



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 82

December 1999

Price £1



Major A E F (Frank) Waldron MBE
(1914 - 1999)

Major Frank Waldron died on the 21st of September 1999 and was buried alongside his wife Grace on the 28th of September. A full obituary follows in this newsletter.

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.B. Morris, MBE,
38 Traps Lane, New Malden,
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Editor : Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE.

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 you all in the coming Millennium year.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

FORECAST OF EVENTS

2000

- Feb (TBC) 51st HD Pilgrimage to Gennop (Holland) - (details can be obtained from the Secretary)
- 6 March Executive Committee Meeting at 1400 hrs followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting - location to be confirmed but likely to be the TAVRA Conference Room at the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea.
- 22 April Annual Luncheon 1/7th Bn - Hornsey TA Centre.
- 11-18 May Hounslow Branch visit to Elvas & Albuhera
- 12 May Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner - Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall SW1.
- 13 May Albuhera Service - Regimental Chapel - St Paul's Cathedral at 1500 hours.
- 13 May All ranks Millennium Reunion Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, commencing at 1830 hours - AGM at 1930 hours.
- 4-12 June 51st HD Pilgrimage to St Valery - (details can be obtained from the Secretary).
- 8 or 15 June
(TBC) 9th Bn Officers' Annual Luncheon - Royal Overseas League, St James's Place, SW1.

- 10 June Laying up of Colours 5 Queen's - Dover Castle.
- 5 October 2/7th Bn Annual Reunion Luncheon - Victory Services Club.
- 28 October Laying up of Colours 6/7 Queen's - Chichester Cathedral.
- 9 November 7th Bn Officers' Club Dinner.
- 9 November Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 1030 hours for 1100 hours, planting of crosses in the Regimental and FEPOW Plots.
- 11 November Ceremony of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) assemble at 1030 hours.
- 11 November 7th Bn Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey, London N8. Assemble at 1000 hours.
- 11 November Annual Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. Assembling at the Barracks at 1000 hours.

1. Donations since last Meeting.

Friends of St Paul's	£25	
Enfield Branch	£150	(towards cost of coach - 3 PWRR colour presentation Ardingly)
Presentation - engraved plaque/ key rings	£62.50	(Rendsburg and Albuhera)
Liberating Scots Trust	£100	(1/7th Bn - 51 HD 1939 - 1945)
2/7th OCA	£50	(further contribution towards annual lunch)
Hounslow Branch	£500	(Book of Remembrance St Paul's Hounslow - Executive Ctte Meeting of 1 March 99 refers)

2. Bequests/Donations Received

Inland Rev (Tax Refund)	£2347	(Main Assn Account)
Inland Rev (Tax Refund)	£517	(Militia Account)
Mrs P M Chattey	£1000	(in memory of Col T W Chattey OBE)
Estate of Col P T Hall OBE TD	£1000	
2/7th Bn Luncheon collection	£40	(T Brown's box)
In memory of Maj A E F Waldron		
MBE	£920	(£425 to Pilgrims Hospice)
TAVRA (GL)	£200	(grant towards the cost of the move of 8th Bn Memorial)

Lt W C C Newton £50 in memory of his grandfather Lt Col W C. Newton and his father Maj W C Newton

A W J Brown £50

3. Benevolent Grants 31 Dec 98 to Nov 99

Grants made to individuals	£13070	£12095
Less ABF Grants	£7890	£6282
Net	£5090	£5813

COLONEL A M MAN DSO OBE.

Colonel Andrew Man has arranged for the decorations and medals he so proudly wears to be given, when his time is "up", to the Regimental Association for display in the National Army Museum with the rest of the Regimental Memorabilia.

There, all who were on active service with him in the 1/7th Battalion 1943 - 1945 (Hemel Hempstead via Normandy to Nijmegen) and in the 1st Battalion 1950 - 1951 (Korea) will, when they see them, doubtless recall, with justified pride, the part they each played in the "Diehard" team to which the decorations were awarded.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

The past few months have been an interesting time for the Regiment. The thought and the threat of operational deployment was never far from the surface, in the end no move was made by the Battalions only individual attachments. The full impact of the Strategic Defence Review (SDR) has now taken effect and the new Territorial Battalion - 3 PWRR started its new life on the 1 July 1999.

The First Battalion based in Canterbury was on Spearhead from March until May. They were also lead TALO (Tactical Air Landed Operation) for 5 Brigade but never deployed. It seems to be the trend that although Spearhead is at 24 hrs notice to move, it's always somebody else who moves and Spearhead are kept in reserve - rather defeats the object! The Battalion however did deploy to the operation in Kosovo a composite group of 12 All Ranks, who were attached to 5 Brigade. Other elements of the Battalion have also deployed to various parts of Europe and North America on training and training support tasks. B(GRC) Company deployed to the Falkland Islands in July for a 6 month tour. When they return the Gurkhas will remain in Canterbury.

In December 99 the 1st Battalion Arms Plot from Canterbury to Tidworth and re-role to Armoured Infantry. The Gurkhas will then be attached to the 1st Battalion the Royal Irish who arrive in Canterbury. 1 PWRR will be complete in Bhurtore Barracks by 10 December 1999. We will be lucky, as a Regiment to have both Battalions in the same garrison at the end of this year.

The Second Battalion is based in Mooltan Barracks. The Battalion spent the first half of this year deployed to Northern Ireland in Belfast. This was a difficult tour as soldiers were being pulled off the streets but having to remain in their bases "just in case" any back-up to the RCU was required. They returned in May with the threat of re-deployment (if help was required) to cover the marching season. They left most of their Saxon vehicles behind. In the end re-deployment did not take place much to the relief of all concerned.

B Company completed an excellent month of public duties in London and C Company deployed to Belize to carry out Jungle Training. The Battalion has settled down in Tidworth and is enjoying the life in a large Garrison town.

The Third Battalion came into existence on the 1 July 99. There was a large presentation of Colours parade at Ardingly (South of England Showground). The Colonel-in-Chief presented the new Colours. It was an excellent day and the Battalion performed to an exceptionally high standard. Occasions such as this are sometimes tinged with sadness and this was so as we said goodbye to the 5th and 6/7th Battalions. There have been Drill Hall Closures and redundancies. We still have a company in the London Regiment and in the Royal Rifle Volunteers. We now look ahead.

THE GRAND REUNION JULY 2000

We regret to have to tell you that the Grand Reunion scheduled for the 16th of July at Tidworth has had to be postponed to the year 2001. There are two arms plot moves starting on the 16th of July 2000 which means that both the 1st and 2nd Battalions would not have been available. We should be aware of the new date and the location in time for the next newsletter to be published in June 2000.

49 YEARS ON

The Korean Veterans Association held an international reunion in London from 19-22 July. There were delegations of varying sizes from each of the 22 nations that took part in the Korean War 1950-53.

The first event on Monday was a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral. The standards of each nation were paraded, the Dean gave the address and wreaths were laid on the Korean War Memorial in the Crypt. During the latter Charles Bogart, an old friend from the Argylls, played "The Flowers of the Forest" on his pipes. Altogether it was a very moving occasion.

The Die-Hards party was headed by our former Commanding Officer, Colonel Andrew Man, DSO, OBE - 92 years young and looking as smart and spry as ever. Others present included Major Chris Lawrence MC, Major Barry Reed CBE, MC, Bob Gilbertson, Ken Hewitt, Tony Lofts, Mick Mulvaney, Allan Wilson and Eileen Warner (widow of the late Jack).

From St. Paul's all adjourned to an excellent buffet lunch in the Banqueting Hall and Old Library at Guildhall. It gave everyone a great opportunity to meet and talk to the veterans of the visiting nations as well as to old friends. Judging by the decibels, all present much enjoyed themselves.

A number of Chelsea Pensioners attended, one of whom introduced himself as the Battalion's ACC Sergeant in Hong Kong prior to the departure for Korea. A happy surprise.

On the Tuesday all were invited to a Garden Party at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Most of us who were at the Cathedral came along together with Tony Legg, Bob Yerby and several of our ladies. It was also a pleasure to see Harry Spicer who had travelled over from his home in New South Wales. Congratulations to Harry on his award of the Order of Australia.

It was another happy event although some of us did get a nasty shock when, in arriving, only 20 minutes after the opening time, we were told the beer had run out. However, despite the warmth of the afternoon, it did not spoil our enjoyment too much!

Wednesday was the day of the big parade on Horseguards when HRH the Duke of Kent took the salute. The Die-Hard Contingent included Major Barry Reed, Messrs Cook, Hewitt, Mulvaney, Wilson and A.N. Other, and they marched together in the same file.

Forming up in Wellington Barracks, the standard bearers came first followed by two large British contingents, an old Commonwealth group, a section of other nationalities, the South Koreans and lastly the very smart US delegation resplendent in straw planters' hats. The marching went with a swing under the eagle eye of the Garrison RSM and backed up by the steady beat of the band of the Welsh Guards.



Who said we disliked the Yanks!

Happy group of Die-Hards at Royal Hospital, Chelsea on Tuesday, 20 July.

L to R standing: Tony Lofts, Ken Hewitt, Tony Legg, Mick Mulvaney, Bob Gilbertson.

L to R sitting: Col. Andrew Man, Barry Reed, Bob Yerby.

Drawn up and ready for inspection 700 strong, HRH only passed round the front rank but he took his time and someone forgot to stand any part of the parade at ease! However, the Duke then gave a generous tribute to all those who had served in Korea and the final march past went by in great style.

It was a memorable reunion for all of us who attended but we hope to see a much larger turnout of Die-Hards in November 2000 when the Korean veterans have been invited to lead the Armistice Parade.

T. L.

THE KOREAN CLUB

The Korean Club held another very successful A.G.M. Reunion at The Victory Services Club on Saturday, 11 September. The attendance of 58 members and friends was encouraging being only two down on the previous year; unfortunately four members had to cancel at the last minute because they were unwell.

It was a very enjoyable evening and we were delighted that our President Col. Andrew Man was able to be present - a marvellous effort at the age of 92. I feel sure we must be the only regiment who served in Korea that still enjoys the company of their Commanding Officer at their reunions.

We were pleased also to welcome our guests Maj. Ron Morris (Regimental Secretary) and his wife who always offer us their support.

What is always special to us is the Officers and the O.R's of the Club are one happy group at the reunions which I feel is something to be proud of.

2/7th OCA ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The 2/7th Bn. Middlesex Regt. (D.C.O.) 53rd annual luncheon held at the Victory Services Club, London, W2 on the 7th October 1999.

43 old comrades and their guests enjoyed an excellent gathering and included many long travellers, i.e. Jim Welch (Leeds), John Wilkinson (Manchester), Vic Foreshe (Nottingham), Reg Swinson MBE (Bournemouth), Chris Talbot (Bognor), Norman Page (Deal) and many from the Home Counties.

Lt Col R.E. Robotham MC TD chaired the meeting and sent our customary loyal message to H.M. The Queen and read out the reply from Buckingham Palace.

Guests were invited from the Executive Committee of the Middlesex Regt. Assn. and the Enfield Branch. Brig. B.A.M. Pielow JP giving the response on behalf of the guests which included Major C.L. Lawrence MC, Col R.M. Cain OBE, DL and Major R.E.B. Morris MBE.

Finally, Fred Phillips who organised the luncheon gave his information of absent friends and thanked the Old Comrades for their continued support, which he said makes his job so worthwhile.

F.A.P.

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO 3 PWRR

A party of some 50 members and families of the Association led by Brigadier and Mrs Tony Pielow attended the Presentation of Colours by Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark the Colonel in Chief of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The Parade was held at an excellent venue, the South of England Showground, Ardingly, West Sussex on Saturday the 11th of September 1999. The Battalion are to be congratulated on a first class parade

particularly as they had only one week to put it all together with the Battalion in Camp at two different locations! The 3rd Battalion has been formed from the merger between the 5th Battalion and the 6/7th Battalion as a result of the recent Strategic Defence Review.

The Battalion marched on parade to the marches of the forebear regiments. It was great to hear Sir Manly Power and Paddy's Resource being played once again. Before the presentation ceremony the Colours of the 5th Battalion and the 6/7th Battalion were trooped along the front of the parade before being marched off for the last time.

After the parade those taking part and the spectators were able to join together for drinks and lunch in the various marquees. Her Majesty, after lunch, visited the display area and Brigadier Tony Pielow introduced her to several of our members.

During the afternoon entertainment was provided in the Ardingly Ring. The programme included the following:-

The Tigers Freefall Parachute Display Team
The Minden Band of the Queen's Division
The Kohima Band of the 3rd (Volunteer Bn) PWRR
The London Scottish Pipes and Drums
The Victorian Military Society (The Diehards Company).

7TH MIDDLESEX OFFICER'S CLUB

Twenty two sat down to the Annual Dinner at the Officers' Mess of the London Regiment, Clapham on the 11th of November including members of the 7th Middlesex and descendant units together with their guests. Whilst numbers were down slightly the buzz of conversation and the clink of glasses indicated that the first class meal was enjoyed by all. The following members and guests attended:-

Guests:- Lt Col N P Easton, London Regiment, Maj G M Morgan, London Regiment, Brig C J Marchant Smith, F/O J Rook.

Members:- Col I D Brotherton, Maj A B Carter, Maj H E Couch, Capt M J S Doran, Capt S Le M Enthoven, Lt Col J D Gunnell, Maj D Harwood, Maj S L J Henshaw, Rev T Hutton, Capt J K Lawrence, Maj C L Lawrence, Maj R J Leighton, Maj A E McManus, Lt P J Ottino, Maj B St G A Reed, Capt J W Scott, Capt J K E Slack, Capt J Spencer Richards.

Twenty members wrote to express their regrets for not being able to attend.

JSR.

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 1999

On Thursday the 11th of November 1999 at 11am HM The Queen Mother formally opened the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster. After a short service the Queen Mother accompanied by HRH The Duke of Kent visited each Regimental Plot to talk to those present. A large Middlesex Regimental Cross was planted in the Regimental Plot together with smaller crosses representing each Battalion of the Regiment that served in both world wars. A further large Middlesex badged cross was planted in the Far East Prisoners of War Association Plot in memory of those who died in captivity in the Far East. The Secretary was supported by several Diehards and their families, some of whom had travelled long distances to be there.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE SATURDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 1999

The numbers attending the Annual Service at the War Memorial in the Middlesex Guildhall were slightly down this year. A pity, but with the advancing years of our members it is sadly to be expected. Nevertheless, as ever, there was a good turnout from both the Enfield and Hounslow Branches. Brigadier Tony Pielow, our President, just prior to the Service, made mention of the sad passing of Mr Charles Ward a veteran of the First World War who was a Sergeant serving with the 7th Battalion. He died on the 11th November 1999 aged 103.

The Service was conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, Vicar of St Nicholas's Church Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the Middlesex Regimental Association. The lesson was taken from St John's Gospel 14 verses 1 - 6 which were read by Brigadier Tony Pielow who also gave the Exhortation and laid a Middlesex Badged Poppy Wreath.

After the Service all enjoyed refreshments provided by the Association and Betty Morris.

CENOTAPH MUSTER WHITEHALL

There was a good attendance at the Cenotaph Muster in Whitehall. There was a strong party from the Hounslow Branch including "Kipper" Preston who came over from South Africa especially to take part in the parade. The weather was kinder this year only a slight drizzle for ten minutes or so. At last, after

repeated requests from us, the parade organisers arranged for a band to march in the column and for the first time, that I remember, we all stayed in step from start to finish! As ever lunch followed at the Duke of York's Headquarters and during lunch we were told that the venue is likely to be available for us next year but with the disposal of the Duke of York's Headquarters, as part of the defence review, this will be the last occasion we will have lunch there.

REMEMBRANCE PARADE MILL HILL

The Enfield Branch attended the Remembrance Service held in the Chapel at Inglis Barracks Mill Hill on Sunday the 14th November 1999. 38 Members were present. The Service was conducted by Sister Joan Henley. After the service the Branch marched to the War Memorial where Mr Malcolm Thomas, one of our oldest branch members, laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment.

At the service there was mention of the passing of three members of the Association; Major Frank Waldron, Mr Charlie Ward and Mr Ted Garner together with his wife Maria.

The Courier Depot Sergeants' Mess kindly provided lunch for all those attending.

8TH BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO) ROLL OF HONOUR

The Strategic Defence Review contained some sad news in that the Hounslow Drill Hall would be sold off by the MOD, which, immediately sent alarm bells ringing within the Hounslow Branch of the Association, for the welfare of the fine oak carved War Memorial which enumerated the names of 847 all ranks of the 8th Battalion who had been killed in the Two World Wars. The Branch felt that it was our serious responsibility to preserve this splendid Regimental Roll of Honour as it is only right that we should remember the sacrifice made by our predecessors who died in the service of the Country.

The spur to action was provided by the news that 5th Bn PWRR would be vacating the premises in March 1995. Col. Ian Brotherton TD.DL. having been alerted contacted Rev Peter Stubbs, a former Battalion Padre, in the hope that we might find a home for them in a local church. He suggested that the Rev Oliver Ross may be able to help as St Paul's Church was being refurbished, which was one time the Garrison Church. After a meeting with the Rev Ross it was realised that the Memorial would be too large for the proposed site. So it was suggested that an oak cabinet with the roll of honour in book form might be the solution.

As a consequence a working committee was formed of branch members who after consultations with Col. Ian & Major Ron Morris MBE decided that a memorial book listing the names on the memorial and a potted history of the 8th Battalion's exploits in World War One, and it's service with the BEF, and in the North West European Campaign would mean that the link with Hounslow would be maintained. Responsibilities were designated. Jim Wells would design and commission manufacture of the cabinet and with assistance from Alan Richardson would arrange installation, Mike Ward would arrange the printing of the book and the late Ernie Platt organise the binding in leather, Syd Wells did all the transport when necessary and John Raby assisted with the arrangements.

Thus on Friday 19th November after four years The Regimental Association was able to hold The Service of Dedication at St Paul's Church Centre Hounslow West in the presence of some hundred people including the Mayor of Hounslow. The service was conducted by Rev Oliver Ross and the curate Rev John McKinley with the standards of Enfield and Hounslow Branches on parade. Brigadier Tony Pielow JP, President of the Association, addressed the congregation and after the Last Post had been sounded Col Ian Brotherton TD DL read names of the World War Two casualties, many of whom were known to him. The continuation of the Regimental spirit was maintained with the presence of members of the London Regiment.

After the service the congregation enjoyed an excellent buffet and all present agreed that the cabinet, roll of honour, and its new home were a credit to the Regiment and The Church.

MJW

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 1999. 7TH MIDDLESEX MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

On Sunday 14th November 1999, the 7th Battalion Old Comrades and members of the Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment joined B (Queen's Regiment) Company of The London Regiment for the annual Service of Remembrance in the Parish Church of St Mary with St George in Hornsey. The Rector, The Reverend Geoffrey Seabrook MA, welcomed everyone and received the standard of the Middlesex Branch of the Queen's Association for safe keeping on the altar during the service.

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

After the Service, the Detachment from B Company and the Old Comrades marched back to the TA Centre. The Salute was taken by Lieutenant Colonel Gunnell accompanied by the Rector and Lieutenant Colonel Simpson.

J.D.G.

1/7th BATTALION

Major Alan Carter has advised that there are two 51st Highland Division Pilgrimages taking place in the year 2000 to Gennop (Holland) in February and to St Valery between the 4th and 12th June.

The 1/7th OCA also intend sending a party to Cuverville during mid July.

Anyone interested in taking part in these trips can obtain further information from the Secretary who will then put them in contact with Major Carter.

THE WALTER TULL MEMORIAL AND GARDEN OF REST

Walter David Tull was killed in action on the 25th of March 1918 whilst serving as a 2Lt with the 5th Battalion. He was Northampton Town's first black player and he played 110 games for them before enlisting in 1914 into the 17th (1st Football) Battalion of the Regiment. He was subsequently commissioned and it is believed that he was the British Army's first black officer.

The Northampton Borough Council and the Northampton Town Football Club decided that Walter Tull's service to the Nation and to the Club should be recognised by the erection of a Memorial in a Garden of Remembrance at the entrance to the Sixfields Community Stadium.

The official unveiling and dedication service took place on Sunday the 11th of July 1999. The Regiment was represented by Mr M F Turtin who also paraded with the Enfield Branch Standard. Other standards were on parade from the Royal British Legion and the West Indian Ex Servicemen's Association.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH VISIT HMS INVINCIBLE

On Wednesday 28th July nine members of the branch journeyed to Portsmouth to visit the Aircraft Carrier HMS Invincible prior to her major overhaul. In a seven month project she will be fitted with extra flight deck space so that in addition to her Sea Harriers she will be able to operate RAF Harriers. HMS Invincible is the oldest of the carriers currently in service, she has a flight deck

approximately 600ft long, and to ensure that she can launch her aircraft she is fitted with a ski jump, thus does not have a steam catapult as do the American carriers and working Harriers and does not have arrester wires as the Harriers come alongside and then land by "crabbing" sideways.

We were met at Unicorn Gate by Lt Steve Walton who was to be our guide for the day. He explained to us that the vessel had returned to Portsmouth after service in the Gulf where air strikes were launched against Iraq after Hussein had refused co-operation on the arms inspections. She was subsequently transferred to the Ionian Sea to back N.A.T.O. air strikes in Kosovo. Once on board we went up to the flight deck on the aircraft lift after having been shown around the hangars which were devoid of aircraft having flown off to either Yeovil or Kinross. One realises how cavernous the hangars are and how much empty space there is below the flight deck. Once on the flight deck we were met by Lt Garlic who explained aircraft launching procedures and the parking areas for the Harriers and her compliment of Helicopters. Lt Garlic explained that the most disconcerting thing about launching the aircraft is to watch them leave the ski jump and then to see them disappear below the jump, and they would thus appear to have failed to become airborne; and then to see them rise like a phoenix into the sky is very satisfying.

Lt Walton then took us up to the bow of the vessel and pointed out the Sea-Dart anti aircraft missiles which are being removed from the bow to allow the extra deck space to be built. From the flight deck we went up to the aircraft control area and the bridge then through the ship via a series of precarious ladders to the control room with its banks of radar screens and computers from where the Captain commands the ship when she is operational. We visited the galley and spoke to the cooks who explained to us that the modern sailor has a choice of five meals and the surprising fact is that there are more vegetarians amongst the men than the women who comprise about ten per cent of the crew.

Having completed our tour of the ship we were taken to the wardroom for tea and biscuits before adjourning to the Holy of Holys, the quarter deck, which still has wooden planking. HMS Invincible is a 20,000 ton carrier, small when compared with the American carriers. Her period in dock is scheduled to last until February 2000 and she is scheduled to return to duty in April, when it is hoped that we shall visit her again.

MJW

ODD JOTTINGS

Mr Ray Ashton 1st (2/8th) Bn wrote to say that he was pleased to meet four Diehards at the Bayeux Service this year and that he was due to visit Ypres shortly with the NVA.

John Hart, in a letter from New Zealand, mentions that a 57th Button was found on a site in New Zealand and the finder would be interested to know how it got there. I was able to reply to advise him that the 57th were in New Zealand from 1851 and fought in the Maori Wars. The Regiment was awarded two VCs, Ensign Down and Dmr Stagpole.

Miss E A Deeves has informed the Secretary that she recently donated her father's medals (Lt T W Deeves MC, 16th Bn) to the Queen's/PWRR Museum at Dover Castle.

Bob Johnson 1st (2/8th) Bn writes to say that he is now partially sighted. He met John Gould recently who has moved into a rest home. John says he would welcome visits from his old comrades. The Secretary has the address and telephone number available to anyone who knows John and would like to see him.

Bill Shaw of the 1st Bn is to be congratulated on getting remarried on the 7th of August. He did not tell me his wife's name!

Ralph Jackson who was a Cpl in Rendsburg, has sent in a photograph of C Coy 1 MX taken in December 1946. It will not reproduce in the Newsletter. Anyone interested in seeing it should apply to the Secretary. Ralph also mentioned that he had attended, in August, the NVA 55th Remembrance Service in York Minster. He said it was good to meet a few Diehards there.

David Ray (70th Bn) writes to say that his health has not been that good lately.

Walter Blake (Ex FEPOW) has been in hospital for some time and sadly has had a leg amputated. Now at home, he has been rehoused by his local Council in a property that can cope with his wheelchair. He was recently awarded a 100% War Pension.

George Pfister advised that his daughter was recently in Tunis and she kindly took the trouble to photograph the Middlesex Graves in the Cemetery at Enfidaville. The Secretary has them if anyone wishes to see them.

Les Plumb sent an item gleaned from the Internet which will be of interest. WOII Richard "Mac" McAndrews who joined the Regiment in 1962 is about to leave the Army from the Long Service List after serving for 34 years. He is currently living in Rheindahlen but is due to move to his retirement address in Northern Ireland shortly. He served in Guyana, Belize and Northern Ireland with the Middlesex and the Queen's Regiments whilst other tours of duty have taken him to Hong Kong, Germany and the Falklands.

Ron Knowles writes from Canada to thank us for putting him in touch with his old D Coy 2/8th (1st) Bn friend Jim Rose. They had been in contact for many years but Jim lost his address. Enclosed with his letter was a cutting from a local paper saying that bears were about in Ridge Meadows, so look out!

Mrs P Jackson has been in touch with the Secretary seeking information with regard to her father James Gardiner Jackson, born in 1919 and who died in March 1978. She knows he was with the Regiment at Dunkirk, having joined in 1939, possibly when the TA mobilized. If anyone remembers James Jackson would they please contact the Secretary.

Bill Jackson wrote to Frank Waldron in November, not knowing he had passed on, to say that his son David is doing very well and is gradually increasing his interest in race horses. Started with one and now has thirteen, (some in partnership with others). His most recent additions are Albuhera and Roman King. Bill mentions that he named Albuhera and chose the colours. Unfortunately old gold was not available so he had to settle for a yellow body, maroon sleeves and a yellow hat with a maroon star. So Diehard Racegoers keep a lookout for when Albuhera runs you might feel like backing him. He was purchased as a yearling with Royal Ascot, year 2000 in mind.

* * * * *

Finally, but by no means least, Major Jim Jonklaas has advised us that his wife Elizabeth has presented him with a son, James Anthony born on the 11th of July. They are doing well. Many congratulations to you both.

OBITUARIES

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

ATKINS - Ronald William Herbert, 6204588, aged 78 died on the 18th of November 1999. Ron served with 8th Bn and then the 2/8th (1st) Bn from the 12th of May 1938 until the 29th of June 1946 was in A & D Coys. He left the rank of Cpl. The funeral took place on the 24th of November 1999.

BELLCHAMBERS - Edwin Charles, 6204475, died recently in Australia the actual date is not known. Charlie was a member of the 1st Battalion taken prisoner in Hong Kong. He was on the fourth draft to Japan and was held in Osaka Camp.

BUNTON - Geoffrey Alfred Wesley - died on the 13th of November 1999. Joined the 2/7th Bn in 1943 just prior to going overseas to North Africa. Served in Italy and was the liaison officer to the American Rangers at Anzio. Following the Italian Campaign went on to Palestine, Syria and Egypt where the Bn was disbanded. He then became OC Troops on the Troopship Empire Battleaxe until he left the service in the rank of major. His funeral took place at the Enfield Crematorium on Monday the 22nd of November 1999. Members of the 2/7th Bn and the Enfield Branch attended.

GARNER - Maria died in August 1999. Maria was the wife of Sgt Ted Garner who died in February of this year. Sadly she fell ill shortly after he died and she never recovered. The funeral was held in Enfield on the 25th August 1999 and several members of the Enfield Branch attended.

GWYN - Dorothy, widow of Brigadier R A Gwyn OBE, died peacefully at home on the 17th of July 1999 in her 80th year. The funeral was held at Port of Menteth on the 23rd of July 1999. The Regiment was represented by Colonel John Moore.

JONES - Known to many as "Grunt", died in late July 1999. We have no first names recorded as he was not a member of the Association nor the Queen's Regimental Association. Served with the 1st Battalion from the mid 1960's. Was with 4 Queen's and then served on with 1 Queen's when the Battalion disbanded in 1970. Was a Regimental Cook and for a period the Regimental Butcher. He was a great character. His funeral took place at Barham Crematorium Canterbury on the 4th August 1999. The Regiment was represented by Major Ron Morris.

MIEVILLE - Daphne Esther, wife of Major Chris Mieville, died on the 3rd October 1999, peacefully after a long illness. The funeral took place at Easthampstead Park Crematorium on the 8th October 1999. The Regiment was represented by Major and Mrs Chris Lawrence.

NAULDER - Arthur, a pre war regular soldier 6198336, aged 90, died on the 5th September 1999. His funeral took place at the City of London Cemetery on Monday the 13th September 1999 and was laid to rest with his dear wife Elizabeth who died in April 1990. The funeral was attended by a small gathering of family and close friends. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag. A fitting tribute to a loyal and gallant old soldier.

PADLEY - Ronald Raymond Albert, 14458170, aged 72, died on the 7th October 1999 after a long illness. Served firstly with the 2nd Battalion in Palestine and then with the 1st Battalion in Austria where he was the Drum Major. He also served with the Queen's Royal Regiment and the East Surrey Regiment. He transferred to the RAVC in August 1954.

WALDRON - Albert Edward Frank, MBE

Frank Waldron, who died aged 85 on the 21st September, survived extreme rigours and harsh treatment by his captors as a POW of the Japanese after the fall of Hong Kong and until the end of the war, then continued to serve with the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) until retiring on 21st June 1967 after 34 years regular service.

He was born in Croydon on 26th June 1914 and went to school there and later in Abbots Langley where his father, who had served as a regular soldier in the RHA and was recalled for service in WW1, was in the Fire

Service. On leaving school Frank joined John Dickinsons as a trainee printer, which perhaps explains why he ran such a fine regimental newsletter for many years. In 1933 a pal at the printers suggested he visited the local recruiting office. He did so and enlisted on the spot, joining the Diehards on the 19th May 1933 in Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

After serving initially with 2MX in Colchester, he joined 1MX in 1935 and went with the Battalion to Egypt, Singapore and then Hong Kong where he arrived in 1937.

He was still serving in the 1st Battalion in 1941 when Hong Kong was overrun by the Japanese and the whole Battalion fell into captivity on Boxing Day and were imprisoned in poor conditions in the colony at Samshuipo. Ten months later he was in a large draft of POWs, including the bulk of the Diehard POWs, which was sent to Japan locked in the hold of a Japanese cargo ship, the Lisbon Maru, again in appalling conditions. A few days out from Hong Kong, on 1st October 1942, the ship was torpedoed by an Allied submarine, the USS Grouper unaware of its POW cargo. Also on board were some 778 Japanese soldiers and a guard of 25.

While the ship was sinking the POWs continued to be locked in their holds under the same awful conditions. Eventually, under the directions of the Battalion CO, Lieut Colonel 'Monkey' Stewart, the Middlesex managed to force the hatches, break out and abandon ship, during which time the Japanese were firing at them from the bridge. Although some 132 men perished, Frank Waldron managed to go down into the water over the side of the ship away from the Japanese Navy and start to swim away. He thus avoided being machine gunned in the water which was the fate of many of his comrades.

He was eventually picked up and landed on the quayside at Shanghai where the survivors were left in freezing temperatures for several days during which time his only clothing consisted of his underpants and one shoe. Eventually the POWs were given some second hand Japanese uniforms, loaded into the holds of another ship, the Shensei Maru, in conditions similar to those they suffered in the Lisbon Maru, and taken to Japan, where he landed at Kobe. Dysentery and diphtheria were rife on board, the men were in poor shape and some died during the voyage. At Kobe he was made to work as a docker, humping 100 kilo sacks of rice until the end of the war.

During his captivity he became very sick with diphtheria and on regaining consciousness one day saw a Japanese soldier put a white barrel at the foot of his bed ready to pack him into when he died. This made him determined to thwart the forecast of his impending death and his recovery began.

He returned to England in October 1945 and in 1947 married Grace, who sadly predeceased him, and continued to serve with 1MX going with the Battalion to BAOR before returning with it to Hong Kong in 1949, where Bruce was born. Frank was one of only 5 Diehard survivors of the Battalions wartime service there to go back to Hong Kong. He returned for a short spell at the Depot in 1950 but went back to Hong Kong, for the third time, in 1952 shortly after the Battalion returned from Korea Service in 1MX in BTA, stationed at Zeltweg and the last Battalion in Austria to do so, followed before going in 1955 to Cyprus, where Frank was awarded the MBE on 30th June 1957, and was the most EOKA bombed MX family living in Larnaca.

By now promoted Major he finally served at HQ of the Home Counties Brigade in Canterbury, from where he resigned to become landlord of the Star Inn (now renamed the Hop Pocket) at nearby Bossingham. His service with the Regiment was then renewed when recalled to become the Secretary of the Regimental Association, a post which he held with quite outstanding success until retiring on Albuhera Day in 1993, working from his home at Upper Hardres near Canterbury, and in which capacity he was acknowledged for his quite remarkable knowledge of the Regiment, in which he had served for so long, and everybody in it. His early days in the Battalion Orderly Room and later as Chief Clerk for many years before becoming a particularly efficient and superbly co-operative and ever-helpful Quartermaster gave him his renowned and unique reputation within the Regiment, which included remembering the regimental number of many soldiers he had served with, some of whom could not remember it themselves. As Regimental Secretary he worked tirelessly to care for anybody who needed help, advice, encouragement or regimental information. He ran the Regimental Museum in Tottenham and supervised its move to the National Army Museum. He managed the Regimental Houses at Enfield, organised all the many regimental events, as well as administering the benevolent funds and editing the newsletter. He was the continual and continuing link between all ranks of the Regiment, indeed he was the Regiment. Even after his retirement as Regimental Secretary he continued to manage the Middlesex Homes in Enfield, edit the Newsletter and was a continual help to Ron Morris who took over from him. The warmth of his final Regimental Reunion when he

retired was something everybody present, and pretty well everybody was, will remember for a long time.

Apart from being a soldier, he was a sportsman, gardener and amateur farmer of some distinction. His sporting career began when he played soccer for his department way back in 1933 at John Dickinsons. He then played both hockey and soccer for 1MX, was in the BAOR Hockey Team and became a class one hockey umpire, eventually umpiring for the Canterbury Hockey Club. During his retirement in Upper Hardres he won the dahlia trophy pretty well every year for 15 years - the last occasion being only 10 days before he died when his grandson Nick did the final preparation for him, winning two cups at the Show. Frank kept chickens, sheep and goats at Upper Hardres, including Jacobs and black welsh mountain sheep, some of which went into the freezer, some were just pets and the others utilised as free-range lawn mowers.

Frank confronted his final illness with the same disdain with which he confronted his wartime captors - a true Diehard to the end. When informed in July of the extent of his illness he told the consultant he had had 85 good years, a wonderful life, had travelled the world and had nothing to complain of. If there ever was a much loved, respected, admired and thoroughly gentlemanly comrade, it was Frank Waldron. Courageous and a real example in war, caring and a real example in peace.

There was a particularly large attendance at his funeral in Upper Hardres, which included family, friends and regimental comrades. He was buried alongside Grace in the local cemetery where the Last Post and Reveille were sounded as a final tribute to a very great Diehard.

BAMP

WARD - Charles, TF/324, died peacefully in hospital at Bury St Edmunds on the 11th November 1999 aged 103 years. Charles was one of our First World War Veterans. He served from 1914 to 1920 with all 5 battalions of the 7th Battalion. He left the army in the rank of Sgt. He was present on the Somme and was at Ypres and Cambrai. He received the Legion of Honour (Knights Class) in November of last year in recognition of his service with the BEF in France. The funeral took place at the West Suffolk Crematorium, Risby, Bury St Edmunds on Friday the 19th November 1999. The Regiment was represented by Mr Bob Yerby.

WILDASH - Philip C T. This obituary replaces that published in the July 1999 Newsletter.

Philip Wildash was one of seven Officers commissioned into the 2/7th Battalion from the ranks of the Artists Rifles (28th London Regiment T.A.) in the summer of 1939, shortly before the outbreak of World War 2. He served in D and HQ Coys and played his part in helping to train this completely fresh Battalion up to its eventually high standard of efficiency. Being fluent in German he was transferred to the Intelligence Corps in 1942 and served with 5 Corps in Italy and Austria.

At the end of the war Philip stayed on in Army Intelligence and later on the staff of the Foreign Office. His duties involved a series of interesting appointments including Vienna, Prague, Hamburg, Oslo, Paris, Cyprus and Saigon during the Vietnam War.

While in Prague he hit the headlines of the National Press upon getting arrested by the Communists on suspicion of assisting refugees. He was eventually released following diplomatic pressure.

On retirement, Philip finally settled at Woburn where he took an active part in local affairs, serving as Parish Clerk for some years and founding the Woburn Branch of the Royal British Legion, of which he was President, assisted by his wife Phyllis an ex-WAAF, who sadly predeceased him.

Educated at Merchant Taylors School, Philip Wildash was a charming man of many parts, a good sportsman in his youth, a keen angler and ornithologist and a talented artist. Until disabled he was a loyal supporter of the Old Comrades Associations of the 2/7th Battalion and Artists Rifles. He was Best Man at our wedding in 1940 and a conscientious Godfather to our son. He is sorely missed.

PG

WOOLLEY - D C, 22944162 aged 64 died on the 30th November 1998 (belated entry). Served as a National Serviceman with the 1st Battalion from 1953 to 1955. Reached the rank of Cpl.

Major Gerrard Oswald Porter.

The notification of Maj Porters death appeared in the July 1999 Newsletter. Gerry as he was known in the Regiment, was born in August 1912 at Southsea. Coming from a naval family he had hoped to go to Dartmouth but his eyesight

let him down so he opted for the Army instead, via Douai Abbey and Sandhurst, and joining the 2nd Battalion in Colchester in 1933. Second Lieutenants normally try to avoid coming into contact with either the Commanding Officer or the Adjutant early in their careers but Gerry was not to go unnoticed. The Battalion was on manoeuvres and the advance was not going as fast as the CO, Maurice Browne (MB) wished, so he rode to the front and urged the leading platoon to go faster by whacking its commander over the head with his riding crop. Gerry took it all in his stride - after all he had joined the Diehards - but MB was mortified by what he had done and apologised profusely.

Gerry attended the usual run of courses that a junior officer could expect, ending with a Technical Adjutant course at Bovington in 1938, as the result of which he became the first Technical Adjutant to the Battalion, which had by now converted to machine guns and moved to Gosport. Mobilisation in September the following year brought a frenzy of activity for Gerry; to bring the Battalion up to War Establishment impressed civilian vehicles were drawn from the RASC and they formed a motley array of furniture vans, tradesmen vans and 15 cwt lorries, some still showing their trade names beneath the hastily applied disruptive paint.

Gerry's experiences with the Battalion in the BEF in France are incorporated in the regimental history but suffice it to say that the winter of 1939 was a particularly hard one and the issued anti freeze proved quite useless - shades of Korea 11 years later!

After Dunkirk Gerry remained with 2MX until early 1941 when he was posted to 4 RNF at Shepton Mallet who were being reformed as the 4th Battalion of the newly constituted Reconnaissance Corps, part of the famous 50th Division whose sign was "TT" (twixt Tyne and Tees). The unit sailed for the Middle East at the end of June on the SS Arundel Castle stopping at Durban (where they had a great welcome), and Mombasa to allow the Empress of Abyssinia and her family to disembark on their way home, which had been recently liberated from the Italians. The Battalion landed at Suez and, because 50 Div was theatre reserve, proceeded on a tour of the Middle East to wherever was the greatest threat - Cyprus, Palestine, Syria and finally back to Egypt. It was in Cyprus that Gerry met up briefly with his doctor brother George.

Gerry's unit was involved in the disastrous battle of the Cauldron (June '42) where their position was completely surrounded, bombarded and overrun by the German armour. Gerry himself was hit on the head by shrapnel; turning round he saw an enemy tank approaching with its gun pointing straight at him! The driver dismounted and proffered his field dressing saying "I think you need this more than I do". Gerry then joined the hundreds of prisoners en route for

Benghazi whence they were moved by plane to the heel of Italy and thence by train to camps in the north. In November 1943 Gerry with others escaped into Switzerland but did not manage to reach the UK until October the following year when he was posted to 26 MGTC. Whilst there he updated his military skills by attending a MMG and a Coy Comds course before being posted to 1MX in Rendsburg as a Company Commander in July 1946. He moved with the Battalion to Chelsea Barracks and along with everyone else took full part in Public Duties. In December 1948 he was posted to the King's Own Nigeria Regiment and became Camp Commandant HQ Northern District. It was in Nigeria that he met Joan, who was serving in the QARANC, and they subsequently married in Lagos in September 1950.

On completion of his tour Gerry was appointed OC Depot in October 1950 and it was during his tenure that Lt Comd Kemp was appointed to write the history of the Regiment, to which Gerry made a considerable contribution. In May 1952 Gerry joined 1MX in Hong Kong and moved with them to Austria, and in the mid summer of 1954 he had his final posting as 2IC of the King's Own Malta Regiment.

On his retirement from the Army in December 1957 Gerry attended a teachers training college in Strawberry Hill and then became a master at Whitefriars Junior School at Charlton Kings, just outside Cheltenham, which was run by the Carmelite Friars. Here he spent a very happy 17 years before finally retiring in 1975. He was then able to indulge his love of caravanning, he and Joan exploring Wales and Ireland and even reaching the Bois de Boulogne.

Gerry was a cheerful, happy and relaxed officer (laid back in modern parlance!) who took advantage of the opportunities offered by his various postings - the local life in Nigeria, skiing in Austria, sailing in Malta with the Navy in particular. He was modest kind and friendly, and so it was eventually as a teacher that he really came into his own. He was a staunch supporter of his local church - he was appointed a Eucharistic Minister - and there is no doubt that his faith sustained him in the heart problems he suffered in later years. He died on the 26th of April 1999. He is survived by Joan and their daughter Susan, who is a consultant eye surgeon.

CLL.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association:-

22017255 Pte R Best	C Coy 3rd Cadet Bn ACF (MX) 1943-46
6107517 Pte R W Child	Queen's Regt, 70th Bn, 2nd Kensingtons, 1st Bn (this replaces the entry in the December 1998 Newsletter).
14095168 Cpl G Delaney	8th Bn 1944/46, 1/7th Bn 1946, 1st Bn 1946-49, 3rd Bn Para then 21 SAS
23980987 LCpl M R Halfman	Junior Tradesmans Regt Rhyl 1964-65, 1st Bn 1965-66, 4 Queens 1967-70, 2 Queens 1970-75
22944169 Pte J L Hart	Depot 1953-56
23129901 LCpl M P Hayward	HQ Coy (Sig Pln) 1st Bn 1955-57
6206574 Pte F W Slater	1/7th Bn 1939-41
6207120 LCpl E C Wibrow	2/8th (1st) Bn 1939-46
22144149 Pte A C Young	1st Bn 1949-51

RENSBURG REVISITED AUGUST 1999

In April 1946 the Eider Kaserne Barracks in Rendsburg in Schleswig Holstein Germany, the British Army, and I all parted company. I was wending my way to 'Civvy Street' via the Demob Centre, where it did not take me long to become firmly ensconced as a civilian, with lots of memories some sad, some bad, but in the main lots of happy ones of my nearly seven years with, first the 2/8th and then the 1st Bn Middlesex Regt.

As the years rolled by so these memories receded to the back of my mind occasionally rekindled by reunions and such. However I was totally caught off balance in April 1999 when I received a phone call asking me if I had served in Rendsburg in 1946. I confirmed that I had and the voice then asked me if I would like to see some photographs of that era. Of course, I said that I would, and the voice said he was in the area and would drop in on me shortly. I did detect a faint German accent in the voice, but was well and truly perplexed by the whole thing.

Shortly afterward the doorbell rang and there on the step was a man with a beaming smile "Hello" he said, "I'm Jimmy". I had heard of Jimmy of course, via the newsletter from time to time, and a dim recollection of this small cheeky German boy hanging about the dining hall in the Eider Kaserne, intent on keeping body and soul together with the aid of what the lads of the battalion slipped him in the way of food. And here was Jimmy on my doorstep! I invited him inside with his charming wife Ilse, made coffee, and I went through as I shall now call him Heinz's photographs, and he went through mine. We gradually built up a rapport. He borrowed some of mine to take to Germany and get copied, which he duly returned. It was my proud boast that I could name every member of the battalion football team depicted on one of Heinz's photos. During the time we spent talking I was very impressed with Heinz's knowledge and dedication to the 1st battalion. He had with him a miniature battledress complete with shoulder flashes and rank of corporal, which he had worn in the days of his adoption as battalion mascot. He told me that he had been in England several times looking up various people and seeking wartime impediments from antique fairs for a forthcoming exhibition he was going to hold in Rendsburg in August this year, and that I would be welcomed if I came. Shortly afterwards they left my house to travel back to Germany.

As I have said earlier, I was much impressed by the dedication shown by Heinz to the battalion, so I resolved that I would reciprocate and go to his exhibition and renew my acquaintanceship with the town of Rendsburg after a mere fifty three years!

So it came to pass that on Sunday 8th August, I took off from Stanstead Airport bound for Hamburg where Heinz had arranged to meet me and drive me to Rendsburg a distance of 100 kilometers. After a comfortable flight which lasted about 90 minutes, we touched down at Hamburg and, as promised, there were Heinz and Ilse to meet me and drive me to Rendsburg. Although I had made this trip many times in 1946, not in the comfort of a Mercedes Elegant but behind the wheel of an Austin 3 tonner, I did not recognise a single feature! How time flies and how, in its flight, it changes many things.

We duly arrived in Rendsburg and, as we drove past the Parade Platz and the Eider Kaserne, the old memory bank gave a flicker of recall - I was on familiar territory. Then on to the hotel The Convent Garden which, in my day, was the NAAFI right on the banks of the Kiel canal. However, the old swing bridge had gone, replaced by a tunnel under the canal. Very little in the actual landscape had changed, however, the restaurant of the hotel looked out on exactly the same view as it had been in 1946. Nostalgia came flooding back, especially when Heinz showed me the hall with a small stage, where a German Oompha band used to serenade us as we used to sit there scoffing our drei mark meals. That hall is exactly as it was then!

I was to be a guest of the Convent Garden Hotel, and here I would like to express my gratitude to the management and staff for making my stay a very enjoyable one, and give my thanks to all concerned through the medium of the newsletter, and I am sure that if Heinz has anything to do with it, they will be given.

Tuesday August 10th dawned. This was the day of the official reception at the Rathaus where Heinz was holding his exhibition which was, in my opinion, truly remarkable, and was testimony to the vast amount of hard work and research he must have undergone to produce such an exhibition of this nature. There were photographs of my time and afterwards, which were all captioned with accuracy, not only of the 1st Middlesex, but other units which occupied parts of Rendsburg. There were badges, shoulder flashes, and in two cases complete battledresses, and impedimenta which every serving soldier of those days was familiar with - round fifty tins of cigarettes, tins containing the compo tea ration, i.e. cubes of tea, sugar and milk, remember them? In short, I would say that the entire show would leave many a Regimental Museum green with envy at the treasures amassed there. Well done, Heinz, you excelled yourself there, not only in finding all these treasures, but in the manner which you presented them to the public and the lengths you went to, to explain in detail any question with which you were confronted.

Here I have a small confession to make. I do have a blazer, and I do have a Middlesex blazer badge, but they are two separate entities, my blazer depicting my Bowls Club and the badge languishing in a drawer. I mentioned this to Heinz who said "never mind, you can borrow mine", which I did and it fitted perfectly. You were lucky to get it back Heinz!

So began the speech by the acting Burgomeister Herr Wolfgang Majer, and by my limited knowledge of the German language, I was able to understand that he welcomed me back to Rendsburg and concluded his speech by presenting me with a handsome book titled Rendsburg, which I shall always value. I replied to the speech briefly, and among other things I said that 53 years ago there were about eight hundred of us and today there was only me, but that I was very happy to be back. I also, for the benefit of you blokes who, like me, were something in the tearaway mould, apologised for our behaviour in those days. I was alluding to occasional drunken brawls and punch ups with other units, in fact the kind of behaviour found in any garrison town in any country in the world. One newspaper, however, got it wrong and quoted me as saying that I did not come here to apologise. This did stir things up somewhat, and I even received a letter from an ex German General advising me of what to write to the Editor of this newspaper, which I did. I am happy to say that this newspaper has seen the error in its translation and has printed an apology and a correction.



After I had made my brief speech, I had the pleasure of presenting to Heinz a Middlesex plaque suitably engraved, on behalf of the Regimental Assn, which had been sent to me by Major Morris prior to my departure for Rendsburg. Heinz graciously accepted this plaque, and in turn then presented me with a beautifully made Regimental flag which will be handed over to the Assn. He also presented me with a lovely painting of Rendsburg as we knew it, in our day, handsomely framed in a maroon and gold combination of wood and metal. This I intend to bequeath to the museum at Dover Castle when it is time for me to collect my dinner pail! All in all, it was a great day for me and one which will stay with me always, and will make me eternally grateful to whatever fickle finger of fate decreed my return to Rendsburg in 1999.

In conclusion, I would like to say to all members of the battalion who subscribed to the slipping of odd bits of food, and the taking part in the general education of life and the English language, albeit barrack room, to the young 'Jimmy' may consider themselves amply repaid by his dedication and loyalty to the Middlesex from his childhood to the present day, which finds him a respected member of the community of Rendsburg.

As for me, I have gained the friendship of two very nice people in Rendsburg.

Les 'Deadly' Dyer ex 6206162

ALBUHERA FERIA Y FIESTAS 1999

July 24th proved to be a day of great significance with the arrival of a letter from Macarena De Sousa which requested the presence of some members of the branch in La Albuera to receive an honour to be bestowed upon us by the Mayor and Town Council. So with the knowledge that accommodation in La Albuera would be at a premium as a Fiesta lasting from the 13th to 17th August would be in progress and the ceremony was scheduled for 14th, letters were despatched and telephone calls made to Spain and hasty meetings amongst those members of the branch who have regularly made the pilgrimage over the years. Five members decided that they could make the journey by air. So John Raby, Alan Richardson, Mike Ward, Jim Wells & Syd Wells met at London Airport on Thursday 12th August to fly out, with no road party it was accepted that the comforts which we normally enjoyed would not be available to us. After a routine flight to Lisbon and a road journey up to La Albuera, which is much improved by the opening of a further section of motorway between Lisbon and Badajoz, we arrived at our destination about four o'clock. Our first stop was the Bar Nova to see Pedro, the patron, who was both surprised and delighted to see us. After a small refreshment, we made our way up to our usual accommodation with Mario & Juliana, who were on holiday, but their daughter Eleanor had prepared our rooms. the next priority was the procurement of stores and gas to ensure that breakfast would be available in the morning.

On Friday morning we went into town and visited the town hall to ascertain the format for the next few days. We learned that for the next five days the town would be holding a Fiesta. Whilst in the town square we met Lt Col. Knox of RWF and his wife who were passing through whilst on a recce. As our knowledge of spanish is limited, we found it difficult to understand the programme of events, so we journeyed to Salvatierra de los Barros to obtain the assistance of Celia Denny to translate details of the forthcoming events. Whilst there we spent a very pleasant day at her castle and were entertained to lunch on the patio before returning to La Albuera in the evening in time to join in the local celebrations. Retiring to bed in the early hours of Saturday morning we had no worries of being late for the Ceremony of the Presentation to us which was scheduled to be held at 00.45 hours on Sunday morning, so with a leisurely day in prospect, we met Macarena who helped in the translation of thanks to the town. In the early evening we made our way down to the town square to watch a magnificent concert performed by La Orquesta Libertad. Then at 00.30 hours the coronation of Miss La Albuera was held and various other presentations made. then to tumultuous applause we were called on to the stage to receive our award, made to us by the Mayor. This was a plaque engraved with the words "The Town Council of La Albuera bestow the

distinction of Adopted Sons on the Middlesex Regiment for their continual presence at the Commemoration of the Battle of La Albuera" August 1999.

The large crowd again gave us a great ovation and we then thanked the town for the distinction which they had bestowed upon us and in turn we presented them with a framed Regimental Flag of the Queens Regiment on which was an engraved plaque stating "The Regimental Flag of The Amalgamated 3rd 31st & 57th Foot" presented by The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), and a regimental cane, both for the museum. The presentations which we made were much admired by the local people. with the Civic Ceremonies behind us we joined in the celebrations to be greeted and feted until the early hours before retiring to bed at 04.20 hours.

On Sunday we had a late reveille before attending Mass at 11.30 and we watched as the statue of "The Virgen NTRA SRA Del Camino" was paraded around the streets led by the Town Band. The Fiesta continued all day with events to suit all tastes and in the evening a Verbena Popular was held to the music of La Gran Orquesta, so again we retired to bed in the early hours of the morning.

We had decided that we would go to Elvas in Portugal on Monday in the company of Celia Denny, to visit the English Cemetery which is situated in the bastion of S. Joao Corujeiro, high on the eastern wall, not far below the Castle, with a fine view over the plain to Badajoz. The cemetery contains the grave of Major General Houghton who commanded the Brigade of which the Middlesex were part, and was killed at the Battle of Albuhera (Portuguese spelling). It had been arranged that whilst there we would meet Major Nick Hallidie, late of the Green Howard's, who gave us a guided tour of Elvas and explained to us the significance of the commemoration ceremony which is scheduled to take place next year, to erect tablets to honour all the Regiments who fought at both La Albuera and Badajoz. Major Halladie and his wife then kindly entertained us to a fine lunch at their flower nursery Quinta Vale de Marmelos. Tuesday dawned, and with it the reality that it was time to depart and return to London.

MJW

ROCKY AND THE BATMAN

Very soon after our move to el Alamein, I was "appointed" batman to the RSM due to the absence through sickness of his regular servant. As I was not born and brought up to be a servant, I did not look forward to the prospect of an unknown period of looking after the RSM and could not under any circumstances envisage a "Wooster and Jeeves" relationship! As it turned out it was more like something out of "Sgt Bilko".

My first interview (if one could call it that) consisted of being told that his regular batman had been hospitalised and I had been "put in" to replace him until his return. He told me my general duties in the main were to keep his equipment, clothing and quarters in clean and good order, etc. Enter "Harry the Maid"! It took me a couple of days or so to get into some sort of routine, and allowing for our frequent moves which were necessitated by the dictates of war, this routine was subject to some interruptions. Apart from my menial duties, one job I had to do was to polish his Sam Browne belt. This was brought out and given to me early one morning with the instruction "It needs polishing". After having spent about 10 minutes on it with no visible signs of improvement or shine, a person came up behind me and said "that's not the way to do it". I thought for a moment it was the chief himself, but it was the Provost Sergeant (can't remember his name). I handed him the polish and cloth and he proceeded to go to work with the result that I finished up with a gleaming belt without having expended too much energy.

Early morning tea for Rocky began as a ritual. Up early and into action, either into the kitchen (if there was one) or a brew-up by me depending entirely on whether we were static or on the move. Generally he was in bed but at other times he was going about doing whatever he considered necessary. One memorable occasion I call to mind was early in my "career" when I went in with the mug of tea, tripped over something and the brew spilled all over the place with quite a lot of it going into his boots. This didn't go down too well and the result was that I had to polish his boots. He really got miffed one day when the back of his shirt came out in pieces due to my having boiled it too much doing his laundry. The tea ritual did not last very long and to this day I don't know how it came about when one morning I was awakened by Rocky bringing me a mug of tea in bed! I proffered my thanks and weakly said I was sorry I had not got up sooner. Strange to relate though and maybe the reader finds it hard to believe, but he brought me tea for several days. He must have been in a benevolent frame of mind, suffered from insomnia or realised that it was the only way to ensure that I would get up and attend to him the rest of the day.

Regrettably the luxury didn't last more than a few days as we were ordered to pack up and move. Upon reaching our new location Rocky told me he had to "go back" and pick up ammunition and did not expect to return until very late that night. He instructed me to dig his slit trench prior to his return. the location we landed up in was, to say the least, very rocky (no pun intended!) which made digging very difficult to get down to the required depth. I selected a spot for his trench, which after an hour or so hard labour was more or less a plateau of rock interspersed with small hollows. I figured that if the first location was all rock then others would be the same. Coming to this conclusion I covered the excavation with a sheet of corrugated iron, covered it with sand and went to my

own hole. The next morning was a real riot! He was totally manic. He called me before him and more or less screamed "What do you think I am, a f-----g mouse". I explained to him the rocky nature of the area, but he was not in the least sympathetic. I asked him where he spent the night and he said "Under the f-----g ammo truck". Fate had it that Rommel was not active that night!

After a few days when he had reverted to an air of reasonable calm, I asked him if I could "have a word" and he asked me what about and I said "How much longer do I have to do this job?" His blunt reply, which I now know was straight from the heart, "Not long I hope." A plea to the Almighty to please get rid of Hoard! I think his plea must have reached the desired quarter as within a few days his regular batman returned and I was summarily dismissed, without of course, a word of thanks. It was at this point that I joined 15 platoon of D.Coy.

Several years after our "association" I was at one of the luncheon reunions during a spell of home leave. I saw Rocky talking to a group of ex-Sgts so I thought it a good idea to introduce myself, so I said "Hello, remember me?" to which he replied "How can I forget". That was the end of the conversation! At least I had given him something to remember about his war experiences!

HJH

THE KOREAN CLUB OFFER OF BOOKS

When our late colleague Tony Gibbs passed away two years ago, he left a large collection of military related books. The collection was kindly donated to the Korean Club by his widow.

We have approximately 70 books remaining, all in excellent condition. If any member is interested in such literature they are invited to apply for a list to the Club secretary, Tony Lofts, 55 Westhurst Drive, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6HS (0181 467 4014).

NORTON'S REVENGE

What follows was told to me by Ken Clayden. The Bn was at Chelsea Barracks, and Coys when not involved on Public Duties, would be sent to Pirbright to do training. Ken, Geof Norton and Geoff Bucknall were in the same Coy. Bucknall owned a very large ferocious bull terrier by the name of Sebastian Doolittle II, he was a killer. When at Pirbright they lived in huts and Bucknall warned everyone not to go into his room if he was not there as the dog would get them.

One day Geoff wanted something from Geoff B's room. He knocked on the door - no answer. He gingerly opened the door - no dog. Must be out with his master thought Geoff so he entered the room. At some later stage Ken happened to be near the Officers' huts when he heard a faint cry for help which he eventually traced to Geoff B's room. He tentatively opened the door and saw Geoff on top of the wardrobe with the dog growling ferociously and trying to reach up. Geoff B was summoned and the dog brought under control, Geoff N thereafter swearing revenge.

Some time later the Coy moved to duties at Windsor and the three, plus Sebastian Doolittle II on a very tight rein, were walking along one of the main streets. Coming the other way was a middle-aged lady with a cocker spaniel. Picture the next scene - Sebastian with spaniel's ear in its jaws, lady screaming, spaniel howling, Ken hanging on to the spaniel, Geoff B hanging on to Sebastian with much swearing. Geoff N realises this is HIS MOMENT, he dives into a nearby doorway and emerges with a poker. Seizing Sebastian's tail he yanks it up and with a triumphant grin inserts the poker with gusto. Imagine the scene!

CLL

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	£ 5.50 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£13.50 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)	£22.00 set
Sets of 6 large & 6 small	£ 2.00 each
Individual buttons large or small	
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

