



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 43

JUNE 1980

PRICE 25p

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

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1980

Date	Event
Aug 3	Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion, Howe Barracks, Canterbury.
Oct 3	2/7th Bn Annual Dinner, Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
Oct 7	Middlesex Regt Golfing Society, Autumn Meeting, North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.
Oct 14	9th Battalion Officers' Club Dinner.
Oct 19	Attendance at Church Parade, Royal Hospital Chelsea.
Nov 3	Executive Meeting Regimental Association Committee, County Hall, London SE1.
Nov 8	Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall and Westminster Abbey.
Nov 9	1000 hours—Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by reunion at TA Centre, Edgware. 1045 hours—7th Bn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Hornsey Parish Church. 1500 hours—2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick.

DONATIONS TO THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND

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

- (a) The Lilley Benevolent Trust has again donated £200.00 to the Regiment and in accordance with the Trusts wishes £100.00 has been credited to the Regimental Association Charitable Fund and £100.00 to the 9th Battalion Regimental Museum Fund to be held for maintaining and/or acquiring exhibits for their display in the Museum.

- (b) Legacy of £53.26 from the estate of the late Mr Montague Ernest Smith.

- (c) Mr T. A. Barton, Maj F. H. Blackburn, Mr D. Cavill, Mr R. R. P. Chapman, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, Mr C. J. Cox, Mr E. J. Garner, the late Maj Sir Hildreth Glyn-Jones, Mr F. G. Gurney, Lt Gen Sir Brian Horrocks, Mr W. R. Lee, Mr R. J. Ridler, Capt J. R. Riseley, Mr A. J. Smith, Mr R. Smith (HK-RAOC), Maj M. Wild.

BENEVOLENT CASES

- (a) During the period January 1 to December 31, 1979 the sum of £2,676.22 was spent on assisting 60 members of the Regiment.
- (b) During the period January 1 to June 15, 1980, the sum of £1,317.60 was spent on assisting 31 members of the Regiment.

FREE NEWSLETTER

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 T. A. Barton, Mr W. A. Belcher, Maj F. H. Blackburn, Mr A. J. Briggs, Mr D. Cavill, Mr R. R. P. Chapman, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, Mr A. G. W. Cooper, Mr C. J. Cox, Maj R. J. P. Cummins, Mr L. D. Eggleton, Mr T. Emerson, Mr J. D. Forgham, Mr E. J. Garner, Mr C. H. Goff, Lt E. C. Graham, Maj W. H. Grogan, Mr F. G. Gurney, Mr W. Hamlin, Mr G. Higgins, Capt P. S. Ingham, Mr T. Lack, Mr S. L. Lloyd, Mr P. F. Maloney, Mr J. M. Mannering, Mr A. Mason, Mr E. R. Millard, Mr K. Partridge, Mr J. M. Pritchard, Mr R. J. Ridler, Capt J. R. Riseley, Col R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker, Mr M. H. Short, Mrs D. Sims (Nellie Clark), Mr A. J. Smith, Mr R. Smith (HK-RAOC), Mr H. F. Stillwell, Maj W. F. Turner, Maj M. Wild, Mr S. R. Woolner, Maj D. M. W. Young.

ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Albuhera Service of Remembrance was held in the Regimental Memorial Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, May 17, 1980, at 2.30 pm.

The sermon was preached by the Reverend W. E. B. Jones, MA, Vicar of North Wembley, Middlesex, and former Chaplain to the 1st Battalion.

Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, and Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, attended the Service supported by a very good turnout by members of the Regimental Association and their families. In Pensioner Fred Worton, now 84, attended as usual. This is very encouraging for the future. The Service next year will be held on Saturday, May 16—Albuhera Day—so book the date now.

ANNUAL REUNION

The Annual Reunion took place on Saturday, May 17, 1980, at the TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware. For the past 11 years the reunion has been held at the Porchester Hall, Queensway, and the venue was changed by popular request. The change was welcomed by a good attendance.

Our President, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, OBE, accompanied by two former Colonels of the Regiment, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, and Maj Gen C. M. M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, attended. Support was also given by a party from 1 Queen's, Canterbury, led by their RSM. Capt Ken Beale brought a party from the Depot at Basingbourn as he has done in past years. The bar facilities will be improved next year.

The 1981 Reunion will take place at Edgware on Saturday, May 16—Albuhera Day—what better reason for attending could there be, so reserve the date now.

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The Officers' Club Dinner was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1, on Friday, May 16, 1980.

This is the first time for many years that the Dinner has coincided with Albuhera Day. In accordance with our usual custom widows and nearest relatives of former officers were invited as guests and the following attended:

Miss Jean Bower, daughter of Maj G. A. H. Bower, Mrs M. Crawford, widow of Col M. Crawford, Mrs F. M. Neal, widow of Capt H. A. Neal, Mrs D. Pike, widow of Maj J. I. D. Pike, Mrs P. Weller, widow of Maj A. V. Weller. The Rev W. E. B. Jones and Mrs Jones were guests of the Club.

Members present were:

Lt Col T. W. Chattey and Mrs Chattey, President and Chairman, Col I. D. Brotherton and Mrs Brotherton, Vice-Chairman, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Maj Gen C. M. M. Man and Mrs Man, Brig G. Lerwill and Mrs Lerwill, Brig D. B. Rendell and Mrs Rendell, Col I. R. Burrows and Miss B. Colley, Col R. M. Cain and Mrs Cain, Col A. S. J. de S. Clayton and Mrs Clayton, Col W. D. Ellis and Mrs Ellis, Col A. M. Man and Mrs Man, Col

H. J. A. Moore, Col D. R. W. Thomas and Mrs Thomas, Col A. R. Waller, Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Mrs Clayden, Lt Col D. E. Dowlan and Mrs Dowlan, Lt Col G. L. Fox, Lt Col P. J. Hall and Mrs Hall, Lt Col J. M. Hewson, Lt Col E. A. H. Jeffcoat, Lt Col K. A. Lee Emery and Mrs Lee Emery, Lt Col H. M. du V. Lohan and Mrs Lohan, Mrs J. S. B. Pollard, Maj R. A. Bartlett and Mrs Bartlett, Maj F. J. Bennett and Mrs Bennett, Maj M. J. Beaumont, Maj K. R. McK. Biggs, Mrs McK. Biggs and Miss E. Hutcheson, Maj E. A. Bull and Mrs Bull, Maj R. A. J. Cheffins and Mrs Cheffins, Maj J. G. Chiverall, Maj H. E. Couch and Mrs Couch, Maj W. G. A. Crumley and Mrs Crumley, Maj D. M. Falcke and Mrs Falcke, Maj C. H. K. Fisher and Mrs Fisher, Maj S. L. Henshaw and Mrs Henshaw, Maj C. L. Lawrence and Mrs Lawrence, Maj M. D. Legg, Maj D. V. Littlejohn and Mrs Littlejohn, Maj P. D. H. Marshall and Mrs Marshall, Maj A. E. McManus and Mrs McManus, Maj F. J. Millard and Mrs Millard, Maj R. E. B. Morris and Mrs Morris, Maj B. St G. A. Reed and Mrs Reed, Maj R. W. J. Smith and Mrs Smith, Maj A. E. F. Waldron and Mrs Waldron, Capt M. J. S. Doran and Mrs Doran, Capt J. S. C. Flavell and Mrs Flavell, Capt R. M. Fox and Mrs Fox, Capt B. M. O'Regan, Lt J. P. A. Day, Lt J. C. L. Grobel and Miss Anne Grobel.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

After 43 years in Werl (BAOR) the 1st Bn (Lt Col David Dickens, MBE) moved in to Howe Barracks, Canterbury, the 'Home' of The Regiment on April 14. Lt Col John Holman, OBE, who was its previous Commanding Officer, has been posted to an important appointment with HQ 1 (BR) Corps at Bielefeld.

The 2nd Bn (Lt Col Peter Barrow) arrived at Colchester in September last after two years in Gibraltar and, at the beginning of April, started a four month's tour in North Armagh.

After a successful tour in South Armagh from March to July last year, the 3rd Bn (Lt Col Gavin Bulloch) returned to Dover. Recently they have sent Companies to Belize and Cyprus for short training periods. In March next year, the 3rd Bn will start a BAOR tour in Fallingbowl but, before then, they will spend a month in Canada, and possibly two months in Kenya.

Some highlights in 1980 are: Massed Bands at the England v Wales Rugby Match at Twickenham on February 16; 2nd Bn Band and Drums at Wembley for the Football League Cup on March 15; Massed Bands, again at Wembley, for the Schoolboys Soccer International on June 7; HMS *Excellent's* 150th Anniversary Celebrations at Whale Island (June 9-15). Two other 'highlights' of the year will be the Grand Reunion of Old Comrades at Howe Barracks on Sunday, August 3, and the Officers' Club Dinner at Claridge's Hotel on Friday, September 5.

ALBUHERA DAY 1980

The 169th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera was commemorated at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, our last Regimental Depot, and one named after the illustrious Commanding Officer of the 57th Regiment, on Friday, May 16.

My own household was roused by the strains of the regimental march 'Sir Manley Power', preceded by the regimental call. It appears that other Diehards were tuned in as the telephone rang early in the morning with greetings from Peter Allen (6408497) as the first caller followed later by Albuhera Greeting from Maj Gen B. P. Hughes, the last Honorary Colonel of our Territorials, Col H. A. A. Howell, who played the regimental march over the telephone to accompany his greetings, C/Sgt Mervyn Smith, my youngest son, now serving with 1st Battalion, The Queen's Regiment, Les Plumb (22466825) and John Soden (6200167). The postman delivered a sheaf of letters among which were missives from Brig Tony Pielow from Chalmazel (Loire) France, Maj Bill Lovell, from Ostende and Mrs Flora Bechet—daughter of the late RSM M. Donoghue, M, from Palma de Mallorca, Spain, where she is domiciled. Excellent timing by all for the mail to arrive spot on.

Reaching the barracks early to ensure all was well, it gave me great pride and joy to see the Diehards' regimental flag flying proudly from the flag-pole on the square, the bright sunshine accentuating the centre panel of yellow on which is emblazoned our badge. It was the first flash of colour one would see on entering the barracks and certainly caught the eye of the visitor.

At 11 am, two wreaths were laid on our memorial. One of the panels is inscribed, 'To the glorious dead of the Regiment, engaged in campaigns, 1757-1913', two others are to our dead of the two World Wars and Korea. One wreath was from the Regiment, and the other from the Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers, the unit who now occupy the barracks. The Commandant, Col R. N. R. P. James and myself marched together from the road to the memorial and simultaneously placed the floral tributes to the heroes of 1811. Turning about, our regimental march was played as I doffed my bowler, the Commandant, the Adjutant, Maj E. J. Lyons, RE, Lt Com David Summers, RN, and RSM Adam Jack all stood at the salute whilst our Regimental Standard was dipped and our Old Comrades, in line, stood to attention. From where I stood in front of our memorial, it was very impressive. Bright sunshine, Officers in No 1 uniform with medals and swords, our soldiers on the grass so smart and proud with Syd Webb in his wheelchair on the flank, and our ladies watching from the road, at times nodding with approbation. The sun caught the ornamental lamps presented by Col Desmond Ellis, in 1955, when the commemorative gates were erected to mark the Golden Jubilee of our occupying the barracks. These nice lamps remain on the pillars now the gates have been moved from the entrance to the road by the memorial.

The Standard Ensign was George Hurlock, whilst among other comrades on parade were Capt Don Jones, Lt Sidney Butler, Bob Ambler, Ginger Batson, Archie Brown, George Cummins, Babe Denton, Les Eggleton, Bill Franklin, 'Tittles' Lewin, whose grandfather trained the 77th Shooting team who were Army Champions 1878, 1879 and 1880, Pat Maloney, Charlie Matthews, Jack Milroy, Stan Murray, Les Plumb and John Poyner. The parade gave proof to the words on our Standard,

'Comrades in War and Peace'.

It was apt to have a serving officer of the Royal Navy on our parade as our first officer or man of the Regiment to be killed in action was Ensign William Townshend who was killed whilst at sea when the Regiment were acting as Marines with the Mediterranean Fleet. It is fitting also that the Postal and Courier Depot, Royal Engineers join us, not only as the caring guardians of our memorial at Mill Hill; but the official who was responsible that the Army during the Peninsular War received its mail in the Field was John Sevrigh, whose name is given to the road in front of the Headquarters Block in the barracks.

As I dismissed the parade, the Commandant said to me that he wished to show his appreciation of our Regiment, and invited ALL our Diehards and our ladies into the Officers' Mess for a drink and a toast. Buglers, Janker Wallahs, Saints, Sinners, Haircuts and Shaves, all were welcome. What a compliment, what an honour for the chaps whose view of the Mess whilst serving had either been as members of the band or fatigue men years ago. This magnificent gesture was much appreciated by all. In the mess, we toasted the Diehards to the music of 'The Jolly Diehards', the 57th song written at the close of the Maori War in 1866, raising our glasses and drinking as the vocalist sang the final stanza, 'So fill up your glasses and show your regard by drinking the health to the Jolly Diehards'.

It was a good start to our annual commemoration for Albuhera. I always celebrate Albuhera Day on May 16, and when at home, am at our memorial come rain, hail, sunshine, sandstorm, volcanic eruption or landslide. To be joined in our pride is a great fillip as we recall our glory and boast of our heritage and our imperishable name 'Diehards' the only regiment whose name has been taken into our language.

MAJ DICK SMITH

MAJ GEN B. A. COAD, CB, CBE, DSO, DL

Maj Gen B. A. Coad who died on March 26, 1980, aged 73 years, was commander of the 27th Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong and Korea 1950-51. The 1st Battalion were under his command during this period.

A Memorial Service for Maj Gen B. A. Coad was held at Devizes on Wednesday, April 30, and was attended by Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, Col A. M. Man, DSO, OBE, and Mr G. Young.

Col A. M. Man writes:

'On learning of the death this week of Gen Aubrey Coad, we of the 1st Middlesex who served in his 27th (later Commonwealth) Infantry Brigade in Hong Kong in 1949, and at the beginning of the Korean War in 1950-51 will have a sense of real and personal loss. But for his strong personality and leadership, in conditions which in Korea could have suffered many more casualties than it did; a Battalion might even have been lost for no sound reason. Often 'out on a limb', we trusted him to get us back and he never failed to do so. Under his command, we were the envy of our allies. Now we are mourning the loss of a fine Commander, and a friend loyal and true to one and all'.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Curator: Maj R. W. J. Smith, MBE, 12 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, London NW7.

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

Uniforms of Lt Gen Sir Brian G. Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LLD

The latest exhibits to augment those previously given to the Regimental Museum by our illustrious Diehard, are two jackets, one Service dress and the other blue, with the caps, plus trousers to the blue uniform. Each has the insignia of Lieutenant General with the ribbons of the KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, 1914 Star with rosette, BWM, VM, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star with 8th Army clasp, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal with oak leaf, Coronation Medal King George VI, Knight Grand Cross of Nassau (Netherlands), Grand Order of the Crown with palm (Belgium), Croix de Guerre (Belgium), Commander Legion of Honour (France), Croix de Guerre (France), Royal Order of George (Greece) and Commander of the Legion of Merit (USA).

The SD cap shows signs of much use. As all we old soldiers know, one gets very attached to a comfortable head-dress and a special pair of boots. Maybe it is because a lot of our service is spent marching and thinking of comfort of head and feet become paramount.

In his admirable book 'A Full Life', Gen Horrocks recounts the incident of the entry into Brussels on September 3, 1944. On page 200, he says, 'As I crossed the frontier just behind the advance guard I saw a young Belgian standing by the road with tears streaming down his cheeks. Seeing the red band round my cap he ran towards me, seized both my hands and said, "I knew you would come back! I knew the British would return!" I was particularly touched by this, because almost the last words I had said to the sad looking groups of Belgians whom we had left behind on our way to Dunkirk were, "We will come back". We had kept our promise.'

We had also kept it on the anniversary of another promise well kept. That of September 3, 1939, when we went to war to honour our bond.

That is the cap now on display in the Regimental Museum.

Medals of G/566, Sgt A. Butt, MM

This group of medals consist of the Military Medal, 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. All are inscribed with the old spelling of the rank 'Serjeant', the Military Medal and the 1914 Star having 2nd Battalion shown as well as Middlesex Regiment. This is normal for the 1914 Star whereas the 1914-15 Star shows only the Regiment.

With the medals there is also the citation to the award of the Military Medal. It reads—'For devotion to duty under heavy fire during a raid by the battalion on the night May 10-11, near AVELUY, this non-commissioned officer continually patrolled his section of the trench throughout the operations until rendered unconscious by the explosion of a shell. By his courageous behaviour and utter disregard for personal safety he steadied the men under

most trying circumstances. On several previous occasions, when under heavy fire this non-commissioned officer has invariably set a splendid example of devotion to duty to his men'.

1/7th BATTALION (1939-45) OCA

The Annual Dinner of the 1/7th Battalion 1939-45 was held at Hornsey on Saturday, April 26, 1980.

A very enjoyable meeting and a good tonic for me. I always feel so much better after seeing so many of my old comrades, and very proud of being one of them.

Our chairman, Brig B. B. Rackham, was in great form. Our guests this year included the Deputy Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Peter Bolland, who told us that the Haringey Council are sending £250 towards the trees that were planted at El Alamein. Mr C. P. White, our treasurer, made a presentation to Councillor Bolland of a copy of the 51st Highland Division at war. Our thanks again to Maj Mercer for so much help in providing the regimental silver. We must not forget all the hard work that our committee put in, if it was not for them there would be no dinner. The Drill Hall was in first class order, it was not like that 55 years ago, when I joined the old 7th Battalion. Our thanks to the caretaker, George Gorman.

About 65 members were present, and it was good to see a few new faces, we would still like to see more Officers.

Next year will be our 19th reunion so please all ranks try to make it 100 members present, we have had over 130 before, so come on Diehards.

God bless you all and your families.

ROCKY KNIGHT

2/10th BATTALION OCA (1914-18)

The 52nd Reunion Luncheon was held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, on Saturday, May 31, 1980. Some 27 ex 2/10th members and their guests attended under the Chairmanship of Mr A. D. Scudamore, President of the 2/10th OCA.

Amongst the guests were Lt Col T. W. Chattey, President of the Regimental Association and Maj Frank Waldron, the Secretary; Maj Dick Smith, Curator of the Regimental Museum, the Rev Patrick Tuft, vicar of Chiswick and Hon Chaplain to the OCA and the Rev G. A. Lewis Lloyd, the previous vicar of Chiswick. Col Aymar Clayton attended as a member and friend of the 2/10th OCA.

The members of the 2/10th, numbering 17, whose ages ranged from 80 to 89 years, looked remarkably well and are an example to us all.

A short history of the Battalion is appended below:

The Battalion was formed on September 12, 1914, as a Volunteer Territorial unit and was disbanded on August 20, 1918.

1914 Sept 12: Battalion raised at Stamford Brook.

1915 Jan-July: Training at Ashford, Middlesex, Cambridge and Bedford, joined by a Company of the 2/9th Middlesex. Embodied in 160th (Home Counties) Brigade—53rd Welsh Division.

July 19: Sailed with Division from Devonport in HMT *Huntsgreen* (ex German SS *Derfflinger*).

Aug 9: Landed at Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, remaining until evacuation in December.
1916 Jan-Nov: Service in Egypt (Wardan, Fayoum, Sinai).

Nov: Advance across Sinai Desert (Kantara, Rumani, El Arish, Gaza).

1917 Mar 26: First Battle of Gaza—Battalion highly commended on capture of Labyrinth Trenches.

April 19: Second Battle of Gaza—Battalion captured Samson's Ridge Redoubt.

April-Oct: Trench warfare before Gaza.

Oct: Advance to Jerusalem began—Beer-sheba, Hebron, Bethlehem.

Nov: Heavy engagement at a successful assault on Tel el Khuweilfeh on Beersheba—Hebron Road.

Dec 9: Jerusalem captured; Battalion on Mount of Olives.

Dec 21-28: Capture and defence of White Hill and Ras el Zamb; mentioned in Special Divisional Order for this action and in Commander in Chief's Despatches for defence of Khirbet Ibn Obeid Monastery.

1918 Jan-Aug: Battalion continuously in action in Judean Hills and Jordan Valley (Rummon, Tell 'Asur, Khirbet Amurieh, Jericho, Sinjil).

Aug 20: Battalion disbanded on reorganisation of Forces.

Oct 30: Armistice with Turkey.

DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

I am writing these notes shortly after attending the Regimental Reunion. A mini bus was hired to convey the Depot contingent to Edgware and was filled by the following: Maj Ron Morris, Maj Bob Bartlett, Capt Michael Flynn and his wife Else, Cpl Christopher Broome, Ex-CSM Arthur Goodge, Ex-Pte John Nihill, my wife Hilary and myself. We were unanimous in voting the Reunion as being the best for many a year and take the opportunity of thanking everyone who helped with the organisation. The size of the bar, however, was not commensurate with the size of the Diehards thirst—the only criticism.

Another Diehard has been posted to the Depot. Cpl Christopher Broome is the Officers' Mess Corporal. He enlisted at Canterbury in December 1964 and joined the Battalion in Gibraltar the following year. Apart from a year in the medical centre he has been employed throughout his service in the Officers' Mess. Before coming to Bassingbourn in January this year he served with 1 Queens in Northern Ireland. Christopher lives in married quarters with his wife Carol and their three daughters, Diane and Kathleen who are six year old twins and Sarah who is one year old.

An unexpected but most welcome visitor turned up on my door step recently. He was heavily bearded but nevertheless recognisable as John James Munn. John enlisted at Canterbury in 1964 and joined IMX on return from Guyana. He was an orderly

room clerk until he left the army in 1968. John is a freelance electronics consultant and lives at 16 William Street, Leeds 6.

A telephone call out of the blue brought me in contact with another old Diehard. Only yesterday I visited the home of 6200135 Charles Wilfred Hales at 7 Briary Lane, Royston. Charlie was bitterly disappointed at missing the Annual Reunion but looks forward to meeting his old pals next year. He enlisted under age on April 29, 1931, and did his basic training in Ypres Pl at Mill Hill. In December 1931 he went abroad with the 1st Battalion and served in the Middle East, Singapore and Hong Kong returning to England in 1938. During the war he was with the 8th Battalion in North Africa and Italy and because of his catering ability, towards the end of the war, he was transferred to the Army Catering Corps. Charlie was a useful boxer in his time but recalls being slaughtered by the likes of Alf Ellis and George Markham. After leaving the Army at the end of the war Charlie continued his trade as a builder and has only recently retired. He would very much like to hear from his chums of pre-war days.

CSM Bob Bartle, son of Slim, broke his leg several months ago whilst playing football for the depot. It was a complicated fracture and Bob is still undergoing treatment in hospital. Bob is due to join the 2nd Battalion in September by which time we trust he will have made a complete recovery.

Best wishes to Diehards everywhere.

CAPT KEN BEALE

The Regimental Association has made a donation of £10 towards the St Paul's Church, Mill Hill Restoration Fund.

I expect many of you will remember marching from the Depot along the Ridgeway to attend Church Parade. The Association keeps in touch with St Paul's by laying a wreath on the Regimental Memorial situated inside the Church which also looks after some of our Colours. For some years now the Curate at St Paul's has conducted our annual Remembrance Service which we hold at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

I repeat the following item seen in a local newspaper:

'My views on disgraceful French behaviour towards the British have brought many letters, one from an Old Contemptible, Mr R. Weedon, of Brighton, says that not only did the Frenchippos sell water to our Tommies at Dunkirk, but they were at it in the First World War, too. He says his Middlesex Regiment lads camped on a farm whilst trudging to Ypres from France in 1914. There, the resident peasant "guarded his pump because we refused to pay one franc to fill our water bottles. We put his bloody pump out of action. That's the only way to treat the Frogs. Hit 'em hard and often". Mr Weedon gets my campaign medal and bar'.

Editor's note—Mr Weedon is a member of the Regimental Association. He served March 17, 1913, to 1918 with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions.

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT GOLFING SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

A very enjoyable and successful meeting was held at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Tuesday, May 6. A total of 15 members took part.

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

<i>Stableford Foursomes</i>	<i>Points</i>
Mr G. Taylor and Mr N. Taylor (Winners Cooper Cup)	36
Lt Col T. W. Chattey and Mr T. Jones (Runners-up)	26
Lt Col C. N. Clayden and Lt Col J. R. B. Worton	23
Mr M. R. T. Walden and Mr D. Matthews	22
Maj A. R. Bisset and Mr J. Rogers	22
Capt R. J. Tarrant and Mr J. Tarrant	19
Maj P. D. H. Marshall	11
Brig G. Lervill and Mr F. O'Rawe	7

<i>Medal Competition—Scratch and Handicap</i>	<i>Scratch</i>	<i>Handicap</i>	<i>Nett</i>
Mr T. Jones (Winner Scratch and Transvaal Cup)	79	7	72
Brig G. Lervill (Winner Handicap and Darjeeling Cup)	99	24	75
Mr G. Taylor (Runner-up Scratch)	87	11	76
Mr N. Taylor (Runner-up Handicap)	91	14	77
Lt Col T. W. Chattey	90	12	78
Mr M. R. T. Walden	96	16	80
Maj A. R. Bisset	99	17	82
Mr J. Rogers	101	18	83
Maj P. D. H. Marshall	108	24	84
Mr J. Tarrant	108	24	84
Capt R. J. Tarrant	108	22	86
Mr F. O'Rawe	123	24	99
Mr D. Matthews	NR		

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. Apologies were received from Charlie and Nora Holdford, Alec Torrie, Lt Col Hugh Lohan, Col Ian Burrows, Col Max Summers, Maj Ken and Pam Hardcastle, Maj Gordon Crumley, Capt Peter Ingham, Maj Harold Couch, Capt Don Carson, Capt Mick Flynn, Maj Bill Grogan, Capt Mike Gedye and Mr David Miles (unfortunately I mislaid his address and failed to send him details—my apologies). Mrs Betty Bellers, widow of Maj Dick Bellers, sent her best wishes to everyone at the meeting.

Our oldest and dearest supporter, Mrs Tossie Worton came to see us during the morning and stayed to lunch. Mr and Mrs Chillery very kindly visited us during the afternoon.

Col Aymar Clayton, on his third visit produced a prize winner in Brig Lervill. Must have been the pep talk the Brigadier received after his morning round.

A really splendid day and I am looking for a 'bumper' attendance at the Autumn meeting on Tuesday, October 2.

A.E.F.W.

1811—1915

From Albuhera's crimsoned ridge
The cry rings down the years
'Die hard! Die hard! the Middlesex'—
It falls on eager ears.

Eyes flash, hands grip, and thews are braced
As in days long ago!—
Shoulder to shoulder, rank on rank
They pour to meet the foe.

No honourable foeman this
Who writhes beneath their heel—
Yet neither murderous flame no cloud
Can daunt their hearts of steel.

Burned, blinded, tortured though they lie
By Hell's devices marred—
Still sounds the ancient battle cry—
Choking they gasp: 'Die hard!'

On Albuhera's ridge the sires
Of 'Die hards' stood at bay!
Their deeds live on, their soul inspires
The lads who fight today!

Our gallant comrades in the past like heroes
fought and fell
Of their hard-won victories our sacred Colours
tell
Their noble records we'll uphold, their glory
ne'er betray:
'The honour of the Middlesex is safe with us
today'.

On Albuhera's bloodstained ridge, the heights
of EL BODON
At Inkerman and Spion Kop our heritage they
won
Still rings the cry, 'Die hard, my men!' Still
shall the nation say
'The honour of the Middlesex is safe with us
today'.

The wreath, the Plume, the Name we bear,
shall never be disgraced!
For death were better than defeat, whene'er
the foe is faced!
Die hard! Die hard! We'll ever take this
watchword for the fray
'The honour of the Middlesex is safe with us
today'.

The third and fourth stanzas above refer to the first gas attack launched by the Germans, April 22, 1915, and the subsequent fighting at Gravenstafel Ridge and St Julien.

Both the 3rd Battalion, one of our four regular battalions and the 1/8th Territorial (Imperial Service) Battalion, lost heavily. The 3rd suffered a loss of 11 Officers—including their Commanding Officer, Lt Col E. W. R. Stephenson whom current report quote as calling, 'Die Hard Boys' before his death—and 325 other ranks. The 1/8th Battalion lost 14 Officers and 326 other ranks. The latter battalion lost practically all its pre-1914 soldiers. The 'murderous flame' refers to the flame thrower,

the 'flammenwafer', at first used for cutting paths through barbed wire by melting the strands. At Hooze in 1916, it was used against infantry.

The late Sgt Frank Stevenson (L/14814) who was awarded the Silver Medal of the Russian Order of St Slanislav for valour and also Mentioned in Despatches would declaim the above lines with great effect at reunions or a regimental soiree.

Maj DICK SMITH

RETURN TO AUSTRIA

Lt Harry Turner who served with the 1st Battalion in Austria between 1953 and 1955 is planning with a group of ex-Middlesex Regiment National Service officers a 25th year anniversary celebration in Vienna in October this year.

He would also like to invite any other officers who served in the 1st Battalion during this time to join the party.

If you are interested you can contact him by telephoning 01-730 5101 or writing to Harry Turner, Sloan Square House, London SW1.

OLD REGIMENTAL JOURNALS

Mr Ernest Platt (6205163) served in the Regiment from July 1939 until July 1948. He saw service with the 1st, 2nd, 70th Battalions and the Depot. His hobby for the past 10 years has been collecting items of Middlesex Regiment insignia, medals, journals, etc. At the moment he is trying to collect a set of *Diehard* Journals and requires the following back copies. If you are able to help send them to him at 151 Uxbridge Road, Hampton Hill, Middlesex TW12 1BQ. He will gladly refund postage.

Journals required are: Aug and Nov 34, May and Nov 35, Feb, May, Aug and Nov 36, Feb, Aug and Nov 38, Feb and Aug 39, Sept and Dec 45, June 46, March, June and Sept 47, March, June Sept 50, March, June and Sept 51, June 52, June and Sept 55, June 56, Oct 62. He is also interested in any group photographs.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available for purchase. These can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Maj A. E. F. Waldron, MBE, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE. Cheques/postal orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

<i>Article</i>	<i>Price</i>
Ashtlays, glass, crested Middlesex Badge	£0.50 each
Badges Glazer, Middlesex	£4.00 each
Cravats, Regtl Old Pattern, Terylene	£1.75 each
Cravats, Regtl New Pattern, Terylene	£1.75 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with Regtl emblazon	£7.40 each
Ties, Regtl, Old Pattern, Terylene	£1.50 each
Ties, Regtl, New Pattern, Terylene	£1.50 each
Ties, Officers' Club Silk	£2.40 each
Heraldic Shields, Middlesex	£6.50 each
Christmas Cards:	
Steady the Drums and Fifes	£0.17 each
The Guardroom Scene	£0.17 each

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Our congratulations to Brig and Mrs E. E. F. Baker on celebrating their Diamond Wedding anniversary on April 8, 1980.

Ex-Diehard Capt Don Carson, Director of Music to the Staff Band, The Royal Army Medical Corps, regrets very much that he could not play in the Spring Golf meeting or attend the Albuhera celebrations owing to band duties in BAOR. He tells me that he is in touch with ex-RSM Ray and Veronica Dodkins as well as ex-CSgt Pat and Ann Dive.

Ex-CSM R. R. P. Chapman (6207747), 8th and 1st Battalion 1939-45, sends regards to all his friends. He still lives in County Antrim.

Former Diehard Maj (Retd) Warrick Deacock, is leading the 'Australian to Annapurna' expedition which started this Spring. They are hoping to climb Annapurna III (7555 M) by the North East Face. On his retirement in the late 50's he emigrated to Australia. Maj Ian Lloyd spotted this item in the Army Mountaineering Newsletter and kindly passed on the news to me.

Lt Col M. F. Deakin, Army Air Corps, a former Diehard, has been appointed to the Ministry of Defence as AAG.

A new member of the Regimental Association is ex-Pte D. A. Dunk (22344876), who was a National Serviceman with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and Korea 1950-52. He resides at Northiam, near Rye, Sussex.

Mr H. C. Edmonds, who served with the 1/7th Battalion 1939-45 kindly sent me a photostat copy of a speech made by Gen Talbot Coke, Commanding 10th Brigade at Charlestown June 13, 1900, congratulating the 2nd Battalion on their record during this campaign. I have passed the speech to the Curator of our museum.

A new member of the Regimental Association is WO2 John Frost (23979024), Queen's Regiment. He enlisted on September 6, 1963, and has seen service with the 1st Battalion, 4 Queen's and 2 Queen's. In May 1980 he was posted as PSI to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). He has very kindly offered to look after our interests in Hong Kong and will lay a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association on the Sai Wan Bay Memorial on Remembrance Day. He also tells me that he would be very pleased to help any member of the Regiment proposing to visit Hong Kong. As Secretary I have written and thanked him for his help and co-operation.

In Pensioner G. Fulton, our cheerful occupant at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, has been in the Infirmary for the past six weeks. I recently went to see him and he tells me that he is getting better and is very sorry that he had to miss the Albuhera Service of Remembrance and the Reunion. Get well soon Paddy.

I have had some very interesting correspondence with ex-Sgt Ted Garner (14409603) who served with the 1/8th Battalion 1939-45 and was Sergeants Mess Caterer of the 1st Battalion 1946-47. He sent me a group photograph of the WO's and Sergeants Mess at that time. I will try and publish it in my next issue of the *Newsletter*. Faces well remembered appear, for example—RSM McLoughlin, Webb, Renwick, Thom, Redpath, Cooper, Holdford, Kenrick, Bignell, Garner, Waldron, etc.

Maj Bill Grogan has retired and moved to Orton Longueville, Peterborough. His wife, Esme, has not been too well of late but I am pleased to report that she is on the upgrade. Bill is still Public Relations Officer, Cambridge Army Cadet Force, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Our thanks to WO2 John Hamill, now RQMS 3 Queen's, who has just returned from a tour of duty as PSI to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). He enlisted November 15, 1961, and served with our 1st and 4th Battalion. Like a true Diehard he took a great interest in his old regiment whilst stationed in Hong Kong and laid a wreath annually on our behalf at the Remembrance Service. He has visited all the graves of Diehards who were killed in Hong Kong and those who died as Prisoners of War. He was also very kind and helpful to our President, Lt Col T. W. Chattey, who recently visited Hong Kong.

Our deepest sympathy to ex-Sgt Dick Harris (6201831) on the death of his wife, Ada, on February 1, 1980. Dick Harris was a POW with the 1st Battalion and is really down in the dumps at the moment but like a true Diehard is picking up the pieces of life again. I have just had the pleasure of adding his name to the waiting list for a flat at Albuhera Close.

Ex-Cpl Alf Jenkins, who was taken POW with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong is making a return trip in August. He was hoping to be able to visit the graves of four members of his section killed in action on December 23, 1941, namely, Ptes Boyd, Cummings, Hitchins and Lewis. Sadly I had to tell him that they have no known grave but their names appear on the Sai Wan Memorial.

A recent correspondent was former C/Sgt Bill Landreth who reminds me that he served 12 years with the Cheshires followed by 22 years with the Diehards. He was 70 on April 28, 1980, so to Bill belated birthday greetings. He lives at Birkenhead, Merseyside, I think he always has—I now realise why I used to tell him to put it in writing.

A recent correspondent was George Leadbeter, ex-4th Bn, who will be 90 this year. At the moment he is having trouble with his legs but he is looking forward to attending the Queen's Regiment Reunion on Sunday, August 3. He lives in a Royal British Legion flat in Canterbury and I shall arrange for him to be transported to the reunion. He complained that owing to his leg trouble he could not carry out his Salvation Army duties!

Ex-Pte Jock Mannering who served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and Korea is in St Peters Ward of the South Western Hospital, Landor Road, London SW4, and will be for some time. He is very cheerful and sends his regards to all his old friends, especially to Maj Geoff Norton.

Another grand old Diehard who wrote to me to say he was sorry that he could not come up from Somerset to attend the Albuhera celebrations was Jack Meadows (6196067). He regularly attends the 9th Battalion luncheon with his wife Bridget.

I recently had a letter from former LCpl J. A. McMullin (14220608) who joined the 1st Battalion at Otley 1943 and served with that Battalion until being demobbed from Rendsburg, North Germany, 1946. He would like to hear from any DR or signaller who served during this period. He is a self employed photographer residing at 1 Bayford Road, Littlehampton.

Ex-Sgt C. J. P. Murphy (23700730) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted February 24, 1959, and served with 1 Middlesex 1959-66, 4th Bn 1967-70, 1 Queen's 1970-71, and 2 Queen's 1972-77. He left the Army on reduction of establishment and now lives at Milton Keynes, Bucks.

A new subscriber to the Regimental Newsletter is former LCpl A. G. Nash who joined the Regiment as a Band Boy at Canterbury in January 1959. He was posted to the Band of the 1st Battalion in Hameln in 1961 and served with that Battalion and 4 Queen's until 1970. On the disbandment of 4 Queen's he joined the Queen's Own Hussars and was promoted WO2 Band Sergeant Major in December 1977. His present address is the Queen's Own Hussars, Hobart Barracks, BAOR. In September 1980 he will be joining the Junior Leaders Regiment at Bovington Camp. He would like to hear from his former Band associates. Give him a surprise and drop him a line.

Mr Henry Oxley, now 81 years of age, who served with the 23rd Battalion, sent me a very interesting article which appeared on March 20, in the West Sussex Gazette. It concerned the battle at St Quentin in March 1918, when the 23rd Battalion suffered very heavy casualties and the Commanding Officer, Lt Col A. R. Haig Brown was killed. Mr Oxley was wounded during this action, behind the left knee, causing to be invalided out. He took up cycling and became the holder of 12 UK all comers racing records. He now lives at Goring by Sea, West Sussex.

Frances Pritchard, daughter of ex-C/Sgt B. A. Pritchard (not the hairy one) has joined the QARANC and is carrying out her basic training at Aldershot. She wrote to me and said I am sure that the Education Officer is a Diehard—I know his face. I was able to tell her that she was right—it was Lt Col Nigel Legge who transferred to the RAEC. Small world. Good luck Frances keep up the good work.

Congratulations to Maj Barry Reed on his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Hackney. He has also been appointed a Director of the National Westminster Bank's City and West End Regional Board.

Col R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker who commanded the 2/8th Battalion at the outbreak of war sends best wishes to all Diehards.

Mr D. G. Simpson (22312977) has joined the Regimental Association. He was a National Serviceman with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and Korea 1949-51 and was in the Corps of Drums.

Another Diehard who has surfaced is Mr A. W. Thomas (6200954). He enlisted March 28, 1933, and served with the 2nd Battalion until 1941. He then spent two years with the Young Soldiers Battalion until 1943. From 1943 to 1946 he was a Royal Engineer, returning to the Depot at Mill Hill 1946-48. He was then compulsory transferred to the ACC and served until taking his discharge on November 20, 1954, with the rank of WO2. He now resides at Stockton on Tees, Cleveland, and has applied to be placed on the waiting list for a flat at Albuhera Close. His application has been accepted and we look forward to seeing him and his family in the future.

Best wishes to Maj David Young, 9th Battalion, who has not been too well recently and to a speedy recovery.

Finally a recent clue in the *Daily Telegraph* crossword read—20 down—Stubborn member of the Middlesex Regiment's 1st Battalion (3-4). I regret to say that I cannot afford to give a prize for the correct answer.

LETTERS

From: Quay Cottage, Salter Mill, near Saltash, Cornwall.
June 6, 1980

Dear Major Smith,

I write to let you know that Edmund Wenham Prosser (Ted) died last night at the age of 87 after eight weeks of illness—surely living up to the Regimental title of a 'Diehard'!

I feel I must tell you of the immense pleasure and sense of 'belonging' your letters gave to a lonely man who left half his capacity of hearing on a battlefield in France in 1914-18, and had a tough life for many years. Working as hard as you have bringing good cheer and comradeship to so many blokes, should you ever wonder if it had all been worthwhile, just ask me! who for 22 years have quietly watched a most delightful man regain his pride in his regiment and his confidence in himself thro' your letters.

Thank you for what you've done.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) OCTAVIA SNOW, MRS

Mrs Octavia Snow acted as Housekeeper to the late Mr Ted Prosser.

Capt Mike Doran sent me the following extract from a book that he just read:

Chapter 25

Acres of Massacre—Spion Kop, Natal, 24/5 January 1900.

'We waded through the Tugela, up to our breasts like, to get across, and we climbed up this 'ere hill—cor, God it was a climb—you climbed up so far and you came to a big flat rock and you had to go all the way round . . . cor it was stinking 'ot it was . . . and we laid out there firing at one another, us and the Boers—the Boers was up ABOVE us, see—they'd got us in a trap like . . . I couldn't see all round but I could 'ear blokes shoutin' you know, blokes that was getting 'it and all that . . .'

Pte Joe Packer, 2nd Middlesex describing the Battle of Spion Kop to the author in June 1970.

The Boer picket—about a dozen men from the Vryheid Commando—had fled helter-skelter down the other side of the hill, and some of them reached Botha's tent, a mile and a quarter to the north, before it was fully light. They were out of breath and confused—and they had lost their boots. Botha sat calmly in his tent, with a candle burning. He did not flinch at the news. The Khakis had taken the Kop. Well, the burghers must take the Kop back. He made it sound as simple as that.

Meanwhile, other fugitives from the Vryheid Commando, and some German volunteers, had reached the laager of Gen Schalk Burger, roughly two miles away, behind the twin eastern summits of Spion Kop. Schalk Burger was nominally Botha's superior, and Joubert's second-in-command; in effect, Botha and he jointly commanded this sector of the line; and Botha, much the stronger character, called the tune. Together, they now fixed the plans for the counter-attack. Its essence was speed.

Provided that the British could not drag heavy guns up to the main peak, the situation was dangerous, but not desperate . . .

Editor's note—In Pensioner Joe Packer died at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on March 22, 1971, aged 92 years. Extracted from Book 'The Boer War' by Thomas Pakenham.

OBITUARY

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

AUSTIN—On October 9, 1979, Mr H. Austin, at his home in Umtali, S. Rhodesia. Mr Austin was a member of the Regimental Association and served as a Sergeant with the 11th (Service) Battalion 1914-18.

BLACKMORE—On December 19, 1979, Capt (Harry) Robert Henry John Blackmore, aged 71 years.

Capt Blackmore enlisted in September 1939 into the Territorial Army after the Munich crisis. He attended 168 OCTU, Aldershot, was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in the Spring of 1940 and posted to the 1/8th Battalion. He joined 'B' Company as a Platoon Commander then under the command of Maj J. R. B. Worton. The Battalion formed part of the BEF and proceeded to France on February 17, 1940. After the capitulation of the Belgian Army the Battalion was evacuated to UK via Dunkirk on May 31, 1940. He was later posted to N.W. Command Training Centre. He volunteered and was accepted for posting to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong but this was cancelled on the fall of Singapore. He then joined the War Office as a Staff Officer where he remained until the end of the War. He rejoined the Daily Express as Deputy Chief Librarian but after a year left to study and took a BA(Hons) in History at London University. After teaching in London he moved to the Isle of Wight in 1952 and became Head of the English department at Cowes Secondary School and eventually retired from Sandown High in 1973. Harry Blackmore was an exceptional man and very proud of his service with the Middlesex Regiment.

BROOKS—On March 28, 1980, Ex-Sgt Victor F. Brooks, BEM (6203313), aged 61 years. Mr Brooks served with the 9th Battalion.

BRUST—On December 20, 1979, Mr Charlie F. Brust, MM (1187), aged 87 years. He was a member of the Ealing Branch and served with the 7th Battalion 1914-18.

FANE DE SALIS—On January 21, 1980, Lt Col E. W. Fane de Salis, MC, aged 85 years. Lt Col E. W. Fane de Salis commanded the 1/8th Battalion at the outbreak of war in 1939.

FRANKLIN—On March 23, 1980, Mr A. S. Franklin (13005), aged 87 years. He enlisted in 1910 and commenced his service with the 4th Battalion at Aldershot. After the Battle of Ypres he transferred to the Army Cycle Corps.

GATEHOUSE—On April 29, 1980, Maj C. A. Gatehouse, MC (150348), aged 70 years. Maj 'Charlie' Gatehouse enlisted as a Boy soldier in 1924 and was posted to the Band of the 1st Battalion. He saw service in India 1925-30 and the Sudan 1930-31. He arrived home in 1931 and served with the 2nd Battalion at Colchester and Portsmouth. During this time he was climbing the promotion ladder. He fought with the 2nd Battalion at Dunkirk and was evacuated to UK June 1, 1940, after fighting a rearguard action. He was granted an Emergency Commission in the Middlesex Regiment on September 20, 1940. He continued to serve with the 2nd Battalion and on D Day was part of 'B' Company and eventually took command of the Company from Maj Passy which took part in the assault of Quan Beach, Normandy, and the subsequent fighting to Breton. He was awarded the Military Cross, Germany 1944. He retired in 1946. Regrettably he suffered serious illness in 1953 and had to give up all employment and for the remainder of his life was an invalid. A brave man who served his regiment with pride and distinction.

GLYN-JONES—On April 30, 1980, Maj Sir Hildreth Glyn-Jones, TD, aged 85 years. Maj Sir Hildreth Glyn-Jones served with the 2/10th Battalion 1914-18 and the 2/7th Battalion 1939-45.

He was a Judge of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division 1953-68; Fellow Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain 1975; Deputy Chairman of Pearce Commission on Rhodesian opinion.

GOODALL—On March 3, 1980, Ex-RSM G. F. Goodall, aged 81 years. Mr Goodall was RSM of the 2nd Battalion.

HILLS—On March 5, 1980, Ex-Pte Edward Henry Hills (6197382), aged 69 years. 'Bumpy' Hills enlisted into the Regiment as a Band Boy on October 20, 1926, and was posted to the 1st Battalion then stationed at Catterick. He joined the Band of the 2nd Battalion in Ahmednager in 1927. He attained man's service at the end of 1928 and was appointed Bandsman. He remained with the 2nd Battalion until being transferred to the Army Reserve in October 1937.

He was called up for service in 1939 and served with the Royal Pioneer Corps until 1945. The funeral was attended by Mr A. R. Drane.

HORN—On January 19, 1980, In Pensioner W. F. Horn (16289), aged 81 years. He served with the Regiment from October 19, 1915, until September 27, 1917. He was admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on August 14, 1978.

KANE—On March 15, 1980, Ex-Pte Bernard Henry Kane (4613981), aged 62 years. He enlisted into the Regiment at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on September 29, 1936. After completing his recruit training at the Depot he joined the 2nd Battalion. On September 7, 1936, he was posted to the 1st Battalion stationed in Hong Kong. He joined

'C' Company and was with that Company when he was taken POW on December 25, 1941. He was a trade tested Driver Mechanic, Class III. After a short spell as a POW in Shamshuipo Camp, Hong Kong, he was moved to a POW Camp in Tokyo, Japan, where he remained until being repatriated to UK October 27, 1945. He was transferred to Section B Army Reserve on May 15, 1946, having served 9 years 229 days. He was discharged with an Exemplary character. The funeral was attended by Mr H. J. Mellor, Mr J. Milroy and Mr D. Matthews.

LOCKWOOD—On January 13, 1980, Maj Alfred Frank Lockwood, ERD, JP, aged 83 years. His Officers' Club joining form shows that he served with the 2nd Battalion February 1929, to September 21, 1939. I can find no trace of him in my records, can anyone help?

LOUGHRAN—On February 4, 1980, Ex-Cpl Thomas Loughran (3596154) aged 68 years. He served with the 1st Battalion from 1947 to 1953. He also saw service with the Border Regt 1930-38; Durham Light Infantry 1940-45; Corps of Military Police 1945-46; Queen's Royal Regt 1953-56.

MARTIN—During October/November 1979, tragically, Mrs Madge Martin, mother of 2/Lt E. W. Martin, who died in Japan on June 7, 1951, from wounds received when serving with the 1st Battalion in Korea. Col A. M. Man, kept in touch with Mrs Martin until her death.

MORDEN—On March 25, 1980, Lt Anthony Morden, aged 44 years. Lt Morden joined the 1st Battalion in Cyprus after completion of training at Eaton Hall OCTU in January 1957 and returned to UK in November 1958, on completion of his National Service. He was a fine hockey player and represented the Battalion. The funeral was attended by Lt Col and Mrs Hewson who represented Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby and the Regimental Association.

The mother of Tony, Mrs Peggy Morden, will be well remembered by members of the 1st Battalion, for her work for the WVS in Hong Kong and Korea.

PATTERSON—On April 30, 1980, Ex-C/Sgt E. Patterson, aged 74 years. C/Sgt Patterson served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions.

PEARCE GOULD—On December 8, 1979, The Reverend (Lt Col) Peter Leslie Pearce Gould, OBE, MA, aged 60 years. Lt Col Pearce Gould, after Rossall School, Christ Church College, Oxford, and (from September 1939) 165 OCTU, Dunbar, joined 2/8th Middlesex as a Second Lieutenant in February 1940. He was Adjutant of the Battalion—by then renumbered as 1 Middlesex—from January 1944 to June 1945, ie, including the whole North West Europe campaign. After Staff appointments as a DAQMG in India and at HQ South East Asia Land Forces from December 1945 to June 1947, he attended the Staff College, Camberley, in 1948, and was then a DAAG at the War Office until mid-1951, when he became Adjutant of 7 Middlesex for nearly two years. There followed 1½ years as a DAQMG at HQ British Commonwealth Forces, Korea, but he returned to 1 Middlesex as Adjutant from the beginning of 1955 until 1956, in Austria and Cyprus. He served as a GSO2 at HQ Southern Command from December 1956 to November 1958 and was then 2IC of 1 Middlesex at Hameln in BAOR throughout 1959 and 1960. From January 1961 to March 1962 he was a GSO2, at first seconded to the West Indian Regiment in Jamaica and later with the Federal Defence Forces, West Indies. This was followed by nearly 2½ years of happy and very successful service as Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, the Trinidad and Tobago Regiment, from April 1962 to June 1964. His last Army appointment was as an AQMG at HQ Eastern Command from August 1964 to July 1967, during which he was awarded a very well deserved OBE. If he had not resigned his commission in 1967, to take holy orders, he would certainly have attained higher rank and continued successes in the army.

Peter Pearce Gould attended Cuddesdon Theological College, where the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Runcie, was his Principal and thought highly of him. He was ordained in 1969 and served as a Curate at St Mary, Redcliffe, in Bristol, where his happiness was made complete by meeting Carole; they were married in Wells Cathedral by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. He became Rector of Backwell, near Bristol, in March 1973. Hugh was born in 1975 and Anna in 1979. To Peter's great sorrow and the immense regret of the whole Parish he had to resign from Backwell in December 1978 owing to ill-health.

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His Memorial Service at Backwell on January 5, 1980, was attended by Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, and many members of the Regiment and their families.

'P.G.' was loved and deeply respected wherever he went, and especially in the Army, to which he gave 28 years of outstanding service. Though his studies at Oxford were cut short by the outbreak of War, he brought to the Regiment a trained historian's mind, as apt to solve administrative problems as to devise the dramatised presentation of Regimental Battle-Honours, including Albuhera—which none who saw them will ever forget. His energy and organising ability were justly renowned; as an example, he personally formed his Trinidad and Tobago Battalion and within about six weeks brought it to the level of a Royal Visit, with Band and Drums on parade. He set standards for us all in conscientiousness, discipline, straightforward directness, generous friendship, and genuine care for all who served with him. He was a first-class sportsman, both on and off the cricket and rugby fields. We shall miss him immeasurably—especially, but not only, each year at the Albuhera service in St Paul's and the Armistice/Remembrance service at the Guildhall and Westminster Abbey—as will Rossall School (of whose Council he was Chairman) and of course all his family. We shall not see his like again.

PEDLAR—On March 2, 1980, ex-RQMS Kenneth A. Pedlar (6208715), aged 60 years. Ken Pedlar was a stalwart of the 9th Battalion and a cheery, successful host as a publican. His houses were always a welcome temporary rest for service personnel, both serving and retired. On display he had a fairly comprehensive display of Regimental badges which always caused interested comments. When landlord of 'The Albion' in Union Street, Barnet, he made a special point of attending to the needs of the late John Schlencker, DCM, MM, a 4th Battalion veteran, who lived 12 doors away. From the Albion, he moved to 'The Swan', High Street, Watford. It was on his last day as landlord, that he collapsed, and died. He was due to retire the next day. The chapel at Golders Green Crematorium was crowded at the funeral service, among the mourners being Lt Col John Doyle, Maj Dick Smith, Albert Barnden, Len Biddlecombe, Charlie Brown, Joe Denning, Frank Leaves, Ted Lockyer, Reggie Meers, Bill Rafe who had worked for Ken for so many years, and Ted Thomas. As so often happens at a soldier's funeral, it rained at the end of the service. It appears that not only do the family and friends feel sadness, but the heavens weep as well.

MAJ DICK SMITH

PARSONS—During early part of 1980, Maj E. S. C. Parsons, MC. Although he was a member of the Regimental Officers' Club I have no details of his service. Even the Curator has failed to solve this one. Can anyone help?

POLLARD—On May 30, 1980, Lt Col John Pollard, MBE, aged 48 years. Full obituary will be published in the next issue of the *Diehards Newsletter*.

PROSSER—On June 5, 1980, ex-QMS Edmund Wenham Prosser (G/1187), aged 87 years. 'Ted' Prosser was one of the patriotic Englishmen who rushed to the Colours on the outbreak of war in August 1914. On completion of his Recruit Training, he was posted to the 2nd Battalion in January 1915, taking part in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle on March 10, 1915, where our guns put over the heaviest barrage of fire so far in the war. The battalion were facing the Prussian Guard, doughty fighting men, many of whom had to surrender to the 2nd Battalion as depicted in a War Artists' sketch in *The Times* History of the War. The cost to the battalion was nine officers killed and seven wounded and 70 Other Ranks killed and 388 Other Ranks wounded and missing. One of the wounded was Ted Prosser. On recovering from his wound, he rejoined the battalion in the Line at Aubers Ridge, fighting with them throughout the Battle of Loos, Bois Grenier, etc, up to November 1915, when he was wounded whilst on a fighting patrol. This wound put him in the Base Hospital until May 1916, when, on being passed as fit he was posted to the 1st Battalion with whom he fought in the Somme battles which opened on July 1, 1916, and continued until the November. It was at Bazentin-le-Petit on July 17 that Ted Prosser was wounded for the third time. He told me in after years how Capt Bucknall—now Lt Gen G. C. Bucknall—commanded the battalion in the action, and was adamant that 'C' Company took the brunt.

His wound was a 'Brighty' one, he being evacuated to England. On discharge from hospital, he was posted to the 6th (Special Reserve) Battalion at Chatham on November 2, 1916. Three weeks later he was on his way back to the Line. This time he was posted to the 4th Battalion where he met that redoubtable soldier, CSM A. Warboys, MC, DCM, MM, a regular soldier who became a professional footballer. The admiration for his sergeant-major was of the highest quality half a century later, as he recounted to me the incidents of his service. Ted Prosser's last fight was at Ypres in 1917 during the Kemmel battle, where Alfred Warboys took command of the company after all the officers had become casualties. By this time, his wounds had affected his hearing and he was partially deaf. He was posted to 3rd Army Headquarters and employed as a cook to the Officers' Mess. A good cook, his talents were nevertheless wasted so he was appointed QMS at the Headquarters Stores, where remained until the end of the war. Returning home on the cessation of hostilities, he was demobilised in May, 1919.

After the war he went to Canada where all his possessions were lost in a forest fire, including his 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. These, we were able to get replaced in 1968 when he regained contact with the Regimental Association. He was then living in the West Country, and very much a waterman. In Devon and Cornwall, he encouraged youth to be proud and efficient and aware of their heritage. Teaching them the art of sailing, oarsmanship, and the relative crafts of boats and the sea. A much admired and respected elder citizen, he did not

suffer fools gladly, and was forthright in his words and actions. After his decease and funeral, a number of young chaps whom he had taught to be men, held a small memorial service for him. This gesture was the measure of the regard in which he was held.

Let us be thankful we breed men such as these.

MAJ DICK SMITH

SILLS—On June 1, 1980, ex-Sgt Herbert Samuel Sils (TF/3878, 22140 and 6192185) aged 80 years. Bert Sils enlisted on September 11, 1916, enrolling as a Territorial soldier in the 3/7th Battalion, a Reserve Battalion of our 7th (Imperial Service) Battalion who were then in the Line in France. Too young for active service, and at a time when changes in the establishment were being made, he was sent home to await recall. Called up for service May 25, 1917, he was posted to the 32nd Training Reserve, then stationed at Gorleston. On completion of his training, he was posted to the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and allotted the regimental number 30672. Whilst undergoing his training, he shone as a sportsman, winning a silver medal awarded by the Amateur Athletic Association at the Military Meeting of 1917. For his service in the trenches he was awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal 1914-19. Discharged on July 6, 1919, he immediately re-enlisted into the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment on July 7, 1919 and allotted the regimental number 22140 which on the introduction of Army Numbers in 1920, was replaced by 6192185.

At the time of his re-enlistment, the 1st Battalion were at the Depot, Mill Hill, moving to Clipstone Camp, Notts, where the battalion were detailed for Strike Duty, in August 1919. Two months later, the battalion occupied Milton Barracks, Gravesend, where LCpl Sils became a member of the Battalion Athletic team and a valuable performer in 'D' Company football team. At Dover the following year, Cpl Sils was awarded his Third Class Certificate of Education, and found time to win a regimental sports medal in silver as a footballer and a bronze medal of the Royal Navy and Army Boxing Association. In January 1921, Bert Sils changed from his track gear and buckled on his equipment when the 1st Battalion moved to Cologne as part of the Army of Occupation, being stationed in Kronprinz Barracks. Two months later, he was in Silesia for the Plebiscite returning to Cologne in April. Just two days after their return, the battalion was sent to England for Strike Duty, where Cpl Sils did trojan work at Dover when the Reservists who had been recalled to the Colours arrived for duty. When all had quietened down, and the Reservists demobilised, Cpl Sils was with the battalion who arrived in Belfast on June 17 and moved to Cootehill after the Opening of the Northern Irish Parliament. At Cootehill, the battalion were part of the 26th Provisional Brigade, where again Cpl Sils' name so often appeared amongst the winners at athletics, especially in the sprints. Sprinting was no doubt a relief to him as 'D'

Company were occupying the Workhouse which is remarked upon as 'being in a very dilapidated state'. Little more need be added!

The last day of January 1922, Bert Sils was again in Milton Barracks, Gravesend, when the battalion returned to the mainland, where he was stationed until April when he was posted to Silesia once more. In July he was posted to Kalk, Cologne, and was discharged on August 25, 1922, on the reduction of Forces under the Geddes Axe. At this time we lost our 3rd and 4th Regular Battalions as well as the two Special Reserve battalions already being names only, in the Army List.

During World War II, Bert Sils was again in uniform as a Sergeant in the Home Guard, serving from March 1942 until December 1944, for which service he was awarded the Defence Medal to add to his BWM and VM for World War I.

A fine sportsman in his youth and an affable comrade in his later years, he was a boon companion to his cronies, who will remember him with affection.

MAJ DICK SMITH

TOMKINSON—On February 6, 1980, Capt William Robert Tomkinson, aged 70 years. Bill Tomkinson was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Regiment, June 1, 1939, joined our 2/8th Battalion then under the command of Lt Col R. D. Sherbrooke-Walker. Appointed T/Lieutenant August 24, 1939, he was promoted to War Substantive rank, January 1, 1941. Originally on defence duties in the London area, the Battalion became part of the garrison in Northern Ireland in December 1940, the CO at this time being the late Col F. Walden. By this time Lt Tomkinson was the battalion Intelligence Officer, and known to his brother officers for his mannerism as 'The Bishop'. He left the battalion on promotion to Captain, July 6, 1942, and joined the Phantom Signals. His civilian occupation was Chartered Accountant and later Company Director, and Senior Partner of his firm when he retired January 1, 1975. Failing eyesight in his later years did not diminish his zest for living, he never grumbled at the frustration caused by this infirmity but enjoyed a game of cards, using special large cards to play Bridge. He enjoyed his war service and remained in touch with his brother Officers through a small dinner club, one of whom Col Desmond Ellis, I am indebted for these notes.

MAJ DICK SMITH

WALKER—On December 22, 1979, In Pensioner (Ex-CSM) Joseph A. Walker, MM, (L/13323 and 6188727), aged 86 years.

'Hokey' Walker was one of the two remaining 4th Battalion NCOs who fought at Mons, August 23, 1914, where he was a Sergeant. He enlisted into the Regiment on January 13, 1911, and served until January 14, 1930. He was admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on December 13, 1976.

WALKER—On January 13, 1980, Ex-Pte William Leonard Walker, aged 83 years. He was born on December 25, 1896, and joined the Regiment in 1912. He was a member of 'B' Company, 4th Battalion, at Raglan Barracks, Devonport, when war was declared on August 4, 1914. As soon as he reached his 18th birthday he joined the 4th Battalion in France. Sorely wounded, he was discharged in 1916, as unfit for further military service.

WILLIAMS—On April 25, 1980, Col J. B. Williams, MBE, TD, DL. Col Williams saw service with the 9th Battalion, Royal Fusiliers TA and 604 LAA/SL Regiment RA. He was a member of Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club.

BOOKS

THE IMPOSSIBLE VICTORY

by Brian Harpur

The battle for the River Po in April 1945, was not just the climatic battle of the Italian Campaign. It brought about the first major surrender of German forces to the Western Allies at a time when, as Churchill said, it could be 'singled out' as a most remarkable victory. Nearly a million enemy laid down their arms.

It was a battle originally planned not to take place at all. It involved no less than 20 different nations and ethnic groups ranging from Americans and British to Brazilians, Poles, Jews, Indians, Maoris, Nepalese, and Japanese-Americans. In scale it was massive, with half a million front line troops on each side being committed. Not the least of its shocks was when 100,000 men on the Allied side nearly pulled out on the eve of the battle.

With Gen Alexander in overall command and with Gen Mark Clark commanding 15 Army Group which comprised the American 5th Army under General Truscott and Britain's famous 8th Army under Gen Richard McCreery, there had to be the highest degree of imaginative planning and co-operation between all three services. These were sometimes lacking between the senior commanders at crucial phases but in this final battle they were triumphantly achieved.

The author was a junior officer in the battle and in the long campaign that led up to it. He analyses the tensions and controversies in higher command in the light of talks with Gen Alexander, and after the war with Gen Mark Clark, Gen Sir Richard McCreery, and the redoubtable Gen Wladslaw Anders who commanded the large Polish contingent.

On a different level he describes the campaign from the viewpoint of the soldiers he commanded and whose life he shared. With great simplicity he recaptures the grim realities of warfare, through Cassino, through the bitter winter campaign of 1944-45, the mines, the booby traps, the discomfort, the slit trenches, the cold and the mud. The role of Tommy Atkins in World War II has never been more graphically described. The author has set out in fact not only to detail a fascinating battle but to do so in a manner which will enable anybody, young or old, who did not see active service to understand what it is all about.

BRIAN HARPUR was born in Dublin April 1918. Youngest child in family of six of a Church of Ireland parson. Educated Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, N. Ireland, and London University. Joined Middlesex Regiment as a private soldier in 1939 and was commissioned in 1940 when he was posted to the 1st Bn Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment—a machine gun battalion. He saw foreign service in Tunis, Sicily and Italy 1943-45. Was Mentioned-in-Despatches at Cassino and was awarded the Military Cross in the River Senio battle April 1945. On demobilisation he rejoined Associated Newspaper Group Ltd and was made a Director of the main Board in 1964. His hobbies include painting, travelling, and the fanatical pursuit of tennis every weekend in all weathers. Sole founder and organiser of Halley's Comet Society, which he started up in 1976 in anticipation of the Comet's return to our skies in 1986. Member of Worshipful Company of Coach-makers and Coach Harness Makers.

Clubs include the Garrick, Bath, MCC, Saints and Sinners, and City Livery.

He has been twice married, with a grown up family of a daughter and three sons, and he now lives in Chelsea with his second wife.

Published by William Kimber & Co Ltd, Godolphin House, 22a Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AE. Price £7.95.

REGIMENTAL MUSIC OF THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

This book has been compiled by Maj (QM) L. M. B. Wilson, Queen's Regiment and records the regimental music of all the former regiments and the Queen's Regiment. It is a very interesting book and the Foreword by Maj Gen Rowley Mans, Colonel The Queen's Regiment is repeated to whet the appetite of admirers of military music.

'It gives me particular pleasure to commend this admirable book for it is written by one of my oldest friends in the Regiment.

This is a work by someone who we all know is devoted to his Regiment. Les Wilson has put in an enormous amount of his own time, and indeed money, to accumulate the material for this book. The result is a most valuable addition to our Regimental history.

I believe that more interest is being evinced today than ever before in the military history of our nation. But the broad canvas of such a record cannot be painted accurately unless there exists a detailed framework for its base. It is books like these that make an essential contribution to this framework.

Often music and customs go together and we learn how this was, especially in the forbears of the Queen's Regiment. Many customs that are now enshrined in our Regimental lore came about from the whims and even endearing eccentricities of commanding officers. I was delighted to read that two Generals had enough time to sit down themselves and compose a Regimental march. Would that such an age could return!

Down the ages music has always played a major part in Army life. Indeed it might be said with some justification that military bands have been

the Pied Piper of the Recruiters. The appeal today is as strong as it ever was, a fact that had to be re-emphasised in recent years to those intent on reducing the number of our Bands. It is a happy coincidence that this informative volume appears in the same year as we are refurbishing the scarlet of our Regimental Bands and Drums. We are intent on adding to the colour to the glory of our music.

On behalf of the Queen's Regiment, and all those aficionados of military music, I wish to express my gratitude to Maj Wilson for putting on record such an important part of our Regimental history'.

Copies of this book can be obtained on application to RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY. Cost is £2.50. Cheque/PO made payable to The Queen's Regiment A/C No. 0579577.

PICTURE'S MARCHING STORY

The Middlesex Regiment marched into Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, 75 years ago this month... and the anniversary was celebrated with a cocktail party and buffet luncheon in the Officers' Mess.

The barracks are now the headquarters of the Postal and Courier Depot of the Royal Engineers and the Commandant, Col Rolf James, marked the anniversary with a presentation to Maj Dick Smith,

of Devonshire Road, Mill Hill, curator of the Middlesex Regiment Museum.

Col James, right in our picture, gave the major a framed print of the Officers' Mess. Maj Smith, below, who joined the army as a 15-year-old bandboy in 1919, first went to the barracks 61 years ago—and still has an office there.

His son, Mervyn, who is a colour sergeant in the Queen's Regiment in Germany—the Queen's are the descendants of the old Diehards—is the fifth generation of the family to serve in the Regiment.



Dick Smith... as a 15-year-old bandboy



