



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 112

Summer 2014



**A Transport column of 1st Middlesex Regiment
under shrapnel fire during the battle of the Marne,
Signy Signets road France 8th September 1914**

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 2014

5th October Dedication of a Stained Glass Window
St Paul's Church Mill Hill

6th November 7th Bn Middlesex Officers' Club Dinner

6th November Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey
Service commences 10.50hrs

8th November Mx Ceremony of Remembrance
Supreme Court of Justice 10.30hrs
Service commences 10.50hrs

9th November Remembrance Sunday

9th November 7th Bn Mx Remembrance Service
Assemble 10.00hrs at Parish Church
St Mary & St George

December Union Jack Club Carol Service

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2015

16th May Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance
Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London
Seated 10.15hrs
Service 10.30hrs

16th May Association AGM and Annual Reunion
Union Jack Club Sandell Street London
Annual General Meeting 13.00hrs
Luncheon 14.00hrs

2nd July Officers' Club Lunch
Union Jack Club Sandell Street London

**THE CENOTAPH PARADE WHITEHALL LONDON
SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2014**

All Association Members should be aware that Area Headquarters, Canterbury 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:

Captain P M Gwilliam 6 Founds Street Battersea London SW11 2TJ

No applications for tickets will be actioned after Monday 13th October 2014.

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



ALBUHERA SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Saturday 24th May 2014

Once again the Service was held later than is usual, the weather was unfortunately inclement, thus the Band of the PWRR were unable to render their popular selection of music in the courtyard outside the North door. However the band entertained the congregation inside the cathedral, at the back of the Regimental chapel, prior to the commencement of the service.

As expected a large number of members and their guests were in attendance for this much loved event in the regimental calendar so ably conducted by the clergy of the cathedral. To the sound of the Regimental slow march the Choir and the Ministers entered, after the singing of the introit the Dean gave the bidding during which he drew attention to Albuhera and other theatres in which the "Die-Hards" have died for the values which we hold so dear. The service continued following the format of previous years Colonel R M Cain OBE DL gave a reading from the book of John and the address was given by Monsignor Francis Barber Assistant Chaplain, General Forces Troop Command. Our newly appointed Honorary Chaplain Reverend Father Tim Hutton led the prayers prior to the laying of a wreath and the turning of the page of the Book of Remembrance by Mr P Dyer. This was followed by The Act of Remembrance when we also remembered all our comrades who had died during the previous year.

The Reverend Sarah Eynstone, Minor Canon and Chaplain led the Act of Thanksgiving and Dedication, prior to the closing hymn and the Blessing given by The Dean. After the National Anthem the Clergy and Choir left to the Regimental quick march of the Middlesex Regiment.

Our thanks to the Staff of St Paul's, the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment under the direction of WO2 BSM G George, the Army Cadet Force PWRR, whose contributions make this such a special occasion.

Attendees at the Service of Remembrance then made their way to the Union Jack Club for the Annual General Meeting where they were joined by those who, having travelled from further afield but arriving in London, too late for the Service, were awaiting them.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regimental Association held at the Union Jack Club on Saturday 24th May 2014.

Welcome: Lt Col M Deakin welcomed members to the meeting

Apologies were received from: Captain K Beale, Captain M Flynn, P Howell, P Dive, M Elston, Major D Falke, J Raby, G Large.

Those present:

Col R M Cain President, Lt Col M Deakin Chairman, Major D Bradley Secretary, R Abrahams, I Aldridge, G Barton, A Brown, A Burford, A Broadbent, Major S Dowse, Captain M Doran, P Dyer, B Finch, Rev. T Hutton, C Hull, Major D Harwood, A Jennings, Major R Morris, Lt. P Ottino, T Overton, J O'Sullivan, E Redmond, A Richardson, T Rogers, G Stevens, P Stewart, M Smith, G Strevett, T Taylor, B Tate, M Turton, M Ward, G Young.

Middlesex Regimental Association Financial Summary 2013

During the financial year 1st January to 31st December 2013 The Middlesex Regiment Accounts/Funds have received a total income of £78,778, this is in the main monies received from investment dividends and legacy income.

Our expenditure for the year totalled £46,079. The main items of expenditure were in respect of the Mill Hill Memorial refurbishment which was £14,891. Reunion costs £10,026, the 'Die Hards Newsletter £3,575 and the Association Secretary's Fees and expenses of £4,267.

Therefore in our day to day business the Middlesex fund made a profit of £32,699 for the financial year.

Our Investments increased in value by £33,064 during the year 2013, compared to a profit of £12,354 in the previous financial year.

Therefore the fund has a total value of £837,241 as at 31 December 2013.

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 have started to show growth now that the economy is improving. The figures from the attached schedule have been consolidated into PWRR Benevolent Fund and form part of the audited accounts.

Proposed by A. Burford Seconded A. Brown Carried unanimously

BENEVOLENCE REVIEW 31 DECEMBER 2012 TO 1 JANUARY 2013

During the year 2013, fourteen benevolent cases were investigated and 9 approved for grants, with one ABF annuity for which the ABF donated £108-00 per month.

We also arranged payments for nursing home fees for 1 ex member of the Regiment, we donated £350-00 and the ABF £2080-00.

The Association made a total payment towards benevolence of £2,337-00 and the ABF payments of £3,580-00.

Once again you will note that the ABF have been very generous in their giving to the Association.

Thank you letters have been sent to our respective charitable organisations who continually assist the Association.

Mr Chairman that concludes my report.

Proposed by M. Ward Seconded by B. Finch Carried unanimously

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At last year's AGM, I set out how the Executive Committee was proposing to tackle the final years of the Regimental Association, in accordance with the decision made in 2006, to close it down over the period 2015-2017.

You will remember that we were looking to hand over a Middlesex Regiment Legacy to the PWRR, a lasting reminder of what the Regiment was, what it stood for, and of which we could all be proud.

For the purpose of simplicity in discussion, we packaged this proposed Legacy as:

- Money
- Silver
- Other property and artefacts such as paintings.

That first slice was handed over to the new Queens' Regiment when 1 MX became 4 Queens in the late sixties. Money for benevolence, as you know, is ring-fenced. The silver and property were distributed as required by the present-day battalions of the PWRR to whom it has passed.

The second part of the Legacy package contains:

- The Middlesex Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral
- The Regimental and County Memorial in the Supreme Court
- St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, and the Regimental War Memorial from the old depot at Inglis Barracks.

You will hear more about the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral in a moment. That project is well under way.

If you want to be known as a London Regiment, as the PWRR does, where better to hold a short service and lay a wreath in November each year, than the Supreme Court in Parliament Square. As many of you know, the staff of the Court have been very welcoming, and are keen to continue the contact with the new Regiment.

The re-siting of the Middlesex War Memorial from Inglis Barracks to opposite St Paul's Church on the Ridgeway, has been a great success. We have contributed to the Jubilee stained-glass window in the church itself, and our own Regimental stained-glass window will be ready for dedication in early October. More about that in a moment.

All we needed was a meeting with the Colonel of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at which we hoped to persuade him to accept the Legacy package in its entirety, that is:

- The first slice which was his already, passed on through the Queen's Regiment.
- The second slice is in three parts:
 - The Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral, to be known as the Middlesex Chapel to be used by the PWRR for an annual Albuhera commemorative service which may be attended by former members of the Middlesex Regiment, without having to become members of the PWRR Association.
- To continue the association with the Supreme Court, and to lay a wreath at the Middlesex Memorial each year in November.
- To lay a wreath at the Regimental Memorial in Mill Hill, as part of St Paul's Church Annual Service of Remembrance in November, at which a wreath is also laid at the Civic War Memorial opposite the Church.

We have failed miserably to speak to the Colonel of the Regiment. The Regimental Diary was against us, and the Colonel was preparing to hand over to his successor. However, on the 3rd February 2014, we were lucky enough to have a long discussion with the Regimental Secretary, PWRR, Colonel Wayne Harber, who, on behalf of the Regiment agreed to take on those commitments I have just described.

Now, what's left?

First. The remainder of the Heritage Project in the Regimental Chapel (Item 6 on today's Agenda). In addition to those recent enhancements that we have made to the Chapel, we have one final project to complete. In 1941 St Paul's Cathedral was bombed and a marble statue of the Madonna and Child which stood up at the High Altar was damaged. It has been in store since then, but is to be restored and will be re-sited in the Middlesex Chapel to the left of the Altar and the painting "The Light of the World". It is to have a suitable inscription recounting its history and restoration by the Middlesex Regimental Association. The site has been chosen by the Cathedral authorities who anticipate that it will draw many visitors to the Regimental Chapel.

Second. We cannot be sure yet if 2015 will be the last Middlesex-run Service or the first PWRR Albuhera Service in the Regimental Chapel. The PWRR will be waiting to see if, and how, they are affected by the Defence Review, due for publication after the General Election in 2015. If there is any doubt about their availability to take it on next year, we will continue, to run the Service and a Middlesex Reunion ourselves. This then raises the possibility of a delay in the closure of the Middlesex Regimental Association until 2016. However, your Executive Committee intends to ensure that you are kept as well-informed as is possible. To this end, the Committee will be meeting again in September and October to draw a few loose ends together and to produce a timetable for the closing down of the Association.

HERITAGE PROJECT - THE BODLEY MADONNA AND CHILD

The Bodley Madonna and Child is a marble sculpture which was part of the High Altar in St Paul's Cathedral until the altar was damaged by enemy action in 1941.

The Chapter of the Cathedral is committed to restoring the statue to the floor of the Cathedral and it has been suggested that it could be placed in the Middlesex Chapel on a pedestal to the left of the picture "The Light of the World".

If this location is confirmed, after a trial period, and a suitable inscription on the pedestal can be agreed, we intend to finance the move of the sculpture as a heritage project. It will enhance the Chapel, attract visitors, and display our Regimental name close to the altar of the Chapel.

DEDICATION OF A REGIMENTAL STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN St PAUL'S CHURCH MILL HILL

It is proposed to hold a dedication service in St Paul's Church Mill Hill to dedicate a window to the memory of fallen members of the Regiment.

All members of the Association are invited to attend with their families at 1200hrs on the 5th October 2014.

There will be a reception after the Service in the Church Hall, Mill Hill, which will be similar to the one produced for the re-dedication of the War Memorial. There will be beer and wine available, as well as soft drinks.

All members are encouraged to attend this Service and support the Association in ensuring the heritage of the Regiment.

Application forms similar to the ones produced for the Reunion will be in the next Issue of the 'Die Hards', Newsletter. There will not be a charge for attendance, but, it is vital that the forms are completed and returned to me for catering purposes.

I will also be attempting to organise car parking within the Mill Hill School. Further details will be published in the Newsletter.

The forms to which the Secretary refers are at the end of the Newsletter and need your attention and must be returned by Thursday 25th September 2014 for the events to be a success.

General notices from the Secretary

The Secretary drew the attention of those present to the Dedication of the Stained Glass Window at St Paul's Church Mill Hill on the 5th October next, in order that numbers attending are known, for catering purposes, it is necessary for members to declare their intention on the return, at the back of the Newsletter.

A return is also required for catering purposes of the numbers attending the Service at the Supreme Court on 8th November next, which is detailed on the same pro forma as for the Service at St Paul's Church Mill Hill.

The Secretary stressed that it is essential the Middlesex Regimental Database be kept up to date so as to be able to pass an accurate database to PWRR on Association draw down.

Consequently it is Essential that the Pro forma at the back of the Newsletter is completed and returned.

Three members of Enfield Branch will be joining The Buffs Association on a pilgrimage to Mons.

The Secretary advised members that the Association had arranged for the journals and Newsletters of the Middlesex Regiment to be produced on a DVD and that copies can be purchased see the order form at the end of the Newsletter.

Answers to questions previously submitted to the Secretary

A. Burford raised the question of what would happen to the Enfield Branch standard, he was advised that there were two options that might be available and these were under consideration.

AGM and Reunion 2015 is to be held on 16th May 2015.

The meeting closed at 13.40hrs.

The Annual Reunion

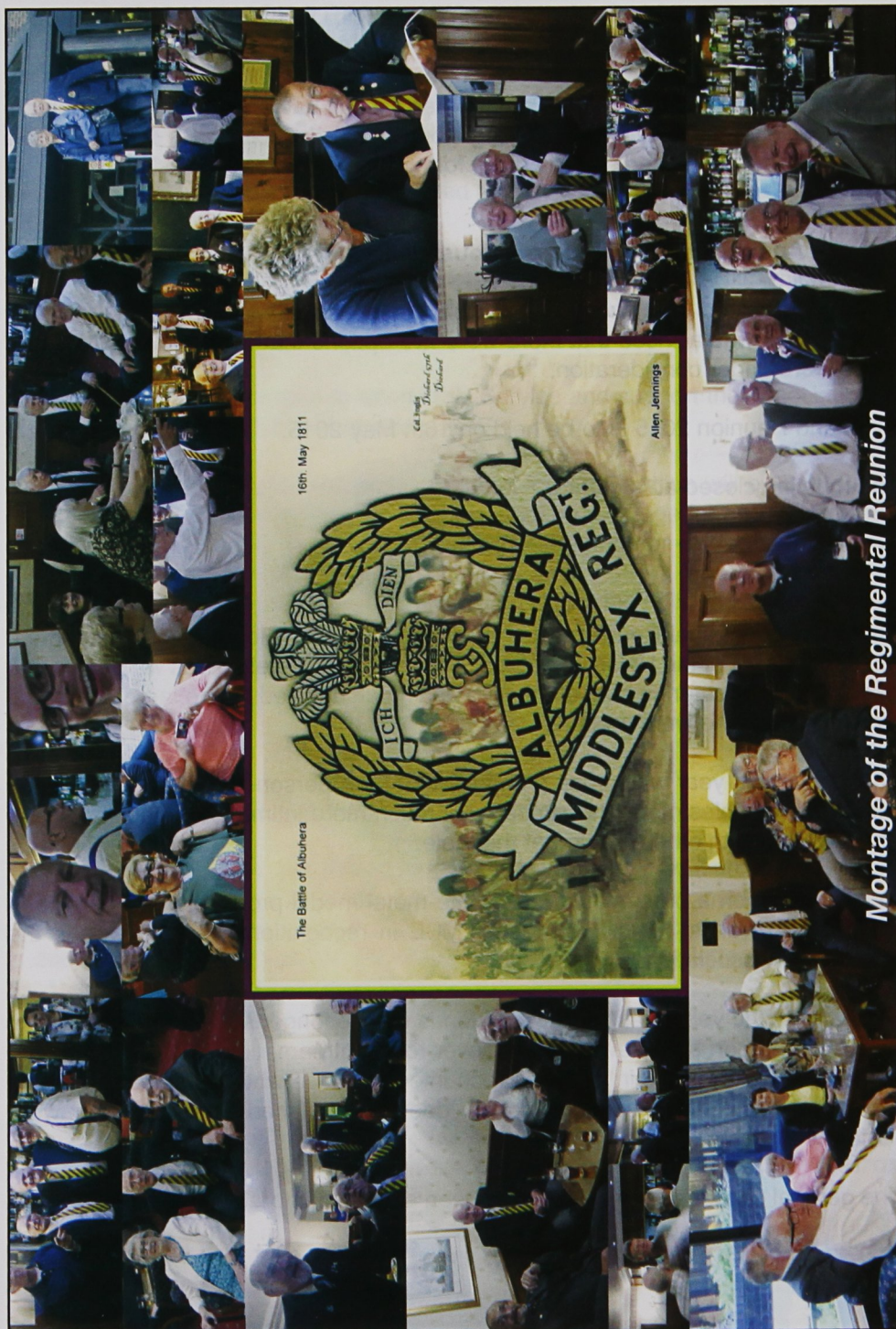
This year, the Annual Reunion was held in the Gasgoine Room as opposed to the main restaurant of the Union Jack Club. The meal was excellent, as we have come to expect of the catering staff at the club and much enjoyed by the large number of old comrades who were present.

The format this year was small round tables of ten persons which, as contrasted with the long tables made the atmosphere much more intimate and much easier too converse with others seated at the table.

During the lunch a presentation of a white metal medal produced by Mappin and Webb was given to Major Ron Morris MBE in recognition of his service to the Regimental Association.

Naturally as the years pass some old friends can no longer attend due to ill health, others have been borne away by that ever rolling stream, time. However they are not forgotten and figure in the tales recounted by those who remember them and were present in their company when deeds sometimes best forgotten were performed.

The general consensus was that it had been a most memorable and enjoyable day.



Winners of the PWRR Trophy - Sergio Galvan Moro and Juan Luis Santos Lopez
after the presentation with the
Regimental Secretary Colonel Wayne Harbour & Major Dennis Bradley

**The Fifth Officers' Club Annual Luncheon
held at the Union Jack Club took place on
Thursday 10th of July 2014 - Col Rex Cain presiding.**

Regimental Guests:- Mrs Ann Pielow, Mrs Jean Clayden and Mrs Kay Lawrence.

Members and private guests:- Brig Brian Marciandi, Col Rex Cain, Lt Col & Mrs Mike Deakin, Maj Bob Bartlett, Maj & Mrs Dennis Bradley, Maj & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj Howard Couch, Maj & Mrs Derrick Harwood, Maj James Jonklaas, Maj & Mrs Ron Morris, Maj & Mrs Joe O'Gormon, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Mr Howard Clayden, Lt & Mrs Peter Ottino and Lt Jeremy Syers.

Apologies and regrets received from:- Col Richard Graham, Lt Col Roger Gancz, Lt Col Peter Hubert, Maj Steve Dowse, Maj David Falcke, Maj Brian Finch, Maj Frank Gladden, Capt Ken Beale, Capt Don Cattell, Capt Simon Enthoven, Mrs Joan Fisher, Mrs Diane Henshaw, Mrs Andy Hutchings and Mrs Moira Jeffcoat.

Col Cain welcomed the guests and said it was not his intention to speak at length as he was aware that some had trains to catch. He thanked everyone for attending and at the same time he thanked the staff of the Union Jack Club for their efforts on our behalf and for the excellent lunch they provided.

**The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment).
The pre-war and war-time title of the Regiment
at the Declaration of War in 1914**

On the declaration of war on 4th August 1914 the Middlesex Regiment comprised of 10 battalions four of which were regular, two Reserve and four Territorial. The regular battalions were stationed, 1st Battalion (57th) at Woolwich, 2nd Battalion (77th) in Malta, 3rd Battalion at Cawnpore in India and the 4th Battalion quartered at Devonport. The two Reserve battalions 5th (Royal Elthorne Militia) and 6th (Royal East Middlesex Militia) were at Mill Hill the depot of the regiment.

The four Territorial Battalions which were in the Home Counties Division and formed the Middlesex Infantry Brigade, were the 7th Battalion with its Headquarters in Hornsey, the 8th at Hounslow, the 9th at Willesden Green and the 10th at Ravenscourt Park.

Thus, the regiment, once war had been declared and mobilisation had been ordered was capable of putting ten thousand officers and men in the field. The Middlesex Regiment, during the course of the war raised 46 Battalions which served both abroad and at home. During the course of hostilities 26 of those Battalions fought at various times in ten theatres of operations, France, Belgium, Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Palestine, Mesopotamia, Greece, Russia, Siberia.

Private John Parr - Middlesex Regiment

John Parr was born on 19th July 1897 at Church End, Finchley and was baptised at St John's Church, Holloway.

He was educated at several church schools, the last being Christ Church School, and after school worked as a 'golf caddie' at the North Middlesex Golf Club in Friern Barnet Lane

On 6th May 1912 he was attested into the 5th (Special Reserve) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment at the Regimental Depot in Mill Hill. He was 14 years and 10 months old but claimed to be three years older. On 7th August 1912 he enlisted as a regular soldier and after basic training at the Depot was posted to the 4th Battalion at Devonport.

War Against Germany was declared on 4th August 1914 and 4th Middlesex departed for France on the 13th and travelled towards Mons in Belgium The Battle of Mons began on 23rd August but Parr was officially recorded as having been killed in action on 21st August 1914.

Having heard nothing from her son, his mother wrote to the War Office in October 1914 saying that she had heard that he had been shot down at Mons. The Army had no record of this and replied that, as far as they were concerned, he was serving with his regiment. Eventually, in 1915, the death of John Parr was confirmed.

The circumstances of his death are not known although a number of different accounts have appeared in books about the Great War. The most credible is that he was killed while serving as a 'cyclist orderly' in the vicinity of Mons. He was found and buried by the Germans in St Symphonen Cemetery near Mons. He was 17 years and one month when he died and is recognised as the first British soldier to be killed in the Great War,

Ironically the first fatal casualty sustained by the British forces serving in Korea was on the 8th September 1950, a Private soldier of the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment. Namely Private Reginald Streeter aged 19, a National Serviceman.

**The photograph on the front cover was taken by Lieutenant Richard Money
1st Cameronians.**

The note with it says "The battle halted the German advance 30 miles from Paris. This was one of the first photographs taken under fire and was widely published in Britain. Nine horses were killed. The man in the centre of the photograph has just suffered a serious head wound."

HILL 112 NORMANDY REVISITED

by Major D Falke



Major David Falke and Tom Moore

I was privileged to join a party of Regular and Reservist soldiers from Bulford based 43 (Wessex) Brigade on a battlefield tour of Normandy to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Battle for Hill 112, the 43rd Infantry Division's first major battle in Normandy.

The party consisted of soldiers from The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, 226 Battery, Royal Artillery from Bristol, 4th Battalion The Rifles, officer cadets from Bristol University Officer Training Corps and staff from HQ 43 Bde. and 1 Artillery Brigade, both based in Tidworth. The military aim of the trip was to draw lessons for the future from the fighting undertaken by 43 Infantry Division in July and August 1944.

The brigade held a Service of Remembrance at Banneville-La-Campagne War Cemetery where crosses were placed on the graves of 43rd Div. soldiers who were killed in Normandy, I placed a cross on the grave of Lt A. W. Bettell Middlesex Regiment who was killed on 8th August 1944.

A full day was spent walking the ground at Hill 112, a site still heavily laced with shards of shrapnel and bone fragments, a testimony to the fierce battle that was fought here in 1944.



Tom Moore chatting to the Earl of Wessex

We were joined by veterans from 4th and 5th Battalion The Wiltshire Regiment and 4th Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry which were the battalions that took this vital feature with the support of the Vickers machine guns of 8th Battalion The Middlesex Regiment.

On Saturday 10th July a service of commemoration was held at the 43rd Division Memorial, attended by eleven veterans from the Division, proudly wearing their Wessex Wyvern emblems, amongst them two 8th Battalion veterans, Arthur "Tom" Moore, 92 and Ron Arnold, 89.

Tom joined up in 1937 as a boy with 2nd Middlesex, but was too young to go to France with the BEF and was transferred to the 8th Battalion and landed in France on 23rd June 1944.

He described the supporting fire given by the battalion for the attack on Hill 112 when tens of thousands of rounds were fired to augment the 43,000 artillery rounds that were directed on the Panzer SS Division and Hitler Youth troops that were dug in on the hill.

Tom stayed with the battalion until it crossed into Germany and finished the war working with a specialist unit of 12th Army Group which was tasked with searching for fleeing Nazi officials.



Middlesex Veterans Tom Moore and Ron Arnold

Ron was posted into 8th Middlesex from the Rifle Brigade in April 1943 and was a dispatch rider, but suffered an injury to his hand and evacuated to UK and subsequently discharged. During the ceremony he wore his 1943 issue khaki beret with the original bakelite cap badge.

The service at Hill 112 was attended by the Earl of Wessex who then joined the veterans at a Vin D'Honneur after the parade. Both Tom and Ron were presented with commemorative medals by the President of L'Association ODON-COTE 112 (Hill 112).

During the service, the President of L'Association ODON-COTE 112 said to the veterans and their families that their loved ones would be cared for by the people of Normandy and an even greater burden would be placed on them with the closure of 43 (Wessex) Brigade.

This reflected the fact that 43 (Wessex) Brigade will be removed from the order of battle on 1 January 2015 and the Wessex Wyvern will no longer be worn as an insignia by the British Army.

There was a huge burst of laughing from the veterans when the President of L'Association ODON-COTE 112 said that he hoped that he would see them for the 75th Anniversary celebrations!

We shall see - they were a pretty indomitable group of men.

ODD JOTTINGS

Despite the dwindling numbers at Enfield the Christmas lunch was well attended. Diehards and their guests numbering thirty five in all enjoyed a splendid meal and some excellent entertainment amid a convivial atmosphere. These mini reunions aimed at keeping our members in touch will carry on for as long as possible. Our next lunch is planned for 6th of July 2014 followed in December by this year's Christmas lunch.

Eight members of Hounslow Branch attended a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving to mark ANZAC DAY on Friday 25th April at St Mary's Church Harefield. They were joined by Dave Lester, after the Service and wreath laying in the cemetery the children of the village laid a posy on each of the serviceman's graves. Following the service in the cemetery refreshments were served in the church hall where an interesting ANZAC display was on show.

Ron Morris heard from Bob Bartlett recently to say he has finally met up with George Freeborn and despite the passing years they both recognised each other! George is now a retired farmer living in Dumfries.

NEWS FROM SPAIN

Col Wayne Harbor and Major Dennis Bradley made the journey to Spain for the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Albuhera. Whilst there they presented cups to the winners of the Annual English speaking competition which encourages the children of the village to learn English and is supported by PWRR. The winners this year were Sergio Galvan Moro and Juan Luis Santos Lopez. The recent changes can be considered improvements the museum in the passage of the Elvas Chapel, a new flag mast by the obelisk in Albuhera from which the PWRR flag was flown this year alongside the Union and Spanish flags.

Our thanks once again to Celia Denney who continues to look after the Regiment's interests.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

Enquiries in respect of items for purchase and availability should be made to the Regimental Shop Telephone Number:- 01227 817945

OBITUARIES

M Ash who served on the Regimental Police and with D Coy whilst with the 1st Battalion in Cyprus and Germany. Died aged 76 years on 9th July 2014.

B H Boxwell who served with the 1st Battalion in Korea died on 24th March 2014. No further information is available.

Captain Michael Brock CBE MA Fr Hist S D Litt who was the Adjutant of 2/7th Battalion for a time during World War Two serving with them from 1941 to 1945 died on 30th April 2014.

W Duncan enlisted on 10th February 1947 as a band boy at Mill Hill. He could not have been more than 17 years old when he joined the second battalion in Palestine in 1947 until 16th May 1948 as his GSM has "boy" as his rank. Home service followed from May until June 1949 before being posted to Hong Kong.

He was deployed with the battalion to Korea on HMS Unicorn however, the band stayed on board providing musical entertainment and during March 1951 they travelled to Japan before meeting up with the battalion again in Hong Kong. Another stint of Home service followed from December 1952 until March 1953 when the battalion moved to Zeltweg, Austria airport camp. It was here that Bill met his wife Gisela Kernmayer who was a member of the Works Band in the village providing the much needed schnapps when the band had finished playing.

Bill was a keen sportsman representing the battalion in football, hockey and basketball. He left the battalion in December 1954 and became a police constable in the Metropolitan Police eventually joining the police band. He was actively involved with the Royal British Legion (Manor Park Branch) becoming the president of the branch and awarded life membership in 1997 for meritorious service.

Bill suffered a serious stroke in 2012 and was nursed by his wife for the last two years until she passed away in June, Bill passed away in July. He was very proud of his Middlesex connections and Bill kept in touch with many of his former band colleagues.

A J Freeman The Spring Newsletter was returned from his recorded address with a note to say he died on 13th October. That is all we know.

WO11 Drum Major P A B Howells, Died 6th June 2014 aged 80 years. We first met in 1965 when I was posted to the 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) in Gibraltar. I was the Regimental Sergeant Major and Percy was already established as the Drum Major. As such we worked together very closely. I was indeed fortunate in having Percy as my right hand man.

Percy was renowned for being an innovator and getting things done. The Corps of Drums under his guidance achieved the highest possible standards in all aspects of their military life. Whilst in British Guiana (Guyana) he formed a steel band. The band proved very popular and was always in demand. A highlight was appearing on television in the Opportunity Knocks programme.

On leaving the Army after 22 years' service Percy embarked on a new career with Marks and Spencer. Again he was very successful in a managerial role. Unfortunately, in retirement he endured long periods of ill health, which in the end took their toll.

His funeral took place on Thursday 19th June at Wimbourne in Dorset. The coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag and the Regimental March was played. Trevor Overton who lives nearby represented the Regiment. Trevor was a National Service man who served in HQ Company in Cyprus 1956/7.

Captain K E Beale MBE

D L Sheldrake (John) served with the 1st Battalion in Korea and then in Hong Kong where he was the Officers' Mess Corporal passed away on Monday 5th May 2014 after suffering from a long illness. His funeral was held at Truro crematorium on Friday 16th May 2014.

Bill Stroud Bill died on Saturday 3rd of May 2014. His funeral service held on 21st of May at Mattishall, Norfolk, close to where he lived included the Regimental slow march and the last post, many of the floral tributes were in the Regimental colours and the Diehards cap badge was also portrayed in flowers. Bill served with A.Coy. 1st Battalion in Cyprus during the troubled times of 1958 and then went with the regiment to Hamlin. Both he and his wife Pat were strong supporters of the association and were always present at the annual reunion and service at St Pauls.

A. Brown

P Travers - Hill (Frenchie) joined the Battalion in 1964 whilst we were in Gibraltar. He was the son of a French Mother and an English Father (who was a WW1 veteran who worked for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in St. Omer) Northern France. "Frenchie" was supposed to follow in his Dad's footsteps, and was sent to London, Kew Gardens to train as a gardener, he joined the Army instead. We remember him as a feisty, tough soldier, with a quick Gallic temper, who was entertaining and very different to your average English soldier. He was a driver attached Support Weapons at Netheravon, and was well liked by all his comrades. He even had to return to France with his young Platoon Commander to prove to the French Court that he was not a draft dodger, being actually in the British Army! He served eight years with us in the Middlesex and the newly formed Queen's Regiment. He lost his valiant and courageous battle against cancer in March. He will be sadly missed au revoir mon brave ami.

P Ryan MM

John Yeats The Enfield branch lost one of its staunchest members on Sunday 4th of May 2014 when John Yeats passed away unexpectedly after a short illness. John had been a member of the branch for some twenty five years and served on the committee until he moved up to Diss in Norfolk about seven years ago to care for his aging mother. Despite living such a distance from Enfield he remained in touch and always attended branch functions and parades and never failed to turn up at St Pauls. Prior to his move to Norfolk John had been the Conservative councillor for Enfield and had been instrumental in persuading the local government to fly the Middlesex regimental flag above the civic centre on Albuhera days. Always immaculate in his dress John was the perfect gentleman who would go far out of his way to assist anyone in trouble, his polite and gentle manner will be a great loss not only the branch but to all who knew him.

A.Brown

We have learnt of the deaths of the following members for whom no further information is readily available.

W E G Duncan

D Remfrey

D Thurston

RETURN TO MAJOR D BRADLEY BEM DL - PAX TECUM, 33 SPANTON CRESCENT, HYTHE, KENT CT21 4SF BY THURSDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2014.

Pro Forma

This information is required for catering purposes

Dedication of stained glass window at St Paul's Church The Ridgeway Mill Hill

On 5th October 2014 Seated by 11.50hrs service commences 12.00hrs.

I will/will not attend the above event. Number attending.

Name.....Regimental guests.....

Non Regimental Guests.....

Total.....

Middlesex Ceremony of Remembrance

Supreme Court of Justice Parliament Square London SW1P 3BD

On 8th November Assemble 10.45Hrs Service commences 10.50hrs

I will/will not attend the event. Information required for catering purposes

Number attending including guests.....

Update of Data Base

Update all personal details on this pro forma and return to Major Bradley.

Maintaining a current postal list for you is an important way to stay in contact.

We are also asking for all those who have an Email address to include this as post has become very expensive, and once the Association closes it is essential that we are in a position to hand a creditable data base over to PWRR.

Name..... Association card no

Address

Post code Tel No

Email Address

ORDER FORM

Middlesex Regiment Journals on DVD

The Journals and Newsletters of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own), known as the "Diehards", are a valuable source of information about the Regiment from the end of the Great War until its amalgamation in 1966. Thereafter it is the story of the Regimental Association.

The period covered includes the two world wars, and Korea, and records the reduction of the Regiment from 46 battalions at the end of the Great War to one regular and one territorial battalion by 1960. The National Service years (1949-1963) may be of interest to students of the social history of the post-war years.

Accounts of Regimental events, postings, statements of the locations and promotions of officers, and senior non-commissioned officers are all included in the Journals.

Copies of this DVD are available for sale at a cost of £14.00 including postage.

Cheques should be mailed to:

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

Cheques to be made payable to PWRR Benevolent Fund Mx

No 1 Account

ORDER FORM

Middlesex Regiment Journals on DVD

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Printed by D. Isom Printers Ltd

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