



The Die-Hards

NEWSLETTER

No. 93

June 2005

Price £1



*MEMBERS OF 1 PWRR WITH THEIR AWARDS OUTSIDE
BUCKINGHAM PALACE*

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FORECAST OF EVENTS 2005

10th September	Mx. Korean Club Annual Re-union Victory Services Club
8th November	7th Bn Mx Officers Club Dinner
10 November	Garden of Remembrance Westminster Service commences 10.50 hrs
12th November	Mx. Ceremony of Remembrance Middlesex Guildhall 1030 hrs. Service 1050 hours
13th November	Remembrance Service Inglis Barracks Mill Hill. Assemble 10.00 hours.
13th November	7th Bn. Mx. Remembrance Service Assemble at 1000 hrs. at Parish Church St.Mary & St.George Hornsey.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES'S ROYAL REGIMENT

The whole Regiment, past and present members are extremely proud of the achievements of the 1st Battalion in Iraq with the numerous gallantry awards. These have dominated this period even though everyone else attends to his or her normal duties.

1st BATTALION

The Battalion returned from Iraq in October 2004. They then went on well-earned leave, came back to Barracks and moved to Paderborn in Germany where they have now settled in to (at least) a 10-year tour in the Armoured Warrior role. The main event was the publication of the honours and awards. This is given below:

OPERATIONAL LIST 1st APRIL 2004 TO 30TH NOVEMBER 2004

VICTORIA CROSS

PRIVATE JOHNSON GIDEON BEHARRY

MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2 DALE EDWARD NORMAN

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

MAJOR JAMES CHENEVIX COOTE

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MATTHEW PHILLIP MAER MBE

CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY CROSS

SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER BROOME

CORPORAL TERENCE THOMSON

MILITARY CROSS

CORPORAL MARK RICHARD BYLES

WARRANT OFFICER CLASS 2 DAVID GORDON FALCONER

MAJOR JUSTIN BURRIT FEATHERSTONE

SERGEANT DAVID ANTHONY HARRINGTON PERFECT

CORPORAL SEAN VITTY ERNEST ROBSON

PRIVATE TROY O'NEIL SAMUELS

LANCE CORPORAL BRIAN WOOD

MENTION IN DESPATCHES

PRIVATE GARY COOPER

PRIVATE DANIEL SHANE CRUEFIX

PRIVATE THOMAS JAMES FERGUSON

CORPORAL LEE STEPHEN GIDALLA

CORPORAL SIMON JOHN GOWER

PRIVATE JOSEPH DOMINIC HARTNELL

CAPTAIN ROBIN HICKS

SERGEANT BENJAMIN LLEWELLYN KELLY

SERGEANT DANIEL MILLS

LANCE CORPORAL JOSESE TUNIDAU NATUMERU

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM JAMES PASSMORE

SERGEANT ANDRE PAUL JOSEPH PEPPER

LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN UDO PLENGE

LIEUTENANT ADAM PHILIP STYLER

MAJOR SIMON CHRISTOPHER THOMSETT

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR VALUABLE SERVICE

MAJOR RICHARD TOBY WALCH

In addition 13 Joint Commanders Commendations.

Note: The battle group commanded by CO 1 PWRR Lt.Col. M. Maer, also were awarded an additional 4 x Military Cross and 2 x Mention in Despatches. Her Majesty The Queen and his Royal Highness The Prince of Wales awarded all medals over the period 27 and 28 April at Buckingham Palace.

The Battalion is now settling down to life of soldiering in Germany. Their next tour in Iraq is April 2006 (Op Telec 8).

2nd BATTALION

The Battalion deployed to Iraq in January 2005 and returns in July 2005. The Battalion is split and covers many tasks. Coys rotate with 1 Coy guarding Shaibah Logistic Base (SLB) 1 x Coy guarding SLB and QRF, 1 x Coy escorting 1 x Coy guarding tasks including locations in Baghdad. The Battalions area recently increased with the inheritance from the Dutch Army who withdrew. In the first few weeks, the Battalion had 10 wounded due to a car bomb. All are now back at work. Road Traffic accidents have taken their toll and some wounded are still under medical care.

The Battalion is in fine form. The Colonel of the Regiment visited them in Iraq in May. They arms plot to NI in December 2005.

3rd BATTALION

Lt. Col. Tony Guthrie hands over command to Lt. Col. Adam Edmunds in mid 2005. Lt.Col. Guthrie goes on promotion to HQ 2 Inf. Bde. He has had a very successful tour, which has seen the Battalion provide many TA soldiers

in support of the Regular Army in Afghanistan and Iraq. The provision of support still goes ahead with a complete platoon joining the Royal Rifle Volunteers for deployment to Iraq in 2005. The remainder will complete Annual Camp in Tenby (South Wales).

B COMPANY AND C COMPANY

The Colonel of the Regiment has visited both the companies during drill nights. He was most impressed by both companies. They are supporting the regular units with both companies having at least 17 soldiers deployed in Iraq at any one time.

Annual Camp in 2005 for B Company will be Salisbury Plain Training Area and Oakhampton for C Company.

In summary the Regiment is now well established and as a result of the award of the Victoria Cross, and the plethora of other medals, everyone has now heard of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and they are all held up as a fine example of that obscure mixture of courage and history and tradition that makes the British Infantry the finest in the world.

AJM.

SECRETARYS ANNUAL REPORT

THE MIDDLESEX REGIMENT BENEVOLENCE REVIEW DURING THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY 2004 – 31st DECEMBER 2004

During 2004 a total of 38 cases were investigated and 27 individual grants-in-aid were approved. In the majority of cases the grants were for household expenses, debts and rent arrears. The Association helped provide 6 further Electrically Powered Vehicles (EPVs), 8 orthopaedic chair/beds.

We administered 6 ABF Annuities and the ABF generously contributed £55 per month per case. During this period we have renewed or arranged 3 Nursing Home Fees of £780.00 ABF and £156.00 association grants per case per year, to be paid for our old soldiers or their widows to be looked after. The ABF increased their annual Nursing Home Fees from £624.00 in 2004.

The Charity paid out £7,179.00 as individual grants-in-aid and the ABF provided a further £4,679.00 in general grants. Of the 11 cases not receiving a grant, local councils/charities or other regimental associations assisted 7 after we had contacted them. 3 cases were not receiving such allowances as Attendance, Mobility or Rent Rebate. The ABF total grants in support were £9,299.00 [inc. 3 NH fees].

The Executive Committee would again like to pay tribute to the Army Benevolent Fund who is always helpful with prompt action and advice. SSAFA, Forces Help Society and the Royal British Legion investigate the majority of our cases and we are particularly grateful to their caseworkers for all their assistance. During the year we have also assisted members who are cared for by the Ex Services Mental Welfare Society; War Pension Agency; Combat Stress and the Ex Services Fellowship Centres.

2. Below are the benevolence figures for the last four years. Note the decrease in 2004.

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cases	52	41	60	27
Costs	16,013.00	11,317.00	13,788.00	7,179.00

3. Donations received by the Charity Fund since March 2004.

Mrs. Lawrence	£150.00
Ms. J. Bower	£100.00
Mr. Ecott	£15.00
Walker Funeral Services	£143.89
Augustine Kendrick [Est.]	£820.00
Mr. G.A. Pfister	£30.00
Mr. A.W.J. Brown	£50.00
Total received	£1,308.89

4. Donations made by the Regimental Association since March 2004.

Coach Enfield Branch	£210.00
Koran Club Lunch	£300.00
Mx & NW London ACF	£1,000.00
Friends of St. Paul's	£25.00
King Edward Hospital	£100.00

St. Nicholas Fund	£30.00
Rev. Patrick Tuft	£50.00
Total Paid	£1,715.00

5. Albuhera Close.

I have been in contact with Haig Home who assures me that our homes are being well maintained and that the residents are generally happy. I have received no complaints from residents.

6. Albuhera Service of Remembrance and Reunion.

a. The Albuhera Service has been arranged to take place on Saturday 14th May 2005 @ 1100 hrs. The total Cost for 2004 was £2,329.05 and was within budget. The actual cost of the service was £1,768.98 and Printing /stationery was £530.07.

b. The All Ranks Annual Reunion is arranged for the 14th May 2005 commencing at 1345 hours. The venue will once again be the Victory Services Club. The Annual General Meeting will be in the Allanbrooke room and will commence at 1315 hours. The usual letters will be sent to members during the latter part of March and it will also be publicised in the Newsletter. I have been advised that the cost of food will be £17.65. per head including VAT. In 2004 we had 139 members attending and we subsidised the meals by £800.00, the total cost to the Association was £1670.00 which included the cost of posting tickets to members and room hire.

7. Festival of Remembrance Westminster Abbey Gardens.

This year Festival of Remembrance will take place on Thursday 10th November 2005 at 1100 hrs. I will once again ask the Royal British Legion to organise the crosses for this year. Their system works well.

8. General.

I believe we have had a successful year. I have built a good rapport with Branch Secretaries and members are now getting to know me. Association and journal subscriptions continue and to date this year I have received £851.00.

Miss Pam Howie is now employed by RHQ as the Finance Secretary and has settled in well. Our accounts are in safe hands.

We will have the support of a regular WO2 from the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and six Middlesex Army Cadets for our reunion.

Details of the forthcoming commemoration services and parades have been communicated to our members. The administration of the association continues to go well.

Middlesex main account.

A total income of £37,264 was received during this financial year, the majority of which was from Investment income and interest totalling £27,389. £2,000 was received from donations, £4,620 from the ABF and £2,769 from the newsletter and reunion income.

Expenditure this financial year totalled £31,954, just over £8,000 was on grant payments, £5,040 was on the ABF, £6,185 was spent on administration and management of which £3,783 was on postage and general office support and the balance on trustee meetings and travel costs; with £500 going towards the Albuhera Casket.

Wreaths & Poppies came to £464 with remembrance at £260; The Victory Services Club was £2,185. The Newsletter came to £4,421.60 and the Albuhera expenses came to £2,655. St Paul's totalled £1,769 and we spent £870 on memberships.

This gave a new income over expenditure of £5,310 with a closing bank balance of £16,317 and with investments totalling £566.438 gives a total asset value of £583.487 at the 31st December 2004.

BEAUDESERTS SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL.

On 21st October 2004, the school memorial was resited at the Royal British Legion Headquarters in West Street, Leighton. The re-dedication service was conducted by the Rev. Grant Fellows and was attended by a number of dignitaries including the Mayor Russ Goodchild and Dora Adams aged 93, whose brother Pte, Thomas Hyde was killed in France on November 8th, 1918, whilst serving with the Middlesex Regiment. Thomas was a married



The Refurbished Memorial

man with a daughter and had worked as a painter and decorator until he joined the Regiment at the start of the war. In a moving ceremony the Last Post and Reveille were sounded by the trumpeters from the Royal Rifle Volunteers. Finally after the Act of Remembrance a ribbon was cut and a wreath laid.

The memorial had been badly damaged after removal from the now demolished school and placed in storage where it suffered deterioration. Old Boys from the school started a fund to have it repaired and the Royal

British Legion consented to display the memorial, which commemorates 93 pupils who gave their lives in the First World War.

1/7TH BATTALION LUNCHEON CLUB.

The 42nd Annual Luncheon took place at TAC Hornsey on Saturday 16th April. The event was held in the officer's mess. 44 members and their guests attended.

The guest of honour was Captain Glyn Barroclough who is the PSAO with the resident unit 144 Para Med Sqn. In order to mark the 60th anniversary of the ending of WW2 the Chairman Major Derrick Harwood read an account of Battalion's activities during the closing days.

Also attending as a guest of the club was Corporal Wes Henderson of B (Queens Regiment) Company our successor unit. Corporal Henderson has recently returned from a tour of duty in Iraq and he was also one of the 12 members of the Company who represented the Middlesex Regiment at the liberation ceremonies in Courville France last July. Courville was liberated by the 1/7th Mx. In 1944.

Next year's luncheon will be held on Saturday 29th April 2006.

DH

ENFIELD 2005.

The committee at the Enfield branch have been quite busy since Christmas arranging events for this year. To date several of our members will be visiting Mill Hill on Monday 16th May to lay a wreath at the Middlesex Regimental Memorial.

A proposed visit to Albuhera the same week unfortunately had to be postponed due to it clashing with the AGM. We are however looking forward to visiting Dover Castle on Sunday 3rd July and at the time of writing there are just 4 seats left on the coach

This year's autumn break has been booked for September 23rd at Hayling Island. Nine of our members will be visiting – any Die Hards wishing to join us will be most welcome but would be advised to book as soon as possible as vacancies at Sinah Warren fill very quickly. Contact: Alf Burford or Alex Brown for information.

This Year's Christmas dance will be held on Saturday 17th December, always a good night – tickets are expected to be on sale from early September.

A visit to the German Christmas markets could also be on the agenda if enough interest is shown.

ENFIELD CHRISTMAS DANCE REVIEW 2004.

A wonderful evening with a great party atmosphere. The small band of stalwarts who form the nucleus of the Enfield Branch had once again worked their magic on the hall and the earliest revellers arrived around 7.00pm to find the hall tastefully decorated and tables laid out looking a picture. It wasn't long before Reg and Lillian Best (almost traditionally now) were first on the dance floor, which quickly filled up. Many old acquaintances were renewed during the course of the evening and it was a pleasure to see ex Battalion heavyweight boxer 'Big Brian Tate' sharing a joke with three other former members of the boxing team and not a black eye in sight.

There was a short break at 9.20pm whilst the raffle was drawn and the annual award for outstanding service within the branch was presented by Mr. Paul Dean jointly to Mrs. Sylvia Poole and Mrs. Marge Whitby for their exceptional fund raising efforts and other voluntary work. Each received a small trophy to keep in addition to the plaque. The dancing then continued on until after midnight and vast quantities of food were consumed while the drink flowed freely. I am reliably informed that the bar outsold the larger bar downstairs. The evening finished on a high note with a full dance floor and many people expressing their approval of an excellent night.

On behalf of all our Branch Members, I would like to thank our guests - Major Ron Morris MBE and Major Dennis Bradley BEM who along with their wives had travelled considerable distances to share the evening with us. Their support was much appreciated.

AB

ANZAC DAY, HAREFIELD 25TH APRIL 2005.

Members of Hounslow Branch joined a large congregation at a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving to mark the 90th Anzac Day at St. Mary's Parish Church, Harefield.

The Reverend Charles Dodd who had spent many years in Australia conducted the service. After the service a wreath laying ceremony was held in the Anzac Cemetery and flowers were laid on each grave by children from the local school. Tea and refreshments were served in the Church Hall at the conclusion of the ceremonies.

Australian troops are part of the coalition forces serving in Iraq and the contingent were holding an Anzac Service at the Commonwealth War Memorial near Basrah. The Memorial itself is sited out in the desert and because of the possibility of a terrorist attack during the ceremony the troops will parade fully kitted and armed.

So 90 years after the Gallipoli landings Australian troops and other Commonwealth Nations continue to make a contribution to the stability of the world.

OFFICER'S CLUB

The Officer's Club held their annual dinner at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, London SW1 during the evening of Friday the 13th May 2005. The principal guest was Maj. James Coote, DSO from the 1st Battalion of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.

Regimental Guests:- Maj Colin Bellingham Royal Hong Kong Regiment, Mrs. Sarah Coote, Miss Jean Bower, Mrs. Pam Chattey, Mrs. Ann Davies, Mrs. Andy Hutchings, Mrs. Moira Jeffcoat and Mrs. Christine Pollard.

Members and Private Guests: - Brig & Mrs. Tony Pielow, Brig Brian Marciandi, Brig & Mrs. Dennis Rendell, Col Mike Ball, Col & Mrs. Rex Cain, Col John Moore, Lt.Col & Mrs. Mike Deakin, Lt Col & Mrs. Roger Gancz, Maj & Mrs. Bob Bartlett, Sir John & Lady Birch, Maj & Mrs. Dennis Bradley, Maj & Mrs. Peter Clarke, Maj & Mrs. Harold Couch, Maj & Mrs. Gordon Crumley, Maj & Mrs. Steve Dowse, Maj & Mrs. Brian Finch, Maj & Mrs. Derrick Harwood, Maj & Mrs. Stewart Henshaw, Maj & Mrs. Jonathon Jonklaas, Maj & Mrs. Chris Lawrence, Maj Ian Lloyd, Maj & Mrs. David Margand Maj & Mrs. Tony McManus, Maj & Mrs. Ron Morris, Capt Ken Beale, Capt & Mrs. Mike Doran, Capt & Mrs. Simon Enthoven, Capt Simon Cawthorne & Mrs. Francis Castle, Mr. Trevor Davies, Mr & Mrs. John Harris, Lt & Mrs Peter Ottino and Lt & Mrs. John Pollock.

Brig Tony Pielow welcomed our guests and said how delighted he was to

see so many present. The highest number attending for some years. He gave a resume of recent Officer Club news to include, sadly, the mention of several of our members who had passed on over the last year. He then went on to introduce our principal guest Maj James Coote from the PWRR who gave a moving and most interesting account of the 1st Battalion's recent activities in Iraq whilst "keeping the peace" in the City of Basra. Maj Coote commanded the Company that, in addition to his own DSO, the awards included Pte Beharry's VC, a CGC (Conspicuous Gallantry Cross), and six MC's.

RM

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

The Regimental Executive Committee decided, earlier this year, that it would be likely to encourage greater attendance to the Annual Service if it was moved forward to 11 am from the previous time of 3 pm. This was obviously a popular decision as the number in the Regimental Chapel on Saturday the 14th May 2005 was very much up on last year. Unfortunately The Right Revered Monsignor Ralph Brown was not well enough to attend and so again this year the Revered Prebendary Patrick Tuft, our Regimental Chaplain, led both the prayers and gave the address. The first reading from Isaiah 40 verses 1 – 9 was read by Brigadier Tony Pielow, our President and the second reading from Mathew 5 verses 1 – 6 was read by Colonel Mike Ball the Regimental Secretary of the PWRR.

RM

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE ANNUAL REUNION

At the end of the St. Paul's Service those attending quickly moved across to the Victory Services Club in readiness for the Annual General Meeting due to start at 1.15pm. It opened on time with Major Chris Lawrence in the Chair. After accepting apologies for non-attendance he introduced Colonel Mike Ball the Regimental Secretary of the PWRR who briefed the meeting on the current activities of the PWRR. He also outlined his view on the future of the Regiment. He was pleased to say that the Regiment was still fully recruited, the only infantry regiment to be in that fortunate position. Major Dennis Bradley then gave an overview on the Association finances. From the figures he produced it is obvious that we are financially viable, that our funds are in good hands, and are being very well looked after. Under the heading of Any Other Business there arose a detailed discussion with regard to the location of the next reunion. Members expressed their

dissatisfaction with the service now being offered by the Victory Services Club and wished to move away. Major Bradley said at the 2004 reunion he was made aware of the member's views on this matter so he arranged, prior to this meeting, for the members of the Executive Committee to view the facilities offered by the Union Jack Club. The Committee thought the Union Jack Club could well cater for our needs and were a better option than the Victory Services Club. It was recommended to the meeting that the 2006 reunion should be held there. It was agreed that the 2006 reunion be held at the Union Jack Club. The meeting then concluded and those present moved to the Carisbrooke Hall to join those in the bar waiting for the reunion proper to start at 2.15pm. The usual meal of fish and chips was served. Dougie Francis, Bill Rawlinson and others ran the raffle the proceeds of which went to the Korean Club.

RM

LOOK BACK TO ANGER

Without a doubt it was the strange combination of boredom and tension that struck a newcomer (even a callow newly commissioned 2/Lt.) to Cyprus in 1956 at the height of the Emergency.

On our side disinterest seemed everywhere. It was almost as if the whole thing was a rather unpleasant incident which was temporarily interrupting normal life and the routine of a pleasant service posting – the Suez fiasco was just over but the number of battalions occupied in what seemed at the start to be a minor colonial affair was to grow steadily.

Indeed, the belief that the importance of EOKA was greatly exaggerated had so pervaded the air in Government House and the larger part of the civil service that we were caught completely off-balance and off-guard when quick and decisive counteraction became necessary.

For the Greek population, who admittedly quite wanted Enosis (Union with Greece) but were not generally fanatical about it at the start, our indecision and tendency towards uncertain procrastination must have come to seem like provocation through omission

To the Turks, friendly in the extreme towards us until the very last stages and outnumbered as they were by the Greeks, our desire to negotiate with a terrorist-based organisation must have seemed like the basest political treachery and betrayal. However, like the German General Staff and the



Simon Cawthorne in 1956

industrialists who backed Hitler in his bid for power, believing that they could control him, the Greek Cypriots and their infamous Archbishop found that he who rides the tiger cannot safely dismount whenever he chooses.

Approval, whether tacit or overt, brought its own tiger in the form of Grivas, codenamed Dighenis after the legendary island warrior-hero who once before freed them from slavery, and his Greek gunmen from the mainland.

From the initial passive resistance by crowds in the towns and half-hearted strike action, the situation seemed to worsen almost daily, culminating in the trial and execution of a Nicosia student for the murder of a policeman. That we had in this case no alternative but to confirm and carry out the sentence was a fact lost on the majority of Greek islanders.

Nearly every day there seemed to be riots or demonstrations against the British, with violence growing in intensity as time went by. Despite the impression which this state of affairs gave to any Englishmen, the average Greek in the country districts was at pains to explain, without any conscious irony or hypocrisy, that they had nothing against the British themselves – only against the status quo and our way of maintaining it.

Due to our lamentable lack of intelligence forewarning of this campaign, we found ourselves without any adequate means of controlling the situation. The police force, while admirable for ordinary civil duties and the preservation of law and order by routine methods, found itself quite out of its depth when it came to dispersing riots and hunting down armed street fighters. Its undermanned strength and inadequate facilities were stretched to breaking-point in the first few months with the high proportion of Greek Cypriots in its ranks being a constant security risk and source of information to the terrorists.

At this stage we called in the Army and the opposition finessed us by the increasing use of schoolchildren in their riots – as many a soldier will tell you, there is no more disconcerting sight than a screaming mob of sixth form girls who really mean business in the front ranks of a riot!

But as the Germans found in France, Crete and a host of other occupied countries, how do you subdue a country – or at least a large part of it? Throughout the whole of the Emergency the conduct of our troops was most exemplary under the most trying circumstances imaginable – violence on our part was kept to a minimum, although the provocation was there in full measure and more.

The months of tension followed each other without, it seemed, any interruption. Bomb outrages and shootings became commonplace and a

ceaseless programme of patrols and searches was instigated. Road Blocks would be set up, vehicles and their passengers searched and mountain tracks patrolled. At one point the whole island was put under a 9pm curfew and anyone found breaking it was questioned and his house thoroughly searched. Ambush parties went out every night to lie in wait on known or suspected terrorist routes; a monotonous routine, broken occasionally by a short, sharp gun-battle in some deserted field or on some lonely mountain track.

Security Regulations imposed by a worried Government allowed for the detention of EOKA suspects and sympathisers without charge or trial and two large camps were set up – the Battalion guarded the one in Pyla and I remember my platoon having to subdue a riot one day. As “Camp Security Commander,” I had to walk the outside perimeter every night past the guard dog kennels – the Alsatians growled just enough to unsettle you and my pistol holster was always unbuttoned till I was well clear!

But still the movement could not be crushed and still the troops swore, sweated, rode or marched in their aid to the Civil Power.

Police stations all over the island became little fortresses in their own right, often manned by up to a platoon of infantry, surrounded by barbed wire, sandbags and improvised warning devices. They were a favourite target for EOKA raids and many a soldier spent long nights on taut-nerved guard beside a Bren gun, staring into the shadowy moonlight, watching for a flurry of movement and the shocking explosion of a grenade.

Often little pitched battles would be fought for these stations and the wireless net would crackle into life in the Battalion Ops Room with the sound of shots and cries providing the background for a request for reinforcements.

Constant daily patrols were the order of the day – through the heat and the dust sections of infantry drove or marched, blocking, checking, interrogating. Whole villages were suddenly surrounded, the inhabitants collected in the main square for identity checks and their houses and public buildings searched from rooftop to cellar – generally without success but occasionally with the discovery of an arms dump or a wanted man.

And so it went on, day after day. Sleep became the soldiers' elusive goal. Alternate day and night patrols with any time in camp on stand-by for riot

duties became their way of life. Tempers became frayed and nerves stretched but control was generally kept and the job was always done on time!

Now the “fighters for freedom” turned on their own people. Moderates who deplored aloud the reign of suspicion, restrictions and violence were beaten up or murdered, often in the open street or in their own homes. “Murder Mile” in Nicosia is a household word now, synonymous with back-shootings and bombs in shopping crowds.

But the answer to the security forces and police was always the same – nobody had seen anything, nobody knew anything, nobody could help. They could perhaps not be blamed for their unwillingness to co-operate. They knew that their own turn could come without warning if they talked – and life is sweet, when all's said and done.

Indeed when one remembers that a few informers were deported to this country, rewarded and given new identities to safeguard them against reprisals, and that the revenge of EOKA still sought them out to be sacrificed on the altar of freedom, it is small wonder that a largely peace-loving people could have been so intimidated by a ruthless minority.

How could we win in such a situation? Perhaps Sir John Harding's policy of toughness was moving in the right direction. After only a few months of his concentrated tactical sweeps and a policy of shooting first and asking questions afterwards, debatable though such tactics might be to a purist, EOKA were suing for a truce. There was every indication that the back of the movement, if not actually broken, was at least very severely bent.

But then the Government policy underwent a striking change. Negotiation – not appeasement or surrender, that must be clearly understood (!) – became the background to the bombings, riots and patrols. Sir Hugh Foot replaced Sir John Harding, so knight followed knight in the days of the Cyprus struggle.

The powers of the security forces were drastically curtailed, the velvet glove took over from the mailed fist and impartiality became the rule. Thus in one foul swoop all our gains were nullified, our former friends The Turkish Cypriots, were antagonised and the soldiers' lives became more frustrating than ever.

Up till then, it should be pointed out; the Turks had never wavered from their traditional friendship towards us. Many a hot, dusty patrol entering a Turkish village had been greeted by smiling villagers and an invitation to sit down for coffee, cold drinks and fresh watermelon. They formed the only reliable section of the police force and could be trusted with any duty, which they carried out tirelessly.

But times and attitudes change fast in diplomacy. An element of the populace which never before had given any trouble was now suspect like the Greeks and was subjected to the same searches, detention and indignities that the others had brought upon themselves.

In due course that unfailing friend and ally of the underdog, World Opinion, came to the aid of Cyprus. Outvoted in the United Nations by a galaxy of little states, to most of whom we had given the independence which now allowed them this way of showing their gratitude, and supported only by a few of our old allies, we succumbed to the Greek Cypriot demands.

It is interesting to note, in retrospect, that these now called for independence, not only from Britain but also from everyone else. Gone were the cries of Enosis, chanted with such rhythmic fervour in front of Government House and supported so eloquently from his pulpit by Archbishop Makarios, before his sudden and forcible removal to the Seychelles.

So now they are independent, with exception of two enclaves retained by us for strategic purposes, around which even now there is still controversy and lately the sound of dynamite as water supplies are blown up. Now there is an uneasy peace once more on this sun and blood-soaked island. An uneasy peace because still the hatchet men of Dighenis are taking their revenge on anyone suspected of having helped us in those dark days.

But now you can at least take your coffee or your beer in the bars or on the pavements without the weight of a pistol on your hip or the sight of your armed driver nearby, and without the sounds of explosions or restless, shouting crowds.

The only real losers are the pundits in London military clubs who saw the whole affair for what it possibly was – the usual twisting of the Lion's tail with impunity after the Suez fiasco – and the hundreds of Cypriots who are now out of work because the British Army camps have been closed down.

Perhaps the fullness of time will show that our Turkish Cypriot friends, that contented and prosperous minority, have lost as well. I hope not – but who can tell these days? One thing is certain – if the Greek Cypriots move against them, they will not be able to count on any support from us, co-guarantors of the new Cyprus Constitution though we may be!

SC

A TALE TOLD TO PETER CLARKE AT A REGIMENTAL DINNER

It was my good fortune at a Regimental function last year to find myself sitting next to eighty-four year old John Harris. A retired eminent architect, he was serving in Hong Kong as a Sapper Lieutenant from September 1940 and was eventually imprisoned following the surrender to the Japanese on Christmas Day 1941. He has had published his wartime experiences in the Royal Engineers Journal, who have kindly agreed the extract which follows to be used in the Diehard.

To set the scene: John eventually ended up in the POW Camp in Argyle Street and takes up the story at this point:

Understandably, the Allies wanted to know what was happening in Hong Kong, particularly during the 1942-44 period. What Japanese ships and aircraft were in Hong Kong? What were their troops up to? In December 1942, 12 months after the Colony's surrender, Chinese agents of the British Army Aid Group (BAAG) based far away in China started passing messages into our Argyle Street POW Camp.

In March 1943 I was a member of Hut 3 unloading party, shifting a load of logs from a truck. The truck was open and had three-foot high sides. A Japanese soldier was on guard and stood next to the driver whilst the prisoners were unloading the wood at the rear. I got into the truck in order to sweep, with my hands, the chippings and bark to the rear. This meant I was at one point some two or three feet behind the Chinese driver. I was also only some three or four feet from the Japanese guard. Just then the Chinese driver gave a cough, which made me suspicious, and threw a piece of cigarette paper over his shoulder into the truck. It landed a foot away from the pile of bark. I swept up the pile with the cigarette paper and took it away. At that time I knew nothing about BAAG.

During my captivity I had got to know and respect Colonel L.A. Newnham, playing chess with him in the evening. He was a former Commanding

Officer of the Middlesex Regiment and one of General Maltby's principal Staff Officers. I brought the piece of paper to Colonel Newnham and he immediately took it to the cookhouse and held it up in front of the fire, and the first message became visible. We were in touch with the world.

Colonel Newnham gave me a reply. It was hidden in a cigarette packet and left in a truck when the same driver was next on duty. Gradually the concealment of messages became more sophisticated. Some former Indian POWs, ostensibly pro-Japanese, also guarded our camp and gave us important messages on Japanese strengths and locations, results of American bombing raids and details on crews shot down, Japanese morale, shipping, aircraft, Indian National Army activity, and traitors and informants. Often this information was of considerable value to BAAG, the United States Air Force in China and GHQ India.

In July 1943 this most successful spying system was infiltrated and collapsed. Of the nine officers involved in it, I am the only one alive today. Colonel Newnham had deliberately not involved me too much, in case I was arrested and disclosed under torture what I had learnt.

He and three others were brutally tortured but refused to betray their comrades. All four were executed, and eventually all received the George Cross. I believe the award of so many GCs being awarded in such circumstances is unique.

I believe also that John would wish me to add the following comments relating to that terrible episode of the British in Hong Kong. Elsewhere he has written:

I have referred to the remarkable courage of Colonel Newnham of the Middlesex Regiment, who so deservedly won the George Cross. But I also wish to pay tribute to the great gallantry of all the men of the Middlesex Regiment. They so greatly deserved the Battle Honour "Hong Kong" which was proudly emblazoned on their Colours. I have always had the utmost respect for them, during both the fighting and the terrible imprisonment, which followed.

Over 2,000 allies were killed, died of wounds or were missing and 1,332 were seriously wounded in Hong Kong – a very high proportion considering there were only 12,000 defenders. (Many more were to die in captivity). "There was", as the Official History has it, "no lack of good and gallant

leadership". Churchill had signalled the Governor on 21 December 1941: "The enemy should be compelled to expend the utmost life and equipment. Every day that you are able to maintain your resistance you and your men can win the lasting honour which we are sure will be your due". He later wrote in his history of the war: "these orders were obeyed in spirit and to the letter. The Colony had fought a good fight. They had indeed won the lasting honour."

Finally, I pay tribute to Major General Maltby, the GOC at the time of the surrender, who behaved in impossibly difficult circumstances throughout the war with tremendous courage and will."

ELVAS AND ALBUHERA 2005



The Memorial at Talavera

Five members of Hounslow Branch departed for the Iberian Peninsula via Madrid on Friday 13th May to proceed to La Albuera by road, stopping at the memorial aside the motorway at Talavera, which was erected to mark the large number of human remains unearthed, casualties of the battle, when the road was constructed.

Arriving at their destination, they prepared to attend the Ceremony of Remembrance in Elvas the next morning Saturday 14th May which is held to remember those who fell in the Peninsular War and which takes place in the British cemetery, situated high on the ramparts of the town. Nick Halladie gave a welcoming address to the large gathering, and confirmed that the Friends of the British cemetery had been granted Charitable Status and that the adjoining chapel is now to be leased to the Friends, who intend to restore the interior so that visitors to the cemetery have an abode for quiet reflection.

An address was given by both the attending Commanders of the Portuguese & Spanish Regiments Colonel Jorge Manuel Alvaro Conde Renderio and General D. Jose Ignacio Medina Cebrion and by the Mayor of Elvas. Wreaths were laid by various dignitaries, including Sir Bernard de Houghton on the grave of his ancestor, and on the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment tablet by Richard Thornton TD. Rev. Michael Bullock said prayers and Last Post and Reveille were sounded by a Bugler from Regiment 18. A piper's lament was the prelude to the appearance of 6 members of the Portuguese Napoleonic Society attired in costumes of the period who discharged a musket volley across the ramparts. A fitting end to a moving ceremony. Afterwards lunch was taken at the Clube de Tiro e Caca.

Albuera Day, 16th May, dawned wet and miserable, reminiscent of the weather in 1811, we were assured by our Spanish hosts that it would clear by 1130am and as predicted the sun broke through. We assembled outside the Town Hall for the march on parade of the Spanish Army, this year drawn from BRIMZ Extramadura XI. This was followed by the raising of the National Flags of all the participants who took part in the battle. Speeches were made by the visiting Ambassadors and Military Attaches who were each presented with a plaque as a memento of the occasion. Wreaths were laid at the Village Monument prior to General Coll Bucler, who had travelled from Burgos to be present, being adopted as a "son of La Albuera". A display of Spanish dancing, an interpretation of the battle, then followed in the museum.



Members of the Association Napoleonica Portuguesa

Events then moved to Wellington Park, the site of the Regiment's Memorial, where the Spanish Army contingent had assembled, together with all the distinguished guests, Guardia Civil detachment and the local population to witness the presentation of the PWRR Cup by Mike Ward, on behalf of the Regiment, to Belen Santos Rubio who had made the most progress in the English language. He told those assembled that "the Regiment is proud of its links with La Albuera and that the English Regiments who fought here with their Spanish Allies will, it is hoped, continue to return to this hallowed ground for many years to come."

Wreaths were then laid by the Mayor of La Albuera and General Jefe on behalf of the people of the village on the PWRR elevation of the memorial,

followed by R. Thornton on behalf of PWRR, A. Richardson for the Buffs, J. Raby for the East Surreys and J. Wells for the Middlesex Regiment, on each of the respective elevations of the monument. Nick Halladie laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the Friends of the British Cemetery on the stone marking the interred colours. The Spanish Army's Bugler then sounded Torque de Silencio followed by a minute's silence before blowing Punto Largo in honour of those who fell in the battle.

A fine banquet was then held at the "Ventura Rosario", where friendships were renewed and new ones made. The Norris brothers were in attendance, Darren attired in the costume of a private of the Regiment in 1811 – Paul was in mufti.

Celebrations and ceremonies were scheduled to continue in the Village until Sunday 22nd May, which includes a march past of the villagers dressed in costumes of all nations who fought in the battle.

Our sojourn in Spain ended with an extremely fine lunch at Celia Denney's residence in Salvatierra los Barros. Celia does so much to foster the Regiment's relationship with La Albuera and Elvas, for which we are very grateful.

MW

ODD JOTTINGS

A Colourful day, March 10 1905 in South Africa where it has been reported that the 3rd Battalion of the Middlesex has been presented with its first colours by Lord Milner. The ceremony took place on a large open space in front of the Officers Club at Middleburg, where the Regiment was drawn up with detachments of the Queen's Bays and the South Stafford's. After Lord Milner inspected the troops, the new colours were blessed.

Reverend Patrick Tuft, our Regimental Chaplain, travelled to Rome on an ecumenical pilgrimage in October 2004, during his stay he met Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was then head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, The Cardinal was recently elected to be the 265th Pope.

John Jones who served with the 1st Battalion from 1928 to 1944 and who died in 1976 left a collection of photographs and other artefacts showing life in the Regiment prior to World War 2. These came to light recently and his son in law. Bob Alexander, kindly offered these to the Regiment via RHQ PWRR. They are of great interest and have therefore been passed to the National Army Museum for safe keeping.

At Holy Trinity Church in Chantry in Somerset (near to Frome) there is a war memorial within the church that includes an entry showing that George Every was killed in action on the 16th August 1917 whilst serving with the 2nd Battalion and his name is recorded on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. You may wish to visit if you are in the area, This information was provided by Dr and Mrs Rawlins who live in Chantry.

Ron Morris represented the Regiment at the Ceremony, lead by HRH the Prince of Wales at the Cenotaph on the 8th May 05 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the ending of the war in Europe. He laid a wreath in memory of the fallen.

H Bell-Steele has written to say how much he enjoys the Newsletter, he read with interest Kevin Brown's article on the Gibraltar trip on which he and his wife were included and despite the fact that they were unknown, at the start the laughter and comradeship during their stay was something to remember and as an 80 year old Die-Hard he sends thanks to all the group.

Congratulations to Jim Wells jnr, a member of Hounslow branch serving with the Hampshire Police in Portsmouth was recently named Officer of the Year for the city's police force. Jim a detective constable, who leads the tasking unit at the city's crime unit, took the top honour among 20 awards handed out by Portsmouth police.

Members of the Regimental Association were present with family and friends to congratulate Vic & Nancy Debenhan on having completed 60 years of married life at the Antoinette hotel in Kingston. Vic served with 8th Battalion during the Normandy campaign.

John Farnborough has written to say that he and his wife have been married for over 64 years, that he remembers Charlie Ward whilst serving with A Coy 1/7th and that the company was a grand collection of friends and comrades who travelled a long way from El Alamein to Tunis, Sicily, Normandy and Germany, and enquires whether Pte F R Schofield who recently joined the Association is the one who was in his platoon.

Raymond Sturge wrote to say that he was unable to attend the reunion due to a prior engagement, having been awarded Life President of the Kent Branch of the Institute of Chiropodists and Podiatrists. Ray has received a considerable number of achievements and awards during his 60 years of continuous voluntary service.



This photograph shows Mrs Jeffcoat against the East face of the monument, holding a copy of the December 2002 Die-Hard the cover of which depicts the monument at New Plymouth. It was this Bulletin which prompted her to track down the precise whereabouts of the monument which is located in the Te Henui Cemetery at New Plymouth in New Zealand.



*Heinz Johannsen at his Rensburg Town Museum
with a MX friend from 1945*

Heinz Johannsen has written to say that he remembers all those good lads of the Regiment who supported him and his family in Rensburg after the war. He feels that it cannot be mentioned enough what these soldiers did for the German people once hostilities had ceased.. He would like to thank everyone, and those he is not in contact with, who in 1946/7, made life a little better.

OBITUARIES

We advise with the deepest regret that the following have died

AYLWARD - Mike MBE died on 1st May 2005 aged 63. His early service was with the Middlesex Regiment but along with members of the Regiment he became a Queen's Regiment soldier in December 1966 when the large regiment was formed. He was granted a Quartermaster's Commission in August 1980 and he retired from the Army in August 1992 in the rank of Major. After leaving the Army he was for a time, a Retired Officer at RHQ PWRR with among his other duties he was responsible for liaison with the Middlesex Regimental Association. His funeral was held at Barham Crematorium on Tuesday the 17th May where in addition to the family, there was a large gathering present from the Regiment to say goodbye.

CHAMBERLAIN - Albert George died on 21st August 2004 aged 84 years, he was a territorial pre war and was one of the first to be called into the war, he served in France and was a survivor of Dunkirk. He subsequently served with the 1/7th Battalion in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy and Belgium. Albert attended all the lunches at Hornsey, unfortunately missing the 2004 event. He was a member of the Dunkirk Veterans until his death.

CLARKE - Robert (Bob) A true Die Hard Bob was born in Kensington on 28th April 1934. Leaving school; at 14 he worked on the railway until he was called up for National Service. Bob quickly settled into Army life and signed for an extra year then joined the Fire Service and became a leading Fireman stationed mainly in London's East End. Bob's interest in the Middlesex Regiment and all things military never waned and he became a walking encyclopedia on the subject. This interest also manifested itself in his hobby of reproducing Army cap badges and medals, an art in which he became highly skilled, paying attention to the finest detail. A member of the Enfield branch of the Middlesex Regimental Association, he was also a member of the Royal Order of Buffaloes and Chairman of the Canvey Island branch of the Royal British Legion. Sadly a few years ago Bob suffered an Aneurysm and was lucky to survive, however from then on his health deteriorated and he became afflicted with Pick's disease a condition similar to Alzheimer's. Despite having to go to hospital on several occasions he soldiered on bravely and maintained his dignity until the last. He passed away on 11th February whilst out walking. He was cremated at Pitsea crematorium on 24th February 2005 surrounded by his family and friends. His coffin was draped with the Union Jack and topped with a wreath of

poppies from the Enfield branch and was escorted by three standard bearers. The Enfield branch was represented by P Humphries, A Brown and Bob's close friend D Reeber. Bob was a big man in every sense and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

DAVIS - Howard passed away 11th April 2004 served with 5 th Battalion Middlesex (TA) no further information available

DODSON - Mrs L.F. a widow of one of our pre war regular soldiers who has maintained contact with the Association over many years. She always sent the Secretary a Christmas card and wrote to say how much she enjoyed the newsletter after each and every issue. She will be missed. The actual date of her passing is not known but the information was received when those living at her address received the notification about the reunion and they were kind enough to tell us the sad news.

GEORGE - John Nelson 23524832 passed away on 18th November 2004. See letters to the editor.

HEDGES - Eric (Boy) 6206922 Born 22 February 1922 died on 19 March 2005 aged 83 years after a long illness that he had fought bravely. He joined 2/7th in May 1939 and left service in November 1946. He was the brother in law of 6203065 Pte Reg Hines who was killed in action 13th June 1944 and is buried at Ranville Cemetery outside Caen.

JONES - Edward Gwynne (known as Eddie), 14549179 who served with the 1/7th Battalion from July 1943 until demob at the end of World War 2 died suddenly on 10th September 2003. Eddie worked for the Midland Bank for 40 years and retired as Manager of the Addlestone Branch in 1985. This information was passed to us recently by his widow Silvia. We have no funeral details.

McSHANE - John was Bandmaster of the 1st Battalion for some years leading up to the formation of the Queen's Regiment in 1966. Sad to report he died on the 30th January 2005. that is all the information that we currently have.

McLEAN - Ivor Drury joined the Essex Regiment in January 1940. promoted Corporal and was posted to Officer cadet Machine Gun O.C.T.U in 1941, commissioned as 2nd Lieut. and posted to Middlesex Regiment, promoted captain in 1942 as an instructor at 130 Machine Gun O.C.T.U. on

4.2 inch mortars joined 8th Battalion Middlesex regiment part of 43rd Wessex Division in Belgium after the invasion in 1944 commanding a 4.2 inch mortar platoon. Fought through the campaign in the Reichswald forest against the German S.S. troops and then on through Nijmegen crossing the Rhine at Cleve and Goch. The Regiment then fought on through Hengelo, Lingen. and Cloppenburg to Bremen. Then across to Bremerhaven where when preparing to attack, Ivor who was by then Adjutant of the Battalion, received a signal from Divisional HQ that the Germans had surrendered and the war was over. Subsequently the Regiment was sent to Celle and assisted in the clearance of Belsen concentration camp where he witnessed the camp commandant Joseph Kramer and the infamous Irma Greise locked in the local jail prior to trial. It was alleged that Irma Greise made lampshades from the skins of her prisoners.

After this the Regiment returned to Belgium and were sent to South of France where they embarked on the SS Batory at Toulon for Egypt. Ivor was promoted to Major in 1945 and became Company Commander, by then having transferred to 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment, part of the 2nd British Infantry Division. The Regiment did a tour of duty in Palestine (now Israel) on peace keeping duties, crossing the Sinai desert from Egypt in Bren Carriers and lorries. During the terrorist activities of the Stern Gang and Irgun Zevai Leumi they alternated between Egypt and Palestine. In August 1946 Ivor returned to England for demobilisation, having finished as 2i/c 2nd Battalion Middlesex Regiment and was granted the title of Honorary Major. Ivor died on 11th February 2005 peacefully at home aged 83 Years. He leaves a wife Jacqueline and stepson David.

NESBIT - P ST C 2037608 1st Battalion taken P.O.W in Hong Kong. No further information to hand.

PAGE - Norman Sergeant C Group 2/7th Battalion died on 14th January 2005. He served with the Battalion throughout the second World War and following the Anzio landings was taken Prisoner in February 1944. He leaves his wife Vera. Cremation was held at Barham Kent on 27th January. The Regiment was represented by Fred Phillips and Partner Mary who were great friends of Norman.

SHRUBB - Dorothy widow of W.O.2 L.P. Shrubb MM died peacefully on 25th August last, cremation was held at Isle of Wight on Friday 3rd September 2004.

SMITH - Roy who served as a Major with the Regiment during World War Two died in November 2004. We were informed in early April 2005 when his widow received the routine letter about the 2005 Officers' Dinner Club. We have no further information.

ROGERS - Sheila Widow of Colour Sergeant Jack Rogers 1st Middlesex & 1st Queen's, died at Nacia Park Alicante Spain on 10th April where she was cremated. A service of Thanksgiving was held at St Annes' Church Canvey Island which was attended by her family and friends.

WELCH - Jimmy died on 29th December 2004. He served with 2/7th Battalion through out the 2nd World War and was in the Corps of Drums with the Battalion. He attended practically all the reunions in London, travelling from North Yorkshire.

YATES - Tony served during the Second World War with 2/7th Battalion in C Group Heavy Mortar Company passed away In January. His funeral was held on 1st February in Chelmsford and was attended by Fred Phillips and his partner Mary and Ken (Rocky) Rota as representatives of the Regiment.

LT COL. JEREMY DAVID GUNNELL TD

Jerry Gunnell died on the 12th March after a long battle with Cancer. He was aged 78. His funeral took place on 31st March at the Westerleigh Crematorium after a service attended by family and local friends as well as several members of the Officers' Club and a representation of the Middlesex branch of the Queen's Regimental Association of which he was a past president.

Jerry David Gunnell was born in Hampstead on 30th October 1926 where he lived with his parents and brother Hugh and spent most of his formative years in North London. He was educated at Birkhampstead Public School before returning to London with the idea of studying for a degree in Engineering. However, with National Service to complete his chosen career was put on hold.

I first met Jerry some 44 years ago. Perhaps "met" is the wrong word to use probably "was interviewed by" is more correct. The time was 1958 and Jerry was commanding "C" Company of the 7th Battalion the Middlesex Regiment, based at the old drill hall in Enfield town. Many of my

contemporaries from those distant days would agree that Jerry practised "duty of care" long before the phrase became fashionable.

Prior to his service with the T.A. Jerry had been a National Service officer who had taken a regular commission thus extending his service to 3 years. It was just after the war that he found himself in the Far East where a good part of his time was spent chasing Japanese war criminals from camp to camp the length and breadth of Malaya. He spent some time serving as a staff captain. I once asked Jerry why he did not choose the Army as a career and he told me that in the post war the prospects were not good the aim of the powers was to "downsize" as quickly as possible. A familiar story.

And so back in civvy street with career to get started on he joined the pensions department of the Prudential Insurance Company where he stayed until retirement as a senior executive specialising in the field of pensions. I can remember shortly after his retirement Jerry once responding to an enquiry as to whether he was still working or not came the quick response "Oh no. I don't work any more!" but this was of course far from the truth. for as well as running his own consultancy he had taken on several "voluntary" posts including that of secretary to the Middlesex Territorial Trustees, a member of the Queens Regiment Board of Trustees, Chairman of the 7th Middlesex Officers club, financial secretary of the local British Red Cross and finally President of the Middlesex branch of the Queens Regimental Association. Indeed so involved was Jerry in these voluntary "retirement" activities that his companion Sylvia, in an effort to enhance the team effort became an active supporter of the Army Benevolent Fund, and so the voluntary work was to a certain extent "shared".

Running parallel to his career at the Pru he also had a very successful TA career and after those tough but happy days at Enfield he held several appointments in 5 Mx before eventually taking over command of the 10th Bn the Queen's Regiment in April 1968. The 10th Battalion was a Home Defence unit and was an amalgam of Infantry, Engineers and Gunners. This fact alone must have made it a very difficult job for Jerry calling on all his reserves of leadership and diplomacy, not to mention tact and understanding. Sadly the Battalion only lasted a year before it in turn fell foul of more defence cuts.

Jerry was pre-deceased by his wife Jean who died of cancer in 1972. After Jean's death, Jerry lived in a flat in Westminster before moving to the

cottage at Box in Gloucestershire where he became a well known figure, a keen gardener with a flair for presentation and with Sylvia would annually take on the task of decorating the church hall for the flower festival.

In whatever he did Jerry Gunnell seemed to carry with him an air of benevolent authority. As an officer he was firm but fair. When chairing a meeting he seemed to be able to conduct the business of the day in such a manner that what we were doing really counted for something, indeed the welfare of today's Territorial was always uppermost in his thinking. I have heard it said by others that at the annual 7th Battalion Officers Club dinner that when Jerry, as chairman, read the names of the fallen Battalion Officers, there would be an atmosphere in the room that reached out over the years as if the tragedy of such loss had happened only yesterday.

Personally I shall always be grateful that I knew a man with such wise council and genuine friendship. and will remember Jerry Gunnell as will many others, as truly an Officer and gentleman.

DH

LIEUTENANT DAVID MICHAEL EVERARD

David Everard died suddenly in hospital on 15th November 2004.

David was born on 10th September 1938 into a naval family. After leaving St. Edward's School, Oxford, there followed a brief spell with an oil company. Then in the early 1960's he was granted a three year Short Service Commission into the Middlesex Regiment, and joined the 1st Battalion stationed in Hamelin, Germany. He was posted to A Company who at that time believed in the axiom work hard, play hard. This fitted nicely with David's approach to military service.

David was a Crash-tackling centre in what was considered a more than useful Battalion Rugby Team, as well as being a good athlete. Not long after joining the Battalion, David let it be known that he felt the food in the Officer's Mess left much to be desired. As so often happens, he was soon made Messing Officer a job nobody wanted. The standard of food soon improved considerably, and everybody dreaded the day when it would be someone else's turn to take over from him. When not on duty, he managed to enjoy a full social life getting to know a number of German families. This

was probably the start of what was to become an "international" side to his life.

Having completed his commission he joined Olivetti and it was not long before he was posted as their representative in East Africa. He travelled widely for them as well as becoming Secretary of the Dar es Salaam Sailing Club, learning to fly and competing in the East Africa Safari. Following Africa, he moved to Australia and then Hong Kong where for Johnson Evenrude Outboard Motors, having a large company boat at his disposal as well as belonging to the sailing club. Once again his job contained a strong element of travel, not least a number of trips to China. From Hong Kong he returned to Holland where he joined Polaroid, soon being promoted to the position of Director of Export Marketing Operations (Europe, Africa and Middle East) It was at this time he married his wife Martine. His next move was to bring the Marketing Operations to Harpenden in Hertfordshire, where he was to enjoy considerable success. Ultimately his final move was to Greece to become Director of Operations (East Mediterranean). It was there that he was to meet Gavin Bulloch who arrived as DA in Athens.

David finally retired to Harpenden where in more recent times he set up a yacht chartering company, which Martine continues to run, drawing on his love of sailing and considerable contacts in Greece.

What you saw with David was what you got. He was always very clear about what he considered to be right and what was wrong. Having spent many happy times with him, Martine, Nathalie, and Sophie in Greece Portugal and Harpenden, one admired his qualities of integrity coupled with a great sense of humour. He will be greatly missed by his loving family and all who knew him.

John Lofting, Bob Bartlett and Terry Parnell represented the Regiment as part of a very large congregation at his funeral at St Nicholas Church Harpenden on 26th November 2004.

JL

LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE ASSOCIATION

Thank you for your kind letter. I had 28 extremely happy years with Hugh and it will take a long-time before the loss of him gets easier He was a lovely man.

He never forgot his years in the Middlesex Regiment, often talked about his friends and was very interested to read about all the goings on in the Die Hard magazine.

Although he had no children of his own, my own four found him a "wonderful Father", always interested in them and full of knowledge and help if indeed. Please thank all his friends for their kind sympathy. it is much appreciated.

Very sincerely

Vina Evans

France

Your letter of 29th March went to my old address, so some delay before it reached me. I am sorry for the lateness of my reply. I thank you for your invitation to the Annual Albuhera Service in St Paul's Cathedral on Saturday 14th May '05 but unfortunately am unable to attend.

I always remember the "Die-Hards" on May 14th to the memory of my late husband Roger and the Regiment. I hope that you have a lovely service, a good meeting and a happy reunion with families and friends.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Anne Pitman

York

I would like to take this opportunity in thanking you very much in arranging the scattering of my dear husband's ashes (Private John Nelson George) in the grounds of Howe Barracks on 18th February 2005.

I would also like to thank the Padre for his kind comforting words of prayer and particularly as it was an unusual request.

I felt so proud and overwhelmed and know that my dear John would have been, knowing that his wishes were granted and fulfilled.

We were so fortunate to have had a lovely sunny day. As the hymn goes "All things Bright and Beautiful"

Myself and friend (ex Sgt Major Bill McClean of the Queen's Regiment) were also very grateful for the so helpful and warm welcome we received when we arrived.

Thank you again, Yours truly
Mrs H. C. George
Isle of Sheppey, Kent

I was pleased to read that 6205138 Reg Warner is still an active member. We both lived in Felixstowe and joined up at Ipswich in 1939. I put my age up as I was only sixteen, left the Regiment at Mill Hill and went to South Petherton in 1940. I met a young lady there and we married in 1947 after my return from having been a POW for 5 years having been captured at St Valery. We lived by the sea at Felixstowe and then moved to Somerset, on the anniversary of our move, the East Coast floods engulfed our ground floor flat to the ceiling.

I got a job as a weaver in Somerset in a sailcloth mill and had great pleasure in following the exploits of the folks we made sails for such as Rodney Patterson Olympic Gold Medallist, Prince Phillip's "Bluebottle", Ted Heath's "Morning Cloud" and Francis Chichester's "Gypsy Moth".

I am very fortunate as I take no pills or potions walk 5 or 6 miles a day and am able to look after my wife. I hope that this will be of interest to 6205138 Warner Reginald.

Yours sincerely
K (Chico) Branton
Frome, Somerset

I was invited on the "Gib Holiday" and it was really fantastic, what a truly great time was had by us all. The staff at the retreat and the locals did us proud. It was so good to see all the other Die Hards after 40 years, Al Jennings, Paddy Quinn, Paddy Ryan, Les Chubb, Jim Reynolds and look forward to seeing them at the reunion.

C Elliott
Acomb York

John Girdler who lives at 10 Forthriver Drive Belfast Co Antrim in Northern Ireland has written to say that he is attempting to complete a full set of the Die Hards Newsletters and would be very grateful to receive any back copies of the newsletter in the range of numbers 1 to 62. Should you be able to assist he would be grateful if you could mail them to him.

He would also like to hear from any Die Hards living in the Province.

In anticipation
J Girdler

As a result of seeing the letter from Rosalie Penn in the December Newsletter. I returned to the villa that Jimmy Ridler once owned. I met the present owners, Jim & Barbara Bracher. They were pleased to see the newsletter and to be briefed on the history of Albuhera. Jim served in the Gloucestershire Regiment and was wounded at Arnhem.



Ken Beale with Mr & Mrs Bracher

The cap badge on the rock is now quite faded but Jim Bracher said he would restore it. The villa as you will see from the photograph is still named "Albuhera".

Should you be in contact with Jimmy Ridler or Rosie Penn please give them my best wishes.

Yours Aye Ken Beale MBE
Alicante Espana



The Militia Badge

Whilst on the subject of Badges, Simon Cawthorne had mailed to him by the Simonstown Museum S.Africa this large 12 inch square badge which commemorates the 2 years which our 2nd Militia Battalion, reinforced by elements of the 3rd Militia spent during the Boer War. They distinguished

themselves at the battle of Spion Kop, covering the rest of the British who were being shot to pieces by the Boers, after having climbed the hill at night, taking up positions in the wrong place and finding themselves overlooked by the enemy.

The scroll is emblazoned with the words "South Africa 1900-02", prior to this the scroll on Militia Battalions cap badges was blank.

NEW MEMBERS

The following members of the Regiment have joined the Association since the last newsletter.

Sir John Birch KCVO CMG	1st Bn & 7th Bn (TA)
23869795 S/Sgt P J Chapman	Corps of Drums 1st Bn
P/96061 T/Major M P Whitlock	2/8th Battalion

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE WESTMINSTER SATURDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2005

The Annual Service of Remembrance will take place at the Middlesex Guildhall Westminster, members and friends are invited to attend and are requested to assemble at the Guildhall at 10.45am. The service will commence at 10.55am. On conclusion of the service in the Guildhall the Regimental Association will be providing a glass of sherry so that those attending can get together before departing. Medals and Regimental ties should be worn by those attending.

Enter this date in your diary no further notice will be given.

N.B. Entries and articles for inclusion in the December issue must be received by 15th November 2005.

REGIMENTAL GOODS

The following are held in stock and are available on request to the Regimental Shop, RHQ PWRR Howe Barracks Canterbury Kent CT1 1JY. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to PWRR Account No 0536700 Telephone No 01227 818058.

Blazer Badges	£8.00
Ice Buckets miniature side drum with regimental emblazon	£24.00
Plus postage & 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	£15.00
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 & packing on all small orders contact the shop for larger orders.

Note Price changes.

