

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

President

Major General F.A.H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL

Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel H.R.D. Hill, MBE

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Major P.G.E. Hill



Regimental Headquarters

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

News Letter No. 9

May, 1971

Editorial

The object of the News Letter is to keep people up to date with Regimental developments, to record news of old members of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment and lastly to record Regimental History.

Under the general title of Regimental History are included dress, traditions, marches, Colours and accounts of events in which the Regiment was involved.

Many interesting items were contributed to the Journals of our old Regiments and they provide valuable information on Regimental matters not mentioned in the official Histories. When our Regimental Journal ceased publication these items continued to be printed in the Regimental Association News Letter. Here are a few examples.

Colours

The Queen's 100 year old Colours May and Nov. '70
The Third Colour of The Queen's Royal Regiment Nov. '70

Colours of the Thirty First Foot in Canterbury May '68
The Seventieth Colours May '71

Regimental Chapels

The Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel Nov. '70
The East Surrey Regiment Memorial Chapel Nov. '69

Battlefields Revisited

Medenine Nov. '69 and Nov. '70
Salerno Nov. '69
Sicily Nov. '70

Dress, Badges and Marches

In Search of the Lamb Nov. '67
The Buff Facings of the Thirty First Regiment May '69
Regimental Music Nov. '70

There is probably much valuable information which could be added to our Regimental archives, and contributions of an historical nature are always welcome.

In addition to items of historical interest, there is a particular requirement for eye witness accounts to supplement the Regimental Histories. The value lies in the fact that the writer was there himself and thus he is able to bring a personal touch to the official record. Examples of what has already been achieved in that field are

The Queen's Royal Regiment

'With the 2/4th Bn in Palestine' by Lt Col Wilkins
'An Infantry Company in Arakan and Kohima' by Major Lowry

The East Surrey Regiment

'My Diary' by Captain R. C. Sherriff
'The Action at Fort MacGregor' by Major R. F. Kinden

How long the Queen's Surreys Office will continue in its present form cannot be foreseen. It is therefore intended to build up now, before it is too late, a collection of eye witness accounts for our Regimental records. Any such narratives, whether or not reproduced in the News Letter, would constitute a welcome addition to the Regimental archives.

Honours and Awards

We congratulate Major General D. L. Lloyd Owen, DSO, OBE, MC, on his appointment as CB in the New Years Honours List, 1971.

The Queen's Regiment

Appointments — Officers

The following selections for command have been announced:—

Lt Col M. F. Reynolds to command 2nd Bn The Queen's Regiment from December 1971.

Major M. J. Doyle to command Depot The Queen's Division from July 1971.

The 'Diehards'

In our last News Letter we referred to the reprieve granted to the 4th Bn The Queen's Regiment, formerly The Middlesex Regiment (DCO), who were to have been disbanded. The battalion has been reduced to Company strength, and the Army Board has approved the title '4th Bn The Queen's Regiment Albuhera Company'. The abbreviated title is '4 Queen's Coy'.

The Company, commanded by Major Geoffrey Mason who has as his 2IC, Capt Tony Ward, is based at Risborough Barracks, Shorncliffe.

The primary task of the Company, which has also absorbed the former Queen's Regiment Information Teams, is recruiting for the Regiment. Sections have been allotted to the traditional County recruiting areas of The Queen's Regiment, and with its increased strength and mobility, will now be able to properly 'show the flag'. We wish Major Mason and his Company all success in this most important work.

Expansion of the TA & VR

In the May 1969 News Letter we reported with regret the reduction of our 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment to a Cadre of eight officers and men. This coincided with similar reduction in all Territorial Battalions of The Queen's Regiment.

Now, two years later, we are glad to inform our

Regimental and other Service Functions in 1971

Date and Time	Place	Function	Particulars
Thur. 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
Sat. 26 June 1400 hrs.	Bassingbourn	Open Day The Queen's Divisional Depot	See below
Sat. 3 July 1930 hrs.	Wembley	Military Musical Pageant In aid of Army Benevolent Fund	Box office 01-902 1234
Thur. 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 Guildford	Remembrance Day Parade	Queen's Surreys Office A Coy 5 Queen's (V)

readers that two new battalions have risen Phoenix-like from the ashes of the old. The new battalions of The Queen's Regiment are:

The 6th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment

Commanded by Lt Colonel D. G. Wilson, TD, formerly commanding the Cadre of the 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment, the new battalion is disposed as under:

Sub-unit	Formed from	Location
Bn HQ	Cadre 6 (T) Queen's	Wandsworth
A Coy (Middx.)	Cadre 10 (T) Queen's	Edgware
B Bty	Greater London RA	Islington
C Bty	London and Kent RA	Camberwell
D Coy	Surrey Yeomanry (Queen Mary's Own)	Sutton

The 7th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment

This Battalion is commanded by Lt Colonel J. B. Ogilvie, TD, formerly commanding the Cadre of the 8th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment. It is located as under:

Sub-unit	Formed from	Location
Bn HQ	Cadre 9 (T) Queen's	Horsham
A Coy		Farnham
(Queen's Surreys)		
B Coy	Cadre 7 (T) Queen's	Folkestone/
(Queen's Own Buffs)		Dover
C Coy	Cadre 8 (T) Queen's	Crawley
(Royal Sussex)		
Detachment		Sevenoaks

The battalions have been sponsored by the Queen's Division which has provided regular Training Majors and Permanent Staff Instructors.

Recruits for these battalions are now urgently required and it is hoped that our readers will make this fact known to young men of their acquaintance.

Open Day, Depot The Queen's Division

Date and Place

The Queen's Divisional Depot Open Day will be held

at Basingbourn Barracks, Royston, Herts, on Saturday, 26th June, 1971. Royston is about 50 miles north of London. Basingbourn Barracks will be open to visitors from 1400 hrs.

Static Exhibition and Displays

The following exhibitions and displays will be open to view from 1400 to 1630 hours:

Weapon and Vehicle Display
Officers' Mess Silver
Education and Hobbies Centre
Soldiers' barrack block
Soldiers' married quarter
Junior Ranks' Club
Junior Ranks' Kitchen and Dining Room
QM's Clothing Store
30m Range (SMG, SLR, GPMG and 84mm sub-calibre firing)
Field Cooking Demonstration
Adventure Training Display
Chapel and RACHD Caravan

Arena Events

The Arena Events will take place on the main Drill square beginning at approximately 1630 hours and will contain the following items, although **not** necessarily in the order shown below:—

Junior Soldiers Passing-off the Square
Junior Soldiers' Physical Training Display
APTC Trampoline Display
Recruit Training Pageant
Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands and Drums

Royal Tournament 1971

The Royal Tournament will be held at Earls Court from 9-26 June, 1971.

There will be displays by Her Majesty's Armed Forces for the benefit of Service charities.

Box office: Until June 2nd at 166 Piccadilly, London, W1V 0AX. From 5th June at Earls Court Exhibition Building, London, S.W.5.

Military Musical Pageant, 1971

The Military Musical Pageant, which was to have been held at Wembley last year and was cancelled, will now be staged on Saturday, 3rd July, 1971. It is in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

The programme will include massed bands, corps of drums and pipes of the Army, with horses and guns in a spectacle of colour and pageantry.

Tickets are obtainable from the Box Office, Wembley Stadium, as under:

Tickets:	£1.50	£1.00	80p	50p	30p
Party rates:	£1.30	90p	70p	40p	—
(20 and over)					

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

Accounts

The accounts of the Regimental Association for the year ended 31st December, 1970 were audited by Messrs. Menzies, Middleton, Hawkins & Co. of Kingston upon Thames and passed at a meeting of the Managing Trustees on 13th March, 1971. The state of the funds as at 31st December, 1970 is summarised below.

Name of Fund	Accumulated Funds	Excess of Income over Expenditure	Excess of Expenditure over Income
Queen's Surreys Charitable	5,067	353	—
Queen's Charitable	36,792	—	501
Surreys Charitable	18,668	172	—
Queen's War Memorial	13,563	2	—
Surreys War Memorial	10,251	92	—
Main	1,591	140	—
Reunion	1,254	50	—
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Benevolent Work of the Association

The rising cost of living and the advancing years of many of our members have brought a marked increase in the number of cases helped by the Regimental Association in 1970. We would not be able to continue on the present scale without the generous assistance of the Army Benevolent Fund and the Day's Pay Contribution from serving soldiers.

The number of cases dealt with by the Working Sub-Committee in 1970 was the greatest ever. The comparative figures for 1969 and 1970 are shown below.

Name of Fund	No of Cases		Amount of Grants	
	1969	1970	1969 £	1970 £
Queen's Surreys Charitable	15	3	186	40
Queen's Charitable	112	146	1,336	2,500
Surreys Charitable	88	92	950	1,104
Queen's War Memorial	24	40	361	816
Surreys War Memorial	28	28	400	487
Totals	267	309	3,233	4,947

As usual, we express our thanks to SSAFA and the Forces Help Society for their friendly visiting of our old soldiers and their dependents and for their helpful reports.

Annual Cathedral Service

The Annual Service of the Regimental Association will be held in Guildford Cathedral at 11.15 a.m. on Sunday, 13th June. The lesson will be read by Major General F. A. H. Ling, President of the Regimental

Association and the Address will be given by the Reverend Canon Michael Hocking, Rector of Holy Trinity with St Mary, Guildford.

After the Service the band of the 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment will play by kind permission of Lieut Colonel P. D. Johnson, Officer Commanding 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment. Refreshments will be available in the Regimental Tent which will be erected in the precincts of the Cathedral.

It is hoped that there will be a good gathering again this year for this special Regimental occasion.

Regimental Association Reunion

Date and Place

The Annual Reunion will be held at the Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames, from 1830 to 2230 hrs on Friday, 15th October 1971.

The function is for men only.

Tickets

The cost of admission will be 50p, whether or not supper is taken. The increase is due to higher charges for postage and refreshments, and the fact there was a loss of £13 on last year's Reunion.

Assistance to members

The higher cost of admission does not mean that anyone should be prevented from coming. A number of spare tickets are available each year thanks to the generosity of some of our members, and the Regimental Association can help with travelling expenses. All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

Warning In

Members are requested to submit the enclosed Warning-In slip, *with remittance*, by not later than Monday, 11th October. Tickets will be issued when received from the printers.

Money will be refunded if you are unable to make use of your tickets, provided they are returned to the Secretary not later than Monday, 11th October.

Refreshments

The cost of the ticket includes a buffet supper, *provided the ticket is bought before Monday, 11th October*.

Supper will not be available for those who buy their tickets after 11th October. This restriction is necessary to avoid ordering more food than is required.

The Regimental Museum of

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

As most readers know the Museum is situated at the Surbiton Road entrance to the Queen's Surreys Office. It is open to the general public at the following times (admission free):—

Mondays to Fridays, 9.30 am to 12 noon (except Public Holidays), 1.30 pm to 4 pm.

Sundays (by special arrangement) 10 am to 12 noon.

Ample Car Parking facilities exist in the forecourt to the entrance.

News Letter subscriptions

In these days of constantly rising prices and increased postal charges, it will come as no surprise to our readers to learn that it is necessary to raise the cost of the News Letter from 30p to 35p.

The subscription for 1971 remains at 30p, that is the original cost of 6/- which has not been increased since the News Letter was started. The subscription for 1972

will be 35p, and we will have to see at the end of that year whether we can hold the cost to that figure. Subscriptions for 1972 can be sent in at any time, but there will be a renewal form with the November 1971 News Letter.

There are two ways in which readers can help. First, by encouraging their friends to take the News Letter. Too often we hear of the News Letter being passed from one member to another. That, of course, does nothing to help subscriptions. Second, by renewing their subscriptions when due.

In our last News Letter we said we would not send any reminders and that those who had not renewed their subscriptions would not receive the News Letter. On assessing the situation we found there were nearly 100 subscriptions outstanding and we could not afford to lose that amount of income. Accordingly reminders were sent to the forgetful hundred and 50% have since paid their subscriptions. The failure of the remainder to reply has cost the Association £1.50 in postage, which we can ill afford.

Our Former Regiments

Tradition

When The Queen's Royal Regiment amalgamated with The East Surrey Regiment in October 1959 to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, the Colonel of the new Regiment wrote a foreword to the first issue of the Regimental Journal. In it he pointed out that we live in times of great change and amalgamations of Regiments were inevitable. He pointed out that change does not mean the abandoning of tradition and defined tradition as follows:

'Tradition is the whole sum of the example of service, gallantry and self-sacrifice set for us by our forebears in the Regiment over the past three hundred years of British military history. Our customs, our Colours, our battle honours, our trophies and marks of distinction are all outward and visible signs of that example, and remind us of it and help us to try to live up to it'.

1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

Further changes have occurred since 1959. The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment became first the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment (Queen's Surreys) and are now simply 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment with no mention of our former Regiments in their title.

Against this background of constant change it is good to know that our Regimental origins are actively preserved in the 1st Battalion. The following are extracts from a letter recently received by the Regimental Secretary at the Queen's Surreys Office from the Commanding Officer of 1 Queen's:

'You may recall sending me an embroidered badge some time ago for The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) and The East Surrey Regiment guidon which I planned to have made as one of a set depicting our six former Regiments.

'These guidons have now been produced by Piggotts and the Berlin REME Workshops have made the pikes. I thought you would be interested to see the enclosed colour photograph of them hanging in the entrance to Battalion Headquarters here in Berlin, where they are seen by our many visitors. For the soldiers they are yet more evidence of the relationship between the Battalion

and our forebears and of the pride we have in our former Regiments, whose badges can be seen outside our main gates on the magnificent signboard representing our new Regimental Colour which you may have seen in a picture in a recent Journal.

'You will also be interested to hear that I have just named each company in the Battalion after a famous and early campaign or Battle Honour connected with one of our six former Regiments. For example, A Kirke's Company is now called Kirke's Tangier Company and C Company is called Sobraon Company. I have just ordered another set of the pikes and guidons so that each company may have one of its "own" guidon.

'We have also just had put up on our playing fields eight flag poles on which we will fly all the former Regimental flags on suitable occasions. We have of course not got the flags to fly at the moment, and it occurred to me that you might have in your possession, or know where to get a Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) flag and an East Surrey Regiment one, that you could give us to fly on behalf of Kirke's Tangier Company and Sobraon Company.

'I am sending you this letter and photograph so that you can assure your Old Comrades, some of whom may be suspicious or ignorant of us as their successors! that we in the Battalion still remember their old Regiment. As a matter of interest I recently carried out a survey of our soldiers' home-towns and find that although the majority in the Battalion come from Surrey and Middlesex, we also have large numbers from both Kent and Sussex.'

Sobraon Day

The following extract from 1 Queen's contribution to the March issue of the Regimental Journal will interest many old soldiers.

'We have just celebrated Sobraon Day for the first time in Berlin. The Corps of Drums beat reveille and later, on a Battalion parade, the Commanding Officer outlined events at the Battle of Sobraon, pointing out the significance of the handing-over of the Regimental Colour to the Sergeants' Mess. He then gave the Colour to Sgt Knight who had been selected for this honour by the RSM. By happy coincidence, Sgt Knight's promotion to substantive Colour Sergeant had just been authorised and was made effective immediately after the parade. We were unable, however, to grant him an Ensigncy as happened to Sgt McCabe of the 31st!

'It will be noticed at the beginning of these notes that every company has now been named after an early campaign or Battle Honour connected with each of our former Regiments and this was announced to the soldiers for the first time on the Sobraon Day parade.

'After the parade the Regimental Colour, carried by Sgt Knight and escorted by C/Sgt Flynn, our Chief Clerk, and C/Sgt Ebbens, CQMS of Holland Coy, preceded by a phalanx of Warrant Officers and Sergeants and all headed by the Regimental Band and Corps of Drums, marched from the parade ground to the "WOs and Sgts Mess", the route being lined, as in the past, by Officers, Corporals and Private Soldiers.

'Sobraon Day finished with the traditional Sgts Mess dinner, where the Colours were on display—flanked by our silver drums—until midnight when the CO and two

ensigns once again took custody of them.

'In all, a very full, enjoyable and Regimentally successful and rewarding day.'

News of the Associations

5th Queen's Old Members Association

The Annual Reunion of the 5th Queen's Old Members Association is being held on Saturday, 15th May, 1971.

Particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Captain J. H. Patterson, 22, Hazel Close, Woodhatch, Reigate, Surrey.

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

It was felt in certain quarters that the time had come for news of our activities to appear in the News Letter and this is the time.

Although we at Jamaica Road have been silent we have not been inactive and the Association is now a going concern. Since the departure of the TA from the Drill Hall it has been an uphill struggle; however we were fortunate in inheriting the old Officers Mess for our HQ and this has been decorated to our taste including the bar. Even this is only a respite, it has been said on good authority that a takeover bid is in progress, as a friendly CPO from HMS President said: 'I hear the Bootnecks are moving in to Bermondsey'. Nevertheless we intend to carry on as if nothing was amiss and to date this policy has met with success.

October 24th last year saw the revival of the Reunion Dinner after a lapse of several years. Among the sixty members and guests sitting down was Brigadier R. S. N. Mans and Lt Col H. C. Millman and two of our Belgian friends. A most enjoyable evening together with first class catering ensured that this event will not be allowed to lapse again. A Saturday social evening held on the last Saturday in each month is another feature of our programme. These are organized by a very able social committee who spare no effort in making these nights a success. This little group already have plans afoot for a super 'Glorious First of June' night to be held on Saturday, June 5th. This it is hoped will surpass the all 'stag' celebration evening of last year. On behalf of the Association a cordial welcome is extended to members of the other Regimental Associations should they wish to drop in.

There have been a few changes in the composition of the Committee. Col Bevington still remains as President and Chick Coles has taken over the Chairman's seat vice Major D. G. Clement. We have been fortunate in persuading Bill Itzinger to fill the vacancy on the committee. As a serving member of the 1/22nd Bn since 1914, he is well qualified to represent the veterans.

2/7th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Twenty-Fifth Reunion Dinner was held on 3rd April, 1971, at the Church House Restaurant, Westminster, and was attended by some 70 old comrades. A cordial welcome was extended to the Guest of Honour, Major General M. Forrester, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, who recalled his contacts with the Battalion as OC 1/6th Queen's during the period between Salerno and the Garigliano, when the two Brigades were in such close harmony. General Forrester also gave an interesting account of the recent activities of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Battalions, The Queen's Regiment, with special

reference to the Regiment's excellent record in Northern Ireland.

The Chairman of the Dinner Club, Hugh Scammell, MC produced the plaque which had been presented to the master, officers and crew of the MV Johann van Oldenbarneveldt by 2/5th and 2/7th Battalion in appreciation of their safe conduct, on their arrival in Bombay in 1942. For some time it was thought that the plaque had been lost when the Johann, after being sold to the Greeks and renamed the Lakonia, caught fire and sank in the Atlantic in 1966. Last year Brigadier Block, CB, CBE, DSO, who commanded 2/7th Battalion between 1941 and 1943, heard from the Master, Captain Broere, that the plaque was safe in Holland and arranged for its return to this country. The plaque, which bears the Lamb and the insignia of Charles and Catherine, is a fine example of the work of the Royal School of Needlework and it is hoped that with the agreement of 2/5th Queen's it can now be put in some suitable place where it may be viewed by all members.

Hugh Scammell thanked the members who had helped to maintain the Club over the years including Cecil Falk, MC, TD, Roy Bullen, who wrote the Battalion history, Lester Whatley, Tom Burgess, Busty Jones, A. G. (Sandy) Sanders, DSO, Brigadier MacWilliam and particularly Harry Neale whose sterling efforts as Secretary for the last 16 years had been invaluable. The Club was now confidently looking forward to its 50th Anniversary in 1996! Brigadier Block has presided over the Battalion's Dinner Club for twenty five years and to mark the occasion he was presented by Brigadier M. E. M. MacWilliam, CBE, DSO, MC, on behalf of all members with a silver salver suitably inscribed. Brigadier MacWilliam, who commanded the Battalion from 1943 until its disbandment in 1946, recalled how Lt Colonel Block had taken over a depleted and largely untrained Battalion in 1941 and brought them to a high state of efficiency with a fine mixture of firmness and understanding. He continued to be held by all who had served under him with deep respect and affection.

The Postal Strike

The seven week long strike of the Postal Workers Union had its effect on the work of the Regimental Association, the life blood of which is correspondence. Fortunately the telephone service never let us down, and we were able to make use of the Signals Despatch Service for deliveries to military addresses. We delivered as much as possible by hand, but many letters containing help were held up in the pipe line.

The strike prevented applications for help getting through to the Regimental Association, and consequently the benevolent work of the Association virtually came to a halt. The failure of the postal workers to do the job they were paid to do undoubtedly caused hardship to some of our old soldiers. It is ironic to reflect that the income of the average striker was considerably more than that of an old soldier living on retirement pension and supplementary benefit.

Another effect has been the reduction in the number of letters from our members. We generally try to reprint items of interest from our readers letters, but the reduced number received has resulted in a smaller News Letter this time. In this connection it is worth men-

tioning that the more people who write, the more of interest there is in the News Letter. News cannot be manufactured—it has to come from our members. So we look forward to hearing from old friends and fulfilling our role of keeping in touch.

From Here and There

Tracing of Old Comrades

Lieut Colonel E. F. Bolton, DSO, who served in the Regiment for 33 years and who commanded the 2/6th Queen's in France in 1940, writes:

'The Regimental Association at Kingston upon Thames is always prepared to assist ex-members of the Regiment in tracing old friends and comrades. Anyone who joined the Old Comrades Association, however long ago, is card-indexed and their latest address recorded—provided this information is sent to them as changes occur. Ever since the last war I have tried to contact ex-Pte Louis William Robinson who was my batman at Aldershot and Isle of Wight 1933 to 1936, but without success. Last year, however, our Regimental Association was able to turn up his Regimental Number but not his address, so I inserted a notice in the May 1970 edition of our News Letter asking for any information concerning him.

'This led to my receiving a most interesting letter from ex-Pte R. T. Greenhalgh of my old MG Company at Aldershot, and I eventually obtained Pte Robinson's address. Sad to relate, I learnt that he had been completely blinded by an exploding rifle in 1944. So how pleased I was to be able to write to him. He now lives at Enfield, Middlesex and we have arranged to meet. He is married (My wife cleans my shoes) and has held a good job with a firm of Chartered Accountants in the City since 1946.

'If there is anyone YOU wish to contact, do write to our Regimental Association and they will do the rest. Meanwhile, "KEEP IN TOUCH".'

An East Surrey 'Old Contemptible'

Members of the Old Contemptibles Association may have seen an account of the action at Hill 60 published in the December 1970 issue over the name of 'W. Billimore 31st Foot'.

Although Mr Billimore did not actually serve in the Thirty First, his service commenced sufficiently long ago to make him one of our oldest soldiers. After a period of six months in the Special Reserve, he enlisted on a Regular engagement at Kingston Barracks in 1911, and was allocated number 10288. He was posted to the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment at Kinsale in Ireland, and recalls seeing the Titanic sail from Queenstown while firing the Annual Range course on the Old Head ranges, Kinsale.

After passing a course in Regimental Transport duties run by 52 Battery RFA at the Curragh, Billimore was posted to the 1st Battalion's transport. The Armistice in 1918 coincided with the completion of Pte Billimore's seven years Regular engagement, and he returned to civil life. After 43 years with the Great Western Railway, Mr Billimore retired and now lives at 75 Ladbrooke Crescent, Basford, Nottingham, NG6 0GL.

News from 'Down Under'

Major C. H. Dickins, who emigrated to Australia in 1969, is enjoying life. We are indebted to a friend for

permission to reproduce part of a letter written in January.

'It is absolutely perfect out here, both the place and the climate. We occasionally get a hot day in the 90s but we have only had one this year up to the present. The usual is about 75 degrees with quite a cool breeze all the time. The winter stays at about 65 degrees with a very few days down to the 50s.

'We do not play much golf, we have a 9 hole course just near and that is about as much as we want. I play bowls all the year twice a week and some week-ends, and fish in the sea or river when not feeling energetic. We do a lot of bird watching and photography. I have a long 400 mm lens which enables one to get close up to them. We are also busy with the local stamp club, so there is plenty to do.'

3/5th Surreys in 1918

Mr. P. W. K. Flinton wonders if there are any survivors of the draft sent out to France from Crowborough in April 1918. He thinks the draft was intended for the 8th Surreys.

Mr Flinton, who lives at 44A Granville Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, writes:

'We sailed from Dover in a transport called the "Outward" or "Onward" or some such name, and she had two white funnels with black tops. On her return to Dover with troops on leave, she caught fire and had to be sunk at the quayside, thus saving her.

There were a lot of East Surrey reinforcements on board. We never, by the way, found the 8th Battalion, or was it the 13th Battalion?'

Mr Flinton enlisted in the Australian Citizen Military Forces in 1939 and was discharged with the rank of WO I in 1945.

Six Battalions in Four Years

Mr A. W. Born (6692) joined The Queen's Royal Regiment one week after the outbreak of the 1914-18 War. He served first in the 3rd and 9th Battalions before being posted to the 6th Battalion at Aldershot in May 1915. He landed in France on the Glorious First of June 1915 and remained there until wounded the following year.

On his return to France, Pte Born was posted to the 7th Queen's, and was again wounded in August 1917. After treatment in hospitals in France and UK, he was passed fit for active service and sent back to France where he joined the 1st Battalion. His service with 1 Queen's lasted until March 1918 when he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. Soon after joining the 33rd Bn MGC, Pte Born was wounded for the third time—this time a Blighty one, which put paid to his active soldiering. When finally discharged in February 1919, he was awarded the King's Certificate in addition to his campaign medals.

Mr Born, who lives at 25 Gaitskell House, Westmoreland Road, Walworth, S.E.17, does not consider his record as being very unusual. However, it would be interesting to know if any other old warrior served in so many battalions of the Regiment in war.

Correspondence

The Battle of Medinine

The account by Major E. G. Sandys, MC, of his visit to the Medenine battlefield in the November 1970

News Letter has prompted the following reminiscence from Lieut Colonel N. J. P. Hawken, MC.

'I was HQ Company Commander of 1/7th Queen's at that battle and was commanding (if that's the right word) a scratch rifle company composed of miscellaneous HQ platoons, and Echelon people, etc. providing an alleged Bn second line. Luckily the rifle companies held as the 'second line' was useless. Personally I spent the day reading in my slit trench. I had two books; the second volume of "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and "The Ringer" by Edgar Wallace. I am afraid I played an ineffective role in the battle. My line to Bn HQ was cut several times, and it seemed pointless to incur more casualties repairing it. My radio was hit by a shell fragment right at the start. Apart from firing a 3 inch mortar from time to time in the general direction of the enemy, I did very little.

'After dark, when the Germans were trying to remove their damaged armour I wanted to fire mortars on originally targetted points on the wadi: although this suggestion was turned down.

'My main reason for writing was to ask if it is possible to obtain a print of the photographs which Major Sandys referred to in his article. I had one of these, showing one of our A/Tk guns and several German tanks.

'I kept this print in my pocket book as a memento of past history: but, alas, my pocket was picked at Oxford Circus Underground Station a few weeks ago, and I am annoyed at having lost this photo amongst a few other things.'

Can any reader let Colonel Hawken have a copy of this photograph? His address is Rawlins, Danbury, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 4DL.

Old Sweat

Mr Charles A. King, MM, who must be one of our oldest soldiers, had 38 years service in the Army, of which about half was in the Regiment and the remainder in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps. Mr King won his Military Medal as a Sergeant in the 1st Queen's in 1917. He was a Conductor in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps in India when he retired in 1937. Mr King has supplied the following details of his long service in the Army.

'I became eager to take part in the South African War and in 1901 enlisted in the 4th Bn The East Surrey Regiment at their HQ in Clapham Junction. I did not succeed in getting there owing to my age, but enjoyed the training and the musketry camps at Bisley eventually handing in my uniform in 1908 on leaving the district. Having moved to Purley I enlisted on 4th March 1912 in the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment at Mitcham Barracks becoming Cpl in the quite strong Cyclist Company. The Bn was on the march to Salisbury Plain at the end of July 1914 and on arriving there on 3rd August we were entrained back to Barracks and mobilised. Then came the sorting out for those forming the Battalion for India. At that time I couldn't see myself rustivating for four years in India and was glad to be excluded, so it was back to the awkward squads at Maidstone, Windsor and Canterbury from where we went to France in 1917.

There were engagements on the Arras and Ypres fronts, out a bit for de-gassing, then up again on to the Armentières front with the 33rd Division. At Meterin I was to join the halt and maimed, and the road back to Calais and Chichester (Mental) Hospital. (I often wondered how they disposed of my predecessors). During my stay in hospital I had a note from the Adjutant telling me of the award of the Military Medal and enclosing a couple of Force Commanders Cards. The medal itself came later by post. After convalescence at Eastbourne then to Tonbridge and the Depot Bn, I was detailed to take a party to Le Havre for Italy reinforcements. Back to Tonbridge and eventually for discharge 13.3.19. No gratuity but 28 days leave, a further 2 months leave if you rejoice.

After I had sampled the prospect of civil employment I did so at Caterham Barracks, having decided that with a wife and three children I had no right to forgo something within my grasp and the possibility of a decent pension. So to the 1st Battalion at Aldershot. Later whilst the 2nd Battalion was getting ready for overseas, I applied for transfer to that Battalion. In reply to the Adjutant's query 'Why?' because I saw no other early prospect of getting away from Lewis and machine guns—I was allowed to go. The opportunity came shortly after reaching our Station in Bareilly a Northern Command Order authorising suitable NCOs to go on a three-months Ordnance course, and eventual transfer if suitable, and so to a definite opportunity of promotion and advancement on merit—Staff Sergeant in three years. Sub-Conductor and Conductor within 14 years. At that time the age limit was 60 years, later limited to 54 on complete Indianisation.

'Within three months I was detailed to command a party of 30 Indian tradesmen for active service on the Frontier. For the next two and a half years I worked them from Dera Ismail Khan to Ladha earning the Force Commander's certificate and the Waziristan Medal and Bar. Later I was Brigade Ordnance Warrant Officer with a punitive Brigade at Timagura on the Swat River, and another punitive Brigade Force on the Mohmand Expedition. For these little jaunts and many casualties among the troops involving a great deal of marching and living in very difficult weather and country, no medals were given. Having reached the age limit I took my leave of the Army in 1937 to live in Shrewsbury, but in 1939 on the formation of the Home Guard volunteered for service. To my surprise I was given the rank of Captain, only finding out much later this was due to the recommendation of an officer of The Queen's. But who? is still my big query'.

Old Members of the Regiment in South Africa

Major P. G. E. Hill, who paid a short visit to South Africa last November, and was able to meet some old members of the Regiment, writes:

'My first visit was to Mr C. S. A. Avis in Pretoria, a regular contributor to the News Letter. Alec Avis, who joined the 1st Queen's as long ago as 1910, went out to South Africa soon after the 1914-18 War, and became a Warrant Officer in the South African Police. He has been working in the S.A. Police Assurance Fund ever since. With the Paschal Lamb on his blue blazer and the old Regimental tie, Mr Avis looked every inch an old Queen's man.

'Mr Avis introduced me to Canon Thomas Harvey of Pretoria Cathedral who had been chaplain to the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the Struma Valley in the 1914-18 War. He was later transferred to the 10th (Irish) Division at the personal request of Major General Sir John Longley, the Divisional Commander.

'Soon after I arrived in Cape Town, I made contact with Major General D. H. V. Buckle, CB, CBE. He had joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1923 and transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps a few years later. Although only a small part of General Buckle's service was in the Regiment, he still has many friends in the Surreys. Another person I met in Cape Town with an East Surrey connection was Mrs Woulfe-Flanagan. Her late husband's uncle had commanded the 1st Surreys from July 1916 to July 1917.

'A week later I arrived in Kokstad where I met Billy Williams who had been Adjutant of the 8th Surreys in the 1914-18 War, and Lt Colonel Guy Fricker who had been Adjutant of the 2nd Surreys in Catterick and Shorncliffe. I stayed a night with Colonel Fricker on his farm in East Griqualand. He had joined the South African Forces on the outbreak of the 1939-45 War and had served with an armoured car company in the Western Desert—an experience he had thoroughly enjoyed. He later served in Italy.

'I spent my last night in South Africa with Mr Winder, whom older members of The East Surrey Regiment may remember as a cheerful young officer in the 12th Battalion in the 1914-18 War. Teddy Winder was severely wounded on patrol south of Ypres in December 1916 and was never fit enough to return to active service. Mr Winder is well known in South Africa as the political cartoonist of the Sunday Times, and for his humorous illustrations to newspaper articles. Married to another artist, Mr Winder has one son whose great enthusiasm is military uniforms and equipment.

'In my short stay in Johannesburg I did not have an opportunity to meet Colonel the Hon. C. F. Stallard, DSO, MC, QC, ED, who lives a few miles out of the city. This remarkable old gentleman who is due to celebrate his 100th birthday on 4th June 1971, commanded the 12th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from October 1917 until March 1918. Colonel Stallard, who is Honorary Colonel of the Witwatersrand Rifles, is remarkably active and comes into the city at least once a week.

'It was delightful to meet so many old members of the Regiment, and though by reason of distance they are unable to attend any Regimental functions, all maintain the greatest enthusiasm and affection for their old Regiment.'

Regimental Music

Regimental Slow March

Lord Charles Montague's Huntingdonshire March was the slow march of the Thirty First and later of The East Surrey Regiment, and was adopted as one of the Regimental slow marches of The Queen's Regiment.

Information is sought on this march and its composer. Who was Lord Charles Montague, when was his march written and how did it come to be associated with the Thirty First Regiment? Can any reader help?

Marches of the Regiments

A long playing stereo record has been released by BBC Records. It is entitled 'Marches of the Vanishing Regiments' and has 28 items, including 'Braganza' and 'A Southerly Wind and a Cloudy Sky'.

The record number is REB 895 and is available at £1.87½, which includes postage, from BBC Records, London, S.E.19, or from most leading record dealers.

Bugle Calls

At one time the soldier's working day was regulated by bugle calls. Perhaps it still is. He was awakened by the lively strains of the Rouse or the Long Reveille, and the four soft notes of Lights Out composed his lullaby. Every activity throughout the day had its call, such as parades, guard mounting, sick parade, meals, CO's Orders, Retreat and Tattoo. The Adjutant could summon officers by the Officers Call, although it is doubtful if any of them recognized it. By bugle call the RSM would announce that his Detail for the day was ready to be given out to the Company Orderly Sergeants. Perhaps one of the most impressive calls is Retreat, and it becomes truly stirring when combined with a military band accompaniment. Who too can fail to have been moved by the final triumphant notes of the Last Post sounded at a soldier's funeral.

The principal bugle calls used on training were Stand Fast and Dismiss. The former required all troops to remain in their positions while the director of the exercise assessed the degree of success attained. This was generally followed by the Officers Call which summoned all officers for the director's conference and summing up of the operations. When Dismiss was sounded, the companies reformed and marched back to camp.

A story is told of Queen Victoria watching an exercise from Jubilee Hill at the south end of the Long Valley, Aldershot. At the conclusion of the exercise, the General Officer Commanding proposed to show Her Majesty the dispositions of the troops on the ground and to indicate the valuable lessons the day's training had brought out. The General ordered the Stand Fast to be sounded. Unfortunately the young drummer detailed for the occasion sounded Dismiss. Immediately little bodies of troops emerged from the countryside, formed up and marched off in all directions.

The Queen was not amused, and the General apoplectic with rage. 'Send for the drummer!' he roared, and soon the shrinking figure of a white-faced drummer boy appeared. 'You . . . You . . .' shouted the infuriated General, about to bring the ripest invective of his considerable vocabulary on the lad's head, 'You . . .' and suddenly catching sight of the disapproving look of his Sovereign, and collapsing like a pricked balloon, 'You naughty drummer!'

Some calls, such as the Mail Call in overseas stations, were greeted with enthusiasm. Others, which received no welcome but required an immediate response, were Defaulters and the urgent notes of the Fire Call, the latter picked up and repeated by all buglers in barracks.

A number of bugle calls had their own words. Everybody knows 'Come to the cookhouse door, boys' and 'Jimmy James' of the Advance. There was not much consolation for the unfortunates confined to barracks to reflect that 'You can be a defaulter as long as you like, so long as you answer your name'. The cosy words of

the Mail Call's 'Letters for you from home, boys' had a more robust version.

We should like to hear from our readers the words put to various bugle calls in the Regiment. If we get a good selection they will be published in the News Letter. There will, however, be some, such as the exhortation to 'Charlie, Charlie' in the Long Reveille, which unfortunately we will be unable to print.

Regimental History—

The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Quetta Earthquake

The Incident

Thirty six years ago occurred one of the most extraordinary experiences ever to come the way of the Queen's. At 0300 hours on the morning of 31st May, 1935 the city of Quetta was rocked by the worst earthquake in its history. The shock lasted for no more than 40 seconds, but its consequences were incalculable.

At the time the 1st Battalion were on the march returning from night operations, and still some three hours from barracks. The force of the earthquake made it almost impossible to stand. An eye witness writes, 'Most of us either sat or fell down. Within three quarters of a minute we were on the march again, and probably few of us realized what terrible things had happened to the city during the brief period when the earth was shaking under us with a rumbling roar.' The men were literally shaken by the quake, but their composure was unruffled, as less than a minute later, they were on their way again along the Chaman Road to breakfast and rest after the events of the night.

The First Day

Back in barracks the Battalion had barely had their breakfast when at 0730 hours a staff officer arrived from Western Command. Troops were required for immediate duty in the city which had collapsed like a pack of cards. The weary soldiers fell in once more and were marched down to the city. The Regimental History records 'When they arrived the full horror of the catastrophe was apparent. The city had been razed to the ground and corpses lay everywhere in the hot sun.' The Battalion was allotted the Civil Lines and the western area of the city. Battalion Headquarters was set up in the Residency, and areas were allotted to the companies.

The primary tasks were the rescue of the living and the burial of the dead. Their fatigue forgotten, the Queen's got down to their disagreeable job with determination, mingled with shock, disgust and pity. Each company went methodically through its area searching the ruined houses for bodies, alive or dead. The injured had first to be rescued from the rubble of their homes and then taken to hospitals. The dead were laid by the side of the road and taken away in the Battalion's two-wheeled mule carts. At the cemetery a hundred men of the Queen's were digging graves all day long and burying the pitiful corpses. At 2000 hours it was dark and in the absence of emergency lighting no further rescue work was possible. The men had been on the go for nearly 40 hours without rest. They had marched 18 miles during the night, and had been doing hard physical work all day with little food. They formed up and marched back to barracks exhausted.

The Second Day

The next day was the Glorious First of June, but there were to be no celebrations this year for the Battalion. Breakfast was before dawn and at first light the companies were back in the city, digging, searching and carrying. It was now extremely hot, and the corpses had started to decompose. All efforts were now concentrated on the rescue of the living. The dead had to be left for the time being. There was a continual wailing from the native population who had completely gone to pieces and would do nothing to help. On this second day of heavy labour in the hot sun, the men were hard put to keep going. As usual there were those who by their steadfastness, cheerfulness and endurance were an example to others. The companies returned to barracks that evening dirty and exhausted, knowing there were more days like this to come.

The Third Day

Work was resumed very early on the third day. It was now more disagreeable than ever owing to the rapid decomposition of bodies in the June sun. Men were issued with medicated pads to wear over their mouths and noses. Even so, the smell of death was inescapable and revolting. The troops worked grimly on, and at last there were signs the rescue work was coming to an end. It had been decided that Quetta was to be completely evacuated, and troops not required for rescue were now being used for the movement of refugees to the camp which had been set up on the racecourse. Many of the inhabitants were reluctant to leave their homes, even though these were in ruins. They suspected, and with reason, that as soon as they left the looters would be in. A strong line had to be taken with these human jackals, many of whom had come from miles away. Martial law was declared and looters were liable to be shot on sight.

The Fourth and subsequent days

By the fourth day, that is 3rd June, it was considered there could be no one still living in the shattered city. A formidable barbed wire fence was erected round the perimeter during the next three days, and this had to be guarded and patrolled. The city inside the cordon was abandoned except for occasional armed patrols sent in to deal with looters and to shoot stray animals.

Gradually, as the days went on, order was restored out of the chaos. The number of dead in Quetta will never be known, but medical records show that over ten thousand casualties were evacuated. The thousands of refugees under canvas on the racecourse camp had to be rehoused before the bitter winter set in, and this meant compulsory transfer to other areas, some many miles distant. British women and children were despatched to other stations in India.

There were innumerable guards and duties to be found, and finally when everyone else's needs had been attended to, the troops turned their attention to their own accommodation. As all buildings in barracks had been declared unsafe, the troops had initially to go under canvas. They then had to construct Wana huts and demolish their old barrack rooms. Months afterwards they were still at it.

Conclusion

Recognition of the Battalion's services in the disaster came in the form of a message from His Excellency The Viceroy. The message read:

'Quetta Earthquake, 1935

Deeply impressed by the gallant and devoted conduct of the officers and men of His Majesty's Forces in Quetta during and after the earthquake of 31st May, 1935, I, Freeman Earl of Willingdon, Viceroy and Governor General of India, record on this certificate the thanks of the Government of India to 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment for their share in the work of rescue and succour, which saved so many lives and mitigated so much suffering on that occasion.'

The medal of the Order of the British Empire for gallantry was awarded to L Cpl Henshaw and Pte Brook. These awards were later to be converted to the George Cross on the institution of that award in 1940. Certificates were presented to Sgt Chapple, Sgt Manners, L Cpl Dakin, L Cpl Gowman and Pte Rainsbury.

The operations in which the Battalion had been engaged had been at first dangerous, then exceptionally distasteful and finally arduous. The requirements of good discipline, steadfastness and high morale were amply met by this first class battalion.

Commemorative Plaque

In August 1942 169 (Queen's) Brigade left England for service overseas. 2/5th Queen's and 2/7th Queen's were embarked in the Dutch liner Johan van Oldenbarnevelt (19,429 tons). They sailed from the Clyde on 28th August and, after a call at Cape Town a month later, finally reached Bombay in safety on 16th September. The Regimental History records 'As a parting present to the Johan van Oldenbarnevelt and in recognition of the trouble all the ship's company had taken for their welfare, the 2/5th and 2/7th arranged for Regimental crests to be worked in silk and presented to the ship on her next visit to England, where the master (Captain Broeur) was entertained at the Regimental Depot. They hang now in the first class lounge'.

After the war, the ship was sold to Greek interests and became the ill-fated Lakonia which was lost by fire in the Atlantic some years later. The Regimental crests had previously been removed by the Nederland Royal Mail Line. On the amalgamation of that line with other Dutch shipping companies in 1970, Captain Broeur was instrumental in the return of the plaque to the 2/7th Queen's Old Comrades Association. It is hoped to find some suitable place for the display of this interesting Regimental relic.

Victoria Crosses of the 22nd and 24th London Regiments

Mr E. Bradish, commenting on the article on the Victoria Cross and George Cross Exhibition in the last News Letter, writes:

'I note with interest the paragraph on the Victoria Cross and George Cross, and I make no apologies for remembering the honours won. In Great War I three VCs were won, two by the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) and one by the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's), bringing honour to the parent Regiment.

The first was won by L/Cpl Keyworth of the 24th London at Givenchy on 25/26 May 1915. The 22nd and 24th were in this engagement. I was there.

The second I know of was Lt Colonel Borton, VC, CMG, DSO, who commanded the 2/22nd Battalion in Palestine, and won his VC at Beersheba. I was also at this engagement, having been transferred from the

1/22nd, but I was in company reserve. Incidentally, Colonel Borton was also awarded the Order of the Nile, 1st Class.

The third VC was gained by Pte, later Sgt, Harvey who won his cross in France with the 1/22nd. I have no details as I had left the Battalion. There were portraits in oil of both Colonel and Sgt Harvey hung in the Drill Hall, Bermondsey. Colonel Borton's decorations and medals were in the Officers Mess there, but have since been transferred to the Regimental Museum at Kingston upon Thames.'

Editor's note

An article by Mr Bradish, entitled 'An old Territorial's Regimental pride', appeared in the May 1968 News Letter.

The portraits of Colonel Borton and Sgt Harvey have recently been restored, and are to be hung in the 'Orchard Room' at the TAVR Centre, Kingston upon Thames.

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

Narratives

The operations of The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War are faithfully recorded in Volume IV of the Regimental History. As mentioned in the Editorial there is a place for personal narratives in the Regimental archives. The object is not primarily to throw fresh light on the events so much as to record what happened, as seen by someone who was there. The Regimental History is necessarily restricted, but an eye witness can give a personal account of an action with the opportunity to mention the names of participants and to record the occasional anecdote.

In a narrative of military operations there is seldom room for the personal touch, and yet the soldier's humour in adverse conditions played a not unimportant part in the maintenance of morale. Here, for instance, is an excerpt from Colonel Harry Smith's narrative referred to below. The scene is an olive grove at Tebourba in North Africa, where the battalion is digging in under fire. The following conversation ensued between the late Randolph Churchill, who was visiting the Battalion, and Pte Johnson, the Second in Command's batman.

Randolph, 'My good man, do you realize that by digging a trench on that spot you may be killing a tree well over a thousand years old?'

Johnno, 'If it's a choice between who goes—me or this — tree—it's going to be the — tree!'

The following accounts have already been written

1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment

a. The Operations in 1940

This narrative, which deals with the 1st Battalion in France between September 1939 and June 1940, has an introduction by Brigadier R. A. Boxshall.

It is available from the address at the heading of this News Letter for 10p, post free.

b. May 1942 to May 1944

Colonel Smith's narrative covers the campaign in North Africa and Sicily and the Italian Campaign up to Cassino. This account deals with the tactical side more fully than the Regimental History and many names are mentioned. Covering some 30 pages, this account will

be of particular interest to old members of the 1st Surreys.

Colonel Smith's narrative costs 20p, post free.

c. Sgt H. Manning's Despatches

These were reprinted in the Surrey Comet as follows.

- (1) In Spearpoint of First Army 14 Aug 43
- (2) Story of the East Surreys in Sicily 20 Oct 43
- (3) Nazis driven back over 40 miles of hard country 12 Aug 44
- (4) How the Gustav Line was cracked 21 and 28 Feb 45

d. The Action at Fort MacGregor

This account by Major R. F. Kinden was mentioned in the News Letter of May 1968. Major Kinden was the sole officer survivor when D Company was overrun in February 1943. A few copies of his narrative are still available, price 3p, post free.

e. The Battle for Lungurella

Written by Captain G. D. Botterell, MBE, this narrative was mentioned in the November 1968 News Letter.

2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment

The Diary of the British Battalion in Malaya.

1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment

A Short Report on the Actions of the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in North Africa, 1943.

So far as is known, the following have still to be written.

1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment

The narrative from May 1944 to the end of the war.

2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment

Any consecutive account of the operations of the Battalion in Malaya.

1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment

The story of the Battalion's operations in 1940 and in Italy.

2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment

The account of the Battalion's operations in 1940.

These accounts are still required for the Regimental archives and it is hoped there is still someone from each of these Battalions who would be prepared to augment the official history with a personal narrative.

The Seventieth Colours

The Seventieth returned from active service in New Zealand in 1866 and the following August new Colours were presented to the Regiment at Aldershot by Lady Scarlett, the wife of the General Officer Commanding, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. Like its predecessors, the Regimental Colour had the red cross of St George on a black field, black facings having been adopted by the Regiment 99 years earlier. The previous stand of Colours had only lasted 19 years having seen service in the Indian Mutiny and in the New Zealand War. The Colours presented to the Regiment by Lady Scarlett on that hot summer day over 100 years ago, in the presence of great numbers of old officers and soldiers of the Seventieth, were to be in service for 78 years.

The Colours accompanied the Regiment to the Afghan War of 1878-79. This was the last time they were on active service with the Seventieth Regiment. On the amalgamation with the Thirty First Regiment in

1881, the Seventieth became the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. After the South African War the 2nd Surreys embarked at Durban in January 1903 for India. In November 1914 the Battalion returned home, and the Colours remained in England throughout the 1914-18 War.

Except for a brief expedition to Turkey in 1920 when the 2nd Battalion marched through Constantinople with bayonets fixed and Colours flying, the Battalion remained at home until 1927 when they were posted to Gibraltar for a three year tour.

The next time the Colours were to accompany the Battalion out of England was in 1938 when the 2nd Battalion embarked for the Far East. After a little under two years at Shanghai, the 2nd Surreys were transferred to Singapore in August 1940. Four months later the Japanese invaded Malaya. When the Battalion was posted up country after six months service in Singapore, the Colours were deposited with the Battalion silver in the vaults of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank at Singapore. Our forces in Malaya were overrun by the Japanese, and the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment was to spend the next three and a half years as prisoners of war. Their Colours, symbols of the pride and traditions of the Regiment, never fell into the hands of the enemy.

The story of their recovery is told by Colonel F. A. H. Magee, formerly adjutant of the 2nd Battalion and who had been appointed DAAG Malaya Command in October 1940. As a subaltern he had carried the famous old black Regimental Colour at the Trooping of the Colour by the 2nd Battalion in Jersey in 1925.

Colonel Magee writes:

'At the end of September 1945, after the Japanese surrender, but while us ex-POWs were still confined to Changi Gaol awaiting repatriation, Lt Col Jack Stitt, 2 Gordons, told me he had visited the vaults of the Bank to see if he could trace his Regimental silver, which had been placed there during the hostilities, and had seen some of ours lying about as well as our Colours. I immediately sought permission to visit the town, as I was due to embark for UK next day. Taking Capt Dick Underwood, 1 Leicesters, who was my Staff Captain and had been with me throughout our time in Changi, we went to the Bank where I saw the Surreys Colours lying on the floor of one of the vaults having been torn off their pikes but otherwise undamaged. I also saw a mass of silver strewn all over the floor some of which I recognized at once as belonging to 2 Surreys.

I set to to sort ours out, from the other units (Loyals, Manchesters, etc) and with Underwood's help, packed the pieces as well as we were able in some empty wooden crates we discovered lying around. I then discovered the big wooden box which used to contain the Mess silver cutlery and this was almost intact as far as I could see. When we had packed all we could find, we nailed down the crates and labelled them 'HMS Nelson, 2 Surreys, Kingston on Thames'. As we had to return to Changi straightaway I sent a signal to HMS Nelson asking them to collect our silver and Colours from the Bank and deliver to the Regimental Depot in due course. (I had met the Captain previously and knew he would help all he could.)

'I remember thinking how little damaged the Colours and silver cups, etc, were, much to my surprise. I do not think there were any members of the Regiment who came home in "Nelson". As I said, I had to embark next day in the "Sobieski" and so had no further hand in the proceedings.'

Thanks to the Royal Navy, the Colours and Regimental silver were delivered to the reconstituted 2nd Battalion at West Chilton on 17th November 1945. Plans had already been made for the trooping and laying-up of the old Seventieth Colours and for the presentation of new Colours. The three-fold ceremony was held on 30th November 1945. The seventy eight year old Colours, then the second oldest stand carried by any Line Regiment, were brought on parade by a party of five members of the original 2nd Battalion, under Major Magee, and handed over to the Escort for the Colours. With the Battalion at the Present, they were then trooped in slow time down the ranks. Thus every man was able to see and pay tribute to the Colours of the old Seventieth Regiment. Finally, the old Colours were escorted to the rear of the Parade, their active service completed. After the new Colours had been presented by General Sir Richard Foster, Colonel of the Regiment, on behalf of HM King George VI, the Battalion marched off to the Regimental March, carrying both stands of Colours.

It was appropriate that the old Colours should be laid up in the Regimental Museum, the repository of our Regimental treasures. Now netted and encased in a glass frame they are preserved, in the closing words of the Consecration ceremony, as 'a sign of duty towards King and Country in the sight of God'.

The British Battalion

In commemoration of the formation of The British Battalion on Malaya on 20th December 1941 from the remnants of the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment and the 1st Battalion The Leicestershire Regiment, the following telegrams were exchanged.

Headquarters,
Royal Anglian Regiment (Leicestershire & Rutland),
T & AVR Centre,
Ulverscroft Road,
Leicester.

Major General J. M. K. Spurling and All Ranks, Serving and Retired, of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment and 4th Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment send Greetings and All Good Wishes to Major General F. A. H. Ling and All Ranks, Serving and Retired, of The East Surrey Regiment and of 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment on 20 December, the Anniversary of the formation of "The British Battalion". They still remember with pride the outstanding bravery in action and equally outstanding fortitude, devotion to duty, comradeship, and example to others as Prisoners of War of that magnificent Battalion formed from men of our two Regiments.

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

Major General F. A. H. Ling Deputy Colonel (Surrey) The Queen's Regiment, and All Members of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association, remembering with pride on the twentieth day of December, the courage and fortitude of the Officers and Soldiers of The British Battalion, send to you and All Members of the Regimental Association of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment, Greetings and All Good Wishes.

Regimental Histories

The following Regimental Histories are available:

The Queen's Regiment

"A guide to The Queen's Regiment" by Major Gregory Blaxland. Obtainable from Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. Price 30p 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 £1.05 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 87p, post free.

The East Surrey Regiment

Volume IV of the Regimental History (1920-1952) is available from the Queen's Surreys Office for £1.05, post free.

Chapels and Memorials

The East Surrey Regiment Chapel

Old members of The East Surrey Regiment will be concerned to hear of an act of vandalism in the Regimental Chapel in the Parish Church at Kingston upon Thames. On the afternoon of Saturday, 2nd January, 1971, the heavy bronze crucifix on the altar was stolen. Although the theft was reported to the police soon after, there has been no trace of the culprit and the cross has not been recovered.

Readers will remember that a few years ago the bronze candlesticks flanking the crucifix were also stolen. They have now been replaced and are secured by chains.

Catania War Cemetery

The register of the Catania War Cemetery records the grave of 5183004 Sgt B. R. Hawkins, 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Basil Hawkins, who originally came to the Surreys from the Glosters, was killed in action in Sicily on 31st July, 1943.

The fact that The East Surrey Regiment had no 5th Battalion in the 1939-45 War was mentioned to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, and they have now amended Sgt Hawkins's headstone with his correct unit.

South African War Graves

Mr. H. E. Winder of White Wickets, 9 Ashford Road, Parkwood, Johannesburg writes:

'One of my trips was to Ladysmith with the South African Military History Society and we spent some days doing the battlefields very thoroughly, lectures from senior officers of the South African Army and all that sort of thing. Incidentally the graves of those of

the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey and the Queen's have been moved to the Clouston Kopie of Remembrance, some miles south of Colenso. Inevitably industry has moved into the original battlefield of Colenso and where the obelisk stood over the graves of those of the Queen's who fell, is now 2nd Avenue, Colenso. The obelisk and the dead have been moved to the Clouston Kopie'.

A note on Mr. Winder will be found elsewhere in this News Letter.

Memorial lych gate at Tanglin

Major R. H. Esler, who is Quartermaster at Headquarters, FARELF, Singapore, writes that he has had the job of preparing the lych gate from St George's Church, Tanglin, for shipment to the Queen's Divisional Depot at Bassingbourn.

This lych gate was constructed from the timber of an altar made by British Prisoners of War incarcerated in Changi jail from 1942 to 1945. Many officers and soldiers of the former Regiments, now forming part of the Queen's Division, who spent several years in this notorious Prisoner of War Camp will be glad to know that this memorial gate is being preserved.

Legacy

Lieut Colonel C. R. K. Bacon, OBE, whose death was reported in the November 1970 News Letter, spent most of his long service with African troops. Yet he remained an enthusiastic and generous supporter of the Queen's. Some years ago, he presented to the Regimental Museum his unique set of medals and his sword with the Queen's badge emblazoned on the blade.

In 1966 Colonel Bacon made a generous donation to the Regimental Museum. On 24th May, 1970, Charles Bacon passed on, at the age of 93. His final act of consideration for his old Regiment was to bequeath the sum of £1,000 for the upkeep of Regimental Chapels.

The following letter was sent by Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, to Miss C. M. Bacon, the sister of the late Colonel Bacon.

'Dear Miss Bacon,

'I have learned from Mr. Carey of Lee, Bolton and Lee, Solicitors, of Colonel Bacon's most generous legacy for the upkeep of our Regimental Chapels. I and my Regiment are deeply grateful, and I felt that I must write and tell you this.

'Although I personally did not know your brother, my predecessor, General Francis Piggott, and my Regimental Secretary, Major John Reed, both knew him well and used to visit him at Fleet.

'It may interest you to know that we have three Regimental Chapels which we look after, and your brother's bequest will now help enormously to ensure that these are kept in the condition that he would have liked.

With my very best wishes,

Sgd.: F. A. H. Ling.'

Adult Service with the Army Cadet Force

There are two categories of Adult required by the Army Cadet Force:—

- (a) Officers (age limits 20-55 years).
- (b) Sgt Major or Sgt Instructors (age limits 19-55 years).

Officers

Unless he has previously held a commission, a candidate for a commission in the Surrey ACF must be prepared to serve for at least 12 months in the rank of SMI or SI. If suitable, he will then go before a Selection Board and if accepted be appointed as a probationary 2/Lt for a period of 2 years.

During this period he will have to attend:—

1. one Annual Camp of at least 7 days duration
2. one course at Cadet Trg Centre, Frimley Park, of one week's duration
3. pass the Certificate 'A' examination, Parts I and II after which he will be confirmed in his commission and promoted to substantive Lieut.

If an applicant has previously been commissioned he will forgo the above and be appointed as a Lieut. The majority of vacancies are for subaltern Detachment Commanders but there are occasionally vacancies for more senior appointments.

Sgt Major/Sgt Instructors

The normal rank on entry is S/I with promotion to SMI after 4 years service. If however an applicant has served in the Regular Army or TA as a WO or Sgt he will be granted the rank of SMI on entry.

Terms of Service

All Adults serve for an initial period of 3 years which can be extended but can resign at any time on submission of a formal letter of resignation.

ACF Units parade, on average, two evenings a week with occasional weekends on ranges, camps, courses and attend annual camp for one or two weeks in August.

Training is largely elementary infantry, i.e. drill, weapon training, map reading, fieldcraft, section leading and non-military activities include most forms of sport, canoeing, rock climbing, Duke of Edinburgh Award etc.

Pay of rank is granted up to 28 days per annum and motor mileage allowance/fares paid for home to duty travel and certain duty journeys.

As the Army Cadet Force is a youth organisation and not part of the Armed Forces, members have no operational commitment unless they are members of the Reserve.

Instructors are required at Redhill, Reigate, Dorking, Bletchingley, Caterham, Chertsey, Addlestone, Walton, Camberley, Bagshot and Chobham.

Enquiries should be addressed to Cadet Executive Officer, Surrey ACF, TAVR Centre, Sandfield Terrace, Guildford. (Tel.: Guildford 76347.)

If you are interested in serving with the ACF but do not reside in Surrey, the above CEO can put you in touch with the relevant County HQ in which you are interested.

Welfare—Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey.

1. The Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, was opened at Richmond upon Thames in 1916 as a home and hospital for all disabled ex-servicemen, including officers. It is an independent registered charity.

2. It is not essential that disability should have been

acquired during service in the Forces, and those who have become disabled or infirm after retirement or discharge are also eligible for admission to the provisional waiting list. Accommodation is available for 200 in single rooms, with wards for those requiring heavy nursing, and waiting time may be dependent on the nature of the disability.

3. There are physiotherapy and occupational therapy departments and a new hydro-therapy pool will be opened in 1971. The physiotherapy services which can be offered will be of particular assistance in helping younger disabled men to recover lost faculties.

4. Application for admission to the provisional waiting list should be made to the Secretary.

Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Home

The Lord Kitchener Memorial Holiday Homes at Lowestoft offers a free fortnight's holiday for ex-Servicemen who would otherwise be unable to afford a holiday. The Home is for men only.

Further particulars are obtainable from the Secretary of the Regimental Association.

The Regular Forces Employment Association

This Association is part of the Forces Resettlement Service and its object is to find suitable employment for men and women when they leave the Services and in the years thereafter. It is registered as a charity and draws its income from Public Funds and from the Services Benevolent and Welfare Organisations. Its services are available to all who have not held commissioned rank in the Regular Forces and who leave with character assessments of 'Good' or better after more than three years service, or have been invalided from the Services before completing three years.

The Association works in close co-operation with the Services and the Department of Employment and operates through 44 Branches covering the United Kingdom, each of which is run by an Employment Officer who has been in the Service himself and is in close touch with local employers. The experience of the Employment Officers and their close contacts with employers enable them to place ex-Regulars in jobs which suit them. In 1970 the Association placed 10,150 men and women from the Services in employment and 99% of the jobs were of a permanent nature.

Of the jobs found by the Association, nearly 4,000 were for men and women from the Army and 29 were from the Regiment. The Association is at your service. The addresses and telephone numbers of its Branches can be obtained from Corps and Regimental Associations, from Post Offices and from Employment Exchanges.

All its services are free.

Deaths

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

Smith On 9th February, 1970, Robert C. Smith (6779588) aged 66. Enlisting as a boy in 1917, he served in India with the 2nd Queen's. Most of his service was in the 24th London Regiment, from which he was invalided in 1942. He served a further three years in 6th Queen's from 1949 to 1952.

Simmons On 5th May, 1970, Major F. L. Simmons. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War and the 1939-45 War.

Bannister On 18th May, 1970, CSM William Leonard Bannister (6080345), aged 69. He joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1922 after nearly four years previous service in the Royal Marine Light Infantry. He served in both Regular battalions of the Queen's and was invalided out of the Service in 1943.

Skipper On 12th October, 1970, Pte Arthur Skipper (23008), aged 84. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1914 to 1919 and was taken prisoner at Fresnoy in May 1917 while serving in the 1st Battalion.

Stiles On 2nd November, 1970, Drum Major John Edwin Stiles (6085531), aged 54. Enlisted in 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1933 and transferred to a Regular engagement the following year. He was Drum Major of the 1st Battalion, and retired in 1961 after 27 years Colour service. Mr Stiles attended the Regimental Association Reunion only a fortnight before his death.

Bryant On 8th November, 1970, Sgt John Thomas Bryant (7949), aged 84. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1903 to 1916 and later in the Royal Air Force.

Swindell On 3rd December, 1970, L/Cpl Norman Robert Swindell (2006), aged 79. Served in the 9th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1919.

Eley On 4th December, 1970, Captain Henry Gerard Eley, aged 83. Served in the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1918, and was wounded in 1916. See obituary.

Price On 2nd January, 1971, the Rt Rev Dudley William Mackay Price, aged 71. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War. He was ordained in 1940, and was Titular Abbot of St Mary's, York, from 1969.

West On 3rd January, 1971, Sgt Kenneth West (14493848), aged 44. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment and later The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment from 1944 to 1966. See obituary.

Morris On 7th February, 1971, Cpl Vivian George Morris (6141094), aged 52. He enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in India in 1935 and showed himself to be a first class hockey player. During the war, Cpl Morris served in 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Wade On 12th February, 1971, L/Cpl Charles Wade (6946), aged 85. Served in both Regular battalions of The East Surrey Regiment and was wounded in the Battle of the Somme.

Rixon On 15th February, 1971, Pte Joseph Rixon (6134567), aged 65. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1922 to 1931.

Gould On 18th February, 1971, Captain Edward Russell Gould, aged 81. Served in France and Greece in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1915 to 1919, and was awarded the Greek Order of the Redeemer. He rejoined the Regiment in 1940 and served at the Regimental Depot.

O'Sullivan-Cuil On 25th February, 1971, Major Berkeley Campbell O'Sullivan-Cuil, formerly Quill. Served in 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment before the 1914-18 War during which he was awarded the Military Cross and the Belgian War Cross and was mentioned in despatches.

Clark On 7th March, 1971, Lieut Colonel Charles Alfred Clark, DSO, MC, aged 92. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1896 to 1933. See obituary.

Stephens On 11th March, 1971, Lt Colonel George Jack Stephens, TD, aged 52. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1948 to 1959. See obituary.

Whaley On 11th March, 1971, L/Cpl John Thomas Henry Whaley. Served in the 1st and 2nd Bns The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1947 to 1949, and later in 297 LAA Regiment RA, TA (Kent Yeomanry).

Wheeler On 15th March, 1971, Pte Jack Wheeler (3400), aged 83. Served in the 2/4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1919.

Blow On 17th March, 1971, Sgt Herbert Percy William Blow (6082841), aged 60. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1926 to 1937.

Bentley On 18th March, 1971, Lieut C. A. (John) St Auburn Bentley, aged 95. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment on the Western Front in the 1914-18 War.

Doyle On 24th April, 1971, Major Philip Doyle, MC, aged 75. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1916 to 1942. See obituary.

Regimental Families

Thompson We regret to announce the death last October of Mrs Nellie Thompson, widow of the late Major (QM) S. J. Thompson, MBE, The East Surrey Regiment, and of their daughter, Joyce, who died in September, 1970.

Longley We regret to announce the death of Lady Longley on 19th January, 1971, within five days of her 101st birthday. At the funeral, The East Surrey Regiment was represented by Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL, the last Colonel of the Regiment, and by a number of retired members of the Regiment and their ladies.

Brigadier Roupell writes:

'As one of her oldest friends I should like to pay a tribute to Lady Longley's loyalty to what she always looked upon as "her Regiment", The Surreys, and her devotion to that unit.

'During the First World War Mrs Longley was largely responsible for the organization and administration of the fund for sending food, tobacco, etc, to our prisoners of war and in so doing brought relief to a number of our men in German prison camps.

'Throughout her life in the Army, firstly as the wife of a junior officer and later when he became Bn Commander and eventually Colonel of the Regiment, Lady Longley always took a great interest in the welfare of All Ranks of The East Surrey Regiment.

'Great kindness was Lady Longley's outstanding characteristic and we remember with gratitude the life and example of a great lady.'

Among the tributes paid by the Regiment, the following was received from Major General J. Y. Whitfield, the last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment:

'I want to send you a word to say how much we admired her steadfast loyalty to her husband's Regiment. She was a charming person, and I know how much you yourself will miss her.'

Wilkinson On 19th March, 1971 at St Helier, Jersey, Mrs Theresa Eliza Wilkinson, aged 91, widow of the late CQMS G. H. Wilkinson, The East Surrey Regiment. Mr Wilkinson died in internment in Germany after being deported from the Island during the Occupation in the 1939-45 War.

Summers On 12th March, 1971, as the result of a riding accident, Mrs Olive Muriel Summers, wife of Major C. W. Summers, TD, The Queen's Royal Regiment.

Twohey On 13th April, 1971, aged 81, Mrs Twohey, widow of Mr Alec Twohey, first Chairman of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association.

Obituaries

Colonel Brian Hughes Reckitt, TD

By the death of Colonel Brian Hughes-Reckitt on 23rd August, 1970, at the age of 75, the Queen's Regiment has lost a proud and loyal member and friend of fifty six years standing.

Educated at Shrewsbury School he joined the Honourable Artillery Company at the outbreak of war in 1914. Later that year he was commissioned into the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) in St Albans where he then lived.

He served with the 24th in France, transferring to the Machine Gun Corps in 1916. A cut on barbed wire caused blood poisoning and heart trouble, and he was invalided home, spending the rest of the war in command of a training company at Grantham.

A keen Territorial, he joined the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) in Bermondsey after the war. He was appointed second-in-command in 1929 and commanded the Battalion from 1931-35. He then retired with the rank of Brevet Colonel. The Hughes-Reckitt Bowl presented during his command for Assault-at-Arms is now in possession of the Cadre of the 6th Queen's at Kingston upon Thames.

On mobilization in 1939 he was recalled to form the 2nd

6th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (which the 22nd London Regiment had then become). The battalion moved from Bermondsey to Caterham. For health reasons his command ended in February 1940.

That year the Prime Minister instructed Captain Sir Richard Pimm, RNVR, who was in charge of his Map Room in the Admiralty, to enlarge it by the introduction of four Army Officers of Colonel rank. Colonel Hughes-Reckitt was one of those officers. The Map Room with this team (later augmented) was set up at No. 10 Downing Street for the duration of the War.

In 1944 Colonel Hughes-Reckitt was chosen by Captain Pimm to accompany the Prime Minister to the second Quebec Conference. A working Map Room was established in RMS "Queen Mary" which crossed the Atlantic in September. The full Map Room was set up in the Citadel, Quebec. It was visited daily by President Roosevelt who personally complimented Colonel Hughes-Reckitt on the arrangements and his explanations.

Captain Pimm speaks highly of the Colonel's work during the five years he was in the Map Room: of his good humour under many trying conditions, and of his handling of the many distinguished visitors.

After the war he retired to Sproughton Village near Ipswich where he lived until his death. He was known affectionately as 'The Colonel' and no one had any doubt who was meant. He continued keenly interested in Regimental affairs and attended many Queen's functions.

In 1925 he married Miss Nancy Reckitt who survives him with two sons and one daughter.

H. G. Eley, MBE

Henry Gerard Eley, who has died at the age of 83, was another of our officers with a seafaring background. Born in Dublin in 1887, he was educated at Charterhouse and Cambridge. He went to sea in 1907 as an apprentice in a four-masted barque, and later became fourth mate. On the long voyages between London and Sydney he had time to study for his Master's square-rigged ticket for which he qualified in 1915. At this time he was second officer of a tanker and hoping to be transferred to the Royal Navy. Impatient at the delay, Eley decided to 'swallow the anchor' and within four days he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in The East Surrey Regiment and posted to the 8th Battalion.

He brought to the Surreys a bright and breezy character, and what a brother officer has described as 'a varied and copious nautical vocabulary' which much impressed his platoon. Eley was wounded in France and was not fit enough to rejoin the Battalion. He was awarded the MBE for service at the port of Richborough where his knowledge of handling ships was put to good advantage.

For the remainder of his long career, Eley was associated with his family cartridge firm which became part of ICI.

K. West

Mr I. A. Herbert writes:

'Ken West loved his Regiment and never ceased at any given opportunity to recollect past events, and I have spent many hours with him on this theme. This note would be incomplete without a word of praise for his devoted wife. For her this was a very long haul, she was under constant strain but never ceased in her endeavours to tend, care, nurse, and love her husband during his very long illness. And he himself, throughout his illness showed great courage and fortitude. The Regiment has lost a very loyal and devoted member, and a soldier in the true sense, of the "Old School".'

Lieut-Colonel C. A. Clark, DSO, MC

Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL writes:

'C. A. Clark, known to all his friends as "Nobby", enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1896 and first saw active service in South Africa with our 2nd Battalion. At the end of that war he was posted to the 1st Battalion and served with them in England and Ireland until 1914 attaining the rank of CSM.

It was then that I first met Nobby and was deeply impressed by the fine example of man-management, loyalty, efficiency and love for his Regiment which he set for us all.

'Early in 1914 he was promoted RSM of the 4th Battalion with whom he served until January 1916 when he received a commission and joined the 9th Battalion in France, as Adjutant. Nobby served with that Battalion continuously until wounded in the German Offensive of March 1918 and during that time saw a great deal of heavy fighting and severe losses in the 9th Battalion. He seemed to bear a charmed life but some indication of the casualties of his unit can be gathered from the fact that, in spite of his junior rank, on no less than five occasions Nobby was left as the senior surviving officer and as such took command of the Battalion until the arrival of the next CO. He proved himself to be a most courageous and highly efficient officer and his quick promotion from 2nd Lieutenant to Major speaks for itself.

'He retired in 1933 as a Brevet Lt Colonel, but 1939 saw him in uniform again in the ARP service. He was Chief Air Raid Warden of Folkestone from 1940 to 1945.

'One of Nobby's outstanding characteristics was his ability to inspire men with self-confidence and enthusiasm, not only in war but also in peace-time soldiering as shown by the success of the teams he coached in rifle-shooting, tug-of-war, athletics, etc.

'Nobby Clark was held in high regard by all who had the privilege of serving with him and now we remember a most lovable character, a very gallant officer and a great gentleman'.

Other opinions and recollections

R. C. Sherriiff

The following extract is from 'My Diary' published in the Regimental Journal of May 1937. Second Lt Sherriiff joined the 9th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in France in 1916 and wrote of the Adjutant as follows:

'Lieut Clark—universally known as "Nobby" (later Major Clark, DSO, MC) was an ex-RSM and a great soldier who knew every detail of his work (and everyone else's, too). He was very popular and commanded the respect of officers and men without distinction. I think this was because his rigid training as a Regular soldier had never robbed him of his sense of humour and his understanding of civilians in temporary uniform.'

F. T. Eatwell

The late Mr Eatwell, recalling the time in 1918 when Major Clark assumed command of the 9th Surreys when Lt Colonel Le Fleming was killed, wrote:

'On 28th March, 1918 the 9th Battalion was in the line near Rosières, much reduced in numbers and short of ammunition. During a lull in the bitter fighting in which the Battalion became completely cut off, Major Clark addressed his men as follows:—

"We have nothing on our flanks, and there are no supports in rear. You will either be killed or captured before the morning is out. Stick it out for the honour of the Regiment!"

The remnants of the Battalion fought on till they were overrun. The Germans then charged in and took 2 officers and 55 men, among them Major Clark and Mr Eatwell.

The Regimental Journal

The following appeared in the Regimental Journal of February 1934 on his retirement.

'Colonel Clark has the rare gift of inspiring others with his own enthusiasm, and this gift, above all, accounts for his exceptional success as a leader and trainer in war and peace, work and sport. Whether with a squad of recruits, a shooting team or a battalion in action, he always attained the whole hearted co-operation of each individual, and as a result, the highest success.

'Although few have done more for this Regiment, Colonel "Nobby" Clark will be missed by all ranks more for his genial personality than for his many achievements. No boxing meeting will seem complete without him in the chair, and no Regimental or social occasion without his cheerful presence.'

The Happy Warrior

There is perhaps one outstanding characteristic by which Nobby will always be remembered, and that is the radiant happiness which shone through the whole of his life and inspired everyone who came into contact with him. This

did not derive solely from the blessings of a devoted family life, nor from his host of friends—it was part of his disposition. His cheerfulness never failed even in the darkest hours. If ever the term 'gallant and high-hearted happiness' applied to anyone, it was to Nobby Clark.

He loved people and there was nothing he enjoyed more than to be with old friends. Who can ever forget seeing him, with the tears streaming down his face, convulsed with laughter at some story he was telling. It was not just the funny side of life which Nobby saw, he imbued everyone he met with the spirit of gaiety and good cheer.

He wrote recently 'Merry goes the day when the heart is young'. His friends may feel these words exemplify his own wonderful spirit of courage and good cheer.

Lieut-Colonel Jack Stephens, TD

Jack was born on 10th August, 1918, his father being a Regular officer of The King's Own Royal Regiment (Lancaster). Educated at Cheltenham College, on leaving school in 1936 he declined to follow in his father's footsteps, and instead entered commercial life by joining Hay's Wharf in the same year.

On 17th June, 1939 he was commissioned to The London Irish Rifles (TA) and served with that Regiment until 1942 when he was transferred to his father's Regiment. Promoted to Captain in 1944, he attended the war-time Staff College where he qualified jsc. Posted to India he served in various staff appointments in New Delhi finally attaining the rank of Lieut-Colonel.

In 1948 he returned to UK, the same year that he married Miss Daphne Louise Lloyd, and returned to his old company, Hay's Wharf. In this year too he rejoined the Territorial Army being gazetted to 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) to serve as Staff Captain of Headquarters 131 (Surrey) Infantry Brigade, subsequently to become DAA and QMG of that formation, until retiring from the TA in 1959.

In his civilian career he rose through several managerial posts to become in 1965, Managing Director of Pickfords and Hay's Wharf Shipping and Forwarding Company Ltd, the appointment he held with Pickfords until his death.

Jack was an extrovert, and a man of many and varied interests. In addition to his keen and wholehearted interest in the Territorial Army, he was Chairman of the Hay's Wharf Branch of the British Legion, and a Member of the London Junior Chamber of Commerce. His hobbies included shooting, fishing (he was a member of the Shark Angling Club of Great Britain), music and horse racing (he was quite successful a punter). He dearly loved any games of chance and was noted for organizing poker-dice and 'crap-shooting' games at TA Annual Camps where his cry of 'Up she goes—and Baddeley Baxter' as the dice rolled, or 'Who's for a drop of Whittle' at the bar after a long and hard exercise, will be remembered by many Brigade Commanders, Brigade Majors, and anybody who visited the HQ 131 Bde or 6th East Surrey Messes.

Jack's engaging personality, his unflagging energy, his deep interest in people, and his determination to enjoy life to the full continued despite his becoming ill with diabetes in 1959, and it was only in the last six months of his life that he curbed both his business and social activities. With Daphne, his wife, we share the loss of a truly great character.

Major P. K. Doyle, MC

Philip Doyle was commissioned in The Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment in July 1916 and served in France and Belgium. He was wounded twice and was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in 1918. On the disbandment of the Irish Regiments in 1922, he was transferred to The East Surrey Regiment and served at regimental duty at home and abroad for the next twenty years.

Of a cheerful, happy disposition Philip will be remembered by his many friends for his generosity and companionship. He was, like most officers transferred from the Irish Regiments, an accomplished horseman, and he was hunting regularly until quite recently. He was a regular member of Regimental hockey teams in his younger days.

Philip had an engaging personality, and his kindness and the little twinkle in his eye will be remembered by all who knew him.