

57th REGIMENT

CEMETERY MONUMENT

CHANGE OF SITE

CONDITIONS OF REMOVAL

The proposal to move to a different site in Te Henui Cemetery, New Plymouth, the monument erected to the memory of officers and men of the 57th Regiment, was carried a stage further at last night's meeting of the New Plymouth Borough Council. Conditions were set out, upon the fulfilment of which the council agreed to give consent to the request for the removal of the monument to a different site.

The application for permission to have the monument removed was made through the New Plymouth Returned Soldiers' Association and the council decided last night to give permission for its removal to a new site on the top of the hill to the westward of the Whiteley monument subject to certain conditions. This was arrived at after a conference between the works committee of the council and Dr. P. C. Davie and Mr. E. J. Carr on behalf of the R.S.A. The conditions agreed upon provide for the following:—

The removal to be effected at no cost to the council.

The base of the 57th Regiment monument to be increased in height to conform in height with the Whiteley monument.

The consent of the officer commanding the 57th Regiment to be obtained.

The approval of descendants of members of the 57th Regiment residing at New Plymouth and district to be obtained in the following way: The Returned Soldiers' Association by advertisement to convene a meeting of such descendants to be held at the cemetery and to explain the proposals to the meeting and take a vote upon the question.

NOW KNOWN AS MIDDLESEX.

The old title of 57th Regiment has disappeared and the regiment is now known as the Middlesex (Duke of Cambridge's Own) Regiment, and was popularly known as "the Die Hards." The colonel of the regiment is Brigadier-General the Hon. R. M. Heath, C.M.G., D.S.O.

The 1st Battalion of the regiment took over the traditions of the 57th footers and the 2nd Battalion took over those of the 70th footers. The O.C. the 1st Battalion is Lt.-Col. O. H. Tidbury, M.C.

This battalion is at present stationed at Hong Kong and the 2nd battalion is in England.

Lieutenant N. Gudgeon, of the 1st battalion took his annual leave last Christmas, when the battalion was at Singapore, and visited New Zealand. He came to New Plymouth and was keenly interested in the monument to the regiment which he visited at Te Henui cemetery and of which he took several photographs.