



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 85

June 2001

Price £1



Colonel J N Shipster, CBE DSO. 1922 - 2001

Colonel John Shipster died on 9th January 2001 - a full obituary follows in the newsletter.

President : Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP
Chairman : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
Vice Chairman : Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.
Secretary : Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE,
38 Traps Lane, New Malden,
Surrey KT3 4SA.
Editor : Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE.

FORECAST OF EVENTS

2001.

- 27 June Meeting of the Finance Sub Committee
- 25 July Kneller Hall Concert (London Branch – QUEEN'S/PWRR Assn)
- 15 September Korean Club Annual Reunion & AGM – Victory Services Club
- 4 October 2/7th Bn OCA Annual Luncheon – Victory Services Club - 1200 hours
- 8 November Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 1030 hours for 1100 hours – planting of Crosses in the Regimental and FEPOW Plots.
- 8 November 7th Bn Officers' Club Dinner – Officers' Mess, The London Regt, St John's Hill, London SW11
- 10 November Ceremony of Remembrance – Middlesex Guildhall – opposite Westminster Abbey 1030 hours for 1100 hours
- 11 November 7th Bn Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey – assemble 1000 hours
- 11 November Remembrance Service – Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill – assemble at the Barracks at 1000 hours
- 11 November Annual Remembrance Parade at the Cenotaph (London Branch QUEEN'S/PWRR Assn) 1000 for 1100 hours
- 23 November PWRR Officers' Club Dinner – Guards and Cavalry Club – 1900 for 2000 hours
- 15 December Enfield Branch Christmas Dance – RBL Enfield

2002.

- 4 March Executive Committee Meeting at 1400 hours followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting – Venue to be confirmed

20 April	1/7th Bn OCA Annual Luncheon – Venue to be confirmed
10 May	Officers' Club Dinner – Army & Navy Club 1900 for 2000 hours
11 May	Albuhera Service – Regimental Chapel – St Paul's Cathedral at 1500 hours
11 May	All Ranks Reunion – Victory Services Club commencing at 1830 hours – AGM at 1900 hours.
23 May	9th Bn Officers' Club Annual Luncheon – The Royal Overseas League, Park Place, London SW1

DONATIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

Donations made

Not Forgotten Association	£50	
Royal Star & Garter Home	£250	
Albuhera Memorial	£1000	From the Association
Albuhera Memorial	£200	From the Officers' Club
Scottish Korean Memorial	£500	
Enfield Branch	£145	Cost of coach to Reunion
NW London & MX Army Cadet Force	£800	
Hounslow Branch	£140	Assistance with cost of travel to Albuhera

Bequests/Donations received

Mr D Johns	£60	
Mrs P Chattey	£1000	In memory of Col T W Chattey and all those who suffered as FEPOWs
Brig B H Marciandi	£125	In memory of Col A M Man & Col J N Shipster
In memory of Col A M Man	£1229	
Mrs P F Waite	£250	In memory of her husband Capt F Waite

In memory of Mrs D Lerwill	£107	
Mr P F Wookey	£60	
Mr N Man	£300	In memory of their
Miss C Man	£300	father Col A M Man

(Plus very many smaller donations gratefully received)

Benevolent Grants 31 Dec 99 31 Dec 00 To June 01

Grants made to individuals	£13746	£13827	£10758
Less ABF Grants	£6914	£6633	£6507
Net	£6832	£7194	£4251

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

In the last Newsletter we mentioned that the two Regular battalions were in the Balkans. By the time that readers receive this Newsletter both of them will have returned.

The 1st Battalion returned from Kosovo in mid February after a very successful tour. They faced some of the worst out breaks of violence in the NATO administered territory. Most notable was the so called "Battle of Mitrovica" on 1st February when the Battalion saved the day by calming down a very angry mob of Kosovan Albanians who had attacked the French Forces with grenades and missiles. The Albanians had accused the French of being biased towards the Serb enclave in the town. The Battalion went in in force with their Warrior vehicles and fired baton rounds, which were very effective. Because the fair use of force was used early, the Albanians developed a healthy respect to all cap badged PWRR soldiers. The street was cleared in 25 minutes. After front line negotiations by Lt Col Stephen Kilpatrick and the Albanians, all roadblocks were lifted and the streets cleaned up. This use of early force should have taught the French and the on looking Americans a lesson! Various overt/covert operations resulted in 85 rifles, MGs, 5 heavy weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition. They also seized 13 wanted Albanian guerrillas. The Battalion is now back in Tidworth on well deserved leave and on stand-by to assist in the foot and mouth epidemic.

The 2nd Battalion returned from Bosnia at the end of April. They have also had a very successful tour. The situation in Bosnia is now quite firmly established with daily routines and most parties behaving themselves behind well defined lines drawn on maps after the recent war. There is still a constant hunt for illegal weapons. In a recent hunt the battalion found 2 x T54 tanks and an

anti aircraft gun – difficult things to hide? They were also constantly looking for ammunition and arms and had some very successful results. They are now back in their Barracks in Aldershot. This time perhaps they will stay longer, they only spent a few months in them before departing to Bosnia.

The 3rd battalion has said goodbye to Lt Col P P Jones who has moved to Germany on a staff appointment and welcomed Lt Col P Crowley. The Battalion has had soldiers serving with 1 PWRR and 2 PWRR on short-term engagements in the Balkans. This is excellent as these soldiers return with medals and a vast amount of experience that they can pass on to their TA counterparts. Annual camp this year will be in Belgium.

B (The Queen's Regiment) Company The London Regiment and C (The Duke of Connaught's Own PWRR) have spent interesting months consolidating and are looking forward to their various annual camps in Cyprus and the UK.

In summary the Regiment is in fine form. The recruiting figures are going very well and the aim is to be up to strength by the end of the year. An amazing feat, if achieved.

AJM.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee Meeting followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting took place at the Duke of York's Headquarters Monday on the 5th of March 2001. A copy of both sets of minutes can be found towards the end of the newsletter.

ASSOCIATION BRANCHES

The Secretary was instructed at the Meeting of the Executive Committee held on the 5th of March 2001 to list in the Newsletter, for the information of our members, the official and recognised branches of the Association. They are:-

- The Enfield Branch
- The Hounslow Branch
- The Korean Club
- The Luncheon Club of the 1/7th Battalion
- The Luncheon Club of the 2/7th Battalion.

There are no other clubs or branches recognised or supported by the Regimental Association.

OFFICERS' CLUB

The Officers' Club Dinner was held at the Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1 on Friday the 11th of May 2001. The principle guests were Lieut Colonel and Mrs J R Cunliffe. Colonel Cunliffe is the Commanding Officer of the London Regiment. Others present were:-

Regimental Guests:- Mrs Pam Argles, Mrs Anna Bennett, Miss Jean Bower, Mrs Pam Chattey, Mrs Ann Davies, Mrs Andy Hutchings and Mrs Christine Pollard.

Members & private Guests:- Brigadier & Mrs Dennis Rendell, Colonel Ian Brotherton, Colonel & Mrs Rex Cain, Colonel John Moore, Lieut Colonel & Mrs Norman Clayden, Mr Howard Clayden, Lieut Colonel & Mrs Mike Deakin, Major & Mrs Bob Bartlett, Major Carl Blackwell, Rt Rev Ralph Brown, Major & Mrs Peter Clarke, Major & Mrs Gordon Crumley, Major Mike Eastap, Major David Falcke, Major & Mrs Brian Finch, Major & Mrs Derek Harwood, Major & Mrs Stewart Henshaw, Major & Mrs Jonathon Jonklaas, Major & Mrs Chris Lawrence, Major Ian Lloyd, Major Tony McManus, Major & Mrs Ron Morris, Major Barry Reed, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Captain Peter Lane, Captain Roy Scott, Lieut Simon Cawthorne & Mrs Frances Castle, Lieut Johnny Day, Mr Trevor Davies, Mr & Mrs John Harris, Lieut & Mrs Peter Ottino.

Captain Mike Doran announced that we had sent our usual message of loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen and he read out her reply. Major Chris Lawrence, in the absence of our President, Brigadier Tony Pielow, welcomed our guests and gave a résumé of recent Officer Club and Association events. Miss Jean Bower replied on behalf of the guests.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR COLONEL ANDREW MAN

The Annual Service of Remembrance and the Memorial Service for Colonel Andrew Man was held in the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday the 12th of May 2001. The prayers were led by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, our Honorary Chaplain and the address was made by the Right Reverend Monsignor Ralph Brown. There were two readings. The first by Mr Tony White, 1/7th Bn was taken from the Book of Job 19 vv 23 – 27a and the second by Major Mike Eastap, 1st Bn taken from the Gospel of St John 5 vv 24 – 30. The address in memory of Colonel Andrew Man was to have been made by Brigadier Tony Pielow but he was unable to be present and Brigadier Dennis Rendell kindly took his place.

The Chapel was full to overflowing with family, friends, members of the Regiment plus representatives from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The large attendance was in itself a great tribute to Colonel Andrew. He will be long remembered.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at 7pm on the 12th of May 2001 at the Victory Services Club. Forty-Four members were present. The minutes are published towards the end of this Newsletter.

THE ANNUAL REUNION.

One hundred and ninety one members and their friends attended the Annual Reunion held at the Victory Services Club on Saturday the 12th of May 2001. One up on last year. It is very pleasing to see that we still maintain our numbers. Bob Drake was with us once again, travelling all the way from Canada for the second year running. He told me he hopes to be with us again next year. He has started saving already!

As ever the Staff at the Club served us well, the food was great, the bar service excellent and all present had a good time. It was very nice to see some Argyll ties on display. Hopefully they will come again.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

It was the Regiment's turn to host the Albuhera Lunch held at the National Army Museum on the 16th of May 2001. The Director, Mr Ian Robertson said that although we were the hosts he thought it appropriate to welcome us all to the Museum. Major Chris Lawrence, standing in for Brigadier Tony Pielow, replied to say how pleased we all were to be attending at what had now become an annual event. Catherine and Nicholas Man were present to meet their father's wishes and to hand into the safe custody of the Association his medals. Major Lawrence then, again to meet Colonel Andrew Man's wishes, presented the medals to the Museum. Mr Robertson said how pleased they were to receive them and that they would be placed on display shortly, hopefully within an Exhibition that was being set up to commemorate the Korean War. After a light buffet lunch the Museum Staff laid on a very interesting presentation on the origins and the development of the Machine Gun. Peter Wookey was able to give a short demonstration of "Taps right and left" on the Vickers. The only person present able to do so! Thirty five members of the Association together with ten or so of the Museum Staff attended.

THE TYRANT OF BRISBANE TOWN

Captain Patrick Logan of the 57th (or the West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot travelled to Australia in 1825. One hundred and seventy five years later a request was made for his return.

The Trustees of the Middlesex Regimental Museum presented Captain Logan's coatee to the National Army Museum in 1992. Last year a request was received from the National Museum of Australia to borrow it for display in their new \$155 million building being opened in March 2001. For

the flight to Canberra the conserved coatee was carried as hand luggage, packed in conservation grade materials with sensors to measure the temperature and humidity. A special display case was brought in from Sydney for the coatee to ensure its safety whilst on display.



Logan served in the Peninsular, Canada and Europe. As Commandant he rebuilt the Moreton Bay Penal Settlement, including a hospital and school. Logan was nicknamed "The Tyrant" because of the severe floggings ordered for the convicts. Today children in Australia still sing a song about "The Tyrant of Brisbane Town".

Logan was an explorer and many places are named after him, including Logan River and Logan City. During his final expedition in 1830, before his term as Commandant ended, his body was found in a shallow grave. As the NMA caption explains "he was speared to death by Yarraga Warriors. Convicts who had been at Moreton Bay Penal Colony in Queensland rejoiced at the death of this tyrant, who made their lives a misery."

The coatee will remain on display at the National Museum of Australia until March 2002. Such is the level of interest in this exhibit that a replica may be made to be displayed there after the original returns to the National Army Museum.

Erica Arnold, NAM.

ALBUHERA – 190th ANNIVERSARY

A Report by Capt Ken Beale MBE



The New Memorial at Albuhera

citizens of Elvas. A service was held, Last Post and Reveille were sounded and wreaths were laid. Afterwards the Corps of Drums of the 1st Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, followed by all present, marched through the city of Elvas to the Pousada (the equivalent of a Parador) for lunch.

On day two we stood on the ridge at Albuhera and were given a vivid description of the Battle. The orator was the Colonel of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Brigadier E R Holmes CBE TD JP a military historian. In the afternoon the tour continued to Badajoz, where, in the spring of 1812 it was put under siege. Standing on the battlements of the castle it was easy to imagine the monstrous task facing the British Troops. Using improvised ladders they stormed the massive walls knowing that if they reached the battlements the enemy was waiting to cut them to pieces.

Thirty six years after my first visit to Albuhera I returned to participate in the unveiling of a Regimental Memorial to the immortal memory of the three English Regiments that fought in the Battle. My wife, Millie, accompanied me. In addition to an official programme, spanning a period of four days, we took extra time to explore a little more of Western Spain and Portugal. During our second day at Elvas we were joined by half the contingent of more than 100 people who had connections with the regiments, and had travelled from the UK. The other half was accommodated at Zafra in Spain. Albuhera is conveniently midway between the two locations.

The first official ceremony took place on Sunday 13th May at Elvas. Here, by the Cathedral is the British Cemetery, which is fondly cared for by the local



Diehards at The New Memorial at Albuhera

During the day of Tuesday 15th May the battlefields were left behind and a cultural visit was made to Merida. Here we were able to view the remains of the Roman City including the amphitheatre, which was used to stage gladiatorial combats and fights. Next to the arena is the Roman Theatre, which still fulfils its original function. The tour to Merida ended with a visit to the National Museum of Roman Art. In the evening a formal dinner was held, the principle guest being His Grace The Duke of Wellington KG LVO OBE MC DL.

The 16th of May finally arrived and fortunately the weather was fine. The villagers of La Albuera along with military contingents, representatives from the countries that fought in the Battle and many others, thronged the village square. The flags of the participating countries were raised and national anthems played. Wreaths were laid and the Mayor, Manuel Antonio Diaz Gonzaloz and other dignitaries made speeches. The formalities lasted for two hours, after which the military units followed by all and sundry, made their way to the new park for the unveiling of the Regimental Memorial by his Grace The Duke of Wellington KG LVO OBE MC DL. The Regimental

Memorial, in the shape of an obelisk, depicts the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment on one side, 3rd of Foot (The Buffs), 2nd/31st Foot Huntington (later) The East Surrey Regiment and the 57th Foot The Middlesex Regiment on the remaining sides. Representatives of these regiments laid wreaths and I had the honour of representing the 57th Foot the Middlesex Regiment. Following the ceremonies the mayor of Albuera hosted a lunch for several hundred people. In the evening back in Elvas and Zafra a silent toast was observed. "To the immortal memory". Thus ended a memorable tour.

LAYING UP OF 5 QUEEN'S COLOURS.

Brigadier Brian Marciandi led a party of Diehards to the laying up of the 5th Battalion of the Queen's Regiment Colours at Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday the 9th of June 2001. Lieut Colonel P T Crowley, Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Regiment, handed the Colours to the Vice Dean, The Reverend Canon M Chandler, who accepted them into the safe keeping of the Cathedral. The Colours will eventually be hung in the Regimental Museum in Dover Castle. After a very moving service the congregation adjourned to a marquee in Westgate Gardens to enjoy a buffet and drinks etc. The Kohima Band were present and played a selection of background music. It was great to meet and renew many old friendships. This was the fifth and final set of Colours of the Queen's Regiment to be laid up.

ENFIELD BRANCH NOTES

The Enfield Branch members were present at and supported the following functions:-

10th February – A Valentines Day Dinner and Cabaret at the WOs & Sgts' Mess Mill Hill. 25th March - The Queen's Assn Hornsey Branch AGM and Lunch. 12 May – The Annual Service and Memorial Service to Colonel Andrew Man at St Paul's followed by the AGM and Reunion at the Victory Club in the evening. The Branch Members are thanked for their never ending support.

The Albuhera Display Room continues to attract interest and they have added several items to their display during the current year. Those wishing to visit should contact the curator, Alan Jennings or a member of the Enfield Branch.

Further information about Enfield Branch activities can be obtained from the Branch Secretary, Gerry Patmore..

BELGIUM AND FRANCE 1940

The author Hugh Sebag-Montefiore would very much like to get in contact with any soldiers from the Regiment who fought in Belgium and France in 1940 particularly those who were involved in the action when a Sgt Burford captured a German plan between Comines and Menin. He would also be interested in speaking to the families of soldiers who have memoirs about this action. He can be contacted at 21 Rochester Terrace, London NW1 9JN or on 020 7267 5533 or 020 7284 0016.

EX-GRATIA PAYMENTS TO THOSE HELD POW BY THE JAPANESE

The Government announced on the 7th of November 2000, that on a claim to the War Pensions Agency it would make a single ex-gratia payment to each surviving member of the British Groups interned or imprisoned by the Japanese during the Second World War. Where a member did not survive to the 7th of November the claim may be made by their surviving spouse. Each eligible claimant will be entitled to a single sum of £10,000 unless exceptionally they qualify for more than one payment by virtue of being an ex POW and a surviving spouse of a deceased POW. The War Pensions Agency have no central record of those who may qualify for these payments. Those who feel they are qualified are required to make a claim and if they have not done so already they can obtain more information from the Secretary

EX-SERVICE HOMES REFERRAL AGENCY (ESHRA)

A new agency has been set up to specifically provide information to the ex-Service Community and their dependents about nursing, residential care and specialist homes. To be known as ESHRA, it operates a help line between 10 am and 12 noon and 2pm to 4pm on weekdays. The number is 020 7839 4466 and the address is ESHRA, PO Box 31096, London SW1Y 5ZR. Should contact be required further information can be obtained from the Secretary.

ALBUHERA COTTAGE – NEW PLYMOUTH – NEW ZEALAND

John Hart has sent me a series of newspaper cuttings relating to and photographs of Albuhera Cottage, two of which are reproduced below. As can be seen from the photographs it is thought the cottage started life in 1863 as living quarters for the farriers of the 57th of Foot. The cottage that is on the New Zealand Historic Places Register had fallen into a state of disrepair and at one stage the owners, at the time, Mr & Mrs J W Baldock, sought permission from the Local Authority to demolish it as it was not fit for habitation.

They wished to build a house on the site. After some years of negotiation approval was given for its removal from its place in Brown St to the Waiweranui



"Published with the kind permission of the Taranaki Museum New Zealand".

Youth Camp Nr Rahotu for use as hostel accommodation. The cottage has been restored to its original design, has bunk rooms, and can sleep 17. The link between the cottage and the Regiment was established by Mr Baldock when digging in his garden. Over the years he has dug up:- three 57th brass buttons, an old military boot, an Enfield bayonet, a steel watch chain of the period and very many horse shoes. As further evidence of the date of construction he found an 1863 penny within the framework of the house when carrying out renovations.

John has also sent several excellent photographs of the 57th Memorial situated in the Te Wenui Cemetery at New Plymouth together with a photograph of a sign post pointing to the Diehard Stream. The Regiment is

certainly not forgotten in New Zealand. In his research to establish the history and origins of the cottage John has asked me to express his thanks to the following who were most helpful:-

Betty Baldock, sister-in-law of the person who owned the cottage
 Ron Lambert, from the New Plymouth Museum
 Stuart Scarle, from the New Plymouth Cemetery Office
 Peter Johns, Chairman of the Waiweranui Hut Trust.

Finally John has sent various cuttings outlining the history of the Regiment in New Zealand. May find space for a further item in a future edition of the newsletter.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM YESTERYEAR

It is thought the following will bring back memories:



*4 Queen's Steel Band
 Knook Camp, Warminster circa 1970 - DMs Howells & Maloney
 Photo - P Howells*



*The 1938 Crisis – Lewis Gunners at the South Metropolitan Gas Works.
Photo Brig J B Ryall*



The January 1953 Intake to The Depot Mill Hill – Photo John Holmes

ODD JOTTINGS

Jim Reynolds wrote to say that he now lives in Clacton on Sea. He had lost touch and wishes to join the Association. He and his wife Vera asked to be remembered to all their old friends. (Sadly since regaining contact Vera has died and her obituary appears later in this newsletter.)

Ron Hill when sending in his subscription told me that he and his wife were moving back to Co Durham to be near to their daughter.

Ray (Digger) Cousins has followed up his last Christmas telephone call (1999) with a Christmas card for the year 2000. I now have his address if anyone is interested.

Edmund Roberts has mentioned that his wife has not been too well lately and he is sorry not to make any of the events. He finds it difficult travelling.

Vic Barley tells me that he and his wife will be celebrating their diamond wedding on the 15th of February 2001. Hope to be in Australia with their daughter and her family. Congratulations to you both.

Keith Thompson says he recognises himself in the 430 Battery Searchlight photograph in the last issue. He is the tall man on the right rear. He cannot remember the names of the others. As it was taken some 60 years ago not surprising. He does remember how cold that winter was!

Peter Benson-Cooper asked for a copy of the Rendsburg Sgt's Mess Photo. He says, as far as he remembers, that from 1939 to 1945 the Battalion never lived in a barracks until Rendsburg.

Eric Chamberlain asked me to correct the entry in the December Newsletter. He points out he never served in the 7th Battalion he was with the 8th.

Tom Brazier asks to be remembered to his old Company Commander, John Hewson and to Gus Kenrick his CSM. He thought Gus would have enjoyed a disco!

Bob Whitehead asked for the address of Ron Jupp that I was able to supply. Said he served through the war with Les Page, Johny Gould and Ron Jupp. In his letter Bob mentioned several of the other personalities in the Battalion at that time. He still has a photograph of the 1st Battalion Football Team circa 1943, Les Compton, Lcpl Dickie, Lcpl Stratton and himself as the goalkeeper.

In a subsequent letter Bob mentions that he has made contact with Ron. They spoke on the telephone for over twenty minutes. Bob also said if his memory serves him correctly his carrier, driven by Cpl Vic White, was the first into Tilsburg. An elderly Dutchman met them and promptly opened a bottle of champagne. (Sadly Bob's obituary appears later in the Newsletter).

Ray Atkinson notes that Colin Crisp has joined the Association. He tells me they served together 1954 – 56. I was able to put him in touch.

Mark Johnson said how interested he was in the item in the last newsletter on the Peninsular Medal. He has two with the Albuhera Clasp issued to men of the 57th – namely John Gibson born 1795 - enlisted 1804, discharged sick 1816 – wounded at Albuhera and was at Busaco. The other a seven bar medal – Stephen Thompson – born 1784 – enlisted 1803 – discharged 1823 due to sickness and wounds at Vittoria.

George Fickling says that Cpl Stebbings photograph in last June's Newsletter brought back many memories. Stan Cheffy, the chap with Cpl Stebbings in the photo, enlisted with him on the 15th of July 1939. He thinks the photo was taken by the Sunday Graphic. He was also very sorry to read of the passing of Alan Carter. They used to take tea together when Alan was shooting on a farm near to George's house.

Edward Crompton tells me he is starting a new job where he is required to know the NATO Alphabet. He knew most of it, just required a few blanks filling in.

Peter Wookey has not been too well lately and is taking a long time to completely recover – perhaps it was down to the duckling you were telling me about? Get well soon.

Walter Blake wrote asking me for the names of the surviving Hong Kong POWs. I was able to list thirty names that we know about. Must be others around who have not joined the Association.

Bert Rowson sent in his thanks for publishing his wife's obituary. He mentioned that he has just been awarded life membership of the Royal British Legion for his continuing work for the Harwich Branch. He first joined 55 years ago.

If anyone knows the location of James Spoard who served in the 8th Battalion and was a member of the football team along with Dennis Compton Harold Johnson would like to make contact (via the Secretary).

Walter Coxhedge informs that he has had a minor stroke that has affected his sight. He is improving. Get well soon.

Bob Hebden wrote from New Zealand to say his improvement after his stroke continues. Sorry Bob I spelt your name incorrectly in last June's Newsletter. I plead printer's error!

Reg Mephram who tells me he has been a bit under the weather lately is looking for news of Lieut D Bloomer of the 8th Battalion.

Reg Warner wrote to say he keeps in touch with Charles Gardner, Charles Lovick and Ken Branton. They joined up together at Mill Hill in May 1939. Reg received the RBL Standards on behalf of the Dunkirk Veterans at the Remembrance Parade held at the Spa Pavilion, Felixstowe on Remembrance Sunday.

Peter Kifford who retired to the sea side last year says he is enjoying life on the Sussex coast and he tells me that his health is holding up after his heart bypass.

Ken and Marjorie Baugh celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on the 19th of January. They were married in St Nicholas's Church Chiswick in 1941. Many congratulations to you both. May you have many more years together.

Tony Briggs who lives in Berlin sends regular reports on life there. Says he meets from time to time Bill Rhodda and Taffy Parfit. Those who were stationed in Berlin with 1 QUEENS will remember these two as very helpful BIAs in Montgomery Barracks.

Ron Da Costa who wrote some time ago having just returned from a holiday in Austria thought we would like an update on Schmelz Camp. The old Sgts' Mess is now a Gast Haus and the old Winterleiten Hut was burnt down and a large one replaces it on the other side of the lake. The Austrian Army are still using the ranges.

Fritz Jennings writes from Australia to say how sad it is that many who were FEPOWs are no longer with us and so will miss out on the recent compensation awarded to the surviving ex POWs and their widows.

Percy Howells, our Drum Major in the late 1960s/early 1970s tells me that he had his right knee replaced last year and by the time this is published he hopes to have had his left knee fixed as well. Hope it all went well Percy.

Jack Rose in sending in his dues mentioned that he is still playing a bit of golf at the age of 80 and that he goes across to Portrush every year to see Les Longman (A Coy 2/8th Bn) who sadly is not too well.

Ken Anderson said thank you for publishing his photograph of the searchlight in the last newsletter. Brought back many memories. Ill health prevents him from getting around much these days

Jim Rider rang me to check that I was aware that Frank Waite had passed away. Said he went through Normandy with him as his range taker. Jim said as a Platoon Commander Frank was a man you could trust and that he was one of the best.

Ken Partridge wrote to purchase two cap badges for his grandsons and to say that for two years he has not been that well. Now much better and hopes to be at St Paul's for the Annual Service.

Jeff Leat says he will see us all at the Reunion all being well.

Ray Ashton is off to Holland in the summer and he hopes to go to Rheinburg Military Cemetery to visit the grave of Pte Purdy who was killed in the same "stonk" at Goch that wounded him.

Rodger Bourne living in Texas writes to say he is retiring to South Florida. Lucky chap!

Ken Farmborough wrote to say how sorry he was to read of the death of Major Alan Carter. He remembers him taking over 4 Platoon when they were at Ipswich. He also mentioned that his wrist, broken in December last, is taking a long time to heal.

John Lowth in a recent letter said that after demob he married and settled in Yorkshire and for 36 years he worked underground in the mining industry. He finished the war in Rendsburg. Was with Roy Bishop in 13 Pln 2/8th Battalion (4.2" Mortars) and can recall most of the actions they were in together. At the time of writing he was waiting to go into hospital to have his left knee joint replaced. The right one was done some time ago. We hope it went well.

Tony Legg, via his MP, has been pushing for the establishment of a web site "Debt of Honour Register" to record the sacrifice of men and women killed on duty and by terrorist attack since the end of World War Two. He sent me a copy of a House of Commons early motion signed by 64 Members of Parliament. Hope they find the time to discuss it.

Don Carson wrote to say that he cannot make the Reunion this year as he and his wife Beryl are going to Vienna on holiday, their first visit since he was stationed in Austria (52 - 55). He will endeavour to visit Schrenheim (?) Barracks.

Louisa Cotton sent me a photograph of her late husband Reg and at the same time asked me to amend the obituary published in the last Newsletter. Reg was buried in Anna Bay on the 9th of August 2000 and not the 2nd. Sorry I missed the error when proof reading.

Tom Broderick has written to tell of a journey he made recently to the Military Cemetery near Catania in Sicily. His driver spoke no English and Tom could not manage much Italian so how they arrived there is a bit of a mystery! Sad to say that the location guide to the graves was missing and so it took some time to find the 19 Middlesex Graves but he managed it. Tom asked me to say that the cemetery was immaculate and although it was only April there were flowers in bloom everywhere. He has written to the War Graves Commission and they have promised to replace the missing book.

Frank Dickinson, who is a member of the Palestine Veterans Association, has asked me to remind those qualified that their Annual Reunion takes place at Eden Camp, Yorkshire situated on the A64 York to Scarborough Rd at the junction with the A169. Entrance, car parking and full access to the Museum and grounds is free to all Palestine veterans and their families. Food and bar facilities are available. The event comprises of a short service starting around noon followed by the Reunion. This year it takes place on Saturday the 20th of October. Full details can be obtained from: Nick Hill, Eden Camp, Malton, N Yorks YO17 6RT. If you write please include a SAE. Frank says he would welcome some company. Last year he was the only Diehard there.

Pete Ramahtulla is organising a trip to Hamlen by coach, if he has sufficient support, during Easter 2002. If you are interested you can contact him on 01227 454628.

Gerry Patmore tells me that his daughter, Amanda is now serving with the 1st Battalion of the Coldstream Guards in Northern Ireland. Amanda trained as a clerk in the Adjutant Generals Corps at their Training Centre, Worthy Down where she successfully completed the Military Clerks 3/2 Course and qualified also in computer studies where she obtained a 100% pass mark. Well done Amanda - must run in the family!

The Secretary has received letters and cards from many members asking that they pass on good wishes to members of the Regiment as a whole or to

members of particular battalions. Far too many to publish individually. I hope all will accept they have been noted and are much appreciated.

OBITUARIES

It is with the deepest regret we announce the following have died:-

BATSON – Thomas "Ginger", 6539610 died on the 5th of August 2000 aged 88. Ginger joined the Royal Fusiliers TA in September 1929 transferring to the Regular Army in 1931 when he joined the 1st Battalion. Served with the Battalion until 1938 when he transferred to the reserve. Rejoined in 1943 and then served with the Kensingtons until the end of the War. The funeral took place at the Southend Crematorium on the 16th of August attended by family and his many friends and by the members of the Staff of the Nursing Home where he spent the last five years of his life. He is survived by his wife Beatrice, to whom he was married for 58 years, four children, seven grandchildren and five great grand children.

LB.

BAYTON – Dennis Arthur, 6217107 and 480571 died in November 2000, aged 72. The actual date is not known. Dennis served in both the Bands of the 2nd and 1st Battalions in that order. He is a great loss to the world of music. Was a skilled trombone player and he also played the trumpet and the string bass. At one time the Ted Heath Band were trying to persuade him to join them. He went to Kneller Hall in 1952 to attend the Bandmasters Course and after qualifying he became the Bandmaster of the 1 R Lincoln's Band followed by 1 KOSB and then the Welsh Brigade Depot. Was commissioned in 1965 and went to the Kenyan Armed Forces as their Director of Music. He retired from the Army in 1969 and for a time was the Professor of Trombone at Kneller Hall. The funeral was held on the 24th of November 2000.

BLANEY – Douglas Edward known as Bob, 267261, died on the 12th of April 2001 aged 80. He enlisted into the Royal Engineers in 1940 being commissioned into the Regiment in 1943. Was in D Company of the 2nd Battalion. Prior to his release in 1946 he was, for a time, the Town Major of Belefeld in Germany.

BOYDELL – Stanley died on the 15th of March 2001 whilst in his garden. Stanley was a National Service Doctor who joined the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong just prior to their move to Korea in 1950. Colonel Andrew Man wrote shortly after the Battalion's return from Korea: "Stanley served the Battalion

very well during the extremely difficult period up to Christmas 1950. When asked why he was using our meagre medical supplies to succour the local civilian population his response was that he was not using our supplies but the American's having obtained them from their nearby medical units!" The funeral was held at All Saints Church, Wallasey on the 26th of March 2001. In addition to the family there was very good support from the West Cheshire Branch of the Korean's Veterans Association. The Regiment was represented by Major Gordon Crumley. Although living in Cheshire Stanley, accompanied by his wife Shelia, was a regular attender at all Regimental functions.

BRADY – Robert Edward, 6203231 died on the 29th of November 2000 aged 83. He joined the 1st Battalion on the 31st of August 1936 and was discharged on the 30th of May 1946. He was taken prisoner on the 25th of December 1941 and was moved from Hong King to Osaka Camp, Japan in 1942. The funeral was held at St Patrick's Church, Wigan on the 7th of December 2000.

CARRE – Alistair Trenchard died peacefully in his sleep on the 7th of January 2001 after a short illness. Alistair served with the 2nd Battalion from 1941 to 1945 leaving the Army in the rank of Captain.

CAVILL – Dan, 6201835 died on the 4th of June 2001. Dan joined the Regiment in August 1934 serving with the 1st Battalion in the Middle and Far East. Fought in the Battle for Hong Kong and was taken prisoner on Christmas Day 1941. His funeral took place on the 14th of June at Randalls Crematorium, Leatherhead. The Regiment was represented by Major Ron Morris.

CHALK – Arthur died on the 19th of January 2001. Arthur served with the 1/7th Battalion, nothing further is known.

DEVERILL – Harry, 6206761 died on the 21st of November 2000 aged 83. Harry joined the 2/7th Battalion (B Company) in July 1939 and moved across to the 1st (2/8th) in 1943. He was discharged in the rank of Sergeant on the 3rd of May 1945 being no longer fit for duty as a result of severe war wounds. His funeral took place on the 29th of November 2000 at the Methodist Church, Marlow.

FRENCH – Charlie 6201161 died on the 3rd of September 2000 in Australia. Ginger Tann wrote to say that he was advised by a member of the Australian POW Association, who publish a newsletter Barbed and Bamboo, of his passing. Charlie was taken with the 1st Battalion in December 1941, was on the Lisbon Maru and eventually ended up in Kobi House in Japan. He was a Regimental Policeman in Headquarter Company and was wounded in the leg during the Battle.

FRENCH – Eric 22274310 died on the 25th of May 2001, aged 69, after a short illness. I first met "Froggy" when I joined the 1st Battalion in March 1966 a few days before the Battalion went to British Guyana for a nine month unaccompanied tour. My predecessor, Major Pat Donovan, had decided that Froggy would remain on the Rear Party to look after the QM's interests and of course the stores. What a wise choice that was. When we returned everything was in apple pie order and all the accounts were up to date. His main responsibility at that time was for the G 1098 Stores. When the Battalion disbanded at Warminster Cpl Froggy as he then was, came with me to the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Regiment in Berlin. Sgt Ernie Stubbings meanwhile had left the Battalion for a posting to Colchester and Froggy was promoted to Sgt to take his place in the Clothing Stores. There are several amusing stories that cannot be repeated here but one where he was caught by the RMP riding his bicycle after a long "Saturday Lunch" in the Sgts ' Mess can be told. He left Montgomery Barracks wobbling on his bike on his way to his married quarter. He was met and told to dismount by the RMP and push his bike otherwise he would be "nicked". He went round the corner got back onto his machine not knowing he had been followed. Caught again it took all his wit and charm to overcome the predicament he found himself in. Towards the end of his career he was promoted to CSgt still within the QM's Store and he became the Accommodation Stores CSgt. He was not only a very loyal member of the QM's Staff he became a good friend – he was always cheerful and ready to see the funny side of anything. I will miss him. He was well supported by his wife Helen throughout his military service. They met and married whilst they were at Palace Barracks, Holywood, Co Down. His funeral took place on Monday the 4th of June 2001 at the Slough Crematorium followed by a small gathering for his family and friends at the Cricket Club where he had spent so many happy hours. The Regiment was represented by Ron and Betty Morris and Monty McNab.

REBM.

GILHEAD – Harold Parry, 6199825, died sometime in 1998 and shortly after his widow died. Harold joined the 1st Battalion on the 2nd of January 1931. He moved to the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment and served for most of World War Two with them. He attained the rank of Corporal. The news of his passing came from the new occupant of his bungalow when she returned the December Newsletter.

GOODFELLOW – Ernest George, 19041923 died on the 31st of March 2001 aged 73. He served with the 1st and 2nd Battalions from 1947 to 1950. Nothing further is known.

GRAINGER – Norman Frank, 22038703 died on the 24th of December 2000 at the Deal Cottage Hospital aged 70. Norman served in C Company of the 1st Battalion from the 3rd of June 1948 until the 5th of April 1950. His funeral took place at Barham Crematorium near to Canterbury on the 5th of January 2001 and was attended by a large number of family, friends and former work colleagues.

HALFHIDE – Derek, 23113320 died on the 23rd of December 2000 aged 64. He had been ill for some time. He joined the 1st Battalion on the 15th of December 1959 and served until 26th of May 1966. His funeral took place at Peterborough Crematorium on the 4th of January 2001. Derek also served with the RASC in Malaya.

JAKUES – Frederick, George, 6200175 died on the 10th of February 2001 in Greenwich Hospital. He was 88 years of age. Jacko joined the Regiment on the 6th of August 1931 and after training at the depot joined the 2nd Battalion. He was a good sportsman and as such was a member of the Battalion Athletics and Cross Country Team. He rose to rank of RQMS in the Regiment and went on to be an RSM at ERE in the Middle East. The funeral was held at Eltham Crematorium on the 23rd of February with family and friends present. His two sons Dave and Tony, his daughter Deborah, Grandsons Laurie and Marcus and great grandsons Oliver and William represented the family.

LERWILL – Dorothy (Dee) widow of Brigadier Godfrey (Loppy) Lerwill died peacefully on the 20th of November 2000 aged 92. The funeral was held at St Mary the Virgin Church, Marston Magna on Friday the 1st of December 2000.

McINNALLY – William (Bill) died, after a long battle against lung cancer, on the 28th of February 2001 aged 79. Bill was with the 8th Battalion in World War Two having been transferred in from the Royal Artillery in late 1944. He was badly wounded in March 1945 and after recovering from his wounds he was stationed at Blacon Camp, Chester until his demob in 1946. He left the Army in the rank of Sergeant.

MORGAN – John 23717314 died on the 17th of March 2001. John served in the Merchant Navy throughout World War Two, was torpedoed twice and sunk once when his ship struck a mine in the Schelde Estuary. After the war he lived for a time in the United States returning to England in 1956 when he joined the 5th Battalion rising to the rank of Sergeant. John was a respected and well liked member of the Hounslow Branch of the Association. Fifteen members of the Branch attended his funeral. Vic Debenham recited the Exhortation.

MULLINGS – Francis 6212610 L/Sgt D Coy 1/7th Battalion. Born 28 August 1919 after a short period in hospital died on the 30 April 2000. His funeral was held on the 12th of May 2000. There was large congregation including members of the Royal British Legion who paraded with the local branch standard his coffin being covered with the Union Flag. After a memorable service a cremation followed at the West Hertfordshire Crematorium at Garston.. Frank, as he was called, joined the 1/7th Battalion on the 15 March 1940, was wounded in the Battle for Caen and invalided out in 1945. In civilian life he worked in Islington where he was involved with the making of surgical instruments moving later to work in the car industry. In 1979 he moved to Borehamwood and became Chairman of the Pensioners' Association. He took up playing bowls where he made many friends. Frank was a wonderful man who was always willing to help others. A tribute from the Mayor of Borehamwood said just that. Frank was married to Dolly for 59 years. Sadly she died some three months after Frank's funeral. As his daughter I cherish the 56 years I had with a wonderful Dad.

SLS

NURSE – Victor Stanley, 22048858 died on Friday the 2nd of February 2001. He served with B Company of the 1st Battalion from 1947 to 1950. He was for a time a member of the Battalion Boxing Team. He was a dedicated and popular member of the Royal British Legion and as such was the Standard Bearer for his local Branch. The funeral took place at the City of London Crematorium on the Wednesday the 14th of February. Twelve British Legion Standards were on parade. There was a very large turn out of family, friends and members of both the Legion and the Regimental Association. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag.

READ – Pam, wife of Joe Read, was sadly taken ill on the coach on the way home to Enfield from the Annual Reunion held on the 12th of May 2001. Despite all efforts made to save her she died early on Sunday morning the 13th of May. She will be long remembered for her radiant smile and for her laugh. The funeral took place on the 22nd of May at Trent Park Cemetery, Cockfosters. It was estimated that more 150 people attended the service and there were masses of flowers. Pam leaves behind four children and nine grandchildren.

REYNOLD – Vera, wife of CSgt Reynolds, after suffering a short but severe illness died in Colchester General Hospital on Friday the 6th of March 2001. Vera will be fondly remembered by many who served in the last days of the 1st Battalion, then 4 QUEENS on to 1 QUEEN'S. She was a very strong organiser and supporter of the many functions run by the Wives' Club. Her funeral took place on the 23rd of March 2001 at the Weeley Crematorium, Colchester.

WAITE – Frank 6201343 died on the 14th of January 2001 aged 87. I first met Frank Waite before the war at the summer camp of the 2/8th Battalion at Dibgate, Folkestone in July 1939. Later during the war I was posted to B Company and grew to know him much more when we embarked for Normandy both being members of 8 Platoon. Frank was the Platoon Sergeant and I was a carrier driver. Frank was the father figure to all members of the platoon and he served us well, ensuring whenever possible we had at least one hot meal a day, often braving shot and shell to deliver to the gun lines. On one occasion I recall we were offered a choice of pork, chicken, lamb or bully beef!

When the war ended we went our separate ways Frank going on to be commissioned and I back to civy street. During the last few years we met regularly, usually at our get togethers at Coleshill, until Frank's failing eyesight made it impossible for him to travel. Frank was a keen and enthusiastic cricketer and was still playing for the Hayes Cricket Club at the ripe old age of 65. Then he carried on as an umpire until his eyes failed him then he sat in his favourite spot by the score box listening to the sound of the willow and the song of the birds in the nearby hedgerow. The funeral was held at the Breakspeare Crematorium, Harefield, Middlesex. Present were Frank's widow, Pam, son Stuart, daughter Julia, grandchildren, Robert, Beth, Holly and Shaun with family and friends from the Hayes Cricket Club. The Regiment was represented by Les Page, Bob Johnson and Les Dyer. The coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag together with Frank's medals. A bugler sounded the last post and reveille and after the commitment Les Page removed the medals from the coffin and Bob Johnson and Les Dyer removed and folded the flag. Les Dyer then said a brief eulogy.

Frank's ashes were later scattered around the scoreboard at Hayes Cricket Ground. A memorial plaque will be fixed to the wall of the scoreboard..

LMFD.

WHITEHEAD R.R.T. (Bob) died on the 23rd of February 2001 after two years of variable health. Bob was with the 2/8th Battalion from September 1941 until July 1945. He then served on with the 1st Battalion in BAOR until 1947 when he transferred to the Royal Artillery staying with them until 1958 when he left the Army in the rank of Major. He was a keen footballer and for some years was the Battalion Goalkeeper playing alongside players of a very high standard one of whom was Leslie Compton. The funeral was held on the 29th of February 2001 in Brancaster Church. The Church was full to overflowing. The burial took place on the same day in Burnham Deepdale Church.

Colonel John Neville Shipster, CBE, DSO

31 January 1922 – 9 January 2001

In February 1944, one week after his twenty-second birthday, Lieutenant (temporary Captain, acting Major) John Shipster became one of the youngest ever recipients of the Distinguished Service Order, when he was given an "Immediate" award for his gallantry as a company commander against the Japanese in the Arakan campaign, during which he had been twice wounded.

The citation for his DSO read: "Major Shipster was ordered to take his company forward ... in order to cut off and engage a force of advancing Japanese. While preparing to move, his own position was heavily attacked from two sides. Major Shipster quickly organised his company and drove off both enemy attacks, inflicting heavy casualties on the assaulting Japanese... For three days his company held its position against repeated infantry assaults, although cut off from supplies of ammunition and rations. Major Shipster was severely wounded on the first day, but continued to command and encourage his men. An important position was thus held during a critical period and further heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy..."

As the Japanese had cut off all evacuation routes it was eighteen days before Shipster was transferred to a hospital in India. After a period of convalescence he returned to the front line to take part in the successful defence of the hill station at Kohima. The Commander of the 14th Army, General "Bill" Slim, later described this battle as the turning-point of the Burma Campaign. Shortly afterwards, on the famous tennis court which had been the focal point of some of the fiercest fighting at Kohima, the Supreme Commander, Lord Louis Mountbatten, presented Shipster with the ribbon of the DSO.

Born in Hastings on 31st January 1922, John Shipster had grown up, like all of his generation, in the shadow of the Great War. His father, Colonel George Shipster, and only uncle, Walter, had served on the Western Front, where they had both been wounded and awarded the Military Cross. Walter was subsequently killed in Palestine in the closing days of the war. When war again broke out in 1939 John Shipster was entering his final year at Marlborough College. The following year, aged eighteen, he enlisted as a private in the Royal Scots, and after basic training sailed to India. He was selected for officer training and, after passing out from the Bangalore Officer Training School in 1941, was commissioned into the newly formed 7/2nd Punjab Regiment, then based at Meerut, east of Delhi.

Initially the war seemed far away. Based with his battalion in Madras, John immersed himself in the rituals and routines of the Indian Army. He made full

use of the opportunities to travel all over India, on one occasion accompanying his orderly to his home village in the Punjab, and became fluent in Hindustani (Urdu). But the war was getting closer. By the end of 1942 the Japanese had taken Hong Kong, Singapore, all of South-east Asia and were threatening the borders of India itself. In September 1943 John's battalion received orders to embark by ship to Chittagong in East Bengal and after final training in Ranchi they made their way to the front in the Arakan. It was the height of the monsoon and they completed the last 120 miles on foot, using mules to bring up supplies and equipment. His battalion, part of the 7th Indian Division – "The Golden Arrow" – dug in to await and resist the Japanese attack. Conditions were hard – constant rain, trench warfare and hand-to-hand fighting – similar to those his father had experienced in Flanders, except now with the added hardship of tropical heat, disease and irregular supplies. There were heavy casualties. When John's company commander was killed standing next to him, John, also wounded for the first time, took over command.

After the victory at Kohima in the Summer of 1944, John's battalion was withdrawn for a well-deserved rest. But by the end of November the 7th Division joined the pursuit of the Japanese towards the Irrawaddy River and Mandalay. Although the Japanese were by now falling back, there was no question of any surrender: they fought to the last man and committed suicide rather than be captured. In February 1945, while accompanying a Royal Marine sergeant on a reconnaissance mission, he was wounded by a grenade when they stumbled into a group of Japanese soldiers on an island in the Irrawaddy. The Royal Marine saved his life, but it meant another long spell in hospital. He returned to his unit just in time to take part in the final rout of the Japanese in Burma and their surrender. John proceeded to Siam, where he assisted with the repatriation of surviving Allied prisoners-of-war. He went on to Malaya by sea, having a narrow escape when his ship struck a mine and had to be towed into Singapore harbour.

On return to England in 1946 he opted for a career in the British Army and was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment ("Diehards"). While part of the occupying force in Germany he met Corry Arends, a Dutch officer working for the UN refugee organisation (UNRRA) and they were married in Eindhoven in 1948. The following year he had to leave his wife and new son when the Middlesex Regt. was posted to Hong Kong to reinforce the colony against the growing threat from Communist China. For a while hostilities seemed likely. But it was the North Korean crossing of the 38th parallel the following year that took Shipster back into the front line, when the Diehards were sent to support the Americans as part of the Commonwealth Brigade. Once again commanding an infantry company, he took part in the advance to the Manchurian border in conditions of extreme cold, and the subsequent headlong

retreat when the Chinese entered the war. His company was one of two companies holding the Kunuri Pass, thus enabling the US 2nd Division, which had been badly mauled by the Chinese, to withdraw.

After Korea he had various staff and instructional appointments back in England before being posted to NATO HQ in Fontainebleau, France. In 1962 he returned to infantry soldiering with the Middlesex in Germany and went on to command the Regiment in Gibraltar, Libya, Northern Ireland and British Guiana (in the transition to independence as Guyana). In 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War, he was posted to the US Army as an Exchange Officer. In 1971 he became Force Commander in British Honduras, (later Belize). His two-year tour included a full-scale threat of invasion from Guatemala, a hurricane and relief work after a devastating earthquake in Nicaragua. For his service in Belize he was made CBE. John's last job in the Army was Commandant of the NBC School at Winterbourne Gunner. In retirement he became Regimental Secretary of the Queen's Regiment.

Despite his war-time experiences, he held no animosity toward the Japanese and actively promoted reconciliation. He could, however, understand the bitterness of those who had experienced the humiliation and cruelty of capture and imprisonment. He was a member of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group and was part of a group that was invited to Japan in 1990 to meet Japanese Army veterans of the Burma War. During this visit he presented his field note-book to a Japanese company commander whom he had last faced in the trenches at Kohima.

He and his wife enjoyed a happy retirement in Woodbridge, Suffolk. They travelled widely, including a visit to India in 1988, when John made an emotional return to the Punjab Regimental depot near Ranchi. Invited to address a durbar of new recruits, he found his wartime Hindustani had not deserted him. But it is ironical that having survived two wars he and his wife, while visiting his son in South Africa in 1993, were attacked by armed intruders, badly beaten and barely escaped with their lives.

His later years were marred by deteriorating health, eventually diagnosed as Parkinson's Disease, which he fought with characteristic courage and good humour. He was determined to finish an account of his war-time experiences in Burma and Korea before his faculties failed. This was a race he could not have won without the help and encouragement of his wife and they were gratified to see the publication, a few months before his death, of "Mist Over the Rice-Fields". He is survived by Corry, and by his two sons and a daughter.

Major Pat Donovan MBE

Major Pat Donovan died aged 82, (84 according to his army records) on the 9th of December 2000 in hospital in Baldovie, after a short illness. He enlisted in the Regiment in August 1934 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Egypt.

After war service with the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Artillery in North Africa and Italy he rejoined the 2nd Battalion in Palestine. On promotion to WO1 he was posted as the first RSM after independence to the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun, a posting which left him with a life long dislike of curry.

When the Regimental Depot was re-opened for the training of recruits in 1951 Pat became the RSM and played a key part in its revival. During the Coronation in 1953 the Depot was a concentration centre for Colour Parties and in addition to his extra administrative tasks the RSM acted as host to all the warrant officers and sergeants who passed through the Depot. For his success in assuming these added responsibilities Pat Donovan was awarded a Coronation Medal.

It was as an outstanding Depot RSM from 1951 – 56 that he became so well known and respected by generations of National Service intakes to whom he was epitome of what an RSM should be. His commanding presence and mastery of drill were captured in an Army film an extract from which was recently shown on television.

It was typical of Pat Donovan that when the Depot was alerted for a Knock Out Exercise before reveille one day, the umpire, a Guardsman, was surprised and suitably impressed to be met on the square by the RSM shaved and immaculately dressed, complete with



pace stick, mustering the troops. Pat did not reveal that he was, in fact, the Orderly Officer.

On the 1st of May 1957 he was commissioned and posted as MTO to the 1st Battalion in Cyprus. He subsequently served as QM in BAOR, UK, Gibraltar and Northern Ireland.

Pat settled easily into the Officers' Mess where he became an influential figure among the junior officers – a role not always entirely approved of by higher authority.

His last years in the Army were spent as QM of the Transit Camp in the Radfan from 1966 – 67 and, finally, as QM of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion at Oswestry until he retired in August 1970 having been appointed MBE in January of that year.

In civilian life Pat soon became established in a firm where his ability to manage men was speedily recognised by promotion.

Loyalty to his Regiment and his friends was characteristic of Pat and his appearance at the Regimental reunion every year since 1970 as the doyen of a distinguished group of former RSMs including Jimmy Wild, Tom McMillan and Gus Kenrick was a defining feature of the event.

Natural leader with an extrovert personality Pat's cheerful good fellowship made him many friends but he did not suffer fools gladly whatever their rank and this occasionally ruffled feathers. He will be sadly missed not least by the host of former National Servicemen to whom he was the Depot.

He is survived by his wife Kitty, who accompanied him throughout his service and by his surviving son Patrick.

RMC.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the publication of the last newsletter:-

22148955 Pte A G Avis	A Coy 1st Bn 1949 - 1951
268180 Capt C C Bilney	1st Bn (MTO) 1943 – 1946

385542 Lt Col G W D'Arcy TD DL	1st Bn MX AFC 1942 – 1945 RN (FAA) 1945 RA 1946 – 1969
5123905 Pte H Davies	R Warwicks & REME 1941 – 1946 MX TA 1958 - 1964
23524832 Pte J N George	1st Bn & 4 Queen's 1960 - 1969
6463413 Pte E J Gilkes	1/8th Bn 1939 – 1941
14684044 LCpl N C F Hall	8th Bn & KSLI 1941 – 1947
6217109 Sgt D C Hannam	Band 2nd Bn & 1st Bn 1945 – 1954
23924532 Cpl R J Harris	Sp Coy (Mors) 1st Bn then Queen's 1962 - 1974
23455147 LCpl R T Kerry	Depot MX 1958 - 1960
2054383 Sgt H C G Large	RE RA RWK 1938 – 1946 8th Bn & 5 Queen's 1957 – 1969
6205447 Pte V T Large	7th Bn 1937 – 1946
23146426 Dmr R W Matthews	1st Bn 1955 - 1958
456653 Lt E H Montgomery Ph D F I Diag E	1st Bn 1956 – 1959 & 7th Bn 1959 – 1962
22153798 Pte D J Plant	1st Bn 1949 - 1951
438447 Capt K G Price TD	9th Bn (571 & 595 LAA Regts) & 5th Bn 1953 onwards.
23026870 Dmr W F Pullen	1st Bn 1954 - 1956
22814609 CSgt J Reynolds	1st Bn & 1 Queen's 1952 – 1978
22030895 Cpl R D Sharp	1st Bn Queen's Royal Regt 1948 D Coy 1st Bn 1948 - 1950

22800614 Pte R K J Spice	1st Bn Queen's Royal Regt 1952 – 1953 B & HQ Coys 1st Bn 1953 - 1955
24005381 LCpl G Sutliff	1st Bn 1, 3 & 4 Queens 1964 onwards
6202676 Pte E T Yates	1/7th Bn & Para 1936 - 1946

A CANLOAN OFFICER.

Lt Col Rex Fendick was a Canloan Officer firstly with the 2nd Battalion where as a Lt he commanded Number 1 Platoon A Company in NW Europe from 1944 to 1945 and then with the 1/7th Battalion from 1945 to 1946 in BAOR. I am sure that many of our members will remember him. He has recently published a record of his experiences at that time. The book consists of 321 pages containing 165 illustrations, many of the authors own photographs, plus 14 maps taken from the originals used in battle. A 32 page appendix describes the Vickers Machine Gun, the fire control methods and the MG Platoon organisation. It is certainly a book well worth having. Those interested should apply directly to the author: Lt Col (Retd) R F Fendick, CD, 25 Vaughan Drive, NAUWIGEWAUK, NB Canada E5N 6T9 or by email: rfendick@nbnet.nb.ca Price payable in advance, postage included \$35 CDN.

CORRESPONDENCE

It is thought the following letters will be of interest:-

To The Times from Brigadier B A M Pielow JP, President of the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Sir, Your report (April 21) of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War made no mention of the young British Soldiers who were the very first sent to Korea in 1951. These soldiers were from the 1st Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment and the 1st Battalion of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, in 27 Brigade. London had announced that no troops would be sent from Hong Kong, but nevertheless they were despatched at extremely short notice, poorly equipped for the task, and for what was thought to be only a three month tour. In fact they were there for much longer.

The great majority were National Servicemen and they fought with outstanding bravery and success against overwhelming odds before the arrival of the

troops sent from the UK Without their early intervention the war might well have had a very different outcome.

Yours sincerely,

TONY PIELOW

April 23.

Brigadier Pielow received a host of mail in reply, far too many to publish here, but he asked in view of it's content that we publish the following letter:-

Dear Brigadier Pielow,

Your Middlesex and Argyll and Sutherland soldiers are not forgotten. Your letter to The Times brings it all back to me.

Standing at the edge of the pavement in Nathan Road, Kowloon (HK) and watching a convoy of army lorries go past. I stood and waved to them till they were out of sight – a lone white face. I knew they were off to the docks to embark for Korea as my husband was in the Government Defence Branch. The general public were not aware of this and gave only passing interest. I went home and cried for hours.

The loneliness on the faces of these young soldiers gazing out of the backs of the lorries will stay with me for ever – every time I bring this picture to mind I still cry.

No they are not forgotten.

Sincerely

Mrs C Luddington
Easingwold

**The Middlesex Regimental Association
Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting
held at the Duke of York's Headquarters,
Chelsea, London SW3 on Monday 5th of March 2001.**

Present:-	Maj C L Lawrence, MC	Chairman
	Capt M J S Doran TD LL B	Vice Chairman
	Brig G Bulloch MBE	
	Brig B H Marciandi OBE	
	Col I D Brotherton TD DL	
	Col R M Cain OBE DL	
	Lt Col J M Hewson MC	
	Maj H E Couch TD FRICS FRSA	
	Maj S L J Henshaw TD	
	Capt S le M Enthoven RIBA	
	Mr A A Burford	
	Mr J A Lofts	
	Mr F A Phillips	
	Mr M J Ward BEM	
	Mr G Young	
	Maj R E B Morris MBE	Secretary.

Apologies Col M J Ball

1. Opening Remarks.

1.1. The Chairman opened the Meeting by thanking all for attending and at the same time he welcomed Mr Fred Phillips to his first meeting. Mr Phillips replaces Mr A Broadbent on the Committee. Mr Broadbent has moved away to Devon.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting.

2.1. It was agreed that the Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 6th of March 2000 were a true record. Proposed by Col Cain and seconded by Brig Bulloch. Carried.

3. Matters arising.

3.1. There were four matters arising. Para 5.2. The Charity Commission confirmed that our investments are Common Investment Funds (CIF) and as such no action is required by us. Para 9.1. The cost of the buffet was £350.

Retrospective authority is required from the Committee to cover the overspend. This was agreed. Para 12.4 Three members of the Regiment recorded their experiences for the PWRR Video. Brig Pielow, Maj Clark and Mr Burford. Para 12.5 The laying up of 5 Queen's Colours will now take place at Canterbury Cathedral and not Dover Castle. A notification to members will go out shortly.

4. Secretary's Report.

4.1. The Secretary presented his report that had been previously circulated.

4.2. The following grants were approved for the year 2001:-

Star and Garter Home	£250
MX and NW London ACF	£800

5. Finance Committee Chairman's Report.

5.1. Brigadier Marciandi presented the accounts for the Regimental Association and the 5/6th Militia that had been previously circulated in good time for the meeting. He mentioned that there was a slight drop in subscription income due to fewer generous donations; at the same time expenditure was slightly down. He noted that our portfolios were valued as at 31 December 2000. With the drop in the market the current value will be somewhat lower but they should recover. On the advice of the Stockbroker we sold 50% of our holdings in Shell in both accounts and made a considerable profit.

5.2. Brigadier Marciandi made reference to the note he had circulated prior to the meeting with regard to the suggestion that we permit our Broker to manage our portfolios on a discretionary basis. He said we have had a good relationship with the Broker over a period of some five years. He has a very good track record. They have a team of experts who meet each morning to study the market and with discretionary powers they would be able to act immediately when they feel it would be to our advantage to do so, without the need to refer to the Finance Sub Committee, via the Secretary, on each and every occasion. Captain Doran thought the proposed charges £250 for each account plus £100 for the Officers' Club very reasonable. Colonel Brotherton asked if they would be any other charges. No, other than the normal commission when transactions occur. Brigadier Marciandi then asked the Committee for their agreement to go ahead with their necessary arrangements. This was given.

5.3. Brigadier Marciandi asked the Committee to approve the accounts. It was then proposed by Mr M Ward and seconded by Mr A Burford that the accounts for the year ending the 31st of December 2000 be approved Carried.

5.4 The Committee recorded a vote of thanks for the work undertaken by the Finance Committee.

6. To consider the functions for the year 2001.

6.1. It was noted that the following functions have been arranged for 2001:-

12 May - Annual Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral at 3pm followed by the Reunion and AGM at the Victory Services Club in the evening.

16 May – Annual Albuhera Luncheon at the National Army Museum.

10 November – Annual Service of Remembrance at the Middlesex Guildhall.

6.2. The Committee approved the following grants to meet the cost of the above:-

Annual Service up to £2750

Reunion and AGM up to £3000 (price of tickets to remain at £7.50)

Service of Remembrance at the Middlesex Guildhall up to £200.

Lunch at the National Army Museum – the cost of the function

7. The Colours in the Regimental Chapel

7.1 After a long and prolonged discussion it was agreed to form a Sub Committee to consider the future upkeep and maintenance of the Colours in St Paul's. Chairman Major Couch, Members Mr Ward, Mr Burford, Secretary Major Morris. (Secretary to approach Col Ball to enquire if he would be willing to join this sub Committee).

7.2. The Secretary was instructed to approach the Conservator at St Paul's to establish whether the Colours could be rehung in their present condition pending a decision on the possible funding of any future upkeep. Should this not be agreed, then the Committee authorised the expenditure of up to £140 on each Colour for cleaning before rehanging. **Post Meeting Note:** Contact

made with Ms Wright (Conservator). Colours will have to be "dusted down" before rehanging as dust attracts moisture to the detriment of the Colours. Depending on hours worked some colours will attract a charge of less than £140 – she promised that the total charge will not exceed £3780 possibly a lot less. Colours will probably go back up towards the end of this year.

8. Donations.

8.1 The Committee approved the following donations:-

To the Albuhera Memorial at Albuhera £1000

Korean Veterans Memorial Scotland £500

9. Colonel Man's Medals.

9.1 The Secretary advised the meeting that agreement had been reached between the family and the National Army Museum and the medals will be handed over into the safe keeping of the Museum at the Albuhera Lunch to be held on the 16th of May. They will, in due course, go on display alongside the medals of General C Man.

10. The Newsletter.

10.1. It was agreed that the newsletter continues in its present form and that we stay with the current printer. If his charges rise to any great degree then the matter will be reconsidered.

10.2. The Committee thanked the Secretary for his additional work in converting the content to a digital format which results in a considerable saving to the Association.

11. Any other business.

11.1 Mr Phillips asked for the Committee's agreement to the handing over of the running of the 2/7th Battalion Luncheon to the Enfield Branch. The Enfield Branch were happy to take this on. Agreed.

11.2. Mr Lofts, under this heading mentioned that Colonel Man had left £200 to the Korean Club.

11.3. The Secretary read out applications from the three ex members of the Association who were expelled last year. They each asked to be allowed to

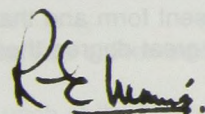
rejoin the Association. After giving each case the fullest consideration the Committee decided that they would not be permitted to rejoin. The Secretary is to inform them accordingly. The Secretary was also instructed to write to the Regimental Association of the Queen's Regiment to advise them of the situation.

11.4. Captain Enthoven informed the meeting that he would shortly cease to be a Trustee of Haig Homes. He said stemming from our original decision to hand over our houses to Haig Homes five other Regiments had handed over their houses.

11.5. The Secretary said he had been considering his future for some time. He has decided, with some regret, that he should resign from the post as Secretary as from the end of May 2003. This will give time and permit a detailed handover to his successor or to what ever organisation is eventually set up to run the Association. None of us are getting any younger and he said he will be in his 76th year in 2003.

12. Date and place of next meeting.

12.1. Arranged for 1400 hours on Monday 4th of March 2002. Hopefully the venue will be the Conference Room at the Duke of York's Headquarters. This will be advised.



R E B Morris,
Maj,
Secretary.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Middlesex Regimental Association held at the Victory Services Club, London W2 at 1900 hours on Saturday 12th May 2001

Present: Maj C L Lawrence MC, Chairman, Col R M Cain OBE DL, Col H J A Moore OBE, Lt Col J M Hewson MC, Maj C R Blackwell, Maj W G A Crumley, Maj I M E LLOYD, Maj R E B Morris MBE, Capt R Scott, Lt P J Ottino, Messrs E Bedford, A Broadbent, A Brown, A Burford, C Bysouth, D Carmichael, R Clarke, P Fegan, J Hannaford, G Higgins, J Innes, A Jennings, A King, T Lofts, G Patmore, F Phillips, T Price, A Quartermaine, P Rahmatulla, T Read, D Reber, P Redmond, J Reynolds J Shore, A Rudge, R Shepherd, B Smith, M Smith, J Stannard, R Sturge, M Turton, J Yates.

Two A N Others, (unable to read their writing). Total 44.

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.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

2.1. The Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 13th of May 2000 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Capt R Scott and seconded by Mr M Smith. Carried.

3. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2000.

3.1. The Secretary explained the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2000. Mr A Burford seconded by Mr A Broadbent proposed that the accounts for the Association be adopted and approved. Mr J Reynolds seconded by Mr A Quartermaine proposed that the 5th/6th Militia accounts be adopted and approved. Both motions carried.

4. Any other business.

4.1. The Chairman, under this heading, explained why the Colours are not on display in the Regimental Chapel. They have been taken down to permit a

"deep clean" to take place. They are currently stored within the Cathedral. Some cleaning and renovation may be required before they go back up in (hopefully) November. A small Sub Committee has been set up, under Major H Couch, to examine each colour and make recommendations as to their possible repair. They will meet at a date to be decided in June.

4.2. The PWRR have commissioned a memorial at Albuhera, to commemorate the Battle. Land has been donated by the local Mayor and the memorial funded by the three forebear regiments who were present at the Battle and the PWRR. We have a party travelling to Albuhera today, members of the Hounslow Branch, plus several individuals who have joined the main PWRR Party. Unveiling on the 16th of May by the Duke of Wellington.

4.3. Mr Cubitt, a past Chairman of the Enfield Branch, had submitted a letter which he asked to be read out at the Meeting. The Chairman did so, and then went on to deal with the three points made in the letter. There was much discussion, during which it became clear that there was no sympathy among the members present for those who had been expelled. Resentment was also expressed at the fact that two of the expelled members were present in the bar, their tickets having been bought by a member unknown. The Chairman said that members should make clear their feelings to the two persons concerned.

5. Closing Remarks.

5.1. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1955 hours.

R E Morris

R E B Morris,
Maj,
Secretary.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following are held in stock and are available on request to the Secretary, Major R E B Morris MBE, at 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4SA. Cheques or Postal orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Blazer Badges	£7.50
Car Badges	£10.00
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£28.00
Ties Regtl (Old Pattern maroon & old gold)	£5.50
Ties Regtl (New Pattern black with maroon & gold thin stripes)	£5.50
Ties Officers' Club (Silk)	£13.50
Good quality replica Middlesex Regt Cap Badges	£5.50
Middlesex Regt Key Rings	£2.50
Old Comrades lapel badges	£2.75
Prints – Steady the Drums & Fifes unframed – large	£8.00
small	£6.00
Christmas Cards:-	
Steady the Drums & Fifes	.35p each
The Guardroom Scene	
Col Graham Egerton, 77th Foot Portsmouth 1854	
Middlesex Blazer Buttons (Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge)	
Sets of 6 Large & 6 Small	£25.00
Individual buttons large or small	£2.25
Regtl cuff links	£7.50
Regtl cuff links with tie grip	£10.50
Tie grip only	£5.00
Regtl Ladies Brooch	£4.75
Regtl tie tack and chain	£4.50

