



# The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 68

DECEMBER 1992

PRICE 50p



Lt-Col. T.W. CHATTEY, OBE

*Photo by Ian Jones, N.A.M.*

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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

From: Lieut-Colonel T.W. CHATTEY, OBE,  
PRESIDENT OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

To: All Members of the Regimental Association.

As I have held the role of President of our Regimental Association for a period of 14 years and am now nearing the age of 80, I feel the time has come for me to step down. Consequently I have asked Brigadier Pielow to take over and I am delighted to announce that he has agreed to do so as from 1st January 1993.

It has been a very great honour for me to have been the President of our Association and I am extremely proud to have held this position, which in fact is the successor to the old appointment of Colonel of the Regiment that existed before amalgamation and the Middlesex Regiment as such ceased to be a unit of the Regular Army.

Brigadier Tony was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in February 1946 and has been Chairman of the Association Executive Committee for a very considerable period. He therefore is fully conversant with our Die Hard outlook, our traditions and customs and all our affairs, and I am fully confident therefore that under his leadership and example, our Regimental Association will continue to flourish, maintain its independence and uphold the comradeship and spirit of the old Die Hards for many years to come.

I should like to take this opportunity to wish all members the very best of good luck, good fortune and every happiness in the future.

TWC

#### Lieut-Colonel T.W. CHATTEY, OBE

Colonel Tom Chattey has been consecutively Chairman, President and Chairman, and finally President of the Regimental Association for the past 19 years, and his decision to retire from this appointment means that we will lose a most experienced and wise leader who has been a regular attendee at all our various functions together with his wife Pam at our more social events.

His time as President has seen much change in the Army, but he has steered us safely through this disruptive period and ensured that the Association has never lost sight of its original aim to safeguard the memory of the Regiment and to help those of its former members who are in need of help for any reason.

For the past 9 years I have had the pleasure of serving as his Chairman of the Executive Committee, and I take this opportunity to pay warm tribute to the way he has always supported me in this duty and to the invariably wise counsel I have received from him – something I know I can rely on in the future as well.

His work as Chairman of the Museum Trustees has been quite outstanding and has culminated in his bringing it to the National Army Museum where its continuance is assured. For this too we all owe him a tremendous debt.

'Flash' (as he has always been known to his older friends, and by me too, behind the safety of his back, when I first served with him in Austria in 1Mx in 1954) has been a life-long and stalwart Diehard ever since he joined 2Mx on commissioning in 1933 arriving in his 'flash' red sports car.

He has been a fine example to us all and we have been particularly fortunate to have had him as our President for so long. I hope he will forgive me for writing in the Newsletter about him despite a more serious warning not to do so. I felt however, that his service to the Regimental Association simply must not go without mention.

BAMP.

#### FORECAST OF EVENTS 1993

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 22 March     | Regimental Association Executive Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 at 6.15 p.m.                                      |
| 24 April     | 1/7th Bn(1939-45) Luncheon at the T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, London N8. Assemble 12 noon.   |
| 25 April     | Annual Inspection of Albuhera Close, Enfield, commencing 9.30 a.m.  |
| 7 May        | Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club dinner at the Naval and Military Club (IN and OUT), 94 Piccadilly, London W1.                                       |
| 8 May        | Albuhera Service of Remembrance, Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, commencing 2.30 p.m.   |
|              | Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing at 6.30 p.m. A.G.M. 7.45 p.m.  |
| 11 May       | 9th Bn Officers Club Annual Dinner at the Royal Overseas League, Park Place, St James's St, London SW1. Assemble 12.15 p.m.                           |
| 15 May       | 2/10th Bn (1914-18) OCA Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, London W2. Assemble 12 noon.   |
| 7 October    | 2/7th Bn OCA Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. Assemble 11.45 a.m.   |
| 18 September | Korean Club Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2.  |
| 9 November   | Annual Meeting of the Housing Sub Committee 6.45 p.m. Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3.  |
| 13 November  | Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster, London SW1. To be held inside the Middlesex Guildhall, opposite Westminster Abbey. Assemble 10.40 a.m. |
| 14 November  | 2/10th Bn (1914-18) OCA Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, London W4, at 3 p.m.   |

## BENEVOLENCE

During the period 1 January to 15 December 1992 the sum of £13,250 has been expended assisting 95 members of the Regimental Association and their families. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £860 assisting 3 cases with a shortfall in Residential and Nursing Home fees.

We must express our thanks to SSAFA/FHS for all the work they carry out on our behalf, the travelling, interviewing etc, all takes time, and the completion of the SSAFA Form 9 with their recommendations which is so important. They bring comfort and hope to so many.

## DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

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

- a. A donation of £63 from members of the Gostling Murray Lodge Duke of Cambridge's OCA to commemorate the appointment of Arthur Baseley, a Diehard, as Master for the coming year and also to the memory of another Diehard, the late L. MacDonald. During the evening a 'toast' to the Middlesex Regiment is announced.
- b. A donation of £40 from the 2/7th Bn OCA.
- c. A number of donations from members.

## FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank the 98 members who donated extra subscriptions so that free copies can be sent to deserving old comrades, widows, etc.

## FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 5 November prior to the opening ceremony accompanied by his successor - Major Ron Morris. Crosses were planted on the Regimental Plot in memory of all members who have given their lives in war. A Middlesex Regiment Badged Cross was also planted on the Far East Prisoners of War plot in memory of the 1st Bn. Our President Lt-Col T.W. Chattey was in attendance.

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



Majors Frank Waldron and Ron Morris

## HONG KONG (ARGYLE STREET) POW ASSOCIATION

The Reunion took place on Saturday 3 October 1992 at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3.

The following members of the regiment attended: Capt and Mrs J.H.S. Hudson, Capt and Mrs C.G. Webber, Mr R. Normandale and Major A.E.F. Waldron.

## EAST SURREY HOSPITAL, REDHILL

On Friday 20 November Brig B.H. Marciandi, OBE, represented the Regimental Association at a ceremony at the new East Surrey Hospital at Redhill. The hospital had collected a number of plaques displayed in hospitals in the area which had been closed, and the Reigate School of Art and Design has relocated them in an attractive display in the reception area of the new hospital. One of the plaques is a tribute to a Redhill man who became one of the Regiment's great heroes; it reads:

"To the memory of Rupert Price Hallows VC, who was born at Redhill in 1881 and who gave his life for his country at Hooge in the year 1915".

Brigadier Marciandi spoke to the large gathering of local dignitaries, reading out the citation for Lt Hallows's posthumous V.C. and an extract from Gregory Blaxland's regimental history about his heroism during the period from 25 September to his death in action on 1 October 1915.

BHM

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1993 are now due and the amount to pay is £2, this amount includes Regtl Assn 50p and the Regimental Newsletter £1.50.

## 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

The 65th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held in the Officers' Mess, The London Regiment on Thursday 5 November 1992.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: Col J.W. Francis, Regimental Secretary, PWRR, Lt-Col P.D. McLelland, The London Regiment, and F/O J. Rook.

The following members attended: Major S.J. Atkinson-Carter, Col I.D. Brotherton, Major H.E. Couch, Major D. Harwood, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Lieut D.H.S. Herriott, Major C.L. Lawrence, Capt J.K. Laurence, Major E. Walsh, Lieut P.J. Ottino, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Major A.J.D. Salter, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Major R.G.C. Thornton, Major R.L. Usher.

The following members expressed their regret for not being able to attend the Dinner this year, and sent greetings to all their friends: Capt H.S. Abbott, Major G.G. Andrew, Col F.G. Barber, Right Rev Mgr R.A. Brown, Maj A.B. Carter, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Major P.D.J. Clark, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S.M. Enthoven, Capt J.R.W. Fisher, Lt-Col P.J. Hall, Lieut S. Hurst, Capt P.J.T. Lane, Col A.M. Man, Lieut J. McMaster, Major D.J. Margand, Capt F.S. Mayman, Mr M.H.D. Milne, Major G.G. Norton, Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Major B St G.A. Reed, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt P.A. Stocken, Lt-Col P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, Lieut J.R. Spooner, Major R.F. Sykes, Capt G.J. Young.

JDG

## 2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

The 47th Annual Reunion of the Battalion took place at the Victory Services Club on Thursday 1 April 1992, under the Chairmanship of Lt-Col R.E. Robotham, MC, TD. There was a splendid attendance of 74, plus our two distinguished and much respected guests and friends, Lt-Col Tom Chattey and Major Frank Waldron.

The King's Colour of the Battalion, which was presented to the Battalion on its formation in 1914 and had been laid up in All Hallows Church, Tottenham, since 1922 and was very fragile, was on view, having been repaired and framed. The following day, it was taken by Major Geoffrey Bunton to be placed on permanent display at the Hornsey Historical Society, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, London N8. Every Old Comrade present had a copy of the Colour at his seat.

Many of the increased attendance had travelled from long distances in the UK, but none further than Joe Bird, who had come for the second time in three years from America.

AIFG

### THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE)

The Amalgamation of The Queen's Regiment and the Royal Hampshire Regiment took place as planned on 9th September. Although all battalions marked the occasion with parades, this was a quiet merger and the main celebration is planned for next summer when it is hoped that HRH The Princess of Wales will Review her Regiment for the first time.

Details of the new Regiment, previously published, remain unaltered except that it was finally agreed that the insignia should be similar to that of The Queen's Regiment with a few exceptions. The most notable of these is the cap badge, which now incorporates a Hampshire Rose beneath the Tudor Dragon and 'Princess of Wales's' instead of 'Queen's' on the scroll. In addition, a Tiger badge from the Royal Hampshire is worn between the shoulder and sleeve of the left arm. The design of the collar badge, and button incorporating the Paschal Lamb, as worn by The Queen's Regiment, are to continue unchanged in the new Regiment.

As the new cap badges will not be available until 1993 all ranks started to wear a cloth version on their khaki berets on Amalgamation Day. These berets have proved popular and they were used by the Royal Guard of Honour provided by the 1st Battalion for HRH The Princess of Wales, on 16 October, when she arrived at the Guildhall in Portsmouth to receive the Freedom of the City.

The Colonel of the Regiment, Major General Anthony Denison-Smith MBE, now has five Deputies, one for each county in the recruiting area. In the case of Middlesex, Colonel Richard Graham MBE is filling this appointment. The 1st Battalion, stationed in Colchester, is commanded by Lt-Col Mike Reeve-Tucker who will be succeeded in late 1993 by Lt-Col John Russell, and the 2nd Battalion in Canterbury is commanded by Lt-Col Mike Cooper who took over from Lt-Col David Wake MBE in mid October.

Another change of title has occurred. The 8th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) has become 'The London Regiment' with different cap badges for each of its four rifle companies. B (Queen's Regiment) Company based in Edgware and Hornsey will at least keep alive one famous name and has, as its Honorary Colonel, Brigadier Tony Pielow JP. The other major reorganisation to our Territorial units gives the 6th/7th Battalion a company based in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight.

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment has already had some notable successes. Our Free Fall Team, The Flying Dragons, were selected to represent the United Kingdom at the World Parachuting Championships in China in September where, despite several difficulties, they achieved a very satisfactory result at their first appearance on the international scene. The 2nd Battalion Team won the Army Judo Championships and, in the Cambrian Patrol Competition, the 6th/7th Battalion team won a Gold Medal in the TA Competition and a Silver in the Army Competition, while the 2nd and 3rd Battalions also won Silver Medals in the Army Championships. Finally, Lt Laurie Manton won the TA 'Photographer of the Year' Competition.

As we go to press we have just heard of the tragic death of Major John Barr who was killed in a helicopter crash in Northern Ireland. He was the first person from the new Regiment to have died and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

### EL ALAMEIN 50th ANNIVERSARY TOUR

21 - 27 OCTOBER 1992

The 51st(Highland) Division announced their intention to participate in these commemorative Celebrations last November and planning commenced.

The 1/7th Bn The Middlesex Regiment(DCO) were given the honour of laying the official Highland Division wreath in appreciation of the Battalion's continuous active service contribution within the Divisions campaigns from Alamein to Tripoli, thence to Sicily and finally Normandy to Bremerhaven. Major A.B. Carter, Chairman of the 1/7th Battalion Old Comrades Association was selected for this duty.

The appointment for an accompanying Senior Warrant Officer for the wreath laying was made from within the Highland Infantry Bns and the highly respected and the most worthy choice fell upon former C.S.M. Murray J. Archibald of the 7 A & SH who was awarded the MM at Medinina and the DCM at Wadi Akarit. Major Peter Watson, MC, former navigating officer of 7 Black Watch flew out a day earlier than the main party to assist TV producer Marcus Davidson in a recon of the battlefield and was later joined by our party of accompanying 'Jocks' comprising Messrs Arthur Innis, 1 BW, Sidney Lunn, 5 BW, Stanley Mitchell, 7 Bn, 'Wattie' Angus 1 BW (whose brother was KIA at Alamein) and CSM Simpson DCM of 5 BW. Leading the REME party was Lt-Col Duncan McLean TD. Major Alan Carter accompanied the A&SH and BW party throughout and stayed in the same hotels.

Barry King formerly HQ Company 1/7th and his wife Lyn from Adelaide joined the party.

On Sunday the official ceremony took place at the British and Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery from 1130 to 1230 hours. It was a very moving ceremony attended by HRH Duke of Kent and Mr John Major the Prime Minister. 3000-4000 people from the Commonwealth took part. This cemetery contains 8400 War dead and is beautifully set out in formal rows with Regimental Crests, names and regimental details and with family epithets at the base in many cases. This layout expressed an overwhelming feeling of comradeship in battle. Major Carter writes "I was deeply moved to find the grave of my former 4 Platoon, A Company Sgt F.E. Bolitho aged 26 years." At the end of the Service our small Highland Division party marched forward to the Memorial headed by CSM Murray Archibald and myself. We then laid the official Highland Division wreath. Barry King laid the 1/7th Middlesex Regiment badged wreath. Capt J.G. Sanderson of 5/7 Gordons later laid a Gordons wreath.

Listed below are the names of members of the 1/7th Bn buried in this cemetery with their grave location:

Capt	P.S.C. Preston	71682	28.10.42	Plot 26	Row B	Grave 11
Sgt	F.E. Bolitho	6202817	23/24.10.42	Plot 17	Row A	Grave 10
Pte	W. Bourne	6215241	23.10.42	Plot 26	Row F	Grave 1
Pte	J.H. Chamberlain	6463352	23/24.10.42	Plot 26	Row G	Grave 7
Pte	G. Cox	7340688	25.10.42	Plot 26	Row D	Grave 7
Pte	H. Dakin	6201003	23.10.42	Plot 26	Row H	Grave 26
Pte	A. Fulton	6209388	27.10.42	Plot 11	Row D	Grave 2
Pte	G.L. Gardner	6208504	27.10.42	Plot 5	Row H	Grave 4
Pte	S.G. Lake	6200702	23.10.42	Plot 5	Row D	Grave 4
Pte	G. Lock	5958854	25.10.42	Plot 10	Row B	Grave 6
Pte	E.w. Rawlings	6203042	27.10.42	Plot 26	Row B	Grave 12
Pte	C.t. Sewell	6205883	27.10.42	Plot 11	Row F	Grave 20
WO2	J. Webster	6202107	27.10.42	Plot 26	Row D	Grave 26
L/C	W.J. Bolitho	6202586	14. 7.43	Plot 7	Row B	Grave 3
Syracuse War Cemetery Sicily, Brother of Sgt F.E. Bolitho above.						
Capt	V.W. Cooper	223236	28.10.42	No grave but named on Alamein Memorial Col 65		
Pte	W.J. Lee	6204042	23.10.42	No grave but named on Alamein Memorial Col 66.		

We then returned to Cairo and the Movenpick Hotel, our last night in Egypt. Next day Tuesday 27 October I arrived at Heathrow where I was met by Capt and Mrs Harry Abbott and spent the night at their home in Ealing.

On Friday 30 October I attended (representing the 1/7th Bn) the Alamein 51st Highland Division Dinner at the Banqueting Hall in Edinburgh Castle, where I had the pleasure of meeting Capt John Laurence of the pre war 7th Bn vintage who had later served in 61st A/Tank R.A. Regiment in 51 HD. Of 98 present 65 were former 8th Army Veterans; of these 65 members 33 had actually been present at the battle. A memorable occasion presided over by Lt-Gen Sir Derek Lang, KCB, DSO, MC, DL, the Normandy 1944 Commanding Officer of 5 Camerons and later GOC Scotland.

The Editor thanks Major Alan Carter for his very full report and regrets that it was necessary to edit harshly due to lack of space.

#### PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Former Sgt Peter Adams (6205497) would like to hear from former members of 7 Platoon, C Company 2nd Bn 1940-48. Tel No. 0883 842312.

\*\*\*\*\*

Col Ian and Christina Battye recently visited Colorado where they met up with Col Nick and Sue Carter from Australia whose son was getting married. Col Ian reports that Nick and Sue were looking very well indeed.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dave Bennett (6217145) Drums, had a nasty heart attack in the Summer but I am glad to say he has made a good recovery but early retirement may be forced upon him.

\*\*\*\*\*

Major A.B. Carter, Barry King and Stan Lewis, 1/7th Bn attended the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein Service of Thanksgiving held on Wednesday 12 October in Westminster Abbey.

\*\*\*\*\*

Arthur Drake (6201472) entered hospital in November for another operation. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

\*\*\*\*\*

Major David Fettes, 1/7th Bn, writes from Cape Town, South Africa, to say 'Please remind your successor that the Diehard N.L. for South Africa, MUST BE POSTED FIRST.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have received a request for the address of Johnny Hanlon, who served with the 1st Bn in Rendsburg 1946/7. If you can help please get in touch with the Editor.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs Pam Hardcastle, widow of Major Ken Hardcastle, writes to say that she had a visit from former WO2 Ted and Mrs Lockyer, 9th Bn, and that she was able to show them the Middlesex Regiment badged Kneeler she had made for the local church. The Middlesex Regiment badged glasses were put to good use.

\*\*\*\*\*

Richard Harrison (6211282) 2nd Bn, informs me that he and his wife attended the recent Festival of Remembrance at the Albert Hall on Saturday 7 November and he hoped to be able to take part in the March Past at the Cenotaph subject to his legs behaving.

\*\*\*\*\*

Elizabeth Hewitt, wife of Tony Hewitt, writes from Australia to inform me they were in Hong Kong during October. They were taking part in the making of a Documentary Film on the first five nights of Tony's escape from the POW Camp to the border with China, an emotional experience for Tony to follow the escape route

again. It is astonishing that the escapers managed to cross the rugged mountain country at night even with the help of the moon, which was their LAMPLIGHT TO FREEDOM. That is now the title of the film. The film making was a great success and the English crew have become staunch friends. We had a marvellous time in Hong Kong, but the foreboding communist takeover in 1997 is reminiscent of the situation before the war, with Japan waiting on the Border to destroy us.

Editor: Sadly both Douglas Scriven, Regimental Medical Officer and Eddy Crossley, New Zealand Air Force Officer, co-escapees, have both passed on.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just received news that Con Howriane has successfully undergone heart bypass surgery. He is a tough customer and will survive.

\*\*\*\*\*

Former Private Ken Horton (6208173), wounded with 14 Platoon D Company, 2nd Bn at Dunkirk is not at all well, and our best wishes go to Ken for a speedy recovery.

\*\*\*\*\*

I keep in touch with 6200175 former RQMS 'Jacko' Jaques who as usual sends his best wishes to all his numerous friends. Jacko is always good for many a regimental story. Now 80 he reminds me to ignore his wobbly scribble. He always liked a pint but now it is tea or lemonade. He has my sympathy as I sample a G&T.

\*\*\*\*\*

Eddie Johnson (6204555), 1/7th Bn informs me from St Just, Penzance, that he recently had Tich and Joan Mellor for a few days and a lot of elbow drill took place.

\*\*\*\*\*

During 1967 John Kenny (23421515) Corps of Drums 1st Bn 1957-61 had his General Service Medal (Cyprus) stolen. In 1991 Michael de Caville who lives in Chatham spotted the medal in a shop, saw it belonged to a member of the Regiment so he purchased and sent it to me, Secretary, and asked if I could trace the owner. I had the pleasure of returning the medal to John Kenny on 20 October 1992. Well done Michael.

\*\*\*\*\*

Col Andrew and Ursula Man had a miraculous escape on Saturday 1 September when a mini whirlwind swept over their home. They were awoken by the sound of slates being ripped off their roof at Castle Croft, Ludchurch. The whole house seemed to be shaking, it was very frightening. There was an almighty crash and the sycamore which had stood for 100 years was snapped in half and then blown through a window. Damage costs would be at least £8,000. The locals rushed round to assist and were a great help.

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Brig Brian Marciandi is now Chairman of the Greater London North West (Middlesex) Branch of SSAFA/FHS. This includes eight Divisions, the boroughs of Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow, generally covering the old county of Middlesex. The work of SSAFA/FHS is steadily increasing and former Diehards and their dependants can call on it for help if in need. There is a severe shortage of volunteers to do all the tasks SSAFA performs, particularly caseworkers and divisional treasurers. Any Diehards, and their wives, who live in the area, have some spare time and would like to help old servicemen and their families, should ring the Brigadier on 081-994-2019 or write to him at 148 Watchfield Court, Chiswick, London W4 4NE.

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Bob Molloy (6204626) 1/7th Bn continues to visit RSM 'Rocky' Knight, MBE, at the Gittisham Hill House Residential Home, Honiton, Devon. Thankyou Bob your help is much appreciated.

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Mrs Pat Newman, widow of Major Percy Newman, MBE, writes to inform me that she could not manage any longer living alone and has moved into a Residential Home at Bradwell, Great Yarmouth. I am sure all members will wish me to pass on best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Les Plumb (22466825) who served with our regiment from 1951-1975 and followed this with 17 1/2 years with the MOD Police retired on 30 October 1992. For some years he helped to keep the Mill Hill Branch functioning and has assisted the Regimental Association on many occasions. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

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Major G.O. (Gerry) Porter writes to wish your aged Secretary a very long and happy retirement. Thankyou.

\*\*\*\*\*

Former Sgt and Sheila Rogers are living in Alicante, Spain. Jack is still singing for his supper and can usually be found at the Club 'Reggies Night Out', Bendidorm. So pay him a visit and give him a surprise.

\*\*\*\*\*

Col John and Corrie Shipster will be away during the Christmas period having sailed to South Africa in November. They are visiting their son, Michael and daughter-in-law Jackie in Johannesburg and plan to return to Woodbridge in the New Year. They wish all their friends a very Happy Christmas, good health and a Prosperous New Year.

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Ernie Stebbing (6769309) now 79, is still swimming and recently took part in the annual sponsored swim for the Heart Foundation Trust. He also attended the Queen's Regiment reunion at Bassingbourn.

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Former CSM Tom Steward writes from Larnaca, Cyprus, and invites Grace and I to pay them a visit when I have handed over the chains of office. Ray and Veronica recently visited Tom and Heffi and had a most enjoyable break.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ginger Tann writes from Victoria, Australia, to inform me on a recent visit to Hong Kong he spotted an error on the headstone of 2571346 Private W.J. Ball in the Sai Wan War Cemetery, Hong Kong. The inscription read Bull. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission have assured me that the error will be rectified.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt Alec Torrie (22259907) Band 1st Bn 1950-71, informs me that he and his wife are now permanent residents in Bordeird, Algarve, Portugal and have been so for the past 3 years. Alec will be remembered for his hockey prowess and for his attendance at the Regimental Golf meetings.

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Tony White, Secretary of the 1/7th Bn OCA is very anxious to trace David (Dick) Gill who was in D Company. If you can help give him a ring on 071-723-7437.

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Cpl Frank Wookey (6201000) FEPOW 1st Bn would like to hear from his old comrades. Why not write to him at 125 Lion House Park, Mill Road, Hailsham, E. Sussex.

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The following have joined the Regimental Association :

LCpl S.F. Berry (24090581), served 10.5.1966 (Boy Service), B Company 4 Queens, S Company 1 Queens 1968-74.

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Private B.J. Castle (23627630), 1959-61 HQ Company 1st Bn.

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Cpl D.B. Chilton, MM (6206880), B company 1/8th Bn 1939 and 6th Cheshires 1940-46.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cpl J.W. Frost (6193565), 1st & 2nd Bns 1920-28. Now 90 years of age.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt V.L. Hill (2367835), 1958-64, B Company 7th Bn and C Company 5th Bn.

\*\*\*\*\*

WO2(Drum Major) P.A. Howells (22259480). 1947-59 East Surrey Regiment, and 1959-1970 1st Bn Mx.

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Private J.R. Innes (23755814). Served 1959-61, Depot & HQ Company 1st Bn.

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Private A.R. Jennings (23887505), 1962-65 MT B Company 1st Bn.

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Cpl G.R. Lang (6205516), 1939-46 1 PLK.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt F. Perrett (6207987), 1939-46 1/8th Bn.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt J.(Barney) Ross (14649701), 1943-47, 12 Platoon D Company 2nd Bn.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private L. Sharpe (23067837), 1954-56, Training Company Depot. On completion of National Service joined the Metropolitan Police where he served for 25 years, then on to the West Midlands Police for 9 years, then to Cumbria for 3 years as Chief Constable, and finally on 1 July 1991 moved to Scotland as Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police.

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Sgt J.H. Stokes (6294932), 1940-42 10 Buffs, 1943-45 1/8th Bn Mx, 2nd Bn Mx 1945-46.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private W.S.J. Wheeler (22497063), 1950-52 1st Bn.





Sgt 'Mutt' Hazlewood tells the Princess of Wales the old, old story!

#### OBITUARIES

ALAWAY – On 12 May 1992, Sgt Donald Allaway (6207532), aged 73 years.  
Sgt Alaway served with the 2/7th Bn from 1939 to 1946 and took part in the actions in North Africa, Sicily and the Anzio landings.

\*\*\*\*\*

AMBROSE – On 24 September 1992, Sgt George Ambrose (6208169), aged 69 years.  
George started his working life as a motor mechanic and on joining C Company 2/8th Bn in the early months of the War at Wealdstone TA Drill Hall he was appointed transport Cpl. At that time the transport line consisted of one Vauxhall car and a Carter Paterson lorry and a motor bike owned by Ron Chapman the Company DR. George remained in transport throughout the war and did sterling work from Normandy onwards. Since the war George worked as a driving instructor.

RRPC

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BESTER – During February 1992, Cpl Sidney James Bester (6207375), aged 75 years.  
He joined the 7th Bn T.A. on 3 May 1939 and at the outbreak of war joined the 2/7th Bn and HQ Company. In 1941 he joined B Company and served in all the campaigns of the 2/7th until his discharge in December 1945.

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BOWDEN – On 13 June 1992, Sgt Robert (Bob) Bowden (6197313), aged 83 years.  
He enlisted into the Regiment towards the end of 1926 and served with the 1st Bn in Shanghai during 1927. In 1928 the 1st Bn returned to the UK and in 1934 was transferred to the Reserve having completed his 7 years service with the Colours. He was recalled from the Reserve in 1939 and posted to the 1/7th Bn with whom he served throughout the war and saw service in France (Dunkirk), N. Africa, Sicily, Italy, D Day landings. He was mentioned in Despatches.

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BUCKLEY – On 9 June 1992, Private Alfred Buckley, aged 77 years.  
He served with the 2/7th Bn 1939-46.

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CALVERT – On 8 August 1991, Private W.V. Calvert (6198340), aged 86 years.  
He served with the regiment – 1st Bn 1928-29, 2nd Bn 1929-31, 1st Bn 1931-35.

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CHEESMAN – On 4 October 1992, Lt-Col Peter V. Cheesman (448929), aged 56 years.  
Peter Cheesman was commissioned into the Regiment on 27 July 1956, promoted Lt-Col on 30 June 1980 and retired on 1 May 1983. He joined the 1st Bn from Sandhurst on 10 February 1957 in Cyprus, joining A Company followed by D and then Support Company Mortars. In October 1963 he was posted to the All Arms Junior Leaders Regiment, Tonfanau remaining till August 1965. He rejoined the 1st Bn and was appointed Adjutant October 1966 and held this appointment when 4 Queens came into being. Service with the Queens Regiment followed. Peter was a great all round sportsman excelling at Rugby, Shooting, Athletics (Hammer, Discus, Shot, Javelin and Swimming). On retirement he became the Services Liaison Officer at Hannover an appointment he held up to the time of death.

The funeral on 9 October 1992 was private but a memorial service was held on Friday 23 October at St Antonius Church, Hannover. Major Ian Lloyd attended and represented the Officers' Club and Regimental Association, accompanied by Lt-Col Mike Newall who is an RO at HQ BAOR. The Memorial Service was very well attended by both British and German service and civilian friends and colleagues, the Church was packed. The Service was simple and very moving helped by the Band of the Royal Tank Regiment which played Soldiers of the Queen as Ingrid, and the family left the Church. The tributes to Peter, both verbal and written have been very numerous.

Ian Lloyd writes 'What can one say about the passing of a friend and comrade, particularly one who was such a larger than life character. No one who met Peter was untouched by the Meeting, he was loved and respected by all and will be sorely missed.'

Every Diehard who has served since 1956 knew 'Cheese', admired him and always enjoyed his sparkling company. We will all remember his sense of humour, the attention he showed to others and more lately the incredibly brave way he coped with the disability that finally beat him.

But of course, it is not only we in the Regiment who will miss him and remember him with such genuine affection – he was known to many others thanks to his prowess on the sports field, and his ability to master German which enabled him to spread the British military way of life amongst members of the Bundeswehr, who have paid such warm tributes to him and his work.

'Cheese' was a gentleman soldier if there ever was one.

Our deepest sympathy to his wife Ingrid, daughters Claudia and Julia, and family.

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CLARKE – On 29 September 1992, Sgt Roy Percival Clarke (22448189), aged 60 years.  
He was called up for National Service in 1951 and served with the RASC in Korea – he left the service in 1953. During 1958 he enlisted as a regular soldier and joined the Middlesex Regiment. He was posted to the 1st Bn and the majority of his service was with the Corps of Drums. He finally took his discharge in 1970.

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COOK – On 6 May 1992, Private Sidney W. Cook (6856090).  
He served with the Kings Royal Rifle Corps from 1940 until transferred to B Company, 2/7th Bn during 1942. Mr A. Fairhead, Secretary 2/7th Bn writes to say 'He served the Company with distinction and never missed a battle. He really was the joker in the pack.'

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CROSS – On 17 April 1992, Private John Stafford Cross (22928608), aged 57 years.  
John was a National Serviceman from October 1953 to October 1955. In 1954 and 1955 he became my driver (your editor) during my Quartermastering days with the 1st Bn in Austria. He was a very fine young man and we kept in touch over the years.

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DAVIS – On 20 August 1992, CSgt Thomas Henry Davis (6205807), aged 71 years.  
He joined the 7th Bn TA on 18 April 1939. During September 1939 he joined the 2/7th Bn serving with and C Companies until 1946.

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DEEPROSE – On 23 October 1992, Private George Deeprise (4632), aged 93 years.  
George served with the 4/7th Bn from 1915 to 1919 and then with the 7th Bn TA until 1928.

The Regtl Assn are indebted to that old Diehard, Arthur Lewin, now 86, who visited on our behalf.

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DENTON – On 28 October 1992, Private George (Babe) Denton (5883620), aged 74 years.  
He enlisted as a Boy soldier during May 1935 and was immediately posted to the Corps of Drums 1st Bn then in Egypt. Service in Singapore and Hong Kong followed. On the 21 April 1940 the 1st Bn assembled a special draft of 25 members to go to the Middle East for special duties. The draft did not arrive in Egypt until 5 June 1940 – the reasons why they were sent had changed and they were dispersed to various units – some went to Bomb Disposal, RNF and the Paras. Capt Vic Cooper led the draft – but sadly he was killed at El Alamein with no known grave. Babe Denton was transferred to the Reserve on 22 April 1946. He later joined the RAF and served from 1947 to 1952 and 1954-57. He was with the MT section.

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GALVIN – On 18 June 1992, Private Derek (Ginger) Galvin, aged 65 years.  
Ginger Galvin served in the Royal Marine Commandos 1943-47 and was in Hong Kong during August 1945 at the time of the surrender. He later re-enlisted and joined the Royal West Kents but was posted to the Diehards, 1st Bn, as a reinforcement when the Bn went to Korea in 1950. He finally left the army in 1952.

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GUMM – On 3 November 1992, Sgt Sidney Gumm (6211236), aged 74 years.  
Sid Gumm served with B and R Companies of the 2/7th Bn from January 1940 to June 1946. He was a very popular member of the Bn and a regular attendee at their reunions. Major A.E.F. Waldron attended the funeral.

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HARVEY – On 21 May 1992, Sgt Arthur Edward (Taffy) Harvey (2733278), MM, aged 80 years.  
Taffy Harvey enlisted into the Welsh Guards in March 1931, transferred to 2nd Bn Mx in September 1937 and was posted to 1st Bn Kensingtons in 1941 with whom he served until 1946. He was awarded an immediate Military Medal on 5 October 1943 for his leadership and bravery whilst leading a section of 6 Platoon at Termoli, Italy.

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HYMAS – On 12 April 1992, Private William James Hymas (6198287), aged 82 years.  
Bill Hymas joined the regiment on 7 February 1929 serving at home with the 1st Bn until December 1931. He moved with the 1st Bn to Palestine at the end of December 1931, Egypt 1933-35 followed and he was transferred to the Army Reserve 11 December 1935. At the outbreak of war he was recalled from the Reserve and posted to the Royal West Kent Regiment until January 1941 and then transferred to the CRMP and finally discharged on 19 December 1945. His younger brother who also served with the 1st Bn was Sgt Alf Hymas (6198292). Sadly he died 2 November 1987.

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KIFFORD – On 15 August 1992, Mrs Lilian Kifford, widow of WO1 (Bandmaster) W.E.J. Kifford, killed between 18th and 25th December 1941, whilst serving with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. Mrs Kifford was evacuated from Hong Kong during 1940 when the families of the Bn were sent to Australia for the duration of the war.

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LIPSCOMBE – During June 1992, Private George Lipscombe (6203524), aged 74 years.  
He was taken POW on 25 December 1941 and was held in Kobe Camp.

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LOHAN – On 18 September 1992, Mrs K.E. (nee du Vallon) Lohan, widow of the late Colonel L.G. (Sammy) Lohan and mother of Lt-Col. Hugh Lohan.

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MAKEWELL – On 5 December 1992, Mrs Rosie Makewell, widow of PSM R.W.R. Makewell, DCM, who died 22nd August 1990.

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McFARLANE – On 7th October 1992, Colonel J.D. McFarlane, OBE, TD, aged 83 years.  
Served with the 8th Bn T.A. from 1938-39 and then 2/8th Bn until transferred to the REME during 1941, on its formation.

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MOUND – On 4 March 1992, Private Victor H. Mound (22168085), aged 60 years.  
I have now been informed that he was in 5 Platoon, B Company, 1st Bn during the Korea campaign.

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NICHOLLS – On 31 October 1992, Private Sidney Nicholls (6734742), aged 80 years.  
He enlisted into the regiment after 4 years with the T.A. on 3 February 1933 and served with C and D Companies, 2nd Bn until his discharge on 29 January 1946.

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ORR – On 22 April 1992, Major R. Edmund Orr, MC, aged 68 years.  
Major (Paddy) Orr served with the 2nd Bn from 1942 to 1946 in Europe and Palestine, taking part in the campaign in North West Europe from 6 June 1944 to 7 May 1945. Major Orr was awarded the Military Cross and Private Robinson the Military Medal during the fighting at Point 279 August 1944.

Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association attended the Memorial Service held on 17 September 1992, at St Saviour Church, Kensington.

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PIELOU – On 7 April 1992, Captain Patrick John Alan Pielou (385083), at Larnaca, Cyprus, aged 63 years. Patrick, brother of Tony (although he spelt his name differently) was always very proud of being a Diehard. He served with the 2nd Bn in Palestine July 1947 until June 1948 and in the 1st Bn on the amalgamation of the two Bns, and took part in Public Duties in London District until December 1948. He then left the army for a while. On 2 April 1951 he joined the 7th Bn T.A. and later moved to 47 Brigade HQ as Captain. In January 1965 he was granted a Short Service Regular Commission with the Army Catering Corps, retiring in April 1980. At heart he was very much an Infantryman. He was more often to be found in the Field, up Welsh or Scottish mountains, on Exercises in Norway and Greece or sailing in the army yachts. His idea of catering was providing sustenance in a flooded trench halfway up a mountain. A more rugged soldier never joined the ACC (except perhaps David Pike who also stirred up Aldersot at one time!). I met up with Patrick again in S.W. District HQ, Taunton. In those days Wednesday afternoons were still for sports, so Patrick organised forced marches over the hills of Exmoor, preferably in fog, by compass. Later in retirement he and I continued regular hill walking. His chief interest then became leading Ex-Service Pilgrimages to battlefields and Commonwealth War Cemeteries, many Diehards going with him to Israel, Greece, Crete, El Alamein, Thailand, Singapore, Malaya and Hong Kong. I went on a memorable, but arduous trip with him to Burma last October. He was such an excellent leader of these expeditions. Only a month before he died he took a party of 50 to Singapore (50th Anniversary), Malaya and again to Hong Kong. A true Diehard he believed in paying homage to all those who died and suffered in the war, particularly the Diehards in Hong Kong. He laid wreaths for many relatives and took photos of graves for those who could not travel. He was planning a pilgrimage to Korea, which hopefully may still be organised.

His funeral in Taunton was private for close friends and family. The Regimental Flag draped his coffin, which was carried by his son Sean and three Diehards; brother Tony, Chris Mieville and myself. Tony and Patricia Lofts and Bernard Chalkley (Para) represented all those many who joined his Pilgrimages. Instead of flowers generous donations in his memory were given to Royal British Legion Poppy Fund and the Burma Star Association. His ashes have been scattered in the Quantock Hills near his home.

A true Diehard of great character, very sadly missed. Our deep sympathy goes to Patricia and all his family.

Peter Bellers

*The Editor apologises to all concerned for omitting this obituary from the June Newsletter.*

*Extract from Arthur Gomes Hong Kong N/L dated 1 August 1992*

#### MAIL & GRAPEVINE

Mrs Patricia Pielou, Court Cottage, 9 West Street, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, Somerset TA4 3AU.

It is with sorrow that I must tell you of the death of my husband Patrick, who died on April 7th. We were in Cyprus on holiday. Patrick suffered a cerebral vascular accident. At first, fighting back as you may imagine! He seemed to be making good progress. Indeed we both expected to be able to return to our hotel within a few days, but gradually he began to sleep more and more until at last he slipped gently and sweetly from this life to the next. Our dear son, Sean, was with us; the chaplain to 3 Queens (serving in Cyprus at that time) praying with us. Our younger daughter Shelley had flown out too and had spent time with her father. Our elder daughter's pregnancy was too far advanced to make the long flight from New York advisable but she and our son-in-law were in close touch. Patrick died at peace with God and with himself. He had served his fellow men well. In particular he cared for those who had suffered cruelty, deprivation and humiliation while held as prisoners of war. I know our Lord has a good man in Patrick.

P.S. Our first grandchild is a beautiful little girl. May she be blessed with some of her grandfather's fine qualities.

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PIERSON – On 22 March 1992, Private Leonard Horace Pierson (6205072), aged 76 years. He enlisted into the T.A. on 14 March 1939, joining the 7th Bn at Hornsey. He joined the 2/7th Bn on its formation in September 1939, serving with the Bn throughout and took part in the actions in North Africa, Sicily and the Anzio landings and finally to Palestine. He was demobbed on 29 November 1945. Also at one time batman to Major E.F.J. Rich.

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ROGERS – On 7 September 1992, Cpl Ralph Gwilym Rogers (6209725), aged 74 years. He was one of the first batch of Militiamen reporting to Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on 15th July 1939. He joined the 1/7th Bn on its formation and was posted to 4 Platoon, A Company. He served with the 1/7th Bn throughout the war and was at Dunkirk, Port Tewfiq, Alamein, Mareth Line, Wadi Akarit, Medenine, Crossing the Rhine. John Farmborough writes and ends 'Ralph Rogers was one of many unsung hero's.

JHF

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SMITH – On 9 October 1992, LCpl Ernest Albert Smith (6198296), aged 82 years. He enlisted on 16 February 1928 and served until 11 December 1935 in Palestine and Egypt. He was recalled from the Reserve September 1939 and was posted to the Royal West Kent Regiment and he served with the Bn at Dunkirk. Further home service followed and he was medically discharged on 7 August 1953.

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TARRY – On 24 September 1992, Sgt Bruce Perry Tarry (22979393), aged 61 years. Bruce Tarry enlisted into the regiment in December 1953 serving with B Company 1st Bn and in the early 1970's with 3 Queens and 3 Division HQ. He finally retired January 1976 having completed 23 years service. He was awarded the General Service Medal with clasps Cyprus and Northern Ireland. On leaving the service he became the supervising Clerk to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal at Maidstone.

Former WO2 Don Weller represented the Regimental Association at his funeral. The RBL formed a guard of honour and a bugler sounded Last Post and Reveille. They were represented by Major Anthony R.H. Morgan, National Secretary Poppy Appeal, Lt-Col Piers A.D. Storie-Pugh, MBE, TD, FRGS, Group Pilgrimages, North Africa, Europe and Far East, and J.F. Partridge, County Life Vice President. Our sincere condolences to his wife Barbara.

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TUFFNELL – On 14 July 1992, Cpl Peter Dudley Tuffnell (22157378), aged 61 years. He was called up for National Service during July 1949 and joined Support Company of the 1st Bn with whom he served during the Korean campaign. He left the Bn on completion of his NS in July 1951. He had two brothers, Geoffrey and Roy, who also served with the regiment.

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VINCENT – On 12 May 1992, WO2 Alfred James Vincent (6895839), aged 77 years. Alf Vincent originally enlisted into the Queen Victoria Rifles during 1934 and during 1938 joined the 9th Bn at Willesden Drill Hall. He later served with 60th Searchlight Regt R.A. under the command of the late Major Ken Hardcastle. In 1941 the regiment changed over to Bofar Guns and he served under Capt Norman Wallis, Major Gray and Capt Grayburn. In 1944 he served in Holland and helped defend the Nijmegen Bridge. He left the army in 1945 but at a later date rejoined the 9th Bn T.A. at Honey Pot Lane, Kingsbury.

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WIGAN – On 1 September 1992, Mrs Valerie Mavis Conroy Wigan, wife of Major H.N. Wigan, MC, 1/7th Bn.

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WOOD – WO2 (RQMS) Trevor Herbert Wood (6206688). Date of death was 28 January 1992 NOT 1991 as published in the June 1992 Newsletter. My apologies.

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### EX-SERVICE FELLOWSHIP CENTRES

The Ex-Service Fellowship Centres run two residential care homes for ex-service men and women, ex-merchant seamen and their widows/widowers. New Belvedere House in Stepney, East London, for 29 male residents and Hollenden House, in Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, for 44 male or female residents including 10 disabled. 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 so wish.

These Houses are not nursing homes and residents must, on admission, be capable of looking after themselves though help can be given where necessary eg. with bathing.

Fees are maintained within the limits set by DSS-Local Authorities. Those interested should write to:

The Administrator, Ex-Service Fellowship Centres, 8 Lower Grosvenor Place, London SW1W 0EP. Telephone: 071-828-2468.

### THE KING'S AFRICAN RIFLES AND EAST AFRICAN FORCES OFFICERS' DINNER CLUB

has been in existence since 1947 and currently has around 450 members. The Club is open to all officers who have served with the KAR, NRR or Somali Scouts. Its annual dinner is held in London, usually on the first Friday in June. Guests of Honour in recent years have included General David Ramsbotham, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Tom King (all ex KAR) and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

Life membership is only £10 and cheques should be forwarded to the Hon Sec, Major George Pearson MBE, 'Harambee', Chilton Corner, Great Waldingfield, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0RL. Club ties, the KAR Regimental tie and the ties of many KAR battalions can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Lt Col Richard Corkran OBE, Crockfords, Shurlock Row, Berkshire RG10 0PL.

### 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	£22.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon and Old Gold	£ 3.50 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern Terylene	£ 3.50 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£ 7.00 each
Wall Plaques Middlesex Regiment	£16.50 each
History - Diehards in Korea	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (Not originals)	£ 3.50 each
Christmas Cards depicting 'Steady the Drums and Fifes', small	£ .30p each

D. Isom (Printers) Ltd.,  
Herne Bay, Kent.