



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 76

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Lt-Col T.W. CHATTEY, O.B.E.

Photo by Ian Jones, N.A.M.

President : Brig. B.A.M. Pielow, JP.
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 Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS WILLIAM CHATTEY, OBE

Colonel Tom Chattey, known to so many of his friends in the Regiment over the years as 'Flash', died peacefully at his London home and near his most loving wife Pam on 19 October, having only recently celebrated his 83rd birthday.

His funeral service was held in Kensington at Christ Church on 30 October where he and Pam had worshipped over the years, and was attended by a large number of his friends in the Regiment and an even larger number of his other friends and relatives.

Tom was born on 19 October 1913 in Alverstoke, Hants, and after school at Wrekin, he attended the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, was commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) on 31 August 1933 and joined the 2nd Battalion at Colchester.

It was in Colchester that Tom got his lifelong nickname of Flash, having arrived at the Officers' Mess in a particularly flashy red sports car, and wearing what were then considered somewhat flamboyant clothes. He was then posted to the 1st Battalion, stationed in Moascar, in 1934, and two years later, in March 1936, moved with the Battalion to Gilman Barracks in Singapore.

Promoted to Lieutenant on 31 August 1936 he then moved, again with the Battalion to Shamshuipo in Hong Kong, in August 1937, and two years later to a staff appointment in Singapore in late 1940. After the fall of Singapore in March 1942 Tom, along with so many others became a Japanese POW and was held in Changi Jail, where he languished until released in August 1945 - still wearing his old Middlesex cap.

Promoted Major on 3 August 1946, Tom attended the Staff College Camberley being duly awarded 'p.s.c.' on completion of the course, after which he joined the reconstituted 1st Battalion, then stationed in Chelsea Barracks and performing Public Duties. He was Captain of the King's Guard at St James' Palace on 14 November 1948 - the night that the Prince of Wales was born.

His next posting was to Singapore once again where he was appointed DAQMG (Quartering) in 1949, and on 26 April 1952 he married Miss Pamela Tisdale. A posting to British Troops Austria followed in 1953 when he commanded 'B' Company of the 1st Battalion, stationed on the old Austrian aerodrome at Zeltweg, but also became very involved with the Battalion Stables and represented the Battalion at many horse shows in Austria including the BTA Championships at Graz. The Battalion had the task of providing the International Guard in Vienna, in turn with the Russians and French troops then stationed in Austria, and on 1 July 1955 Tom was the Guard Commander of one of the last International Guards which were quartered for their 3 month tour in Vienna at the famous Hoffburg Palace and changed the Guard on the nearby old city Square.

Moving with the 1st Battalion to Cyprus in 1955 as a Company Commander, and later Bn Commander before being posted as DAQMG to HQ Cyprus District. Promoted Lieutenant Colonel on 26 February 1958, Tom retired from the Army on 9 March 1960, and for a time was employed in London by J. Lyons & Co. Ltd.

Tom's Regimental connections continued however. He was Chairman of the Regimental Association from 1974 to 1985, and then President until handing over in March 1993, when the Officers' Club presented him with an oil copy of the famous regimental equestrian picture of 'The Arab'. His term in office was a most productive one and he was responsible for the safeguarding of our Regimental Museum, of which he was the founder Chairman of the Museum Trust in 1976 until arranging its transfer to the National Army Museum - a most significant event, for which we all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

Very few officers have served the Regiment for so long and with such distinction both whilst on the active list and when retired as did Colonel Tom. Quite apart from his military attributes, for which he was awarded the OBE, he was perhaps the best horseman we have had in the Regiment, playing excellent Polo and riding with aplomb. He was also a fine hockey player and a regular player at Regimental Golf meetings as well as at his own Royal Wimbledon Golf Club until his hip replacement curtailed his prowess at the great game.

A life-long popular officer with a delightful personality, kind sense of humour, and an invariably cheerful and friendly character, present at all Regimental functions accompanied by his faithful wife Pam, he will be sorely missed. Despite his long and debilitating illness, Tom never lost his zest, never complained and right up to the end remained the same fine and considerate gentleman he was to us all. Much loved and sadly missed. A real Diehard.

BAMP

FORECAST OF EVENTS

1997

- 3 March Middlesex Officers' Club Meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by Regimental Association Executive Meeting at 7 p.m. ACF Conference Room Duke of York's Headquarters, London W2.
- 26 April 1/7th Bn O.C.A. Annual Reunion at the Drill Hall, Hornsey.
- 9 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Annual Dinner at Army and Navy Club, 36 Pall Mall, London SW1.
- 10 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance, Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral at 3 p.m.
- 10 May Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, commencing at 6.30 p.m. A.G.M. 7.15 p.m.
- 13 May 9th Bn Officers' Club Annual Luncheon at the Royal Overseas Club, Park Place, St James, London SW1, assembling at 12.15 p.m.
- 16 May Albuhera Lunch at National Army Museum 12.15 p.m. By invitation only.
- 30 June or July Presentation of Colours to 1st Bn PWRR, Canterbury. Subject to confirmation.
- 12 Sept Laying up Colours of 1 Queens, Guildford Cathedral.
- 13 Sept Laying up of Colours of 1 Royal Hampshires, at Winchester Cathedral.
- 6 Nov 7th Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner to be held at the Officers' Mess, The London Regiment, St John's Hill, Battersea, London SW11.
- 15 or 20 Nov WOs and Sgts 'Past and Present' Dinner, Bassingbourn.

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.

BENEVOLENCE

For the year ended 31 December 1996, the sum of £15,499 was granted to members of the Regiment in the form of benevolent grants. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £10,383.

DONATIONS

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

- a. A legacy of £400 from the estate of the late Lt-Col R.T.D. Hicks, TD.
- b. A legacy of £250 from the estate of the late Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe.
- c. A donation of £25 from Mrs J. Sherwood.
- d. A donation of £60 from Mrs T.S. Lawford in memory of Sgt T.S. Lawford.
- e. A donation of £20 from Mr W.E. Lockyer in memory of his wife.
- f. A donation of £100 from Mr D. Johns raised by taking part in the London Marathon.
- g. A donation of £20 from Mrs D. Miles.
- h. A donation of £50 from Mr A.W.J. Brown.
- i. A donation of £40 from Mr J.J. Mellor in memory of Mr S. Hurlock.

The following donations have been made by the Regimental Association:-

- a. Garrison Church, Sydney, Australia, £25.
- b. Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, £85.
- c. To Charlie Ward on his 100th birthday, £40 - Inscribed Regtl Plaque.
- d. Dinapore Memorial Fund, India - £100 for the upkeep of a 1/9th Bn Memorial - Museum Account.
- e. Not Forgotten Association £25.
- f. To Fred Crips on his 100th birthday, £40 - Inscribed Regtl Plaque.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

All members are reminded that annual subscriptions are due on 1 January. Officers' £5. Other Ranks £3.50.

HONG KONG REMEMBRANCE DAY 1996

The Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in Hong Kong on 10 November 1996 was the last such Service to be held under British Rule and the sounding by the Gurkha buglers of *Last Post* added a remarkable poignancy to this historic ceremony.

The Service was similar to those held before the War, except that it lacked completely the glamour of our old First Battalion. I could almost picture on parade the valiant Bandmaster Kifford, RSM Challis and Drum Major Holdford, but regrettably I recalled that there are only sixty of us left.

One of those sixty survivors is Tom Evans, who was the only other member of the First Battalion at the Service. It was good to see him again, as bright as ever. HE The Governor, Chris Patten greeted me with, *Another Die-Hard!* and talked at length with us, showing great interest in the Battalion's stubborn resistance against the Japanese army; and the CBF, Major General Bryan Dutton took like regard. Brian Finch, a Die-Hard of a later generation, laid a wreath for the Regiment and the three of us wearing distinctive maroon and gold ties lunched together, as the picture shows.



Major Brian Finch - Mr T.G. Evans - Col A.G. Hewitt

I gave an address to the Royal Asiatic Society about Z Company's epic fight at Leighton Hill, which was very well received. The Hill is surrounded by huge buildings and holds little resemblance to the area in which we fought, except that Mount Nicholson,

from which the Japanese directed observed fire upon us, still stands in satanic shame. Frank Waldron, who was with me at the Hill in the battle, will remember Mount Nicholson.

I launched a book about Hong Kong's Battlefields and Wartime Sites called *Ruins of War* by Ko Tim Keong and Jason Wordie, which is full of pictures of the pillboxes and other defence works in which the First Battalion fought. An attraction for the eighteen day battle for Hong Kong is still prevalent.

In the Mandarin Hotel, where I stayed, a Japanese journalist interviewed me about the battle and the prisoner-of-war camp. I told him I left Shamshuipo without his Emperor's permission and the last Japanese I met in the camp kicked me for bowing incorrectly. I said, *This is the time for you to bow to me*, which he did! Thus ended a memorable visit to the *Fragrant Harbour*.

Anthony Hewitt.

Field of Remembrance 1996

The Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 7 November 1996 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 she then toured the Field of Remembrance in her buggy speaking to many of the Regimental Representatives parading in front of the individual regimental plots. She spoke to Major Frank Waldron. There were around 10 Diehards present at the ceremony. It was nice to see them there.

Annual Service of Remembrance at the Middlesex Guildhall.

The Annual Remembrance Service was held at the Middlesex Guildhall on Saturday 9 November 1996. The Service was conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, Honorary Chaplain to the Middlesex Regimental Association, the Reverend Guz Jones having retired. The Lesson, taken from The Revelation of St John the Devine Chapter 21 vv 1 - 7, was read by our Chairman Major Chris Lawrence and Exhortation and the laying of the Regimental Wreath was undertaken, this year, by our President Brigadier Tony Pielow.

After the Service, before leaving for home, a glass of sherry with short bread biscuits were enjoyed by the 60 plus members and their families present. It is very pleasing to see the number attending this service of remembrance increasing year by year.

Cenotaph Muster - Whitehall.

Some 25 members of the Regiment accompanied by the Secretary joined the members of the other forebear regiments of the Queen's Regiment at the muster and march past at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Remembrance Sunday, 10 November.

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. Despite it being a very cold and wet day it was a most moving and enjoyable experience.. Those attending have promised to be there next year. Why not come and join us?

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 7th BN MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Once again, the 7th Battalion Old Comrades, Members of the Hornsey Branch of the Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and B (Queen's Regiment) Company the London Regiment were welcomed to the Parish Church of St Mary with St George by the Rector, the Revd Geoffrey Seabrook, for their Annual Remembrance Service on Sunday, 10 November 1996.

After the Act of Remembrance, wreaths were laid before the altar of the Memorial Chapel on behalf of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club, the Hornsey Die-Hards, the Hornsey Branch of the Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and B (Queen's Regiment) Company the London Regiment.

After the service the detachment from B Company together with the Old Comrades marched back to Hornsey Drill Hall. At the request of Major Keir Ayling, Officer Commanding B Company, the salute was taken by Lieut Colonel Gunnell accompanied by the Rector of Hornsey attended by his Church Wardens.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

The 69th 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 7 November 1996.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: Major K.S. Ayling and F.O. J.A. Rook.

The following members attended : Col I.D. Brotherton, The Right Rev Mgr R. Brown, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S le M. Enthoven, Lt-Col J.P. Hall, Major D. Harwood, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Lt S.B. Hurst, Capt J.K. Laurence, Major C.L. Lawrence, Major R.J. Leighton, Major E.J. Naish, Lt P.J. Ottino, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Col P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, Col D.R.W. Thomas.

The following members expressed their regret for not being able to attend and send greetings to all their friends: Col F.G. Barber, Major A.B. Carter, Major P.D.J. Clarke, Major H.E. Couch, Capt J.R.W. Fisher, Capt P.J.T. Lane, Major A.E. McManus, Lt J. McMaster, Capt F.S. Mayman, Mr M.H.D. Milne, Capt K. Murray, Major G.G. Norton, Major B. St G.A. Reed, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Capt P.A. Stocken, Major R.F. Sykes, Major R.L. Usher and Capt G.J. Young.

STATUE OF FIELD MARSHALL, VISCOUNT OF ALAMEIN AT COLLEVILLE, NORMANDY

On 6 June 1996 A statue of Field Marshall Montgomery, Viscount of Alamein, was unveiled at Colleville Montgomery, in Normandy, by His Royal Highness, The Prince Michael of Kent.

A number of Diehards attended but it was not possible to obtain all their names. Included were Brig B.A.M. Pielow and Mr & Mrs E. Bugden.



Mr T. Thomas, Mr F. J. Dickinson, Lt-Col Rex Fendick (Carloan OFFR - 2 Mx)



Field Marshall Montgomery,
Viscount of Alamein

1/7th Battalion News

Gerry Verschuren who acted as the Battalion Interpreter during the advance from Nijmegen to Bremerhaven died in hospital in Nijmegen on the 19 July 1996 after a short illness. He was aged 75. He was a much respected member of the Battalion and he was granted the honorary rank of Sergeant. Major A.B. Carter, the Chairman of the 1/7th Old Comrades Association, sent on behalf of the Regiment a floral tribute in the Regimental Colours and he received a letter from Mrs Verschuren thanking him for the beautiful flowers. Gerry Verschuren was most helpful and was present during the 51st Highland Division Pilgrimages to Holland in 1994 and 1995. The Secretary holds the address of Mrs. Verschuren should members wish to write to her.

A party from the 1/7th Old Comrades Association, led by Major A.B. Carter, and consisting of Sgt J. Hayward MM, Cpl D. Daly and Ptes T. Billington and B. Jones travelled to Holland on the 19 September 1996 with a group from the 51st Highland Division. The visit was connected to the moving of 51st Highland Division Statue from Eerde to Schinjdell. The Statue's original position was at the start line for Operation Colin that commenced on the 21 October 1944 and led to the liberation of Brabany. The move was brought about by the need to reposition the Statue as the project to build a Dutch National Museum at Eerde has been cancelled. As ever the party received a fantastic welcome from the Dutch people.

The liaison with the 51st Highland Division continues and Major Carter attended a meeting as the 1/7th Representative on the 27 July 1996 at HQ Army Scotland.

Barry King on his last visit to Europe from Australia in 1995 took a series of photographs of the 47 Middlesex Regimental Graves in the Ranville Military Cemetery. The Secretary now has these photographs. Anyone interested should contact him.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) "SPECIAL TIME SPECIAL PLACE"

This event, arranged by the Hong Kong Society, is being staged at Sandown Park Race Course, Esher, Surrey, on 30 June 1997 to mark the moment when Hong Kong's sovereignty is transferred from UK to China.

The Royal Hong Kong Regimental Association (UK Branch) have booked three tables and have invited members of the Middlesex Regimental Association to join them. Wives and guests will be welcome. The programme starts at 1530 and will end at 2100. It includes a beating of Retreat by the Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, a western style banquet and a live telecast via satellite links from Hong Kong to include the moment of transfer.

The cost is expected to be £50 per head (excluding the cost of drinks and food prior to the dinner). Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Major Colin Bellingham on 0171 582 7487.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT REGIMENTAL POLICY

'You will be aware that Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales has decided to step down from her appointment as our Colonel-in-Chief. This is, of course, a great sadness for us all. The Colonel in Chief has been very supportive during our formative years and we are very grateful for her interest and involvement. We will miss her.'

Since May 96 (the last Journal) the Regiment has been busy. It was with regret that we had to cancel all the parades and perhaps thought that it might lead to a quiet period. This was proved wrong.

The 1st Battalion has been backwards and forwards to Northern Ireland twice. The first time was to carry out the duties of the much needed reserve after the breakdown of any trust between the RUC and Protestants. It was the marching season and many high profile confrontations needed firm support - this was supplied by the 1st Battalion to the RUC.

The 2nd deployment to Aldergrove was also in support of the RUC and other units. The Battalion was back in time to prepare for the main events of the year. The visit by the Allied Colonel-in-Chief Queen Margrethe II of Denmark and the Laying Up of the Old Colours of 3 QUEENS. Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II visited on Monday 9 September. She was met on arrival at RAF Manston by the Colonel of The Regiment and then visited Canterbury Cathedral. She met many Association Members of The Queen's Own Buffs Association and turned the page at the Daily Turning of The Page Ceremony. Afterwards she visited the 1st Battalion in Howe Barracks Canterbury. She was greeted with a very smart Quarter Guard and then met members of the Battalion at various stands. After lunch in the Officers' Mess she departed for a private visit to Canterbury Cathedral.

The 1st Battalion also provided the Colour Party and Escort for the Laying Up of 3 QUEENS Colours in St Pauls Cathedral on Friday 13 September. This was a moving ceremony, very well attended with a reception afterwards in the Haberdashers' Hall.

The Battalion is now part of 5th Airborne Deployment Force which means they remain at 7 days notice to move to anywhere in the World.

The 2nd Battalion are now half way through their Northern Ireland Tour. They Arms Plot to Tidworth in August 1997. At the moment the soldiers work a cycle which takes them away for one month to man the border patrol bases in Fermanagh (these are in sensitive areas, have been attacked on numerous occasions in the past and demand a constant state of alertness). During their tour the soldiers leave only to go on patrol, moving across country to avoid obvious places for terrorist bombs.

The second part of the cycle consists of guarding base camp and mounting deterrent patrols with the RUC to prevent a Downing Street style mortar attack. Our third company is a Bde Reserve and frequently deploys on 'surge' operations whenever the RUC

feel the threat of a terrorist attack in a particular area has increased. The fourth company takes three weeks leave and brushes up on its Northern Ireland tactics, particularly shooting and first aid. During the three months when they are in the Province the soldiers have an average Nights Out of Bed figure in excess of 60%: they and their wives certainly earn the additional £126 per month NI pay.

Despite high operational commitments in the last year the Battalion has sent nearly 200 men on exercise to Kenya, sent 30 to the USA, taken part in the Swiss Raid Commando Competition (beating 3 PARA - again), done well at the Nordic Ski Championships in Norway and France, sent an expedition to climb/ski/walk in Italy. Last year 4 men ran the NY Marathon raising £6,000 for Tusk Force, in October a team of 16 are entered and will raise in excess of £25,000. A further 16 men go to Norway to ski again in November.

The two Territorial Battalions continue to thrive. The 5th Battalion is over 100% recruited and therefore is in a strong position to support the undermanned Regular Army. They currently have 6 soldiers in Northern Ireland and 5 in the Falkland Islands and 1 in the former Yugoslavia. There are also 10 soldiers on attachment to the Queen's Own Rifles of Canada. The Battalion also won the 4 Division Sports Trophy in May. The 6/7th Battalion also has soldiers serving with the Regular Army in Bosnia, Northern Ireland, The Falklands Islands, Canada, Cyprus, Kenya and Belize. The Battalion Orienteering Team continues to excel and is currently the Territorial Army Champions, the Regular and Territorial Infantry Champions and the Divisional Champions.

Last but not least a composite team representing the Regiment led by the Deputy Regimental Secretary won the Infantry Sailing Championships in the IOW and were selected to sail for the Army.

100th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Brigadier Tony Pielow accompanied by Mrs Ann Pielow, Majors Chris Lawrence, Ron Morris and Mr Les Loomes attended, on the 9 September 1996, the 100th birthday party of Mr Charlie Ward, our oldest Diehard.

Until recently Charlie lived on his own in Tottenham looking after himself but a fall shook him up somewhat and his family decided it was necessary for him to spend his remaining years in a residential home. He now resides at The Red House, Norwich Road, Thetford, Norfolk, the only man amongst many lady residents!

The Brigadier made a short speech outlining Charlie's service in World War I with the 1/7th, 2/7th and 3/7th Battalions and with the Home Guard in World War II. He read telegrams of congratulation from HM The Queen and from The Social Services Minister. He then helped Charlie to open the many cards and telegrams of good wishes received from all over the world. From the Regiment the Brigadier presented a Regimental Plaque inscribed "Presented to Charlie Ward our oldest Die-Hard on his hundredth birthday - 9 September 1996". He also gave Charlie a large bunch of flowers in the Regimental colours.



Charlie's family and the Staff of the Red House are to be congratulated on laying on an excellent party to see Charlie into his next century. He obviously enjoyed the occasion particularly when talking to the representatives of the Press and BBC TV.

A letter has been received from Charlie's niece, Mrs D.H. Read, to thank all concerned for giving him such a memorable day.

100th BIRTHDAY PARTY

Major Ron Morris represented the Regimental Association at the hundredth birthday party for Mr Fred Crips that was held in the Dickens Ward of the Finchley Memorial Hospital on Friday 29 November 1996 at 2pm. A gathering of family and friends together with the members of the Hospital Staff were present when he received his congratulatory telegram from Her Majesty The Queen. Major Morris presented on behalf of the Regiment a Middlesex Regimental Plaque inscribed "To Fred Crips on his hundredth birthday from his fellow Diehards - 29 Nov 96". Fred's Army Number was 200571 and he served from 5 September 1914 until 13 March 1918 when he was discharged as being no longer physically fit for service resulting from gun shot wounds to his legs. He was present at one of the Somme Battles. When wounded in 1916 he was serving with the 2/7th Battalion.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Well now that Euro 96 is finished and the excitement of penalty shoot outs is over; the championships at Wimbledon decided, an unsatisfactory conclusion to the Test Series against India. We now face the hype of the Olympic Games and whether we will win any gold medals and with the forthcoming Test Matches against Pakistan we all have a chance to remain couch potatoes or get out and join in the Branch activities.

Recent Activities

May 11th The Annual Service of Remembrance at St Pauls Cathedral was attended by some members of the branch, but with plans to visit Albuhera well underway, for six members of the branch, packing for the annual trip was the premier consideration. The road party of Syd Wells and Mick Ward left the UK on Sunday May 12 and were making good progress until the cam belt on the support vehicle broke just beyond Angoleme on the Monday evening at which stage they had to abort and be repatriated to the UK by their insurance company. As the air party had not left for Albuhera it was possible to advise them that the support vehicle would not be there to assist with the goodies which they normally bring, and thus relieving them of any worry for the road party's safety. The air party comprising of Vic Debenham, George Lewis, John Raby and Jim Wells left the UK on time to arrive in the village to participate in the Ceremonies which are held to mark the anniversary of the battle and to renew friendships which are now of long standing, and despite the absence of the support element and the amenities which they supply, they were able by initiative and diplomacy to sustain themselves extremely well. Whilst there they met up with a party from the Buffs as had been planned, some weeks previously.

Thursday 6 June Members of the branch and their guests attended an excellent supper and pleasant evening's music at the Royal Military School of Music Kneller Hall which was organised by the London Branch of the PWRR Regimental Assoc. who very kindly invited us to join them.



*V. Debenham, G. Lewis, J. Raby standing in front of the Memorial
16 May 1996 - Albuhera*

June 20 - 24 Five branch members and two other Middlesex veterans, some with their wives, and in conjunction with the RBL Hounslow Branch, toured the Normandy Battlefields spending two days in the British/Canadian sector and one day in the American sector. They held a short service at the Bayeaux British Military Cemetery

where the Regimental Standard was paraded and Ernie Platt laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment. Whilst in France they availed themselves of some fine Normandy food and wine and whilst those who were not there at the time of the landings were given some fine accounts of the various experiences of the veterans who were. There were some very moving moments when the graves of comrades with whom they fought with were found and on each occasion a poppy cross was laid.

PERSONALITIES

Bill Bailey has now opened a Bonsia shop at 19 Castle Street Kingston and offers a 10% discount to branch members, if however you don't spend, he will be pleased to see you and in those circumstances will offer a cup of coffee and a chat.

Mick Taylor has written from Austria to say that he has had two hip replacement operations, the result of playing ice hockey, and an accident whilst sawing logs which resulted in him removing his hand, but I am pleased to be able to report that after an eight hour operation and the use of 17 screws, 4 plates and yards of catgut the hand was successfully replaced. No doubt the reason for no news for so long.

Carrots Thomlinson has now moved well down the road to recovery and after his recent illness was present at a recent meeting.

Mick Thomas has been touring the Continent with a caravan. He tells me that whilst in Germany he was unable to obtain a pitch, I wonder if it was because they did expect us to beat them at football. Mick has now returned to the Emerald Isle and sends regards to all members.

Norman Gasson who was not a member of the branch but was well known to many of us, is now leaving the area to live in Camberley. He assures me that he does not aspire to an exalted military career at the RMA.

Ted Humes arrived at the last branch meeting to advise us that he is another who is keen to live the country life and will be moving in the near future to the Hastings area, but he will be along to see us before he departs.

Rob Ayling dropped into the last meeting whilst over from New Zealand, and he still had his membership card to prove that he last paid subs in 1974, Rob returns to NZ on 16 July and was sorry to miss some persons whom he had hoped to see.

Proves it pays to come you never know who may appear.

We now enter into the least popular quarter of the year, dark evenings and mornings, poor television mostly repeats, although some of our soccer teams would like to repeat matches after some of the dismal results against European teams. The planning for Christmas, the frustrations of not receiving the gift of your dreams, but don't despair Fridays come once a week with the chance to enjoy yourself with old friends at the Branch meetings. Unfortunately one of the most popular events of the year had to be cancelled because of a family bereavement. We extended our deepest sympathy to John and Rosemary Raby who always host the party.

RECENT EVENTS

Friday 13 September 1996 - The colours of 3 Queens were laid up in St Paul's Cathedral and the branch was represented by Messrs Morgan, Platt, Ward, Wells and Young who

after the service went on to a fine reception at Haberdasher's Hall where they met old friends including Derek Atkins, and whilst the day was clouded with sadness at the passing into history of another British Infantry Regiment, it was much enjoyed by all present.

AROUND THE BRANCH

Once again members of the branch have roamed around the globe during the course of the last few weeks. Ron & Mary Mullen went to Cyprus after becoming grandparents, Ron assures me that it was not to dodge the issue. Vic & Nance Debenham toured Holland with the Normandy Vets and met Ted Billingham and party who were touring the same area with 51st Highland Division. Jim & Freda Wells have been to Canada to visit relatives. Geoff & Doris Gravenor have been to Portugal to follow the sun as have Pete & Lena Long. Rod & Barbara Stone have been to Turkey. Dave Eagle visited the sites in Luxor Egypt where he tells me he was on occasions addressed as Madam due to the long hair he now sports. Various members of the branch also toured the battlefields of Normandy with the RBI Hounslow.

So the branch continues to spread itself far and wide.

For and on behalf of the committee: Mick Ward, 21 Field Close, Cranford, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 6LN. 0181-759-2960.

LIBERATION DAY - HONG KONG 26 AUGUST 1996

By Maj (Ret'd) Brian Finch

Brief Background to the Invasion

"Take no prisoners" were the orders given by the Japanese war criminal Colonel Tanaka to his 229th Regiment prior to the assault on Hong Kong Island in December 1941. In many cases this order was taken literally and there are numerous recorded instances of the brutal massacre of those unfortunate enough to get captured by the invaders, including soldiers, civilians, as well as doctors, nurses and even the sick in some of the hospitals.

Amongst those who gallantly tried to resist the Japanese onslaught against overwhelming odds were 36 officers and 728 other ranks of 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), whose courage was equal to their nickname, the "Die-Hards". And die they did, in large numbers. Eventually the Governor of Hong Kong, Sir Mark Young, decided that further resistance was useless and to avoid prolonging the slaughter he surrendered the Colony to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941.

Before the Japanese managed to gain full control, the Colours of The 1st Battalion were buried in the grounds of Flagstaff House, the official residence of the GOC. After the war the grounds were searched on a number of occasions to try to find the Colours, but the terrain had changed so much in the intervening years that they never have been found.

The Liberation of Hong Kong

After the second atomic bomb was dropped on Japan, the Japanese finally got the message and surrendered. The war against Japan officially ended on 15 August 1945, but the actual liberation of Hong Kong was a far from simple affair. The United States had made a secret deal with the Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek, effectively leaving Hong Kong to the Chinese. Thus for a while there was some doubt as to whether Hong Kong would in fact return to its former status as a British Colony.

Two young men in one of the prison camps in Hong Kong, blissfully unaware of any of this background, were becoming frustrated by the lack of any tangible sign that Britain was taking over again following the Japanese surrender. They decided that they were not going to wait for military or diplomatic niceties. As they saw it, Hong Kong was British and the Japanese had surrendered; that was that. On 18th December, Arthur May and Jim Brown climbed up to Victoria Peak - the highest point on Hong Kong Island - and raised the Union Flag. Arthur had hidden the flag throughout the war years waiting for just such an opportunity to be able to use it.

Up to that point there had apparently been a lack of decisiveness amongst some of the senior officers in the prison camps. But the raising of the Union Flag was the catalyst that encouraged them now to take the initiative. Union Flags were raised first in Sham Shui Po then in the other camps, and the British officers took over control from the Japanese.

Arthur May went to Stanley Internment Camp to see the former Colonial Secretary Frank Gimson, who had just set up a provisional administration so as not to leave a vacuum for Chiang Kai-shek's troops to fill. Gimson had no access to a radio or any other form of communications and Arthur May volunteered to take a message by sea to the British Consul in Macau. He got there in an old junk provided by sympathetic Hong Kong Chinese, after a hazardous journey during which they were stopped by Chinese pirates. When the junk finally reached Macau, Arthur May delivered the message to the Consul, asking him to get a signal to the British authorities urging them to send the Fleet to Hong Kong to take over.

Subsequently a naval force under Admiral Harcourt arrived in Hong Kong on 30 August 1945 and formally liberated Hong Kong. Sea routes into Victoria Harbour were severely restricted because of mines. Harcourt therefore transferred from his own ship to the smaller vessel HMS Swiftsure, in which he entered Hong Kong waters to liberate the Colony. But HMS Swiftsure was not actually the first allied ship to enter the harbour that day. This honour went to the Australian minesweepers who led the way. Had Harcourt's arrival been delayed any longer, it is quite likely that the Chinese forces would have moved into Hong Kong the following day to take control. This would have put a very different complexion on Hong Kong's recent history.

Post War

Thus Liberation Day - the day Hong Kong was liberated from Japanese occupation - has

been recognised as 30 August and celebrated ever since as a public holiday in Hong Kong. A small memorial parade has been held annually on a suitable date close to 30 August.

As many readers will remember, the 1st Battalion's courageous efforts in 1941 led to a special bond with The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) and this close relationship continued after the war. For many years The Middlesex Regiment provided the Adjutant and RSM to The Royal Hong Kong Regiment; and the relationship continued even after these formal links stopped: the Diehard badge carved in chalk on a hill near Fanling in the New Territories was cleaned annually by the Volunteers; and on a personal basis, any Diehard visiting Hong Kong was guaranteed a good welcome.

One aspect of these links was that on Liberation Day The Royal Hong Kong Regiment always laid a wreath on behalf of The Middlesex Regiment. This tradition continued until the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation - Liberation Day in August 1995. The Royal Hong Kong Regiment disbanded shortly afterwards. Their disbandment was a sad event, but the Regiment proudly put on a splendid parade, attended by many Diehards who visited Hong Kong specially for the occasion.

The Last Celebration

Because of the change of sovereignty next year, when on 30 June Hong Kong will be handed back to China, the ceremony this year was the last one involving participation by British Forces. This rather special occasion took place this year on Monday 26 August. Wreaths were laid by the Commander British Forces, Major General Bryan Dutton CBE and others mainly representing various prisoner of war veterans associations. A wreath was laid on behalf of The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) by Major (Ret'd) Brian Finch.

The Gurkhas provided an honour guard and Pipes and Drums, and the Band of the Royal Engineers was flown out to Hong Kong for the occasion. There were over 30 veterans at the parade, many of whom had taken part in the battle in 1941. These veterans included Arthur May, with the actual flag he had raised 51 years and 8 days previously; and his close friend Jack Edwards, the well known campaigner whose persistent effort on behalf of the wives and widows of those who fought for Hong Kong came to a successful and well deserved conclusion only a few weeks earlier, when the Hong Kong (War Wives and Widows) Bill was passed on 12 July, gaining Royal Assent on 18 July.

The Future

There is a widespread feeling that the tradition of marking Hong Kong's liberation from the Japanese occupation should continue; after all, the liberation was for Hong Kong as a whole, and all the veterans are Hong Kong people, most of them Chinese. They are determined to continue to have some kind of ceremony in the years ahead. Whether or not the Chinese People's Liberation Army can be persuaded to take part and make it a more formal occasion remains to be seen. But certainly the Chinese have

already decided that Hong Kong should continue to celebrate the end of the Sino-Japanese War, marking it with a public holiday, which is to be the nearest Monday to 15 August, the day the Japanese surrendered. Arthur May was tickled pink when Jack Edwards told him that the first such holiday in 1997 will fall on 18 August, the anniversary of the very day he and Jim Brown raised the Union Flag on Victoria Peak.

PERSONAL NOTES

Major (Ret'd) A.E.F. Waldron MBE

One "Die-Hard" who survived the bloody battle in December 1941 was Frank Waldron, who served on after the war in the new 1st Battalion, ending his distinguished career as the Quartermaster. Frank did not leave the Regiment even then, but served on as Regimental Secretary. And although he has now retired from that post he still edits "The Die-Hards" Newsletter. A remarkable man, still serving the Regiment 55 years later!

Private T.G. Evans

One of those at the service was Tommy Evans, the one surviving Diehard from the Battle for Hong Kong who still lives in Hong Kong. He was serving with the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment at the time of the Japanese invasion and saw the battle, the defeat, the inside of a Japanese prison camp and was one of the lucky few to survive the sinking of the ill-fated "Lisbon Maru".

Tommy stayed in Hong Kong after the war and has faithfully attended every Liberation Day service and Remembrance Day, always sporting the Middlesex Regimental tie and cap badge, which he wears in proud recognition of the Regiment's glorious record in Hong Kong and the Far East. He and Jack Edwards have become firm friends over many years since they first met in 1963 when Jack came back to Hong Kong and Tommy has doggedly supported Jack in his many campaigns.

Mr Arthur May

Arthur was born in 1907 and moved to Hong Kong with his father in 1914. Later he followed his father's footsteps and joined the Hong Kong civil service as an electrical engineer. He joined and trained with the Volunteers and served with them during the battle.

The Union Flag

Two days after the surrender, Arthur May was asked to try to fix an emergency electricity supply for Queen Mary Hospital. He had to scavenge around for suitable equipment, and during the search of a looted government quarter he came across a discarded Union Flag, which he decided to rescue. This was the flag that he kept hidden for the next three and a half years and raised on the Peak on 18 August 1945.

Mr Jack Edwards MBE

Jack Edwards was taken prisoner of war in Singapore, where he was serving with the Royal Corps of Signals (11th Indian Division). He was shipped to Japan and later to Taiwan, where he and his comrades worked as slaves in a copper mine under the most appalling sub-human conditions. His experiences have been documented in his book "Banzai you Bastards!" which has been published in English and also, rather surprisingly, in Japanese. Both editions have sold out and Jack is about to launch a reprint.

After the war, Jack came to Hong Kong where he was involved in giving evidence to war crimes investigations until 1948. He returned in 1963 to work there and was appalled to discover that many of the soldiers who had fought so gallantly had been forgotten and neglected by Britain. He began to take up their causes and over the years has successfully campaigned to win pension rights for Hong Kong war veterans, British citizenship for those ex-soldiers who did not have them, and now finally British Citizenship for their wives and widows. Through all his tireless lobbying efforts Jack has carried with him Arthur May's Union Flag. He used the flag to strengthen his case that Britain had a moral responsibility to those who had fought under it, but no doubt he also found inspiration in its symbolism which helped give him the strength to carry on his relentless battle against the inertia of the bureaucrats. He took it with him to London and displayed it outside the Houses of Parliament on 12 July, when the Hong Kong (War Wives and Widows) Bill was finally passed. Jack was awarded the MBE in 1985 in recognition of both his prisoner of war service record and his campaigning.

Major (Ret'd) Brian Finch

Brian Finch was commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment in 1960. He got to know the Far East during service in Malaysia with the Malaysia Rangers in the 1960s and first went to Hong Kong in 1968 to learn Chinese. He left the Army in 1978 and later joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, returning often to Hong Kong, where he has now spent more than a dozen years of his working life. He laid a wreath at this year's Liberation Day parade on behalf of the Regiment.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

All members of the Regimental Association send Christmas Greetings to Mrs Peggie Morden, MBE, our splendid and loved W.V.S. lady with the 1st Bn in Korea.

Mr Gordon Moore, 1/8th Bn (43rd Div) reminds me that although he lives out 'in the sticks' he is proud to be a Diehard. He is an active member of the Royal British Legion and a proud possessor of a gold badge. He also raised funds for the Haig Fund by such activities as parachute jumping and distance walking. He was the author of 'Prelude to Battle'.

Paddy Ryan, MM, states in a recent letter that he is still in Saudi Arabia, working for General Dynamics on their ABRAM'S MIAZ Tank Project. He will be pleased to see anyone passing through RIYADH - call him on 463 2796 if you want 'a chat'.

Very nice indeed to get news from Mrs Joan Sherwood, widow of Major Henry Sherwood, TD, late 9th Bn. Although 85 she still takes great pride in her garden.

Mrs Joan McDowell, Widow of Capt L.G. McDowell, informs me that the crocus she planted at Cambes-el-Plaine on the five Middlesex graves were in full flower on her visit in March. On her June visit a wreath of poppies had been placed on the Cross of Sacrifice which was dedicated to the men of the Middlesex Regiment who are buried in this plot. This is the first regimental acknowledgement she has seen at Cambes-el-Plaine. Can anyone please enlighten Joan?

Tom Pryke (6202880) 2nd Bn sends his regards to all Diehards. He has donated some photographs of the 2nd Bn taken at Rowlands Castle prior to going over on the D Day landings.

CSgt John Moyse sends his regards to all his friends. His wife suffered a stroke and has made a partial recovery. He himself has not been well.

Two Diehards have moved away - 869185 J.W. Beddins and 6202760 H.C. Yallop. Can anyone help with their new addresses?

A.A. (Jack) Bradley wishes to be remembered to his comrades who served with him in the Signal PI and the Corps of Drums, Hong Kong. He is a collector of military band records and has over 300. He has recently retired having reached 65.

S/Sgt A.E. Barnden (6208744), 9th Bn (595 & 571 LAA Regt sends his best wishes to all his regimental friends.

Major Alan Carter was in touch with the Secretary recently. In his letter he mentioned how much he appreciated the never ending supply of 1/7th Regimental plaques manufactured and paid for by Sgt Harry Alcock. They have been distributed world wide around Scotland, Holland, Germany and now New Zealand. The Secretary, via Major Alan Carter, has been made aware of a limited supply of Normandy Medals for late comers who are qualified and wish to be considered. Although the medal is issued free there will be a small administrative charge. Those interested can obtain details from the Secretary.

Cpl 'Dead End' Nesbit wishes to be remembered to all his friends in the 1st Bn 1937-46. He tells me he is keeping well.

Major John Hamill writes to say that he is now Quartermaster of the Allied Military Intelligence Bn in former Yugoslavia based on SPLIT. He appears to be happy in his work.

Former RSM Tex Parnell sends his regards to all his comrades and promises to attend the next reunion. He was last seen at the funeral of Sgt Paddy Murphy.

Bert Molloy MM, 1/7th Bn, writes to say his wife died recently and he has been away in New Zealand staying with his family.

Ginger Batson (6539610) who served with the 1st Bn 1931-38 and PLK 1943-45 sends warm regards to all Diehards. Sadly he has been having a difficult time. His wife is in a wheel chair after a stroke - he himself had a stroke and they had to sell their house in order to pay the fees for both of them to go into a Nursing Home. Sincere good wishes from all Diehards.

Sgt D. Cranfield suffered a stroke in September. He is now out of hospital and making a good recovery.

Sgt Bill & Queenie Males, 1/7th and 1st Bn celebrated their Golden Wedding on 14 September. Our sincere congratulations.

Good to hear from CSgt Nicholson who still resides in Cleveland. He was very saddened to hear of the death of RQMS George Cooper. He also wishes to be remembered to Tom and Jean McMillan and said 'Get well soon Jean'.

Robert Bartle, son of the late CSM Stan Bartle sends his regards to all members.

Congratulations to the Post Office on delivering a letter addressed in an unstamped envelope to the Officer Commanding, 3rd Battalion The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). It arrived with the Secretary via the TA Centre at Edgware. The enclosure a swimming certificate in the name of 10266 Pte A. Simpson has been passed to the Albuhera Display Room at Enfield. It was issued by the 3rd Battalion in Hong Kong on the 26 August 1908. Found as a book mark in a book purchased in the Manchester Flea Market. (Nice of the unknown finder to send it on to us even if he/she did not pay the postage!)

Sorry to hear that Sgt Jeff Haward, MM (1/7th Bn) suffered a heart attack whilst waiting in the queue for the Portsmouth Ferry en route to Cuverville to present a Middlesex Regimental Plaque to the Mayor on behalf of the 1/7th Old Comrades Association. I trust he is now well on the road to recovery. Cpl Denis Daley very kindly stood in and did the honours for both Major Alan Carter and Sgt Haward.

Sorry to report that Major Alan Carter has not been well and was admitted to hospital for a minor operation. Now on the mend and we wish him well. His hospital visit prevented him from going to Cuverville with the 1/7th OCA party.

Major Geoff and Barbara Norton are off to Australia and will be spending Christmas and New Year with son Mark and Melanie. They plan to travel around the country and plan to visit Perth, Brisbane, Mackay, Barrier Reef, Melbourne, Canberra, Snowy Mountains, catching up with friends and relatives and, of course, sight seeing.

Mr P.E. Gates (22950093), C Coy 1st Bn 1953-58, writes from Australia to inform me that he was recently called out to administer the Last Rites to a lady in a nursing home and after doing so a relative said to him, you probably know her son Alan who had also entered the ministry. Her son Douglas then asked where I came from - I replied Edgware and have lived in Australia for 30 years. He then said "were you ever in the army?" I said "Yes, C Company 1st Bn". He replied "I am from Willesden and I served with A Company." A small world.

they may have to wait some years before this happens as I have far too many golf dates lined up at the moment".

Sgt R.F. Campkin, C Company 9th Bn 1927-46, now 85 sends his regards to all his old comrades. Sadly his wife died recently and he is now living in a warden controlled flat.

Sgt Joe Bird (6206644), 2/7th Bn, writes from Iowa, USA, to say that he may not be able to visit UK this year owing to house improvements taking place. He also tells that he has been married for 55 years.

Albert Horne (19036854), 1st Bn Korea 1949-52, sends his regards to all his friends in the regiment.

Private H. Green (6201491) 1934-46, FEPOW 1st Bn writes to say that he has been in and out of hospital with prostate trouble. We all wish him a speedy recovery and a good Christmas.

Private Raymond Hugman (23736105) who served from 1959-65 with the 1st Bn, has had a long period of sickness with Osteo Arthritis of the spinal cord since 1977 and the medical authorities have told him there is nothing more they can do for him. However he has been able to get a light job and matters are looking a little brighter. We all wish him well.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:

23620295 LCpl P. Allum, served Depot Middlesex Regt 1959-61.

22787352 Cpl R.F. Boxall, served 1st Bn & R Fus 1951-58.

6856036 Pte C.T. Braddick, served KRRC and 2nd Bn 1941-46.

6209632 Sgt C.G. Broome, served 70th Bn & 1 Kens 1941-46.

6213703 Pte. D. Cheeseburch, served D & HQ Coy 1/7th Bn 1940-46.

14452058 Sgt A.L. Drew, served QRR & 1st Bn, 1944-52.

22038703 Pte N.F. Grainger, served C Coy 1st Bn 1948-50.

23777914 Cpl M.R. Hart, served 8 Mx, 5 Mx & R Sussex.

22823698 Pte R.M. Hedges, served HQ Coy 1st Bn 1952-55.

6210172 Sgt H.A. Kneebone, served B & D Coys 2/7th Bn 1939-46.

14411335 Cpl E.P.L. Levy, served 70th Bn, 8th Bn 1942-45.

22730829 CSgt K.G. Mortimer, served 9th Bn, 571 LAA Regt R.A. & 5th Bn MX TA 1954-68.

6202557 LCpl J. Mendoza, served 1/7th Bn 1939-45.

23486760 Cpl K. McNicholas, served C Coy 1st Bn 1956-59.

14634544 Pte G.W. Mills, served C Coy 2/7th Bn 1943-46.

23638988 Cpl T.F. Perkins, served Depot & 1st Bn 1959-61.

24053825 C/Sgt B. Williams, BEM, TEM served 5 Mx, 5 Queens and 6/7 Queens.

14724663 Pte E. Reynolds, served 30 Middlesex Home Guard 1942-45.

6208145 Cpl A.J.E. Rowe, 2 PLK & 2/7th Bn, POW Italy & Germany.

483931 Capt D.P.L. Hodgetts, 4 Queens 1967-77.

22781520 Cpl E.B. Crompton, Band Welsh Regt 1952-60, 1st Bn & 4 Queens 1960-70.

KOREAN WAR VETERANS - PILGRIMAGES

The British Korean War Veterans Association is organising a series of Pilgrimages to Korea starting in 1997. The Pilgrimages of two weeks duration will be open to all Korean War Veterans, their families, and the relatives of those who died in the conflict.

Further information can be obtained from BKVA Pilgrimages Rayner House, 23 Higher Hillgate, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 3ER. Please write enclosing a self addressed stamped envelope, or telephone 0161 477 4521.

AMALGAMATION OF SSAFA AND FHS

The Soldiers' Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association amalgamate with the Forces Help Society on 1 January 1997.

This amalgamation will bring together material resources, staff experience and the good will of the many thousands of volunteers that currently represent and work with both organisations.

They will be promoting the new name "SSAFA Forces Help" and will be undertaking projects to raise the awareness of their role and the need for funds.

REGIMENTAL DRESS

Members will be aware that we parade volunteer sentries at St Paul's Cathedral each year when we hold our Albuhera Remembrance Service in May.

With the assistance of the Regimental Headquarters of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment we were able to acquire three scarlet walking out uniforms that had become available as a result of the amalgamation of the Queen's Regiment and the Royal Hampshire Regiment.

We are now looking for Middlesex Regimental Buttons, staybright or brass, to replace the Queen's Regimental Buttons that are presently on the jackets. Can any one help?

If you have buttons that you no longer have a use for Majors Frank Waldron or Ron Morris would be very pleased to receive them.

AN APPRECIATION OF TOM CHATTEY by Col H.J.A Moore, OBE

Shortly after his death on 19 October and among his papers Pam found a note from Tom. To my great surprise, it named me as one of two officers he wished to speak at his funeral. I feel utterly inadequate for the task but will do my best to honour LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS WILLIAM CHATTEY, O.B.E., the much loved and loving husband of Pam; member of a loving family and a distinguished officer whom I have had the privilege of knowing for nearly 50 years. The flag on Tom's coffin, the flowers and even our Regimental ties bear testimony to his abiding loyalty to and love of his Regiment - THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN).

Tom was born in 1913 at Alverstoke, Hants, educated at Wrekin and, what was then, the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. Aged 20, he was commissioned into the Regiment on 31 August 1933. Thus, the whole of his adult life was dedicated to the Army and to his Regiment. It is interesting to think that, when he joined, King George the Fifth had not yet celebrated his Silver Jubilee though his son, the then Prince of Wales, had been Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment for 12 years and was to remain so until his abdication in 1936.

Tom joined the 2 Battalion at Colchester in 1933 and a year later was posted to the 1st Battalion in Ismaelia where garrison life, particularly for the officers, seems to have centred on sport, horsemanship and fast cars. Polo was Tom's great love. A contemporary report has it that Tom was "one of the best natural horsemen that the Regiment has produced". With regard to fast cars, he is particularly remembered by two here today who were children at the time - Chris Lawrence and Jean Worton (now Clayden). Chris emphasises that he was only at the time a 'Regimental brat' - I hasten to add his words not mine. However, they are both clear that their joy was to demand rides in Tom's smart open red car.

In March 36 Tom moved with the 1st Battalion to Singapore where the normal pre-war gaities continued. But the storm clouds were gathering and at little notice in August 37 the Battalion sailed for Hong Kong because the Japanese invasion of China was deemed to cause a potential threat to the Colony. More immediately there was a threat to Shanghai to which the Battalion was put on short notice to move. This threat subsequently receded though military life took on a more serious purpose, with conversion to the Machine Gun role and preparation within the Colony of elaborate defences, though the Japanese invasion did not take place until December 41.

However, in late 1940 Tom was posted to a Staff appointment back in Singapore, the so called impregnable fortress. But the Japanese invasion from an unexpected direction led to the fall of Singapore in March 42 and the capture of all the garrison. Tom became a Prisoner of War in the notorious Changi Gaol. The horrors of the ensuing 3.1/2 years including the bestialities both in Singapore itself and on the Burma Railway are only too well documented and still too harrowing to recount in detail. But, thank God, Tom survived and was released in August 45. On his return to the U.K., Tom was promoted to Major and attended the Staff College.

Let me now turn from what I would call 'military history' to what for me is 'current affairs'. The 1st and 2nd Battalions had amalgamated in our Depot in 1948. Confrontation had broken out in Malaya and the Guards Brigade sent there at short notice. The problem was to fill the gap in carrying out ceremonial guard duties at Buckingham Palace, St. James' Palace, the Bank of England and the Tower of London. For the very first time two Line Regiments were selected on a semi-permanent basis. Our 1st Bn was one and so we moved to Chelsea Barracks which is where I first served with Tom. Life was civilised, enjoyable, very much in the public eye and, I think, Tom's cup of tea - he certainly excelled at it. He was in fact Captain of the King's Guard on 14 November 1948, the night Prince Charles was born. Some wag spread a rumour that the Captain of the Guard and the Company Sergeant Major would immediately be promoted if on duty when an heir to the Throne was born. This sadly turned out not to be true, but a bottle of champagne did come from the Palace.

We were happily ensconced in these duties when, at little notice, 'they' in London perceived an imminent threat to Hong Kong from an invasion by China. The Colony was immediately reinforced including 1st Middlesex. So back we go in July 49 less than 4 years since our Prisoners of War there had been liberated. The War Office did however

make one concession that former Far East Prisoners of War on the posted strength of the Battalion would only return if they volunteered. To their eternal credit, the great majority including Tom did volunteer. However, early in 1950 he was posted in a Staff appointment back to Singapore for the third time - fate is very odd.

Thereafter he returned home and, on 26 April 1952, a very special day, he married a Miss Pamela Teesdale. I was lucky enough to be there. It is poignant to think that, at Tom's particular request, we are gathered in the very church in which they were married 44 years ago.

In 1955, the paths of Tom, Pam and I again crossed when we were together in the Battalion in Austria of which we were all so fond. Again, Tom's sense of style and ceremonial came to the fore when he handed over the International Guard outside the Hofburg Palace on 1 July 1955. This marked the end of the Allied occupation of Austria.

But life soon assumed a more serious aspect when we served together in Cyprus at the beginning of the EOKA problem. He was a Company Commander and, for a short while, Bn 2 IC before moving to other duties still in Cyprus. He and Pam remained very much in the front line with their flat being blown up though happily with no hurt to them. This was an important tour in Tom's career. He was Mentioned in Despatches, was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and awarded the OBE.

Tom retired from the Active List on 9 March 1960 some 27 years after he had first joined. But he never ceased to be active both in his civil occupation and, more importantly to us, in our Regimental affairs.

For nearly 20 years he was Chairman and latterly President of our Regimental Association. It is to this period of service that the Regiment is most indebted. The problems were myriad and, within the Association, encompassed significant financial matters, annual reunions including those of the former Territorial battalions, Albuhera Close and its occupancy, relationships with The Queen's Regiment, our Officers' Club and the future of our Regimental Museum of which he was also the Museum Trust Chairman since its inception in 1974. This latter task was particularly time consuming and required great tact and diplomacy in the run up towards the handing over of all our exhibits to the National Army Museum in 1994. It goes without saying that he succeeded in all these endeavours and by so doing has provided a legacy for future generations.

The last time I saw Tom was on Saturday 11 May when I visited him in the Charing Cross Hospital confusingly at Hammersmith. It was a sad sight but the inimitable spark was still there as was his sense of humour. I told him about the Officers' Club Dinner the previous evening and said that I was off to St Paul's and then the Regimental Reunion that night. His body was frail but his mind certainly was not. The years fell away as we reminisced. I almost cried when he apologised for not being able to get up and find me a chair - but that was Tom, a perfect gentleman. He was so looking forward to going home - which he did.

I did telephone him thereafter just for a chat but it was obvious that he was becoming increasingly frail though his interest and humour remained.

I have one final and abiding memory to share with you. On 19 August last year I was sitting in Yorkshire watching the VJ Parade in London and the thousands of ex-Servicemen on it. Suddenly, in a completely clear close up was our Regimental contingent. They all wore our distinctive Regimental tie and in the front rank were Tom, Tony Pielow, Frank Waldron and Ron Morris. To add to their sartorial splendour, the front rank all wore panama hats with, I assume, a Regimental hat band. Tom was as lithe, upright and immaculately dressed as when he and I together had trodden the same path in The Mall some 41 years before. And so he saluted his Sovereign for the last time and marched into history.

We shall all miss him.

The funeral was attended by Brigs B.A.M. Pielow and B.H. Marciandi, Cols I.H. Battey, I.H. Brotherton, I.R. Burrows, R.M. Cain and H.J.A. Moore. Lt-Col and Mrs C.B.N. Clayden, Lt-Col M.F. Deakin, Major W.G.A. Crumley, Major and Mrs C.L. Lawrence, Major and Mrs R.E.B. Morris, Major B. St G.A. Reed, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Mrs Anna Bennett, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Major C. Bellingham, Royal Hong Kong Regiment, Mr Alan Guy and Major P. Bateman, National Army Museum, Mr M. Ward, Mr G. Young, Mr A. Lofts, Enfield and Korean Branch.

The Service was conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, M.A., Regimental Chaplain to the Middlesex Regiment. The lesson was read by Major C.L. Lawrence, MC.

OBITUARIES

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

ARCHER - On 22 June 1996, Private Stuart(Joe) Archer.

He joined the RAF on 4 June 1943 serving in radar and signals and was demobbed in June 1946. He joined the T.A. on 3 June 1953 at Hounslow when the unit was 11 Para (8 Mx). He was continually a member of the Signal PI until 1963. He was a stalwart member of the Hounslow branch. In civilian life Joe was a School Teacher.

BRERETON - In May 1996, Major C.D.L. Brereton.

Major Charles Brereton, who commanded the Mortar Company of 2nd Bn on the D Day Normandy Landings died in May of this year. A Celebration of his Life was held on October 5th at Bottisham Village College, Cambridgeshire of which he was Warden from 1955-75. Major Neve his Second in Command on D Day, was asked to make a contribution in respect of "The War Years". An edited version of his address to a largely academic audience follows:

"Whilst stationed in Alderney, Charles attended a course at Netheravon during the Spring of 1940. He must have passed out very much top of class because, following hurried departure from Alderney with the Germans in St Malo, he was back at Netheravon by that November as an instructor. Whilst he was there, the War Office decided that the

existing 4.2" Mortar designed for chemical warfare was to be converted into a close support infantry weapon capable of propelling a 20lb bomb up to 4000 yds. A team at Netheravon was entrusted with the task. Charles was part of that team and was personally responsible for working out battle drill and fire control procedure. He then became the Chief Instructor of the Mortar Courses conducted by Netheravon. I was on an early course and can still remember clearly his confident somewhat unorthodox teaching methods and how he made the lessons actually interesting.

My C.O. (Lt-Col Pat Weston) - I was in 2nd Bn Mx - also attended a course and must have been equally impressed because he persuaded the War Office to let Charles leave Netheravon and join 2nd Bn as commander of the newly formed Mortar Coy. I was fortunate to be appointed his second in command. The Bn was part of 3rd Div then training in Scotland as a D Day assault division in Northern Europe. Landing exercises were carried out through the winter of 1943/4 on to the beaches of Burghead Bay in the Moray Firth which has a latitude north of Moscow! Conditions were very unpleasant but there were compensations. Charles was not only a very good Coy Comd but also became a very good friend. He even took the risk of taking me with him to visit his academic friends at Aberlour House, the prep school for Gordenstoun where his brother was deputy head master.

We assumed that the Division was due to land somewhere in France but nobody below the rank of Bn Commander or equivalent knew precisely where. Charles however confided in me that having studied a map of northern France he had found a stretch of coastline in Normandy and its hinterland which conformed closely with the Burghead Bay coast line and the coded place names imposed on our training maps. He reckoned that our destination was Normandy. Of course, he was right.

Training completed we moved to our embarkation camps on the South Coast. The plan was for Charles and I with two platoons to land on D Day and the other two on D+1. We embarked from Newhaven onto an LCT and since Charles was the senior army officer on the craft he and I were allowed to be on the bridge. When dawn broke on June 6 the sight from that bridge was unforgettable. The sea was simply covered with ships of every description: battleships, ocean liners, destroyers, landing craft, etc., all heading in the same direction. The noise of naval gunfire was also quite something.

The Normandy coast came into view and we wondered just what lay ahead of us. This wasn't another exercise. Fortunately despite all the confusion, our craft was able to give us a nearly dry shod landing at the designated part of the beach. We landed 2 hours after the initial infantry assault so didn't have to fight our way off the beach but were subjected to intermittent shelling, then sniping as we moved inland from the beach. Happily the RAF had complete control of the air.

Our immediate job was to reconnoitre suitable sites for the mortars and suitable O.P.s for fire control. I remember clearly how Charles went ahead into unknown territory without hesitation or apparent fear. We got our Mortars into action fairly quickly and started engaging some enemy targets.

I left Charles next morning in order to meet up with and take control of the other two platoons when they arrived. I must therefore rely on Charles' own narrative for what happened to him after that.

On D+3 his two platoons were engaging the area known as Lebissey. He was controlling fire from his carrier but in order to gain better observation went forward on his own to an exposed position. He was hit in the abdomen by the splinter of a nearby shell burst. Despite complete numbness in the area of the wound his brain was clear and he somehow managed to crawl back to his carrier where he was given a shot of morphine. He was then taken back to a tented hospital on the beach where he underwent a major abdominal operation. When he was later put in an ambulance for transfer to U.K. he nearly didn't make it. He was on his back, some what surprised whilst in motion at the marked increase in noise, and suddenly realised from the position of the sun that the driver was going south straight for the enemy! A few well chosen words from Charles persuaded the driver to do a 180 degree turn so all was well.

There were further medical complications in U.K. and it was twelve months before he was finally discharged from hospital. As he himself said later, a lot of fun and games for 3 days fighting".

Major Neve didn't tell his audience on the day, but he knows that it was Charles' lasting regret that he never had the opportunity of conducting a full company shoot of the weapon which he considered to be rather his own.

HBN

BURRELL - On 7 October 1996, WO2 Alfred Frederick Burrell (6199276) aged 83 years.

Alf Burrell enlisted on 10 December 1929, at the age of 16, as a Boy soldier and joined the Corps of Drums of the 1st Bn. He served with the 1st Bn in Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was taken POW on 25 December 1941 and spent his POW days in Shamshuipo, Sakurajima and Osaka Camps. He rejoined the 1st Bn during 1946 and his last two years service were spent as WO2 PSI to the 7th Bn and finally left the Service on 9 December 1952.

BOLT - On 15 June 1996, Major Harry Collett Bolt, MBE, aged 86 years. He served with the 1/7th Bn 1939-45. No other details at present available.

BYFORD - On 17 March 1996, Private Frank Joseph Byford (6203293), aged 82 years.

He enlisted on 18 December 1936 and served until 17 May 1946. He joined the 1st Bn during 1938 and was posted to A Company. He was taken POW by the Japanese on 25 December 1941, survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru in October 1942 and served his time in Kobe. He was discharged on 17 May 1946.

DALE - On 10 September 1996, WO2(RQMS) Alan Eric Dale (23160448) aged 59 years.

He served with the 1st Bn from 1955-57 in Cyprus. In 1971 he joined 6/7th Bn The Queen's Regiment serving until 1984, retiring as WO2(RQMS).

FAIRHEAD - On 16 June 1996, WO2(CSM) Aubyn (Fairy) Fairhead (6207015), aged 82 years.

'Fairy' enlisted during September 1939 and joined C Company, 1/7th Bn. During October 1939 he joined the 2/7th Bn serving with C and A Companies and from 1942-45 was with B Company. Lt-Col Ralph Robotham writes - known in the 2/7th Bn for his unfailing delivery to the platoons of Supplies, ammo and the RUM ration - no matter how active or heavy was the hostile attention of the enemy. He was also the first Allied soldier to enter Rome. He missed the side-track where he was awaited by some miles - warned by the local Italians he got his driver to make the fastest 3 point turn on record and roared back up the road to the correct R.V. He kindly took over the Secretaryship of the 2/7th O.C.A. when Dicky Dunford passed away. He was finally responsible for organising our 50th and last reunion.

He was held in great esteem by his comrades in the Bn and in later life by his friends and neighbours and the scouts and other organisations he took an interest in. He will be sadly missed. Mr. A.W.L. (Topper) Brown attended the funeral, representing the 2/7th Bn and the Regimental Association.

HARRISON - On 27 October 1996, Private W. Harrison, aged 68 years. He was a member of the 1st Bn during the Korean campaign and served with HQ Company. He did not join the Regimental Association but was a member of the Korean Club. No other details available.

HICKS - On 29 February 1996, Lieut Colonel Richard Thomas Davis Hicks, TD, aged 89 years. Details of his service - Lieut 7th Bn 1937-39, Lieut/Capt 1/7th Bn 1939-41, Attached RASC 1941-47, 1948-56 Mx and finally transferred to R.A.P.C. 1956-61 and became 1st Bn Paymaster.

HIDDLESTON - On 15 October 1996, Major William David Hiddleston (6204615 and 178818), aged 81 years. He enlisted in 1937 and served with B Support Company of the 9th Bn. He was commissioned and transferred to 100 Light AA Regiment R.A. His BSM was WO2 H.B. Harris. He left the army in 1946.

HOBSON - On 4 October 1996, Mrs E. Hobson, widow of 2028203 WO1 A.J.(Darkie) Hobson, 1st Bn.

HOSSLEN - On 11 July 1996, WO2(RQMS) Leslie Arthur James Hosslen (6211132), aged 76 years. Les was called up for service on 15 January 1940 and joined D Company 1/7th Bn as a Cpl until May 1942. He was later posted with the rank of Sgt to B Company. In 1944 he joined A Company and was once more promoted this time to CSgt. In October 1945 he became the RQMS and was finally demobbed in February 1947. He was awarded a Certificate of Merit dated January 1947 signed by Lieut-General R.L. McCreery. He was a regular attender at all 1/7th Bn Dinners. A very popular and respected member of the 1/7th Bn. In retirement he enjoyed Golf and Bowls.

HUTCHINGS - On 11 March 1996, WO2 F.G. Hutchings (6217148), aged 76 years. Served 1947-59 with S Company 7th Bn. No other details available.

LANE - On 4 November 1996, Jill, wife of Captain Peter Lane.

LANGLEY - In Australia on 3 September 1996, Mrs Iris Langley, daughter of the late ORQMS A.E. Finch, MBE, who died 1977 and Mrs Sylvia Finch. Iris was born at No. 28 Married Quarters, Mill Hill on 26 August 1926. Her mother Mrs Sylvia Finch is now 92 years of age and lives in Strood, Kent. She is a great supporter of the Regiment and keeps in touch by telephone.

LAWFORD - On 7 July 1996, Sgt Richard Metcalfe Lawford (6204766), aged 85 years.

Richard served with the 9th Bn T.A. from 1938-45. In his younger days a great supporter of the Regiment.

MADDOCKS - On 30 July 1996, Sgt Jack Maddocks (6206982), aged 80 years. He served with the 2/7th Bn 1939-46.

MAN - On 10 October 1996, Mrs Marion Ursula Man, wife of Colonel A.M. Man, DSO, OBE.

MARSHALL - On 4 September 1996, Private Arthur (Molly) Marshall (6283509), aged 70 years.

He served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was taken P.O.W. and served his time in Tokyo Camp. He returned to U.K. in 1945 was discharged and later emigrated to Australia where he died. I think he served with B Company. No other details available.

MARSHALL - On 26 July 1996, Major Phillip Donald Howitt Marshall, aged 81 years.

Major Philip Marshall retired from the Active List on 15 December, 1958, after 22 years service. Educated at Repton School, he joined the Inns of Court Regiment as a Trooper in February 1936. He was granted a Supplementary Reserve Commission as a Second-Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment and, after initial attachments at the Depot and the 2nd Battalion, he was granted a Regular Commission in 1937 and joined the 2nd Bn in that year. In April 1939 he was posted as Adjutant to the newly formed 2/7th Battalion. On mobilisation he rejoined the 2nd Battalion and embarked with that Battalion for the B.E.F. in September 1939, being later evacuated to U.K. on 1 June 1940.

He was promoted Lieutenant in August 1940, T/Captain in October 1940, and continued to serve with the 2nd Battalion until embarking for North Africa in August 1943. In the meantime he had been promoted T/Major, and he was then posted to the 1st Bn The Kensington Regiment with whom he served until February 1945, serving with distinction and authority in the Italian Campaign from December 1943 to August 1944.

During this time he commanded D Group, giving Vickers Machine Gun and 4.2" Mortar Support to 38th Infantry Brigade, part of 78th Division. The Division's two preoccupations in that period were - first, attempting to dislodge German 1 Parachute Division from their hold on Monte Cassino, 22 March to 30 April 1944 - followed by the break-out battle in the Liri Valley, driving the Germans north to Lake Tranimene - a distance of 130 miles in the 50 days, 16 May to 4 July 1944.

His next appointment was G.S.O.2, A.F.H.Q. serving in that capacity until August 1945, when he was appointed D.A.A. and Q.M.G., 3 Infantry Brigade, in M.E.L.F., which he held until May 1946. At the end of 1946, he was granted a compassionate posting and was employed as D.A.A.G. at HQ Western Command, where he served for two years until February 1949, when he was posted to West Africa Command as G.S.O.2, HQ Sierra Leone and Gambia District, until March, 1951.

Returning to the U.K. that year, he was appointed to command the Regimental Depot, which appointment he held until December 1954. After completing a course at the Senior Officers' School, he joined the 1st Battalion in Austria, only to be posted to the U.K. in August 1955, owing to ill health. On recovery, he joined the 8th Battalion as its Training Major until July 1956, after which he was given his final appointment as G.S.O.2, HQ Northern Ireland District. He retired on 15 December 1958.

He then joined Nicholas Laboratories in the Pharmaceutical Industry and remained with Nicholas Laboratories until he retired. He was a member of the local golf club playing three times a week. He enjoyed attending Regimental Golf meetings. He assisted with the organisation of Neighbourhood Watch with typical military precision. Before moving to Sonning, he was Chairman of Great Rollright Parish Council and a Councillor on the Chipping Norton District Council.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Pamela, three children, Nichola, Sarah and Tessa and nine grandchildren.

The funeral was attended by Brig & Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, Col I.D. Brotherton, TD, DL, Major P.G.V. Bellers, Lt-Col & Mrs R.D. Fisher, MBE, Major & Mrs C.L. Lawrence, MC, Mrs A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Mrs G. Lerwill, Mrs J. McDowell, Major A.E. Foxwell, Kensington Regiment.

MASON - On 15 September 1996, Cpl Ronald Arthur Mason (14648419), aged 71 years.

He served with D and B Companies of the 2/8th(1st Bn) 1943-47. He was a despatch rider. A member of the Enfield Branch.

McNEIL - During 1995, Sgt Ronald Stuart McNeil (4530161), aged 89 years. He served with the Royal Warwick Regiment 1925-37 and Middlesex Regiment 1937-45. He was Secretary of the Portsmouth and Gosport Branch of the Regimental Association for many years.

MIDLANE - On 9 September 1996 LCpl Francis Henry Midland (6203615), aged 79 years.

He was called up for service on 3 September 1939 and joined B Company 1/7th Bn. He was wounded in June 1940 at Dunkirk and suffered gun shot wounds in the right elbow which resulted in his medical discharge. He lived at Albuhera Close, Enfield, and was one of the original occupants in 1950.

MURPHY - On 29 June 1996, Sgt Charles Joseph Patrick Murphy (23700739), aged 56 years.

Paddy enlisted on 24 February 1959 and served until 31 August 1977 when he was discharged on reduction of establishment. For his sins he was medical Sgt. He was with the 1st and 4th Bns 1959-70, 1 Queens 1970-71, and 2 Queens 1972-77.

Charles(Paddy) Murphy's funeral took place at All Saints Church, Bletchley at 1 p.m. on Thursday 4 July 1996. The Regiment was represented by Major and Mrs Ron Morris. The Pall Bearers were - Trevor Murphy (son), Syd Hilton, RLC (Syd Hilton's son), Michael Williams, Mr Williams (Michael's father), and Snowy Phillips. Last Post and Reveille was sounded by Drummer Drury from 1 PWRR. The Church was full with Paddy Murphy's family and his many friends from both the Middlesex and Queen's Regiments. The numbers attending showed what a popular and well loved man he was. The coffin was draped with the Middlesex Regimental Flag and Messrs Broadbent, Slater and Jennings attended with the Branch Standard from Enfield. After the Service and internment Peppe Murphy received those attending at her home.

NOBLE - On 22 November 1996, in Australia, LCpl Charles Noble (6202116), aged 81 years.

He enlisted on 9 January 1935, and arrived in Singapore in March 1936 to join the 1st Bn. In August 1937 he moved to Hong Kong with the Bn. He took part in the Battle of Hong Kong and like the remainder of the Bn was taken POW on Christmas Day 1941. In August 1942 the Japanese commenced sending POWs to Japan and Nobby was a member of the first draft. On arrival he was taken to a POW Camp in Yokohama.

In happier days he was the Feather Weight champion of the Colony and the Bn. He was known for his 'knock-out' punch. One day two Korean Guards started to torment him by striking him with bamboo canes. Nobby lost his temper and knocked both of them cold. He was given 72 days solitary confinement and after completing his punishment was taken to Tokyo and given three months hard labour. After this he was moved to Omori Camp in Tokyo where he remained until the end of the war. He was discharged from the army on 8 January 1947 having completed 12 years service. He emigrated to Australia in 1956 and became an instructor in physical training, boxing and Judo at Werribee School. A real 'Diehard'.

ROWE - On 27 November 1996, LCpl Harry Edward Rowe (6203541). Harry Rowe enlisted as a boy soldier during 1937 and joined the Band of the 1st Bn in 1938 stationed in Hong Kong. He later moved to the Corps of Drums.

I notice in the Regimental Journal for 1939 that he was praised for winning the "Star Boy" appointment. He was also mentioned for winning a three mile race and also his boxing ability. He was taken POW on Christmas Day 1941 and remained in Shamshuipo Camp for the duration. He was discovered on his release to be suffering from malnutrition and retrobulbar neuritis which rendered him blind, and was admitted to St Dunstan's Training Centre in Brighton and discharged from the Army in 1946. On completion of his rehabilitation training, St Dunstan's supported him through a Higher Education course to become a physiotherapist. When he qualified, he followed a successful career in private practice and retired on reaching the age of sixty. He married in 1948.

SHAW - On 30 May 1996, Lieut Owen Shaw, MC, 1/7th Bn. He was awarded the Military Cross on 16 June 1944. The Regimental History states that he was severely wounded whilst attempting to extinguish a fire which had broken out a stack of mortar bombs and was endangering the manning of all the mortar positions in the Ranville area. His widow has very kindly donated his medals to the Regiment and they will be placed on display in the Queen's Regiment Museum at Dover Castle.

TRAVERS-KEMP - On 16 July 1995, Captain John Travers-Kemp, aged 81 years. Lt-Col John R. Doyle, TD, KCSG, B.A., writes:- John Travers-Kemp was posted to 126 LLA Regt R.A. (9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment(DCO) early in 1944 and went with us to Europe as a Lieutenant. I think he was promoted Captain after I left the Regiment in July 1945 to go to the School of Artillery for a War Gunnery Course 1945. He and I renewed our friendship after the war. He was an occasional attender at our triennial Dinners and, later, at our annual lunches. As you will see, he and his wife ran the De Valois Ballet School in Turkey. That there is classical ballet flourishing in Turkey is entirely due to the magnificent work they did there. I ought to add that, as a male ballet dancer, John was one of the toughest guys I came across - in purely physical terms. Otherwise he was an unaffected character, well liked and a very efficient officer.

WHEELER - On 19 August 1996, Private William Stanley John Wheeler (22497063), aged 63 years. He served with the 1st Bn from 1950 - 52 and was a member of the Enfield Branch OCA.

WILLIAMSON - On 27 June 1996, Cpl James Arthur Williamson (21361330), aged 56 years. He served from 1958 to 1966 with the 1st Bn and from 1967 to 1980 with 1 Queens.

Many readers will remember Jim (Willie) Williamson as a member of the QM's Platoon in the 1st Bn and with 4 Queens and then 1 Queens. His funeral took place quietly at Saint John's Church, Warminster on Friday 5 July. Members from the Regiment who attended were :- Major S.M. Dowse, Major C.L. Lawrence, Major and Mrs R.E.B. Morris, Captain T.I. McMillan, Mr S. Hilton, Mr W. Phillips, Mr and Mrs Jones, and Mr D. Langston. In addition to his family and friends, many of his colleagues from the Military Workshops in Warminster were present. After completing his 22 years with the Regiment

Willie worked there as a coach trimmer. The coffin was draped with the Middlesex Regimental Flag and after a very personal and moving service he was buried in the Church Yard.

WRIGHT - On 31 March 1996, Private Leonard White (6200316), aged 81 years. He served from 1932 - 46 with the 1st and 2nd Bns.

BOOKS

FALL OUT THE OFFICERS

As a follow up to Stand Easy, (£12.95) published by Pentland Press, 3 Regal Lane, Soham, Ely CB7 5BA, Brigadier Charles Millman has written a companion volume of anecdotes entitled 'Fall out the Officers', published again by the Pentland Press at £4.99.

This very amusing book contains a collection of the Brigadiers "service stories" and is well worth a read. It will bring back memories to many of those who have enjoyed Regimental life.

MONTY'S IRON SIDES

From the Normandy Beaches to Bremem with the 3rd Division. Written by Patrick Delaforce and published by Alan Sutton Publishing. Price £10.99. It gives an excellent account of 3rd Division exploits, especially the role of The Middlesex Regiment in Normandy, Belgium, Holland and eventually Bremem. This is a very well researched book and gives interesting information on the battles of Cambes Wood and the fighting that took place in the winter of 1944 along the Maas with special mention of Overloon and Venray complete with maps.

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	£23.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon & Old Gold	£ 5.00 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern	£ 4.00 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£12.00 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (improved quality)	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Key Rings	£ 2.50 each
Old Comrades Lapel Badges, Old Pattern - The Diehards	£ 2.75 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£17.50 each
Prints Drums and Fifes, unframed, large	£ 8.50 each
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We are now in a position to supply the following - please allow 14 days for delivery:

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