



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 66

DECEMBER 1991

PRICE 50p

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DIEHARDS AT QUEEN'S REGIMENT REUNION

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1992

- 23 March Regimental Association Executive Committee Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, at 6.15 p.m.
- 25 April 1/7th Bn(1939-45) Luncheon at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey. Assemble 12 noon.
- 2 May 2/10th Bn(1914-18) OCA Luncheon, at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. Assemble 12 noon.
- 8 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner at the Naval and Military Club (IN and OUT), 94 Piccadilly, London W1.
- 9 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance, Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, commencing at 2.30 p.m.
Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing at 6.30 p.m. AGM 7.30 p.m.
2/8th(1st Bn) Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. Assemble 12 noon.
- 12 May 9th Bn Officers Club Annual Luncheon at the Royal Overseas League, Park Place, St James's St, London SW1. Assemble 12.15 p.m.
- 31 May Annual Inspection of the Houses and Flats at Albuhera Close, by The Housing Sub Committee, commencing 9.30 a.m.
- 5 July Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn, Royston, Herts. Arrive by 11.30 a.m.
- 12 September Middlesex Regiment Korean Club reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2.
- 1 October 2/7th Bn OCA Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. Assemble 11.45 a.m.
- 9 October Queen's Regimental Association Meeting, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3.
- 10 October Queen's Regiment WO's & Sgt's Past and Present Dinner at Bassingbourn.
- 5 November 7th Bn Officers Club Dinner.
- 7 November Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster, London SW1, to be held inside the Middlesex Guildhall. Assemble 10.40 a.m.
- 10 November Housing Sub Committee Meeting to be held at the Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3.

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. I look forward to seeing a lot more of you around next 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 Regimental Secretary.

BENEVOLENCE

During the period 1 January to 30 November 1991 the Army Benevolent Fund made grants totalling £4090 to the Regimental Association to assist with the shortfall in Nursing/Residential Homes for 10 applicants, plus an annual supplementary grant of £4 per week to a widow.

The Regimental Association have spent a further £9078 on Assisting 95 members of the Regiment. The majority of applications are received through SSAFA, the Forces Help Society, Mencap and various charitable organisations. All these organisations are experienced in investigating such applications and render to the Regimental Association a full report on their applications forms with a recommendation. The recommendation is carefully considered and a grant made. It is very rare for an applicant to be refused assistance. All charities have their 'regulars' but we treat them with compassion. In a number of cases the applicant served in more than one regiment – we then arrange to share the grant awarded according to length of service. During the past year the Regimental Association has dealt with arrears of rent, heating, telephone, and insurance, medical diets, breathing aids, clothing, bedding, fares to hospital, spectacles, TV licence for a retarded son of member killed in WW2 and living in council accommodation. The Regimental Association have resisted the payment of arrears of Poll Tax.

The Regimental Association never pay cash to applicants – a cheque is always sent to the charity concerned asking them to pay direct to firms etc.

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

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

- a. A legacy of £500 from the estate of Lt-Col S.F. Caulfield-Kerney, MBE, TD, FCIS, who died on 28 February 1991.
- b. A donation of £40 from members of the 2/7th Bn O.C.A.
- c. Plus donations from: Mr D. Baston, Major K.R. McK. Biggs (in memory of Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Maj Gen C.M.M. Man, Major R.W.J. Smith and Mrs. M. Crawford), Mr R.L. Dean, Mr W.H. Fussell (in memory of Len Gerrard), Capt J.H.S. Hudson, Lt-Col H. Mainwaring, MC, MA, Capt G. Plummer, Mr D.R. Richardson, Mr C.J. Watson, REME att 2nd Bn, Mr J. Yeowell.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank the following members for their generosity in donating extra subscriptions so that free copies can be sent to deserving old comrades and widows:

Mr D.F. Barrett, Mr D. Baston, Miss E.A. Deeves, Mr H.J. Gould, Mr J. Hendry, Mr R.G. Johnson, Mr R.E. Knowles, Mr L.C. Page.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 7 November prior to the commencement of the opening ceremony and planted crosses on the regimental plot in memory of all members of the Regiment who gave their lives in war since the formation of the Regiment in 1755. A badged regimental cross was also planted on our plot. He also planted a badged regimental cross on the Far East Prisoners of War plot in memory of the 1st Bn.

At noon Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, declared the Field of Remembrance open and proceeded to inspect the Field of Remembrance.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL

The Regimental Ceremony took place on Saturday 9 November, inside the Middlesex Guildhall in front of the County and Regimental War Memorial and commenced at 10.55 a.m. The Service was conducted by the Rev W.E.B. Jones. Lt-Col T.W. Chattey read the Exhortation which was followed by the Two Minutes silence after which he laid a regimental badged wreath at the foot of the memorial. The Chaplain concluded the Service by reading the Collects of the Middlesex and Queen's regiments.

The attendance included Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey and Brig and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, President and Chairman respectively of the Regimental Association. It was good to see Col and Mrs A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Col

I.R. Burrows and Miss B. Colley, Col R.M. Cain, Lt-Col and Mrs R.D. Fisher, plus 47 members of the Regimental Association. The Secretary and his wife then produced the Sherry which was enjoyed by all. The general consensus of opinion agreed that the arrangement to use the foyer of the Guildhall was a complete success, and I feel sure that the news will spread quickly and lead to an even larger attendance in 1992.

REMEMBRANCE WREATHS

Mr L.T. Plumb very kindly laid a Middlesex Regiment badged wreath on the Regimental Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Remembrance Sunday. He also laid a wreath at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill.

WO2 R.N. Malam, The Queen's Regiment, attached to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), laid a Middlesex Regiment badged wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association at the Hong Kong Liberation Day Parade on 26 August.

2/10th Bn (1914-18) OCA

The Old Comrades Association of the 2/10th Bn held their annual Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 10 November at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick. All members of the Regimental Association together with their families and friends were invited to attend.

The Service commenced at 3 p.m. and was based on remembering the 77th anniversary of the formation of the 2/10th Bn as a Volunteer Territorial unit on the 12 September 1914 and its disbandment on the 20 August 1918. The Reverend Patrick Tuft, Vicar of Chiswick, Area Dean of Hounslow and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Bn OCA conducted the Service. Brig B.A.M. Pielow read the Lesson.

Poppy wreaths were laid by Capt D.A. Hawkins and Mr C. Stephens on behalf of the 1/10th Bn, 2/10th Bn and 3/10th Bn.

The following members from the Regimental Association attended – Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey, Brig and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, Col and Mrs A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Capt P.J.A. Lane and members from the Regimental Association. My apologies for not being able to mention their names.

After the Service tea and light refreshments were served in the Church Hall by Mrs J. Barrett and her lady helpers. As usual Mrs Ann Webster produced those delicious sausage rolls.

Sunday 10 November was a red letter day for the President of the 2/10th Bn O.C.A. Mr A.D. Scudamore. It was his 95th birthday. Capt David Hawkins had a special cake made which was beautifully decorated with the Regimental Badge and it seemed to be too good to be carved into small pieces. But it happened and was enjoyed by all. 'Scudie' took the celebration in his stride and thanked everyone for their support which he appreciated very much.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH

The branch attended the regimental remembrance service at the Middlesex Guildhall on Saturday 9 November, and also took part in the national remembrance parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1992 are now due and the amount to pay is £2.00, this amount includes Regimental Association 50p and Regimental Newsletter £1.50. All former members of the Mill Hill Branch are now members of the Central Branch and their subscription must now be sent to the Regimental Secretary, Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

The 64th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the Officer's Mess 8th Queens' Fusiliers, St John's Hill, Battersea, London SW11, on Thursday 7 November 1991.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: Capt H.S. Abbott, Lt-Col P.D. McLelland and Capt M. Wall.

The following members attended:- Major A.B. Carter, Major S.J.A. Carter, Major P.D.J. Clarke, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S. le Enthoven, Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell, Major D. Harwood, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Lt S.B. Hurst, Capt J.K. Laurence, Capt P.J.T. Lane, Major R.J. Leighton, Capt D.O. Mansfield Thomas, Major A.E. McManus, Major E.J. Naish, Lt P.J. Ottino, Lt J.A. Van de Pol, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Major R. Usher.

The following members expressed their regret for not being able to attend but sent greetings to all their friends:- Major G.G. Andrew, Col F.G. Barber, Col I.D. Brotherton, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Major H.E. Couch, Capt J.R.W. Fisher, Capt M.S. Gedy, Lt-Col P.J. Hall, Major C.L. Lawrence, Col A.M. Man, Major D. Margand, Capt F.S. Mayman, Mr M.H.D. Milne, Lt J. McMaster, Capt K.D. Murray, Lt I.J. Nickels, Major G.G. Norton, C. P.J.A. Pielou, Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Major B. St G.A. Reed, Lt J.R. Spooner, Capt P.A. Stocken, Lt-Col P.A. Storie-Pugh, Major R.F. Sykes, Major R.G.C. Thornton, Major E.L. Wallis, Major F. Webb, Capt G.J. Young.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT GRAND REUNION

The Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion took place at Basingbourn Barracks, near Royston, Herts, on Sunday 30 June 1991.

Contingents from the founding regiments attended but our regimental party was outnumbered by the Queens Surreys, Buffs, Royal West Kents and the Royal Sussex. The Drumhead Service commenced the reunion which was followed by 'Fall Out' to the beer and wine tents and the meeting up of the old comrades.

The Regimental Association old comrades were led by Lt-Col Tom Chattey, President of the Association followed by Major P.G.V. Bellers, Capt P.J.A. Pielou, Capt R. Scott, Capt M.J. Flynn, WO2 J. Warner, Messrs Beall, Barnett, Poole, Vincent, Gibbs, Tidball, MMAW Smith, CR Smith, Broadbent, Hull, Howick, Price, Williamson, Webb, plus the Hounslow Branch, M. Ward, S. Wells, J. Wells, G. Young, D. Eagle, C. Thomlinson, E. Platt and S. Bawn.

WO2 Jack Warner commanded the regimental party on the March Past. Mr A. Beall carried the Standard.

This year we won the Shooting Cup, after some very near misses in previous years. The team consisted of WO2 Warner, Capt Flynn, M. Smith, T. Barnett. The Colonel of the Queen's Regiment, Maj-Gen M.F. Reynolds, CB, presented the cup.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 1991, HORNSEY

As the sound of a bugle blowing the Middlesex Regimental Call and Fall In was heard outside St. Mary's Church, Hornsey, a very special Service of Dedication and Remembrance opened at this Parish Church.

A small solemn Procession entered the church and advanced to the Choir to be received by the Rector, amongst it, in No. 1 dress, Cadet C.S.M. A. Paraschou from the Hornsey Company of the A.C.F., carrying a new Memorial Book.

With these words:

I hand to you this Memorial Book, recording the names of the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Men of the 7th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment Duke of Cambridge's Own, who gave their lives in the Service of King and Country during the Great War of 1914-18, for safe keeping within these walls.

Lt-Col D.E. Simpson handed the Book to the Rector of Hornsey, the Rev. Geoffrey Seabrook MA.

After the Rector had solemnly received the Book the Procession proceeded to the 7th Memorial Chapel, led by a Church Warden and Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell, carrying the Officers Club Wreath, followed by the

Book and Escort, the Rector and Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, and then the wreath bearers from the Hornsey O.C.A., the Queens Regt Old Comrades, B Coy 8th Queens Fusiliers.

After the Book was placed on the Chapel Altar the Rector said the Middlesex and Queen's Regt Collects, the SILENCE was observed, and then the wreaths were laid at the foot of the altar.

A Corporal Bugler from the 2nd Bn The Queen's Regt, in ceremonial dress, sounded the LAST POST and REVEILLE for the SILENCE.

The Procession then returned to their seats and the Service continued, with a very fine sermon by the Rector.

Afterwards the serving Territorial of 8 Queen's Fusiliers, the Highgate School CCF, the Hornsey Cadet Company ACF, the Air Training Corps Flight, Hornsey, and the Old Comrades marched back to the Hornsey TA Centre, with a Salute being taken by Col R.H. Graham MBE, one of the Deputy Colonels of the Queen's Regt who had attended the Service, himself ex Middlesex Regt, accompanied on the Saluting Base by The Rector.

The New Memorial Book was prepared because the original vellum panels, recording the Names, which formed part of the Reredos in the 7th Chapel at the old Hornsey Parish Church had been damaged beyond renovation by water before the church was demolished.

The Trustees of the Middlesex and Tenth Queen's Territorial Trust paid for the Book, which was done with beautiful calligraphy by Mrs. Lynda Hayter, and bound by Michael Barton (an old Middlesex man).

The original panels have been carefully preserved in a special box and are also held by the Church for safe keeping.



2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

For the thirty ninth time we met for luncheon at the Victory Club's Carisbrooke Hall on Thursday 3rd October 1991 for our forty-sixth reunion under the chairmanship of Lt-Col R.E. Robotham, MC, TD.

Our President, Brigadier E.W.C. Flavell, DSO, MC, TD, DL, was absent through ill health, but we were told that he is being very well looked after and returning to his old form. Our two valued guests, as usual, were Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, the President of our Regimental Old Comrades Association, and Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, the Secretary and Editor of 'The Die-Hards' Newsletter.

A message of loyal greetings was sent to Her Majesty The Queen and Her reply was announced by our Chairman.

Our Toast to Absent Friends included six more members we shall not see again, one of whom was our Padre, The Rev. Canon G.H. Parks, MC.

Enthusiastic praise for the work of our Chairman was heartily endorsed by all. We were delighted to drink his health.

John Goulding finally managed to attend for the first time and received a great welcome from comrades. No other records were broken this year except that donations, collections, auctions, and Topper Brown's cigar box brought the total to the highest ever of £542.50. Jimmie Baber's widow donated two of his regimental ties which were flogged off for £6 each and Harry Agass gave a wonderful book, "World War II" which was knocked down for £36 to Ben Sculpher to add to his collection started last year.

Jimmie Welch was our farthest traveller, coming from North Yorks. He had just celebrated his seventieth birthday by climbing up and down Ben Nevis!!

Donations of £40 were paid to the Regimental Association and £100 from the kitty to The Friends of Hornsey Church Tower which is undergoing renovation. A Chapel of Meditation is to be installed there.

We all signed a good wishes card for Charles Glanville whom we have not seen for many years due to ill health. I hear that he is most grateful.

In his own inimitable style, Freddie Phillips brought us up to date with letters received from thirty four regretful members who sent a total of £288 in advance of the lunch. Each member was given a copy of Summary of British Awards 1939-45 to The Middlesex Regiment before we all went home.

This year only 62 sat down to lunch (68 should have appeared). Please, please let's do better next year and REMEMBER THAT OUR FORTY-SEVENTH REUNION OF THE OLD COMRADES 2/7th Bn. THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT WILL BE ON THURSDAY FIRST OF OCTOBER 1992 at 11.45 a.m. at the old venue.

MARCH TO 10 DOWNING STREET

On Tuesday 13 August over 500 members from the Regimental Associations of our founding regiments and other supporters of the Regiment marched to 10 Downing Street to hand in Petitions calling for 'Justice The Queen's Regiment'. No serving Queensmen were permitted to take part although many gave encouragement from the pavements.

The March Commander was Brig Tony Pielow, Chairman of the Middlesex Regiment Association. He was accompanied by Brig Mike Doyle, President of the Queen's Surreys, Maj Hugh Tennent, Chairman of the Queen's Own Buffs and Col John Buckeridge, President of the Royal Sussex Regimental Association. Also in this leading group were the Colonel of the Regiment and Mrs Margaret Smithers who represented the wives and families of serving Queensmen.

The High Sheriffs of Kent and East Sussex followed with the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor and Sheriff of Canterbury, the Mayors of Worthing, Tonbridge and Malling, Folkestone and Crowborough and the Chairman of Shepway District Council.

Each Association marched proudly behind its standards, with regimental badges and medals glittering, and in many cases accompanied by some of their ladies. At the rear was a group of 2nd Battalion wives from Canterbury. No Regimental bands could take part so music was provided at the front of the column by the Canterbury Pipe Band (at the Lord Mayor's expense) and the Manor Para - Military Corps of Drums from Maidstone.



The March formed up under the direction of ex RSM Chaffer MM in Horse Guards Avenue, outside the Ministry of Defence. Precisely at midday it stepped off and turned left into Whitehall where it halted opposite Downing Street. The Presidents and Chairmen of Associations, the High Sheriffs, the Lord Mayor of Canterbury and Mrs Smithers – the eight permitted – then went to No. 10 where they handed in their petitions before verbal statements were made to the Press by the Lord Mayor and Brig Tony Pielow.

This party rejoined the main column which continued the march down Whitehall with a smart 'eyes right' at the Cenotaph. It wheeled left into Bridge Street, passed the Houses of Parliament and returned along the Embankment to Horse Guards Avenue. The route encircled the Ministry of Defence Main Building and attracted much attention from within.

In addition to the four Regimental Associations' petition (reproduced below) on behalf of serving Queensmen, several other petitions had been organised and were also handed in. These included one by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury who, in addition, had arranged a telephone protest, another by the wives of the 2nd Battalion led by Mrs Margaret Smithers and Mrs Carol Hammond and several others. Sadly, time did not allow all these petitions to be assembled before the march took place so no final total of signatures could be calculated. However certainly tens of thousands had supported the campaign for 'Justice for The Queen's Regiment'.

The March also achieved its aim in getting publicity for the Regiment's case. It was seen by hundreds of spectators, was shown several times on both BBC TV and ITV, was mentioned in advance by Peterborough in the Daily Telegraph and was given considerable coverage in the local press of the South East.



PETITION ON BEHALF OF THE SERVING MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

WE, MEMBERS OF THE FORMER INFANTRY REGIMENTS OF THE COUNTIES OF SURREY, KENT, SUSSEX AND MIDDLESEX, TOGETHER WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION WITH WHICH WE ARE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED AND THE SAID QUEEN'S REGIMENT BEING CONSIDERED BY US TO BE THE CONTINUATION OF OUR FORMER REGIMENTS, ARE HERE TO PETITION YOU, THE PRIME MINISTER, ON BEHALF OF THE SERVING SOLDIERS OF ALL RANKS OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT.

IN 1966 OUR REGIMENTS VOLUNTARILY, BUT AT THE BEHEST OF THE ARMY BOARD, MERGED TO FORM THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT. OVER THE PAST 25 YEARS WE HAVE WATCHED WITH PRIDE AS OUR NEW REGIMENT MATURED, MAINTAINED ITS CONNECTIONS WITH OUR COUNTIES AND EARNED FOR ITSELF A HIGH REPUTATION BOTH WITHIN THE ARMY AND IN THE COUNTRY GENERALLY. IN 1970 WE WERE SADDENED TO SEE ITS 4th (MIDDLESEX) BATTALION DISBANDED.

WE REALISED THAT OUR REGIMENT WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT ITS FAIR SHARE OF THE CURRENT REDUCTION IN THE INFANTRY ORDER OF BATTLE ANNOUNCED BY YOUR MINISTER OF DEFENCE ON 23rd JULY LAST. WE NATURALLY EXPECTED THAT THE REGIMENT WOULD BE TREATED IN EXACTLY THE SAME MANNER AS THE OTHER LARGE INFANTRY REGIMENTS, IE, THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT, THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS, THE LIGHT INFANTRY AND THE ROYAL GREEN JACKETS, ALL OF WHICH LIKE THE QUEEN'S HAVE THREE REGULAR BATTALIONS. OUR FAIR SHARE OF THE REDUCTIONS WAS PERCEIVED TO BE ONE BATTALION. INDEED THAT IS THE CUT THAT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE OTHER LARGE REGIMENTS. WE WERE THEREFORE SHOCKED TO LEARN THAT, FAR FROM BEING TREATED IN AN EQUAL MANNER, OUR REGIMENT HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT FROM ALL OTHER REGIMENTS IN THE INFANTRY FOR ESPECIALLY HARSH AND UNJUST TREATMENT. NOT ONLY IS THE REGIMENT TO BE REDUCED BY ONE BATTALION BUT IT IS BEING ORDERED TO AMALGAMATE WITH THE ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENT WITH WHICH IT HAS NO CONNECTIONS WHATSOEVER AND WHICH IS NOT EVEN PART OF THE SAME DIVISION OF INFANTRY.

THE EFFECT OF SUCH AN AMALGAMATION OR MERGER WILL BE THE LOSS OF ONE AND A HALF BATTALIONS OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT – 50% MORE THAN ANY OTHER REGIMENT. NO RATIONALE OR EXPLANATION HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THIS VICIOUS ORDER.

WHAT CONCERNS US MOST PARTICULARLY IS THE FUTURE OF THE SERVING MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT. FIGURES SO FAR PRODUCED INDICATE THAT AT LEAST 60 QUEEN'S OFFICERS AND 500 QUEEN'S SOLDIERS WILL BE SURPLUS TO NEEDS. THIS IS TO BE COMPARED WITH 34 OFFICERS AND 220 SOLDIERS OF THE ROYAL ANGLIAN REGIMENT AND 46 OFFICERS AND 280 SOLDIERS OF THE ROYAL REGIMENTS OF FUSILIERS, OUR SISTER LARGE REGIMENTS IN THE QUEEN'S DIVISION, IN OTHER WORDS THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OR MERGER BETWEEN THE QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENTS WILL CAUSE 50% MORE QUEEN'S OFFICERS AND NEARLY TWICE AS MANY QUEEN'S SOLDIERS AS THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN ANY OTHER LARGE REGIMENT TO LOSE THEIR LIVELIHOODS AND CHOSEN CAREERS.

ON BEHALF OF ALL RANKS IN THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT WE ASK FOR JUSTICE, EQUAL TREATMENT WITH THEIR PEERS AND THE IMMEDIATE CANCELLATION OF THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION OR MERGER BETWEEN THE QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE REGIMENTS. WE ACCEPT OF COURSE THAT ONE OF THE QUEEN'S BATTALIONS WILL HAVE TO MERGE INTO THE OTHER TWO.

Brigadier M J DOYLE MBE, President, The Queen's Regiment Association Queen's Surreys

Colonel HBH WARING OBE, President, The Queen's Regimental Association (The Queen's Own Buffs)

Colonel J BUCKERIDGE, President, The Royal Sussex Association (Representing The Queen's Regiment in Sussex)

Brigadier BAM PIELOW JP, Chairman, The Regimental Association of The Middlesex Regiment (Affiliated with The Queen's Regiment)



THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

FUTURE OF THE REGIMENT

It was confirmed in September that the Regiment is to be reduced to two Regular battalions and, by February 1993, is to amalgamate with the Royal Hampshire Regiment. The latter order came as a severe blow, especially as no explanation for this decision was given.

Serving Queensmen were particularly grateful to all our forbear Regimental Associations for everything done on their behalf, not least the march on 13th August to 10 Downing Street to hand in a Petition to the Prime Minister appealing for "Justice for The Queen's Regiment".

Now it is known that no reconsideration of this amalgamation plan is likely, the Regiment is working for the protection of its soldiers and is looking to the future. We will strive to maintain all we hold dear, including our many links with the local communities in Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex and aim to form a new regiment worthy of all our famous forbears.

JOIN THE QUEENS AND SEE THE WORLD

All three Regular battalions have travelled extensively for overseas commitments and training. Half the 1st Battalion, based in Minden, trained at Suffield, Canada, in August and September. The 2nd Battalion from Canterbury had a large company group deployed in the Falklands from March to July and then in August and September the whole battalion trained at Wainwright, Canada. The 3rd Battalion, currently stationed in Cyprus, sent a large company group to the Falklands from July to November and carried out some adventure training in Kenya with the remainder in July and August. The TA battalions have also had their share of travel, with training in Germany and Cyprus. Details of moves of our Regular battalions in preparation for the forthcoming drawdown will be promulgated when they are settled.

EXERCISING FREEDOMS

A contingent from the 2nd Battalion commanded by Major Mike Hurman exercised three of the Regiment's Freedoms this summer. On 30th July they marched through Lewes, on 1st August through Kingston-upon-Thames and on 3rd August through Folkestone. All three parades received a warm welcome from the local mayors and hundreds of spectators. The marches were followed by a Beating Retreat by the Albuhera Band under WO1 (B/M) I Peaple and the 2nd Battalion Corps of Drums, while in Lewes the Flying Dragons under Lieutenant Tom Major also gave a superb free-fall display.

REFURBISHMENT OF DRUMS

The Regiment's appeal for £8,800 to our Freedom Cities, Boroughs and Towns for the re-emblazoning of drums has reached its target, largely due to a few substantial gifts but also to many smaller yet generous donations. These demonstrate how very much appreciated the County Regiment is in our home area.

REGIMENTAL GRAND REUNION

This year the Regimental Grand Reunion was held earlier than usual, on Sunday 30 June, at Bassingbourn. The Drumhead Service was conducted by the Regimental Honorary Chaplain, the Venerable Peter Mallett, the Flying Dragons gave their customary excellent display and the usual competitions took place. There was a record attendance and the occasion proved yet again the tremendous value of these gatherings.

SPORTING SUCCESSES

Among other sporting successes since the last newsletter, our Regimental Free Fall Team, the Flying Dragons, beat the Red Devils and Royal Marines in certain disciplines to win one Gold, one Silver and one Bronze Medal at the National Free Fall Championship in June, and followed this by winning one Gold, one Bronze and two individual titles at the Army Parachuting Championships in August. Secondly, the Regimental Golfing Society Team composed of Captain Charles Bromfield, Brigadier Stuart Anderson, Colonel John Davidson and Major Reg Ford, beat all-comers to win the Argyle and Sutherland Bowl for the best Infantry regimental team at the Army Officers' Golf Meeting in June.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following items have been presented to the Regimental Museum:

- Medals of Capt F. Redpath, BEM, (6403001 and 460792), consisting of: British Empire Medal, 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Korea Medal, United Nations Medal, General Service Medal w/claps Cyprus and Arabian Peninsula, United Nations Medal Congo, LS & GC Medal, Nigeria Independence Medal 1960.
Presented by his widow Mrs W. Redpath.
- Silver Cup 11 inches high two handles, inscribed 14th Middlesex Battalion Home Guard, Inter Platoon shooting Competition. Winners 29.3.1941 No. 6 Platoon B Company, 21.2.1942 No. 6 Platoon B Company. Platoon Commander and member of team Lieut Gardner.
Presented by his daughter Mrs J. Gardner, 28 South Mill Lane, Bridport, Dorset.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Our faithful band of Australian Diehards, Lt-Col Tony Hewitt, Major Dan Cattell, Charlie Bellchambers, Fred White, Joe Cotton, Bob Hook, Nobby Noble, Mrs Iris Langley (daughter of the late ORQMS Finch, Mrs Sheila, widow of the late Bill Williamson, Fritz Jennings and George Tann, have all kept in touch.

Don Barrett (22187743) who served with the 1st Bn in Korea is very interested in the history of our Regiment and has kindly assisted me on a number of occasions with information.

Our very best wishes to Major Geoff Chiverall who is not at all well and has great difficulty in getting around.

Our best wishes to Capt 'Battler' Craydon, now nearly 89 years of age. He has not been too well lately but is in touch.

Former CSgt Pat Dive who is the Head Porter at Eastbourne College, together with Col Andrew Man, took part on Saturday 19 September, in a ceremony to unveil a plaque to the memory of the late Maj Gen C.M.M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, MA. The inscription on the plaque reads:

Major General Christopher M.M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, MA.
1914-1989.
School House 1927-1935
The Middlesex Regiment 1936-1969
College Council 1966-69 and Chairman 1967
A brave soldier and loyal
old Eastbournian.

Arthur Drake (6201472) and Sylvia have moved to Spain for 4 months to escape the cold weather which causes him a lot of discomfort. He took his wheel chair.

Sgt Alf Ellis (6197742) now 83 informs me that he is quite fit but has difficulty in getting around and this explains his absence from regimental functions.

Former FEPOW Private Taffy Evans (6201076), now living in Manilla, runs a small shop. He tells me the locals buy cigarettes 'one stick at a time'. He has now installed a pump and sells water!

Mike(Mouseey) Green now to be known as Sheppard-Green, lives at a village called Lonmay, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. He now keeps sheep and wears a kilt.

John and Maisie Gould celebrated their gold wedding anniversary on 6 September. John served with the 2/8th(1st) and was CSM A Company.

At the end of July Grace and I had the pleasure of lunching with Margery Isemonger and Kitty Hedgecoe at Margery's home in Appledore. It was a most enjoyable occasion.

Private J.S.(Fritz) Jennings (6201470), now living at Peak Hill, New South Wales, Australia, informs me he is now retired from his job as Supervising Station Master Victorian Railways. He emigrated in 1951. He served with the 1st Bn and was A and D Company storeman. He was a FEPOW and survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru.

Mr R.E. Knowles (6207423) 2/8th (1st Bn), writes from British Columbia, Canada, to thank me for putting him in touch with two old friends, Sgt C. Farebrother and Pte Bob Shorter. He will be attending the 2/8th (1st Bn) luncheon in May 1992.

Former Drummer Lewin (6194549) 2nd Bn, living in Hastings keeps me up to date with news of past bandsmen and drummers. He is a regular attendee at regimental events despite his 85 years.

On Monday 2 September Col Andrew Man, DSO, OBE, had the honour of 'turning the page' of the Book of Remembrance in the Warriors Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. This is a tradition of The Queen's Regiment which was started by The Buffs in 1926. It is carried out every weekday by a member of the Regimental Association or a serving Queensman and is followed by prayers.

Bill Phillips (6201806) writes from New Zealand and informs me of the death of Pte C.E. Cullen (54146), aged 91, who served in WW1 with our 20th Bn. He had arranged to attend the funeral with Bob Hebden, 1/7th Bn, but owing to a stupid mistake they missed it.

A recent correspondent was Syd Pinner (6195762) who joined the 1st Bn in 1923 and was with the Band from 1926-35 and then transferred to the Reserve. He was recalled in 1939 and served with 30 LAA Regiment RA and became a Battery Sgt Major.

I was sad to learn from Nellie Clark (Mrs Sims), daughter of the late Major(QM) Nobby Clark, that her brother George died on 12 August after a long illness which he bore courageously. The family will be well remembered by members of the 1st Bn who served 1935-37 in Egypt and Singapore. George was for many years the B.I.A. at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

There will be no Queen's Regimental pocket diaries this year. The firm that produced them have gone out of business.

Colonel Leslie Sharp has now retired from his appointment in Oman and has returned to his home at Lania Village, Limassol, Cyprus.

Roy Smart (6217142) ex Diehard, continues his medal valeting service. He provides a first class service medals cleaned, re-ribboned and mounted ready to wear. Full size replacement medals available plus miniatures and medal holders. Ribbons for foreign awards also stocked. Apply to Roy Smart, 39 Mount Lane, Kirkby-La-Thorpe, Lincolnshire NG34 9NR. Tel 0529 304236.

A late picture for all to see - some very well known Diehards at Jeff Leat's Pub after attending the reunion in May



L to R: Major Pat Donovan, Capt Tom McMillan, Jeff Leat, Capt Paddy Kendrick and Major Jimmy Wild

Harry Spicer living in Australia will be visiting the U.K. next May and plans to attend the annual reunion.

John Soden (6200167) tells me he attended a Service at the Church in Coggeshall on 11 August 1991, when the Dedication of a Memorial Plaque to the North Essex Far East Prisoners of War Association took place. He celebrated his 80th birthday on 5 December and I remembered to congratulate him on behalf of all his friends.

Bill Stagg (6200325) would like to trace any Diehards who were aboard the HMT Lancastria when she was sunk off the coast at St Nazaire in June 1940. He states that about 150 Diehards were on this boat but he has never found any of them.

Former CSM Tom Steward now living in Larnaca, Cyprus, hopes to be able to attend the 1992 reunion.

Ernie Stebbing (6769309) recently celebrated his 78th birthday by swimming 78 lengths of the Kingfisher Leisure Pool in Sudbury. Last year he swam 132,650 metres, which earned him his 100 mile badge and won the over 70's shield. I prefer to use elbow drill to keep fit.

Mr George Tunks (3717) who served in WW1 with the 1/7th and 3/7th Bns celebrated his 100th birthday on 17 December 1991. The Regimental Association sent him a quality bottle of whisky. He is blind and deaf but he does like a noggin during the evening. Lt-Col Norman Clayden very kindly visited him on behalf of the Regimental Association and offered our congratulations.

Mr Reg Warner (6205138), 1/7th Bn, is the Standard Bearer for the Felixstowe Royal British Legion. Recently when wearing his regimental tie on parade he met another Diehard, it was Ernie Stebbing (6769309) who is the Standard Bearer for Suffolk R.B.L.

Mr Blanco White, Secretary of the 1/7th OCA, entered hospital in November for eye surgery. He tells me that he will be back to normal by Christmas. Best wishes from us all.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:-

Cpl M.C. Bourke (22787517), served 1951-54, S Coy 1st Bn.

Private F.K. Charlton (23972216), served 1963-66, A Coy 1st Bn.

Cpl H.P. Gilhead (6199825), served 1931-45, 1st Bn and 2 PLK.

Private C.S. Hockin (6206173), served 1939-46, 2/8th(1st Bn) & 2/7th Bn.

Private F.C. Langford (6210991), served 1939-46 C Coy 2/7th Bn and A Coy 1/7th Bn.

Drummer R(Moe) Morris (23494251), served 1956-59 HQ Coy(Drums) 1st Bn.

Sergeant B.R. Morrison (23950261), served 1963-85, B & C Coys 1st Bn 1963-66 and then 2 Queens.

Private B.H.J. Tidball (6210062), served 1939-45 Depot Mx and 1 PLK.

Private A. Quartermaine (23742120), served 1959-65, B Coy 1st Bn.

Private G. Tann (6203278), served 1936-46, A Coy 1st Bn, POW Osaka Camp, Japan. Re-enlisted on 23 Aug 48 into R. Signals and served with that unit in Korea. Discharged 2 Mar 59.

Private R.E. Walker (22671597), served 1952-55, A Coy 1st Bn. His claim to fame is that he was the 2 millionth passenger to travel on MEDLOC.

Private D.J. Walsh (14409792), served 1942-46, D & B Coys 2/8th (1st Bn).

OBITUARIES

BIRD – On 4 October 1991, Private George Albert Bird (6769352), aged 77 years. Served 1932-45, 1st and 2nd Bns.

BOYS – On 22 March 1990, Major R.H.G. Boys, aged 91 years. He served with 8th Bn(TA) from 1920 to 1919. He was promoted Capt 25 October 1926. His widow died on 7 May 1991. He joined the Officers' Club during 1930.

BURKE – On 7 August 1991, WO2 Dennis Burke (22413452), aged 59 years. He served with the RAOC from 1950-52. On 4 May 1956 he enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment and served with the 1st Bn in Cyprus, BAOR and Gibraltar until 1966. On amalgamation he joined 4 Queens and served his discharge on 18 April 1976. He was given an Exemplary character which was signed by Lt-Col J.M.(John) Hewson, MC. I wonder if he remembers. Capt T.I. McMillan attended the funeral.

CLARKE – On 13 July 1991, WO2 John William Clarke (1545683), aged 73 years. Served 9th Bn 1939-44, 1st Heavy Support Company, Middlesex Regiment 1944-46 and 16 MGTC.

COSTER – On 22 September 1991, Sgt Stanley Henry Coster (6200646), aged 76 years. Served D Company 9th Bn, 1932-43 and then REME until 1945.

CRAWFORD – On 5 October 1991, Mrs Martha Hamilton Crawford, aged 87 years, widow of Col M. Crawford, DSO, who died on 26 July 1977.

DADSWELL – On 1 October 1991, Private Edward James Dadswell (6202297), aged 69 years.
Served from 1939-42 when he was medically discharged as a result of eye injuries he received. He was admitted to the benefits of St Dunstan's May 1964.

GERRARD – The obituary notice published in the June 1991 Newsletter was incorrect and should now read:
On 12 December 1990, Cpl Leonard Frank Gerrard (6208160), aged 77 years. He served from 1939-45 with B Company 2/7th Bn and was promoted to Technical Cpl in 1943. WO2(CSM) A. Fairhead attended the funeral plus a number of Diehards from the 2/7th Bn.

JEFFREE – On 17 September 1991, Mrs Nora Jeffree, aged 95 years, widow of Band Sgt G.H. Jeffree, 1st Bn who died on 2 August 1973.

JENKINS – On 7 August 1991, Major Reginald John Jenkins (6198493), aged 81 years.
Reg Jenkins commenced his service on 28 August 1928 and joined the 1st Bn with whom he remained until posted to the 2nd Bn during October 1932. On 1 November 1936 he joined the 9th Bn as PSI. At the outbreak of war he was promoted WO2 and shortly after was granted a commission with the East Surrey Regiment retiring in 1956 with the rank of Major.

LOWE – On 24 February 1991, Mrs Lily Lowe, widow of Sgt (Lofty) Lowe (6197310) who died 22 July 1985.

LUNNON – On 25 October 1991, Mr Frederick John Lunnion (15981), MBE, aged 92 years.
Fred joined the regiment on 8 April 1914 and served with the 1st Bn. He was wounded twice on the Somme and awarded a M.I.D. In late 1916 he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and later joined the RAF in Canada. In the second world war 1941-44 he served with the 36th Flying Training School, Canada, and in 1945 was awarded the M.B.E. rescuing a Canadian officer. Fred despite his age and disability was a regular attender at the Field of Remembrance. He was a regular correspondent and I will miss his letters obviously typed on a very ancient machine.

MARRIN – On 30 October 1991, Private George Marrin, aged 94 years.
He served in WW1 with our 13th(Service) Bn. He was an Antiquarian Bookseller who had a shop in Folkestone.

MILES – On 9 October 1991, Private Wilfred Miles (14425565), aged 66 years.
Served from 1942-47 with the 2/8th(1st Bn) and the 2nd Bn.

MOUNTAIN – On 5 October 1991, Private Arthur Eddie Mountain (6219957), aged 72 years.
Served 1/8th Bn 1939-45.

PRITCHARD – On 28 November 1991, Mrs J. Pritchard, widow of Sgt J.M. Pritchard (22233303), who died 26 February 1990.

PYNAERT – On 3 November 1991, Private Hubert Pynaert (6211195), aged 73 years.
Served with 2nd Bn 1940-42 and 1/7th Bn 1942-45.

REDPATH – On 9 June 1991, Capt Frank Redpath, BEM, (6403001 and 460792), aged 73 years.

Frank commenced his service on 15 January 1940 with the Royal Sussex Regiment and on 18 November 1943 joined the Middlesex Regiment and the 2/8th(1st Bn) in North West Europe. At the end of the war the Bn was stationed at Lubeck and service at Rendsburg and Iserlohn followed until the 1st Bn returned to U.K. in 1948. He then served with the Bn in Hong Kong, Korea and Austria. A 4 year period of home service with the Junior Leaders Bn followed and in 1957 he rejoined the 1st Bn in Cyprus. On the 24 April 1959 he was granted a short service Quartermaster Commission and posted to the 2nd Q.O. Nigeria Regiment and finally retired with the rank of Captain in April 1963. Capt T.I. McMillan attended the funeral.

His widow has very kindly presented his medal to the Regimental Museum and acknowledgement appears under Museum notes.

SHANKS – On 15 July 1991, Mrs Betty Katherine Shanks, wife of Lt-Col E.P. Shanks, CBE, QC.

SHARMAN – On 16 October 1991, Major Charles Victor(Joe) Sharman, MBE, aged 97 years.
He served with the 2/10th Bn.

WALLACE – On 8 May 1991, Private Stanley James Wallace (6196203), aged 84 years.
Served 1st Bn 1924-25, 2nd Bn 1925-43. Guard duties on Merchant Shipping 1943-45.

WATERS – On 21 September 1991, WO2 Derek Norman(Curly) Waters (14470810), aged 64 years.
Curly Waters enlisted into the regiment on 21 August 1945, serving until 25 August 1969 when he was medically discharged. He served with the 2nd Bn in Palestine and the 1st Bn in Korea and Cyprus. He was always involved with Signals. After amalgamation in 1966 he joined 4 Queens. He was a very popular member of the regiment and the funeral was attended by Major C.L. Lawrence, MC, and Capt T.I. McMillan.

WOODBIDGE – On 15 October 1991, Capt John Nicholas Woodbridge, TD aged 78 years.
Served with the 2/8th(1st Bn) during 1939-45.

VISIT TO ALBUHERA IN MAY BY THE HOUNSLOW BRANCH

What had started as a chance remark or a wishful hope, when a branch member voiced the opinion that we should, as it was the 180th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera, hold our annual dinner and silent toast in Albuhera. The remark was tossed around, many suggestions made as to the way to get there, the hopes of others clashed because for varying reasons the timescales were not viable. So the final muster was down to six, who opted to travel by various routes. Sid Wells, Ernie Platt and Mick Ward would make up the road party and with a trailer in tow containing all the necessary impedimenta of the good infantry section, started out on Friday night, 11 May, via Folkestone – Boulogne to Paris, then across France staying at Dax within striking distance of Spain. Crossing the border at San Sebastian and proceeding through Talavera where we passed the new monument which has been erected by the Spanish Government to compensate for some damage caused to the battlefield by the construction of the new motorway, via Salamanca and on to Albuhera.

We were booked to stay in a pension and to meet the air party consisting of John Raby, George Lewis and Carrots Tomlinson who were flying to Lisbon and then travelling up by road. Unfortunately our R.V. did not come to fruition as planned due to the delay to their flight because the Pope was visiting Portugal – 'Divine Intervention'. The road party arrived in Albuhera at about 2130 hours Monday evening, and after a pantomime of sign language, (no one spoke Spanish), found our accommodation and with difficulty convinced our hostess

that we were indeed three of the Caballeros who had written to say we were coming and wished to stay with her. Once this mission has been accomplished, and with our confirmation that another three would arrive fairly soon, she proceeded to make up six beds, the maximum number of persons which she could accommodate, but no food. We were not dismayed by this statement as we had our brew up kit, and the village cafes and bars were perhaps 300 yards away where we could obtain all that was needed to sustain us. The road party awaited the arrival of their flying comrades, but when they had not arrived by 11.30 p.m. we retired to bed. The air party were proceeding up from Lisbon, arriving at Albuhera 1.30 a.m. Tuesday morning, and with no chance of finding the pension so late they retired to a bar where the inhabitants of Albuhera displayed their hospitality and arranged accommodation in a hotel in a nearby town.

Tuesday dawned a beautiful sunny morning, we were up early and keen to find the missing trio and to see the famous ridge which was pointed out to us by our landlady's husband, who then took us up on the roof of the pension and pointed out the monument on the ridge. After Sid Wells had made tea, we went off in search of the air party and chanced upon them in a local garage. We escorted them to our accommodation, got them settled in and went to a local bar for breakfast, where another comedy act ensued in order that we could obtain our requirements.

The village of La Albuhera as it is known to the Spanish, proved to be a sleepy village not much changed over the years, so we walked around the streets acquainting ourselves with the layout, and we were asked to report to the Town Hall at five o'clock for an audience with the Mayor. We spent the rest of the day walking the ridge and perusing the battlefield, taking many photographs. We met the Mayor as planned and a young lady advised us of the arrangements for the next two days. Wednesday was a fiesta in honour of the local Saint. We felt that our time might be better spent in Badajoz, so we departed to view the city and the Citadel. We returned to Albuhera in the afternoon and met a Spanish soldier from St Albans, so at last someone spoke English, and we learned in detail the arrangements for the celebrations which were scheduled for Albuhera Day.



The Hounslow Branch at Albuhera

On the morning of Thursday 16 May we were required to be on parade at 0950 hours. We were placed among the military dignitaries to be present for the Church Service, the guard of honour which was drawn from the Regimiento Infanteria. Mecauzada Castilla No. 16 paraded with their Regimental Standards and Band, their Commanding Officer, Colonel D. Jose Gallego de Pueyo insisted that our Regimental Standard was paraded with theirs for the wreath laying ceremony at the memorial in the village square. We were then escorted to the saluting base to watch the guard of honour march past, and afterwards we were escorted to a display of Spanish dancing and a display of martial arts by the local children.

The Mayor had arranged for us to be present at a civil ceremony to open a new library where one of the local politicians tried to engage Ernie Platt on the question of Gibraltar. However Ernie was not drawn and proved to be a perfect diplomat. The food and beverages were excellent, our Spanish hosts from both the army and local council were most hospitable, and we were treated to an excellent account of the battle by Capt D. Angel Freixinet Imbroda the regimental historian. There was an exchange of souvenirs and badges, and their Sergeant Major presented Mick Ward with a Regimental Shield. When Mick gave the Sergeant Major his tie, which was much sought after being the Spanish colours, the Sergeant Major kissed him, much to the amusement of the rest of the party. We retired to bed in the afternoon to follow the custom of a siesta and to prepare for our own dinner in the evening which was held in the Bar Nuevo. We drank the Silent Toast at eight o'clock to coincide with other toasts being held elsewhere. So a dream had come true, we had held a branch dinner in Albuhera. We appeared in the local paper and had again brought the name of the Diehards to the area and made many friends.

Our thanks to Ted Lockyer (9th Bn) for his assistance and advice on the area, he having visited the Ridge in 1985, and his account and photo's proved to be invaluable to our visit. Ted had told us that you feel a special feeling when you stand on the ridge, and we all agreed that there is something special to the place. Friday saw us break up and go our separate ways for the return journey to the U.K. vowing to return again next year. Sid Wells drove all the way there and back and made sure we were provisioned, and our special thanks to him. We were at all times in Albuhera treated with great hospitality and warmth by both the locals and the Officers and NCOs of the Spanish Army.

MJW

VISIT TO HOLLAND

Three 1/7th Bn Diehards namely Messrs D. Daly, K.R. Thiis and J. Haward, MM, who have named themselves as the Northern branch of the Regimental Association decided to make a trip to Holland. They left on 15 September and during their tour which lasted until 23 September they covered many old wartime villages and towns. The started by visiting OOSTERBEAK Museum and Cemetery, ELST, NIJMEGAN, EINDHOVEN, WEERT, NEDERWEERT (laid wreaths and planted crosses). They made a tour of the 51st Highland Division battle area and canal crossing points which was followed by a visit to OVERLOON Open Air Museum and the Pancake Restaurant. They attended the Eindhoven Liberation Parade and Reception at the Town Hall. The 19 September was a very busy day commencing with the Receptions at HAAREN and KAATSHEUVEL and then a conducted tour by the local Historic Society who gave them a Reception at LOON. The 20 and 21 September were spent visiting the area of St OEDENRODE to look at positions held in 1944 and to see a farmer friend and local resistance comrades. Also a sightseeing tour of HELMOND. The Regimental Standard was carried by Sgt J. Haward, MM, on all Receptions. I regret I have had to precis the report by Mr Thiis.

PHOTOGRAPHS

I receive numerous photographs of members, events, etc, and never have I seen the name or event recorded correctly. Do NOT write in ink as this will damage the photograph.

I want to see a Blick label adhered to the reverse with the name and event recorded. In 50 years time who will be around, other than myself, to identify the mug on the front.



L to R: K.R. Thiis, J. Haward, MM, F. Daly

BRITISH AND ALLIED MILITARY PILGRIMAGE & TOUR TO THE FAR EAST 1992

Members may be interested to hear that arrangements are well in hand for the tri-service pilgrimage tour to the Far East being organised privately by Capt(Retd) Patrick Pielou in conjunction with a British travel operator. The tour is particularly timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the surrender of Singapore to the Japanese on 15 February 1942, and the group will be taking part in the official (multi-national) commemoration of that dire event at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's cemetery at Kranji, before moving on up the East coast of Malaya to Kuantan where the group will commemorate the tragic sinking of H.M's Ships 'Repulse' and 'Prince of Wales' off the coast there at the time of the Japanese invasion in December 1941.

The tour group will then go on to Hong Kong, where a full programme of events, including Remembrances at Shamshuipo, Little Sai Wan and Stanley War Cemeteries, is being arranged under the auspices of H.Q. British Forces Hong Kong with non-financial sponsorship being kindly given by The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). Apart from remembering those who gave their lives defending and recovering the Far East from the Japanese, many places of general and historical interest will be visited.

Anyone interested in joining the tour group should contact Patrick Pielou at Court cottage, West Street, Bishops Lydeard, Somerset, TA4 3AU, or on 0823 433020 for further details.

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 prices. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Blazer Badges	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£12.50 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£16.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon and Old Gold	£ 3.50 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern Terylene	£ 3.50 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£ 6.00 each
Wall Plaques Middlesex Regiment	£15.00 each
History - Diehards in Korea	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Cap Badge (Not originals)	£ 3.50 each
Tumblers Whisky, engraved with Middlesex Regimental Badge	£ 6.50 each
Christmas Cards depicting "Steady the Drums and Fifes", small	£ .28 each

