

The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 81

July 1999

Price £1



The Medals of Drummer Michael Norton, 57th of Foot (1818 - 1891)

The Medals of Drummer Michael Norton 57th of Foot. (1818 - 1891)

The medals a group of four covering Drummer Michael Norton's service in the Crimea are interesting in that there are three bars to the campaign medal. In addition only four hundred of the Sardinian Medal were awarded for exceptional service and so they are very sought after by collectors. Drummer Norton died as an in pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. These medals were purchased by George Whaley earlier this year and were shown by him in the PWRR Museum Dover on Albuhera Day.

President: Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP

Chairman : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC

Vice Chairman : Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.

Secretary: Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE,

38 Traps Lane, New Malden,

Surrey KT3 4SA.

Editors: Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE and

Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE.

Correspondence.

The following letters to and from Brigadier B A M Pielow JP, our President, are published for information:-

From: Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, KBE Colonel of the Regiment.

17 January 1999

Dear Tony,

On 9 September this year, Salerno Day, I will have completed seven years as Colonel of the Regiment. It has been a tremendous honour and privilege and I have enjoyed it all enormously. The Regiment has come a long way since those early days of amalgamation and I firmly believe that we have really established ourselves now as the county regiment of the south and southeast of England.

I have been retired now for nearly three years and inevitably I am beginning to lose touch with the Army. I also find it more and more difficult to give the Regiment full representational justice from my home in north Essex. I also believe that one should not hang on too long in an honorary appointment, especially an appointment as important as this. I have therefore decided that it is time to hand over the reins of Colonel.

I have consulted at a high level and we have discussed the situation in the Council of Colonels. We have decided unanimously that the ideal successor to me would be Brigadier Professor Richard Holmes CBE TD JP. I have felt for some time that the overriding principles must be to find an officer who is 'home grown', who lives in the Regimental recruiting area and who is very well known both in the Army and outside. Richard fits the bill exactly.

Indeed, his credentials are excellent. He commanded a company in 5 QUEENS and then commanded 2 WESSEX, with its Hampshire connections. He is currently Director Reserve Forces and Cadets in the MOD. He was also a member of General Sir David Fraser's Royal Hampshire Regiment Regimental Council. As Director Reserve Forces and Cadets, he is closely involved with Ministers and the Army Board and he has their ear. A military historian and author of great eminence, he is known and respected by generations of Army officers and, of course, his television programmes are watched nationwide. He lives in Hampshire, where he is well respected for his work on the Bench.

I am delighted to say that Richard has accepted our offer and the appointment has been approved. He will take over from me on 9 September 1999. Richard will bring a refreshing energy and dimension to the appointment and I know that he will be brilliant at it.

Our love to Ann,

Yours ever

Anthony.

To: Lieutenant General Sir Anthony Denison-Smith, KBE

23rd January 1999

Dear General,

Very many thanks for your letter of 17th January and for giving me early notice of your decision to retire as our Colonel of the Regiment.

Having been privileged to serve with the Regiment pretty well since its inception and until myself retiring last July as your Honorary Colonel with The London Regiment, I know extremely well just how much we have all prospered from your time as our Colonel.

You have been instrumental in establishing the Regiment so solidly in such a short time, and the many successes it has enjoyed both operationally and in other spheres of influence have all been the result of your enthusiastic leadership.

I entirely appreciate the reasons you give for the timing of your handover and congratulate you on your choice of successor. He is, as you say in your letter, ideal. I do not know him personally although as a Justice of the Peace he was a member of the Wessex Magistrates' Association of which I was Chairman until fairly recently. His many other interests and achievements will ensure that we will continue to benefit from a particularly well qualified and nationally known leader.

I speak both personally and on behalf of all Diehards, proud of our affiliation with The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, (Queen's and Royal Hampshires), when I send you our hearty congratulations and thanks for all you have achieved for the Regiment during your time as its Colonel.

Yours sincerely,

Tony

To: Brigadier Professor Richard Holmes, CBE, TD, JP

23rd January 1999

Dear Brigadier,

I heard just the other day from General Sir Anthony the splendid news that you will be taking over from him as Colonel of the Regiment on 9th September, and I write now to send you, both personally and on behalf of all Diehards, proud of our affiliation with the PWRR, the warmest wishes for your time as Colonel.

By a happy coincidence the letter arrived as I was half-way through your masterly account of Operation Goodwood! - a Christmas present from my PWRR son-in-law and which took me back to the Camberley battlefield tour in '60.

I cannot imagine anybody else who is so well qualified to take over as Colonel of the Regiment and I am particularly pleased that you have agreed to do so. We are indeed fortunate.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Pielow.

From: Brigadier E R Holmes, CBE TD JP

31st January 1999

Dear Tony (if I may),

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter. I know that it is conventional politeness to say how delighted and surprised I am, but actually - I am!

Although I am too junior to have a proper Diehard connection, when a TA company commander I was particularly fond of my Hounslow Platoon, which included some serious Diehards like Mick Ward and Tom Rogers. And I have stood on the ridge at Albuhera, an experience which did nothing but increase my regard for the 57th Regiment.

I do hope to see you again in the not too distant future. Thank you again for writing.

Yours ever,

Richard

The following letter was received by the Secretary from the Diehard company to acknowledge the presentation of a Middlesex Regimental Flag and a donation of £500:-

From: T L Rose

18th May 1999

Dear Ron,

I am writing formally on the unit's behalf to thank both you and Brigadier Pielow for all your efforts on Albuhera day at Dover Castle. From our perspective we were both proud and honoured to be seen and inspected by our 'adopted' Regiment and we hoped we lived up to your expectations of us. All the groups, representing over 70 years of the Regiment's history acquitted themselves well and it was also nice to work with the modern PWRR. For those who stayed all day hopefully we made it a little bit special for them.

We were also very honoured to receive the Regimental flag, which flew over our tent line for the rest of the day, and which we lowered at the end of the beating of retreat. I am currently sorting out a second flag pole to allow us to fly it alongside the Union flag during events - it is an honour and privilege for us and can I express our thanks to the Association for such a generous gift.

Similarly we have had both the bass drum (which had it's first outing on Sunday) and the drum mace fitted with plaques stating "Presented to the Diehard Company by the Middlesex Regimental Association 1999" as a permanent reminder of that day and two bugles will be similarly engraved.

It was nice to see old friends from the Association again, and to be joined in the Drumhead service by members - I have enclosed a few pictures you may want to use in your Association journal, once again thank you all.

"Highlanders, Riflemen, Lancers, or Guards, Are not like the boys called the jolly Diehards"

With best wishes till we meet again.

Signed: T.L. Rose

FORECAST OF EVENTS

1999 Presentation of New Colours to 3 PWRR - Ardingly Show Ground 11 September W. Sussex. (Seated by 1030 hrs - details from the Secretary). Korean Club Annual Reunion - Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. 11 September Past & Present Sgts' Mess Dinner Forebear Regts & PWRR -2 October University of Kent, Canterbury - details from the Secretary. Annual Luncheon 2/7th Bn - Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. 7 October Finance Sub Committee Meeting - Aldwych House at 1800 hrs. 10 November 7th Bn Officers' Club Dinner - Officers' Mess, TA Centre, St John's 11 November Hill, London SW11 Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 1030 hours for 1100 11 November hours, planting of crosses in the Regimental and FEPOW Plots.

13 November	Ceremony of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) assemble at 1030 hours.
14 November	National Remembrance Day Parade at the Cenotaph, Whitehall. Form up on Horse Guards by 1000 hours. (Entry by ticket only obtainable from the Secretary).
14 November	7th Bn Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey, London N8. Assembling at 1000 hours.
14 November	Annual Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. Assembling at the Barracks at 1000 hours.
26 November	PWRR Officers' Club Dinner - Cavalry & Guards Club - 1900 hrs.
2000	
6 March	Executive Committee Meeting at 1400 hrs followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting - location to be confirmed but likely to be the TAVRA Conference Room at the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea.
22 April	Annual Luncheon 1/7th Bn - Hornsey TA Centre.
12 May	Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner - Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall SW1
13 May	Albuhera Service - Regimental Chapel - St Paul's Cathedral at 1500 hours.
13 May	All ranks Reunion Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, commencing at 1830 hours. AGM at 1930 hours.
8 or 15 June (TBC)	9th Bn Officers, Annual Luncheon - Royal Overseas League, St James's Place, SW1.
16 July	PWRR and Forebear Regiments Grand Reunion - Tidworth.
	some high quality adventurous training and a short stand down pend allowed company Commanders to conduct progressive training for live

Donations and Benevolence

Donations.

Hounslow Branch	£250	(for 8th Bn Memorial)
Last Post Assn (Menin Gate)	£100	
St Dunstans	£50	
Star & Garter Home	£200	
1/7th Luncheon Club	£94	

2/7th Luncheon Club	£130	
Korean Club	£38	(to meet cost of survey)
Plaque for Shorncliffe Church	£25	(Appeal from 2 Bde to replace that stolen)
Enfield Branch	£150	(Part cost coach to Dover)
Mx & NW London ACF	£750	
Diehard Coy VMS	£500	
9th Bn Officers' Luncheon	£200	(from Officers' Club)

Bequests/Donations Received.

Balance of Mrs Whiteley's		
Estate	£36	
Mrs M W Garner	£100	(in memory of her husband)
G R Barton	£100	
In memory of Col I H Burrows	£580	(in total)
(plus many smaller donations of		an £50)

Benevolent Grants	31 Dec 98	to 1 Jun 99
Grants made to individua	als £13070	£7218
Less ABF Grants	£7890	£4014
Net	£5090	£3204

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

Since the last journal notes the pace of life within the four PWRR Battalions has been hectic but also it has been a time of consolidation.

The 1st Battalion completed an extensive training exercise in Canada (Ex Pond Jump West). This was carried out at Wainwright in Alberta. This is a vast training area where the Battalion has free play to complete its own training. This is very different from BATUS, which is held at Suffield (near Calgary) where every exercise is controlled by staff. The training consisted of four weeks of dry training and live firing integrated with some high quality adventurous training and a short stand down period. The exercise allowed company Commanders to conduct progressive training for live firing and the final testing exercise.

The weather changed from too hot to too cold and the really damp cold spell coincided nicely with A Company river crossing exercise! There was a good link up with the South Alberta Light Horse (one of our affiliated Regiments) when a group attended the Officers Mess party.

Since its return from Canada the Battalion has focused its training on its TALO (Tactical Air Landed Operational) role.

The Commanding Officers have changed, Lt Col M P Rayner has departed to work at Warminster on the Staff and Lt Col S P B Kilpatrick has taken over command.

The Battalion complete an arms plot move to Tidworth in December 1999 and are replaced by 1st Battalion The Royal Irish in Howe Barracks in Canterbury.

The 2nd Battalion moved to Belfast in November 1998 for a six months tour. On deployment they found themselves 'locked in' to their Belfast bases with the remit to maintain the lowest possible profile whilst the Good Friday Agreement progressed with its fudges and delays. To combat boredom a highly workable 'macro' rotation of company multiples was designed to provide a level of friction which constantly challenged the soldiers. All tasks would be completed by all soldiers. At the same time Company Headquarters remained static so as to provide the RUC with a sense of reassurance and continuity. This seems to have worked and the Battalion are looking forward to some well-earned leave.

In the last notes The Strategic Defence Review was looming but had not impacted. In November 1998 it was announced. It has had an immediate effect and will be completely implemented by 1st July 1999. In summary the titles of 5th Battalion and 6/7th Battalion's PWRR will disappear. Some locations will shut. We have ended up with a complete cap badge Battalion that will be called the 3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. This will be in the counties of Kent, Surrey and E & W Sussex. The Battalion will consist of three Rifle Companies plus a HQ Coy plus the Band. In addition we will have a cap badge rifle Coy based in Portsmouth and IOW which will be C Company of a new Battalion called The Rifle Volunteers. They will cover Hants, IOW, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Oxfordshire. We will also have a cap badge company in the London Regiment (which we already had). In general terms we came off quite well compared with others. It is of course very sad that once again we have had to change names and reduce.

We have had many individuals serving in the Balkans and as I write we have just pulled some out of Kosovo and we have others deployed in Macedonia. Only time will tell if history repeats itself something that politicians seem to have a blind spot for!

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment is in good form and ready to meet any challenge.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee Meeting followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting took place at the Duke of York's Headquarters on the 1st of March 1999 and a copy of both minutes can be found towards the end of this newsletter.

1/7th Bn OLD COMRADES LUNCHEON

The 1/7th Bn Old Comrades Association held their annual get together at the Hornsey TA Centre on Saturday the 24th of April 1999. There were 46 members and guests present and for the second year ladies were invited.

The Chair was taken by Major Alan Carter, the Chairman of the 1/7th Bn OCA. The toasts were:- Her Majesty The Queen, Absent Friends, The Regiment and the 51st Highland Division.

Major Carter gave a resume of recent 1/7th events and he outlined the programme for the forthcoming 51st Highland Division visit to Holland.

Thanks are due to the Secretary, Tony White and his team of helpers for organising yet again a successful luncheon. Tony said he was particularly pleased to see those who had made quote long journeys to attend and he mentioned that all being well the next 1/7th Reunion will be held on Saturday the 22nd of April 2000 at Hornsey.

After lunch there was a conducted tour of the 7th Bn Museum now established at the TA Centre.

OFFICERS' CLUB

The Annual Officers' Club Dinner took place at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1 on Friday the 14th of May 1999. Brigadier Tony Pielow presided and the principle guest this year was the Very Rev Dr John Moses, the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral. Others who attended were:-

Regimental Guests:- Maj Colin Bellingham, Rev Preb Patrick Tuft, Mrs Ann Bennett, Miss Jean Bower, Mrs Pam Chattey, Mrs Ann Cotton, Mrs Andy Hutchings, Mrs Christine Pollard and Mrs Pat Ramsay.

Members and Private Guests:- Brig & Mrs Tony Pielow, Brig Brian Marciandi, Brig & Mrs Denis Rendell, Col Ian Brotherton, Col & Mrs Rex Cain, Col Andrew Man & Mrs Pam Argles, Col John Moore, Lt Col & Mrs Norman Clayden, Lt Col & Mrs Mike Deakin, Mr & Mrs Marcus Deakin, Lt Col & Mrs Peter Galvin, Lt Col & Mrs John Hewson, Maj Bob Bartlett, Maj Carl Blackwell, Rt Rev Mgr Ralph Brown, Maj & Mrs Harold Couch, Maj David Falcke, Maj & Mrs Stewart Henshaw, Maj & Mrs James Jonklaas, Maj & Mrs Chris Lawrence, Maj & Mrs David Margand, Maj & Mrs Ron Morris, Maj Barry Reed, Maj Pat Wollocombe, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Capt Peter Lane, Capt Roy Scott, Lt Simon Cawthorne & Mrs Francis Castle, Lt John Day & Lt Cara Day & 2lt Simon Day.

Our Chairman, Maj Chris Lawrence advised those present that we had sent our customary loyal message to HM The Queen and he read out her reply. Our President, Brig Tony Pielow gave a resume of recent events and said how pleased he was to see

that the numbers attending were not falling off in that 62 sat down to dinner this year, would have been 64 but we received 2 late cancellations.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Service of Remembrance was held in the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday the 15th of May 1999 at 3pm. The Prayers were led by the Rt Rev Mgr Ralph Brown and the address was made by Rev Preb Patrick Tuft, the Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the Regimental Association. There were two readings this year, the first by Colonel Andrew Man from Issaih 40 vv 1-11, and the second by Brigadier Tony Pielow from Luke 24 vv 13-35. As ever there was an excellent attendance, the Chapel was full.

THE ANNUAL REUNION

150 members, families and guests attended the 1999 reunion held as usual at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. Again we had the customary fish and chip supper and enjoyed the music provided by Alan's Disco. Many old friends renewed their friendships and enjoyed each others company once more. Those who do not attend are really missing out. Why not make an extra effort and come along next year. We hope to invite as our guests members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who were with us in Korea, it being the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War and the millennium year.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at 7.15pm at the Victory Services Club on Saturday the 15th of May 1999. This was a well attended meeting 29 members being present. The minutes have been published and will be found towards the end of this newsletter.

THE VICTORIAN MILITARY SOCIETY

The Victorian Military Society parading as the Diehard Company held a commemorative Albuhera Day together with English Heritage at Dover Castle on Sunday the 16th of May 1999. The Diehard Company paraded at 1200 hours, Brigadier Tony Pielow took the salute and after the parade he presented a Regimental Flag from the Association to the Society. The Diehard company were led on to the parade by the Corps of Drums of the 1st Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment together with the Kohima Band from the 5th Bn playing the marches of the Middlesex Regiment. There was a strong contingent of Diehards present, the Enfield Branch being particularly well represented and all stayed to the conclusion of the various displays and activities in spite of the rather inclement weather.

Some months ago the Executive Committee approved a grant to the Society to help them with their considerable costs, mainly funded from their own pockets. The money has been used to obtain a Drum Major's Mace and to emblazon a set of drums in the Middlesex Colours. The base drum and the mace have small plaques on them to say that the refurbishment's have been funded by the Association. They were on display at Dover.



NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

It was the Association's turn to host the Annual Albuhera Lunch held at the National Army Museum on Monday the 17th of May 1999. 26 members of the Regiment were present together with 10 or so members of the Museum Staff. Major Chris Lawrence said how pleased he was that we were once again remembering Albuhera together and that he hoped the very close liaison between the Regiment and the Museum continues. Mr Ian Robertson, the Museum Director welcomed us to the Museum and in his speech he gave a resume of the work of the Museum over the past year. He said how sorry he was that Major Frank Waldron was unable to attend and in his absence he asked that his thanks be conveyed to him for the various items that he had passed on to the Museum in recent months. A finger buffet lunch was enjoyed by all and after lunch Mr Julian Humphreys gave an amusing and informative talk on South Africa covering both the Zulu and Boer Wars. On display were some interesting

artefacts from the Middlesex Collection. He mentioned that later this year there will be a special exhibition at the Museum on South Africa. He said he hoped that there will be items on display within the exhibition from our collection.

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

OFFICERS ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

The fourteenth annual luncheon took place on Thursday 20th May 1999 at the Royal Overseas League, St James's Place, SW1. Major Derrick Littlejohn was in the Chair.

The lunch was attended by P.J. Cundy, D.E., Dowlen, J.R. Doyle, D.H.S. Herriot, P.W.S. Hodge, A.N. Hunt, D.V. Littlejohn, M.O. Sayers, and J.K.E. Slack.

Major Littlejohn proposed the Loyal Toast. David Dowlen toasted 'Absent Friends', making particular mention of Tony Jones and Eric Howkins, who had passed away during the year.

David Dowlen read the text of Her Majesty's reply to loyal greetings sent to her on behalf of the Officers of the Regiment. John Doyle reported that he had received sundry messages from officers who were unable to attend but forwarded their good wishes for an enjoyable gathering.

Next years luncheon is scheduled for either Thursday 8th June or Thursday 15th June. Notice of the final day will be announced in good time.

THE DIE HARD HOUNSLOW BRANCH NOTES

Editorial Like the Chancellor it is necessary for the Branch to collect revenue so that we maintain a balanced budget. Therefore I look forward to receiving your subs if they are outstanding within the next few days.

Past Events

On Saturday 8th May members of the branch who had served with 5 Queens (V) attended a dinner, which was held at Sandfield Terrace Guilford for the last time, as the Drill Hall is being sold under the Strategic Defence Review. The Drill Hall, which like so many is steeped in history, was originally used to form the "Japanese Village" at the Edinburgh Exhibition. The cost of moving and erecting the building was to be £1000.00 plus £1500.00 for the land on which it was to stand. A large sum in 1891 which was raised by public subscription and a loan from the officers. The girders for the roof were originally brought from Bombay as ballast which gave the building an internal height of 18 feet.

Messrs Bailey, Long, Patterson, Raby, Stunt, Thornton & Ward who attended enjoyed a pleasant repast, good wine and convivial company with many old friends. The music was provided by the Kohima Band of The Princess of Wales's Regiment. Thus after 108 years another part of the Reserve Forces history passes in to the record books.

The Regimental Association held the Annual Albuhera Service at St Paul's Cathedral and Reunion at The Victory Services Club on Saturday 15th May.

Sunday 16th May an enjoyable and Regimental Day was held at Dover Castle. I learn from Syd Wells that it was well attended, Enfield Branch had travelled down by coach despite the cold weather.

The Branch made its customary pilgrimage to La Albuera for the ninth successive year. Unfortunately on this occasion there was no road party as our ever willing driver Syd Wells was unable to make the journey due to family commitments. So the air party of seven met at Heathrow at 07.00hrs on Friday 14th May equipped with the items required to sustain them during the four day stay in La Albuera. Unfortunately the flight was delayed by four hours which meant a late arrival at our destination, but as is now usual, we were greeted by our hosts Mariano and Juana with typical Spanish hospitality. Once we had settled into our accommodation we set off for town to renew old friendships. Saturday was a full day - our first call was to see the Sousa sisters Macarena and Camino, our trusted interpreters, and then off to Olivenza to explore new pastures. In the afternoon we attended the village picnic and were invited by numerous families to join them, but we settled with the Sousa family where we partook of traditional Spanish food, drank the families home brewed wine which is still made by treading the grapes, and indulged in the custom of drinking the wine from the flask; surprising how much one can put down your shirt front and not in the mouth, Thus in a happy frame of mind we set off after having changed for an assignation with an unknown English lady who had invited us to her castle at Salvatierra de Los Barros. This proved to be a very interesting evening. We were shown around the castle by Mrs Celia Denny who had carried out a lot of remedial works since purchasing the property, the views from the roof were absolutely staggering. She proved to be a wonderful hostess serving us with sandwiches, wine and various spirits. We made our apologies for having to leave early as we had been invited to the Flamenco dancing which was held in the newly opened Cultural Hall. So after an eventful day we returned to our billet for a supper of bread, cheese and onions.

Albuera Day meant an early reveille to ensure that we were on parade at the Town Hall and village plaza where the familiar ceremonies of raising the National Flags, playing of the National Anthems, laying of wreaths and march past of the Spanish Army contingent took place as always followed by the small boys of the village. We were invited to join the VIPs in the special enclosure. After the ceremonies we joined the coach party to tour the orientation tables which had been set up in the area of the battle and a Spanish General laid a wreath at the memorial on the ridge. We were invited to the banquet held at the Hotel Lopez which was attended by a number of local mayors and thus we received invitations to visit their villages. Our friends in the Guardia Civil presented some of our members with keyrings.

In the evening we attended a magnificent Son et Luminaire of the battle and the political events of the time which included the excellent use of fireworks and was acted entirely by members of the village, our landlady being one of their number. Exhausted we retired to bed, although some did dally for a night-cap.

Monday was a lazy day curtailed by heavy rain. In the evening we had our customary dinner at Pedro's bar entertaining the Sousa sisters to express our appreciation of their assistance and hospitality to us during our stay.

In Brief

Kneller Hall Concert, Wednesday 7th July as reported in the previous newsletter The Queens Association have invited us to join them at this event. The NAAFI Function Rooms have been booked for a light supper prior to the concert. The charge will be $\mathfrak{L}12.50$ per head which includes the cost of the concert.

National Army Museum Appeal for new members to join The Friends Of The National Army Museum. The Society is looking for new members to boost the effectiveness, this in turn would help provide additional funds with which the Museum could purchase important relics and research material that otherwise might be lost to the nation. Please consider the matter and if you are interested then I can supply the necessary information. Remember that our Regimental Museum is now in the care of this establishment which does not charge an admission fee. There are numerous advantages in being a member of The Society.

Around the Branch

Now that England are out of the World Cricket Cup may I remind you that the branch meets on Friday Evenings and we shall be delighted to see you where you can express your views on this unseemly demise of our national game, or sing your praises of Manchester Utd or our likely entry into the Euro.

Letters to the Editor

I have received a letter from Alan Lindsay from South Africa who tells me he will be in the UK from the 6th June. He sends greetings to all his old friends and I have told Alan of our meetings on a Friday - who knows, he may drop in and see us.

Items for inclusion in the newsletter are always welcome so if you have any contributions then do not hesitate to forward them to me for inclusion.

ANNUAL REUNION FOR THE YEAR 2000

The Executive Committee at their Meeting held on the 1st of March 1999 decided that as the year 2000 also commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the commencement of the Korean War that we should invite a number of our friends and comrades from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to be our guests at our Reunion to be held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday the 13th of May 2000. Diehards will remember that

at the 40th Anniversary we were the Argyll's guests in Scotland and they looked after us very well indeed.

Note the date in next year's diary now. It will be an up market event well worth attending.

SOLDIER MAGAZINE

Members may be interested to know that the Regiment has been featured in the May and June editions of the Soldier Magazine.

Firstly in May a letter headed "Die hards Diehard" from a Sgt M A Sampson, who had served in the Regiment, wrote to give the origin of the Regiment's Name but he was wrong on two counts. He gave the date of the Battle of Albuhera as the 13th of May 1811 and he said that Colonel Englis died from his wounds. Two letters published in June, from Messrs D. Barrett and F. Edwards put him right. Also in the June issue there was a picture with a supporting article of Lt (as he was then) John Hewson's beret giving an outline of the action in Cyprus where he was awarded the MC.

ODD JOTTINGS

We congratulate Simon Deakin, Lt Col Mike Deakin's son, in that he takes command of the 2nd Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment this coming September/October. 2 PWRR are currently stationed in Tidworth but they are due a move to Aldershot around July 2000.

Junior Under Officer (now 2lt) A S Day, son of J P A Day, had the honour of carrying the old Sovereign's Banner at the presentation of a new Banner by Her Majesty the Queen that took place in the forecourt of Buckingham Palace on the 19th March 1999. The Banner being replaced was presented at Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty on the 27th October 1978. The Sovereign's Banner is carried by the Champion Platoon at the RMA Sandhurst

Lt E A (Eric) Brown MC who joined the 2nd Bn in September 1941, previously having been with the 70th Bn, is asking for any former members of that Bn who remember him to contact him. He joined at Dorchester and served with us for some 18 months before being compulsory transferred to the Royal Artillery. He may be contacted c/o the Secretary.

Mr Clifford Barratt-Pugh was in Hong Kong in February 1999 and whilst there in the company of Mr Jack Edwards, Chairman of the Hong Kong Branch of the Royal British Legion, laid a wreath in memory of his brother who was with the 1st Battalion and died in Osaka as a FEPOW. The inscription on the card read:- "In memory of my brother Stan and his comrades of the 1st Bn of The Middlesex Regiment and all others who died for Hong Kong and who are remembered by this Cenotaph".

A Mr and Mrs R Hill from Diss in Norfolk recently came into possession of a photograph of D Company of the 53rd Battalion at Aldershot in 1918. They very kindly took the trouble to send it to the Secretary. It is now in the Albuhera Room at Enfield.

THE ASKARI APPEAL

The Regiment has been asked to support the Askari Appeal. Many old soldiers of the Kings African Rifles and their sister Regiments of East and Central Africa, who served with such devotion and loyalty, are now living in poverty dependent on small grants that the British Commonwealth Ex Services League can make from time to time.

Donations to the Ex Services League to assist these old soldiers and their dependants, however small, will be most gratefully received and can be made to:
The Askari Appeal, c/o Messrs Park Nelson, 1 Bell Yard, London WC2A 2

VISIT TO HONG KONG BY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE UK BRANCH OF THE HONG KONG VOLUNTEERS

The Programme for the visit to Hong Kong between the 9th and 14th of November 1999 has now been finalised and those interested can obtain a copy from the Association Secretary.

OBITUARIES

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

ABERCROMBIE - On 6 April 1999, Private Ian Harold Abercrombie (2570505). aged 78 years.

He enlisted as a Boy soldier aged 15 years on 27 August 1935 and joined the 1st Bn then stationed in Hong Kong during 1940. On 8 December 1941 Hong Kong was attacked and he was captured by the Japanese on 25 December 1941. Ian became a FEPOW and during 1942 was moved to Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo, Japan, where he remained until August 1945. During 1994 he was admitted to hospital with ulcerated legs and during the next 2 years, after many operations, he lost both legs. He was admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond on 4 September 1996. Throughout all this suffering he was very brave and never complained. He was visited regularly by members of the Regiment. Sadly he died very suddenly. His funeral was held at Dover and the huge crowd that attended, including a party from the Regiment and the Royal Star and Garter Home was a fitting reward of respect to a very brave Diehard.

- ADAMS On 25 July 1998, L/Cpl Louis Frederick Adams (4864570) aged 81 years. He served with D Company, 2nd Bn, 1940-46.
- BARCLAY On 23 January 1998, Mrs Janet Barclay, sister of Col A.M. Man, DSO, OBE.
- BELASCO On 23 April 1998, Sgt George Belasco (6214163), aged 83 years. He joined the Regiment during 1940 and was posted to the 1/8th Bn where he served as a Machine Gunner. He was an excellent sportsman and won the Bn Boxing as a heavy weight champion. He became Signal Sgt with the platoon commanded by Capt Ian Brotherton. He landed with the 8th Bn in Normandy and stayed with them through France and Germany, until the Bn was wound up on 21 March 1946.
- BUDDLE On 30 March 1999, Capt Leslie Joseph Buddle, aged 81 years. He served with the 2/7th Bn. He was awarded the MBE in August 1973 for services to the Youth of the Community.
- BURGESS On 15 February 1999, Lt Col J H S Burgess, OBE, MISM (387673) aged 70 years.

He served with our 1st Bn in Korea, 1950. His parent regiment was the East Surrey Regiment.

BURROWS - On 31 March 1999. Colonel Ian Rupert Burrows, OBE, MA(Oxon), aged 81 years.

Colonel lan's military career was a long and distinguished one. After prep school in Eastbourne he went to Brighton College and then to Oxford University leaving in 1939 and was commissioned into the Regiment in February 1940.

His initial posting was to 2/8Mx in UK and Northern Ireland and he was later GSO3(Int) in 59 Div before fighting in the NW Europe Campaign attached to 1 CHESHIRES. He attended the Staff College in March 1944 and was DAAG HQ 21 Army Gp at the end of the war and until February 1947. Service with 2Mx in the Middle East followed. He was G2 in MI2(d) in the War Office from January 1950 - February 1953, having served as Adjt in 1Mx in BTA. He attended the Joint Services Staff College from January to July 1955 and served 1Mx as a Coy Comd in Cyprus and BAOR.

He was GSO2 on the Staff of HQ Hong Kong from February 1956 to February 1958 and then was selected, as a fluent Russian speaker, for the important and difficult post of MA MOSCOW until August 1961. It was a job at which he excelled and was then made an Instr at the JSSC until July 1963, going afterwards to SHAPE (then in Paris) until September 1965 when he went to his last Army post as DI3 Colonel at the MOD, after which, in 1968 he retired from the Army.

After leaving the Army he was a senior civil servant in the Dept of Employment, and was awarded an OBE for his contribution to the work of the Department, before retiring from it in order to immerse himself in local affairs in Surrey - where he spent much time leading the fight against a number of unpopular planning applications, most of which contests he won, impressing everybody including his opponents with his ability as an amateur barrister. He also served as the Vice President of the CPRE in Surrey, and as a firm Christian was very involved in local church affairs.

Throughout his adult life Ian was a most popular and loyal member of the Regiment, serving it not only in war and afterwards but also in retirement as Chairman for four years of the Regimental Association.

He was a regular and most enthusiastic supporter of all Regimental events, regardless of how far he had to travel. Indeed, only a few weeks before he died, and despite being in extremely poor health which might have kept others at home, he made a long and difficult journey - backed up as always by his beloved Barbara, to attend a fellow officer's funeral. He had a remarkably consistent record of support for Regimental matters and his presence could always be counted on.

He was an expert bridge player and a lover of music and opera, and continued to interest himself in Russian affairs long after leaving the Army and retiring as a Civil Servant.

He was a remarkable, distinguished and much respected Diehard. Ever modest, wise and most meticulous in all he did. A fine friend and example to everybody in the Regiment regardless of rank or position.

Very shortly before he died he married his cousin Barbara who was so often his companion at Regimental events.

BAMP

CARLTON-CHANDLER - On 23 December 1998, Sgt S V Carlton-Chandler, aged 78 years.

He enlisted into the Regiment during 1938 serving with the 2nd Bn until 1941. This was followed by service with the Parachute Regiment from 1941-45 and with the 2nd Bn 1945-46. He occupied a Regimental Flat at Albuhera Close.

CHAPMAN - On 17 May 1999, WO2 Robert Ronald Prynn Chapman (6207747).

He enlisted on 8 May 1939 and served with the 2/8th Bn (later the resuscitated 1st Bn). During his service he became CSM of C Company, B Company and A Company. He was in possession of the following medals - 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal and the T.A. Medal. He was very highly regarded by the late Colonel W.D. Ellis, OBE, TD, DL.

CHEESEBURCH - On 22 December 1998, Private Dennis Cheeseburch (6213703), aged 79 years.

He served with HQ & D Coys of the 1/7th Bn, 1940-46. Informant Mr. E. Billington.

DRURY - On 1st May 1999 Mrs Gwen Drury, aged 90 years, widow of the late RQMS and then Lieut George Drury of the 2/7th Bn.

Gwen became a widow in 1969 just before moving to their dream house in Rustington, sadly a house that George never lived in. Gwen joined both the Red Cross and the WRVS and worked for many years in support of both organisations. the funeral took place at Worthing Crematorium on the 10th May 1999 attended by her family and many friends. Topper Brown and his wife Florence, who were friends of Gwen for many years, represented the Regiment.

GARNER - On 15 February 1999, Sgt Edward James Garner (14409603), aged 74 years.

Ted served with the 1/7th Bn from 1942-47, the final year being with the 1st Bn. A very loyal member of the Regimental Association.

GROGAN - On 26 October 1997, Major W H Grogan. He served with the Bands of the 1st and 2nd Bns from 1931 to 1959. He then joined the Cambridgeshire T.A. and finally the 5th Royal Anglian Regiment. No other information is currently available.

HALL - On 24 April 1999, Lt Col P.J. Hall, OBE, TD, aged 74 years.

Peter Hall died in hospital on 24th April 1999. He was visiting his brother George in Leominster when he became unwell and was sent to hospital in Birmingham, where he was given a new heart valve. He made a good recovery, returning to stay with George and George's wife Megan. Sadly, on the day he was due to be driven back to his home near Yeovil by his niece Helen, he had to be readmitted to hospital and died on the same day from a ruptured aorta. His cremation at Yeovil on the 5th May was attended by over two hundred of his family and friends, many of whom were from the Middlesex and Parachute Regiments and the Sparkford branch of the Royal British Legion.

Peter was born in Westminster on the 27th December 1924 and went to St. Barnabus School in Pimlico. Early in 1939 he joined ICI, who also employed his father, at their Millbank Headquarters. His military career started when he joined the Home Guard soon after they were formed. In 1942 he volunteered for service in the Fleet Air Arm, doing his initial training, but owing to establishment changes he was released back to ICI. Early in 1943 when he was eighteen he was called up by the Army and was posted to the Irish Guards at Caterham and soon reached the rank of Corporal. He was recommended for training as an officer, and was commissioned into the East Surrey Regiment in 1945. He volunteered for the Parachute Regiment and was posted to the 6th Airborne Division in Palestine, where he did his Parachute Training Course and was

initially posted to the airborne RASC, before commanding the Defence Platoon of 2nd Brigade HQ at Nazereth.

Peter was demobilised in 1947, and returned to ICI at Millbank, living with his family at Balham. In 1952 he joined the Territorial Army at Hounslow, joining Support Company of 11th Bn. The Parachute Regt. (8 Mx) TA, who were part of 44 Para Bde. in 16th Airborne Division (TA), becoming the MMG Platoon Commander. He was promoted to Captain in early 1954, and took over as OC Support Company in October 1954. Early in 1956 the 16th Airborne Division was cut to 44 Para Bde. and on 1st June 1956 11 Para became the 8th Bn. The Middlesex Regt (DCO). Peter continued as OC Support Company as a Major, and moved the unit to the Hampton Hill Drill Hall. Peter was an excellent rifle shot and formed part of the team which won the Perring MMG Trophy with a Vickers at Bisley, in a section with Ian Brotherton and RSM Macmillan. He was also part of the first TA team to enter for the Nijmegan March in June 1958. In April 1961 the 5th Bn. the Middlesex Regt. was formed from the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions, and Peter formed D Company as an Infantry unit. In January 1962 Lt Col Ian Brotherton handed over the Battalion to Lt Col Geoffry Webber, and Peter took over as his Second in Command. Peter took over as CO in January 1965, and was the last Middlesex Commanding Officer, as in January 1966 the title was changed to 10th Bn. The Queens Regiment. Peter in turn handed over to Lt. Col Jerry Gunnell on the 1st April 1966 and shortly afterwards was awarded the OBE. He ended his Army career by serving as Deputy Commandant of the NW London AFC for a year.

Peter married Margaret Prosser, who also worked for ICI at Millbank, on 20th November 1964. Their first home was a flat in Isleworth, before they moved to their own house in Stanwell, near London Airport. In 1968 they moved to a cottage, "Cherry Trees" at Lane End in Buckinghamshire with an orchard where they were able to have more room for gardening. Peter's work with the Public Relations Department of ICI entailed many late nights, so they also took a flat in John Islip Street in Millbank. They both retired from ICI early in 1980.

They found a beautiful old listed cottage, "Old Sock", with a large garden, an orchard and a paddock, near Yeovil in Somerset. They spent much of the next seventeen years improving and enlarging the existing flower beds and making new ones, and planting many ornamental trees. Peter was very proud of his well used green house and walled vegetable garden, which had benefited by good manure from the adjacent farm. They kept geese for a time, and much enjoyed walking, usually accompanied by a succession of spaniels. They were both traditionalists, with a love of the country side, paintings and reading - they belonged to the Arts club in Dover Street for many years. They both helped the Conservative Party, Peter was the Chairman of the Yeovil Branch, but retired when Yeovil elected a Liberal!

They enjoyed their holidays and travelling, frequently walking in the Lake District. One of their first trips abroad was with Harold Couch, Don Jones, John Parkinson and their wives to Spain, visiting the site of the battle of Albuhera. The ladies were presented with a cannon ball which was duly mounted and presented to the Officers Mess. They visited Italy with Malcom Beaumont, and toured Palestine and the Middle East, where they rode camels and horses. One of their last trips in the autumn of 1996 was to the east coast of the USA and Canada. Sadly Marley died on 18th September 1997 and Peter was nearly heartbroken. He started building a new life without her and spent a great deal of his time restoring the garden and looking after his spaniel "Pickles".

Peter was a first rate soldier and commander, utterly reliable and dependable, who will be long remembered with both affection and respect by those who served with him. He and Marley made excellent hosts and had some wonderful parties, especially in their garden. We will greatly miss them.

IDB

HOLM - On 27 april 1999, Lt Fleming Holm, aged 68 years.

He was commissioned into the Regiment as a National Service Officer and served in the West African Frontier Force, rejoining the 7 Mx TA in about 1952. Information from Capt Peter Stocken.

JEFFCOAT - On 12th February 1999, Lt Col E A H (Jeff) Jeffcoat, MBE, aged 77 years.

Jeff Jeffcoat went to Sir Roger Manwood's School in Kent and on the outbreak of WWII was in camp with the Princess Louise's Kensingtons.

He went on to OCTU in Scotland and was commissioned into the Bombay Grenadiers in 1941 serving thereafter in the Indian Army in Italy and Syria before being posted back to England in 1946 where in 1947 he married Moira and joined the Regiment, becoming OC Sp Coy in 2MX in Palestine and then to 1MX in 1948 at Chelsea Barracks for Public Duties. A year later he was Adjt of 7MX at Hornsey before being appointed as an instructor at Mons OCS in September 1951. After this he was a student at the Australian Staff College in 1953 and then GSO Trg at HQ FARELF in Singapore until 1956.

Returning to UK he joined the Depot at Mill Hill in 1956 and this was followed by service with 1MX in Hamelin before returning to the Far East in December 1960 as DAQMG (Qtrg) in HQ Hong Kong until becoming 2IC 1MX in April 1963 in Lydd and Gibraltar. A tour at the Home Counties Bde Depot preceded jobs as DAAG (ASD) in MOD after which he was appointed MBE before another posting again in the Far East as AAG HQ FARELF in Singapore in December 1966.

A posting to HQ BAOR in May 1969 as AAG preceded a tour in Northern Ireland with the ASVU in 1971 and then as GSO2(PR) at the MOD(Army) before retiring in November 1974.

Jeff was well known throughout the Regiment having served for many years with 1MX, 2MX and 7MX in a number of appointments. All of us who had the good fortune to serve with him remember not only his quiet but effective manner but also his incomparable cheerful spirit and natural friendliness.

These qualities were well to the fore in the variety of jobs he took on after leaving the service. He was the assistant Administrator at the National Trusts Waddesden Manor for seven years before he and Moira moved to Marsh Gibbon in 1982. Here he was, for twelve years, a Samaritan and a visitor to Bullington and Grendon Underwood Prisons where he used to give military history lectures. He was a dedicated Churchman, Church Warden for ten years and Deanery Lay-Chairman for six years and Treasurer of a local Christian Training Scheme until his death. He was also a keen supporter of the Royal British Legion and organised the local Poppy Appeal as well as the Parish Magazine, fund raising events, concerts etc in aid of the Church and his Village Hall. He and Moira had two children, Moira Anne and Richard and three adored grandchildren.

Throughout his life Jeff spent much of his time looking after and caring for other people both when serving and afterwards. He was an organiser much in demand and a constant inspiration to many of us in the Regiment. We were indeed fortunate to have him as a most warm and respected Diehard friend for so many years.

BAMP

- KNIGHT On 14 November 1998, Sgt Stanley Eric Knight (6206768), aged 85 years. He served with the 2/7th Bn, B Company, but was drafted to the Sherwood Foresters on 11 June 1942, where he was wounded three times and finally discharged on 31 January 1946.
- KEARNES On 21 August 1998, Private Leslie John Kearnes (6205060), aged 78 years.

 He served with B Company, 2nd Bn from 1938 to 1946.
- MOORE On 20 May 1999, Private Lawrence Cecil Moore (6206778), aged 80 years. He served with C and HQ Companies 1/7th Bn from 1939-46.
- MORGAN On 27 February 1999, C/Sgt James Courtney Morgan (6201818), aged 83 years.

He enlisted on 10 July 1934 and joined the 2nd Bn. On 4 March 1936 he was posted to the 1st Bn Singapore and joined D Company. He moved with the 1st Bn to Hong Kong during August 1937. In June 1940 he was a member of a draft of 25 men sent to the Middle East. It took the draft so long to arrive that in the end they joined a Royal Engineer disposal unit. Later some members joined the 2/7th Bn. In 1946 he was posted to the Gold Coast returning in August 1949 to join the 1/7th Bn as a PSI. He rejoined the 1st Bn during 1953 serving in Austria and Cyprus. He was finally discharged to pension in 1960. On 10 October 1994 he was admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea as an In Pensioner.

NORTON - On the 25th April 1999, Major Geoffrey Norton, aged 71.

Geoff was born at Hunton (Yorks) in 1927. He was educated at Henry Thorton School, Clapham and enlisted on 7th September 1945 into the Queen's Royal Regiment as an Indian Army Cadet. However partition put a stop to that and he and his fellow cadets were posted as Sgts to Pirbright whilst the Army decided what to do with them. They in fact formed part of the first Regular Officer Cadet Course (Intake 1) at the RMA Sandhurst in Jan 47.

The first close shave of his career occurred when cycling out of bounds at night; he collided with the Academy Sgt-Major - the redoubtable Brand. "Do you know who I am?" demanded Brand from the ground "No Sir" replied Geoff. "Do you know who I am?" "No" replied Brand still on the ground. Exit O/Cdt Norton like a scalded cat.

Geoff was commissioned into the Regiment in July 1949 and joined the 1st Bn on Public Duties at Chelsea Barracks. He was the Colour Ensign on duty when Prince Charles was born. He subsequently commanded the MMG PI in Hong Kong and Korea, and demonstrated his imperturbable nature by disobeying a direct order from his Commanding Officer to burn one of his carriers which had broken down at the start of the big "bugout" from the Yalu River. Colonel Andrew Man was anxious for the safety of the crew but Geoff was not going to part with one of his precious carriers! Happily the vehicle was repaired and Geoff was able to rejoin the Bn in triumph.

On returning from Korea with the Bn Geoff was posted to the Depot as Adjt where he remained for a year before volunteering for AB Forces and, after the required selection and training process joining 3 Para in the Canal Zone in Mar 53. Having started as MTO he became OC Sp Coy and it was in this capacity that he took part in the Suez Op in Nov 56.

Geoff rejoined 1MX in Cyprus in Jan 57 and took full part in the campaign against EOKA for which he was mentioned in despatches. Life was not without incident - he suffered at the hands of two young terrorists (Barry aged 3 and Sarah 2) who one day locked him in the loo (window was heavily fly screened) and refused to let him out. When he eventually appeared on parade his Coy Comd (Roy Hutchings) was not amused! And during the Offrs v Sgts Football "match" on Christmas Day the Offrs' goal was blown up and Geoff as goal-keeper received the heavy metal cross-bar on his head! Although not a gladiator in the sporting world he was a good shot and took a leading part in the Middle East Battle Trophy Competition which the Bn won two years running.

Geoff left the Bn in Hamlin, where he had commanded A Coy and joined the Queens Own Nigeria Regt serving with 5th and 4th Bns, and the 1st Bn as 2IC in that order, mostly in the Congo which was in turmoil at the time. He helped to organise the rescue of about 600 Belgian civilians and 60 nuns across jungle, marsh and river, and, in a later incident, the rescue of a complete Austrian civilian medical team from Bukavu for which he was awarded the Chevalier Silver Order of Merit (which he was allowed to wear in uniform).

On his return to UK Geoff had a very successful tour as Trg Major with 5MX (Jan 64 - Oct 65) before rejoining 1MX (Holywood and British Guiana). He then returned to Para, initially to 2 Para and then as 2IC Depot Para, and remained with them for the rest of his service, becoming in turn RRO and finally OC PCAU for a total of 7 years; both Prince Charles and Prince Andrew passed through his hands during this time. On leaving the service he became a RO at RHQ Para and Editor of the Pegasus Journal.

He was keen on military history and when he was posted as 2IC Depot Para he was tasked to set up the Airborne Forces Museum when it moved to Browning Barracks. This became a labour of love for Geoff and, joined with Barbara, their efforts resulted in one of the most popular Military Museums in the country for which he was made a Freeman of the City of London. He also found time to write a very popular history of the Parachute Regiment. Whilst involved with the Airborne Forces Museum he gave valuable assistance to the Polish Airborne Veterans, helping them with their Museum in London, for which he was awarded the Polish Golden Cross of Merit as well as their Golden Badge of Polish Airborne Forces.

He finally retired in 1989 and with Barbara moved from Fleet to Lydbury North in Shropshire but remained a Trustee of the ABF Museum, in which capacity he wrote the mini histories to accompany all 30 commemorative covers on issue - a considerable task. He took a full part in the life of the village and was soon involved in many voluntary schemes, principally as Chairman of the local British Legion and Treasurer of the Parish Church.

Geoff was a kind and thoughtful person, a generous host and an amusing raconteur, utterly loyal and very determined; as one very senior officer said of him once he got his teeth into something he would not let go. The well-being of those he commanded was paramount, and he took great pains to ensure that whatever was going his men got a share of it, as a result he became known affectionately as "Ticker". Sadly in 1997 the cancer which had lain dormant since first showing 27 years ago re-emerged and gradually took over his whole body. But he never complained; when he had something really to tick about, he didn't, and for this he must be greatly admired. He died peacefully with his family around him on 25 April.

CLL

PHIPPS - On 22 February 1999, Sgt William Alfred Phipps (6200505), aged 85 years. He served from 1932 to February 1946 with HQ and A Companies 2nd Bn, and was with the Bn in France.

PLATT - On 30 December 1998, Sgt Ernest Platt (6205163), aged 73 years.

Ernie Platt enlisted as a Boy Soldier and joined the Band of the 2nd Bn, on 9 July 1939. He left the army on 10 July 1948 and joined the Post Office and became a Post Office Supervisor. Ernie's hobby was Regimental History and his detailed knowledge was of great help to the Regimental Association. His funeral was attended by the Hounslow Branch.

- PORTER On 26 April 1999, Major Gerard Oswald Porter, aged 86 years.

 A full obituary will appear in the next issue of the Diehard Magazine. The following attended the funeral Colonel A.M. Man, Major C.L. Lawrence, Major I.M.E. Lloyd and Mrs Barbara Clayton.
- POTTER On 9th August 1998, C/Sgt John Arthur Potter (14066481), aged 78 years. He enlisted into the Royal West Kent Regiment during 1947. He joined the 1st Bn during 1949 and served in Korea and all stations that followed up to the date of his discharge on 2 January 1969. He was an excellent all round sportsman and on inspections was selected on many occasions to give the visiting General a round of golf. A very popular member of the 1st Bn.
- RAMSAY On 18th December 1998, Capt Alexander William Ramsay, MA(Oxon), JP, aged 68 years.

Alec joined the Regiment from Mill Hill School and served with the 1st Battalion in Korea in 1951 as a National Service Subaltern in D Company under Major Clinton Nolda. At this time the Battalion, a part of 27th British Commonwealth Brigade, was committed to supporting the UN Forces advance back to the 38th Parallel. As a result Alec found himself and his platoon climbing and clearing the enemy from a series of heavily wooded hills which became ever more mountainous as the advance progressed. This phase of the campaign culminated in the Battle of Kapyong in which D company was heavily embroiled, only narrowly escaping encirclement by the Chinese. After Korea Alec served with the 7th Battalion TA.

Following National Service Alec went up to Brazenose College, Oxford to read Law. Whilst there he became Captain of the University Rugby XV for the 1952/53 season and had a trial for England. He played subsequently for the Barbarians and toured with a combined Oxford and Cambridge side in The Argentine. In 1979/80 he was elected President of the English Rugby Football Union, the year England won the Grand Slam and, as his father Bill before him, remained an influential and popular figure in the Game.

Alec practised at the Bar as a member of Gray's Inn but later joined the family firm of coal and fuel distributors, Lamont and Warne. Involving himself in the various organisations associated with the trade, he became Under Secretary of the Coal Industries Society, and subsequently Chairman and then President.

For 25 years he was a non-executive director of the Portman Building Society. He served as Vice Chairman of the Board for a number of years and saw and influenced many changes in the Building Society Movement. He was also a director of the Tongaat Sugar Estates in Zimbabwe.

A former Westminster City Councillor and Deputy Lord Mayor, Alex was High Sheriff of Greater London in 1976. He also served as a Magistrate and a Commissioner for Income Tax. He is survived by his wife Patricia and their two sons and two daughters.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Alex's life was held at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street, London SW1 on the 18th of February 1999. A large congregation representing his many friends and interests was present, including the President and other members of the Regimental Association.

BStGR

- ROBERTSON On 7 December 1998 WO1(RSM) W.A. Robertson. He was RSM of the 2/7th Bn from 1943-45.
- SELDON On 15 April 1999, Cpl Harry Seldon, aged 61 years.

 Harry was a very popular member of the 1st Bn. He served in the Orderly Room from 1956 to 1958. After leaving the army he assisted with the organisation and running of the Mill Hill Branch. An exceptional National Serviceman what a pity he did not become a Regular.
- SWINSCOE On 9 May 1999, Private Arthur Roland Swinscoe (6206634), aged 79 years.

 He served with the 1/7th Bn from 1939-46.
- SYKES During March 1999, Major Roy Forester Sykes:

Members of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Dining Club will be sorry to learn of the death of Major Roy Forester Sykes in March. His father, Vivian H Sykes was a sergeant in the 1/7 Mx and was commissioned in the field 1917 as a subaltern in the Sherwood Foresters. In WWII he became a Lt Col in the Home Guard and in 1946 was invited by Colonel Edwin King to become a member of the Club. As such he brought his son, Roy, to numerous dinners including the splendid occasion, when, at the invitation of Major Sir Harold Gillett, the new Lord Mayor, the Club dined on the 2nd January 1959 at the Mansion House. Following the death of Colonel Vivian it was decided to invite Roy to become an Honorary Member in 1976. He was delighted and gave unstinted support for the remainder of his life, in addition to contributions to the Museum collections, even when our move to South London made travel difficult. His annual visits to the WWI battlefields (until quite recently) made him something of an expert who would always help out with any queries.

The funeral was attended by Lt Col Jerry Gunnell as our representative and he joined many others from the 4th Northants (Roy's pre-war and WWII Regiment along with representatives from the County and the Royal British Legion paying tribute to Roy's services as Deputy Lieutenant and Past President of the Northants Branch of the Legion.

WALSH - On 23 March 1999, Private Douglas John Walsh (14409792), aged 75

He served with D and B Companies of the 2/8th (1st Bn), from 1942 to 1946.

- WATSON On 9 November 1998, Sqt L.F. Adams (4864570), aged 81 years. He served with the 2nd Bn, he was Sqt REME attached to the 2nd Bn 1939-45.
- WILDASH On 2 February 1999, Major Philip C.t. Wildash (90719), TD, aged 82 vears.

He is shown in the Regimental History as serving with the 2/7th Bn from 1939-45. No other information available.

WRIGHT - On 21 February 1999, A/WO2 William John Wright (14862617), aged 74

Bill enlisted on 2 November 1944, into the General Service Corps and joined the Middlesex Regiment on 9 March 1945. Service followed with the Regiment in Hong Kong, Korea, Austria, Cyprus, BAOR and UK. He was discharged to pension on 1 November 1973. Bill was a very popular member of the Regiment and spent the majority of his service with the M.T. of the 1st Bn.

NEW MEMBERS

6211724 Pte K.D. Baugh 6856605 Pte L.R. Lay 22843287 Major C.R. Blackwell

469939 Capt T.D. Jones 22472401 LCpl B. Smith

2/7 Bn 1940-46 Dispatch Rider KRRC & 2nd BN 1942-46 Mx, SOLF Desert Regt, Western Frontier Regt 1953-75 8th & 5th Bn Mx TA. 10 QUEENS TA 1st Bn Korea 1951-56

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting Held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 on Monday 1st March 1999.

Present:-

Maj C.L. Lawrence, MC Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD LL B Brig G. Bulloch, MBE Brig B.H. Marciandi OBE Col I.D. Brotherton TD DL Col R.M. Cain OBF DI Lt Col J.H. Hewson MC

Mai H.E. Couch TD FRICS FRSA

Maj S.L.J. Henshaw TD Capt S. le M. Enthoven RIBA Chairman Vice Chairman Mr A Broadbent Mr J.A. Lofts Mr M.J. Ward BEM Maj R.E.B. Morris

Apologies:- Col M.J. Ball

Mr G. Young

1. Opening Remarks

1.1. The Chairman opened the Meeting by thanking members for attending and he said he had received two apologies for non attendance, Col Ball and Mr Young.

2. Re-election of the Committee

2.1 The Meeting was advised that under Association Rules 24 and 25 there is a requirement to re-elect the members of the Committee. All having agreed to stand they were all elected for a further period of office.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

3.1. It was agreed that the minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd March 1998 were a true record.

4. Matters Arising.

4.1. There was one matter arising that is not covered by the Agenda for this meeting namely that the Enfield Branch Member had not reported back to this Committee with the nomination from his Branch for the post of a second Committee Member to represent Enfield. Mr Broadbent apologised for this and said he was now in a position to nominate Mr M. Mulvaney. The Committee approved this nomination and instructed the Secretary to write to Mr Mulvaney to advise him of this decision.

5. Secretary's Report.

- 5.1. The Secretary presented his report that had been previously circulated.
- 5.2. The Secretary mentioned that since compiling his report the Rev Tuft had informed him that the Rt Rev Mgr Brown will lead the prayers at the Albuhera Service and he will give the address.
- 5.3. There was some discussion with regard to the inclusion of a second reading in the Service but no decision was made on who would be asked to read it. The Secretary is to seek a volunteer.
- 5.4. To encourage attendance at the Reunion it was thought that the subsidy from the Association should be increased and the tickets priced at £7.50 for 1999. This was agreed.

5.5. The Committee were asked to approve the following grants and expenditure in 1999:-

Albuhera Service at St Paul's	£2750
Annual Reunion	£2000
Service at the Field of Remembrance	£100
The Star & Garter Home	£200
MX and NW London ACF	£750
Victorian Military Society (Diehard Company)	£500

5.6. The Committee were advised of the following overspend against the 1998 grants and were asked to approve this expenditure:-

Albuhera Service at St Paul's £712

The expenditure was noted and approved.

- 5.7. Lt Col Hewson suggested that we might wish to make a grant to the Victorian Military Society (The Diehard Company). He was present at a recent display and was most impressed by their attention to detail and in the manner in which they represented the Middlesex Regiment. They meet all their own very considerable costs for the purchase of uniforms and equipment and for the provision of ammunition. He thought we should help them. The Committee authorised a one off grant of £500.
- 5.8. To assist the Committee in coming to a decision on the funding of the various functions the Secretary was asked to include the numbers attending each event in the future reports. He agreed to do so.
- 5.9. Capt Enthoven mentioned that Haig Homes were continuing their programme of improvement to the houses in Albuhera Close. All the windows have now been replaced with double glazed units and central heating has been installed in those houses where the occupants had asked for it. Haig Homes together with Enfield Council are considering the remedial action required to prevent flooding that occurs from time to time. The Secretary was asked if there were any members of the Regiment on the waiting list for housing at Albuhera Close. The answer is No. The last person was a Mr Read and he is now in occupation, housed by Haig Homes not us.

6. Finance Chairman's Report.

6.1. The Chairman of the Finance Committee said that our increase in income was largely due to the substantial legacy left to us by a daughter of a member of the Regiment who served in World War One. He said that the six monthly meetings of the Finance Committee were held as usual and it had been decided that, in order to be in a position to act on market fluctuations that may be to our advantage, a quorum consisting of two members, could act on advice received from the Broker rather than wait to consider at the regular meetings.

- 6.2. Brig Marciandi asked the Committee to approve the Accounts. Proposed by Col Cain and seconded by Maj Henshaw that the accounts for 1998 be approved. Carried.
- 6.3. The Committee recorded a vote of thanks for the work undertaken by the Finance Committee.

7. Functions for the Year 2000

7.1. It was decided that as the year 2000 was also the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War that members of the Argyll's should be invited to join us at the Victory Club on Saturday 13th May. It was thought that we should have a higher standard meal with wine supplied at table and that the cost per member should be £7.50. It was felt that a limit should be placed on those coming from the Argyll's but a final figure was not agreed. The Secretary was instructed to publish an item in the Diehard Newsletter to advertise the function.

8. To consider additional Trustees for the Militia Trust.

8.1. Capt Doran spoke on the need to extend the responsibilities of the Trustees for the main Association Charity to cover the Militia Charity as well. This was, in fact, already in operation but it was noted a short time ago that legally there were only three trustees for the Militia Trust: the Association President, The Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The Committee agreed that this should take place and the necessary resolution was completed and signed at the Meeting.

9. Working Party Report - Future of the Association

- 9.1. Capt Doran presented the Report to the Committee. He said he had to make an apology in that to some extent he had back tracked on what he had said last year. The advantages of the clause in the Militia Scheme that permits us to spend money on general military projects would be lost if we amalgamate the two schemes and we could lose out. With the transfer of ownership to the PWRR of our chattels this will leave us only with finance to consider and administer. Capt Doran mentioned that he had been in contact with Col Ball to obtain an assurance that the PWRR would eventually take over the running of the Middlesex Association. They have accepted the idea that we would eventually come on board but for obvious reasons, not knowing what their staffing situation might be several years hence, it can only be a qualified acceptance. Brig Pielow is due to discuss at the Association Presidents' Meeting with the Colonel of the Regiment being held in mid April.
- 9.2. After a long and detailed discussion the Committee agreed to accept the Report with a recommendation that the Finance Committee look into the possibility of a general tidying up of the accounts. It was noted that the Diehard non charitable account authorised at the last meeting of this Committee is no longer required.
- 9.3. The Committee expressed it's thanks for the work undertaken by the Members of the Working Party.

10. Move of the 8th Bn Memorial

- 10.1. The Chairman said he wrote to the Secretary of TAVRA once it was known that the Deansbrook Rd TA Centre was to be retained. TAVRA replied to say that they could not agree, at this stage, on the installation of the Memorial as the eventual occupation of the Centre was still uncertain and there may be a need to undertake structural alterations. They were also very quiet on the question of funding.
- 10.2. Col Brotherton, with Mr Ward, gave a resume of the situation at St. Paul's Church. The cabinet made and installed, Book completed. Total cost included minor works £1013. £250 has been paid by the Association, Hounslow Branch gave £300 and the TA Silver Fund £250, leaving £213 to be found. Then there is the requirement to fund a small dedication service where various VIPs and members of the Regiment will be invited to attend. Proposed by Maj Couch and seconded by Col Cain that a grant of £500 to cover both the shortfall and a buffet at the service be made from the Militia Fund. Carried.

11. Correspondence.

11.1. Four letters were placed before the Committee dealing with the appointment of Brigadier E.R. Holmes CBE TD JD as Colonel of the Regiment vice Lt Gen Sir A. Denison -Smith KBE as from the 9th September 1999.

12. Any Other Business.

- 12.1. The Secretary mentioned that he might have problems with the Association's computer as it is unlikely to be year 2000 compatible. Agreed that he could spend up to £1500 to replace such items as may be necessary.
- 12.2. Mr Broadbent mentioned the problems they were having with Associate Members at Enfield. The Chairman said the Association Rules are quite clear. Associate Members have no voting rights and do not vote. Meetings to discuss regimental matters are held without Associate members present. The Secretary is to write a letter to the Branch.
- 12.3. Mr Lofts asked for guidance on the Association's response to the Korean Veteran's Association Reunion being held in London this coming July. Mr Lofts was concerned about the cost. After some discussion it was agreed that the Association would fund the Korean Club's costs to send out a letter to all their members giving details of the various events and to ask if they were going to attend. Once attendance was known consideration would be given to making a further donation to the Korean Club. It was noted that Col Man was attending as a guest of the KVA.
- 12.4. Brig Bulloch suggested that the Diehard Newsletter be given free. This was discussed at some length. The proposal while appearing attractive causes problems with branch funding in that they keep a proportion of the subscription sending the

balance to the Association to pay for the Newsletter. Agreed to leave any possible adjustment of the subscription for consideration at the AGM.

13. Date and Venue for the next Meeting.

13.1. Agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 6th March 2000 at 1400 hrs. Venue to be decided when the future of the Duke of York's Headquarters is known.

R.E. MORRIS Maj Secretary MXEC399.

Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting

Held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3

on Monday 1st March 1999.

Present:- N

Maj C.L. Lawrence, MC

Chairman Vice Chairman

Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD LL B

Brig G. Bulloch, MBE
Brig B.H. Marciandi OBE
Col I.D. Brotherton TD DL
Col R.M. Cain OBE DL
Lt Col J.H. Hewson MC

Maj H.E. Couch TD FRICS FRSA

Maj S.L.J. Henshaw TD

Capt S. le M. Enthoven RIBA (present for part of the meeting only)

Maj R.E.B. Morris

Secretary

Apologies:- Col M.J. Ball

1. Opening Remarks

1.1. The Chairman said that there was one apology for this meeting Col M.J. Ball on holiday in Hong Kong.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

2.1. The minutes of the last Meeting held on 1st March 1998 were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

- 3.1. Nothing further received from OC B Coy The London Regiment with regard to our offer that his officers join the Officers' Club.
- 3.2. The second report from the Working Party on the future of the Association states that the Diehard Fund is not now required. The request for a contribution from the Officers' Club of £3K is therefore withdrawn.
- 3.3. The Secretary produced a copy of the Rules for the Officers' Club. They appeared to date from the 1920's or early 1930's. They were interesting but not particularly relevant!

4. Secretary's Report.

- 4.1. The Secretary presented his report that had been previously circulated.
- 4.2. The Committee ruled that the charge for members and their guests fir this years dinner would be £20, the balance being borne by the Officers' Club.
- 4.3. It was agreed that the proposed guests listed in the report should be invited.
- 4.4. The table layout this year will be top table with the remainder of those attending seated at round tables. Maximum numbers at the RAG:- normal layout 140, round table layout 114.
- 4.5. The Committee authorised the following donations for 1999:-

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

There was some discussion with regard to the hospital grant. It was thought that this should be increased. The Secretary was asked to sound out the hospital to see what, if any, schemes there are connected to subscriptions to the hospital.

5. Chairman of the Finance Committee's Report

5.1. Brig Marciandi presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1998. He said we had a large cash balance stemming from the buy back of Scottish National Income Trust shares. he asked the Secretary to approach the broker to seek his recommendation on a suitable investment. Col Cain proposed that the accounts be accepted, seconded by Col Brotherton. Carried.

6. Dinner of the Year 2000

6.1. Rag booked for the 12th May. Chairman mentioned that we were well looked after by the Argyll's at the 40th Korean Anniversary. The year 2000 is the 50th. We should ask as our guests the Colonel of the Argyll's John Slim, David Wilson for starters and there are probably others not only Argyll's but from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and India. Can members check and report back.

7. Correspondence

7.1. The Secretary produced one letter from the King Edward Hospital thanking us for our donation.

8. Any other Business.

8.1. At this meeting Col Hewson mentioned that he had recently been at the National Army Museum. There are very few Middlesex items on show and our silver that is on display could do with a good clean. It was thought that this should be mentioned informally at the lunch at the Museum being held on the 17th May 1999.

9. Date and venue of the next Meeting.

9.1 Agreed that the next meeting would be held on Monday 6th March 2000. The meeting to be held on the rising of the earlier Association Meeting being held the same afternoon. Venue to be decided when the future of the Duke of York's Headquarters is known.

R.E.B. MORRIS Maj Secretary MXO399

> Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Middlesex Regimental Association held at the Victory Services Club, London W2 at 1915 hours on Saturday 15th May 1999.

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 S M Dowse, Maj B K Finch, Maj I M E Lloyd, Maj R E B Morris, MBE, Maj M J S Doran, TD, LL B, Messrs V Beach, E Bedford, A Broadbent, K Brown, A Burford, C. Bysouth, A Goodbourne, G Higgins, A Jennings, A King, J Lofts, K. Mortimer, M J Mulvaney, G Patmore, F Phipps, T Price, A Rudge, J. Shore, M Smith, G Woodward, P Wookey.

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 9th May 1998, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr K Mortimer and seconded by Mr A Burford. Carried.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1. There were two matters arising.

(para 4). Not now amalgamating the two charities. Received further advice to say that it is more flexible to have both charities running. There are clauses in the Militia Trust that permits a wider range of spending in that we can support reunions and maintain memorials etc if we so wish. These clauses are not present in the main Association Trust.

(para 5). The Regimental Secretary of the PWRR has agreed to administer the Middlesex Regimental Association at some future date, when requested by us, subject to the appropriate staff being available at the time the request is made. It is the intention to run the Association in exactly the way it is run now with Trustees remaining in post and meetings of the Executive and Finance Committees to decide policy etc still being held.

4. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1998.

4.1. The Secretary explained the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1998. Col R M Cain moved that the accounts be adopted and approved and that a vote of thanks be recorded for the work undertaken by the Finance Committee. Seconded by Mr A Broadbent, Carried.

5. Any other business.

- 5.1. Mr K Mortimer asked why the Association had agreed to support a function at Dover Castle on Sunday 16th May 1999 rather than the usual Albuhera Day Service at Mill Hill. He was informed that our President Brig B A M Pielow had been invited to be the Inspecting Officer at a display and parade by the Victorian Military Society (The Diehard Company) and that it was considered necessary that support should be given to this event. He also on behalf of the Association will be presenting a Regimental Flag to the Diehard Company at the conclusion of the parade.
- 5.2. Mr Mortimer then suggested that we parade at Mill Hill next year on Albuhera Day. It was pointed out to him that the 16th May next year falls on a Tuesday. It was

not likely that the Postal and Courier Unit would wish to have visitors from the Association on a working day in the middle of a week. Mr Burford said that the Enfield Branch have visited Inglis Barracks four times in the last year. We must take care not to over stay our welcome there. He also said that support should be given to the Main Association when required.

5.3. There was considerable discussion about the year 2000 and the form that the Reunion should take. The Chairman said that it was intended to ask up to a total of 40 members to be our guests from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders as the year 2000 is also the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War. He would be making the necessary approaches to the Argylls shortly.

6. Closing Remarks.

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

R E B Morris Maj. Secretary.

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	£13.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (improved quality)	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Key Rings	£ 2.50 each
Old Comrades Lapel Badges, Old Pattern - The Diehards	£ 2.75 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£17.50 each
Prints Drums and Fifes, unframed, large small	£ 8.50 each £ 4.50 each
Christmas Cards depicting: Steady the Drums and Fifes The Guardroom Scene 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 Individual buttons large or small	£22.00 set £ 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

