



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 58

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PRICE 25p

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BRIGADIER R.A. GWYN, OBE

BRIGADIER RHYS ATONY GWYN, OBE

Brigadier Gwyn died in his home overlooking the Lake of Menteith, By Kippen, Stirling, on 4 August 1987, aged 76. After school at Haileybury he went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment in 1931. Popularly known as 'Roly', he served with the 1st Battalion before the war in Palestine, Egypt and Singapore. Whilst in Egypt he was particularly noted for his original and perceptive leadership of the Intelligence Section, which in those days was mounted on camels, and because of his smart appearance and bearing he was regularly selected to carry the King's Colour on ceremonial parades. In 1937 when stationed in Singapore, he was appointed ADC to Sir Shenton Thomas – then Governor of Malaya and the Straits Settlements – where he stayed until 1940. During World War II he held numerous staff appointments, culminating as B.G.S. at HQ, South East Asia Command.

After the war he became one of the DS at the Staff College, Camberley and from there was posted as a GSO Grade 1 at the Ministry of Supply. In 1950 he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and was 2IC when the Regiment, as part of 27 Infantry Brigade, was sent North in August of that year to take part in the Korean campaign. The Battalion's operations in the early fighting of that War are well known and Roly, who took over the duties of Commanding Officer for a period in action in March 1951, served with notable distinction throughout the full time of the of the Battalion's stay in Korea. For this he was awarded the American Bronze Star. Fully deserved promotion to substantive Lieutenant Colonel followed and he assumed command of the Battalion in 1951 when it returned to Hong Kong from Korea, and later took the Bn to Austria. This was a most enjoyable time for the Battalion and after a successful period in command he departed at the end of March 1954 to take up the appointment of Colonel G.S. on the British Army Staff in Washington. Here his out-going personality and enthusiastic disposition made him an instant success, and he was awarded the O.B.E. On return to the UK he took over command of a TA Brigade in Sheffield and was promoted to Brigadier. He retired from the Active List in July 1960.

Brigadier Roly was an extremely handsome man of distinguished appearance and was much admired. He had a lively mind, full of ideas and he was always ready to innovate. Well remembered are the expeditions into the Sinai desert which he organised – long before the present day tourist trips along tarmacadam roads. Apart from his military ability and many other attributes, he was also a very talented and artistic person with a particular gift for caricature drawings. He illustrated several books with these, and his humorous engaging sketches, mostly of his brother officers, are well known and appreciated. He was also a very keen sportsman, more than adept at most games but particularly so at Polo, being a strong and dependable No. 4 Back in the regimental team during their stay in Egypt.

Sadly, Roly's last years were a continuing struggle against persistent illness. He was greatly respected and held in high regard by everyone in the Regiment, who have lost one of its outstanding personalities. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy and two sons.

TWC

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1988

- 21 March Regimental Association Executive Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, at 6.15 p.m.
- 24 April Annual Inspection of Albuhera Close by Housing sub Committee members, commencing at 9 a.m.
- 30 April 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon Club at TA Centre, Hornsey. Assemble 12 noon.
- 10 May 9th Bn Officers' Club Luncheon at the Royal Overseas League, Overseas House, Park Place, St James's St., London SW1
- 13 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London WC2.
- 14 May Bi-annual Luncheon 2/8th (1st Bn) at Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, 12 noon.
Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral commencing at 2.30 p.m.
- Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing 6.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting 7.30 p.m.
- 21 May 2/10th Bn (1914-18) Luncheon at Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, 12 noon.
- 24 September Middlesex Regiment Korean Club reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, at 6.30 p.m.
- 6 October 2/7th Bn Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, 12 noon.
- 26 October Housing Sub Committee Meeting at Cadet Officers' Mess, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, 6.15 p.m.
- October Party from Regimental Association attend Royal Hospital Chelsea Church Parade.
- 12 November Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster, 10.30 a.m.
- 13 November Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, at 10.15 a.m. followed by reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am taking this opportunity to wish you all good health, a Happy and Merry Christmas together with a Prosperous New Year.

Make a note in your diary NOW of the dates shown under Forecast of Events. Final details will be sent to you by the Secretary.

Tony Pielow

BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January 1987 to 30 November 1987, the sum of £8759 has been spent on assisting 83 members of the Regiment. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £1818 which included two widows and one widower being in receipt of £4 per week under their special allowance scheme. The reasons for assistance remain much the same, i.e. arrears of gas, electricity, rent and rates, special diets, bedding and clothing, which are usually caused through illness, bereavement, unemployment, breakdown of family life and severe medical problems. All cases are carefully investigated with the assistance of SSAFA, The Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts Workshops, the War Pensioners Welfare Service, The Royal British Legion and Hospital Welfare Officers, to ensure that the best and correct assistance is given.

Once again I ask all members to be on the lookout for comrades who have fallen on hard times, who are in the majority of cases very reluctant to ask for help. Just send me the name and address – all cases are treated with sympathy and the strictest confidence. The Regimental Association are organised to help, this is our main purpose and we want to help.

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

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

- (a) A donation of £1000 from Mrs R A Gwyn in memory of the late Brig R A Gwyn OBE.
- (b) A donation of £100 from Mrs J D Robbins in memory of the late Lt-Col J D Robbins OBE TD.
- (c) A donation of £25 from members of the 2/7th Bn collected at their annual Luncheon.
- (d) A donation of £25 from Mr F Ryder in memory of his father Mr R E Ryder VC.
- (e) A number of donations in memory of the late Lt-Col A K Johnson TD.
- (f) A donation of £57 from Lt W C C Newton, living in south Africa, in memory of his father and grandfather.
- (g) Individual donations from:

A N Anonymous, Mr A J Briggs, Mr D Cavill, Capt J Ceaton, Major A R Cooper, Mr D Goodman, Major F L Griffiths, Capt J H S Hudson, Major L F E Nichols (in memory of Major L F Shaw), Mr L C Page, Mr F C Paul, Mr J Pettigrove, Capt G Plummer, Lt-Col G C D Scott-Lowe (in memory of Lt-Col A K Johnson TD) and Mr L F 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 and widows:

Mr E B Andrews, Capt A W Attrill, Mr T Barnett, Mr C C Bradish, Mr A J Briggs, Mr A W J Brown, Mr E B Byatt, Mr D Cavill, Mr G Chacksfield, Capt W H Craydon, Mr W F Cutts, Mr D P Decker, Mr M A Elston, Mr W J Gould, Capt W E Hughes, Mr A Lewin, Major L F E Nichols, Mr R J Overy, Mr L C Page, Mr J Pettigrove, Capt G Plummer, Mr J A Poole, Mr J Pullen, Mr W E Rawlinson, Mr T H Rockall, Col M H Summers, Mr F Whitehouse and Mr L F Woodman.

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 5 November and prior to the commencement of the opening ceremony planted individual named crosses on the regimental plot, for each of our 46 battalions who fought in World War I, plus a cross for each of our 8 battalions in World War II. Once again Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby very kindly painted each cross with the Bn title. A badged cross was also planted on the Far East Prisoners of War plot.

At noon H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, declared the Field of Remembrance open and planted the first cross. The Queen Mother then proceeded to inspect each plot, on reaching the Middlesex Regiment plot Her Majesty had a few words with yours truly for the second year in succession, finishing with the words 'A very nice plot'.

The regimental ceremony took place on Saturday 7 November, commencing at 10.50 a.m. As usual our party formed up outside the Middlesex Guildhall and then proceeded to the regimental plot led by Mr M Moody, bearing the Regimental Standard with In Pensioner G Fulton in attendance.

The Service commenced with prayers by the Rev W E B Jones. The President of the Regimental Association, Lt-Col T W Chattey, read the Exhortation which was followed by the Two Minutes silence. Lt-Col Chattey after saying 'I plant this cross today in memory of our fallen comrades', planted a cross. The Secretary then invited the planting of private individual crosses. The Chaplain concluded the service by reading the Collects of the Middlesex and Queen's Regiments.

The absence of a few 'regulars' was noted.

REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The Regimental Remembrance Sunday Service was held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on 8 November and commenced at 10.15 a.m. The Service was attended by members of the Regimental Association and their families, the Home Postal & Courier Depot Royal Engineers and a contingent from B(Albuhera) Company 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regiment. By kind permission of Colonel P Wescott, Commandant HPCD RE, the

service was held in the gymnasium. The congregation numbered about 500. The Service was conducted by the Rev J B Sherrington, BA, BD, CF, Deputy Warden, Royal Army Chaplains Centre, Bagshot, assisted by the Rev P H Masterman. Lt-Col T W Chattey read the Lesson.

After the church service the congregation moved to the Regimental Memorial where the Padre read the Exhortation, this was followed by Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were then laid by:

Regimental Association	Lt-Col T W Chattey OBE
Postal & Courier Depot RE	Colonel P Wescott
B(Albuhera) Coy 6/7 Queens	Major D. Harwood TD
Mill Hill Branch	Capt W H Craydon
Hounslo Branch	Major R G C Thornton
Middlesex Korean Club	Mr W E Rawlinson

At the March Past the salute was taken by Lt-Col T W Chattey OBE, President of the Regimental Association and Colonel P Wescott, Commandant Home Postal and Courier Depot R.E.

Former Sgt L T Plumb commanded the Old Comrades on the March Past. Mr L Loomes carried the Regimental Standard.

The church collection amounted to £188.96 and a cheque for this amount has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion Earl Haig's Poppy Appeal.

The Old Comrades then moved on to the TA Centre Edgware to partake of liquid refreshment and to sample Ann Torbet's splendid buffet.

2/10th BN THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT(DCO) OCA - 1914-18

The Old Comrades' Association of the 2/10th Battalion held their customary Remembrance Service on Sunday 8 November at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick. The Service commenced at 3 p.m. and was well attended by relatives and friends. The Service was conducted by the Rev Patrick Tuft, Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Association. The Lesson was read by Lt-Col T W Chattey OBE.

The Service was attended by Lt-Col and Mrs T W Chattey, Col and Mrs A J S de S Clayton. Major and Mrs A E F Waldron failed to arrive their car breaking down on the Edgware Road at Maida Vale. This was followed by three hours waiting for the A.A. to arrive.

Mr A D Scudamore and Capt D A Hawkins carried the wreaths to be laid on the memorials of the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th battalions.

After the Service tea and refreshments were served in the Church Hall. Grace and I kept on thinking of those delicious, Ann Webster, sausage rolls that we knew would be on the tables and sadly out of our reach. We suffered agonising pains so I bought Grace a Mars bar.

REMEMBRANCE WREATHS

A Middlesex Regiment badged wreath was laid at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on Remembrance Sunday, by Mr L T Plumb, on behalf of the Regimental Association.

Gordon Moore and Frank Ecott, 2/8th (1st Bn), laid a regimental wreath on the memorial at Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, on Remembrance Sunday.

WO2 P G Dobson, The Queen's Regiment attached to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (the volunteers) laid a Middlesex badged wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association at the Liberation Day Parade on 31 August 1987.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 7th Bn MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Once again 7th Bn Old Comrades, members of the Queen's Regiment OCA Hornsey Branch, and marching parties from B(Albuhera) Company 6/7th Bn the Queen's Regiment TA, the Hornsey ACF Company and 16(F) Wood Green and Hornsey Sqn ATC, assembled at the Parish Church of St Mary & St George on Sunday 8 November for the now traditional Remembrance Service.

We have much to thank the Rector of Hornsey, the Rev Geoffrey Seabrook, for the format of this very moving 40 minute Service. A large number of the Parish congregation were, as usual, present seemingly in greater numbers than ever before, the church was full to overflowing with people standing and two rows of the choir stalls occupied by the ACF. After the opening hymn and prayers the wreath bearers moved to the 7th Bn Memorial Chapel in solemn procession led by the Rector and other members of the ceremony. The Rector then read the Middlesex Regiment and the Queen's Regiment Collects, Mr M C Barton recited the famous poems 'The poppies bloom in Flanders fields', and then Lt-Col D E Simpson led into the Silence by reading the words from the Kohima Memorial followed by 'They shall Grow not Old'. Buglers from ATC sounded 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' to signal the start and end of the Silence. Wreaths were then laid before the altar of the Memorial Chapel on behalf of the Hornsey and Enfield Diehards, B(Albuhera) Company 6/7th Queen's, the Queen's OCA Hornsey Branch, the ACF and the ATC. Following the return of the procession to their seats the Lesson was read by Lt-Col Simpson, and the Address was given by Mr A J White, the Senior Parish Reader. Mr White reminded us of the meaning and derivation of the use of the scarlet poppy for Remembrance Sunday, the work and compassion of the Royal British Legion, and the significance and tradition of Remembrance Sunday and its predecessor Armistice Day; he stressed the need to continue our remembrance for those who gave their lives in 'his father's war', his 'war' and the wars and troubles which have followed 1945. A most moving Address for Remembrance Sunday.

The uniformed parties, augmented by the members of B Company who had been at Mill Hill then marched back to Hornsey Drill Hall, accompanied by a good number of old comrades, although a number of old 7th members felt that their marching days were over, and only watched from the saluting base. The Salute on the way back was taken, at the request of Major Derrick Harwood OC B Company, by Lt-Col Simpson accompanied by the Rector, with his church warden in attendance. the usual get-together followed at Hornsey.

Following my appeal last year for more 7th members to come to church, and the chase-up by Mr C A White at the 1/7th lunch in April, I am very pleased to report that many more old 7th members were present than in the last few years.



THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

REGULAR BATTALIONS

The 1st Battalion have recently completed a 4 month tour in Northern Ireland and, on their return to Tidworth, Lt-Col Mike Ball handed over command to Lt-Col Chris Charter. The 2nd Battalion based in Minden, West Germany, under Lt-Col Peter Cook, trained in Canada in August. The 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lt-Col Bob McGhie, completed their 4 month operational tour in Northern Ireland in June and returned to Canterbury, but move back to Ireland as a 'resident battalion' in January 1988.

TA BATTALIONS

The 5th(V) Battalion, under Lt-Col Charles Joint, have taken part in exercises in Germany and Scotland, won the South East Catering Competition and provided the guards for the Grand Reunion at Basingstoke in July. The 6th/7th(V) Battalion, commanded by a TA officer, Lt-Col R E Lowans TD, provided a Guard of Honour for HRH Princess Margaret when she opened the Tynwald Parliament on the Isle of Man in July. The 8th(V) Battalion, The Queen's Fusiliers, which is under Major P A Gwilliam, had their TA Centre at St John's Hill, Clapham, opened by HRH The Duke of Kent in July and is now recruiting hard.

MUSEUM IN DOVER CASTLE

One of the highlights of the year was the opening of the Regimental Museum in Dover Castle by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent on 16 May 1987 (Albuhera Day). HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, in her capacity of Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, subsequently visited the museum on 19 July and was received by the Colonel of the Regiment and the Curator, Lt-Col Les Wilson MBE. All members of our Regimental Associations may obtain free entry to the castle to visit the museum on showing their Association Membership Card.

WILKINSON SWORD OF PEACE

The 3rd Battalion had the great honour of being awarded the Wilkinson Sword of Peace this year for their work for the civilian community of Belize during their tour there in 1986. The Sword was presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Kent at a parade in Canterbury in September. This is the first time a battalion of the Regiment has received this distinction.

DES.

FREEDOM PARADES

In June a contingent from the 3rd Battalion exercised the Regiment's Freedom of the London Borough of Barnet. The parade was held in Hendon and attended by a large number of the Middlesex Regimental Association led by Lt-Col Tom Chattey OBE. The same contingent also exercised our Freedom of the City of Chichester, received, on behalf of the Regiment, the new Freedom of Ashford, Kent and in September marched through the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. During this ceremony, silver bugles, originally presented to the East Surrey Regiment, were represented to The Queen's Regiment. Also that month, a contingent from the 6th/7th(V) Battalion paraded through Brighton, another of our 'Freedom Boroughs'. In 1988, a contingent from the 3rd Battalion will march through Canterbury on 7 January to a Service in the Cathedral, the 1st Battalion will exercise our Freedoms of Guildford (15 June), Reigate and Banstead (16 June), Ramsgate (17 June) and Maidstone (18 June), and the 6th/7th(V) Battalion will march through Worthing on 1 October.

2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

This year, for the first time, we held our Reunion on a Thursday, 1 October 1987, to enable members with long journeys to take advantage of the cheaper fares then available. This play was quite successful and 89 of us sat down to lunch under the Chairmanship of Lt-Col R E Robotham MC TD. A further innovation was that the Victory Club allocated the Carisbrooke Hall for our assembly, and everyone was very impressed with the spacious surroundings and improved amenities.

As always, it was our pleasure to welcome Lt-Col T W Chattey OBE and Major A E F Waldron MBE as our guests, and we trust that this arrangement may be continued for many years ahead.

The setting for our meal was embellished by a magnificent large scale replica of the Regimental cap badge which had been carved from a solid piece of mahogany by Aubyn Fairhead, who took up wood carving as a hobby following his retirement.

After the usual toasts, a special toast was drunk to the memory of Lt-Col J D Robbins OBE TD, who had died shortly after our previous reunion. The wine was provided out of a splendid gift from Mrs Joan Robbins, which also swelled our Benevolent Fund to the extent of £100.

Our usual collection realised £427, which included £175 received by post from those who sent their apologies. The Trustees agreed to the usual donation of £25 to the Regimental Association and further grants to certain members totalling £390.

After last year's attendance of 92 and this year's of 89, our aim must be to top the 100 mark, so please help us to achieve this on Thursday 6 October 1988. See you then.

RHT

ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA CHURCH PARADE

On Sunday 18 October 1987, 35 members and their families attended the Royal Hospital Chelsea Church Parade. The party was led by our President, Lt-Col T W Chattey and Chairman Brigadier B A M Pielow. We paraded with the Chelsea Pensioners and were inspected by The Lieutenant Governor Major General A L Watson CB, who spoke to a number of old comrades. The Service was conducted by the Hospital Padre, The Rev A D Bartlett, MA. At the conclusion of the Service members attending moved to the Ives Room where a buffet had been arranged. At present we have three In Pensioners, namely C E Painter, G Fulton and F(Mutt) Hazlewood.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO) KOREAN CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) Korean club was held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 26 September 1987.

the following members were elected as shown:

President	Colonel A M Man DSO OBE
Vice Presidents	Major C L Lawrence MC
	Major B St G A Reed MC DL

Chairman	Mr R Vann
Vice Chairman	Mr E Bermingham
Honorary Treasurer	Mr S Webb
Honorary Secretary	Mr A Lofts
Committee	Mr G Farmer Mr A Hutley Mr J Warner
Club Archivist	Mr R Fitch

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

The 60th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey, on Thursday 5 November 1987.

Lt-Col J D Gunnel presided and the guests were – Maj Gen B P Hughes, Brig H C Millman, Capt Greenfield, Lt D Roberts, F/O J A Rook and Mr G Whittaker.

The following members attended – Col F G Barber, Col I D Brotherton, Capt K I A Carter, Major H E Couch, Capt M J S Doran, Capt S le Menthoven, Capt M S Gedye, Major D Harwood, Major S L J Henshaw, Lt D H S Herriott, Lt S B Hurst, 2Lt O R King, Capt P J T Lane, Capt J K Laurence, Lt-Col R E Lowans, Major D J Margand, Major T J Medcalf, Major E J Naish, 2Lt A E Nelson, 2Lt I J Nickels, Lt P J Ottino, Lt-Col G C D Scott-Lowe, Lt P Sibbold, Lt-Col D E Simpson, Capt J K E Slack, Capt J Spencer Richards, Major R F Sykes, Major P I Roberts, Major R G C Thornton, 2Lt F Tusa, Major F Webb and Capt J G Young.

The following members express their regret for not being able to attend but send greetings to all their friends – Capt F S Mayman, Lt-Col G W Webber, Capt W G Kay, Col W D Ellis, Major E L Wallis, Lt-Col E A H Jeffcoat, Major P A D Storie-Pugh, Capt R W Fisher, Col A M Man, Brig E W C Flavell, Major R Bartram, Lt-Col S F Caulfield-Kerney, Capt K D Murray, Major B St G A Reed, Lt J Spooner, Major C L Lawrence, Lt-Col P J Hall, Major P D Clarke, Capt P A Stocken, Col D R W Thomas, Major R W J Smith, Capt R M Fox, Major G Norton, Lt D K Wray, Major R Brown, Major M C Mercer.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH

During the month of July a party from the branch went to Passchendale with the Royal British Legion Hounslow Ickenham branches. We had a very enjoyable time in that the weather was exceptionally fine, the food good and the Services held to commemorate the Battles very moving – we laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment at both the Menin Gate and Tyne Cot Cemetery. In August the Bar-B-Q held at the Raby residence was a raging success in that again the weather was kind to us and much food, none of which was burnt, was served with plenty of wine and good company – a most enjoyable day for all those who attended. In September a party of 8 went to the Arnhem battlefields and visited the cemetery and laid a wreath. The main purpose of the journey however was to go to the Canadian Cemetery at Groesbeek to lay a wreath on the 27 September in honour of Pete Long's uncle who lost his life here, 43 years ago to the day, whilst serving with the G.H. Howards. We now enter into the winter season and with the dark nights and same old fare being served on television, repeats of repeats, it might be to your advantage to sally forth and meet old friends and enjoy an evening in pleasant conversation. Please note that we have now decided to meet on a Friday evening, every week, at 8 p.m. at the Legion Hall, Whitton Road, Hounslow.

Future Events for 1988:

Visit to the Somme Battlefields, 3 – 6 June. Coach trip in conjunction with RBL Hounslow.

Wives and ladies welcome.

Visit to Monte Cassino Italy, 13 – 20 May 1989. Further details to follow.

MJW

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following items have been presented to the Regimental Museum:

The medals of L/9615 Private D H Adams, 4th Bn, consisting of –
Mons Star w/rosette, British War Medal 1914-18, Victory Medal 1914-19.

Presented by Mrs B J Ashby, Matron of Grevill House Nursing Home, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Glos.

The medals of the late Major C A Trestain, MBE consisting of –

M.B.E., 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Korea Medal, United Nations Medal.

Bequeathed to the Regiment.

The medals of the late Sgt A L Hymas (6198292) consisting of –

1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, General Service Medal w/clasp Palestine, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Presented by his widow, Mrs P Hymas

4th Middlesex cast w/m pouch belt plate, arms in centre with title and motto on garter strap around. 3 1/2" high.

Purchased by Regimental Museum Trust.

The medals of Private J H Webb, consisting of –

Queens South Africa 1899 w/bars Tugela Heights, Orange Free State, Relief of Ladysmith, Transvaal, Laing's Nek, Cape Colony. South Africa (KEVII) w/bars South Africa 1901-02. 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal 1914-19. Post Office Medal KGVI – For Faithful Service.

The riding boots, trees and riding crop of Lt-Col M.G. Kitchingman.

Presented by Mr A.D. Webb, Son, 77 Stile Hill Gardens, Chiswick, London W4 3BT.

AEFW

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Former Cpl Harry Alcock (14307529), C Company, 1/7th Bn, 1942-47, who lives at Ulverston, Cumbria, recently underwent a major operation and is making a good recovery.

LCpl A W Ashby (21043346) has joined the regimental association. He was a National Serviceman who served from 1947-49 and was with D Company 2nd Bn and also with 1st Bn East Surrey Regiment. He is in possession of the GSM (Palestine), the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Jubilee medal.

Private H J Bagshaw (6207163) who served with 2/7th Bn 1939-41 and 1/7th 1941-44 and finally with the 5th Bn Seaforth Highlanders has joined the regimental association. He has been accepted for admission to the Royal Hospital Chelsea and expects to be called forward early next year.

LCpl C A Baysting (24135051) who served from September 1966 to July 1974, serving with the 1st Bn, Royal Hong Kong Regt (The Volunteers) and 2 Queens has joined our association. He is employed as a Prison Officer in Northern Ireland.

Another new member is Private J J Bird (6204648) who enlisted into the T.A. on 22 May 1938, joining the 8th Bn. During the war he served with the 1/8th until 1942 when he was posted to the 1st Bn RNF and finally transferred to the reserve on 26 March 1946.

Private Walter Blake, ex 1st Bn Hong Kong is still suffering from numerous ailments incurred during his POW days was recently granted a further 20% increase to his disability pension. He is earmarked for admission to hospital on 21 January 88 for another operation. Best wishes.

Col Ian Burrows sent to me the following extract from the Surrey Herald dated 1 October 1987, under the heading 25 Years Ago -

The local TA regiment, The Middlesex Regiment, took part in exercises against the Gurkha Rifles on Salisbury Plain. Both sides fought tenaciously but made up their differences socially afterwards. Col Webber, officer commanding, renewed many friendships with the Gurkhas, who he commanded during the Second World War.

Staines was then part of Middlesex but with the boundary changes became Surrey.

Major Donald Carson, MBE, LTCL, psm, former Diehard and Director of Music, The Scots Guards, has decided to resign his commission. He is to become a Master at Dulwich College at the beginning of the Sp Term and will be taking up residence at the college. We wish him every success.

Major A B Carter, 1/7th Bn, attended the 51st(Highland) Division Dinner at Gleneagles on Friday 30 October 1987. This upholds the tradition of an officer of the 1/7th Bn always attending the Dinner. This year Capt J O (Jimmy) Dare was hoping to attend but was unable to do so owing to moving house. On Saturday 31 October he visited Maj Gen Chris Man at Blair Atholl.

Lt-Col and Mrs T W Chattey whilst on holiday in Scotland visited Maj Gen Chris Man. They found him looking very well and enjoying the freedom his electric wheel chair provides.

During September Mr and Mrs Ernie Colebeck visited the USA and Canada and sent to me a postcard stamped Honolulu.

Alex Drake (6201472) has now been registered blind due to retina deterioration. For some years he has been confined to a wheel chair. His wife, Sylvia informs me that he is a fighter and never loses heart. They live in Northampton.

Former Sgt Bob Dyson (6197911) sounded very cheerful indeed when I spoke to him recently on the telephone. At the moment he is in the throes of moving house.

Former Sgt Alf Ellis (6197742) who spent so many years with the 1st Bn and fought so many battles, the boxing ring sends his regards and best wishes to all his friends in the regiment. I remember very well the Commanding Officer, the late Col L A Newnham, presenting the Tidbury Cup to Sgt Overy and Cpl Ellis. They were both in C Company. Sgt Ellis was on attachment in Singapore 1941-42 and was taken POW and spent the remainder of the war in No. 1 Camp Thailand.

Last week I received a very pleasant surprise - a letter from Adelaide, South Australia. It read 'I am a daughter of the Regiment, as I was born in the Mill Hill Barracks in the married quarters, No. 28 in August 1926. My father died in 1977 and his name was OROMS Finch MBE - he was in the Middlesex Regiment for 35 years. I would like to have the Diehards Newsletter, if possible. (Sgd) Mrs. I. Langley - formerly Iris Finch). Her request was granted immediately and I was able to tell her that her father was my boss when I was a LCpl in the Orderly Room of the 1st Bn in Singapore in 1936. Iris corresponds with her mother who lives near Rochester in Kent. I also keep in touch with Mrs Sylvia Finch now in her eighties. I received a letter from her today, 1 December, and she said I wish I could get a new pair of 'Mince pies'.

Another new member is Cpl Harold Foakes (6202732) who enlisted in 1935 and served until 1946. He was with the 1st Bn and was a POW from 1941 to 1945, the whole time being spent in Hong Kong. If I remember rightly malnutrition caused him to go blind and only the whites of his eyes could be seen. He was also wounded and later he recovered his sight. He was another of our boxing team.

Mr Reg Fordham himself a former Guardsman and a Friend of the 2/10th tells me that his father now blind and aged 92 years, served with the 5th Middlesex at Chatham and then with the 2/10th Bn in Palestine in World War 1. Reg is a great supporter of the 2/10th Bn OCA and regularly attends all functions.

Former WO2 John Gould 2/8th and 1st Bn informs me that his little group of Diehards now meet at the Adam and Eve once a month, for a chat and a pint. The Three Hammers is closed for refurbishing.

Major Fred Griffiths sends his best regards to all Diehards and wishes them all a very happy christmas and a prosperous new year.

A new member of the regimental association is former Private A J Harrison (22705955) who served from 1952-55. He was with A Company and S Company (Mortars). His hobby is canary breeding.

It is with the greatest pleasure that after 30 years I have been able to get in touch with former Cpl John J Henneby (23245263) who served from 1955-58 in Cyprus and was my Q.M. clerk. I never did tell him the story of the lost bicycle that was reduced month by month from a complete machine to a pair of handlebars and finally disappeared from the books. John is now a high ranking Civil Servant employed at the Civil Secretariat, British Forces Joint HQ BAOR.

Private Nick Helliadis, Ex 1st Bn Hong Kong, and another rascal sends his regards and best wishes to all diehards for christmas and the new year. He lives at Luton Beds.

Lt-Col John Hewson and Vanda have just treated themselves to a cruise in the Mediterranean on 'Canberra' and after visiting Tunis, Malta, Port Said and Greece flew back from Naples after a fortnights very pleasant cruise. On arrival home they were brought down to earth with a jolt as two trees had blown down in the garden and the shed had collapsed. I expect the trees had been loosened by John continually leaning on them.

Another old soldier to drop me a line was Sgt (Duleep) Du Jardin, now 82 but keeping very well, his only trouble is deafness and he wants a flat in Albuhera Close.

LCpl (Retd) Bill Lee (21647 and 6191864), now 84, and a retired police inspector, recently enjoyed a holiday at Watchett. He sent me a card and said 'At my age it is all I can do, watch it'. He always attends the Remembrance Service at Mill Hill.

Former Private William Marsh (6205288) has joined the regimental association. He enlisted in October 1939 and went to France with HQ Company 2nd Bn. In 1941 he was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong joining about August and was with A Company. He was taken POW Christmas Day and served his time in Osaka Camp. He was discharged in June 1946 and receives a 100% war disability pension. He is a member of St Dunstons.

A new member is SSgt A W Malone (6204347) who enlisted into the TA in 1937 and joined the 7th Bn. He was with B Company 1/7th from 1939-41 and then transferred to REME and became a SSgt Armt Art.

Capt Ronnie Mans has joined the Officers' Club and the Regimental Association. He served from 1940-46. His service details are – Depot Mill Hill 1940, The Dale Chester 1941-43, OCTU Alton Towers 1944 and commissioned as a Lieut and became a Machine Instructor at Saighton and Blacon Camps Chester. He is a retired bank manager.

Our very sincere congratulations to Lt-Col Amadee Mievile, son of Major Chris and Daphne Mievile, on his promotion and appointment to the Directing Staff at the Military College of Science, Shrivenham. Amadee was very well known to so many members of the 1st Bn and the regiment, and at the age of two gave measles to our chairman, Brig Tony Pielow. We all wish him every success.

Recently I had the pleasure of speaking to RSM and Mrs Evelyn Overy. Dick lives at Chard in Somerset. Their son Norman has just retired from the Army Air Corps with the rank of Lt-Col. Evelyn was one of the wives evacuated to Australia in 1941 on the Empress of Japan. Dick was on the Lisbon Maru and was left behind in Shanghai with 6 other members of the regiment, being very ill at the time, the remaining survivors being put on another boat to Kobe, Japan. Under 'Ellis' you will see that he won the Tidbury Cup.

Former Sgt F C Paul (6196544) aged 88 years, has recently become a member of the regimental association. He served with the 5th and 6th Bns during world war 1 and between the wars with the 9th Bn. He remembers with pride when the late Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks was the Adjutant of the 9th Bn.

Our very sincere congratulations to Brig B B Rackham on the occasion of his 91st birthday on 20 November 1987. He is always remembered with great affection.

Our best wishes go to CSgt A F Randall (1609284) A Company 1/8th Bn 1932-45, now 82, who suffered a stroke last year. He is now a member of our association. He commenced his service with the Grenadier Guards.

Private Frederick William Redman (613102), aged 88 years, who served with the 1/19th London Regiment 1914-18, has been admitted as a permanent resident at the Royal British Legion Home, Maurice House, Callis Court Road, Broadstairs, Kent.

Former Sgt Jack Rogers and family have moved from Folkestone, Kent, to Spain. His new address is, Nucia Park 177, La Nucia, Alicante, Spain. He would welcome letters from old friends and would love to see anyone on holiday. He is waiting for a licence to allow him to work in Spain as a Chiropodist. He thinks – 'Manana' is a great word.

Cpl Frank Ryder (6204490), son of R E Ryder, VC, enlisted on 15 August 1938 as a boy soldier and he served continuously with the 2nd Bn Band until 9 September 1948. He was awarded the France & Germany Star, GSM (Palestine) and the Defence Medal. He is a retired Police Sgt and now works as a security officer at Gatwick Airport.

Our very sincere congratulations to Mr A D (Scudie) Scudamore OBE, on the occasion of his 91st birthday on 10 November 1987. Scudie is the President of the 2/10th Bn (1914-18) OCA, and what a wonderful man he is – an example to us all.

Former Private W P G Staples who served in World War 1 with the 1/19th London Regiment until his discharge in 1917, was on the 30 June 1987, admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. His date of birth is 3 April 1899.

Private F A Thomas (14710082) has become a member of the regimental association. He served from 1944-46. He only spent two weeks with the 1/7th Bn in Holland the rest of his service was with the Reinforcement and Holding unit.

I was recently informed that Mr W Thompson MM (617139), aged 94 years, who served with our 19th Bn in 1918, was to meet H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, at an Old Contemptibles function at Clarence House. In order to make sure he was properly dressed, an old pattern regimental tie was sent. I have recently received a letter from him telling me that he wore the tie and had a very good day.

Another Diehard has been traced and become a member of the regimental association. He is Private J A Webb (23402246) a national serviceman who served from 1957-59. His claim to fame is that he was batman to our chairman in Cyprus. He recently received a copy of the RAC Handbook (a rival publication) and looking through was amazed to see that a Brig B A M Pielow was the joint Secretary of the Commonwealth Motoring Conference. In his letter he wrote to BAMP he said 'I feel I must write and wish you well and do hope that you, Mrs Pielow and family are keeping well. Please remember me to Mrs Pielow who was always so kind and considerate – I always felt that she treated me like an older son'.

Private F Whitehouse (22171697) is a recent member of the regimental association. He was a national serviceman called up in 1949 and joining 1 Staffs. He was posted to the 1st Bn in August 1950 and served in Korea being released in August 1951.

OBITUARY

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

BLAKE – On 20 September 1987, WO2 G (Chips) Blake (2604867), aged 88 years.

Sgt Blake was transferred from the Grenadier Guards to the Middlesex Regiment in 1924 joining the 1st Bn at Aldershot. He continued to serve until 1935 when he was transferred to the reserve. At the outbreak of the 1939-45 war he was recalled and joined the 2/8th Bn in Ireland. After a few months he was posted to Edgware as a temporary CSM with the Home Guard and in 1945 discharged.

COLE – On 17 March 1980, Lt K.D.H. Cole.

Lt Cole served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong in 1941. He was taken POW on 25 December 1941 and held in Argyle Street Camp. I think he was with B Company. These details have just come to hand.

DENHAM – On 20 October 1987, C/Sgt Jack Denham (6200127), aged 76 years.

Jack Denham enlisted into the regiment on 16 April 1931 and was transferred to the reserve on 6 August 1938. The whole of his service was with the 1st Bn serving in Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was with B Company and became the Bn hockey team goalkeeper during 1935. He was recalled on 1 September 1939 and was posted to the 2nd Bn – BEF 6 November 1939 to 27 February 1940 and 9 May 1940 to 30 May 1940. He remained in UK for the rest of the war and was finally transferred to the reserve with the rank of CSgt on 31 December 1945. To complete the Tarrant saga he married the late Bob Tarrant's sister.

FISHER – On 19 November 1987, LCpl Douglas Fisher (6210286), aged 68 years.

LCpl Fisher served from October 1939 to January 1946 with the 2/7th Bn seeing service in N. Africa, Sicily, Italy, Salerno to Anzio, Rome, Florence, Palestine and Egypt.

HICKEY – On 9 September 1987, Private Ronald Thomas (6201837), aged 70 years.

Private Hickey enlisted during 1934 and served with A and C Companies, 2nd Bn. During 1943 he was posted to the 1st Bn Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment and was awarded the Italy Star. He was transferred to the reserve in 1945. Mr A.E. Easton, Secretary of The Kensingtons OCA attended the funeral.

HYMAS – On 2 November 1987, Sgt Alfred Leonard Hymas (6198292), aged 74 years.

Alf (Johnny) Hymas joined the regiment as a boy soldier on 13 February 1928. He joined the Band and proceeded with the 1st Bn to Palestine on 22 December 1931. Service in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong followed. On 25 December 1941 he was taken POW at the fall of Hong Kong, survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru on 2 October 1942 and spent the next three years in Kobe Camp. He arrived back in the UK on 31 October 1945. From 8 November 1946 to 12 April 1947 he served in the Middle East with the 2nd Bn and again from 7 November 1947 to 3 June 1948. On 15 June 1949 he proceeded with the 1st Bn to Hong Kong returning to the UK on 22 June 1951. He was discharged to pension on 30 March 1952 having completed 24 years and 47 days service. He was a very good athlete indeed – especially at swimming, water polo, hockey, pole vault and hurdles. In the Band he played the Euphonium with exception skill and was noted for the pleasure he gave to us all on so many occasions.

He was a quiet, modest and respected member of the 1st Bn for so many years and will be remembered with affection and sadly missed by his comrades. We send our deepest sympathy to his widow, Pearl, who has very kindly presented his medals to the regimental museum.

JOHNSON – On 4 September 1987, Lt-Col Arthur Kenneth Johnson, TD, aged 79 years.

Educated at Brighton College Kenneth Johnson joined Baring Brothers, Merchant Bankers, at 100 office in Bishopgate, City of London, shortly after leaving school. He was to work for Barings for the rest of his working life starting as a junior and finishing as premises Manager. Commissioned into the 7th Bn on 12 December 1928, at a time when they recruited a number of young officers, he was posted to B(MG) Company. He was promoted Captain on 1 February 1933 and appointed to command B(MG) Company. The 1/7th Bn arrived in France to join the BEF in January 1940, with Kenneth commanding HQ Company. In the evacuation from the Dunkirk area he was severely wounded, losing his left hand. He was in hospital at Hatfield House for some time and later was appointed to command the MMG OCTU at Lanark in Scotland. In May 1945 he was promoted to Lt-Col and posted to HQ Allied Land Forces, Norway. He reverted to civilian life in January 1946. On the reformation of the 7th Bn he returned and commanded the Bn from 1948 to 1950, when he handed over command to the late Brig 'Stumps' Green. For his services he was awarded the Territorial Decoration. Kenneth had a breakdown in 1950 from which he never fully recovered. He had married Marjory his first wife in 1937, a girl he had known since childhood. After the war they lived in Chelsea with a delightful rural retreat at Aldington, near Ashford, Kent. On his retirement he moved permanently to Kent. Marjory's death in 1971 caused a further deterioration in his health through which he was nursed by Margaret from Ulster, who became his second wife in 1973. He died three months short of his 80th birthday and his funeral was attended by Lt-Col G C D Scott-Lowe. Kenneth was a popular figure in the 7th Bn, he had a keen sense of fun and will be missed by all those who remember him. We send our sympathy to Margaret in her sad loss.

GCDSL

MOSS – On 3 August 1987, Cpl Edward George Moss (22058302), aged 57 years.

Cpl Ted Moss enlisted on 17 February 1949 and after recruit training he was posted to the 1st Bn. He served with the Bn in Hong Kong, Korea, Austria, Cyprus and BAOR. He was discharged on 16 February 1961 on completion of 12 years service.

The funeral was attended by Messrs. Ellis, Hutley, Mead, Millard and Wood.

NEAL – On 23 September 1987, Mrs Molly Neal, aged 87 years.

Molly was the widow of Major H. A. Neal, 9th Bn, who died on 16 November 1971. She will be very sadly missed. Capt Murray Fox represented the Regimental Association at the funeral.

O'NEIL – On 24 May 1987, WO2 Patrick O'Neil (6192082), aged 87 years.

Paddy O'Neil enlisted into the regiment in November 1918. He joined the 1st Bn serving in Silesia, Aldershot, Shanghai Defence Force, Catterick and Colchester during the period up to 1931. He proceeded with the 1st Bn to Palestine on 22 December 1931 on that well known troopship HT Lancashire, to Egypt in early 1933. Singapore in 1936 and Hong Kong in August 1937. The majority of his time was spent on the horse transport where he became renowned for his skill in the handling of his charges. He was posted to the UK in February 1938 and joined the 2nd Bn at Gosport. He went to France with the 2nd Bn in 1940 and was evacuated via Dieppe. In 1940 he was transferred to the Royal Pioneer Corps serving in Leeds, York and Scotland. Always a glutton for punishment he proceeded overseas with 242 Company RPC on Operation Torch, serving in North Africa, Salerno landings and the Anzio Bridgehead. His final station was Klagenfurt, Austria, and demobilisation in December 1945 after 27 years service.

PANKS – On 10 October 1987, Major John Tennant Panks, MC, aged 70 years.

Major Dick Bartram writes:

John Panks was educated at Christs Hospital and, on leaving school, went to the (then) Austin Motor Company and went through all the stages of making cars from the foundry to the finished product. He was also a member of the Austin Motor racing team. He was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in 1938, joined the 7th Bn and was posted to B Company at Enfield. He went to France with the 1/7th Bn where his intimate knowledge of all transport was of inestimable value. He was promoted in the field and assumed command of C Company and was awarded the Military Cross. The Regimental History 1919-52 shows 2Lt JT Rank – this should read 2Lt JT Panks. He continued to command C Company in Scotland with the 51st Highland Division. John was essentially an 'active' soldier and rather than be in UK he took it on himself to visit AG's department at the War Office to request a posting. Eventually he was posted to a Bn of the Wiltshire Regiment, then in India. After that I lost touch with him but later he told me he had served with Wingate's Chindits in Burma. He returned to the 1/7th and became 2IC in January 1946 on the departure of the late Major 'Tickit' Hughes. Following his demobilisation a few months later he joined the Rootes Group becoming Managing Director of Rootes in New York. He later returned to UK and became Managing Director of Humber. When this group was absorbed he became Chief Executive & Deputy Chairman Automotive Products Ltd. John was a great man to know and I am sure Brig Basil Rackham will regret his passing as I do. My deepest sympathy to his widow Betty.

RATHBONE – During September 1987, former Private Frederick Rathbone (6200531). No other details available.

SCOTT – On 22 July 1987, Lt-Col Deryck Joseph Scott.

Although he had been a member of the Officers' Club and the Regimental Association for many years, I have been unable to trace details of his service with the regiment. Maybe someone can help?

SHAW – On 13 July 1987, Major Lewis Shaw, aged 77 years.

Lewis Shaw joined up in 1940 and reported to Major Cazelets unit in Kent. He was trained L.A.A. at various gun sites in the Thames Estuary. He attended the O.T.C. at Llandrindod Wells. Service at Lark Hill, Midlands, North East Scotland followed. He was with the 8th Army landing force Sicily and then on to the Italian campaign, Anzio Bridgehead, Rome, Northern Italy and Austria. He was demobilised in December 1945. Lewis joined the 9th Bn Middlesex Regiment and became a staunch member. He was a regular attender at the 9th Bn Dinner. Very sadly this year he could not make it but very kindly paid for the wine.

TANNER – On 11 January 1987, Private Thomas Ivor Tanner (6204421), aged 71 years.

He enlisted on 22 March 1938 and after recruit training was posted to the 2nd Bn joining C Company. He went to France with the Bn in November 1939 returning in 1940. On 2 July 1944 he was posted to the 1/7th Bn and on 19 July 1944 was wounded in the hip whilst driving a Bren Gun carrier. He was invalided to UK, medically down graded, and posted to 26 MGTC at Blacon Camp. He was discharged on 1 February 1946.

TARRANT – On 21 September 1987, Private George Tarrant (6198014), aged 78 years.

George Tarrant enlisted into the regiment on 12 September 1927 and was transferred to the army reserve on 11 September 1935 after service with the 1st and 2nd Bns. He was recalled on 1 September 1939 and joined the 2nd Bn and went to France with them. On 7 May 1940 he transferred to the Royal Army Medical serving in the Middle East and Normandy. George was the elder brother of the late Capt Bob Tarrant.

TRESTAIN – On 11 August 1987, Major (QM) Charles Arthur Trestain, MBE, aged 79 years.

Charles (Smiler) Trestain retired from the Active List on 2 October 1960, after completing 37 years service with the Regiment. He enlisted at Mill Hill in 1923 and later joined the 1st Bn at Aldershot and served in the Machine Gun platoon, which was then commanded by the late Lt-Col 'Monkey' Stewart and later by Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks. In 1926 Charles joined the 2nd Bn at Ahmednagar and he remained with this Bn until 1936 reaching the rank of WO2(CSM). It was whilst serving as an NCO with the 2nd Bn that he obtained 'Distinguished' gradings at Netheravon and Hythe, which was no mean achievement. In 1937 he was posted as PSI to the 8th Bn and he rejoined the 2nd Bn in late 1939. On 26 February 1941 he was granted an emergency commission and appointed Quartermaster to the 1/7th Bn with whom he remained until 1946, serving in every campaign. During September 1945 he was awarded the M.B.E. On the disbandment of the 1/7th Bn in early 1947 he was posted to the War Graves Commission. In 1948 he was posted to the newly formed 7th Bn and in 1949 was granted a regular Quartermaster commission and posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong serving throughout the Korean campaign. However in 1952 he was invalided to UK with a severe illness and on recovery once again rejoined the 7th Bn. In early 1954 he was posted as Staff Captain Salisbury District, retiring on 2 October 1960. Many of his

friends will recall his unflinching equanimity and good humour. At the time of his death he was living alone his wife having died previously. We have to thank Miss J. Higham and her friend, his neighbours, for the interest and assistance they gave Charles during his illness. They also arranged the funeral which was attended by Major and Mrs A E F Waldron, Major R J Jenkins (who served in the 2nd Bn with Charles and was commissioned into the East Surreys) and Capt J Spencer Richards, representing the 7th Bn. Miss J. Higham is the Executor of his will and I have received from his estate his medals which he bequeathed to the regimental museum.

WOOD – On 20 June 1987, Lt A.C. Wood, aged 64 years.

Lt Tony Wood joined C Company 2nd The Middlesex Regiment in Scotland where strenuous training for D Day was undertaken. A quiet, unassuming person but gifted with great intelligence. Second best would not pass for him. A thinker of this world.

He landed in Normandy on D Day in command of No. 7 Platoon and was the only Platoon Commander in C Company to see service from D Day to the end of the war. The Company having one PI Comd killed and three wounded. Tony Wood for his leadership, devotion to duty and his example was mentioned in despatches. At the end of the war, as with most National Servicemen he left the army. He, during his service, had given much thought to the future, and had come to the conclusion that he would be well suited to a teaching profession. He became a Master and House Master at Winchester College, where he taught with great distinction until just before his death.

I was privileged to attend his memorial service on 26 September in a packed Chapel at Winchester College. The first reading in the Service was a moving piece written by Tony himself of his early impression of war. A stirring address was given by the Chaplain in which reference was made to his service in the Diehards and his love of the Cockney soldier.

He has left his mark at Winchester and was the author of a number of historical books, one in particular entitled 'The War in Europe' is a moving expose of life as it was. His other books in a more serious vein are text books used today.

He leaves a wife Maija-Liisa, a daughter and two sons.

DONATIONS

The following donations have been made:

- (a) An appeal was recently received from the Rector of St George's – The Alamein Church, Andover, Hants, for funds in order that repairs could be carried out to the main part of the building. The Regimental Association responded with a cheque for £100. You may recall that the Regimental Association donated the Bishop's Chair in 1974, when the church was consecrated. A regimental plaque appears on the side of the chair.
Our 1/7th Battalion fought in the Alamein campaign and St George's has become a national monument to those who gave their lives. Members of the Regiment are most welcome to attend the annual Alamein Service. The Alamein museum is next to the church and well worth a visit. Brig Pielow recently visited the Alamein Church.
- (b) A donation of £20 was made by the Regimental Association towards a farewell gift for the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Dean Alan Webster, on his retirement on 31 December 1987.
- (c) A donation of £100 was made to the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond. Four members of our regiment are being cared for in this lovely home. they are all very badly disabled indeed.

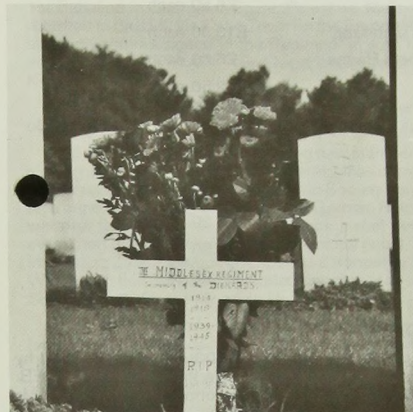
THE LATE 2LT P M LYON

The late Pat Lyon was killed on 28 May 1940, at Furnes, whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion and D Company. Also killed on that day were Capt R W C Parsler, Privates G A L Smith and S W Waters.

David Lyon, who resides in Brussels, brother of Pat wrote to me and asked it if was possible to pin point the place where he was killed. With the help of Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby and Major G O Porter we have been able to supply the answer despite all the changes that have happened in Furnes since that time.

David has taken the trouble to photograph the places and also the graves of the 4 Diehards which lay in the Koksijde Cemetery next to one another. He also placed on each grave a bouquet of flowers in regimental colours and made a cross which he placed among the graves inscribed 'The Middlesex Regiment – in memory of four Diehards, 1914-18 and 1939-45.'

If anyone can send me the address of the next of kin of Capt Parsler and Privates Smith and Waters I would be pleased to send them a photograph of the grave. If any member would like to see the set of photographs all they have to do is drop me a line.



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. Postage and packing is included in the price. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Blazer Badges	£6.50 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£13.00 each
Tumbler, Whisky engraved with Middlesex Regiment Badge	£5.50 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern (Maroon and Old Gold)	£2.50 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern Terylene	£2.50 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£5.50 each
Wall Plaques Middlesex Regt	£13.00 each
History 'Diehards in Korea'	£5.00 each
Christmas Cards - Steady the Drums & Fifes	£ .20
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges - not originals	£1.50 each
Museum Brochure	£ .25 each

51st (HIGHLAND) DIVISION

The 51st (Highland) Division Car Badge (£6.00) and the Division tie (£3.00) can be purchased by writing to HQ 51st (Highland) Brigade, Highlands House, 7 St Leonards St, Perth, Scotland PH2 8EB. Cheques should be made payable to 51st (Highland) Brigade Welfare Fund. This information received from Mr J E Baker.

VICTORY SERVICES CLUB

A Middlesex Regiment Wall Plaque has been presented to the Victory Services Club and will be displayed in their 'Hall of Badges'.

REGIMENTAL CHAPEL, ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

On Sunday 15 November 1987 the two grandchildren of WO2 J Warner, were christened in the Regimental Chapel, St. Paul's Cathedral.

LETTERS

Willoughby Chaplin Carruthers Newton
6 Finsbury Avenue
Newlands, 7700
Capt, South Africa.

17 September 1987

Dear Brigadier Pielow,

Just received 'The Diehards' Newsletter No. 57 - most appropriate! June 1987. I was interested to read that you had recently visited South Africa. You mention that you visited the War Museum and that there was no mention of our Regiment there. I am not sure where this War Museum is situated, but would like to rectify the absence of our cap badge as I have a collection of British Army cap badges and will gladly forward a Middlesex badge to them if you will let me know their address.

You may be interested in the following. A buckle badge of the regiment is in the bar of the Majiesfontein Hotel - known as the Lord Milner Hotel - in the Karoo. My grandfather, then a lieutenant serving with the 64th Imperial Yeomanry, was captured by the Boers near there whilst escorting an ambulance horse train. After a brew up with his captors he was released, minus his pistol and cavalry twill breeches! He subsequently became a 'Die Hard' and I believe commanded a battalion of the regiment in the First World War. My father, Major Willoughby Newton, was born in Pietermaritzburg, Natal in July 1904 also a 'Die Hard', serving with the 1st Battalion in Shanghai, Egypt, Palestine, Malaya and Hong Kong. We left Kowloon in January 1941 and returned to the U.K. via Cape Town on the Empress of Japan; my first sight of my present home! Subsequently, although commissioned in the Regiment in July 1950 I never served with the 'Die Hards' being a Colonial serving with the RWAFF - 3rd Nigerian Regiment and then in the Colonial Service as a District Officer in Kenya.

There is also a Middlesex Regiment emblem in the Simonstown Museum, the details of which I shall obtain together with a photograph which I shall subsequently pass on to the Association.

I see that in the notes regarding new members of the Association - Bdsn R Elliot, mention is made of the sinking of the SS Tyndareus off Cape Agulhas carrying the 25 Bn to Hong Kong in February 1917. As the Cape Town representative of the World Ship Society may I put the record right. The Blue Funnel (Alfred Holt) vessel hit a mine on February 6th laid by the German Raider 'Wolf'. The Regiment, in the tradition of the soldiers that were on the 'Birkenhead' which struck a reef not far from the same area, stood fast and were eventually evacuated in an orderly fashion in the ships boats. The 'Tyndareus' was towed to Cape Town. She then led an interesting career including a spell as a troopship during the China Affair in 1927. (My father was in Wei-Hai-Wei during this period). She ended her career as a pilgrim carrier and was finally broken up in Hong Kong in September 1960 - truly a Die Hard!

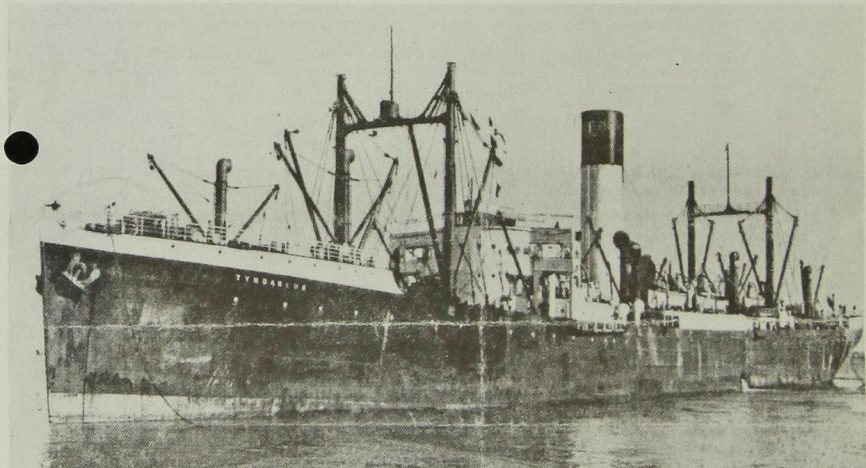
My wife and I intend visiting the U.K. in May next year. My last function with the Regiment was with my father when we attended the laying up of our colours in St Paul's Cathedral - I feel that it is time I re-joined the Regiment and would like to attend such functions that would be appropriate next May - perhaps you will be kind enough to let me have the details.

Finally, having reached the 57th year, please use the enclosed cheque as you think fit in memory of my father and grandfather.

Best of wishes.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) Carruthers Newton



96 Seaford Road,
Bradshaw,
Bolton BL2 4BU

15th October 1987

Dear Major Waldron,

You may recall that I wrote to you on Regimental business towards the end of 1986, and at the same time, sent my best wishes to Sgt. Carney's detachment of 431 Company, 9th Battalion, which you kindly inserted under 'Personal Jottings' in the December edition of the Regimental Newsletter.

This was spotted by Ron Driver, who contacted you for my address, and wrote to me. In the meantime, I wrote to you further to see if you had the address or telephone number of the remainder of the detachment.

Thanks to the great effort you made on my behalf, Ron and myself - after numerous telephone calls - managed to contact the surviving members of the detachment. We decided it would be a good idea to have a reunion after more than 46 years, and finally agreed that the ideal place to hold it would be at Lakenheath, Suffolk - the village close to Wangford Warren, the site where we served the first 18 months of our wartime service together, and we arranged a weekend reunion at the Lakenheath Hotel, Lakenheath on Saturday 3rd October this year. The surviving members living in this country, were myself, Ron Driver, Harold Ransom, Sid Doman, Eddie Ponton, Jimmy Drinkwater and Ron Dutton; Fred Dennison having emigrated to Australia some years ago.

We invited as a fellow guest, Ted Lockyer from 430 Company, an old friend of ours, who is now living in Thetford. An invitation was also extended to Bill and Dolly Leader who live in Lakenheath and who became great friends of ours during our service at Wangford Warren. We originally met Bill in 1939 when he visited our site two or three days a week with his mobile shop with such items as newspapers, cigarettes, razor blades, soap, etc.

Meanwhile, Ron Driver had written to the Editor of 'Thetford & Brandon Times' and arranged for a reporter and photographer to cover the story of our reunion. Ron also wrote to William E. Dunivant, the Base Commander at R.A.F. Lakenheath (where our original searchlight site was now in) to see if it was at all possible for us to visit the base and try to ascertain the original site location.

All the requests were duly met, and on the weekend of the reunion we were met at the base by Captain Gregory Bell of the Public Affairs Office, and had a most enjoyable hour on a conducted tour of the base.

The remainder of Saturday was taken up with reminiscing of days gone by, which was interrupted for a short while by the reporter and photographer, and the festivities went on until the early hours of Sunday.

The whole of the weekend was a tremendous success, and thoroughly enjoyed by all. Before dispersing to our respective homes as far afield as Bolton, Leicester, Harrow and Bath, late on Sunday, we provisionally arranged to hold a further reunion at the beginning of September 1988.

Regards,

(Sgd) C.G. Stone

P.S. The event was well reported by the newspaper with an article and photographs, one taken in 1939 and one at the reunion.

P.P.S. Since starting to write this letter, I have had a telephone call from Fred Dennison, who had been traced by Harold Ransom, and who had actually been back in this country for the past two years. Unfortunately the contact was made too late for this year's reunion.