



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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LIEUT. GENERAL G. C. BUCKNALL
C.B., M.C., D.L., P.S.C., N.S.
COLONEL, MIDDLESEX REGT. 1952 - 1959

LIEUTENANT GENERAL GERARD CORFIELD BUCKNALL, CB, MC,
COLONEL OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO) 1952-1959.

When General Bucknall died on the 7th December, 1980, aged 86, the Regiment and its Old Comrades Association lost one of its most distinguished and respected members. Popularly known with affection as 'Gerry', he was held in the highest esteem by everyone.

Born on the 14th September 1894 at Courthope House in Wimbledon the General, as he became, was educated at Repton School in Derbyshire where his academic qualities and intellectual interests were quickly recognised and where he also excelled in most of the school's sports and games activities. It was no surprise therefore that he should join the Army and he was commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment from the Royal Military College, Sandhurst in February 1914. On the outbreak of the Great War he went to France with the 1st Battalion and was quickly in action at Mons in August of that year. He served with distinction throughout the war in France, including further front line action at the Battle of the Somme in July 1916 where the 1st Battalion suffered very heavy casualties, and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry in face of fierce enemy fire. He went on later to win a bar to this decoration and also was Mentioned in Despatches in 1917. At the end of the war he was Brigade Major, 114 Infantry Brigade in France.

After the war he spent two years on secondment to the Egyptian Army before rejoining the 1st Battalion for further regimental service in the UK and in Germany. It was as a student at the Army Staff College, Camberley in 1928 that his potential for higher command was recognised. Then, following appointments at the War Office, as a Company Commander at the RMC, Sandhurst from 1933-35 and later as a General Staff Officer at the RMC in Canada, he was an AQMG at the War Office when World War II broke out in 1939. The following year he was posted to the staff of 66th Division in France. After Dunkirk he was promoted Brigadier and Commander 138 Infantry Brigade. In July 1941 Gerry Bucknall became a Major General and commanded 53 Division. This was followed by a short spell as Commander 4th (Indian) Division in North Africa and after which he commanded the 5th Division in Sicily and Italy. In 1944 he became a Lieutenant General to command 30 Corps during the assault landings in Normandy and the Caen battle. His last appointment was as GOC Northern Ireland before retiring in March 1948.

The General was widely read and in particular was a student of military history but as well as his many intellectual interests, he was a countryman at heart and always a keen sportsman. Perhaps he obtained most pleasure from fly fishing, in which he was expert. In this respect his spell in Northern Ireland must have brought him many happy moments and pleasant memories. He was also a very keen and proficient golfer, playing off a low handicap and regularly successful at the Regimental Meetings. He was fond of animals - a first rate shot and an excellent horseman.

Following retirement he maintained his intense interest in regimental affairs and as Colonel of the Regiment for eight years from 1952, he conscientiously carried out a number of visits to inspect the Battalion wherever it was stationed and it was seldom that he did not attend the Reunions or other regimental functions. He had a great artistic appreciation for pictures and other memorabilia and several of his numerous presentations to the Regimental Museum and the Regimental messes can be seen today.

His honours included the CB which was awarded in 1943. He was President of the Middlesex County Association in 1965 and 1966, held the appointments of Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex from 1963-65 and Assistant Lieutenant Greater London from 1965-70. It was most fitting and appropriate therefore that Her Majesty The Queen sent her representative to attend the General's funeral which was held at St. Mary's Church, Wimbledon, nearby his old home, and was so well attended by many of his friends and Old Comrades. His greatest sorrows undoubtedly were the early death of his beautiful wife Kathleen, in 1945 and the loss of his second son Jeffrey killed in action in 1950 whilst serving with the Middlesex Regiment in Korea. He is survived by his elder son Robin and daughter Ann, and five grandchildren.

Although strictly brought up in the ideals of the Regular Army, the General, nevertheless, was something of an individualist. He was of distinguished appearance and appreciated the good things in life, but had an intense dislike for the flamboyant. He had a delightful, sometimes almost puckish, sense of humour and identified himself easily with the young officers to whom he was always particularly helpful. However it was his modesty and quiet manner, coupled with his unfailing courtesy and calm at all times and under all conditions by which he will be most recollected. Whatever and wherever the problem General Gerry could always be relied upon for his sound advice and wise counsel. He is sadly missed but proudly remembered by the Regiment for which he cared so much.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1982

- 14 Jan Regimental Museum Trustees Meeting, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3, at 5.30 p.m. Postponed.
- Mar Regimental Association Executive Committee Meeting at County Hall, London SE1, at 6 p.m. New date being arranged.
- 27 Mar 9th Bn Annual Reunion Dinner, Quality Inn, Victoria Street, SW1.
- 24 Apr 1/7th Bn (1939/45) Dinner at TA Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N8.
- 27 Apr Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society Spring Meeting, North Hants Golf Club Fleet.
- 14 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner, Cavalry & Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London WC2.
- 15 May Afternoon - 2.30 p.m. Albuhera Service of Remembrance, St. Paul's Cathedral.
Evening - Annual Reunion, TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Mx.
- 22 May 2/10th Bn Annual Luncheon at Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
- 1 Aug Queen's Regiment Reunion, based on 2 Queen's, Hyderabad Bks, Colchester.
- 4/7 Aug Colchester Searchlight Tattoo.
- 11 Sep Queen's Regt WO's & Sgts Past and Present Dinner, 1 Queen's, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.
- 1 Oct 2/7th Bn Annual Dinner at Victory Club, Seymour St., London W2.
- 5 Oct Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society, Autumn Meeting, North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.
- Oct Regt Association Church Parade at Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Date not finalised.
- 11 Nov 7th Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner, TA Centre, Priory Rd, Hornsey, N8.
- 13 Nov Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall and Westminster Abbey.
- 14 Nov 10 a.m. Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by Reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.
10.45 a.m. 7th Bn Remembrance Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony.
3 p.m. 2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St. Nicholas Church, Chiswick.

MUSEUM APPEAL

The Trustees of the Regimental Museum have recently initiated an Appeal which aims to raise sufficient capital funds to endow the Museum for the future and enable it to retain its independent status.

Phase I of this Appeal has been launched by Major General Sir John Willoughby who has written to over 1000 former members of the Regiment and to date the response has resulted in donations, including a generous contribution from the Queen's Regiment, totalling £4,178.00 and 65 covenants amounting to nearly £1,100.00 a year. These total sums are being invested which, together with the benefit of tax refunds allowed on the covenants, will produce a steady income for the Museum and which of course, will gradually increase during the period of the covenants. This is a most encouraging start and the Trustees wish to thank all those who have so generously given their support. Donations are still coming in and are most welcome as every contribution, however small, will help us ensure the future for our Museum.

Phase II is now being prepared by the Trustees. That is the wider Appeal to the public and institutions, etc., within the old County of Middlesex, who might reasonably be expected to be interested in preserving this part of the heritage of the County. It is anticipated that this Phase will go forward in the new year and happily we can now show that the old 'Die Hards' and their close associates are setting a fine example.

BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January to 31 December 1981, the sum of £3,702.70 was spent on assisting 73 members of the regiment.

DONATIONS TO THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Charitable Fund:

- (a) £150 from the Middlesex County Association in memory of the late Lt-Gen G.C. Bucknall, CB, MC, DL, the first President of the Middlesex County Association.
- (b) £25 from the members of the 2/7th Bn attending their annual dinner.
- (c) Mr. A.W.J. Brown (2/7th), Mrs. M.A. Brust, Mr. R.R. Chaplin, Major J.G. Chiverall, Mr. W.A. Cook, Mr. P.F. Dyer, Mr. E.J. Garner, Mr. A.C. Gill, Mr. W.R. Lee, Mr. P.F. Maloney, Col A.M. Man (in memory of the late Lt-Gen G.C. Bucknall), Capt J.R.C. Riseley, Lt-Col E.P. Shanks, Mr. A.J. Smith (2/7th), Mrs. Kathleen Taggart, Mr. L. Woodman.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

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

Mr. A.W.J. Brown (2/7th), Mrs. M.A. Brust, Mr. R.R. Chaplin, Major J.G. Chiverall, Mr. H.W. Daniels, Mr. P.F. Dyer, Mr. E.J. Garner, Mr. A.C. Gill, WOII (RQMS) J.P. Hamill, 3 Queens, Mr. H.B. Harris, Capt J.A.E. Howell, Mr. S. Hurlock, Mr. A.W.P. Kelly, Lt-Col H.P. Lambert, Mr. W.R. Lee, Mr. P.F. Maloney, Capt J.R.C. Riseley, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Lt-Col E.P. Shanks, Col R.D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Mr. A.J. Smith (2/7th), Mrs. Kathleen Taggart, Mr. L. Woodman, Mrs. A. Woolner.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Ceremony at the Field of Remembrance took place on Saturday, 7 November, and was well attended by many members of the Regiment and civil dignitaries headed by the Chairman of the Greater London Council, The Right Honourable John B. Ward, JP, and Mrs. Ward; The High Sheriff of Greater London, The Right Honourable Roy Constantine; The Mayors of the London Boroughs of Harrow, Haringey, Hillingdon and Hounslow; The Deputy Mayors of the London Boroughs of Barnet, Ealing, Enfield and Richmond upon Thames. The following senior officers were present: Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association, 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.

The ceremony commenced with a short service at the County Memorial situated in the entrance hall to the Middlesex Guildhall. The service was conducted by the Rev W.E.B. Jones, MA, Vicar of Ripley Parish, Nr Woking, Surrey, 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 Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE, and former Sgt L.T. Plumb.

The procession headed by S/Sgt B. Williams, followed by Mr. A.A. Moody, carrying the Regimental Association Standard, escorted by Chelsea Pensioners, Sgt C. Painter, I/P's F. Worton and G.R. Fulton, moved to the Regimental Plot at 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 Chairman of the Greater London Council, The Right Honourable John B. Ward, JP, to plant a cross, 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 & 4th Bns Col I.R. Burrows, OBE; 5th & 6th Bns Brig D.B. Rendell, CBE, MC; 1/7th Bn Mr. S. Platten; 2/7th Bn Lt A.E. Allchorne; 8th Bn Major R.A.J. Cheffins, MC; 9th Bn Mr. R.T. Meers; 10th Bns Mr. A.D. Scudamore, OBE, B(Middlesex) Company, 6/7th Bn The Queen's Regiment, Major P.A.D. Storie-Pugh.

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

1. The High Sheriff of Greater London, The Right Honourable Roy Constantine, escorted by Major P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment.
2. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet, Councillor B.C. Francis, escorted by Capt P.I. Roberts, B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment.
3. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Ealing, Councillor Norman Pointing, accompanied by the Deputy Mayoress Mrs. Pointing, escorted by an officer of B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment.
4. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Enfield, Councillor Miss Phyllis Oborn, accompanied by the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs. Gwendoline Milner, escorted by Capt W.B. Hammond, ERD, TD.
5. The Worshipful The Mayor of the London Borough of Harrow, Councillor Nan Rees, accompanied by her escort, Councillor Frank Rees, escorted by Major F. Webb, MBE, TD, Queen's Regiment.
6. The Worshipful The Mayor of the London Borough of Haringey, Councillor Collin Ware, accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs Ware, escorted by Squadron Leader R.J. Yerby.
7. The Worshipful The Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon, Councillor Gordon Sullivan, accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs. Sullivan, escorted by Lt D. Harwood, B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment.
8. The Worshipful The Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow, Councillor Mrs. Mary J.W. Smith, accompanied by the Mayoress, escorted by Company Sergeant Major D. Cadywould, B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment.
9. The Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames, Councillor R.G. Whittaker, accompanied by the Deputy Mayoress, Mrs. Whittaker, escorted by Lt A.M. Clement, B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment.
10. The President of The Middlesex County Association, His Honour the Hon Ewen E.S. Montagu, CBE, QC, DL, accompanied by Mrs. Montagu, escorted by Major M.L. Muirhead, TD, The Queen's Regiment.

The following crosses were also planted :

Bandsmen and Drummers Mr. A.E. Lewin; Royal Irish Regiment Mr. R.T. Boyce, MBE, BEM; In memory of Major L.T. Honeybun - Mr. G. Honeybun; In memory Sgt W. Poole, DCM, 2nd Bn Mr. L.T. Plumb.

The Chaplain then read the Collects of the Middlesex and Queen's Regiment and gave the Blessing.

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

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

On Wednesday, 4 November, Middlesex Regiment Badged Crosses were planted on the FEPOW Plot and the Korean Plot, by the Secretary.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The Regimental Association Remembrance Sunday Service was held on Sunday 8 November, in conjunction with the Postal and Courier Depot Royal Engineers, 12 Company Women's Royal Army Corps and B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment. The service was held in the Gymnasium, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, and the congregation was over 500.

This service was followed by the ceremony at the Regimental War Memorial. Both services were conducted by the Rev W.B. Pugh, C.F., Warden RACHD Centre, Bagshot Park, assisted by Deaconess P.H. Masterman. Major P.A.D. Storie-Pugh read the Lesson.

Following the sounding of 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' wreaths were laid by : Postal and Courier Depot RE, Col R.N.R.P. James; Regimental Association, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE; 12 Company

Women's Royal Army Corps, Major R.E. Cornwill; B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment, Major P.A.D. Storie-Pugh; Mill Hill Branch, Captain W.H. Craydon; 9th Bn Branch, Mr. A. Barnham; Hownslow Branch, Major R. Thornton, TD, Korean Club, Mr. R. Pile.

The Regimental Association 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 Dais was flanked by two Middlesex Chelsea Pensioners, Sgt C. Painter and I/P F. Worton.

The Middlesex Regiment contingent of Old Comrades was commanded by former Sgt L.T. Plumb, whose loud and clear words of command inspired our Old Comrades to march with pride.

The Church collection amounted to £101.50 and 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 T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware.

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

The Old Comrades Association of the 2/10th Battalion held their annual Remembrance Service at St. Nicholas' Church, Chiswick, on Sunday, 8 November. The Service which was well attended by Old Comrades, relatives and 'Friends of the 2/10th', was conducted by the Rev. Patrick Tuft, Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Association. Among those present were Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Middlesex Regimental Association (who read the Lesson), Col and Mrs. A.S.J. de S. Clayton and Major and Mrs. A.E.F. Waldron.

Poppy wreaths were laid on the Memorials to the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions, and on the Tablet to past members and 'Friends' of the 2/10th OCA. After the Exhortation from Lawrence Binyon's 'For the Fallen', 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' were sounded.

After the Service tea and refreshments were served in the Church Hall.

We set great store by this annual Service and appeal to anyone having affiliations with the 2/10th Battalion or with the Association to join with us each year in perpetuating the memory of this unit. Enquiries should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at Cleveland, Byes Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon.

A.D.S.

7TH BN - REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This year the Service of Remembrance was held at the Parish Church of the new combined parish of St Mary with St George, Cranley Gardens, on Sunday 8 November, where the Colours of the 7th Bn, the King's Colour of the 25th Bn and the Colour of The Hampstead Volunteers are now Laid Up.

The Service was attended by a number of ex-members of the 7th Bn and a Detachment from B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment, from Hornsey under the command of Capt P.I. Roberts.

The Book of Remembrance, 1939-45, of the 7th Bn was placed in the aisle at the West end of the church so that it was passed by all attending the Service.

The Act of Remembrance was led by Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, TD, saying the well known words "They shall grow not old" from the altar steps, and after the Silence wreaths were laid on behalf of the 7th Bn Officers Club by Maj M.J. Beaumont, TD; the Hornsey and Enfield DieHard Club by Mr. L. Woodman and by Capt P.I. Roberts for B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment; the wreaths were laid at the foot of the altar, as has been the custom for many years.

This was the first Remembrance Service of the new combined parish and afterwards a number of parishioners expressed their pleasure in having both serving and ex-serving Territorials present.

The Rector, the Rev Geoffrey Seabrook told me that he hoped that we had now set the tradition for future years.

A new chapel is shortly to be built at the church, which will become the 7th Bn War Memorial Chapel, thus replacing the one that we used to have in the old Parish Church of St. Mary in Priory Road, Hornsey, before the church was demolished, and in which the Colours, the Book of Remembrance and the Memorial Screen will have a permanent home.

D.E.S.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS CLUB

The 54th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club we held at the TA Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, N8, on Thursday, 5th November, 1981.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: Col A.C. Cole, Honorary Colonel, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment, Maj Gen B.P. Hughes, F/O J.A. Rook and Major R.W.J. Smith. The following members attended: Maj M.J. Beaumont, Lt S.A. Blausten, 2LT A.M. Clement, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Lt D. Harwood, Maj S.L.J. Henshaw, Maj R.J. Leighton, Maj E.J. Nash, Lt P.J. Ottimo, Capt P.I. Roberts, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Maj P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, Capt D.O. Mansfield Thomas, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Maj F. Webb, Lt D.K. Wray and Capt G.J. Young.

2/7th BATTALION OCA

Friday, 2 October 1981, saw us assembled once more at the Victory Club for our 35th Annual Reunion, under the chairmanship of Brig E.W.C. Flavell, who was in his usual splendid form.

We had hoped for an extra good turn-out for the 35th, but in the event we managed just two more than last year, with a total attendance of 64. This included Col Robbins, whom we were delighted to see, but who had nevertheless to obey doctor's orders and depart before we sat down to our meal.

We had the good fortune to have Col Chattey and Maj Waldron as our guests and now look upon them as old friends. We are grateful to them for finding the time to be with us.

In all, 36 members sent their apologies which means that there was a total response of 100, so next year I want to see all 100 present - how about it?

Among the apologies was one from Dick Merrell, who was off to France on holiday. With his apology was a poem which I understand may be reproduced elsewhere in this issue and which raised many a laugh when read to the assembled company.

We had our second best collection amounting to £220-50. As last year, it was decided to give £25 to the Regimental Association and to put the balance to the Battalion Benevolent Fund from which we send modest sums to some of our less fortunate old comrades as a reminder that they are not forgotten. It was also decided to donate £75 to the Regimental Museum Trust.

As always, members travelled from far and wide to attend, and as so often happens two members came whom we had not seen from some thirty years. This time it was Maj Edward Kyte and Ted Woldt. Let's hope some of you can induce some other long-time absentees to come along next year on Friday, 1 October 1982. See you then.

R.H.T.

THE SAGA OF HOWKIN'S MESS TINS

by Dick Merrell

Howkins' dilemma fills me with dismay
If Fairey* books him, he'll put him away.
It happened to Tebbs after Anzio,
He lost a fork, so he had to go.

Howkins, we know, is a man of honour
And even then was fond of his conna.
A resourceful man is what we find
He once laced his boots with bacon rind.

A great character, full of fun
We shared the dangers of the laundry run.
From Bilney to Swaffham and on the King's Lynn
Howkins was there, complete with mess tin.

He was reliable whatever the role
And for the battalion he played in goal.
And after each match, especially a win
Jacky was there complete with mess tin.

I'm sorry to say he's had such a long dance
Because I remember coming home through France.
He was embraced by de Gaulle and duly kissed,
And startled Jacky said "you must be pissed".

And in his haste to catch the train
He left his mess tins in the rain.
So I'm off to France to continue the search
For the mess tins he then left in the lurch.

This challenging task, I will not duck it,
If I miss those tins I'll bring him a bucket.

*C/Sgt Fairhead.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

Four major Regimental activities have occurred since our last bulletin in this Newsletter:

On 9-11 June, massed Bands and Drums from all Regiments in The Queen's Division plus Pipers and Drummers from The Ulster Defence Regiment affiliated to Queen's Division, Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade - a most impressive display by about 600 musicians. The 9th was "Queens's Regiment Night" and the Salute was taken by The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Col Sir Ronald Gardner-Thorpe, GBE, TD, DCL, a former CO of the Buffs (TA). Many old comrades gathered afterwards for drinks at the Royal Commonwealth Society.

On 8 July, the 2nd Bn (from Colchester), representing the Regiment, exercised our "Privilege" in marching through the City of London with Colours flying, drums beating and fixed bayonets. Representative parties from the Diehards and other OCAs took part and all were entertained to lunch afterwards in the Guildhall.

At Ardingly Show Ground (West Sussex) on 16 July, the 6/7th (V) Bn were presented with new Colours by Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk and all those who attended the parade were impressed by the high standard achieved by our TA soldiers and the excellence of the administrative arrangements.

Two days later, the last old Colours of our former Regiments - those presented to 4/5 RWK (TA) - were ceremoniously laid up in the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment Church at Maidstone.

The fourth major event was on 1 August, when the 1st Bn (Canterbury) exercised the Regiment's "Freedom" by marching through the City; and on the following day (Sunday), they sponsored our second Grand Reunion at Howe Barracks when some 2600 Old Comrades and their families enjoyed a well-organised gathering of the clans in fine weather.

The 3rd Bn (Lt-Col Richard Graham, MBE) has settled down well in Fallingbowl where the Colonel of The Regiment visited them at the beginning of September.

The 5th (V) Bn, whilst at Annual Camp in Zealand, Denmark (for Ex Amber Express) in mid September, were honoured by a visit from HM Queen Margrethe of Denmark, Allied Colonel-in-Chief.

In November, the 2nd Bn leave Colchester for a six-month unaccompanied tour in Cyprus and, looking further ahead, both that Battalion and the 1st are due for two-year tours as "Resident" battalions in Northern Ireland - the latter starting in November '82 and the former in January '83.

G.U.W.

DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

In August I was fortunate enough to be on holiday in Cyprus - my first visit since serving with the 1st Battalion there in 1957/58. My visit coincided with an Exercise being held by A Coy 1 Queens. Whilst standing beside the road in Episkopi, hoping for a lift, my prayers were answered. A Landrover with CSM Paddy Ryan at the wheel accompanied by C/Sgt Steve Howick stopped for me. Unaware that they were on the island it is easy to imagine my delight and surprise in seeing two old Diehards. It was Stanley and Livingstone all over again!

I was privileged to attend the first Queens Regiment WOs & Sgts Past and Present Dinner. This

painstakingly organised and expertly conducted occasion was held at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester, the home of 2 Queens, on Saturday, 12 September 1981. This is a most welcome innovation and I for one hope it will become an annual event. There were quite a few old Diehards present but room for many more on future occasions.

Major Ron Morris who was Quartermaster of the 1st Battalion for several years left the army on retirement on 28 October 1981. He returned to Bassingbourn the following day to be officially "Dined Out".

Another member of the Depot Staff about to leave on posting is Cpl Christopher Broome. After two years on the Officers Mess staff he has been selected to work for Maj Gen Akehurst at the Staff College, Camberley.

In October I received an unexpected visit from a Mr Tom Barter. After 35 years without any form of contact with the regiment he was given my name as a contact. We spent more than an hour together talking over his service with the Middlesex Regiment. Tom, as he is known, enlisted as a Diehard in Chester on 26 February 1942. In 1943 he was transferred to the 2nd Bn Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment. He served with the regiment in Normandy and was twice wounded. In January 1945 he was transferred to the RASC and eventually left the army in December 1946. Tom works as a compositor for the Sun newspaper and because of a heart condition is only allowed to work for two hours a day. He is a member of the Royal British Legion. Full details of Tom are - 6216714 Hugh Thomas William BARTER (Tom), 4 Middle Drift, Royston, Herts. It would give him the greatest pleasure to hear from any of his contemporaries. He is now a member of the Regimental Association and will definitely be coming to the annual reunion in May.

On a sad note I have to report that a dear friend, Capt George Cripps, has met with a serious road accident. As a result he received multiple injuries and was in intensive care for twelve days. He is due to have an operation today 30 November and is likely to remain in hospital over Christmas. George's address is - 12 Maes Derwen, Rhuddland, Clwyd LL18 2YH. George is now on the mend and was allowed to go home for Christmas but has now gone back into hospital.

Capt Ken Beale.

HONG KONG

The annual Liberation Day ceremony took place on Monday, 31 August, at the Shrine of the Garden of Remembrance, City Hall, Edinburgh Place, Hong Kong. This being the 36th anniversary of the liberation of Hong Kong from three-and-a-half years of Japanese occupation.

A guard of honour was provided by the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). The wreath laying ceremony commenced at 11 a.m. and were laid in the following order:

1. HKPOW Association: Chairman, Mr. Jack Mitchell, ISO.
2. Comd Brit Forces: Maj Gen J.L. Chapple, CBE.
3. Hong Kong Volunteer Memorial Fund: Chairman, Dr the Hon Sir Albert Rodrigues, CBE, ED.
4. The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers): The Hon. Col Oswald Cheung, CBE, QC.
5. Hong Kong Veterans Association of Canada: Canadian Commission.
6. The Middlesex Regiment (DCO): Ex Sgt C.D. Goddard, MM, BEM, 1st Bn. Former HKPOW, Shamshuipo.
7. The Royal Engineers: Mr. W.A. Melvin. Former FEPOW, Shamshuipo.
8. The Royal Hong Kong Regiment Volunteers Association: Lt-Col M.P. Barneby.
9. B.A.A.G.: Mr. Wilkie K. Wu.
10. The Royal British Legion: Chairman, Col H.A. de Barros Botelho, OBE, ED.
11. Second World War Veterans Association: Vice President, Mr. H. Chan.

12. Ex Gunners Roll of Hong Kong: Secretary, Mr. J.K. Dashwood.

The wreath laying was followed by the 'Last Post' played by buglers of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, then came the two minutes silence. Piper Neil Finlayson of the Queen's Own Highlanders played the lament 'Flowers of the Forest' in memory of the Royal Scots, this was followed by 'Reveille' and the salute - three volleys from the firing party of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment.

WOII J.A. Frost, BEM, former Diehard, serving as PSI to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), informs me that the visit to Hong Kong by Mr. Dougie Goddard and Mr. Melvin was without a doubt a tremendous success and that the Royal Hong Kong Regiment played a major role in looking after and entertaining both these gentlemen. Thank you Volunteers your hospitality is much appreciated by the Regimental Association.

WARRANT OFFICERS AND SERGEANTS PAST AND PRESENT DINNER 1982

The Past and Present Sergeants Mess Dinner will be held on Saturday, 11 September 1982, at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, and will be open to all serving and former WOs and NCOs of the Queen's Regiment and its founding Regiments. Those who have been commissioned are eligible to attend.

The Colonel of The Queen's Regiment and the Deputy Colonel (Chairman of The Queen's Regimental Association) hope, very much, that this dinner will be even more successful than the one sponsored by the 2nd Bn at Colchester in 1981.

The maximum seating capacity is 270; it is therefore essential that those who wish to attend should book now through the Chief Clerk (CSgt D.S. Bailes), 1 Queen's, Canterbury, Kent (or ring Canterbury 57411/Canterbury Military, Ext 236).

Tickets will be issued once payment has been received. If seats are not available money will be refunded immediately.

The cost of the dinner, including wine, will be £7. Cheques should be made payable to 'Central Bank, 1 Queens' and must accompany all applications.

Dress: Lounge suits, no medals.

Accommodation - Limited overnight accommodation is available. Applicants should state their requirements when warning in.

CHURCH PARADE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA.

Once again members of the Regimental Association attended the Church parade and service with the In Pensioners of the Royal Hospital on Sunday 11 October.

On parade were Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, President of our Regimental Association, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Secretary, Major R.W.J. Smith, who as usual commanded the parade of the old comrades for inspection by General Sir Robert C. Ford, KCB, CBE, the new Governor of the Royal Hospital, and 40 Old Comrades.

Mr. Stan Hurlock carried the Regimental Association Standard.

After the service, we moved to the Ladies Room in the Pensioners' Club where a buffet had been organised. Here we met two of our own Pensioners, Fred Worton and George Fulton. A most enjoyable morning which I am sure was enjoyed by all.

ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA, AND ROYAL STAR & GARTER HOME, RICHMOND.

The following former members of the Regiment are resident in these homes:-

Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Pte F.J. Cater (6196246)	Mx	1924-1934 1939-1946	Aged 71
L/Cpl G.R. Fulton (6974684)	RIF RIF Mx	1921-1924 1926-1929 1938-1947	Aged 78

Sgt C.E. Painter (6189311)	Mx	1916-1936	Aged 81
Pte A.W. Porter (490650)	Mx	1914-1918	Aged 88
Pte F.W. Worton (16101 & 6908155)	Mx	1915-1917	Aged 84
	Labour Corps	1917-1919	
	Rifle Bde	1919-1922	
	Welsh Regt	1923-1925	
	Mx	1925-1935	
Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond.			
Pte F.B. Blowers (6211727)	Mx	1940-1944	Aged 64
Pte J.E. Hillier (275)	Mx (17th Bn)	1915-1917	Aged 98

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator, Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE, 12 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London NW7 1LL.

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum :

Medal of Sgt. J. Griffiths, 77th Foot.

The medal for service during the Peninsula War 1808-1914 was awarded to Sgt John Griffiths, 77th Foot, with bar Ciudad Rodrigo. The date of presentation shown on the medal is 1848. Only 52 medals with Bar Ciudad Rodrigo were issued.

The medal was presented by Mrs. Mary Walker, Dene Acre, Craig Penllyn, Cowbridge, S. Glamorgan.

Medals of Private H.E. Morton (42239), 2nd Bn.

The medals of the late Private H.E. Morton (42239) consist of the Military Medal, British War Medal and Victory Medal 1914-1919.

The Military Medal was awarded for gallantry on 29 and 30 November 1917, whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion at Mosselmarct N.W. of Passchendaele.

Presented by his son, Mr. G.D. Morton, 2 Roger Harvey House, Court Road, Malvern, Worc.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Mr. B.J. Askew who served with the 9th Bn has moved from Harrow to Westbury, Wilts. He tells me that they are very happy in their new home.

A new member of the Regimental Association is Ex Private H.T.W. Barter (6216714). Details of his service have been outlined by Capt Ken Beale in his notes about happenings at the Depot, Queen's Division. Tom Barter was made a Freeman of the City of London on 1 March 1963.

A recent correspondent was Mrs. Flora M. Bechet, daughter of that well known DieHard, the late RSM Donoghue. She is still living in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, and sends warm greetings and Happy New Year blessings to all DieHards from members of the 'Donoghue' family.

Mr. Ernie Colebeck has retired from his appointment as Chief Clerk to B (Middlesex) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment at Edgware. When the Regimental Association office at Edgware closed on 31 December 1977, Ernie was carried across the passage to the TA office. He is now on holiday in Canada with Daisy spending the profits. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

Captain George Cripps was recently involved in a motor car accident and was badly injured. I am glad to say that he is making good progress and although still in plaster will, it is hoped, make a full recovery.

Major Pat Donovan writes to tell me that the landlord of his local, The Chequers at Hutton, Essex, has opened the 'DieHard Bar'. Pat presented a picture of Steady the Drums and Fifes, a Regimental Wall Plaque and a framed copy of the late Colonel M. Browne's message to the 1/8th Bn in 1941. These items are displayed over the fireplace in the bar. Pat, Jimmy Wild and Tom McMillan hold their Albuhera celebrations each year in this bar so it has been well and truly christened. Pat writes 'Needless to say the Old and Bold of the Essex Regiment had a lot to say but all is well now and the picture, plaque, etc., are very much admired by all who use the DieHard Bar. I was hoping to publish a photograph but it did not take to printing.

Another new member of the Regimental Association is Ex Private A.W. (Chunky) Francomb (6213440). His period of service was from June 1940 until November 1945. He was posted to the 1st Bn and D Company arriving on 10 April 1941 only to be taken POW on 25 December 1941. He served his time in Osaka Camp. He will also be remembered for his antics with the Bn Concert party.

I recently had a surprise telephone call from former Bandmaster Clive French who after much service as a DieHard qualified as a Bandmaster and was appointed to the Royal Hampshire Regiment. He retired in 1980 and moved to Chandlers Ford, Hants, where he teaches music. I might add he purchased a DieHard tie.

WO2 John Frost, BEM, Queen's Regiment, and a DieHard, at present PSI to The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), completes his tour of duty in May 1982. He has been selected for promotion to WO(RSM) and posting to the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Thank you from all DieHards for the wonderful work you and your family have done for the Middlesex Regiment during the past two years. We are indeed grateful.

Lt-Col Richard Graham who assumed command of 3 Queens in August 1981 recently visited Becklingen War Cemetery situated between Hohne and Soltau, North Germany. He placed a poppy on the grave of a DieHard, Major P.A.R. Anson, who was killed on 20 September 1944, whilst serving with the Airborne Forces.

Mr. James G. Hillier was admitted to the Royal Star & Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond, Surrey, on 8 July 1981. He served as No. 275 Private J.G. Hillier, 17th (Football) Bn from 11 October 1915 to 1 August 1917, and was discharged unfit for further service owing to war wounds. He is almost blind and deaf but very cheerful. He is 98 years of age. Mr. A.R. Drane very kindly visited him on behalf of the Regimental Association on 22 September 1981.

Major Kim Honess sends his regards to all old friends.

Mr. A.G. Horne who served with the 1st Bn 1946-52, including Korea, is now back in U.K. for possibly the next 2 1/2 years. He works for the Foreign Office and has recently completed tours in Brussels and Jakarta.

Mr. F.G. Hutchings, Ex WO2 Support Company, 7th Bn tells me that he is a collector of militaria and is very interested in our regimental museum. He sends his regards to all Old Comrades of the regiment wherever they may be.

The Rev. Guz Jones who was Chaplain to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Korea has been posted after 21 years as Vicar of St. Cuthberts, Wembley. As you know he very kindly conducts our annual Albuhera Service at St. Paul's Cathedral and the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster. He has been appointed to the Parish of Ripley, Nr. Woking. I suppose one could say he has not escaped our 'net' nor we his 'net'. I have heard that he plans a long stay at Ripley - another 'pontoon' in mind.

Capt Ian Kyle-Milward who served with the 1st Bn in Korea was a recent correspondent and told me of the pleasant memories he holds of service with the regiment. Sadly his youngest son, now aged 19, was injured in a car accident and is confined to a wheel chair for the rest of his life. Ian lives at Newquay, Cornwall.

Lt-Col Mike Legg, now The Defence Attache, British Embassy, Vienna, tells me that life is good, the natives are friendly, the work interesting, Vienna a most civilised place to live and that the social life is good. Sounds like paradise.

A recent newspaper read : An 86 year old Battle of the Somme veteran has died from his wounds. Mr. George Joseph Linthwaite, of Mansfield Road, South Croydon, who was gassed twice and received shrapnel wounds as a Private with the 16th Middlesex Regiment, died 'a victim of the King's enemy', it was recorded yesterday at his inquest in Croydon. A retired toolmaker, he had a defect in the skull caused by a shrapnel wound and long standing lung disease from gassing, said Dr. Rufus Crompton, a pathologist.

Mr. R.K. (Monty) Lowe, now living at Ryde, Isle of Wight, sends his best wishes to all his 'Old Pals' of the 1/7th and 9th Bns.

Mr. Tich Mellor who does a lot of voluntary work for the Cheshire Foundation tells me that two of the voluntary ambulance drivers are DieHards. One is Fred Worley who lives at Albuhera Close and the other is Derek Medland who served with the 1st Bn in Austria.

Major R.E.B. (Ron) Morris, recently retired has obtained employment with Hammersmith Council as

Emergency Planning Officer. Ron was QM of 1 Mx, 4 Queens and 1 Queens during the period March 1966 to June 1977. This was followed by a staff appointment with Berlin Garrison and finally as QM Depot Queens Division. Well done and all good wishes to you and your family with no emergencies.

Major Geoff Norton is due for retirement in May 1982. He has been offered an R.O. post with RHQ Para and will probably move back to Hampshire.

Ex Sgt Charles Painter (6189311), aged 81 years was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea on 24 August 1981. He served with the regiment from November 1916 to August 1936. When the second world war broke out he replied to an advertisement calling for machine gun instructors and he joined the RAF. He left in 1954 but because of his experience was quickly 'enlisted' by the Air Training Corps as an instructor at evening and weekend sessions. Charlie Painter comes from a family with a long history of service in the Armed Forces. His great-grandfather fought at Waterloo, his father was a soldier for 34 years and his brother, the late RSM Jack Painter, was a DieHard for 36 years.

Major Barry Reed is off to Hong Kong on the 14 January on a business trip.

Major Cecil Scott acts as Honorary Liaison Officer for the Army Benevolent Fund and visits homes for ex service personnel over various parts of the country, including Scotland, which keeps him fairly busy.

A newly enrolled member of our Association is Ex L/Cpl B. Sculpher (6923515). His period of service was from December 1940 to October 1946. His service commenced with the Rifle Brigade, then on to the KRR's eventually joining the 2/7th Bn and B Company in 1942 with whom he served until demobilization.

Mr. Fred Shepherd has recently been admitted to hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Colonel Ronald Sherbrooke-Walker writes to say that he is very sorry that he cannot attend the various functions nowadays as he is not as mobile as he used to be but the DieHards Newsletter keeps him in touch with people and events. He sends his greetings to all fellow DieHards.

I recently had a letter from an old DieHard who has been a resident at the Royal British Legion Maurice House, Westgate on Sea, Kent, since 1973. He is Edward Smith who enlisted in the 17th (Footballers) Bn and was later posted to the 3rd Bn. He is now 89 years of age. He tells me he was employed by the Trueform Boot and Shoe Company for 45 years and at one time managed 3 shops. He also had five brothers who served in the regiment during the first world war.

A recent correspondent was CSM Tom Steward who told me that Steffie and himself had enjoyed their trip to China, Hong Kong and Macau earlier this year. They are spending the Christmas and New Year in Vienna.

Colonel Max Summers wrote to tell me how sorry he was that he would be unable to attend the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster and very kindly send a 'Defaulters Cheque' towards the cost of the function. Thank you for your very generous gesture.

Mrs. Kathleen Taggart, widow of Lt-Col E.L. Taggart, MC, who died in 1976 wrote to say how sad she was to hear of the death of Brig Baker. She wrote 'With the passing of the Brigadier I feel I have lost the last link with the officers of the 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment of World War 1. My husband being with the Brigadier at the Occupation of Douai and Passchendaele, they were great friends, also my husband being Secretary of the 'Officers Reunion Dinner' for so many years. I had the honour of meeting them all and what wonderful and loyal friends they were.'

Maj Gen Sir John and Lady Willoughby attended the Glovers' Company Livery and Ladies Dinner held at the Mansion House on 20 October 1981. They were guests of the Master, Major Barry Reed.

Ex Private R.A. Wilson (22153828) has joined the Regimental Association. He was a National Serviceman June 1949 to June 1951. He served in Korea with the 1st Bn in the Signal Platoon, B and D Companies. He now works as a compositor.

Mr. Len Woodman, 1/7th Bn sent me some very interesting photographs of the Milsbeek War Cemetery at GEMENEBEST. These will in due course be passed on to the Regimental Museum.

OBITUARY

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

BAKER - On 13th October 1981, Ex Cpl Stanley Baker (2852), aged 86 years.

He served with the 2/7th Bn 1914-18. He had been a member of the Regimental Association for many years.

BENNETT - On 9th June 1981, Mr. T.R. Bennett, aged 86 years.

Tom Bennett joined the 9th Bn at Pound Lane Drill Hall in 1914. The 9th Bn moved to India and whom he saw service in the Dardanelles campaign. He was later posted back to the 9th Bn and served at Mesopotamia and in 1919 on the North West Frontier of India. The 9th Bn Old Comrades Association was formed in 1921 and Tom Bennett took an active part in its inception. In 1960 he became Treasurer and continued with this duty until his death. He will be sadly missed. He leaves a widow who is now blind. Mr. Reg Meers, the Branch Secretary, is keeping in close touch with Mrs. Bennett.

CARVELL - On 11th September 1981, Major Charles Frederick Carvell (L9832, 6188415, 36344) aged 93 years.

The majority of his other rank service was with the 3rd Bn before and during the First World War and up to their disbandment in 1922. On 16th September 1926 he was granted a Regular Quartermaster commission with the Royal Sussex Regiment, retiring as a Major Quartermaster on 10th September 1940.

Major R.W.J. Smith represented the regiment at his funeral.

CLARKE - On 14th November 1981, Mrs. Ivy Clarke, aged 81 years.

Ivy Clarke was the widow of Major L.F. Clarke, 3rd Bn, who died on the 8th January 1960. Ivy Clarke was a great stalwart of the WO's and Sgts Branch and regularly attended regimental functions.

CLYDE - On 9th September 1981, Ex Sgt Harry Clyde, aged 62 years.

He served with the Royal Engineers and was a Honorary member of the Mill Hill Branch.

DAVIES - On 19th October 1981, Ex Private William Ewart Davies (G/99114), aged 82 years.

Served with the 20th and 2nd Bns during the period 14th April 1917 - 1st March 1919.

GILYATT - On 3rd March 1981, Ex WO1 (Bandmaster) William James Gilyatt, MBE, aged 83 years.

Sadly he was knocked over by a car whilst crossing the road and died from his injuries. His service reads - First World War 1914-18, 1/7th Bn 1936-40. Home Guard 1940-45. 7th Bn 1949-56. Band Sgt 1951 and later promoted Bandmaster. Highgate School CCF, Caretaker and Bandmaster 1958-63.

IRVING - On 7th September 1981, Mr. Richard Irving (L14109) aged 87 years.

He was admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home on 14th June 1965, where he remained until his death.

He served with the 2nd Bn 1911-16, was then transferred to the RNF and also saw service with the Army Cycle Corps. He was discharged on 8th November 1918.

Mr. A.R. Drane represented the regiment at his funeral.

LAPRAIK - On 3rd November 1981, Captain Douglas Fairlie Lapraik, DFC.

Captain Lapraik joined the 2/10th Bn at Ashford in 1914, serving with that Bn throughout Suvla, Egypt and Palestine. Mr. A.D. Scudamore, President of the 2/10th OCA, tells me that Captain Lapraik was his Machine Gun Officer and at one time saved his life. He later transferred to the Flying Corps where he became a Squadron Leader and was awarded the DFC. He lived at Guernsey and information about his death came to me from Lt-Col Ernest Shanks.

LETTS - On 13th April 1981, Ex Private Victor Clarence Letts (6209236), aged 65 years.

Served with the 1/7th Bn 1940-46. His son tells me that his father was always very proud to have been a DieHard and to have served with the 51st Highland Division.

MASON - On 28th July 1981, Ex WOII (CSM) Angus McKenzie Mason (20101 and 6190630), aged 79 years.

He enlisted in 1919 and served with the 1st Bn, 2nd Bn and Depot, his last posting was as PSI to the East Surrey Regiment at Kingston, being discharged on 9th October 1945. He was in possession of the following medals - Defence and War Medal, LS&GC and the MSM with gratuity. Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE, attended his funeral.

McEWAN - On 29th August 1981, Captain William McEwan, aged 70 years.

He commenced his war time service on 17th October 1940, joining 342 Machine Gun Training Centre. In 1941 he was selected to attend 170 OCTU and at the end of the course was commissioned to the Cheshire Regiment. This was followed by various postings and staff appointments and he was discharged in November 1945. He was a School master at Blair Atholl. Maj Gen C.M.M. Man represented the regiment at his funeral.

MERLOCK – On 24th January 1981, Ex Private Henry (Olaf) Merlock (6700565) aged 68 years. He enlisted on 6th February 1933 and on completion of recruit training joined the 2nd Bn at Colchester. He was posted to the 1st Bn in November 1935 being a member of the 'Save Egypt draft'. Olaf was taken POW with the 1st Bn in 1941 and was a member of the first draft of POWs to be moved from Hong Kong to Japan. Repatriated to the UK in 1945 he was finally discharged on 6th October 1950.

MORAN – On 8th June 1981, Ex Sgt James William Moran (6203237), aged 62 years. He enlisted 4th September 1936 and after recruit training joined the 2nd Bn and on 1st September 1938 was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. On the 12th November 1941 he left the 1st Bn and Hong Kong with a special draft resulting in him seeing service in India with the KOYLI and Queen's Royal Regiment. He arrived back in UK on 20th February 1944, being transferred to the Reserve on 17th May 1946. On 14th August 1947 he re-enlisted and was posted to the Depot. In 1953 he was posted to the 1st Bn in Austria and in 1955 rejoined the Depot and after 43 days was posted back to the 1st Bn then in Cyprus. He was finally discharged on 10th December 1960. Jim Moran, a very good boxer, was destined to be a No. 2, for example in October 1950 he was beaten very narrowly on points by Pte Tock, the ABA Heavy Weight Champion and then by E. Danks the Northern Counties Champion and lost the Army Heavy Weight Championship by the same margin. He came on the boxing scene after the war at a difficult age for a boxer - over 30. He gave the regiment a lot of glory and enjoyment and we are proud of his achievements. Jim we salute your memory.

PIKE – On 28th August 1981, Captain E.J. Pike, aged 66 years. He commenced his service in 1939 by joining the T.A. and was posted to the 8th Bn and B Company. At the outbreak of the war in 1939 the 2/8th Bn was formed around B and D Companies from the 8th Bn. Ernie Pike moving over with B Company served throughout the war with the Bn. On the 28th May 1942 the 2/8th Bn assumed the title 2/8th and Resuscitated 1st Battalion. He was promoted WOII (CSM) on 19th February 1944. In 1946 he was stationed at Rendsburg with the 1st Bn and he signed a regular engagement for 12 years. A little later B Company became the Demonstration Company at Warminster. He was promoted WOI (RSM) on 21st August 1954 and was posted to the 7th Bn at Hornsey. In 1957 he was granted a Short Service Quartermaster Commission and was posted to the Aden Protectorate Levies and in 1959 joined the 7th Bn, this time as Quartermaster. This was followed in 1961 with a posting to the 6th Bn African Rifles and on completion of his tour of duty in 1963 joined the Home Counties Brigade Depot. His stay was short and he was posted to the 3rd (TA) Bn The Border Regiment and eventual retirement in 1965. For a number of years he was a member of the Regimental Housing Sub Committee. Ernie Pike was a very staunch and true DieHard. He was intensely loyal, reliable and respected officer beloved by those with whom he served. He leaves a widow, Erica and two sons, to whom we give our deepest sympathy. The Regiment was represented at his funeral by Col W.D. Ellis, Major A.E.F. Waldron and Mr. W. Gould (former CSM with the 2/8th Bn).

SALMON – On 18th August 1981, Captain A.H. Salmon, aged 85 years. Captain Salmon saw service with the HAC (Inf - 2nd Bn) and Machine Gun Corps 1914-18. On 20th October 1939 he was commissioned to the Middlesex Regiment and promoted Lieutenant. He was posted to 1st Kensingtons joining from the Depot, together with the late Colonel F. Walden. On arrival Captain Salmon was appointed 2IC D Company. He was taken prisoner on 12th June 1940 with A and D Companies at St Valery. Pages 38 and 39 of "The Kensingtons" reads – 'Thus at 1000 hours on Wednesday, 12th June 1940, the 51 Division with A and D Companies, Kensingtons, game to the last, but with the dice loaded to heavily against them, laid down their arms, and a Major General Rommel (whom the Allies were to hear of again later), commanding a German armoured division, drove into the town.'

SARL-WILLIAMS – On 30th September 1981, Captain Thomas Sarl-Williams, aged 91 years. Captain T. Sarl-Williams served with our 16th Public Schools Bn in the 1914-18 War. He was wounded three times and wrote a history of the 16th Public Schools Bn which he presented to the Museum. He was a very highly esteemed member of the City of Chester. He was Alderman, Sheriff and Mayor of the City of Chester 1963-64. A Freeman of the City of Chester his varied activities included Past President of Chester Football Club, Chairman of the United Charities Society and Trustee of the Chester Municipal Charities.

He was for very many years a member of our Regimental Association. Lt-Col H.A.A. Howell, now 83 years of age, a former member of the regiment and himself Mayor of Chester 1965-66, attended the Memorial Service and represented the Regiment.

OBITUARY

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Harris Linsell Sugden,

New Zealand Staff Corps and sometime 2nd Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO)

Those who served with this universally popular New Zealand officer will be much saddened by news of his death in the spring of this year at Taradale, Napier, aged 86. Before the war he had spent two years on secondment in India serving for a period on active service on the North West Frontier and the 2nd Middlesex in Madras from whom he was, so to speak, married to his wife Winifred in 1929. He was seconded for a further period in the mid-thirties, attending courses in the United Kingdom and again serving with the 2nd Battalion.

On returning to New Zealand he was appointed Chief Instructor in Small Arms at the military camp of Trentham and on the outbreak of war he played a leading part in the Officer Training organisation.

In December 1941, on the outbreak of the Japanese War, he was given command of the New Zealand 37th Battalion, which he commanded with great distinction in the South West Pacific theatre. He will perhaps be best remembered by Old Comrades in his Home Country by his part in the recapture from the Japanese of the Solomons Island of Vella Lavella during September 1943. Here an U.S. Army Division, having succeeded in gaining a foothold on that island, rapidly got into difficulties and was forced onto the defensive. Colonel Sugden's battalion with the 34th Battalion landed as reinforcements and together at once took the offensive in a pincer movement round the coast on each side of the island in a series of outflanking moves, with the almost non-existent support of landing craft; and within two weeks had driven the last Japanese soldier off the island.

During this operation, by chance, the writer found himself in an assault landing craft with Colonel Sugden, the last occasion of having travelled together being marching with B Company down the unending road from Stockbridge to Salisbury during pre-war manoeuvres.

During this campaign Colonel Sugden contacted chronic amoebic dysentery from which he never fully recovered, though he was able to fulfill his long desire of settling in a home of his own with his family and his garden and adored flowers. He was given a military funeral, and is survived by his wife, four children, twenty grand children and one great-grandchild.

STONE ON VICTORIA PEAK, HONG KONG

For many years a large stone engraved 25th Bn Middlesex Regt, "Tyndarous" Feb 6th 1917, has existed on the side of the road at Victoria Peak, Hong Kong. To the many visitors and passers by the inscription as always remained a mystery.

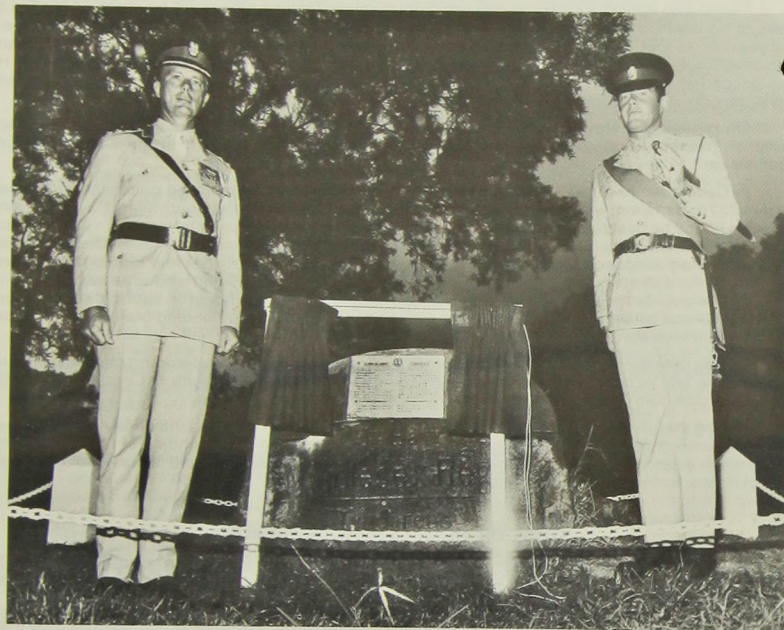
The Antiquities and Monuments Section of the Hong Kong Urban Services have decided that a brass plaque should be mounted on the stone giving the history and background and that the inscription would be in English and Cantonese. The Middlesex Regiment Cap Badge is shown at the top of the brass plaque and the inscription reads:

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

This stone was erected by Lieutenant Colonel John Ward, Commanding Officer, in memory of those men of the 25th Battalion, The Middlesex Regiment, who died when the troopship TYNDAREUS struck a German mine off Cape Agulhas, South Africa, on 6th February 1917. The Battalion had embarked in England and were en route for Hong Kong to carry out garrison duties. There is no doubt that the exemplary conduct of all ranks after the accident contributed in considerable measure to the Master's ability to prevent his ship from sinking with further loss of life.

The 1st Battalion of the Regiment subsequently fought with distinction during the defence of Hong Kong – December 1941.

The unveiling ceremony took place on 28 September in pouring rain. Buglers from The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) sounded the Last Post; Colonel J.G.W. Davidson, The Queen's Regiment, then made a short speech giving the history of the incident before unveiling the plaque. The buglers then sounded Reveille. Apart from members of the Hong Kong Government and the Antiquities and Monuments Department as well as some members of the public, Lt-Col M.P. Barneby the Commanding Officer and others of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) were also present. The latter included WO2 Frost who originally enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment and is currently a PSI with The Volunteers.



Col J.G.W. Davidson and WO2 John Frost, BEM after the unveiling of the Tyndareus Memorial Stone.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY - AUTUMN MEETING

This meeting was held on Tuesday, 6 October 1981, at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet. The detailed results, each over 18 holes, were as under :

STABLEFORD FOURSOMES (morning)

Lt-Col T.W. Chattey and Capt P.S. Ingham

(Winners Jay Cup)

Maj A.R. Bisset and Capt R.J. Tarrant

(Runners-up)

Mr. and Mrs. D. Miles

Maj P.D.H. Marshall and Lt P.H. Skinner, RNVR

Mr. A. Torrie and Mr. E. Johnson

Maj H.E. Couch and Maj W.H. Grogan

Score

37

31

30

30

24

23

STABLEFORD SINGLES (Afternoon)

Capt P.S. Ingham (Winner Horton Cup)

Lt-Col T.W. Chattey (Runner-up)

Maj H.E. Couch

Mr. D. Miles

Maj W.H. Grogan

Mr. A. Torrie

Maj P.D.H. Marshall

Lt P.H. Skinner, RNVR

Mr. C. Murphy

Mr. E. Johnson

Capt R.J. Tarrant

Maj A.R. Bisset

29

27

24

23

NR

NR

NR

NR

NR

NR

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The afternoon session was marred by a sustained down pour which flooded the course and caused the 'NR's' to run for the Clubhouse. The four competitors who carried on regardless were the heroes of the day and deserved the applause they received on "swimming" into the Clubhouse. Before asking Mrs. Merle Miles to present the prizes Lt-Col Tom Chattey thanked everyone for the continued support that they gave to the meeting. Our numbers were down but apologies were received from the following members - Brig Godfrey Lerwill, Col Aymar Clayton, Charlie and Nora Holdford, Doug Matthews, Capt Don Carson and his son Peter, John Tarrant, Col John Shipster, Col Ian Burrows, Tom Jones, Lt-Col Hugh Lohan, Col Max Summers and our thanks for the sponsor cheque that he kindly sent. Sadly Lt-Col John Worton was unable to be with us as his wife, Tossie, has not been well for some time and John was nurse, cook, etc. Tossie we send our best wishes for a speedy recovery and we do hope to see you at the Spring Meeting. Lt-Col Norman Clayden called in before leaving with Jean on a business trip. I believe he was looking for the bear on Hackney Marshes.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Spring Meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

We can all be proud of the letter below from Lieutenant Colonel Rex Fendick, a Canadian Officer who served with our 2nd Battalion in Normandy and thereafter during 1944 and 1945 under a scheme known as CANLOAN, by which the Canadian Army loaned so many officers to us, who proved second to none. At this time all Canadian Officers knew that capture by any German SS Unit meant certain execution in revenge for the Canadian raid on Dieppe in August of 1942. Will any who knew Rex Fendick please write to him as he has asked. He would so appreciate it.

From: Lieutenant Colonel R.F. Fendick, C.D.,
RR2, Hampton, New Brunswick,
Canada EOG 1Z0.

20th September, 1981

It was a great surprise to receive your letter in response to my recent donation to the Museum fund. While I had no idea my gratuitous questions would prompt any reply, I am delighted that you have taken the trouble.

I'm not sure you or others of the Regiment can quite appreciate the attachment which I feel for The Regiment and those with whom I served. When the Canloan scheme came up, those of us who volunteered were for the most part serving in (second line) units, in Home Defence Role (which in Canada in those days meant little but boredom). The British Regiments, with which we served in action became our real military home, and I suppose no soldier, including long service Regulars, can ever have the same feeling for any other unit after he has been a member in action. As you probably know, we CANLOAN have formed our own association, and our Reunions continue to acknowledge and commemorate our British Regiments and Divisions in a very positive fashion. I'm sure you will find no stronger spirit in any of the Regimental Associations in Britain than is demonstrated by our members on behalf of all the Regiments, at our gatherings.

This is just by way of explaining why I take such an interest in any doings of The Middlesex of which I can hear, at this distance. I only wish I could be closer, and participate directly. But I'll always presume to consider myself a DieHard.

Your background on The Museum was most interesting, and I hope you will be able to continue with the exclusive Regimental establishment at Bruce Castle. It is a fine Memorial to the Regiment, and

deserves every effort to ensure its continual life. Those who have worked to create and maintain it have made a tremendous contribution to the Regiment.

Again, many thanks for your most considerate letter. If in your contacts with old DieHards, you learn of any who served with me in 2nd Bn, 44-45, I would be delighted to hear from them or to see them if they are coming to this part of the world.

Most sincerely,

Rex Fendick

From: Colonel W.D. Ellis, OBE, TD, DL,
Lea Barn,
Winter Hill,
Cookham Dean, Berks.
19th November, 1981

Dear Editor,

Out of the blue I received a letter from Paul Francia who volunteering in 1942 was posted to the 70th Middlesex Young Soldiers Battalion and then to 2/8th and resuscitated 1st Battalion seeing active service with them in Normandy as a No. 2 on the 4.2-inch Mortar in D Company. During the static period closing up on to the Maas he was sent to an ophthalmologist and was evacuated to U.K. being blind in one eye. In 1959 he lost the sight of his other eye and entered St. Dunstons for rehabilitation. There he took a degree and became a Senior Lecturer. He is now turning to writing and is researching in to the role of D Company 1 Mx in the 1944/45 North West Europe Campaign and the part of the 4.2-inch Mortars.

I have given him the address of Capt J.H. Gerrard, CBE, MC, who has just retired from the position of Deputy Commissioner Metropolitan Police but he would like to hear from anyone else who can relate any personal experiences during this period. His address is: Cannon Green Lodge, 10 Blount Road, Pembroke Park, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 2TD.

Yours sincerely,
Desmond Ellis

Editor - To the former members of D Company, put on your thinking caps, and do help if you can.

From: L.M.F. Dyer,
I.D.A. Education Project,
Private Bag 315,
Chichiri,
Blantyre 3, Malawi.
31 July 1981

Dear Major Waldron,

You may wish to forward the enclosed photo to Sgt Kehoe's next of kin should you be able to locate them. As you may know I have lived in Malawi for 12 years or so, and it wasn't until recently that I discovered the grave of this fellow DieHard.

The grave is situated in a delightful little cemetery in Zomba, the capitol of Nyasaland, and the home of the K.A.R.'s now the Malawi Rifles. All the graves are very well maintained, and when I first found this cemetery the entire ground was covered with fallen blossoms which looked really beautiful, unfortunately I did not have my camera with me on that occasion.

With your approval I would like to place a Poppy wreath on the grave next Armistice Sunday and inscribe it from 'All DieHards of the O.C.A.', naturally this will be at my expense.

Yours sincerely,
L.M.F. Dyer.

Editor's comment: Can any reader give me any information about the late 1784978 Sgt J. Kehoe, The Middlesex Regiment attached King's African Rifles. Died 27 June 1946, aged 32 years. His Army number is one that was allocated to the Royal Artillery. L.M.F. Dyer served as 6206162 2/8th and 1st Bn and was known as 'Deadly Dyer'.

Permission was granted for the laying of a Poppy wreath.

From: Mr. D. Matthews,
64 Albuhera Close,
Lavender Hill,
Enfield, Mx.

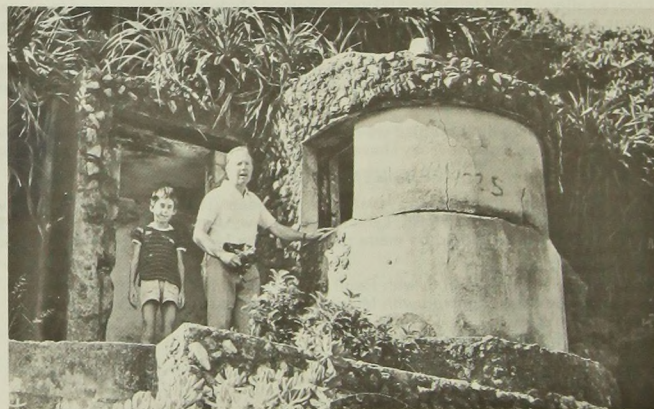
Dear Major Waldron,

I was a bit apprehensive about taking my wife, Mary, to Hong Kong after seeing several films and a series on T.V. about the work of the Hong Kong Police. I had booked with P & O for flight by Cathay Airlines and bed only at Lee Gardens and neither could have been better. A bonus that all visitors get until March 1982 when their attachment to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment is over is the help of WO2 John Frost, Marion and their two young lads, Richard and Michael. Other visitors have sung their praises and both Mary and I are only too happy to join the chorus. They really are superb and contribute so much to make your visit so enjoyable.

Other people have said how much as changed but I found it for the better. Gone are dozens of kids begging at every corner. Almost gone are old men and women rattling an old tin for coppers. The city is still full of people but they are a younger generation, smart and clean and as usual seem to be running everywhere but I get more pushes in Tesco's every week than all the time I was there. My old Pillbox was at Little Sheko Beach and I shall never forget the feeling when I walked across the sands and saw it had survived 40 years. The Pillbox had received a direct hit but the back wall still stood. The searchlight turret was amazingly intact and was cleaner than the day we evacuated in a hurry in 1941. On several beaches there still are Pillboxes more or less intact. The development has been confined to all along the water front facing Kowloon and many of the beaches are not as built up as one would have thought. The New Territories have been carved up that it is impossible to recognise what once was rice fields. We tried to find the camp site at Fanling but the race track had vanished. What can be seen is our cap badge standing out among the nine badges on the hill, again the work of that ex DieHard, John Frost, whose Chinese Volunteers help in keeping the badge looking great.

We visited both cemeteries and wandered around every grave and I am not afraid to say that a few tears fell at both cemeteries. They are very well looked after by a gardener who has a book which visitors can see and add their name to the others already there. One name I found was that of an old friend, Ex Sgt Alf Bailey, who had called into Hong Kong just for a day and had the time to go and pay his respects.

Our 8 days went far too fast and we came away very sorry to leave and wishing we had booked for a month.



Ex Sgt Doug Matthews visiting his old Pillbox 40 years later
accompanied by the son of WO2 John Frost.

ALBUHERA REVISITED

by WO2(RQMS) J.P. Hamill

As a member of the Queen's Regiment and a former DieHard, I have wanted for a long time to visit the monument to the heroes of Albuhera (spelt Albuera in Spanish). At last, this year (1981), the opportunity arose.

During my posting in Hong Kong I had the privilege to meet a Major in the Portuguese Army, who at that time, was stationed in the Portuguese territory of Macau. Lt Col Gomes Da Silva as he is known invited myself and family to visit Lisbon on his return to Portugal, which we did during August.

Among the many sights we visited we managed our trip to Albuhera.

Our coach left Lisbon at 7 a.m. which meant an early call at 5.30 a.m. much to the disgust and grumbling from my very reluctant family. Armed with at least two dozen ham rolls and large bottles of drink we left Lisbon for the Spanish border town of Badajoz. The miles rolled away revealing vineyards, farms, villages and small towns with houses painted pink under red tiled roofs; there were also colourful gardens and windmills standing among parched fields. Our 150 mile journey took about 4.1/2 hours as the roads were so narrow.

We crossed the border about five miles west of Badajoz encountering no problems with customs or emigration on entry to Spain. The tour which we had taken was going on to Oleveta for a shopping trip so we left the coach in Badajoz and went in search of a bus to travel the 14 miles to Albuhera. Trying to find a bus was impossible because of the language problem so, being anxious to visit the monument and be back in Badajoz in time to rejoin our tour for the return journey to Lisbon, we hired a taxi. After much arm waving and pointing at the map we convinced the poor taxi driver we really did want to visit the sleepy town of La Albuera. Imagine my surprise when, as we set off I noticed the tripometer on the speedo read 18577, the last three figures being significant.

The journey was fast and rather hairy. We travelled past fields of sunflowers and arrived at the village of La Albuera in about twenty minutes.

Having discussed with the driver our collection from the village (more arm waving, pointing at watches etc) we set off in search of the monument to the Battle. It was our daughter Paula, who found it. The village itself is small with one main street and a number of small side streets, all the houses being painted white with red roofs. The monument is in the village square and stands about 15 feet high. It is in the form of an arch with the bust of the Spanish General in the centre. The village was deserted as it was siesta time, so after walking round and taking numerous photographs we retired to a local bar. As to whether it was a descendant of the one which our forefathers from the 57th of Foot retired after the Battle we are unsure, but the ale was welcome after the hot sun.

Our taxi duly arrived so we bid a fond farewell to La Albuera and returned to Badajoz, spending the afternoon sightseeing in the town. We then boarded our coach and returned to Lisbon and the home of our host.

The trip was exhausting but I am glad we made it and feel proud that each time I see the picture 'Steady the Drums and Fifes' I can now say I have stood on the ground where 'they' stood their ground.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available for purchase. These can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE. Cheques/Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Badges, Blazer, Middlesex	£4.50 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with Regtl emblazon	£8.00 each
Glass, Whisky tumbler, engraved with Middlesex Regiment badge	£3.00 each
Heraldic Shields, Middlesex	£7.50 each
Ties, Regtl, Old Pattern, Terylene	£1.75 each
Ties, Regtl, New Pattern, Terylene	£1.75 each
Ties, Officers' Club, Silk	£2.40 each
Christmas Cards -	
Steady the Drums and Fifes	£0.17 each
The Guardroom Scene	£0.17 each

Note - other types of glass can be obtained providing at least one dozen are ordered. Prices will differ - enquiries are welcome. It is hoped that lapel badges will be available soon. Price will be £2.00 each (estimate).

COLCHESTER TATTOO

The 1982 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo will be held from 4th to 7th August. The Producer and Director is a former regular officer of the Regiment, Major Philip Crutchfield, who will be remembered by many members.

This Tattoo will be the biggest and most spectacular ever presented, not only in Colchester - but in the United Kingdom and Europe. There will be 20 Regular Army Bands - 7 of which will be from the Queen's Division. There will be a further three other Bands, including one from Holland. The programme will be approximately 3 hours and will reach a climax when some 1500 musicians and participants enter the Arena for the Grand Finale. Accompanying the music will be a magnificent fireworks display synchronised with Elgars 'Pomp and Circumstance'.

Further details later.

THE EX-SERVICE FELLOWSHIP CENTRES

PART III HOMES FOR EX-SERVICEMEN

It is wished to bring to your attention the two Part III Homes administered by the Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, a registered Charity. These Homes accept as permanent residents ex-members of the Armed Services and Merchant Navy; widows of such men and ladies who have served.

New Belvedere House in Stepney can accommodate 28 male residents in single rooms. Hollenden House at Bexhill-on-Sea, set in most attractive grounds, has mainly single rooms for 45 male and 7 female residents. Both Homes are equipped with smoke detectors and fire doors and an emergency alarm system is operable from all rooms and bathrooms. A night watchman at Hollenden House adds to the high degree of safety provided.

The Homes have excellent standards of decoration and furnishing and are well staffed thus being able to give most adequate care and attention to the residents. The Wardens-in-Charge are each helped by two Assistant Wardens, all resident and a number of Care Attendants. In addition there are cooks, kitchen hands and cleaners.

Residents are, within reason, free to spend their time as they wish; their rooms are cleaned by domestic staff; the meals are of a high quality and variety and medical needs looked after by the doctors retained by EFC who make regular visits to the Homes as well as responding urgently in the event of emergencies. Clothing is provided when necessary.

The current weekly maintenance charges (agreed annually with the appropriate Local Authority) are £55.37 at Bexhill and £64.47 at Stepney which compare favourably with the average charges for Part III Homes. Residents must of course have the statutory weekly pocket money of £5.45 in addition to the above figures. The majority of residents are supported financially by Local Authorities under the terms of Part III, the National Assistance Act 1948 or the Department of Health and Social Security.

There are vacancies in both Homes at the moment and if you know or hear of any potential residents please contact:- The Administrator, EFC, 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EP. Tel : 01-828-2468.

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