

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

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

News Letter No. 8

November, 1970

Editorial

It is probable that those of our readers who were serving in the Regular Army before 1939 spent most of their time in one battalion. While acknowledging the existence of the other Regular battalion and the Territorial battalions, many soldiers felt it was "the Battalion" which was their home, and it formed the limits of their outlook and their existence.

It has been bewildering to follow the various amalgamations and groupings which have succeeded each other in post-War years and which have led to what is called "the Divisional concept". Yet it is important to have some knowledge of the function and organization of the Queen's Division to which our own Regiment belongs.

No attempt is made here to trace the developments which led to the formation of The Queen's Regiment. They and the reasons underlying each step, are clearly set out in Gregory Blaxland's admirable handbook "A Guide to The Queen's Regiment".

In 1967 the Infantry was organized into Brigades or Large Regiments. In our own case, the Home Counties Brigade had become The Queen's Regiment on 31st December, 1966. It was found, however, that these groupings were too small and inflexible to allow for contraction or expansion. Further, with recruiting largely on a geographical basis, it was inevitable there should be considerable fluctuation in the recruitment to individual Large Regiments. It was realized that the formation of larger groups would help to eliminate inequalities in strength, and in specialists. The next development was the concentration of recruit training in the interests of increased efficiency and economy.

Consequently, the Army Board decided that the Infantry should be re-organized into larger groupings to be known as "Divisions". The Queen's Division is the senior Division of the Infantry of the Line, and consists of The Queen's Regiment, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and The Royal Anglian Regiment. Officers are gazetted to and soldiers enlisted into the Division. Recruit training is done at the Divisional Depot at Bassingbourn; and whenever possible officers and men are posted to the Regiment of their choice.

The Divisional Headquarters is also established at Bassingbourn under a Colonel Commandant. The three Regiments each have their own Colonel, assisted by a Deputy Colonel in each of the counties from which the Regiment was formed. Lastly, in each county the

Regimental Headquarters has a County Office, which provides a focal point from which the Colonel or his Deputy directs Regimental affairs.

The appointments in the Queen's Division which principally affect us are:

Colonel Commandant The Queen's Division
Major General J. B. Dye, CBE, MC
Colonel of The Queen's Regiment
Lieut General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO
Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment
Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL

Honours and Awards

We congratulate the following on their awards notified in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1970:

CBE
Brigadier M. E. M. MacWilliam, DSO, MC, TD

OBE
Colonel T. A. Buchanan, DSO, MC, ERD, TD, DL
Lieut.-Colonel H. C. Millman

MBE
Major J. B. Ray
Major (QM) D. H. Fraser
Mr S. E. Dickason (Civil Division)

We also congratulate Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO on being appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Surrey, and finally Mr W. Leavey on the award of the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The Queen's Regiment

Locations

The Regular battalions of the Regiment are disposed as under:

1st Battalion	Berlin
2nd Battalion	Canterbury, for BAOR
3rd Battalion	Northern Ireland
4th Battalion (Rear)	Warminster

Regimental Depot

The Depot of The Queen's Regiment at Howe Barracks, Canterbury has now closed, and all recruit train-

ing is being done at the Queen's Divisional Depot at Bassingbourn.

The last Commanding Officer of the Queen's Depot, Lt Colonel Alan Jones, has been appointed GSO I (Principal Staff Officer) HQ 5 Division at Wrexham. The 2nd Bn The Queen's Regiment is now in the process of taking over Howe Barracks.

The "Diehards"

In our last News Letter we referred with regret to the impending disbandment of the 4th Bn The Queen's Regiment, formerly The Middlesex Regiment (DCO). Many of our readers who have served in the "Diehards" will be glad to know The Queen's Regiment accepted the opportunity offered by the Army Board to retain a representative company of the 4th Queen's. The future role and location of the company is under consideration.

Surrey Army Cadet Force

The Surrey Army Cadet Force consists of the 1st Cadet Bn The Queen's Regiment at Redhill, the 2nd Cadet Bn The Queen's Regiment at Chertsey and the 5th Cadet Bn The Queen's Regiment at Guildford

covering 24 detachments with a total cadet strength of 646.

We had a reasonably successful year as regards training and sporting activities, in spite of a continued shortage of instructors, particularly in the 1st and 2nd Cadet Bns. Thanks to extremely fine weather throughout, we had a most successful camp at Shorncliffe in August and were particularly pleased and honoured to have a visit from Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL.

In addition to camp which was attended by 300 cadets, we also sent 25 cadets to the School of Winter Warfare at Silberhutte and 15 cadets to the Royal Engineers at Hamlin at Easter. We are continuing to send an average of 15 to 20 boys to the Regular Forces each year and the 2nd Cadet Bn alone had 10 boys join the Forces in September, which is an extremely good start for 1970/71. At the time of writing our three Battalion shooting teams have been accepted for the National Inter Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley in October, and we have high hopes of some successes.

If any reader is interested in offering his services as a voluntary instructor with our units, we should be glad to let him have further details. Enquiries should be sent to HQ Surrey ACF, TAVR Centre, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford in the first instance.

Forecast of Principal Regimental and other Service Functions in 1971

Date and Time	Place	Function	Particulars
Thu. 15 and 16 Apr.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Spring Meeting and AGM	Secretary
Sat. 1 May 1830 hrs.	Kingston	WOs and Sgts Association AGM followed by Annual Dinner	Secretary
Thu. 27 May	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines	Secretary
Fri. 11 June 1830 hrs.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Cocktail Party	Secretary
Sun. 13 June 1115 hrs.	Guildford	Regimental Association Annual Cathedral Service	Secretary
Sun. 26 Sep. 1130 hrs.	Eastney	Royal Marines Association Annual Church Parade	Queen's Surreys Office
Thu. 30 Sep. and Fri. 1 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting	Secretary
Fri. 1 Oct. 1900 hrs. for 2000 hrs.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Annual Dinner	Secretary
Sat. 2 Oct. 1900 hrs.	Kingston	WOs and Sgts Association Ladies Dinner and Dance	Secretary
Fri. 15 Oct. 1830 hrs.	Kingston	Regimental Association Annual Reunion	Secretary
Sun. 14 Nov.	Kingston	Remembrance Day Parade	Queen's Surreys Office A Coy 5 Queen's (V)
	Guildford		

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

Regimental Association Christmas Cards

Particulars of the Association's Christmas card are given in the enclosed order form. The card is the same as last year's, but the badges have been improved and a better quality paper used.

The price is the same as for 1969, that is, 11.0d. a dozen, including postage and packing.

Officers Club

The Annual Dinner of the Officers Club was held at Claridges on 4 October 1970. One hundred officers attended, and the guests were Colonel A. R. Rees-Reynolds, CBE, DL, High Sheriff of Surrey and Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO, Colonel of The Queen's Regiment.

Regimental Association Service in Guildford Cathedral —14th June 1970

By our usual special arrangement, the weather was perfect for this occasion, and the attendance of members and their families was greater than in 1969, doubtless due to having a Regimental Drink Tent in the Cathedral precincts!

The normal Choir of the Cathedral was on holiday, so the organist and Choir from Ashtead were present instead. The Band of 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment under the direction of the Bandmaster, Mr T. L. Crichton, ARCM and with the kind permission of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel B. A. M. Pielow, accompanied the hymns during the Service, and entertained members outside the Regimental Tent for two hours afterwards.

It was particularly pleasing to entertain the Lord Bishop of Guildford, and the Dean, in the Regimental Tent after the service.

The Very Reverend Anthony Bridge, Dean of Guildford, himself a former officer in the Buffs, preached a forthright sermon, in which he interspersed several amusing anecdotes. His method of delivery and his slightly unusual approach to a sermon on "The Good Shepherd" gained him the rapt attention of the congregation, and the approbation of the Regimental contingent thereof.

No large hostelry or licensed catering firm in Guildford willing to take on an unknown commitment on a Sunday in summer, or to apply for an occasional license, could be found to run the Regimental Tent. However, Mr Lucas, the licensee of a small inn in the village of Normandy which lies midway between Guildford and Aldershot and called appropriately "The Duke of Normandy", kindly came to our assistance, and he and the sons and daughters of the licensees of other inns in his area, provided quick and cheerful service in the Tent.

It is hoped that similar arrangements can be made in 1971.

Regimental Association Annual Reunion

The Annual Reunion was held in the Drill Hall at the TAVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, on 16 October 1970. There was a good gathering of old comrades, including a coach load from the 4th Bn The Queen's OCA. We were glad to welcome our old friends from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea and

some of our Regimental patients in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond.

Golf Society—Autumn Meeting, 1970

Once again this year the weather was reasonably kind to us, although on Friday the wind was squally and quite strong at times. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy the meeting, the only regret was that the 1st Battalion being abroad, and other serving officers unable to attend, the numbers were not as great as had been hoped. The results were as follows:—

Thursday 1st October	
<i>Heales Memorial Trophy</i>	
Major J. C. Drane"	30½ points
Runner-up: Colonel J. W. Sewell	29½ points
<i>Veterans Trophy</i>	
Major J. C. Drane	48½ points
(18 points <i>anno domini</i>)	
Runner-up: Captain H. C. Mason	31½ points
(13 points <i>anno domini</i>)	
<i>Stableford Greensomes</i>	
Major W. J. F. Sutton and Capt D. J. C. Dickins	33 points

Friday 2nd October	
<i>Autumn Bowl (Seniors)</i>	
Major W. J. F. Sutton	Nett 75
<i>Glasgow Greys Cup (Juniors)</i>	
Major C. W. Summers	Nett 75
<i>Best Last 9 (Seniors)</i>	
Colonel P. G. Wreford Brown	Nett 40
<i>Best Last 9 (Juniors)</i>	
Major J. C. Drane	Nett 36
<i>Nine Hidden Holes (Seniors)</i>	
Lieut Col J. A. Lasbrey	Nett 43
<i>Nine Hidden Holes (Juniors)</i>	
Major P. A. Gray	Nett 39
<i>Sweepstake</i>	

1st Prize £12.17.6. Major A. C. A. Cater (The Field alias Major C. W. Summers. Nett 75—on first 9 holes).
2nd Prize £5.3.0. Lieut P. R. P. Swanson (1 Queen's) (Major W. J. F. Sutton. Nett 75).
3rd Prize £2.11.6. Capt H. C. Mason (Major J. C. Drane. Nett 76).

N.B. Perhaps it should be explained that the Honorary Secretary did not believe he could play in the medal, hence him being put "out to grass" to the benefit of Tony Cater.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting 1 October 1970

Following on the Annual General Meeting the Honorary Secretary sent a Ballot Paper to members, who had played at the Society Meetings within the last few years with a view to seeking information if it was desirable to change the programme with a view to attracting a larger attendance. The meeting decided by ballot that the Spring and Autumn Meetings remain as they are i.e. Spring two whole days each of two 18 hole rounds and Autumn one whole day of two 18 hole rounds and the second day one 18 hole round and nine holes in the afternoon. (Whenever possible the Autumn Meeting is arranged to coincide with the Regimental Dinner and by playing nine holes on the Friday afternoon allows time to change and arrive at Claridges in plenty of time.)

Historic Note

The Society feels it will be of interest to newcomers to the Golf Society that the Glasgow Greys Cup presented by the Officers 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the Autumn of 1933, won in 1938 by Captain H. A. W. Creaghe, was buried in his garden in Jersey, Channel Islands, during the German occupation of the Island, and "unearthed" after the War.

Regimental Museum

It is with deep regret that we record the sudden death of our Museum Orderly, Mr Frederick John Watson, on 4th May 1970. "Tom" Watson, who had served in the Royal Artillery in the 1939-45 War, had been a popular and respected member of our County Office staff for five years. He was a useful man with his hands and made many improvements in the display of exhibits. He took a great interest in the history of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment and acquired a sound knowledge of the items on display and the stories that lay behind them.

Of a genial and kindly disposition, he much enjoyed conducting parties of young people round the Regimental Museum. He will be much missed at our County Office, and to Mrs. Watson and her family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

News of the Associations

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

The Association held its 19th Annual General Meeting and Dinner at the T & AVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames on 2nd May. Sixty members attended and we were honoured to have with us as our guests on this occasion Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, Major General F. J. C. Piggott, CB, CBE, DSO, Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL, and Brigadier C. D. Armstrong, CB, DSO, MC. An excellent meal was provided and it goes without saying that a grand evening was spent by all.

It was with deep regret that Dave Boorer tendered his resignation as our Chairman, on the grounds that promotion in his civil occupation will give him less time to do justice to the appointment. This is typical of Dave who would never attempt to do a job unless he could devote all his time and energy to it. He says, however, that he will continue to assist from the "Touchline". Dave has striven to increase the membership of our Association, not only from old Surreys and old Queen's but from the serving members of our 1st Bn. Evidence of his efforts that he has made to widen the membership of the Association is very apparent now.

Captain J. McCoy, a former member of The Queen's Royal Regiment becomes our new Chairman and to him we wish all success, and to Dave Boorer our sincere thanks for all that he has done on behalf of the Association during the past six years.

Now that we are near our coming of age year the events and activities of the Association continue to improve. During the early part of the year some of our members were entertained at the Royal Hospital and spent a pleasant evening being entertained by a concert party and supplied with refreshment. Some members

were also privileged to attend the Founders Day celebrations. Our Ladies Dinner Dance for members and their ladies and friends was held at the T.A. Centre, Portsmouth Road, on Saturday 3rd October which 114 attended. After a first class meal they danced to the accordion orchestra supplied by Sidney Powsey until midnight.

Our membership continues to grow, but not sufficiently fast enough. We should like members of the amalgamated units to join our happy band of ex-mess members. We should appreciate hearing from Secretaries of the O.C.A.'s to whom we shall be only too pleased to furnish any information required concerning our Association.

Our monthly meetings and socials continue to provide a most pleasant evening for those who attend. It is hoped that in future we shall see many more members on these occasions to chat about "The Good Old Times".

4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA

Mr. Ernie Organ had had to give up the post of Secretary owing to ill health and his place has been taken by Mr. Joe Dennis. Both these loyal old Queen's men are known far and wide throughout the Regiment.

Mr. F. P. Shonfeld, who with Mr. Organ, edited the Braganza Journal, has had to relinquish the office of Assistant Secretary owing to his own ill health. He will, however, continue to produce the Journal. Mr. Dennis's place as Treasurer has been filled by Mr. Harry Cooper.

Ernie Organ, whose verses frequently appeared in the Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment, was elected Secretary of the 4th Queen's OCA in November 1963, after the death of Captain A. W. G. (Bill) Fenner. He has been a loyal and devoted servant of the Association, and his good-heartedness, his energy and his conscientious work on behalf of its members will be long remembered.

2/6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Annual Salerno Day Reunion was held on 19th September 1970 at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, and was attended by some eighty old comrades.

Among those who attended, we were pleased to see Major Archie Wilson who was our original adjutant and who had to cope with the mobilisation and move of the battalion to Caterham; he now sports a rakish beard and claims to be a TV actor! Colonel Teddie Bolton, who led us on our march through France in 1940; Major Neville Hooper, also another original 2/6th officer: CSM Tojo Hearnden who appears to defy the years; Sgt Norris who was in the party sent up by Monty to gain battle experience at Wadi Akarit; the redoubtable and inseparable twins Blomeley and Leach; Wally Lake who is mine host at the Winkle Inn, Basingstoke; Corporal Harry Tatman, who was cook to D Coy throughout the war and who has recently been Mayor of Greenwich; and many others.

Colonel John Kealey, our CO at Salerno gave an interesting résumé of his recent journey by car from Salerno to Camino, where he was badly wounded. He was accompanied by his son, who is an officer with the Regiment.

Once again, all our thanks go out to Frank Peart, who, single handed, runs this show every year. He also

gave us news of Doc Hogan who hopes to attend the reunion next year, and who sent the wherewithal to stand us all a drink.

11th (Lambeth) Battalion The Queen's Royal Regt OCA

The Association held its Final Reunion Lunch at Ye Olde Cock Tavern, Fleet St, on Saturday 9th May 1970. The Battalion was formed in June 1915 by the Mayor of Lambeth, Alderman Sir Charles Gibbs, who after the War became the first President of the Old Comrades Association. A brief history of the Battalion was given in the Souvenir Menu Card.

The Lunch was an outstanding success and was a reward for the planning and hard work of the Secretary, Capt. A. L. Potts, assisted by the Chairman, Old Comrade C. R. Halls, and the Assistant Secretary, G. T. Nevell.

After the Loyal Toast and a tribute to "Our Fallen" by the Padre, Rev. Norman L. G. Hill, Vice President, the toast of "The Regiment" was proposed by Major S. R. Hogg, Vice President, who was Brigade Major of 122 Brigade, 41st Division from 1915 to 1918. After a moving response by Major P. G. E. Hill, Secretary of the Regimental Association, a copy of the Battalion's History was presented to him. The copy had been supplied by Mrs. Neave, the widow of the author, Major E. W. J. Neave. Major Hill said that the History would be held in the Regimental Library as a constant reminder of the part paid by the 11th Battalion of the Regiment during the First World War.

The toast of "The Association and its Chairman" was given by Alderman Donald T. Campbell, JP the Mayor of Lambeth. He paid tribute to his illustrious predecessor, Sir Charles Gibbs, and said that Lambeth would never forget the men of the 11th Lambeth Battalion, and would always treasure the memory of their exploits in helping to achieve victory. He promised that the services held annually at the Memorial Window in the Town Hall on Armistice Sunday would continue, and that he and his successors would look forward to meeting those of the 11th Lambeth Battalion for many years to come. The Chairman responded and stressed the value that Association members had always placed upon its close association with Lambeth and its many "First Citizens".

"Our Guests" was proposed by Old Comrade Leslie Hall and the response was by Lt Col Marcus Lipton MP for Brixton. He mentioned the great fighting spirit of all serving men in the 1914-18 World War, and cited the 11th Battalion as an example of the toughness which they had had, and which was manifest in the comradeship which had lasted amongst its members for over 50 years. Gifts and framed tributes were presented by the Mayor of Lambeth to Secretary, Capt. A. L. Potts and Asst. Secretary, George T. Nevell for their services to the Association which had extended for nearly 50 years.

Before the close there was a pleasant surprise for the old comrades. Derek, the son of Chairman C. R. Halls, recorded the strains of the Regimental Marches "The Old Queen's" and "Braganza". Derek had served in the 1st Battalion The Queen's and had acquired the record at a sale at one of the Garden Parties held at Stoughton Barracks in the late 50's. The Chairman announced that the playing of the Regimental quick steps would bring

to an end not only this Final Reunion, but also the existence of the Association. In silence the old soldiers got to their feet, and as the music started, they came to attention. "The Old Queen's" was followed by "Braganza", and as the Band swung into the familiar strains of the quick step to which the Old Comrades of 50 years ago had so often marched, there was a feeling of deep emotion throughout the company.

Although the playing of "Braganza" signalled the formal disbanding of an Association which had lasted for nearly 50 happy years, all present felt that the *esprit de corps* of the Old Comrades was stronger than ever.

Donation to the Regimental Association

On the disbandment of the 11th (Lambeth) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment OCA, the Committee decided to donate £25 to St. George's Memorial Church at Ypres, £25 to St Matthew's Church at Brixton, £25 to the British Legion and £25 to the Regimental Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

The Secretary of the Regimental Association acknowledges with thanks this generous donation on the part of the former 11th Queen's OCA, and has assured Captain Potts, their Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, of our continued interest in their former members.

From Here and There

Third Generation in the Regiment

Anthony Alan Alexander Beattie, who was commissioned to The Queen's Regiment and posted to the 1st Battalion on 30 July 1970, is the son of Major Ian Dunbar Beattie who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment from October 1939 to December 1962. Anthony Beattie's grandfather, Lt. Col. Alexander Elder Beattie, CBE, MC, served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from December 1908 to September 1922.

Belongings restored after 25 years

In our last News Letter we reported that the British Embassy in Warsaw had received a parcel of photographs and personal papers which had belonged to 6144012 L/Cpl J. A. Mattingley, The East Surrey Regiment. The Defence Attaché reported that they had been handed in by a Pole who had received them some 25 years before from Cpl Mattingley who was then a Prisoner of War. As Mr Mattingley's address was not known, we asked any reader knowing his whereabouts to let us know.

In due course, Mr C. A. Taylor, Hon Secretary of the Pyrford Branch of the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association, got in touch with Mr Mattingley's sister and his address was obtained. Ultimately the British Embassy in Warsaw was able to restore Mr Mattingley's parcel to him.

Thirty years ago L/Cpl Mattingley of the 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment was taken prisoner at St Valery. For the next five years he was kept in prisoner of war camps in Upper Silesia. Early in 1945 the approach of the Russian forces compelled the Germans to move the camp further west. Mr Mattingley recalls the forced march through the snow in bitter weather. On one occasion there was an air attack and the

column was ordered to scatter. Although he does not remember the incident very clearly, Mr Mattingley believes it was then he entrusted his small parcel of personal possessions to a friendly Polish civilian. It is indeed remarkable that it has been restored to him after 25 years.

Visitor from the United States

Jack Frost (6133201), who served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1919 to 1926, called recently at the Queen's Surreys Office. Mr Frost went to the United States in 1929 and for the next forty years was employed on the production side of the Teletype Company in Chicago. His address is 5049 N. Nagle Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60630, USA. Mr Frost returns to America later in the year.

1914-18 War Medal Restored

A medal lost by an old Queen's man has been restored to his family by an old Surrey. One day Mr "Chippy" Wood (6136274, Signal Section, 1 Surreys) was digging in his garden at Croydon when he turned up a small metal object. After cleaning it was found to be a British War Medal inscribed "G 2146 Pte C. H. Quittenton, The Queen's Royal Regiment".

Mr Wood reported his find to the Regimental Association where there was a certain amount of information on Pte Quittenton, who was a Croydon man born and bred. He enlisted in the Queen's on 15th September 1914 and served in France with the 2nd Battalion. After being wounded three times he was discharged in March 1916 as unfit for further service, and was awarded the 1914 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal.

The Regimental Association had not heard of Pte Quittenton for 35 years, and so the story was passed to the Croydon Advertiser who published an inquiry for Mr Quittenton in their mid-week edition. Within a matter of hours after publication Mrs Whitbread telephoned the Advertiser to say Mr Quittenton was her father. He had died four years ago at the age of 77.

The family had lived only a few hundred yards away from Mr Wood's house, but how Mr Quittenton's medal ended up in Mr Wood's garden remains a mystery. Mrs Whitbread's brother, Fred, called on Mr Wood and collected his father's medal. Mr Wood commented, "I am so happy to return the medal to the family."

Sailor and Soldier

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, Able Seaman Albert Green was serving in the Grand Fleet. Finding life afloat a bit monotonous, he managed, by means which need not be examined too closely, to join the Army. Feeling that it was in his interests that the Royal Navy should not know of his transfer, he enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment under the name of Bloomfield.

Most of Pte Bloomfield's service was in the 1st Surreys. He is recorded in the Regimental History in these words:

"On 14th June 1917 Pte Albert William Charles Bloomfield was awarded the Medaille Militaire for gallant conduct about Longueval and Delville Wood and in subsequent engagements, for repeatedly carrying important messages when employed as a battalion orderly to and from Battalion Headquarters and the

front line through heavily shelled areas, thus successfully maintaining communications throughout the operations. This man has served throughout nearly the whole of the campaign with the Battalion."

We are glad to report that Mr Green, as he now is, is going strong at the age of 76. He lives at 47 Haslemere Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey.

Surrey sportswriter

Mr F. A. Smith (10144), who joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1911, has a good memory for sportsmen in the 1st Battalion before the 1914-18 War.

He mentions 9851 L/Cpl J. Redrup of the 1st Battalion who won the Navy and Army Welterweight Championship by beating "Doughy" Baker of "the blind half hundred". Mr Smith says "Also at that time we held the European, English, Divisional and Brigade Cross Country Championship, won by 10214 Pte H. Winkworth. We also held the senior and junior Bayonet Fighting Championships.

"Some weeks ago I was reading the sports column of the 'Mirror', and there was an article by an ex-professional footballer (1919-1930). I immediately recognised the writer as 10030 Sgt T. ("Rachel") Cain of the pre-1914 1st Battalion. The last time I saw him was with Harry Barlow and Bill Cruickshank at the funeral of Dmr Edwards, who died as the result of wounds received at Hill 60. 'Rachel' lived at Greenford, Middlesex, and used to play for Brentford."

Mr Smith would like to know Mr Cain's address. Mr Smith says he still knows most of his old company's (C) Regimental numbers from the time before the 1914-18 War when he was Company Clerk. His address is 9 South Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SE.

The Queen's 100 year old Colours

The May 1970 News Letter recorded that the old six foot Colours carried by the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1847 to 1947 had been moved from the Regimental Museum to the Queen's Divisional Depot at Bassingbourn. The article concluded with these words.

"After a century of service, the old Colours were brought home from the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Singapore in the aircraft carrier, HMS *Glory*. They were received at Devonport on 15th October 1947 by an escort from the Regiment, and, as was fitting on such an historic occasion, by an equivalent escort from HMS *Excellent*. On arrival at Guildford, the Colours headed by the Band and escorts, were marched through the Borough to Stoughton Barracks. Here, in the presence of the Colonel of the Regiment, General Sir George Giffard, the old Colours were marched off parade for the last time after 100 years of service with the Regiment at home and abroad."

Mr A. D. Moody, who served in the Queen's from 1940 until transferring to the MPSC in 1948, writes:

"In reference to the article on the Queen's 100 year old Colours, it is nice to know that these Colours will be looked after. It just so happens that I was a member of the escort that received the Colours as they were carried off HMS *Glory*. I was a L/Cpl on the Police at Home Counties Brigade Training Centre at Shorncliffe at the time. Several NCOs were selected for the escort, and were asked if we would take down our stripes for the occasion as it wasn't done to have an escort entirely of NCOs. Something I might add that I

was very proud to do.

"How well I remember the 'spit and polish' before going to Devonport. My boots were literally wrapped in cotton wool to preserve them for the great day! And the hours spent on rehearsal drill under the RSM at Shorncliffe—'Percy' Tasker. We spent several days at the Royal Naval Barracks, Devonport, on the 'strength', even to sleeping in hammocks and lining up for our 'daily tot'.

"Our reception at Guildford was wonderful and a few more hectic days were spent. Don't think I will ever forget that memorable occasion. Can also remember that 'Chuck' Sheffield was present. 23 years ago—just doesn't seem possible. Must be getting old!"

The Victoria Cross and George Cross

A special exhibition was opened by Her Majesty The Queen, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Philip, at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 on 10th June 1970. The exhibition portrays the history of the Victoria Cross and the George Cross since the inception of these awards; and exhibits having close association with officers and soldiers who have been awarded these decorations have been loaned or presented by the Queen and by Regimental Museums, Naval, Army and Air Force units and by individual members of the public.

Among the 150 holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross present at the opening of the exhibition were Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL, last Colonel of The East Surrey Regiment, Lieut-Colonel E. C. T. Wilson, VC, and Major B. H. Geary, VC, both late of The East Surrey Regiment.

The following exhibits have been loaned to the Imperial War Museum, for the exhibition, which is expected to remain open to the public for twelve months:—

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum

1. Suit of chain-mail captured during the Kano-Sokoto expedition, Northern Nigeria 1903, by Lieut W. D. Wright, VC, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Lieut Wright (later Brigadier-General) was awarded the Victoria Cross on 24th March 1903.
2. German bayonet taken from a sleeping German soldier during a "one-man" trench raid by 2/Lieut B. H. Geary, The East Surrey Regiment, in 1915.
3. Cartoon from the "News of the World" depicting the above incident. (2/Lieut Geary was awarded the Victoria Cross on 20th April 1915 for the gallant part played by him in the Hill 60 action of that date.)
4. Iron Rations and chocolate tin from the South African War 1899-1902.
5. Photography of Private A. Brooks, The Queen's Royal Regiment, who was awarded the British Empire Medal (later converted to the George Cross in 1940) for gallant conduct during the Quetta Earthquake of 31st May 1935.

Officers Mess, 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

Oil Painting by Fred Rowe of the action at Hill 60 of 20th/21st April 1915 when three members of

The East Surrey Regiment gained the award of the Victoria Cross (Lieut G. R. P. Roupell, 2/Lt Geary and Pte E. Dwyer.)

Regimental Music

The Queen's Royal Regiment

The strains of the Regimental quick step "Braganza" are familiar to all Queen's men, past and present, but the origin of this stirring march may not be so well known. The following extract is taken from Jock Haswell's brief history of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the series "Famous Regiments", published by Leo Cooper Ltd at 21/-. Incidentally, the marches "The Old Queen's" and "Braganza" were introduced by Major Haswell, as Band President of the 1st Queen's, when the gramophone record "Regimental Music of The Queen's Royal Regiment" was made in Germany in 1958.

"From 1837 to 1881 the Regiment marched past to a tune now known as 'The Old Queen's' in which the National Anthem is embodied. In 1881, at a Review held near Aldershot before Queen Victoria and the Duke of Cambridge, 'The Old Queen's' was played as the 1st Battalion marched past. Her Majesty inquired whether special permission had been given for the use of the National Anthem, saying that unless it had, the practice must cease.

"No authority could be traced, and in 1883 Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly-Kenny, then commanding the 1st Battalion, communicated through the Portuguese Embassy with the Royal Family in Portugal. He mentioned the long association between the House of Braganza and the Regiment, explained the problem that had arisen and asked if a Portuguese air could be used as a March Past. In reply, several airs were suggested, and these were set to music in 1883 and 1884 by the Band-masters of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Official approval of the Regimental March Past 'Braganza' was finally given by the War Office in 1903."

The daughter of the late Lieutenant (QM) E. C. Grainger, MBE, MC of The Queen's Royal Regiment who died recently in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, has sent us the following query on Regimental Music—can any reader help? "When we were living at Bordon in the years before the first War, the 1st Battalion's band quite often followed 'Braganza' with 'Christchurch Bells'. I wonder if that tune has any connection with the Queen's?"

The East Surrey Regiment

1st Battalion, formerly the Thirty First Regiment

All that is known of the old 1st Battalion's march, "A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Sky" is that it was derived from an old hunting song. The origin of the tune itself is unknown, and there is no record of when it was adopted by the Regiment as its march past. We do not even know whether the march was associated with the Thirty First Regiment or whether it was first heard as the march of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment after the amalgamation of 1881. It would probably be unwise to draw any conclusions from the facts that the march came from an old hunting song and that there was a huntsman in the badge of the Thirty First (Huntingdonshire) Regiment.

2nd Battalion, formerly the Seventieth Regiment

More is known of the 2nd Battalion's march "Lass o' Gowrie". In an interesting article in the November 1936 edition of the Journal of The East Surrey Regiment, Mr J. Paine, a regular contributor, writes "The song was founded on an older ballad by William Reid of Glasgow, called 'Kate o' Gowrie'. . . . The melody was known as 'Loch Enoch Side' and was taken from 'O'er Young to Marry Yet' in 1757. The actual song, 'The Lass o' Gowrie', was written by the once famous poetess and song writer, Lady Carolina Nairne".

The 70th Regiment was raised in Glasgow in 1756 and was stationed there until 1759. During this period they were known as the Glasgow Greys from their grey facings. Carolina Oliphant later Lady Nairne, was born in Scotland in 1766. She wrote a number of songs from an early age. If we assume she was about 24 when "Lass o' Gowrie" was written, that would bring the date to around 1790.

Our Regimental history does not record when the Seventieth adopted "Lass o' Gowrie" as the Regimental march, but if the assumption above is more or less correct, the date could not have been before 1790. When considering the music for the Regimental quick-step, it was appropriate that the Seventieth should select a Scottish song associated with their early days in Glasgow.

THE THIRD COLOUR OF THE QUEEN'S ROYAL REGIMENT

It may not be generally known that the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment is authorised by Royal approval to hold a Third Colour. This article traces the origin and subsequent history of this distinction.

Origin

Although it is known the Regiment carried Colours in the defence of Tangier between 1662 and 1684, the first authenticated reference is found in the warrant of King Charles II dated 21st August 1686. The payment of £206.5.6 was authorised for ten Colours for the Queen's Regiment of Foot; that is, one for each company.

Regiments of Foot were later organised into three divisions, that is, two wings of musketeers and a centre division of pikemen. Each division had its own stand of Colours so that it could operate independently. Cannon's Historical Record gives the date of the introduction of the three stands of Colours as 1688. When bayonets were introduced in the reign of Queen Anne, the division of pikemen became obsolete, and the Third Colour no longer required.

Retention of the Third Colour

Milne's "The Standards and Colours of the Army", 1893, says that the number of Colours carried by Regiments was reduced to two by 1715, "but it is possible

the (Queen's) Regiment retained three, and being stationed in out of the way places, this was unnoticed".

The Regiment, in fact, during the War of the Spanish Succession was continually being moved about. They served in Flanders, Holland, Portugal, Spain and in Canada before the Peace of Utrecht was signed in 1713. After service in various parts of England and in Scotland, the Regiment embarked for Gibraltar in August 1730, where they were to serve for 19 years. During all these years, the Queen's retained their Third Colour.

Opinions Divided

Cannon's Historical Record

Cannon supports Milne's view that the Third Colour was retained by reason of the Regiment's long absence on foreign service. He does not claim that the Regiment had any right to a Third Colour, but asserts it had "so long remained in possession of The Queen's Royal Regiment . . . it had been erroneously considered that the Regiment had a peculiar privilege of carrying three stand of Colours".

Views of the Regimental Historian

However, Colonel Davis, the author of the Regimental History, disagrees. He advances a two-fold theory as to why the Regiment was allowed to retain its Third Colour.

First, in consequence of the original having been presented by Queen Catherine.

Second, because of the unique distinction of being a royal regiment and retaining its original sea-green facings.

It must be admitted, however, that there is no record of Queen Catherine having presented Colours to the Regiment, nor does this seem likely in view of the fact that the Regiment was stationed at Tangier while the Queen was in England at the side of King Charles II.

The Regimental Historian, in support of his second suggestion, writes;

"It is suggested as most probable that the Third Colour was allowed to be continued to be used by The Queen's Regiment, after the discontinuance of the use of three stand of Colours on the adoption of the bayonets, in consequence of its unique distinction of being a royal regiment, and still continuing to wear its sea-green facings".

The Queen's were made a royal regiment in 1703 but they retained their original sea-green facings for another 65 years. In 1768, under the authority of the Royal Warrant of 19th December, the Regiment finally adopted the blue facings of a royal regiment.

Withdrawal of the Third Colour

Events leading up to the withdrawal

In July 1749, the Regiment's long tour of duty on the Rock came to an end, and they were posted to Ireland. Four months later, the Adjutant General issued instructions about clothing and Colours. Each regiment of Foot was to have two Colours, and no Colonel was permitted to put his arms on any of the appointments

of his regiment. In January 1750, the Regiment was posted to Dublin, and oblivious of any irregularity, marched into the city with all three Colours flying.

Description of the Queen's Colours in 1750

Robert Donkin, who had been carrying the Third Colour when the Regiment marched into Dublin, described the Colours as follows in his Recollections published in 1777.

"His Majesty's arms were in the centre of the first. The Queen's cypher in the centre of the second, both of which were in other respects unions.

The third colour was then green (the original facings of the corps) and to the best of my recollection the colonel's arms or crest was in the centre".

Milne's comment is of particular significance. He says:

"Donkin's description of the Colour, though meagre, is full of meaning. The Third Colour which he carried and which he thinks, to the best of his belief, bore the colonel's arms in the centre, might be, in all probability, the old first, or Colonel's Colour; the other two, displaying the union throughout, might be the old Lieutenant Colonel's and Major's Colours.

"Had Donkin stated the centre of the sea-green Colour was occupied with the Queen's cipher, then there would have been a possibility that it was the old Colonel's Colour of Charles II's time, sea green, with two C's interlaced, crown over, handed down as a memorial to the consort Queen Catherine of Braganza".

Donkin's account of the withdrawal of the Colour

For an officer to be relieved of a Colour he was carrying on the line of march must have been a galling experience. Robert Donkin writes:

"On our marching over Island Bridge into Dublin duty in 1750, the Third Colour was, by order of General Fowke (then Colonel of the Regiment), taken out of my hand, furled and never flew since. The men grumbled exceedingly. I felt myself hurt at being deprived of an honour no other Corps then enjoyed".

Donkin was evidently not aware that the Fifth Fusiliers also had a Third Colour at that time.

Justification for the withdrawal

That the Regiment were in breach of the regulations of November 1749 cannot be doubted. First, they were carrying three Colours in place of the two authorised. Second, the offending Third Colour bore upon it the arms of the colonel. General Fowke, concerned at the failure of his Regiment to comply with the recent regulations of the War Office, immediately ordered the Third Colour to be withdrawn. The Colour was deposited in the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham where it was to lie for 75 years. New Colours were presented to the Queen's in 1761, 1772, 1780, 1806 and 1820, while the old green Third Colour lay in Kilmainham apparently forgotten.

The Third Colour Restored

Petition to the King

It was not until 1825 that the Third Colour is heard of again. King George IV approved a petition that the

Third Colour, recently discovered in the Royal Hospital of Dublin, should be restored to the Regiment "as a special mark of His Majesty's most gracious favour".

The restoration is closely associated with Major General Sir Henry Torrens. Promoted to the rank of Major General in 1814 at the age of 35, appointed Adjutant General in 1820 and Colonel of the Regiment two years later, Sir Henry Torrens was a forceful character and a most zealous officer.

The influence of Major General Torrens

At the time General Torrens became Colonel, the Regiment was once more in Dublin. He visited them there soon after his appointment as Colonel, and it may well be that it was then he learnt of the Third Colour lying in Kilmainham nearby.

In April 1824 news was received that the Regiment was to be withdrawn from Ireland and posted to India. It was decided to petition the King for the Third Colour to be returned to the Regiment prior to embarkation for foreign service. In preparation, the Third Colour was withdrawn from Kilmainham, in all probability before the Regiment returned to England in May and June 1824, and consigned to the care of the Colonel of the Regiment. For the remainder of that year, Lady Torrens worked diligently on the repair of the old green Colour, now almost in rags after its 75 years in the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. Months of painstaking needlework were required to restore the Colour to anything like a serviceable condition.

A new central device was necessary to replace the Colonel's arms which were in the Colour when carried by Ensign Donkin in 1750. An article in the Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment in November 1925 says that Lady Torrens "herself worked a new centre, consisting of the Cypher of Charles II and Catherine of Braganza, surmounted by a crown". The authority for this statement is not known. It is not supported by either the Regimental History or Cannon's Historical Record. In view of Cannon's paper quoted below, its accuracy is open to doubt.

The petition to the King was not submitted until early in 1825 which seems to have been running things pretty fine, for the Regiment were due to be embarked by 8th February. In his position as Adjutant General with his special responsibility for Regimental Colours, General Torrens had no doubt satisfied himself in advance of the Royal approval. The petition has on it the words "Approved. G.R.".

The Presentation Ceremony

The Regiment was now at Chatham, and a ceremonial parade was arranged for the restoration of the Colour on 31st January 1825. The impressive ceremony was attended by many distinguished persons and senior officers of the Services. It was appropriate that it was Lady Torrens herself who handed the Colour to the ensign. Sir Henry made a stirring speech, and then the Regiment headed by its Colonel marched past their Third Colour now honourably restored to the ranks of the Regiment after 75 years. General Torrens' final act was to send to Garter King at Arms on 15th February 1825 the King's warrant for the Regiment to carry a Third Colour, together with a drawing.

Cannon's Paper of 1834

Paper submitted to Garter King at Arms

The Regimental History records that in October 1834, Richard Cannon who was the Principal Clerk of the Adjutant General's office, asked Sir William Woods, Garter King at Arms, to "look over" a paper on the Colours, badges and distinctions allowed to be borne by the Queen's Regiment. In so far as the Third Colour is concerned, Garter King at Arms had the drawing deposited with him by General Torrens in February 1825.

The details in Cannon's paper were as under.

"The Second Regiment of Foot"

or

Queen's Royals

having in the centre of each colour

The Queen's Cypher

on a red ground within the Garter and Crown over it and the following distinctions; Egypt with the Sphinx, Vimiera, Corrunna, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelle, Toulouse, and Peninsula

in the dexter canton of the second colour

The Union

in the three corners

The Paschal Lamb

with the Mottoes: Pristinae Virtutis Memor and Vel Exuviae Triumphant and the distinctions above specified in the centre of the Third Colour of sea green within a wreath of roses, thistles, and shamrock,

The Paschal Lamb

surmounted by the words

From the Queen 1661

and bearing the mottoes above specified

In the Dexter Canton the union with the Royal Arms, Crown and Supporters".

The significance of Cannon's Paper

The importance of this document lies in the date, 1834, that is, it describes the Third Colour at the time the Regiment was still permitted to carry it. It is not conceivable that the design of the Colour had been radically altered in the nine years since Lady Torrens presented it. It is therefore reasonable to assume that Cannon's paper describes the design of the Third Colour as worked by Lady Torrens. The words "From the Queen 1661" are puzzling for two reasons. One is that Catherine of Braganza did not become Queen until 1662, and the other is that there is no record of her ever having presented Colours to the Regiment.

It is tempting to speculate who was responsible for the design of what may be termed the "Torrens Colour", and one wonders if it were not that great enthusiast for the Third Colour, General Torrens himself.

Restriction on the Third Colour

The Regiment was not destined to enjoy for long the unrestricted display of their Third Colour. It happened the 5th Fusiliers also had the distinction of a Third Colour, and when they were at Gibraltar in 1833, all their Colours were accidentally burnt. When their Colours were replaced in 1835, King William IV refused to allow the 5th Fusiliers the distinction of bear-

ing a third stand of Colours, and inquired whether there were any other regiments with a similar claim.

On hearing of The Queen's Royal Regiment's distinction which his brother had conferred only ten years previously, the King decided that no Regiment in His Majesty's service should be permitted to display a Third Colour under any circumstances whatsoever. This disappointing ruling was tempered by the concession that the Third Colour need not be actually withdrawn, provided that it was never displayed in the ranks of the Regiment.

It seems that for some years after that not a great deal of interest was taken in the Third Colour. General Jephson writing at a later date, says "When the Third Colour was not allowed to be displayed, not much care was taken of what became of the old one".

Revival of Interest in the Third Colour

Initiative of Colonel Burns

However, interest in the Third Colour was revived in 1853 by Colonel Burns, the Commanding Officer, who ordered a new one to be made by a firm of military outfitters. The Regiment was then stationed at the Cape of Good Hope. It is doubtful if the Colonel ever saw the Colour he had ordered because he died at Grahamstown on 29th June 1853.

It is recorded in the Regimental History that this new Colour was displayed at a ball given by the Regiment at the Cape of Good Hope where they remained until 1860.

General Addison's Recollections

General Addison, who commanded the Regiment from 1860 to 1861, wrote in 1888 "... The old green Colour having fallen nearly to pieces was replaced by a new one by Colonel Burns, then commanding the 1st Battalion of the Queen's. The centre portion which had, I think been worked by Lady Dalhousie, was taken out in order to be placed in the centre of the new Colour. This completed the destruction of the old one" of which only rags remained. The General's memory was probably at fault. Lord Dalhousie's service in the Regiment ended in about 1801, and he died in 1838. Of Lady Dalhousie we know nothing, but it seems improbable that she would have embroidered a Colour for the Regiment some 50 years after her husband had left it. It is more likely that General Addison was thinking of Lady Torrens who worked the original Third Colour before it was restored to the Regiment in 1825.

The design of the Burns Colour

When Colonel Burns decided to order a new Colour in 1853, the Regimental History records "they had not, apparently, a scrap of the old Colour to guide them. A design was furnished by the College of Heralds, but from what data it is impossible to say".

As the College of Heralds had not only the drawing deposited by General Torrens in 1825, but Cannon's paper of 1834, there should have been no difficulty in supplying the design. It is not unreasonable to assume that the design supplied was the same as for the Torrens Colour.

The Laying up of the Third Colour in 1894

In February 1894, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Queen's met for the first time in Regimental History. The 1st Battalion was stationed in Malta when the 2nd Battalion called in on their voyage home from India. It seems that the old Third Colour was consigned to the care of the 2nd Battalion to be laid up after arrival in England.

A little book entitled "Some Notes on The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment" published in 1904 records that the "Historical Third Colour of The Queen's Regiment" was laid up in the Queen's Chapel, Holy Trinity Church, Guildford on St Michael's Day, 1894. There is a photograph of the old Colour, netted and looking very worn. This Colour is now in the Regimental Museum, and in spite of its condition the words "From the Queen 1661" can clearly be read.

Recent History

The First Malta Colour

To replace the Burns Colour of 1853, the officers of the 1st Queen's presented a new Third Colour when the Battalion was stationed in Malta in 1894. The design of

this Colour follows that of the old Colonel's Colour of 1689, illustrated in Milne's "The Standards and Colours of the Army" and reproduced in Volume II of the History of The Queen's Royal Regiment.

It is a plain green Colour, without the Union. In the centre is the intertwined double C (Charles and Catherine) cypher surmounted by a Queen's crown. The central portion of this Colour is preserved in the Regimental Museum.

The Second Malta Colour

Thirty six years later history was repeated. The 1st Battalion was again serving in Malta when a new Third Colour was presented by two former Commanding Officers, Lieut Colonel Clarke and Lieut Colonel Ponsonby. It was hung in the Officers Mess on 30th June 1930.

This Colour follows the design of its predecessor. The green silk was supplied by Liberties in London. The cipher and crown were embroidered on the Colour by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Casa Balzan, Malta.

The Third Colour, now in the Officers Mess of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment in Berlin, is held under the authority of the Royal Warrant granted 145 years ago.

Summary

Colour	Date Presented or acquired	By whom	Place	Date retired	Location
Original (The Donkin Colour)	Not known but possibly about 1686	Not known	Not known	1750	Royal Hospital, Kilmainham
The Torrens Colour	31 Jan. 1825	Lady Torrens	Chatham	Centre portion used for Burns Colour of 1853	Remnants not preserved
The Burns Colour	1853	By order of Colonel Burns	Cape of Good Hope	1894	Originally Holy Trinity Church, Guildford. Now in
The First Malta Colour	1894	Officers of 1st Queen's	Malta	1930	Regimental Museum Now in
The Second Malta Colour	1930	Lt Cols Clark and Ponsonby	Malta	Still in Service	Regimental Museum 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

The Newington Surry Volunteer Colours

At the close of the 18th century Great Britain had an acute attack of nervousness. Collusion between rebel Ireland and revolutionary France had led in 1796 to an abortive attempt by the French fleet upon the Irish coast. In 1798 it was known that another descent of the same kind was contemplated. Smart intelligence work—William Pitt believed in Secret Service—had led to the arrest of prominent United Irishmen and the discovery of their plans. As a result the rebellion which was to have synchronised with the arrival of the French was forced prematurely to a head. It was crushed bloodily, and without much difficulty; but Britain's sense of security had been shaken, and the British people, stirred to the depths, proceeded to take measures for their own protection. A wave of intense patriotism swept the country and from one end of it to another armed associations sprang into being.

On his birthday, 4th June 1799, King George the 3rd reviewed 65 corps of the New Volunteers in Hyde Park. It was to judge by Earlon's print of it an impressive military display. The right column, commanded by Major General D'Oyley, stretched the full length of Park Lane. It consisted of units drawn from South East London and among them the Newington Surry Volunteers.

The Newington Surry Volunteers consisted of two companies of about 120 rank and file joined to no other corps. They had just been formed under the command of Major Hornby and upon the condition—general at the time—that they were not to be employed outside their own parish. Their ranks had been recruited principally from middle class folk who lived amid what were then the semi-rural amenities of Newington and pursued their business in Southwark. The officers in some cases were considerable riverside proprietors. It may therefore be assumed that all ranks had a substantial stake in the country they had rallied to defend.

If, owing to the recency of embodiment, precision on that June morning was somewhat lacking, the smartness of the brand new uniforms must have made adequate amends. Pictures of the period represent officers and men in scarlet coats faced with blue. Their moulded pantaloons were white and ended half gaiters, and the whole costume was crowned with a bearskin helmet jauntily adorned by a plume of black and red. Unfortunately, the corps Colours were not ready in time for the review.

These were presented the following September in Montpelier Gardens, the place of arms, by Mrs Burne, presumably the wife of a company commander. One of the Colours bears the ancient device known as the Bridge House mark—the emblem of Southwark. It consists of a combination of the Greek letter x, the initial of Christ, with the triangle of the Trinity and the circle of Eternity. Thus, the Southwark origin of the corps is clearly indicated. The second bears as its centre the Garter Star and the Royal Cipher.

There was an early tendency on the part of the disconnected bands of volunteers called forth by the national emergency to group themselves into larger bodies. Accordingly, several Southwark parishes united to form the Loyal Southwark Volunteers. Two of them,

those of St George the Martyr and St John, chose on the other hand to associate themselves for military purpose with their outlying neighbour St Mary Newington. In this way the Colour of the St John's Association which had been presented to it by Mrs Thornton, the wife of a Member of Parliament, was added to and preserved with those of the Newington Surry Volunteers.

With Trafalgar the danger of a French invasion passed, popular anxiety cooled down, and the armed associations gradually became absorbed into the local militia. The nation was exhausted after its long years of struggle against Napoleon, and it is not surprising that, with the final peace, questions of national defence were relegated to the background of politics. It was not, in fact, until the middle of the 19th century that the country began once again to be alarmed at its own unpreparedness for war. Events on the Continent had in the fifties taken an ominous turn. Napoleon the 3rd was fidgeting with his sword hilt and foreseeing "a future full of hope for France". The Government were, however, averse to reconstituting the Volunteers. The Duke of Cambridge, the Commander-in-Chief, was undisguisedly dismayed at any suggestion of the kind. Nevertheless, the people had their own opinion and rifle clubs began to appear spontaneously all over the country.

In 1858 relations with France became seriously strained. An attempt by Orsini on the Emperor's life led to articles in the French press attacking England as the harbourer of assassins. The British Ambassador in Paris was openly insulted. The country now thoroughly apprehensive, demanded the right to train in its own defence. The popular clamour could no longer be withstood and the raising of Volunteer Corps was officially authorised.

At Newington the magistrates and deputy lieutenants of the district summoned "gentlemen interested in the welfare of Southwark and its vicinity" to a meeting. A committee was constituted. Permission was obtained for the use of Bermondsey Grammar School as a depot, and the Plumstead marshes for ball practice. Thus the Southwark or 7th Surry Rifles came into being with the motto "Tuebor" under the command of Marcus Beresford Esquire, subsequently Lieutenant Colonel and Honorary Colonel of the Corps. In acknowledged right of its descent the new formation took over the three Colours of the Newington and St John's Associations and it is recorded that in 1872 these venerable relics formed the saluting base at an inspection in Lambeth Palace grounds.

The 7th Surry Rifles eventually became 4th (Volunteer) Battalion The East Surrey Regiment and on formation of the Territorial Army in 1908, The 23rd London Regiment. Both of which units throughout their existence had their headquarters opposite Clapham Junction Station on St John's Hill. When Colours were ultimately presented to 23rd London Regiment by King Edward the 7th in 1908 they bore the same device as before mentioned—the Bridge House mark of Southwark.

After two world wars in the first half of the 20th century once again tension relaxed and the nation slumbered. In 1961 23rd London Regiment amalgamated with 6th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment (TA) as part of a reduction in the Regular and Reserve

Forces to form 4th Battalion of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA). Again, following further similar patterns in 1967 the 3rd and 4th Battalions The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA) amalgamated to form 6th (Territorial) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys). Throughout these amalgamations the Clapham Junction drill-hall was retained as a company headquarters and these Colours remained hung in the Officers' Mess throughout.

Towards the end of 1968 orders were received to reduce 6th Queen's to a Cadre based on its Battalion Headquarters at Kingston upon Thames. This entailed closing down and handing over all TA centres occupied by the Battalion and removing all valuable property to places of safety.

These Colours, the oldest relic in the Unit's possession were by now in a seriously dilapidated condition. Upon the orders of the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel W. E. McConnell, TD, their centres were removed, preserved, mounted and framed by an expert from the Victoria and Albert Museum.

A Distinguished Officer of the Seventieth

General Sir Trevor Chute, KCB had a long and distinguished career in the Army. He was born in 1816 and his first appointment was as ensign in the Ceylon Rifle Regiment. Transferring to the Seventieth in 1839, he was promoted captain in the same year.

After service in the West Indies and Canada the Regiment returned to England in 1843, where they remained for two years. Then followed four monotonous years of garrison duty in Ireland during which time Chute was promoted to major.

The Seventieth embarked at Cork for India early in 1849 in six ships of the Honourable East India Company's fleet. Soon after arrival at Calcutta the Regiment suffered its first losses from disease, principally cholera which was to take such a heavy toll of all ranks. 79 officers and men died at Dum Dum and another 79 at Calcutta. Consequently it was with relief orders to proceed to Cawnpore were welcomed.

In December 1850, the Seventieth, under Lieutenant Colonel Chute, moved by river from Calcutta to Allahabad and thence by march route to Cawnpore. They had not however shaken off the hold of the dread disease, and it is sad to relate that during their three years' stay at Cawnpore the Regiment lost from cholera two officers, 344 men, 37 women and 99 children. Throughout these afflictions and those that followed in Ferozepore two years later, when another officer and 90 men died from cholera, the morale of the Regiment remained unbroken. On no less than three occasions, tribute was paid to their orderly and soldier-like conduct, and this was undoubtedly due to the leadership and encouraging example of their senior officers.

The next station of the Seventieth was Peshawar where they arrived on New Year's Day, 1857. It was not long before the Indian Mutiny broke out that Colonel Galloway of the Seventieth was appointed Brigadier in command of the station, and command of the Regiment devolved upon Lt Colonel Chute.

In May, a small column of cavalry, a troop of artillery and some 170 all ranks of the Seventieth under Colonel Chute were despatched against the mutineers

of the 55th Native Infantry in the fort of Hoti Mar-dam. This was the first and probably the only time in Regimental history the infantry were mounted on elephants, and one can imagine the ribald remarks passed from one howdah to another as the column lurched off into the hills. A short but bloody battle ensued resulting in the complete defeat of the mutineers. The Seventieth brought back 120 of them to Peshawar, of whom 40 were later executed by being blown to pieces by guns.

A few weeks later Colonel Chute's column, now reinforced, marched on one of the frontier posts at Abazai and succeeded in disarming a detachment of the 64th Native Infantry without bloodshed. In August 1857, having been appointed to the command of a brigade, Chute succeeded in annihilating the 51st Native Infantry which had attacked Peshawar cantonments. For the next three years Brigadier General Chute served in Lucknow and Bengal.

He appears to have reverted to his substantive rank in February 1861, for he embarked in command of the Seventieth Regiment for New Zealand. This was his last period of Regimental duty. He served as a brigadier general in Australia from 1863 to August 1865 when he returned to New Zealand as a major general to assume the direction of operations in the Maori Wars. He returned to Australia in 1867, the year in which he was appointed KCB, for a further period of three years and in May 1873, now a lieutenant general he became Colonel of the 22nd Foot (The Cheshire Regiment).

Finally promoted to General in October 1877, this fine old officer was still serving in 1881, fifty years after being commissioned.

Chapels and Memorials

The Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel

In the News Letter of November 1969, information was sought on the association of the Queen's with their Regimental Chapel in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford. The only fact known was that a window was unveiled on 4th October 1913 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the formation of the Regiment on 14th October 1661.

Mr C. S. A. Avis, who was then serving in the 1st Queen's, was present at the ceremony, and in the May 1970 News Letter he commented that all ranks of the Battalion had contributed a day's pay to the cost of the memorial window.

We are now indebted to Captain B. H. Tripp for the following interesting article on the Chapel in Holy Trinity, Guildford which throws fresh light on its association with The Queen's Royal Regiment.

"As a further contribution to Mr C. S. A. Avis's letter on page 10 of the May issue, it now seems possible to narrow the period at which the Chapel in Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, became so closely associated with the Regiment to some time during the years 1888-1897.

"In 1888 appeared the then Rector, the Rev. A. S. Valpy's booklet, on the history of the Parish of Holy Trinity. No mention at all is made in this publication of the Queen's Chapel, yet Mr Valpy plainly knew the history of the Church well. It seems improbable that he would have omitted any reference to what has, since

he wrote his booklet, been regarded as one of the Church's special points of interest.

"We can, however, go much further than this negative piece of evidence. The writer is indebted to the present Rector, Canon Michael Hocking, MA, for putting him in touch with Mr F. Jupp, now retired but for more than thirty years Verger of Holy Trinity. Mr Jupp's knowledge of the Church and its history is both wide and deep. He very kindly writes:

"I have found at the Guildford Public Library a short history of the Regiment (published in 1922). In this appears a photograph of the old Colour which, until about six years ago hung over the altar in the Chapel and bore the inscription "From the Queen, 1661". According to this book, the Colour "was laid up in the Queen's Chapel, Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, on St Michael's Day, 1894". (This is the Third Colour, and is now kept in the Officers' Mess of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment).

"After remarking in passing that there is strangely no record of the laying up of this Colour in the Parish Magazine, Mr Jupp continues:

"You are probably aware of the fact that Holy Trinity Church was enlarged in 1888-89. This work consisted of the building of the chancel, the Queen's Chapel and the organ chamber. My own opinion is that the Chapel was never formally dedicated to The Queen's Regiment. Holy Trinity being the Parish Church of Guildford was used for special services for the Regiment long before 1888, I think, and when the Chapel was built (or soon after), permission was given for the Regimental memorials to be erected there, and hence it became known as "The Queen's Chapel".

"The present writer would support Mr Jupp's opinion, especially as, before writing to Mr Jupp, he made a minute examination of the Chapel, and the many memorials in it. There is nothing in the Chapel itself remotely suggesting a date of formal dedication or attribution to the Regiment. The stained glass East window over the altar itself has no Regimental connection, but is a memorial to the wife of a former Rector, the Rev. R. Trimmer, MA. She died in 1879.

"Furthermore, Mr Jupp states elsewhere in his letter to the writer that he has searched the Parish Magazines and found no mention of the date when the side chapel became the Regimental Chapel. If there were such a date, it would surely have been commemorated as a notable event in the history of Holy Trinity, and would in all probability have been permanently marked by a monument, plaque or other form of inscription, in the Chapel or the Church itself.

"Be all this as it may, those who have served in the Queen's are, and will ever remain, grateful to all the Church authorities, clergy and laity, who have in the past cared, and who still do, for the Chapel and the Regimental memorials."

The Queen's Kohima Memorial

Many of our readers, both Queen's and Surreys, subscribed to the sum sent by the Queen's Surreys Office to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission last year for the replacement of the 1st Queen's Memorial on Jail Hill.

Arrangements were made for the memorial to be constructed in Italy of Botticino marble; and in January

this year we heard that the work had been completed and the memorial was en route for Kohima. A warning was given by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission that the overland journey from the port to Kohima was not an easy one.

It is sad to relate that these forebodings were only too amply justified. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has now reported that in spite of having taken all possible precautions in the packing of the new memorial panels in Italy, many of them, including our own, arrived at Kohima in a damaged condition. The position now is that a claim has been lodged with the insurance company in Italy, and new panels are about to be manufactured.

We hope that it will not be too long before we can record the erection of the replacement memorial in the Kohima War Cemetery.

The East Surrey Regiment Roll of Honour of the 1914-18 War

A newspaper cutting of the early 1920s has been received showing the breakdown of the Regiment's 5,995 casualties in the 1914-18 War. The figures for the battalions principally engaged on the Western Front are as under.

1st Battalion	1,314
2nd Battalion	671
7th (Service) Battalion	695
8th (Service) Battalion	1,091
9th (Service) Battalion	817
12th (Service) Battalion	694
13th (Service) Battalion	326

The Regimental Depot, Territorial Battalions (including the 21st and 23rd London Regiments) and the Reserve Battalions account for a further 387 names. All are inserted in the Book of Remembrance in the Regimental Chapel in Kingston Parish Church.

Battlefields Revisited

The Battle of Medenine

In February this year Major E. G. Sandys, MC, who commanded the anti-tank platoon of 1/7th Queen's during the North African and Italian campaigns, was invited to 5th Division's battlefield tour as a guest speaker on the Battle of Medenine. In the following article, Major Sandys gives an account of his experiences on re-visiting the battlefield.

The particular action described by Major Sandys was part of the first enemy attack in the Battle of Medenine on 6th March 1943. The sector held by 131 (Queen's) Brigade extended from the Zemlet El Lebene feature on the right to the Tadjera Khir, held by 201 Guards Brigade, some four miles to the left. The three battalions were all forward: 1/7th Queen's were in the centre, flanked by 1/5th Queen's on the right and 1/6th Queen's on the left.

The dispositions of 1/7th Queen's were

Right B Coy, supported by two RA anti-tank troops, covering a pass through the area.

Centre C Coy, on a ridge in the centre of the Battalion front.

Left A Coy, covering the Wadi Hallouf between 1/7th and 1/6th Queen's, supported by the battalion's anti-tank platoon.

At that time, only No 2 Troop had been equipped

with the new 6-pounder anti-tank guns, No 1 Troop still having the old 2-pounder gun. Captain Sandys sited the 6-pounders to cover the two hundred yard wide wadi, supported by the 2-pounders in depth to deal with any penetration of the forward area.

The ensuing action is described in the Regimental History, and in more detail in the article contributed by Major Sandys to the Regimental Journal of May 1946.

After the battle the Corps Commander, Lieut-General Sir Oliver Leese, wrote as follows to Lieut-General I. T. P. Hughes, the Divisional Commander:

"A few days ago Rommel lashed out at the Eighth Army and the brunt of his attack fell on the Queen's Brigade. The three Queen's battalions, especially the 1/7th, without mines or wire 'saw off' the attack of two Panzer divisions. On the front of the 1/7th alone there were twenty seven dead tanks. Everyone agrees it was a most magnificent performance."

"Medenine Re-Visited"

In June last year I accepted an invitation from 5 Div to be a guest speaker on their October 1969 Tunisian Battlefield Tour. A few days before I was due to depart it was a great disappointment to be advised that the tour would have to be postponed owing to the extensive floods that had swept the country. They were apparently the worst experienced in living memory and caused widespread damage. However, the tour was reorganised and took place in the latter half of February 1970. It was led by Major-General W. B. Thomas, DSO, MC, GOC 5 Div, and its aim was to study the tactics and conduct of the 8th Army's battles at Medenine, Mareth and Tebaga Gap with a view to acquiring a greater appreciation of the problems of war at unit level.

"To the 100 officers mainly from the Army Strategic command and the Tunisian Army taking part in the study, my task as the then Anti-Tank Platoon Commander, was to explain the part played, with particular reference to the anti-tank action, by 1/7th Queen's at the Battle of Medenine on 6th March, 1943, which is regarded as a model defensive battle. The other guest speakers for this battle were Major-General D. S. Gordon, who was Brigade Major 131 (Queen's) Lorried Infantry Brigade at the time of the action, Wing-Commander G. W. Carton then CO 112 (Kittyhawk) Squadron of the Desert Air Force, Colonel P. McCraith of 8th Armoured Brigade and two former German Officers from 21st Panzer Division who opposed us at Medenine.

"After such a lapse of time, I was a little concerned whether the positions would still be recognisable. I need not have worried for having driven some 75 kilometres south from Gabes along the coastal road in a jeep loaned by the Tunisian Army, we turned right on to a track leading to the Wadi Hallouf and after a while stopped where A Coy 1/7th Queen's had their HQ. Little appeared to have changed in the general scene, apart from the erection of the odd stone hut and the growth of some olive groves. I was struck immediately by the open position we had defended and the vast length of the Battalion front, which was held by three rifle companies only due to the constant casualties suffered on the advance through the Western Desert.

This time however there were no Panzers of the German

Afrika Korps and no problems of petrol, food and water supplies.

"After a quick recce I was able to pin-point the two main a/tk gun sites of Sergeants Andrews and Crangles, which were the hinge of the Bn's defence. The former is still largely as before but the latter is now merely an indentation in the ground over which wheat is growing. All the tank wreckage in the area has been completely cleared. However, the positions of the 2-pdr a/tk guns, which had been sited in depth in the wadi, are still evident. From this point I made my way up through A Coy's positions, whose left boundary was inclusive of the wide Wadi Hallouf, to C Coy on the ridge in the centre of the Bn area and then to B Coy on the right linking with 1/5 Queen's. All the slit trenches and mortar pits are still there. Understandably, they are partly filled in with sand, and although some look like stone sangars, they were in fact rifle slits dug into the rocky ground, some with the assistance of the Sappers with their pneumatic drills.

"In my presentation I indicated the a/tk layout on the ground and why I had so positioned the a/tk guns. I described the gallant action of the a/tk gun crews of 1/7th Queen's and pictured the 27 German tanks that had been destroyed on the Bn front. I recalled how 1/7th Queen's had stood firm throughout the day of 6th March 1943 with the support of its own 3-in mortars and the Field Artillery. Great interest was shown by the students taking part in the a/tk tactics adopted and the results that were visible from the photographs which I took on the morning following the battle from Sgt Crangles' gun site showing clearly the vast number of knocked out German tanks in the wadi. (Editor's note: This photograph appears opposite page 198 of the Regimental History.)

"At the briefing on the previous evening the Directing Staff emphasised that the a/tk guns were sited with great accuracy to kill tanks and not specifically to protect the infantry. (Doubtless had I not so sited the 1/7th Queen's guns I should not have been invited back to Medenine to lecture on the battle!) It was also pointed out that this section was unique in that although one regiment of RTR of 7th Armoured Division was brought up from reserve, our armour took no active part in the battle, which was in the main an a/tk and field artillery duel against the German armour.

"As a matter of interest before leaving the UK the students on the tour had been taken to the Tank Museum at Bovington where the No 5 a/tk gun actually fired in this battle was on view. After completing service in North Africa and Italy, the gun was brought back by me to the UK in December, 1943. It was stationed at Guildford until the closure of Stoughton Barracks and was then moved to Canterbury. The gun was recently moved yet again and on 23rd June I was invited to the laying up ceremony at the Depot of the Queen's Division at Bassingbourn Barracks, near Royston, Herts, where it now occupies a prominent position at the entrance near to the Grant tank which Field Marshall Viscount Montgomery used in the desert campaign.

"Following an Arab Feast that was arranged for us soon after our arrival in Tunisia in a cave at Matmata by the Governor of Gabes, I was able to see behind the formidable range of the Matmata Hills that over-

looked our positions at Medenine and was shown the site of Field Marshal Rommel's HQ by one of his former liaison officers who was also on the study with me.

"For my part it was a most fascinating experience to revisit and tread over the Tunisian battlefields again. An official cocktail party on the last evening was given in honour of the Governor of Gabes, the Colonel of the Tunisian Army in the south and other Tunisian dignitaries without whose help the tour could not have taken place. Later on in the evening it was inevitable that we should finish up singing *Lili Marlene* in both English and German—a satisfactory note on which to conclude a most successful tour."

E.G.S.

Sicily

Continuing our series of Battlefields Revisited, we are glad to publish the following account contributed by Colonel H. B. L. Smith, MC, who commanded the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment during the Sicily campaign.

The Invitation

In early May this year I was fortunate enough to be invited to the battlefield tour organised by HQ British Troops Malta as one of their guest speakers, and to cover 78 Division in the battle for Centuripe. It was of course purely coincidental that my eldest son was the G Staff Officer responsible for running the tour on his first post-Staff College appointment!

Guest Speakers

My fellow guest speakers formed a pretty strong team. There was Brigadier Peter Young of the RMA Sandhurst, well known as a writer and military correspondent, and at the time 2IC of 3 Commando: Brigadier Guy Young who was 2IC of the 2nd Devons at Regalbuto: Lieut Colonel David Hunter who was brigade major to 1 Para Brigade in the attack on the Gerbini airfield complex and Lieut Colonel Peter Lewis, who at the time was a platoon commander with 8 DLI. His battalion, after their initial assault landing near Avola, took part in the bloody action fought for possession of the Primosole bridge on the main coastal road to Catania. He too is a writer and in a publishing business.

Assembly

We and some 90 officers and senior WOs from formations and units of all the Services throughout the Mediterranean theatre, many of whom were studying for Staff College or promotion examinations, and who were to form our audience, assembled in Malta. An excellent "lead in" folder had been produced by the RAEC embodying extracts from the various campaign, Divisional and Regimental Histories.

Briefing

We had our first briefing in Malta when the Commander, Brigadier Paul Ward, gave a short appreciation of the senior commanders on both sides involved in the Sicilian campaign. He was followed by a representative of the Royal Navy who dealt with the naval task force for the landings. Finally, Brigadier Guy Young who was then serving with the Brigade in Malta during the main enemy air assault on the Island, and who came over to Sicily with this Brigade for the actual assault landings, gave us a most interesting account of conditions then prevailing on the Island, and of the diverse jobs he and

his Brigade found themselves doing, from erecting and manning coast defences and unloading ships to filling in craters on airfield runways.

Move to Catania

The following day our whole party was flown to Catania in two Argosies of Middle East Air Support Command. On arrival we were met by a senior staff officer of the Carabinieri—Lieut Colonel Ugo Basilic-Luciani, who appears to spend his time helping over this sort of operation from his base in Rome. The Italian Army had very generously provided transport; and in a miscellany of staff cars and Army buses we set off for the Excelsior Hotel in Catania where we were to be put up for the four days of our stay.

Time spent in reconnaissance

Day One was spent by the guest speakers on much needed recce, while the rest of the party were able to indulge in some sightseeing or very expensive shopping. Unfortunately the weather was cold and unsettled and we had some rain, while Etna was rarely visible from its canopy of dense cloud. I must confess I was more than glad of my day for recce. Brigadier Guy Young accompanied me en route to his pitch at Regalbuto, while I stayed off at Centuripe.

Twenty seven years is a long while ago, and it was a fascinating experience motoring up from Catanauova at the foot of the hill to the notorious cemetery at Centuripe—a distance of seven miles and a rise of some 2000 feet. I arrived in brilliant sunshine and sat on a rock quietly surveying the scene from the enemy's point of view; and, yes, wondering how we had ever managed it. It was just the same; there were those pink houses and rough mule tracks with peasants tending their vines on the terraced slopes. My fellow speakers, I later found, had not been so fortunate, as in many cases their landscape had changed completely. The landing beaches were often obscured by new lidos; while beside Regalbuto a vast reservoir the size of Blagden had been created.

For my own part, I soon was able to piece the 78 Division battle together for this was to be my story rather than concentrating on the actions of any particular unit or battalion. I think the point I noticed most was that owing to lack of air photos, and due to the inaccuracy of the maps we had to use for the battle in 1943 (I was still using the same maps for this recce!), the mule track leading to the cemetery itself, and astride which nearly all the action happened, was never properly identified. In fact, I found there was a second track leading from it and half way down the hill.

The Beaches

Day Two was a hectic one. We drove in our military transport down to the landing beaches near Avola. Here we were joined by a number of senior Italian officers, including the Army and Corps commanders. Peter Lewis told the assault landing story. Astonishing how history repeats itself, and how we always seem to make the same mistakes! It was clear from their stories that the troops in the assault craft had had identical experiences to ours on the *Torch* landing a year earlier. The Navy failed to allow for drift or tide, and in some cases landed them a mile or more away from their selected beaches. Most troops landed wet-shod and some disappeared, as I myself did at Castiglione, into 10 foot of cold water when their inexperienced coxwains let

down the ramps on a rock in mistake for the beach! Once again, thanks to either no or only slight opposition, everyone was able to dry out and get on with the job.

Lentini bridge

From Avola we motored back to the beach at Agnone, where Peter Young himself had landed unopposed and directed on the Lentini bridge. His landing beach was still there as also various pillboxes and the railway they had used as their guide inland. Otherwise a new lido confused the landfall now quite a bit. Leaving this beach, we motored inland to the Lentini bridge itself. Here we were given an account of the local action by this same Commando, who in fact attacked the Italian unit holding the bridge and captured the bridge itself. They were only able to hold it long enough for an officer to remove the demolition charges before they themselves were attacked by German armour and forced to disperse.

Primosole bridge

Stand 4 was on the high ground overlooking the Primosole bridge near Catania. This was a key bridge and the holding of it was vital to the success of the air landing itself to the west. David Hunter here took up the story and gave us a gruesome description of what was not a very successful landing operation, up to the point where Platoon Commander (now Lieut Colonel) Peter Lewis appeared on the scene with the advanced troops and after drying out from his wetting at Avola.

He and his Battalion had just captured a German rest camp, and loaded down with loot in the form of comfortable tents and like amenities, were not best pleased to be told to ditch the lot and restore the situation on the Primosole bridge. Here our 3 Para had, after gallantly holding this bridge for 24 hours, been driven back to the southern end with the enemy, oddly enough, also 3 Para Bn, now commanding the approaches to the north and denying access to the northern end of the bridge.

There then followed the most bloody battle of the campaign, with fortunes in the balance for more than 48 hours. We followed the intimate action fought by 8 DLI, from the bridge itself. I must admit I had no idea that over a piece of ground not much larger than a football pitch, some 1000 men were killed in the proportion of 600-700 DLI to 3-400 Germans from 3 Para. Peter Lewis has written his own account of that action as a tribute to the DLI, and this has been published.

Fighting qualities

My first thought was that 3 Para were the same regiment we found in opposition at Centuripe some 50 miles distant. It gives one some idea of the efficiency of this fine regiment who could hold up an army over such wide frontages for so long, and using little more than MMGs, mortars, a few 88 mm guns and a handful of tanks.

I suppose this action must be one of the few in the late war where hand to hand fighting actually took place in the standing corn and vineyards; and where, one feels, a famous DLI character, CSM Brannigan, should most certainly have been awarded a posthumous VC. There is a small DLI war memorial on the site and beside this main road where a wreath was laid, and we ended our day with a brief memorial service. An

altogether memorable day, but I wish it had not been quite so cold!

Visit to the military cemeteries

Day Three began with a visit to the British Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery near the airport and just outside Catania. It was the right time of the year to see this well kept (as I have found nearly all such) cemetery. The roses and flowers on the graves were in full bloom, the grass was a vivid green and the bougainvillea on the surrounding walls was magnificent. Sadly this only lasts a few weeks and later becomes a scorched maidan.

The Commander here laid a wreath, and after another brief service, conducted jointly by the Airborne and RN Chaplains, we all walked round and took photos. It was a little shattering after Primosole to find oneself confronted by rows and rows of graves of the gallant Durhams. I am afraid I only had time to deal with a few East Surrey graves, and I am glad to say have been able to pass on a few excellent photographs to the Regimental Association for the relatives.

Centuripe

Stand I was of course Centuripe itself, and unluckily weather conditions were little better than on the previous day. From our stand on the narrow ridge connecting the cemetery to the nearest high feature to be taken and held jointly by the Surreys and 8 Argylls, before the Royal Irish Fusiliers carried out the final attack through them, one could barely see the small town of Catanauova from where it all started.

At the end of my piece, we had to attend a sort of "Vin d'honneur" in the Mayor's Parlour itself. Few of us could speak Italian, and even fewer of our hosts—the Mayor and all his Corporation—could speak English. However we toasted one another with expressions of mutual goodwill in iced Cinzano, and some of us had tourism medals presented to us with a vast brochure of literature. All very kind and forgiving, considering we had probably killed a number of their friends and relatives as well as smashing the town 27 years ago.

Demon vino

I sat next to a charming English-speaking Italian speaking admiral who was but now a spectator. As we sipped our wine and the Mayor made a welcoming speech, he nudged me, saying, "He's just declared this wine we are now drinking as coming from the slopes of this town over which you attacked. I can assure you that, as I myself am shortly leaving the sea for the wine trade, the Cinzano comes from much further up Italy, and he has doctored it with what I believe you refer to as 'Plonk'!"

Regalbuto

By now, probably freemen all of the little unaltered town of Centuripe, and duly photographed from every angle, we moved on to our final stand at Regalbuto. Here Guy Young told us the story of another battalion action which I can remember viewing in the distance and hearing, as we ourselves moved into the attack from Catanauova. In terms of casualties it had been an expensive campaign for the Devons, and they too had erected a small memorial on the site.

Dispersal

So we ended our final day with yet another short memorial service, and so back to our hotel for a wind-

ing up international cocktail party—the usual babel of tongues and noise so familiar to me from my G2 days with NATO at Fontainebleau! The RAF flew us back the same way next day, and so ended a most enjoyable, well organized battlefield tour 1970.

Reflections on the campaign

Looking back on it all as a campaign, it was often a shambles and might well be criticised as such. However, few of us involved in 78 Division, either Divisional, Brigade or Battalion commanders are still alive to hold the post mortem.

Surely their epitaph must be that we in fact secured our objectives in the face of the most formidable difficulties, and gave the enemy little time or choice but to evacuate Sicily by the speed of our advance. We failed however to destroy his forces, and in fact he was able to evacuate even more equipment with his retreating troops than he had originally brought over from the mainland of Italy, and this obviously robs this short campaign of much of its success.

Editor's Footnote

Among the photographs sent by Colonel Smith was one of the grave of LAC P. C. Quartermain, RAF, in the Commonwealth War Cemetery at Catania. Peter Quartermain was the son of a well known Queen's man, Walter Quartermain, who joined the Regiment in 1911.

Walter Quartermain was born in Kingston Barracks, the son of Cpl Quartermain of The East Surrey Regiment. It is a coincidence that Colonel Smith's father and Quartermain's father had served together in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the Suakin Campaign in 1885.

Peter Quartermain was killed two months before the war ended, at the age of 22. The family were very pleased to receive the photograph and expressed their appreciation of the comradeship which exists between our two former Regiments.

Regimental Histories

The Queen's Regiment

The Queen's Regiment was formed only four years ago, yet its origins can be traced back over 300 years. The six Regiments from which The Queen's Regiment was formed are:

The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) (2)
The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) (3)
The East Surrey Regiment (31 and 70)
The Royal Sussex Regiment (35 and 107)
The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment
(50 and 97)

The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own) (57 and 77)

The task of producing a handbook containing the history, traditions, customs and outstanding achievements of each Regiment has been admirably performed by Major Gregory Blaxland in his "Guide to The Queen's Regiment". The book traces the formation and evolution of the Regiment and it is interesting to read in how many campaigns several of our former Regiments took part together. At Albuhera, for instance, in 1811 The Buffs, the Thirty First and the "Diehards" all played a distinguished part.

The "Guide to The Queen's Regiment" may be obtained from the Regimental Secretary, Regimental

Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. Price 5/- a copy, post free within the United Kingdom.

The Queen's Royal Regiment

Volume VIII (1924 to 1948) of the Regimental History may be obtained from the Queen's Surreys Office for 21/-, post free.

A short history of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Famous Regiments series by Jock Haswell (Major C. J. D. Haswell of the Queen's) is obtainable from the Queen's Surreys Office for 17/6d, post free.

The East Surrey Regiment

Volume IV of the Regimental History (1920-1952) is available from the Queen's Surreys Office for 21/- post free.

Readers of Major Toby Taylor's narrative "Seven Sunrises" will be interested to hear that one of the "Sunrises", Colonel H. B. L. Smith, is writing an account of the 1st Surreys in battle during the time he was second in command and commanding officer. The period covered is from the formation of 78 Division in Scotland in 1942 to the Battle of Cassino two years later.

The account is being produced locally and it will be necessary to charge a few shillings for postage and cost of production. The price will not exceed 5/-. Readers who would like a copy of Colonel Smith's narrative should apply to Regimental Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys Office), Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames. No money should be sent at present. Bids are requested not later than 15th December 1970.

History of the 11th (Lambeth) Bn The Queen's

Mrs Neave, the widow of Major Edward Neave, MC, has presented to the Regiment her husband's own copy of the Battalion's history of which he was the author. This admirable record traces the fortunes of the 11th Queen's, from the time they were raised in Lambeth in 1915 until demobilized in March 1920. During their two and a half years on active service in France and Belgium, the Battalion won 18 battle honours, and were awarded 4 Distinguished Service Orders, 34 Military Crosses and 78 Military Medals. Their losses in killed and missing alone amounted to 562 officers and men.

Our Allied Regiments

Canada

The Queen's York Rangers held their Change of Command Parade on 13 December 1969, at which Lt Colonel Malcolm Montgomery, CD, QC, was succeeded by Lt Colonel Henry E. Feather, CD. A very brief biography of the new Commanding Officer is included herewith.

For the second year in succession this Regiment has been asked to provide the Guard of Honour at the Opening of the Canadian National Exhibition. By the time this information "goes to press" the Opening will have taken place—this year the opening day of the world's largest annual exhibition is August 21, HRH Princess Margreit of the Netherlands is to be the Guest of Honour at the Opening Ceremonies.

The Guard of Honour for this occasion will be drawn from our summer training course for students, and it will be the highlight of their seven week course

which began in early July. Summer training courses of this type are operated on a full-time basis to provide intensive training for new recruits during the school vacation of July and August. The Regiment gains many new members in this program.

In September, training is again on the usual evening pattern of the Reserves.

Some names and changes in appointments in the Regiment are as follows:

Retired—Major N. G. Sproule, CD, OC of "B" Squadron (Newmarket) until Autumn of 1969, he was appointed OC of "A" Squadron (Newmarket and Aurora) when the two northern Squadrons were combined. Major Sproule will retire in September of 1970 after many years' service in both the Regular and Reserves.

Retired—Major H. K. Reid, CD, OC of "A" Squadron (Aurora) until A and B Squadrons were combined in 1969.

Transferred—Major J. R. Chowzun of "C" Squadron (Toronto) transferred to become OC of "A" Squadron (Aurora) effective September 1970. Major Chowzun spent the summer of 1969 in Europe, participating in Exercise Orion with our Regular Army units in Germany. This valuable experience in "on-job" training has proven very beneficial to our Regimental training.

Change of Appointment—Major J. R. Taylor, CD, relinquishes appointment as Adjutant and becomes OC of "C" Squadron (Toronto) effective September of 1970. Major Taylor joined the Queen's York Rangers in September 1969, transferring from the Grey and Simcoe Foresters Regiment.

Many members of the Regiment have been engaged in qualification courses during this summer, including Jr and Sr NCO, Trades training, Lt Qualifying, and Staff College. These summer courses are held at Regular Force Bases and are conducted by the Regular Force for nominees from the Reserves Regiments. The Queen's York Rangers candidates have enjoyed success on these sometimes very demanding courses.

As the Regiment enters the new training year of 1970-71 its position can be described as very healthy. In numbers it is slightly over establishment quotas, and with the training received in the courses just mentioned its members are well qualified for the Regiment's role as a Light Armoured unit of Mobile Command.

The Commanding Officer

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry E. Feather was born in Toronto, 6 December 1927. Attended school in Toronto and graduated as a Registered Industrial Accountant. Joined the 2nd Battalion, Queen's Own Rifles Reserve, in August 1942 (at the age of 14). Promoted to Sergeant in 1945. Appointed Officer Cadet in the Queen's York Rangers in May 1951. Commissioned Second-Lieutenant in 1954. Served the Regiment as Quartermaster, Adjutant, and Officer Commanding "B" Squadron. Appointed Second-In-Command in 1969. Awarded Canadian Forces Decoration in 1956.

Visit to Queen's Surreys Office

Early in September we were pleased to receive a visit from Lieutenant Paul Jason and his wife. They lived within a few miles of the Queen's Surreys Office until moving to Canada some three years ago. They now live in the outskirts of Toronto. Lieutenant Jason is the unit's Intelligence Officer.

Deaths

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

Beale On 17th January, 1969 in a British Legion Home, Pte J. A. H. Beale. He enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment on 9th August, 1914 and went to France with the 7th Battalion in June 1915. He was severely wounded in the attack on the Hohenzollern Redoubt on St George's Day, 1916.

Wernham On 30th March, 1969 in a British Legion Home, Pte Samuel Edward Charles Wernham (5254). Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1919.

Russell On 19th January, 1970, WOII Arthur George Washington Russell (240049), aged 79. Mr Russell, who was born in the United States, enlisted in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1909 and served for 21 years. He was a member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association and a Life Member of the Regimental Association.

George On 17th March, 1970, Sgt D. George (7988), aged 82. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

Hook In April, 1970, Pte William Hook (241250), aged 80. Served in 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from November 1915 to May 1919.

Grainger On 26th April, 1970, in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, Lieut (QM) Edwin Charles Grainger, MBE, MC, aged 90. Mr Grainger served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1897 to 1920. (See obituary.)

Burnham On 30th April, 1970, L/Cpl George Burnham (626), aged 83. Served in the 24th London Regiment from 1914 until invalidated out of the Service in 1917.

Lugard On 2nd May, 1970, Major Cyril Edward Lugard, aged 75. Commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in November 1914, he was wounded at Hill 60 with the 1st Battalion in April 1915. After secondment to the Egyptian Army, Major Lugard retired in 1928. At the time of his death he was District Head of the Forces Help Society, Dorking, a position he had held for many years.

King On 16th May, 1970, Cpl Harold George King (6086532), aged 51. After three years' service in the Territorial Army, he enlisted in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and served with them in the Middle East and Burma.

Bacon On 24th May, 1970, Lieut Colonel Charles Raymond Kenrick Bacon, OBE, aged 93. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1899 to 1926. See obituary.

Hilditch On 28th May, 1970, Sgt George Charles Hilditch (8417), aged 84. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1904 to 1918. Mr Hilditch had been an In-Pensioner of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea since 1963.

Hook On 1st June, 1970, Pte Wilfred Albert Hook (6139404), aged 57. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1931 to 1943.

Jolley On 2nd July, 1970, Cpl Thomas William Jolley (6076496), aged 78. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1923.

Kent-Jones On 19th July, 1970, Captain Lionel John Kent-Jones, MC. He served in the 23rd London Regiment from 1915 to 1918. Captain Kent-Jones was a member of the Middle Temple. See obituary.

Smith On 19th July, 1970, Pte George Smith (6471), aged 87. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1900 to 1919, and saw service in the South African War and the 1914-18 War.

Franklin On 28th July, 1970, CQMS E. A. Franklin (6132285), aged 76. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1908 to 1932. See obituary.

Hughes-Reckitt On 23rd August, 1970, Colonel Bryan Hughes-Reckitt, aged 74. Served in the 24th London Regiment and The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1940.

George On 15th September, 1970, Pte Horace Herbert George (6138351), aged 59. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1929 to June 1942 and in The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment from June 1942 to December 1945.

Hall On 30th September, 1970, ORQMS Arthur Harold

Hall (6084257), aged 59. Served in both Regular battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1929 to 1948.

Inwood On 27th July, 1970, in Canada, Lieutenant Denis L. Inwood. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment during the 1914-18 War, and was wounded at Passchendaele in October, 1917.

Johnson On 29th September, 1970, Captain Donald George Johnson, in an Eastbourne hospital after a long illness. Captain Johnson, who was the father of Major J. H. Johnson, MBE, TD was commissioned in the 23rd London Regiment in 1912 and served with that Regiment throughout the 1914-18 War. He was Adjutant of the Battalion from 1919 to 1924, and served in the Royal Air Force Regiment as Administrative Officer from 1941 to 1945.

Fairbrother On 12th October, 1970, Lieutenant Arthur Fairbrother. He enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1907, and was commissioned in the Field in May 1918. After the War, he served in 2nd Queen's, retiring in 1928.

Nightingale On 14th October, 1970, RSM William Nightingale (6761), aged 95. Mr Nightingale, one of our oldest soldiers, enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1889. After serving in the South African War, 1899-1902, he completed 23 years with the Colours, taking his discharge in 1912. Recalled in 1914, he served with The East Kent Yeomanry and rose to the rank of RSM.

Obituaries

E. C. Grainger, MBE, MC

Edwin Charles Grainger, who has died in the Royal Hospital, Chelsea at the age of 90, was one of our oldest soldiers. Enlisting in the Queen's in 1897, he first saw service with the 2nd Battalion in South Africa, when he was awarded the Queen's medal with five clasps and the King's medal with two clasps. During the 1914-18 War he was appointed RSM of the newly-formed 6th Battalion, and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. The citation reports that RSM Grainger set a splendid example to his men bringing up ammunition to the front line troops under heavy fire.

Commissioned in the Field in 1918, Lieut Grainger later served in Murmansk, North Russia and was appointed MBE in recognition of his valuable services there. Retiring in 1920, he became the RSM of Cranleigh School OTC. Admitted to the Royal Hospital in 1967, this distinguished old soldier has ended his days in the company of other old soldiers who have served their Country well.

Lieut-Colonel C. R. K. Bacon, OBE

With the passing of Charles Bacon, the Regiment loses one of its oldest members. Born on 12th January 1877, he was educated at the United Services College, Westward Ho! and commissioned to The Queen's Royal Regiment in January 1899. His first three years of service with the 1st Battalion in India was the longest he was destined to spend with the Regiment. With the exception of two short spells of Regimental duty in 1907 and 1911, all his service until he retired in 1926, was with African troops.

As a subaltern, Bacon was seconded to the Central African Rifles, later the King's African Rifles, from 1902 to 1907. He took part in the Nandi operations in Kenya in 1905 and 1906 and was awarded the African General Service Medal and was mentioned in despatches. From 1908 to 1911 he was appointed ADC to Major General Sir Edward Hamilton, formerly of the Regiment, and served in Sierra Leone. The following year he was seconded to the Egyptian Army and was posted to the 12th Sudanese Regiment, which he was later to command. His application to return to the Queen's on the outbreak of the 1914-18 War was rejected, and he next saw active service as a Column Commander in the Lau Nuer operations of 1917. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, and was awarded the Order of the Nile, 4th Class and the Sudan General Service Medal and was mentioned in despatches. Three years later Major Bacon commanded the Southern Column against the Garjek Nuer in the Upper Nile District, and was one of the only two British officers awarded clasps to the Sudan General Service medal for the campaign. He also received the Order of the Nile, 3rd

Class, and was again mentioned in despatches.

Although so much of his service was spent away from the Queen's, Colonel Bacon remained a loyal and generous supporter of the Regiment. His unique set of medals is in the Queen's Surreys Regimental Museum together with his sword with the Queen's badge emblazoned on the blade. Certain maps of Africa made by Colonel Bacon in the early years of the century are in the National Army Museum. He made a generous gift of money to the Regimental Museum in 1966 and has left a legacy to the Regiment.

Captain L. J. Kent-Jones, MC

The loss of Captain Lionel John Kent-Jones will be felt in military, legal and Civil Service circles, for he was a many sided personality.

Militarily, all his service was in battalions of the London Regiment. Enlisting in the 2nd London Regiment in December 1915, he served in the ranks in France until the end of 1916 when he was commissioned into the 21st London Regiment. (Those who had the privilege of knowing him will recall that one of his favourite stories was how he embarked for France under arrest due to a "dispute with higher authority!") In October 1917, Lt Kent-Jones was transferred to the 23rd London Regiment and two months later he was wounded. Nevertheless, he remained with the Battalion, the 1/23rd London, and was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry at Cambrai.

After demobilisation in May 1919, Captain Kent-Jones returned to his civilian occupation at the Ministry of Pensions, where he became an executive authority on the finer aspects of pension work. But his heart was in the law. As a result he studied in his spare time, and on retirement from the Ministry at the age of 60, he was admitted as a barrister of the Inner Temple, in which capacity he practised for a number of years. As might be expected however, his military connections were not abandoned on demobilisation. He continued serving as a Company Commander in the 23rd London Regiment (The East Surrey Regiment), TA until 1928, and remained to the end a cheerful and loyal supporter of Regimental functions.

Lionel Kent-Jones will indeed be greatly missed by his wide and varied circle of friends and comrades.

E. A. Franklin

With the passing of "George" Franklin, the Regiment loses the last member of a well known Regimental family. His father, Colour Sergeant William Franklin, enlisted in the Thirty First Regiment in 1863 and served until 1884. Ernest Albert Franklin, or George as he was known, was one of three brothers who served in The East Surrey Regiment, one of whom, F. T. Franklin, was killed in action with the Regiment in 1918. George, who was born in Gibraltar in 1893, enlisted as a boy at the age of 14. He went to France with the 1st Surreys in August 1914, and remained for 14 years with the same battalion. He was a CQMS in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment when he took his discharge in 1932 after 24 years' service. He was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea in 1961 and finished his days in the company of other old soldiers who had served their country well.

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