



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC.
Died 4 January 1985, aged 89 years

Lieutenant General Sir Brian Horrocks, KCB, KBE, DSO, MC.

Brian Gwynne Horrocks known in his Regiment as Jock, but by the wider circle who served in the Second World War as Jorrocks, was one of those exceptional leaders with an ability to inspire even in the most hopeless circumstances. To those who served under him during the Retreat to Dunkirk in May 1940 this quality was magical.

The long story of his life is one of triumph over one adversity after another including the loss of his daughter, their only child, in tragic circumstances.

Born in 1895 the son of Colonel Sir William Horrocks, a distinguished officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps, he entered the Royal Military College Sandhurst, from Uppingham, in October 1912, passing out in August 1914; and on general mobilisation he reported for duty with the 6th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment, this being one of the old Militia battalions designated as a Training and Holding battalion. Within a fortnight and still only 18 he set out at the head of 95 reservists comprising the 'First Reinforcement' for the 1st Battalion already in France with the British Expeditionary Force, joining the battalion during the Retreat from Mons.

After the battle of the Aisne and at the beginning of the First battle of Ypres his platoon were surrounded by the enemy and he was so severely wounded in the stomach as to have been at first left as dead. Eventually he reached a German military hospital in Lille. While still scarcely able to walk he was judged fit to be moved to a regular Prisoner of War Camp in Germany, but it was only after some months in the camp hospital and as the result of the exceptional skill and care of a Canadian Medical Officer, that he was sufficiently recovered to join the other prisoners in the Compound. Because of his severe wounds he was early detailed for transfer to neutral Holland under an International Red Cross agreement. But though this would have given him comparative freedom and an opportunity to complete his recovery, it would have involved giving parole and surrendering all chances of rejoining his Regiment. Instead he joined that elite brotherhood of prisoners who spent every waking moment endeavouring to escape, soon becoming a regular visitor to the notorious Fort Zorndorf Custrin, a punishment camp for habitual escapers and inevitably a university for the techniques of escape. Here, because he was at first the youngest member of the famous Escaping Club he became affectionately known by his fellow miscreants as 'The Pup' or 'The Puppy'.

Unlike Colditz of the Second World War prisoners normally served a set sentence then to be returned to a regular camp, and, though escape was virtually impossible, a variety of techniques were developed to speed their return by causing the Commandant and Staff to pray to see the last of them. One of these gambits attributed to Horrocks was the acquisition from a fellow prisoner of a series of miniature life like pictures of a subject calculated to cause great offence. These were reserved for use during solitary confinement to be hung over the spy hole on the inside of the cell door for the benefit of inquisitive warders.

When at last in November 1918 Armistice was signed Horrocks was undergoing yet another sentence of solitary confinement for the most recent of his many escapes, having been recaptured within sight of the Dutch Frontier five hundred yards away after a lone journey of two hundred miles. These years of imprisonment and the endless months of privation in punishment cells had left its mark and twenty two years later in May 1940, when Montgomery's 3rd Division were fighting with their backs to the sea near Dunkirk, he confided that he would never let himself be captured again.

Back in England and still only 22 years old, the frustrations of the past four years and his pent up nervous energy made a run of the mill life intolerable. Part of his imprisonment had been spent confined in a room with one other British Officer and fifty Russians and so, when at the end of 1918 the War Office appealed for volunteers, with a knowledge of Russian, to join a mission to aid the White Russians Armies in their struggle against the Bolsheviks, he applied at once. Instead therefore of rejoining the Middlesex Regiment in January 1919 he set sail for Vladivostok for one of two military missions with the task of training and re-equipping White Russian forces in danger of being driven out of Siberia by the Red Armies. On arrival his first task was, with a team of fourteen British Officers and a platoon of British soldiers, to escort a train of twenty seven wagons of shells to the town of Omsk just over 3000 miles distant, eventually arriving on 20 May. Horrocks' final destination was Ekaterinburg, now Sverdlovsk, some 800 miles further West, where he was to take over as Second-in-Command of a training school to form an Anglo Russian Brigade.

However before this Brigade went into action the British Government, with good reason, thought better of this enterprise, and, while most British Officers departed Horrocks and George Hayes, later to command 3rd Division, stayed on to act as Liaison Officers with the First Siberian Army in what had by then become a rapidly deteriorating military situation. By October the White Armies had been forced back 700 miles to Omsk, the front collapsed and the British mission was recalled. The party left Omsk on 13 November but on 7 January after six weeks of retreat they were overtaken by the Red Army and again Horrocks was a prisoner of war, though not immediately subject to the rigours of a prison camp. Almost at once he fell victim to a typhus

epidemic and for a week lay unconscious in a local hospital. His life was saved by the constant attention of George Hayes who had refused to leave him. At length the local Committees gave instructions for them both to be repatriated via Vladivostok and they finally left on the first stage of their journey on 18 March. But there were delays and counter orders and on 12 June they were turned about, and six weeks later they arrived in Moscow 3,500 miles away, this time to join 457 prisoners in an established prison camp within the walls of the erstwhile Ivanofsky Monastery where prison fare was slow starvation. Here his life was saved by a Madame Charpentier and her two daughters running a French organisation in Moscow to help feed destitute foreigners.

Eventually eighteen months after he had first arrived in Vladivostok, on 29 October 1920, following an exchange of prisoners agreement, he crossed the frontier into Finland and freedom.

He rejoined his old battalion, the First Battalion, then a part of the British Army of the Rhine, returning with them for a brief spell in April 1921, then to Silesia to supervise the plebiscite, and finally returning with them to join First Guards Brigade in Aldershot.

It does not seem possible that after suffering such wounds, two spells of imprisonment totalling five years accompanied by malnutrition and the experience of typhus, that anyone could completely recover his health, and whether or not Horrocks did will never be known, but in 1924 he won the British Pentathlon Championship and subsequently represented Great Britain in the 1924 Olympic Games.

In January 1927 he was appointed Adjutant to the 9th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment Territorial Army and from thence he never lost his deep affection and respect for this magnificent battalion.

He married Nancy Brook Kitchen, an accomplished artist in 1928 and their daughter was born the following year.

In 1931 he attended the Staff College Camberley and at the end of the two year course he was appointed to the Military Secretary's Branch in the War Office. Two years later came the appointment of Brigade Major to the 5th Infantry Brigade where he distinguished himself sufficiently subsequently to be recalled as an Instructor at the Staff College Camberley, becoming Chief Instructor on the outbreak of war.

When the news reached Horrocks early in the morning of 10 May 1940 of the German army's invasion of Holland and Belgium he was due to take command of the 2nd Battalion, with the British Expeditionary Force, in two weeks time. Within two hours he was on the road to Southampton, reaching the 2nd Battalion at Louvain east of Brussels on 13 May by a series of 'hitch-hikes' arriving unannounced in a truck at battalion Headquarters just outside the town. Plans for the Expeditionary Forces advance into Belgium had of course been studied at the Staff College and, travelling via every headquarters in the descending chain of command, he emerged, fully informed of the state of affairs, from behind a map board of a size only to be found at Staff Colleges. The German artillery preparation for their main attack against the 3rd Division position on the line of the River Dyle at Louvain, was in progress and Horrocks first words as he stepped out of his vehicle were 'how nice to hear the guns again'. Although as a Machine Gun Battalion, the companies and platoons were spread out along the whole front of the Divisional front, Horrocks immediately set out to visit every position occupied by his men. The battalion had been temporarily under the very able command of Major Reid, but had previously been commanded by Colonel Haydon who had been promoted to command of a Brigade - Colonel Haydon was an exceptionally fine trainer who had driven the battalion hard to perfection and time and time again during the ensuing engagements, Horrocks was to pay tribute to what he called this extraordinary battalions ability to achieve the virtually impossible, and never to fail him.

Heavy German attacks on 14 and 15 May were repulsed, those on the 15th only after counter attacks. The 16th was comparatively quiet, but a break through by Panzer Divisions in the Ardennes on the British Expeditionary Forces right flank, and the withdrawal of Belgian forces on the left flank made the position on the River Dyle untenable, and that night 3rd Division withdrew to the western bank of the River Dendre some 25 miles west of Brussels, and through positions held by the British 4th Division on the general line of Brussels. The effects of lack of sleep were beginning to be a factor and a forecast of a 48 hours period in the reserve position induced a widespread inclination for most to lie down where they stood. However before anyone had a chance to take off equipment Horrocks ordered companies immediately to reconnoitre positions covering the approaches to the river. The speed of the German advance beyond the Ardennes necessitated the immediate withdrawal of 4th Division the following day and the Battalion were ordered to defend all river crossings within two hours. The front was so wide that single machine guns were sited on their own, and part of Battalion Headquarters covering one bridge. Contact was soon made with enemy patrols along the river line and bridges were blown.

During the night orders were issued for a further retirement the next day. The Belgian Army were facing fearful difficulties and owing to difficulties of liaison with them on his left, Montgomery decided to form a

composite flank-guard under the command of Horrocks consisting of the 2nd and 1/8th Battalions The Middlesex Regiment, two batteries 20th Anti Tank Regiment and the Bren Carrier Platoon of 1st Battalion the Lincolnshire Regiment. It was the sure handling of this flank-guard under enemy pressure that began the long partnership of Montgomery and Horrocks, for they had not met before Louvain, a few days before.

Thereafter the retreat continued to the line of the River Escaut and then to Roubaix. Then followed a succession of hazardous manoeuvres to establish a continuous bridgehead defence without which the bulk of the British Expeditionary Force could never have embarked from Dunkirk.

The extensive canal system favoured delaying tactics and the 2nd Battalion's mobility was deployed to its limits in a race northwards to reach canal crossings first and defend them until relieved by Rifle battalions. Famous names like Ypres and Poperinghe appeared on signposts in the night and more than once opposing sides reached a bridge at the same time.

As had been his practice from the moment of his arrival, throughout these increasingly difficult situations Horrocks somehow combined command with being with his men, invariably bursting with optimism and encouragement. By 28 May the Regiments machine guns were integrated with 3rd Divisions battalions positions along the canal passing through Furnes near the coast. The Belgian Army laid down their arms. By 30th German artillery had begun shelling heavily and could be seen registering the sand dunes and beaches to the rear.

It was accepted that if the main evacuation from Dunkirk was to continue 3rd Division might have to hold fast to its positions until over-run. Though the skies were cloudless the sea was too rough for any lift off open beaches.

On the morning of 31 May Horrocks returned from Divisional Headquarters with orders that the Division would abandon its positions during the early hours of the following morning and attempt to embark. He explained that Montgomery had originally decided that the Middlesex Regiments guns should be pulled out first, but that he had agreed to his plan that the 'Diehards' should have the honour of being the last to leave. In the event every one of the Regiments complement of 48 Vickers Machine Guns with ammunition were brought back to the beaches between La Panne and Dunkirk. At midday Horrocks received orders to take command of 11th Infantry Brigade in 4th Division which he brought back to England the following day, and Major Reid resumed command of the battalion.

A fortnight later he was given command of 9th Infantry Brigade a part of 3rd Division, again under Montgomery's command, and already fully re-equipped and preparing to return to France to rejoin the Battle of France. The speed of the German advance pre-empted this endeavour and 9th Infantry Brigade was soon manning the Sussex coastline in the neighbourhood of Brighton against this threat of invasion from the Channel Ports already in German hands. Perhaps somewhere a record survives of Horrocks's address to the Brighton Town Council. The effect was electric and, almost before he had finished, floodlights from the recourts of theatres and cinemas were on their way to the sea front, where the backs of luxury beach chalets were being prepared for the entry of anti tank and machine guns; although the prospect that he offered of lasting fame for Brighton as the town that bore the brunt of invasion left some thoughtful faces.

In January 1941 Horrocks was appointed Brigadier General Staff at Eastern Command and six months later he took command of 44th (Home Counties) Division in Kent, followed in the following March by command of 9th Armoured Division in the Northampton area.

In the late summer of 1942 Montgomery flew out to Egypt to take command of the 8th Army. He had every reason to be particularly careful in the selection of his team for on the eve of his departure he had told his staff at Reigate, a little unwisely it was thought at the time, 'I cannot tell you where I am going lest I am shot down over the Carpathians, but I am going to pit my wits against a Field Marshal, and no doubt the best man will win.'

On 15 August Horrocks was ordered to report to the War Office without delay, and thirty six hours later was on the way to the command of 13th Corps in 8th Army. Although the turning point of this North African campaign belongs to Auchinleck's decision to stand and fight at El Alamein, the tactical turn of the tide was with the decisive defeat of Rommels assault, mainly against Horrocks's Corps holding the ridge at Alam Halfa.

Then followed the Battle of El Alamein during which 13th Corps main role was to mislead the enemy into believing that its attack constituted the main effort. By 11 November the Axis forces were out of Egypt, and Tobruk recaptured by 13th. Horrocks was then given command of 10th Corps which had taken a leading part at El Alamein.

In November 1942 a very considerable Allied force, which included British First Army, landed with the purpose of capturing the ports of Casablanca, Oran and Algiers and then to advance on Tunis. The 8th Army's advance against the retreating Afrika Corps continued well into the New Year of 1943. Tripoli was taken and

by 20 March the attack on the formidable Mareth Line had opened. After three days of heavy fighting the enemy were forced to withdraw with heavy loss, especially in armour, as the result of a wide flanking movement by Horrock's 10th Corps, which included the New Zealand Division, and involved a detour of 150 miles.

The attack by the New Zealanders and advance to El Hamma by 1st Armoured Division carried out by moonlight remains a model of audacity. This operation resulted in the taking of 7000 prisoners.

Hard fighting continued and by April 8th Army were in daily contact with the American Forces and 1st British Army. Though the end of this North African campaign was approaching it seemed that heavy casualties were inevitable and it appeared that an attack from 1st Army would be less costly. General Crocker, a former Middlesex Officer, commanding 9th Corps in 1st Army, had been wounded and Alexander, the Commander-in-Chief, ordered Horrocks to detach 4th Indian Division and 7th Armoured Division and 201st Guards Brigade from 10th Corps and take them to 9th Corps which he would then command for an assault on 1st Army's front to capture Tunis. The attack went in on 6 May and at 4 p.m. on the 7th a report came through that the town had fallen. By 13 May some 217,600 Germans and Italians had surrendered.

Preparations for the assault in Sicily and for the landing on the Italian mainland in the vicinity of Salerno were well advanced. For the assault on the beaches at Salerno it had been decided that Horrocks and 10th Corps would join 5th U.S. Army. A new form of smoke screen had been devised as a part of the air defence plan against the German Air Force.

At the beginning of June Horrocks went to Bizerta to watch 46th Division carry out a full scale rehearsal for the assault on the Salerno beaches. While watching the effectiveness of the smoke screen drifting over the town a low flying German fighter suddenly emerged from the smoke with all its guns blazing and Horrocks was very seriously wounded, a bullet entering his lungs piercing his stomach and intestines and emerging at the base of his spine.

After three months in an American Hospital an American aircraft flew Horrocks back to England and he was taken to the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, where a further six major operations were carried out. In all he spent fourteen months alternating between the Cambridge Hospital and the Somerley Convalescent Home at Ringwood in Hampshire. He never recovered from these wounds; but somehow by the end of July 1944 he had persuaded a medical board to pass him fit and on 1 August a telephone call from the War Office informed him that Montgomery's personal aircraft was on its way back from Normandy to fetch him to take command of 30th Corps the next day. He arrived in time to command the break-out from the Normandy bridgehead.

Although during the following weeks spells of fever and much pain frequently prevented him from leaving his caravan he continued to inspire his subordinates and in particular to be amongst his leading troops.

Sheer determination and intense nervous energy drove him on, though for a brief interlude Montgomery felt obliged to save him from himself by taking him back to his own headquarters.

He was allowed to return shortly after his 43rd Division had crossed the River Seine below Paris at Vernon.

Then followed 30th Corps advance and the capture intact of the bridges over the River Somme at Amiens and then across the Belgian frontier liberating Brussels on 3 September, where Horrocks is still remembered with gratitude (As a Freeman of the City). His Corps then drove on to capture the port of Antwerp before the Germans were able to carry out their extensive demolition plans.

On 11 September Horrocks received orders for his advance on Arnhem to link up with 1st British Airborne Division, known by its code name 'Market Garden'.

The story of 30th Corps drive to join with firstly 101st U.S. Airborne Division, and then 82nd U.S. Airborne Division, and finally the unsuccessful attempt to reach 1st British Airborne Division at Arnhem in time has been set out elsewhere and responsibility for failure has been attributed with hindsight, and often lack of discrimination. By 7 February, as a prelude to the forcing of a crossing over the Rhine, preparations for what became known as the Reichswald Battle were complete. For 30th Corps under the command of the Canadian Army HQ this proved to be a hard slogging match against exceptionally strong defences made more formidable by a thaw and systematic flooding, and it was not until 10 March that the west bank of the Rhine was secured.

The battle of the Rhine Crossing opened on 23 March, 30th Corps having reverted to the command of 2nd British Army. After artillery bombardment from 5 p.m. the first crossing began at 9 p.m. By 9.04 the Black Watch had successfully crossed and held the bridgehead against heavy counter attacks. On 3 April the only bridge over the River Ems was captured intact in spite of it being fully prepared for demolition and heavily

defended.

30th Corps assault on Bremen was opened on 24 April and on 5 May Horrocks accepted the surrender of all forces in Northern Germany.

Returning from Germany in the late Autumn of 1945, he took command of Western Command at Chester at the beginning of 1946, but unfortunately what should have been a rewarding and enjoyable appointment was marred by those continuous attacks of fever accompanied by pain and sickness that had dogged him throughout the campaign in Northern Europe.

In 1948 came his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army of the Rhine. But not very long previously he had undergone yet another operation, and after a short period as Commander-in-Chief recurrent sickness forced him to accept medical advice to hand over his command. After a years sick leave a medical board was unable to pass him as fit for service and he was consequently invalided out of the service.

Within two weeks he received the appointment of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod in the House of Lords which he held with distinction till 1963.

Concurrently he wrote regularly for Kemsley Newspapers and later he became a nationally popular figure in the two television series produced by the British Broadcasting Corporation, 'Men in Battle' and 'Famous Regiments'.

In his extraordinary faculty of bringing famous battles to life he showed to millions of viewers much of the magic of the brilliant Corps Commander, the lucid explanations, the infectious enthusiasm and the ability to hold his audience by the drive and singleness of mind of his personality.

He showed himself an accomplished author, publishing in 1974 his autobiography 'A full life' and in 1977 'Corps Commander'.

Latterly he successfully entered the business world becoming President of the Electronic Rentals Association and a Director of Bovis.

In full retirement he found relaxation and much enjoyment in sailing but his last years were a continuing struggle against persistent sickness.

There will be much sadness that one who was always, in so many ways, still 'The Puppy', has now gone, and our thoughts go out to his widow, who was beside him these long years and watched over him at the end.

The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Sir Brian Horrocks was held in Westminster Abbey on 26 February. This was attended by Lady Horrocks and her family, and it was a momentous occasion in the history of our Regiment in that the most illustrious member of our Regiment in modern times has been commemorated in the country's most famous place of homage – an honour which is accorded to the very few.

This Service was originally planned by us, as much earlier we had been informed by the Ministry of Defence that all arrangements for such a Service would be the responsibility of the Regimental Association. However, when the Army Board came to hear of our intentions the Adjutant General personally contacted Colonel Chattey to suggest, in view of Sir Brian's tremendous popularity and standing throughout the Army and indeed the country as a whole, and therefore the large numbers from all walks of society and from all parts of the country who would wish to attend, that the resources of his Directorate in the MOD be made available to handle the administrative arrangements. In the event the Adjutant General's forecast was absolutely right because the Abbey was filled almost to capacity, and proudly over 300 of Sir Brian's comrades in our Regimental Association journeyed from far and near to attend.

H.M. The Queen sent her representative and the Secretary of State for Defence represented the Prime Minister. Among the large congregation were two Ambassadors, four Field Marshals, seven Generals and many distinguished personages from all three of the Armed Services, from both Houses of Parliament, and from civilian occupations including the many charities with which Sir Brian was associated. The Dean of Westminster Abbey, the Very Rev. Dr. Edmund Carpenter, officiated and was assisted by the Precentor and Sacrist of the Abbey, the Rev. Alan Luff. The Dean read the Bidding which recalled Sir Brian's exceptional flair, inlaid strengths and mercurial personality, and the Precentor lead the Prayers which included the Middlesex Regimental Collect. Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff, read the first Lesson and Sir Denis Hamilton, Chairman of Reuters, read the second Lesson. The Rt. Rev. Victor Pike, formerly Chaplain General to the Forces, gave a most moving Address recalling the standards of excellence in all Sir Brian's endeavours and Sir Huw Wheldon of the BBC made a special reading of an extract from 'God Knows' by Millie Louise Haskins. The orders and decorations of Sir Brian were borne to the Sacramary by Brigadier B.H. Marciandi, and Colonel I.R. Burrows, both of the Middlesex Regiment. The Rev. Trevor Beeson, Canon in Residence and Chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons, led special prayers for all the

work of Parliament and remembering Sir Brian's notable time as Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod. The music was played by Harry Bicket, Organist of Westminster Abbey, and the choirs rendered an Anthem. At the special request of Lady Horrocks, the cover sheet of the Order of Service included the verse 'I would be true' by Howard A. Walter.

Truly this was a very moving and dignified service, and it is a matter of immense pride that Sir Brian has been remembered by so many in such a distinguished manner.

Afterwards the Adjutant General wrote to Col Chattey expressing his appreciation for the Service and kindly forwarding copies of letters sent by the National Chairman of the Belgium Federation Nationale des Anciens Combattants and from the Minister for the Brussels Region. Both letters underlined the warmth of the Belgian feeling that remains as a result of the British part in the liberation of Belgium in WWII and in particular the very special place held in the heart of the Belgian people for General Sir Brian Horrocks as Commander of 30 Corps during the 1944 campaign which liberated their country.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1985 - 1986

- 1985
- 3 Sep Regimental Golf Meeting - North Hants Golf Club.
 - 4 Oct 2/7th Bn Annual Dinner at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2.
 - 12 Oct Queen's Regiment Past & Present WOs and Sgts Dinner at Depot The Queen's Division, Basingstoun.
 - 13 Oct Regimental Association Church Parade with the Chelsea Pensioners at Royal Hospital Chelsea.
 - 9 Nov Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster 10.30 a.m.
 - 10 Nov Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, at 10 a.m. followed by Reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.
 - 7th Bn Remembrance Service and wreath laying ceremony at Church of St Mary and St George, Muswell Hill, at 10.20 a.m.
 - 2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, at 3 p.m.
- 1986
- 19 Apr 2/10th Bn Annual Luncheon at Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2.
 - 26 Apr 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner Club at TA Centre, Hornsey N8.
 - 9 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner, Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London WC2.
 - 10 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral commencing 2.30 p.m.
 - Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing 6.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting 7.45 p.m.

BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January to 30 June 1985 the sum of £4597 has been spent from the Charitable Funds of the Regimental Association on assisting 51 members of the regiment. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £1300. A detailed breakdown will be given in the December 1985 Newsletter.

DONATIONS TO THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE FUND

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

- a. A donation of \$1200 (£1104.00) from Colonel J.G.E. Reid in celebration of his firm's thirty years of successful trading which he wishes to share with his Diehard comrades. Colonel Reid moved to New York after his retirement in 1952. He will be well remembered by members of the 2nd Bn during the Dunkirk campaign during 1939-40 and also by the 1st Bn during his period of command in 1947-48. £704 has been credited to the Regimental Charitable Fund and £400 to the Regimental Museum Trust Fund.
- Sadly at the end of March he was whistled off to hospital for a major operation which was successful and he is making a good recovery. All Diehards wish him a speedy return to good health. He was commissioned into the Regiment on 18 July 1919 - a proven sturdy Diehard.
- b. A donation of £200 from the Lilley Benevolent Trust - £100 for the Regimental Association Charitable Fund and £100 for the 9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment Museum Fund.
- c. A donation of £25 from members of the 1/7th Bn 1939-45 Dinner Club.
- d. Individual donations from:-

A.N. Anonymous, Major L.F. Baker, Major K.R. McK. Biggs (In memory of Lt-Gen Sir Brian Horrocks), Mr A.J. Briggs, Mr C. Burgess, Mr R.P. Burnage, Major B.K. Clayden (In memory of Col A.R. Waller), Mr A.G.W. Cooper, Mr B.A. Crawley, Capt G.D. Cripps, Mr H.G. Edwards, Lt-Col R.F. Fendick (Canloan Officer), Mr R.H. Gilbertson, Mr F. Goldstraw, Mr M. Gonzalez-Flores, Mr W.J. Gould, Mr P. Hale, Mr A.

Hofman (in memory of late Mr W.J. Hickman), Mrs A.W. Hambly (In memory of late Mr W.J. Hambly), Mr A.J. Hobson, Mr J.E.F. Horn, Mr E.D. Jones, Mrs Tilly Jones (In memory of her brother the late Mr W. Kingsland), the late Mr J.M. Manning, Mr H. Oxley, Mrs S.M. Pace (In memory of her late husband Sgt A. Pace), Mr S.M. Peart, Mr J.H. Pullen, Mr M.C. Quinn, Mrs J. Riseley (In memory of Capt Jack Riseley), Mr A. Rose, Lt-Col E.P. Shanks (In memory of Lt-Gen Sir Brian Horrocks), Mr A. Webber (In memory of late Pte R.E. Waters who lost his life on the SS Lisbon Maru), Major M. Wild, Col B.R. Wood, Mr G.H. Woodward.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank the following members for their generosity in donating extra subscriptions so that free copies of the Diehards Newsletter can be sent to deserving Old Comrades:

Mr V.E. Barley, Mr T. Barnett, Mr T.A. Barton, Mr E.J. Bermingham, Major A.R. Bisset, Mr A.J. Briggs, Mr C. Burgess, Major (D of M) D. Carson, late Mr W.S. Clapp, Major B.K. Clayden, Mr R. Clements, Mr E.C. Colebeck, Mr A.G.W. Cooper, Mr C.J. Cox, Capt G.D. Cripps, Mr W.F. Cutts, Mr H.W. Daniels, Mr F.J. Dickinson, Mr R.E. Dodkins, Lt-Col R.F. Fendick, Mr J.D. Forgham, Mr D.A. Francis, Mr E.J. Garner, Mr A.W. Gibbs, Mr F. Goldstraw, Mr M. Gonzalez-Flores, Lt E.C. Graham, Mr P. Hale, Capt A.D. Hawkins, Mr M.A.G. Hewitt, Mr G.C. Higgins, Mr A.J. Hobson, Mr K.M. Horton, Capt J.A.E. Howell, Mr A. Hughes, Mr F.A. Jackson, Mr E.D. Jones, Mrs Tilly Jones, Mr R.M. Lawford, Mr J.C. Morgan, Mrs E.E. Newman, Mr D.P. Norris, Mr L.C. Page, Major A.W.F. Peal, Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Mr J.H. Pullen, Mr M.C. Quinn, Mr J. Raby, Mr F.J. Sadler, Lt-Col E.P. Shanks, Mr L. Shrubbs, Mr R. Smith (RAOC), Mr W.A. Smith, Mr E. Steward, Mr D.F. Stockman, Major C.W. Summers, Mr N.W. Taylor, Mr J.S. Ullman, Mr W.B. Ure, Mr D.P. Weller, Major M. Wild, Mr G.H. Woodward, Mr F.H. Wookey.

DONATIONS

The following donations have been made:

- a. A donation of £200 to the Middlesex and North West Army Cadet Force.
- b. A donation of £75 to the Patients Amenities Fund of the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich. We are indeed grateful for the care and attention that this hospital provides for many of our members who are still suffering from the privations experienced as a Far East Prisoner of War.

OFFICER'S CLUB DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Friday 10 May. Lt-Col Tom Chatte, presided and 68 members with wives and relatives attended. Major and Mrs Colin Bellingham of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) were the principal guests and four widows of former officers were also present as our guests.

A message of loyalty was sent to Her Majesty The Queen and the customary gracious reply was received from Buckingham Palace. Our Chairman, Brig. B.A.M. Pielow, gave a brief account of the Association's activities throughout the year.

The following attended:

Official Guests.

Major & Mrs C.J. Bellingham, The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).
The Rev & Mrs W.E.B. Jones.
Mrs F. Jennings accompanied by her daughter.
Mrs D. Pike.
Mrs C. Pollard.
Mrs J. Weedon accompanied by her son, Mr C. Weedon.
Miss Jean Bower.

Members and Private Guests.

Lt-Col T.W. Chattey & Mrs Chattey, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Brig B.A.M. Pielow and Mrs Pielow, Brig B.H. Marciandi, Brig D.B. Rendell and Mrs Rendell, Col I.D. Brotherton and Mrs Brotherton, Col R.M. Cain and Mrs Cain, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton and Mrs Clayton, Col A.M. Man, Col H.J.A. Moore, Col

J.N. Shipster and Mrs Shipster, Lt-Col C.N. Clayden and Mrs Clayden, Lt-Col J.M. Hewson and Mrs Hewson, Lt-Col R.D. Hutchings and Mrs Hutchings, Maj M.J. Beaumont, Major H.E. Couch and Mrs Couch, Lt J.P.A. Day, Capt M.J.S. Doran and Mrs Doran, Major D.M. Falcke and Mrs Falcke, Capt J.S.C. Flavell and Mrs Flavell, Maj M.J. Flynn and Mrs Flynn, Capt R.M. Fox and Mrs Fox, Maj F.K. Gladden, Capt D.A. Hawkins, Lt M.F. Hedgecoe and Mrs Hedgecoe, Maj S.L.J. Henshaw and Mrs Henshaw, Capt P.J.A. Lane and Mrs Lane, Maj C.L. Lawrence and Mrs Lawrence, Maj A.E. McManus and Mrs McManus, Maj R.E.B. Morris and Mrs Morris, Major R.W.J. Smith and Mrs Smith, Maj A.E.F. Waldron and Mrs Waldron, Maj V. Williams.

ALBUHERA DAY SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Albuhera Day Service of Remembrance in the Regimental Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral, was held on the afternoon of Saturday 11 May.

The Canon in Residence, The Rev Peter Ball, together with The Rev Gus Jones, conducted the Service. Brig B.A.M. Pielow read the Lesson. The flower arrangement, in regimental colours, was exceptional. The service was once again very well attended by Old Comrades and their families - every seat being occupied. A very pleasing feature was the appearance of some members for the very first time. The sound system worked perfectly and judging by the kind remarks at the conclusion of the service everyone appreciated and enjoyed the occasion. Mr Les Plumb and Mrs Les Loomes were present at the entrance to St Paul's wearing the full dress uniform of the 1902-14 period adding colour to the occasion.

ALBUHERA DAY

On 16 May, Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE, Chairman of the Mill Hill Branch, organised a wreath laying ceremony at our Regimental Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, in conjunction with the Postal Courier Depot R.E.

The Regimental Flag was flying proudly from the Depot Flag Pole, for the day.

Wreaths were laid by Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE, on behalf of the Regiment and by Colonel D.L. Streatfield, Commandant Postal Courier Depot R.E.

After the ceremony Colonel D.L. Streatfield invited all present to the Officers' Mess to partake of refreshments in honour of Albuhera Day. A gesture which is much appreciated by the Regimental Association.

The following members of the Mill Hill Branch were present: Col Desmond Ellis, Major Fred Blackburn, Capt Don Jones and some twenty members of the branch.

ANNUAL REUNION

The annual reunion was held at the Victory Services Club, in the Carisbrooke Hall, on Saturday 11 May, the doors opening at 6.30 p.m. and the bar closing at 12 midnight.

Once again the reunion was very well attended and a thoroughly successful evening ensued. The members period of service of those attending extended from 1914 to 1966, when we ceased to exist as a regiment and became known as members of one of the founding regiments.

The Victory Services Club allow 15 members of the regiment to apply for a bed for the night, this year we only used 6 beds. Quite a number of our old comrades are members of the club and are able to book for the night as a right. Personally I thoroughly recommend the accommodation and the food - it really is worthwhile staying the night and, of course, you can have those extra few without risk.

Syd Webb and his partners supplied the music which was very suitable for the occasion. Mrs Phyllis Brooks once again was in charge of the door, a job that she has performed impeccably for the past 38 years!

This year we had a number attending from our T.A. Bns for the first time and some were disappointed that their chums of 1939-45 did not appear. I suggest that they tell their chums and get a little party together. I enjoyed speaking to them and I do hope they will attend next year.

The A.G.M. was held and the accounts were passed but trying to get a quorum is a task that requires tact, pleading, and remarks such as 'help', 'save my bacon', 'get off your arse', and 'it only takes five minutes'! Sorry I could be in trouble for such a careless remark.

One comrade passed out and I feared for his life as at least eight Diehards revived him. I thought the fumes produced by mouth to mouth resuscitation would be curtains for M.M.A.W.S.

The job of Secretary is a thankless task but reward was at hand – I won a bottle of medicine (Gin) in Dick Smith's draw.

Next year I expect an even larger turnout.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS).

The recent presentations by The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) as a further mark of the affiliation and bond between our two regiments were reported in the Museum notes of the previous Newsletter, and just before that issue went to the printers the London Branch of the Volunteers held a special luncheon at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, during which the Honorary Colonel of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment, Colonel J.R. Heywood, OBE, ED, JP, made the presentations to our President, Lieut Colonel T.W. Chattey. This was a memorable and most enjoyable occasion which was attended by Mr and Mrs Haye, the Hong Kong Commissioner in London, Colonel John Bell and twenty members of the Volunteers and their wives. The following members of The Middlesex Regiment were guests – Lt-Col and Mrs Chattey, Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Col and Mrs Clayton, Col H.J.A. Moore and Major and Mrs A.E.F. Waldron.

The London Branch of the Hong Kong volunteers – as they were known with affection by us before the war – held their annual dinner at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, on Friday 7 June. Colonel John Bell was in the chair and the event was organised by Major Colin Bellingham. Some 35 members of the Volunteers were present and our President Lt-Col T.W. Chattey was one of the principal guests. Our Secretary Major A.E.F. Waldron, also attended. There were a number of pre-war volunteers present who were comrades in arms with our 1st Bn during the Battle of Hong Kong and it was clear from the many reminiscences that the friendship and affiliation between our regiments remains as strong as ever.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

Regular Battalions

The 1st Battalion moved from Omagh to Gibraltar in January and will return to Tidworth in January 1987. The 2nd Battalion left Londonderry for Oakington last November and move to Minden in August next year following a tour in the Falkland Islands from November this year until March 1986. The 3rd Battalion will return from Fallingbommel to Canterbury in January next year and are scheduled for duty in Belize from April to October 1986.

TA Battalions

As regards the TA, a Home Service Company has now been added to the establishment of each of our volunteer battalions and planning is going ahead for the formation of the 8th Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) in 1986.

Civic Honours

Work is now proceeding in preparation for the Freedom Marches between 21 and 25 May in Lewes, Ashford, Hove, and Eastbourne and the ceremony granting the Freedom of the Borough of Tonbridge and Malling to the Queen's Regiment on 23 May. This will be the first civic honour to be awarded directly to the Regiment since its formation in 1966 and will thus be a great occasion.

Beating Retreat on Horse Guards

Another important event will be the Beating of Retreat by the Massed Bands of The Queen's Division on Horse Guards Parade on Tuesday 11 June at 6.30 p.m., when the Prime Minister will take the salute. All Regimental Associations have details of how to obtain tickets and we are hoping for a very large attendance by all sections of the regimental family.

Grand Reunion

We are also hoping for a very large turnout at the Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn on Sunday 14 July. This will follow the usual popular and successful pattern and, again all Associations have received details of this very special day.

Free Fall Parachute Display Team

The Regiment is fortunate in having among its members the Army Free Fall Parachute Champion and is currently training a Free Fall Display Team. It is planned that the team should start to give performances in 1986, subject to a suitable sponsor being found.

Regimental Cricket Team

Also formed this year is a Regimental Cricket Club. A series of matches has been planned for this season but there are still vacancies for some players. Any past or present member of any of our present or forborne regiments may offer to play direct to the Secretary, Major Ian Jones, at Regimental Headquarters.

JJW

2/10th BN THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO) OCA 1914-19

The 57th Reunion Luncheon was held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, on Saturday 25 May 1985. Mr A.D. Scudamore, OBE, President of the OCA presided and Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association was the principal guest.

The following five original members of the 2/10th attended – Mr A.D. Scudamore, Mr A.L. Dean, Mr C.A. Rush, Major C.V. Sharman and Mr A.L. Surfleet. Average age 89/90 years.

Other present were – Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Rev Patrick Tuft, Rev Lewis Lloyd, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Major R.W.J. Smith, Capt D.A. Hawkins, Mr D. Woodbridge, Mr R. Fordham, Mr M. Coward, and Mr R.W. Wilson.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings in 1915 by the 2/10th Bn, Capt D.A. Hawkins, the Assistant Secretary of the OCA, organised a surprise presentation to the 16 surviving members. Five were presented at the luncheon and the other eleven were sent by post to those who could not attend through age and infirmity. The gift consisted of a Middlesex Regiment engraved whisky tumbler and a bottle of Dufftown Glenlivet Malt Whisky. A big thankyou to David for his splendid effort which was very much appreciated by the members of the 2/10th and even surprised 'Scudie' who for once was not in the know.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH OCA

The Hounslow Branch of the Royal British Legion held a Reunion for veterans of the Great War 1914-18, who currently reside in the local district. The reunion took place on Friday 19 April. Lady Victoria Scott, daughter of Field Marshal Earl Haig, was guest of honour. 22 members were traced. 15 were able to attend and these were from the Royal Navy, Royal Flying Corps and various regiments. Three were Diehards namely, George Nevill aged 88, Leslie Steed aged 88 and Gordon Voller aged 90. In order to make sure that they were properly dressed the Regimental Association sent each of them an old pattern tie which they all proudly wore on the night. They were, of course, immediately made members of the Regimental Association. I have received from all three very interesting letters. I am indebted to John Willmington and John Raby of the Hounslow Branch OCA for the assistance they gave to the Hounslow R.B.L.

A photograph appears below:



Left to Right Les Steed (2/8th), Gordon Voller (8th), George Nevill (8th)

1/7th BN DINNER CLUB – ANNUAL DINNER 1985

The last Saturday in April came round and with it the 1/7th Bn 1939/45 Dinner Club, Annual Dinner at the Drill Hall, Hornsey.

This year we missed a number of the old faces, some of whom were 'under the weather'. To these we say get well soon, and we hope to see you there next April. In spite of this our numbers were up on recent years, one member came 12,000 miles and thought it worthwhile.

Major 'Dicky' Bartram was in the Chair and for a 'New Boy' did a grand job! He's 1/7th trained! These dinners are a grand way to keep in touch with our old Diehard friends we meet on these occasions and 'rabbit' about old times. I go home convinced 'the Hornsey Mob' won the war on their own and if Thatcher, Reagan, etc would listen their troubles would be over. Gladly the Diehard spirit lives on.

To those present I say thank you for coming and spread news of these occasions among your old comrades.

Tony White

REGIMENTAL GOLFING SOCIETY

We have an important item of golf news to report this time. Our many congratulations are due to Major Philip Marshall who has achieved a hole-in-one playing the 16th at his home club, Sonning G.C. Our information is that he did this off 24 handicap and that he has been doing rather well lately on this mark, so perhaps the handicap committee may have to go into a special sitting!

The Regimental Meeting is to be played at the North Hants Golf Club, Fleet, on Tuesday 3 September. All members please make a particular note of that day. We need as many playing members as possible naturally non-playing wives, relatives and friends are more than welcome to add to the fun of this most enjoyable occasion. The programme of events is as follows:

The Transvaal Cup	– a singles scratch)	
	stableford competition.)	
Holder	– Tony Chippington)	These competitions will be played
)	concurrently during the
The Darjeeling Cup	– a singles handicap)	morning.
	stableford competition)	
Holder	– Alan Bisset)	
The Jay Cup	– a foursomes handicap)	
	stableford competition)	
Holders	– Tony Chippington)	
	and Alan Bisset)	Played for during the
The Cooper Cup	– awarded to the runners)	afternoon.
	up for the Jay Cup)	
Holders	– Don Carson and)	
	Alec Torrie.)	

In addition there will be the usual optional sweepstakes and, of course, the Divot prize! So there is plenty for everyone of all handicaps to have a go for, and it should make for a really good and worthwhile day's golf.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the day.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

Understandably, the months January to June 1985 covered by this issue of the newsletter has been a quiet period for our Regimental Museum, and the number of visitors has reduced considerably. The most disappointing aspect has been the comparatively few visits made by members of the Regimental Association, and again the Trustees and the Curator, Major Dick Smith most earnestly encourage all DieHards to visit their Regimental Museum to view the relics and mementos of their famous old regiment.

One item of particular interest is that a special showcase is being constructed to house and to show the 12 V.C.'s earned by members of the Regiment since the Crimea War, together with a photograph of each recipient and their citations.

Other recent acquisitions are:

Revolver, Tranter's Patent No. 7677T complete with all accessories in case with plate, 'H. WAYNE MUCH WENLOCK, 57th Regiment'. Lt-Col Wayne was commissioned as an Ensign, 57th Regiment, 2 October 1855, and was in Malta with the Reserve Companies under the command of Lt-Col William Inglis, son of Inglis of Albuhera, when the regiment joined them 1 June 1856. His subsequent military career is, at the time of writing, a subject for research, and will be published at a later date.

On indefinite loan from the Royal Welsh Fusiliers Regimental Museum.

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1914-15 Star, BWM, VM, of 7502 Pte A.S. Maidman, Mx Regt.

Presented by Mrs Doreen Watson. To remain in the Regimental Museum for the duration of its existence.

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1914-15 Star, BWM, VM, of Pte H.S. Short (S/6963), 3rd Bn.

Presented by his brother, ex Sgt M.H. Short, MM, (L/16323 and 6189232).

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Pewter button, 57th Regiment, 1816. The first pattern with 'Albuhera' and wreath. Purchased.

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Photograph of memorial stone erected in Hong Kong to record the mining of the Troopship 'Tyndareus', 6 February 1917, with the 25th (Garrison) Bn of the Regiment on board.

Rifle butt of Short Lee-Enfield Rifle with cap badges of The Middlesex Regiment and The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) to commemorate the affiliation of the two regiments.

Cap badge, pair of collar badges, pair of shoulder titles, two large buttons, two small buttons and cloth beret badge of The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

Presented by The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers).

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An Equestrian painting in oils on board 'Albuhera'.

Copy of Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Lieut Cecil Walter Thomas, OBE, FRBS (1885-1976), who served with the 23rd Bn during WWI.

Presented by Mr Henry Oxley, 23rd Bn.

51st (Highland) Division Dinner Club

The 85th Annual Dinner was held at the Army and Navy Club on Friday 15 March 1985.

The following members of the 1/7th Bn attended – Colonel Andrew Man, DSO, OBE, Major Michael Pearson, MC, Major Humphrey Wigan, MC, Captain Jimmy Dare, Major Harry Bolt, MBE, Doctor Paul Barclay and Major Alan Carter.

Brigadier James A. Oliver, is the new President of the 51st (Highland) Division Dinner Club. He recently wrote an appreciation about the late General Sir Brian Horrocks for 'The Red Hackle' (The Black Watch Regimental Magazine).

I quote – "Everyone was rather miserable and feeling pretty depressed. Soon after we arrived Jorrock's came out of his caravan nearby and as he did so his Post Corporal met him and handed him a bundle of personal letters. He looked quickly through them and then selected one which he opened. He then started to laugh heartily. When he came over to us he remarked that everyone was looking rather gloomy but that he thought this letter would cheer us up. It was from his small daughter at school and he read an excerpt from it as follows 'Monty seems to be doing very well. I wonder if you could send me some more of his signatures. I can now get a whole Mars Bar for each signature you send me'. The whole atmosphere changed for the better. Typical Jorrock's".



1st Bn The Middlesex Regt. Ladies Hockey Club – Hong Kong 1938.
Mrs. Raindle, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Sheffield, Mrs. Parnell, Mrs. Breen, Mrs. Soper, Mrs. Kruck,
Mrs. Bedward, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Bond, Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Quick, Miss Soper.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Former WO2 Robert Bartle (23977991) has joined the Regimental Association. He served from 1963 to 1981, serving with Home Counties Brigade, 1, 2, 3 and 4 Queens, 1 Kings Regiment and a tour at the RM Sandhurst. He is the son of the late RSM Stan Bartle who died on 1 January 1985.

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Colonel Ian Battye sent me three very interesting photographs that he took whilst on holiday in Australia. The inscription on one read:

'To Major Edmund Lockyer of the 57th Regiment who landed here from the Brig Amity on the 26th December 1826 to found the First British Settlement on the Western side of Australia. Erected March 1936'.

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Ex LCpl John Bell (6209198) is now a member of the Regimental Association. He served with B and C Company of the 1/7th Bn 1940-46. He has not been too well but I am sure with the good wishes of all his old comrades he will soon improve.

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Sgt Tony Briggs writes from Berlin and informs me that Drum Major John Lewis is well and sends his regards. He also tells me that former CSM Cliff Shinn started a business as a landscape gardener and florist and is doing well.

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Ex Private Stephen Brooks (6205093) is a new recruit for the Association. He served from 1939-46 and was with the BEF 1/8th Bn, A Coy 1939-40 and then served with B Company 1/7th Bn in the Middle East, BNAF and NW Europe. He was called up for service in 1951 but after three months was discharged on compassionate grounds.

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Former CSM Alfie Burford has sent me a photograph of the grave of Cpl R. Debley (23040547) who died on 19 April 1957, aged 21, whilst serving in Cyprus with the 1st Bn. The grave is located in Waynes Keep Cemetery, Nicosia. The photograph was taken by a young officer serving with the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment stationed at Howe Barracks, Canterbury, who very kindly placed flowers on the grave.

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Colonel Rex Cain has been appointed Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London.

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My thanks to Capt Dan Cattell, formerly 2nd Bn, for a most interesting letter from Australia.

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Major Geoffrey Chiverall has not been too well and we wish him a speedy return to full health.

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Major Ken Clayden writes from Longridge, Lancs, to give me all his news which is always full of life and interesting. The 7th Bn have not forgotten him – I often get enquiries and reply 'he is still climbing so life must be good'.

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I recently received a photograph of the grave of Colonel L.A. Newnham from Mr S.G. Crook, D Company 2/7th, who met Jim Ceaton whilst on a cruise and was given the photograph. Jim Ceaton served with the Diehards in the late 40's and early 50's and was a boxer of note. I am in the process of trying to trace him.

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Ex Private Terence Cunningham (23887850) has joined the Association. He served from 1961-67 and was with A and HQ Company 1st Bn. He is now employed by the London Borough of Ealing as a Mason Pavior.

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Major David Falcke has changed jobs and is now the Public Relations Executive for the Bus and Coach

Council (the Trade Association for the Bus and Coach Industry).

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Another new member is Ex Capt Francis Farley (7602501 and 360678) who served with the LAD 1/7th Bn from 1939-43 and later saw service with various other LADs, the D.L.I. and the Parachute Regiment.

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Colonel Rex Fendick writes from Canada (Canloan officer with 2 Mx 1944-45) to say how sad he was to hear the news of the death of General Horrocks. He tells me that he had the privilege of meeting him twice when he visited the 2nd Bn informally during the NW Europe campaign.

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Major David Fettes, 1/7th Bn 1940-46, writes from Cape Town, South Africa. He tells me that he really enjoys the newsletter and he sends his best wishes to all old friends. Any letters would be most welcome, and an answer is guaranteed.

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Ex Private Jack Fredman (6211590) has joined the Regimental Association. He served from 1940-45 with the 1st Bn (2/8th). He was medically discharged after he received multiple gunshot wounds.

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Former Sgt Ted Garner tells me that he has retired early under the Job Release Scheme as a disabled person. Happy retirement to you both.

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Mr C.H. Goff would like to hear from former members of the 9th Bn. He is in touch with Sgts Rallison and Manktelow but would be pleased to hear from others. Send your letters via the Secretary and I will pass them on.

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Our best wishes to old soldier Tim Harrison (L/10457), now 94, and residing in a nursing home.

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Ex Private Tom Hemmings (14308825) is now a member of the Association. He was severely wounded on 16 June 1944 whilst serving in France with the 1/7th Bn as a driver/mortarman. He is now in receipt of a 100% disability pension and lives at Newtown, Powys.

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Ex Private Sydney Hill has joined the Regimental Association after 57 years of freedom. He enlisted on 3 January 1921 and served with the 1st Bn and A Company as Company Cook. To Army Reserve 1928. He went to school with WO2 Percy Hale and his address was given to me by WO2 Bob Chaplin, both of whom worked in the Orderly Room together. I suppose one could say captured by B Echelon. During WWII Syd served with the Royal Navy and is in possession of the Atlantic Star, an unusual award for a Diehard. Served for 40 years with London Transport.

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At long last former Sgt Bert Hobson (2028203) has been traced, living in Bangkok, Thailand. Bert Hobson enlisted on 1 February 1933 and after recruit training and a short spell with the 2nd Bn was drafted to the 1st Bn; serving in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was taken POW on Christmas Day 1941, moved to Japan on the Lisbon Maru, survived and became a resident at Kobe House. Here he became known as the best stealer of 'Japanese goodies' in the business, which he always shared with his less fortunate comrades. He was of lean build but at times looked quite huge when 'loaded'. After the war he transferred to the RASC and reached the rank of Warrant Officer Class 1. He served until 3 June 1963 and it was whilst stationed in Thailand with SEATO Headquarters that he saw a job opportunity which he took. In his younger days he was batman to our President, Lt-Col Tom Chattey, days he remembers as very happy ones.

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Former WO1 Jacko Jaques sent me some very interesting photographs, 1933-34, and I hope to publish one of them in my December newsletter and run a competition with a prize for the first member to put a name to every face. Jacko has not been too well recently and we wish him a speedy return to full health.

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Ex Private Ivor Jones (22153777) has joined the Association. He served as a National Serviceman from 1949-51 with B and S Company 1st Bn in Hong Kong and Korea. He is now a Meat Porter at Smithfield Market.

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Ex Cpl Sidney William Jones (6201999) has joined the Association. He served with the 7th and 1/7th Bn from 1935-46, the whole of his service with the Signal Platoon HQ Company.

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Another new member is former Drummer John Kenny (23421515). He was called up for National Service in May 1957 and liked it so much that he became a regular until leaving the army in June 1961. He served with the 1st Bn in Cyprus and Hameln. Prior to completion of his service he became Depot Drummer. He lives in Canterbury and runs his own business, - Frame Photography, Weddings, Portraits and Commercial.

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Another capture was Ex Private Reginald Lampshire (23972638). He served from 1963-65 and was with the MT Platoon in Gibraltar. Now employed as a HGV Class I Driver.

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Ex Sgt George Lawrence (6198352) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted on 20 March 1928, commencing his service with the 1st Bn. In 1931 he joined the 2nd Bn and continued serving with them until he was transferred to the REME on 29 January 1943 as Armourer. He was finally discharged on 2 October 1945.

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Major Ian Lloyd, who recently completed a tour in the Falkland Islands, found that a member of the HQ staff was John Lampitt who served with the 1st Bn in Korea. He has now gone home and joined the Army Fire Service.

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Maj Gen Chris Man continues to make progress. He is determined to get well, likes to see his friends and enjoys the cricket on TV. He sends his regards to all members of the Regimental Association.

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Capt Tom McMillan tells me that his daughter, Heather, has worked for the National Trust for years and worked with the late Colonel Rex Waller but never got round to telling that she was the daughter of the infamous 'Mac the Villain'.

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Another recruit for the Regimental Association is Ex Private John Milburn (23545260). He served from 1958-64 with S and HQ Company 1st Bn. Now employed as a Cargo Service-man at Heathrow Airport.

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My thanks to Mr H.S. Molloy, MM, 1/7th Bn, for the photographs of the Mx War Graves taken during his recent visit to Normandy. They will be passed to the Museum Archives.

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Ex Sgt Ronald Montague (6206473) has joined the Regimental Association. He served from 1938-46 and was with the 1st Bn (2/8th). A good cricketer.

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Mrs Pat Newman, widow of Major Percy Newman, was planning to attend our regimental functions this year but the arrival of her sister for a holiday has postponed this until 1986. She sends her regards to all Diehards.

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Former Bandsman Dennis Norris (6205008) has joined the Regimental Association. He enlisted as a Boy soldier in 1938 and was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong. He became a POW, survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and became a resident at Kobe House. On return to UK in 1945 he was found to be medically unfit for the infantry and was transferred to the RASC with whom he served until 1953. He is employed with London Regional Transport as Garage Inspector. It was very nice indeed to meet him at the Reunion.

It was a great pleasure to meet former Sgt Cyril Orme at the Remembrance Service in St Paul's Cathedral. Cyril was the Q.M. Sgt in Austria and Hameln and gave the Bn invaluable service. I hope that we now see a lot more of him. Together we could tell some very interesting stories.

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Mr and Mrs Peaper and family are most grateful for all the assistance that they have been given by the Regimental Association during their enquiries concerning the late 6204522 Cpl W.F. Peaper, who died of wounds on 5 June 1940, whilst serving with D Company 1/7th Bn. They particularly enjoyed the Remembrance Service in St Paul's Cathedral and the 1/7th (1939-45) Dinner at Hornsey.

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Former Sgt Sidney Peart (6213240) has joined the Regimental Association. He volunteered for service on 29 May 1940 and after service with the 70th Bn served with the 2nd Bn from 1941-43 when he was compulsorily transferred to the Royal Engineers.

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Ex Private Clarence Phipps (23972578) is another to see the light and sign on again this with the Regimental Association. He served from 1963-72 with the 1st Bn, 3 and 4 Queens. He is now employed as a British Railways tracklayer.

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An Edgware girl, daughter of former WO2 Mick Quinn, is going out to the Falklands as holiday relief for 3 months. Anita works as an assistant personnel officer for Laings Mowlem ARC joint venture in Surbiton, Surrey. The Falklands winter starts in April and Anita was heard to say - I am taking a lot of thick jumpers and mum's lending me her vests - I can imagine Mick saying 'what no vest'. I hope that when she returns I will receive an account of her overseas service and whether mums vest did the trick.

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Former Cpl Peter Simmons (23313352) was called up for National Service on 21 June 1956 and was posted to the 1st Bn in Cyprus. He was a Carpenter by trade and was immediately 'captured' by the then QM, your present Secretary. He gradually outlived all the other Pioneers and was promoted Cpl. A splendid chap who made sure that the Bn paid no barrack damages after our short occupation of the newly erected Alexander barracks at Dhekelia. He was a Bn footballer who could play a bit and score goals. Looking up a journal of March 1958 I see that he was leading scorer with 21 goals. (John Dorey to note) He finally left the army on 31 July 1958. He is now a Building Supervisor in Libya and recently when in UK came to see me and we spent a most pleasant afternoon.

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2Lt R.F. Simons (449731) has joined the Officers' Club and Regimental Association. He was a National Service Officer from 1955-57.

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Former Sgt David Stockman (6206478) has joined the Regimental Association. He served from 1939-46 with B and C Company 1st Bn (2/8th) and was the M.T. Sgt. Played all sports and a 'tit-bit' - tennis with Colonel Desmond Ellis. He was wounded and is in receipt of a disability pension.

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Ex Cpl Barry Thompson (24029344) has taken the plunge and joined the Association. He served from 1964-72 and was with C Company 1st Bn, 4 Queens and the Display Team. He is now employed as a Security Adviser.

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Ex Cpl Charles White (6199494) has rejoined the Regimental Association. He enlisted in 1930 and for the first eighteen months served with the 1st Bn and then with HQ Company 2nd Bn until his medical discharge in 1941. His wife Dorothy is the daughter of the late Major (QM) Bill Pilley.

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Colonel B.R. Wood who is the President of St John Ambulance South East Area, has been appointed Serving Brother.

BRANCHES OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

At the Regimental Association Executive Meeting held at County Hall, London SE1, on Monday 18 March 1985, approval was given for the Korean Club to become a branch of the Regimental Association in accordance with Rule 18.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

The following recruitment drive by WO2 Paddy Ryan, MM, 1 Queens, deserves a special mention. The following Diehards serving with 1 Queens and living in Gibraltar have enrolled as members of the Regimental Association. A very warm welcome is extended to each of them and we hope for closer contact in the future.

Sgt John Barton (24080841), 1 Mx and 4 Queens 1966-70

WO2 Barry Camille (24139645), 4 Queens 1968-70

CSgt Raymond Greengrass (23950595), 1 Mx and 4 Queens 1963-70

CSgt Michael Higgins (23915476), 1 Mx and 4 Queens 1962-66

CSgt Stephen Howick (24045285), 1 Mx and 4 Queens 1965-70

Sgt Barry Mason (23516171), 1 Mx 1957-1966

Sgt Alan Rice (24070325), 1 Mx and 4 Queens 1965-70

Sgt Peter Stone (24068567), 1 Mx and 4 Queens 1965-70

D COMPANY (MORTARS), 1st Bn 1944-45

Paul Francia of 10 Blount Road, Pembroke Park, Portsmouth, Hants, would be very grateful if any reader can give him details concerning Operation Guildford which took place at Blerick on the River Maas in Holland during 1 and 2 December 1944.

Infantry of the 44 Lowland Brigade made the assault supported by both B and D Companies of the 1st Bn. There appears to be some special features of this operation which led to it being called the 'Perfect Attack'. This sounds like a newspaper headline which someone may have retained.

DIEHARD JOURNALS

Former Diehard, Ernie Platt (6205163), 1939-48, is a keen collector of regimental memorabilia. He requires the following Diehard Journals to complete a set from 1922 to 1967:- No. 1 Aug 34, No. 2 Nov 34, No. 4 May 35, No. 6 Nov 35, No. 8 May 36, No. 9 Aug 36, No. 10 Nov 36, No. 3 Feb 38 and No. 6 Nov 38.

He would also like any copies of the magazine 'Fall In' produced for the Middlesex Territorial Association covering T.A. Bns, Cadet, National Reserve and Volunteer Aid Detachments during WWI for the 'Brotherhood of Khaki'. Any Pre 1914 journals are eagerly sought for, also regimental and battalion histories and Xmas Cards.

He is willing to pay for any items offered.

If you can help please write to him at - Mr. E. Platt, 3 Willowbrook, St. James's Road, Hampton Hill, Mx TW12 1DJ.

OBITUARY

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

AMBLER – On 11 January 1985, Mrs Edith Ambler wife of Sgt R. Ambler.

BARNARD – On 4 October 1984, Mr F.C.J. Barnard, aged 87 years.

Mr Barnard served with the 9th Bn 1914-18. He was one of the original members of the Regimental Association. His widow tells me they were married for 61 years.

BARTLE – On 1 January 1985, Ex WO(RSM) Stanley James Bartle (6203433), aged 63 years.

Stan Bartle enlisted into the Regiment on 11 April 1938 and on completion of his recruit training joined the 2nd Bn. He served with the 2nd Bn during the B.E.F. period from 13 April to 12 June 1940 and also in North Africa from 15 May to 6 November 1943. On 12 June 1946 he was transferred to the Army Reserve in the rank of Sgt on completion of 8 years and 62 days Colour Service.

He re-enlisted on 22 July 1946 and served in UK until 13 March 1953 when he was posted to the 1st Bn in Austria. This was followed by Cyprus/Jordan 1955-58 and Hameln, BAOR. On 25 November 1959 he was promoted WO(RSM) and posted to the Depot Mill Hill. He was finally discharged on 1 July 1961, on reduction of the establishment, having completed 23 years and 42 days Colour Service.

RSM Stan Bartle was a well liked, respected and efficient member of the regiment with a marked sense of responsibility with excellent man management qualities.

The funeral was attended by Lt-Col & Mrs R.D. Hutchings, Capt J.S.C. Flavell, Mr Cliff Burgess and Mr Bob Cubitt. Sadly the weather on the day of the funeral was atrocious and kept many who wished to attend away.

BENNETT – On 7 April 1985, Ex WO2 Ernest Arthur Bennett (6196327), aged 79 years.

He enlisted at Mill Hill in 1924 and after training joined the 1st Bn at Aldershot. During 1925 he was posted to the 2nd Bn and served at Ahmednagar, Madras, Sudan and finally in 1931 to home service at Colchester and Southsea. He was discharged in 1936 with the rank of L/Sgt. In 1939 he rejoined for service and was posted to the 5th Bn Beds and Herts Regiment and promoted to WO2(CSM). The Bn moved to Singapore and he was taken POW in 1942 and worked on the infamous railway. Captain Walter Ward attended the funeral and represented the Regimental Association.

BLOWERS – On 1 February 1985, Ex Private Fred Betts Blowers (6211727), aged 68 years.

Fred Blowers served with the 1st Bn (2/8th) from 18 January 1940 until being invalided out on 30 September 1944 owing to his war wounds. On 23 July 1944 he was severely wounded in the face, arms, and legs. He was eventually admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond on 2 November 1978. Sadly he died at the Home. He was always full of praise for the care and attention that he received. Owing to the severe wounds to his face he was a very private person but very pleasant indeed to talk to.

BOWER – On 30 April 1985, Mrs Molly Bower in her 89th year.

Mollie Bower was the wife of the late Major Geoffrey Arthur Holme Bower, MC, TD, who died on 14 January 1973, after giving long and valuable service to our 7th Bn. Mollie regularly attended the Officers' Club Dinner and will be sadly missed. The funeral was attended by Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey and Major A.E.F. Waldron.

CLAPP – On 20 April 1985, Private Walter Stanley Clapp (6210643), aged 65 years.

Wally Clapp enlisted into the regiment on 15 November 1939 and was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong during 1940. He joined HQ Company and the Signal platoon. He became a P.O.W. on 25 December 1941 and was moved to Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo in August 1942 where he remained until he was repatriated to the U.K. in November 1945. He was medically discharged on 2 January 1946. He resided at 5 Albuhera Close, Enfield, one of our Regimental Homes. Sadly his wife died on 20 November 1982. Wally was a Freeman of the City of London and a bookbinder by trade.

The funeral was attended by Major A.E.F. Waldron, Mr and Mrs Evans, Mr and Mrs Poole, Messrs. Cubitt, Collier, Franklin and Matthews.

COLVIN – On 29 December 1984, Major S. McLeod Colvin, aged 89 years.

Served Middlesex Regiment 1914-21 and 1939-45. No other details available.

COMPTON – On 27 December 1984, Ex Sgt Leslie Compton, aged 72 years.

Leslie Compton served with the 1st Bn (2/8th) joining the Bn in 1943 as a Private. He was a professional footballer with the Arsenal gaining international honours in 1950 and also played cricket for the county of Middlesex, becoming the regular wicket keeper in 1947. Three well known members of the 1st Bn have made contributions and as Editor I feel that you will wish to read their tributes:

Major Geoffrey Townend writes –

I was very sad to read of the recent death of Sgt Leslie Compton. Les served with D Company, 1st Bn, from 1943 and through the campaign in NW Europe until his demobilisation in August 1946. He was very popular in his platoon and in the company, proving himself to be a good, conscientious and fair minded leader with a droll sense of humour. Out of action, his fine sporting record and achievements with Middlesex and Arsenal, were invaluable to the Company's teams, and his encouragement and advice to the less able of us was untiring and unstinted. He will be missed by many.

Former Sgt Vic Barley writes –

To all who knew him Les was, first and foremost a complete gentleman. An all time 'football great'. He could have, without doubt, been an automatic choice for the A.P.T.C. when he enlisted, but chose to join his county regiment 'The Diehards'. He was posted to D Company and the Mortars. He joined the Bn at Southend, Essex, when the Bn moved back to England from Iceland and served through until the end of hostilities, which of course included the invasion of France, known widely as the Second Front. He naturally, on joining the Bn, was a automatic choice for the Soccer XI. In his career as a 'pro' footballer he played for Arsenal before and after the war, during the post war period he gained international honours at the age of 37! Was capped twice for England. Strangely he was centre-half for both Arsenal and England post war and yet always played inside left for the Bn side and the 15th Scottish Division XI. The soccer career at an end saw Leslie as 'Mine Host' of the Hanley Arms in Hornsey. Only a step away from his only professional club, the Arsenal; Leslie changed houses and became 'Mine Host' at the 'Prince of Wales' in Highgate Village, still only a step from Highbury, the home of the great 'Gunners' team. He then took up Bowls winning many top honours at this sport and after having a foot amputated he still carried on the sport and won the North London Bowls Championship. Leslie was held in very high esteem by all, he will be greatly missed by all who ever had any contact with him; as previously stated – A Perfect Gentleman.

Capt Bob Whitehead writes:

I was the Bn goalkeeper and we had rather a good team of which the late Lt-Col Fanny Walden was extremely proud. I think that it was sometime in 1942 that he sent for me and showed me the names of the next draft. 'Private L.H. Compton' – I believe he is a professional footballer! He was. There was no holding us after that. We went on to win the Divisional and the Northern Command Championship. I have a photo of the team now which was – Pte Bennett, Pte Mansell, Cpl Rosser, Lt Whitehead, Pte Compton, L/c Dickie, L/c Hard, 2Lt Stubbs, Cpl Stratton, CSM Meadows (Muscles – Capt), Pte Young, Cpl Barley, L/c Jones. What fun we had in that team and what an inspiration Leslie Compton proved to be.

DIAMOND – On 2 October 1984, Ex Cpl Sydney Carlton Diamond (4128951), aged 67 years.

He enlisted into the Cheshire Regiment on 3 May 1939 but on 18 November was transferred to the 1/8th Bn with whom he served until 21 December 1945. He was wounded while serving with B Company.

DURRANT – In early February 1985, Mr Albert Durrant, aged 87 years.

He served with the 18th Bn during the Great War 1914-18. Information from the Essex County Standard dated 15 February 1985.

FLORENCE – On 21 February 1985, Cpl F.E. Florence (7262906), aged 71 years of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Cpl 'Flo' Florence, RAMC, will be well remembered by members of the 1st Bn who were on the Lisbon Maru and in Kobe House, Japan. He ministered to the sick with great tenderness and understanding. He was Mentioned in Despatches on 12 September 1946 for Distinguished Service whilst a P.O.W. in Japan. He was also a good singer and a great organiser of concerts. Mr Bill Franklin from Albuhera Close attended the funeral and represented the Regimental Association.

GODDARD – On 21 March 1985, Ex Cpl Charles Douglas Goddard, MM, BEM (6202957), aged 64 years.

Dougie Goddard enlisted as a boy soldier on 6 April 1936, and joined the 2nd Bn. On 2 February 1937 he was posted to the 1st Bn then serving at Gillman Barracks, Singapore. On 20 August 1937 the Bn moved to Hong Kong where he excelled at all sports and in 1940 became a Bn boxer fighting at Heavy Weight. During the Battle for Hong Kong one of the pill boxes manned by C Company was commanded by Cpl Goddard. For his gallantry and outstanding devotion to duty on this occasion he was awarded the Military Medal. He became a P.O.W. on 25 December 1941 and was moved to Japan about 1943 and to Osaka Camp where he worked at the Copper mines and the shipyard. He was repatriated to UK during October 1945 and discharged on 30 October 1945 on completion of his engagement. He returned to Armagh and joined the 5th Royal Irish Fusiliers T.A. and became Drum Major. In 1963 he was awarded the British Empire Medal. After visiting Hong Kong in March and whilst on the way home via Australia where he was visiting his daughter, he sadly collapsed and died. For 35 years he was employed by British Telecom.

He was a staunch member of the Regimental Association and will be sadly missed.

GREEN – On 14 April 1985, Ex Private R. Green, aged 54 years.

Served 1949-51 and was with the 1st Bn in Korea.

HAMBLY – On 24 March 1984, Ex Cpl William John Hambly (14400470), aged 59 years.

Bill Hambly was called up on 29 July 1942 and after training joined the 1st Bn (2/8th) and served with 11 Platoon C Company in Europe 1944-45. He became Technical Cpl. He was demobilised on 25 July 1947 and joined the Ford Motor Company at Dagenham.

HAMMETT – On 11 September 1984, Ex Cpl William Albert Hammett (60370 and 6190501), aged 85 years.

Served with the 1/8th, 1st Bn and 4th Bns 1917-23. Also RASC 1939-45.

HENDERSON – On 6 March 1985, Lt-Col Anthony Delaval Henderson, Royal Warwickshire Regiment, aged 74 years.

He commanded the 2nd Bn, then in Palestine, from 2 February 1947, bringing the Bn back to UK during the May. He was posted to a Staff appointment on 30 July 1948.

Col I.R. Burrows, OBE, MA, attended the funeral and represented the Regimental Association.

HICKMAN – On 12 April 1985, Ex Private William James Hickman (6850364), aged 70 years.

Bill Hickman enlisted on 13 June 1940 and landed on Sword Beach on 7 June 1944 with 5 Platoon B Company, 2nd Bn. He was involved in the fighting at Cambes Wood and Caen. He was discharged on 20 June 1946. He only joined the Regimental Association in February and was looking forward to attending the Albuhera Service in St Paul's Cathedral and the Reunion. Sadly it was not to be.

KING – On 13 December 1984, Ex WO1 Arthur William King (1745 and 242940), aged 90 years.

He served from 20 November 1913 to 4 July 1919 seeing service with our 1/10th Bn and 1/5th Buffs.

He was resident at Galanos House, Long Itchington, Rugby, a Royal British Legion Home.

KINGSLAND – On 20 April 1985, Ex Private William Kingsland (6194437), aged 80 years.

Bill Kingsland enlisted into the regiment on 27 June 1921 and served with D Company 2nd Bn in Silesia, Germany, Singapore and India. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 26 December 1928.

During the Second World War he served with the Royal Navy and was mentioned in despatches. He is the brother of Mrs Tilly Jones, Widow of the late Sgt Kenny Jones (6197370).

MANNING – On 9 March 1985, Ex Private John Mathew Manning (6208597 and 22546620), aged 68 years.

Jock Manning was called up for service in 1940 and served with 2nd and 1/7th Bns (8th Army). He was also at Akayeri in Iceland with the 2nd Bn Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment in 1941. He was transferred to the Reserve in 1947. He re-enlisted in 1950 and was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and joined S Company. He served in Korea with the Bn and on 13 February 1952 was attached to 26 Special Air Service joining this unit in Malaya. He returned to the Bn on 17 December 1952. Service in Austria and Cyprus followed but on 15 October 1958 he was medically discharged to pension.

A most likeable character who was always interested and very generous to the Regimental Association. He never married and lived with his sister in Clapham.

MILNE – On 21 October 1983, Ex Private George Milne (6194098), aged 80 years.

He served with the 1st Bn from 1922-29 and became Butchers storeman and later Officers Mess Silverman. He was called up for service in 1939 serving until 1945.

NEWTON – On 9 July 1981, Ex Cpl Reginald Geoffrey Newton (6202708), aged 66 years.

Cpl Newton enlisted on 22 October 1935 and served with the 2nd Bn. He was very seriously wounded whilst serving with the 2nd Bn at Dunkirk and was medically discharged on 8 May 1942.

SKINNER – On 3 March 1985, Major Bryan Anthony Skinner, aged 54 years.

Bryan Skinner was one of those ex national service officers who became a Diehard almost by coincidence. Commissioned during National Service into the Royal Army Educational Corps he commenced his obligatory T.A. service with a LAA/SL Regiment at Cowley, Mx. Following a number of amalgamations which occurred in the 1950s, Bryan, then with 604 LAA/SL Regt RA(RF) TA at Wembley, joined the 9th Bn at Kingsbury then commanded by Colonel John Doyle. After some years spent in Yorkshire, and service with the W. Yorks T.A., Bryan returned South in time to join the significant combination of the 7th, 8th and 9th Bns into the newly-formed 5th Bn commanded by Colonel Ian Brotherton. Bryan had charge of the Ealing Company and was promoted Major. Always a highly popular officer with all ranks, Bryan brought to his T.A. service the same enthusiasm, industry and flair which characterised his business life. On leaving Cambridge University, where he coxed Goldie, he spent some years with I.C.I. before venturing into advertising. This in turn led to an interest in building construction and property development. Crest Homes, a small private company was formed and within a few years went public. In this, as in other ventures, he was ably supported by Geoffrey, son of the late Colonel Graham Fox (9 Mx). Subsequent acquisitions resulted in the present Crest Nicholson PLC. The financial rewards which resulted from very hard work, considerable business acumen and complete integrity meant regrettably that Bryan became a Tax exile in Jersey to the great sorrow of his many friends in England. Our sympathy in their great loss goes to his Widow, Celia, and their three daughters and son.

Capt John Slack.

SOBEY – On 21 March 1985, Captain E.G.C. Sobey, RAOC, aged 56 years.

Bob Sobey, a Platoon Commander in D Company 1st Middlesex in Korea 1950-51 died in Treliex Hospital, Truro. He was the only survivor from Korea of the three Royal Army Ordnance Corps officers on a 12 month attachment to the 1st Bn. As a young 2nd Lieutenant he came into his own in Korea. He and his greatest friend Geoff White, also RAOC, commanded the first two platoons of the battalion to cross the Nakton River in a patrol action in September 1950. During this action Bob's platoon came under heavy fire and he will be remembered by those then with him for his skill and courage in extricating his platoon and bringing the wounded safely back to base. Later he was to lead D Company's attack on Middlesex Hill. Till the onset of his illness early this year he had been working for Blue Circle Cement in Falmouth having retired from the RAOC in 1961.

TURNER – On 13 August 1984, Ex Sgt William Alfred Turner (6200385), aged 69 years.

Twister Turner served from 26 March 1933 to 11 March 1956. He was taken POW with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and was a survivor of the Lisbon Maru. I regret to say that I have been unable, at the moment, to trace details of his service from 1945 to 1956. On retirement he became a Security Guard.

WALLER – On 7 April 1985, Colonel Alan Rex Waller, MBE, MC, aged 70 years.

When I learned of Rex's untimely death on Easter Sunday last I rang up Brigadier J.O.E. Vandeleur, DSO, (Irish Guards) to tell him and who in his Memoirs – A Soldier's Story – said "when I took over command of 47(L) Infantry Brigade T.A. in 1949 consisting of The London Scottish, London Irish and 7th Bn The Middlesex Regiment I was provided with the best Brigade Major I have ever known in my life, Rex Waller of The Middlesex Regiment." I think all who knew him liked and respected him not only for that impish mischievous smile but for his down right efficiency. He joined us in the 2/8th Mx, later to become the resuscitated 1st Bn, shortly before the 1939-45 War serving in A Company. Whilst the Bn was in the 61st Division he did a tour with them as Staff Captain but returned to the Bn – then the 1st Bn in 15th (Scottish) Division for the formation of Brigade Support Groups and came as my 2IC in 'B' Group. When these were disbanded and we returned to three MMG Companies and one 4.2 Mortar Company he took over A Company which he led from the invasion of N.W. Europe to Lubeck in N.E. Germany. It was for his outstanding leadership during this campaign that he was awarded the Military Cross.

The end of the war was shortly to see him at Staff College and then his appointment as Brigade Major 47(L) Infantry Brigade. Then following a tour with 1st Middlesex in Hong Kong in 1952, he was posted to 7th Mx as Training Major and also came my 2IC. This was followed by a tour as Depot Commander at Mill Hill where we still worked closely together on The Regimental History. He was awarded the M.B.E. in 1958. He then assumed many exacting Staff Appointments, not only in U.K., but in NEARELFT to N.W. Europe ultimately holding the appointment as Colonel in Land Operations Division Allied Forces Central Europe from which he retired in 1970.

However Rex could not relinquish his zest for work and he was shortly to run the fabulous Waddesdon Manor a former home of the Rothschild family where his ability was much appreciated by The National Trust.

These memories may be somewhat personal but we had served together for many years. However I know that all who knew him had the high regard, that I have, of the contribution he made to life and his Country.

He will be sadly missed, by Mary and his two daughters, as well as by us all.

W.D.E.

WHITE - On 6 March 1985, Sgt Alan Richard White (6200516), aged 74 years.

Alan White served from 1932 to 1948. No other service details are available.

WHITE - On 13 April 1985, Stanley G. White, MBE, aged 88 years, of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment.

Stan White was a Kensington at heart for the whole of his adult life. He was Secretary of the OCA for many years and in later life was made a Vice President. Stan knew everyone and everything about his regiment. He will be very sadly missed indeed and a tremendous loss. Many Diehards will remember him with affection.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available for purchase. These can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE. Cheques should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association. Postage and packing is included in the price.

Badges Blazer, Middlesex	£6.00 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£11.50 each
Glass, Whisky tumbler engraved with Middlesex Regiment badge	£4.50 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern Terylene (Maroon and Old Gold)	£2.00 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern Terylene	£2.00 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£4.50 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex	£11.50 each
History 'Diehards in Korea'	£5.00 each

The first of the two main sections of the report is devoted to a description of the work done during the year 1971, including a summary of the results of the various projects. The second section is devoted to a description of the work done during the year 1972, including a summary of the results of the various projects.

The report also includes a section on the work done during the year 1973, including a summary of the results of the various projects.

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