



02 APR 2014

# The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 111

Spring 2014



**Officers and Men of 1st Battalion Mx listen to Mr Malcolm Macdonald on the flight deck of HMS Unicorn, with the island of Hong Kong in the background, before they sail for Korea.**



*President* : Colonel R.M. Cain, OBE, DL  
*Chairman* : Chairman Lieutenant Colonel M.F. Deakin  
*Vice Chairman* : Captain M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.  
*Secretary* : Major D. Bradley, BEM, DL  
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#### FORECAST OF EVENTS 2014

<b>24th May</b>	Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London Seated 10.15hrs                      Service 10.30hrs
<b>24th May</b>	Association AGM and Annual Reunion Union Jack Club Sandell Street London
<b>10th July</b>	Officer's Club Luncheon Union Jack Club Sandell Street London 12.15hrs for 12.45hrs
<b>5th October</b>	Dedication of a Stained Glass Window St Paul's Church Mill Hill, followed by a Grand Reception date to be confirmed, once the window is completed.
<b>6th November</b>	7th Bn Middlesex Officer's Club Dinner
<b>6th November</b>	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Service commences 10.50hrs
<b>8th November</b>	Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Supreme Court of Justice 10.30hrs Service commences 10.50hrs
<b>9th November</b>	Remembrance Sunday
<b>9th November</b>	7th Bn Mx Remembrance Service Assemble 10.00hrs at Parish Church St Mary & St George
<b>December</b>	Union Jack Club Carol Service

**Ticket Application Form Closing Date 3rd May 2014**

#### MIDDLESEX ANNUAL SERVICE AND ALL RANKS REUNION 24TH MAY 2014

#### MIDDLESEX ANNUAL ALBUHERA SERVICE ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL LONDON SERVICE COMMENCES 10.30HRS PLEASE BE SEATED BY 10.15HRS

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

Cold Poached Salmon with Tarragon Crème Fraiche and Pickled Cucumber  
 Noisette of Lamb served with Roast Potatoes Cauliflower and Spinach with a Rosemary Jus  
 Panna Cotta with Poached Seasonal Fruits  
 Coffee/Tea and Petit Fours

**Cost £18.00**

I require..... tickets @£18.00

I require..... tickets @£37.56

(See note below)

Total £.....

A vegetarian meal is available if required please request when returning your application.  
 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 .....

Please remember that you will only receive subsidised tickets for one member and one  
 guest i.e. Wife/partner/carers. We achieved a full house last year so additional guests at  
 full cost will only be permitted if it is known that space is available.

**Should you intend to stay overnight early booking of accommodation at the Union  
 Jack Club is recommended to ensure that you are not disappointed. Advance  
 reservations 020 7928 4814 Email abo@ujclub.co.uk**

**KOREAN VETERANS WHO WISH TO SIT TOGETHER SHOULD TICK THIS BOX ☐**  
**A RESERVED SEATING AREA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IF NUMBERS REQUEST IT.**



Ticket Applications to;  
 Major D Bradley BEM DL, Pax Tecum 33 Spanton Crescent Hythe Kent CT21 4SF



Due to refurbishment of the restaurant at the Union Jack Club the luncheon will be held in the Gascoigne Suite and seating is restricted to 156 PERSONS SO EARLY APPLICATION IS ADVISED.

Prior to the luncheon the Annual General Meeting will be held in the Burns Room, at 13.00hrs the agenda will be as follows:-

### The Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Finance Report 2013
4. Benevolence Report 2013
5. Chairman's update on the future of the Association
6. Heritage project St Paul's Cathedral
7. Dedication of a Stained Glass window, St Paul's Church, Mill Hill
8. General notices from the Secretary
9. Answers to questions previously submitted to the Secretary
10. AGM and Reunion

*Questions must be submitted to the Secretary in writing by 10th May 2014*

### Annual Luncheon 14.00hrs

Seated 13.50hrs

Unfortunately this year, the price of the luncheon has had to be increased as a result of escalating costs, which are outside the control of the Association and despite a generous subsidy being made toward the cost of each ticket. The price had been held constant for the two years, 2012, 2013 and with a minor increase being made in 2011.



## **THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT**

### **BENEVOLENCE REVIEW DURING THE PERIOD – 01/01/13 - 31/12/13**

During the year a total of 14 cases were investigated and 9 individual grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped provide 1 further Electrically Powered Vehicles (EPVs), 1 Orthopaedic chair/beds and contributed to 1 Disabled Home Adaptations.

We administered 1ABF Annuities and the ABF generously contributed £108 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged for 1 Nursing Home Fees of up to £2080 ABF and £350 Association grants per case, per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after.

The Charity paid out £2,337 as individual-grants-aid and the ABF provided a further £1,500 in General Grants. Of the 5 cases not receiving a grant, local Councils/Charities or other Regimental Associations assisted 3 after we had contacted them. 2 cases were not receiving such allowances as Attendance, Mobility, Pensions Credit or Rent Rebate. The ABF total grants in support were £3,580 (Inc. Annuities and NH Fees).

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

Major (Retd) J C Rogerson  
PWRR Benevolence Secretary

### **1914/2014**

It can reasonably be argued that the Great War was the most significant event in the history of the Middlesex Regiment and had a profound effect on the public perception of it. In 1914 we had only ten battalions, of which four were Regular, but by 1918 we had raised 46 of which half fought on eight fronts and the remainder carried out garrison duties around the world. Because of this tremendous expansion there are still families throughout Greater London where a father or grandfather was a Diehard in the Great War. In television period dramas our cap badge frequently appears.

Two of our battalions, the 1st and 4th, were in France from the start and were at Mons when the first shots were fired by our 4th battalion while defending, together with 4th Royal Fusiliers, the canal salient against twelve German battalions. As the war progressed and more of our battalions joined the action we were represented at all the major battles and were awarded 93 battle honours.

For all of these reasons we want to mark the commemoration of the centenary of the beginning of the conflict in a fitting manner. Sadly the days when we could have held a parade to lay wreaths are gone so we have decided to commission a leading designer to produce a suitable stained glass window for St Paul's Church Mill Hill where the soldiers from our Depot attended services and the former Colonel of the Regiment, Colonel Maurice Browne, is buried. We believe it will complement our war memorial now located opposite the church and be of such a quality that it will attract visitors to the church in years to come.

When the window has been installed, hopefully by the early autumn, in September or October, we shall hold a service in the church followed by a reception to which all former members of the Regiment will be welcome. As soon as we have a firm date we shall announce it and I hope that as many of you as are able will be there with your wives or partners.

RMC

### **THE REGIMENTAL WAR MEMORIAL**

Most readers will be aware that the Mill Hill depot is in the course of redevelopment with a new mini town emerging. The Officers' Mess building has been retained due to local pressure and is to be converted into up-market flats on the first floor and, probably, a doctors' surgery for the ground floor. Your Executive took the view that for reasons of security and visibility the memorial should be moved from its former position in front of the Officers' Mess to a nearby site in the Ridgeway opposite St. Paul's Church. This decision had the approval and active support of the Vicar, Mill Hill School and the Mill Hill Preservation Society. This Church already has links with the regiment. The Memorial was finally moved in time for Armistice Day 2012 and rededicated in the summer of 2013. The whole cost of the resiting was borne by the developers – who also paid all the fees and for the new rededication plaque. The developers also handed over some £10,000 for future maintenance. This sum was soon spent before the rededication on refurbishing the Memorial which is currently in first class condition almost as good as it was new in 1920.

One might think that moving and re-erecting the Memorial would take a troop of Royal Engineers a fortnight's moderately hard work with some heavy equipment as a training exercise but things were not that simple when bureaucracy and local government were involved.



The story started some five years ago when the M.O.D. sold the land to private developers. This was followed by a planning enquiry, two planning applications, a detailed legal agreement, a stopping up order for that part of the highway on which the Memorial now stands and (as de-highwayfied land reverts to the owners of the subsoil) the consent of the Lord of the Manor of Mill Hill for the erection of the Memorial on his land.

All this leaves the Memorial in an appropriate site in good condition for our handover to the P.W.R.R. and the London Regiment. It has recently been listed in its current location on the recommendation of English Heritage by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport as a monument of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, Grade 11- which gives it some protection against anyone who may want to interfere with it in years to come.

M.J. Doran

### THE CORPORAL'S ROOM

As a result of two articles which appeared in the last copy of the newsletter no 110 Mr Don Barrett has written in with some illuminating answers to Mr Phil Dyer's article re the items which were buried beneath the Corporal's Room and also the award of a Bronze Star to a Lt Colonel US Army retired for his involvement in the "Kunu-ri Pass Affair" in November 1950.

#### *Editor "The Die-Hards" Newsletter*

You may remember that what seems now like a lifetime ago, I provided some Great War information regarding the 'I Was There' photograph captioned The First Sentry at Mons' that you very kindly incorporated in the Newsletter. Hence, in reply to your request for information on behalf of P. F. Dyer I enclose information regarding the September 1914 capture of the guns that is another subject that in the past I spent some time studying in depth from fortunately both sides of the hill. I have managed to locate my notes on the subject and enclose a copy for your information that coming from those present on the very day of action is more reliable than that portrayed by later generations of budding historians.

Needless to say, I discussed the exchange of letters printed in Soldier Magazine with Dick Smith and he mentioned the guns ultimate fate that we both thought to have been a complete unnecessary tragedy. He referred to Colonel Pearson as 'Porker Pearson' that seems to indicate he was of a rather robust build and apparently not particularly well liked by the rank and file, that is of course, not unusual for those bearing the responsibility of command. He could not recollect, or perhaps chose not to say, during our conversations what brought about this matter of high pique on Colonel Pearson's part and I can no longer recollect if he

described the site of the 'Corporals Room' that became their final resting place along with numerous other now valuable Regimental items. As you say, it would certainly be an excellent time with the 100th anniversary of September 1914 fast approaching, for a Time Team' dig, and they may well be interested, providing no new private building has taken place since INGLIS was sold off.

I was also very interested in the information provided by Malcolm E. Macdonald as I was contacted by the NAM for my comments on his quite long account of the 'Kunu-ri Pass Affair' in November 1950. The impression gained from his account that was particularly explicit and included a rough sketch, was that he was so long after the event looking for a Silver Star that he claimed had been promised by an officer later KIA. I see that he managed to obtain the lower order of the Bronze Star that is authorised for meritorious achievement and not in his case for valour which has a brass V attached to the ribbon.

Since 1947 the first has been available for any infantryman who earned the Combat Infantry Badge by order of the US Army Regulation 600-8-2, Military Awards. It seems that in 1947 this Army Order was not widely publicised, probably because of the very wide demand and cost that would have occurred if every infantry man involved in the Second World War had taken up the offer. Few past recipients of the CIB are even today aware they are entitled, providing they can produce the necessary documentation. All rather strange, and I only came up with the 1947 Army Order by chance while investigating other matters. As far as I am aware, infantry recipients of the CIB are not automatically advised they are also entitled to the Bronze Star. Thus in many ways it has become 'Everyman's Medal' and in my opinion has lost its original concept whereby it was awarded either for achievement or valour.

My very best wishes to you and I do hope that although unable to help in locating the site of the Corporals Room, the accompanying information will have some passing interest to you.

D Barrett

So, we still seek the location of the Corporal's Room, if anyone can help we look forward to receiving their input in the clarification of the position of this elusive building.

The following reports throw in to doubt who did capture the guns at Nery and this would appear to be a contentious subject with the various claims and counter claims.



## **1st CAVALRY BRIGADE, 11th HUSSARS AT NERY. 1st SEPTEMBER 1914**

The early morning was shrouded in an almost impenetrable September mist that heralded a scorching day ahead. At NERY there was no suspicion of the impending danger when at 3:15am Major R. J. P. Anderson, 11th Hussars, went down into the lines to confirm the orders given to 2nd Lieutenant Tailby that his patrol was to leave the village by the north-eastern exit. He was also warned they may run into French piquet's, then make for the eastern plateau before sweeping south across the Brigade front. This would be 2/Lt. Tailby's first patrol consisting of a Corporal and five men that proved to be memorable. He was warned that the 5th Dragoon Guards and Queen's Bays were also sending out similar patrols to the north and south of the village and that he should take particular notice of any hostile movement.

As the patrol moved off in thick mist with visibility down to around 100 yards, climbing to the top of the eastern plateau they then rode southwards along the southern and eastern sides of NERY. Having almost completed the circuit of the plateau while still about a mile from NERY, the thick mist suddenly cleared a little. About 150 yards ahead they saw a column of cloaked and helmeted cavalry; the men dismounted in sections. They instantly recognised them as German and unfortunately one of the men, in what was later described as an excess of zeal, jumped off his horse and opened fire, alerting them to their presence. The enemy immediately swung into their saddles and as 2/Lt. Tailby's patrol galloped off gave chase.

The enemy having barred the direct route back to NERY, 2/Lt. Tailby led his patrol north-east in the hope of shaking them off in the mist. On reaching a rough cart-track leading down from the ridge they raced along it. Whereupon 2/Lt. Tailby's horse put its foot in a hole and turned head over heels. By the time he had regained his horse and remounted, the German cavalry had fortunately given up the chase. They galloped on down the hill where at the foot they came upon an estaminet from which a woman told them three Germans had just bolted, leaving behind a cavalry cloak and rifle. Enquiring the route back to NERY they gathered up the cloak and rifle as evidence and headed back.

It was nearing 5:30am by the time they arrived back at NERY, where 21Lt. Tailby reported his clash to his Commanding Officer, Colonel Pitman. Meanwhile he had sent his Corporal to warn the 5th Dragoon Guards of the proximity of the enemy. Unfortunately they did not believe him. Their own patrol and that of the Queen's Bays having returned without making any enemy contact. On receiving 2/Lt. Tailby's report, Colonel Pitman immediately went to Brigade Headquarters and reported to Brigadier-General Biggs, leaving his Second-in-Command, Major Anderson to get the 11th Hussars into position along the eastern side of the village. Suddenly at 5:40am high explosive shells began bursting over the village, followed by prolonged rifle and machine gun fire, the very first shell going through the roof

of the Brigade Headquarters cottage. Picking up the still hot time fuse, General Biggs found it was set at 800-metres and confirmed it was German. Motor-cyclist were sent at once to warn General Allenby, Commanding the Cavalry Division and General Snow, Commanding the 4th Infantry Division that 1st Cavalry Brigade was under attack by German Cavalry, strength at the moment unknown, but probably comparatively weak. Events would prove his first assessment wrong, for in fact they were facing the forward elements of the German 4th Cavalry Division.

As far as he could at first ascertain, the volume of fire was directed on 'L' Battery and the Queen's Bays, the terrified horses of the Bays breaking loose and while most galloped off across country, a small mob swept up the village street before also vanishing off across country. As for 'L' Battery, their Commander, who had been at Brigade Headquarters when the enemy struck, was blown down by a shell on his way back and remained there unconscious until at 11am when he was found by the rear party just before the position was evacuated. Their O.C. missing they were caught with poles down as the complete area was swept by a devastating fire giving the teams no chance. Of the war establishment of 228 horses they lost 150 and early on two of their three guns were knocked out, but the third remained in action. Despite a constant stream of casualties it remained firing on the 12-gun enemy battery only 1000-yards away for over an hour until only two men remained, both wounded. They were B.S.M. Dorrell and Sergeant Nelson but when ammunition ran out they were forced to abandon their gun. The Victoria Cross was awarded posthumously to Captain E. K. Bradbury and the two survivors of the action. B.S.M. Dorrell, later Lt.-Col. G. I. Dorrell and Sergeant Nelson, with only B.S.M. Dorrell surviving the war. The by then Major D. Nelson dying of wounds in April 1918. Of the twelve enemy guns, eight were left on the field and the remaining four later abandoned in the wood north of Ermenonville, east of the Forest of Chantilly.

## **THOSE NERY GUNS AND THE FOG OF WAR**

### **Soldier Magazine letter, February 1957:**

Mr J. A. Ford wrote that he was a member of the 11th Hussars patrol consisting of a Corporal and five Troopers, who at dawn on the morning of 1st September 1914 at NERY were ordered to make contact with the French if possible. Some soldiers outside a farmhouse at the top of the hill waved to them through the mist and assuming they were French they waved back. Pushing on through a field of cut corn they were spotted by a single Uhlan Lancer and as the mist lifted saw a complete German Cavalry Division lined up facing NERY ready to move off, how could we warn our Brigade? Our Corporal ordered me and another Trooper to fire a few rounds rapid, hoping those at Brigade would hear. We made off as quickly as possible and reached NERY just as the Germans opened fire. We agreed to say nothing about the incident as it was felt it might be thought that we were responsible for bringing down the German fire on our own Brigade."



### **SOLDIER. October 1963:**

Major R.W.J Smith. Curator. Regimental Museum. Middlesex Regiment, laid claim to the capture of the German Nery guns by 'D' Company. 1st Middlesex, disputing a claim, by the 11th Hussars that one troop had charged alone and captured the eight German guns that had been firing on 'L' Battery.

### **SOLDIER. January 1964:**

Lt.-Gen. Lord Nome. DSO. MC writes; it was my good fortune to have commanded 3rd Troop, "C" Squadron. 11th Hussars, at Nery. The Squadron had been ordered to cross the steep ravine, move east, capture the German battery and reap the fruits of victory.

Mine was the leading troop and I confirm that we did charge the German guns with drawn swords, capturing eight of them, and prisoners as well. My troop sergeant with his sword actually wounded one German gunner who was too slow shouting "Kamerad" and in putting up his hands with the rest of them. There were no other British troops by the guns and the charge was a spectacular one over 300-yards of open country, supported by rifle fire from another Troop. I know that both the Middlesex Regiment and the Queen's Bays have claimed the capture of the guns but this is not the case. Although not so apparent at the time, the capture was a comparatively simple task as the machine gun fire of the Bays and the 11th Hussars had virtually silenced the battery, and the fire from "I" Battery. Royal Horse Artillery, prevented the guns being taken out of action. These units, together with "L" Battery, of immortal memory, and the turning movement of the 5th Dragoon Guards, made capture of the guns possible.

The most probable explanation of the other two claims is that the main body of "D" Company, the Middlesex Regiment did not arrive at the guns until 3 Troop had moved on having handed over the guns and prisoners to the former's advance guard and possibly the Middlesex had moved on when a party of the Bays arrived. The Middlesex Regiment had marched to the sound of the guns to support 1st Cavalry Brigade, and we most appreciated this from old friends. Although nearly 50-years have elapsed, I can personally vouch that the facts given in this account are accurate. The whole of my troop took part in the charge, which was seen by others in "C" Squadron, and last but not least by the German gunners who surrendered.

Maj.-Gen. Sir Edward L. Spears, MC writes: As an old "Cherrypicker" I very much appreciate what Major Smith says about my Regiment and I should like to return the compliment by saying that I myself was brought up to respect and admire that most gallant corps The Middlesex Regiment. I have made a close study of the battle of Nery and am convinced that the account I have given is completely accurate. The following is a summary.

At about 8am the 4th Cavalry Brigade appeared, together with "L" Battery, Royal Horse Artillery, which unlimbered and opened fire on the German guns at a range of about 2000 - yards as "L" Battery fell silent. "T" Battery reduced the German guns and destroyed the teams which galloped up to remove them. The German gunners tried to man-handle their guns away under heavy and accurate rifle and machine-gun fire. Four guns that were extracted were captured next day.

Willoughby Nome's troop supported by fire from the following troops charged the guns and captured or scattered the gunners. Only one stood his ground, being run through by Sergeant Haily, Nome's troop sergeant, with his sword. There were eight guns flanked by two machine-guns, the first to be captured in the war.

While the rest of the cavalry was scouring the fields for prisoners, taking a good many, some companies of The Middlesex Regiment appeared. Major Lockett came to a quick understanding with them that they would take over while the Cavalry moved on to attack the next village which was held by the enemy. Later the guns were taken away by the Cavalry who made up teams for the purpose. I think that most people would conclude that the Cavalry which charged the German gunners and disposed of the gun crews were the captors of the guns. I myself have always believed in the old axiom that the Infantry was Queen of the battlefield but I do not think it adds to the glory of The Middlesex Regiment to give the impression that they cantered ahead of the Cavalry to capture the guns at Nery.

### **THE DIE-HARDS IN THE GREAT WAR, VOLUME I:**

On the 1st September 1914, at 5.30am, 1st Middlesex withdrew outposts and marched to Saintines, joining up with 19th Brigade HQ, when at 6am they met a messenger asking for assistance for 1st Cavalry Brigade and "L" Battery RHA at Nery. The acting CO. Major Rowley, was ordered to immediately march his battalion towards Nery and taking the nearest Company, 'D' set off at once. On arrival he reported to the GOC, 1st Cavalry Brigade and was ordered to attack the German guns firing from the high ground onto the village. On reaching the eastern exit."D' Company along with their two machine-guns came into action and opened rapid fire on enemy guns that after about two minutes ceased fire. With bayonets fixed and a cheer, the Middlesex rushed across the intervening valley and captured eight of the guns, from which except for 12 dead the German gun crews had fled. A few minutes later the German limbers were seen about 1,000-yards away and fire was opened up on them and they were seen no more. The guns were undamaged with two of them loaded, the sights were removed and the elevating gear damaged. A little later some of the captured guns were brought away by Cavalry, who had made up teams for the purpose. [Abbreviated version.]



### ENFIELD BRANCH 2013

The Enfield Branch has sadly reached a point where due to old age, illness, distance and mortality our regular monthly meetings are no longer viable. The committee however remain in close contact and will continue to arrange meetings for our members whenever possible for lunches or any other suitable events that arise over the coming years, not forgetting our annual autumn break. Mr Jim Innes met up with Lt Colonel Deakin on Wednesday 6th of November to lay a wreath at the recently relocated regimental memorial. Despite our declining numbers the branch was well represented at St Pauls and the AGM also at Mill Hill for the rededication of our memorial. There was also a good turnout at the Supreme Court of Justice on Saturday 9th of November when nineteen members from Enfield were present for the service and an excellent buffet, followed by a visit to the field of remembrance at Westminster Cathedral where it was evident from the number of crosses that filled the regimental plot to capacity that those who gave their lives serving with the Middlesex are certainly not forgotten. The branch was represented at the Enfield town remembrance march the following day once again by the lone figure of Mr Brian Tate. Christmas lunch has been arranged for Sunday 8th of December at the Enfield Conservative club. Thirty five members and guests will be attending.

### MILESTONES AND MEMORIES - GUYANA 1966

*By Capt. Ken Beale MBE*

In the year of the World Football Finals to be held in Brazil, I felt it pertinent to reflect on England's triumph in 1966.

One of my duties during my tenure as Regimental Sergeant Major was Officer in Charge of the Battalion football team. In Guyana we played in the Hood League along with six other teams. Although we didn't win the league we finished in the top half. The highlight of the football season was our visit to Surinam where we were guests of the Dutch Army. The tour was from 24th July to 1st August 1966. During this period we played two matches. The first match was against a combined Army and civilian team, which we lost 6-3. The second match was against a Dutch Army team. We lost this by three goals to one. The score did not do us justice as we played very well. Consumption of alcohol was banned until after both matches had been played. From then on, we were able to let our hair down and enjoy the hospitality of our Dutch hosts. On the last night of our stay in Paramaribo, the capital of Surinam, we treated our Dutch friends to a night out - and what a night it was! This is best described by L/Cpl Ken Wittig, our stalwart Right Back/Centre forward.

Report of our glorious football tour of Surinam or how "Christine" performed in the Havana Bar.

It was our last night in Paramaribo and as we were ordered not to drink whilst there were still games to be played, we eagerly awaited the last night for a good bender.

Fifteen of us booked out of the Dutch Guard Room, plus four Dutch soldiers who were to show us around. We all jumped in four taxis and roared off to find the grottiest bar in town. We found one called the "Tutti Frutti" where we all settled down for a good drink. After about half an hour in walked the RSM, CSMI Meadows, C/Sgt Miles and C/Sgt Redmond. A big roar welcomed them. By this time we were getting restless to see "Christine" do his striptease but he remarked that the bar was not grotty enough. Off we went again in search of a grottier bar and were very lucky for just around the corner, we came across the Havana Bar, and was it grotty? The grottiest you could wish to find anywhere. Cpl Hannaford remarked that it was so grotty that even the mice wore denims! We explained to the four women behind the bar, that our "Christine" was going to strip. They were all for it and even helped to clear the centre of the floor of tables and chairs. One of the boys got the juke box playing a nice sexy record and he was on. I have never seen anyone strip like this before, male or female. The sex just poured out of him. He wriggled and turned as he pulled off his garments one by one; he was so good the four girls abandoned the bar and pushed through the crowd to get a good view. Cpl Butler then took over working the bar: but back to the sex-ridden "Christine". He danced around to the cheers of the crowd with those of the four girls loudest of all. Unfortunately all good things come to an end; the record went off and so did our "Christine". It was a tremendous performance and he got his reward - a quart bottle of Parbo beer presented by the landlady who said "please, come again tomorrow"!

After "Chris" dressed we all departed for the Cactus Club where there was a real girl who stripped, but that is another story. Ask the RSM he knows!

Our return journey to Georgetown, as on the outward journey, was in the main by launch on the Nickerie River. The boat part of the journey, flanked by dense jungle, lasted nearly two days. Whilst in the boat we were able to tune into a radio broadcast of the Football World Cup Final between England and West Germany, which England won 4-3. Our Dutch hosts had stocked the launch with canned beer and needless to say we celebrated the victory in no small way. I had fears that one of my men would fall overboard and be eaten by piranha fish. This was indeed a unique situation in which to hear the World Cup Final.

In October 1966 it was goodbye to Guyana and all its memories - Independence Day, a visit by HRH the Duke of Kent, Ceremonial Parades, Kaieteur Falls, Hunting and Fishing, Football, Jungle Patrols, Jump-ups, Duty Free and delightful people etc.





**The Die-Hards Football Team.**

*Back Row: CSMI S Meadows (Player Coach), L/Cpl K Wittig, Cpl G Tydeman, L/Cpl R Davidson, Pte V Herbert, C/Sgt D Miles, RSM K E Beale (QIC).*

*Front Row: (left to right) Cpl D Quilter, L/Cpl J Clements, Cpl B Morley, Pte W Hamilton, C/Sgt J Redmond, L/Cpl D Read.*

### **GORDON BARRACKS, HAMELN RE-VISITED**

Diehards from the late 1950's may be interested in a visit I made back there in late October 2013. Of course these old Prussian barracks have changed little and it was a cold blustery day when we visited. I am not sure however we would approve the Parade Ground being merely a big car park as it is now! The Sappers remain very much in residence as they have been for so many decades, all bridging plant equipment has gone, and indeed the barracks will be handed back to the Germans by the time that this article appears. My wife and I were made very welcome by a Rear Party from 28 Engineer Regiment, currently on duty in Cyprus.

I am glad that I went back. To some extent, although there was rightly no medal for serving in Germany, the Cold War was an amazing success. I write this on the 11th November and it occurs to me the presence of all; of us in BAOR, and indeed British forces in Germany won a fantastic victory with virtually no bloodshed once the war ended. I hope that someone writes the full history of BAOR after WW2.

Following the above visit we then boarded the train for Berlin. That in itself was a great experience, and we flew past the Helmstedt station as if it never had a significance! Berlin needs to be revisited if one has not seen it since the wall came down. The only disappointment was to visit our old quarters in Kladow, and to see the old barracks now occupied by a Bundeswehr Military Hospital. The only occasion when then the old adage "never look back" applied.

Peter Clarke



*Two photos from about 1958*



*The Old Parade Ground*



*The Present Incumbents*



*The Regimental Band visting 1 Queen's in 1972 with the wall still in position*



*The Placard which confirms a Military Hospital*



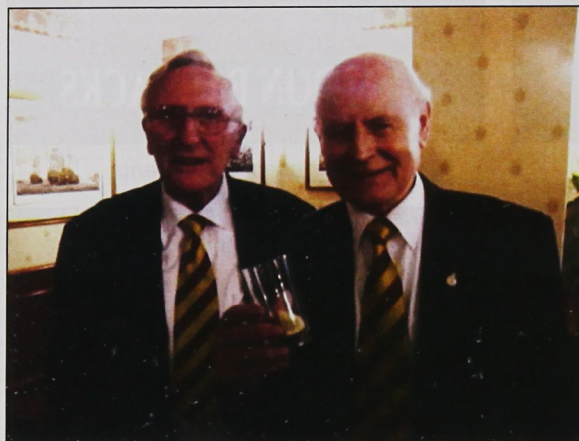
## ODD JOTTINGS

Cliff Bilney sent an email to Ron Morris to tell him that he had changed his email address. He mentioned that he was still going strong at 94 and that he had heard from Heinz Johansson who said that he had made his usual visit with Ilse to the Hamburg Military Cemetery on Remembrance Sunday. Sadly there were only two poppy wreaths in evidence both on RAF graves.

We obtained recently the current address of Lt George Freeborn who has not been in contact with the Regiment for many years and his whereabouts were unknown. Should members wish to write to him to resume contact then his address can be provided by Ron Morris, The Officers' Club Secretary.

Mrs Effie Ellis has drawn our attention to a recently republished biography of a lady who died in 2013 at the age of 100. Although she worked as a cook from the age of 16 Mrs Flo Wadlaw was also a skilled needlewoman who in the early 1970's volunteered to create hassocks for the Order of the British Empire Chapel in St Paul's Cathedral. In 1975 she also produced hassocks for our Middlesex Chapel and a letter from Colonel Aymar Clayton, then President of our Association, thanked her for her "invaluable and unselfish help".

John Holmes has written in with regard to his close friendship with George Brand which has lasted for sixty years. They were together in Austria and John has sent in two photographs which, span the years from that time in 1953 to the reunion in 2011. Unfortunately he also enclosed the obituary for his friend.



*John Holmes and George Brand*



*George Brand and John Holmes  
Zeltweg, Austria 1953*

## OBITUARIES

**George Brand**, Died 14th November 2013 aged 79 George joined the Regiment at Mill Hill during January 1953. He served with the 1st Battalion 'C' Company, for three years stationed in Austria. His discharge in 1956 was short-lived being cut short by his recall as a reservist to serve in the East Kent Regt for the duration of the Suez crisis of 1956.

George's Civilian life saw him becoming a construction engineer working on many heavy Engineering installations around the world, culminating in the having 'the title of Chief Engineer during the construction of the channel tunnel. George ability to speak four languages was a great asset to us fellow squaddies, 'especially German' whilst stationed in Austria / Vienna. He will be sadly missed by us all, many of us were still in touch and friends after 60 years.

His ashes were laid to rest at his request and by arrangement in Hassocks National Park, Near Brighton.

**Tony Briggs** died just before Christmas 2013. He was a Company Sergeant Major with the 1st Battalion and moved on to 1 Queens in Berlin when 4 Queens disbanded in June 1970. He was a fluent German speaker and was a great asset to the Battalion in that role. He decided in 1972 to end his service in Berlin and he settled there taking local release and securing a job with the Berlin Military Government.

**Monsignor Ralph Brown Prot AP, JCD, KCHS** Ralph Brown who died on 6th January 2014 aged 82 was educated at Highgate School and so naturally joined the Middlesex Regiment for his National Service. After Officer Cadet School at Eaton Hall he was commissioned and posted to our 1st Battalion in Korea where he was wounded while commanding a platoon in B Company.

On his return to civilian life he was employed by an insurance company in the City and was a member of the 7th Battalion until he decided to become a candidate for ordination in the Catholic Church. As a priest Ralph studied canon law in Rome and, in due course, became the Vicar General for legal affairs in the diocese of Westminster. He was recognised internationally as an authority on canon law as it applies to marriage.

In retirement Ralph's health deteriorated and after the amputation of his leg he went to live in St Wilfrid's convent but continued to attend Regimental events. One of his great gifts was the ability to make and keep friends and he was never happier than when at the centre of a group of his many friends at a convivial gathering where his acute sense of humour was always appreciated.



Ralph's Requiem Mass in Westminster Cathedral on 21st January was a most solemn and impressive service. The celebrant was the Cardinal Designate Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster, in the presence of five bishops, more than a hundred priests and a congregation which filled the cathedral. The homily was given by the Most Reverend George Stack, the Archbishop of Cardiff who referred to Ralph's "beloved Middlesex Regiment" in his address. The Regimental Association was represented by our Honorary Chaplain Father Tim Hutton and eleven members of the Officers' Club. Ralph will be greatly missed.

RMC

**RSM Topper Brown's** funeral was held in Canterbury on Saturday the 9th of November 2013. He was a Pre-war TA soldier and he served with the 2/7th Battalion throughout World War Two. In 1943 he landed with the Battalion in North Africa and fought with them from Tunisia onwards through Sicily and Italy until January 1945 when the battalion moved to Palestine to join the garrison there endeavouring to deal with the Arab/ Jewish conflict. He also spent some time in Syria when the battalion detached C Company to Damascus to help quell the unrest occurring there. In December 1945 the Battalion were told that as a second line Territorial Unit they would proceed to Cairo to be disbanded. This in effect ended Topper's war time service and he was demobbed in 1946.

Topper was a very strong supporter of the 2/7th branch of the Association and was a regular attendee at their functions. He was always present at the Annual Church Service in St Paul's followed by the Reunion at the Victory Services Club. He also regularly attended the service, at the Middlesex Guildhall, now the Supreme Court, on the Saturday before Remembrance Sunday. Many will remember "Topper's Box" that he passed around at most of the events that he attended. The proceeds were invariably donated to the Middlesex Benevolent Fund. He was a dedicated soldier and a good friend.

**Tom Bryant CMG** died on the 2nd of April 2013 after many months of illness. His funeral service was held on 17th of April at St. Swithun's Church, East Grinstead, the service was conducted by Reverend Canon Julia Perry.

**Bob Chaddock** died on 14th June 2012 he served with 2/7th Battalion at Anzio where he was wounded and along with some of his comrades was taken prisoner on the beachhead and spent some fourteen months in captivity.

**J A F Collyer** served with the 1st Battalion in Korea died on 30th of November 2013. That is all the information we currently have available.

**Derrick Dunk** who was a member of the Korean Club died on 9th March. No further information is available.

**Mrs Joan Galvin** widow of Lieut. Colonel Peter Galvin died peacefully on Friday 14th of February aged 94. The funeral was held at 10.45am on Friday the 28th Of February 2014 Joan was last with the 1st Battalion during the Cyprus tour in the 1950's.

**Major Francis Sydney Cunningham Hancock** died on the 9th September 2013 aged 100. He was a TA soldier who served both with the Regiment from 1936 to 1939 and later with the Middlesex Yeomanry. As he was not a member of the Association we have no record so little is known of him. We do know that he was a Far East POW taken by the Japanese in Singapore. SSAFA told us that a memorial service was held at St John's Church, Hook, Hampshire, on Saturday the 26th October 2013. We would be pleased to hear from anyone who can give us more details of his service with the Regiment.

**Capt. David Hawkins** died recently and that is all the information that we have. He was a strong supporter of the old comrades of the three tenth World War Battalions of the Regiment. He helped to organise the annual remembrance service on each Remembrance Sunday for these battalions at St Nicholas Church in Chiswick.

**Herbert James Hunt** We have been advised that Herbert died two years ago. No further information is to hand.

**Jack Jones** We were advised by Heinz Johannsen that Jack died on 24th of November 2013 after a long fight against cancer. Jack served with both 8th and 1/7th Battalions during World War Two ending his service in Rendsberg in 1945.

**Major Norman McLeod Martin** Died in October 2013 aged 94. He will be remembered as DAG HQ Home Counties Brigade at Weymss Barracks in the 1950's. His last posting to the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment was in Cyprus after which he retired to live in Cheshire. His funeral was held at Poole Crematorium on Monday the 21st October 2013 followed by a service of thanksgiving at Eccleston Parish Church Nr Chester on Saturday 2nd of March 2014.

**Cpl Leslie Phillips** died on 27th of September 2013. He served with 2/8th Battalion during World War Two.

**George Potts** We were advised by Edgar Green that George died on the 1st December 2013.

**Mrs W Redpath** widow of Captain Frank Redpath died recently. We were told upon the delivery of the Autumn Edition of the Diehard Newsletter. Nothing further is known.

**Brigadier John Bleaden Rydall CBE** was a TA Officer who served initially with the 9th Battalion died on 27th October 2013 aged 91 after a long battle with cancer.



A memorial service to celebrate his life was held at the Church of St Augustin in Bournemouth on Sunday 17th of November 2013.

**James Viner** who served with the Regiment in Egypt died on 15th of November 2012 aged 94 years. No other information is available.

### **Information**

### **Regimental Goods**

Enquiries in respect of items for purchase and availability should be made to the Regimental Shop Telephone No 01227 817945.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **JOHN GIRDLER**

John Girdler has written in to say that he is the sub web master of seven pages he has been given on the 1st Royal Sussex/3rd Queen's website ([www.1royalsussex-3queens.com](http://www.1royalsussex-3queens.com)) for the use of members of 4th Queen's/1st Middlesex. When you go onto your search engine enter the above name when you click on that name the web site will open (1Royal Sussex - 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment) scroll down to the box that says site map, click this box and the web site will open, then scroll down to the box which says 4th Bn The Queen's Regiment/Middlesex where there are seven pages assigned to us, there is a message board and picture pages.

Any queries should be directed to John Girdler whose email address is [Johnandann@hotmail.com](mailto:Johnandann@hotmail.com)

### **THE NORTHERN IRELAND VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

The Northern Ireland Veterans' Association Service of Remembrance will be held on Saturday 20th September 2014 @11.30am at the National Memorial Arboretum Airedale Staffordshire. The service will commemorate and remember all those who lost their lives in service of the Crown as a result of the conflict in N. Ireland. The service will be followed by a parade down to the Ulster Ash Grove for the laying of wreaths.

Any queries to [davidlangston594@sky.com](mailto:davidlangston594@sky.com)



A memorial service to celebrate his life was held at the Church of St Augustin in Bournemouth on Sunday 17th of November 2013.

James Viner who served with the Regiment in Egypt died on 15th of November 2012 aged 34 years. No other information is available.

## Information

### Regimental Goods

Enquiries in respect of items for purchase and availability should be made to the Regimental Shop Telephone No 01227 317245.

## JOHN GIRDLER

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Any queries - A/G/O be directed to John Girdler whose email address is [john.girdler@hotmail.com](mailto:john.girdler@hotmail.com)

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Any queries to [david.jungson24@sky.com](mailto:david.jungson24@sky.com)

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