



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 110

Autumn 2013



**Joint winners of the PWRR trophy posing with the
Regimental Secretary Col Wayne Harber.
Javier Hernandez Carillo (striped shirt) and
Carlos Gonzales Sanchez (blue shirt)**

President : Colonel R.M. Cain, OBE, DL
Chairman : Chairman Lieutenant Colonel M.F. Deakin
Vice Chairman : Captain M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.
Secretary : Major D. Bradley, BEM, DL
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FORECAST OF EVENTS 2013

7th November 7th Bn Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner
7th November Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey
Service commences 10.50hrs
9th November Mx Ceremony of Remembrance
Supreme Court of Justice 10.30hrs
Service commences 10.50hrs
10th November Remembrance Sunday
10th November 7th Mx Remembrance Service
Assemble 10.00hrs at Parish Church
St Mary & St George

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2014

24th May Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance
Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London
Seated 10.15hrs Service 10.30hrs
24th May Association AGM and Annual Reunion
Union Jack Club Sandell Street London
Annual General Meeting 13.00hrs
Luncheon 14.00hrs
10th July Officers Club Lunch
Union Jack Club Sandell Street London

THE CENOTAPH PARADE WHITEHALL LONDON SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2013

All Association Members should be aware that Area Headquarters, Canterbury and Captain (Retd) M Gwilliam (ticket co-ordinator) will no longer deal with individual branches of the Middlesex Regiment or individual members for the issuing and distribution of Parade tickets.

All ticket applications should be sent to:

Major D Bradley BEM DL
Pax Tecum, 33 Spanton Crescent, Hythe, Kent CT21 4SF

No applications for tickets will be actioned after Monday 14 October 2013.

Our forebear Regiments will parade in the PWRR Service contingent in this year's Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. Forming up will be on the Horse Guards Parade under the direction of a Warrant Officer of the PWRR. There will be Portaloos available. There is no access from Whitehall, and entrance to Horse Guards will only be from the St James's Park side.

There are increasing numbers who wish to parade this year, and restrictions placed by the Metropolitan Police Service, mean that the number of tickets is limited. Therefore all tickets will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please note that RHQ received 72 tickets for distribution to our forebear Regiments.

Those with tickets must be on Horse Guards by no later than 1015, where the tickets and any bags will be inspected. No ticket no entry.

TICKET APPLICATION

I would like tickets for the Cenotaph Parade.

Name

Branch

Address.....

Tel: Home

Mobile

Email address.....

ANNOUNCEMENT

With effect from 1st November 2013 Major Dennis Bradley BEM DL has been appointed Secretary of the Middlesex Association. He will be working from home, his address is: Pax Tacum, 33 Spanton Crescent, Hythe, Kent CT21 4SF - Tel. 01303 263173

ALBUHERA SERVICE of REMEMBRANCE - Saturday 25th May 2013

The service this year was held later than is our usual custom the preferred date being the weekend nearest to Albuhera Day unfortunately the Cathedral could not accommodate us, thus the later date. This break with tradition did not deter the numbers attending who on arrival were greeted by the Band of the PWRR playing a selection of music in the courtyard outside the North door.

At precisely 10.30 the large congregation stood as the Choir and the Ministers entered and the Band played the Regimental Slow March everyone then remained standing and the Choir sang the introit prior to the Dean of St Paul's giving the bidding during which he drew attention to Colonel Inglis and his troops at Albuhera and, in our own times, all those "Die-Hards" whose memories throughout Europe, Africa and the Near and Far East, witness that they died for peace, liberty and justice.

After prayers we sang the hymn "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine" the tune of which was very familiar although the words were not the same as soldiers usually sing, then followed a Bible reading by Colonel R M Cain, our President, before the choir sang Psalm 121. The address was given by The Very Reverend David Ison, Dean of St Paul's. A further hymn was then sung, again a tune well known to the congregation and much sung by troops everywhere, before our Honorary Chaplain the Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft led us in prayers, Lieutenant Colonel M F Deakin the Chairman laid a wreath and turned the page of the Book of Remembrance. During the Act of Remembrance we remembered those members of the regiment who had died during the last year, the Act of Thanksgiving was led by The Reverend Jason Rendell Minor Canon and Sacristan.

The closing hymn was "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer" then The Blessing and the National Anthem before the Choir and Ministers departed to the Regimental Quick March, as always much enjoyed by all present and the tourists visiting the Cathedral.

Our thanks to The Staff of St Paul's, the Band of the Princess of the Wales's Royal Regiment under the direction of WO2 BSM G George, the Army Cadet Force PWRR who made the occasion memorable.

Once the service is finished at St. Paul's Cathedral the usual dash to the Union Jack Club to obtain a beverage before the commencement of the Annual General Meeting takes place, it is amazing the speed with which some of the members complete this journey.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regimental Association held at the Union Jack Club on Saturday the 25th of May 2013.

Those present: I Aldridge, G Barton, Capt. K Beale, R Bourne, Maj. D Bradley, A Broadbent, A Brown, A Burford, Lt. Col. M Deakin, P Dyer, Maj. B Finch, E Green, M Hart, J Hawkins, R Hawkins, E Hunte, J Innes, A Jennings, W Murphy, Lt. P Ottino, J Priest, J Raby, B Reed, A Richardson, T Rogers, M Smith, G Stevens, P Stewart, G Strevett, B Tate, Maj. R Thornton, M Turtin, M Ward and G Young.

Apologies: M Elston, Capt. M Flynn, P Howells, P Long, Maj. R Morris, F Phillips, C Preston, J Shaw, J Yates.

Welcome: Lt Colonel M Deakin welcomed members to the meeting.

Middlesex Regimental Association Financial Summary 2012

During the financial year 1 January to 31 December 2012 The Middlesex Regiment accounts/Funds have received a total income of £181,715 of which £22,027 is dividend payments from our investments. Other income equals:

£2,757.00	Reunion Income (Members)
£156,931.00	General Donations/Legacies

Our expenditure for the year totalled £29,959.00 of which £5,100 has been spent on 18 Benevolence cases. Our Reunion expenditure totalled £10,787.00 therefore the fund subsidised the Reunion by £8,030.00.

Other expenditure equals:

Cost of Generating Funds

Investment Management Funds	£ 1,760.00
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Charitable Activities

Grant St Paul's Church	£ 1,000.00
Grant 3 PWRR JRC	£ 1,000.00
Remembrance Expenditure	£ 432.00
Presentation Costs	£ 504.00
Association & other Grants	£ 1,632.00
Newsletter	£ 3,536.00
Silver Repairs	£ 285.00

Support Costs

Postage and Office expenses	£ 1,135.00
Travel Expenses	£ 900.00
Insurance	£ 80.00

Governance Costs

Audit Fees	£ 652.00
Meeting Expenses	£ 1,156.00

Total Expenditure for year 2012 = £ 29,959.00

Therefore our net Income over Expenditure for the financial year has been £151,756.00. This Income over Expenditure is due to two generous Legacies.

Our Investments had a market gain this year of £12,354 compared to a loss of £32,422.00 in the previous year.

The overall value of our funds is £771,478.00

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

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT BENEVOLENCE REVIEW DURING THE PERIOD 01 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2012

During the year a total of 20 cases were investigated and 18 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 7 further Electrically Powered Vehicles (EPV's) 1 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 £5,400 as individual-grants-aid and the ABF provided a further £4,693 in General Grants. Of the 2 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 £5,473 (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 Veteran's Aid Centres.

PROPOSED PLANS FOR THE REDEDICATION OF THE MIDDLESEX WAR MEMORIAL MILL HILL

The rededication will take place on the 18th July 2013 at the Ridgeway Mill Hill.

The PWRR Band (45 strong) will be in attendance.

It is anticipated that the guest of honour will be the Colonel of the Regiment Brigadier Richard Dennis.

Band Piece - Nimrod

Welcome, history and background by the President

Hymn - Guide me O thou great redeemer

Bible Reading

Dedication by the Vicar of St Paul's Church Mill Hill

Hymn - O Valliant Hearts

Last Post, Two minutes silence, Reveille

Cornet player PWRR Band

Blessing

Regimental March - Sir Manly Power and Paddy's Resource

Band Piece

The VIP's, executive committee and Association members will move to the Church Hall for a reception consisting of a finger buffet, wine and soft drinks. If there is enough room available it may be possible to have a quartet playing throughout the reception.

The reception will be free of charge to all.

The President will make a short thank you speech.

Timings:-

All in position by	1255hrs
Service Commences	1300hrs
Photos etc.	1340hrs
Reception	1400hrs
Event concludes	1600hrs

FREEDOM PARADES 2013 REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTER'S DIRECTION AND COORDINATION

General. The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment will conduct parades to either receive or exercise the Freedom of a number of towns, cities and boroughs across the Regimental area in 2013.

Dates. The dates for the various parades have been confirmed. Details of the dates and venues, together with battalion allocations are below.

Mounting and Coordination. The Freedom Parades will be mounted by 2 PWRR and 3 PWRR, coordinated by Regimental Headquarters. The RHQ Project Officer (RHQPO) for the Freedom Parades is Maj (Retd.) Bradley. For the avoidance of potential confusion he is to be the sole point of contact between the Regiment and Councils.

Bands. Band support for the Freedom Parades will be provided by the PWRR.

Forebear Regimental Associations. These are to be notified of the parade dates by the RHQPO and encouraged to parade with their standards. This is to take place in a designated area near the saluting dais in each Freedom Town, City and Borough. They will not march with the marching contingents.

Timings. All Parades are planned to step off at 1100 hrs. Although the duration of the parade and reception will vary depending on local circumstances.

Routes. Although preliminary agreement has been gained from Councils on the routes to be used, they have yet to be confirmed with the police. Confirmation of each will be forwarded by this HQ once received.

VENUES

13 Jul 13	Saturday Waverley 3 PWRR
15 Jul 13	Monday Tunbridge Wells 2 PWRR
17 Jul 13	Wednesday Chichester 2 PWRR
19 Jul 13	Friday Folkestone 2 PWRR
20 Jul 13	Saturday Barnet 2 PWRR
21 Jul 13	Sunday Arundel 2 PWRR
22 Jul 13	Monday Winchester 2 PWRR

MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL CENTENARY 2013 SUMMER EXHIBITION

The Supreme Court is to mark this occasion with a summer exhibition during July this year. The President and I have now attended two meetings and have been asked to assist with a project entitled Westminster at War.

In general we are liaising with the National Army Museum in an attempt to loan artefacts, 'relating to the Middlesex Militia and the Middlesex Regiment. At a recent meeting with the NAM they agreed to assist with the project.

The main themes are:-

1. A picture of General G C Bucknall a former Colonel of the Regiment and Lord Lieutenant of Middlesex.
2. A picture of Pte Ryder VC on whom the Memorial was partly designed.
3. The NAM is carrying out research in the hope of providing more information and artefacts for display.
4. I will keep you informed of further progress.

PROPOSED HERITAGE PROJECT

The President and Secretary met with the Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral to discuss our proposed heritage project. He was very receptive to our suggestions and agreed to give it some serious thought and to place some suggestions before the Chapter committee.

Thoughts were to be given to:

Advent candles depicting Middlesex Regiment, Queen's Regiment and PWRR.

Priests' chairs

Reading lectern

I will keep everyone informed of progress once I receive it.

All Association Secretaries administration points.

1. Branch secretaries are to ensure that the Secretary is informed of member's change of addresses, phone numbers and e-mails.
2. Please ensure that the Secretary is informed of any deaths of Association Members.
3. All members are requested, when visiting RHQ to make an appointment. This will ensure: -
 - a) That the Secretary is available to see people.
 - b) The Secretary can allocate time to people.The same applies when visiting the PRI Shop.

4. If Association standards/flags etc. are loaned for funerals, please ensure they are returned. The Secretary does not have the time to chase people. Wreaths for Funerals are available on request.
5. If you are aware of any ex member of either of the three Regiments which form our Association who requires assistance, whether financial, welfare or advisory, then please do make the Secretary aware. Help is only a telephone call away.

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

You may recall the edition of The Die-Hard dated March 2006 which contained a statement from the then Chairman, Major Chris Lawrence, on the future of the Regimental Association. A sub-committee under Major Dennis Bradley met through 2004-2005. Representatives of branches and clubs were invited to read and comment on a draft paper, the final revise of which was published in that same edition of The Die-Hard, and presented to the Annual General Meeting on the 13th May 2006, here at the Union Jack Club.

In essence, the paper recommended the steady winding-down of the Middlesex Regiment Association over the period 2015 to 2017. The reasons for the rundown were self-evident then, and are more so today. It is a sad fact but inevitable that former members of the Regiment are steadily reducing in number. This means that there are fewer available who have the time, energy or completely sound health to give to running the various elements of the organisation.

In addition, you may have noticed just how expensive the basic cost of living has become before you add on those events involving travel and the purchase of tickets.

But since those first public warnings of a closure back in 2006 other influences have come into play. First, the Regimental Headquarters of our successor Regiment, the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, has moved from Canterbury to the Tower of London, thereby moving its centre of gravity in to the capital. We understand that the present Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Richard Dennis, is determined to establish the PWRR as a London regiment, which is very much to our advantage.

However, this move of the RHQ carries two penalties. First, the Tower, as I am sure you know, has always been the home of the Royal Fusiliers. Accommodation is limited, and although the Regimental Secretary of the PWRR has his office there, space is not available for the number of staff that he has been used to in Canterbury. This raises the second penalty it is therefore unlikely that Major Dennis Bradley will continue to have the same time and resources to devote to being

Secretary of the Middlesex Regiment Association. We are looking at ways to plug this gap, but the situation suggests that we move to close the business of the Association while it is still within our control.

So, let us look at where we stand at present, and what has yet to happen. The aim is to leave a solid and recognisable legacy so that it will be remembered that there was a Middlesex Regiment, and to reinforce the foundations of the PWRR. We have recently strengthened our presence in the Regimental Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral with the gift of £15,000 worth of furniture bearing the regimental badge. Options for a further gift are under consideration. It is hoped that these actions will not only focus the minds of the Cathedral on its continuing use as a regimental chapel, but will be an added incentive to the PWRR to make the Chapel theirs, as they consolidate their presence in London.

As many of you are aware. The Supreme Court in Parliament Square, the former Middlesex Guildhall, has welcomed our regimental remembrance service each November at the Middlesex memorial, in the entrance hall of the Court. The splendid commemorative plaque presented recently to the Regiment to mark its service in Korea, will also be retained in the Court building. In addition, the Supreme Court will be marking the centenary of the Middlesex Guildhall with a summer exhibition in July of this year. This will feature a section called 'Westminster at War', which will include various Middlesex regimental and militia artefacts. We hope that these three events will also be included in the PWRR's commitment to the Middlesex Regiment.

You will have seen in the latest edition of The Die-Hard that the Regimental War Memorial has at long last been moved from the old Depot at Inglis Barracks to a new site opposite St. Paul's Church on The Ridgeway, Mill Hill. Here it has joined the local civic memorial, and has been received enthusiastically by the vicar of St. Paul's and his parishioners. The first wreath was laid at their Service of Remembrance on the 11th November 2012, and now that a little more cleaning of the stonework has been done, we are all set for the Rededication Ceremony to be held on Thursday, 18th July 2013. Details are in The Die-Hard. The Colonel of the PWRR and other VIP's will be present. Please be there, if you can make it.

Allied to the re-siting of the War Memorial, we have also subscribed to a stained-glass window commemorating The Queen's Jubilee Year which has now been set in St. Paul's Church on The Ridgeway. We are also commissioning our own badged regimental stained-glass window, to be mounted above existing memorials celebrating the lives of members of The Regiment associated with the Church. This will, I am sure, further consolidate the connection with that part of the County. The year 2014 will be of particular significance to the country, and therefore to the Regiment. The centenary of the outbreak of The First World War will no doubt be commemorated across the United Kingdom, and having raised and committed so many battalions to that cause, it may also play an important part in our Service of

Remembrance in St. Paul's Cathedral next year. Whether we use that same event, or create our own additional special occasion, it would seem a timely opportunity to hand over, formally, the Middlesex Regimental Chapel to The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, provided that the Home Battalion, 2 PWRR, isn't sent abroad beforehand. Assuming also that the PWRR would be gracious enough to allow us to hold one more Albuhera Service of Remembrance in 2015, we would have met our aim.

And that is the point of this review of what we are doing and where we stand. If you, and those members of the Regiment not present today, have been following events here at the AGM each year, and in The Die-Hard, you will be aware that your Executive Committee has worked extremely hard over the years to formulate a policy which would demonstrate that everything regarded as valuable and precious to The Regiment has been identified and dealt with appropriately. The funds, silver and other property have been put into the hands of the PWRR, and those monies required for continuing Middlesex benevolence are ring-fenced and secure. Our successor regiment has moved back into London. We have a newly-furnished Regimental Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral to hand over to them. A gift and legacy they would take some time to acquire for themselves. The Depot has gone, but the Regimental War Memorial now stands outside the parish church with which it was connected for so long, as confirmed by the stained-glass and tablets inside. The Supreme Court now hosts two other Middlesex war memorials, and flies the Regimental Flag each year in November (which would no doubt amuse some of the regimental villains who trod that path.)

What is going to defeat us, if we are not careful, is old age and therefore a lack of manpower to run the Association. My firm suggestion is therefore that you leave the Executive Committee to continue its excellent work in what is probably the most important tidying-up exercise that we have ever undertaken. We will continue with the annual programme as we know it, working with caution and flexibility towards the hand-over of the Regimental Chapel in 2014, followed by a final Albuhera Service and Reunion in 2015. Should there be sufficient support for a further Reunion after this, the RHQ PWRR has offered to organise it. However, that aside, we can achieve our original aim while everything is still under our control, and we will have met the closure time set for us by the 2006 committee decision. I would be very grateful for your full support for this programme.

THE ANNUAL REUNION

Once the AGM had been completed, members adjourned to the bar and some discussed the chairman's report on the future of the Regimental Association, whilst others were pleased to see old comrades who perhaps they had not seen for a year and to chat about past events. Then the call to lunch and a mass exodus from the bar by attendees to take their seats at table for a splendid lunch which is always

provided by the Union Jack Club. After lunch a short address was made by the president following which members moved back to the bar to enjoy themselves before those with long journeys wended their way home. The consensus of those attending was that we had savoured another excellent reunion.

THE REDEDICATION OF THE MIDDLESEX WAR MEMORIAL - Mill Hill

The Regimental War Memorial which has been re-sited on the Ridgeway, Mill Hill opposite St Paul's Church was extensively reported in the last issue of The Die-Hards newsletter No 109 so after a protracted period the Regimental Association was able to hold a Rededication Service on Thursday 18th July 2013.

The Service followed the format which was detailed to members at the Annual General Meeting. The band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment played Nimrod, prior to those gathered for the service being welcomed by our President Colonel R M Cain who then outlined the history and background of the memorial. Then the congregation rose to sing the first hymn "Guide me, O thou great redeemer" accompanied by the band. Then followed The Act of Rededication, which was performed by The Reverend Jonathan Shaw, Vicar of St Paul's Church after which Prayers for Peace and Reconciliation, a Prayer of Dedication and the Middlesex Collect were said. The closing hymn "O Valiant Hearts" preceded the sounding of The Last Post, The Silence and Reveille the Vicar then gave the Blessing. The event then closed with the band playing the Regimental March Sir Manly Power and Paddy's Resource much to the delight of those present.

After the Service a reception was held in the church hall where an excellent buffet was provided during which the Guest of Honour Brigadier Richard Dennis OBE ADC Colonel of the Regiment, The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and our Chairman Lt. Colonel Michael Deakin both addressed those attending.



The congregation assembles



The service commences



The band of PWRR

MILESTONES AND MEMORIES – Gibraltar - 1965

By Capt. Ken Beale MBE

1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment (D.C.O.)



Winners Of All Whaler Events Gibraltar 1965
 Pte. G. Harper, CSM J. S. Meadows, Cpl C. Jacklin, RSM R. E. Deale
 ORQMS G. Cripps, Lt Col. J. N. Shipster DSO, Pte. B. E. Gore.

The photograph, taken outside Bn HQ in South Barracks, is of the Bn Crew, with their trophies.

Gibraltar has such a varied historical background. This was reflected in the different and considerable ceremonies which were carried out on a regular basis.

The Governor's Residence in Convent Square was guarded 24 hours a day. Every Monday there was a ceremonial guard change in the square, in front of the Governor's Residence. This was a great attraction for tourists visiting The Rock. Often there was a requirement to mount a Guard of Honour for visiting dignitaries. On Albuhera Day, in May, a Drumhead Service was held and the following month, the Queen's birthday was celebrated with a full scale parade.

Apart from ceremonial duties, time was still found to partake in sporting activities. One sport of unique note was "Rowing". In July, August and September the Gibraltar Whaler Rowing competition was held. Since its inception, the Royal Navy remained unbeaten. The Battalion crew were determined that in 1965 this would change. Training took place in earnest with long spells of sustained rowing, very often at first light. The Whaler is a very large heavy boat and has a six man crew. The intense training paid dividends and the July and August races were narrowly won.

The final race in September was between the Royal Navy 'A', Royal Navy 'C', 1 Fortress Squadron RE and 1MX crews. The draw for boats was unfavourable to us, but we were lucky enough to draw a good position on the starting line. At the sound of the gun, all four crews pulled away to a smooth start and the battle to take the lead was on. For the first 200 metres a desperate struggle was between ourselves and the two Royal Navy crews who flanked us. Then, changing to the long slow stroke, which best suited the conditions, the Battalion crew nosed ahead of their opponents. Encouraged by the verbal support of spectators from the Battalion and the sound of the Regimental Call by a bugler from the Corps of Drums, the crew pulled the long oars with immense power and perfect rhythm, to gain a three length victory, over the Royal Navy 'A' boat.

The Battalion had thus won all three trophies for July, August and September as well as the aggregate trophy; the end of a very successful and rewarding season of rowing which was aptly celebrated with our opponents in champagne, very kindly supplied by the Commanding Officer.

Forget Richard III - Real treasures could still be found on Bottacy Hill

In August 1914 the British Expeditionary Force was in retreat after the actions at Mons and Le Cateau.

On the night of 31st August/1st September the 1st Cavalry Brigade which included six guns of L Battery Royal Horse Artillery, were bivouacked on the outskirts of the small French village of Nery south of the Forest of Compiègne. The morning was

very misty and, after a cancelled earlier departure the men were watering the horses and preparing breakfast. Suddenly at 0500hrs, as the mist began to lift the brigade came under sudden and massive artillery and small arms fire from higher ground about 800 yards away. Three of the guns were immediately destroyed and two of the remainder soon after. Soon only one gun remained in action, ultimately against twelve of the German guns above them until manned by just two men, the last round was expended. By then the battery had suffered 27% casualties and won three VCs.

At this point aid arrived including D Coy 1st Middlesex intense small arms fire and artillery support silenced the enemy and a bayonet assault drove off the remaining four (later found abandoned in the forest) guns. Prisoners and the remaining eight guns were captured. To the victors the spoils! After being put on display at Alexandra Palace two of the guns were presented to the Regiment.

Recently a copy of the final Diehard magazine came to light published in October 1967. It included an article on a history of the depot, Inglis Barracks written by the late Major R W J Smith MBE. The article states that these two guns were parked at the main gate, then later outside then Officers' Mess and finally when Colonel Pearson was in command, were buried together with many war trophies (including machine guns) in a very deep hole "where the Corporals' room was built".

Does anybody remember these guns and the "burial service" where and when and the exact location of the Corporal's room?

Information to the Editor, please! we may be able to get "Time Team" busy.

For those interested enough to visit, Nery remains almost unchanged and is situated only a few miles south of where the war finally came to a halt in the famous railway carriage in the forest.

P F Dyer

A SUCCESSFUL APPEAL

An American Officer wrote requesting assistance in tracing a wounded soldier of the Middlesex Regiment the following tells the result.

Editor, "The Die-Hards" newsletter

I want to tell you again how much I appreciate your interest in military history and us older veterans. Your publishing my effort to locate an eye-witness to our actions at Kunu-ri, resulted in my contact with the late Robin Yarwood, in an early response, he e-mailed me, "I believe I am the man you are looking for you saved my life,". I have just been notified of the award of the Bronze Star Medal for action on November 30, 1950 in the Korean War. A copy of the award certificate is enclosed. As one who served in the first year of the Korean War more than sixty years ago, I fought over most of the Korean Peninsula, from Pusan in the south to

Kunu-ri near the Korean/Chinese border. I am humbled by the realization that I was not killed, wounded or captured, while many of my comrades suffered such fate. We all owe those men a great debt. I shall gratefully accept this recognition in honour of all who served in this "Forgotten War."

With warmest personal regards to you and the men of the Middlesex Regiment,
MALCOLM E. MacDONALD Lieutenant Colonel U.S. Army, Retired



A copy of the Bronze Star Medal Certificate

EYEWITNESS STATEMENT by ROBIN YARWOOD, MIDDLESEX REGT., A COY

On that day 30& Nov 1950 the Middlesex Regt A Company were on a hill at Kuna-Ri pass. One of our n.c.o's came up to my mate Cyril and me, and two more soldiers. We were ordered to go up the hill toward the front and guard two American artillery spotters. So the four of us went up the road for about 2 miles, then up to the top of a hill, where the spotters started directing artillery fire. After about half an hour one spotter said to me "Look through my binoculars!" All I could see were

thousands and thousands of Chinese coming at us. They were like ants. Then he got a message over the radio, telling us to get off the hill as soon as we could. We then started running downhill as fast as we could. As we were running, bombs were dropping behind us. My mate Cyril and me were the last in line when a bomb dropped behind us and blew us both into the air. Cyril had a piece of shrapnel straight through his foot. I had a piece straight through my arm. We were lying by the side of the road when U.S. trucks started to come past us very fast.

Our n.c.o. put his hand up to stop one; after a few went past one did stop. The driver said he had room for one man only, so he took my mate Cyril. More Trucks went past, then a jeep stopped. I think it was the last one. The young driver who I judged to an American Officer from his manner and speech, yelled over and said his jeep was full of wounded men. If I could hold on he would take me. Men were piled all over the jeep. He drove us down to a 1st Cavalry Division Aid Station and they sent me on to an American Mash hospital tent. They cleaned me up and dressed my wound, then put me on an airplane. I think it was a DC10 cargo plane. It had a very cold steel floor to sit on. They flew me to an American hospital in Kure Japan where I was in hospital for approximately 3 weeks. I subsequently learned that the young American Lieutenant who was the jeep driver who picked me up, was Malcolm Macdonald.

Signed R Yarwood Ex Middlesex Regt. KV dd 12/10/2010
Witness G Ayers Ex Middlesex Regt. KV
Witness H J Wilson Ex Middlesex Regt. KV

THE OUTCOME

After Sixty Two years, on a sunny afternoon, at a small ceremony at the Village Veterans Memorial in Hot Springs Arkansas Malcolm MacDonald received a long overdue honour when Arkansas Senator Mark Pryor pinned the Bronze Star on his chest.

Senator Mark Pryor remarked "We have a great hero with us today. He is one of those people who risked it all for us".

OBITUARIES

Frederick William Bird who served with the 2/7th Battalion during World War Two died on Monday the 15th of April 2013 aged 96. We were advised by his son that he was fit and well up to a couple of months of his passing and that he had a peaceful ending to his life.

Royston Bishop died on 29th May 2013 aged 94, Roy served with 2/8th Battalion throughout the campaign in Europe. He made numerous trips back to St. Charles de Pery and other areas in Normandy where his platoon was in action. No further information is available at present.

Lt. E A Brown MC died on 17th January 2012 aged 90 his funeral was held on 30th January 2012 at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints and the committal was at Aldershot Crematorium. Eric was accepted for service in 10th (Home Defence) Battalion Middlesex Regiment which became the nucleus of the newly formed 70th (Young Soldiers) Battalion.

Later despatched to Droitwich for a six month Machine Gun Officer Cadet Course he passed out as a 2nd Lieutenant on 13th September 1941 and posted 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment as a reinforcement Platoon Commander. At the end of 1941 the War Office realised that they had a surfeit of Machine Gun subalterns and as a consequence Eric was transferred to meet the need for Anti - Tank Troop Commanders Royal Artillery. Eric served in North Africa, Sicily, before returning to the UK to take part in the Second Front. Landing on Gold Beach he was seriously burned and wounded in action on 16th July 1944 in the area of Le Manor whilst in support of 5th Battalion East Lancs Regiment, for his actions in this engagement he was awarded the Military Cross.

R Chadwick died 14th June 2012. Bob served as a Corporal with 2/7th Battalion at Anzio he and his platoon faced one of the biggest German attacks of the whole Italian campaign The action by 7 Platoon as Lt. Comd. P K Kemp wrote "did much to prevent the Germans succeeding in their efforts to push the beachhead into the sea". Bob was wounded and along with most of his comrades in 7 platoon was taken prisoner on the Anzio Beachhead on 19th February 1944 and spent fourteen months in captivity.

Major B K Clayden. Ken died at his home at Silverdale on 22nd May 2013 age 85 years. He joined the Army in January 1946 and after Officers' Training School at Bangalore was commissioned in the Middlesex Regiment and posted to the 2nd Battalion in Palestine.

Following the amalgamation of the 1st and 2nd Battalions Ken took part in Public Duties with the 1st Battalion and was in command of the Buckingham Palace Detachment when HRH Prince Charles was born in 1948.

He was with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong when they were sent to Korea in 1950 and remained with them until the battalion returned to the UK in 1952.

After a year in Austria Ken was appointed Adjutant of the Regimental Depot at Mill Hill where he stayed until, in 1956, he was seconded to the Ghana Army as Military Secretary to the GOC.

On his return to the UK in 1959 he was posted to the 7th Battalion as Adjutant and following the amalgamation of the 7th and 8th he became Training Major of the 5th Battalion returning to the 1st Battalion in time to go to Gibraltar as a company commander in 1962.

From 1964 to 1968 Ken was Brigade Major of 127 Infantry Brigade (TA) in Manchester and after his retirement from the Regular Army he became second in command of the 8th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment as a Territorial until they were disbanded as part of a reduction in the TA in 1970.

Family commitments prevented Ken from attending Regimental functions in London during his retirement but those of us who served with him will remember him with great affection.

RMC

J M Dunford died on 12th February 2010. Jimmy joined 1/8th Battalion on 25th May 1939 and served with the BEF and returned on the last day of the evacuation from Dunkirk. Subsequently he saw service in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany as an Infantryman He was discharged in June 1946.

Mrs B Flavell wife of Captain James Flavell died peacefully on 23rd June aged 89 at Hospice of St Anthony, Berkhamsted. The funeral service was held at West Herts Crematorium on the 1st July last.

Major R G Ford. Reg who died on 16th May 2013 was born on Christmas Eve 1934 and grew up the youngest in a large family where all the boys were expected to box.

After basic training he joined the 1st Battalion in Austria where he became a leading member of the Boxing Team and his ability at all the military skills led to early promotion to sergeant. He served with our 1st Battalion in Cyprus, Aqaba, Northern Ireland and Guyana and also with the 8th Battalion as a PSI.

After the amalgamation in 1966 on promotion to WO1, Reg became RSM of a Royal Anglian Battalion but rebadged Queens when he was appointed RSM of the Queens Division Depot at Bassingbourne. After commissioning he served with various battalions of the Queens and one of his last appointments was to command a Cadet Training Team in Norfolk.

Following his retirement from the Army and a brief period as steward of a golf club Reg was appointed Cadet Executive Officer of the Middlesex and North West London Army Cadet Force in succession to Major Sam Weller who retired at the end of 1978. He remained in post until the onset of Parkinson's forced his premature retirement in 1998.

Reg Ford was a keen sportsman who excelled at boxing; cricket and golf which made his last years as the Parkinson's progressed particularly sad and his courage in facing his future to be admired.

The Regiment was represented at his funeral by Colonel Rex Cain.

E J Fuller died on the 24th of March 2013. He served with 2/8th Battalion during World War Two. We currently have no further information.

E P L Levy died on 21st of March 2013. He was just short of his 88th birthday. He served firstly with the 70th Young Soldiers Battalion and then with the 2/8th Battalion. He landed in France in June 1944 and stayed with them until the Second World War ended. His funeral was held at the Eastbourne Crematorium on the 11th of April 2013.

Capt. J W O Scott who joined the Regiment as a National Service Officer in 1948 died in February 2013. He was posted to 1St Bn Queens Royal Regiment in BAOR for his regular service. There after he served for many years as a TA Officer with the 7th Battalion.

J G Wells died on 8th August 2013 aged 79 Jim did his National Service with the Royal Military Police in Trieste. On leaving the Army he was posted to 8th Battalion at Hounslow to complete his reserve commitment and joined the Signals Platoon. Jim was a keen member of the Regimental Association and has, with other members of the Hounslow Branch travelled the battlefields of Belgium, France and Spain. His funeral was held at St Mary's Church South Hayling Island on 30th August. Seven members of Hounslow Branch attended the funeral

Miscellany

Congratulations to Major Dennis Bradley who has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of and for the County of Kent.

Our regimental chaplain The Rev. Prebendary Patrick Tuft MA has decided to retire from his regimental duties. We wish him a long and happy retirement and thank him for his service to us.



The above photograph taken at the recent Albuhera Service outside St Paul's Cathedral is of three of our 2nd World War veterans. All of whom fought at Anzio and served in B Company 2/7th Battalion all three are now in their nineties. Pictured left to right Fred Phillips, Ray Sissons and Bill Harris. Fred has recently become an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.



A memento sent by Corporal Patrick Borthwick to his parents whilst stationed in Hong Kong 1949. A custom often followed when soldiers served abroad.

I am writing on behalf of my father who is now 92 years old. My father is, L/Cpl N. C. F. Hall, 14684044, 8th Bn. Middlesex Regiment [Diehards], 1941 -1947, [driver / mortar gunner]. His European campaign began to the west of Caen for control of Hill 112. At that time the Middlesex were part of the 43rd Wessex Division. He fought with the regiment through France, Belgium and Holland where they then transferred to support the 51st Highland Division. They crossed the Rhine through Germany and when the cease-fire was called he was at Kiel on the Baltic coast.

He was therefore saddened to read in the Spring edition of the Die-Hards news-letter of the death of Major Nick Neve. My father would like to send his condolences to members of his family. My father was Major Neve's driver following his former driver's loss of a leg.

Other officers he mentioned were Lieutenant Mephram and Major Mynott.

Should any former serving colleagues wish to make contact with my father please initially email me at annahall@boxgrove1.plus.com or write to me at 6 Crouch Cross Lane Boxgrove Chichester PO18 0EP

Pakenham Victoria Australia 3810 Editor Diehards Newsletter

I have just read Newsletter No. 108 which contained the news of the passing of Vic Debenham, with whom I served in D Company. 8th Battalion in 1944/45. My record of service in the Company would have been similar, arriving in Margate in the same month. However, after the war, during which I served in both 12 and 14 platoons I transferred to the Royal Engineers, and so lost touch. Then, by chance I met two of my fellow Diehards from 14 Platoon, George Faber and Eric Codling together with Captain Clark on the street in Ismailia in 1947. I enclose a photo of some members of 14 Platoon taken outside Cleve in February 1945, including George and Eric, who had been my No.2. I can and have named others in the photo, but for some, who were reinforcements brought in when they broke up some Light AA units my memory fails me. My name at that time was Kopeloff, which may help people to remember me.

It would be of interest to see if any of these comrades are still around.

Yours sincerely
Jack Kane



Norman on his 92nd birthday



No 14 Platoon D Coy 8th Bn outside Cleve Feb 1945.

Left to right back row: Unknown, Denny Denier, Taffy Hughes

Middle Row: John Perkins, Codger Green, Blackwell?

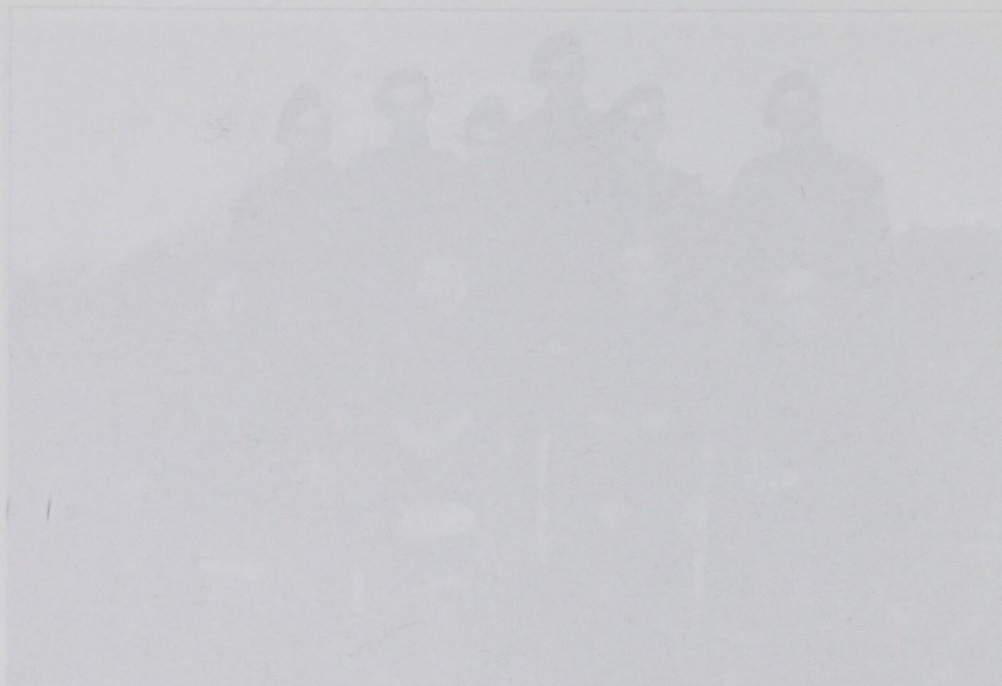
Front Row: Eric Codling, George Faber, Jack Koploff (Now Kane) unknown

News from Spain

The Regimental Secretary Colonel Wayne Harber this year visited Albuhera and Elvas, whilst there he presented the PWRR Trophy (See photo frontispiece) Carlos Gonzalez Sanchez worked particularly hard to win the prize as his sister won it in 2008, so the competition was in the home as well as the classroom. This is exactly what the idea was all about when it was conceived to foster enthusiasm in the study of English and to engender the ties of Regiment and Village.

Regimental Goods

Enquiries in respect of items for purchase and availability should be made to the Regimental Shop Telephone No 01227 817945.



No 14 Platoon D Coy 8th Bn outside Clave Feb 1945.

Left to right back row: Unknown, Denny Denier, Tally Hughes

Middle Row: John Perkins, Godger Green, Blackwell?

Front Row: Eric Codling, George Faber, Jack Kopold (Now Kane) unknown

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