



# *The Die-Hards*

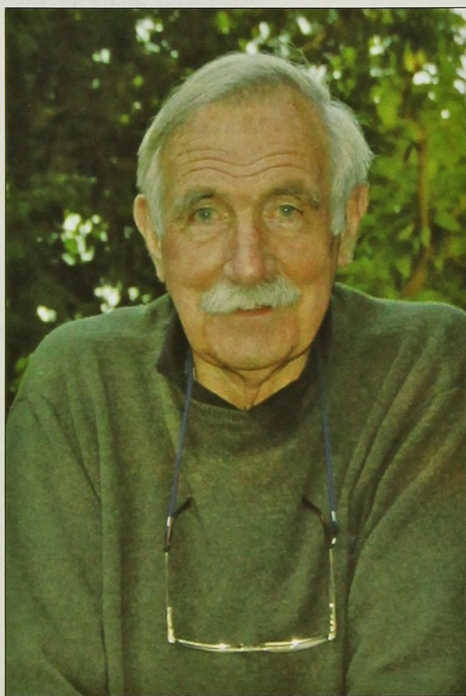
NEWSLETTER

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No. 108

Autumn 2012

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**Major C.L. Lawrence M.C.**  
**1929 - 2012**

*President* : Colonel R.M. Cain, OBE, DL  
*Honorary Vice President* : Brigadier B A M Pielow JP  
*Chairman* :  
*Vice Chairman* : Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.  
*Secretary* : Major D. Bradley, BEM  
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## Forecast of Events 2012

8th November 7th Bn Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner  
  
 8th November Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey  
 Service commences 10.50hrs  
  
 10th November Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall  
 Now Supreme Court of Justice  
 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs  
  
 11th November Remembrance Sunday  
  
 11th November 7th Bn Mx Remembrance Service Assemble 10.00hrs  
 At Parish Church St Mary & St George Hornsey  
  
 13th 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.  
 (\*Refer to back page)

**Change of Venue:** Enfield Branch have re-located to North Enfield  
 Conservative Club at 278 Baker Street, Enfield EN1 3LD  
 where their meetings will continue on the last Tuesday of  
 every other month commencing on 25th September 2012.

## Forecast of Events 2013

25th May Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance  
 Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London  
 Seated 10.15hrs Service 10.30hrs  
  
 25th May Association AGM and Annual Reunion  
 Union Jack Club, Sandell Street London  
 Annual General Meeting 13.00hrs  
 Luncheon 14.00hrs  
  
 4th July Officer's Club Luncheon, Union Jack Club  
 Sandell Street, London.  
 12.00hrs for 13.00hrs



## **PWRR RHQ**

We wish Colonel M J Ball Regimental Secretary and Major A J Martin Deputy Regimental Secretary both of whom have recently retired from their posts at RHQ a long and happy retirement and send our best wishes for their future happiness. We welcome Colonel Wayne Harber Regimental Secretary and Major Giles Clapp as his deputy who will now take up the duties which these posts entail.

### **Saturday 12th May 2012 Albuhera Service of Remembrance**

The customary service was held in the Regimental Chapel at St Paul's Cathedral, the attendance continues to grow each year and does much to foster and continue the regimental spirit and friendships of the past.

Music before, during and after the service was played by the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment under the direction of WO1 Bandmaster Ian Harding. The lesson was read by Colonel R M Cain, the address was given by The Reverend Dr D Coulter Deputy Chaplain General (Army) and the prayers were led by The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft our Honorary Chaplain.

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regimental Association held at the Union Jack Club on Saturday the 12th of May 2012.**

#### **Those present.**

I Aldridge, G Barton, Capt K Beale, Maj D Bradley, A Broadbent, A Brown, A Burford, Col R Cain, Capt P Clarke, Lt Col M Deakin, Capt M Doran, Capt S Enthoven, Maj D Falcke, Maj B Finch, T Finnissey, E Green, B Grove, Maj J Hamill, Maj D Harwood, J Hawkins, D Howard, E Hunte, J Innes, Maj R Morris, J Raby, A Rudge, M Smith, R Smith, G Stevens, P Stewart, J Sturt, B Tate, T Taylor, M Turton, K Wittig.

#### **Apologies.**

Maj G Crumley, Maj S Dowse, P Dive, Capt M Flynn, P Howells, Maj C Lawrence, M Mulvaney, M Ward.

#### **Welcome.**

In the absence of Maj C Lawrence who was unable to attend Col R Cain chaired the meeting and welcomed those attending.

## **Financial Report 2011.**

The Secretary presented the Financial Report to the meeting that shows the assets of the Association are worth £607,369.00p. Proposed by E Green and seconded by Capt K Beale that the accounts be accepted. Carried.

## **Benevolence Report 2011.**

The Secretary presented the Benevolence Report for the period 1 Jan 2011 - 31 Dec 2011 and made particular reference to the help and assistance given to the Association by the ABF, SSAFA Forces Help and the Royal British Legion.

## **The Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebration - 23 Jun 2012.**

Maj Bradley made mention of the indoor street party that has been organised at the UJ Club for Saturday the 23rd of June between 1500 hrs and 1800 hrs. He urged members to attend. Tickets cost £10 obtainable from RHQ PWRR using the pro forma in the Spring 2012 Newsletter. It will be a good fun occasion.

## **General Notes from the Secretary.**

Under this heading those attending were advised of the following:-

The need to arrange an appointment prior to visiting RHQ. This ensures that someone is available to see you. The need to inform RHQ when contact details change - addresses and so on.

The need to return stores promptly when out on loan, flags for funerals and the like. (The Secretary mentioned that he does not have the time to keep chasing people up). Finally he asked that members should let him know should they be aware of any who may require help from the Association. This will enable him to make any arrangements that maybe necessary.

## **2013 AGM and the Annual Reunion.**

Arranged to take place at the Union Jack Club on Saturday 18 May 2013.

**NB The date has now been amended 25th May 2013**

## **Closing Remarks.**

Col R Cain thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 1330 hrs.

D Bradley Maj Association Secretary.



## Annual Reunion 12th May 2012 held at the Union Jack Club

Following the Annual General Meeting members adjourned to the bar before sitting down to a fine lunch, much enjoyed by all present, after which they retired to the bar to discuss and recall past experiences with old comrades.



### Around The Annual Reunion



Heinz Johannson presents a banner to the Association



### **Enfield Branch hosted an Easter Lunch on Sunday 7th April 2012.**

Alf Burford, John Yates and Frank Dawson all drove the hundred miles or so from their homes to meet up with other members of the branch and enjoy an excellent three course lunch and an afternoon of splendid entertainment at the conservative club in Enfield. The lunch also provided a rare outing for the much loved Reg Best who remains severely handicapped following a major stroke just after representing the regiment at the Cenotaph parade three years ago. His presence along with his wife Lillian enhanced a perfect day for all of us. Our thanks to Peter Ford for his invaluable assistance in arranging the lunch.



*Lillian and Reg Best with Frank Dawson*

### **Under an English Sky The ANZAC War Memorial and Cemetery Harefield.**

Every year Hounslow Branch attend the ANZAC Day Service at Harefield in the village church of St Mary's, where the local population gather to remember the relationship which has been fostered over the last ninety seven years, after a hospital was established there to receive casualties suffered by Australian troops. April 25th 1915 is a day writ large in the history of the Antipodes and commemorates one of the bloodiest campaigns of World War One The Dardenelles.

The first patients arrived in June 1915, survivors of Gallipoli, the hospital was originally seen as a clearing house for the wounded but due to the large casualties sustained during the war accommodation was expanded to 1000 beds. Australian Government policy was for Australian wounded to be nursed by Australians at Harefield this required a staff of over 300. By the end of hostilities over fifty thousand men had passed through Harefield. The ANZAC cemetery in which 111 men and one woman, a nurse from Sydney, were laid to rest was established on land adjacent to St Mary's church donated by the Lord of the Manor Sir Francis Newdigate

After the completion of the service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving the very large congregation moved to the cemetery for An Act of Remembrance. After the sounding of the Last Post, two minutes silence and Reveille wreaths were laid at the Obelisk erected in 1921 and the children of the village laid flowers on every grave. Refreshments were served in the village hall afterwards.

### **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Armed Forces Parade and Muster Saturday 19th May 2012 Windsor**

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Armed Forces Parade at Windsor Castle to commemorate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and were received by the Chief of the Defence Staff, the First Sea Lord, the Chief of the General Staff and the Chief of the Air Staff. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness were received in the Quadrangle with a Royal salute and witnessed a flypast by a "Diamond 9" formation of Typhoon aircraft. Detachments from the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force marched past The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

The troops then marched to Home Park (Private) to where, Her Majesty and His Royal Highness drove through Windsor to attend a Drumhead Service. The Chief of The Defence Staff (General Sir David Richards) addressed the Parade and The Queen was pleased to reply.

Subsequently, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh witnessed a Tri-Service flypast of rotary and fixed wing, aircraft following which the muster left the arena.

The Diamond Jubilee Parade and Muster was an opportunity for the Armed Forces to demonstrate the esteem that they have for their Commander in Chief. As they came to Windsor in their thousands, they add their congratulations and thanks to the countless others for sixty years of unstinting support and service to them, and the millions who have gone before them during The Queen's reign.



### Enfield Branch Celebrate The Diamond Jubilee.

The Branch Lunch on Sunday 19th of June hurriedly organised to compensate for the cancellation of the proposed indoor street party at the Union Jack Club exceeded all expectations. Frank Dawson who travelled down from Norfolk, senior member Joe Shore, Diehard widows Joy Disney and Sylvia Pool and our dear old comrade Reg Best who managed to join us courtesy of his carers were among the twenty two who arrived at the Enfield Conservative club at 1300 hours to enjoy an unbelievable three course lunch chosen from a widely varied menu and an afternoon of excellent entertainment. Members stayed until 1900 hours although half a dozen or so were reluctant to leave and remained behind to round off the evening with a few extra yarns and drinks.



*Members of Enfield Branch at their Diamond Jubilee Lunch*

### Officers' Club Luncheon

The third annual Officers' Club Luncheon was held at the Union Jack Club on Thursday the 5th of July 2012 Colonel Rex Cain presiding. Colonel Mike Ball, formerly the Regimental Secretary to The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, was the principal guest.

Regimental Guests:- Mrs Ann Ball, Mrs Jean Clayden and Mrs Andy Hutchings.

Members and Private Guests:- Brig Brian Marciandi, Col Rex Cain, Lt Col & Mrs Mike Deakin, Maj Bob Bartlett, Maj & Mrs Dennis Bradley, Rt Rev Mgr Ralph Brown, Maj & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj & Mrs Harold Couch, Maj & Mrs Steve Dowse, Maj David Falcke, Maj & Mrs Brian Finch, Maj & Mrs Derrick Harwood, Maj James Jonklaas, Maj David Margand, Maj & Mrs Ron Morris, Maj & Mrs Joe O'Gorman, Maj & Mrs Barry Reed, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Capt John Lenaghan, Mr Howard Clayden, Lt & Mrs Peter Ottino, Lt Jeremy Syers and Mr John Warnaby.

Apologies were received from:- Maj Ken Clayden, Maj Gordon Crumley, Maj Nigel Legg, Maj Tony McManus, Capt Ken Beale, Capt Clifford Bihey, Capt Simon Enthoven, Capt Geoffrey Jubb, Mrs Ann Davies, Mrs Joan Fisher, Mrs Dianne Henshaw, Mrs Moira Jeffcoat.

Colonel Rex Cain, during his address, made a presentation to Colonel Mike Ball to mark his retirement and to thank him for all the help and assistance he has given to the Regiment during his time at the Regimental Headquarters of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment in Canterbury

### Times Past

#### 1952/53 Milestones and Memories

**By Capt. Ken Beale MBE**

The excellent photograph in the spring Die-Hards Newsletter of the Coronation Party has prompted me to add some more milestones and memories. On secondment to the Middlesex Regiment at the start of 1952 I became a Die-Hard. One of the earliest photographs I have is of the WO's and Sgts Mess.



*1st Bn The Middlesex Regt (DCO) WO'S and Sgts Mess  
San Wai Camp, Hong Kong, March 1952*



On 5th November 1952 the battalion embarked on H.M.T. Empire Fowey, bound for Southampton. The next few months were spent at Warley Barracks, Brentwood. Marches took place in the London Boroughs. They culminated on the 19th December when the battalion marched through the heart of London to Horse Guards Parade. Here the battalion was inspected by Lord Latham, HM Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex. This was followed by the presentation to the regiment of 20 silver bugles.

The move to Zeltweg in Austria was completed in March 1953. Shortly after arrival the Colour Party to represent the regiment at the Queen's Coronation was selected. Each infantry regiment taking part in the Coronation procession was represented by a Colour Party of ten.

The 1st Bn Middlesex Regiment was represented by:-

**Commander** - Capt. C.N. Claydon

**Ensigns** - Lt. W. M. M. Deacock, Lt. B. H. Marciandi

**Escorts** - WO II T. McMillan, Sgt. P. Dive Sgt. G. R. Walsh, Sgt. K. E. Beale, Cpl. G. Anderson, L/Cpl K. Partridge, Pte. F. Thorndycroft.



At the end of April we travelled by the Medlock train to the Hook of Holland, ferry to Harwich and train to Mill Hill East. The officers travelled separately bringing the Colours. At Mill Hill East we requested transport to convey us to Inglis Barracks. This was not forthcoming therefore we had to trudge up Bittacy hill carrying our kit bags, cases and the colour pikes etc. however from then on we were made very welcome. From our arrival until the Coronation we trained on a daily basis to reach

a very high standard of drill. On Coronation Day we would be required to march to attention, at the slope, for the entire route. The only respite being to change arms every so often.

Whilst at the Regimental Depot we celebrated Albuhera Day in the usual fashion. The photograph shows the Sergeants Mess football team in fancy dress. Who are you able to recognise?



*A.N. Other, Ray Dodkins, Sammy Dacosta, Nick Nicholson, Frank Waldron, Danny Hanlon, Fred Jacques, Pat Donovan, Ken Beale, A. Etheridge*

The big day arrived and we were raring to go. No 1 dress was the order of the day i.e. Blue uniform with white blanccoed belt and rifle sling. Our president said in his introduction to the Spring Newsletter that the 1MX Colour Party would remember how wet they got. This was an understatement. We were soaked to the skin and the white blanccoed equipment ruined our new No 1 dress. We were a bedraggled outfit by the end of the day but nevertheless very proud to have taken part.

Shortly after the Coronation we returned to Austria and began preparation for the presentation of new Colours. At the beginning of September battalion parades started in earnest. On a sunny 27th of September Field Marshal Sir John Harding GCB, CBE, DSO, MC Chief of the Imperial General Staff presented the Battalion with their new Colours. The parade was a great success.

At the end of the year, for me, it was a posting to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, where I remained as an instructor for the next three years.



So ended two extremely eventful years, full of milestones and memories.

### **Market Garden Revisited**

I have just returned from a very interesting visit to Arnhem. I went with the London Taxis ( Ninety taxis via Harwich to Hook of Holland ) then with a Dutch Police Escort, not stopping, through all the red lights until we reached the Papendal Hotel in Arnhem.

Throughout the journey children were waving Union Jack Flags and the welcome was magnificent. It was the celebration of the Liberation of the Netherlands, (The Market Garden Military Operation). The 1st Battalion participated in the liberation of Tilburg.

I travelled with a glider pilot veteran, the same age as myself 93, and we were the oldest amongst the party of two hundred travelling. It was sad to visit the local cemetery to see that so many very young British had been killed in action. The visits to the National Bevrijdings Museum and the Airborne Museum at Oosterbeek were most interesting. Arnhem became the centre of our trips out to the museums at Groesbeek, Nijmegen and others in the area.

R Bishop

### **Honour at last for forgotten hero of Crimean War**

The Victoria Cross hero, his native Ulster nearly forgot has been honoured in a moving ceremony in Malta 155 years after he was buried in an unmarked grave in remote Msida Bastion cemetery, on the outskirts of the capital Valetta. The Duke of Gloucester unveiled a memorial headstone in the burial plot on which the details of the courageous exploits of Private Charles McCorrie from Killead in south Antrim, at Sebastopol in 1855 during the Crimean War, are etched.

And the Duke representing the Queen, told members of the Malta Heritage Society who raised the money for the epitaph in stone ; "Here lies a young soldier who has been ignored for too long ". It was only discovered two years ago that McCorrie's last resting place was at Msida Bastion. Private McCorrie of the 57th Regiment of Foot (the Middlesex Regiment) won his VC in June 1855 when he picked up a live shell aimed at his trench from an enemy battery and hurled it over a parapet where it exploded seconds later. The lives of 20 of the brave young soldiers comrades in the 57th were saved by his action".

But McCorrie didn't live to receive his medal. He was posted to Malta and unfortunately had to miss Queen Victoria's inaugural Investiture in Hyde Park in which she presented the first VC's of all, to 60 other uniformed heroes. His medal was sent to Malta for a personal investiture, but arrived after Private McCorrie's passing in 1857 and was returned to the War Office in London. However, the

whereabouts of the McCorrie Victoria Cross are a mystery as the award has never been seen since. Because it was one of the first made it is valued today at £400.000.

However, the Mayor of Antrim, Councillor Paul Michael, who is also an executive in Antrim branch of the British Legion, is determined that another genuine VC should be struck in McCorrie's name. He and Julian Gatt, of the Malta Victoria Cross Society, have campaigned to give Private McCorrie his proper place in military history. We have a replica VC in the Legion, but seek information on the whereabouts of the original medal.

One year ago a plaque honouring Private McCorrie was raised in Killead – the village next to Aldergrove- where the soldier was born in 1830 and where he spent his boyhood. With the passage of time, villagers in Killead were unaware of their hero. The plaque in a tiny British Legion garden of remembrance has happily refreshed their memories.

### **A Hundred Years ago.**

There is to be a new headquarters and drill hall for the 8th Battalion DCO Middlesex Regiment, which the Middlesex Regiment Territorial Association has decided to build on land in the Hanworth Road near the Bell Road. The site is formerly known as Thurston's ground and the contract has been entrusted to Mr. W. Lacey, the well-known builder whose offices are in the Staines Road. From the description, it will form an excellent acquisition to the public building of the district. The front part of the building will comprise a spacious entrance hall with a Portland stone porch. This leads to orderly and officers' rooms and to a canteen. On the upper floor, there will be more officers' rooms. At the rear of the front block will be a large drill hall, and the side wings will comprise an armoury, quartermaster's stores, gun shed and lavatory. The cost will be about £3,050 and the building will be expected to be completed by the end of February 1911.

Sadly the drill hall is no longer in MOD hands, but the fine memorial to those who died whilst serving with the battalion in two World Wars was moved to Edgware drill hall where it was installed on the staircase leading to the officers' mess.

### **A Route March with the Territorial Army in 1912.**

On Sunday a route march in which companies of the 8th Battalion, Middlesex Regiment, took part was organised in the surrounding district. The company paraded at Twickenham by 11 o'clock and marched to Fulwell and Hampton and arrived at Sunbury at 1.45. Here refreshments were partaken in a paddock kindly provided by the Regimental Adjutant, Capt. Anson. Each man was served with a veal and ham pie and one pint of ale or minerals. The Officers were entertained by the Adjutant.



The regiment re-formed at 3 o'clock and marched by way of Staines Road to Ashford and Staines. Arriving at the Drill Hall where they were addressed by Colonel Garner who congratulated the men on their smart and workmanlike performance. Also present were 50 National Reservists under the command of Colonel Peake who did the whole of the march.

Major Norwood's arrangements for the feeding of the troops was in everyway perfect. Notwithstanding the oppressive weather not a single man fell out and the services of the Ambulance Corps who also paraded were not required.

#### 57th (West Middlesex Regiment) in the Zulu War

In January 1879, the 57th were in Ceylon. After the disaster at Isandlwana, they were shipped 645 strong to Natal arriving there 12th March 1879 and formed part of the Southern Group assembled to relieve the besieged garrison at Eschowe.

On 2nd April the regiment held the right flank face of the laager at the battle of Ginghilovo (called gin gin I love you by the men) and was mentioned in Lord Chelmsford's despatch as being "distinguished for its steadiness under fire".

Captain W C F Molyneux, Lord Chelmsford's Staff Officer, went further :

*"When Poll Evil (my horse) was saddled, I went out to look for the General. The 57th were hotly engaged now, the volleys ringing out as clear as if they were at Aldershot. If every regiment had possessed such seasoned men as these, we could have walked to Eschowe and back without having to burrow into the ground like ant-bears".*

After Isandlwana, it was a standing order that at each camp troops should entrench and laager their wagons round the perimeter.

On November 1st, 1879 the regiment left for England. It had suffered, amongst the NCO's and men 16 deaths, only one from wounds received in action. Additionally 125 were invalided, 28 by wounds in action, the rest from fever rheumatism, heart problems, dysentery and diarrhoea and other miscellaneous causes.

P Dyer

#### Obituaries

**Bob Avery ( R J )** who served as a subaltern with the 2nd Battalion during 1945/46 passed away in November 2008 after suffering a stroke in the year 2000.

**Mrs Shirley Bray**, previously McShane and wife of WO1 Bandmaster John McShane died peacefully at Musgrave Park Hospital, Taunton on 21st April 2012 aged 76. A service of thanksgiving for her life was held at Taunton Crematorium attended by her family and friends.

The regiment was represented by Mrs Ann Elston. She is survived by her children Carol, Peter, Angela and Timothy together with their respective families. Shirley was a great help and supporter to the wives of members of the band when their husbands were away on duty she was also a very keen supporter of the Whist and Badminton clubs.

MAE

**Charles Bysouth** died on 17th April 2012 at the age of 89. Charles was a special friend and a member of the Enfield Branch he participated in all the various events that were arranged including two trips to Belgium. Charles' military career in the Second War started in the Buffs and he subsequently transferred to 2/7th Battalion Middlesex Regiment at the request of his elder brother Sam and served with the Middlesex throughout including the invasion of Anzio. Charles was fiercely proud of the Regiment and his last wish was to go to meet his maker as a Die Hard with his casket draped with the Regimental Flag a wish duly carried out. His funeral was held at Enfield Crematorium on 1st May the service was conducted by Bishop Michael Ward and was attended by his family, friends and most members of Enfield Branch of the Association.

F.P

**Major A R Cowan.** The passing of Alan Cowan on the 19 April 2012 was published in the Daily Telegraph on the 25th of Apr 2012. He was 87 years of age. He has not been in contact with the Regiment for many years.

**S J Cutter.** We have been advised by the purchaser of Mr Cutters' property that he passed away a couple of years ago no further information is available.

**Cyril Dawson** who was a member of the Enfield Branch for many years died on Monday the 21st of May 2012. He served with the 25th Battalion of the Middlesex Home Guard during World War Two and when called up for National Service he served with the Royal Engineers.

**Vic Debenham** passed away on the 27th February 2012. Comrades from both the Diehards and the Normandy Veterans Association attended Vic's funeral on the 12th March 2012 at St Andrew's Church, Ham Common much to the appreciation of the family.

Vic was born on the 12th May 1925 in the Lambeth district of London but moved to Richmond in 1926 where he remained a resident for the rest of his life. In May 1941, being too young to join the regular forces like his brothers, Vic decided to join the Home Guard (Richmond Battalion 63rd Surrey). On 18th February 1943 he enlisted, reported for training at Anderson Barracks, Saighton Camp, Chester and on 1st April he joined the Middlesex Regiment at The Dale Barracks, Chester, (affectionately known as The Jail!) from where in June he travelled to Margate to join the 8th Battalion 'D' company.



In April 1944 the battalion moved to Coghurst Woods, Hastings where instructions and preparations were made for their part in the D Day landings. On June 14th they began their journey to France landing near Oistreham, part of Sword Beach and moving North of Bayeux where they supported the advance towards Cheux by the 15th Scottish division seeing action, including an aerial attack by the Luftwaffe and sustained casualties on the Baron Heights, facing Hill 112. Vic took part in action throughout France and Germany and finally worked as Chief Clerk at No.3 C.I.C Fallingbostal until his demob on 12th March 1947.

After the war Vic married Nancy and they settled in Petersham where they raised their two daughters. During the 1990's he and Nancy made several memorable trips to France and Holland with other war veterans, where he was known at times to stand up and sing "J' attendrai", having been taught the popular French song by a Belgian refugee who worked with him in 1941. He also travelled to Albuhera with comrades for commemorative services.

SP

#### **Lieut. Colonel Ronnie Fisher MBE**

Ronnie Fisher who died on 18th March 2012 joined the Army as a National Service recruit in the Welsh Guards in 1950 and after OR I training at Shorncliffe went on to Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School. At the end of the course he took RCB and moved to the RMA Sandhurst.

In August 1952 Ronnie was commissioned in his county regiment and joined 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment at Warley Barracks moving with them to Austria where, after a short period as a platoon commander he was appointed Assistant Adjutant. Posted to the Depot at Mill Hill as a training officer in 1955 it was at the end of his tour in 1956 that he married Joan. After secondment to the Royal West African Frontier Force he returned with his family to the UK and in 1962 attended the Staff College Camberley.

There followed a series of postings alternating between staff appointments in BAOR and the Middle East with periods of service with our 1st Battalion in Gibraltar, Northern Ireland and Guyana. After a tour from 1976-78 as GSO1 Ops at BRITM1X he went to Research and Development in Sevenoaks where he remained until his retirement from the Army in 1986 and thereafter as a RO2 until 1993. Ronnie and Joan retired to Bradford Abbas in Dorset where he became fully involved in local affairs as a Parish Councillor, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and a Sidesman in the church of St Mary the Virgin where his funeral was held. From his arrival in the 1st Battalion, avoiding the antics of his more exuberant contemporaries, Ronnie gained the reputation of a reliable quietly competent officer and this reputation led to senior staff posts and to his appointment as a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1973.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

RMC

**David T Gatehouse** died in mid July he served with the Middlesex and 1st Queens no further information is to hand at present.

**C/Sgt. Sid Hilton** passed away March 2012, the funeral was held on 12th April 2012 at Kings Lynn. He was a true Die Hard through and through and a loyal and 1st class soldier in the Middlesex Regiment and the Queen's Regiment, having served 22 years. I have known Sid since 1955, we went to Cyprus together and the Gulf of Aquaba Jordan. He served in B.A.O.R., Hameln, Werl, Sennelager, Greece, Guyana, several tours in Northern Ireland during the troubled times, 1970-1978. He was a very good assault pioneer warrant officer, he built an exercise trim ditch for the locals in Werl B.A.O.R. while serving with 2 Queens. In civilian life Sid worked as a security officer within the Houses of Parliament, and was a very good welfare caseworker within the Royal British Legion. Always ready with a joke or two in any situation a true friend who will be missed by his family and friends. His funeral was attended by Pat Ryan and Frank Dawson who represented the Regiment.

AAB

**Barry King** died on 2nd July aged 94 years. His funeral was held at the Acacia Chapel Enfield South Australia on 6th July attended by family and friends from the RSL and Normandy veterans and a number of hotel staff who worked with Barry in his civilian job as a chef. Barry served with 1/7th Battalion throughout their service with 51st Highland Division. The regiment was represented by P E Gates who served with the 1st Battalion 1953-58.

PEG

#### **Major C L Lawrence MC**

Chris Lawrence who died on 25th July 2012 was born on 1st December 1929 the only son of the redoubtable Ginger Lawrence, Alter education at Wellington College and the RMA Sandhurst he was commissioned into his father's Regiment on 16th December 1949 and joined our 1st Battalion in Hong Kong where he took command of 4 Platoon in B Company.

Following the outbreak of the Korean War 27 Brigade, consisting of two under strength battalions, 1MX and 1A and SH, arrived at Pusan on 25th August 1950 and on 21st September 1MX led the way in the crossing of the Naktong River. The next day 27 Brigade was given the task of securing the high ground on either side of the line of advance, the road to Sonju. The objectives for 1MX were two hill features on the right of the road, the first called Plum Pudding and the second Middlesex Hill, both held by North Koreans who were dug in.

Chris Lawrence led 4 Platoon in an uphill assault on Plum Pudding and having taken the position held it against the inevitable counter attack. For his courage and leadership in what Andrew Man described as "a most gallant affair" Chris was awarded the first Military Cross of the Korean War.



He returned to the UK with the battalion at the end of 1952 and then volunteered for service with the Parachute Regiment, Thereafter his service alternated between the two regiments. He was Signals-Officer with 1MX in Cyprus during the EOKA disturbances, a company commander in Gibraltar and the last Training Major of 5MX; while in Para he was Adjutant of the Airborne Forces Depot. There were also staff appointments in the Middle East and at UKLF.

Chris retired in 1984 and was re-employed as a Retired Officer with the RMP.

In 1996 he became Chairman of the Middlesex Regimental Association, an office for which his exceptionally close rapport with former soldiers made him particularly well suited. At the annual reunion he was always a centre of attention and his conduct of the AGM eagerly anticipated and much enjoyed.

Despite his frequently brusque manner Chris was very popular with his brother officers and highly regarded by his soldiers. He will not be forgotten and whenever Diehards meet to reminisce he will be remembered with affection and stories about him will be told.

RMC

*The following message of thanks has been received from Mrs Kay Lawrence*

Kay Lawrence and family thank everyone for their kind letters, cards and messages of sympathy and for attending Chris' funeral. As he had wished, we followed out of the packed church to "Colonel Bogey". So, we can always remember him with a smile for a very special Diehard.

**Peter Mann** who transferred from the Royal Hampshire Regiment to the Middlesex Regiment in May 1944 in the rank of Colour Sergeant died on the 17th of April 2012. From information obtained from the Hampshire Regiment he was commissioned whilst with us but he was not a member of the Officers' Club or the Regimental Association so we have no record of him. The funeral was held on the 18th of May at the St Thomas RC Church, Richmond.

**Captain J B Matthews** from the Queens' Regiment and who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea died on Friday the 25th of May 2012 aged 91. At the time of his death he was living in a care home on the Isle of Wight.

**William Penny** who served throughout World War Two with the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment died in early April 2012. He was in his nineties when he passed away.

**Eileen Warner** the widow of Jack Warner, who was the Chairman of the Enfield Branch some years ago, died on the 17th May 2012 from the effects of a stroke. She was one of our last Regimental Widows residing in Albuhera Close.

## **BAND REUNION**

### **DENNIS AND EILEEN KNIGHT**

DENSEIL, 1 MILBECK CLOSE, COWPLAIN, WATERLOOVILLE,  
HAMPSHIRE, PO8 SEP.

Telephone No. 02392 613 847 E-mail knightd8@skv.co

D.A.K. Mobile No. 07817 377 198 EILEEN Mobile No. 07977 204 585

## **SEPTEMBER 2013**

Hoping to hold a possible final REGIMENTAL BAND REUNION next year. This could be in the STONEBRIDGE MANOR HOTEL IN ALLESLEY VILLAGE, WARWICKSHIRE.

It will a three day and two night stay [same as what we have done on our five previous get togethers] but this one includes dinner and bed & breakfast THE COST FOR THIS YEAR IS an amazing £59.95. The price will obviously be a little more EXPENSIVE next year ? But once I get details I will inform those of you on P.C. and the remainder by telephone but I must FIRST OF ALL GET THE NUMBERS OF ALL OF THOSE WISHING TO ATTEND [ YOU NEVER KNOW BUT WITH MORE PEOPLE ATTENDING IT COULD EVEN LOWER THE PRICE ?].

So please let me have your home details i.e. phone number or E-MAIL ADDRESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and number of rooms required. I have tried to locate as near as possible to the middle of England. Therefore cutting down a lot of travel for those ex members who have ventured up North and further, hard to believe that most of you guys were from LONDON ?.

Even our very own popular Regimental jazz band was called THE SMOKE CITY STOMPERS because THEY all came from LONDON EXCEPT ME? The hotel has 80 rooms Its own restaurant, bar, steam room, sauna also a games room. The hotel has been HIGHLY RATED BY PAST VISITORS. It is also within reasonable distance for those who like wandering around the areas and other places. There is Warwick, Leamington Spa, Stratford, Coventry, The Twyford Zoo, and the N.E.C. It would be good to see a lot more of the EX 4th Queens band members attending this function which is probably our last get together. Because at the moment it is nearly all the EX MIDDLESEX BAND MEMBERS who attend. We hope to see some come from Canada AND Israel this year as well.

I know that quite a lot of you were made redundant or were transferred into the 1st and 2nd Queens and then the P.W.R.R. was formed. What we are really looking forward to next year is for us to get as many of the ex bandsmen and NCO's with wives or partners who were in the Regimental band up until around 1971 to attend. Those of you wishing to attend please advise me soonest so that I can get the ball rolling.

DK

Contact details are as above.



## Can you help ?

47 Stanley Avenue  
BECKENHAM  
Kent BR3 6PU

7 February 2012

### Re- 1st / 7th Middlesex Regiment Oct '44 - May '45 - A Company

Dear Major Bradley

I wonder whether you can put me in touch with anyone who was in the above Company from October 1944 onwards. Recently, my father Donald (Don) Barton found a pile of letters he wrote to his parents from the Netherlands and Germany. I have been to Kew to examine the Battalion and Company diaries for this period to discover where he was during this period. I have quite a detailed picture, but I would like to know more, Lt Clark was his superior officer and a chap called McMurray was his sergeant. Both transferred in October having been with the Northumberland Fusiliers.

Does anyone have letters, unpublished diaries or accounts or photos of this period?

My dad has a photo of his platoon (4 Platoon), which successfully won an inter-unit shoot near Goch between the Battle of Reiehsward and the Rhine Crossing. The Imperial War Museum has a photo of a Middlesex guard of honour for Monty which he is in. In a couple of books I have read there is a reference to a Sgt Jeff Hayward who won the MM (a photo in *Monty's Highlanders*) and a quote in *Black Watch* by Tom Renouf who is secretary of the Highland Division Association.

Does anyone know about him and possibly an unpublished set of accounts. I am trying to build up a picture of my dad's service. One of his letters is particularly detailed about a family he befriended with a little girl and boy. This may have been near a place called Uden. One of his mates fell in love with a farmer's daughter from Oss. I should be immensely grateful if anyone with stories, anecdotes or photos could get in touch.

Yours sincerely, Keith Barron

Email: keithbarron595@btinternet.com

### Seeking Information

Tom Brazier of 69 Smallwood, Ravensthorpe, Peterborough PE3 7LW has written to say that he is keen to trace three friends of the Mortar Platoon with whom he served at Horricks Camp (a small police I.S post ) just out side Zarnacia Cyprus. Tom writes that "after demob we lost touch" those who he is seeking are Les Alvege, Burnie Freeman and Alan Baker.

At the time that they served together in 1957 their Platoon Commander was 2nd Lt John Hewson and the CSM was Paddy Kenrick. Tom has seen the photo in the Spring issue of the 1956 Mortar Platoon but believes that they were all demobbed before he arrived in Cyprus.

So if anyone can help, Tom will be very grateful.

### News from the Iberian Peninsular

The village of Albuhera continues to hold the annual celebrations to commemorate the battle. The competition for the PWRR Cup (best at English trophy) resulted in two young ladies tying for the honour. Winners were Anna Gonzalez in the pink skirt and Ana Franco de las Heras in the white dress. The trophies were presented on behalf of the PWRR by Celia Denney who does so much locally for the regiment, who has stepped back in the photo so that the regimental flag is visible.

It has been announced that the fortifications and aqueduct of Elvas have been classified as a World Heritage site. The fortifications with a perimeter of 8 to 10Km and include an area of 300 hectares is now recognised as the largest of this type of fortification in the world.



Joint Winners of the PWRR Trophy



## 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 Central PWRR 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

## Carol Service

The Association will host pre-service drinks at the Union Jack Club from 18.00hrs for those attending the Carol Service.

Please advise Major Dennis Bradley by Monday 3rd December 2012 if you will be there.

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