

The Die-Hards



Commemorative Final Issue
December 2016

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
 The Late Editor : Mr M.J. Ward, BEM

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the end of 2016 it will be fifty years since the Middlesex Regiment left the Army List and the amalgamation which formed the Queen's Regiment took place. So although the closure of our Association is sad it is hardly surprising.

I am sure there will be those who would like us to go on for a few more years but the age of our membership strongly indicates that we should close while we are still able to control events. As it is we are able to plan a withdrawal rather than face a rout. I have written elsewhere in this last Newsletter about what has been achieved since the decision was taken to close down and I believe the list is impressive. But it was only possible because we planned ahead and had a fixed date for closure.

For those who want to go on attending reunions and receiving an annual journal the Queen's Regiment Association is up and running and, of course, I am sure that informal gatherings of Diehards will not cease. The annual Albuhera Service in the Middlesex Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral will, I am assured, continue in future organised by RHQ of the PWRR.

Welfare cases will also continue to be looked after by RHQ PWRR and any requests for financial assistance should be addressed there.

Remember, the old saying "Once a Diehard always a Diehard" remains as true as it ever was.

With every good wish for the future,

Rex Cain

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2017

13th May	Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London Seated 10.15hrs Service 10.30hrs
13th May	Annual Albuhera Lunch Gascoigne Room of the Union Jack Club following the Albuhera Service at St Paul's Cathedral at 14.00 hours.
10th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey
11th November	Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Supreme Court of Justice 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs
12th November	Remembrance Sunday

Letter to H M The Queen formally asking for the Closure of the Association of the Middlesex Regiment.



Major D Bradley BEM DL
 Secretary of the Middlesex Regiment Association

Reference Mx 6

The Defence Services Secretary,
 Buckingham Palace,
 London SW1

3 December 2016

Dear Sir,

Colonel R M Cain OBE DL, President of the Middlesex Regimental Association has instructed me to forward the following message to Her Majesty.

The Regimental Association of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) will cease to operate from the 31st December 2016.

All ranks of the Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) present their humble duty and loyal greetings to Her Majesty, The Queen.

I am Sir,

Yours Faithfully.

Dennis Bradley

Pax Tecum, 33 Spanton Crescent, Hythe, Kent CT21 4SF
 Business Tel: 07932 024285
 Email: dennis749@sky.com

H M The Queen's response to the Association's Closure letter



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

31st December 2016

Please convey to all ranks of the Middlesex Regiment Association (Duke of Cambridge's Own), my warm thanks for their message of loyal greetings on the closure of the Association.

I very much appreciate your kind words and, in return, send my best wishes for the future.

ELIZABETH R

Colonel R M Cain OBE DL
President
Middlesex Regimental Association



A Tribute to Mr Michael (Mike) J Ward BEM

Mr Michael Ward who died at his home in Cranford on Saturday 5th November 2016 age 84 was a member of the Executive Committee, Chairman of the Hounslow Branch and Editor of the Die Hards Newsletter.

In 1950 Mike was called up for National Service in the Middlesex Regiment but after completing basic training his intake were told that they were to join the King's Shropshire Light Infantry. This was because the 1st KSLI had relieved the 1st Middlesex in Korea which is where he was sent.

On his return to civilian life in 1952 Mike joined the TA battalion in Hounslow, formerly the 8th Middlesex, but now the 11th (later the 10th) Battalion of the Parachute Regiment. Having been a member of the Boys' Brigade when he was young Mike joined the Drums.

His parachuting days ended when during an exercise his parachute failed to open properly and he suffered a spinal injury which troubled him in later life. Fortunately 8th Middlesex reverted to its original infantry role and Mike was able to progress through the ranks into the Sergeants Mess. He was awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division).

He joined the Hounslow Branch of the Middlesex Regimental Association where he and his friends took a particular interest in the events at Albuhera commemorating the battle. They visited regularly and established a close relationship with the group of expatriates led by Celia Denney involved in restoring the chapel at Elvas. They also, under Mike's leadership visited Lille and Ypres as well as attending all the Association's functions in the London area.

In 2006 when the Executive Committee was reorganised he was selected a member and became the Editor of the Newsletter a position he retained until the end. The Newsletter provided a vital means of communicating with the membership of the Association scattered all over the world and was highly valued as a way of keeping in touch with friends and events.

As a member of the Executive Committee Mike could be relied upon to bring sound common sense to any of the issues raised. He ably and successfully represented the views of the Branches when decisions were taken and was a member of the sub-committee which in 2006 recommended the closure of the Association at the end of 2016.

With his quiet competence, loyalty to his friends and well developed and typically London sense of humour his was a long life well lived. He will be sorely missed and long remembered.

Mike's wife Dinah and his daughter Helen predeceased him and he is survived by his son Roger and daughter in law Maria and his sister Diana.

RMC

A Tribute to Colonel H.J.A. Moore OBE

Colonel H J A Moore who has died in his 90th year was born on 20th December 1926, grew up in Sudbury on the outskirts of Harrow and was evacuated to Canada at the beginning of the war.

He was a contemporary of Brigadier Tony Pielow. They went to the same OCTU (Alton Towers) and together joined our 1st Battalion in Iserlohn in 1947, moving with the Battalion to Chelsea Barracks in 1948 for Public Duties.

In 1949, after attending a Signals Course, John embarked with the Battalion for Hong Kong as Signals Officer before the move to Korea where he later commanded the Mortar Platoon. By 1952 the Depot at Mill Hill had resumed its role of training recruits and John Moore was posted there as adjutant. He later served with the 1st Battalion in Austria, Cyprus, Hameln and Gibraltar but was also appointed adjutant of the Hong Kong Regiment in 1954 and Training Major of the 23rd London's in 1961.

After attending the Staff Intelligence course in 1957 John was posted to 24 Brigade as GSO 3 (Int) and served in Kenya and Bahrain. He held a number of staff appointments in Scottish and Western Commands until he became Staff Qualified in 1964 and in 1968 was seconded to the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces as AA & QMG and was promoted Lieutenant Colonel. In 1970 he was appointed an Officer in the military division of the Order of the British Empire and during the Dhofar Rebellion was awarded the Oman Distinguished Service Medal.

From 1971 to 1973 John was the Defence Attache in Phnom Penh, Cambodia during the Vietnam War. On his return to the UK he was promoted to Colonel and his last staff appointment was as Chief of the Organisation and Training Branch at the NATO Headquarters in Turkey of the Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe. He retired from the Army in 1978.

In retirement he lived in Well, a small village in North Yorkshire where he worked for the Red Cross, involved himself in local affairs and enjoyed his garden. Always immaculately turned out, whether in uniform or civilian clothes, he had excellent taste, enjoyed entertaining and was a generous host. A gifted pianist and church organist he lived quietly with a succession of Tibetan spaniels for company.

He will be sadly missed by his few surviving contemporaries and by his many friends in Yorkshire.

RMC

THE ANNUAL ALBUHERA LUNCH

Will take place on 13 May 2017 at 1400 hours in the Gascoigne Room of the Union Jack Club following the Albuhera Service at St Paul's Cathedral.

This year the lunch will consist of a hot buffet (menu details to follow) at £25 per head.

Places are restricted to 120.

Payment:

By Bank Transfer: PWRR Association London Branch, TSB
Sort Code: 30-98-43 **Account No:** 16477060

Use ref: Name followed by 13 MAY, e.g. Smith13MAY

Please indicate payment made by BACS by email to: thorntonrgc@hotmail.com

By Cheque:

The Secretary – Major (Retd) Richard Thornton
Queens and PWRR Association London Branch
2 Norfolk House,
St Leonards-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN37 6HZ

Please direct any questions to
Adrian de Villiers: adrian.devilliers@hotmail.com
or

Major (Retd) Richard Thornton: thorntonrgc@hotmail.com

Please make cheques out to: PWRR Association London Branch.

Details

Surname

Christian Name

Branch if any

I will attend the Albuhera Reunion at the Union Jack Club: Yes..... No.....

I will haveGuests

Names of Guest

I enclose a cheque made payable to Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment Association
London Branch for £25.00.

Address to which tickets are to be sent

.....
.....

Post Code

Please submit your application with a stamped addressed envelope.

SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AT THE SUPREME COURT 2017

A service of remembrance will take place at the Supreme Court, London SW1 3BD on Saturday the 11th November 2017. Assemble at 1035HRS, the service will commence at 1045hrs.

Please complete the Pro-forma below if you intend to attend. This information is required for catering purposes.

Name.....

Names of guests:

Address:

.....

.....

Post Code:

Telephone number:

Email address:

The above Pro-forma should be sent to Mr Henry Thomas, Area Headquarters PWRR, Leros Reserve Centre, Sturry Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1HR.
By the Monday 30th October 2017.

Telephone: **Mr H Thomas - 01227 817975**

Email: **INFHQ-QUEENS-PWRR-AHQ-AreaSec@mod.uk**

Email: **Henry.Thomas112@mod.uk**

**Albuhera Day Service of Remembrance
Saturday 21st May 2016 - Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London**

The Service this year fell on the 205th anniversary of the battle of Albuhera. It was the last service arranged by the Association prior to the occasion being administered by our successor Regiment, The PWRR in future years. As a consequence a large congregation of members and guests were in attendance.

Prior to the service the Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment gave a popular selection of music in the courtyard outside the north door to the delight of our members and the tourists who were visiting the Cathedral.

At the end of their programme our President presented the Bandmaster with a cheque for £10,000 in recognition of all the help and pleasure that the Band had given to us over the past, more than ten years.

The choir and ministers entered for the service to the Regimental Slow March to conduct this ever popular event in the Regimental Association's calendar. The choir sang the Introit followed by the Bidding which was given by The Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean before the congregation joined in the Lord's Prayer and sang the hymn "Thy Hand, O God, has guided" the bible reading was Ephesians 6. 10-18 read by Colonel R M Cain OBE DL. Our service followed the popular format of previous years; the address was given by The Right Reverend Graeme Knowles, CVO, FKC. The Reverend James Milne, Minor Canon and Sacrist led those present in prayers, followed by the Turning of the Page of the Book of Remembrance and a wreath was laid.

The Act of Remembrance was conducted by The Reverend Canon Philippa Boardman, Treasurer, Canon in Residence when we recall our comrades by name, who have died during the last year.

The Act of Thanksgiving and Dedication was led by Colonel R M Cain, OBE DL and Major General D M Chalmers, DSO, OBE, Colonel of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the Dean followed by our closing hymn and the Blessing by The Dean. The National Anthem was sung and the Clergy and choir left to the Regimental Quick March Sir Manly Power/Paddy's Resource.

Our thanks to the Staff of St Paul's, The Band of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment under the direction of Lt. Colonel R W Hopla, BA (Hons), ARCM, BBCM, PSM whose contribution made this such a special occasion.

On the conclusion of the service members and their guests made their way to the Union Jack Club for the Annual General Meeting and the Reunion lunch.

The Middlesex Regiment Association has decided to close on 31st December this year and will hand the annual commemoration of the Battle of Albuhera held in the Middlesex Chapel of St Paul's Cathedral to the PWRR. It is, and will continue to be, a major part of the modern regiment's identity.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regiment Association
Held at the Union Jack Club Sandell Street London on 21st May 2016**

Welcome Lt. Col M Deakin welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from: R Best, C Bilney, J O'Sullivan, B Tate, K Williams

Present: R Abrams, R Bartle, E Bedford, R W Bird, R Bockhart, A Bonner, Maj D Bradley Secretary, A Broadbent, A Brown, K Brown, A Burford, Col R Cain President, A Connor, Lt/Col M Deakin Chairman, Capt. M Doran, P Dyer, B Eldred, A M Falcke, Maj B Finch, C French, E Green, M Halffman, J Hamill, Maj D Harwood, J Hawkins, R Hawkins, G Higgins, R Holden, D Howard, C Hull, E I Hunte, Rev T Hutton, J Innes, P Ives, A Jennings, A Jones, B Jones, D Langston, Maj R Morris, B Murray, P Ottino, T Perkins, G Plummer, F Priest, J Raby, E J Redmond, A Richardson, B G Rockell, J Sires, M Smith, G Stevens, P Stewart, V Sullivan, Maj R Thornton, H Turner, J Turner, M Turton, M Ward, K Witting, G Young.

It was agreed unanimously that in accordance with the plan approved at the Annual General Meeting on 13th May 2006, the Regimental Association would close and cease to exist on 31st December 2016.

THE DIE-HARD LEGACY

Matching the President's well-crafted articles is never an easy task, so I turned to the dictionary for further inspiration. I found the following definition which might, I believe, lead towards understanding our concept of a legacy.

Legacy:

- An amount of money or property left for someone in a will
- Something handed down by a predecessor
- Also denoting the function or office of a 'legate', (a general or governor of an ancient Roman province, or their deputy). Also an ambassador or messenger.

It occurred to me that to mark our closure with a widely-spread legacy, we were trying to do something more than an elderly relative might do when leaving a sum of money with the strict instruction to "make sure that you buy yourself an improving book with it!" We were saying, "This is us. This is who we were. This is what we did. This is what we stood for and this is how we would like to be remembered. Now, here also is how we would like to help you".

Since 2006, when the decision to close down the Regimental Association was made, much discussion and many ideas have been generated at meetings of the Regimental Committee concerning the composition of a legacy.

The membership of the Association has also offered some very helpful comments from time to time, although some of those suggestions were guaranteed to "set fire to the grass around the CO's tent"! At various Reunion AGMs, and in the more recent copies of the Die-Hards Newsletter, a summary of work carried out or projects being planned have been included in an effort to keep you up to date with our legacy progress.

It has not always been possible however to add a completion date and a final cost to the individual items. This report aims to correct that with a comprehensive list of costed gifts and donations. Some items need no explanation, the donations to the TA and the Army Cadet Force, for example. To others, a few background details have been added.

Donations and Gifts

- 10 Queens and Middlesex Territorial Trust **£25,000**
- The Army Cadet League, Middlesex and North West Sector
Greater London Army Cadet Force Branch **£20,000**
- **Mill Hill School CCF** **£10,000**
A gift for an endowment to provide an annual prize to be presented to the best junior cadet of the School Contingent. In return, the CCF will lay a wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association at the Regimental War Memorial at the School gate each Albuhera Day, the 16th May. This also marks a long association with the School. In addition, a framed pencil drawing of the Inglis Barracks Officers Mess, which includes the now re-sited Memorial, was also presented to the School.
- **St. Paul's Parish Church, Mill Hill** **£36,000**
As the Regiment has also had a long association with St. Paul's as the nearest parish church to the Depot, we were pleased to be able to contribute to a stained-glass window commemorating The Queen's Jubilee. This prompted the thought that a Middlesex Regiment stained-glass window would also be an appropriate element of our legacy. The artist commissioned for the work, John Reyntiens, has produced a much admired memorial window, which will draw many knowledgeable visitors to the Church in the future.

The framing of the roundels taken from the remnants of the First World War Service Battalion colours proved equally successful. They have been hung on the walls in significant areas of the Church, and towards their maintenance, and that of the other Middlesex memorabilia, which includes the standards of the Enfield and Hounslow Branches of the Regimental Association, and more recently that of the Depot Cub Scout Troop, the Church has been given **£5,000**

It will be recalled that the removal, storage, re-assembly, and re-siting of the Memorial was undertaken, free of charge, by the developer of the Depot site. However, St. Paul's Church has also undertaken to maintain the Regimental War Memorial re-sited from Inglis Barracks to opposite the Church on The Ridgeway, for which it has been awarded the ring-fenced sum of **£15,000**

In this last year, the grave of the former Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Maurice Browne, MC, has been cleaned and tidied, and the Ashes of the remnants of the Service Battalion colours have been Buried at the foot of the grave.

- **The Supreme Court of Justice**, (formerly The Middlesex Guildhall) The short service at the refurbished Memorial to the Men of Middlesex and The Middlesex Regiment, held in November each year, is now well established, and is welcomed and attended by staff of the Supreme Court. The Court is also now home to the commemorative plaque presented to the Korean Club by the Korean Government last year. This year, as a final gesture of thanks for the support of the Court, we have had enhanced lighting installed to provide better illumination of the Middlesex Memorial.

The cost of this improvement was **£10,000**

- **The Regimental Chapel, St. Paul's Cathedral**
That part of the Legacy offered to St. Paul's as an enhancement to The Regimental Chapel (formerly The Baptistry) has included a Book of Remembrance and a glass-topped cabinet in which it is kept. The turning of a page of the Book is written each year into the Albuhera Day Order of Service. In addition, new choir stalls, lectern, and chairs for the Clergy, all bearing the badge of The Middlesex Regiment, have been presented for use in the Chapel at a cost of **£15,000**

The inscribed plinth on which the refurbished statue of The Madonna and Child, by Garner will stand is now complete. You may recall that the statue was removed from its original position near the High Altar of the Cathedral after a bombing raid in the 1940's. It will be placed to the left of the altar in the Regimental Chapel, the inscription reading, "Given by The Middlesex Regiment". For this project, we have set aside **£30,000**

Lesser donations have been made, in total about £5,000, towards smaller but still significant projects such as the memorial in North Finchley to Private Parr of the 4th Battalion, the first British casualty of the First World War, the maintenance of the grave in Hendon Park Cemetery of Drummer Stagpoole, and a contribution to the Band of the PWRR, for uniforms and instruments. Some of these donations were met jointly from Association and Officers Club funds.

"Last Parade"

That then is a summary of the legacy to be left by The Regimental Association of The Middlesex Regiment (The Duke of Cambridge's Own) when it finally closes at the end of this year. Whether it has got the balance right will be for other people to judge. However, it can be said quite truthfully that it represents the honest opinions and recommendations of a succession of Regimental Committees since the concept of a closure was first discussed in March 2005.

My personal thanks go to the past and present members of the Committee for their honest and balanced consideration of the various problems met, and to The Secretary for all his "leg work", his thorough organisation and his supporting staff work. Above all I am deeply indebted to the President, Colonel Rex Cain, for his wisdom, regimental knowledge, and his ability to steer discussion and decision towards a sensible and realistic conclusion.

"This is us. This is who we were. This is what we did.
This is what we stood for, and this is how we would like to be remembered.
Now here also is how we would like to help you."

M F Deakin Lt. Col (Retd)
Chairman

THE ANNUAL REUNION

The Annual Reunion which was again held in the Gasgoigne Room with limited seating accommodation of 140 persons due to fire regulations.

The lunch this year was of an excellent quality comprising of Prawns and Crayfish in Cocktail Sauce on crispy lettuce with cucumber, Canon of Kentish Lamb served with crushed Peas, Green Beans and potatoes, Seasonal Fruit Pavlova, coffee/tea and petit fours. Toasts were drunk to The Queen and The Regiment.

The seating arrangement of round tables made for a very convivial atmosphere and has proved to be very popular, once again the lunch was much enjoyed and made for a very successful reunion where once again old friendships were renewed, new ones made and vows given to come again next year, God willing.

AT UNION JACK CLUB

A handwritten note was passed to Mike Ward which read:

"It's our Middlesex Reunion Luncheon. We have held it for many a year but Lord this is our last one so may we hold it very dear.

Our friends are getting older and some alas are gone. Fond memories may linger and help to keep us strong.

So Lord we pray, that today, we may enjoy the food, the wine, the company and always, ever be aware of what we owe to thee".



The Somme Memorial Service 24th September 2016

A service to remember those who died during the Somme Offensive (1st July – 18th November 1916) was held in front of our war memorial in the Supreme Court on 24th September 2016.

Our Chaplain Rev. Fr. Tim Hutton conducted a simple service of Remembrance which included the sounding of Last Post and Reveille by a member of the PWRR Band.

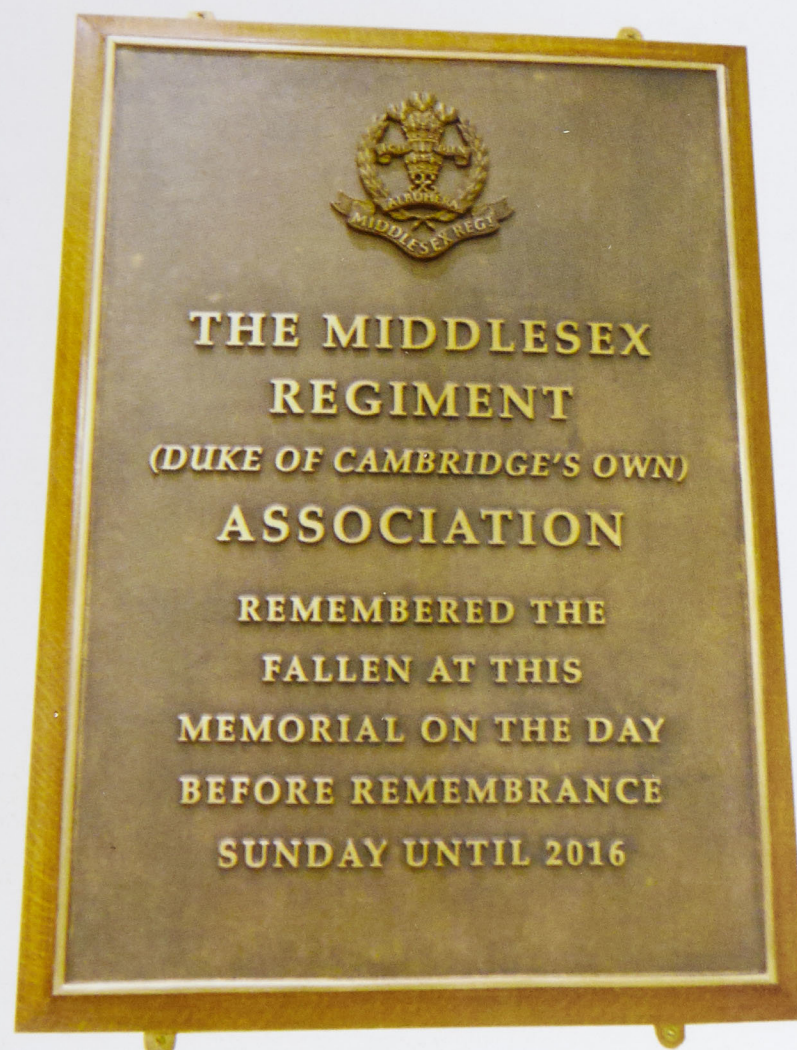
Our President, Colonel Rex Cain, reminded the congregation that it was on the 26th September 1916 that the 12th Middlesex assaulted Thiepval and Victoria Crosses were awarded to Robert Ryder and Patsy Edwards. On that day the Battalion suffered 430 casualties including 16 out of 20 officers.

Fifteen battalions of our Regiment fought on the Somme and twelve Battle Honours were awarded.

At the conclusion of the service those present enjoyed a buffet lunch.

Extract from a letter received from Chief Executive of the Supreme Court Mark Ormerod CB

"As I said at the event for the battle of the Somme, we are very proud of our association with Middlesex and with the Middlesex Regiment. It adds a special historical dimension to our presence here and one that we shall certainly treasure for years to come".



The New Regimental Plaque at the Supreme Court



Officers' Club Luncheon

The final Officers' Club Annual Luncheon was held at the Oriental Club, Stratford Place, Marylebone, London W1C 1ES and took place on Thursday the 21st of July 2016, Col Rex Cain presiding.

There was one Regimental Guest this year, Mrs E Legge.

Members and private guests:- Brig Brian Marciandi, Col Mike Ball, Col Rex Cain, Lt Col & Mrs Mike Deakin, Lt Col & Mrs Hugh Lohan, Ms Denise Lohan, Maj & Mrs Bob Bartlett, Maj & Mrs Dennis Bradley, Maj & Mrs Peter Clarke, Maj & Mrs Harold Couch, Maj & Mrs David Falcke, Maj & Mrs Brian Finch, Maj & Mrs Derrick Harwood, Rev Tim Hutton, Maj James Jonklaas, Maj David Margand, Maj & Mrs Tony McManas, Maj Peter Monypenny, Maj Ron Morris, Maj & Mrs Joe O'Gorman, Maj & Mrs Barry Reed, Maj Patrick Willocombe, Capt & Mrs Mike Doran, Capt & Mrs Simon Enthoven, Lt & Mrs Peter Ottino, Lt Jeremy Syers, Lt Harry Turner and Mr Simon Legge.

Apologies and regrets received from:- Col Richard Graham, Lt Col Roger Gancz, Maj Steve Dowse, Maj Frank Gladden, Capt Ken Beale, Mrs Jean Clayden, Mrs Andy Hutchings, Mrs Moira Jeffcoat, Mrs Kay Lawrence and Mrs Ann Pielow.

Col Cain welcomed the guests and said he was pleased to see a goodly number were able to attend this final luncheon. The numbers present confirmed that the decision to wind up the Officers' Club was the correct one. Age is taking its toll and we cannot go on for ever. Thank you for attending and he wished everyone a safe journey home.

Association Guest Lunch - 22 September 2016

A final lunch to thank those who helped us at our events during the past year was held on the 22nd September 2016. The venue was the Lawyers' Room of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom (formerly the Middlesex Guildhall) by kind permission of Mr Mark Ormerod the Chief Executive of the Court.

The hosts were all the members of the Executive Committee and our Honorary Chaplain Rev. Fr. Tim Hutton TD. The guests, which included Colonel Wayne Harber OBE Regimental Secretary of the PWRR and Mr Mark Ormerod, were from St Paul's Church Mill Hill, the Supreme Court, the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the Middlesex and North West London Army Cadet Force and the Union Jack Club.

The President, Colonel Rex Cain, thanked both hosts and guests for enabling the Association to achieve its twin aims of enhancing our annual events and leaving permanent memorials to the Middlesex Regiment in selected heritage sites.

The Middlesex Regimental Association Annual Service of Remembrance

Saturday 12th November 2016 held at The Supreme Court of Justice Westminster

Once again we were faced with a day of heavy rain but this did not prevent a good turnout for the last service to be organised by the Association.

The President welcomed all those present and then announced that Mr M. J. Ward BEM, a member of the Executive Committee, Chairman of the Hounslow Branch and Editor of the Die-Hards Newsletter had died suddenly at his home on Saturday 5th November 2016. He asked everyone to stand in silence to remember him.

The service this year was enhanced by the presence of a sextet from the PWRR Band which enabled hymns to be included. Fr. Tim Hutton was able to start with that old Remembrance favourite "O Valiant Hearts". The service then followed its traditional pattern with a reading from John chapter 15 given by Lord Kerr, Last Post and Reveille by a member of the Band and wreaths laid by Colonel Rex Cain for the Association, Colonel James Coote DSO OBE for the PWRR and Lord Reed for the Supreme Court.

At the conclusion of the service Colonel Cain drew attention to the new wall plaque which will remind future generations that our Association remembered fallen comrades at this memorial until 2016. Everyone then adjourned to enjoy the generous refreshments provided by the staff of the Supreme Court and talk to old friends.



The Memorial at the Supreme Court



Quintet of the PWRR Band



Regimental War Memorial at Mill Hill



Remembrance Sunday, Mill Hill



HRH Prince Harry and the Chairman



The Chairman at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey



*Prince Philip, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
talking with the Chairman*



Middlesex plot, Field of Remembrance

RHQ PWRR - Notes

The big event of the year so far has been the handover/takeover of the Colonel of the Regiment in February. This was marked by an audience with Queen Margrethe II of Denmark where Brigadier Richard Dennis formally handed over to Maj Gen Doug Chalmers. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Brig Richard all the very best in his endeavours and hope that he stays in touch. Maj Gen Doug is currently on Ops in Kuwait as the Deputy Commanding General 5 US Corps and returns to Texas later in the year to complete his posting.

The Executive Committee

As President of the Regimental Association since 17th May 2008 it is my privilege to pay tribute to the work of the Executive Committee which was established in 2003. The original members of the Committee, appointed by the President Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow JP, were Major C.L. Lawrence MC (Chairman), Colonel R.M. Cain OBE, DL, Captain M.J.S. Doran TD, Major R.E.B. Morris MBE, Major S.L.J. Henshaw TD, Mr M.J. Ward BEM and Major D. Bradley BEM, DL (Secretary).

In 2008 we were joined by Major W.G.A. Crumley to fill the vacancy created by my election as President and, in 2011, following the sad death of Major Stewart Henshaw, by Captain S.Le M .Enthoven. Also in 2011 Lieutenant Colonel M.J. Deakin was co-opted as an additional member of the Committee and in 2014 Major A.P. O'Gorman replaced Major Gordon Crumley who left us due to ill health.

2012 was the year of the Golden Jubilee but for us it was the year when we lost not only our former President Brigadier Tony Pielow but also our Chairman Major Chris Lawrence. Brigadier Tony Pielow had been President since 1993 and Chairman before that and his influence on our affairs cannot be exaggerated. It was his leadership that kept the Association alive and his judgement that decided that the time had come to close it. In both decisions I believe he correctly assessed the state of play.

Major Chris Lawrence had been Chairman since 1996 and so brought continuity to the new committee as well as his inimitable empathy with former soldiers; a gift he shared with his friend Major Gordon Crumley. They both had the attributes of the very best type of Regimental officer in that they understood soldiers and cared about them.

Colonel Michael Deakin was elected Chairman on 4th October 2012 with the task of leading the Committee towards closure and the handover to the PWRR at the end of 2016. His thoughtful and methodical approach was exactly what was needed.

All the members participated in the deliberations and decisions of the Committee in a way that was impossible before it was reduced in size but I must mention some individual contributions to our projects.

Major Ron Morris brought with him all the benefits of his years of experience as Secretary of the old Committee and continued as the unpaid Secretary of the Officers' Club which would otherwise have had to close. He also undertook the laborious but vital proof reading of our Book of Remembrance with its more than 14,000 names.

Mr Mike Ward has been Editor of the Diehards Newsletter throughout the period under review and had he not shouldered this heavy responsibility and persevered despite health problems the Newsletter would have ceased publication.

Captain Michael Doran deployed his talents as an advocate during the protracted negotiations over relocating the War Memorial and despite the frustrations of dealing with the Ministry of Defence and the London Borough of Barnet brought them to a successful conclusion. He also assured the future of the memorial by obtaining listed building status for it.

Captain Simon Enthoven, as an architect, was the obvious choice to liaise with the designer of the memorial window in St Paul's Mill Hill and later with the Surveyor to the Fabric of St Paul's Cathedral.

Finally I must pay a heartfelt tribute to our Secretary Major Dennis Bradley whose steadfast loyalty to the Committee and to me personally has been in the best traditions of his own Regiment, the Grenadier Guards. He quickly earned the gratitude of members of the Association by reviving and enhancing the Annual Reunion and the service in St Paul's Cathedral. His energy and determination have been crucial in all the achievements of the Executive Committee and his status as an Honorary Diehard is assured. I must also mention the part played by his unpaid and unofficial PA, his wife Mave, who rescued so many out of hours phone calls.

The Association is indebted to all the members of the Executive Committee, past and present and I wish to record my sincere thanks to them all.

RMC

Goodbye to the Middlesex T.A.

The Territorial Army (or more sensibly the Reserve Army as it is called now) has always been needed at times of crisis from its early days as the Middlesex Militias up to the end of the Regiment and beyond. The Regiment was at its largest in 1916; 46 Battalions were raised for the First World War and 20 of them served on the Somme.

The only remnants of this huge army are "B" Coy The London Regiment at the Edgware drill hall with a foothold at Hornsey. The reserves were available to fight in the Boer War and did despite signing up to home service only. There are rare examples of Middlesex cap badges with "South Africa" on blank scrolls because they could not have "Albuhera" as their members' predecessors were not there!

It is interesting that The Regiment's two major memorials The Middlesex Chapel in St. Paul's Cathedral and the upgraded memorial at the Supreme Court formerly the Middlesex Guildhall building are in an area lost to Middlesex in 1889 when the L.C.C. came into existence. The remainder was lost when the County was abolished in 1965.

It is easy to forget the County extended to the Northern bank of the Thames. After the end of the Regimental Association all that will remain will be the Cricket Club, occasional references to the Middlesex bank by boat race commentators and South West Train's announcer's use of "Ashford Middlesex" to avoid confusion.

In 1955 (when I joined the T.A.) all recruits were issued with a silver T.A. lapel badge to wear with civilian clothes. Wearing such a badge now would be dangerous and provocative but in those days of recent wartime memories and National Service military institutions were rather more appreciated.

The 20th century T.A. is often portrayed as "Dads Army" but most people did take their amateur soldiering seriously. It was intended that if the Cold War ever warmed up we would go to Hamlein on the River Weser to reinforce the First Battalion; we were to hold the Russian hordes back long enough for them to bunch up when they would be "nuked" or disposed of by the use of tactical nuclear weapons. Even to a very young Second Lieutenant on probation this seemed to be a potentially very risky and dangerous mission. Thank goodness it was never put to the test.

In the 1960's the Territorial Army took a leap forward by the creation of a special class of soldiers known as "Evereadies" given extra training and paid a higher bounty in return for availability for callout at short notice.

Jock Smith won what was the only M.C. awarded to 5Mx in Aden and went on to win a bar to it whilst serving with the Australian Army in Vietnam. For reasons unknown to me this experiment faded away but it is perhaps a forerunner of the modern Reserve Army. We were intended to fight as complete units up to Brigade level but it must be more sensible to use the reserve army to provide reinforcements when and where needed.

In the early 1960's there was still some anti-German feeling. Most of the senior Bn officers had war service and I well remember as R.S.O, trying to teach my seniors the "new" N.A.T.O. phonetic alphabet. If "Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog" was good enough to win the war why change it for the convenience of the Germans?

The Regimental Association has survived the Regiment by some 50 years which in itself is a tribute to all those who have served together. Almost certainly formal closure is better than letting the Association dwindle to nothing particularly, as we have the P.W.R.R. to take over our most important function of welfare.

As this article is intended to have a T.A. perspective I must mention the contribution made by members and ex-members of the T.A. over the last 50 years. Whilst Regulars were in mid-career and sometimes abroad when the Regiment came to an end and former T.A. members had the job of running the Association (in so far as it did not fall on the shoulders of a succession of dedicated Regimental Secretaries), including the finance and housing committees and fortunately they had some of the skills necessary for the task.

There are huge differences between the old Territorial and the modern Reserve Army but certain things will always be the same: the Regular Army will always need reinforcements: any war (whenever and where ever that may be) will not be won without the infantry taking and holding the ground and there will always be a problem of recruitment and retention for the Reserve Army. The Reservist can walk away when he wishes whilst with the Regular it is much more difficult.

The huge majority of the 12,600 men commemorated by our War Memorial were not Regulars but T.A. soldiers, volunteers, and later conscripts. Even the "contemptible little army" of 1914 was roughly 50% regular reservist recalled from their civilian occupations after completion of their time with the colours.

If you wish and are able to give some practical help to "B" Company of the London Regiment it has its own Charitable Trust registered with the Charity Commission.

M.J.S.D.



Col Harber presents trophies to the winners

News from Spain

At the Elvas Ceremony on 14th May 2016, it was the Deputy Secretary of the PWRR, Paul Senter, who laid the Wreath for the Middlesex Regiment.

The PWRR Albuhera Trophy winners awarded to the Best Girl and the Best Boy in English at the request of the School Master were Julia Perez Gomez and Francisco Sanchez Cuenda. The Regimental Secretary Colonel Wayne Harber presented their trophies.

Our thanks again to Celia Denney who does so much for the Regiment locally.



Odd jottings

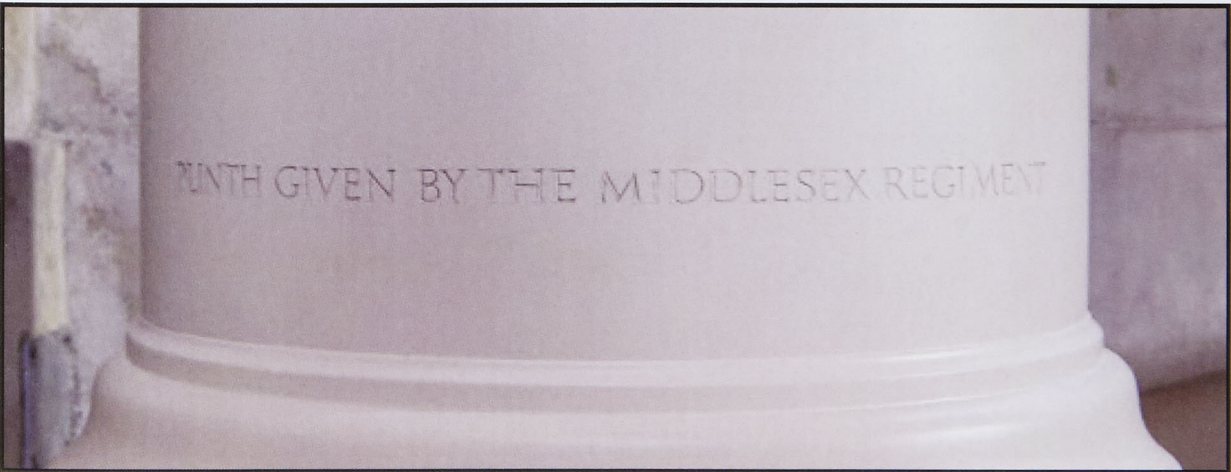
On Wednesday 13th July Colonel Rex Cain presented a cheque for £20,000 to the Chairman of the Middlesex and North West London Army Cadet Force Trust (Colonel T.W. Connolly) at Princess Louise House, Hammersmith.



Col Cain presents the cheque to Col Connolly



Garner Madonna - St Paul's Cathedral



The enscription on the base of Garner Madonna - St Paul's Cathedral

St Paul's Cathedral

'Every morning, the St Paul's Cathedral day begins with Morning Prayer in the Middlesex Chapel. With the support of the Middlesex Regiment and under the initial guidance of Dean John Moses, the Chapel has developed as a prayerful and sacred space, first of all with the addition of the wooden benches and lectern by master carpenter Luke Hughes and now through a second project.

This second project has enabled the gracious Mother and Child statue designed by Garner in the late nineteenth century to be brought out of storage and reintroduced on the Cathedral floor. It is worthy of note, that this is the second time that the Mother and Child have been 'rescued'. The statue previously stood at the apex of the marble reredos at the east end of the Cathedral, behind the high altar, which was destroyed by bombing in 1941. The statue is widely appreciated by worshippers and visitors and on behalf of the Cathedral may I express our thanks to the Middlesex Regiment for your generous support.'

The Revd Canon Philippa Boardman MBE
Treasurer





St Paul's Cathedral bombed

1948

In August 1948 the 1st and 2nd Battalions amalgamated at Mill Hill and "Sir Manley Power" and "Paddy's Resource" were combined in a new Regimental Quick March. In September the 2nd Guards Brigade was sent to Malaya and the 1st Middlesex together with 1KSLI and the Welsh Guards took over public duties. The first King's Guard found by the Middlesex was on 1st October 1948 and we were also on guard when Prince Charles was born on 14th November of that year.

Before they left for Hong Kong two silver goblets were presented to the Officers' Mess in St James's Palace to commemorate this period of service and on 2nd November 2016 Major Dennis Bradley and myself were invited to lunch by the Captain of the Queen's Guard to see the goblets. We had a splendid lunch and a photograph of us drinking from the goblets was taken.

RMC



The President and Secretary at St James's Palace

The Colours of the Middlesex Regiment – St Paul's Church, Mill Hill

On the morning of July 1st 1916 an assault in which tens of thousands of British soldiers participated was launched on the Somme. By the evening of that day 19,240 of those men were dead. This offensive was to continue until November by which time some 400,000 British servicemen had been killed or wounded. This was the first battle with General Haig as C in C and the first to be fought by Kitchener's "New Army". An army of volunteers, many of whom were single men aged between 18 and 41 years who had responded to a new appeal by Kitchener in 1916 and now joined earlier volunteers who had been in action since the outbreak of war in 1914.

These earlier volunteers had been assured that, if they joined with friends or associates, they would serve together with them as a unit. In this way, depending upon the origin of the recruits, were born the "Pals", the "Public Schools" and other named groups. These groups were linked to and served with Regiments of the Regular Army forming "The Service Battalions"; retaining their group name and given a number. By the end of WW1 some 46 such battalions had been attached to the Middlesex Regiment.

The Middlesex Regiment had served with distinction from the outset of the war. Now in 1916, including the service battalions, it was to play a prominent part in the Battle of the Somme. The Regiment continued to serve to the close of hostilities in 1918 suffering a loss of 12,694 dead.



Standards at Mill Hill

At the end of the war the King decreed that all Service Battalions should be awarded a colour, "The King's Colour", in recognition of that service. This Colour was a union flag upon which was displayed the name of the regiment and the battalion number of the form of a circular "roundel". These colours were presented in 1919. After the war the battalions were disbanded and their Colours laid up. Those of eight of the Middlesex Regiment service Battalions were laid up here at St. Paul's in 1923 and hung in prominent position in the church.

In 2001, the fabric of the colours had deteriorated to a state in which they could no longer remain hanging and they were placed in store. A number of attempts to secure restoration were unsuccessful and further deterioration occurred. In 2015, through the generosity of The Middlesex Regimental Association, it became possible to conserve the roundels, to mount them on new material and to frame them. These are now displayed in the nave and the Wilberforce Centre, restoring them to their place in the church as a remembrance of the strong link between the Regiment and St. Paul's, which had been the Regimental Church for many years.

The Battalions

11th. Raised at Mill Hill in 1914. To France in 1915. Present at the battles of Loos, Somme, Arras and Cambrai.

12th. Raised in 1914. To France in 1915. Present at the battles of the Somme, Arras, Paschendale and Ypres. At Thiepval on 26th September, a day on which the battalion suffered 430 casualties, Pte. Robert Ryder and Pte. Frederick Edwards were awarded the Victoria Cross.



Standards of the Regimental Association laid to rest in St Paul's Church, Mill Hill



Branch Standards

13th. Raised at Mill Hill in 1914. To France in 1915. Present at battles of the Somme, Arras and Cambrai. On July 1st, this Battalion suffered 524 casualties.

17th. (First Football). Raised in 1914. To France in 1915. Present at battles of the Somme, Arras and Cambrai. In the closing days of the Somme battle, Capt. Allastair McReady Diamid was awarded a posthumous Victoria Cross.

19th. (Second Public Works). Raised in 1915. Present at the battles of the Somme and Ypres.

23rd. (Second Football). Raised in 1915. To France in 1916. Present at the battles of the Somme, Messines, Arras and Ypres.

26th. (Third Public Works). Raised in 1915. Served in Salonika.

The Heritage Years

The story begins in 2003 when all the funds of the Regimental Association and the Officers' Club were handed over to the PWRR and in return the President of our Association became one of the trustees of the PWRR Benevolent Funds. At a stroke the Association had lost control of its funds and the Executive Committee its function as trustees.

The new Executive Committee consisting of a Chairman and six members appointed in 2003 now had to submit its spending plans to the PWRR Trustees for approval although it must be said that approval was never withheld. But in effect the Committee's powers were limited to whatever could be achieved by persuasion. So let us look at what was achieved.

In 2005 the Dean of St Paul's Cathedral wrote to RHQ PWRR explaining that the font was to be moved from the Baptistry to the nave of the Cathedral but in return the Baptistry would be renamed the Middlesex Chapel and inviting us to consider ways in which the identity of the Chapel could be strengthened and enhanced. This challenging opportunity was presented to the Executive Committee and so began a series of events spread over the next ten years which required close liaison with the cathedral authorities and the continuous support of RHQ PWRR.

We began by commissioning a Book of Remembrance recording the names of more than 14,000 members of the Regiment who lost their lives in two World Wars and in Korea, together with a bookcase to be placed beneath the South Africa War Memorial plaque in the Chapel. This major project was completed and the dedication took place on 12th May 2007 in the presence of Field Marshal Lord Bramall KG, GCB, OBE, MC the former Chief of the Defence Staff and Lord Lieutenant of Greater London.

The next stage was to provide new furniture, including a lectern, emblazoned with our badge which was presented and dedicated at the service commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera in 2011.

The final step in the enhancement of the Chapel was the restoration and installation beside the altar of the Garner Virgin and Child with an inscription on the base of the plinth with the words "Given by the Middlesex Regiment".

Concurrently with all this activity other events affecting the heritage legacy were demanding attention and the most important was the future of the Regimental War Memorial. In August 2006 the Ministry of Defence wrote to RHQ PWRR announcing the forthcoming closure and sale for redevelopment as a housing estate of Inglis Barracks and enquiring whether our War Memorial should remain where it was or be moved to RAF Northolt. Neither alternative appealed so a search for a new site began.

Our attention was drawn to the former Garrison Church of St Paul's Mill Hill which is in a conservation area close to Mill Hill School and where there is a broad grass verge beside the road and opposite the church. Fortunately the church was completing a radical restoration which transformed it both inside and out.

The challenge for the Committee was to obtain planning permission from the London Borough of Barnet, finance from the Developers and to win public backing for the move from the community in Mill Hill. It took months of lobbying and patient negotiating before all the approvals were finally given and the memorial was moved to its new location in time for Remembrance Sunday 2012 and a service of Rededication on 18th July 2013.

Meanwhile at our other heritage site, the former Middlesex Guild Hall was to become the home of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom and in January 2006 we were invited to discuss moving the war memorial to "The men of Middlesex and the Middlesex Regiment" from one side of the entrance hall to the other. In return for our agreement the memorial would be cleaned and restored.

The work was completed by 2010 and by cultivating a close and friendly relationship with the Chief Executive and staff of the Court we were able to establish a joint service at the memorial on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday which will continue after the Association closes.

Having re-established our links with St Paul's Mill Hill during the negotiations leading up to the move of our War Memorial we were invited to contribute to a stained glass window commemorating the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2012 and our badge was incorporated in the design.

The 1st World War is arguably the most important event in the history of the Middlesex Regiment since its formation in 1881. It caused the dramatic expansion from ten to forty six battalions and the loss of 12,694 members of the Regiment killed. To mark the centenary of the start of this catastrophic event in 2014 it was decided to install a modern stained glass window in St Paul's Mill Hill where church parades had been held before and after the war. With the active support of the church the window was installed and dedicated to "All who served in the Regiment" on 5th October 2014.

There was another legacy from the Great War left in the church in the form of the remnants from the King's Colours of eight of our Service Battalions (the 11th, 12th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 23rd and 26th) which had been laid up there in 1923 but had decayed so badly that when the restoration of the church was completed they were deemed unfit to be displayed.

However, the central roundels were capable of restoration and the church wished to frame and display them. We undertook to finance the project and on 1st October 2015 at a service for the laying up of the Association Standard and that of the Enfield Branch, the framed roundels were returned to the church for safekeeping. They are now to be seen in the church with a wall plaque explaining their history.

In 2009 an initiative by Mr Bob Yerby led to the Korean Club, assisted by the Defence Attache, arranging for a memorial stone to the members of the Regiment killed in Korea to be erected at Kapyong where the last engagement took place in April 1951. Together with the Hounslow Branch we were able to contribute to the cost of this important memorial.

Bearing in mind the interest in family history arising from use of the internet we decided to digitalise both our Journals and the Newsletters and this was achieved in stages. The Journals were completed and made available on a disc in 2014 while the Newsletters will be completed as soon as this edition is published. Both discs will be retained at RHQ PWRR and at the National Army Museum.

Finally the Committee assumed responsibility for the upkeep of the graves of Colonel Maurice Browne CBE, MC, JP, DL and Drummer Dudley Stagpoole VC, DCM. It will be remembered that Colonel Browne was Colonel of the Regiment from 1942 to 1952 and following his death in 1961 was buried in the churchyard of St Paul's Mill Hill. The Regiment arranged for Drummer Stagpoole to be buried in Hendon Park Cemetery in 1911. Both graves required refurbishment which we undertook.

When I became President I wrote that when we closed down we should leave visible reminders of the Regiment's past military honours and sacrifices. I believe we can claim to have redeemed that pledge.

RMC

Obituaries

- **R Best** died on 28 October 2016 at 13.00hrs, after a long illness confining him to bed for eight years. Mx Cadet, called to active service with Royal Engineers, staunch member of the Regimental Association attending reunions, AGM, Supreme Court. Will be sadly missed by all his comrades. Our thoughts are with his wife Lillian.
- **Capt. G H Jubb JP** died on the 20th of October 2014. At the end of World War Two he was the MTO of the 1/7th Bn in Rendsburg. We do not have the details of his funeral.
- **H Kneebone** Advised recently that he died some years ago. He served with the 2/7th Bn during World War Two.
- **Laurie Lee "Ginger"** died in June 2016. He was a TA Soldier who served with 5MX in Hounslow. That is all the information we have.
- **Maj F K Gladden** died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday the 12th of November 2016.
- **Mrs G Jackson**, widow of our former Bandmaster, died in January 2016.
- **Col H J A Moore OBE** died on the 4th of April 2016. A service of Thanksgiving for his Life was held at St Michael's Church, Well on Thursday 16th June 2016 at which the Regiment was represented by Major & Mrs Barry Reed, Colonel Rex Cain and Major Dennis Bradley.
- **Maj P Mallalieu** died on Friday the 14th of October 2016. A private family funeral was held later that month.
- **Capt M J Flynn** died on the 25th of August 2016.
- **Fred Phillips** who served right through World Two with the 2/7th Battalion died in March 2016. He was a strong supporter of the Regimental Association and for some years he was the Secretary of the 2/7th Battalion Association. He left the Army in the rank of C/Sgt.
- **Albert Stone** died on the 29th of November 2015. He served with the 1st Bn in Korea.
- **Mike Ward** died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday the 5th of November 2016. His funeral was held on 23 November 2016 at St. Dunstan's Church, Cranford.

