



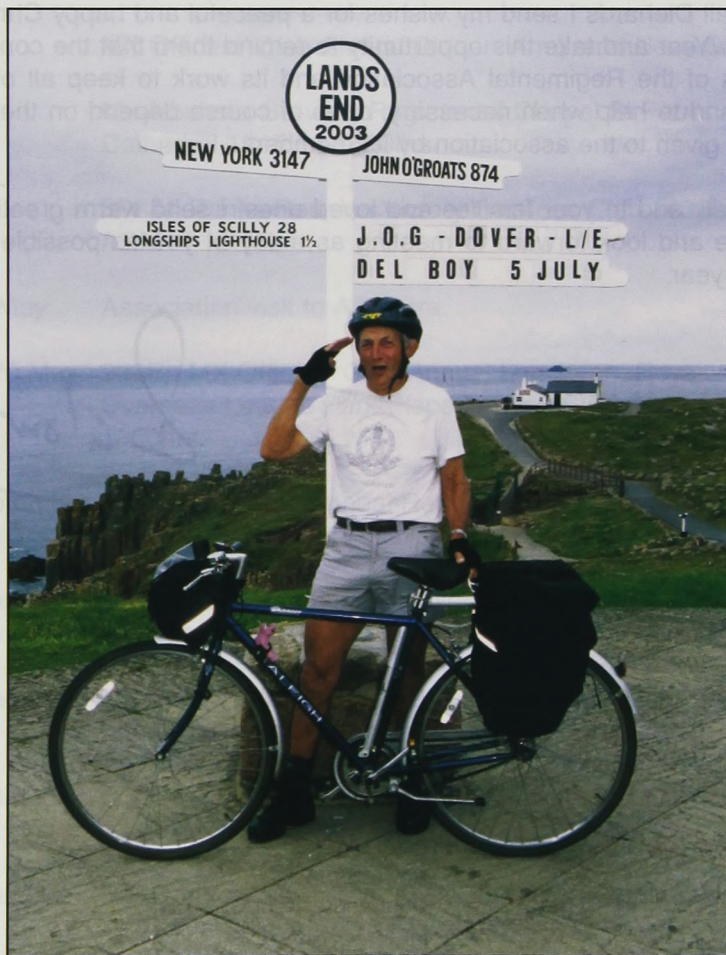
The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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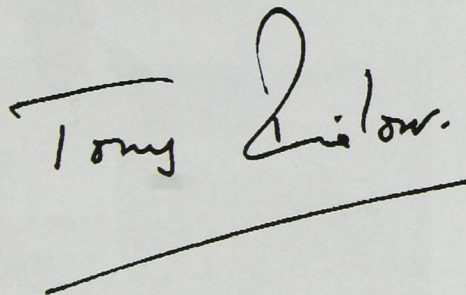
"DEL BOY" AT JOURNEYS END

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT BRIGADIER TONY PIELOW

Again this year at the festive season there is much discord, violence and suffering in the world that we live in and we particularly have in mind those of our regimental successors from regular PWRR battalions and TA units serving in overseas trouble spots including Iraq, Afghanistan and Kosovo, and we pray for their safe return in due course to their families.

And to all Diehards I send my wishes for a peaceful and happy Christmas and NewYear and take this opportunity to remind them that the continuing success of the Regimental Association and its work to keep all of us in touch, and to help when necessary, does of course depend on the active support given to the association by its members.

To you all, and to your families and loved ones, I send warm greetings at this time and look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming year.



<i>President</i>	:	Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP
<i>Chairman</i>	:	Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	:	Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.
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FORECAST OF EVENTS 2004

March (TBC)	Executive and Officers' Club Committee Meetings.
6 March	Queen's Regimental Reunion Victory Services Club.
24 April	1/7th OCA Annual Reunion TA Centre Hornsey.
7 May	MX Officers' Club Annual Dinner Army and Navy Club.
8 May	Mx Albuhera Service, Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral 1445 for 1500hrs.
8 May	MX All Ranks Reunion Victory Services Club 1830hrs, AGM at 18.45hrs.
13-17 May	Association visit to Albuhera.
13 or 20 May (TBC)	9th Bn MX Officers' Club Annual Luncheon, Royal Overseas League Park Place London SW1 1215 for 1300hrs.
11 September	MX Korean Club Annual Reunion from 1130hrs to 1530hrs Victory Services Club.
4 November	Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Service Commences 1050hrs.
4 November	7th Bn MX Officers' Club Dinner Officers Mess, The London Regiment, St John's Hill, Clapham.
6 November	MX Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 10.30 for 1100 hrs.
7 November (TBC)	Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks Mill Hill Assemble at 1000 hrs
7 November	7th Bn MX Remembrance Service Parish Church of St Mary & St George, Hornsey Assemble 1000hrs

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT 2003

The past year has proved how we as a Regiment are now a cohesive, tight, professional group that take anything that is thrown at it. The combination of the Iraq war and the firemen's strike, put great strain on planning at all levels and all departments. I don't think the modern civilian of today who only has to worry about debt and what terrible TV programmes to watch next, has any idea of the somersaults that the battalions had to perform to fit in the fluid political decisions. It was all achieved with true professionalism and humour and great flexibility but some time short-term gains hold problems for the future?

The 1st Battalion returned from Kosovo and leapt straight into the firemen's strike (Op Fresco). It was a frustrating time as the Battalion was desperate to get on with training. As the CO put in "we played our part, we enjoyed those elements that were different experiences and we saved South London and Northern Ireland from the holocaust that would have occurred had we not been there to prevent it with our state of the art equipment (i.e. The Green Goddess).

The Battalion went to BATUS (Canada) in August and returns in November they have had to attack, defend delay advance, cross obstacles by day and night. They have been gassed, mined, shelled, kept without sleep and irritated by sanctimonious directing staff who display mystical powers of hindsight. The Battalion is in good form and now ready to deploy to any war that may require armoured infantry, they continue to be based at Tidworth.

The 2nd Battalion exists for one reason to conduct operations and they have been continually involved since the last edition of the journal. They are at present on a 6 month tour in Northern Ireland. The Op Fresco fire fighting commitment lasted for over eight months and immediately afterwards the Battalion was into Northern Ireland ready for deployment in June 2003. The Battalion was unique when soldiers were deservedly rewarded for bravery during the fireman's strike. Four OR's were awarded the Queen's Commendation for bravery and two CAC's commendations.

In May the Battalion received a visit by the Colonel in Chief. This visit took place on Albuhera Day (May 16th) at Lydd during the Battalions NI training. It was an excellent visit and enjoyed by everyone. Northern Ireland is a strange mixture of the familiar and unfamiliar. The possibility of elections and the restoration of the power sharing executive occupy the local political

agenda. Economic investment and confidence is much in evidence. Whilst the public expect a diminishing military profile dissident republicans and loyalists para militaries have continued to pose a threat to stability, life and property.

The Battalion returns in December 2003 and is based in Ternhill.

The 3rd Battalion has had a busy period. They have been involved in both major operations in Afghanistan (Op Fingal) and Iraq (Op Telic) not as a battalion group but formed groups of sec or pl level. Soldiers are still preparing for mobilisation as the Op Telic requirement continues to grow and will continue into the future.

In addition they have been preparing their response to a civil disaster, in the event of a problem Battalion HQ plus staff revert to HQ Civil Contingency Reaction Force in support of the emergency services. This is a very real role for the TA and has brought a new array of skills to be learnt. In between all the activities Battalion life continues with Annual Camp (Sennybridge) Cambria Patrol Competition to name a few. With all these real life commitments the Battalion has a professional "buzz" about it and is in fine form.

The two independent companies of B Company of The London Regiment and C Company of The Royal Rifle Volunteers are also deeply involved with providing men for Afghanistan and Iraq. Gone are the days of a pint at drill night. There is now a commitment and obligation to follow the "brown envelope" that signals compulsory call-up. The companies are in fine form.

In summary the Regiment is in excellent form and meeting the daily challenges thrown to it.

AJM

OFFICERS' CLUB

Major Stephen Dowse organised on behalf of the Officers' Club a very successful luncheon that was held on Thursday the 18th of September 2003 in the Regimental Room of the Wardrobe in Cathedral Close, Salisbury by kind permission of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment. Thirty-eight members attended. It has been suggested that a luncheon be held next year at the Leander Club Henley that Major Peter Clarke has said he will run. This suggestion will be discussed at the

Middlesex Executive Committee Meeting that is due to be held in the Spring. Members should note that, if held, it would be in addition to and not in place of the annual dinner that is scheduled for Friday 7th May 2004 at the Army and Navy Club.



*Fred Phillips in conversation with
Capt A.I.F. Goldman and Lt Col R.E. Robotham, MC, TD*

2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The 2/7th Bn Middlesex Regt (DCO) OCA celebrated their 57th annual re-union on 2nd October at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch for the last occasion where 64 members and guests enjoyed an excellent luncheon. The gathering was chaired by Col. Irvine CBE. TD. on behalf of Lt. Col. R.E. Robertson MC. TD. and the Battalion. Following the message from HM The Queen with best wishes for an enjoyable occasion.

The toasts were HM The Queen and fallen comrades. Many distinguished guests attended namely, Col. R.M. Cain OBE. DL., Major C.L. Lawrence MC., Major D Harwood MBE. TD., Major R.E.B. Morris MBE. and his wife Betty, Major Fielder TD. MBA. FIPD. MIMGT. FRSA., Mike Ward BEM. and his colleagues from Hounslow Branch.

Many long travellers attended Lt. Col. Robotham from Worcestershire, Mr R. Swinson MBE from Bournemouth, Mr N. Page from Deal, Mr J. Welch from Leeds, Mr C. Talbot from Bognor, Mr R. Sissons from Portsmouth and a very special warm welcome for Mr C. Moore and June from Melbourne, Australia.

Fred Phillips, secretary of the 2/7th Bn OCA gave his address followed by Capt. A.I. F. Goldman who gave a talk on the formation of 2/7th Bn prior to the 2nd World War and its journey into action. A special tribute was made to Col. Stanley Mirams and Major Bower who played an important part in the formation of the 2/7th Bn. Fred also presented to our colleague Topper Brown a gift from the members to recognise his generosity towards us over the years and his many collections made with "Topper's Box" which has helped the 2/7th financially with past reunions.

Many thanks also for Capt. A.I.F. Goldman and his guest Dr Shirley Guthrie who initiated the Anzio poem leaflet and provided the table flowers.

Fred also thanks Lt. Col R.E Robotham and Capt A.I.F. Goldman for the Italian war years book in recognition for his work on the re-unions, which he will very much treasure.

Lastly, thanks to all members for their support in making the re-unions possible and thanks to "Topper" Brown, Gary (my son in law), Alf Burford (Chairman, Enfield Branch) for their valuable assistance.

FP

ENFIELD BRANCH DEDICATION PARADE

On Sunday 1st June a new standard for Enfield Branch was dedicated at Inglis Barracks. The new Standard was totally financed by The Regimental Association and the Service to dedicate the Standard was conducted by Sister Joan and the Reverend Cannon D Wall O.St.J., TD., JP. Standards from Hounslow Branch, The Queen's Surreys, The Royal British Legion, the Sea Cadets and Army Cadet Force. The Standards lined the aisle of the

chapel and made an impressive sight for the members and guests. The new Standard was carried by Gerry Patmore with Joe Read as escort. After the dedication service, the parade formed up and marched to the Regimental War Memorial having been preceded by officers and guests, for a wreath laying ceremony. The exhortation was spoken by our Chairman Alf Burford and the wreath was laid by Jim Innes, Treasurer. A minutes silence was observed, before the parade moved off to March Past, the salute was taken by Col. R.M.Cain OBE. DL. After the official programme everybody relaxed and enjoyed a superb lunch in the WO's & Sgts Mess.

Special thanks are due to Brigadier P.J.T.Maggs CBE, Chief Executive BFPO for the use of Inglis Barracks and to WO1 M Attwell for his assistance and enthusiasm and all members of his mess. To Major R.E.B.Morris and the Finance Committee of the Regimental Association for funding the Standard. The Standard Bearers who attended, each of whom were presented with a certificate to mark the occasion.

GP

THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEBRANCE

In accordance with a long established custom members, of the Association and friends attended the service at the Middlesex Guildhall, Whitehall. In the absence of Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow JP. Colonel R.M. Cain OBE. DL. laid a Middlesex Badged Poppy Wreath at the Regimental Memorial on the stroke of eleven o'clock. The service was conducted by our Honorary Chaplain, The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, the lesson was read by Col. Cain and was from Matthew 5 verses 1-14.

On the conclusion of the Service members circulated, renewed acquaintances and enjoyed the sherry supplied by the Association which despite Major Ron Morris MBE. having retired was transported by him and Betty Morris supplied the usual much appreciated "tit bits" we are very grateful to them. Some members then visited the Garden of Remembrance.

A fine tribute to the Regiment has been prepared by Mr Steve Jones, Court Manager, copies of which were available for our members and are on display in the court for the general public. Brigadier Pielow has written and congratulated Mr Jones on producing this excellent handout.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY MILL HILL

The Enfield and Hounslow branches, joined forces to attend the Remembrance Service in the chapel at Inglis Barracks, which was conducted by Sister Joan and Reverend Cannon D Wall O.St.J. TD. JP.

After the Service, in company with two detachments of the Royal Logistic Corps, the contingent marched to the Regimental War Memorial for a short service and the laying of wreaths. The contingent then marched past, the salute being taken by Brigadier P.J.T. Maggs CBE.

After the formalities WO1 Mark Attwell and members of the WO's & Sgts. Mess, entertained those present to lunch, as always, in a very cordial atmosphere. Alf Burford expressed the thanks of those present from the Association to WO1 Attwell and his catering staff.



Diehard contingent march past at Mill Hill

AN AUTUMN BREAK

Friday 26th September saw seven members of the Enfield Branch meeting up at Warner Brothers' camp at Hayling Island for an extended weekend of 1960's entertainment. Amongst the artists appearing were the Tremeloes and the Searchers along with an excellent cabaret. The dance floor was full every evening with some of our members displaying remarkable footwork.

Our rooms were quite comfortable and the food first class with a wide variety to suit all palates. The weather was kind to us and there were some pleasant walks along the beaches. Inside the camp our members took full advantage of the bar and other facilities ranging from ten pin bowling, line dancing, various quizzes and a host of other leisure activities, whilst others preferred relaxing in the sauna bath .

Amongst the highlights of the weekend was an evocative and nostalgic visit to the D Day museum at Southsea, also a hilarious round of golf straight from a "carry on film". Coached by Reg Best, the only member who had ever played golf, we finally made it round. The score card showed that Alf (Tiger) Burford was a clear winner being several strokes below par and well capable of winning the British Open. (Strange That)!

We also made the acquaintance of some gentlemen who had served with the Royal Staffordshire's alongside the Middlesex Regiment in Cyprus. Apparently they had previously held one or two reunions in the camp, and with good food, good company and good entertainment it's easy to see why.

The weekend was deemed a great success, marred only by the absence of Jack & Joy Disney who were unable to join us due to unforeseen circumstances. However, we look forward to their company next year along with a few more of our other Diehards and their families.

AB

A MEDAL FOR SERVICE IN EGYPT. 1951-54

After more than fifty years the Whitehall Establishment has finally given way to intense pressure from veterans, their MPs and the media and agreed that those who served in Egypt in the tumultuous period from 1951 to 1954 shall receive a campaign medal. They have just announced that the General Service Medal (Army & RAF) 1918-62 and the Naval General Service Medal 1914-62 shall be awarded with clasp "Canal Zone". It is understood that the qualifying service recommended to the Queen is 30 Days, or more, on unit strength in Egypt during the period from 16th October 1951 to 19th October 1954. Applications should be made to Army Medal Office, Government Buildings, Worcester Road, Droitwich, Worcs. WR9 8AU.

THE GALLANTRY MEDALLISTS' LEAGUE

The above League are seeking to make their existence more widely known. The League is second only to the VC and GC Association, and embraces all holders of second level gallantry awards, both military and civil, and their families within the Commonwealth.

For more details and an application form apply to - Mr D Harper GM, Hon Secretary The Gallantry Medallists' League, 3 Orchard Close Barnstable Devon EX31 2DF.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE

"The First Battle of the Marne" took place in the first weeks of the First World War and formed a distinct phase of the war. Initial German success as they advanced rapidly towards Paris with the French and British carrying out a fighting withdrawal from Le Cateau to the line of the Marne, which they held, before carrying out a decisive counter attack. The Germans were pushed back to the lines which solidified into the trench systems which gave rise to the terrible loss of life. It has been said that France was saved on the Marne. The British Army in general played a key role.

The French Government is determined to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the campaign which they call "The First Battle of the Marne". A body of notables has been formed to guide the commemorations, the ceremonies will be held over many weeks and include battlefield tours and services, following the route of the campaign.

The events are due to take place in July and August, though historically inaccurate, it takes advantage of the summer holidays and hopefully better weather. Further details are available from Regimental Headquarters, Canterbury, listing places of particular interest to British regiments.

ODD JOTTINGS

Our cover picture is of "Del Boy" Johns a member of the Enfield Branch who has once again made a large donation to Regimental Funds. At the reunion in May of this year he announced that he was riding his bicycle from Dover to Lands End to raise money for charity. At the Reunion with the assistance of Betty Morris he collected £111.60 from those present and in October he sent a cheque for a further £600.00 to Ron Morris.

The Money has been passed to Canterbury and placed in the Middlesex Regiment Benevolent Fund. The photo graph shows "Del Boy" looking surprisingly fit considering the length of his journey. Well done and many thanks.

Dominic Grieve MP wrote to thank Regimental Headquarters for providing a copy of the relevant pages of "Diehards in the Great War" that relates to the 3rd Battalion's actions at Ypres in February 1915 and the death of his grand father W.P. Grieve. His sons aged 7 and 9 are pressing for a visit to Dover Castle.

I have received a letter from D.J.Thurston's son to say that his father is in hospital and has been for the last four months, and expects to remain there for the foreseeable future. Unfortunately he has had his left leg amputated above the knee. We wish him all the best for a speedy recovery.

R.E. Knowles 6207423 ex 1st 2/8th Battalion, sent apologies for being unable to attend the colours parade in Albuhera next May. He lives in British Columbia and would like to know of any ex members living in the area.

R.A.Condron, apologised for being unable to attend the Remembrance Service at the Middlesex Guildhall.

6203540 Reg Smith, who was a bandsman with the 1st Battalion and a survivor of the Lisbon Maru has written to say he remembers Col.M.M Mann MC. and also Col. Stewart who gave him his rice ration on the Shin-Sky Maru.

A communication has been received from Bill Phillips a FARELF prisoner of war who lives in New Zealand extolling the virtues of the Regiment.

Ralph H.Otto 6211528 1st 2/8th Battalion wrote to Major Dennis Bradley BEM., to say that he and his wife Ethel will be celebrating their Diamond wedding anniversary in February next. Unfortunately, Ethel has had her left leg amputated but Ralph says she is doing well, considering that he is her carer. Ralph would be delighted to hear from old comrades from the signal section. His address is available from the editor.

Gillian, the daughter of ex Sgt. Ernest James Sibling 1932-1946, has written to say that Ernie celebrated his 90th birthday in June, still reads the Die Hards newsletter avidly. Due to failing health he is no longer able to

attend Regimental Reunions, he would be pleased to hear from old comrades and remains in touch with Bert Rawson who was one of his recruits in 1939. He continues to serve as President of his local branch of The Royal British Legion.

Mrs L Dodson has written to say how much she enjoys reading The Die Hard and to wish Ron & Betty Morris a happy retirement.

Eileen Regan has written, on behalf, of her husband, to apologise for his not being able to attend the Westminster Service on 8th November. He is wheelchair bound since suffering a stroke. However they would be there in spirit and they send good wishes to all Diehards.

Monty McNab called Ron Morris, in September, to tell him the good news that a second period of chemotherapy has put him back on track and that recent tests show him clear of cancer. He has to go for checks every couple of months but is looking good. He was very cheerful on the telephone and was delighted to tell Betty that his hair has started to grow and he is putting on weight. I am sure that his many friends would wish to know this.

Jerry Farmborough has written into say that he received his newsletter on the Queen's birthday and reminisces about his time at El Alamein and Tunisia and recalls fondly their chicken, Henrietta, who was their alarm system. He notes that the Americans were taking chickens to Iraq to serve the same purpose. Jerry has been married 63 years and we wish him many more.

Allen Jennings has moved, his words, from dull Enfield to sunny Eastbourne his address is available to anyone who wishes to communicate with him.

Paul Dean, Curator of the Memorabilia Room at Enfield entertained a party of 60 schoolchildren and 4 teachers with a talk on the exploits of the Middlesex Regiment and afterwards showed them round the display room at the Royal British Legion Enfield, which contains many items of historical interest.

Cpl Brummie Harris ex mortar platoon 1969, has moved to reap the benefits of the Costa del Sol Spain, he would love to give his regards to any Diehards living in the area who knew him.

During the Remembrance Period, as a tribute to the Regiment, Paul Dean arranged a window display of items from the Enfield display room, at the request of the Manager of Warings, florists, in Chase Farm. He has since received further requests for window displays of Regimental regalia from other shops.

An interesting letter was received by Col. M.J.Ball from Thomas "Taffy" G.H.Evans who is unable to travel the great distance from his home to attend the Albuhera function. Taffy goes on to say that he is settled in Manila, having spent most of his life abroad. Leaving the UK in 1936 for Singapore with the Diehards returning in 1946 after being taken prisoner in Hong Kong surviving the Lisbon Maru and Kobe he left again for Hong Kong in May 1946, enlisted in the Royal Naval Dockyard Police when the Yard closed he transferred to the CSOS police and helped to form this police force, Little Sai Wan. He retired in 1986 became a resident of Hong Kong and married a lady from the Philippines named Sabasion(Sally) they have two children a son and a daughter. Taffy now owns two houses in Manila all done on his pension, and feels he could not have done this in the UK. He is an honorary member of The Defenders of Bataan & Correcidor and has a permit to enter all military barracks. Taffy is 88 years old, still in good health.

Phil Dyer wrote with reference to the obituary notice for Conrad Leonard to say that he had met Conrad on 8th April at Kew Public Records Office at a special event to honour eight First World War Survivors. Conrad then aged 102 was, at that date, the only the only surviving British Officer from World War 1. He had served in the 23rd Battalion at the end of the war, in civil life, he was a pianist and composer, after the war he had a very successful career, particularly with musicals and Phil believes that he worked for Ivor Novello. He was a very tall, spry gentleman and gave a 10 minute recital on the piano. Apparently, some days after this event, he fell and broke a wrist and subsequently died from complications expected in such extreme old age.

Phil also raised another subject, referring to a notice in the newsletter that somebody had mentioned the firing of the Vicker's machine gun at Bisley last year, This was "Exercise Parting Shot" organised by the Machine Gun Corps Old Comrades Association and is probably the last time that the Vickers Gun will be fired on a range in this country, apart from at Warminster, where it is a great favourite with the School of Infantry. The honour of training the ten gun crews from both the Regular and Territorial Army fell to an old Diehard, none other than 23067788 Sgt Dyer P.F.

Needless to say, the event was a 100% success and even the old instructors were very impressed with the drills. All this was achieved as a result of five days instruction at Deepcut Barracks. Once again the Diehards led the way.

Bill Rawlinson spoke to Ron Morris in early November to tell him that he was off to Belgium to a hospital in Ghent to undergo a knee replacement. Subsequently Bill has reported back and has high praise for the treatment he received and for the staff and for the cleanliness of the hospital. If he had waited for the NHS in the UK he would have joined a queue and would not have been operated on until August 2004 at the earliest. Currently Bill is walking to obtain full mobility.



Ken Beale after his heart operation with Ron and Betty Morris

Ken & Millie Beale, wrote to Ron & Betty Morris to wish them a happy retirement and to express appreciation for all that Ron has done for the Regimental Association whilst he has been secretary with the assistance of Betty. Let us hope that they will RV in La Albuera at the burial of the colours in May next.

OBITUARIES

We advise with the deepest regret that the following have died:-

EASTON Alan E died after a short stay in hospital, we have been advised by the Royal British Legion, so no further information is available.

FICKLING Gerald, late 1st/7th died in Norwich Hospital on Wednesday 25th June, he was interned with his wife Elaine at St George's Church Soham Toney Walton on 7th July.

GILES Wilfred, recalled from the reserve 1939, he served with the 2nd Battalion throughout World War 2. Died on 2nd August 2003 aged 92, from the effects of a stroke, He was with the BEF in 1940 and was evacuated via Dunkirk. He returned to France in 1944 and was still with the 2nd Battalion when the war ended. He had previous service with the Royal West Kent Regiment. We do not have details of the funeral.

GILL Albert C. BEM. MISM. 6204647 Sgt. died on 13th June aged 82 years after a short illness. After his military service with the Middlesex Regt.. including having been a POW, he distinguished himself in civilian life as a supervisor of baggage porters at Heathrow Airport, for which he was awarded the BEM. He achieved membership of the Institute Of Supervisory Management as a mature student. He will be greatly missed by his wife and family.

HART Roger, died on 4th August 2003, former member of 5th Battalion, he served as an Ever Ready in Aden with 1st Bn Royal Sussex.

LATTAWAY M, passed away on 15th June, no other details are known.

LEWIS Stanley A, died suddenly on 4th November 2003 aged 85. He was called up under the Militia Act in June 1939 and joined the 1/7th Battalion at Mill Hill Barracks. He served in France and was taken off the Mole at Dunkirk on H.M.S. Worcester. He served as a machine gunner attached to

51st Highland Division and went with them through North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Holland and finally Germany. In 1946 he returned to the world of print and became Managing Director of a Scientific publishing company in the City of London. He enjoyed 20 years of happy retirement . His funeral took place on Friday 14th November at St Mary' Church Welwyn Hertfordshire.

MOORE Gordon T. (George) 14402034 served with the Middlesex and RAEC 1942-47 died at home in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire on 17th July . After demobilisation he trained as a teacher at Saltley College Birmingham and he taught in Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Gloucestershire. His biographical novel, "Prelude to Battle", the story of a young soldier from enlisting to the preparation for the Normandy invasion was published in 1983 by Midas Books,. Burial took place on July 23rd at the Natural Burial Ground Avondale Sussex in the presence of close family only.

PULLEN Walter F.23026870, Died at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 2nd November aged 67. The funeral service was held at the South London Crematorium on 11th November . Walter served with the Regiment during 1954-55. He had been an In Pensioner since March 2003.

ROBERTSON Ian, died on 1st August 2003 aged 60 of a heart attack. Members will recall that Ian was Director of the National Army Museum and as such a good friend and supporter of the Regiment. He had been a member of the 7th Battalion. When our Museum closed in 1992, he was pleased to receive our collection into the safe custody of the National Army Museum. Ian's funeral was held on 14th August at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Leytonstone.

ROSE Doris, Aged 87 passed away on 1st May last, Doris was the wife of RSM Arthur Rose 6200783 ex 2nd Battalion who predeceased her. In a letter from her daughter she mentioned how happy Mrs Rose was to be a member of the Middlesex Family and what a great life she had with the 2nd Battalion supporting her husband.

SIMPSON Derek G., died on 3rd July aged 74. Served with the Drums in Hong Kong went to Korea with the 1st Battalion. On leaving the army in 1951, he spent many years with the City of London Drums. His funeral was held at Mortlake Crematorium, the Regiment was represented by John Raby and Mike Ward.

WATSON TAYLOR Cyril E. Capt. MC. BSC. passed away sometime ago, no other details are known.

WEBB Sydney MBE 14404436, died 15th June 2003 aged 77. Syd joined the Army in 1940, he went to Normandy on D Day plus 1, after the war he remained in the army, seeing service in Palestine and Germany. In 1950 whilst on reserve he was recalled for service and went with the Gloucester's to Korea, he suffered a spinal injury and was confined to a wheelchair for 53 years. He was Chairman of the Korean Club until 1989.

WEBB Tina, widow of Syd Webb who died earlier this year, passed away on Sunday 14th September 2003. Sadly she never recovered from the loss of her husband and lost the will to live.

WELLS Henry Gifford M.C. Major died on 30th August 2003, no other details are to hand at present.

WILKINSON John Sgt ex 2/7th Battalion passed away on 19th November 2003, no further details are to hand.

Captain Peter Ingham

Peter died on 18th July aged 86. At a well attended Thanksgiving Service for the life of Captain Peter Ingham, held at All Saints Church Odiham on July 28th, a friend who gave the Address, said that after leaving school at Uppingham, Peter joined The Midland Bank in Bridlington in 1935. Shortly afterwards he was transferred to London when he joined the T.A. being commissioned into the 7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment.

This fortuitously enabled him to indulge in his favourite sport of Rugby Football, which he could not have done in any club of standing on his meagre bank salary. In 1937 he left the Midland Bank and joined The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, with whom he spent the rest of his working life, mainly in the Far East. After attending a number of T.A. camps, he was selected for the T.A. Officers Course at RMC Sandhurst.

In January 1940 the 7th Battalion set sail for France for training with the Regular 2nd Battalion, then moved to Belgium following the German Army invasion. During the fighting Peter was wounded in the left arm and was ordered back to a casualty Station. He slept on and off for 36 hours but

awoke to find the station had been over run by the German Army in its sweep to the Channel Ports. The walking wounded were marched eastwards via Ypres and Courtaai where they housed in the town gaol. They were taken by train to Dortmund and later transferred to Oflag VIIb at Laufen near Munich. In January 1941, he was one of 200 officers moved to Possen and Thorn in Poland. Eventually he and some 10,000 other prisoners were moved to Moosberg south of the Danube where the camp was over run by American forces. In November 1945 Peter was demobilised under Class B release to rejoin The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.

HN

Major R J Leighton

Major Robert John ("Bob") Leighton died suddenly in September 2003 aged 76. He was the son of Sir Robert and Lady Leighton and on leaving Dulwich College in 1944 he volunteered for the Indian Army and was commissioned with the Gurkha Rifles and posted to the 7th Bn. On leaving after his war service commission, he joined Leighton Straker the family bookbinding firm where he stayed until retiring as Managing Director in 1990, when he and the family moved from Ealing to Colchester. In 1948 he joined (coincidentally) the 7th Bn of the Regiment at Hornsey rising to command "A" Company and leaving the T.A. in 1964. His period of command was characterised by the family style of leadership, perhaps typical of former Gurkha officers, but he had an instinctive grasp of what made the T.A. soldier "tick" and this coupled with his sense of humour resulted in a well recruited and efficient company.

He was a liveryman of the Stationers Company at the early age of 21. was appointed to the Court in 1977 and served as Master in 1988-89.

His interest in the Regiment continued long after his retirement from the T.A., he regularly attended social functions and served as a trustee of the Silver Trust for the former Battalions up to his death.

The Regiment was represented at the Service of Thanksgiving by Major Barry Reed M.C., Captain Peter Lane and Capt Mike Doran and Lt. Peter Ottino and their ladies.

MJD

Major Ernest Thompson M.C. T.D.

Major Ernest Thompson, who died on 19th June was a well known regimental figure, where he had a particularly successful career, which included service in the T.A. where he served as the regular officer, Training Major, with 7MX at Hornsey.

For many years after his retirement in March 1969, he attended the T.A. reunions where his cheerful character and friendly charm was always much in evidence. Ernest Thompson joined the T.A. in September 1936 and was serving with it when he was embodied as a 2nd Lieutenant in September 1939, later being awarded a regular commission in June 1946. He attended the Staff College and apart from regimental duty served on the staff in Singapore, West Africa, Northern Ireland, Malta and Libya, at the war Office and in BAOR.

He served with 1MX in Cyprus and was Adjutant of the Army Apprentices' School in Aborfield, as well as being a company commander in North Africa, Italy, Palestine, Syria and Egypt during World War 2.

Indeed he had a most varied full and eventful career in the army from when he initially joined the HAC (infantry) in 1936 until retirement 33 years later. A career that included service in the Middle and Far East, as well as BAOR, Northern Ireland and UK during which he was awarded the MC. and TD.

Anybody who knew Ernest, and many of us did, and particularly those who were fortunate enough to serve with him enjoyed his constant good humour, fine company and were able to benefit from his wide experience both on the staff and at regimental duty with the regular army and the T.A.. Characteristics which stayed with him to the end of his eventful career and into his retirement, a great Diehard and an equally great loss.

BMAP

John Anthony Lofts

Known to us all as Tony, died on Sunday 14th September 2003. He served in Korea and was a Lance Corporal in D Company. He was wounded and was mentioned in despatches for distinguished service in Korea. A Requiem Mass in thanksgiving for his life was held at St. Patrick's Church Chislehurst on Tuesday 23rd September 2003 at which members of his



Tony Lofts with Grandson

family and the Regiment gave appreciation for his life. The Mass was followed by a Cremation Service at Beckenham Crematorium directly afterwards. The family kindly provided refreshments at The Royal British Legion Club, Chislehurst during the afternoon after the second service. Those from the Regiment joining the family to remember Tony included Major and Mrs Chris Lawrence, Major and Mrs Ron Morris, Messrs Dougie Francis, Mike Mulvaney, Mike Ward, Tug Wilson and Gordon Young, Tony was a long serving and dedicated Secretary to the Korean Club and he will be much missed in this role and extremely difficult to replace.

Apology We offer our sincere apologies and for any distress caused to Mrs J M Torre for an erroneous entry in connection with Alexander Torres' obituary notice, which was due to out of date records.

New Members

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the publication of the last newsletter.

23764061 Pte J.W.Bennis S&HQ Coys 1st Bn 1960-1962

23402229 Pte H.G. Bowdell 1st Bn 1957-1959

ENQUIRIES

Replies to the Editor please.

The Armed Forces (Death in Service) Memorial

The main task of the Memorial Project Team has been to carry out extensive research to establish the names of those who have died in Service since 1st Jan 1948(the Commonwealth War Graves Commission record all deaths up to 31st December 1947 and this is sometimes known as the official date of the end of World War 2). It is then possible to assess who fulfils the relevant criteria for the Armed Forces Memorial. Although the personnel records of each individual soldier are available, the records of who has died in Service are woefully incomplete. There are over 6.7 million records from 1948 to the current date and it would not be physically possible to look through every file. It is estimated that it would take 74 man-years to complete!

Despite the valiant efforts of the researchers who are using as many sources of information as possible there is the chance that names will inadvertently be missed. The Memorial Project Team are anxious to ensure that the final list is as complete as possible and this is where they would welcome help. If you should know of anyone who died in Service since 1st Jan 1948 in the Middlesex Regiment (DCO), I would be grateful if you could let me know. I will pass the information on to The Project Team. This can then be used to cross check information that they already have and would help to avoid omissions. To help find the relevant personal record it would help to have as much information as possible to include service number, forenames or initials, name and date of death where available.

The Project Team have seen the Roll of Honour of the Officers and Men of the Regiment killed in Korea which was taken from "The Diehards in Korea" that was published by the Regiment.

Should you know of any deaths in Service, then perhaps you will write to me and I will pass on the information to the Project Team.

I have received a request from Mrs P Jackson who is looking for information regarding her father, James Gardiner Jackson born 28th October 1917, who joined the regiment at Mill Hill Barracks in 1939. He went overseas to Dunkirk in 1940 with 2nd Battalion, unfortunately her father died over twenty five years ago consequently any help or information which is forth coming would be greatly appreciated by his daughter.

G B Tann is keeping a record of ex prisoners of war, and would be pleased to receive information. Regimental Headquarters do not keep such records, if anybody can help on this project then his address is 300 Eastbourne Road, Rosebud, Victoria 3939, Australia.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

Blazer Badges	£7.50
Car Badges	£10.00
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£28.00
Ties (Old Pattern maroon & old gold)	£6.00
Ties (New pattern black with maroon and gold thin stripes)	£6.00
Ties Officers' Club (Silk)	£13.50
Good quality replica Middlesex Regt Cap Badges	£5.50
Middlesex Regt. Key Rings	£2.50
Old Comrades lapel badges	£2.75
Prints Steady the Drums & Fifes unframed Large	£8.00
Small	£6.00
Middlesex Regt Plaques	£18.50
Middlesex Blazer Buttons Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge	
Sets of 6 Large & 6 Small	£28.00
Individual buttons large or small	£2.50
Regtl cuff links	£7.50
Regtl cuff links with tie grip	£10.50
Tie grip only	£5.00
Regtl Ladies Brooch	£4.75
Regtl tie tack and chain	£4.50