



# *The Die-Hards*

NEWSLETTER

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No. 98

August 2007

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***The United Nations Memorial Cemetery - Korea***

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### A SEPTEMBER MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT BRIGADIER TONY PIELOW

Again this year the earlier publication of our newsletter means it is somewhat early to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a satisfactory 2008. Nevertheless I do so and do so most heartily.

2007 has been another highly successful year for the Association. Our Albuhera week-end events were especially notable. We were honoured with the presence of Field Marshal Lord Brammall and Lady Brammall at our Officers' Club dinner and the Field Marshal also came to the service in St Paul's Cathedral, at which the first page of our splendid Book of Remembrance was turned by Fred Phillips and then blessed by the Cathedral's Canon in Residence.

Another great occasion was this year's All Ranks Reunion – better attended than ever and better presented and organised with a particularly improved menu- thanks, like all our activities, to the expertise and interest of Major Dennis Bradley who even managed to have a PWRR band to play both at the Service and the Reunion – an enormous advantage over our previous occasions.

The various other regimental events during the year as well as the activities of the PWRR have been covered by Mike Ward in this newsletter and to him, the RHQ of the PWRR and the Associations Executive Committee on which Major Ron Morris is still very much involved, we all owe a lot of thanks for their continued work on our behalf. We are also particularly grateful for the tremendous support we get from our individual members, the Association branches and our families. Without this groundswell of support and activities the Association would suffer greatly. Thanks to you all.

*My warm wishes to you all.*

*Tony Pielow*

### FORCAST OF EVENTS 2007/2008

#### 2007

7th November	7th Bn MX Officers' Club Dinner
8th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Service commences 10.50hrs
10th November	MX Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs
11th November	7th Bn MX Remembrance Service Assemble 10.00hrs At Parish Church St Mary and St George Hornsey
11th November	The Cenotaph Parade Whitehall Ticket only apply to Major P.A. Gwilliam Telephone 020 7738 1363

#### 2008

9th May	MX Officers' Club Annual Dinner Army & Navy Club
10th May	MX Albuhera Service Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral 11.00hrs
10th May	MX All Ranks Reunion Union Jack Club Annual General Meeting 13.00hrs
16th May	Albuhera Day
16th May	Enfield Branch Wreath Laying Mill Hill
16th May	9th Bn MX Officers' Club Annual Luncheon To be confirmed



## THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

### 1st BATTALION

A significant achievement of the 2006 deployment to Iraq was to bring the Provinces of Al Muthanna Dhigar and Maysan under Provincial Iraqi Control. The Battle Group has experienced 85% continuous deployment with action seen many times and notable bravery shown by many. Some soldiers were wounded but are now on the road to recovery. Among the awards were a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, four Military Crosses, the George Medal and four Mention in Despatches. The Battalion is now back in Paderborn and there is at present no deployment plans for this year.

### 2nd BATTALION

Based in BallyKelly, Northern Ireland the Battalion has deployed a composite company to the Falklands for 2 months and completed a battlefield tour of Korea in addition to covering local operations. On 1st August the conflict in Northern Ireland officially came to an end. The issue of the GSM will cease and honours and awards will revert to normal states. Force levels will be the pre 1969 level of three resident battalions under a Brigade Headquarters and an HQ Northern Ireland. The Battalion will Arms Plot to Cyprus in early 2008.

### 3rd BATTALION

The Battalion has expanded, C Company RRV, based in Portsmouth, is now D Company and part of PWRR with a new C Company forming in Rochester. It's good to have infantry in Royal Engineer territory! Twenty-four members joined 1 PWRR in Iraq, now 65% of the serving established strength has been deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. This has resulted in a good professional battalion.

### B COMPANY THE LONDON REGIMENT.

In Spring the London Regiment, including a platoon from B Company, provided the Force Protection Company (Somme Company) for 12 Mechanized Brigade in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. With the introduction of Future Infantry Structure the London Regiment, has been aligned with the Foot Guards. B Company is still cap badged and called PWRR but in addition to the tiger on the sleeve they have the Guards Division flash (blue, red, blue) and are administered by the Guards.

## Special Offer

The Association has negotiated a special introductory offer, allowing our members to purchase the PWRR Journal at a cost of £5.00 for the first year and £10.00 per annum thereafter. It is hoped that members will avail themselves of this offer as eventually our own newsletter will be incorporated into the PWRR Journal.

### THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TEAM IN AFGHANISTAN

By C/Sgt Justin Tredigo Somme Company London Regiment

Sgt Neal, Sgt McCormack and I have all stood in as IRT (Immediate Response Team) commander on various days. The IRT which travels in a Chinook helicopter, consists of one doctor, two nurses, pilots, loadmaster/gunners and an eight man infantry section. Each man in the section carries a minimum ten magazines of ammo, HE, smoke, red phosphorous grenades, body armour, signals and ECM kit. It feels you weigh a tonne. The IRT Chinook is a flying ambulance which can get to the battlefield within 30 minutes to collect and treat casualties. The team are also escorted by an Apache attack helicopter to provide covering fire as you could be landing in the middle of a contact. Our job is to protect and assist the medical team. For those of you who have not experienced tactical flying in an helicopter, it's not for someone who experiences travel sickness.

I can only explain it as like being on a rollercoaster with fireworks going off. As you fly in and out of the mountains and valleys around the Kajaki Dam area, with the aircraft deploying its counter measures to confuse any surface to air missiles it can be quite nail-biting stuff. The IRT task is an extremely tough one and I take my hat off to the medical teams who work all hours everyday, providing medical cover to the troops from all nations that are working out here with us.

### OFFICER'S CLUB

The Officers' Club held their annual dinner at the usual venue, the Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall on Friday the 11th May 2007. The principal guest was Field Marshal Lord Bramall.

Regimental guests, Lady Averil Bramall, Mrs Jean Clayden and Mrs Fran Castle.

Members and private guests:- Brig. & Mrs Tony Pielow, Brig. Brian Marciandi, Brig. & Mrs Dennis Rendell, Col. & Mrs Mike Ball, Col. & Mrs Rex Cain, Col. John Moore, Lt Col. & Mrs Mike Deakin, Maj. & Mrs Bob Bartlett, Maj. & Mrs Dennis Bradley, Sir John & Lady Birch, Rt. Rev. Mgr. Ralph Brown, Maj. & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj. & Mrs Harold Couch, Maj. & Mrs Stephen Dowse, Maj. & Mrs Brian Finch, Maj. John Hamill, Maj. Derrick Harwood, Maj. & Mrs Stewart Henshaw,



Maj. & Mrs Tony McManus, Maj. David Margand, Maj. & Mrs Ron Morris, Very Rev. Ian Waters, Capt. & Mrs Mike Doran, Capt. Mike Gedye, Mr Harold Clayden, Lt. Mike Norsworthy and Lt. & Mrs Peter Ottino.

Brig. Tony Pielow, in his welcoming speech, said how honoured we are to have Lord and Lady Bramall with us. He gave a resume of regimental affairs and went on to say how much we, as a regiment, were looking forward to tomorrow's ceremony in our Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral when the dedication of our especially commissioned Book of Remembrance, listing those who have made the supreme sacrifice in World War One, World War Two and the Korean War was to take place. Lord Bramall replied to say how pleased he was to be with us and he outlined in some detail, his considerable knowledge of the regiment and its history.

RM

### **THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE SATURDAY 12TH MAY 2007**

The annual service was again held in the morning as last years service was such a success. This year the service was of particular significance as a dedication of a Book of Remembrance which commemorates those members of the regiment who made the supreme sacrifice in both World Wars and in Korea was to be included.

A large congregation had gathered within the Cathedral for the service and found the Regimental Chapel changed in that the font has been removed and has been replaced by a reproduction of the famous painting "The Light of the World" by William Holman Hunt, who was one of the Victorian era's most beloved artists. Begun in 1851 the painting shows an image of Christ, lantern in hand, knocking at a door. The door has no handle on the outside, completed in 1853, Hunt's painting was very popular in Victorian England. The original hangs in Keble College Oxford, demand was so great for the painting that a second version was painted in 1900-04. This copy toured the United Kingdom and many parts of the British Empire and the United States. After the paintings return it was donated to St Paul's and now hangs in the Regimental Chapel.

The service was conducted by The Reverend Canon Martin Warner, Canon Pastor Canon in Residence. The Hymns selected were those which were well known by most members of the congregation and with the Cathedral choir in attendance were sung with enthusiasm. The reading John 11 verses 18 to 27 was read by Brigadier B A M Pielow, the prayers were led by Revd Monsignor Ralph Brown, as the Rev. Patrick Tuft was indisposed, ironic that this was a reversal of last years arrangement. The dedication of the Book of Remembrance was led by the Canon in Residence in the presence of Field Marshall Lord Bramall.



*Maj D. Bradley, Maj R. Morris, Brig T. Pielow, Field Marshal Lord Bramall,  
Col R. Cain and Mr F. Phillips.  
Gathered at the Book of Remembrance.*

The first page was turned by Mr Fred Phillips one of our senior members, followed by Last Post and Reveille. The band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment played "The Light of The World" by Sir John Dean Goffin as the music for Meditation which uses two well known hymns of the Salvation Army, the music which has a two note knocking throughout and with no handle on the door in the painting they illustrate the words of Jesus in Revelations 3 verse 20.

Our Thanks to Major D Bradley, Major R Morris and our Printers D Isom Ltd for their dedication in bringing the Book of Remembrance to fruition.

### **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE ANNUAL REUNION**

The Annual General Meeting required those who had attended the service of Remembrance to make a dash across London to arrive at the venue, The Union Jack Club to be able to obtain refreshment before the AGM which was scheduled to commence at 13:00 hrs.

The AGM was chaired by Colonel Rex Cain in the absence of Major Chris Lawrence indisposed by an hip operation.



## Minutes of the AGM

### Welcome

Colonel R Cain welcomed members to the meeting.

### Apologies

Members who had sent apologies for absence were recorded.

### Benevolence

A report was printed in the March issue of the newsletter.

### Finance

During the financial year 1st January to 31st December 2006 the Middlesex Regiment benevolent Fund has received a total income of £43580, of which £22371 is dividend payments from our investments. Other income equals:

£1887 subs & newsletter (we no longer differentiate between them)

£3615 reunion income

£470 donations

£13680 was received and then paid out for our ABF Annuities

Our expenditure for the year totalled £42994 of which £9402 has been on 33 cases of benevolence. Our reunion expenditure totalled £5598, therefore the fund subsidized the dinner by £1983. our expenditure equals :

£1964 on Service of Remembrance

£2724 grants & donations

£6875 on printing for the newsletter and order of services etc.

(3 newsletters were sent out this year compared to 2 only in 2005)

Therefore our net income over expenditure for this financial year has been £586.

Our investments at the beginning of the year stood at £667000 and at the end of the year £713875 a market increase in value of £46875 an approximate increase of 7% on the year. We had a closing bank balance of £14047

The overall total value of the Middlesex Regiment Benevolent Fund equals £727922.

The fund is therefore healthy and continues in the correct direction in order to ensure that all objects of this charity are met and that all benevolence cases can be covered as and when necessary.

The figures have been consolidated into PWRR Benevolent Fund and form part of the audited accounts.

## New Membership Cards /Annual Subscriptions

The Secretary confirmed that all life membership cards had been enclosed with the March newsletter and that subscriptions were no longer payable.

### Any Other Business

A vote of thanks was recorded to the Executive Committee for all their hard work during the year.

Proposed by Mr J Raby

Seconded by Mr P Long

Carried unanimously

## ANNUAL REUNION

The change to a lunch time reunion has been a great success and the annual luncheon was attended by a full house, those present enjoyed an excellent three course lunch served by the Union Jack Club staff. Invited guests were Mr & Mrs Ian Cheeseman, who has done so much to ensure that our Guildhall Remembrance Services have been so popular and John Lenahan from the UJC. Brigadier Tony Pielow made a speech of welcome and commented on the large attendance and how the Association goes from strength to strength. The Association has instituted a Certificate of Merit and this year the first awards were made to Heinz Johansen who had travelled over from Germany to be present. Heinz does so much for the Regiment singing our praises and attending the graves of our members who are interred at the Military Cemetery Hamburg and to Mike Ward for his work on the newsletter. After lunch and the formalities of the presentations the members adjourned to the bar for drinks and to renew friendships and swing the lamp before leaving for home vowing to return again next year. The general opinion being that it had been a most memorable and enjoyable day.

## FAREWELL TO INGLIS BARRACKS.

On a wet and chilly evening on 5th July 2007 the British Forces Post Office held their farewell to Inglis Barracks. After some order and counter order it was decided to hold the event on the parade ground despite the relentless rain which had by then reduced to a steady drizzle. Led by the band of the Brigade of Gurkhas four guards marched on to the square, so familiar to all Diehards, but now lacking the barrack blocks which used to line one side.

The fourth guard founded by our Enfield and Central Branches led by Alf Burford, was the first to be inspected by General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue KCB,CBE who is the Chief of Defence Material and Honorary Colonel Commandant of the Royal



Logistic Corps. After a brief Sunset Ceremony the march past was led by the Diehards with the Gurkha Band playing Sir Manley Power and Paddy's Resource as they swung past in great style.

A cocktail party followed in a large marquee on what used to be the tennis courts in front of the Officers' mess and concluded with an address by the Director of the BFPO, Brigadier M G Hickson OBE in which he paid generous tribute to the part our Regiment has played in the history of the Barracks and made a particular mention of our War Memorial recording the 12694 all ranks who died in the First World War.

Our representatives at the cocktail party, Major & Mrs Bradley, Colonel Cain and Major & Mrs Morris then visited the Sergeants Mess where the marching party and its supporters were comfortably ensconced with their drinks and a curry supper.

Although a good time was had by all it was a bitter sweet occasion for those who had served at the old depot. Apart from the areas around the MOB Stores and the Officers' Mess there is very little left of the Depot we knew but memories of the personalities of those days, such as Colonel Maurice Browne and RSM Pat Donovan will remain with us even after the houses are built over what was Inglis Barracks.

RMC

#### **ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON THE FAREWELL PARADE AT INGLIS BARRACKS.**

Twenty-One Enfield members were on parade to say goodbye to Inglis Barracks on Tuesday 5th July. A further twenty-seven members attended as spectators. Arriving at the barracks at 1700 hrs. we were greeted by the RSM and ushered into the Sergeants Mess where light refreshment was provided, we were also offered a glass of port with which we toasted the Regiment before forming up on the road outside the mess in a light drizzle of rain. Both wet and dry programmes had been planned for the parade and some twenty five minutes later, feeling slightly uncomfortable with the rain growing heavier, we still stood awaiting a decision, as well as being delayed by the non-arrival of one or two of the Royal Logistics Officers. Behind me there were mutterings regarding the inability of somebody or other to organise a drinking spree in the brewery but we were kept entertained by some amusing tales from Mr. Sid Hilton.

A further fifteen minutes or so later, slightly dampened but in good spirits we marched on to the square led by Royal Naval Officer Lt. Van den Burgh, just as the rain began to ease to a stop. After the inspection had been carried out by General Sir Kevin O'Donoghue KCB CBE and the salute taken, the Middlesex Association led the parade from the square marching to the sound of the Regimental March played by the band of the Gurkhas. After being dismissed the members were

invited back to the Sergeants' Mess for drinks and a varied choice of curry dishes for supper. As always the hospitality of the mess was faultless and it was with great sadness that we took our leave. Over the past years the members of the Enfield Branch have become quite attached to the members of the WOs and Sergeants' Mess and count more than a few of them as good friends. We wish them well wherever their duties take them and sincerely hope that our links with them will be able to be maintained in their new quarters at Northolt.

A. Brown.

#### **ANZAC DAY HAREFIELD 25TH APRIL 2007**



*Members of Hounslow Branch at Harefield - ANZAC DAY*

Hounslow Branch attended the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in the rural church of St Mary the Virgin where the churchyard contains the graves of two VCs. Pte Ryder of our Regiment and Lt Gen. Littlehales Goodlane, Coldstream Guards, who won his award in the Crimea, making it unique amongst English village churches.



A large congregation with many veterans of the Second World War present, the village children, who take a central role in the service, which ensures the continuation of the service in future years. The service has been held continually since 1921. After the service the congregation moved to the Australian Military Cemetery which contains 112 graves for a short Act of Remembrance, Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a trumpeter from the RAF Central Band.

Wreaths were then laid, Peter Long laid one on behalf of the Regiment, the children of the village then laid flowers on every grave. Those present then adjourned to the village hall for the excellent tea which is provided by the ladies of Harefield and the branch members renewed our friendship with veterans of the Inniskilling Fusiliers and Royal Irish Fusiliers a friendship which has been engendered over many years.

When the Australian Military Hospital was established in June 1915 there were 8 patients, after the start of the Gallipoli Campaign this had reached 346 by July and in 1916 the number of cases exceeded over a thousand. When patients died the local school provided the Union Flag to drape the casket for the funeral, this flag eventually was sent to Adelaide High School and in 1921 the Children's Patriotic League of Australia sent in return two flags a Union Flag and an Australian one, the same year that a granite memorial was erected in the cemetery.

#### ALBUHERA AND ELVAS 2007

On Monday 14th May a recce party comprising of Colonel Rex Cain, Major Dennis Bradley and Major Ron Morris, whose mission was to explore the local area for accommodation for the Associations visit for the two hundredth anniversary of the battle. Whilst this may seem premature it is estimated that on occasions up to twenty thousand people visit this small village to witness the recreation of the battle.

The recce party met Hounslow Branch members, who were making their annual pilgrimage to La Albuera, at London Airport for the flight to Lisbon and the overland journey to Albuhera where both parties were staying. On the Tuesday the two parties went their separate ways the recce party to various meetings and Hounslow Branch to Olivenza, in the evening they met up to go to Salvatierra de los Barros to see Celia Denney, who is so helpful in providing translation services. Celia provided tapas and whilst we were there Major Bradley presented her with a Certificate of Merit in recognition of the assistance which she has given to the Association and to PWRR.

Albuhera day followed the standard programme reported many times over the years. The culmination being the move to Wellington Park where Major Bradley presented the PWRR Cup to this years winner Ismael Ramos Dominguez.



*Ismael Ramos Dominguez receiving the 2007 PWRR Trophy from Maj D. Bradley.*

Wreaths were then laid on the Regimental Memorial by The Mayor of Albuhera for the village, Commander of BRIMZ Extremadura for the Spanish army, Major Bradley for PWRR, Major Morris for The East Surreys, Colonel Cain for The Middlesex and Mr B Hazard for The Buffs. A bugler from the Spanish Army contingent who were on parade sounded Last Post and Reveille. All then adjourned to the "Ventura Rosario" for an excellent repast followed by a "Silent Toast."



The next engagement was the traditional ceremony at Elvas which commenced at noon and following the customary speeches by local dignitaries and representatives of the armed forces of Spain and Portugal, prayers were said followed by a blessing. Wreaths were again laid by the various participants in the



*The Recce Party at Elvas.*

*Maj D. Bradley, Col R. Cain, Maj M. Morris with Mr B. Hazard.*

Battle of Albuhera and for PWRR and the forbear regiments, Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a bugler from the Portuguese Army and re-enactors fired a volley from the ramparts. Immediately after the ceremony the recce party left for Lisbon Airport to return to the UK. Hounslow Branch members joined The Friends of the British Cemetery for lunch and whilst there Mike Ward presented, to the Friends, the Regimental Plaques which were on the font at St Paul's Cathedral whilst it reposed in the Regimental Chapel, these will eventually be incorporated into the chapel alongside the cemetery in Elvas. Hounslow Branch remained in Albuhera for the main celebrations during the week-end 19th and 20th May before returning to the UK.

## ENFIELD BRANCH AT MILL HILL ON ALBUHERA DAY 2007

We were invited by the Commanding Officer/Regimental Sergeant Major to visit our Regimental Memorial within Inglis Barracks, to place a Poppy Wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association. Mr. J. Hawkins placed the Poppy Wreath at the base of the Regimental Memorial, a short service was arranged, during which the Middlesex Regiment and the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Collects were said by all present.

The RSM arranged for photographs to be taken by a member of the Royal Logistic Corps. On conclusion of the service all were invited back to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess for drinks, coffee and sandwiches.

As always, our thanks were given to the Commanding Officer, RSM and members of the WOs and Sgts. Mess, a very good day was had by all.

Those present were: Mr. & Mrs. Burford, Mr. & Mrs. Harris, Mr. & Mrs. Kingham, Messrs. J. Innes, J. Hawkins, R. Hawkins, D. Priest, D. Clayton and M. Thomas.

A. Burford

## ENFIELD BRANCH VISIT CANTERBURY WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY, 2007.

Despite being caught up in some of the worst traffic jams imaginable (at one point it took over one and a half hours to circumnavigate a single grid locked roundabout) this years visit to Canterbury was something special. The Buffs once again allowed us the honour of taking part in the turning of the pages ceremony before joining us to lay a wreath at the memorial to Sir William Inglis. After leaving the cathedral we travelled up the hill to the Canterbury golf club for an excellent lunch, which had been arranged by Major Dennis Bradley, stopping on the way at Howe Barracks to lay a further wreath and pay our respects to the members of the regiment who had lost their lives in Northern Ireland. We were joined at lunch by the members of the Buffs regimental association and during the hours that followed a mutual bond was cemented between the two associations which may well prove to be as durable as our respective regiments, many new friendships were forged this day and plans are already afoot for further joint efforts. A particularly nice memory of the day was of a group of Buffs and Diehards singing "We'll meet again" before leaving for home.

A. Brown.



# Canterbury Photoshoot July 2007







*Walter Tull*

## WALTER TULL FOOTBALLER AND SOLDIER

Walter Tull was born in Folkestone on 28th Apr 1888. His father was a carpenter from Barbados who had moved and married a local woman. By the age of nine, Walter had lost both his parents, and a year later he and his brother Edward were sent to a Methodist orphanage in Bethnal Green. Edward, adopted by a Scottish family, later became a dentist. Meanwhile, Walter played for the orphanage football team, and in 1908, began playing for Clapton FC. Within a few months he had won winners' medals in the FA Amateur Cup, London County Amateur Cup and London Senior Cup.

In 1909 the Football Star called him the catch of the season and he signed as a professional for Tottenham Hotspur. He experienced for the first time, spectator racism, when Spurs travelled to play Bristol

City. According to one correspondent a section of the spectators made a cowardly attack on him in language lower than Billingsgate, and continued: "Let me tell those Bristol hooligans that Tull is so clean in mind and method as to be a model for all white men who play football whether they be amateur or professional". In point of ability, if not actual achievement, Tull was the best forward on the field.

In Oct 1911 Tull moved to Northampton Town he played half-back and scored 9 goals in 110 senior appearances. When WW1 broke out, he was the first Northampton player to sign up, joining the 17th (1st Football) Bn of the Middlesex Regt, and in 1915 they arrived in France.

The Army soon recognised Tull's leadership qualities and he was quickly promoted to the rank of sergeant. In July 1916, Tull took part in the Somme offensive. He survived this but in Dec 1916 developed trench fever and was sent home to England to recover.



*Football Battalion Cap Badge*

Tull had impressed his senior officers who recommended that he should be considered for further promotion. When he recovered from his illness he was sent to the officer training school at Gales in Scotland, where despite military regulations forbidding any Negro or person of colour being an officer, he received his commission in May 1917.

2nd Lt. Walter Tull was sent to the Italian front. This was an historic occasion because he was the first ever black officer in the British Army, and the first to lead white British troops into battle. At the Battle of Piave he was mentioned in dispatches for his gallantry and coolness under fire.

In 1918 he was sent to the Western Front in France, on 25th March he was ordered into an attack on the German trenches at Favreuil. Soon after entering No Mans Land, he was hit by a German bullet. He was such a popular officer that several of his men made valiant efforts under heavy machine-gun fire to bring him back to the British trenches, all were in vain he had died soon after being hit. He was awarded the British War and Victory Medals and recommended for a Military Cross.

In 1999 A Memorial to the life of Walter Tull was erected by Northampton Town FC., in the Sixsmith Community Stadium.

## ODD JOTTINGS

John Dorey is interested in photographs of the Battalion when they served in Cyprus and in particular the move from Alma Camp to Alexandria Barracks.

Members of Hounslow Branch and Colonel Rex Cain were invited to a buffet reception at London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre by the Mayor and Mayoress Councillor David Routledge MBE and Mrs. Janet Routledge. The reception was for past Mayors and Mayoresses, Officers of HM Forces and selected guests. There was a large contingent present from the RAF station Uxbridge.

Roy Bishop has written to say he is delighted to learn that there are a number of 1939 vintage Diehards still around. The article by Sgt. A.H.Rowson reminded him of his militia days. Like Tom Roberts he has also received the medal and certificate from The Netherlands. Roy also says that our coverage of the article about A/Sgt. W.T.Emery engendered a splendid response from many parts of the U.K. and Colonel Le Chantoux has expressed his thanks for our help.

Members of the Executive Committee, Enfield and Hounslow branches attended Founders Day Parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. Her Majesty Queen Margarethe of Denmark, Colonel in Chief of the Princess of Wales's Royal



Regiment took the salute. After the march past Her Majesty addressed the parade, The Governor responded. Later those attending renewed acquaintances with many old friends.

Taffy Evans writes from the Philippines that he has since 1990 been taken into, more as a World War Two veteran, the Defenders of Bataan and Corrigedor and Other Fronts Club. These were the fronts that stood up to the Japs, then had a long march after capture. They meet every month for a meal and drinks. Taffy is now 91.

What Changes! From the archives April 1907. The fund for carrying on the training of Colonel Pollock's Company of 100 men on Hounslow Heath has received a donation of £1,000 from Mr. W. Waldorf Astor. The Spectator Magazine, in making the announcement, says that Mr. Astor has taken a great interest in the problems of national defence. Some four years ago he gave the sum of £10,000 for the formation and encouragement of the clubs throughout the country. The fund will enable the company to buy appliances for the complete training of the men and to increase the prizes offered for special efficiency. Arrangements are being made for the company to re-assemble for a field day on the heath, which will test the confidence that the men are so well grounded in their work to be competent soldiers.

Roland Ellis gave a long speech on Anzac Day in Dannevirke New Zealand. He closed his address by reminding those present that each time they see a cenotaph or memorial to look at those great words "Lest we forget" and remember those who have given their all.

Squadron Letter John Hereford has written to say "Thank you" for sending me a Life Membership card and copies of the Newsletter. I am both delighted and flattered to receive the card. Although I never had the honour to serve with the Middlesex Regiment I am most interested in the history of the Regiment and follow closely the fortunes of its successors. My original interest in the Regimental Association arose through an uncle-by-marriage, Ralph C. Barber, who served in the First World War, and whose service I have now started researching. A couple of comments on items in the recent Newsletters:-

Reference No.94 December 2005, the 1955 Vienna Parade. I recently had a long conversation with a man wearing the Middlesex Regiment tie at a local SSAFA fund-raising function, and it turned out that he was Sir John Birch, who was mentioned in the article "A Day to Remember"; he also lives in Charlbury.

Reference No 96 Sep 2006, Obituaries. I was sorry to read of the death of Christine Pollard; although I never actually met her, I was at school with her late husband, John Pollard, and we shared various activities in the School Cadet Corps. I last met him in the late 1960s when he visited an RAF unit in which I was serving – I think he was then serving in a staff post at York (HQ Northern Command?).

## OBITUARIES

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

**BILLINGTON** Edward Arthur passed away on the 24th June 2007. Ted served with 1/7th Battalion in North Africa, Italy and France as a despatch rider. His funeral was held at Hanworth Crematorium on the 9th July. The Association was represented by John Raby and Mike Ward.

**BIRD** John Henry Sgt. Died on the 26th July 2007 at Unity Hospital Muscatine, Iowa, USA. John served with the 2/7th Battalion throughout the war in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Syria and Palestine. The funeral was held on the 30th July and he was interred in Muscatine Memorial Park Cemetery. FP

**DALY** Dennis Cpl. Died in May aged 83 years. Dennis originally joined the Royal Signals before being transferred to 1/7th Battalion on their return from Sicily when the Battalion converted to carriers. He landed in Normandy on the 7th June, he was wounded 12th June at Chateau St.Come. He re-joined the Battalion, after walking back in hospital blues, at Loon-op-Zand and remained as Sergeant Jeff Haward's driver until the end of hostilities, later transferred to 2/7th Battalion finishing his service in Egypt. Dennis was a keen supporter of the Regimental Association. JH

**DYER** Leslie Morris Frederick died on the 1st April 2007 at home after a short illness. Les served with the Regiment in Ireland and took part in the Normandy Landings. He worked overseas for many years teaching in Malawi, Nigeria, Nepal and Guyana. His funeral was held at Southend on Sea Crematorium on April 13th, with members of the Regimental Association and Normandy Veterans Association present with their Standards.

**MANN** A.J. "Micky" 6206361 passed away peacefully on Sunday 15th April last aged 88 years. Micky served with the 1/7th Battalion.

**SWINSON** MBE Reg. A member of 2/7th Battalion served throughout the war in North Africa, Italy, Syria and Palestine. Reg received his MBE for his services as Secretary of the Equity Actors Union and prior to his retirement he was responsible for the Twickenham Home for retired actors. The date of death is unknown. FP

**CHATTEY** Pamela widow of Col. Chattey died on 14th April, her funeral was a private cremation. A Thanksgiving Service for her life was held at Christ's Church, Victoria Road, London W8 on Friday 25th May, which was attended by the following members of the Regiment Brig B H Marciandi, Col R M Cain, Lt Col & Mrs M F Deakin, Maj W G A Crumley, Maj C L Lawrence and Maj R E B Morris.



Sadly we have been notified of the deaths of the following members for which no details are available.

T.D.JONES	J.R.M.ROSE	J.SHERWOOD
F. LANGFORD	J.ROSS	R.F.STURGE
T.PERRY	F.J.SADLER	F.WILTSHIRE

**Correction:** In March 2007 we reported the death of Sgt. Eddie Dawtrey as Sgt. Delaney, we apologise for this error and any upset caused

**STOP PRESS:** Jeff Leat, a well known member of the 1st Battalion and 4th Battalion Queens Regiment, had died, his funeral was held at St. Mary's Church, Fordingbridge on Tuesday 21st August 2007. This reached us at the time of going to press, further information will be published in the next newsletter.

### VIETNAM APRIL 2007

Since the surrender of the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu 1954 and the subsequent departure of the American troops in 1973 Vietnam has evolved as a tourist attraction for Westerners and I decided that I would make the trip and see the country first hand.

As the plane slowly descended through the clouds towards Saigon I began to see the distinctive paddy fields of Vietnam. On leaving Saigon airport the first thing to hit me was the familiar heat of the Far East. It was hot and humid, and I knew this would be the pattern for the next four weeks as I toured from Saigon to Hanoi.

Saigon is a big city full of hustle and bustle that gives off a real "buzz", and the new blends in easily with the old. Wandering around the city each district has its own cultural charm, and life is lived on the streets with people cooking, eating, drinking and socialising.

Whilst staying in Saigon, I took a day trip to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. And although overrun by tourists it gave me an insight into the unique and fascinating underground tunnel network built by the Vietcong. There were overgrown trench systems next to knocked out American tanks which were lying at awkward angles.

Before leaving Saigon and driving North I took a detour and travelled to the Mekong Delta, an area rich with waterways leading to traditional Vietnamese villages and wonderful floating markets.

On leaving Saigon the coach made its way past spectacular green paddy fields, and evergreen forests, and headed for the cooler climate of the Central Highlands to Balat, a beautiful hill station established by the French. Balat is surrounded by lush forests, lakes, valleys and waterfalls.

After Balat came fascinating towns which had a mixture of Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese and French architecture. Large pagodas were everywhere and the Citadel at Hue was vast and impressive.

On the long drive North to Hanoi the scenery was diverse. There were large rivers to cross, teeming with boats of every shape and size and overloaded with various cargoes. The crews often lived on board their boats.

The beach resorts are one of Vietnams best kept secrets and seem to be unspoilt by mass tourism. The beaches were in stark contrast to the paddy fields where the women work a long arduous day in the heat wearing their wonderful conical hats.

On arrival in Hanoi there was plenty to see. There were numerous lakes, tree lined boulevards, and French designed villas, and the atmosphere was a distinctly different life to that of Saigon. Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and sparsely furnished house was interesting too.

After a few days in Hanoi I took an overnight sleeper train to Sapa, which is a former French Hill Station, and it turned out to be a good decision. Sapa is in the mountains, the highest in Vietnam and is inhabited by one of the 50 odd ethnic groups that live in Vietnam. They have their own customs, dress and were extremely friendly. On walking days out in the hills with a guide, I met many other colourful hill-tribe minorities, who were friendly and cheerful. The scenery was jaw dropping. It was green, vast and so different to anything I have ever seen. It was so remote.

After 5 days in Sapa I returned to Hanoi on the sleeper train, and then returned back to the U.K.

On reflection the people were extremely friendly, inquisitive, warm and helpful and considering they had severe rationing up to the 1990's they have progressed at a rapid pace. Vietnam is rich in history and culture, blended from diverse influences. It is a country with magnificent natural beauty, friendly people and delicious food.

One lasting impression I will always remember, were the thousands of mopeds/scooters that the masses drove everywhere. They often carried a whole family of four, animals of every description, doors and even sheets of glass!! The young girls dressed in their traditional white clothes were an enjoyable contrast to the often drab streets.

It was a great experience and I did not have to reach for my Imodium once!

R. Stone.



## PASSCHENDAELE

The 12th July saw the opening of celebrations to mark the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele which commenced on the 31st July and continued for 100 days. A new Visitor Centre was opened in April 2007 and as one approaches the Centre along a paved path, speakers erected at below knee height, intone the names of those killed during the battle – a weird experience. Her Majesty The Queen attended and laid a wreath at Tyne Cot Cemetery (which contains the largest number to be buried in a Commonwealth Cemetery) and was also at The Menin Gate to mark the 80th Anniversary of its opening by Field Marshal Herbert Plumer in 1927 where she also laid a wreath.

During the Battle, the firing of millions of shells transformed the ground into a voracious sea of mud, drowning men, animals and machines. The Battle was scheduled to last for about three weeks and by the end of the campaign on 10th November, with the capture by Canadian troops of Passchendaele, half a million soldiers from the Allied and German Forces had been killed,

The conditions under which the Regiments' Battalions were engaged in the Ypres Salient are graphically described in The Regimental History by Everard Wyrall for the period 20th-25th September. "A month past before the next attack was launched upon the enemy: a month during which rain again fell in torrents, making the Ypres Salient more desolate than ever. How men kept body and soul together amidst all the horrors and discomforts of those terrible weeks was a marvel. That troops could endure and yet be fit in such awful surroundings – mud, and gaping shell holes and craters full of filthy, putrid water, the whole countryside waterlogged and with scarce a dry rag to their bodies, or an inch of dry ground anywhere – speaks volumes for their grit, determination and endurance."

## FIFTY SEVEN YEARS ON FOR 57th / 77th

1st BATTALION THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT (DCO) KOREA 1950-1951  
"NAKTONG BRIDGEHEAD" 22 SEPTEMBER 1950.

In order that they be available for the initial United Nations offensive operations against the North Koreans, the 27th Infantry Brigade, comprising the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment – "The Diehards" and the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were relieved in their Naktong River defence positions, west of Taegu, on 21st September 1950.

Whilst assembling East of the Naktong and to the West of Waegwan "The Diehards" were ordered forward to the assistance of a United States Reconnaissance Unit, with tanks, some four miles to the West.



*The grave of Lt J.C. Bucknall, one of the Battalions early casualties.*

The Commanding Officer, Lieut. Colonel Andrew Man, crossed the river with his "three company" battalion at 4pm by a rickety, make-shift footbridge which prevented any accompanying wheeled support. Despite considerable enemy shelling en route they reached the beleaguered Reconnaissance Unit by nightfall, in a village and under enemy fire from two features beyond.

To secure the Battalion's main objective, - a prominent feature to the North West, - it was first necessary to occupy the foothills with A Company, and with B Company, after the overnight defence of the village, to capture a smaller feature – "Plum Pudding" – on the road to the West.

At 7am the next morning, 22 September, against considerable enemy opposition, a Platoon of B Company under 2nd Lieut. Christopher Lawrence, attacked and captured "Plum Pudding". Thereafter, D Company, moving through A Company and again under heavy enemy fire, attacked and successfully captured the higher feature – "Middlesex Hill". A Platoon Commander, mortally wounded in this action was posthumously awarded the United States Silver Star. 2nd Lieut Christopher



Lawrence received the Military Cross for his outstanding leadership and Lieut Colonel Andrew Man the Distinguished Service Order in recognition of the Battalion's success throughout these operations.

"The Diehards" casualties though inevitable had been comparatively light to those of the enemy who had finally fled their position in disarray.

With the Argyll's occupation of their objectives to the South West on 23 September, the Bridgehead was secured and the main axis of advance on Sonju reopened.

These operations – the first in which the newly arrived British Contingent were involved, and their successful outcome, served as an example to be respected by all United Nations Forces throughout the Korean Campaign, and resulted in the award of the South Korean Presidential Unit Citation to 27 Brigade.

The Battle Honour "NAKTONG BRIDGEHEAD" to be borne on the Regimental Colours, was subsequently awarded to The Middlesex Regiment.

#### NEW MEMBERS:

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the last Newsletter.

Lt. Sir Michael Pickard	1st Battalion Mx. Cyprus.
Cpl. D.L. Adams	1st Battalion Mx. Cyprus.

#### LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE ASSOCIATION.

A number of letters have been received thanking the Association for their benevolent work.

#### RECOLLECTIONS OF YESTERYEAR.

We set off from El-Alamein in October 1942, travelled across the Western desert to Tunisia, then invaded Sicily. We then fired our guns across the Straits of Messina to start the war in mainland Italy. From the start to finish in Sicily just 10 of our Platoon survived.

We then travelled back to the U.K. and landed in Normandy. Sid Rance came back from Dunkirk, travelled all the way back to Normandy where he was killed. Ralph Rogers travelled the same route, he went to Germany and survived.

Mr. Farmborough and his wife have just celebrated their 66th Wedding Anniversary and are both 87 years old.

John Farmborough 1/7th Bn.Mx.

Colonel Keith Farnes kindly responded to a request by John McLoughlin for information about Lt.Col. Ralph Robothams action at Anzio, when he was Company Commander of Mr. McLoughlin's father. John is writing a book about B Coy 2/7th Bn.Mx. The letter which follows was written by Ralph Robotham to Col. Farnes.

My No.7 MG Pln was sited just to the right of the Flyover at Anzio at Carne Farm commanded by Bill Bartlett as was a 17 pounder AT gun and crew. Had a clear field of fire over open country up to the Dead End Road 1,000 yards away. Had a good O.P. on a haystack. Helped the R.A. to scythe down several daylight attacks by his use of radio as well as his own four MGs particularly on the 18th Feb. 44.

But on the following night the Boche put in an attack which overran his position. He was amongst those killed, others were taken prisoner. We went up the following afternoon to get the position back which we did. Apart from getting our MGs back, we were also able to take the Boche occupying force prisoner.

Not only that, but to our delight and surprise we found Pte. Blacket of number 7 Pln, and an anti-tank gunner of our RA who had been successfully hiding at the bottom of a slit trench. The case of the anti-tank chap was particularly interesting. During the Boche attack the soldier next to him had collected a Boche 81 mm mortar bomb all to himself, with the result that his remains were very liberally spread over the anti-tank chap, making him look as though he would die at any moment. When the Boche marched their prisoners away he kept using his appearance of being badly wounded to keep falling down. Gradually the Boche guard and their group of prisoners got further and further away. When he judged them to be far enough distant, the anti-tank chap got up and raced back towards our lines, followed by angry shots from the Boche prisoner escort. This made him exceedingly angry!

"Sir, they fired at me a wounded man" he kept repeating this, obviously he expected me to take the matter up with the Prime Minister or the War Office. I said to him "but you weren't wounded were you?" "No Sir" he agreed "but they didn't know that, they kept firing at a wounded man". He was still on about it when I pointed him in the direction of his own unit.

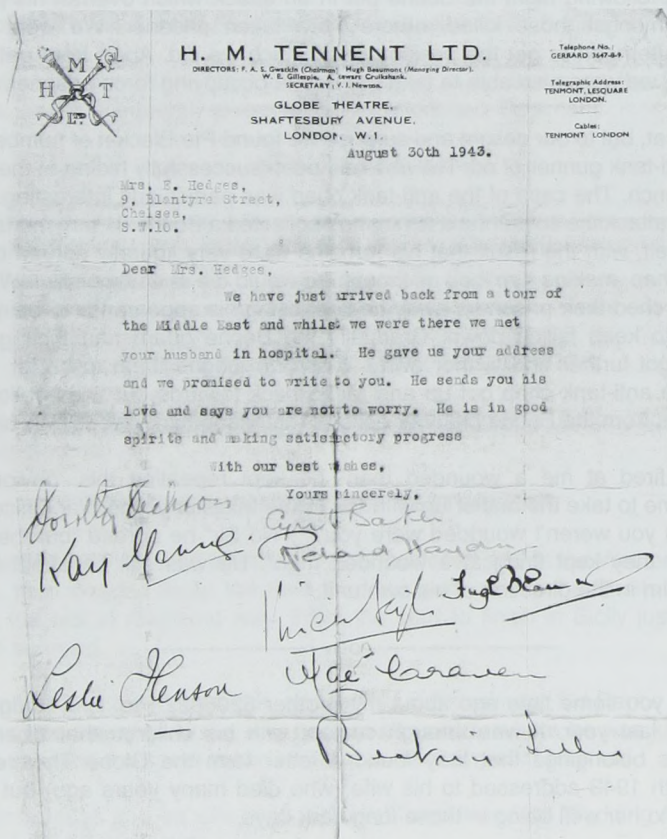
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I spoke to you some time ago about my Brother 6206922 Pte. Eric Hedges who sadly died last year. It was through contact with his children that when going through his belongings that they found a letter from the Globe Theatre dated August 30th 1943 addressed to his wife (who died many years ago) but was of great help to her well being in those long dark days.

Filling in a bit of Eric's history as was told to me by him and what he had told me when he was alive. He joined the 7th Bn. On the 2.5.39. reporting to New Barracks,



Gosport, Hants? From there after serving wherever 7th Mx. duties had been he was transferred to The Manchester Regiment, then transferred back to 7th Mx. On 26.2.43. Which brings me to the letter from The Globe, for it must have been some months later that Eric landed in hospital with shrapnel wounds through action in Italy. He was in fact wounded twice, the other time was in the D Day landings along with our brother-in-law Pte. Reg. Hines 7th MX KIA June 44 in Caen and buried at Ranville Cemetery. They were the best of buddies. However, back to Eric, I believe his wounds were sustained in Salerno because to the day he died he always spoke about the bit of metal still lodged in his thigh must have been a small bit although the indentation in his thigh was quite large he didn't talk about it because it did not hurt him, I think he rather thought of it as a memento?



Celebrities Letters

So, being wounded at the Battle of Salerno he obviously landed up in hospital somewhere nearby for this is where he met the artists performing away from home for the British troops. He was very poorly at the time and concerned for his family, and with this in mind, I believe the Celebrities of the day did as he asked and sent this letter to put her at ease! Not only that, but they all signed it! Can't say I personally recognise any of them but maybe some of your readers do? Eric, after all this was transferred from 7th Mx. To The Black Watch on the 30.3.44 the Regiment he went to D Day with. He fought his way to peace and was demobbed on 5.11.46

B W Hedges 1st MX 1960-66

I served with the 1st Bn. Middlesex Regiment from July 1943, was wounded in Normandy in July 1944 and discharged from hospital and the army in May 1945. I have now written a book on my experiences entitled "Bombs, Bullshit & Bullets, in roughly that order" which is about to be published by the Athena Press.

I was 15 years old when the war began and 21 when it finished. My account covers my experiences in the London Blitz, two years of comparative calm, followed by army training, a short bloody period in Normandy, some eight months in hospital, then home just in time for the Victory Celebrations and the historic General Election of 1945.

During my army service, I never rose above the rank of Private, so my story is one of the lower end of affairs. But my post-war doctoral studies in history have enabled me to relate where my unit was at certain times with the broader development of the war. Throw in my own leftwing political views, and I hope, an interesting narrative emerges.

P. Richards, M.Sc(Econ) Ph.D.

## POINTS OF INTEREST.

### MASS GRAVES FOUND IN NORTHERN FRANCE.

Now, more than 90 years after large numbers of British and Commonwealth soldiers died and with no known grave, it is believed that historians have located several mass graves. The discovery may lead to the bodies of nearly four hundred men, known to be among the dead and these are thought to be soldiers from the British 61st Division and the Australian 5th Division. These missing troops are known to be among the dead because after the battle of Fromelles in July 1916 the Germans passed their names and belongings to the Red Cross for return to their families.



Historians from Glasgow University are confident they have found the "lost army" after meticulous research of German archives and carrying out surveys using geophysics, radar and metal detectors. French authorities have been informed and will decide whether to grant land nearby for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to re-inter the corpses in a new war cemetery. The historians' findings have been presented to the House of Lords, War Graves and Battlefield Heritage Group and the Australian government who will decide whether to approve further tests to establish the contents of the graves.

#### RAY DRUMS UP A BIRTHDAY TREAT FOR DAD.



*Ray and father Reg*

A military bandsman helped his elderly father, Reginald L Smith (ex 1st MX) to 'beat the birthday blues' by organising a special concert at his care home. Ray Smith a drummer with the 1st Battalion Devonshire and Dorset Light Infantry's E Company (Rifle Volunteers) arranged with the army band to visit Manor Court Residential Home in Efford to mark his dad, Reginald's 85th birthday." I just thought it would be a really nice thing to do for Dad" said Ray, from St. Budeaux, who before joining 1 D&D, served with 3 Commando Brigade's 383 Petroleum Troop in Derriford. 6203540 Reg served with the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment band between 1937 and 1948, having joined up as a band boy aged 15.

On Christmas Day, 1941, he was captured by the Japanese during the conflict which led to the fall of Hong Kong. Today he is one of the few survivors of the infamous sinking of the Lisbon Maru. A 4,000-ton coaster used by the Japanese to transport POWs. Sealed below decks in hellish conditions, the 1800 prisoners suffered an even worse fate when on October 1st, 1942, she was torpedoed off Shanghai by a US submarine. The ship bore no markings identifying her as a POW vessel. While Reg

was rescued and eventually made it home, more than 800 prisoners died – drowned or shot while swimming from the wreck.

R K Smith

#### CAN YOU HELP?

Mr. S.H.Cochrane is seeking information about Ronald Muchmore who was in action with the Kensington Regiment, then the Middlesex Regiment in N.Africa, Sicily and Italy. He is said to have been mentioned in despatches at Casino in 1943, his regimental number is 6208363. R.Muchmore was believed to have been promoted to 'Warrant Officer. Anyone who can help or is in possession of a photograph it would be much appreciated.

S.H. Cochrane,  
32, Chestnut Drive, Canterbury CT2 ONB



*A squad at the Depot - 1928*

The above photograph was taken at the Depot in 1928 and features Pte.Bedward. Relatives in Australia are seeking information. If you can help please write to the Editor.

Claude Buckingham, who served with the Drums whilst with the 2nd Battalion in Palestine, during the period 1946-1948. He would like to get in touch with 'old pals' but only remembers the name of P. Burford.

C. Buckingham  
31, Litchen Close,  
Derbyshire DE7 8HJ.

Information is being sought in regard to Private A. Carter by his great-nephew, Pte. Carter served with the 4th Bn. MX. And a photograph of him appears in Rose Coomb's book "Before Endeavours Fade", on page 151 taken in August 1914. Replies to the Editor.



## **REGIMENTAL GOODS**

The following are held in stock and prices are available on request to the Regimental Shop, RHQ PWRR Howe Barracks Canterbury Kent CT1 1JY. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to PWRR Account No 0566700 Telephone No 01227 818058.

### **Prices on application to the Regimental Shop.**

Blazer Badges

Ice Buckets miniature side drum with Regimental Emblazon  
plus post and packing

Tie (Old pattern maroon and gold)

Ties (New pattern with maroon and gold thin stripes)

Ties Officers Club (Silk)

Middlesex Regt.Cap Badges good quality replicas

Old Comrades lapel badges

Regimental Beret Flashes

Prints 'Steady the Drums & Fifes' unframed - Large Print  
- Small Print

Middlesex Regimental Plaques

Middlesex Blazer Buttons Flat stay bright with engraved Middlesex Badge

Set 6 large buttons 6 small buttons

Individual buttons - Large and Small

Regimental Cuff Links

Regimental Tie Grip

Regimental Tie Tack and Chain

Regimental Ladies Brooch