



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 91

July 2004

Price £1



LT COL NORMAN CLAYDEN, MBE
1921 - 2003

President : Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP
Chairman : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
Vice Chairman : Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.
Secretary : Major D. Bradley, BEM
 (wef 1 June 03) RHQ PWRR
 Howe Barracks
 Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY
Editor : Mr M.J. Ward, BEM
 21 Field Close, Cranford, Hounslow,
 Middlesex TW4 6LN

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2004

11 September	MX Korean Club Annual Reunion from 11.30hrs to 15.30hrs Victory Services Club
11 November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Service commences 10.50hrs
11 November	7th Bn Officers Club Dinner Officer's Mess The London Regiment St John's Hill Clapham
13 November	MX Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 10.30 for 11.00 hrs.
14 November	Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks Mill Hill Assemble at 10.00 hrs
14 November	7th Bn Middlesex Regiment Remembrance Service Parish Church of St Mary & St George Hornsey Assemble 10.00 hrs
14 November	Remembrance Parade Cenotaph Whitehall Parade in conjunction with PWRR Details from Major BM Wright 27 Vereker Drive Sunbury on Thames TW16 6HG

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT 2004

As we pass the first anniversary of the start of hostilities in Iraq. A snapshot of where the Regiment is today gives a true reflection of the diversity and wide ranging capabilities that today's modern soldier has to train for. It has been a very hectic period for everyone.

Lieutenant Colonel Mat Maer now commands the 1st Battalion based in Tamworth. They are still in the armoured warrior role. The beginning of the year saw everyone deep in courses /cadres for the deployment to Iraq in April 2004. They deployed and within the first 12 hours had sustained three casualties in gunfights and explosions. Over the next week this was increased by another eleven casualties, this has now risen to twenty three.

The 1st Battalion (C and Y Companies and Bn HQ) are deployed to the Maysam Province, Which is located 150 kilometres north of Basra. The main town is Al Amarah. A Coy is based in Basra and B Coy is attached to the 1st Battalion The Cheshire regiment also in Basra.

Also in Iraq with the 1st Battalion The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders is a composite platoon from our 1st and 2nd Battalions .

They have been there since January. They are also in the thick of it and have sustained three casualties in gunfights and explosions.

We wish them good luck.

The 2nd Battalion is based in Ternhill. They had a good tour (six months) in Northern Ireland and have now returned to concentrate on courses and cadres. The battalion goes to Canada for final work up training to take on the task of Spearhead Battalion. Also going to Canada will be an exchange officer from The 15th Battalion The Punjab Regiment (Pakistan) one of our affiliated Regiments.

On return the Battalion will assume the duties of Spearhead Battalion for four months. This is a long period and will no doubt result in some deployment.

The long term plan for both the Regular Battalions could be liable to change, however the latest edition is that the 1st Battalion will Arms Plot to Paderborn (Germany) in March 2005 in the Armoured Warrior role for at least a six year tour. The 2nd Battalion will Arms Plot to Northern Ireland in December 2005 for a two year tour.

The 3rd Battalion continues to provide manpower in support of operations in Iraq (with 1st Battalion), Bosnia and Kosovo. They are also committed to providing a formed platoon for Op Telic (Iraq) in 2005. This is a continual demand on limited resources, however they feel confident that they can fulfil these demands.

The great challenge this year is Annual Camp in Kazakhstan. This will take place in August. for those hardened BAOR warriors who trained to fight the Russians and their equipment, the 3rd Battalion will now be exercising with BTR 80's and Russian helicopters.

The two independent companies " B" Company The London Regiment and "C" Company The Royal Rifle Volunteers are also in excellent form. They are also providing manpower for Iraq. Annual Camp this year will be Thetford for "B" Company and Otterburn for "C" company .

In summary we are in good form and wish success to those serving overseas.

Major A J Martin

Major Dennis Bradley BEM our new Secretary

Dennis, whom we welcome as our new secretary was born in Lincoln in 1950 and enlisted into The Brigade of Guards as a junior guardsman in May 1966. During his time with the junior guardsman's company he was in the Corps of Drums and rose to the rank of Drum Major.



On passing out of the Guards Depot he joined the Corps of Drums 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards at Caterham prior to a tour of Sharjah , where the Drums became the Recce Platoon.

Dennis remained with the 1st Battalion for 13 years completing tours in Northern Ireland (4). The Trucial States, Kenya Germany, Berlin, and Public Duties in Great Britain and a tour as Regimental Recruiter in his home county of Lincolnshire. On promotion to Colour Sergeant Dennis transferred from 1st Battalion stationed in Berlin to the 2nd Battalion in Munster. Further promotion to WO1 in 1990 which brought a move to The Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall, Twickenham which Dennis considers an honour and a privilege. He enjoyed himself to the full due to a great change in Army music which afforded him some wonderful opportunities and lasting friendships.

Brought up in the Salvation Army, Dennis, whilst at Kneller Hall, achieved the precedent of being the only RSM to have played on the bandstand and to have conducted the full band.

Commissioned in February 1992 he joined the Welsh guards as MTO for eight months during a two year tour, returning to 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards at Caterham as Families Officer and Transport Officer.

His penultimate posting was as Training Officer at REME Army Apprentices College Arborfield during his time there he became OC of H Company, during his year in command the Company won the Drill Competition Athletics and the March and Shoot competition. Making a fitting end to thirty two and a half years as a Grenadier.

Since leaving the army Dennis has lived in Hythe with his wife Mavis and their family, he was elected Town Mayor of Hythe for the period May 2002/3. He is also President of the East Kent and Lincoln Branches of the Grenadiers Association.

Mike J Ward BEM Editor

Joined the Army as a National Service Man in February 1951 and was badged Middlesex, after sixteen weeks training at Shorncliffe was posted to 1st Battalion East Surreys and then transferred to King's Shropshire Light Infantry serving in Korea with the Browning Machine Gun Platoon. On demob, went to 11th Battalion Parachute Regiment, Corps of Drums, on reorganisation of the Territorial Army followed the fortunes of 8th Battalion, 5th Battalion Middlesex Regiment and 5th Battalion Queen's Regiment before leaving on completion of twenty nine years service.



Enfield Branch Christmas Dance Saturday 13th December 2003

For this years dance the committee decided to dispense with the out of house catering and experiment with an "American Supper" when guests bring along their own buffet. This worked surprisingly well as no one had to queue for food and each catered for their own taste.

The hall and tables had been beautifully decorated and the volunteers responsible are to be congratulated for their efforts, Our members and their guests began to arrive at about 6.45pm and it was not long before trays of

chicken drumsticks, pies and other goodies filled the tables and folks were tucking in amid a buzz of friendly conversation.

First on the dance floor was Reg Best and his lovely wife Lillian soon to be joined by a host of others. At 8.45pm we had a short break while the raffle was picked, A plaque was then presented by Paul Dean to an unsuspecting, and for once a speechless, Alf Burford, in recognition of his selfless and enduring work for the branch and its members.

After the break the party continued in full swing with Joe (Hot Legs) Reed demonstrating that he had lost none of the skills learned at the Tottenham Royal nearly a half a century before. At midnight the floor was still jam packed with some serious Rock And Rolling going on. yes we've still got it! Although I bet the old "White Horse Oils" and pain killers got a bashing on Sunday morning. Never mind. Who cares, for a few hours on Saturday 13th we were all eighteen again.

Alex Brown

ANZAC Day Harefield 25th April 2004

Members of Hounslow Branch attended the Annual ANZAC Day Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving at St Mary's Parish Church Harefield in what is now a regular date in the branch calendar. The service has now been held for eighty three years. During the First World War an Australian Military Hospital was established in Harefield Park. On the occasion of the first death in the hospital, a Union Jack belonging to Harefield Council School was loaned by the headmaster, Mr J.C. Jeffery, to drape the coffin of the soldier. This same flag was borrowed for this purpose for the duration of the each time the sad need arose. After the Armistice, Mr Jeffery gave the flag to a Colonel Yeatman, the last Commanding Officer of the hospital and he in turn handed to the education authorities of South Australia who placed it in Adelaide High School. A few months later the Children's Patriotic League of Australia sent in return a new Union Jack and the Australian Flag. These arrived in 1921, the same year that a granite memorial was erected in the cemetery by Mr Charles Billyard Leake and the Lord of the Manor, Sir Francis Newdegate himself an ex Governor of Tasmania and later Queensland. Since that date every year on ANZAC Day a service has been held at Harefield Parish church, at which the children of the school place floral tributes on each of the graves in the Australian Cemetery and the Australian flag is flown from the flag staff. On several occasions the service

has been broadcast to Australia and New Zealand. The service is always well attended and the village very generously provides tea in the village hall.

Hounslow Branch Luncheon 2nd May 2004

The branch held a luncheon at the Concord Club Cranford attended by 27 members and guests from Enfield Branch, Alf & Mary Burford and Fred Phillips accompanied by Mary. As the branch had not dined out Ron & Betty Morris it was seen as an ideal opportunity to do so. Ron was presented with a book on Hammersmith and Fulham past and present which it was felt would remind him of his career after leaving the Army.

The weather was very pleasant so we were able to sit out on the patio and enjoy drinks and swing the lamp and recall the sunny slopes of yester year.

Albuhera Service Remembrance St Paul's Cathedral

The Middlesex Regimental Association held the Annual Service on Saturday 8th May which was attended by a large congregation, with the Canon in Residence and the choir in attendance. The lessons were read by Brigadier B.A.M. Pielow JP and Colonel M.J.Ball, the prayers were led by our Honorary chaplain The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft and the address was given by The Right Reverend Monsignor Ralph Brown Protonotary Apostolic JCD KCHS. The hymns were sung with great gusto so very well led by the choir. Many old friends were able to discuss the passing of their experiences during the last year and remember those members who had passed away. Our thanks to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment who acted as ushers and guides prior to the service and greeted members on their arrival.

Annual Reunion

The Reunion and Annual General Meeting was held at the Victory Services Club London W1 and with in excess of 120 persons attending was a great success. The bar opened at 6.30pm allowing those who had attended the annual service to lubricate their throats before the AGM. Supper of fried fish and vegetables and a choice of pudding was served at 8.15pm and the general consensus was that it was a successful evening by all those who had attended. Thanks are due to Les Loombes who kindly acted as doorman.

Annual General Meeting 8th May Held at the Victory Services Club

The Chairman Major C Lawrence MC opened the meeting by giving his annual report.

As we come to the end of our first year of being administered by The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, I, as Chairman, can assure you that the handover from Major Ron Morris to Major Dennis Bradley went very well. I can also report that the Association is in good hands and being well administered.

I would like to thank your Executive Committee for their work during the year, with a particular mention of Mike Ward for his work as Editor of the Newsletter.

Benevolence

The welfare of our Association members and former members of the Regiment remains crucial to our function.

(a) From 1st June 2003 a total of 40 cases were investigated and 30 individual grants were made giving a total for 2003 of 60 cases (30 prior to 1 June dealt with by Major Morris). In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped to provide 6 further electrically powered vehicles (EPVs) and one orthopaedic chair bed.

(b) We administered 6 ABF annuities and the ABF generously contributed £50.00 per month per case (increased to £55.00 in November 2003). During the 6 months with PWRR we renewed or arranged for 2 Nursing Home fees made up of grants of £624.00 from the Army Benevolent Fund and £156.00 from the Association for each case. The Army Benevolent Fund has increased their annual Nursing Home fee to a maximum of £780.00 in 2004.

(c) The charity paid out £13,786.00 in individual grants and a further £1,500.00 in general grants. Of the 10 cases not receiving grants (1 June-31 December 2003) local councils, charities or other regimental associations assisted 6 after we had contacted them.

(d) We received donations into the Benevolent Fund of £1,313.00. We made donations totalling £758.50, which was in the main to War Memorial upkeep and restoration.

Finance

(a) The former Middlesex Regiment's Benevolent Fund was subsumed into the PWRR Benevolent Fund on 1 June 2003 and is held as a "Restricted Fund" within the PWRR fund.

(b) Income to the fund as at 31 December 2003 was £17,572.00 and the sum of £12,129.00 was expended during the same period leaving an income excess of £5,443.00.

(c) Total funds transferred on 1 June was £553,140.00. The value of the fund as at 31 December 2003 was £578,177.00.

(d) The account is well funded and able to meet the annual demands for assistance both from a benevolent point of view and such events as the Albuhera Service at St Paul's and annual reunion in the Victory Services Club and the proposed association visit to Albuhera to intern the Colours of the 57th/77th regiments. This was formally approved at the PWRR Trustees meeting on 9 March 2004 at which meeting Brigadier Pielow attended as Trustee member.

The Albuhera Tour 2004 13-17 May 2004

(a) The plans are coming to fruition and the tour is now full.

(b) The casket for the Colours has been made and the Colours have been placed in it ready for movement to Spain. The stonemason has been tasked and the Mayor of Albuhera has been briefed. All will be ready for 16 May. Monsignor Brown will bless the colours prior to final burial. The ceremony at Elvas will also be interesting with the Spanish Army and the Ambassador from Lisbon in attendance. The Colonel of the Regiment will now be available for the whole tour.

Conclusion

In general terms I believe that we are well administered Major Bradley is in contact with our members and I look forward to a successful 2005.

Major Bradley had carried out considerable research and the following motion was put to the membership.

- (1) The Albuhera Service at St Paul's be moved to 11.00hrs
- (2) The AGM be held at 13.00hrs
- (3) The Annual Reunion commences at 13.45hrs and finishes 18.00hrs

Proposed by M Ward Seconded by A Burford
The motion was carried by a unanimous vote.

Mr Mulvaney raised the question "why members who apply for tickets should send a stamped addressed envelope when the Association is not short of funds?"

Colonel Ball explained that this was not the Association being parsimonious, but that it greatly assisted the administrative staff.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.26pm

Albuhera Burial of the Colours 13/17 May 2004



The main party who were travelling to Albuhera assembled at Heathrow Airport to board a midday flight to Lisbon and then travel by coach to the Quinta Hotel Elvas. Other members of the Association had elected to travel under

their own arrangements. The contingent assembled on the morning of Friday 14th May at the British Cemetery Elvas where they were greeted by Major Nick Hallidie, Chairman of the





Friends of the British Cemetery, after a number of speeches by Brigadier Holmes CBE, TD, JP. General Fulgencio Coll Bucher Commander BRIMZ

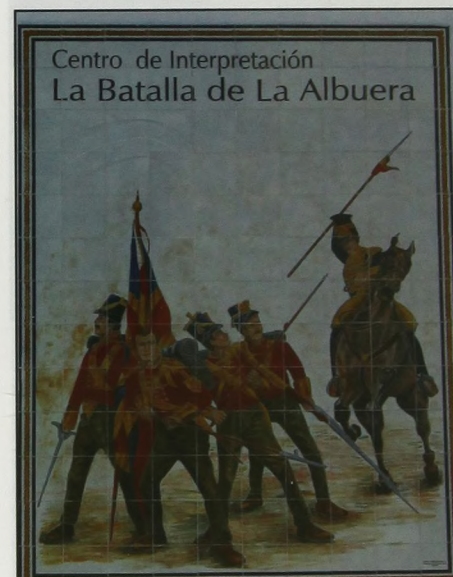
Extremadura, The Mayor of Elvas Senhor Jose Ronadao Almedia and the British Ambassador Dame Glynne Evans DBE, CBE. General Coll Bucher unveiled a plaque to the Spanish Regiments who fought at Albuhera which now completes the names of the regiments of the Coalition who fought in this most bloody of battles.

Prayers and blessings were said by Rev Canon Michael Bullock, Monsignor Ralph Brown and the Chaplain of Regimento Infanteria 8 which were followed by Last Post and Reveille sounded by a bugler of the Spanish Regiment. Wreaths were laid at the various plaques on behalf of the Friends of the British Cemetery, The Connaught Rangers, The Royal Green Jackets, KRRC, The



Middlesex Regiment, The Royal Irish Rangers, RI 8, BRIMZ, PWRR on behalf of the successor regiments in memory of all who fought at Badajoz and Albuhera and on behalf of the people of Albuhera and Elvas by the British Embassy.

After the ceremony lunch was taken at the



Clube de Tiro e Coca where there was a chance to converse with the Spanish and Portuguese guests and the expats of the British Community.

In the evening a wine tasting was held at the Quinta Hotel and samples of both Spanish red and white wine were on offer also the Regimental badged wine to commemorate this historic occasion.

On the morning of Saturday 15th May the party were given a fine lecture on the battle of Albuhera by Brigadier Holmes and Colonel Knox and a chance to walk the ground this did result in one

casualty of a minor nature. Afterwards, lunch was taken in a local restaurant, prior to moving on to Badajoz to learn of the exploits performed in the storming of the town.

An excellent Regimental Dinner was held in the evening when some distinguished guests were present, to





partake of examples of Portuguese cuisine. A wonderful evening enjoyed by all present.

Albuhera Day dawned bright and hot, with much interest shown by the locals in the ceremonies which were scheduled to take place. Once the events, due to take place in the village square had been

completed, the laying of wreaths and the contingent from the Spanish Army had marched past. The Die-hard Party moved to Wellington Park which contains the Regimental Memorial to witness the burial of the Colours of

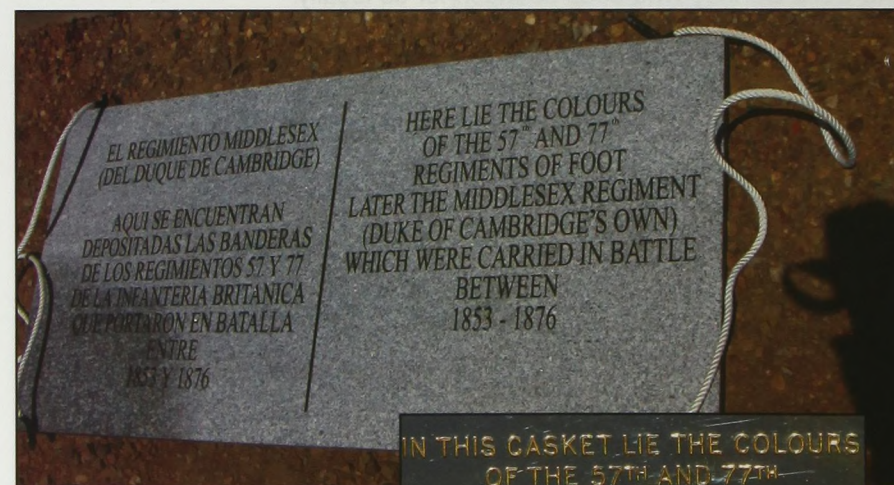


the 57th/77th, in front of the Middlesex elevation of the memorial. This was a most moving and simple ceremony, attended by the Spanish Army contingent, whose bugler sounded Last Post and Reveille and a large crowd of the local citizens. Great delight was shown by the members of the Regiment when the local band from Olivenza played the Regimental march past, a fitting conclusion to the ceremony.

Whilst in Albuhera we were most surprised to meet the



Norris brothers, great, great, great grandsons of Private Thomas Moses Norris who had served with the 57th from 1803-1816, who had made their own way to Albuhera by public transport.



We then adjourned to partake of an excellent lunch organised by The Mayor in company with our Spanish friends and the Norris brothers who were invited to join us.

IN THIS CASKET LIE THE COLOURS
OF THE 57th AND 77th
REGIMENTS OF FOOT
LATER THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT
(DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE'S OWN)
WHICH WERE CARRIED IN BATTLE
BETWEEN
1853 - 1876
ICH DIEN



In the evening a Silent Toast ceremony was held at the Quinta Hotel at which I understand a Basset Hound was present.

The main party departed for the UK on the Monday morning having enjoyed the company of old friends, drank and eaten large quantities of wine and food.

Our thanks to the organising team of Colonel M J Ball, Major A J Martin and Major D Bradley and Celia Denney who does so much for us locally.



Some members of the Association did remain in Albuhera after the main party had departed, but even they could not keep pace with the festivities which were planned to continue until Saturday 22nd May.

Photographs kindly supplied by Hugh Lohan

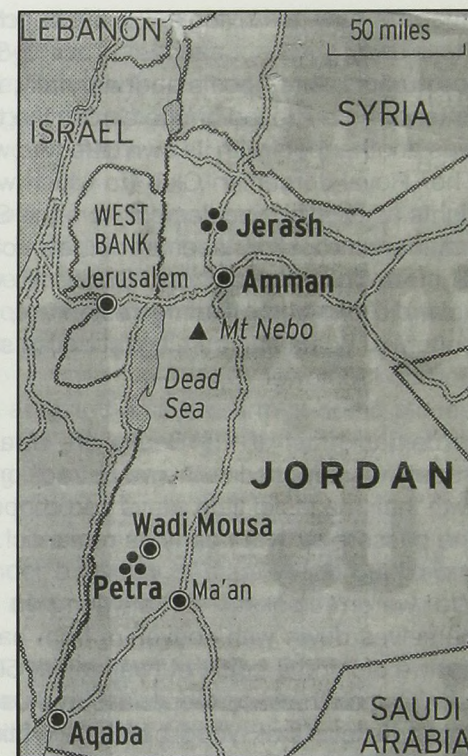
SUN AND SAND - AND MEMORIES REVISITED

Forty six years ago. Cox and Kings used to pay me as a young subaltern in Jordan (and Cyprus). Now I have just paid them to take me back to Jordan and to fulfil my long held dream, which readers of this journal about five years ago may recall. of returning to Aqaba where I was a platoon commander in C Company of the 1st Bn. The Middlesex Regt. We whiled away same happy months on Garrison duty until the aftermath of the Suez crisis forced our return to the Battalion and Internal Security duties in Cyprus.

As I knew it had, that then-sleepy little port. consisting of our tented camp, some solid buildings and the little garrison church a small white-painted Arab village and a ramshackle jetty from which dusty freighters occasionally loaded their cargoes of phosphates and potash for fertiliser, has changed beyond all recognition.

The late King Hussein set out to create in Aqaba a winter sun resort to rival those developing at Eilat in Israel across the bay and Sharm-el -Sheikh down the Gulf of Aqaba on the Egyptian coast - and he lived long enough to see his dream come true!

His (and now his successor ,King Abdullah's) palace stands at the western end of the Jordanian curve of beach, quite possibly on the very area from which we swam and sailed our little dinghies. Not a trace remains of our garrison - no parade grounds, no huts and, sadly, no church. There is an old fort which is being carefully restored and an archaeological dig which is gradually revealing houses and part of the original town. dating from 2,000 years ago. There will, however, be no such interesting remains from the days of the "0" Force garrison!



Aqaba is now a thriving town, the beach lined with luxury hotels, most with their own private beaches - our 5-Star Moewenpick had two beach restaurants, three pools and, naturally, its own beach, all connected to the hotel by an enclosed bridge across the tree-lined Corniche, on top of which was another pool with its own cafe! We walked around part of the town, past The Royal Jordanian Club (to which we decided not to try to claim entry rights as "visiting yachtsmen" from the St Mawes Sailing Club!) and its little marina which sadly seemed full of motor cruisers with only one yacht in sight, down to the old fort. Beside its walls we drank Turkish coffee on a splendid two-deck floating restaurant, looking out onto dozens of glass bottomed boats and an elegant cruise ship moored beside the tall graceful Port control tower.

In Jordan most of the Souks are arranged as rows of shops along the streets, as opposed to the more traditional "closed" versions of North Africa with their mazes of little alleys and shops spilling their wares outside among the passers-by. Not nearly as romantic!.

We weren't looking for anything in particular, having already laden ourselves down with souvenirs from handicraft shops further up-country - but we did find a bottle of (wait for it!) 50% proof gin, with Beefeater on the label, which the shopkeeper assured us was made for the Royal family. And if you believe that, you'll believe anything!! (It turned out to be 25% more expensive than normal Gordons Export Gin at the airport, but it'll be a talking point - at least before I go blind!.) So, everything has changed - but not quite everything. The sea is as warm and clear as ever (there is a diving school from which you can scuba-dive to see the coral reefs and a multitude of brightly-coloured fish) and the great purple-grey mountains which run along behind the town still turn pink in the setting sun.

The sun in November was as warm and the humidity as low as ever - quite perfect.

We came to Aqaba from the Wadi Rum - that stretch of desert filled with great wind-carved sandstone Jebels or hills where Lawrence met and recruited the Howeitat Bedouin chieftain (Anthony Quinn in the film!) who was to be his right hand during the Arab Revolt against the Turks.

This majestic wilderness in which we used to do our desert training is one of Jordan's natural wonders. Part of it is now a nature reserve for indigenous species such as the Oryx and the Bedouin no longer wander unhindered

across its wide-open spaces, being now mainly occupied as guides to tourists and drivers for bone-shaking trips in 4WDs and Japanese pickups across the rutted sand trails - either Army Land-Rover drivers were much better or my spine was a lot younger in those days, but either way I felt definitely "old" when I got back into our coach!

But the lonely grandeur is unchanged, the sand was as pinkly-yellow on my specially acquired desert boots as it was on my nail-studded Army boots which, interestingly, didn't melt in the heat! "Vast, echoing and God-like" was Lawrence's description of this most magnificent of all Jordan's desert landscapes, and no-one ever spoke a truer word.

I remembered our desert marches across the sands, firm in some places, soft and shifting in others: a column of sweating infantrymen, platoon commanders and sergeants ranging up and down the line to encourage the men - we always seemed to march twice as far as they did.

And pitching camp for the night under a display of stars which outdid any I have seen since, until I saw them again on this trip over Petra.

On our way we passed a stretch of the Damascus-Hejaz line, down which the Turks moved men and equipment and which Lawrence's men blew up many times for disruption, booty and killing. And then he and his Arabs took Aqaba, from the landward side, down the Wadi Araba. All the Turkish guns faced out to sea - just like Singapore!

Before striking south to Wadi Rum, we had visited Petra, that "rose-red City, half as old as Time". Now a World Heritage Site, it is as awe-inspiring, as when 46 years ago, I rode down the narrow winding gorge which leads to this long-forgotten city and to that first glimpse of the truly magnificent Treasury Building, half-hidden by the sheer rock sides of the canyon.

Over 2,000 years ago the Nabateans established Petra as the capital of their vast trading empire, dominating the trade routes of ancient Arabia, until eventually and inevitably they were annexed by the Romans and their Kingdom declined and finally died. Petra was then completely lost to the outside world until the Swiss explorer Burkhardt persuaded his guide to take him to the site of a rumoured "lost city" in 1812. From that discovery stems our ability today to visit and marvel at this magnificent achievement - great hand-carved facades cut into the living rock, colonnaded streets and

a 3,000 seat theatre. And to experience above all the feeling of awe and admiration for those ancient craftsmen who created these masterpieces and the water systems to support the city's thousands of inhabitants and the stream of camel trains who came to Petra for shelter, provisioning and trade.

Since my first visit in 1957 much more of Petra has been uncovered and opened up to visitors, and I revelled in the experience - my memory of that first visit has been blurred by time, but no-one can ever forget the Treasury Building which we were to see again that night by the light of 1200 candles, lining the winding Siq approach and in their hundreds in front of that wonderful facade. A Bedouin singer entertained us with traditional songs and music in the candlelight, and a Bedouin guide told us about the city's history. An unforgettable evening - and to cap it all, there were those stars.

Before that we had been to the Dead Sea - the lowest place on earth - and had "swum" in water so saline and heavy with minerals that you cannot sink. Lying on your back and floating effortlessly, the really hard part was getting yourself vertical again to struggle back to shore through a deep layer of black mud. Some of our party coated themselves in the stuff and paraded around - its supposed to be very good for the skin !. Maybe so, but the water brought my legs out in a red rash which itched for hours!

En route we had been to Mount Nebo from where Moses saw the Promised Land and which the Pope visited a year or two back - you can see the River Jordan from there and Moses is believed to have died and been buried there. The original little church was built by Byzantine Christians and the whole site has been carefully excavated over the last 60 years to reveal a splendid complex of church and monastic buildings. As we admired its ancient mosaics, the silence was broken by the sound of singing - a choral Communion was being held, creating a fitting backdrop to a reverent and peaceful scene.

On our way we visited Madaba, the principal Christian town in Jordan and home to a wonderful 6th century Byzantine mosaic map of the whole area. Based on information provided to the monks by travellers and traders, it depicts hills and valleys, rivers and towns as far away as the Nile delta - it even pictures fish swimming down the Jordan to the Dead Sea and turning back to swim upstream again because those salty waters were a no-go area for them! It is allegedly 70% accurate - not bad for Intelligence work!

Then there was a Crusader castle of Kerak. A great menacing pile frowning down from its hilltop vantage point, it epitomised the strength and power of the Crusaders in a hostile land where they sought to survive through the iron hand in a velvet glove technique. Besieged several times but never taken (and you can see why), it was eventually abandoned when the Crusaders pulled back across the Jordan after their massive defeat by Saladin in the desert outside Tiberias.

We had first spent a day at Jordan's other principal jewel - Jerash. This is a beautifully-preserved Greco-Roman city, carefully restored in parts, with colonnaded streets, temples (one with a pillar which will rock if a nail is placed on a small piece of stone under its base and wiggled - the celebrated fulcrum effect), a magnificent theatre whose acoustics rival those of the Whispering Gallery in St. Paul's (no-one on the stage had to raise their voices to be heard in the top row 60 feet up!) and Hadrian's Arch which commemorates the Emperor's visit in 129 AD. They are currently restoring the Hippodrome with its rows of seats curving above little shops, and when they have finished they will hold horse and chariot races there - and Jerash will live again.

Now I think I might return to Cyprus, to Richard's castle by the sea, to Bellapais Abbey, the silver sands of Kyrenia and that litany of villages through which we used to patrol - Xylotimbou, Xylophagou and Ormidhia. Next year perhaps.

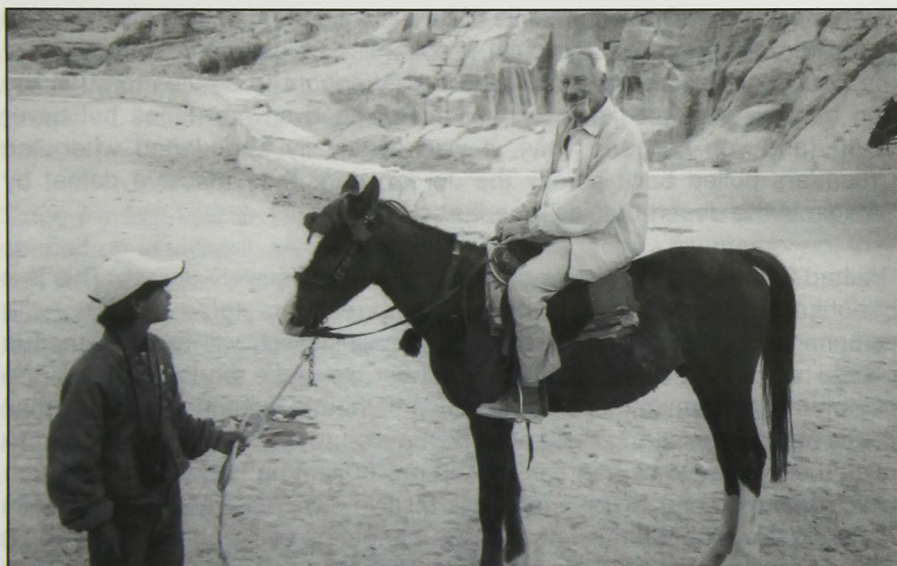
S Cawthorne

Normandy 2004 60 Years on



Petra 1957

I was fortunate to be invited to join the Aldershot Branch of the NVA to accompany them to Normandy for a full and interesting programme which included the Service at Colville Montgomery, the opening of the British Garden Caen by HRH Prince of Wales. The NVA Memorial Service at Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery Bayeux



Petra 2003

in the presence of HM The Queen and President Chirac and also the parade at Aromanches. Whilst in Normandy I met the following Die-hards Barry King, Geof Howard, Les Dyer, Tom Moore. Fred Thomas all of whom despite the long waits in blazing sunshine showed remarkable fortitude.

Odd Jottings

Alf Blake who was a FEPOW wrote to Ron Morris to tell him the sad news that just before Christmas he was admitted to Lewisham Hospital to have his other leg amputated. As he put it "I am worse off now than when I was a POW". Despite his problems he remembered to pass on his good wishes to all Die-hards, who were taken in Hong Kong especially those in "B" Company. He would be pleased to hear from any of you, although he said, he is now 83 so there cannot be many around now. He can be contacted via the Editor.

Barry King went back to Australia last July, he told us that he had not been all that well and in hospital but is now on the mend. He hopes to return to the UK in May for the reunion which he in fact did. He wishes all Die-hards well.

Received a letter from Mrs P Ford thanking the Association for the grant of £150.00 towards the cost of the provision of a bath lift.

John Barton when sending his subs in January mentioned that he is still in contact with Sgt Les Page and although he is almost 90 he is still fit and well. Ron Spicer has been in contact and the good news is that his recent knee operation is progressing well. Ron said that he is glad that he agreed to have it done.

Heinz Johannsen, when speaking to Tony Pielow recently, mentioned that a copy of his letter of appointment as an honorary Member of the Regimental Association has been framed and is now displayed in Rendsburg Town Hall. We are certain that particularly all those who served in Rendsburg in 1945, will be delighted that the Mayor has honoured Heinz in this way.

Alf Burford tells us that Barry Camille, who is well known to those Die-hards who went onto serve with 1 Queen's is sadly far from well. He retired some years ago and now lives in the Seychelles. (We regret to have to tell you that since writing this note Barry has passed away).

Harold Steele apologised for being late with this years subscription and asked that his best regards be passed on to all members of the Association especially to those of Colonel Brotherton's 1944-45 Signal Platoon in the 8th Battalion.

Topper Brown, at the request of Ron Morris, has tracked down the 2/7th Battalion King's Colour for the Great War. It is being well looked after and has been recently renovated and is now in the Historical Museum, The Old School house, 136 Tottenham Road London N8.

Tony Garratt ex 8Th MX has written to say how much he enjoyed a recent visit to New Zealand and Spain He has now departed for Italy.

R Topley sends greetings to the Regiment and often recalls the comradeship of army life.

Lt Col. (Ret'd) Fendick CD has sent best wishes to all Die-hards and to all ranks PWRR, he would also appreciate being remembered to all former members of 2nd Battalion 1944-45. He was OC No 1 Platoon A Company through most of the NW Europe campaign as a Canloan Officer.

J Roche an Ex Die-hard who was recently assisted with a scooter wishes to resume contact with the Regiment.

Jimmy Ridler wrote to Major Bradley to say he is going to Normandy with two pals, and that his father fought at Mons at the age of 16, was wounded twice but came back and lived to be ninety. Jimmy himself is 89.

Jeff Rolt ex 8th Battn has written to say he is learning to type but his arthritis is getting bad, he has not attempted to type for sixty years.

Pat Carver wrote to thank the Association for a grant towards household expenses her husband passed away recently.

Mrs L Dawson has expressed her appreciation of receiving the Regimental Newsletter.

Our congratulations to Charles Kennedy of Harlow who has been awarded the Legion d' Honneur. The medal was presented to him at a ceremony at Admiralty House by the French Ambassador Gerard Errera.

Thomas Evans continues to write from Manila and sends best wishes to the boys back home. Taffy is a survivor of the Lisbon Maru and enclosed some interesting poems.

Ken Stubbings 2/7th Bn Middlesex Regiment celebrated his 80th Birthday with his wife Doris, family and friends on a fine old Thames Sailing Barge on the River Blackwater at Malden Essex where lunch and drinks were served followed by a trip down the river to Osea Island and back again then on to his home for champagne and birthday cake. A truly grand day was had by all.

Obituaries

We advise with the deepest regret that the following have died

ALCOCK Sgt Harry Alcock who died on the 8th May 2004 falsified his age and was posted to the 1/7th Battalion aged 17. He served in Africa from Alamein to Enfidaville and then in the Sicily Campaign. He landed in Normandy on D day plus 1 (June 7th 1944). Wounded in Holland and whilst in hospital in Eindhoven he met up with some jocks in a Black Watch truck and he persuaded them to take him back to the Battalion where he reported to RSM Rocky Knight still wearing hospital blues. When the 1/7th

disbanded he joined the 2nd Battalion for a time and then moved to the School of Infantry Warminster where he ended his service.

The funeral took place in Barrow in Furness and the Regiment was represented by Jeff Harward and Cpl Dennis Daly who all served in 10 Platoon.

BENNETT Len who served with the 1/7th Bn and then with 1st Battalion at Rendsburg died on 1st March 2004. He had been ill for some time and his passing was a merciful release.

BISSELL Malcolm James died on 19th October 2003 in Kingston Hospital from renal failure after a throat operation. He served with the Regiment in Hong Kong in 1948, having been demobbed after National Service he re-enlisted with the intention of rejoining the regiment but was posted to the Gloucester's in Korea, where he was taken prisoner and served many months in a POW camp.

BROOKER Dorothy was the widow of a FEPOW who has maintained contact with the Regiment over many years. Sadly she died on 24th December 2003. Her funeral was held at the Isle of Wight Crematorium on 7th January last.

CAMILLE Captain B F Camille died on Good Friday 2004 in the Seychelles after a long illness borne with great fortitude. The funeral took place in the Seychelles on Friday 16th April.

CASE Sgt. Ernest A Case died peacefully on 8th January 2003 after a short illness. Ernest served with 2/7th Battalion and saw action in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Palestine.

CRIPPS Captain George Cripps died on Thursday 8th April 2004. The funeral was held on 15th April at the Marble Church Bodelwyddan nr St Asaph Clwyd North Wales followed by cremation at Colwyn Bay Crematorium.

DAY Captain Jonny Day died on the 22nd June 2004 and the funeral was held at St. Andrews Church, Sunbury on the 29th June. The family were well supported by members of the Honourable Artillery Company and the Regiment by Major Richard Thornton.

GRETTY Samuel died in August 2003 no further details are known.

HUNT Roy passed away 17th April 2004. Roy served with 2/7th Battalion in North Africa Sicily Italy and Palestine.

KELLEY Alf died on 1st January 2004. He served with the 1st Battalion, his funeral was held on 9th January 2004. No further details are available.

LIVEMORE Captain Percy John Livemore MC passed away on 6th April 2004 In 1933 he joined the Buffs at Canterbury and in 1943 was commissioned into the Middlesex Regt. He served in Palestine, Belgium (where he was awarded his MC) and Germany during WW2. He was demobbed from the Army in 1953 after his return to the UK following an extended posting in Hong Kong.

MCMANUS -Daniel (known to most of us as Paddy) was knocked down by a vehicle and sadly he died from his injuries. Those who served with the 1st Battalion and 4 Queen's will remember him as a great character as Sergeant with the Band. There was a strong party from the Regiment at the funeral held on the 9th June at Barham Crematorium, Canterbury. To name a few: Major Joe Bass, WOII Colin Smith, Sgt. Joe Chester, Sgt Roy Abrahams, Sgt. Frank Cairns, Cpl. Chunky Holman and Cpl. Wally Wall. The last post was played by a member of the 3rd Battalion Band.

REVILL Harry 6203208 died on the 5th January 2004 aged 87. Harry was in A Company of 2nd Battalion from 1936 to 1937 moving to the 1st Battalion HQ Company in 1938. Fought in the Battle of Hong Kong with the rest of the 1st Battalion, was a POW from Christmas Day 1941. Moved to Japan he was held in Tokyo Number 2 Camp. Harry lived in Spain for the last years of his life. His funeral was held in Spain, his ashes have been returned to the UK for eventual internment in Ireland.

REVILL Francis 6217032 died on 12th February 2004 aged 79. One of three brothers who served in the Regiment and whose death of Harry is also noted above. Francis was a member of the Drums Platoon with us from about 1942 until the war ended. His funeral was held at Luton Crematorium Wednesday 25th February 2004.

ROGERS John (Jack) died on 24th December 2003, after a long illness Sadly he had been ill for some years and life had become very difficult for him. Many will remember Jack as a very popular and successful member of

the Battalion boxing team. The service was held at Basildon & District Crematorium on Tuesday 6th January 2004. A large gathering from the Regiment were present, P Dean paraded the Enfield Branch Standard, Alf Burford gave the Exhortation also there were E McEvoy, P Ramatulla, J Hannaford, S Hilton, G Clift, J Innes, R Dacosta.

STUBBINGS Ernest passed away on 21st September 2003. No further details are to hand.

WELLS Sydney died on Saturday 21st February 2004 after a long period illness during which he never lost his sense of humour. Syd served with the 1st Battalion in NW Europe when they were attached to 15th Scottish Division. A very loyal and strong supporter of the Hounslow Branch of the Association. His funeral was held on Wednesday 3rd March at Bonner Hill Crematorium Kingston. The service was attended by Major Ron & Betty Morris, Vic & Nancy Debenham, Jim & Freda Wells R Thornton, A Richardson, G Stunt, G Young, R Stone, J MC Carthy, M Ward and the Hounslow RBL Standard Bearer.

Lieut. Colonel Christopher Norman Clayden MBE

Norman was born into the Regiment on 10 July 1921 in Egypt where his father, Bill Clayden was serving with the 2nd Bn. He was educated at Brighton College and in 1940 he enlisted as a volunteer recruit at the Depot at Mill Hill. He was commissioned in 1941 and, after a few months, was posted as an instructor at the Army Gas School, much to his consternation for his military experience was minimal and his first audience was a roomful of ATS! However the next year he escaped and joined the 2nd Bn who were part of Southern Command preparing for the Normandy landings. In June 1944 the Bn landed on Sword Beach on D+1 and Norman fought with them all the way to Bremen.

He remained with the Bn, moving with them to Palestine in '45 and then to Egypt in 46 where at the ripe old age of 26 he found himself in command for a short time. In 1948 the 1st & 2nd Bns amalgamated and the new 1st Bn was posted to Chelsea Barracks to undertake public duties. Norman was commanding the Palace guard the night Prince Charles was born. Thereafter the Bn moved to Hong Kong where he was hived off to become Intelligence Officer for 28 Bde; however he managed to rejoin the Bn whilst it was still in Korea. On return to Hong Kong he became Adjutant and remained as such until 1952, having taken the Bn to Austria.

In 1953 he commanded the Colour Party at the Coronation and the next year he attended Staff College. Then followed a period at Sandhurst as a Chief Instructor and two years at HQ Eastern Command at Hounslow, before finally returning to the Bn in Hamelin in 1959, having married Jean immediately before hand. In 1961 he was back in the UK at Canterbury, first as DAAG HQ Home Counties Brigade and then as CO of the Brigade Depot, he then having been promoted in May 1963. In 1966 he went to Guyana as GSO1 and then in 1967, after independence, he became GSO1 Singapore, a posting he particularly enjoyed. After that he held a succession of appointments until retiring from the Army on 30th June 1973.

Norman inherited from his father a great interest in nature in general and birds in particular. In Singapore he was able to indulge his passion to the full in company with several senior officers, including the C in C. who were also enthusiastic bird watchers. Soon after his return to the UK in 1970 he became Secretary of the Army Bird Watching Society (ABWS) and remained as such for the next 21 Years. He devoted himself whole heartedly to the job and ensured the solid frame work that the Society (now the Army Ornithological Society) enjoys today.

Having retired on 30 June 1970 Norman undertook what was to become the second greatest achievement of his life (his first was to marry Jean). On 3 July he was appointed Head of Conservation for the Ministry of Defence. He was given one female assistant and a half typist and they occupied two pokey little offices in Tolworth Towers. He proceeded to bring into existence the structure that exists to this day on all MOD training areas in Great Britain. He badgered, cajoled, encouraged and inspired to the extent that by the time he retired there were 201 conservation groups in existence. In addition he instituted Deer Management on those areas where it was appropriate and organised the publication of Sanctuary which serves as the MOD annual conversation report. His close personal contact with all training areas and conservation groups involved a tremendous amount of travelling in which he was ably assisted by Jean as his driver. There was always a stand at the Aldershot Show, and he made appearances at seminars in Munich and Holland. In the middle of all this he had two hip operations one in 1983 and the second a year later.

Norman had made such a tremendous impact on the conservation movement not only for MOD but also on the national scene was recognised by the award first in 1984 of the MBE and secondly in 1987 of the first ever prestigious RSPB Esso award which was presented by Prince Charles.

This marked a very fitting end to his second career for he retired finally in September 1986, although he remained as a consultant for a further year. Norman was a fine all round athlete playing most sports. He played for the army at rugby and hockey and represented the army at athletics. He was a combined services hockey umpire and Chairman of the Army Hockey Umpires Association. He was a formidable opponent and had a fearsome reputation on the hockey field, as had his cousin Ken. One day at the regimental depot the newest joined subaltern was detailed to play against a RAF side. He mentioned to the PMC that he might be late back as no doubt there would be tea after the match, the reply came " With Norman And Ken playing there might NOT BE an invitation to tea!".

Norman had a great sense of duty and expected the same from others. He was highly efficient and very meticulous in all he did and put 100% into whatever he was undertaking. When he became MOD conservation officer he made it his business learn about aspects of nature other than birds thereby astonishing a former band boy by expounding on TV on the Natterjack Toad! He didn't suffer fools gladly and you knew exactly where you stood with him. He was forthright, totally honest and very fair and just, and greatly encouraging to those less able than himself. He was a good leader of men and his soldiers held him in high respect. A somewhat stern exterior concealed a certain shyness: when you got to know him you found a warm kind and thoughtful person with a marked sense of humour. He was a staunch friend and utterly devoted husband father and grandfather.

For the last ten years of his life Norman suffered increasingly from ill health -crippling arthritis, a stroke (Recovery 95%), heart gradually shutting down loss of voice and throughout, ever increasing pain. But he had indomitable spirit and he never complained. He took great delight in his grandson of 15 months with whom he would communicate with the aid of a hockey umpires whistle. There was a happy family gathering at Christmas and he died two days after Boxing Day.

Norman Clayden was born a Die-hard
He lived a Die-hard
He died a Die-hard

CLL

Captain Peter John Lane

Peter Lane died in the Royal Free Hospital London on 25th January 2004 after a protracted illness.

A Londoner all his life, Peter was born on 16 July 1930 and went to University College School Hampstead. On leaving he did National Service first undergoing basic training with the Scots Guards at Caterham, then four months at Eaton Hall Officer Cadet School at Chester where a number of us first met him. He was much in demand for being almost unique in those days in having his own set of four wheels.

Commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in the summer of 1950, he was posted to the Royal West Kent Regiment, the Home Counties Training Battalion at Shorncliffe. The following year he moved to the Middlesex Regimental Depot at Mill Hill as Training Subaltern. Again he is remembered with some envy as by this time he had graduated to a smart sports car, together with along list of girls' telephone numbers to go with it! He also struck up a friendship with the Depot Captain Viv Thomas and between them they would take bets on almost anything that moved! Peter completed his National service just before Christmas 1951.

Straight away he started as a trainee at Smiths Industries where his father was still an executive. Over the next 30 years Peter became a well known personality in the clock and watch trade, working as well for the Swiss Watch Corporation. Many of his friends will recall getting a useful deal on a time-piece through his good auspices.

In the early years Peter continued his connection with the Regiment by serving with 7th Middlesex (TA) Battalion at Hornsey, then under the command of Desmond Ellis. He became Assistant Adjutant to the redoubtable Nick Carter. This was a critical role when a territorial battalion might go to camp 750 strong.

It was at time that he met the lovely Jill Powell-Tuck, the daughter of a well known Chepstow family. Being one of the first contemporaries to marry, their wedding in 1953 was a somewhat riotous regimental occasion - remembered by some to this day! Although Peter and Jill always lived in Hampstead, they spent most of their holidays down in Monmouth. Sadly Jill died in 1996 but their two children, Timothy and Phillipa, survive them.

In the late 1970's, Peter made a career change and went into computing, recognising the growth opportunities of this new technology which suited his quick brain and keen mind. Starting in the City, he later travelled widely in the United States - living there for a time -as well as the Middle East and Asia. He built up particularly strong connections in Pakistan where he made a number of friends. In fact, he continued working as a consultant for DSL well past retirement age, becoming with his knowledge of the Commonwealth, much involved with renewable energy projects in South East Asia. This also gave him the excuse to make the occasional visit to Tokyo where Phillipa and his two grandsons live.

A regular attendee at Middlesex Officers' dinners and the annual service at St Paul's, Peter never lost his interest in the Regiment or matters military. He was a social member of the H.A.C. and regularly lunched there when in the City. He gave his strongest support, however to the Middlesex Knot of the Friendly Brothers of St. Patrick which he had first joined when it was reformed by Desmond Ellis in 1964. He seldom missed a meeting and was always full of ideas for the future of the Knot, in particular the recruitment of new, younger members from the successor regiments. A stalwart Die-hard we shall miss him greatly.

B. St. G. A. R.

Lieutenant Colonel Ernest James Unwin

As a Regiment we have been fortunate in having a number of outstanding sportsmen serving with us, and Jimmy Unwin was perhaps one of the best known. A triple Blue at rugby, cricket and hockey when at Sandhurst, member of Rosslyn Park, he played cricket for Essex and Suffolk, rugby for the Army, and for the Barbarians before the war, led the British Lions to Australia and New Zealand in 1930.

Born in the countryside on 18th September 1912 he was the second of four children and by all accounts a particularly lively brother to his younger brother and sister and never lost his early love of the countryside. After attending prep school he went to Haileybury where he played rugby and cricket and toured with the England Schoolboys' hockey team.

He joined the Army at the beginning of the war and was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment and served in the War Office until 1940 when he

joined the Regiment, and trained with it for the NW Europe campaign when he was OC "B" Coy 2MX taking part in the heavy fighting around Caen and advancing into Germany where he remained until being posted to Egypt for two years and then retiring in 1948 to join his family firm in Essex. in 1952 he married Georgina Cookson with whom he had two children.

Despite his military duties during the war Jimmy continued to play high class rugby whenever possible, and over the years also became a fine shot and a late but expert fisherman. He never lost his enthusiasm for rugby and had the particular thrill of watching England's World Cup victory just two weeks before he died on 23rd November 2003.

Jimmy Unwin was without a doubt one of the Regiment's finest sportsmen, who was a world class performer as well as a particularly effective company commander in NW Europe. He will be remembered by his contemporaries as an especially lively, cheerful soldier with whom it was a pleasure to serve, and we were indeed fortunate to have such an outstanding character in the Regiment.

B.A.M.P.

Capt. George Dennis Cripps

I first met George in 1952, when as young sergeant I joined the 1st Battalion. George was in the Battalion Orderly Room and responsible for documenting new arrivals. My first impression of George was his efficiency and helpful attitude.

Throughout his long army career George led by example and was held in high esteem by everyone. he was a very able man who excelled in everything he did. George was small in stature but in every aspect a big man, he was a winner. An example of this quality was in Gibraltar in 1965 when he was ORQMS and OIC Rowing. As cox of the whaler boat, through his leadership and determination the Battalion rowing team swept the board with the R.A.F. and R. Navy.

George was a devoted family man, I recall when on tour in Guyana he would write to his family on a daily basis. His family was a great credit to him.

On leaving the Army George established a successful retail business. Tragically in November 1981 he had a horrific motor accident which left him

severely crippled for the rest of his life. Even so, he still enjoyed a quality of life only made possible by the loving care of his wife Terry and family.

A dear friend and a true Die-hard who will be sadly missed.

George died on 8th April aged 75 and his funeral was held St Margaret's Church Bodelwyddan followed by committal at Colwyn Bay Crematorium.

K. Beale MBE

New Members

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the publication of the last newsletter.

K. J. Burns

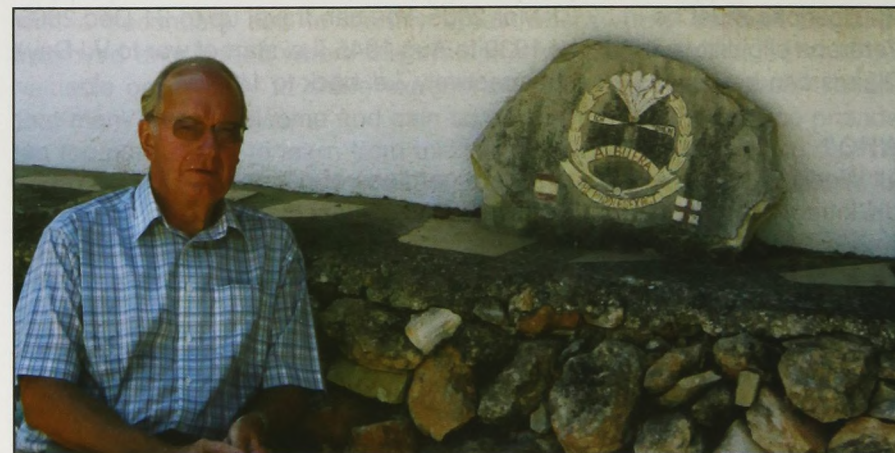
22187753 L/Cpl L.W. Cook S Coy 1st Battalion

6215503 Dvr. R. E. Emerton C Coy 1st /7th Battalion

Miss Catherine Mann

Can you Help

E.J.Gilkes has written to enquire whether anyone can confirm the name of the ship on which he was taken off The Mole, this as a result of Lewis



Stanley's obituary who was rescued from The Mole on HMS Worcester. Ted believes it could have been HMS Worcester. he knows it was a drifter converted to a minesweeper. and she docked at Ramsgate.

Capt. Ken Beale has sent a photograph of the Middlesex Cap badge painted on a rock in the garden of a villa in Moraira Alicante province. Despite enquiries the owner could not supply the answer. Can anyone throw any light on this matter?

Apologies

In the last issue under odd jottings, Sgt. Ernest James Sibling who celebrated his 90th birthday. This entry should have been Sgt. Ernest James Stebbing who served with the Regiment 1932-46 - we apologise for this lapse on our part.

Items of Interest

Heroes Return Outline brief on the programme.

Heroes Return is a UK Lottery funded scheme to help veterans of World War Two return to areas in which they saw active service. The following notes highlight key elements of the scheme and should help answer most of the "standard" queries you may receive.

DATES?

Programme runs from 1 Jan 2004 to 31 Dec 2005.
Applications must be in by 31 Mar 2005. You can travel up to 31 Dec 2005.
Veterans eligibility period Sep 1939 to Aug 1945 (i.e. start of war to VJ Day).
Claims can be applied for retrospectively, i.e. back to 1/01/04.

WHO?

All World War Two Allied veterans regardless of nationality BUT as this is UK-lottery funded they MUST have a UK residence address.

WHERE?

There are 4 theatres of war in the programme.

1. NW Europe
2. Mediterranean/North Africa (includes Italy).
3. Libya/Egypt/Middle East.
4. Rest of World (includes Far East/Pacific).

A veteran can apply for any theatre in which he/she served or with which he/she has a tangible connection. Only ONE visit is allowed during the period (NOT one each year!). If a veteran served in more than one theatre they should apply for the one they most wish to return to.

PASSPORT

A FREE one-year passport is available to veterans during this period (details in the application pack - this is not handled by Heroes Return).

HOW TO APPLY

Request a Heroes Return application pack from Veterans Agency - 0800 169 2277. Questions about completing the form ring - 0845 0000 121. Please be patient.

EDUCATION

There is an optional educational tie-up being handled by the Imperial War Museum. This part of the form appears daunting but it is VOLUNTARY so your application for funding will be unaffected if you do not want to be. However, it is a wonderful opportunity to keep your memories alive for future generations so please give it some thought - and you can ask for advice.

PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.

MEETING OF ARMY WIDOWS 6-8 AUGUST 2004.

Amport House, Andover. Hampshire.

The purpose of the association is primarily to provide support and contact with a secondary aim to identify areas where Army support could be improved and indeed where the system is working well. We feel that this valuable opportunity to share experience, knowledge and comfort is one that many would welcome and gain so much from. As the service provider we too can expect to learn from this weekend and will be hoping that the staff present will be able to deal with the many issues we expect to be raised.

The weekend can provide single en-suite, accommodation for up to 60 people, with all meals included for a total cost of only £40.00. There is a small bar - although purchases from the bar will be a personal responsibility. If you would like to talk to another Army widow about the weekend you can call 0870 2411 305 and we will put you in touch with one of the organisers. Application forms can be obtained from Mrs Samantha

Roberts, Mill Pond Cottage, 36 Wharnccliffe Road, Shipley, W Yorks BD 18 2AD. Please note closing date is 25th July 2004.

MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL

When we visited the old Middlesex Guildhall we were interested to find out more about the War Memorial in the entrance hall.

I have always thought of it as our War Memorial but, in fact, it is a memorial to the "Men of Middlesex" who died in the First World War. However, because of the scale of our losses (12,694 dead) it has always been closely associated with the Middlesex Regiment.

In a book produced in 1965 by the County Council of Middlesex to mark the merger of the county into Greater London there is a reference to the War Memorial as follows:-

On 20th November 1924, General Sir Ivor Maxse, KCB CVO DSO, unveiled the memorial to the armed forces of Middlesex who fell in the 1914-18 war, which stands at the north end of the entrance hall. The sculptor, Richard R. Goulden, chose as his model for the central figure ex-Sergeant Robert E. Ryder VC who was born at Harefield, employed by the County Council at Harefield Hospital and one of the youngest VCs.

As we know, General Maxse was Colonel of the Regiment from 1921-32 and Sgt. Ryder was a member of the Regiment who is buried in the cemetery at Harefield. As a private soldier in our 12th Battalion Robert Ryder won his VC during the assault on Thiepval during the Battle of the Somme in 1916. In the same action and in the same Battalion Drummer Patsy Edwards was also awarded the Victoria Cross.

R.M.Cain OBE,DL.

Field of Remembrance Westminster Saturday 13th November 2004.

The Annual Service of Remembrance will take place at the County and Regimental Memorial inside the Middlesex Guildhall, Westminster. Members and friends are invited to attend and are requested to assemble at the Guildhall at 10.45am. The service will commence at 10.55am. The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft MA. Honorary Chaplain to the Middlesex Regimental Association will conduct the service. There will be no formal march to the Regimental Plot, due to the excessive traffic noise, which

makes it impractical to hold a service there. However, Crosses will have been planted on the plot previously prior to the Field of Remembrance being opened by a member of the Royal Family. On the conclusion of the service in the Guildhall the Regimental Association will be providing a glass of sherry, so that those attending can get together before departing. Medals and Regimental ties should be worn.

Put this date in your diary, no further notice will be given.

Accommodation

Whilst at the Regimental Re-union, concern was raised at the prices charged for accommodation by the Victory Services Club, however, a reasonably priced hotel situated nearby is Redlands Hotel, Kendal Street, London W21 - Telephone 020 7723 7118.

However, note new times for the Albuhera Service and the Regimental Re-union, so you may need to book your accommodation for Friday night.

THE CENOTAPH PARADE - SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2004

The annual Service of Remembrance will take place at the Cenotaph, Whitehall at 11.00 Sunday 14 November 2004. All forebear Regiments have agreed to march in the PWRR contingent, and those wishing to do so are requested to forward their applications for tickets to the following address by no later than 31 October 2004

Major BM Wright
27 Vereker Drive
Sunbury Upon Thames
Middlesex TW16 6HG.

It is hoped that we will have a very good turnout this year as, once again, we will be in the first contingent to march off after the service, following behind the Chelsea Pensioners and St. Dunstan's contingents.

This year lunch following the parade will take place at The Founders Arms, 52 Hopton Street, Blackfriars, London SE1. This will be a traditional 3 course lunch with a glass of wine, and will cost £15.00 per head. Lunch must be ordered at the same time as applying for tickets. The Founders

Arms can be seen just to the left of Blackfriars Bridge as you walk over it from Blackfriars tube station, and Blackfriars is only a couple of stops from Westminster or St. Jame's.

GIBRALTAR VETERAN?

Then help celebrate

GIBRALTAR'S TRICENTENARY

(Free flights, food and accommodation)

Regimental Headquarters The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment has been asked by the London Office of the Government of Gibraltar to co-ordinate a party of 57 Gibraltar Veteran's to take part in their Tercentenary Celebrations over the period 8-15 Oct. 04.

Details available at this time are:

Free return flights from LUTON airport (arrange own Transport & Parking.

Free Food and Accommodation for the week. (Double room sharing).

Wives can accompany at a cost of £350.

Mandatory programme of events as arranged by the Chief Minister. Free time available.

Valid Passport, Travel Insurance and spending money will be required.

What to do next

RHQ will not commit to this event unless a party of 57 is guaranteed.

Genuinely interested individuals should contact:

Major (retd.) S.R.Bream Q.G.M. at Regimental Headquarters
Telephone No. 01227 818857.

AUTUMN BREAK

On Friday 24th September a small group of members from the Enfield Branch will once again be heading south to Sinah Warren on Hayling Island for the Swingin' Sixties weekend. The entertainment will be provided by the Merseybeat Legends and Surfin U.S.A. plus a full cabaret. If any on our

fellow Die-hards live close to Sinah Warren or are in the area at the time and would like to meet up for a pint and a chat please let us know.
Contact Alex Brown - telephone number 0207-515-6981.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following are held in stock and are available on request to the Regimental Shop RHQ PWRR Howe Barracks Canterbury Kent CT1 1JY. Cheques or Postal Orders should be made payable to PWRR Account No 0536700.

Blazer Badges	£7.50
Car Badges	£10.00
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£28.00
Ties (Old Pattern maroon & old gold)	£6.00
Ties (New pattern black with maroon and gold thin stripes)	£6.00
Ties Officers' Club (Silk)	£13.50
Good quality replica Middlesex Regt Cap Badges	£5.50
Middlesex Regt. Key Rings	£2.50
Old Comrades lapel badges	£2.75
Prints Steady the Drums & Fifes unframed	Large £8.00 Small £6.00
Middlesex Regt Plaques	£18.50
Middlesex Blazer Buttons Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge	
Sets of 6 Large & 6 Small	£28.00
Individual buttons large or small	£2.50
Regtl cuff links	£7.50
Regtl cuff links with tie grip	£10.50
Tie grip only	£5.00
Regtl Ladies Brooch	£4.75
Regtl tie tack and chain	£4.50

