



# *The Die-Hards*

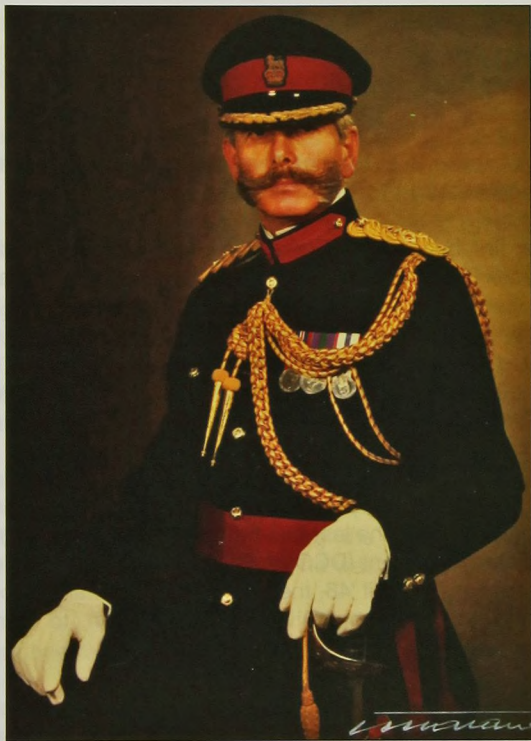
NEWSLETTER

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No. 101

Spring 2009

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*Brigadier B A M Pielow JP, sixty years a Diehard*

<i>President</i>	: Colonel R.M. Cain, OBE, DL
<i>Honorary Vice President</i>	: Brigadier B A M Pielow JP
<i>Chairman</i>	: Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
<i>Vice Chairman</i>	: Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.
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### **A tribute to Brigadier Tony Pielow's sixty years connection to the Middlesex Regiment (DCO)**

60 years after first becoming a Diehard in 1943 in the 5th (Cadet) Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment, Brigadier Tony Pielow decided that it was time to handover so on Albuhera Day 2008 he passed the position of President of the Regimental Association to Colonel Rex Cain.

In 1945 he volunteered for the Army and joined the 60th Rifles' Potential Officers' platoon in York before transferring to the Royal Fusiliers for initial infantry training.

After time in May '45 at 148 pre-OCTU at Wrotham and a year at 26 (MG) OCTU at Alton Towers (in the last MG-trained intake) he was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment (DCO) in February 1946 and posted to 1MX in BAOR at Rendsburg in April '46, then back to UK in Mar '47 to the School of Infantry Heavy weapons Division Netheravon to command the demonstration platoon.

In April 1948 Brigadier Tony was fortunate, and amazed, to be attached to a special squadron of 3DG training the horses for the Pentathlon event in the 1948 Olympic Games.

In May '49 he sailed with the 1MX Advance party to Hong Kong and after 15 months as Bn IO went back to London on a Serbo-Croat language

course at London University immediately followed by a year's language posting in Paris with Yugoslav emigres.

In 1952 he was Captain and GSO3 in MI 3 at the War Office until joining 1MX in Austria in '54 and Cyprus in '57, until gaining a place on the 1960 Staff College course. After Staff College he was posted to Aden as GSO 2 responsible for operations. Then in '63 to the French War College and in '66 to be Head of Personal Staff to the NATO Deputy C-in-C Central Europe in Holland.

Brigadier Tony returned to UK in 1968 as 2IC to the 4th Bn The Queen's Regt, Demo Bn at the School of Infantry in Warminster and promoted Lieutenant-Colonel to command the Bn which was sent to Berlin in '70.

After his time as Bn CO he was promoted to Colonel and sent as Defence Attache to Belgrade in 1973 and then after two years was posted back to Berlin in '76 as Chief of Staff of the British Sector. In 1977 he was promoted to Brigadier and posted as Defence Attache in Paris. Brigadier Tony retired from the Army in December 1981.

After leaving the Army he spent 8 years as the Automobile Association's Overseas Manager, travelling world-wide, and he was also a District Councillor, Chairman of the local Village Hall and Parish Council, Seniors' Captain of the local Golf Club, Justice of the Peace and Vice-Chairman of the National Magistrates' Association, Regimental Trustee on the PWRR Committee, Honorary Colonel of the London Regt and President of the Middlesex and NW London ACF League.

Brigadier Tony always enjoyed meeting the Old Comrades from the branches at the various gatherings and he was held in high esteem by the Veterans.

When questioned about the highlights of his Middlesex career it was commanding in Berlin (when he was even mounted on the Queen's Birthday Parade) and his most unusual aspect was training the horses for the pentathlon event in the 1948 Olympic Games and serving three times in Paris. He modestly said, having had so many FCO jobs (second time in Berlin as Chief of Staff having only recently been Battalion CO there, and Defence Attache in Paris and Belgrade), and as Personal Staff Officer to the NATO Deputy C-in-C Europe, these were all fairly exceptional for a pretty average infantry career which covered sixty years.



## Forecast of Events 2009

15th May	Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner
16th May	Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London Seated 10.50hrs Service 11.00hrs
16th May	Association AGM and Annual Reunion Union Jack Club Sandell Street London
27th June	British Armed Forces and Veterans Day The Historic Dockyard Chatham Kent
10th September	Middlesex Officer's Club Lunch, Salisbury
4th November	7th Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner
5th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Service commences 10.50hrs
7th November	Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs
8th November	Remembrance Sunday
9th November	7th Bn Mx Remembrance service Assemble 10.00hrs At Parish Church St Mary & St George Hornsey

## TICKET APPLICATION FORM

### MIDDLESEX ANNUAL SERVICE AND ALL RANKS REUNION 16TH MAY 2009

#### MIDDLESEX ANNUAL ALBUHERA SERVICE

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL LONDON  
SERVICE COMMENCES 11.00HRS

PLEASE BE SEATED BY 10.45HRS

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 13.00HRS

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

ANNUAL LUNCHEON AT 14.00HRS SEATED BY 13.50HRS

#### MENU

Potted Salmon with a Dill & Salmon Mayonnaise

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Roast Rack of English Lamb Served with Minted Jus & Red Currant Jelly  
Pomme Dauphinoise/Vegetables of the Season

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Strawberry Shortcake Coffee & Petit Fours

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Cost £ 14.00

I require .....tickets @£

I require .....tickets @£

Total £.....

I enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of my ticket/s  
Cheques payable to PWRR Benevolent Fund Mx No 1 A/c

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

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

**Please remember that you will only receive subsidised tickets for one  
member and one guest i.e. Wife/partner /carer.**





## The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

**1st Battalion.** Are currently stationed at Barker Barracks Paderborn, B Company are serving in Afghanistan as a warrior company and they have been recently joined by the Recce Platoon. The remainder of the Battalion is serving in Iraq with 20 Armoured Brigade.

**2nd Battalion.** After closing down Ballykelly the Battalion moved to Alexander Barracks Cyprus to become the Theatre Reserve Battalion (TRB) where they underwent comprehensive pre deployment training carried out a successful test exercise on Salisbury Plain, converted to the Bowman radio system. On completion of TRB role they will move to Woolwich in August 2009.

**3rd Battalion.** Leros TA Centre Canterbury. The battalion has continued to support the regular army on operations. Over 50 officers and soldiers have been deployed with 5 Scots and 1 PWRR and individual specialist support has been provided to 16 Air Assault Brigade. The shooting team won the unit championship for the second year running and individual team members won the Queen's Medal in both the TA and regular competitions.

### Life as a Sniper in Afghanistan

By L/Cpl Robert Kelly

28 Sniper Platoon Y Company attached to B Company

On 12th December 2007, on the day that I was badged as a sniper following my sniper course at Brecon. I was told by my Platoon Commander that I would deploy to Afghanistan in 2008 with B Company.

In May 2008 I attended the sniper concentration with 3 Commando Brigade during which I conducted my conversion to my new sniper rifle the L115 A2 (.338). This is the rifle that I now use in theatre. We conducted many different shoots including unknown distances and incline and decline shoots.

On 17th August we deployed to Afghanistan as a Company Group which is made up of 3 rifle platoons and a fire support platoon which is made up of a sniper pair, a Javelin Detachment, a mortar line and two MFCs.

My job in theatre would prove to be very demanding. The heat and weight of the kit, combined with an active well coordinated enemy that launches



ambushes and attacks with very little warning has made life interesting. The OC has found our capability invaluable and he often uses us to provide warning and reporting on enemy movements, provide an anti-sniper capability and also to conduct a precision strike on positively identified (PID) enemy. Ground troops often find it hard to find enemy firing points so we also talk them on to the enemy.

On 29th September I was on patrol with 4 Platoon and we were asked to check known enemy firing points which had been used to attack Afghan and ISAF forces in the past. These positions were being used by the Taliban to place pressure on the old USPB in the South of Musa Qal'eh. We were working with two large sections.

Both of the sniper pair (myself and Hldr Tumudu) were armed with .338. Initially, we were put into fire support and overwatch positions to support the 1 section advance, under command of Cpl Ralfe, towards the firing points. We searched for likely ambush sites and following the identification of the most likely one we moved to the roof of a new compound to cover the area. The owner was delighted to see us and even helped us onto his roof! Once we were in position we came under fire from a single high velocity shot. Our intelligence briefs over the previous weeks suggested that there may be a sniper in the area that was targeting high value ISAF and Afghan targets. The field craft employed by the individual firing the shot suggested that this may be the sniper. Hldr Tumudu and I scanned the ground and after a short period we located his firing point. Having PID'd the sniper we engaged and killed him at a range of 400m (our maximum engagement range so far has been over 1000m). Immediately after this 1 section were engaged by heavy fire from multiple firing points. Using our elevated position we could observe and engage enemy positions. We neutralised some of these positions and then suppressed likely positions as 1 section moved into a safer location.

Although the tour has only really just started I think that the utility of snipers has been proved. Used properly we can be a real force multiplier and can form an important part of the protection of rifle soldiers. The OC uses us as much as possible and has told us that our ability is one of the most important in the Company. We have the ability to confuse the enemy who think that they are safe when they are 300m away from us and we can strike targets without causing injury to innocent locals. I think that our value will increase in both Afghanistan and Iraq if commanders use us properly.

## Section Commanding in Afghanistan

By Cpl Sam Fleming

On my return from SCBC in September 2007 I was informed by my then OC, Major Curry, that in eleven months I would deploy with the rest of the Company to Helmand province Afghanistan as a section commander.

Within a few weeks of being back with the Battalion the Company deployed to the Falklands for six weeks. It was a brilliant opportunity for me as a section commander to get to know my blokes, to see how they operate and to assess their strengths and weaknesses. It was also my first opportunity to confirm our section SOPs as the majority of the tour was filled with Live Firing Tactical training (LFTT).

Our pre deployment training was conducted between Germany and the UK and gave us a good understanding of conventional and contemporary operations. Having now deployed to Afghanistan I can see how well our training prepares us for operations that we are now conducting in theatre. Most of the training that I received was beneficial even though I have already deployed on four other operational tours. During the training I realised that Afghanistan would be very different from Iraq and comparing the two would be of no use to the blokes.

On 19th August the Company arrived at Camp Bastion in Helmand. As with all RSOI packages we hit the ground running. Deployment on operations was scheduled for a week after our arrival and we had a large amount to do. That said following the long build up to deployment everyone was keen to start the B Company 4 Scots RSOI and get out onto the ground. In addition to the organised RSOI we spent evenings speaking to other section commanders who had been on the ground to find out what did and didn't work and trying to understand what lay ahead of us in Musa Qal'eh. Some of the ranges were a bit of a remind and revise for my blokes, however a lot were theatre specific that had been based upon B Company, 4 SCOTS lessons learned.

After our short stay in Camp Bastion we moved north to our new home, FOB Edinburgh which sits near to Musa Qal'eh. Soon after we commenced ops and as a dismount commander a lot of patience is required when mounted in a vehicle. The dismount section is a bit like an attack dog on a lead that is desperate to be released and as a section commander I sometimes feel like their dog handler! The section has also been used in



the dismounted role which has allowed us to put into practice and develop the skills that we learnt in training.

As the tour has progressed it has become apparent that everyone must be able to step up to the next level of command. With the Company having already sustained casualties, private soldiers are being used as 2ic's. With R and R looming people will step up more and more and I have confidence that my blokes are ready to do this. Afghanistan is a demanding theatre where we are constantly learning lessons. We must learn these lessons quickly as the Taliban have demonstrated to us that they are more than able to find and exploit our weaknesses. The hardest part of my job is ensuring that members of my section remain focused at all times and have the bigger picture in the back of their minds.

The above articles are printed with the kind permission of the Editor PWRR Journal

A comprehensive record of PWRR's activities can be obtained in the PWRR journal which is issued in November. A special concession allows our members to an introductory purchase of £5.00 for the first year and £10.00 per annum thereafter. I recommend this publication to all members.

### **Middlesex Regiment War Memorial**

Submission to the Public Hearing on the Area Action Plan for Mill Hill East made on behalf of the Regimental Association by Capt M J S Doran TD on 16th October 2008

Our Memorial was unveiled by the then Prince of Wales in 1922 and has remained in situ adjacent to the officers' Mess building at the former Inglis Barracks (The Regimental Depot) ever since. First raised in 1757 the Regiment served in almost every campaign until it was amalgamated in 1966. The Regimental Association continues and thrives, though of course, many of its members are now elderly. They are principally resident in what was the County of Middlesex. The Association's affairs are now dealt with by the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, the successor unit to the Middlesex.

Our detailed reasons for requesting the resiting of the Memorial on the Ridgeway are set out in two letters to Mr. Martin Corrie from Col. R.M.Cain

OBE. DL. President of the Regimental Association and Maj. D. Bradley BEM. Secretary, dated respectively 16/6/08 and 13/6/08.

Although it may be premature the Association is seeking:-

- (a) The relocation of the Memorial with a suitably dignified surround on the Ridgeway at the expense of the developer of the site or the M.O.D.
- (b) In addition an endowment of, say, £25,000 to be paid to the London Borough of Barnet to be created as a discrete fund for the maintenance and repair (if necessary) of the Memorial in perpetuity.
- (c) That (a) and (b) are legally secured by way of contract, a S.I 06 agreement or a planning condition whichever seems appropriate to the Inspector.
- (d) That these matters be dealt with as soon as practicable in order that former members of the Regiment may feel that a good 'home' has been found for their Memorial during their lifetimes. If it is possible to dispose of this issue now rather than in the fullness of time when the 'major' planning issues are decided this would be appreciated. The Association is neutral on the future of the Officer's Mess building.

### **Extract from the Inspectors Report on 2nd December 2008**

In respect of the War Memorial, currently located next to the Mess building, there is no dispute that this is a very important part of local heritage. Originally commemorating those who gave their lives in the First World War, it has also been inscribed with the names of those who fell before and after 1914-1918. MHE6 provides for the retention of the Memorial or its sensitive relocation. I understand from the Hearings that the latter option has more support with a new location outside the AAP boundary being the favoured option. Nevertheless, precisely how the Memorial would be relocated and financed are detailed matters that require thought and negotiation.



Lieutenant, The Mayors of Barnet and Haringay, The Master of the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, Mr Donaldson, accompanied by the Clerk of the Company, members of Hounslow Branch Middlesex Regimental Association and members of The Queen's Regimental Association Middlesex Branch.

Major R. Tuke, B Company commander welcomed the guests and gave a short address before inviting the Master Cutler to present the Cutlers sword to the winner Private Zohair Talab from Harlesden.

The evening involved the official opening of a museum which houses a collection of photographs, artefacts and silver from the former TA battalions of the Middlesex Regiment. The museum tells the story of B Company and the Middlesex Regiment and records every campaign in which Territorials were involved from South Africa to the present conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Deputy Lieutenant together with representatives from Barnet and Haringay performed the opening ceremony and paid tribute to the service given to the nation by the TA and to B Coy who have had 40 members mobilised for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Static displays by the Company and the Edgware Cadets of their current hardware were viewed by the visitors. A first class buffet was available which was much appreciated by those attending.

#### **Concert by the PWRR Band at The Union Jack Club Sunday 23rd November**

The band concert which was originally scheduled for 19th October had to be cancelled as the Band was suddenly required for an unexpected engagement. However, our Regimental Secretary Major Dennis Bradley was able to rearrange the performance for Sunday 23rd November. An enthusiastic gathering of members and guests assembled in the bar of the Union Jack Club before adjourning downstairs to be entertained to an excellent repertoire of music. Our President Colonel Cain gave a short address prior to the concert and thanked the band for what he was sure would be an excellent evening's entertainment. The programme was very varied with some excellent solos both serious and funny and popular pieces such as the Overture to the Marriage of Figaro, Phantom Regiment, the Gypsy Trumpeter (solo), James Bond 007 were played all of which were much applauded. During the interval attendees enjoyed an excellent buffet which as always met the high standards of the Union Jack Club.

### **Remembrance the Regimental Association Pays Homage**

#### **Monday 3rd November, Mill Hill Memorial**

Alf and Mary Burford drove to Mill Hill, to lay a wreath of poppies at our regimental war memorial which at present still remains in the now deserted Inglis Barracks. They were joined by two security guards, who assisted Alf & Mary to remove wind blown debris from the immediate area before Alf laid the wreath and recited the Regimental Collect. The two guards promised Alf that, as long as they remained on site, they would keep the memorial tidy and in good order.

#### **Thursday 6th November Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey**

Members of the Executive Committee and of the Association were again present at the Annual Service in the presence of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

#### **Friday 7th November Remembrance Service Greater London Authority, City Hall**

Members of Hounslow branch attended the first service held under the stewardship of Boris Johnson, the new Mayor of London, which was conducted by The Reverend Canon Richard Truss MA. There was a very large congregation with standing room only for late comers. Once again there were troops present who had recently returned from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

#### **Saturday 8th November, Middlesex Guildhall Westminster**

Once again the Regimental Service of Remembrance took place with the kind assistance of Kier Group, who are the Main Contractors for the alterations and refurbishment of the Guildhall, the arrangements were made by Steven Bullen the Project manager and we were granted the facilities of their staff canteen which was opened especially for the benefit of our members where tea, coffee, bacon and sausage rolls were provided, which on a morning when it was raining was much appreciated.

The forty eight persons attending were surprised with the progress made, since their last visit, of the refurbishment and the fact that the Regimental



War Memorial has been cleaned and moved from the north side of the vestibule to the south side which places the figure in a much more prominent position where it is flanked by two smaller memorials. The area for our service had been cleaned and chairs were available for the elderly and the disabled. Our padre Reverend Patrick Tuft MA conducted the service which commenced at 10.55hrs with an act of remembrance. Colonel Rex Cain OBE DL read the lesson after which the congregation recited the Middlesex collect which was followed by the two minutes silence signalled by the striking of Big Ben. Then further prayers were said including the PWRR collect.

After the service some members toured The Field of Remembrance outside Westminster Abbey and despite the inclement weather many veterans and tourists were walking around the regimental plots, it would seem that the passing years in no way reduces the numbers who make this pilgrimage.

#### **Sunday 9th November, National Service Cenotaph Westminster**

Enfield Branch members paraded at the Cenotaph in the presence of HM The Queen and other members of the Royal Family, members of HM Government, the Opposition Parties and Ambassadors from the Commonwealth who all laid wreaths.

After which the many veterans drawn up in Whitehall moved off in columns with Enfield Branch members marching in the PWRR contingent past the saluting base. On completion of the parade the Enfield branch returned to their home location to take part in their local parade. The local MP Joan Ryan praised them for attending both the Cenotaph and Enfield parade and then went onto speak of the Regiments participation in the Battle of Albuhera, the Two World Wars, Palestine and Korea.

Hounslow Branch attended the large parade organised by Greenford RBL where they marched to the local war memorial for the service, afterwards they went to the Concord Club for lunch.

**Heinz Johansen** lives in Germany and was adopted by the Regiment when stationed there just after the cessation of hostilities; Heinz makes a regular visit to Ohlsdorf War cemetery to lay floral tributes on the graves of fallen Die Hards. The Association is eternally grateful to Heinz for his kind actions on our behalf.

#### **Odd Jottings**

David Elliot ex Officers Mess Steward with 1MX in Austria has written to say that regrettably he advised us with the wrong name of the ex Die Hard veteran who he met at the Remembrance Day Service in Gillingham in 2007 (newsletter no 99) was Frederick Thomas and not Roberts. He has since learned that Frederick had a fall, as a result he was not present at this year's service. David goes on to say that there are quite a few old Die Hards and Queens Veterans in Wiltshire and the surrounding counties and the newsletter enables them to travel down "memory lane".

I have received a letter from Roy Bishop who tells me that he had been invited to a reception by the Army Presentation Team on behalf of the Army Board organised by Brigadier I S James OBE (late RE). They represent General Sir Richard Dannatt the Chief of the General Staff he promises to send a report which will no doubt prove interesting.

Ken Beale who now lives in France has been engaged on decorating after the builders who had been doing excellent work and he is very pleased with the renovations and the added benefits they give to his and Millie's life in France. They were in the UK in September and toured the south coast from Lyme Regis to Bournemouth, but they were pleased to return to the tranquillity of France-Millie vows never to drive again in the UK.

Ex Corporal Ray (Digger) Cousins has written from down under to send greetings to the Brotherhood of Diehards from him and his wife. Thanking us for the newsletter, and to say how saddened he is by the many deaths in our ranks.

Alf Burford has written to say that he and his wife Mary were invited to the Not Forgotten Association Christmas Party which was held at St James Palace in November last. It was a wonderful day food was great, company of the highest order where they met serving and ex service personnel who had been on different campaigns over the last 53 years. Whilst there they met Dame Vera Lynne and injured Service Personnel some of whom had lost limbs but the entertainment was great and they all had a good laugh.

Reg Best was struck down by a major stroke just 48 hours after he had paraded at the Cenotaph and Enfield town parade on Remembrance Sunday. Fortunately Reg has now been discharged from hospital and is



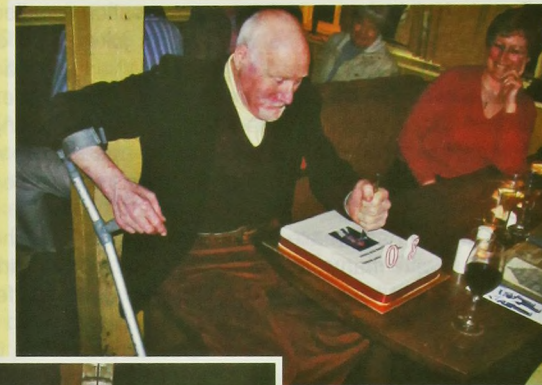
# Around the Association



Heinz Johansen laying  
floral tributes at Ohlsdorf  
Military Cemetery



Tony Reide cutting his 80th  
Birthday Cake at Band  
reunion



Alf & Mary Burford with  
Dame Vera Lynne



50 Years Wed  
Christine & Ivan Routledge  
at the Band reunion



Hounslow Branch members  
at Greenford RBL Parade

Lofty Cox, Albie Conner &  
Dusty Binns (now Knight)





undergoing physiotherapy at home and being cared for by his wife Lillian. We wish him the very best and continued improvement.

Dennis Knight in a telephone conversation recalled a shotgun wedding in Cyprus, not the type that we always joke about of seeing the moonlight shining on the old man's shotgun. When Ivan and Christine Routledge married 50 years ago by the Police Commissioner the bride's father was armed with a pistol, the Bandmaster with a Sterling Machine Carbine, the guest with a sub machine gun and the bridegroom with an Enfield rifle. One questions why the groom had such a cumbersome weapon.

Taffy Evans has emailed from Manila to say that he had a very good 93rd birthday with many friends visiting, he remains in very good health and wishes all old comrades good health and a long life.

### Obituaries

**Lt A Alchorne** Passed away on 11th March aged 98 he served with 2/7th Bn, Alan enlisted in 1928 and served with the battalion through out World War Two including the beachhead landings at Anzio, Italy in 1944. Before being commissioned he was an RSM. Post War he attended all the reunions of the battalions and also the Middlesex Guildhall Remembrance Services up to his 80's and 90's. He will be sadly missed by all colleagues of 2/7th Bn. The funeral was held at the S.W. London Crematorium on 24th March.

**A W Bennion** died on the 13th of January 2009 aged 87. Frank served with the 2/8th Bn (1st Bn) for the duration of the 2nd World War. He immigrated to Australia in 1961 with his wife Audrey and four children. Sadly he had a stroke some 15 months ago and slowly lost his memory but he never forgot he was and was proud to be a Diehard. His funeral was held on the 25th of January 2009 at the St Aidan's Anglican Girl's School Chapel, Ruthven St, Corinda, Queensland, Australia. He is survived by his four children, twelve grandchildren and 33 great grandchildren.

**F C Burgess** Fred joined in 1955 and trained at Mill Hill Barracks before shipping to Cyprus with the 1st Bn in the later part of that year, moving shortly after to Aqaba in Jordan. Fred during his time with the battalion served with 7 PI C Coy, as a Regimental policeman. He will always be remembered for his quiet but powerful presence, and as the cheeky chappie who never said a great deal but always had a laugh and a smile.

Sadly Fred passed away at home on the morning of 17th February 2009 aged 73. He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter.

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**Major Patrick Collins TD** died on the 21st of May 2008 and his funeral was held on the 6th of June 2008. Pat was a friend of Brigadier John Ryall's brother and there was an age gap of some 5 or 6 years between John and Pat. Having joined the TA at sixteen they, Pat and John, met on a training weekend and during a conversation there was a roar from the distance "Take your hands out of your pockets and stand to attention when speaking to an officer". John asked who is that and who is he shouting at? you, replied Pat and it is the RSM and I who hold a commission. Their paths crossed again at the outbreak of war but followed different directions and it was not until 1947 when they met again when returning to the UK on the MEDLOC Route. They corresponded from time to time. Pat had, it is believed, a distinguished academic career with a University.

**W E Cutts** We were notified in February 2009 by the RHQ PWRR that Mr Cutts had died. He enlisted at Whitehall for seven years service in April 1933, having given a false date of birth he was only just seventeen at the time. Bill joined the 1st Bn at Mill Hill Barracks in 1933 and was posted to Colchester for 2 years. In 1936 he was posted to Egypt, then on to Singapore in 1936 until 1937 when he went onto Hong Kong. In 1938 his army service was terminated because his mother died in 1937 as a result of a road accident. She was a war widow from the Great War and remarried but her second husband passed away within two weeks of her death from illness and they left two young children to care for. However as a reservist he was recalled to the colours two days before the declaration of war and was sent to France with the BEF.

In 1940 he was one of the lucky survivors to be rescued from Dunkirk. On his return as an infantry man, the army attached him to the LAA Regiment and he expected to be posted to the Western Desert but remained in the South East of England for the anticipated invasion before returning to France in June 1944. He expressed disappointment at being separated from the Middlesex.

He was engaged in the advance into Normandy during which time he met his old CO from the Middlesex and requested a return to the Die Hards but this never happened. Instead on reaching Caen he was transferred to the newly formed 48th Royal Marine Commando. He took part in the invasion



of Holland and continued through Belgium and into Germany before returning to England as a corporal for demob at the end of the war.

**L W Deadman** who served with the 1/8th Battalion during World War Two died on the 30th of October 2008. His funeral was held on the 17th of November 2008 in Woolwich. This information came via the RHQ PWRR at Canterbury.

**Ray Dodkins** died on the 26th of October 2008 aged 84. He was born in Stoke Newington and brought up in Dagenham. His father who had served in the Great War was a keen member of the TA and this must have rubbed off on Ray as, at about the age of 15, he became a TA Boy Signaller and the two of them would go off to camp together.

Ray was called up aged 18 in 1942 and was posted to the RNF which was a machine gun regt. His Bn was attached to the Guards Arm'd Bde and Ray landed in Normandy and fought with them throughout the campaign in NW Europe. At the end of the war he signed on as a regular for 22 years and was posted to 1 MX stationed at Iserlohn. Then followed the amalgamation with the 2nd Bn at the Depot; Public Duties (he was Sgt guard commander on Nov 14, the night Prince Charles was born), Hong Kong and finally Korea with the Mor PL. Shortly after returning from Korea he was posted to the Depot as a trg instr before rejoining the Bn in Austria in Jan 55. He remained with the Bn through Cyprus (WOII), Hamelin (RSM), Lydd and Gibraltar where he was awarded the LS & GC before handing over to Ken Beale. His final appointment was Gar Sgt Major at Bulford, a post he relinquished in 1968, but he continued there as a BIA until finally retiring in 1989.

Ray married Veronica in 1951 whilst at the Depot; they had three children the last of which was the deciding factor in making him change his mode of transport from a motor cycle & side car to a car. The family settled in Alderbury near Salisbury and Ray devoted his time to touring in a motor caravan, photography and his allotment. He was exact and thorough in everything he did, always kind, cheerful and optimistic-known affectionately throughout the Regiment as "Daddy Dodkins".

The funeral held on the 3rd of November was attended by Mick Elston, Edgar Green, Chris Lawrence and their wives and by "Gitty" (Bridget) Parsons (Tom Steward's daughter).

CLL

**Mrs Kitty Donovan** widow of Major Patrick Donovan died peacefully in her sleep on Thursday the 16th of October 2008. Her funeral was held at the Dundee Crematorium on Thursday the 24th of October 2008.

**A Dunsdon** who served with the regiment during 1942-1944 passed away on 28th November last no further information is to hand.

**Captain J S C Flavell** Jimmy was born on 1 July 1924, the son of Brigadier E W C Flavell, DSO, MC, TD, DL. At the age of 17 he tried to enlist into the Parachute Regiment in which his father was then serving, however he was found out and held back until he became 18. He joined 2 Para, was commissioned and fought at Arnhem (he had the distinction of being the youngest officer in the battle), and was put in the bag along with many others. He was liberated in April 1945 and rejoined 2 Para which was then stationed in the Schleswig-Holstein area, and it was at this point that he met Betty who had been a Wren connected in some way to the Enigma Project, but was now helping to run a services welfare club in Hamburg, (they subsequently married whilst he was on embarkation leave prior to the move to Hong Kong). Jimmy applied, and was accepted, for a regular commission in the Middlesex Regiment and was posted to the 1st Bn. He stayed with them through the amalgamation, Chelsea Bks, Hong Kong, Korea and Austria. He was posted to the Depot as Trg Coy Comd, and rejoined the Bn in Cyprus as OC A Coy. When the Bn moved to Hameln Jimmy was posted to 8 MX as Adj; he retired from the Army on the completion of his tour and went into personnel management, first with Hayward Tyler in Luton and then with British Steel. When he finally retired he devoted his time to golf and supporting 2 Para Old Comrades.

Jimmy was somewhat of a maverick, a streak no doubt motivated by his early association with Para and its advocacy of the use of "airborne initiative". He was want to inject realism into training and to eschew detailed orders, encouraging junior commanders to employ their own initiative. On mess nights his party trick was to chew wine glasses (Betty was "not amused!"), his theory being that if he chewed the glass small enough it would do no harm - and it didn't, as proved by his long levity. Jimmy died on the 16 December aged 84.

CLL

**T D Glarvey** who served with the regiment and was a POW in Stalag 4B Dresden passed away on 21st May 2008. No further information is to hand at present.



**Mrs Pam Marshall** widow of Major Phillip Marshall died on the 18th of August 2008 aged 94. That is all the information we currently have.

**Major (Rev) P D Mitchell** died on the 20th of November 2008. Nothing more is known.

**Bill Rawlinson** who served for many years as a regular soldier with the 1st Battalion and was a resident in one of the Middlesex Houses in Albuhera Close sadly died on the 20th of November 2008. Although quite poorly he was able to make the Korean Club Reunion in September 2008. It was great to see him there. A family funeral was held at Dunstable Crematorium on the 5th of December.

**Mrs A (Nancy) Redwood** died on the 13th September 2008, wife of Sgt Paddy Redwood who served with the 1st Bn and served in many of the Battalion's postings. The funeral was held on the 20th September last.

**Eddy Walczak** passed away on 21st January, aged 82. Eddy had worked full time until a few weeks before his death. Born in Poland Eddy was 12 or 13 years old when World War II erupted. Subsequently he and his father were incarcerated and worked as forced labourers. Released before the end of hostilities, and officially too young to serve, he joined the Polish 2nd Corps under Lieutenant General Anders fighting for the Allies. Repatriated in the UK, he eventually married, obtained British Citizenship and was promptly called up for National Service. Ultimately, he signed on for three years and served in Charlie Company in Cyprus and Jordan. His Funeral was held at Selsey on 29th January.

KW

**Sadly we have learnt of the death of the following members of the Regiment for whom no details are available.**

**P J Caine    W A Lynes    T Parnell**

#### **Musicians gather for a reunion**

Thirteen former musicians who had served in the regimental band from 1950 until 1966, gathered together with a few of their wives at the Stag and Hounds pub for an evening meal and an overnight stay at the Travelodge in Basingstoke on Sunday 15th February last. A feature of the evening was

that Tony Reide (the old boy) celebrated his 80th birthday. A birthday card signed by all those who had attended and a birthday cake with his nickname and his picture printed on was presented to him so that he could cut the cake and blow out the candles. The cake tasted exceptional.

After fifty odd years it was nearly impossible to find time to go over old times and this was made even harder by the pub calling last orders at 10.30 instead of midnight which had been promised at an earlier date. Every one of those who attended said that something like this should have been organised a few years ago. They also complimented Dennis (Dusty) Binns now Knight and his wife Eileen for giving up so much of their time to organise the event, this included finding a suitable location, food and accommodation which was all found to be superb. They also gave the group excellent directions etc, so that not one person actually got lost. This being the town of so many roundabouts

All the musicians and their wives were of the same opinion that we should all do a Vera Lynne and meet again next year, so it looks like it could be Harrogate in Yorkshire.

Those who attended were:- Peter Asburrow, Ray Cox, Dave Adkin, Clive French, Dennis Binns, Tony Nash, Barry Aldred, Tony Benton, Roy Abrahams, Chris Hull, David Edwards, Albie Connor, Ivan Routledge.

Former Middlesex Musicians who may be interested in joining or have their names and addresses put on a contact list should contact him at his home address which is Mr & Mrs D A Knight, Denseil 1 Milbeck Close Cowplain Hampshire PO8 8EP Telephone 02392 613847

#### **Enfield Branch at Hayling Island**

Our 2008 autumn break was booked for a week or two later than its usual time and after a pretty grim summer we were not expecting the best weather but we need not have worried. Almost unbelievably we had chosen one of the best weekends of the year with plenty of warm sunshine and clear blue skies.

Seventeen travelled to Hayling Island for the three night stay and as on previous occasions met up in the reception area at Sinah Warren where we were made very welcome by the staff with a free glass of Bucks Fizz before adjourning to the patio to chat and enjoy our drink. We hadn't been on the



patio long before Alf Burford vanished back into reception and appeared shortly after laden with a tray of free Bucks Fizz. There were several more visits to reception over the next hour or so and it was some what later than we planned when we eventually wandered off in quite happy state to unpack our cases.

Later that evening as we sat down for dinner our mood was a little more sober as we recalled memories of our dear friend Jack Disney who had been wonderful company on all our autumn breaks over the years. The evening entertainment was superb and it was late as we bid each other good night. Saturday after breakfast the whole group took the ferry across to Portsmouth for some leisurely shopping and sightseeing returning in time for a shower or sauna and a drink at the bar before dinner and another evening of excellent entertainment. Our Sundays at Sinah Warren are always relaxing although there is plenty to do if you wish and after breakfast and a pleasant walk around the grounds we separated into smaller groups to meet again for lunch.



*Enfield Branch at Hayling Island*

Jack Disney's widow Joy had been persuaded by Reg and Lillian Best to come away with us and insisted on carrying on with Jack's tradition of inviting us into her room for a couple of hours before dinner for drinks and an assortment of nibbles. Our last night's entertainment was on a par with Friday and Saturdays and would have graced any west end stage.

To sum up perhaps our best break ever. Needless to say we are all booked up for this year.

AB

### **Friendly Fire is nothing new**

An account by a Korean Veteran.

We took our first objective a hill code named "kipper" without serious opposition and then had to attempt to capture another hill "dab" which held up our "D" and "A" companies.

We got to within about 100 to 150 yards from the hill when the Chinese opened fire at us and then "B" company who were supposed to give us covering fire were firing on us. So what with the enemy and friendly troops both firing we could not move for about five hours. After which, when dusk came we made our way back to our lines. That day our 4.2" mortars fired on us owing to the fact that the enemy were breaking in on the radio and giving the wrong ranges, so instead of hitting the enemy they were landing on us, at least that was the Yanks excuse!

The next day one of the officers in "D" company gave a wrong map reference to the New Zealand Gunners and we, 7 Platoon, had a dozen 25 pound shells land around us. Then next day we set off to take another hill called "sardine". We got to within about 50 yards of the enemy when we came under fire but opened up on them and managed to get ourselves into position to capture the objective when our own Company Commander asked for heavy support. The American 155mm guns (95lb shell) fired and once again a number of shells fell amongst us and our Platoon Commander was seriously wounded, he later died, so we had to withdraw. The Australians finally took the objective.

### **Armed Forces day 27th June Chatham Dockyard**

The band of PWRR will be participating in the early evening when they will be performing Beating Retreat and Sunset Ceremony.

An information pack is obtainable for Branch Secretaries from B Fowler 01634 823821



## Regimental Museum - Dover

Membership to the Friends of the Regimental Museum is free, to become a member contact Lt Col Ray Ashman MBE OStJ Tel: 01304 240121

Forthcoming Events sponsored by the museum

**Beating Retreat** Canterbury Cricket Ground Wed 5th August 2009  
Meet old friends & enjoy the "Band" & curry meal

**Clay Shoot** Ewell Minnis, Nr Dover 18th October 2009  
A chance to show your shooting skills or have a go for the first time  
Hot Food & Toddy After shoot

### The Infantry Boys Battalion & Infantry Junior Leaders Battalion Association Memorial Dedication Weekend 6th /7th June 2009

The IBB & IJLB Association will be dedicating a memorial built from donations raised by the Infantry Regimental Associations and ex Junior Leaders over the weekend 6/7 June 2009 at Oswestry to commemorate the achievement of this unique Infantry Battalion which will tell future generations who we were, what we were and what we achieved. Secondly it will probably be the last time that the IBB & IJLB Association will march through what is considered its spiritual home, Oswestry exercising its right to do so having been granted the freedom of Oswestry in 1971.

We would like to thank all Regimental Associations and ex Junior Leaders whose generosity has made this memorial possible.

For further information about booking dinner, lunch or parade only contact the Secretary of the IBB & IJLB Association.

Mr Ken Nicol  
44 CEFN ROAD  
WREXHAM  
LL13 9NH

## ALTON TOWERS OFFICER CADET TRAINING UNIT 1943 -1945

A television company is trying to trace any Middlesex Regiment officers who trained at the Alton Towers OCTU in the later stages of World War Two. Alton Towers, now home to the famous leisure park, was, from August 1943 on, an officer cadet training unit for, in the words of War Office documents from that time, 'British Service Cadets', for the four machine gun regiments of the day. Of them, the Middlesex Regiment took by far the largest number of cadets: more than a hundred in 1944 alone. Were you one of them? Or do you know someone who was? Peter Williams Television would be very interested to hear from you in either case. Please contact Stephen Hopkins on 01227 751171, by post at PWTv, South Street, Faversham Kent ME13 9NR or by email at peter@pwTV.co.uk

The following article is a letter by Corporal John Penfold of his suffering and experience, written for the benefit of his children and grandchildren.



*Cpl John Penfold*

The letter is published by kind permission of his wife Shelia in John's memory, he died ten years ago.

Date - March 1955 - Location Austria -  
Weather - atrocious 7 days on manoeuvres with our American friends, near Salzburg. Seven freezing days playing at war games in very deep snow. Sleeping in the snow. Don't forget to put your boots in the sleeping bag after you take them off. If not you'll be in trouble in the morning when they've frozen hard as iron.

Fatigue is beginning to overtake you when suddenly appears Mattighofen, a small village with comfortable hay filled barns. We commandeer one for warmth and rest. Sixty-odd men downstairs, the rest of the company in the loft. Warm, peaceful, sleep, - but don't forget about your boots! Next memory, a very painful awakening in the American Army Hospital in Salzburg. Every part of my body seems to



shriek with pain - I can't talk properly - I can't open my eyes properly. My father is here! It is two whole days since my last memory. Time enough for dad to be notified of the accident, and then travel to Austria with relatives of the other injured and dead! It transpires that somebody had the bright idea of waking the company up with a thunderflash, a kind of Army firework. It might have worked well if a spark hadn't shot into the hay inside the door. Hay, being hay, caught fire quickly.

The squaddies on the ground floor picked up their gear and marched smartly outside. Those of us upstairs, if we woke up quickly, got downstairs in a hurry before the stairs were too well alight. Those who were a bit tardy, stayed, getting rather black and crinkly round the edges in the process. Thinking this was all getting too hot for comfort, we decided to exit via the windows. Unfortunately these were barred!

The local fire brigade arrives. Plenty of confusion outside. No-one seems to know who is missing. Firemen prise the bars off the windows. Those of us inside are dragged out. The problem is that the nearest hospital is about thirty miles away and with over six feet of snow, ambulances would never make it. Praise the Lord for the resources and technology of our friends from across the Atlantic. They radio their helicopters down and we are dropped at the front door of the American Army Hospital in Salzburg. Here, the Americans obligingly cut our throats - tracheotomies - to get oxygen into our tortured lungs.

Early memories are of our own British nursing sisters, the Q.A.R.A.N.C.S. looking after us. They had been flown in specially from the British Zone to look after us. I gazed around the hospital ward. Eight beds, occupied it seems, by charred logs! The smell is awful. Airwick dreadful smell of burnt flesh. I asked one sister what had happened. She tells me, and I ask for a mirror. She refuses, but after a little friendly persuasion, punctuated by rattles and wheezes from the tracheotomy tubes, she eventually produces a powder compact with a small mirror. A black, burnt face, with one eye closed, the other nearly so, and surmounted by a small topknot of badly singed hair, stares out at me.

We are very well looked after, but even through masses of injections every few hours, the pain is excruciating. The treatment is not to cover burns. This is all very well but after being peeled apart from the sheets every so often, it isn't much fun! Ten days later we are flown in a hospital plane back to England, to be taken to Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot.

Weeks and weeks of various treatments, cleansing operations, grafting operations, blood drips, saline baths etc. A few days after arrival at Aldershot I have a feeling of intense cold, and as blankets are piled on, I shake and shiver, tears coursing down my cheeks. Tears? Me a strong, proud nineteen-year old lad. I am told it is delayed shock! Hands are very badly burned. How embarrassing, having to have everything done for one, even the most private things. One night I have intense pain from one hand. Hands are by now, bandaged. Doctor is summoned, hand is inspected without me seeing it. Next time I see my hand, two fingers are pulled down, grotesquely out of shape. Tendons partly damaged by fire had eventually snapped, causing the problem.

After initial recovery I am transferred to a Plastic Surgery Unit at Basingstoke where I spend months, interspersed with periods at home. I undergo many operations of skin grafting and replacing and repairing damaged bits. The good part is that it was more like a holiday camp than a hospital. No one was really ill. Everyone was in only for plastic surgery. Finally I am discharged from the Army about one month before the time I would ordinarily have finished my National Service. The date of my discharge? November 5th! Naturally!

### **Hong Kong WW II Veterans Association**

On 29 July 2008 a Hong Kong school teacher, Miss Salina Leung, visited Enfield Branch of the Regimental Association. Miss Leung is a Chinese language teacher who also takes time to teach her students about the Second World War.

In her spare time she works closely with, and carries out research at, the World War II Veterans Association in Hong Kong, which is run by Mr Nelson Mar, who worked pre-war with the Royal Navy and later joined the British Army Aid Group. Mr Mar also runs the Lisbon Maru Association in Hong Kong. Mr Mar asked Major Brian Finch whether he could arrange for Miss Leung to meet some WW II veterans during her visit to the UK, to provide a personal account of events, which she would later be able to pass on to her students.

Arrangements were made with Mr Alf Burford, Chairman of the Enfield Branch, and Major Finch took Miss Leung to the monthly meeting on Tuesday 29 July. She met three veterans of the Anzio campaign: Fred Phillips, Charlie Bysouth and Joe Shore. They chatted for several minutes



and with infectious warmth and good humour the veterans provided Miss Leung with a vivid account of the realities of life on the battlefield.

Then she chatted with the widows of two Hong Kong veterans, Mrs Sylvia Poole, widow of the late "Tookey" Poole, and Mrs Marge Whitby, widow of the late Sidney Whitby. Both served with the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong and were involved in the fierce fighting during the Japanese invasion in December 1941. Again, the vivid account provided by the memories of these two ladies gave Miss Leung a feel for life at the time of the invasion.

Miss Leung was most grateful for the kindness and hospitality of the Enfield Branch and for having the opportunity to meet the veterans and their widows. During her stay in the UK she also visited the Imperial War Museum where she went round the WW II Gallery and spent time in research amongst the vast collection of books and other material about the War.



*Joe Shore, Fred Phillips, Ms Alina Lang, Brian Finch & Charlie Bysouth*

In modern Hong Kong war for most is either a distant memory or an often ignored aspect of history. It is encouraging to know that at least some of the younger generation there are being taught about the realities of war both in Hong Kong and elsewhere. The struggle against military aggression is, after all, part of their heritage. After she returned to Hong Kong and told Mr Nelson Mar of the great reception she had had at the Enfield Branch, he wrote: "The history of the Middlesex Regiment will make her a better school teacher."

## New Members

The following have joined the Association since the last publication of the newsletter

V L Hill	B Coy 7MX & C Coy 5MX
D M Mortimer	5MX
D Short	Cpl 1st Bn, Sp Coy HQ Coy, B Coy.

## Lost Trails

Recent correspondence which has been sent out has been returned to RHQ PWRR if anyone can advise the current whereabouts of the under mentioned or their current circumstances it would be of great assistance.

K G R Anderson	H S Molloy
V K Cheyney	L T Plumb
G R M Clarke	G Sutliff
Capt D Kenney	Mrs N Holdford

Replies to Lynda James At PWRR, RHQ, Howe Barracks, Canterbury Kent. CT1 1JY

David Vitler, who came from Bexhill, joined the Regiment in 1956 at Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill. He served with the Battalion in Cyprus. He emigrated to Canada in 1976 and is looking for old comrades. He can be contacted through Alex Brown telephone 020 7515 6981.

## SSAFA FORCES HELP. NEEDS YOU!

The Soldiers, Sailors Airman and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help **needs you.**

There are over 10 million people eligible for help from SSAFA Forces Help, the leading national charity committed to helping those who serve in our Armed Forces, those who used to serve and the families of both. We provide a reliable, caring and trusted service to more than 50,000 people each year.



If you would like to be part of their **important volunteer team** that cares for those who have left the Services please get in touch. Training is provided and all out of pocket expenses are paid.

**Please contact**      **Mr Glen Smith**  
**Branch Support Advisor –Membership**  
**19 Queen Elizabeth Street**  
**London**  
**SE1 2LP**  
**Telephone 0207 463 9273**  
**Email [Glen.s@ssafo.org.uk](mailto:Glen.s@ssafo.org.uk)**

Terry Blowfield is currently researching the 2/10th Battalion who fought in the Middle East in WW1. He is particularly interested in Middlesex journals/newsletters of the 1920's and 1930's as he believes that articles about this Battalion have appeared from time to time in our publications. Should you be able to assist him with any information his address is:

T D Blowfield  
11 Jermyn Way  
The Rookeries  
Tharston Norfolk NR15 2ZA

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 0566700 Telephone No 01227 818058.

Blazer Badges  
Ice Buckets miniature side drum with Regimental Emblazon  
Plus postage and packing  
Ties (Old pattern maroon and gold)  
Ties (New pattern with maroon and gold thin stripes)  
Ties Officers Club (Silk)  
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 & Chain  
Regimental Ladies Brooch  
Regimental Cards boxed containing 5 cards



