



The Die-Hards

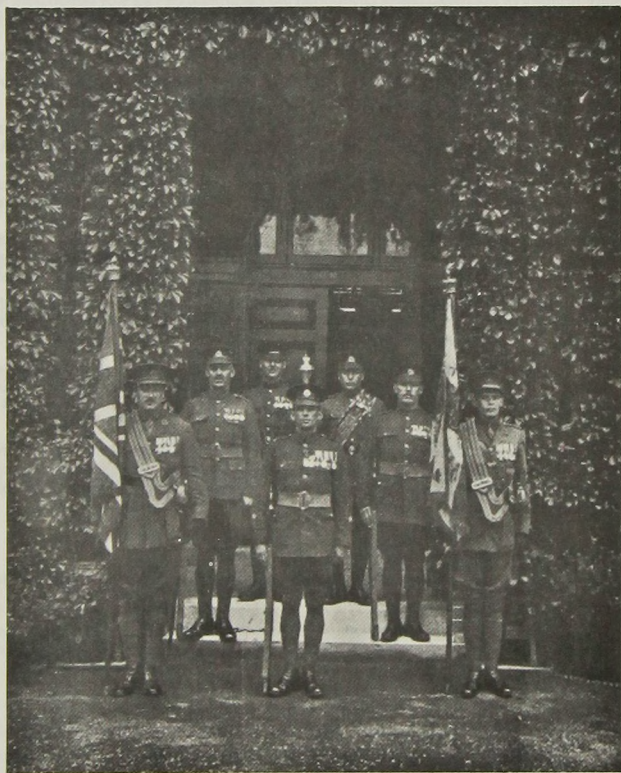
NEWSLETTER

No. 59

JUNE 1988

PRICE 25p

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Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres,
Canterbury, Kent. CT4 6EE.



The late Brig. B.B. Rackham is the ensign on the right of the photograph.

BRIGADIER BASIL RACKHAM, CBE, MC

Brigadier Basil Rackham died suddenly at his home in Woodbridge, Suffolk, on 15 March 1988, aged 91.

In 1914 at the age of 17 he had enrolled with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve for service with the Royal Naval Division. This was an elite force of volunteers, largely the brainchild of Winston Churchill then First Lord of the Admiralty.

He was posted to Hawke battalion, and from October 1915 to January 1916 served with them in Gallipoli. On evacuation from this ill fated expedition the Royal Naval Division (63rd Division) took its place in the line on the Western Front in France. He served with Hawke Battalion throughout that series of battles known collectively as the First Battle of the Somme; during which British losses were 22,923 officers and 476,553 men; the heaviest incurred in any series of battles on the Western Front by any Allied Army. In the closing stages of the Somme from 11 Nov to 21 Nov, the Royal Naval Division particularly distinguished itself in the Ancre battle swiftly carrying three lines of trenches at the onset, the famous New Zealand leader Lieut Colonel Bernard Frayburg winning his Victoria Cross. By the end of the Great War Basil Rackham had been awarded the Military Cross and Bar, and had been wounded and gassed.

On the disbandment of the Royal Naval Division at the beginning of 1921 by which time he had become Adjutant of Hawke Battalion, he received a Regular Commission in the Middlesex Regiment, joining the 3rd Battalion in Germany in 1921. This Battalion was shortly disbanded on the reduction from four to two Regular Battalions and he was the last Ensign to carry the Regimental Colour. He then joined the 1st Battalion.

Then followed a tour of duty at the Regimental Depot at Mill Hill and subsequently he returned to the 1st Battalion as Adjutant, which in 1927 formed a part of the Shanghai Defence Force.

After a further tour at Mill Hill he returned to the 1st Battalion in Singapore in 1936 only to be recalled to the United Kingdom the following year on his appointment as Chief Instructor at the Small Arms School at Netheravon. On the outbreak of war in September 1939 the War Office froze all appointments in the Training Organisation for six months. However early in the following year Basil Rackham was appointed to command the 1/7th Battalion The Middlesex Regt taking over command at Gondecourt in France on 1 March 1940. In the few weeks that elapsed before the Battalion crossed into Belgium in defence of that country on 10 May he had won the hearts and trust of every soul in his Battalion by his deep understanding, natural leadership and sure knowledge. He was one of the last to leave Dunkirk and by the time he had reformed his command in the early days of June, to his men in the 1/7th Battalion he had become virtually a legend, and to them still remains so.

In November 1941 he was promoted to Colonel as 2nd in Command of the support Group of 9th Armoured Division. Thereafter the remainder of his war service was as a Brigade Commander in the United Kingdom, and for his services he was created a C.B.E.

On retiring in September 1945 he became Secretary to the Middlesex Territorial Association coping magnificently with many problems arising from a return to peace conditions and the great surge of calls on the resources of the Regimental Association that followed. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex and then of Greater London.

Throughout his long service Basil Rackham endeared himself to all with whom he came in contact by his infectious enthusiasm for anything he undertook, and anyone who worked with him, and especially those who worked for him, must have developed a deep respect for his inner wisdom, his unfailing fairness and his wonderful company. He was indeed a 'Happy Warrior'.

'Who did not stoop, nor lie in wait
For wealth or honours, or worldly state'

He is survived by Elsie, his wife, his daughter and three grand children to whom we offer our deepest sympathy.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1988 and 1989

- 24 September Middlesex Regiment Korean Club reunion at the Victory Service Club, Seymour St, London W2, at 6.30 p.m.
- 6 October 2/7th Bn Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, at 12 noon.
- 16 October Party from the Regimental Association attend Royal Hospital Church Parade - assemble 10.30 a.m.
- 26 October Housing Sub Committee Meeting at Cadet Officers' Mess Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, at 6.15 p.m.
- 12 November Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster 10.30 a.m.
- 13 November Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, at 10.15 a.m. followed by reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.

1989

- 29 March Regimental Association Executive Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, at 6.15 p.m.
- 29 April 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon Club at TA Centre, Hornsey. Assemble 12 noon.
- 12 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner at the Naval and Military Club (In and Out), 94 Piccadilly, London WC2.
- 13 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral, commencing at 2.30 p.m.
Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing 6.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting 7.30 p.m.

NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST

We send our heartiest congratulations to the following members of the former Middlesex Regiment(DCO) who received the awards stated in the 1988 New Year Honours List:

C.B.E.

Major B. St G.A. Reed, MC, DL. Chairman and Chief Executive Austin Reed Group PLC.

M.B.E.

Major M.B. Montgomery.
Major P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, TD.

BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January to 30 June 1988, the sum of £4292.00 has been spent from the Charitable Fund in assisting 40 members of the Regiment. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £1086.00. A full report will be given at the end of the year.

QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION

On 13 May 1988 The Queen's Regimental Association made a donation of £7,500 to the Army Benevolent Fund for the financial year ending 31 March 1989, on behalf of The Queen's Regimental Association and its Founding Regiments' Associations, namely: The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Own Buffs, The Royal Sussex Regiment, The Middlesex Regiment(DCO).

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

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

- (a) The late Major C.A. Trestain, MBE, bequeathed £1000 to the Charitable Fund.
- (b) The late WO2(CSM) V.M. Corner bequeathed £100 to the Charitable Fund.

- (c) A donation of £200 from the Lilley Benevolent Trust – £100 for the Regimental Charitable Fund and £100 for the 9th Bn Museum Fund.
- (d) A donation of £50 from Mrs. Joan Riseley in memory of her husband the late Capt J.R.C. Riseley.
- (e) A donation of £50 from Lt-Col R.T.D. Hicks, TD, in memory of the late Major J.T. Panks, MC.
- (f) Donations of £25 from Miss Jean Bower, Mr E.J. Collier and Mr H.C. Edmonds.
- (g) A donation of £60 from Mrs H. Thom in memory of her husband the late RSM J. Thom.
- (h) A donation of £30 from Mr Brian Gostick (a guide at St Paul's Cathedral).
- (i) A donation of £25 from members of the 1/7th (1939-45) Dinner Club.
- (j) A donation of £50 from Capt G.D. Cripps.
- (k) Plus donations from: Mr A.J. Briggs, Mr K.H. Brown, Lt A.H. Catchpole, Mr A.J. Chalk, Mr E.J.F. Clarke, Major B.K. Clayden, Major A.R. Cooper, Mr C.J. Cox, Capt W.H. Craydon, Mr L.M. Crook, Lt-Col R.F. Fendick (Canloan – 2nd Bn), Mr A.W. Gibbs, Mr W.J. Gould, Lt J.H. Hedgely, Mr R.J. Lomax, Mr A.J. Mann, Mr L.T. Plumb, Capt F. Redpath, Mr D.R. Richardson, Mr W.A. Robertson, Capt J.W. Scott, Lt-Col G. Scott-Lowe, Mr B.P. Tarry, Mr A.E. Tuthill, Mrs I. Ward, Mrs R.L. Weller, Major M. Wild, Mr J. Yeowen in memory of his father who was killed in 1917 whilst serving with the 16th [Public Schools] Bn).

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 and widows: Mr R. Ashton, Mr V.E. Barley, Mr R. Bartle, Mr J.W. Barton, Mr T.A. Barton, Mr A. Baseley, Mr D. Baston, Mr D.G. Beck, Mr E.J. Bermingham, Mr A.B. Birch, Major A.R. Bisset, Mr T.F. Boreham, Major F.H. Blackburn, Mr A.J. Briggs, Mr A.T. Brown, Mr K.H. Brown, Mr J.C. Clements, Lt R.A. Condon, Mr A.G.W. Cooper, the late Mr V.M. Corner, Mr C.J. Cox, Mr W.H.D. Coxhedge, Mr B.A. Crawley, Capt G.D. Cripps, Mr H.W. Daniels, Mr H. Deverill, Mr R.E. Dodkins, the late Mr C. Evans, Mrs S. Finch, Mr D.A. Francis, Mr J.G. Forgham, Mr E.J. Garner, Mr A.W. Gibbs, Mr A. Gilbertson, Major F.K. Gladden, Mr C.H. Goff, Mr W.J. Gould, Mrs R. Hale, Mr G.C. Higgins, Mr S.E. Hill, Capt W.E. Hughes, Mr R.G. Johnson, Mr S.E. Knight, Mr R.M. Lawford, Mr S. Light, Major I.M.E. Lloyd, Mr E. Lockyer, Mr R.L. Lomax, Mr R.T. Marshall, Mr H.J. Mellor, Mr W. Moreton, Mr A.G. Nicholson, Mr D.P. Norris, Mr G. Peacock, Major A.W.F. Peal, Mr S.M. Peart, Mr R. Pile, Mr A.A. Pilford, Mr C. Quickenden, Capt F. Redpath, Mr D.R. Richardson, Mr W.A. Robertson, Mr J. Rolt, Mr A. Rose, Mr A. Russell, Mr P. Ryan, Mr F. Sadler, Mr M.A. Sampson, Mr J.W. Scott, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Mr R.W. Sissons, Mr L. Shrubbs, Mrs J.S. Singleton, Mr W.A. Smith, Mr E.H.T. Steward, Mr B.P. Tarry, Mr E.J. Thompson, Mr R.S.R. Turner, Mr W.J.E. Turner, Mr J.A. Webb, Mrs R.L. Weller, Major M. Wild, Col B.R. Wood.

DONATIONS

The following donations have been made during the period 1 January to 30 June 1988:

- (a) A donation of £50 to The Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, as a contribution to the cost of Crimean War display. Apparently our Regiment subscribed to the original Nightingale Appeal 130 years ago.
- (b) A donation of £350 to the Middlesex and North West Sector of the Army Cadet Force League. This is an annual donation.
- (c) A donation of £75 towards the cost of the Farewell Parade held by B(Albuhera) Company, 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regiment prior to becoming B(Albuhera) Company, 8th(V) Bn The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) T.A.
- (d) A donation of £50 to the upkeep of the St George's Memorial Church, Ypres.
- (e) The annual subscription of £25 to the 'Friends of St Paul's'.

ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Albuhera Service of Remembrance was held at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday 14 May, in the Regimental Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral.

We were honoured by the presence of The Very Reverend T.E. Evans, M.A., The Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Cannon Peter Ball, The Reverend Patrick Tuft, M.A., Vicar of St Nicholas and St Mary Magdalene, Chiswick (Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th Bn 1914-18) and our own Rev W.E.B. Jones, M.A. Brig B.A.M. Pielow read The Lesson.

Included in the Order of Service, for the first time, were the names of our comrades who have passed on since our last service and we kept silence in their memory. This inauguration evoked many complimentary remarks from those attending the Service. A copy of the Order of Service was sent to every widow or next of kin and a number of letters of appreciation were received thanking the regimental association for this gesture.

The Service was again very well attended and many new faces attended which bodes well for the future. The sound system bogey was laid to rest and responded to 'The Very Reverends' every touch. The flowers in regimental colours were exceptional and much appreciated. In all a very pleasant and moving Service enjoyed by all.

As usual our three stalwarts at the entrance to the Cathedral gave colour and pleasure to us and also the public visiting the Cathedral. Thank you Les Plumb, Bob Yerby and Les Loomes.

ANNUAL REUNION

The annual reunion was held at the Victory Services Club, in the Carisbrooke Hall, on Saturday 14 May, commencing at 6.30 p.m. and the bar closing at 12 Midnight.

A good attendance is essential for a reunion as is the band and the buffet, and this happened. This is always a relief to the organiser and I must confess I am always apprehensive until I see our old comrades streaming through the door. My worries disappear when I hear the sounds of laughter and the clink of glasses. It was a pleasure to see Gen Sir John Willoughby, Lt-Col Tom Chattey our President, Brig Tony Pielow our Chairman, Col Andrew Man and others amongst the crowd. Reminiscences flowed fast and furious amongst the old and the not so young. I have never mentioned names in the past but I think a few will do good! I only saw 4 pre war 1st Bn members present – CSM John Soden, Sgt Alf Ellis, Tich Mellor and myself which is disappointing – this is something I must remedy.

I realise we have members that are too ill to attend and just for the record I mention a few; Maj Gen Chris Man, Sgt Matthews, Cpl Coppard, Ptes Birdsey, Abercrombie, Burdige, Hipgrave, Helliadis, Johns, Hughes, Wooley etc.

Our pre war 2nd Bn members are now thin on the ground so we depend on the post war brigade. The QM group are always on parade and RQMS George Cooper does not get any slimmer. Majors Pat Donovan, Jimmy Wild and Capt Tom McMillan all appear to wear exceptionally well as do RSM Ray Dodkins, CSM's Bill Wright, Bob Cubitt, Les Shrubbs and others Tich Higgins, Nick Nicholson, Pat Dive, Les Plumb, Brian Jelly, Ron Pile, Paddy Bermingham, etc.

One person conspicuous by his absence was Major Dick Smith, I expect to see you next year – I do not expect to have to put 'A' against your name twice. I cannot remember the last time you missed.

To the many others that attended I will do my best to give you a mention next year. I feel that to mention a few names will remind others that this is a worthwhile occasion.

Lastly our thanks to Phyllis Brooks for her 41st stint on the door. See you next year and many more.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT

Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, one of our two Allied Colonels-in-Chief, has awarded the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Charles Millman OBE, the Royal Order of Dannebrog (Commander 1st Class). The decoration was presented to Brigadier Millman by the Danish Ambassador in London on 18 February. Subsequently, at a Dinner on 6 April, the Colonel of the Regiment was made a Freeman of the Haberdashers' Livery Company, with which the Regiment has been affiliated since February 1984.

THE BATTALIONS

The 1st Battalion, under command of Lt Col Chris Charter is now firmly established in Tidworth and have had some notable boxing successes. Command of the 2nd Battalion in Minden has passed from Lt Col Peter Cook to Lt Col Merrick Willis. The 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Bob McGhie, moved from Canterbury to

Aldergrove in late January. As for our TA Battalions, the 5th is now commanded by Lt Col Philip Pearce who took over from Lt Col Charles Joint in March, the 6th/7th is still commanded by Lt Col Roger Lowans TD, and Lt Col Nick Brunt RRF has taken over as the first Commanding Officer of the new 8th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London).

FREEDOM PARADES

On 7th January, before they left Canterbury, the 3rd Battalion exercised the Regiment's Freedom of the City. The salute was taken by the Mayor, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment. The splendid parade was followed by a magnificent Service in the Cathedral attended by the battalion and its families at which the Dean preached, followed by a sit-down civic reception for all the Queensmen who had been involved.

Later this year the 1st Battalion will exercise the Regiment's Freedom of Guildford (15 June), Reigate and Banstead (16 June), Ramsgate (17 June) and Maidstone (18 June). All these ceremonies start at midday and it is hoped that as many members as possible of our affiliated Regimental Associations will be able to attend. On 1 October, the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion will exercise our Freedom of Worthing and next year Crowborough is to honour the Regiment with its Freedom.

THREE ON ONE CYCLE ACROSS AMERICA

Maj John Gamlin of the Regiment currently serving at the Junior Infantry Battalion Shorncliffe, is at present cycling with two Junior soldiers across the United States on a single machine. They are using a specially constructed 'Triplet' made by 'Swallow Cycles' for the journey. They set out from New York on 9 April and hope to complete the 5,500 mile crossing in San Francisco on 1 July. They are totally self-contained, taking their sleeping bags, tent and spares etc on the 3 man cycle.

EVEREST EXPEDITION

Capt Duncan Strutt of our 2nd Battalion is one of 36 climbers who have been selected for the British Services Everest Expedition 1988. The party left England on 19 February, will attempt to climb Everest from the North (Tibet) side in May and will return on 6 June. Capt Strutt's interest in outdoor pursuits started with him becoming a Queen's Scout with his home based Ashford Common (Middlesex) Scout Troop. This blossomed into mountaineering following his award of both Silver and Gold under the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Whilst at RMA Sandhurst he began mountain climbing in earnest with a trip to the icefields of the Rocky Mountains in Canada. This was followed by frequent climbing trips in the UK and the Alps. In 1986 he went to Peru and made many successful ascents of 5900-6100 metre peaks which in many ways led to him being selected in September 1987 for the present Everest Expedition.

THE FLYING DRAGONS

The Regiment's spectacular Free Fall Team, which many readers have seen perform at Dover Castle or at the Grand Reunions, has received generous support from Prudential for its first three years. The agreement with this company finishes this year and the Team is seeking new sponsors for the 1989 season on. Any ideas should be passed to Regimental Headquarters, please.

OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The Annual Dinner was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, London WC2, on Friday 13 May. Lt-Col T.W. Chattey presided and 78 members with wives and relatives attended. Commander Chan Shears, registrar and Receiver of St Paul's Cathedral was the principal guest. The following attended:

Official Guests

Commander and Mrs Charles Shears, Major and Mrs Colin Bellingham, The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers); Miss Jean Bower, Mrs F. Jennings and daughter Vivien, Rev and Mrs W.E.B. Jones, Mrs A. Hutchings, Mrs S. Mayhew, Mrs P. Pearce-Gould, Mrs C. Pollard.

Members and Private Guests

Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey, Brig and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, Brig and Mrs G. Lerrill, Brig B.H. Marciandi, Brig and Mrs D.B. Rendell, Col and Mrs I.H. Battye, Col and Mrs I.D. Brotherton, Col I.R. Burrows and Miss B. Colley, Col and Mrs R.M. Cain, Col and Mrs A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Col A.M. Man, Col H.J.A. Moore, Lt-Col and Mrs J.M. Hewson, Major P.G.V. Bellers, Major and Mrs F.J. Bennett, Major R.A.J. Cheffins, Major and Mrs P.D.J. Clarke, Major and Mrs H.E. Couch, Major and Mrs W.G.A. Crumley, Capt and Mrs M.J.S. Doran, Major and Mrs M.P. Eastop, Capt S.L. Enthoven, Capt and Mrs J.S.C. Flavell, Major R. Ford, Major and Mrs F.K. Gladden, Capt D.A. Hawkins, Major and Mrs S.L.J. Henshaw, Capt and Mrs P.J.T. Lane, Major and Mrs C.L. Lawrence, Capt R. Manns, Major and Mrs P.D.H.

Marshall, Major and Mrs A.E. McManus, Major and Mrs R.E.B. Morris, Capt P.J.A. Pielou and Mr S.A.R. Pielou, Major and Mrs B. St G.A. Reed, Major and Mrs A.E.F. Waldron, Major V. Williams.

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

Officers Annual Reunion Luncheon

The third annual luncheon took place on Tuesday 10 May, 1988 at The Royal Overseas League, SW1, which was attended by 18 Officers and one guest. Col H.W.W. Gray was in the Chair and the guest was Major A.E.F. Waldron.

The officers who attended were: D.A. Bond, P.J. Cundy, B.T. Davis, J.R. Doyle, D.E. Dowlen, A.G.B. Drabble, H.W.W. Gray, H.J. Hesketh, P.W.S. Hodge, E. Howkins, B.P. Hughes, R. Hughes, A.M.H. Jones, J.T. Kemp, D.V. Littlejohn, W. MacGregor, P.A. Mann, D.C. Tomlins.

The following officers being unable to attend sent their apologies and best wishes to all for a successful occasion. J.T. Dear, W.D. Hiddleston, B.A.G. MacFadden, K.G. Price, J.E. Slack, J.R. Talbot, F.H. Tyler, N.B. Wallis, R. Wheatley.

The following officers did not reply, and on another occasion it would be nice to hear from them, even if they are unable to attend. H.G. Hansen, R.A. Hignett, W.E.H. Grayburn, G.R. Mockler, E.C.M. Palmer, F.A. Reeves, K.O. Sayers, P.K.G. Spencer, L.C. Wright.

Col. Gray proposed a loyal toast and a short informal speech was made by D.E. Dowlen the Lunch Secretary during which he read the text of a loyal message which had been sent to Her Majesty the Queen, and Her Majesty's reply.

He said that it had again been possible to provide free pre lunch drinks - thanks to the generosity of a number of officers who had sent an additional subscription. Also, the subsidy received had enabled the cost of the lunch to be kept down.

He passed on the best wishes and news of a number of those who were unable to attend, principally, John Dear - poor eyesight and long journey, now living in Yorkshire; Freddie Tyler - been unwell and getting older; Norman Wallis - had a slight stroke but recovering well; John Slack - judicial duties; David Hiddleston - clashing family reunion; Brian MacFadden - health not up to the journey; Bob Wheatley - lives too far away to come to a lunch; James Talbot - clashing engagements.

He advised, with regret, the passing of L.J.E. Nichols (Nic), Lewis Shaw and Michael Pearson, and proposed a toast to 'Absent Friends' to which all raised their glasses.

A discussion then took place on the merits of a proposal by two absent members that a dinner be held from time to time. It was agreed that the annual lunches be continued, but the Secretary suggested that if a guaranteed minimum of ten would attend it was worth having a dinner and he agreed to sound out the membership on the amount of support for:

1. A triennial dinner in addition to the lunch probably in October.

2. Attending the Annual Regimental Officers' Club Albuhera dinner in May.

Col. Gray thanked D.E. Dowlen for making all the arrangements and this vote was supported by all concerned.

The date for next years lunch has been fixed for Tuesday 9 May, 1989, and everybody is asked to make a special note of this date as there will be no further reminder until the usual notice is sent out next spring.

D.E.D.

2/10th BN THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT(DCO) OCA 1914-18

The 60th annual luncheon of the 2/10th Bn was held on Saturday 21 May, at the Victory Services Club, London W2, to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the Gallipoli landings. Mr A.D. Scudamore, OBE, presided (the only member of the 2/10th Bn fit enough to attend). Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association was the principal guest. Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton, OBE, Major A.E.F. Waldron, M.B.E., The Rev Patrick Tuft, MA., Capt D.A. Hawkins, and many 'Friends of the 2/10th' attended.

1/7th BN (1939-45) DINNER CLUB

On Saturday 30th April the 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Dinner Club held their annual luncheon at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey.

Major Alan Carter presided for the first time and the guests were Lt-Col David Simpson and Major Frank Waldron, Secretary of the Regimental Association. 61 members attended. Sadly during the past year 12 members have passed on.

During the evening it was agreed that members of B(Albuhera) Company, 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regt could be made honorary members of the Dinner Club and it was hoped that they would attend the luncheon next year.

Tony White, the Dinner Secretary, reminded all present of the Remembrance Service which takes place at Cranleigh Gardens in November and hoped that everyone present would make a special effort to attend.

A unanimous vote of thanks was expressed by all present to Tony White for his immaculate arrangements and organisation for the luncheon. Tony forgot to put this note in his dinner minutes.

C.A.W.

ALBUHERA DAY

On 16 May, Major Dick Smith, Chairman of the Mill Hill Branch, organised a wreath laying ceremony and a parade of old comrades at our Regimental War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, in conjunction with the Commandant, Home Postal & courier Depot R.E. As usual the Regimental Flag was flying proudly from the Depot Flag Pole for the day.

Wreaths were laid by Major Smith on behalf of the Regimental Association and by Colonel P Wescott, R.E., Commandant Postal & Courier Depot R.E. The Standard was carried by Mr Les Loomes.

After the ceremony the Commandant invited all present to the Officers' Mess to partake of refreshments in honour of Albuhera Day. A gesture very much appreciated by our old comrades.



Colonel P. Wescott, Commandant P.C.D., R.E. and Major Dick Smith paying obeisance at the Die-Hards memorial after the laying of wreaths Monday 16th May 1988 in Inglis Barracks.



Colonel P. Wescott and Major Dick Smith speaking to Archie Brown, the oldest soldier on parade and a 1914-18 veteran, Albuhera Day, 1988, Inglis Barracks

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following items have recently been presented to the Regimental Museum:

● medals of the late Capt W. Ward, consisting of: 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Territorial Force Efficiency Medal with two bars.

Presented by his widow Mrs I. Ward.

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The 1 May 1896 edition of the 'Navy and Army Illustrated' magazine which includes a very good account of the 57th at the Battle of Albuhera.

Presented by Mr John Yeowell, son of Sgt W.O. Yeowell, 16th Bn, killed 1 December 1917.

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The family medals of the late Colonel J.L. Blumfeld, who commanded the 1/9th Bn from 1910-18 and was Honorary Colonel from 1922-37

British War Medal, Victory Medal w/oak leaf, T.A. Medal 1914-19, Coronation Medal KGV 1911, Jubilee Medal KGV 1910-35, plus miniatures.

Medals of his elder son SLt L. Blumfeld, Royal Navy: 1914-15 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal (died 1919).

Medals of his younger son, Lt R.H. Blumfeld: British War Medal, Victory Medal. Killed whilst serving with the Machine Gun Corps, Feb 1917.

Presented by his Great Niece, Miss Juliet E. Blomfield.

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Medals of G/51013 Pte J. Bedwell, 11th Bn (Killed in action 1.4.1917). British War Medal, Victory Medal and Death Plaque.

Presented by Mrs. I. Larrett.

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W.D. Pocket Watch which travelled to Normandy on D Day 1944 and later to Egypt and Palestine.

Presented by Mr L.C. Howick who served with the 2nd Bn 1941-46.

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A donation of £75 towards the cost of a Middlesex Regiment side drum which was purchased by the Museum of the Queen's Regiment to complete a display of side drums of the Founder Regiments.

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AEFW

WAR MEMORIAL AT UCKINGTON, NEAR CHELTENHAM

In 1923 the villagers of Uckington raised enough money to provide a war memorial to their dead of the First World War. A large marble tablet was commissioned, intended to be placed on an interior wall of the local church, but a bitter feud developed between the fund organiser and the then rector, which resulted in a refusal to allow the tablet inside the church. Instead the fund organiser took it upon herself to have built a stone glass fronted enclosure in which the tablet was housed by the side of the main road. There it has rested for the past 64 years. What was never envisaged at that time was that the quiet country road would become the main road out of Cheltenham to the M5 motorway.

The parish council appealed to the regimental associations whose members names appeared on the marble tablet for donations towards the restoration of the memorial and the cost of erection in the church. The Middlesex Regimental Association donated £50. Enough money was raised and the work went ahead.

A dedication and re-dedication of the war memorial was held on Sunday 10 April 1988 at 3 p.m. at St Mary Magdalene Church, Elmstone Hardwicke. Major and Mrs G.O. Porter very kindly attended the Service and represented the Regimental Association.

The name of the member of our regiment which appears on the memorial is: Private James Robert BURFORD, 1/8th Bn The Middlesex Regiment.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Capt Ken Beale apologises to all his friends for his absence from the reunion (2nd time) as he will be in Spain. He assures me that he will celebrate Albuhera Day with Jack Rogers who is now a resident in Spain. He also tells me that he is enjoying his profession as a Financial Planning consultant. Nevertheless he is planning for his own retirement in 6 years time and moving to Spain.

It was nice to see Mrs Barbara Blake Budden at the Albuhera Service in St Paul's Cathedral, probably for the last time. She is hoping to move to Wimborne, Dorset, and occupy sheltered accommodation. We wish her well and do hope she settles down in a comfortable and pleasant flat.

Major E.A. (Johnny) Bull, armourer to the 1st Bn pre-war, called in to see us all at the annual reunion. He was attending the REME reunion which was being held in the next room.

Capt Jim Ceaton, 2nd and 1/7th Bns, at present residing in Malta, wrote to say how sorry he was that he could not attend the reunion this year.

Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey represented the Regimental Association at a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of General Sir Charles Jones, GCB, CBE, MC, held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Thursday 18 February 1988 at 11 a.m.

Lt-Col Peter Cheesman now retired and employed as Services Liaison Officer, Hanover, who resides in Germany with his family, was recently admitted to hospital and had his right shoulder and arm amputated. Our sincere good wishes from all Diehards for a speedy recovery to a most popular regimental officer who we know will overcome this handicap. With the support of wife Ingrid and daughters Claudia and Julia we feel sure you will win.

Cpl Reg (Ace) Coppard who served in Hong Kong with the 1st Bn and was taken POW has been very ill for a number of years. The Regimental Association have been able to arrange for him to be admitted to the Royal Star & Garter Home for two weeks commencing Tuesday 26 July. Do try and pay him a visit, he will be delighted. The object of this admission is to give his wife a break from the continual stress of nursing him.

Major W.G.A. (Gordon) Crumley recently surprised his former Signal Sgt. Major Crumley was the President of a Court Martial being held in Berlin and Briggs was standing at the entrance to the Headquarters when a hand descended on his shoulders and to Briggs astonishment he was confronted by his old signal officer. Major Crumley has just retired and is hoping for a 'D' on his pre release course.

I had the pleasure of speaking to Alex Drake (6201472) recently. He is also another invalid from the 1st Bn pre-war. He was not a POW being selected for a special draft which left Hong Kong before the outbreak of war. He is housebound and nearly blind. You certainly did your bit for the regiment with your boxing and football ability.

Colonel and Mrs W.D. Ellis attended Anzac Day at Herefield Church on 25 April and on the way home called in to see Col and Mrs Max Summers to give him a Sitrep. He also attended the lunch of the 2/8th Bn and just made the Albuhera Service of Remembrance. Your appearance was noted and much appreciated. He also found time recently to visit the grave of Major Bob Cummings so well looked after by the Rev Jack and Raine Burgoyne.

Maj Gen B.P. Hughes sent 'Albuhera Greetings' to all members of the Regimental Association.

Old soldier Sgt E.J. Judd (356139) who served with our 17th (Footballers) Bn in World War I was given a big surprise on the occasion of his 90th birthday on 5 March 1988. A letter arrived from Middlesex Regimental Association wishing him a very happy birthday, enclosing a £10 note for him to drink to the health of all Diehards. Major Peter Hill, East Surreys, who is a neighbour of Ted Judd and has been for many years (gave me the tip). Peter tells me that he was completely surprised and delighted and he found himself made a Honorary Diehard for the day.

Former Private Chas Limmer (6213535) A company, 2nd Bn, telephoned to say he could not make the reunion owing to a strained back. He is making a slow recovery and I feel sure this mention will make him feel better.

Major Ian Lloyd retired on the 3 May after 36 years service. He has obtained an R.O. appointment and is now SO3(R03)G4 Quartering (Maint) in Rheindahlen. Jane is Bandmaster of the RAF(G) Command Voluntary Band which keeps her very busy. They will be remaining in BAOR. Ian is by chance sharing an office with Major Paul Mallalieu, who is SO2 G4 Quartering. Paul sends his regards to all his friends. Ian lives two houses up from Lt-Col Peter Hubert and sees Major David Gouda on most days. Ian has also had visits from Brig Brian Marciandi, Majors Tony McManus and Gordon Crumley. Col Mike Newall Queens (RWK) hosted a very enjoyable dinner when Brig Brian Marciandi made his visit.

On 19 April Maj Gen Chris Man was admitted to the Kings Cross Hospital, Dundee, where his right leg was amputated just below the knee. All members of the regimental association wish him a speedy recovery and we feel sure his indomitable spirit will prevail. Good luck General Chris.

Another old friend, Sgt Doug Matthews (6202798) is having a bad time in hospital. We wish him well and look forward to the day when his golf clubs are out again and he is cutting the hedge outside his house at Albuhera Close.

Former Sgt David Miles and his wife Merle have become tenants of the Isle of Scilly Golf Club, St Mary's, Cornwall, which is 28 miles out into the Atlantic! they will be very pleased indeed to see or hear from old friends - just give them a tinkle on 0720-22036.

All members of the regimental association wish Sgt Frank O'Rawe a speedy recovery from a very painful and distressing illness. He is fighting back and very determined to get fit again. His exploits over the years in the boxing ring on behalf of the regiment are remembered by us all.

Mrs Pat Newman widow of Major Percy Newman sends her regards to all Diehards.

Sgt Paddy Redmond wrote to say how sorry he was that he was unable to make the reunion owing to domestic reasons, and sends his best wishes to all his comrades.

Former WO2 Mervyn Smith has been appointed Royal British Legion Recruiting Officer for the South of England. We wish him well and feel sure he will do the Legion proud.

Mrs Connie Stretton widow of CSM R.J. (Pop) Stretter (6196357), who died on 16 June 1964, has been traced and is very pleased to be in touch once more with the regimental association.

Mrs Doris Tarrant, widow of Capt Bob Tarrant, has returned to the U.K. after living in Spain for the last few years.

Former Private Robert Wright (816754) who served with B Company 1st Bn pre-war and was a FEPOW has recently been discharged from hospital. I feel sure the good wishes of his old comrades will do him the world of good.

The following have joined the regimental association:

Private C. Burge (24064079). Served 1966-68. 1st Bn and 4 Queens.

Cpl R.A. Coppard (6084946). Served from 1933-46, Depot and 2nd Bn 1933-37. D Company 1st Bn 1937-45. FEPOW with 1st Bn.

Private S.A. Fry (6206601). Served from 1939-46. D Company 1/7th Bn 1939-40. 3 Commando 1941-43 and then medically downgraded until discharge in 1946.

Private M.J. Haynes (24053116). Served 1965-71. C Company & HQ Company 1st Bn, 4 Queens and 1 Queens.

Private K.C. Holden (24078899). Served from 1965-72. 1st Bn and 4 Queens.

Private R.W. James (6202384). Served from 1935-46. Depot 1935, 2nd Bn 1936-37 and 1st Bn, Sigs HQ and then C Company 1938-45. FEPOW.

Private W.J. Jones (4129431). Served D Company 1/8th Bn 1940-46.

Private W.S. Kendrick (6216671). Served from 1942-47. 2nd Bn 1942, 2/8th Bn 1942-43, 2/7th Bn 1943-45.

Cpl D.G. Langston (24077861). Served from 1966-88. A Company 1st Bn, S Company 4 Queens and HQ Company 1 Queens.

Sgt J. Loxton (6188016). Served from 1920 to 1944 7th Bn T.A. 1939-44 1/7th Bn.

Private A.E. Mountain (6210057). Served 1939-45.

Private R.P. Oliver (5031). Served 7th Bn 1915. He is now 89 years and living at R.B.L. Home, Broadstairs. He was discharged at the end of 1915 being under age on enlistment. Rejoined 8 September 1916 and served until 1919 with K.R.R.C.

Drum Major R.R.A. Padley (14458170). Served from 1945-70. C Company 2nd Bn MELF 1945-48. HQ Company 1st Bn 1948. Sandhurst 1949. East Surreys 1951. Queens Royal Regiment 1952. Rejoined HQ Company 1st Bn 1952. Austria 1953. Transferred to RAVC 17 August 1954 to 13 April 1970.

WO1(RSM) T.G. Parnell (22950221). Served from 1953-76. A Company 1st Bn and 2 Queens.

Bandsman R.L.(Reg) Smith (6203540). Served from 1937-49. HQ Company 1st Bn Hong Kong. FEPOW 1941-45. 1st Bn 1946-49.

ate A.P.F. Spencer (6211669). Served 2/8th Bn 1940-46. Was the Medical Officer's driver in France and Germany.

Sgt M.A. Sampson (23854278). Served from 1961-83. B, C & HQ Companies 1st Bn and then transferred to Royal Signals.

Sgt E.L.(Bilco) Stubbings (22807730). Served 1952-74. A and HQ Companies 1st Bn. QM Clothing Storeman.

Sgt B.P. Tarry (22979393). Served from 1953-76. B Company 1st Bn, 3 Queens and 3 Division HQ. Now employed as Supervising Clerk, Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Maidstone, Kent.

Sgt C.F. Ward (6203890). Served 1937-46. A Company 7th Bn and 1/7th Bn to 1944 and B Company 1/7th Bn until April 1945. 26 MGTC until May 1946.

Private A.W. Webb (6202314). Served from 1935-46. 1st Bn FEPOW 1941-45.

Private S.A. Wells (14412988). Served 1942-47. 1st and 2nd Bns.

Private C.C. Williams (21182097). Served 1947-53, A, S & HQ Companies 1st Bn.

Private H.C. Yallop (6202760). Served 1937-46. D Company 1st Bn. FEPOW 1941-45.

THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) ASSOCIATION

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The volunteers) Association, London Branch, held their annual dinner on Friday 3 June, at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London W1.

Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, and Major A.E. Waldron, MBE, attended.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

Founders Day Parade took place at the Royal Hospital Chelsea on Thursday 9 June at 11 a.m. The Reviewing Officer was Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra.

Major and Mrs A.E.F. Waldron attended.

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

With effect from 1 May 1988, B(Albuhera) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment will become B(Albuhera) Company, 8th (V) Bn The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London) Regiment. They will operate from their present location, i.e. T.A. Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex.

THE SAGA OF THE HONG KONG I.O.U.

In March 1942, in Shamshuipo Prisoner of War Camp in Hong Kong, Major James Smith of the Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps, made a loan to Lt-Col H.W.M. (Monkey) Stewart, Commanding Officer of the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment, to be used in aid of his regiment. Major Smith, a former Warrant Officer in the Royal Engineers Company in Hong Kong, had been employed by the Kowloon Canton Railway and risen to the appointment of Chief Engineer. Both he and his son, Douglas, were long serving members of the HKVDC and were captured and imprisoned with men of the Middlesex Regiment amongst whom they had many friends. Apparently the money was available from funds at Major Smith's disposal. The I.O.U. was signed on the 17 March 1942, by Lt-Col H.W.M. Stewart, Major S.F. Hedgecoe (2IC) and Major R.T. Guscott (QM). It is understood that the loan was repaid after V.J. Day.

The daughter of Major Smith, HKVDC, Mrs. Marie Gorry, who lives in Australia, decided that the original copy of the I.O.U. which was with the papers of the late Major Smith should go to the Middlesex Regimental Museum, so she sent it to Lt-Col (ret) Bunny Austen and asked him to get in touch with the museum and hand it over. His letter eventually reached me after being addressed to Edgware. I then realised that he was the Sgt in the Hong Kong Signal Company that I knew pre-war, and we had been friends and played hockey together for Hong Kong YMCA team together with Douglas and Marie Smith (Gorry). The I.O.U. could not have been sent by a better person than myself and I was absolutely thrilled to receive it. I recognised all the signatures immediately.

Bunny Austen luckily left Hong Kong in 1940 on posting to the U.K. He reached the rank of Lt-Col and was at one time DADOS South West District. I have received a very nice letter from Marie Gorry and I have put her in touch with Colonel Tony Hewitt (Adjutant of the 1st Bn at that time) – they live about 200 miles apart in Australia and they are arranging to get in touch with one another. I have spoken to Bunny Austen – after 50 years – it was such a pleasure, and thanked him for his help in restoring to the Regiment such a historic document.

A photograph of the I.O.U. is shown below. The original is being framed and will be displayed in the Hong Kong case in the regimental museum.

I.O.U.

*We the undersigned acknowledge
with thanks the loan of
£500⁰⁰/₁₀₀ (HK. Five hundred
Pounds)*

17/3/42

H.W.M. Stewart

S.F. Hedgecoe

R.T. Guscott



DIEHARDS RE-VISIT THE HOLY LAND

After a 'Pilot' tour last November by Captain Patrick Pielou, who was accompanied by Major Peter Bellers – acting as official photographer for Soldier Magazine – a number of Diehards will be amongst a group of ex-servicemen and women visiting Israel in May this year. As the group includes ex-Royal Navy, Royal Air Force, and members of many Regimental & Corps Associations, the itinerary will cover visits to places of very particular interest to them but will most definitely include extended visits to old 2nd Battalion locations – including Es Sumeiriya, Acre, Eilon and Safad. An intriguing little ceremony will take place during the group's visit to Nahariya, when Captain Pielou will return the key to their water-tower to the Mayor! Patrick Pielou locked up the tower forty years ago, after it's final use as an O.P., and has had it ever since. When offered the key's return, the Mayor and residents of Nahariya saw the humour of the situation and are planning the ceremony at the re-built water-tower with a reception for all the group afterwards. The old 2nd Battalion Headquarters is now an IDF (Israel Defence Force) base, and the group will be allowed access to have a look around. The company location at Eilon is now part of a large Kibbutz, which will also be visited. Acre fort is no longer used as a prison, but has not changed in all the years since we left.

A further visit is planned for the latter part of this year. Anyone interested should contact Capt Pielou by letter to: 2 Emperor's Gate, London SW7 4HH or by telephone on 01 241 8056.

Patrick Pielou is also planning a return visit to Hong Kong in 1989, to visit the original 1st Battalion locations and pay respects at the British Military Cemeteries, as well as covering the many other places of interest on Hong Kong Island and the New Territories. Details in outline from Patrick Pielou at the above address.

OBITUARY

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

- ALEXANDER** – On 4 February 1988, WO2(CSM) Norman Alexander (6205456), aged 76 years. Norman Alexander joined the T.A. in 1938 and was posted to the 7th Bn. At the outbreak of war he joined C Company 1/7th Bn and saw service with the BEF Dec 39 – 5 Jun 40, Middlesex East, North Africa 8th Army Jun 42 – Nov 43 and in NWE 3 Jun 44 – 19 Oct 45. He was demobilised on 30 Apr 47. On 1 May 49 he rejoined the T.A. at Horsey and served until Sep 50.
- BRETT** – On 12 September 1987, Lieut Arthur Edward Brett (61096711), aged 80 years. Arthur Brett enlisted into the regiment on 2 June 1925 and after recruit training joined the 2nd Bn in Ahmanager. He continued to serve with the 2nd Bn reaching the rank of Sgt in 1937. In August 1938 he was posted as PSI to the 7th Bn joining D Company at Tottenham. On the duplication of the 7th Bn to 1/7th and 2/7th Bns CSM Brett moved to Bn HQ of the 1/7th, handing over to CSM Makewell during September 1939. He went with the 1/7th Bn to France in 1940 and proceeded to Egypt with the Bn on 8 August 1942. He was commissioned as a Lt(QM) in 1943 serving with the Combined Training Centre, 19th Essex Regiment and at the HQ of Raiding Forces. He was demobilised at the end of 1945.
- BREW** – On 10 February 1988, Sgt J.F. Brew (6197304), aged 77 years. Don Brew enlisted into the regiment as a boy soldier during 1927 and joined the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Bn serving until late 1937 when he was transferred to the Army Reserve. In 1939 he was recalled and served with the Royal West Kent Regiment reaching the rank of Sgt.
- CHANT** – On 6 December 1987, Private Albert Chant (1702 and 240116), aged 91 years. Albert Chant enlisted in 1912 and joined the 1/8th Bn and served with them throughout 1914-18. He was awarded the 1915 Mons Star, BWM, VM plus the Territorial Efficiency Medal and the Imperial Service Bar.
- COLEMAN** – On 28 January 1988, Captain Clifford E.W. Coleman, MC. He served with the 1/7th Bn and was awarded the Military Cross at Monte Cassino. He later served in the colonial service as a District Commissioner in Africa. On returning to UK he became a regional employment officer in Devon before retiring to Stoke Cottage, Stoke Canon. He was treasurer of Stoke Canon Parish Church for several years. He liked things to be done properly – whether it was saying Matins in the African bush or supervising the dinner menu!
- COLLINS** – On 2 January 1988, Mrs Daphne Collins, wife of Major P. Collins, TD.
- CORNER** – On 7 February 1988, WO2(CSM) Victor Maurice Corner (6200915), aged 72 years. Vic Corner enlisted on 25 January 1933 and after recruit training joined the 2nd Bn. He was with the 2nd Bn in France 1939-40 and also with them in NWE 3 June 1944 to 23 November 1945. He was transferred to the Reserve on 14 February 1946 but after 119 days in civvy street re-enlisted on 14 June.

He rejoined the 2nd Bn in Palestine November 1947 returning to the UK on 17 May 1948. The amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Bns took place and he became a member of the 1st Bn. On the 15 June 1949 he proceeded with the Bn to Hong Kong, Korea followed 1950-51 and return to Hong Kong and home to UK in November 1952. He was then posted as PSI to the 7th Bn and retired to pension on 4 December 1955. Ever a glutton for punishment he re-enlisted on 1 January 1957 joining the 5th Bn Bedfordshire Regiment T.A. and serving until 3 January 1961. He was a very popular member of the regiment and for many years worked in the Officers' Mess eventually being appointed Officers' Mess Sgt. Vic was a very kind man and enjoyed helping all and sundry with their problems and nothing was ever too much trouble for him. He leaves a widow, who is far from well, and a son who was born in Hong Kong and was with 45 Commando in the Falklands. He is also survived by his elder brother, Len, who served in the regiment from 1926-33 and 1939-45.

COX – On 1 April 1988, Sgt Alfred Harold Cox (6200126), aged 76 years.

Sgt Cox enlisted on 22 April 1931 and joined the 1st Bn in 1932 and was posted to D Company. Service in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong followed. He left Hong Kong in September 1938 for UK and demobilisation. He was recalled from the Reserve in September 1939 and on 14 November 1941 transferred to the Royal Pioneer Corps with whom he served until 10 February 1946.

DAVIES – On 1 January 1988, Sgt Royston Charles Davies (14187334), aged 59 years.

Sgt Davies enlisted on 6 February 1946 and joined the Royal West Kent Regiment with whom he served for the next 6 years. Towards the end of 1952 he was posted to the Middlesex Regiment serving with the 1st Bn in Austria, Cyprus and BAOR. He was discharged to pension on 25 July 1968 on completion of 22 years service.

DELANEY – On 27 March 1988, Captain Leslie Joseph Delaney (6200389 and P/191158), aged 74 years. Les Delaney enlisted in April 1932 and after recruit training joined the 2nd Bn. He was with the 2nd Bn in France (BEF) 1939-40 and NWE 1944-45. He was commissioned during 1942. In February 1946 he was posted to the 1st Bn then stationed in Germany and continued serving until demobilisation in February 1948. Pre-war he was a member of the 2nd Bn soccer team and the prolific scorer of goals. He represented the Army team on many occasions. He also excelled at the Pole Vault.

DYKE – On 26 December 1987, LCpl Andrew Walter Dyke (6857429), aged 78 years.

He commenced his service with the K.R.R.C. on 14 May 1942 and joined the 1/7th Bn on 27 April 1943, with whom he served until 1946, seeing service in Italy, Sicily and Egypt.

EDWARDS – On 21 April 1988, CSgt Percy Victor Edwards (6189349), aged 86 years, 5 days before his 87th birthday.

Percy Edwards enlisted 17 April 1917 and joined the Middlesex Regiment. The majority of his service was with the 1st Bn serving in France, Germany, Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. For many years he was Band Sgt. Percy left Hong Kong in August 1939 for discharge on completion of his engagement but whilst on terminal leave was recalled and posted to 164 OCTU as CQMS. In 1941 he was taken ill and medically discharged on 28 June 1941. Percy and Rose were married for 63 years. Our deepest sympathy to Rose and their son Charlie.

FLEMING – On 12 November 1987, former Private John William Fleming (6198282), aged 77 years.

John Fleming enlisted into the regiment on 2 February 1928 and on completion of recruit training was posted to the 2nd Bn serving in India, Sudan and Egypt. On 2 January 1932 he joined the 1st Bn the Palestine and on to Egypt. He was transferred to the Reserve on 11 November 1935. At the outbreak of war he was recalled and posted to the 2nd Bn. He proceeded to France with the 2nd Bn returning on 1 June 1940. He landed with A Company on D Day and was badly wounded in the abdomen, leg and face. He was evacuated to UK on 8 June 1944 and after a period in hospital was medically discharged with a 100% disability pension on 19 December 1944.

HOWICK – On 26 March 1988, Sgt Frederick William Howick (14798061), aged 62 years.

Fred Howick served with the 1st Bn (2/8th) from 29 June 1944 to 29 June 1945 and was then posted to the 2nd Bn The Manchester Regiment and demobilised on 1 January 1948. He was admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home on 9 July 1985 and was a patient there when he died. His brother Leslie served with D Company 2nd Bn.

MONEY – On 3 March 1988, Private Ronald Alfred Money (6203698), aged 67 years.

He enrolled into the T.A. in 1937 and at the outbreak of war joined the 2/7th Bn and was with D Company. He was demobilised in March 1946.

NICHOLS – On 7 December 1987, Major L.F.E. Nichols, A.E., aged 76 years.

Nick commenced his service with the T.A. in 1937 joining the 3rd County of Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) and then on to 23rd London Armoured Car Regiment which he left in January 1944 on being

commissioned, serving in North Africa and Sicily. In 1946 he returned to Barclays Bank and in early 1950 joined the 9th Bn (595 LAA Regt RA) at Honey Pot Lane. Some years later he transferred to the RAF, becoming a Squadron Leader and finally retired from RAF Intelligence in 1972, having completed 25 years with the Territorial Forces. In civilian life he was a bank manager.

PAUL – On 13 April 1988, Captain Basil Jack Paul.

He was commissioned into the 7th Bn on 29 March 1930 and was posted to A Company at Highgate. He was an excellent rifle shot and a member of the Bn team. After 3 years service he was granted a regular commission in the RAF with whom he served until retirement in the rank of Wing Commander. He was educated at University College School where he was Captain of Boats.

PEARSON – On 22 February 1988, Major Michael Fellows (Lofty) Pearson, MC and Bar, TD, aged 79 years. Major Pearson was commissioned into the 9th Bn of our regiment on 2 March 1932 and at the outbreak of war joined the 1/7th Bn. Whilst serving with the 1/7th Bn at Breville during the attack on Touffreville he was awarded an immediate Military Cross. This was followed by the award of a Bar to his Military Cross during a recce of Reichswald near Grafwegen.

The funeral was attended by Major A.B. Carter, Major H.C. Bolt and Capt J. Dare. A floral tribute was received from the 51st (Highland) Division.

PRICE – On 22 March 1988, Cpl Joseph Price (G3256), aged 92 years.

Joe Price served with the 12th (Service) Bn and was at the Battle of Thiepval. He was taken POW on 24 April 1918 and demobilised in February 1919.

ROFFEY – On 1 April 1988, Private Geoffrey William Roffey (22144119), aged 57 years.

He was called up on 19 March 1949 for National Service and was released on 19 March 1951. He served with A Company 1st Bn in Korea from August 1949 to February 1951.

SAMPSON – On 23 January 1988, Private A.H. Sampson (6204409), aged 71 years.

He enlisted on 18 February 1938 and joined the 2nd Bn. He was medically discharged on 22 May 1940 after an accident.

SODEN – On 30 April 1988, Private Frederick George Soden (6105089), aged 81 years.

He served with the 3rd and 2nd Bns. He was later with the Royal Sussex Regiment. No other information available.

SMITH – On 19 January 1988, Ex Private Arthur Thomas Smith (L14567 and L13456), aged 89 years.

He enlisted in July 1913 aged 15 years and 4 months. He was stationed at Devonport in August 1914 when war broke out. He fought at Mons, on the Marne, the Aisne and at Ypres, with D Company, 4th Bn (3 Div). He was transferred to the 16th (Public Schools) Bn (29 Div) in time for the Somme offensive and was wounded at Beaumont Hamel on 2 July 1916. Whilst convalescing he volunteered for the Salonika front and was posted to the 3rd Bn (28 Div) in September 1916. He remained with the Bn in Salonika until the end of the war; the regiment then marching through Constantinople on its return home in 1919. Arthur Smith finished his active service with the 4th Bn at Coblenz as part of the army of occupation. He was discharged in July 1920, being kept on the reserve for a further five years. He served with the Home Guard during World War II on the anti-aircraft guns. He was a member of the Old Contemptible Assn Edmonton branch and was the standard bearer. Arthur Smith was indeed a very staunch and true diehard and very proud of his regiment. His son-in-law is Jim Ridler, also a diehard, who served with the 2/8th Bn during World War II.

STEVENSON – On 15 January 1988, Mrs Nellie Stevenson, aged 89 years, widow of CSM F. Stevenson (14814).

STREET – On 16 February 1987, CSgt John Donald Street (4122234), aged 72 years.

Don Street enlisted into the Cheshire Regiment on 18 August 1929 serving in India 1929-38, Sudan and Egypt 1938-41, Malta 1941-43 and UK 1943-46. On the 14 June 1946 he joined the Middlesex Regiment and was posted to the 2nd Bn then in Palestine. He returned to the UK with the Bn on 3 June 1948. The amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Bns took place at Mill Hill and he was appointed Band Sgt to the 1st Bn. On 15 June 1949 he moved with the Bn to Hong Kong returning to UK on the 1 December 1952. Service in Austria followed from 1953 to 1954 and he was discharged to pension on 24 October 1954.

He was an outstanding musician being a brilliant euphonium player. Also a good sportsman and a popular member of the Bn. The news of his death has only recently come to my notice.

THOM – On 5 January 1988, WO1(RSM) James Alexander Thom (1520025), aged 71 years.

Tiger Thom enlisted at Hounslow on 4 November 1939 and joined the Royal Artillery. He served with the

R.A. in the Middle East from 1941-43 and the BNAF from 1943-44. On 19 December 1944 he transferred to the Middlesex Regiment and joined the 1st Bn (2/8th) who were the BNAF, returning to UK on 31 August 1945. On 5 February 1946 he joined the 1st Bn at Rendsburgh followed by Iserlohn, returning to UK on 2 July 1948. On 15 June 1949 he moved with the Bn to Hong Kong, service in Korea 1950-51 followed and return to Hong Kong and in December 1952 to UK. On 14 March 1953 the Bn moved to Austria returning to UK on 4 September 1955. Service in Cyprus from October 1955 to May 1957 followed. He was selected for promotion to WO1(RSM) on 27 December 1957 and posted to the 7th Bn at Hornsey, with whom he served until his discharge to pension on 8 November 1961. On leaving the service he obtained employment with the Ford Motor Company as a Parts Control Analyst and spent 20 years with the firm.

The Regimental Flag draped the coffin. Tiger Thom was a character and renowned for his bristling moustache which fooled all those who did not know him. He was a popular member of the regiment and our sincere condolences go out to his wife Hilda and family. I have been asked by Hilda to say thank you to all the very kind members of the regiment who wrote and sent donations which were so much appreciated by the family. These donations were sent to me and have been credited to the regimental association charitable fund.

THOMAS - On 24 December 1987, WO2 Alfred William Thomas (6200954), aged 74 years.

WO2 Alf Thomas enlisted into the regiment on 30 March 1933 and on completion of recruit training was posted to the 2nd Bn with whom he served until 1940. He was with B Company when evacuated from Dunkirk. From 1941 to 1943 he served with the Young Soldiers Bn. From 1943 to 1946 he was attached to the Royal Engineers and then to the Regimental Depot 1947-48. It was in 1948 that he was compulsorily transferred to the Army Catering Corps. He had been a regimental cook for the majority of his service. The funeral was attended by Bill Bishop a former Cook Sgt at the Depot just after the war.

WALTERS - On 26 February 1988, Private K.A.M. Walters (6207152), aged 68 years.

He served with the 1/7th Bn during 1939-45. No other details available.

WARD - On 29 February 1988, Captain Walter Ward (6198115), aged 80 years.

Walter Ward enlisted into the T.A. on 27 October 1927 and joined the 7th Bn. Continuous service followed and at the outbreak of the second world war in 1939 he had reached the rank of WO2. On the 24 May 1939 the Territorial Army was doubled and the 7th Bn became the 1/7th and the 2/7th Bns. Walter found that he was with the 1/7th Bn and on January 1940 he was en route to France to join the BEF and returned to UK in June 1940 via Dunkirk. I have no accurate details of his service after this but I do know that he spent some time with the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, he was commissioned and from 1945 to 1948 was with the REME Inspectorate. He usually managed to attend the 1/7th Bn Luncheon in April. He lived at Westgate on Sea and I used to see him on a number of occasions.

WEEDON - On 16 January 1988, Drummer Donald Weedon (6189002), aged 84 years.

He enlisted into the regiment in February 1919. After a short period at the Military School of Music, Kneller Hall, he joined the 3rd Bn and became a member of the corps of drums at clipstone Camp, Notts, on their return from active service in the Middle East, Mesopotamia etc. After a short spell at Aldershot he proceeded with the Bn to Germany. When the 3rd Bn was disbanded in 1923 he was posted to the 1st Bn drums for the remainder of his service. He was appointed bugler to the G.O.C. then General Durnton, when the 1st was part of the Shanghai Defence Force. He was discharged in 1928.

His elder brother is a member of the regimental association and an Old Contemptible, R.J. Weedon, now 92 years of age. He lives at Brighton and keeps in touch. He served with the 2nd and 3rd Bns, enlisting in 1913.

WILLIAMSON - On 26 January 1988, WO2(CSM) John Albert (Bill) Williamson (22308360), aged 55 years.

Bill Williamson enlisted on 22 February 1950 and joined the Home Counties Brigade at Canterbury on 31 July 1950. He was posted to Hong Kong on 1 August 1950 and on 23 April 1951 served with King's Own Scottish Borderers in Korea until 15 December 1952 when he was wounded and evacuated to Japan where he remained until 25 May 1953. He returned to UK and on 22 November 1954 was accepted for service with the 22 S.A.S. Regiment and then saw service in Malaya, the Oman crisis in the Middle East in 1959. He was posted to the UK on 15 March 1959 and was stationed at Malvern, Worcs. He trained the canoe team 'Devisers - Westminster' taking first place. He then became an instructor with the 21 S.A.S. Regiment T.A. at Portsmouth, Hants. In 1962 he joined the 1st Bn at Lydd, Kent, and service in Gibraltar, Cyrenaica, UK, British Guiana, Home, Northern Ireland and BAOR followed. On 25 June 1972 he was discharged to pension on completion of 22 years 125 days service.

On 7 August 1972 he emigrated to Australia residing in Adelaide with his family. He worked at the

University of Adelaide in the Law Library for 15 years and also served for 14 years with the Royal Australian Army Reserve where he was a WO2 with the duties of Senior Training Co-ordinator for all training of Reserve Soldiers in South East Australia. On 12 June 1986 he retired and went to live at Lenswood in the Adelaide Hills. Bill Williamson was a soldier who enjoyed adventure and loved to be in at the 'sharp end'. He was an exceptionally fine character and gave his loyalty to all the regiments he served with a special high regard for the Diehards. Our sincere condolences to his wife Sheila and family on the sudden loss of a fine and respected husband.

'FOLLOW THE DRUM'

An exhibition of drums, drummers and drumming in the British Army is on display at the National Army Museum, Royal Hospital Road, London, from 16 June to 18 September 1988.

The exhibition will examine the varied role of the Drummer in the British Army through the ages. He acted as signaller, transmitting orders in battle. He was often present at parleys with the enemy and carried messages for officers. When discipline was enforced by the lash, the Drummers administered the floggings. The Drummer's importance status was recognised by his distinctive uniform, examples of which will be on display.

A unique assembly of historic drums and associated items will be on show, many for the first time. One drum with a fascinating history is a side drum of Guise's Regiment, later the Royal Warwickshire Fusiliers which was lost when two companies of the Regiment were cut to pieces by Bonnie Prince Charlie's highlanders at the battle of Prestopans in 1745. It remained lost until 1905 when it was found in a highland croft. On a more ghoulish note is a Tibetan drum, acquired by the Young-husband expedition of 1903, which is made from two human skulls.

'Follow the Drum' will include music and AV displays, and drums will be available to enable visitors to 'have a bash' themselves!

Our regimental Museum have provided a rod tensioned side drum and a photograph of the 1st Bn Regimental Steel Band.

MEDAILLE DE LA FRANCE

The following letter has been received from the Ministry of Defence (Army) MS1b dated 10 March 1988, and is published for information and guidance:

There are thousands of British War Veterans who are understandably totally confused by the recent rush of publicity given to the above medal, most of it totally inaccurate, suggesting that any former serviceman who took part in the campaign in France during World War II was entitled to claim and wear the medal.

The Medaille de la France Liberee created in 1947 is not an ordinary service medal but a special award for distinguished services.

The medal was awarded by the Ministre des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de la Guerre at the sitting of a Commission of 21 members including, among them, the President of the National Assembly.

Official decorations are no longer awarded for deeds relevant to World War II. The granting of such awards ceased on 13 October 1954.

When the granting of awards ceased in 1954 four thousand eight hundred and fifty medals had been awarded to French nationals and five hundred and fifty to foreign servicemen.

Whilst the Medaille can be purchased by anyone from various manufacturers in France it would seem quite improper for any responsible person to buy and wear a medal to which he is not entitled, particularly when some of his comrades may well be wearing the same medal, having been officially awarded it by the French Government. In such cases the individual would be in possession of a certificate from the French Government recalling their special services.

In order that this office may gradually return to its normal workload, would addressees please answer any further queries on the medal themselves. Hopefully the torrent of letters should decrease in volume once the Normandy Veterans Association inform their members of the true facts, but those who write based on press misrepresentations may take rather longer to dry up.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EX-PRISONERS OF WAR

The above organisation has been formed and granted charitable status - registration number 292804. The constitution was adopted on 8 September 1985.

OBJECTS - The object of the Association shall be to relieve poverty or sickness amongst officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and other ranks who served in Her Majesty's or Allied Forces or in the Nursing Services and who, during such services were prisoners of war in any theatre of war whatsoever, and their widows and dependants.

If you wish to join, application should be made to Leslie Allan, General Secretary, 99 Parlaunt Road, Langley, Berkshire SL3 8BE. Annual subscription is £2.

LETTERS

Diocese of Gloucester
The Archdeacon of Cheltenham
The Venerable Eric Evans, M.A.

9 College Green
Gloucester

4 February 1983

Dear Brigadier Pielow,

I hope you will forgive me being rather slow in replying to your very kind letter of 7 January. Since the announcement was made of my appointment to St Paul's, I have received over a thousand letters, which is really quite overwhelming but also tremendously encouraging; particularly gratifying when one receives letters from organisations such as yours with whom I have at present very little connection.

Having been attached to Gloucester Cathedral for 25 years, I do know the value of Regimental Associations and the part they play in the life of a County, and also the significant mark that they can have on a Cathedral. Our links here are with the Gloucestershire Regiment and the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars, so I very much look forward to my association with you and The Middlesex Regiment.

I am so glad that you have always received the highest co-operation from the Cathedral authorities in respect of your Chapel.

Looking forward to meeting you in the not too distant future.

With warmest greetings and many thanks.

Yours very sincerely,

Eric Evans

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Colonel Ian D Brotherton TD DL
The Moorings
6 Cranfield Avenue
Wimborne, Dorset

13 March 1988

Dear Major Waldron,

8th & 5th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (Territorial Army)

I am trying to gather information regarding the 8th and 5th battalions for the post war period from April 1947 until the conversion of the T.A. to the Queen's Regt. This includes the period when from April 1947 to August 1956 the 11th Bn The Parachute Regiment (8 Mx) carried on the Diehard tradition.

The official records have largely ceased to exist, and the two journals, Pegasus and the Diehard, give splendid accounts of sporting events, but usually omit details of minor matters such as Commanding officers.

I would be most grateful for the help of Diehards who have served in these battalions. If they have any letters of documents which give facts and dates regarding the units I would like to borrow them, copy relevant data, and quickly return them. Would they send them to me at the above address, with a note of their name and address, and the unit with which they served and the approximate date. Would they also say if they would agree to answer some questions which I am sure I will have when I have started to sort out the data.

With kindest regards, Yours sincerely, Ian D Brotherton.

Editors comment: Please help if you can. Efforts are being made to finalise the history of the regiment from 1952 to 1967.

Paul Francia M.Sc
Cannon Green Lodge
10 Blount Road
Pembroke Park
Portsmouth
Hants

15 January 1988

Dear Major Waldron,

I am assembling a collection of reproductions of Middlesex Regimental Colours from 1881 to 1966. Unfortunately the Curator of the Regimental Museum is unable to help with a picture of the Colours presented to the 1st Bn in Austria in 1953. I therefore would be grateful if any member of the regimental association would loan me a photograph of these Colours. They will then be carefully photographed and returned promptly.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Francia (1st Bn 1944-46)

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. Postage and packing is included in the price. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Blazer Badges	£ 6.50 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£16.00 each
Tumbler, Whisky engraved with Middlesex Regiment badge	£ 5.50 each
Ties Regt! Old Pattern Terylene (Maroon and Old Gold)	£ 2.50 each
Ties Regt! New Pattern Terylene	£ 2.50 each
Ties Offrs' Club Silk	£ 5.00 each
Wall Plaques Middlesex Regiment	£13.00
History 'Diehards in Korea'	£ 5.00 each
Christmas Cards - Steady the Drums & Fifes	£ .20 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges - not originals	£ 1.50 each
Museum Brochure	£ .25 each

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The regimental museum will be closed on Saturday 23 July and Saturday 3 September 1988. This is an economy measure by the Bruce Castle authorities.

All members of the regimental association are reminded that the museum is well worth a visit and it is open at the following times; Tuesday to Saturday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

ALBUHERA CLOSE, ENFIELD

Our regimental homes consist of 16 three bedroomed houses and 8 one bedroomed flats.

All members of the regiment, including widows, are entitled to apply to be placed on the waiting list. Priority is given to those in receipt of war disability pensions, the infirm and those in need. When a vacancy occurs the Housing Sub Committee will carefully consider every member on the waiting list.

Applicants must be able to care for themselves. These properties are not warden assisted. Vacancies do not occur very often.

If you wish to place your name on the waiting list please write to the Secretary, Major A.E.F. Waldron MBE

D. Isom (Printers) Ltd.,
Herne Bay, Kent.