

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

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Regimental Headquarters
The Queen's Regiment
(Queen's Surreys Office)
Portsmouth Road
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey

May, 1968

The Editor's Letter

Dear Member,

The Annual Report of the Regimental Association has been reduced in content this year, and now contains the bare essentials. Previously the Annual Report has included a good deal of Regimental news, but that is principally the purpose of this News Letter. We considered combining the Annual Report and May News Letter, but decided against it because it would have meant sending out about a thousand free copies of the News Letter. Every member of the Association is entitled to receive the Annual Report, but only those who subscribe 6/- a year may receive the News Letter. We have done our best to increase the number of subscribers by sending free copies of the May and November 1967 News Letter to Association members. No doubt members were pleased to receive these News Letters, but not many troubled to send their 6/- for the subscription. As we said in our last Letter, there will be no more 'buckshee' copies, except of course for those on our complimentary list.

It is too early to say whether the News Letter is paying its way, but we embark on the second year of publication in a mood of cautious optimism.

The main source of items for the News Letter is correspondence from our readers. Without your letters there would not be a great deal to put in the News Letter, so keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely,

Editor.

Our 1st Battalion

At the end of January the Advance Party of the Battalion flew out to Bahrain, arriving some 14 hours later. The main body arrived by air between 10th and 16th February.

The following is an extract from 1 Queen's contribution to the March edition of the Regimental Journal.

"For those who do not know the island, it is roughly 30 miles long from north to south and 10 miles wide, with the main populated area—the towns of Manama and Muharraq—in the north-east. The Battalion is situated in a hatted camp (Hamala Camp) in an open desert area near the west coast, some 12 miles from Manama. The huts are of the 'Twynham' variety, solid and well found, and all with air conditioning for the summer. However, accommodation scales are tight and men will be living on the basis of 22 men to each hut. The camp has a sound football pitch, a tarmac square for hockey, a swimming pool, squash court, tennis courts and an open air cinema. It sounds good,

and indeed will be as a place to be based on; but life will depend on Companies and Platoons being able to get away regularly for training, and on people having every opportunity to pursue sports and hobbies.

The Battalion, which is stationed in the Gulf for a nine-months unaccompanied tour, has as its basic role to be available at all times for any eventuality which could occur in this last area of the old Middle East Command. We come under command of Headquarters Land Forces Gulf, who are also located in Bahrain, and we are glad to have found a thriving Royal Navy community, with whom we look forward to exchanging visits and to celebrating the 'Glorious 1st of June' in suitable style."

6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment

A very large body of opinion throughout the country has been concerned at the recent Government intention to dispense with the services of T & AVR III units. At present, discussions with the Territorial Council are dependent on further defence studies as outlined in the recent Defence White Paper.

An interim statement from the Ministry of Defence permits Territorial battalions to remain in their drill halls and on their present establishments of men, equipment and vehicles. Camp for 1968 has been cancelled and any training they carry out will be without payment. Permanent Staff, both Regular and civilian, is to be phased out over a period of 12 months.

While admitting that this discouraging situation does make things difficult, the Commanding Officer of our Territorial Battalion anticipates that 6th Queen's will survive in the nation-wide military network which the Territorials provide.

Honours and Awards

Our congratulations go to the following on their awards:

CBE Colonel M. T. N. Jennings
OBE Lt Col G. B. Curtis, MC
MBE Flight Lieutenant H. W. Twidle, RAF,
formerly The East Surrey Regiment.

Retirements

It is exceptional to lose four quartermasters from the Regiment in a matter of months. The following have retired recently—Major N. G. Turner, Major J. W. Kemp, Major G. C. Forman and Major H. R. Gill. Major R. B. Johnson and Major R. C. Taylor have also retired.

The British Battalion

During the heavy fighting in the Malaya Campaign in 1941 all battalions in the 11th Indian Division suffered

heavy casualties, the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment being reduced to ten officers and 260 soldiers.

At Ipoh on 20th December the 6th and 15th Indian Brigades amalgamated; and the British battalion in each Brigade, the 2nd Surreys of the 6th and the 1st Leicesters of the 15th, were merged to form the British Battalion.

In remembrance of the gallant deeds of the British Battalion during the remainder of the Campaign and their fortitude while prisoners of war of the Japanese, the 20th December is observed annually by the successors of the original Regiments.

The following telegrams were exchanged between the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) and the 4th (Leicestershire) Bn, The Royal Anglian Regiment on 20th December, 1967.

From:

Major General F. J. C. Piggott, CB, CBE, DSO,
Deputy Colonel The Queen's Regiment,
Queen's Surreys Office.

Remembering with pride, the courage and fortitude of the Officers and Men of the British Battalion, and mindful of the close association still existing between our two Regiments, the Deputy Colonel and All Ranks, past and present, of The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys), send to you and All Ranks, past and present, of the 4th (Leicestershire) Battalion. The Royal Anglian Regiment, Greetings and Best Wishes on this day, the Anniversary of the formation of the British Battalion.

From:

Major General J. M. K. Spurling, CB, CBE, DSO,
Deputy Colonel, The Royal Anglian Regiment,
Leicestershire Headquarters.

Major General J. M. K. Spurling and All Ranks, serving and retired, of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment and 4th (Leicestershire) Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment send greetings and all good wishes to Major-General F. J. C. Piggott and All Ranks, serving and retired, of The East Surrey Regiment and of 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys), on 20th December, the anniversary of the formation of "The British Battalion". They remember with pride the outstanding bravery in action and equally outstanding fortitude, devotion to duty, comradeship, and example to others as Prisoners of War of that magnificent Battalion formed from men of our two Regiments.

Regimental Service

The Regimental Service will be held in Guildford Cathedral at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday, 16th June, 1968. All past and present members of the Regiment, together with their families and friends, are invited to attend. No tickets will be issued.

After the Service there will be a short March Past at which Major-General F. J. C. Piggott, CB, CBE, DSO, Deputy Colonel, The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) will take the salute. It is hoped all who are fit enough to do so will take part. The dress will be lounge suit with medals.

Regimental Association Christmas Cards

If there is sufficient demand, it is intended to produce a Christmas Card for members of the Regimental Association. It will be a simple four-page card, 6 in. by 4 in., without inset or ribbon. The Queen's Surreys badge, probably in colour, will be on the outside, and a greeting on the right hand inside page. The design will not change from year to year.

Negotiations for the production of this card are still

in progress, so the exact cost is not known. It is, however, expected that they will cost 10/- a dozen, or less. Packing and postage will be extra.

In order to get some idea of the number required, members are requested to inform the Editor of the News Letter of their expected requirements, in dozens. This will not commit members. The numbers are required simply for planning purposes.

Please submit your estimate of probable requirements by Saturday, 1st June, 1968.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club

The Club held its Annual Dinner at Claridges on Friday, 6th October, 1967, at which Major-General F. J. C. Piggott presided. One hundred and thirty-eight serving and retired officers attended, including, so we were told, every officer of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment, apart from the Duty Officer!

Regimental Association Reunion

At their meeting on 2nd March, 1968, the Main Committee discussed the attendance at the Annual Reunions which has been dwindling of recent years. Functions held on Army premises normally seem to attract good numbers, and it was considered that many old soldiers prefer a Service atmosphere.

The Committee accordingly made the following decisions for the 1968 Reunion.

Place: Drill Hall, 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames.

Date: Friday, 20th September, 1968, from 6.30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Admission: Men only.

Tickets: 5/-, obtainable from the Queen's Surreys Office, include a simple cold buffet.

We had hoped the Band of the 1st Battalion would be able to play during the evening, but it now appears that they will be required for duty in Bahrain.

Regimental Journal

Details of the activities of our Regular, Volunteer and Territorial Battalions can be read in the Journal of The Queen's Regiment, obtainable from Regimental Headquarters, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. The subscription is £1 a year.

Regimental Museum

The Queen's Surreys Museum is open to the public Mondays to Fridays from 09.00-12.00 hours and 13.30-16.30 hours and on Sunday mornings—by appointment. It contains a colourful and interesting display of exhibits of all periods of the history of our Regiments.

Incidentally, it was not our Museum, but The Queen's Regiment Museum at Canterbury which was broken into recently. One of the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment footballs, referred to by Major J. C. Drane in the article 'The Eighth Surreys Football Attack', is in the Regimental Museum at Canterbury. The other is in the National Army Museum at Camberley.

Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Association

Rapidly approaching the end of another year in the events and activities of the Association, which is marked by the AGM and Dinner to be held this year on 4th

May, it is encouraging to look back and recall the value and enjoyment that membership brings. Making it possible by helping someone with a very worrying financial problem which at one time seemed insurmountable, is a very rewarding enterprise. Giving a member a loan to tide him over a sticky period is another, and is a little of what goes on behind the scenes. What goes on in front are the social occasions which brings everyone together.

The Ladies Night Dinner and Dance on the 21st October was a very gay occasion. A good meal and excellent dancing made this a night to remember. Approximately 150 attended which included guests from the 1st Bn Sgts Mess whom we have not had the privilege of entertaining for some time. I don't remember the RSM doing much dancing but it was noticed that he was kept busy listening to Sam Moffett's (Iska's) anecdotes, especially of how he marched to Jhelum on one spring union.

Sunday, 29th October, over 100 members and their ladies travelled to Hobbs Barracks as guests of the 1st Bn's "At Home". The hospitality of the Sergeants Mess in wining and dining such a large number was second to none, and brought nothing but admiration from us all. It was a day full of interest and very happy memories, and will be a topic for discussion at many a future get-together.

We invited 30 of our friends from the Royal Hospital to a social evening at H.Q. on 25th November and together with personal friends of members were entertained by the Morris Singers and a Conjuror who had all travelled up from Oxford for this occasion. This coupled with talent from the Pensioners and our own discoveries ensured everybody had a good time.

The 1967 social activities ended with the 6th Bn Sgts Mess draw to which we always take part, and I understand there were several lucky members among the prizewinners.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of our Vice-President Bill Dorsett. Bill died on 27th December after a couple of months illness, and was buried at Kingston cemetery on 3rd January. The Association was represented by Messrs Boorer, Scriven, Cox, Tatum, Cahill, Chaffer, and Bays.

Bill Dorsett was one of the founder members of the W.O.s' and Sgts' Association and together with Alec Twohey and Charlie Charlesworth was mainly responsible for the framework of the Association. He was elected the first Vice-Chairman. He became Chairman at the AGM in 1953 and remained in that Office for eleven years. He accepted a Vice-Presidency on relinquishing chairmanship in 1964. His splendid example of loyalty to his Regiment, his Association and his many colleagues earned him the respect and admiration of us all and his passing leaves a void difficult to fill.

From Here and There

Old Days Remembered

Mr Frank Butcher (ex 6084577) who served in the 1st Queen's in Tientsin, Quetta and Allahabad between 1931 and 1938, writes:

"It was a very nostalgic day for me when I visited the barracks at Lingfield and met old pals from Tientsin days, and saw the silver football in the Sergeants Mess. It was presented to the 1st Queen's by the Tientsin Club, and I had last seen it 30 years previously.

I would like to send comradely greetings to all my contemporaries in the 1st Battalion who were in China and India."

Mr Butcher's address is 17 Holmside Court, Nightingale Lane, Clapham, London, S.W.12.

Changes of Addresses Overseas

Mr W. W. M. Cribbes, late Queen's, who emigrated to Australia last year, has moved to 12 Harrison Street, Dromana, Victoria, 3936, Australia.

Mr John Tubbs, who served in the 6th (S) Bn of the Queen's in the 1914-18 War, has changed his address to c/o Dr A. G. Brownlie, 3 Freeland Place, Clarendon, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa.

How to Enjoy Retirement

Mr. W. G. Clarke (6133672), 122 Nortoft Road, Bournemouth, whom many will remember as Officers Mess Sergeant and later RQMS 1 Surreys, writes that he has completed his service with the General Post Office.

Nobby is thoroughly enjoying his retirement. He reckons there is no sense in working until you almost drop and are too old to enjoy retirement. However, he assures us he is still fully occupied. Apart from doing all his own decorating and general repairs, Nobby spends much of his time in his garden and greenhouse.

Calling the 607s

Ex-6076620 Fred Coughlin of 155a Matson Avenue, Gloucester, who served in the Queen's from 1915 to 1927, writes:

"I don't suppose there are many of the old 607s left now."

Would any reader of 607 vintage write to Mr Coughlin, and assure him he is not the sole survivor.

Sailor of the Queen

Mr E. T. Creed, who celebrated his 84th birthday in January, started his Service career in the Royal Navy. Enlisting as a boy in 1898, he recalls a hard but happy life in the Senior Service. On completion of his service as a sailor, Tom Creed joined the 23rd London Regiment and served as a Territorial for five years. In 1914 he transferred to the Regular Army and enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment. During the 1914-18 War he served in the 8th Surreys, and was another survivor of the famous Football Charge at Montauban in which he was wounded.

Mr Creed was an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, for five years, and left at the age of 75, to get married, and as he puts it 'to live happily ever after'. Mr Creed now lives at 2 The Dene, Hindon, Salisbury, Wilts.

Deputy Lieutenant

Colonel C. H. Nice, TD, Colonel Commandant S.W. London Army Cadet Force, and a former Commanding Officer of 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA), was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of and for Greater London on 8th November, 1967.

A Welcome from Northern Ireland

Lieut. Colonel J. L. P. Paine, who served in 2nd Queen's from 1921 to 1923 and the 1st Battalion from 1939 to 1941, has settled in Northern Ireland. He hopes that if any former Queen's men come his way, they will call and see him. Colonel Paine's address is 39 Dixon Road, Bangor, County Down.

Hath is on Parade

Mr A. R. Rigden who will be remembered as Drum Major of 2nd Queen's in India in the early twenties, writes:

"After the visit of the Prince of Wales to India in 1922, Lord Reading became Viceroy and decided to hold a Durbar. We had about 40 elephants brought on to the parade ground before a Church Parade, and

lined up in ranks of three. They were to be used for a State occasion. The Band and Drums were ordered to march in and out and around the elephants to accustom them to the noise. We were playing the combination march 'Marching Through Georgia'. Only one elephant bolted!"

South Africa War Veterans

We should like to hear from any of our readers who took part in the South Africa War and who are not in possession of the Royal Cambridge Fund grant

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Ex 6078296 Corporal J. P. Travers, late 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on 27th November, 1967.

Newcomer to the Bench

Lieut. Colonel C. O'N. Wallis, MC, has been sworn in as a Justice of the Peace for the Willesden Sessional Division of the Greater London Area.

A Regimental Family

Major R. C. Wilson of 21 Crewes Avenue, Warlingham Surrey, recalls with pride his lifelong connection with The Queen's Royal Regiment. He was in South Africa when his father, C. E. Wilson, was a subaltern in the 2nd Queen's. On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, Captain C. E. Wilson was Adjutant of the 1st Battalion. He was killed in action on 17th September, 1914, bringing up the support companies in the battle of the Aisne.

Major Wilson's younger brother, H. E. Wilson, was a Regular officer in the Queen's. Adjutant of the 4th Battalion on the outbreak of the 1939-45 War, he served with 2/5th Queen's in France and later become Second-in-Command. Appointed to command the 2/6th Queen's in 1942, Lt Colonel H. E. Wilson was killed at Hergla near Enfidaville on 28th April, 1943.

Major R. C. Wilson himself served in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 10th and 16th Battalions of the Queen's during the 1914-18 War, and in the 13th Queen's I.T.C. during the 1939-45 War. He writes: "Living where I do, I occasionally meet old members of the Regiment, both Regulars and Territorials, and it is very nice to see them and have a chat with them."

5th Queen's 1914-18

Captain J. H. Young, of Normandy, 34 Fir Avenue, New Milton, Hants, writes:

"I joined the 5th Queen's in 1905, then the 2nd Volunteer Battalion. I wonder how many of my old comrades, and those who were serving at the outbreak of war in 1914, are still in the land of the living."

Captain Young served in the 2/5th, 3/5th and 1/5th Queen's between 1914 and 1919. His eldest son served in the 6th Queen's from 1942 to 1944 when he was mortally wounded in Normandy.

The Late RSM J. B. Simmons, MBE, MC

The medals of RSM Simmons, who died on 31st December, 1966, have been received from his widow by General Piggott, and have been presented to the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess, 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment. Mrs. Simmons's generous and thoughtful gesture is much appreciated.

RSM Simmons originally enlisted in The Royal Sussex Regiment in 1926 transferring to 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in India in 1944. It was with this latter battalion that he won the MC as a Company Sergeant Major. He was RSM of 1 Queen's from 1945 to 1947 and from 1949 to 1956. His obituary appeared in the February, 1967, issue of The Journal of The Queen's Regiment.

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

Short History of The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)

This short history by Jock Haswell, a former Regular officer of the Regiment, is available to members of the Regimental Association at the special price of 17/6d., post free.

Orders with remittance should be sent to RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Queen's Surreys Office, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames.

General Piggott, as President of the Regimental Association, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, sent to Her Majesty The Queen, and to Her Royal Highness Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, copies of the above History signed by the Author, Major Jock Haswell, and by himself. The following letters have been received from Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace:—

From Lieut-Colonel The Hon. Martin Charteris,
KCVO, CB, OBE,
Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen.
Buckingham Palace 8th November, 1967.
My dear Francis,

Thank you very much for your letter of 7th November.

I gave the copy of the book on The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) to The Queen this morning and Her Majesty commanded me to thank you and to ask you to convey her thanks to Mr. Haswell for it. She is delighted to possess it.

Yours ever,
(Signed) Martin Charteris.

From Sir Philip Hay, KCVO, TD.

Private Secretary to Her Royal Highness Princess Marina.
Kensington Palace
W.8. 10th November, 1967.

Dear Francis,

Thank you so much for your letter of the 7th November enclosing a copy of "The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)."

I handed this book to Princess Marina yesterday and Her Royal Highness asked me to say how very grateful she was to you and to the author, Mr. Haswell, for your kindness in sending it.

The Princess asks me to thank you and Mr. Haswell so much for this specially inscribed copy of the book and to tell you that she is greatly looking forward to reading it.

Yours ever,
(Signed) Philip Hay,
Private Secretary.

Kohima Memorial

The Battle for Jail Hill, Kohima between the 7th and 14th May 1944 has been described as one of the most gallant episodes in the whole of the Burma Campaign. An excellent account of the part played by 1st Queen's in this battle was published in the November 1953 issue of the Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment. The article ended with these words;

"Jail Hill was indeed a tough nut to crack. It was cracked by the gallantry and determination of British and Gurkha soldiers. The Queen's lost four officers and 57 soldiers killed, and six officers and 106 soldiers wounded.

Three months after the battle a memorial was unveiled. This memorial was designed and constructed by the Pioneers of 1st Queen's from materials found on and near the battlefield. It bears the names of all

the officers and soldiers of the Queen's and of the Gurkhas who fell there in one of the most gallant and glorious episodes in the campaign."

Recently a report was received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that the memorial had fallen into disrepair and a replacement was necessary. The new memorial is to be situated within the precincts of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery at Kohima; and the cost, which will be largely met by private subscription within the Regiment, will be in the neighbourhood of £310.

Attention was drawn to the project in the Regimental Association's Annual Report and the May 1967 News Letter, and the following progress report was published in the November News Letter:

"General Piggott is greatly appreciative of the generous response to the appeal. Contributions amounting to £203 have already been received, not only from members of The Queen's Royal Regiment but from old East Surreys as well. The RN and RM Gunnery Instructors' Association based on H.M.S. Excellent who wished to be associated with the project have kindly sent a donation. Contributions have been received from as far afield as Canada and New Zealand. The appeal is still open and contributions however small are welcome. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to 'Colonel of the Regiment's Fund.'

A 'Select' Committee, headed by Colonel Graham Duncombe (who commanded 1st Queen's at Kohima, and was responsible for the erection of the original memorial), and comprising his Adjutant, Captain Dick Kensington and four of his then Company Commanders, Lt.-Cols Lowry and Grimston and Majors Shaw and Rothery, together with Major John Mansel, whose brother was killed at Jail Hill, have been considering drawings produced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A decision has now been made on the form and layout of the Memorial and final drawings are awaited."

The total amount subscribed has risen to £231, so about another £80 is still required. We hope that by the generosity of our readers we shall be able to raise the entire sum by voluntary contribution.

An old Territorial's Regimental pride

Mr. E. Bradish of 87 Stanton Road, Wimbledon, S.W.20, whose grandfather, RSM C. Bradish, served in the 4th Volunteer Bn, The East Surrey Regiment for 23 years, writes:

"Although I am not of the parent Regiment, being one of the old 1/22 London Regiment The Queen's, I am always interested in the Regiment and its associates. It has given me much pleasure to attend Regimental functions, such as the Dedication of the Monument on Putney Heath, the Presentation of Colours to the Territorial battalions at Woking, and more recently, the Presentation of the Freedom Scroll at Kingston, in addition to social events.

I joined the 22nd London Regiment on 27th November 1912, but we were also The Queen's and proud of it. It was due to the strenuous efforts of the Commanding Officer of the Queen's and staff, that on the formation of the Territorials in 1908 from the old Volunteers, the 22nd London were allowed to retain their association with the Queen's and became the 22nd London Regiment The Queen's. That we were allowed to wear its badge of the Paschal Lamb, and carry the name Queen's on our Colours, has enabled the Queen's to be perpetuated with this Battalion from 1859 to the present—108 years of happy relation. In the glorious history

of the Regular Battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment we have been worthy of that association. We sent a contingent to the Boer War and did service in the two Great Wars. In keeping with tradition, we contributed to the Regiment's honours two V.C.s. in World War I—Pte Harvey of the 1/22 Battalion and Lt-Col Borton of the 2/22nd Battalion.

This is not a note extolling the virtues of my Battalion, but an explanation of my love, respect and regard for the Queen's as a whole, of which I am proud to have been a member."

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

History of The East Surrey Regiment

Volumes II and III of the Regimental History, which covered the 1914-18 War, were published without an index. An index to each Volume is available from Regimental Headquarters, Queen's Surreys Office, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames. Two 4d stamps should be sent to cover cost of production and postage.

Incidentally, Volumes II and III themselves are also available at a cost of 15/- for the two, post free. The operations of each Battalion are recorded in considerable detail, and a very large number of officers and soldiers are mentioned by name.

Fort Macgregor

Major Dick Kinden, the sole officer survivor when 'D' Company, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment was overrun by the enemy in February 1943, has written an account of the action for the Regimental Archives.

A few copies are available free of charge, but a 3d stamp should be sent for postage.

Colours of the Thirty-First Foot in Canterbury

A Regimental association with Canterbury Cathedral may be seen in the Sutlej Memorial and the Colours which hang above it on the north side of the nave.

The Thirty First, the predecessors of The East Surrey Regiment, played a distinguished part in the Sutlej Campaign of 1846. The memorial is dedicated by 'their companions in arms' to the nine officers and 203 soldiers killed in the Battles of Moodkee, Ferozeshah and Sobraon. The Colours are of particular interest. Presented at Meerut in 1827, they replaced those lost at sea when the troopship 'Kent', taking the Thirty First to India, was destroyed by fire in the Bay of Biscay two years earlier.

At the Battle of Moodkee in December 1845, both officers carrying the Colours were killed, and the other members of the Colour party killed or wounded. The Colours were raised from the ground by Quartermaster Sergeant Jones, who carried them throughout the remainder of the action. For his gallant conduct this non-commissioned officer was granted an immediate commission as an ensign in the Thirty First.

Two months later, the final battle of the campaign was fought at Sobraon. The first attack of the Thirty First was unsuccessful, and the Regiment was ordered to form line on the Colours. Before the second attack could be launched, the Colour party was mown down by enemy fire. The Lieutenant carrying the Queen's Colour was shot through the head, and almost at the same time Ensign Jones, so recently commissioned in the field for his gallantry, was killed. The Colours were immediately raised from the ground, the Queen's Colour by a young officer and the Regimental Colour by Sergeant McCabe. The latter rushed forward, and climbing the enemy's fortifications, succeeded in plant-

ing the Regimental Colour on the highest point of their position. He maintained his position under a withering fire, the Colour being completely riddled with shot. The Thirty First, the Queen's Colour leading, then attacked round a flank; and after much heavy fighting in which the pike of the Queen's Colour was shattered by fire, the position was captured.

These Colours, bloodstained and tattered, were laid up in Canterbury Cathedral on 10th February 1850, the fourth anniversary of the Battle of Sobraon. Inscribed on silver bands on the Colour pikes are the names of the officers who were killed when carrying them.

The Eighth Surreys Football Attack

In our last issue, we quoted an old Surrey who claimed in a local newspaper to be the last surviving member of the Battalion 'who kicked a football over the trenches to start an offensive at Vimy Ridge in 1915'. We invited comment on this statement from any other survivors, and several people wrote. We quote from Major J. C. Drane's letter.

"Dear Mr. Editor,

I should like to make a few remarks. The newspaper's account is, of course, complete nonsense. First of all, the 8th Battalion were never anywhere near Vimy Ridge in 1915.

Second, it earned its nickname of 'the football battalion' on 1st July 1916, at the opening of the Battle of the Somme. Capt W. P. Nevill, commanding B Company, presented each of the four platoons with a football, which the boys dribbled and passed on their advance with the first wave of the attack on the German front line. Two of these footballs were subsequently recovered from the German wire, and are I believe still in Army Museums. All this and more is set out in the Official Regimental History.

As for the claim of 'the local resident' to be the last surviving member of the Battalion, I can think of several, including myself, who went to France with the 8th Battalion on 27th July 1915, who are still alive and kicking.

May I in conclusion offer my congratulations on the Regimental Association News Letter. To me it seems just right, and to give me the news and information which I should wish to have. Please continue to edit it for a long time!

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd) J. C. Drane."

Our Allied Regiments

The Queen's York Rangers (1st American Regiment) ROAC

On Saturday, 21st October 1967, The Queen's York Rangers held their Annual Dinner at the Officers Mess, Fort York Armoury, Toronto, when officers of the Regiment and members of their Officers Association commemorated the Battle of Brandywine (1777) and the Battle of Queenston Heights (1812).

2nd Bn The Royal New South Wales Regiment

The following letter has been received by Major General F. J. C. Piggott from Lt Colonel J. A. Fox the Commanding Officer.

"Thank you so much for your letter enclosing a copy of the new Short History of The Queen's Royal Regiment. I have read the copy with much interest and have handed it over to our Officers' Mess President, Major John Douglass. The officers will follow the incidents with great enthusiasm when they are able to borrow it from our library.

It will be of interest for you to know that this Battalion has been offered the 'Freedom of Entry' to the City of Newcastle. I have asked that the ceremony take place on Saturday 1st June 1968, mindful of the Glorious 1st June tradition of the 'Queen's'.

The Freedom had been granted to 2nd Bn City of Newcastle Regiment in April 1960, just prior to the disbandment of the Battalion in June, in the reorganisation of the Australian Army last year.

Our Battalion has now been functioning since 1st July 1960 as the 2nd Bn Royal N.S.W. Regiment. With the transfer of the HQ back to Newcastle in 1965, I have been most keen to have the honour bestowed on this Battalion."

The Royal Garrison Church, Old Portsmouth

On 30th October this year the Centenary of the Restoration of this Church will be commemorated. The Bishop to the Forces will preach at the Centenary Commemoration Services on that day, and a series of Beating Retreat by Regimental Bands has been arranged.

Originally founded in 1212 by the Bishop of Winchester, the church became the Royal Garrison Chapel during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and its long military association began. The Church has a particular Regimental interest in that Charles II married Catherine of Braganza there on 22nd May 1662. A copy of the marriage certificate may be seen in the Queen's Surreys Museum, at Kingston-on-Thames. In addition there are memorials to officers of The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot and the 31st Regiment of Foot who were buried there.

In 1868 the old Church was enlarged and restored. Known as the Cathedral of the British Army, the Church was the spiritual home of the Garrison until the interior of the nave was destroyed by enemy bombing in January 1941. Since then, regular services have been held in the chancel, and today the Church serves a loyal congregation and attracts many visitors.

A Centenary Appeal Fund has been launched to provide three stained glass windows to replace those destroyed in 1941. The 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association have made a donation in support of this appeal.

BLESMA

The following letter has been received from the General Secretary of the British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, Frankland Moore House, 185-187 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex.

"We believe that readers of your News Letter could and would wish to help BLESMA in our search for limbless ex-Service men and women who can benefit from our specialised services; which services are freely available to them whether or not they are members of BLESMA.

Our aim is that no limbless ex-Service man or woman should suffer undue or unnecessary hardship and we can today provide financial help where the need exists. We also help in the provision of aids and amenities within the home, and our three BLESMA Homes at Blackpool, Crieff and Portsmouth are available for rest, recuperation, and permanent residence. We are constantly finding large numbers of limbless ex-Service men who are not in receipt of their full entitlements of pension and allowances, and many today are benefiting from the help and advice they have received from BLESMA in their individual cases. Our help, financial and otherwise, is also available to the widows of limbless ex-Service men.

There must be many limbless ex-Service men who are known to your readers but who are not yet in touch with BLESMA. Would you please help by bringing the Associa-

tion's services to the attention of your readers and inviting them to inform the General Secretary, BLESMA, at the above address of any former members of the Regiment who are limbless but not in touch with BLESMA so that we can make our services available to them?"

Back Numbers of News Letters

There are limited numbers of News Letters Nos. 1 and 2 available free of charge to 1968 News Letter subscribers. Please say which number is required, and send a 3d. stamp for postage.

Regimental Badges

Blazer Badges

A small stock of East Surrey Blazer Badges are held and can be had at a reduced cost of 13/6 each on application to The Secretary, Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association, T & AVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames.

Regimental Association Lapel Badges

The Regimental Association badge consists of the Queen's Lamb superimposed on the Surrey Star, in a surround of gold, crimson and royal blue, the whole surmounted by a crown.

The badge is available from the Queen's Surrey Office for 5/-, post free.

Deaths

We regret to announce the passing of the following former members of the Regiment:

Smith On 4th May 1967, Pte Henry Smith (6679) aged 87. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1900 to 1919. Older members of the Surreys will remember him as the 2nd Battalion saddler.

Richardson On 12th August 1967, Capt Ernald Wilbraham Alfred Richardson. Educated at Radley, he was in the British Ski Team from 1929 to 1930. He served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Prentice In October 1967, in Jersey, Lieut B. L. Prentice, late The East Surrey Regiment. He was commissioned in the field in the 1914-1918 War when serving in the 2nd Surreys. He was awarded the Greek Order of the Redeemer.

Muschamp On 15th December 1967, Thomas Alfred Muschamp (6064) aged 87. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1899 to 1911 and was awarded both South Africa War medals. During the 1914-18 War he served in the 27th (Winnipeg) Regiment of the Canadian Army.

Rowe On 21st December 1967, Major George William Henry Rowe, OBE, aged 91. He served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1890 to 1931. See obituary.

Fairhead On 22nd December 1967, Capt Alan Wallace Fairhead, aged 42. Served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) from 1950 to October 1959 and 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) from October 1959 to 1966.

Dorsett On 27th December 1967, RQMS William Albert Dorsett (6132451) aged 74. Served in The East Surrey Regiment principally in the 1st Battalion, from 1912 to 1935. He was a Founder Member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment and was Chairman from 1953 to 1964 when he became a Vice-President. Mr. Dorsett was a well known and highly respected figure, and a very loyal Surrey.

Philpot On 8th January 1968, Major Reginald Henry Philpot, MC, aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1913 to 1931. See obituary.

Butler On 15th January 1968, Major Leslie Butler. Served in 11th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment at the

outset of the 1939-45 War, and later in Special Operations Executive in the Middle East.

Collard On 26th January 1968, C/Sgt George Collard aged 51. Served in 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Burma.

Ellis On 27th January 1968, Cpl Eric Lionel Ellis (6137111) aged 57. Served as a bandsman in The East Surrey Regiment from 1925 to 1944, and was taken prisoner as a stretcher bearer in 1940.

Schacht On 27th January 1968, Dmr Albert James Schacht (L/5602) aged 94. Enlisted in 1886, and served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1898 to 1919. See obituary.

Kerswell On 29th January 1968, RQMS George Samuel Kerswell (2631) aged 85. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1920 and was Acting Quartermaster of the 1st Bn Royal Fusiliers for 9 months in 1917.

Ford On 2nd February 1968, Major William Spencer Ford aged 79. He served before the 1914-18 War in the Special Reserve of The East Surrey Regiment, and was wounded while serving in the 1st Battalion in October 1914.

Passmore On 5th February 1968, Lieut-Col Douglas Gordon Passmore, OBE, TD. Served in 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) from 1929 to 1946. See obituary.

Reimann On 15th February 1968, Capt Harry Edward Reimann, MC, aged 89. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1896 to 1918.

Williams On 7th March 1968, RSM Charles William Williams (6135074) aged 63. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1921 to 1953. The greater part of his service was in the 1st Battalion, but his last appointment was RSM of the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA).

Birch On 9th March 1968, Lt David Birch. Served in 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War. Was for many years the Principal of the Epsom School of Art.

Larkin On 13th March 1968, Capt William Henry Larkin, aged 76. Harry Larkin joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1910 and served in the 1st Battalion throughout the 1914-18 War. Commissioned in 1929, he was Quartermaster of the 1st Queen's and later the Regimental Depot.

Quartermain On 20th March 1968, L/Cpl Walter Frederick Quartermain (6076313) aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1911 to 1921. See obituary.

McShee On 27th March 1968, C/Sgt Francis Samuel McShee (6756526) aged 80. Served in 3rd Volunteer Bn The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment, the 22nd London Regiment and 1/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey). He enlisted in 1903 and he was finally discharged at the age of 57 in 1944.

Jakens On 8th April 1968, Sgt. Thomas Charles William Jakens (82070) aged 82. Served in 22nd London Regiment from 1908 to 1915, and in The East Surrey Regiment until wounded in 1918.

Darwell On 18th April 1968, Brigadier Thomas Herbert Darwell, OBE, MC, aged 77. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1910 to 1921 and The Royal Tank Regiment from 1921 to 1944. See obituary.

Bingham On 22nd April 1968, L/Cpl Michael Sinclair Bingham (23832602), aged 25. Served in The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment from 1960 to 1965.

Regimental Families

We regret to announce the death in a motor accident on 11th January 1968, of Mrs Margaret Florence Hunter. Mrs. Hunter was the widow of Brigadier H. N. A. Hunter, DSO of The Queen's Royal Regiment, and the mother of Brigadier H. M. A. Hunter, CVO, DSO, MBE, who commanded the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1944.

We also regret to announce the death on 15th March,

1968, of Mrs Edith Claribel Smith, at the age of 96. Mrs. Smith was the widow of Lieut-Col H. L. Smith who joined the 70th Regiment in 1878. She was the mother of Col H. B. L. Smith, who like his father, commanded the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment.

Obituaries

Major G. W. H. Rowe, OBE

Many old "Surreys" will mourn the loss of George Rowe who died on 21st December 1967.

Both his grandfather and his father were RSMs of 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment and it was in 1890, on his 14th birthday, that George was brought by his father before the CO for approval for enlistment; he was accepted and continued to serve for the next 41 years. His brother Josh enlisted some years after him and so there was a Rowe in the Regiment for about 100 years.

At the outbreak of the first World War George was RSM at the Depot but within a few weeks he was commissioned and appointed Quartermaster of 7th (Service) Bn in which he served at home and in France until its disbandment in 1918. He then rejoined 1st Bn and served with them in France, North Russia, Egypt, the Sudan and Hong Kong until he was posted to the Depot in 1925 and retired in 1931.

George was a good sportsman in every sense of the word and regularly played football and cricket for the Regiment, but above all he was a first class soldier, and he will long be remembered for his integrity, his efficiency and his great kindness. Ably supported by his wife he was always ready to help anyone far beyond the demands of duty and many members of the Regiment have benefited from his sound and friendly advice.

Major R. H. Philpot, MC

On 8th January 1968, 'Phil' died at his home in Hampshire. Born on 10th July, 1893, he was educated at Cheltenham and Sandhurst. Commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1913, he embarked with the 2nd Battalion for Zeebrugge. Except for two periods when he was wounded, he was continuously on the Western Front, where he won the Military Cross. At the battle for the Hindenburg Line in 1918, he was for a period in command of the 1st Battalion.

An all-rounder in the field of sport, in his time he played cricket for the Hampshire Hogs, fenced in the Army Championships, played polo and was a rider of no mean skill. He was a skier, and had ridden the bob-sleigh on the Cresta Run.

Retiring in September 1931, Phil was recalled for his final period of service with, and for, the Regiment in August 1939. Unable to go overseas for medical reasons, he became the unchanging element on the staff of the Depot (and later Infantry Training Centre) at Stoughton Barracks. With its rapidly changing population, Phil's permanent presence was the element of Regimental continuity that was so valuable and so needed; deviations from Regimental standards were corrected by his baleful eye or, if that were insufficient, a caustic phrase. Young officers, at but modest cost to themselves improved their Bridge standards considerably. And throughout the War, he guarded and looked after much Regimental property. His service to his Regiment in World War II was by no means the least valuable of a long and distinguished career. He was indeed a great Regimental character, for whose service we who remember him are grateful.

Dmr A. J. Schacht

On 27th January 1968, Albert James Schacht, the oldest soldier of the former Queen's Royal Regiment, died aged 94. Born in Australia on 26th April, 1873, he was brought home by his father and sent to school in England at an early age. As soon as he could, he enlisted in the Army and served in The Royal Berkshire Regiment from 1886 to 1898 when he was transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Dmr Schacht saw service in South Africa in the 2nd Queen's, but was over age for active service in the 1914-18 War. He was discharged to pension in 1919 after 32 years

service. Mr. Schacht was a resident of the British Legion's Galanos House, and he presented a bouquet to HRH The Duchess of Gloucester at the opening ceremony. Most of this old soldier's service had been spent at the Regimental Depot at Stoughton, and it was appropriate that his funeral was held at Stoughton Parish Church.

Lieutenant-Colonel Douglas Gordon Passmore, OBE, TD

Colonel Passmore who died suddenly at Hassocks on 5th February 1968 will be remembered by all ranks of the 6th Surreys, to which unit he was commissioned on 22 October 1930. Originally commissioned in The Leicestershire Regiment towards the end of the 1914-18 War, he qualified as a barrister on demobilisation, and when he joined the 6th Surreys was in the Inland Revenue Department.

He was a keen and enthusiastic officer in the Territorial Army, always ready to accept responsibility and undeterred by the magnitude of the task which fell to the Territorial Army shortly before the last war, when battalions were doubled in strength with the result that officers then serving were under great pressure. When the original 6th Surreys was split into the 1/6th and 2/6th Surreys, he was posted to the 1/6th as Second in Command and served with that battalion in France and Belgium and was evacuated from Dunkirk. On returning to England he was for a short time Second in Command of the 11th Surreys, and then promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and posted to a Staff appointment.

All who knew him will always remember his cheerful and buoyant disposition, his common sense approach to problems and his sympathetic understanding of other people's troubles. He was a convinced supporter of the Territorial Army system of voluntary part-time service, and proud to be serving in a unit of The East Surrey Regiment. Since the war he has been a regular and notable supporter of reunions where his presence has always been very welcome—we shall miss him.

W. F. Quartermain

Walter Frederick Quartermain was born in 1893 in Kingston Barracks. His father had served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment at Suakin in 1885, and his last posting was to the Regimental Depot at Kingston. Enlisting on a Regular engagement in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1911, Walter Quartermain served in the 1st Battalion until 1921.

He was for many years the Chairman of the Lewisham Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association. He was a very loyal supporter of the Regimental Association and his sprightly figure was always to be seen at Reunions. Of a cheerful disposition, he always enjoyed the company of other old soldiers. He was admitted to the Star and Garter Home at the end of last year.

Brigadier T. H. Darwell, OBE, MC

Brigadier Thomas Herbert Darwell died suddenly in Johannesburg on 18th April 1968, aged 77. "Cherry" Darwell was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment in 1910 and joined the 1st Bn in Ireland where he proved himself to be an enthusiastic, sound and reliable young officer and a very good horseman.

In the early days of the 1st World War, "Cherry" displayed admirable qualities of courage and imperturbability and in February 1915 he was mentioned in despatches for his conspicuous service while commanding the Bn Machine Gun Section.

In the action on Hill 60 two months later, Lt Darwell assumed the duties of Adjutant when Captain Wynyard was killed, and was in fact the senior officer left when the Battalion came out of action. For his gallantry at the defence of Hill 60, Lt Darwell was awarded the Military Cross and again mentioned in despatches.

In 1916, Major Darwell transferred to the Machine Gun Corps, and five years later to The Royal Tank Corps, in which he served until 1944. Brigadier Darwell never forgot his old Regiment and in a recent letter he wrote "I owe so much to The East Surrey Regiment. In no other way could I have learnt so many human lessons other than by service in The East Surreys in peace and war."