



# The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 62

DECEMBER 1989

PRICE 50p

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Major General C.M.M. MAN, CB, OBE, MC, MA

## Major General CHRISTOPHER MARK MORRICE MAN, CB, OBE, MC, MA

Major General Christopher Man, the last Colonel of our Regiment, died, aged 75, on the 29<sup>th</sup> October in hospital at Pitlochry near his home at Blair Atholl in Perthshire. With his passing, the Regiment has truly lost one of its most valiant and popular officers.

Born at Lydden in Kent, Christopher was educated at Eastbourne College where he gained academic distinction and excelled at most games, especially cricket, before going on to Emmanuel College, Cambridge. Following graduating with an MA degree, he was commissioned into The Middlesex Regiment in 1936 with eighteen months antedated seniority as was customary for university entrants at that time. His elder brother Andrew was already a member of the Regiment. Christopher joined the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth in July of that year and in November 1937 he was posted to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. There he met Georgina (Topsy) Marr whom he married in October 1940. When the Japanese launched their ferocious and overwhelming attack against the colony in December 1941, Topsy became an auxiliary nurse and Christopher fought the battle as a Company Commander with the 1st Battalion. He was awarded a highly merited MC in repelling a Japanese assault in the area of the Race Course. With the surrender of Hong Kong on Christmas Day 1941, Topsy was interned as a civilian and Christopher became a POW: they were separated for the next 3 1/2 years. He shared the privations and appalling conditions suffered by all POWs, and was one of those who survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru – a Japanese freighter which set off from Hong Kong in September 1942 with some 1800 British POWs on board for transport to Japan. There have been several accounts elsewhere of the dreadful conditions inflicted on the POWs and Christopher suffered these equally with his fellow captives. On release, and reunited with Topsy – who herself had suffered greatly but somehow had managed to nurse and help some of the sick and wounded – Christopher returned to this country and quickly showed that he had lost none of his ambitions as a professional soldier. After a short period of rehabilitation he attended the Staff College. This was followed by a War Office appointment and then following a parachute course, he was seconded to the Parachute Regiment, and in 1950 became 2IC of the 3rd Parachute Battalion. Three years later he was appointed Commandant of the Army Transport Training and Development Centre, and this was followed by another War Office appointment as GSO I (Co-ord). In 1957 he assumed command of the Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion and two years later he was promoted Brigadier to command 125 (West Lancs) Infantry Brigade, TA. Christopher held this appointment until 1962 when he became Head of the Commonwealth Liaison Mission in Korea. He returned to the UK in 1964 to be appointed GOC 49 (West Riding) Infantry Division and Commander North Midland District. His final appointment was President of the Regular Army Commissions Board before retiring from the Army in 1969.

Christopher was awarded the OBE in 1958 and the CB in 1968. Having already been appointed Colonel of The Middlesex Regiment, he became Deputy Colonel and then Honorary Colonel of the Queen's Regiment when the old regiments of the Home Counties were amalgamated to form the new large regiment.

On retirement Christopher and Topsy moved to Blair Atholl where Christopher was to start an extensive caravan park development on the Duke of Atholl's estate. He was invited to enrol into the Duke's private army, The Atholl Highlanders, – as a 'Private (Major-General)'! – but, not so long after having settled down, Topsy was taken so seriously ill that she became a resident patient in hospital. Christopher carried on but no doubt he felt the strain as he himself suffered a stroke that left him partially paralysed and which in turn necessitated a leg amputation. Christopher carried on manfully, attempting to overcome these terrible handicaps, but sadly he then suffered a second stroke from which he eventually succumbed in the Irvine Memorial Hospital, Pitlochry. His wife Topsy and his sister Mrs Janet Barclay, who had done so much for him during his long illness, were at his bedside when he died.

Christopher Man was a tall, handsome officer of striking appearance and great charm. He was a devoted Christian with an obviously sincere and compassionate nature. He was blessed with the gift of making friends easily, both in the Services and in civilian life, and this was evident by the large numbers attending his funeral. He had that leadership quality by which those under his command would follow him without question. From his earliest days in the Army he was first and foremost a regimental officer, concerned right up to the end with the welfare and well being of his old comrades in the Regiment.

The funeral took place on 31st October at St. Adamnan's Church, Kilmaveonaig on the Atholl estate. The coffin was draped with the Regimental flag and bore his Major General's cap with Remembrance poppy. Colonel A.M. Man read the Lesson. To everyone's sorrow and disappointment Topsy suffered a sudden recurrence of her illness that morning which prevented her leaving hospital and attending. His two elder brothers, sister and sister-in-law, and several nephews and nieces were present. The large congregation included His Grace The Duke of Atholl and Lt Gen Sir Derek Lang, former GOC Scottish Command. The

Regimental representation consisted of Lt-Col T.W. Chatter, President of the Middlesex Regimental Old Comrades Association, Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Major and Mrs C.L. Lawrence, Major K.R. McKenzie Biggs, Capt R.M. Fox and Lt G.N. Freeborn. Col J.N. Shipster represented the Queen's Regiment, and a member of the Parachute Regiment was also present. The burial took place in the adjacent church cemetery where The Atholl Highlanders provided the bearer party and their pipers played a lament and the Highlanders March. A bugler from the Queen's Regiment blew the Last Post and Reveille.

As Christopher took a leading role in the conception of the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral it is fitting that a thanksgiving service – with the kind permission of the Dean and Chapter – is being arranged to take place there in January.

Maj Gen David Lloyd Owen writes:

The same source of boundless courage, which brought Chris Man through four ghastly years of humiliation and privation as a prisoner of the Japanese, must have buoyed him up during the last five years of his life. After a stroke, which left him partially paralysed and which had also affected his speech, he had a leg amputated to add to his difficulties.

I visited him several times annually in the last fifteen years in the flat at Blair Castle, which the Duke of Atholl had given Chris and Topsy for their lifetime. When she had to go to hospital, Chris lived on there alone with the help of many devoted people, who admired his sheer determination to overcome his cruel handicaps. Never once did he give in to adversity nor did he indulge in self-pity; he gave his friends a very warm welcome and I never heard him complain about his lot.

Sometime he showed understandable signs of frustration at being unable to converse as clearly as he would have wished. It irked him because he could not, perhaps, recall names of friends or details of incidents from his life in the Army to which he gave so much of himself.

And he gave as much again in the friendly understanding which he extended to the holiday makers, who came to the Duke's caravan site of which he was in charge after leaving the Army.

His whole life really was a selfless example of a true Christian gentleman, who never so much as contemplated a mean act. Many in Perthshire were inspired by it in his last years. They will miss seeing him ride on his electric tricycle down the great lime avenue from the Castle to the village where everyone seemed to know him. So many of them paid tribute to him when he was laid to rest near the small church where he loved to worship.

1990  
A thanksgiving Service for Major General Chris Man, will be held in the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral at 11 a.m. on Friday, 12 January 1989. No tickets will be required for the Service and it is hoped that a large number of Diehards will be able to attend. You are asked to be seated by 10.55 a.m.

12 car spaces adjacent to the North Aisle will be available. Applications to the Regimental Secretary but priority given to the family and the very infirm. Middlesex stickers will be issued for windscreens.

Arrangements can be made for anyone in wheel chairs to attend. Applications to the Regimental Secretary.

After the Service those attending are invited to the Chapter House for a glass of Sherry, Wine, Beer or soft drinks.

Further details can be obtained, if required, from the Regimental Secretary, Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE.

### FORECAST OF EVENTS 1990

- 12 January Thanksgiving Service for Maj-Gen C.M.M. Man, CB, OBE, MC, Regimental Chapel, St Paul's Cathedral, at 11 a.m.
- 26 March Regimental Association Executive Meeting at Conference Room, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3, at 6.15 p.m.
- 28 April 1/7th Bn(1939-45) Luncheon at TA Centre, Priory Road, Hornsey, assemble 12 noon.
- 6 May Annual Inspection of Albuhera Close, Enfield, by Housing Committee, commencing at 9.30 a.m.
- 11 May Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Dinner - The Royal Overseas League, Park Place, St James's St, London SW1.
- 12 May Albuhera Service of Remembrance, St Paul's Cathedral, commencing 2.30 p.m.  
Annual Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, commencing 6.30 p.m.  
Annual General Meeting 7.30 p.m.  
2/8th(1st Bn) Biennial Luncheon, 12 noon, at Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2.
- 15 May 9th Bn Officers' Annual Luncheon, The Royal Overseas League, Park Place, St James's St, London SW1, assemble 12 noon.
- 19 May 2/10th Bn(1914-18) 62nd Luncheon Reunion, Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. Assemble 12 noon.
- 8 July Queen's Regiment Grand Reunion at Bassingbourn.
- 15 September Korean Club Reunion at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, 6.30 p.m.
- 4 October 2/7th Bn(1939-45) Luncheon Club at the Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2, 12 noon.
- 12 October The Queen's Regimental Association Meeting, Conference Room, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, 11.15 a.m.
- 13 October Queen's Regiment WO's & Sgts Past & Present Dinner at Bassingbourn.
- 6 November Housing Sub Committee Meeting, Duke of York's HQ, Chelsea, London SW3, 6.45 p.m.
- 8 November 7th Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner - venue to be confirmed.
- 10 November Ceremony at Field of Remembrance, 11 a.m. Assemble Middlesex Guildhall.
- 11 November 2/10th Bn(1914-18) Remembrance Service at St Nicholas Church, Chiswick, London W4, at 3 p.m. All members of the Regimental Association invited.

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am taking this opportunity to wish you all good health, a Happy and Merry Christmas together with a Prosperous New Year.

Make a NOTE in your diary NOW of the dates shown under Forecast of Events. Final details will be sent to you by the Secretary.

### BENEVOLENT CASES

During the period 1 January 1989 to 30 November 1989 the sum of £5060 has been spent from the Regimental Charitable Fund in assisting 75 members of the Regiment. The Army Benevolent Fund have contributed a further £4700.

Financial need is almost always the root cause of personal problems which come to our attention. In the majority of cases illness and age play a large part.

For example 8 widows and 2 widowers are in receipt of grants towards the shortfall in Nursing or Residential Home fees. The Army Benevolent Fund have contributed in each case supported by the Regimental Association. 3 members in reduced circumstances are receiving a weekly fixed sum sponsored by the Army Benevolent Fund. The following examples of assistance given include - purchase of an orthopaedic mattress for a severe arthritic case, replacement clothes and bedding for incontinent sufferers, heating and light bills, rent arrears, wheel chair repairs, T.V. licences, transport to hospital, special diets, support for 2 retarded children (now in their 40's) whose fathers were killed in World War 2 and are in care.

Nursing and Residential homes cases are increasing as the year goes on - a further 4 are in the pipeline.

### DONATIONS TO THE CHARITABLE FUND

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

- a. A donation of £2000 from the estate of the late Sgt Archie Brown, 9th Bn. Donations totalling £80 from friends of Archie Brown, plus a donation of £30 from Mr D.A. Bodimeade.
- b. A donation of £650 from Colonel James Reid, American Army, in memory of his father Colonel J.G.E. Reid.
- c. Donations in memory of the late Major R.W.J. Smith, from Major P.G.V. Bellers, Mrs Barbara Blake-Budden, Mrs O. Edwards and Mr A. Lewin.
- d. A donation of £25 in memory of the late WO2 Cliff Burgess from Mr E.H.T. Steward.
- e. A donation of £25 from members of the 2/7th Bn Luncheon Club.
- f. Plus donations from: Mr R.E. Ambler, Mr A.W.J. Brown, Mrs S. Charrington, Major A.R. Cooper, Mr C. Hawes, Capt J.H.S. Hudson, Capt R.D. Jupp, Mr R.J. Lomax, Mr F.G. Lunnon, Mr T. Price, Lt-Col E.P. Shanks, Mr G.H. Woodward, Mr R. Weedon in memory of his father Mr R.J. Weedon.

### FREE NEWSLETTERS

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

Mr I. Abercrombie, Mr A.W.J. Brown, Mr R.A. Clarke, Mr P.H. Ellingworth, Mr D.A. Francis, Mr R.D. Furlotte, Mr A.A. Gardner, Mr J. Gosling, Mr K.M. Horton, Mr A.A. Hutley, Major C.L. Lawrence, Mr W.E. Lockyer, Mr R.J. Lomax, Mrs S.E. Peaper, Capt P.J.A. Pielou, Mr T. Price, Mr J. Rolt, Mr M.A. Sampson, Mrs J. Singleton, Mr H.G. Soames, Mr E.H.T. Steward, Mr C.G. Stone.

### DONATIONS

The following donations have been made during the period 1 July 1989 to date:

- a. A donation of £50 to the Rangoon Forces Chapel appeal organised by the Home Headquarters, Royal Hussars (PWO), Winchester, Hants. The Forces Chapel was sorely in need of repair and £5000 was required to make the repairs. This amount has been achieved.

The names of those killed in the Burma campaign are commemorated in the Book of Remembrance, individually and by regiment.

Diehard names are:

Major T.G. Symes	Killed 26.3.1945
Capt C.A.P. Gaydon	Killed 25.3.1944
Capt H.S. Jupp, MC	Killed 29.4.1945
Lt H.F. Bannister	Killed 2.11.1944
Pte E.H. Stedman	Killed 23.3.1944

- b. A donation of £50 towards the Burma Star Association International 'Appeal Fund' for the erection of a 'Memorial Statue' to the late Field Marshal The Viscount Slim, KG, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE, DSO, MC. The 'Memorial Statue' will be erected on Rayleigh Green, in Whitehall, London, very near to the Cenotaph in early 1990.
- c. A donation of £50 was made to the 'Not Forgotten Association'.

#### FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE

The Secretary attended the Field of Remembrance on Thursday 9 November and prior to commencement of the opening ceremony planted individual named crosses on the regiment plot, for each of the 46 battalions who fought in World War 1. Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby very kindly painted each cross with the Bn title. A badged regimental cross was also planted on the Far East Prisoners of war plot in memory of members of the 1st Bn.

At noon H.M. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, declared the Field of Remembrance open and planted the first cross. The Queen Mother then proceeded to inspect the Field of Remembrance.

The Regimental Ceremony took place on Saturday 11 November, commencing at 10.50 a.m. As usual our party formed up outside the Middlesex Guildhall and then proceeded to the regimental plot led by Mr L. Loomes bearing the Regimental Standard. Our two Chelsea In-Pensioners were too ill to attend.

The Service commenced with prayers by the Rev W.E.B. Jones. The President of The Regimental Association, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, 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", planted a cross. The Secretary then invited the planting of individual crosses. The Chaplain concluded the service by reading the Collects of the Middlesex and Queen's Regiments.

This year the turnout was a great improvement and very encouraging for the future. All members took the opportunity to inspect the regimental museum display in the entrance hall of the Guildhall and the comments were favourable.

It was a 'dry' parade - no nearby inn was open, but a further recce will take place in the future and this matter will be put right.

#### REMEMBRANCE WREATHS

A Middlesex Regiment badged wreath was laid at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on Remembrance Sunday by Mr L.T. Plumb. He also laid a wreath at the Regimental Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill.

WO2 P.K. Tidey, The Queen's Regiment, attached to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) laid a Middlesex Regiment badged wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association at the Hong Kong Liberation Day Parade on 28 August 1989.

#### 7th MIDDLESEX OFFICERS' CLUB

The 62nd Annual Dinner of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club was held at the Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4, on Thursday 9 November 1989.

Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell presided and the guests were - Col R.H. Graham, Mr M. Milne, Lt D. Roberts, F/O J.A. Rook, Mr M. Tree, Mr N.S. Young, Mr T.S. Young.

The following members attended - Major S. Blausten, Major K.I.A. Carter, Capt M.J.S. Doran, Capt S. le Enthoven, Capt R.M. Fox, Major D. Harwood, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, Lt D.H.S. Herriott, Capt J.K. Laurence, Major C.L. Lawrence, Capt P.J. Lane, Major R.J. Leighton, Capt D.O. Mansfield Thomas, Major A.E. McManus, Major E.J. Naish, Lt I.J. Nickels, Lt P.J. Ottino, Lt-Col G.C.D. Scott-Lowe, Lt-Col D.E. Simpson, Capt J.K.E. Slack, Capt J. Spencer Richards, Col D.R.W. Thomas, Lt-Col G.W. Webber, Capt J.G. Young.

The following members express their regret for not being able to attend but send greetings to all their friends - Capt G.G. Andrew, Col F.G. Barber, Col I.D. Brotherton, Mgr R. Brown, Lt-Col S.F. Caulfield-Kerney, Col A.S.J. de S. Clayton, Major H.E. Couch, Col W.D. Ellis, Capt J.R.W. Fisher, Capt M.S. Gedye, Lt-Col P.J. Hall, Lt S. B. Hurst, Lt-Col R. Lowans, Col A.M. Man, Major D.J. Margand, Capt F.S. Mayman, Capt K.D. Murray, Major G.G. Norton, Lt J. Van de Pol, Brig B.A.M. Pielow, Major B. St G.A. Reed, Major P.I. Roberts, Lt J. Spooner, Major P.A.D. Storie-Pugh, Major R.F. Sykes, Major R.G.C. Thornton, Major E.L. Wallis, Major F. Webb.

#### ROYAL HOSPITAL CHELSEA CHURCH PARADE

A party of 28 attended the Royal Hospital Church Parade on Sunday 29 October 1989. The party was led by our President, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey. Maj-Gen Sir John Willoughby, Col and Mrs W.D. Ellis, Major and Mrs A.E.F. Waldron, Mr and Mrs Cubitt, Mr and Mrs Pile, Mr Loomes, Mr and Mrs Cutts, Mr and Mrs Bailey, Mr Lewin, Mr Eggleton, Mr and Mrs Rose and friends, Mr Kearns and son, Mr Ambler, Mr Ward, Mr Young, Mr Wells and Mr Boan from the Hounslow branch attended.

Our party paraded with the Chelsea In Pensioners on Governor's Parade and were inspected by Colonel G.A. Allan, the Duty Officer for the Day. The Rev G.A. Bartlett conducted the Service. Former CSM R. Cubitt commanded our members on parade. Mr Ron Pile carried the Regimental Standard. After the service we moved to the Ives Room where a buffet had been arranged.

#### 2/10th BN (1914-18) OCA

The Old Comrades Association of the 2/10th Bn held their customary Remembrance Service on Sunday 12 November at St Nicholas' Church, Chiswick. The Service commenced at 3 p.m. and was very well attended by relatives, 'Friends' and parishioners, and was conducted by the Revd Patrick Tuft, MA, Vicar of Chiswick, Area Dean of Hounslow and Hon. Chaplain to the 2/10th Middlesex OCA.

The Service was attended by Lt-Col and Mrs T.W. Chattey, Brig and Mrs B.A.M. Pielow and Col and Mrs A.S.J. de S. Clayton. Brig B.A.M. Pielow read The Lesson. Poppy wreaths were placed on the Memorials to the 1/10th, 2/10th and 3/10th Battalions by Capt D.A. Hawkins and Mr C.W. Stephens. After the Service tea and light refreshments were served in the Church Hall by Mrs J. Barrett and her lady helpers.

Earlier in the day a poppy wreath was placed on the Turnham Green War Memorial by Mr D. Woodbridge on behalf of the Association.

The OCA's 62nd Luncheon Reunion will be held at the Victory Services Club, London W2, on Saturday 12 May 1990. Full details later.

A.D.S.

#### 2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL REUNION

In accordance with recent practice we met for luncheon at the Victory Services Club's Carisbrooke Hall on Thursday 5 October, for our 44th annual reunion under the chairmanship of Lt-Col R.E. Botham, MC, TD, accompanied by our President, Brigadier E.W.C. Flavell, DSO, MC, TD, DL. Once again, it was our pleasure to welcome as guests our two good friends, Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, OBE, and Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE.

It was an extra special occasion this time because 1989 saw the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Battalion in 1914, the 50th anniversary of its being reactivated in 1939 and the 45th anniversary of our helping to liberate Rome. We were off to a splendid start because the reply to our message of loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen, (which normally comes from her Private Secretary) not only referred to these anniversaries but was direct from Her Majesty and signed 'Elizabeth R'. In addition we were indebted to our chairman, who personally produced a potted history of the battalion, complete with maps and provided a copy

for each member.

As befitting such a special occasion, we managed to achieve our largest turn-out for at least 2 years, with 91 present. There were, in fact, 100 members who signalled their intention to be present but, sadly, 9 had to withdraw for a variety of reasons. Yet again we had two members appearing for the first time in the shape of Frank Innes and Tom Skerry. We owed the latter's attendance to the sharp eyes of Tom Davis who spotted his friend during the summer at the Goodwood races! Ernie Yeatman also came for the first time for over 30 years. Others who had not been for some years were Alec Coghill, Dick Mowbray and last, but not least, our Padre, the Rev Canon G.H. Parks, MC. Members came from far and wide within the U.K. but the prize for long distance went to Joe Bird who, not for the first time, came some 4,000 miles from Muscatine, Iowa, USA. Well done Joe! Among the thirty or so apologies was one from South Africa and one from California, so Joe may lose his record one day.

As always, Topper Brown went round with the 'box', and with the help of postal donations of £201, a record collection of £467 was achieved. In addition two donations to our Benevolent fund, each of £50, were received from Mrs Joan Robbins and Mrs Dorothy Baber in memory of their late husbands. The regular allocation of £25 was made to the Regimental Association and grants totalling £257 were made to various members to help with fares and the cost of tickets, and generally to assist the less fortunate.

We meet again on Thursday 4 October 1990 and must make every effort to get an attendance above the 100 mark. Please come.

RHT.

*Below is a photograph of those that attended. Sorry I am unable to quote names. Editor.*



## GENERAL INFORMATION & SUBSCRIPTIONS

I wish to remind all members of the Mill Hill Branch that they are now members of the Central Branch. The subscription is now £2 per year and includes the June and December issues of the Diehards Newsletter. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association. Cash is accepted but not advised owing to postal difficulties. Many of you are very generous and send extra subscriptions for the less fortunate. Once you are on my distribution list the newsletter will be sent and this includes widows etc. I never delete a name because of non payment - I know that if you can afford to pay you will do so.

I would also ask all members of the Regimental Association to let me know if you hear of any old comrade or widow in need. It is your duty to write and tell me and this includes yourself. Do not be embarrassed to write - it is all strictly confidential. The main task of the Regimental Association is to assist those in need. It is possible that will ask your local SSAFA representative to visit to ascertain the best way that we can accomplish this task. In many cases it is not money that is required but expert advice.

It has been necessary to increase the price of the Diehards Newsletter from 25p to 50p. The first rise was in 1978. The Regimental Association have always subsidised the Diehards Newsletter and will still be doing so. It is not generally realised that the distribution figure has risen to 1200 and still increasing.

All you have to do is to write to: Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, Secretary of the Regimental Association, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE.

## VISIT TO SINGAPORE & HONG KONG 20 AUGUST - 31 AUGUST 1989

Captain Patrick Pielou recently organised a private military pilgrimage to Singapore and Hong Kong, for 53 members of the Navy, Army and Royal Air Force.

The following members from the regiment attended: Major F.H. Blackburn, Mr & Mrs R.J. Yerby, Mr & Mrs D. Peck, Mr & Mrs A. Lofts, Mr & Mrs A. Ashby, Mr & Mrs Travers Johnson, Capt David Hawkins and Major Stanley Baldwin. Charlie Bellchambers a former POW from the 1st Bn now living in Australia suddenly heard of the visit, jumped on a plane and arrived in time to take part in the itinerary. He was the only former regimental POW to attend.

I have received glowing reports of the visit, and everyone agrees that it was a worthwhile trip. It was very well organised indeed. As usual the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers) were marvellous hosts to the party as they have been to every Diehard who has visited the Colony since 1945. WO2 P.K. Tidey, the resident PSI and a member of The Queen's Regiment acted as guide and liaison officer and was of great assistance. Everyone spoke most highly of his smart appearance and military bearing when laying the wreath on Liberation Day.

There is no doubt that this was a good and enjoyable visit which all members of the party appreciated very much.

## KOREAN CLUB REUNION

The annual reunion of the Korean Club was held at the Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, on Saturday, 23 September 1989. Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, President of the Regimental Association and Major A.E.F. Waldron, Secretary, were guests.

130 members attended a most successful and pleasant reunion.

## LIBERATION DAYS, GEEL-KASTERLEE-WESTERLOO, BELGIUM

22 to 25 SEPTEMBER 1989

The Regiment were represented at the above Ceremonies by Roy Bishop, Ray Ashton, Len Bennett and Owen Collins, all of D Company (Mortars), 1st Battalion, in the region during September 1944.

They were given a very warm welcome and the hospitality they received was magnificent. 3 days of

continuous attendance at all kinds of functions followed and they all had a most enjoyable holiday. Roy Bishop paid a personal visit to the town cemetery at Mol and placed a token wreath of the graves of two members of his Platoon who were killed at Mol – Cpl P.J. Crowhurst, DCM, and Private A. Baker. Roy very kindly sent to me a full report but regrettably space was not available.

#### HOUNSLOW BRANCH

Below is a photograph of the Hounslow Branch members who attended the Albuhera Dinner night held at Cavalry Barracks, Hounslow, hosted by the WO's & Sgts Mess of the 2nd Bn The Scots Guards, on 27 May 1989:



#### 60th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE TO THE SOMME

Former Sgt B. Tarry writes about his trip to the Somme.

Kent County Royal British Legion decided to go on a 60th Anniversary Pilgrimage to The Somme.

We left, with a coach full, on Wednesday 20th September 1989 for Dover and Calais. We arrived at Poperinghe in Belgium at 1630 and went to Talbot House, which is a Trench where the soldiers rested. There were many photographs, press cuttings and letters from the 1914-18 War which we found very interesting. We left there for Lille and arrived at the Royal Hotel at 1830.

On Thursday we left Lille at 0900 and proceeded to the H.A.C. Memorial, arriving at 1000 hours. Here we had a Wreath-laying ceremony with the County Standard, two Branch Standards and a Bugler on parade. On looking around the cemetery I discovered several Middlesex Regiment graves, and I placed a small cross at the base of some of them. The majority of the Middlesex Regiment gravestones were engraved "AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER, THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT". We left this cemetery at 1030 and proceeded to the 1st Australian Division Memorial where we laid a Wreath on behalf of the Australian Embassy. We next went to Thiepval where we had another Wreath-laying ceremony. I again found the long list of Middlesex Regiment soldiers on the memorial.

From Thiepval we proceeded to Beaumont Hamel (for another Wreath-laying ceremony) with the Standard. We then travelled to Abert for lunch. Here we saw the "Golden Virgin" which is a golden statue on the

church. During the bombardment in 1916 the church was nearly demolished but the statue was still on top of the steeple, but only just. It was said that if the statue fell so would Abert. It never fell. After lunch we visited the Great Mine and Delville Wood and the South African Memorial. We arrived back at the hotel at 1845.

On Friday we left the hotel at 0900 and went to the War Memorial in Lille where we met the Deputy Mayor. Two Wreaths were laid and the Standards were again on parade. We then went to the Town Hall for a reception. We left at 1015 and proceeded to Hyde Park Corner and N 2 Park Messines, and at the latter we had another Wreath-laying ceremony.

We went to lunch at "Old Tom" in Ypres but before lunch we had another Wreath-laying ceremony. After lunch we went to Hill 60, Hill 62 and Tyne Cot where we laid another Wreath. We were back in Ypres for the Menin Gate Ceremony. There were 6 Buglers and six Wreaths were laid, one was for the Middlesex Regiment. This was laid by my son Brian, who asked me if he could lay it, as I had laid a Wreath at Tyne Cot. The ceremony is carried out every day at 1800 hours when the traffic is stopped, the "Last Post" and "Reveille" is sounded. Normally there is only one bugler but as we were laying Wreaths the Belgium Fire Brigade sent 6 Buglers. We left after the ceremony and arrived back at the hotel at 1900 hours.

On our final day we left the hotel at 0930 and proceeded to Vimy, Notre Dame De Lorette and Boulogne. We had the final Wreath-laying ceremony at the Dover Patrol Memorial before catching the boat home.

At all the British Cemeteries we visited we found The Middlesex Regiment soldiers mentioned, either on gravestones or on Memorials. Either I, or my son, laid a Poppy Cross at some of the gravestones where possible. The peace and tranquility at all the Cemeteries was evident. It was so quiet that even the birds were not singing. The trip was a very emotional experience and one had to ask the question that could not be answered – "WHY?"

#### PERSONAL JOTTINGS

Four Diehards, all ex 10 Platoon C Company 1/7th Bn, namely Harry Alcock (Ulverston), Jeff Haward (Kent), Dennis Daly (Manchester) and Ken Thiis (Wirral), had a nostalgic reunion in Ulverston on 8 August 1989. They last saw each other in Germany in September 1945. The reunion was held in the Drill Hall, KORB Club, Ulverston, opened up in the afternoon for them with all amenities. These four Diehards tell me they have now formed the Northern Branch of the Regimental Association.

After 40 years Boy 'Charlie' Bellchambers (6204475) has been traced. He enlisted at the age of 15½ on 13 July 1938 and after a short spell with the 2nd Bn joined the 1st Bn in Hong Kong in early 1939. He joined the Corps of Drums and became a good bugler. He became a POW in 1941 and was on the 4th draft to Japan ending up on Osaka Camp. He returned to UK in 1945 and was discharged October 1947. In 1949 he emigrated to Australia to join his sister in Melbourne. He travelled around stopping at Victoria, Queensland, Sydney etc and did various jobs, GPO telephones, Petrol Pump attendant, Bus driver, aircraft factory, and finally after a lot of study became a telephone technician. He is a great charity worker for the Blind Society. He was awarded the title of 'Citizen of the Year' in 1987 by the Municipality of Rockdale in Sydney. He never married. He sent me tapes outlining his life and rang me up at 3 a.m. to say hallo.

Major Peter Bellers has passed to me the scrap book kept by his uncle Major Dick Bellers. It is a most interesting record of events in the regiment and will be placed in the archives of the museum.

Former Sgt Don Bradnam (6200132) sends his regards to all his comrades. Don came home from Hong Kong in 1938 for transfer to the Reserve. In 1939 he was recalled and joined the 2nd Bn and was with the Bn in the BEF and Dunkirk. He was posted to West Africa in January 1943, returning to UK in 1944 and was then stationed at the MGTC at Chester until demob in January 1946.

Colonel Gavin Bulloch is back in UK. His next posting is to Athens as Defence Attache in February 1991. He is now learning Greek spending three days a week in London.

Major Ken Clayden hopes to take early retirement in January 1990. Ken and Joan are looking for a bungalow or flat near his beloved mountains.

Capt Jim Ceaton informs me that he married in April and will be spending six months in UK and 6 months in U.S.A.

A recent correspondent was Major Philip Crutchfield who is heavily involved in the organisation of the 1990 Colchester Searchlight Tattoo (1 - 4 August). There will be 23 military and police bands. A sight and sound that is seldom possible these days.

Former CSM Bob Cubitt on his annual trip to Normandy spotted a regimental tie and this resulted in Dennis Daly, 1/7th Bn joining the regimental association.

Bdsn David Edwards (band 1961-69) informs me that he recently met Sgt Alec Torrie who said that he would be taking early retirement next year and moving to Portugal. I suppose he will take his golf clubs. I recommend that he changes his 'putter' - the one I saw him use on numerous occasions never seemed to work!

Former CSgt R.D. Furlotte is employed as a prison officer at Blundeston Prison. He recently moved to Carlton Colville, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

Lt-Col Peter Galvin now resides at Gamston, Nottinghamshire. Peter and Joan are both well and are busy helping with the family business. They hope to be able to attend a regimental function next year.

Mr Cyril Goff (6204812) 9th Bn, writes to say that regrettably age and distance rule out his attendance at any of the Association functions but he is still pleased to receive the newsletter to keep him in touch.

Former CSM John Gould, 2/8th and 1st Bn who was with us at Rendsburg tells me that he continues to visit Erika Pike, widow of Capt Ernie Pike. Erika suffers from severe arthritis. Son Roderick is still living at home which is a great help. He also visited Vic Barley who has joined the Westgate Golf Club.

Col Tony Hewitt is now writing his second book - the title will be 'Corridors of Time'. His previous book was 'Bridge with Three Men' (Across China to the Western Heaven in 1942).

I have had an enquiry from British Columbia asking for the address of Fred Hughes (6201523) who was a POW in Kobe Camp. Can anyone help with his address.

Received a nice letter from Capt Don Jones, 7 Mx, who tells me he took early retirement during last October.

Another 90 year old, Fred Lunnon, who likes to attend the Field of Remembrance ceremony was unable to do so this year owing to painful arthritis in his right knee. He sends his regards to all his Diehard friends.

Former CSM R.W.R. (Sonny) Makewell, DCM, now 88 years of age, has been ill for many years. He continues to suffer with his chest and this is putting a great strain on his wife Rosie. Sonny completed 21 years service in 1940! He was awarded his DCM with the 2nd Bn at Dunkirk. For the elder members of the regiment Rosie was the daughter of Private Bryan, QM Storeman in 1926.

Our very best wishes to former Cpl Alan Moody who has recently undergone two major operations. Our best wishes to Alan and his family and for a speedy recovery.

Former CSM John Martin, MM, Mx, Queens, RE, 1950-71, who lives at Allhallows, Rochester, Kent, suffered a severe stroke last February. He would be very pleased to receive a visit from his comrades.

A well known pre-war 1st Bn member, Nobby Noble, who emigrated to Australia in the 1950's sold up in May and returned to the UK. After 3 months in Manchester he returned to Werribee, Victoria. They have both been ill and depressed and are glad to be back. They have four daughters all living nearby which must be a great comfort.

Major A.P. (Joe) O'Gorman is shortly retiring and in 1990 will be appointed Regimental Secretary for the Queens Own Buffs Regimental Association, working from Howe Barracks, Canterbury.

Two 90 year old Diehards who are residing at Maurice House, Royal British Legion, Broadstairs, Kent, are happy and well. They both enjoy good health. They are R.P. Oliver and F.W. Redman.

Best wishes to Ernie Platt (6205163) who recently underwent a cataract operation. I understand that the operation has been successful and he is making a good recovery.

Former RSM Arthur and Doris Rose celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 17 September. In July Arthur enjoyed a trip to Dunkirk revisiting old battle grounds during his service with 2 Mx. Sadly his name appears in the obituaries page.

Former CSM Tom Steward informs me that he will be retiring next year and moving to Cyprus.

LCpl Reg (Taffy) Shore (6201889) when paying his subscriptions for 1990, asked to be remembered to all his 1st Bn comrades.

WO2 P.K. Tidey, The Queen's Regiment, has now assumed the appointment of PSI to the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (The Volunteers). He states that he will be very pleased to represent our Regiment in Hong Kong as and when necessary. He has already proved his worth by his contribution to the party that recently visited Hong Kong.

Former Cpl D.R. Vincent, 1st Bn 1948-50, has recently been awarded the Army Cadet Force Certificate for Good Service. After leaving the regiment he became a well known pig farmer at Hockley in Essex. He joined the Essex Army Cadet Force in 1980, promotion to Sgt, SSI and CSM of C Company followed. The citation read 'He is extremely enthusiastic, loyal and hard working and gives much of his spare time to the ACF'. Our sincere congratulations to Dennis on his award. He likes to attend the reunion so I might even buy him a drink. His son is now a Lieutenant with the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Private Reg Warner (6205138) from Felixstowe was visited by Ken Branton (6205139) in September 1989. They both joined the Regiment in May 1939. Ken was captured at Dunkirk while serving with the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment. Reg was evacuated by a mine sweeper from Dunkirk while serving with B Company 1/7th Bn. Reg continued his war service with 1/7th until the end of hostilities. He is now the Standard Bearer with the Royal British Legion in Felixstowe. Reg the address of Ken Branton is required.

Another member has been found - he is Private Thomas Henry Walton (4128196) who served with the TA from April to September 1939. He went to France with the regiment in 1940, I have to find which Bn, and returned in May 1940 via Dunkirk. In March 1941 he was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong and became a POW. He served his time in the Tokyo Camp. He arrived back in UK in late 1945 and in 1947 was with the 1st Bn in BAOR and was discharged on 20 June 1947. An absolute glutton for punishment. He remains cheerful despite all the events that have happened, including suffering double above knee leg amputations.

Major Gerry Webb, MBE, has retired and moved to East Brent, Somerset. Our very best wishes to you both for a long and happy retirement.

Another correspondent was Major Henry Wells, MC, who was Adjutant and Company Commander of C Company, 1/8th Bn, during 1939-45. I am very short of members who served with the 1/8th - any addresses are welcome and I will ask them to join.

The following have joined the Regimental Association:-

Private I.R. Aldridge (23093111), served HQ Company, 1st Bn 1957-59.

Private J.W. Bedding (869185), served 1st Bn 1937-45, POW Hong Kong and No. 1 Camp Tokyo.

CSgt P. Bennett (6216700), served 1942-47 with 70th Y.S. Bn, 2 Mx and PLKR.

Private K. Boxer (23146422), served 1955-57, S Company (MMG P1) 1st Bn. One time Captain of Soccer team.

WO2(QMSI) M.D. Buckley, served 1942-64, 24 MGTC, 70th YS Bn, 2 PLKR, 1st Bn(Rendsburg), Iserlohn, Chelsea Bks, Demonstration Bn Warminster. He eventually transferred to the Small Arms School Corps and on retirement was Divisional Sgt Major of the Mortar Division.

Sgt S.H. Coster (6200646), served 1932-45, 9th Bn and in 1943 transferred to REME.

Private D. Daly (14320233), served 1942-47, C Company 1/7th Bn.

Private L.C.A. Gibbins (6201087), served 1933-45 commencing with D Company 7th Bn, 1/7th Dunkirk, downgraded and posted to the Dorset Regiment.

Private/Gunner/Dvr Mech J. Gosling (6205327), served 1938-46, 9th Bn TA, LAA RA, and RAOC.

Sgt J.E. Field (6205553), served 1939-45, at MGTC Gosport, until 1942 and then HQ & D Companies 1/8th Bn and finally as MG Instructor at 26 MGTC.

Private H. Grimsley (3450626), 1939-46, served 1/8th Lanc Fus 1939-41. 5 Cheshires 1942-43 and D Company 1/7th Bn 1942-46.

Private/Sapper G.G. Hodgson (6207383), served 1939-46, B Company 2/7th Bn and later transferred to R.e. A tradesman - Millwright. Previously a member but lapsed owing to illness. Now recovered and back in circulation.

Cpl H. Munchenbach (6210544), served 1939-45, 12 Platoon, C Company 1st Bn. POW Hong Kong and later Shinagawa Camp, Tokyo.

Private D.H. Reber (23351456), served 1956-58, B Company and M.T. 1st Bn.

Cpl J.F. Smart (14449584), served 1944-52, A Company 2 Mx 1945-48, HQ Company 1st Bn 1948-52, serving in Palestine and Korea.

Private B.P. Tate (23146407), served 1955-57, 1st Bn.

Mr. E. Wilson (TF/3235 and 204913), 2/8th Bn and 2nd Bn 1917-19, now 91 years of age writes "I send my best wishes to all my comrades who served in the Regiment".

#### REGIMENTAL MUSEUM

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

- Medals of Lt-Col A.M. Earle, 57th Regiment, comprising - Crimea War Medal w/bars Sebastopol, Inkerman, Balaklava, Turkish Crimea Medal and the Legion D'Honneur Second Empire. Presented by the late Lt-Col Charles Earle, Scots Guards.
- Medals of Major F.J. Nunn, MC, 9th Bn, comprising - Military Cross, 1914 Star, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19, Defence Medal 1939-45, War Medal 1939-45. Also Red Mess Jacket, Blues Jacket, Cane, Forage Cap and other personal articles.
- Book "In the Face of the Enemy" by Paul Francia, who served with D Company 2/8th (1st Bn). Purchased from Museum Funds.
- Silver Cigarette Case engraved "Presented by the Mayoress of Ramsgate, Mrs H.C. Child, to Private G.E. Giraud (G/96931), The Middlesex Regiment on his return to Ramsgate after being a Prisoner of War in the hands of the Germans, as a small appreciation of hardships and suffering endured. Ramsgate 29th January 1919". Also his Middlesex Regiment Cap Badge. Presented by Mr G.E. Giraud, aged 90 years, now living in Deal, Kent.

#### BATTLEFIELD TOUR OF HONG KONG 18-19 SEPTEMBER 1990

A two day Study Day in Hong Kong on "The Fall and Occupation of Hong Kong 1941-45" is being held there 18-19 September 1990. The Commander British Forces Hong Kong very much hopes that those who



fought in the battle will be able to attend, touring the battlefields and contributing, if they wish, to presentations on what happened. Colonel Oliver Lindsay can provide more details. He can be contacted at The Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park, Camberley, Surrey GU16 5HD.

#### THE HONG KONG (ARGYLE STREET) P.O.W. ASSOCIATION

The 1989 reunion was held in the Central Officers' Mess and HQ Club, Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, on Saturday 30 September.

The following attended – Lt-Col T.W. Chattey, Major F.S.C. Hancock, Capt J.H.S. Hudson, Capt C.G. Webber and Major A.E.F. Waldron.

#### THE LONDON BRANCH OF THE FEPOW ASSOCIATION 1941-45

The London Branch of the FEPOW Association 1941-45 held their Annual Reunion and Service Remembrance at the Barbican Hall, Barbican Centre in the City of London on Friday 8 September 1989.

The following attended – Major A.E.F. Waldron, Mr A. Burrell, Mr E. Collier, Mr W. Marsh, Mr J. Milroy and Mr A. Pilfold.

#### THE 51st (HIGHLAND) DIVISION

The 51st (Highland) Division Dinner Club's 89th Gleneagles Dinner was held on Friday 27 October 1989 and was attended on behalf of the 1/7th Bn by Major A.B. Carter.

#### REMEMBER LE HAVRE 1944

In April 1989 Capt Ian Hammerton, a former WW2 member of the 22nd Dragoons undertook to act as UK Liaison Officer for the Pilgrimage to mark the 45th Anniversary of the siege and capitulation of the Le Havre fortress in September 1944. The commemoration extended from the 7th to the 10th September 1989, and coincided with the bi-centenary celebrations of the French Revolution in 1789.

Arrangements on the French side were presided over by Colonel Francois Poupel, who had already been a very welcome guest at the 51st (Highland) Division's Dinner Club on 28 April last.

Some 720 members of all participating formations applied in the early stages and the final figure must have been around the 700 mark. The two Divisions involved were the 49th (West Riding) and the 51st (Highland), the latter having returned to 1 Corps for that particular operation, plus Armoured units, RE Bridging companies and the 'funnies' – flame throwers, crocodiles, etc. Great devastation had been wrought by Naval, Air and Artillery bombardment resulting in 2000 French civilian casualties, so that the centre of Le Havre has since been almost entirely rebuilt.

Conducted tours, very ably guided by Reservists and present day French Army 'Volunteers' were made around the Battlefield Areas, followed by visits to the Main Cemetery, a Cathedral Church Service, a Civic Reception, and finally, a Celebration Dinner and Film Show, from actual British and German archive film, in a Hall and Cinema near the Gare Maritime.

Three members of the Regiment attended – the writer (Major Alan Carter), former Diehard Sgt M.D. Buckley, who later became QMSI at SAS Netheravon, and Harry Grimsley who joined D Company 1/7th in March 1943. Buckley and Grimsley are now members of the regimental association.

We were fortunate to be billeted in the same hotel as a coachload of 43 former members of the 1st and 5/7th Gordons, who had brought their own coach down from Aberdeen, with pick-ups en route to Portsmouth and the atmosphere on our last night together was one of very warm 'Jock' and 'Diehard' conviviality! One of the 'Jocks' in their party who hailed from Manchester and who lost a leg in 1944, later wrote to say that their coach dropped him, on their return journey at Charnock Richard Service Station on the M6 at 0330 hours in the morning! Such is the stuff of which the British Army is made.

#### OBITUARY

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

**BURGESS** – On 7 October 1989, WO2 (CSM) Clifford Burgess (6206327), aged 71 years. Cliff Burgess enlisted into the T.A. on 25 April 1939 and joined the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment. On the outbreak of WW2 he was embodied and was posted to the 1st Bn PLK Regt. He proceeded with the Bn to France on 13 April 1940. He was taken POW on 12 June 1940 at St Valery-en-Caux. At the end of June he joined up the POW collection depot at Rouen and the POW party then started on the 'Death March' of 1000 miles to the Polish/Czech border. He later worked in the coal mines and finally on Polish farms. He arrived back in UK on 3 May 1945 after being a POW for 4 years 325 days. On 5 May 1946 he was posted to the Middlesex Regiment and joined the 1st Bn in Rendsburg and later to Iserlohn. During this period he took the plunge and signed on for 12 years. He then came home to Mill Hill with the 1st Bn and service at Chelsea Barracks, Hong Kong, Korea, Hong Kong, Austria and Cyprus followed. During this period he had risen to C/Sgt. On the 14th September 1957 he was posted to the UK and Depot. He was promoted WO2 and enjoyed his work at the Depot when he was involved in a nasty accident when a firework exploded in his back pocket causing severe burns. After quite a spell in hospital he was discharged. He was discharged to pension on 31 August 1961. Cliff Burgess was a most efficient and pleasant man who was always willing to help others, which he did. A true and dedicated Diehard who regularly supported the reunion and all regimental causes, a great friend to all. It was a great shock to him when his wife died in 1981. Men like Cliff do not appear very often. He will be sadly missed by his family and regiment. RSM and Mrs Dodkins and RQMS Cooper attended the funeral. The Regimental Flag draped the coffin and a full Guard of Honour from his branch of the local Royal British Legion attended with their Standard.

**COMMERFORD** – On 27 August 1989, Private Edward James Commerford (6201486), aged 73 years. Ted Commerford enlisted at Mill Hill on 23 May 1934 and on completion of his recruit training and a short spell with the 2nd Bn was at the end of 1935 posted to the 1st Bn then in Egypt joining D Company. Service in Singapore and Hong Kong followed. In early 1941 he was selected to be part of a special draft, under the command of Sgt V. Cooper, and they proceeded to the Middle East. Sgt Cooper was later commissioned but killed in action. On arrival in the Middle East the purpose of the draft was no longer relevant and the draft was split up, some getting home to UK and others joining the RNF. Commerford got home and was posted to the 1/7th Bn for a short period. He volunteered for the Airborne Forces but on his 10th jump injured his spine and a spell in hospital followed. He later joined the 2/7th Bn in Italy, Anzio and Palestine followed. He was discharged on 26 February 1946. His elder brother, LCpl John Commerford also served with the 1st Bn in Hong Kong but sadly lost his life on the Lisbon Maru. Their father was a Sgt with the Royal Fusiliers and killed in WW1. In 1982 he could no longer walk and was confined to a wheel chair. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Woolwich have during the past 7 years given him great care and treatment for which he was very grateful. During the past seven years I have been able to keep in close touch with him.

**DORAN** – On 29 October 1989, WO2 John (Dizzy) Doran (6215906), aged 64 years. He put up his age in 1941 in order to join the Middlesex Regiment with whom he served until transferring to the Royal Corps of Signals in 1942. After passing out on his wireless operators course at Prestatyn he volunteered for the 1st Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment and went to North Africa. In July 1943 he parachuted into Sicily and was taken POW in the Mount Etna area and was a POW until June 1945. After the war he joined the 16th Airborne Divisional Signal Regiment TA – The Middlesex Yeomanry – and then 305 (Para) Signal Squadron where he reached the rank of WO2 before he was discharged after many years of loyal service. It was only in 1988 that he joined the Middlesex Regiment OCA to add to his membership of the Parachute Regimental Association and the Middlesex Yeomanry OCA. Dizzy managed several 'pubs' in the London, Essex and Surrey area before ill health forced his retirement. War time and post war comrades attended his funeral. Always cheerful, never complaining a friend to all.

**HUGHES** – On 10 September 1989, Maj Gen Basil Perronet Hughes, CB, CBE, aged 86 years. General Hughes was commissioned in the Royal Field Artillery in 1923 and began his service life in India where he served with mountain artillery from 1926 until 1936. During this period he had two tours on the North West Frontier in 1930 and 1933. In 1940 he went to France with the BEF where he commanded 2/11 Battery of 3 Medium Regiment R.A. At the end of that year, he became GSO1 of 5AA Division and for the remainder of his very distinguished service he was involved with this branch of the Royal Artillery in a succession of appointments. He retired in 1958 when he became Controller of The Royal Artillery Institution until 1973. He was Colonel Commandant of the Royal Artillery from 1961 to 1968. General

Hughes association with the T.A. in the County of Middlesex commenced with his appointment as Honorary Colonel of 571 LAA Regiment RA TA (9th Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO)) in 1958. With the re-organisation of the T.A. in 1962, 7th Mx, 8th Mx and 571 LAA Regt RA (9th Mx) were amalgamated to form a new infantry battalion, 5th Mx. In due course, Gen Hughes took his turn serving as Honorary Colonel of this battalion until it became 10th Queens in 1966 when he was again appointed as Honorary Colonel. This continued when the Bn Cadre was expanded to form A Company 6th Bn The Queen's Regt in 1971.

In 1972 General Hughes became a Trustee of the Middlesex Regiment Museum Trust. He was a trustee up to the time of his death. He was also a trustee of the Middlesex and 10th Queen's Territorial Trust and also maintained a close interest in the activities of Albuhera Company 6/7th Queen's and its embodiment in 8th Queens Fusiliers.

His funeral on 18 September was attended by Lt-Col T.W. Chattey representing Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell and Lt-Col P.J. Hall. The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Maj Gen Hughes at the Royal Garrison Church, Woolwich, on 11 October 1989, was attended by Lt-Col T.W. Chattey representing Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, Lt-Col J.D. Gunnell, Major C.L. Lawrence, Major Naish and Capt J. Spencer Richards.

**HUMPHRIES** – On 12 August 1989, Sgt John Leon Humphries (6086829), aged 68 years. John Humphries served with the Queens Royal Regiment from 1 September 1939 until 1 June 1959, when he was discharged on reduction of the establishment. He was a member of the Queens Royal Regiment Company that were posted to 1 Mx in Korea. He served with great distinction from 1 October 1950 to 30 September 1951. He became a very popular member of our regiment and some of our members have kept in touch with him and his family. We first met him in Iserlohn in 1948 and this was the beginning of a long lasting friendship. He resided in Iserlohn and always kept in touch and was a member of our regimental association.

**JACOBS** – On 14 September 1989, Private Stanley Norman Jacobs, aged 92 years. Served 2 Mx 1914-18

**KIDD** – On 10 August 1989, Captain Douglas Kidd. He served with the 2/7th Bn, C Support Group from 1940-45. The funeral was attended by Major C.S. Goulding, Major E. Rich and Major E.A.W. Kyte.

**LEGGE** – On 20 July 1989, Private Francis James Legge (2037545), aged 69 years. He enlisted into the T.A. in 1936 joining the Royal Engineers. On the 3 February 1939 he joined the 7th Bn and at the formation of the 1/7th and 2/7th Bns he found himself in A Company 1/7th Bn with whom he served until 2 February 1944. The final period of his service was with RNF and KRRC.

**MAYHEW** – On 25 October 1989, Major James (Tim) Mayhew (247800), aged 69 years. He was a member of the 9th Bn from 1942-46. He suffered ill health for many years.

**McDAVITT** – On 7 July 1982, WO2 Thomas Patrick McDavitt (6197909), aged 76 years. He served with the regiment from 1927 to 1949. In early 1941 he was posted from the 1st Bn in Hong Kong to UK. He served with the 2/8th (1st Bn) during the war. Many members have over the years asked me to find out what happened to McDavitt – it has taken a long time but you all now know the answer.

**McKENZIE** – On 21 May 1989, Cpl John Marion McKenzie (23638980), aged 49 years. John was a National Serviceman, called up on 19 September 1959, serving until 18 September 1961. He became a Cpl with the Mortar Platoon, S Company at Hemeln and his Platoon Commander was Lt Peter Cheesman. He joined the Regimental Association in March 1989 and attended the Albuhera Service of Remembrance in St Pauls Cathedral and the annual reunion at the Victory Club in the May. He died the following week whilst attending a wedding on the Isle of Man. John was making a success of civilian life having become the Assistant Manager of the West Smithfield Branch of Lloyds Bank. We extend our deepest sympathy to his widow and family and we also hope that they will attend the Albuhera Service of Remembrance on 12 May 1990.

**PIKE** – On 6 September 1989, Private Stanley Joseph Pike (14408811), aged 64 years. Stan Pike enlisted on 12 December 1942 serving until August 1944, with 6 Platoon, B Company, 1/8th Bn. His Platoon Commander was Lt Chamberlain. He was wounded at Normandy on 30 June 1944, losing the sight in his left eye and was subsequently medically discharged. He was a member of the MOTHs and the Normandy Veterans Association. Mr & Mrs Ron Pile, together

with members of these organisations attended the funeral.

**PRETLOVE** – On 5 November 1989, Cpl Arthur Pretlove (6199003), aged 76 years. Arthur Pretlove enlisted at Hornsey on a T.A. engagement on 28 March 1929, serving with the 7th Bn. He was discharged on 27 March 1933 on completion of his 4 year engagement. He was called up on 19 December 1940 and posted to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry at Bodmin. This must have been a terrible shock for him. In August 1941 after many applications he was posted back to his regiment and joined the 1/7th Bn. He was always proud to say that he served with 1/7th throughout North Africa, Sicily and Normandy. He was discharged on 6 May 1946. He was a regular attender at the 1/7th Dinner/Luncheons and I have met him on many occasions. He was an exceptionally proud Diehard as many of his brothers had also served with our regiment. His family consisted of 9 boys and 3 girls. His son informs me that he has bequeathed £500 to the regimental charitable fund.

**READ** – On 16 June 1989, C/Sgt Arthur Vivian Read (6200515), aged 79 years. He enlisted in 1931 and served with the 2nd Bn until 1938 when he was transferred to the Army Reserve on completion of his 7 engagement. On 1 September he was recalled from the Army Reserve and was posted to the 1/8th Bn joining D Company. He was promoted to C/Sgt and finally discharged in 1945.

**REDDING** – On 20 August 1989, Sgt Robert (Bob) John Redding (6201427), aged 71 years. He enlisted on 30 January 1934, as a Boy soldier and joined the Corps of Drums of the 2nd Bn. His service with this Bn was continuous serving at Colchester, Portsmouth and Gosport. He was with the Bn at Dunkirk and landed with the Bn in Normandy on D Day. He was finally discharged on 31 March 1947. He was a proud soldier following in his fathers footsteps, who was a Sgt with the 2nd Bn in WW1. In civilian life he trained to be a painter, decorator and signwriter, eventually becoming a foreman and later manager of a private building firm. I repeat the words his widow wrote to me "He was a great family man, we all went to him for advice and counselling, he instilled in all of us, high standards to follow". He will be sadly missed.

**ROBINSON** – On 21 May 1989, Private James Valentine Robinson (6201450), aged 75 years. He enlisted into the regiment in 1934 and served in Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong with the 1st Bn. He was taken POW on 25 December 1941 and was held in Shamshuipo Camp, Hong Kong until August 1945 when he was repatriated to UK and discharged on completion of his service. No other details are available.

**ROSE** – On 14 November 1989, WO1 (RSM) Arthur Rose (6200783), aged 76 years. Arthur Rose enlisted into the regiment on 5 January 1933 and on completion of his recruit training was posted to the 2nd Bn then at Hyderabad Barracks, Colchester. On arrival he joined HQ Company and the Signal Platoon. At the outbreak of war he was a Sgt and went to France with the 2nd Bn on 29 September 1939 returning on 1 June 1940. He remained with the Bn having now been promoted to WO2(CSM) and on 3 June 1944 embarked with 2 Mx for Normandy. He remained in Germany until 19 May 1947. His next posting was as a WO1(RSM) to 156 Transit Camp where he remained until 1952. His final posting was a Garrison Sgt Major Aldershot Garrison and he finally retired to pension on 4 January 1955 on completion of 22 years colour service. He then joined the War Department Police, rising to Sgt, and serving at Enfield Lock Small Arms Factory, Woolwich Arsenal and Shoeburyness, retiring for the second time in 1978. For the past 10 years Arthur suffered badly with his chest and breathing but never complained. He attended the Royal Hospital Church Parade at Chelsea on Sunday 29 October and although very sick was determined to be on parade. Arthur was a quiet friendly man who was very proud of his regiment and was a true Diehard. The Regimental Flag draped his coffin and his widow had a flowered wreath in regimental colours depicting the cap badge placed on his coffin. Mr Jeff Haward represented the regiment and members of the RBL and Dunkirk Assn were present.

**ROWE** – On 24 July 1989, Cpl Frank Alfred Rowe (6209815), aged 70 years. Frank Rowe joined the T.A. on 15 September 1939 and was posted to the 1/7th Bn. He served with this Bn throughout the North Africa, Italy and Normandy campaigns and was discharged on 30 April 1946. He was a very well known member of the Bn having been Officers Mess Cpl. He was a regular attender of all 1/7th Bn functions.

**STEBBING** – On 7 October 1989 Private Francis Henry Stebbing (6216048), aged 67 years. On 24 June 1941 he volunteered for service at the age of 17½ years and was accepted for the regiment joining 24 MGTC at Mill Hill. His elder brother Sgt Ernie Stebbing was an instructor at that time and young Harry became a member of his squad. On completion of his initial training he joined the 70th Young Soldiers Bn. Some months later he was posted to the 2nd Bn and became a driver batman. He

embarked with the Bn on 6 June 1944 and served right through the Normandy campaign and then on to Palestine. He was demobbed on 4 November 1946. In civilian life he served with Corps of Commissionaires and later, for some 20 years was a Bank Courier with Barclays Bank.

**URE** – On 26 June 1989, WO2 William (Jock) Ure (6199252), aged 75 years.

Bill Ure enlisted into the regiment as a boy soldier on 29 November 1929, just 15½ years of age. He joined the Band of 1st Bn and attended a music course at Kneller Hall in 1930. The 1st Bn was then in UK. He proceeded overseas with the Bn in 1931 and served in Palestine, Egypt, Singapore and Hong Kong. On 11 January 1939 he was appointed Band Cpl. In October 1940 he left the Band and joined A Company. In 1940 he was promoted WO3(PSM) and in May 1941 was promoted to WO2. During the fighting in Hong Kong he was with Z Company and he was captured on 25 December 1941. He served his POW time in Osaka Camp, Japan. He returned to UK in late 1945. In 1946 he joined 26 MGTC and when this unit closed to the MG Wing(Mx) Home Counties ITC and finally to the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre. In 1949 he was posted ERE to Hong Kong and the GHQ Infantry Records, Singapore, and from 1951 to 1953 worked with the Far East War Graves Commission. He was discharged to pension on 23 March 1953. Jock was a very keen sportsman excelling at Water Polo, swimming and hockey. He will be sadly missed by his family and regiment.

**WILLIAMS** – On 12 November 1989, Mrs Hannah Williams, aged 69 years.

Mrs Williams was the widow of Private C.W. Williams (6203532) who died on 17 April 1967, aged 49 years, who had been a FEPOW with the 1st Bn. She lived in a flat at Albuhera Close, Enfield, and was a model tenant. Sadly she was very ill for many years and will be sadly missed by her family and the regiment.

Mr Paul Francia of the 2/8th (Resuscitated 1st Bn) reports that the following have died – they all served with the Bn 1944-45 Normandy. No further details are available.

6205162 LCpl G. Bywaters  
6212462 Cpl S. Curtis  
5511946 Pte L. Jupp, MM  
6200345 Pte H. Phillips.

Mr Ron Taylor, Secretary of the 2/7th Bn OCA reports that the following have died. No further details available.

Mr T. Baber  
Mr B. Eaton.

## LETTER

From: Mr R.A. Clarke  
24a Norton Avenue  
Canvey Island  
Essex SS8 8LQ  
28th October 1989

Dear Major Waldron,

As you know I am a member of the regimental association and served with the 1st Bn from 1952 to 1955, I was with 1 Platoon, A Company. On leaving the Regiment I joined the London Fire Brigade serving from 1955 to 1982 when I was discharged with a 80% disability pension.

I have produced an oak framed, glazed plaque 18 by 12 inches displaying in the top centre the Korea Medal and the U.N. Medal(Korea) plus the 17 cap badges of the British infantry regiments that served in Korea up to the armistice 1953, all are silvered and name in red and white as per shoulder flash.

The badges can alternately be supplied in Bi metal i.e. silvered with gilt enamel, the supply of plaques will be limited in number as they are hand made and are very time consuming.

It is not intended that this project be moneymaking and any orders from members of the Regimental Association will be supplied at cost, about £70 plus p&p plus a donation to regimental funds possibly. A colour photograph of the plaque will be supplied on receipt of a SAE at the above address.

The plaque is on display at the regimental museum, Bruce Castle, Tottenham, London N17.

Yours sincerely,

R.A. Clarke.



### REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following regimental goods are available for purchase. These can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Major A.E.F. Waldron, MBE, Lynsore Bungalow, Upper Hardres, Canterbury, Kent CT4 6EE. Postage and packing is included in the price. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association.

Blazer Badges	£ 6.50 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£16.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, (Maroon and Old Gold)	£ 3.00 each
Ties New Pattern Terylene	£ 3.00 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£ 6.00 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£13.00 each
History 'Diehards in Korea'	£ 5.00 each
Christmas Cards - Steady the Drums & Fifes	£ .20 each
Middlesex Cap Badges -not originals	£ 2.50 each
Tumbler, Whisky engraved with Middlesex Regiment badge	£ 6.00 each

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It is not intended to be used as a basis for any decision.  
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