

# REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

## President

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

## Chairman

Lieutenant Colonel H.R.D. Hill, MBE

## Secretary

Major P.G.E. Hill



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

## News Letter No. 11

May, 1972

## Editorial

Some of our members may have heard that new Colours were to be presented to The Queen's Regiment on 24th June this year. During the ceremony which was to be held at Lucknow Barracks, Tidworth, the old Colours were to be trooped and marched off parade for the last time. Among them were the Colours of the 1st Battalion The Queen's Regiment which many of our readers will remember HRH The Duke of Edinburgh presenting to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment at Bury St Edmunds in April 1960. The Presentation was to have been made by His Majesty, King Frederik of Denmark, our Allied Colonel-in-Chief, who unfortunately died in January.

At the time of writing it is uncertain whether the ceremony can take place as planned. If further information becomes available it will be published in this News Letter as "stop press".

Members who would like to know what is happening, are advised to send their inquiries to the Queen's Surreys Office at the address at the heading of this News Letter.

## Honours and Awards

We congratulate the undermentioned on their awards published in the New Year's Honours List.

MBE (Military) Major R. H. Esler.

MBE (Civil) Mr H. Mann.

## Regimental Association

### Accounts

The accounts of the Regimental Association for the year ended 31st December, 1971, were audited by Messrs. Menzies Middleton & Hawkins, Chartered Accountants of Kingston upon Thames and passed at a meeting of the Managing Trustees on 25th March, 1972. The state of the funds as at 31st December, 1971, is summarised below.

Name of Fund	Accumulated Funds		Excess of Income over Expenditure		Excess of Expenditure over Income	
	1971	1970	1971	1970	1971	1970
Queen's Surreys Charitable	5,453	5,067	212	353	—	—
Queen's Charitable	37,369	36,792	577	—	—	501
Surreys Charitable	19,046	18,668	378	172	—	—
Queen's War Memorial	13,828	13,563	265	2	—	—
Surreys War Memorial	10,143	10,251	108	(92)	—	—
Main	1,773	1,691	82	140	—	—
Reunion	1,031	1,254	—	(50)	—	8
News Letter	115	222	—	—	107	27

## Benevolent Work of the Association

The assistance of our old soldiers and their dependants in need is the most important part of the work of the Regimental Association. There are just under 2,200 cases on our books, the majority of these being 1914-18 War soldiers, between the Wars and 1939-45 War men. Grants made from our Trust Funds can be augmented by contributions from the serving soldiers Day's Pay Scheme and from the Army Benevolent Fund.

The number of cases helped in 1971 compared with 1970 is shown below:

Name of Fund	Number of cases		Amount of grants	
	1971	1970	1971	1970
Queen's Surreys Charitable	7	3	167	40
Queen's Charitable	160	146	2,276	2,500
Surreys Charitable	131	92	1,844	1,104
Queen's War Memorial	25	40	481	816
Surreys War Memorial	28	28	523	487
Totals	351	309	5,191	4,947

## Annual Cathedral Service

The Annual Service of the Regimental Association will be held in Guildford Cathedral at 1115 hrs on Sunday, 18th June, 1972, and will be conducted by the Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend A. C. Bridge. The preacher will be the Reverend Jocelyn P. Grundy, Rector of Shere.

## Reunion

### Date and Place

The Annual Reunion will be held at the Drill Hall, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames from 1830 to 2300 hrs on Friday, 13th October, 1972. The function is for men only.

### Tickets

The cost of admission will be 50p, whether or not supper is taken. Tickets will be obtainable from the Secretary.

### Warning In

Members are requested to submit the enclosed warning-in slip, with remittance, by not later than Monday, 9th October. Money will be refunded if you are unable to make use of your tickets, provided they are returned to the Secretary by Monday, 9th October.

### Refreshments

The cost of the tickets includes a buffet supper, provided the ticket is bought before Monday, 9th October. Supper will not be available for those who buy their tickets after 9th October. This restriction is necessary to avoid ordering more food than is required.



## Security

OC 221 (Surrey) Field Ambulance RAMC (V), from whom the Drill Hall is leased, has had to impose a number of security measures this year. Those principally affecting members are:

- Admission will be by the front entrance only, that is the Portsmouth Road and not the Surbiton Road entrance.
- Every member must have a means of identification and authority to attend.
- Cars are not to be parked against or alongside the walls of the Drill Hall and connected buildings.

## Identification

Identification and authority will be afforded by the Reunion ticket. It is therefore necessary this year that members buy their tickets in advance and not at the door.

## Car Parking

Parking will be under the arrangements of OC A Coy 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment and members are requested to comply with the directions of the soldiers responsible for the car park.

## News Letter

The audited accounts of the News Letter for 1971 disclose an excess of Expenditure over Income of £107. There has been a slight decrease in subscriptions, but substantial increases in the cost of printing and stationery. We shall therefore have to raise the subscription to 40p for 1973.

Readers can help in two ways. First, by encouraging others to take the News Letter. Sometimes we hear of subscribers passing on their copies to their friends, which may enlarge our readership but does nothing to promote our sales.

Second, by suggesting how economies can be made. It is clear that if the News Letter was shortened, it would cost less to produce. It has been suggested there is too much emphasis on Regimental History and battlefield tours, and the News Letter has now become more like a Regimental Journal.

Clearly we must retain the little snippets of information about our members which appear under "From Here and There". Correspondence too is of interest, as, sadly, is the list of deaths and obituaries. The historical articles on such subjects as Colours, Regimental Music, traditions, Regimental Chapels and Memorials and accounts of events in which the Regiment was involved cannot be considered as "news". Should they have a place in the News Letter?

The Editor would be glad to have the views of readers as to what should and should not be included in the News Letter.

## The Queen's Regiment

### Organisation of the Regiment

The Queen's Regiment was formed on 31st December, 1966, from the four regiments of Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex. The regiments were:

- Surrey The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment formerly The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment.

Kent The Queen's Own Buffs formerly The Buffs (Royal East Kent) Regiment and The Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment.

Sussex The Royal Sussex Regiment.

Middlesex The Middlesex Regiment (DCO).

The Regiment consists of Regimental Headquarters, three Regular battalions and a representative company and three Volunteer battalions.

The Colonel of the Regiment is Lieutenant General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO who has his Regimental Headquarters at Canterbury.

There is a Deputy Colonel and a County Office for each of the four counties. Each County Office is staffed by a Regimental Secretary and there is a Regimental Association Secretary for the two amalgamated regiments.

The 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment is stationed in Berlin, and the 2nd Battalion is also in BAOR. The 3rd Bn The Queen's Regiment is at Tidworth, while the Albuhera Company, the Representative Company of The Middlesex Regiment, is based at Shorncliffe and is engaged in recruiting.

The 5th (Volunteer) Battalion has its headquarters at Canterbury with a company in each of the four counties. A Company headquarters is at Sandfield Terrace, Guildford.

The headquarters of the recently formed 6th (Volunteer) Battalion stems from the 6th (Territorial) Bn The Queen's Regiment, formerly the 3rd and 4th Bns The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment (TA).

The 7th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment has its headquarters at Horsham and a company in each county. A Company (Queen's Surreys) is located at Farnham.

### 1st Bn The Queen's Regiment

Lieutenant Colonel B. A. M. Pielow, the Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, writes,

"You may be interested to hear that the Salute at this year's Queen's Birthday Parade in Berlin, which will be held on 8th June, will be taken by HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon. The Battalion is producing the Parade Commander, Parade Adjutant and Parade RSM and it is our Queen's Colour that is being trooped. This Queen's Colour was presented to 1st Battalion The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment by HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on 22nd April, 1960. It will be carried on the Parade by Lieutenant A. A. A. Beattie whose father Major I. D. Beattie was on the Parade in 1960, as was RSM Rippon."

### 5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment

A Coy (Queen's Surreys) are staging their Annual Families Rifle Meeting at the Henley Park Ranges, commencing at 1100 hrs on Sunday, 3rd September, 1972. Henley Park is some five miles east of Aldershot.

OC A Coy extends a welcome to all members of the Regimental Association and their families. Further particulars may be obtained from:

OC A Coy (Queen's Surreys)  
5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment  
T & AVR Centre, Sandfield Terrace  
Guildford, Surrey.  
Telephone: Guildford (0483) 61441.

## Regimental and other Service Functions in 1972

Date and Time	Place	Function	Particulars
Sat. 6 May 1830 hrs.	Kingston	WOs and Sgts Association AGM followed by Annual Dinner	Secretary
Sat 13 May	Guildford	5th Queen's OMA Annual Reunion Dinner	Secretary
Thu. 18 May	Deal	Queen's Surreys Golf Society Match v Royal Marines	Secretary
Sat 3 June all day	Basingbourn	Depot The Queen's Division "Glorious First of June" cricket match v HMS <i>Excellent</i>	Queen Surreys Office
Fri. 16 June 1830 hrs.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Cocktail Party	Secretary
Sun. 18 June 1115 hrs.	Guildford	Regimental Association Annual Cathedral Service	Secretary
Sat. 24 June 1100 hrs.	Tidworth	The Queen's Regiment Presentation of Colours	Queen's Surreys Office
Sun. 3 Sep. 1100 hrs.	Henley Park Ranges	A Coy 5 (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment Families Rifle Meeting	A Coy 5 Queen's (V) Guildford
Thu. 5 and Fri. 6 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surrey's Golf Society Autumn Meeting	Secretary
Fri. 6 Oct. 1900hrs. for 2000 hrs.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club Annual Dinner	Secretary
Sat. 7 Oct.	Kingston	WOs and Sgts Association Ladies Dinner and Dance	Secretary
Fri. 13 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association Annual Reunion	Secretary
Sun. 12 Nov. 1015 hrs.	Kingston Guildford	Remembrance Day Parade Regimental Association A Coy 5 (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment	Secretary A Coy 5 Queen's (V)

## News of the Associations

### 2/4th Queen's Old Comrades Association

One of the most closely knit of our Old Comrades Associations is that of the 2/4th Queen's. Raised in August 1914, the Battalion first saw action at Gallipoli in August 1915, and by the time of the evacuation from Suvla in December had suffered 82 killed, 207 wounded and 416 invalided on account of sickness. 1916 was spent in Egypt and in 1917 they moved into Palestine where they took part in the Battle of Gaza and the capture of Jerusalem. In June 1918 the Battalion was transferred to the Western Front where they were engaged in the final operations in the Ypres Sector. The Regimental History records that "Few units, and certainly no second-line unit, had a more varied service or a more distinguished career in the war than the 2/4th Queen's."

The Old Comrades Association of the 2/4th Queen's was formed in 1925 and has been held together by the devoted work of its secretary, Mr. Harry Mann. The

comradeship forged in war has been preserved in peace, and today the 2/4th Queen's has probably one of the best organized and served OCAs in the country. Recognition of the dedicated service of Mr. Mann to the 2/4th Queen's OCA was promulgated in the award of the MBE in the New Years Honours List of 1972.

### The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

The last week in February saw a reluctant parting of this Association and our HQ at Jamaica Road, Bermondsey. The long expected eviction had taken place and our connection was severed albeit only temporarily, we were homeless. The old Drill Hall is due for demolition and in its place a new building will arise, a Drill Hall for the Royal Marines Reserve, when completed we have been promised a very place of our own right there.

Our old HQ which was the former Officers Mess was the oldest part of Jamaica Road and dated from the late eighteenth century and it possessed a character of its own despite the ravages of time and recent neglect. The



Drill Hall itself was of a later date but was unique in its construction. A laminated wooden hammer beam roof gave it a vast barnlike appearance, and for a century the Paschal Lamb had graced its outside wall. With the disappearance of yet another land-mark the Borough of Bermondsey won't seem the same.

Due to the efforts of Bob Elliott, our Social Secretary, we have been extremely fortunate in obtaining temporary accommodation at very short notice and at no cost to the Association. The new place is a large clubroom at the "Oxford Arms" in Deptford Church Street, Deptford, SE8. Our thanks are due to mine host, Mr Freddie Letts, an old friend of ours from the Royal Engineers. We have already taken up our abode there and are renewing the old association between Deptford and the Queen's. The 6th Battalion were granted the freedom of the Borough in the early 1950s, and the 2/6th were formed in that locality.

Until we can move back to our old location, a period between eighteen months and two years, we intend to carry on where we left off. The Social Committee have already drawn up their plans and start off with a Social Evening on Saturday, 13th May, and a "Glorious First of June" Stag Night on Friday, 2nd June, at 7 p.m.

Unfortunately the second edition of our Newsletter the "Paschal Lamb" has been delayed due to printing difficulties, and to those who enjoyed the first edition please bear with us—it will be despatched as soon as possible.

To finish on a more sombre note, all those members who remember him will be sorry to hear of the death of Major (QM) A. E. Reynolds, MBE, MM, TD, who died on 3rd April, 1972. Arthur was our QM when the 6th Bn reformed after the last war, and held that position through the formative stages. A great character who dealt efficiently with many other diverse characters, no respecter of rank or bull, together with his pipe he could bypass the morass of officialdom.

#### **The Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association**

The Annual Reunion Dinner of the Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association formerly the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) OCA, was held at the Drill Hall, Braganza Street, SE17, on Saturday 4th March, 1972. At the end of 1971 the Association had a membership of 411 of whom 129 were Life Members. The President is Lt Colonel W. D. Griffiths, DSO, MC, and the Secretary, Major J. M. A. Tamplin, TD.

#### **Barracks and Drill Halls**

##### **Kingston Barracks**

The Barracks in Kings Road, Kingston, designed by the Royal Engineers as a Depot Centre, were completed in 1875, and recruits of the 31st and 70th Regiments were in training there the following year. The Surrey Comet of 1874 remarked the new barracks should have "a by no means unhandsome appearance." However, it must be admitted that the Victorian red brick barracks were no architectural beauty, although the massive Keep was impressive. The most attractive part was the chestnut avenue with the lawns on either side; and the sports ground, with its line of poplar trees backing on to Latchmere Road, was pleasant enough.

Like all other Infantry Depots, it was the home of the Regiment where the Colonel of the Regiment had his headquarters, it was the repository of Regimental history and relics and the place where all Regular recruits received their initial training before being posted to a battalion. Between 1881 and 1959 many thousands of young men passed through the archway of the Keep to be trained as soldiers of The East Surrey Regiment. Old members of the Regiment always enjoyed coming back to the Depot for reunions and other Regimental functions.

In July 1959 the Home Counties Brigade Depot was established at Canterbury, and recruit training at the Regimental Depot ceased. Three months later The East Surrey Regiment amalgamated with The Queen's Royal Regiment to become The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, and although the Regimental Headquarters remained in the old single officers' quarters for another two years, it was evident the days of Kingston Barracks were numbered. In 1962 all buildings, with the exception of the Keep, were demolished. The Keep is today the Headquarters of the Army Fire Service.

Schemes were made for the building of officers' married quarters on the site of the old Depot, which with all buildings razed to the ground, now looked as if an atom bomb had been dropped on the place. The original plan in 1963 was to build only 80 homes, which the planning authority described as "a shocking waste of valuable acres." The next plan the following year went to the other extreme. A 16-storey skyscraper block of flats was suggested in addition to 100 three-storey houses. The planning authority again stepped in, this time on the grounds that the block of flats would spoil the view from Richmond Park.

It is now proposed to build 198 homes in two and three-storey houses and three and four-storey flats and maisonettes and the scheme is under consideration by Kingston Council and the Department of the Environment. A suggestion that the row of Lombardy poplars be felled has aroused opposition from the residents in Latchmere Road.

Mr S. Bays, MBE, has a particularly vivid memory of the Depot during the war when a 500 pound bomb, which fortunately failed to explode, dropped within a few yards of him. Not only was Mr Bays shaken, but also the Sergeants Mess which he was on the point of entering. The Mess was closed for four days during which time the beer was allowed to settle. The nose cap of this infernal machine was recovered and with considerable difficulty manoeuvred into the Regimental Museum in the Keep. When the Regiment vacated Kingston Barracks in 1962 the bomb was left there, and is presumably there to this day.

##### **The Story of the Drill Hall**

It is perhaps significant, that for nearly a century, the Headquarters of the Volunteers and subsequently the Territorials in Bermondsey, has been known quite simply as The Drill Hall, with no further reference to street or district and the more recent official designation of TA Centre was treated with derision. More than three generations of volunteers under many different titles have served within its walls and come to look on it with affection as "home" and many officers and others from

the Regular Queen's Battalions have served their time there and come to appreciate the sterling qualities of the Bermondsey character.

After more than three years of standing derelict apart from the few stalwarts of the OCA and the Cadets, the decision has finally been reached that apart from the new block, facing Jamaica Road, all the old buildings must be demolished to make way for a new Headquarters for the Royal Marines Reserve (City of London). A short account of the history of this ancient landmark may therefore be of interest to members of the Association.

A contributor to the local Parish Magazine once wrote, "Without doubt the finest room in Bermondsey is the Officers' Mess at the Drill Hall, part of old Neckinger House, if we could have looked through that handsome bay window in 1803, we should have seen no railway, nothing but orchards and rhubarb fields". He proceeds to recount that the occupier, Elias Carpenter, a paper maker, became the patron of the famous prophetess Joanna Southcott and that it was in Neckinger House that her trial took place. As a result of the notoriety Carpenter went bankrupt and the lease of the property was taken by Samuel and Henry Bevington who started their tannery known as Neckinger Mills, the house being used as a residence by members of the family.

The "handsome bay window" has seen much history since that time, for it was at the turn of the century, as a result of the threat of invasion by Napoleon that the Volunteer movement first took root. In 1793 two companies of 70 men each, enrolled under the title The Bermondsey Volunteers, followed in 1798 by the Bermondsey Loyal Volunteers and a year later, the Loyal Rotherhithe Volunteers, whose original Colours hung in the Mess for many years and were only recently handed over to the National Army Museum. Henry Bevington of the Neckinger served with the Bermondsey unit.

The next fifty years saw a running down of the volunteer forces until a fresh threat of invasion by Napoleon III resulted in the raising of the 10th Bermondsey Rifle Volunteer Corps and a year later the 23rd Rotherhithe Volunteer Corps. Samuel Bevington, grandson of the first proprietor of Neckinger Mills enlisted in the 1st Surrey Rifles but was gazetted Ensign in the 10th Surrey Rifles in 1861. At this time the unit had the use of a room in the Leather Market in which to keep their arms and drilled on the cobbled yard. After putting up with these conditions for some fifteen years, Samuel who had by then attained the rank of Major and command of the unit, decided that the only solution was to build a Drill Hall in the orchard adjoining Neckinger House, the stone commemorating the event being dated 1876. The new building with its unique roof, supported by laminated timbers springing from near ground level gave a clear span of fifty feet and was joined to the original house, the "handsome bay window" now serving to light the Orderly Room and the Officers' Mess above.

From accounts of the annual Prizegivings, which followed the opening of the hall, the number of "efficients" appears to have been about 180, and in 1877

the uniform was changed from green to red. Social functions and entertainments were an early feature at the Drill Hall. An account of the first of these occasions, to raise funds for additional amenities, records that "The great feature of the evening was the piano-forte selection by Madame Julia Woolf and few persons who listened to this lady's performances will be likely early to forget them. There were some grand chords in 'The Bay of Biscay', clear and massive as a bell, while the minor cadence, low and rippling, was like the sweet soft burden of far music, perfect in its tuneful symphony". Mr Hare the Bandmaster earned fresh laurels by a brilliant fantasia from Weber's 'Der Freischutz' on the cornet but the voice of poor Mr Lowe, who sang two tenor songs, is much too strained to be agreeable and neither 'The Anchor's Weighed' nor 'The Moon Clear Above Me', were worthy of detailed criticism". (It is perhaps fortunate that microphones had not been invented).

Drill, Camps and entertainments proceed through the years, with a change of title to the 3rd Volunteer Battalion, The Queen's. The next event of note was the Volunteer Centenary of 1899 when 30,000 volunteers gathered for a review in St James's Park, for which 337 from a strength of 580 of the 3rd VB The Queen's paraded at the Drill Hall in review order "with helmets, one pouch, open haversacks and waterbottles (filled)". This contingent was welcomed by a large crowd when they re-entered the gates of the Drill Hall at 7.30, having marched both ways in the month of July. They then proceeded to a cold supper in the Drill Hall followed by a number of lengthy speeches, during the course of which reference was made to the old Colours, evidently then kept in the Hall and guarded by models of the ancient and modern volunteers. On this occasion Colonel Samuel Bevington made the announcement of his forth-coming retirement which was then obligatory at the age of 67.

The following year the Drill Hall witnessed the departure of its first volunteers for active service, when a contingent of 12 men left to serve with the City Imperial Volunteers in South Africa. The address of welcome from the newly formed Bermondsey Borough Council, presented on their return, has recently been restored and framed.

With the creation of the Territorial Army, the old Volunteer Battalion became the 22nd London Regiment, The Queen's and six years later the Drill Hall was the scene of full scale mobilisation for the 1914-18 War. A number of those who enlisted at that time are still with us and some have attended the last of the social functions to be held in the old Officers' Mess in the last few months.

In 1925 additions were made by the erection of the Wagon Sheds with Company Offices above and many can still recall the impressive departure for camp of the two Machine Gun limbers, the cooker and the GS wagon, drawn by the unwilling horses of Messrs Thomas Tilling, struggling with the unfamiliar harness of breast collar and traces. 1937 saw a further change in title to 6th (Bermondsey) Battalion, The Queen's Royal Regiment and an additional Drill Hall was opened at New Cross. On 31st March, 1939, the Secretary of State for



War, Leslie Hore Belisha, presented the prizes at Bermondsey and made it the occasion on which to announce the doubling of the TA by the formation of a second Battalion. In August came the calling up of the key parties and the intense activity of sandbagging the premises accompanied by the discomfort of officers sleeping not only in the Mess but in the changing room, culminating in mobilisation and the departure of the Battalion for Yeovil at dead of night, fortified by a punch brewed from the residues of the bar stock.

From 1940 to 1945 the Drill Hall was used by the Home Guard, it was also a centre for meetings of wives of serving officers and men, organising sewing parties and other activities connected with the serving battalions and PWs. Soon after the war ended, came the flood of National Service, resulting in 1953, in the construction of a new building on the site of the old Miniature Range and additional stores and offices, a policy which ended not in expansion but in the closing of the Drill Hall in 1968. The story of the amalgamation and final run down is known to all.

Space does not permit mention of the long line of Commanding Officers, Quartermasters and Caretakers who played their part so well in maintaining our heritage. It is a tragedy that the "handsome bay window" and the magnificent roof of the Drill Hall could not be preserved and the final demolition will be a sad moment for all who knew them. A vast new complex of buildings will be erected on the old site and there is some satisfaction in the knowledge that another volunteer unit will be in possession. Let us hope that the spirit of the Volunteers of the last century will be passed on to our successors of the Royal Marines Reserve.

J.G.B.

## Prisoners of War

### Feldwebel "Scarface"

The story of a good-hearted German warrant officer in charge of British prisoners of war was told by Lt Colonel G. W. Kennedy in the last issue of the News Letter. "Scarface" had himself been a prisoner of war in the 1914-18 War, and he remembered with gratitude the way he had been treated in England. Colonel Kennedy related how Feldwebel "Scarface" did his best to ensure that British prisoners of war were made as comfortable as possible.

Now Mr H. F. Clayton writes with his recollections of the same warrant officer.

"I read with interest Lt Colonel Kennedy's account of 'Feldwebel Scarface'. I remember him quite well. I was in Stalag XXA and feeling done in, tired, hungry and down in the dumps. When we were lined up for roll call he asked me in English where I came from, how old I was and if I were a Regular soldier. I felt here was someone who understood the plight we were in.

'Scarface' took me to one side and said something to the guard who took me away. He gave me a barrow, brooms and shovel and told me to sweep the road round the Commandant's house. The latter was also a first War officer, aged about 60, and, like 'Scarface' he too was a gentleman. As it was Christmas he did his best for us—two squares of chocolate, four sweets

and six biscuits a man and four gallons of beer for every 60 men. We were free to please ourselves and do what we liked for two days."

Harry Clayton (6081824) was a pre-War Regular soldier. He served in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1924 to 1932 and was recalled to the Colours in September 1939. He was taken prisoner in France on 12th June, 1940.

### The Operations in France in 1940

The last issue of the News Letter contained an inquiry from a Herr Schmidt, who as a captain in the German 7th Panzer Division claimed to have captured 19 men of The Queen's Royal Regiment in the village of Fry on 9th June, 1940.

As none of the Queen's battalions were operating in that area, which is about 22 miles east of Rouen, it was put to Herr Schmidt that the men came from some other Regiment. He was, however, insistent that his prisoners were Queen's men.

Herr Schmidt's contention is borne out by Mr Harry Clayton (6081824) who, with a number of other Regular Army reservists, had been posted to a camp at Nantes in 1940. When the enemy broke through the Allied defences in May, the reservists were formed into independent detachments and sent to the eastern outskirts of Rouen. They soon encountered small groups of enemy and some confused fighting ensued. After several days the men were ordered to split up into groups, and all the Queen's reservists decided to stay together. Mr Clayton says the party were picked up by enemy agents and "put in the bag". He has examined a photograph of a truck load of British prisoners of war sent by Herr Schmidt and has confirmed they were Queen's reservists, mostly from D Company 1st Queen's. He has identified one man in the truck as a reservist of the name of Cockerell.

The German Headquarters where the British prisoners were taken for interrogation was in a large chateau between Fry and Rouen. Mr. Clayton himself was not one of the 19 men captured by Herr Schmidt's troop.

Does any reader remember the incident described above?

## Memories of Gibraltar

### Court Martial on the Rock

Major Paul Gray was recently a member of a General Court Martial in Gibraltar. While waiting at Fortress Headquarters, he looked up some of the Fortress Orders of 200 years ago when the Queen's were stationed on the Rock.

One entry, also concerning a GCM, caught his eye. A soldier of the Queen's who had been sentenced to 500 lashes had his sentence commuted to nil by the Governor "because of his youth".

Such sentences were not uncommon in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and in these more enlightened times we stand aghast at the mentality of British officers awarding such a savage punishment. We do not know what offence the young soldier had committed—something serious evidently as he was tried by a General Court Martial. Yet could it have been so heinous a

crime if the Governor, who apparently confirmed the finding, was in his clemency able to let off the accused without punishment?

Other questions present themselves. What could such a severe punishment have achieved more than a lesser one? Was it necessary practically to kill a man with appalling brutality to drive home the lesson that crime does not pay? Did the worthy officers who deliberated on this young man's sentence consider of what use to the army was a man broken in body and spirit, and did they give a thought to the effect that such treatment might have on potential recruits?

This incident occurred toward the end of the second of the three periods the Queen's were stationed on the Rock in the 18th Century. The first and longest spell was from August 1730 to July 1749, the second from March 1768 to December 1775 and the last from November 1783 to March 1792—a total of 35 years. One wonders if any other regiment has served for so long in one station in the same century.

### "Golden Wedding on the Rock"

Under the above heading, the Gibraltar Chronicle of 17th March, 1972, published an interesting article on one of our old soldiers, Mr R. W. Walters (9521).

Richard William Walters was born in 1894 at Malta where his father was RSM of the 1st Queen's. He enlisted in the Regiment as a boy on 20th February, 1909, and was posted to the Drums of the 2nd Battalion. In January 1910 the Battalion embarked for Gibraltar where they were to remain for two years. While stationed on the Rock the 2nd Queen's furnished a guard of honour at the Governor's landing stage for the departure of King Emanuel of Portugal, the Queen Mother and the Queen Grandmother, and Mr Walters recalls spending three hours on the quayside. In June the next year, 1911, Dmr Walters took part in the Trooping the Colour ceremony on the occasion of the Coronation of HM King George V. In January 1912 the 2nd Queen's were posted to Bermuda and Mr Walters remembers second lieutenants presenting new side drums to the Corps of Drums on joining the Battalion. When the 2nd Battalion went to France in October 1914, Pte Walters, now on man's service, was in a rifle company and his platoon commander was 2nd Lt, later Major General, R. K. Ross. Pts Walters survived the 1st Battle of Ypres in which the 2nd Queen's sustained 676 casualties. He remembers the unofficial Armistice of December 1914 described by Colonel J. B. Coates in this News Letter. L/Cpl Walters was finally discharged on medical grounds in October 1915.

He married soon after the war and it was to celebrate his Golden Wedding he returned to the Rock. Mr Walter's address is 67 Kirby Road, Walton on the Naze, Essex CO14 8RA.

## From Here and There

### Our latest octogenarian

Congratulatory telegrams were sent from the President of the Regimental Association and from the Queen's Surreys Office to Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell, VC, CB, DL on the occasion of his 80th birthday on 7th April, 1972.

## South African War Veterans

In-Pensioner C. Allingham of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea would be interested to hear of any other member of the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment who fought in the South African War.

Mr Allingham, now 92, writes "I was always known as 'Jimmy' in the Queen's. If there are any old timers left, and I sincerely hope there are, who were in Kronstad after the war with 2nd Battalion, they may perhaps remember me. I served behind the bar in the Wet Canteen. We used to get a little sand in the beer sometimes, but managed to drink it all right."

### Guard to Gestapo leader

The following item was published in the Barnes and Mortlake Herald of 10th February, 1972.

"Man dies with his secret about Himmler.

The only man in the world to know where Gestapo leader Heinrich Himmler was buried, died at home last week, aged 72.

He was Mr Edward Joseph (Blossom) Austin, of 5 Mullins Path, Mortlake.

He was responsible for guarding Himmler towards the end of his long army career, which started in the East Surrey Regiment, over 40 years ago.

Himmler committed suicide while in custody, but for trying to stop him Mr Austin was made MBE.

It was Mr Austin who had the job of burying him. The body was put on a lorry and Mr Austin said afterwards: 'I drove away to a spot, dug the grave myself and then returned to HQ. I'll never tell anyone where the grave is. I've been in the Army and I know how to keep a secret.'

Demobbed in 1946 Mr Austin went to work at Watney's Brewery, Mortlake. He retired six years ago."

Older members of The East Surrey Regiment will remember "Blossom" Austin who joined the 6th Battalion (TA) in 1932 and retired as a warrant officer in 1946.

### Bandsman in Queen's and Surreys

Bernard William Brown (6082530) enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1925 and served in the Band of the 1st Battalion in Hong Kong, Malta and Tientsin until February 1934. Later that same year he re-enlisted in The East Surrey Regiment and was posted to the 2nd Battalion Band. In 1938 he went out with the Battalion to the Far East for the third time, and in 1941 was appointed Band Sergeant. On the outbreak of hostilities Sgt Brown became RAP Sergeant of the 2nd Surreys and he held the same post on the formation of the British Battalion at Ipoh on 20th December, 1941. For his services in the campaign, Sgt Brown was mentioned in despatches.

After the fall of Singapore he was a prisoner of war of the Japanese and served with British Working Battalion No 6 on the notorious railway in Thailand. He was repatriated to the United Kingdom in 1945 and the following year attended a course at Kneller Hall. This led to his appointment as Band Sgt and later Band Staff Sergeant in the Band of the North Staffordshire Regiment. He retired in 1956 after 31 years service, and now lives in Upminster, Essex.



## Slow Boat to China

Mr J. Jones, who served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in China and India, recalls his first long sea voyage by troopship.

"When I went out to join the 1st Battalion we took 42 days from Southampton to Hong Kong. We had to wear soft plimsolls on board ship, and when it came to wearing 'ammos' again they seemed like leaden weights on our feet".

No doubt many of our readers have vivid memories of those voyages—the mess decks and Captain's Rounds, the rough weather in the Bay, the first view of Gibraltar and the coast of Africa, Port Said (and probably a route march), the Suez Canal, the heat of the Red Sea, sleeping on deck and so on. We should like to hear about any particularly memorable voyage.

## Regimental Chaplain

The Reverend Peter Mallett, CF, who was chaplain to the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in Malaya from 1954 to 1957, has been appointed Senior Chaplain to the Forces in Northern Ireland. Peter Mallett, it will be remembered, gave the address in Guildford Cathedral at the Regimental Service in 1969 when General Sir George Giffard's GCB banner was handed over to the Cathedral for safe custody. Since September 1969 Mr Mallett has been chaplain to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

## Army Scholarship

M. F. N. Mans has been awarded an Army Scholarship for entry into The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in September 1973. Mark Mans is the son of Brigadier R. S. N. Mans, CBE, Deputy Commander South East District.

## Star and Garter Home

Mr Albert George Twyford, formerly a corporal in the 24th London Regiment, was admitted to the Star and Garter Home on 17th March, 1972. This brings the total of Regimental patients in the Home to six—four Queen's and two Surreys.

## Off to Canada

Captain P. H. Young has been posted to Canada on an exchange posting and leaves on the Glorious First of June. Peter Young enlisted in November 1945 and did his basic training in The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. In August 1946 he was transferred to The Queen's Royal Regiment and served in both Regular battalions, until October 1950 when he was selected for service in the Intelligence Corps. In that same month he married the daughter of Pte T. S. W. Purcell (6076832) whom old soldiers of the 2nd Queen's will remember. After 19 years service in the Intelligence Corps, five of which were spent with the Arab Legion, he was commissioned and was soon promoted to the rank of Captain. His elder son, Philip, now aged 20 is following in the family tradition of soldiering, but in the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

## News from "Down Under"

### Australia

MR W. W. M. CRIBBES who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1945, and who will be remembered as Orderly Room Quartermaster Sergeant, emigrated to Australia to join his family there in 1966. His address is 12 Harrison Street, Dromana, Victoria 3936, Australia. Mr Cribbes' friends will be interested in this account of life in Australia.

"We have found friends everywhere, and have enjoyed to the full the lovely scenery, the beaches and the sea—now threatened by pollution, of course; we have noticed a definite worsening of climate, but as long as we have no snow to endure, can feel that we have made a good exchange in that direction.

Financially—well, a fixed income shrinks annually, all over the world; and we do not receive any increases in the U.K. Age Pension, because we have left the country. I must confess I cannot see the justice of this, especially as we are no longer a liability to the National Health scheme—which we miss.

Out here, Health Insurance schemes cost roughly £1 per week and cover most of the cost of hospitalisation; but each visit to a Doctor's surgery costs a nett 10/- (more for a home visit) and each item on a prescription costs at least 10/-—unsubsidised drugs cost a fortune. So medical and dental expenses for a young family can be quite disastrous, and I feel that this may be one of the reasons why some British families return home.

Rents and housing costs are pretty high, but generally speaking the level of wages is higher than at home.

All in all, we are happy to say we have no regrets, especially as we have two of our married children, and their families, out here with us, and many of our old friends still keep well in touch."

MR E. W. J. JOSLING who lives at 4 First Street, Bicton 6157, West Australia wishes to be remembered to old friends. Ted Josling who served in the 2nd Queen's from 1938 to 1946 emigrated to Australia in 1951. He has served for 17½ years in the Prison Service at Fremantle and spends his spare time in gardening and social work for handicapped children.

### New Zealand

Another resident is MR BRUCE KEOGH (6086286). He served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1935 until wounds terminated his military career ten years later. Mr Keogh writes:

"I came to New Zealand in 1953 with my wife and son, we have since increased by two more sons and a daughter, we also have three fine little grandsons. I started in business as a commercial cleaner as soon as I arrived, and by dint of hard work have built up quite a successful little business, this is of course a country of opportunity for those prepared to adapt a little and work, I must say I have never regretted coming here. I find the New Zealanders to be the same fine people that they proved themselves in two world wars and I have many wonderful friends among them. I have retained my interest in sport, this is an ideal country for the sports minded with plenty of wide open spaces, beaches and sporting facilities. I spend a lot of my

spare time with the local cricket club of which I am a Vice-President and Treasurer.

Mr Keogh's address is 1 Boakes Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland 6, New Zealand.

MR S. G. OUSLEY served in the 8th Bn The East Surrey Regiment during the 1914-18 War, but missed the Football Attack at Montauban on 1st July, 1916. After the War Mr Ousley returned to the catering trade in London until ill-health forced him to leave for a warmer climate. He accepted an offer of work on a sheep farm in New Zealand and it did him a lot of good. Mr Ousley writing early in January said, "We have just got over our Christmas holidays. We spent Christmas Day on the beach and had a cold lunch—quite a contrast to the UK. We are enjoying a heat wave and the beaches are crowded with holiday makers."

Mr Ousley's address is 9 Star Flats, Hastings, New Zealand.

## Regimental Numbers

During the 1914-18 War the number of every soldier was prefixed by a letter—G, L, S or T.

In recent months the Queen's Surreys Office has had inquiries as to the significance of these letters. Two theories were advanced. One was that they indicated the soldier's year of enlistment. The second was that they denoted the soldier's employment in the battalion. Neither of these theories appeared at all convincing. Advice was sought of the Army Records Centre, but they were unable to help.

We are indebted to Mr V. E. Fagence (G/10081) for the following letter:

"On looking through my personal files I have discovered a letter dated 23rd May, 1953, from Major Waspé when he was Secretary of the Regimental Association, in which he gave me that information. He states

- G indicates General Service
- L indicates a Regular soldier of the Line
- S indicates Special Reserve
- T indicates Territorial."

One of these prefixes is shown in front of every number in our Regimental Roll of Honour.

## The 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association

Inquiries have been received concerning the commemorative medal of the Battle of Dunkirk 1940. It was instituted in 1948 under the patronage of the town of Dunkirk. In 1970 the Constitution governing the issue was amended to permit British personnel to receive the medal.

Members of the Navy, Army, RAF and Auxiliary Services who served in the Dunkirk Sector from 10th May-June, 1940, are eligible to apply. The medal is not an official award, and has not been authorised for wear by the British Government.

The Rank, Name and Unit (at the time of Dunkirk) of each recipient of the medal will be entered in the Book of Gold kept in Paris.

Application forms and details of the medal may be obtained from Mr H. Robinson, MBE, Honorary Gen-

eral Secretary of the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans Association, 6 Derwentwater Terrace, Leeds LS6 3UL.

The completed application form must be accompanied by the sum of £1.25 to cover charges and administrative expenses.

## Regimental Histories

The following Regimental Histories are available:

### The Queen's Regiment

"A Guide to The Queen's Regiment" by Major Gregory Blaxland. Obtainable from Regimental Headquarters, The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. Price 30p a copy, post free within the United Kingdom.

### The Queen's Royal Regiment

Volume VIII (1924 to 1948) of the official Regimental History may be obtained from the Queen's Surreys Office for £1.35, post free.

"The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)" in the Famous Regiments series. Written by Jock Haswell (Major C. J. D. Haswell of the Queen's), this book is obtainable from the Queen's Surreys Office for £1.05, post free.

### The East Surrey Regiment

Volume IV of the official Regimental History (1920 to 1952) is obtainable from the Queen's Surreys Office for £1.20 post free.

"The East Surrey Regiment" by Michael Langley in the Famous Regiments series will shortly be available from the Queen's Surreys Office for £1.75.

"Operations of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War—Some Eye Witness Accounts". Part I, France and Belgium in 1940, consists of 15 duplicated pages and has a foreword by Brigadier R. A. Boxshall. Price 20p, post free. Part II, North Africa, Sicily and Italy up to May 1944, by Colonel H. B. L. Smith, has 35 duplicated pages and costs 25p, post free. Both Parts are obtainable from the Queen's Surreys Office.

## Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

### COs of the 1st Queen's in the 1914-18 War

During the period 4th August, 1914, to 11th November, 1918, the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment was commanded by no less than 25 officers. In the first three months of the war four out of the first five commanding officers were killed or died of wounds.

Lt Colonel D. Warren had been in command for 18 months when he met his death by a sniper's bullet on 17th September, 1914. Two days later the Second in Command, Major H. C. Pilleau, DSO, died of wounds sustained at the Battle of Aisne. Command devolved upon Captain S. F. Stanley Creek for a day when he was superseded by Major C. F. Watson, the Brigade Major of 2 Infantry Brigade. Captain Stanley Creek had himself been wounded on 14th September, and he was killed in action at the First Battle of Ypres on 31st October.



Major Watson returned to Brigade Headquarters on 3rd October on the appointment of the new Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel B. T. Pell, DSO. The CO was severely wounded near Gheluvelt on 31st October, 1914, and fell into enemy hands. He died of his wounds four days later.

The most junior officer to command the Battalion, which he did with distinction, was Lt J. D. Boyd, the Adjutant. He assumed command on 2nd November and fought the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment until it was reduced to one other officer and 32 Other Ranks. On 8th November the Battalion was taken out of the line, but Boyd continued in command until relieved on 20th November. Lt Boyd was awarded the DSO for his gallantry and leadership during this period.

The Commanding Officer with the longest service was Lt Colonel L. M. Crofts, DSO. As 2IC of 2 Queen's he had been wounded on 14th November, and was appointed to command the 1st Battalion on 29th December, 1914. He was again wounded by shell fire in the attack on High Wood on 23rd August, 1916, and evacuated to the UK. Colonel Crofts resumed command on 18th April, 1917, but in December that year was severely wounded in both hands while watching a trench mortar demonstration. He was never fit enough to return to active service with the Battalion.

Of the eleven officers who commanded the 1st Battalion in 1918, Lt Colonel H. B. R. Sladen was killed in action, Lt Colonel the Hon H. Ritchie, DSO, died of wounds and most of the others were wounded. When the Cease Fire sounded on 11th November, 1918, the senior officer in the Battalion was Captain R. Nevins, MC, the Adjutant. He had gone out to France with the Battalion on 14th August as RQMS and had served continuously through the four years of the War.

#### The unofficial Armistice of 1914

The Regimental History of The Queen's Royal Regiment records that on 18th December, 1914, two companies of the 2nd Queen's took part in an unsuccessful and costly attack near Fleurbaix. The enemy also suffered heavy losses and at dawn the next day an unofficial cease-fire was arranged between both sides to bury their dead and collect the wounded.

On Christmas Day and again on Boxing Day there was an informal armistice, the latter not finishing until late afternoon.

Colonel J. B. Coates has presented to the Regimental Museum some exceptionally interesting pictures of these cease-fires, showing the British and German troops meeting and talking together in No Man's Land.

He was himself there as a newly joined 2nd Lt. He had arrived in the line on 2nd December and on the 19th found himself commanding a company. He was just 17.

Colonel Coates recalls, "There has been adverse criticism of that 'Armistice', and it may have been justified. My recollection is that ours was very properly conducted. I do not remember exactly how it started. Some on both sides started to move out of the trenches in daylight and drag back wounded, I think. I am pretty certain that the Germans moved out first as many of the dead and wounded were in front of their wire. I remember being told to use the opportunity to learn the lie of

the land against going out on night patrol later. This I did and it was very useful when I was sent out one night soon afterwards.

I do remember:—

- (a) Wondering how we were going to start fighting again when we were out there at the grave and talking to the Germans!
- (b) That suddenly, when the dead were buried, with a short Service to the best of my recollection, both sides went straight back to their trenches and things went on as before."

It would be very interesting to hear of any other old 2nd Battalion men who remember this incident.

#### History of the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment

A copy of the History of the 2/6th Queen's in the Italian Campaign has been received by good fortune, and has been added to the Regimental Archives.

The story of how the History came to us may interest former members of the 2/6th Queen's. In December, 1971, a gentleman wrote to the Curator of the Regimental Museum asking for a copy of the History of the Battalion's operations in Italy. He wished to present it to Signor G. Santucci Fontanelli, an Italian friend of his who had served in the 2/6th in Italy. Signor Fontanelli has in his office a Regimental plaque presented to him by the officers to mark his service with the Battalion.

No copy of the History was held in the Regimental archives and inquiries of former members of the Battalion were unavailing. It appears that the book was privately printed by the Dog Press and comparatively few copies were produced. It was discovered that there was one copy in the Imperial War Museum and negotiations were made with the Department of Printed Books for the History to be photocopied. It was agreed that two copies should be made. One has been sent to Signor Fontanelli by his English friend and the other has been placed in the Regimental Museum at Kingston.

This well-written and informative book is a welcome addition to Regimental history. It records in more detail than the official history the operations of this fine battalion whose members won 4 DSOs, 15MCs, 6 DCMs and 27 MMs between September 1943 and April 1945.

It would be interesting to know who wrote the History of the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Italian Campaign, where it was printed and if anyone remembers Signor Fontanelli. Incidentally, the history records the death of his predecessor, "Freddie", who died of wounds sustained at Anzio. He had done valuable and gallant work for the Battalion particularly at the Garigliano some months previously.

#### Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

##### Incident in Ireland

The following is reprinted, with permission, from the Westmeath—Offaly Independent. Under the heading "Mirror on the past" this extract from the newspaper's files of 1852 was published on 12th November, 1971, and was sent to us by 84 year old ex-CSM Andy O'Brien, DCM, formerly of The York and Lancaster Regiment.

#### "Undignified"

During the week, a Corporal and nine Privates of the 31st, returning from escort duty, dropped in on a wedding party and joined in the festivities. Later the Corporal and six of his men returned to barracks very much the worse of the wear. A guard was sent to fetch the three absentees. Two of them were found comfortably asleep in a cart drawn by a donkey and the third was guarding them with a firelock and a fixed bayonet. The two sleepy soldiers are to be tried by courtmartial."

The only person to emerge with credit from this somewhat unedifying story is the soldier who had sufficient presence of mind to mount guard over his two helpless companions in the donkey cart. No doubt his initiative was taken into account when his own charge of being absent without leave was dealt with by his company commander.

#### A link with the 70th Regiment

The death of Mrs E. M. Maturin announced in this issue severs what is probably our last link with the 70th Regiment. Mrs. Maturin was the widow of Colonel Frederick Harvey Maturin who was gazetted to the 70th in 1865. He took part with that Regiment in the advance on Kandahar in the Afghan War of 1878-79. He was promoted Major soon after the Amalgamation of the Seventieth with the Thirty First Regiment in 1881.

Major Maturin distinguished himself in the Suakim Campaign of 1885 for which he was appointed Brevet Lieutenant Colonel. Four years later he was promoted to Colonel. Colonel Maturin retired in 1904, and died in 1937 at the age of 89.

#### "To the last man and the last round"

There is probably no operation more hazardous or which calls for higher powers of leadership than a withdrawal in daylight in contact with the enemy. The 9th Surreys' gallant stand at the Battle of Rosières on 26th March, 1918, is well recorded in the Regimental History. The two accounts which follow were written by an officer and a soldier who were there.

To set the scene very briefly, the 9th Battalion, outnumbered by the enemy, had been withdrawing under orders of Brigade Headquarters. In their final defensive position the Battalion was deployed with A Coy right, C Coy left and B and D Coys in rear. On the right of A Coy was a wood and beyond that elements of 19 Entrenching Bn. On the left of C Coy were 8 Royal West Kents. The Commanding Officer, Lt Colonel Le Fleming, had been killed, and the 21C, Major C. A. Clark, MC, had assumed command.

Major Clark wrote from a German Prisoner of war camp on 24th April, 1918:

"I very much regret to say I am a prisoner of war, and Warre-Dymond<sup>(1)</sup> and Blower<sup>(2)</sup> are with me. What happened was this: I received a message from Brigade that the enemy had turned the flank of the Entrenching Bn. Just previous to this my right company (A) reported the enemy had advanced through the wood on their immediate right and were attacking them. I told them to fight and give no ground as we had received no order to withdraw.

I at once collected every available man I had in

reserve, consisting principally of signallers and HQ details, between 30 and 40 men, and sent them off under Lt Blower to take up position on my right flank. This was to prevent my right being turned and to assist the Battalion to withdraw to the next line. I then issued instructions about the withdrawal, and while these were being circulated to companies, I doubled across to the headquarters of the West Kents (they were fairly close) to let them know what was happening and that I was about to withdraw, but they had just left.

I might add that the front occupied by the Battalion was very exposed, especially on the left, and the difficulty of communication was very great. On my return, my left company (C) was just preparing to withdraw. They had been hotly engaged with the enemy who were held about 100 yards to the front. I left a few men behind and proceeded to withdraw with C Coy. The right company, A, and the party under Blower were apparently seriously involved with the enemy. It was a most difficult operation with the enemy so close and the country so open. However, we managed to get back several hundred yards when I saw that our position was desperate. The enemy were sweeping up from the left flank and several lines of them were in between us and our next defensive line.

I split the company into two and took advantage of some old communication trenches and a sunken road to try and escape detection, but we were seen and the enemy began to surround us, so I decided to fight it out. We took up position in a communication trench and used our rifles with great effect. Grant<sup>(3)</sup> was doing excellent work until shot through the head, and Warre-Dymond behaved admirably. It was a fine fight and we held them up until the ammunition gave out: they then charged and mopped up the remainder. They were infuriated with us.

I am afraid I presented a curious looking object at this time—my clothing had been riddled with shrapnel, my nose fractured and my face and clothing smothered with blood.<sup>(4)</sup> Blower's party were attacked almost immediately after reaching their position. They did excellent work, and not before 60 to 70% of the party had become casualties, were the remainder mopped up. Blower speaks very highly of the fighting qualities of his men and their excellent behaviour under trying conditions. There are three unwounded officers and 59 Other Ranks prisoners. The remainder of the Battalion I am afraid were casualties.<sup>(5)</sup> It was a great fight and the men were simply splendid—I have the greatest admiration for them. It was a glorious end, but it is sad to be parted when there is still so much to be done.

The enemy must have broken through the Entrenching Battalion fairly early in the morning, and my right flank was threatened just before I received the Brigade Major's message. It was very difficult for me to know what was taking place on the right as there was a large thick wood in between, I think by making our stand and fighting it out we prevented the enemy from swooping on and cutting off other units of the Division. So though we sacrificed ourselves I hope it resulted in saving others."

Mr F. T. Eatwell, a private in the 9th Battalion at the time, wrote "I would like to mention a little speech



Major Clark made to us on the morning of 26th March, 1918, just before we were taken prisoner. He said, 'We have nothing on our flanks and there are no supports behind. You will either be killed or captured before the morning is out. Stick it out for the honour of the Regiment.' A very brave man, and loved by every man in the Battalion. I am very pleased he received the decoration<sup>(6)</sup> he so richly deserved."

#### Notes from the Regimental History

- (1) Capt G. W. Warre-Dymond, OC C Coy.
- (2) Lt M. S. Blower, Signal Officer.
- (3) Lt S. G. Grant—"a most gallant and capable young officer".
- (4) Major Clark had been knocked down and wounded in the face by shell fire.
- (5) The Battalion was reduced to one officer and 30 men.
- (6) Major Clark was awarded the DSO. "His gallantry, skill and determination could hardly have been surpassed". Captain Warre-Dymond was awarded the MC.

### Chapels and Memorials

#### The Queen's Kohima Memorial

The replacement of the 1st Queen's Memorial on Jail Hill was planned several years ago, and many of our members, from both Regiments, subscribed to the cost. In November 1970 the News Letter reported that the replacement panels, made of Italian Botticino marble, had been smashed en route and that new panels were to be manufactured. Our readers will be pleased to see from the letter reproduced below that the Queen's Memorial has now been safely installed in the Kohima War Cemetery.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
32 Grosvenor Gardens  
London SW1 ODZ

13th April, 1972.

Dear Major Reed,

#### The Queen's Royal Regiment Memorial Kohima

Further to our letter of 11th January, 1972, and previous correspondence about the new Memorial panels to The Queen's Royal Regiment I am now extremely pleased to be able to let you know that the panels have been erected in Kohima War Cemetery. The Commission very much regret that it has taken such a long time to complete the work but this project, which as you know included the supply and erection of new Memorials for four other Regiments, has been fraught with difficulties in one form or another.

In addition to the troubles in that part of the world, you will have gathered from what has been conveyed to you in the past, that the main problem has been to get all of the panels delivered to Kohima intact so that one of the Commission's craftsmen could make the journey from New Delhi to Kohima to undertake the task of erection. When the first consignment eventually

arrived it was discovered that a number of panels were either damaged or broken beyond repair. Replacement panels were then ordered and in spite of special measures which were taken to ensure that the panels were suitably packed to withstand the rigours of the journey, we were later advised that some of them were found to be broken on arrival.

Fortunately, the second consignment of replacements arrived without mishap only due to the fact that a Commission official went to Madras, where they had to be off loaded instead of at Calcutta, and arranged for the panels to be repacked in separate cases enclosed in layers of pressed board and settled in sawdust. Later, accompanied by a Commission official, the panels were taken by passenger train to Diampur and from there to Kohima by truck with the cases lashed and bedded in sand. Had these costly measures not been taken the panels would no doubt have been broken for a third time. I have asked for photographs showing the new Memorial in its new setting and I will let you have copies in due course. I will also let you have a financial statement when I am in a position to do so.

Yours sincerely,

C. E. Allen.

### Deaths

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

**Goddard** On 28th July, 1971, L/Cpl William Henry Goddard (6139466), aged 57. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1931 to 1946. See obituary.

**Williamson** On 22nd October, 1971, Cpl James Joseph Williamson, BEM (6076), aged 88. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1899 to 1907. See obituary.

**Heath** On 30th October, 1971, Pte George Heath (7/1663), aged 76. Served in the 7th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War, and was a prisoner of war for 18 months in Germany.

**Heather** On 14th November, 1971, Sgt Ernest Arthur Heather (6079431), aged 68. Served in both Regular battalions of The Queen's Royal Regiment between 1922 and 1938. Recalled for the War, he served until 1946.

**Philpot** On 15th November, 1971, Pte Charles Philpot (6077213), aged 72. Served in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1923, and was recalled for service in the 1939-45 War. Charlie Philpot was the brother of Ernest who will be remembered as Signal Sergeant of 1st Queen's between the Wars.

**Gwynne** On 15th November, 1971, Lt Col Sir Roland Vaughan Gwynne, DSO, aged 89. Commanded 10th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War. See obituary.

**Ashfield** On 30th November, 1971, CSM Edward George Ashfield (10671), aged 75. Ted Ashfield joined the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in 1913 and went to France with them. In May 1915 he was transferred to the 2nd Battalion and lost his left eye at the Battle of Loos. In the 1939-45 War he rejoined the Colours at the age of 43, and served in the 70th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment. Mr. Ashfield was a very staunch old comrade and a loyal supporter of the Regiment. He had been Secretary and Treasurer of the Ramsgate Branch of the Old Contemptibles Association for many years.

**Duke** In December, 1971, Lieut Leonard Gordon Duke, CBE. Served in the 8th (Service) Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1914-18 War and was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Loos. He served at the Board of Education from 1918 until retirement, and worked at Spinks, the Art Dealers from 1950 to 1970, executing water colours and drawings.

**Hesketh-Williams** On 11th December, 1971, Captain Fleetwood John Hesketh-Williams. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1939-45 War. See obituary.

**Wilson** On 19th December, 1971, Major Royal Claude Wilson, aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1916 to 1934. See obituary.

**Buckett** On 23rd December, 1971, Sgt Frederick Leonard Buckett (6082565), aged 67. He enlisted in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1925 and served in the Pioneer platoon. A keen sportsman, he was a member of the Battalion cross country team for five years in Malta and China. Frederick Buckett's last years were marred by ill-health, but he remained a loyal supporter of the Regimental Association.

**Tabern** On 23rd December, 1971, Pte William Edward Tabern (6142257), aged 57. Served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1938 to 1946 and was a prisoner of war in Japanese hands for 3½ years.

**Tatum** On 27th December, 1971 RQMS Charles Henry Tatum (6135659), aged 70. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1922 to 1952. Jack Tatum will be remembered as a loyal Surrey, cheerful and popular with his fellows.

**De Laurey** On 8th January, 1972, Pte John Frederick De Laurey (10518), aged 78. He served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1912 to 1924 and was Lt Col Minogue's soldier servant in the 1st Battalion in the 1914-18 War.

**Mitchell** On 25th January, 1972, Pte Peter Albert Mitchell (22040794), aged 41. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1951 to 1956.

**Hill** On 27th January, 1972, Cpl Frank Hill (22581406), aged 38. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1951 to 1953.

**Crimmins** On 29th January, 1972, Pte Hugh Patrick Crimmins (13007196), aged 75. Served in The Royal Irish Rifles in the 1914-18 War and in The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1939-45 War. Hugh Crimmins, who lived in Northern Ireland, was a kindly man with a lively and inquiring mind. He was a loyal supporter of the Regiment.

**Goad** On 18th February, 1972, Colonel John Francis Edwin Goad, OBE, Honorary Colonel of the 1st Cadet Bn, The Queen's Regiment (Surrey ACF). Served in the King's Royal Rifle Corps during the 1914-18 War, and in the Queen's Army Cadet Force since 1946. Colonel Goad contributed an interesting article on 1st Queen's at the First Battle of Ypres to the November 1971 edition of the News Letter.

**Fane** On 21st February, 1972, Cpl George Sidney Eric Fane (8489), aged 80. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1908 to 1919. See obituary.

**Arnold** On 21st February, 1972, Sgt Joseph Arnold (622468), aged 76. Served in the 23rd London Regiment from 1914 to 1919. He was admitted to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea as an In-Pensioner on 9th November, 1970.

**Barnes** On 23rd February, 1972, Major Alfred Charles Barnes, DCM, aged 80. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment during the 1914-18 War and retired in 1923.

**Thomas** On 24th February, 1972, Major Arthur Trevor Thomas, aged 55. He joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1935 and was commissioned during the war. Most of his service, which included a tour of duty with the 1/6th Gurkha Rifles in Malaya, was in the Indian Army.

**Jeans** On 29th February, 1972, Cpl George Frederick Charles Jeans (6076511), aged 70. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1930. Cpl Jeans will be remembered as a first class clarinet player and as Band Corporal IC Boys in the 1st Queen's Band in Hong Kong.

**Scott** On 7th March, 1972, Major John Alexander Paul Scott, aged 51. Commissioned from the Cameron Highlanders into The East Surrey Regiment in 1940 and retired from the Queen's Surreys in 1960. During his service John Scott was seconded to the King's African Rifles and later to the Parachute Regiment.

**Crowhurst** On 9th March, 1972, Pte Milton Crowhurst (8032), aged 86. Served in the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

**Gane** On 26th March, 1972, Major Sir Irving Gane, KCVO, aged 79. Served in the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) from 1915 to 1919. See obituary.

**Reynolds** On 3rd April, 1972, Major Arthur Edward Reynolds, MBE, MM, TD, aged 74. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1957. See obituary.

**Waspe** On 5th April, 1972, Major Frederick Waspe, MBE, aged 80. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1908 to 1945. See obituary.

**Hone** On 28th April, 1972, Captain Ernest James Hone, aged 87. A member of the Bank of England, he served in the 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA).

**Palmer** On 28th April, 1972, Brigadier Godfrey Vaughan Palmer, CBE, TD. Commissioned in The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1918 and retired in 1958. Obituary will be published in the next issue.

**Roff** On 29th April, 1972, Captain Colin Wilson Roff. Commissioned into The Queen's Royal Regiment from the Suffolk Yeomanry, he served in 1st Queen's from 1915 to 1919. He also had service in the 8th Hussars.

**Glock** In April, 1972, Sgt. William J. S. Glock. Known as "Winkle", he was Band Sergeant of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment for many years and was a loyal supporter of the Regimental Association.

### Regimental Families

We regret to announce the death of Miss Olive Heath at the age of 96. Miss Heath was the sister of Lt Col Maurice Gordon Heath who was killed in action commanding the 2nd Queen's at the Battle of Loos on 25th September, 1915.

Colonel Heath's widow, Mrs. Edith Heath, was a generous subscriber to the Regimental Association, and when she died in 1962, her sister-in-law, Miss Olive Heath, continued the subscription. She took a keen interest in Regimental affairs and attended the Regimental Service in Guildford Cathedral until 1964.

We also report with regret the deaths of the under-mentioned ladies:

**Gater** On 18th September, 1971, Gertrude Maude Gater, wife of ex-Sgt F. W. Gater, The Queen's Royal Regiment.



**Duxbury** On 19th November, 1971, Kathleen, widow of Lt Col Sydney Hugh Duxbury who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1893 to 1901 when he was transferred to the Royal Army Pay Corps.

**Johnson** On 21st November, 1971, Mrs. Judith Mary Johnson, wife of Lieut Colonel J. H. F. Johnson, OBE, TD, DL, last Commanding Officer of 4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment (TA), and mother of Major J. V. Warner-Johnson, late The Queen's Regiment.

**Lewis** On 4th December, 1971, Winifred Rachel, aged 90, widow of Captain H. F. Lewis, The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. Captain Lewis was the first officer casualty of the 2nd Queen's in the 1914-18 War. He landed in France with the Battalion on 4th October, 1914, and was shot in the head fourteen days later.

**Flood** On 26th December, 1971, Mrs. Flood, the widow of CQMS H. E. Flood. "Mike" Flood was the Secretary of the Queen's (Southwark) Regimental Association from 1955 to the time of his death in 1968.

**Maturin** On 3rd January, 1972, Edith Mary, the widow of Colonel Frederick Harvey Maturin who was commissioned in the 70th Regiment in 1865 and retired from The East Surrey Regiment in 1904. See item "A link with the 70th Regiment".

**Clemens** On 10th April, 1972, Mrs. Pamela Rosemary Clemens, aged 40, the wife of ex-CSM Dave Clemens (6140496) The East Surrey Regiment.

**Evans** On 21st April, 1972, Iza, the wife of A. E. ("Chick") Evans, The East Surrey Regiment.

## Obituaries

### W. H. Goddard

William Henry Goddard passed away on 28th July, 1971, at the early age of 57 years. Many former members of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment will remember "Gink", not only for his sporting prowess in India, but as the intrepid water truck driver with the 1st Battalion in the last War. Lance Corporal Goddard and his fellow driver never failed to get through to the companies night after night with their precious load. During the day the water tankers were strafed by enemy aircraft on their way to and from the water point, a particularly unhealthy run being the road between Beja and Medjez el Bab.

Gink's handling of his heavy and cumbersome vehicle by night in the mountainous country of Tunisia, Sicily and Italy and his unfailing delivery of the water ration to the forward troops earned him two mentions in despatches.

After the War, Gink worked for the Post Office Supplies Department at Crayford. He died in harness and was posthumously awarded the Imperial Service Medal.

### J. J. Williamson, BEM

James Joseph Williamson joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in September 1899. He served with the 2nd Battalion in South Africa and was awarded both South African war medals. He then served in the 1st Queen's in India, and after learning Pushtu became an instructor at the Indian School of Signals at Amballa. During the 1914-18 War he served in the Machine Gun Corps. Too old for active service in the 1939-45 War, he was an enthusiastic member of the 24th Bn Hampshire Home Guard, and at the age of 63 was awarded the British Empire Medal for meritorious service.

### Canon A. Wellesley Orr

Many old members of The East Surrey Regiment will be sorry to learn of the death at the age of 86 of Canon Arthur Wellesley Orr who was chaplain to the Regimental Depot at Kingston for over thirty years. He was an unconventional parson and a great character who had many friends in all walks of life. His friendly approach and his interest in sport made the padre popular with all ranks. In his younger days he had been a boxer and he used to referee the recruit boxing at the Depot. Some readers will remember his "Football Sunday" at St. Paul's, Kingston Hill, when the the pulpit was draped with football jerseys and he would start the service with a blast on his referee's whistle.

Wellesley Orr knew the loneliness and difficulties experienced by newly joined recruits and he made a point of seeing them all. His cheerful encouragement helped many a boy away from home for the first time. As Vicar of St. Paul's, Kingston Hill, he married a great many Surreys during his long service at the Depot, and was always in demand for christening services. During the War, Wellesley Orr assisted in the rescue work of air raid victims and would crawl under the rubble and debris to bring aid and comfort to the injured. His services were recognized by the award of the MBE.

Although his duties as Chaplain ended in 1955, there was nothing he enjoyed more than a friendly drink and a chat with old members of the Regiment. This cheerful, enthusiastic and friendly man will be much missed.

### Lt Col Sir Roland Vaughan Gwynne

Roland Gwynne who died in November last year had a distinguished career. A Sussex man, he served in the Sussex Yeomanry from 1904 until the 1914-18 War when he was transferred to The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment. He served in the 10th Queen's and was wounded and mentioned in despatches. He was appointed to command the battalion and was wounded a second time at the third Battle of Ypres in August 1917. He was awarded the DSO for his leadership as CO of the 10th Queen's in that battle.

Colonel Gwynne, who had been called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1910, became in succession a Justice of the Peace and chairman of Hailsham and Eastbourne petty sessions, High Sheriff of the County of Sussex, a Deputy Lieutenant and alderman and chairman of East Sussex County Council. Three times mayor of Eastbourne, Colonel Gwynne was knighted in 1957.

### Captain F. J. Hesketh-Williams

At the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, David Hesketh-Williams ran away from school to enlist in The Royal Munster Fusiliers. He served in France with them and later in the Kensingtons. In September 1939 he was posted to the Depot of The Queen's Royal Regiment at Stoughton Barracks where he commanded a company. After the war, Captain Hesketh-Williams interested himself in the welfare of ex-servicemen. He was the local Officers Association representative for 20 years and Chairman of the Seal and District Branch of the Royal British Legion for 21 years, resigning only 10 days before his death. He had been a generous supporter of the Regimental Association for over 30 years.

### Major R. C. Wilson

Roy was born in October 1897. Educated at Cranbrook and commissioned from the RMC Sandhurst to The Queen's Royal Regiment at Sittingbourne in July 1916. He served with 10 Queen's in France and was wounded on 31st July, 1917.

In April 1919 he joined 2 Queen's at Tournai Barracks, Aldershot and went to Bareilly in India with the advance party in August. He served with the Battalion in India, Waziristan and Khartoum, and in 1927 returned to UK and served at Dover and Aldershot until his retirement in 1934. At the outbreak of war in 1939 he was recalled but was invalided out in May 1940, and employed in the War Office as a clerical assistant until January 1963. He died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Warlingham on 19th December, 1971.

With the death of Roy, another link with the past is severed. His father was killed at the Battle of the Aisne in 1914 as Adjutant of 1 Queen's, and his brother Hugh was killed commanding 2/6th Queen's near Enfidaville in North Africa in 1943. Roy was one of the most popular officers in the Regiment and had the distinction of representing the 2nd Battalion at hockey, cricket and soccer.

He was definitely one of the characters of India in the Twenties, and the fact that a letter addressed "Roy Wilson, India" was delivered to him goes to prove this. The mere fact of claiming to be in the Queen's invariably produced the remark "Of course you know Roy Wilson" and some very amusing story concerning him would be related.

Roy will always be remembered for his cheerfulness under all conditions. He was very popular with everyone and it can safely be said he hadn't an enemy in the world. Our sympathies are extended to his widow Phyllis, whom he married in 1928.

H.P.C.

### G. S. E. Fane

George Sidney Eric Fane, who has died at the age of 80, was the son of Sergeant Instructor of Musketry G. Fane of the 2nd Queen's, whose regimental number was 1. Gerry Fane enlisted as a boy in 1905. In the 1914-18 War he served in the Drums of the 1st Queen's with the late Mr. W. H. Parsons, then Cpl "Clergy" Parsons. Mr. Parsons recalled that he owed his life to Fane in 1917. He had been severely wounded in the leg and lay for many hours in a muddy shell hole in No Man's Land. Eventually after dark Cpl Fane with two others succeeded in getting out to Parsons, and slithering and sliding through the mud and filth they carried the wounded man half a mile back to the 1st Queen's position. After the War Mr. Fane served as a railway signalman for 40 years. Mr. Fane, who was a widower, lived in Sittingbourne and leaves a daughter.

### Sir Irving Gane, KCVO

Irving Blanchard Gane who has died at the age of 79 went to France as a private with the 1st Bn HAC in September 1914. He was commissioned into the 22nd London Regiment (The Queen's) in May 1915 and was posted to the 2nd Battalion. He returned to France and became the Battalion Machine Gun officer. In May 1917 Captain Gane served as Adjutant in Palestine until he was appointed GSO3 (Ops) in General Allenby's Headquarters. In May 1919 he attended the Paris Peace Conference on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief.

In the 1939-45 War, Major Gane served as a GSO2 at the War Office. He was Chamberlain of the City of London from 1945 to 1962 and had been for many years Chairman of the Council of the Royal Society of St. George.

### Major A. E. Reynolds, MBE, MM, TD

Arthur Reynolds, who has died at the age of 74, joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1915 and served in the 1st and 10th Battalions, winning the Military Medal in France. After service in the 2nd Queen's in India, where he was Sergeant Instructor of Musketry, he became RSM of the

24th London Regiment (The Queen's). He was commissioned Lieutenant and Quartermaster in May 1939 and went to France with the 2/7th Queen's in April 1940. His last appointment was Quartermaster of the re-formed 6th Queen's (TA) in 1947.

Brigadier R. S. N. Mans, CBE, who was Adjutant of the 6th Queen's at that time, writes:

"Arthur Reynolds joined the 6th Queen's at 2 Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, in March 1947 as the first Quartermaster of the post-war battalion. These were the days when the Territorial Army was being re-started in a reorganised form soon after the end of the second World War. Arthur's knowledge of the TA, and particularly his life time experience of London Territorials, was invaluable. He soon became a much respected figure, not only in the 6th Queen's, but with the whole of the TA in London. The then County of London TA Association particularly valued all the helpful information and advice he was able to give them in those formative days.

I well recall my first meeting with Arthur, which in fact took place on London Bridge Station prior to us going to Jamaica Road. I arrived in a somewhat dated pre-war tweed suit, whereas Arthur was resplendent in service dress, breeches and highly polished field boots. Together we walked along Tooley Street and Jamaica Road, pursued by an increasing host of Cockney children giving voice as only Bermondsey children can, but Arthur was quite unperturbed and marched resolutely on towards the Drill Hall. Very soon they all fell in and marched with him.

The Regiment has lost a fine soldier and an outstanding comrade."

### Major F. Waspe, MBE

Many of us, when we heard the sad news that Major "Buzz" Waspe had died at his home in the Isle of Wight on 5th April, 1972, sensed the closing of a remarkable chapter in our Regiment's History. Born on 9th June, 1891, Frederick Waspe joined the army at the early age of sixteen, enlisting in the Rifle Brigade in 1907. In February of the following year he transferred to The Queen's in which Regiment his elder brother, Sergeant H. Waspe, was already serving. Sergeant Waspe was killed at Ypres in 1914. Throughout the war of 1914-1918 "Buzz" served in France and Flanders. He was wounded at Ypres in 1915 and again on the Somme in 1916.

In 1919 he was posted to 2nd Battalion, The Queen's, and served in that Battalion for the next twenty-two years. He took part in the operations on the North-West Frontier of India 1919-1921 and was Mentioned in Despatches. Promoted to Warrant-Officer, as Company Sergeant-Major, on 1st May, 1920, he became Regimental Sergeant-Major six years later, on 12th July, 1926.

It gave great pleasure and satisfaction to everyone in the Regiment when, on 6th March, 1931, Buzz was commissioned as Lieutenant and Quartermaster, and again when he was promoted to Captain on 1st August, 1938. He served with distinction in the operations in Palestine in 1939-1940 and was again Mentioned in Despatches. In September, 1940, the Battalion moved from Palestine to the Western Desert where Buzz did a great job as Quartermaster, and in December, 1941, received his third Mention in Despatches. He held two appointments as Camp Commandant in Middle East Land Forces. Firstly at HQ 44 Division in 1942 and then at HQ 25 Corps in Cyprus. On 6th March, 1943, he was promoted Major (Quartermaster), and on 13th June, 1944, gained his fourth Mention in Despatches.

When the war ended in 1945, Buzz retired from the Active List. The thought of inactivity, however, was to him intolerable. He was immediately appointed Secretary of the Old Comrades' Association, at Stoughton Barracks. In this appointment he was quite invaluable and his com-



plete and sympathetic understanding, enthusiasm, and cheerful personality endeared him to all members, past and present, of the Regiment and to their families. In 1957, to everyone's delight, Major Frederick Waspe was appointed a Member of the Order of The British Empire. Seldom can an award have been better deserved nor more universally welcome and appreciated. When, in October 1959, The Queen's and The Surreys were amalgamated, Buzz was appointed Secretary of the Regimental Association of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment at Kingston. Although he had already exceeded the age limit for employment as a Retired Officer, the War Office, after some persuasion, agreed to the appointment. Buzz carried on with his excellent work until, on his seventieth birthday, the War Office did not yield a second time, and he finally retired.

All Queen's Surreys will remember Buzz Waspe as a wonderful chap to have served with and to have known. Whether one was his senior or his junior one was always assured of his ready, efficient, and willing co-operation, given with the best of good humour. When faced with a tricky administrative problem one did not say "I wonder if Buzz can help". We said, "Let's ask Buzz". Buzz leaves his widow, Lillian, a son, Anthony, and a daughter, Valerie. To them all we extend our very sincere condolence, and we share their grief in the passing of a well-loved friend and distinguished soldier.

HGD

## Major D. J. Wakefield, MC

Members of the Regimental Association who attend the Remembrance Day service at Kingston upon Thames will be sorry to learn of the death of Major Wakefield. Desmond Wakefield had served in the 6th Bn The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment in 78 Division during the War, and had won the MC at Cassino. He had acted as right marker for the Regimental Association detachment at the Kingston War Memorial on Remembrance Day for several years, and his burly figure and cheerful rubicund countenance were well known to our members.

## STOP PRESS

### Presentation of Colours to The Queen's Regiment

Information has just been received from the Colonel of the Regiment that owing to unforeseeable circumstances it has become necessary to postpone the presentation of Colours until next year.