



# *The Die-Hards*

NEWSLETTER

No. 87

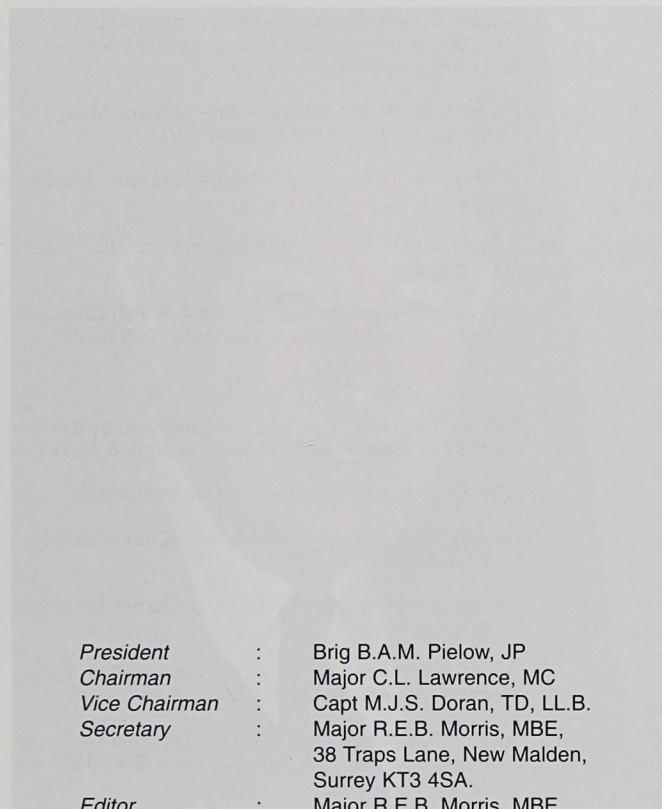
June 2002

Price £1



Colonel Ian Brotherton TD DL  
1920 - 2002

Colonel Ian Brotherton died on the 31st of March 2002  
an obituary follows in the newsletter.



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

## FORECAST OF EVENTS 2002.

- 7 July                      Regimental Grand Reunion – 2 PWRR Aldershot 1030 hours  
onwards
- 21 September           MX Korean Club Annual Reunion - AGM at 1830 hours -  
Victory Services Club
- 3 October                2/7th Bn MX Annual Luncheon – Victory Services Club 1200  
for 1300 hours
- 7 November             Garden of Remembrance – Westminster Abbey – 1030 hours  
for 1100 hours – planting of crosses in the MX Regimental  
and FEPOW Plots
- 7 November             7th Bn MX Officers' Club Dinner – Officers' Mess The London  
Regiment, St John's Hill, London SW11
- 9 November             MX Regiment Ceremony of Remembrance – Middlesex  
Guildhall 1030 for 1100 hours
- 10 November            Remembrance Service – Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill assemble at  
1000 hours
- 10 November            7th Bn MX Remembrance Service – Parish Church of St Mary  
and St George, Hornsey – assemble 1000 hours

## 2003

- 11 March                Officers' Club Committee Meeting followed by the Executive  
Committee Meeting at 1030 hours – Army & Navy Club
- 26 April                 1/7th OCA Annual Reunion TA Centre Hornsey
- 9 May                    Officers' Club Dinner – Army & Navy Club – 1900 hours  
for 2000 hours
- 10 May                   MX Albuhera Service – Regimental Chapel St Paul's at  
1500 hours
- 10 May                   MX All Ranks Reunion – Victory Services Club 1830  
hours — AGM to be held at 1845 hours
- 15 May                   9th Bn MX Officers' Club – Annual Luncheon – Royal  
Overseas League, Park Place, London SW1 1215 hours for  
1300 hours
- 16 May                   Albuhera Luncheon National Army Museum (by invitation  
only)



## DONATIONS AND BENEVOLENCE

### Donations Made

St Dunstons	£75	
Star & Garter Home	£100	
Korean Club	£26	To cover cost of postage – Grand Reunion Aldershot
1/7th OCA	£150	Annual Reunion & Luncheon
Enfield Branch	£300	Transport – Annual Reunion & to Aldershot
Our representative at Brig D Wilson's Memorial Service	£138	Cost of travel & overnight accn.
9th OCA	£200	Annual Luncheon
2/7th OCA	£150	Annual Reunion & luncheon
MX & NW London ACF	£950	
Hounslow Branch	£234	Assist with cost of travel to Albuhera

(Donations made so far in this FY total £2273)

### Bequests/Donations received

Estate of Rita Green	£250	Widow of Rex Green
Estate of Col A Cowing	£1615	
K Mc Nicholas	£150	to note his retirement
P F Wookey	£60	
Mrs F B Clayton	£50	
C D Cripps	£50	
Mrs J Boswell	£100	In memory of G Boswell

(Plus very many smaller donations gratefully received)

Benevolent Grants	31 Dec 00	31 Dec 01	To 31 May 02
Grants made to individuals	£13827	£16013	£7553
Less ABF Grants	£6633	£8101	£4174
Net	£7194	£7912	£3379

## THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT – 2002.

The Regiment is in fine form and just about fully recruited. This is unique in today's army and is all thanks to the effort of many members of the Regiments Recruiting Teams and input of Regimental money.

The 1st Battalion is still based in Tidworth and returned for another tour of Kosovo in May 2002 in the armoured warrior role. The period covering the end of last year up to now has been hectic and busy. They had a training team in South Arabia, which was very successful. This did not receive much publicity as the emotive subject of British Troops training the South Arabian Forces might have caused a media nightmare.

C Company hosted a French Company from the 35 Infanterie Regiment and then went to Alsace to train with them. Their fresh rations of raw horse meat and armadillo giblets were questioned? The Battalion has returned to Pristina. The summer is the traditional fighting season and the Kosovo Albanian insurgents will be looking for the usual scrap.

Training has taken place in Otterburn, Dartmoor and Sennybridge to the usual mixture of good and really awful weather. The Battalion is in fine form.

The 2nd Battalion is based in Aldershot and will Arms Plot move to Ternhill (Shropshire) in August 2002. This means that they give up their role as mechanised infantry (Saxon) and move into a new role of difficult terrain and fast deployment. The Battalion has a new Commanding Officer, Lieut Colonel J P Clover MBE as Lieut Colonel S F Deakin OBE has been promoted and moved to the Staff. Arms Plot move time is a hectic period with a thousand one things to do, from administration along with recess and continual briefing of families and all ranks. They will just have time to settle in the new barracks, spending Christmas, and then off to Kenya in January for an exercise lasting 8 weeks. It is then into intensive Northern Ireland Training and deployment to Northern Ireland in June 2003. The Battalion will be sad to leave Aldershot. The Battalion will be hosting the Grand Reunion.

The 3rd Battalion is going from strength to strength with Lieut Colonel Patrick Crowley ensuring that life is worthwhile in the TA. The continued annual cycle of training has moved from fighting in woods or forests (FIWAF) to urban operations. Each different scenario requires separate specialist skills. The Battalion entered a successful team in the Cambrian Patrol competition in Wales and also exercised with the French in France. The Battalion's shooting team seem to win every competition in sight! There are also 23 members of the Battalion serving full time with the Regular Army in Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Kosovo, Cyprus and Germany. This is excellent and produces a professional backbone to the Battalion. Sport has also been covered with teams entering sailing, golf and adventurous training and a 50 mile charity run.

B (Queen's Regiment) Company, The London Regiment are now training at Platoon Offensive level which has involved weekend training sessions at SPTA and local areas.



The Company took part in the ceremony for the new Lord Mayor of London and joined the march past. They came second in the SF concentration for the UK. This was an excellent achievement. They also have FTRS soldiers serving in Bosnia and the UK. The Company is in fine form under the command of Major Alex Bond.

"C" (The Duke of Connaught's Own) PWRR Company, The Royal Rifle Volunteers goes from strength to strength. The Colonel of the Regiment visited the platoon in the Isle of Wight in February and saw training and gave a lecture on the Isle of Wight Rifles. This was to a packed hall of Company Personnel, Association Members and Cadets. They are now working up for Annual Camp in the Ukraine in September 2002.

In summary the Regiment is in fine form and well motivated.

For those who use the internet the RHQ have established a web page for the Regiment that is well worth looking at [www.rhq@1.2.3.pwrr.uk](http://www.rhq@1.2.3.pwrr.uk)

AJM

### 1/7th BATTALION ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The 40th Anniversary Luncheon took place at the Hornsey Drill Hall on Saturday the 20th of April 2002. The event was held as usual in the Officers' Mess and thirty eight members and guests attended. The principal guests were Major Ron and Betty Morris. Our thanks to the Secretary Les Vial and to the Treasurer Trevor Canton for all the arrangements including making the Museum available for those attending to visit at their leisure.

Next years luncheon will be held on Saturday the 26th of April 2003.



The gathering at the 1/7th Luncheon

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee Meeting followed by a Meeting of the Officers' Club Committee was held at the Duke of York's Headquarters on Monday the 4th of March 2002. A copy of the Minutes of the Executive Committee can be found towards the end of this newsletter.

### OFFICERS' CLUB

The Officers' Club Dinner was held at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1 on Friday the 10th of May 2002. The principal guest was Colonel M J Ball, The Regimental Secretary of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Others present were:-

Regimental Guests:- Mrs Ann Ball, Mrs Pam Argles, Mrs Anna Bennett, Mrs Shelia Boydell, Mrs Ann Davies, Mrs Andy Hutchings, Mrs Moira Jeffcoat, Mrs Barbara Norton, Mrs Christine Pollard and Mrs Corrie Shipster.

Members and Private Guests:- Brig & Mrs Tony Pielow, Brig Brian Marciandi, Brig & Mrs Dennis Rendell, Col & Mrs Rex Cain, Col John Moore, Lt Col & Mrs Michael Deakin, Col & Mrs Simon Deakin, Lt Col & Mrs John Hewson, Lt Col & Mrs Roger Gancz, Maj & Mrs Bob Bartlett, Maj Carl Blackwell, Maj & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj & Mrs Harold Couch, Maj & Mrs Gordon Crumley, Maj & Mrs Stephen Dowse, Maj & Mrs Brian Finch, Maj & Mrs Stewart Henshaw, Rev & Mrs Guz Jones, Maj & Mrs Chris Lawrence, Maj Ian Lloyd, Maj & Mrs David Margand, Maj Tony McManus, Maj & Mrs Ron Morris, Capt & Mrs Michael Doran, Capt Peter Lane, Capt Roy Scott, Ms Caroline Boydell, Lt Simon Cawthorne and Mrs Frances Castle, Mr Trevor Davies, Lt Johnny Day, Mr & Mrs John Harris, Lt & Mrs Peter Ottino

Major Chris Lawrence read out our message of loyal greetings to Her Majesty The Queen and her reply. Brigadier Tony Pielow welcomed our guests and he said how pleased he was to see so many at the dinner. He gave a résumé of the proposals to move the administration of the Association to the RHQ of the PWRR and he hoped the move would be approved at the AGM to be held the following day at the Victory Services Club. He said arrangements are being made to hold a trial luncheon for members and their ladies later this year. This is to meet the wishes of some members and to assess the need. This is in addition to the dinner that will continue. Finally he mentioned the sad passing of four of our members, Colonel Ian Brotherton, Colonel Nick Carter and Captains George Simmons and Tom McMillan.

### ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Annual Service of Remembrance was held in the newly cleaned and renovated Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral at 3pm on Saturday the 11th of May 2002. This year The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft, our Honorary Chaplain, led both the prayers and gave the address as the Right Reverend Mgr Ralph Brown was unable to be present as had just left hospital after undergoing an operation on his knee. There



were two readings, the first from Isaiah, Chapter 6 versus 1 – 8 by Brigadier Tony Pielow and the second from Matthew, Chapter 5 versus 1 – 16 by Brigadier Dennis Rendell. It was most encouraging to see the numbers attending, certainly in excess of three hundred. The Cathedral Staff are to be congratulated on the way the cleaning has been conducted and on the final result. Also it was pleasing to see our Colours back up in time for the Service.

After over twenty years of sentry duty at St Paul's Cathedral Bob Yerby and Les Loomes have decided to retire in 2003. They both wish to thank the Regimental Association Committee and all Diehards for their support and encouragement whilst carrying out this duty. They say it has been an honour and a privilege to be part of the Albuhera Service of Remembrance.

#### THE ANNUAL REUNION.

One Hundred and seventy five members booked in for the reunion and most of them attended. Again it is very pleasing to see our numbers holding up. Only about five less than last year. Bob Drake kept his promise made last year to attend. Again travelling all the way from Calgary in Canada. This time he brought two other chaps with him, but not from Canada!

As ever we were well looked after by the Staff of the Victory Services Club. The fish and chips seem as good as ever and a good time was had by all.

#### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Victory Services Club starting at 6.45pm on Saturday the 11th of May 2002. There were over fifty members present to discuss the very important proposals to move the administration of the Association to the RHQ PWRR. The Minutes of the Meeting are published towards the rear of this newsletter.

#### ALBUHERA DAY 2002 – NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM

Twenty eight members of the Association accepted the kind invitation of the Director of the National Army Museum, Mr I C Robertson, to join him and members of his Staff, on the 16th of May, to remember those who had fallen at the Battle of Albuhera. After a enjoyable fork buffet, Dr P E Boyden, Assistant Director of Collections, made us welcome on behalf of the Director and Major C L Lawrence gave the thanks of the Association. Miss J M Spencer-Smith, Head of Fine & Decorative Art gave a most interesting presentation on the paintings on show in the revamped Art Gallery and drew particular attention to a painting recently purchased that depicts the soldiers of the 25th Battalion parading on deck of the Tyndarios preparing to abandon ship when it struck a mine when on route to Hong Kong from South Africa. The ship did not in fact sink and was eventually repaired and continued on it's journey to Hong Kong. Many present remarked on the fact that the soldiers in painting were all wearing brown boots!

#### ALBUHERA DAY AT INGLIS BARRACKS

The Enfield Branch were invited to Inglis Barracks by the RSM, Mark Atwell for a wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. A coach was organised to convey 23 members and friends from the Royal British Legion, Enfield. Mr & Mrs Innes and Mr G Patmore joined the party at Mill Hill. We were very pleased that the RSM and CSM Kev Whittaker were able to join us for the Service of Remembrance held at the Memorial. It was conducted by Sister Joan, the Branch Honorary Chaplain, and she remembered those who have died during the last year. The wreath was laid by Mr Charlie Bysouth and the standard was carried by Mr Gerry Patmore. After the Service all adjourned to the Sergeants' Mess for lunch.



A group of Association members with their hosts at an earlier visit to Inglis Barracks

#### THE MIDDLESEX WAR MEMORIAL

We have been told that Inglis Barracks is to close. The target date for closure is September 2005. No decisions have been made, as yet, on the future of our War Memorial but it may have to be moved. We are looking for a site, within the regimental area, that is not open to vandalism and is secure. If anyone knows of a suitable site would they please inform the Secretary.

#### THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARADE – 4 JUNE 2002

After a four hour wait at the forming up area the members of the Enfield Branch, representing the Regiment, on The Golden Jubilee Parade marched down the Mall as



part of the Military Ex Services Contingent marching directly behind the Royal British Legion Standards. Alf who led the contingent said that Her Majesty gave them a special wave as they went past the saluting base. Our thanks go Alf Burford, Fred Phillips, Joe Shore, Charlie Bysouth and Gerry Patmore, who carried the Enfield Branch Standard, for undertaking this arduous duty on behalf of the Regiment.

### ODD JOTTINGS

Victor Hunt when sending in his subs gave me the good news that Tim Hardy is recovering well from his recent illness and is now back at work. Members may recall that Tim was a carpenter in the QM's Platoon with the 1st Bn, 4 QUEENS and then 1 QUEENS.

Anthony Gray took the trouble to write recently enclosing a photograph of a plaque on the wall of his Village Church that commemorates the death of Lieut J C Ashwin who was killed, whilst with the 57th of Foot, in the Crimea. Unfortunately the detail is such that the photograph will not reproduce in the Newsletter.

Tom Marshall called the Secretary just before Christmas, unfortunately too late for the last edition of the Newsletter, to say that the family were very proud in that Tom's nephew a Major P A Marshall serving with the RLC in Northern Ireland had been awarded the MBE. Many congratulations.

Mrs Pearl Bradshaw, widow of L/Sgt George Bradshaw, wrote to thank me for continuing to send her the newsletter. She finds them very interesting and she feels that they maintain her link with Regiment and with her husband who died in June 1977.

Rob Thorne is endeavouring to contact Sunny Dowsett. If any reader knows where he is would they please inform the Secretary.

Ted Gilkes says he remembers several of those mentioned in Jack Jones's account of the Hill 112 Battle. He asks has anyone news of Sgt Bob Tighie and although not mentioned in the write up he is also seeking the whereabouts of Sgt Dixie Dean. Ted went on to say that he left D Company in 1941 to join the Divisional Signal Regiment and from there he was posted to the Middlesex Yeomanry Signals serving with them in the Middle East and France and Germany until the war end.

Jeff Rolt says he was with A Company at the time of the Hill 112 Battle in the village of Baron. During the night of the 16th of July 1944 they lost six killed including the Platoon Sgt, Ernie Short.

Frank Bennion writing from Australia mentioned that he was pleasantly surprised in April 2001 when his family held a special 80th birthday party for him. He also said that he paid a visit to UK in 2001 and was able to spend some time with his friend Ralph Otto.

Alf Kelly writing from Dover said he represented the Regiment on two Remembrance Parades, firstly at the Castle and then later in the Town. He mentioned that the

PWRR/Queen's Museum, in the Castle is, as he put it, looking good. Alf served with Roy Bishop in D Coy, 1st Battalion in Europe until the war end.

Tom Tricker has sent in a photograph of Les Compton, the England, Arsenal and 1st Battalion footballer, taken in Lubeck in 1945. We will see if it can be reproduced in the Newsletter.

Gus Kenrick was in contact recently to say that he had been in hospital for a spell suffering with pneumonia. He is now on the mend and feeling much better. Said he had been in contact with both Jimmy Wild and Tom McMillan

Roy Topley enclosing a letter with his subs referred to Roy Bishop's item in the last odd jottings. As far as he remembered the nebelwerfer bomb was about the size of a small 5 gallon oil drum which when it landed split in two with a great blast effect with little or no shrapnel. He said they were stonked quite often in those far off exciting days! He felt that Roy Bishop's shrapnel must have come from some other weapon.

Brian Drake rang the Secretary from Canada on Christmas Eve to wish him well and to say that he has started to save and will do his best to make the 2002 Reunion. If he makes it it will be his third attendance in a row. A keen fan of the internet he has put me in contact with several Diehards who are not currently members of the Association. They have been sent a copy of the last newsletter with an invitation to join us.

Alex Coghill told me that he recently had a heart attack but is on the mend and as he put it "still around to send in a subscription". I am sure we all wish him well.

Jock Hazlewood said that through the newsletter he has made contact with his old platoon commander Lt Chamberlain and another lad who was in the platoon in the 8th Battalion. The Diehard spirit lives on. He was last in contact with them both just prior to being wounded in Normandy.

Peter Wookey tells me he has not been well recently. At the time of writing he was waiting for a further hospital appointment to see what they could do for him. Again I am sure we all wish him well.

Jack Jones rang to ask for a few spare copies of the Newsletter containing his article. Spoke to my wife who promptly put them into the post. I received a letter by return saying that I must have a very efficient Adjutant!

Mrs Marie Jones of 8 Penarth Gardens, Thornlea Park, Wick, Littlehampton, W Sussex BN17 7QA is seeking information with regard to her father Leon (Len) Sugarman who was with the 1/7th Bn at Dunkirk. He was wounded and was posted from the Bn to be an instructor at the Small Arms School, Netheravon. She asks anyone who knew him to contact her.



Heinz Johannsen from Rendsburg is in regular contact and he recently told me that he obtained a copy of an SS Journal named the Volunteer. In it there is an article about the British Army and in particular the Middlesex Regiment explaining how we became Diehards. It even mentioned Colonel Inglis saying "Diehard the 57th". As Heinz put it the SS have found us at last! A small world. He mentioned that his wife Elsa is in hospital, not at all well, but is on the mend and due to leave hospital shortly.

Mrs I Marven, 11, Hunters Ride, Bricket Wood, St Albans AL2 3LY is seeking to trace those who knew her husband Donald Wood who was a FAREST POW eventually ending up in Kobe, Japan. She asks anyone who knew him to contact her.

Ken Anderson when sending in his subs mentioned that he has been a member of the Association for fifty years.

Vic Barley has written to say that as result of his name being mentioned in odd jottings several members of his old battalion, mainly those from the battalion football team, have made contact.

Roland Johnson writing from Australia enclosed a copy of his certificate from the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, St James Palace showing that he had been awarded the Imperial Service Medal. Many congratulations.

Bill Blake has not been too well lately. Has had an operation on his face which has not gone as expected. Thinking of suing the hospital!

Ernest Case told me that he had a long conversation with Bob Hebden (2/7th Bn RSM at the time it disbanded) and he tells me that he is making a very good recovery from the stroke he had a while ago. He is also seeking news of Harold Kneebone. Has anyone heard from him recently?

Ron Bockhart mentioned that he recently spent a holiday in South Africa visiting his children. Says it is a great place with a fantastic rate of exchange for the pound to the rand.

Bob Jones writing from Warminster tells me that Pat Williamson is far from well and she has been in hospital in Bristol for some time. At the time of writing he thought she was about to be moved to Warminster Hospital. Get well soon Pat. Bob also sent me some interesting postcards showing the 1st Battalion receiving new Colours in Colchester in October 1931.

We congratulate Simon Deakin on his well deserved award of an operational OBE for service in Bosnia in Command of the 2nd Battalion of the PWRR and also on his promotion to full Colonel.

Frank Phipps tells me that Barry King has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to veterans in that he arranged for presentations of the French Medal for service in Normandy and for organising the D Day Celebrations in South

Australia for a number of years. Many congratulations Barry.

We are told that David Ray has not been too well recently but is now on the mend. I'm sure we all wish him well.

John Lowth says he remembers the day Roy Bishops shrapnel arrived extremely well he was there! He confirms the shrapnel came from a Nebelwerfer mortar a view that conflicts with Roy Topley's opinion noted above. John is endeavouring to trace Cpls D Major and W Cousins who were in 13 PI D Coy of the 2/8th Bn. If anyone has knowledge of their whereabouts would they please let the Secretary know.

Don Weller wrote to say how sad he was to read of the passing of Ray Goldup. They attended the same village school together at Beksbourne, near to Canterbury. The Goldup family lived on the Littlebourne to Beksbourne Rd near the Aspinall Zoo Park. The last time he saw Ray was just before he was posted to Shornecliffe together with Ted Foster, Jack Harwood and Tom Steward and he arrived at Beas Camp (The Stables) Fanling with a new draft.

Walter Pullen when sending in his subs mentioned that he had been in hospital for some time but is now on the mend. I hope the improvement in his health continues.

Peter Kifford who suffered a heart bypass operation some four years ago wrote to tell me that he is keeping well. As he put it "taking a handful of tablets each day is a small price to pay for waking up each morning!". I am sure we all endorse that.

Michael Lattaway told me the other day that he been rushed to hospital for the third time having again suffered heart failure. He is now getting better and taking things easy. I know we all wish him well.

Jimmy Ridler writing in reminded me that he is 87 years young and is still in regular contact with Les Page, Les Dyer, Henry Painter, Sam Sawyer, Tony Theobald and George Vorse. He said he is looking forward to meeting them all again in May. He said he was particularly sorry to hear of the passing of Chris Bradish.

John Dunnett when buying a tie mentioned that he was in the Orderly Room at the Depot and then the 1st Bn from 1952 to 1955 as the Adjutant's Clerk mainly dealing with Part One Orders and Courts Martial. Said he became very close to signing on as a long term regular soldier.

Cliff Bilney who was the MTO of the 1st Bn in Rendsburg is asking for news of Sgt George Ambrose who served with him on the MT. If anyone has any information would they please let the Secretary know.

Ray Sharp tells me that he has his leg in plaster for some weeks after damaging his achilles tendon while playing squash. At his age he should know better!

I am told by George Higgins that in a recent issue of the Royal Artillery Journal his name



appeared in the obituary column. George said he would like all to take note that he is still around!

Tom Roberts whilst on holiday in Majorca went to the reception desk at his hotel to collect his morning paper and felt a tap on his shoulder he turned and found it was Stan Lewis who was accompanied by his wife Pat. They served together throughout the war in the 1/7th Bn. Consumed a few beers together and agreed to meet again at the 1/7th lunch at the Hornsey Drill Hall. Small world.

Tony Legg is still pursuing the establishment of "The Debt of Honour Register". The latest he has is a letter from Dr Lewis Moonie at the MOD saying that there are no definite plans to establish a post Second World War Debt of Honour Register but the work being currently undertaken to create the new Armed Forces Memorial to commemorate those who have died since the Second World War could be the base for other research purposes including the publication of the Debt of Honour Website. We will keep you posted.

Bill Jackson tells me that this son's horse Albuhera has chipped a bone whilst on exercise and so will not be running for a while.

Muriel Jones writing in on behalf of her husband the Rev Guz Jones said that while HM The Queen is celebrating her Golden Jubilee on the 2nd of June 'Guz' Jones and Muriel will be remembering their first wedding anniversary in 1953, watching the Coronation Procession from seats on the Mall. Muriel had accepted Guz's proposal by phone from Hong Kong in January 1952 (just before the Queen's accession) and in April took the "slow boat to China" (35 days in the Empire Ken) for their marriage on the 2nd of June in St John's Cathedral. Colonel Rowley Gwyn gave the bride away and the Guard of Honour included Major Brinley Ayre, Captain Norman Clayden, Lieuts Napps Jordan, Nigel Legge and Pat Wollocombe, with little Patience Ayre and Christine Nolda as the flower girls. For many years Padre Jones led the Albuhera Service in St Paul's and he and Muriel still travel from their retirement home in Norfolk to attend the Service and the Korean Club Reunion.

Mick Elston had a hip replacement operation in January last. Now slowly recovering and he told me that he blames the problem on many and varied RSMs trying to make him force his feet through various barrack squares. Get well soon. He is contact with many of his old pals, Jimmy Wild, John Martin and Reg Ford to name just a few.

Albert Connor's wife wrote in to say that her husband has been admitted to hospital to undergo an operation on his spine and so will miss the Annual Reunion but they are hopeful of attending the Grand Reunion at Aldershot in July. Get well soon Albert.

Paddy Redmond when sending in for his ticket for the Reunion enclosed a cutting from the Birmingham Mail "1939 the first National Service Man number 10000001 Pte Rupert Alexander, signed up with the Middlesex Regiment". Can anyone confirm this?

Peter Humphrey is undertaking a sponsored walk in memory of his brother Charles who

died last December. Proceeds will go to the McMillan Nurses Charity. Peter is seeking support. You can contact him on 020 8504 5397.

Len Mac Kenzie's wife has written to say that she is sorry to tell me that he will not make the reunion this year as he is unwell. Get well soon.

Reg Swinson ex 2/7th Bn writes to say he is very involved as Service Secretary of the Winton & Moordown Branch of the RBL and is about to takeover as the Branch Secretary. I am sure we all wish him well in this very exacting and worthwhile post.

Margaret Hofman wrote to say that she laid a Regimental wreath on the 16th of May in Canterbury Cathedral on Colonel Inglis's Memorial. She was joined by two men from the Royal Artillery Association.

Jack Kane writing from Australia tells me that he has been in contact with Jack Jones with regard to his article "Hill 112" in the last newsletter and he said he owes Johnny Phillips an apology for accusing him of stealing his socks just before going on leave to get married. It was another chap of a similar name!

Again since the publication of the last newsletter I have received many notes and letters asking that I pass on good wishes to the different groups of those who served together in the various companies and battalions; far too many to publish. The editor is delighted to receive them and they have all been carefully noted and recorded. I also have to apologise to those who have sent articles etc that I promised to publish. I have a limited budget and therefore space is not available, in this edition, to print everything received. For this reason I have had to leave out "Photographs from Yesteryear". I hope those concerned are not too disappointed.

## OBITUARIES

We advise with the deepest regret that the following have died:-

ALLCHORNE – Clare, wife of Lieut Albert Allchorne died on the 17th of March 2002. The funeral was held at the Beckingham Crematorium on Friday the 22nd of March 2002.

BARBER – Colonel F C (Ali) OBE TD DL died peacefully on the 28th of May 2002. He served with 11 Para and 8 MX, commanded a Battalion of the Northampton and was their Honorary Colonel for 12 years. His funeral was held on Thursday the 8th of June 2002 at the Thomas a Becket Church, Ramsey, Cambs.

BENN - Harry, 6856012, died on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2002 aged 79. He joined the 2/7th Battalion from the KRRC in May 1943 and he joined D Company (Mortars). In December 1945 he was transferred to the Royal Engineers serving until July 1946. The details of his funeral are not known.



BOSWELL – George Thomas, 6213459 died on Wednesday the 2nd of January 2002 aged 81. George enlisted on the 13th of June 1940 and after basic training was posted to the 1st Bn in Hong Kong where he joined C Coy. He was wounded in the right ankle during the Battle for Hong Kong and was taken prisoner with the rest of the Bn on Christmas Day 1941. He was on the Lisbon Maru when it was torpedoed and sunk on route to Japan in October 1942. On his return to UK, on the 1st of April 1946, he left the Army and he went to work with the Westminster Council where he stayed for 39 years. His funeral attended by a large number and friends and acquaintances took place at Breakspear Crematorium on Thursday the 10th of January 2002. The chief mourners were his widow, Joy Boswell, and his son and daughter in law, Debbie and Ian. The Regiment was represented by members of the Hounslow Branch, namely Messrs J Raby, A Richardson and M Ward. They laid a Middlesex badged Poppy Wreath inscribed "With deepest sympathy - Middlesex Regimental Association".

BRADISH – Christopher Chinnick 6212446 died on the 26th of February 2002 aged 85. Chris joined up in March 1940 and served with 2/8th and then the 1st Battalion landing with them in Normandy in 1944. He was wounded outside Caen and when discharged from hospital he served for a time with the Cheshire Regiment rejoining the 1st Battalion some months later. He was demobbed in 1945. His funeral took place at Enfield Crematorium on the 14th of March 2002 with members from the Enfield Branch representing the Regiment.

CORNES – Kenneth Charles Henry 23051045 died on the 19th of November 2001, after a long and brave fight, aged 68. Ken joined the TA in 1952 and was then called up for his National Service in 1954. After he completed his regular service he joined the 9th Bn (595 LAA/SL Regt RA) where he served for some years. He was a good cross country runner and a good all round sportsman. He won many cups and medals. He attained the rank of Bombardier. His funeral took place at Southampton Crematorium shortly before Christmas.

CROOK – Leslie Maynard 6206765 died in April 2002 the exact date is not known, aged 87. He enlisted on the 30th of April 1939 and joined B Company of the 1/7th Battalion. After Dunkirk he joined the 51st Highland Division Training Team and spent the rest of the war, until his demobilization in January 1946, with that organisation. He was a Company Sgt Major. His funeral took place on Monday the 29th of April 2002 at the United Reform Church, Muswell Hill, followed by a cremation at the Enfield Crematorium. Brian Williams, Chairman of the Middlesex Branch of the Queen's Regimental Association represented the Regiment at the Enfield Crematorium.

D'ARCY – George TD DL died on the 20th of February 2002 aged 74. Colonel D'Arcy was President of the Enfield Branch of the Royal British Legion and as such he had a close relationship with our Enfield Branch. Only last year he became an Associate Member of the Association. He joined the Royal Navy (Fleet Air Arm) in May 1945 transferring to the Army, The Beds & Herts Regiment in October 1946 and was subsequently commissioned into the Royal Artillery in December 1947. Leaving the Regular Army in 1949 he then had a long career with the Territorial Army. His final posting being in Command of the Greater London Regiment RA. He was appointed

the Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Enfield in 1977 and was still in post when he died. His funeral was held on the 28th of February at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St George's Church in London Road Enfield. The local air cadets formed a Guard of honour. Members of the Enfield Branch were present to represent the Regiment.

DOWLEN – David Edward died on the 20th of January 2002 in the King Edward VII Hospital, Midhurst after a four month illness bravely borne. David was an old boy of Mill Hill where he captained the Cricket XI during his final year. On leaving school he was commissioned into the 9th Battalion, a member of 331 Battery. He left the Regiment when the Battery was transferred to another Regiment in 1941. He was a member of Lloyds for over fifty years during which time he was also a member of the Gardeners Livery Company of which he became Master. From 1975 to 2000 he was the Dinner Secretary for the 9th Battalion Dinners, later lunches. This was a task he carried out with tremendous success which earned the admiration of his fellow officers who gave him a suitable presentation at the lunch in the year 2000. During his lifetime he created three magnificent gardens, two at his homes in England and one in France. Particular mention was made at his funeral of his love of nature. He was an outstanding skier and, despite a heart attack in his early eighties, he surprised everyone by returning to this sport within a year. He was buried in the Churchyard at Shamley Green where he had lived for some time and where he created his second garden. Lavish tributes were paid to him by his family and by his doctor. A howling gale did not mar the occasion. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Maureen and to his family. R I P.

JRD

DRIVER – Terrance John, died on Wednesday the 7th of November 2001. He joined the Depot in Mill Hill in January 1952 and after basic training was posted to the Queen's Regiment in BAOR (Iserlohn). He then joined the 1st Bn when they arrived in Austria from Cyprus. His funeral took place on Friday the 16th of November at Streatham Vale Cemetery. The Regiment was represented by Ron Spice.

EDGE - Terry, 23742803 died as a result of a fall on Saturday the 10th of December 2001. He served with the Signal Pln of the 1st Bn from 1959 to 1965. His funeral took place on Saturday the 22nd of December 2001 at the Enfield Crematorium. The following members of the Enfield Branch represented the Regiment:- A Burford, A Jennings, J Munns, T Perry and T Slater.

GRICE – Marjorie Effie, widow of W E Grice of the 2/7th Bn died on the 12th of September 2001. Nothing further is known.

HANSEN – Harold who served with the 9th Battalion died peacefully in Watford General Hospital on the 17th of February 2002. He had been in hospital for two months and whilst he was relatively immobile he was alert to the end. The memorial was at West Hertfordshire Crematorium on the 27th of February and was attended by family, friends and former work colleagues. There were representatives from the Scout Movement as following his retirement from the TA he became a District Commissioner. He leaves a widow, Ruth, a son and two grandsons.

MH



HARRIS – Mary Alice, wife of Bill Harris of the 2/7th Bn passed away on the 9th of November 2001 after 55 wonderful years of marriage. Greatly missed by all members of her extended family.

HART – Norman Frederick, 22725951, died in March 2002 aged 67. Norman was a member of A Company of the 1st Bn in the mid 1950's and was recalled for service with the Royal West Kents during the Suez Crisis. He was a friend of Brian Drake and on his recommendation he joined the Association earlier this year. The date and place of his funeral is not known to us.

HATCHER – William (Bill) died on the 22nd of November 2001. He was our oldest member and he served in World War One with the 8th Bn and the Machine Gun Corps. His funeral took place at Falconwood Crematorium on Friday the 28th of November 2001. Major Mike Eastap was present on behalf of the Regiment. Members will recall that in the last edition of the newsletter it was noted that Mike Eastap had attended his 104th birthday just a few days before he died.

HUMPHREY – Charles Leonard died on the 29th of December 2002 aged 71. He only joined the Association in October of last year. He was a member of the MX ACF attached to the TA Centre at Hornsey from 1942 to 1946. He attained the rank of Cadet CSM. He served his National Service with the RAF. He was the brother of Peter Humphrey. The funeral took place at the City of London Crematorium on the 11th of January 2003.

JAMES – Reginald Walter 6202384 died in January 2002 aged 85. He joined the Regiment in 1935 and he was posted to the 2nd Battalion staying with them until 1937 when he was transferred to A Company of the 1st Battalion. Took part in the battle for Hong Kong and he became a FEPOW on Christmas Day 1941. He spent some time in Japan before being repatriated to UK and released from the Army in September 1945. His funeral was held at the West Sussex Crematorium on the 1st of February 2002.

LOMAX - Robert (known to many as Darkie), 6197213 died peacefully in his sleep on the 14th of November 2001 aged 92. He joined the 1st Bn in 1926, moving across to the 2nd Bn in 1927 staying with them until 1936. After two years at the Depot he was posted to the 1st Bn in 1937 and was with them until 1949 when he went to the 7th Bn for his last two years of service. He was a FEPOW taken in Hong Kong and then moved to Japan. In civilian life he served from a time with the TA in the Royal Artillery. Eventually he found employment with the Westminster City Council finally retiring as a Senior Rating Inspector. He will be sorely missed by his daughter, grand and great grandchildren who always referred to him as "Great". His daughter Kay wrote from the USA to say that of his grandchildren, Robert William graduated from the US Naval Academy and was a pilot flying Orions and is now a Commander in US Naval Reserve, Amanda graduated from Yale and married a West Point graduate who is now a Lieut Colonel in the US Army Reserve and his daughter was commissioned in the WRAF. As his daughter said a family who carried on the family military traditions.

MALES, Herbert Ambrose BEM, (known as Bill) 6211953 died in April 2002, the exact date is not known, aged 85. Bill joined the Regiment in February 1940 and served as a regular for 23 years, leaving the Army in 1963 in the rank of CSgt. He served with the 2/7th, the 1/7th, and the 1st Bns, in that order. He was at the Depot between 1950 and 1954 and went on to be the Mess Sgt to the Officers' Mess in Cyprus. His funeral was held at the Southend Crematorium on the 15th of April 2002. Bob Clarke was present to represent the Regiment.

PAGE – Arthur, 6201260 died in his sleep, just before his 86th birthday, on the 7th of September 2001 from the effects of a stroke. He was a patient in the Countess of Chester Hospital. As his daughter put it, it was a merciful release. Arthur was in D Company of the 1st Bn taken prisoner in Hong Kong and was eventually moved to Kobe House, Tokyo via the Lisbon Maru. After leaving the Regiment he served with the Rhodesia Regiment from 1952 until 1955. His funeral took place on the 17th of September 2001 at Blacon Crematorium, Chester.

REED – Mike, Barry Reed's wife, who was christened Patricia but always known as Mike, died at Crakehall, North Yorkshire on Monday 11th March 2002. She had suffered for many years from severe rheumatoid arthritis and she fought this affliction with great courage. The funeral took place at St Gregory's Church, Crakehall, and the Rev Mgr Ralph Brown took part in the service. The large numbers present reflected the great affection which Mike inspired in so many people; a marquee had been erected to the house the overflow from the church. Chris and Kay Lawrence, John Moore, Peter Lane, and Simon and Gillian Enthoven were there, and also Effie, Desmond Ellis's widow.

S l e M E

RUTHERFORD – Ian Sinclair died after a long illness on the 4th of January 2002 aged 71. Ian was a subaltern with the 1st Bn in Korea. His funeral took place on the 15th of January 2002 at Putney Vale Crematorium.

SIMMONS – George Alfred, 22229344 and 496453, died suddenly on Saturday the 23rd of February 2002 aged 72. George apparently in good health was found sitting in his kitchen after suffering a heart attack. He enlisted on the 13th of May 1948 and after training at the Depot he joined the 1st Battalion just prior to the move to Hong Kong. He served almost continuously with the 1st Battalion in Korea, Cyprus, Austria, Gibraltar, Northern Ireland and Guyana. In 1967 he was selected for service with the Brigade of Gurkhas and posted back to Hong Kong. In 1973 he returned to the Regiment being commissioned and posted to 1 Queen's as the MTO where he stayed until joining the Cadet Training Team at Maidstone for his last tour of duty before leaving the Army in 1980. His funeral was held on Tuesday the 4th of March at St Mary's Church, Langley. The church was full to overflowing. George would have been particularly pleased with the large turn out from the Regiment. At the reception after the service one could hear many anecdotes being exchanged all outlining what a wonderful sense of humour George had and how kind he was to the soldiers under his command. He was a soldier's soldier who lived for the Regiment. He will be greatly missed.



SLATER – Frederick William, 6206574, died on the 26th of November 2001 aged 85. Fred joined the 1/7th Bn in 1939 and went to France with them in 1940. Badly wounded he was evacuated via Dunkirk and was subsequently discharged in 1941 as medically unfit for further service. The funeral took place at Clacton Cemetery during the afternoon of Tuesday the 4th of December 2001.

STEVENS – John Garston, OBE, 145679 died on the 24th of March 2002 after a short illness. He was just short of his 85th birthday. He served with the PLKR before being commissioned and joining the 2/7th Bn serving with them until being taken prisoner at the Anzio Beachhead. He subsequently escaped coming back through the allied lines in Italy. He transferred to the RAOC and served until 1976 attaining the rank of Colonel. His funeral was held at St Martin's Church, Fivehead on Thursday the 4th of April 2002.

SUMMERS – Clive Wilsón TD, died on the 29th of December 2001 aged 90. He joined the 8th Bn on the 3rd of June 1933 and was serving with the 1/8th Bn on mobilization in 1939. He was seriously injured in a car accident in 1941 and during his period of recovery was posted to the 70th Bn. He subsequently joined the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and was badly wounded at Salerno. After the war Clive joined the 5th Bn of the Queen's Royal Regiment and from there he went to the 10th Bn of the Surrey Home Guard as the Major in charge of training. When the Home Guard disbanded he continued serving with the 2nd Cadet Bn of the Queen's Royal Regiment finally ending his service in 1966 when he became a local councillor in Woking. His funeral took place at Chichester Crematorium on Friday the 11th of January 2002.

TAWNEY – Tony died on the 15th of January 2002. His funeral service took place on the 30th of January 2002 at Luton Crematorium. He was the son-in-law of Major Dick Smith.

TUTHILL – Albert Edward, 6200867 died on the 5th of December 2001 aged 92.. He joined the 1/7th Bn in 1932 and left in 1946 having attained the rank of C Sgt.. He carried on serving informally for a time playing the flute in the Middlesex TA Band. Albert was happily married to Florence for 62 years living in Holloway N7. He was born in Stoke Newington. He was with the Bn at Dunkirk and after two days on the beaches he and another Sgt found a rowing boat and they were two miles off the English coast when they were picked up. He worked in the building trade for many years until joining the Metropolitan Water Board where he made many friends. He retired in the 1970s and remained in Holloway where he and his wife enjoyed a long and happy retirement. The funeral took place on the 14th of December at Basildon Crematorium. Florence had a full cross made up in the Regimental Colours. The funeral was attended by a loving family and friends and afterwards at Benfleet, Essex where Albert will be laid to rest close to his devoted family.

FT

WARD – Dinah, wife of Mike Ward, Secretary of the Hounslow Branch, died on Wednesday the 22nd of May 2002 after a short illness. The Funeral took place at the South West Middlesex Crematorium Hounslow on Thursday the 30th of May 2002. The very large congregation of family and friends showed what a well loved and popular lady she was. After the service the family made those attending welcome at the British Airways Concord Club.

WOOKEY – Joyce, wife of Frank Wookey of the 1st Bn, died on the 25th of January 2002 after a long fight against cancer. She was 79 years of age.

### Colonel Ian Dryhurst Brotherton 1920 – 2002.

Colonel Ian gave some sixty five years of service to the Regiment and the Regimental Association up to the date of his death. His war service and long experience of the TA commanded the respect of both the professional and amateur soldier.

Ian was born in Shanghai where his father had settled on leaving the merchant navy but the family moved to Hampton when he was five. He lived in this corner of Middlesex for most of his life. From Hampton Grammar School he won a scholarship to Kings College London but in common with so many young men of his generation his academic progress was interrupted by the war. He enlisted in the 1/8th Battalion of the Regiment at Hampton Drill Hall in June 1939 and moved with hardly a break from annual camp to wartime service. His leadership potential must have been recognised at an early stage as he was an Acting Corporal within three months of joining. After attending OCTU at Aldershot he was commissioned into the Regiment in February 1940 and posted to the 1/7th Battalion for a few months before attending a machine gun training course and returning to the 8th Battalion. Life was a hectic mix of courses, exercises and the usual duties of a junior officer. At that time after Dunkirk when invasion seemed likely the priority was to turn amateur soldiers into professionals in the minimum possible time. Someone had the good sense to capitalise on Ian's interest in wireless, he had made his first receiver at the age of fifteen, and sent him on a signals instructors course at Catterick. Subjects covered as well as wireless training included morse, cable laying and use of the heliograph by moonlight! At the end of the course he was graded "distinguished" and shortly after his return to the Battalion he was appointed RSO and promoted to Temporary Captain in December 1941. His CO must have regarded a signals officer who had such an extraordinary technical grasp of what was then wireless as a rare and precious commodity.

During this time of waiting the Battalion was stationed in various places in East Anglia and Southern England and he met Margaret (Maggie) in January 1943 when she was serving in the ATS and driving ambulances and staff cars. They became engaged, his engagement present was a wireless he had made himself, and married in June of that year.

Rumour has it that he played a small part in the Battle of Britain. Some of our south coast radar had jamming problems but Ian popped over and soon sorted them out. He took the intensive training seriously, a diary entry records "route march twenty seven miles in pouring rain – full kit in eleven and a half hours a Battalion record" but it had its



lighter side another entry reading "Blew up twenty windows fitted that afternoon – boxing in the evening" With his enquiring mind and urge to experiment he did not readily accept prescribed army procedures. An attempt to mount wireless sets onto a motorcycle caused damage to both sets and machine as well as the Signals Sgt and was soon abandoned.

By 1944 as well as the machine guns one company was equipped with 4.2" mortars and it sailed from the West India Docks in the Empire Newton, crossed the channel on the night of the 19th of June under shellfire and disembarked by landing craft in very rough seas at Ouistreham. The Battalion was heavily involved in the advance to the Dutch frontier and Ian remembered the bombing of Caen which was so intense that his mess tin of tea fell off the wing of his signals truck. In September his vehicle ran into a Tiger Tank on the approach to Nijmegen Bridge and he suffered shrapnel wounds to his face and left arm. He was invalided home for two months and some of the metal was extracted but he carried the remainder for the rest of his life. On his return to the Battalion his diary notes that he appreciated that his CO (Lt Col M Crawford) had "kindly kept the RSOs job open for me". He was mentioned in despatches and awarded the Croix de Guerre the citation for which reads "This Officer took an active part in the operations in France in June, July and August. He was always in the forward areas maintaining communications under very trying conditions. He was completely fearless and showed outstanding devotion to duty throughout the campaign." He fought with the Battalion for the remainder of the war and was demobbed in July 1946.

Ian then took a well earned break from the army to concentrate on his young family (he had three daughters) and his studies. He obtained a Bsc in Physics and pure and applied mathematics in June 1951.

After this pause for breath he rejoined the TA (11 Para) in 1951 and completed his parachute training course at RAF Abingdon. He soon became a Company Commander and by 1957 when the unit was redesignated 8MX he was commanding the Battalion. During his time with the 8th Battalion he introduced the tradition of entering a Battalion Team in the Nijmegen Marches and led the final one. This must have recalled memories of his dangerous first visit to the Town ten years earlier. On the amalgamation of the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions in 1961 he was given command of the "new" 5th Battalion. Although he was undoubtedly helped by the process of selection and elimination involved in the merger it is arguable that his style of leadership, hard work and play accompanied by the occasional unexpected surprise created the best post war Middlesex TA Battalion at a time when embodiment as a unit for overseas service was a possibility. He certainly managed to resolve the cultural differences between three constituent Battalions in a very short time. It is perhaps significant that on giving up command he had the rare distinction in the much reduced TA of being promoted to Brevet Colonel serving within HQ East Anglian Division as AQMG (Mov).

He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Middlesex in 1964 and served as Colonel Commandant of the Middlesex ACF from 1965 to 1968. On leaving this job

he was ADC to the Queen (TAVR) for a five year term.

For more years than any present member of the Executive Committee can remember Colonel Ian served the interests of the Regimental Association right up to the date of his death. His contributions based on sound common sense and his particular blend of military and business experience were much valued. For many years he was Chairman of the Housing Committee and vice Chairman of the Association.

He was not handicapped by starting his civilian career six years late. He worked for electronic companies including GEC, Plessey, and the Rank Organisation initially in a technical role but soon in managerial jobs and at the end of his career as a managing director with responsibility for substantial budgets and a large workforce.

He did not, of course, retire at sixty five to indulge in his hobbies of radio and photography but capitalised on another by moving from Shepperton to Wimborne, passing the necessary examinations and becoming a sailing instructor. He set up a school based in Lymington Harbour teaching students up to yachtmaster standard. Well into his seventies he undertook cross channel cruises often in foul weather. His boat was, hardly surprisingly, equipped with the latest radio and electronic navigation aids but he denied his students access to these to ensure they learned basic navigation.

Radio provided a lifetimes interest for Ian. As a boy he was talking to the world on his homemade set and in the early nineteen fifties made a television set with a nine inch screen in a large wooden box for his family before the world had grasped that this new medium might have a future in the mass market.

It is difficult to sum up the life of a man who seems to have crammed a mile and a half into every mile of distance run. He never complained and rarely thought that inaction ever solved problems. He was on occasions intolerant of those who failed to give their best but did not judge them by his own high standards. Many of his achievements would not have been possible without the support of Maggie and his three daughters all of who survive him and of whom he was so proud. He was one of those rare natural leaders who will be missed by his many friends and all who served with him

MJSD

The help of Maggie and Ian's daughter, Jennie Davies, in providing access to his private papers is acknowledged.



### Captain Ian Thomas Mc Millan 1921 – 2002.

The following has been extracted from the address made at Tom's funeral by Major C L Lawrence MC. The funeral took place on Friday the 17th of May 2002 at the Minster Church of St Denys, Warminster.

"Ian Thomas McMillan was born on the 16th of August 1921 in New Zealand. He was one of five, one brother and three sisters and they were a close family. His forbears had emigrated from Scotland in the early 1800s.

At the beginning of the Great War Tom's father enlisted into the New Zealand Army and came over to fight for King and Country as did so many other members of the Empire. He was wounded, sent to Torquay where he met and married Tom's mother. Tom's elder brother, Jack, was born and they moved to New Zealand where Tom's father had been farming. Two sisters appeared and then father was killed in an accident. Mother being pregnant with the youngest sister returned home to Torquay which is where Tom was really brought up.

With the last war looming Tom joined the TA, the Devonshire Regiment, and served with them throughout the war. In 1944 Tom, being a Machine Gun Instructor, was transferred to the 2/7th Battalion in Palestine. In December 1945 he went with them to Egypt where they were disbanded and Tom was demobbed. However he could not settle down and after three months he re-enlisted and was posted to the 2nd Battalion in Palestine. He rapidly became a WOII and remained with the Battalion (which very soon amalgamated with the 1st Battalion) through Chelsea Barracks, Hong Kong & Korea, Austria and Cyprus. After about a year in Cyprus he was posted as RSM to the 8th Battalion in Hounslow. The Battalion had just relinquished its role as a Parachute Battalion (11 Para) and Tom was looked upon with a certain amount of resentment. However in his quiet and unassuming way he steered the Battalion through the changeover to become a successful and well recruited unit. It was at Hounslow that Tom met Jean, her father being the landlord of the Crossed Lancers that was next to the Drill Hall. They married on the 24th of October 1958. In December 1958 Tom was appointed RSM of the 1st Battalion in Hamelin, in 1961 he moved to the Buffs TA in Canterbury where they had a very happy three years, and then to Sennelager where he was Garrison Sergeant Major for fifteen months.

In 1965 he was appointed to a Short Service Commission and rejoined the 1st Battalion who were by now in Palace Barracks in Northern Ireland. Tom remained with the Battalion until disbandment in 1970. He then went to the Junior Soldier's Company at Basingbourn for two years and his final two years were spent as Adjutant of the School of Infantry in Warminster.

Tom retired in 1974 and almost immediately joined a local firm – Flying Goose which was in the frozen food business, remaining with them until finally retiring in 1986 at age 65 having achieved the position of Shipping Manager.

Now, Tom as a person. There was no doubt that he was a bit of a martinet. He was always extremely smart, of the outmost integrity and with very high standards. He did not accept second rate. However he always engendered a feeling of respect at whatever level.....

As many of you know Tom suffered and I mean really suffered from illness for much of his later life. Not long after he was commissioned he developed a stomach ulcer which at first he chose to ignore. However as things got worse he reported sick and despite scans, x rays and other tests nothing could be found. It was even suggested it was all in the mind! Finally not long before his sixtieth birthday they pushed an endoscope down him and surprise surprise there was an ulcer so big that they had to remove four fifths of his stomach. Then about two years ago Tom developed cancer of the small colon which led to tumours on the liver. Once again he suffered stoically, but this time there was nothing that could be done for him except to offer palliative medicines. A lesser man would have given in months ago but Tom was a fighter and in the end he did what old soldiers are supposed to do, he just faded away, defiant to the last.

So how will we remember him? He was a kind man who loved his family and was very proud of them. He had, as already mentioned, the utmost integrity, he had a lively sense of fun. He was, and is, held in great esteem and affection by his old comrades, a fact I can personally vouch for. Above all Tom was a true Diehard and a Gentleman, and I am proud to have been looked upon as a friend."





### Major Michael Peter Desmond Eastap 1930 – 2002.

Major Mike Eastap who died on the 17th of May 2002 in his 72nd year was the long serving and well respected Chairman of the Korean Club which he joined soon after its formation.

Mike was born in Derbyshire on 17th September 1930 and educated at the Duke of York's School, Dover. In 1947 he enlisted under age and after basic training at the Home Counties Brigade Training Centre was posted to the 2nd Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment in Palestine. After the amalgamation of the battalions at Mill Hill in 1948 he served with the 1st Battalion on public duties at Chelsea Barracks and moved with it to Hong Kong in 1949.

In Korea Mike was in A Company where as a sergeant he commanded 3 Platoon which was without an officer and did so to the complete satisfaction of the Company Commander, now Brigadier Dennis Rendell. They marched side by side in the Korean Contingent at the Cenotaph in November 2000.

After returning to the UK in 1952 Mike moved with the Battalion to Austria in 1953 where he became a sergeant in the MMG Platoon.

Still serving with the 1st Battalion Mike went to Cyprus for a three year tour in 1955 and then, after a period of secondment service in Borneo during the Confrontation, returned again to the 1st Battalion in Northern Ireland and Guyana by then as a CSM of Headquarter Company.

On promotion to WO1 in the Queen's Regiment he was posted to command the Cadet Training Team for South East London based at Woolwich until his commissioning into the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers serving with their 2nd Battalion in Berlin and Catterick where he retired from the Army in 1972.

After a period running his own removal business in Yorkshire Mike was alerted to a vacancy for a Cadet Executive Officer in South East London by Major Reg Ford who was already established in Middlesex and North West London ACF. With his experience in the Cadet Training Team Mike was a natural choice for the appointment which he held from 1981 until his final retirement in 1994.

It was a post ideally suited to his talent for administration and for getting on with people whatever their background or origins. His success and his popularity in this role was demonstrated by the presence at his funeral of all three of his surviving Cadet Commandants.

For involvement with St John Ambulance during this period Mike was appointed a Serving Brother of the Order of St John of Jerusalem. A jaunty cheerful personality, usually smiling and often laughing he was universally well liked. He will be sadly missed, most of all by his family to whom he was devoted.

He is survived by his wife Betty and three daughters.

RMC

### NEW MEMBERS

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

6216647 LSgt A J Adkin	D Coy 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn 1941 – 1945
6857378 Pte V Balestrini	2/7 <sup>th</sup> Bn 1943 - 1947
22705930 Pte J C Dunnett	1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 1952 – 1955
22575873 Pte R G Eaton	1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 1951 - 1953
22725951 Pte N F Hart	A Coy 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 1952 – 1955 A Coy 1 RWK (recalled reservist for Suez).
24093183 Pte D J Thurston	Depot 1996 – 1968 4 QUEENS 1968 – 1970 1 QUEENS 1970 – 1973

### BRITISH MILITARY CEMETERY – THIEPVAL

There is nothing at Thiepval to tell visitors, especially the increasing numbers of school children, what happened there between July 1916 and March 1918. At present all the visitors see is a magnificent memorial inscribed with 72000 names of the British Soldiers who disappeared on the battlefield. It is proposed to build a visitors centre where visitors can find out information about Thiepval and what it represents. The bulk of the funding will be provided by the French Government but there is a need to raise at least £300,000 so as to cater for the inevitable increase in budgeted costs and to maintain our influence until the construction and fitting out is completed. Those wishing to make donations and obtain more information can do so by contacting: The Thiepval Project, Trust Department, Charities Aid Foundation, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA. (Tele 01732 529305).

### The Middlesex Regimental Association Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting held at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, London SW3 on Monday 4th March 2002.

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 R M Cain OBE DL	
	Lt Col J M Hewson MC	



Maj H E Couch TD FRICS FRSA  
Maj S L J Henshaw TD  
Capt S le M Enthoven RIBA  
Mr A A Burford  
Mr J A Loftis  
Mr F A Phillips  
Mr M J Ward BEM  
Mr G Young  
Maj R E B Morris MBE

Secretary

Apologies: Col I D Brotherton TD DL

### 1. Opening Remarks.

1.1. The Chairman opened the meeting by thanking all for attending. He said that Col Brotherton had been admitted to hospital and so could not attend this meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the last Meeting.

2.1 It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th of March 2001 were a true record. Proposed by Col Cain and seconded by Mr Ward. Carried.

### 3. Matters Arising.

3.1. There were no matters arising that were not covered for the Agenda for this meeting.

### 4. Secretary's Report.

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

4.2. The following grants were approved for 2002:-

Royal Star & Garter Home	£100
MX and NW London ACF	£950

Retrospective authority given to cover the overspend of £67 at the 2001 Guildhall Service.

### 5. Finance Committee Chairman's Report.

5.1. Brig Marciandi presented the accounts for the Regimental Association and the 5/6th Militia that had been previously circulated. He said the Committee had last year held their usual meetings to consider reports from the Broker and that the arrangement with the Broker to manage our investments on a discretionary basis was working well. For example he was able to act very quickly to minimise any possible loss arising from the Enron failure. Very good income this year largely rising from generous donations and bequests. The disastrous performance of the stock market has caused a

considerable drop in the value of our investments. He was however hopeful of an eventual recovery. The large cash holdings shown with the Broker have been reduced by further investment. Although it was no longer necessary to list our investments in wide and narrow portfolios care was still being taken to hold a goodly number of our holdings in safe investments. Brig Marciandi drew attention to the considerable expenditure from the Militia Account to preserve and the clean the Colours in St Paul's. Maj Couch asked if there would be a change of Stock Broker if the accounts moved to the RHQ PWRR. The answer yes.

5.2. Brig Marciandi asked the Committee to approve the accounts. It was proposed by Maj Couch and seconded by Mr Burford that they be so approved for the year ending 31 December 2001. Carried.

### 6. The Future of the Association.

6.1. Capt Doran presented the paper on the future administration of the Association. He said it was a logical step forward in that we had moved our Museum into the National Army Museum, handed over our Memorial Homes to Haig Homes and with the forthcoming retirement of the Secretary it was now time to change the way we conduct our affairs.

6.2. We have tried to find a replacement Secretary by advertising in both the PWRR Journal and the Diehard Newsletter and by making approaches via various senior Officers. Only one applicant who could not make himself available until late 2004.

6.3. The offer from the PWRR to conduct our affairs was not as good as we hoped but as was pointed out at the meeting held in January the RHQ are facing reductions in establishment and so they would not make promises about the future they could not keep. Col Ball reaffirmed that all the Associations are to be treated equally and those regiments currently looked after at RHQ would, from a future date, be administered in exactly the same way as the MX.

6.4. Capt Doran said a plus point is that more money will be available for charitable purposes, economies of scale etc. Minus points loss of our independence and the newsletter in its present form.

6.5. We have been asked to nominate a member to join the PWRR Trustees as the MX Representative. Brig Bulloch said he would be pleased to represent the Regiment and this was agreed. Capt Doran said it will be necessary to downsize the current Executive Committee to a Committee of say 5 or 7 strong. This Committee will be the point of contact for the PWRR as and when required.

6.6. Brig Marciandi said that although the funds will be handed over to the PWRR they will remain ring fenced MX and accounted for separately. Capt Enthoven asked that if branches, clubs etc required financial assistance how would it be obtained. Maj Couch said he thought the proposals were a good progression forward but he was also concerned about the future control of funds. Col Ball said that branches etc seeking financial support would need to apply to the RHQ PWRR. Should it be necessary the



RHQ would refer to application back to the MX Committee for a decision.

6.7. Capt Doran said there would be a need to seek approval for these changes both of the Charity Commission and our members at the forthcoming AGM. He said he would liaise with the Secretary over this. There will also be a requirement to amend the rules of the Association.

6.8. Mr Ward said that the newsletter holds members together and he thought it should continue. He volunteered to take this on. His offer was gratefully accepted.

## **7. Functions for the year 2002.**

7.1. It was noted that the following functions have been arranged for 2002:-

11th May – The Albuhera Service of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral at 3pm followed by the Reunion and AGM at the Victory Services Club in the evening.

16th May - Annual Albuhera Luncheon at the National Army Museum. The NAM this year are the hosts.

9th November – Annual Service of Remembrance at the Middlesex Guildhall.

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

Annual Service	up to £2750
The Reunion & AGM	up to £3000 (tickets this year to be priced at £8.00p)
Service at Middlesex Guildhall	up to £300.

## **8. The Colours in the Regimental Chapel.**

8.1. Maj Couch said that the Colours Sub Committee should meet when the Colours are rehung to view and consider what action, if any, should be taken with regard to future conservation. Maj Couch also suggested that Committee Members, when in London, might wish to visit St Paul's to view the Colours for themselves. Very important decisions to be made. To be discussed at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

8.2 Col Ball said it might be of interest to know that the Northamptons formally buried the Colours that were no longer viable. This might be worth considering.

## **9. The three members at Enfield.**

9.1 Col Cain gave an outline of the events that took place at Enfield. Maj Lawrence

read out extracts from an unsigned letter received by him. Mr Burford said that intimidation and unpleasant unsigned letters were still being received by those at Enfield. Capt Doran has drafted a reply to the letter received by the Chairman that the Secretary was instructed to send on behalf of this Committee.

## **10. Soldiers shot at dawn.**

10.1 After some discussion it was agreed that the eight soldiers names shot at dawn during World War One would be added to our Roll of Honour under the heading of victims of war. The Secretary is to write to Mrs Jansen informing her of this.

## **11. Any other business.**

11.1 Agreed that the final meeting of this Committee should be held in early March 2003 (possibly the 3rd) at a location still to be decided. The meeting to take place at 1100 hours it having been preceded by the Officers' Club Meeting and that all attending be invited to a luncheon funded by the Association. It was suggested that the following should be invited as guests: our President, the Colonel of the PWRR, our Secretary and the Assistant Secretary.

11.2 Col Hewson said he had visited the NAM and was disappointed at the number of items from our collection on display.

11.3 Mr Burford asked if we were aware that Inglis Barracks was to be sold off shortly. He asked if this occurred what would happen to the War Memorial. Maj Lawrence replied to say that he had been in contact with the Chief Executive of the BFPO and had been told that nothing had been finally decided but they were aware of our interest. Should the Memorial require to be moved then the cost is to be borne by the Ministry of Defence. Col Cain thought that if it had to be moved then the best site would be by the old entrance to the barracks.

11.4 The Secretary gave details of two functions that had not been listed on our forecast of events, namely:-

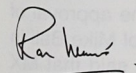
12 May - Victorian Diehard Company – at Aldershot Military Museum.

7 July - Grand Day at Normandy Bks Aldershot (2 PWRR)

He will include this information for members with the March Mailing.

## **12. Date and Place of Next meeting.**

12.1. It was suggested that the RAG might be a good location. Secretary to investigate and report back.



R E B Morris,  
Maj,  
Secretary.



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of  
The Middlesex Regimental Association  
held at the Victory Services Club, London W2  
at 1845 hours on Saturday 11th May 2002.**

Present: Maj C L Lawrence MC, Chairman, Brig B A M Pielow JP, Brig B H Marciandi OBE, Col M J Ball, Col R M Cain OBE DL, Lt Col M F Deakin, Lt Col J M Hewson MC, Maj W G A Crumley, Maj I M E Lloyd, Maj R E B Morris MBE, Capt M J S Doran TD LL B, Messrs A Avis, R Bartle, E Bedford, A Brown, R Best, A Burford, C Bysouth, P Fegan, J George, A Goodbourn, M Halfman, W Harris, G Higgins, S Hilton, A Jones, A King, D Langston, G Patmore, F Phillips, T Price, A Quartermaine, J Reynolds, T Read, D Reber, P Redmond, J Reynolds, R Shepherd, J Shore, M Smith, R Spice, P Stewart, R Sturge, J Yates.  
Plus around 15 other members who did not add their names to the attendance list

**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 and he read out her reply.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

2.1. The Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 12th of May 2001 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Mr A Burford and seconded by Mr M Smith. Carried.

2.2 There was one point arising. The Colours have been cleaned and rehung in the Chapel at St Paul's. The four oldest colours are too fragile to go back up in their present condition. A decision is to be made on their future.

**3. Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2001.**

3.1. The Secretary explained the accounts for the year ending 31st December 2001. Mr J Reynolds seconded by Mr T Price proposed that the accounts for the Main Association and 5/6th Militia be adopted and approved. Carried.

**4. The Future Administration of the Association..**

4.1. The Chairman drew attention to the notes that had gone out to every member outlining the discussions that had taken place with the RHQ of the PWRR with regard to the future administration of the Association. He said he was seeking the approval of the meeting to implement these proposals in the next financial year. Col Mike Ball in reply to some concerns expressed over the administration of our funds said that MX money will be used to fund MX benevolence and MX events for as long as there was a

need. However members should realise that the funds are being transferred to the PWRR but they will be accounted for separately as a sub account within the main PWRR accounts. A MX Representative will be appointed as a Trustee of PWRR funds.

In answer to questions from the floor Maj Lawrence said:-

A Regimental Committee, reduced in size, will continue to oversee MX matters.

That it is likely that we will have a volunteer to run the newsletter. Mr E Bedford said he would be happy to assist the editor in any way he can.

Regimental goods will still be available from the RHQ Shop at Canterbury.

The Branches and Clubs will continue to run as now and will be able to approach the RHQ for advice on any matter.

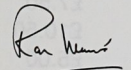
4.2. Major Lawrence then asked for a proposal that the transfer of the Association administration to the RHQ PWRR be agreed. Proposed by Maj W G A Crumley and seconded by Mr M Smith. The proposal was carried with no votes against and only one abstention.

**5. Any other business.**

5.1. The Chairman advised that Inglis Barracks would be closing. Target date September 2005. No decision taken as yet on the War Memorial. Could stay in situ. If any member has any suggestions with regard to a possible site for the Memorial would they please contact the Secretary. Any move will be funded either by the MOD or the developer.

**6. Closing Remarks.**

6.1. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1935 hours.



R E B Morris,  
Maj,  
Secretary.



## REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following are held in stock and are available on request to the Secretary, Major R E B Morris MBE, at 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4SA. Cheques or Postal orders should be **made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association**, and not directly to Major Morris.

Blazer Badges	£7.50
Car Badges	£10.00
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£28.00
Ties Regtl (Old Pattern maroon & old gold)	£6.00
Ties Regtl (New Pattern black with maroon & gold thin stripes)	£6.00
Ties Officers' Club (Silk)	£13.50
Good quality replica Middlesex Regt Cap Badges	£5.50
Middlesex Regt Key Rings	£2.50
Old Comrades lapel badges	£2.75
Prints – Steady the Drums & Fifes unframed – large	£8.00
small	£6.00
Middlesex Regt Plaques	£18.50
Christmas Cards:-	
Steady the Drums & Fifes	.35p each
The Guardroom Scene	
Col Graham Egerton, 77th Foot Portsmouth 1854	
Middlesex Blazer Buttons (Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge)	
Sets of 6 Large & 6 Small	£28.00
Individual buttons large or small	£2.50
Regtl cuff links	£7.50
Regtl cuff links with tie grip	£10.50
Tie grip only	£5.00
Regtl Ladies Brooch	£4.75
Regtl tie tack and chain	£4.50

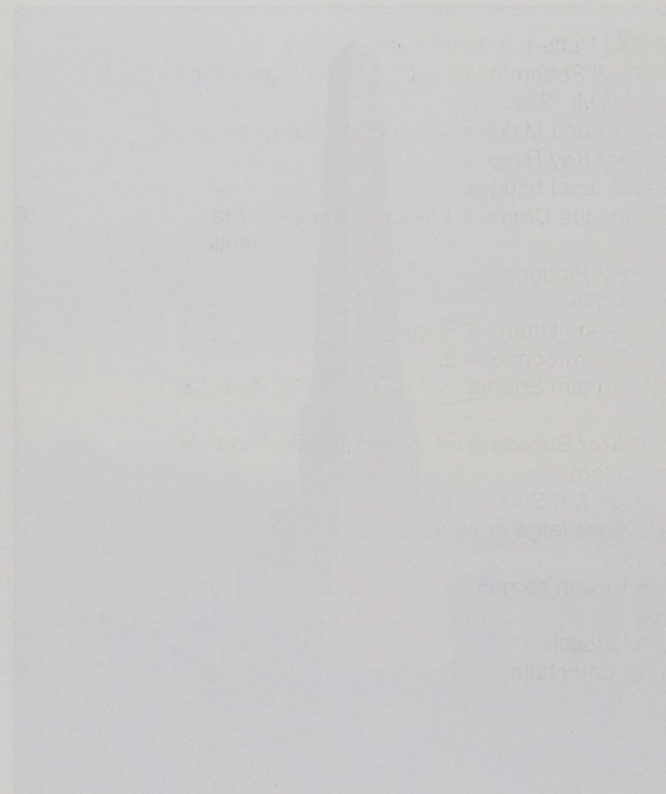
### 4. The Future Administration of the Association

4.1. The Chairman drew attention to the notes that had gone out to every member outlining the proposals for the future administration of the Association. He said he was seeking the approval of the members to implement these proposals at the next financial year. Col Mike Ball in reply to some concerns expressed over the use of the Association's funds to pay for the printing of the Association's magazine, said that the Association's funds would be used to pay for the printing of the magazine.

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December 2002

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