



# The Die-Hards

## NEWSLETTER

No. 39

JUNE 1978

PRICE 15p

*President:* Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

*Chairman:* Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE

*Vice-Chairman:* Col I. D. Brotherton, TD DL

*Secretary and Editor:* Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE,

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### FORECAST OF EVENTS

#### October

- 3 Middlesex Regt GS Autumn Meeting at North Hants Golf Club.
- 22 Church Parade at Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

#### November

- 11 Middlesex Regt Remembrance Service at Field of Remembrance, Westminster.
- 12 Middlesex Regt Annual Remembrance Service, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7.

### ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Service of Remembrance took place in the Regimental Memorial Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, May 13, 1978, at 2.30pm. A total of 150 attended. The service was conducted by the Rev Samuel Cutt, Succentor of St Paul's assisted by the Rev P. L. Pearce Gould, OBE, MA, Rector of Backwell, Bristol.

Maj Gen Sir Nigel and Lady Tapp attended as guests of the Regimental Association.

### ANNUAL REUNION

The Annual Reunion was held on Saturday, May 13, 1978, at Porchester Hall, Queensway, London W2, from 7pm to 11.30pm. A total of 270 attended.

A splendid evening was enjoyed by all and it was very pleasing to see a number of new faces.

During the evening the Annual General Meeting was held and the President, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, explained the accounts for the year and brought those present up to date with the activities of the Regimental Association, the Museum and the OCA Branches.

Consideration is being given to the changing of the venue of the Reunion. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

### DONATIONS—CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges donations to the Charitable Fund from: Maj F. H. Blackburn, Mr R. E. Bourne, Mr A. G. W. Cooper, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, MBE, Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, Maj Sir Wildreth Glyn-Jones, TD, Lt Col F. G. Parker, Capt J. R. Riseley, Mrs E. H. Short (in memory of CPO Harry Short who was a FEPOW with the 1st Bn), Mr L. F. Woodman and Maj D. M. W. Young.

### LEGACIES

The late Mr F. G. Birdsall (1/7th Bn 1914-18) bequeathed the sum of £50 to the Regimental Charitable Fund.

The late Col M. Crawford, DSO, JP, DL, bequeathed the sum of £200 to the Regimental Charitable Fund.

The Lilley Benevolent Trust has again donated £200 to the Regiment and £100 has been allocated to the Regimental Charitable Fund and £100 to the 9th Bn branch to be held for maintaining and/or acquiring exhibits for their display in the Regimental Museum. The late Maj J. I. D. Pike, MC, bequeathed the sum of £100 to the Regimental Charitable Fund. The President has written and thanked all concerned for the very generous and thoughtful donations that have been made to Regimental Funds.

### 'NEWSLETTER'

The Executive Committee at their meeting on March 13, 1978, agreed that it was desirable that the 'Newsletter' be reduced to two issues a year. This would fall in line with all the other regiments at RHQ Canterbury. It was agreed that the next issue would be in June 1978 and in future be issued in April and October. The cost would remain the same and would reduce a very heavy subsidy made to the 'Newsletter'.



## LOOKING BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS

By COL (RET'D) J. N. SHIPSTER, CBE, DSO

One of the characters in Bunyan's 'Pilgrims Progress' was a 'Mister Looking Backwards'—the name speaks for itself. This short article does take a short look backwards but its emphasis is placed on the present and on the future.

It is now well over a decade ago that the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt changed its cap badge for that of The Queen's Regt and became the 4th Bn The Queen's Regt. I had the privilege of commanding the Battalion at that time (1.12.66) and have clear memories of our last parade as 'Diehards' on the parade ground of Palace Barracks at Holywood in Northern Ireland where the actual 'Badge Changing Ceremony' took place. I read out messages of goodwill containing hopes for the future from the Colonel of The Queen's Regt (Lt Gen Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO) and also from Maj Gen Chris Man, CB, OBE, MC, our former Colonel. It was a sad day but along with many other 'Regiments of the Line' we accepted the change, did not rue the past and looked forward to the future, conscious of our own heritage and the heritage of those other famous Regiments with whom we had become closely linked:

The Queen's Royal Regt—'The Mutton Lancers'.  
The East Surrey Regt—'The Young Buffs'.  
The Buffs—'The Buffs'.

The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regt—'The Dirty Half Hundred' and 'The Celestials'.

The Royal Sussex Regiment—'The Orange Lilies'.

After entertaining such high hopes for the future it was a grievous blow when in 1969 further heavy cuts to the Army were announced by the Government and so after only three years of life the 4th Bn, along with many other famous 'Regiments of the Line' disappeared from the Army's Order of Battle. At the time of its disbandment the 4th Bn was the Demonstration Bn at the School of Infantry at Warminster and commanded by Col Nick Carter. It had the highest reputation right up to its day of disbandment and it was particularly encouraging to me when very recently a senior serving officer said that it was the finest Battalion that they had had over a number of years at the School of Infantry. Officers and other ranks were widely dispersed but the majority were posted to the 1st Bn The Queen's Regt on duty in Berlin. This Battalion was to be commanded by Lt Col Tony Pielow, himself an ex-'Diehard' (now Brig B. A. M. Pielow, Defence Attache in Paris). The Battalion's silver and chattels were distributed among the three surviving Battalions of The Queen's Regt.

I am often asked: 'What are things like today? Does anyone remember The Diehards?' The simple answer is that The Queen's Regt is today a going concern which has truly absorbed the Regimental traditions of her forebears. Our pictures and silver are to be found within the Messes of all three Battalions and frequently take pride of place. Only last week I was lunching with the 3rd Bn at Dover and was delighted to see so many of our well-known pictures kept in such excellent condition. Our most famous painting 'Steady The Drums and Fifes' painted by Lady Butler, was, at the time of the 4th Bn's disbandment, presented to the School of Infantry on loan until such time as The Queen's Regt had a permanent home in the UK. The picture

has hung since that time in the ante-room in the Commandant's Mess at the School of Infantry. Now that The Queen's Regt are assured of having a permanent home at Howe Barracks in Canterbury, the School of Infantry are returning the picture. Later this year it will be going to the 3rd Bn in Dover and in early 1980 it will go to Canterbury when Howe Barracks are re-occupied by the 1st Bn on their return from BAOR. Maj Gen Rowley Mans, the Colonel of The Queen's Regt, has said that the picture will remain in Canterbury, the home of The Queen's Regt.

What actual impact have the Diehards made on The Queen's Regt? It is interesting to note that four ex-Diehards have commanded Queen's Battalions and hopefully there are more to come. At the present time Col Hugh Lohan is Commanding The Depot The Queen's Div; two Battalion RSMs are ex-Diehards and many of our former warrant officers and sergeants have been commissioned. Early next year three of the Battalion 2ICs will be ex-Diehards. This, of course, is a passing phase and in a few years there will be none left who have served with their former Regiments. What then will remain to identify our former Regiment? I am certain that there will be much to remind the soldiers of future years of our history and traditions. The Queen's Regimental Day is 'Albuhara Day'—this is truly significant.

Our former cap badge is incorporated in the cap badge of The Queen's Regt. All officers now wear the Eversleigh Star. Our great unique custom of 'The Silent Toast' drunk on 'Albuhara Day' to the immortal memory of those who fell at the Battle of Albuhara, when the officers, warrant officers and sergeants of the Battalion stood shoulder to shoulder in the Warrant Officers' Mess is now a custom adopted by all Battalions of The Queen's Regt. Each Battalion has a replica of the famous 'Albuhara Loving Cup': the original cup being held by the 1st Bn. This year I was privileged to attend the ceremony twice on Albuhara Day when I was invited to the WOs and Sergeants Mess of the 3rd Bn at Dover and then in the evening was invited by the WOs and Sergeants of the 5th TA Bn in Canterbury. It was as meaningful today as it was yesterday and on each occasion the Commanding Officer gave a brief and stirring account of the origins of this particular unique custom of our Army.

What of the future? I am totally convinced that our traditions and customs are both best maintained and well maintained in the present Queen's Regt. Relatively soon none of us will be left. I would ask the critics of the large Regiment concept where we would be placed today if there was no depository for our traditions?

The Queen's Regt emphasises the importance of belonging to one Regimental family—past and present. I ask all Diehards to remember that their successors are The Queen's Regt. Only recently the Colonel of The Queen's Regt, in order to emphasise 'the one family concept' invited the Presidents of all The Queen's Regt former Regimental Associations (The Queen's Royal Surrey Regt, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Kent Regt, The Royal Sussex Regt and The Middlesex Regt) to attend The Queen's Regt Bi-annual Committee Meeting; this will be the pattern for the future.

We are of one family. Any Diehard who does not recognise this is advocating extinction.

**Editor's Note**—Col J. N. Shipster was formerly CO of both the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt and the 4th Bn The Queen's Regt. More recently he was Deputy Colonel (Middlesex) The Queen's Regt and is currently Regimental Secretary of The Queen's Regt.

## FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank the following members for their generosity in paying extra subscriptions so that free copies of the DIEHARDS NEWSLETTER can be sent to deserving Old Comrades; Mr A Bailey, Mrs Flora M. Bechet, Maj F. H. Blackburn, Mr R. E. Bourne, Mr A. J. Briggs, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Mr E. J. Collier, Mr A. G. W. Cooper, Mr C. J. Cox, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, MBE, Mr H. W. Daniel, Mr A. A. Gardner, Mr W. J. Gilyatt, MBE, Mr C. H. Goff, Mr F. Goldstraw, Lt E. C. Graham, Mr H. C. Griffiths, Mr F. C. W. Hammond, Mr P. Hartnett, Mr G. C. Higgins, Mr M. R. Hutchins, Mr W. Knight, MBE, Mr T. Lack, Mr A. E. Lewin, Mr W. E. Lockyer, Mr P. F. Maloney, Mr J. M. Mantering, Mr F. H. Nash, MBE, Maj A. W. F. Peal, Mr J. A. Poole, Mr L. Priddy, Mr J. Ridler, Capt J. R. Riseley, Mr S. F. Sibley, Mrs D. A. Sims (Nellie Clark), Mr H. F. Stillwell, Mr A. E. Tuthill, Maj M. Wild, MBE, Mr L. F. Woodman, Mr A. Wraith and Mr C. G. T. Uwins.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

All stocks of Regimental Christmas Cards have now been sold. The printers estimate for further cards made them very costly and as the sale of Christmas cards had dropped considerably it was decided by the Executive Committee that Regimental Christmas cards would be discontinued.

## OFFICERS' CLUB COCKTAIL PARTY

The Officers' Club Cocktail Party was held this year at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1, on Friday, May 12, 1978.

A total of 89 attended, including official and private guests.

Official guests present were:

Maj Gen Sir Nigel and Lady Tapp previous Lieutenant Governor Royal Hospital Chelsea, and whose ancestors served with the 57th Regt in the Peninsular War and in New Zealand.

In accordance with our usual custom, the nearest relations of former officers were invited as guests and the following were present: Mrs W. P. M. Allen, widow of Col W. P. M. Allen; Mrs G. A. H. Bower, widow of Maj G. A. H. Bower, accompanied by her daughter; Mrs M. A. Condron widow of Maj M. A. Condron; Mrs R. Green, widow of Capt R. Green; Mrs S. F. Hedgecoe, widow of Col S. F. Hedgecoe; Mrs J. I. D. Pike, widow of Maj J. I. D. Pike; Mrs A. W. Webster, daughter of Lt Col D. B. Watson, accompanied by her husband; Mrs M. P. Weedon, widow of Maj M. P. Weedon, accompanied by her son; Mr Martin Weedon.

Members present were: Lt Col and Mrs T. W. Chattey, President of the Club; Maj and Mrs F. J. Bennett with two guests; Maj and Mrs R. A. Bennett; Maj K. P. Baxter; Maj and Mrs C. D. L. Brereton; Lt Col and Mrs R. M. Cain; Maj and Mrs R. A. J. Cheffins; Lt Col and Mrs C. N. Clayden; Maj and Mrs H. E. Couch; Maj and Mrs W. G. A. Crumley; Lt and Mrs J. P. A. Day with four guests; Maj and Mrs P. Donovan; Col and Mrs W. D. Ellis; Capt and Mrs S. L. Enthoven; Maj and Mrs H. J. Evans; Maj and Mrs C. H. K. Fisher; Capt and Mrs J. S. C. Flavell; Maj and Mrs W. H. Grogan; Maj and Mrs C. L. Lawrence; Maj A. F. Lockwood; Maj and Mrs I. M. E. Lloyd; Lt Col and Mrs H. M. du V. Lohan; Maj and Mrs A. E. McManus; Capt and Mrs T. I. McMillan; Maj and Mrs M. B. Montgomery; Col H. J. A. Moore; Col and Mrs D. C. L. Nolda; Lt Col J. C. du Parc Braham; Maj and Mrs A. E. Peasley; Lt Col and Mrs J. S. B. Pollard; Capt J. Spencer Richards; Maj and Mrs R. W. J. Smith; Col and Mrs M. H. Summers; Maj and Mrs A. E. F. Waldron; Col and Mrs A. R. Waller; Maj M. Wild; Maj and Mrs D. M. H. Young, with two guests.

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## 9th BATTALION OFFICERS' TRIENNIAL REUNION DINNER

The Triennial Dinner duly took place on March 15, 1978, at the Army and Navy Club, SW1, and it was thought that those who were unable to attend would be interested to have some news as to who was present and what happened.

The Dinner was duly attended by 31 officers and four guests. Lt Col G. L. Fox was in the Chair and the guests were Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, and Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE. The officers attending were:

D. Bond, P. J. Cundy, J. T. Dear, C. W. Donaldson, D. E. Dowlen, J. F. P. Doyle, J. R. Doyle, A. G. B. Drabble, H. W. W. Gray, H. H. Grey, H. G. Hansen, H. G. Hardcastle, L. G. Holgate, R. Hughes, A. M. H. Jones, J. T. Kemp, K. A. Lee-Emery, W. MacGregor, F. J. Millard, N. T. Neal, L. F. E. Nichols, G. Reeseon, L. F. Shaw, J. K. E. Slack, P. C. Sneath, J. R. Talbot, D. C. Tomlins, F. H. Tyler, N. B. Wallis, R. Wheatley.

Short informal speeches were made by Col Fox, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby and the Dinner Secretary, Lt Col D. E. Dowlen, when it was suggested that the next Dinner would take place rather sooner than the usual three years, and an interval of two years was suggested.

The evening was enjoyed by one and all and exactly the same numbers attended as were present at the last Dinner.

## THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

Changes in Hierarchy and the Staff at RHQ.

On January 1, 1978, a number of important changes in the hierarchy took place: Maj Gen Fergus Ling handed over the Colonelcy to Maj Gen Rowley Mans; Brig Roy Coleman was appointed sole Deputy Colonel and the individual appointments of Deputy Colonel—Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex—were withdrawn from establishment.

In order that the interests of our Old Comrades Associations will continue to be properly represented, the Presidents (or Chairmen) of all our affiliated OCAs have been invited to become ex-officio members of the Regimental Committee and they attended their first bi-annual meeting as such, in London, on May 9, 1978.

The beginning of 1978 also marked a significant change in the establishment of Regimental Headquarters when all our former County Offices were closed and the Secretaries from our Surrey, Kent and Middlesex offices moved to the Central RHQ at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, headed by a new Regimental Secretary, Col John Shipster, who retired at the end of 1976. (Maj Guy Weymouth remains on establishment as Assistant Regimental Secretary.) It is the aim of the new enlarged RHQ to try and increase the cohesion of the whole 'Regimental Family'—ie, both past and present.

Members of the newly-constituted Secretariat (with Mr Kennard as Chief Clerk) are all housed in the HQ block just inside the main entrance to the barracks.

Whilst all ROs are now handling staff work directly related to the administration of The Queen's Regt, Majs John Reed (Surrey), George Faulkner (Kent) and Frank Waldron (Middlesex) continue to look after the interests of the former Regiments for which they were previously responsible.

Royal Sussex Regimental affairs are handled by Lt Col Gerry Hollist from an office in Chichester, except for R Sussex Benevolent case-work which is administered by Maj McCarthy at Canterbury.

## The Regular Battalions

The 1st Bn (Lt Col John Holman) is still based at Werl, BAOR, but will probably move to UK next year. They won the BAOR Open Boxing Championships in November last and then defeated 1 Para at Aldershot to become Army Champions a month later. The 2nd Bn (Lt Col Crispin Champion) has been in Gibraltar since last August on a two-year accompanied tour which means that they too should be returning to UK in 1979. Since the project to reopen Howe Barracks as a battalion station is still on end, and, since works services for this purpose are due for completion late that year, we are hoping that either the 1st Bn or 2nd Bn will be the first occupants, thus making Canterbury a true 'Home' for the Regiment, both past and present.

The 3rd (Lt Col Stuart Anderson) is our first major unit to be stationed within the Regimental boundary since formation in 1966. Now at Connaught Barracks, Dover, the Regiment will, at long last, be able to identify itself with the civilian population in its own area. Before arriving at Dover (from Catterick) the Battalion was fully engaged in fire-fighting in the Merseyside area and, just before that, keeping the peace in Belize.

## The 5th and 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalions

Both our TAVR Battalions (Lt Cols Paul Courtenay and Foster Herd) are flourishing. Recruiting is so good in fact, that quality remains the hallmark in selection. (These days you have to be good if you want to be a Volunteer in The Queen's.) HQs are in Sturry Road, Canterbury (5 Queens) and in Denne Road, Horsham (6/7 Queens). This year the 5th will be camping in BAOR (Sept) and 6th/7th at Stanford (June).

## Recruiting

As readers know, the South East has always been a comparatively difficult area in which to recruit soldiers; nevertheless, the Regiment's Recruiting Team (The RIT), based at Maidstone, works strenuously throughout the year to steer suitable young men our way. Hopefully, recruiting may be boosted by a future announcement of improved pay and conditions.

Officer recruiting, however, is encouraging and we are beginning to reap the rewards of an intensive effort in this field.

The Regiment employs a serving officer at RHQ whose sole job is recruiting but we would like to remind all readers, that both past and present members of our Regiment continue to play a major role in actively helping our recruiting effort.

## THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

A very successful and enjoyable meeting was held at the North Hants Golf Club on May 3. A total of 21 members took part.

The detailed results (each decided over 18 holes) were as follows:

Medal Competition—Scratch and Handicap			
	Scratch	Handicap	Nett
Mr G. A. Taylor (Winner Scratch and Transvaal Cup)	84	13	71
Cpl R. Abrahams (Winner Handicap and Darjeeling Cup)	94	18	76
Lt Col T. W. Chattey (Runner-up Scratch)	91	12	79
Mr M. West (Runner-up Handicap)	95	18	77
Mr A. G. Torrie	93	14	79
Lt Col C. N. Clayden	103	22	81
Capt R. J. Tarrant	104	22	82
Lt Col J. R. B. Worton	99	16	83
Mr S. Rogers	107	24	83
Mr D. Miles	93	8	85
Mr T. F. Jones	92	7	85
Mr C. B. Matthews	101	10	85
Maj A. R. Bisset	101	15	86
Mr J. J. Rogers	110	18	92
Brig G. Lervill	121	24	97
Mr N. A. Taylor	NR	NR	NR
Mr A. J. Reide	NR	15	NR
Mr C. Holdford	NR	21	NR
Maj H. E. Couch	NR	23	NR
Maj W. G. A. Crumley	NR	24	NR

## Stableford Foursomes

	Points
Mr A. G. Torrie and Mr G. A. Taylor (Winners Cooper Cup)	33
Mr N. A. Taylor and Cpl R. Abrahams (Runners-up)	30
Mr T. F. Jones and Mr C. D. Matthews	26
Mr C. Holdford and Mr D. Miles	25
Maj H. E. Couch and Capt R. J. Tarrant	24
Lt Col T. W. Chattey and Mr A. J. Reide	24
Mr J. J. Rogers and Mr S. Rogers	20
Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Brig G. Lervill	18
Maj A. R. Bisset and Mr M. West	16
Maj W. G. A. Crumley and Mr E. Johnson	16

Before asking Mrs Jean Clayden to present the prizes, Lt Col Tom Chattey thanked all those present for supporting the meeting and especially those who had travelled long distances. He reminded members that Maj David Pike, who was a very keen member and regular participant over the years had died suddenly just after the autumn meeting. He asked members to observe a short silence in his memory. Brig Green sent his best wishes to everyone and hoped that a good day's golf would be had by all. His wishes were answered by the weather with a beautiful sunny day after days of rain. Regrets were received from Col Burrows, Capt Ingham, Mr Michael Walden, Mr Bert Chillery and Mr H. W. Kent.

## HORNSEY AND ENFIELD BRANCH

The Hornsey and Enfield Branch have come back to life and are meeting on the first Friday of each month at the Drill Hall, Hornsey. Mr Blanco White has taken over the running of the Annual Dinner. A secretary is required to run the branch and if you are willing to have a go please tell me and I will inform the Branch Chairman, Lt Col D. E. Simpson, TD.

## QUEEN'S REGIMENT OFFICERS' CLUB

The Queen's Regiment Officers' Club Cocktail Party is being held on Friday, September 29, 1978, at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London, W1 and NOT on October 27, 1978, as previously announced.

## 'B' COMPANY 6/7th (V) BN THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

Maj Roger Lowans, TD, joined 'D' Coy, 5 Queen's as a Lieutenant in 1969.

On the amalgamation of 6/7 Queen's in 1975, 'D' Coy became part of 'B' Coy (Middlesex) 6/7 Queen's and Maj Lowans took on the task of Company 2IC.

In April 1976 he became OC 'B' Coy and took the Company to camp at Otterburn where he became protector of the 'Yellow Bird' one of the Company marching songs, being presented with his badge of office, a yellow bird walking stick which he carried on all parades thereafter. He built the Company strength up to nearly 150 all ranks who were a credit to the traditions of the Middlesex Regt to whom they are the successors.

Due to a promotion and posting to Jersey in his civilian job he had to relinquish his position as OC on March 31, 1978. The occasion was marked by a farewell parade and Buffet Dance at Edgware when he received various mementoes including a silver candelabra and a scroll to commemorate his tour of duty.

He was a great champion of the Middlesex Regt bringing their old traditions to the fore at all times.

His successor is Maj M. C. Mercer who is a Royal Anglian. F. WEBB

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## PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Ex-Pte Michael Ashton (23965389) has recently joined the Regimental Association. He served with the 1st Bn and the 4th Bn during period 1962-68.

Ex-Pte Timothy Barrett (6210551) who served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was a PoW is very ill in hospital. He spent the whole of his PoW days in Shamshuipo, Hong Kong. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Maj P. G. V. Bellers retired on retired pay on March 29, 1978.

Maj J. C. Binns, who was commissioned to the 1/7th Bn in October 1938 and served with 'B' Coy has joined the Regimental Association and the Officers Club. He served with the 3rd King's African Rifles, December 1940 to December 1942, East African Armoured Regt January 1943 to March 1944, attached French Army March 1944 to December 1944 and 1/7th Bn February 1945 to December 1945. He now lives at Ash near Canterbury, Kent.

I have just been informed that Mr K. A. Bridge (6202378) who enlisted as a Boy in 1935 and was taken PoW whilst serving with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong is in hospital. He is not a member of the Association but I am asking him to join. He lives in Sidcup, Kent.

The engagement has been announced between Mr George Brock eldest son of Professor and Mrs Michael Brock of Exeter and Katharine daughter of Mr and Mrs Roland Stewart Sandeman of Somerset.

Ex-Sgt E. J. Constant has recently left the Army and has successfully completed a pre-release course with the National Examination Board in Supervisory Studies (Industrial Security). He is moving shortly and I am awaiting his change of address.

Recently had a letter from ex-Pte Cyril Cox (6200934). Always remember him being shot in the behind whilst on a visit to Macao.

Another Diehard to join the Regimental Association is ex-Sgt R. L. Dean (6208002). Sgt Dean joined the 1/8th Bn TA on May 18, 1939, and was mobilised for regular service on August 24, 1939. He was Platoon Sgt of 13 Platoon, 'D' Coy 1/8th Bn and was taken PoW on May 29, 1940, and was a PoW in Germany until October 24, 1943. He was discharged from the service on July 14, 1944, having had his left leg amputated. He was Mentioned in Dispatches. He now resides at Staines, Middx.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Pte F. J. Dickinson (6216927). He enlisted on May 14, 1942, and joined the 70th Bn until disbandment in 1943. He then joined the resuscitated 1st Bn for the period 1943-44 until being posted to the 2nd Bn. He is in possession of the following medals: 1939-45 Star, France/Germany Star, Defence Medal, GSM (Palestine), Metropolitan Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

A recently joined member of the Regimental Association is Mr David Edwards (23896053). He enlisted on December 28, 1961, and served with the Junior Soldiers wing. He served with the 1st Bn in Gibraltar and with 4 Queens in British Guyana. He left the Army in July 1970 and now resides in Gloucestershire.

Maj David Falcke has been appointed to command Albuhera Company Junior Infantry Wing, Shorncliffe.

Maj B. K. Finch retired on retired pay on April 9, 1978.

Recently had a letter from ex-Pte A. A. Gardner (6550608) known as Limey. He originally enlisted in the Royal Fusiliers (TA) hence the Army number. Actually his number would have been about 6200190. He came home from the 1st Bn in Hong Kong in 1938 and was transferred to the Reserve. He was called up for service in 1939, was wounded in the arm and is in receipt of a 50 per cent disability pension. Tells me he was a regular customer of Sgt Little the then Provost Sergeant.

Capt John Gerrard, OBE, MC, who served with the resuscitated 1st Bn and is a Metropolitan Police deputy assistant has been promoted to assistant commissioner with effect from January 1, 1978. He will head Scotland Yard's personnel and training department.

Maj George Goring retires on retired pay on February 1, 1978.

Ex-WO2 W. J. Gould (6210209) has joined the Regimental Association. He served with the 2/8th Bn until it was reconstituted the 1st Bn on May 28, 1942, and then with the 1st Bn until demobilisation in January 1946. He now lives at 17 Huxley Place, Palmers Green, London N3, and will be pleased to hear from his contemporaries.

A recent correspondent was Lt Col R. T. D. Hicks, TD, who is Acting Secretary of the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club at Deal, a job that he retired from some time ago. He is helping out pending the appointment of a permanent incumbent. 3 Queens stationed at Dover have joined the Club and he has met Maj Andrew Cowing and Gybben Moneypenny. Lt Col Hicks will be remembered for his service with the 7th and 1/7th Bn 1937-41. He also was attached to the RASC from 1941-56 and was Paymaster to the 1st Bn from 1956-1961.

Mr John Mannering and Mr Monty Wraith both sent me the newspaper cutting about Mr Jim Humphries who served with our 1st Bn in the 1914-18 War. Jim who is 87 and was invalided out in 1917 has just received £925 from the pension authorities for the wounds he received in the First World War. The War Pensions office said afterwards 'Medical examination showed that the extent of his disability was less than 20 per cent, which means that he does not qualify for a pension. But he was entitled to a War disablement gratuity'.

Despite his long wait, Jim's philosophical about it, 'It's a bad joke', he said, 'but I am not bitter—although I could have done with the money years ago'.

Even so, Jim has no intention of letting the matter rest. He explains: 'I've been advised that I shouldn't be satisfied with what I've been paid. There's still the matter of a regular pension. 'So I'm going to keep on fighting.'

A recently joined member of the Regimental Association is ex-Cpl A. R. Jenkins (408668). He enlisted into the Cavalry of the Line on August 29, 1935, and served with them until transferring to the Middlesex Regt on March 12, 1936, and was posted to the 2nd Bn. On September 1, 1938, he was posted to the 1st Bn stationed in Hong Kong and on December 25, 1941, was taken PoW. He spent most of his PoW days in Japan. He returned to UK in 1945 and was discharged on May 21, 1946. He now resides at Crawley, Sussex.

Mr Len Johnson has been back in Edgware hospital recently and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Ex-Sgt Bert Kent, 9th Bn, is Chairman of the Selsey Royal British Legion Branch.

Just had a very nice letter from Mr Bert Lee who lives in France and who served with our 25th Bn in the 1914-18 War. Bert retired some years ago from the War Graves Commission.

Col L. G. Lohan was Inspecting Officer at a Recruits Passing Out Parade on May 3, 1978, held at Depot The Queen's Div.

His son Lt Col Hugh Lohan, is the present Commanding Officer.

All members of the Regimental Association wish Lt Col and Mrs Sam Moore a speedy recovery from their recent illnesses.

A thank you to Mrs Phyllis Brooks who once again assisted at the Annual Reunion by collecting the money on the door. Her dedicated service to the Regimental Association is much appreciated.

A recent correspondent was ex-Drummer R. W. Sissons (6204405) who served with the 2nd Bn prior to 1939 and also saw service with the 2/7th Bn in North Africa and the campaign in Italy. Whilst in Palestine he had an accident with a motor cycle which caused him to be invalided out of the service.

Maj W. F. (Bill) Turner has joined the Regimental Association and Officers Club. Bill was commissioned in Regiment in November 1944 Gold Coast Regt 1944-46 and will be remembered as the PSO at the Depot 1947-48. He was also at the Depot in 1951 and after that served 1951-55 with the Gold Coast Regt and from 1955-56 with the 1st Bn. His son ex-Sgt W. J. E. (John) Turner is well known to members of the Regiment.

Maj Sam Weller has recently had a spell in hospital but is now home again. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

## MILL HILL BRANCH Albuhera Day, 1978

The one-hundred and sixty-seventh anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera, was held at Inglis Barracks,

Mill Hill, the Regiment's last Depot when a wreath of red and yellow flowers was placed on our Regimental Memorial. On a crested card was the legend, 'To the illustrious memory of the original Die-Hards who fought at Albuhera, May 16, 1811, when honour was won and a tradition born'. It was my privilege and honour to lay the wreath on behalf of all Die-Hards, supported by a number of members of our branch and members of the Home Postal and Courier Communications, Royal Engineers, who now occupy the barracks as their Depot.

Our party consisted of Peter Adams, Bob and Mrs Ambler, Bill Barnes, Ginger Batson, Mrs Mary Jackson (*nee* Oldham), whose father sounded the Last Post when the memorial was unveiled in the presence of our Colonel-in-Chief, HRH The Prince of Wales, Saturday, November 4, 1922, Mrs Ethel Markham, Les Plumb our Secretary and Major C. E. E. Scott, plus of course, Dolly, who is always at my side. Supporting our small regimental party were Brig J. W. Bridge, the Director of Home Postal and Courier Communications, Col A. V. Burge, MBE, BEM, the Commandant, and Maj R. Jackson, RE, the Officer Commanding TAVR. Also on parade was Lt D. Summers, RN. It was apt to have a member of the Royal Navy on parade, as our first officer or soldier to be killed in action was Ensign William Townshend, who was killed at Algieras whilst members of the Regiment were serving as Marines in the Mediterranean with Admiral Byng's fleet in 1756.

To the stirring strains of the Regimental Call and the Regimental Quick-Step, we stood to attention and paid compliments to the warriors who put our name into the English language, the only Regiment in the world with such a claim. I was then able to pass on a message to all assembled, from Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, that he had given me over the telephone an hour before. Although we were sparse in numbers, that was no criterion as I explained. At Albuhera our numbers were small but those who were there were good. Also, on both occasions, many more would have been present had circumstances permitted.

It was a gauge of the comradeship between the Sappers and ourselves that the story of Albuhera was published in their Depot Orders and that our Regimental Flag was flying proudly from the flagpole on the square for all to see who came into the barracks that day.

After the ceremony, the Die-Hards who were present made their way to the Drill Hall at Edgware, where in our club room were already gathered a number of comrades and where an impressive table of light snacks had been prepared by Mr and Mrs Jim Torbett, the expenses being met by our Regimental Association. Here I passed on once more, the message from Gen Horrocks, and to the strains of our Regimental March, toasted 'The Jolly Die-Hards'.

Lt Gen Sir William Inglis, in the quiet of Canterbury Cathedral, can rest in his tomb confident that his successors remember him in Inglis Barracks, as can Drummer Henry Holloway, the last survivor of those who held the Ridge, who now rests in Dymchurch, not far from his illustrious commander.

R.W.J.S.

9th BATTALION MIDDLESEX REGIMENT  
The Reunion Dinner of our Branch was held on



April 8, 1978, at the Quality Inn, 191 Victoria Street SW1 and it was deemed a very good function and enjoyed by those attending.

Fifty-five sat down to dine at an occasion which has carried on since the ending of the First World War, except during the years of the last war and still we shall be carrying on next year.

This time not so many of our officers attended, which was not to be expected, as they had held their Triennial dinner a few weeks previously.

The following officers were present: Col H. W. W. Gray, Lt Col G. L. Fox and J. R. Doyle and Maj Reg Elson. Perhaps next year we shall have a larger response.

A few speeches were made, Lt Col G. L. Fox dwelt on the subject of the funds of the Association and how those funds were primary for the benefit of the ex-members of the Middlesex Regt who needed help, such as the sick, not necessarily through war wounds, but those suffering from illnesses by various occupations, etc. Information of such members would be gratefully accepted by the Secretary of the Association, Maj A. E. F. Waldron.

The Chairman of The Association, Lt Col T. W. Chattey responded to the Toasts of the Association by recalling the present happenings of the Association.

Maj R. W. J. Smith, the Curator, spoke of the Museum at Bruce Castle and said that an attendant has been appointed, and the Museum was open during the hours of 10am to 4pm on all week days except Wednesdays and on Saturdays between 10am and 1pm. Closed on Sundays.

The Chairman of the Dinner, Col H. W. W. Gray, read a copy of the telegram which had been sent to the Queen and also the reply from Buckingham Palace, thanking the members for their loyal greetings.

Our Funds, shown in detail on the Balance sheets distributed, and in the capable hands of Mr T. R. Bennett, are still solvent, thanks to the generous donations given by many of our members, some of whom were not present. One of these was Lt Col Sammy Moore who had been seriously ill with his wife, prior to the dinner, now happily both are convalescent at their daughter's house in Leicester.

Tom Barton did not show up on the 8th though he had sent his cheque for the dinner and a donation. We hope he is OK.

Jack Meadows of Wraycott, Somerset, a regular diner at our previous Reunions, could not manage it this year, because of their Golden Wedding Anniversary. We hope that they had a happy celebration and we are all looking forward to meeting Jack again next year.

The Armistice Celebrations on Sunday, November 12, will be the Diamond Jubilee of the ending of the First World War and we hope to see a full muster of our Branch at Mill Hill, so please enter the date in your diary. Full information will be given before that date.

We reluctantly have to give the news of the deaths of two of our 1914 members, who saw service with the Battalion right through that war and were members of the Association, Stanley Timms, who met with a fatal accident and Sid Herbert, who died just

recently. Willie McCleary, a friend of Mr S. R. Woolmer and a member of 429 Battery died at the beginning of the year in Glasgow.

The Rev T. W. Kingston who was padre to 571 LAA Regt during the last war, has died at Amahai, Kuwait, recently. After leaving the Army, he became Rector of Middleton Cheney in the Diocese of Peterborough till 1952. He eventually became Vicar of the St Cuthbert's Church, Wembley, and whilst there, attended the Centenary Celebrations in 1959 concluding with the Dinner and Ball on October 27 at the Wembley, now Brent, Town Hall. Our Committee member, Archie Brown, lost his wife just recently after a long illness. Those of you who know Archie, must be aware of his great love of the 9th and his devotion to the Association. We give Archie our condolences and also to the relatives and friends of the other members who have died. Our best wishes to all. R.T.M.

#### DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

Thanks to Brewer Drane I have made the following contacts in the Royston Area. 6195762 S. D. Pinner lives with his wife at 90 Blinco Grove, Cambridge.

Sid enlisted into our 1st Bn on June 6, 1923. In 1924 he transferred to the 2nd Bn and remained with them until leaving the Army in 1935. He re-enlisted in 1939 and served throughout the war in 30 LAA Regt RA, finally leaving the Army in 1945. Sid played the clarinet in the Band and represented the Battalion at hockey, playing at left half and winning his Battalion Colours. Although Sid is now 74 years old he is very active and still represents Cambridgeshire at bowls. His wife Edna, however, does not enjoy good health and over the past couple of years has had eight operations on her eyes.

Capt George Plummer is another musician, completing his Army service in 1964 as Director of Music to the Uganda Army. George enlisted at Catterick into the 1st Bn on June 1, 1929. He started off in the Corps of Drums and then transferred to the Band where he remained until 1947. He was taken POW in Hong Kong in 1941 and was in Osaka Camp. After a student Bandmaster's course he was appointed Bandmaster of the Gloucesters until being commissioned in 1963. He left Uganda and the Army in 1964 and then became Superintendent Director of Music of the Gambia Police Force finally shedding uniform in 1966. George then moved to East Anglia and resides at 36 Park Avenue, Histon, Cambs. He is now a visiting music teacher.

A comparatively recent arrival in Royston is Maj Peter Liddell. Peter did his National Service as a Second-Lieutenant in the Wiltshire Regt after which he joined the 7th Bn at Hornsey, retiring as a Captain in 1954. A colourful career followed and Peter saw service in the Colonial Police in Uganda from 1954-66 and then after a two year spell as a Security Officer in Bombay he joined the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces, retiring last year. He lives at 17 Hollies Close, Royston, Herts.

I know that those people I have mentioned would like to be in contact with their contemporaries.

Best wishes from the Depot to Diehards everywhere. CAPT KEN BEALE

## 2/10th BATTALION (1914-1918) OCA

The 50th Reunion Luncheon of this unit was held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday, May 20, 1978; this was a special occasion commemorating the 64th anniversary of the formation of the Battalion at Stamford Brook in September 1914. The Chair was taken by Maj Bernard K. Cattell (President of the OCA) and some 40 ex-members of the Battalion, with their guests attended, including Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association who responded to the toast of 'The Regiment and the Regimental Association' and the Revd Patrick Tuft, MA (Vicar of Chiswick and Hon Chaplain to the OCA) who replied on behalf of 'The Guests and the "Friends" of the 2/10th'. Also present were Col Aymar Clayton, OBE, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, and Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE.

This was a memorable occasion and one to which

we had long looked forward; it was a particular joy that our President, in spite of infirmity, was able to be with us on this anniversary.

The activities of the OCA are now mainly concentrated on the maintenance of the Battalion's annual Remembrance Service each November at St Nicholas' Church, Chiswick. Due to the splendid support of the 'Friends of the 2/10th', especially from amongst the church members, some 80/90 attended the service in November last, and the tendency is for the numbers to increase each year. All those having links with the Battalion and with the OCA are urged to join the 'Friends', and to this end should contact the Hon Secretary at 'Cleveland', Byles Lane, Sidford, Sidmouth, Devon.

A.D.S.

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## OBITUARY

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

**ALLOTT**—On February 20, 1978, Maj P. B. Allott, in his 98th year. An appreciation of the service of Maj P. B. Allott appears elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

Brigadier D. B. Rendell, CBE, MC, MBIM, accompanied by his wife attended the funeral on behalf of the Regimental Association.

Also attending were Lady Willoughby, wife of Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby and Maj George Dawson.

**ANSON**—On November 24, 1977, Lilian Mary, wife of the late Maj H. R. P. Anson.

**CROWTHER**—On March 4, 1978, CSM Derek Crowther (6148198) aged 55. Joined The East Surrey Regt in 1941 and was later granted an emergency commission in The Middlesex Regt. After the 1939-45 War, he re-enlisted in The East Surrey Regt, and served in that Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regt, and the Hong Kong Defence Force from 1948 to 1966. Taking local discharge in Hong Kong, he joined The Royal Hong Kong Regt (The Volunteers) attaining the rank of Captain. In the early 1970s due to ill health, he had to return to UK. For several years he had been in charge of the St Thomas's Hospital Medical School Sports Pavilion at Stoke d'Abernion, Surrey, and it was here that he died. A keen games player, he had represented his Regiment at cricket and hockey.

**DONALDSON**—On April 24, 1978, Maj Charles W. Donaldson, aged 74 years. Charlie Donaldson enlisted on Boy service at Mill Hill, March 21, 1919, being allotted the Regimental number 418985. Posted to the nucleus of the 2nd Bn, Corps of Drums, he later went with the draft to Meane Barracks, Colchester, when the 2nd Bn cadre came home from France and the Battalion gradually build up to establishment. He was already trained as a bugler and needed very little further instruction on this instrument to reach the degree of efficiency to allow him to take his place on the roll of duty buglers. He was also being taught the rudiments of side-drumming. On the adoption of Army numbers the year following, he was given the new number 6189777, which he retained until being commissioned.

With the 2nd Bn, he served in Egypt, Singapore, India and the Sudan, returning home when the Battalion completed its tour of foreign service in December 1931, and placed on the Home Establishment, garrisoned once more in Colchester. This time in Hyderabad Barracks, the other side of the square to where he had been in April, 1919. During his service overseas he was a keen sportsman and shone as a clever and aggressive boxer.

Promoted Sergeant in May, 1928, he was chosen to attend a MT Course once the infantry began to mechanise and became the instructor on the driving and maintenance of the Loyd carrier. In June

1935, he was promoted to Warrant rank and appointed CSM of 'A' Coy, 2nd Bn. Posted to the 9th Bn (TA) in March 1936, he became CSM of 'D' Coy, and is remembered with affection by a number of soldiers whom he trained in this Battalion until he was commissioned January 8, 1941.

When 26 Support Training Centre was formed in 1942, he became commander of the MT Coy and retained this appointment when the unit became 26 MG Training Centre. This unit ceasing to exist in 1946, he was then posted to the Army MT School and served on the staff of this establishment until retiring in 1949.

**EDGE**—On November 25, 1977, Mr Stanley Victor Edge, DCM, aged 80 years. He served with the 1/7th Bn (1914-18).

**GRIBBLE**—On March 8, 1978, Millie, wife of ex-Sgt Frank Gribble (6189121).

**HEREPATH**—In January 1978, Jean Eileen, wife of the late Lt Col L. H. J. de la m Herepath.

**JACKSON**—During early part of 1978 Enid, daughter of late Lt Col Dams.

**SHORT**—On January 20, 1978, Chief Petty Officer Harry Short, aged 79 years. Harry was an honorary member of the Regimental Association. He was well known to pre-war members of the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was taken Prisoner of War in 1941. He spent most of his time in Kobe PoW Camp with members of the 1st Bn. He had great respect and affection for the Regiment.

**UWINS**—On February 21, 1978, ex-Sgt C. G. T. Uwins (4825), aged 79 years. During the 1914-18 War he served with the 13th (Service) Bn from May 1915 to June 1916, where he was declared missing presumed dead. He was found later wounded and recovered to serve with the 23rd Service Bn in Italy and France. He distinguished himself many times and was a first-class shot. He later served for 30 years in the nursing profession.

After retirement in 1953 he continued to attend every year the 13th Service Bn OCA Annual Luncheon, and wreath laying ceremony at the 24th Div Memorial. He leaves a widow and one married son who tell me they will continue to attend these functions.

**WEBBER**—On June 2, 1978, Elsie Violet, wife of Capt C. G. Webber.

**WERNLEY**—On February 14, 1978, Mr Arthur Wernley, aged 91 years. He was a member of the Ealing Branch and served in the 1/8th Bn 1914-18.

**WHITE**—On January 25, 1978, Mr Albert White, aged 79 years. Albert served with 14 Platoon, 'D' Coy, 1/8th Bn during the 1914-18 War. He was for many years and up to the time of his death, Secretary of the Ealing Branch and a member of the Regimental Association Executive Committee. He very rarely missed a meeting. Albert will be sadly missed, he worked very hard for his branch visiting and looking after all his members so carefully. He also served for over 40 years in the nursing profession.

**GREEN**—On June 10, 1978, Brig A. E. Green, DSO,

OBE, aged 69 years. Full obituary will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

**PEASLEY**—On May 18, 1978, Maj A. E. Peasley, aged 65 years. Full obituary will appear in the next issue of the *Newsletter*.

### OUR LAST VICTORIAN SOLDIER DECEASE OF MAJOR P. B. ALLOTT

The death of Major Percy Brian Allott, February 20, 1978, two months short of his 98th birthday, closes the roll of the officers and men of the Regiment who soldiered in the reign of Queen Victoria.

Commissioned into the 3rd (Militia) Bn, The Northamptonshire Regt, May 22, 1900, he was appointed Divisional Adjutant to General French, later the Earl of Ypres, with the Field Force in South Africa. It was in that capacity he was put in charge of Commandant Conroy, Gen Smuts Commando, when he was captured by Mounted Infantry, the Officer IC one of the sections being Maj Allott's younger brother, Ted, of the Essex Regt, whose rank and file are 'Volunteers', not 'Privates'. The capture took place on the border of two generals' command and it appeared that neither of the generals wanted to deal with the matter, which meant that Lt 'Chubby' Allott, as he was known to his soldiers, had to hold Conroy until further instructions were received. It was tantamount to escorting an IRA prisoner at the present time.

Fortunately, I have the relevant signals. The first reads, 'From CSO Gen Stephenson, to Comdt, Victoria Road, May 22, 1902. Please note that Gen Stephenson will see the rebel Conroy this morning and he will be despatched to De Aar by a train leaving about noon. An officer and two men will be required to go with him and after handing over to the Comd De Aar they will return here'. The SSO Victoria Road was Lt Allott who foresaw who would be the officer: to confirm his forecast, the next message, of the same date reads, 'From GSO Gen Stephenson to Lt P. B. Allott, Offr in ch of Comdt Conroy. The rebel Conroy is to be taken in the guards van of the train leaving about 11.30am today and escorted to De Aar where the Comdt De Aar will meet you and take him over from you. Conroy is NOT to be allowed to hold communication with anyone on any pretence whatever, also he should not be allowed to look out of the windows during the journey in order to see the blockhouse line and other railway defences. You will take two men as escort with you, and after handing Conroy over to the Comdt De Aar, you will return here with the men. B. Dunsterville, Lt Col, CSO, Gen Stephenson'. This order was cancelled, and Lt Allott was told to hold Conroy until further instructions which he received after three days, the Commandant at De Aar was not at all keen to have such a hot potato in his camp. The last message, dated May 25, 1902, to Lt Allott, reads 'You are to proceed in charge of Comdt Conroy to Richmond Road by the train leaving Victoria Road about 11.30am this morning. Conroy is not to be allowed to hold communication with anyone on any pretence whatever. On arrival at Richmond Road, Conroy should be handed over to Col Bethune, who will be there with his column. If Col Bethune has not got to Richmond Road, then wait there till he does arrive. The Com-

mandant Richmond Road has been informed. Conroy's horse and saddle will go in your train. After handing Conroy over to Col Bethune, return to Victoria Road. B. Dunsterville, Lt Col CSO, Gen Stephenson'. The last interesting document is the following 'Received from Lt P. B. Allott the rebel Conroy at Richmond Road on May 25, 1902. W. S. Fraser, Capt S. O. Col Bethune'.

When the Boer War ended, Lt Allott was released from his duties as Divisional Adjutant—an appointment which ceased to exist at the end of the Boer War, rejoining his Regiment at Stellingbosh, ready for embarkation. Here he had taken his charger to sell it before coming home, and was mounted on it, when he saw his Colonel talking to someone who recognised him and came over and gave him a hard grip with his left hand on the left knee which made him twinge and call out. To his surprise, it was Col Bethune, and to his greater surprise his Colonel came up to him and said he would put him under arrest for disrespect to a Senior Officer. Col Bethune saved the position and told his Colonel that he was very pleased to see young Allott again, and explained their previous role. Col Bethune had lost his right hand which had been cut off, and his left hand was very strong. However, that did not stop the CO telling the Adjutant to put him under punishment drill with the subalterns who had broken into the Station Bar and smashed the crockery on arriving at Stellingbosh which he knew nothing about. To counterbalance the award by his Colonel, a grateful country awarded him the Queen's South Africa Medal with two clasps.

Some years later Conroy was staying with friends in Southern Rhodesia, and met Edward Allott whom, at first, he thought was PB, and greeted him with great pleasure, speaking highly of his young escort during the episode written above.

Transferring to the Middlesex Regt, he was appointed to a regular commission as Second Lieutenant January 29, 1903, joining the 4th Bn. Although known by some as 'Chubby' he was quickly adopted by his cockney soldiers due to a combination of his initials and his small wiry figure, as 'Plumbago', the troops declaring he was as thin as the lead in a pencil.

His ability as a gymnast and sportsman was much appreciated in the newly formed battalion, especially on the occasion in 1903 when the 4th Bn were stationed in 'Dear Dirty Dublin'. He was at the time in 'G' Coy, and the Orderly Officer of the day, and was shocked at the standard of the contestants doing the long jump. Leaving the field, he changed from Sam Browne and regimentals and then came back and set up a record jump that stood for many years. During the passage of years, this story was exaggerated to the extent that young soldiers and tyro athletes were told of a young officer walking on to the sportsfield, unhitching his sword and leaping over the sanded pit like an impala.

Posted to the 1st Bn, then serving in India, he was gazetted Lieutenant, March 11, 1905, and was present on parade in Secunderabad, India, when new Colours were presented to the Battalion by Lord Minto, the Viceroy, on Sunday, March 29, 1908. Not only was he on parade, he had the honour of being Colour Ensign to the Old Regimental Colour, a tattered remnant, which had been presented in



1867, and had been carried throughout the Zulu war, the last occasion in which Colours were actually taken into action. The Officer Commanding the escort to the Colours was Lt J. E. Knowles, who was to become Plumbago's brother-in-law four years later. This officer was killed in action at Mons, August 23, 1914, whilst 2IC of 'A' Coy, 4th Bn, the first battle of the 1914-1919 war. (Capt Knowle's son, who took Holy Orders, was killed at Dunkirk when serving as Padre to the 2nd Bn; both father and son serving with the Regiment and being killed in the initial battles of two World Wars.)

Practically the whole of his service was spent as Signalling Officer, not only Regimental but Brigade and Divisional in Burma and India. Whilst in India he had great pleasure in training the Regimental Signallers and gaining the highest standard of signalling, bracketed with the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders.

Appointed ADC to Gen Keir whilst serving in India, he compiled a readable and easily understandable booklet, 'A Simple System of Semaphore Signalling' and received instructions from the general to have it printed and issued to all Units in the command. This task was undertaken by the Regimental printers and completed in 1909, the pamphlet proving a boon to men in the ranks.

On promotion to Captain, May 7, 1912, he was transferred from the 1st Bn in India to the 2nd Bn, stationed at Warley in Essex, retiring in June 1913, due to illness caused after rheumatic fever and arthritis.

Returning to active soldiering August 4, 1914, he was seconded to the Signals at Home, being marked unfit for overseas service after many medical examinations. Appointed Southern Commanding Signalling Officer and when Command Schools were broken up, he was appointed Senior Instructor of Army Signals School, Dunstable. In 1916 he was attached to 15 Corps Signals at Heilly, France, for a short period after the Battle of Delville Wood. For his services, he was promoted Brevet Major in the New Year Honours List, January 1, 1919. During this period of his service he invented the miniature telephone exchange, the '7 Plus 3' which was still in Army use at the beginning of the Second World War.

At the time of the coal strike, April and May 1921, he was appointed by the War Office, to be IC of all Signal Communications in the London Area at Horse Guards, Whitehall.

In 1925, at the age of 45, Maj Allott finally retired from the Army but not from activity. He was Master of Foxhounds and a Councillor also Chairman of the Harbour Committee at Lymington, which had been a port since the 12th century. In addition to being a good soldier, he was also a good sailor, winning many trophies whilst racing with the Royal Lymington Yacht Club. Learning to skate whilst in Austria in 1935, his proficiency was such that he regularly gave exhibitions on the Bournemouth rink.

His abilities, and time taken up by physical activities did not prevent him from helping his fellow men in all walks of life. To the elderly he gave his time as President of the Royal British Legion, Lymington branch, donating the annual membership cup, whilst to youth, he encouraged them to become valuable citizens, being elected vice president and eventually a life member of the Lawrence Boys Club.

In addition to his brother-in-law and nephew mentioned above who were killed in the initial actions of the two world wars, his regimental family extends to his son, Maj Richard Allott, whose interesting accounts with the Commandos, and at one time with Sterling, can be read in 'Filibusters', and to his son-in-law, Col Aymar Clayton. His grandson, Lt Charles Clayton was serving with the 1st Bn when he so tragically lost his life when the Battalion were garrisoning Gibraltar.

In the Second World War, he was deputy controller ARP for Lymington for which services he was awarded the Defence Medal, thus giving him awards to cover the wars of three reigns viz: Queen Victoria (Boer War); George V (Great War); George VI, Second World War.

Truly, it can be said he not only lived long, he also lived a full life, one of service to his fellow men as could be expected from one whose father was a seventh generation of parsons, and was himself originally intended for the Church.

A practising christian, he served God, his six sovereigns, and his Regiment. What more can be asked?  
R.W.J.S.