



# *The Die-Hards*

NEWSLETTER

No. 104

Autumn 2010



Photo: Jonnie Breed, Korean Times

***Major Barry Reed & John Sturt  
in front of The Middlesex Memorial Stone***

*President* : Colonel R.M. Cain, OBE, DL  
*Honorary Vice President* : Brigadier B A M Pielow JP  
*Chairman* : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC  
*Vice Chairman* : Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.  
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#### Forecast of Events 2010

10th November	7th Bn Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner
11th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Service commences 10.50hrs
13th November	Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall Now Supreme Court of Justice 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs
14th November	Remembrance Sunday
14th November	7th Bn Mx Remembrance Service Assemble 10.00hrs At Parish Church St Mary & St George Hornsey

#### Forecast of Events 2011

7th May	Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London Seated 10.50hrs Service 11.00hrs
7th May	Association AGM and Annual Reunion Union Jack Club Sandell Street London
13th/17th May	Visit to Albuhera for 200th Anniversary of the Battle
14th July	Officer's Club Luncheon, Union Jack Club

#### From Colonel M J Ball Regimental Secretary

#### ALBUHERA 2011 THE 200th ANNIVERSARY

#### General

1. In August 2008 I wrote to everyone with a warning order giving an outline of events planned for Albuhera 200 and asking you to inform me if you wished to attend the Albuhera 200 celebrations. My letter also asked you to select a hotel of your choice in Badajoz. A consolidated list of those who expressed an interest in attending is held by RHQ. I appreciate that this may change in the future but is current at today's date.
2. I recently carried out a confirmation recce with Major Tony Martin and am now in a position to give you more detailed information about the trip to Albuhera. This is good news, however the bad is that I must now ask for a substantial deposit more of which later.

#### The Programme

3. This has changed from the provisional one outlined previously, but only slightly. The dates remain the same.

Friday 13th May	Fly from Heathrow to Lisbon. Travel by luxury coach to hotels in Badajoz Dinner in hotels
Saturday 14th May	We will divide into two groups
Group 1	For those that can manage a reasonably steep walk over cobblestones and would like to attend this event.
11.00hrs	Depart hotels for ceremony at Elvas Ceremonies at the English Cemetery followed by lunch
17.00 hrs approx	Return to hotels.



Group 2	More suited for those who would find steps and climbing steep cobblestoned roads a challenge.
10.30hrs	Depart for Merida. This is an ancient town with substantial Roman ruins. You would spend the day there. Own lunch
16.00 approx Evening	Depart and return to hotels. Own entertainment.
Sunday 15th May	(St Esidera A local public bank holiday)
Divide into two groups	
Group 1	AM Conduct the battlefield tour of Albuhera Lunch organised
Group 2	AM Visit local Bodega(wine) guided tour and chance to purchase special wine/battlefield tour of Badajoz siege Lunch organised
Group 1	PM Conduct Bodega tour/Badajoz battlefield tour.
Group 2	PM Conduct Albuhera battlefield tour.
Evening 19.30Hrs	This will be a special dinner at one of the hotels. Guests will be invited, evening will include speeches and setting the scene for the main day.
Monday 16th May	Albuhera Day attend all the celebrations in the town includes ceremony at the regimental memorial and attend lunch hosted by Mayor.  This is likely to be a very long day. We may organise coaches to return to the hotels at various stages.
Evening	Free.
Tuesday 17th May	Travel back to Lisbon.

There may be time for a short cultural visit either to Sintra or Lisbon itself. This will depend on the flight time to London.

#### Flights

- These will be pre booked from Heathrow to Lisbon. The flight schedules for May 2011 are not on the website at the moment, however our agent is checking on flight costs at group rates. The best estimate that we have at the moment is that the cost of a return flight will be around £200. per person.
- As yet we do not have any firm timings but likely timings would be depart Terminal 3 Heathrow 11.15hrs and return to Heathrow at approximately 18.00hrs.
- Flights will be booked by us through our travel agent. We will endeavour to negotiate the best price taking into account reliability and comfort.

#### Coaches

- As already mentioned above, groups will travel in air conditioned luxury coaches. Each coach will have a guide and a co-ordinator. We will attempt to keep regimental groups together but much will depend on the final breakdown of numbers attending.

#### Entertainment

- It is difficult at this stage to go firm. However events will include:

(a) Ceremonies at Elvas British Cemetery (Portugal) and Albuhera. This will involve the Spanish and Portuguese Army and various re-enactment societies. Our own Corps of Drums plus regular soldiers. Veterans and representatives of predecessor regiments.

(b) VIPs might include The Duke of Wellington or Lady Jane Wellesley and Lord Patrick Beresford. The Duke of Braganza, Ambassadors and Defence Attaches.

(c) We plan to hold a large dinner to which guests will be invited on the eve of Albuhera Day.



(d) Tours might include other battlefields, wine cellars (Bodegas), local ruins and ancient towns.

9. You can get more information on the Elvas British Cemetery on the website at [british-cemetery-elvas.org](http://british-cemetery-elvas.org) and information on Merida by Googling Merida Spain and looking at the Wikipedia site.

### Passport

10. Everyone must be in possession of a current British passport.

### Medical Insurance

11. This will be compulsory and once committed to the tour everyone will be asked to produce a copy of their insurance certificate and send it to RHQ by 10th May 2011. Similarly everyone must be in possession of a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). It is regretted that we are unable to take anyone without proof of medical insurance and possession of an EHIC.

### Fitness

12. Most of the sites that we will visit will require a fair amount of walking. These include some inclines, hills and occasionally some walking distance from the bus to the site. For example, the walk from coach to the ridge of Albuhera, where we study the battle is a good 30 minute walk for a reasonably able person and the route takes in a fairly steep incline to the ridge. You should also remember that the average May temperature of where we are in Spain is 30°C.
13. I would very strongly encourage you to consider the physical and climatic side of the programme before making a commitment to attend the celebrations. Where possible we will try and provide alternative facilities (e.g. sit at a cafe) to the more arduous events.

### Hotels

14. Since my first recce to Spain and the issue of Reference A, there has been an increase in the Iberian cost of living, a hike in IVA (VAT) and a fluctuating euro/pound exchange rate. All of which has had an impact on our pricing of the trip and particularly the hotels.

15. A revised costing for the hotels we shall use is shown at Annex A. The key fact to remember is that in Spain you hire the room. It matters not if you then fill it as a single or double occupancy.

Please note that the cost of breakfast is not included in the cost of the room for the Rio, AC and Lisbon Hotels. Breakfast is included in the price of the room for the Gran Hotel.

### Notice of Attendance and Cost

16. Having given you as much information as I can it is now time to turn to the unpleasant matter of money. We have attempted to keep prices down as much as possible, however it has been difficult in this changing world of rising flight costs and a substantial increase in the cost of living and VAT in Spain and Portugal.
17. To assist you in your financial planning I have attempted to give you a breakdown of the costs of the whole trip. This is shown at Annex B. I have attempted to include every item that you will have to cover, such as lunches and evening meals plus miscellaneous costs such as coffee and beer. However you will appreciate that this is inevitably very much an approximation.
18. In order to benefit from the best deals we need to start firming up on flight bookings and coaches and therefore one of the main purposes of my letter is to ask for a deposit of £230.00 per head. I realise that this is a substantial amount of money, however the deposit covers the projected cost of the airfare and the coach and as I have explained above we need to book early to get the best deals - Catch 22!
19. I should also point out that this deposit will be non-refundable unless we can sell your ticket on to someone who wishes to join the trip at a later date. You should therefore make arrangements to have this amount covered through insurance, should you unfortunately be unable to complete the trip.
20. Your cheque should be made out to the 'PWRR General Fund' and I would ask you to send it to Major Tony Martin at RHQ by no later than 1st October 2010. I would be most grateful if you would also complete the enclosed deposit payment slip and return it together with your cheque to RHQ. We will call for the final settlement in February 2011.



21. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with Tony Martin or me on 01227818050.

Yours sincerely  
Mike Ball

Hotels						Annex A
Serial	Name of hotel	Rating	Room Cost	B/F	Dinner	Description
1	Gran Hotel	xxxxx	110.00 EU	incl	extra	An expensive 1st class hotel 20 rooms have been reserved ideal for VIPs or those who can afford it
2	Hotel Rio	xxxx	64-80 EU	extra	extra	this is a good smart comfortable hotel 50 rooms have been reserved
3	Hotel AC	xxxx	70-72 EU	extra	extra	A good smart comfortable hotel 50 rooms booked
4	Hotel Lisboa	xxx	53-60 EU	extra	extra	this is cheap & cheerful, clean & welcoming

Prices quoted – cost per room whether double or single occupancy quoted in Euros (EU). It is calculated that by 2011 all prices would have gone up by approx 5.00

## Annex B

### BREAKDOWN OF COSTS PER PERSON FOR ALBUHERA 200

All amounts are in British pounds

ITEM	AMOUNT
Airfare	200.00
Coach	50.00
Hotel < (1)	280.00
Regimental Dinner (15 May)	30.00
Albuhera Day Lunch (Invitation by Mayor)	20.00
Elvas Lunch	20.00
Lunch on 15 May	10.00
Other Meals (includes dinner on the 1st evening, lunch at Merida and Dinner last night) (2)	50.00
Miscellaneous (coffee, beer etc) (3)	30.00
Total	690.00

#### Notes:

- (1) This amount is based on £70 per night and includes breakfast. This is for a single occupancy. If you are a couple there is no additional charge for the room, but you would have to factor in an additional amount for breakfast, usually around £8. For those staying at the Gran Hotel the amount is £90 which includes breakfast.
- (2) This figure is difficult to assess as you will be the one who decides on what you want to spend. I have included the item (at £50, based on £20 for an evening meal and £10 for lunch) in order to show you the additional costs that you will have to include in your budgeting.
- (3) As above.



# **Battle of Albuhera** **200th Anniversary Deposit Payment**

From.....Include rank and decoration if applicable

Postcode.....Email.....

Tel No ..... Mob No .....

Predecessor Regiment (if applicable).....

(1) I attach my cheque payable to PWRR General Fund  
£.....this being my deposit to cover my reservation on the  
tour.

This covers myself and my wife/partner/friend (if applicable)

Christian Name..... Surname.....

OR You can pay by internet banking to

## **Bank Details**

Bank : Holts Farnborough Account: PWRR General Fund  
A/c No : 10486807 Sort Code: 16 19 26

If paying by Bank Transfer please quote the following as a reference

Your surname and initials  
Albuhera Trip

(2) I understand that a further and final payment will be required in  
February 2011

Signed..... Date.....

## **Please send to:**

Major A J Martin, RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury Kent CT1 1JY





## THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

After years of continuous operations the Regiment is fortunate enough to have spent the last few months in their home bases (except a few minor individual reinforcements and a group from 1 PWRR deployed to Afghanistan). Everyone has been occupied with Training, Courses, Adventure Training and attempting to benefit from less commitments and a slower pace of life.

**1st Battalion** Armoured Warrior Battalion based in Paderborn Germany. The focus of the 1st Bn over the last six months has been retention through challenge in order to ensure that we remain at full manning through a number of diverse and exciting activities. The most dramatic of these was an extremely short notice deployment to Afghanistan of a 15 men team including the Commanding Officer, Operations Officer and Regimental Sergeant Major. The group deployed with less than 3 weeks notice to support the OP Herrick 11/12 in place providing vital theatre training.

Back in Germany the pace of training has been relentless. All soldiers have conducted extensive live firing packages, starting with light role attacks and progressing to integration with the Warrior AFVs firing 30mm canons and co-axial machine guns.

**2nd Battalion** A Light Role Infantry Battalion Based in Cyprus Moving to Woolwich London in August 2010. Life In Cyprus continues a pace! The Unit move to Woolwich is getting closer and closer and the focus of the Battalion is steadily shifting towards the move itself and the drill required to undertake Public Duties. A recent Commander's Recce to Second Fusiliers in Hounslow enabled the Battalion to fully understand the complexities of guard mount at all the locations in London that the Battalion will get to know well after the summer.

Drill will become a regular occurrence for all ranks from Private Soldier to the Commanding Officer himself. The All Arms Drill Instructors course in Catterick is about to be swamped by Senior NCOs from the Battalion. Apart from drill the Battalion remains responsible for the ongoing Cyprus Operations which includes the guarding of Troodos Camp, the highest point on the island. In addition to this there is a requirement to provide manpower as a Public Order reserve to assist the SBA Police should the need arise.



**3rd Battalion** An Infantry Territorial Battalion. The battlefields of France and Flanders hold many graves of our forbear regiments, and were the sites of much bravery and drama. To help the young soldiers get a grasp of the great traditions of the PWRR. A & D Coys undertook a battlefield tour to the town of Ypres (Leper) area of Belgium in March including taking part in the solemn ceremony at the Menin Gate. Supported by Dr Mathias Strohn from RMAS and Ian Chatfield from The Queens Royal Surrey's Museum, it was a great success and a good dose of morale. This hopefully will become an annual event.

#### **Albuhera Day 16th May 2010 Celebrated 15th May 2010**

The Annual Service of Remembrance held in the Regimental Chapel St. Paul's Cathedral.

Members and friends who attended this year's service were greeted by the Band of Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment playing music outside the north door of the cathedral which is located in St Paul's Churchyard and this year to alleviate the crush at the main door attendees entered via this door. The congregation continues to grow each year.

The service commenced with the band playing the Regimental Slow March "The Caledonian" which indicated the entrance of the Choir and Ministers, the choir sang the indroit "They shall grow not old" by Laurence Binyon with music by Douglas Guest. The bidding was given by the Right Reverend Graeme Knowles, Dean of the Cathedral, and prayers during the service were led by the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft MA, the lesson Joshua 1 verses 1-9 was read by Colonel M J Ball Regimental Secretary PWRR and the second reading 2 Corinthians 6 verses 3-10 by Colonel R M Cain OBE DL President of the Middlesex Regimental Association. During the service an excellent address was given by the Dean of the Cathedral. The hymns chosen for the service are always well known and popular which means that everyone gives voice and increases the volume of praise, always ably assisted by the choir. The service closed with the Regimental Quick March "Sir Manly Power Paddy's Resource".

The choir was directed by T Wakerell and the organ was played by T Harper.

Music before and after the service was played by the Band of the PWRR WO1 Bandmaster I. Harding.

We are grateful to them for their attendance which enhances the occasion and does so much to engender the Regiment's Pride which is always obvious on this special day.

After the service members made their way by bus or taxi to The Union Jack Club to enjoy some refreshment and meet old friends before the Annual General Meeting which was held prior to the Annual Reunion and Luncheon

#### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regimental Association held on the 15th May 2010 at the Union Jack Club Sandell Street London SE1**

**Present:** Colonel R Cain, President, Major D Bradley, Secretary, Major W G Crumley, Major D Harwood, Major R E B Morris, Major R G C Thornton, R F Abrahams, I Aldridge, M Austin, J Baker, R Bartlett, G Barton, R Bockhart, A Broadbent, A Brown, K H Brown, A Burford, H Coulter, B Cox, C Crawford, Lt Colonel M F Deakin, P Dive, P F Dyer, D Falke, Major B Finch, Major T Finnisy, R Francis, J W Hawkins, C Higgins, S Hilton, J Holmes, P Humphrey, E Hunt, M Hutchins, J Innes, A Jennings, H Johansen, D Lester, E McEvoy, M Mulvaney, P Mulvaney, F Phillips, G Potts, T Price, J Raby, A Richardson, A Rudge, A Seymour, C Smith, M Smith, P J Stewart, B Tate, T Taylor, L Travis, M Turton, M J Ward, K Williams, J Yates, G Young. 3 signatures were illegible.

The AGM was chaired by Colonel Rex Cain in the absence of Major Chris Lawrence who was indisposed once again with a hip problem.

#### **Welcome**

Colonel R Cain welcomed members to the meeting.

#### **Apologies**

The following sent apologies for their absence Major C Lawrence, Captain K Beale and Mr P Long.

**Benevolence Major D Bradley BEM Secretary** reported as follows

**THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT BENEVOLENCE REVIEW DURING THE  
PERIOD 01 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2009**



During the period a total of 30 cases were investigated and 26 individual grants-in -aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped provide 5 further Electrically Powered Vehicles (EPV's) 2 Orthopaedic chairs/beds, contributed to 6 Disabled Home Adaptations and 1 Respite Holiday.

We administered 1 ABF Annuity and the ABF generously contributed £65 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for 1 Nursing Home Fee of £1,300 ABF and £300 Association grants per case, per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after.

The Charity paid out £7,040 as individual - grants- aid and the ABF provided a further £500 in General Grants. Of the 4 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Associations assisted 1 after we had contacted them. 2 cases were not receiving such allowances as Attendance, Mobility, Pensions Credit or Rent Rebate. The ABF total grants in support were £2,580 (inc. Annuities and NH Fees)

The Trustees would again like to pay tribute to the Army Benevolent Fund who is always helpful with prompt action and advice. SSAFA, Forces Help Society and The Royal British Legion investigate the majority of our cases and we are particularly grateful to their caseworkers for all their assistance. During the year we have also assisted members who are cared for by The Ex Services Mental Welfare Society, War Pensions Agency, BLESMA, Not Forgotten Society, Combat Stress and the Ex Services Fellowship Centres.

A vote of thanks was recorded to Major J Rogerson for his excellent assistance during the year.

Proposed by M J Ward                      Seconded by J Raby

Carried unanimously

**Finance** The secretary reported as follows:

During the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2009 The Middlesex Regiment accounts/Funds have received a total income of £30,597 of which £25,274 is dividend payments from our investments in both Mx1 and Mx2 accounts. Other income equals:

£ 2,450.00	Reunion Income (Members)
£ 758.00	Donations to the Newsletter
£ 1,933.00	Sale of Investments
£ 182.00	General Donations

Our expenditure for the year totalled £29,921.00 of which £7,040.00 has been spent on 26 benevolent cases. Our Reunion expenditure totalled £9,552.00 therefore the fund subsidised the Reunion by £7,102.00 other expenditure equals

### **Expenditure**

#### Cost of Generating Funds

Investment Management Fees	£1,991.00
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#### Charitable Activities

Middlesex Benevolence Grants	£7,040.00
Grants - Miscellaneous	2,363.00
Remembrance Expenditure	1,472.00
Newsletter	5,259.00

#### Support Costs

Postage and Office Expenses	482.00
Travel Expenses	134.00
Insurance	119.00

#### Governance Costs

Audit Fees	490.00
Meeting Expenses	1,019.00

**Total Expenditure for year 2009                      £29,921.00**

Therefore our net income over expenditure for the financial year has been £676.00. When we consider our activities for the year I suggest to you that we have done very well in what has been for all, a difficult year financially.

Our Investments at the beginning of the year stood at £555,383.00 and at the end of the year £625,909.00 an investment and market increase in value of £37,526.00 compared to a loss of £100,733.00 in the previous year.



The overall value of our funds is £639,053.00

The fund continues to be healthy. We can and do still ensure all the objects of the charity are met and that all benevolence cases are covered. It is also wise to remember that our investments are long term and will show growth once the economy starts improving, and I can assure you that we are well placed to do so. The figures from the attached schedule have been consolidated into the PWRR Benevolent Fund and form part of the audited accounts.

I would also like to record a vote of thanks to Mr J Reynolds the Finance Officer at RHQ for his work with the accounts.

Proposed by A Burford                      Seconded T Taylor

Carried unanimously

**The secretary then drew the attention of members to the following administration points.**

1. All Branch Secretaries are to ensure that the Secretary is informed of member's change of addresses, phone numbers and emails.
2. All members are requested, when visiting RHQ to make an appointment this will ensure:-
  - a) The Secretary is available to see people.
  - b) The Secretary can allocate time to see people.The same applies when visiting the PRI shop.
3. If Association standards/flags etc are loaned for funerals please ensure they are returned. The Secretary does not have time to chase people.
4. If you are aware of any member of the Association or former member of the Regiment who is in need of assistance please inform me. You are my eyes and ears of the Association and assistance is only a telephone call away.

**Albuhera Service of Remembrance and Reunion 2011**

1. The date for the AGM and 2011 Reunion will be the 7th May 2011.

This is due to the organised trip to Albuhera by Regimental Headquarters. The change of date will mean we do not have a clash of events.

2. It is intended to make this a very special Service to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera.
3. The Executive Committee anticipate that the Guest preacher will be either The Bishop of the Forces or The Chaplain General.
4. The Association hope to present a new lectern to the Cathedral which will be dedicated by the Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral. We also expect having some special guests.
5. The reunion will be held at the Union Jack Club and will be in a similar manner to this year, but we will make an effort to make it a little more special.
6. Due to the popularity of the Union Jack Club and our Reunion, 194 attending today. If you wish to book a room at the Club please do so early to avoid disappointment.

**Questions** No questions had been submitted in writing to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

**Any other business** No matters were raised other than a vote of thanks was recorded to the Executive Committee for their efforts during the year.

Proposed by M Hutchins

Seconded P F Dyer

Carried unanimously

The Meeting closed at 13.37 hrs



## The Annual Reunion

The decision to hold the reunion immediately after the annual service of remembrance continues to have been a wise decision in that the numbers attending the reunion continue to grow and the event is now approaching the point where we will be restricted in numbers attending by the number of seats available for lunch.

This year 196 persons sat down to an excellent lunch of Galantine of Duck and Pistachio Nuts, Roast Noisette of New Season Lamb with Mediterranean Vegetables followed by Pineapple and Coconut Charlotte, Coffee and Petit Fours much enjoyed by all present and served to the very high standard which the Union Jack Club maintain. With no formal seating plan members are delighted that they can be sure that they will be able to sit with their comrades whom they probably only see on this yearly occasion.

Loyal greetings were sent to Her Majesty the Queen and our greetings were reciprocated.

After lunch was completed our President Colonel Rex Cain gave a short speech after which members retired to the bar to find comrades of



*Montage of the Regimental Reunion*

yesteryear to "swing the lamp" and remember escapades during more youthful years. Unfortunately all good things must come to an end and people began to drift away about five o'clock after another very successful occasion.

The Association would like to thank the following for their assistance during the Annual Service and at the Union Jack Club. PWRR, B Coy (Queens Regiment) The London Regiment who kindly supplied the items of silver which added a fine touch to the tables and The Cadets from SE district.

## Robert Ryder VC

Robert Ryder was awarded the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery and initiative" during an attack by our 12th Battalion at Thiepval during the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

On the 1st of June 2010 the Mayor of the London Borough of Hillingdon unveiled a blue plaque on the wall of a house in Harefield, now called "the Old Workhouse", where Robert Ryder was born in 1895.



*Col. Rex Cain with Frank Ryder*

We then moved on to the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, also in Harefield, where Ryder was buried in 1978. His grave in this pretty country churchyard is marked by a simple military style stone with our Regimental badge, his name, an engraved VC and the words "A Diehard". The Vicar of St Mary's led the prayers and the Leader of the Council laid a wreath.

Among those invited to the event I met Councillor Raymond Graham who spent his National Service in C Company of the 1st Battalion in Austria. Later on, over tea and sandwiches, I was able to join the table where Robert's son Frank Ryder was sitting with his wife, his



son and his grandson and I learnt that Frank had been sent to the Duke of York's School in 1935 and from there had joined our 2nd Battalion as a Boy in 1938. He served with the 2nd Battalion throughout the war, then in Palestine and left the Army in 1949 to join the Surrey Constabulary. He is, of course, a member of the Association.

On the 20th June I had the honour of unveiling a plaque in the Harefield Royal British Legion Club recording that two holders of the Victoria Cross are buried in the churchyard there. One is our Robert Ryder and the other is Lt General Gerald Littlehales Goodlake, a Crimean War veteran. Also present at this event was the Deputy Mayor of London, Councillor Richard Barnes.

RMC

### Dudley Stagpoole VC DCM

Dudley Stagpoole was born, the youngest of three brothers, in Ireland in 1838. All three enlisted in the 57th Foot, Dudley age sixteen, as a Drummer. After service in the Crimea and India they went with the regiment to New Zealand in 1861 to take part in the Maori Land Wars and in September 1863 Dudley was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his conduct during a skirmish with the Maoris.

Ten days later on 2nd October a hundred men from the 57th and a hundred Taranaki Volunteers were sent to relieve the garrison of St Patrick's Redoubt besieged by the Maoris. As the column advanced they came under fire and two soldiers of the 57th fell wounded. Three men volunteered to bring the casualties to safety; they were Ensign John Down, Drummer Dudley Stagpoole and Volunteer Antonio Roderigues. The rescue was carried out under heavy close range fire.



*Refurbished grave of  
Dudley Stagpoole VC DCM  
(Hendon & Finchley Times)*

For their bravery Ensign Down and Drummer Stagpoole were both awarded the Victoria Cross and Volunteer Roderigues the New Zealand Cross.

Dudley Stagpoole was discharged from the Army in 1877 and died in the Workhouse at Ware in 1911. The Regiment arranged his burial in Hendon Park Cemetery. His brothers took their discharge in New Zealand where their descendents still live.

Over the years Stagpoole's grave although structurally sound became unreadable and it was decided that we should have it completely restored. On 30th June 2010 a ceremony of rededication was held to mark the restoration. The Lord Lieutenant of Greater London was represented by Mr Martin Russell DL, the prayers were led by Rev. Jonathan Shaw, Vicar of St Paul's Mill Hill, the exhortation was given by Colonel Mike Ball Regimental Secretary of the PWRR and the Association Standard was carried by Mike Ward escorted by John Raby and Alan Richardson. Last Post and Reveille were sounded by Sgt Janet Baker from the PWRR Band. Also present were Colonel Rex Cain, Major Ron Morris, Captain Mike Doran, Major Angela Richardson ACF. Cllr John Hart, Cllr Hugh Rayner and Major Dennis Bradley who organised the whole event.

Quite unexpectedly the great grand daughter of Dudley Stagpoole arrived during the ceremony having been alerted by the local Press and was able to join us at the reception which followed.

RMC

### Officers' Club Luncheon

The first annual luncheon, replacing the dinner, was held at the Union Jack Club on Thursday the 8th of July 2010. The principal guest was to have been Vice Admiral Sir David Dobson, KBE, President of the Union Jack Club, but he had to withdraw at the last moment to attend a funeral.

Regimental Guests: Colonel Edward Pepper, CBE DL, Chairman of the London Branch of the Royal Hong Kong Regimental Association, Mrs Jenny Rowe, Chief Executive of the United Kingdom Supreme Court, Mrs Jean Clayden and Mrs Moira Jeffcoat.

Members and private guests: Brig Brian Marciandi, Col & Mrs Rex Cain, Lt Col & Mrs Mike Deakin, Maj Bob Bartlett, Maj & Mrs Dennis Bradley, Rt Rev Mgr Ralph Brown, Maj & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj Harold Couch,



Maj & Mrs Gordon Crumley, Maj & Mrs Brian Finch, Maj & Mrs Frank Gladden, Maj Derrick Harwood, Maj & Mrs David Margand, Maj & Mrs Tony McManus, Maj & Mrs Ron Morris, Maj & Mrs Barry Reed, Maj Pat Wollocombe, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Capt & Mrs John Lenaghan, Mr Howard Clayden, Lieut & Mrs Peter Ottino, Mr John Warnaby.

Apologies and regrets were received from Brig Tony Pielow, Col. John Moore, and Maj Ken Clayden.

Col Rex Cain welcomed our guests and gave a brief outline of the thinking behind the change of venue to the Union Jack Club. He hoped that those present had enjoyed the lunch together with the excellent service provided by the Club Staff. He looks forward to seeing us all here again next year.

REBM

#### Lieut. Gus Sanders

On 16th July 2010 I was invited to accompany the Sanders family to Westminster City Hall when the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Sir David Brewer CMG JP, presented a Queen Elizabeth Cross in memory of Gus Sanders who was killed while serving as a platoon commander in B Company of our 1st Battalion in Korea.

Gustav Sanders was born in Germany in 1925 and came to England with his family as a refugee before the War. After school in Dorchester he joined the Army in the Parachute Regiment and was taken prisoner at Arnhem. After his release he was, in due course, commissioned in the Middlesex Regiment and was killed just before his twenty fifth birthday. For his conduct in Korea he was Mentioned in Despatches.

RMC

#### KOREA 1950

Sixty years ago the 1st Battalion sailed from Hong Kong to Korea to join the United Nations Forces who were endeavouring to stop North Korean Forces who had invaded South Korea in an illegal attempt to unite the Korean Peninsular under a Communist government. The peninsular had been divided at the 38th parallel under a UN Agreement at the end of the Second World War.

The following article was reported in the Regimental Journal of March 1951.

On November 13, while Companies were sprawled in positions amongst hill tops and Battalion Headquarters clustered unsuspectedly in a wide re-entrant, winter struck. It came screaming and howling from the north, from Manchuria and from the frozen steppes of Siberia. It swept over the hill crests and swirled and seared its way down the gullies, and within an hour the temperature had dropped to 22 degrees of frost.

By November 16 we had returned once again to Pakchon and occupied positions north of the town with the Australians to our north-west and the Argylls to our north. The U.S. 24th Division came up on our right. Then followed a period of mild patrol activity while dumps were built up behind us for Thanksgiving Day and the great McArthur offensive, but still no Chinese. Thanksgiving Day requires a separate individual description, all that can be said here is that seldom before in the history of war can so much food have descended on front-line troops—turkey by the ton, prawn cocktails by the gallon, plum cake by the truck load, and tins of pumpkin pie by the gross—all to disappear down the throats of the gastronomically bewildered and "C Ration" weary troops. Some took this visitation in their stride, others were less fortunate. At any rate once again the cooks performed the impossible in solving a problem that would have drained the blood from the face of almost any chef in Europe. November 24, "Let 'em roll" again. November 25 and the offensive was going splendidly without opposition and the Brigade became 1st Corps Reserve, and once again improvised "bath houses" were started, a football field marked out, and inter-section rifle competition organised. On the night of November 26 a report was received that enemy on white horses had been seen in a place where no enemy ought to have been—just across the river from Brigade Headquarters outside Pakchon. To what extent these white horses were part of Thanksgiving Day hangovers may never be known. Imaginary or otherwise they certainly started something farther east.

#### Whoops-a-Daisy

The general situation at this time was as follows ;

While the main offensive rolled north-west and northwards the U.S. 10th Corps was advancing amongst the hydro-electric reservoirs as it closed to the Yalu River. In between these two offensives there was nothing. Early in the morning of the 27th the Brigade was transferred to the 9th U.S. Corps



and moved south across the River Chongchon and then east to the Corps Headquarters at Kunuri. It was a bitter morning with a cruel north wind driving clouds of frozen yellow dust along the road, and as we crossed the river icefloe's were beginning to pile against the piers of the improvised bridge.

By the time the Battalion arrived at Kunuri the Corps situation map presented an incredulous picture. China had apparently passed into Korea, unnoticed, an army of two million men, the bulk of which was advancing in the shape of an enormous red arrow through the gap. Meanwhile the Corps, with its right out-flanked, was under heavy pressure from the north and north-east and was being driven back on Kunuri.

The Corps Commander, being a little uncertain how best to employ a Brigade without supporting arms in this rather singular military situation, and furthermore being very concerned about the security of his main supply line running south, accepted the Brigadier's advice that this, his only reserve, would be best employed where it could protect this route. Shortly afterwards Corps Headquarters moved to Chasan, 30 miles to the south. Next morning we were ordered to follow them in transport. None having appeared by 2 o'clock, we once again set off on foot.

Night was falling as we halted for a "brew-up" beneath the north end of a long, tortuous pass that climbed and looped its way through the mountains. We could hear a certain amount of machine-gun fire to the south-east, but when we moved off, with some relief the road veered away from this rather sinister noise.

We marched through the pass without incident and after 18 miles were met by transport that ultimately dumped us on a windswept frozen stretch of paddy next to Corps Headquarters. The last Company arrived at 3 a.m., and in heaps of rice straw, blankets and each other we slept.

We woke up next morning with traffic pouring past us southwards. Barely had fires been lit to thaw out our tins of food when it was reported that a small road block was believed to have been set up near the pass. From past experience it would have been surprising if most of the village in the vicinity had not contained arms, and the Battalion was ordered to move north again, search the area of the pass and in particular the villages and bring in any suspicious characters.

A patrol was also to go on to Kunuri and contact the U.S. 2nd Division now there. The Battalion was then to return, having one Company in the pass as a patrolling base. We moved back towards the pass through deserted villages and along the empty road up the valley. A wireless message was received that the enemy were now known to be ahead and the warning was passed up and down the column. The mountains astride the pass came into view over the top of a ridge of intermediate hills, and suddenly the leading Company stopped, deployed and was still. On the side of the road tilting into the ditch was a bullet-ridden Jeep. From inside sprawled the bodies of an American Colonel and his driver. Nothing stirred, and all at once the mountains about us seemed much higher and more inaccessible and menacing, and the valley ahead and the pass beyond were absolutely silent. And still nothing moved except for the shift of elbows supporting binoculars, scanning every ridge and crevice above us.

Then, from nowhere appeared 20 or 30 men in dirty white clothes, strolling rather furtively towards us; and it seemed as if another second could not go by without something happening. A section ran forward and brought in three of them. They were unarmed; and gradually the tension eased, the remainder were rounded up and the leading Company took up the advance; and some of us felt a little foolish. We reached the hills. Directly ahead climbed the road through the pass, disappearing after a few hundred yards and then reappearing as it climbed in a long scar across the mountains. Not a soul was in sight and it seemed as if fatigue had played tricks with our instincts and that the Jeep behind was the victim of a chance guerrilla.

The leading Company moved forward again to a low ridge, and then the second Company passed through to secure a hill at the near end of the pass.

It was then that we knew that the pass was not as deserted as it appeared. Five American fighters swung low over the mountains and machine gunned the wooded slopes ahead, little green figures began to run about and gradually it started. First a few rifle shots and then the steady knock of a Bren in reply. The leading Company pressed on up the hill to its objective. A short lull in the firing. Then the block bursts of enemy mortar fire and the harsh stabbing noise of a Russian machine gun. The steady rhythmic beat of the Vickers guns took them up and our mortars joined in. In the distance a small cloud of dust appeared and a lone Jeep careered down the pass jinking and bouncing from one side of the road to the other. The slopes above it came to life with the flashes of rifle fire, and still the Jeep came on.



It disappeared behind a shoulder of hill, a further burst of fire and then silence.

Another Company was preparing to pass through the leading Company when, without warning, rifle shots came from hills on the flanks of the rear Companies and they, too, came under mortar fire; and every ridge and peak about us seemed to be occupied. Mortaring became general and machine guns joined in with the rifle fire from above. At this time the nearest troops who could possibly support the Battalion were the remainder of the Brigade 20 miles behind us.

This comprised the sum total of the Corps reserve and could not be released. In any case, wireless communication with Brigade had broken down.

The leading Company was by now under accurate and sustained machine-gun fire and casualties were building up with one Platoon Commander killed. An entirely different problem now faced the Commanding Officer and, with night approaching and the Battalion in increasing danger of being cut off, he decided to withdraw. As the Battalion was coming back communication with Brigade was re-established and a message was received that we were to withdraw well clear of the pass to a defensive position 8 miles to the south. The Battalion was extricated with some difficulty with its transport under fire from the rear, and the last Company left after a hand-to-hand fight with a Chinese platoon. We finally moved off with enemy machine guns firing straight down the road after us. It was dark by the time the Battalion reached its position for the night, and the best that could be done was to occupy a tight close perimeter round the village and hope that daylight would not reveal too many over-looking hills. Information was then received that a Regimental Combat Team would pass through us the next morning to link up with the 2nd Infantry Division.

At midnight a message arrived telling us that no Regimental Combat Team was available. The 2nd Infantry Division were starting to fight their way back during the morning, and we, supported by five tanks and a battery of 105mm. guns, were to return to the south end of the pass and hold it open for the 2nd Division to pass through, if this could be done without getting seriously committed.

The tanks and artillery joined us early in the morning and the ground giving a view of the pass was reached by midday. The Chinese appeared to have

withdrawn to the ground immediately covering the pass and, rather surprisingly, no road block or ambushes were encountered on the way. On the way up a light aircraft dropped us a bundle of pieces of scarlet silk which we assumed were to be used as recognition signals with the 2nd Division. Shortly before we reached our objective we met five American tanks who had just run the gauntlet, and at about the same time we started to meet odd Turkish soldiers who appeared to have been cut off.

Positions which our rear Companies had held the previous day were occupied, with Battalion Headquarters and a troop of guns astride the village where the ambushed jeep had been found the previous day.

All seemed quiet and we waited to see whether the 2nd Division's breakout, would be an infantry sweep east or west to open the road. A small column of tanks with one or two jeeps appeared and streaked down towards us, disappearing and then reappearing round the bend in a fusillade of shots and reached our lines. And then to our astonishment a long nose-to-tail column appeared at the top of the pass.

We all of us concluded that the enemy must have gone but the gathering noise of firing made it clear that this was not so. The endless column came on till the bend hid the leading vehicles and then it stopped. Through glasses the occupants could be seen jumping out and diving for cover, a few jeeps reappeared below us and careered past firing at us as they went with wounded hanging out of the side and tyres shot to ribbons.

In the meantime our tanks and artillery were giving what support was possible and aircraft were machine-gunning and bombing the Chinese; the range was too great for rifle or Bren fire. A trickle of vehicles now attempted to pass the halted column and a few of these reached us, but in a very short time the column was double banked and nothing moved.

A stream of survivors now started to come through us from the valley below, many were wounded but all were bewildered and disillusioned. Occasional vehicles continued to come through, all with their burden of dead and wounded. By 4 o'clock the pass was still again and the stream of survivors almost stopped and the Battalion was ordered to return to Chasan.

As Companies withdrew to their transport firing once again broke out from the hills about us. As the first Company was preparing to drive off Battalion Headquarters and the artillery came under machine-gun fire from a ridge



immediately to their left. The guns replied over open sights to be joined later by the Vickers guns and some tanks. By this time bullets were coming from all directions and the road was under enfilade machine-gun fire.

Somehow Companies were got away and the guns extricated without serious loss and the return to Chasan started. All our vehicles were laden to the limit and beyond with American wounded, and as we drove through the village where we had spent the night we passed a temporary aid post. This being manned by our Medical Sergeant who had treated over 250 wounded and had used all the Battalion's supplies of morphia and dressings, while Company Colour Sergeants distributed amongst the wounded their own blankets and tea and sugar rations. A great many could not be treated and during the night much of our transport was used for ferrying them back to other aid stations. A great many dead had to be left behind. Back at Chasan the Medical Officer worked all night on other wounded Americans who were brought straight there. We also looked after a detachment of Turkish soldiers who were some of the survivors of one of their Battalions.

Corps Headquarters had meanwhile moved to south of Pyongyang and trucks, tanks and transporters in an endless jumble and confusion of units streamed by all night and all the next day. Everyone was driving for all they were worth to south of Pyongyang, where, no one knew. It was impossible to tell what was happening and everything had the appearance of a rout.

That day, December 1, the Argylls were moved across a ford to hold a position 2 miles on the right, while we took over their old defences. The Argylls marched off in great spirits across the cracking ice of the river and seemingly into the unknown. Next day the Australians were moved south-east to block the crossing over another ford and we were to follow when transport returned from them. The Argylls were later to be withdrawn to join up with the Brigade. The threat in this new area was not considered to be immediate.

## **KOREA - 60 YEARS ON**

On 25th June 1950, North Korea backed by Russia invaded the South in an attempt to ensure communist domination of the entire country. So for those of us who were sent out there to help stem that attack, the 60th Anniversary Year seemed a suitable moment to return.

Thanks, therefore, to the kind auspices of the British and Korean Veterans Associations, my wife, Mary Rose, and I, together with some 75 others from the UK flew out to Seoul in April and began a week long pilgrimage to various battle sites, memorials, cemeteries and military establishments. Once there we were joined by contingents from Australia, Canada and New Zealand making the visit truly representative of the original 27th Commonwealth Brigade; a total of some 250 of us all told.

## **THE GREETING**

From the moment we landed at highly modern Incheon Airport, we couldn't have been more courteously received, indeed feted would be a better word. Signs celebrating the 60th Anniversary were sited everywhere we went on buildings, coaches and hotels, and we were constantly filmed and interviewed by the media.

Also, casual passers-by frequently stopped to shake your hand and thank you for the help given in saving their country from the enemy, and creating the successful and prosperous economy they now enjoy; a very touching gesture.

## **SEOUL TODAY**

As I remember it, the south bank of the Han River used to have a largely rural landscape - today it is an enormous city in its own right with giant high-rise office and apartment buildings, major shopping centres and numerous road and rail bridges and tunnels criss-crossing the river. Whereas, despite tremendous changes, the shape of the original city on the north bank is quite recognisable, set on its many hills.

The Lotte World, our excellent but immense hotel on the south side -with its own shopping centre and Disney like theme park - looked after us extremely well. However, good as it was, its one drawback was its distance from central Seoul - about 40 minutes by taxi - too far to easily visit the museums, old palaces etc.

## **THE BKVA GROUP**

Just short of 80, Mary Rose and I reckoned we were at the younger end of the group's age spectrum; a number of the men having served in WWII as well as Korea. In fact we admired several for making the long journey at



all, as they clearly had considerable physical problems. Quite a few had 'carers' - if not the wife then sisters, brothers, sons and even grandsons.

Of the UK veterans there were only two from the Die-Hards besides myself, John Sturt, who had served in 'C' Company, and James Knight in 'A' Company. John is, of course, a regular attendee at our Korean Club reunions and, together with his son Andrew, was very supportive throughout the visit.

Otherwise, there was a broad cross-section of Regiments and Corps present with a particularly strong contingent from the Duke of Wellington's. There were also a few from the Navy and the Air Force. Notable members of the party included Bill Speakman V.C. and Derek Kinne G.C. - both of whom deservedly attracted considerable publicity for their exploits.

### **THE NATIONAL CEMETERY AND WAR MEMORIAL**

Despite the jetlag, the programme was underway bright and early the first morning when we travelled by coach to the National Cemetery. Here, in conjunction with our Commonwealth colleagues, we marched up an avenue lined by a Korean Guard of Honour to the Memorial; Keith Taylor of the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers laid the British wreath on this occasion. That achieved amidst considerable press photography, we moved on to the National War Memorial Museum. On the way in, we passed through a long arcade containing the names of all those, both from the United Nations and South Korea, who fell in the war. Those from our Regiment were clearly to be seen etched in bronze on one of the columns.

Once in the museum we were guided to the first floor which is devoted to the events of 1950-53. We were particularly impressed with various individual displays showing life as it was 60 years ago; including tableaux of villages with their wooden and mud homes, and groups of pitiful refugees in their traditional clothes ploughing through the winter snows. A very effective and moving reminder of how far the people and the country have progressed since that time; as well as being historically educational for today's generation. We were then treated to an excellent lunch - always buffet style - in another part of the complex.

Koreans in their thin pyjamas! As the UK's group leader, I was invited, together with Mary Rose and the representatives of the other Commonwealth countries, to visit the ROK's (Republic of Korea) military

hospital. There we were shown into a small ward with a number of veterans sitting cross-legged on their beds, each wearing smart, well creased white pyjamas.

Followed by a battery of camera men, we shook hands with each veteran in turn - the Canadian representative handing out sweets. Afterwards there was a group photograph with the patients in front of the hospital. The weather was far from warm and we felt rather sorry for the Koreans in their thin pyjamas!

### **BY RTX TRAIN TO BUSAN (PUSAN)**

On day 2 we had to assemble even earlier in order to catch this fast train to Busan - some three hours away - in order to visit the United Nations cemetery. Towards the end of the journey, we followed the Nakdong River gorge through the surrounding hills - a poignant reminder of the 1st Battalion's early battles in Korea.

That afternoon we assembled at the beautifully landscaped cemetery with all its Memorials for the Commonwealth Commemoration Service. Marching by contingent up to what is known as the flag area, we halted in front of a solid phalanx of dignitaries - ambassadors, generals, admirals and military attaches in all their finery.



*Australian, Canadian, New Zealand & UK wreath layers salute*



The four wreath bearers, including myself, from each contingent were then shown up to a raised area, with much fanfare from a red coated military band. Padre Mooney from the Anglican Cathedral in Seoul then began the Service assisted by various members of the congregation. At the appropriate moment, each of us in turn laid our wreath, followed by the principal representatives of the embassies and Korean armed forces. As on every occasion that week, I have never seen anything like the size of the wreaths and the beautiful flower arrangements.



*New British Lion Memorial in UK section of UN Cemetery*

The service over, we went down to the Commonwealth section of the cemetery where the graves are carefully divided up by Country; each area marked by their respective national flag. We attempted to look for the graves of as many Middlesex men as possible. They are arranged in order of the dates on which they fell, so naturally we found Pte. Streeter and then 2/Lt. Bucknall at the beginning. I was also moved to see the stone of 2/Lt. White whose platoon I took over. On enquiry I learnt that a number of our men who died in hospital are buried elsewhere, such as 2/Lt Martin, in Yokohama, Japan.

Returning to the station to catch the train back, we got some idea of how large a port Busan has become - it handles much of Korea's export and import trade as well as welcoming a number of cruise ships. So back in Seoul after a long and rather emotional day, we were happy to fall into bed.

## **JOURNEY TO THE DMZ**

We were asked to dress informally the next morning, no berets or medals, for the group visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) on the 38th Parallel where South and North Korea confront each other. Travelling north, we passed by the town of Uijongbu which brought back memories of where we spent a snowbound Christmas 1950.

As the coach got closer to the border, the road along the Hangang River became heavily fenced with barbed wire as well as guard posts and observation points at regular intervals. In due course, we went over a narrow, well guarded bridge across the Imjin River (of Gloster fame) and arrived at Camp Boniface, the American base at the entrance to the DMZ. At the camp we were taken to an observation area where you are able to look out across the border and the surrounding no-man's land. We then entered an impressive lecture hall to receive a briefing on the US Army's role. The somewhat 'gung-ho' American sergeant spoke so rapidly that he was interrupted on several occasions and asked to slow down, but apparently this was beyond him!

Boarding the coaches again, we drove through the DMZ which, because it is virtually undisturbed, has become a nature reserve full of birds and other wild life - a would be sportsman's paradise! We then arrived in the Joint Security Area (JSA) where South literally faces North and soldiers from either side carefully eye each other. The hut in which the 1953 Peace Agreement was signed is still in place and we were allowed to enter to view the green baize conference table with its national flags and smart young helmeted guards, standing totally still like statues. The back door of the hut leads straight into communist territory!

Driving back round the perimeter of the JSA, our guide pointed out the bridge over which so many UN POWs returned to freedom. So ended a fascinating experience.

That afternoon we made a brief visit to the downtown centre of Seoul - the first and almost only opportunity for the ladies to enjoy a little retail therapy!

## **RETURN TO GAPYEONG (KAPYONG)**

Day 4 took us back to the location of the Regiment's final action in Korea in the last week of April 1951. Arriving first at the site of the Australian -



Kapyong is their major battle honour - and New Zealand Memorials, we gathered for a Remembrance Service followed by the laying of wreaths on each memorial. Again a most moving occasion, enhanced by a choir of schoolchildren visiting from Australia.

Embossing once more, we passed by the hill on which those of us in 'D' Company 1st Middlesex had had our early morning skirmish with the Chinese on 24th April 1951.

We then reached the site of the Canadian Memorial where similar ceremonies took place. Again, this was an important action for the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Then driving back through Gapyeong - now a large and vibrant town - we came to the main Commonwealth Korean War Memorial where, following a short service, each contingent laid a wreath. After which, with the help of the Padre, we held a short private occasion by the new Middlesex Memorial Stone at which John Sturt laid a poppy wreath.

A picture of this event appeared in the Korea Times the next day. I was most impressed with this black granite Memorial and it stands out as the only individual regimental one on the site. Ron Yerby, Edgar Green and others are to be congratulated on having had it erected.

### THE BANQUET

Returning to our hotel in time for tea, we got ourselves ready for the main evening event of the week - a banquet in the hotel ballroom hosted by the Korean Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs. This was a splendid occasion including all the Commonwealth contingents as well as the ambassadors, military attaches and several generals. Mary Rose and I were honoured to sit at the top table next to our host - a successful businessman turned politician. The speeches came first before the meal and after an introduction by the Minister, I was invited to respond. My remarks seemed to go down quite well; it was the first time I had given a speech where I could be seen by the audience on a large video screen with my words translated simultaneously into Korean - very high tech! The evening concluded in fine style with an entertainment by military musicians and singers followed by a well known children's group known as "The Little Angels".

That same evening rumours began to circulate that our flight home that coming Monday could be delayed by the interruption to air traffic of the erupting volcano in Iceland. Thoughts of being stuck at the airport or of flying to another destination created some unease amongst the 'old and bold'!

### THE GLOSTERS DAY

The final day of commemorations and services was devoted appropriately to the Glosters and their famous stand on the banks of the Imjin. So we headed north to not far from the DMZ where that Regiment's Memorials lie at the foot of a steep hill near the village of Solma-ri.



*The Gloster memorial in the hillside at Solma-ri*

Being a Saturday, we were accompanied, besides the press, by a number of British people resident in Seoul - bankers, stockbrokers and businessmen, many joined by their wives and children. This had become an important annual occasion.

Once again, Padre Mooney led a very moving Service of Remembrance in the presence of the veterans as well as the attendant ambassadors,



generals and other dignitaries. The proceedings opened with a Guard of Honour marching onto parade carrying the assorted national flags and then mounting the steps leading up to the Memorial Plaques set in the hillside. It was of interest that Michael George, a member of our group, had carried out much of the design of this Memorial when he was stationed in Korea in the mid-1950s.

This time we had invited two of our party, a Gloster and a Gunner who had been POWs together in North Korea, to lay the UK wreath. They were not the only ones to shed a few tears. Finally in conclusion I was proud to be asked to give the Exhortation.

The day was all go and, after a brief barbecue lunch in a nearby park, we were soon on our way to the Korean 25th Division's Headquarters to watch a Military Tattoo. There we were seated on a stand overlooking the parade ground with many VIPs and senior officers on hand.

Starting with a group of drummers in traditional Korean costume, the Tattoo included a marching display with red coated band, a mass demonstration of karate and other martial arts, and concluded with a salvo from a battery of field guns. Finally the troops unfurled three outsized flags of the Republic of Korea, the United Nations and the United Kingdom, following which I was invited to receive from the commanding general an attractively boxed presentation of the Union Jack (it is intended to give this box to a military museum or somewhere similar in the UK). Again, we veterans felt very gratified that such an event should have been held in our honour.

The day was not quite over, however, as we drove on to a military observation post set high on a hill looking out across no-man's land to North Korea. This Post was set right up against the border wire. In the distance you could see The Hook, redolent in the memory of many UK veterans in 1952-3, as well as many of the well known features in and around the Imjin River. A very fitting finale to all our various visits that week.

### **THE AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH**

It became quite clear that Sunday morning that we were not going to be flying home as scheduled next day - Heathrow was closed down due to the ash cloud. So we were warned instead to be ready to move to another hotel near the airport.

So prior to lunch at the Residence, Mary Rose and I, together with another couple, went to morning service at Seoul Anglican Cathedral. This was held in the crypt and led by the same Padre Mooney who had conducted all the commemorations that week.

After church there was some time to spare and we visited the Old Palace close by; watching at the entrance a military display by men in traditional and very colourful uniforms. Inside the walls there was an attractive park with a number of historic pavilions and pagodas from the days when Korea was a royal kingdom.

The British Embassy and Residence are behind the Palace and the entire UK contingent was entertained to lunch in their garden by the Ambassador and his wife, Martin and Fiona Uden. Both of them had been present at nearly every event that week and very generous with their time. It was also good to have the opportunity of meeting a number of other local British residents present.

During lunch Richard Clementson, the BKVA representative, presented Martin Uden with a bound copy of the British In Memoriam Book of those who fell in Korea. Richard was most helpful and supportive throughout the visit.

After taking our leave, we were taken to a small theatre nearby and treated to a performance of Korean folk music. Although many of us were nodding off at this stage after such a good lunch, the drummers and trumpeters were so loud that there wasn't much chance of a kip!

### **FINAL DAYS**

As predicted we were bussed the following afternoon to the new Incheon City due west of Seoul and taken to the recently opened Sheraton Hotel which, if anything, was of an even higher standard than our accommodation in the Capital. The City itself is only partially complete with many unusually shaped high-rise buildings still under construction. In the middle, not far from our hotel, an area known as Central Park, with a large boating lake, is being laid out and landscaped.

Although we did go to visit the old port of Incheon and see the very impressive Memorial to General Macarthur's famous seaborne landing there in mid-September 1950, the rest of our enforced stay gave us plenty



of time to relax in pleasant surroundings, after the hectic activity of the previous week.

Once again the Korean Government and Military as well as our guides and carers could not have been more solicitous, constantly ensuring that we were well looked after, even down to our medication needs. And, of course, they picked up the tab for the extra days and nights we were there. Towards the middle of that week, we learnt that Heathrow had re-opened; but as plane seats on Korean Air were at a premium, our group would have to be split into two parties. So on the Thursday we waved good-bye to some thirty of our new found friends while the rest of us waited for the morrow.

That evening, we had a surprise visit from our former Prime Minister, Sir John Major who had been on business in Korea and dropped in on his way to the airport. He was very affable and shook hands and chatted with many of us. An interesting prelude to the then forth-coming general election at home!

So ended an extraordinarily well organised, fascinating and memorable trip - 60 years on from when 27th Brigade and 1st Middlesex first arrived on those shores. Our grateful thanks to The Korean Veterans Association, The British Korean Veterans Association and all those concerned.

Barry Reed June 2010

### **Odd Jottings**

Mr E C Wibrow telephoned to say that he believes that the man posting the proclamation to the German People (Die Hards Newsletter No 103) is Cpl Keith Silver who was a wireless operator with 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment, Mr Wibrow enclosed two photographs which were taken at Lubeck in 1945 the one of Cpl Silver is printed here which we hope will solve the mystery. The only doubt though is that Silver was a Corporal and not a Sergeant.

When Heinz Johansen and his wife travelled over from Germany for the Annual Albuhera Service and Reunion they brought with them a Middlesex Regimental flag which Heinz persuaded the Union Jack Club to fly on the day of the Reunion.



*Cpl. Keith Silver at Lubeck 1945*

Members of Hounslow Branch attended St Mary's parish church at Harefield on Sunday 25th April 2010 for a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving to mark ANZAC Day. After the service and a short service in the Military Cemetery which is adjacent to the church they joined the villagers to enjoy the sandwiches and cakes baked and provided by the ladies of the village.

Roy Bishop has written to say that he had an unfortunate fall on an irregular pavement and damaged his right hand. Roy is in contact with Harry Blackwood's son who lives in Sweden, who is responding to Heinz Johansen's request for photos of the 1st Battalion when they were at Lubeck. Ray also advises that the Mayor of St Charles de Percy Calvados extends a warm welcome to veterans and their families at the Annual Ceremony held on 6th June each year. A number of Die Hards are buried in St Charles de Percy cemetery. Roy has attended this event for the last 30 years.

One hundred years ago a question was raised in the House of Commons by Mr Mac Veagh (Down South) who asked the Secretary of State for War, whether his attention had been drawn to the fact that the band of the 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment had performed at an Empire Day celebration



at Brentford on the 20th June which had been organised by a political party. He questioned if this was a Political gathering and if this was so, was it allowed under Military regulations for a regimental band to be present. Mr Richard Haldane (Haddingtonshire) replied "if the Hon Member's information was correct that the meeting was a political one. Then the band should not have been present. But I gather that the Commanding Officer had reason to believe that it was a private party and was therefore not to blame for giving permission".

We have been informed by the Chief Executive that our Regimental Flag will be flown over the Supreme Court on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday when we hold our annual service there and that the Court will be represented. Refreshments will again be provided by the staff of the Court.

On 16th May each year the flag of the County of Middlesex will be flown, over the Supreme Court.

### Obituaries

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

**John Brett** it has been reported that John has passed away. There are no further details.

**Joan Drake** wife of Brian Drake passed away on 9th February 2010 peacefully at Extendicare Halton Hills after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease aged 73 years. A memorial service was held on Friday 12th February. Brian who lives in Canada has written to thank his many Die Hard friends for their condolences.

**Major Ian Lloyd** died on Sunday 9th May 2010 after a typically courageous fight against cancer. He joined the Battalion from Sandhurst in 1953 having boxed for the RMA and played in the front-row of the scrum. Inevitably he became known as "Punchy", but he was not naturally an aggressive man. Indeed, his patience fitted him as a training officer, a role which he carried out at the Outward Bound School, the Regimental Depot, on secondment to Brunei and the Junior Leader Regiment. He filled Staff appointments at Chester, the MOD and HQ BAOR, where he continued beyond his full-time service as a Retired Officer.

He married Pam in 1959 and Jane in 1983. He leaves a daughter, Sian, from his first marriage and a daughter, Alice, from his second. Ian was always good company and was well liked, which was reflected in the strong Regimental attendance at his funeral. Last Post was sounded by his ex-wife Jane.

**Geoff Stunt** died on 27th April aged 76 years. Geoff did his National Service with the RAPC and on completion he was posted to 11th Battalion (8th Mx) The Parachute Regiment where he joined the signals platoon, completed his parachute course and when the battalion was re-badged Middlesex he continued to serve throughout the many amalgamations of the unit and thus he served with the Queen's Regiment based at Hounslow. During his 29 years service with the TA he rose to the rank of sergeant but reverted to corporal in the later years of his service.

In civilian life Geoff worked for National Westminster Bank, he was a loyal member of the Regimental Association. His funeral was held on Monday 10th May at Hanworth Crematorium which was attended by his many friends from the Hounslow Branch.

**Malcolm Douglas Thomas** or "Tommo" as he was known to many of us, passed away on Friday 11th of June aged 92 years. There can be few members of the association who have been more loyal than Malcolm who joined the regiment just after the outbreak of the Second World War and served with the 2nd battalion in Normandy. He remained fiercely proud of the regiment and despite becoming increasingly frail; at the age of ninety still regularly attended branch meetings, always driving himself in his spotless BMW. Malcolm was cremated at the Enfield Crematorium on Friday 25th of June. The Royal British Legion and the Normandy Veterans Association provided a guard of honour. The Middlesex Association was represented by Jim Innes and Alex Brown who escorted the flag draped coffin, Malcolm's old friend and fellow Diehard, Jim Viner, placed a Middlesex poppy wreath. Much loved and greatly respected Malcolm was an irreplaceable member of the Enfield branch. We shall all miss his presence.

**Lady Rosamund Willoughby** died on Wednesday 31st March. There was a private cremation followed by a Thanksgiving Service at Codford St. Peter Church near Warminster on Wednesday 26th May.



**Jimmy Wild.** News has just reached us that he passed away on Sunday 1st August. A full obituary will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

### **News from Enfield Branch by A Brown**

#### **Annual Reunion**

A good turn out from the branch once again for the annual service of remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral. Nineteen members attended and several others, who have relocated some distance from Enfield over the recent years or were unable to arrive early for the service, were on hand to meet us later at the Union Jack club for AGM and lunch. These included Chi Broadbent, John Yates, Alan Jennings and Jim Innes all members who have served on the Enfield committee and contributed to the running of the branch over the years. Also present, was Sid Hilton, Richard Hutchings, Brian Tate, Mike Turton and their wives. We were also able to welcome Brian Cox who has recently become a member of the branch. Dennis Reber who had also been looking forward to attending was unfortunately hospitalized following a serious operation and sent his apologies.



*Members of Enfield Branch at the Annual Reunion*

#### **Albuhera Day**

On May 16th Mr Jim Innes placed a wreath on behalf of the Middlesex Regimental Association at the Middlesex Memorial, which still remains on the site of Inglis barracks at Mill Hill. Since the closure of the barracks, Jim has voluntarily carried out this task and tidied up the immediate area of the memorial without fail on Remembrance Sunday's and Albuhera day's.

The barracks no longer exist, but the wreaths placed at the memorial remain a mute testimony to all passing by, that those who remain of the regiment have not forgotten their dead.

#### **Return to Belgium**

Thursday 3rd of June. For the third year running some of the branch were off to visit the 1st world war battlefields. The journey took us about four and a half hours from Enfield to the Nova hotel in Ypres(Leper) where we were to stay. We had booked our hotel rooms, which were quite comfortable some six or seven months in advance and the documentation clearly indicated that a twin room had been reserved for Joe Shore and Charlie Bysouth however somewhere along the line a mix up had occurred resulting in the pair being allocated a pleasant room with a large double bed, undismayed Joe and Charlie who have remained close friends for close on seventy years remarked "We've slept in trenches, bogs, ditches and the Sultan hotel, no problem" there were one or two saucy remarks from the rest of the group with references to the honeymoon couple and Darby and Joan, Joe's only other comment directed at Charlie "Be gentle with me Charles", Charlie's reply is unprintable, he later claimed to have taken his walking stick to bed with him to repel Joe's amorous advance.

Friday after a full English breakfast with the temperature already high we ventured out to reacquaint ourselves with the city, before we set off, the staff at the Nova hotel had kindly loaned us a wheelchair for Charlie who despite his protests was finding the heat and the cobbled streets hard going.

Those of you reading this who visited Ypres with the Royal West Kent's and Buffs in 2008 and stayed at the Sultan will be delighted to know that it is now boarded up and appeared to be in the process of being gutted. During the course of the morning we were introduced to Lionel Rosemont a professional guide and booked him for a four hour tour for that afternoon.



The cost, Thirty Euros per head may sound a bit steep but as it happened turned out to be worth every cent. Lionel Rosemont speaks excellent English although with a slight accent, and possesses a vast knowledge of the area and the events which took place there during 1914-1918.

Places such as Essex farm, Zillebeek and the Menin Rd took on new meaning as he guided us through these and other places stopping to tell of the horror and the regiments that fought there, often relating the deeds and experiences of individuals both military and civilian he led us through rows of gravestones pausing to point out those of particular interest, Lionel also produced a number of A10 sized photo's taken during the great war and depicting the spot where we were standing at the time.

Finally although our four hours were up Lionel obligingly drove to Tyne Cote cemetery to allow Joe, Charlie and Alex to place a posy of poppies at the wall panel dedicated to the men of the Middlesex Regiment. We also placed crosses on a row of ten graves all soldiers of the regiment.

We arrived back at Ypres slightly dehydrated but with the knowledge we had learned more of the first world war in four and three quarter hours than we had in a lifetime. Later that evening following a shower and evening meal the whole group gathered in the Old Bill tavern to get well and truly re-hydrated.

Saturday with the temperature again up in eighties the morning was spent browsing around the stalls in the huge market that had sprung up overnight in the city square, we returned to the Nova early afternoon stopping off to purchase the wares of the wonderful little pastry shop just across the road from the hotel, where the young lady proprietor immediately recognised us from last year and in particular Joe Shore who the women folk of Ypres seem to regard as the senior citizens answer to Russell Brand.

The afternoon had grown uncomfortably warm and much of the rest of it was spent in the cool surroundings of the hotel bar where we sipped cold drinks and devoured delicious cream pastries which we dedicated to Alf "Bunter" Burford who disappointingly had been unable join us this year.

It rained quite hard during the early hours of Sunday morning and there was still a light drizzle of rain when we left the hotel to go in search of the Hooze Crater, a vast hole 120 foot wide and 20 foot deep (now a lake) left in the ground after British sappers had tunnelled one hundred and ninety feet

under German concrete fortifications and in July 1915 ignited an enormous amount of ammonal, gunpowder and gun cotton creating an explosion that was heard as far away as Canterbury in Kent. Ten soldiers of the Middlesex regiment waiting in advanced positions were killed by the blast while losses to the Germans were estimated at seven hundred. The crater was then taken by the men of the 1st Gordon Highlanders and the 4th Middlesex Regiment.

Knowing that our regiment had been heavily involved in this battle we were keen to visit the site where there is apparently a museum with many artefacts and a number of bunkers and trenches still in existence. Unfortunately we were given the wrong directions and never got to find the Crater although we did discover some other interesting places including a cemetery containing graves nearly all of which were officers of cavalry regiments.

By noon the rain had ceased and the sun shone again allowing us to spend the rest of the afternoon leisurely visiting the souvenir and chocolate shops. Later that evening we paid one last visit to the Menin gate to watch the Last Post ceremony.

Our journey home next day was smooth and uneventful. It had been a great five days spent in good company and we had learned much. The Hooze Crater must wait for another time.

I would recommend to anybody visiting the area of Ypres in the future, that they spend a morning or afternoon with Lionel Rosemont if possible. It would be advisable to contact him by email at [www.frontline-tours.com](mailto:www.frontline-tours.com) before you visit.

### Summer Weekend

Friday 13th of July and we are once again on Hayling Island for an extended weekend. The autumn breaks we regularly spend at Sinah Warren are always enjoyable and relaxing, and with our social evenings at Enfield recently reduced to just six per annum an additional midsummer break was just right for us to catch up with the news and each other. Our visit this time was as usual thoroughly enjoyable and made special by the addition of the tribal elders Charlie Bysouth, Joe Shore and Fred Phillips who were accompanying us for the first time. This was definitely a lazy weekend.



With the temperature way up around the eighties our weekend days were spent mainly eating, drinking, lounging around the pool or in the Jacuzzi or perhaps swapping yarns on the patio where there was a cooling breeze. Terry Slater and wife Rosie put us all to shame on the Sunday by borrowing a couple of bicycles and taking off at a cracking pace to explore the local countryside while the rest of us watched them depart in horror and amazement.

I later heard that they were seen riding less steadily back from the nearby village pub, although this is unconfirmed. Our evenings were as usual passed away in the pavilion watching the cabaret and sharing a few more drinks. An excellent if somewhat laidback weekend spent in the very best of company.

### Fred Phillips

On the 7th August 2010 Fred Phillips celebrated his 90th Birthday. Joined by all of his family and friends, including his brother, actor Leslie Phillips at the Wormley Football club, Herts.



*Fred Phillips with his brother Leslie*

The bash started at 6:30pm and guests enjoyed a BBQ and buffet spread, and enjoyed some of the old classic 1940-50s tunes until 12 midnight.

Fred served with the 2/7th Bn. Middx Regt from day one of the 2nd World War until released in 1946. His services were in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Italy. He was involved in the Anzio landings in Jan 1944 South of Rome. On the break out Fred was caught in an extremely heavy mortar attack which left him badly wounded in both legs.

He then spent 5 months in hospital and convalescent before returning to the Bn. In the Italian Apennines Mountains serving as a Platoon Sgt. In C group MG until relieved by the American 88th Custers Division when the 2/7th Bn. Proceeded to Palestine at the outbreak of the troubles in 45/56.

On leaving Palestine the Bn. proceeded to Egypt for the disbanding of the Bn. As were many regiments at that time. Fred was then sent to G.H.Q Cairo as a C.Q.M.S for a period and then onto Sid Bishr, Alexandria release centre as the senior NCO of the depot for the troops leaving for home.

Once released from service he played an active part with the Enfield Branch, Middx and organised many years of the 2/7th Bn. Reunions. In recent years he was presented with a Merit Service Award for his service to the Regiment by Col. R.M. Cain OBE DL, which he treasures.

After the loss of his wife Joan he then lived in the Middx Regimental houses in Albuhera Close to this day.

Over the last 15 years he has partnered Mary Pearson who has taken great care of him for his domestic needs and although she is 92 she copes with no problems, and makes for a great relationship.

Fred is also the elder brother of Leslie Phillips the theatre, Film and Television actor CBE, OBE whose acting spans 75 years in the profession. He has a son Nigel and wife Julie, and daughter Sally and Husband Gary who have worked timelessly on his 90th Celebration. Apart from 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter he is also a great granddad.

Following the war years he was employed by Thorn Electrical Int. Ltd. as the Divisional Warehousing Manager of the company and retired in 1980 after 43 years.



**In praise of an old Diehard**  
**6202942 Sgt B.S. Lemaitre**



*Sgt B S Lemaitre in Cyprus*

Although a truly loyal Diehard, Basil Lemaitre was never a member of the Regimental Association and was always a bit of a loner. He was a difficult person with whom to keep in touch and I think he must have preferred it that way. Having said that he had a number of very good friends within the Middlesex Regiment. Apart from myself, Frank Waldron knew him very well as did Cyril Orme, Fred Hazelwood and Ray Clements to name but a few, alas no longer with us.

Basil was born in London on 25th August 1916 and enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment in 1936. He was one of the very first to volunteer for the Parachute Regiment when it was formed in the early 40's. He must have progressed very rapidly as he became a parachute jumping instructor.

He used to tell the tale of how one of his squads of would-be parachutists passed out. They were working from Ringway aerodrome near Manchester using twin engined Armstrong Whitworth Whitley aircraft where men were despatched through a hole in the floor over the DZ.

This particular intake had to make just one more drop to qualify. It was early on a Saturday morning and once the jump was completed all would be sent off on an eagerly awaited 36hr pass.

However, it was discovered that the red and green stand by/jump lights were not working and that by all the rules Basil, acting as dispatcher, and his squad would not be able to take off and complete their jump and the course. Also, no 36 hr leave pass for these boys and the RAF aircrew. With a bit of collusion, cunning and guile, Basil and the pilot hatched a scheme that when the pilot reached the designated DZ he would raise his hand. This meant "STAND BY". When he dropped his hand that was "GO", and the stick of men would exit tout de suite.

The Whitley took off and eventually up went the pilot's hand followed a few seconds later by the GO! Signal. All out successfully and no hitches so Basil went up, tapped the pilot on the shoulder and told him that was it - all gone. "What" said the pilot "you bloody fool; I merely raised my hand to adjust a control. We've let 'em all go right over the centre of Manchester!" Apparently, all the trainees had landed safely within the city and were being whisked off by ecstatic Mancunians into the nearest pubs and stood drinks until it was flowing out of their ear 'oles! And some got back late on the Monday!

I cannot vouch for the absolute veracity of this yarn, but it has a certain ring of truth to it. I am sure Jimmy Wild would remember it well.

Later in the war Basil took part in Operation Market Garden and was captured at Arnhem, spending the rest of the conflict as a P.O.W.

On release he came back to the Middlesex Regiment. I first met him in Vienna, August 1954 when I was posted to his platoon in A Company as a



corporal. Jimmy was at that time the CSM. A couple of months later I was promoted sergeant and became friends with Basil in the mess. I also served with him in Colchester, Cyprus and then in the T.A. where I was a PSI in 7 MX and Basil was with 8 MX at Hounslow, from where he was demobilised in early 1958.

He came to stay with my wife and me in Germany and also at Bordon when I was an instructor at the Army MT School but after this we lost touch. I know that after he was discharged from the army he worked for the Water Board and was i/c a small pumping station just by Wembley Stadium, later moving to Watford.

Recently I learned that, sadly, Basil passed away in Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood on 4th September 1974 aged 58.

Mick Elston  
Ex RQMS(T) 1 MX and 4 Queens

### Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I was impressed with the colour photograph on the cover of your last Newsletter of the Colours of the \*3 Battalions of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regt on parade at Canterbury'.

Being a 'Middlesex' man originally, it was a sad realisation (again) that the name of 'our' Regiment is now lost within other titles; nevertheless it does not stop one having a keen interest in our successors.

However, I was moved to look again at a watercolour painting on the wall at my home of the Colours of the SIX battalions of The Middlesex Regt, as they were assembled at the Regimental Depot during the 1914-1918 War.

I enclose a photograph of that painting, which my wife bought for my birthday many years ago, after I had greatly admired it at an antiques shop in Leominster. I was 'scared-off' by the price but God bless my wife for indulging me!



*Colours of six Battalions of Mx Regiment*

Being born and bred in Middlesex, raised in the era of the Compton brothers, Middlesex winning the County Championship and Arsenal (through the Compton brothers) being seen, in those days, as essentially a Middlesex side, one's natural loyalties remain through life. I soldiered under the Duke of Cambridge's Own cap badge in the School CCF, then in the TA 8th Bn Middlesex Regt when Ian Brotherton was the CO and their PSI the late Bert ('Black Abdul') Callaghan taught me the basics of soldiering.

I was sufficiently enthused to make a career of the Regular Army with the Parachute Regiment, then here at Hereford and serving my last eight in Oman. It was a great life but, for all that, one's original loyalties always remain strong.

Hopefully, you might be able to publish the enclosed photograph.



I always enjoy the Newsletter, despite never having been "a Regular" with "The Diehards", but knowing who where and who served in their TA.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Farnes (Col retd.)

Mr P E Gates ex 7 Pln C Coy 1st Bn MX writes from South Australia enclosing a photo of an MMG crew, and commenting as follows



*Mx MMG crew in Belgium - Autumn 1944*

I have enclosed a war time photograph, of a Vickers Machine Gun crew of the Middlesex Regiment in action in Belgium in the autumn 1944 my uncle John who served in the regiment is serving the ammunition belt.

My uncle John enlisted under the assumed name of Baker and was known as "Doughy Baker" but his real name was Muchmore and he was the brother of Sergeant Ronald Muchmore. John had been a regular soldier in the 1930's but for some reason he deserted and lived with the gypsies for a number of years. When WW2 broke out he re-enlisted into the Middlesex

Regiment. He was at Dunkirk in 1940 and was involved in the fighting in Normandy Belgium and Germany the photograph was accompanied by an article which I believe was published by the Daily Sketch.

I thought that it might be of some interest to World War 2 veterans. My best wishes to the Regimental Association for the coming year.

## Book Reviews

### BLOODLINE

The origins and Development of the Regular Formations of the British Army  
Price: £19.99

ISBN: 9781848842052, Type: Hardback, Pages: 176

In one concise volume, using easy-to-follow, family tree type tables, Bloodline shows the origins and development of the British Army, including the latest amalgamations and changes, together with a wealth of historical reference gathered from a variety of sources over many years.

The charts illustrate clearly how, in some cases, up to 25 original regiments of the line have, over centuries, by successive disbandment's and amalgamations, been reduced to a single regiment in today's superb, but shamefully over-stretched and underfunded, army.

A chronological summary of Battle Honours provides an overview of the British Army's campaigns over the past 300 years and notes on the origins of each formation place it's original purpose within the political and historical perspective of the time. A robust editorial throughout applauds the Army as 'the nations' most dependable and trustworthy institution.

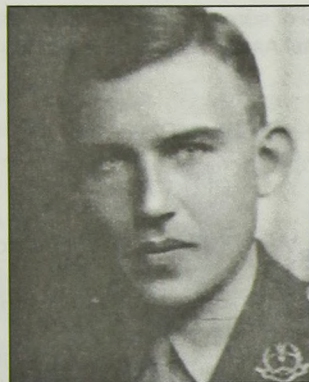
As well as providing a dependable ready-reference for writers, journalists and historians, Bloodline is a record of splendid achievements and provides an invaluable work of reference for anyone who has dealings with, or simply has an interest in the British Army.

Obtainable from Pen & Sword Books Ltd 47 Church Street Barnsley S70 2AS



## ROAD OF BONES THE SIEGE OF KOHIMA 1944

Fergal Keane 576pp Harper Press HB £25



*Major John Shipster*

The Battle of Kohima, which took place on the Indian side of the Burmese border a couple of months before D-Day was a supreme example of how a few men can have a seismic effect on whole continents declared Sam Kiley, himself a war correspondent, in the Evening Standard. The British and Indian defenders of this garrison post atop a small ridge of hills overlooking a vital road link were outnumbered ten to one by Japanese troops and engaged in bitter close range fighting, much of it concentrated for several days around a tennis court attached to the district commissioner's bungalow. Their resistance eventually led to the first campaign retreat by the Japanese Imperial Army, along what they called "the road of bones" because so many of their number died of starvation and exhaustion." One is immediately gripped and staggered", Kiley continued "by the heroism of men from the 4th Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kents, the 1st Assam Regiment, the half - mad millionaire's son, Lance Corporal John Harman, and the incomparable Ursula Graham Bower, who led a tribal guerrilla band behind enemy lines. In what Sunday Times reviewer Max Hastings called a masterly narrative.

The writing of "Road of Bones" was inspired by the story of Major John Shipster of 7/2 Punjab Regiment.

## HELP FOR SUFFERERS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC SYMPTOMS

A new service charity offering a way of treating post traumatic symptoms or PTSD which could be particularly helpful for people who do not like the idea of becoming a 'mental health patient'. This new treatment is available through **PTSD Resolution**.

The Resolution service is completely different from, but complementary to, Combat Stress: they do longer-term support, we do brief therapy aimed at getting the sufferer past the trauma and focussed onto rebuilding a normal life; they are primarily an in-patient service with three centres while we are an out-reach service and have a network of 250 therapists at discreet locations around the country so we treat people where they live. Psychological trauma often impacts on the families of sufferers and they too can be helped.

Psychiatric wards can be frightening and dangerous places, and most people would rather not have a mental disorder on their medical records. Visits to a Resolution therapist are entirely private. Some of our therapists work from home, some from GPs' offices or complementary health centres, and some can do home or prison visits. PTSD is generally seen as a long-term problem, but Resolution offers a relatively swift treatment usually taking no more than 4-5 sessions, sometimes fewer. Treatment conforms to NICE guidelines.

Cost is often a barrier to treatment. The average stay in a psychiatric hospital under the military contract costs several thousand pounds; a week at Combat Stress costs about £2000. The actual cost of treatment by Resolution is currently about £600, but the charity will provide free treatment to people who have no means of support. It may be that your Association could contribute.

We need your help to reach those who are suffering. Could you please make this information known to all your members, both present and past, ex-regulars and reservists, and ask them in their turn to pass it on?

For more information about the treatment we use and the way the organisation works please see **[www.ptsdresolution.org](http://www.ptsdresolution.org)** For or help, referrals, or enquiries just ring PTSD Resolution on **0845 021 7873** or email **[contact@ptsdresolution.org](mailto:contact@ptsdresolution.org)**.



## 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.

### Blazer Badges

Ice Buckets miniature side drum with Regimental Emblazon

Plus postage and packing

Ties (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 & Small

Regimental Cuff Links

Regimental Tie Grip

Regimental Tie Tack & Chain

Regimental Ladies Brooch

## STOP PRESS

**Major F L Griffiths** died on the 23rd of February 2010 aged 94. Fred enlisted into the Regiment in the 1930s and retired as a Major QM from the Queens Regiment on the 12th of January 1968.

Little is recorded about his pre war and war time service but it is known that he was with the 1st Battalion from 1945 onwards. He was promoted from CSgt to WOII when in Hong Kong in time to go to Korea as the RQMS. He remained with the Battalion in that rank until 1956 when he was posted as RQMS to Mons Officer Cadet School.

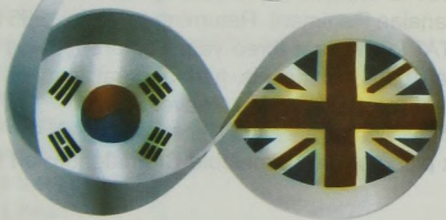
In 1958 he was commissioned and became the QM of the 8th Battalion moving on in 1961 to West Africa to take up the appointment of QM of the 2nd Bn the Ghanaian Regiment. Returning to UK in 1965 he joined the 4th Bn The Buffs (TA) for his last three years before leaving the service. He was a very keen card player. He had a great love of music and was particularly fond of the music of Jim Reeves.

His funeral took place at the Barnstable Crematorium on the 5th of March 2010.



# Thank You

## United Kingdom



### 60 YEARS OF COMMITMENT 60 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

THE YEAR 2010 MARKS THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE KOREAN WAR.  
THE PEACE, PROSPERITY AND LIBERTIES THAT WE CHERISH TODAY  
ARE BUILT ON YOUR SELFLESS SACRIFICES AND CONTRIBUTIONS.  
KOREA IS FOREVER INDEBTED AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO  
BUILD THE TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATIONS.

OUR PROFOUND RESPECT AND GRATITUDE IS DIRECTED TO THE BRAVE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE 21 UNITED NATIONS ALLIES WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR.



## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

*Framed greeting card presented to each participant on the visit*