



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 88

December 2002

Price £1



The 57th Monument at New Plymouth New Zealand

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT
BRIGADIER TONY PIELOW.**

Another year has passed and it has been another successful one for the Association in many ways. We have been able to help those of our comrades who needed anything and have pleasure in keeping in touch with our still vigorous membership. Evidence of our members' vigour was well demonstrated with the turnout at the Grand Reunion on the 7th of July at Aldershot when 38 Diehards joined the parade and many others were there but did not, for a variety of reasons, march.

The Enfield and Hounslow branches continue to flourish and organise outings and events for their members, including another visit to Albuhera, and our Korean Veterans are still a most active, cheery and friendly lot representing the best of our National Servicemen and their Regular companions. Likewise the 1/7th and the 2/7th Reunion Luncheons are also flourishing affairs. All these staunch supporters comprise the solid base of the Association, and despite our inevitable losses due to advancing years, we continue to recruit – no less than 9 new Diehards have joined us up to October, before the Christmas rush! This is most heartening and does just show how the enthusiasm within branches attracts others to join. Well done all of you

Despite the forthcoming retirement of Major Ron Morris next year, the Association will carry on albeit at a slightly reduced tempo and the Newsletter will also continue to publish thanks to Mike Ward who has valiantly volunteered to take over the editor's seat. The Newsletter is the means by which we all keep in touch but its success does depend on members doing the keeping in touch. The format may be different but the role will continue to be the same.

I was pleased to see so many familiar faces at the Middlesex Guildhall Service on the 9th of November but to all of you – whether we meet or not before 2003 I wish a really Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and that includes your families so many of whom continue to be loyal supporters at the branch or "central" events.

My warmest regards to you all.

Tony Pielow.

President : Brig B.A.M. Pielow, JP
Chairman : Major C.L. Lawrence, MC
Vice Chairman : Capt M.J.S. Doran, TD, LL.B.
Secretary : Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE,
38 Traps Lane, New Malden,
Surrey KT3 4SA.
Editor : Major R.E.B. Morris, MBE.

FORECAST OF EVENTS 2003

1 March	Queen's Regimental Reunion – Victory Services Club.
11 March	Executive Committee Meeting at 1400 hours followed by the Officers' Club Committee Meeting – Location to be advised.
1 April	Final Meeting of the Executive Committee – 1100 hours – Army & Navy Club.
26 April	1/7th OCA Annual Reunion TA Centre Hornsey.
9 May	Officers' Club Dinner – Army & Navy Club – 1900 hours for 2000 hours.
10 May	MX Albuhera Service – Regimental Chapel St Paul's at 1500 hours.
10 May	MX All Ranks Reunion – Victory Services Club 1830 hours — AGM to be held at 1845 hours.
15 May	9th Bn MX Officers' Club – Annual Luncheon – Royal Overseas League, Park Place, London SW1 1215 hours for 1300 hours.
16th May	Albuhera Luncheon - National Army Museum (by invitation only).
1 June	The Administration of the Association passes to RHQ PWRR.
20 September TBC	MX Korean Club Annual Reunion – AGM at 1830 hours – Victory Services Club.
2 October TBC	2/7th Bn MX Annual Luncheon – Victory Services Club 1200 for 1300 hours..
6 November	7th Bn MX Officers' Club Dinner – Officers' Mess The London Regiment, St John's Hill, London SW1.
8 November	MX Regiment Ceremony of Remembrance – Middlesex Guildhall 1030 for 1100 hours.
9 November	Remembrance Service – Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill assemble at 1000 hours.
9 November	7th Bn MX Remembrance Service – Parish Church of St Mary and St George, Hornsey – assemble 1000 hours.

DONATIONS & BENEVOLENCE

Donations Made

Enfield Branch	£100	Grant towards cost of transport to Mill Hill for Remembrance Parade
The Thiepval Project	£150	Grant towards the cost of a visitors centre at Thiepval
Not Forgotten Association (Donations made so far in this FY total £1264)	£75	

Bequests/Donations received

Mrs J M Robbins	£100	In memory of her husband Col J D Robbins
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(Plus very many smaller donations gratefully received)

Benevolent Grants	31 Dec 01 To	1 Nov 02
Grants made to individuals	£16013	£10043
Less ABF Grants	£8101	£4174
Net	£7912	£5869

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT.

Since the last overview given in June 2002 newsletter the Regiment has had a hectic schedule. The Regiment celebrated its 10th Anniversary on the 9th of September 2002.

The 1st Battalion is still based in Tidworth but recently undertook a 6th month tour to Kosovo returning to the UK at the end of October 2002. They are in the Armoured Warrior role and were part of the Multi National Brigade operating in and around Pristina. The situation in Kosovo was quieter than hitherto but there was still the constant threat of some problem. The locals always reacted like monkeys kept in a sack if provoked. The Battalion had a high profile of visits ranging from the Crown Prince of Sweden to the Commander of the Royal Danish Life Guards who were serving as part of the French Brigade. The Colonel of the Regiment visited from the 9th to 11th July and the President of Kosovo presented the Minden Rose to Battlegroup Headquarters on the 1st of August. It was the operational practise to provide static guards together with security for the various ethnic groups. The CO changed this and removed the static guards and replaced them mobile patrols and unpredictable foot patrols. The result was enormous pressure both emotional and political from the Serb community and a lot more pressure on the Junior Commanders. The real or false incidents and minor demonstrations the Battalion endured was a price worth paying and kept them busy. C Company was for a time deployed to Macedonia and B Company were deployed (out of area) to Mitrovica with the French. The deployments were a great success. Battalion training (potential NCO Cadres) and sports continue with the planning of the 2003 Cricket Tour of South Africa well under way.

The major event for the 2nd Battalion has been the Arms Plot move from Aldershot to Tern Hill in Shropshire and the transition from Mechanised (Saxon) to a Light Battalion (feet!). The Battalion hosted the Grand Reunion in July in Aldershot. A difficult task whilst commencing the Arms Plot move and moving 2500 people attending various events in a small modern barracks. Training has continued with the newly formed 2 Infantry Brigade situated in Folkestone. Soldiers provided the civilian population for other units training for Northern Ireland. Other tasks involved groups or individuals assisting with many trials and other activities. Full recruiting has its advantages and these deployments were not quite such a drain on manpower as in the past. The Battalion has provided big support for the recruiting drive and also exercised the joint Freedom, with the RMP and RLC, of Chichester. Sgt Pullen was appointed Sobraon Sergeant and Cpl Loosely Kohima Corporal. One of the main sporting achievements has been the Battalions Sevens Rugby Team taking part in the highest level of rugby in the Middlesex Sevens, held at Twickenham. Prizes were won at this event. As this report is being compiled the Battalion is being deployed to RAF Manston to be in support to fight fires if or when the firemen go on strike.

The 3rd Battalion has had a year of change. They are now part of the new reorganised 2 Infantry Brigade along with four regular light role battalions which includes 2 PWRR. The Battalion also has a new defined role and mission providing

reaction force tasks to help with home defence. There is also a new affiliation with the Shorncliffe based regular battalion which is currently the 2nd Bn The Royal Gurkha Rifles. There was a rewarding exchange exercise with the Oregon National Guard and training focus moved from fighting in woods and forestry to fighting in built up areas. The Battalion has deployed soldiers in support of operations on the Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS) to Kosovo, Bosnia, Sierra Leone and Cyprus. They were not all with our own units but others such as 1st Bn The Royal Scots and the Queen's Royal Hussars both in Kosovo. Two Company Commanders were also attached to 1 PWRR in Kosovo. The experience gained and the medals worn are proof of the opportunities that exist in the 3rd Battalion. Weekend training and various ceremonies have walked in tandem with TA life. The 3rd Battalion is on good form.

B (Queen's Regiment) Company The London Regiment have just returned from a successful Annual Camp in Germany at Sennelager. For those BAOR veterans nothing has changed. The weather was dry and the plain was dusty! Adventure training camps were held near the Moenessee Dam. FTRS soldiers served with 1 PWRR in Kosovo including one officer. Major Alex Bond continues in command conducting that fine balance of leadership and example which is so essential in the TA.

C Company The Royal Rifle Volunteers based in Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight continues to thrive. They produced men for the Guard of Honour for her Majesty's visit to Portsmouth to commemorate her Golden Jubilee which was a great success for the Company. The service organisers of the event conveniently forgot that we had TA in Portsmouth in their effort to give the Navy and the Regular Forces a higher profile. – It was thanks to Captain Harry Wragg (PSAO) that the Company was included in the Guard of Honour. Annual camp this year was held in the Ukraine. Apart from a very few old and bold I don't think the Army has ever been there? It was a great success with the Company being part of the Battalion Group. The Company provides 10% of its established strength to soldier on FTRS. They have served in Kosovo with 1 PWRR, Cyprus and in the UK. The Company looks forward to a good year.

Every year events change, we are unsure what will happen in 2003 with Iraq and other conflicts but the Regiment is ready for any eventuality.

AJM.



Young and Old soldiers on parade - Grand Reunion 2002

REGIMENTAL GRAND REUNION – 7th JULY 2002

There was a very good attendance from the Association at the Grand Reunion of the former regiments held by the 2nd Bn The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment at their Barracks in Aldershot. Thirty eight of the Diehards present marched on to the square for the Drum Head Service and they subsequently marched past the Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier Richard Holmes who took the salute. We were led by Brigadier Brian Marciandi who was standing in for our President who was unable to be present. Considering our advancing years a very creditable effort. The weather rather let us down. A dull day with the constant threat of rain until just before the end of the proceedings when the sun broke through the cloud cover. It was good to see many familiar faces from both the Regiment and those who went on to serve with the Queens Regiment.



Members on parade - Grand Reunion 2002

2/7th BATTALION ANNUAL LUNCHEON.

The 56th Annual Reunion and Luncheon was held at the Victory Services Club on Thursday the 3rd of October 2002. Sadly, for many reasons, the numbers have fallen. Of those present only 22 came from the Battalion. It was particularly pleasing to see several Officers from the Battalion with us. The proceedings were once again chaired by Lieut Colonel R E Robotham MC TD. We were honoured by the presence of Brigadier B A M Pielow with Major R E B Morris from the Association together with Colonel M J Ball the Regimental Secretary of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. Other guests included members from the Hounslow and Enfield Branches.

Colonel Robotham, on behalf of the members of the 2/7th Battalion, made a presentation to Major Morris, and his wife Betty, to mark his forthcoming retirement from the post of the Association Secretary. Following on Fred Phillips gave information on those unable to attend including two overseas members, Ex RSM Bob Hebdon in New Zealand and ex Sgt Joe Bird in the USA. Fred concluded by thanking all present for their support and he expressed the wish to see them all again next year.

FP.

THE FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE 2002.

With the recent sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen Mother Her Majesty The Queen opened this years Garden of Remembrance in Westminster Abbey Fields on Thursday the 8th of November. After a short service conducted by the Dean of Westminster Her Majesty, after planting her own cross, declared the Garden of Remembrance open and she then proceeded to visit each Regimental Plot in turn. As is customary the Secretary planted 46 crosses in our plot in memory of the 46 Battalions that fought in the First World War and also to remember those who made the supreme sacrifice in the Second World War, the Korean War and conflicts since. A large Regimental Cross was also planted in the Far East POW Plot in memory of those taken in Hong Kong on Christmas Day 1941. The Garden remains open until the 14th of November.

THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE.

In his opening remarks at the Service held in the Middlesex Guildhall our President, Brigadier Tony Pielow, said how pleased he was to see so many members and their families present. Well over 60 the largest attendance for some years. He was able to say that although Major Ron Morris will be retiring in June next year the service will continue and in future years will be organised by Mike Ward who is well known to you all. The Service was conducted by our Honorary Chaplain The Reverend Prebendary Patrick Tuft. The lesson read by Brigadier Tony Pielow was taken from the Philippians Chapter 4 vv 4 – 8. Just prior to the two minutes silence the Brigadier laid a Middlesex Badged Poppy Wreath on the Guildhall Memorial.

After the Service a welcome glass of sherry from the Association and small eats provided by Betty Morris were enjoyed by all before proceeding home.



Annual Service of Remembrance 2002

CENOTAPH MUSTER – WHITEHALL.

The London Branch of the PWRR Association paraded on Horse Guards on Remembrance Sunday and some 10 members of our Association joined with others from the forebear regiments for the Service and the march past the Cenotaph. The weather was most unkind and we waited in the pouring rain for an hour and a half before forming up for the Service. Fortunately as the march past commenced the rain ceased for a time.

When dismissed from Horse Guards the majority made their way to the Duke of York's Headquarters where a bar together with lunch awaited us. Colonel Peter Cook, Chairman of the London Branch, said that although the majority of the TA Units have moved away from the Duke of York's there will be a TA presence until the end of 2003 and he thought it likely we will be able lunch there after the parade next year.

REMEMBRANCE DAY – MILL HILL.

There were some 45 members on parade at Inglis Barracks for the Annual Service on Remembrance Sunday. The Enfield Branch were supported by members from the Hounslow Branch. Reg Best laid a Middlesex badged poppy wreath on behalf of the Regimental Association as did a member from the Hounslow Branch. The RSM of the Postal and Courier Unit very kindly invited all attending to lunch in the Sergeants' Mess after the service.

MIDDLESEX AND TENTH QUEEN'S TERRITORIAL TRUST.

On Sunday 10th November 2002 the seventh Middlesex Old Comrades and Members of the Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment were joined by B (Queen's Regiment) Company of the London Regiment for the Annual Service of Remembrance in the Parish Church of St Mary with St George in Hornsey. The Standard of the Middlesex Branch was received by the Rector for safe keeping on the altar during the service.

Following the Act of Remembrance, wreaths were laid before the Altar of the 7th Middlesex Memorial Chapel on behalf of the 77th Middlesex Officers' Club, the 7th Middlesex Old Comrades, B Company The London Regiment, and the Middlesex Branch of the Queen's Association of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

After the service detachments from B Company and the Old Comrades marched back to the TA Centre where lunch was served

JDG.

THE CANAL ZONERS.

Members of the Enfield Branch represented the Association at the Dedication Service for the National and Hampshire/Surrey Branch Standards of the Suez Canal Zone Veterans. The Service was held the Royal Military Academy on Sunday the 20th of October 2002. At the March Past after the Service the salute was taken by Ms Penelope Keith the High Sheriff of Surrey. The Enfield Branch Standard was paraded and carried by Gerry Patmore.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM YESTERYEAR



5 drivers from 2/8th Bn who drove the petrol trucks
from Normandy to Rendsburt

- Photo C Bilney -



9th Bn Drums Colchester 1937

- Photo K Anderson -



Band and Drums of the 1st Bn - Albuhera circa mid 1960s

- Photo P Howells -

ODD JOTTINGS

Ken Thiis in writing to thank me for the Newsletter said how pleased he was to see the photograph of those attending the 1/7th Battalion Luncheon held last April. He said many faces are missing but it is heart warming to see so many still able to attend. He also said sadly that one of his friends, Len Price, died from his wounds caused by shrapnel from the dreaded Nebelwerfer. He is also asking for news of Captain Hawkins who commanded 10 Platoon. If anyone knows of him can they please inform the Secretary

Cliff Bilney wrote in to say that he had paid a visit to the National Memorial Arboretum located near to Litchfield. He said he found it to be a very emotional experience and it is well worth visiting. The 1st Battalion's name is recorded on a plaque in the Korean's Veterans Plot. There is a website entry on the internet and the address of the Arboretum is: Croxall Rd, Burton on Trent DE13 7AR.

Brigadier John Ryall when sending in his subscription mentioned that he joined the 9th Battalion just before the war and whilst at annual camp mobilization was declared and they moved straight into their war role at Horringer, near Bury St Edmunds. They were converted into a searchlight unit as were many other TA Battalions at that time. Being in the right place at the right time he was quickly promoted to RSM before being commissioned. John asked that I published the details of his Diamond Wedding Anniversary which I am very pleased to do. "John B Ryall to Joyce Helena Broad at St Peter's Church, Sheerness, Kent on the 14th of November 1942; conducted by the Reverend Father Douglas Leonard (Vicar)." John now lives with his wife at 19 Springvale Ave, Littledown, Bournemouth, BH7 7EP and he would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers him.

Major Henry Wells writing in to order a few prints of Steady the Drums and Fifes mentioned how much he appreciated the obituary to Colonel Ian Brotherton. Whilst he was reading the newsletter Ron Arnold, who was a DR with the 8th Battalion, called him to express the same sentiments. Both expressed their regrets that they had not said something to Ian when he was still with us. Henry was within a mile of Nijmegen when Ian was wounded.

Roy Bishop tells me that he left Worthing in good time to attend the Grand Reunion but just before reaching Farnham he broke down, in the pouring rain, with clutch trouble. The AA had to take him back to his home using their relay system. He said he was sorry to miss the reunion but there is always another year?!

You might recall that in the last odd jottings I mentioned the Middlesex Militiaman with a number of 100001. Gerald Fickling has sent me several cuttings from newspapers of the time with articles dealing with the first call up of the militiamen in July 1939 for a period of six months ending in January 1940. They were destined to serve for much longer!

We congratulate Major John Hamill on the award of the MBE in this year's Birthday Honours List. Members will remember that John was the RSM to 6/7 Queen's before being commissioned.

Ted Billington has also written in telling me about his days as a militiaman. He recalls that he first signed on at the Battersea Labour Exchange together with Tom Beasley, Harry Becks, Charlie Chrome plus two others whose names he cannot remember. Ted's number was 100006 and Charlie's was 100007. After training at Mill Hill, instead of returning to civilian life as they expected, they were all posted to the 1/7th Battalion at Aldershot and allotted Middlesex Regimental Numbers. Ted's new number was 6209654.

Eric Brown, when replying to the Officers' Club invitation to attend a luncheon on the 13th of September, said he regretted not being able to attend particularly as that day is the 61st Anniversary of his Commissioning Passing Out Parade at 170 MG OCTU Lanark in 1941. He was then aged 20.

In the last newsletter there was an entry in odd jottings asking that anyone who knew Donald Wood who was a POW in Japan to contact Mrs I Marven. I seem to have got the name wrong. It should have been Donald Brown (6201299). If anyone has any information would they please contact the Secretary. I will pass any information on to Mrs Marven.

We have not had a resident at the Star and Garter Home for some time. Maurice Brown, who served with the 1st Battalion from August 1951 until August 1953, was admitted as a permanent resident on the 22nd of August 2002. If anyone is in the area of the Star and Garter Home I am sure he would appreciate a visit.



Our Representatives on the Queen's Golden Jubilee Parade 2002

In the June 2002 Newsletter we listed the names of the five members of the Enfield Branch who represented the Regiment on the Queen's Golden Jubilee Parade in the Mall that took place on Tuesday the 4th of June 2002. Each member parading has been presented with a certificate from Lord Stirling of Plaistow thanking them for their attendance. In addition to the certificate each member was given a copy of the Golden Jubilee Commemorative Programme.

A Mr D O'Keefe, who resides in Australia, is endeavouring to obtain information about his father Cpl/Sgt Cyril O'Keefe who served in the 1st Battalion just prior to World War Two. If anyone remembers him could they please contact the Secretary.

Brian Drake writing from Canada tells me there is an excellent site on the internet containing regimental information and is well worth looking at. It is:- <http://www.albuhera.co.uk/jdh.html> He also says that those attending the next reunion in May 03 should learn the words of The Jolly Diehards so that they join with him when he sings it at the Reunion!

Tom Bryant when writing to me to let know he was getting married again to a girl (as he put it then) who he met when serving in Hameln in August 1959 (she was the niece of Sister Kathleen Bailey who was in charge of the Church Army's Piper Club in Hameln) said how much he appreciated his start to army life guided by George Simmons who was the Albuhera Platoon Training Sergeant when he joined in November 1957. He said what a wonderful mixture of humour and commonsense he represented. He thought that, for George, it must have been quite horrific to give dedicated regular training to (mostly) people who did not want to know. He never lost a basic humanity or even a compassionate regard for us. I fondly remember his "Jesus Maria" which rang out when things went wrong. One great lesson remained with me he said "In the Infantry you quickly learned you needed mates". I reckoned that this was a good philosophy for the wider life too and I never forgot it. I was lucky to be under the wing of George Simmons. I never forgot him and I never ceased to be grateful to him. I got through Mill Hill because of him.

Received a second letter from Roy Bishop telling me, when he wrote, he had just been on a tour of the West Country which included Southsea, where he met Wendy Smith (the reader for Paul Francia who was blinded in Holland) Salisbury and Neveravon. He met his wife in May 1944 when on an Officers' and Senior NCOs mortar course at Neveravon. They subsequently married in May 1945. He is still in telephone contact with colleagues from D Company and he informed me that he can now be contacted via E Mail. His E Mail address is: roystonbishop@hotmail.com

A Miss Karen Hope is seeking news of her father Cpl or Sgt R Hope who with the 1st Battalion on Public Duties in Chelsea, Hong Kong and Korea and then subsequently with the TA as a PSI. Could anyone who knew him contact, in the first instance, the Secretary.

Eric Knowles (ex12 & 13 Plns of the 2/8th Battalion) who lives in Canada you may recall wrote in last year to say that he and his wife were going on a Hawaiian Cruise out of

Vancouver to celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They enjoyed it so much that they are going again this year to celebrate their 61st Anniversary. Life must be good in Canada!

Fred Phillips told me at the 2/7th Bn Reunion that he hears regularly from Taffy Evans, ex 1st Bn in Hong Kong and a FARELF POW. He is back living in the Philippines and enjoying life out there.

Peter Humphrey rang me to say that so far he has raised £418 in memory of his brother Charles. He is aiming for £450. The money will be donated to the MacMillan Nurses Charity. He also mentioned that he and Bob Clarke joined up together at the Depot on the 2nd of October 1952, (fifty years ago). When becoming a regular his Attesting Officer was Lieut Rex Cain, the Assistant Adjutant.

Les Plumb has sent in an interesting write up on a Museum based on an ex POW Camp "Eden Camp" near to Malton N Yorks. Initially it held Italian POWs from 1942 to 1944 thereafter German POWs until 1948. Anyone interested in seeing this document should apply to the Secretary. The Museum opens daily from 1000 hrs to 1700 hrs.

You will recall in the last Odd Jottings it was mentioned that Tony Legg had been in contact with the MOD, via his local MP, and was advised that it is intended to commission a Armed Forces Memorial to remember all those who have fallen in the various conflicts since World War Two. It has been decided that it will be located within the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Funds are to be raised by Public subscription and donations.

Peter Wookey writing in to order a couple of ties mentioned that he just missed, in July, the opportunity of firing the Vickers Gun at Bisley. He said if they do a repeat performance in July 2003 he will inform me in good time so that I can let members know. One or two might wish to join Peter and bang off a few rounds (as he put it).

Alf Burford mentioned the other day that he was pleased to be able to tell me that six members of the Sergeants' Mess at Mill Hill had accepted the Enfield Branches invitation to attend their Christmas Dance.

OBITUARIES

We advise with the deepest regret that the following have died:-

BURROWS – Barbara Muriel, widow of Colonel Ian Burrows died on the 11th of June 2002. The funeral took place on the 24th of June 2002 at St James's Church, Weybridge. There was a large congregation of local friends plus representatives from the Regiment. The reception after the service was held in Barbara's very pleasant garden alongside the River Wey.

CARTER – Frank Edward (known as Ted) died on the 19th of August 2002 aged 67. Ted served with the 1st Battalion from March 1953 both in Austria and Cyprus until May 1956.

His funeral took place at Enfield Crematorium on the 28th of August 2002. Mr A Jennings and Mr and Mrs T Slater represented the Regiment. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag. His widow, Mrs Carter, expressed her thanks for their attendance.

CLARK – John, Major TD died in September 2001 whilst in Swaziland, Southern Africa. Nothing further is known.

CLAYDON – Richard J 2366913 and 479603 died on the 6th of May 2002 just short of his 62nd birthday. He served from July 1958 with initially, 571 LAA Regiment (9th Bn), and then with the 5th Battalion from March 1961. He left the 5th Battalion The Queens Regiment in 1972 in the rank of Captain. The details of his funeral are not known to us.

COLEMAN – Peter John 22038750 died in January 2002, following complications after heart surgery, aged 71 years. He joined the Regiment in June 1948 and after recruit training joined the 1st Battalion in Chelsea Barracks just in time to go on guard at Buckingham Palace. He moved with the Battalion to Hong Kong in 1949. He left the Army in March 1950 having completed his National Service commitment. The details of his funeral are not known to us.

COLLINS – Owen Jeffrey 14671080 died on the 6th of October 2002 aged 77 whilst a patient in Torquay Hospital. Owen joined the Cheshire Regiment in December 1943 and was transferred to the 1st (2/8th) Battalion in August 1944 joining 13 Platoon D Company (Mortars). He was severely wounded during the fighting in Belgium just prior to the start of Operation Market Garden, when his carrier received a direct hit from German artillery. He was evacuated to the UK and after recovering from his wounds he served with the Royal Signals in Palestine leaving the Army in November 1947. His funeral was held on the 15th of October 2002 at Torquay Crematorium. Ray Ashton represented the Regiment and laid a Middlesex badged poppy wreath in his memory. Owen leaves his wife Joan and son, Geoff, at home in Bovey Tracey. The family kindly provided a buffet at the Star, Owens local, for the many relatives and friends attending the service.

CHANDLER – Len died in September 2002 after being ill for a long time and so was unable to travel to attend the annual reunion.. He served with D Company of the 2/7th Battalion from 1939 until 1946. He leaves his wife Doris, a daughter and a son in law.

EDWARDS – Frank Wilfred (known as Bill) 6207879 died in early July 2002 aged 83. Bill enlisted in October 1938 into B Company, 1/7th Battalion, leaving them in 1944 on posting to the 61st Divisional Signal Regiment and moving again from there in 1945 to join the Cheshire Yeomanry where he stayed until his demob in 1946. The funeral took place at the Enfield Crematorium on Friday the 12th of July 2002. The Regiment was represented by members from the Enfield Branch.

FAREBROTHER – Charles 6212969 died on the 28th of September 2002 aged 86. He enlisted at Mill Hill on the 16th of May 1940 and was posted to the 2/8th Battalion

serving with them until July 1945 moving then to the 2nd Battalion until his demob in June 1946. He left the army holding the rank of Sergeant. His funeral took place on the 10th of October 2002 with members of the Royal British Legion Enfield present. The Branch Standard was carried by Bert Jarvis.

HARDCASTLE – Pam, widow of Major H K Hardcastle, died on the 30th of August 2002. In her will she donated a Middlesex Hassock that she made in 1983, following the death of her husband, to the Dean of St Paul's with the request that it joins those already in the Middlesex Regimental Chapel.

HUTLEY A A (known at Nick) died on the 11th of September 2002. He was with the 1st Battalion in Korea. He was a strong supporter of the Korean Club and was a member of the London Branch of the BKVA. He was also a member of the Royal Fusiliers Old Comrades Association and they kindly provided the Bugler for the funeral service that was held at Sidcup Cemetery on the 24th of September 2002. There was a large attendance from both the members of the BKVA and the Royal Fusiliers Association. Those attending from the Middlesex Korean Club and the Association were: Messrs S Bull, B Dunnett, G Farmer, D Francis, C Howard, M Mulvaney, B Rawlinson, A Wilson together with Mr & Mrs B Gilbertson, Mr and Mrs C Hourihane and Mr & Mrs T Lofts. The family very kindly provided refreshments for all those attending.

JONES – Sidney William died on the 11th of August 2002 after suffering a long illness. Sidney joined the 7th Battalion on the 14th of February 1935 and he served with the 1/7th Battalion (Signal Platoon) throughout World War Two leaving the Army in the rank of Corporal in May 1946. His son, when writing to notify us of his passing, said that his father often expressed his regrets that due to poor health he was unable to attend, in the later years, the 1/7th Reunions to meet those he had served with during the war.

KNIGHT – Frederick Leslie, 14407923, died on the 26th of November 2001 aged 78. He had been ill for some time. He served in D Company of the 1/8th Battalion and with the SAS during World War Two. The details of his funeral are not known to us.

ORME – Cyril who was a Sergeant with the 1st Battalion died around twelve months ago. This information was obtained from the new occupants of his house. Nothing further is known.

PALMER – Francis. An ex Spitfire Pilot died after a long illness in September 2002. A great friend of the Middlesex Regiment particularly those that continued to visit Lille over the years for the Captain Trotabas memorial weekend. Francis was the coordinator, together with the British Consulate for the Lille Area, the Mayor of Lille, and the representatives of the Belgium and French underground movements for these visits. Francis lived for many years in Lille and will be sadly missed by his wife Jean, his many friends and the members of the Regiment who knew him so well. He was a great supporter of the Royal British Legion and helped to organise the local poppy collection each year.

PARTRIDGE - Ken, 2221320, died on the 30th of August 2002 aged 73. He initially put his age up to join the Seaforth Highlanders but then transferred to the Middlesex Regiment in time to join the Battalion on Public Duties just before moving to Hong Kong. He served as a Corporal in B Company with the 1st Battalion in Korea and then went on to serve in Cyprus, Austria, Germany and Gibraltar leaving the Battalion on discharge in Northern Ireland in the rank of WOII. His funeral was held at Garston Crematorium, Watford on Tuesday the 10th of September 2002. Messrs Bob Cubitt, George Gramlick, Chris Howard, Mike Mulvaney and Bill Rawlinson joined the very large congregation to represent the Regiment. His coffin was draped with the Regimental Flag.

PHILLIPS - Alfred William, 6211123, passed away in August 2002 aged 82 after suffering a long illness. He served with the 2/7th Battalion throughout World War Two ending his service as a ship's CSM on the Empire Battleaxe ferrying troops and refugees to many destinations. He attended the 2/7th Reunion in 2001 to see his pals and shortly after, joined the Regimental Association. He leaves his wife Rita and a son and daughter.

RAY - David Charles 6215911 died on the 8th of September 2002 aged 79. He joined the Regiment in May 1941 and served with us until May 1942 before moving to another regiment serving in Africa and Italy till the war end. His funeral took place at Rayleigh Church followed by burial at the Lamb Cemetery on the 17th of September 2002. The Regiment was represented by Danny Vincent.

RUDD - John (known as Charlie) died in mid October (the actual date is not known) aged 71. He was a member of the Korean Club and whilst serving in Hong Kong was Colonel Man's Silver Bugler. In Korea he was a member of the Commanding Officer's Body Guard. His funeral was held at the City of London Crematorium on Wednesday the 30th of October 2002. Bill Duncan represented the Regiment.

SMITH - Cyril John died on the 28th of September 2002 aged 78. Cyril was a long standing member of the Korean Club but ill health prevented him from attending the various regimental functions. The details of his funeral are not known to us.

SMITH - Sidney 6210658 died after a short illness on the 24th of June 2002 aged 82. He served with the 1/7th Battalion throughout World War Two. His funeral was held at Reed Church on the 5th of July 2002.

WALLER - Mary on the 29th of July 2002 peacefully at home. Widow of Col Rex Waller MBE MC. The funeral took place on the 15th of August 2002 at All Saints Compton Greenfield/Easter Compton. Major Chris Mieville together with his sons Amedee and Christopher attended.

WEIL - John died aged 65, after a two year fight against cancer, on the 8th of March 1999 at St Richards Hospital, Chichester. John was a National Service Subaltern with the Regiment. This information was only recently received from his widow.

WINTER - A L died on the 5th of August 2002 after a long fight against cancer. He was 67. He was a National Serviceman and he served in Austria with C Company from 1952 - 1955. His funeral took place at Chelmsford Crematorium on the 16th of August 2002.

Lieut Colonel D E Simpson TD.

Lieut Colonel D E Simpson TD who died on the 5th of August 2002 was the last Commanding Officer of the 7th Middlesex before the amalgamation of the 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions to form the 5th Middlesex in 1961.

David Ewart Simpson was born in Liverpool on the 21st of January 1917, the son of Colonel G C E Simpson OBE TD FRCS - ex RAMC TA.

After school at Mill Hill he returned to Liverpool when he enlisted in the Territorial Army and was commissioned into the 6th (Rifle) Bn of the Kings Regiment TA on the 23rd of February 1935.

In 1936, 6 Kings were converted into a SL Bn of the Royal Engineers which later became a Regiment of the Royal Artillery. Much of his service during the war involved liaison with the Royal Air Force.

After the war he rejoined the TA in 337 HAA Regt RA (TA). In 1950 he returned to 6 Kings which he commanded from August 1954 to May 1955 when he transferred to 5 Kings which he commanded from August 1956 to May 1957. In February 1958 he joined 7 Middlesex as the Bn 2IC and commanded from August 1959 until May 1961.

In his youth, David was a keen oarsman and a member of Mersey Rowing Club which he captained in 1953. In 1950 he rowed the Channel in a racing 4 (Sandgate - Boulogne) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Club. His other sporting activity was shooting, - rifle and small bore and in 1950 he captained the TA United Services VIII (Rifle Team) at Bisley. When he joined 7 Middlesex he took the Shooting Team in hand and achieved a number of successes in competitions.

In retirement, David was involved in local politics both in Beaconsfield and later in New Milton where he was Chairman of the local Conservative Branch 1991 - 1994.

David was a staunch supporter of the Old Comrades in Hornsey and in 1991 was the moving spirit for the rededication of the 7 Middlesex War Memorial Chapel after its removal to the new Church of St Mary with St George in Cranley Gardens.

David's funeral was held at the Bournemouth Crematorium during the afternoon of Tuesday the 20th of August 2002. Present from the Regiment were Lieut Colonel J D Gunnell TD, Major D Harwood MBE TD, Major C L Lawrence MC, Captain M J S Doran TD LL B, Captain J S Richards and Mr & Mrs V Hill

JDG.

Captain J Spencer Richards.

Spencer died suddenly on the 30th of September 2002.

After marching in the Queen's Coronation Parade with the Eaton Hall OCS contingent he was granted a short service commission with the South Wales Borderers.

He saw active service in Malaya during the Emergency and was later posted to Germany.

In 1958 he joined Rothschilds in London and worked initially in the Gold Refinery, which gave him a lifelong interest in precious metals. At the same time he joined the 7th Middlesex at Hornsey, and remained with the 5th Middlesex until his transfer to the TARO.

After retirement ten years ago Spencer became the Editor of the Rothschilds Pensioners' Newsletter, and studied at Sussex University obtaining an MA in Local History. He also spent time as a Special Constable, and he was an active member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

From 1974 until his death he was the Honorary Secretary of the 7th Middlesex Officers' Club. Several years ago he also arranged for an informal group of his TA friends to meet from time to time at lunch time, usually at a City wine bar. This group eventually adopted the splendid name "The Duke of Cambridge's Wine Club".

The funeral was held Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton on Wednesday the 23rd of October. A large group of his friends from Rothschilds were there together with Chris Lawrence, Michael Deakin, Jerry Gunnell, Peter Lane and Simon and Gillie Enthoven.

Spencer had a great talent for organising enjoyable and easy ways for people to keep in touch with one another, and he will be very widely missed.

S le M E.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the publication of the last newsletter:-

22671556 Pte K E Barnes	HQ Coy (MT) 1st Bn 1952 – 1955
Cdt M J D Jones	MX OTC and MX Cadets 1942 - 1944
22187775 Pte L R Main	C Coy 1st Bn 1950 – 1951
24059471 Sgt W F Wilkes	1st Bn - 4 & 1 QUEENS 1965 - 1978
22805312 Pte J T Williams	A Coy 1st Bn 1952 – 1955
24059934 Sgt K R Williams	1st Bn – 4 & 1 QUEENS 1965 – 1978
23668654 LCpl A H Wilson	1st Bn & 4 QUEENS 1958 – 1970
22248841 Sgt R Wilson	1st Bn B & HQ Coys 1948 - 1953

KING EDWARD VII's HOSPITAL – SISTER AGNES

The hospital has traditionally provided charitable grants and subsidies to help officers and their families, of limited means, to meet the costs associated with their stay in the hospital. It has now been agreed that the Sister Agnes Benevolent Fund should be opened up to all ranks, specifically, ex servicemen and servicewomen of the three Services with a minimum of five years service, together with their spouses, ex-spouses, widows and widowers. Anyone requiring further information should apply to the Association Secretary.

VISIT TO RENDSBURG

It is thought that those members of the 1st Bn who served in Rendsburg from 1945 onwards might well be interested in paying a visit to their old haunts some time in the year 2003. If there is sufficient interest inquiries will be made with regard to the cost of such a trip (coach hire, travel and hotel costs etc). Heinz Johannsen has very kindly offered to act as our host and guide should such a trip be arranged. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary.

THE ROYAL HOSPITAL – CHELSEA

The Royal Hospital Chelsea with the financial support of the Army Benevolent Fund wish to offer a number of spaces in its Infirmary to former members of the Army who are in need of a short period of respite care (nursing convalescence or other care).

The scheme is open to anyone, male or female, who have served in any branch of the British Army and in any rank (including Officers). Up to two bed spaces in the Royal Hospital Infirmary will be allocated for respite care throughout the year. Patients will normally be admitted for fourteen days, with a possible maximum stay of twenty eight days (but only in special circumstances). The Royal Hospital will determine the length of stay offered to each applicant.

Anyone who requires further information and who wishes to be considered for respite care at the Royal Hospital, should in the first instance, apply to the Regimental Secretary.

REUNION - QUEEN'S REGIMENT (MIDDLESEX BRANCH)

The Middlesex Branch of the Queen's Regimental Association is planning to hold a reunion for TA or PSI Officers and Senior NCOs who served at Edgware, Hornsey, Enfield, Hounslow and Ealing. The reunion will be held at Edgware during the evening of Friday the 4th of July 2003. If you served with 7 MX, 5 MX, 5 QUEENS, 6/7 QUEENS or 8 QUEENS FUSILIERS in one of the places mentioned you would be made very welcome.

Further information can be obtained from Brian Williams, 105 Elmsleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 3DS (01702 716738). If there is a demand Brian can arrange overnight accommodation at a local Premier Lodge provided he is given sufficient notice.

EX SERVICE HOMES REFERRAL AGENCY (ESHRA).

ESHRA is a new agency that has been funded for a trial period by several ex service charities. Due to its success it is continue as part of the Royal British Legion. The service is provided for older people who served in the armed forces and their dependants.

ESHRA has details of all care homes providing residential and nursing care and independent living accommodation managed by ex service organisations. Also available are details of homes run by private and voluntary organisations as well as sheltered accommodation, if this is more appropriate for the needs of the individual.

The advisers can provide guidance regarding social services assessments/funding; welfare benefits, service charities and other organisations that provide help for the elderly.

ESHRA has a website; www.eshra.com, email eshra@britishlegion.org.uk and a telephone helpline **020 7839 4466** which is staffed from 0930am to 1230pm and 2pm to 4pm on working days.

DIEHARDS IN THE GREAT WAR.

It is thought that members would wish to know that our Regimental History "Diehards in the Great War" has been reprinted and republished by The Naval and Military Press Ltd. The reprint consists of volume one, 342 pages with 11 maps, and volume two 379 pages with 7 maps. The order code is 7473 and the ISBN is 1843423731 – cost £38.00 plus £3.75 postage and packing. They can be ordered from Unit 10, Ridgewood Industrial Park, Uckfield, E Sussex TN22 5QE and delivery can take up to 28 days. The telephone inquiry number is 01825 749494.

A MUSKET FOR THE KING.

A book about the trials and tribulations of a National Service Soldier, his initial training and then serving in Malaya with the 1st Battalion The Green Howards between 1949 and 1951. As a person who served in Malaya at about the same time I can recommend this book. It certainly brought back memories. It can be obtained from the Author, Les Ives, 7 Elm Close, Bishopsmead, Tavistock, Devon PL19 9AP It costs £6.00 plus £1.30 postage and packing.

STOP PRESS.

At the time of going to press we heard that Captain Gus Kenrick died on Sunday the 17th of November 2002. The funeral took place at Fethard Abbey on Wednesday the 20th of November. An obituary will be published in the next Newsletter.

Sad to say we have also been told that Lieut Colonel John Hewson died on Friday 29th of November 2002 in Southampton Hospital. We will publish an obituary in the next newsletter.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following are held in stock and are available on request to the Secretary, Major R E B Morris MBE, at 38 Traps Lane, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4SA. Cheques or Postal orders should be **made payable to the Middlesex Regimental Association**, and not directly to Major Morris.

Blazer Badges	£7.50
Car Badges	£10.00
Ice Buckets, miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£28.00
Ties Regtl (Old Pattern maroon & old gold)	£6.00
Ties Regtl (New Pattern black with maroon & gold thin stripes)	£6.00
Ties Officers' Club (Silk)	£13.50
Good quality replica Middlesex Regt Cap Badges	£5.50
Middlesex Regt Key Rings	£2.50
Old Comrades lapel badges	£2.75
Prints – Steady the Drums & Fifes unframed – Large	£8.00
Small	£6.00
Middlesex Regt Plaques	£18.50
Christmas Cards:-	
Steady the Drums & Fifes	.35p each
The Guardroom Scene	
Col Graham Egerton, 77th Foot Portsmouth 1854	
Middlesex Blazer Buttons (Flat staybright with engraved Middlesex Badge)	
Sets of 6 Large & 6 Small	£28.00
Individual buttons large or small	£2.50
Regtl cuff links	£7.50
Regtl cuff links with tie grip	£10.50
Tie grip only	£5.00
Regtl Ladies Brooch	£4.75
Regtl tie tack and chain	£4.50

Ron Morris - Regimental Secretary

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