



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 83

June 2000

Price £1



Messrs Bob Yerby, (on right), and Les Loomes on parade as two well turned out sentries for the Annual Service held at 3 pm Saturday 13th May 2000 at St Paul's Cathedral. Many thanks to you both.

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

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2000

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 29 & 30
July | Diehard company, Victorian Military Society - show at Blist Hill |
| 8 August | Dedication 8th Bn Memorial Deansbrook Rd - 1900 hours - details from Secretary |
| 12 & 13
August | Diehard company - Kirkby Hall - History in action |
| 9 September | Korean Club AGM at 1830 hrs followed by their Annual Reunion - Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. |
| 24 September | British Korean Veterans Assn (Northampton Branch) Standard Dedication Service, St Mary's Church, Roade at 1230 hours. |
| 5 October | 2/7th Bn Annual Reunion Luncheon - Victory Services Club, Marble Arch. |
| 28 October | Laying up of Colours 6/7 Queen's - Chichester Cathedral |
| 9 November | 7th Bn Officers' Club Dinner |
| 9 November | Garden of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey, 1030 hours for 1100 hours, planting of crosses in the Regimental and FEPOW Plots |
| 11 November | Ceremony of Remembrance, Middlesex Guildhall (opposite Westminster Abbey) assemble at 1030 hours. |
| 12 November | 7th Bn Remembrance Service, Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey, London N8. Assemble at 1000 hours |
| 12 November | Annual Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. Assembling at the Barracks at 1000 hours. |
| 24 November | PWRR Officers' Club Dinner Guards & Cavalry Club 1900 hours for 1930 |

2001

5 March	Executive Committee Meeting at 1400 hours followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting - RFCA (new abbreviation for TAVRA) Committee Room, Duke of York's Headquarters
21 April	1/7th Bn OCA Annual Luncheon - Hornsey TA Centre
11 May	Officers' Club Dinner - Army & Navy Club
12 May	Albuhera Service - Regimental Chapel - St Paul's Cathedral at 1500 hours
12 May	All Ranks Reunion - Victory Services Club, Marble Arch commencing at 1830 hours. AGM at 1900 hours
12-17 May	Hounslow Branch Annual visit to Albuhera - possible dedication of new monument at Albuhera at this time (dates and event to be confirmed in December edition of the newsletter)
15 May	Unveiling Albuhera Memorial
16 May	Annual Albuhera Luncheon - National Army Museum - Details from the Secretary
17 May	9th Bn Officers' Club Luncheon.

DONATIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

1. Donations made

Not Forgotten Association	£30
Refurbishment 8th Bn Memorial	£5343
" "	£200 (from Officers' Club)
Askari Appeal	£100
St Georges Alamein Memorial Chapel	£100
Remember Le Harve Memorial	£100
National Army Museum	£30 (from Museum Account)
Admiral Ramsay Appeal	£100
Enfield Branch (Audit Fee)	£70
Star & Garter Home	£100
St Dunstons	£75
Gordons Boys School	£75
1/7th Bn OCA Luncheon Club	£95 (Hire of Drill Hall)
MX & NW London ACF	£750

2. Bequests/Donations Received

P F Wookey	£100
In Memory of Sgt C Ward	£147 (Veteran from WWI)
Maj M J Aylward	£55
Brig B H Marciandi	£100
R E Jones	£50
(plus many smaller donations of less than £50)	

3. Benevolent Grants

	31 Dec 98	31 Dec 99	to May 00
Grants made to individuals	£13070	£13746	£6240
Less ABF Grants	£7890	£6914	£3563
Net	£5090	£6832	£2677

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

The first time for many years RHQ at Howe Barracks is without a PWRR resident Battalion. The 1st Battalion moved to Tidworth in December 99 and was replaced by The Royal Irish Regiment. Our status as a lodger Unit has been accepted by the Royal Irish and we find them a very professional and friendly Unit.

The move of 1 PWRR to Bhurtore Barracks in Tidworth went very well. They are now in a bigger but older style Barracks that has been painted and modernised in some parts. The Battalion is now in the middle of converting to the Armoured Warrior role. This has involved a great deal of training for drivers, commanders and gunners. The Battalion has a large exercise in June where elements of 3 PWRR will join them for their annual camp. The Battalion then deploys to Kosovo 4 - 10 August 00 and returns to Tidworth 4 - 10 February 01. They expect an exciting tour with the usual rumblings of trouble in yet another part of the former Yugoslavia.

The 2nd Battalion said goodbye to Lt Col Richard Dennis who after 2 years in command moved on to the staff at Upavon. He was replaced by Lt Col Simon Deakin. The Battalion has been on Spearhead during which time they provided the Guard of Honour for Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark during her State Visit (16-18 Feb 00). The First Guard was at Windsor Castle for the official arrival of Her Majesty and the Second Guard the following day in the City of London (The Guildhall). Both guards went extremely well and Her Majesty was very pleased with her Regiment. At the time of writing the Battalion has a strong company group completing Jungle Training in Belize.

The Battalion is equipped with the Saxon vehicle. In August this year the Battalion will Arms plot from Tidworth to Aldershot to then be grouped in their appropriate Brigade for deployment. In October the whole Battalion will then deploy to Kosovo with their vehicles for a 6 months tour returning in April 2001.

We as a Regiment will have both Regular Battalions in the Balkans - a wonderful chance for the men to earn yet another medal.

The 3rd Battalion has now settled down after the Strategic Defence Review and the Presentation of Colours.

Their locations are:

Bn HQ plus HQ (The Buffs) Company	- Canterbury
A(Queen's Royal Surreys) Company	- Farnham with a Platoon
	- Camberley
B (Royal Sussex) Company	- Brighton with a Platoon
	- Worthing
C(Royal West Kent) Company	- Canterbury with a Platoon
	- Dover
Kohima Band & Corps of Drums	- Canterbury

They held a very successful Open Day at Camberley where over 500 eligible youths visited. Some will join others will keep it in the backs of their minds.

The Battalions Annual Camp will be with the 1st Battalion training in the Armoured Warrior on Salisbury Plain. So far at least 15 TA soldiers have volunteered to go to Kosovo with the 1st Battalion. It all makes more interesting training for the TA soldier and also offers him a chance of combat experience.

B(The Queen's Regiment) Company of the LONDON Regiment continues to flourish. They yet again won the Courage Trophy under the Command of Major Giles Morgan. It was also good to see so many of the Company Officers' at the Regimental Dinner last November.

C(The Duke of Connaughts Own PWRR) Company of the royal Rifle Volunteers is located in Portsmouth and a platoon in the Isle of Wight. Coy HQ and 2pls are now based at the TA Centre, Peronne Close, Hilsea. This was a move from the Connaught Drill Hall well situated in Portsmouth to Peronne Close - not a popular move. As a result the company suffered, but is now gradually adjusting to their new life and location. If any one wishes to visit call Capt Harry Wragg on 01705 6756833 or send along recruits!

In summary the Regiment is in fine form.

CATHEDRAL 2000 - THE MILLENNIAL SERVICE OF THE BRITISH ARMY

A 4th Division Cathedral 2000 Service was held at Guildford Cathedral on Tuesday the 18th of January 2000. The Service covered the full spectrum of the Army within the 4th Division Area and included the Regimental Associations and the Cadets.

The Service was conducted in three Sections, Our Past, Our Present and Our Future. The lesson was taken from St John's Chapter 14, verses 1 - 14 and was read by the Deputy Chief of Staff 4th Division, Colonel D H Keenan OBE. The address was by The Reverend D C Heaver, Assistant Chaplain General 4th Division.

The Regimental Association was represented by Brigadier B H Marciandi OBE and Major R E B Morris MBE.

REMEMBRANCE TRAVEL YEAR 2000

The Secretary has full details of the Royal British Legion Programme for visits overseas to War Cemeteries and Memorials in twenty two different countries. Each Group is fully escorted by a member of the RBL Pilgrimage Department. Widows are reminded that the Ministry Defence war widows grant in aid scheme ends in 2001. Currently the MOD meets 7/8ths of the cost of a visit by a war widow. Those who wish to obtain further information should contact the Secretary.

MR EDGAR BAPTISTE - WINNIPEG GRENADIERS

The Secretary has been asked to try to trace anyone who remembers Mr Baptiste when he was held in Shamhuipo Camp from 1941 to 1945. Mr Baptiste suffered memory loss, due to his injuries, and is now in dispute with the Canadian Government in an attempt to prove his identity. They have him recorded as killed in action when in fact he is very much alive. Anyone with information is asked to contact Major Ron Morris.

THE LAST 51ST HIGHLAND DIVISION PILGRIMAGE TO HOLLAND

Jeff Haward and Ted Billington represented the 1/7th Battalion OCA and joined their comrades for the last 51st Highland Division Pilgrimage to the Netherlands that took place between the 11th and the 17th of February 2000. Ted Billington laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment at the Milsbeek War Cemetery and Jeff Haward was the Standard Bearer for the Union Standard on the Parade. During the course of the visit the party attended parades, services and family get togethers in Gennep, Gementehuis, St Martinuskerk, Milsbeek, Dinxperlo Den Bartel and Haaren. As ever the party were given a very warm welcome by their Dutch hosts.

TAVRA FOR GREATER LONDON

The titles of all TAVRA's changed as from the 1st of April 2000. Greater London is now known as:-

Reserve Forces and Cadet Association for Greater London, abbreviated to RFCA Greater London. Their address at the Duke of York's Headquarters will remain until about the end of phase two of the TA run down in about 2 years time. The post code remains the same but any reference to Kings Rd should be replaced with Turks Row.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee Meeting followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting took place at the Duke of York's Headquarters on the 6th of March 2000. A copy of both sets of minutes can be found towards the end of this newsletter.

OFFICERS' CLUB

The Officers' Club Dinner took place at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1 on Friday the 12th of May 2000. Brigadier Tony Pielow presided and the principal guest in honour of our close association with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War, was Major General David Thomson, Colonel of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Others who were present included:-

Regimental Guests:- Brigadier David Wilson, Colonel Anthony Neilson, Lieut Colonel Viscount Slim, Major & Mrs Gerald Hadow, Mrs Ann Bennett, Mrs Pam Chattey, Mrs Ann Cotton, Mrs Andy Hutchings, Mrs Christine Pollard and Mrs Pat Ramsay.

Members and Private Guests:- Brigadier & Mrs Tony Pielow, Brigadier Brian Marciandi, Brig & Mrs Denis Rendell, Colonel Ian Brotherton, Colonel & Mrs Rex Cain, Colonel Andrew Man & Mrs Pauline Argles, Colonel John Moore, Lieut Colonel & Mrs Mike Deakin, Lieut Colonel & Mrs Roger Gancz, Lieut Colonel & Mrs John Hewson, Lieut Colonel & Mrs Hugh Lohan, Major Bob Bartlett, Major Carl Blackwell, Rt Rev Mgr Ralph Brown, Major & Mrs Peter Clarke, Major & Mrs Harold Couch, Major & Mrs Gordon Crumley, Major and Mrs Stephen Dowse, Major David Falcke, Major & Mrs Brian Finch, Major & Mrs Stewart Henshaw, Major & Mrs James Jonklaas, Major & Mrs Chris Lawrence, Major Ian Lloyd, Major Tony McManus, Major & Mrs Ron Morris, Major Pat Wollocombe, Captain & Mrs Mike Doran, Captain & Mrs Simon Enthoven, Captain & Mrs Ken Murray, Captain Peter Lane, Captain Roy Scott, Lieut Simon Cawthorne & Mrs Francis Castle, Lieut John Day, Mr Trevor Davies, Mr & Mrs John Harris, Lieut & Mrs Peter Ottino.

Our Chairman Major Chris Lawrence mentioned that we had sent our message of loyal greetings to HM The Queen and he read out her reply. Brigadier Tony Pielow welcomed our guests and gave a resume of recent Association and Officers' Club events coupled with the latest news from the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. He said he was particularly pleased to see such a good attendance at the Dinner, 72 the highest figure for some years. Major General Thomson replied to say how pleased that the Regimental connection continues and how honoured he and his fellow guests from his Regiment were to be asked to be present to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Service of Remembrance was held in the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday the 13th of May 2000 at 3pm. This year the prayers were led by The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft our Honorary Chaplain and the address was made by the Right Reverend Mgr Ralph Brown who served with us in Korea. The two readings were by Colonel Andrew Man, Wisdom 1 vv 1 - 8 and by Brigadier Tony Pielow, Luke 5 vv 1 - 7. The numbers attending seemed to be slightly down this year but at the same time it was pleasing to see many of the familiar faces, many of whom had travelled long distances to be with us.



THE ANNUAL REUNION

There was an extremely good turn out for the Annual Reunion held at the Victory Services Club shortly after the Annual Service of Remembrance. Over 190

actually booked in and we had several late arrivals coming in after the Pubs had shut(?). We had the usual fish and chip supper and everyone appeared to enjoy the evening. We entertained seven guests from the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. We did hope for a greater attendance but they had a function being held in Edinburgh that clashed. We had no music this year as Alan had his van stolen and lost all his equipment. Varying views were expressed, mostly that it was great to be able to converse and hear each other, but some complained they could not dance. The Secretary would be interested to hear people's views, do we have music next year?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at 7.15 pm on the 13th of May 2000 at the Victory Services Club. 34 members were present. the Minutes appear towards the end of this Newsletter.

ALBUHERA LUNCHEON - NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

The Annual Luncheon that is held on Albuhera Day at the National Army Museum was hosted this year by the Director, Mr Ian Robertson. Twenty seven members of the Regimental Association led by Brigadier Tony Pielow attended together with around ten members of the Museum Staff.

In his welcoming address Mr Robertson said how pleased he was that the lunches had become an annual event hosted alternately by the Museum and the Association and he hoped they would continue into the future. He made special reference to Colonel Tom Chattey and to Major Frank Waldron, sadly no longer with us, and said how helpful both had been when the Middlesex Collection moved into the Museum.

Brigadier Tony Pielow in reply echoed much of what Mr Robertson had said. He made reference to the pending retirement of Major Peter Bateman, the Assistant Director of Administration, and said how helpful he had been, initially to Colonel Tom Chattey and Major Frank Waldron, and subsequently to Major Ron Morris. He presented a Regimental Plaque to him, suitably inscribed, as an expression of our thanks.

An excellent buffet lunch was enjoyed by all present followed by a most interesting presentation by Mr Andy Robertshaw, Head of Museum Education, on the uniforms and equipment worn and carried during the Boer War, World War One and World War Two. He was introduced by Mr Julian Humphrys, Head of Public Relations.

Mr Fred Phillips (ex 2/7th Bn) showed that he had not lost his touch when he was able to demonstrate the various IAs on the Vickers MMG.

ALBUHERA DAY - CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Having moved down here a few months ago I am still discovering places of interest. On a visit to the cathedral I was surprised to find a plaque to Sir William Inglis, commander of the 57th Foot at Albuhera. I thought it would be a nice gesture if a wreath was laid on the 16th May and the cathedral authorities were happy to let me do this.



Not wishing to do this on my own, I cornered two members of the Buffs Regiment (who turn a page every day in the Warrior Chapel of the Cathedral) and asked if they would keep me company while I laid my wreath.

On the 16th May after the service at the Warriors Chapel the three of us, together with a chaplain (ex Royal Navy with a loud voice) walked over to the plaque of Sir William Inglis. I asked the chaplain to read the dedication and thought it would be a quiet service. I did not realise that when any sort of ceremony is going on the main aisle of the cathedral is cordoned off and so is the side aisle, all the tourists in the cathedral had nowhere to go but look at us. The wreath was laid in front of a captive audience of 100 people!

MARGARET HOFMAN

FROM ALBUHERA TO ELVAS AND BACK

This year six members of Hounslow Branch made the annual pilgrimage to Albuhera for the 189th anniversary of the battle, but this year the visit took on more significance as there was also a ceremony to be held in Elvas on Sunday 14th May to unveil two plaques. One of which was dedicated to the troops who had fought at Albuhera and one to the 3 predecessor regiments of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, namely 3rd Buffs, 31st East Surreys, 57th The Middlesex Regiment. Plaques were also to be unveiled to commemorate the regiments which participated in the storming of Badajoz.

The party left England on 11th May by air for Lisbon and motored up to Albuhera and stayed at their usual accommodation. On Saturday 13th May they were entertained by Celia Denny at her Castle at Salvatierra dos los Barros where they collected their official invites for the following day's dedication ceremonies and met representatives of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and Royal Irish Regiment who would also be attending the Elvas Dedication ceremony.

The group travelled to Elvas on Sunday 14th May in fine weather, the preceding days had been inclement. The ceremony was organised and run by the Portuguese Army and was presided over by the Chief of the Army Staff, General Martins Barento who was greeted with a guard of honour on the Castle esplanade and an Artillery salute. Once General Barento had arrived in the cemetery the plaques were unveiled in pairs, those on the Albuhera Wall the first pair to the Portuguese Regiments by COS Portuguese Army and to the British Regiments by HE British Ambassador, the second pair to the Fusilier Brigade by Brig Wilde and to the PWRR's' predecessor regiments by Maj Tony Martin. On the Badajoz Wall to the Portuguese Regiments by the COS Portuguese Army and to the British Regiments by HE British Ambassador and the second pair to the Northants by Col Worthy and to the Northumberland Fusiliers by Maj. Gen Wilson. This was followed by a Ceremony of Remembrance, General Salute and speeches by both Portuguese and British representatives. Wreaths comprising a bouquet of flowers were provided by the Portuguese Army, the Branch laid a Middlesex poppy wreath on behalf of the 57th, a wreath was also laid on the grave of Maj. General Hoghton who is interred within the British Cemetery. Toque de Silencio, Toque de Mortos em Combate Toque de Alvorado, the Portuguese equivalent of Last Post and Reveille were then sounded. A contingent from the Portuguese Army in period dress performed the drills employed at the time of the Peninsular War.

After the ceremony we were entertained to a fine buffet lunch in the barracks of the Regimento De Infantaria No 8. The British visitors for this special occasion comprised mainly of members of the regimental associations who had fought at Albuhera and Badajoz.

The ceremonies at Albuhera on 16th May followed the usual well known format to members who have attended the event, but this year the singing by the Spanish Army contingent of the lament "La Muerte no es El Final" was particularly poignant. After the wreath laying and a visit to the museum which continues to house new exhibits each year, the attendees from the various regimental associations were entertained to lunch by the Mayor and Town Council.

On Wednesday the branch members Messrs Raby, Richardson, Stunt, Thornton, Ward and Wells climbed the ridge to lay wreaths on behalf of PWRR and the Middlesex Regiment prior to their departure on the morrow.

MJW

1/7TH BATTALION OCA ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Annual Luncheon of the 1/7th Battalion OCA was held at the Hornsey TA Centre on Saturday the 20th of May 2000. 50 members and their friends attended including Barry King all the way from Australia.

Major Alan Carter proposed the toast to the Regiment and the 51st Highland Division. In his address he said how sorry he was to be standing down as Chairman but his doctor and his family insist that, on health grounds, he reduce his workload. He was pleased to be handing over to Major Derek Harwood who had served with the 7th Battalion. He thanked Harry Thornton for dealing with much of his paper work and Stan Lewis for visiting him in hospital.

Tony White said that he is standing down as Secretary. In his place will be Les Vial as Secretary and Trevor Canton as Treasurer, both long time members of the 7th Battalion and of the Queen's Regiment. Tony thanked the young ladies who looked after the gate as the Army Cadet Force lads who usually perform this task were away at Camp. He said how pleased he was, despite the arrival of a Parachute Medical unit at the Hornsey Drill Hall, that the Platoon from the London Regiment were staying and that the Parachute Unit had agreed to the 7th Battalion Museum and Display staying in situ. He went on to say how much he had appreciated the support and attendance at the lunches that he had organised over the last 28 years, but one cannot go on for ever and to safeguard the future the time had come for him to hand over to someone younger.

Stan Lewis, in reply and on behalf of the members expressed their thanks for the sterling work that Tony had done for so many years. The caterers were congratulated and thanked for producing yet again an excellent meal enjoyed by all.

9TH BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (D.C.O) T.A. OFFICERS ANNUAL REUNION LUNCH

The fifteenth annual luncheon took place on Thursday 8th June 2000 at the Royal Overseas League, St. Jame's Place, SW1. Major Derrick Littlejohn was in the Chair.

Those present were, P.J. Cundy, D.E. Dowlen, J.R. Doyle, D.H.S. Herriot, P.W.S. Hodge, A.N. Hunt, D.V. Littlejohn, K.O. Sayers, J.K.E. Slack and R. Willoughby. Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE was a guest.

Major Littlejohn proposed the Loyal Toast. David Dowlen toasted 'Absent Friends', making particular mention of Frank Waldron, Don Bond, Harry Knight and Bob Wheatley who passed away during the year.

David Dowlen read the text of Her Majesty's reply to loyal greetings sent to her on behalf of the Officers of the Regiment. John Doyle reported on sundry information from officers who were unable to attend.

This was a special occasion as David Dowlen, who had been dinner/lunch secretary for twenty years was retiring. Derek Herriot has kindly agreed to take over the role. We wish him well.

Gratitude was expressed to David Dowlen for his admirable and consistent organisation of this annual event. A suitably inscribed presentation was made to convey the thanks of all. Ad multos annos, David.

We may be few in number but the occasion was most enjoyable and memorable. Next years luncheon is scheduled for Thursday 17th May.

DED

KOREAN WAR DIARY

Don Barrett is to be thanked for working long hours with the Staff of the Archives Department of the National Army Museum to piece together the 1st Battalion Korean War Diary from the old records originally held at Bruce Castle. The diary is now complete.

In undertaking this task Don was reminded by the Head of the Archives Department, Dr Peter Boyden, that the Museum Staff are constantly on the look out for military papers, operational orders, maps, photographs, etc. These are often lost for ever when discovered and thrown away by those not appreciating their value. The Museum is happy to receive anything. They will decide if items

submitted are of value or can be disposed of. Please be on the lookout for such memorabilia and if in any doubt please contact the National Army Museum or the Association Secretary, if you prefer, who will accept items on behalf of the Museum.

PWRR AND QUEEN'S REGIMENTAL MUSEUM VIDEO PROJECT 2000

The RHQ of the PWRR are seeking speakers to describe their experiences during the various campaigns and events since 1945 in which the Regiment and their Forebears have been involved.

The aim is to bring up to date the most successful "Interactive Video" exhibit installed at the Regimental Museum in Dover Castle. This video incorporates an impressive selection of Regimental Veterans' memories of action during a series of engagements during World War Two, (for instance the late Frank Waldron describes his experiences on the Lisbon Maru). It is hoped that filming will take place at a central location, probably in London.

There is of course, a very long list of areas/theatres/engagements where we have been involved, however RHQ PWRR are most anxious to find suitable veterans and other experts before it is too late. We have been assured that each video interview will be without script and they will be professionally edited where appropriate.

Anyone interested in contributing to this valuable exercise should contact the Secretary without delay.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

SAFFA Forces Help offers life-long friendship, support and practical help to anyone who has ever served in the Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

They need caseworkers and friendship visitors. They often need treasurers, fundraisers, administrators, publicity and training organisers and team leaders. Like the Armed Forces, all out of pocket expenses are paid. They offer teamwork, job satisfaction and training. 14 million people can call on SSAFA, over 80,000 do every year.

If you wish to volunteer for just a few hours per month, you choose the amount of time, please contact:- Ann Needle, Branch Recruitment Officer, 19 Queen Elizabeth St, London SE1 2LP, Telephone number 020 7463 9223. She will send you some literature to read and put you in touch with your nearest team.

FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

The Friends of St Paul's Cathedral are seeking to widen their membership. The Friends publish a very interesting Newsletter containing articles of interest including details and a forecast of the various events and functions they hold throughout the year. Anyone interested can obtain more information from Ron Morris.

ANGLO BOER WAR CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS

On the 24th of January 2000 Major Sir Harvey Bruce Clifton accompanied by Lieut Colonel Buster Carlston laid a wreath at Spioenkop in memory of those soldiers of the 2nd Battalion who made the supreme sacrifice in January 1900.

ODD JOTTINGS

Major Colin Bellingham has advised that during the Royal Hong Kong Regiment, The Volunteers, UK Branch visit to Hong Kong in November 1999, representatives from the Hong Kong Regiment laid wreaths on behalf of the Middlesex Regiment at the Cemeteries at Stanley and Sai Wan, and on Remembrance Sunday, the 14th, at the Cenotaph in Hong Kong. He reports that it was pleasing to see the ceremony at the Cenotaph taking place as it ever did and that representatives were present from all the normal organisations plus those from the Chinese Hong Kong Government.

At about 7 pm on Christmas Eve, Ron Morris received a call from Australia (Christmas morning there). It was from Cpl Raymond (Digger) Cousins who served with the QM's Platoon of 1 MX in the mid 1960's. He asked to be remembered to all Diehards particularly Froggy French and Willie Williams (he did not know that Willie had died). We had a long chat about the old days. It was great to talk to him after all these years.

Les Plumb phoned shortly after the publication of the last Newsletter to say how sorry he was to see that Grunt Jones had died. He said he remembered him well mainly because he was such a fantastic cook. He knew him as Grunt 900 as did everyone else but his Christian names were Emlyn Dewey but he never used them.

In the last odd jottings we published a piece on Bill Jackson's son's horses, Albuhera and Roman King. Bill wrote to say thank you and to purchase a new Regimental Tie to wear when Albuhera is running.

Ken and Millie Beale wrote to say that they expect to move shortly into their new house that they are having built in Baladar in Spain, meanwhile they are living in rented accommodation. They said that life in Spain lives up to their expectations, wonderful climate, pleasant people and a laid back way of life! Ken is known as El Bandito on the golf course, but despite playing at least three times each week, his handicap remains the same. Ken mentioned that he hopes to be on the ground at Albuhera next Albuhera Day.

W J C Gardner wrote recently to say he had not been too well lately. Spent some six weeks in hospital with heart problems. Pleased to say he has made a complete recovery and is now back in business.

Ron Hill wrote to say that he had a slight stroke about a year ago but is now much better.

Francis Mullings of the 1/7th Battalion wrote to say how sorry he was to hear of the passing of Ron Atkins. they served in D Company together.

Henry Painter wishes to be remembered of all members of B Company of the 1st Battalion (1942 - 1946).

Edmund Roberts asks to be remembered to those who knew him especially those on the Anzio Bridgehead.

Ken Baugh is not very mobile at the moment waiting for a knee operation due shortly, (almost certainly had it by now). His target is to reach his diamond wedding anniversary in January 2001.

Ken Anderson says that age is taking its toll. He has had to give up attending the annual parade at the Cenotaph in Whitehall that commemorates the Liberation of Belgium. He also finds that for much the same reason he is unable to attend the Albuhera Service and the Annual Reunion. He used to travel to London by car but he now finds it impossible to park.

Taffy Shore has been in contact to say that his wife had a severe stroke in November 1999 and is now in a Nursing Home. We wish them both well at this difficult time.

Chris Sexton, ex 1st Battalion Corps of Drums in Cyprus, tells me that he is still playing the bugle on the Remembrance Sunday and other RBL Parades. Sent me a cutting from his local paper. He is looking for a bugle mouthpiece to replace the trumpet mouthpiece he is currently using. Any offers?

Roy Sharp wrote to wish all the best to the Sergeants' Mess members who served in both the 1st and 2nd Battalions between 1944 and 1952.

Jimmy Ridler, 1st (2/8th) Battalion wrote to say that he and his wife together with their daughter and her husband had spent a month in Australia visiting his wife's family and whilst there celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Many congratulations. Jim said how welcome the Aussies made them and what a great Country it is. He sent me an interesting leaflet on the Shrine of Remembrance at Melbourne.

Pat Cain tells me that his right hand is not working as well as it should. Has difficulty in writing due to arthritis. He sends his best wishes to all Diehards.

John Farmborough wrote to say that he and his wife attend each year the Annual Alamein Memorial Service at St George's, The Alamein Church which is located near to Endover in Hampshire. (The Association recently made a donation to assist with the upkeep of this Church). He also told me that they are to shortly celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with family and friends in Warminster. Many congratulations to you both.

Reg Warner said that he is still in contact with Charles Lovick. They were in the same Training Squad at Mill Hill in 1939 and have kept in touch ever since.

Ted Hutchins wrote to say that his brother, M R Hutchins, has had to undergo a series of operations and is waiting to go into hospital again for another hip replacement. We wish him well and hope the operation was a success.

Fred Phillips tells me that he has heard from RSM Bob Webden who, although he lives in New Zealand, is a committed member of the 2/7th Association. Regrettably he has had a stroke and has to attend hospital twice weekly. The good news is that he is making steady progress. We all wish him well.

A note from Eddie Johnson's daughter tells us that he has moved back to London from Cornwall and is now living with her.

Tom Emerson sends his good wishes to all our members and he reminded me that he is now 87 years of age and in good health entirely due to his wife's care and attention.

Fritz Jennings sends his best wishes from Australia particularly to those who were with him as a Far East Prisoner of War. "Not many of us left now".

Mr Bob Oscar wrote from Australia asking me to try and find members of the 1/7th Battalion who knew his father also Bob Oscar nicknamed Ozi by his mates in D Company. Bob Oscar senior is still with us and is anxious to regain contact with his old war time chums. If you knew him please inform the Association Secretary and he will do the rest.

Also had a letter from David Bennett who lives at 27 Bilkurra Ave, Bilgola Plateau, Sydney, Australia, NSW 2107, Phone and Fax 006129918 4929. He said that he did his National Service with the Regt in Cyprus and Aquaba and he would be pleased if members living in Australia would contact him.

Percy Howells, the Drum Major in the 1960's, tells me that he and his wife have had a rough time medically over the last couple of years. They are looking forward to a better year this year and send their best wishes to all those who remember them.

Alex Coghill, 6206615, who served with the 1/7th and the 2/7th Battalions from 1939 to 1946 wrote recently to say that he lost his wife Bridget during February of last year. She suffered a severe stroke from which she never recovered. Alex said that the support from his family is helping him to cope with his loss. He asked me to publish this short note as he has not been able to tell many of his old friends the sad news. I know we all wish him well at this difficult time.

Keith Watson who served with the 1st Battalion in Austria and Cyprus is asking for members of C Company, who remember him, to regain contact. He is particularly asking for news of Mick Adams who was in Austria and then went to Berlin prior to the move to Cyprus. Keith's address is:- Silverdale, 1 The Hawthorns, Monk Risborough, Bucks HP27 9PT, Tel 01844 274039.

We congratulate Colonel Rex Cain on being awarded the Order of St John. Rex has been involved with the St John's Ambulance Organisation for many years and was President of the Hayes and Harlington Branch from 1992 to 1996.

Raymond Sturge wrote to say that the year 2000 is the 60th anniversary of his involvement with various voluntary organisations starting with the Home Guard in 1940. After leaving the Army in 1947 he joined the St Johns Ambulance Brigade rising eventually to the rank of Superintendent. In 1968 he was awarded the Serving Brother of St John and then in 1991 he was upgraded to officer Brother in the Order. He worked for many years in the National Health Service and is a qualified RMN, SRN and a State Registered Chiropodist. Since his retirement he has been a caseworker for the Welfare Service of the Royal British Legion and the Welfare Officer for the East Kent Artillery Association.

Ken Anderson, in a second letter, has asked me to remind members that he was one of the group that went from the 595 LAA/SL Regt TA (formerly the 9th Battalion) to line the route on the 11th of May 1953 at the Coronation of

Her Majesty. The other members of the party were:- Sgt H Thomas, Bdr E J Halls, L Bdr F Milson, Gnr W Downton and Gnr E Goulding.

Stan Jones (6202869) wrote to thank me for the "Real" Middlesex Cap Badge that he purchased recently to replace that stolen when he was in hospital at Haslar and he mentioned that he had been in hospital over Christmas last year but was now getting better and was looking forward to a glass or two of beer proudly displaying his new badge.

Les Howick told me recently that he had an emergency stay in hospital back in January. We wish him well and trust he is making a good recovery.

Bert Mellor wrote to say that he and Joan had a great holiday with their son in California. Weather was glorious and the food out of this world. Whilst out there they met Charlie and Margaret Banks who looked after the TA Centre at Edgware from 1960 to 1975. They had many a long chat about their old friends, to mention a few, Dick and Dolly Smith, Les Honeyburn and his good lady, Les Shrubb, Jack Milroy, Mut Hazlewood and many more.

David Gouda made contact recently to say all is well and that he is making a success of running a Thai Restaurant in Chislehurst.

Fred Phillips, who runs the 2/7th OCA Dining club, has asked me to say thank you to the Enfield Branch for their donation of £50, from the proceeds of their Christmas Raffle, to help towards the cost of the 2/7th Luncheon and Reunion being held on the 5th of October.

Gus Kenrick, who felt that he was not well enough to make the journey across from Ireland for the Reunion, sent a card to the Victory Services Club, which was passed on to the Secretary, wishing everyone well and sending Albuhera Greetings to all Diehards and Members of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Association attending the Reunion. He made particular mention of Norman and

Jean Clayden, Tom and Jean McMillan, Pat and Kitty Donovan, Jimmy Wild, Ron and Betty Morris, Ray and Veronica Dodkins and all the members of Support company. Thanks Gus a very nice thought.

* * * * *

Derek Mulquin who runs the Mortar Platoon get together each year, sent me a note recently to say that they held their 44th Reunion on the 25th of March 2000. Those members of the platoon in Cyprus who would like to attend the 2001 reunion should contact Derek on 020 8578 6944. He will be pleased to hear from you.

* * * * *

I am sure you would all wish to know that the Association Secretary has received many letters, notes and messages from members all saying how sorry they were to see in the last newsletter that Major Frank Waldron had died. All said how much they had appreciated his help and assistance over the years and that he will be greatly missed.

OBITUARIES

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

BELLCHAMBERS - Edwin Charles, 6204475. We have received the following to add to the obituary published in the December 1999 Newsletter. Charlie suffered a massive heart attack and died on the 9th of August 1999 aged 76 (less one month). He died in St George's Hospital, Sydney. The funeral was attended by around 150 people from the Returned Services League and close friends and he was cremated at the Woronora Crematorium. Later his ashes were spread across Botany Bay at the Brighton Junior Swimming Pool where Charlie used to teach disabled children to swim. A wonderful man who was always quick to lend a hand to those in distress. He will be remembered for his charm and witty humour and he would have been embarrassed by the large numbers who attended his funeral.

BELLERS - Wendy, wife of Major Peter Bellers, died peacefully at home in Taunton on the 11th of January 2000. The funeral was held on Monday the 17th of January at St Mary Magdalen Church, Taunton followed by a Cremation on Thursday the 20th January. The following, from the Regiment, joined family and friends at the funeral on the 17th:- Major W G A Crumley, Captain and Mrs J S C Flavell, Colonel and Mrs M V Hayward, Lieut Colonel J M Hewson, Major and Mrs C L Lawrence, Major I M E Lloyd, Major C H Mievile accompanied by his son Lieut Colonel C Mievile and Major M Wild.

BOND - Donald, died on the 4th of September 1999 at the good age of 86 nearly 87. He served with the 9th Battalion during and after World War II. He left the Army in the rank of Major. The funeral took place on Thursday the 16th of September 1999 at the Holy Cross church at Sarratt in Hertfordshire.

CALLAGHAN - Bertred, 6098747, was born in 1922 and he died on the 8th of December 1999. Bert enlisted into the Queen's Royal Regiment on the 17th of June 1940 and served with them until 1943. He then transferred to the Princess of Louises Kensington Regiment moving to the Middlesex Regiment in April 1945. Served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, Korea, Austria, Cyprus and BAOR. He left the Army on the 1st of June 1961 in the rank of Sergeant. The funeral took place at Enfield Crematorium on Thursday the 16th of December 1999. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag and members of the Enfield Branch, namely, Con Hourihane, Nick Hutley, Mick Mulvaney and Bill Rawlinson attended to represent the Regiment.

CARNZU - Evelyn Maud, widow of Private Edmund Carnzu a soldier from the First World War, died on the 17th of May 2000. Mrs Carnzu was resident in a nursing home for many years after the death of her husband. Nothing further is known.

CUTLER - Frank, was born on the 28th of February 1911 and died on the 18th of July 1999. For some 50 years Frank Cutler ran a bookshop, with his partner, (The International Book Club) which was crammed with literature from the five main continental languages. He became an authority in his chosen field and was consulted by scholars and befriended by professors of modern languages. He was elected an honorary member of the Association of Hispanists for his services to Spanish Literature. From within the Regiment Frank will be remembered as the Intelligence Officer of the 1/8th Battalion serving from November 1943 until March 1946. He published the story of the 8th Battalion in North West Europe 1944 to 1945 in the March 1949 edition of the Diehard Journal. He left the Army in the rank of Captain.

DEYONG - James Edward (known as Archie) died on the 17th of May 2000 aged 89 years. Archie was a member of the 1/7th Battalion throughout the War. His funeral took place at the North East Surrey Crematorium on the 26th of May 2000.

FISHER - Jack 6208236, died on the 20th of March 2000. Joined the Regiment in 1939 and after recruit training was posted to the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. Was a FEPOW and after return to the UK was discharged but did not join the Association so regretfully little is known of him. The funeral took place in Kings Lynn on the 27th of March 2000.

FRANCIS - Jack aged 101 died on Thursday the 9th of March 2000. Apparently in good health Jack arrived back home from the Day Centre and later that evening he was troubled by a cough. After a restless night he spent most of the next day dozing, his sleep eventually becoming deeper until around 10.15 that evening he quietly passed away. Members will recall that along with the other surviving World War One Veterans Jack was awarded the Legion of Honour in November 1998. He joined the Regiment at the age of 13 as a Drummer Boy and went off to India. Returning to UK for France in 1915, wounded at Mons, was at the Somme, Passchendaele and Ypres. Wounded for a second time and he then spent the rest of the war with the Essex Regiment. His funeral took place at Kingston Crematorium on Thursday the 16th of March 2000. There was a large congregation of family and friends together with representatives from the Royal British Legion and Hobkerk House Day Centre, New Malden. The Regiment was represented by Major Ron Morris and Mr Fred Thomas.

FRITH - John (Belated entry) died in September 1999 - Commanded a Platoon in C Company of the 1st Battalion when stationed in Rendsburg. Married a local lady and in their later years they settled in Rendsburg. Heinz Johannsen was advised recently that John had been living locally but regrettably he did not receive this information until after he died so was unable to regain contact.

GOWING - Stan, who was a loyal supporter of the 2/7th Luncheon Club, died in mid January 2000. We do not have the actual date. The last contact we had was in September 1998 when he wrote to say that he could not attend that year's luncheon as he was not fit enough to travel and he wished everyone well. The funeral was held in Derby on the 31st of January 2000. A message of condolence was sent from all members of the 2/7th Battalion.

JONES - John (Belated entry), 6198013 and 23476459. died on the 2nd of March 1999 aged 90. Joined the 1st Battalion in 1927 moving to the 2nd Battalion in 1928 for a period of two years returning to the 1st Battalion in 1930. Discharged to the Army reserve in 1935 being recalled to the Colours in 1939. From 1940 onwards served with the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery. After leaving the Army John worked for the Post Office at the Postal and Courier Depot at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. John left his medals to the Regiment and they will go to the PWRR Museum in Dover

NEVILLE - Fred died on Saturday the 4th of March 2000 aged 68. He was buried at Corbets Bay on Monday the 14th of March 2000. The Korean Club was represented by Mike Mulvaney, Bill Rawlinson, Syd Webb and Bernard Smillie who had travelled down from Cudworth, Barnsley. Also present were a number of friends from the Southend Branch of the KVA. Fred was our jeep driver in D Company in Korea. Bernard Smillie claims that he would not be alive today if Fred had not quickly evacuated him to a Field Ambulance Unit when he was badly

wounded. Fred's death was a terrible shock to his wife Jean. She had been out for the day and on her return she found him dead on the kitchen floor.

NORMANDALE - Reg 6213546 died suddenly on the 21st of January 2000 aged 85 after collapsing at home the previous evening. Reg served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong (D Company) and was taken prisoner on Christmas Day 1941. The funeral took place at Kettering on the 27th of January. He is survived by his widow Edna May who has moved to Ringwood to live with her daughter.

OEHL - Victor Gustave Strong MC ERD died on the 17th of April 2000 peacefully in Pembury Hospital after a long battle against leukemia borne with great courage. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held at 2pm on the 26th of April at St Peter's Church, Southborough. Victor served with the 7th Battalion at the Enfield Drill Hall and commanded the Company there when it reformed shortly after the War.

PLUMMER - George Edward Ernest, 619228, ARCM, MSM, died on the 21st of May 2000 just short of his 86th birthday. He had been ill for some time having suffered a serious head injury some three years ago and his passing was a merciful release. George joined the Regiment as a boy Musician in 1929 aged 15.1/2 years. He served pre war with the 1st Battalion Band in Egypt, Singapore and then Hong Kong. He took part in the Battle for Hong Kong in the Platoon raised from the Band and HQ Company. He was taken prisoner on Christmas Day 1941 and with the rest of the Battalion ended up in Shamshuipo Camp. Some ten months later he was a member of the draft embarked on the Lisbon Maru for Japan. The ship was torpedoed on the 1st of October 1942. Many of the Regiment went down with the ship and others were machine gunned in the water. George however survived and went on to Japan working initially on the docks at Osakai and then at Sakurajima a deep mine where, I am told, the Japanese never let them out. He and his comrades eventually left the mine when the bomb was dropped at Nagasaki.

George decided to stay in the Army to continue his musical career. He married Mary in 1952 when he was a student bandmaster at Kneller Hall. Their daughter, Wendy, was born in 1954 and son David in 1958.

In 1955 he was appointed Bandmaster to the Gloucestershire Regiment and he served with them in Kenya, BAOR and Cyprus. He went on to the Uganda Regiment as Bandmaster and during the time he was in Uganda the Regiment mutinied but George would not permit his bandsmen to take part! Shortly after Uganda he retired from the Army with just over 34 years service.

In 1965 he went to the Gambia Field Force as the Director of Music in the rank of Captain. He quickly organised a run down group of musicians into a first class band.

In 1967 he finally left the Army and started as a Peripatetic Teacher of Music in the Cambridge area. At this time he also taught young Bandsmen at Bassingborn Depot.

His funeral was held on the 1st June 2000 at the Cambridge City Crematorium with a small gathering of family and friends present.

QUICKENDEN - Colin William 6208249 died peacefully in hospital on the 13th of February 2000 after suffering a stroke. Colin enlisted on the 2nd of November 1939 and after recruit training joined A Company of the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong. Was taken prisoner and after being on the Lisbon Maru ended up in Kobe House in Japan. Shortly after repatriation to UK he was discharged from the Army. His funeral took place on the 21st of February 2000. No further details are available at this time.

ROE - Arthur Alfred 6212557 died on the 12th of February 2000 aged 84. Arthur served with C Company of the 8th Battalion from the 15th of March 1940 until being discharged on the 29th of January 1946. He left the Army with the rank of Corporal.

STARTUP - Eric William, 6216342 and then 256149, was born on 22nd of November 1919 and he died suddenly on the 9th of January 2000. Eric joined the 2/7th Battalion in 1939. He was commissioned in 1940 and joined the 1/7th Battalion. He went with them to North Africa returning to UK in 1943 to join those preparing for the landings to take place in Normandy. Landed on D Day plus 3 and shortly after he was wounded and he returned to UK and was sent to a hospital in Scotland to recover. After a period in hospital he joined the Cheshire Regiment and he stayed with them until the end of the war. He left the Army with the rank of Lieutenant. He resumed his career as a statistician and played a major role in building Moodies Financial Services into a leader in their field. His funeral was held at St Joseph the English Martyrs Catholic Church, Bishops Stortford on Wednesday the 26th of January. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag and the Regiment was represented by Messrs Alf Burford, Fred Phillips, Joe Shore and Charles Bysouth. The Cheshire Regiment kindly provided a bugler to sound the last post.

WILKINS - Roland was born in 1919 and he died on the 24th of January 2000 aged 80. He joined the 7th Battalion from the Rifle Brigade in August 1938 staying with the Regiment until 1941 when he transferred to the Royal Military Police and then subsequently to the Intelligence Corps, serving in the Middle East, Egypt, Kenya and Northern Ireland. He left the Army with the rank of Major. In civilian life he became a ballistics and a handwriting expert being called by the Home Office and various police forces to give evidence in Civil and Criminal Cases. He was unmarried and lived with his mother for many years in

Winchmore Hill. She died in 1966. His funeral held at the Enfield Crematorium on the 11th of February was attended by his friends and neighbours. The Regiment was represented by Major Ron Morris and Mr Fred Phillips. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association:-

23056965 Pte R Atkinson	1st Bn 1954 - 1956
4128947 Sgt F Campbell	1/8th Bn & 6th Cheshires 1939 - 1946
22047032 Pte V K Cheyney	B Coy 1st Bn 1948 - 1950
2378905 Pte C Dawson	25th Bn MX Home Guard 1940 1941
21187617 Sgt F Dawson	C Coy 3rd Cadet Bn ACF 1943 - 1947
6217141 Bdsman W E G Duncan	MX Band (1st & 2nd Bns) 1947 - 1954
469836 Col K Farnes	8th Bn, Para, SAS, Sultan of Oman's Special Forces 1958 - 1990
24080811 Pte A K Jones	BCoy, HQ Coy 4 Queen's
23098064 Pte M G King	Sp Coy 1st Bn 1955 - 1957
23067815 Pte P L Jones	B Coy 1st Bn 1954 - 1956
6210634 Pte E L Kirby	1/8th Bn, Para & SAS 1939 - 1945
23683273 Cpl J C Moloney	1st Bn & Queen's 1958 - 1968
23433539 Pte J W D Munday	HQ Coy (Sig Pl) 1st Bn 1957 - 1959
23668772 WOII T Nash	Band 1 MX & 4 Queen's Band Sgt Maj 1959 - 1970 then QOH
463994 Capt J C Parkinson	D Coy 5th Bn, Sp Coy 8th Bn 1959 - 1971
14331639 Pte C Pratt	D Coy 1st Bn, 4th Bn RNF 1942 - 1947

22605460 Pte T P Rushbrook A Coy 1st Bn 1951 - 1953
 Cadet Cpl R Shepherd MX ACF 1967 - 1969
 6213219 Pte L E F Webb 1/7th Bn, LIR, RUR, & RSF 1940 - 1945
 23146411 Pte J L Wright 1st Bn 1955 - 1957
 23463439 Pte C A Yeo A Coy 1st Bn 1956 - 1959

Associate members

24022581 Sgt A R Powell REME 1964 - 1976 (father WOII Powell MX)
 R M Washer War Historian covering WWI, WWII and Korean War.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following letters are published for general information:-

Dear Ron

55th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LIBERATION OF TILBURG **REPORT FROM ROY BISHOP, PLATOON SERGEANT OF 13 PLATOON** **(MORTARS) D Coy, 1st BN. THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT**

Many thanks for your letter and the report as requested herewith of my visit to TILBURG in the Netherlands, when I represented the Middlesex Regiment at the 55th Anniversary of the liberation of that town.

After the bitter fighting in Normandy, when Sgt. Frank Godfrey, Private Gleave & Cpl. Symonds were killed in action and many platoon personnel wounded and then, after the liberation of Brussels, the MARKET GARDEN operation was put into force for the liberation of the Low Countries.

At Mol, in Belgium, two of our platoon were killed in action (Cpl. Crowhurst and Private Baker) and Private Owen Collins seriously injured, during the German counter attack in the area. Tilburg was liberated on 27th October 1944 and I recall

the bitter winter of '44 when we were in VENLO on the MAAS, when the Germans broke through our platoon position during the night of the Christmas period and then afterwards our military engagements through Holland and Germany the crossing of the Rhine, the crossing of the ELBE and finishing our war in LÜBECK on the BALTIC. Glad to have survived many narrow escapes and military engagements.

During my visit to TILBURG, the 15th Scottish Infantry Division were well represented but I was the only 'diehard' present and I laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment at the Scots Memorial and the War Graves Cemetery.

I also paid my respects to my comrades who are buried in MOL Cemetery.

During my week's stay in TILBURG I visited YPRES and noted the many 'Diehard' Soldiers depicted as Killed in Action at the Menim Gate Memorial and I visited the St. Georges' Church at YPRES and saw memorials to the Middlesex Regiment displayed from the 1st World War.

Near Ypres, I visited the German Military Cemetery where thousands of Germans are buried and I reflected on the terrible waste of so many young men's lives.

Then, a trip to CAMPVUGHT, the German Transit Concentration Camp, near to S'Hertogenbosch, which was a sad reflection on inhuman behaviour.

My host family in Tilburg (the Verhoeven family) were most hospitable and in fact they had visited me in Worthing shortly after the 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

My week was taken up with various engagements, a visit to Tilburg Town Hall, when I was presented with a book by the Mayor, entitled TILBURGS BEVRIJDING BESCHREVEN DOOR DE BEVRIJDERS by THEO. DEKKER and the Middlesex Regiment is mentioned. Then a visit to EFTERLING LEISURE PARK; THE TEXTILES MUSEUM; THE TATTOO IN TILBURG CENTRE OF THE K.O.S.B Band and a visit to DE HERMITAGE RESTAURANT at OISTERWIJK.

Altogether, an interesting visit and I was proud to represent the Regiment during this historic event and I'm keeping my "fingers crossed" to attend the 60th Liberation Celebrations (D.V.)

Best wishes

Roy Bishop

Dear Major Morris,

Arthur (Harry) NAULDER, B.E.M.

On behalf of the family of Arthur (always known as Harry) Naulder, I would like to thank you for your assistance, and the loan of the Regimental Flag for his funeral. They were most impressed that you were able to help at such short notice. I was away on holiday at the time, and unaware of his death until I returned, some time afterwards. I was therefore unable to be of any use.

Harry would have been ninety on the 8th December 1999. Family preparations were all in hand for the celebrations, which were going to be in the good old fashioned East End style.

Harry was serving with the Regiment in India when I was 18 months old. I first met him a few days after "D" Day, when I had just been posted to B Company, 2nd Battalion, as a replacement Dispatch Rider. He was brought in to Company H.Q. with a shrapnel wound in his shoulder, and was obviously losing blood. The only vehicles in the Company at that time were the Machine Gun Carriers, and my motor cycle. He was patched up, with a dressing, and I was given the job of taking him to the Dressing Station - on the pillion of the bike.

This was my initiation to active service. Having enlisted under age, I was just 17 years old. I was absolutely horrified at the prospect of riding around Normandy with a passenger who was in pain. Apart from the dressing, he had not been given any pain killers or drugs. We also only had a vague idea of where the Dressing Station might be.

Harry could see this, and took command of the situation (and me) immediately. He sat on the pillion as calm as you like whilst we bumped over what was left of the road to the rear. He never mentioned his wound once - just kept reassuring me that everything was O.K. and that we were doing well. "Don't worry mate", he said. "If we can't find it by the time we get to the beach, I'll swim back home and call a Doctor. I've done all this before (Dunkirk)".

This was Harry. He had a cheerful comment for every occasion. He was one of the few in the Company that had previously seen Active Service. Although his advice may not always have been approved of by a Higher Authority, it was always helpful. He always managed to find himself in possession of chickens, eggs, fresh milk and the like - even if there did not appear to be any habitation in sight, anywhere. He was most valuable asset to the platoon.

His first wife died during the "V" bombing of the East End, and because of an administration error, by the time he arrived home, she had already been buried,

alone and unmourned. When he returned to us, it was obvious this had affected him, and also the sight of the East End at that time. However, he soon settled down again, and I never heard him mention it again.

After the War, Harry went home on discharge, whilst the rest of the Battalion went to Egypt.

I met Harry again some years later, whilst I was in the Police in the East End of London. He hadn't changed one bit. He had married again, and now had a family. We remained friends until he died.

He worked for the B.B.C., and was awarded the B.E.M. for faithful service. When the late Major Dick Smith saw him at a reunion, he asked "Who the bloody hell gave you the B.E.M.?" Harry, who was always known as a notorious betting man on the horses, replied with his usual cheeky manner and big smile "Well, I always give racing tips to the Director General of the B.B.C. He passes them on to the Queen Mother" I think Dick Smith could have been forgiven if he half believed him.

That was Harry - a true Diehard.

Frank Dickinson



*6 Platoon B Coy NW Europe 1944
HARRY NAULDER - Bottom right (can you name the others).*

Dear Major Morris,

Whilst going through some old memorabilia the other day, we came across these 1939 photos, which were taken at 24 M.G.T.C. Mill Hill Barracks where I was an instructor for 3 years.

As the originals were becoming a bit worn and tatty, (like me aged 86) I decided to have them photocopied. I am sending these on to you, wondering if they are worthy of a place somewhere in the Reg. Museum at Chelsea, as I was born just the other side of the bridge in S.W. London.

The recruit in the photo is a chap named CHEFFY. I wonder if he is still around?

Hoping these will be of interest to you or whoever might see them.

Sincerely yours

Ernie J. Stebbings 6769309 (ex. Sgt. 2nd Bn. Middlesex Reg.)



**The Middlesex Regimental Association
Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting
held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea London SW3
on Monday 6th March 2000**

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

Apologies: Lt Col J.M. Hewson, MC

1. Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman opened the Meeting by thanking all for attending. He said as we had a great deal to cover he wanted to move things along quickly. Received one apology for absence - Lt Col J.M. Hewson, MC who is away from the UK on holiday.

2. Minutes of the last Meeting

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

3. Matters arising

3.1 There were two matters arising. Mr Mulvaney was the Enfield Branch nomination to be their second representative on this Committee. It was decided that as he had resigned from the Enfield Branch Committee he could not adequately represent the Enfield Branch Members and therefore should not sit on

this Committee. Mr Burford was nominated to take his place. The Chairman formally welcomed him to this his first meeting.

3.2 The Association Computer was replaced at a cost of £703 and is working well. There may be a requirement to replace the printer at a later date. It is now six years old.

4. Secretary's Report

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

4.2 Col Brotherton drew attention to a donation of £1000 made from the estate of Lt Col Hall that had not been listed in the report. The Secretary apologised for this oversight and said he would make the necessary addition to the file copy of the report.

4.3 It was agreed that we would continue to have two readings at the Annual Service. Chairman said he would approach Maj Reed to see if he would read the second lesson.

4.4 The Secretary said he had received a disappointing response from the London Branch of the A&S H Association. Their Secretary thought they would only have 8 or 9 members attending the Reunion. The Committee agreed that the tickets for this years Reunion should remain at the same price as last year £7.50, that the disco should play after the meal, the menu stay the same, i.e. fish and chips and that wine on this special occasion be served with the meal.

4.5 Col Cain recommended that the grant for the MX and NW London ACF should be £750. He said they were moving out of their accommodation at the Duke of York's to the TA Centre at Hammersmith and as such extra funding would be very much appreciated.

4.6 The Committee approved the following grants and expenditure for the year 2000:-

Albuhera Service at St. Paul's up to	£2750
Annual Reunion up to	£3500
Service at the Field of Remembrance	£100
Star & Garter Home	£100
MX and NW London ACF	£750

4.7 Brig Marciandi mentioned that with the agreement of the President we had made a donation of £100 to the Askari Appeal and he asked that retrospective authority be given. This was agreed.

5. Finance Committee Chairman's Report

5.1 Brig Marciandi presented the accounts that had been previously circulated. The Secretary distributed a replacement page 3 (Independent Examiner's Report) the main Association Account. Our Accountant advised that this was necessary to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission. Brig Marciandi mentioned at the end of the year (1999) the value of our investments were very high, have moved up and down since then but generally balanced out. Said that the Finance Committee's two meetings had taken place during the year where the portfolios were reviewed and advice from the Stockbroker was considered and acted upon. Mentioned that sadly as we no longer had to pay FW's pension our cash flow had improved.

5.2 Brig Marciandi said we had received a somewhat confusing letter from the Charity Commission on Pooling Scheme Funds (PSF) and Common Investment Funds (CIF). Capt Doran has advised that our investments come under the PSF and there is no requirement to take any action. To safeguard our position this has been queried with both the Stockbroker and the Accountant. Replies awaited.

5.3 To assist the Secretary a purchase of a fax machine has been authorised. This is now in operation - Fax no. 020 8942 5610

5.4 Brig Marciandi asked the Committee to approve the accounts. Proposed by Col Cain, seconded by Maj Couch that the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1999 be approved. Carried.

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

6. The Enfield Branch

6.1 After receiving a full report from Col Cain the Branch President, the Executive Committee discussed at considerable length the problems that had arisen at the Enfield Branch. Having considered the evidence before it in detail and after the withdrawal of Col Cain, Mr Burford and Mr Broadbent (Officers of the Branch) it was proposed by Brig Marciandi and seconded by Mr Ward and unanimously resolved that Messrs A, B and C, former members of the Enfield Branch, be expelled from the Regimental Association pursuant to Rule 30 with immediate effect.

6.2 The Secretary was instructed to notify in writing Messrs A, B and C of the Executive's decision forthwith and of their rights to appeal to the President of the Association. Any appeal should be in writing to the Secretary within fourteen days

of the date of such notification. (The names are omitted for reasons of confidentiality but appear as an annex to the master copy of the minutes).

7. The Great War Society - Possible bonding.

7.1 The Committee considered the request for bonding received from the Great War Society who are an enactment group representing the 4th Bn at the time of World War One. It was decided that we should not take on this extra commitment but we should give them every encouragement. The Secretary said he had received a forecast of events covering locations across the UK and for one event in Belgium. He will publish these in the next newsletter - our members may be interested. The Secretary is to write to the Great War Society to advise them of this decision.

8. Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War - Events in Korea

8.1 We have received notification via the RHQ PWRR of events taking place in Korea during a time scale of the next two years. The Defence Attaché has published draft programmes. There is mention of 1MX and 1A&SH veterans attending but no mention of funding, travel costs, accommodation and so on. RHQ PWRR have promised to keep us informed.

9. 8th Bn Memorial

9.1 Col Brotherton said the move to Deansbrook Road had been successfully completed. It was agreed that there should be a service of rededication at a date to be decided in mid year. B Coy Londons have said they would wish to be present and that they would prefer the services being held on a drill night to achieve maximum attendance. The Secretary is to liaise with B Coy. The sum of £200 was approved as a grant to help defray the cost of a buffet.

10. MX Memorial at the MX Guildhall

10.1 The Chairman said that Maj Clarke had visited the Guildhall recently and as a result he suggested that additional wording be added to the Memorial to cover conflicts that had occurred since World War One. Col Brotherton said that churches etc are full of memorials to many wars and they were left in their original condition and are not added to in any way. The Committee came to the conclusion that the MX Guildhall Memorial should be left alone and no action taken.

11. Correspondence

11.1 The Secretary produced a letter seeking funding to plant a tree at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. The Committee considered that our funds should not be used for this purpose. Secretary to advise the applicant accordingly.

12. Any other business

12.1 Capt Enthoven said he paid a visit to Albuhera Close just before Christmas. Five tenants have occupied properties under Haig Home Tenancies since we handed over. One from the MX Regt, three from other Regts and one from the RAF. The problem with the drains that causes flooding from time to time has been identified by the Council but they have no funds to rectify. Capt Enthoven said they would put pressure on the Council in April, at the start of their next financial year. Haig Homes spent £38,000 in 1999 on general maintenance and have budgeted to spend £40,000 this year. He expressed some concern over the health of some of our older residents living in the houses on their own.

12.2 Mr Mulvaney wrote to the Secretary recently seeking our agreement to set up a club in Enfield entitled the North Enfield Middlesex Regimental Club. The Secretary was instructed to reply that we could not sanction or recognise another branch in the Enfield area nor agree to any title that connects the club to the Regiment. Furthermore we would not assist in the setting up of the proposed new club or make any financial contribution.

12.3 Mr Lofts said that Col Man would be taking part with the Korean Contingent in the year's Cenotaph Parade and March Past. So far 54 Korean Club Members have signified their intention to join him.

12.4 RHQ PWRR have written to all the forebear regiments seeking volunteers to record their experiences covering the period 1945 - 2000. Annex A to these minutes lists the campaigns and events to be included. There may be more. Would members of this Committee give the matter some thought and advise the Secretary of those they feel might participate. All ranks should be considered. The filming will probably take place at a single venue in London. The resulting film will be added to the Interactive Video at the PWRR Museum that covers World War Two.

12.5 The Secretary advised that the laying up of 5 QUEENS Colours will not now proceed on the 10th June 2000, the Grand Reunion is also cancelled. Hopefully both will be reprogrammed for 2001. The date changes have been forced upon us by the unexpected operational tours of the two regular Bns.

13. Date and place of next meeting

13.1 Arranged for 1400 hours on Monday 5th March 2001. We know that the TA Conference Room at the Duke of York's is likely to be available to us and the booking had been made.

Major REB Morris
(Secretary)

Annex A to RHQ/PWRR/700
Dated 22 February 2000

REGIMENTAL MUSEUM VIDEO PROJECT 2000 CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS TO BE INCLUDED (1945 - 2000)

PALESTINE
THE PARTITION OF INDIA
BAOR 1945 - 1995
THE LIFE OF A NATIONAL SERVICEMAN
MALAYA
KOREA
THE CANAL ZONE
KENYA
CYPRUS
BORNEO
ADEN (INCLUDING 'THE EVER-READIES')
HONG KONG
BAHRAIN
NORTHERN IRELAND
UN OPERATIONS

NOTE: There are of course a host of engagements where INDIVIDUAL members of the regiment have been involved. We shall refer to these where appropriate in the video using our 'background voice' commentary.

The Middlesex Regiment Officers' Club Minutes of an Executive Meeting held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea London SW3 on Monday 6th March 2000

Present:	Maj C.L. Lawrence, MC	Chairman
	Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B	Vice Chairman
	Brig G. Bulloch, MBE	
	Brig B.H. Marciandi, OBE	
	Col M.J. Ball	
	Col I.D. Brotherton, TD, DL	
	Col R.M. Cain, OBE, DL	
	Maj H.E. Couch, TD, FRICS, FRSA	
	Maj S.L.J. Henshaw, TD	
	Capt S le M Enthoven, RIBA	
	Maj R.E.B. Morris, MBE	Secretary

Apologies: Lt Col J.M. Hewson, MC

1. Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman said only one apology for this Meeting. Lt Col J.M. Hewson, MC who is away from the UK on holiday. As Maj Couch had to leave early he proposed to deal with item 6 on the agenda. first.

2. This year's Dinner

2.1 Maj Couch proposed that as this was a special year in that it is the 50th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War and that guests are present from the A&SH that we should mark the occasion in some way. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the dinner would take much the same form as in previous years but the bar would be free before the dinner with a cash bar after. Members to be charged £20 per person and the balance of the cost to come from Club funds. The round table layout should continue.

3. Minutes of the last Meeting

3.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th March 1999 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Col Brotherton and seconded by Col Cain. Carried.

4. Matters arising

4.1 There was one other matter arising. Secretary said that he had endeavoured to obtain information from the King Edward VII Hospital on any schemes that would be of benefit to our members, linked to our annual grant, but he had not been successful.

5. Secretary's Report

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

5.2 When writing to the suggested guests from A&SH we omitted to invite their wives. It was agreed that wives should be included on the invitation card to be sent out shortly. Brig Bulloch said he had a contact and he would check to ascertain who was in fact married and advise the Secretary accordingly. (Post meeting note, information received).

5.3 It was agreed that the £100 annual donation to the King Edward VII Hospital should continue together with the grant to the 9th Bn Luncheon Club. Col Dowlen who organises the 9th Bn Lunch has asked for £100 only this year as he has a slight surplus in the account.

6. Chairman of the Finance Committee Report

6.1 Brig Marciandi presented the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1999. Said that whilst dividends were slightly lower than in the previous years we had made a profit on the disposal of an investment at the end of the 1998 accounting year. Col Ball proposed that the accounts be accepted seconded by Capt Enthoven. Carried.

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

7. Correspondence

7.1 Two letters from the King Edward VII Hospital were placed before the Committee for their information.

8. Any other business

8.1. Nothing was raised under this heading.

9. Date and Venue for the next Meeting

9.1. Monday 5th March 2000. To be held at the conclusion of the earlier Executive Committee Meeting. Now ascertained that the TAVRA Conference Room should be available and a booking has been made.

Major REB Morris
(Secretary)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Middlesex Regimental Association held at the Victory Services Club, London W2 at 1915 hours on Saturday 13th May 2000

Present: Maj C.L. Lawrence, MC, Chairman, Col R.M. Cain, OBE, DL, Col A.M. Man, DSO, OBE, Maj W.G.A. Crumley, Maj S.M. Dowse, Maj I.M.E. Lloyd, Maj R.E.B. Morris, MBE, Secretary, Messrs D. Bennett, A. Broadbent, K. Broom, A. Burford, C. Bysouth, R. Da Costa, P. Grant, R. Halffman, S. Hilton, R. Hutchins, J. Innes, A. Jennings, A. Jones, D. Langston, D. Lester, K. Mortimer, M. Mulvaney, F. Phillips, D. Rigden, T. Price, J. Shore, M. Smith, J. Stannard, R. Sturge, B. Tate, J. Yates, A.N. Other, (unable to read his writing). Total 34.

1. Opening Remarks

1.1 The Chairman opened the Meeting by advising all present that we had sent our usual message of loyal greetings to HM The Queen but regrettably we have not received a reply in time for this Meeting.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

2.1 There was one point arising from the Minutes of the last Meeting on the 15th May 1999. Mr Mortimer raised a query on paragraph 5 in that he thought he had proposed that a party from the Association as a whole should parade at Mill Hill on the 16th May 1999. This was not reflected in the Minutes. This prompted much discussion and after various points had been aired it was decided that to avoid disrupting the postal Depot on a working day consideration would be given to arranging such a parade when the 16th May falls on a Saturday or a Sunday. Proposed by M. Smith and seconded by R. Hutchins that the minutes suitably amended be approved. Carried.

3. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 1999

3.1 The Secretary explained the accounts for the year ending 31st December 1999. Mr A. Burford moved that the accounts be adopted and approved. Seconded by Mr S.Hilton. Carried.

4. Any other business

4.1 Mr K. Mortimer proposed under this heading that Association Rule 30 be changed to permit cases, where expulsion members was being considered, to be heard at the AGM, the Executive Committee being permitted only to suspend members until the next AGM. This proposal was seconded by Mr M. Mulvaney. This proposal was put to the vote and 30 members voted against, 2 for, 2 abstained, and so it was not carried.

4.2 The Chairman gave a resume of recent events where members had been involved. He mentioned that there was a particularly good turnout for the 3 PWRR Colours Parade. He explained that as the A&SH Association were holding a function in Edinburgh tonight this had limited the numbers available to attend our reunion as our guests. Only 7 were able to be with us. We had expected many more. He also asked members to note that the Korean Veterans were leading the march past the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. He hoped for a good attendance from our Korean Club.

4.3. Mr Jennings asked members to note that the Albuhera Display Room at Enfield had been reorganised and that they would welcome visitors.

5. Closing Remarks

5.1 There being no further business the meeting closed at 1945 hours.

Major REB Morris
(Secretary)

STOP PRESS

MEMORIAL AT ALBUHERA

The RHQ PWRR are arranging for the installation of a memorial at Albuhera to commemorate the Battle. The unveiling ceremony is planned to take place on Tuesday 15th May 2001. The PWRR are hoping that members of the forebear regiments who were at Albuhera would wish to support the unveiling. The PWRR will organise travel and accommodation and are asking Associations for numbers of those who would possibly attend. Please let the Secretary know if you are interested. (Costs of accommodation and travel not yet known).

REGIMENTAL GOODS

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

Blazer Badges	£ 7.00 each
Car Badges (good quality)	£10.00 each
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£27.00 each
Ties Regtl Old Pattern, Maroon & Old Gold	£ 5.50 each
Ties Regtl New Pattern	£ 5.50 each
Ties Officers' Club Silk	£13.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Cap Badges (improved quality)	£ 5.50 each
Middlesex Regiment Key Rings	£ 2.50 each
Old Comrades Lapel Badges, Old Pattern - The Diehards	£ 2.75 each
Wall Plaques, Middlesex Regiment	£17.50 each
Prints Drums and Fifes, unframed, large	£ 8.50 each
small	£ 4.50 each
Christmas Cards depicting:	
Steady the Drums and Fifes	.35 each
The Guardroom Scene	.35 each
Colonel Graham Egerton, 77th Foot Portsmouth 1854	.35 each

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

Middlesex Regtl Blazer Button (Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge)	
Sets of 6 large & 6 small	£25.00 set
Individual buttons large or small	£ 2.25 each
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links	£ 7.50 per pair
Middlesex Regimental Cuff Links with tie grip	£10.50 set
Tie Grip only	£ 5.00 each
Middlesex Regiment Ladies Brooch	£ 4.75 each
Middlesex Tie Tack and Chain	£ 4.50 each

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