



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 56

DECEMBER 1986

PRICE 25p

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OLD COMRADES ON PARADE AT ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

FORECAST OF EVENTS 1987

- 16 March Regimental Association Executive Committee Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 at 6.15 p.m.
- 25 April 1/7th Bn (1939-45) Luncheon Club at TA Centre, Hornsey, N8.
- 26 April Housing Inspection, Albuhera Close, Enfield, Mx.
- 8 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner, Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London WC2.
- 9 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral, 2.30 p.m.
Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing 6.30 p.m. Annual General Meeting 8 p.m.
- 12 May 9th Bn Officers' Club Luncheon at the Royal Overseas League, Overseas House, Park Place, St. James's St., London SW1.
- 15 May 2/10th (1914-18) Luncheon at Victory Services Club, London W2.
- 29 May Hong Kong Regimental Association Dinner, London Branch, Cavalry and Guards Club, 127 Piccadilly, London WC2.
- 12 July Queen's Regiment Reunion at Depot The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn.
- 1 October 2/7th Bn Luncheon at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2.
- 9 October Queen's Regimental Association meeting at Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 at 11.30 ~~p.m.~~ *a.m.*
- 28 October Housing Sub Committee Meeting at Cadet Officers Mess, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3 at 6.15 p.m.
- October Attendance of a party from the Regimental Association to The Royal Hospital Chelsea Church Parade. Date to be arranged.
- 7 November Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, Westminster, 10.30 a.m.
- 8 November Remembrance Day Service at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, at 10.15 a.m. followed by Reunion at TA Centre, Edgware.
7th Bn Remembrance Service and wreath laying ceremony at Church of St Mary with St George, Muswell Hill, 10.20 a.m.
2/10th Bn Remembrance Day Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, at 3 p.m.
- December Visit to Royal Hospital Chelsea and to Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, to give out Christmas presents.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

At the beginning of what I am sure is going to be yet another successful year for the Regimental Association I just want to wish you all - and your families - all the best for 1987.

Looking back for a moment, I am very pleased to report that during 1986 our membership increased yet again, and still old (and young!) Diehards continue to join us, often as the result of a chance meeting of an old friend.

One of the Association's main objectives is to look after former members of the Regiment, or their wives, who have suffered illness or misfortune. In 1986 we helped to the extent of some £8000, the details of which appear elsewhere in the Newsletter. All this money is raised within the Association and is helped by the donations, often anonymous, we receive from our members. Our houses and flats in Albuhera Close at Enfield continue to be full of Diehards and there is, as always, a small waiting list for accommodation as it becomes available.

You can readily see therefore why the Association continues to be a thriving, and necessary, 'family club'. Apart from the help it enables us to give to members, it gives us the opportunity to meet from time to time. In this respect I look forward to seeing you at our functions during this coming year - including at the Annual Albuhera Service in our Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral and at the Reunion in the same evening, The Open Day at Bassingbourn too. Details and dates are elsewhere in the Newsletter.

In 1986 I not only had the pleasure of seeing many of you but also of joining some of our oldest members at the 2/10th Middlesex (1st World War!) Branch, and some very keen, smart and efficient potential soldiers when I spent a day in camp with the Middlesex and NW London Army Cadet Force. A truly excellent cross section.

I want to take this opportunity to give a 'public' vote of thanks to Major Frank Waldron and Grace - without their combined efforts we would be in a very sorry state indeed. Few of us realise just how much they do for so many people, day in and day out. They really are the Association and it is they who keep it going so very successfully and cheerfully. Many, many thanks to you both, Grace and Frank.

So enjoy 1987 as I am sure you will, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year.

BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January to 31 December 1986 the sum of £8200 was spent on assisting 106 members of the Regiment. The Army Benevolent Fund contributed £1346, which included three members of the regiment being in receipt of Supplementary grants of £4 per week which amounts to £624.

Approximately 50% of those in receipt of grants are widows who are trying to exist on a widows pension. The majority of the cases assisted are in respect of arrears of bills for electricity, gas, rent and rates. Special help is given to invalids requiring bedding and clothing due to their disabilities. We have two cases of retarded children in special homes, five cases of widows in nursing homes and four in mental homes. Few cases are recurring and I find that the majority once assisted and cleared of debts and put on an even keel do not re-apply. We work in co-operation with the Royal British Legion in assisting with payment for holidays for the aged and needy. In every area a SSAFA organisation exists and anyone requiring help or advice should consult their local representative. This procedure saves time as a SSAFA recommendation is usually acted upon with no further correspondence. Strangely very few members of the Regimental Association apply for assistance. Applications usually come from those who have left the regiment and failed to keep in touch. Of those assisted in 1986 only 8 have written in to say thank you. Applications for assistance with funeral expenses are only considered under the most exceptional circumstances. This is the policy of the Army Benevolent Fund and it is considered a matter for the DHSS.

Once again I ask all members to be on the look out for members who have fallen on hard times and who are in the majority of cases to proud to ask for help, to send me their name and addresses. All cases are treated with the strictest confidence.

DONATIONS TO THE REGIMENTAL CHARITABLE FUND

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

- a. A donation of £60 from the Gostling Murray Lodge (Freemasons) in memory of the late Lawrence McDonald who died on 6 May 1986. His obituary appeared in the June 1986 newsletter.
- b. A donation of £20 from Mr J. Yeowell in memory of his father who was killed in 1917 whilst serving with the 16th (Public Schools) Bn of our regiment.
- c. A donation of £100 from Capt G.C.D. Cripps in memory of the late Sgt Jimmy Redmond who died on 14 August 1974, aged 41 years.
- d. A donation of £50 from Mr H.C. Edmonds who served with the 8th Bn in 1943 and the 1/7th Bn 1943-46.
- e. Gordon Moore, 1st Bn (2/8th), has made another donation of £25 making a total of £150 from the proceeds of his book 'Prelude to Battle'.
- f. A donation of £25 from members of the 2/7th Bn collected at their annual Luncheon.

Individual donations from: A.N. Anonymous(3), Mr T. Barton, Mr W. Belcher, Major P.G.V. Bellers, Mr R. Bourne, Mr R. Burnage, Mr G. Burton, Mr D. Cavill, Capt J.L.A. Ceaton, Mr R. Clarke, Mr E. Colebeck, Mr E. Collier, Major P. Collins, Major A.R. Cooper, Capt W.H. Craydon, Mr L. Crook, Col W.D. Ellis, Mr W. Gould, Mrs P. Hale (in memory of Percy), Lt-Col P.J. Hall, Capt D.A. Hawkins, Lt J.H. Hedgely, Mr G. Higgins, Capt J.H.S. Hudson, Mr G. Johns, Capt R.D. Jupp, Mr S. Knight, Mr J. Leat, Mrs Beryl Lloyd, Mr J. Mulcahy, Mr A. Nicholson, Major A.P. O'Gorman, Mr H. Oxley, Mr L. Page, Mr S. Peart, Mrs E. Pike, Mr L. Plumb, Capt G. Plummer, Mr G. Pocock, Capt Q.T. Robinson, Capt R.S. Rothwell, Lt-Col E.P. Shanks, Shell Pensioners Liaison Fund (in memory of the late RSM Tate), Mr N. Tarrant, Mr B. Vieler and Major R.R.T. Whitehead.

FREE NEWSLETTERS

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

Mr R. Arnold, Mr E.B. Andrews, Mr T. Barnett, Mrs Barbara Blake-Budden, Mr R. Bourne, Mr C. Bradish, Mrs C. Brust, Major J.G. Chiverall, Major J.C. Clark, Mr E. Colebeck, Capt J.O. Dare, Mr H. Daniels, Mr J. Denham, Capt M.J. Flynn, Mr W. Fox, Capt J.H. Gerrard, Mr F. Goldstraw, Mr M. Gonzalez-Flores, Mr W. Gould, Mr F. Gurney, Mr L. Hosslen, Mr A. Lewin, Mr S. Lewis, Capt J.G. Lofting, Mr W. Lockyer, Mr H. Mellor, Mr A. Nicholson, Mr S. Peart, Major F. Pemberton, Mrs M. Pentony, Mr J. Raby, Mr W. Robertson, WO2 P. Ryan, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Mr E. Thompson, Mrs J. Singleton, Capt J.R. Spooner, Mr A. Stevens, Mr E. Steward, Mr C. Stone, Mr N. Tarrant, Major V. Williams, Mr L. Woodman and Mr T.H. Woods.

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance, Westminster, on Thursday 6 November and prior to commencement of the opening ceremony planted individual names crosses for each of our 46 battalions who fought in World War 1, plus a cross for each of our 8 battalions involved in World War 2, one for the 1st Bn (Korea 1950-51) and one for B(Albuhera) Company, 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment. Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby assisted with this innovation by painting each cross with the Bn title.

At noon H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother declared the Field of Remembrance open and inspected each plot. On reaching the Middlesex Regiment plot Her Majesty stopped and remarked to the Secretary 'A very good Plot'.

The Regimental ceremony took place at the Field of Remembrance on Saturday 8 November, commencing at 10.45 a.m. As usual the party formed up outside the Middlesex Guildhall and proceeded to our plot led by B Company 6/7th Queens, followed by Mr Alan Moody, bearing the Regimental Standard. In Pensioner G. Fulton was in attendance.

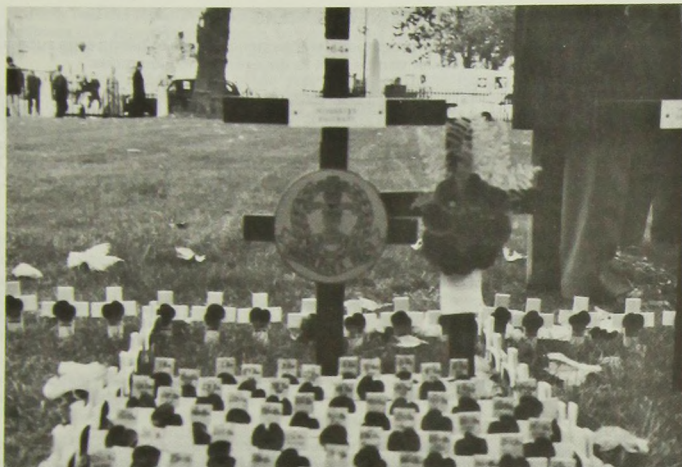
The service commenced with prayers by the Rev W.E.B. Jones. The President of the Regimental Association, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, then read The Exhortation which was followed by the Two Minutes silence. Lt-Col Chattey after saying 'I plant this cross today in memory of our fallen comrades of the Middlesex Regiment', planted a cross. The Secretary then invited the planting of personal individual crosses.

The Chaplain concluded the service by reading the Collects of the Middlesex and Queens Regiments.

The attendance was fairly good but I am sure with a little more effort it could be much better.



Inspection by H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother



The Regimental Plot

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The Regimental Remembrance Day Service was held at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, on Sunday 9 November 1986, and commenced at 10.15 a.m. The service was attended by members of the Regimental Association and their families, the Home Postal and Courier Depot Royal Engineers, 12 Company Women's Royal Army Corps and a contingent from B(Albuhera) Company 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regiment. By kind permission of Colonel P. Wescott, Commandant HPCD, RE, the service was held in the Gymnasium. The congregation numbered about 600. The service was conducted by the Rev. P.B. Denton, CF, Warden, Royal Army Chaplains Centre, assisted by Deaconess P.H. Masterman. Colonel P. Wescott read the Lesson. The Regimental Association Standard was carried by Mr R. Pile.

After the church service the congregation moved to the Regimental Memorial where the Padre read the Exhortation, this was followed by the Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were then laid by:

Regimental Association
Postal & Courier Depot RE
12 Company W.R.A.C.
B(Albuhera) Coy, 6/7th Queens
Mill Hill Branch
Hounslow Branch
Korean Club

Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE.
Colonel P. Wescott.
Major S. Burwell.
Major D. Harwood, TD.
Capt W.H. Craydon.
Major R.G.C. Thornton.
Mr A. Loftis.

At the March Past the salute was taken by Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, President of the Regimental Association and by Colonel P. Wescott, Commandant Home Postal and Courier Depot R.E.

As usual former Sgt L.T. Plumb commanded the Regimental Association Old Comrades, numbering 53, our Chairman, Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow, JP, marching past with the Old Comrades.

The church collection amounted to £225 and a cheque for this amount has been forwarded to the Royal British Legion Earl Haig's Poppy Appeal.

At the end of all this activity we moved to the T.A. Centre, Edgware, where Ann Torbet had laid out a splendid spread and which as usual disappeared with incredible speed.

REMEMBRANCE WREATHS

On Thursday 6 November the Secretary planted a Middlesex Regiment badged cross on the Far East Prisoner of War Plot at the Field of Remembrance.

A Middlesex Regiment badged wreath was laid at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on Remembrance Sunday 9 November, by Mr L.T. Plumb, on behalf of the Regimental Association.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 7th Bn MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Remembrance Sundays seem to come round faster each year, but the poignancy and solemnity of the occasion and the memories stirred are as vivid and moving as ever. At Hornsey Parish Church this year the Rector, the Reverend Geoffrey Seabrook, in his address referred to the fact that this year is the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, and those of us who had watched the British Legion Festival of Remembrance the night before must all have been moved by the small group of survivors of that fearsome battle who were present at the Albert Hall and admired, at least I did, their bearing and carriage as they marched across the arena. Let us hope that our bearing and pride in our service will be as good as theirs when we reach their age (D.V.) and are present at any Remembrance Sunday Service.

The Parish Church of St Mary with St George, Hornsey, was once again the scene of the 7th Bns Remembrance, centred on the Memorial Chapel. The Parish service is built around the 7th Bn's Old Comrades, with, after the welcome from the Rector and opening hymn, a solemn procession behind the Parish Cross of the Wreath bearers and the Rector down the centre aisle of the church and round to the Memorial Chapel. There, after Lt-Col D.E. Simpson had recited the lines from the Kohima Memorial and 'They Shall Not Grow Old' and the sounding of the Last Post by a bugler from the A.T.C., the two minutes silence was observed. Reveille signalled the end and then wreaths were laid at the altar by Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell on behalf of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club, by Mr C.A. White for the Hornsey and Enfield Diehards, by Lt P.A. Chattle for B Company 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regiment, by Major F. Webb for the new Hornsey Branch of the Queen's Regimental Association and by F/O C.A. Trawin, RAFVR(T) for the 16(F) Wood Green and Hornsey Sqn A.T.C. The Rector read the Middlesex Regiment and the Queen's Regiment Collects before the procession reformed and returned to their places. Once again, emphasising the link between the 7th and the Parish Church Lt-Col Simpson read the lesson to a full church of about 200 people, including a party of serving T.A. from B Company, Hornsey, the Hornsey Company A.C.F., the Wood Green and Hornsey A.T.C., a number of 7th Old Comrades, and the Parish congregation. Following the Service the uniformed parties, augmented by the members of B Company who had attended the parade at Mill Hill, marched back to Hornsey Drill Hall, accompanied by the A.T.C. Band and, most importantly and for the first time for a number of years, a 15 strong body of Old Comrades marching immediately behind the T.A. contingent showing all the proud bearing of Old Soldiers to which I referred earlier.

At the request of Major Derrick Harwood, OC B Company, Lt-Col Simpson, accompanied by the Rector, took the salute of the parade as they marched back along Priory Road. A cold dry morning, but a most warming and moving one.

Later there was a get-together at the Hornsey Drill Hall where the marching Old Comrades were joined a number of others to partake in a drink and the hospitality of B Company.

Now that a new start has been made 'on parade' let us look forward to a doubling of the muster next year.

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A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

With the June 1986 Newsletter I sent out a copy of the Museum Brochure and two Regimental Christmas Cards and asked each member to pay a £1 to save me from getting the sack.

Your response has been stupendous. Over 80% of our membership responded, many by paying over the odds, and are still doing so by sending an extra £1 with their annual subscription for 1987. The exercise has been a complete success and I have sold a further 2000 Christmas cards. Thank you all for your support which is very much appreciated.

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

Members of the Regiment will be pleased to hear that British Servicemen who lost their lives in the Korean War in 1950-53 are to be commemorated by a plaque to be placed in the crypt of St Paul's Cathedral.

Nearly 1000 were killed in action or died on service of which the Regiment lost 43 killed and 94 wounded. Some were buried in the prisoner of war camps, some in the United Nations Cemetery in Pusan and others in the Allied beachhead in South Korea.

The South Korean Government is providing the stone of Korean black granite for the memorial which is to be dedicated in March next year. It is hoped that The Queen Mother will attend the service, full details of which will be announced in due course.

Mr. David Kindersley, the stone carver who was the sculptor for the Falklands War Memorial also in the crypt of St Paul's, has been commissioned to design and carve the plaque which will include the regimental crests of all units which fought in the campaign.

The cost is being met by subscription and the Regimental Association is appealing for donations towards the £500 which it has been asked to contribute.

If you would like to make a donation towards this outlay of regimental funds please send your cheque/ postal order to the Secretary of the Regimental Association; made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

The following items have been presented to the Regimental Museum:

Two framed miniatures of Lt-Col Mathew Frederick Steele and Mrs. Steele. The inscription on the reverse reads: Born 1792 at Sutton Court, Surrey. Married Ann Gillum. 77th Foot (East Middlesex). Previous to joining 77th Foot served in the Royal Marines and was awarded Java Medal and Bar 1811.

Purchased - the Ogilby Museum Trust contributing half the cost.

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The medals of the late WO2(ORQMS) R.R. Chaplin, consisting of: 1939-45 Star, Pacific Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45, Meritorious Medal, Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

Presented by his widow, Mrs E.E. Chaplin.

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Roll of Honour Book, Korea 1950-53.

Presented by Col A.M. Man, DSO, OBE, President of the Korean Club.

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Photograph of A Company 2/8th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), taken at Canterbury, Kent, in June 1917. The photograph is 44 inches long and 8 inches wide, and is of extremely good quality.

Presented by Mrs D.V. Rogers, Woodseaves, Stafford, whose father appears in the photograph.

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Fore and Aft Cap worn by the late Lt-Col F.G. Parker.

Presented by his daughter, Mrs Beryl Loyd.

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Lace Handkerchief which belonged to Lady Inglis, wife of Sir William Inglis.

Presented by Miss Katherine J. Inglis.

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Embroidered framed plaque of the Colours of the 2nd Bn 1884. Made in India by former Private William Robert Moss, a member of the 2nd Bn who served from 1880-90, together with a typewritten account of his life story.

Presented by his brother Mr S.J. (Jack) Moss, P.O. Box 390, Waynesville, North Carolina 28786, U.S.A.

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Magazines of the 1/7th Bn, Volume 1, Numbers 6 and 7 dated December 1945 and January 1946.

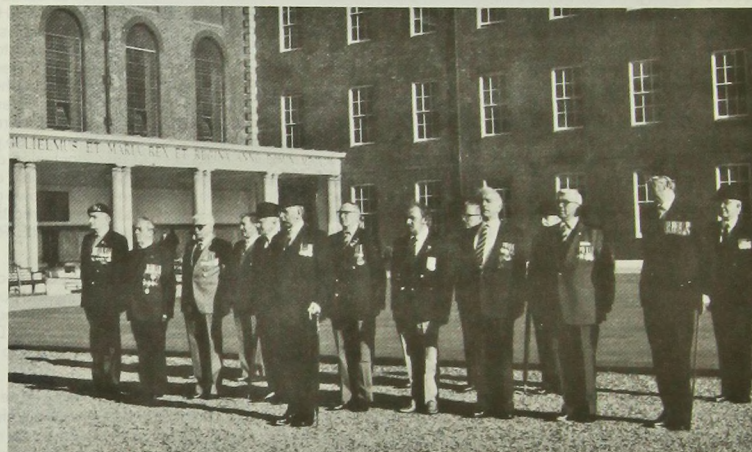
Presented by former L/Cpl J.P. Bell (6209198), B Company 1/7th Bn.

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CHURCH PARADE AT THE ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA

On Sunday 19 October 1986, forty members, wives and friends, attended the Royal Hospital Church Parade. The party was led by our President and Chairman, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey and Brig B.A.M. Pielow. This year the Old Comrades had the honour of being inspected by the Governor of the Royal Hospital, General Sir Robert Ford, GCB, CBE, who spoke to the majority of those on parade. The services was conducted by the Hospital Padre, The Rev A.D. Bartlett, MA, who mentioned the regiment prior to his Sermon. The Secretary was 'On Parade' with his camera and the result is pictured below.

After the Service we moved to the Ives Room of the In Pensioners Club where a buffet had been arranged. Our senior In Pensioner Charlie Painter, who is at present an occupant of the infirmary, craftily arranged for two nurses to bring him over so that he could attend the church service and to enjoy a drink with his comrades. We were all very pleased indeed to see him. He is a great supporter of the regiment and is a regular attendee at the majority of our parades despite his age. This service is always very popular indeed with our members.



Old Comrades on Parade

HOUNSLOW BRANCH VISIT 'THE SOMME' FOR 70th ANNIVERSARY THIEPVAL 1 JULY 1986

It was appropriate that our journey to Thiepval for the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme should start from Hounslow Drill Hall where so many men enlisted into Kitchener's Army in that wave of euphoria which swept the country in 1914, and which was to give birth to so many 'Pals', Chums and Tradesmans battalions and which were later embodied into the famous British Regiments of the line. Ultimately these men and others like them were to fight the Battle of the Somme with the tremendous casualties and far reaching effects on the generation of the time. We sailed from Dover, nine in number, with our destination of Calais, although Boulogne was the port more favoured by the Army of 1914-18 and on arrival in France we headed for Lille to stay at our usual hotel. On arrival we dumped our kit and set out for the Ypres salient to visit Plugstreet cemetery and see the sounding of Last Post at the Menin Gate another of the famous memorials designed by well known architects and so well maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

We did not tarry, but returned to our hotel as an early reveille was the order of the day as we had a long journey in front of us. We departed from our hotel at 7.30 a.m., the time at which the infantry went over the top on that fateful day seventy years previously. We drove down the new auto route to Baupaume and then along the N29 towards Albert on a road as straight as an arrow which could only have been built by the Roman army

which passed this way and then rising above all else we saw Sir Edwin Lutyens massive arched memorial to the missing of the Somme and on which are recorded the names of over 73,000 men who died in 1916-17 and who have no known grave. We were directed in a quiet and efficient manner by the French Police through Aveluy past Aveluy Wood which had been the forming up point and start line for the assault on Thiepval Ridge, to Authuille where we parked the cars and climbed out into a day as balmy and beautiful as far as weather was concerned almost identical to that of seventy years previous. At 10.15 a.m. it was hard to imagine that the battle had by now been raging for over three hours for the 47 Regular and 194 New Army and Territorial battalions and for six days for the Artillery and supply troops. We made our way up the hill and around the corner past the police and Red Cross tents to the area of the fine lawns which lead up to this impressive memorial and found the marker for the Queens Division and we sat on the wall to await the arrival of H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, the assembly of the various Standards both British and French which were to take part in the ceremony and pay homage to the fallen.

The RSM of the Green Howards was suffering sore frustration in getting the French Contingent to extinguish cigarettes and stand by to move off. We took up our position on the marker and were greeted by the President of the Regimental Old Comrades Association, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey and his wife, the standards were marched on and the Somme veterans of Britain and France were seated in their places of honour. H.R.H. The Duke of Kent and the Clergy proceeded to the great central arch of the memorial for the service in the presence of approximately 5000 people. The opening hymn 'O God our Help in Ages Past' was sung to the accompaniment of three regular army bands. His Royal Highness then read the funeral oration of Pericles which was followed by the hymn 'O Valiant Heart', then sounded out the Last Post from beneath the arches so perfectly as most people will ever hear it played, a Lone Piper played the lament 'The Flowers of the Forest are all Gang Awa'. The Chaplain General to the Army then led the congregation in prayers, the laying of the wreaths followed, the most poignant moment being when two British and two French veterans, men now past 85 years climbed the steep steps in the sweltering heat to lay wreaths to 'Our Comrades'. At the conclusion of the service we walked amongst the equal numbers of unknown French and British graves which are laid out in front of the memorial, viewed the vast panels on which are inscribed the names of the men with no known grave from this great battle, including 1944 members of The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), and remembered that in this area our regiment won two Victoria Crosses, on the same day, Private F.J. Edwards and Private R.E. Ryder, both of the 12th Battalion.

We returned down the hill to our cars to take out our picnic hamper and entertained Lt-Col and Mrs Chattey to lunch, an Ulsterman, a regular soldier who gave us a potted history of the battles first day and pointed out various places of interest. We dispersed hospitality to various passers by with whom we entered into debate on the events of the battle. We spoke with two veterans of that epic battle's first day, Mr Crowe, DCM, MM, aged 93 of the Royal Artillery and Mr Bradshaw aged 90 of the Accrington Pals. We then moved to Vimy Ridge.

So within a short period we had visited the tragic killing grounds of our Grandfathers, where now countless British tourists pass through on their holidays to Europe, that in 1916 and 1917 were truly 'Hell on Earth'.



Our President on Parade

MJW.



The Hounslow Nine

2/8th Bn (Resuscitated 1st Battalion)

Please note that future luncheons will be held at the Victory Services Club, London W2, bi-annually. The next luncheon will take place in May 1988, when details will be notified to all members.

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

The Old Comrades' Association of the 2/10th Battalion held their customary Remembrance Service on Sunday 9 November, at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick. The Service was well attended by relatives and friends, and was conducted by the Rev Patrick Tuft, Vicar of Chiswick and Honorary Chaplain to the Association; the lesson was read by Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow, JP.

Amongst those present were Lt-Col T.W. Chattey (President of the Regimental Association), Brig B.A.M. Pielow and Mrs Pielow, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton and Mrs Clayton, Major A.E.F. Waldron and Mrs Waldron, plus Mr John Soden. Poppy wreaths were placed on the Memorials to the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Bns by Capt D.A. Hawkins, A.D. Scudamore and Major A.E.F. Waldron; after the Service tea and refreshments were served in the Church Hall by Mrs J. Barrett and her lady helpers, and a celebration cake provided by Capt Hawkins was presented celebrating the 90th birthday anniversary of 'Scudy', the President of the 2/10th OCA. We wish to place on record the deep appreciation of our Padre's assurance relating to the future continuance of the Memorial Service to which the members of the OCA attach such vital importance.

The 59th Luncheon Reunion of the OCA will be held at the Victory Services Club, 63/79 Seymour Street, London W2, on Saturday the 16 May 1987 (Albuhera Day); further information about this gathering will be circulated in due course.

A.D.S.

2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

At last we have cracked it! After years of striving to get an attendance up to the 70 mark, the combination of our 40th Reunion and a move to lunchtime resulted in no less than 92 attending our luncheon on Friday 3 October 1986, at the Victory Services Club under the Chairmanship of Lt-Col R.E. Robotham, MC, TD.

Lt-Col J.D. Robbins made a brief appearance but could not stay for the meal, and among over 40 apologies received was one from Brigadier E.W.C. Flavell, who had been laid low by a cold.

As always, we were delighted to welcome as our guests Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, and Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, who were joined on this occasion by Mr D.G. Stovey, manager of the Victory Services Club. We were also pleased to have with us, as an honorary member for the day, Mr John McLoughlin, son of the late 'Paddy' McLoughlin who joined B Company in 1940.

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs P.H. Richardson, god-daughter of the late Lt-Col S. Mirams, MC, TD, we were provided with port, with which we drank a toast to the memory of Col Mirams and of the late Major G.A.H. Bower, MC, TD, who were our first Commanding Officer and Second-in-Command respectively. A further toast was drunk to Col and Mrs Robbins, which was proposed by Capt A.I.F. Goldman in a felicitous tribute which has achieved an added poignancy in view of Col Robbins' subsequent death as reported elsewhere in this issue.

Once again members attended from far and wide, and there were a dozen who were appearing for the first time or after an interval of over thirty years, so there was plenty to talk about. Our collection achieved a total of £435, the second highest ever.

We meet again next year for luncheon on Thursday 1 October 1987, and our aim now is to get our attendance up to, or above, the 100 mark, so please do your best to attend.

RHT

KOREAN CLUB

The Annual General Meeting of the Korean Club was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3, on 4th October 1986.

The committee will now be:

President
Vice Presidents

Col A.M. Man, DSO, OBE.
Major C.L. Lawrence, MC.
Major B. St G.A. Reed, MC.
Major M.P.D. Eastap.
Mr A. Lofts.
Mr S.E. Webb.

Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

The annual reunion was held on the same evening at which 170 members and their wives and friends attended. Our guests were Lt-Col T.W. Chattey and Major A.E.F. Waldron, President and Secretary of the Regimental Association respectively.

During the course of the evening Col A.M. Man, President of the Korean Club, presented to the Regimental Museum the 'Roll of Honour Book'. Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Chairman of the Museum Trustees accepted the Roll of Honour Book, with pleasure, and stated that it would be placed on permanent display next to the Korean Case. The Roll of Honour Book is now on display and can be seen by visitors.

The Memorial Plaque presented by Mr R. Yerby, which gives the names of those killed in action is subject of separate correspondence which is being handled by the Secretary of the Regimental Association with the Vicar of St Paul's Church, Mill Hill. The Vicar has put the correspondence to his Parochial Council and a decision is awaited. Recently a photograph of the plaque was asked for and this has been supplied.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT



REGULAR BATTALIONS

The 1st Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Mike Ball, will return to Tidworth in January 1987 after a two year tour in Gibraltar. The 2nd Battalion, under Lt Col Peter Cook, moved from Oakington to Minden in August this year. The 3rd Battalion, commanded by Lt Col Bob McGhie, were in Belize from April to October 1986 when they returned to Canterbury where they will be based until their move to Aldergrove in January 1988.

TA BATTALIONS

The 5th (Volunteer) and 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalions were joined in the Regiment's order of battle in April by the 8th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Fusiliers (City of London). This battalion has its Battalion Headquarters at St John's Hill, London, and will have both Queen's and Royal Regiment of Fusiliers companies under command.

ANNIVERSARIES

In addition to the 325th Anniversary of the raising of the Tangier Regiment, The Queen's Regiment also celebrates this year the 20th Anniversary of its formation on 31 December 1966 from the four previous Infantry regiments from the South East. It is interesting to note that we now have a Commanding Officer (3rd Battalion) who was commissioned into the present regiment and an RSM (5th (Volunteer) Battalion) who never served in one of our forbear regiments.

EXERCISING THE FREEDOMS

The Queen's Regiment has no less than 12 Civic Honours (including Barnet inherited from the Middlesex Regiment) and it is the Colonel of the Regiment's policy that these should be exercised regularly. Thus the 5th (Volunteer) Battalion exercised the Freedom of Folkestone on 16th June and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion the Freedom of Arundel on 30th August. In 1987 the 3rd Battalion will march through Barnet (9th June), Chichester (11th June), Kingston-upon-Thames (12th June) and Ashford (13th June) and the 6th/7th (Volunteer) Battalion through Brighton (5th September).

DOVER CASTLE MUSEUM APPEAL

The Appeal for £75,000 to pay for the move of The Queen's Regiment Museum from Howe Barracks, Canterbury, and its setting up in Dover Castle, was launched in April. Leaflets telling the history of The Queen's Regiment, together with notes on the castle and English Heritage, were circulated widely in support of the fund-raising efforts. Donations payable to 'The Queen's Regiment Museum Appeal' may still be sent to Regimental Headquarters. The Regimental Museum will be officially opened in its new location on or about our next Regimental Day - Albuhera Day - 16th May 1987.

REGIMENTAL CHRISTMAS CARD

In view of the Dover Castle Museum Appeal, this year's Regimental Christmas Card features the water colour by Harry and Arthur Payne of the 77th Regiment marching past Dover Castle with the harbour and town in the background. These cards are being sold for £2.00 per dozen from Regimental Headquarters.

FLYING DRAGONS

Many readers will have seen the Regimental Free Fall Team 'The Flying Dragons' at the Grand Reunion on 13th July. They have had a very successful first season and gave the Regiment excellent publicity wherever they appeared. Bookings are now being taken for 1987 by the Team Commander, Lt Andrew Brown, at Depot, The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks, Royston DH8 5LX (Tel: 0763-42271 ext 4302). The Team will be in even greater demand next year, so bids should be made as soon as possible.

THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT JOURNAL

The Queen's Regiment Journal is published in June and December each year, price £2 a copy. It is packed with news and photographs of all sections of the Regiment including the Middlesex Regiment Association and contains several articles of general interest. There are always colour pictures on the front and back covers and sometimes also within the 80 pages in each edition. All members of the Regimental family should try to read the Journal, or even better, purchase their own copy. Subscription forms are included in the Journal and are also available from The Editor, Regimental Headquarters, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1JU.

ROYAL HONG KONG REGIMENT (THE VOLUNTEERS) ASSOCIATION

The London Branch of the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) Association held their annual dinner on Friday 30 May 1986, at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London W1. Lt-Col T.W. Chattey (guest) and Major A.E.F. Waldron attended.

6/7th Bn THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

The Bn have recently been given permission to re-designate their companies after appropriate Battle Honours and they have elected 'Albuhera' as their title.

W.e.f. 1 August 1986, they will be known as B(Albuhera) Company for external purposes, but with the Bn will be titled plain Albuhera Company.

Their correct address will now be - B(Albuhera) Company, 6/7th(V) Bn The Queen's Regiment, TA Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Mx HA8 9BA.

HORNSEY (ALBUHERA) BRANCH O.C.A. THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT

The Hornsey (Albuhera) Branch O.C.A. The Queen's Regiment is now in being and all members of the regimental association are cordially invited to attend. They meet on the last Friday in each month at the T.A. Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, London N8, at 8 p.m.

The Committee is:

President
Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell, TD.
Major F. Webb, MBE.
Mr M.J. Kelly.
Mr R. Aldridge.

7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS CLUB

The 59th Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers Club was held at the T.A. Centre, Hornsey, on Thursday 6 November 1986.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were – Maj Gen B.P. Hughes, Brig. B.A.M. Pielow, Mr J. Higham, Maj J.C. Rogerson, F/O J.A. Rook and Lt M. Russell.

The following members attended – Lt M. Asplin, Col F.G. Barber, Major M.J. Beaumont, Col I.D. Brotherton, Capt K.A.I. Carter, Major P.D.F. Clarke, Major H.E. Couch, Capt S.A. Blausten, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S. le M. Enthoven, Lt-Col P.J. Hall, Major D. Harwood, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Capt P.J.T. Lane, Major R.J. Leighton, Lt-Col R.E. Lowans, Major D.J. Margand, Major T.J. Medcalf, Major M.C. Mercer, Lt P.J. Ottino, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Major B. St. G.A. Reed, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Capt P.A. Stocken, Major R.F. Sykes, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Major R.G.C. Thornton, 2Lt F. Tusa, Major F. Webb, Lt-Col G.W. Webber, Lt D. Wray.

Apologies were received from – Capt G.G. Andrew, Major R. Bartram, Mgr R. Brown, Lt-Col S.F. Caulfield-Kerney, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Col W.D. Ellis, Brig E.W.C. Flavell, Lt D.H.S. Herriott, Lt S.B. Hurst, Captain W.G. Kay, Capt J.K. Laurence, Major C.L. Lawrence, Capt F.S. Mayman, Col A.M. Man, Capt K.D. Murray, Major E.J. Naish, Major G.G. Norton, Brig B.B. Rackham, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Lt J.R. Spooner and Capt G.J. Young.

51st (HIGHLAND) DIVISION DINNER CLUB

The 51st (Highland) Division Dinner Club held their 86th Reunion Dinner at Gleneagles Hotel on Friday 31 October 1986.

This year the 1/7th Bn were honoured to be asked to provide the Chairman, the first English regiment in the course of 86 Dinners to chair such an illustrious gathering. In future the chair will be taken on a rota basis with the participating Highland Bns. Major Alan Carter, 1/7th Bn, undertook to carry out this duty. He very cleverly arranged a support group consisting of Capt and Mrs Jimmy Dare, Sgt John Horn from Edinburgh, plus his own daughter and son-in-law. Regrettably Brig B.B. Rackham, Majors Michael Pearson and Humphrey Wigan were unable to be present. In his speech to the assembled gathering mention was made going back to 1940, of the fact that our sister regiment the 1st Bn The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, along with the 7th Bn The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers, had the distinction of supporting General Fortune's 'first' Highland Division, who held off the Germans so heroically at St Valery to give the major part of the BEF the opportunity to get away from Dunkirk. Sterling tribute was also paid to the unbroken attendance year after year since 1945 by the late Major 'Tiggit' Hughes and his wife Penny in supporting the Gleneagles Dinner. This fact was clearly recognised at the Dinner in 1981 when 'Tiggit' was asked to Reply to the Toast of 'The 51st (Highland) Division', proposed by General Sir Michael Gow, then C-in-C of BAOR. Major Alan Carter closed his speech with an extract from the late Sir Winston Churchill's speech at a Royal Naval Division's Reunion at the Crystal Palace in 1930, which ran:

'Keep together. Do not let the hands which are joined fall apart. Do not let those sacrifices and associations, which grew in the white flame of the furnace of war, burn out into cold embers in the years of Peace'. He then proposed the Toast of 'The Division'.

Brig James Oliver wrote on 7 November and thanked Major Carter for the way he had 'chaired' the Dinner and his final sentence was 'a great credit to the Diehards'. The 1987 Dinner will be held at the Army and Navy Club in January and the 2nd Derby Yeomanry (the Recce Regt) will be the second English regiment to be asked to chair the dinner.

PERSONAL JOTTINGS

26/11/86
Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Baldwin, widow of Major C.M. Baldwin, MBE, killed on 1 June 1940 sends best wishes to all her friends.

A recent correspondent was Major Kenneth McKenzie Biggs from Auldirth, Dumfries, still going strong – must be the Johnny Walker.

Major Bob Bartlett has just returned from a four month tour of the Falklands. His next posting to BAOR where he will be employed with the 1 Armoured Div HQ and Signal Regiment, Verdon, taking over from Major Joe O'Gorman.

Former Cpl Rodger Bourne, a resident of San Antonio, Texas, recently visited the U.K. for a holiday and attended the Bath and West Agricultural Show. Whilst walking round he met Lt-Cols Norman Clayden and John Hewson and Major Paul Truman. He also visited Canterbury and had lunch in a pub at Lower Hardres, saw the signpost pointing to Upper Hardres and failed to remember the connection. A black mark to Bourne. He now runs his own security company.

Former Sgt Archie Brown, 9th Bn, now over 89 left in mid December for a three month visit to New Zealand and Australia. He recently visited me at Upper Hardres, driving himself from Uxbridge.

Lt-Col Peter Cheesman writes to say that he is thoroughly enjoying his job as Services Liaison Officer Hannover. He has got his family well organised – Ingrid teaches a bit of German or English, Claudia now 20 is working as a ground hostess for B.A. at the local airport and Julia 19 is studying at a Media School in the city.

Major Ken Clayden recently moved from Longridge to Scorton, Preston, and despite this move is still looking for a resting place on the top of a mountain. Regretfully Joan has not been too well but is getting better. 40 years of BKC!

Capt George Cripps tells me that he is still on crutches or in a wheel chair. His new address is Abergele, Clwyd – sounds very romantic. He was very sorry indeed to hear of the death of Mitch Fordham at such an early age – they both worked together in the Orderly Room.

Leslie M. Crook (6206765), originally B Company 1/7th Bn and later CSM Infantry Training informs me that although of a different generation he has attended a couple of meetings of the newly formed branch of Queen's Regt Assn at Hornsey and has been made most welcome.

Colonel Desmond Ellis is a mine of information and his knowledge of the T.A. and its members is a great asset and saves me a lot of time in trying to find answers to all sorts of questions. He can relate many interesting personal episodes that are very intriguing 40 or so years after the event.

Capt Michael Flynn who retired last July has found employment with the Cambridgeshire Red Cross and has been appointed Director for the county. He has also moved house to Aldreth, Cambs.

Our sincere congratulations to Col Richard Graham on his promotion and appointment as Chief of Staff, 1 Armd Div., BAOR, from November 1986.

A surprise visitor to Lynsore Bungalow in early October was former Sgt Bob Hook and his wife Doreen. Bob served from 1947 to 1958 and will be well known to members of the 1st Bn. They were on holiday from Australia. After leaving the service he joined the Metropolitan Police and later emigrated to Tasmania again finding employment with the Police. They moved on to Australia settling in Darwin. During this time he was studying law, finally qualifying, and was appointed Stipendiary Magistrate for Darwin. Before he left he found his name had been added to the Regimental Association members list.

Former Private H.G. Ham (1615), aged 91 years, was admitted to the Royal Star and Garter Home, Richmond, on 20 July 1986. He served with our 16th (Public Schools) Bn 1915-16 and the 12th Bn 1916-17.

Former WO(RSM) J.P. Hamill has retired from the regular army. He is now a member of the N.R. Permanent Staff WO2(RQMS), of the 8th (V) Bn of the Queens/Fusiliers(City of London) Regiment.

Our sincere congratulations to Major D. Harwood, TD, on his promotion and appointment to command B(Albuhera) Company of the 6/7th (V) Bn The Queen's Regiment at Edgware. His service with the T.A. commenced in our 7th Bn 1958-61, 5 Mx 1961-65, 5 Queens 1965-75 and 6/7th Queens from 1975 to date. He is now a member of the Regimental Association and Officers Club.

Former Sgt George (Tich) Higgins informs me that he and his family have just returned from a holiday in Hong Kong and Australia. He states that the badge on the hill is in good 'nick'. Since the last reunion he had a spell in Westminster Hospital with gout. He is now on the 'Pill'.

Bandmaster Bill Jackson tells me that he has retired (yet again!) and intends to enjoy what life is left to the full. He is also a golfing enthusiast.

R.E. Knowles (6207423), writes from Canada to say how much he enjoyed the 2/8th (Res 1st) Bn Luncheon at the Victory Club last May and meeting up again with his old pals.

Major Chris Lawrence has accepted a retired officer appointment at Bulford.

Major Chris Mieville has recently retired and we wish them both all the best things in life.

Maj Gen Chris Man visited his sister who lives in Canterbury during the first week in October and Grace and I had the pleasure of joining them for tea. Despite his disability he was very cheerful indeed and I think at the end of the afternoon we had put the world right. Topsy was unable to come down from Scotland. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

A month later Col Andrew Man arrived in Canterbury and we visited RHQ Queens together spending a very enjoyable hour or so with the staff that run the RHQ. They serve up a splendid 'sherry'. After collecting Grace from home we had a splendid pub lunch. So very nice indeed to see them both in such a short space of time.

Sadly Sgt 'Nick' Nicholson tells me that his wife died on the 15th January last and, of course, he misses her very much and finds life difficult and lonely. I feel sure that in 1987 he will come down from Redcar, Cleveland, and join us at the annual reunion and St Paul's. He sends his regards to George Cooper and Cliff Burgess and all his old pals of 1st Bn days.

Major Jim Naish, commissioned into the regiment in 1943, who served with the 2nd Bn 1945-47 and later with the 5th Bn, has retired and moved from Ealing to Tisbury, Wilts.

Major Paddy Orr informs that his son David who is a 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoon Guard is currently A.D.C. to the General Commanding the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst.

Ex Bandsman Sidney Pinner (6195762) who served with the 2nd Bn 1923-35 has recently moved from Cambridge to Cromer. He tells me that he is still playing bowls at 83 and that he is in good health.

Mrs Margaret Pentony mother of Cpl Pentony killed in Korea sends her regards to all members of the regiment. Although she was able to attend the Albuhera Service at St Paul's she thinks that it may be the last time as it is very difficult to get around now.

Ex Sgt 'Nutty' Page (6201260) has moved from one part of Blacon Chester to another. He sends his regards to all his old friends.

Our sincere congratulations were sent to Brig B.B. Rackham on the 20 November on the occasion of his 90th birthday. We reminded him that he was the 'elder' of all regimental regular officers. Her Majesty The Queen has been alerted that a telegram will be required on 20 November 1996.

Mrs Peggy Reece widow of the late WO2 Bert Reece tells me that her individual poppy collection came to £828.70. This was in the Cardiff area - a wonderful effort.

Nicola the grand daughter of Mr & Mrs F.A. Rowe, 1/7th Bn, was baptised in the Regimental Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral on Sunday 5 October 1986.

All Diehards send best wishes to Col and Mrs Max Summers. We miss them at our Remembrance parades but always look round to see if by some miraculous means they have appeared.

Mr C.G. Stone (6208717) ex Bombadier with 431 Company R.A. (9th Bn) sends his regards to all his old comrades, especially Sgt (Kate) Carney's detachment during the period May 1939 to March 1941.

Ernie Stebbing of 1932 vintage who lives at Great Cornard, Sudbury, sends his regards to all his old pals, especially Pat Donovan. Another old Diehard of 1919 vintage who lives in the same village, George Pocock (6189323), now 85, does the same.

Our sincere congratulations to Mr A.D. (Scudie) Scudamore, on reaching his 90th birthday on 10 November. As the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the 2/10th O.C.A. we raise our hats to him. Once again I have alerted H.M. The Queen. There is little doubt that Diehards do not like going 'up' or 'down'.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:

Cpl Derick Baston (22047024), 4 PI B Company 1st Bn 1948-50. On leaving the service he joined the T.A. serving with 4 Buffs and 5 Queens and reached the rank of CSgt with HQ Company at Canterbury. Now a Conversion Manager with Bowaters, Sittingbourne.

LCpl Richard Ernest Beall (23739592) C and HQ Company 1st Bn 1960-69. He is a Heavy Goods (PSV) Operator and at one time was a driver for the Q.M. One of the reasons I have gone a little grey. I was very pleased indeed to see him at the Remembrance Service, Mill Hill - he almost bought me a drink.

Capt J.L.A. (Jim) Ceaton (6201478 and 269805). He enlisted as a boy soldier in 1934 and in 1938 was appointed Drum Major of the 2nd Bn, all in 4 years. Incidentally the youngest Drum Major in the British Army at the age of 19 years. After being wounded at Dunkirk, he served as a Warrant Officer and later as a commissioned officer with the 2/7th Bn, throughout the war in North Africa and Italy, but was wounded again and captured during the landings at Anzio. Finally he saw service in Palestine before being demobbed in 1945. He is at

present on 6 months holiday in New Zealand and Australia. On his return he will be residing in Glasgow.

Cpl Henry Charles (Harry) Edmonds (14425485). Served 8th Bn 1943 and 1/7th Bn 1943-46. He later re-enlisted and served with the Army Catering Corps until 1952. He has recently retired from the Borough of Haringey where he was a senior storekeeper.

Pte William Henry Fussell (14567508). Served with B Company 2/7th Bn from 1940-45 and saw service in North Africa and Italy.

Cpl P.B. Grant (23782554). Served with C Company 1st Bn and 4 Queens during period 1960-72. He now works for London Transport.

Cpl George Peacock (14230510). Served with HQ and C Company 2/7th Bn from August 1942 until August 1943 when he was posted to 6th Cheshires and later RASC, leaving the service in 1947.

LCpl Brian George Perrott (23965550). Served with HQ Company 1st Bn from 1963-1967. He now lives in Victoria, Australia and is a Business Sales Rep for Telecom Australia. He has a special claim to fame – was baby sitter for the late Lt-Col John Pollard.

Private Frederick Rich (22950094). Served from 1954 to 1957 with the 1st Bn in Austria and Cyprus. His special claim to fame is that he was my batman. I was very sad to learn that he has been an invalid for many years and is on a kidney machine.

Private M.G. de S. Taunton (22264709). Served with Signal Pl HQ Company 1st Bn 1949-54, in Hong Kong, Korea and Austria. He now resides at St Lawrence, Jersey, C.I. and is a qualified Incorporated Valuer Estate Agent.

Drummer D.A. Tollfield (22845808). Served with Corps of Drums, HQ Company, 1st Bn from 1953-56. Now employed as a Security Officer.

Basil Charles Vieler (6204986). Served with A company, 2nd Bn continuously from 1939-46. He is the Manager of a Holiday Centre at Broadstairs, Kent.

OBITUARY

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

BARTER – On 14 July 1986, former Private Hugh Thomas William Barter (6216714), aged 62 years. Tom Barter enlisted on 26 February 1942 and after completion of his initial training at Chester was posted to 2nd Bn The Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment, joining A Company. He was wounded and after returning from convalescence was again wounded. He was medically downgraded and transferred to the RASC on 25 June 1945 and finally discharged on 11 December 1946. He was made a Freeman of the City of London on 1 March 1963. In civilian life he was a compositor with the 'Sun' Newspaper.

BRETT – On 2 September 1986, former Sgt Ernest Arthur (Lardy) Brett (L/17787 and 6189535), aged 84 years. He enlisted on 13 February 1919 serving with the 1st Bn until 19 November 1920. From 20 November 1920 to 12 December 1928 he was with the 2nd Bn and finally 1st Bn to 2 September 1941 when he was discharged at his own request.

BREW – On 15 November 1986, Mrs Agnes Brew, wife of former Drummer Don Brew.

BRUCE – On 25 August 1986, Major Edward Macaulay Bruce, aged 78 years. Major Bruce was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in 1939. In 1943 he was posted from the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment to the 2/7th Bn and was appointed OC B Company, serving until demobilisation at the end of 1945. He was mentioned in Dispatches – London Gazette of 11 January 1945. Major R. Rowbotham, MC, TD, attended the funeral and also represented the Regimental Association.

BURKITT – On 30 August 1986, former Sgt Robert George Burkitt (6198488), aged 74 years. Bob Burkitt enlisted on 22 August 1928, and was posted to the 1st Bn then at Catterick, Colchester followed and then off on an overseas tour commencing with Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong in August 1937. Bob was always in the Signals and was made a LCpl in 1934, Cpl in 1937, LSgt in 1938 and in 1939 appointed Signal Sgt taking over from Sgt Bunny Bayford, who was posted to the UK. On Christmas Day 1941 he was taken POW at the fall of Hong Kong and spent the whole of his POW days in the Colony. He was seriously ill on many occasions during this time but miraculously survived the rigours of POW life. He was repatriated to UK at the end of 1945 and medically discharged on 12 October 1946. Bob amazed us all by his indomitable will to come through and I have the greatest

admiration for his courage in the face of adversity. He was a most likeable character with a good sense of humour. Our sincere condolences go to his widow, Lena, on the loss of a dear husband and a true Diehard.

FIRMAN – On 28 September 1986, Mrs Annie V. Firman, aged 66 years, widow of the late WO2 F. Firman. Mrs E. Markham, Mrs F. Jennings and Mrs H. Stagg attended the funeral, representing the Regimental Association.

FORDHAM – On 3 September 1986, former Cpl J.M. (Mitch) Fordham, aged 48 years. Mitch Fordham was called up for National Service in February 1960. After basic training he was trained as a clerk and served throughout his time in the army in the 1st Bn Orderly Room. After a short period as a NS man, he became a regular soldier and served in Germany, Greece, Norway, Gibraltar, Guyana and N. Ireland. He left the army in May 1967. Capt K.E. Beale, MBE, attended the funeral and represented the Regimental Association.

GRAHAM – On 27 June 1986, former WO2 (RQMS) Leonard Arthur Graham (6398348), aged 70 years. He commenced his service with the R. Sussex T.A. on 20 December 1933 serving on until 24 February 1935. The following day he became a regular soldier enlisting into the Middlesex Regiment. He joined the 1st Bn in Singapore in April 1936, to Hong Kong in 1937 and posting to the UK on 18 August 1939. From 1940 to 1942 he served with the 9th Bn Royal Hampshire. On 17 January 1942 he volunteered for service with the A.A.C.(Paras) serving with them until 4 February 1947. He was awarded the Military Medal on 10 June 1944 for bravery during the heavy fighting which took place in the area of the Chateau St. Come near Breville – he was manning a Vickers machine gun at the time and although wounded continued to operate the gun. At this time he was with 9th Paras. He rejoined his regiment on 5 February and joined the 2nd Bn in Palestine returning to UK in early 1948 for the amalgamation. For the next 5 years he served with the Kings African Rifles in East Africa, the 1st Bn 1953-54. In 1955 he was posted to the Sierra Leone Regt in West Africa returning to the UK in 1958. He was discharged on 25 December 1958 on reduction of establishment. On leaving the service he became a Civil Servant rising to be Manager of the Ross-on-Wye Unemployment Benefit office finally retiring in 1980.

GRIFFITHS – On 13 July 1984, former Sgt Hugo Cowel Griffiths (6197330), aged 83 years. The whole of his service was with the 2nd Bn, probably from 1926 to 1948.

HERBERT – On 6 September 1986, former Cpl Victor John Herbert (23937974), aged 43 years. He enlisted on 10 December 1962 and served with the 1st Bn, 4 Queens and 2 Queens and was discharged 9 December 1971 on completion of his engagement. He was a fine all round sportsman.

HICKS – On 22 June 1986, Mrs Sylvia Hicks, wife of Lt-Col R.T.D. Hicks, TD.

LANDERS – On 3 August 1986, former QMS Walter Ernest Landers (47864), aged 89 years. Wally Landers enlisted on 5 June 1917 and served with the 6th Bn at Chatham. He was discharged on 14 November 1919. During the last war he was a member of the County of Kent Home Guard.

MARTIN – On 28 July 1986, former Private Albert James Martin (6198260), aged 78 years. Pincher Martin served with the 1st Bn from January 1928 until January 1931. He then joined the 9th Bn serving from 1939 until 1941 when he served with the RA and REME until 1945.

MUNN – On 7th May 1986, former Cpl Frederick Robert Munn (6209935), aged 67 years. Served with the Middlesex Regiment from 15 September 1939 to 2 July 1942. Service with RAOC and REME followed until demobilisation on 30 March 1946.

PROBERT – On 7 October 1986, former Private George Probert (6212825), aged 69 years. He enlisted on 18 April 1940 and after recruit training was posted to the 2/8th Bn (1st) serving at home and N.W. Europe and was a member of the Support Group commanded by Col Desmond Ellis. He was wounded at Caen. Demobilized on 7 June 1946. Colonel Ellis very kindly sent a floral tribute.

ROBBINS – On 30 October 1986, Lt-Col Dennis Robbins, OBE, TD, aged 71 years. Major Ralph Rowbotham writes: Lt-Col John Dennis Robbins was a founder member of the 2/7th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO). With war being imminent, the battalion was mobilized in August 1939. One of the first tasks allotted to Dennis was to organise the protection of an aircraft factory from possible sabotage. He quickly summed up the situation, which he explained carefully to his platoon, stressing the need for great vigilance. He found that the minimum number of sentries necessary was thirteen. With his platoon strength of 44 NCOs and men the resulting rota meant that everyone was on duty for two hours, off for four hours throughout the whole 24 hours, every day of the week. Dennis himself worked the same hours, assisting the guard commanders. He did this for three whole weeks. He so imbued his men with his determination and keenness, that everyone played their part without any complaint or sickness. Such was the splendid effect of this system upon the factory staff that it was adopted without alteration by the

troops who eventually relieved him. Dennis was then promoted Assistant Adjutant at Bn HQ, a position which he filled admirably. In due course he became Adjutant and subsequently commanded HQ Company. Prior to the battalion going overseas the War Office decided that all machine gun battalions should become Support Groups. Each fighting Group would be made up of one Vickers M.M.G. Company, one 4.2" Mortar Company, and one Anti Aircraft Company. Each Group would be allocated to a particular Brigade in a Division. Dennis commanded 'B' Support Group and quickly devised the excellent system of having all the wireless sets in his Group on the same wave-length. This meant that in battle all his platoons could hear what was going on, and also as they were in almost constant touch with him, he could give his Brigade Commander up to the minute information which was a considerable asset to the latter in keeping any fluid situation under control.

Having let his Support Group during the heavy fighting in the Anzio Beechhead during January and February 1944, in March Dennis was promoted as Second-in-Command to the 1st Loyal Regiment. The 2/7th Bn were very sorry to lose him but they were proud that his prowess had been recognised. In the Loyal Regiment his man-management and military expertise soon gained him, once again, great respect and admiration from the men there, during the capture of Rome and the pursuit north to Florence and the Gothic Line. When the 2/7th Bn was withdrawn from the Gothic Line in January 1945 to proceed to Palestine, they also received the information that Dennis was returning as Lt-Col to command them. This news was widely welcomed and very popular. Dennis saw to it that the training and policing duties necessary during the following months were carried out in an exemplary fashion. He proved himself a most worthy successor to Col S. Mirams who had first formed the battalion in 1939. As a result in September 1945, out of all the units available, the Divisional Commander chose the 2/7th Bn because of its high standard of training and smart turn-out, to take on the internal security role in Jerusalem. They remained there for over seven weeks, maintaining law and order. In December 1945, when orders were received that the Bn had to be disbanded, Dennis made every effort to see that all ranks were posted to the unit of their choice. He saved many from dropping in rank, and, in fact, gained promotion for a lot. Within a short time after his return to England, Dennis started to organise the 2/7th Bn Old Comrades Association and they had their first reunion at the Tottenham Drill Hall. It is to his credit that of all the Middlesex Regiment battalions mustered during 1939-45, the 2/7th Bn still gathers the highest number of old members together at each reunion. It is good that Dennis was able to see the ninety Old Comrades who came to the 40th Reunion just a few weeks before he passed away. As is stated in the Middlesex Regimental History about Lt-Col J.D. Robbins 'A rare combination of qualities made him an ideal commander, charm of manner which invited co-operation, a keen brain which inspired confidence in his judgement, and a loyalty to those serving under him which drew their devotion.' For his services he was awarded the Order of the British Empire by a grateful Monarch. He also earned the Territorial Decoration originated by His Majesty King Edward VII. Middlesex Comrades had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Dennis for forty eight years, and they will always remember him for his thought for others. They are proud to have served him, and salute him for the officer and gentleman of which he was such a splendid example. In civil life he was highly thought of by his associates, and his talents extended to successful business management which often took him abroad. But he wisely took heed of warnings of approaching ill-health and he eventually retired. Latterly he successfully started both fishing and gardening, at which pursuits, like everything else he undertook, he soon achieved much higher than average results.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Joan, their son and daughters, and their grandchildren.

The funeral was attended by Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Majors Jenkins, Marshall, Rich and Rowbotham, Capt Goldman, Lt Allchorne, Mr Snelson and Mr Taylor.

STOKES - On 22 July 1986, Mrs Dolly Stokes, aged 87 years.

WOODS - On 27 June 1986, former Gunner Frank Woods (14309247), aged 65 years.

Frank Woods served with the D Troop of 429 Battery, 126 LAA Regiment R.A. (9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment) from October 1942 until August 1946. He saw service in Belgium, Holland and Germany. In 1948 he was struck down with a very serious illness and for the rest of his life was confined to a wheel chair. Despite his disabilities he kept in touch with many of his Old Comrades. We thank his widow Mary for the loving care she gave him over those long years.

CAMPAIGN STARS, CLASPS AND MEDALS

Recently I have had a number of enquiries regarding the wearing of Campaign Stars, Clasps and Medals instituted in recognition of service in the war of 1939-45, and the order in which these awards should be worn. The correct order is:

1939-45 Star, Atlantic Star, Air Crew Europe Star, Africa Star, Pacific Star, Burma Star, Italy Star, France and Germany Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45.

The other question that has recently been highlighted is the wearing of unofficial medals, i.e. Dunkirk, Normandy, etc., and many foreign medals. Some members may be under the impression that now they are retired they are entitled to wear these medals. But there is no authority to do so and they are not permitted to be worn on official occasions.

The wearing of foreign medals and decorations is controlled by Royal Warrant and can only be worn when a letter of permission has been given by Her Majesty.

HOLIDAYS

Capt Ken Beale has very kindly offered to allow his villa in Spain to be used by members of the Regiment, their families and friends, for holidays.

The villa is situated overlooking the sea at Las Fuentes on the Costa del Azahar (The Orange Blossom Coast) approximately 70 miles North of Valencia. Las Fuentes has lovely beaches and all amenities but at the same time is not commercialized. The villa has four bedrooms and two bathrooms. It is available throughout the year at preferential rates for Diehards. Its equable warm climate and tranquillity makes it an idyllic place to escape the English winter.

Details can be obtained from Capt Ken Beale, 24 Rusts Lane, Alconbury, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 5DN. Tel: 0480 890902.

LIGHTER MOMENTS

Brig Pielow who lives in Dummer was recently appointed chairman of the village 'Royal Events' committee and organised a presentation to the local girl they used to know as Sarah Fergusson, now the Duchess of York.

The wedding gift chosen was an engraved glass bowl and with less than 24 hours to alert the locals that the presentation ceremony was to be held next day. All went well and the villagers arrived. Brig Pielow told the royal guest: 'It is typically gracious of you to be with us this evening, and we much appreciate it.' And with a reference to her solo flying exploits, he said: 'It is good of you to take time off from your flying duties to come to Dummer'. The Duchess replied that it was a gift she would particularly cherish.

Afterwards Brig Pielow said the event could not have been a greater success if it had taken a month to organise. 'It was a real village evening - informal, private and memorable'.

Our chairman has also landed safely and is back on terra-firma.



The Brigadier makes his Mark

