

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

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Regimental Headquarters

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

News Letter No. 10

November, 1971

Editorial

This issue of the News Letter is overshadowed by the death of Major General J. Y. Whitfield, the last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment. He, with Brigadier Roupell, his opposite number in The East Surrey Regiment, did much to ensure the smooth amalgamation of our former Regiments in October 1959. An appreciation of General Whitfield, including an account of his distinguished career, appears on another page.

The General was buried with full military honours in the churchyard of the village church at Chiddingfold where he had worshipped for many years. At the funeral service, which was attended by seven generals and a large number of Regimental and personal friends, tribute was paid to John Whitfield's steadfastness, his integrity and his triumph over adversity.

Everyone will remember with respect and admiration the indomitable courage which sustained him in his later years. He bore the loss of his sight uncomplainingly, and supported by a wonderful wife, he did not let this affliction interfere with his activities and many interests. John Whitfield was an outward-looking man and he took a deep interest in people and their problems. He remained a faithful Christian soldier and servant until his life's end, and at the funeral General Ling's reading of the famous passage from the Pilgrim's Progress ending 'So he passed over and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side' was entirely appropriate.

Honours and Awards

We congratulate the following officers on their awards published in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Military

CBE Brigadier R. S. N. Mans

MBE Lt Colonel M. J. Doyle

Civil

CB Lt Colonel P. Adams

Gallantry

HQ The Queen's Division announced on 5th October, 1971, that the undermentioned soldier of 3 Queen's has been awarded the BEM for gallantry in Northern Ireland.

24154237 Pte D. Bennett

Anniversaries

We offer our congratulations and best wishes on the following occasions:

9th June, 1971

Major F. Waspe, MBE, on his 80th birthday.
See separate item.

13th July, 1971

Mrs. L. M. Voisin, mother of the late Lt Colonel F. O. Voisin, on her 100th birthday.

17th July, 1971

Mr. F. W. Lovell, MC, and Mrs. Lovell on their Diamond Wedding.

2nd September, 1971

Lt Colonel and Mrs. D. J. Allfree on their Ruby Wedding.

Major General J. Y. Whitfield: An Appreciation

In the death of Major General John Whitfield The Queen's Regiment has lost one of its best-loved, most highly respected and distinguished sons.

John Yeldham Whitfield was born on 11th October, 1899, and educated at Monmouth School and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment in December 1918 and thereafter served for many years, both in West and East Africa. In 1942 he returned to England to take command of a battalion of his Regiment in The Queen's Brigade of 56 (London) Division. This battalion he took to Iraq and to the closing stages of the 8th Army's Campaign in North Africa; to Europe and the assault landing at Salerno, thence across the Volturno to Monte Camino. It was in the capture of the Monte Camino monastery that he personally led the attack exchanging shots with the Germans with his pistol while advancing from rock to rock. He was fortunately, not a large target, but as the developing war and later peace were to show, he was a very valuable one.

None who served with J.Y. will forget his tireless energy, thoroughness, complete fearlessness, but above all, the faith which illuminated a comparatively frail body, but massively unconquerable spirit.

In January 1944, having acted as Brigade Commander on and off since Salerno, he was finally re-promoted Brigadier (he had been Brigadier General Staff to General Sir George Giffard in West Africa until his return to England in 1942). As a Brigade Commander in the 5th Division he fought on the Garigliano and through three testing months at Anzio.

In July he had a few days away from battle when he took 15 Brigade to Egypt. Although a fine staff officer and administrator, he could not be kept from command for long; in fact his next appointment as BGS, 5 Corps, in Italy, to which he then returned, he held for some fifteen days only.

General Templer, Commander, 56 (London) Division, had been recalled to England. In a matter of minutes,

Forecast of Principal Regimental and other Service Functions in 1972

Date and Time	Place	Function	Particulars
Thu. 13 and Fri. 14 Apr.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Spring Meeting and AGM	Secretary
Sat. 6 May 1830 hrs.	Kingston	WOs and Sgts Association AGM followed by Annual Dinner	Secretary
Thu. 18 May (Provisional)	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines	Secretary
Fri. 9 June (Provisional)	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Cocktail Party	Secretary
Sun. 18 June 1115 hrs.	Guildford	Regimental Association Annual Cathedral Service	Secretary
Thu. 5 and Fri. 6 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Autumn Meeting	Secretary
Fri. 6 Oct. 1900 hrs. for 2000 hrs.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Annual Dinner	Secretary
Sat. 7 Oct. 1900 hrs.	Kingston	WOs and Sgts Association Ladies Dinner and Dance	Secretary
Fri. 13 Oct. 1830 hrs.	Kingston	Regimental Association Annual Reunion	Secretary
Sun. 12 Nov.	Kingston Guildford	Remembrance Day Parade	Queen's Surreys Office A Coy 5 Queen's (V)

on the 26th July, 1944, he handed over command to Major General John Whitfield at the Eden Hotel, Rome, with a toast to his and the Division's success, drunk by them both in Italian champagne. So began the long and dedicated association of John Whitfield with the Black Cat Division of whose dinner club he later became the chairman.

From August 1944 he was more or less continuously in action during the last stages of the Italian campaign: Gothic line, Senio battles, crossing the Rubicon into the Northern plains of Italy until he entered Venice at the head of his Division in March 1945. The Grand Hotel on the Grand Canal provided a worthy headquarters for him, and there he remained until the Division was moved to Trieste on the borders of Yugoslavia.

In 1946, after two years and two months as GOC 56 Division, he returned to England to command 50 Northumberland Division and Northumbrian District. He then became Chief of Staff, Northern Command until his retirement in 1951; but from 1951 to 1955 he was specially re-employed as Inspector of Recruiting at the War Office.

Although the Regiment was always his first love, he undertook many commitments of a service nature. He presided over the 56 Division dinner club until 1970, by which time he was so incapacitated that even his indomitable will could not allow him to attend its gatherings. It was time for a hand-over once more—in fact, to Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer. He was also chairman of the Royal West African Frontier Forces and the King's African Rifles dinner clubs, and, in addition, a very active member of the executive committee of the Forces Help Society and Lord Roberts' Workshop.

Of the many honours he received—he was awarded

the Order of the Red Star after a party of visiting Russian generals had stood in admiration on the Camino battlefield in 1944—he valued most his appointment as Colonel of his old Regiment. It transpired that he was to be the last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment, for the line begun by the Earl of Peterborough in 1661 ended with him when the Regiment was amalgamated on 14th October, 1959. He played his part in the parade that day although he could not see the Duke of Edinburgh present the new Regiment with its new Colours. For John Whitfield was by then quite blind. He had been almost continuously in action from April 1943 until April 1945. His courage was legendary. His faith overcame all possibility of fear, and he remained untouched by shot or shell. However the courage he showed in battle was never greater than that he showed in peace when so cruelly struck down by diabetes and the subsequent blindness which, in his case, accompanied it; later strokes and paralysis. Few can imagine how he suffered during his last ten years. None ever heard a word of complaint about his suffering—'I am going on as well as can be expected—on my one cylinder', he would say.

Thirty-five years ago John Whitfield married Sheelagh Norah Dundan Quin of Inch, County Wexford, who has watched by him and nursed him through these last long dark years of courageous suffering with a loyal and loving devotion which cannot often have been equalled in any walk of life.

The Queen's Regiment The Regiment, Past and Present

The last issue of the News Letter traced the various changes of title since the Amalgamation of The Queen's

Royal Regiment with The East Surrey Regiment in 1959, and described how the memory of the former Regiments, their achievements and traditions were preserved in the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment. Lt Colonel Pielow, the Commanding Officer, writes 'I am sending you this letter 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.'

We have pleasure in printing the following further letter from Colonel Pielow to Major Reed, the Regimental Secretary, and are confident it will be of considerable interest to our old soldiers.

'You may recall that I wrote to you on 2nd April, 1971, just after we had re-named companies in the Battalion, and I thought you might be interested to hear how things are going.

Thanks to the generous help and encouragement we have received from County Offices we have been able to give each Company its own guidon, a replica of the one we have in Battalion Headquarters and of which I sent you a colour photograph. You will also have seen the black and white picture of them in the June 1971 issue of The Queen's Regiment Journal.

These guidons have been enthusiastically received by Companies, and are displayed in Company Offices where the soldiers can see them. They are carried by the right guide on Company and Battalion parades, and were all carried in the leading file of the Battalion, by six Sergeants, when we led the Allied Forces Day Parade in Berlin last May.

I want to make them even more meaningful, and with the approval of County Offices would eventually like to have a small plaque made for each guidon saying something along the lines of:

"Presented to Holland Company 1 Queen's by the Old Comrades of The Buffs. Berlin 1971".

In addition to its own guidon, each Company is getting (and some already have) a flag in their former Regiment's colours with our own Regimental badge in the middle. These flags are flown on Companies' flag poles in barracks. They were made by us in Berlin from flag material supplied by Piggots in England (who formerly made Regimental Flags for most, if not all, of our former Regiments). The Queen's Regiment badge, central in each of them, ensures uniformity as well as being symbolic of our association with our former Regiments.

We have recently had a set of eight new flag poles erected in line on the playing fields in barracks, and on high days and holidays (e.g. Albuhera Day, Battalion Rifle Meeting, Army Cup soccer matches, etc., etc.) we fly our Regimental flag, the Berlin Brigade flag and the flags of our six former Regiments, thanks once again to the generosity of the County Offices who gave them to us.

Companies are very conscious of their names and their significance, and I hope many Old Comrades see them mentioned in our contribution to the Regimental Journal. To give you some concrete examples of their usage:

a. Companies celebrate their Battle Honour Day and normally have the day off. (In the case of Albuhera Coy a day in lieu, as we celebrate Albuhera Day

Regimentally).

b. On 13th September it was the turn of Quebec Coy to fly The Royal Sussex flag on our "Guests' Flag Pole" at the entrance to barracks.

c. I intend to give each Company the Regimental Call of its former Regiment as a Company Call.

d. When what used to be called "A Company" plays in the football competitions, it is billed as "Tangier Company 1 QUEENS".

e. Sobraon Coy (currently the holders of our KIRKE'S award) share the honour with the Sgts' Mess on 10th February (Sobraon Day), when, of course the Sgts' Mess by tradition has custody of the Colours for the day.

f. Each Company is adopting as its Company Colours, for sports shirts, etc., the Colours of its former Regiment.

g. We have just "sworn in" to the Battalion a 2ft high red Parrott for duty with our Steel Band. His number, rank and name is 2331355057 Drummer Wellington, and we give no prizes for working out the make-up of his number!

I hope all this shows you how proud we are of the part played by the former Regiments in our history, and although I do not know so for certain, I suspect that we may be unique as far as this active association with our forebears is concerned. I hope also that this letter will help you to put across to the Old Comrades that their Regiments are constantly remembered in the Battalion.

I thought that you might also be interested to see the enclosed Battalion biography in which we explain our heritage and background. We used it for the Queen's Birthday Parade programme and also when we supply information to our local papers in Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex.

The Biography of the 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

Allied Colonels-in-Chief: HM King Frederick IX of Denmark
HM Queen Juliana of the Netherlands

Colonel of the Regiment: Lieutenant General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB DSO

The Battalion traces its origin to 1661 when, on 14th October of that year, The 2nd Regiment of Foot had its first muster in London on Putney Heath. It is thus the direct descendant of the oldest and most senior English Infantry Regiment of the Line in the British Army. The 2nd of Foot had been raised for the defence of Tangier, the port acquired by King Charles II from the King of Portugal as part of the contract for marrying his daughter, Princess Catherine of Braganza. Some three months after its first muster the Regiment set sail to become The 1st Tangier Regiment of Foot.

It returned to England in 1684 and was kept in being by King Charles and referred to by him as "our dearest consort The Queen's Regiment", the first known use of the present title. The 2nd Regiment of Foot was later to become The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) until on 14th October, 1959, the 298th anniversary of the muster on Putney Heath, when it amalgamated with The East Surrey Regiment to form The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment.

The present Queen's Regiment formally came into being on 31st December, 1966 and The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment became its 1st Battalion. Thus with its three sister Battalions it is now an equal heir to all the traditions and history of its ancestors in the following old Regiments which evolved into the modern Queen's Regiment:—

- The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)—2nd of Foot, formed at Putney in October 1661.
- The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment)—3rd of Foot, formed as The Holland Regiment on 31st May, 1665 from the Trained Bands of London, having fought continuously in the Low Countries since 1st May, 1572.
- The East Surrey Regiment—originally raised in the West Country as Villiers' Marines on 14th March, 1702, later to become the 31st (The Huntingdonshire) Regiment of Foot.
- The Royal Sussex Regiment—the 35th of Foot, raised in Belfast in June 1701 by The Earl of Donegal on the orders of the Prince of Orange, King William III of England.
- The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment—raised in Norwich in January 1756 as the 50th of Foot. During the Peninsular War the 50th earned the soubriquet "The Dirty Half Hundred", because dye from their black cuffs came off on the troops' faces when, in the heat of battle, they wiped the sweat from their brows.
- The Middlesex Regiment (Duke of Cambridge's Own)—raised in 1756 and universally known as "The Diehards" after the Regiment's heroic fight in the battle of Albuhera in Spain on 16th May, 1811.

The fighting record of The Queen's Regiment is impressive. The Battle Honour "Tangier 1662-80" is the earliest on any Infantry Colour in the British Army. Battles and campaigns include Sedgemoor 1685, the Continental War 1689-97. The War of the Spanish Succession 1702-13, The War of Austrian Succession 1742-48, The Seven Years War 1756-63, The War of American Independence 1776-83, The French War 1793-1801, The Napoleonic Wars 1803-15, The Crimean War 1854-56, The South African War 1899-1902, the two World Wars and finally, Korea 1950-51. Since then, the forbears of The Queen's Regiment have been engaged in peacetime operations in Malaya, Egypt, Cyprus, Aden, British Guiana and Hong Kong.

Since 1959, apart from service in England and Northern Ireland the Battalion has been stationed in Aden, Hong Kong, Munster and Bahrain. Just before coming to Berlin it provided Public Duties in London including mounting guard on Buckingham Palace and the Tower of London. The soldiers serving today hail from throughout the area of London and the Home Counties, coming from Surrey, Middlesex, Kent and Sussex.

Evidence of The Battalion's descent from its six former Regiments can be readily seen. The signs outside Montgomery Barracks in Kladow depict the new Queen's Colour and Regimental Colour, yet to be presented to the Battalion, and on which one can trace the origins, history and some of the Battle Honours won since 1661. Much of the silver, and regimental property

held by the Battalion, particularly in the Officers' and Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, once belonged to these former Regiments, whose guidons stand in the entrance to Battalion Headquarters.

The Battalion celebrates three main occasions:—

Sobraon Day, 10th February, recalls the action in 1846 of Sgt McCabe of the 31st of Foot when this valiant Sergeant saved the Regimental Colour from capture by the enemy. Each year on 10th February the Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess has the honour of keeping for the day the Regimental Colour, normally held in the Officers' Mess.

Albuhera Day commemorates the famous action at Albuhera in the Spanish Peninsular War when, on 16th May, 1811, three of the Regiment's forbears, the 3rd of Foot, the 31st of Foot and the 57th of Foot played such a heroic part in this particular bloody contest. It is therefore fitting that all Battalions of the Queen's Regiment celebrate Albuhera Day as the Regimental Day.

The Glorious First of June, in memory of the time when The Queen's Royal Regiment sailed with the British Fleet, one of the Regiment's largest detachments being aboard Admiral Howe's flagship Queen Charlotte, and thus shared the great mid-Atlantic victory of 1794. A strong Naval connection has continued ever since and is kept alive in the Battalion to this day.

6th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment

An extract from the Battalion's recruiting and Training Directive for 1971 is published below, together with information of interest to potential recruits. Members of the Regimental Association are asked to pass on this information to young men wishing to join.

Extract from Recruiting and Training Directive 1971

Recruiting

In the Battalion's first year training and recruiting will go together. Future expansion will depend on the results we achieve. We must go flat out to attain a high standard of training and our target for expansion.

Battalion Recruiting Target

1st April, 1972	250
1st Nov., 1972	350

Company Recruiting Target

1st April, 1972	55
1st Nov., 1972	80

A prize of £30 will go to the first company to achieve its target by 1st April, 1972.

Showing the Flag

We must let the Boroughs in which the drill halls are situated, and also neighbouring Boroughs, know not only that we exist, but that we are a force to be reckoned with. Therefore we must show the flag. Everything we do must be publicised.

Information for Potential Recruits

1. Training

a. Obligatory training

- (1) Trained officers and soldiers
 - 15 days in Camp
 - 6 days out of Camp
 - Annual Range Course

- (2) Recruits
 - 15 days continuous in Camp
 - 16 days out of Camp

b. Voluntary training

Every member may carry out the following voluntary training in addition to his statutory obligations.

- (1) 3 days out of Camp
- (2) 20 two hour training periods at drill halls.

Note: This period will be extended in 1972 to 4 days out of Camp and 30 two hour training periods.

c. Evening training

The voluntary two hour periods of training will take place on Tuesdays commencing at 8 p.m. at TAVR Centres. (See Locations below).

2. Pay and Allowances

a. Training Bounty*

All ranks who complete their obligatory annual training, and are certified as efficient, are eligible for an annual tax free bounty.

b. Liability Bounty

In recognition of their liability for call out when war-like operations are in preparation or in progress, all ranks are eligible for an additional Bounty of £60 (taxable). The bounty is subject to completion of a high proportion of the annual training and to certification of efficiency.

c. Pay

At Annual Camp, attending Courses of Instruction, and for all complete days training performed, members receive pay at Regular Army rates appropriate to their rank and previous full-time service. Pay is subject to tax.

d. Training Expense Allowance*

For attendance at voluntary training periods in the evenings, training expense allowance is payable to cover out of pocket expenses.

*(As these payments vary in accordance with rank, and in some cases service, and are subject to review from time to time, it is not practicable to list the actual amounts. Full details can be obtained on application to the Battalion Headquarters.)

3. Locations

Battalion Headquarters:

Brander House, Broomhill Road, Wandsworth, S.W.18. Tel: 01-874 1092.

A Company (Middlesex)

TAVR Centre, Deansbrook Road, Edgware, Middlesex. Tel: 01-952 5236.

B (Greater London RA) Battery

TAVR Centre, Wenlock Street, Hackney, N.1. Tel: 01-253 1101.

C (London & Kent RA) Battery

TAVR Centre, Flodden Road, Camberwell, S.E.5. Tel: 01-735 5226.

D (Surrey Yeomanry QMR) Battery

TAVR Centre, Farringdon House, Stonecot Hill, Sutton, Surrey. Tel: 01-337 1145.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment

Regimental Association Christmas Cards

Particulars of the Association's Christmas card are

given in the enclosed order form. The design is the same as last year's.

The price is the same as for 1969 and 1970, that is, 55p a dozen, including postage and packing.

Regimental Association Reunion

There was an increased attendance at the Annual Reunion at Kingston this year. An interesting feature was the display by a Regimental Recruiting Team from 4 Queen's (Albuhera Company) amongst which a number of weapons used in an infantry battalion today were exhibited.

As usual the Regimental In-Pensioners from the Royal Hospital were present, and Joe Dennis brought a coach load of stalwarts from the 4th Queen's OCA. We had invited our patients in the Star and Garter Home at Richmond, but unfortunately none of them was able to attend on the day.

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Museum

Former members of The East Surrey Regiment will be pleased to learn that the 8th Battalion's famous football has been returned to the Regimental Museum. This football was kicked over the top by Captain Nevill, OC B Company, in the 8th Surreys' attack on Montauban on 1st July, 1916. It has been on loan to the National Army Museum for the past eleven years, and has been returned by the Trustees because they are now restricting their exhibits to those prior to 1914. So the 8th Battalion's football will be once more on display in the Regimental Museum at Kingston.

Another interesting acquisition has come to the Museum from the Executors of the estate of the late Mrs. C. G. Mudge. This is the decorations and medals of the late Brigadier-General Arthur Mudge, CB, CMG, who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 4th March, 1891 until 9th May, 1919. In his Will, Brigadier-General Mudge bequeathed, on the death of his wife, his decorations and medals and the sum of £50 to The Queen's Royal Regiment. Arthur Mudge, who was born in 1871, served with the Malakand, Mohmand and Tirah Expeditionary Forces in 1897-1898. He was transferred as a Brevet Lieut-Colonel to The Royal Berkshire Regiment on 10th May, 1919.

Golf Society

Spring Meeting, 1971

An enjoyable Meeting was held at Richmond Golf Club, Sudbrook Park, on 15th and 16th April. We were very glad to see Lieut-Colonel P. G. F. M. Roupell after a long period of absence and hope he will get the opportunity of attending future Meetings.

Incidentally he drew Major John Sutton thereby winning first prize in the Sweep. A good double!! The results were as follows:—

Thursday, 15th April

Heales Memorial Trophy	
W. J. T. Ross (12)	31 points
Top of Junior Division	
Major P. A. Gray (24)	25 points
The Veterans Halo	
Captain H. C. Mason	31 points
(including Anno Domini 13 points)	

Stableford Bogey Greensomes
Col J. W. Sewell and
Lt Col P. G. F. M. Roupell 37 points

Friday, 16th April

Challenge Cup (Scratch)
H. P. Mason gross 75 pts
Dodgson Cup (Handicap)
Major W. J. F. Sutton net 68 pts
Best Last 9 holes (Seniors)
W. J. T. Ross net 38 pts
Best Last 9 holes (Juniors)
Major J. C. Drane net 41 pts
Nine Hidden holes (Seniors)
Col J. W. Sewell net 43 pts
Nine Hidden holes (Juniors)
Lt Col P. G. F. M. Roupell net 34 pts

After the Meeting the Society held its 34th Annual General Meeting. Twelve Members were present.

The Honorary Secretary reported that at the Extraordinary General Meeting held at the Autumn Meeting it was decided that future Meetings should continue as at present, i.e. Spring Meeting two days each of two rounds of eighteen holes, Autumn Meeting one day of two rounds of eighteen holes and one day of one round of eighteen holes and after lunch nine holes only would be played. The Accounts were presented and accepted. Balances as at 31st December, 1970 were:—

In Bank Current A/C £105.13.10d.

On Deposit £146.6.5d.

Lieut-Colonel C. O'N. Wallis retired as Captain and Lieut-Colonel J. A. Lasbrey was unanimously elected Captain for 1971/72 and 1972/73.

Major C. W. Summers on account of business commitments regretted he could not continue as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer. Major B. A. Crutchfield was unanimously elected to fill this Office.

Autumn Meeting 1971

This year the weather was kind to us with a fine day on Thursday and a warm sunny day on Friday, helping to provide some very enjoyable golf.

The meeting was quite well attended and it was nice to have Major General White and Lt Col Palmer with us again after an absence of a few years abroad.

The staff of Richmond Golf Club made us most welcome and the innovation of the 'Drinks' tent at the 9th hole was well received.

The results were as follows:—

Thursday, 30th September

Heales Trophy
Capt. J. A. Clarke (Senior Division) 38½ pts
Top Scorer Junior Division
Lt Col M. J. Doyle 30½ pts
Veterans Halo
Major J. C. Drane 37 pts
(including Anno Domini bonus of 19 pts)
Bogey Greensomes
Capt S. J. Petzing and Lt Col P. Roupell

Friday, 1st October

The Autumn Bowl
Capt J. A. Clark net 69 pts
Glasgow Greys
Major B. A. Crutchfield net 63 pts
Best Last 9 Holes
Senior Division
Major W. J. F. Sutton net 37 pts
Junior Division
Nine Hidden Holes
Lt Col P. Roupell net 39 pts
Senior Division
Col J. W. Sewell net 38 pts
Junior Division
Major J. C. Drane net 39 pts
Bogey Foursomes
Lt Col J. A. Lasbrey and Capt J. A. Clark

Petri Plate

Major W. J. F. Sutton net 68 and 71

The Sweep realised £31.75 and the winners were:

1st Lt Col P. Roupell £15.87
(B. Crutchfield)
2nd Lt Col P. Roupell £ 6.35
(J. Clark)
3rd Lt Col J. A. Lasbrey £ 3.17
(W. J. Sutton)

Members are reminded that the Spring Meeting for 1972 will take place on Thursday and Friday, 13th and 14th April respectively, followed by the General Meeting.

News of the Associations

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

The Association held its 20th Annual General Meeting and Dinner at the T & AVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames on 1st May. We were honoured by the attendance as our guest, Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL. Whilst only 50 members attended this function a most enjoyable evening was had by all. I would like to thank those members who travelled from Southampton, Colchester and Canterbury for their attendance, and we hope that at next year's A.G.M. and Dinner our numbers will be doubled.

On Saturday, 3rd July, 40 members and their wives attended the Military Musical Pageant at Wembley Stadium. This was a performance by Military Bands which had to be seen to be believed, and in spite of the time taken travelling to and fro everyone was most thrilled with this most spectacular pageant.

Our Ladies Dinner Dance was held on the 2nd October, at which 138 members and their friends attended. An excellent dinner was served, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves dancing to Sidney Powsey's Accordion Orchestra until midnight.

On Sunday, the 12th September we were invited by 'A' Company, 5th Queen's to join in their annual rifle meeting at Henley Park Ranges. Several members and their families attended and whilst no prizes were won all had a most enjoyable day meeting old friends.

On 4th September 30 of our members were invited by our old comrades of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, to a social evening. RSM Jimmy Ives welcomed our party and the hospitality shown to us was first class. All our members enjoyed this musical evening and returned home on the coach full of song.

We continue to hold with increasing success our monthly meetings in the Sergeants Mess at Kingston on the last Saturday in the month. We would like to see more members attending these monthly get togethers so bring the wife and family along and meet your old friends.

We welcome to the Association Colonel T. A. Buchanan, DSO, OBE, MC, TD, DL, as an Honorary member, and Lt Col J. F. Sherrard, TD as an ex-officio Committee member.

It is with deep regret we report the deaths of the undermentioned members: Messrs T. Burgess and E. H. Mandeville.

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

Once again we attempt to get ourselves into print, although as far as the Hon. Sec. is concerned it is becoming rather too frequent. After our write up in the last edition of the News Letter he is fast becoming disillusioned with the literary lark.

Our summer programme has been rather quiet although the monthly social evenings continued, but as expected the attendances tended to fall off as the holiday season approached.

The highlight of this period was the welcome home evening held here on the 28th June. Ostensibly this was to greet an old friend here on a short visit, the friend in question being Dr J. Craib from Vancouver B.C. 'Joe' was one of our Canloan officers who served with the 1/6th in Normandy. This session proved to be one of the best supported ever held here. It included the famous and the infamous, and high among the former was Major General Forrester, CB, CBE, DSO, MC, our CO in Italy and Normandy. Those in the latter category shall remain nameless. Needless to say it was one hell of an evening. We are hoping that in the near future we can find another good reason for repeating the exercise.

Saturday, 6th November next is the date set for the Reunion Dinner and it is hoped that its success will surpass that of last year's. The Armistice Parade will follow the usual pattern on Sunday, 14th November. Let us hope that the weather will be kind 'cos we are not as young as we were.

Finally our News Letter took on a new guise and name. The first edition was circulated in August under the title of 'The Pascal Lamb'. The cost and labour involved was crippling but judging by reports it was worth it.

Editor's Note

We welcome the appearance of 'The Pascal Lamb', the News Letter of The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association. It is a lively, printed publication with contributions from a number of members of the Association. The Editor is Mr W. G. Edwards, 60 Bournbrook Road, Kidbrooke, London SE3, who is also Secretary of the Association.

2nd/6th Queen's Royal Regiment

The annual Salerno Day Reunion was held on Saturday, 18th September, 1971, at the Drill Hall, Jamaica Road, Bermondsey. We were unable to use the Union Jack Club as extensive rebuilding is taking place, but the accommodation at the Drill Hall, now, sadly, used only by the Cadets, is still pleasant. We are indebted to the Queen's (Bermondsey) Association for their help, and in particular for running the bar for us. Mr Chick Coles and Mr Harry Mitchell were towers of strength. The only trouble with Bermondsey for an old stager is finding the place. Someone has gutted the district and replaced it with brand new roads and flats.

All the arrangements were made by Frank Peart, who, year by year, continues to show selfless devotion to the old battalion. A pleasant buffet was arranged by him and Lt Col Bill Peet, who worked all day making snacks and sandwiches. There is no truth in the rumour that Peet and Peart are thinking of joining the catering business.

Colonel John Kealy, our CO at the landings, and 77 members were present. One of the joys is to find a fresh face each year, and to be able to swap stories of shared experiences after all these years. Among those we were pleased to see after many years, were Major Gus Allwood, who was RSM from 1940-1942 and L/Cpl Medhurst who was company clerk of D Company from the outbreak of war until 1942. The latter always says that he got the job because, at the Drill Hall at New Cross during those last few hectic days in August 1939, he was rash enough to volunteer the fact that he could read and write. Private Spelzini, one of the originals, was there too. We welcomed Captain Ziegler, our adjutant, for two years, who was badly wounded at Salerno. We were also very gratified to have with us Colonel Jeffrey Bevington, who is virtually the landlord at Jamaica Road, his grandfather having leased the ground to the Volunteers many years ago. The Bevington family has a long and honoured history of service with the Bermondsey volunteer soldiers. Doc Hogan also found time to come over from Dublin where he enjoys his retirement. It was he who started the reunions with Frank Peart in 1961. We were also pleased to see Captain Len Fagg looking so well after his recent operation.

We sadly record the death of Sergeant Harry Long, who was for five years a member of the Signal Platoon. A collection was made for his widow and the sum of £20 was realised.

We were honoured to have with us the scarlet coats of three Queen's Chelsea Pensioners. The oldest was Staff Sgt Allingham, a sprightly 91 years! Sgt Shepherd, a mere 74, actually enlisted into the 22nd London at the Bermondsey Drill Hall in June 1914. He was aged 17, and told us he enlisted for the sake of the attractive scarlet walking out tunic. He little realised he would have no use for ceremonial uniform a couple of months later. These two, with Cpl Travers, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As a contrast, two 17 year old Queen's Cadets helped as waiters.

A very pleasant evening was passed by all who attended, and we look forward to next year.

10th Queen's Old Comrades Association

We announce with regret the disbandment of the 10th Queen's OCA. Mr H. A. Turner, OBE, their Honorary Secretary and Treasurer over many years, writes,

'The Association, which was formed in 1923, with the object of fostering the good fellowship that always existed amongst the Officers, NCOs and men of the 10th Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment while serving during the 1914/18 War and after until the Battalion's disbandment in 1920, has regretfully reached the conclusion that the time has arrived to disband.

In accordance with the wishes of surviving members, the residue of the Association's Funds, a little over £33 has been given to St Mary's Church, Battersea, where the Battalion's King's Colour remains after being laid up there in 1933.

It is hoped that despite the end of the Association those few members who are within easy reach of each other will be able to meet informally.'

Colonel the Honourable C. F. Stallard, KC, DSO, MC, ED

Charles Frampton Stallard was born in England in 1871. He was at Merton College, Oxford, and ate his dinners as a member of Gray's Inn before being called to the Bar in 1895. Five years later he went with the City Imperial Volunteers to fight in the South African War and served with Paget's Horse. He saw action at Jacobsdal and Poplar Grove and at Paardeburg where his horse was shot under him. After the war Stallard remained in South Africa and built up a thriving practice at the Bar, taking silk in 1910.

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War Charles Stallard was 43 and a captain in the South African Defence Force. He volunteered for service with the British Army on the Western Front and in February 1916 was APM 41 Div. In 1917 he transferred to the 10th Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment and, having won the Military Cross in August, was appointed to command the 12th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in October. He remained with the Surreys until April 1918 when he was posted back to the Queen's Own. He was wounded at Messines, awarded the DSO and three times mentioned in despatches.

After the 1914-18 War, Stallard went into politics and became a leading member of the South African Party and a member of Parliament. He split with Smuts and Hertzog in 1933 over the issue of republicanism, and the next year formed his own party, the Dominion Party. From 1939 to 1948 he was Minister for Mines in the Smuts Government. In 1948 he retired from politics.

On 5th June, 1971, Colonel Stallard celebrated his 100th birthday at his home, Hope Woolith, near Johannesburg. Among the hundreds of greeting telegrams was one from Brigadier Roupell on behalf of the old members of The East Surrey Regiment who 'remember with pride and pleasure your service in our 12th Battalion in the First World War'. Mr H. E. Winder, who also served in the 12th Surreys in the 1914-18 War, presented the Colonel with an East Surrey

Regiment tie. Three hundred guests attended the birthday celebrations, the highlight of which was the parade of 100 pipers. After his inspection of the guard of honour mounted by the Witwatersrand Rifles of which he was honorary colonel, Colonel Stallard asked the guests to listen quietly with him to the pipe bands playing 'A Hundred Pipers.' He was much moved by this tribute.

Four days later it was reported Colonel Stallard was unwell, and nine days after his 100th birthday he died. The pipers again played for the old soldier, but this time it was a lament. He was buried with full military honours on the land he had lived on for 70 years.

Correspondence

Major F. Waspe, MBE

Major 'Buzz' Waspe, who celebrated his 80th birthday on 9th June this year, received so many letters and greetings that he has not been able to answer them all. He has asked for the following message to be published in the News Letter:

'I was filled with esprit-de-corps on the 8th and 9th June on receipt of so many letters, telegrams, cards, etc., in respect of my 80th birthday. Many thanks.

Buzz'

Our latest octogenarian is well but has to take things more easy nowadays. He writes, 'I am keeping quite quiet and well, taking the tablets prescribed by the MO and still excused duty!'

Colonel T. MacD. Baker, CBE, TD, DL,
Netley,
Hurst Close,
Hook Heath Road,
Woking, Surrey.

Dear Editor,

The 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War

It is now nearly 57 years since the 1/6th Battalion left the United Kingdom in 1914 for a long period of overseas service, together with other units of the Territorial Army, the first units of the Territorial Army to serve overseas.

Historically the Territorial Army was formed in 1908 for Home Service, but in 1913, together with some eight other units, the 1/6th Surreys volunteered for service overseas, and became what was then known as an Imperial Service Battalion, wearing a special badge in uniform. As a matter of interest, all other units of the Territorial Army also volunteered for overseas service after the outbreak of war.

As one of the surviving officers of the 1/6th Battalion, I should be most interested to hear from any former member of the 1/6th who served in the East during the 1914-18 War, or to have news from anyone who knows of a former member of the Battalion who served with the 1/6th at that time.

Yours sincerely,
T. MacD. Baker.

Letter from an Outpost

Captain Malcolm Hyatt, who is serving at Midway Garrison in the Sultanate of Oman, writes:

'As the only white man in my command of something over a hundred I do occasionally get a little lonely! There are seismic survey teams working on the edge of the Empty Quarter, about five hours' drive from here, so I do have somewhere to go for a beer. Between me and the rest of the Sultan's Armed Forces deployed in Dhofar is the jabal, which is occupied by the enemy, and therefore hampers travel somewhat.

I shall shortly be established as Sultan's Intelligence Officer for North Dhofar—at the moment I do the job in my spare time. The area that I have to cover is about the size of Scotland, so I seem to spend most of my time travelling. When I am back at Midway, wearing my 'garrison commander' hat, I get quite a number of visitors, so life is not too dull.

I have stayed several times with John Burgess (late East Surreys) in Bahrain, but he is due to return to England in about three months' time. I trust that the Glorious First was a success—I celebrated it in great style with the chief Int Officer for Dhofar, who is a Royal Marine.'

Letter from Kenya

In the early nineteen thirties 2nd Lt Roderic D. May of the Supplementary Reserve was attached to the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment for training. However, he had second thoughts on becoming a soldier, and joined the Royal Air Force. Flt Lt May has always maintained his association with his old Regiment, and in a recent letter he writes:

'My only contact with officers of the East Surreys during the war was unfortunately when we were 'in the bag' at Oflag VI B at Warburg in 1942. They were Colonel Kennedy, Major Spearing and Captains Bruce and Armstrong-Macdonnell. After being caught in an unsuccessful escape attempt, I was sent with some other RAF officers to Stalagluft 3 in Silesia and did not see any East Surrey officers again. Since then my visits to England have been few and I have never managed to attend any of the Regimental functions.'

Mr May's address is Welcome Farm, Redhill Area, PO Box 9220, Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr V. E. Fagence (10081) of 45 Eden Grove Road, Byfleet, Woking, Surrey, writes:

'I was interested to read of Mr A. W. Born's experiences of being in six different battalions (five of them Queen's and one of the 33rd Battalion MGC). I myself was in five different battalions and one of them twice. I was in the 10th Battalion at Battersea and Aldershot from 18th December, 1915 to 3rd May, 1916. The 12th Battalion at Northampton and Aldershot from 3rd May, 1916 to 3rd September, 1916. The 3rd Battalion (Sittingbourne) from 3rd September to 3rd December, 1916. The 11th Battalion (Belgium) from December 1916 to 31st July, 1917 when I was wounded and evacuated to England for five months. After hospital and convalescence I was posted to the 3rd Battalion at Sittingbourne in December 1917. I left there in a draft of

reinforcements to join the 1st Battalion at Passchendaele in Belgium. I remained with the 1st Battalion until I was demobilised at the Crystal Palace on St Patrick's Day (17th March) 1919.'

Two soldiers of the 21st London Regiment

Captain R. A. Caplen, who was transferred from the 2/5th Surreys to the 1/21st London Regiment in 1916 writes:

'I have been re-reading a letter, written in April 1959, from Jimmy Constable, who was a Platoon Sergeant with me in the Surreys from 1914 until we were transferred to the 1/21st London in 1916. It was in answer to my letter to him, wherein we recalled the past days together. He wrote:—

"For one part of that time my memory is not rusty, it is the eight hours between leaving the line and finding the Battalion in Mametz Wood, it was a nightmare. How I managed to get 40 exhausted men, parched with thirst, back to the Battalion without a mutiny on my hands is still a mystery. Why they didn't lie down and tell me to go to hell I can only attribute to their discipline and morale, and, with very few exceptions, they were East Surreys!" Constable was with the BEF in 1939-40, this time as a Major. He died a few years ago. The paragraph quoted follows the 40 hours the Surrey Rifles spent in trying to capture the Butte de Walencourt on the Somme on 8th October, 1916. That particular night, we lost far too many excellent soldiers who had volunteered in 1914.

May I also bring to your notice, something of which the Surreys may be proud. I quote it, 'verb sap' from Hammerton's History of the Great War. "One of London's many VC heroes was L/Cpl Arthur Henry Cross, a Camberwell man. Entering the 21st London, he was later transferred to the Machine Gun Corps. He volunteered to make a reconnaissance of the position of two machine guns, which had been captured at Ervillers. Advancing single-handed to the enemy trench, armed only with his revolver, he forced seven of them to surrender and carry the machine guns, with their tripods and ammunition, to the British lines. He then handed over his prisoners and collected teams for his guns which he brought into action with exceptional skill and dash. "It is impossible" was the official phrasing, "to speak too highly of the extreme gallantry, initiative and dash displayed by this NCO." Cross died about two years ago.'

Narrow Escapes

The following letter has been received from Mr Peter Fairley, Science Editor, TV Times, 247 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0AU.

'I am endeavouring to write a book and devise a TV Series about miraculous escapes from death. Already I have come across people who have survived falls of over two miles, being run over by steamrollers, being blown up, shot, crushed and electrocuted with 34,000 volts. But I need more examples.

If, in your duties, you have survived against all odds

I would be most interested to hear from you.

Please describe the incident, your thoughts and the way it affected your life (if at all) at any length and send it to me at the above address.'

Prisoners of War

Feldwebel 'Scarface'

Early in 1940 Lieut Colonel G. W. Kennedy was transferred from the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment to command the 1/4th Bn The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. During the German advance in May his Battalion's position at Cassel was overrun, and Colonel Kennedy severely wounded and taken prisoner. He recalls the chivalrous manner in which the German front line troops treated him and dressed his wounds.

Colonel Kennedy, who subsequently became the Senior British Officer at an Oflag (officers' prisoner of war camp), recalls that the behaviour of the German troops away from the front was very different from that of the fighting soldier. This is Colonel Kennedy's story of one German soldier who was different.

'Early in 1941 our officers POW Camp was moved from Germany to Poland where we were housed in an ancient frontier fort near the town of Thorn.

'The German Sergeant Major in charge of the guards we nicknamed "Scarface". He spoke good English and told us that in the 1914-18 war he had been a POW in England working in the London docks. He said he had been very well treated and seemed to have enjoyed his time in England. He felt therefore that he ought to do what he was able to make British POWs as comfortable as was possible.

'One day he notified us of an impending search of our Camp by the Gestapo. Now the Germany Army as a whole did not like Gestapo methods applied to those who were an Army responsibility. "Scarface" said that if any of us had any articles which we did not want found in the coming search he was prepared to take them and keep them safely until the search was over. This he did faithfully and returned everything he had been given after the Gestapo team had left. "Scarface" continued to help in any way he could to ensure we were as comfortable as circumstances permitted.

'In June 1941 our camp was once more moved back to Germany with the exception of a few RAMC officers who remained at Thorn at some of the large Other Ranks Camps in the vicinity. Feldwebel "Scarface" remained in charge of the Fort which was then used as a POW Camp for Warrant Officers and senior NCOs.

'In 1944 one of the Medical Officers we left behind rejoined our Camp in Germany. He told us that "Scarface" was still doing great work for the POWs.

'Just before he left fairly late in 1944 "Scarface" asked to see him and said he wished to ask a great favour—could he be given a suit of British battle dress? He realised that before long the Russians would arrive and the British POWs would either be moved back or rescued by the Russian forces. In either case he intended

to once again become a Prisoner of War, but this time a British one.

'We gathered that his request was granted and hoped that "Scarface" got away with the British. Like others of the real old German Army, as distinct from the SS and Gestapo, one must consider Feldwebel "Scarface" as a good hearted, honourable and resourceful soldier.'

Another 'kriegie's story

Mr J. McColl of Gifford House, Boundary Road, West Worthing, Sussex, read in the News Letter how L/Cpl J. A. Mattingley of the 2/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment had his personal belongings restored by the Polish Defence Attaché after 25 years in Poland. Mr McColl joined the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) in 1933, and was a corporal in the 2/6th when taken prisoner at St Valery in June 1940. He writes:

'I remember L/Cpl Mattingley when we were in Lomsdorf main POW camp, situated in Upper Silesia. Known as Stalag VIII B, it later changed to Stalag 344. I worked for about two years in the coal mines near Glutwitz, and was then returned to the Stalag because of unfitness for that kind of work, only to be handcuffed every day for about four months over something to do with the Dieppe Raid by the Canadians. Also in the same boat were some other East Surreys, of whom I remember Cpl Phillips and Cpl Thomas.'

Roles reversed

In his account of the operations of 1 Surreys at Tebourba in North Africa in 1943, Colonel Smith writes:

'There was a curious incident one night in the bridge-head when Capt Lindsay, going the rounds of his sentries, in the darkness stumbled into a strange vehicle and trailer. He challenged the occupants, one of whom turned out to be a very surprised German WO from a Parachute unit who appeared to have lost his way and run into our lines by mistake. This same WO later escaped during the turmoil of the main battle for Tebourba and while he was being sent to the rear with other wounded prisoners in an ambulance. I seem also to recollect that photos produced later in the campaign by our intelligence showed the same WO with the roles reversed escorting certain East Surrey POWs at Djeida airfield.'

Mr W. O. Moon of Fairfield, Les Landes, St Peter, Jersey, who was in D Company at the time, sends the following recollection:

'As a point of interest in Colonel Smith's account of the Battle of Tebourba, Para 2, I was with Capt Lindsay when he captured the German WO mentioned in the narrative and, strange to relate, when D Coy was overrun at Fort McGregor, the German WO in charge of us POWs was the one we had taken prisoner ourselves at Tebourba. When we were well behind German lines, this Sgt Major produced a photo showing himself, Sgt McCormick of D Coy East Surreys, one of our vehicles and a German half-track, that had captured our own truck.

'Sgt McCormick had been wounded in the head at Tebourba, the day before we caught the German WO.'

The Operations in France in 1940

An inquiry has been received from a Herr Albert Schmidt, a former captain of the German 7th Panzer Division, concerning 19 men of The Queen's Royal Regiment captured by his squadron on 9th June, 1940 at the village of Fry, near Argueil.

An examination of the map suggested that Fry, which is about 22 miles east of Rouen, was nowhere near the area over which 35 Brigade had operated. All three battalions had arrived in Rouen by 26th May, when they moved to Blain, 20 miles north west of Nantes. The Brigade remained there until 6th June when they entrained for Cherbourg, and embarked for England the next day. It therefore seemed likely that the soldiers captured on 9th June were from some other regiment.

These points were put to Herr Schmidt, but he is convinced that the 19 soldiers captured in Fry were Queen's. He suggests this party, possibly a platoon, had become detached from their battalion during the confused fighting. He says they took up a defensive position at Sigy where the British succeeded in blowing up the bridge over the River Andelle. They then tried to break through the enemy position, but were held by German tanks at Fry which is three quarters of a mile east of Sigy.

Herr Schmidt has sent a photo of 12 of the soldiers in a Morris 15-cwt truck, bearing the number 5 on the front. Can any reader throw any light on this incident or identify the unit concerned?

Tunisia Revisited 1971

by Colonel H. B. L. Smith, MC

I

Introduction

Following my return to the Sicilian battlefields last year, the account of which has already been recorded both in the Journal of The Queen's Regiment (Vol. No. 4, December 1970), and in the Queen's Surreys Regimental Association News Letter, I was again fortunate enough to be invited to take part in this year's study by Mediterranean Command. The subject chosen was The 1st Army's *Torch* landings and battles for Tunis; and once again we all assembled in Malta for our initial briefing which included extracts from the film 'Tunisian Victory'.

The Guest Speakers

The guest speakers this year, apart from myself, included Brigadier R. C. Windsor-Clive what at the time of the first major battle to secure the objective known to us as Longstop was commanding the Carrier Platoon, 2nd Coldstream Guards. He is still serving as Commander HQ Dhekelia Area, Cyprus. Brigadier Le Patourel, VC, who won his posthumous VC serving with 2 Hamps at Tebourba and who later returned from the grave to claim it! He is now retired and working with Harveys, the wine merchants. Lt Col 'Hamish' Taylor who commanded 8 Argylls in 36 Inf Bde, at Longstop and after the death of their CO Lt Col Colin MacNab. He too is retired and farms in his native Argyllshire and

is a prominent county councillor in that county. Major Dudley Emmerton, whom, many of you will remember as Intelligence Officer of 5th Northampton at the time of the *Torch* landings and later as organiser of the Battleaxe ski school at Mallnitz in Austria. He until recently was a hotelier in the Lake District.

Two Chance Encounters

Finally we were lucky enough to discover Major Sir Compton Inglefield holidaying in Malta. He served with the Derbyshire Yeomanry at that time and with Blade Force. He was co-opted for our briefing and was able to tell us an amusing story of how the outbreak of war found him doing some job near Beja. He was in a house with French and Germans in the next room. He overheard the latter trying to persuade the French colonel that war had in fact been declared. Eventually the French colonel joined him and asked what he should do and whether he, Sir Compton, believed the Germans were speaking the truth. Whereupon Sir Compton donned Arab dress and went to investigate the truth that a German anti-tank detachment were blocking the Medjez road a short distance outside Beja. He in fact got to within 30 yards of the Germans and on reporting back to the French colonel the latter crying 'c'est la guerre' disappeared with his soldiers down the road. The Germans by now had gone and almost at once the house was attacked and bombed by Stukas. The last thing Sir Compton recalls was seeing a number of French Army mules killed in the raid being cut up and put in the ration waggons by the retreating French soldiers!

Another unexpected meeting I had at this point was with Major Tony Dupré, ex-Argylls and 5 Northampton and erstwhile BM of 11 Inf Bde. He, poor chap, suffered badly as a POW in Italy and I am ashamed to say I didn't immediately recognise him. He at present lives in Malta.

The Outward Journey and Reception

The next part of our trip proved less comfortable than last year when the RAF MEAF ferried us to Sicily in two Argosies. This time and perhaps because our party numbered little over fifty, RAF, Near East Command produced a Hercules. For those of you who may not have travelled this way, I can only assure you that while it may be a very safe ride, it is quite the noisiest, most uncomfortable, aeroplane (comparable to those war time Dakotas with metal seats) I have ever had the misfortune to travel in! It is, however, some compensation to be able to see your luggage all the way and strapped down at your feet under cargo nets.

The distance from Malta to Tunis is short. As we prepared to land, some hours late owing to strong headwinds, our stomachs suddenly left us as we zoomed up again for another circuit of the airfield while two of our crew prostrated themselves in rear of and protected by our baggage. It was all a bit alarming as one couldn't see out. Later we learned that a Caravelle of United Arab Airways had elected to take off on our runway underneath us as we ourselves were about to touch down!

Anyway our second attempt worked well and in spite of being late we found a most friendly and helpful reception committee with officials from the British Embassy and Tunisian Ministry of Defence. We had landed at El Aouina 2 which is a military airport for Tunis alongside the original which has now become the big civil airport. We were then transported in a fleet of staff cars generously provided by the British Embassy, and more cars and buses by the Tunisian Army to the hotel Abounawas at Gammarth. This hotel is an off-shoot of the Tunis Hilton and in fact is almost in Carthage. It consists of beach chalets based on a central building and literally within 50 yards of the sea. The whole comes within the shadow of the bulky promontory of Sidi Bou Said, the brief resting place of 36 Bde at the end of this campaign.

Some Impressions of Tunisia Today

It might be a good idea at this point to give a few impressions of the country as I found it today and some 13 years since my last visit in 1958 on that ill-fated pilgrimage for the dedication of the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery at Medjez-el-Bab. To start with the area between Tunis, La Marsa and La Goulette, is a series of airports served by a wide autostrada. The former German war cemetery opposite El Aouina has been moved to a new site opposite our own cemetery at Massicault. The autostrada at that time of year was lined by mimosa in full bloom. Gone is that long causeway across a smelly salt marsh and connecting with our East Surrey objective of the Port area of La Goulette, while much of the marsh has now been reclaimed.

Altogether the country looks more prosperous, though perhaps because it cannot claim to be so rich as its two oil producing neighbours, there is less to be seen of modern jerrybuildings, of the skyscraper glass office block, hotel variety. The Avenue Gambetta, memorable for the Victory Parade, is as impressive as ever with its lines of date palms. I was, however, most impressed by the overall friendliness of everybody one met, from the peasant worker in the fields to the MOD officials. The peasants, the workers and children all seem to wear a blue smock type of uniform dress.

Modern arable farming methods everywhere around Tunis itself are fast creating the inevitable dust bowl and most of the olive trees seem to have been cut down to make way for cereal crop cultivation. This seems to me to be a pity as, in their stead and presumably with the idea of attracting more moisture to the soil, much planting has taken place of that handsome but far less useful tree, the Eucalyptus. Longstop itself is now completely terraced by these trees.

Apart from the coastal approach roads the inland roads remain much the same. The Medjerda River, the only river in Tunisia holding water throughout the year, has been harnessed by a series of barrages for irrigation purposes, one of these being at the well remembered bridge of El Bathan. Everywhere the French influence remains strong, while the vicar of the old English church in Tunis told me his congregation are now mainly Americans. There are no more than about 100 English people now living in Tunisia.

II

Day One—Recces For the Guest Speakers

Medjez el Bab and Oued Zarga

We guest speakers had a busy day and since limited transport meant sharing staff cars one was unable to see as much of the country as one would have wished. We approached Medjez by the Peter's Corner route so I was able to note how little things had altered in 28 years. There was the small cactus surrounded farmstead on the edge of the wadi where Bill Wilberforce was killed. The wadi again had only a trickle of muddy water. On the other side of the road the graveyard of the seven Suffolk tanks opposite Sidi Abdullah was no more. Medjez itself showed little change though it seemed strange to see trains actually moving along the small railway line. We motored some way towards Oued Zarga and across our start line for the final battle for Longstop attacking up the Dj Outiah (The Oyster). Stand 1 was to be some distance overlooking Medjez from a point on the Medjez-Toukabeur road.

Tebourba and El Bathan

Thence on to Tebourba for Stand 2, back to Longstop for Stand 3, and finally on to Sidi Nsir for Stand 5. Approaching Tebourba past Longstop and the Chouigui cross roads in daylight gave one a quite different impression of the huge size of the underfeatures of Pt 186, Dj Maiana. On arrival at Tebourba I had my first shock. Gone was Transport Wood, now a ploughed field. Gone too were all the olive trees and the cover they provided so luckily for us 28 years ago. The whole area now is arable land with new irrigation ditches and farming co-operatives. The station, however, remained with its small eucalyptus groves where we had our Bn HQ. Remaining too was the cowshed into which I had to transfer my Tactical HQ when the shooting began.

This tree clearance extended even to El Bathan, where the old Roman wall with its bays into which we dug our Bn HQ for the second and main battle, stood out stark and bare. I had no chance to examine this in detail but motoring through the village I was delighted to see the stud farm in being once again and a number of young colts frolicking about under the trees where B Coy 1 Surreys were so heavily mortared and in which the Germans later buried a number of our soldiers.

Longstop

From here back to Longstop to meet Hamish Taylor for our joint recce. We both found ourselves looking for the same landmark to 'put us on the ground', that small white tomb. It might have been easier had we approached from the direction of Chassart. However, in the end one of us recollected a tank had shot off the knob and eventually we did find the base plug! Longstop today, with its newly planted trees terraced up the hillside to the top of the Dj Ahmera, shows no more traces of the fierce battles fought over it. Eventually I was able to find that very unhealthy under feature where I had to relieve the CO for a period and up to which two Churchill tanks of The North Irish Horse had managed to climb.

Sidi Nsir

We moved on to Sidi Nsir via Sedjenane to enable Hamish Taylor to recce his piece on the features known

as Green and Bald Hills.* Sidi Nsir had altered not at all with the exception of a small white school building and a new minor road which follows the railway. Two storks were nesting on the roof of the little station beside which there is an obelisk memorial in local stone erected by the Hampshire. I was interested to learn the 4 Hamps had remained in occupation of all the same positions we had handed over to them including that distant platoon standing patrol on Pt 601.

*Dj Azzag, Dj Ajred.

III

Day Two—The Grand Tour

The Medjez War Cemetery

The day began with a visit to the Medjez cemetery which is situated opposite the farm of Baharine on the Medjez-Tebersouk road and where Bill Wilberforce is now buried. As usual it was well tended by its Tunisian custodians, and we had a brief but moving service conducted by the DACG Malta and at which the GOC and other guest speakers laid wreaths on the Memorial and while I, privately, laid our own Regimental wreath on Lt Col Wilberforce's grave. We had time only for a quiet look round and I was most struck by the number of unknown graves in this cemetery including one inscribed 'A captain in the Coldstream Guards'. Many of our other friends and comrades are buried in cemeteries at Massicault or Oued Zarga.

Stand 1—The story of our first encounter at Medjez

At this stand on the hillside overlooking Medjez grove near the Toukabeur road Dudley Emmerton opened the bowling. As a lead in to the tour he briefly described the experiences of 5th Northhamptons on the *Torch* assault landings near Algiers and the advance to Medjez. He followed this up with the story of his own Bn's attack on Medjez and that of the 2nd Lancashire Fusiliers. Visibility was bad and Grenadier Hill was barely visible in the low mist. Finally I gave my 'lead in' to Tebourba by describing briefly the meeting of the commanders near the Medjez Bridge and during which the name Longstop was really born. I may say throughout these proceedings one was very conscious of the vast bulk of the Longstop feature through the haze and I think the description taken from the history of the Coldstream Guards of the feature as 'that great dark whale' couldn't have been more apt.

Stand 2—The story of the Tebourba battles

And so to Tebourba and Point 186 (Dj Maiana). It took quite a time before we had all struggled to the top of this feature from our debussing point in that well known quarry. Again I found it hard to introduce a note of realism with absolutely none of the original ground cover of olive trees and cactus hedges below me. Mine was the story of the opening battle for this key village. The airfield at Djedeida incidentally no longer exists though it is easy enough to identify its original location. The road river bridge from there to Mateur is still in ruins. Dudley Emmerton followed me with the first attack on Djaidja by 5 Northampton.

Stand 3—The attacks on Djaidja by 5 Northampton and 2 Hamps

Dudley Emmerton resumed his story of the second

unsuccessful attack on the airfield by 5 Northhamptons supported by the armour of U.S. Combat Command 'B' who had joined the battle from Chouigui. This story was followed by Brigadier Le Patourel who told how his Bn relieved 5 Northhamptons and in their turn attacked and failed to take Djaidja. We from here followed the vicissitudes of 2 Hamps to their withdrawal to an immediate position in the low ground to the east of and level with Pt 186.

Stand 4—The last stand at Tebourba by 1 Surreys and 2 Hamps

I began by recounting our story starting with the evacuation of the El Bathan bridgehead and finally with our withdrawal from Tebourba itself after our abortive counter attack on Pt 186. Brigadier Le Patourel finished with the Hampshire story up to the time he himself suddenly realised the enemy were above him on the underfeatures of Pt 186. It was then that he led his gallant local assault in an effort to dislodge them and was in the end knocked out himself and left for dead on the hill. He maintains he never was able to make contact with our 'A' Coy who at this point were probably on the reverse slopes behind the crest of the hill. For this part of the action he was awarded his posthumous VC. The Hampshire memorial obelisk is at this stand.

Stand 5—The Battles for Longstop

It had been a long morning and we now motored back to the railway halt by the main road at the eastern end of the Dj Ahmera feature. Here we had lunch and transferred to TCVs provided by the Tunisian Army and we motored up to a point on the track within easy walking distance of the actual summit. Brigadier Bob Windsor-Clive gave us a most graphic account of the Coldstream first battle for Longstop, their relief by the Americans, and their gallant but unsuccessful efforts to re-establish the position in pouring rain and when the Americans had been pushed off by an enemy counter-attack. The interesting point of this account was that nobody had then realised that behind the Dj Ahmera, and separated from it by a narrow and steep gully, was the main feature of Longstop, the Dj Rhar.

Following the Coldstream story came Hamish Taylor's account of the capture of Longstop by 8 Argylls during the final and successful battle of the North African campaign leading to the capture of Tunis. As the last speaker at this stand for 1 Surreys I found our regimental histories differed to some extent. There is little doubt in my own mind that as in Sicily at Centuripe a year later, both Bns (8 Argylls, 1 Surreys) ended up by holding an objective they had jointly captured. In this case however it was our CO, Lt Col Bill Wilberforce who as the only surviving commanding officer at that time, was ordered by the Commander 36 Brigade to co-ordinate the defence of the captured feature with the remains of very weak Bns who had taken part in the assault.

It will be remembered that the 5 Buffs were sent round the left flank to clear the Dj Rhar and once Dj Ahmera had fallen. Both Hamish Taylor and myself had to stress the point that from our own recollection, of the four Bns taking part in this operation few of us had rifle coys with a fighting strength of much over a strong platoon due to casualties sustained over continuous action since the *Torch* landings a year before and the

battle of the Peaks over the previous seven days and leading up to the eventual capture of the Longstop feature.

IV

Day Three

Stand 6—The ambush of 8 Argylls at Green Hill and Bald Hill

This involved a long drive via Mateur, Chouigui and Sedjenane. Hamish Taylor gave us a brief account of how his Bn were ambushed astride the road between the two features named above and which are shown on the map as Dj Azzag and Dj Ajred respectively. They were lucky to extricate themselves for the loss of about one platoon after a hard fight and it was here that the battle stabilised until the end of the campaign. Incidentally, this part of the country remains as backward as ever. With all the greenery and wild flowers at this time of year it made a very pleasant drive.

Stand 7—Sidi Nisr

I began the story by recounting briefly how we had taken over this advanced patrol base from the Lancashire Fusiliers and in due course handed over to the luckless 4 Hampshires under Lt Col Jimmy Newnham. I pointed out the various coy, etc. locations and mine-field and was interested to learn from the next speaker they had remained virtually unchanged up to the time of the German attack. Brigadier Le Patourel, who gave the Hamps account, was of course not present at this battle. The supporting troop of 25 pr guns had been moved into a position immediately behind the station to enable them to cover more of the FDLs and get some protection themselves. There was a good deal of discussion at this point as to the wisdom of retaining such a distant outpost and particularly when the valley running back to Beja must by then have had enough troops to block any sudden rush by the enemy. In the outcome 4 Hamps put up a most gallant defence in the face of overwhelming odds but had no real chance and were practically annihilated. We ourselves had been only too well aware that whichever Bn was to be the unlucky recipient of the German attack up this valley had little or no chance, being 12 miles ahead of our main defence lines.

V

Day Four—Sightseeing

This was a much needed rest day so far as your guest speakers were concerned. We had with us our British three star NATO admiral from Malta and he donned full regalia to pay a courtesy visit by invitation to the Tunisian Navy in Bizerta harbour. The rest of us dispersed to the Bardo museum where all the wonderful mosaics have been collected from the various ruins at El Dougga or Carthage. I paid a visit to the old English church in Tunis, did some shopping at the state controlled shop in the main street, and on to lunch at the British Ambassador's splendid villa on the coastal road from Tunis to La Marsa. It will be recalled this used to be Field Marshal Earl Alexander's HQ when he commanded 21 Army Group after the campaign. A brass plaque beside the main entrance commemorates this

event. Afterwards he took us on a fascinating tour of the magnificent Moorish style Palais D'Erlanger in Si Bou Said by kind invitation of the owner.

Conclusion

So ended another unforgettable and, for me, nostalgic battlefield tour. It was a pity we again were unable to find a German who had fought against us during this campaign to accompany our tour and let us know what went on on the 'other side of the hill'. In fact we heard a senior German general had been briefing the Tunisian MOD on the campaign just before our arrival, which must have made the tour doubly interesting to the 15 Tunisian army officers who joined us for the tour.

As for Sicily last year, we gave a terrific international cocktail party for our hosts and the many who had helped to speed our tour. It took place in the Hotel Abounawas for some 250 guests. I am told some 80 bottles of NAAFI whisky went 'down the hatch' and the babel of tongues in many languages was positively deafening. I know I strained my 'Balkan' French (combination of French, Arabic, English, Italian!). At one stage I found the French Military Attaché had been stationed with a horsed squadron of the mechanised Regt of Chasseurs Marocaines near our *Torch* landing beaches beyond Algiers, while the German Naval Attaché was captain of a 'U' Boat stationed at the time in Bordeaux. He was ordered to out to attack the *Torch* convoys but was sunk as soon as he left port!

Our return trip was uneventful and by Hercules as we came; and I now sit beside my small Tebourba carpet as a fitting souvenir of those hectic times some 28 years ago and drink a glass of Thibar wine to the memory of the many good comrades we left behind on North African shores.

Regimental Music

Music of The Queen's Regiment

The Band of the 2nd Bn The Queen's Regiment has made a record of the regimental music of the four battalions of the Regiment under the title 'The Queen's Men'. It records the regimental calls, slow marches and quick steps of our former regiments as well as those of The Queen's Regiment of today.

The number of the record is GBS 1008. It is issued by the Decca Record Company for 99p, and may be obtained from Record Shops.

Musical Honours

A clarinet, with a silver presentation plate, was found during July 1971 in a cupboard at the RMA Sandhurst by Major A. H. Le Q. Clayton, TD, a former officer of The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) and a lecturer on the staff of RMA at Camberley. The inscription reads 'Presented by Seventh Armoured Division Major General G. W. J. Erskine, CB, DSO, to The Queen's Royal Regiment to Commemorate the association between the Division and the 1st/5th, 1st/6th and 1st/7th

Battalions in the fighting which took place between El Alamein and Tunis and Salerno and the R. Garigliano April 1944'.

Major Clayton has no idea how this musical instrument found its way to the RMA, and the Editor, being of an inquiring mind, would very much like to know the history and movements of this instrument. Can any of our readers provide answers to some of the following questions:—

- (a) When, where and to whom was the original presentation made?
- (b) Was it ever in use by any Band of The Queen's Royal Regiment after 1944?
- (c) The million dollar question — Who, and under what circumstances, placed the clarinet within the precincts of the RMA?

The instrument is now exhibited in the Regimental Museum of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment at Kingston upon Thames.

From Here and There

A Regimental Family

Friends of Mr Harry Adcock find it hard to believe he is now 82, but it is in fact 66 years since he enlisted in his father's old Regiment at Kingston upon Thames in November 1905. At that time his grandfather, J. Adcock, was still alive. He had served as a wheelwright in the Pioneers in the Crimean War, and had then gone to India where he was wounded in the Mutiny of 1857.

His son Joseph, Harry's father, enlisted in the 70th Regiment who were then in India. Joseph Adcock went out to India in the troopship Malabar, using steam and sail, and joined the Regiment in Dinapore. It was here, on 1st July, 1881, the Seventieth amalgamated with the Thirty First Regiment and became the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Joseph Adcock had four sons, all of whom were to serve in The East Surrey Regiment.

The eldest, Harry, followed his father's footsteps in that he too served in the 2nd Surreys in India. Returning with the Battalion as a Colour Sergeant in 1914, he served on the Western Front and in the Salonika Army in the Struma Valley. It was here, as RQMS, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, and a few months later appointed to a Regular Commission in the Regiment. Except for two years at the Regimental Depot, all Harry's service was in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. He retired in 1922.

The second son, Joseph, joined the Regiment in 1911. After service at the Depot and in the 1st Battalion, he joined the 2nd Battalion in France as a sergeant in 1915. He was killed in the operations from 8th to 10th May, 1915 during an attack to regain trenches captured by the Germans near Verlorenhoek, north east of Ypres.

William, the third son, enlisted in the East Surreys in 1913 and was posted to the 1st Battalion. On 15th August, 1914 the Battalion landed in France as part of the British Expeditionary Force and was in action a week later. Bill Adcock was present during the retreat from Mons and the subsequent advance to the Aisne.

In the middle of October when the battalion was in the area of Richebourg St Vaast, Pte Adcock was severely wounded by small arms fire, and after a year of treatment in hospital was discharged as unfit for further service.

The youngest boy, George, joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1920 and served in the 1st Battalion in Ismailia. In 1922, he was selected for Officer Cadet training at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He was commissioned in The South Lancashire Regiment in 1923, and retired as a major in 1948. George Adcock, now 74, has written an interesting account of William's war and subsequent experiences. Space does not permit it being reproduced in the News Letter but the Editor will be pleased to send it to anyone interested.

Harry Adcock writes, 'Having lived for a century in the recruiting area of the old East Surreys, it is understandable that we should be closely connected with this fine old Regiment.'

Keeping in Touch

In June 1971, Lt Col D. C. Snowdon sent us a cutting from the Western Gazette recording the award of the British Empire Medal to Mr William Halliday on completion of 25 years in the hospital service.

Bill Halliday (1668446) joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1923 and finished with the rank of RSM in 1945. At the time of the Quetta Earthquake in 1935 he was Garrison Provost Sergeant, and recalls it was he who submitted the names of L/Cpl Henshaw and Pte Brooks for recognition of their good work after the disaster. As related in the last News Letter, these men received the medal of the Order of the British Empire for gallantry, and these awards were converted to the George Cross in 1940.

Mr Halliday, who lives at 60 Spiders Island, Whaddon, nr Salisbury, Wilts, would be glad to hear from any old comrades who remember him.

Captain E. G. M. Roe, a lecturer in French, English and general studies at the North West Kent College of Technology, retired in July after a long and distinguished career in education. Before the war he was London correspondent of 'La Presse' and 'La Patrie', and during the war his knowledge of Italian was put to good use in handling Italian prisoners of war.

Edward Roe was commissioned into The East Surrey Regiment in 1940 and served in the 8th and 9th Battalions. His Regimental roots go back a long way for his grandfather, William Augustus Roe, enlisted in the Thirty First Regiment as a drummer boy in about 1860.

Endurance

During August 1971, the "Surrey Comet", under the heading 'Man who became a legend in his lifetime' reported the death of Mr Leonard Pickett, aged 75.

As a young soldier in the 12th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, Pte Pickett was severely wounded in France. He was left without his right arm and with only the little finger of his left hand. Nevertheless, after his discharge from the Army in 1918, Mr Pickett, by sheer tenacity, made a career for himself with the Sopwith

Aviation Company and later the Hawker Siddeley Group.

During the 1939-45 War he worked seven days a week and sometimes through the night when aircraft parts were urgently required. He was presented to HM King George VI in 1939 and received the BEM from him in 1944, in recognition of his war time services.

A Stretcher Bearer's Story

On 18th February, 1917, the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment moved into the Grandcourt Trench in Boom Ravine on the Somme. A number of casualties were incurred while passing up 'The Ravine' Valley, and the next day a party of stretcher bearers was detailed to collect the wounded. Among them was Pte Leonard Macdonald Baldwin.

They came suddenly on a young German who had lain badly wounded and helpless for two days. A heated argument developed among the stretcher bearers as to what to do with the German. The latter understood enough English to know what they were talking about and what was likely to be his fate. Pte Baldwin, however, insisted that the wounded German should be brought back to the Battalion's aid post. Before the German, a medical student called Robert Liebig, was taken down the line for hospital treatment, he gave his address to his rescuer. Pte Baldwin remained with the Battalion and eight months later was awarded the Military Medal for gallantry at Poelcappele.

Years later, Mr Baldwin wrote to the German, now Doctor Liebig, and a firm friendship sprang up between them. Between the wars Mr Baldwin visited Germany as the guest of Dr Liebig. In the 1939-45 War, the doctor, then in his late forties, was called up for service in the Volksturm, while Mr Baldwin, also over military age, served in the National Fire Service.

Mr Baldwin, now a very active 82, lives at Charlecote, 87 Beccles Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.

Multiple Regiments Man

Ted Fulker, still in uniform after 36 years service, has seen more regiments than most.

Enlisting in The East Surrey Regiment as a boy in 1935, he served in the 1st Battalion in Fyzabad and Khartoum. On the outbreak of war he was posted to HQ Eastern Command as batman to Lt General Sir Guy Williams, the GOC in C. He was with the General on a visit to the BEF in 1940 when the breakthrough in Belgium occurred, but managed to get home with him before the evacuation from Dunkirk. In 1944 Fulker was posted to the 7th Royal Welsh Fusiliers who were taking part in the Ardennes Offensive, and joined the Sniper Section. When the 7th Battalion was disbanded after the war, he was posted to the 1st Battalion in BAOR. He became Drum Major of 1 RWF and took his discharge after 12 years service in 1949.

In 1950 he re-enlisted in the Surreys, but found himself posted to the 1st Bn The Middlesex Regiment (DCO) with whom he served in Korea. At the end of 1952 Sgt Fulker commenced a tour of duty at the East Surreys Regimental Depot, at the end of which he re-

joined the 1st Battalion and became Drum Sergeant.

When the 1st Surreys became the 1st Queen's Surreys in 1959, Sgt Fulker accompanied them to Aden, Hong Kong and finally Munster. Before retiring from the service in 1965, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

He thought then that his service life had come to an end, but within a week of leaving the Regular Army he was offered, and accepted, the appointment of Drum Major with 4th Bn The Buffs (TA). He is now Drum Major of the 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment and looks good for many more years service yet.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea

Earlier this year ex S/Sgt Allingham (5627) was admitted as an In-Pensioner to the Royal Hospital. He enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1898 and fought in the South African War with the 2nd Battalion. He was awarded the Queen's South African Medal with five clasps and the King's South African Medal with two clasps.

After completing a seven year engagement in the Queen's, he transferred to the Military Police with whom he served for another 14 years. He was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal and was mentioned in despatches in 1917. S/Sgt Allingham also holds the Meritorious Service Medal and the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. At 91 he is probably the oldest Queen's man.

Visitor to County Office

We are used to visitors arriving in their own transport, but the appearance of an empty 32 seater coach is different. Out climbed the driver, Mr Ernest Butler of Coventry who explained he had had to stop on catching sight of our badge.

Mr Butler enlisted in The Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1937 and was transferred to the Queen's in September 1939. He served in the 1/6th Queen's in France and Belgium and was severely wounded at Dunkirk. He was never fit enough again for active service and was discharged with a 30% disability in 1941.

A Regimental Landmark

Old members of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment who were in Hong Kong will remember the large Regimental badge on the hillside above Lo-Wu, created by the Provost Sergeant, 'Peachey' Oram, with the un-enthusiastic co-operation of the Battalion defaulters.

Mr S. J. Wood (6136274) wrote to Mr Geoffrey Goodman of the Daily Mirror who recently visited the New Territories, inquiring whether the badge was still visible. He received the following reply:

'So far as I can recall, there is no longer a model of your cap badge on Punjabi Hill. I cannot, of course, be absolutely certain of this, but I do quite vividly remember the hills around the frontier, where there is now a well-fortified look-out post. And I should imagine that what has happened is that all traces of the past occupation have now been removed—for fairly obvious reasons.

Lo-Wu is now quite a thriving little village, and the station a fairly substantial halt. But the bridge across the river has, I should imagine, changed very little since your time. Of course, the frontier around that area is now well fortified and guarded.'

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

The First Battle of Ypres

The November 1968 issue of the News Letter contained an account of the meeting of the 1st and 2nd Queen's at Gheluvelt in October 1914. The following eye witness account has been written by Colonel J. F. E. Goad, OBE, who at the time was a platoon commander in the 2nd Bn KRRC. Colonel Goad has served in the Queen's Army Cadet Force since 1946 and he is still Honorary Colonel of the 1st Cadet Bn, The Queen's Regiment (Surrey ACF).

'I joined the 2nd Bn KRRC with a draft on 20th September, 1914 during the Battle of the Aisne. The Battalion was one of the last to move from the Aisne to Belgium and we arrived in the vicinity of Ypres on 21st October. Two days later our Brigade (2nd), together with 1 Queen's (3rd Brigade) and some units of 1 Brigade took part in a successful attack in the vicinity of the Bixschoote-Langemark road, north east of Ypres.

During the afternoon of 30th October we found ourselves on the edge of some woods a little to the right of Gheluvelt village. My Company Commander pointed out a hedge a little way in front and told me to fill in the gaps in this line, which was held by the Queen's. Our position was not a very attractive one. The country at that time was well wooded and it was difficult to see very far in front. There were some partially finished trenches behind the hedge and we found a few scattered groups of the Queen's dotted about. There was also part of the Queen's Machine-gun Section under a sergeant, but their chance of finding suitable targets was very limited. About 200 yards or so to our left was a small farm with some haystacks. I called in there later in the afternoon and found it occupied by the Queen's. Nobody seemed to know what was happening and no information came from Company HQ. There was a fair amount of shelling which continued during the night and we could not do much except improve the trenches a bit. I had rather a shock during the night, as I found that my batman, a very nice Reservist, who was quite close to me, had been killed by a shell splinter.

As soon as it was daylight on 31st October, the shelling increased in violence and went on for some hours and soon the farm and haystacks were on fire. From time to time we could see parties of Germans moving across our front to the left, evidently massing for an attack on the farm. Somewhere about midday, to my amazement, I saw a large party of Germans coming round from behind the farm. We tried to turn our flank towards them but there was little we could do and we were rapidly overwhelmed. One German had a shot at me from about five yards which just cut my ear. I suppose his excuse for this bad shot would have been that he was out of breath and tried a standing shot.

Eventually about 150 to 200 of us were rounded up, mostly Queen's with a few of my men. There were two Queen's officers, Captain Barton and 2/Lt Green, both belonging to the Special Reserve, I think. On the way back, a German relieved me of eight sovereigns, the last I have ever had, and my tobacco pouch, but did not find my pipe nor my silver cigarette case which I still possess. We saw a lot of German troops waiting to go forward and according to the official history, the attack was carried out by at least 13 German Battalions, whilst the British troops in the Gheluvelt area were only about 1,000 strong.

Our party of prisoners was marched back to Wervicq, a village on the Franco-Belgian border where we three officers were interrogated by a German officer who spoke good English and seemed to know much more about our order of battle than we did. He said that the British were using "Dum-Dum" bullets. He produced a rather battered British rifle and pointed to the magazine cut-off which was fitted to rifles in those days. At the end of the thumb-grip a small hole had been drilled out and the German officer said that a British soldier had told him that by pushing the point of the bullet into this hole, it was possible to break the point off, thus making a Dum-Dum bullet. We naturally said that this was news to us, so the German asked us what the hole was for, which rather stumped us—one suggestion was to lighten the weight of the rifle!

After Wervicq we had a long march back to Roubaix, near Lille. On arrival at a POW camp at Crefeld we found Captain Alleyne who I think belonged to 2 Queen's, and Captain Soames, an officer of the Royal Sussex Special Reserve who was attached to the Queen's.'

The Queen's Regimental History, which mentions the part played by 2 KRRC at Gheluvelt, describes 31st October, 1914 as 'one of the worst days experienced by 1 Queen's during the whole war.' Colonel Goad's memory is remarkably accurate after so many years. The Regimental History confirms that Captains Barton and Soames and 2/Lt Conner-Green were missing after this disastrous day on which the 1st Battalion sustained 633 casualties. The 2nd Queen's casualties amounted to 676 all ranks, including Captain Alleyne mentioned above.

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

Personal Narratives

1st Battalion

As readers of the News Letter will know, we are trying to collect eye witness accounts of the operations in the 1939-45 War. The reason for this is that a Regimental History can only give a general picture of the operations and cannot devote much space to a detailed account of what happened at the lower level. Nevertheless, there is much of interest which should not be lost—deeds of individual gallantry, remembrance of members of the Regiment not mentioned in official records, descriptions of what actually happened in action

and the occasional anecdote of the lighter side of life. Such accounts can only be written by people who were there, and it is felt they form a 'useful addition to the official record and are of interest to older members of The East Surrey Regiment.

So far as the 1st Battalion is concerned, the story falls into three parts, namely,

Part I France and Belgium in 1940

Part II North Africa, Sicily and Italy up to May 1944.

Part III Italy from May 1944 to the end of the War.

Part I consists of 15 duplicated pages and has a foreword by Brigadier Boxshall. The index contains the names of over 50 East Surrey officers and soldiers. It is available from the Queen's Surreys Office for 15p, post free.

Part II, written by Colonel H. B. L. Smith, contains 35 duplicated pages. The index contains the names of over 50 officers and men, including 30 of the 1st Battalion. The price is 20p, post free.

We have not yet been able to find a writer for Part III, that is, the final year of the war in Italy. It would be a pity not to complete the series. Would anyone willing to help us out, please let the Secretary of the Regimental Association know.

Other battalions

Narratives have still to be written for the 2nd Battalion, the 1/6th and the 2/6th. Anyone prepared to have a go would receive every assistance from the Queen's Surreys Office, and of course, the use of a copy of Volume IV of the Regimental History as background to the events.

A New Short History

A short history of The East Surrey Regiment is being published by Leo Cooper in The Famous Regiments series. The author is Michael Langley who served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA).

It is hoped the book will be published on Ypres Day, 23rd April 1972. Particulars of the cost to members of the Regimental Association will be printed in the next edition of the News Letter.

21st London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles)

The Regiment traces its origins back to 1803 when the First Regiment of Surrey Volunteers were formed under the authority of the new Defence Act. At the King's Birthday Parade of 1808, the First Surrey Volunteers mustered 400 men.

It appears that in 1859, through the influence of the East Surrey or Hanover Park Rifle Club, the Regiment assumed the title of the First Surrey Rifles.

The year 1881 saw many changes in military organisation, but the only difference it made to the First Surrey Rifles was that it was now attached to The East Surrey Regiment at Kingston, and became the leading regiment in the East Surrey Volunteer Brigade.

The first active service was seen by detachments of

the Regiment who served in the South African War both with The East Surrey Regiment and the City of London Imperial Volunteers.

On 1st April, 1908 the Volunteer Force ceased to exist on the formation of the new Territorial Force. Part of this reorganisation involved the formation of The London Regiment, consisting of 28, later 26, battalions. The first eight were City of London battalions and the remainder County of London battalions. The First Surrey Rifles thus became the 21st (County of London) Bn, The London Regiment (First Surrey Rifles), a title it was to bear until their conversion to an AA Searchlight Battalion of the Royal Engineers (TA) on 15th December, 1935.

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War the 21st London formed two Service Battalions and one Reserve Battalion. The 1st Battalion went to France on 15th March, 1915 as part of the 6th London Infantry Brigade. They served in France the whole of the war, taking part in the operations of Givenchy and Loos in 1915, Vimy Ridge and the Somme in 1916, the Ypres Salient and the Hindenburg Line in 1917 and the Cambrai Salient in 1918.

The 2/21st served in France from June to November 1916 when they were transferred to Macedonia. In July 1917 they were sent to Palestine and took part in the capture of Jerusalem.

During the war, The London Regiment which had been a Corps since 1908, ceased to be a Corps in its own right and its various battalions were absorbed into Regular regiments. Under the Corps Warrant of 7th July, 1916, the 21st London Regiment became part of the Corps of The East Surrey Regiment.

The 1st Battalion was disembodied on 25th July, 1919 and reconstituted on 7th February, 1920. The 2/21st was disbanded on 11th June, 1918 and the 3/21st on 11th September, 1919. The casualties sustained by the 21st London Regiment during the 1914-18 War amounted to 1,187 killed and over 6,000 wounded.

Hill 60

Under the heading 'An old soldier remembers' Mr W. G. Bartholomew's recollections of the action at Hill 60 in 1915 were published in the Jersey Evening Post in June this year. 7990 Bill Bartholomew joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1903 and retired 16 years later with the rank of RQMS. Mr Bartholomew, who is now 86, has lived in Jersey for many years.

Extracts from the article by Len Stevens are reprinted from the Jersey Evening Post by permission of the proprietors.

17th April

There was a low ridge crossing from east to west with a deep railway cutting running through the western side. On the north-west corner stood this hill; its contour, which spread a little way up from the base, was marked '60 metres' (hence the name Hill 60). On 17th April, 1915 the British front-line spread along the road which leads from the hamlet of Zwartilleen round the northern base of the hill and across the railway by the bridge. At

6 p.m. the Royal Engineers exploded mines they had driven under the German fire trenches on the hill, with the result that five large craters were formed, three in a direct line east to west, close to the southern crest-line, and two near the northern crest-line. Following the explosions the 1st Royal West Kent Regiment and the 2nd King's Own Scottish Borderers, both of the 13th Brigade, attacked, captured and occupied the German support trenches on the south side.

18th April

On 18th April, the 14th Brigade was ordered to send a Battalion to reinforce the 13th Brigade at Hill 60. The 1st Battalion East Surrey Regiment was selected for this duty, so the Regiment left Ypres and proceeded to a point about a mile short of Hill 60. The 15th Brigade had been ordered to relieve 13th Brigade on both sides of the railway cutting. The East Surreys now awaited further orders. These came at about 11 p.m.—'Take over the Hill 60 position'.

19th April

This duty was carried out and at 5 a.m. on 19th April they were in position. The line-up for the defence of the Hill was now as follows: On the left flank were the 1st Cheshire Regiment, in the centre the 1st East Surreys and on the north-west beyond the cutting the 1st Norfolk Regiment. In support, about 500 yards to the north of the hill, were the 2nd Bedfords.

The final placing of the East Surreys was 'B' and 'D' Companies, together with four machine-guns on the north side: 'A' Company in a forward trench on the south side of the hill; 'C' Company, with one machine-gun, on the west side. The East Surrey's first tasks were to clear their trenches of the dead and wounded and improve their defences, these being carried out under continuous shell-fire throughout the day. By 5 p.m. this was increased to a heavy enemy bombardment of all the trenches. This was answered by the British guns and eventually ceased but during that period great destruction had been wrought.

20th April

The morning of 20th April broke fine and warm. The fire of the enemy's heavy howitzers proved very accurate and caused great damage to the parapets. One shell destroyed the traverse in a short trench in front of 'B' Company. A few brave men, under the direction of a sergeant, rebuilt it. At about 11 a.m. a heavy bombardment was mounted on all positions, causing great destruction, with the trench being obliterated and its occupants killed and buried in the debris. At about 3 p.m., the Germans attempted to advance into the shelled area in front of 'B' Company but the cross-fire of 'B' and 'D' Companies drove them back. At about this time, because of 'B' Company's heavy losses, a gap had been created and the supporting platoons were ordered to come in.

Soon after 4 p.m. the main, concerted attempt to recapture lost ground was started by an intense bombard-

ment on the whole position by guns of all calibres. The bursting of shells was incessant, and the noise deafening. The little hill was covered with flame, smoke and dust, it being impossible to see further than ten yards in any direction. Many casualties resulted and the trenches became choked with dead, wounded, debris and mud as to be well nigh impassable.

The officer in charge of the right platoon in 'A' Company's trench, together with some 20 of his men, lay dead in the bottom of the trench. The supporting platoon was ordered to come in and close the gap under continuous enemy shell-fire. Many brave men were lost but those who got through behaved most gallantly and kept the trench open, as it was the only access to the forward trench. Soon after 5 p.m. the bombardment lifted off the southern and eastern slopes of the hill but continued elsewhere.

It was now the turn of the German infantry and they launched simultaneous attacks on the left against the East Surreys 'B' and 'D' Companies and on 'A' Company on the south-east corner. For this attack they deployed from the railway cutting and advanced towards the extreme right crater, but the concentrated fire of the British guns, the machine-guns of the Norfolk Regiment and the machine-gun in the East Surreys 'C' Company trench defeated them. The two gunners of the latter gun had both been killed during the bombardment and the corporal-in-charge, although he had a portion of his jaw shot away, was now working the gun single-handed. He was later killed by a bullet in the head.

In the attack on our 'A' Company, German bombers crawled along the old enemy communication trenches supported by parties of their infantry who attempted to advance by short rushes across open ground. This was stopped by rapid rifle fire. The men on the left of our trench were picking up the German bombs and throwing them back before they had time to explode.

Owing to heavy losses in 'A' Company's trench a call for reinforcements was sent out and a party of the 1st Bedfords was sent up; they failed to gain an entrance into the forward trench, but succeeded in getting across the hill into the left crater. The capture of this crater was now the Germans' main objective and their two machine-guns in the gap leading from their strong point only 20 yards away took a heavy toll of the defenders. More British reinforcements were got in, including the Bedfords, the platoon of the East Surreys 'D' Company who had been holding the communication trench, and the last platoon of 'A' Company who had been unable to get into the forward position.

The defenders of the crater continued to hold their own against continued heavy attacks, while further to the left 'B' and 'D' Companies defeated three attacks between dark and dawn. There was no cessation of the attacks on 'A' Company in the forward trench, these continuing until near midnight, when the enemy retired from the left of the forward trench. Only four fresh attacks were delivered during the night, but the tired defenders beat them off.

21st April

At 6 a.m. on 21st April the position, still intact as it had been when taken over by the 1st East Surreys on

the morning of the 19th, was handed over to the 1st Battalion The Devonshire Regiment. After relief the East Surreys, sadly reduced in numbers, prepared to march out, taking with them the body of their lamented commanding officer which, later in the day, they buried with full military honours in the grounds of a convent in Ypres.

Of the 21 officers who went into action on the 19th only six were left. Many were the gallant deeds performed by both officers and men during those grim days and nights at Hill 60, but much of the information which could have recorded their outstanding bravery and devotion to duty was lost in the horror of destruction. Nevertheless some of the deeds were verified and the following awards were made to individual officers and men: Three received the Victoria Cross; two the Military Cross; seven the Distinguished Conduct Medal; nine were Mentioned in Despatches and three received the Russian Cross of St George.

Ex-RQMS Bartholomew, in these reminiscences, purposely omits to mention individual names, taking the view that it would be unfair to others of the battalion—so many of whom died—who played an equally gallant part in the action.

Fifty-six years back was before many of us were born but the story of the part The East Surrey Regiment and their gallant contemporaries in the field played in the Battle of Hill 60 loses nothing in the intensity of its telling because of that.

Chapels and Memorials

The East Surrey Regiment Roll of Honour

A statement of the number of casualties sustained by the battalions of the Regiment in the 1914-18 War was published in the November 1970 News Letter. The figures had been taken from a newspaper cutting of the early 1920s. The statement concluded, 'The Regimental Depot, Territorial Battalions (including the 21st and 23rd London Regiments) and the Reserve Battalions account for a further 387 names.'

Captain R. A. Caplen, who served in the 1/21st London from 1916, writes:

'The newspaper cutting of 1920 is hopelessly incorrect regarding the casualties of the Territorials, including the 21st and 23rd London. The Book of Remembrance which was housed in St Giles Church, Camberwell, until removed by vandals, contained more than 1,000 names. One can be reasonably certain the 23rd London have a like number.'

We are grateful to Captain Caplen for drawing attention to this inaccuracy. He is perfectly right on both counts. A precis of the service of the 21st London Regiment, published in the Regimental Journal of February 1925, records that the number of killed in the 21st London in the 1914-18 War amounted to 1,187. The figure for the 23rd London, taken from their Regimental History, is 1,148.

It is good to know that the News Letter is read with such a critical eye, and we are glad to pay tribute to the enormous sacrifice made by these two fine Territorial Regiments. They became part of the Corps of The East Surrey Regiment on 7th July, 1916.

Pilgrimage to War Cemeteries

Mr F. W. Ward, who was severely wounded at Hill 60 in 1915, has paid a visit to some of the places in Belgium and France known to the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War, and writes:

'It was a pilgrimage, and although so many years ago now the sight of so many gravestones of our Regiment was a very sad experience, but I would not have missed it for anything. I went to the Memorial Church at Ypres and to the right of the altar there is the brass plate of the officers and men of The East Surrey Regiment.

I was taken by car to Hill 60. Of course it is not really a hill but a mound which gives a great view of the countryside. We went to Dunkirk where there is a British Cemetery. The lawns are like a bowling green. Again the badge of our Regiment was unfortunately well represented. In this beautiful cemetery there is a wall with the names of the Missing and we were sorry to see so many names of The East Surrey Regiment.'

Deaths

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

Jeal On 8th February, 1971, Pte Harold Henry Warrington Jeal (6134230), aged 70. Served in the 1914-18 War and in 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1919 to 1922.

Wallace On 25th February, 1971, Pte Robert William Henry Wallace (13048620), aged 58. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Ward On 8th March, 1971, Pte William Charles Ward (10121), aged 78. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1910 to 1917 when he was completely disabled. Although he suffered many afflictions, including total blindness, Willie Ward was an outward looking man who never complained and spent his time helping others to the best of his ability.

Howells On 29th March, 1971, Captain John Purslow Howells, MC, DCM, aged 82. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1912 to 1934. See obituary.

Carter On 2nd April, 1971, Pte Sidney John Carter (6459461), aged 50. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1949.

Tripp On 10th May, 1971, Pte Leslie Tripp (6089802), aged 52. Served in the 2/7th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1940 in France where he was taken prisoner. He was repatriated on medical grounds in 1944.

Flack On 12th May, 1971, Pte Walter James Flack (6087059), aged 52. Served in the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1945.

Lane On 26th May, 1971, Captain Frederick William Lane, MBE. Served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1901 to 1923. See obituary.

Stacke Major Hedley Herbert Stacke, OBE, aged 86. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1905 to 1924, and was awarded the French Croix de Guerre. See obituary.

Coldman On 29th May, 1971, RSM William John Coldman (6078225), aged 68. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1920 to 1945. He was mentioned in despatches in 1940 when RSM of the 1/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. See obituary.

Lancefield-Staples On 5th June, 1971, Colonel W. H. Lancefield-Staples, aged 64. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1924 to 1930 when he was commissioned into The Welch Regiment. He was transferred to RAOC in 1948 and retired in 1961.

Green On 11th June, 1971, Pte Albert William Charles Green (7526), aged 77. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1914 to 1920. See obituary.

Evans On 13th June, 1971, Lt Colonel Harold George Muir, aged 72. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1917 to 1946. See obituary.

Foord On 28th June, 1971, Brigadier Edward John Foord, CBE, aged 64. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1926 to 1934. On the outbreak of war he was posted to the General List and was soon promoted to Brigadier. He served as an intelligence officer on General Eisenhower's staff during the D Day landings of June 1944. Tommy Foord was awarded the American Legion of Merit, the French Legion d'Honneur and the Croix de Guerre. He was made CBE in 1945.

Caton On 15th July, 1971, Major Raymond March Caton, MBE, TD, aged 55. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1937 to 1954, and in the RAPC until 1957. See obituary.

Pain On 23rd July, 1971, Lt Colonel Michell Wyndham Hackett Pain, aged 81. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1910 to 1933. See obituary.

Rogers On 31st July, 1971, Pte George William Rogers (6077464), aged 72. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1917 to 1922.

White On 12th August, 1971, Sergeant Frederick J. White (6137620), aged 59. Served in the Band of 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1928 to 1938, and as RAP Sergeant of 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1939 to 1945. See obituary.

Flinton On 19th August, 1971, Pte Percy William Kerslake Flinton (36593), aged 69. Served in the 3/5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1917 to 1918 and in the Australian Military Forces from 1939 to 1945, when he was discharged with the rank of WO I.

Burgess On 24th August, 1971, CSM Thomas Gerard Burgess (6133111), aged 69. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1919 to 1945. See obituary.

Bevins On 27th August, 1971, Pte John Bevins (6136328). Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1923 to 1945.

Cooper On 29th August, 1971, Pte William George Cooper (68213), aged 72. Joined the 11th Queen's in 1917, and was transferred to the 8th Queen's. Discharged in 1919. Bill Cooper was a very loyal supporter of the Regiment and never failed to attend Regimental functions.

Pearce On 14th September, 1971, Pte James Thomas Pearce (T4/039653), aged 87. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1902 to 1906 and in the Royal Army Service Corps from 1914 to 1920.

Whitfield On 23rd September, 1971, Major General John Yeldham Whitfield, CB, DSO, OBE, aged 71, the last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment. See obituary.

Guiver On 5th October, 1971, CSM Charles Leonard Guiver (5057), aged 90. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1896 to 1919. See obituary.

Lodge On 8th October, 1971, Lt Colonel Geoffrey George Nisbett Lodge, aged 81. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1913 to 1942. See obituary.

Mandeville On 12th October, 1971, Sgt Ernest Henry Mandeville (6133967), aged 81. Served in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th Battalions The East Surrey Regiment between 1903 and 1928. He retired in 1955 after 25 years service in the Royal Parks, and was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. He had been at the Star and Garter Home, Richmond, since 1966.

Biggs Pte H. H. Biggs, aged 75. Wounded at the Battle of the Somme when serving with 1/22nd London Regiment. Later served in the 2/22nd London in Palestine.

Miller On 16th July, 1971, Pte T. H. Miller (1898). He was one of the originals of the 1/22nd London Regiment. Served on the Western Front until severely wounded in the head, causing the loss of an eye.

Watkins Cpl A. J. Watkins (6090245). Served in the 1/6th Queen's in France and Belgium in 1940 and in the Western Desert in 1942. He was badly wounded and lost an eye in Italy in 1944. He was then downgraded and transferred to the Royal Engineers.

Furze On 21st October, 1971, Brigadier Edward Keith Byrne Furze, DSO, OBE, MC, aged 81. Commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1912, he went to France with the 2nd Queen's in 1914 and was wounded at the First Battle of Ypres. He was Adjutant from May 1915 to May 1916, and was awarded the DSO and MC. In 1920 Major Furze transferred to the RAEC and retired in 1949 with the rank of Brigadier. His last appointment was as a Military Knight of Windsor.

Moth On 21st October, 1971, Sgt Samuel Moth, aged 81. Served in 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1908 until transferred to the Machine Gun Corps in 1916. Sam Moth was twice wounded in France and was mentioned in despatches in 1917.

Regimental Families

We regret to announce the death of Mr Desmond Ivo Vesey on 9th June, 1971. Desmond Vesey was the son of General Sir Ivo Vesey, KCB, KBE, CMG, DSO, Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1939 to 1945.

We also announce with regret the death of Mrs Elizabeth Fletcher, wife of Brigadier Michael Fletcher, CBE, on 6th October, 1971.

Obituaries

Colonel G. Gould, DSO

George Gould, who died last year at the age of 88, was commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in 1901. He saw service in the South African War with the 2nd Surreys, and in 1906 was transferred to the Indian Army and posted to the 2nd Bengal Lancers. Major Gould was awarded the DSO in 1918 as Brigade Major of the Cavalry Brigade, British Armies in France. He retired in 1935 but was recalled at the outbreak of the 1939-45 War when he served as AA & QMG 52 (Lowland) Division. Colonel Gould maintained an active interest in his old Regiment all his days.

Colonel Gould was well known in the world of small-bore shooting. He was a noted rifle and pistol shot and represented Ireland many times, and Great Britain in the Dewar Competition of 1952. He was on the Committee of the National Small Bore Rifle Association for many years.

L/Cpl Charles Wade

Major Glanvill Benn writes:
When in the early years after the 39/45 War Colonel Congdon was so ably looking after the welfare of old

Surreys, Corporal Wade was a problem. Here was a man of excellent character who had spent his whole adult life in the Army; and the Army had kept him on and on, but now age could no longer be overlooked and he must leave. With no experience of civilian life, no friends or relations in business, at his age how was he to find a job? John Congdon's answer was to detail us to take him on as an office boy. And never did the Colonel do any firm a better turn.

Charlie Wade served us from September 1950 until December 1961. Very early on, my Secretary and I discovered that if we wanted a letter or a parcel delivered safely to a particular person, Charlie Wade was our man. If he had been asked to give a packet personally to the Archbishop of Canterbury, he would have done just that. Gently, politely, but entirely firmly he would bypass Receptionists, Secretaries, Personal Assistants and any other underlings until he came face to face with his often exalted quarry—and his quarry was always delighted to meet such a marvellous character.

One day in 1951 he came back to Bouverie House about midday from an errand that had taken him to Buckingham Palace. 'The King's very ill' said Charlie quietly to the others in our Post Room. Few believed him—until the BBC and the evening papers gave out the same news officially at tea time.

At 75 Charlie formally retired, having married a lady from our Canteen. Every few weeks he would pay us a visit, shaking hands with old friends—there are other Surreys in our firm—and new ones, never taking too much time or overstaying his welcome. What a splendid soldier and citizen was there. We shall not look on his like again.

Captain J. P. Howells, MC, DCM

With the death of Peter Howells, the Regiment has lost one of its most distinguished fighting soldiers. He enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in October 1912 and two years later embarked for France with the 2nd Battalion. He was soon promoted and in 1915 was awarded the DCM. Commissioned in June 1916, he was first wounded at the Battle of the Somme the following month. His first MC was awarded in 1917, shortly before he was wounded at Passchendaele. He won a bar to his MC in 1918, and was wounded for the third time.

Apart from a tour of duty in the Machine Gun Corps from 1920 to 1922 and another in the King's African Rifles from 1927 to 1929, the greater part of Captain Howells' service was in the 2nd Battalion The Queen's. He took a great interest in sport in the Regiment and was himself a useful boxer. At the age of 31 he represented the Regiment in the Aldershot Command Championship in 1920.

Captain F. W. Lane

'Darkie' Lane was one of the real old timers of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment. Enlisting in 1901 he did 21 years service in the Regiment before retiring as a Warrant Officer in 1923. He will be remembered as a good all-round sportsman. On leaving the Army he joined the Colonial Service, and was for 14 years on

the Island of St Helena. During this time he was awarded the MBE.

He was commissioned in the Royal Pioneer Corps in 1940 and served for a further eight years, retiring with the rank of Captain. He will be missed by a number of old Surreys.

Major H. H. Stacke, OBE

Brigadier Roupell writes: 'Hedley Stacke was the senior subaltern in the 1st Battalion when I joined and we were both in A Company in my early days. He was a delightful companion with a great sense of humour, and, as indicated in the Regimental History, a most gallant man in action. Badly wounded in the Battle of the Marne, he spent the rest of the War in the War Office.'

A. W. C. Green

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War Albert Green was serving afloat in the Grand Fleet. He succeeded in transferring to the Army and was posted to The East Surrey Regiment under the name of Bloomfield. He became one of the picked men selected as Battalion runners in the 1st Battalion in France, and he made a name for himself by his reliability and imperturbability under fire. He is recorded in the Regimental History in the following words, 'On 14th June, 1917 Pte Albert William Charles Bloomfield was awarded the Medaille Militaire for gallant conduct about Longueval and Delville Wood and in subsequent engagements, for repeatedly carrying important messages when employed as a battalion orderly to and from Battalion Headquarters and the front line through heavily shelled areas, thus successfully maintaining communications throughout the operations. This man has served throughout nearly the whole of the campaign with the Battalion'.

Lieut-Colonel H. G. M. Evans

Harry Evans was commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) on 1st May, 1917. He served for the remainder of the war and was awarded the Italian War Cross, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was with the 1st Battalion in Ireland and was appointed Adjutant of the 4th Battalion (TA) on 9th March, 1926. He was with the 2nd Battalion in Aldershot from 1931 to 1934, when he rejoined the 1st Battalion in Tientsin, proceeding with them to Quetta just in time for the Earthquake. He commanded the 1st Battalion from September 1939 to September 1943, when he was given a Staff appointment. He retired on 22nd March, 1946.

In his younger days he was a distinguished athlete, winning the Army 100 yards and 220 yards for several years in succession. As a soldier he was strict, fair and determined. He had great force of character and was the type that gave the Regiment the reputation it has always had. He was a firm friend, always ready with help and advice, but never gratuitously. Crispo and his wife, Mollie, were a most cheerful couple and were generally the life and soul of any Regimental gathering in the period between the two wars. On retirement he

went to live in Lowestoft and that is where he died on 13th June, 1971. He leaves a wife and three daughters, to whom we offer our sincere sympathy.

Major R. M. Caton, MBE, TD

Raymond March Caton was a pre-war Territorial officer in the 6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA). He went to France as MTO of the 1/6th Battalion in 1939, and it was there he was attached to Bde HQ as Brigade Transport Officer, an appointment he retained on return to the United Kingdom in 1940.

With 131 (Queen's) Bde he served in the 8th Army campaigns in Africa and Italy where he had his first breakdown in health. He returned to the 1/6th Bn in time for the Normandy landings as 21C HQ Coy, and it is as PRI that he is most warmly remembered by all for his untiring efforts in welfare and comforts for the men. At the end of the war he continued his service (on SCC) and achieved such excellent results on a Pay Course that he transferred to the RAPC and became for a time an instructor. Further overseas service followed and it was while in Germany that he was awarded the MBE.

Ill health dogged him however and eventually he was invalided out in the early 1960s with a serious heart condition. His connection with the services was maintained when he became Secretary of five or six Charitable and Benevolent Associations, all connected with the three Services but yet again he put too much of himself into his work with the inevitable result and he resigned. The last two years of his life he still kept a contact with the Services since he worked on a project for an American firm of management consultants embracing the NAAFI services and the American PX.

In December 1970 he made the National Press headlines. While waiting in St George's Hospital for a heart transplant an electricity power strike prevented the operation. This led him to complain more in sorrow than in anger, 'I've even had all my teeth out in readiness.' Later Professor Ross, the eminent surgeon, decided against a heart transplant but transferred veins from his leg into the heart instead. Ray Caton's last public appearance was at a reunion at Bermondsey to welcome back an old Canloan Officer and to meet again Major General Forrester, 1/6th Queen's CO in Italy and France. This was as he would have had it.

Sergeant F. J. White

Mr S. V. Bodfish writes: 'Fred (Chalky) White served in the Band of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1928 until 1938. He was recalled from the reserve and then served, after a short period with the 1st Battalion, as RAP sergeant in the 1/6th Battalion. A really first class sportsman "Chalky" represented the Battalion many times on the football field, hockey pitch and the Athletics ground. He, perhaps, had the most interesting distinction that during the tour of the 1/6th Battalion throughout its wartime service he always had the nucleus of a band with music and instruments. This small band of musicians and stretcher bearers did valiant service in North Africa when it toured extensively with the excellent Battalion Concert party which was always well appreciated and a great morale booster.'

T. G. Burgess

Thomas Gerard Burgess, who passed away suddenly at his home in Kingston upon Thames on 24th August at the age of 69, enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment in 1919 and served until 1945. He spent most of his service with the 1st Battalion in Egypt, Hong Kong and India. Tom was a keen sportsman excelling in hockey, cricket and swimming. He was a founder member of the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association and served on the Committee from 1963 to 1967. Tom was a big man with a big heart. He loved people and was always ready to crack a joke, and was the life and soul of any party. He was very loyal to his Regiment and seldom missed a Regimental function. A grand old comrade who will be missed by many old Surreys.

With Mrs Burgess, we share the loss of a memorable character.

A.R.S.

RSM W. J. Coldman

William John Coldman, Bill to his many friends, died in May. He enlisted into The Queen's Royal Regiment on 12th April, 1920 and served with the 2nd Battalion in India from 1921 to 1926, being awarded the India General Service Medal. He spent 1927 serving in the Sudan, returning to England in 1928 as a Sergeant. In England he was posted to the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) TA as PSI and here it was he learnt to understand and appreciate the Territorial Army—knowledge which was to stand him in very good stead later. He returned to the 2nd Battalion after his term of duty with the 22nd London Regiment and became Weapon Training Instructor. In 1935 he was posted to the 5th Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA) as CSM, a rather unusual posting at the time, and later in 1937 was promoted RSM.

RSM Coldman by now knew the Territorial soldier well and, whilst being a strict disciplinarian as all RSMs must be, learnt that the Territorial could not be treated entirely like a Regular and he was therefore always ready with advice to young soldiers and young officers alike and at times used tact and the blind eye rather than the strict discipline of a Regular soldier. 1938 saw the Munich crisis and Coldman was at Battalion HQ preparing for mobilisation and recruitment into the 5th Battalion until it doubled its strength and was split into two battalions just before the outbreak of war in 1939. He remained RSM of the 1/5th Battalion and in 1940 went with the Battalion to France. He took part in the campaign and retreat to Dunkirk and was mentioned in despatches for his services. He was evacuated from Dunkirk on 1st June.

He remained with the Battalion after Dunkirk and was with the Battalion on the Wash and serving in Sussex and Kent during 1940 and 1941, but ill-health overtook him and he was prevented from going overseas again and joined his former CO as Garrison Sergeant Major at Chatham where he remained until the end of the war. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 1943.

On retirement to civil life RSM Coldman became first licensee of the Half Moon at Farncombe and later of The Cannon in Guildford and here he was visited by many of his old friends in the Regiment. He was a great supporter of the 5th Battalion Old Members Association and his cheery voice could often be heard at their annual reunion. He was also a patron of the Old Contemptibles Association.

A loyal Queen's man, he will be sadly missed.

Lieut-Colonel M. W. H. Pain

Michell Wyndham Hackett Pain died on 23rd July, 1971. Born on 27th January, 1890, he was educated at Harrow. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regiment in April 1910 and was posted to the 1st Battalion. In June 1911 he was a member of the party of three officers and 50 other ranks representing the Battalion on duty in London in connection with the Coronation of King George the Fifth.

On the outbreak of war in August 1914 he went overseas with the 1st Battalion and was the first officer casualty in the Regiment, being wounded on 26th August, 1914. He rejoined the Battalion three months later. He became a specialist in the medium machine gun, and served in the Machine Gun Corps on the Western Front and in Mesopotamia from 1916 to 1921. He was mentioned in despatches in March 1918.

In the four years immediately after the 1914-18 War he was on the staff of the Machine Gun School, at Seaforth, and served in the 1st Battalion of the Queen's in Ireland. He held several staff appointments in connection with Machine Guns and also commanded the Regimental Depot at Guildford.

In 1931 he joined the 2nd Battalion in the appointment of Second-in-Command, and was in temporary command of the Battalion from March 1931 to early in the following year. On 1st November, 1933 he retired from the Army.

He joined the brewing firm of Courage and Co, and became a director of the firm. His recreational activities were mostly equestrian; an accomplished horseman, he was a keen rider to hounds. Mich Pain is remembered for his exceptionally gentle and kindly disposition, and particularly for his helpful friendliness to his juniors. He is survived by his widow and two sons.

C. L. Guiver

Charles Leonard Guiver, who has died at the age of 90, was one of our oldest soldiers. Enlisting in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1896 he served in the 2nd Battalion in the South African War. He was Band Sgt of the 2nd Queen's from 1908 to 1912 and Bandmaster of the 3rd Bn (SR) from 1912 to 1914. In the 1914-18 War he served in the 12th and 8th Battalions, and retired in 1919 with the rank of CSM. In 1920 Mr Guiver returned to the Regiment as Assistant Secretary of the Old Comrades Association and worked in that capacity in Stoughton Barracks until 1938. Mr Guiver, who held the Meritorious Service Medal, was well known to a very large number of Queen's men who passed through the Regimental Depot during his long service there.

Lieut-Colonel G. G. N. Lodge

Geoffrey Lodge was commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment from the Territorial Army in 1913. Most of his service was in the 2nd Battalion. He was wounded in the head at Wulverghem in July 1915. Between the wars he commanded the Army PT School at Kasauli in India. In 1939 he retired but was immediately recalled for the war in which he served as Officer in Charge of Records at Exeter. In 1942 he was discharged from the Army on account of illness but joined the Royal Observer Corps and served until the end of the war.

Geoff Lodge will be remembered as a quiet, kindly man, very conscientious and a staunch supporter of the Regiment.

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.

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.

News Letter subscriptions

As forecast in our last issue, it has been necessary to increase the price of the News Letter to 35p. We will hold it at that level as long as possible.

Subscriptions are payable in advance, so please attend to this NOW while the matter is still fresh in your mind. No reminders will be sent, so if you do not send in the order form and your remittance, you will not receive the May 1972 News Letter.

If you would like to pay the News Letter subscription for a friend, please let the Editor know.

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