



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 106

Autumn 2011



Albuhera, 16th May 2011

***Sandra Chinarro Franco - winner of this years PWRR
trophy with Brigadier Richard Dennis,
Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment***

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.

Secretary : Major D. Bradley, BEM
RHQ PWRR
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Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY

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Middlesex TW4 6LN

Carol Service

The Association are jointly sponsoring a Carol Service at St John's Church, Waterloo Road, London. Following the service take a short 250 yard walk to the Union Jack Club where a get together will take place.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served, get Christmas off to an enjoyable start.

All are welcome.

Forecast of Events 2011

8th September Officer's Luncheon Salisbury
Grasmere House Hotel
12.30hrs for 13.00hrs

9th November 7th Bn Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner

10th November Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey
Service commences 10.50hrs

12th November Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall
Now Supreme Court of Justice
10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs

13th November Remembrance Sunday

13th November 7th Bn Mx Remembrance Service Assemble 10.00hrs
At Parish Church St Mary & St George Hornsey

15 December Carol Service at St John's Church
Waterloo Road, London SE1 8TY
Service commences 19.00hrs
Seated 18.50hrs and afterwards
at Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London

Forecast of Events 2012

12th May Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance
Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral, London
Seated 10.50hrs Service 11.00hrs

12th May Association AGM and Annual Reunion
Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London

5th July Officer's Club Luncheon
Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, London

HRH DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE

Colonel Rex Cain sent the following letter to Captain James Lowther-Pinkerton MVO MBE Secretary to HRH Duke of Cambridge when the appointment to the Dukedom was announced:-

On behalf of the Regimental Association of the Duke of Cambridge's Own Middlesex Regiment please convey to His Royal Highness Prince William Duke of Cambridge and her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge our warmest good wishes for the future.

It is particularly appropriate that we do so in view of our having had the honour to have held the title since it was originally bestowed in 1876.

Yours sincerely
Rex Cain

He Received the following reply:-

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have asked me to send their warmest thanks and best wishes.

THE PRINCES OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

1 PWRR

The Battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James Coote DSO who took over command in September 2010 from Lieutenant Colonel Charlie Sykes. The Battalion is still based at Paderborn (Germany) and is in the Armoured Infantry role. Last year the Battalion went on exercise to BATUS in Calgary Canada as part of 20 Armoured Brigade. This was a tough 6 weeks, building up the armoured infantry skills in preparation for Afghanistan in 2011. Certain areas showed that a skills increase was required but in general it was an excellent few weeks and an opportunity to get away from Paderborn.

Life up to deployment will involve many courses, cadres and hard work for all ranks. On deployment the Battalion will provide various teams/groups for various tasks; which will include:

- a Police Monitoring and Advisory Group (PMAG) This will include deployment of small groups to train and advise the Afghan National Police (ANP) at all levels.
- b Rifle companies. Three rifle companies will be exported to other battle groups with each company consisting of 6 officers and 104 other ranks.

The PMAG role is high profile and often high risk. Teams operate alongside the ANP in isolation and are difficult to reach if an incident happens. This will provide a great opportunity for all ranks to display their skills and leadership.

The Battalion team was very successful in the Cambrian Patrol Competition where they achieved Gold standard. The Battalion provided groups of soldiers in uniform at the 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera in Spain.

2 PWRR

The Battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Adam Crawley. It is based at Woolwich in the public Duties role and is under command of London District. The Battalion moved from Cyprus to Woolwich in August 2010.

The Battalion moved into new reinstated Woolwich Garrison. Accommodation is new and very plush although modernisation is still required in the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes. Their tasks include mounting guard at Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace and the Tower of London. These are called "Blue Line" commitments as all ranks wear no 1 Dress (Blues). 2 PWRR are knocked over in the rush by the Foot Guards when high profile duties are needed (i.e. State Visits) but they hold the line together for normal guard duties. This is very high profile and all ranks have risen to the occasion and produced a high standard of drill which, as usual, is equal to the Guards!

In addition to the Public Duties they have the Falkland Islands Duty from May to October 2011; this will involve the deployment of 150 strong company groups. This deployment provides an excellent opportunity for joint co-operation with the other services and live firing with the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

The Battalion was heavily involved with the Royal Wedding and provided route liners and the Corps of Drums. Two buglers attended the Albuhera 200th celebrations in Spain and were a great success.

In addition to all of the above we are very fortunate to have a battalion on the mainland and they are called upon to complete many regimental tasks – a luxury we have not enjoyed for many years.

3 PWRR

The Battalion is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Geoff Minton MBE who took over command from Lieutenant Colonel David Mogg TD in August 2010. Last year they went to annual camp at Warcop. This year will involve an operational deployment and two annual camps.

The Battalion has a commitment to support 1 PWRR's deployment to Afghanistan with 50 all ranks. They will be mobilised in June and then complete a pre-deployment training camp in Cyprus and go on operations in August/September. The remainder of the Battalion will complete annual camp in Cyprus later in the year.

B Company – London Regiment

The Company is commanded by Major Richard Tuke, the Company is the strongest in the London Regiment but needs at least two more officers.

The London Regiment formed a composite company known as Amiens Company and it returned from a 6 month deployment to Afghanistan last November. B Company contributed a platoon to the ORBAT. Future deployment will be on Op HERRICK (Afghanistan) in 2011 and 2012 with 30 men deploying on each occasion. For those who did not deploy in 2010 annual camp was in Cornwall (St Mawgan Camp) and this year will be split between Thetford and Warcop.

Details re PWRR & London Regiment supplied by Major A J Martin



Pte Scott Roberts

LONDON REGIMENT

B Company Soldier's Distinguished Service in Afghanistan.

On May 7th 2010 Pte Scott Roberts of B (Queens Regiment) Company was in Helmand province Afghanistan when the checkpoint that he was manning came under sustained and accurate fire from the Taliban.

One burst cut down the supports of the rear Sanger causing the roof to collapse on the two soldiers inside. Pte Roberts and a colleague ran to the assistance of the injured soldiers and whilst his colleague attended to their injuries, Roberts engaged the enemy with a Sniper Rifle thus keeping their heads down and allowing the two injured soldiers to be evacuated from immediate danger.

The engagement continued for another two hours with the Automatic fire now replaced by a game of Snipers Cat and Mouse.

During the latter part of the engagement several Taliban rounds again hit the sanger and Pte Roberts Colleague received a gunshot wound to his lower back, effectively taking him out of the fight.

Pte Roberts continued to keep the Taliban at bay until at last they gave up the fight allowing the injured soldier to be evacuated.

Pte Roberts was awarded the Task Force Commanders Commendation for Distinguished Service and the award was presented by the Royal Honorary Colonel of the London Regiment, The Earl of Wessex, at a ceremony held at the TA centre in Horseferry Road on Sunday 8th May 2010.

PWRR JOURNAL

A comprehensive record of PWRR's activities can be obtained by becoming a subscriber to the annual issue of the Journal of the Regiment which is issued in December. A special concession allows members to take advantage of an introductory offer of £5.00 in the first year and £10.00 per annum thereafter. In addition it also reports on the activities of the OCA's of the former Regiments. You will find it to be money well spent.

To subscribe write to Major A J Martin the Editor, the Journal of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY, enclosing your cheque made payable to PWRR General Fund.

7th May 2011 London

After having enjoyed listening to the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment outside St Paul's Cathedral, members then attended a very moving Albuhera Day Service of Remembrance. After which they made their way to the Union Jack Club for the Annual General Meeting, lunch and the reunion.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regimental Association held on 7th May 2011 at the Union Jack Club Sandell Street London SE1.

Present D Aldridge, Captain K Beale, Major D Bradley Secretary, A Brown, A Burford, Colonel R Cain President, Major W Crumley, Colonel M Deakin, P Dyer, D Falke, B Finch, T Finnissy, C French, A Goodwin, B Grove, Major D Harwood, J Hawkins, D Howard, P Humphrey, E Hunte, J Hutchins, M Hutchins, J Innes, Major R Morris, B Murphy, J Potts, J Raby, J Reynolds, A Richardson, A Rudge, M Smith, P Steward, G Strevett, B Tate, T Taylor, Major R Thornton, M Turton, M Ward, K Watson, G Young, 1 signature was illegible and four late comers did not sign the register.



A montage of the Reunion

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

Welcome: Colonel R Cain welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies:

The following sent apologies for their absence: Major C Lawrence, Major S Henshaw, R Best, Major S Dowse, G Large, P Long, F Phillips.

The minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting were read and passed as a true record.

Proposed by Major R Thornton

Seconded A Burford

Benevolence: Major D Bradley BEM Secretary reported as follows;

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT BENEVOLENCE REVIEW DURING THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2010

During the year a total of 25 cases were investigated and 20 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 3 further Electrically Powered Vehicles (EPV's) 3 Orthopaedic chairs/beds and contributed to 2 Disabled Home Adaptations. We administered 1 ABF Annuity and the ABF generously contributed £65 per month per case. During this period we have renewed no Nursing Home Fees.

The Charity paid out £5,575 as individual-grants-aid and the ABF provided a further £3,650 in General Grants. Of the 5 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Associations assisted 3 after we had contacted them. 1 case was not receiving such allowances as Attendance, Mobility, Pensions Credit or Rent Rebate. The ABF total grants in support were £4,430 (inc. Annuities)

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 Veteran's Aid Centres Centres. A vote of thanks was recorded to Major J Rogerson for his excellent assistance during the year.

Proposed M Ward
Carried unanimously

Seconded J Raby

Finance: The Secretary reported as follows;

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2010

During the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2010 The Middlesex Regiment Accounts/Funds have received a total income of £32,500 of which £27,334 is dividend payments from our investments in both Mx1 and Mx2 accounts. Other income equals:

£2,604.00	Reunion Income (Members)
£2,562.00	General Donations

Our expenditure for the year totalled £44,102 of which £4,950.00 has been spent on 25 benevolent cases. Our Reunion expenditure totalled £9,733.00 therefore the fund subsidised the Reunion by £7,129.00. Other expenditure equals:

Expenditure

Cost of Generating Funds	
Investment Management Fees	1,821.00
Charitable Activities	
Grants - Misc	1,825.00
Grant Union Jack Club	1,000.00
Grant St Paul's Furniture	10,000.00
Grant - Band Uniforms	3,000.00
Dmr Stagpoole VC Grave Refurbishment	1,872.00
Remembrance Expenditure	297.00
Presentation Costs	286.00
Newsletter	6,206.00
Support	
Postage and Office expenses	463.00
Travel expenses	343.00
Insurance	104.00
Governance Costs	
Audit Fees	878.00
Meeting Expenses	1,324.00

Total Expenditure for year 2010 = £44,102.00

Therefore our net expenditure over income for the financial year has been £11,602.00. This overspend has in the main been caused by the grant made for St Paul's Cathedral Furniture. 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 £625,909.00 and at the end of the year £658,805.00 an investment and market increase in value of £34,717.00 compared to a gain of £37,526.00 in the previous year.

The overall value of our funds is £662,168.00.

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 Major D Harwood

Seconded A Burford

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. In all cases and situations please ensure that the correct protocol is used when dealing with Association business i.e. Secretary in first instance. You may then go to the Chairman/President if you are unhappy with my decision or direction.
5. 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.

REPORT ON THE ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND ANNUAL REUNION 2010

Annual Service of Remembrance

The Service saw its best attendance to date with some 205 members of the Association in attendance plus 27 members of the Army Cadet Force and 6 members from B Company The London Regiment.

The Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (38 in attendance) was particularly well received and our members as well as the general public enjoyed their music in the precinct prior to the Service.

The ACF acted as 'Street Liners', thereby guiding members to the required location as well as acting as Ushers. The Service was enjoyed by our members and they enjoyed the selection of hymns! With the Dean of St Paul's delivering an easy to understand, thought provoking Sermon.

The Annual Reunion

Once again the Union Jack Club proved to be an excellent venue for the Reunion. The checking in system was swift and efficient due to the effort of the soldiers from the Freefall Team of the PWRR.

The setting up of a PRI stall was well received by the members allowing them to purchase regimental ties and goods.

The Union Jack Club produced enough bar staff to ensure there was not a long wait at the bar for drinks. The assistance of the ACF in ushering members to the AGM mean't that time was not wasted. The food and the service was of a high standard and I am very pleased to report that I have had no complaints whatsoever. I therefore conclude that it was a success.

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 to the Executive Committee for their efforts during the year and to Major D Bradley for all that he does for the Association and to M Ward for his production of the newsletter.

Proposed by Major G Crumley

Seconded by M Hutchins

Carried unanimously

The Meeting closed at 13.43 hrs

Officers' Club Luncheon

The second Annual Officers' Club Luncheon, replacing the annual dinner, was held at the Union Jack Club on Thursday the 14th of July 2011 Colonel Rex Cain presiding. The principal guest was Colonel Patrick Crowley, Deputy Colonel the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Regimental Guests: Mr & Mrs Victor Barley, Mrs Jean Clayden, Mrs Andy Hutchings and Mrs Moira Jeffcoat.

Members and Private Guests: Brig Brian Marciandi, Col Rex Cain, Lt Col & Mrs Mike Deakin, Lt Col & Mrs Ronnie Fisher, Maj Bob Bartlett, Maj & Mrs Dennis Bradley, Rt Rev Mgr Ralph Brown, Maj & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj & Mrs Harold Couch, Maj Gordon Crumley, Maj Steve Dowse with Mrs Helen Wallace, Maj & Mrs Brian Finch, Maj & Mrs Derrick Harwood, Maj James Jonklaas, Maj & Mrs Ron Morris, Maj & Mrs Joe O'Gorman, Capt Ken Beale, Sir John Birch, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Capt & Mrs John Lenaghan, Sir Michael Pickard, Mr Harold Clayden, Lt & Mrs Peter Ottino, Lt Jeremy Syers and Mr John Warnaby.

Apologies and regrets were received from: Maj Ken Clayden, Maj Tony McManus, Capt Dan Cattell and Mrs Ann Davies.

Colonel Rex Cain welcomed the guests and thanked the members for attending. He said this was not the place for long speeches. He hoped that everyone had enjoyed the excellent meal provided by the Union Jack Staff and thanked them for the high standard of their service.



The Officer's



The Ladie's



Sitting down to lunch

Please note in your diary that the lunch in 2012 will be held at the Union Jack Club on Thursday the 5th of July

Drummer Dudley Stagpoole VC DCM

Our readers will no doubt remember that the Regiment arranged last year for some remedial work to be carried out to his grave stone. Printed herewith is a copy of a letter received by the Secretary.

VICTORIA CROSS AND GEORGE CROSS ASSOCIATION

(Registered under the War Charities Act 1940)

Chairman:
J. W. BEATON, ESQ., G.C., C.V.O., J.P.

Vice Chairmen:
FLIGHT LIEUTENANT J. A. CRUICKSHANK, V.C., E.D. (U.K.)
CAPTAIN RAMBAHADUR LIMBU, V.C., M.V.O. (Overseas)

Hon. Treasurer:
A. J. OLEHILL, ESQ., G.C.

Hon. Secretary:
H. W. STEVENS, ESQ., G.C.

HORSE GUARDS
WHITEHALL
LONDON SW1A 2AX
TELEPHONE: 020 7930 3506
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From: Mrs. Diddy Grahame QBE, MVO Secretary

30th March 2011

To: Major D Bradley BEM, Association Secretary

Drummer Dudley Stagpoole VC

Thank you so much for your letter and for sending me the copy of your Middlesex Regimental Association Newsletter, which I was very interested to read and the headstone looks immaculate. I'm so glad all went well on the day and marvellous it was so good that the gallant Drummer's great granddaughter was able to attend the reception at least. A good reason for blessing the local Press.

Enclosed is the grant towards your costs, which the Trustees are glad to be able to help with.

It was with much interest I read of the blue plaque in memory of Robert Ryder VC. I remember meeting him in 1972 and he fascinated me with his stories of the Somme and some of the other things he got up to in his life. He was a good friend and mentor to one of our George Cross members many years ago and we often talk of him when we meet.

With all the best of wishes and many congratulations on the completion of such a worthwhile project.

Cadets at St Paul's Cathedral

by Sergeant E Roffey 235 Westminster Det. London Scottish

It was an early start again for 10 London Scottish cadets and two of their instructors, as they headed to St Paul's Cathedral for a Remembrance and Commemoration Service on Saturday 7th May 2011.

We were there with cadets from 19 Company and South East Sector ACF to provide an honour guard for Sir David Brewer, Lord Lieutenant of London, servicemen and ex servicemen from the Middlesex Regiment Association and for other dignitaries who were commemorating 200 years since the Battle of Albuhera. The service was held in the Middlesex Chapel.

Luckily enough the rain held off for the entire time we were outside, so there were lots of smiling faces from cadets and adults alike, particularly when we were all invited back to the Union Jack Club for lunch and refreshments.

Whilst at the Union Jack Club the cadets spoke to many of the elderly ex-servicemen and listened to their stories. We really enjoyed the day and we thank the Middlesex Regiment Association for their kind hospitality.

Lisbon Maru Rescuers to Visit UK in 2012

Readers may be familiar with the Lisbon Maru incident in 1942, when 1,834 British prisoners of war from Hong Kong, including 1st Bn The Middlesex Regt, were being transported to Japan to work as slave labour on board a cargo ship, the Lisbon Maru. The ship was torpedoed off the coast of China and sank on 2 October. The Japanese battened down the hatches keeping the prisoners in the holds in the hope that all would drown, and when some managed to break out, started shooting at them. In the ensuing tragedy, 828 prisoners perished.

Some of the survivors were picked up by Japanese naval ships (although a number were shot or thrown back into the sea whilst trying to board), some managed to swim ashore, and 384 were rescued by local Chinese fishermen who risked their own lives to rescue as many as they could.

Four of these courageous fishermen are still alive; all in their 90s. Arrangements are being made for two or three of them to come to the UK in 2012. Few firm details are yet available, but it is expected that the visit will take place around 2 October, to mark the 70th Anniversary of the tragedy.

Major (Ret'd) Brian Finch, who is a Chinese speaker, will be hosting the visit and is aiming to arrange a gathering to thank the fishermen for the selfless courage they displayed during the War. Readers who know of any survivors of the incident, or

members of their families or friends, are asked to get in contact so that he can invite them to the gathering, which is likely to be in the London area.

He is also running a fundraising campaign both to help fund the cost of hosting the visit and to support the work of the Lisbon Maru Association of Hong Kong, which is dedicated to keeping alive the memory of the tragedy and supporting the fishermen and their families, with an eye on the future. They regard the selfless actions of the fishermen in 1942 as one of the finest examples of Sino-British co-operation at a people-to-people level seen for hundreds of years; and they aim to use this background to support the youth of Zhoushan (where the fishermen come from) through scholarships and other forms of educational exchanges.

Contact details:

Brian Finch
Roundelay House
Chawleigh
Chulmleigh
Devon EX187HT
Tel: 0136383078
E-mail: bfinch@tiscali.co.uk

Details of the fundraising campaign can be found on the website:
www.wix.com/bfinch/walkforwarheroes

New Members

A C Lindsey D Coy 5MX 1962

Obituaries

Brigadier E R Holmes CBE TD JP died on 30th April 2011 of cancer after a long illness. Richard as he was known had a distinguished career with the Territorial Army having commanded a company with 5 Queens before moving on to command 2 Wessex then he subsequently held various appointments, promoted to Brigadier TA at HQ Land Command in February 1993. In November 1997 he became the Director Reserve Forces and Cadets in the Ministry of Defence, the first Territorial officer to hold the post from which he retired in 2000.

He was appointed Colonel of the Regiment of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in September 1999 an appointment he held until February 2007. A prolific author on military matters, he wrote the book "Dusty Warriors" which tells of PWRR's tour of duty in Iraq. Richard was also a well known TV pundit having broadcast on military subjects for the BBC 2 channel many times. A celebration of his life and service was held at the Royal Military Chapel Sandhurst on 8th June 2011.

Malcolm William Deakin who served as a regular officer with the Regiment from 1964 until 1968 and was with the 1st Battalion in Gibraltar and Northern Ireland died suddenly on the 24th of May 2011. His funeral took place on Thursday the 9th of June 2011 at St Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, Stanstead Mountfitchet followed afterwards by a reception in the Village Hall.

Mrs Terry Dowse wife of Major Stephen Dowse died on Tuesday the 19th of April 2011 after a long illness borne with great courage and fortitude. Her funeral took place at Salisbury Crematorium on Wednesday the 4th of May 2011. Along with members of her family and her many friends the following from the Regiment attended:- Col Mike Ball, Brig & Mrs Gavin Bulloch, Maj & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj & Mrs Gordon Crumley, Lt Col Mike Deakin, Maj & Mrs David Falcke, Lt Col & Mrs Ronnie Fisher, Maj & Mrs Frank Gladden, Col & Mrs Mike Hayward, Maj & Mrs Chris Lawrence, Lt Col & Mrs Hugh Lohan, Maj Tony McManus and Maj & Mrs Ron Morris.

Alec E Ewen who served with The Regiment 1943-1944 passed away on 24th May last. No other information is available.

Owen Richards who served as an officer with The Regiment in World War Two and left in the rank of Captain died on the 17th of January 2011. Nothing further is known.

Robert James Ridler (Jimmy) 6214250 2/8th Battn Middx Regt.(later 1st Resuscitated), B Coy., passed away on the 12th July 2011 aged 96 years, whilst living with his daughter at Ware in Hertfordshire.

Jimmy joined the Middlesex Regt in July 1940 and after training he should have left for Hong Kong for service with the 1st Battalion but because of a motor cycle accident he missed the draft. He always considered himself lucky as the battalion was later captured in Hong Kong in December 1941. Jimmy went to Northern Ireland on the next draft, and joined the 2/8th in February 1941. He trained as a range taker and passed first class. He also went on intensive training on the Vickers machine gun.

Because of his civilian occupation as a baker, Jimmy was also asked to cook for the Sergeants' Mess whilst in Northern Ireland.

In May 1942 the 2/8th was reconstituted as the new 1st Battalion and Jimmy was in B Coy. (Machine Gun Coy) the battalion returned to England in February 1943, was reorganised and further training ensued.

The battalion was ordered to join the 15th Scottish Division in September 1943. It was with this division that the battalion was destined to eventually go to France for the invasion. Jimmy served throughout the Normandy Campaign as a range

taker and machine gunner. He also made sure the boys of his company were looked after with his hydro burner for food and drink. Towards the end of the war, whilst in Lubeck Jimmy was asked to cook for the Officers' Mess.

Jimmy was immensely proud of his regiment and often thought of the mates he left behind. He tried not to miss the reunions at St Paul's Cathedral but since he lost the use of his legs he found it difficult to participate.

He was a true Diehard and his daughter will be taking his ashes to Bayeux which was Jimmy's last request.

RP

Fred Thomas died on the 15th of March 2011 aged 86. He served with the 1/7th Battalion towards the end of World War Two and landed in France as a reinforcement during July/August 1944 and stayed with them until the War ended in 1945. He was a strong supporter of the both the Regimental Association and the Royal British Legion and seldom missed a reunion or an event until his health started to fade in the more recent years. His funeral was held at the Easthampton Crematorium on Monday the 4th of April. The Regiment was represented by Maj Ron Morris who laid a Middlesex Regiment Wreath in his memory. Fred, very proud of his time with the Regiment, he left a note to ask that his service should commence with the playing of the Regimental Marches. This request was duly met.

Captain William Tricker died in 2011 the actual date is not known to us. He served throughout World War Two with the 2/8th Battalion and stayed with them when it became the 1st Battalion to replace the original 1st lost in Hong Kong.

William R Warman 6210975 who passed away on 25th May served with 2nd Battalion A Company from December 1939 until February 1946. Proud of his service with the Regiment especially landing on Sword Beach on D day and fighting up to relieve the troops at Pegasus Bridge. He visited the battlefields twice to show his family where he came ashore and visited the museums and displays in the area with mixed emotions. He was driver to Yehudi Menuhin when Yehudi visited to entertain the troops. Bill kept in regular touch by Email with Lt. Colonel Rex Fendick his Canloan Officer. On demob he returned to the printing trade and lived in North London before moving to High Wycombe in 1957 where, aged 93, he died after a short illness. Bill was cremated at Amersham Crematorium and his ashes will be buried at Chalfont St Peter with his wife who predeceased him.

A C Young who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea died on the 25th of December 2010. We were told of his passing by his widow when she received the 2011 Spring Newsletter. That is all the information we currently have.

News from The Iberian Peninsular

Mrs Audrey Browning presented to the chapel at Elvas, which is adjacent to the British Cemetery, two hassocks which she had embroidered to mark the Regiment's 200th anniversary of their involvement in the Battle of Albuhera.



*The Middlesex Regiment Hassocks stitched for the Bicentenary 1811-2011
by Audrey Browning*

The cup which was presented to the town of Albuhera by the Princes of Wales's Royal Regiment to be awarded annually to the pupil who makes the most improvement in the English language was this year won by Sandra Chinarro Franco. The trophy continues to be contested with enthusiasm and normally seems to be won by a young lady. See photo on front cover of the presentation by Brigadier Richard Dennis Colonel of PWRR

Can you Help

Lt Col Robert Le Chantoux,, a serving French officer stationed at SHAPE is a military historian who is currently researching the Middlesex Regiment's military activities in Normandy in 1944. He is a friend of Roy Bishop and has asked his assistance in tracing a soldier with the Regimental No 6197037. If you can help please reply to Roy Bishop telephone no 01903 201893, email roystonbishop@hotmail.com

Cpl William Batterbee of Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment who submitted an article "Life in the Army is Like That!" published in the Spring 2011 newsletter

has phoned from Ontario Canada asking whether anyone has any knowledge of Stacy. If so could you please let me know and I will pass on the relevant information.

Book Review

Keith Watson who wrote the book "Rough Justice" has now completed his latest novel "Lemon Meringue Pie". The book, retail price £9.99 is available via Amazon and on demand at Waterstone's but to celebrate the launch Keith can supply a copy direct to you for £9.99 postage paid. His address is K Watson 1 The Hawthorns, Monks Risborough, Bucks HP27 9PT.

'Lemon Meringue Pie'

Steven Barkley has just completed his National Service and is on the point of leaving Cyprus when he receives a letter which he places in his pocket intending to read later.

Dawn is just breaking when, passing over Europe, he opens the letter and on reading it receives a shock which will change his life forever.

Reluctant to divulge the letter's contents, he returns to work in the City feeling bored, guilty and demoralised.

A chance sighting of a newspaper advertisement offering a new life "down under" for just ten pounds appeals to him; impulsively he joins the queue in The Strand outside Australia House.

Revelation of the letter plus the Suez crisis and Hungarian uprising, make the purpose for migrating easier for Steven's family to understand as he joins the exodus on a ship load of "Ten Pound Poms" bound for Australia.

Did You Know?

Heroes return scheme extended to 2012, through the scheme, Second World War veterans from the UK, Channel Islands and Republic of Ireland can apply for travel and accommodation costs to visit places across the world where they saw active service or to take part in an official commemoration in the UK. War widows and widowers of veterans are also eligible, and carers and spouses can also receive funding to travel with veterans.

Contacts for information and details of how to apply for a Heroes Return 2 grant call 0845 00 00 121 or visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/heroes_return

Enfield Branch will cease the issue of a branch newsletter; this decision has been made due to the high cost of printing and postage.

Death of a good friend of The Regiment

Marcus Davidson died on Friday 15th July 2011 after a long illness. Marcus was a TV producer who in 1993 was involved in the making of a BBC documentary marking the 50th anniversary of the Battle of El Alemein. During the commemoration ceremony he was introduced to Major Alan Carter the then Chairman of the 1/7th Bn 39/45 Club. Marcus was introduced to several of the other members of the club who had fought in the Western Desert and as a result he was invited to their annual Luncheon at the TA Centre in Hornsey.

Having heard their story Marcus was full of admiration for the veterans of the 1/7th and in their honour he produced a film of the anniversary celebrations that also included footage of the original government documentary of the time 'Desert Victory'. In recognition of his interest and support he was himself made an honorary member of the 39/45 Club.

Marcus and his wife Barbara were regular supporters of the annual lunches and forged many personal friendships from amongst the membership particularly with Tony White the long serving Club Secretary.

In 2006 on the 60th anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe the Mayor of the northern French town of Couvreville invited a representation from the 1/7th along with soldiers from the successor unit to join them in their celebrations. Sadly the invitation came at very short notice. Thanks to Marcus and his wife Barbara's command of the French language they were able to see that at least Tony White was able to be present escorted by a detachment of 10 soldiers from B Company of the London Regiment, the successors to the 1/7th Bn The Middlesex Regiment.

The funeral took place at Crown Hill Crematorium at Milton Keynes on 11th August. Major Derrick Harwood represented the Regiment.

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 PWRR Central Charities - 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

