



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 80

December 1998

Price £1



On 14 November 1998.

*Presentation of Legion of Honour (Knights Class) to Mr Charlie Ward,
now 102 years, by Mr Andrew Buxton, High Sheriff of Norfolk.*

CHARLES WARD

Family, friends, members of the Royal British Legion and representatives from the Middlesex Regiment gathered together at the Red House, Thetford on Saturday the 14 of November 1998 to witness the presentation of the Legion du Honneur, Knights Class, to Mr Charlie Ward, now 102 years of age, for his service to France as a member of the allied forces on French Territory in the First World War.

The presentation was made by Mr Andrew Buxton, High Sheriff of Norfolk deputising for Brigadier Tony Pielow who was unable to attend. Mr Buxton said a few words to Mr Ward thanking him for his service both to France and to England he then placed the medal above those already worn from the First and Second World Wars. There was wide coverage by the local stations of the BBC and ITV and the local press. Our thanks go to Lieut Comd Adrian Allenby, Royal British Legion County Field Officer for Norfolk and to Mrs Dolly Reid, a niece of Charlie, for organising such a splendid occasion. Present from the Regiment were Major and Mrs Ron Morris and Les Loomes who wore full dress uniform.

Charlie was present at the battle of the Somme, Ypres and Cambrai, was wounded and served in the 1/7th, 2/7th and 3/7th Battalions of the Regiment. He helped to quell the mutiny at Etretat he being there for re-equipping and training after coming out of hospital. He served from 1914 to 1920 leaving the Army in the rank of Sergeant.

President : Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP
Chairman : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
Vice Chairman : Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.
Secretary : Major R.E. Morris, MBE,
 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

1999

- 1 March Executive Committee Meeting at 1400 hours followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting - TAVRA Conference Room, Duke of York's Headquarters
- 6 March Queen's Regimental Association - All Ranks Reunion - Victory Services Club
- 24 April 1/7th Bn OCA Annual Lunch Hornsey TA Centre
- 14 May Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner - Army and Navy Club Pall Mall
- 15 May Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London W2 commencing 6.30 p.m.
AGM at 7.15 p.m.
- 16 May Victorian Military Society - Diehard Company - Parade and Display Dover Castle
- 17 May Albuhera Lunch, National Army Museum (by invitation only)
- 19 May 9th Bn Officers' Club Lunch, The Royal Overseas League, Park Place London SW1
- 9 June Finance Sub Committee Meeting, Aldwych House at 1800 hours
- 11 November 7th Bn Officers' Club Dinner - Officers' Mess, TA Centre St. John's Hill, London SW11
- 11 November Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 1030 hours for 1100 hours, planting of crosses in the Regimental and FEPOW Plots
- 13 November Ceremony of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) assemble at 1030 hours
- 14 November 7th Bn Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey, London N8. Assembling at 1000 hours.
- 14 November Annual Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. Assembling at the Barracks at 1000 hours

2000

- 12 May Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner
- 13 May Albuhera Service - Regimental Chapel - St. Paul's Cathedral at 1500 hours.
- 13 May All ranks Reunion Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, commencing at 1830 hours
AGM at 1930 hours

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, KG., K.T., GCB.
St James's Palace,
London, SW1A 1BS.

10th November 1998

Sir,

I have the honour to write on behalf of all members of The Middlesex Regimental Association to send you our warmest possible greetings on the occasion of your Royal Highness's 50th Birthday.

I do so with particular regard to the fact that 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.) was providing the Guard at Buckingham Palace on the night of 14th November 1948, when news of your birth was passed, 16 minutes afterwards at 2130 hrs, to the Battalion's officers dining that night at St James's Palace.

We are all very conscious and proud of the fact that King Edward VIII, when Prince of Wales, was our Colonel in Chief from 1921 to 1936, and that our cap badge bears your motto "Ich Dien" and includes the Prince of Wales crown and cypher.

We hold in high esteem these special links with Your Royal Highness and it is therefore with manifest pleasure that we send you loyal greetings for your birthday and for your future happiness.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your Royal Highness's most obedient Servant,

Brigadier Tony Pielow

The following reply was received from St James's Palace to Brigadier Tony Pielow.

I was so touched and grateful to receive your very kind birthday wishes. I still cannot believe I have reached fifty.

Charles

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.

DONATIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

Donations:

Friends of St. Paul's	£25	
2/7th OCA	£130	
To Jack Francis on his 100 Birthday	£35	(suitably engraved Regtl plaque)
Varna Memorial	£100	
Diehard Coy-Victorian Mil Society	£276	(Middlesex Regimental Flag)
Enfield Branch	£50	(to assist with cost of coach)
Not Forgotten Association	£25	
9th Bn Offrs' Club Luncheon	£200	(From the Officers' Club)
King Edward VII Hospital	£100	(From the Officers' Club)

Bequests/Donations received:

D. Johns	£200	(sponsored marathon runner)
Mrs Whiteley's Estate	£82764	
Mrs White's Estate	£100	
A.W.T. Brown	£40	(2/7th Lunch collection)
A.W.T. Brown	£50	
Plus many smaller donations of less than £50		

Benevolent Grants: 31 Dec 97 to 1Dec 98

Grants made to individuals	£14153	£13014
Less ABF Grants	£9044	£8134
Net	£5109	£4880

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

The First Battalion (1 PWRR). The Battalion is still based in Canterbury, Kent, and retains its operational role as part of NATO's Joint Rapid Deployment Force (JRDF). During the period November 1997 until May 1998 the Battalion had to relinquish that specialist role and was deployed to Northern Ireland on a six month operational tour of duty in Belfast. This was a difficult tour to undertake during the so-called "Peace Process" negotiations, and the pace of activity was kept at a surprisingly high level. The Battalion retains its Gurkha Reinforcement Company (GRC) for its JRDF role, and they were deployed to the Falkland Islands during this period, as they are not permitted to serve in Northern Ireland. The Battalion was made up to strength for Belfast with a squadron of Royal Engineers. No sooner were the Battalion home from this tour, than they had to provide one Company to return to Northern Ireland from June until August to assist the Royal Ulster Constabulary keep order during the highly emotive "Marching Season" - always a difficult task to carry out in the face of considerable provocation.

The Battalion is now all back in Canterbury and has resumed its re-rolling and retraining for its 'proper' JRDF commitments. They are once again on a reduced notice to move (NTM) overseas as the Lead Battalion Group in the Force until July next year. From March to May '99 the Battalion will have its NTM further reduced, in some cases to as little as 24 hours, as they assume the United Kingdom's 'SPEARHEAD' role for possible deployment anywhere in the world.

Having returned from Northern Ireland, the Battalion spent the Summer training for Exercise POND JUMP WEST. This was a major exercise held in Canada during October and it enabled them to carry out a wide variety of challenging training in unusual conditions. It also provided the opportunity for some high quality Adventure Training (mountaineering, canoeing, rafting, parachuting etc) at the end of the 'formal' training. Of course the major Adventure Training event of the year was the ambitious and highly challenging attempt to have a Battalion team climb Mount McKinley in Alaska (20,320ft). The expedition failed to achieve its goal due to several serious accidents during the ascent, but all members were successfully extracted from a highly dangerous situation. This was Adventure Training at its most demanding level where courage and determination could be matched against extremely adverse conditions.

The Second Battalion (2 PWRR). The Battalion is still based in Tidworth, Hampshire and retains its operational role as a Mechanised (SAXON) Battalion within the 1st Mechanised Brigade. The Battalion has carried out a wide variety of training activities during the year, and is now preparing to deploy on a six months operational tour of duty to Belfast, Northern Ireland from November until May 1999.

The highlight of the Battalion's training year was their deployment to Kenya on exercise GRAND PRIX during January and February. They were joined there by elements from the Royal Horse Artillery, the Royal Engineers, the Army Air Corps and the Royal Logistic Corps. This was an excellent exercise in very demanding conditions with heavy and prolonged 'El Niño' tropical rains. Kenya provides ideal training opportunities, including Adventure Training, and the period was much enjoyed by all. On return home, the Battalion undertook a series of major exercises within the United Kingdom ranging from a defensive exercise in Norfolk, against an 'enemy' from the 101st US Airborne Division, to a demanding exercise in Wales using their SAXON vehicles with support from CHINOOK and PUMA helicopters from the RAF. This was the largest exercise carried out within the UK in the past ten years and involved some 15,000 troops.

The forthcoming Northern Ireland tour has entailed the usual pattern of specialist training that is called for in that difficult environment. No-one knows quite what to expect there nowadays given that the 'Peace Process' is established and the security forces are meant to be adopting a much lower profile. It remains to be seen what the level of operational tasking will be on their arrival in Belfast.

The Territorials - The Fifth Battalion, The Sixth/Seventh Battalion, and The Queen's Regiment Company of the London Regiment. All these Territorial elements of the Regiment have had a full, varied year's activity. All have carried out energetic recruiting drives to increase their numbers of Volunteer soldiers. There is often a 'hidden advantage' in these campaigns in that they also produce much-needed recruits for the Regular Battalions. To their considerable credit all territorial elements of the regiment have also been able to send some TA soldiers to reinforce the Regular Battalions either on operational tours of duty overseas, or to assist with major exercise commitments. This is in the best possible spirit of the Territorials and their contribution is warmly appreciated.

The Territorials also provide an essential link between the Regiment and the local civilian community right across the Regimental area from East to West. This year their Public Relations activities, their recruiting activities, their ceremonial, sporting, and social events have all contributed enormously towards enhancing local awareness of the Regiment.

All our Territorials have carried out successful and rewarding Annual Camps this year. 5 PWRR at Dartmoor in Devon, 6/7 PWRR at Arlon in Belgium, and elements of 'B' Company of the LONDONS in Cyprus. The 6/7th's camp in Belgium was a notable period of field training and manoeuvres in the Ardennes forests, supported by a detachment from the Royal Danish Lifeguards. This was a most successful, and enjoyable attachment which we shall try and repeat in the future. The Commanding Officer reported that it was a great privilege for his soldiers to have the 'Kongelige Livgarde' with them, and that all concerned were hugely impressed by their professionalism. Once again a notable achievement for 'B' QUEENS Company of the LONDONS was another success in winning the Courage Military Skills Trophy for the second year running, beating 33 other teams from the London TA in the process.

This summer 6/7 PWRR was heavily committed to a major Reserve Forces event, the Confédération Inter Alliée des Officiers Réserves (CIOR), which was held in Brighton in Sussex and the Battalion acted as the major UK host and co-ordinator with their usual style and energy, for which they received many plaudits.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 1998 7TH MIDDLESEX MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

On Sunday 8 November 1998, 7th Battalion Old Comrades and Members of the Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (Middlesex Branch) joined B (Queen's Regiment) Company of the London Regiment for the Annual Remembrance Service in the Parish Church of St. Mary with St George in Hornsey and were welcomed by the Rector, The Reverend Geoffrey Seabrook MA.

Following the Act of Remembrance, wreaths were laid before the altar of the Memorial Chapel on behalf of the 7th Middlesex Officer's Club, the 7th Battalion Comrades, the Middlesex Branch of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and B (Queen's Regiment) Company of the London Regiment.

At the end of the Service, the new Standard of the Middlesex Regiment was presented to the Branch by Mrs W.M. Taylor, OBE, DL and blessed by the Rector.

The detachment from B Company and the Old Comrades marched back to Hornsey TA Centre and the Salute was taken by Mrs Taylor accompanied by the Rector and Major Ayling.

On the return to the TA Centre, Mrs Taylor opened the new 7th Middlesex Museum Rooms and toured the Museum.

OFFICER'S CLUB

The Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the Officer's Mess, The London Regiment, St. John's Hill, Battersea, London SW11, on Thursday 5 November 1997.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were: Major K.S. Ayling, London Regiment, Mr J.H.G. Dix, Mrs W.M. Taylor DL, Mr F. Taylor, F/O J. Rook, Mr. N. Young, Mr T. Young.

The following members attended:- Col I.D. Brotherton, Lieut A.A.W. Dix, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S. le M. Enthoven, Lt-Col P.J. Hall, Major D. Harwood, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Lieut S.B. Hurst, Rev T. Hutton, Capt J.K. Laurence, Major C.L. Lawrence, Major R.J. Leighton, Major D. Margand, Lieut P.J. Ottino, Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Capt G.J. Young.

The following members expressed their regret for not being able to attend and send greetings to all their friends:

Rev R. Brown, Major A.B. Carter, Major P.D.F. Clarke, Major H. Crouch, Capt J.R.W. Fisher, Capt P.J.T. Lane, Col A.M. Man, Lieut J. McMaster, Lt-Col M.C. Mercer, Mr M.H.D. Milne, Cat K. Murray, Major E.J. Nash, Major G.G. Norton, Lieut J. Phillips, Major B St G.A. Reed, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Capt P.A. Stockten, Major R.F. Skyes, Lieut J.A. van de Pol, Lt-Col G. Webber.

8th Bn THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.)

Colonel Ian Brotherton has submitted the following item of regimental news for publication in the newsletter.

The War Memorial for members of the battalion of the 8th Bn The Middlesex Regiment consisted of a number of oak panels, on which were inscribed the name of all ranks who were killed in both the 1914-1918 and the 1939-1945 wars. These panels were sited in the entrance of the T.A. Drill Hall in Hounslow, which is being demolished.

The panels have been removed for safe keeping, and will be installed elsewhere when a suitable site can be found.

Owing to the size of the panels it is unlikely that a site can be found in Hounslow. The Hounslow Branch of the Regimental Association have had a glass covered case and brass plaque made, which will be installed in St. Paul's Church in Hounslow in December. The names of all those which were on the panels have been inscribed in a Memorial Book. The Branch are proposing to hold a brief Dedication Service in the church, followed by a reunion, in the early part of 1999. Will all Diehards who would like more information so that they can attend, telephone either Mike Ward on 0181 759 2960, or Ian Brotherton on 01202 886887, after 1 January 1999.

9th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.), T.A. OFFICERS ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

The thirteenth annual luncheon took place on Thursday 4 June 1998 at the Royal Overseas League, St. James's Place, SW1 Major Derek Littlejohn was in the chair and Major R.E.B. Morris, M.B.E. was the guest.

The lunch was attended by D.E. Dowlen, J.R. Doyle, D.S. Herriot, P.W.S. Hodge, E.C. Howkins, A.M.H. Jones, D.V. Littlejohn, J.K.E. Slack.

Major Littlejohn proposed the Loyal Toast. David Dowlen toasted "Absent Friends" making particular mention of Dr. Ben Davis who had died only one week earlier. Ben was a regular attender at the annual lunch and his wife wrote to say that, despite frequent visits to hospital, he had anticipated joining us yet again this year. R.I.P.

David Dowlen read the text of her Majesty's reply to loyal greetings sent to her on behalf of the Officers of the Regiment. John Doyle had received sundry messages from the following officers who were unable to attend but forwarded their good wishes for an enjoyable celebration: Peter Cundy, Don Bond, Bernard Drabble, Harry Hanson, Ralph Hughs, Tony Hunt, Doc McGregor, Cliff Sanderson, Tufty Sayers, James Talbot, David Tomlins, Bob Wheatley, Robin Willoughby.

Several of these officers expressed their determination to attend next year's luncheon, scheduled for Wednesday 19 May 1999. Indeed, they gave the impression of tilting at the limitations of age. Meanwhile, Bill Hodge is still determined to complete a round of golf with a score less than his years - when he reaches his century - a laudable ambition. Derek Herriott has joined the ranks of the retired and Judge John Slack retires next February. This year the Overseas League anticipated our need for seating in the ante room - to everyone's delight. There was a comfortable interchange of news - with appropriately little reference to physical failings.

Good wine and an excellent menu once again made for an enjoyable and gastronomically rewarding occasion. Here's to 1999 with the hope that our number will increase, emphasising that we are indeed 'Diehards'.

MIDDLESEX AND 10th QUEEN'S TERRITORIAL TRUST CHATEL CHARITIES

The Trustees have been concerned for some time about the storage and safe keeping of the silver and other chattels in the event of the Hornsey and Edgware Drill Halls being closed or there being no Successor Unit. With SDR, this concern is now urgent.

Accordingly, the Trustees have approached the Charity Commissioners who have agreed that the Trustees may vary the terms of the Chattel Charities, embodied in the Principal Scheme sealed on the 2nd September 1985, by a resolution to allow them to pass silver and other chattels to the National Army Museum.

Discussions will take place shortly with the Director of the National Army Museum to determine the future of the collection and agree procedures. It is envisaged that the National Army Museum will agree that certain items of silver and other chattels will be left on 'long loan' in the present locations where this is possible and continue to be exhibited and used as at present. The historical items not required for display in the present locations will be retained by the museum and exhibited with their collection as appropriate.

In due course, a number of items of no particular historical or sentimental value will be sold at a public auction. It is intended that details of any such auction will be publicised in the Die Hard but in any event, the Trustees will ensure that anyone who wishes to have details will be advised. Initially, all enquires should be addressed to the Trustees c/o the Regimental Secretary.

LEGION du HONNEUR CEREMONIES JACK FRANCIS

Jack Francis, a 100 years old last September, accompanied by his family went to the Imperial War Museum on Saturday 7 November 1998 to receive his Legion du Honneur, Knight Class from the French Ambassador at a simple but dignified service. They then went on to the Albert Hall as guests of the Royal British Legion to take part in the afternoon ceremony to remember the fallen.

On 11 November 1998, as guests of the Daily Express, Jack and his family went across to Belgium to observe the two minutes silence at the St. Symphorien Military Cemetery situated just three miles from Mons, a place he returned to after the War to work with the War Graves Commission to exhume, identify and rebury the dead in this beautiful cemetery. A task that took some six years to complete. Within the cemetery there is a special section containing 46 graves to remember the Middlesex Regiment. Other Regimental Graves are located elsewhere in the Cemetery.



The Regiment on 2 September was represented at the hundredth birthday of Jack Francis by Ron and Betty Morris and Fred Thomas. The Social Services Department of Kingston Council laid on a very enjoyable buffet lunch for family and friends at the Hobkirk House Day Centre in New Malden. Ms Jenny Webb, Director of Community Care Services for the Council read out and presented messages of congratulations from Her Majesty the Queen and from the Minister for Social Services. Ron Morris presented a suitably engraved Regimental Plaque from the Members of the Association. Jack enlisted as a drummer boy in 1913 and initially saw service in India. He arrived in France in 1915 and was present at the battles of Mons, The Somme, Passchendaele, Ypres and Cambrai. He was wounded twice firstly in the leg and subsequently in the arm. He returned to the front on each occasion after spells in hospital. Due to the appalling casualties suffered by the Regiment after the Somme his Battalion was disbanded and the survivors were used as reinforcements for the Essex Regiment and he served for the rest of the War with that Regiment. After the War, Jack worked for a time with the War Graves Commission in France principally in St Sanphorien, Mauberge, near to the Belgium battlefield of Mons. He moved back to UK in 1925 but maintained his contacts in Europe as he married a Belgian lady, Suzanne in 1933. During World War Two he volunteered for Civil Defence Duties and he took part in heavy rescue work during the London Blitz. He is a staunch member of the Royal British Legion and was still collecting for the poppy appeal at the age of 96.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 1998

On Thursday 5 November 1998 Major Ron Morris planted crosses on behalf of the Regimental Association in our plot at the Westminster Field of Remembrance. He also planted a large badged Regimental Cross in the Far East Prisoners of War Association Plot in memory of our Members who were prisoners of the Japanese from 1941 to 1945.

The Field of Remembrance was formally opened by HM The Queen Mother at 11.30 a.m. This year she personally visited each plot and spoke to many of those present. She walked among the plots for some one and a half hours a quite remarkable performance for one in her 98th year.

Several members of the Regiment were present and supported the Secretary at this very moving occasion.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE ON SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 1998 AT THE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL

It is very pleasing to see that the number attending our annual service of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the Middlesex Guildhall is increasing year by year. Brig. Tony Pielow in his opening remarks made a point of mentioning that many travel quite a long way to be there and he thanked them for doing so.

The Service was conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, Vicar of St. Nicholas's Church Chiswick and Honourary Chaplain to the Middlesex Regimental Association. The lesson taken from the Philippians Chapter 4v 4 - 8 was read by Brigadier Tony Pielow who also gave the Exhortation and laid a Middlesex Badged poppy wreath. The card on the wreath said "From the President, Chairman and Members of the Middlesex Regimental Association - To the memory of our Diehard Comrades who made the supreme sacrifice 1755 to 1966".

After the Service a glass of sherry or orange juice provided by the Association and light refreshments provided by Betty Morris were enjoyed by all before leaving for home.

CENOTAPH MUSTER WHITEHALL

Another wet and windy day for the 24 members of the Association who paraded a Horse Guard on Remembrance Sunday together with members of the other forebear regiments of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the Hong Kong Volunteers for the Annual Service and March Past. Although we are all getting older no one fell out and all coped both with the long period of standing, in the rain, and the march afterwards. Well done.

After the parade lunch at the Duke of York's Club, Chelsea was laid on by the City and London Branch (Queen's) of PWRR Association. A generous subsidy from the RHQ in Canterbury helped members meet the cost of the meal. All present expressed the hope that, notwithstanding the re-organisation of the TA, the venue for lunch would be available to us for next year's parade and muster.

REMEMBRANCE PARADE, MILL HILL

The Members of the Enfield Branch were able to provide 53 members to attend the Service of Remembrance at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. The Service was conducted by Sister Joan Henley in the Royal Logistics Corps Chapel and then the congregation marched to the War Memorial where a further short service was held and wreaths were laid both from the Association and the RLC. After the service the Commanding Officer of the Postal and Courier Depot RLC kindly provided lunch for all those attending in the Junior Ranks Club.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRENTFORD PARADE TO REDEDICATE THE BRENTFORD WAR MEMORIAL

The Brentford Branch of the Royal British Legion held on Sunday 1 November 1998, in the presence of Field Marshall The Lord Brammall, HM Lord Lieutenant for Greater London and Countess Mountbatten of Burma Colonel in Chief of the Princess Patricia Light Infantry of Canada, a Service of Rededication of the War Memorial at Brentford Library. Among those present were Military Representatives from the Canadian High Commission, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant for Hounslow and Mayor and Mayoress of Hounslow. The Service to add the names of Sergeant Robert Spall VC, PPCLI killed in action in France in 1918, Royal Marine Lewis Anthony Heard RM killed in action in Korea in 1951 and Bandsman Lawrence Kevin South RGJ who gave his life in 1982 at the Regents Park Bandstand, was conducted by Reverend Derek Simpson.

Representatives from the regiment were Brigadier Brian Marciandi, Major Ron Morris, Mr Mike Ward parading with the Hounslow Branch Standard, and eight members of the Hounslow Branch, namely Messrs Bartholomew, Garrett, Morgan, Patterson, Raby, Richardson, Stunt and Wells.

Members will recall that the Middlesex Regiment were allied with the Princess Patricia's Light Infantry of Canada.

THE VICTORIAN MILITARY SOCIETY (THE DIEHARD COMPANY)

The Victorian Military Society are celebrating Albuhera Day on Sunday the 16 May 1999 at Dover Castle. There will be a Drum Head Service followed by a Parade of the Diehard Company where the Inspecting Officer will be our President Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow JP. The full programme is not yet firm but there will be various displays covering both the 57th and the 77th Regiments of Foot. Further information will be

sent out in March when we invite members to attend both the Annual Albuhera Service and the All Ranks Reunion.

On the same day the PWRR/Queens Regimental Museum are holding their open day to coincide with the Diehard Company activities. Both events should be well worth attending.

A party from the 1/7th Bn OCA went across, in July 1998 to Culverville in Normandy (in 1944 a small village but now a town of about 2000 people) to be present at the unveiling of the MMG Memorial positioned in the Hallway of the Marie (Town Hall). After the Ceremony the party went to the Rainville Military Cemetery to lay wreaths from the Regiment and the 51st Highland Division on the graves of Sgt M. Luxton and Pte M. Philbin. Lunch then followed hosted by the Culverville Battalion of the Parachute Regiment headed by Major Bill Mills.

Those representing the regiment were Major Alan Carter, Sgt Jeff Hayward MM, Cpl Denis Daly and Pte Bill Jones together with Neil Barber, nephew of Jeff Hayward, who kindly acted as the driver for the visit.

At the conclusion of the various ceremonies the military members who attended were presented with a Diploma and Medal of Honour by the Department of Calvados.

LEGION OF HONOUR PRESENTATION

The presentation of the Legion of Honour to Bill Hatcher, one of our First World War Veterans, took place on the 2 December 1998 at St Mary's Residential Home in Bexley. The Deputy Mayor of Bexley, Cllr Liz French together with Mr Trevor Dale the Royal British Legion County Field Officer for London Metropolitan (South) made the presentation. Representing the Regiment were Messrs Tony Loft, Nick Hutley and Bob Gilbertson. After the ceremony the Royal British Legion together with the family held a small reception for those attending. Mrs Shelia Floodgate, Bill's niece contacted the Secretary on the 3 December to say what a wonderful day they all had and how much the family appreciated assistance given to them by the Regimental Association to lay the event on.

PRESENTATION AT THE BBC

A party from the 1/7th OCA consisting of Major Alan Carter, Sgt Jeff Howard and Cpl Denis Daly were invited to the BBC Club Room in London on the 10 October 1998 by Marcus Davidson (retired BBC Photographer and Reporter) to be presented with a copy of a video he has produced covering the ceremony of the unveiling of the MMG in Culverville on the 18 July 1998. Sadly a copy sent to Bill Jones in hospital arrived the day he died so he was unable to see it but Bill's family have been in contact to say how much they appreciated both the thought and the video.

ABC

1/7th Bn OCA PILGRIMAGE TO HOLLAND

A party from the 1/7th OCA led by Major Alan Carter joined the 51st Highland Division Pilgrimage to the 1944/45 liberated districts of Holland that took place from the 4 to 10 May 1998.

The programme was:-

Met at Schipol Airport at 1500 hours on 4 May

From there by coach to Mook staying the night there taking part in a Church Service during the evening at nearby Mils Beek where a Regimental wreath was laid. Met many Dutch friends from previous pilgrimages including Mrs Verschuren widow of our honorary Dutch Sgt interpreter Gerry Verschuren.

5 May. Proceeded by coach to Wageningen for the Dutch National Liberation Day Parade for Dutch Veterans led by Prince Bernhard. A sell out event marred for us by the collapse of the Gordon Highlander carrying the 51st Highland Division Standard. Taken to hospital for a three week stay but is now safely back in England with his family.

6 May. In Haaren a wreath being laid in Schijndel where the statue of the HD Piper is now in place. A social evening was enjoyed by all in the Den Bartel Community Centre many old contacts being remade.

7 May. On to Vught where we were received by a one time Major Freddie Graaft who took us to the newly established Scottish Room in the Town Hall which houses many mementoes of the war including a framed photograph taken in 1945 of a group of 1/7th Officers together with all the Battalion Warrant Officers & Sergeants.

8 May. On to Dinxperlo where we stayed for two days. This was our first visit to Dinxperlo which is right on the border with Germany and saw some very fierce fighting where 22 lives were lost. Had a very interesting time visiting various locations and making contact. Laid a wreath in the old churchyard where some men from the 51st are buried.

9 May. Moved on to Isselburg for a memorial service in the German Church there. This is where Major General Thomas Rennie was killed on the 24th March 1945 when visiting the Black Watch. We also went on this day to Empel, Groin, Speldrop and Ressa followed in the late afternoon by a Service in the Dutch Reformed Church where a plaque was unveiled containing the names of the 22 HD soldiers killed there after which 22 doves were released by the children to honour the deaths.

10 May. Depart Schindel Airport for UK.

D DAY EVENTS NORMANDY JUNE 1999

We have been advised that it is likely that the 55th Anniversary of D Day will attract a larger military presence in Normandy in June 1999 with, it is hoped, a larger contingent of Normandy Veterans. It has been suggested that, in common with other Regiments who parade and march as a Regimental Contingent, that we the Middlesex do the same. To arrange this we need to know (a) those who are members of the NVA and (b) those who intend going to Normandy in 1999.

The Secretary would be pleased to receive this information from those who would wish to join a Diehard Contingent on parade.

KOREAN CLUB

The Korean Club held its 19th A.G.M./Reunion at the Victory Services Club on the 12 September 1998 with over 60 members and their wives in attendance, together with two widows of past members. It was particularly pleasing to note the presence of seven or eight members attending for the first time. This gave us the opportunity of meeting these old pals for the first time since 1951. As can well be imagined a number of the exploits we experienced in Korea were discussed at some length!

The membership of the Korean Club covers a real cross section of veterans which was emphasised by the attendance at the reunion of at least three retired Colonels and by many ex private soldiers. The comradeship among all ranks is something we are really proud of.

JAL

ENFIELD SHOW

The Enfield Branch for the second year running erected, with the assistance of the Postal and Courier Unit at Mill Hill, a Command Post Tent to take part in the Enfield Show held on the 19 and 20 of September 1998 in Enfield Park. As before they moved a large proportion of their artifacts from the Albuhera Room at the Royal British Legion and set up a worthwhile exhibition for all to see. Vic Beach and Pete Bartlett, with assistance from many members of the Branch, were the main organisers. Despite some aggravation from a lady from Amnesty International which they took in their stride, they intend, all being well, to be showing the flag on behalf of the Regiment at the Show again in 1999.

2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL LUNCHEON

A very successful 2/7th Bn Reunion Luncheon was held at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch on Thursday 1st October 1998 with a total attendance including guests of 90.

Lieut Colonel R.E. Robotham returned to the Chair the gathering with toasts to HM The Queen, The Guests, Absent Friends together with a minutes silence for our fallen comrades.

Our invited guests included Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow, Colonel I.D. Brotherton, Major R.E.B. Morris and Major D. Harwood. Comrades attended from far and wide in the UK and from farther afield, Joe Bird (USA), Ben Simmonds (South Africa) and John McLaughlan (Spain).

Fred Phillips following the toasts gave mention of those unable to attend and who sent best wishes to all including Bob Hebden (New Zealand), Harold Kneebone (South Africa together with Colonel J.C. Stevens, Colonel D.R.W. Thomas, Captain H.W. Archibald, Mrs E. Fairhead, Cyril House, Stan Knight, and many others who kindly wrote to him.

With regret we mention that Ron Jenkins on leaving the Luncheon collapsed in the Victory Club and was taken to St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, where he died. Our hearts and thoughts go out to Mrs Jenkins, who was with him at the luncheon, and also to his family.

Fred Phillips in conclusion gave particular thanks for the great support given by the members to the luncheon. He said it makes his job worthwhile and reminded them all that next year being a special year he is aiming for a bumper turn out. Note the date in your diaries now, Thursday 7 October 1999.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Major David Falcke is still working at HQ Land (UKLF) doing media on a 2 year TA Commission until January 1999. He also sent information on Sgt Major Richard McAndrews who is shortly retiring. He was originally from Templemore in County Tipperary and living in Acton, London, when he enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment in October 1964. He has seen his cap badge change twice - to the Queen's Regiment and finally to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Not surprising for an infantryman Sgt Major McAndrews has always taken a keen interest in shooting and has more than 200 trophies to his name. He has been classed among the top 100 Army rifle and submachine gun marksmen and has represented the Service and Great Britain at Bisley. In his time Sgt Major McAndrews has also been Northern Ireland Sniper champion and has held three gold medals for target shooting. He is now moving back to Northern Ireland with his wife Maureen, and the couple take with them the very best wishes from their many friends in JHQ.

* * * * *

Major Alan Tyson-Carter retired during August 1998 from his appointment as British Liaison Officer, Hameln, after 6 years in the post. On 1 September 1998, he left with his father to sail around the world with twelve-metre long yacht 'KARMA' which in Hindu means 'Fate'. The passionate sailor has prepared himself well for many months

for this voyage across the seas which is not without danger. After Dover, Portsmouth and Falmouth in Great Britain the next stops are going to be Lisbon, Maderia, Tenerife, Barbados, Antigua, Aruba, Cristobal, the Panama Canal, Galapagos, Tahiti, Bora, Tonga, New Zealand and many more. Alan's parents live in New Zealand and his 73 year old father has come over from Germany some weeks ago, to help his son with difficult preparations. He is going to sail back to New Zealand. "I could not have done it all without my father," said Alan yesterday when interviewed by 'Harke'.

Earlier in the year Major Don Carson, wrote to say that his son, who is the current Trumpet Major of the Life Guards was on 19 March, after having played for a rehearsal at Sandhurst, knocked down by a van and badly injured. He is slowly making a recovery. The best wishes of all Diehards go to Don and his son.

Congratulations go out to Col John Shipster and his dear wife Corrie who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on 27 July. I am sure that all Diehards wish them well and hope that they will share many more years of happiness together.

Brigadier Tony Pielow has mentioned that he has been reading a most interesting book namely "War on the Ground" by Colin John Bruce published by Constable in 1995. Chapter 5 is particularly interesting in that on pages 86 onwards there is reference to 1st Bn Officers when POWs in Hong Kong. One name that come immediately to mind is the Padre Captain H.L.O. Davies. Well worth a read.

Mr Dave Whybrow, our former Museum Attendant at Bruce Castle, Tottenham, sends his regards to all Diehards. He now lives at Bracknell, Berks.

Major Reg Ford retired from his post with the Middlesex North West Sector of the Army Cadet League on 30 September 1998. Reg has not been well for some time having suffered a mild stroke earlier this year. We gather he is making a good recovery and is getting stronger by the day.

John Sharp (6203473) who joined the Regimental Association a short time ago is asking for news of anyone who served with A Company, 2nd Bn during the period 1938 to 1946. He can be contacted via the Secretary on 0181 949 7605.

John Girdler wrote recently enclosing a cheque for £49 as a donation to the Newsletter Fund. This represents £1 for every clock sold to Association members. Thanks John. In his letter he mentioned that he has extended his range to include badges/details of several football clubs. Members interested can inquire through the Secretary. Still only £10 each plus £2 postage and packing.

Mrs Joan McDowell widow of Captain L.G. McDowell, writes to say:

On a recent visit to a friend in Tywardreath I was invited to the Royal British Legion Club in the village. When I entered the main lounge/bar I immediately noticed the framed tapestry hanging on the wall opposite the servery. My heart stood still for I immediately recognised the insignia of the Middlesex Regiment. It was the only item on that particular wall - in a place of honour. I made diligent enquiries of those present but also no one knew how or why a London Regiment came to be so honoured in that charming and distant Cornish village. Has anyone also visited the area and do they know the answer to this enigma. I wonder? Major Frank Waldron states that many of these tapestries exist. We had at least six in our museum. It is quite possible that the maker served in the Middlesex Regiment in World War 1, was badly wounded and this hobby became good therapy. It is quite possible he or a relative donated it to the RBL.

Alf Bake (6203553), now aged 78, a former FEPOW with 1st Bn was admitted to hospital on Monday 23 November for a further operation on his left leg. He has suffered from painful ulcers for many years and this is the third operation. Removal of the leg is now a probability and sadly has now taken place.

Reg Cotton (6202683) writes from New South Wales, Australia, and very kindly enclosed 'Reveille and Vet Affairs' two very interesting newspapers about the activities and care given to the veterans of World War 2 and Vietnam etc. Reg served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru, so he can tell them a few stories.

As a matter of interest our Australian members consist of Fritz Jennings, Fred White, Ginger Tann, Charlie Bellchambers, Bill Oxley, not forgetting Colonel Tony and Elizabeth Hewitt. In New Zealand we have Bob Hebden and Blondie Phillips; in Hong Kong Taffy Evans, in Canada Lt-Col Rex Fendick and Joe Bird, in South Africa Lt-Col and Mrs Buster Carlston, H. Kneebone and B. Simmons. My apologies to those I have overlooked to mention. Do write and tell me of my sins.

Peter Wookey who served with the 1/8th Bn as a 2Lt writes to say how he enjoys attending Regimental functions and visiting the National Army Museum.

Capt D.P.L. Hodgetts, Secretary and ADC to the Lt-Governor of Guernsey, is to retire. After more than 18 years' service with successive Lt-Governors, Capt Hodgetts has decided that the time is right to seek new challenges. He first came to Government House in 1980 after 12 years in the army. After military service he spent some years dairy farming in Cornwall before returning to his Guernsey home. In his time he has been involved in the preparation and planning of 18 visits by members of the Royal Family as well as the visits of members of other European Royal families. There have also been visits by secretaries and ministers of state, Ambassadors and high commissioners among the many with whom Captain Hodgetts has been closely involved. After all this time Capt Hodgetts says that he is finding the job less of a challenge, although his affection for his role remains undiminished. He says "It has been an honour to have worked at Government House". Capt Hodgetts says 'While striving to remain in the background I have been privileged to see and learn about a wide variety of Guernsey life. He says one of the joys of the job has been the involvement of wife, Christine, in much of the work which she, too, has greatly enjoyed. Capt and Mrs Hodgetts have been actively involved with the ambulance division of St. John, the Guernsey Outward Bound Association, the Guernsey committee for the World Wide Fund for Nature and several other local charities. Capt Hodgetts has been succeeded by Colonel(Rtd) Richard Graham, MBE, a Diehard, from 12 September 1998.

Robert G. Hughes, known as Spike when serving, has written from 71 Lower Horning Road, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8S 3EG saying that he was initially with the Cheshires and then on to the 1st Bn Princess of Louises Kensington Regiment and was with them from North Africa onwards until the end of the war. He was in the Mortar Pln in D Coy as a Driver/Operator. He would like to hear from any one who remembers him.

A photograph appeared in the July 1998 Newsletter, supplied by Mrs Margaret Hoffman showing five members of 13 Mortar Platoon, D Company, 2nd Bn, asking for help in naming them. Les Howick replied and named, 2nd Alf Moore, end right John Chipperfield and 2nd right Chas Attridge. Thank you Les.

Major Pat and Kitty Donovan recently paid a visit to England from Scotland (I hope the authorities stamped his passport). They visited old friends, including Major Alan and Jill Cowan, RSM Jimmy Wild, RSM Tom and Jean McMillan and made numerous telephone calls.

Major Ian Lloyd has retired from his RO job in BAOR and will be moving to Tutshill, Chepstow. Our best wishes to Ian and we hope to see him at next years Regimental functions.

Major Bob Blayney, MC, who served with the 2nd Bn during the campaign in N.W. Europe 1944-45 and was awarded a Military Cross has joined the Regimental Association. Sadly he is now disabled with arthritis and can barely walk.

Peter Kifford informs me that his recent operation has been a success and he is looking forward to attending Regimental functions next year.

Major Ron Morris received a long letter from former Warrant Officer Cliff Shinn who with the aid of his wife runs a floral shop and nursery business which is thriving. In due course they are planning to retire to Northern Ireland. Cliff keeps in touch with Ken Beale and Tony B. Briggs.

Lt-Col Buster Carlston rang Ron Morris from South Africa on a Sunday recently to say all was well and he and Joan are enjoying life in Natal. No plans to return to the UK for the present.

Former Sgt Tony Briggs and Margot are still living in Berlin and send regards to all Diehards. They are both keeping well.

Major Alan Carter writes to say that he is in regular contact with Major Fred Mallett in New Zealand and that he regularly receives a copy of the 23rd NZ Bn Newsletter. His recent visit to NZ was publicised in a local Christchurch newspaper and Sgt Bill Phillips wrote to say he lives about half a mile away from where he was staying and that he was sorry to have missed him.

The Secretary has been advised that W.J. (Bill) Jones who served throughout World War 2 (Dunkirk onwards to the end at Bremerhaven) has donated his medals to the Parachute Regiment Museum at the Merville Battery in Normandy. They will be placed on display with, it is hoped, a war time photograph of Bill.

Frank Wooky would like to hear from his old comrades. He promises to reply to all letters.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:

267261 Major D.E. Blayney, M.C., R.E. 1940, 2 Mx Major, 1943 - 46.

23371017 Pte R.A. Berndes, 1st Bn 1957 - 59.

23359737 Pte E. Bedford, D & HQ Coy 1st Bn 1956 - 58.

14670480 Pte E.F. Byrne, A Coy 2nd Bn 1943 - 47.

6107517 Pte R.W. Child, QRR, 70 Mx, 2 Kens, 2/7th Bn 1942 - 47.

23802523 Pte R.M. Clarke, 1st Bn 1960 - 63.

22418889 Pte P.G. Feegan, Depot Mx & E. Surreys 1950 - 52 plus 4 years E. Surreys.

14348852 Cpl R. Jackson, GSC, 7 RNF & 1st Bn 1942 - 47.

6204220 Pte D.A. Marshall, C Coy 8th Bn 1937 - 46.

3531729 Pte J.H. Mort, Manchesters, 2 Kens, 2/7th Mx 1939 - 46.

14038857 Pte R.L. Rice, 2nd Bn 1945 - 48.

6203473 Pte J. Sharp, A Coy 2nd Bn 1938 - 46.

14413210 Cpl J.K. Summerlin, 70th Bn, 1st & 2nd Bns 1943 - 47.

14417453 Pte K.B. Watkinson, 1st Bn Mx & Cheshires 1943 - 45.

6206667 Pte L. Strong, B Company 2/7th Bn 1939 - 42 & then RAOC & REME.

6107516 Pte F.J. Reynolds, Mx & Cameronians 1942 - 47.

6216976 Pte H.L. Crawford, 24 MGTC, 70th Bn, 6 RF, 1942 - 43.

23581641 Pte T.M. Lloyd, 1st Bn 1958 - 60, Signal Pl.

6846526 Pte McCaffrey, 1 Kens, 1 KRRC, 1939 - 46.

23026831 Cpl K.A. Watson, C Coy 1st Bn 1954 - 56.

22022136 Pte B.A. Colebrook, B Coy 1st Bn 1948 - 50.

OBITUARIES

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

ALLEN - On 1 November 1998, Mrs Nancy Allen, widow of Colonel W.P.M. Allen, OBE, MC, aged 84 years.

ANDERSON - On 11 August 1998, Mrs Barbara Anderson, wife of (6202298) Sgt. K.G.R. Anderson, who served with the 5th and 9th Bns of the Regiment.

CLARIDGE - On 23 July 1998, Private Arthur Henry Alexander Claridge (6202358), aged 82 years.

He enlisted on 8 August 1935. After service with the 2nd Bn he was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. He was taken P.O.W. on 25 December 1941 and spent the whole of his POW days in Shamshuipo Camp, Hong Kong. He rejoined the 1st Bn during 1946 and was discharged on 21 August 1947.

COPPARD - On 13 July 1998, Cpl Reginald Andrew Coppard (6084946), aged 85 years.

He enlisted into the Regiment on 4 January 1933 and on completion of recruit training joined the 2nd Bn where he became groom to Major F.A.L. Lawrence. During late 1936 he was posted to the 1st Bn then in Singapore. He moved with the Bn to Hong Kong in August 1937 and became a POW in December 1941. He spent the majority of his POW days in No.3 Camp, Tokyo. He was a good sportsman and became the Bn Soccer goalkeeper. He also represented his Company at Cricket and Boxing. Sadly his last few years were spent in and out of hospital plus many spells of treatment at the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond. Major and Mrs C.L. Lawrence attended the funeral.

CRANFIELD - On 22 June 1998, WO2 Daniel Edward George Cranfield (6480606), aged 77 years.

Danny Cranfield served with the St Helens Rifles 1939 - 45, Royal Fusiliers 1945 - 48, and the 1st Bn 1948 - 53. He was a very popular member of the 1st Bn serving in Korea with the Bn.

COX - On 22 June 1998, Sgt (Band) L.F.B. Cox (6199805).

He was Band Sgt 1st Bn and also with the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Bn. He also served with the 2/7th Bn in Italy.

GOLDMAN - On 22 September 1998, Mrs June Rose Goldman, wife of Captain A.I.F. Goldman, B.A.

HARRIS - On 16 August 1998, Cpl Harold Bert Harris (6211194), aged 80 years.

He served with the 1/7th Bn from 15 January 1940 to August 1945. He was awarded the Montgomery Certificate of Merit dated July 1944.

HEWSON - Mr S.J. Hewson died on 8 May 1998. No other details available.

He probably served with the 2nd Bn.

HORN - On 2 June 1998, Sgt John Euman Horn, (6212879), aged 78 years.

He served with D Company 1/7th Bn, from 1940 - 46. He was awarded The Croix de Guerre Bronze Star. In civilian life he was Head Hall Porter at the Bank of Scotland. A very loyal member of the Regimental Association.

JENKINS - On 3 October 1998, Private Ronald (Tubby) Jenkins who served with the 2/7th Bn 1939 - 45. His funeral took place on 12 October 1998 and was attended by Fred Phillips, Richard Mowbray, Joe Shore and Charles Bysmith. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin.

JONES - On 14 August 1998, in very tragic circumstances, Major Anthony (Tony) Mervyn Harold Jones, aged 82 years.

On 1 June 1938 he was granted a T.A. Commission and posted to the 9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment. In 1938 the Bn was renamed and became the 60th Searchlight Regiment (9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment T.A.). In August 1940 the Bn was compulsorily transferred to the Royal Regiment of Artillery. However, throughout this and subsequent conversions the link with the Middlesex Regiment remained unbroken and still has the privilege of wearing our Cap Badge and Buttons of the 'Diehards' and carrying the Colours.

Tony, a gifted rocket scientist, was appointed by General Eisenhower Supreme Allied Commander, to lead a team behind enemy lines and track down the sites from which the Germans were launching the V2. A very detailed obituary was published in the Daily Telegraph on 24 September 1998. A copy can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Major R.E.B. Morris. Tony Jones was a very happy go lucky and cheerful officer who regularly attended the annual 9th Bn Luncheon. A man who enjoyed life, who will be sadly missed by his family and all Diehards.

JONES - On 27 September 1998, Private William (Billy) James Jones (6204320), aged 78 years.

He joined the 7th Bn T.A. on 7 March 1938 and was with the 1/7th Bn from 1939 to June 1946. He was with HQ Company (Signals), A and D Companies. His medals were bequeathed to 9 Parachute Bn of 6 Airborne Division after the commemorative visit to Cuverville and Ranville Cemetery. They were given with a request that they be placed in their Merville Battery Museum and remain in France.

The funeral was attended by Frank Phipps and Ted Billington. Jeff Haward sent a wreath but was unable to attend personally due to illness. He was also a member of the Dunkirk Veterans Association, Hemel Hempstead Branch and Mr Alfred Freeman the Chairman attended.

JONES - On 3 August 1998, Private William Joseph Jones (4129431), aged 79 years.

Bill Jones served with D Company 1/8th Bn from July 1940 to March 1946.

LAXTON - On 17th October 1998, WO2 Leonard Laxton (6191641), aged 93 years.

He served with the 2nd Bn from 7 July 1919 to 7 September 1926 when he transferred to the A.P.T.C. He died at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

MOWBRAY - On 7 November 1998, Sgt Richard George Mowbray (6206588), aged 77 years.

He served with the 2/7th Bn from 1939 to 1946. Mr Fred Phillips and ten members of 2/7th attended the funeral. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin.

PETTET - On 15 July 1998, Private Reginald Pettet. He served with the 2/8th Bn resuscitated 1st Bn 1939-45. He was batman to the late Colonel W.D. Ellis. His claim to fame was his artistic ability and his prolific productions of drawings on the theme "Women out of Uniform". Informant CSM R.R.P. Chapman (6207747), CSM A Company 1st Bn.

RAVENSCROFT - On 10 May 1998, SSgt Frederick George Ravenscroft (6196919), aged 87 years.

He was always known as George and enlisted as a Boy soldier and joined the Corps of Drums of the 1st Bn serving in Palestine, Moascar, Singapore and Hong Kong. He returned to UK during 1940. Service with the MPSC 1942-47, Mx 1947-49 and finally RASC as a WO2, 1949-54 followed. George was a staunch member of the Regimental Association. He was tall, smart and immaculately dressed.

POINTON - On 20 July 1998, Gunner John Maken Pointon, (14370006), aged 74 years.

He was a member of the 9th Bn and served from 1942-47 with D Troop, 429 Battery, 126 Lt AA R.A. 9th Bn.

PREVETT - On 17 June 1998, Capt Martel Ivan Prevett, aged 79 years.

He served with the 2/7th Bn. No other details available.

PRICE - On 12 June 1998, Sgt William George Price (6199283).

He served with the 2nd Bn and was severely wounded in France in 1940. He was discharged on medical grounds. Bill Rawlinson and Sid Chandler attended the funeral.

WALLIS - On 14 September 1998, Major E.L. Wallis. He was Adjutant to the 1/7th Bn during September 1939. No other details available.

WHYBROW - Capt John Whybrow was born in 1913 and joined The Middlesex Regiment in 1929, serving at the Depot and in the 1st Battalion. He returned from Singapore as a Lance Corporal in 1937, and joined the Police Force. He was called up as a Reservist at the beginning of the 1939-46 and was posted to the 2/7th Bn The Middlesex Regiment, becoming a Sergeant Instructor in the newly formed Territorial Battalion.

I was posted to the same Battalion as a 2nd Lieut. M.G. Platoon Commander in June 1940 and met him when we were both defending the Isle of Wight, before moving up to Scotland at the beginning of July 1940. John was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in 1941 and was posted to the 1/8th Battalion, who were in Wiston House at Steyning in Sussex. We again served together, as I was posted to the Battalion as the Signal Officer. The Battalion was the Machine Gun Battalion of the 43rd Wessex Division, and we moved around the coastline defending Kent and Sussex. We frequently shared

a billet and John was my best man when I married Margaret on 30th June 1943. During the campaign in North-West Europe I continued as the Signal Officer while John was a M.G. Platoon Commander in "C" Company. The Regimental History notes that at the end of January 1945 "Captain J.H.H. Whybrow, the intrepid leader of No. 9 Platoon, became Second-in-Command of "A" Company. He was Mentioned in Despatches in 1945. After VE day the Battalion moved to Lüchow, near Celle, and John was posted away on extra regimental duties. In 1949 he transferred to the Royal Air Force Regiment and served with them as a Flight Lieutenant. On 23rd November 1954 I had the great pleasure of acting in turn as his best man when he married Pamela, who was then a Wing Commander. He finally became a civilian in 1957. Pamela and John then had an Antique Shop in Thatcham, where John made great use of his skill as a cabinet maker in restoring old furniture.

I was greatly saddened to hear that he had died in November 1997. John was a great friend and comrade, and seemed quite unperturbed in action. His friends of all ranks will have many happy memories of being with him.

Ian Brotherton.

THE SOCIETY OF THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

The Friends of the National Army Museum are arranging two visits in the coming year that may be of interest. They are:-

From the 18 to 22 March to the Musee de l'Armee, Paris and to the Hindenburg Line.

From the 29 April to the 12 May to the Americal Civil War Battlefields.

Members requiring further information should contact the Association Secretary.

VISIT TO HONG KONG

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association (UK Branch) are running a trip to Hong Kong during the first week of November 1999. They suggest a minimum stay of 7 nights in Hong Kong. They have extended an invitation to members of the Middlesex Regiment and their families to join the party. The programme is not yet firm but initial discussions indicate that there will be:-

A visit to the Museum of Coastal Defence at Lyemun.

An evening at the races, i.e. Association's Club House at HKJC Happy Valley.

A visit to a training period of the HK Adventure Corps at High Island, New Territories.

Dinner with Association Members.

Attendance at Remembrance Sunday Parade on Hong Kong Island.

Visit to Sai Wan and Stanley Military Cemeteries as requested.

Those interested can obtain further information from Major Ron Morris on 0181 949 7605.

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.

Blazer Badges £ 7.00 each

Car Badges (good quality) £10.00 each

Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental
emblazon £27.00 each

Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon & Old Gold £ 5.50 each

Ties Regtl New Pattern £ 4.00 each

Ties Officers' Club Silk £12.50 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
small £ 4.50 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 Blazer Button (Flat staybright with
engraved Middlesex Badge)
Sets of 6 large & 6 small £22.00 set
Individual buttons large or small £ 2.00 each

Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links £ 7.50 per pair

Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links with tie grip £10.50 set

Tie Grip only £ 5.00 each

Middlesex Regiment Ladies Brooch £ 4.75 each

Middlesex Tie Tack and Chain £ 4.50 each

BOOKS

Captain Michael Brock, who served with the 2/7th Bn from 1941 to October 1945, is heavily involved with the writing of the 8 volume Nineteenth Century OXFORD Part 1. He is also the senior editor for Volume 7, and contributed an Epilogue of 15,000 words to Volume 8 (which appeared in 1994). That epilogue brought the story to 1990; it covered, roughly, my own years on the University Council (1970-1990). His full title in civil life is now, Dr M.G. Brock, CBE, MA, Hon D Litt, FR Hist's, FRSL.

He sends good wishes for Christmas and beyond to all his Diehard friends.

Recent Books by Patrick Delaforce.

Members may be interested to know that Patrick Delaforce has published three further books in his series of Military Histories. They are:-

Red Crown and Dragon (53rd Welsh Division in North West Europe 1944-45)
(Cost £12.50)

Monty's Marauders (Black Rat and Red Fox - 4th & 8th Armoured Brigades in WWII) (Cost £11.00)

Churchill's Secret Weapons (Cost £14.50)

Enquiries to Patrick Delaforce, 2 Hamilton Rd, Brighton, BN1 5DL (01273 564372)

BOOKS

Captain Michael Brock, who served with the 27th Bn from 1941 to October 1945, is closely involved with the writing of the 8 volume Nineteenth Century OXFORD Field 1. He is also the senior editor for Volume 7, and contributed an Epilogue of 10,000 words to Volume 8 (which appeared in 1994). That epilogue brought me down to 1970, I stopped, musing my own years on the University Council (1970-1983). His 2,200 words led me to now, Dr M.G. Brock, CBE, MA, Hon D Litt, FR HistS, FRCGS.

He sends good wishes for Christmas and beyond to all his Oxford friends.

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Members may be interested to know that Patrick Delahere has published three further books in his series of Military Histories. They are:

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