



# The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

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Maj Gen Sir John Edward Francis WILLOUGHBY, KBE, CB.



**Major General Sir John Edward Francis WILLOUGHBY, KBE, CB.**

**1913 – 1991**

**Colonel of The Regiment 1959 – 1965**

Our Regiment has been proud to include many outstanding and distinguished officers of higher rank amongst its members and Major General Sir John Willoughby, who died on 23rd February, aged 77, most certainly has to be placed high in that eminent list.

The summit of Sir John's distinguished career was surely the accolade of a knighthood in 1967 whilst in the rank of Major General – an honour rarely bestowed to any officer of that rank and highly merited in particular by Sir John.

John Willoughby came from a military family which has a long association with Wiltshire. The family also have a special association with the Middlesex Regiment since his father Major Noel Willoughby, who is buried at Heytesbury, was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in 1890 and served with the 4th Battalion in South Africa and then with the 2nd Battalion in France during the Great War, and his elder brother Captain Richard Willoughby joined the Supplementary Reserve to the Regiment in the early thirties and served from 1940 with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong before becoming a POW in December 1941 for the remainder of World War II.

John was educated at Pangbourne Nautical College and then having attended the Royal Military College at Sandhurst, where he became an Under Officer, he was commissioned into the Regiment in 1933. He joined the 2nd Battalion in Colchester and later moved on with the unit to Portsmouth and to Gosport. Those were carefree days for young officers and John was one of them. His abilities were quickly recognised and he was appointed an instructor to the Machine Gun School at Netheravon. But then came the outbreak of war in 1939 and early the next year John was posted to the 2nd Battalion in France where it was part of the BEF. He became Adjutant just prior to the outbreak of actual conflict before returning with the unit through Dunkirk to the UK. Those drastic events in the early part of the war made a lasting impression on him which was to remain throughout his career. Following a period with the Battalion re-training and building defences in Southern England, he was promoted to command the 2nd Battalion in 1943. Later he was appointed GSO1 to a special mission travelling to the USA, throughout the Pacific and including a period spent with the Australian Forces in New Guinea, and eventually on to Burma and India. On return he was given his second command, that of 1st Dorsetts in 1944 which he led into Europe after D Day until being evacuated sick back to UK. After the war from 1947 – 49 John was a member of the Directing Staff at the Army Staff College, Camberley where his extensive experience and knowledge was soon evident. On completion of that posting he took the unexpected step of returning to regimental duty as a company commander with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. On the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 the Battalion, as part of the emaciated 27 Brigade, was despatched at five days notice north from Hong Kong to form part of the United Nations Force and to take part in that campaign. The Battalion was committed within three days of arrival and remained in the forefront of the action throughout its stay until being withdrawn back to Hong Kong in 1951. It earned seven battle honours and it is fair to say that John Willoughby was in his element as a company commander leading from the front however dangerous, uncomfortable the situation, invariably calm and cheerful, and somehow managing to interject some hilarious and morale raising quip at precisely the right moment. His next appointment was as GSO1, 3rd Infantry Division in UK and MELF until 1953 when he returned to his third regimental command as CO 1st Middlesex in Austria. This was a very pleasant and happy period for the Battalion. The unit stayed there until 1955 when it was moved under John's command to Cyprus to deal with the highly unpleasant EOKA emergency. Once more he relished the action and needless to say John again adjusted himself and his Battalion to meet the new problems then facing them. He handed over command in 1957 and, on promotion, took up the appointment of Colonel AG2(O) at the War Office. In 1959 he was again promoted to become Brigadier, Chief of Staff, Land Forces in Hong Kong. Two years later he was given command of 168 Infantry Brigade (TA) based in Chelsea, London and in 1963 he received further promotion to Major General to become GOC, 48 Infantry Division (TA) and West Midland District where he remained until 1965, when he went overseas again in the appointment of GOC, Land Forces, Middle East in Aden. At the same time he held the appointment of Inspector General Federal Regular Army Southern Arabia and Security Commander Aden State. This was possibly his toughest assignment as he had the job of maintaining security under continuous terrorist threat until the British withdrawal became imminent. In 1966 the UK Government nominated Willoughby to lead a mission to Zambia to study the logistical problems resulting from the unilateral declaration of independence by Rhodesia. Despite suggestions that his tour should be extended, John came home in 1967 only to return to the Middle East again the next year as Defence Adviser to the Federation of Arab Emirates, travelling throughout the Gulf in an attempt to set up a common defence force for the Emirates and to organise a security framework for the area.

He retired finally from the Army in 1972 after a career of great variety and distinction – few had commanded as many as three battalions, had experienced so much action, and yet had had to undertake such a wide diversity of assignments whilst holding higher command.

On a personal level, the General was a tall, impressive officer of handsome and distinguished appearance. He was widely read in military matters, and had many other interests including archeology and painting. He was a devout Christian and regular supporter of his village church. He took a keen interest and part in the village activities. In his younger days he had been an outstanding athlete, winning the Army quarter mile championship in three successive years. He represented the Army in the Inter-Service Championships and was a member of the Milocarians Athletic Club. He was also an expert fencer having won the inter-service cadet fencing Championships for the Navy whilst at Pangbourne and then repeating it the following year for the Army when at Sandhurst. He went on to represent the Army in the foils and sabre events and became a member of the England Fencing Team.

John was appointed an OBE in 1953, CBE in 1963, CB in 1966, and finally KBE in 1967 whilst in Aden – the latter a very rare distinction indeed, as has already been mentioned, for a Major General. He was also awarded the 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Korea Medal, United Nations Medal, General Service Medal s/c clasps S. Arabia, Cyprus and the Queen's Coronation Medal.

John was married to Rosamund in 1938 and they had three charming daughters, Clare, Angela and Robin.

Although Sir John spent much of his service in staff and higher command postings, he remained very much a regimental soldier at heart. His appointment as colonel of the Regiment was probably his proudest moment and during his tenure from 1959 to 1965 he filled the post with eminence and with the highest regard from everyone. He was a long-standing member of the Executive Committee of the Regimental Old Comrades Association and took a leading role in revising the Rules of the Association. He was also a Trustee of the Regimental Museum where his deep knowledge of regimental history and his advice was much sought after and keenly appreciated. Sir John never lost his interest in the Regiment and its affairs, nor his concern for the welfare of the men under his command. Until his last illness he seldom missed a regimental occasion, often travelling considerable distances to do so. To the very end, he was expressing concern and some apprehension for the men in the Forces in the recent Gulf campaign.

'John Willo', as he was often known, was a man of humanity and humour, a wonderful companion who inspired loyalty and affection in all with whom he associated. His professionalism, vast experience and achievements gave his counsel great authority. He will be remembered as much for the manner of his contribution as for its extent, for his role as a commander, and also for his time as the leader of our Regiment as its Colonel.

The funeral took place on Friday, 1st March at St Peter's Church in his village of Codford St Peter in Wiltshire. A collection was made on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund, a charity which Sir John held dear and which he wished to be associated. The large and distinguished congregation reflected the esteem and friendship which so many felt for him. Over forty members of the Regiment and their wives attended, headed by Lieutenant Colonel T.W. Chattey, President of our Old Comrades Association and Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow, Chairman of the Association Executive Committee. Among the many tributes was a letter from the Korean Embassy expressing everlasting gratitude for Sir John's vital and fearless part in the protection of freedom during the Korean War.

Sir John Willoughby was a truly remarkable man who will be so sadly missed but also so well remembered with affection and respect by so many. Our thoughts and sympathy go to Rosamund, his widow, and to her daughters.





**Lt-Col J.R.B. (John) WORTON**

Lt-Col John Worton, who died on the 14th January 1991, aged 89, was possibly the Regiment's finest all-round games player – his most notable achievement being 'capped' for the England Rugby XV in 1924-25.

Born in London in 1901 he was an only child and was christened Joseph Robert Bute, though he was all his life, known as John. He went to school at Haileybury, where, besides rising to head of house, he excelled at all games, especially rugby. Just missing the First World War, but wanting to join the Army, he went to Sandhurst in 1919 for two years, being selected to play rugby for the Army, at scrum-half, while still there. He was also travelling reserve for England while still a cadet. He later played for England, still as scrum-half, for two years, until his regiment was posted to Shanghai.

He joined the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt(DCO) in 1921, as a 2Lt in Ulster, where they were engaged in peace keeping duties, his first duty being patrolling the Shankhill Road. During the next ten years he served with them in, amongst other places – Aldershot, Mill Hill, Cologne and Shanghai.

Always a popular officer with his men, he played every sport the Battalion had to offer, and represented the Bn at most of them, while continuing – whenever possible – to play 1st Class rugby for the Army, the Harlequins and England.

In spite of being made to ride at Sandhurst, he was not a horseman, although the son and grandson of one, and strongly maintained all his life that horses were dangerous at both ends and uncomfortable in the middle. He loved dogs and cats, especially cats, and the last one – Horatio – effectively ruled the household for fifteen years.

In 1929 he married Evelyn, 4th daughter of Colonel and Mrs Philip Trevor, known all her life as "Tossie", they had two children, Jean and Trevor. A shy and modest man, he was a first-class leader of men, with a keen sense of humour and a strong sense of duty. A faithful and loyal husband and father and a firm friend, he loved home life, and tended to dislike the thought of parties until dragged to them by his wife and daughter, when he then, of course, enjoyed himself!

In 1939, whilst serving with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong, Tossie became ill and the doctors ordered her home, John and the children accompanying her, to land in England from the SS "Rawalpindi" ten days before World War 2 started. John was immediately posted to France with the BEF, and survived the retreat to Dunkirk in 1940, getting away from the beaches on the last day of the evacuation, having marched the last 36 miles with a dislocated knee.

Although skilfully operated upon, his knee was never completely fit again, so he was graded B2. His next posting was to the 2nd Kensingtons as 2IC, and with them he trained all round Britain and Iceland, finishing the war as a Lt-Col in charge of the Battale Training School, that was then at Branton in N. Devon.

On being given command of the Kensingtons, while they were stationed in Austria, at Spittal, he was arranging to have his family out, and be together for the first time in six years, when the Bn was suddenly moved to Patras, Greece. From there John went to the Pioneer and Labour Corps for two years, when his term of command was up, serving in Palestine during the 1948 troubles, and then Mackinnon Rd in Kenya. At the end of 1948, he was posted as G1 to HQ BAOR, which was then at Bad Oeynhausen. Together at last with the family, there followed three happy years in Germany, and then, rather than take another unaccompanied posting to Tunis for his final two years of service, he went to the R.M.P. Depot – then at Knaphill as 2IC.

He retired in 1953, buying a house in Fleet, and later getting a part time job as Ring Inspector at race meetings. He did this, travelling the country with Tossie, for six years, when he finally retired, to concentrate on his garden and his golf, at the North Hants Golf Club, of which he was a member for thirty years. He was a staunch member and mainstay of the Regimental Golf meeting, which was held there for many years, and he played regularly, getting his handicap down to 11. He used to beat many lower handicap players, to their grin, because of his steadiness and complete unflapability – two traits for which he was well known in the Middlesex.

Tossie became ill in 1979, and he nursed her devotedly during the next four years, and after her death in 1983, he lived on quietly at home, enduring his own increasing ill health from angina and emphysema with great stoicism, and never a complaint. His great relaxation was watching – and criticising – sport on television and looking after the cats.

He lived to within ten weeks of his 90th birthday, and was a true Diehard – tough, enduring, independent, unselfish and loyal, and always with a twinkle in his eye. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends, by his Regiment, and by all those who were lucky enough to know him.

The funeral was attended by Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Major C.L. Lawrence (representing Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby) and Mrs Lawrence, Major and Mrs P.D.H. Marshall, Major and Mrs N.F. Legge, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe and Major and Mrs A.E.F. Waldron. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin.





**Colonel Wilfred Desmond ELLIS, OBE, TD.**

**1914 – 1991**

Desmond was born on 7th November 1914 in the village of Cookham Dean and he remained based in that same village throughout his life.

On finishing schooling he joined the Uxbridge, Maidenhead, Wycombe and District Gas Company thereby entering the gas industry where excluding the war years and despite the many changes and upheavals in the industry, not least nationalisation, he spent his entire working life finishing up as the member of the Gas Council responsible for the conversion to North Sea Gas. His reputation became such that he was invited to become a lay member of the Press Council. This and the conclusion of the North Sea Gas project brought his long and successful business career to a close in 1974.

However Gas was by no means his only interest since in 1937 sensing the approach of war he joined the Territorial Army being commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) and posted to 'B' Company 8th Middlesex at the T.A. Centre Uxbridge. His employers gave him their full support and encouraged other members of their staff to follow suit greatly to the benefit of 'B' Company where on mobilisation the Gas Company was very well represented.

On the outbreak of war Desmond started his six years in uniform with 'B' Company 2/8th Middlesex and served throughout with the same Company although the Bn's title was renamed 1st Middlesex following the Fall of Hong Kong, and he had a spell in hospital in the UK as a result of serious wounds received in Normandy soon after D Day. On being declared fit once more he rejoined his beloved 'B' Company in Holland reassuming command, and remained with it when it moved on into Germany until the surrender. He received a well earned Mention in Despatches and was eventually demobbed that winter having seen service in the UK, Ireland, Normandy, Holland and Germany.

Having discarded his uniform in exchange for a bowler hat and umbrella, Desmond clearly decided not to let the grass grow under his feet.

1947 witnessed quite the greatest and most important event to enter Desmond's life – he got married to Effie Barr; they first met in 1943 when 'B' Company was camping near Keightley where Effie's father was a doctor who helped out with medical matters. This proved to be an exceptionally happy marriage and they were blessed with a son, Roland, and two daughters, Jane and Sarah.

1947 also happened to be the year in which the T.A. was re-formed and so, nothing daunted and having enjoyed the life and anxious to continue on a part-time basis, Desmond returned to his old 8th Middlesex pre-war haunt of the Uxbridge Drill Hall, then occupied by 11th Parachute Regiment, where he was given command of Support Company. He was later transferred to 7th Middlesex as Bn Second-in-Command, eventually taking over command in 1953. After some four years in command, he was awarded the O.B.E. and the third clasp to his Territorial Decoration. He was promoted Colonel and appointed Deputy Commander of 47(London) Infantry Brigade T.A. His final military appointment was in the capacity as Commander of the Middlesex Army Cadet Force. He had the distinction of being appointed an A.D.C. to H.M. The Queen from 1966–69 and he became a Deputy Lieutenant for Middlesex and later Greater London from 1964–79.

From 1953 to 1968, when there was a complete reorganisation of the County Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association, Desmond had served as a most active member of the Middlesex Association and he then joined the Greater London Territorial and Volunteer Reserve Association where he served with distinction as Vice Chairman (Military) for several years.

Following the death of that most distinguished and highly decorated T.A. Officer – Brigadier E.E.F. (Freddie) Baker, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, TD, DL, JP, ADC – Desmond slipped into his shoes as Senior Middlesex Regimental TA representative and was to be seen with Effie with the utmost regularity at practically each and every Regimental or connected function or occasion.

Sadly he was a very sick man over recent years suffering intense pain due in part to the injuries he received in Normandy, and he underwent at least two operations for cancer. Although this slowed him down, it failed to deter him from keeping up his prolific correspondence and maintaining his many interests. His persistence and direct approach were not always fully understood by some, but no-one could doubt his complete integrity and honesty of purpose.

A true Die-Hard who will be most sadly missed by all those who were fortunate enough to have known him.

We offer Effie, Roland, Jane and Sarah our most sincere and deepest sympathy.



## FORECAST OF EVENTS 1991 and 1992

### 1991

- 14 September Korean Club Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
- 3 October 2/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2.
- 11 October Queen's Regimental Association Meeting at the Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3.
- 9 November Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster, London SW1, assemble at Middlesex Guildhall 10.40 a.m.
- 10 November 2/10th Bn(1914-18) OCA Remembrance Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, London W4, at 3 p.m. All members of the Regimental Association and their families are invited to attend.  
  
7th Bn Remembrance Service at St Mary with St George Parish Church, Hornsey. Assemble 10.30 a.m. After the Service all are invited to the T.A. Drill Hall, Priory Road, Hornsey.

### 1992

- 23 March Regimental Association Executive Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, at 6.15 p.m.
- 25 April 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon at the T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey. Assemble 12 noon.
- 8 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner at the Naval and Military Club (IN and OUT), 94 Piccadilly, London W1.
- 9 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance, Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, commencing at 2.30 p.m.  
  
Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing at 6.30 p.m. AGM 7.30 p.m.  
  
2/8th(1st Bn) Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. Assemble 12 noon.
- 12 May 9th Bn Officers' Club Annual Luncheon at the Royal Overseas League, Park Place, St James's St, London SW1. Assemble 12.15 p.m.
- 16 May 2/10th Bn(1914-18) OCA Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, London W2. Assemble 12 noon.

### BENEVOLENCE

During the period 1 January 1991 to 30 June 1991 the sum of £7200 has been expended on assisting 46 members of the Regiment and their families. The Army Bepevolent Fund have contributed £1900.

The majority of members requiring assistance come to our notice through SSAFA who forward a SSAFA Form 9 with their recommendation. This system works well and all such reports are strictly confidential. As Secretary I make contact with the applicant, send him regimental newsletters and bring him back into regimental circulation. The majority have no idea that the regimental association exists and appear to be glad that they are once again in contact with their comrades.



## DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

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

- a. A legacy of £2000 from the estate of Mrs Madge Nichols, who died on 21 August 1990. She was the widow of Major L.F.E. Nichols, 9th Bn who died on 7 December 1987.
- b. A legacy of £500 from the estate of the late Colonel W.D. (Desmond) Ellis, who died on 30 December 1990.
- c. A donation of £500 from Major J.G. Chiverall to the memory of the late Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby.
- d. An anonymous donation of £250 to the memory of the late Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby.
- e. A donation of £25 from members of the 1/7th Bn(1939-45) Luncheon Club.
- f. Plus donations from: Mr R. Bartle, Mr G.R. Barton, Mr H. Botchin, Miss Jean Bower, Mr C.C. Bradish, Mr A.J. Briggs (in memory of the late Mr G. Beechey), Mr P.J. Cain, Mr E.J. Collier, Miss H. Conroy, Major B.K. Clayden (in memory of the late Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby), Mr A.E. Dale, Mr J.H. Hedgely, Mr G.C. Higgins, Mr F.A. Jackson (in memory of the late Mr G. Beechey), Mr L.E. Loomes (in memory of the late Mr E. Wilson), Mr H. Males, Mr A. Martin, Mr S.E. Mason, Mr W.H. Morton, Major A.W.F. Peal, Mr F. Ravenscroft, Mrs J. Riseley (in memory of Capt Jack Riseley), Mrs M. Smith (in memory of her late husband Mr D.V. Smith '36), Mr M.D. Thomas, Mr G.A. Whaley, Mr P.F. Wookey.

My apologies for any omissions.

## FREE NEWSLETTERS

The Editor wishes to thank the following members for their generosity in donating extra subscriptions so that free copies can be sent to deserving old comrades and widows:

Mr K. Anderson, Mr V. Barley, Mr R. Bartle, Mr G. Barton, Mr D. Baston, Col I.H. Battye, Mr G. Belasco, Mr A. Birch, Mr A. Briggs, Mr K. Brown, Mr A. Burrell, Mr P. Cain, Major D. Carson, Major J.C. Clark, Miss H. Conroy, Major A.R. Cooper, Mr R. Cooper, Mr C. Cox, Mr W. Coxhedge, Mr A. Dale, Mr H. Daniels, Mr M. Elston, Col J.K. Evans, Mr R. Fordham, Mr M. Gonzalez-Flores, Mr J. Gosling, Mrs Rita Green, Major F. Griffiths, Mrs P. Hardcastle, Mr K. Hazlewood, Mr J. Hedgely, Mr G. Higgins, Mr J. Horn, Mr L. Howick, Mr C. Hull, Mr R. Hurt, Mr J. Hutchins, Mr R. Johnson, Mr D. Knight, Mr L. Loomes, Mr S. Mason, Mr W. Morton, Mr N. Page, Mr S. Parrott, Major A.W.F. Peal, Mr J. Pettigrove, Mrs Doris Pike, Mr E. Platt, Mr J. Poole, Mr F. Ravenscroft, Mr W. Rawlinson, Mr D. Reber, Mr R. Ridler, Mr A. Rowson, Mr G. Sharp, Mr E. Stubbings, Mr B. Tarry, Mr R. Taylor, Mr D. Vincent, Mr G. Walsh, Mr J. Webb, Mr D. Weller, Mr F. Whitehouse, Mr F. Wookey, Mr P. Wookey, Mr J. Wright, Mr R. Yerby.

## OFFICERS' CLUB DINNER

The annual dinner was held at the Naval and Military Club (IN and OUT), 94 Piccadilly, London W1, on Friday 10 May 1991. Lt-Col T.W. Chattey presided.

The following attended:

Official Guests: Colonel and Mrs J.W. Francis, Regimental Secretary, The Queen's Regiment, Major C.J. Bellingham, The Royal Hong Kong Regiment(The Volunteers), The Rev and Mrs W.E.B. Jones, Mrs Ana Bennett, Miss Jean Bower, Mrs Ann Cotton, Mrs Andy Hutchings, Mrs Doris Pike, Mrs Christine Pollard.

Members and Private Guests: Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey, Brig and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, Brig B.H. Marciandi, Brig and Mrs D.B. Rendell, Colonel I.R. Burrows and Miss B. Colley, Col and Mrs R.M. Cain, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Col A.M. Man, Col H.J.A. Moore, Col and Mrs J.N. Shipster, Lt-Col and Mrs B.A. Carlston, Lt-Col and Mrs C.N. Clayden, Lt-Col and Mrs J.M. Hewson, Doctor and Mrs S. Boydell, Major and Mrs H.E. Couch, Capt and Mrs M.J.S. Doran, Capt R.M. Fox, Major and Mrs S.L.J. Henshaw, Capt P.J.T. Lane, Major and Mrs C.L. Lawrence, Major I.M.E. Lloyd, Major and Mrs A.E. McManus, Major and Mrs R.E.B. Morris, Capt P.J.A. Pielou and Mr Sean Pielou, Major B. St G.A. Reed, Major and Mrs A.E.F. Waldron, Lt J.C.J. Grobel, Miss Ann Grobel, Lt J.P.A. Day and Mr A. Day.

Apologies were received from: Major G. Chiverall, Major P. Collins, Major W.G.A. Crumley, Capt S. le M. Enthoven, Major D.M. Falcke, Lt-Col R.D. Fisher, Capt J.S.C. Flavell, Lt-Col P.W. Galvin, Major F.K. Gidden, Col R.H. Graham and Major P.D.H. Marshall.

## THE ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT(THE VOLUNTEERS) ASSOCIATION

The Royal Hong Kong Regiment(The Volunteers), London Branch, held their annual dinner on Friday 31 May, at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London W1.

Lt-Col T.W. Chattey (Guest) and Major A.E.F. Waldron attended.

## ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Albuhera Service of Remembrance was held in the Regimental Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 11 May, and commenced at 2.30 p.m.

The service was conducted by the Canon in Residence, Canon Michael Saward, assisted by our own Rev W.E.B. Jones and the Rev Patrick Tuft, Vicar of St Nicholas and St Mary Magdalene, Chiswick, (Honorary Chaplain to our 2/10th Bn(1914-18)). Brig B.A.M. Pielow read The Lesson and The Address was given by the Rev Patrick Tuft.

Once again the service was well attended. The flowers in regimental colours were magnificent. The sound system appeared to work a little better than in previous years.

This year our welcoming stalwarts were reduced to two, Les Loomes and Bob Yerby. Les Plumb having just returned from a trip to Hong Kong and various other places was required to go back to work.

## ANNUAL REUNION

The annual reunion was held in the Carisbrooke Hall of the Victory Services Club, London W2, on Saturday 11 May, commencing at 6.30 p.m.

The attendance was even better than last year despite the absence of some regulars visiting relatives in Australia etc. The cost this year was £7 per head – a regimental subsidy was a great help. The Victory Club staff excelled themselves and contributed to a most successful and happy reunion. I wrote on behalf of you all to thank them for their co-operation.

Once again I remind all Diehards who are members of the Victory Club to book accommodation early – I suggest you do so by February.

The Korean Club ran the raffle and made £174 towards club funds. Mrs Good made another lovely cake and our thanks and appreciation must be recorded.

I was very pleased indeed to see so many from our wartime battalions attending for the first time. Keep it up you are most welcome. Sadly our Hong Kong veterans were down to 10. Charlie Revell from Ireland again made the effort with his two Diehard brothers who live in Harrow. Mention must also be made of the appearance of Capt Paddy Kenrick at the reunion – it was so nice to see him again. Quite a number have written to say how much they enjoyed attending.





*Tex Parnell, Roy Scott and Michael Quinn looking very pleased with themselves.*



*Brig. Tony Pielow receiving some advice from Capt Paddy Kenrick.*

#### 1/7th Bn (1939-45) LUNCHEON CLUB

The 29th Annual Reunion and Luncheon was held at the T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, on Saturday 27 April. Major Alan Carter was in the Chair. Our guests were Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell, TD, and the Rector of Hornsey, The Rev G.A. Seabrook, MA. Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, attended as a member.

The Chairman in his report stated that despite the loss of 7 members since the previous luncheon numbers attending were up by 14%. This is very encouraging – keep it up.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell outlined to all present the reasons for the sale of silver – he also stated that Scrolls had been installed in the Memorial Chapel at Muswell Hill.

As usual the lunch was a light hearted affair. Those present were proof, if proof is needed, that the Diehard spirit lives on, and the members bring to the fore their sense of humour as they did when they were serving.

The Cadets at the Drill Hall provided a very efficient security service and also acted as wine waiters. Members expressed their appreciation to the Cadets for their assistance.

Lastly members expressed their appreciation to Tony White for organising such a successful luncheon. His modesty did not allow him this paragraph but as Editor I have added without his permission.

The date for 1992 will be Saturday 25 April. Make a note in your diary NOW.

Tony White

#### 9th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO)

##### OFFICERS' ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

The sixth annual luncheon took place on Tuesday 14 May 1991 at the Royal Overseas League, St. James's Place, SW1. Colonel H.W.W. Gray was in the Chair and the guest was Major A.E.F. Waldron.

The lunch was attended by 17 officers who were:

D.A. Bond, P.J. Cundy, B.T. Davis, D.E. Dowlen, J.R. Doyle, A.G.B. Drabble, H.W.W. Gray, D.H.S. Herriott, P.W.S. Hodge, E. Howkins, R. Hughes, A.M.H. Jones, D.V. Littlejohn, W. MacGregor, H.C. Sanderson, K.O. Sayers, J.K.E. Slack.

Colonel Gray proposed the 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 advised with regret the passing of Len Wright (aged 90), a personal friend of the late Graham Fox, and proposed a toast to 'Absent Friends' to which all raised their glasses. The following officers being unable to attend had sent their apologies and best wishes to all for a successful occasion:

J.T. Dear, H.G. Hansen, H.J. Hesketh, W.D. Hiddleston, E.C.M. Palmer, J.W. Reeves, P.J. Spencer, D.C. Tomlins, R. Wheatley.

He was very happy that 17 officers were present, of which two were so to speak 'new recruits' who had never before attended one of the Reunions. It was a very good turnout which he hoped would be kept up in future years. There were however one or two absentees who he hoped he would hear from on another occasion.

He said that the Press were now charging for publishing a Service Luncheon notice, whereas in the past it had been free. In these circumstances it was agreed that entries in the Press be discontinued.

During the lunch John Doyle composed a 'ditty' which he recited and which is printed at the end of this article.

Colonel Gray thanked David Dowlen for arranging such a pleasant lunch and his efforts were much appreciated by all.



Next year's lunch has been booked for Tuesday 12 May 1992, and all are asked to make a special note of the date as there will be no further reminder until the usual notice is sent out next Spring.

D.E.D.

#### John Doyle's Ditty

The Ninth Battalion meets again  
And, though it goes against the grain,  
There's evidence of youthful zest  
As we old soldiers do our best  
The signs of years to dissipate –  
To fellow comrades highly rate  
As men who cock a snook at age –  
Even try to look less sage.

As usual, I'm next to Ben,  
Reminding me of that day when  
I had the privilege to play  
A part in his earthly stay.  
I would idle be not to suppose  
Always can we remember those  
Who lunch with us so merrily –  
When did our paths cross actually?

But, David, here's a toast to you  
And your success in carrying through  
The arduous task to create this  
Reunion – which we would not miss;  
And to D.B. who's ever young –  
His praises surely should be sung.  
We'll meet again in 92.  
So book it down, what e'er you do!

J.R.D.

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

The 63rd annual luncheon of the 2/10th Bn Old Comrades' Association was held at the Victory Service Club, London W2 on Saturday, the 4 May. This remembered the 77th anniversary of the formation of the Battalion as a Volunteer Territorial Unit on the 12 September, 1914 and its disbandment on the 20 August, 1918. Mr A.D. Scudamore presided and Lt Col T.W. Chattey was the principal guest. Others attending were: Capt David Hawkins, Revd. Patrick Tuft, Mr S. Collingwood, Mr R. Fordham, Mr C.W. Stephens, Mr G. Jales, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Major A.E.F. Waldron, Capt P.J. Pielou, Mr L.F. Loomes, Mr F.A. Thomas. Other guests: Mr L. Anderton, Major P.A.D. Storie-Pugh.

On exhibition was a silver cup originally belonging to the 2nd South Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps which was competed for annually from 1864 to 1901 and was presented to the present Secretary in 1936.

The Nominal Roll of the OCA now contains only three names of original members of the Battalion.

Our customary Remembrance Service will be held at St Nicholas' Church, Chiswick at 3 p.m. on Sunday, 10 November next and all members and –Friends of the 2/10th' will be most welcome; this applies especially to MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION WHO IN PAST YEARS HAVE ATTENDED THE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE ORIGINALLY HELD AT INGLIS BARRACKS.



#### THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

BRIG. H.N. TARVER, CBE

The whole Regiment was deeply shocked to learn of the sudden death on 24 February of Brig. Hugh Tarver, at the early age of 52, who since 1 October 1987 had been one of our Deputy Colonels. He was held in great respect and affection by all ranks, and Queensmen past and present send their deepest sympathy to his wife and family. A full obituary appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

#### NEW DEPUTY COLONEL

Col David Beveridge was appointed a Deputy Colonel of the Regiment in April. He was commissioned into the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1964, commanded 3rd Battalion The Queen's Regiment from 1983 to 1986, and since last year has been Commander of Victory College at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

#### THE BATTALIONS

The 1st Battalion, under command of Lt Col Amédée Miéville, moved from Tidworth to Minden in mid-January where they took over from the 2nd Battalion which, under Lt Col David Wake, returned to Canterbury. The 3rd Battalion continue to enjoy their posting in Episkopi where Lt Col Andrew Barratt handed over command in March to Lt Col Anthony Beattie. In our TA battalions, Lt Col Philip Pearce handed over the 5th to Lt Col Chris Argent in November, Lt Col John Salmon will pass command of the 6th/7th to Lt Col Piers Storie-Pugh in June and Lt Col Peter McLelland continues as CO of the 8th Queen's Fusiliers.

#### CEREMONIES IN CANTERBURY

On 1 February Canterbury gave a tremendous welcome home to the 2nd Battalion after their absence of 20 years. The battalion exercised the Regiment's Freedom of the City with an immaculate parade which was inspected by the Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Colonel of the Regiment, Maj Gen Mike Reynolds. A Civic Service in Canterbury Cathedral followed for the battalion and their families at which the Dean preached and the Regimental Honorary Chaplain, the Ven Peter Mallett took part. The celebrations concluded with a Civic Luncheon for 400 Queensmen and other guests – a most generous gesture by the City.

#### ARMY BOXING CHAMPIONS

The 1st Battalion Boxing Team became Grade 3 Novices Boxing Champions in BAOR in February when they defeated 2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and, as such, represented BAOR against United Kingdom Land Forces in an exciting match against 94 Locating Regiment at Larkhill in April. Again, our 1st Battalion were the winners, this time by 6 bouts to 3 and thus became the Army Champions. Our warmest congratulations go to all members of the team and thanks to over 100 members of the Regiment who supported them at Larkhill.

#### OTHER RECENT SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Since the last Newsletter the 1st Battalion have also won the Infantry Biathlon Competition – no mean achievement so soon after their arrival in Germany – and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion have won the South East District TA Orienteering Championships for the sixth successive year. Sgt Harper was individual champion, Maj Tony Guthrie won the B Course and LCpl Duncan was runner-up in the WRAC competition.



Brig John Holman has been appointed Chairman of Army Cricket and there have been a number of other individual achievements. At boxing, Pte Beckinsale and Pte Mahoney, both 1st Battalion, became Army Individual Novices Champions at Welterweight and Heavyweight respectively. Cpl Phillips (1st Battalion) and Cpl Dunn (Depot) represented the Army at Boxing against the Royal Navy. Lt John Griggs, Lt Tom Major and LCpl White, all 2nd Battalion, played Rugby Football for the Infantry against the Royal Armoured Corps.

### 31st (HUNTINGDONSHIRE) REGIMENT

On 16 February, the Prime Minister unveiled a replica Sevastopol cannon in Huntingdon to replace a gun that had been placed there in memory of men of the 31st (Huntingdonshire) Regiment (later the East Surreys) killed at the battle. The original cannon had been melted down for munitions in World War II.

The Regimental Secretary represented the Regiment at this ceremony and three Drummers of the 7th Battalion were on parade. One wore an 1855 uniform of the 31st and carried a Russian drum captured at the battle by the 50th Foot, later the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. A photograph of the three Drummers with the Prime Minister appeared on the front page of the Sunday Telegraph and in other papers the following day.

### BLIND MEMBERS OF FORBEAR REGIMENTS

The Regiment gave a luncheon in the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on 7 March for members of its forbear regiments who now belong to St Dunstan's. The principal guest was Mr Colin Beaumont-Edmonds MC, President of St Dunstan's, who was blinded in action in 1943 at the age of 20 while serving with the Queen's Royal Regiment, while Col John Francis, the Regimental Secretary, presided at the occasion. At the conclusion of the meal a Regimental picture was presented to St Dunstan's and each guest received an illustrated history of the Regiment.

### 25th Bn MIDDLESEX REGIMENT HOME GUARD

The 25th Bn, Middlesex Regiment Home Guard was in effect a revamped LDV unit, with its HQ at the old TA drill hall in Enfield. It was responsible for much of the industrial and country area from Edmonton boundary to Enfield Wash, and from Southgate to the river Lea. "B" company had its HQ in the previous Mountjoy tennis club, Galliards Road, Ponders End. The tennis courts here and the school playground at Carterhatch school, Enfield Highway, were used as both parade grounds and weapon training areas, the majority of the company exercises were carried out in the area of Goffs Oak and Flamstead End.

The company HQ, in the tennis club pavilion, was mainly run by Sgt Alf Green, and the two main officers of note were Captain Wetherill DSO, and Lt Barnes, the latter being a regimental survivor (SNCO) from Dunkirk. The training mainly consisted of evening and week end drill, weapon training, and route marches, with rifle shooting now and again at the Panshanaer ranges, with an annual competition at Bisley. Each of the companies did its stint of guard duty at either the tennis club, or at BN HQ, where one evening in 1941 the Corporal of the guard did manage to blow up the guardroom via the gas heater.

In late 1941, volunteers were called for to train with the Royal Artillery in heavy anti aircraft defence, which commenced a short time afterwards. Those of us involved would report to the gunsite at Bullsmore Lane, Enfield Wash, one evening a week and on Sundays. We did, after a while, become very proficient. Once we had reached the required standard, we took over one of the 3.7" guns and reported for duty every other night. Underneath our regimental flash we wore the red and black flash of anti aircraft command.

On duty nights we would report to the gunsite directly we had finished work and changed into our uniforms. We had, of course, by then handed in our Canadian Ross .300 rifles. We cycled the odd three or four miles to the camp. When we arrived we were given a meal which was almost always "bangers and beans". This was, of course, very good as very strict rationing was in force at the time. The trouble was that "jerry" hardly ever let us finish our meals, the action klaxon would sound and we would all try to break the four minute mile in our 150 yard dash to the gun park.

In our very first live shoot we had three enemy aircraft coned by searchlights, and one was hit, we think, by a gun from our gunpark. Actually manning a large weapon all night proved both exhausting and at times a bit frightening. The noise of the gun firing and the dense clouds of cordite tended to make one lose ones bearing. This could be terminal as the large shell cases ejected by the gun, in a very confined space, soon made one aware of the need to keep on the move and follow the traverse of the gun. In the early hours we would wait to hear the magic words from the command post, "Cocoa up". Each crew had to send over their bucket for its ration of cocoa, and it really tasted good. By this time we were grimed with soot and cordite, and around 0630 we would get the command to "boil out". We had to collect many buckets of hot water from the cookhouse and boil out the barrel to remove the dirt left from the night's firing. After this we were stood down, we then got on our bicycles and went home for a wash and shave before going to work at 0730. This practice went on for the whole of the period until the let up in the blitz.

I don't doubt that many of us who served at that time will have his fading memory jogged by these collections, when the Home Guard wasn't quite the "Dad's Army" depicted by the highly hilarious TV show.

*Article written by D.H. Warren who served with the 25th Bn Middlesex Regiment Home Guard from 1940 to 1942 and is now enrolled as a member of the Regimental Association. In 1942 he joined the RAF, retiring as a Squadron Leader in 1955. He is at present Curator of the RAF Regimental Museum at Catterick.*

### REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

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

- Medals of Private D. Smith (6206477), consisting of 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, T.A. medal. Served 2/8th (1st Bn) Also two Sports medals. Presented by his widow, Mrs M. Smith, 91 Hill Top Avenue, Harrogate, N Yorks HG1 3BS.
- Medals of Major General C.M.M. Man, consisting of C.B., O.B.E., M.C., 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, Coronation Medal QEII. Presented by his brother Colonel A.M. Man, DSO, OBE.
- Picture of A Company, 3/10th Bn The Middlesex Regiment, taken at Canterbury in May 1917. The picture is 30 inches wide. Presented by Mr E. Wren, son of the late Sgt W.J. Wren (292456), 3/10th Bn.
- Book - An informal record of the 26 Machine Gun Training Centre. Edited by Lieut S.R. Barney, Middlesex Regt, assisted by Lieut E.J. Frary, Middlesex Regt. Black and White Illustrations by Lieut J. Brown, Middlesex Regt. Presented by former Sgt J.E. Field (6205552) who served with the 1/8th Bn.

### VISIT TO HONG KONG

A visit to Hong Kong is being planned to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Hong Kong by the U.K. Branch of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The volunteers) in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. The visit will take place 29 November - 10 December 1991. Anyone interested should telephone Major A.E.F. Waldron immediately, and he will send you an application form.



## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY HORNSEY

The Eleventh Hour, the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month, a traumatic day to many, Armistice Day 72 years ago this year. At that moment the Fallen of the 7th Battalion were remembered at the Annual Remembrance Sunday Service at the Hornsey Parish Church.

A large congregation was present, including Old Comrades from the 7th Middlesex and also their successor Queen's, with a marching party from B (Albuhera) Company, 8th Queen's Fusiliers TA from Hornsey.

During the Service the Wreath Bearers processed with the Parish Curate, the Rev. Martin Parry, to the 7th Bn War Memorial Chapel off the North Aisle of the church, where, after The Silence, the Wreaths were laid by Lt. Col. J.D. Gunnell TD for the Officers Club, 7th Middlesex, by L/Cpl L.C. Moore for the Hornsey Branch, by Sgt M.J. Kelly, Queen's Regt Association Hornsey Branch, by Lieut Oliver King for B (Albuhera) Company, 8th Queen's Fusiliers, and by Fl. Lt. J. Maton for 16(F) Squadron Air Training Corps.

The Lesson was read by Lt. Col. D.E. Simpson TD, and the Service was conducted by the Parish Curate; The Rector of Hornsey, our old friend the Rev. Seabrook, could not be present as he had to take the Civic/ British Legion Service elsewhere.

Following the Service the members of B Company, now joined by the party from the Company who had been at Mill Hill, marched back to the TA Centre accompanied by the Old Comrades and the ATC, with a Salute being taken in Priory Road by Lt. Col. Simpson, accompanied by the Rev. Parry.

The usual Get-Together followed at the TA Centre, where the TA kindly provided refreshments.

D.E.S.

## THE ROYAL MILITARY ACADEMY SANDHURST

### 250th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

As part of the celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Military Academy, it is proposed to hold a reunion of former Officer and Gentlemen Cadets of Sandhurst, Mons and Woolwich. The reunion will take place at Sandhurst on Tuesday 6 August 1991. For further details please contact - Captain Sally Morris, WRAC, Academy Headquarters, RMAS Camberley, Surrey GU15 4PQ.

## TRUCIAL OMAN SCOUTS REUNION

The first all ranks reunion of former members of the Trucial Oman Levies, Trucial Oman Scouts and Army of the United Arab Emirates is to be held at the Connaught Rooms, London, on 26 October 1991 at 2000 hours. There will be a buffet and dress is smart casual. The guest of honour will be Colonel Stewart Carter, OBE, MC, and Mrs Carter. All those who served in any capacity with the above units will be welcome and should contact Mr T.J. Ward, 44 Weller Avenue, Rochester, Kent ME1 2LG. The cost will be £27.50 per head.

## ST DUNSTANERS LUNCH

On 7 March a reunion of St Dunstaners was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. Arrangements were made by the Queen's Regimental Association for all former members of the founding regiments to take part. The following DieHards attended - H.T. (Tom) Bice (6206625), who served 1938-44 with the 1/7th and 2/7th Bns. P.F.S. (Paul) Francia (14217821) who served 1942-45 with the 2/8th (1st Bn).

Brig B.A.M. Pielow and Major A.E.F. Waldron also attended.

## COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ISSUE

To mark the 50th anniversary of the formation on 1 August 1942 of The Parachute Regiment, the Postal Authorities for the Isle of Man is generously planning, in collaboration with RHQ The Parachute Regiment to issue during 1992 a set of special postage stamps. These will depict major events in the Regiments history. The Middlesex Regiment will be mentioned.

## ENQUIRIES

Mr Hugh Levels, Ulensvaaren 47, 6086 GC Neer, Holland, would be very pleased to hear from any member of the 1st Bn who served in the villages of Heythuizen, Neer, Haelon, Helden and Kessel, during the period November 1944 to January 1945. He has already made contact with Mr Roy Bishop and Mr Travers Johnson who he thanks for their co-operation.

## MILITARY PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO THE FAR EAST

DieHards, their relatives and friends, may be interested to hear that Patrick Pielou - ex 1st, 2nd and 7th (T.A.) Bns - is organising Military Pilgrimage tours to Burma and Singapore/Malaysia/Hong Kong and welcomes applications from members of the Regimental Association and others.

The Burma tour will take place in October 1991 and will have as it's Military Commentator Major Peter Bellers, who served in Burma during the war with 1/4th Gurkha Rifles and afterwards in Malaya, before transferring to the Middlesex Regiment.

The tour to the Far East will take place in February 1992. Tour will start in Singapore and will be at Kranji British and Commonwealth Military Cemetery on 15 February to commemorate those who died in the defence of Malaya & Singapore, which surrendered to the invading Japanese on that day. The group will then go on up into Malaysia - Johore Bahru/Kluang/Kuantan/Kuala Lumpur, visiting various Military Cemeteries/Memorials as well as many other places of general and military interest, before flying on to Hong Kong. HQ British Forces Hong Kong and The Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The volunteers), have most kindly offered non-financial support to the tour. Apart from visiting Little Sai Wan and Stanley Cemeteries and the FEPOW Memorial at Shamshuipo, a full programme of daily tours to places where the DieHards put up the renowned and magnificent defence of the Colony in 1941 will take place. Travelling in like-minded company will add to the enjoyment and interest of the visit, which will undoubtedly be a fascinating experience for both those revisiting the Far East as well as those who have not been there before.

Anyone interested in hearing further details should write or telephone Patrick Pielou, 2 Emperor's Gate, London SW7 4HH (Tel. 071-244 8056).

## KING EDWARD VII's HOSPITAL FOR OFFICERS'

The Executive Committee of the Hospital invited Major A.E.F. Waldron to attend a luncheon on 23 May at the Hospital and thereafter to pay a short visit to the hospital.

## REGIMENTAL KNEELER

Mrs Pam Hardcastle widow of Major H.K. Hardcastle, informs me that she has made a Kneeler in Regimental Colours - it is inscribed "9th Bn 1901-83, HKH". The kneeler has been placed in St Andrews Church, Ringstead, Norfolk. Pam also states that there are 1400 stitches in the rectangle and that she completed the tapestry in 9 weeks. A coloured photograph of the kneeler has been placed in the museum. Any member visiting Ringstead should visit St Andrews Church and view the kneeler.

## ALBUHERA CLOSE, ENFIELD

The 2/7th Bn Old Comrades have very kindly donated 'Smoke Alarms' to the 8 Flats at Albuhera Close, Enfield. They have been installed and a small plaque placed under each one reading 'Donated by the 2/7th Bn'. All expenses being borne by the 2/7th Bn OCA. As Editor and Housing Manager I would like to express my sincere thanks on behalf of the recipients for this very noble gesture by the 2/7th Bn OCA.



## DIEHARDS GATHER IN GREECE

In March a small group of ex-servicemen, led by Capt. Patrick Pielou (Middlesex Regt.) paid a visit to Greece and Crete primarily to visit the old battle areas and pay their respects at the British Military Cemeteries. The group consisted of two further Diehards and an ex-member of the Royal Artillery, Parachute Regt. and the Royal Signals, accompanied by their ladies, making a total of 11 persons.

Our first visit was to the British Cemetery at Piraeus, where we were joined by several past members of the Greek resistance and the Defence Attache from the British Embassy, Brigadier Gavin Bulloch, MBE, proudly wearing his Diehard Regimental tie! Gavin Bulloch is one of the very few remaining Middlesex Regiment's serving members. On the following day he and his wife Sandy invited us to their home for the evening. We thank them both for making us all so welcome and an evening which will remain with all of us.

Our hosts only arrived in Athens three weeks before our visit so it was rather a unique occasion when we all signed the first entry into their visitors book that it should include three fellow Diehards. I feel sure that something Gavin and Sandy envisaged when they left the UK!



Left to right: Tony Lofts, Brigadier Gavin Bulloch, MBE, Capt. Patrick Pielou and Arthur Ashby

## PERSONAL JOTTINGS

In the December 1990 newsletter under the heading 'Honours and Awards' I inadvertently awarded Lt-Col Brinley Ayre the 'TD' – the entry should have read 'DL'. My apologies.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Tom Barnett (6202165) informs me that his wife died on 125 May. Please accept our deepest sympathy on your sad loss.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt George Belasco (6214163) 1/8th Bn, Tel: 081 518 1792, would like to make contact with Cpl Jack Widows (6207488), Cpl Jimmy Hartnett and Cpl Lesley Browning. If you can help give him a ring.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Len Bennett (14412141) 1st and 1/7th Bns and wife have just returned from a long holiday in Australia.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tony Briggs writes from Berlin to say 'Late as ever, once a toe rag always a toe rag'. I agree. For the past 19 years he has been employed with the British Mission Berlin, but with the run down expects to be made redundant.

\*\*\*\*\*

Capt (Dr) Michael Brock, CBE, Hon D.Litt, of Windsor Castle and formerly 2/7th Bn informs me that in October 1990 he was nominated by Oxford University as a Church Commissioner (Church of England). He sends his best wishes to all DieHard friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

Tom Bryant (23433556), NS 1957-59, having completed his appointment as Deputy High Commissioner in Nairobi has been appointed H.M. consul General in Zurich from May 1991.

\*\*\*\*\*

Capt Jim Ceaton found time to halt his travels and sat down and typed that famous ditty 'The Green Eye of the Little Yellow God'. You will be asked to perform your version at the next reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

Major Geoff Chiverall wrote to say that due to ill health it was not possible for him to attend the funeral of Gen Sir John Willoughby or any regimental functions.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr L. (Steve) Cox (6199805), 2nd Bn, regrets that illness kept him from attending the reunion. First time for many years that he has missed. Take my advice and get well soon.

\*\*\*\*\*

RSM's Ray and Veronica Dodkins wrote to say that they would be unable to attend the reunion and other functions in May as they would be in Canada visiting relatives.

\*\*\*\*\*

Major and Mrs Hugh Evans are now permanent residents at Villablard, France, moving there in May. They expect to return to England every so often and will keep in touch.

\*\*\*\*\*

Major David Falcke informs me that he has been granted a SSVC Commission in the King's Regiment, with the rank of Major. He also states that he was on a TA exercise in BAOR last September when the Gulf War began and was deployed to 7 Brigade in Fallingbommel until they deployed to Saudi. He acted as PR Officer for them arranging much of the media coverage that came out of Germany.



On Tuesday 11 June I had the pleasure of meeting Colonel R.F.(Rex) Fendick, the Can Loan Officer who served with the 2nd and 1/7th Bns 1944-45. I was able to meet him at Bruce Castle and show him round the museum. Rex was in UK with a party of Can Loan officers who were visiting battlefields on the Continent.

\*\*\*\*\*

Major David Fettes, 2nd Bn 1939, 1/7th Bn 1940-46 writes from South Africa to say that my address reminds him of a visit to Canterbury many years ago - I quote 'On a visit to Canterbury in a school party I was soundly thrashed for playing noughts and crosses in the purlieus of the Cathedral.' He also tells me he was a university candidate for a regular commission and was interviewed by Lieut A.S.J. de S. Clayton.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cpl T.G. Forester, 1/7th Bn, who moved to Australia in 1988, is now back in U.K.

\*\*\*\*\*

Your Secretary visited In Pensioner Sgt F (Mutt) Hazlewood at the Royal Hospital Chelsea in June and found him in the hospital infirmary. His legs have given up walking and he now travels by wheel chair. He is very cheerful but no longer enjoys the antics of the horses.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bob Hebden former RSM 2/7th Bn, writes from New Zealand to say Bill Phillips (6201806) is in good heart and also told me how much he enjoyed the 2/7th Bn's 50th reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr R.F. Hill, 8th Bn, informs me that he had the pleasure of spending 7 days in Nijmegen at Limos Dutch Airforce Barracks with the Market Garden Veterans Association. They were able to visit Oosterbeek and Reichswald cemeteries and he found several graves of comrades from the 8th Bn. He said that he was the only Diehard among the party numbering 150.

\*\*\*\*\*

Jacko Jaques (6200175), well known to all members of the 2nd Bn and now a regular attendee at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich sends his best wishes to all members of the association, especially to D, McM and W. He states the 'RAMC Quacks' have diagnosed 'Damaged Brain'. I wonder what D, McM and W will say!

\*\*\*\*\*

Major Reg Jenkins, 2nd Bn, now 81, tells me that he had a spell in hospital in January but is now back home making a good recovery. He states that he has enjoyed a full life and has always been proud of his long association with the regiment.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs Beryl Lloyd (daughter of the late Lt-Col F.G. Parker) writes to say how much she regrets being unable to attend the Officers' Club Dinner. She also told me that she was able to attend the funeral of Mrs Mary del Court.

\*\*\*\*\*

K.J. (Ted) Mankelow, NS 1930-52, served Korea with the 1st Bn, writes from Australia to say that he will be visiting UK in July/August and hopes to find time to visit the regimental museum. For the past 37 years he has organised the Albuhera Military Museum in Corio, Geelong, Australia.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Sidney Mason (TF1753 & 43569), pre 1914 and WW1 with 7th and 1/7th Bns, now almost 95 years sent his apologies for not being able to attend the May functions, and enclosed a donation of £20 towards expenses. He resides in Liverpool.

\*\*\*\*\*

Reg Normandale (6213546) 1st Bn HK, writes to inform me that he is a member of Toc H and is involved with circulating two tapes weekly to blind or partially sighted listeners in the area of Northants. They now record on tape the Toc H monthly magazine 'Point Three' for members with sight problems. Toc H members who would like to have this returnable tape post free should write to Harry Bailey, C/o WTN Volunteer Bureau, 6 Park Road, Wellingborough, Northants.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Jim Pullen (6200396), informs me that his wife died on 16 February. Jim please accept our sincere condolences.

\*\*\*\*\*

Former RSM W.A. Robertson, 2/7th Bn, writes to say that Anno Domino has caught up with him and he is finding it difficult to walk any distance. He was born 1902 - soles wearing out!

\*\*\*\*\*

Reg Shore (6201889) sends his regards to all members of the 1st Bn who served in Hong Kong.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr Roy Sissons (6204405) 2nd & 2/7th Bns regrets that at the time of the reunion he was in hospital with Shingles. First time for many years that he has missed. All is forgiven - get well quickly.

\*\*\*\*\*

Roy Smart (6217142) Ex Diehard, continues his medal valeting service. He provides a first class service - medals cleaned, re-ribboned and mounted ready for wear. Full size replacement medals available plus miniatures and medal holders. Ribbons for foreign awards also stocked. Apply to Roy Smart, 39 Mount Lane, Kirkby-La-Thorpe, Lincolnshire NG34 9NR. Tel: 0529 304236.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt Ernie Stebbing a Diehard from 1932-46, was recently honoured by the Royal British Legion. At the Suffolk County RBL conference he received the National Life Membership Certificate and badge. He now holds all three of the RBL's highest awards.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr W. Thompson, MM, 19th Bn WW1, now 98, writes from Dunnington, York, to say he will be unable to attend the reunion as he has so many engagements to attend! He also states he has given up going abroad.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following have joined the Regimental Association:-

Private E.F. Alsop (6205375), served 1938-45, 1/7th Bn, POW Le Panne.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private G.R. Barton (24005827), served 1965-73, B Coy 1 Mx & 4 Queens.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private J. Chippendale (14784243), served 1944-45 with KSLI, Cheshires, DLI, R Berks and 1 Mx 1946-48.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sgt C. Farebrother (6212969), served 1940-46 2/8th (1st Bn) 1940-45, 2nd Bn 1945-46.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private D.J. Hawkes (23365097), served NS 1956-58 1 RF and 1 Mx.

\*\*\*\*\*



Private H.W. Hendry (6209225), served 1/7th Bn A & B Coys, also attached REME LAD.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private J.S. (Fritz) Jennings (6201470), served 1934-45, A & D Coys 1st Bn, POW Kobe, Japan. Resides New South Wales, Australia.

\*\*\*\*\*

Signalman E.K. Jones (6210705), served 342 MGTC, Gosport 1939-42, transferred to Royal Signals 1942.

\*\*\*\*\*

LCpl J.C.B. Ling (6217074), served 1942-47, 70th Bn, 2 PLK & A Coy 1st Bn.

\*\*\*\*\*

LSgt P. Mahon (6209965), served B Coy 1/7th Bn 1939-46.

\*\*\*\*\*

LCpl L.O. Mallyon (6210287), served 1939-45, Mx 1939-42 and Rifle Brigade 1942-45.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private S. Nicholls (6734742), served 1933-46, C & D Coys 2nd Bn.

\*\*\*\*\*

LCpl J.B. Potts (22434502), served 1950-52, C Coy 1 Mx.

\*\*\*\*\*

Private R.W.J. Shorter (6207528), served 2/8th (1st Bn), A & D Coys.

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Private G. Tann (6203278), served 1937-45, A Coy 1 Mx, POW Osaka Camp, Kobe, Japan. Resides Victoria, Australia.

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Private G.H. Tunks (3717), aged 99 years, will be 100 on 17 December. Served 1916-19, 3/7th and 1/7th Bns.

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Cpl D.C. Woolley (22944162), served 1953-55, 1st Bn.

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Private L.J.H. Ward (22182705), served S Coy 1st Bn, Korea.

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Private W.R. Warman (6210975), served 2nd Bn 1939-46, 1/7th Bn 6 months.

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Sqn Ldr D.H. Warren, TD (1297667), served 1940-42 25th Bn Mx Home Guard.

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## OBITUARY

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

**BALDWIN** – On 11 December 1990, Capt Maurice Edward Baldwin, TD, (377236), aged 63 years. Maurice was educated at King Alfred's Grammar School, Wantage, and enlisted initially in the Royal Marines. After completing his training at Deal, he transferred to the infantry and went to the Officer Training School at Bangalore in India. He was commissioned in the Royal Berkshire Regiment and served in India until returning to the U.K. at the time of the partition of India in August 1947. On demobilisation, Maurice joined 7th Middlesex at their Bn HQ in Hornsey. After a short period with C Company he took command of the Machine Gun Platoon. Subsequently he was transferred to A Company at Highgate. When D Company was reformed at Tottenham, he took command of the Company and continued to serve with them until he transferred to the Reserve in 1957.

In retirement he became an active member of the Samaritans.

The funeral was attended by Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell, Major R.J. Leighton and Major J. Clark.

**BARNARD** – On 15 May 1991, Private Harry Barnard (19032367), aged 63 years.

He served with the regiment from 1946 to 1952 and saw service with the 1st Bn in Korea.

The funeral was attended by Ken Harding and Percy Newman.

**BARRON** – On 25 December 1990, Sgt Peter Arden Barron (6201425), aged 77 years.

Peter Barron served from 1934 to 1956. He was with the 1st Bn in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong pre war. He was taken POW on Christmas Day 1941 and served his stint in Omori Camp, Tokyo. He was repatriated to UK during October 1945 and continued to serve. For the next nine years he became an instructor at various Depots in the UK. His last posting was to the Middle East returning to UK in January 1956 and was discharged to pension after 2 years service.

**BATHIE** – On 3 March 1991, Cpl Jack Bathie (6202135), aged 78 years.

He enlisted in 1935 and joined the 2nd Bn and C Company. He was posted to the 2/8th (1st Bn) in late 1939. He was medically discharged in May 1942 after injury to his left foot whilst playing football. A regular attender at all regimental functions.

**BEECHEY** – On 8 February 1991, WO2 George Francis Beechey (6217118), aged 65 years.

George Beechey enlisted into the regiment in 1946 serving until 1955. He was a qualified musician. In 1955 he purchased his discharge and joined the Band of the Grenadier Guards – his stay was short and he was transferred to the army reserve in May 1956. In December 1956 he re-enlisted into the Diehards and rejoined the Band of the 1st Bn. He was finally discharged to pension in October 1978 – his final 11 years was with the Queen's Regiment. On leaving the service he became an Accommodation Services Accountant with the RAOC at Mill Hill.

**BODEN** – On 10 April 1991, Private Edward Boden (6201455), aged 76 years.

He served from 1934 to 1946 with the 1st Bn in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was taken POW on Christmas Day 1941 and did his time in Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo. He was a despatch rider with the Signal Platoon, HQ Company.

**BOLAM** – On 17 February 1991, Sgt David Bolam (6201280), aged 72 years.

David Bolam enlisted as a Boy soldier on 26 September 1933 and joined the Band of the 2nd Bn. In October 1938 he was posted to the Band of 1st Bn then in Hong Kong and on Christmas Day 1941 was taken POW. He was a member of the 1st draft of POWs to be sent from Hong Kong to Japan and was placed in a Tokyo POW Camp. He was repatriated to UK during October 1945. He continued to serve and in July 1947 transferred to the R.A. Staff Band. In November he transferred to the R.E. Staff Band and in September 1953 rejoined the R.A. Staff Band. In October 1955 he rejoined the 1st Bn Band and served until September 1961 when he was discharged to pension after completing 28 years service. He played the clarinet. His widow, Jackie, attended the Albuhera Remembrance Service in St Paul's Cathedral.

**BROMWICH** – On 25 December 1990, John I'a Bromwich, TD, aged 74 years.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was a member of the 2/8th Bn and later served with 9 Manchesters and 3 Welsh Guards. He spoke Cantonese fluently and on retirement was a Professor at Cambridge University. I have no other details.

**BUCKLEY** – On 19 April 1991, Sgt R.J. (Reg) Buckley.

Reg served with the 2/7th Bn 1939-45, serving with D Company. His brother Alfred also a member of D Company 2/7th attended the funeral together with George Empson (REME).



**BURTON** – On 26 December 1990, Major Arthur Burton, aged 80 years.

Major Burton joined the 1/7th Bn during 1940 and served with A Company. He was appointed Adjutant to the 1/7th in North Africa during 1942. He was wounded in June 1944 whilst travelling with Capt Norman Shippam, the Bn Signals Officer, the latter dying of his wounds when the Bn Jeep ran over a mine.

The funeral was attended by Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell, Major H. Bolt and Capt J.O. Dare.

**BYWATERS** – On 4 March 1991, Bandsman Harry Bywaters (6189656), aged 86 years.

Harry enlisted as a Boy soldier in 1919 and served with the 2nd Bn in Egypt, Singapore and India until April 1928. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 18 May 1928.

**CAULFIELD-KERNEY** – On 28 February 1991, Lt-Col Stanley Frederick Caulfield Kerney, MBE, TD, FCIS, aged 80 years.

Lt-Col Caulfield-Kerney was granted a T.A. Commission on 22 June 1938 and joined the 7th Bn. During 1939 and 1940 he served with the Kensington Regiment.

In early 1945 he was appointed Second in Command of the 5th Royal Battalion of the Mahratta Light Infantry and was appointed to command this regular Indian Bn.

**DEL COURT** – On 18 January 1991, Mrs Mary Savile del Court, aged 83 years.

Mrs del Court was the widow of Lt-Col S.F.W.M. del Court who died on 5 April 1970.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell attended the funeral representing the Regimental Association.

**DU PARC BRAHAM** – On 6 April 1991, Lt-Col J.C. du Parc Braham, TD, aged 67 years.

It was natural for Julian to be in the T.A. as his father was before him in 1909, following in turn his grandfather who had been a volunteer in the H.A.C. As a youngster of 17 he had joined the Army in 1940 and was selected for training at Sandhurst prior to being commissioned in the Royal Welch Fusiliers. The War Diaries of the 7th Bn list Lt J.C. du Parc Braham as a company officer having been taken on strength 5 August 1943 and promoted to A/Capt commanding 3 Pl (Mortars) 5 May 1944. The Bn landed in France 25 June concentrating south of Bayeux on the 26th. By the 30th Julian was hospitalized, having suffered injuries in a minefield from which he was rescued by his batman. This event was celebrated annually at lunch by both participants for many years afterwards. On recovery Julian was appointed Senior Instructor in the Mortar School at Netheravon. His service extended to 1949 when he was credited with being one of the youngest majors in the Army. When the T.A. was reformed in 1947 Julian joined and by 1958 was back in Support with 7th Mx at Tottenham. Following the amalgamation of the three battalions in 1961 he left for Staff work and by 1963 was DAAG as a Lt-Col in 54 Div (East Anglian). He once told the writer that that was a good year 1963 – "a first son and a half colonelcy". He maintained contact with his brother officers through his membership of the 7th Mx Officers' Dining Club but, sadly the last decade was marred by ill-health due to diabetes culminating in the last years being spent in a wheel chair although cheerful to the end.

He enjoyed what is now fashionably called a certain charisma. No one could be ambivalent about Julian – whether it was the ex National Serviceman revelling in the joys of Teddy Boy suits or Regular C.O's wondering quite what he would do next. He will be missed by all who knew him.

**DUFFIELD** – On 28 February 1991, Private Walter William Duffield (893338), aged 91 years.

He joined the regiment in 1916 serving with the 5th Bn. In May 1918 he was taken POW at Roucy Wood on the Aisne. In 1919 he was serving on the borders of Turkey and Russia finally returning to England in 1922 for discharge.

**ELL** – On 19 March 1991, WO2 Victor Percy Ell (6199332), aged 78 years.

Victor enlisted with the 7th Mx Bn during 1928 serving until 1935. He served with the 1/7th Bn 1939-45. On 6 March 1952 he joined the TA of the Royal Signals reaching the rank of WO2. He was employed at the Willesden and Uxbridge Drill Halls until 1965.

**EVANS** – On 15 February 1991, Mrs Bessie Evans, aged 69 years.

Bessie resided at Albuhera Close, Enfield, and was the widow of Mr Taffy Evans, 1/7th Bn, who died on 16 May 1988, aged 70 years.

**FULLER** – On 28 April 1991, Private Harold Bernard Fuller (6206468), aged 70 years.

He served from June 1939 to 1943 with the 2/8th Bn and was posted to the 2/7th Cheshires with whom he served until the end of the war.

**GEARY** – On 10 January 1991, Bandsman George William John Geary (6199287), aged 76 years.

George enlisted as a Boy soldier on the 6th January 1930, having previously been a member of the Duke of York's School, Dover. He joined the Band of the 1st Bn and his overseas tour began in 1931, Palestine, Egypt, Singapore, Hong Kong. During the Battle for Hong Kong he was wounded and was in the Bowen Road Hospital and became a POW with the remainder of the patients. He was a member of the draft proceeding to Japan on the Lisbon Maru which was torpedoed. He survived this ordeal and eventually reached Japan and was held in Kobe Camp. He arrived home on 15 November 1945 via the Queen Elizabeth. In January 1946 he joined the Band of the 2nd Bn in Palestine, returning to UK in June 1948 to find the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Bns taking place. The 1st Bn was due to proceed to Hong Kong in June 1949 and George decided it was not for him and applied for transfer to the Royal Military Academy Band Sandhurst and was accepted. He was a first class clarinet performer. He enjoyed his 18 years stint with the RMA Band. He was discharged to pension on 8 December 1967. His service totalled 37 years 337 days. He is one of the very few members who ever earned a clasp to the LS&GC Medal. Sadly he suffered very severely with Mesothelioma caused by having to work during his POW stint with asbestos. He was eventually awarded a 100% disability pension but it took a long time to obtain. Former Bandsman Frank Ryder, son of Bob Ryder, VC, very kindly attended the funeral. It was good to see his widow, Dorothy, attending the Albuhera Remembrance Service in St Paul's Cathedral on 11 May 1991.

**GERRARD** – On 12 December 1991, Private Leonard Frank Gerrard (6208160), aged 77 years.

Len was a member of the 2/7th Bn 1939-45 and a very popular member of B Company. He was a regular attender of the 2/7th Bn reunions missing only 5 meetings in 22 years.

**GRICE** – On 20 March 1991, Private W.E. (Ted) Grice.

Ted served with the 2/7th Bn 1939-45. Another member who was a regular attender at the reunions. He only missed two.

**HAMMOND** – On 10 February 1991, Captain William Bernard Hammond, TD & Bar, ERD.

Bernard commenced his service in 1931 enlisting as a gunner with 54 City of London T.A., A.A. Brigade. He was commissioned as a Lieut on 13 April 1939 and promoted Capt in 1955. His Middlesex Regt Officers' Club joining form dated 1966 states that he served with our 9th Bn and at the time of completion he was serving with A.E.R. at HQ Aldershot District. His medals include the Africa and Italy Stars which indicate that he took part in these campaigns. He was also a member of the Metropolitan Police Reserve and held the rank of Sgt. He apparently later transferred to the P.L.A. River Police where he remained until forced to resign on attaining retirement age. He was a regular visitor to RHQ at Edgware where he knew he was always welcome and could enjoy a glass of sherry.

**HART** – On 26 December 1990, Mr Harry H. Hart, MBE (G61385), aged 91 years.

Harry served with the 18th Bn (First Public Works Pioneers) during 1914-18. He also served with the Royal Fusiliers.

**HARTLEY** – On 26 February 1991, Major George Hartley, TD, DL, aged 85 years.

He was granted a T.A. Commission on 10 January 1931, joining the 8th Bn. In 1939 the 8th Bn became 1/8th and 2/8th Bns. Major Hartley was appointed Commander of D Company 2/8th. He was Mayor of Uxbridge during 1961.

**LABARRE** – On 28 April 1991, Private Jacques Alain LaBarre (19036147), aged 62 years.

He served from 1946-49 with the Royal Fusiliers and from 1949 to 1952 with the Diehards in Korea.

**LANDER** – On 13 March 1991, Sgt Leslie Frank Lander.

He served with the 2/7th Bn 1943-46 and was Bn Orderly Room Clerk. He also served at O2E Cairo until demobilisation. He has attended every reunion since then. Mr W.R. Dunford attended the funeral.

**LAWRENCE** – On 10 February 1991, Sgt George Henry Thomas Lawrence (6198352), aged 81 years.

George enlisted into the regiment in 1928 and joined the 1st Bn at Catterick and was posted to the 2nd Bn in December 1931 on their reversion to Home Establishment. He was with the 2nd Bn at Dunkirk. In 1943 he was transferred to the REME in the trade of Armourer. He was discharged on 2 October 1945.

**MOODY** – On 4 December 1990, Cpl Ronald Edgar Moody (62071950), aged 74 years.

He was admitted to the Royal Star & Garter Home as a permanent resident on 2 March 1982 and died at the home. He served in the regiment during 1939-45. I am not sure with which Bn.



MUNCHENBACH – On 13 April 1991, Cpl Harold Munchenbach (6210544), aged 71 years.

He was called up for service in November 1939 and joined the 1st Bn late 1940. He served in 12 Platoon, C Company and was made POW 25 December 1941. He was drafted to Japan in early 1943 and was held in Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo.

NEVILL – On 12 January 1991, Cpl George Nevill (5247), aged 94 years.

George served with the 2nd Bn 1914-18. He was a free-lance Physiotherapist working right up to just before he died. He was President of the Hanwell Prince of Wales Fishing Club, a life member of the Hounslow Branch of the Royal British Legion and a staunch member of our Hounslow Branch. He was a very active member and last year visited Mons with the branch.

ORMES – On 25 December 1990, WO2 Ernest Hubert Ormes (6194114), aged 85 years.

Ernie Ormes enlisted as a Boy soldier in 1920 but was discharged 1921. He re-enlisted in January 1923 and served with the 2nd Bn until 1931 when he was transferred to the Army Reserve. He was embodied in September 1939, joining the RA/LAA, and reached the rank of WO2. He was demobilised in 1946. I understand he joined the T.A. in 1949 but I have no details of this service.

PARKS – On 23 April 1991, The Rev Canon Geoffrey Parks, MC, FSA, aged 77 years.

Geoffrey was the first Chaplain to the 2/7th Bn during 1939-43. He remained with the Bn until the reorganisation into a Support Group in 1943. There was no provision for a Chaplain so Geoffrey was posted to another unit in 46 Division. He had a distinguished record, being awarded the M.C. and was twice mentioned in despatches. After the war he became Canon Emeritus of County (Coventry) Cathedral and later on retirement, Sub Treasurer of Chichester Cathedral. Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe and Major H.A.B. Claypole attended the funeral service in the Cathedral.

PRESTON – On 21 January 1991, Sgt James Preston (6205018), aged 70 years.

Jim Preston enlisted into the Regiment in September 1938 and joined the 2nd Bn and was with the Bn at Dunkirk during 1940. He was later posted to the MGTC at Chester. Service with the 2nd Bn in MELF 1947-48 followed. In 1949 he proceeded with the 1st Bn to Hong Kong and in 1950 was posted to the leave Camp at Chatham Road, Kowloon. He returned to UK with the 1st Bn at the end of 1952 and went with the Bn to Zeltweg, Austria. He was appointed Sgt ILC Married Quarters. In 1954 he was posted to the Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School and in 1957 to the Junior Leaders Bn, Plymouth. He was discharged to pension on 7 September 1960.

The Regimental Flag draped the coffin and former C/Sgt Pat Dive attended the funeral.

RICH – On 15 April 1991, Private Frederick Albert Rich (22950094), aged 55 years.

He served from 1954 to 1957 with the 1st Bn in Austria and Cyprus. He was batman to the Editor and at that time Q.M. of the 1st Bn. Fred Rich spent 12 years on a kidney machine despite having a transplant from his brother in Canada. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin and former Drummer D.A. Tollafeld attended the funeral.

SCOTT – On 11 March 1991, Sgt Edwin Charles Scott (6212228), aged 73 years.

Sgt Ted Scott served with the 2nd Bn from 1940-45 and the 1/7th Bn 1945-46. He was with A Company 2nd Bn and C Company 1/7th Bn. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin.

SMITH – On 23 May 1990, Private Douglas Victor Smith (6206477), aged 70 years.

Douglas Smith served with the 2/8th (1st Bn) 1939-46. In Paul Francis's book he is mentioned as the Waterman. His widow very kindly donated to the Museum two sports medals he won.

TURNER – On 8 February 1991, S/Sgt Ronald Turner, MSM (6200711), aged 75 years.

Ronald Turner enlisted on 10 October 1932 and on completion of his recruit training joined the 2nd Bn. In April 1935 he was posted to the 1st Bn then in Egypt and service in Singapore and Hong Kong followed. On 9 December 1940 he was transferred to the RASC at his own request as a trade tested clerk. His fate was the same as the rest of the Hong Kong Garrison – POW from 25 December 1941 to 15 August 1945. He was a member of the 3rd draft to go to Japan and was held in Otani Camp, Osaka. On return to UK in 1945 he continued to serve with the RASC and finally was discharged to pension on the 9 November 1961, having completed 29 years service. He was very proud to receive the M.S.M. He later spent 9 years with the Wiltshire Army Cadet Force and was appointed Captain and Detachment Commander.

WILKES – On 28 March 1991, His Honour Lyall Wilkes, aged 76 years.

Lyall Wilkes came of a family of Jewish origin. He was educated at Newcastle Royal Grammar School and at Balliol College, Oxford. When the war came he served in the ranks of the Middlesex Regiment for over one year, was commissioned in 1941 and served in the Middle East. He was attached to Force 133 for service in German-occupied Greece and saw service with Greek rebels operating behind German lines. He recalled sitting out the end of the German occupation on Mount Taygetus, overlooking Kalamata, with a Church of England identification disc round his neck – just in case. He was profoundly affected by his Greek experience and wrote "The Parthenon is beautiful, but the cruelty of Greek to Greek is not. What is the point if only the buildings show a sense of proportion?". He was labour M.P. for Newcastle Central from 1945 to 1951 and also a Circuit Judge.

Major F.W. Pemberton, 2nd Bn, attended the funeral.

WILSON – During November 1990, Private Edward Wilson (TF/3235 & 204913), aged 92 years.

Ed Wilson served with the 2/8th Bn and 2nd Bns during 1917-19. He was a long standing member of the Regimental Association.

WRIGHT – On 31 December 1990, Major Leonard Charles Wright, TD, aged 90 years.

He served with the 9th Bn from 1922 to 1945. I have no other details regarding his service. Lt-Col and Mrs J.M. Hewson, MC, attended the funeral. Major Wright was John's uncle.



# 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	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£12.50 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£16.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon and Old Gold	£ 3.50 each
Ties New Pattern Terylene	£ 3.50 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£ 6.00 each
Wall Plaques - Middlesex Regiment	£13.50 each
History - Diehards in Korea	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Cap Badge (not originals)	£ 3.00 each
Tumblers Whisky, engraved with Middlesex Regimental Badge	£ 6.50 each

(These can be purchased from the Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JU. Cheques should be made payable to The Queen's Regiment).



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