right pocket, the loop reaching to the waist. His features, and expression shows his character. That of an able leader and fighting man.

Edward Brutton was born at Exeter, January 26, 1837, and was commissioned as Ensign in the 57th Regt, March 15, 1855, at which time the Regiment were in the trenches before Sebastopol. Posted to the Reserve Companies at Malta, he did not join the Regiment in the field until March 19, 1856. He had been promoted Lieutenant on February 26. Although the treaty of peace with Russia was not signed until March 30, an Armistice had been in operation since the first of the month, during which time, no firing took place. No medals were awarded to those who had not been actively engaged. The last to join the 57th were Lts Russell, Powell and Hasted who received the Crimea Medal, without Clasps, for operations against the enemy at Kinburn in October 1855, they having joined after the fall of Sebastopol—September 8, 1855.

The Regiment joined the Reserve Companies in Malta on June 1, 1856, remaining there until May 1858, when they sailed for India to join the army who were fighting the Mutinous Sepoys. At the same time, a number of officers who had been on leave or duty rejoined the Regiment, one of whom was Lt Brutton.

In August 1860, Lt Brutton was posted as Staff Officer to the 2nd Division Royal Artillery, serving in the China expedition. With this force he was at the engagements of Singho Tou Ko, the storming of the Taku Forts and the occupation of Tientsin. For his services, he was awarded the Second China War Medal with the clasp 'Taku Forts, 1860'. He was mentioned in Despatches by Brig Gen E. W. Crofton on September 9, 1860. Brig Gen Crofton was a gunner who had served in Spain during the Carlist War of 1837 and had also commanded the Osmanli Cavalry. (It was during the bombardment of the Taku Forts, August 21, 1860, that rifled artillery was first used in war by the British.)

In 1861, the 57th Regt were sent to New Zealand from India to take part in the operations against the rebel Maoris. For two years, a state of quietness reigned, although martial law remained. Lt Brutton rejoined his Regiment at this time, being one of the garrison who occupied St Georges Redoubt.

On May 4, 1863, C/Sgt Samuel Ellers, Sgt Samuel Hill, Ptes Florence Kelly, John Flynn, Bartholomew McCarthy and Patrick Ryan were sent from Tatairama on escort duty, having in charge Pte William Banks, a prisoner to be brought to trial before Court Martial at New Plymouth. Lt Traggett and Staff Assistant Surgeon Hope accompanied this

escort, but without any idea of danger, the rebel Maories, up to this time, had been peaceful and in the habit of bringing vegetables and supplies to the troops at Redoubt.

Reaching the Wairau, a small stream between Tatairama and Poutoko, the escort was suddenly fired on by an ambuscade of 30 or 40 rebel natives. The whole party were killed with the exception of Pte Florence Kelly, who although wounded, escaped into the fern and subsequently joined a party under Lt Brutton, which was sent from Tatairama on the report of the murders reported by a mounted orderly. The mutilated remains of all but Pte Ryan were immediately recovered and the body of Pte Ryan was later found concealed in a hole.

These murders were, according to the Maori custom, tantamount to a declaration of war. The 57th were eager to avenge the murder of their comrades and on May 18, Lt Brutton and his men waylaid, and ambushed a party of rebel natives, bayoneting several. For this action he was thanked by Gen Sir Duncan Cameron and later mentioned in Despatches.

June 4, 1863, saw the attack on Katikara River, a Maori strongly held position. Lts Brutton and Waller wheeled their men to take the enemy's position on the river in reverse, and open the road for the remainder of the force. Doubling over the ground without firing, they took the Maories by surprise, allowing the main body to attack and capture the strongly fortified Pan. Among the Maori dead was their principal chief, Hori Patini. Again Sir Duncan Cameron saw fit to publish a mention in Despatches to Capt Shortt and Russell, Lts Brutton and Waller, Ensign Duncan and Ptes Bartholomew Stagpoole and J. Dannahey.

From June 1863 to January 1865, Lt Brutton was Garrison Adjutant, Taranaki District, New Plymouth. He took part in the actions at Pontoko, capture of Kaitake, Manutaki and Mataitawa, and the repulse of the rebels at Gilberts Clearing and various minor affairs, being repeatedly mentioned in Despatches. For his services in New Zealand, he was awarded the New Zealand Medal with its distinctive suspension bar. Returning home after the campaign was over, he married Alice Emily Paterson of Rushbrook, Queenstown, Cork, February 26, 1867. From then on he was employed on various staff duties, being promoted Captain, January 1, 1870 and Major, July 1, 1881.

A Devonshire man, he joined the County Constabulary as a Superintendent on November 15, 1872, serving in that capacity until October 1888. In 1888, he was appointed a Captain of Invalids of whom there were six, at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, an appointment he held until his decease, July 25, 1911. His popularity was such, that his brother officers and friends erected a memorial tablet to him in the colonnade which can be seen by the inmates and visitors to this splendid institution founded by Charles II and built by Wren.

NOTES

Pte Bartholomew Stagpoole was the brother of Drummer Dudley Stagpoole, VC, DCM, who holds the unparalleled record of winning the two decorations in one week. He is buried in Hendon Park

Cemetery where the Regiment erected a monumental stone on his grave. When the award of the Victoria Cross was announced, Col Warre, the Commanding Officer, tried to have the Distinguished Conduct Medal transferred to Bartholomew! This, of course, was immediately refused.

The Maori Tollgate

This board, captured after the Katikara battle, was taken into New Plymouth and exhibited at the Hutoki bridge. Present whereabouts are not known.

Taranaki—Te Ika a Maui

The house where lie the laws which are in force here of King Malutaera Potatau, near the gate for payment of offences which stand here:

	£	s	d
Minister of the Gospel	50	0	0
Newspaper mail	300	0	0
Maori Disciple of the Governor	200	0	0
Wealthy Pakaha—don't let them through the gate—if they do—	5	0	0
Pakaha policeman	500	0	0
Maori policeman	5	0	0
Maori assessor	5	0	0
If he comes as Kingite	15	0	0
A King's letter in the mail	5	0	0
A letter against the authority of the King	1	0	0
Letters from kinsmen outside	5	0	0
Letters tempting the tribe	15	0	0
Letters not sent by the mail	1	0	0
A neutral coming as a Pakaha	5	0	0
A preaching Maori Minister	55	0	0
Letter badly tempting the tribe, seize it, and make the bearer pay	5	0	0
The above is the Law for the pakaha tolls of the Maori			
A cart of wheat or other things	1	0	0
Things carried on a man's back	1		
A pig carried in a cart	6		
A pig driven	6		
A cow or horse, each	6		
There are no rules referring to neutrals outside, but a load carried from inside the gate	1		
Money of the tribe for purchasing, free			
The Law of the Maoris, inside and outside of the gate			
Do not steal, O Man (or evade the tolls) if you do you will pay	5	0	0
By authority of the keepers of the gate of Malutaera			
KERE, Policeman			
POPOMA, Policeman			
July 8, 1862.			

Medals of Mr B. G. Sims

Mr B. G. Sims, residing at 48 Culverdon Road, South Oxhey, Herts, has presented his medals to the Regimental Museum. They consist of the 1914 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal and the Defence Medal.

Mr Sims saw service with the 2/7th Bn and the Rifle Brigade during World War 1. In World War 2 he saw service with the KRRC and the Pioneer Corps.

He is now 82 years of age.

Badges and Buttons

Maj A. E. B. Foxwell, TD, 1st Kensingtons 1940-45, has kindly presented to the Museum a quantity of badges and buttons.

OBITUARY

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

BAGNALL—On November 19, 1980, Mrs K. Bagnall, aged 84 years, the widow of Cpl H. R. Bagnall (L16469) who served with the Regiment from 1900 to 1916. Cpl Bagnall died 1959. Mrs Bagnall occupied a regimental flat at Albuhera Close, Enfield. The funeral was attended by Maj and Mrs Weller on behalf of the Regimental Association.

CAREW—On September 3, 1980, Maj John M (Tim) Carew, MC, aged 59 years. He was very well known to members of the Regiment as the author of *The Fall of Hong Kong, Hostages to Fortune, Married Quarters, The Last Warrior* and many other books.

CARY—On September 20, 1980, Maj Gen Rupert Tristram Oliver Cary, CB, CBE, DSO, aged 84 years. He was commissioned as a 2Lt August 17, 1915, and posted to the 4th Bn The Middlesex Regt (DCO) then with the BEF in France. Promoted Lt January 1, 1917, he was attached to the Labour Corps March to May 1917, for service with the Royal Signals. He was transferred to the Royal Signals from the Middlesex Regt (DCO) in 1921.

CHILLERY—On September 25, 1980, Ex-WO2 H. J. Chillery (6196041), aged 71 years. The majority of his service was with the 2nd Bn. I am not yet in possession of dates. He was a very good sportsman and a valued member of the Middlesex Regimental Golfing Society.

COLBOURNE—On May 25, 1980, Ex-Csgt R. D. Colbourne (159228, 21307 and 6191581), aged 80 years.

He enlisted at Bury St Edmunds on May 18, 1918, with the Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt and joined the Middlesex Regt (DCO) January 28, 1919. The majority of his service was with the 2nd Bn. He served with the 1st Bn 1937-39. He was discharged to pension and reserve on October 9, 1945. He then joined the 7th Bn as a civilian clerk and as a Csgt with the Territorials, finally retiring on October 14, 1956. He was an outstanding shot on all weapons and a good allround sportsman.

COX—On May 14, 1979, ex-Pte Arthur Charles Cox (6201513), in his 63rd year. 'Bill' Cox was the son of Lt 8833, 'Driver' Cox, MM, who was a veteran of the Boer War, a well-known and popular character in the Regiment.

Bill enlisted into the Regiment, March 25, 1935, and was posted to the 2nd Bn, who were then in Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, on completion of his recruit training. When the battalion changed stations, moving to Victoria Barracks, Portsmouth, he was a member of the Advance Party and earned a good reputation as a reliable toiler. Posted to 'C (MG)' Coy, he was a member of the machine-

gun team when they were second in the competition in 1937, and again when they now the winners cup in 1938.

At Gosport, he was sent, for a time, as a driving instructor to the KOSB's at Tidworth, and drove a carrier at a demonstration to Officers of the Indian Army. When the battalion went to France as part of the BEF in September 1939, he was the driver of a Bren Gun vehicle.

Being a skilful driver, he was posted to the Signals Section as driver to the Signals Officer, 2Lt E. L. G. Passey, who was killed later in the war—July 9, 1944. Returning to England via Dunkirk, he remained with the battalion until New Year's Day, 1942, when he was sent to Manchester on a motor-mechanics course of three months duration, at the end of which he was sent on a 10-days furlough. Whilst on furlough, he was informed that he had been posted to the RAOC, which caused him no little distress. This turned to fury when he found himself at Oxshot spending his time doing recruit foot-drill and saluting drill.

Volunteering for an overseas posting, he sailed for Egypt, spending his first night on shore at Port Tewfik in a slit trench as no accommodation was available for the newly arrived draft. Later he was posted to 538 Workshop, and then to 306 L of C Workshop. In Egypt, he met a number of comrades with whom he had served in the 2nd Bn before, and during the early days of the war, Capt 'Toff' Day of 'C' Coy, 'Granny' Pearce, who was then with the Cheshire Regt, and Sgt, now Maj, Pat Donovan.

Bill Cox was a member of the Mill Hill Branch of the Regimental Association for many years, as is his brother ex-Drummer Len Cox (6202433), but had lost close contact with us when he moved to Purfleet, which is the cause of the late notification of his decease.

His medals were the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star; Defence Medal and the War Medal.

MAJ DICK SMITH

CROOK—On August 6, 1980, Capt E. Crook, DCM (G/42627), aged 82 years. He served with the 17th Service Bn 1914-18.

EVERETT—On September 1, 1980, Maj Charles Everett, aged 90 years. Maj Charles Everett enlisted into the Middlesex Regt, December 1907, as a Private soldier and reached the rank of WO Class II. He was commissioned as a 2Lt in the Regiment on June 27, 1917, retiring as a Lt 1919.

In WWII he served in the Pioneer Corps and reached the rank of Major.

FIRTH—On November 16, 1980, Mr J. H. Firth (6200503), aged 67 years. Full obituary will be published in the next issue of the *Diehards News-letter*.

FITZGERALD—On October 8, 1980, Mr W. Fitzgerald, aged 65 years. Served with the 9th Bn.

FLITCROFT—On June 24, 1980, Mr W. Flitcroft (6203209), aged 62 years. Served with the 2nd Bn (1936-41) and was wounded at Dunkirk. He also had service with the Princess Louise's Kensingtons and 30th Bn (Tower of London).

FLOOD—On December 8, 1979, Capt G. W. Flood. Served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was

taken POW on December 25, 1941, returning to UK in 1945. No other details available.

GOULD—On August 18, 1980, Ex-Sgt Herbert Gould (6201152), aged 62 years. His service commenced on June 13, 1933, when he enlisted into the Middlesex Regt TA in which he served until August 16, 1934. Next day he signed as a regular soldier but was discharged November 16, 1934. After another short spell with the TA he rejoined as a regular soldier on June 15, 1936. On September 17, 1937, he was drafted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was taken POW on Christmas Day 1941. In 1942 he was moved to Japan and was held in Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo, returning to UK October 26, 1945, and was finally discharged on July 27, 1950 with the rank of Cpl. He later served with the Middlesex Cadet Force as a Lt and I note that his discharge papers were signed by Col R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, TD, DL, who in 1953 was the County Cadet Commandant.

GREENBERG—On July 24, 1980, Mr K. C. Greenberg (6215018), aged 78 years. Served with the 10th Bn. Died whilst a patient at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond.

HARRIS—On November 18, 1980, Ex-Sgt Richard J. Harris (6201831), aged 64 years. Dick Harris enlisted at Mill Hill early 1934 and after completion of his recruit training at the Depot he joined the 2nd Bn. In April 1936, he joined the 1st Bn in Singapore and moved to Hong Kong in August 1937, and was taken POW at the fall of Hong Kong on December 25, 1941. In 1942 he was moved to Japan and held in Osaka Camp until returning to UK in 1945. He left the Army in 1946. He will be remembered for his boxing ability as a Welterweight. He was very upset by the death of his wife in February. He himself was found dead at work. The funeral was attended by Maj A. E. F. Waldron and his friends from Albuhera Close.

JACOBS—On August 12, 1980, Capt Arthur Henry Jacobs, aged 89 years. He was commissioned with the 8th Bn on July 29, 1915, and was awarded the Mons Star and mentioned in despatches for gallantry and devotion to duty at Neuville on October 12, 1918.

JENNINGS—On November 14, 1980, Capt E. E. (Froggie) Jennings (6189398), aged 77 years.

Froggie Jennings was a Bandsman with the 2nd Bn, finally being appointed Band Sgt in 1935 from 1919 to 1940. In WWII he was commissioned and served with the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1940-45. The funeral was attended by Mr E. J. Soden who very kindly represented the Regimental Association.

LANGLEY—On May 1, 1980, Maj F. W. W. Langley, MBE, aged 85 years. Maj Langley served with the 8th Bn from October 1915, to April 1919, as a Lt. He was from 1939 to 1959 Secretary of the HM Forces Savings Committee. This post carried with it the military rank of Major, the right to wear uniform and regimental badges.

LEE-EMERY—On August 12, 1980, Lt Col Kenneth Adrian Lee-Emery, TD, aged 63 years. Lt Col Emery commenced his service with the 9th Bn. He was granted a regular commission with the Royal Artillery on August 24, 1939, retiring on April 19, 1972. His funeral was attended by members of the 9th Bn.

MALTBY—On September 6, 1980, Maj Gen C. M. Maltby, CB, MC, DL, aged 89 years. Gen Maltby was the General Officer Commanding at the fall of Hong Kong on December 25, 1941, and was taken POW with the remainder of the garrison. He will be well remembered by members of the 1st Bn at that time. Capt C. G. Webber, TD, attended the funeral and represented the Regimental Association.

POLLARD—On May 30, 1980, Lt Col John Stanley Brian Pollard, MBE, aged 48 years. Lt Col John Pollard was commissioned 2Lt in the Middlesex Regt (DCO) on August 3, 1951, after successfully completing the Royal Military Academy Course at Sandhurst. He was posted to the 1st Bn then serving in Hong Kong arriving August 1952. He held various battalion appointments, including Signal Officer (twice), Adjutant and Company Commander. Staff appointments included GSO 3 (SD) HQ2 Division, DAQMG (Qtg) HQ Northco, GSO2 Exch Offr 4 Inf (Mech) US Army Fort Carson; GSO2 Exch Offr HQ 2nd Bn Inf Fort Carson; and then on to the Northern Frontier Regt, Oman, as Commanding Officer, 1971-76. In the New Years Honours List of 1974 he was awarded the MBE and in 1976 awarded the Sultan of Oman's Distinguished Service Medal. In 1977 he was appointed AAG HQ Queen's Division, Basingstoun. For many years a member of the Middlesex Regimental Association Executive Committee.

John was a grand regimental officer, taking a great interest in all regimental activities, especially rugby. He was a good player himself and he encouraged others to follow his example. In latter years he became a rugby referee from which he derived much pleasure. A great chap for enjoying a party, a visit to 'The Pollards' was always an occasion to be remembered. The Thanksgiving Service held on Friday, June 27 at Basingstoun was well attended by his regimental friends and comrades and to his wonderful wife Christine and two children, Mark and Ann, we of the Regimental Association send our deepest sympathy at this very sad and difficult time. John will be so sadly missed. To the end he fought like a true Diehard.

SNELL—On May 4, 1980, Ex-Sgt (Jock) William James Snell (6200322), aged 70 years.

Jock Snell enlisted on November 13, 1931, and after recruit training at the Depot, Mill Hill, joined the 2nd Bn at Colchester. On September 28, 1939, he proceeded with the Battalion to France landing at Cherbourg. The Battalion was billeted in and around Gondécourt, Roubaix and Lille area. On May 10, 1940, the Battalion, part of the 3rd Division, with companies allocated to 8th and 9th Infantry Brigades and 7th Guards Brigade, advanced into Belgium culminating on June 1, 1940, when the Battalion was evacuated to UK via Dunkirk. He remained in the UK until July 1944, when he went to NW Europe with the Battalion returning October 1, 1945. On June 15, 1949, he embarked with the 1st Bn for Hong Kong. He served with the Battalion in Korea 1950-51. On August 2, 1951, he was posted to the UK and joined the 7th Bn at Hornsey as a PSI until being posted in August 1944 to HQ Eastern Command, Hounslow, as Officers Mess Sgt. He was discharged

on completion of engagement on March 21, 1955. He was in possession of a First Class Certificate of Education which he obtained in 1934. He was a trained Vehicle Mechanic and the majority of his service was spent with the MT. He was staff car driver to Col Andrew Man in Korea and to many other Commanding Officers. On leaving the service he joined the Customs and Excise Department at Heathrow Airport. Jock Snell was a well known and respected member of the Regiment and will be remembered as a courageous, conscientious and reliable man in all circumstances. He was a true Diehard.

He was in possession of the following medals: 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Korean Medal, United Nations Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

REDRUP—On October 5, 1980, Ex-Sgt John Redrup, aged 50 years. Served with the 1st Bn 1957-67. After leaving the Army he joined the Prison Service. He leaves a widow and four children. The eldest, Christopher, has recently joined the Army and is with the Intelligence Corps. No other details available at the moment.

STINTON—On November 5, 1980, Mr Sidney Stinton (7666), aged 95 years, five days before his 96th birthday.

He enlisted at Hounslow on November 22, 1901, and served with the 3rd Bn in South Africa, India, Burma, St Helena Island and France (1914-19). His total service was 18 years 232 days. He was in possession of the following medals: Queen's South Africa Medal with two bars, Mons Star 1914, Victory Medal and General Service Medal. Capt J. R. Sharpe, 2/8th Bn attended the funeral and very kindly represented the Regimental Association and laid a floral tribute.

Sidney Smith was our oldest known Diehard.

VOISEY—On November 15, 1980, Mr H. M. Voisey, aged 88 years. Served with the 3rd Bn and was very badly wounded at Ypres in 1915.

WOOLNER—On November 16, 1980, Mr S. R. Woolner, aged 65 years. Served with the 9th Bn.

TAYLOR—On August 25, 1980, Ex-Pte Horace Taylor (6213593), aged 60 years. He was called up for service on June 13, 1940, and after basic training was drafted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. He was a member of the last draft to reach Hong Kong prior to the invasion. He was taken POW on December 25, 1941, but remained in Hong Kong until his release on August 16, 1945, and return to UK. He left the Army on May 18, 1946. His twin brother, former Pte Christopher Taylor (6213594) was killed at Leighton Hill, Happy Valley, on December 20, 1941, whilst serving with 'Z' Coy. He was 22 years of age. Horace Taylor after an unsuccessful brain operation spent the last five years of his life as a complete invalid in Hackney Hospital where at intervals I used to visit him.

TRIP TO ALBUHERA

Maj P. D. Storie Pugh, TD, is hoping to arrange a family coach trip to Albuhera during the period May 13-17, 1981, through Maj and Mrs Tony Holt who are the leading operators in conducting battlefield

tours. Probable cost £100 per person. If you are interested please forward your name to me, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, as Secretary of the Regimental Association, and I will pass it on to Maj Storie Pugh. No firm details yet—planning is only at the talking stage. Maj Storie Pugh has asked me to record his thanks to Lt Col J. D. Gunnell, for his offer of assistance with the cost of the coach.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLF SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING

This meeting was held on Tuesday, October 7, 1980, at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants. The detailed results, each over 18 holes, were as under:

<i>Stableford Singles</i>	<i>Score</i>
Mr C. Murphy (Winner Horton Cup)	31
Mr M. Barnfield (Runner-up)	27
Lt Col T. W. Chattey	26
Mr M. Gedye	26
Capt M. Gedye	26
Mr A. Torrie	25
Capt R. J. Tarrant	23
Maj A. R. Bisset	22
Mr C. Holdford	22
Capt P. S. Ingham	20
Maj P. D. H. Marshall	17
Mr J. Rogers	17
Mr C. Matthews	16
Mr J. Tarrant	16
Brig G. Lerwill (Divot)	12
Maj W. H. Grogan	NR
Mrs N. Holdford	NR
Mr A. Duffield	NR

<i>Stableford Foursomes</i>	<i>Score</i>
Capt M. S. Gedye and Mrs M. S. Gedye (Winners Jay Cup)	29
Capt R. J. Tarrant and Mr J. Tarrant (Runners-up)	24
Mr M. Gedye and Mr T. Jones	24
Mr M. Barnfield and Mrs N. Holdford	23
Mr C. Holdford and Mr M. West	22
Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Maj A. R. Bisset	20
Mr C. Matthews and Mr E. Johnson	20
Capt P. S. Ingham and Lt Col T. W. Chattey	20
Mr C. Murphy and Mr J. Rogers	16
Brig G. Lerwill and Maj P. D. H. Marshall	10
Mr A. Torrie and Maj W. H. Grogan	9

Before asking Mrs Jean Clayden to present the prizes Lt Col Tom Chattey said that he was very pleased with the turnout and thanked everyone for the continued support that they give to the meeting. It was now becoming quite a family occasion. We were very pleased indeed that Lt Col and Mrs Tossie Worton were able to come to lunch but very sorry that Lt Col John was unable to play. We look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Meeting.

BELGIAN PARADE 1980

The annual parade of the Amicale Des Anciens Combattant Belges en Grande-Bretagne was held on Sunday, July 20, 1980. As has been the custom for more than a decade, our Regimental Association provided a contingent of Diehards to support our Belgian comrades-in-arms.

Attending were Maj Dick Smith, IC contingent,

Mr Stan Hurlock, the Standard Ensign, Mr Jack Milroy, wreath bearer, and with the marchers, Messrs Bob Ambler, Len Arlington, Charlie Ashby, Alf Bailey, Charlie Garrard, Tommy Lack, MM, Bill Mann, Reggie Meers, Trevor Morris, Sid Mullett, Bill Rawlinson, Sid Webb, 'Shiner' Wright, Mesdames Arlington, Hurlock and Milroy. Also giving support on the sidelines were Kevin Raine, and Mesdames Bailey, McDonald, Mullett and Webb. It was a pleasure to see Marcelle Arlington wearing her medals, she having the Combattant and Internee Medals of France and the King Leopold of Belgium.

The assembly was on Horse Guards Parade, the parade falling in immediately after the Changing of the Guard by the Household Cavalry. Although a wet day was forecast, the inclement weather did not prevent the 16 contingents and the Military Band of the Middlesex Yeomanry OCA being present with a multitude of Standards and Banners. The numbers attending the parade were augmented by a throng of spectators, mostly tourists equipped with cameras. The parade was about battalion strength and the spectators, at least a couple of hundred at the commencement with more joining during the course of the ceremonies.

Although meagre in numbers, it is with great pride to be able to record that as we reached the archway of Horse Guards, we were applauded by the spectators, the only contingent, as far as I am aware, who were so complimented. Also, an unsolicited remark was that we were the outstanding section. Maybe this was because we were the only tiny uninformed body, plus having a wheelchair patient in our front section. This was Sid Webb, a veteran of Korea, being trundled along by his comrade of the same campaign, Bill Rawlinson. The burst of applause took me by surprise.

Other detachments were wearing berets, peaked caps, side-hats with badges, etc, plus The Legion of Frontiersmen in their leggings, riding breeches, spurs, Sam-Brownes and swords with an escort of lancers, all very smart and soldierlike. The Royal British Legion had a square of Standards, as did a number of units from Belgium, France and America, whilst the old soldiers from the continental associations were festooned with medals, crosses, and sashes galore. The squad of our aged and infirm members with their single row of medals, battered trilbies and bald domes certainly made a contrast. Charlie Ashby, Charlie Garrard, Tommy Lack, Bill Mann and Bill Wright knock up 428 years between them, the youngest being 83!

Striding smartly along Whitehall behind the band, we halted at the Cenotaph. At 11am, Big Ben tolled the hour as the concourse stood quiet during the sounding of the Last Post—Silence—The Exhortation and Reveille. Jack Milroy passed the regimental wreath to me with the wording, 'The Diehards salute their Belgian comrades-in-arms who made the supreme sacrifice'. This, I placed at the foot of the Cenotaph to join those of many others and those to follow. At the end of the wreath-laying ceremony, the two National Anthems, The 'Brabanconne' and 'The Queen' were played whilst standards were lowered in salutation.

Then back again to Horse Guards Parade behind

the band playing a stirring march, where we once again paid compliments to the Sentry on Foot in the archway, he having no doubts who we were when I gave the word of command, 'Diehards—Eyes Right'. Compliments were paid to HE The Belgian Ambassador as we marched past the dias which was followed by his inspection. Both the Ambassador and the Belgian Military Attache had complimentary remarks as to our bearing, the Ambassador having a special word with Charlie Garrard, who has been a member of the Belgian Club for 40 years.

From the laying of wreaths onwards raindrops were lightly falling, making no difference to the set programme or the deportment of those taking part. At the end of the ceremonies, Mr Gloroux, the parade Marshall, gave the command, 'Dismiss'. Jupiter heard, and pulled out the plug of heaven, calling 'Pluvial greetings comrades', as the rain bucketed down.

Never mind, a good parade was had by all.

Maj DICK SMITH

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO 6/7th (V) BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

New Colours are being presented to the 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regt, at a Parade to be held at the South of England Show Ground at Ardingly, near Haywards Heath, Sussex, on Thursday, July 16, 1981. The Colours will be presented by Her Grace Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County of West Sussex.

Members of the Middlesex Regimental Association are cordially invited to attend. In order to assist 6/7th Queen's with planning numbers please forward your name to me, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, as Secretary of the Regimental Association, and I will forward a consolidated list. Families are welcome.

Lunch boxes which include a half bottle of wine will be available for purchase in advance at a cost of about £6 each. Alternatively members are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and drinks will be available from a cash bar. Spectators will be asked to be seated by 10.30am. It is also planned to introduce about 8-10 members from each OCA to Her Grace immediately following the parade in the customary way.

Full details will be issued early next year.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION REUNION

Maj Pat Donovan, Mrs Kitty Donovan and Maj Jimmy Wild looking very pleased with life at Howe Barracks on Sunday, August 3, 1980



Also the youngest recruit to the Queen's Regt



ERRATUM

Maj Gen B. A. COAD, CB, CBE, DSO, DL
Reference the *Diehards Newsletter* No. 43 (June 1980), page 3, line 16. The sentence beginning 'But for his strong personality etc' should have read 'But for his strong personality and leadership in conditions which in Korea could hardly have produced greater problems, the Brigade could have suffered many more casualties than it did; a Battalion might even have been lost for no sound reason.'

The words in *Italic* were omitted in my previous article.

Apologies to Col Andrew Man from the Editor.

LETTERS

From: Ex-Cpl A. R. Jenkins, formerly 1st Bn and taken POW in Hong Kong and was taken to Japan and was in Osaka, Sakurajima Camp.

Returning to Hong Kong after so many years was a promise fulfilled. Today the trip takes 16 hours instead of the six weeks on a troopship. But today, one flies off in a Jumbo jet and within a few hours I was getting off the plane at Kai Tak Airport into a climate of 88 degrees.

I was not surprised to see the huge skyscrapers in Hong Kong or Kowloon. I had been told by many people that I would find many changes and how right they were. Where the Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank was the tallest building in Hong Kong, now it is dwarfed amongst the skyscrapers. It has been mentioned that this world wide known bank with its beautiful structure will be demolished and rebuilt to stand beside the other tall buildings. A great pity really, this land mark will be missed with the two huge lions at the entrance.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to WO2 John Frost, BEM, a Diehard who is now serving with 'The Queen's' and is attached to the Royal Hong Kong Regt for two years.

The Regimental Association (Maj F. Waldron) put me in touch with John and I must say I had VIP treatment right at the start of my visit to Hong Kong. I was introduced to many members of the Volunteers and was invited to a grand dinner 'Chinese style' which was quite fantastic and great fun.

We covered a lot of ground in two weeks, both Hong Kong and the New Territories. A visit I wanted to make was the War Graves, I was very impressed with the whole layout. It was so clean, fresh and tidy. I congratulate the War Graves Commission on their good work. As John and I walked around taking photographs of some of the Diehards graves I came across one that took my mind back to those grim POW days when my good friend George Grinstead died on December 8, 1941, in Shamshuipo Camp. It was a sad moment. I was nevertheless very happy to have found these graves of so many brave Diehards, after all, that was one of the reasons I took the trip to Hong Kong.

A place that has not changed over the years is of course Government House, I took a stroll past the Peak Cable Tram, up the hill a short distance and behold there was the white building, which looked very impressive with its huge iron gates. Many a Diehard has been on Guard Duty at this building (myself included) but there are no troops on the main gate, just a policeman, who seemed to be in

control. I managed to take a few photographs and carried on, but not before I spoke to the policeman and explained to him that many years ago I also was on duty at Government House. He seemed interested, in fact, when I departed he shook my hand firmly.

While walking around Hong Kong, I saw Murray Street, but alas there is no Murray Barracks but instead there is the Hilton Hotel. Another place I wanted to visit was Central Fire Station (after being in the Fire Service for 26 years myself). I walked into the Control Room and introduced myself to the station officer. Straight away I was made very welcome, as we had so much in common. In fact, no matter where a fireman might visit in this world, there always seems to be a bond between them. I visited the mess and it was while I was enjoying a cup of coffee that the 'bells went down', and like any fire station crew it was a rush to mount the fire appliance and proceed whatever the call might be. I managed to get a snap of the appliance leaving the fire station. What I saw of the Hong Kong Fire Service, they rank very high and are reputed to be one of the best brigades in the world.

John and I decided to visit the New Territories and get to the border, but it was not to be, we were stopped at a check point about a mile from the border, if we wanted to go further we had to produce written permission from the police. Even John's ID Card was not accepted, which usually got us anywhere. The ironic part was, John will be on border duty in a few weeks time, seeking out any illegal immigrants that might cross over from China and it is said that scores try every night to cross into Hong Kong.

Like all good things must come to an end, I had a full two weeks of events and enjoyed every moment. Thanks to John Frost and his charming wife Marion, who can make you feel at home right from the start with her very good meals and hospitality.

My impression of today's Hong Kong, well things have most certainly changed over the years like most countries and of course the standard of living has improved a hundred fold. People look very happy and prosperous and have the attitude of living for today and let tomorrow look after itself. I have a great feeling for Hong Kong and the Chinese but I must admit that it has lost its character.



Alf at Taipokau

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From: Len Woodman, formerly 'D' Coy, 1/7th Bn.

On October 23, my wife and I made a journey to Tunisia, to visit the desert where the 1/7th Bn had been with the 51st Highland Division. We left London at midday, with Tunis Air, the first stop was at Monastair and then on to the offshore island of Jerba where we had made our home base. The following day we settled in, just taking in the sunshine and making plans for our stay in Tunisia. Our first trip took us back to the town of Gabes, how many of you remember that place? On the way we stopped at another place you should remember, the name Medenine. There has been very little change that I could recall, plenty of flies, etc, from there we travelled to the town called Matmata. I cannot remember that place, do any of you? It was by this time getting late, so we returned to base. On Sunday the 26th my wife said she would like to visit a church, so we went to church, and spent the rest of the day leisurely, good food and nice weather.

October 27—we started off again this time to a place called Fom Tatahouine. We had to go along the Roman Causeway from Jerba to Medenine, the roads are not quite like the motorways over here, even though it was classed a major road, while at Medenine we visited the palm trees as shown in the book called 'The 51st Highland Division at War' by Roderick Grant, page 74. After the town called Tatahouine we took a dirt road for approximately 20km suitable for only cross-country vehicles, we were now getting into real desert country, talk about fasten your seat belts, to our right we saw the pill-boxes, this was along the Mareth Line made by our dear friend Rommel, still there as large as life, just as if they are waiting for the next time. This brought back memories! At last we reached the village of Chenine and the end of the road. To go on would be taking your life into the desert in your own hands. From there it was only sand. The Atlas mountains were all around us, in part of which the men of the mountains, the Berbers live in the original homes made inside them where they have lived since 825AD. Various wars through the centuries made them flee their homes but they always returned so that now their homes are at three distinctive levels in these mountains.

This was only a short return visit, but we both intend to return again later for more adventure.

Time was getting late so we had to start the return journey, by the time we got back we had had enough, and were ready for a good meal and into bed, good job reveille was not until 0800 hours.

The next day we spent getting a few gifts to bring home with us, and that takes a day believe me.

October 28 was our last day, we went and explored this island of Jerba tucked away in the Bay of Gabes. It's a most interesting place to come to anytime you want to be at peace with the world. I did what I had always said I would do, and we enjoyed it immensely, worth every penny.

Our pals who never made it are really at rest in peace. God Bless Them.

John M. Mannering sent me the following newspaper cutting which I quote below—Big Tam's Mania. The name 'The Ladies from Hell' was attributed mainly to the 51st Highland Division in

the 1914–18 war. It was, and still is, Territorial, recruited in Scotland. I served with the HD in the 1939–45 war and in my Regiment there was never more than five per cent non-Scots. Our Gen Wimberley (Big Tam) had a mania for Scots. The only exception being the Middlesex Regt, who were highly appreciated by the rest of the Division.

Signed by a Tom McWHIRTER, Glasgow.

THE ARNOLD HOUSE CHESHIRE HOME

The Arnold House Cheshire Home (The Leonard Cheshire Foundation) is at 66 The Ridgeway, Enfield, Middx.

This home is occupied by 20 physically handicapped residents most of whom have their own single rooms.

Bert and Joan Mellor from Albuhera Close are active volunteer workers at the home. More help is required and if you are able to offer a pair of willing hands the Head of the Home, Mr Victor Terry will be very pleased to see you.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MONS, 1980

Due to the kindness and benevolence of admiring benefactors who wish to remain anonymous, but at the same time express their appreciation for the qualities and sacrifice of our soldiers in World War 1, a coach was supplied for a visit to France and Flanders. These brief notes cover the ceremonies at Mons, to commemorate the Battle of Mons, August 23, 1914. Both our 1st and 4th Bns were awarded this honour although the brunt of the fighting fell on the 4th Bn. Elsewhere in this Newsletter, other aspects of the visit to areas, especially those in France, may appear from another pen.

The ex-soldiers of the Regiment, and Honorary members of the Diehards Club who were present were: Sqn Ldr Jim Abell, Charlie Ashby, David Bennett, Archie Brown, Alf Church, Charlie Garrard, Harry Hart, MBE, Donald Hudson, Tommy Lack, MM, Maj Bill Lovell, Bill Marshall, Capt Johnny Morris, Bill Man, Les Plumb, Charles Satchell and Bill Wright. Tresham Green and David Marle, two Honorary members and great friends of our members were not only excellent and hard working drivers of the coach, throughout the pilgrimage, they were also instrumental in obtaining the coach to no expense to those travelling. The same applies to David Bennett and his helper Norma who had friends to help finance the trip. The distaff side were Mesdames Ashby, Knight, McDonald, Norman and Smyrk. Later to be joined, in Belgium by Miss Rose Coombs, MBE, the possessor of an encyclopaedic fund of knowledge of the battlefields of 1914–18 and who is the Special Collections Officer at the Imperial War Museum.

The party were accommodated at SHAPE, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, all personnel there eager to be hosts to our party. After a satisfying meal on arrival, the party were escorted to their sleeping quarters. Outside the inner door of the dormitory for unaccompanied chaps was the notice, 'This table is for the use of Diehards only! After use, un-plug and refill kettle, make sure kettle is unplugged at night'. On the table, in addition to the kettle were tea-bags, cremora and sugar.

Our first ceremony was at Casteau on Friday the 22nd where members of SHAPE and the Belgian

veterans joined us at the memorial erected on the spot where the first British shot was fired on Saturday, August 22, 1914. Here our wreath was laid by Cpl Mick Young of the RAF and the Exhortation declaimed by Sqn Ldr Jim Abell. I felt it fitting that a member of our armed forces serving at this so important establishment should join in our ceremonies. It was a Corporal who fired that shot 66 years ago, so who better to commemorate it than a Corporal of today: and one of our youngest of the three of our armed forces. To complete the recognition of this service, it was an RAF officer who had battled in the skies during the last war, the son of the first British officer to be killed in action in 1914, who was requested to recite the Exhortation, Jim Abell who was born in our Regiment.

With due solemnity, the Last Post was sounded by Drummer Keith Allam of the Coldstream Guards who was dressed in full regimentals and bearskin. It was possible to have this bugler due to the kindness of the Adjutant of the Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers, Mill Hill, Maj E. J. Lyons, RE, who applied, on our behalf to the Guards Depot, Pirbright, and whose Commanding Officer kindly gave the necessary permission.

After the official ceremonies, we adjourned to the 'Medici' where toasts were drunk to our two countries, and to our host, Doctor Leborgne, who as a 13-year-old lad had witnessed this first action of our cavalry outposts. It was the doctor's birthday. In past years, before Casteau became absorbed by the City of Mons, the doctor had held the office of Bourgmeistre of Casteau. Over the years, he and I have built a rapport.

With our party this year were a number of our comrades of the Royal Fusiliers whose 4th Bn were at Nimy, on the left of our 'B' Coy, 4th Bn, during the battle. Their Regimental Association had kindly donated towards the expenses of the pilgrimage and they joined us in all ceremonies.

After our ceremony at Casteau, we moved to the Royal Fusilier memorial at Nimy Bridge, where the 4th Royal Fusiliers won two of the first VCs of 1914, those of Lt M. J. Dease, VC, and Cpl C. E. Godley, VC. Here, Harry Hart, placed a wreath under the bronze plaque, he being a Royal Fusilier as well as a Diehard, whilst the two regimental standards, The Royal Fusiliers Association and the Middlesex Regimental Association were dipped in honour. Bill Marshall was Ensign for the Royal Fusiliers and David Bennett our Ensign. Drummer Allam, as at Casteau, sounded the Last Post and Reveille. At Nimy, it was accompanied by the rumble of trains over the iron bridge, the plaque being under the bridge. Joining us was an American serviceman of SHAPE whose father was visiting from America. George Beiler, Snr, had been a 'Doughboy' Gunner in France in 1917–18, the old soldier joined in at our services, a welcome guest.

August 23 was the day we had come to commemorate. The first of the ceremonies began at 9.30am at the Avenue 4th Middlesex. It was 15 years ago that the thoroughfare, The Avenue of the 4th Middlesex, was officially opened. The pilgrims marched the length of the crescent shaped road as the inhabitants watched from their doors and windows. Quite a number of the houses are rented by soldiers' families

on the staff at SHAPE. The signal to fall in at the commencement was the 4th Bn bugle call, followed by 'Fall In'. In the shadows, many of those who will grow not old as we grow old, cocked up their ears, saying to each other 'They still remember'.

The marching body was impressive to see. Preceded by the Standards, bemaddled old soldiers marched decorously in a steady pace to suit their age. In the rear marched Keith Allam, his tall scarlet clad figure and bearskin headdress adding colour and impressiveness to the occasion. Out of the corner of my eye, as I headed the procession, I saw a child's eyes open wide in wonderment, whilst the young mother surreptitiously wiped away a tear.

At the end of the march we made out way to the farm of M Abel Lhermite, whose father was the farmer in August 1914. He greeted Jim Abell as one greets a dear relative. Maj W. H. Abell, Jim's father was the Company Commander of 'A' Coy, who fought on this ground. It was here that Maj Abell was killed, the first officer to be killed in action in 1914. For those who were viewing the battlefield for the first time, I gave a brief description of the battle. One chap present was able to nod his head as I spoke. 'Shiner' Wright was one of Maj Abell's squaddies on that day in 1914.

Jim Abell left us, and quietly walked to the spot on the field where his father had died in 1914, placing a small cross, with poppy, in the ground. In the distance a cow lowed. Maybe the creature knew of the kine who died in the cross-fire so long ago.

Retreating to the farmhouse, liquid refreshment was generously supplied by Abel and Marthe Lhermite, all the while these two Belgians oozing friendship to our folk. It was very touching.

From 'A' Coy Farm we made out way to the Belgian National Memorial, to pay our respects to our Belgian comrades-in-arms who had made the supreme sacrifice. On this journey we were escorted by Lt Roger Gelain of the Gendarmie who ensured we had a smooth journey there and on every other journey throughout the day. His services were invaluable. They were also voluntary.

At the memorial, our wreath was laid by Lt Col John Burgess, OBE, who served in the 1st Bn as a subaltern in Korea. The Exhortation was declaimed by Archie Brown and the bugle calls sounded by Drummer Allam.

From the National Memorial, we made our way to the Belfry memorial. At the base of this memorial to the two Battles of Mons, that of 1914 and 1918, is a casket containing soil taken from all the battlefields of 1914–18. Here, the wreath was laid by Maj Bill Lovell who had travelled from Ostende where he is domiciled, and the Exhortation said by Charlie Garrard.

From the Belfry Memorial, a visit was made to the Hotel de Ville where it has been the custom for at least two decades for the Burgomaster and the Civic Dignitaries to host our party, toast our countries and make reciprocal speeches. From the balcony of this ancient building were flying proudly the Belgian National flag, the flag of Mons and the Diehards regimental flag.

After an interval for a meal, the coach moved off to Saint Symphorien Military Cemetery, surely one of the most beautiful in France and Flanders. My

first duty on arrival is to pay my respects at the grave of L/6915, CSM J. W. 'Navy' Sinton whom I look upon as being the acme of military efficiency. Here I invited Lt Col John Burgess to plant a Cross of Remembrance. This he did after I had told the assembled spectators the story of this fine soldier. Col John assures me that he is going to care for that grave whilst he is stationed at SHAPE. I have no doubt he visited the grave on Remembrance Day.

At the memorial to the 'Royal' Middlesex Regt, erected by the Germans and unveiled by Crown Prinz Ruprecht Von Bayern of Bavaria in 1916, the regimental wreath was placed by Charlie Ashby who was a member of 'B' Coy, 4th Bn in 1914. The Exhortation was recited by me and the haunting strains of the Last Post and Reveille gave all moments of sadness as we saw in front of us the arc of graves of those cheerful Tommies of 1914.

Our first ceremony that day had been at the Avenue of the 4th Middlesex, a memorial by our Belgian Allies to show their appreciation of trusty fighting comrades-in-arms. At this latter ceremony we were at a memorial erected by a soldierly adversary who appreciated the sterling fighting qualities of an honest and gallant foe. This is unique. We are the only regiment with memorials in the same locality from a grateful ally and admiring adversary. We have cause to be proud. We are proud.

From the regimental memorial, we went to the grave of Maj Abell. Jim Abell had that morning planted a small cross of remembrance on the spot where his father had died. Now we were at the grave where the body had been interred. At the special request of Sqn Ldr Abell, L/14621 ex-Pte Wright, one of Maj Abell's soldiers, placed the family wreath with its Diehard badge, by the memorial stone erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The two regimental standards were lowered in obeisance as I recited a personal and modified exhortation. This little filial gesture caused teeth to be clenched and eyes to dampen amongst some of our hardened old soldiers. The silence lasted even after this little act was over.

From Saint Symphorien to Obourg where the first shots of the first battle were fired on Sunday morning, August 23, 1914. As the bells were calling the devout to prayer, so were the bugles calling our soldiers to their battle line.

'D' Coy, 4th Middlesex, were to be the first to fight a battle in 1914, albeit the first shot by the out-post had been fired the day before. This was the battle proper; and the word 'MONS' emblazoned on our Colours recalls the valour displayed that day. At the end of the day, the Adjutant recorded the casualties as 15 officers and 467 other ranks, as follows: 'A' Coy—134, 'B' Coy—96, 'C' Coy—34, 'D' Coy—183.

In the opening speech by M Rene Langouche, he emphasised the bond that had existed between his countrymen and ourselves, saying, as he has said so often in the past, 'You came to fight for us. The jackboot was not trampling over your backgarden, it was trampling over ours. You came to our help. Many of you remain in our soil. We will NEVER forget'. As a youth of 14 years he had witnessed the battle and retains vivid memories of the movements of the soldiers during the fight. It is entrancing to

listen to him and one can, in the mind's eye, hear the passage of shots and the din of this initial action of the war.

For the last time, I placed our regimental wreath on the hook beneath the bronze plaque of the wall of Obourg Station. The plaque reads:

'Near this spot on August 23, 1914, The honour fell to the 4th Bn The Middlesex Regt to fire the first shots of the Battle of Mons. On the roof of this building an unidentified British soldier made the supreme sacrifice in order to protect the retreat of his comrades.'

Below, on the plaque, the above is also in the French language. The story of this heroic Diehard is reminiscent to that of Horatius Cocles, the legendary hero of ancient Rome, who defended the bridge across the Tiber.

The station building is no more, but our numerous friends of the Regiment are ensuring the plaque remains, suitably mounted, on a special piece of ground near the site of the building. As Rene Langouche said, they will never forget.

The close of the ceremony was marked by the sounding of the Last Post, the Exhortation recited by Les Plumb and the Reveille. The remainder of the evening was personal and not ceremonial.

Next day, our contingent were invited to attend the church service in the Garrison Church at SHAPE. Special pews were allocated to our veterans. The church was full to capacity. To attend to the congregation were five sidesmen, three padres and an altar boy, a splendid organist and a melodious choir. The hymn singing by the young, robust, congregation of well dressed young soldiers who are hand-picked for employment at this first class establishment, accompanied by attractive, charming and in many cases, exquisitely dressed wives and teenage children, was an unbounded pleasure to see and hear. Here were youthful, vigorous Christians singing praises. A genuine pleasure for our age groups to enjoy.

Then followed the largest Communion I have ever seen. We advanced to the altar by pews. Scores upon scores. It was a most unusual sight, and one which the Heavenly host would see and nod in appreciation.

The Lesson was read by one of our Chelsea Pensioners, Charles Quinell, MM, a Royal Fusilier who quite often is seen on television. His enunciation was admirable, his delivery exceptional. It was as if we were listening to the story for the first time. The congregation craned forward in rapt attention after his first sentence.

The Padre, Lt Col S. I. McGee, RACHD, held us back after the service as our senior officer wished to have a word with us, but we eventually met him in the comfort of the coffee room. Gen Sir Jack Harman, GCB, OBE, MC, ADC, the DSACEUR (Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe), was very complimentary as were other senior officers with whom I chatted, and who strolled around speaking to quite a number of the Old and Bold.

A long story would need to be told to cover the travels of the contingent, but this, as far as possible, covers the MONS pilgrimage, and Mons only.

To bid us farewell at Ostende, was Maj Bill Lovell and Gilberte Lovell who made sure an ample supply of shrimps were available for the travellers to enjoy during the long ferry journey back to Dover.

In Mons, we were among old friends, at SHAPE, we were finding new ones of all nationalities all the time. The British contingent, the UKSU, could not do enough for us.

A pilgrimage that will remain in the memory of all who were privileged to be present.

MAJ DICK SMITH

NOTES

1. There were five awards of the Victoria Cross for the first day of battle, August 23, 1914. Lt Dease and Cpl Godley mentioned above, also Capt T. Wright, RE; Lcpl C. A. Jarvis, RE; and Cpl C. E. Garforth, 15th Hussars. Cpl Garforth, before joining the Regular Army, had been trained as a Cadet in the Middlesex Army Cadet Force.

No awards were recommended for Mons by Lt-Col C. P. A. Hull, the Commanding Officer of the 4th Bn Middlesex Regt. His view was that his battalion was trained during peace to be able to fight efficiently in war. If the Battalion fought well, that is how it should be. Should any member not do his utmost, he would be answerable to Amyat Hull. That is how it was.

One award was eventually made. The DCM to L/37376, Sgt C. E. English. It appeared in the *London Gazette*, 30.1.1920, when his Company Commander, Capt 'Gussey' Glass returned from captivity at the end of the war. Capt Glass had been wounded and made a POW at Obourg. The citation reads: '7376, Sgt Charles English 'D' Coy 4 Mx Regt. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty (Aug 23, 1914). During the defence of Obourg Railway Station, he displayed marked gallantry and set a fine

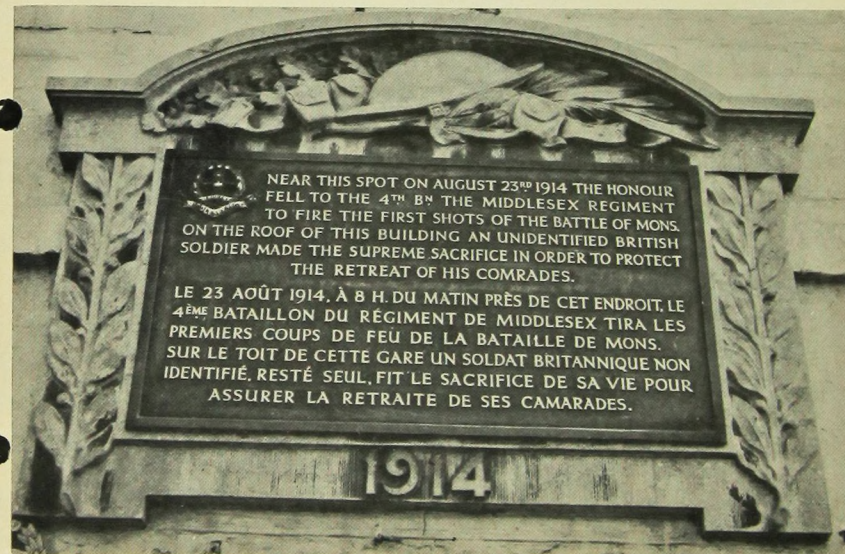
example to the men of his section under heavy shell and rifle fire. Later when ordered to fall back, he successfully held up the enemy on several occasions with a handful of men and eventually enabled some of the company to get back to Battalion HQ by engaging the enemy single-handed with accurate rifle fire.'

2. CSM Sinton's scarlet tunic of 1914 displays the military efficiency of the ideal infantryman. The badge of rank at this date for a CSM was three gold chevrons above the right elbow above which were crossed colours in velvet and gold wire (the CQMS wore the same badge—the crown and warrant rank was not introduced until 1915). At the point of the bottom chevron is crossed swords in silver wire, the qualification of an instructor in physical training. Above the point of the yellow cuff on the right sleeve is a star in gold wire, denoting an expert judge of distance. This was before mechanised and scientific aids such as range finders were in use. Above the point of the yellow cuff on the left sleeve is crossed rifles in gold wire surmounted by a star, denoting he was the best shot in the Company. Above this is a large badge in gold wire of a wreath of laurels within which are crossed rifles, the whole surmounted by a crown, the skill-at-arms badge of the best shot in the Battalion among the CSMs, the Csgts and Sgts.

Here was a soldier of experienced age and service, a senior ranks who could give a distinct order, a man physically fit, so essential for good rifle shooting, he could judge the distance at which his target was and was a skilled marksman who could hit that target.

What a soldier.

The bronze plaque shown below was originally sited on the wall of Obourg Railway Station. This plaque has now been erected on a memorial plot nearby



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