



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 103

Spring 2010



*Colours of the 3 Battalions of Princess of Wales's
Royal Regiment on Parade at Canterbury*

President : Colonel R.M. Cain, OBE, DL
Honorary Vice President : Brigadier B A M Pielow JP
Chairman : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
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Forecast of Events 2010

15th May	Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London Seated 10.50hrs Service 11.00hrs
15th May	Association AGM and Annual Reunion Union Jack Club Sandell Street London Annual General Meeting 13.00hrs Luncheon 14.00hrs
8th July	Officers Club Luncheon Venue to be confirmed
10th November	7th Bn Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner
11th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Service commences 10.50hrs
13th November	Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs
14th November	Remembrance Sunday
14th 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 15TH MAY 2010

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

Galantine of Duck and Pistachio Nuts, Marinated Red Cabbage
and Orange Compote

Roast Noisette of New Season Lamb, Mediterranean Vegetables tossed
with Balsamic Glaze and Roast New Season Potatoes

Pineapple and Cocount Charlotte with Mango Coulis

Cost £ 14.00

I requiretickets @£ 14 per person

I requiretickets @£ 27 per person 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.

Latest news in connection with the Regimental War Memorial following a visit to the church by Colonel R M Cain OBE.DL.

St Paul's Mill Hill Revisited

During a site visit in connection with the relocation of our war memorial from Inglis Barracks I was shown around St Paul's Mill Hill by the vicar and the parish archivist. It was the first time I had been inside the church since my years at the depot in the early 1950's.

Since those days, and very recently, the church has been completely renovated and restored at a cost of two and a quarter million pounds. The original building, consecrated in 1836, was paid for by William Wilberforce, living in Mill Hill at that time, but he died before the consecration. It was built of bricks, stuccoed and painted white but over the years had been extensively damaged after water had penetrated the stucco.

All the damage has been repaired and the building clad in a limestone compound so that it looks as if the church was built in limestone. The old interior had conventional pews and a screen across the nave. Since the 1920's nine of the King's Colours of our Service Battalions had hung in the church but eventually they had to be taken down and stored in the crypt because the silk had deteriorated beyond repair. There were also a number of brass wall plates commemorating officers of the 77th and a replica of the inscription on our war memorial commemorating the 12694 all ranks who died in the 1st World War.

In the restored interior the pews have been replaced by chairs, the screen removed to the new Wilberforce Centre in the crypt and the result is an impression of light and space. Although our colours have gone there are plans, which are subject to diocesan approval, for the central escutcheons of the colours showing the battalion number to be mounted and displayed on the walls. The brass memorial plaques have all been cleaned and replaced.

From the church we went to the cemetery at the rear to look at the Middlesex graves. The earliest is of a soldier who died in 1905 shortly after the Depot opened and there are also graves dating from 1914 with Regimental headstones but most importantly there are the graves of Colonel Maurice Browne MC,DL (Colonel of the Regiment 1942-52) and, next to it, that of Major A.W. Clarke for many years Secretary of the Regimental Association.

During the visit we discussed with the Vicar the relocation of our War Memorial and he suggested that the most appropriate place would be on the broad grass verge on the other side of the road opposite the West Door of the church. This would make clear the connection between the memorial and the church and also enable wreath laying to take place after the annual Remembrance Day service in St Paul's. We were happy to agree with this proposal and an application for planning permission has been submitted to Barnet Council.

The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment

1st Battalion have returned to Paderborn after months of deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan and are now an armoured warrior battalion.

2nd Battalion had continued to have a presence in Afghanistan as the battalion were the military's Theatre Reserve Battalion liable for immediate deployment. Now back in Cyprus the battalion will move to Woolwich during 2010 to prepare for Ceremonial Duties.

3rd Battalion deployed on Exercise "Tiger Clan" in August for their two week annual camp. The exercise was located at Garelochhead and the battalion worked out of Greenfields Camp for the duration.

1st Battalion PWRR Home Coming Parades by Maj RJ Wells HQ Coy

The Battalion had the privilege of representing the regimental family by conducting a series of home coming parades in our home counties during the period 11-18 July 09; this marked the return from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and marked the closure of operations in Iraq for the battalion, an area that has focused heavily in our operational commitments over the last 6 years.

The plan ensured that we had a robust recruiting footprint. This included having satisfied soldiers in all the associated Army Careers Information Offices for the period and recruiters with the recruiting caravan on the ground before and during the event. A coherent advertising and media plan was in place, we also used this period to launch and announce the newest regimental member Miss Tiger (Rosie Jones) from the Sun. The overall press and television coverage was huge, the yellow and blue was

everywhere, it was clear to everyone that the Tigers were marching. We also had the privilege of having the Kohima Band from 3PWRR dedicated to supporting the parades; this was their summer camp, the most demanding they will have for sometime to come.

The intent was to ensure that we fully utilised the time available to ensure the maximum number of towns were visited. The programme was full and little time available for rehearsals however due to the professionalism of all involved every parade was of the highest standard, every parade was slightly different and required some fast thinking at the start of the day. The standard was set by the people of Worthing, the parade turned the corner from the forming up point and the streets were full of supporters. The cheers were so loud that the words of command could not be heard.

The Portsmouth parade was centred on the Guildhall square, a location that has special place in the memory of many, the support was outstanding and we managed to make national news that same lunch time. This was day two and the support so far had surpassed all expectations. It was always going to be the job of Southampton council to outdo Portsmouth and in Southampton we had the privilege of going through the Bargate (an historical part of the old city walls) and marching towards what seemed to be an un-passable crowd, the supporters were literally next to us cheering us on and showing their appreciation. We were also followed by hundreds of local school children that had been given the day off. On the conclusion of the Southampton parade we swiftly packed up and moved to Romsey for a service in the Abbey that afternoon.

The Romsey Abbey was packed to capacity and provided an event for all to reflect on our achievements and the sacrifice that had been made during the past operations. The Colours were laid on the altar for the service making it an extremely special event for all involved. The service was followed by a march from the Abbey to the Town Hall, once again the amount of supporters was overwhelming and this small town showed its support in full. In Guildford we had the privilege of marching up the main high street and conducting an open air service as part of the parade. The vicar had the entire community involved and it was a moment of true solidarity amongst all present, a true British moment. The town of Lewes gave us a true challenge in respect to space, tight old fashioned streets steeped in tradition, the closeness of the crowds gave all on parade a sense of belonging and the hospitality shown in this small town was humbling. In Tunbridge Wells, LCpl JG Beharry VC was on parade and took

the eyes right at the war memorial. It was the first day that we had encountered some bad weather, however this did not put the public off and they were out to show their support in full, once again the response from the crowds was amazing. The parade in Canterbury allowed us to get the colours from 1, 2 and 3 PWRR on parade, the first time that this has taken place in the history of the Regiment. Canterbury has a special place in the Regiment, a vast number have served there at some stage and it has become a centre point for many that have retired from the Regiment. The drum head service allowed all present to reflect on what we had achieved, and remember those that have sacrificed their lives whilst serving the Colours and say thank you to all those that have played their part in this great achievement be it serving, retired, veterans or providing greatly needed family support. This part of the week allowed us to show what being part of a family regiment feels and looks like.

We also seized the opportunity to raise funds for the Army Benevolent Fund, a total £35,314 was collected from all areas that we paraded in. The generosity of those that came to support us was outstanding and heart warming. The whole period was an event that will be remembered by all involved, for many this was the first time that they had marched with the Colours flying and in front of thousands of proud and supportive civilians, on every occasion each soldier grew by a few inches with pride in the knowledge that they were part of an organisation that had the total support and respect of the public support. The event was also fully supported by the Regiment. Thanks go to RHQ for their invaluable contribution. Also to those officers and soldiers not serving with the Battalions that found time to show their support and also the senior officers that took the salute at various locations.

Out of the Comfort Zone 6PI in Sangin by LT Drew Reed 2PWRR

6 Platoon's second tour of Afghanistan began like the rest of B Company's with our 48hrs RI state actually being tested – a call we were glad we had prepared well for. Having moved forward to PB Minden under BG(NW) our paths then diverged as we were informed that we were to be detached and sent to Sangin to work for BG(N).

Our minds were very quickly focused by recollections of the news we'd watched not even a week before as we sat in Brize Norton waiting for our

flight events in Sangin had featured heavily. However, it presented us with a great opportunity of seeing more of Helman Province and thus broadening as well as deepening our experience.

During our time with 2Rifles (who made up the bulk of BG(N), we conducted deliberate operations and framework patrolling in Sangin District Centre and the surrounding Green Zone before moving by support helicopter to FOB Inkerman (known to inhabitants as FOB "In Coming") where we took part in a large op to secure the battlegroup's re-supply. This was followed swiftly by another support helicopter move to FOB Wishtan. The cathartic and ubiquitous toilet door graffiti which greeted us read "welcome to hell, please mind your step"- a reference to the huge and extremely sophisticated IED threat that existed in their area of operations.

The challenges for us as a platoon were indeed varied but they all had one central theme, and that was flexibility and the ability to adapt to change – be that ground (it got to the point where we were receiving new maps every five days), different threats or amending our way of doing things to fit in with whatever company we were working for that week.

It must of course, be said that we would have been unable to do any of this successfully if it hadn't been for the excellent support provided by 2Rifles at the individual level as much as anything. Special thanks must also be passed to Major Ian Moody of B Company 2Rifles for his selflessness in re-supplying his platoons, stuck on the ground for 48hrs, with his own cigarettes!

Learn and Adapt a Section Commander's View by Cpl Warwick 2PWRR

One of the benefits of TRB was that I had the opportunity to command my section in two very different environments. Now I am able to look back and compare the two experiences.

Our first tour took us to Garmsir where we formed part of the southern flank of IASF forces in Helmand. Patrolling as a section commander in this environment presented many challenges. In particular the dense crops which, when we arrived, were about 8ft tall. This posed a huge ambush threat as well as difficulties for command and control. The humidity caused by the "closed in" nature of the crops and their irrigation, coupled with the

heat of the Helmand summer meant that JNCOs had a big job in keeping an eye on the lads - looking out for the tell tale signs of heat injury.

Our second tour came just under a year later so we got to experience the aforementioned heat once again this time with BG(N) in Sangin. Our platoon had been detached from the rest of our company and sent to work with 2Rifles – an unusual form of battle casualty replacement in that we were a complete platoon. During our time with them we pretty much “toured” the battlegroup, working from a variety of FOBs. We were hamstrung in that we were unable to spend much time in each location and gain a good working knowledge of the ground and as every infantryman knows, the ground dictates the battle. Due to the high IED threat, my job often focused on maintaining a high level of patrolling skills in order to counter a variety of high level threats.

We owe a big thank you to the lads in 2Rifles for the support they gave us throughout our attachment to them.

The above articles are published by the kind permission of the Editor PWRR Journal

PWRR JOURNAL

A comprehensive record of PWRR's activities can be obtained by becoming a subscriber to the annual issue of the Journal of the Regiment which is issued in December. A special concession allows members to take advantage of an introductory offer of £5.00 in the first year and £10.00 per annum thereafter. In addition it also reports on the activities of the OCA's of the former Regiments. You will find it to be money well spent.

To subscribe write to Major A J Martin the Editor, the Journal of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1JY. Enclosing your cheque made payable to PWRR General Fund.

Re-Dedication of Yiewsley War Memorial

On Sunday 4th October 2009 a service to rededicate the memorial was held at St Mathew's Church Yiewsley, where the Memorial is situated, led by the Bishop of Willesden the Rt Reverend Peter Broadbent. The service was, held in the open air, the large congregation, which included members of Hounslow Branch of the Regimental Association, assembled in the newly landscaped area for the church service and the ceremony of rededication.

The Yiewsley War Memorial was unveiled by Lady Delia Peel, daughter of the Earl of Spencer, on 28th May 1921, and dedicated to the memory of the men of Yiewsley who had fallen in the Great War 1914-1919.



The Bishop of Willesden standing beside the restored Yiewsley War Memorial

Following the end of the Second World War the names of those local men killed in action were placed on a framed roll of honour in St Mathew's Church, but were not able to be added to the war memorial itself.

Over the years the condition of the stonework on the war memorial deteriorated considerably and had reached the stage where much of the lettering had become illegible.

This restoration has been made possible by collaboration between the London Borough of Hillingdon, Lodge Brothers Funeral Directors, West Drayton British Legion and St Mathew's Church. The memorial has had a thorough clean, the First World War names have been re-carved and painted, the Second

World War names have been added for the first time on bronze plaques, and the area around the memorial landscaped.

Thanks go to: The London Borough of Hillingdon particularly the immediate past Mayor, Cllr Brian Crowe, for including this scheme in his mayoral project to restore the civic war memorials throughout the borough; Cllrs Peter and Elizabeth Kemp; and Chris Norman, Business Services Manager. Lodge Brothers Funeral Directors, who kindly provided their services free of charge to clean the memorial and worked with the Council on the rest of the project.

From a Regimental perspective of the 128 names on the Great War list it has been possible to identify 30 who came from the Middlesex Regiment of whom 17 came from 1/8th Battalion which was one of the local TA companies based in Cowley, the remaining 13 Die-Hards came from various battalions of the Regiment. Research is still being carried out to identify the regiments of the remaining men listed, and some of these may well be "Die-Hards".

REMEMBRANCE

Thursday 5th November the Field of Remembrance Westminster Abbey

In accordance with the long established custom members of the Executive Committee, comprising of Colonel R Cain, Major R Morris and Major D Bradley were in attendance together with other members from the Regimental Association. This year the service which was held in the presence of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, Mr G Young represented the Regiment by standing in front of the Regimental Plot and exchanged a few words with His Royal Highness, who toured the various regimental plots which are planted with poppy crosses.

This year, as always, there was a large attendance of the general public and tourists who, once the short service was over and the Duke of Edinburgh had completed his inspection of the plots, were granted access to the Field of Remembrance. The many visitors then walked round the area which commemorates those current regiments together with the many who have passed into history as a result of the amalgamations which have taken place since the end of the Second World War.

Saturday 7th November Middlesex Regiment Ceremony of Remembrance at The Middlesex Guildhall Westminster

Now that the refurbishment of the Middlesex Guildhall has been completed the building has been renamed The Supreme Court of Justice, members of the Regimental Association were able to hold the Remembrance Service in magnificent surroundings. Once again the service was conducted by our padre Reverend Patrick Tuft MA. The proceedings commenced sharp to time at 10.55hrs with an act of remembrance before a fairly large gathering from members of the court and the association. Colonel Rex Cain then read the lesson which was the Beatitudes from St Mathews Gospel, following which the congregation recited the Middlesex Regiment Collect. Last Post, synchronized by the chimes of Big Ben, heralded the two minutes silence after the sounding of Reveille wreaths were laid by both the Chief Executive of the Supreme Court and Colonel Rex Cain, after which prayers were said and those present narrated the PWRR collect.

After the service, the congregation were entertained to a fine buffet provided by the Supreme Court which was much appreciated and enjoyed. Following the repast those who were interested were given an informative tour of the building by Martin Thompson from the Court and shown the marvellous restoration work which has been carried out by the Kier Group the Contractors who carried out the contract.

The Regimental Association entertained members from the Court later at the Union Jack Club, namely Lord Kerr, Jenny Rowe, Martin Thompson, Alan Sloane, and Christine Younger to express and show the Associations gratitude for all that they had done on behalf of the Regiment.

Sunday 8th November - Remembrance Sunday

Hounslow Branch paraded at Greenford in conjunction with the Royal British Legion and various local youth organisations and marched to the local war memorial. A large crowd had already gathered to attend the service which was led by the Vicar from Holy Cross Church, once the marching contingent arrived at the memorial, the numbers attending probably exceeded several hundred. After the service where the hymns were played by a band from the Salvation Army, and the march back to Greenford RBL head quarters had been completed, and the parade

dismissed. The members of Hounslow Branch departed for the Concord Club where they had booked lunch.



Hounslow Branch lunching at the Concord Club on Remembrance Sunday
Back Row - L to R: A Lindsay, M Ward, R Batar, P Long, G Stunt,
R Stone, A Richardson
Seated - G Young, M Hart, R Mullen, C Preston, J Raby

In accordance with a long established custom of the Enfield Branch Jim Innes made the journey to Mill Hill Barracks to lay a wreath on the Regimental War Memorial.

Heinz Johansen accompanied by his wife made the journey to Ohlsdorf Military Cemetery to perform his annual pilgrimage and lay floral tributes in the regimental colours on the graves of the men of the Regiment who are buried there. Our sincere thanks to Heinz for his action on behalf of the Regiment.

Reflections on a Family Connection with the Regiment by T Bryant C.M.G.

I have not contacted the Newsletter for some years, but am encouraged to do so now, as I celebrated the 50th Anniversary of my "demob" from the 1st Battalion a little earlier this month. Nothing perhaps particularly unusual in that, but the story of the Bryant family in the Middlesex Regiment in the 20th century may interest the Diehards among your readership.

In the Regiment's heyday, North London men called up for service were likely to join the Middlesex, and I represented the third generation running of my family who served with the 1st Battalion. My own Army career, though it included most of 1958 on active service in Cyprus, was pretty uneventful. 1958 itself was taken up mostly with emergencies, and some nasty inter-communal violence in Larnaca, but we then headed off for BAOR, and the "cushier billet" of the Linsingkaserner in Hameln. I was in the advance party, and thus knew my way around before the main body of the Battalion arrived in early 1959. This helped me in many ways - not least because I was already a member of the Foreign Office before my national service, and I was able to study German to a good level in Hameln. Senior postings at the end of my career in Vienna, Munich and Zurich testify to the usefulness of that particular initiative! I retired after 38 years in the Diplomatic Service in 1995, and was awarded the C.M.G. that year.

But that is enough of me. More interesting in regimental terms is the fact that both my paternal grandfather and his first son (both called Willie) served - and died - in the 1st Battalion in the two world wars. My grandfather was about 30 when WWI started, and was in the Army almost from the start. He was patched up twice in "Blighty" after being wounded, (including after the Somme 1916 offensive), but was unlucky enough to be killed on 1 July 1918, just a few months short of the Armistice. He is buried in the Esquelbecq CWGC military cemetery, about 20 miles south of Dunkirk, along with a fair few other Diehards. It is a peaceful, almost idyllic resting place, in stark contrast to that of his son, who followed his father into the Regiment at the beginning of WWII. Diehards will understand at once why I say that, when it emerges that my Uncle Bill was at Hong Kong in 1941, and was aboard the Japanese ship Lisbon Maru when it was torpedoed by a US submarine in the South China Sea en route to Japan. We know that he got out of the hold and over the side, but by then was wounded, and was never seen again.

We National Service recruits in later years spent plenty of our time moaning about our lot, but the fate of those two of my close relatives used to remind me how lucky I was to have entered the military scene those crucial years later, with no major wars to worry about. Even then, the 1st Battalion was packed with regulars who had been through Korea only a few years before my time; and that was certainly rough enough. And yet, there are the old photos from about 1915, and 1940, mostly platoon-strong groups of Diehards, with the old Cockney smiles and optimism surrounding my two relatives. I look at my own old photos, and the same spirit is recognisable

in the 1950s. But now the old Regiment itself is gone, along with National Service, even if the wars have not. And my own sons are very unlikely to have to undergo the experiences of infantrymen at war. I count myself as very lucky to have been a Diehard, and to have absorbed the pride and the traditions of our local regiment, albeit in its twilight years. And of course, now at 71, I also count myself fortunate to be alive, especially when I visit my grandfather's grave in the quiet of Esquelbecq cemetery.

Odd Jottings

George Higgins (ex S Company 1st Bn) celebrated his 80th birthday on Sunday 17th January 2010. He invited fellow pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, several Middlesex Regimental Colleagues and his family to a splendid lunch at the Rubens Hotel, opposite Buckingham Palace (side entrance!).



George Higgins celebrates his 80th Birthday with family and friends

The occasion was something of a reunion within his family and military acquaintances. It was a most happy event.

Thank you, George, for sharing your special birthday. **D Mulquin**

R Topley has written to say that following strokes and the loss of his right leg and the receipt of the autumn newsletter he is now able to resume contact with the Association. He is now residing in a residential home which does not quite allow him his previous independence but states that he is well looked after. At 85 plus he now takes things easy, but notes that Roy Bishop is still dashing about at 90, however he wonders what has happened to all the other lads.

In the autumn of 2009 Enfield branch made their annual trip to Sinah Warren Hayling Island with seventeen in the party, the same number as the previous year. They enjoyed themselves immensely they have again booked for the autumn of this year.

Heinz Johansen when speaking to Ron Morris recently mentioned that he is still looking for photographs for the period in Germany 1945 to 1950. Any received by him would be immediately copied and the originals returned to the sender. Heinz also mentioned that the Barracks in Rendsdorf has been vacated by the German Army and has been sold for redevelopment. He is hopeful that his Middlesex Museum will be relocated to a larger building within the old barracks.



Heinz Johansen relaxes in his garden

Roy Bishop has now passed 91 his daughter arranged a suitable celebration. Roy continues his globe trotting he visited Uppsala in Sweden to visit the father of Harry Blackwood, went to Normandy and Belgium in June for the liberation celebrations. He has been invited to the 60th Wedding Anniversary of his old comrade in arms Peter Benson-Cooper (ex D Company 1st Mx) who lives in Loughborough.

Now that Alf & Mary Burford are resident in Eastbourne G. Burton, H Dare, P Ford and L Hillier members of the Enfield branch travelled to Eastbourne to visit them and stayed in a local hotel for a long weekend.

Tom (Taffy) Evans has E-mailed from Manilla to say that he had a wonderful 94th birthday with a large cake and that despite his age he feels very fit and active.

New Members

The following have recently joined the Association.

G A Ellis	B Coy 5MX 1960's
R T Wilson	1 MX
H Ward	
R Young	5 MX Hornsey

Welfare

The Association continues to receive letters of thanks for the assistance which has been given to members and families during the last six months.

Obituaries

Major Kenneth Baxter MC who died on 27th September 2009 was born in Radlett, Hertfordshire in 1922 and educated at the Stationers Company School in Muswell Hill.

After joining the Army he was commissioned into the Middlesex Regiment in 1942 and was serving in the 2nd Battalion, part of the 3rd Division, at the time of the Normandy landings. On 6th June 1944 parties from the battalion, including Ken Baxter, were ashore on Sword Beach within twenty minutes of H-hour engaged in traffic control duties. He stayed with the 2nd



Major Kenneth Baxter MC

Battalion throughout the fighting around Caen, the advance to the Maas, the crossing of the Rhine and the advance beyond the Elbe. He was awarded an immediate Military Cross for an action on New Year's Day 1945 at Wanson near the River Maas where he displayed "great coolness, gallantry and leadership".

After the war Ken joined the Vestey-Group and for twenty years was based in Brazil where he is remembered as the President of the Santos Athletic Club. Later, on his return to the UK, he was involved in the redevelopment of the Liverpool Docks. He never lost his interest in the Army and before he was severely disabled in a car accident he commanded the Army Cadet Force in Chelmsford and was President of the Leigh-on-Sea branch of the Royal British Legion.

Ken's first wife Terry died in 1976 and in 1981 he married Gill who survives him with the three children of his first marriage, three stepchildren, ten grand children and one great grand child. His family will always remember his dry sense of humour and his love of jazz music.

RMC

C Clifford who served with the Regiment 1958-1964 died on 24th September 2009. No further information is available.

Mrs Veronica Dodkins the widow of RSM Ray Dodkins passed away on the 13th of September 2009 at her home in Alderbury. Her funeral was held on the 24th of September 2009 at Salisbury Crematorium.

Mrs Joan Drake wife of Brian Drake died on 9th February 2010 in George Town Ontario Canada after a long illness. Brian served with the 1st Battalion in Austria and Cyprus and was later recalled for the Suez crisis when he served with the Royal West Kent's.

Lt S H Fothergill. Stanley joined 1MX in Hong Kong in May 1950 together with 2/LTs Lawrence and Wollocombe; he served in A Coy in Korea under Major Dickie Dowse. Having returned to Hong Kong he bought a motor-cycle which was his undoing, for on a visit to the MT, he went round the shed on the wrong side of the road, collided with a 15cwt and smashed his leg badly. It wouldn't heal in the Hong Kong climate so he was casevaced to Milbank and eventually given a medical discharge.

He got a job as a clerk with Iraq Petroleum, moved into personnel management and was part of the Rank Organisation team that set up the Aviemore ski resort. He eventually emigrated with his family to Canada, his first job being with the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture! He later became a very successful labour relations negotiator with his own consultancy.

Stanley was a happy-go-lucky extrovert with an eye for the ladies and a penchant for getting into hot water. He was a natural sportsman and represented RMAS and 1MX in rugby, cricket and field events. In Canada he took up skiing and had some spectacular falls. He died of cancer on 6th August last.

CL

T Garret we have been informed of his death but no details are available. He did his National service with Royal Fusiliers and served in the Canal Zone and Korea. On discharge posted to 8th Bn & 5th Bn Middlesex (TA).

Major Gordon Kent died on 18th September 2009 aged 89. Little is known of his service, particularly the early years. He was educated at Lancing College worked in an insurance office and joined Princess Louise's Kensington Regiment on 29th August 1939. He was with the BEF in France commanding a Lewis gun platoon, fought across France and along the Somme to St. Valery from whence he was evacuated to Cherbourg, where further fighting took place. Managing to persuade a Dutch barge owner to embark his small force he ended up in Bournemouth. He was mentioned in despatches in the London Gazette of 20th December 1940. He was posted to Dover where his platoon was instrumental in shooting down a Dornier. He then applied to join the KAR in East Africa fought against the Italians and was in Palestine at the time of the attack on the King David Hotel. He was briefly in Hong Kong and then spent another 3 years in Malaya where he earned another MID. He was with 1Mx in Austria, moved with the battalion to Cyprus and was posted to GHQ Press Office in

Nicosia. He retired from the army in April 1960 and worked in public relations for a number of charities. His funeral was held on 30th September at St James's Church, Abinger Common, Dorking.

CL

T Mankelow served with the Regiment in Korea. No details are available.

Major Christopher Hubert Mievile M.C. (17th November 1922 - 22nd January 2010). When Chris Mievile transferred to the Middlesex Regiment, his father's old Regiment, after WWII, we gained an enthusiastic, highly competitive officer of proven courage and notable experience of infantry fighting in three separate theatres of operations. His competitive and independent spirit was not always appreciated by his superiors, who may have had difficulty in accepting the wisdom and experience of an officer, who did not attend a Staff College and had little ambition outside regimental duty.

He joined the Army as soon as he was old enough and was selected for officer training. From the OCTU, was posted to the Rifle Brigade just in time to take part in the allied amphibious landing, in North Africa in November 1942. Following the North African Campaign, he took part in the landing at Salerno in October 1943. After a period of winter stalemate and active patrolling in Italy, during which he was awarded the Military Cross, he returned to England with his battalion to prepare for the Normandy landings. On D+2, completing his hat trick of major amphibious landings, he went ashore as commander of a Bren gun carrier platoon. Later in the campaign, he was wounded and evacuated to England. He made a good recovery, and in December 1944 he married Daphne Ashley, whom he had met during teenage service in the Home Guard, before rejoining his unit for the final stages of the War.

I first came under his command in Austria in 1955 when he was OC Support Company 1MX. He believed in cultivating independent initiative and, when asked what he expected to see while visiting one's platoon during training, would reply, simply, "Impress me". The second time was in BAOR in the early sixties, when he was OC "A" Company 1MX. He had a rare understanding of the armoured infantry role for which we were training and his enthusiasm and competitive spirit were soon shared by all ranks. He disliked lengthy Battalion "O" groups and almost never asked questions, confident that others would clear up any ambiguities, but more importantly so as not to constrain his own initiative. During a varied career,

he took every opportunity to try something challenging. As a Staff officer in Malaya he contrived to join jungle patrols with the Ghurkhas. On a course in France he climbed some of the highest peaks in the Alps. With the High Commission in Pakistan he learnt to sail. With 8MX (TA) he parachuted, and at HQ AFCENT learned to fly. He particularly enjoyed his tour as Adjutant of the Hong Kong Regiment and his time at the Army Outward Bound Training School in Wales.

Chris retired from the Army in 1974 and joined the MOD Defence Intelligence Staff. He became, amongst much else, a very welcome correspondent with defence attaché staffs throughout Eastern Europe. Working in London and settled in Sunningdale, Chris was able to spend more time with Daphne who was always a major force in his life. He considered her to be the brains of the family and was very open to her advice and influence. It was Daphne who, lead him to work for SSAFA, a natural complement to her own work for the British Legion. After a heart bypass operation in 1986, Chris made a good recovery, but retired soon afterwards. Sadly, Daphne then became ill and Chris cared for her during a long period of poor health. Daphne's death in 1999 after more than fifty years of marriage was a shattering blow. Sometime later he moved to Gillingham in Dorset, where he could be looked after by his family and a bevy of other supporters. With their help, and despite increasingly poor health, he was able to live an independent life in his own house until early this year. On 22nd January 2010 after a very short stay in a respite home he died peacefully at home surrounded by his family.

He leaves two sons, Amedee and Christopher, each now retired from the successors to the two regiments he served, his daughters-in-law Jane and Nicky, two grandsons and one granddaughter, an RAMC medical officer currently serving in Afghanistan.

His funeral was attended by the following members of the officers' club Major & Mrs G. Crumley, Lt Col. & Mrs M. Deakin, Major & Mrs B. Finch, Major & Mrs C. Lawrence, Major & Mrs T. McManus, Major R. Bartlett and Col. M. Hayward.

TMcM

Reg Mephram who was a Cpl in the Regiment died towards the end of 2009. This is all the information we have.

E R Millard We have been informed that he died in October 2009. We know nothing more.

Ray Mount Aged 78 who served with the Sniper Section of the 1st Battalion in Korea died peacefully in his sleep on 30th October 2009. On completing his National Service he worked for many years as a train driver for British Rail. He leaves behind his wife Alma and their four children.

D O'Brien died on the 7th of May 2009. That is all the information we currently have. We have on record that he served with the 2nd Battalion during World War Two.

D A Short passed away on 10th November 2009 after a short spell in St. Mary's Hospital Newport Isle of Wight. David enlisted into the Regiment at Kentish Town in January 1953 and served in Austria and Cyprus mainly in the mortar platoon except for a short period with the Regimental Police. Discharged in January 1959 at Exeter he returned to Islington. Four years ago he relocated with his wife to Freshwater on the Isle of Wight. A proud member of the Regiment he attended reunions until quite recently before suffering ill health. His funeral was held at Newport Crematorium the Regiment was represented by Johnny Eyson who cancelled his holiday to attend. A true friend.

Ray Walder died recently. He served with the Regiment in Korea and was a member of the Korean Club. We have nothing further.

J S Waterman died on 13th September 2009, he served with the 7th Battalion from 27th April 1939 until 15th June 1946. John came from Enfield and his wife's father served with the Regiment in the First World War. No other information is available.

Fromelles - A Final Resting Place

The bodies of more than 165,000 Commonwealth soldiers killed on the Western Front during the First World War are still missing. In the years since the war ended, a steady stream of remains have been found as agricultural land is ploughed or cleared for development but never has there been a discovery on the scale of Fromelles.

The work at Fromelles is now centred on construction of the new cemetery, the first to be built by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 50 years. The excavation itself finished in September, the burial pits have been filled in, the area ploughed and sown. Two hundred and fifty sets of remains were recovered.

The remains and associated artefacts are being examined and catalogued while at LGC Forensics in England, where scientists are working to extract DNA samples from the remains. 163 families contacted the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency to register themselves as potential descendants of the fallen soldiers. The project has now begun sending out DNA swab kits to families registered, whose relatives may be amongst the soldiers who fell at the Battle of Fromelles in July 1916.

The reburials will begin in February with each of the bodies buried in individual graves. The cemetery is to be named Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military cemetery, with the headstones erected in the spring and a special dedication service to take place on 19th July 2010- the anniversary of the Battle.

The above article is printed by the kind permission of the Editor of Veterans World.

Save Hill 60

Members are requested to sign a petition to save the view from Hill 60 this is a site in Ypres (Leper) which has the remains of 2000 soldiers beneath it. Planning permission has been given for a house to be built on it.

Three Victoria Crosses were earned whilst taking and holding the hill, it is a cemetery without headstones. This house will have in its foundations the very remains of the soldiers who attempted to take and hold the hill.

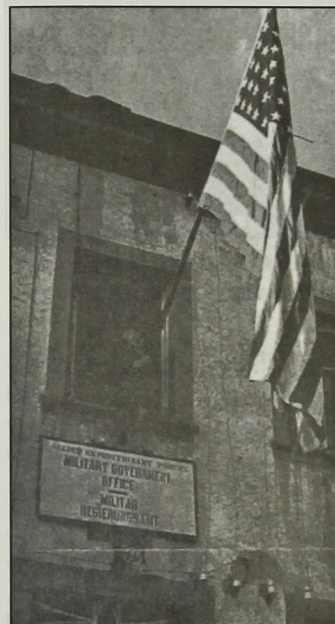
From Hill 60 one can see the historic spires of Ypres (Leper) and the world famous Cloth Hall. Once this house is built the view will be lost for ever.

To sign the petition go to www.savehill60.org

ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN OCCUPIED AREAS

PROCLAMATION TO THE GERMAN PEOPLE

I, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary force, do hereby proclaim as follows:



U.S. flag being hoisted in a small village on the Luxembourg border

The Allied forces serving under my command have now entered Germany. We come as conquerors, but not as oppressors. In the area of Germany occupied by the forces under my command, we shall obliterate Nazism and German militarism, overthrow Nazi rule, dissolve the Nazi Party, and abolish the cruel, oppressive, and discriminatory laws and institutions which the Party has created. We shall eradicate that German militarism which has so often disrupted the peace of the world. Military and party leaders, the Gestapo, and others suspected of crimes and atrocities will be tried, and, if guilty, punished as they deserve.

Supreme legislative, judicial, and executive authority and powers within the occupied territory are vested in me as Supreme Commander and Military Governor, and the Military Government is established to exercise these powers under my direction. All persons in the occupied territory will obey immediately and without question all enactments and

orders of the Military Government. Military Government courts will be established for the punishment of offenders. Resistance to the Allied Forces will be ruthlessly stamped out. Other serious offences will be dealt with severely.



The Middlesex Regiment posts Eisenhower's proclamation to the German people at the end of the war in Europe. But who is the postman.

All German courts and educational institutions within the occupied territory are suspended. The *Volksgesichtshof*, the *Sondergerichte* (the so-called "People's Courts" and "Special Courts") are deprived of authority throughout the occupied territory. Reopening of the criminal and civil courts and educational institutions will be authorised when conditions permit.

All officials are charged with the duty of remaining at their posts until further orders, and obeying and enforcing all orders or directions of Military Government or the Allied authorities. This applies also to officials, employees and worker's of all public undertakings and utilities and to all other persons engaged in essential work.

A REMINDER

Big Lottery Fund Offers WW2 Veterans the Chance to Salute fallen Comrades

The big lottery fund (BIG) has pledged to fund veterans, spouses, widows and carers resident in the UK and Republic of Ireland to make Commemorative trips to mark anniversaries throughout 2010.

To find out more about the programme call the Heroes Return 2 Helpline 0845 00 00 121

VETERANS TO GET MORE FROM NEW-LOOK WEBSITE

The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) has launched its new-look veterans-uk.info website. The improved site is the Ministry of Defence's focal point for accessing the special help and support provided to veterans and their families. Information can be found on Government compensation for those injured or bereaved through Service, special welfare support, a dedicated helpline and much more. New features include an online advice section, taking people through interactive questions to identify sources of help on issues such as housing, money matters and caring responsibilities. Another new section is also dedicated to the [Armed Forces Memorial](#), commemorating those killed by Service in the Armed Forces since 1948.

Recognising the Service veterans have given is an important aspect of the site, with information on medals, the HM Armed Forces veterans badge and other official emblems. On the social side, the new [Veterans Community](#) section includes discounts and special offers for veterans, advice on tracing comrades and a 'self service' events calendar where organisers can promote their veterans related events.

Gerry Mulrooney, Deputy Head of Veterans Services for SPVA said:

"Providing help and support for veterans and their families has never been more important and we are delighted to have now launched the improved veterans-uk.info website. The site has been fully redesigned to make it easier for people to use and, most importantly, easier for them to find information on the special support available to the veterans community."

Graham Nolan, Administrator of the Armed Forces Memorial Trust said:

"We are very pleased to have worked in partnership with the SPVA to develop the new Armed Forces Memorial web pages on the veterans-uk.info site. The memorial is a very special place for the families of those killed in Service and we hope our new web presence will improve awareness of both the memorial and the wider help and advice services available to those left behind."

Improved features include:

Armed Forces Memorial Web Pages

We are delighted that the National Memorial Arboretum has decided to host its Armed Forces Memorial web pages on the veterans-uk.info site. Information can be found on the memorial itself, its history and development and advice for those wishing to visit the memorial in person. A 'Roll of Honour' facility allows users to search the memorial for a named individual and print a high quality personalised scroll.

Home Page and Menu Pages

A new home page guides the user through a series of major topic areas. Behind each, an illustrated sub-menu takes them direct to the source of the information they require. Every page prominently displays the Veterans-UK national helpline number should a veteran wish to speak to a real person for advice.

Interactive Online Advice Services

Working in partnership with ex-Service charities, Veterans-UK now offers two interactive advice services - the Veterans Knowledge Map and StartHere. Both take users through a series of questions to identify their problem/issue before directing them to specialist organisations that can provide practical help and advice. The Veterans Knowledge Map provides more local contact points on three topics - money matters, welfare and housing, whilst StartHere provides regional contacts on a much wider variety of issues. Both are entirely free to use.

Book Reviews

A Short History of the Middlesex Regiment by Harry Turner

In the words of the author who served as a subaltern with the 1st Battalion in Austria,

"If I may venture to deploy old fashioned language, the history of the Middlesex Regiment is above all, a stirring yarn, a tale to quicken the pulse and gladden the heart".

Soft back 99 Pages Copies are priced at £5.00 postage paid, all proceeds to The Army Benevolent Fund.

Copies are obtainable from the author by sending a cheque for £5.00 made payable to The Army Benevolent Fund to H Turner "Old Boathouse View" 5 Admiral Stirling Court, Weystone Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8XX.

Please endeavour to support this very worthwhile and generous offer by Harry who has had the book printed privately.

Famous Faces of the Spanish Civil War by S Hurst

Famous Faces of the Spanish Civil War is a fascinating story of loss, death, wartime love affairs, loyalty and betrayal set in the time of the Spanish Civil War through the eyes of famous writers, poets and artists. Reading in chronological order, the author, Steve Hurst, has covered the major phases during the war and discussed the roles of famous figures including Arthur Koestler, Ernest Hemingway, Pablo Picasso, George Orwell and the poet Federico Lorca who was murdered at the start of the war.

The progress of the war followed the General's rebellion in the summer of 1936, to Seville, the war in the Aragon Mountains, Madrid, Malaga, the arrival of the International Brigades, in 1937, the destruction of Guernika, Barcelona and Franco's victorious march.

The Spanish Civil War has been described as the dress rehearsal for the Second World War and the twentieth century war between ideologies.

This unusual and informative work will appeal to travellers in Spain as well as historians and followers of the Arts.

Obtainable from Pen & Sword Ltd., 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2AS. Type: Hard back 240 pages Price £19.99

Can You Help

Historian Hugh Sebag-Montefiore is looking for relatives of soldiers who served in the Middlesex Regiment or any other regiment during the July-November 1916 Battle of the Somme. This is in connection with a book on the fighting on the Somme commissioned by Penguin which he is researching. The book will focus on the capture of the chain of villages and strongpoints which had to be overcome if the German line was to be broken and will include by way of illustration such heroic deeds as the 12th MX's capture of Trones Wood on 14th July and its capture of Thiepval on 26th September 1916.

Contact Hugh Sebag - Montefiore Telephone No. 0207 435 1035 or at sebag-montefiore.com

Wanted

Ex Sgt Phil Dyer is interested in purchasing Middlesex Regiment memorabilia, he is particularly interested in brass TA shoulder titles for 7th, 8th, 9th Battalions and any items marked volunteer battalions of the Middlesex Regiment.

Phil can be contacted by telephone the number which is 0208 398 2767

News from the Iberian Peninsular

As the Anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera falls on a Sunday only a low key ceremony is planned for this year. The re-enactment of the battle will be staged on the following week end 22nd - 23rd May together with the usual ceremonies.

The Chapel of St John in Elvas Portugal, which was the subject of an article in the autumn edition No 102. The Friends of the British Cemetery continue with their fund raising in an endeavour to complete the restoration of this historic building, hoping that the work will be completed by June 2010. The Chapel is adjacent to the cemetery where Hoghton who commanded the brigade in which the 57th Foot who fought at Albuhera is buried.

Were You Wounded at Kunu-Ri?

I NEED YOUR HELP

Lt.Col. Malcolm E MacDonald, U.S. Army Retired

I am a veteran of the first five campaigns of the Korean War. On November 30, 1950, I was a lieutenant assigned to Headquarters, Second Infantry Division, near Kunu-ri, North Korea. The Chinese Communist Forces had surrounded our division and annihilation seemed imminent. I volunteered to drive a jeep (rated load 4) out of the combat area to Sunchon, ten miles south. Immediately, I ordered able-bodied men in the nearby ditches to load the jeep with wounded. When we began our ten-mile ride under intense enemy fire, we had 3 South Korean soldiers and 5 American soldiers, most of who were wounded. Shortly, two wounded Turkish soldiers waved us down and we took them aboard. About ten minutes later, a wounded soldier from the Middlesex Regiment waved us down and we picked him up.

As darkness approached, I had to drive without lights, an especially hazardous situation. Ultimately, we arrived in Sunchon and delivered the wounded to medical facilities of the 1st Cavalry Division. I never knew the names of these soldiers. If any Middlesex veteran who reads this message knows the name of the Middlesex soldier who rode with me that day and can put me in touch with him, I will be most grateful. I badly need his eyewitness account of that fateful day.

Most sincerely, LTC Malcolm E. MacDonald, (U.S. Army Retired),
11 Sabote Lane, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909, U.S.A.
(e-mail: mac.pat@earthlink.net)

Poets' Corner

The following poem which was written by Woodbine Willie of First World War fame also known as Rev G. A. Studdert Kennedy which was quoted by Rev Roger Hall MBE Chaplain, H M Tower of London who quoted lines from the following poem in his address at last years Annual Service of Remembrance in the Regimental Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral.

His Mate

There's a broken, battered village
Somewhere up behind the line,
There's a dug-out and a bunk there
That I used to say were mine.
I remember how I reached them,
Dripping wet and all forlorn,
In the dim and dreary twilight
Of a weeping summer morn.

All that week I'd buried brothers,
In one bitter battle slain,
In one grave I laid two hundred.
God! What sorrow and what rain!

And that night I'd been in trenches,
Seeking out the sodden dead,
And just dropping them in shell-holes,
With a service swiftly said.

For the bullets rattled round me,
But I couldn't leave them there,
Water-soaked in flooded shell-holes,
Reft of common Christian prayer.

So I crawled round on my belly,
And I listened to the roar
Of the guns that hammered Thiepval,
Like big breakers on the shore.

Then there spoke a dripping sergeant,
When the time was growing late,
"Would you please to bury this one,
'Cause 'e used to be my mate?"

So we groped our way in darkness
To a body lying there,
Just a blacker lump of blackness,
With a red blotch on his hair.

Though we turned him gently over,
Yet I still can hear the thud,
As the body fell face forward,
And then settled in the mud.

We went down upon our faces,
And I said the service through,
From "I am the Resurrection"
To the last, the great "adieu."

We stood up to give the Blessing,
And commend him to the Lord,
When a sudden light shot soaring
Silver swift and like a sword.

At a stroke it slew the darkness,
Flashed its glory on the mud,
And I saw the sergeant staring
At a crimson clot of blood.

There are many kinds of sorrow
In this world of Love and Hate,
But there is no sterner sorrow
Than a soldier's for his mate.

Finally a thought, for us all as we grow older

There is nothing whatever the matter with me I'm just as healthy as I can be Well, I do have arthritis in both my knees and when I talk, I talk with a wheeze. My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin, but I'm really well for the shape I'm in. Now the moral is, as the tale we unfold, that for you and me, who are growing old, It is better to say "I'm fine " with a grin. Than to tell everyone of the shape that we're in.

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 0566700 Telephone No 01227 818058.

Blazer Badges

Ice Buckets miniature side drum with Regimental Emblazon

Plus postage and packing

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Ties (New pattern with maroon and gold thin stripes)

Ties Officers Club (Silk)

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- Small Print

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