



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 45

JUNE 1981

PRICE 25p

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FORECAST OF EVENTS 1981

- 2 Oct 2/7th Bn Annual Dinner at Victory Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
- 6 Oct Middlesex Regiment Golfing Society Autumn Meeting, North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, Hants.
- 11 Oct Regimental Assn. Church Parade at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.
- 7 Nov Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall and Westminster Abbey. Assemble 10.50 a.m.
- 8 Nov 10 a.m. Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, followed by reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.
10.45 a.m. 7th Bn Wreath Laying Ceremony at Hornsey Parish Church.
3 p.m. 2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St. Nicholas Church, Chiswick.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

We send our heartiest congratulations to the following members of the Regiment on their recent awards:

Capt. M.G. Brock, CBE	Served with 2/7th Bn
Capt. J.H. Garrard, MC	Served with 2/8th and resuscitated 1st Bn

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 Bn Regimental Museum Fund to be held for maintaining and/or acquiring exhibits for their display in the Museum.
- (b) In memory of the late Lt. Gen. G.C. Bucknall, CB, MC, DL : S.E. Allott, Mrs. D.C. Bucknall, Maj. K.R. McK Biggs, Col. I.R. Burrows, Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey, Maj. J.G. Chiverall, Col. A.S.J. de S. Clayton, D.N. Cornock-Taylor, Mrs. A.J. Cotton, Mrs. M del Court, Maj. R.J.P. Cummins, Maj. P. Donovan, Col. W.D. Ellis, Lt. Col. E.A.H. Jeffcoat, W.A. Johnson, M.A. Hennell, D.M. Owen, Maj. B St. G.A. Reed, Lt. Col. E.P. Shanks, Col. M.H. Summers, Maj. Gen. Sir John Willoughby.
- (c) Mr. Doughy Baker, Mr. T.A. Barton, Maj. W.H. Bean, Mr. C. Burgess, Mr. R.R. Chaplin, Col. A.S.J. de S. Clayton (in memory of the late Brig. E.E.F. Baker), Mr. A.G.W. Cooper, Maj. A.R. Cooper, Mr. C.J. Cox, Mr. B.A. Crawley, Capt. W.H. Craydon, Capt. G.D. Cripps, Col. W.D. Ellis (in memory of the late Brig. E.E.F. Baker), Mr. E.J. Garner, Mr. A.C. Gill, Mr. F.G. Gurney, Mr. D. Hardcastle, Mr. R.H. Johns, Mr. C.T. Kingston, Mr. P.F. Maloney, Capt. J.R.C. Riseley, Mr. P.J. Stewart, Col. M.H. Summers (in memory of the late Brig. E.E.F. Baker), Mr. A.E. Tuthill, Maj. M. Wild, Mr. L.F. Woodman.

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 : Major W.H. Bean, Mr. E.J. Bermingham, Maj. F.H. Blackman, Mr. C.C. Bradish, Mr. A.A. Bradley, Mr. C. Burgess, Mr. R.R. Chaplin, Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey, Maj. J.C. Clark, Mr. R.A. Clarke, Mr. H. Clyde, Mr. E.J. Collier, Mr. A.G.W. Cooper, Mr. C.J. Cox, Mr. H. Coxhedge, Mr. B.A. Crawley, Capt. G.D. Cripps, Mr. W.J. Crump, Mr. R.J. Cubitt, Mr. L.G. Darker, Mr. F.J. Dickinson, Mr. L.D. Eggleton, Maj. R.A. Elson, Mr. G.F. Farley, Mr. E.J. Garner, Mr. R.H. Gilbertson, Mr. A.C. Gill, Mr. A. Goodge, Lt. E.C. Graham, Maj. H.H. Grey, Mr. K. Gwynne, Mr. M.A.G. Hewitt, Mr. G.C. Higgins, Mr. A.G. Horne, Mr. R.G. Hugman, Mr. A.R. Jenkins, Maj. R.J. Jenkins, Mr. R.H. Johns, Mr. C.T. Kingston, Mr. P.F. Maloney, Mr. J.C. Morgan, Mr. H. Oxley, Mr. A.L. Page, Mr. J.A. Poole, Mr. J.M. Pritchard, Mr. M.C. Quinn, Mr. J. Ridler, Capt. J.R.C. Riseley, Mr. T.H. Rockall, Mr. A. Rose, Mr. F.J. Sadler, Mr. S.F. Sibley, Mr. P.J. Stewart, Mr. H.F. Stillwell, Col. M.H. Summers, Mr. K.V. Sutton, Mr. L.W. Taylor, Mr. A.E. Tuthill, Mr. A.R. Whinney, Maj. M. Wild, Maj. V. Williams, Mr. L.F. Woodman, Mr. G.H. Woodward, Maj. D.M.W. Young.

DONATIONS

The Queen's Regiment have donated a Sharp Treble Bell to Canterbury Cathedral at a cost of £1543.00. In response to their appeal the Regimental Association have donated £100.00.

BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January to 31 December 1980, the sum of £3171.46 was spent on assisting 71 members of the Regiment.

ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Albuhera Service of Remembrance was held in the Regimental Memorial Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, 16th May, at 2.30 p.m. The Service was taken by Archdeacon Frank Harvey and the Address was by the Rev. W.E.B. Jones, formerly Chaplain with the 1st Bn in Korea. It is most pleasing and gratifying to record that more members and their families than ever attended this year. A significant factor perhaps may well have been the date and also the installation of a new and attractive plaque which helped to identify the original Regimental Colours which are now in the care and keeping of the Cathedral and hang in our Regimental Baptistery. The plaque has been designed by the Surveyor of the Fabric in consultation with our President and should be of great assistance in identifying the connection of the regiment with the Cathedral. The Regimental Association is now a corporate member of the Friends of St. Paul's but are greatly in need of individual members who would be willing to act as guides, etc., therefore it would be particularly appropriate to undertake this worthy task and anyone willing to help should apply to Johanna Peebles, Secretary of the Friends of St. Paul's, The Chapter House, St. Paul's Churchyard, London EC4M 8AD.

ANNUAL REUNION

The Annual Reunion took place on Saturday 16 May, at the T.A. Centre Deansbrook Road, Edgware. The reunion was very well attended and I feel sure was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Sadly at the end of the evening just as he was making his way out of the Drill Hall to go home, old soldier "Shiner" Wright collapsed and died. "Shiner" was a regular at all functions and that afternoon had been with us at the Albuhera Service of Remembrance in St. Paul's Cathedral. He was 85 years of age and served with our 4th Bn at Mons.

I am sorry that the Annual General Meeting was a lengthy business but it was very important that the Rules of the Regimental Association be brought up to date.

The afternoon tea at the Royal Commonwealth Society was a success. It certainly helped bridge the gap that always occurs between the Remembrance Service and the Reunion. The attendance was 51.

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The Officers' Club Dinner was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London W1, on Friday 15 May 1981.

In accordance with our usual custom widows and nearest relatives of former officers were invited as guests and the following attended:

Mrs. Molly Bower and Miss Jean Bower, widow and daughter of Major G.A.H. Bower, Mrs. M. Crawford, widow of Col. M. Crawford, Mrs. J. Pollard, widow of Lt. Col. J.S.B. Pollard.

Members present were:

Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey and Mrs. Chattey, Col. I.D. Brotherton and Mrs. Brotherton, Maj. Gen. Sir John Willoughby, Brig. B.A.M. Pielow and Mrs. Pielow, Col. I.H. Battye and Mrs. Battye, Col. I.R. Burrows and Miss B. Colley, Col. A.S.J. de S. Clayton and Mrs. Clayton, Col. H.J.A. Moore, Col. A.R. Waller, Lt. Col. G.L. Fox, Lt. Col. P.J. Hall and Mrs. Hall, Lt. Col. R.D. Hutchings and Mrs. Hutchings, Lt. Col. E.A.H. Jeffcoat, Maj. M.J. Beaumont, Maj. A.E. Bull and Mrs. Bull, Maj. B.A. Carlston, Maj. R.A.J. Cheffins and Mrs. Cheffins, Maj. H.E. Couch and Mrs. Couch, Lt. J.P.A. Day, Capt. M.J.S. Doran and Mrs. Doran, Capt. J.S.C. Flavell and Mrs. Flavell, Maj. C.L. Lawrence and Mrs. Lawrence, Maj. R.E.B. Morris and Mrs. Morris, Maj. R.W.J. Smith and Mrs. Smith, Major A.E.F. Waldron and Mrs. Waldron.

9TH BN THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO)

The Triennial Dinner of the Officers of the 9th Bn, was held at the Army and Navy Club, on Tuesday 14 October 1980, under the Chairmanship of Lt. Col. G.L. Fox, TD, DL.

Twenty four members attended a most successful and enjoyable evening enhanced by the presence of five Guests, Maj. Gen. Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, Maj. Gen. C.M.M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey, OBE, Maj. R.W.J. Smith, MBE and Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE.

After the Loyal Toast the Chairman proposed the health of the guests saying what a great pleasure it was to have with us such a distinguished group of "Diehards". Some 40 odd years ago during his command the Army Council gave us an option on our change of role to remain part of the Regiment and this was accepted in no uncertain terms only to be reversed by a compulsory transfer two years later. Thus our guests presence tonight confirms the fact that our wish to remain part of the Regiment works out in practice.

Despite a local rule of no speeches The Chairman followed his usual practice of making a few remarks opening them by reminding those present that he joined the battalion 65½ years ago when the distinguished Generals dining with us were tucked up in their cots. He then reported apologies for absence and greetings from Ken Harcastle (not too fit), John Dear (recovering from an operation), L.F. Shaw (resident in Italy), Tony Jones (on holiday in Corfu).

He expressed a special welcome and thanks to Maj. Gen. B.P. Hughes, CB, CBE, the last Honorary Colonel of the Bn for travelling up from Dorset to attend. He reminded us that thanks to his influence some years ago this dinner was held at the Gunner Mess in Woolwich with the Master Gunner in attendance and our Colours in the Mess. A great and memorable occasion. He added that in his book the General was a top breed of Gunner as he had been a Mountain Gunner. Our Bn or part of it had actually been in action with support from a Mountain Gun Battery and few T.A. units had done this.

In conclusion he thanked David Dowlen for organising the dinner so well as he always did and particularly this year as a month before the dinner he suffered a stroke and with great determination had recovered sufficiently to attend the dinner. His health was proposed with wishes for a complete recovery and thanks for his efforts.

The following members attended:

Maj. Gen. B.P. Hughes, CB, CBE, Lt. Col. G.L. Fox, TD, DL, Maj. P. Blair, TD, Maj. D.A. Bond, Wing Comdr. P.J. Cundy, DSO, DFC, AFC, TD, Dr. B.T. Davis, Lt. Col. D.E. Dowlen, Lt. Col. J.R. Doyle, TD, Lt. Col. A.G.B. Drabble, TD, Col. H.W.W. Gray, MBE, TD, Maj. H.H. Grey, TD, Lt. Col. H.G. Hansen, Maj. H.J. Hesketh, Capt. L.G. Holgate, Maj. R. Hughes, Capt. J.T. Kemp, Dr. W. MacGregor, Maj. F.J. Millard, MBE, TD, Lt. G. Reeson, His Honour Judge John Slack, TD, Capt. P.K.G. Spencer, Maj. J.R. Talbot, Maj. D.C. Tomlins, Capt. R. Wheatley.

F.J.M.

KOREAN WAR

The annual wreath laying ceremony, organised by the Korean Embassy in memory of those who died in the Korean War, took place at Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 23 June 1981.

Maj. Gen. Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, and Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey, OBE, attended and represented the Regiment.

51ST HIGHLAND DIVISION ALLIANCE DINNER

Maj. Alan Carter informs me that he attended the 51st Highland Division Dinner on 20 February 1981, together with Maj. Ben Bolt, Maj. Tiggit Hughes and Maj. Lofty Pearson.

For the first time in its 79 years the Reply to the Toast of "The 51st Highland Division" was given by the only English Regiment ever to do so, the "Die Hards" and that Maj. Tiggit Hughes responded in a magnificent reply which received universal acclaim from all present and filled those at the Middlesex end of the table with an immense feeling of pride.

Also with the Middlesex party was Dr. Paul Barclay, now a senior G.P. in Cromer, who was R.M.O. to 2 Seaforth in 51st Division and so knew the 1/7th Bn well.

ALBUHERA DAY 1981

The 170th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera was commemorated at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, at 11 a.m. on 16 May 1981, with a ceremony at the Regimental War Memorial, organised by Maj. R.W.J. Smith.

The ceremony was attended by Capt. A.J. Quinn, R.E., Maj. R.W.J. Smith and his party of Die Hards.

Albuhera Greetings were received from:

Lt. Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC, LL.D.
Maj. Gen. C.M.M. Man, CB, OBE, MC.
Director & All Ranks Postal & Courier Services, R.E.
DPCS, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

1/7TH BN 1939 - 1945

How time flies, we have now met annually for the last 19 years, fought battles over and over again, yet a lot of us look forward so much to our next meeting, to meet again the comrades of those far off days.

Our numbers are not as good as they could be. Our committee work very hard to get this yearly meeting and Dinner organised, and our Chairman has done very well getting so many officers to attend. Blanco White and Eddie Johnson could be helped a lot more if you, and by you I mean all who have served in our Bn, will only give them your full support.

The 1/7th have always been second to none and you are not too old to carry on that tradition. So if you know any member who has not been to our dinner lately, do try to find out why and give them Blanco White's telephone number (01 723 7437) so that he can write to them.

Now, back to the dinner. Quite a lot of our members said it was one of the best and I agree, thank you Blanco, do keep up the good work. I was so happy to see old and new friends, but did miss Maj. Dick Smith who I understand was poorly. We all wish you well Dick and look forward to seeing you next year.

It is said that old friends are the best friends one can have, but we do need new friends and we have one in the new Hornsey Company Commander, Maj. P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, it was good to have him with us, also his C.S.M. and we take this opportunity to thank him very much for all his help. Thank you Sir.

Our Chairman, Brig. Basil Rackham, was as usual in top form and we pray that he will remain in that form for many years to come.

Sorry I have gone on so much, but you do know my feelings for you lot of rascals.

God bless you all, as always.

Rocky Knight.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

The 1st Bn returned to Howe Bks, Canterbury, in April after a very successful six months operational tour in Belize. On Saturday 1 August they exercised The Regiment's "freedom" by marching through the City of Canterbury and on Sunday 2 August they hosted a Grand Reunion of the Regimental family in the Barracks.

The 2nd Bn, now commanded by Lt. Col. Peter Packham, MBE, based at Colchester on 8 July exercised The Regiment's "Privilege" by marching through the City of London with Colours flying, drums beating and bayonets fixed. This was followed by all those taking part being invited to lunch in the Middlesex Guildhall.

The 3rd Bn moved to St. Barbara Barracks, Fallingbowl, BAOR, in March. Lt. Col. Richard Graham, MBE, assumed command from Lt. Col. Gavin Bulloch, MBE, early August.

The 5th (V) Bn commanded by Lt. Col. Richard Dixon, TD, are having their annual camp this year in Denmark, during which they are hoping for a visit by our Allied Colonel in Chief, HM Queen Margrethe.

On 9th, 10th and 11th June The Queen's Divisional Regiments (QUEENS, RRF and ROYAL ANGLIAN) Beat Retreat on Horse Guards Parade. All our Bands and Corps of Drums participated (there were approximately 600 musicians in all on parade) and on the 9th (Queen's Regiment Night), it was good to see so many friends supporting this spectacular event from the Stands.

The 6/7th (V) Bn on 16 July were presented with their new Colours by Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk at Ardingly. Two days later the last of the old Colours - originally presented to 4 RWK(TA) and which were inherited by 6/7th Queens - were laid up in All Saints Church, Maidstone.

These ceremonies constitute Lt. Col. Mike Duddings' "swan song"; his 2IC - Maj. Richard Putman, TD, will be taking over command in August.

DEPOT THE QUEEN'S DIVISION

A party of thirteen Die Hards from the Royston area travelled by mini bus to the annual reunion at Edgware on Albuhera Day. The party comprised George Cripps, Mitch and Mrs. Fordham, John Hall, Cpl. and Mrs. Hull, Charles Hale, John and Mrs. Nihill, Travers-Hill, John and Mrs. Young and myself. We all enjoyed ourselves and very much appreciated the efforts of the organisers.

Since the last newsletter there have been several departures from the Depot. CSM Bob Bartle, now

fully recovered from his injury has joined 2 Queens in Colchester. Sgt. Vincent Daley is now with 3 Queens in Fallingbowl. John Doran, the superintending clerk, after a short stay, left in February on commissioning into the Royal Pioneer Corps. Maj. Bob Bartlett is in the process of handing over B Company and PMC Officers Mess and will shortly be posted to Brecon. Cpl. Harry Hicks, Band, has recently left the army and resides close to the barracks in Bassingbourn cum Kneesworth. On the credit side I am afraid it is a nil return.

Several years ago I gave details of a really old Die Hard, Percy Beale, who lives in Royston. I am sorry to report that his wife Rose, died recently after a long illness. Percy lives alone at 32 Green Street, Royston, but is well cared for by many friends and relatives.

In the December 1979 newsletter I reported meeting up with Ex C/Sgt John Redrup and his family who were then living in St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. Shortly after, the family moved to Tavistock in Devon. In October last year John died of a heart attack. I received this sad news from his eldest son, Christopher, who is serving in the Intelligence Corps. John is buried in Tavistock cemetery. Everyone who served with John will remember him for his likeable personality and quiet professional manner. A photograph of John taken during his army career was sent to me by Christopher, who hopes that his father's many friends will keep in contact with his mother. John's widow, Muriel, lives at 7 Courtlands Close, Tavistock, Devon.

After many attempts I was successful in persuading ex Capt. George Cripps to leave his home in North Wales and spend a few days with me during the Albuhera celebrations. Ex Cpl. Mitch Fordham, his wife Joanna and George joined me for dinner on Albuhera Day eve. Mitch was a member of George's Orderly Room staff. Quite naturally it proved to be a night of reminiscing over people and places. It is gratifying to have such wonderful memories.

It doesn't seem ten years since Ex WOII Mick Elston left the army. Mick reminded me of this fact in a lengthy letter I recently received from him. Since leaving the army Mick has been Mine Host at the "Spread Eagle" in Guildford. He and Ann would like to see more Die Hards at the Spread Eagle, where they are sure of a warm welcome.

I recently visited the home of Syd and Doreen Webb in Stevenage. Although Syd is confined to a wheelchair he is very active in many ways. The newly formed Korean Club is keeping him occupied and he plays an active part in local community work.

Maj. Ron Morris the Quartermaster at the Depot is due to retire from the army next month after a long and illustrious career. Our best wishes go to him and Elizabeth for a long and happy retirement.

I was very pleased to meet so many Die Hards at the Massed Bands Display on Horse Guards Parade on the Queen's Regiment night, 9th June.

Best wishes to Die Hards everywhere.

Capt. Ken Beale.

MIDDLESEX REGIMENT(DCO) KOREAN CLUB

A new group has been formed within the structure of the Regimental Association and will officially be known as the Middlesex Regiment(DCO) Korean Club.

The following four categories qualify for full membership:

- (i) Middlesex personnel who served with the Regiment in Korea
- (ii) Middlesex personnel who served with other units in Korea
- (iii) Ex Middlesex personnel who served with other units in Korea
- (iv) Personnel from other units who served with the Middlesex in Korea.

The President of the Club is Colonel A.M. Man, DSO, OBE and the Vice President is Maj. C.L. Lawrence, MC.

An Executive Committee has been formed and consists of:

Chairman	Mr. R.J. Yerby
Secretary	Mr. S. Webb
Treasurer	Mr. W. Rawlinson
Working member	Maj. M. Eastap
Working member	Mr. J. Watkins

All enquiries should be made to the Secretary, Mr. Syd Webb, 24 Yarmouth Road, Symonds Green, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2LW. Tel. No. 0438 69402

The next reunion takes place on Saturday 19 September 1981, at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Maj. H.T. Bartley has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted into 86th Regt. H.A.C. on 7 March 1941. In February 1943 he was commissioned to the Middlesex Regiment and posted to the 2/7th Bn with whom he served until demobilised on 20 October 1946.

Maj. Peter Bellers is now holding a Retired Officer appointment at Infantry Records, Exeter. He looks after the Records of the Queens Division.

A new member of the Regimental Association is L/Sgt. Ernest Bennett (6196327). He enlisted early 1924 and served until late 1936. The majority of his service was with the 2nd Bn, D Company. He served at Ahmednagar, Madras, Sudan, Colchester and Southsea. He volunteered for service in 1939 and was posted to 5th Beds and Herts and drafted to Singapore where he was taken P.O.W. and worked on the dreaded railway. I had the pleasure of meeting him at the Queens Regt. Reunion, Canterbury.

Another Die Hard has been traced - he is Ex Pte Arthur (Trunky) Betts (5883762) who served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong 1936-1946. He was taken P.O.W. and was in Kobe Camp, Japan. He has been an invalid for some years and is in receipt of a 100% disability pension. He now lives at Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks.

Former Musician A.A. Bradley is still trying to get a copy of the record made by the 1st Bn in 1948. Can anyone help?

Capt. Michael Brock became a Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University in October 1980.

Maj. A.B. (Alan) Carter has moved from Leicester to Cromer. I reckon impending retirement is on the cards.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Peter Cheesman on his promotion and appointment as British Liaison Officer to the German Staff College, Hamburg.

Maj. A.H. Carter has been posted to the Permanent Staff of 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regiment, Horsham, W. Sussex, 21 April 1981.

A recent correspondent was Maj. Patrick Collins who retired in 1958. After retirement he spent three years at Cambridge University where he took First Class Honours in the French and Russian Tripos. He then did two years teaching in a boarding school in Lincolnshire and then joined the staff of Oxford Polytechnic where he lectures on French nineteenth and twentieth century literature. As a result of incorporating his degree at Oxford University he is now M.A.(Cantab) and M.A.(Oxon). About ten years ago he took a B Litt at Oxford in comparative French and Russian literature. He will be retiring in two years time and hopes to be able to give more time to his hobbies - music and water colour sketching. He hopes also to be able to renew contacts with old friends in the regiment. If any old friends are ever in the Oxford area he and his wife Daphne will be delighted to see them.

Maj. and Mrs. George Dawson have recently been on holiday to San Francisco, Australia and Hong Kong.

Mr. S.C. Diamond who served as a Cpl. with B Coy, 1/8th Bn from 1939/45 sends his regards to all old friends. He has now retired and lives at Stockport, Cheshire.

Ex Pte Tony Edwards (22190001) has joined the Regimental Association. He was a National Serviceman who completed his training with the Somerset Light Infantry, Oct-Apr '50; Apr-Aug '50 KSLI and then to the 1st Bn in Korea Aug '50 to Oct '51. He is now a Senior Officer, Local Government, Architectural.

Maj. M.P. Eastap has taken an appointment with the T.A. Association of Greater London, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea SW3. He is dealing with Cadets.

Ex WOII Mick Elston tells me that former Sgt. Jeff Leat, now a publican, visited him on Albuhera Day and that they drank a Toast together, plus a few extra jars.

Gus Farley, 1/7th Bn and Ground Superintendent at Lords Cricket Ground informs me that his son who has taken an interest in military matters. To his horror he finds out that he has joined the Green Jacket Cadets. He ends up by saying "Still, there is time yet".

Mrs. Annie Firman, widow of WOII Frank Firman, has moved into a Regimental Flat at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

Another correspondent was Capt. Geoffrey Flatau who served with the 2/8th Bn in Northern Ireland and Ripon. He has now retired from business and moved to Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Capt. Mick Flynn is now serving with the 5 Field Force HQ and Signal Squadron, Osnabruck, BAOR.

Mr. R.H. Gilbertson who served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Korea sends his regards to all his old pals. He now lives at Orpington, Kent.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Richard Graham on his promotion and appointment as Commanding Officer, 3 Queens. He has taken over from another Die Hard Lt. Col. Gavin Bulloch.

Charlie Garrard tells me that he is now 86 and is finding it increasingly difficult to get about. He has recently moved to Gillingham, Kent.

Derek Hardcastle (22546927) who served with the 1st Bn in Austria and did more than his fair share of guard duties in Vienna attended the Queens Regt. Reunion at Canterbury on 2 August. If you want the best flowers of any description contact Derek Hardcastle Ltd., Stand M4 New Covent Garden Flower Market, where you will be made most welcome.

Former RSM R. Hebden (6202848) has joined the Regimental Association. He served with the 1/7th Bn 1939-39 and then 2/7th 1939-46 ending his service as RSM. He was a WO1 with the New Zealand Forces from 1952-1971. He now lives at Christchurch, New Zealand.

Ex Private K.W.J. Hewitt who served with the 1st Bn in Korea was very sorry that he was unable to attend the reunion owing to his wife being admitted to hospital. We all hope that Mrs. Hewitt is now fully recovered from her illness.

Another new member is Ex L/Cpl. Ronald Hickey (6201837). He served with A and C Companies of the 2nd Bn and during the war saw service with the Kensingtons. He is now a self employed carpenter and joiner.

Ex L/Cpl. Peter Humphrey (22725966) has joined the Regimental Association. He served with the 1st Bn 1952/55 and was with A Company. He also remembers his many guard duties in Vienna. He was a good sportsman being a member of the Bn Ski, Basket Ball and Cross Country teams. His father died of natural causes age 39 on 14 July 1941 whilst serving with the 1/7th Bn at Hornsey. He would like to hear from anyone who knew his father. He also had a brother who was a CSM with the Cadets at Hornsey from 1947/49.

Another Die Hard has surfaced. He is former Cpl. James Lucas (6196732) who served with the 2nd Bn in Ahmednagar, Madras, etc. 1924/31. He sent me a photograph of the old MG Platoon 1927/28, commanded by then Lt. M.A. Jacobs. He is now 75 and suffers a bit with his ailments. He now lives in retirement at Hythe, Kent.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Mike Legg on his promotion and appointment as D.A. Vienna.

Former Drummer Lewin, now knocking on a bit, tells me that he thoroughly enjoyed the Massed Bands Display by the Queen's Regiment on Horse Guards.

Colonel Andrew Man won a Colour Television in the SSAFA National Lottery.

Mrs. Ethel Markham, widow of C/Sgt. George Markham, has moved into a Regimental Flat at Albuhera Close, Enfield.

Doug and Mary Matthews of Albuhera Close are going on holiday to Hong Kong in late August.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is Ex Cpl. Lawrence McDonald (6202161) who enlisted as a Boy in 1935 and joined the Band of the 2nd Bn at Colchester. He was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong in 1938. In August 1939 he was selected to attend a course at the Royal School of Music, Kneller Hall, and was halfway home when war commenced. On arrival home he was posted to the Depot and became a Physical Training Instructor and then on to the 70th Bn. From there he transferred to the Police Force in Palestine where he remained until the force was disbanded in 1948. He then joined the Metropolitan Police, retiring in 1974. He is now Head Porter at a block of flats in London. Whilst serving with the Regiment he was a regular member fighting at Middle and Light Heavy Weight.

Ex Pte. Albert Moralee (6202174) has signed the Association enrolment form. His service details are 2nd Bn 1935/36, 1st Bn 1936/46 (POW Hong Kong and Japan), 2nd Bn 1947/48 and Discharge by Purchase October 1949. He is a Postal worker and lives at Edgware and we never knew.

Maj. (QM) Ron Morris retires on the 29 October 1981. He has just completed his Resettlement course. They have bought a house at New Malden, Surrey.

Congratulations to Lt. Col. Peter Packham on his promotion and appointment as Commanding Officer 2 Queens.

Brig. Tony Pielow has retired. He was the senior serving Die Hard. He has taken an important appointment with the Automobile Association at Basingstoke and has moved into a house next door. Clever stuff.

It is never too late to join the Regimental Association. Mr. C. Plumb, born 1896, who served from 1914-1919 with the 2/7th, 1/7th and 3rd Bns has enrolled. He attended the 1/7th Dinner at Hornsey in April. He tells me that his past-time is ballroom dancing and he still competes in competitions. Some chaps never give up.

Ex Pte. Alfred William Porter (490650), age 88 years, has been admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea. He served with the regiment from August 1914 to January 1918.

WOII P. Ryan, MM, Company Sergeant Major of C Company, 1 Queen's has made the effort and joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted on 5 November 1962, joining the Royal Engineers with whom he served until 1964. He then transferred and was posted to the 1st Bn joining A Company. After 4 years with the Signal Platoon he joined the Mortar Platoon of the 4th Bn until its disbandment. He was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry whilst serving with the Queen's Regiment in Northern Ireland.

Maj. Barry Reed has been elected Master of the Worshipful Company of Glovers, one of the City livery companies.

Former C/Sgt. Ernie Stubbings who lives at Sudbury, Suffolk, sends his regards to all his old friends. It was very nice indeed to see him and his wife at the Queen's Regt. Reunion, together with George Pocock and wife.

A newly joined member of the Regimental Association is Ex Cpl. L.J. Temple (23545979). He enlisted on 3 March 1958 and was discharged to pension on 16 August 1980. He served with A Company 1st Bn from October 1958 to August 1964 and thereafter with the Royal Sussex, 1, 2 and 3 Queens. He is now employed as a civilian Storeman/Clerk with 3 Regt. AAC, LAD, BAOR.

It was very pleasing to see Ex CSM Jock Ure and his daughter, Fiona, at the Albuhera Service of Remembrance. Fiona is now working in the London area as a librarian - Marketing Research.

Capt. R.K. Valentine sends his best regards to all his friends in the regiment, especially Maj. Gen. Chris Man. He tells me that he has had a lot of trouble with his eyes. A cataract removed and now preparing the way for the removal of the second cataract. It is not a straightforward job as the retina, behind the eye, was damaged by malnutrition suffered in Shamshupo Camp, Hong Kong.

Another late entrant to the Regimental Association is Ex Sgt. Fred Watson (1/1858) who was born in 1898. He served from 1915 to 1920 with the 18th, 4th, 7th and 23rd Bns of the regiment. He also served with the Royal Irish Constabulary 1920/22, Royal Marine Police 1944/45 and as QMS at Shorncliffe for 10 years 1953/63. He now lives at Stenhousemuir, Stirlingshire.

Ex Cpl. Frank Wookey (6201000) another 1st Bn FEPOW, now lives in retirement at Eastbourne. He tells me that he would like to be able to attend regimental functions but is unable to do so. He would enjoy a letter from any of his old comrades - he lives at 11 Lapwing Close, Langney, Eastbourne BN23 7R.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Trustees: Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey, OBE Chairman
Maj. Gen. Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB
Maj. Gen. B.P. Hughes, CB, CBE
Lt. Col. J.D. Gunnell, TD
Councillor D. Clark, Borough of Haringey
Major W.G.A. Crumley
Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE Secretary
Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE Curator
12 Devonshire Road, Mill Hill,
London NW7

The following are recent acquisitions for the Museum:

MEDALS OF Sgt. G. Varnham, DCM.

The group of medals of L/11821 Sgt. George Varnham, consists of the Distinguished Conduct Medal, 1914 Star with clasp, British War Medal, Victory Medal with Oak Leaf, Defence Medal 1939-45

and Cross of the Order of St. George, Fourth Class, of Russia.

Sgt. Varnham was a member of the 4th Bn who were numbered among the finest army Britain had put in the field at the commencement of any of our wars. He was an efficient NCO in "E" Company in 1906 and as a senior Cpl. qualified as an instructor at the School of Musketry in June 1913. Passing his promotion examination to Sgt. in April 1914, he extended his service to complete 12 years with the Colours and was promoted Sgt.

At Mons in August 1914 and during the retreat, he displayed courage and soldierly ability to such an extent that his name was in the original list of honours of the Bn in Bn Orders, September 1914, when he was awarded a Mention in Despatches which was published in the London Gazette 10 October 1914.

Again at the Battles of Marne, the Aisne, La Bassée and Messines, his gallantry was outstanding, earning him the D.C.M. as shown in the War Diary 21 January 1915. These two decorations were followed in August 1915, with the award of the Russian Order of St. George, Fourth Class. At this date he was Acting Company Quartermaster Sgt.

In the later stages of the war, he was an instructor with the Royal Flying Corps, later the Royal Air Force.

When the Local Defence Volunteer Force were formed in 1940, he immediately enrolled and became Company Commander of "B" (Mitcham) Company of the Home Guard and given the rank of Major.

A fine sportsman, he was in his younger days a rugby player, a game then not common in our regiment, but becoming popular with the Regular Army. As is so often the case, he would discuss his sporting activities with his family, but remained silent about his war service.

He died in March 1966, after an illness lasting two years.

Presented by his daughter, Mrs. J. Hickman and his grandson, Mr. S.P. Josiah.

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM, ETC.

The following items have been presented to the Regimental Museum:

Photograph Album of Capt. E.S. Gibbons, DSO, 1st Bn 1907-1913.

Rules of the Officers' Mess, 57th Regiment 1908.

Diary of Capt. E.S. Gibbons, DSO, 1st Bn 10 August to 29 October 1914.

Lt. Col. E.S. Gibbons, DSO, was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in 1905. He was killed in action on 19 September 1918, whilst commanding the 7th Bn Highland Light Infantry.

Presented by his son, Lieut. Comdr. J.W. Gibbons, Royal Navy (Retd).

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM - 2nd Bn The Middlesex Regiment(DCO), Ahmednagar, Deccan, India, 1924.

Presented by Mrs. M. Edwards, widow of the late 6193749 Ronald Edwards.

BOOK - HISTORY OF THE 17TH (NORTH) MIDDLESEX VOLUNTEER RIFLES (1859-1889)

Presented by Mr. and Mrs. T.W. Bragg

PHOTOGRAPH

Mr. Henry Oxley who served with our 23rd Bn 1914-18, on retirement took up painting in oils. He recently painted our Regimental Badge which he presented to the Cloth Hall War Museum, Ypres, Belgium. The painting has been accepted and is now on exhibition.

He very kindly had this painting photographed in colour and he has presented a copy to our Regimental Museum.

VOLUNTEER AND TERRITORIAL FORCE MILITARIA

The following items were recently purchased on behalf of the Museum by the Ogilby Trust:

- i. An officer's silvered helmet plate of the 2nd Volunteer Bn, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). This unit became the 8th Bn (Territorial Force) of the regiment on 2 April 1908.
- ii. An officer's pouch badge of the same period.

- iii. Other ranks belt union of Hampstead Volunteer Rifles, a predecessor unit to our 7th (TF) Bn.
- iv. Yellow buff leather armband with letters "RP" in brass, as worn by the Provost Staff at Territorial Army camps.

HISTORY OF THE 2/10TH BN THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT(DCO) (T.F.) 1914-1919.

Presented by Mr. A.D. Scudamore, OBE, President 2/10th Bn Old Comrades Association at their annual luncheon on Saturday 23 May 1981.

OPEN EVENING – BRUCE CASTLE

At the kind invitation of Councillor Douglas Clark, Chairman of the Borough of Haringey Libraries Museum and Arts Sub Committee, Lt. Col. T.W. Chattey and Major A.E.F. Waldron, attended the Open Evening at Bruce Castle on Friday 3 April 1981.

Also attending were members of the Council, Local History Societies and also representatives of the Union of Communication Workers who, because of the Morten Postal History Collection, have a special interest.

The central event of the evening was connected to an important new acquisition for the Borough – the remains of a Roman Kiln excavated during an archaeological "Dig" in an area of Highgate Wood.

OBITUARY

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

BAKER – On 17 January 1981, Brig. E.E.F. Baker, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, TD, DL, JP, aged 85 years. See separate obituary.

BAKER – On 13 May 1981, Ex Sgt. J. Baker (6202395). No other details available.

BAKER – On 5 March, 1981, Ex Cpl. Reginald William Baker (6199467), aged 69 years. Enlisted 7 August 1930. Discharged 4 November 1945. Depot until January 1931. 1st Bn 1931 to May 1935. 2nd Bn May 1935 to August 1937. Reserve until 1939. Depot 1939 to 1941. 8th Bn 1941 to 1944. Blacon Camp, Chester, 1945. 5th Cheshires until July 1945. To discharge 4 November 1945.

BINNS – On 20 February 1981, Major John Cecil Binns, TD, aged 68 years. He served with the 1/7th Bn October 1938 to October 1940. 3rd King's African Rifles and the East African Armoured Regiment December 1940 to December 1944. 1/7th Bn February to December 1945.

BIRDWOOD – On 14 August 1980, Capt. H.B. Birdwood, MC, aged 84 years. He served with the 1st and 2nd Bns 1915 to 1920. His son, Capt. George Birdwood was Medical Officer to the 1st Bn during the period in Austria 1953-54.

BUCKNALL – On 7 December 1980, Lt. Gen. Gerard Corfield Bucknall, CB, MC, DL, aged 86 years.

BULL – On 10 March 1981, Mr. Charles T. Bull, aged 86 years. He served with the 2/8th Bn 1914, serving in Gibraltar, Egypt and then was part of reinforcements for the 1/8th Bn on the Somme in 1916. He was taken POW in November 1917 and was held in Schneidemühl Camp, Germany until the end of the war. He was one of the last surviving members of the Ealing Branch.

BURRELL – During November 1980, Capt. W. Burrell. He served with the 8th Bn 1914-18.

CASEMORE – On 29 June 1981, Ex Pte. Reginald John Casemore (6198317), aged 71 years. He enlisted in 1928 and served with the regiment in India, Egypt, Palestine and UK taking his discharge to the Reserve in 1935. He was called up for service in 1940, serving until 1945 with the following regiments, Royal Fusiliers, Beds & Herts, Queens Royal Regiment.

CAUL – On 20 December 1980, Ex Private J. (Paddy) Caul (6199451), aged 74 years. He served with the 1st Bn in Palestine, Egypt and Singapore 1930-37. Was called up for service in 1939 and served with the 1/7th Bn.

CHARLTON – On 29 April 1981, Ex RSM Walter Mather Charlton, aged 82 years. He served with the 4th Bn 1914-18 and was in B Company.

CONNOR – On 7 February 1981, Ex Private Percy Cleeve Connor, MM (G/19571), aged 82 years. Enlisted September 1915. Discharged 22 February 1919. 21st (Service) Bn (Islington) September

1915 to February 1918. 2nd Bn February 1918 to 22 February 1919. Gallantry Card 27 September 1918. Military Medal London Gazette 20 October 1919.

DAVIS – On 18 April 1981, Ex RSM Cecil Arthur Davis (6191568), aged 82 years. Enlisted 5 August 1915. Discharged 1 December 1936. Royal Guernsey Militia 5 August 1915 to 26 November 1916. Royal Guernsey Light Infantry 27 November 1916 to 10 March 1919. 2nd Bn 11 March 1919 to 4 November 1929. RSM 1st Bn 1929-31. RSM Depot 1931-36. Home Guard June 1940 to April 1942. Air Training Corps 1942-45, Warrant Officer 16 February 1942. Pilot Officer 26 December 1942. Flying Officer 1944-45.

FLAVELL – On 28 May 1981, Patrick Mark (Pat) Flavell, aged 25 years, in Hong Kong, son of Capt. and Mrs. J.S.C. Flavell. Patrick was a Director, Far East Advertising, Johnston International Publishing Corporation of New York.

GOLDSTRAW – On 15 February 1981, Mr. George Goldstraw (6200842), aged 63 years. He enlisted into the 9th Bn Corps of Drums in 1933. He was mobilised twice in 1938 and again in 1939 with 429 Company of the 9th Bn. He was released back to industry in 1940.

HENNAH – On 17 April 1981, Ex WOII Frederick Hennah. Served with the 2nd Bn at Dunkirk and later joined the Royal Artillery with whom he remained until the end of the war. He was one time Chairman of the London Branch Dunkirk Veterans Association.

HOCKLEY – On 10 January 1981, Ex Pte. T.H. Hockley (6722724), aged 73 years. Known to all his friends as "Hairpin". Enlisted into the South Wales Borderers but after 5 months was transferred to the Middlesex Regiment. He was recalled for service in 1939 and served with the 1/7th Bn. He was wounded at Dunkirk and Alamein.

HOWES – On 23 March 1981, Ex Pte. C.J. Howes, aged 87 years. Served with the 9th Bn over a very long period as did his two brothers.

HUGHES – On 2 December 1980, Mrs. Kathleen M. Hughes, widow of Captain W.T. Hughes, ARCM, who died in 1974.

HUTCHINS – On 24 May 1981, Ex Sgt. Perce Hutchins, MM (TF/1797 and TF 200189), aged 85 years. Served 7th Bn 1914-18.

HUTCHINSON – On 18 January 1981, Sir Arthur Hutchinson, KBE, CB, CVO, aged 84 years. Served with The Middlesex Regiment 1916-18. Wounded shortly after arrival in France. Deputy Under Secretary of State, Home Office, from 1948 to 1957. In 1959 was appointed a Trustee of the Imperial War Museum.

LANDRETH – On 25 June 1981, Ex Sgt. William Landreth (4124485), aged 71 years. Served 12 years with the Cheshire Regiment and joined the 1st Bn in Hong Kong in 1950 and served in Korea. After Korea he was posted to the War Graves Commission in Singapore and finally retired from the army in 1965. He then joined the Corps of Commissionaires and was still active until early this year.

LAWRENCE – On 21 February 1981, Mrs. Fay Lawrence, widow of Major F.A.L. Lawrence.

LINTOTT – On 31 January 1981, Ex Pte. Charles Edward Lintott, aged 85 years. Served 2/10th and 7th Bns 1914-18.

LOVEJOY – On 13 January 1981, Ex Pte. Alfred Charles Lovejoy (23113893) aged 53 years. He was a National Serviceman who served with the 1st Bn 1955-57 in Austria and Cyprus.

MARTIN – On 5 August 1980, Ex CSM Charles Martin (6201815), aged 65 years. Served from 1934 to 1956. Much of his service was with the 1st Bn in Egypt, Singapore, Korea and Germany.

MATTHEWS – On 30 December 1980, Ex Pte. Arthur Joseph Matthews (L14557 and 6188958), aged 82 years. Arthur Matthews enlisted 13 June 1913 and was discharged 12 June 1929. Service details are – 4th Bn 1913 to 23 August 1914, POW at Mons. 4th Bn March 1918 - August 1922. 1st Bn 1922 to 12 June 1929. 7th Bn (TA) 1939-40. Home Guard 1940 - June 1944.

MCGRATH – On 8 May 1981, Ex Pte. Dennis McGrath (6203914), aged 62 years. He enlisted on 24 August 1937 and was posted to the 1st Bn in August 1938. He was taken POW at the fall on Hong Kong and was later moved to Japan and held in Sakurajima Camp, Osaka. He was medically discharged in 1949 and awarded 100% disability pension as a result of his sufferings as a POW.

MEYNELL – On 10 September 1979, Ex Pte. A.C.S. Meynell, aged 86 years. Served with 7th Bn 1914-18.

MORAN – On 8 June 1981, Ex Sgt. James Moran (6203237), aged 62 years. Full obituary later.

MORDEN – On 8 February 1981, Ex RQMS Frederick George Morden (L7651) aged 95 years. Enlisted 14th November 1901. Discharged May 1920. 3rd Bn The Middlesex Regt. 1901-1908. Reserve 1908-1914. 4th Bn 1914-1915. Bedford Regt. December 1915 to February 1917. Northumberland Fusiliers February 1917 to March 1920. "Tickey" Morden was the last of our Boer War veterans, he being awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal 1899-1902. He also held the 1914 Star and clasp, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. At the end of last year the Army Benevolent Fund held a reunion for South Africa veterans and "Tickey" was able to attend. Also a few months prior to his death he appeared on television in a programme about the Boer War. I am reliably informed that there are now only 16 known Boer War veterans still alive.

PAINTER – On 8 January 1981, Mrs. Evelyn Painter, wife of Ex Sgt. Charles Painter (L16761 and 6189311).

PARKER – On 5 March 1981, Ex WOII Richard Parker (6199250), aged 69 years. He enlisted on 27 November 1929 and served in the Sudan, Egypt, Palestine, Egypt, Cyprus, Egypt and left the army on 26 November 1936. He was called up for the 1939-45 war and after a year with the 2/7th he served with the Royal Fusiliers, RAO and transferred to REME in 1942.

POWELL – On 21 May 1981, Ex C/Sgt. Francis Henry Powell (6550324), aged 72 years. Sandy Powell commenced his service with the T.A. serving as a Sgt. with 4th Bn London Regt.(RF) from 1925-1929. He rejoined the T.A. in 1931 this time with the Middlesex Regt. and served continuously until the end of the war. He became a regular soldier with the regiment in 1946 and was discharged in 1959 on reduction of establishment. He was twice awarded the Certificate for Meritorious Service in 1945 and 1949. He was also awarded the Coronation Medal 1953. After he left the service he became a Barrack Inventory Accountant at Mill Hill and remained in this employment until 1974 when he reached retirement age.

PRESCOTT-RICHARDSON – On 6 January 1981, Mrs. Prescott-Richardson, wife of Capt. P.C. Prescott-Richardson (TF1699), who served with the 1/7th Bn 1914-18.

PRICE – On 3 January 1981, Major Hugh M.L. Price. Major Price was a pre-war member of the Royal Artillery T.A. and was commissioned into the R.A. about 1940-41. He served in 4th Indian Division and became I.G. in Palestine. When the T.A. was reformed after the war he joined the 9th Bn (by then of course L.A.A.) and served until transferring to the TARO in 1952. Although only a member of the unit for a comparatively short time he was highly regarded by all and a keen supporter of all the unit functions. On retirement 6 or 7 years ago he moved to Cornwall where he died after about two months illness.

PRIOR – On 8 May 1981, Ex Pte. Edward Alfred Prior (6204649), aged 62 years. He was badly wounded at Dunkirk whilst serving with the 1/7th Bn and was medically discharged in 1941.

RIPPIN – On 15 March 1980, Ex Pte. W.H. Rippin. Served with the 7th Bn 1914-18.

ROBINSON – On 9 November 1980, Ex Pte. Leonard Robinson (6200086), aged 65 years. Len Robinson enlisted 1 September 1933, and on completion of recruit training joined the 2nd Bn at Colchester. He joined the 1st Bn in Singapore 1936 and moved to Hong Kong with the Bn in August 1937. On 25 December 1941 he was taken POW whilst with A Company. In July 1942 he was part of the first draft to be moved to Japan. He survived the rigours of POW life and was repatriated to UK in 1945 via Canada. He left the army early 1946.

RUSSELL – On 4 April 1981, Ex L/Cpl. Walter Rueben Russell (6619955), aged 66 years. Walter Russell enlisted 28 July 1933, and on completion of recruit training joined the 2nd Bn at Colchester. He like Len Robinson above joined the 1st Bn in Singapore 1936 and moved to Hong Kong with the Bn in August 1937. He was also taken POW and was on the same draft to Japan and in the same camp. During his service he was a trained Driver Mechanic. He left the army in April 1946.

STOKES – On 16 April 1981, Ex Pte. Richard William Stokes (L15510) aged 84 years. Dick Stokes enlisted 6 April 1915, serving with the 2nd Bn. He was medically discharged on 10 August 1917, after being severely wounded at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, the wound causing amputation of the left leg. One of the original residents at Albuhera Close he never ceased to express his appreciation of the kindness of the Regimental Association.

WEBBER – On 17 October 1980, Ex L/Cpl. William George Webber (6203129), aged 61 years. Bill Webber enlisted into the T.A. on 15 July 1936 and served with the 7th Bn. At the outbreak of the Second World War he was posted to the 2/7th Bn and served with that unit throughout. He was a qualified Driver Mechanic and was discharged on 30 April 1947. He held the T.A. Efficiency Medal.

WRIGHT – On 16 May 1981, Ex Pte. William Alfred Wright (L14621), aged 85 years. Bill "Shiner" Wright served with A Company, 4th Bn during the 1914-18 war. He died from a sudden heart attack whilst attending the annual reunion at Edgware. It was Albuhera Day and that afternoon he had also attended the Service of Remembrance in St. Paul's Cathedral. He was a very staunch member of the Regimental Association and was a regular at all regimental functions. He died in the arms of his regiment. Right to the last he was in the hands of his regiment the funeral service being conducted by the Rev. A.B. "Tony" Andrews, who was ordained at the end of his National Service with the Middlesex Regiment. He was then a NCO in the Depot Orderly Room.

BRIGADIER E.E.F. BAKER, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, TD, JP, DL;

5th April 1895 – 17th January 1981

On meeting Euston Baker one could not but be attracted by his infectious and friendly smile. His friends and they were legion, knew him not only as a man of courage and utter integrity but also as one possessing the highest qualities of leadership.

He was born on 5th April 1895, the son of Henry Reuben Baker, and was educated at Sherborne School where he was an outstanding sportsman and athlete.

It had been his firm intention on leaving school to attend The Royal Military College and enter the Regular Army but to his intense disappointment and sorrow he was turned down on account of indifferent eyesight. Nothing daunted he joined the Militia.

He was gazetted on 5th August 1914 and posted to 5th Bn The Middlesex Regiment and later transferred to the 2nd Bn The Middlesex Regiment in France with whom he served almost continuously throughout the war in nearly every capacity, including command of the Bn itself.

He was wounded in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle, rejoined the Bn and was awarded the Military Cross following the Battle of Passchendaele. He was awarded a bar to his Military Cross in the Battle of the Aisne and eventually for his courage and qualities of leadership he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. In all he was mentioned in despatches on three occasions.

Early June 1917 saw him commanding 2nd Bn The Middlesex Regiment as a temporary Lieutenant Colonel at the age of twenty three. In that year he is recorded as personally leading 15 Platoon of A Company in a successful river crossing and some two weeks later personally leading 11 and 13 Platoons in the occupation of Douai. It is interesting to note that Douai always retained very close connections with him and The Regiment and he was to return there again in 1954 to receive back an 8th Bn drum which had been buried during the retreat in 1940. He continued in command of the 2nd Bn after the Armistice was signed, temporarily commanding 23rd Infantry Brigade and then returning to his beloved 2nd Bn to bring it home to Colchester in 1919. In the words of Major Dick Smith, then serving in Colchester, "They loved him".

In 1920 he married Mary Helena Sampson and settled down – but not for long as he retained his taste for soldiering.

Two years later he assumed command of 8th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (TA) and remained in command for an incredible tour of eight years. He then went to command 7th City of London Regiment (TA) returning in 1936 for a further period of command of the 8th Bn until 1939 when he was given command of a Territorial Infantry Brigade. He retired from active service in 1945.

However, his services were far from being lost to the Regiment since he became Honorary Colonel in succession to 2/8th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (1939-47), 11th (Middlesex) Parachute Bn (1947-56), 8th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (1956-61) and 5th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (1961-63).

He became a member of the Middlesex Territorial Auxiliary Forces Association in 1922 and served until his 65th birthday when he had to retire on age. He was Chairman for the last nine years.

In a somewhat different capacity he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Buckinghamshire in 1945 and became Chairman of the Amersham Petty Sessions in 1954 retiring as such in 1969. He served as a member on the Central Council of Magistrates' Courts Committees in 1968-69 and was Chairman of the National Association of Bolt and Nut Stockholders 1948-58.

He was appointed as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1936, a Companion of the Bath in 1957 and Aide de Camp to the King 1941-51. In 1938 he was appointed Deputy Lieutenant (Middlesex) and in 1947 he was made a Citoyen d'Honneur of Douai.

His strength of character and his thought for others, together with a wonderful example of perfect

understanding between husband and wife, were shown to the full several years ago on the occasion of the funeral of their youngest son, Bobby, and a brother RAF officer who were killed together in a flying accident. At the interment the brother officer's widow became distraught and immediately, despite their own great personal grief, Euston and Mollie both turned as one to give this young girl all the comfort and warmth to help her surmount her ordeal.

BRIGADIER E.E.F. BAKER, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, DL

the following tribute was received from Brig. (Retd) R.W.M. Lister, R.E.:

Brigadier Euston Baker was educated at Sherborne, where he was captain of rugby and of shooting. On leaving school in 1914 he was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment on the Special Reserve, and later in 1914 was posted to the 2nd Battalion of his Regiment. He proved to be an outstanding officer, he spent the whole war in France, and was awarded the DSO, MC and Bar, and was three times mentioned in despatches. He commanded the Battalion in 1918/19 when aged only 23. He was later elected Citoyen d'honneur of Douai for freeing that town of German occupation.

After the war he joined the family firm, but still managed to find time for the T.A. He commanded two battalions, and in 1939 he was appointed to command a TA brigade, which he took to France in the same year. He had to retire in 1942 due to ill health.

After the Second War he continued to give valuable service to the TA, both as Honorary Colonel of three battalions and as Chairman of the Middlesex TA Association. He also involved himself in local matters, becoming a JP in 1945, and he later chaired the Amersham Bench. He was awarded the CB in 1957. He was Deputy Lieutenant for Middlesex and later Greater London.

He was a most remarkable man – an inspiring and courageous soldier in war and an exemplary citizen in peace. He had the qualities of greatness, and they were accompanied by modesty, humour, and a warm concern for the good of others. He was greatly respected and greatly loved by a very wide circle; he was a marvellous and a delightful man to know.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Captain and Mrs. James Flavell and Family wish to thank their friends for the many kind expressions of sympathy and letters of condolence in the sad and sudden loss of their son and brother, Patrick.

LETTERS

From: Richard Lawford, 24 St. Giles Lane,
Thetford, Norfolk.

20 April 1981

Report on a visit to Arnheim and Nijmegen.

Having recently remarried I decided that it would be nice to take my wife on a visit to Arnheim and Nijmegen and to lay wreaths at the British War Cemeteries on behalf of the Regiment. Maj. Waldron very kindly supplied me with two poppy wreaths mounted on the regimental crest.

As we are now living in Norfolk we flew from Norwich Airport, the flight to Schiphol taking only 40 minutes. From Amsterdam we went by train to Arnheim, staying at the Rijnhotel which is midway between the road and rail bridges.

We left the hotel early on the first day and made our way by bus to Nijmegen, from there we caught a local bus to the British War Cemetery at Goffert. From where we alighted it was about a one mile walk through Goffert Park, needless to say the War Graves Commission is maintaining the cemetery to their usual high standard. Incidentally the Head Gardener told me an interesting story. Many years after the war he dug up a Middlesex cap badge at Mook near Grave, but has since mislaid it, pity, I feel sure that I could have persuaded him to part with it.

After leaving Gaffert we returned to Nijmegen, walked the great Waal Bridge to Lent, where we turned left along what was an old track in 1944, now covered with tarmac and built up with stylish Dutch bungalows.

We passed under the three span railway bridge and finally arrived at Fort Hof Van Holland (where we were during the winter of 1944/45). The old Fort looks very dilapidated and appeared to be used as some sort of warehouse. After taking photographs we retraced our steps back into the town of Nijmegen

where strong refreshments were in order after a good six mile walk. We then returned to Arnheim.

The next day we laid the second wreath at Arnheim Cemetery at Oosterbeek which is also an immaculate picture. At both Nijmegen and Arnheim many grave stones bear the Middlesex crest. After taking more photographs we walked to the Hartenstein Hotel which was General Urquhart's HQ during the battle which now houses the Museum. The museum was originally at Doorweth Castle, which is miles away from Arnheim and very inaccessible, so if any Die Hards visit Arnheim they should bear this in mind, it will save them a long and wasted journey.

The Hartenstein Museum is now only fifteen minutes from the Cemetery and well worth a visit.

In conclusion my wife and I were very proud to have the honour of laying our two wreaths at Nijmegen and Arnheim on behalf of all Die Hards.

The Secretary would like to say that Mr. & Mrs. R. Lawford bore the full cost of both wreaths. Thank you from the Regimental Association.

From: Mr. George Hyland, 29 Dickson Close,
Widnes, Cheshire.

Report on a recent visit to Korea.

Tony Edwards and myself, both National Servicemen and in A Company, 1st Bn, were recently amongst a party who revisited Korea. The trip was organised by the Gloucesters and the party about 60 strong, consisting of 18 Gloucesters, 2 Die Hards and the remainder from other regiments.

We flew from Gatwick to Alaska, an eight hour flight and after a short stay left for a nine hour flight to Korea, landing at Kimpo Airport. I am happy to say that Korean Airlines provide free drinks, any choice, whilst in flight so we arrived tired, but a very merry band of ex-servicemen. It was a wonderful trip and we were treated like royalty.

On arrival we were met by a large group of government officials, ex servicemen and civilians who gave us a tremendous reception. We also attended a number of official functions. We were accommodated at the Hotel Lotte in Seoul, which was first class. No comparison to the Seoul we knew.

We visited the demilitarised zone at Ranmunjon which is still like the Korea of old. The ROK army and the Americans are still positioned across from the North Koreans watching each others every move.

We also attended two memorial services which were very sincere.

If I had any disappointment it was at the military cemetery at Pusan. I found quite a lot of Middlesex graves and KSLI attached Middlesex, including 7 lads of A Company. The ones I could not trace were Lt. Lock and Privates Bottom, Page, Collier, Weaver, Hyland and Kelly. I could not find their names in the Roll of Honour but I may have made a mistake. I must add that the cemetery is very well maintained.

Yours sincerely,

George Hyland.

BOOK REVIEWS

"AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN" (Hong Kong and South East Asia 1941-45)
by Oliver Lindsay

Hanish Hamilton, London. £9.50 nett (UK only)

This is the first full factual account of what happened to the thousands of British, Canadian, Indian and Chinese who were imprisoned after the surrender of Hong Kong to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941.

Lt. Col. Lindsay is a regular soldier in The Grenadier Guards now serving at the Ministry of Defence. His new book is a sequel to "The Lasting Honour, The Fall of Hong Kong 1941" is a result of five years of research and personal contact with hundreds of men and women who took part in the events described.

A review of the book by Maj. Gen. C.M.M. Man is shown below:

After his excellent account of the hostilities in Hong Kong, it was to be hoped that Oliver Lindsay would complete the story by a second book examining the fate that awaited those who survived the seventeen days fighting. This he has now done, and once again he has shown his ability to research his subject in the greatest depth, coming up with a book that must be compulsive reading for all students of the war in the Far East.

Inevitably his material has relied upon personal accounts – some, but not many, compiled at the time and concealed till the end of the war – but for the most part from reminiscences drawn from selected survivors either in person or from their accounts written after their release. This being the case, there is the risk that the passage of time blurs the memory and tends to merge truth with fiction. To a certain extent this is countered by consulting several sources, and from my personal knowledge and memory there are only very few incidents on which I disagree, and even then I could not honestly say that my version is necessarily the correct one.

Nobody can really understand the pressures under which a prisoner of the Japanese lived unless he or she has actually been in that unhappy position. It is a little unfair to make definite judgments about certain aspects of which did or did not occur in these circumstances. The implication that POWs were loathe to escape after 1942 can really be attributed to the dreadfully run down physical shape they were in at the time as well as the knowledge that the reprisals that would be inflicted on those left behind and on their dependents if they had any in the Colony would be sadistic in the extreme. It is also a little unfair to some senior officers in various camps for failing to grasp the fact that the war was in its closing stages, and to use this fact to demand better conditions for their camp. There may well have been camps that were as fair with what was going on outside, but it would have been a very brave man to take this line, certainly in Japan, before the atom bomb was dropped. It was only then that the Japanese Army realised that the War was lost. Before then, certainly at the lower levels, such an end to hostilities was not, I suspect, even contemplated.

The book clearly brings out the vast differences between camps and camp staffs which was reflected in the treatment meted out to the prisoners. It highlights the awful degradation of the life of the prisoners but it also clearly records the fact that the Japanese for the most part were treating their prisoners in the same way that they treated their own people – something that many prisoners saw for themselves. One was at the mercy of a people whose regard for human life was totally different from that of the Western World. After reading the book one is left in no doubt that the vast majority of the survivors owe their lives to their unshakable belief that the war would be won and that they would return home on – in the words of the Kobe House song – “That certain distant Day.”

This is an excellent book written with care and understanding. It emphasises that most prisoners did not hate their captors and even if they did once, with the end of the war that hatred turned to something quite different. One cannot help but feel that with so much talk these days of unilateral nuclear disarmament, the more people who read Oliver Lindsay's book the better as history must not be allowed to repeat itself, and the similarities between the Japanese and the Russians in mentality and outlook are too alike to be comfortable.

In fairness to a gallant officer well known to the Die Hards in Hong Kong, the statement on page 76 regarding the major nick-named Robot do him less than justice. Major “Robot” Hedgecoe was a man of tremendous integrity and courage who survived the war and retired some years later in the rank of Colonel, only to die shortly thereafter.

THE UNION JACK CLUB

Sandell Street, Waterloo, London, SE1 8UT

THE SERVICEMAN AND SERVICEWOMAN'S CLUB IN LONDON

Two very important and rather revolutionary changes have just been made to the membership rules of the Union Jack Club and, as it is now over five years since the Club opened the doors of its new premises opposite Waterloo Station to its members and their families, this might be an appropriate moment to remind our readers of the Club and the facilities it has to offer. Since 1975 many thousands of Servicemen and women, wives, and children have stayed in the Club or used the many amenities available there. Of course, many more have not been to the new Club either because they did not require accommodation or Club facilities in London, or simply because they haven't wanted to come here for one reason or another. But there must also be lots of others who just don't know about the Club and what it has to offer or, perhaps, don't even know how to find it.

Although the Club is a mere three minutes walk from the main platforms of Waterloo Station, from which it is incidentally well signposted by British Rail, the description “opposite Waterloo Station” is very confusing because the station has a number of different entrances. Go straight from the central platforms and turn right out of the main concourse and you will see opposite you a grimy and sooty building with jumbled letters on the wall which once said “Union Jack Club Annexe”. Some of the letters

are missing but unfortunately there are still just enough of them to suggest that this might be something to do with the Club or, worse still, the Club itself. In fact this building no longer belongs to the Club and has long since ceased to have any connection with it at all, but the jumbled letters remain to confuse and distract those who do not know.

The new Union Jack Club is, in fact, in the opposite direction in Sandell Street which is the street which faces you when, after leaving the main station concourse and going down the stairs, you emerge into Waterloo Road with the rail bridge on your left. The main entrance is a few yards down Sandell Street on the right. You will see the two Union Jacks flying above the door and, in the background, the twin towers, the smaller of which contain 6 floors of accommodation for families and the larger 22 floors for single men and women.

Every bedroom – and there are 417 singles and 63 doubles – has hot and cold running water, fitted cupboards, and an electric alarm clock. Cots are also available for very young children. The Public Rooms are on the ground floor. There are two reception desks, one for families and the other for single members. There is a Members' Bar and lounge and a smaller, snuggler, Families Bar with a children's playroom next door. There is also a families writing room and, beyond the Members' Bar and lounge, a library and quiet room with panelling and bookcases which came from the old Club and were donated by the Jewish Ex-Servicemen's Association. There are two television rooms with coloured sets and, downstairs, a launderette with automatic washing machines and spin-dryers. Last but not least, there is a large restaurant which operates a cafeteria service for all meals, starting with breakfast from 7.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. lunch from 12 noon to 3.00 p.m. and dinner from 4.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. Although these facilities are designed for single members on the one hand and families on the other, there is, in fact, no segregation and people use the different parts of the Club as and when they wish.

In spite of the efforts made by the Club to publicise itself among the Services in general and Recruit Training Establishments in particular, there must still be some Servicemen and Servicewomen who do not realise that they are automatically members of the Union Jack Club as long as they are serving and remain below commissioned rank, and for this they do not have to pay any form of annual subscription. It would, therefore, seem sensible to make use of the facilities which are there for the asking, specifically planned and designed to meet the requirements of the Services and their families and, by all accounts, considered excellent value for money.

Ex-Servicemen and women are also eligible to be full members of the Club for an entrance fee of £3 and an annual subscription of £2. Up to now an Ex-Serviceman or woman needed three years service to qualify for membership but the first of the changes mentioned earlier has just reduced this to two years – a very important concession – which will enable former National Servicemen to become full members of the Union Jack Club.

A second and equally important innovation has just been approved by the Governing Council by which widows of Service or Ex-Servicemen can now be treated as Temporary Honorary Members and allowed to use all the facilities of the Club when staying there. Members of the TA can also stay in the Club at membership rates when on duty and as Temporary Honorary Members when staying privately.

What then, is the Union Jack Club? It is not, as some believe, a Ministry of Defence Establishment but a completely independent charity. This does not mean that it is in business to distribute charity to Servicemen and women but simply that it is not required to make a profit beyond that needed to cover its operating costs nor is it subject to taxes which a profit-making company has to pay.

The Union Jack Club exists and operates for the benefit of Servicemen and their families, Servicewomen, those who have served in the Forces of the Crown, and the widows of Servicemen and Ex-Servicemen. It is neither an official nor a private profit-making organisation and its profit margins are, therefore, very narrow indeed. To survive in these difficult times it relies on the goodwill and steady practical support of its many members.

