



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 113

Summer 2015



The stained glass window installed at
St Paul's Church, Mill Hill

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 2015

23rd September	Final Association Band Concert 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment 10 Stone Buildings Lincolns Inn London WC2A 3TG
1st October	Laying up of Branch Standards and Presentation of Roundels from 1st World War Colours
4th November	7th Bn Middlesex Officers Club Dinner Clapham
5th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Service 10.50hrs
7th November	Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Supreme Court of Justice 10.30hrs - Service 10.50hrs
8th November	Remembrance Sunday
8th November	Wreath Laying St Paul's Church, Mill Hill
8th November	7th Bn Remembrance Service Assemble Parish Church St Mary & St George 10.00hrs
December	Union Jack Club Carol Service date TBC

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2016

21st May	Association Albuhera Service of Remembrance Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London Seated 10.15hrs Service 10.30hrs
21st May	Association AGM and Annual Reunion Union Jack Club Sandell Street London
10th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster abbey
12th November	Mx Ceremony of Remembrance Supreme Court of Justice 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs
13th November	Remembrance Sunday
13th November	Wreath laying St Paul's Church Mill Hill

PROPOSED BAND CONCERT 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

It is proposed to hold a final Association Closing Band Concert which will be given by the Band of the PWRR on the 23 September 2015.

The Concert will take place at the 71st (City of London) Yeomanry Signal Regiment) 10 Stone Buildings, Lincolns Inn, London WC2A 3TG. The venue is a short walk from Chancery Lane Tube station.

The reason for selecting this venue is because the Union Jack Club cannot accommodate us on the date when the Band is free to entertain us.

Timings

Arrive for pre-concert drinks 1330hrs

Concert commences at 1400hrs

Interval 1440hrs to 1500hrs

1540hrs concert concludes

Buffet and drinks 1545hrs to 1645hrs.

1645-1700hrs all depart.

The Concert and Buffett will be free of charge. However, to ensure that we have enough attendees to make the Concert viable and to have numbers for catering all those wishing to attend must complete the attached proforma.

Surname_____Christian Name_____

Branch if any_____

I will have_____Guests

Number of people attending the Buffett_____

Please return this proforma to Major D Bradley BEM DL Association Secretary at Pax Tecum, 33 Spanton Crescent, Hythe, Kent CT 21 4SF by the 23 August 2015.



**THE LAYING TO REST OF THE HOUNSLOW AND ENFIELD BRANCH
STANDARDS AND PRESENTATION OF THE ROUNDELS FROM
THE WW1 COLOURS**

The service of the laying up of branch Standards and the presentation of the Roundels from the WW1 Colours, will take place at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, on Thursday 1st October 2015. The remaining pieces of the WW1 Colours, will also be buried on this occasion.

The service will commence at 1130hrs and all attendees are asked to be seated by 1120hrs.

On completion of the short service we will move to the Cemetery for the burial of the ashes of the remaining pieces of the Colours.

On the conclusion of this short act all attendees will make their way to the Three Hammers Public House for a Buffet lunch.

The lunch will be free of charge, however, all those intending to attend, must complete the proforma below and return it by the 1st September 2015.

Surname_____ Christian name_____

Branch if any_____

I will have_____ Guests

Number of people attending the Buffet _____

Please return this proforma to Major D Bradley BEM DL Association Secretary
at Pax Tecum, 33 Spanton Crescent, Hythe, Kent CT21 4SF by 1st September
2015.



MONS 1914

The assassination of Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand of Austria on the 28 of June 1914 created a diplomatic crisis which resulted in Germany invading neutral Belgium and Luxembourg on the 3rd of August 1914 Great Britain declared war on Germany the following day and the British expeditionary force began embarking just five days later on the 9th of August. By the 21st the British cavalry and cyclists trained in reconnaissance were being sent out in small patrols to try and establish where the Germans were. It was during one of these patrols that Private John Parr of the Middlesex Regt was believed to have been shot and killed by a German cavalry patrol near Obourg becoming the first British soldier to lose his life in the great war. The main body of the B.E.F. reached the French Belgium border close to Mons on the 22nd of August. Away to the right of the British, French troops were already involved in heavy fighting with the advancing German army at the battle of Charleroi. At the request of the French commander General Lanrezac, Field Marshal Sir John French commanding the B.E.F. agreed to hold the line of the Mons-Conde canal (18 miles long 64 foot wide and approximately 9 foot deep with 16 bridges) for 24hrs to prevent the advancing 1st German army attacking the French flank.

For the B.E.F. most of the 22nd of August was spent digging trenches and taking up a thin line along the canal completely unaware that their position placed them directly in the path of the powerful German 1st army who's strength at this time was



Laying wreaths at the Middlesex Memorial at St Symphorian Cemetary

unknown. The Germans attack began at around 05.00hrs on the morning of 23rd with a ferocious artillery bombardment along the canal and round the salient where the 4th Middlesex, Royal Fusiliers and Gordon Highlanders were holding the four bridges round the salient north of Mons.

Along the straight length of the canal the Royal West Kent's and the King's Own Scottish Borders were under fire from artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. At 0815 the West Kent's had deployed a company of 200 men under the command of Captain Lister across to the north side of the canal to hold the cross roads at the village of Tertre to cover the withdrawal of British cavalry and cycle units.

Around the salient between 0600hrs and 0700hrs the German IX Korps had advanced and were closely engaged with the Middlesex; at Obourg vastly outnumbering them, as the attack on the canal bend grew stronger the Germans were taking heavy losses. By 11.00hrs the German attack has spread westwards along the canal and closed to within three hundred yards of the West Kent's under cover of the fir plantations which grew along the northern side, heavy fire is directed particularly at the Royal West Kent's and the Scottish Borders.

The 200 West Kent's on the Northern side of the canal at Tertre were in a situation similar to the Spartans at Thermopylae facing three full battalions of Brandenburg Grenadiers, three artillery batteries and a German machine gun company. Against these impossible odds the 200 with scant cover themselves inflicted such an inordinate number of casualties on the enemy that one German CO was to remark after the battle "My battalion is a wreck, shot down, smashed up, a handful only left. Our first battle is a heavy defeat". By noon the situation at the crossroad had become unacceptable and it was decided to retire to the main position across the canal. Twenty of their number had perished within a few feet of each other at the crossroad and many more were wounded or taken prisoner including Captain Lister. Of the 200 only ninety made it back across the canal.

(It is at the precise spot on the Tertre crossroad where the twenty members of their regiment gave their lives that the Royal West Kent's have recently erected a memorial of Kentish Ragstone to their memory and to all other members of the Regiment who gave their lives in all spheres of war since).

While the West Kent's were retreating from the crossroad at Tertre the German front had broadened to St Ghislain some 7 miles from Mons. Soon after midday the Germans crossed the canal at Obourg and had reached the line of the railway, the Middlesex now supported by the Royal Irish Regiment were still taking a heavy toll of the Germans but facing overwhelming odds, their losses at this time were 15 officers and 353 other ranks killed or wounded, under heavy attack and with their own casualties mounting they hung on grimly. 16.30hrs the Middlesex are still holding the bridges. B. Coy of the 1st battalion were able to cover a squadron of the Bays retiring over the canal east of St Aybert. Just after 17.00hrs a heavy attack

was made on B. Coy who managed to hold the enemy at bay. As dusk fell the enemy fire gradually died down and the British were astonished to clearly hear the German bugles sounding the cease fire along the line. Later under cover of darkness the Germans launched a further attack but this was easily repulsed. With the sudden retreat of the French 5th army exposing the British right flank to attack, the order was given at midnight for the British to fall back. The Middlesex retired at about 02-30hrs taking their wounded with them in the direction of Eloges, leaving behind a bloody battlefield littered with the dead. Total British Casualties were 1,600 killed or wounded of which some 400 were Middlesex. German losses were reported in excess of 5000.

In the days following the battle of Mons most of the British and German dead were buried in village church yards and civilian cemeteries in and around the city. Just over a year later in November 1915 with the area now safely in German hands they began to exhume both German and British soldiers and approached a land owner in the district of St Symphorien three miles south-east of Mons with the view to purchasing a plot of land to re-inter them. The landowner Jean Houzeau de Lehaie refused to sell the land but told them they could use as a burial ground the huge mound of soil dug from the mines or quarries which dot the area for free on condition that the British dead were accorded the same dignity and respect as their soldiers. The Germans agreed and were true to their word over the following year they created a cemetery which is as beautiful as any woodland park or garden.

At its highest point stands an obelisk of grey granite over twenty foot high dedicated to the fallen of both sides there are some memorials to German soldiers and three further monuments dedicated to British regiments, the Royal Irish, the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Middlesex Regiment. The latter is erected in the centre of a large circle composed of forty six Middlesex war graves. It is said the Germans were so impressed with the tenacity and courage of the Middlesex Regiment whose rapid fire had led them to believe they were facing a machine gun battalion who could only be a Royal Regiment and so gave them the honour on their memorial. There are many more Middlesex graves evident, among them is that of Private John Parr.

AB

ENFIELD MEMBERS VISIT MONS

Friday 22nd of August 2014. Mick Turton and I were privileged to join a large party of around a hundred members of the Queens Own Buffs Regimental Association on their four day visit to Valenciennes in cemeteries in and around the city, northern France, situated close to the Belgium border The Saturday marked the Centenary of the battle for Mons, and we had a quite a busy day ahead. Our first visit was to Tertre, about a half an hour's drive away. On arrival we were joined by the band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and a hundred or more Living Historians attired in period military uniform. Mounted Cavalry, Highlanders, Cyclists, Field

Ambulance Staff and Infantry were all portrayed. Members of the Municipal Council and children from the local community also took part in a parade and a march to the recently erected Royal West Kent's Memorial, where a service and wreath laying took place watched by a large crowd of spectators who joined in the service.



The recently erected Royal West Kent Memorial

Later that day we were able to visit St Ghislain for lunch and a concert by the band of the PWRR. We ended the afternoon by visiting the Military Cemetery at l'Hautrage, where, after a short service we had time to place crosses on some of the many graves, 527 German and 235 British and commonwealth. Sunday morning we returned to St Ghislain for a parade at the St Ghislain Chateau at the request of the Mayor, David Olivier, who presented each veteran with a white metal medallion to commemorate the occasion. We departed the Chateau before midday and went on to spend the whole of the afternoon in Mons where the Band of the PWRR was playing another concert watched by a large and appreciative audience. During the afternoon Mick and I were pleased to meet Major Derrick Harwood and a friend, both Diehards who along with their wives were on a Battlefield tour and introduced themselves after spotting our distinctive Diehard tie's. Monday morning dawned cloudy and overcast and as we boarded our coaches heading home we were all hoping the weather would brighten. The first of three scheduled stops on the journey back to Calais was the lovely St Symphorian Cemetery. The entire party of Buffs joined Mick and I in the Cemetery at the Middlesex memorial where a silence was observed and their Chaplain the Reverend Keith Fazzani conducted a short service dedicated to the fallen soldiers of the Middlesex Regiment.



A. Brown & M. Turton at the Grave of Pte J. Parr

They also provided Mick and I with a Middlesex wreath complete with tag on which we were able to write a suitable message before placing it at the memorial. Their President Colonel Peter Bishop OBE DL also placed a wreath. We had a little time to spare and look around before leaving and were able to place crosses on the graves of Pte John Parr and other members of the Middlesex Regiment, we also placed a cross on the last resting place of an unknown German soldier. After leaving St. Symphorian our next stop was at Arras just in time for lunch. The gentle rain which began to fall as we arrived turned into a deluge so heavy there was little alternative but to cancel our last visit, which was to have been to the French National memorial at Notre Dame de Lorette. Despite its wet and rather soggy ending this was a very memorable and enjoyable visit in excellent company.

A.B

The Dedication of a Middlesex Regiment stained glass window

The first step of the Executive Committees' decision that the Middlesex Regiment would not sink into obscurity was brought to fruition with the installation and dedication of a stained glass window at St Paul's Church The Ridgeway Mill Hill on Sunday 5th October last.

The service commenced in front of a large congregation with the entry of the clergy as the band of the PWRR played the regimental slow march of the Middlesex Regiment. After the first hymn the Introduction and Bidding was given by the Reverend Jonathan Shaw, Vicar of the church, the Bible reading by our President Colonel R Cain was Revelation Chapter 21 verses 1 to 7. The Dedication of the Middlesex window was performed by the Right Reverend Graeme Knowles CVO, KFC Registrar of the Sons & Friends of the Clergy well known to the Regiment from his time at St Paul's Cathedral. In his Address Reverend Knowles drew the congregation's attention to the details depicted in the window and their significance details of which are illustrated in the photographs produced in the middle pages. Prior to the closing of the service Lieutenant Colonel M F Deakin read B A Stanley's poem Success. The service closed with the Blessing and the band playing the Regimental quick march Sir Manley Power and Paddy's Resource.

Those present then adjourned to the church hall to partake of an excellent buffet and to socialize.

Dedication of Woldingham Village Memorial - Saturday 25th October 2014

Major Dennis Bradley and John Raby Hounslow Branch, with the Regimental Standard on parade were present for dedication of the memorial which was made by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Dame Sarah Goad DCVO JP. Also present were Vice Admiral Peter Wilkinson CB CVO President of the Royal British Legion, Commander Nicholas Chatwin OBE RN Naval Regional Command.

The Service was led by the team vicar of Woldingham Rev. Dr. Catherine Dowland-Pillinger. During the service, also remembered, were the men of the 16th "Public Schools" Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment who were stationed in the village, many of whom were eventually to die in the Battle of the Somme. Our Regimental Crest is carved on one of the flanks of the memorial.

After the ceremony all present were invited to the Village Hall for tea and cakes and to follow the poppy signed route, each poppy bore the name of one of the fallen.



Major Dennis Bradley standing next to the newly dedicated memorial

Honouring Harefield's First World War Heroes - November 4th 2014

Colonel Rex Cain and four members of Hounslow Branch were invited guests at the unveiling of two Victoria Cross plaques to honour Pte R E Ryder Middlesex Regiment (DCO) who was awarded the Victoria Cross "For conspicuous bravery and initiative during an attack in the face of adversity at Thiepval on 26th September 1916" Also Pte C V Kinross 49th Infantry Canadian Expeditionary Force who received the Victoria Cross "For conspicuous bravery in action during prolonged and severe operations near Passchendaele on 30th October 1917". Both men were born in Harefield within ten weeks of one another at the end of the 19th century.



The Group of Dignitaries standing behind the VC plaques

The plaques which have been laid at the base of the village war memorial, an obelisk of Portland Stone which is about 22 feet high was unveiled by Colonel Peel on 15th July 1921. Before the unveiling of the plaques the Victoria Cross citations were read by Councillor Catherine Dann The Worshipful Mayor of Hillingdon, the plaques were then unveiled by Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE and the Mayor of Hillingdon Cllr Catherine Dann. The blessing of the Victoria Plaques and a short address was given by Padre Graham Fieldhouse followed by the Exhortation and the sounding of Last Post and Reveille. Wreaths were then laid including one by Colonel R Cain from the Middlesex Regiment, which preceded a response by Colonel Hugh Bodington Chief of Staff HQ London District. Light refreshments were served to the invited guests.

The Stained glass window at St Paul's Church, Mill Hill



**La Albuhera - 16th May 2015
Winner of the PWRR Trophy for
"Best at English"**



MANUEL VILLAFAINA LLAVADOR

**flanked by (L to R)
Colonel Nick Lipscombe, Major James Rands,
D. Manuel Diaz González (Mayor of La Albuhera),
D. José Maria Gutiérrez del Olmo
(Colonel of the "Saboya" Regiment)**

In later years Robert Edward Ryder VC was the model for the main figure on the Middlesex Regiment War Memorial currently in the foyer of the Supreme Court. The Bronze and Portland Stone Memorial was unveiled by Lieutenant General Sir Ivor Maxse in November 1924.

Cecil John Kinross was discharged from the Canadian Army in January 1919. A few days later a Civic Reception was held at the Old Pantages Theatre Edmonton Alberta. In 1951 one of the most spectacular mountain peaks in Jasper National Park was named after him, Mount Kinross is a 2371 metre peak.

**The Middlesex Regimental Association Annual Service of Remembrance
Saturday 8th November 2014 held at The Supreme Court of Justice Westminster**

The day was grey and overcast and by the time most of the congregation arrived a slow drizzle of rain had commenced. Those who had arrived early were seated and chatting to old comrades and acquaintances. Prior to the Service Colonel Rex Cain addressed the assembled members and friends and expressed on behalf of the Association our thanks to the Supreme Court staff who had joined us and who had done so much, behind the scenes, to make the event a success.

Sharp to time Rev T C Hutton stepped forward to commence the proceedings at 10.56hrs, wreaths were laid by Colonel R Cain OBE, DL. Brigadier Chalmers DSO, OBE. and Lord Kerr of Tonaghmore PC Justice of the Supreme Court. The Last Post was sounded as Big Ben struck 11.00hrs two minutes silence was kept and after the sounding of Reveille the service followed our usual format, Ms Jenny Rowe CB Chief Executive of The Supreme Court of the United Kingdom read the lesson Philippians 4: 4-9 and our President Micah 4:1-5. After the service all adjourned for refreshments which were kindly provided by the Supreme Court.

Enfield Branch Christmas Lunch

The branch Christmas lunch was held on Sunday 7th of December at 13-30hrs in the Conservative Club at Baker St. Enfield. We had opted for an earlier sitting this year to accommodate those members who had long journeys home in the dark. As always the meal was excellent, with portions to suit the individual appetite and a variety of dishes to suit all tastes.

Again there was a good turnout from our members who were in good spirits although a little disappointed that Alf and Mary Burford were once again unable to join us, Alf not being too well at the moment and the long drive from Eastbourne a wee bit too much, He did however send an apology and a cheeky Christmas message, which I shall not go into, also missing was one of our senior members much loved octogenarian Joe Shaw who with Danniell were planning to turn up the following Sunday because we learned later Joe had absent mindedly confused the date.

Despite the disappointment over our absentees we were heartened and pleased to welcome Diehards Derick Harwood and Roger Bird who with their wives joined us for our Christmas lunch for the first time, we enjoyed their company and hope to see them at our Midsummer lunch which is being planned for Sunday 5th of July 2015 at the same venue. In all a pleasant afternoon which I am sure saw a number of our members, myself included depart for home feeling quite merry and slightly over stuffed.

AB

Albuhera Day Service of Remembrance Saturday 16th May 2015 Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral London

The Service this year fell on the 204th anniversary of the battle of Albuhera. It was the penultimate service which will be arranged by Association prior to the occasion being administered by our successor Regiment, The PWRR in future years. As a consequence a large congregation of members and quests were in attendance.

Prior to the service the Band of the PWRR once again gave their popular selection of music in the courtyard outside the north door to the delight of our members and the tourists who were visiting the cathedral. The choir and ministers entered for the service to the Regimental slow march to conduct this ever popular event in the Regimental Association's calendar. The choir sang the Introit followed by the Bidding which was given by the Reverend Canon Michael Hampel, before the congregation joined in the Lord's Prayer and sang the hymn "Guide me, O thou great Redeemer" the bible reading was Micah 4: 1-5 read by Colonel R M Cain OBE DL. Our service followed the popular format of previous years, the address was given The Venerable Peter Eagles QHC Deputy Chaplain - General and Archdeacon for the Army. Our honorary chaplain The Reverend Father Tim Hutton led those present in prayers, followed by the Turning of the Page of the Book of Remembrance by an In Pensioner from the Royal Hospital Chelsea and a wreath was laid.

The Act of Remembrance was conducted by Father Tim when we recall our comrades, by name, who have died during the last year. The Act of Thanksgiving and Dedication was led by the Reverend Rosemary Morton Minor Canon and Succentor followed by our closing hymn and the Blessing by the Canon in Residence. The National Anthem was sung and the Clergy and choir left to the Regimental quick march Sir Manly Power/ Paddy's Resource.

Our thanks to the Staff of St Paul's, the Band of the PWRR under the direction of WO1 I Collin BMus (hons) and the Army Cadet Force PWRR whose contribution make this such a special occasion.

On the conclusion of the service members and their guests made their way to the Union Jack Club for the Annual General Meeting and the Reunion lunch.

Minutes of The Annual General Meeting of the Middlesex Regiment Association held at the Union Jack Club Sandell Street London on 16th May 2015

Welcome Lt. Col M Deakin welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from D Cattell, M Elston, Capt. S Le Enthoven, Capt. M Flynn, Major A P O'Gorman, M Smith.

Present R Abrams, I Aldridge, P Allum, M Austin, K Barnes, R Bartle, Maj R Bartlett, G Barton, D Baston, Capt. K Beale, E Bedford, R Bockhart, A Bonner, Maj D Bradley Secretary, A Brown, A Burford, Col R Cain President, A Cochrane, A Connor, Maj H Crouch, R Cox, C Crawford, Lt/Col M Deakin Chairman, J Dennis. Capt. M Doran, J Dorey, P Dyer, B Eldred, Maj D Falke, D Farquhason, Maj B Finch, C French, D Grant, A Gray, E Green, M Halfman, J Harris, Maj D Harwood, J Hawkins, R Hawkins, G Higgins, R Holden, J Holmes, D Howard, C Hull, R Hutchins, Rev T Hutton, J Innes, B Jones, D Lester, Maj R Morris, W M Murphy, Lt. P Ottino, T Perkins, S Pielow, G Plummer, F Priest, J Raby, D Read, W Redmond, Maj B Reed, A Richardson, T Rogers, A Rutter, P Sheldon, P Simmons, J Sires, R Sissons, G Stevens, P Stewart, G Strevertt, J Sturt, V Sullivan, B Tate, T Taylor, Maj R Thornton, J Turner, M Turton, M Ward, G Whaley, K Williams, K Witting, G Young.

Middlesex Regimental Association Financial Summary 2014

The total income for the year was £31,686, which is in the main monies received from investment dividends. The total expenditure for the year was £95,888. The main items of expenditure were in respect of St Paul's Church, Mill Hill, heritage stained glass window £32,704.

Reunion costs of £8,451, digitalisation of archive histories and Die Hard Journals £8, 556 and wages and expenses of the Association Secretary. Therefore in our day to day business the fund expended £64,202 over the financial year.

Investments

Our investments increased in value by £5,758 during 2014 compared to an increase during 2013 of £33,064 a difference in profit of - £27,306. Thankfully the market is improving and we should fare better this year. But as I have said in the past "we are investing for the long term". Therefore the fund decreased in value by £58,444 during 2014.

The total value of the fund as at the 31 December 2014 was £778,796. We can therefore afford all of the heritage projects within the Associations Closure procedures which the Chairman will be talking about shortly.

Proposed by A Burford

Seconded by M Ward

Benevolence Review 1st January to 31st December 2014

During the year a total of 11 cases were investigated and all individual grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears.

The Charity paid out £2,800 as individual-grants-aid and the ABF provided a further £3,580 in General Grants.

We administered 1 ABF Annuity Case and the ABF generously contributed £130 per month, a total of £1,560 for the year.

The Trustees would again like to pay tribute to the Army Benevolent Fund who are 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.

Mr J Reynolds
Resource Manager
Accepted by the Executive Committee

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

You should all have received my Spring 2015 Report, sent to you in a plain wrapper around the third week in March. It was originally to have been included in the Die-Hards Newsletter, which, as you have heard, has had to be delayed until June. More important, however, is that Mike Ward, the editor, is out of hospital and back on his feet again. So, what I have to give you now is by way of an interim progress report, based on the plan set out in the Spring Report.

The first thing to appreciate is that there are still more than a dozen separate agencies involved in the decision making and provision of services for the twelve or so projects making up our Legacy Package. Progress is therefore uneven and slow. I think we expect to be still 'tidying up' well into 2016.

To remind you of what we are doing, therefore, let's start with the Regimental War Memorial removed from the Depot and now installed on the grass verge outside the gate of Mill Hill School and opposite the Parish Church of St Paul's. In the church, we have already subscribed to a stained-glass window marking the Queen's Jubilee, and we have commissioned and installed a separate Regimental stained-glass window, which has been welcomed and very much appreciated by the Church and congregation. In addition to looking after our Regimental Memorial and incorporating it in their Remembrance Day service, St Paul's Mill Hill has agreed to the laying up of the Hounslow and Enfield Branch Standards in the Church. On that same occasion, a set of centrepieces or roundels from the colours of various

Middlesex Service Battalions, suitably mounted and framed, will be installed in the Church. The remaining fragments of those colours will be buried in the churchyard, in the safe keeping of Colonel Maurice Browne, MC, a former Colonel of the Regiment. To assist with the upkeep of the Regimental War Memorial and the installation and maintenance of all our other memorabilia, St Paul's Church will be awarded £20,000. It is hoped that the Branch Standards will be laid up and the Service Battalion colour roundels will be hung in September of this year. Further details will be circulated when they are known.

At the same time, Mill Hill School, who we hope will agree to lay a wreath on the Regimental War Memorial in November each year, will be given £10,000 as an endowment to provide an annual CCF prize. They will also receive a framed picture of the former Officers Mess in Inglis Barracks, outside which can be seen the Regimental War Memorial now standing at their School gate. This is our way of recognising past links between the Regiment and the School and encouraging future contact with the PWRR.

Moving from St Paul's Church to St Paul's Cathedral and the Regimental Chapel, we will have paid for the refurbishment and re-siting of The Madonna and Child you saw at the service this morning. Its completion and dedication which have been enthusiastically supported by the Cathedral authorities mark the final stage in our enhancement of what will be known as The Middlesex Chapel, before we hand it over to the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Our total gift will have been the congregational and choir seating, the clergy chairs, the Book of Remembrance display table, and the refurbished Madonna and Child.

Moving to the Supreme Court (the former Middlesex Guildhall), the County and Regimental War Memorial in the Entrance Hall is to have better lighting, which we are providing. The bill will be around £10,000, and is to mark our long relationship with the Guildhall and now the Court, and in gratitude for the Court's friendship and support of our annual November Service in the building. The lighting will be installed for this year's service on Saturday, 7th November.

Now, with exception of the donation to St Paul's Church Mill Hill to assist with the maintenance of the War Memorial, all that I have mentioned so far has either been paid for, or will be paid for, in 2015. In compiling our budget proposal for next year 2016, the Executive Committee has stressed that the most important priority will remain money for benevolence and welfare within the Middlesex Regimental Family. The remainder of the Legacy Package to be included in the 2016 budget, is as follows:

- A final enhanced copy of the Die-Hards Newsletter and the digitalisation of all previous Newsletters.
- A donation of £25,000 to The 10 Queen's and Middlesex Territorial Trust.

- A donation of £20,000 to the Army Cadet League, Middlesex and North West Sector, Greater London Army Cadet Force Branch.
- The ring-fenced sum of £15,000 to St Paul's Mill Hill for the maintenance of the Regimental War Memorial.
- The hand-over to the RHQ The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment of the remaining Funds.
- The hand-over of the Regimental Association database to the PWRR.

So, what is left? The Legacy Package having been satisfied, the main question on most people's minds is "When is the last Albuhera Service and Reunion to be?" Next year, 2016, the service in the Regimental Chapel will be organised by Major Dennis Bradley, our Secretary, together with a representative of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The Reunion, AGM and lunch following it will be run by Dennis Bradley. It will be our last Albuhera Service and Reunion. The final events of 2016 will be the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey on Thursday, 10th November 2016, the Supreme Court Service on Saturday, 12th November 2016 and the St Paul's Mill Hill Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 13th November 2016 when a Middlesex wreath will be laid. The Officers Club will meet for lunch next year for the last time also. Precise dates, times and other details of all these events will be sent to you in good time.

General notices from the Secretary

The Secretary drew the attention of those present to the following points all of which will require your consideration and action.

Update of the Data Base it is essential that we pass an accurate and up to date data base to PWRR in order that you receive the relevant information regarding future events once the newsletter ceases publication.

Benevolence and welfare will still be an important part of the PWRR commitment to former members of the Middlesex Regiment

The Secretary outlined the proposed arrangements for the Reunion 2016

Due to the fire regulations within the Union Jack Club, we are limited to 140 people dining in the Gascoigne room. This year has produced a waiting list of 10 people who did not make the first 140.

With 2016 being the last reunion for the Association, it is anticipated that we will have a large attendance! Due to this it is intended to implement the following booking procedure for luncheon tickets.

1. Tickets will be issued to members and one guest only i.e wife, carer, partner. There will be no room for any additional guests.
2. Tickets will be issued on a 'first come first served' basis.
3. I am liaising with the Union Jack Club to have two tables reserved in the restaurant for any over flow in an attempt to alleviate disappointment. Those who have to dine in the restaurant will receive the same meal as those in the Gascoigne room and pay the same dining fee.
4. Those who have to use the dining room will be notified of this when they receive their Reunion tickets.
5. All of this information will be included in the March 2016 'Die Hards' Newsletter.

With regard to the Pro-formas which appear within the newsletter it would be extremely helpful if nil returns could be made and forwarded to the Secretary consequently it would greatly assist in planning, particularly when catering arrangements are to be made.

The sale of DVD's of the Regimental journals and newsletters are available at a cost of £14.00 which includes postage.

There were no questions to the Secretary.

AGM and Reunion 2016 is to be held on 21st May 2016

The meeting closed at 13.47hrs

The Annual Reunion at Union Jack Club

The Annual Reunion which was again held in the Gascoigne Room with limited seating accommodation of 140 persons due to fire regulations, as a consequence we had an overspill which resulted in some members having to dine in the main restaurant. However they did enjoy the same meal as those who dined with the main party.

The lunch this year was of an excellent quality comprising of Cold poached salmon with tarragon crème fraiche and pickled cucumber, Roast loin of lamb with a medley of Parisienne vegetables, raspberry cheesecake with a raspberry cracker, coffee/tea and petit fours. Toasts were drunk to The Queen and The Regiment.

The seating arrangement of round tables makes for a very convivial atmosphere and has proved to be very popular, once again the lunch was much enjoyed and made for a very successful reunion where once again old friendships were renewed, new ones made and vows given to come again next year, God willing.



Montage of the Regimental Reunion

A letter received from Mr D F Barrett which sets forth clarification on the comments in Newsletter No 112

Regarding Newsletter No. 112, I was delighted to see that the editor had included an account of the death of Private Parr, that of late has been misrepresented so often by folk who should have known better. I had occasion to study his death in some depth in the early 1980s on behalf of the then curator of the Regimental Museum, Major Dick Smith. At the time he was in conjunction, with Rose Coombs, the Special Collections Officer of the IWM, involved in resolving why the CWGC had taken it upon themselves to change the date of Parr's death to the 23rd August without any Regimental or IWM contact. Suffice it to say, they eventually resolved the question amicably, and his marker was changed back to what was the original date. Incidentally, at that time Parr's Death had no particular Regimental interest other than getting the date corrected. In fact, 'D' Company Great War veterans of whom there were still a very small number still around when interviewed, believed the first 4th Battalion other-rank fatality on the morning of 23rd August 1914, was L/14301, Private William Merry of 'D' Company at Obourg Railway Station.

Although it would be correct to say that Private Reginald Streeter was the first Middlesex fatal Casualty of the Korean war on land, not only had we suffered two fatal casualties at sea off the East Coast of Korea on the 9th July 1950, but two of 1A & SH, Captain Neil Buchanan and his Batman Private Taylor, had been seriously wounded and captured by the KPA on the 6th August 1950, and following their usual procedure with wounded, executed.

As for Private Reginald Streeter, he was the Batman/Driver of the 10 and died in what is best described as a motoring accident. Returning from a patrol at night with the 10, he drove into a newly formed crater, recently blown by American Engineers in the road/track on the supposition it could be used by enemy T-34 tanks. Flung forward onto the steering wheel, the force was not helped by his full Basic Pouches and his chest ribs were shattered with the usual serious internal results. The 10 apparently quite rightly left him in position and went for medical help, who when they arrived found him missing. In the meantime, local Korean civilians had moved him into a house that had presumably resulted in his shattered ribs killing him. When compiling our record of those KIA, we chose to record him as such, on the premise that they were returning from a patrol.

Naturally there is a lot more detail in my records involving in particular Parr, who was known in the 4th Battalion as 'Ole Man', presumably the result of his young age.

Odd Jottings

Nicholas Man contacted Ron Morris recently to tell him that this sister Catherine had died recently after losing her battle against cancer. Catherine was the daughter of our Colonel Andrew Man.

The London Borough of Hounslow on the 2nd August held a Remembrance Ceremony and the unveiling of a new War Memorial. The ceremony formally commenced with the unveiling of the obelisk. By Lance Sergeant Johnson Beharry V.C. Subsequently on 16th September Johnson was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough of Hounslow at a special Council meeting. Although he now lives in Tower Hamlets but he said Hounslow would always feel like home having lived in the Borough for some years when he first arrived in the UK.

Obituaries

Major R A Bennett died on the 25th of December 2014. That is all the information we have.

Kenneth Broom who was a member of the 2/7th Battalion and served for a time with the Kensingtons died on the 4th of December 2014 He lived for many years in one of the Middlesex Houses in Albuhera Close.

Frank Campbell who served with 1/8 Battalion died on 12th February after a short illness aged 94. Frank joined the Cheshire Regiment in June 1939 transferring to the Middlesex in October 1939. He saw action with the BEF and was evacuated from Dunkirk on HMS Vimy on 30th May 1940. He remained with the Middlesex until June 1946 when he was demobilised with the rank of Sergeant. During his time with the Middlesex he saw action in Normandy, the Netherlands and the Rhineland. His grandson Thomas has recently commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant into the Welsh Guards which gave Frank great pride and pleasure.

Eric Reginald Chamberlain died on the 5th of May 2015 aged 94. Eric was a platoon commander serving with the 8th Battalion during World War Two. He was one of the few members of the Regiment who has recorded his war time experiences and they are now held at the Imperial War Museum. His funeral took place on the 18th of May 2015 at the Bournemouth Crematorium.

C L Cousins Mail returned, died two years ago. That is all we have.

Peter Drage We have just been advised that Peter Drage who served as a Sergeant with 5 Queens died in 2014,

Taffy (Thomas) Evans who taken with the Battalion at the fall of Hong Kong and was served a Far East Prisoner of War died in November 2014. He lived in the Philippines for many years occasionally returning to the UK to attend the odd reunion. Nothing further is known about his passing.

George Gramlick died on March the 1st 2015 aged 87. He was a Sergeant in the Sniper Section in Korea.

William Harris who served with the 2/7th Battalion during World War Two has died during March or April 2015. That is all we have.

Maurice King died in March 2014. That is all we have.

Peter Langton Information received via the BKVA that Pieter Langton who served as a National Service man with the Regiment in Korea died during early January 2015. His funeral took place at Havant Crematorium on the 27th of January 2015.

Len Mead who was a Sergeant with the Battalion in Korea passed away on the 20th of October 2014 aged 86. His funeral was held on Monday the 3 of November 2014. He was mentioned in despatches for his service in Korea.

John Mullane died in 2013. That is all we have.

R Paternoster (Bob) who was with the Battalion in Korea died on the 9th of August 2014. He initially served as a National Serviceman with the Buffs in the Middle East and Greece prior to becoming a regular soldier with the Middlesex Regiment.

Frank Powell passed away in early May 2015 after suffering a stroke. Served with the 1st Battalion in Korea. Lived in Australia for many years.

Captain John Pollock died in February 2015. We have nothing further.

J D Raynes who served with the Battalion in Korea died recently

Edwin Reynolds who served with the 30th Middlesex Home Guard Died in 2014. That is all the information that we have.

Peter Richards who served with the 1st Battalion died recently. We have nothing more.

Jeff Rolt advised that he died some three years ago. That is all we have. He served with both the 1/7th and 8th Battalions during World War Two.

K Rota died during 2014. That is all the information we have.

G R Sharp who served with both the 1st and 2nd Battalions died in May 2012. That is all we know.

Joe Shaw died in March 2015 aged 94. Joe was a stalwart member of the Enfield Branch and will be greatly missed.

Bill Tracy was a reinforcement from the KSLI to the Battalion in Korea. He served in B Company. He passed away on the 3rd of December 2014 and his funeral was held in Shrewsbury on the 22nd December 2014.

F Waterfield died during 2014. That is all the information we have.

Ken (Chippy) Wood died on the 11th of April 2015 after suffering a long illness. He was in a nursing home for a number of years.

News from Spain

The village of Albuhera continues to hold their Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Albuhera, this year the occasion was enhanced by the attendance of members of PWRR who made the journey from Paderborn to acquaint themselves with the history and topography of the area. The winner of the PWRR cup this year was Manuel Villefaina Llavador and to show both Municipal and Army support and encouragement the Mayor and the Colonel of the Soboya Regiment both requested that they may be included in the photograph for this popular and competitive competition.

Our thanks once again to Celia Denney who does so much for the Regiment locally.

Regimental Goods

Enquiries in respect of items for purchase and availability should be made to the Regimental Shop. Telephone Number 01227 817945

RETURN TO MAJOR D BRADLEY BEM DL - PAX TECUM, 33 SPANTON CRESCENT, HYTHE, KENT CT21 4SF BY THURSDAY 15th OCTOBER 2015.

Pro Forma

This information is required for catering purposes

Middlesex Ceremony of Remembrance

Supreme Court of Justice Parliament Square London SW1P 3BD

On 7th November Assemble 10.45hrs Service commences 10.50hrs

I will/will not attend the event. Information required for catering purposes

Number attending including guests.....

Update of Data Base

Update all personal details on this pro forma and return to Major Bradley.

Maintaining a current postal list for you is an important way to stay in contact.

We are also asking for all those who have an Email address to include this as post has become very expensive, and once the Association closes it is essential that we are in a position to hand a creditable data base over to PWRR.

Name..... Association card no

Address

Post codeTel No

Email Address

RE TURN TO MAJOR D BRADLEY BEN BN - MAX REGENT 22 OCTOBER 2010
CRESCENT RYTHE KENT CT31 4SE BY THURSDAY 18th OCTOBER 2010

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This information is required for entering passengers, a 4 hour

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