



# *The Die-Hards*

NEWSLETTER

No. 97

March 2007

Price £1



**Messers Bysouth & Shore with Mr Cox RBL S.W. Region  
Standard Bearer whilst on their Anzio pilgrimage.**



**President** : Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP  
**Chairman** : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC  
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### FORECAST OF EVENTS 2007

28th April	1/7th MX OCA Annual Reunion TA Centre Hornsey
11th May	MX Officers' Club Annual Dinner Army & Navy Club
12th May	MX Albuhera Service Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral 11.00 hrs
12th May	MX All Ranks Reunion Union Jack Club Annual General Meeting 13.00 hrs
13th-17th May	Albuhera
16th May	Enfield Branch Wreath Laying – Mill Hill
16th May	9th Bn MX Officer's Club Annual Luncheon To be confirmed.
1st July	Veterans' Day Parade Enfield Town 14.00 hrs.
8th August	Visit to Canterbury Cathedral – Enfield Branch
1st September	MX Korean Club Reunion & Annual General Meeting Union Jack Club – 11.30 hrs.
7th September	Middlesex Officers' Club Autumn Lunch - Salisbury
7th November	7th Bn MX Officer's Annual Dinner RHQ London Regiment Clapham
8th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Service Commences 10.50 hrs
10th November	MX Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 10.30 hrs Service 10.50 hrs
11th November	Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks Mill Hill Assemble 10.00 hrs
11th November	7th Bn MX Remembrance Service Assemble 10.00 hrs At Parish Church St Mary and St George Hornsey
8th December	Enfield Branch Christmas Dance/Social Evening.

### TICKET APPLICATION FORM

#### MIDDLESEX ANNUAL SERVICE AND ALL RANKS REUNION

12th MAY 2007

#### MIDDLESEX ANNUAL ALBUHERA SERVICE

**ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, LONDON**  
**SERVICE COMMENCES 11:00 HRS**

**PLEASE BE SEATED BY 10:50 HRS**

I will/will not be attending the Albuhera Service ..... number attending

#### MIDDLESEX ANNUAL ALL RANKS REUNION AT UNION JACK CLUB, SANDELL STREET, LONDON, SE1 8UJ

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT 13:00 HRS

Questions in writing for the meeting must reach The Association Secretary  
 14 days prior to the meeting.

#### ANNUAL LUNCHEON AT 14:00 HRS PLEASE BE SEATED BY 13:55 HRS

#### MENU

*Pate and Melba Toast*  
*Roast Lamb*  
*Seasonal Vegetables and Roast Potatoes*  
*Fresh Fruit Salad*  
*Coffee / Petit Fours*

**Cost £13.00**

I require ..... tickets at £13.00 Total: £.....

I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for return of my tickets.

**Cheques payable to PWRR Benevolent Fund MX No. 1 A/C**

**All returns must reach PWRR, RHQ, Howe Bks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY  
 (01227 818056 by 30th April which is the final day for booking.**

Rank ..... Name .....

Accommodation is available at the **Union Jack Club** early application is strongly recommended. Telephone 020 7928 4814.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE  
 SUBSIDISED TICKETS FOR 1 MEMBER AND 1 GUEST  
 i.e. WIFE/PARTNER/FRIEND/CARER**

**Additional tickets may be purchased at the full cost of £24.50 each**



## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

### **1PWRR-Barker Barracks Paderborn**

2006 for the 1st has been all about Iraq. Following a much improved two month pre-deployment package in Germany they deployed to Operation TELIC 8 in April. Operating as the Divisional Reserve Battle Group working directly to the General Officer Commanding. The Battalion was deployed in Al Amarah, Maysan Province and Basra City. Operations ranged from escorts to participating in Battlegroup Strike operations including fighting through intense RPG and small arms fire. The Battalion returned to Paderborn in time for Christmas and 2007 will provide the much needed opportunity to rebuild the Battalion and fully settle the soldiers and families into Germany.

### **2 PWRR Shackleton Barracks N Ireland**

The Battalion has had a full and challenging year in the Province serving 3 separate Brigade Headquarters as troop reductions take place. Against the backdrop of Royal Irish disbandment they have been permanently committed to supporting the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). They have conducted deployments to Londonderry, South Armagh, Crossmaglen, provided cover for the marching season and deployed a Company to the Falklands. A degree of stability has enabled the Battalion to conduct the traditional sporting and military competitions as well as celebrate the Regimental days. The Battalion has made full use of the excellent recreation and education facilities Shackleton Barracks has to offer and rotated through a Battle camp set up at Otterburn. In 2007 they will be deploying in company size groups to Kosovo, attending Exercise Grand Prix (Kenya) and undertake training for the new Bowman radio system. The Battalion will be one of the last operational units in Northern Ireland and will move to Dhekelia in April 2008.

### **3 PWRR Leros TA Centre Canterbury**

The Battalion had a busy year with an emphasis on reinforcing the Regular Army for Large Scale Direct Intervention (LSDI). Twenty four soldiers served with 1st Battalion on Op TELIC 8. The Battalion now has 157 soldiers with operational experience and is fully recruited at 105% of establishment. The Javelin platoon has achieved Interim Operating Capability, the Mortar Platoon has been training with the 2nd Battalion in the Falklands and the Machine Gun Platoon, on transfer from RRV, are Army Match 9 Champions (GPMG SF). The Battalion shooting team, once again, won a considerable amount of trophies at the TASAAM – 11 in all. The Battalion will be supporting 1 Royal Anglian next year and has an OTX in Romania.



## Special Offer

An account on PWRR will only be reported in the March newsletter, this is due to the close proximity of our September issue and the PWRR journal which is published in December. The PWRR journal is an excellent read and gives a first class account of the Regiment's experiences and contains some outstanding articles. The Association has negotiated a special introductory offer in allowing our members to purchase the publication at a cost of £5.00 for the first year and £10.00 per annum thereafter. It is hoped that members will avail themselves of this offer as eventually our own newsletter will be incorporated into the PWRR journal.

Applications to The Editor, The Journal of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY.

### **The Middlesex Regiment Benevolence Review During the Period – 01/01/06 – 31/12/06**

During 2006 a total of 45 cases were investigated and 30 individual grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped provide 5 further Electrically Powered Vehicles (EPVs), 7 Orthopaedic chair/beds and contributed to 1 convalescent holiday.

We administered 3 ABF Annuities and the ABF generously contributed £60 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for 1 Nursing Home Fees of £1300 ABF and £300 Association grants per case, per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after.

The Charity paid out £8,119 as individual-grants-in-aid and the ABF provided a further £3,200 in General Grants. Of the 15 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Associations assisted 5 after we had contacted them. 6 Cases were not receiving such allowances as Attendance, Mobility, Pensions Credit or Rent Rebate. The ABF total grants in support were £6,140 (inc. Annuities and NH Fees).

The Trustees would again like to pay tribute to the Army Benevolent Fund who is always helpful with prompt action and advice. SSAFA, Forces Help Society and The Royal British Legion investigate the majority of our cases and we are particularly grateful to their caseworkers for all their assistance. During the year we have also assisted members who are cared for by The Ex Services Mental Welfare Society, War Pensions Agency, BLESMA, Not Forgotten Society, Combat Stress and The Ex Services Fellowship Centres.

Major (Retd) J C Rogerson  
PWRR Benevolence Secretary

## Die Hards Return

10th September – 17th September 2006

Charlie Bysouth and Joe Shore of Enfield Branch took a nostalgic trip back to the beaches of Anzio to pay their respects to their fallen comrades.

Arriving on Sunday the 10th September (which happened to be Joe's 86th Birthday and I had notified the organiser of the group of this fact, so they gave him a nice cake and a bit of a celebration). They were staying at an Hotel in Gaeta and their week was all planned out for them.

The Monday was a free day and they spent their time wandering around Gaeta sampling the local hostelry along the front.

Tuesday they took a coach trip to the Naples War Cemetery to visit the grave of Sgt Ickmen and a few of the Middlesex Boys who died of wounds in the Hospital. Then back on the coach to visit more comrades in the Salerno War Cemetery.

Wednesday it was back on the coach to the Anzio Cemetery where they paid their respects and laid the cross of poppies to Pte. Marcus Terry, Cpl Callow and Pte. J Howard, plus many unknown graves. There were three graves touching each other that signified three comrades who had died together. There was a poignant moment looking out from the Anzio Beach head where the Hospital Ship was shelled and sank by the "Anzio Anne". It was then onto the US War Cemetery at Nettuno.

On Thursday they had another free day where again they sampled the local hostelry.

On Friday they went to Monte Cassino. They visited the Abbey and the Cassino War Cemetery where a Service of Remembrance was held and the Italian Army played the Last Post and Reveille. They also visited the Polish War Cemetery where General Andes who died in 1968 but at his own wish that he was buried with his men who had died there.

They were accompanied on their trip by Mr Robert Clark who was representing the Royal British Legion. Mr Ralph Cox who is the SW Region Standard Bearer, (who at every cemetery marched up and down the graves with the Standard). Dr Kate Goble the Medical Doctor (who was in the forces before becoming a GP). Mrs Ann Hubble from Remembrance Travel.



Although the only two from the "Die Hards" in the party they met and made many new friends, they had a good time even though they were touched at times by sad memories of their lost friends.

#### **Annual Reunion Lunch and Annual General Meeting Korean Club 16th September 2006**

This year's AGM and Reunion Dinner was held at the Union Jack Club, it was attended by sixty three people including a guest from the Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders and Robert Buckle whose father served with A company in Korea. Once the AGM was concluded an enjoyable meal of pate, roast beef season vegetables followed by apple pie. The consensus was that the lunch was much enjoyed after which members then swapped memories, indulged in good hearted sledging which was taken in good part by those on the receiving end. The raffle was well supported and raised the magnificent sum of £200.00, although one envelope, purchased by a member, contained no tickets the committee immediately reimbursed him to ensure to those present that no sting was being operated. Bouquets were presented to Mrs Warner for keeping the accounts and to Mrs Lofts for her unstinting labours on behalf of the club.

Officers elected for the coming year are Chairman Dick Francis, Vice Chairman Mick Mulvaney, Treasurer Bill Rawlinson and Secretary Edgar Green.

#### **The Field Of Remembrance Westminster Thursday 9th November 2006**

Members of the Executive committee were present for the order of service at the opening ceremony which was attended by His Royal highness The Duke of Edinburgh. Prayers were offered by the Reverend Canon Robert Knight after which His Royal Highness laid a personal Cross of Remembrance, Last Post was sounded by Trumpeters of the Household Cavalry. The Exhortation was delivered by Mrs Sara Jones, after The Reveille had been sounded HRH reviewed the field speaking to Regimental representatives on his tour of the plots.

The Annual Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey was started in 1928 by Major George Howson MC, the founder of the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory. He and disabled ex servicemen who worked at the factory gathered round a cross similar to those used in France and Flanders. Selling poppies from trays they encouraged people to plant a poppy in the region of the cross. The factory, in Richmond, continues to organise the event each year so that servicemen who have lost their lives whilst serving in the armed forces may be remembered.

#### **The Annual Service of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall Saturday 11th November.**

Members of the Regimental Association gathered at the Middlesex Guildhall in surroundings which will be much changed in future due to the proposed alterations which are planned to bring the Guildhall into the new millennium. These changes were explained to those attending by Col. Rex Cain.

Those present gathered around the Regimental memorial at 10.45 for the Act of Remembrance at which our Honorary Chaplain Patrick Tuft MA officiated, after the reading of the lesson, the Exhortation and response. At precisely 11.00 hours a Poppy wreath was laid and two minutes silence was observed before the congregation recited the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment collect having said the Middlesex Regiment collect earlier in the service. After the blessing members enjoyed a glass of sherry and nibbles, which were once again supplied by Betty Morris, Major Ron Morris transported the wine and their support is much appreciated. We were joined this year by Mr & Mrs Alan Mitchell, Mrs Pearl Mitchell's father Douglas Swallow, was killed whilst serving in France with our 8th Battalion in World War 2 and who as a result of enquires made through the newsletter has been able to fill in one or two gaps in Douglas's service life.



*Members of Enfield Branch on route to Middlesex Guildhall for  
The Annual Service of Remembrance.*



## Remembrance Sunday Military Chapel Inglis Barracks Mill Hill Sunday 12th November 2006.

For what is expected to be the last time that Die-hards will parade at Mill Hill this nostalgic occasion was marked by the united Enfield and Hounslow branches who attended the Remembrance Service in the garrison chapel at which there was a large attendance with standing room only for late comers. The service was conducted by the Chaplain's assistant Mr Graham Fieldhouse, the hymns which had been chosen were well known thus the singing was thunderous, especially the Battle Hymn of the Republic. After the service the congregation moved to the Regimental memorial for the Exhortation, Last Post and Reveille which were followed by the laying of wreaths. The two contingents who had paraded at the memorial one from the British Forces Post Office and one from the Regimental Association, which numbered forty two persons, headed by the Enfield Branch Standard marched past the saluting dais.

Members then made their way to the W.O.s and Sergeant's Mess for a curry lunch and renewed friendships with our hosts who always make us so welcome. Alf Burford, on behalf of the Association thanked mess members for their hospitality and hoped that this would not sound the end of our long term relationship.



*Association members in the W.O's & Sergeants Mess Mill Hill on  
Remembrance Sunday.*

## Trip to Hayling Island

The Middlesex Regimental Association had their usual annual trip down to Hayling Island, with Alf and Mary, Reg and Lilian, Jack and Joy, John and Sheila, and our usual supporters Ken and Anne (he was in the Fusiliers, but we don't mention that) and a good time was had by all.

Reg, Lilian, Joy and Jack had a stopover at their usual watering hole by the river for refreshments on the way down, and continued afterwards to their destination.

The first evening we had Buddy Holly and the Crickets impersonators, who were very good indeed, followed by an Elvis Presley impersonator (who was interrupted during his performance by three other people dressed as Elvis Presley who I do not think he was expecting) and the following evening we had Roy Orbison who sang many of his best known numbers, but after his performance was asked to drop his American accent and to speak in his own voice, which turned out to be pure brummie, when he remarked "you can see why I dropped that accent".

We also celebrated the 51st Wedding Anniversary of Reg and Lilian, and John and Sheila's 44th (it is quite surprising how many people you can get in those hotel bedrooms for drinks).

Whilst we were there Reg got a line up on the bingo for £60 and Mary got £30, and in the afternoon Ken won £18 on the dog racing that they arrange, and John won £12, so at some stage it will be "Drinks On The House" for the rest of us, we will look forward to that.

On the Saturday Reg, Lilian, Jack and Joy visited Chichester Cathedral which proved very interesting, and they had a special Chapel for their fallen from the Royal Sussex Regiment which were displayed in an unusual way, on long panels hinged to the wall, with all the names on both sides of the panels, and numerous other mentions of some of their Officers etc.

During the evening all the members had a good supply of drinks and the food there was excellent as usual, so I think we will all now be looking forward to next year, but of course in the meantime on the 25th November Jack and Joy will be celebrating their 55th Anniversary and will be going to the dogs (at Walthamstow that is).



### Odd Jottings

Ron Morris celebrated his Eightieth Birthday with wife Betty, his family and many friends at the Antoinette Hotel, Kingston on Saturday 28th October 2006. An event much enjoyed by all. We wish Ron many more.

Ray Bishop has written to say he has received an e-mail from Eric Knowles in British Columbia who served with Roy in Normandy. Eric sends best wishes to all Die Hards. Roy himself travelled to Paris to celebrate his 88th Birthday. Congratulations Roy.

John Farnborough and his wife Jenny have just completed 66 years of married life and hopes all is well with the Association.

Lance Corporal Johnson Beharry VC visited Cavendish Primary School, Chiswick who had done an assembly on heroes, when they had spoken of him. It turned out that two of the pupils are related to him. The school thoroughly enjoyed his visit.

Reverend Patrick Tuft MA our Honorary Chaplain, retired at the end of November as Vicar of St Nicholas Church in Chiswick after 32 years of service. Fortunately Rev Patrick will not be leaving London as he is moving to Isleworth. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Edgar Green has written to say that on Sunday 15th October last, The Captain and crew of the HMS Westminster held a short service at the exact spot where Sgt. B. Finch and Cpl. Long were buried at sea and then cast a wreath on behalf of The Middlesex Korean Club.

Taffy Evans has written to say that he is now back in Manila, Philippines, after having stayed at Watton Norfolk with an old RAF pal from Hong Kong, whilst he had a couple of eye operations. Taffy is 91 and still has an interest in The Regiment he served with 'C' Company 1st Bn Middlesex Regt and was taken prisoner in Hong Kong.

Members of Hounslow Branch attended the Remembrance Service of The Royal British Legion City Hall Branch which was held on Friday 10th November at the Chamber City Hall at which the Mayor of London was present. After the service refreshments were served in London's Living Room on the 9th Floor which offered some spectacular views of that area of London.

### Our New Zealand Monument

Our readers will remember the photographs which have appeared in the Newsletter during recent years. John Hart has sent an update on the Monument.

Earlier this year Kathy and I decided to go down to New Plymouth again for a short holiday, during our time there I went back to the Te Henui Cemetery to have another look at the monument with the thought that I would photograph the Roll of Honour, unfortunately this was not possible as quite a large proportion of the lettering was so faint, that even taking close up shots the names still didn't show on the print. Disappointed, I then decided to take a closer look at the rest of the monument and found that it was in a sorry state, the major problem being that a couple of the iron rods supporting the top column have rusted and broken.

I took it upon myself to contact a monumental mason who kindly offered to have a look at it and give me an idea of what it would cost to put right – his estimate was in excess of three thousand pounds.

I decided to go to the New Plymouth City Council and talk to Stuart Scarle the Manager of the cemeteries, a man I met when I first got involved with the monument. Stuart was only too happy to see me but he didn't think the Council would be able to help as the monument was erected by the Regiment prior to their departure in 1867. He said the only advice he could give would be to contact a Margaret Marks at the Department of Internal Affairs – War Graves Division – Heritage Property Unit.

I phoned Margaret and explained why I was calling her and she said that I must be psychic because only a couple of days earlier she had finalised her recommendations of graves and monuments in need of repair, during the 2006-2007 financial year, and "our monument" was on that list.

About a month later Margaret e-mailed me to say that the commission had decided to do all the necessary repairs to the monument and this will take place during the 2006-2007 financial year. It goes without saying that Dear Margaret is definitely going to get a Christmas Card.

While in New Plymouth I decided to pop into the library, to see if they had any records of the Roll of Honour. The Librarian introduced me to a gentleman who was able to produce a file, which contained the Roll of Honour, he copied it and I now enclose it with this letter. (Space precludes the printing of the list which was enclosed.)

I will keep you up to date when I know more myself.

John L. Hart



## Obituaries

We advise with the deepest regret that the following have died.

**BARNET, Tommy** died in July 2006, served with the Regiment 1935 – 1949. No further information available.

**CARTER, John Cpl** served with the Regiment. No further information is to hand.

**COGHILL, Alex** passed away on 22nd December 2006 age 85. He was a member of 2/7th Bn Mx Regiment called to the colours on 1st Sept 1939. In 1942 was transferred to 1/7th Bn and served throughout Western Desert campaign in 51st Highland Division. On conclusion he went home with 1/7th Bn to prepare for the D Day landings in 1944, after which he was released during 1946. He was a member of 2/7th Bn Old Comrades Association and a member of Enfield Branch of the Regimental Association. The Service took place at St Joseph's RC Church on 11th January last, followed by a burial at Bury Green Cemetery Cheshunt. The Regiment was represented by Fred Phillips, Joe Stone, Alf Burford and Chas Bysouth who were close colleagues of Alex. The Middlesex Poppy Wreath was taken by his colleagues.

F Phillips

**DELANEY, Sergeant** died in Johannesburg on or about 3rd December last, served with 1st Battalion in Korea. No further information has come to hand.

**DREW, Andrew** passed away 28th January aged 79 years .the funeral was held at Tooting Catholic Church on Wednesday 7th February. Andrew served with the 1st Battalion.

**FREEDMAN, J.H.** No information available.

**HILKENE, Albert** we have been contacted by Albert's daughter Marion to say that he passed away in October 2005.

**HOWELL, John Anthony** on 28th October 2005. Christ's Hospital, 7th Middlesex Regt, Architect. Aged 81. A true gentleman.

**LANGLEY, George Henry** Born 26th September 1937 died 5th September 2006. George grew up in Islington, London and remained within the area for most of his life. He always enjoyed his sport especially football, boxing and gymnastics. When George joined the Middlesex Regiment on the 25th June

1956 he served in many faraway places such as Cyprus, Jordan and BAOR and this service spanned the period of 7 years. George spoke very fondly of his army days and the friends he made there and often commented "they were the best days of my life". His funeral was how he wanted it to be, this was attended by three members of the Regiment who draped his coffin with the Regimental flag and also took part in all the proceedings. This attendance was truly a very proud moment for family and friends and more importantly was George's last wish. The family have made a donation to the Middlesex Regiment Benevolent Fund and would like to thank all those involved who made George's last wishes possible.

**MARSHALL, Richard** we have been informed that Richard, died on 29th December last and was buried on 5th January in Northern Ireland.

**PACKHAM, George Sgt** we are sorry to learn of the death of George who served with the Regiment 1941 – 1946.

**ROTHWELL, Roger Scrase** on 8th February 2007 peacefully at home in Seaford after a long illness, fought with the characteristic bravery of a true Die Hard. Roger was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in September 1940, stationed at Purfleet and on London Docks during the blitz of 1940. Posted to Hong Kong in April 1941 he was captured on Christmas Day 1941, returned to the UK October 1945. Former head teacher at Hove Manor, Rye, County Secondary and Tideway (Newhaven) Schools. Former Magistrate at Rye and Lewes. Funeral Service was held at Playden Church, Playden, Rye, East Sussex at 11.00am on Wednesday 21st February 2007, and afterwards a celebration of his life at Flackley Ash Hotel, Peasmarsh.

**SCHOFIELD, Frank** died recently his funeral was held at Enfield Crematorium on 21st December last which was attended by a strong crowd of ex-members of the Die-Hards.

**SCOT Captain Roy** died in South Africa on 14th December, as a result of cancer, Roy moved from Hatfield a few years ago, after serving with 1 Mx from November 1958 to February 1970, when he moved to 2 Queens as RSM, he was commissioned in 1978 as 2 Queens Quartermaster. Information imparted by Carl Blackwell.

**CARSON, Major Donald (Kit) M.B.E.** died on Saturday 6th January 2007 having fought a brain tumour with great optimism for eight months. Donald joined the Middlesex Band as a boy under the leadership of Bandmaster Bill Jackson, who taught him to play the oboe to his own very high standard.



Donald also followed the Bandmaster in his love of hockey which he played at Battalion standard throughout his long army career. Bandmaster Jackson also encouraged and prepared the then, Sgt. Carson to go to Kneller Hall to train to take up the baton. On completing the course Bandmaster Carson was appointed to the Glorious Glosters where he served very happily until promotion moved him on again. He was Bandmaster to the Highland Brigade (badged Black Watch) and then to the Wessex Brigade (rebadged Glosters). On promotion to Director of Music found him once more changing his cap badge to that of the Kings Division and a desk job; not his cup of tea but these things have to be done. His next appointment was to the RAMC Staff Band where he spent five of his happiest years until sadly the Band was disbanded. Donald's final four years were spent with the Scots Guards. After leaving the service, Donald was most fortunate to take up the position of Head of Wind at Dulwich College. This good fortune he always said was due to the excellent grounding given to him by his mother, who taught him to play the piano from the age of four, and to Bandmaster Bill Jackson. Donald bequeathed his body to the Anatomy Dept at Bristol University for research. A service of Choral evensong was/will be held at Orford (Suffolk) Parish Church on Sunday 18th March at 3pm when Donald's life was/will be remembered.

#### **New Members**

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the last Newsletter:

Pte J Frank	1st Bn C Coy 1954-1956
Pte E Green	1st Bn C Coy & Officers Mess 1950-1952
Pte C Phipps	1st Bn Mx 3&4 Queens 1963-1972
Pte W Stroud	1st Bn A Coy 1958-1960

#### **COBSEC Corner**

2007 is going to be busy and eventful year. It is the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War, the second Veterans Day will be celebrated on or around the 17th June when the Armed Forces Memorial will be unveiled. The Armed Forces Memorial project will provide a New National Memorial dedicated to the men and women of the United Kingdom Armed Forces (Regular & Reserve) killed on duty or as a result of terrorist action since the Second World War it will commemorate some 16000 members of our Armed Forces. The whole project includes the Memorial in Staffordshire, Rolls of Honour for the Royal Navy and the Army similar to those for the RAF will record the names of those who died in Service, and a Memorial in Westminster Abbey, without names, to those killed in conflict.

The 25th Anniversary of the Falklands will be held on Sunday 17th June next with an high impact event on Horse Guards Parade followed by a march past of veterans and their modern day service counterparts up The Mall to Buckingham Palace to witness a fly past of aircraft from the Falklands era.

#### **In Appreciation**

Mr R Child has written in connection with his close relationship to Heinz Johansen which he has had since the Regiment's occupation days in Rendsberg in 1946 when Heinz was the mascot of the 1st Battalion and known as Jimmy. Two years ago Heinz took Les Dyer, J Jones and R Child to the Military Cemetery in Hamburg, Heinz visits the cemetery every Remembrance Sunday and places flowers on each Middlesex grave, a wonderful tribute from a gentleman who remembers his days with the Regiment with great affection. We are very grateful to Heinz (Jimmy) for this kind act and who is not aware of this tribute or photograph which have been passed to us by Mr Childs.



*Heinz Johansen laying flowers on Regimental graves in Hamburg Ohlsdorf Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday.*



Tom Roberts, who served with 1st/7th Mx attached to 51st Highland Division, has written to say that after sixty years he was somewhat surprised to receive a thank you certificate and a medal on behalf of the people of the Kingdom of the Netherlands as a token of gratitude for contributing to the liberation during World War Two. The medal has the arms of a windmill which are formed by the flags of the four allied powers which liberated The Netherlands.



As a result of the book preview "Dunkirk Fight to the Last Man" we have received the following from the author Hugh Sebag-Montefiore.

This is to thank you so much for including the piece about my book in your newsletter and for sending me a copy. That will be a great help especially since you gave me such prominent coverage. It is very(!) kind of you.

Hugh.

## Letters received by the Association

A number of letters have been received thanking the Association for their Benevolent work.

## Recollections of Yesteryear

Flashback Television Limited are producing a documentary on the invasion of Sicily in WWII known as "Operation Husky". The 4.2 Mortar Co. of the 2/7th Bn Middlesex were involved in the 51st Highland Division. Two of my colleagues namely Rocky Rota and Freddie Bird have kindly agreed to give their experiences for the television company.

Only the Mortar Co. went to Sicily and the Machine Gun Companies went to Italy to join the American 5th Army with the 1st British Division. I would like to thank them for their co-operation.

Joe Shore and Charlie Bysouth have just returned from their visit to the war graves of Italy, namely Anzio and Cassino with the Royal British Legion. They both laid memorials on 2 of our colleagues graves in Anzio of the 2/7th Bn Marcus (Jack) Terry and Stoosh Howard both killed on 31st January 1944.

Jack Terry was a prominent member of the 2/7th Bn Athletics team for the 1500m and also left back in the Bn Football team.

Stoosh Howard was a great comedy character who will be remembered by his colleagues by saying:- "Mirror Mirror on the wall whose the fairest of them all". Why! You are Stoosh. Both were missed terribly.

Lastly I have to mention that publicity regarding me in the "Daily Mail" through my brother Leslie Phillips autobiography which is appearing, slowly in the book shops, titled "Hello". He mentions my involvement with the 2/7th Bn Middlesex Regt among other things.

Although we led different lives we were always very close. The book is very funny as you would expect and true to the 72 years he has been on the stage, film and television.

The Middlesex Regt also had Kenneth Connor of the Carry On pictures and Arthur McIntire who was the Surrey wicket keeper in the 50's and also played for England. He was a 2/7th Bn member and a colleague of mine.

Freddie Phillips



I had to sign on for 6 months service under the 1938 Militia Act as a 20yr old in early 1939. As you will know, the Reservists and the T.A. were called up in September 1938. Us Militia men then had to wait until the Reservists and T.A. were settled in at the depot. Three hundred of us were then called up to Mill Hill and formed into ten Platoons of thirty. I was pleased to be given a 620 number before the 621 started, making me an old soldier. Our Platoon Sergeant was Sgt. Bolton, the Corporal was Cpl (Stebbo) Stebbings. I met Stebbo at a Mill Hill reunion after the war and much later I was invited to his 90th birthday party. I soon settled into my new life (2 shillings a day) and the Officers and NCO's were very understanding. The 1939 winter was very hard. In late 1939 King George VI and the Queen visited us for inspection. With them were their two young daughters Elizabeth and Margaret. The Colonel of the Regt was Col. Maurice Browne. The RSM was RSM (Nutty) Hazeldene.

It was in 1939 that I met L/Cpl Harry Botchin who was our P.T. Instructor. Later he moved into the Battalion and he and I served together.

Later, I was Sgt in No. 4 Platoon "B" Coy and Harry was Sgt in No. 5 Platoon "B" Coy. After Normandy we were part of "The Market Garden Operation" and I was badly wounded at Hook near Nijmegen and Harry was badly wounded soon after. We are still in touch today.

This morning I received your September Newsletter and several items brought back many memories. The first photo on Page 9 was a picture of the block we were in, and I was in No. 10 Platoon, upstairs, top right. Another item was by W. Warman who joined Mill Hill in December 1939 and he mentions Can/loan Officer Lt. Rex Fendick who joined No. 1 Platoon "A" Coy.

Amongst my war awards, I have a Loyal Service Badge given by George VI when wounded on service also, my son and I were invited to the Queen's Palace Garden Party in 2004 and she spotted my NVA Badge and came over and we had a good chat. A really lovely lady.

I shall be 88 years of age next birthday. My right hip replacement is 25 years old. My left hip after 21 years went wrong and cracked the bone holding it and I had to wear a wicked fibre glass and steel brace for 6 months for the crack to heal, and a week after my 85th birthday I had major surgery to replace the hip. Today I am the luckiest and happiest man ever.

6209978 Sgt A.H. Rowson

## Point of Interest

### FEBRUARY 1907

The Annual distribution of prizes to successful members of 2nd Volunteer Battalion Middlesex Regiment took place at the Town Hall Uxbridge. Owing to dense fog over the district, members and friends in outlying areas experienced great difficulty in making their way to the rendezvous. Parties who had hired omnibuses from Hounslow and Feltham were delayed by mishaps on the way, through dark thoroughfares, but there were no casualties. Some parties never reached Uxbridge at all. The prizes were awarded by Viscountess Hillingdon as the Viscount was prevented from attending by an attack of influenza. The band played operatic and other music during the evening.

## News from Spain

Ken Beale has written in connection with the Albuhera stone which was situated on his residence, which he sold, when leaving Moraira, Spain to relocate to France. Jim Bracher who purchased the property in Moraira, undertook to renovate the Middlesex badge. Jim engaged a local artist to carry out the work on the badge, which is now in good condition, as depicted in the photograph.



*The renovated Albuhera stone at Moraira, Spain*



### CAN YOU HELP?

My name is Grainne Magee and I am an undergraduate history student at Queen Mary, University of London.

I am currently researching my dissertation, which investigates what motivated soldiers to fight in the Second World War. I have chosen to focus particularly on 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, as this is my home county.

I would be very grateful if any Middlesex veterans would be willing to share their war experiences with me.

Any assistance would be of great help to me.

Grainne Magee  
Contact Mobile 0776 373 5168  
33 Kynaston Road  
Enfield Middlesex  
EN2 0DA

### Calling drummers

Were you a drummer? If so the Corps of Drums Society needs your help. It is the national umbrella for corps of drums and a registered educational charity. Would you take up your drum, flute or bugle again? If so, it can offer opportunities for playing. Do you have the time and interest to help out with leading and teaching? If so, the Society has places to be filled – in its new demonstration corps and helping to inspire and instruct the young. For more information visit [www.corpsofdrums.com](http://www.corpsofdrums.com) and telephone 01580 242855 for a chat.

### Cpl (A/Sgt) 6204965 W T Emery



6204965 A/Sgt W. T. Emery

A serving French Army Officer (Lieutenant Colonel Robert LeChantoux) who is serving with SHAPE in Paris, is also a Military Historian. He has come across the AB64 and battle dress of the above mentioned Middlesex Regiment Soldier, now deceased. Colonel Le Chantoux is researching the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment's involvement with the 15th Scottish Division in Normandy and is publishing a journal to include some personal details of the troops involved in that conflict and has asked my help in tracing the background of the above. Help in this matter would be appreciated.

Replies to: Mr R Bishop, 45 Shermanbury Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7HR.

### A CONUNDRUM

With reference to this photograph can anyone name the persons in the picture? Are they a concert party or a travelling troop as it is most unusual for a person to be depicted with a banjo who is badged Middlesex and is the only one with collar badges. The photo was taken by S H Brock & Co Photographers to the Brigade of Guards.

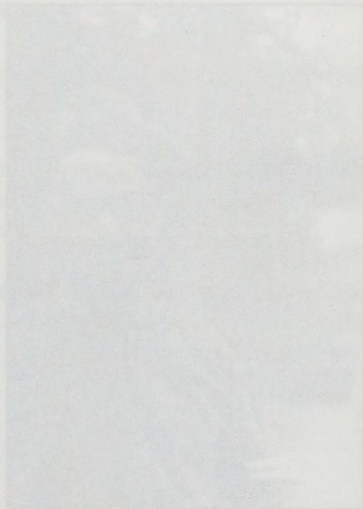


The conundrum who's who?

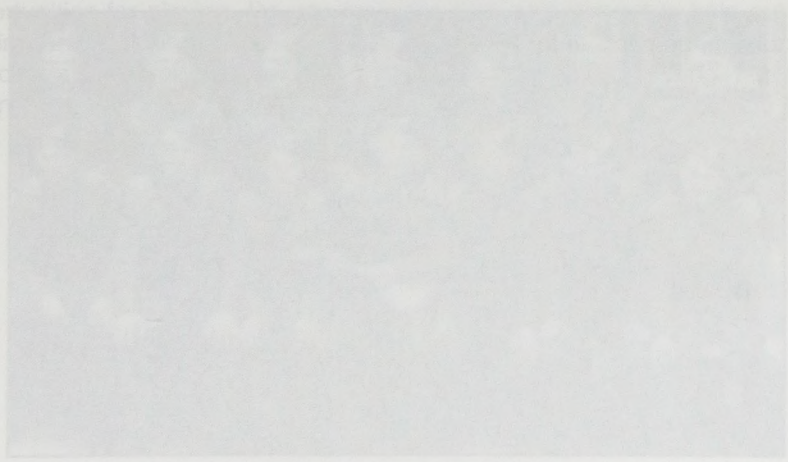


Colonel Robert L. Chantoux, who is leaving with SHAFÉ in Paris, is also a Military Historian. His new comparison the ABB and Chantoux's Great War story, mentioned Middlesex Regiment. Bobkin, now located Colonel L. Chantoux is researching the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment's involvement with the 15th Scottish Division in Honnau and is publishing a journal to include some general details of the troops involved in that control and has asked my help in tracing the background of the above. Help in this matter would be appreciated. 0770 450000 M. Chantoux, 33 Kynsley St, Woking, West Sussex, BN14 3HR. AD0 213

5204985 A/Sgt W. T. Emery  
 Photos to: Mr R. Blair, 45 St James's Place, Woking, West Sussex, BN14 3HR. AD0 213



With reference to this photograph can anyone name the persons in the picture? Are they a concert party or a travelling troupe as it is most unusual for a person to be depicted with a dagger. It is thought Middlesex was the only regiment to be depicted. The photo was taken at 2nd Block & Co. Photographers to the Brigadeal Guards. It was taken at the time of the 1st World War.



The continuum who's who?

# FOR SALE

## Middlesex Regimental Stick Pin (To be worn with a tie)



Cost Silver: **£35.00**  
 Cost Gold: **£40.00**  
 Please allow six weeks for delivery, all orders and payment to:

**RHQ PWRR, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1JY**

Cheques made payable to: **PWRR MX 1.**

Please send me ..... **GOLD @ £** .....

Please send me ..... **SILVER @ £** .....

I enclose cheque for £.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....



## REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following are held in stock and prices are available on request to the Regimental Shop, RHQ PWRR Howe Barracks Canterbury Kent CT1 1JY. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to PWRR Account No 0536700 Telephone No 01227 818058.

### Prizes on application to the Regimental Shop.

#### Blazer Badges

Ice Buckets miniature side drum with Regimental Emblazon  
plus post and packing  
Tie (Old pattern maroon and gold)  
Ties (New pattern with maroon and old gold thin stripes)  
Ties Officers Club (Silk)

#### New Stock

Middlesex Regt. Cap Badges good quality replicas  
Old Comrades lapel badges  
Regimental Beret Flashes  
Prints 'Steady the Drums & Fifes' unframed - Large Print  
- Small Print

#### Middlesex Regimental Plaques

Middlesex Blazer Buttons Flat stay bright with engraved Middlesex Badge  
Set 6 large buttons 6 small buttons  
Individual buttons - Large  
- Small

#### Regimental Cuff Links

#### Regimental Tie Grip

#### Regimental Tie Tack and Chain

#### Regimental Ladies Brooch

**Please note articles submitted for inclusion in the September issue should be received by the Editor no later than 1st August. It would be helpful if input could be provided on CDs.**



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Ties Officers Club (Silk)

New Stock  
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Old Comrades paper badges  
Regimental Belt Plates  
Prints 'Steady the Drums & Files' untanned - Large Print  
- Small Print

Middlesex Regimental Plaques  
Middlesex Blazer Buttons First stay bright with engraved Middlesex Badge  
Set 6 large buttons 6 small buttons  
Individual buttons - Large  
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Regimental Cuff Links  
Regimental Tie Girth  
Regimental Tie Tack and Chain  
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Please note articles submitted for inclusion in the September issue should be received by the Editor no later than 1st August. It would be helpful if input could be provided on CD.