



The Die-Hards

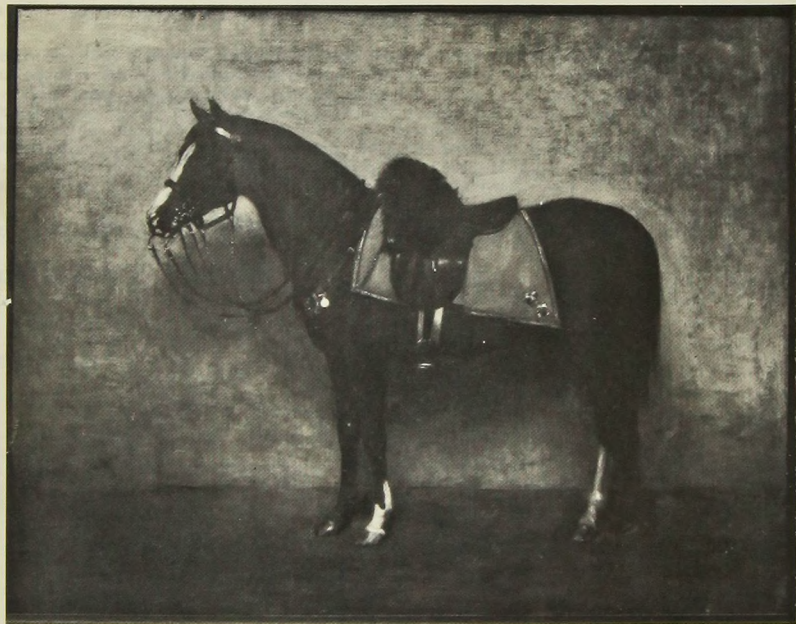
NEWSLETTER

No. 55

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One Middlesex Regiment Cloth Slip on title.

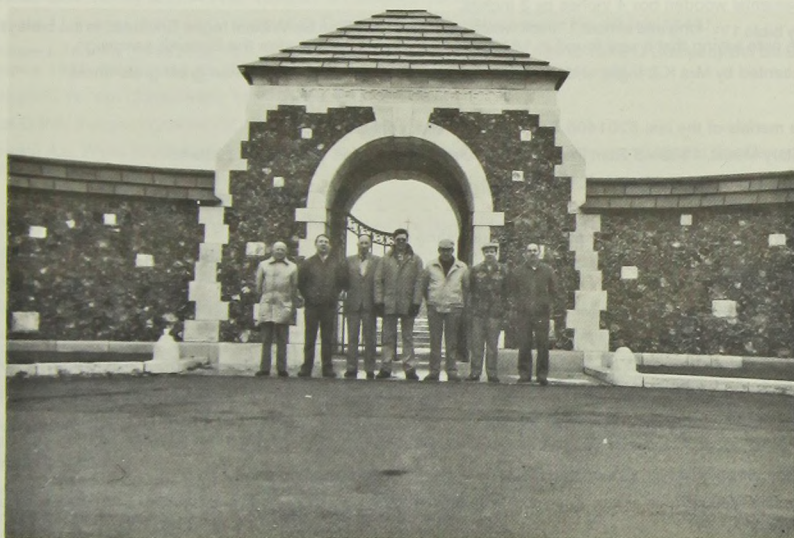
German Sgts epaulette.

5 Franc note – liberation money. Diehards in the Great War Vol 1, 1914-16, Infantry Training Manual 1914.

Presented by Mr R. Ashton, 1st Bn (2/8th).

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE OF HOUNSLOW BRANCH TO LILLE AND WORLD WAR I BATTLEFIELDS

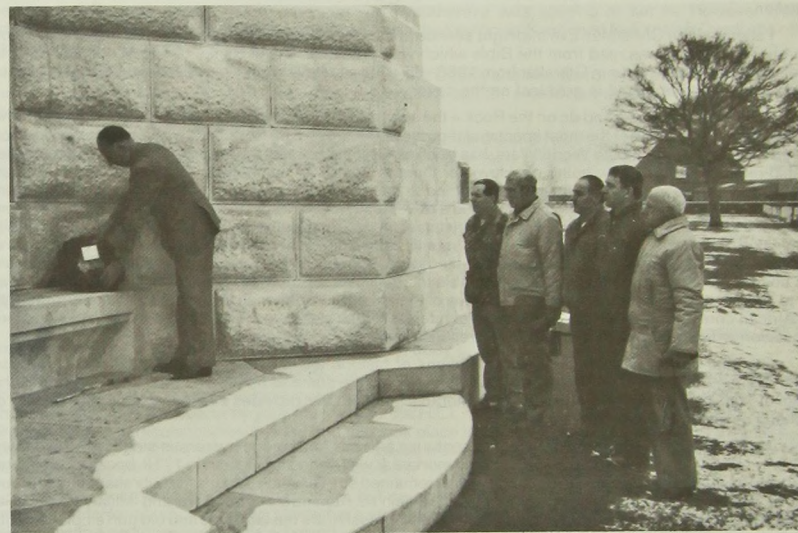
We assembled in the early hours of Friday morning and moved off to catch the six a.m. ferry which would enable us to break new ground in our annual pilgrimage and move away from the Somme Area on which we have focussed our attention over the last three years and to divert our interest to the Ypres salient which was the scene of four bloody battles, the German Spring offensive and the area where the first Territorial Army units went into action in October 1914.



After a hearty breakfast on board boat we were ready for our tour and on landing at Calais we set off via Dunkirk to visit the Belgian sector of the line and specifically the Belgian Army Memorial Chapel at OUR-STUIVENKENJKERKE which has some very fine stained glass windows. We followed the demarcation stones which mark the original trench lines to the Trench of Death, a reconstructed area of trenches which was unfortunately closed. As the weather had turned foul and snow was falling, we stopped for coffee before proceeding to Duxmunde, a sleepy market town marked by the YSERTOREN a huge memorial tower to the Free Flemish. Our route then took us on to the HOUTHULST FOREST, which Napoleon believed to be the key to the low countries. Here we visited the only Belgian cemetery in the immediate area. The Belgians did not hold a sector in the salient and the graves here mark the men who fell when they finally captured the forest in September 1918. We now headed for Kerselaar (Vancouver Corner), passing en route the memorial to Georges Guynemer, the French Air Ace, which is a stork in flight. At the crossroads rises a pillar on which are the head and shoulders of a soldier resting on arms reversed, and this is the memorial to 2000 Canadians who

lost their lives whilst holding the British left and were also the recipients of the first German gas attacks.

From Vancouver Corner we set out for PASHENDALE, passing numerous cemeteries and memorials before arriving about 1 p.m. We visited the church and saw the memorial window to the 66th Division before retiring to a cafe to partake of cognac, whilst our Q staff of Eagle and Raby went and purchased bread, wine, cheese and pate. After warming ourselves in front of a huge log fire, and now warmed both inside and out, we move on to Tyne Cot, the largest British Commonwealth Cemetery in Europe with 12,000 graves and the memorial to the missing with 34,000 names. The original graves are grouped around the Cross of Sacrifice and the other 11,500 bodies were brought in from the surrounding battlefields and buried here after the armistice. Whilst we were here we spoke at length with one of the gardeners who has been resident since 1945 but not yet lost his Devon accent. He pointed out to us numerous Middlesex graves, and by one of the German Blockhouses the grave of Capt Jefferies, AIF, who lies near the spot where he won the Victoria Cross. Before leaving John Morgan laid a wreath on behalf of the regiment, and after a belated lunch we headed for our hotel in Lille.



Saturday dawned a not too bright day, cold but dry, and in the morning we renewed our acquaintance with Len Arlington, an old Diehard, before going to the house where Capt Michael Trotabus was shot after a gun battle with the Germans. Gordon Young laid a wreath on behalf of the regiment. In the afternoon we paraded in Wattignes to name a street after Marcel Fertain who was a Lieut to Michael Trotabus in the S.O.E. and we were entertained afterwards at the Town Hall.

On Sunday morning we again paraded to attend a ceremony to mark the close relationship between the Middlesex Regiment and Resau Sylvestre at the Cimetiere du Sud in Lille, where again Gordon Young laid a wreath on behalf of the Middlesex Regiment. Afterwards we went to the Town Hall where a plaque was presented to John Laffin the author. As is usual at these ceremonies, wine was served.

At lunchtime we attended a banquet which lasted to early evening and we met many old friends and made some new ones; before returning to our hotel a tired but happy band. Monday we rose late, did a little shopping in readiness for Christmas, before returning to Blihty.

A BRIEF VISIT TO GIBRALTAR
by Lieut. Colonel T.W. Chattey, OBE.

I spent a short holiday over the Christmas period in Gibraltar and, of course, was able to call on 1st Queen's who are stationed there. Lieut. Colonel Michael Ball, the Commanding Officer, most kindly took time off to give me a brief tour of the barracks and tell me something about the conditions for his troops on the Rock. Understandably the training facilities are severely limited, but I was full of admiration for the various schemes and activities which he and his officers devise to keep the men fit and ready for any eventuality. The Battalion occupies two sets of barracks, both quite close to each other. One is comparatively modern and although the other is considerably older I understand that it is much preferred, particularly in the hot season. Oddly I have heard this about modern barracks elsewhere overseas, so it may not be so strange as it sounds. The view from Col. Mike's office looking over Europa Point and across the Straits is really impressive and surely must be one of the finest from any Orderly Room anywhere.

A principal role for 1st Queen's is to provide the ceremonial guard on The Governor's residence which is known as The Convent, where the smart and alert sentries are particularly noticeable and a great credit to the Battalion.

I attended the Christmas Eve midnight service at the historic King's Chapel, which is now the garrison church. The Lesson was read from the Bible which was presented by All Ranks of The Middlesex Regt. to commemorate their last tour in Gibraltar from 1963-65. It is beautifully bound in red leather with the Middlesex regimental crest embossed in gold leaf on the cover.

There is much to see and do on the Rock - the apes and their legend have still a special fascination, and St. Michael's Cave is one of the most spectacular grottoes in Europe. The famous Royal Naval dockyard, which played such a vital role in both World Wars, has been civilianised but alas there appears to be only a modicum of ship-repairing activity now going on. However there is little or no unemployment among the 20,000 odd Gibraltarian population, and the town itself seemed to be thriving and prosperous mainly, I understand, from the promotion of off-shore banking facilities and a developing tourist trade. Certainly we found it an excellent place for a short holiday, especially over the Christmas period. The Southport Gate and Main Street were gaily illuminated, the shops were doing a brisk trade (mostly British goods at British prices), the pubs were full, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves immensely. Undoubtedly the re-opening of the border with Spain has been a great relief, and certainly we were able to cross over for trips into Spain with little formality. A day trip to Tangier across the Straits gave one an idea of their historic importance in so closely linking Europe with the African continent. Tangier itself has much of interest for the visitor, and also has a considerable Western population which dates back to the British presence there in the 17th century.

Gibraltar has many buildings and institutions of historic interest, including the handsome Garrison Library which dates from 1804, the Trafalgar Cemetery where some of those who died from wounds at the Battle of Trafalgar are buried, and its really memorable Museum that provides a remarkable graphic display of Gibraltar's history and natural history.

The Rock has been a fortress for three centuries and has undergone numerous sieges of which there are many relics in the shape of guns, cannon and mortars. It was ceded to England in 1713, became a colony in 1830 and in spite of many efforts to dislodge us has remained so ever since. Clearly the Gibraltarians are proud to be British and it is very obvious that they wish to remain so. Reminders of our naval and military efforts in its defence are to be seen everywhere. Perhaps the most impressive are the Galleries and old gun emplacements which were tunnelled into the sheer and formidable North Face towards the end of the Great Siege of 1779-83. They have been brought to life by the installation of full-size models in uniforms depicting the scenes and conditions at the time. Today there are over 30 miles of tunnels under the Rock, most of which were excavated during and between the two World Wars and include a fully equipped hospital which, in fact, was never used.

Whilst wandering around the town I came across one memento in the form of a wall plaque with an inscription which read:-

"God and the Soldiers all men adore in time of trouble
and no more, for when war is over and all things righted
God is neglected and the old soldier slighted."

Sadly, today this still remains true.

DEADLY DYER'S LAST STAND

Les Dyer of Eastleigh, by the nine Great Gods he swore, should suffer wrong no more. By the nine Great Gods he swore it and names a trysting day, and Don/R's rode forth, north south east and west to summon his array. Shame on the idling Diehard who lingers at his home, whilst Deadly and his Carrier Crew press on through fire and foam.

("With apologies to Las Porsena")

On 8 February this year 'Dyerforce' assembled at The Swan, Alton, where Jimmy Saville had arranged to give cover for Deadly to re-enact a wartime day some forty years ago. Answering the call to arms were Henry Painter, Sam Shawyer, Horace Love and Desmond Ellis.

In the absence of Willie Fletcher (QM) who might have raised a charge, the party was kitted out by the BBC, given an evening meal and bedded down.

Reveille at 0600 hrs to 4" snow and the start point for 'Bordonia' crossed at 0810 hrs. First Parade took place at 0900 hrs inside a hut with shouts of 'Shot One - Take - Cut - Roll on' and those not yet required became colder and colder, and by late morning hypothermia was starting to set in. However Deadly administered the kiss of life to OC B Company who was then sufficiently aroused to dispatch Dyerforce off on its mission.

Despite the defenses put up by the Bordonia rebels, Deadly and his crew drove an intrepid path through the battle scarred dunes. By dusk it was decided to call a halt for a quick brew up for hostilities were not concluded until 2000 hrs.

On 24 February Dyerforce were summoned to London for the final recording which appeared on BBC1 on 8 March. Unfortunately by then Deadly had left for a trip to New Zealand, no doubt stopping off at The Philippines en route.

(By our Special Correspondent 1st (formerly 2/8th) Bn The Middlesex Regt.)

After the TV showing the following letter was received by 'Deadly':

East Sussex
8 March 1986

Dear 'Deadly',

Felt I must write after watching with great interest your antics on TV. Memories came flooding back and well I remember the Middlesex - without doubt a fine body of men.

I also served with pride in the 15th (Scottish) Division and who else but the likes of us would have fully understood what took place at or have even heard of Mondrainville. Clearly I recall the unflinching courage shown on so many occasions by your Gunners to the H.L.I. unit to which I belonged in the 46th Highland Brigade. One in particular comes to mind and that took place at Leinsel Wood in Holland where my Battalion had been moved to repel a heavy German counter attack. But for the steadfastness and devotion to duty of the Middlesex Support, our own casualties would certainly have been considerably higher.

I am now an exiled Scot from Glasgow but coincidentally it was in Brighton I was stationed prior to embarking for Normandy, so I am not altogether a stranger to these parts. I intended this to be just a short note and although I could write screeds - I won't.

Let me conclude by thanking you for the memories and wishing you and the other 'old soldiers' who appeared with you every good wish for your happiness.

Your ex comrade-in-arms.

(sgd) Hugh Meldrum

**CHARITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FORMER MIDDLESEX REGIMENT
(DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN) (TERRITORIAL ARMY) AND THE FORMER 10TH (TERRITORIAL)
BATTALION THE QUEEN'S REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX)**

A scheme to amalgamate the existing charities of the former Territorial Battalions of the Middlesex Regiment (DCO), as regulated by the Charity Commission scheme of the 10 March 1966, and the former 10th (Territorial) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Middlesex) was sealed by the Charity Commissioners on the 2 September 1985.

This scheme regulates the funded and chattel charities which are held and administered by trustees for the benefit of the Successor Unit. The present Trustees are:-

Major General B.P. Hughes, CB, CBE	Co-optative
Colonel I.D. Brotherton, TD, DL	Nominated
Lieut-Colonel D.E. Simpson, TD	Nominated
Lieut-Colonel H.G. Hansen	Nominated
Lieut-Colonel J.D. Gunnell, TD	Nominated
Major M.J. Beaumont, TD	Co-optative
Major R.A. Hall, TD	Ex-Officio
Captain D. Harwood	Co-optative

Copies of the scheme may be obtained on application to the Charity Commissioners at 14 Ryder Street, St. James's, London, SW1Y 6AH.

ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The annual Albuhera Service of Remembrance was held on the afternoon of Saturday 11 May, in the Regimental Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral.

The Canon in Residence, The Rev Peter Ball, together with the Rev Gus Jones, conducted the Service. Brig B.A.M. Pielow read the Lesson. The service was again exceptionally well attended by Old Comrades and their families. Regrettably I have to report that the service was completely spoilt by the sound system despite the assurances received from the Cathedral authorities prior to the service. I have now been assured that this will not happen again – however, my faith and confidence in this statement is very pessimistic. A lot of work goes into the preparation of this service, preparation of the Order of Service, information to members and it is most disappointing to find that on the day it was a complete failure. A local church could do better. Please continue to support this most important occasion as I feel sure that in 1987 we will have a really good service. Two cheering points – the flowers were very good and our stalwarts on duty on the steps at the entrance to St Paul's; Mousy Green dressed in the 1881 uniform and Les Plumb and Les Loomes in the 1902-14 uniform gave colour and pleasure to the proceedings. Thankyou M, L and L.

ANNUAL REUNION

The annual reunion was held at the Victory Services Club, in the Carisbrooke Hall, on Saturday 11 May, the doors opening at 6.30 p.m. and the bar closing at 12 midnight.

This year the reunion was exceptionally well attended and the number of officers present was very encouraging indeed. Also the number of Middlesex/Queens members. Our regulars led by Lt-Col Tom Chattey, President, Brig Tony Pielow, Chairman, Col Andrew Man, Majors Pat Donovan, Jimmy Wild, Taps Eastap, Capt Tom McMillan, RSM Ray Dodkins, Cliff Burgess, George Cooper, John Soden, Ray Clements, Paddy Ryan, Paddy Bermingham, Bill Wright, and so many others that I do not have the space to mention but I will try next year. Two notable absentees who apologised for their absence were Gen Sir John Willoughby and Major Chris Lawrence. However a couple of very welcome attenders were Major Fred Griffiths and RSM 'Tiger' Thom. We had not seen them for a very long time but I feel sure that we shall see them in the future. Another very welcome visitor was Mrs Peg Reece and her daughter Sandra, who came up from Cardiff. Peg is the widow of CSM Bert Reece, very well known to the older members of the 1st Bn.

The Victory Club allot the Regimental Association 15 beds for the night. This year we used the 15 plus another 6. Quite a number of our old comrades are members of the Victory Club and are able to book for the night as a right. Breakfast on the Sunday was another review of old times. The service at the Victory Club is first class, the rooms are good and the food excellent. The venue is central and the prices reasonable. Pass this information to your comrades and our attendance will reach record levels. Another strange thing happened, this year I did not have to struggle to get a quorum for the Annual General Meeting. Syd Webb produced the music and Major Dick Smith ran a raffle on behalf of the Mill Hill Branch. Sadly I didn't win this year.

I think I can say in all honesty that it was a good reunion enjoyed by all. Oh dear, I nearly got a black mark for failing to say that Mrs Phyllis Brooks, for the 39th year, was on the door, collecting money from those who turned up without a ticket. Phyl, your presence is so much appreciated, I do not know what I would do without you – see you next year.

INGLIS BARRACKS, MILL HILL

The 81st anniversary of the arrival of the Middlesex Regiment at Inglis Barracks was remembered on 4 April 1986, when a wreath was laid at the Regimental War Memorial by Major R.W.J. Smith. The Depot was in being from 4 April 1905 to 31 January 1961. The Regimental Flag flew over Inglis Barracks.

ALBUHERA DAY

On 16 May, Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE, Chairman of the Mill Hill Branch, organised a wreath laying ceremony at our Regimental War Memorial, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, in conjunction with the Postal Courier Depot R.E.

The Regimental Flag was flying proudly from the Depot Flag Pole for the day.

Wreaths were laid by Major R.W.J. Smith, MBE, on behalf of the Regimental Association and by Colonel D.L. Streatfield, Commandant Postal Courier Depot R.E.

After the ceremony the Commandant invited all present to the Officers Mess to partake of refreshments in honour of Albuhera Day. A gesture much appreciated by those present. 25 members were present including Colonel Desmond Ellis.

9th Bn OFFICERS' TRIENNIAL REUNION DINNER/LUNCHEON

It has been decided that in view of the fact that the advancing age of members made the difficulty of travelling and spending the night in London increasingly a problem that the dinners should cease and be replaced by an informal lunch. Accordingly a luncheon took place on Thursday 8 May 1986 at the Royal Overseas League, London SW1 which was attended by 19 officers and one guest. Colonel H.W.W. Gray was in the Chair and the guest was Major A.E.F. Waldron.

The officers attending were:

P.J. Cundy, B.T. Davis, J.T. Dear, D.E. Dowlen, J.T. Doyle, H.W.W. Gray, H.G. Hansen, H.J. Hesketh, E. Hawkins, A.M.H. Jones, J.T. Kemp, D.V. Littlejohn, W. MacGregor, F.J. Millard, L.F.E. Nichols, K.G. Price, J.R. Talbot, D.C. Tomlins, F.H. Tyler.

A short informal speech was made by the Dinner Secretary D.E. Dowlen giving news of those who were unable to attend for one reason or another. He also hoped that the idea of a luncheon instead of a dinner would be considered preferable by all concerned. This was agreed and in addition it was decided that the luncheons would take place annually at roughly the same time of year. There are now approximately 30 members available to attend, and it was hoped that those who unfortunately were prevented from attending on this occasion would make a special effort next year.

J.T. Dear thanked D.E. Dowlen for making the arrangements which he said were eminently satisfactory and everybody departed looking forward to the next occasion with even more attenders.

D.E.D.

2/8th (RESUSITATED 1ST) BN – ANNUAL LUNCHEON

This recently formed luncheon took place on Saturday 10 May 1986, at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, London, prior to the Albuhera Remembrance Service at St Paul's Cathedral. Over 60 former members of the battalion and some with their wives who either carried them in or carried them out attended. This year the Luncheon was not only staged for the Mortar Company but for all members of the 1st Bn. It would be too long to list those attending but this was a meeting long overdue. Two came from Canada and others from all parts of the U.K. The visit by Brig B.A.M. Pielow, chairman of the Regimental Association was much appreciated.

The attendance of Col Desmond Ellis, Major Geoffrey and Captain John Gerrard was very encouraging. Colonel Desmond claimed the privilege of proposing 'The Queen' and in doing so mentioned the names of one or two who had more recently joined 'The Pearly Gates Polishing Party'. In particular he spoke of the hard work done by Roy Bishop to make this event such a success and this despite the more recent loss of his wife. Paul Francia gave a very moving and sincere speech which was warmly applauded. Roy finally states 'After the do, I went on to visit my daughter and family in Essex for a few days and so ended a very pleasant and memorable week.'

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE – HERMANVILLE – 6 JUNE 1986

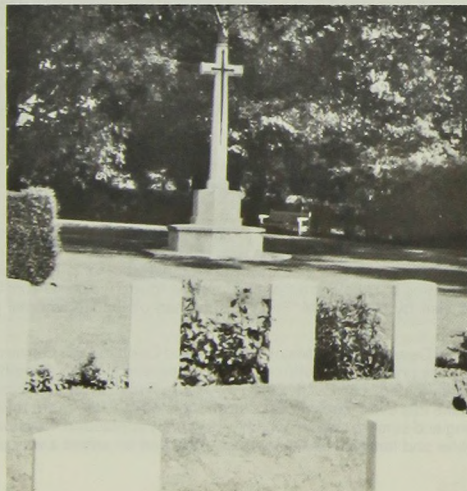
Following the BBC TV programme shown on Remembrance Sunday 1985 of the parade of 3rd Division Veterans at Hermanville on 6 June 1984 (the 40th Anniversary of Normandy D Day) it was learned belatedly that there is an annual 3rd Division Ceremony in that village on 6 June. Majors Brereton and Neve (O.C. and 2IC D Company on 6 June 1944) decided to attend the 1986 ceremony and have provided the Newsletter with the following report.

The customary evening services were preceded this year by a battlefield tour conducted by veteran officers of 1st South Lancashire Regiment who led the assault on Sword Queen White Beach. Lt-Col E. Jones, a platoon commander of A Company at the time, gave a graphic description of the actual landing and successful domination of the immediate area, wherein in fact is now located the 3rd Division Memorial. The tour then proceeded to the Chateau Le Landel, still scarred with numerous bomb and shell scrapes, for a picnic lunch, after which Lt-Col Jones gave a detailed account on the ground of 1 South Lancs experience in their efforts to capture the Chateau and woods of La Lande which was strongly held by 21st Panzer Division. There is a detailed account of this action on pages 44/45 of Major Moberley's book '2nd Bn's Campaign in N.W. Europe 6.6.44 - 7.5.45'. The South Lancs confirmed Major Moberley's statement that for them this battle stands "for a memory far bloodier than 'D' Day".

The evening ceremonies started with the laying of wreaths at the 3rd Division Memorial near the Beach by the present General Commanding 3rd Armoured Division, Major General D.J. Ramsbottom, CBE, Veteran Officers of 3rd Division and local dignitaries. Those present then walked to the British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery in Hermanville where further wreaths were laid. Appropriate music was provided by a local band whilst a bugler of 1 Queens Lancashire Regiment in full ceremonial dress sounded Last Post and Reveille. Village children meanwhile were placing flowers on the graves. These indeed were moving ceremonies, the latter in particular being attended by a large number of the village residents, including the Mayor and other local dignitaries.

During this visit numerous graves of fallen colleagues were sighted including those of Major Passey, Captain McDowell and Cpl Ted Green in the Cambes Wood Cemetery near where they were killed. The excellent condition of these cemeteries is a credit to the War Graves Commission.

It is presumed that something special will be organised by 3rd Armoured Division for 6 June 1994. Majors Brereton and Neve have indicated their intention of being present on that occasion should they be spared that long and still mobile! They hope that other members of 2nd Bn who were in the campaign will be like mind.



HOUNSLOW BRANCH

The Hounslow Branch no longer meet at the T.A. Centre, Hounslow. The TAVR Association Greater London, have decided to make a charge of £16.25 for a 3 hour meeting. This was not a viable proposition. The Branch committee have made contact with the Hounslow Branch of the Royal British Legion and have been allowed to use their premises at Whitton Road, which is behind the Drill Hall. The majority of the Hounslow branch are members of the Royal British Legion. So ends a very long association with the Hounslow Drill Hall.

OBITUARY

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

- AYRE** – On 5 May 1986, Mrs Margaret Ayre, wife of Lt-Col G. Brinley Ayre. Margaret was one of the very first regimental wives to join the regiment in Rendsburg in 1946 – she was a very lovely person and the very epitome of what a soldier's wife should be. She will be missed not only by her own family but also by us all. We all extend to Brinley, Jennifer, Susan and Patience our sincere condolences on their very sad loss.
- BUTTERFIELD** – On 1 January 1986, former Private Edward Richard Butterfield (6463346), aged 67 years. Private Butterfield commenced his service with the Royal Fusiliers on 15 July 1939. On 31 October 1939 he was transferred to the Middlesex Regiment and posted to the 1/7th Bn, serving in every campaign until transferred to the Army Reserve on 25 April 1946.
- CHAPLIN** – On 9 January 1986, former WO2(ORQMS) Robert Richard Chaplin (6195306), aged 81 years. Bob Chaplin commenced his service with the regiment on 6 February 1922 when he joined the T.A. and was posted to the 9th Bn. On 6 December 1923 he decided to become a regular soldier and was posted to the 1st Bn. He served with this Bn throughout his service – China 1927, Palestine 1931, Egypt 1933, Singapore 1936, Hong Kong 1937 and on Christmas Day 1941 was taken POW. He survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and spent his prisoner of war period in Kobe, Japan. He was discharged to pension on 29 May 1946 having completed 22 years and 175 days colour service. A quiet and unassuming man whose vast knowledge of regulations was a great asset to the numerous Adjutant's that came and went during his long service with the 1st Bn. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with gratuity.
- EDWARDS** – On 12 December 1985, former WO2 Henry George (Eddie) Edwards (6195056), aged 79 years. Eddie Edwards served with D Company, 9th Bn from 1923-1935, followed by 36 Mx RE S/L 1935-39, RE Movement and Control 1939-46, and finally 595 RA, TA, Honeypot Lane 1946-56 where he was discharged on reaching the age limit. Eddie was a proud and staunch Diehard who was very proud of his 9th Bn TA service.
- FRECKNER** – On 14 January 1986, former Sgt Arthur Freckner (6201858), aged 71 years. Sgt Freckner served with the 2nd Bn from September 1934 to January 1938, when he decided to transfer to the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers. He was taken POW in Singapore on 15 February 1942 whilst with the RNF and on 15 February 1950 was medically discharged.
- FREEMAN** – On 7 December 1985, former Sgt Bernard Freeman (6209932) aged 67 years. Bernard Freeman was called up for service on 15 September 1939 and after recruit training at Mill Hill was posted to the 2/7th Bn, in 1940 joining C Company. He then served with the 2/7th until demobilisation during January 1946.
- GARDNER** – On 10 February 1986, former Private Ernest Gardner (SR/7150), aged 91 years. Ernie Gardner was an Old Contemtable who originally enlisted in the 5th (Special Reserve) Bn pre 1914. He was with the 2nd Bn when they went to France in 1914 remaining with this Bn until the end of the war.
- GRAY** – On 7 May 1986, former Sgt Alexander Gray (6200173), aged 73 years. Sgt Gray served with the regiment from 7 August 1931 to 17 September 1942 and then transferred to the Army Catering Corps. He was medically discharged on 3 January 1943.
- GREY** – On 30 March 1986, Major Harold Hylton Grey, TD, aged 74 years. Harold Grey served with the 9th Bn and was with the 429 Searchlight Company in the late 1930's. He became Adjutant to the late Lt-Col Kenyon and held this appointment until the end of the war.

HALE – On 24 March 1986, WO2(RQMS) Percy Hale (6193713), aged 81 years.

Percy Hale enlisted into the Regiment on 6 January 1921 and after his initial training joined the 1st Bn then on the Rhine. Continuous service with the 1st Bn followed, home service at Aldershot, China 1927, Palestine 1931, Egypt 1933, Singapore 1936, Hong Kong 1937, and taken POW on Christmas Day 1941. He survived the sinking of the Lisbon Maru and spent his POW days in Kobe, Japan. It was the custom in pre-war days to spend long periods of service with one Bn. Percy spent the majority of his Service in the Orderly Room finally becoming ORQMS. In 1940 he was appointed RQMS, the Quartermaster being the late Major Bob Guscott. He was very keen on all types of shooting, rifle, pistol, etc., representing the 1st Bn in shooting competitions over a long period and his trophy cabinet bears witness to his prowess. He won the coveted Steers Cup in 1938 and 1939. In 1935 Percy married Rhoda Crouch the daughter of former RQMS 'Dasher' Crouch. Sadly he was discharged on 6 June 1946, failing to fulfill the physical requirements of the Army. His prisoner of war days having taken its toll. On leaving the service Percy obtained employment with the British Launderers Research Association, situated next to Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. Over the years he suffered badly with the ailments he contracted in Japan but despite this he never lost his cheerfulness. The last two years of his life were spent at 4 Albuhera Close where he was very happy indeed. As an old friend (we worked together in the Orderly Room) and Secretary I could easily pay him a visit and drink his Sherry. His funeral at Enfield was attended by Major & Mrs Waldron, Mr Cubitt, Mr & Miss Daniels, Mr Franklin, Mr Matthews, Mr Mellor, Mr & Mrs Penman and Mr & Mrs Poole. Our sincere condolences to Rhoda and son Robin.

He was awarded the Meritorious Medal with gratuity.

HARRISON – On 3 April 1986, former Drummer James John Timothy Harrison (L/10457), aged 94 years.

Tim(Slash) Harrison enlisted on 25 September 1905, and after a brief spell with the 4th Bn, served the whole of his service with the 3rd Bn in South Africa, China and India, prior to coming home from Cawnpore to join the BEF in 1915. He was discharged on 31 March 1920. After his discharge he was employed as a conductor on the London Tramways and became a well known and popular character in the Finchley area.

HENDRY – On 1 March 1986, Captain Alexander Mitchell Hendry, aged 75 years.

Alex Hendry was commissioned into the regiment on 30 September 1939, serving at the Depot, Mill Hill, until January 1940, when he was posted to the 8th Bn. He went with this Bn to France during May 1940 and was evacuated from Dunkirk. In 1944 he transferred to the Royal Artillery and went to France on D+1 with an Anti Aircraft Regiment for the Normandy landings. He was a Chartered Accountant by profession and was closely associated with the late Ken Hardcastle in the City. He served on the Merton District Council, was a local J.P., and was well known for his social welfare work in the Wimbledon area. Alex was a keen golfer and was a member of the R and A. He was Captain of Royal Wimbledon Golf Club in 1975. Lt-Col T.W. Chattey was amongst the many mourners who attended his funeral at St Mary's Parish Church, Wimbledon, on 7 March.

JONES – On 12 March 1986, Colonel W.H.V. (Turlie) Jones, CBE, aged 88 years.

Colonel Jones was commissioned into the regiment on 16 August 1916, retiring on 12 June 1952. He spent some years with the 2nd Bn and for a long period was a Staff Officer with Movement Control.

KINGSTON – On 28 August 1985, former Private Edgar Kingston (96961), aged 85 years, in the BLESMA Home at Blackpool.

Edgar Kingston enlisted into the regiment on 19 May 1917 and joined the 2nd Bn. He was taken POW by the Germans in France on 24 April 1918, after being badly wounded in both legs. The Germans amputated his left leg, subsequently repatriating him to UK on 24 October 1918. He was medically discharged on 31 July 1919 and awarded a 100% disability pension. Mr Kingston devoted the rest of his life to helping others, mostly the disabled. He founded the Royal British Legion Northampton branch in 1925 and in 1940 the BLESMA branch and was their chairman. He also served on the Voluntary Services committees and also War Pensions. A truly caring and remarkable Diehard.

LEE – On 16 January 1986, former Private Albert Lee (G/49202), aged 93 years.

Bert Lee was the last survivor of the mining of the troopship 'Tyndareus' off the coast of Capt L'Agulhas, South Africa, on 6 February 1917, by the German minelayer 'Moewe'. The 25th Bn were en route to Hong Kong to become the garrison battalion. The 25th Bn later moved on the Siberia. After the war Bert was employed by the Commonwealth War Graves commission in France, his home being at Richebourg. Two months prior to his death he sent me a photograph of the Tyndareus and a newspaper cutting relating the episode.

LOVE – On 31 May 1986, former Private Horace Love, aged 70 years.

Horace Love was a pre-war Territorial soldier and commenced the war with the 2/7th Bn, followed by a short period with the Rifle Brigade. When the Support Groups were formed he joined the 1st Bn and was posted to 8 platoon of B Company as a carrier driver. The company was commanded by Major W.D. Ellis. Just a few months previously he had appeared on the TV programme compered by Jimmy Saville as a member of Deadly Dyer's secret army.

The funeral was attended by Colonel Desmond Ellis, Deadly Dyer and Sam Shawyer.

McDONALD – On 6 May 1986, former Private Lawrence McDonald (6202161), aged 66 years.

Lawrence McDonald enlisted as a boy soldier on 21 March 1935, joining the Band of the 2nd Bn. At the end of 1938 he was posted to the Band of the 1st Bn where he became a member of the Bn Boxing team. In early 1940 he was posted to the Depot and later served with the 70th Bn 1941-42. From 1942-48 he served with the Palestine Police and from 1949-74 with the Metropolitan Police. He had bought a ticket to attend the reunion but sadly died suddenly three days prior to the meeting. He was employed as Head Porter at a block of flats in Grosvenor Square, Mayfair.

MORETON – On 25 August 1985, former Sgt Albert Edward Moreton, MM, (6200187), aged 72 years.

Albert Moreton enlisted into the regiment on 21 August 1931 and served until 11 April 1938, when he was transferred to the Reserve. He was called up on 2 September 1939 and on 5 September joined the Royal West Kent Regiment with whom he remained until April 1941. He was then posted to the 1st Bn Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment and whilst serving with them was awarded the Military Medal for exceptional bravery. He was discharged on 6 February 1946.

NOLDA – On 31 March 1986, Mrs Joan Nolda, aged 66 years, widow of colonel D.C.L. Nolda, who died on 20 November 1983.

Maj Gen Sir John Willoughby, KBE, CB, and Major and Mrs J.W. Doyle attended the funeral.

PERRY – ON 10 April 1986, former C/Sgt Thomas George (Nobby) Perry (6200351), aged 74 years.

Nobby Perry enlisted into the regiment on 16 December 1931. He joined the 1st Bn in Egypt 1933, Singapore 1936 and Hong Kong 1937. He left Hong Kong in 1941 on a special draft but ended up in UK in February 1942. He went to NWE on 17 June 1944 but I have been unable to find with whom – maybe some brainy reader will kindly tell me. He did not return to UK until 13 February 1947. In 1951 he proceeded to Japan as a reinforcement serving in Korea from 2 March to 13 August 1951. Service in Hong Kong, Austria, Cyprus and BAOR followed. In October his days with the 1st Bn were over being posted to ERE in Singapore and then to the Hook of Holland and on 9 November 1967 was finally discharged having completed 35 years and 329 days colour service. He was in possession of the following medals – MSM, LS&GC, 1939-45 Star, France & Germany Star, War Medal 1939-45, Korea Medal, United Nations Medal, Coronation Medal 1953, GSM w/clasp Cyprus, plus a Commander in Chiefs certificate. On leaving the service Nobby obtained employment as Porter at Christchurch College, Oxford University, from 1967-79. He became a very popular figure with the staff and students. His funeral took place at Christchurch Cathedral on 18 April. Captain Michael Brock who served with the 2/7th Bn during 1939-45 and is now Pro-Vice Chancellor of Oxford University and Warden of Nuffield College very kindly represented the regiment at the funeral. The regimental flag draped the coffin. Nobby was a very popular character in the Bn, a good boxer who never gave up, often a best loser, but a survivor. Our sincere condolences to Mrs Perry and son Michael. The obituary may be long but then he served longer than most.

PORTER – On 8 April 1986, former Private Alfred William Porter (490650), aged 92 years.

In Pensioner Porter was admitted to the Royal Hospital Chelsea on 8 June 1981. Sadly he spent most of his time in the Royal Hospital Infirmary. He served in the regiment from 28 August 1914 until 18 January 1919. As Secretary I visited him annually and got to know him quite well.

PRINGLE – On 5 June 1986, Mrs Ruby Sarah Pringle, aged 84 years, widow of Lt-Col W.E. Pringle, MC, TD, DL, JP, who died on 23 October 1977. Major R. Bartram represented the regiment at the funeral.

RAE – On 27 April 1986, former C/Sgt Henry William Rae, aged 64 years.

Henry enlisted into the Royal Signals in 1939 and then served with 1st Airborne Divisional Signals when he was taken into captivity at Arnhem. He spent the remaining period of the war as a POW in Czechoslovakia before being marched back to Germany ahead of the Russian advance. When the T.A. was reformed Henry joined S Company 11th Para Bn (8th Mx) at Hounslow and so became a Diehard. He was a C/Sgt with the 8th Bn and on amalgamation transferred to 5 Mx under Col Ian Brotherton and then to 10 Queens on the reorganisation of the T.A. when he retired after 21 years. In civilian life he

worked for Coca Cola Southern Bottlers as Benqueting Manager. He was very popular amongst the local community of Richmond where he lived. The regiment was represented at his funeral by Lt-Col P.J. Hall, OBE, Major S.L.J. Henshaw, TD, Capt M.J. Doran, TD, and his many comrades from the Hounslow Branch.

M.J.W.

REDHEAD – On 29 July 1985, former Private Arthur Thomas Redhead (6204960), aged 66 years. Arthur Redhead served with the 1/8th Bn during the 1939-45 conflict. He commenced his service with D Company but was transferred to A Company. He was a good pianist and a popular member of the company.

ROBINSON – On 8 December 1985, former Sgt James Robinson (6198310), aged 78 years. Jim Robinson enlisted on 22 February 1928 and served with D Company, 2nd Bn, in Madras and Sudan. In 1931 he was posted to C Company 1st Bn, and served in Egypt, Palestine, Egypt and Singapore. He was transferred to the Army Reserve on 30 July 1937.

RUSH – On 17th January, peacefully at Hammersmith Hospital, former Sgt. Charles Austin Rush aged 91 years. Charlie Rush started work in 1909 at a firm of Solicitors in Lincolns Inn and was for some thirty years their Managing Clerk. He retired in 1960.

He joined the regiment in 1914 at Pound Lane, Willesden and later went to the 2/10th Bn when it was raised at Stamford Brook. After training, the battalion embarked HMT Huntsgreen (ex German SS Derfflinger), and sailed to fight at Gallipoli thence to the Egypt and Palestine Campaigns. He was wounded at the battle for a monastery at Deir Ibn Obied, a battle of which he was very proud, telling the writer on more than one occasion, that B Coy 2/10th Bn had the unique distinction of being the only single company specially named in General Allenbys Despatches of 18 September 1918, it read:-

"In the meantime the enemy had delivered attacks against various points held by the 53rd Division east of Jerusalem. On the extreme right at Deir Ibn Obied, a company of Middlesex troops was surrounded by 700 Turks, supported by mountain artillery. Although without artillery support it offered most gallant resistance, holding out till relief came on the morning of the 28th". (December 1917)

In World War II he joined the Local Defence Volunteers which later became 10th Middlesex BN Home Guard.

Charlie Rush was a founder member of the 2/10th Bn OCA. They first met on the first Friday in every month at the Shepherds Bush Empire (now BBC TV) to see the show and have a pint afterwards. He was their Secretary until 1929, twice their President and remained on the Committee till his death.

At the Church where Charlie had worshipped for 50 years, St. Dunstan with St. Thomas, East Acton, a Service of Thanksgiving was conducted by the Vicar the Rev. John Morgan. The Regimental Association was represented by Mr. A.D. Scudamore OBE (Scudy) the President of the 2/10th BN OCA. The Vicar of St. Nicholas with St. Mary Magdalene Chiswick the Rev. Patrick Tuff and Honorary Chaplain to the 2/10th BN OCA attended the service as did Mr. Reg Fordham and Mr. Donald Woodbridge Honorary Member and Friend of 2/10th respectively. Charlie Rush was interred in the family grave at Kensal Green Cemetery.

A batchelor, Uncle Charlie supported his sisters family when their father died in 1927. He leaves a family of thirty-eight nieces, nephews, great and great great, all of whom he looked after like a father.

DAH

SILLS – On 2 April 1986, former CSM A.E. (Whipper) Sils (6199181), aged 73 years.

Whipper Sils commenced his service with the 7th Bn in 1931 and during the 1939-45 war served with the 1/7th Bn and was at Dunkirk. During the Korean War he was called up for service and was with the Glosters. He was also a member of the North West Sector of Greater London Cadets and gave them his full support. Whipper was always cheerful and full of fun. He played the 'Big Drum' and 'the spoons'. In civilian life he served on the Buses (LPTB) and later as a commissionaire for a firm of City Solicitors. One of the partners attended the funeral. Colonel Desmond Ellis represented the Regiment at the funeral and read the Soldiers' Prayer after the Chaplains address. The Cadets were represented by the current CSM of the N.W. Sector.

STILLWELL – On 25 December 1985, former Sgt Horatio Frederick (Ray) Stillwell (6211385), aged 67 years. Ray Stillwell was called up for service on 15 January 1940 and posted to the 2nd Bn. He became Company Clerk to C Company. He went with the 2nd Bn to NWE and later became the Education Sgt. He was a long standing and generous member of the Regimental Association. He left the army on 24 May 1946.

STONE – On 20 January 1986, former Sgt Joseph Alfred (Alf) Stone (6584906), aged 73 years. Alf Stone enlisted at Mill Hill on 28 May 1931 and served in U.K. until 1933 when he joined the 1st Bn in Egypt, followed by service in Singapore and Hong Kong. He left Hong Kong with a special draft in early 1941 and arrived in UK on 4 February 1942. Service in U.K. followed until he joined the 2nd Bn in Palestine November 1947 and returning home in early 1948 for the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Bns. He later joined the 1st Bn in Austria in 1953 but returned to UK in 1955 for discharge on completion of 22 years service.

SUTTON – On 17 March 1986, former Cpl Kenneth Sutton (21124794), aged 58 years. Ken Sutton commenced his service on 8 September with the East Surrey Regiment. On 8 September 1950 he was posted to our 1st Bn then in Hong Kong. He went with the 1st Bn to Korea and whilst serving with B Company was severely wounded and evacuated to hospital. On 8 May 1952 he was medically discharged with a 100% disability pension. He never complained and although confined to a wheel chair was always cheerful and trying to do something for others. In 1969 he met and married Valerie whose wonderful care and attention made life bearable. With the aid of Valerie he was able to attend most reunions and he was a great morale booster to us all. As Secretary I had the greatest admiration for his courage and his energy and determination to overcome his handicap and live a full life. Bob Gilbertson and Stan Reynolds attended the funeral and the regimental flag draped the coffin. The service was conducted by a personal friend with whom Ken had served on several local committees. Our sincere condolences to Valerie with a very big thankyou from the regiment.

WHITING – On 10 September 1985, Lt-Col Frederick Bertram (Blanco) Whiting (P/53761), aged 77 years. Colonel Blanco Whiting commenced his service on 18 January 1927 serving in the ranks of the Life Guards until 31 August 1932. On 1 September 1932 he was granted a Regular Commission as 2nd Lieutenant in the Middlesex Regiment and posted to the 2nd Bn. In July 1933 he was posted to the 1st Bn in Egypt and during March 1936 was seconded to the Malay Regiment with whom he served until February 1942. On 11 February 1942 he was appointed DAAG 2 Echelon British Troops Java. He was taken POW during March 1943 until final repatriation to UK during August 1945. This was followed by service with 26 MGTC, February – November 1946, Malay Regiment until December 1949 and finally the Ships Staff Pool until May 1956. He retired on 29 Jun 1956. On retirement he moved to California where he taught English and Literature in the San Rafael Military Academy and was Headmaster for several years. The Academy was a minute Sandhurst. Later he was Head of Jameson Hall in San Rafael, a private Co-Ed school. He always had a great rapport with young people.

HARDWICK MEMORIAL APPEAL

During the Second World War Hardwick Park, near Chesterfield in Derbyshire, was the Depot and School of Airborne Forces from 1941-1946. Here in 1941 the early pioneers of Airborne Forces formerly the first Parachute Brigades and subsequently volunteers from all Corps and Regiments were selected and subsequently trained for both Parachute and Glider units. Many thousands of men who proudly wore The Red Beret passed through these grounds.

A memorial is to be erected at Hardwick Park to commemorate the Airborne Forces early beginnings. Contributions, however small, from all those involved in this history and especially from Old Comrades would be welcomed. Cheques should be made payable to "The Parachute Regimental Fund (for Hardwick Memorial) and forwarded to Colonel E.A.J. Gardener, Regimental Headquarters, The Parachute Regiment, Browning Barracks, Aldershot, Hants.

ADDRESSES

Can anyone help with the following addresses?

Major R.E. Orr, MC, (My last newsletter came back 'Gone away')
Major R.B. Moberly
Private Eric Griffiths, A Coy 1 Mx, Korea.

'JORROCKS' – A Memorial

Abbey walls echo the praise,
In music grand and word profound
Of God who gave us such a man
To honour and to emulate.

Red-tabbed generals, simple men
Ponder on the loss of one
Whose humble faith and courage
Worked to stem an evil tide.

Ties of scarlet and of gold
Catch the glint of winter sun,
Reflecting that this hero held
Place unique in Regiment.

Sorrow, pain were clear to see,
But hopefulness was there too,
That such talents, so well used,
Merited God's just reward.

Tears were selfish signs that we
Had lost so fine a spirit,
One, for us, in war and peace,
Epitome of honour.

Brooding quickly turned to pride,
Knowing that we had been touched
By greatness rarely ever
Met in mankind's earthly span.

May Sir Brian's legacy
Be example we will match,
Humanise our every day.
Requiescat in pace!

J.R. Doyle, Lt.Col., T.D., K.C.S.G., B.A.
Goundam C.O. 9th Bn. Middx. Regt., T.A.

BOOKS

Colonel A.G. (Tony) Hewitt, who was the Adjutant of the 1st Bn at the fall of Hong Kong on 25 December 1941, is the author of a book titled "Bridge with Three Men". The book is due to be published on 28 August 1986 and the price will probably be £9.95.

The story describes how on Christmas Day in 1941 Japanese forces marched into the city of Hong Kong after a fierce battle. Large areas of Southern China, including the City of Canton, were already overrun by the Japanese, who had been waging war in the country since 1937. Captain Hewitt was taken to a prisoner-of-war camp from which, after a short time, he managed to escape with a British army medical officer and a New Zealand pilot. Together the three escapers crossed the New Territory and into Japanese-occupied China, where they were attacked by bandits, narrowly avoided recapture by the Japanese, and met up with a band of Communist guerrillas who took them to their camp in the mountains. There they dispensed rudimentary medical aid and military training, and in return were overwhelmed with joyful hospitality. The Communists agreed to escort the three men by night on punishing cross-country marches to the safety of Chinese Nationalist lines.

From there their journey through to the British military mission in Kukong – by slow riverboat and a charcoal burning truck that careered madly across precipitous mountain passes – took on the dreamlike quality of a childhood holiday adventure. The appalling poverty and the devastation caused by Japanese bombing which they encountered on the way were offset by a beguiling peace of mind that overcame them in the uninhibited life that swallowed them up and set them free. But the fun had to come to an end, and the manner of that ending is almost as bizarre as their amazing adventures in reaching their destination.

Colonel Tony Hewitt retired from the Army in 1967 is now domiciled in Queensland, Australia.

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. Posting and packing is included in the price :

Badges Blazer, Middlesex	£6.00 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£11.50 each
Glass, Whisky tumbler engraved Middlesex Regiment badge	£5.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern Terylene (Maroon and Old Gold)	£2.00 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern Terylene	£2.00 each
Ties Officers' Club silk	£4.50 each
Wall Plaques Middlesex	£11.60 each
History 'Diehards in Korea'	£5.00 each
Christmas Cards Steady the Drums and Fifes	£ .20 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges – not originals	£1.50 each
Museum Brochure	£ .50 each

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

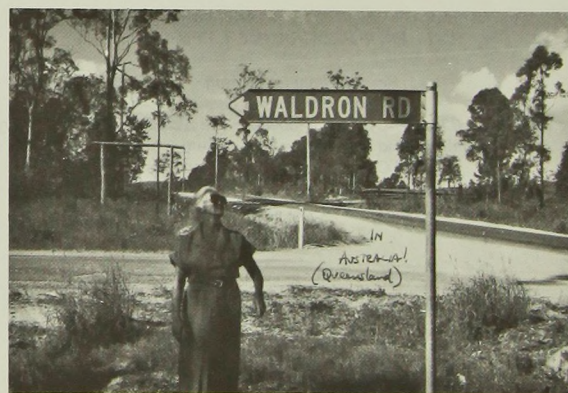
Enclosed with your newsletter you will find a copy of our Museum Brochure and two copies of the Regimental Christmas Card with matching crested envelopes.

I have taken the liberty of sending these items in order to let you know what they look like. In these days of having no regimental depot or headquarters it is the only way that I can advertise the regiment's wares. I feel sure that you will accept and excuse my rudeness in the spirit of the object that I am trying to achieve.

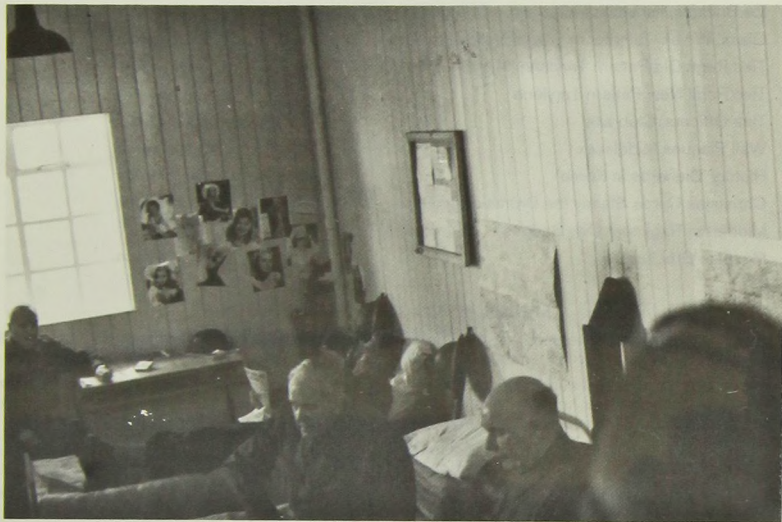
The crunch is now coming – will you please send me a £1 to cover the costs of these items or if you so wish add the £1 to your subscriptions. You can, of course, send the items back and tell me to ? ?

The Christmas Card is a dual purpose card, i.e. blank inside and can be used for your words or a short letter. Many members now have the habit of corresponding once a year via the Christmas Card.

As Secretary, I am on my knees, my hands are clasped together, and I rely on you all not to let me down.



A MAJOR WAY?



JIM'LL FIX IT PROGRAMME – FEB 1986

Reading from left to right:-

"B" Coy 1 Mx Carrier Crew:-

L/Cpl Horace Love – Pte (Deadly) Dyer (lying down) – Pte Sam Sawyer – Sgt Henry Painter.

Bottom right hand corner – back to camera – head only:-

O.C.'B' Coy 1 Mx Major Desmond Ellis.

Reinacting scene, 1944

Caption – Ellis: "Don't you know there's a war on."

D. Isom (Printers) Ltd.,
Herne Bay, Kent.