



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 94

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*D Company Guard
1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment
Vienna 1955*

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT BRIGADIER TONY PIELOW

It has been another good year for the Association against a backdrop of continuing violence and fighting around the globe in which our successor battalions have been actively involved. The 1 PWRR tour in Iraq was made famous by the number of gallantry awards – no less than 29 including Pte Johnson Beharry 's VC and an extraordinary number of other awards. All this makes us especially proud of our successors who continue to serve overseas with such distinction, bravery and style. Details of their deployments are mentioned elsewhere in the Newsletter.

RHQ PWRR is a tremendous and constant support and looks after our interests and benevolence for which we owe a lot to Dennis Bradley and his colleagues at Canterbury.

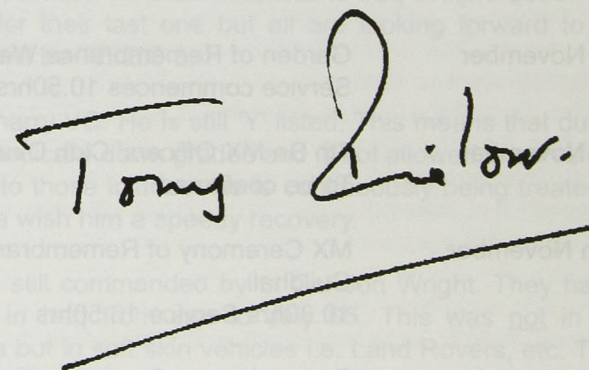
Some of our Diehard history has been recalled, as reported in detail elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter, including 1MX and its fighting in the 1941 Hong Kong battle and which was remembered at the recent launch in the Imperial War Museum of a new book about the battle including the Middlesex part in it.

Also well recognised at the 50th Anniversary in Vienna in September of the signing of the Austrian Peace Treaty 50 years ago was our role as the last British Battalion to serve in Austria (BTA) and it was highlighted in the ceremony's official programme. I was particularly proud to have been the Diehard representative on this occasion –as I was at the book launch at the IWM.

The Association continues to keep our Regiment spirit alive thanks to the work done by everybody on the Executive Committee and the support we get from our Old Comrades. There is heartening news from St Paul's about the future of our Regimental Chapel there where year by year our attendance gets better and better again largely thanks to the loyal attendance of our Old Comrades and Branch members who likewise represent the Regiment at parades and functions such as at the Middlesex Guildhall as well as at the Annual Reunion and branch events. Our Old Comrades' high personal turnout is always most marked and noticed by the public. To achieve all this Mike Ward and the branches have been as busy as ever. Well done all of you – your enthusiasm is what ensures the Association remains effective and able to keep us all in touch with one another.

So with all this thriving background it is a pleasure to wish you all, your families and loved ones a really happy Christmas and a 2006 as peaceful and prosperous as possible.

With warm regards to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Tony Pielow'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

FORCAST OF EVENTS 2006

4th March	Queen's Regimental Reunion Victory Services Club
29th April	1/7th MX OCA Annual Reunion TA Centre Hornsey
12th May	MX Officer's Club Annual Dinner Army & Navy Club
13th May	MX Albuhera Service Regimental Chapel St Paul's Cathedral 11.00Hrs
13th May	MX All Ranks Reunion Union Jack Club Annual General Meeting
17th May	9th Bn MX Officers' Club Annual Luncheon To be confirmed.
3rd September	MX Korean Club Annual Reunion Union Jack Club
9th November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Service commences 10.50hrs
7th November	7th Bn MX Officers' Club Dinner To be confirmed
11th November	MX Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 10.30hrs Service 10.50hrs
12th November	Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks Mill Hill Assemble 10.00hrs
12th November	7th Bn MX Remembrance Service Assemble 10.00hrs at Parish Church St Mary and St George Hornsey

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

The Regiment continues to be in fine form and has been supporting operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. After the plethora of bravery awards most people military and civilian have now heard of The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment. The Regiment has now made its mark! We are not prepared to be complacent and everyone strives to be that little bit better.

The **1st Battalion** is now well established in Paderborn in Germany. They are based in Barker Barracks which is an enormous old German Army Barracks. It was the main SS Barracks pre war and is rumoured to have a network of tunnels and vast chambers under the current roads and buildings. The Battalion share it with The Royal Engineers and REME. They are part of 3 division and 20 Armd Bde. They have been on exercise to the Old East Germany to a training area near Berlin. They have also gone as a Battle Group (with Queen's Own Hussars) to exercise in Poland. Lt Col Mat Maer has now departed on promotion, and handed over to Lt Col Roger Thompson (ex RRF). At the end of November 05 the Battalion moves into TELEC training in preparation for their next tour to Iraq in April 2006. This tour is quite soon after their last one but all are looking forward to the challenge. Their tour will be TELEC 8.

An update on Pte Beharry VC. He is still 'Y' listed. This means that due to his injuries he is still medically down graded and is not allowed to serve with the 1st Battalion due to those injuries. He is continuously being treated at Headley Court and we wish him a speedy recovery.

The **2nd Battalion** is still commanded by Lt Col Jon Wright. They had a very successful tour in Iraq from Jan to July 05. This was not in the Armoured Warrior role but in soft skin vehicles i.e. Land Rovers, etc. They had a platoon deployed in Baghdad which added that element of alertness as they were serving alongside the U.S.A Forces. They had a few wounded or casualties of Road Accidents who are still under medical care. After well deserved leave they are home preparing for the Arms Plot move from Ternhill to Ballykelly (NI) on 12 December 05. They will complete two years there and then (at the moment) are scheduled to go on a two year posting to Cyprus. Whilst in Northern Ireland they will be part of the historic run down of the force levels to what it was pre 1969 – i.e. perhaps three residential Battalions. However we wait and see.

The **3rd Battalion** is now commanded by Lt Col Adam Edmunds with Lt Col Tony Guthrie moving on promotion within the Territorial Army (TA) to full Colonel. The TA is once again going through re-organisation. The 3rd Battalion will inherit C Company which is based in Portsmouth and at the moment part of The Royal Rifle Volunteers. This change should be effective in 2006. The Battalion will also form a fourth Rifle Company in Chatham & Rochester. This is an expansion for the 3rd Battalion. This year they completed a very good Annual Camp at Penally and were visited by their Honorary Colonel, Mr Alan Willett CMG who is the Lord Lieutenant of Kent. Over the period of the past two years 40% of the Battalion has deployed on Operational tours with some soldiers completing two tours. The Battalion has 31 soldiers deployed in Iraq with The Royal Rifle Volunteers and they return on 26 November 05. The TV scenes of the burning Warriors being attacked by mobs also involved members of this platoon.

B Company and C Company

The two independent companies continue to provide manpower for operational tours.

B Company had a successful Annual Camp on Salisbury Plain and C Company went to Oakhampton. The TA restructuring leaves B Company still as part of the London Regiment and C Company will go to the 3rd Battalion. The Companies close involvement with operational tours and the professionalism required to meet the demands of modern day soldiering demonstrates how good the TA is. The modern trend is more to become reinforcement units as opposed to formed fighting units. This may be the way ahead.

In summary the Regiment is in fine fighting form.

A DAY TO REMEMBER - VIENNA 17TH SEPTEMBER 1955

The signing of the Austrian State Treaty in September 1955 was one of the most positive cold war achievements and it enabled the only withdrawal of Soviet troops from occupied Europe to happen calmly and in good order. It also heralded the withdrawal of British troops serving in Austria (BTA) and 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) was the last British battalion to leave Austria.

The 50th anniversary of this event received significant attention and coverage by the Austrian government and media and the personal and continuous involvement of the British Ambassador in Vienna. The anniversary was marked by a ceremony on the same splendid parade ground in front of Vienna's Schonbrunn Palace on 17th September 2005, 50 Years to the day when a Guard of Honour from 1st Battalion The Middlesex Regiment' commanded by Major Dawson of "D" Company, then detached from the main battalion base at Zeltweg in Stryia, handed over to a guard from the Austrian Gendarmerie commanded by Reitmeister Geldern. The Union Jack was lowered and the Austrian national flag raised in its place.

On 17th September 2005 in the presence of HRH Field Marshal The Duke of Kent and British and Austrian dignitaries the Union Jack was again lowered and the Austrian flag raised before an Austrian band and the Band of the Royal Engineers performed a programme of military music then marching off the square after which the guests were entertained in Schonbrunn Palace.

Brigadier Richard Holmes, PWRR Colonel was unable to attend, the Middlesex Regiment was represented by Brigadier Tony Pielow, currently President of the Regimental Association and who was serving in 1MX in Zeltweg and Vienna in 1955. Also present was John Birch, a retired diplomat who had also served with 1MX in Austria, and was in Vienna as the personal guest of the British Ambassador. The Middlesex regimental badge was prominent in the official programme together with a photograph of the 1MX guard in 1955 and an extract from the regimental magazine. Since the anniversary a personal letter has been received from the Ambassador saying how pleased he was that The Middlesex Regiment representation ensured that the British contribution to the 1955 withdrawal was recognised "in full measure".

Fifty years ago in his final speech to the Battalion the Landesampts President said that no nation liked being occupied but that the courtesy and sympathy of the Middlesex Regiment had made it as pleasant as possible. Shortly beforehand the British Empire medal had been awarded to Herr Franz Ornezeder of Mattighofen in recognition of his services in saving the lives of a number of British soldiers, including some from the Middlesex Regiment, who had been trapped in a fire in a storage barn in the village when on exercise.

The anniversary parade was watched by a large number of Austrians, defying the heavy rain, as well as some RMP veterans (using the anniversary as their annual reunion) who had patrolled the city 50 years ago in jeeps together with their American, French and Russian counterparts.

EXTRACT FROM THE DIE HARDS, THE MAGAZINE OF THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT

The Final Handover Ceremony, 17 September 1955.

As was customary in Vienna, a short programme of music played by the Gendarmerie Band, preceeded the ceremony. Promptly, at 11 o'clock D Company marched on to the parade ground, followed by a short interval later by the Gendarmerie. The 2 companies drew up facing each other, and following the paying of compliments, the then Company Commanders, Major GC Dawson of The Middlesex Regiment and Rittmeister Geldern shook hands and agreed the hand-over. The Union Jack which had flown over the barracks for the last 10 years, was then lowered for the last time. The Austrian Quarter Guard took over the Gate and sentry duties from D Company, who then rejoined the remainder of the Company on the parade square. The Austrian Flag was then hoisted over the barracks and the Ceremony concluded with the 2 Companies marching past the British garrison Commander Brigadier EA Howard and the General Hofrat Emil Liebitzky, Head of the Department for Defence in the Federal Chancellery.

Dunkirk Re-visited by Tom Roberts.

I have just returned from an 8 day visit to Dunkirk – it was obvious on this trip that the numbers of Dunkirk Veterans are diminishing. I am now 85 years old and beginning to feel my age. Although I got away from La Panne after a long wait on the beach and sand dunes, I was eventually picked up by the minesweeper Skipjack. No sooner had I climbed aboard than the Skipjack received a bomb from a Stuka and I was one of the lucky ones to be thrown back into the water. After clinging to debris for sometime, I was eventually picked up again from the sea by one of the little ships of Dunkirk fame so this visit was a memorable one for me.

During the eight-day stay Doreen and I visited several cemeteries in the area. There are so many of them dotted around that you are bound to find one that you have not visited before, from either The Great War or World War Two.

On our travels I met a man from Wakefield who had been captured at St Valery whilst serving with the 51st Highland Division. There were few survivors from this Division as they tried to hold back the advancing enemy while the evacuation took place. Without them we would not have had an army. We have lots to thank them for. Hezekiah Brown's story brought tears to our eyes as we listened to his tale of captivity and the cruelty that he had to endure whilst in a prisoner of war camp in Poland. He explained that one of the reasons for the ill treatment was because the Germans thought that with a name like Hezekiah he was a Jew. He is a proud man but mentally scarred by his captivity. I welcomed the chance to shake his hand and thank him for my life.

Before we left on Saturday 28th May we saw the little ships in the shelter of Dunkirk Harbour, they had travelled in convoy from Ramsgate to attend a special service. Flags were fluttering in the breeze as we threaded our way along the quayside and admiring the condition of the little ships that had been so lovingly restored so that they may continue to make this journey for many years to come.

There were many stories told between the ships' crews and the Veterans – some serious some laughable.

In fact it was the laughable ones that kept us cheerful at the time. Well done to the crews at a time they were needed most and saved so many lives.

The Rescue of John (Ginger) Twomy, by Vic Debenham.

In March 1945 (22nd/24th), having left Cleves for the general assembly prior to the crossing of the Rhine, No. 15 platoon of "D company" 8th Bn. Middlesex Regiment of the 43rd Wessex Division arrived at a small settlement near Goch and were quickly distributed among a series of farmhouses.

Soon after arrival, during the mid day break, I was sitting outside my billet. The sun was shining, there was very little wind and it was comparatively quiet, when an explosion caused me to look down the hill ahead of me. In the distance I could see Frank Ecott apparently attending to someone lying on the ground. There seemed to be some disturbance and movement around where he was standing. I ran down the hill towards them and on arrival found Ginger Twomy lying on what appeared to be a gate, with his shoe and foot (I believe it was his right foot) badly shattered. He was

conscious and was able to tell me his version of events.

According to Ginger, he and Harris had been rummaging through the houses surrounding the field for supplies that could have been of use i.e. food etc. They had then decided to cross to the opposite side of the field to explore further properties, when Ginger trod on what appeared to be a Shu mine. Following the explosion Harris ran off in shock (how he missed a similar fate is unknown) while Frank, who had also heard the explosion arrived on the scene. He quickly called for assistance from the Field Ambulance and then decided Ginger had to be retrieved from his position on the minefield as soon as possible. So, he apparently, grabbed a convenient broken gate and dragged it over to where Ginger was lying and used it to pull him back off the minefield to where I found them. (This story was corroborated by Ginger himself). How Frank also managed to avoid injury is also a mystery.

We then all waited together until help arrived. It was obvious there was little we could do for Ginger at that point. Subsequently the First Aid vehicle arrived and transferred Ginger to the nearest Field Ambulance Position.

Later that day American Engineers were sent to clear the minefield and in doing so, several of the Americans were severely injured. An upturned helmet and boot were a constant reminder of the dangers that existed in that field.

Ginger some time later needed to have his whole leg amputated, however he did survive the ordeal and went on to live a reasonable life until he eventually died during the 1990's.

VISIT TO KOREA APRIL 16TH – 26TH 2005
(Extract from an article submitted by E. F. Green)

Saturday 16th - Day 1. Met up with Bill Rawlins at terminal 3 Heathrow Airport for the KA 907 flight to Incheon Airport which was due to leave at 2130. We got booked in like the rest of the 61 Veterans and 17 wives and 3 ladies who were sisters of those that had been K.I.A.

Sunday 17th - Day 2. We touched down into Incheon Airport right on time. We then went into the outside area where we were met by the Embassy staff and our Guides who were to be with us for the next eight days.



The Borderline, Camp Boniface, Panmunjon

Monday 18th - Day 3. Today we had an early call at 5.30, breakfast was 0600-0730, then it was on the coach and at 0800 we were on our way to Camp Boniface which is the base at Panmunjom. Camp Boniface was named after an American Officer who was attacked by a group of North Korean workers with axes and in the fight he was beheaded.. The confrontation came about when the Americans were cutting down a Poplar Tree which was obscuring their view. It was here at the DMZ that we were debriefed by an American Officer who explained all about what was being done and what their duties were there. We then moved on to the O.P. Dora where we were entertained by the Swedish and Swiss Armies who are the last remaining peace officers left, and after talking to us they entertained us for lunch. Just before 1500 we left and while in the same area we stopped at the Bridge Of No Return for our ex P.O.W. Bob Warrior of the Gloucester's to walk out on to the middle of the bridge to have his photo taken. Only Frank Farrow and Bob's mate were allowed off the coach as the North Koreans still man an outpost at the far end of the bridge.

Tuesday 19th - Day 4. We didn't have an early call today as we weren't leaving the hotel until 0840 for the Korean National Cemetery. The Aussies were the first to form up and march up the couple of hundred yards to the monument to pay homage and lay their wreath, then the Kiwis who looked very smart and they were followed by the Canadians. After laying wreaths

Gen. Retired Lee Sang Hoon spoke to all of us telling us what this National Cemetery was all about. Tonight there was a banquet on the 2nd floor of the hotel and our Hosts were the Korean Veterans. Our guides in traditional dress were on the door to welcome us and present us to our hosts. High Ranking Officers from all of their services plus our Embassy people, including Mr. Morris our Ambassador, who were also present.

We had drinks and nibbles and then the speaker for the evening Gen. Retired Lee Sang Hoon who is Chairman of the KVA asked us take our seats. All tables had a mixed lot of Korean Officers, some had their wives with them but on our table the two Officers were Park, Rae Hyuk and the Defence Military Attache in Italy, Colonels in the Korean Army Kim, Jong-Woan.

The first to go up this year was a New Zealander by the name of David S. Graig (he lost his sight trying to defuse an explosive device) he was given a bravery award plus his return medal – everyone stood to applaud him. After the medal ceremony we were entertained by the Korean Army and then by our Piper from the Scots Guards who is based in Chelsea Barracks in London.

Wednesday 20th - Day 5. Today was a very early start as we were leaving by coach for Seoul Railway Station which is a 30 minute journey to catch the 0800 KTX to Pusan. It wasn't until we reached our destination that we learnt that one of the Kiwis had had a heart attack, lucky for him that there was a doctor on board. Later we were told that this man had no insurance with him and that he had already had 8 attacks. He was taken to hospital and we didn't see him again.

Our coaches then took us to camp Hialeah, an American camp where we were given a very nice lunch and then went on to the U.N. Cemetery, formed up into different countries and marched to the service area where the wreaths were laid. When this was done we were free to look around and find the graves of all those that we were looking for. Bill Rawlins placed small Wooden Crosses on all of the Middlesex lads' graves. I put three bunches of poppies onto Reg Streeter, Teddy West and Geoff Bucknalls graves.

We were provided with refreshments and then it was time to drive to Pusan Railway Station for the train back to Seoul.

Thursday 21st - Day 6. We went by coach up to Sangseung O.P. Post and after a briefing we looked out over the DMZ area and took in Hill 355 at Sami Chon.

Friday 22nd - Day 7. Today we left the hotel at 0950 and headed for Kapyong. The day before I had been asked to lay a wreath on behalf of the 27th Brigade, which was a great honour. On arrival at the Commonwealth Monument area I was shown into the front row area and was told that I would be called out to lay the wreath. I was very disappointed that I wasn't called and when I asked Frank Farrows the reason why I was told that it was the powers above that had changed it. After we had attended the other memorial sites for the Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders we had a packed lunch and then it was time to get on the coaches and head back to the hotel.

In the evening we were entertained at the British Embassy and Ambassador and Mrs. Morris were at their door to welcome us into the Embassy Residence. They made everyone feel at home and we went out into the gardens and had a couple of drinks before Mr. Morris made his speech. As it was getting a little chilly he asked that we go inside and have some hot food. Before we knew it the evening had gone and it was time for our coaches to leave. We all filed out of the Embassy thanking Ambassador & Mrs. Morris for a lovely evening.

Saturday 23rd - Day 8. This was a free day, so we all pleased ourselves how we spent the day.

Sunday 24th - Day 9. Today was another early call and it was also my 74th Birthday. Our coaches left at 0800 for the two and a half- hour drive to Solmari. Just before we formed up Frank Farrows said to me "Ted the plans are all changed and that one of the Gloucester lads would be laying the wreath" I wasn't upset about it as I had said a couple of days before that it should have been one of the two chaps that were there. We formed up and were inspected by Ambassador Morris, we then marched over the bridge and came to the area where we were to sit under cover. Brigadier Harry O'Hare then gave a history of the battle. When he had finished we had a very touching ceremony which was the scattering of Pte. Scott Bainbridge's ashes who had died earlier this year and had requested that they be scattered there. It was very touching and the Koreans couldn't understand why an Englishman would want to have his ashes scattered in a foreign country. The story hit all the local papers.

April 25th - Day 10. We put our luggage outside our hotel room and then went down for breakfast. Then it was on the coach and our final drive to the Airport for our 1300 flight home to Heathrow.

LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET COMMEMORATION OF WORLD WAR TWO VICTORY

A combined contingent of Enfield and Hounslow Branches paraded at Mill Hill Barracks on 18th September to celebrate the Victory 60 years ago which ended World War Two. Thirty seven Diehards, commanded by Alfie Burford, marched at the head of the column behind the Enfield Branch Standard. The parade was led by a band of the Sea Cadets, entering through the main gate of the Regiment's old depot. The Association



Members of the marching contingent at the London Borough of Barnet Parade, Mill Hill 2005

contingent displayed all the pride and swagger which has always been synonymous with parties from the Regiment when entering their barracks. The parade was halted on the square and following a short service the Mayor of Barnet addressed the parade as follows: "Today here in Mill Hill Sixty Years after the end of WW2 we remember.....Memories shared by the

Veterans who we honour here today. Memories of the heroism of millions of men and women who lived through some of the toughest times whether in battle or on the home front. Many at home were at the receiving end of the bombs of 1941 and 1942 – of the V1's of 1944 and at the very end of the war V2's. Hard days but not so hard to remember...for many too easy...remembering those who were lost. Over a quarter of a million of our Servicemen did not return in 1945.

It is well for us all to recall- not only what our gallant Veterans endured on our behalf – but also the dogged endurance of the civilians who all contributed to the overthrow of tyranny in 1945. They too contributed to what we recall with gratitude we pay tribute to them all."

Those members of the Regimental Association who were unable to march due to age and infirmity were seated during the parade and joined the rest of the contingent, who were entertained to beverages and refreshments where much banter was exchanged and stories recalled.

The Mayor, and civil dignitaries were particularly impressed at the turnout and drill of the Association's contingent.

THE ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE MIDDLESEX GUILDHALL SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER.

Our annual service was down on numbers this year which, with the passage of time, is inevitable, but nevertheless it was enjoyed by those members who assembled around the Regimental Memorial for the service which was conducted again by our Honorary Chaplain Patrick Tuft MA. The lesson Matthew 5 Verses 1-12 was read by Colonel R.M. Cain OBE in the absence of Brigadier B.M.A. Pielow.

At precisely 11 o'clock Col. Cain laid a wreath on behalf of the Regiment at the Memorial, followed by 2 minutes silence after which he recited the exhortation to draw the customary response from the assembled congregation that "We shall remember them".

Sherry by the glass and the excellent nibbles which Betty Morris provides were consumed with relish. Ron Morris once again collecting and transporting the beverages to the Guildhall. We are most grateful to them both for their continuous support. The provision of drinks and nibbles enables those attending to chat and renew friendships which is essential to

the welfare of the Association and delays disbandment. As always Ian, an employee of the Court, with a new assistant Peter, was as helpful and considerate to members, enjoying some banter with Members whom he has met over the years. Our thanks to Mr. Jones and his staff for their co-operation.

Members afterwards visited the Field of Remembrance which was crowded with tourists displaying an interest in this unique symbol of our "National Homage to the Fallen."

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY MILL HILL SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER.

On an unusually cold day Enfield and Hounslow Branches combined to attend the service in the Garrison Church at which there was a very large congregation. The service was conducted by Rev. Canon David Hall and the lesson was read by Brigadier P.J.T. Maggs CBE and prayers led by Mr. Graham Fieldhouse. On conclusion of the church service a contingent from British Forces Post Office and one from the Association paraded at the Regimental War Memorial. Following the Exhortation a bugler from the Light Infantry sounded the Last Post and Reveille, after which the depot RSM WO1 N.S. Wardell RLC read the collect for the RLC and the Chaplain's Assistant the Middlesex collect. Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Regiment by Major R. Thornton and Messrs. Joe Stone and Charles Bysouth 2/7th Bn. Veterans. The two contingents then moved into position to march past the saluting base where the salute was taken by the Chief Executive British Forces Post Office. The Middlesex marching party, headed by the Enfield Standard, again numbered 37 and with a dozen or so unable to march the Association was well represented. A Curry Lunch was later served in the WO and Sgts Mess, offering a chance to renew our friendship with the mess members who always make us so welcome. Appreciation and thanks were expressed by Alf Burford for the hospitality of our hosts and he presented to the Mess a framed print of "Steady the Drums and Fifes" on behalf of the Association.

ODD JOTTINGS

The Korean Club held their Annual Luncheon at the Victory Services Club on Saturday 10th September at which the Annual General Meeting was held.

Taffy Evans has written from Manila, Philippines, in response to an enquiry

about a former member of the Regiment. He is well and still remembers his service with the Regiment with great affection.

G. Tann has also replied to the same enquiry and has been able to supply further information relevant to the enquiry which I have been able to impart to the person who raised the question and now lives in the USA.

Miss E.A. Deeves MBE daughter of 2nd Lt. Thomas W. Deeves, CMG CBE MC & Bar 16th (Public Schools) Bn. Middlesex Regiment, has again made a generous donation to the Regimental Museum at Dover where her Father's medals and uniform are displayed.

Enfield Branch attended the "Their Past Your Future" Spirit of the Regiment at Dover Castle held on the weekend 2/3 July 2005.



Edware Branch at Dover Castle for the World War II Veterans Reunited Event - July 2005

Ray "Digger" Cousins rang Ron Morris from Australia, Ron being away, he spoke to Betty Morris and they had a long conversation reminiscing about the "old days" with the 1st Battalion. Sadly the main reason for his call was to inform us that Cpl. Don Stopp also residing in Australia had died on the 15th August 2005. He particularly asked that we pass on the news of Cpl. Stopp's passing to Cpl. Ron Histed. As Cpl. Histed is not a member of the Association we are not in contact and so we were unable to do so. If anyone knows of Cpl. Histed can they please pass the news on. Digger Cousins also asked that fellow members of the Regiment living in New South Wales make contact. His telephone number is 02 4948 5147.

A call from Heinz Johannsen mentioned that Roy Morris had paid a visit to Rendsburg in August and spent four days there.

OBITUARIES.

We advise with the deepest regret that the following have died.

Barnes Neil Frederick Lance Cpl. died recently, no further information is available at present.

Clarke Ken who served with the Band of the 1st Battalion and later with the Queen's Regiment died on 2nd October 2005. The funeral was held during the afternoon of 12th October at Basingstoke Crematorium.

Candy Peter J. D.S.O. D.F.C. AFC TD Wing Commander died on 4th August 2005. He was commissioned into the 9th Battalion Middlesex Regiment in July 1937 and seconded to the RAF in 1940.

Emerson Thomas Sergeant 2nd/8th Battalion resuscitated 1st Battalion. Tom served with the "Diehards" from 1939 to 1946 and was platoon sergeant of 15 Platoon (Mortars) in 1944 throughout the European Campaign. He died at the age of 92 and the funeral was held at St. Marys Church, Thorpe, Surrey on 15th September 2005. I knew Tom as a popular soldier and was a fellow Platoon Sergeant in D Company in 1944, so we were comrades together.

R.Bishop.

Hart Paul "Pee Wee" died on 13th July 2005 aged 60. "Pee Wee" was 16 years old when he enlisted as a drummer in 8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment (TA) and continued to serve during the periods of amalgamation.

He left the TA and became a very successful business man. His funeral was held at St. Peter's Church, Staines on 22nd July. The committal took place at Hanworth Crematorium immediately after the service in the presence of the immediate family. Ten former comrades from D Company 5th Middx, TA joined a very large congregation for the funeral service.

McNab Terence (Monty) died at home on Thursday 3rd November after a long illness borne with great courage and humour. The funeral was held at Hanworth Crematorium on 11th November. A congregation of 300 were joined by 23 former members of the Regiment, the Regimental Standard was in attendance with 2 escorts. Ten members walked on either side of the horse drawn hearse within the grounds of the crematorium.

Morgan Francis Colonel died on Sunday 30th October 2005. The funeral was held in Wales on Friday 4th November. No further information available.

Phipps Frank who served with the 1/7th Battalion throughout World War Two has died suddenly in Australia whilst visiting his family there. The funeral has already taken place in Australia. The information was received from Barry King just prior to going to press.

Regan Sydney John died at St. Peter's Hospital suddenly on 13th March 2005. He had been confined to a wheelchair for the past five years, following a severe stroke. He was taken into hospital on 13th February with blocked arteries but after a general anaesthetic he had a massive heart attack and lingered for five days after the operation.

Ryall Joyce Helena Wife of Brigadier J.B. Ryall CBE to whom she had been married for close on 63 years. She died suddenly and entirely unexpectedly on 22nd May 2005 in hospital where she had spent the last six months with Alzheimers' disease. The funeral service was held at Bournemouth Crematorium on 2nd June. There was a large attendance at the funeral including twelve former officers who had served with Brigadier Ryall. The eulogy was given by Major Bob Colville and in place of floral tributes some £650.00 was raised and donated to the Alzheimers' Society.

Thompson Keith MBE ex 9th Battalion died on 18th May at Didsbury District Hospital after a short illness. No further information is available.

Ward Michael We had our attention drawn to the obituaries published in The Times and The Daily Telegraph in mid October 2005. Michael Ward died in October 2005 at the age of 80. He was a renowned mountaineer and he was the expedition doctor during the 1953 ascent of Everest led by Edmund Hillary and Earle Riddleford. He was a National Service Doctor in the early 1950s and for a time he served as the RMO of the 7th Battalion.

MAJOR GENERAL J.T. STANYER CBE MBIM
28th July 1920 – 14th May 2005

Major General John Turner Stanyer was born on 28th July 1920 and educated at Latymer Upper School in Hammersmith. His early service was with the Middlesex Regiment and served in Iceland, Germany, France and Palestine over the period 1941 to 1947. His service with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps commenced in 1947. His military career spanning some 34 years in the Corps and the Middlesex Regiment included many demanding and challenging appointments during a period of continuous change, re-organisation and rationalisation.

His appointments have included DAA & QMG HQ 35 Inf Bde in Hong Kong in 1952 GSO 2 War Office in 1957 and service with the UN Force in Cyprus in 1966 as AA & QMG. Following his appointment in Cyprus as Principal Administrative Staff Officer at the time the Greek and Turkish armies faced one another across the UN negotiated Green Line he was awarded the OBE.

He was appointed director of Ordnance Services BAOR in 1968 and promoted to Brigadier. On completion of this appointment he was awarded the CBE. On his return to the UK in 1971 he was appointed Commandant of Central Ordnance Depot Bicester. On leaving Bicester became Commander RAOC Base Organisation in 1973 in the rank of Major General, the appointment from which he retired in 1975.

Major General Stanyer was Colonel Commandant RAOC during the years 1977 to 1982. As Colonel Commandant he represented the Corps in 1978 when he welcomed HM The Queen to COD Bicester. He also took part in the Lord Mayor of London's Show in 1981 when an ex RAOC officer, Sir Christopher Leaver became Lord Mayor.

Following his retirement he became Director General Supply Co-ordination in the Ministry of Defence, an appointment he held until 1980. Major

General Stanyer was also a member of Oxford City Council during the years 1983 to 1987.

A lifetime of service to his Corps, the Crown and local community. A long and distinguished career in the Army, he was highly regarded by all ranks and will be remembered with great affection by all who knew him.

To Mary his devoted wife, and to his children, Michael, Clare, Paul, Juliet, Peter, Elizabeth and Ann we send our deepest sympathy and condolences from all former members of the Royal Ordnance Corps.

Sua Tela Tonanti

MAJOR A.E.C. VIZARD

"Viz" was born on the 5th September 1918 and died on 30th March 2005. He joined 2nd/8th Battalion Middlesex Regiment TA in 1936 and mobilised on the outbreak of war, by then a CQMS and posted to the Regimental Depot at Mill Hill. In mid 1941 he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and posted to his battalion, then serving in Portrush, Northern Ireland 1941-1942.

Posted to the DLI Barnard Castle, by then a Captain Instructor and drafted to 16th DLI in North Africa, wounded at Salerno and evacuated to Tripoli, then to 1RTD in Algeria as Commandant of a POW Camp; then to Haifa to rejoin his Battalion in command of HQ Company as a Major until the Battalion was disbanded in February 1946.

I was in Portrush with the 2nd /8th Middlesex in the same period and he will be remembered by personnel serving in Northern Ireland.

R.Bishop.

McShane John Henry 7961870 – whose death was reported in the last issue. Further information has now come to hand.

John was born on 31st October 1930 in Birkenhead where he studied the piano from an early age and his love of music began. He enlisted in 10th Royal Hussars as a Band Boy in 1947 and served in BAOR. In 1952 he attended the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall as a pupil until the following year, when he married and returned to 10th Royal Hussars at Tidworth, Hants. In 1956 John was posted to Bovington, Dorset to teach

music to band boys until he returned to Kneller Hall as a student bandmaster in 1957. John passed out as a Warrant Officer Class One (Bandmaster) in 1959, becoming an Associate of the Royal College of Music in the same year.

In 1960 John joined 1MX in Hamelin, Germany serving with them in Lydd, Kent(1963) Gibraltar (1963), Holywood Northern Ireland (1965), during this time serving nine months with 1MX in British Guiana. Throughout the whole of John's career as a Bandmaster his success at musical arrangements, band concerts and piano renditions was much appreciated and enjoyed by the whole battalion.

In 1969, John retired from the army and moved to Taunton, Somerset running a successful business whilst still pursuing his musical interests which eventually took him to Scotland, where on 30th January 2005 he passed away. He is sadly missed by his family and many old comrades and friends.

M.A.Elston WO 2.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the last Newsletter:

Pte. A.G. Benton	Band 1MX.
Cpl. T.D.Finnissy	Trg. Coy.and D Coy. 1MX.
Pte. T.N.Taylor	MT 1MX.

BATTLE FOR HONG KONG – 1941-1945 HOSTAGE TO FORTUNE.

by Oliver Lindsay with the memories of John R. Harris

Colonel Oliver Lindsay's third book about the Battle for Hong Kong has recently been published. It is a vivid description of a campaign still remembered with pride by those of us who are members of the Regimental Association and I was honoured by an invitation to represent the Regiment at the book's launch at the Imperial War Museum.

Field Marshal Lord Brammall spoke and John Harris, a PW in Hong Kong whom so many Diehards know and respect was also present. The latter's contribution to the book is immense and well recognised by Oliver Lindsay.

Our regimental friends 'the Hong Kong Volunteers' were represented by Colin Bellingham and Tim Villiers along with many retired Hong Kong volunteers.

In his talk at the launch Oliver Lindsay spoke glowingly of the Regiment and Colonel Newnham. It was an honour to be there to listen to it. Since his book of the campaign 'The Lasting Honour' was published in 1978 and the second 'At the Going Down of the Sun' in 1981 a wealth of new background information has become available together with a number of new personal memories and all of these sources have been well documented and explained in the new book. Lieut-Commander Kemp's early accounts published in June 1956 give an early story. Oliver Lindsay's new book, sub-titled 'Hostage to Fortune' is truly riveting reading and although it is not wholly about the Regiment, dealing as it does with all the other units involved including the Hong Kong Volunteers, Royal Scots and Canadians, the Diehards come out of the story once again with distinction.

John Harris's extraordinary personal account in the new book includes the telling of the magnificent brave behaviour of Colonel Newnham GC.MC. who despite being tortured to death steadfastly refused to implicate the other organisers of the secret intelligence passing and thus saved their lives, including that of John Harris himself who played such a central and dangerous role. Some of this we have heard from John Harris himself but now we can read the much fuller and incredibly modest story of this hero who survived both the battle and PW camp. His description of the four George Crosses uniquely awarded at this time by HM The King was told by him in a pamphlet issued in 1987. As a Regiment we have been honoured with his presence at several of our functions and he has become a world-famous architect, remains tremendous company and a fine teller of the military history of the 1941 battle.

All this is the stuff on which I and others were brought up on when we went back to Hong Kong in 1949 and 1MX and saw the Japanese inmates still in Stanley prison. Reading this new account of the battle is as stirring as it ever was. Even the cover of the new book which shows Lye Mun strait evokes memories of the Bn's return there.

In 1949 five members of 1MX who were in Hong Kong in '41 returned with the Battalion including Drum Major Holdford, who swam ashore from the Lisbon Maru, Major Frank Waldron who had escaped from the Lisbon Maru and defied death in PW camp. Major Henry March our 21C and two others

including a QM's storeman. It is a sad fact that as a Regiment we lack their first-hand accounts of the battle and life in PW camp, although Colonel Tony Hewitt's book about his escape and trek across China to rejoin the army tells us much.

Oliver Lindsay's new book just has to be required reading for anybody who wants to learn more of the battle for Hong Kong and of the Regiment's crucial involvement in it – moving from being purely Vickers machine-gunners to straightforward infantry.

Colonel Lindsay recently led a RBL pilgrimage to Hong Kong and took with him Middlesex Regimental cards inscribed for attaching to wreaths to be laid during the pilgrimage to honour Colonel Newnham and the many Diehards who died and suffered in the battle. Another Hong Kong pilgrimage is planned.

(The Battle for Hong Kong 1941-1945. Hostage to Fortune. Published in 2005 by Spellmount, Staplehurst. ISBN No. 1-86227-315-4).

AN APPRECIATION OF COLONEL L.A. NEWNHAM GC MC **Written by Colonel Oliver Lindsay, CBE, Fr Hist S**

There are many Second World War heroes of those distinguished Regiments which now form the Prince of Wales's Royal Regiment, but people today may be unfamiliar with one man who played a pivotal role in the most gallant circumstances.

Colonel L.A. Newnham MC, a former Commanding Officer of the Middlesex Regiment, had a long record of outstanding service; in the First World War he had been twice wounded and he later served in Egypt, The Rhineland and Bermuda. When the Japanese attacked Hong Kong in December 1941 he was Major General Maltby's principal operations officer. After 18 days of intense fighting the survivors were swept into POW camps in appalling conditions.

By March 1943 the British, Chinese and Americans were operating far to the north in China were desperate for intelligence on what was happening in Hong Kong and the neighbourhood. Colonel Newnham established an extraordinary system whereby Chinese agents of the British Army Aid Group in China collected his reports, which were concealed in a vehicle's

hollow bolt amongst other places. His POW camp overlooked the Japanese ships in Victoria Harbour and was close to Kai Tak airport, used by the Japanese air force. Colonel Newnham's messages quickly reached the crews of American bombers, which attacked the enemy with devastating effect.

Inevitably, the Japanese infiltrated the spying organisation and arrested the Colonel and a few others. Newnham was starved and tortured for five months. In spite of his acute suffering, both physical and mental, he refused to implicate anyone else, thus undoubtedly saving their lives. He was shot in shocking circumstances in December 1943. King George subsequently approved the posthumous award of the George Cross to this most gallant man.

In September I took a 59-strong Royal British Legion pilgrimage to Stanley Cemetery in Hong Kong. At Newnham's grave I told all present of his citation for the George Cross; our Royal British Legion representative read out the Regimental Collect of the Middlesex Regiment. A veteran of the 1941 campaign then laid a beautiful spray of poppies; the Royal British Legion Standard Bearer was close by. It was all most moving. *(The next Royal British Legion pilgrimage to Hong Kong will be 1st-8th December 2006. Those interested in going should write to Remembrance Travel, Royal British Legion Village, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX.)*

DIE HARD, ABY! by David Lister

This book examines in depth the shocking case of a Jewish boy, Abraham Bevistein who enlisted in the Middlesex Regiment at the age of seventeen. By all accounts an exemplary young soldier, Aby was wounded in action and hospitalised.

After what was probably premature release, his battalion suffered a major bombardment and Aby reported sick. Declared fit for duty, he then made the fatal mistake of not returning immediately to the front-line. The authorities arrested and tried him. The conduct of his trial is examined here in close detail and clearly flouts every convention of natural justice.

His execution by firing squad caused horror to his family and those who knew him and readers will feel equally outraged. Aby's case featured as a major part of the Channel 4 drama documentary *Boy Soldiers of the First World War*.

This superbly researched and, for many, highly emotive account of a specific case of grave injustice will fuel the controversy over such executions still further. Die Hard, Aby! Is sure to appeal to all who feel any sentiment for their fellow humans. *Published by Pen and Sword – ISBN 1-84415-137-9.*

REGIMENTAL GOODS

Blazer Badges	£8.00
Ice Buckets miniature side drum with Regiment Emblazon	£24.00
Plus postage and packing	£5.50
Ties (Old pattern maroon and gold)	£6.00
Ties (New pattern with maroon and old gold thin stripes)	£6.00
Ties Officers Club (Silk)	£13.50
New Stock	£15.50
Middlesex Regt. Cap Badges good quality Replicas	£4.00
Old Comrades lapel badges	£2.75
Regimental Beret Flashes	£2.00
Prints 'Steady the Drums & Fifes' unframed	Large Print £7.00
	Small Print £5.00
Middlesex Regimental Plaques	£18.00
Middlesex Blazer Buttons Flat staybright with engraved	
Middlesex Badge	
Set 6 large buttons 6 small buttons	£28.00
Individual buttons	Large £2.50
	Small £2.00
Regimental Cuff Links	£8.00
Regimental Tie Grip	£4.50
Regimental Tie Tack and chain	£4.50
Regimental Ladies Brooch	£4.75

To order £1.00 post and packing on all small orders – contact the shop for larger orders.

Note Price changes.

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE ASSOCIATION:

From the Ambassador John Macgregor CVO, British Embassy, Vienna.

4th October 2005

Dear Brigadier Pielow,

Many thanks for your kind letter of 27 September. I would like simply to thank you most warmly for representing the Middlesex Regiment on this important anniversary, and in doing so, to pay tribute to the Regiment for the important role they played during the latter days of the Occupation Period in Austria, and the very favourable impressions they left behind them. The Austria State Treaty of 1955 was one of the most positive cold war achievements, and enabled the only post-war withdrawal of Soviet troops from occupied Europe to happen in calm and good order. It was right and appropriate to remember this, and the British contribution to it, and the ceremonies did this in full measure, not least thanks to you for representing the Middlesex Regiment.

With best wishes and renewed thanks.

John Macgregor

Letters have been received from four former members of the Regiment or their dependants expressing their thanks and appreciation for welfare assistance.

POINT OF INTEREST

Readers may recall that in July the National Newspapers stated "France is to bulldoze the graves of War Heroes".

Commonwealth War Graves Commission has issued the following statement concerning the proposed motorway.

Statement on Proposed Route of A24.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is aware of public concern over the route of the proposed A24 motorway between France and Belgium.

The Commission wishes to reassure the public that it is being fully consulted over the proposals and at this stage, with no information available on a likely route, we anticipate no threat to Commonwealth War Cemeteries or Memorials in the declared Interest Zone.

In the past, the French Authorities have done everything in their power to accommodate the Commission and we remain fully confident, that should this proposal proceed, they will be as supportive of our work as ever

Please be assured that the Commission will continue to monitor the situation closely.

NEWS FROM SPAIN

P.W.R.R. Trophy – 2005

The pupil who won the trophy, donated by the PWRR this year was Belen Santos Rubio. Since the inception of the trophy the Benegas family have had a monopoly of the cup for their proficiency in English, this has now changed!.



Belen Santos Rubio with Mike Ward who presented the Cup on behalf of the PWRR

New Screen Wall at La Albuera

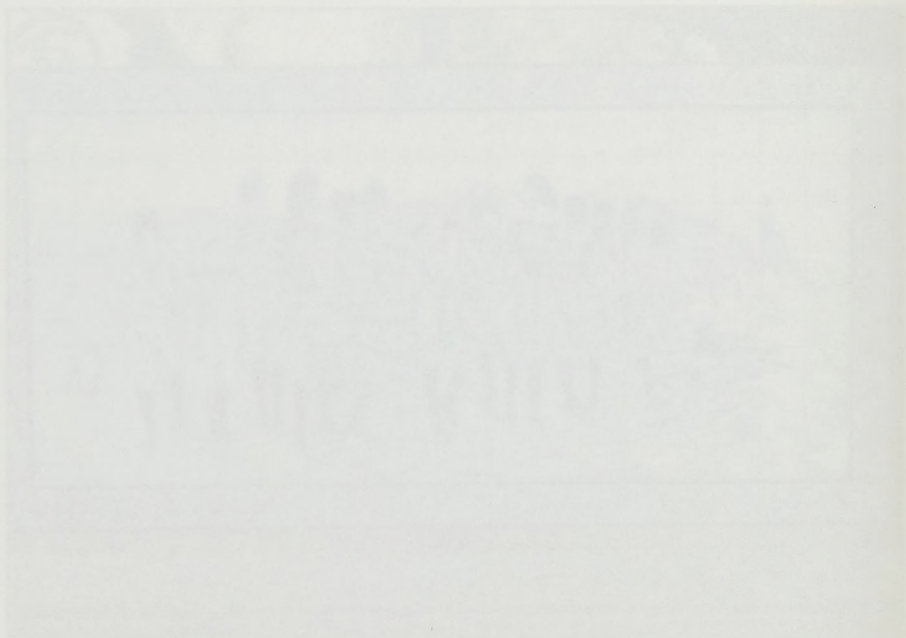


The New Screen Wall at La Albuera

The members of La Albuera who represent the 57th of Foot, dressed in the costume of the British Army of the Napoleonic period marching in the Annual Parade to commemorate the Anniversary of the Battle, have erected a screen wall depicting "Steady the Fifes and Drums" in tiles, which is very striking and another fine tribute to the Regiment.

Please note articles submitted for inclusion in the June issue should be received by the Editor no later than 26th May 2006. It would be helpful if input could be provided on a CD or Disk.

New Screen Wall at La Albuera



The New Screen Wall at La Albuera

The members of La Albuera, who represent the 57th of Foot, dressed in the costume of the British Army of the Napoleonic period, marching in the Annual Parade to commemorate the Anniversary of the Battle, have erected a screen wall depicting "Death of Pike and Drums" in tiles, which is very striking and evokes the Battle of La Albuera.

Please note articles submitted for inclusion in the June issue should be received by the Editor no later than 28th May 2006. It would be helpful if input could be provided on a CD or Disk.