



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 75

JUNE 1996

PRICE £1



*L to R. Cllr. John Yates, Tookie Poole, Brig. Tony Pielow, The Rt Hon Michael Portillo, MP
Jack Warner, Dr. Ian Robertson, Maj. Ron Morris.*

President : Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP
 Chairman : Lt-Col J.M. Hewson, MC
 Vice Chairman : Col I.D. Brotherton, TD, DL
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 and
 Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE

VISIT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE TO THE DIEHARDS.

The Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt Hon Michael Portillo, MP visited Albuhera Close and the Albuhera Room located at the Royal British Legion, Enfield on Friday 23rd February 1996.

He was met at Albuhera Close by Brigadier Tony Pielow and Major Ron Morris. He called on Mr and Mrs Jack Warner where he talked about the role of the 1st Battalion in Korea, then went on to visit Mr and Mrs Tookie Poole where he heard a most interesting account of Mr Poole's experiences as a POW in Hong Kong. The party then moved on to the British Legion Hall in Enfield where the Minister joined the Association for a buffet lunch, and spent about an hour talking to the members and their wives. The Minister was then invited to view the Albuhera Room and whilst there he was presented with a Middlesex Regimental Plaque and requested to sign the visitors book. At this juncture, prior to leaving, the Minister made a short speech displaying considerable knowledge of the Regiment's past and he praised the Old Comrades present for the part they had played in the more recent history of the Regiment.

Included in the guests present were Mr Ian Robertson, Director of the National Army Museum, who gave some helpful advice on setting up display rooms, the President of the Royal British Legion Enfield, Mr J Hogg and the British Legion Chairman Enfield, Mr Derek Millwood.

BBC TV were recording for over one hour but as seems to be the norm at these events about 30 seconds was shown on BBC2 on the following Sunday.

FORECAST OF EVENTS

1996

- 21 July 75th Anniversary Parade Royal British Legion, Enfield. 2.15 p.m.
- 14 September Korean Club Annual Reunion, Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2. Commencing 6.30 p.m. AGM 6.30 p.m.
- 30 September Laying Up of Colours, 3 Queens, OBE Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral.
- 7 November Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 10.30 a.m. Planting of Crosses at Regimental Plot.
- 7 November 7th Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner to be held at the Officers' Mess, The London Regiment, St Johns Hill, Battersea, London SW11.
- 9 November Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) assembling 10.40 a.m.
- 10 November Remembrance Day Parade at Cenotaph, Whitehall. Form Up Horse Guards 10 a.m. (Entry by ticket only obtainable from Secretary).
- 10 November 7th Bn Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George Hornsey, London N8. Assembling 10.30 a.m.
- 13 November Finance Sub-Committee Meeting at Cooper Lancaster Brewers, London WC2, commencing at 6.45 p.m.
- 16 November WOs/Sgts Past and Present Dinner, Basingstow.
- 18 November Housing Sub Committee Meeting, ACF Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, London SW3, commencing at 7 p.m.
- 22 November PWRR Officers' Club Dinner, Cavalry and Guards Club.

1997

- 3 March Middlesex Officers' Club Meeting at 6.30 p.m. followed by Regimental Association Executive Committee Meeting at 7 p.m. ACF Conference Room Duke of York's Headquarters, London W2.
- 26 April 1/7th OCA Annual Reunion at the Drill Hall, Hornsey.
- 9 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Annual Dinner at Army and Naval Club, Pall Mall, London SW1.
- May Albuhera Service of Remembrance, Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral at 3 p.m.
- 10 May Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing at 6.30 p.m. AGM 7.15 p.m.
- 13 May 9th Bn Officers' Club Annual Luncheon at the Royal Overseas Club, Park Place, St James, London SW1, assembling 12.15 p.m.
- 16 May Albuhera Lunch at National Army Museum. Assemble 12.15 p.m. By invitation only.

BENEVOLENCE

For the period ending 30 June 1996 the sum of £10,235 was granted to members of the Regiment in the form of benevolent grants. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £7139.

DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the following donations:

- £151 from 2/7th Bn on final disbandment.
- £571 from the 2/10th Bn OCA on disbandment.
- £60 from Mr H. Botchin.
- £28 from Mrs Penman contributed by members of Albuhera Close for a floral tribute to her late husband.
- £10 from Loyal Orange Lodge, No. 1689, William Alexander Memorial.
- Many smaller donations mainly towards the Newsletter around the £25 mark.

The following donations were made by the Regimental Association:

- £600 to the Middlesex and North West Army Cadet Force.
- £100 to the Royal Star and Garter Home.
- £50 to the Enfield Branch towards setting up the Albuhera Room.
- £40 to the 43rd Wessex Division Memorial.
- £40 to the 1/7th OCA towards cost of hire of Hall.
- £25 to the Friends of St Paul's Cathedral.
- £25 to the British Ex Service Wheel Chair Assn.
- £25 to the DCM & MM League Assn.

From the Officers' Club - £200 towards the cost of the 9th Bn Luncheon.

OFFICERS' CLUB

The Annual Dinner of the Officers' Club was held at the Naval and Military Club (IN and OUT), 94, Piccadilly, London W1, on Friday the 10th of May 1996. Brig B A M Pielow presided and the following Officers and their Guests attended:-

Regimental Guests:- Dr C T Newnham, Rev & Mrs W E B Jones, Rev & Mrs P A Tuft, Mrs A Bennett, Miss J Bower, Mrs A Cotton and Mrs A Hutchings.

Members and Private Guests:- Brig & Mrs B A M Pielow, Brig & Mrs G Bulloch, Brig B H Marciandi, Brig & Mrs D B Rendell, Col I R Burrows & Miss B Colley, Col & Mrs R M Cain, Col A M Man and Miss C Man, Col H J A Moore, Lt Col & Mrs C N Clayden, Mr H Clayden, Lt Col M F Deakin & Miss A Deakin, Lt Col & Mrs J M Hewson, Maj & Mrs P D J Clarke, Maj & Mrs H E Couch, Maj & Mrs W G A Crumley, Maj D M Falcke, Maj & Mrs S L J Henshaw, Maj & Mrs C L Lawrence, Maj & Mrs A E McManus, Maj P J Monypenny of Pitmilly, Maj & Mrs R E B Morris, Maj B St G A Reed, Maj A E F Waldron, Capt & Mrs S le M Enthoven, Mr & Mrs J Harris, Lt J P A Day, Lt & Mrs P J Ottino.

Brig B A M Pielow after dinner gave a resume of current regimental activity and presented apologies of those who were unable to attend. He also expressed his thanks to the many members of the Regiment who give so much of their time to support the Association.

THE ANNUAL REUNION

169 members of the Association gathered for the Annual Reunion held at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London W2 on Saturday the 11th of May 1996. It is very pleasing to note that there is still an extremely good attendance, none of us are getting any younger! Many travelled long distances to be with us. As ever the Victory Club served a very tasty fish and chip supper and after the meal, those not in the bar, enjoyed dancing to Mr Allen's Music.

For the first time members of the 2/7th Old Comrades Association gathered together at their own table. Now that their OCA has formally disbanded we hope to see many who served with that Battalion attending future Reunions. The booking of the Carisbrooke Hall has already been made for the 10th May 1997. See you there.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting took place at the Victory Services Club at 1915 hours on the 11th of May 1996. There were 20 members present. The Minutes are published at the end of this newsletter for your information.

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION UK BRANCH, ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS)

The AGM and Foundation Day Dinner for 1996 was held on Friday 31 May 1996 at the RAMC HQ Officers' Mess, 45 Millbank, London SW1.

The following attended:

Brig & Mrs B.A.M. Pielow, Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, and Miss P Harrison.

ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Albuhera Remembrance Service was held in the Regimental Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday the 11th of May 1996. The Service this year was prepared and conducted by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, MA, the Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the Middlesex Regimental Association. The Reverend Guz Jones led the Prayers and the reading by Brigadier Tony Pielow, our President, was taken from Isaiah verses 55.6 to 56.1. As ever there was an excellent turn out. The Chapel was full. Again our thanks go to three sentries at the door of the Cathedral who were dressed in Middlesex period uniform. They were much admired by many of the Public.

ALBUHERA DAY LUNCH - THE NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Mr Ian Robertson the Director of the National Army Museum, kindly invited members of the Regiment to an Albuhera Day Lunch at the National Army Museum. Twenty six members of the Regiment attended. In his speech of welcome Mr Robertson said how much they valued the National Army Museum's association with the Middlesex Regiment and how delighted he was to see so many members present. Brigadier Tony Pielow in his reply thanked Mr Robertson for inviting us, and said how pleased he was that we met for lunch each year on Albuhera Day. Prior to lunch Mr John Harris, who was a Far East POW in Argyle Street Camp, Kowloon, gave a moving account of his experiences as a POW in Hong Kong and then handed over to Brigadier Pielow a bound copy of his booklet "Four George Crosses won in Hong Kong 1943 - 1946". Brigadier Pielow in turn then handed the booklet to the Director of Museum, Mr Ian Robertson, for safe keeping.

After lunch, Mr Andy Robertshaw of the Museums Education Department, gave a very interesting lecture on the Battle of the Somme. A member of staff dressed in the uniform worn at the Battle together with items of equipment carried and the weapons used were displayed for all to see.

1/7th OCA ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The 1/7th Battalion OCA held their Annual Luncheon at the TA Drill Hall at Hornsey on the 27th of April 1996. Major Alan Carter was in the Chair and 40 members attended. Major Carter gave a resume of the activities undertaken by the 1/7th OCA over the last two years, the lunch not having taken place in 1995. Major Ron Morris gave an outline of the work undertaken by the Regimental Association for the same period. He also informed members of the proposed transfer of the Middlesex Memorial Homes in Albuhera Close, Enfield to a

service housing authority, Haig Homes. Major Morris was able to reassure members that the rights of the tenants in occupation have been safeguarded and in addition the Regimental Association will still have the right to nominate members for occupation as and when vacancies occur. Should there be no nomination forthcoming from the Middlesex Regiment, then members of the Queen's Regiment or the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, in that order may be nominated.

Mr Tony White informed those present that the time had come for him to give up the post of Secretary to the 1/7th OCA. Major Alan Carter accepted his resignation with deep regret and at the same time gave the Association's thanks for the many years of hard work and time he had given to the Regiment. He is now looking for another Secretary!

After lunch members adjourned to the bar to talk over old times and to renew long standing friendships. The next luncheon will take place on Saturday the 26th of April 1997 at the TA Drill Hall, Hornsey. Would members please note the date in their diaries.

2/10th BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

1914 - 1918

At the March Meeting of the Association Executive Committee the matter of the Remembrance Service held at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick on Remembrance Sunday afternoon was placed on the Agenda. After a prolonged discussion the considered opinion was that, from a Regimental point of view, the Service should be discontinued. We are all getting older and the attendance is falling off. The Secretary was instructed to approach the Reverend Patrick Tuft, Vicar of St Nicholas and Honorary Chaplain to the Regimental Association to obtain his view.

Padre Tuft, on being approached, said that it had always been his view and that of the Parish Church Council that they would follow the wishes of the Regiment. It was therefore agreed the Service would end. However Padre Tuft said that he would ensure that the service and sacrifice made by the members of the three battalions, (1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th) is not forgotten and that the Act of Remembrance would take place as part of the morning service. He hoped that some members of the Association might wish to attend. As ever they would be made very welcome.

The decision to end the service was relayed to Captain David Hawkins and he, after seeking the views of the remaining members of the 2/10th OCA, decided to close down the 2/10th Association and remit the balance of their funds to the Regimental Association. Accordingly he forwarded a cheque for £571.39p to the Secretary. This money has been gratefully received and placed in the Charitable Fund.

THE ALBUHERA ROOM

On Sunday the 28th of January 1996 at 3pm Brigadier Tony Pielow, President of the Regimental Association, formally opened the Enfield Branch Memorabilia "Albuhera" Room located at the Royal British Legion Club, Holtwhites Hill, Enfield. In his speech the Brigadier congratulated the members of the Branch on the excellent way they had put the room together. They have achieved a very high standard of presentation. He thanked Messrs Jack Warner, Alf Burford, Vic Beach, Bert Trundell, Peter Bartlett and Mrs Beach for all the hard work they had put into the project right from when it was first mooted in 1994. He also expressed his appreciation of the assistance given by the Royal British Legion Enfield in that they had contributed towards the cost of preparing the room and have allowed the Enfield Branch of the Association to occupy it rent free.

He said he was particularly pleased to see so many present. He welcomed the President of the Royal British Legion Enfield, Mr J Hogg, the Club Chairman, Mr D Caton and the Branch Chairman, Mr M Millwood together with representatives from RHQ PWRR, the London Regiment, Hounslow Branch of the Middlesex Association, The Queen's Association (Middlesex Branch) and last but by no means least some 100 members and their wives, from both the Branch and the Royal British Legion. Representatives from the Association included Mrs A Pielow, Colonel R M Cain, Lieut Colonel J M Hewson, Major and Mrs M J Aylward, Major D Harwood and Major and Mrs R E B Morris.

Items for display have been loaned/donated by various Branch Members and other Diehards as well as by:-

The Middlesex Regimental Association
RHQ PWRR
The London Regiment

Mr Jack Warner thanked the Brigadier for his kind remarks and he also thanked the British Legion for the assistance they had given to the Branch. He said that the aim of the Branch was to invite groups from the various local organisations, particularly local schools, to view the room and he hoped that those present would spread the word. A telephone call to him was all that was required and he would then make the necessary arrangements.

9th BN THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT(DCO) T.A. OFFICERS'

ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

The eleventh luncheon took place on Tuesday 14 May, 1996, at the Royal Overseas League, St James Place, London SW1. Colonel H W W Gray was in the Chair and the guests were Majors A E F Waldron and R E B Morris.

The lunch was attended by fourteen officers, namely:- P J Cundy, B T Davis, J R Doyle, A G B Drabble, H W W Gray, D H S Herriott, P W S Hodge, A C Howkins, A N Hunt, A M H Jones, D V Littlejohn, W MacGregor, J K E Slack and R Willoughby.

Colonel Gray proposed the loyal toast and toasted Absent Friends. An informal speech was made by J R Doyle, Acting Lunch Secretary, during which he read the text of Her Majesty's reply to loyal greetings sent to her on behalf of the Officers of the 9th Battalion.

The following Officers who were unable to attend, sent their best wishes for a successful occasion:

F R Bunn, H G Hansen, H H Hesketh, R Hughes, H C Sanderson, K O Sayers, R Wheatly, D Wlen.

A special message was received from David Dowlen, Lunch Secretary, who is recovering from an unexpected heart problem. Eddie Palmer's brother wrote to say that Eddie is now in a Nursing Home but assured us he would pass to him the notice of our reunion.

The death of John Travis Kemp, who served with the Regiment during the last eighteen months of the war, was reported. John and his wife Molly were responsible for setting up classical ballet in Turkey.

Colonel Gray, now ninety one years of age, was presented with a glass bearing the coat of arms of the Royal Overseas League. He thanked David Dowlen and John Doyle for their combined effort in organising the lunch. It was agreed that best wishes be sent to Eddie Palmer, David Dowlen, Harry Hansen, Bob Wheatly and Ken Sayers.

Next year's lunch has been booked for Tuesday 13 May, 1997. All were asked to make a note of the date. There will be no further reminder until the usual notice is sent out next Spring.

Although there were signs of physical aging among the Officers present, there was every evidence that they are young at heart. Regrettably, Don Bond, who was due to be with us, was unable to attend at the last minute.

J.R.D.

THE 40th REUNION OF THE MORTAR PLATOON ON 30 MARCH 1996

40 years ago – in 1956 – when the 1st Battalion was serving in Cyprus, the Mortar Platoon of 'S' Company pledged to meet every year in London for a reunion. Bob Seabridge (Cpl) promoted the idea and regularly reminded all to attend. Sadly he died very suddenly in 1995.

Over the years contact was lost with a few members and others moved far away from London or emigrated. Nonetheless the reunions have taken place every year to date.

In 1956, the platoon sergeant, Tony Gibbs, did not believe that they would continue for more than a year or two and we long wished to meet up with him to prove otherwise. This year – on the occasion of the 40th reunion – we did so as a result of contact being made via Mike Eastap (ex MMG platoon).

The 40th reunion on 30 March was a noteworthy occasion. We met in the Red Lion, Whitehall, and those attending were John Eynon, Tony Gibbs, Alfie Goode, Pete Hayford, Bob Holden, Keith McGuinness, Derek Mulquin, Dave Short, Ges Webb, Cyril Whitman and Mike Eastap. Jack Denning and Brian Richards were unable to be present.

The discussion was intense! It featured Mill Hill, Zeltweg, Larnaca, Kalavassos, Pyla, Kophinou, Horrocks Camp and individuals of all ranks and ages!

Bob Seabridge would have been delighted at the success of this noteworthy reunion; clearly these are set to continue although perhaps not for a full 40 years!

D.M.



40th Reunion of the Mortar Platoon. 30.3.96.

L to R. Derek Mulquin, Pete Hayford, Cyril Whitman, Keith McGuinness, Mike Eastap,
Seated in front, Tony Gibbs, Dave Short, Alfie Goode, Ges Webb, John Eynon, Bob Holden.

ENFIELD BRANCH VISIT INGLIS BKS, MILL HILL

Over 60 members visited the Depot at Mill Hill on 16 May for the Albuhera Day celebrations. We were well looked after by the R.L.C. and were met by the P.M.C. WOs' & Sgts' Mess and invited to take tea/coffee and biscuits.

We formed up under our Regimental Flag flying from the mast on the main square. After a short march and Service at the Memorial we then returned to the WOs & Sgts Mess. With the Bar open, a lunch was then laid on by the Mess and as usual it was of high standard. The normal session followed and by the sound of it everyone was enjoying themselves. Our three 'scroungers' managed to get the Quartermaster to show them his stores (fatal). They later returned 'fully laden' with items for our display room. Our thanks go to the Quartermaster and our three rogues – Peter Bartlett, Vic Beach and Bert Trundell. Our wreath this year was laid by Ernie Kirby, Ex Mx, Para and SAS. After spending over 6 hours at Mill Hill, we returned to our coach and waved a fond farewell to the R.L.C., who came out to see us away.

J.W.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Ian Abercrombie, former Boy soldier and Drums 1st Bn FEPOW. He was a member of the first draft sent by the Japanese to Japan in 1942 and was held at Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo. For the past 14 weeks he has been in Buckland Hospital, Dover. He is a diabetic and during this time he firstly had two toes removed this was followed by amputation of the left leg below the knee, followed a few weeks later by the amputation of the right leg below the knee. During this time his wife had a heart attack and died. He is very brave and courageous Diehard. Application has been made to get him into the Royal Star and Garter Home at Richmond. I (Editor) visit him every Wednesday. He has a very caring family which is a great asset. A truly remarkable man.

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Fred Adams (4864570), D Company 2nd Bn recently spent a period in hospital but is now back home recovering.

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Good to see Major Bob Bartlett at the Reunion. He has recently returned to the U.K. after 3 years in Bosnia - Croatia.

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Private A.G. Balaam (22575935), recently underwent a minor operation but is now back home and making good recovery.

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George Boswell (6213459), informs me that after attending the Albuhera Service at the N.A.M. he hailed a taxi to Sloane Square. On arrival he asked the fare and the cabbie replied 'no charge to a ex-soldier'.

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Pat Cain (6200720), 2nd Bn, sends his regards to all Diehards.

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Major Alan Carter, 1/7th Bn, has been admitted to hospital for a minor operation and we wish him a speedy recovery. The Regimental Association much appreciate his interest in keeping the name of the 1/7th Bn to the front and also his attendance at all 51st Highland Division functions - all at his own expense.

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All members of the Regimental Association wish Lt-Col Tom Chattey well in his fight against illness. He is a tough sort who will not give in easily to sickness.

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Frank Dickinson (6216927), recently visited Harry Naulder (6198336), now 87 years of age and living in sheltered accommodation. Harry was a member of the Regimental Association from 1975 to 1978, and attended many functions. He moved house and we lost him. He is now back in the fold and will receive some back numbers of the Newsletter. Harry was awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil).

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CSgt Pat and Ann Dive send their apologies for being unable to attend the Service in St. Paul's Cathedral due to the marriage of their daughter.

Taffy Evans (6201076), former FEPOW is back in Hong Kong after a few years in the Phillipines. He would like to hear from Diehards of his vintage. His address is 3F Flat B, 366 Prince Edward Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

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Members will be pleased to know that Captain Murray Fox, after many months of dedicated care and rehabilitation is now back at Itchenor. He is walking, something he was told he would never do again, and enjoying a pint from time to time at the local Sailing Club.

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Private H. Green (6201491), former FEPOW has recently been in hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery and a return to full health.

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John Gould, former CSM A Company 2/8th(1st Bn), informs me that Les Page, F. Waite, R. Montague, R. Jupp, B. Johnson and himself still meet for a lunch time drink and a chat at a Pub in Bucks near one of the Bns old camps. They used to meet at the Adam and Eve, Mill Hill.

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Cpl Peter Grant (23782554), is seriously ill and on behalf of all members of the Regimental Association we wish him a speedy recovery. He told me years ago that he was a 'channel swimmer'.

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Fritz Jennings (6201470), writes from Canberra, Australia, sending best wishes to all his old comrades. Can anyone tell him what happened to T. Johnson (6201466). I Have no trace.

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Good to hear that Charlie Limmer (6213535), A Company, 2nd Bn, is still with us.

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Our sincere best wishes to Mrs Jean McMillan for a speedy and full recovery from her injuries after a nasty fall at home.

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Spud Murphy (23700739), is seriously ill in hospital and on behalf of all members we wish him a speedy and full recovery.

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Bandsman Denny Norris (6205008), 1st Bn, sends his regards to all members of the Regiment.

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Just received a letter from Bill Oxley, Victoria, Australia, to inform me that he has been awarded a 30% disability pension. He keeps in touch with the Diehards residing in Australia.

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Private Joe Read (23480904), has recently been in hospital and we wish him a speedy recovery and a return to full health. He was a member of the Bn Boxing and Football teams in Cyprus.

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Capt and Mrs George Simmons recently spent 4 weeks in Bangkok visiting their son and family.

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Mr Roy Smart, 39 Mount Lane, Kirkby-la-Thrope, Nr. Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 9NR, an Ex Diehard has now resumed his Medal Mounting Service, medals cleaned, re-ribboned and mounted to Pin Brooch ready for wear, Swing Style only. Full size medals and Miniatures supplied for Dress wear plus various emblems and clasps.

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Mrs Barbara Tarry sends her apologies for not attending the reunion.

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A Mr Michael White says he served with the Regiment for six years employed as a Cook claims to be the Country's first civic 'Bodger' that is to say he makes pegs, walking sticks and traditional hurdles from the prunings of trees. For those interested in paying him a visit he operates in Upton Coppice, Cooper's Hill, near to Gloucester. (Report in the Daily Telegraph, December 1995).

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Gordon Young retires on 17th July and looks forward to many more hours on the Bowling Green. For the past 14 years he has collected the rents at Albuhera and still does.

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The Friends of St. Paul's Cathedral always welcome new members. In their latest 'flyer' they remind us that a Christian Church has been on the site of St. Paul's since 604 and that the present Cathedral was completed there in 1710. If you would like to help St. Paul's to inspire future generations please consider applying for membership. Further information can be obtained from the Association Secretary.

OBITUARIES

ALLEN – obituary printed in December 1995 issue. Please amend rank to read Sgt.

BARTON – On 5 May 1996, Captain Thomas Arthur Barton, TD(2 clasps) and TEM(1 Clasp), 6688000 and 23208646, aged 86 years.

Military Service pre-war, Queens Westminsters and Civil Service Rifles(TA). Active War Service 1939-45 Kings Royal Rifle Corps and 2 Kensingtons. Post War Royal Army Service Corps and Middlesex Regiment 9th Bn (TA) 1955-67.

BRERETON – On 17 May 1996, Major Charles David Lloyd Brereton (62136), aged 85 years.

During the 1939-45 War he spent nearly three years at the Infantry Heavy Weapons School, Netheravon, ending up as Chief Instructor at the 4.2in Mortar Wing. In September 1943 he was posted to the 2nd Bn and served with the Bn until he was seriously wounded on 10 June 1944 – four days after landing in France. As a result of his wounds he was invalided out in July 1945.

CLEMENTS – On 31 March 1996, Private Joseph Cyril Clements (19170562), aged 67 yrs. Joe served with the 2nd Bn from 1947 to 1949, seeing service in Palestine. He was an energetic and cheerful man who worked as a Market Porter at Spitalfields. For many years Joe liked to organise a table for 19 (sometimes more) at the annual reunion. Sadly the last three years of his life were painful and very worrying. The funeral was attended by Mr and Mrs Ron Pile, Brian Good, Dennis Peck and W. Kendrick. He will be sadly missed by us all.

COOPER – On 7 January 1996, WO2(RQMS) A.G.W. Cooper (6210526), aged 77 years. George was called up for service on 15 November 1939 and on completion of recruit training at the Regimental Depot, Mill Hill, was posted to the 2nd Bn Princess Louises Kensington Regiment serving with the Bn until 1945. He saw service with the Bn in Iceland and was involved in the invasion of Europe. On 2 May 1945 he was wounded in both legs and invalided home. After recuperation he was posted to the Depot. In January 1946 he was posted to the 1st Bn then in Rendsburg. He signed on as a regular soldier and continued to serve with the 1st Bn until his discharge in 1963. He was my RQMS for 9 years and a very good one. I hope to add to this obituary in the December Newsletter.

CROOK – On 18 May 1996, Private Stanley George Crook (6214890), aged 81 years. Stan served with C Company, 2/7th Bn in North Africa, Italy, Syria and Palestine. A dedicated member of the Regiment as was his father before him. The funeral was attended by F. Phillips and J. Shore.

FRLEY – Early January 1996, Captain Francis Ralph Farley (7602501 and 360678), aged 75 years.

From October 1939 to June 1943 he organised and controlled the L.A.D. of the 1/7th Bn. He became a very popular member of the Bn and attended many reunions. In early 1944 he was commissioned into REME serving with the D.L.I. and the Parachute Regiment. In 1948 he resigned his commission and took up Geology, Climbing and Exploring.

GOODIAR – On 9 December 1995, Private Harry R. Goodiar (6200123), aged 82 years. He served with the 1st Bn in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was taken POW on 25 December 1941, survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and served his POW days in Kobe. Sadly we never found him after his discharge in 1945. The news of his death was received from the London POW Association.

HEMSLEY – On 22 April 1996, Mrs E. Hemsley aged 104 years.

She was the widow of L/11085 Private H. Hemsley who served with our 3rd Bn in World War I. He was badly wounded and medically discharged in 1916.

JEFFRIES – On 15 December 1994, Private William Stewart Jeffries (6209955), aged 76 years.

He joined the 1/8th Bn on 16 September 1939 serving with C and D Companies. He was seriously wounded at the Battle of Caen and was invalided out with a disability pension.

LOCKYER – On 13 June 1996, Mrs Joyce Lockyer, wife of Sgt Edward (Ted) Lockyer (6204837).

MARDELL – On 25 May 1946, Sgt Stanley F. Mardell, aged 76 years.

Stan served with 13 Platoon, D Company, 2/7th Bn. 1939-46.

PEAL – On 13 June 1996, Major Adrian Wilfred Fraser Peal (153762), aged 84 years.

Major Peal was granted a regular commission in the Regiment on 1 September 1932, joining the 2nd Bn. He was posted to the 1st Bn then in Cairo, arriving on 26 November 1934, joining C Company. He continued to serve with the 1st Bn in Moascar, Singapore and Hong Kong. He was posted to the U.K. in June 1941 and joined the 1/7th Bn in Suffolk. In August 1941 he was posted as GSO3, MO12, War Office, this was followed by attending the Staff College, Camberley. In October 1942 he was posted as GSO2(O) West Africa Command and became a member of the group for any reaction by neighbouring territories to TORCH. There was no reaction to TORCH – West Africa then formed two Infantry Divisions – one Commando and the other Heavy AA Brigade. All went to Burma. In June 1943 he was posted as GSO2, 82 West Africa Division, forming in Nigeria, then to India (Ranchi) and Burma (Arakan), (15 IND) Corps, ending the war in Prome and arrived in UK October 1945. From December 1946 to March 1947 he was a member of the Adjutant-Generals World Tours, visiting Egypt, India, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Malaya, Burma, UK. He retired from the Army in November 1947.

PENMAN – On 17 February 1996, Sgt Frank Charles Penman (6198358), aged 84 years.

Frank Penman enlisted into the Regiment on 19 March 1928, and on completion of recruit training joined the 1st Bn and saw service in Palestine and Egypt. He completed his Colour Service and was transferred to the Reserve on 5 December 1935. On 1 October 1939 he was recalled from the Reserve and joined the 2/7th Bn where he rose to the rank of Sgt and for a period was acting C.S.M. He served with the Bn in Sicily and sadly was medically discharged on 5 August 1944, ceasing to fulfill medical requirements. For the past 20 years he has occupied a regimental home at Albuhera Close. His funeral took place at Enfield Crematorium on 26 February and was attended by Major R.E.B. Morris and members of Albuhera Close. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin.

SCOTT-LOWE – On 15 January 1996, Lt-Col Derek Scott-Lowe (40951), aged 84 years.

The Cremation was family only. A Memorial Service was held on 7 February 1996, at Warblington Church, Emsworth, Hants. Major Peter G.E. Hill, East Surrey Regiment gave this Address:

Our friend, Derek, was a man of many interests, the chief of which was undoubtedly sport. Playing, organising, supporting, coaching, refereeing – there was no aspect of sport which did not fascinate him. Games were almost an obsession. Not only was Derek a useful all-rounder himself, but he was a good organiser and an enthusiastic supporter.

Derek was educated at University College School where his father was a Master. Both acquired the unusual nicknames of 'Scally'. On leaving school in 1928, Derek worked for eleven years as an Insurance Broker in the City. He was commissioned in the 7th (Territorial) Bn of The Middlesex Regiment in 1929. He went to France as a Captain, and was evacuated from the Dunkirk beaches in 1940. He served with the Regiment in North Africa and Italy during the War, and in 1945 was seconded to the Military Police, a

posting for which he was eminently suitable. He commanded the Military Police in Trieste from 1945 to 1950, the success of which may be seen from the members of 227 Provost Company who are here today. He then went to Hong Kong, after which he was in command of all Commonwealth Military Police in Japan and Korea. The last five years of Derek's army service was in Malta and he retired in 1960 with the Territorial Decoration and the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

On retirement Derek settled in Emsworth and became Honorary Secretary of University College School Old Boys Club, an appointment he held for 28 happy years. He was a keen traveller, and during these years he visited 42 countries. A devout man, Derek gave his support to Warblington Church over the years, serving as Churchwarden, Treasurer and member of the PCC. Derek's activities included his interest in the Military Police Museum, the organisation of reunions, founder of the Army Ski Association, Vice President of Chichester Rugby Football Club, Chairman of the Conservative Association, member of the local choral society – no doubt everyone here will remember his powerful voice! and many other activities. There seemed no end to Derek's interests.

He did not enjoy very good health, but he did not allow physical problems to interfere with what he wanted to do. A bachelor all his life, Derek was always kind and devoted to the interests of young people, both within his family and many others from all sources who will remember him with affection. We shall remember him as a kind man and a good man. We are fortunate to have had him as a friend.

The following members of the Regiment attended the Memorial Service: Colonel and Mrs D.R.W. Thomas, Captain and Mrs J.K. Laurence, Major C.L. Lawrence and Captain J. Spencer Richards.

SPOONER – On 22 February 1996, Lieut John Richard Spooner, aged 83 years.

John served with the 7th Bn from 25 April 1931 to 1934, when he left to take up an appointment in Persia.

STONE – On 7 March, 1996, former Bdr Cyril G. Stone (6208717), aged 74 years.

He enlisted on 7 May 1939, joining C Company 9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment T.A. which subsequently became 431 Battery, 60th S/L Regt R.A. and later 126 LAA Searchlight Regiment. He was discharged on 29 April 1946. In recent years he was struck down with a very serious illness. Despite his misfortune he kept in touch with many Old Comrades and in 1987 managed to arrange a successful reunion at Lakenheath of surviving members of the original 1939 detachment. We thank his widow, Doris, for the loving care and nursing she gave him over the years. The funeral was attended by Mr W.E. Lockyer.

W.E.L.

SUTHERLAND – On 25 February 1996, Major Anthony Frederic Arthur Sutherland (207467), aged 79 years.

He was educated at Christ's Hospital and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, where he gained a double first in Classics. On 16 May 1940 he was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment and joined the 2/7th Bn serving with A, B and C Companies. In 1942 he was posted to train the Leeward Islands Bn and helped to establish company locations in Antigua, Nevis and St Kitts and Montserrat. Demobbed as a Major in June 1945, he became Joint Secretary of the Cotton Commission, established to tackle the problems of the post-war cotton industry. George Isaacs selected Sutherland to be his Principal Private Secretary, and he then served in the same capacity three successive Ministers of Labour. In 1953 Sutherland was sent to the British Embassy, Rome. He was charming, intelligent and courteous and much enjoyed his position as Counsellor (Labour). He returned to UK and in 1967 became Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Employment, where he served under Barbara Castle, William Whitelaw and Michael Foot. As Chairman of the Civil Service Club, he used his skills to

turn its fortunes with a redesign of the club's Old Scotland Yard facilities. After retiring in 1977, he was asked to report on the career structure of the Open University and his recommendations were adopted.

He escaped death several times during a life of public service. In 1941, when his machine-gun platoon was defending the White Cliffs of Dover, a blacked-out lorry ploughed into the marching column, killing three soldiers and the officer to whom he had just handed over command of the platoon. Another close shave came after the Second World War when he was accompanying George Isaacs, the Minister of Labour, on a flight into blockaded Berlin. "With a plane landing every 30 seconds, crashes were a daily hazard. When the plane touched down safely at Tempelhof, as I had found out, soon after take-off, that the cargo was hundreds of gallons of petrol, I decided the Minister might enjoy the flight more by not knowing this information". In 1960, on a course in Africa with the Imperial Defence College he survived an elephant attack on his Land Rover.

The funeral took place at Ruislip Crematorium on 5 March 1996. The Regiment was represented by Colonel Rex Cain, the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the Borough of Hillingdon.

WELLER – On 1 June 1996, Mrs Rose L. Weller, widow of Major S.C.W. Weller, MBE, MM.

WHEELER – On 19 May 1995, Captain Gerald Charles David Wheeler (186970), aged 76 years.

He commenced his military career in 1941 and was commissioned into the Royal Fusiliers. He volunteered to join the Indian Army and was accepted and served with the RIASC. He was released in 1945. He then took a commission in the Queens Royal Regiment, service with the Malay Regiment followed. In January 1952 he was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong, joining the Mortar Platoon. He came home with the Bn on the Empire Fowey where he became the Boxing Officer. On arrival in UK he resigned his commission. He later joined the 8th Bn MX T.A. and was promoted Sgt. He joined the Ealing company which was commanded by Major Harold Couch. He left the T.A. in 1958 when the Bn disbanded.

WIGAN – On 15 January 1996, Major Humphrey Norman Wigan, MC, aged 81 years.

He sadly died after spending the last 8 years in Victoria Ward, Farnham Road Hospital, Guildford, Surrey. He was one of the post Dunkirk joining platoon commanders in C Company when the 1/7th Bn was formed at Roman Way Camp, Colchester, under Lt-Col B.B. Rackham's command then, and remained in C Company when the 1/7th Bn left Mandora Barracks, Aldershot in June 1942, to accompany 51st Highland Division to Egypt. He was awarded the Military Cross on 21 July 1942, during the Desert Campaign. He left for Normandy in June 1944 as 2IC C Company remaining so until Holland when Major Campbell was wounded with 'A' Mortar Company when he took that Company over until the war ended.

Major L.F. Baker represented the 1/7th Bn and the Regiment at his funeral on 23 January 1996, at Woking.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:-

23737322 Sgt R. Aldridge, served 7 Mx, 1 Royal Sussex, 5 Mx, & 5 Queens, 1959-72.

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6206692 Sgt F. Ashton, served 2/7th Bn 1939-46. Awarded Military Medal January 1944.

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6212737 Sgt E.A. Case, served B & D Company 2/7th Bn 1940-45.

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6206177 Pte F.E. Clohosy, served 2/7th Bn 1938-45.

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6206615 Pte A.R. Coghill, served A Coy 1/7th Bn and D Coy 2/7th Bn.

--- o o o ---

6210135 Pte F. Edmonds, served B & HQ Coy 2/7th Bn.

--- o o o ---

2044194 Sgt G F Empson, served 2/7th Bn 1937-46.

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6216136 Sgt L.J. Marshall, served 70th Bn & 8th Bns.

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6206588 Pte R.G. Mowbray, served 2/7th Bn 1939 to March 1944 and then Black Watch until wounded finally to RAMC as Weapon Training Instructor.

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6849689 Sgt N.C. Pawley, served 7 KRRC 1940 to 1943 and then 2/7th Bn until 1946. Bn Signal Sgt.

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6206179 Pte W. Penfold, served 2/7th Bn 1939-46.

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14405896 Pte P. Richards, 70th Bn & C Company 2/8th(1st) Bn 1942-45.

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6207380 Cpl J.T. Shore, served C & D Coys 2/7th Bn.

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23113873 Pte C.R.W. Smith, served 1st Bn 1955-58.

--- o o o ---

23883757 Pte B.W. Strutton, served B Company 5 Mx 1961-64.

--- o o o ---

6207884 Sgt W. Tricker, served HQ & D Coys 2/8th(1st) Bn 1939-46, rejoined TA 1947 and served 16 Airborne Div REME until March 1963 as Captain E.M.E.

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4129339 Sgt R. Walker, served Hampshires, 5 Cheshires and then B Company 2/7th Bn. 1943-47.

23783825 Cpl P.J. Warnock, served B & HQ Coy 1st Bn 1959-65.

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6206962 Pte A.D. Whitehead, served B & HQ Cos 2/7th Bn 1939-46.

--- o o ---

3537065 Sgt J. Wilkinson, served Manchester Regt, Cheshire Regt and 2/7th Bn, 1942-46.

--- o o ---

22803102 LCpl D. Adkin, served Band 1st Bn 1954-1961.

--- o o ---

14339012 Pte C.A. Clarke, served 188 Field Regt R.A. and 1/7th Bn 1942-47.

--- o o ---

6208006 Pte J.M. Dunford, served B & D Coys 8th Bn 1939-46.

--- o o ---

6203955 Cpl A.W.T. Moore, served Band 2nd Bn 1937-1945 and RAOC until 1948.

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23639015 Pte J. Toner, served 1st Bn 1959-61.

--- o o ---

6215911 Pte D.E. Ray, served 70th Bn 1941-42.

MEMORIAL HOMES ALBUHERA CLOSE

At the Executive Committee Meeting held on the 21st of March 1994 the long term future of the house and flats in Albuhera Close was discussed. It was decided to form a Sub Committee under the Chairmanship of Colonel R M Cain to investigate and report back to the Committee. The following were the agreed terms of reference:-

"Revision of the policy for waiting lists for accommodation at Albuhera Close and to consider the long term policy for the estate making due recommendations as they see fit"

Several meetings of the Sub Committee were held in 1994 and report was submitted to a special meeting of the Executive Committee on the 24th of October 1994. At this meeting the principle of the transfer of ownership was accepted with the proviso that the interests of the existing tenants be safeguarded. In particular the current rent levels should be maintained subject only to inflationary increases. On this basis negotiations were opened, and continued through 1995, with two service housing associations.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 30th of November 1995 the Sub Committee Chairman presented a paper outlining the conditions of transfer that had been negotiated with Haig Homes, a Service Housing Authority. The agreed conditions are shown as an Appendix to this report. The Executive Committee approved the conditions negotiated and authorised the Sub Committee to proceed with the transfer.

Brigadier B A M Pielow, together with a Team from the Sub Committee, held a tenants meeting at the Royal British Legion Hall Enfield on the 16th of December 1995 where he outlined and gave the reasons for the transfer of the properties. At that time each tenant was handed a copy of the conditions of transfer. The Brigadier then held a question and answer session where he was able, with the assistance of the members of the Sub Committee present, to answer satisfactorily all the tenants queries.

Since the tenants meeting on the 16th of December 1995 the Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt Hon Michael Portillo MP has kindly agreed to plant a tree on the Estate to mark the formal hand over of the Estate to Haig Homes. The date of the ceremony will be advised when the date of transfer is finally agreed.

CONDITIONS TO BE IMPOSED ON THE TRANSFER OF THE ALBUHERA CLOSE ESTATE TO HAIG HOMES

1. Security of tenure for all existing tenants on the basis that they are 'secure' tenants (ie. they can stay on the estate).
2. Rent rises for tenants in residence at the date of transfer to be restricted to the annual rate of inflation.
3. Haig Homes to maintain properties in accordance with the principles of good estate management.
4. Haig Homes to update and modernise the houses and flats within a period of ten years including:
 - a) Installation of central heating where not already fitted.
 - b) Provision of double glazed UPVC windows and external doors.
 - c) Increased thermal insulation.
 - d) Modernisation of kitchens and bathrooms.

In all cases of improvement as opposed to maintenance the consent of tenants to be obtained.

5. All tenants to be granted (ex gratia):
 - a) A two week rent free period annually.
 - b) A four week rent free period on the death of a spouse.
 - c) A £75 p.a. decorating grant.
6. Haig Homes will not dispose of the estate or any part of it for a period of 30 years except to another charity or public body prepared to honour all these conditions. In the event of an involuntary disposal 50% of any net proceeds to be paid to the Middlesex Regiment Association or its successor which must be informed of any such disposal. This right to be protected by a restriction at the Land Registry.
7. Haig Homes to use its best endeavours to ensure in perpetuity:
 - a) That the name of the Close remains unchanged.
 - b) That the estate is known as the Middlesex Regiment War Memorial Estate.
 - c) That the memorial plaque is retained.
8. The Middlesex Regimental Association reserves the right (subject to all necessary statutory consents) to resite the Mill Hill war memorial on the central green at their expense.
9. The professional fees (surveyor's and solicitor's) of the Middlesex Regimental Association, associated with the transfer, to be met by Haig Homes.
10. The existing mortgage with Enfield Borough Council (£240 p.a.) to be paid off (or taken over) by Haig Homes.
11. The Haig Homes points system (or any successor system) for tenant selection and allocation is to be used in the allocation of tenancies of properties on the Regiment War Memorial Estate becoming vacant in the future. This is based upon housing need. Wherever possible priority will be given to former members of the Middlesex, Queens and PWRR Regiments. In the case of equal housing need of all applicants the above priority will take precedence. The Secretary of the Middlesex Regimental Association is to be informed of vacancies on the Enfield Estate and will be entitled to submit names of prospective tenants for consideration under the points system. The Secretary of the above Association may submit applicants for housing on any of the Haig Homes estates at any time. The above entitlements are to last for a period of 30 years or such shorter period as the Regimental Association shall determine. Rents for new tenants are to be based upon the Haig Homes rent setting policy at the time the tenancy is granted.

28 November 1995

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
held at the Victory Services Club, London W2
at 1915 hours on Saturday 11th May 1996**

Present Maj C L Lawrence, MC, Chairman, Brig B H Marciandi, OBE,
Maj W G A Crumley, Maj R E B Morris, Lt P F Wookey, Messrs V C Beach,
R Beall, D S Carmichael, G Higgins, R G Holding, T Lofts, M J Mulvaney,
T Price, S Rogers, H L Trundell, D Vincent, J Warner, E Webb and J Yates

1. Opening remarks.

1.1 The Chairman opened the meeting by advising all present that we had sent our usual message of loyal greetings to HM The Queen and he read out her reply.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

2.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on Saturday the 13th of May 1995, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr A Beall and seconded by Mr D Vincent. Carried.

3. Matters Arising.

3.1 There were no matters arising.

4. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1995.

4.1 The Secretary explained the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1995. He drew attention to the small excess of expenditure over income, £896, at year end which was more than covered by the surplus from the property account. With the hand over of the Memorial Homes in Albuhera Close we will cease to receive rent income. There will be a requirement to keep this in mind when considering future expenditure. Brig B H Marciandi, Chairman of the Finance Sub Committee said that this will be looked into at the next meeting of that Committee scheduled for the 19th of June 1996. Mr V C Beach moved that the accounts be adopted and approved. Seconded by Mr D Vincent. Carried.

5. Any other business.

5.1 Under this heading the Chairman presented his report:-

5.1.1 Firstly he thanked Lt Col J M Hewson, the out going Chairman for the time he had given and for his hard work during his period of Office.

5.1.2 He gave news of Lt Col T W Chattey. Mentioned that he was still in Charing Cross Hospital but he hoped to leave this coming Wednesday.

5.1.3 He drew attention to the expenditure on Welfare £18057. Of this sum £10934 was received from the Army Benevolent Fund.

5.1.4 He informed the meeting that the Rev Patrick Tuft had accepted the appointment as the Association Chaplain, the Rev Guz Jones having retired.

5.1.5 He outlined the current situation with regard to the hand over of the houses in Albuhera Close. Tenants were briefed on the 16th of December 1995. Solicitors now undertaking the necessary searches etc and seeking the Charity Commissioner's approval. Anticipate the Estate will move across to Haig Home during the late summer early autumn. There will be a short ceremony to commemorate the hand over. The Minister of Defence, Mr Portillo has agreed to plant a tree to mark the occasion.

5.1.6 He mentioned the opening of the Albuhera Display Room by Brig B A M Pielow on the 28th of January 1996 and what an excellent job Mr J Warner and his team have done. The Minister of Defence visited and had lunch with the Enfield Branch on the 23rd of February 1996.

5.1.7 Various parades connected to the laying up of the Queen's Regiment Colours together with the presentation of Colours to 1PWRR have had to be cancelled as 1PWRR are standing by for un-expected operational duties. The laying up of 3 Queen's Colours in St Paul's is however still on. Fresh dates for the other events will be advised when known.

5.2 Brig B H Marciandi said that we should formally record our thanks to Maj H E Couch and the members of the Housing Committee for all the hard work and support they had given to the Association for many years. He also expressed the view that thanks should be given to Col R M Cain and the Albuhera Sub Committee set up especially to deal with and negotiate the hand over of our properties in Albuhera Ciose. They have done an excellent job. This was agreed.

5.3 Mr J Warner said he was keen to receive visitors at the Display Room. If those interested could contact him he would make all the necessary arrangements.

5.4 Mr V C Beach said that contributions to assist in the running costs would be welcome.

6. Closing Remarks.

6.1 There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 1950 hours.

R E B Morris, Maj.

Secretary.

HOSPITAL TREATMENT – ENTITLEMENT

The current policy with regard to Service dependants is as follows:

a. The arrangements now in force with the NHS for the treatment of NHS patients (into which category fall Service dependants in the UK) states that NHS patients accepted for treatment at Defence Hospitals and MDHUs must be resident in the district(s) served by the hospital. Where patients from outside those districts are referred, their treatment is normally funded by their 'district of residence' health authority (or GP fundholder) by means of an ECR payment. Before making such payments, purchasers will decide whether they are willing to fund the treatment required, taking into account such factors as availability of the treatment in hospitals with which they have a contract.

b. Only serving members of the Armed Forces and former Far East prisoners of War (FEPOW) are entitled as of right to treatment in UK Defence hospitals. All others, including retired personnel, dependants resident in the UK and MOD civilians are NHS patients and should be regarded as such for planning purposes.

c. Where retired personnel, dependants and MOD civilians from outside the hospital/MDHU catchment area are referred, they will only be accepted for treatment when the patient's local health authority or GP fundholder agree to fund the treatment by means of an ECR and where such referral does not hinder the hospital/MDHU in the achievement of its contracted workload.

d. Service dependants resident overseas and referred back to the UK for treatment are covered by separate arrangements. Such referrals will continue to be treated free of charge.

HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Recent activities

This time of the year is always tranquil as far as social events and other activities are concerned, but Branch members attended an ANZAC day service at Harefield and a wreath was laid by Ernie Platt on behalf of the Regiment at the Australian Cemetery. We were then entertained to tea afterwards in the village Hall.

Sunday 28th April Branch members again were present at Walton-on-Thames for an evening service and afterwards at the local churchyard where a short service was held at the graves of the New Zealanders who are buried there. As at Harefield, those present were entertained afterwards in the church hall, one member was upset that he was unable to avail himself of the very good wine which was on offer, whilst another committed the cardinal sin of addressing an admiral as captain, but he claimed that he had never studied Navy ranks and in the circumstances the gentleman in question was lucky that he was not called mate.

It should be remembered that the Regiment had a very close relationship with the troops of these countries in Korea.

Personalities

David Eagle has now retired from service with the London Regiment. Two members of the branch were present at his dining out, so the last serving member of the branch now joins the old and the bold.

Carrots Thomlinson is currently housebound with leg problems and we wish him a speedy return on Friday nights where his outspoken comments are missed.

Tony "Dropsy" Garratt is at present enjoying good health and has managed to grab some sunshine abroad.

Mick Thomas continues to send good wishes from Ireland and expects to see Gordon Young in the not too distant future, who retires in July.

Members of the Branch will again be travelling to Albuhera to attend the ceremonies in the village in conjunction with the many friends they have made in Spain. Arrangements have also been made to RV with a party of the Buffs who will be attending on May 16th for the first time. It should be remembered that this is another of the Regiments now amalgamated into the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment who also fought in the battle.

The following article was written by James Patrick Haldane Stevenson, now 86 years of age and former Army Chaplain to the 1/8th Bn. This article is included in the Dunkirk chapter of his autobiography 'Beyond the Bridge (1973)'

DUNKIRK

In early May 1940 when I joined them, the 1st/8th Middlesex were lying near Lille, newly returned from a training stint far south in the Maginot Line – which was claimed to be, and probably was, impregnable; but it only ran half-way from the Swiss border to the sea, and the later hurried earthwork continuation was a poor thing.

On 10 May Churchill became PM and Hitler invaded neutral Belgium by brilliantly capturing Europe's strongest fort, controlling two key bridges at Maastricht. This strategic trump meant that the Belgian Army was demoralised from the word go: they were already falling back in disarray while we were still going forward – their horsed artillery somehow reminded me of Bath chairs. The Allies' were in any case handicapped by the Belgian insistence on a river defence line east of and protecting Brussels. Another and more lasting drawback was having to operate with Belgian maps unrevised since WW1.

We in 2 Corps reached Brussels just in time to join in the inevitable retreat, withdrawing to the Escaut line that wiser strategy would have manned in the first place; and there, in the footsteps of Marlborough close to Oudenarde, the British briefly stood with a courage and expertise praised in the German war diaries. Under Lieutenant-Colonel (later Lt-Gen Sir) Brian Horrocks the three Die-Hard battalions – 2nd, 7th and ourselves – were brigaded to form the British left flank with the Belgians on our left. Their King was, to save "needless slaughter" about to surrender. But we were barking up the wrong tree anyway.

Before the war (Sir) Basil Liddell Hart, military correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, published his 'The Tanks', pooh-pooh'd by the War Office, but seized on as a training manual by the German High Command: the inspiration behind the most brilliant military operation of modern war.

The Meuse crossing at the Sedan fort far to our south was thought proof against German armour because of the rugged Ardennes country, and was ill-defended by reserve divisions and Spahis. Nevertheless, five hundred German tanks spearheaded across and, ignoring the defence, lunged north-westward to the sea to the consternation and bewilderment of everyone – including the Germans themselves. News of what was happening reached us via the QM with his ration truck, and Major Clarke said, "Looks like we're in the bag". "The think now", I added, "is to let them race on and close in behind".

The remark was not well received, but it was the orthodox strategy for a cavalry incursion, and it was what Weygand (who had been flown from Syria to replace the lamentable Gamelin) was demanding, with Churchill's consent – and what Patton wanted in December 1944 when the Wehrmacht tried to do the same thing at the same place. However, Weygand was overruled, partly because our C-in-C, Lord Gort, needed two of his divisions to plug the ugly gap left to our north-east by Belgium's surrender.

From then on we were operating within an ever-decreasing perimeter of rivers and canals, the German armies on our east and west encouraging each other by night with flares that seemed (and were) horribly close. When we moved, all westward roads were clogged with endless columns of refugees with their pathetic overburdened prams and bicycles.

At dusk on 28 May we got the order to leave our trucks and leg it to the coast. At sunrise next morning there was the Menin Gate up on our right, as we passed signposts with sad names of places where, twenty-odd years before, young men in their ten-thousands had died to ensure that wars would be no more.

The Middlesex Regimental Association

Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 on Monday 4th March 1996.

Present:-

Maj C L Lawrence, MC
Lt Col J M Hewson, MC
Col I D Brotherton, TD, DL
Brig G Bulloch, MBE
Brig B H Marciandi, OBE
Col R M Cain, OBE, DL
Maj H E Couch, TD, FRICS, FRSA
Maj S L J Henshaw, TD
Capt S le M Enthoven, RIBA
Mr J A Lofts
Mr G Young
Maj R E B Morris, MBE

Chairman
Outgoing Chairman
Vice Chairman

Secretary

Apologies:-

Maj A E F Waldron, MBE
Capt M J S Doran TD LL B
Capt J S C Flavell
Capt R M Fox, MA, FCA
Capt A I F Goldman, BA

Did not attend:-

Col M J Ball
Mr A Broadbent

1. Opening Remarks.

1.1. Maj C L Lawrence, the Chairman, gave a resume of the opening remarks made by Brig B A M Pielow and Lt Col J M Hewson at the earlier Officers' Club Meeting for the information of Messrs J A Lofts and G Young who had just joined this meeting.

1.2. The Chairman then raised the need to re-elect the Committee under the Association Rules 24 and 25. All having agreed to stand were elected for a further period of office.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings.

2.1. The minutes of the meetings held on the 6th of March 1995 and the 30th of November 1995 were agreed as true records. For the meeting of the 6th of March proposed by Col I D Brotherton, seconded by Col R M Cain. For the meeting of the 30th of November proposed by Capt S le M Enthoven and seconded by Major H E Couch. Carried.

3. Matters arising.

3.1. There were no matters arising.

4. Secretary's Report.

4.1. The Secretary presented the report that had been previously circulated. He said that prices had risen again at the Victory Services Club. The cost of the meal had gone up by £1.00. He asked the Committee to agree to the price of a ticket for this years Reunion being £10.50 as against £10.00 in 1995. This splits the increase between the Association and the individual. This was agreed.

4.2. The Committee approved the following grants and expenditure for 1996:-

The Albuhera Service at St Paul's	up to £1600.00
The Annual Reunion	up to £1000.00
The Service at the Field of Remembrance	£100.00
The Star & Garter Home	£100.00
MX & NW London ACF	£600.00

4.3. Col I D Brotherton asked Col R M Cain if the ACF were happy with the amount donated. Col Cain replied delighted.

4.4. The Secretary raised under this heading a request that the value of cheques he could sign, or any one authorised member could sign, be raised from £100.00 to £150.00, and that amounts above that figure be signed by any two authorised members. This was agreed.

5. Financial Report.

5.1. Brig B H Marciandi said there had been two meetings of the Financial Sub Committee during the year. The share holdings have now all been transferred to the United Services Trustee. However they may close as shares are likely to be handled electronically. If they do close we will have a considerable period of notice. There are two options, combine all our holdings and invest in a charitable fund or move our shares to the Speirs & Jeffrey Holding Company. If we go into a fund we lose control but the work load becomes much easier. Too early to come to a decision. May require a special meeting to discuss. Col I D Brotherton proposed that if a decision was required before the next Executive Committee Meeting then the Finance Committee be empowered to act. Seconded by Mr J A Lofts. Carried. Brig B H Marciandi then presented the accounts. Maj H E Couch drew attention to the income derived from the Housing Account. The lack of these moneys when our properties are transferred could cause cash flow problems and an overspend.

5.2. Proposed by Col R M Cain and seconded by Lt Col J M Hewson that the accounts as presented by approved and accepted. Carried.

5.3. The Committee viewed the Museum Account and noted its content.

5.4. Col I D Brotherton thanked the Finance Committee for their good work over the year.

6. Housing Committee Report.

6.1. The Chairman of the Housing Sub Committee said that this was very much a winding down report. He congratulated the Secretary on obtaining a £3515.00 grant from the A Benevolent Fund to cover the cost of the lopping of the trees. The rents for 1996 were agreed to £26.00 for houses and £14.00 for flats. Only one family on the waiting lists but no empty properties at present. He thought the inspection visit arranged for 19 May 1996 should be "downgraded" to a Welfare Visit by others than the Housing Committee. The Secretary agreed to undertake this duty for 1996 and he would approach Maj A E F Waldron to see if he would accompany. (post meeting note - he will do so on 19 May). Maj S L J Henshaw said he would be happy to visit in 1997.

6.2. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Housing Committee for all their many years of work.

7. Albuhera Policy Sub Committee

7.1. Col R M Cain said that following the Extraordinary Executive Committee Meeting held last November a Residents Meeting was held in December. The proposals to hand over the properties to Haig Homes had been well received, no real comments from the floor. Each resident was handed a copy of the proposed conditions of transfer. On the 21st of January 1996 Haig Homes agreed the terms. The two sets of solicitors now acting and will approach the Charity Commissioners for their approval. Anticipates it will be mid year before transfer takes place. Col I D Brotherton asked if it drags on what about maintenance? Maj H E Couch said the Housing Committee will not stand down until transfer has taken place.

7.2. The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Sub Committee for conducting the negotiations so successfully.

8. Albuhera Lunch NAM 16 May 1996.

1. The Secretary informed the meeting that the National Army Museum had agreed to host the lunch on 16 May 1996. The Secretary would publish details later.

9. Chiswick Service of Remembrance.

9.1. The Committee agreed that the 2/10th Service of Remembrance should be discontinued. Secretary to write to the Rev P Tuft.

10. Appoint of Rev Tuft.

10.1. The Committee noted that the Rev P Tuft had accepted the appointment as Chaplain to the Association.

11. Middlesex Regimental Collect.

11.1. The Committee approved the updated Regimental Collect (attached as Appendix A).

12. Regimental History.

12.1. Capt S le M Enthoven said that Capt J S Richards was a professional historian of some note. Why does not the Committee authorise a write up of the history and decide what to do with it later? Col I D Brotherton gave a resume of his earlier experiences of putting a history of TA together. After some discussion it was decided to place the project on hold as we cannot identify any source of funding.

13. Possible contribution to the RH booklet.

13.1. The Committee agreed that this was a non starter.

14. Rising costs of the Albuhera Service.

14.1. The Chairman gave details of his visit to St Paul's. For the Service there is a need to move the organ, provide a choir etc. He felt that the choir might be reduced, no requirement for an anthem etc. A further visit to St Paul's has been arranged for the 6th of March 1996. The Secretary together with the Rev P Tuft will attend. Col I D Brotherton said that although the Committee had authorised expenditure up to £1600.00 if possible we should go for a lower figure of £1300 inclusive to cover all the costs. The Secretary said he would keep this in

mind. (Post Meeting Note. The Secretary attended the meeting at St Paul's. Did not achieve any real reduction in costs. Main expense is the cost of music and the Choir. Need to reconsider provision 1997 onwards).

14.1. It was agreed that we would not make a contribution to the Friends of St Paul's this year.

15. Correspondence.

15.1. The Secretary produced one letter from the Friends of the County of Middlesex asking if we would consider accepting an honorary affiliation to them. The Committee decided not to accept. The Secretary to advise them of this decision.

16. Any other business.

16.1. Capt S le M Enthoven mentioned that he had found a Middlesex Regimental grave in Harrow Cemetery.

16.1. Brig G Bulloch asked if any consideration had been given to being represented at any final parade that might take place in Hong Kong. Brig B H Marciandi asked do we have a contact there. Brig G Bulloch agreed to investigate.

17. Date and Venue of next Meeting.

17.1. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday the 3rd of March 1997 at the Duke of York's Headquarters.

Signed: R.E. Morris

Major

Secretary

MXEC396.

Distribution:- Members of the Committee; Brig B A M Pielow, JP, President.

PRAYERS

Middlesex Regimental Collect.

O everlasting God, in whose strength alone we are enabled to serve and die in the service of thee and our fellow men. Grant to those of us who have been members of the Middlesex Regiment that, inspired by the example of thy Son and the valour of those who have gone before us, we may be resolute in the face of evil, and so be worthy to receive the crown of righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available to purchase. These can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE, 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 4SA. Postage and packing is included in the price. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Tumblers Whisky engraved with Middlesex Regt Badge	£ 7.50 each
Blazer Badges	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£12.00 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£22.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon & Old Gold	£ 5.00 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern	£ 4.00 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£12.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (improved quality)	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Key Rings	£ 2.50 each
Old Comrades Lapel Badges, Old Pattern - The Diehards	£ 2.75 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£17.00 each
Prints Drums and Fifes, unframes, large	£ 7.50 each
small	£ 4.00 each
Christmas Cards depicting:	
Steady the Drums and Fifes	.35 each
The Guardroom Scene	.35 each
Colonel Graham Egerton, 77th Foot Portsmouth 1854	.35 each

We are now in a position to supply the following - please allow 14 days for delivery:

Middlesex Regtl Blazor Button (Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge)	
Sets of 6 large & 6 small	£22.00 each
Individual buttons large or small	£ 2.00 each
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links	£ 7.50 per pair
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links with tie grip	£11.00 set
Tie Grip only	£ 5.00 each
Middlesex Regiment Ladies Brooch	£ 4.75 each

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