



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 69

JULY 1993

PRICE 50p



Brig B.A.M. Pielow – Major A.E.F. Waldron – Major R.E.B. Morris

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Chairman : Lt-Col J.M. Hewson, MC.
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Photo by John Kenny

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1993

- 18 September Korean Club Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2.
Assemble 7 p.m.
- 7 October 2/7th Bn OCA Reunion at the Victory Services club, Seymour St, London W2.
Assemble 11.45 a.m.
- 9 November Annual Meeting of the Housing Sub Committee 6.45 p.m. Conference Room,
Duke of York's HQ, Vhrls, London SW3.
- 13 November Ceremony of Field of Remembrance, Westminster, London SW1. To be held inside the
Middlesex Guildhall, opposite Westminster Abbey. Assemble 10.40 a.m.
- 14 November 2/10th Bn (1914-18) OCA Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church,
Chiswick, London W4, at 3 p.m.

MAJOR FRANK WALDRON, MBE

The turnout at the Regimental Reunion in May was the best ever and was yet another fitting tribute to the popularity and esteem in which Frank Waldron is held throughout the Regiment for the outstanding way he has managed the Regimental Association during his 21 years as our Secretary.

Throughout my own term as Chairman I have been fortunate to have had Frank as Secretary and I would like to use the Newsletter to add my personal tribute to him. It has been a very real pleasure to work with him – especially as he has done all the work !! His knowledge on past regimental history is well known and over the years he has become the expert. He not only knows the history of the Regiment, but he can quote regimental numbers on demand and knows the personal history of pretty well all Diehards.

He has organised and attended every one of our functions, invariably supported by Grace, and this has ensured their constant success. Less well known is the enormous amount of personal effort and compassion he puts into all of our welfare cases and many Diehards have Frank to thank for the immediate and effective way their problems have been solved or eased.

The Association now has many more members than when he took over, including many more TA members, and his expertise with the Newsletter has kept us all in touch with each other and the Regiment. Indeed, without Frank at the helm over the years we would simply not have the strong Association that we have to-day, and we all owe him a very great debt, as do I personally.

Happily Frank's expertise and knowledge will not be lost to us as he will continue to be the Manager of our all-important housing at Enfield and will also continue for a while to edit the Newsletter. Both of these activities will be a great help to Major Ron Morris who has taken over from him.

Well done Frank and many many thanks for a superb job really well done.

B.A.M.P.

REGIMENTAL WEEKEND

As a throw away remark as our President left the Reunion at the Victory Club he said "You will write up the weekend for the newsletter won't you"!

Sitting down the morning after, feeling a wee bit fragile, I thought where do I start. For me the highlight of the weekend was the three cheers, which must have been heard the other side of Hyde Park, followed by the standing ovation accorded to Frank Waldron. This expression of affection and goodwill said it all.

The weekend for Frank started on the Thursday afternoon when a van drew up outside his bungalow the driver asking if he could be directed to Lynsore Bungalow as he had a delivery to make. Frank told him, in Frank's usual way, he was there. The driver then said "you had better give me a hand to unload then". I cannot find the words to express Frank's absolute delight with his garden bench. Suffice to say in his words "I could not have had a nicer gift". He was particularly pleased with the inscription that reads "To Frank and Grace Waldron from their many friends in the Middlesex Regt (DCO) Assn – May 93".

At the Officers' Club Dinner at the Naval and Military Club our President, Brig Tony Pielow presented Frank with a silver salver from the Officers engraved with the Regimental Badge and to Major Frank Waldron MBE - May 93".

The number attending the reunion on the Saturday 280 plus was a record, in itself a great tribute to all Frank's hard work to ensure that the Association goes on from strength to strength. The President, after the meal, made a short speech outlining Frank's 21 years as Association Regimental Secretary. He showed a large photograph of the teak garden bench so that members could see what had been purchased and presented. The Brigadier then handed Frank a cheque for £5143.33p the balance of the money, after the purchase of the bench, so generously contributed by all our members. Frank in his reply said that he had enjoyed being the Secretary of the Association and he thanked all the members for giving him such a wonderful send off. He was obviously lost for words.

In conclusion I feel I should mention that I deem it a great privilege to follow Frank Waldron as Secretary to the Regimental Association. I will endeavour to achieve the very high standard of service set by Frank.

R.E.B.M.

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

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

- a. A donation of £25 from the 1/7th Bn OCA.
- b. A donation of £60 from Mrs Joan Riseley, in memory of the late Capt Jack Riseley.
- c. A donation of £50 from Mrs Gumm, in memory of the late Mr S. Gumm.
- d. A donation of £30 from Lt W.C.C. Newton, to the memory of his grandfather, Lt-Col W.C. Newton and to his father Major W.C. Newton.
- e. A bequest of £500 from the estate of the late Mr S.E. Mason.
- f. Donations totalling £395.60 from the family and friends of the late Mr A.H. Parrott, in lieu of flowers.
- g. A donation of £75 from Major A.W.F. Peal.

DONATIONS

The following donations have been made :

- a. A donation of £600 to the Middlesex and North West Sector Army Cadet Force.
- b. A donation of £250 to St Dunstons to assist with the care of 10 members of the Regiment.
- c. A donation of £1000 to the Victory Services Club Appeal to assist with the modernisation programme.
- d. A donation of £100 to the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral.

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The annual dinner was held at the Naval and Military Club (IN and OUT), 94 Piccadilly, London W1, on Friday 7 May 1993. Brig B.A.M. Pielow presided.

The following attended :

Official Guests: Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey, Lt-Col and Mrs D.J.K. Russell, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Major C.J. Bellingham, The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), The Rev and Mrs W.E.B. Jones, Mr and Mrs B.A. Waldron, Mrs M. Waller, Mrs C. Pollard, Mrs A. Bennett, Miss Jean Bower, Mrs Ann Cotton.

Members and Private Guests: Brig and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, Lt-Col and Mrs J.M. Hewson, Brig B.H. Marciandi, Brig and Mrs D.B. Rendell, Col M.J. Ball, Col I.D. Brotherton, Col and Mrs R.M. Cain, Col and Mrs A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Col A.M. Man, Col H.J.A. Moore, Col and Mrs J.N. Shipster, Lt-Col G. Brinley Ayre, Lt-Col and Mrs C.N. Clayden, Lt-Col and Mrs M.F. Deakin, Lt-Col and Mrs P.W. Galvin, Lt-Col E.A.H. Jeffcoat, Lt-Col H.M. Lohan, Capt and Mrs S. Boydell, Capt D.K. Cattell, Major and Mrs P.D.J. Clarke, Major and Mrs H.E. Couch, Major R.A.J. Cheffins, Capt and Mrs M.J.S. Doran, Capt and Mrs S.L. Enthoven, Capt R.M. Fox, Capt A.I.F. Goldman, Major and Mrs S.L.J. Henshaw, Major and Mrs C.L. Lawrence, Major I.M.E. Lloyd, Capt J.G. Lofting, Major and Mrs A.C. Lowrie, Major and Mrs P.D.H. Marshall, Major and Mrs A.E. McManus, Major and Mrs C.H. Mievile, Major and Mrs R.E.B. Morris, Major and Mrs B. St G.A. Reed.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) ASSOCIATION

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers), London Branch, held their annual dinner on Friday 2 May, at the RAMC HQ Mess, Millbank, London SW1.

Brig B.A.M. Pielow and Lt-Col T.W. Chattey attended.

2/10th Bn THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO) - 1914 - 18

The 65th Annual Luncheon of the 2/10th Battalion Old Comrades' Association was held at the Victory Services Club, London W2, on Saturday 15th May; this commemorated the 75th anniversary of the disbandment of the Battalion on the 20 August 1918.

Mr A.D. Scudamore presided and Brig B.A.M. Pielow was the principal guest. Others attending were - Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Reverend Patrick Tuft (Hon Chaplain), Major A.E.F. Waldron, Major R.E.B. Morris, Capt David Hawkins, Capt Dan Cattell (from Australia), F. Malthouse, R. Fordham, G. Fordham, F.A. Thomas, G. Stephens, S. Collingwood and L.F. Loomes. An apology for absence was received from Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton.

Our customary Remembrance Service will be held at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick at 3 pm on Sunday 14 November next and all 'Friends of the 2/10th' will be most welcome; this applies especially to Members of the Regimental Association who in past years have attended the Service previously held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

WARRANT OFFICER'S AND SERGEANTS' MESS PAST AND PRESENT DINNER, PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE'S)

The Regiment's first Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Past and Present Dinner will take place at ATR Bassingbourn on Saturday 4 September 1993.

The Past and Present Dinner is open to all those who have served, or are serving in the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment or any of our former Regiments. This includes past members of the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' who have been commissioned.

Those wishing to attend should apply for a Registration Form by writing to WO1(RSM) K. McCreadie, Bassingbourn Bks, Royston, Herts SG8 5LX. Cut-off date for applications is Friday 20 August 1993.

1/7th Bn (1939-45) LUNCHEON CLUB

The 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon Club held their luncheon at the Drill Hall, Hornsey on Saturday 24 April under the Chairmanship of Major A.B. Carter.

The guests of honour this year were Mr Marcus Adams of the BBC and Major Frank Waldron.

This years attendance was up 6% on last year. Sitting down was delayed by terrorist action in the City of London. The caterers did a grand job notwithstanding one of their members suffering a crushed foot. Mr Davidson showed us his video of the 50th El Alamein anniversary celebrations during this waiting time which resulted in extra bar time prior to the meal. A presentation was made to Major Waldron who is to retire as Regimental Association Secretary this Albuhera Day. Tony in his speech mentioned that living alone had its

hazards such as finding no bread in the larder etc – he then said “I have the cure for such happenings” and presented him with a walking stick and a bag.

I think these gatherings, including as they do those honorary members who were the last to wear our cap badge gender a strong Diehard spirit which augurs well for the future of our Club. The Cadets at Hornsey as usual supplied a very efficient security service and wine waiters also. We are indebted to Lt D. Collins for this. We closed our lunch with a toast coupled with condolences on his recent great loss, to a great DIEHARD, Major Frank Waldron, MBE, wishing him a happy and fulfilled retirement.

Members dispersed, having fought the North African campaign after Mr Davidson's video with the usual departing 'Goodbye - see you next year'.

Tony White

REVIEW OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE)

A party of more than 60 Diehards and their families attended the Regimental Review by the Regiment's Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, held at Howe Barracks Canterbury on the 9th June 1993. Colonel Andrew Man, our senior Diehard and a loyal and respected member of the Regiment, made the long journey across from Wales to be present on this special day.

On parade were the four Battalions of the new Regiment, 1st and 2nd together with 5th and 6/7th Battalions. The Parade Commander was Colonel Mike Ball the last Officer to be commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment.

After the Princess's arrival six or more members of the Regimental Free Fall Team parachuted on to the parade ground to land just alongside the saluting dias. A most impressive performance.

The Old Comrades of all the forebear Regiments joined the parade for the march past and marched four abreast past the saluting dias led by the Presidents of each of the Regimental Associations followed by the standards of the many branches on parade. Both Hounslow and Enfield Branch standards were present ably supported by many Diehards, many of whom were subsequently presented to Her Royal Highness when the Princess accompanied by the Colonel of the new Regiment (Major General A.A. Denison-Smith) toured the various Battalion and Association Marquees.

B Coy The London Regiment were well represented both on the parade and in the London Regiment Marquee. It was pleasing to see so many Diehard Ties on display.

The day ended with a beating of retreat by the massed bands and drums of the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6/7th Battalions. A most enjoyable and memorable day.

I should mention that in the programme of events there were many references to the Middlesex Regiment including a very good reproduction of Lady Butler's painting “Steady the Drums and Fifes”. The Middlesex are also well represented in the customs etc being carried forward from the old regiments to the new. Of the four regimental days being celebrated and observed each year the 16th of May, Albuhera Day is included as is the ceremony of the Silent Toast. The ostrich plumes worn by the East Middlesex Regiment and subsequently by the Middlesex Regiment are included in the new Regiment's Cap Badge and finally the officers' badges of rank will still be eversleigh stars and crowns albeit now bronze instead of gilt.

R.E.B.M.



Brig B.A.M. Pielow J.P. and President of the Mx. Regt. Ass. is met by H.R.H. The Princess of Wales at the Associations Enclosure at the Princess of Wales Regimental Review at Howe Barracks Canterbury on Wednesday 9 June 1993.

Photo by John Kenny



Associations March Past

Photo by John Kenny



THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT (QUEEN'S AND ROYAL HAMPSHIRE'S)

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment reports with great sadness the recent deaths of three of its officers. Major John Barr was tragically killed in a helicopter accident in Northern Ireland on 26 November, Major Alan Martin MBE, late Buffs, Queens Own Buffs, Queens and RAPC and Financial Secretary at RHQ since 1982 died on 11 March, and Major Bob Le-Galloudec, former RSM and QM 1 R HAMPS, passed away on 19 March.

Nine months after amalgamation, the new Regiment is proving to be a highly efficient and very happy organisation with several notable successes already under its belt.

The 1st Battalion's exercise in Kenya planned for early this year was unfortunately cancelled but was replaced by many other interesting activities including skiing in Bavaria, adventurous training in Gibraltar, Spain, Sardinia and UK, and community projects throughout the Regimental area. Subsequently training was arranged for one company only in Kenya in March and April. Meanwhile the battalion soccer team won the UKLF Infantry Football Competition and the UKLF v BAOR Infantry Cup, with Private Bradbury being named as 'Army Youth Player of the Year'. The battalion is now training for deployment to Northern Ireland in the early Autumn.

The 2nd Battalion's exercise in Kenya from February to March went ahead very successfully and full reports of this will appear in the summer edition of the Regimental Journal. On the sporting side, the battalion teams won the Army Judo Competition, were runners-up in the Army Novices Boxing and won two silver medals in the Cambrian Patrol Competition. The battalion will be running the UKLF Mortar Concentration this summer and will later start training for their move to Northern Ireland at the end of the year. Their Gallipoli Company, which has been reinforcing 1st Battalion The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment, is due to return in October, having won that unit's inter-company boxing competition.

The 5th Battalion mustered 500 all ranks for its final camp with 20 Armoured Brigade in Germany and also won a silver medal in the Cambrian Patrol Competition. The Viscount De L'Isle has recently been appointed the battalion's Honorary Colonel in succession to the Rt Hon Robin Leigh-Pemberton, and of their new officers, 2Lt Julian Ladd, distinguished himself by winning the TA Cane on his commissioning course at RMA Sandhurst.

The 6th/7th Battalion, as usual, have had outstanding results in competitions. They won the Army Night Orienteering Championships (TA), a Gold medal in the TA Cambrian Patrol competition and a Silver in the Army Cambrian Patrol Championships. The battalion sent a platoon to train in the Ascension Islands in May and the battalion camp in 1994 will be in Cyprus. One of their officers, Lt Andrew Smith, has distinguished himself by being selected for the British team to compete in the Reserve Officers Pentathlon competition in the USA.

B (Queen's Regiment) Company of the London Regiment was the best company in the battalion on the Courage Trophy competition and won the Ironmongers' Company Trophy. They are now busy preparing for the Regiment's Inauguration Parade at the Duke of York's HQ on 1 August 1993.

The Honorary Freedom of the London Borough of Barnet, first granted to the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) in 1955, was transferred from the Queen's to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at a reception in Hendon Town Hall on 4 May 1993. Brigadier Tim Glass represented the Colonel of the Regiment, while Brigadier Brian Marciandi led a small Middlesex party at the ceremony.

All eyes are now being focused on the Royal Review of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment to be held in Canterbury on Wednesday 9th June. We hope very much that many Middlesex Regimental Association members will be able to attend what promises to be a most memorable occasion.

Major David Burbidge assumed command of B(Albuhera) Company, 8th volunteer Bn The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) Regiment, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Mx, w.e.f. 1 June 1993 vice Major R.L. Usher.

A message from the Princess of Wales was sent to Brig Tony Pielow on 21 May 1993 which read 'I am pleased to hear that the Band and Drums of my 2nd Battalion are performing for the first time in Winchester in support of your charity, the Winchester Medical foundation, and local Rotary charities on Saturday 22 May 1993. I wish all concerned a happy and successful day. Signed DIANA, Colonel in Chief, The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (Queen's and Royal Hampshire's).

MIDDLESEX GUIDON

On Tuesday 15 June 1993, Brig Tony Pielow visited Hornsey and presented to the Company the new Middlesex Guidon.

He stated that it was a great pleasure for all of us in the Middlesex Regimental Association to make this gift to the Company as it reminds everybody that the origins of the Company are 100% Diehard ones, and it is a fact we hope will not be forgotten in the new PWRR - the guidon will help this I hope. I recall that when B Company won the Falling Plate at the recent Courage Trophy - against formidable opposition, your team was being egged on by their comrades in the London Regiment companies all of whom were rooting for "The Diehards"! This certainly illustrates something.

9th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O.) T.A.

OFFICERS ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

The eighth annual luncheon took place on Tuesday 11th May 1993 at the Royal Overseas League, St. James's Place, SW1. Colonel H.W.W. Gray was in the Chair and the guest was Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE.

The lunch was attended by 15 officers who were:

D.A. Bond	P.J. Cundy	B.T. Davis	D.E. Dowlen
J.R. Doyle	A.G.B. Drabble	H.W.W. Gray	D.H.S. Herriott
P.W.S. Hodge	R. Hughes	A.M.H. Jones	D.V. Littlejohn
W. MacGregor	H.C. Sanderson	K.O. Sayers	

Colonel Gray proposed the loyal toast and a short informal speech was made by D.E. Dowlen, the Lunch Secretary, during which he read the text of a loyal message which had been sent to Her Majesty the Queen, and Her Majesty's reply.

He advised with regret the passing of John Dear, the only departure during the preceeding twelve months and proposed a toast to 'Absent Friends' to which all raised their glasses.

The following officers being unable to attend had sent their apologies and best wishes to all for a successful occasion:

H.G. Hansen	H.J. Hesketh	W.D. Hiddleston	E.C. Howkins
E.C.M. Palmer	J.K.E. Slack	P.K.G. Spencer	J.R. Talbot
D.C. Tomlins	R. Wheatley		

There was again a good turnout. During the lunch John Doyle again composed a ditty. Colonel Gray thanked David Dowlen for arranging such a pleasant lunch and his efforts were much appreciated by all.

Next year's lunch has been booked for Tuesday 10th May 1994, and all are asked to make a special note of the date as there will be no further reminder until the usual notice is sent out next Spring.

D.E.D.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Best wishes to Ginger Batson for a full recovery after a prostrate operation.

Former Sgt Frank Bennion, 2/8th Bn, writes to say that he has now spent 32 years in Australia and recently celebrated 48 years of marriage.

Former Cpl Tony Birch (23318992) Aqaba and Cyprus 1956-58 informs me that he was made redundant last Christmas and that he will have to start looking for a job. He recently had a break in Tunisia.

Tony Briggs writes from Berlin and informs me that he is now Chief Security Officer in the Berlin Infantry Brigade HQ. He is due to retire at the end of January 1994 but will probably carry on for a further 6 months. He quotes an old Diehard expression 'I am laughing kitbags'.

Cyril Cox (6200934) writes to say that he had a major operation earlier this year but he is getting back to normal. Ex FEPOWS do not die very easily so at almost 83 Cyril, a very good runner in his younger days, will be difficult to catch.

Capt M.J.S. Doran retired on 30 April from his firm of Solicitors and is now listed as a Consultant. Sounds good to me.

Col Rex Fendick sent me a book titled CANLOAN which outlines the part played in WW2 by Canadian Officers. This book is very well written and most interesting. This book is available to all who are interested. Just drop me a line and I will arrange to post the book to you. Loan period 2 weeks.

Sorry Rex that you and Jean were unable to come over this year, but maybe soon. I will be very pleased to meet you again.

Jim Harrington (6204495), a Drummer with the 1st Bn during our Hong Kong days writes to say that he is a keen Bowls player. He is now a qualified Bowls Instructor and also hoping to qualify as an Umpire. He was a Chelsea Fireman for 23 years.

Col Tony Hewitt hopes that his latest book 'Corridors of Time' will be published by October. He also writes to say that Boy Bellchambers spent Albuhera Day with him, journeying 900 miles by bus from Sydney.

Best wishes to Sgt Ted Johnson (2656682) a survivor from the 1st Bn who spent his FEPOW days in Tokyo. Sadly his wife writes to say that he is now completely bedridden. Ted is still cheerful.

I am now in touch with Peter Kifford, son of the late WO1 (Bandmaster) W.E.J. Kiddord, killed in action 18/25 December 1941. Peter has very kindly sent me some very interesting photographs which his late mother had so carefully cared for over the years.

Former Cpl John Kirkpatrick, QM's, writes to say that Hillingdon Council very kindly flew the County Flag to honour the regiments action in Hong Kong 1941, and that he has at least two other councils interested.

Former Drummer Arthur Lewin (6194549), now 86 years of age, continues to keep me informed of all the news he picks up at LVA meetings and the visits he makes to all his friends. He also follows his local football team - Hastings!

Our very best wishes to Mr L.C. Moore (6206778), C & HQ Coys 1/7th Bn, who suffered a very severe stroke last year. He is slowly improving.

My sincere apologies to Frank and Edie Penman, 3 Albuhera Close, for not calling in when I was visiting on Thursday 17 June. I will do so shortly.

Former CSgt Jack Potter (14066481) writes to say that he is still doing a bit of caddying at Royal St Georges, only a couple of rounds a week to pay the dreaded council tax. He also says he has just started to creak a bit, finding it difficult to shoot 80 even on a good day.

Sgt Ernie and Vera Stubbings, now living in Colchester, send their best wishes to all their friends. Stubbo as QM Clothing Storeman always evaded going on parade. Say no more.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:

Private A.G. Balaam (22575935), served 1951-53, A & S Coys 1st Bn.

Sgt V.C. Beach (6203178), served 1936-45, 1/7th, PLK and A.C.C.

Cpl J. Butler (14928324), served 1945-48, 1st Bn.

Private C.W. Bysouth (6296807), served 1940-46, Buffs and 2/7th Bn.

Major J.T. Doran, BEM, (23972720 & 51123), served 1963-1980, HQ Company 1st Bn, 4 Queens, 3 Queens, Queen's Division (ORQMS), commissioned into Royal Pioneer Corps 1981 and still serving.

Cpl B.P. Eldred (22803357), served 1956-70, 1st Bn, 3 & 4 Queens.

Private H.G.M. England (6211680), served 2/8th Bn 1940-46.

Cpl L.G. Farrant (6850277), served KRRC 1940-43, Mx 1943-46.

Cpl A.J. Freeman (22497037), served 1951-54, HQ Coy 1st Bn.

LCpl R.J. James (14413453), served 1943-47, 8th and 1/7th Bn.

Sgt S.G. Jones (6202869), served 1936-41, 2/8th Bn.

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CSgt T.J. Kerr (22144101), served 1949-72, 1st Bn & 3 Queens.

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Private A. King (22054740), served 1948-50, B & C Coy 1st Bn.

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Private H.D. Kirby (14335562), served 1942-47, 1/7th & 1st Bn.

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Private C.D. Lee (22977313), served 1950-54, 1st Bn.

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LCpl D.A. Maclannan (24078218), served 1965-71, 1st Bn & 2 Queens.

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Private J.V. Munns (23873545), served 1961-67, 1st Bn.

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Cpl F.L. Phipps (6200440), served 1932-46, 1/7th Bn.

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Cpl F.R. Schofield (23026849), served 1954-56, 1st Bn.

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Lt-G. Stanhope-Gant (6205966), served 1939-46, 9th Bn.

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KOREA - 40 YEARS ON

I had the opportunity to spend a few days in and around Seoul last November - my first visit since 1951. Others who have been there in the recent past will be aware of what changes the years have wrought!

The Modern Capital

From the 17th floor of the ultra-modern Wesein Chosun (on the same site as the original hotel), you look out over a forest of high-rise buildings and down on traffic which moves nose to tail from the hills in the north to the Han in the south. On the far side of the river, across the many new bridges, there is another complete city where there was once nothing but paddy fields; dominated by some of the highest skyscrapers in Asia and culminating in 1988's Olympic stadia and park. Yet, despite the modernity, there remain a few glimpses of the old Korea: City Hall is still there as is the avenue leading up to the Palace gate, and the main railway station where so many UN troops first arrived.

Thanks to our hosts, Kolon International Corporation, my programme was carefully balanced between the business to be accomplished and the trips I wanted to make to various places associated with the war. In fact, Kolon's young Mr. Park had gone to immense trouble to research the movements of 27th Commonwealth Brigade and 1st Middlesex (1 Mx), translating official Korean records, marking-up maps and generally arranging for me to cover as much ground as possible in the limited time available.

On the 38th Parallel

Contact had also been made with the British Embassy and they generously provided a landrover to take me to Panmunjom, my first trip out of town. As we drove north towards the border, the memories flooded back: of passing up that same road in October 1950 to catch up and join the battalion which had already crossed the 38th Parallel and was racing towards Pyongyang; of Uijongbu where we spent that Christmas in the snow; and of the

high hills from where we saw Seoul burning in the New Year evacuation.

Along the way my British driver pointed out all the military preparation and activity that still exists south of the border. For example, what look like road bridges are in reality tank traps, already mined to collapse and block the traditional invasion routes from the north. Although ROK troops predominate, there are still large elements of US forces in the country.

Crossing the Imjin river on a narrow bridge of wartime vintage, we travelled through the DMZ passing Freedom Village en route. The countryside here is so peaceful and unspoiled that it is now a wildlife sanctuary, with the beautiful white-necked Manchurian crane much in evidence. Whether it is also mined, I didn't attempt to find out!

On reaching Camp Boniface, we attended a briefing before embussing for the Joint Security Area (JSA). Besides the events leading up to the end of hostilities in 1953, we heard about various incidents over the years such as the infamous axe murders and the Russian defector who made a run for it. Saluted by slick, helmeted NK soldiers at each check-point, the bus eventually drew up in front of the Armistice Commission building.

Warned to do nothing that might upset the North Koreans, our group entered the nissen-style hut to inspect the green baize conference table with its national flags and smart young guards. Then back outside we were allowed to climb onto the platform of a small pavilion overlooking the compound. From there we had a good view of the next lot of visitors arriving, this time from the other side; presumably Russians or Chinese. It struck me that the North Korean men on duty were far more relaxed than the keyed up, shoot from the hip, "Kilroy" characters on our side. Thank goodness no firearms of any kind are allowed in the JSA!

Moving on again the bus stopped at a couple of vantage points from where the road to Kaesong was clearly visible in front of the sharply rising hills beyond. Inevitable propaganda was much in evidence with massive Korean characters spelling out messages such as "Yankee criminals go home" and similar rude epithets. Close-by was a high mast flying a giant size hammer and sickle flag; apparently in retaliation for one originally erected by the South. On the way back we passed the track leading to the enemy's invasion tunnels, but there was no time left for a visit on this occasion.

My next stop was Gloucester Hill, further east along the Imjin. It was moving to see for the first time the place where that most famous of Korean battles took place, and I was greatly impressed with the simplicity of the grey granite slabs that have been set into the hillside to commemorate it. The Prince of Wales had been there only ten days earlier and the silver plume and red poppies of his wreath were still bright and fresh.

In Memoriam

Kindly supplied by Major Frank Waldron, our Regimental Secretary, I had also brought a poppy wreath out from the UK, but one with a Middlesex badge. So, the following morning assisted by the British Military Attaché, Brigadier David Morgan, I was proud to lay this on behalf of the Regiment and our Korean Club by the new War Memorial in the Anglican Cathedral. The Roll of Honour of our fallen comrades was attached, subscribed for by the members of the BKVA and unveiled by Prince Charles on his visit, this simple but elegant stone tablet is subscribed:

"Remember the British Servicemen

Who Died in the First War Fought in the Name of

The United Nations

Thank God for their Courage and Endurance

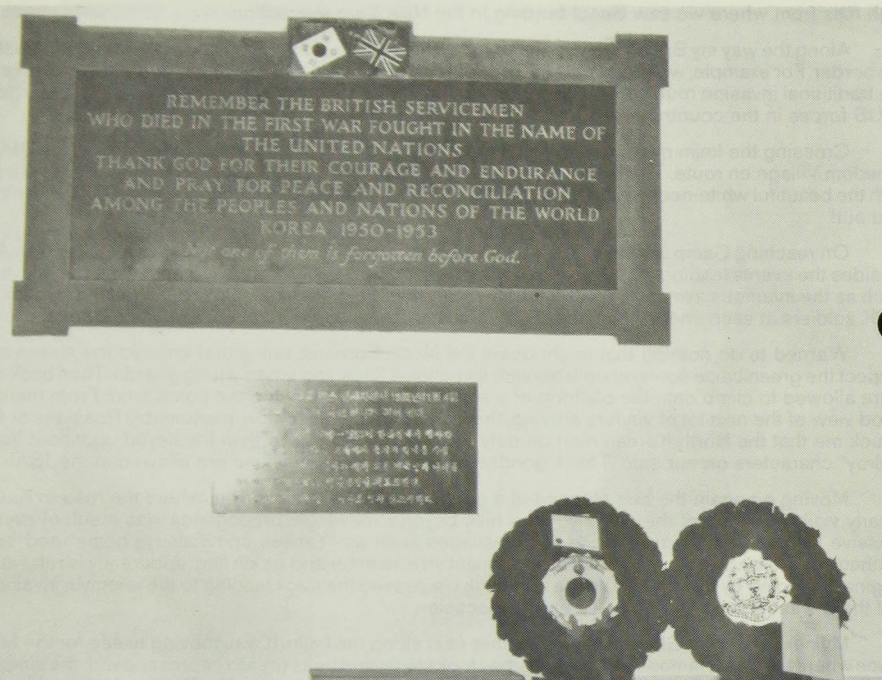
and Pray for Peace and Reconciliation

among the Peoples and Nations of the World

Korea 1950 - 1953

Not one of them is forgotten before God"

This Middlesex wreath has to be amongst the first of many that will be laid by others in the future.



From the Cathedral I went to call on Colonel Ahn, the President of the Korean Veterans Association, and gave him a copy of "The Diehards in Korea" to add to the large collection of books about the war in his office. In return he pinned the Korean Veterans Medal, with its brightly hued ribbon, on my jacket. Fortunately I was not embraced French style! Nevertheless, I was given a cordial reception by him and his staff, and left with many messages of goodwill to all his friends in the UK.

Return to Kapyong

The next day was Sunday and Mr. Park together with his driver picked me up early at the hotel so that we could get ahead of the traffic and spend the day out in the country. Driving due east our first destination was the Kapyong Valley, the scene of the Commonwealth Brigade's major engagement on 23rd/25th April 1951 during the Chinese Spring offensive. As a platoon commander in D Company 1 Mx, I had my own vivid recollections of that battle!

The journey took about an hour and a half and this on first-class highways, not the rugged, bumpy, dusty tracks of yesteryear. As we followed the road up the Pukhan-gang, the signs to Kapyong and Chuncheon started to appear, and some of the features began to look a little familiar, although the weather was not that clear and in places it was quite misty.

In Kapyong, a busy fair sized town, we stopped to visit the Commonwealth Memorial. Standing in its own small park, this substantial column of white stone commemorates the Battle of Kapyong and a plaque shows the positions of each unit involved.

On leaving the town, we bore left with the Kapyong river on our right and suddenly the map and the hills all fell into place, and we stopped opposite the large feature at the entrance to the valley which had been held by the Americans. Walking up a track we met an elderly couple just leaving their farmhouse – yes, they remembered the events of 1951 and yes, the British had been in their fields at the back. I was fairly sure that this was where 1 Mx had harboured in reserve and decided to leave the car and walk from there along the road up to where Major Clinton Nolda, OC D Company, had met the Australian CO that April night.

It was a longer hike than I expected (doubtless the effect of advancing years!) but an invigorating way to spend a Sunday morning especially as it began to rain steadily. Mr. Park, my interpreter and guide, seemed to regard it all as great fun and insisted on clicking his camera at every halt. First we passed the Canadian Memorial on the roadside below where the PPCLI had fought; like the other outdoor war memorials, I suspect it is going to become fairly costly to maintain. Then the highway began to climb up over the pass to which the battalion moved during the battle. Down on the other side there was a splendid view of the river and further on the beginning of the steep feature up which D Company had had to scramble with its wounded.

As buses and cars whizzed by and a petrol station hove into view, I mused on how different things were. On the other hand, much was still very recognisable – in particular the wooded hills, the wide heavily stoned river bed and the pale yellow ground where the straw had been cut; the roofs of the houses and farmsteads had kept their curved gables, and the shapes of the doors and windows remained the same, with rice bags piled on the verandah. The people also looked pretty familiar with the same screwed-up eyes and flat ruddy faces, and their clothes padded to keep out the icy blast that continues to blow down from Siberia. As ever the Korean farmers are great carters of dung, but the carts are now pulled by long squat tractors, mother still perched on the back!

Approaching the low ridge onto which Colonel Ferguson of the Australians had directed D Company, I noticed it was surrounded from top to bottom by a high steel fence with a military camp at the foot. On further inquiry we learnt it is now a training area for part-time soldiers. As elsewhere the ridge is much more densely wooded today, apparently there was a great tree planting drive throughout Korea in the 1970s. In any event, if there is a next time, I am determined to get permission in advance to enter the area and go over the ground once more.

Just opposite the camp was a farmhouse with a small shop and we decided to stop for a drink. As we arrived, an elderly fellow stepped out, clearly the worse for wear – he had been celebrating the shopkeeper's 66th birthday! Mr. Park made the introductions and we were invited into a private room. It was then that one realised how much remained unchanged, as we squatted (at least I sat) on a lino covered floor heated from below. A wardrobe with bedroll on top was the only solid piece of furniture, but the one thing that could not have been there in the 1950s was the TV!

Our host was only too happy to answer questions about the war, he himself had been in the ROK army fighting further north but, even then, this had been his home. Younger members of the family came in to meet us, then the daughter of the house brought a tray of food and rice wine. After several toasts of goodwill and many handshakes, we eventually tore ourselves away – but what a genuine and spontaneous welcome they had given us!

Coming to a set of traffic lights, I suspected we were close to where D Company had had to "bug out" across the paddy and we went down to the river to find the spot at which we might have crossed that night. However, it was difficult to tell since the water was quite high and again the trees on the far side were very thick all the way to the top of the hill.

After that we re-traced our steps to the main road, crossing the river by a bridge, where there had only been a ford, and entered Chuktun, the village below where the Australians had fought. One realised then why they had taken such a hammering with the axis of the main Chinese advance coming straight towards them. I also realised that, thanks to Clinton Nolda's quick wittedness, D Company 1 Mx had had a very lucky escape.

I can understand as well why Kapyong is one of 3 RAR's main Korean battle honours; what an heroic stand they made. Their national memorial is attractively located at the back of the hill behind the village.

A Fresh Perspective

Subalterns in Korea were only issued with local maps, some of which I still have, so you had no real idea of the bigger picture. Also, between marching and being picked up and put down again by truck, frequently in the dark, it was never easy to know exactly where you were or how far you had travelled in relation to the last location. So, on this trip for the first time, I began to have a much clearer perspective of the route 1 Mx had taken, as well as the

distances we had covered since the fall of Seoul in January and our final departure in May 1951. In reality and today's modern roads, we were always relatively close to the capital, never much more than 30/40 miles to the east from Changhowon-ni at the southern end to just across the 38th Parallel in the mountainous terrain on the border.

In the Back Country

Our final destination that day was to be Chuam-ni and Hill 112, the scene of another 1 Mx engagement in mid-February 1951. However, this time we were to approach the village by going south through Chipyeong-ni rather than coming up from the bridge across the Han at Yaju. The drive of some 40 miles took us over the hills into a remote rural area where the roads are still not much more than tracks and some not even paved.

Standing at the cross-roads at Chuam-ni, the rugged 1500 foot peak we chased the Chinese off was clearly visible, and in conversation with the local grocer, Mr. Park established that it was on this very spot that the American road blocking force had been caught in their sleeping bags and slaughtered.

We went on our way again and a short while later the long meandering spine of Hill 112 appeared, rising out of the paddy; thick with trees but otherwise little changed from forty years ago.

By now daylight was beginning to fail, so there wasn't time, as I had hoped, to explore further. However, due to my new-found Korean friends it had been a memorable first return which I have every intention of repeating – should business allow!

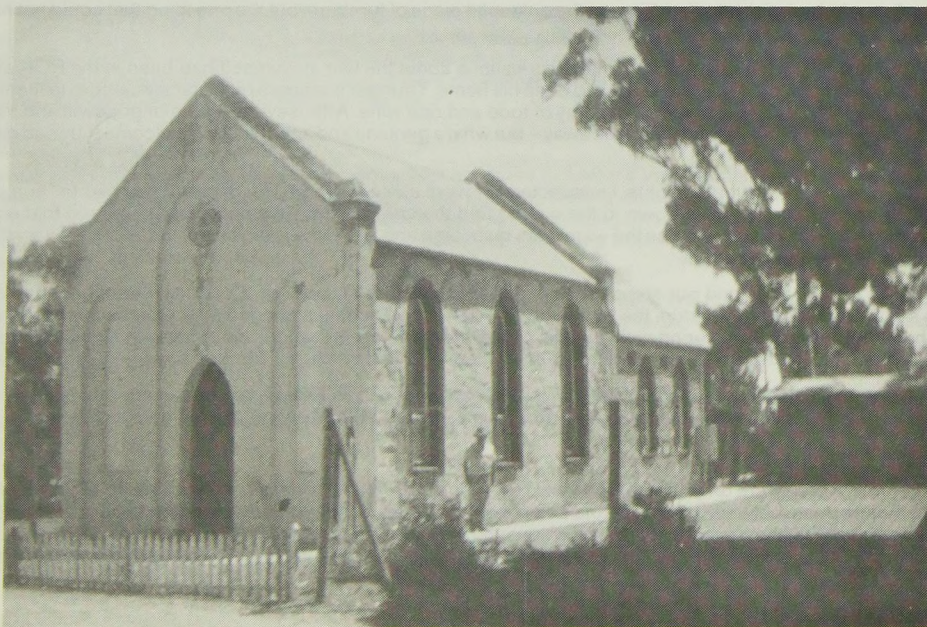
Barry Reed

ALBUHERA DAY IN AUSTRALIA

Mr Peter Gales, who served from 1953-58 with C Company 1st Bn, is now doing Pastoral work in Australia and is a Preacher at the Little Glory Chapel, Elizabeth Fields, Australia. He recently held an Albuhera Day Service and sent me a tape of the event which was very interesting.

One Diehard attended the Service, namely Gerry Cowan, who served with the 2/7th Bn in North Africa and Italy, but was taken POW during 1943.

Below is a photograph of Little Glory Chapel.



OBITUARIES

BASTOW – On 30 December 1992, Private James Arthur Bastow (6216630), aged 68 years. Danny Bastow enlisted into the Middlesex Regiment on 2 February 1942 and joined the 70th Bn. On completion of his recruit training he was transferred to the Royal Corps of Signals, serving at Arnhem where he was taken POW.

BELCHER – On 16 August 1992, Private W.A. Belcher (6197994), aged 82 years.

BERRY – On 31 May 1993, LCpl Stephen Francis Berry (24090581), aged 42 years. He enlisted as a Boy soldier on 10 May 1966, joining the 1st Bn. He later served with 4 Queens and 1 Queens. He was medically discharged on 1 July 1974.

BIRDSEY – On 15 November 1992, LCpl William Butler Birdsey (822530), aged 74 years. Bill Birdsey enlisted as a boy soldier into the Royal Artillery during 1934 and later re-enlisted into our regiment on 19 January 1937. He joined A Company 1st Bn in Hong Kong during January 1938 and was posted to A Company. He became a FEPOW and served his time in Camp D Tokyo. After the war he continued to serve and was finally discharged in November 1952. He became Chairman of the Royal British Legion Branch, Crowborough, and died whilst attending a RBL Remembrance Service in Ashdown Forest.

CEATON – On 21 January 1993, Captain James Langemarke Alexander Ceaton (6201478 and 269805), aged 74 years.

Jim Ceaton enlisted as a Boy soldier in 1934 and joined the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Bn, then stationed at Colchester. His rise in the ranks was meteoric and in 1938 he was appointed Drum Major to the 2nd Bn at the age of 19 – and became the youngest Drum Major in the British Army. After being wounded at Dunkirk he was promoted to Warrant Officer Class 3 and later granted a commission and posted to the 2/7th Bn but was again wounded and later captured during the landings at Anzio. Finally he served in Palestine 1945-46 before being demobilised with the rank of Captain. Jim was a very generous member of the Regimental Association and loved to travel the world. Cards arrived from Australia, Malta, Florida and many ports. Sadly he died suddenly whilst on a short cruise round Mexico with his wife, Barbara, and was buried at sea.

CHILTON – On 8 March 1993, Cpl Denis Buckland Chilton (6206880), M.M., aged 72 years. He served with the 1/8th Bn from 2 May to 31 October 1939, and was then transferred to the Cheshire Regiment and he remained with them until 23 August 1946. He was awarded the Military Medal on 9 September 1943 for bravery at Salerno.

COLE – On 15 March 1993, Private Stanley C. Cole (6207173), aged 73 years. Stan Cole served with the 1/7th Bn from 1939 to 1942 and was transferred to REME on its formation in 1942. He was Deputy Editor of the North London News Ltd, formerly the Hornsey Journal, finally retiring in 1985.

COMMERFORD – On 14 January 1993, Mrs Pat Commerford, widow of Private E. Commerford, who died 27 August 1989.

COOPER – On 10 May 1993, Major Arthur Robert Cooper (128755 and 57769), aged 93 years. He enlisted on 17 August 1917, joining the 53rd Training Bn. Service with our 2nd Bn followed and he was finally discharged during February 1919. He was granted a regular commission with the RASC during 1919 and retired in 1950. He was a very keen member of the Regimental Association.

DANIELS – On 3 June 1993, Private Harry William Daniels (6206541), aged 75 years.
Harry Daniels occupied one of our Regimental Memorial Homes at Albuhera Close, Enfield. He joined the 7th Bn TA on 26 April 1939, and was posted to the 2/7th Bn at the outbreak of war and served with 9 Platoon B Company until his discharge on 24 April 1946. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery. In civilian life Harry was a local government official. He was a keen gardener.

The Regimental Flag draped the coffin and the Enfield Branch paraded their Standard. Major Frank Waldron and Major Ron Morris attended the funeral together with many members from Albuhera Close and the Enfield Branch.

DEAR – On 15 May 1992, Lt-Col John Dear, TD, aged 84 years.
He commanded the 9th Bn 1950-53.

GOOLD – On 28 October 1992, Sgt Charles John Goold (6209818), aged 74 years.
He served with the 2/8th Bn 1939-46.

GLANVILLE – On 26 March 1993, Major Charles Percy Glanville, TD, aged 77 years.
Charles served with the 2/7th Bn 1939-46. He was a life member of the HAC.

HUGHES – On 1 March 1993, Joan Marion Hughes, widow of Maj-Gen B.P. Hughes.
The funeral was attended by Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell and Major and Mrs E.J. Naish.

MASON – On 21 January 1993, Private Sidney Ellis Mason (TF1753 and 43569), aged 97 years.
He joined the 7th Bn on 13 February 1913 and was attached to the Enfield Drill Hall. On 13 November 1916 he was wounded in the right leg going over the top at Beaumont Hamel. At this time he was serving with the 17th Bn. He was discharged early 1918. He presented his medals to the regimental museum. His last Will and Testament included a bequest of £500 to the Regimental Association Charitable Fund. He was a very proud Diehard.

MILNES – On 30 August 1992, Private Ernest James Milnes (1918231), aged 63 years.
He served with the 2nd Bn in Palestine 1947 to June 1948 and then transferred to 2 Kings Liverpool.

MULCAHY – On 16 February 1993, Sgt Jeremiah Albert Mulcahy (6205628), M.M., aged 75 years.
He enlisted into the 7th Bn T.A. during May 1939 and at the outbreak of war was posted to the 1/7th Bn with whom he served until April 1946. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery at St Sylvain during June 1944. After the war he joined the Metropolitan Police and rose to become Chief Superintendent.

NEWMAN – On 28 December 1992, Mrs Pat Newman, widow of Major P.F. Newman.

PAINTER – Senior members of our regiment will be sorry to learn that Mr Brian Painter died on 8 January 1993, aged 85 years. He was the younger brother of the late Jack and Charlie Painter who were so well known in the regiment for their sporting prowess etc. Brian did not serve in the regiment but he spent many hours in the WOs and Sgts Mess, Inglis Barracks, with his brothers.

PARKER – On 9 January 1993, Cpl H.W. Parker (6201294), aged 77 years.
He enlisted early 1934 and on completion of recruit training joined the 1st Bn in Egypt, Singapore 1936, Hong Kong 1937 followed. He was taken POW on 25 December 1941 and spent the whole of his POW days in Shamshuipo Camp, Hong Kong.

PARROTT – On 26 March 1993, Cpl Alfred Henry Parrott (6196352), aged 85 years.
Alf (Ginger) Parrott commenced his service in 1924 as a Boy soldier serving with the 2nd Bn in India until 1933 when he was discharged on completion of his engagement. He was called up for service in 1939 and was taken POW at Dunkirk. He was a great friend of the late Major Dick Smith. The ashes of Alf will be placed on his son's grave in Uganda who was killed on 4 April 1979 at the time of the overthrow of 'Amin'.

Donations were requested in lieu of flowers at his funeral and the Regimental Association Charitable Fund received the magnificent sum of £395.60. Our sincere condolences to his widow Nell and the family.

PETTIGROVE – On 11 September 1992, Sgt Louis Frederick Pettigrove (6204512), aged 72 years.
He served with the 9th Bn from 1938 to 1941 and during 1942 transferred to the Maritime Regiment, Royal Artillery.

RACKHAM – On 31 December 1992, Mrs Elsie Rackham, widow of Brig B.B. Rackham who died on 15 March 1988.

ROWLAND – On 24 October 1992, Private Ernest Rowland (6202781), aged 73 years.
He served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and became a POW. He was held in Tokyo POW Camp. He returned to Hong Kong in March 1946 and obtained employment with the Hong Kong Dockyard Police. He emigrated to Australia in 1965.

SCALES – On 3 March 1993, Sgt Harry Scales (6203033), aged 75 years.
Harry served with the 1/7th Bn 1939-46.

THOM – On 3 May 1993 Mrs Hilda Thom, widow of RSM J. Thom who died on 5 January 1988.

THOMPSON – On 27 December 1992, Private William Thompson (617139), M.M., aged 99 years.
Bill Thompson enlisted into the Army Service Corps Wagoners Special Reserve and joined up in 1914 and within weeks he was in France retreating from Mons. He fought at the Battle of the Somme and was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field whilst serving as a stretcher bearer with our 19th Bn. Another keen supporter of the Regimental Association.

WALDRON – On 2 April 1993, suddenly at home, Mrs Grace Lily Waldron, wife of Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE.

WILLOUGHBY – On 27 December 1992, Mrs Mary Willoughby, widow of Capt R.W.H. Willoughby, who died on 2 February 1974.

WINSBOROUGH – On 5 October 1992, Bandsman Harry Winsborough (6204477), aged 73 years.
He enlisted during 1938 as a Boy soldier and was posted to the Band of the 1st Bn, Hong Kong, in early 1939. He became a FEPOW, survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and his POW days were spent in Kobe Camp. He was repatriated to UK in late 1945 and a few years later emigrated to New Zealand and lived at South Dunedin, Otago.



Enfield Branch on Parade

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available for 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 prices. Cheques or postal orders should be made out to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Blazer Badges	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£12.50 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£22.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon and Old Gold	£ 3.50 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern Terylene	£ 3.50 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£ 7.00 each
Wall Plaques Middlesex Regiment	£16.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (Not originals)	£ 3.50 each
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Colonel Graham Egerton, 77th Regt Portsmouth 1854	£ .35p each

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