



# The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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PRICE 25p

President : Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey, OBE  
Chairman : Brig. B.A.M. Pielow, J.P.  
Secretary and Editor : Maj. A.E.F. Waldron, MBE,  
Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres,  
Canterbury, Kent. CT4 6EE.



COLONEL J.G.E. REID



## COLONEL J.G.E. REID

Readers will be very sad to hear that Colonel Jimmy Reid died on 1 December aged 88 at his home in Hartsdale, New York, after a long illness.

He came of an old army family, his father being gravely wounded in the Boer War, and his grandfather, General Reid, played an heroic part in saving women and children from massacre in the Indian Mutiny in 1857. Reid was commissioned in The Middlesex Regiment as the great War was drawing to a close. After service in France and Germany, he was, in 1925, seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force remaining for seven years. In 1933 he married Barbara York Weeks Smith of Smithtown, LI, USA. On the outbreak of war in 1939 he accompanied 2nd Middlesex to France as a part of the British Expeditionary Force, and it was his fortune to be acting Commanding Officer, pending the arrival of the then Colonel Horrocks, when the German Army invaded Belgium and Holland during the night of 9 May 1940. The Battalion had long been prepared to implement the famous Plan D by which it would precede the main body of 3rd Division and advance through Brussels to occupy the crossings over the River Dyle at Louvain, take over from the 12th Lancers and 15/19 Hussars, and hold these positions till relieved by 7th Guards Brigade and 8 Infantry Brigade 48 hours later. On May 10 1710 hours the Battalion crossed into Belgium arriving in Louvain by 0200 without incident. Unfortunately the Belgian troops defending the town were unaware of Plan D and opened fire, the Battalion suffering its first casualty. By 9 a.m. it had been established that the river crossing was being manned by the Belgian army and the forward companies were withdrawn to the West of the town. The German Air Force carried out a number of attacks during the day, and by nightfall there were indications that all was not well ahead. Refugees which had been passing through the town throughout the day had, by nightfall, become a torrent, and amongst them were an increasing number of Belgian soldiers none of whom showed any sign of discipline or organisation. German aircraft began dropping flares and there were constant cries of 'Alert' in the streets. Reid sent an urgent report back to Divisional HQ that there were strong indications that the Belgian Army had given way on his front. At 9 p.m. a Staff Officer arrived from Divisional HQ to confirm the worst fears and to say that his commander's orders were that 2 Middlesex were to 'Stop the German Army'. During 12 May our positions were reinforced by the arrival of 7 Guards Brigade and 9 Infantry Brigade. On May 13th Colonel Horrocks arrived to take over command and Reid reverted to 2nd in command.

On 30th May with backs to the sea at Furnes, east of Dunkirk, the Battalion was once again commanded by Reid in consequence of Colonel Horrocks appointment to command 11th Infantry Brigade. The difficulties of extricating units and sub units from close contact with the enemy and the evacuation from the beaches has many times been recorded.

Reid reformed the Battalion in Devon and then moved it to Poole preparatory to returning to France; but the early end to the Battle of France made this impossible and the Battalion joined 3 Division in defence of some twenty five miles of the coast to include Worthing and Brighton. There was now every expectation that Reid would be confirmed in command but, in those early days of the war 'Army List' seniority was dominant and he was yet again superseded by a more senior officer just returned from the 1st Battalion. However Reid was confirmed in his promotion by the appointment to command a Battle School. In 1943 he served in the Pacific Theatre and subsequently, as V.E. day approached, he was posted to Germany as Director of Labour in the British Zone of Occupation.

From 1946 to 1947 Reid commanded the 2nd Battalion during troubled times in Palestine; and from 1947 till June 1948 he commanded the 1st Battalion in Rhine Army. Subsequently he joined the British Mission to the United Nations in the U.S.A., retiring there in 1952 to form the Reid and Herrmann Real Estate Company, and keeping his British Citizenship.

Those who knew him will remember his great charm, the openness of his character and his enthusiasm for everything he took on. But few will have known that he was a talented artist, exhibiting in the Royal Academy in his teens, a gift inherited by his son, an artist and art expert of international renown.

To the last Reid was a generous supporter of our Regimental Museum, and we extend our most sincere condolences to his son James, his daughter Virginia Mary Hanson and his family.

## FORECAST OF EVENTS 1989

- 20 March Regimental Association Executive Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ Chelsea, London SW3 at 6.15 p.m.
- 29 April 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon Club at TA Centre, Hornsey. Assemble 12 noon.
- 12 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner at the Naval and Military Club (In and Out), 94 Piccadilly, London WC2.
- 13 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral, commencing at 2.30 p.m.  
Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, commencing 6.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting 7.30 p.m.
- 20 May 2/10th Bn (1914-18) 61st Luncheon Reunion, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2. Assemble 12 noon.
- 9 July Queen's Regiment Annual Reunion, Basingbourn, 11 a.m.
- 23 September Middlesex Regiment Korean Club Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, at 6.30 p.m.
- 5 October 2/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon Club, at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, at 12 noon.
- 11 October Housing Sub Committee Meeting at Cadet Officers Mess, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, at 6.45 p.m.
- 13 October Queens Regimental Association Meeting, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, at 1400 hrs.
- 14 October Queen's Regiment WOs and Sgts Past and Present Dinner at Basingbourn.
- 9 November 7th Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner, Stationer's Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4.
- 11 November Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster, 10.30 a.m.
- 12 November Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Bks, Mill Hill, London NW7, at 10.15 a.m. followed by reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.  
2/10th Bn (1914-18) Remembrance Service at St Nicholas' Church, Chiswick, London W4, at 3 p.m.  
7th Bn Remembrance Service at the Memorial Chapel, St Mary with St George Parish Church, Hornsey, at 10.30 a.m.

## BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January 1988 to 31 December 1988, the sum of £7116.41 has been spent from the Regimental Charitable Fund in assisting 83 members of the Regiment.

A further 7 cases have been assisted by the Army Benevolent Fund who are paying a supplementary allowance of £4 per week to 3 members at a cost of £624. The Army Benevolent Fund are also assisting with the cost of Nursing Home fees in a further 3 cases, totalling £1248, plus a special benevolent case with a grant of £150. A total of £2022.

## DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the regimental charitable fund:

- a. A donation of £100 by Sqn Ldr J.W. Lee, in memory of his father, the late Bill Lee, LCpl (Retd).
- b. A donation of £50 from Mrs Joan Riseley in memory of her husband the late Capt J.R.C. Riseley.
- c. A donation of £50 from Capt G.D. Cripps.



- d. A donation of £25 from members of the 2/7th (1939-45) Dinner Club.
- e. A donation of £25 from Mr John Yeowell, in memory of his father who was killed in 1917 whilst serving with the 16th (Public Schools) Bn.
- f. A regular monthly donation from Capt D.A. Hawkins made under the "Give as you Earn" Payroll scheme.

Plus donations from: Mr I. Abercrombie, Major K.R. McK Biggs (in memory of WO2 V. Corner), Mr H. Botchin, Mr A.T. Brown, Mr A.W.J. Brown, Mr G. Brown, Mr R.P. Burnage, Capt J.L.A. Ceaton, Mr R.R.P. Chapman, Major A.R. Cooper, Mr F.J. Dickinson, Col W.D. Ellis, Mr R.H. Gilbertson, Mr W.J. Gould, Mr J.E. Hutchins, Mr M.R. Hutchins, Mr J.O. Kenny, Capt A. Kenrick, Mr F.G. Lunnon, Mr H. Males, Mr L.C. Page, Mr S.M. Peart, Mr E. Platt, Mr L.T. Plumb, Capt G. Plummer, Mr A. Russell, Lt-Col E.P. Shanks, Mr L.F. Woodman.

### FREE NEWSLETTERS

The editor wishes to thank the following members for their generosity in donating extra subscription that free copies of the Diehards Newsletter can be sent to deserving Old Comrades and Widows:

Mr I.H. Abercrombie, Mrs Peggy Baldwin, Mr T. Barnett, Mr A.D. Bell, Major A.R. Bisset, Mr R. Botchin, Mr C.C. Bradish, Mr A.T. Brown, Mr A.W.J. Brown, Mr G. Brown, Mr R.R.P. Chapman, Capt J.L.A. Ceaton, Capt H.A.B. Claypole, Mr F.J. Dickinson, Mr R. Elliott, Mr T.G. Evans, Mrs S. Finch, Mr D.A. Hawkins, Mr A. Hughes, Mr J.E. Hutchins, Mr J.O. Kenny, Capt A. Kenrick, Mr R.E. Knowles, Mr R.J. Lomax, Mr H. Males, Mr G.A. Pfister, Mr S.M. Peart, Mr L.T. Plumb, Capt G. Plummer, Mr J.A. Poole, Mr J. Rolt, Mr A. Russell, Mrs G.E. Sims (Nellie Clark), Mr D.F. Stockman, Mr C.G. Stone, Mr L.F. Woodman.

### THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 10 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 regimental cross was also planted on the Far East Prisoners of war plot in memory of members of the 1st Bn.

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 the Field of Remembrance.

The regimental ceremony took place on Saturday 12 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 Alan Moody, bearing the Regimental Standard. Sadly no Chelsea Pensioners were on parade, at the moment we have only 3 and they were too infirm to attend.

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 Chattey after saying 'I plant this cross today in memory of our fallen comrades', planted a cross. The Secretary then invited the planting of individual crosses. The Chaplain concluded the service by reading the collects of the Middlesex and Queen's Regiment.

A car was provided for Major R.W.J. Smith and he very kindly brought up the Regimental Standard and attended the Service. It was good to see him on parade again.

### REGIMENTAL REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

The Regimental Remembrance Service was held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday 13 November and commenced at 10.15 a.m. The Service was attended by members of the Regimental Association and their families, the Postal and Courier Depot Royal Engineers, and a contingent from B(Albuhera) Company, 8(V) Bn The Queen's Fusiliers, stationed at the TA Centre, Edgware. By kind permission of Colonel P. Westcott, Commandant PCD RE, the service was held in the gymnasium. The service was conducted by The Rev. D.E. Wilkes, CF, Deputy Warden, Royal Army Chaplains Centre, Bagshot, assisted by The Rev P.H. Masterman. The Lesson was read by Major K.I.A. Carter, Commanding B(Albuhera) Company, 8(V) Bn The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London).

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  
Postal & Courier Depot R.E.  
B(Albuhera) Company 8(V) Bn  
Queen's Fusiliers  
Mill Hill Branch  
Hounslow Branch  
Middlesex Korean Club

Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP.  
Colonel P. Wescott.

Major K.I.A. Carter.  
Capt W.H. Craydon  
Major R.G.C. Thornton  
Mr A. Locks.

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 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 £278.65 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. The turnout at Edgware was much higher than usual and several members not seen in previous years were present. The name of Tony Russell comes to mind, who was the sign writer in the 1st Bn in my QM days and I had to tell him that a 4 inch brush was not suitable for Bn sign writing. There was also a chap named Beall who thought that a 3 ton truck was suitable for cross country driving. No wonder I went grey prematurely.

### REMEMBRANCE WREATHS

A Middlesex 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.

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 August 1988.

### THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



### REGIMENTAL HIERARCHY

Brig Charles Millman OBE, who has served the Regiment as Deputy Colonel from 1979 to 1983 and as Colonel from 1984, and Col John Holman CBE, who has been a Deputy Colonel since 1984, both complete their Regimental appointments on 31 December, 1988. The names of Maj Gen Mike Reynolds CB and Col Richard Graham MBE, who was commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), have been submitted to HM The Queen as their successors as Colonel of the Regiment and Deputy Colonel B respectively, and approval given. The other three Deputy Colonels, Brig Bob Acworth CBE, Brig Mike Constantine OBE and Brig H.N. Tarver CBE, will, of course, continue in office.

### THE BATTALIONS

The 1st Battalion, under command of Lt Col Chris Charter, is still based in Tidworth and in September exercised in Denmark. The 2nd Battalion, under Lt Col Merrick Willis, has returned to Minden after completing an emergency tour in West Belfast from April to September. The 3rd Battalion, which is on a 'Residential Tour' in Aldergrove, is now commanded by Lt Col Andrew Barratt. Our three TA battalions, commanded by Lt Col Philip Pearce (5th), Lt Col John Salmon (6th/7th) and Lt Col Nick Brunt RRF (8th Queen's Fusiliers) continue in good heart following some reorganisation when companies were transferred from command of the 6th/7th to the 8th Battalion.



## RECENT SUCCESSES

The 5th (Volunteer) Battalion team won the UKLF (TA) Combat Catering Competition and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion, in addition to coming 6th out of 100 teams at the TA Skill at Arms Meeting at Bisley, won the UKLF (TA) Orienteering Championships. The 1st Battalion have meanwhile been showing their prowess at boxing and cricket, while the Regimental Golfing Society teams, under Col John Davidson as Captain, won both the Queen's Division Cup and the Argyll and Sutherland Inter Regimental Challenge Bowl this season.

## FREEDOM PARADES

A contingent from the 1st Battalion in June exercised the Regiment's Freedom of Guildford, Reigate and Banstead, Margate and Maidstone and on 1 October a 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion contingent marched through Worthing. On 24 June next year, Crowborough is to honour the Regiment with the town's Freedom.

## EXERCISE COMBAT 89

A team from our 1st Battalion will represent the Regiment and the Queen's Division in a Central TV inter-battalion knockout competition which will be televised nationwide next Spring. In seven half hour programmes each team, consisting of a platoon commander, senior NCO, junior NCO and private, with four reserves of corresponding ranks, will be physically and intellectually tested in six events: a gun run with WOMBAT or trailer, a run and shoot biathlon, an assault boat sortie, a fell run, a vehicle rough ride and a patrol encounter. The competition starts at the end of March and runs through to the final in early June.

## KOHIMA (VOLUNTEER) BAND

The TA Band has a new name – the Kohima (Volunteer) Band, The Queen's Regiment. This name was selected in view of the Battle Honour awarded to the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment for their part in the fighting in April 1944 when the meagre garrison of Kohima checked the Japanese advance towards India. During this battle LCol Harman, 4 RWK, won a VC, awarded posthumously. Giving the TA Band a Regimental Battle Honour title brings it into line with our two Regular Army bands, the Albuhera Band now serving with the 2nd Battalion and the Quebec Band at present with the 1st Battalion.

## THE FLYING DRAGONS

The Regimental Free Fall Team, The Flying Dragons, who have been supported by Prudential for three years, have now won the sponsorship of Danepak for 1989, 1990 and possible 1991. This is a most appropriate company in view of the Regiment's links with Denmark which next year will date back exactly 300 years to 1689 when Prince George became Honorary Colonel of The Buffs.

## ACORN

From Flying Dragons to flying cyclists. A team of three from the 2nd Battalion pedalled their way back from Belfast to their base in Minden, West Germany at the end of August to publicise ACORN, the charity which supports handicapped children. En route they called in at Canterbury where they were welcomed at the Cathedral by the Archdeacon, the Sheriff and representatives of the Regiment. The 2nd Battalion has already raised a four figure sum in aid of ACORN and their success has had considerable publicity in local papers.

JW

## ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA CHURCH PARADE

A party of 32 attended the Royal Hospital Church Parade on Sunday 16 October. The party was led by our President, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey and Chairman Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow. Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby was also present. We paraded with the Chelsea In Pensioners on Governor's Parade before the Service and were inspected by Colonel G.A. Allan, the Duty Officer for the Day. The Rev. A.D. Bartlett, conducted the Service. After the service members moved to the Ives Room where a buffet had been arranged. At present we have 3 In Pensioners, namely – C.E. Painter, G. Fulton and F (Mutt) Hazlewood. Charlie Painter was the only one well enough to attend and he came in a wheel chair with a nurse in attendance.

By coincidence the family of the late Col Dennis Robbins, who commanded the 2/7th Bn, were attending the Service and we were able to invite them to the Ives Room for a drink and a snack.

This is the 20th consecutive occasion the regimental association have attended the Royal Hospital Church Parade.

## 2/10th BN (1914-18) OCA

The Old Comrades' Association of the 2/10th Bn held their customary Remembrance Service on Sunday 13 November, at St Nicholas' Church, Chiswick. The Service was very well attended by relatives and friends and was conducted by the Reverend Patrick Tuft, Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Association; the Lesson was read by Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow, Chairman of the Regimental Association.

Amongst those present were Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey, Brig and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, Col and Mrs A.S.J. de S. Clayton. Poppy wreaths were laid on the Memorials to the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions, and after the Service tea and light refreshments were served in the Church Hall by Mrs Barrett and her lady helpers.

The OCA's 61 Luncheon Reunion will be held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, W2, on Saturday, the 20th May next; full details will be circulated in due course.

ADS

## 2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

Despite the postal strike occurring just as the notices of the reunion were posted to members, we still managed a reasonable turn-out with 78 present on Thursday 6 October, at the Victory Club's Carisbrooke Hall. This was 11 down on last year's figure so we must all pull our socks up and ensure an increased attendance next year.

We were delighted to see our nonagenarian President, Brigadier E.W.C. Flavell, DSO, MC, TD, DL, our Chairman Lt-Col R.E. Robotham, MC, TD, and our ever-welcome guest, Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE.

As always, the 'box' was circulated and, with the help of donations of £207 received by post, our collection ultimately realised £407. The regular donation of £25 was made to the Regimental Association and grants totalling £257.50 were made to members to help with the cost of their tickets or fares, and otherwise to help those in need.

Yet again we had one member, Wally Kendrick, making his first ever appearance at a reunion. He was quickly settled in with old friends and promises to attend from now on. He also attended the regimental service at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster.

Next year will be, for most of us, the fiftieth anniversary of our joining the Bn, and I urge everyone who is physically able to do so to come along to our luncheon on Thursday 5 October 1989 and make it a memorable occasion.

RHT

## 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

The 61st Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4, on Thursday 10 November 1988.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were – Maj Gen B.P. Hughes, Lt-Col N.J.P. Brunt, Capt P. Hames, RN, Major P. Bateman, Major P.M.H. McGill, Lt A.C.B. Hurst, RNVN, Lt D. Roberts and F/O J.A. Rook.

The following members attended – Mgr R. Brown, Major K.I.A. Carter, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S. le M. Enthoven, Capt M.S. Gedyne, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Lt D.H.S. Herriott, Lt S.B. Hurst, Major R.J. Leighton, Major E.J. Naish, Lt P.J. Ottino, Lt J. Van de Pol, Major B. St G.A. Reed, Major P. Roberts, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Lt P. Sibbald, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Capt P.A. Stocken, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Major F. Webb, Capt J.G. Young.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – 7th BN MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The Service took place on Sunday 13 November in the War Memorial Chapel, St Mary with St George Parish Church, Hornsey. A bright sunny and warm November morning was a fitting day to remember the Dead of 1914-18 and 1939-45 as I understand that Armistice Day 70 years ago was bright and sunny on the Western Front. It is a pity, but as far as I know, no-one who saw that day in Flanders was present at Hornsey



Parish Church for our usual Remembrance Service; however, as always, a large number of the Church's congregation joined the representatives of the 7th Middlesex Old Comrades, the Queen's Regt Hornsey Association, those from B(Albuhera) Company 8th(V) Bn The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) TA, and the members of 217 Queen's Cadet Company ACF and 16(F) Wood Green and Hornsey ATC. They made a full church and once again we must thank the Rector the Rev Geoffrey Seabrook, and his Parish Committee for organising a moving Service.

After the opening hymns, which included the Regimental Hymn "Our Father by whose servants these Regiments were raised", a procession of the Wreath Layers moved to the 7th Bn Memorial Chapel in the North Aisle where the Rector said the Middlesex and Queen's Regiments' Collects. Before the Silence Mr M. Barton, an Old Diehard, recited "In Flanders fields", and Lt-Col D.E. Simpson then led into it by saying the words from the Kohima Memorial and the Exhortation. A bugler from the ATC sounded Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were then laid at the Memorial Altar for the 7th Bn Officers Club (by Mr C.A. White deputising for Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell), by former LCpl L.C. Moore for the Hornsey Branch of the Regimental Association, Major F. Webb for the Queen's Regimental Association Branch, 2Lt O. King for B Company, 2Lt D.F. Collins for the ACF and F.O. J. Mason for the ATC. The Service continued, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson reading The Lesson, and a moving Address given by Mr A.J. White, the Parish Reader, who had himself served in the Royal Navy in the War.

After the Service those present on parade were joined by the rest of B Company, who had been at Mill Hill, and the Old Comrades for the march back to Hornsey Drill Hall. A Salute was taken by Lt-Col D.E. Simpson accompanied by the Rector and escorted by the two Church Wardens. The usual convivial get-together then took place at the Drill Hall, for which hospitality we owe grateful thanks to B Company, and many old friends met and reminisced of old times and old comrades.

So passed the 70th anniversary of the Armistice of the 1914-18 War and the 43rd of the ending of the 1939-45 War.

Our comrades were fittingly remembered.

DES

#### PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Tom (Ginger) Batson (6539610) who served with the 1st Bn 1931-36 and with the PLK 1943-45 informs me that he is suffering from acute arthritis in his legs and has difficulty in moving about. He recently moved from Edware to Hadleigh, Essex.

Lt-Col M.J. (Mike) Ball, the last officer to be granted a regular commission in the regiment, has been Mentioned in Despatches for service in Northern Ireland.

Sgt Roy Bishop would like to remind members of the 2/8th (1st Bn) that the next luncheon will take place in May 1990 at the Victory Services Club. Members will be advised in due course. Roy, never idle, is now the Secretary of the Worthing Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

Mrs Barbara Blake Budden, shortly to reach the age of 90, a great supporter of the Regimental Association and our Albuhera Service of Remembrance in St Paul's Cathedral, has moved to Poole, Dorset. She tells me that she is very content and settled.

Capt Michael Brock, 2/7th Bn, has been appointed Warden of St George's House, Windsor Castle.

WOII Ron Chapman (6207747), C, B & A Company, 2/8th (1st Bn), sends his regards to all his friends and wishes them a happy and healthy New Year.

Lt-Col Peter Cheesman is making an excellent recovery after his recent major operation.

The Australian contingent of ex 1st Bn POW's, Reg Cotton, Nobby Noble and Blanco White, all sent me a Christmas Card with good wishes for a Happy New Year and asked me to remember them to all their comrades.

Capt George Cripps tells me that he is due for another operation in the New Year. Some years ago he was involved in a horrific car accident and the surgeons have been mending him ever since.

Miss E.A. Deeves, daughter of the late Lt T.W. Deeves, CMG, CBE, MC (died 1977) who served with our 16th (Public Schools) Bn attended the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai, with a party organised by the Royal Tank Regiment. She informs me that the RTR were splendid hosts and most helpful and made her visit a memorable one. Lt Deeves was wounded and won the Military Cross twice in 10 days during 1917. He was taken to hospital but left during the night and walked back to rejoin his men arriving just in time for the German counter attack on 30 November during which he was seriously wounded. Having lain in 'no man's land' for 36 hours he was brought back as dead. A medical officer looking under Deeve's blanket as he awaited burial noticed a movement and the lieutenant was taken to hospital. Though he was placed in a 'No Hope' ward he recovered. It was the end of the war for Lt Deeves, but his memories and injuries were to remain with him for the next 60 years.

Major John and Monica Doyle send regards to all their friends. They are both keeping well.

Cpl Nick Ellingworth (6200181), pre-war 1st Bn, has been a bit under the weather recently. He wishes to be remembered to all his comrades.

Sgt Alf Ellis (6197742), now nearly 81, tells me that he is looking forward to reunion next May. Alf was taken POW in Singapore and served his prison sentence for being idle in February 1942, in Thailand. He should have been with the 1st in Hong Kong but was on detachment in Singapore.

Mrs. Sylvia Finch, now in her late 80's, widow of ORQMS Bert Finch, tells me she was very sad to learn of the bomb on Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, and that all through the air raids during the last war there was only one small bomb and that fell on the coalyard! Another little story - apparently many moons ago Bert volunteered to play the Piano at the Armistice Day Service held on the Square and the piano had to be pushed from the NAAFI by volunteers (you, you and you will do).

Colonel R.H. (Richard) Graham, MBE, has been appointed Commandant, Junior Division of the Staff College at Warminster. He has also been appointed a Deputy Colonel of The Queen's Regiment.

Cpl R.J. Gibson, a Diehard, who served in the Albuhera Band of the Queen's Regiment has recently retired after completing 22 years Colour service. He is a regular at the annual reunion and tells me that he will be residing in Belgium.

Capt Alfred Goldman, 2/7th Bn, retired as Senior Partner in the firm of Isadore Goldman and Son. Your Secretary had the pleasure of being invited to his retirement party held at the Connaught Rooms, Great Queen Street, London WC2, on 2 November 1988. I am sure all members of the Regimental Association wish you a long, healthy and happy retirement.

Capt J.A.E. (John) Howell, who served with 1/7th Bn and the 2nd Bn has now moved from Brighton to Haywards Heath.



Mr R. Hurt who served with 10 platoon C Company 1/7th Bn, and was wounded in Sicily tells me that he recently read a book 'British Infantry' by the late General Montgomery and to his amazement saw a picture of himself and some of his comrades.

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Another interesting correspondent is Mrs Mary Jones, now 92, daughter of Lt-Col W.C.C. Ash who died of wounds in WWI whilst commanding the 23rd Bn. She was very interested to read the obituary of the late Brig B.B. Rackham, in the June 88 issue.

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Capt Paddy Kenrick writes to tell me he is well and will make a real effort to come over in May. He deplores the fact that he has not seen a Diehard for the last 10 years. I suggest that if he fails to arrive we should visit him. This should put the skids under him.

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Major R.J. (Bob) Leighton, 7th Bn, has been elected Master of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers Company for the ensuing year.

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Lt-Col Roger Lowans, so well known to TA members of the regiment has just completed his period of command of 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regiment. Roger commenced his service with the Dorset Regiment, joining 5 Queens in 1968 and then to 6/7th Queens upon the amalgamation in 1975, where he commanded B Company at Edgware. Us Diehards have fond memories of Roger.

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Mr F.G. Lunnon, who will be 90 this year, and is a regular correspondent likes to attend the Field of Remembrance Service at Westminster recently met Her Majesty The Queen when she visited Chelmsford. He served with the 1st Bn in WWI.

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Major Gen Christopher Man, donned the uniform of the Atholl Highlanders for the Remembrance Sunday parade at Blair Castle and proudly took the Salute. He was supported by his electric wheel chair - a marvellous effort. Sadly Topsy had another bad turn just before Christmas but is making a fairly good recovery. Colonel and Mrs Batty visited recently.

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Wing Commander J.R. (Jim) Marshall who served with the 2nd Bn April 1943 to May 1944 as a Lieut and with HQ 1 Corps June 1944 to September 1948 as a Major, informs me that he has now retired and moved to Leiston, Suffolk.

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Lt-Col A.C. (Amadee) Mieville has been selected to command 1 Queens, starting May 1990. I feel sure that all members of the regiment who knew Amadee, and have watched him mature, will wish to congratulate Chris and Daphne on producing such a fine son.

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The senior member by age of the Officers' Club is Lieut Freddie Molz, now 92, who resides at Hove, Sussex. After passing out at Sandhurst in 1916 he joined the 5th S.R. Bn at Chatham. He later served with the 1st Bn under Lt-Col J.W. Elgee. I hope to publish a full account of his service in the next issue of the Diehards. Freddie has been a member of the M.C.C. for over 60 years. I must remember to tell Lt-Col John Stephenson, Secretary of the MCC, that one of his oldest members is a Diehard.

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Mrs Peggy Morden, MBE, who did so much for the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Korea attended the Korean Club reunion at the Victory Services Club in September. It gave me great pleasure to be able to speak to her at length and during our conversation she presented a silver cap badge to the museum. He son, Tony, who served with the 1st Bn in Cyprus and who died in 1980 at a very early age is remembered by us all. He was a fine hockey player and a popular and efficient member of the regiment.

Major Geoff Norton has retired from the Parachute Depot RHQ at Aldershot, and moved to Lydbury North, Bishops Castle, South Shropshire. We wish them a long and happy stay in that lovely county. Geoff visited Cyprus last April and tells me that the Pillar Box at Alexander Barracks, Dhekelia, is still in use and the plate 'Built by the Pioneer Platoon, 1 Mx, in March 1958' is intact. My bricklayer at this time, I think, was Private Spong. He is the one member of the QM staff I have failed to trace. Can anyone help?

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Major Peter Goulding, 2/7th Bn, has recently been appointed Honorary Secretary of the Holyport Branch, Berks, Royal British Legion. He also tells me that he and his wife have enjoyed a holiday in the French Alps in the company of Major Peter and Barbara Hill (E Surreys) and Lt-Col Derek Scott-Lowe.

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6205133 Reg Prosser who served initially as a boy soldier in the 2nd Bn Band from May 1939 to 1942, recently sent me a 5 page letter outlining his very interesting career and asking about all his old friends. He transferred to the Royal Signals in 1942 and served with that regiment for 12 years. Later he was with the Merchant Navy.

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Major Gerry and Joan Porter, whilst on holiday in Southern Ireland, visited Mrs. Aubrey Jacobs during the summer, and found that she is now living in a nursing home in Waterford. Over the years she has been a frequent correspondent and wishes to be remembered to all who knew her.

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Sgt Jim Preston (6205018) last year underwent a triple heart by-pass operation. He is gradually recovering from such major surgery under the care of his wife Hilda and can now walk round the block. Jim served from 1938 to 1960 and lives in Eastbourne. He tells me that he is out of touch having no Diehards in his area. He is determined to get better and I feel sure that Hilda will make this happen. Our very best wishes to you both.

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For some time I have been trying to obtain a programme of the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion in Austria on 27 September 1953, by Field Marshal Sir John Harding. After some thought I telephoned Capt Frank Redpath and my dilemma was solved - within two days the programme arrived and will now be included in the archives of the museum. Sadly Frank and his wife have not been well and have been caring for one another and unable to appear at regimental functions.

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Colonel (Rtd) Leslie Sharp, RAOC, who served as a subaltern with the 1st Bn in Korea, and later obtained a regular commission with the RAOC, has joined the office of the Chief of Staff, Sultan's Armed Forces, Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. His job is Adviser to the International Marksmanship Unit in the MOD at Muscat.

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LCpl Taffy Shore (6201889), who now resides in Fleggburgh, Great Yarmouth, has asked to be remembered to all his old comrades (he did not have any friends). He taught numerous members of the 1st Bn to ride a motor cycle, myself included. He tells me that both of his ears were perforated after the Lisbon Maru. I knew he had wood worm but did not know he had sprung a leak.

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Another correspondent is Mr W.A. Smith (G/57346) who will be 90 years of age in February. He served with A Company 18th Bn in WWI.

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Former Sgt R.J. Weedon (L14843X), now 93 years, who commenced his service with the 2nd Bn in 1913 and also saw service with the 3rd Bn has recently enjoyed a 4 day tour of the 1914-18 Battlefields organised by the Littlehampton Town Council. He was able to visit the cemeteries at Ypres, Arras, Somme etc. Reg tells me that he really enjoyed the trip. He is a regular correspondent.

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The following have joined the regimental association:

Sgt. H. Botchin (6203300), served with B Company, 2nd Bn 1936-45. Medals 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, The King's Badge (Disability Pension).

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Private G. Brown (6213462), served with B Company, 1st Bn 1940-45, Far East Prisoner of War, Osaka Camp, Japan. Medals 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

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LCpl F.J. Butler (22546314), served with HQ Company 1st Bn 1950-62.

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Private F.J. Byford (6203293), served with A Company 1st Bn, Far East Prisoner of War, Kobe Camp, Japan. Medals 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

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CSgt D.E.G. (Danny) Cranfield (6480606), served St Helena Rifles 1939-45, Royal Fusiliers 1945-48, 1st Bn 1948-53. Served with A and S Companies in Korea.

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Private W.F.N. (Noddy) Davidson (23735716), served Corps of Drums 1st Bn 1959-66, 1, 2 and 3 Queens, Royal Green Jackets, AD Troop Gibraltar 1967-82.

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Private T.G.H. Evans (6201076), served 1935-46, C Company 1st Bn, Far East Prisoner of War, Lisbon Maru, Kobe, Japan. Medals 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Hong Kong Dockyard Police Long Service Medal.

Tom Evans is the last member of the 1st Bn still residing in Hong Kong. After demob in 1946 he joined the Royal Naval Dockyard Police in 1949 and was promoted 1st Class Police Officer in 1952. He was later promoted Inspector of Police. After the closure of the Dockyard he helped to form a Police Force at Little Sai Wan, which became known as the Composite Signals Police Force HQ UK, retiring in 1984. He lives at Sui Lam Village on the Castle Peak Road, New Territories.

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Bandsman G.W.J. (George) Geary (6199287). Served 1st and 2nd Bn Bands 1930-49. RMAS Band Corps 1949-67. Far East Prisoner of War, Lisbon Maru and Kobe Camp, Japan. Medals 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, General Service Medal (Clasp Palestine), Long Service and Good Conduct Medal (w/Bar).

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Private H. Green (6201491). Served 2nd Bn 1934-35, C & HQ Company 1st Bn 1935-46. Far East Prisoner of War, Shamshupo Camp, Hong Kong. Medals 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

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LCpl A. Gumburd (6203907). Served B Company 1st Bn 1937-46. Far East Prisoner of War, Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo. Medals 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

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Cpl T.F. Hunt (22950718). Served C and HQ Company (Signals) 1953-56. Medal - General Service Medal (Clasp Cyprus). Recalled 1956-57 and served with Royal West Kent Regiment (Suez). Resides Porirua, New Zealand.

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Private R.J.R. Hurt (6209351). Served 10 Platoon C Company 1/7th Bn 1940-44. Wounded in Sicily and invalided out. Medals 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, 1939-45 War Medal.

Private J.E. Hutchins (23494657). Served HQ Company (Corps of Drums) and B company 1st Bn 1956-59. Medal General Service Medal (Clasp Cyprus).

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Cpl J.A. Kirkpatrick (23638978). Served HQ Company (QM - Carpenter) 1959-61.

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C/Sgt H.A. (Bill) Males (6211953). Served 2/7th Bn, 1/7th Bn, Depot and 1st Bn 1940-63. For the last 7 years of his service he ran the Senior Officers' Mess Nicosia, Cyprus. Medals British Empire Medal, 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Africa Star, Italy Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, General Service Medal (Clasp Cyprus).

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Cpl P. St. C. Nesbit (2037608). Served B Company 1st Bn 1937-46. Far East Prisoner of War, Lisbon Maru and Kobe Camp Japan. Medals 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

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Private G.E.J. Smith (14404984). Served A Company 70th Bn 1942-43, C & D Companies 2 PLK 1943-45, D Company 1st Bn 1945-46. Medals 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, 1939-45 War Medal.

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Private N. Smith (14347175). Served Royal Artillery 1942-44. B & HQ Company 1/7th Bn 1944-46. Medals 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, War Medal 1939-45.

## OBITUARY

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

BRISTOW - On 11 November 1988, Private Albert Philip Bristow, aged 92 years.

Bert Bristow served with our 12th Battalion in the 1914-18 War. He was a grand character and once every year I always made a point of speaking to him on the telephone. He lived with his daughter who cared for him for many years.

BROWN - On 26 April 1988, WO2(BSM) Charlie Brown, aged 78 years.

Charlie Brown enlisted into the 9th Bn at Pound Lane, Willesden, on 12 February 1929. He became a popular member and was a soccer player of considerable skill. He signed amateur forms for Fulham football club and played as a semi pro for Bexleyheath. He was very proud to have served with Sir Brian Horrocks when he was Adjutant of the 9th Bn. In 1941 he was transferred to the 30th LAA Regt RA together with a number of comrades from the old 9th Bn and became part of the 44th Division joining the 8th Army in the Western Desert and fought from Alamein right through North Africa and Italy. He finished the war in Italy as RSM of Taranti Transit Camp. After the war he again joined the TA and was a BSM in 595 LAA Regt RA. He eventually retired in December 1960, aged 50 years, with a very good record of 31 years almost unbroken service.

CROWDER - On 14 August 1988, Lt Michael Crowder (427395), aged 54 years.

Michael Crowder served as a National Serviceman in the regiment from 1953-55. He was selected for service in Nigeria and on completion of his two years was posted to 7 Mx to serve his TA service. On his return to UK he studied at Oxford and obtained a First. His first love was Africa and after 20 years in Nigeria he became Professor of History in the University of Botswana and during the last two years of his life was simultaneously Director of the Institute of Black Studies at Amherst and visiting Professor at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies.

DENNY - Captain Victor Wellington Denning, TD, aged 73 years.

He was commissioned into the regiment during 1938 and served with the 8th Bn during the 1939-45 War. He was a member of the Officers' Club. No further details are available.

DU JARDIN - On 9 December 1988, Sgt Henry Hubert (Duleep) Du Jardin (6196195 and 6216141), aged 82 years. Sgt Du Jardin enlisted into the regiment on 16 April 1924 and was posted to the 2nd Bn serving in India, Sudan, Singapore, returning to UK with the Bn in 1931 and remaining with the Bn until his transfer to the Army Reserve on 15 April 1936. For many years he was Education Instructor and assisted many



members to obtain their 1st Class certificate of education. On the 21 August 1940 he was recalled from the Reserve and remained with the regiment until 1941, when he was transferred to the RASC serving until 1 April 1949. Sadly he missed a service pension by a few weeks.

**FOX** – On 16 December 1988, Sgt William Joseph Lawrence Fox (6200275), aged 74 years.

Bill Fox joined the 9th Bn TA during 1936 and was a member when the regiment was given a new role in 1939 as 60th Searchlight Regt RA. In 1941 there was a further change of role when the unit was converted from Searchlights to Light Anti-Aircraft under the title of 126 LAA Regt RA. In 1941 Bill was part of a draft posted to the Middle East serving at Tobruk, but after a time was invalided home and was later employed at a Prisoner of War Camp in Warwickshire. He sadly died at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, whilst enjoying a convalescent spell in the Home. He was a long standing member of the regimental association and will be sadly missed.

**GRAHAM** – On 22 October 1988, Lt Ewan Curwen Graham, aged 86 years.

Ewan Graham joined the 1st Bn in Hong Kong during 1940 and was posted to C Company. At the fall of Hong Kong on Christmas Day 1941 he was taken POW. In September 1941 he was one of a large draft from the regiment being despatched to Japan per the ill fated Lisbon Maru which on 1 October 1942 was hit by a torpedo from an allied submarine and sank. He survived and was held in Kobe Camp until his release in August 1945. Ewan Graham was a gentleman of the old school and regularly attended our annual church service with the In Pensioners at Chelsea Hospital. His funeral was attended by Lt-Col T.W.C. Chattey, Capt and Mrs J.H.S. Hudson, Lt-Col and Mrs Bill Martin, Royal Artillery.

**GRAYBURN** – On 28 August 1988, Capt W.E.H. (Bill) Grayburn, MC, aged 76 years.

He was originally commissioned into the H.A.C. and was posted to the 9th Bn TA at the outbreak of the 1939-45 War. He was awarded the Military Cross at Nijmegen whilst serving with the 126 LAA Regiment RA (9 Mx). His brother won the Victoria Cross at Arnhem.

**HONEYBUN** – On 10 August 1988, Mrs Eva Honeybun, widow of the late Major L.T. Honeybun who died on 27 February 1979.

**HURST** – On 25 July 1988, Captain Samuel (Sammy) Richard Hurst (320296), aged 67 years.

Sammy Hurst served with the 1/7th Bn during 1944-46 and held various positions of importance in the battalion – mortar officer, assistant adjutant and education officer. Before he joined the army he saw active service as a pilot in the RAF until injuries sustained in action made him physically unfit for further flying duties. On leaving the army in May 1946 the late Colonel Douglas Parker gave him a glowing testimonial.

**JACOBSON** – On 13 August 1988, Lord Jacobson, aged 79 years.

At the outbreak of the Second World War he volunteered for service enlisting as a private in the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment. Within a few weeks he was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment and proceeded with 2 PLK to Iceland to train for ski troop operations. By 1944 he was a major and during the heavy fighting in the Low Countries became 2IC of his battalion, the 2PLK. Late that year he was awarded the Military Cross after he had resolutely withstood a heavy enemy counter attack on a bridge.

He was a distinguished Fleet Street journalist. A former editor of the Daily Herald and of the Sun and former editorial director of the Mirror Group.

**JOHNSON** – On 15 April 1988, former Private Robert (Swabby) Johnson.

He joined the 2/7th Bn from the KRRC just before the battalion went overseas in May 1943, serving until 1945. He attended the 1986 reunion.

**LACK** – On 8 November 1988, Private Thomas (Tommy) Lack, MM, aged 91 years.

During the 1914-18 War he served with the Royal Fusiliers, where he was awarded the Military Medal. From 1940 to 1945 he was a member of the Middlesex Home Guard. He always enjoyed attending our Church Service at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

**LEE** – On 21 August 1988, LCpl William (Bill) Lee (21674 and 6191867), aged 84 years.

Bill Lee enlisted into the Regiment on 16 February 1920, joining the 5th Battalion at Mill Hill. He was posted in May to the 3rd Battalion then in Silesia until December 1921. Posting to the 2nd Battalion followed and he served in Singapore and Ahmednagar until his transfer to the Army Reserve on 24 April 1927. It was in 1925 that Bill obtained the appointment of LCpl in the Signal Section. He enjoyed his time in the army and had a wonderful sense of humour and always signed his correspondence Bill Lee, LCpl (Retd)!

Bill then decided to do something different so he joined the Metropolitan Police with whom he served for

26½ years rising to the rank of Police Inspector, during this time he earned 15 Commendations. His medals were the 1939-45 Defence Medal, Police Long Service Medal and the Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal. Bill liked to attend the Armistice Service held at Mill Hill in November. A grand Diehard who will be sadly missed.

**LEVY** – During August 1988, Private Alfred Levy (6210540), aged 68 years.

He was called up for service in November 1939 and on completion of his training was posted to the 2/8th Bn (later to be known as the resuscitated 1st Bn). He served in Northern Ireland and throughout the European campaign 1944-45. He was a Driver Operator with 15 Platoon, D Company. In civilian life he was a professional artist and sculptor in metal and stone.

**LOBB** – On 20 November 1988, Captain Derek Lobb, aged 56 years.

Derek Lobb was granted a regular commission in the Regiment on 1 August 1952. In early 1953 he was posted to the 1st Bn and joined A Company. He retired on 2 August 1957 after 5 years service.

**LOXTON** – On 10 July 1988, Sgt John Loxton (6188016), aged 85 years.

John Loxton enlisted into the TA and joined the 7th Bn on 13 April 1920 serving until 9 September 1944. During the 1939-45 war he served for a period with the 1/7th Bn. No other details available.

**MATTHEWS** – On 21 June 1988, Sgt Charles Douglas Matthews (6202798), aged 71 years.

Charlie Matthews enlisted into the regiment on 12 February 1936 and on completion of recruit training at the Depot was posted to the 2nd Bn at Gosport. On the 6th September 1937 he was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and joined D Company. He enjoyed all sports and was a member of the Bn Athletic team in 1938 and represented the Bn in the 440 yards relay. Charlie fought in the battle for Hong Kong and his Pillbox was at Little Sheko Beach. When Hong Kong fell on Christmas Day 1941 he became a P.O.W. and commenced his sentence in Shamshuipo Camp and in Nanking Lines where the Bn had been stationed on arrival from Singapore. He was a member of the first draft to be moved by the Japanese to Japan and ended up in Sakurajima Camp Osaka and was later moved to Akanobi Camp and worked in the Copper Mines quite near to Hiroshima when the atom bomb was dropped. He arrived in UK on 30 October 1945 after spending 3 years 310 days in captivity. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 29 May 1946.

He was a trade tested bricklayer having undergone a course at the Royal Engineer Depot, Chatham, in early 1937. In the 50's he built a number of quality houses in Bovingdon, Herts. His health began to suffer and he did various jobs and for a time ran a golfing range at Finchley. Golf became his main sport and he was a regular attendee at regimental golf meetings and over the years collected a number of cups. He eventually with his family moved to Albuhera Close, Enfield, and he made a garden at the back of his house from more or less derelict land removing a large overgrown hedge and then trying to make something grow. His health continued to deteriorate but his indomitable spirit kept him going, the shears became hand clippers and then scissors.

It was in 1981 he took his wife Mary to Hong Kong and was able to show the Pillbox that he fought from and the cemetery where his comrades lay. He was a personal friend and a most loveable character. The funeral took place at Enfield Crematorium and the regimental flag draped the coffin. The funeral was attended by – Major and Mrs Waldron, Mr K. Broom, Mr E. Collier, Mr R. Cubitt, Mr H. Daniels, Mrs B. Evans, Mr and Mrs J. Milroy, Mr and Mrs J. Poole and Mr F. Worley. Our very sincere condolences to his widow Mary and family.

**McQUEEN** – On 13 October 1988, Major Robert (Bob) McQueen, RAMC, aged 66 years.

Bob McQueen was the R.M.O. in 5 Mx and 10 Queens from 1962-69. On retirement he took Holy Orders and was Rector of Barkway, Herts, at his death.

**MEAD** – During the latter part of 1988 Captain Philip Mead (304971).

He is believed to have served with the 1/7th Bn during the 1939-45 War and was a life member of the 51st (Highland) Division Dinner Club. No other details are available.

**MULLETT** – On 6 June 1988, Private Sidney Herbert Mullett (6200165), aged 75 years.

Sid enlisted into the regiment on 20 July 1931 and joined the 2nd battalion on their return to UK from Kharoum and continued to serve until 1942, including the evacuation from Dunkirk. In 1942 he was posted to the 1/8th Bn and was discharged in October 1945.

**O'RAWE** – On 11 December 1988, Sgt Francis Joseph (Frank) O'Rawe (22560673), aged 55 years.

Frank O'Rawe joined the regiment on 9 May 1951 and served until 4 October 1973. He joined the 1st Bn in Hong Kong on 30 October 1951, returning to UK with the Bn on 1 December 1952. Service with the 1st Bn in BTA 1953-55, Cyprus 1955-58, BAOR 1958-62, Gibraltar 1963-64, British Guiana 1966, MELF 1967 and UK 1967-73 followed.



Frank was a class boxer who dedicated himself to the sport. He was also a very good swimmer and was a member of the Bn team that won the BAOR Individual Championships in 1959. I quote a few of the boxing championships in which he was involved. He was Army Middleweight Boxing Champion in 1960 and also BAOR Light Heavy Weight Champion. He also boxed in the Inter Services Boxing championships and reached the finals. In 1963-64 he was runner-up in the Light Heavy Weight Class in the Army Championships. He was Captain of the Battalion team for many years. Sadly Frank always fought under a terrific handicap at such weights – he was only 5 feet 7 inches in height which so enhances his achievements.

From 1967 to 1973 he was a member of the Queen's Regiment Recruiting team, i.e. 42 AYT. He appeared on the Television Recruiting advertisement 'Sgt O'Rawe will visit you at home'. He had a flair for dealing with youth assisted by his cheerful, modest and pleasant personality. A grand Diehard who was so proud of his regiment and his sporting achievements so enhanced our name.

His funeral was attended by so many that it was impossible to name all the mourners – I quote a few: Mr & Mrs A. Burford, Mr & Mrs S. Hilton, Mr & Mrs D. Burke, Mr & Mrs J. Rogers, Mr & Mrs J. Read, Messrs K. Brown, M. Quinn, W. Wall, M. Clift, A. Broadbent, A. Beall, B. Argent, R. Clarke, P. Castle, T. Parnell, D. Bennett, A. Brumwell, J. Dickens, P. Murphy, Capt Roy Scott and others. Alfie Burford and Frank's sons, Michael and Ian acted as pall bearers, the regimental flag draped the coffin and CSgt C. Whitten sounded Last Post and Reveille. So passed a Diehard revered by his family and comrades. Our sincere regimental condolences to his widow, Angela, and the family.

**OXLEY** – On 24 June 1988, Cpl Henry (Harry) Oxley (G87359), aged 89 years.

Harry Oxley served in WWI with our 23rd Battalion from May 1917 to March 1919. He was wounded in the left leg on 29 September 1918 for which he was awarded a disability pension. His two main hobbies were the history of the 23rd Battalion, he was a prolific writer on stiff cartridge paper, and then there were his paintings. He told me that these are on display in the Ypres WWI Museum, The Tower of London Museum (The Royal Fusiliers), the RAF Museum and our own regimental museum. He was a continual correspondent but what puzzled me and also Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby was the inexhaustible supply of this thick cartridge paper.

Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby attended the funeral.

**PAINTER** – On 19 November 1988, In Pensioner Sgt Charles Edwin Painter (L/16761 and 6189311), aged 88 years. Charlie commenced his service on 28 November 1916 and continued to serve until his discharge on 2 August 1936 – a total of 19 years 8 months. He served with No. 1 Special Company in Russia, the 3rd and 1st Battalions, including a tour at the Depot. During WWII he served with RAF Volunteer Reserve running the Cadet Air Training Corps. He was awarded the following medals – 1914-18 BWM, Victory Medal, Defence Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Cadet Forces Medal.

He was admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 24 August 1981 after the death of his wife. Charlie was a regular attendee at Regimental functions and escorted the Regimental Standard on many occasions at the Field of Remembrance ceremony. Charlie was our senior Chelsea Pensioner and I have visited him on many occasions, the last time being the regimental visit to the R.H. Chelsea church parade when he appeared in his wheel chair plus nurse.

The Painter family have a unique record of service with the Middlesex Regiment. The eldest was Charlie followed by Jack who served from 1916 to 1950 and retired as WO(RSM). Sadly he passed on – 1 November 1975, aged 73 years. The youngest brother was Brian, now 81, who served with the 22 Middlesex Home Guard. The medals of their father, Sgt C.J. Painter, 9th Bn (TA) are on display in the regimental museum.

At the funeral the regimental flag draped the coffin. Mr and Mrs Ron Pile attended the funeral.

**SHRUBB** – On 12 October 1988, WO2 Leslie Shrubbs (6205098), MM, aged 68 years.

Les Shrubbs enlisted into the regiment on 22 March 1939 and after recruit training joined the 2nd Battalion. He saw active service with the BEF from January to March 1940 and from April to May 1940. Home service followed until June/July 1944 when he served in NWE and again from November 1944 to October 1945. He was awarded the Military Medal (LG 24.2.2946). He joined the 2nd Bn in Palestine in November 1947 returning to UK with the Bn in June 1948 when the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Bns took place. He proceeded with the 1st Bn to Hong Kong in June 1949 and was posted back to the UK in August 1950. He was then selected for posting to the Royal West African Frontier Force and served in West Africa from 1952 to 1955. On returning to UK he was posted to the 1st Bn in Cyprus until October 1958 and then to BAOR until December 1959. His last year was spent in UK and he retired on 21 March 1961 on completion of 22 years service. His medals were – M.M., 1939-45 Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, General Service Medal with clasps Palestine and Cyprus.

CSM Shrubbs was a good sportsman and represented the Bn at Football, Hockey and Cricket. He was a cheerful and a very popular member of the regiment and will be sadly missed. In civilian life he was a chauffeur to Barclays Bank.

The Regimental Flag draped the coffin and the funeral was attended by Major M. Wild, Capt and Mrs T. McMillan and Mrs E. Markham. Our deepest sympathy to his widow Dot and Family.

**STEPHENSON** – On 18 October 1988, Fred Stephenson, aged 99 years.

Fred Stephenson, together with his brother, was a pre-First World War Territorial with the 1/10th Bn of the Regiment. When that Bn went to India in 1914, he was posted to the 2/10th Bn raised at Stamford Brook on the 12 September 1914. He served with that unit at Sulva Bay, Gallipoli (August – December 1915), was wounded and after hospitalization at Malta, was sent to England. He subsequently rejoined the Battalion (and his brother) and served in Egypt and Palestine until demobilisation. As the oldest member of the 2/10th O.C.A. he was visited by representatives on May 1st on his 99th anniversary, and had looked forward to his centenary, but it was not to be. He will be remembered as a valued friend and a staunch DieHard.

**TARBUCK** – On 16 December 1988, Sgt Horace Anthony Tarbuck (5989131), aged 72 years.

Sgt Tarbuck served from 21 January 1937 to 1 March 1946. The whole of his service was with the 2nd Battalion and he was at Dunkirk 1939-40 and NWE 1944-45. He never married and died in a Nursing Home at Eastbourne.

**WEBB** – Mrs Doreen Webb on 29 September 1988, wife of 14404436 Cpl S.E. Webb.

**WOOKEY** – Mrs Eileen Wookey on 25 October 1988, wife of 6201000 Cpl Frank Wookey.

**WILLIAMS** – On 28 July 1988, Orderly Room Sgt Bernard C. Williams, BEM, (6208153).

Enlisted in the TA 1939 and served with 2/7th Bn right through to demob in 1945. He combined extreme efficiency with a pleasant manner and will be remembered with affection by all who knew him.

## CHARITY COMMISSION

Charity – The 4th Battalion Middlesex Regiment Officers' Mess Fund.

The Charity Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this Charity. Copies of the draft Scheme may be obtained from them (ref: 154094-CD(SC)) at At Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX, and may be seen at The United Services Trustee, 25 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BN.

Objections and suggestions may be sent to the Commissioners within one month from today, 20 January 1989.

## REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following items have been presented to the Regimental Museum:

Souvenir of the Presentation to the 7th Middlesex of an illuminated Resolution passed by Wood Green Borough Council on behalf of the people of Wood Green – Wednesday 20 September 1944.

Copy of the 2nd Army Thanksgiving Service on Conclusion of The Campaign in North West Europe 6th June 1944 to 5th May 1945.

1/7th Bn, 16 May 1944, Albuhera Day – Souvenir Programme.

Presented by Mr Norman Smith who served with the 1/7th Bn with B and HQ Companies 3 January 1944 to 15 December 1946.

## HOUNSLOW BRANCH

The branch continues to flourish and membership is on the increase. Over the last few months members have attended all regimental functions. In 1988 a party of 7 members attended the Lille ceremonies.

The usual visits to France and Belgium are being planned for 1989 and it is intended that one of the visits will be to Normandy in May for 4 days and two other trips in July will do the Salient around Ypres and another will do the Salient and the Somme.



### THE HONG KONG (ARGYLE STREET) P.O.W. ASSOCIATION

The 1988 reunion was held in the Central Officers' Mess and HQ Club, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on Saturday 15 October.

The following attended - Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Mrs Kitty Hedgecoe, Major F.S.C. Hancock, Capt J.H.S. Hudson and Major A.E.F. Waldron.

### 45th ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF LE HAVRE 1989

This function will take place on 9, 10 and 11 September. Anyone interested should write to Capt I.C. Hemmerton, 65 Norfield Road, Dartford, Kent DA2 7NY.

### ANZIO BEACHHEAD - DIARY OF A SIGNALLER

An Artillery signaller's autobiographical story of the Italian campaign from Reggio di Calabria to Lake Garda, with emphasis on Anzio.

148 pages with illustrations, by Tom Roe. Foreword by Sir Harry Secombe, CBE. Printed by Higham Press, price £5.50 incl p. and p.

Obtainable from Tom Roe, 96 Station Road, Pilsley, Nr Chesterfield S45 8BH.

### ORAL HISTORY OF 'D' DAY

The following letter has been received from Russell Miller, Mallard's Court, Stokenchurch, Bucks HP14 3TQ.

I have been commissioned by Michael Joseph Ltd to write an 'oral history' of D-Day, for publication shortly before the 50th anniversary of the landings, and I am writing to ask for your help.

It is my intention to tell the story entirely through first-hand accounts of those who took part, both in major and minor roles. Accordingly, I am hoping to get in touch with as many D Day veterans as I can find.

Would it be possible for you to insert a paragraph in your next edition inviting any readers who took part in D Day, or who have comrades who took part, to get in touch with me at the above address.

Editor - Over to the D Day veterans.

### MUSEUM FOR PEACE CAEN -

#### Known as Memorial de la Bataille de Normandie

Lt-Gen Sir Ian Harris, KBE, CB, DSO, who is the Chairman of the British Support Committee, wrote on his appeal letter which was addressed to Brig H.C. Millman, OBE, Colonel of The Queen's Regiment:

"I have just returned from a visit to Normandy in preparation for the 6th June ceremonies. I visited the Camber Cemetery of which I have clear recollections of the magnificent support which the Middlesex Regiment gave my Battalion (2.R.U.R.) when we captured Camber on 9 June 1944"

Editor's comment. Our 2nd Bn were involved in this action.

The following donations were made -

£50 from the Regimental Association account.

£50 from the Middlesex Regiment Museum Trust Account.

### LIBERATION DAYS - BELGIUM 1989

The Liberation Days of GEEL and KASTERLEE will take place from 22 to 25 September. Mr Roy Bishop, 45 Shermanbury Road, Worthing, Sussex, can give further information.

### LETTERS

From: Lieutenant General Sir Alan Reay, KBE, FRCP,  
The Florence Nightingale Museum Trust,  
Gassiot House,  
2 Lambeth Palace Road,  
London SE1 7EW.

6th September 1988

Dear Major Waldron,

At the last count the monies raised by the Regiments associated with the Crimea had passed £2,700. This is so encouraging that we are now ready to make a decision on how best to use this fund.

I enclose the Trust's latest brochure which reproduces the diagrammatic plan of the Museum. In the Crimea section it is intended that there will be a lit model (diorama) depicting the plight of wounded soldiers in line of evacuation from the battlefields.

From the harbour at Balaklava they went by ship across a turbulent stretch of water - a journey lasting four days or more - and disembarked at a makeshift jetty at Scutari. From there the wounded made their way on foot, or were carried on stretchers, up a steep cliff path to the Barrack Hospital. The model will show, particularly, their painful progress up the cliffside. The whole journey from battlefield to Hospital was known as 'The Middle Passage'.

I feel the monies you have helped to raise should be used to fund this model. I hope you agree.

Work on the Museum is proceeding well and we plan to open in January 1989.

(I think your generosity was unique, in the sense that other regiments sent a single generous response for the 'new' Regiment!)

With kind regards

Yours ever

(Sgd) Alan Reay.

From: RHQ The Parachute Regiment  
Browning Barracks  
Aldershot, Hants GU11 2BU

12 November 1988

Dear Regimental Secretary

The Golden Jubilee of Airborne Forces

The first parachute unit, No. 2 Commando, formed in 1940 and its members came from many different parts of the Army: since then every cap badge must have had officers and soldiers serving in the Airborne Forces. Of course, there were a good number of regiments providing battalions for the Airborne Forces, and a good number also of battalions who converted to parachuting and changed title to become part of the Parachute Regiment: members of these battalions are mainly in good contact with us, as also are members of the other arm, corps or service units or detachments.

The Aim of the Golden Jubilee of Airborne Forces is that all those who served should celebrate this anniversary, that a permanent memorial should be set up, and that funds should be raised to cover these as well as boosting the Airborne Charities.

You will know that the Airborne Museums at Aldershot and Normandy are for Airborne Forces as a whole. But you may not know that The Airborne Forces Security Fund is able to assist any Airborne or ex-Airborne soldier or his dependents, even though other benevolent funds may also be involved.

Our main concern in The Security Fund is that the 1990s will show a threefold increase in the demands for money. The Controller of the Security Fund has done a first stage projection which shows a considerable increase in demands on the Fund in the 1990s as those of the wartime group reach their 80s.

I would be very grateful if the information in this letter could be brought to the notice of the members of



your association, possibly through your magazine or news sheet, so that those who served in Airborne Forces may make contact with a view to taking part in the 50th Anniversary celebrations either for the very special Airborne Forces Day on 7th July 1990 in Aldershot or at one of the Regional Open Days that are being held in other parts of the UK.

I would also be grateful that a copy of this letter goes to the Secretary of any Airborne Group that you may have within your own organisation.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) D.F. Mallam, Col (Rtd)  
Regimental Secretary.

#### ROYAL CAMBRIDGE HOME FOR SOLDIERS' WIDOWS

82/84 Hurst Road, East Molesey, Surrey

The Home, which was founded in 1851, offers 32 places for elderly but reasonably active widows whose husbands served in the ranks at some stage of their Army career, and it cares for them for the rest of their lives. The Home has links with the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, and received some financial support from the Army Benevolent Fund.

There are comfortable bed-sitting rooms for each of the residents, who are encouraged to take part in local life, go on outings, have visitors and prepare some simple meals for themselves. As they grow older, there are Care Assistants to help them, and if they become infirm they are looked after in a nursing ward.

At present, the Home has two or three places available, and the Superintendent, Mrs A.M. Webb, will be glad to give more information if required.

The regiment have one widow living in this Home.

#### EX-SERVICE FELLOWSHIP CENTRES

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres own two residential care homes for ex-servicemen (or women), ex merchant seaman and their widows. New Belvedere House in Stephney, East London, can take 29 residents, Hollenden House in Bexhill-on-Sea in East Sussex can take 50. Residents, who must normally be of pensionable age, have their own rooms in comfortable buildings and may bring some of their own furniture if they wish. They are not nursing homes and residents on admission must be capable of looking after themselves though help (for example with bathing) can be given. Fees are maintained within the limits which DHSS will pay for those without more than the laid-down level of capital resources. Those interested should apply to: The Administrator, Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EP.

#### 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	£16.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern Terylene, (Maroon and Old Gold)	£ 2.50 each
Ties New Pattern Terylene	£ 2.50 each
Ties Offrs' Club Silk	£ 5.50 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£13.00 each
History 'Diehards in Korea'	£ 5.00 each
Christmas Cards - Steady the Drums & Fifes	£ .20 each
Card 6" x 4" embossed badge & Regtl Ribbon	£ .30 each
Coasters Regtl Badge on front	£ .60 each
Postcards Regtl Badge on front	£ .30 each
Middlesex Cap badges - not originals	£ 2.50 each



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