



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 79

July 1998

Price £1



*The Diehard Company 1st Battalion Duke of Cambridge's Own
(Middlesex Regiment) - on Foreign Service in Malta 1997*

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

THE DIEHARD COMPANY - THE VICTORIAN MILITARY SOCIETY

The Diehard Company of the Victorian Military Society are taking part in the following events/pageants during the coming months:-

Date	Venue	Event
Sat/Sun 18/19 July	Old Sarum Nr Salisbury	Soldiers of the Queen
Sat/Sun 1/2 August	Kirkby Hall, 4 miles NE of Corby	History in Action
Sat/Sun 12/13 September	Walmer Castle, Deal	Soldiers of the Queen
10/11 October	National Army Museum, Chelsea	The Victorian Soldier

The Society dress in the uniform of the Middlesex Regiment of the 1800's. They go into great detail to ensure that the uniforms and the equipment used are right for the period. Their displays are always worth watching. Members of the Regiment who attend are made very welcome.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1998

12 September	Korean Club AGM at 18.30 hrs followed by their Annual Reunion - Victory Services Club, Marble Arch.
1 October	2/7th Battalion Luncheon Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, bar opens at 11.30 lunch at 12.30.
5 November	Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 10.30 for 11.00 - Planting of crosses in the Regimental Plot.
5 November	7th Battalion Officers' Club Dinner - Officers' Mess, The London Regiment, St John's Hill, London SW11.

7 November	Ceremony of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) assemble at 10.30 hrs.
8 November	Remembrance Sunday Parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. Form up Horse Guards Parade by 10.00 hrs. (entry by ticket only obtainable from the Secretary).
8 November	7th Battalion Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey, London N8. Assemble at 10.30 hrs.
8 November	Annual Remembrance Service, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. Assemble at the Barracks at 10.00 hrs.
27 November	PWRR Officers' Club Annual Dinner. Guards and Cavalry Club, 127 Piccadilly.

1999

1 March	Executive Committee Meeting at 14.00 hrs followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting - TAVRA Conference Room, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.
24 April	1/7th Battalion Annual Luncheon - TA Centre Hornsey.
14 May	Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner - Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall.
15 May	Albuhera Service of Remembrance, Regimental Chapel, St. Paul's Cathedral - 15.00 hrs.
15 May	Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch - commences at 18.30 hrs - AGM at 19.15 hrs.
17 May	Albuhera Lunch - National Army Museum - (by invitation only).

DONATIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

Donations:

Corporation of London	£50	Towards a plaque in the Guildhall - Veterans of the Far East Campaign.
Not Forgotten Association	£25	
Rev P Tuft (St Nicholas Church)	£50	
Star and Garter Home	£100	
1/7th Bn OCA	£35	Towards the cost of plaques to present to Mayors on a recent pilgrimage to Holland with 51st HD.
North London Group ACF	£600	
Enfield Branch	£30	Part cost of wreaths to departed members.
Friends National Army Museum	£30	
9th Bn Offrs' Club Luncheon	£200	From the Officers' Club

Donations received:

Mrs M. Hofman	£1000	In memory of her father Bill Hickman who served with the 2nd Bn.
C.R. Shinn £120; Miss Jean Bower £100; P.F. Wookey £50 plus a gift of 4 tickets for the Reunion; A.W.J. Brown £50; G.D. Cripps £50; J. Hannaford, J. O'Sullivan, J.S. Ullman £30; G. Stanhope-Grant £30; K.A. Twyford £25; P.J. Cain £30; R.J. Jones £30; A.J. House £28.50; J.S. Jennings £40; B.H. Marciandi £25; M.A.S. Sampson £25.		

Benevolent Grants: 1997 to May 1998

Grants made to individuals	£14153	£6606
Less ABF Grants	£9044	£4039
Net	£5109	£2567

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

As these notes are written the Regiment awaits the details of the Government's Strategic Defence Review (SDR). Yet another review and yet another period of uncertainty. The Review (we have been assured!) will be strategically driven and not financially driven. (Many will say we have heard all this before!). It seems, from carefully leaked pieces in the Daily Press that the Regular Army will not be too much altered but the Territorial Army (TA) will suffer some form of drastic reshaping. This will of course affect our two TA Battalions. We do not know what will happen!

Ignoring all this uncertainty the four Battalions soldier on with the professional spirit that we all know exists within the Regiment.

The 1st Battalion having recovered from all the ceremonial activities of last year proceeded on a 6 month tour of Northern Ireland (Belfast). They departed on 14 November 1997 and returned mid May 1998. On arrival they were involved in the Cease Fire that restricted the number of men on patrol at any one time and the graded scale of patrol dress. This of course has slowly disintegrated and the Cease Fire is in name only with all the usual nightly terrorist activities reverting to normal. The Battalion is in support of the RUC. A more detailed report will be given in the next journal - needless to say the Battalion is in very good heart and thoroughly enjoying the associated sense of excitement and professionalism that a tour like this produces.

The 2nd Battalion have settled well into Tidworth. They moved into a brand new Barracks. (Apparently a QM's dream!). Their new role is as a Mechanised Battalion (Saxon mounted) in 1 Mechanised Brigade. In January 98 the whole Battalion went on Exercise to Kenya (Ex Grand Prix). This was in effect a six/seven week exercise. They were unfortunate as on arrival the heavens opened and exceptionally heavy rain resulted in floods and impassable roads. This did not deter them and much fun was had by everyone on exercise and on the many trips.

The two TA Battalions are strong and in good heart. The threat of the SDR to cut the TA has not yet materialised. The TA in true form carrying on "business as usual". They continue to support the Regular Battalions with manpower (of all ranks) for Northern Ireland, Bosnia and the Falkland Islands. Training continues at a pace with the latest report that B Company (The Queen's Regiment) The London Regiment have just won the Courage Trophy for the second year. This is a gruelling Military Skills competition.

April 98.

OFFICER'S CLUB

The Annual Dinner of the Officers' Club was held at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1, on Friday 8 May 1998. Brig Tony Pielow presided and the principle guest was Colonel T.C. Villiers of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment. Others attending were:-

Regimental Guests:- Maj & Mrs Colin Bellingham, The Rev & Mrs Patrick Tuft, Mrs Villiers, Mrs Ann Bennett, Miss Jean Bower, Mrs Pam Chattey, Mrs Ann Cotton, and Mrs Andy Hutchings.

Members and Private Guests:- Brig & Mrs Tony Pielow, Brig Brian Marciandi, Brig & Mrs Dennis Rendell, Col Ian Brotherton, Col Ian Burrows & Mrs Barbara Colley, Col & Mrs Rex Cain, Col Andrew Man, Col John Moore, Col John Shipster, Lt Col & Mrs Norman Clayden, Lt Col & Mrs Mike Deakin, Lt Col & Mrs Peter Galvin, Lt Col Peter Hall, Maj Bob Bartlett, The Rt Rev Mgr Ralph Brown, Maj Peter Clarke, Maj & Mrs

Harold Couch, Maj David Falke, Maj & Mrs Brian Finch, Maj & Mrs Stewart Henshaw, Maj & Mrs Chris Lawrence, Maj Ian Lloyd, Maj Tony Lowrie, Maj & Mrs Ron Morris, Maj Barry Reed, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Capt Peter Lane, Capt John Lofting, Capt & Mrs Ken Murray, Capt & Mrs Peter Stocken, Lt Simon Cawthorne, Mrs Frances Castle, Lt John Day, Lt Cara Day, Lt David Everard, Mr John Harris, Lt & Mrs Peter Ottino.

It was a pleasure to see people we had not seen for some time, some of whom went on to the Reunion the next day. This was much appreciated by all ranks at the Victory Services Club.

THE ANNUAL REUNION

The 1998 Annual Reunion was again well attended although not quite so many as last year but with the advancing years this is to be expected. However it was pleasing to see so many friendly faces many of whom had attended the Albuhera Service in the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral during the afternoon. The Reunion followed its usual form with music provided by Alan's Disco and of course we all enjoyed the customary fish and chip supper. Why not come next year and meet your old friends and comrades. Note the date in your diary now, Saturday the 15 May 1999.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Victory Services Club at 1915 hrs on the 9 May 1998. There were 24 members present. The Minutes are published as an Annexure at the end of the newsletter.

ANNUAL DINNER - ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS)

Brigadier and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow represented the Regiment at the 144th Dinner of the U.K. Branch of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association held at the RAMC College Officers' Mess in Millbank on Friday 29 May 1998.

At the end Brigadier Tony assured the assembled Dinners that we intend to continue the connection for many years and added that he hoped any Volunteer who has not already done so might like to visit the NAM where many artefacts are on display and also visit our Regimental Chapel in St Paul's.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Remembrance Service was held in the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday the 9 May 1998. The Prayers were led by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, the Vicar of Chiswick and Honourary Chaplain to the

Association. The address was made by the Right Reverend Monsignor Ralph Brown, who was with us in Korea, and the reading by Brig Tony Pielow, our President, was taken from Ecclesiasticus 42 vv 15 - 25. As ever there was an excellent turn out. The Chapel was full and all present enjoyed this very moving service.

MEDALS

The National Army Museum recently purchased a very interesting group of medals. Details are shown below:

An Interesting Great War Ace's M.C., A.F.C. Group of Four to Major O. "Stewpot" Stewart, Royal Air Force, Late Middlesex Regiment and Royal Flying Corps, a 5-Victory Pilot who became a famous Aviation Writer and published his autobiography, "Words and Music of a Mechanical Man" in 1976.

- (a) Military Cross, G.V.R., in case of issue
- (b) Air Force Cross, G.V.R. in *John Pinches, London* case of issue
- (c) British War and Victory Medals (Major, R.A.F. and Capt., R.F.C.), in card forwarding boxes, *virtually as issued.* (4)

Sold with an Aero Club of France Prize Medal, bronze-gilt, reverse engraved, 'A.M. Stewart pour "The Strategy and Tactics of Air Fighting", 1925', in fitted case of issue; a Union Syndicate des Industries Aeronautiques 50th Anniversary Medal (1908-1958), bronze, reverse engraved, 'Olivier Stewart'; a quantity of original documentation, including a copy of Fourth Army Orders announcing the recipient's M.C., in card scroll box addressed to Mrs Stewart; several Wartime Photographs and others from later life as an Air Show commentator; and a large number of books written by the recipient, subjects including aircraft, boats and motor cars, and a copy of his autobiography, *Words and Music of a Mechanical Man* (London, 1976)

M.C. *London Gazette* 17.9.1917 'For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He has done consistent good work for six months, both on Escorts and Offensive Patrols, and has displayed great fearlessness and skill during severe fighting at close range with enemy machines, successfully holding his own, although on several occasions outnumbered by them.'

A.F.C. *London Gazette* 2.11.1918; an award for work at the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment at Orfordness and Martlesham Heath.

Major Oliver "Stewpot" Stewart, M.C., A.F.C., was born on 26.11.1895 and was educated at Bradfield. On the outbreak of hostilities in 1914 he exchanged his studies at the Royal College of Music for a Commission in the 9th Middlesex, where a weakness for the fairer sex landed him in the soup with his 'frigid and frightening' Company Commanders and unimaginative Colonel to whom he was an anathema. Pre-war attendance at Hendon flying displays, a passion for motorcycles (his first experience of which was shizzing down Kensington Church Street on a machine called an N.S.U.)

and the non-congenial company of his brother Officers, quickly made up his mind to agitate for a transfer to the R.F.C. This was effected, probably to everyone's satisfaction, in 1915 and after a period of initial ghastliness as an embryo Pilot, or 'Hun', he slipped happily into the relaxed atmosphere of the Corps at Farnborough, being in no hurry to get to France where an elder brother had been killed in the trenches and another severely wounded. For the best part of a year he was employed ferrying aircraft to France and returning to England by boat, and, off duty, taking full advantage of the wartime decline in English moral standards.

ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

Private Sidney Robert Mitchell-Gears (6202309), was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 15 December 1997. He served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was taken P.O.W. He enlisted during 1935 and served until 1957.

2nd Bn 1939-45

Mrs Margaret Hofman (the daughter of Bill Hickman of the 2nd Bn) last August was talking to a Mr Arthur Griggs whom she has known for 10 years or so, meeting him from time to time at a local show where he exhibits his paintings. During the course of the conversation Mrs Hofman mentioned that she was going to Germany to attend her daughter's wedding. Mr Griggs mentioned that he had been in Germany during World War Two and it came out that he was with the 2nd Bn. What a small World!

Mrs Hofman made a subsequent visit to Arthur Grigg's home and he was able to produce a photograph of a group that shows both himself and Bill Hickman. He is on the left and Bill Hickman is third from the left. Who are the others - can anyone name them? If any member can help please contact the Editor or the Secretary.



HAIGH HOMES TRUST

Captain Simon Enthoven, BA, RIBA, AA Dipl, has been appointed the new Chairman of Trustees. He has been a Trustee of Haig Homes for 9 years and acted as Chairman of the Building and Development Sub Committee steering many of Haig Homes recent new build projects and refurbishments.

He is also remembered for the sterling work carried out on behalf of the Regimental Homes at Enfield.

FORTY YEARS ON - A.N.S. SUBALTERN REMEMBERS

This story was concluded in the December 1997 issue of "The Diehards". I can now reveal the name of the Author - Lt Simon Cawthorne, and on behalf of you all I have thanked him for his very interesting memories of service days over 40 years ago. I withheld his name to give his story a touch of mystery.

THE MIDDLESEX REGT. (DCO) KOREAN CLUB

The Korean Club will be holding its Annual Reunion on Saturday, 12 September at the Victory Services Club, commencing at 6.30 pm.

Tickets are available from the treasurer, Syd Webb, 29 Rising Grove, Laindon, Basildon, Essex SS15 5NH. Cost of tickets £14 per head, which includes a hot buffet meal.

The Club is still going strong but sadly two members have passed on in recent months, Tony Gibbs and Peter Avenell. However on the brighter side we did gain seven new members in 1997, which came as a pleasant surprise to us.

We still have available a limited supply of the book "Diehards in Korea" - price £5.50 including p&p. These can be obtained from Tony Lofts, 55 Westhurst Drive, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6HS.

DOCUMENTS FROM RUSSIA

During a visit to Moscow last year by the Prime Minister the Russian Authorities handed him copies of some British Documents which the Germans had captured during the Second World War and which had subsequently been captured by the Russians. The originals of these documents for now remain in Russia.

The initial examination of these papers show that they comprise of four diaries written by British Servicemen, some personal papers of one officer and the service pay books and/or pay books of some 72 servicemen.

The Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State for Defence to return the copies to their rightful owners. The Ministry of Defence have written to the Association Secretary to ask him to assist them with providing the location of three members of the Regiment. They are:-

P/269805 James Langermarcke Ceaton

14609385 Victor Da Costa

P/251522 Harry Preston

Captain Ceaton was a member of the Officers' Club and died in 1993. The other two, as far as we know, have never been members of the Association and so we have no trace.

The Secretary would welcome any information that any member may have to trace Victor Da Costa and Harry Preston.

1/7th Bn ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Thirty eight members of the 1/7th Battalion attended their annual luncheon at the Hornsey TA Centre on Saturday 25th April 1998. Major Alan Carter, the Chairman welcomed members to the luncheon with a particular welcome to Colonel Andrew Man who, in his 91st year, made the long journey from his home in Wales to attend. Major Carter gave news of two forthcoming trips across to Europe by representative parties from the 1/7th. The first to Holland, between the 4th and 10th of May, as part of a 51st Highland Division Pilgrimage where Major Carter will present Regimental Plaques to the Mayors of Vught and Dinexpero. The second to Culverville on the 18th of July 1998 to take part in the ceremonies connected to the unveiling of a Vickers MMG mounted on a plinth that commemorates the liberation of Culverville by units of the 51st Highland Division (including of course the 1/7th). Mr Tony White gave details of a survey he conducted to obtain the members views on opening up the annual lunch to members guests, either male or female. He was able to say that from the replies received there was a clear majority in favour of this proposal and that he was delighted to see ladies and other guests present today. Major Ron Morris gave a résumé of the Associations Welfare activities and reminded all that the Annual Albuhera Church Service in our Chapel at St. Paul's takes place at 3p.m. on the 9th of May followed by Annual All Ranks Reunion at the Victory Services Club in the evening. As ever Mr Tony White and the members of his small working group are to be congratulated on organising yet another very successful lunch. Next years date is Saturday 24th of April at Hornsey.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Letter received from Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow, JP, President of The Middlesex Regimental Association to all members Hounslow Branch.

"I have just read your December 1997 Newsletter and must write to say how very impressed I always am with the activities, energy and enthusiasm of the Hounslow Branch. All of which comes out loud and clear in this latest Newsletter.

You can always be relied on to support our various regimental activities where you are much in evidence and always very welcome participants. I think it particularly heartening to know that you still attend the Michael Trotobas ceremonies in Lille - something that I know is well appreciated by the French (and Belgians) who attend each year. Well done."

PAST EVENTS

On a cold December evening, ironically the 13th; 13 members of the branch journeyed to Enfield by minibus, in the careful hands of our usual duty driver Syd Wells, to attend the Christmas dance and supper of the Enfield branch; where on arrival they received a very warm welcome. A disco played a selection of tunes entirely in keeping with the age group attending, whilst we had a reserved table near to the music it did not prevent us from being able to converse with our many friends whom we have at Enfield. The food was good, the drinks reasonably priced, the Christmas crackers contained the usual hats leading to one or two members to believe that they were King for the night. All the attendees danced, a rare happening for our members. Freda Wells was a winner in the raffle, Vic Debenham grew a moustache for the night, a plastic one, John Raby with the able assistance of Jim Wells, acted as waiters for the table for the evening, Ernie Platt left with two balloons which surprisingly survived the journey home, those who are not mentioned by name all assure me that it was a great evening. The hospitality displayed to us by our hosts was quite magnificent.

It is hoped that all members of the Branch had an enjoyable Christmas and that they celebrated the New Year with the gusto which is expected.

AROUND THE BRANCH

Carrots Thomlinson has again been in hospital after a fall where he was visited by his cronies, who were surprised to find that he is almost as well known in Ashford Hospital as Des O'Connor is to TV. Carrots has now been discharged and we are keeping a watchful eye on him.

Christmas cards were received from our friends in both Albuhera and Lille conveying good wishes to the Branch for the New Year.

I understand from Syd Wells that Trevor Rogers has now made a full recovery.

I have been informed by reliable sources that Hoss Davies is moving to the Isle of Wight in the near future, but that he will appear at the Legion Hall to say farewell to his many friends in the branch. No, he is not going to live in Queen Victoria's abode.

MEMORIAL TO THE 8th (TERRITORIAL) BATTALION

An interesting article has come my way regarding the above:-

"The War Memorial to the officers and men of the 8th Battalion, the Middlesex Regiment, who gave their lives in the Great War, will be unveiled on Armistice Day at 2.45 p.m. in the Drill Hall, Hanworth Road, Hounslow, by the Right Hon. The Lord Revelstoke, P.C., G.C.V.O., Lord Lieutenant of the County of Middlesex and President of the Middlesex Territorial Army Association.

The 8th Bn of the Middlesex Regiment lost nearly 800 of its personnel, this total being made up as follows: 1/8th Bn, 734; 2/8th Bn 8; 3/8th Bn 3; and 4/8th Bn 3. The losses were incurred mainly around Ypres, Arras and Bullecourt. At Ypres in 1915 one company of the 8th was wiped out in the attack which developed towards the end of April with unexpected strength against the 28th Division. At Arras the 8th together with the 7th Battalion greatly distinguished themselves in General Hull's successful attack on Neuville Vitasse in the battle of Arras (April 9th 1917), the 8th losing a number of men in storming the main part of the village, and the 7th in the assault on the Ibex Trench fortifications. But if their losses were severe, they performed an important part in the operations of the 56th Division in turning the German Southern flank, and so clearing the way for the advance of the 30th Division.

In the final battles of the Western Front the 8th Battalion, then with General (now Lord) Horne's First Army encountered strong German resistance in the August fighting for Croisilles, suffering heavy losses some days later near Bullecourt, and again, in the September operations near the Arras - Courtrai Road.

In Egypt, the 2/8th Battalion at the end of 1915, took part in the operations against the Sonussi, sustaining slight casualties. By the autumn of 1916 they were in France where they were absorbed into the 1/8th Battalion.

ENFIELD BRANCH

On May 9 we attended St Paul's for the annual service of remembrance. An excellent turn out with many old friendships renewed. Rick Beall was dressed in his 'dress uniform' and he welcomed all the Die-Hards who attended. As everyone congregated on the steps afterwards Doreen was privy to a conversation between two American ladies who thought you were all members of the choir. She was quickly put right and was given a short history of the Regiment. In the evening, we all went to the Victory Club at Marble Arch for the annual reunion. It was good to meet more old friends and to discuss the past adventures and mis-adventures. This was conducted over the odd

glass of lemonade. At 23.59 we boarded the coach and made our way back to Enfield. Once again we had a sing-song and we would like to send special thanks to Mr T. Slater for his rendition of an old army poem.

On the morning of the 16th a group of us went to Mill Hill to lay a wreath at the memorial. Our own Standard and the Standard of the RBL Enfield were in attendance. The wreath was laid by Mr Ken Mortimer who was visiting us from Guernsey. As usual we met in the Sergeants Mess for a quick drink. We left at 12.20.

At 18.30 the same evening another parade was held at the Memorial outside the RBL Enfield. Another excellent turn out and once again both Standards were in attendance. The wreath was laid by Major R. Morris, MBE and he and Mr J. Hogg (President of RBL Enfield) took the salute while the members marched past. After this, sunset was played and the Middlesex Flag was lowered by our Vice President, Fred Phillips. We then returned to the Enfield RBL where a dance was held. 110 people gathered there and during the evening Ken Mortimer presented us with a mounted ashtray that he had had presented to him. We would like to thank him for his gift and also for his kind hospitality when three of our members visited Guernsey. Once again we would also like to thank all those who worked so hard to ensure that the rest of us had a good time.

There are still some members who have not paid their subs. As you know we are running on a shoe string and we need the money from you. So, come on you Die-Hards, cough up. After all we have to keep our treasurer happy.

OFFICERS' CLUB RULES

The Secretary has mislaid his copy of the Officers' Club Rules. He would be pleased if a member who still holds a copy of this rather ancient document could make it available to him. It would be photocopied and sent back to him by return.

2/7th Bn REUNION AND LUNCHEON

As the 1997 Reunion and Luncheon received such tremendous support it has been decided to hold the event again this year at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch commencing at 1130 hours on Thursday the 1st of October.

Mr Fred Phillips asks that if any member of the Battalion has not received his earlier notification and they wish to attend would they please contact him on 0181 350 0154 or write to him at 10A Albuhera Close, Enfield EN2 8NR.

BAND CONCERT IN AID OF SSAFA

The Kent Branch of SSAFA are holding a Band Concert featuring the Band of the Royal Marines Portsmouth and the distinguished actor Peter Barkworth has kindly agreed to act as host. Canterbury Cathedral is the venue and it will take place on Saturday the 4th of July 1998 - American Independence Day.

Further information and tickets can be obtained from the Canterbury Visitor's Centre, 34 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TG, tel (01227) 459840.

9th Bn THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO) TA OFFICERS ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

The thirteenth annual luncheon was held on Thursday the 4th of June 1998 at the Royal Overseas League, St James's Place, SW1. Major D.V. Littlejohn was in the Chair and the guest was Major R.E.B. Morris.

The lunch was attended by eight officers, namely:- D.E. Dowlen, J.R. Doyle, D.H.S. Harriot, E.C. Hawkins, P.W.S. Hodge, A.M.H. Jones, D.V. Littlejohn and J.K.E. Slack.

Major Littlejohn proposed the Loyal Toast and David Dowlen toasted absent friends. David also read out Her Majesty's reply to the loyal greetings sent to her on behalf of the Officers of the 9th Battalion.

John Doyle gave details, in verse, of those who sent their apologies. The date for next year's lunch 19 May 1999 at the Royal Overseas League.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Private K.C.H. Cornes, who served with the 9th Bn 1954-56 is now in a nursing home suffering from Parkinson's Disease. His wife writes to say he looks forward to the newsletter.

Former WO2 Bob Jones (23896510) who served from 1962-84 and retired to take up employment with the Prison Service at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, writes to say the article in a recent newsletter about Albuhera Close reminded him that his late father Major A.T. Jones was the first Rent collector at Albuhera Close. He often accompanied his father.

Ben Simmons, 2/7th Bn, writes from South Africa to say how sorry he was to miss the 2/7th Bn reunion.

Sgt Ray Sharp who served with the 1st & 2nd Bns 1944-52 sends his regards to all his regimental friends.

Reg Cotton (FEPOW 1st Bn) from Australia rang me at 2 a.m. Saturday 25th April to say he had been successful with his war pension claim for deteriorating hearing. He was awarded a one off payment of £4,000. He sounded to be a very happy Diehard.

Our very best wishes to Ernie Stebbing who has recently undergone a major operation. He is making a slow recovery but he is a tough Diehard and in the good care of his wife Irene.

A recent correspondent was 6201470 Private Fritz Jennings, A Coy 1st Bn who emigrated to Australia during 1951. Sadly his wife Cecilia died earlier this year. Fritz was a Railway Station Master during his working days.

Dolly Read, niece of Charlie Ward, 7th Bn, now 101 years of age writes to say how he appreciated his Regimental Christmas present of a bottle of Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry. He is keeping fairly well in a Nursing Home.

Mrs L. Dodson, widow of the late 6202921 Private C.V. Dodson, writes to say that the Regimental Newsletter is a great comfort to her and she is proud to know she is not forgotten.

Reg Mephram, 8th Bn, on a visit to Holland, has sent photographs of the grave stones of:

5339253 L/C T.C. Marriott	4.10.1944
14723220 Pte G.J. Pitt	24.11.1944
6212560 Sgt A.W. Row	24.11.1944

They will be placed in the Regimental Album.

Harold Langrish (6207825), 8th Bn France and 2nd Bn Palestine informs the Secretary that his heart valve operation was successful and he is making a good recovery.

Denny Norris (6205008), FEPOW 1st Bn, writes to say he has had another spell in hospital but is now back home under Mary's control.

Bill Oxley sends his regards to all Diehards. Bill now 84 lives at Quinns Rocks, Perth, Western Australia. He sounds very happy and content. Ex FEPOW 1st Bn.

Alf Blake (6203553) wishes to be remembered to all his friends whom he served with in B Company, 1st Bn. He lives at St Pauls Cray, Orpington, Kent.

Drummer Arthur Lewin (6194549) who served with the 2nd Bn from 1921 to 1945 is now living at Old Hastings House Rest Home as from 9 January 1998. He is now 92 years of age. He was a regular attendee at annual reunions. With every good wish for a long and happy stay.

Mrs. Doris Heather, widow of Charlie Heather (6200185), 1st Bn FEPOW, has recently visited her son in New Zealand.

Capt George Cripps from the wilds of Abergele, Clwyd, writes to say he hopes all his old comrades are bearing up and one of these days he will appear in person. We hope it is soon otherwise he will be too late.

I recently received a very interesting letter from Clem Stevens who did his National Service with the 1st Bn 1951-53. He is now a County Councillor for West Sussex, and recently had to attend at a party workers home to discuss the layout of a mail drop leaflet. I was the first to arrive and whilst being shown into the Lady's study, I noticed a photograph of a young soldier in 'Jungle Green' on the side, and not unnaturally enquired as to who it was, and where the picture had been taken. She replied "Oh, that was my late husband Ken" whereupon she pointed to the wall, on which hung a large embroidered version of our Badge. I am ashamed to say that I had never put two and two together and realised that the lady - whose name is Val Sutton, and who had done sterling work canvassing for me during the run up to my election - was in fact Ken's widow. Needless to say she then brought Ken's old photograph album, which we looked through whilst awaiting the rest of our committee to arrive. Contained therein were some pictures of the 1st Bn. He asked two questions - which was the Clayden of Natterjack Toad fame - I was able to reply Lt-Col Norman Clayden. Sadly Ken Sutton, very badly wounded in Korea died about 12 years ago despite the devoted care of Val. He also told me another story - Capt Tony Hewitt as he was then known

as 'Sherpa' Hewitt - because of his ability to march long distances without rest, we assumed from his long escape trip - marched us off, gradually climbing higher and higher into the hills - that's what he called them. I won't tell you what we called them. I am sure that will bring a smile to Tony's face.

My memories of the good Colonel do not end there either, many years on, my wife who was then working with a Fashion House, occasionally obtained tickets for various film premieres, and she was able to get tickets for the premier of 'Ice Cold in Alex'. Imagine my surprise when, on arriving in the foyer of a certain well known cinema in Leicester Square and scanning the area for Celebrities, I happened upon, you've guessed it, the old 'Sherpa' himself. After we had both greeted each other with the question 'What on earth are you doing here?' he nodded his head in the direction of the man in the centre of the group he was with and said 'I'm with him'. 'Him' turned out to be his Brother in Law, and star of the film, John Mills.'

Mr H.J. Kite writes to say how he enjoyed the article 'an ex NS subaltern remembers'. I served with S Coy 1st Bn in Aqaba and also in Cyprus. I feel that the article was exactly as I remembered it.

Major Ian Lloyd who continues to serve in a retired capacity in G4 Estate at HQ UKSC(G), finally retires on 25 June 1998 following which he will return to the U.K.

Mick Elston writes to inform me that he is now a O.A.P. He recently met Jimmy Wild and said "Can't say I liked his latest local pub very much they served poor beer".

Good to hear from Jim Ridler (6214250) and Emmie. His father served in our regiment - 4th Bn MONS.

I would like to thank the following members for their very interesting letters but I do not have the space to reply. Please keep writing your turn will come: Capt Ken Beale, WO2 Cliff Shinn (I bet my Dahlias are better than his), Mr Tony Briggs, Mr Percy Howells, Mr Jeff Leat, Mr Cyril Broome, Mr Frank Bennion, Mr J.H. Farmborough, Mr D.P. Norris and Mr P Kifford.

Ken Anderson is a regular attendee at the Annual Liberation Day Parade of the Belgian Forces that is held on a Sunday Morning in July on Horse Guards. In a recent letter

to the Secretary he made the point that invariably he is the only member of the Regiment that forms up behind marker No.12 that is specially placed for the Middlesex Regiment. He would welcome some company. Anyone interested can contact Ken via the Secretary. The 1998 parade takes place on the 19 July.

We congratulate Mr K Thompson on the award of the MBE in the Birthday Honours List 1997. He attended the Palace on the 21 December 1997 to receive the medal from HRH The Prince of Wales.

The award was made in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the medical profession and the action he has taken to ensure that Harvard Hospital and the research undertaken there is not forgotten.

Keith left the Army in April 1946 and took a job at Medical Council Labourites in Holyhill Hampstead with the understanding that he would move to Harvard Hospital, Salisbury where research into the common cold was to take place. This was the start of a long career that did not end until 1982 when he retired. The hospital closed in 1989 and was demolished shortly after and the site became housing estate. Keith arranged for erection of a bronze plaque at the entrance to the estate in memory of the work undertaken there at Harvard Hospital. He has also written a history of Harvard Hospital and it's volunteers.

WORTHING 1998 HONOURS CEREMONY

Roy Bishop was present at a Ceremony in the Worthing Town Hall on 11 February last where he was a recipient of a Civic Award from the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Geraldine Lissenburg. The award was made in recognition of his tireless, industrious commitment and enthusiasm to promoting the economic well being of Worthing. Well done Roy.

The Secretary has been asked by a Mr Pieter Stolte from Arnhem to seek information from members of the 1/7th Battalion who recall the Battalion's Role in the 1944 Ardennes Battle. Mr Stolte is writing a history covering the Battle. If any member of the 1/7th feels they can assist Mr Stolte would they please contact Major Ron Morris.

John Girdler tells me that his clock making business is taking off. He can supply maroon and old gold clocks with a Middlesex Badge on the face for £10 plus £2 postage and packing. He has other designs as well. Any one interested can contact him on 01232 716891 or at 10 Forthriver Drive, Belfast BT13 3UU. John has promised to give a percentage of is profits (if any!) to the Association.

Members might wish to know that Mr A Swinscoe, who served with the 1/7th Battalion during World War Two, and who asked to be housed in Albuhera Close as he was in need of re-housing has been allocated a tenancy in Hampstead by Haig Homes as there were no vacant properties in the Close. Another example of the excellent service being offered by Haig Homes to members of the Regiment.

Sgt John Wilkinson, C Company, 2/7th Bn and his wife Mary celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 2 April 1998. The Reception was held at the home of their eldest daughter Lynn and her husband Jim, in Bramhall, Cheshire.

Good to receive news from Capt Dan Cattell. He was hoping to be in the UK in early June and had planned to attend the Officers Club Dinner. He sends greetings to Col Norman Clayden. He hopes to be in the UK in July and will telephone his friends. He still resides at Swanbourne 6010 Western Australia.

Good to receive news of 6201491 Private H. Green from his home in Doncaster. He is now in receipt of a disability pension for his labours with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong.

Our very best wishes to 6198336 Private Harry Naulder, now 89 years of age. Frank Dickinson very kindly visited him during 1996. He enlisted in 1928 and served for 14 years.

Mrs Margaret Hofman informs me she has put the Middlesex Regiment on the Korean page of the American Internet.

Our very best wishes to Reg Cotton, Bill Oxley, Charlie Bellchambers, Fritz Jennings and Ginger Tann in Australia and also to Bill Phillips and Bob Hebden in New Zealand.

Taffy Shore (6201889) sends his regards from Cromer, Norfolk to all Diehards of his vintage. In pre-war Hong Kóng he was LCpl Instructor to those selected to become DRs.

Mr Jimmie Johannsen from Rendsburg, West Germany is still trying to trace LCpl Jimmy Hanlon. If you can help write to him at 2370 Rendsburg, Suhmsheide 1a. If you have any photographs of Rendsburg send them to Jimmie, he will copy and return to sender.

Our very best wishes to Frank Waite. Very sorry to hear of his failing eyesight. I do hope the optician can help.

Mr and Mrs W.A. Phipps (6200505) 2nd Bn 1932-45 attended the Xmas Party at St. James Palace on 4 December 1997. The party was organised by the Not Forgotten Association.

Good to receive a long and newsy letter from Major Donald Carson, MBE. He reminds me of our hockey days in Hong Kong, Austria, Cyprus, Hameln etc. He keeps in touch with Bandmaster Bill and Grace Jackson and names the band and the instruments they used. I regret I do not have the space to publish the letter but I will keep it for future reference. Thank you Don.

Stan Cutter (6216211) 48 Boley Drive, Clacton, Essex, would like to hear from his friends who underwent MG training at Chester, September 1941 under Sgt Thirkettle.

Lt Simon Cawthorne sends with his letter a photograph of Pyla Detention Camp, Cyprus. I was the Q.M. at the time and during a very trying period I fed the detainees on tins of pilchards much to the delight of the late General Sir John Willoughby who was the Commanding Officer at the time.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:

23735093 Pte C. Elliott. Served HQ Coy 1st Bn 1959-64.

24045368 LCpl H.G. Coulter. Served 1st Bn, 1 & 4 Queens 1965-75.

24045290 LCpl R.S. Hayward. Served 1st Bn & 4 Queens 1965-68.

22844749 Pte J.T. Holmes. Served 1st Bn. 1953-56.

421498 Major P.D. Mitchell. Associate Member, 1st Bn 1948, RAOC 1949-67.

23887896 LCpl G.F. Patmore. Served 1 Queens 1961-65.

22803133 WO2 I. Routledge. Served Band 1st Bn 1954-78.

23500099 Cpl C.J. Sexton. Served 1st Bn 1957-60.

6206342 & 256149 Lt E.W. Startup. Served 1/7th & 2/7th, 5 Cheshires 1939-46.

6107759 LCpl R.F. Sturge. Served 70th Bn MX & 1 Queens 1942-47.

23953362 Sgt J.J. Tydeman. Served 1st Bn MX. 3 & 4 Queens 1963-72.

**Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club
Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting
Held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3
on Monday 2nd March 1998.**

Present:-	Maj C.L. Lawrence, MC	Chairman
	Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD LL B	Vice Chairman
	Brig G. Bulloch, MBE (part meeting)	
	Brig B.H. Marciandi OBE	
	Col M.J. Ball	
	Col I.D. Brotherton TD DL	
	Capt S. le M. Enthoven RIBA	
	Maj R.E.B. Morris	Secretary

Apologies:- Lt Col J.H. Hewson MC
Maj H.E. Crouch TD FRICS FRSA
Maj S.L.J. Henshaw TD
Maj A.E.F. Waldron MBE
Capt J.S.C. Flavell

1. Opening Remarks

1.1. The Chairman said that in view of the length of the earlier meeting he would endeavour to conclude matters as quickly as possible.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

2.1. The Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 3rd March 1997 were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1. Membership was offered to the Officers of B Coy The London Regiment and the offer was accepted by them. Joining forms despatched by the Secretary to the OC not returned and nothing further has been heard.

3.2. Mr Harris joined and is now an Associate Member.

3.3. The Chairman and Secretary visited the RAMC Mess at Millbank. It was ruled out as a possible venue for the Annual Dinner on the grounds of access and the availability of public transport.

4. Secretary's Report.

4.1. The Secretary presented his report that had been previously circulated.

4.2. The Committee ruled that the charges for the 1998 dinner would be the same as that for 1997 i.e. £28 for members and family guests and £45 for other guests. The balance of the cost to be borne by the Officers Club.

4.3. It was noted that General Denison-Smith could not attend the dinner as he had a prior engagement. It was suggested that Lt Col The Viscount Slim be invited as the principal guest. (Post meeting note. Brig Pielow was at Staff College the same year and is prepared to write to him to see if he is available). It was agreed that the other proposed guests listed in the report should be invited.

4.4. The Committee authorised the following donations for 1998:-

The King Edward VII Hospital	£100
9th Bn Luncheon Club	£200

5. Chairman of the Finance Committee's Report.

5.1. Brig Marciandi presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1997. He said there were no problems. We had a surplus on the year and we were able to meet our commitments. The investments have increased in value. Col Cain proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Col Brotherton. Carried.

6. Correspondence.

6.1. There was no correspondence placed before the Committee.

7. Working Party Report - Future of the Association.

7.1. The request for £K3 to the new Diehard Fund was agreed. Might be necessary to pay in installments. To be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance Sub Committee when the outcome of the deposit of the legacy would be known. However a payment of £K1 to open up the new fund as a deposit account was authorised with a subsequent build up to £K3 if required. To pay the full sum of £K3 it would be necessary to realise an investment.

8. Any Other Business.

8.1. Capt Doran asked if there were any rules for the Officers' Club. The Chairman said yes. He said he did not have a copy. He would endeavour to locate one.

8.2. The Chairman said he wished to record the thanks of this Committee for work undertaken by both the Finance Committee and the Working Party.

9. Date and Venue for the next Meeting.

9.1. Agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 1st March 1999 at the Duke of York's Headquarters. The Meeting to be held on the rising of the earlier Association being held the same afternoon.

Maj
Secretary
MX0398

Middlesex Regimental Association Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting Held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 on Monday 2nd March 1998.

Present:-	Maj C.L. Lawrence, MC	Chairman
	Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD LL B	Vice Chairman

Brig G. Bulloch, MBE (part meeting)
Brig B.H. Marciandi OBE
Col M.J. Ball
Col I.D. Brotherton TD DL
Col R.M. Cain OBE DL
Capt S. le M. Enthoven RIBA
Mr A. Broadbent
Mr J.A. Lofts
Mr M.J. Ward BEM
Mr G. Young
Maj R.E.B. Morris

Secretary

Apologies:- Lt Col J.H. Hewson MC
Maj H.E. Crouch TD FRICS FRSA
Maj S.L.J. Henshaw TD
Maj A.E.F. Waldron MBE
Capt J.S.C. Flavell

1. Opening Remarks

1.1. The Chairman extended a welcome to those attending and gave a special welcome to Mr Ward attending his first meeting as a member of this Committee.

1.2. When announcing the apologies for absence he mentioned that Capt Flavell had decided to resign from the Committee and he queried the need for a replacement. Mr Broadbent asked if a nomination for a second representative from the Enfield Branch would be in order. Col Brotherton thought that provided a member of sufficient stature and commitment was available this would be acceptable. Hounslow Branch already have two representatives. Mr Broadbent said he would discuss at Branch level and would report back.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

2.1. It was agreed that the Meeting held on the 3rd March 1997 were a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1. There were no matters arising that were not covered by the Agenda for this meeting.

4. Secretary's Report.

4.1. The Secretary presented his report that had been previously circulated.

4.2. The Secretary mentioned that since compiling his report the Rev Tuft had informed him that the Rt Rev Mgr Brown will give the address at the Albuhera Service and he will lead the prayers.

4.3. The Meeting agreed that the tickets for the Annual Reunion would be priced at the 1997 level and remain at £11 the balance of the costs being funded by the Association.

4.4. The Committee were asked to approve the following grants and expenditure in 1998:-

Albuhera Service at St. Paul's	£1800
Annual Reunion	£1150
Service at the Field of Remembrance	£100
The Star & Garter Home	£100
MX and NW London ACF	£600

The expenditure and grants were agreed but the Secretary was instructed to write to the MX and NW London ACF to say that their annual grant was under review and that the grant would not necessarily be forthcoming at the same level in the future.

4.5. The Committee were advised of the following overspends against the 1997 grants and were asked to approve this expenditure:-

Albuhera Service at St. Paul's	£120
Annual Reunion	£32

4.6. An up to date report was given on the welfare of various residents in Albuhera Close. Capt Enthoven said that Haig Homes had installed central heating in four of the houses, totally refurbished two and a programme to install double glazing to all the properties was about to start. Haig Homes have completed a "condition survey" and over the next five years they plan to spend £K250 on bathrooms and kitchens with a further £K600 being spent over the next twenty years to improve and maintain the properties. The Committee thought that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Haig Homes. (Capt Doran agreed to draft).

5. Finance Chairman's Report.

5.1. The Chairman of the Finance Committee said it was pleasing to note the increase in value of our portfolio. Although the Association Accountants show an overspend of £K12 the actual overspend is £K2.5 as there is a net debit of £K10 stemming from the gift of the Albuhera Estate to Haig Homes.

5.2. The relationship with the stockbroker is going well. The Finance Sub Committee held their usual six monthly meetings and continue to keep our investments under review. The loss of the rent income from Albuhera Close has not created a problem and our cash flow has not suffered.

5.3. Brig Marciandi asked the Committee to approve the Accounts. Proposed by Col Cain and seconded by Mr Ward that the accounts for 1997 be approved. Carried.

5.4. Col Brotherton asked that the Committee's thanks be recorded to the Finance Sub Committee.

6. Review of Staff Pay and Allowances.

6.1. Brig Marciandi said that there had been discussion at the last Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee on the appropriate rate of salary for the Staff employed by the Association.

6.2. The Secretary expressed the view that both he and the Assistant Secretary were happy with the situation as it now stands.

6.3. After detailed discussion it was agreed that the annual review would continue to be undertaken by the Finance Sub Committee and that the actual rate of increase should be between 3.5 and 5%

7. Museum Trust

7.1. Brig Marciandi said that the only current expenditure from the Museum Fund was the cost of the annual luncheon at the National Army Museum paid every second year. In 1998 it is the Museum's turn to pay and they have agreed to do so. Capt Doran said from a charitable point of view payment for the lunch could be regarded as a fostering museum liaison. Col Brotherton said the original lunch was intended to be a one off function but had become an annual event.

7.2. The Committee agreed that the buffet lunch should continue to be funded from the Museum Fund particularly as it cements the liaison between the Regiment and the Museum Staff and that members of the Association should be encouraged to attend.

7.3. It was agreed that should artefacts of regimental interest surface they should be considered for purchase and charged to the Museum Fund.

8. 8th Bn Memorial

8.1. Col Brotherton said that initial approaches to the Vicar of St. Paul's in Hounslow to move the 8th Bn Memorial to that Church had been favourably received. However on subsequent visits to the Church it became apparent that the Memorial would not fit into the Porch of the Church. No other location within the Church was available. An approach was made to the CO of the London Regiment and he agreed, subject to a suitable location being available, it could be installed in the Deansbrook Road Drill Hall. Two visits to the Drill Hall have established that the Memorial will fit on to a wall in the stair well leading up to the Officers' Mess. The cost of the required work is a waited from a Contractor. Once received an approach will be made to TAVRA (GL) for

funding. (They did agree some two years ago that they will meet the cost of relocation).

8.2. St. Paul's are still keen to house an 8th Bn Memorial. Mr Ward has made preliminary enquiries and a Book of Remembrance together with a plaque would be acceptable to them. The all up cost is estimated at £500. After discussion it was agreed that a grant of £250, from the Museum Fund, towards the cost should be made to the Hounslow Branch. The cash to be made available when required. Col Brotherton said he would approach the TA Silver Fund for a contribution. Hounslow Branch said they would also make a contribution from their funds. The Secretary said that so far his attempts to obtain a cabinet from the National Museum had not been successful but now that he had received further information from Mr Ward he would make enquiries.

8.3. Mr Ward suggested that at the end of the exercise should there be a balance of cash available then it should go to the Church for the renovation of the 4th Bn Lectern. This was agreed.

9. Correspondence

9.1. The Secretary circulated three letters for the information of the Committee.

10. Working Party Report - The Way Forward

10.1. The Chairman asked that the Committee's thanks be recorded for what has been achieved by the Working Party.

10.2. Capt Doran gave the reasons for the confidential grading of the Report and he recorded his thanks for the support given to him by the members of the Working Party. He particularly thanked Col Ball who made long journeys from SHAPE to attend the meetings.

10.3. He said that the expressed way forward was a majority view of the Working Party. The trusts were set up in 1928 funding coming from cash raised during World War One. Any non charitable cash quite properly went to the units in being at that time.

10.4. He gave a detailed resume of the discussions and considerations undertaken by the Working Party and he asked that the five recommendations made in the Report be approved.

10.5. He further mentioned that in the last day or so news had been received of a very large legacy coming to the Association, £K80 plus. The wording of the will can be interpreted in two ways and the money could be regarded as either charitable or non charitable. He was uncertain. The Committee approved a recommendation that Capt Doran seek a second opinion. He warned that this may go against us and the ruling could be that it is charitable money. This would mean that it could not legally be placed in the new non charitable fund. The Secretary was instructed to open a non charitable

deposit account and when received pay the check into this account. The money to be held available for transfer into the main Association Account, plus interest, should the ruling go against us. Brig Marciandi asked how long will it take to obtain a ruling - answer six to eight weeks.

10.6. Maj Lawrence then sought the views of the Committee on the Working Party's five recommendations:-

Recommendation 1. That the necessary action be taken to merge the eight benevolent trusts into one. **Agreed.**

Recommendation 2. That the Charity Commission be asked to transfer the ownership of the Militia Chattels to the two trusts (PWRR & TA) and wind up the two Militia Chattels Funds. **Agreed.**

Recommendation 3. That a non charitable account be opened for the Association with the object of building up funds for the future.
That this account be funded by:-
(a) Subscriptions
(b) Non charitable legacies and donations
That the Executive Committee should request the Officers' Club to make an immediate grant of £3,000 to prime the pump. **Agreed.**

Recommendation 4. That Mr Ward's offer to assist the Secretary to organise social functions be accepted and that he is reimbursed any expenses that he incurs. That the Chairman of the Finance Committee is authorised to fund outside secretarial assistance for the Secretary up to £1000 pa, if in his opinion the need arises. **Agreed.**

Recommendation 5. That the life of the Working Party be extended for a further year for it to monitor any changes agreed by the Executive Committee and to produce a final report for the 1999 Executive. **Agreed.**

10.7. The Committee then went on to discuss the composition of the Executive Committee. It was agreed that it was about right and that meetings should continue to be held on an annual basis with the proviso that extra ordinary meetings can be called if the need arises.

10.8. Brig Bulloch expressed a view that a time table should be laid down for the future winding up of the Association, not immediately but it does not make sense just to wander on. Col Brotherton thought it was dangerous to make forecasts, situations change, and we should continue to make haste slowly and change as the circumstances change. Capt Enthoven supported this view. He had had experience of a similar closing down. Brig Marciandi thought hard and fast decisions are not necessary yet. Col Cain agreed with this view. Col Brotherton thought the Working Party should continue to review the situation annually. He quoted the example of the 2/7th OCA where management closed it down with little reference to its members. Capt Doran said he was anxious not to establish a permanent cabinet. Brig Bulloch asked how will we establish the views of our members. Capt Doran agreed, when the time was right, to draw up proposals to be published in the newsletter to obtain the members views. At this stage it was thought the views of members were not required.

10.9. Capt Doran said that Brig Pielow had suggested that the new account be named "The Diehard Fund". This was agreed.

11. Any other Business.

11.1. Only one item under this heading. The Chairman said that Col Man had suggested that we have a joint celebration with the A&SH in the year 2000. We have strong connections with the A&SH going back to 1880. The Chairman has been in contact with the Colonel of the A&SH and with the Regimental Secretary. No decisions yet.

12. Date and venue of the next Meeting.

12.1 Agreed that the next meeting would be held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Monday the 1st of March 1999 at 1400 hours. (post meeting note room is available and has been booked).

R.E. MORRIS

Maj

Secretary

MXEC398

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
The Middlesex Regimental Association
held at the Victory Services Club, London W2
at 1915 hours on Saturday 9 May 1998.**

Present: Maj C L Lawrence, MC, Chairman, Brig B H Marciandi, OBE, Col R M Cain, OBE, DL, Col A M Man, DSO, OBE, Maj W G A Crumley, Maj I M E Lloyd, Maj R E B Morris, MBE, Maj B St G A Reed, CBE, MC, DL, Messrs V Beach, R Beall, A Broadbent, A Burford, E Byatt, D S Carmichael, R Cubitt, R Mowbray, M J Mulvaney, G Patmore, W Penny, F Phillips, A Rudge, J Shore, C Smith, R Sturge.

1. Opening remarks.

1.1. The Chairman opened the meeting by advising all present that we had sent our usual message of loyal greetings to HM The Queen and he read out her reply.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

2.1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday the 10 May 1997, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr R Cubitt and seconded by Mr A Beall. Carried.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1997.

4.1. The Secretary explained the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1997. The Secretary informed the meeting that an approach had been made to the Charity Commission seeking authority to combine both the Association and the 5/6th Bn Charities. The Charity Commission have said they have no objections to the proposed merger and requested a formal application. This is now in hand. Mr A Broadbent moved that the accounts be adopted and approved. Seconded by Mr C Smith. Carried.

5. Any other business.

5.1. Under this heading the Chairman advised the meeting that a working party has been set up to consider the future of the Association. No firm decisions yet made by the Working Party except to recommend to the Executive Committee that a separate non charitable fund be set up to ensure that we have money to administer the Association should, at a future date, benevolence be administered elsewhere. Brig Marciandi said this fund will be opened with an initial contribution of £3K from the Officers' Club and that Finance Sub Committee at their next meeting in June will consider further the future of this fund. He also made mention of a large bequest coming our way (approx £80K). We have been advised that this money could not go into the new fund as it has been donated to the Regiment for charitable purposes. The Chairman emphasised that any changes in the administration of the Association will not be made without consulting the members, (as was done with the handover of Albuhera Close to Haig Homes), and in any event there is no intention to make changes now. All things being equal it is thought, subject to staffing arrangements, we could continue on as we are for the next 5 years of so. Mr A Broadbent, on behalf of the Enfield Branch, asked that could not consideration be given to transferring the funds of the Association to the branches should it not be possible to administer the Association centrally. The Secretary said he doubted if the Charity Commission would agree to this. Charitable Funds can only go to another charity. Branches, on their own, do not have charitable status.

5.2. Mr A Burford supported by Mr R Cubitt said that the tenants in Albuhera Close were well satisfied with the service provided by Haig Homes. All the houses are now double glazed and when houses become vacant the kitchens and bathrooms are up dated before they are re let. Mr Burford informed the meeting that rents for a house for new tenants is £76 per week.

6. Closing Remarks.

6.1. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 2000 hours.

R E B Morris

Maj.

Secretary.

OBITUARIES

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

CAVENDISH - On 31 October 1997, Captain William Delmar Cavendish, aged 86 years, in Rome, Italy.

Capt Cavendish served with the 1/7th Bn, D and A Companies from 1939 to 1945, participating in the African, Italian campaigns. He was also in the Normandy invasion on D Day. He was wounded twice, El Alamein and Normandy. After the war he moved to Florence and later to Rome.

CONDON - On 8 June 1998, Mrs Rita Florence Condon, aged 84 years, wife of Lt R.A. Condon, and Bn and Indian Army.

COX - On 24 January 1998, Private Cyril Jack Cox (6200934), aged 87 years. Cyril Cox enlisted on 14 February 1933, serving until 11 December 1945. He commenced his service with the 2nd Bn at Colchester. He joined the 1st Bn during 1935, followed by Singapore 1936 and Hong Kong 1937. He became a Jap POW on 25 December 1941 and spent all his POW days in Shamshuipo, Hong Kong. He was a good sportsman and excelled at running. There was one time when he did not run fast enough. In 1940 a group of Diehards were in Macau having a few beers when trouble broke out and the party had to make a run for it. However on this occasion Cyril did not run fast enough and the local policeman fired his pistol and Cyril ended up with a wound in his buttock which resulted in 14 days C.B.

DAWSON - On 5 June 1998, Mrs Mollie Dawson, wife of Major G.C. Dawson.

FETTES - On 28 May 1998, Major David J.V. Fettes, in South Africa. He joined July/August 1939 and was posted to the 2nd Bn. This was followed by attachment to the MMG Holding Bn from May/July 1940. He was then posted to the 1/7th Bn and served continuously until May 1946, finally as Company Commander. He was known as 'First Burst' Fettes due to training accuracy in the target area.

GIBBS - On 31 December 1997, WO2 Antony Walter Gibbs (19145508), aged 68 years.

He enlisted on 6 March 1947, and served with the 1st Bn from 1949 to 1964 and then 1 Queens Surreys/1 Queens until October 1969. He was promoted WO2(ORQMS). He was with 1 Mx in Korea. On return to civilian life he joined the Prison Service.

His funeral was attended by Major M.P. Eastap, Sgt Higgins and friends from the Motar Platoon, Mrs E. Warner and Pat. Many friends from the Prison Service also attended the funeral. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin.

HALES - On 12 February 1997, Cpl Charles Wilfrid Hales (6200135), aged 82 years.

He enlisted on 29 April 1931, and served with the 1st Bn in Palestine, Egypt, Hong Kong and Singapore. He was posted to UK during late 1938 and transferred to the Army Reserve in early 1939, only to be recalled in 1939. He served with the 8th Bn for 2 years and was then transferred to the Army Catering Corps and attached to 90th Regt R.A. He was finally discharged on 2 November 1945.

HILL - On 2 March 1998, Captain Arthur Fenton Hill, aged 76 years.

He joined the 2/7th Bn on 22 February 1941 and was granted an Emergency Commission in 1943. The whole of his service was with the 2/7th Bn and he served through the Italian Campaign. He was promoted Captain during 1945 and finally discharged on 16 April 1947.

HIPGRAVE - On 7 June 1998, Private Leonard Frederick Hipgrave (6202976) aged 83 years.

He enlisted on 4 May 1936 and after recruit training was posted to the 2nd Bn and he served with the Bn until September 1938. He was then posted to the 1st Bn in Singapore and moved to Hong Kong in early October, 1938. During the battle for Hong Kong he was with B Company and was awarded a 'Mention in Despatches' for exceptional brave conduct. He became a FEPOW and served his time in Osaka Camp, Japan. At his funeral the "Regimental Flag" draped the coffin.

HUDSON - On 2 February 1998, Captain John Henry Stuart Hudson (66626), aged 86 years.

He was posted to the 1st Bn from the Kensington Regiment during March 1940. Shortly afterwards he was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. On arrival he was appointed 2IC of A Company and during the battle of Hong Kong commanded eleven Pill Boxes stretching from Stanley to Aberdeen Island. At the fall of Hong Kong he was taken P.O.W. and after a short spell in Shamshuipo Camp was moved to the Officers Camp at Argyle Street. On 20 May 1944 when Argyle Street Camp was closed he was moved back to Shamshuipo. In late 1945 he was the Secretary of the Argyle Street, POW Assn, and organised the annual lunch.

JENNINGS - On 6 January 1998, Mrs Jennings, wife of Private J.S. Jennings (6201470), former FEPOW 1st Bn. They emigrated to Australia during 1951.

JENNINGS - On 20 January 1998, Mrs Florence (Flossie) Jennings, widow of Captain H.J. (Harry) Jennings, who died on 20 January 1963.

JONES - On 27 February 1998, Private William Henry Jones (14244050), aged 74 years.

He served from November 1942 to September 1943 with 5 Cheshires. He was then posted to the 2/7th Bn serving until January 1945. For many years he was the manager of the Vigour hotel at Cemaes Bay, Anglesey.

JONES - On 26 January 1998, Private Thomas Frank (Buck) Jones, (6201242), aged 83 years.

He enlisted into the Regiment during 1933, and after recruit training was posted to the 2nd Bn Colchester. In March 1936 he was posted to Singapore to join the 1st Bn. In August 1937 he proceeded with the Bn to Hong Kong. On Christmas Day 1941 he was taken POW and held in Shamshuipo Camp. In October 1942 he survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru en route to Japan and was taken to Kobe Camp where he remained for the rest of the war. He returned to UK in October 1945 and was discharged. Tom was a happy man and loved life. He became an excellent golfer and attended the Regimental Golf Meeting for many years. His name appears on a couple of trophies. In civilian life he was a member of the RSPCA. A great character.

JORDANOU - On 15 April 1998, LCpl Jordan Jordanou (6848867), aged 79 years. Frank Dickinson writes: I would like to pen a few lines in memory of Tony Jordanou, who died a few days ago.

I first met Tony just after the Normandy Landings, when I was posted to B Company (after the loss of practically all Company H.Q. at Cambes Wood, where they are now laid to rest). We were dispatch riders. He, being far more experienced, taught me a lot. This subsequently assisted me in later life, as a motor-cyclist in the Police Traffic Patrol.

He was quite a character, and very proud of his Cypriot background. He would often boast that he was the only Greek in the Middlesex Regiment, and probably in the British Army. The inevitable reply was 'what other Army would have you?'.

Tony was fluent in French, with the result that he became popular in the local bartering trade, i.e. fresh eggs and milk for cigarettes and chocolate - all done in a typical Greek style. He did try to teach us the language, but, I am sorry to say, he was not very successful. Can you imagine a Greek Cypriot trying to teach Cockneys and Londoners French?

He was also among the first British, and certainly in the first three Middlesex Regiment Soldiers to enter Paris. This was, of course, all unofficial. The British troops were strictly instructed at this stage not to pass through American lines - they being already in Paris.

We were at rest at the time of the Liberation of Paris. It was just after the Battle at Falaise Gap, when Major Gatehouse, the company Commander, decided it would be a good idea to carry out a reconnaissance in the general direction of Paris! This was to ascertain just how far away were the American units. Together with the 2 IC, and Tony as the interpreter, off he went.

Whilst the Parisians were very pleased to meet the British Army, the Americans were not so sure. They were quite concerned to find this jeep, with the white star of the Allied Forces, and brightly painted red and black/black and white Divisional and Unit signs, together with this fluent, French speaking Greek. They didn't know what to make of it all. (The United States Forces, at that time, did not display such emblems, especially in bright colours.) It would appear that, after a lot of fast talking, together with the introduction of British Army 'Compo' Rations (unknown to the Americans), plus a Luger pistol, the trio were wished a happy journey, and sent on their way.

After the War, I occasionally saw Tony around Camden Town, and at Arsenal, when I was on duty on match days. He owned a farm in Cyprus, which was taken over by the Turkish Government during the partition of the Island. His greatest sorrow was to see the British Army, with whom he had served as a volunteer, standing aside whilst the Turkish Forces move in and occupied his property. It speaks volumes that, when I discussed this with him, he accepted it all as part of life, and showed no bitterness - just sorrow.

He really was a gentleman.

LAMBERT - On 14 April 1998, Pte Percy Kenneth Lambert (7944859), aged 75 years. He commenced his service with the 107th Regiment R.A.C. and joined the 8th Bn in early 1944. He was wounded at Normandy on 10 July 1944 and was posted to the Y List.

MILROY - On 19 March 1998, Cpl Thomas John Milroy (6202737), aged 81 years. He enlisted on 5 December 1935, and was posted to the 1st Bn Singapore, on 5 February 1937 and moved with the Bn to Hong Kong on 14 August 1937. He was taken P.O.W. on 25 December 1941 and moved to Japan in 1942. He was held in Sakuragima Camp, Osaka. He returned to UK early 1946, and rejoined the 1st Bn in BAOR on 14 January 1947, returning to U.K. on 12 July 1948. He was discharged on 30 September 1950. He boxed for the Regiment on many occasions and was outstanding at Middle Weight. His funeral took place at Enfield, the regimental Flag draped the coffin and the Enfield Branch were in attendance. Very sadly Mrs Flo Milroy died a week later on 8 April 1998.

MORLEY - On 23 February 1998, Private A. Morley (6631097), aged 78 years. No other details available.

PENFOLD - On 26 March 1998, Private William Penfold (6206179), aged 77 years.
The Regiment was represented by Messrs Fred Phillips, Joe Shore, Dick Mowbray and Charlie Bysouth. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag. Bill served with the 2/7th Bn throughout the whole of the Second World War.

RICHARDSON - On 11 March 1998, Private William Bertie Richardson (6199853), aged 88 years.
Tich as he was known to members of the 1st Bn served from 1929 to 1938, serving in Palestine, Egypt and Singapore. He returned to UK in 1938 and was transferred to the Army Reserve only to be recalled in 1939. He was at Dunkirk and in Italy. Mr and Mrs H.J. Mellow attended the funeral.

STANNARD - On 18 March 1998, Mrs Ada Stannard, wife of 22473152 Private J.H.W. Stannard, who served with the 1st Bn Corps of Drums 1st Bn 1951-55.

STONE - On 11 December 1997, Private C.F. Stone (6459574), aged 77 years.
He served with the 2nd Bn 1938-42 and then 1/7th Bn 1942-44.

SQUIRES - On 15 December 1997, Private J. Squires (6201237), aged 81 years.
He served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru. He was held in No. 5 Camp, Shanghai for the remainder of the war.

TAYLOR - On 8 December 1997, Cpl Thomas Reginald Taylor (22497061), aged 64 years.
He served with the 1st Bn from 1951-53 and 1955-61.

WISEMAN - On 22 November 1997, Sgt Arthur John Wiseman (14653939), aged 72 years.
He served from 1943-47 with the 1st Bn. No other details available

VOULUNTEERS NEEDED

SSAFA Forces Help is a leading National Services' Charity, established to relieve hardship and to assist Service and ex-Service Personnel and their families. We care for over 86,000 people every year.

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LETTERS

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Fax: 01677 426832

Dear Ron,

Readers of the Newsletter may be interested to hear that on a visit to Highgrove last week I wore the Regimental Tie.

As a result, on being presented to The Prince of Wales, his first question was: "What is that tie"? To which I replied "The Dieharder, Your Highness". He then asked: "Who are they"? And I was able to say "The Middlesex Regiment, Sir, and your great uncle was our Colonel-in-Chief".

Time then ran out otherwise I could have added that the Regiment was on public duties when he was born 50 years ago this November.

I am proud to have had the opportunity of reminding our future Sovereign of the famous old Regiment in which we all served and you may care to publish this letter.

With best wishes

Yours, Barry

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available to purchase. These can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA. Postage and packing is included in the price. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Blazer Badges	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£10.00 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£27.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon & Old Gold	£ 5.50 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern	£ 4.00 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£12.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (improved quality)	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Key Rings	£ 2.50 each
Old Comrades Lapel Badges, Old Pattern - The Diehards	£ 2.75 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£17.50 each
Prints Drums and Fifes, unframed, large	£ 8.50 each
small	£ 4.50 each
Christmas Cards depicting:	
Steady the Drums and Fifes	.35 each
The Guardroom Scene	.35 each
Colonel Graham Egerton, 77th Foot Portsmouth 1854	.35 each

We are now in a position to supply the following - please allow 14 days for delivery:

Middlesex Regtl Blazer Button (Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge)	
Sets of 6 large & 6 small	£22.00 set
Individual buttons large or small	£ 2.00 each
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links	£ 7.50 per pair
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links with tie grip	£10.50 set
Tie Grip only	£ 5.00 each
Middlesex Regiment Ladies Brooch	£ 4.75 each
Middlesex Tie Tack and Chain	£ 4.50 each

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REGIMENTAL GOODS

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Barrel Badges	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£10.00 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblem	£27.00 each
Two Ring Gun Pattern, Vernon & Old Gold	£ 5.50 each
Two Ring New Pattern	£ 4.00 each
Two Colours Gun Set	£12.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (improved quality)	£ 3.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Key Rings	£ 2.50 each
Old Comrades Lapel Badges, Old Pattern - The Diamonds	£ 2.75 each
Wall Plaque, Middlesex Regiment	£17.50 each
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Post Cards and Files, unprinted, small	£ 4.50 each
Christmas Cards depicting	
Sandy the Dog and Files	35 each
The Greenroom Scene	35 each
Colonel Graham Egerton, 7th Foot Portsmouth 1854	35 each

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Set of 6 large & 6 small	£22.00 set
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