

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER

Subscription 6/- a year

No. 6

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

November, 1969

The Editor's Letter

Dear Member,

In our last News Letter we recorded with regret the disappearance of the Territorial Army. With our own 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment reduced to a cadre of eight, our tribute to the T.A. may have seemed almost in the nature of an obituary. Lt. Colonel D. R. Bishop, MBE, the Officer Commanding 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment, has taken us to task over giving the impression that the spirit of the Territorial battalions of Surrey had been extinguished. We are glad to publish Colonel Bishop's letter in this edition, and are confident that our readers will be glad to know that the traditions of the Territorial battalions live on in the thriving Volunteer Battalion of the Regiment.

A number of people seem very vague about what is going on in the Regiment, and about the dates of Regimental functions. All these matters are covered in the News Letter, and we hope that our regular readers will encourage non-subscribers among our members to take it. The subscription is only six shillings a year, and if anyone wants help in this respect, we can generally arrange it. Subscriptions may be renewed on the enclosed yellow form.

The Regimental Association Christmas card, now enhanced by line drawings of the badges of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment, is selling so well that it is advisable to order early while stocks last. On this seasonal note, we wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and all good fortune in 1970.

Yours sincerely,



Editor.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club

The Annual Dinner was held at Claridge's on Friday, 3rd October, 1969, at which Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO presided. The presence of the majority of the officers of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment was again missed due to the unexpected move

of the battalion to Ulster. Messages exchanged on the occasion of the Dinner are reproduced below.

From: 1 Queen's:
To: RHQ Queen's (Queen's Surreys Office)

For Deputy Colonel. Greetings to all those dining tonight from those members in the streets of Derry. We shall be thinking of you and hope to make it another year. Have a good evening. We hope ours will be a quiet one.

From: RHQ Queen's (Queen's Surreys Office)
To: 1 Queen's

For Lt Col Millman from General Ling and all officers gathered Claridge's 3 Oct 69. Your kind message much appreciated. You and your Battalion very much in our thoughts. Hope your uncomfortable and tiring duties will soon be successfully concluded.

Regimental Association Annual Cathedral Service

The Annual Service was held in Guildford Cathedral on Sunday, 15th June, 1969. The Chaplain General, the Venerable Archdeacon J. R. Youens, OBE, MC, QHC, preached an inspiring sermon and the service was conducted by the Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend Antony Cyprian Bridge.

The Band of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment played during the service, and afterwards on the green facing the Cathedral.

Regimental Association Reunion

The Annual Reunion of the Regimental Association was held at the Portsmouth Road Drill Hall at Kingston upon Thames on 17th October, 1969. It was unfortunate the 1st Battalion could not be with us as they were in Ireland, but the Band of 1 Queen's enlivened the proceedings with bright and cheerful music, and finally played all our Regimental marches to the delight of all present.

During the evening, Major General F. A. H. Ling, Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment and President of the Regimental Association, paid tribute to the work of his predecessor, Major General F. J. C. Piggott, who had prematurely terminated his tour of office on medical grounds. On behalf of the Officers Club, the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association and the Regimental Association, the Deputy Colonel then presented General Piggott with a drum emblazoned with the badge, insignias and motto of The Queen's

Royal Surrey Regiment and bearing selected battle honours of both our former Regiments.

Attendance, although 50 more than last year, is still short of expectation. Some members had come long distances to be present, but there are considerable numbers who live within easy reach of Kingston who could have attended. We hope more people will come next year to this very enjoyable function.

Regimental Association Christmas Card

Particulars of the Association's Christmas card and order form are on the yellow sheet enclosed. There is, however, an addition not mentioned on the yellow sheet, which, it is hoped, will please old Queen's men and old Surreys.

On the inside page, above the words "Regimental Association The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment", appear line drawings of the badges of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment. The cost of the card is the same as last year.

Pristinae Virtutis Memor

All Queen's men are familiar with the motto Pristinae Virtutis Memor which appears on the outside of the Regimental Association Christmas card. Old Surreys may wonder what the words mean and where they came from.

The Regimental motto may be translated as "Mindful of the Gallant Actions of the Past". The Queen's apparently possessed the motto in 1715, but its actual origin is lost in the mists of time.

Suffice it to say that Pristinae Virtutis Memor has been highly prized in the Regiment for over 250 years. It was emblazoned on the Regimental Colour of The Queen's Royal Regiment, and is today carried on the Regimental Colour of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment.

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

The Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association's Annual Dinner following the Annual General Meeting at Kingston on 3rd May was a delightful reunion for many despite a drop in attendance. We were honoured to have with us on this occasion our President, Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO. Our Chairman in offering greetings promised the loyal support of all members of the Association, and in the President's reply he remarked on the tremendous spirit within the Association and urged members to keep in touch thus preserving the comradeship cemented by Regimental Pride.

A first class buffet was provided by the Union Jack Club, and it was midnight before the party broke up.

11th (Service) Lambeth Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment, OCA

It is sad to record that the Executive Committee have been obliged to propose that the Association be disbanded. With the passing of the years the membership has inevitably declined, and the consequent loss of revenue means that increasing costs cannot be met.

We were delighted to have been invited to the 1st Battalion At Home on 17th May at Lingfield and over 80 members and their ladies went along as guests of

the Sergeants Mess. Unfortunately events were rapidly curtailed by a tropical downpour, but the excellent hospitality we received was adequate compensation.

On the 4th October we held our Annual Ladies Night Dinner and Dance. Over 120 members and their ladies sat down to a delightful meal followed by dancing until midnight. The music for this was again provided by Sidney Powsey and his accordion Band who are great favourites of our lady guests. Chick Evans organised the raffle as usual which proved very popular and successful. Among the contributed prizes were two coffee tables presented by Nobby Clark who readers will remember as the Depot Clerk of Works for many years.

Our membership figures are still encouraging. Recent new members include:

Mr A. Choules	Ex Surreys
C/Sgt Naylor	5 Queens
Mr J. Sullivan	Ex Surreys
Mr H. Taylor	Ex Surreys

It is with deep regret that we have had to report the death of Mr R. Spencer, MM. His great qualities of service and friendship were known to us all. Our Association is a great deal poorer by his passing.

4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment Old Comrades Association

The 50th Anniversary of the formation of the 4th Queen's OCA will be held on 4th April, 1970.

All members of the Regimental Association will wish to send their best wishes to the 4th Queen's on that great occasion.

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

The annual Salerno Day Reunion, arranged again by Frank Peart, took place at the Union Jack Club on 4th October, 1969.

Some seventy members attended, headed by Colonel John Kealy. We were very pleased to welcome Major General Ling, Deputy Colonel of the Regiment for Surrey, who was at Salerno with 2nd/5th Queen's.

Among the old and bold, mention is made of RSM Sid Pratten, CSM Bert Troster, CSM Harry Bowles, Nick Nicholson, Cpl Lodge, Cpl Lottie Collins, Sgt Leach and Sgt Blomely. There was as usual much talking (and drinking) over old times. Great interest was taken in Frank Peart's account of his recent visit to Salerno, and he produced a bottle of sand taken from the actual landing beach.

A first class buffet was provided by the Union Jack Club, and it was midnight before the party broke up.

The following note has been contributed by Lieutenant-Colonel Marcus Lipton, CBE, JP, MP, a Vice President of the Association.

"It is of course sad that with the passing of the years, the time has come for the disbandment of the 11th Queen's OCA.

Having been a Vice-President of the Association for many years, I should like to take this opportunity to pay my personal tribute to a fine body of men who have served this country well and who were a credit to The Queen's Royal Regiment."

Mr George Nevell, who has been Assistant Secretary of the 11th Queen's OCA for the last eleven years, writes as follows:—

"The 11th (S) Bn Queen's OCA is being disbanded.

It was formed in the 1920's to perpetuate the comradeship created by those who served with the 11th Battalion during the 1914-18 War.

Advancing years have taken their toll of Members and Funds and many of those left are handicapped by age and the scars of War. Although the Association cannot continue, many Members will continue to associate with one another.

It has been well served and space does not permit of the mention of every outstanding Member. H. C. Burberry was Secretary for over 20 years and it was he who set the high standards which have prevailed and who made the Association one of the strongest to emerge from World War I. It was continued by Greg Page who never spared himself in his efforts to serve the Association and was Secretary until his death in 1967. Capt A. L. Potts the present Secretary has continued in the same tradition.

It has been well served too by its Chairmen. Amongst them Capt W. H. G. Chapman who, by his donations, has provided for the upkeep of the Memorial to the Battalion in St Matthew's Church, Brixton. Major E. W. J. Neave, the Author of the Battalion's History, who has always given financial help and advice. And Capt A. L. Potts who has always been on hand to help financially and in every other possible way and who helped the Association to carry on by becoming Greg Page's successor as Secretary.

Its Committee men too have always been highly conscientious. A few days before 'Burb' died he asked that 'Members should be made aware of the great help Committee Member Dick Loades had been to him throughout his long illness and that he had been a true Comrade'.

The motto of the 11th Queen's OCA forms a fitting epitaph—"We Remember".

Old Contemptibles Association

Mr H. A. Tracey, DCM, MM who served in 1st Bn The Queen's from 1911 to 1919 is a member of the Dover Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association. Recently members of the Dover, Margate and Ramsgate Branches assembled at Ripple, near Deal, for their annual service of remembrance at the grave of Field

Marshall Sir John French, Earl of Ypres, Commander of the British Expeditionary Force in August 1914.

Mr. Tracey is one of the original members of the Old Contemptibles Association who paraded under Captain J. Denny in 1925. Mr Pay, formerly of 2nd Bn The Queen's and mentioned elsewhere in this News Letter, is also a member of the Dover Branch.

Our 1st Battalion

1 Queen's have had a temporary move from Lingfield to Londonderry where they have been engaged in the unenviable task of keeping the peace. This is a form of soldiering no one enjoys, but the Battalion by their impartiality and good humour have won the acclaim of all factions in the Bogside area.

The following is an extract from "Braganza" the 1st Battalion's lively News Letter.

"A Quiet Night in Londonderry

The 0630 BBC News did not mention Northern Ireland until the weather forecast. This told us that it was raining, which we knew already. The 0700 News, however, told us that it had been 'a quiet night in Londonderry'. This we also knew already.

You may be amused to know what we experienced on this particular night. Two attempts were made to snatch soldiers' weapons, fifteen drunks either regaled us with their experiences of all wars since 1900, or simply fell down in front of our barriers, a CS shell exploded in Bogside and there was a disturbance outside Rosemount police station."

Later on, the situation deteriorated in Northern Ireland and the Battalion was called upon to act in aid of the Civil Power. The Commanding Officer reports that "the Battalion continues to do well and the chaps are in remarkably good heart after six weeks of toil in very trying circumstances". In one riot Major Reynolds, the Second in Command, and two soldiers were injured, fortunately not seriously, as the troops tried to separate the factions in a vicious crossfire of bottles and stones. Major Reynolds writes, "I received a Catholic bottle on my head and Protestant brick on my hand! I'm fine again now though".

The GOC, Northern Ireland, Lieut General Sir Ian Freeland, whom many of our readers will remember as Commanding Officer of 1/5th Queen's from August 1944 to June 1945, has complimented our 1st Battalion on their excellent work in Londonderry.

Civic Honours conferred upon The Queen's Regiment during 1969

1. The Freedom of Entry to the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames, originally granted to The East Surrey Regiment, later to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and later still to the 1st Battalion and the 6th (Territorial) Battalion, The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) was, on 7th October, 1969, extended to the whole of The Queen's Regiment.

2. The Freedom of Entry to the Borough of Guildford, originally granted to The Queen's Royal Regiment,

later to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and later still to the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) was, on 29th July, 1969, extended to the whole of The Queen's Regiment.

3. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Reigate, originally granted to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and subsequently to the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) was, on 30th June, 1969, extended to the whole of The Queen's Regiment.

The Queen's Regiment Officers' Club

The Club Cocktail Party will be held in the United Service Club, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1 on Friday, 28th November, 1969 from 6.30 to 8.0 p.m. Members of The Queen's Regiment Officers Club and their families are eligible to attend. Each member may bring one guest in addition to his family.

Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, The Queen's Regiment Officers Club, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent.

5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment

Our own 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment having been reduced to cadre, interest is now focussed on the 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment. Battalion Headquarters is at Canterbury, and there are companies in each of the counties whose former Regiments now comprise The Queen's Regiment.

It is encouraging to hear from Lieut-Colonel D. R. Bishop, MBE, the Commanding Officer, that recruiting has been going well, and "A" Company (the Surrey Company), with a strength of 102 is only 13 short of establishment.

"A" Company (Queen's Surreys) are holding their Christmas dance on Saturday, 29th November, 1969 at the T & AVR Centre, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford.

Junior Soldiers Company Depot The Queen's Regiment

A number of our readers will know CSM Alan Palmer who has left the Army after 22½ years service. He enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1947, serving with the 1st Battalion in Berlin and Iserlohn. A tour of duty with the TA in Bermondsey followed and then in 1956 he was selected as an instructor at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. After that he served with his Regimental Depot and with the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment in Germany, coming to Canterbury in 1965. He has been CSM of the Junior Soldiers Company, Depot The Queen's Regiment since and has taken a leading part in Adventure Training and in giving instruction.

CSM Palmer's successor is CSM Donald Lay who joined The East Surrey Regiment as a National Serviceman in 1951. He became a Regular soldier and was a sergeant at the age of 20. CSM Lay has been a member of his Battalion athletic and hockey teams for the past ten years.

From Here and There

Donations

Lieut-Colonel Herbert Cook, MC served in the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) in the 1914-18 War, and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in 1917. Under the terms of his will, Colonel Cook, who died on 1st December, 1968, has left the sum of £50 to The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Charitable Fund.

The Secretary of the Regimental Association acknowledges with thanks a donation of two guineas in memory of Mr Robert Ayers who died on 28th March, 1969.

The late Mr Ayers (6081831) served in the 2nd Queen's in India and the Sudan, and in the 1st Battalion in Malta and China. He left the Regiment in 1932 after eight years service.

A generous donation to the funds of the Regimental Association has been made by Mrs. A. Sloan in memory of her son. The late Captain Geoffrey Sloan was killed in action at Cassino on 18th May, 1944 while serving with 1/6th Surreys.

Addresses wanted

Mr F. W. Bigg (formerly 6085290 L/Sgt Bigg, who served in 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1932 to 1944) wishes to trace his friends Cpl Williams who served in Ceylon, India and Burma, and Pte "Sticks" Borden who served in Palestine and Tobruk. Information, please, to Mr Bigg at 48 Beechings Way, Gillingham, Kent.

Garrison Appointments

WO I. H. Boseley, who joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1946, has been appointed Garrison Sergeant-Major, Hong Kong.

Regimental Museum

The medals of the late 6092 Sgt George Frederick Brown, MM, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment have been presented to the Regimental Museum by his niece, Mrs. C. E. Gray, 2 Voltaire, London, S.E.5.

Sgt Brown enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1901 and served in India and Ireland, transferring to the Reserve shortly before the 1914-18 War. Older members of the Regiment may remember him as the Education NCO in Dublin. Recalled on the outbreak of War, he went to France with the 1st Surreys in August 1914. He was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous gallantry in the 1st Battalion, and was killed in action the following year.

Pilgrimage to Ypres

At the Annual pilgrimage to Ypres of the Friends of St. George's Memorial Church, Ypres, the 11th Queen's wreath was laid by Miss Jacqueline Burberry. Miss Burberry is the daughter of the late Mr. H. C. Burberry, MM, who was Secretary of the 11th Queen's Old Comrades Association from 1927 to 1955. See obituary.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

6139968 Sgt J. E. Fitzgerald who joined the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in India in 1933 has been

admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The Oldest Queen's man

In our last issue we sent the congratulations of the Regimental Association to ex-Pte George Hutson on celebrating his 96th birthday.

We are glad to have first hand news of the old warrior from Capt K. W. Brooks who visited him while on a visit to Montreal in June. Capt Brooks reports "I found Mr Hutson remarkably fit. His eye is still bright, and he recognised the old Queen's tie immediately. Sitting upright in his wheelchair, spotlessly clean and well shaven, he looked every inch an old Queen's man. . . . His India medal 1895-1902 with the Tirah Clasp and both South Africa War medals were obviously cherished possessions. . . . I had not previously thought that my visit would be so appreciated, but I confess that I found it an uplifting experience to meet Mr Hutson".

In the Pink

The following extract from "Garden News" of 4th July, 1969 will interest a number of old 1st Battalion Queen's men:

"A regimental re-union among the pinks."

British National Carnation Society shows are seldom occasions for regimental reunions, but this is what happened at the society's pink show in the RHS New Hall.

Harry Jayes, of Dagenham, Essex, an old hand, won the George Allwood goblet and the M. C. Allwood cup. Tom Jackson, of West Byfleet, Surrey, a novice, won the Kesteven cup for most points in the novices' division.

But the last time these two met was in 1934, when Harry was a sergeant in a platoon of The Queen's Royal Regiment serving in China, and Tom was one of his section commanders."

A Regimental Chaplain

The Reverend Peter Mallett, CF, who many Queen's men will remember as Chaplain to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Malaya from 1954 to 1957, has been appointed Chaplain of The Royal Memorial Chapel, Sandhurst, Camberley, Surrey. He assumed the appointment on 2nd September, 1969.

Peter Mallett, it will be recalled, gave the address at the annual church service of the Regimental Association in Guildford Cathedral on 30th May, 1965.

A Regimental Family

A chance encounter on a bus has brought another member into the Regimental Association. Travelling to the dedication of the Machine Gun Corps memorial in Grantham, Brigadier C. D. Armstrong got talking to Mr A. E. Roberts who had joined the Surreys in 1916 before being transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. After being wounded in France, Pte Roberts was transferred to the 23rd London Regiment in England, and later to the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Demobilized after nearly 3½ years in the Army, Pte

Roberts had completed the whole of his Military Service before his 19th birthday.

Mr Roberts, who has now joined the Regimental Association as a Life Member, tells us his father served in the Queen's and his brother, H. C. Roberts in the 2nd Surreys in the 1914-18 War.

Southern Command Order No. 485 of 1969

"485. Laburnum Trees in Married Quarter Estates: Eating of Seeds."

Laburnum Trees, being a very pleasant decorative flowering tree, do exist around married quarters and barracks. Heads of families should warn their children that seeds from these trees are dangerous, if eaten. They should also be warned not to eat any plant seeds, as a large number of them, in particular the pretty looking ones, can be most unpleasant."

The wording of this Order has inspired the following lines:—

"Occupants of Married Quarters
Should notify their sons and daughters
That beds of flowers, bright and neat,
Are not put there for them to eat.
And the gay laburnum tree
(Provided by the MOD)
Packs a very nasty punch,
And makes a most revolting lunch.
Children who wish to stay alive:
Comply with Order Four Eight Five!"

Cap Badges

It is surprising how many requests we get for cap badges of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment. Collectors we feel, can generally manage to acquire badges by purchase or by exchange and so we normally do not accede to such requests.

However, we like to have a few Regimental badges available for old soldiers who have lost their original issue and for other special purposes. An example of the latter is the recent request from the Woburn Abbey Museum for a badge for their military display.

We should be glad to receive any spare cap badges from our members and will refund postage.

Personal Narratives

We are glad to receive accounts of our members' service in the Regiment, and there is no doubt they are of interest to their contemporaries. We have published anecdotes and reminiscences in previous issues of the News Letter.

In this number, Major Walter John Short, formerly of the 7th Bn The Queen's, writes of some of his experiences in the 1914-18 War.

"In August 1914, I gave up a good job and rushed off to join the Army. Being a Sussex man, I enlisted in The Royal Sussex Regiment. I did really enjoy my training,

although it was very rough, and I made up my mind that after the War I would become a Regular soldier. I worked very hard, went on several courses and reached the rank of sergeant. I then applied for a temporary commission, and was sent to Moor Park in Ireland for further training.

At about Eastertime in 1916, I was posted to the 7th Bn The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment as a 2nd Lieutenant. I joined the Battalion on the Somme at Trones Wood. My Company Commander was Captain J. S. Walter who won the MC at Trones Wood. Later he was taken prisoner and was shot trying to escape.

We seemed to be continually in action. In the assault on Thiepval and the Schwaben Redoubt on 28th September, I received a nasty flesh wound in the leg. I carried on until we were relieved and was then sent to Base Hospital. They wanted to send me home, but I managed to stay and was able to return to my Regiment. Here I was told I had been recommended for an award, but I never got it. We were always in action on the Somme, and I was again wounded—a shrapnel wound in the right shoulder and hand. This time I was out of action for good and downgraded to Category B1.

My memories of the 7th Bn The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment will for ever live with me. They were men of guts and determination and the salt of the earth. I remember dear old Captain Philpot was Adjutant while I was at Sittingbourne, also that wonderful Regimental Sergeant Major Sullivan (Chokey Bill). What a man he was, and how I used to look up to him. He was so thorough in everything that he did.

Back in England I attended a number of courses, and was appointed Brigade Bombing Officer with the rank of Captain. I had some hundreds of men through my hands for instruction in trench warfare and night operations. I was unable to get my medical Category above B1.

I applied for service in the Military Police, and was later appointed Deputy Assistant Provost Marshal for Norfolk with the rank of Major—a post I held until November 1919. My hopes of becoming a Regular soldier never materialised."

An Old Contemptible's Story

Mr A. W. Pay of 13 Beach Street, Dover, has given to the Regimental Museum the Christmas cards sent by Their Majesties The King and Queen and by HRH Princess Mary to the soldiers of the BEF in 1914. In 1909, at the age of 17, Pay joined the 3rd (Special Reserve) Bn The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, and was called up for training each year. In 1911 he met a friend who was a Regular soldier on leave from the Queen's, and decided to make the Army his career. Enlisting in the Queen's in September 1911, L.10009 Pte Pay served a little over a year with the 1st Battalion at Warley before being posted to the 2nd Battalion in Bermuda. The Battalion were in Pretoria, South Africa, when news came of the outbreak of war. Orders were given to return home immediately. The 2nd Battalion reached Southampton on 19th September, 1914, embarked again as part of the 7th Division on 4th October and landed in Belgium the next day.

Mr Pay well remembers the meeting of the 1st and 2nd Queen's at Gheluvelt during the First Battle at Ypres. He was twice wounded, but remained with the Battalion until the Battle of Loos where he was severely wounded and had his left foot amputated. That was the end of Pte Pay's military career. He returned to his home in Dover and has lived there ever since.

The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard

We congratulate Captain C. M. Estall, MC on the award of the Silver Medal of the Royal Victorian Order which he received as a member of The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard. We are indebted to Captain Estall for this note on his ancient and honourable corps.

The Bodyguard, not to be confused with the Yeomen Warders, was constituted a Royal Body Guard by King Henry VII in 1485. Since its creation as a permanent Corps, the Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard has had an unbroken history of over 480 years. During the long period of over four centuries, the constitution, dress and equipment of the Guard have changed little. For over 250 years its members were the real guardians of the Sovereign's person in peace and in war. Their duties now are confined to purely ceremonial occasions, such as Coronations, Royal Lyings in State and Funerals, State Visits and Banquets, Garter Services, Royal Garden Parties and Investitures.

The Establishment of the Sovereign's Bodyguard allows for a Captain and five other officers, six Sergeant Majors and 75 Yeomen. All are appointed for their war services. (In this connection, it may be mentioned that Captain Estall was awarded the Military Cross and Belgian Croix de Guerre in 1917 as a Company Sergeant Major in the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment).

The magnificent dress worn by the Yeomen is the same as it was in Tudor times 400 years ago. It consists of a voluminous scarlet tunic trimmed with purple velvet and gold lace, scarlet knee breeches and stockings and black buckled shoes with red, white and blue rosettes on instep. The low-crowned hat is of purple velvet with red, white and blue ribbons. The Yeomen wear a gold-embroidered cross-belt and carry a partisan.

Such is a brief description of this most ancient Corps, which consists today as it did over 480 years ago, of distinguished soldiers who have fought for the Sovereign and their Country, and which still retain the proud title of

"The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard"

Wanted

Cap badges of the 13th (Service) Bn, The East Surrey Regiment, the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment and the 23rd London Regiment, together with a pair of Other Rank collar badges and shoulder titles. Will exchange or purchase. Apply Major C. B. E. Cowie, MBE, Langholm, 16, South Drive, Harrogate, Yorks.

Cassino Revisited

Captain W. Hackwith, who was Adjutant of the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment at Cassino in May 1944, writes:

"Any of our readers who took part in the Battle of Cassino may be interested to know that I revisited Cassino on 9th May, 1969 whilst on holiday in Italy with my wife.

"We first visited Monte Cassino Monastery and looked down on the River Rapido, the Railway Station and on Point 36; and on seeing the area for the first time as the Germans did in May 1944, I wondered how the . . . we ever managed to cross the valley between Monte Trocchio and the Rapido.

"We drove down from the Monastery to the town below and found that it looked very much like any other town. Cars were speeding through the streets, children were returning home from school, and people were out shopping. Nothing very exciting in that, you may say, but I found it very difficult to believe that only 25 years previously this little town simply did not exist!! It looks now as though it had always been there.

"We finally visited the British Cemetery and were very pleased to find it beautifully kept. There were pretty little flowers growing between the gravestones, which bear the badges of many famous regiments and which gleamed white in the bright afternoon sunshine. To the right of the Cemetery towers Monastery Hill, and the new Monastery looks down on the peaceful scene as though it is now gently guarding the British, Polish, and German graves.

"I do not believe that buildings can speak, yet I feel somehow that Monte Cassino Monastery was watching and silently whispering, 'Please—never again'."

Going Back To Gib.

This report on a visit to Gibraltar is contributed by Major C. B. E. Cowie who served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment on the Rock in 1928.

"We were on the 'Punta Europa', the ship plying between Gibraltar and Algeciras, when my companion said 'There is a lot of difference'. How right he was! It was forty-one years—was it really as far back as that?—when I left Gibraltar and now, after that lapse of time, I found much had changed. The square at Casemates is the town car park, and the Alameda Gardens have been shrunk to make way for an open air theatre, swimming pool, miniature golf course and a new housing estate. New roads have appeared such as Churchill's Way, Keightly Way, King's and Queen's Way and Red Sands Road, but Bedlam Court remains! The war memorial has been re-sited in the centre of the town, and I feel that Bob Weston's fire station has been moved somewhere.

"Of the shops I found only two that I had known; Beanland Malin and Saccone and Speed. Marks and Spencers have a branch now in Main Street, as also have Boots the chemists together with Barclays Bank;

and there is now an English pub: the Old Bull and Bush. Old soldiers will be interested to learn that South Barracks remains, as does the guard room situated opposite Government House, but the route down—as the guards knew it—is hardly recognisable now with new traffic routes, roundabouts and even a new section of road, leading through the Southport Gate. Gone are the two Marne guns which flanked the Guard room at Government House, and also the sentry boxes. As I stood there my mind went back to the days when the last entry on the guard report was: 'No bugs were seen' or 'Bugs were seen and destroyed' I can recall being reprimanded for taking over a guard report which had the word 'painless' added after 'destroyed'.

"The Gibraltar Regiment occupies Buena Vista Barracks and the Rangers are at South Barracks. At Moorish Castle a modern block of flats occupies what was once the yard or square. Town Range and Gunners Barracks have been sold and the Spanish Pavilion demolished. North Front, as we knew it, has long since gone, and with it the ranges and race course to make way for the Civil/RAF airport.

"There are now new hotels, cinemas, night clubs and blocks of flats . . . everything makes way for tourism. An example of this is the aerial railway which takes visitors to the top of the Rock—a good pair of ammo boots and a hard slog had to do in days gone by—and the hydrofoil to Tangier runs in place of the Calpe. The Gibraltarians are as loyal as ever, and Union flags could be seen everywhere, but somehow I felt lost. I would have loved to have seen our own Band and Drums preceding the Government House guard and swinging through Southport Gate and down the Main Street, or to have heard Bandmaster Jenkins and the band playing at Alameda Gardens on a Sunday evening—and as I turned away I wondered just how many remain today, and where they are . . . Yes, Gibraltar has altered, for the better? I would not know."

Letters

From: Lieutenant-Colonel D. R. Bishop, MBE,
5th (Volunteer) Battalion,
The Queen's Regiment.

To: Editor, Regimental Association News Letter.

In the May edition of the News Letter you rightly deplore the passing of 6th Queen's. However, although you mention the formation of 5th Queen's in the note on General Piggott, the overriding impression one gets is that the TA/Volunteers, call them what you will, are finished.

Clearly, this is not your intention, but I would be glad if you could arrange for an informative piece on 5th Queen's, particularly "A" Company, to appear at an early date. Our biggest problem in recruiting for the Battalion is public ignorance of our existence, even among ex-Terriers. This is evidenced by the number of employers (many ex-TA) who query our annual camp notices—"But surely it's all wrapped up now?"

As far as I and my Company commanders are concerned, we carry on the traditions of our Territorial

forebears, and it is distinctly wrong to say that 6th Queen's Cadre is all that is left of the Surrey element.

"A" Company now operates in the Kingston and Guildford drill-halls and also, for administrative reasons takes Hounslow under its wing. It has a strength of exactly 100 officers and men—a genuine strength since I don't tolerate "paper soldiers". Eighty have already attended annual camp at Stamford during the past fortnight or on courses. The remainder are booked for courses (mainly recruits' courses which we run at Canterbury or Regular Army attachments).

The Company is still under strength—the establishment is 115 all ranks—and I want to get it up to full strength and beyond; I am allowed a 40% overbearing if I can recruit that well.

I'd be glad if these facts could be brought to the attention of your readers together with a request that they do everything possible to influence young men to join us.

In our last News Letter Mr F. P. Shonfeld asked for information on the LP record made by the Band of 1st Queen's in BAOR some years ago.

Mr Shonfeld, who has been given a copy of the record by his old friend, Mr E. H. Organ, Secretary of the 4th Queen's Old Comrades Association, writes as follows:

"I must thank you for the insertion of my request for the record of The Queen's Regimental Music in the recent News Letter, and would like you to know that I had many letters from various members of the Queen's OCA—and indeed, the Regiment itself. One came from Major-General D. L. Lloyd Owen, stationed in Cyprus, who, because of his connection with the record, gave me quite a lot of information about the record but was doubtful whether I would be lucky enough to obtain a pressing. All other letters gave me similar information, many offering to loan me their own record, which I thought was not only very sporting of them, but just the spontaneous generosity of a Queen's man.

"I would deem it a great favour if you would kindly find a space in your next News Letter to give a blanket appreciation to all those kind people who took the trouble to help me to procure the record, and the offers to loan me their own copy—an offer I deeply appreciated but feared to accept in case of anything going wrong in transit."

The Royal Marines Association held their Annual Church Parade at Eastney on Sunday, 28th September; and, as usual, the Regimental Association was represented by a detachment of the 4th Queen's Old Comrades Association. The following letter has been received from Captain G. P. Sanford, General Secretary of the Royal Marines Association:

"Dear Major Hill,

I am writing to thank you most sincerely for the support of your Members on the occasion of our Annual Church Parade last Sunday.

We are most conscious of the compliment paid to us by your detachment attending our Parade, and very

proud to have their Standard included in the many on parade. I sincerely hope they, themselves, enjoyed the day.

Yours sincerely,
Peter Sanford."

The following letter has been received by Lieutenant Colonel H. R. D. Hill, MBE, Chairman of the Regimental Association from Major General F. J. C. Piggott, CB, CBE, DSO.

"Dear Bob,

Just a short formal note to thank you most sincerely, as Chairman of the Regimental Association for your share in the quite unexpected and undeserved gift of the Drum which I received at the Reunion. It was a truly kind gesture; and the gift is, and will remain, one of my most treasured possessions. Could you please ensure that my gratitude is known to your Committee and Members?

Yours ever,
Francis Piggott."

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

Battlefields Re-visited

The two exceptionally interesting articles which follow have been contributed by Lieutenant Colonel W. D. Griffiths, DSO, MC and Lieutenant Colonel S. W. Peet, MC, TD.

Medenine

"I was pleasantly surprised to receive a letter from Colonel Duggie Snowdon asking me whether I would like to be a Guest Speaker on the GOC Malta Tps 1969 Battlefield Tour in Tunisia. Needless to say I was very happy to accept, and in due course the Study papers, including a 'brief' as large as a book, were sent to me.

"The brief gave excellent background details, including extracts from the War Diaries of our adversaries, but my task was to explain to 80 officers taking part in the Study how the 131st Queen's Brigade played its part in the defensive battle of Medenine on the 6th March, 1942.

"Before leaving England for Tunisia, I had been a little concerned about being able to locate our old positions, to set the scene for my contribution to the Study, but the reconnaissances carried out by the Chief Education Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Ralf Nye (who compiled the brief) and the G Staff, had been thorough and I was duly delivered in a jeep, provided by the Tunisian Army, to the centre of the 1/7th Queen's positions. The sky was cloudless, the sun hot and the arid rocky desert just as it was when we were there 27 years ago.

"This was my first visit back to the area and I must have been so excited climbing up the ridge to the old 'A' Company 1/7th Queen's position that I tripped over a rock and fell heavily to the ground. The rocky ridge is still very hard! Somewhat dazed, as I was at times 27 years ago for different reasons, I made my way past

individual trenches, mortar pits, platoon command posts until I arrived at the Company command post. Every 'hole' was still there. They were all surrounded by the large boulders which had been hacked out of the rocky ridge to form fire parapets. The only difference was that the wind over the years had blown away the sand between the rocks and so the slit trenches looked rather like Italian stone sangars. Most of the trenches were only partially filled with sand. It was rather like going back to a ghost town, everything was there as we had left it, including large shell splinters and, incidentally, some horned vipers. As I looked round at each trench the names of the occupants 27 years ago came to my mind 'L/Cpl Rowe, MM was there', ten yards away 'Sgt H. Lancaster, MM, was there', twenty yards away 'CSM Porky West, behind me', and so on. It was all so quiet.

"Having established the local situation I looked out over the miles and miles of arid desert towards the Matmata Hills. There was absolutely no movement now, but there on the day, there had been the armada of three Panzer Divisions taking part in Rommel's last attack on the Eighth Army. Slowly with the aid of a map, I could piece together the jigsaw of our positions, the NZ Division far away on our left in front of Medenine, the 201st Guards Brigade positions on their right, and then the 1/6th Queen's layout connecting with 'A' Company 1st/7th (Major Ronnie Carver), 'C' Company in the middle (self) on the higher ground, and 'B' Company (Major Stuart Playfoot) on the right linking with the 1st/5th Queen's under Lieutenant Colonel Lance East, DSO, on the right, on the 'sugar loaf' feature. There were no guns firing, and no men, but my memory filled in these gaps. I looked at a script which had been provided for me to use if I wished, but valuable as it was, having been taken from the History, I simply had to do my own to fill in with all the impressions I had of my memory of the day of the historic battle. So that was the end of my Recce and it was highly satisfactory.

"On the day of the Presentation I and the other two guest speakers, Colonel Sir Thomas Butler of the Grenadiers, and Colonel W. Watson of the 5th Durham Light Infantry, were introduced to the 80 officers attending the Study.

"The Battle of Medenine came first in the programme and so I set the scene with opening remarks about what the Queen's Brigade of 7th Armoured Division had been up to during the 1,400 miles advance from Alamein. I recalled our morale was high, and that we had become battle hardened during that four months' advance. We were also very lean having lived on bully beef in various forms, cold, stewed, fried etc. for many months. This opening introduction was rather like conducting a large 'O' Group; first with information about the ground, then the enemy, followed by our troops. The recipients seemed to follow my rather old fashioned order of delivery and we moved to the next stand.

"I had prepared a sketch of all the positions in detail, but even then I pointed out the wrong position for 'C' Company. I think I was more concerned about the general line of the FDLs and the difficulty Brigadier Ronnie Senior, DSO, and Brigadier Jimmy Sykes-

Wright, DSO (who were at the time CO and 2 i/c respectively), had when siting the FDLs against the expected attack from the west. I was really in the position of a Corps Commander pointing out the layout, but really the emphasis was on the 1st/7th Queen's anti-tank layout, so cleverly conceived by Major Sandy, and the mighty concentration of the Corps Artillery which to a large extent kept the Panzer Grenadiers separated for a long time from their tanks, except the Italians who repeatedly attacked the 1st/5th Queen's on our right.

"It would have been impossible to have gone into details of every platoon's action on the Queen's Brigade front. It is a fact" that our lines were hardly dented despite the weight thrown in against us, and I think the hinge of our defence was the six-pounder anti-tank gun of Sgt Andrews and his gallant crew who knocked out eight tanks with Sgt Crangles and crew who knocked out 14, with one more KO'd by Sgt Vincent.

"The German War Diaries say that 60 tanks of 21 Panzer were directed on the wadis between 1st/7th and 1st/6th Queen's, but on the day it looked more like 200 with attendant supporting vehicles. I recalled how this fleet of vehicles, over a vast area, came pounding on throwing up clouds of dust over the whole plain. How the German artillery had given us a 30-minute bombardment and not a shot of any sort had come from our side in return. The armada came on and on, it was eerie. The first tanks were allowed to rumble on past our forward anti-tank guns, and past 'A' Company positions until quite suddenly Sgt Andrews opened fire on the fourth tank at 20 yards' range, and halted it. The crew baled out and I remember shouting to L/Cpl Rowe to open fire. The battle then began in earnest. Everyone seemed to be firing. A shell on the side of my Command Post had dazed my wireless operator for a few minutes, and me. Our lines held firm. I could picture 28 dead tanks left on the front of 1st/6th and 1st/7th Queen's, a dozen more in front of the Guards Brigade, half a dozen on the NZ front, others were knocked out by our tanks in reserve, and the total score had been 54 tanks. The German war diaries agree with our figures and add that over 600 men were killed.

"These were some of the impressions I was able to put over at the Study, and some of the thoughts which were recorded by the BBC and broadcast on the Forces network.

"If any reader, who was in the battle, has the good fortune to visit the area I can assure him that he will be able to find his trench intact, and no doubt he will be able to recall his own experiences. I count myself very fortunate at having been invited as a Guest at Army expense! Again."

W.D.G.

Salerno

"Early this year, 3rd Division was granted permission to carry out a battlefield tour of Salerno. The tour was led by Major General McMeekin, GOC 3rd Division, together with representatives from other formations, the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

"The aim of the tour was to give officers an idea of the atmosphere of war, and human reactions in battle. An associated aim was to help young officers in the study of the Italian Campaign 1943-45.

"Fourteen guest speakers, who were themselves in the 1943 landings, accompanied the tour, for the purpose of giving first hand accounts of the actions in which they took part. Included in these guest speakers were German officers, and RN and RAF officers. 169 (Queen's) Brigade of 56 (London) Division, took part in the assault landings, and was represented on the tour by Major General F. A. H. Ling (then second-in-command 2nd/5th Queen's), Lieutenant Colonel S. W. Peet (then OC B Company 2nd/6th Queen's) and Sgt F. A. C. Peart (then section commander in D Company 2nd/6th Queen's).

"One imagines that everyone at battalion level, has vivid memories of the battle as experienced at the time, without realising what the larger picture was. Most of those who were at Salerno will have since read that the situation was very critical for a number of days, and Lieutenant General Mark Clark, discussed the question of having to withdraw from the beaches. At that time, however, we did not know this and perhaps it was a good job that we didn't.

"It was, therefore, intensely fascinating for us to see unfolding by film, map and model, the story of the day of landing and the subsequent seven days.

"We were given presentations by the German 16 Panzer Division—opposite 56 Division—RN and RAF speakers, in addition to first class expositions from the 3rd Division officers who had made detailed studies of the operation, having read all war diaries, historical records, and Hugh Pond's book, published in 1961.

"2nd/5th Queen's at Salerno were commanded by Lieutenant Colonel (now Major General) John Whitfield. Sadly, he is not able to travel these days, but his memory is still vivid, and he has recorded his views on tape. Major General Ling reconstructed on the ground for the students the actions of 2nd/5th Queen's on D-Day in a most graphic and moving way. It will be recalled that the battalion had the task of capturing the right hand side of the airfield at Montecorvino. (2nd/6th Queen's had the task of capturing the airfield itself and the left hand side.) After an unopposed landing the 2nd/5th were able to advance inland for some 1,000 yards or so, but then ran into heavy opposition. They fought their way forward, the opposition stiffening, but by nightfall had suffered grievous casualties losing 173 all ranks; by the evening of the next day all five company commanders had become casualties, three of them killed.

"General Ling used three stands, the first the area where the battalion formed up after landing, next the area when the battalion first came under concerted attack, and lastly the area where Colonel Whitfield spent the first night in a ditch, in the middle of a German tank laager. The casualties suffered by the 2nd/5th were so great that the next day they reorganised on a two rifle company basis. General Whitfield's leadership throughout the entire action at Salerno is regarded by those who were there as of the highest

order. He showed great personal bravery, and did all he could to ensure the companies got every help he could give them. His personal example was an inspiration.

"The action described by Colonel Peet and Sgt Peart took place on D+3, the 12th September: by this time B and D Companies 2nd/6th Queen's had moved forward some 3,000 yards from the remainder of the battalion, to a prominent feature known as Point 210. In the early evening they were attacked by the enemy infantry, preceded by an artillery bombardment. D Company on the left of the feature came under heavy automatic fire, and Sgt Peart described graphically and amusingly how they were at that moment having the evening meal and cleaning up. When a lull in the firing came, he found the friend who shared his slit trench, dead, and realised that his company position had been penetrated by the enemy. He together with some remnants of his platoon, joined up with Major Peet's D Company in a counter-attack on to the B Company position. Major (now Lieutenant Colonel) Peet described how when the Germans attacked, he arranged with OC B Company (Major Pincombe) to make an immediate counter-attack from his own position, to the place where the Germans had penetrated. By this time the only available men were about twenty all souls from B Company, afterwards joined by the remnants of D Company with Sgt Peart.

This immediate counter attack had the effect of restoring the position and the Germans withdrew. D Company suffered about twenty dead but accounted for numerous Germans by small arms fire, while B Company had five dead and a number wounded.

It was a pity that no room could be found on the tour for a representative of 2nd/7th Queen's, as this would have made our brigade complete. We know, however, that this battalion, landing on the left of the division, made a successful advance to the village of Faiano holding this ground for several days, and carrying out intensive patrolling. It has always been a matter of speculation in the mind of Brigadier (then Lieutenant Colonel) Allen Block who commanded the 2nd/7th, what would have happened had his battalion pressed forward on D+1. On that day he was so convinced that the opposition on his front was very weak, that he prepared for a rapid move in his scanty motor transport. He was not allowed to move, and we found out during our discussions, that any such move may well have been possible, but support, both administrative and otherwise, would have been lacking.

It was an interesting coincidence that the tour commenced on the actual anniversary of the landing, 9th September. The weather was just as perfect as 26 years previously, but rain fell on the last two days.

Our own feelings of regimental pride over this battle have always been heightened by the fact that at the end of the fighting, 169 (Queen's) Brigade was relieved by 131 (Queen's) Brigade in 7th Armoured Division, the 1st/5th taking over from the 2nd/5th, and so on.

The three of us Queensmen who went as guest speakers, considered ourselves very lucky and indeed honoured, at being given this unique opportunity. We

were treated as favoured guests and although it was perhaps unavoidable that we should get nostalgic at the bar, the young men whom we met did not seem to tire, and were most inquisitive over all aspects of our stories. Special mention must be made of Frank Peart, who runs the 2nd/6th Queen's Salerno Re-union each year. He won everyone's heart by his amusing stories and by his honest pride in the Queen's achievement on Point 210. His copy of Pond's book on Salerno now bears the signatures of the German guests, the British speakers, and also that of an Italian priest who was in charge of a sanatorium in 1943, and who played a Christian part in succouring wounded on both sides, as well as looking after his own patients.

Two receptions were arranged for us. One by the Italian municipal authorities in Salerno and another arranged by HQ 3rd Division.

In addition there were two wreaths-laying ceremonies which we attended, one at the Italian war memorial in Salerno, and another at the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Bellizi, not far from the beaches. Of the 2,000 or so graves here, there are many, many, headstones bearing the Paschal Lamb, more one would estimate, than that of any other regiment. Eight out of every ten graves is that of an infantryman, and it dawned on the writer, as never before, how our arm of the service has always borne the brunt of battle. We can always be proud of those who lie at rest at Salerno.

S.W.P.

The Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel

Elsewhere in this News Letter appears an account of the Regimental Chapel of The East Surrey Regiment in the Parish Church at Kingston upon Thames. We should like to publish a similar article on the Queen's Regimental Chapel in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford. However, little seems to be known about the Regiment's connection with the Chapel. The Regimental History (Volume VII, page 6) records that on 4th October, 1913, the 1st Bn The Queen's was taken to Guildford "there to take part in the ceremony of unveiling the window in the Queen's Chapel, Holy Trinity Church, dedicated to the Regiment in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of its formation". It is not clear whether the window or the Chapel commemorates the 250th Anniversary which occurred in 1911. The reference to the Queen's Chapel suggests that it was already associated with the Regiment. If this is so, it is strange that there is no mention in the Regimental History of what must have been one of the major events of the 250th Anniversary celebrations.

Any information on this subject from our readers would be welcomed.

Captain B. H. Tripp has contributed this note on Lieutenant General Daniel Jones who was Colonel of The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot from 1777 to 1793.

"In the north east corner of the churchyard of All Saints, Sanderstead, is a simple slab, neatly lettered.

DANIEL JONES ESQ
COLONEL OF THE QUEENS
Regiment of Foot
and LIEUTENANT GENERAL
of his MAJESTY'S forces
died Novr 18.1793
Aged 65 years

"It has always been a somewhat awesome thought to me to think that I live, so to speak, pretty close to the mortal remains of a Colonel of the Regiment, and I have often wondered whether anyone can tell us more about this officer, who is stated to have 'died in command'. His appointment as Colonel lasted from 1777 to the year of his death—just nine months after the outbreak of the 21 years' war with Revolutionary and Napoleonic France, and a few years before the opening of his Regiment's most glorious periods, the Peninsular War—roughly equivalent then to the North African campaign of more recent memory.

"It would be interesting to know more of him, and what was his connexion with Sanderstead (or possibly Croydon) long before the Regiment had a county basis?

"At all events, it is appropriate that his bones should lie in what was Surrey earth, until a year or so ago and 'Londonization', where flourished the two great Line Regiments ultimately to come together as The Queen's Surreys and now the 1st Bn of The Queen's Regiment.

"Others as well as I may like to know more of this old soldier of The Queen's.

B.H.T."

Footnote by County Office

An Army List of the period records that Colonel Daniel Jones from the 3rd Foot Guards was appointed to command the Queen's on 7th August, 1777. He was promoted Major General three weeks later, and Lieutenant General on 19th February, 1779.

Regimental History

Major Jock Haswell's short History of The Queen's Royal Regiment is obtainable from the Secretary of the Regimental Association for 17/6, post free. Fourteen volumes in this popular Famous Regiments series have been published, including The Royal Fusiliers, The Black Watch, The Royal Berkshire Regiment and The Royal Hampshire Regiment. Another eighteen are in course of preparation.

We are hopeful that the history of The East Surrey Regiment will make its appearance in due course.

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

Colours of the Thirty First Regiment

The Crimea Colours of the Thirty First in St. Mary's Church, Huntingdon, were seen by a retired officer of the Regiment in October 1969, and found to be in satis-

factory condition. Only half of the Queen's Colour remains, but the Regimental Colour is complete and the Battle honours clearly legible.

This stand, presented by HRH the Duke of Cambridge at Dublin on 19th May, 1848, replaced those carried by the Thirty First in the Sutlej Campaign. They first saw action in the Battle of Sebastopol in June 1855, and again five years later in the operations leading to the capture of the Taku Forts in North China.

They were laid up in St. Mary's Church, Huntingdon, in 1864 over the Regimental memorial to those who fell in the Crimea.

The East Surrey Regiment Memorial Chapel

Historical Background

The Chapel of the Holy Trinity in the Parish Church at Kingston-upon-Thames dates back to the XVth Century when the Guild of the Holy Trinity in Kingston was founded in 1477. The Trinity Chapel, now known as The East Surrey Regiment Memorial Chapel, was restored in 1920 by the relatives, friends and comrades of the 6,000 officers and men of The East Surrey Regiment who gave their lives in the 1914-18 War. The Chapel was dedicated as the Regimental War Memorial by the Bishop of Southwark on 4th May, 1921.

Besides the restoration of the Trinity Chapel, the Regiment also erected the Memorial Gates which make a fitting approach to the church from the Market Place, and which bear the Regimental badge in the centre.

Books of Remembrance

The original Book of Remembrance containing the names of those killed in the 1914-18 War was made and bound for the Regiment by the Hon. Norah Hewitt in memory of her brother, Captain the Hon. A. R. Hewitt, DSO, who was killed at Ypres on 25th April, 1915.

This book was enlarged to include the names of 1,155 officers and men of The East Surrey Regiment who were killed during the 1939-45 War. On the south side of the Chapel is another book which records the names of those who lost their lives in military operations since 1945.

Panels

The oak panels on the walls are memorials to officers who served in The East Surrey Regiment. The section on the north wall nearest the altar is reserved for holders of the Victoria Cross. The screen separating the Chapel from the chancel bears the panels of Colonels of the Regiment.

Sanctuary Lamp

This lamp was presented by Major and Mrs. J. L. Congdon in 1931. It burns in perpetual remembrance of the officers and men of The East Surrey Regiment who were killed in the 1914-18 War.

Kneelers

The hassocks, worked in the Regimental colours of maroon, amber and black, bear selected Battle Honours. They were made and presented by Mrs. Blunden, the widow of Major A. C. Blunden.

2nd Battalion Panel

At the entrance to the Chapel can be seen the panel presented by Lieutenant Colonel G. E. Swinton, MC, in memory of the members of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment who were killed in action in Malaya or who died as prisoners of war of the Japanese in the 1939-45 War.

Colours

The Colours of the 5th and 6th (Territorial) Bns The East Surrey Regiment and the 7th, 8th and 9th (Service) Bns The East Surrey Regiment are laid up in the Regimental Chapel.

Colours of the 31st and 70th Regiments hang in the nave, and a descriptive leaflet of all stands of Colours in the Church is available to visitors.

Freemasonry in The East Surrey Regiment

We are grateful to Mr S. Bays, MBE, for this note on freemasonry in the Regiment.

The District Grand Lodge of Pakistan, previously the Punjab, celebrated its centenary on 12th March, 1969. An article in The Masonic Record for May 1969 observes that the earliest Masonry in the Punjab followed the drum beats of the British Army. The first Lodge constituted in the territory, the Light of the North Lodge, was established at Karnal where the Thirty First Regiment was stationed from 1831 to 1836.

The Thirty First moved from Gozo to Gibraltar in February 1857, and Lieutenant Robert Freke Gould, an officer of some seven years' service, became Master of the Inhabitants Lodge on the Rock. Bro. Gould, who was a very active Mason, then formed a Lodge in the Regiment. The Inhabitants Lodge sponsored the petition of the Regimental Lodge, which under a warrant dated 17th May, 1858, was titled the Meridian Lodge. Bro. Gould wrote a number of books on Masonry, including one on military Lodges. The Meridian Lodge continued in the Regiment for 46 years, being finally erased from the roll in 1904.

Another connection with the Regiment is the Light from the East Lodge in Surbiton which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary in 1971. It was founded by members of the 1st/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) who served in India during the 1914-18 War.

History of The East Surrey Regiment

Volume IV (1920-1952)

By David Scott Daniell

The complete remaining stock of the above History has recently been purchased from the publishers—

Messrs Ernest Benn Limited, and copies are now available at reduced price as under:—

Standard Edition

Original Price (including postage) 31/6d

NEW PRICE (including postage) 22/-

Orders, accompanied by cheque/postal order for 22/- made payable to "Colonel of the Regiment's Fund", should be sent to:—

The Regimental Secretary,
RHQ The Queen's Regiment,
(Queen's Surreys Office),
Portsmouth Road,
Kingston upon Thames.

Our Allied Regiments

Canada—The South Alberta Light Horse

Lieutenant Colonel J. D. Heine, CD, the Commanding Officer of The South Alberta Light Horse writes that he hopes to visit Europe this year with some of his officers and the RSM. He intends to visit The Queen's Regiment and we hope the party will find time to visit our County Office at Kingston upon Thames.

Colonel Heine also reports the appointment of the Hon H. A. Olson as Honorary Colonel of The South Alberta Light Horse. The appointment is effective immediately and is one that is conferred from time to time on distinguished Canadian citizens who are associated with regiments of the Militia. The SALH perpetuates The South Alberta Regiment, and has battle honours dating back to the North West Campaign and to the First and Second World Wars. Colonel "Bud" Olson has been connected with agriculture all his life. He became the Member of Parliament for Medicine Hat district in 1957 and is now the Minister of Agriculture for Canada. He has been a strong supporter of The South Alberta Light Horse for many years.

Regular Forces Employment Association

The Association exists for the sole purpose of finding employment for retired Regular sailors, soldiers and airmen and helping them in civil life. It is part of the Regular Forces Resettlement Service.

The Association provides all its services free.

There are 44 Branches covering the whole of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, each of which is run by an Employment Officer who is in close touch with local employers and who attends Final Resettlement Interviews. You can obtain the address of the Branch nearest your home from the Regimental Association, from the Post Office or from your local Employment Exchange.

Deaths

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

Dean On 25th November, 1968, Major K. J. Dean, TD. He joined the 24th London Regiment in 1935, and commanded a rifle company of 1st/7th Queen's in France in 1940.

Burberry On 30th November, 1968, Sgt Henry C. Burberry, MM (11332). Served in 11th Bn The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment from 1915 until he was wounded in 1917. See obituary.

Sanders On 1st April, 1969, Colonel Harry James Sanders, DSO, MC, aged 80. Served in 24th London Regiment from 1915 to 1948. See obituary.

Haylock On 15th April, 1969, Pte Stanley William Haylock (6084542), aged 57. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1930 to 1946. Was a prisoner of war in Germany from 1940 to 1945.

Hines On 12th May, 1969, Sgt Elijah John Hines (8425), aged 82. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1905 to 1918, and was wounded in the Battle of the Aisne. He also served in the RASC from 1919 to 1928 and again from 1940 to 1942.

Pusey In May 1969, Captain Stuart Pusey, aged 72. Enlisted as a drummer in the Royal Fusiliers in 1906, he later served in The East Surrey Regiment. He was a member of the Old Contemptibles Association, and served in the BEF of the last war, being evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940.

Garrett On 23rd May, 1969, Sgt Ronald Albert Garrett, aged 55. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1931 to 1945.

Jordan On 2nd June, 1969, Sgt William E. Jordan, aged 75. Served in 1st/4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from September 1914 until October 1919.

Burgess On 6th June, 1969, Pte Sydney Burgess, aged 64. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1924 to 1932, and again from 1939 to 1943 when he was transferred to the RAOC. "Tosh" Burgess will be remembered as storeman of D (MG) Company, 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in India.

Spencer On 17th June, 1969, CSM Robert John Spencer, MM (6140173), aged 56. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1933 to 1955. Awarded the Military Medal for gallantry in 1943. See obituary.

Marsh On 20th June, 1969, in Jersey, Sgt William Henry Marsh (6135496). He served in 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1921 to 1929.

Chapman On 27th June, 1969, WO I George William Chapman (6083659), aged 58. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1927 to 1946, and was RSM of the 1st/5th Bn The Queen's during the 1939-45 War. He received the Divisional Commander's commendation in May 1941.

Whicker On 13th August, 1969, Cpl William Edward Whicker (7075), aged 72. After service in the 1914-18 War, he joined the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) in 1921 and served until 1940.

Burrows On 26th August, 1969, CQMS Sidney George Burrows (4912) aged 89. Enlisting in 1895, Burrows served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the South Africa War and 1914-18 War. He retired in 1919, and then worked in the War Office. He used to attend the Remembrance Day parades at Kingston upon Thames until well on in his eighties.

Weaving On 9th September, 1969, Captain V. T. Weaving, late The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Shalless On 17th September, 1969, Edwin Gatty Shalless who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Vause On 2nd October, 1969, Pte Ernest Arthur Vause (3518) aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1919. He had been a patient in the Star and Garter Home, Richmond for 10 years.

Gaines On 22nd May, 1969, Bandmaster Edward Gaines (6285868), aged 53. Served in the Buffs from 1932 to 1940 and the Royal School of Music from 1942 to 1945. He joined the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1945 and was appointed Bandmaster in 1952. On retirement in 1961 he became Assistant-Director of Music at Harrow School.

Alderman On 24th October, 1969, RSM Alfred James Alderman, aged 67. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1920 to 1945, and was RSM of the 1/6th Surreys in France in 1940.

Regimental Families

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Joan Mary Ashby, wife of Major S. S. Ashby in a motor car accident on 5th June, 1969.

Obituaries

H. C. Burberry, MM

Henry C. Burberry, "Burb" as he was affectionately known, was a founder member of the 11th Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment OCA, and was its Secretary from 1927 to 1955. He joined the Battalion in 1915, and in 1917 as a sergeant he led a patrol into No

Man's Land to rescue the pilot and navigator of one of our planes which had been shot down. For this operation in which he was severely wounded and subsequently invalided home, Sgt Burberry was awarded the Military Medal.

By his untiring work and devotion to all members as Secretary, "Burb" welded them into an Association which was really alive and always ready to live up to the name "Comrades".

G.T.N.

Colonel H. J. Sanders, DSO, MC

Harry James Sanders, who has died aged 80, enlisted in The Royal Warwickshire Regiment on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War. Commissioned in 1915, he served in the 3rd and 1st Battalions of the 24th London Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross in November 1916 for conspicuous gallantry. He commanded a rifle company for the remainder of the war, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his courage and ability at Hill 150 near Rancourt, when his company captured sixty prisoners, seven machine guns and two 70 mm. guns. After the war, Colonel Sanders continued to serve in the Territorial Army, and was a Military Member of the County of London Territorial Forces Association from 1928 to 1933 and again from 1940 to 1948.

R. J. Spencer, MM

Robert John Spencer who died on 17th June, 1969, aged 56, was a pre-war Regular soldier. Enlisting in The East Surrey Regiment in 1933, most of his 22 years' service was in the 1st Battalion. His last appointment was as PSI to 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA). In 1943 he was CSM of C Company 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment, and took part in a patrol on the Goubellat Plain near Medjez el Bab in Tunisia. The patrol came under heavy fire and there were a number of casualties. CSM Spencer took charge of the situation and organized the evacuation of the wounded together with their arms and equipment, and personally carried back a seriously wounded NCO. For his conspicuous gallantry and leadership, CSM Spencer was awarded the Military Medal.

Mr A. C. Borrett

We regret to announce the death of Mr Allen Cotton Borrett who died at Bournemouth on 9th September, 1969, at the age of 95. In 1963 Mr Borrett made a generous donation of £10,000 to The Queen's Royal Regiment Charitable Fund in memory of his son, Major A. C. J. Borrett, who was killed in action with the 1st/5th Queen's in Normandy on 16th June, 1944.