



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 74

DECEMBER 1995

PRICE £1



Photograph taken on 15 August 1995 outside N.A.M. by Soldier Magazine
 Left to Right: D. Cavill, Mr R. James, Major I.P. Tamworth, Mr L. Hipgrave, Mr J. Harrington,
 Mr F. Wookey, Mr G. Boswell, Mr G. Brown, Mr R. Wright, Mr J. Poole, Lt R. Rothwell,
 Lt-Col Laurence Smith, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Mr J. Milroy, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey.
 Front Row: Mr H. Foakes

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 Soldier Magazine

President : Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP
Chairman : Lt-Col J.M. Hewson, MC
Vice Chairman : Col I.D. Brotherton, TD, DL
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38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA
Editors : Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE
and
Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1996

- 4 March Middlesex Officers' Club Committee Meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by Regimental Association Executive Committee Meeting at 7 p.m.
ACF Conference Room Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.
- 27 April 1/7th O.C.A. Annual Reunion at the Drill Hall, Hornsey.
- 10 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Annual Dinner, Naval and Military Club, 94 Piccadilly, London W1.
- 11 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance, Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral at 3 p.m.
Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing at 6.30 p.m. AGM at 7.15 p.m.
- 14 May 9th Bn Officers' Club Annual Luncheon at the Royal Overseas Club, Park Place, St James, London SW1. Assemble 12.15 p.m.
- 18 May Presentation of New Colours to the 1st Bn PWRR.
- 19 May Annual Inspection Albuhera Close at 9.30 a.m.
- 9 June Laying up of Colours 1 Queens, Guildford.
- 19 June Finance Committee Meeting at Cooper Lancaster Brewers at 7 p.m.
- 13 September Laying up of Colours 3 Queens.
- 14 September Korean Club Annual Reunion, Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing at 6.30 p.m.
WOs & Sgts Past and Present Dinner, Bassingbourn.
- October 2/7th Bn OCA Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, at 11.45 a.m.
- 7 November Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey 10.30 a.m. Planting of Crosses in the Regimental Plot.
- 7 November 7th Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner to be held at the Officers' Mess, The London Regiment, St John's Hill, Battersea, London SW11.
- 9 November Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) assembling at 10.40 a.m.
- 10 November 7th Bn Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey, London N8, assembling at 10.30 a.m.
- 18 November Housing Sub Committee Meeting, ACF Conference Room, Duke of York's Headquarters, commencing at 7 p.m.

PRESIDENT'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

For the year ended 31 December 1995, the sum of £16459 was granted to members of the Regiment in the form of benevolent grants. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £10539.

The Army Benevolent Fund also made a special grant of £3515 to cover the cost of lopping the trees at Albuhera Close.

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

The late Major J.G. Chiverall bequeathed £3400 to the Regimental Association Charitable Fund and £3400 to the Regimental Museum Trust Fund.

Individual donations from – Mr E.J. Soden £50, Mr A.J. Brown £50 and Mr J.O'Sullivan £25.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

All members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due on 1 January. Officers £5 and other rank members £3.50.

V J PARADE

The Regimental Association attended the National V J Parade held in London on Saturday 19 August.

Our contingent was led by the Regimental Standard carried by Mr M. Ward and the Enfield Branch Standard by Mr A. Burford. We were given a rousing reception by the enormous crowds – a truly memorable day.



ODD JOTTINGS

Ron and Betty Morris would like to thank the many members of the Regimental Family who have inquired after their son Tim. He is now out of hospital and living with our second son Stephen and his wife Susan. He is learning to live a different way of life using a wheel chair. He hopes to start work reasonably soon based at home, still working for the Bank of Tokyo, building up a computer programme for use by the Bank. He has to return to hospital either just before or just after Christmas for a further operation on his back, but he does not anticipate being there all that long. Despite it all he remains cheerful most of the time and he is looking forward to receiving all the latest computer equipment so that he can start work. The Bank have held his job open, albeit with a change of emphasis and responsibilities, and have been very supportive.

A PILGRIMAGE TO HONG KONG 24 AUGUST – 6 SEPTEMBER 1995

Where to begin? Unforgettable, moving, stirring, impressive, sad, celebratory – one run out of adjectives. The tour from 24 August to 6 September 1995 was splendidly planned and organised from the U.K. jointly by The Royal British Legion and The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (V) Association but primarily, on arrival, masterminded magnificently by H.Q. British Forces, Hong Kong. The visit was to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Hong Kong and to attend the Disbandment Ceremonies of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment – our Allied Regiment now moving into history after 141 years of service to the Crown and people of Hong Kong.

Though no serious prior co-ordinating arrangements had been made, our Regimental party, which instantly became a solid group recognisable to all by our tie, consisted of Colonel Nick and Suzanne Carter (from Australia), Jim (ex Sgt 1 MX and Prisoner of War 1941-1945) and Joyce Harrington, Bob and Joan Gilbertson, Tony and Pat Lofts, Colonel John Moore (also Adjutant HKR 1954-55). Additionally, within the overall party of about 180, were very many true and deep friends of the Regiment from the Battle of Hong Kong in 1941 and the ghastly years thereafter. They included the NOK (from Canada) of a 1 MX soldier killed in the battle, those who had been with the Battalion in Sham Shui Po and Argyll Street Camps and two ladies interned in Stanley Prison one of whom even occupied the same 'room' as Topsy Man.

The ceremonies began on Sunday, 27 August with a magnificent and memorable Choral Evensong in St. John's Cathedral wherein lies our Regimental Memorial Plaque and the Roll of Honour Book containing the names of 16 Officers and 188 Other Ranks "Killed or died in Hong Kong 1941 - 1945". The Roll also lists the names of those who died in the notorious "Lisbon Maru" or subsequently in Japan.



Sgt J. Harrington waiting to lay wreath

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Sgt J. Harrington waiting to lay wreath

In the ensuing days Ceremonies and Religious Services were held at the Cenotaph (led by H.E. The Governor), Stanley and Sai Wan Cemeteries and Sham Shui Po Prisoner of War Memorial. We were particularly proud that at all these official ceremonies precedence was given to the laying of our own Regimental poppy wreaths by members of our Party. Above the Regimental crest was attached in each case a card labelled "In proud and honoured memory from All Ranks The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), 'The Die-Hards'". Regimental wreaths were also laid at our Memorial Plaque in St. John's Cathedral and, most specially, at the grave in Stanley Cemetery of Colonel L.A. Newnham G.C., M.C. On the stone is the Regimental Crest, the G.C. emblem, the date 18.12.1943 and the inscription "Shot whilst a Prisoner of War for refusing to betray his Comrades. True to the End".

But all was not solemnity, important as it was. Banquets, receptions, lunches, dinners and cocktail parties abounded at which our hosts included the Government of Hong Kong, British Forces Hong Kong, Prison Officers Stanley Prison, Hong Kong Prisoners of War Association and the Park Lane Hotel, Causeway Bay in which we were staying and well cossetted. Particularly memorable in the context of both ceremony and hospitality was a Tattoo and Beating Retreat on Stonecutters 'Island' (now a solid part of the mainland) magnificently staged by The Hong Kong Military Service Corps and The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) followed by an absolutely splendid barbecue for "VIP's, Veterans, selected RKHR (V) and Hosts only". Our Regimental Party was yet again much to the fore!

Saturday, 2 September was the sad "Disbandment Day" for the Volunteers. In the afternoon the Volunteers marched/rode past (their Reconnaissance role) the dais at the Convention Centre on the island where the salute was taken by The Honourable Mrs Anson Chan CBE, JP (Chief Secretary) and General Sir Michael Rose KCB, CBE, DSO, OGM (Adjutant General) who had flown out especially for this day. The Parade included the RHKR Old Comrades Association together with Harrington and Moore both wearing our Regimental ties. This we felt was an expression of our sympathy for and solidarity with our Allied Regiment. The remainder of our Party were in special reserved seats next to the VIP stand.

That evening the whole group from our hotel together with a large Australian contingent staying in the YMCA, Kowloon were transported by coach to Gallipoli Lines in the New Territories near Fanling (now unrecognisable midst a sea of skyscrapers). This was for the final Disbandment Parade at which the salute was taken by H.E. The Governor. The parade included the March On, Inspection, Trooping the Guidon, Advance in Review Order, Address by the Governor and the Commanding Officer's reply including a personal message from The Queen, a Drumhead Service and the March Off as the lights dimmed and Auld Lang Syne played. It truly was a magnificently executed, moving and at times "tear jerking" occasion. Thereafter we attended a splendid Disbandment Reception again beautifully staged.

On Monday, 4 September there was a poignant occasion – the auction to those connected of the majority of the property of the Volunteers' Officers and Sergeants Messes. To see it all laid out with lot numbers really brought home the finality of the Disbandment. There were however two saving elements. A magnificent 77th candelabra on long loan from us is to be returned to RHQ The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshires) at Canterbury whence, I was assured, it would be available for suitable occasions in London. The second saving element was the silver Steeple Cup (standing two feet high and still in superb order) presented to the Hong Kong Regiment in March 1955 and inscribed "Presented by The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) to The Hong Kong Regiment to Commemorate their Alliance on August 14, 1950". This Cup is to remain in the Territory and will be housed in a special show case at the Jockey Club together with the Volunteers' other memorabilia.

Though not all of us were able to inspect it, our Regimental Crest carved on the hillside above Fanling still exists and has over all these years been splendidly maintained by the Ghurkas. Presumably it too, like us, will now fade into history. But throughout all these ceremonies there was a tangible link with the present. The Minden Band of the Queen's Division, under the able Directorship of Captain C.R. Meldrum, had been flown out especially for the occasion. They rightly attracted much comment and praise; it was good to hear "Soldiers of The Queen" regularly played.

How to sum up this final "official" tour? With the notable exception of Jim Harrington, our Regimental Party was in honesty basking in the reflected and deserved glory of our Middlesex forebears. We met old friends from all over the globe, made new friendships particularly among those with Regimental connections and visited so many places known of old to many of us. We were even allowed a little time to be tourists! The 'Pilgrimage', for such it primarily was, has left on all of us indelible memories of the past, friendships to be carried into the future and, beyond all, pride tinged with humility at the valour of The Die-Hards both in the Battle for Hong Kong in December 1941 and their courage in captivity for nearly four long and terrible years thereafter. It was an honour to be there and to "Remember".

H.J.A.M.



L to R: Jim Harrington, Bob Gilbertson, Tony Lofts, Col John Moore, Col Nick Carter

VJ SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

A VJ Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving to mark the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War and to remember the 377 All Ranks of the 1st Bn who died in the Far East was held at the National Army Museum, Chelsea, London SW3, on Tuesday 15th August 1995.

The Service was conducted by The Reverend W.E.B. Jones, the Lesson was read by Brig B.A.M. Pielow, the Act of Remembrance was led by Lt-Col T.W. Chattey and the Regimental Collect was read by Lt-Col J.M. Hewson.

The following former FEPOWs of the 1st Bn attended: Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Lt R.S. Rothwell, Messrs G. Boswell, G. Brown, D. Cavill, H. Foakes, J. Harrington, L. Hipgrave, R. James, T. Milroy, J. Poole, F. Wookey, R. Wright, plus two guests from the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, Lt-Col J. Laurence Smith and Major I.P. Tamworth.

They were supported by wives and widows – Mrs Boswell, Mrs Cavill, Mrs Foakes, Mrs Harrington, Mrs James, Mrs Milroy, Mrs Wookey; widows Mrs Weedon, Mrs Heather, Mrs Goldford, Mrs Franklin, Mrs Matthews, Mrs Whitby, Mrs Geary and Mrs Brooker; next of kin, Miss P. Harrison and Mr P. Kifford.

The function was supported by Mr Ian Robertson, Director National Army Museum and 5 members of Staff plus members of the Regimental Association.

An excellent buffet was provided by the Museum's Caterers.

A request was sent to the Royal British Legion to lay a spray of poppies on the grave of Lt Col H.W.M. Stewart, OBE, MC, in the Yokohama British and Commonwealth Cemetery as near to the 15th of August as was possible. The message read. "From all ranks of the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment in memory of all those who died in the Far East between 1941 and 1945. – An Outstanding and caring Commanding Officer".

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL

The Annual Remembrance Service was held at the Middlesex Guildhall on Saturday 11 November 1995. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Gus Jones our Padre with the 1st Battalion in Korea. The Lesson, taken from The Revelation of St John the Devine Chapter 21 vv 1 – 7, was read by our Chairman Lieut Colonel John Hewson and the Exhortation and the laying of the Regimental Wreath was undertaken, this year, by Lieut Colonel Tom Chattey. After the Service Colonel Chattey said a few words to thank the Reverend Gus Jones for all the support he had given to the Regimental Association over many years. The Reverend Jones in his reply said how much he enjoyed being the Honorary Chaplain to the Regiment and that although he had decided to semi-retire, he would still be available to assist at the annual Albuhera Service and that he looked forward to doing so.

After the Service, before leaving for home, a glass of sherry with short bread biscuits were enjoyed by the 63 members and their families present. It is very pleasing to see the number attending this moving service increasing year by year.

CENOTAPH MUSTER – WHITEHALL

20 plus members of the Hounslow Branch accompanied by our Chairman and Secretary joined the Associations of the Queen's Regiment, The Buffs and the Royal Hampshires at the muster and march past at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday, the 12 November 1995. Those not marching were able to watch the Parade on television in the Headquarters Club at the Duke of York's. Following the parade, at about 1245 hrs, all adjourned to the bar at the Duke of York's for a well earned drink prior to having lunch together. A very moving and enjoyable day.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND THANKSGIVING

1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions

The Annual Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving was held at the Parish Church of St Nicholas, Chiswick, London W4 at 3pm on Sunday the 12 November 1995.

The Service was conducted by the Reverend Patrick Tuft, Vicar of St Nicholas and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Old Comrades Association. Brigadier Tony Pielow, our President, read the Lesson taken from Isaiah Chapter 40, verses 1 – 8. The customary Act of Remembrance and the wreath laying ceremony was undertaken at the memorials within the Church to the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions.

Understandably, with the passing of time, the attendance was down this year. Some 25 people were present from the Regimental Association, and friends of the 2/10th Old Comrades Association.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 1995

Your Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance on Thursday the 9 November 1995 and planted crosses in memory of each Battalion of the Regiment. A large Middlesex badged Regimental Cross was also planted in the Far East Prisoners of War Association Plot. The Queen Mother formally opened the Field of Remembrance at 1130 am by planting her cross and then HRH the Duke of York visited each Regimental Plot and spoke to the Regimental Representatives.

Colonel and Mrs Tom Chattey were present as was Major Frank Waldron, Fred Thomas and Reg Mephram.



Regimental Plot at Field of Remembrance – 9 November 1995

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

The 68th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the Officers' Mess, The London Regiment, St John's Hill, Battersea, London SW11 on Thursday 9th November 1995.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: Capt J. Amsden, Major I. Glennie, Major P.E. Hills, Lt-Col P.R.P. Swanson, Mr N.S. Young, Capt S. Young and Mr A. Wood.

The following members attended: Col I.D. Brotherton, Major S.A. Blausten, The Rt Rev Mgr Brown, Major A.B. Carter, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S. le M. Enthoven, Lt-Col P.J. Hall, Major D. Harwood, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Capt J.K. Laurence, Major C.L. Lawrence, Major R.J. Leighton, Col A.M. Man, Major E.J. Naish, Lt P.J. Ottino, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Capt P.A. Stocken, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Capt G.J. Young.

The following members expressed their regret for not being able to attend but sent greetings to all their friends: Capt H.S. Abbott, Col F.G. Barber, Major P.D.J. Clarke, Major H.E. Fuch, Lt F.R. Fenton, Capt J.R.W. Fisher, Lt S.B. Hurst, Lt J. McMaster, Capt D.O.M. Thomas, Capt F.S. Mayman, Mr M.H.D. Milne, Lt K. Murray, Major G.G. Norton, Capt B. St G.A. Reed, Major A.J.D. Salter, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Lt J.R. Spooner, Col P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, Major R.F. Sykes, Major R.J. Usher.

2/7th BN ANNUAL REUNION

The 50th and final Annual Reunion of the Old Comrades Association of the Bn took place at the Victory Services Club on Thursday 5 October 1995, under the Chairmanship of Lt-Col R.E. Rowbotham.

The lunch was organised by Mr T. Fairhead, 2/7th Bn and Mr J. Warner of the Enfield Branch. The following guests attended: Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Lt-Col J.M. Hewson, Major R.E.B. Morris and Major A.E.F. Waldron. A total of 95 attended the lunch and this included 2 members of the 2/7th Bn who reside overseas – they were Mr Joe Bird, USA and Mr Ben Simmons, South Africa.

The annual luncheon will continue but in future will be organised by the Enfield Branch.

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

The Hong Kong (Argyle Street) P.O.W. Association held their annual Luncheon at the Duke of York's HQ, London SW3, on Friday 29th September 1995. The following members attended: Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Major F.S.C. Hancock, Capt and Mrs J.H.S. Hudson, Lt and Mrs R.S. Rothwell and Mrs M. Webber, widow of Capt G.C. Webber.

The lunch was preceded by a Memorial Service in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Colonel Andrew and Ursula Man welcomed some 160 guests, family, friends and members of the Regiment to their Diamond Wedding Anniversary Celebration held in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London, W2 on Saturday the 9 September 1995. Colonel Andrew had obviously gone to considerable trouble to organise a first class occasion that was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Pride of Place in the Hall went to the Regimental Flag that was displayed for all to see.

Brigadier Tony Pielow toasted this fine couple in a speech outlining some of the aspects of Colonel Andrew's career and family life and the Colonel in reply said how much he

had enjoyed his time with the Regiment having commanded two Battalions in war, and what a wonderful wife, mother and supporter Ursula had been during their married life. He concluded by thanking all present, many by name, for attending and for their friendship and comradeship to himself and his family. Colonel Andrew asked that the following message be added to this report - "Ursula and I are most grateful to all who wished us well on the Occasion of our Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 10 August 1995".

VISIT TO THE NORMANDY BATTLEFIELDS

The Royal British Legion Hounslow Branch are organising a visit to the Normandy Battlefields.

Outward travel 20 June 1996, return on 24 June 1996, luxury coach travel, staying at a 3 star hotel in Bayeaux, half board, anticipated cost £295 per person. They have extended an invitation to Diehards to join the party. Those interested can obtain further information from Mr John Adams, Ramparts, 6 Riverbank, Staines TW18 2QE. (Tel. 01784 456012).

OFFICERS' CLUB LUNCHEON

At the Annual Meeting of the Officers' Club Committee, held on the 6 March 1995, it was agreed that to meet the requests from some members a Club Luncheon be held in 1995. The date selected was the 20 September, Officers' Club members were all advised and arrangements were put in hand. Regrettably the luncheon did not receive sufficient support to make it viable (only 7 members asked to attend) and so it had to be cancelled.

UNION JACK CLUB

The Union Jack Club is situated in Sandell St, London SE1, right outside Waterloo Station. There is a wide choice of single, double and family rooms, many with private bath rooms etc. All are very reasonably priced.

All serving members of the Forces have full membership and those who have served are entitled to apply for membership or can be made Temporary Honorary Members for the period they are staying at the Club.

The accommodation is available to both Commissioned and Non Commissioned ranks. For further information and to book accommodation contact: The Reservations Office, The Union Jack Club, Sandell St, London SE1 8UJ (Tel 0171 928 4814).

HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Now that the heatwave has passed us by and the Test Series against the West Indies has resulted in a draw, the Football Season is under way with all the usual hype. We begin to realise that the nights are drawing in, it gets darker two minutes earlier each day, and that autumn is upon us, winter is coming on, and another year begins to draw to an end. So what a good time, with no evening chores to do because of poor light, one can consider attending Branch meetings on a Friday with no feelings of guilt.

PAST EVENTS. Sunday 30 July was open day at the London Regiment held at the Duke of Yorks Chelsea, and what a wonderful day. It was an education to see the modern T.A. at work and to be able to view the latest military hardware on issue to the reserve forces. A large contingent of the Regimental Association was present and they were treated to a fine display of military music by the Fifes, Pipes and Drums. Those who were present were able to avail themselves of the excellent Bar B Q which was provided by our hosts. Dave Eagle was on parade with the Regiments Assault Pioneers.

VJ SERVICE 15 August. The Regimental Association held a very moving service to give thanks and to remember the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War at the National Army Museum Chelsea. The service which was held in the picture gallery, was conducted by the Rev W. Jones, a past chaplain to the Regiment. The theme of the service was to remember all those held captive and all those who did not return. The event was well supported by members of the branch and their guests, who after the service enjoyed a buffet lunch and toured the museum. They then proceeded to the Royal Hospital Chelsea and were extremely fortunate to enjoy tea within the Hospital cafe, served by ladies of the Red Cross at 15p a cup which, on a very hot day, was a bargain compared with the inflated prices charged in the area.

RBL EVENING THANKSGIVING SERVICE A large party from the Branch attended the evening service and afterward enjoyed themselves, being entertained with live music and a few drinks before a buffet supper.

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST OFFICIAL CEREMONIES LONDON. The day dawned bright, sunny and very hot which indicated to those who had elected to march that they could expect some discomfort because of the heat. A reasonable sized contingent of Diehards were marching, most of whom were senior citizens, and it was gratifying that all the World War II veterans of this branch were on parade, supported by other members of the branch and relatives for whom we were fortunate to have obtained seats in the stands outside Buckingham Palace. Prior to the march down The Mall, those who were marching received liberal supplies of water from the Brigade of Guards and the Metropolitan Police. The march down The Mall was an exhilarating experience with the large crowds cheering and clapping every yard of the route. The bonus for those marching was that the party appeared on television which has resulted in a number of phone calls to the Association. The salute was taken by Her Majesty The Queen, and it is not often that the generals clap the other ranks!

Our congratulations to John Morgan, Ernie Platt, Vic Debenham, Syd Wells and Carrots Thomlinson for maintaining the Regiments traditions. After the march, half of the party elected to stay in town and watch the Flypast and enjoy the Fireworks.

SUNDAY 20 AUGUST Beating Retreat & Sunset Ceremony. Again the Branch had been successful in obtaining seats for this event which was held on Horse Guards Parade, and those members who did attend all agreed that it was a fitting and moving tribute to all those who gave so much in ensuring that Freedom should prevail. No doubt all who watched on TV felt much the same emotions.

SUNDAY 27 AUGUST ANNUAL EVENT BRANCH BAR B Q. This event was a blazing success with a total attendance of thirty six including the wives and family members. The food was of a very high standard, the desserts particularly so, having been prepared by the ladies, and I understand that the shortage of some of those dishes was due to certain members trying to sample all the goodies so as not to offend any particular lady who may have felt that her offering was not given the attention which her pudding deserved.

Our grateful thanks are due to Rosemary & John Raby who once again extended the hospitality of their home and worked so hard to make the day such a great success.

AROUND THE BRANCH

I have had a postcard from Mick Timms who tells me that he has now forsaken the field and moved into a house. Address available for any who wish to contact him.

Mrs Mary Mullen has been discharged from hospital after her recent operation for a duodenal ulcer, and although on a bland diet herself, she produced a fine lasagne for the supper meal at the branch Bar B Q. Our good wishes for her continuing recovery.

Francis Palmer sends his kind regards to all who know him and hopes to see us in Lille this year.

I note that one or two members are still delinquent in paying their subs, and I would appreciate your giving this matter your immediate attention if you fall into this category.

LONDON REGIMENT OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 30 JULY 1995

There was a very good attendance at the London Regiment's Open Day held on Sunday the 30 July 1995. Fifty plus Diehards including wives attended. On a very hot and humid day we were entertained to an excellent display of the Regiment's military role and skills. Then followed a blessing and presentation of the newly emblazoned drums to the London Regiment's Corps of Drums. After the presentation the Corps of Drums and the Pipes of the London Regiment gave a musical display that was much appreciated by all present.

Company Tents and Bars opened when the formal events ended and all adjourned to the B (Queen's) Company Tent for drinks and a very welcome barbecue.

A very good day was had by all.



PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Sincere congratulations to Mrs Patricia Allott on the award of the M.B.E. for her Community work.

Tom Bryant, 1st Bn, 23433556, 1957-59, visited Buckingham Palace on 11 October to be presented with the C.M.G. Tom has family connections with the Diehards - his uncle was Private Willie Bryant (6208393) who served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and sadly lost his life when the Lisbon Maru was torpedoed on 1/2 October 1942. His grandfather served as G/21202 Private Willie Bryant was killed in action 1 July 1918 whilst serving with the 1st Bn.

Jason Burnham, 1 Church Hill, Finchfield, Essex CM7 4NN, would like to hear from anyone who knew the late 6204334 Jim Poole who served with D Company 1/7th Bn.

Col Gavin Bulloch and Mr Tony Lofts have joined the Regimental Association Executive Committee.

Majors Ron Morris, Chris Lawrence and Frank Waldron recently visited the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond, to see Cpl Reg Coppard who was having a two week 'respite' at the Home. Reg, in his youth, was groom to the father of Chris, then a young lad. It was a splendid afternoon and some very interesting stories came to light. Say no more.

I was recently speaking on the telephone to Sgt Les Crittenden who was a FEPOW with the 1st Bn and during our conversation he told me that in his younger days he was batman to the late Col L.A. Newnham. Sadly Les is now housebound.

Frank Dickinson, 2nd Bn, has recently traced Bob Shepherd, Ex 6 Pl B Company who was a regimental cook during 1944 and later was transferred to the A.C.C. Bob is having a bad time and he is now suffering from poor eyesight and hearing and has quite a job getting around. He remains cheerful.

Mr P.E. Gates (22950093) 1953-58, C Company 1st Bn, now a Pastoral Preacher reports that services of Remembrance for VE and VJ Days were held at the Little Glory Baptist Chapel, Smithfield, South Australia, and several former members of the British Army attended.

On 13 September I had the pleasure of a visit by Sgt Jim and Joyce Harrington and after hearing all about his recent trip to Hong Kong and the fact that he had the honour of laying the wreath on behalf of the 1st Bn, we adjourned to the local for refreshments.

Information has been received that Capt R.A. Hodge is seriously ill in a Dublin Hospital.

Barry King, 1/7th Bn, who now lives in Adelaide, Australia, is after extensive major surgery responding to treatment. He sends his regards to all his friends in the 1/7th.

On 1 October I had the pleasure of a visit by Capt and Geraldine Lofting who were attending the wedding of Douglas McCully's daughter. It was good to see them looking so well.

Mrs Joan McDowell, widow of Capt L.G. McDowell, for the first time joined the march in Whitehall on Remembrance Day and on the way handed over a wreath inscribed "In memory of 'Diehards'" for placement at the Cenotaph. In the past she has always planted a cross in the Westminster Garden of Remembrance. Well done Joan.

Former Sgt Jeff Mullender has moved to Margate and any Diehard visiting the Thanet area will be most welcome.

Former LSgt Frank Mullings (6212610), 1st Bn, seeks his travelling companions, Frank Gladding, Frank Birchell and Frank Rogers, who met on a train to Mill Hill Barracks, 15 March 1940. Write to 2 Wetherby Road, Boreham Wood, Herts WD6 4LQ.

Major and Mrs G.O. Porter write to express their sincere disappointment at being unable to take part in the Regimental events connected with VE and VJ day.

Mr T.H. Rockall, A Company, 1/7th Bn, very kindly sent Major Ron Morris a recording of the Horse Guards ceremony.

Jack Rose (6209157), 2/8th Bn, recently visited the British War Cemetery at Nederweert, Holland, which contains graves of H.J. Clark, G.T. Davis, 2/8th Bn, and Cpl Boustred, 1/7th Bn.

Former CSM John O'Sullivan, reminds Major Ron Morris that his son, Brendan, attended the Duke of York's School, Dover, with his son Tim. Brendan now lives in Cumbria and sends Tim his very best wishes.

Cpl John Pluck, who attended the Korean Reunion reports that whilst in an alcoholic daze gave his tie away. For his sins he had to buy a replacement.

Mr E.J. Soden has been selected by the North Essex FEPOW Association to attend the Christmas Party at St James' Palace organised by the 'Not Forgotten Association'. The invitation includes a two night stay at the Victory Services Club, all expenses paid.

Mr Fred Phillips, 2/7th Bn, is the new occupant of Flat 10A, Albuhera Close, Enfield. After Christmas Mr Bill Rawlinson and wife will be moving in to No. 12 Albuhera Close.

John Waterman is asking for members of the 2nd Bn to contact him, particularly those who were in D Company. His address is: 2 The Dovecot, Charlton, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3LL. Tel 01386 860792.

OBITUARIES

ADAMS - On 5 August 1995, Mrs Audrey Adams, wife of Sgt P.H. Adams.

ALLEN - On 11 July 1995, Private Jimmy Adams (6208457), aged 77 years.

Jimmy served with the 2/8th (1st Bn), from 1939-45. He had a fine singing voice and after the war became a Headmaster. He was a good sportsman and was a member of the Bn Hockey team. Informant Sgt Peter Benson-Cooper.

ALLOTT - On 5th October 1995, Major Richard Knowle Brian Allott, MC, aged 77 years. Major Allott's obituary appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

BETTS - On 6 November 1995, Private Arthur Herbert (Trunkey) Betts (5883762), aged 77 years.

He was always known as 'Trunkey', enlisting on 27 March 1936 and in early 1937 joined the 1st Bn in Singapore. During August 1937 he moved with the Bn to Hong Kong. He was a member of A Company and took part in the Battle of Hong Kong. In September 1942 he was a member of a draft of POWs being moved to Japan and survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru. He was repatriated to UK in October 1945 and was discharged in February in 1946. He was a popular member of the Bn.

BLACKWOOD - On 10 November 1995, Private Harry Blackwood (6210214), aged 76 years.

Harry served with 12 Platoon, D Company (Mortars), 2/8th Bn throughout the Normandy and European campaign 1939-46. Roy Bishop, who was a great friend, attended the funeral held at Portrush, Co Antrim, and was a Pall Bearer. He will be well remembered in the Battalion as he served originally in the Regimental Band and was a magnificent piano player. Harry was a farmer in Portrush and in retirement he was a professional musician and also a member of the Portrush Bowling Club for over 40 years. When the Bn was in Germany he was on Radio Hamburg.

BURKITT - On 16 August 1995, Mrs L. Burkitt, widow of Sgt H. Burkitt (6198488), FEPOW with the 1st Bn.

COMPTON - On 18 November 1993, Private Frederick James Compton (6085689), aged 83 years. Belated entry.

He enlisted in early 1933 and served until late 1945. He was with the 1st Bn in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was taken POW on 25 December 1941, survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and held in Osaka Camp. Fred was a first class footballer and a member of the Bn team.

CRAWLEY - On 10 July 1995, Private Bernard Alfred Crawley (22575868), aged 62 years.

Bernard was a National Serviceman who served from 1951 to 1953 with A Company 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Austria. He was a keen and generous member of the Regimental Association. His friend, Bernard Pedlar, writes: Having a very outgoing personality he was very popular with his contemporaries and as a gifted pianist will be remembered by many for his guest appearances with the Regimental Band. Following a long illness he died peacefully at home. A measure of his ability to make and keep friends is that there was "standing room only" at the Church, St Mary the Virgin, Little Wakering. Stylish to the end the funeral procession was preceded on the short walk to the Church by a small Dixie-Land band playing his favourite music. He worked at the Baltic Exchange Chambers for many years and at the age of 53 took up hotel management.

FOAKES – On 25 November 1995, Cpl Harold Foakes (6202732), aged 78 years. Harry Foakes enlisted during 1935 and, after recruit training, joined the 2nd Bn at Colchester. In 1937 he was posted to the 1st Bn at Gilman Barracks, Singapore. During August 1937 he moved with the 1st Bn to Hong Kong joining C Company. The following is an extract from the Regimental Journal dated August 1939 – "Special mention being made of Private Foakes who caused great surprise by winning the Area Light Heavy Weight title." Also under the same heading mention is made of two of his friends – LCpl Poole won the individual long jump and Private Milroy was awarded full Colours being a member of the Bn Boxing team. Harold took part in the battle of Hong Kong. He spent his POW days, 1941 to 1945, in Shamshuipo Camp, Hong Kong. On return to the UK at the end of 1945 he was medically discharged. He was a staunch member of the Regimental Association. His funeral was attended by Mr & Mrs T.J. Milroy, Mr & Mrs J. Poole, Mr & Mrs R. James and Mr D. Cavill. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin.

FRANCIA – On 23 October 1995, Mrs Thelma Francia, widow of Paul Francia, 2/8th (1st Bn), who died 28 August 1991. Paul, although blind, travelled many miles and photographed the Colours of our wartime battalions displayed in churches all over the country. Mrs Francia painted every Colour awarded to our Regiment and these were displayed at the 1992 Remembrance Service at the Middlesex Guildhall. The pictures were later handed over to the Imperial War Museum.

FROST – On 19 July 1995, Cpl John Wesley Frost (6193565), aged 92 years. John Frost enlisted on 6 December 1920, and served until 14 January 1928. He was with C Company 1st Bn.

FUSSELL – On 9 November 1995, Private William Henry Fussell (14567508), aged 82 years. Bill served with distinction in B Company, 2/7th Bn from 1940 to 1945 and saw service in North Africa, Italy, Palestine and Syria. He was a good local rugby player and an ardent serious musical enthusiast.

GILBERT – On 12 August 1995, Mrs Anita Gilbert, widow of Lt-Col N.G. Gilbert, who died 30 July 1963.

GOULD – On 11 October 1995, Mrs Maisie Gould, wife of WO2 W.J. Gould (6210209), 2/8th (1st Bn).

GREEN – On 28 September 1995, Private Albert Green (6469581). Bert Green, a St Dunstaner, served with the 2nd Bn 1940-44 and was seriously wounded and totally blinded at the Battle of Caen in 1944. After completion of his training at the St Dunstan's Training Centre, he had a successful life in the civilian world and only in later years was admitted to St Dunstan's Ovingdean Nursing Home in Brighton.

GRIFFITHS – On 19 September 1995, Mrs Ethel Griffiths, wife of Major (QM) F.L. Griffiths.

PULLEN – On 20 October 1995, Cpl James (Jim) Henry Pullen (6200396), aged 82 years. He enlisted on 1 April 1932 and joined the 2nd Bn and served continuously until 7 January 1939 when he was transferred to the Army Reserve. During this time he obtained a 1st Class Certificate of Education, no mean feat in those days. He was a good sportsman excelling at football and cricket. He was recalled from the Army Reserve on 1 October 1939 and was posted to the 1/7th Bn. He saw service with the Bn in the Middle East, North Africa and NW Europe. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 23 January 1946. A keen and loyal member of the Regimental Association.

SHAW – On 10 September 1995, Private Percival George (Wally) Shaw (19033093), aged 65 years. Wally Shaw enlisted on 24 August 1946 and served until 22 September 1952. He was with the 1st Bn in Korea serving in HQ, B and S Companies. He was awarded the Korean and United Services Medals.

THOMPSON – On 5 November 1995, Sgt Ernest James Thompson (6202619 and 22290563) Aged 76 years.

He served from 1935 to 1980, commencing by enlisting into the 9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment TA. This was followed by service with the Grenadier Guards, Army Physical Training Corps, the Artists Rifles (21 SAS), The Parachute Regiment, 22nd Special Air Service Regiment and finally the last 13 years with the Royal Engineers Postal (TAVR). He was awarded the Territorial Efficiency Medal and various other medals.

WALDEN – On 31 July 1995, Mrs Mollie Walden, at Moorlands Nursing Home, Lightwater, Surrey, peacefully in her sleep, at the age of 99 years. She was the widow of Colonel Frank Walden, who commanded the 2/8th Battalion, the 1st Battalion and the 2nd Battalion, and the mother of Doctor Peter Walden, who served with the 1st Battalion in Austria in 1954 as a National Service Subaltern, and of Colonel Ian (Bengie) Walden, who retired some years ago from the Royal Marines.

Mollie Walden had been a professional singer and writer, and had travelled a great deal, e.g. in France, Canada, Hong Kong and Jordan. She enjoyed reading, art and music, and loved family life and conversation with friends. She bore with typical courage the death of her husband in 1976 and it did not destroy her always kindly sense-of-humour, although she never really got over the loss. She retained her faculties despite her great age – for example, she was able to recognise, and enjoy being with, her youngest granddaughter, Polly, who was born on 25 May 1995.

Mollie Walden's funeral and cremation took place at the Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Wokingham, on the morning of 10 August, and her remains were buried in the family grave at Christ Church, Esher, on that afternoon. Colonel Ian Burrows represented the Regiment at both services.

I.R.B.

The following have joined the Officers' Club:

Lieut P.J. Ottino (446922). Served HQ Coy 7th Bn & B Coy 5th Bn.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:

6216973 Sgt F. Capel, served 24 MGTC & 70th(YS) Bn 1942-47

6202358 Pte A.H.A. Claridge, served A Coy 1st Bn 1935-47. FEPOW Shamshuipo Camp.

23965027 Pte B.W. Fryers, served HCB, 4 and 3 Queens, 1963-72.

19041923 Pte E.g. Goodfellow, served 1st & 2nd Bns 1947-50.

23082506 LCpl D. Johns, served 1st Bn 1958-64.

6848867 LCpl J. Jordanou, served KRRC, 2nd Bn 1940-46.

6207925 Pte H.F. Langrish, served 8th Bn, 2nd Bn & 1st Bn 1939-45.

14402489 Cpl R. Mephram, served 2/8th (1st Bn) 1942-45 & 2 Cheshires 1945-47.

23288853 Pte G.W. Messer, served 1st Bn 1959-63.

6212610 LSgt F.A. Mullings, served D Coy 1/7th, D Coy 2/8th (1st Bn), 1940-45.
Wounded Caen.

6202981 LCpl G.A. Phillips, served 1st Bn 1937-45. FEPOW Camp 2, Tokyo.

6203915 LCpl W. Shaw, served 1937-46 1st Bn FEPOW Camp 3, Tokyo.

14414074 Pte C. Slesenger, served D Coy 2/8th (1st Bn) Mortars 1942-45.

14405392 Pte A.H. Sparks, served 7th Bn 1942-45 & 2PLK 1945-46.

14409076 Pte K.A. Twyford, served 8th Bn & 1/7th Bn 1942-48.

14653939 Sgt A.J. Wiseman, served 2/8th (1st Bn), 1942-47.

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MAJOR RICHARD KNOWLE BRIAN ALLOTT, MC

1918 - 1995

Richard Allott, who died at his home in Lymington on 5th October, was one of the Regiment's more unorthodox and adventuresome officers, and was held in high regard and esteem by everyone who served with him. He went to school at Radley and having attended Sandhurst, was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in August 1938. He joined the 2nd Battalion and went to France with the battalion as part of the BEF. Having fought with the battalion throughout that disastrous campaign, he took part in the Dunkirk evacuation and eventually returned to England. Soon afterwards he volunteered for the Commandos which were being formed in 1941. Because of his rowing skills learnt at Radley, Richard joined the Special Boat Section of 8 Commando which had then come into existence. Their brief was to land small parties behind enemy lines, and Richard and a Naval officer were launched from a motor torpedo boat in a 'Folboat' - a folding boat of canvas and wood - to carry out an important reconnaissance of a Libyan beach in enemy held territory. He was ashore for two days carrying out his reconnaissance mostly at night in bad weather with enemy troops in the immediate vicinity, before making a 25 mile passage in rough seas back to British lines to render his vital report. For this secret mission Richard was awarded the MC.

Eventually the Folboat sections were merged with the SAS with whom Richard had further adventures sabotaging German installations in Crete, Cyprus and on Rhodes before being posted missing. It was learned later that his party had been captured and Richard taken prisoner. He remained a POW for the rest of the war.

After the war he was seconded to the Sudan Defence Force where he was Mentioned in Despatches. On return to England he was appointed adjutant at the Eaton Hall Officer Cadet Training Unit. This was followed by 2 years with the Middlesex battalion in Austria and then on to Cyprus during the EOKA troubles.

Richard retired from the Army in August 1960 and became manager of a sand and gravel business in Whitstable, Kent. In 1969 he and his family went to live in Lymington where his father, Major Brian Allott, had been a prominent resident for many years.

Richard was essentially a countryman, highly knowledgeable in all aspects of the countryside. He favoured the unusual in all things and certainly knew all the poacher's tricks. Fly fishing was his favourite pastime and he was particularly expert at making up and tying his own fishing flies; he used to give demonstrations of this craft at local shows. Another of his special skills was 'tickling trout' and many young officers in Austria were held spellbound when he showed them how this was done.

Richard's family were closely linked with the Middlesex Regiment - his father was in the Regiment and served throughout the Great War, and his sister Barbara was married to the late Colonel Aymar Clayton. In 1952 Richard married Patricia whom he had met whilst at Eaton Hall. Patricia has since been closely involved in numerous charities and fund raising activities in and around Lymington and last July was awarded the MBE in recognition of her extensive community work.

Richard's funeral took place at St. Thomas' Church, Lymington on 12 October, and, in addition to his family and Mrs Barbara Clayton, was attended by Brigadier and Mrs Pielow, Colonel Ian Burrows, Lieut. Colonel and Mrs John Hewson and Major and Mrs Phillip Marshall. The church was filled by a large congregation from the local community.

Richard is survived by his wife Patricia and their son and daughter, to all of whom we send our deep felt sympathy.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available to purchase. These can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA. Postage and packing is included in the price. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Tumblers Whisky engraved with Middlesex Regt Badge	£ 7.50 each
Blazer Badges	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£12.00 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£22.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon & Old Gold	£ 5.00 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern	£ 4.00 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£12.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges	£ 4.00 each
Middlesex Regiment Key Rings	£ 2.50 each
Old Comrades Lapel Badges, Old Pattern – The Diehards	£ 2.75 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£17.00 each
Prints Drums and Fifes, unframes, large	£ 7.50 each
small	£ 4.00 each
Christmas Cards depicting:	
Steady the Drums and Fifes	.35 each
The Guardroom Scene	.35 each
Colonel Graham Egerton, 77th Foot Portsmouth 1854	.35 each

We are now in a position to supply the following – please allow 14 days for delivery:

Middlesex Regtl Blazor Button (Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge)	
Sets of 6 large & 6 small	£22.00 each
Individual buttons large or small	£ 2.00 each
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links	£ 8.50 per pair
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links with tie grip	£11.00 set
Tie Grip only	£ 5.75 each
Middlesex Regiment Ladies Brooch	£ 5.75 each

The following pages will
bring to the Christmas season
43A. Pictures and old songs
made possible by the...

Twelve Days of Christmas

Good Night

Our Christmas Dinner

The Christmas Tree

The First Day of Christmas

The First Day of Christmas

The First Day of Christmas

Midnight on Christmas Eve

Midnight on Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve

With Pleasant Wishes

From Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve

Steady the Light

The Christmas Tree

Christmas Eve

For all those who are...

Midnight on Christmas Eve

Midnight on Christmas Eve

Midnight on Christmas Eve

Midnight on Christmas Eve

Midnight on Christmas Eve

Midnight on Christmas Eve

Midnight on Christmas Eve