

REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SURREY REGIMENT

President
Major General F.A.H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL
Chairman
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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. 12

November, 1972

Editorial

To those of us whose service finished some time ago, there is a danger of living in the past and overlooking the fact that our former Regiments live on in The Queen's Regiment of today. As the first Colonel of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment wrote on the Amalgamation of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment, "If we are ex-soldiers our duty is to help and support those still serving in fostering the spirit and traditions that we have helped to build." It is for this reason the News Letter has published news of the various amalgamations and changes of title which have come our way since we were just the Queen's or the Surreys. In this issue we welcome the appointment of Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark as Allied Colonel in Chief of The Queen's Regiment. It will be remembered her father, the late King Frederik of Denmark who died in January, was to have presented new Colours to the Regiment last June. For those who would follow the fortunes of the various components of The Queen's Regiment more closely, there is the excellent Journal of The Queen's Regiment published by Regimental Headquarters at Canterbury.

In this issue will be found a review of the new history of The East Surrey Regiment in the Famous Regiments series. It is a companion volume to Jock Haswell's history of The Queen's Royal Regiment, copies of which are still available.

Finally, the Editor would like to thank those who took the trouble to send him their views on what the News Letter should and should not include. We are unfortunately caught up in the world of rising prices, and the old adage of what goes up must come down does not apply to costs. Reluctantly we shall have to increase the subscription rates next year.

Honours and Awards

We congratulate Major Sir John A. H. Saunders, CBE, DSO, MC, on his knighthood awarded in the Birthday Honours List. "Jake" Saunders was a platoon commander in B Coy, 1 Surreys when the Battalion landed in North Africa in November 1942. He was Adjutant during the Sicily campaign and commanded a company in Italy where he was awarded the MC. He won a DSO as 2IC 2nd Bn The Lancashire Fusiliers in 1945.

We also congratulate Colonel D. B. Pullen, OBE, TD,

on his appointment as a Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Kent.

Colonelcies

Allied Colonel in Chief

The following notice was published in the June 1972 issue of the Journal of The Queen's Regiment.

"All members of the Regiment will be delighted by the news that Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II of Denmark has been appointed Allied Colonel-in-Chief in succession to his late Majesty King Frederik IX. A message of loyal greetings was sent from the Colonel of the Regiment and All Ranks on 30th May".

Colonel of the Regiment

Lieut General Sir Richard Craddock, KBE, CB, DSO, has been Colonel of The Queen's Regiment since its inception on 31st December, 1966. His extended tenure of appointment, due to expire on 15th October, 1972, has been further extended until 15th October, 1973.

All members of our Regimental Association will be delighted to know that Major General F. A. H. Ling, CB, CBE, DSO, DL, has accepted General Craddock's invitation for his name to be submitted as his successor as Colonel of the Regiment in October, 1973.

5th (Volunteer) Bn The Queen's Regiment

Major (Hon Col) The Duke of Norfolk, KG, PC, GCVO, GBE, TD, was appointed Honorary Colonel 5th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment (TAVR) on 1st April, 1972, in succession to The Right Honourable Sir Robert Menzies, KT, PC, CH, QC, LLM, DCL, DSc, tenure expired.

Appointments—Officers

Brigadier R. S. N. Mans, CBE, took up the appointment of DDPS (Army), Ministry of Defence in June 1972 after four years as Deputy Commander South East District and Commander Aldershot Garrison.

Colonel M. J. A. Clarke, MBE, is to be Divisional Brigadier Queen's Division in December 1972. Colonel Clarke served in the 15th Punjab Regiment from 1941 to 1947 when he transferred to The East Surrey Regiment.

Lt-Col H. C. Millman, Commanding Officer of 1 Queen's from 1967 to 1970 is to be Chief Instructor (Colonel) at the Staff College, Khartoum, in October 1972.

Lt-Col D. R. Bishop, MBE, is to be Deputy Commander (Colonel) 3 Infantry Brigade in March 1973.

Command—TAVR Battalions

5 Queen's (V)

Major J. R. Stephenson has been selected for command in April 1973.

6 Queen's (V)

Lt-Col D. G. Wilson, TD, extended in command from September 1973 to March 1974.

7 Queen's (V)

Lt-Col J. B. Ogilvie, TD, extended in command from September 1973 to September 1974.

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 price is the same as for 1969, 1970 and 1971, that is 55p a dozen, including postage and packing.

The design and layout of this card have been unaltered since it was introduced and it has therefore been economical to produce in bulk. It has been suggested the appearance of the greetings page with the badges of our two former Regiments would be improved by being printed in blue. Has any reader any ideas on this suggestion?

Regimental Service

The annual service of the Regimental Association was held in Guildford Cathedral on 18th June, 1972. The congregation, largely composed of old members of the Regiment and their families, was larger than usual. We were delighted to see so many of the officers and cadets of the Surrey ACF in uniform at the service, making it a "parade" occasion. The ushers were provided by the 6th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, and they were ably organized by their RSM, Mr. C. R. Shinn. The service was conducted by the Dean of Guildford, the Very Reverend A. C. Bridge, and the sermon—a stirring address on courage—was preached by the Reverend Jocelyn P. Grundy, Rector of Shere.

After the service many members repaired to the refreshment tent where A (Queen's Surreys) Company, 7th (Volunteer) Battalion The Queen's Regiment, under the direction of Lt Will Newbold, ran the bar with efficiency and good humour.

Golf Society

Royal Marines Match, 18th May 1972

The members of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Golf Society, under their Captain, Lt-Col Jim Lasbrey, were entertained to dinner at the Officers Mess, Royal Marines Depot, Deal prior to their Annual match which took place this year at the Royal Cinque Ports Golf Club on 18th May.

Unfortunately although the Marines were held to a draw in the morning, the Queen's Surreys went under in the afternoon, helped by the excellent lunch, the weather and the staying power of the younger members of the Royal Marines team.

It is hoped that the result will be reversed next year at Sudbrook Park.

Autumn Meeting 1972

The Autumn Meeting was held at Sudbrook Park on 5th and 6th October, 1972. 16 members attended on the first day and 11 on the second. The results were as follows.

Thursday, 5th October

Heales Memorial Trophy

Capt J. A. Clark	32½ pts
Winner Junior Division	
Capt C. G. Reeves	31½ pts
Veterans Halo (plus age allowance)	
Capt A. Mason	35½ pts
Greensomes Stableford	
Capt C. G. Reeves and Capt J. A. Clark	

Friday, 6th October

Autumn Bowl

Capt J. A. Clark	68 pts
Glasgow Greys	
Capt C. G. Reeves	71 pts
Best last 9 holes (Seniors)	
Maj W. J. Sutton	
Best last 9 holes (Juniors)	
Maj P. A. Gray	
Nine hidden holes (Senior)	
Maj S. Petzing	
Nine hidden holes (Junior)	
Maj B. A. Crutchfield	
Petri Plate	
(Best score medal Spring and Autumn)	
Maj W. J. Sutton	142 pts
9 holes Bogey Foursomes	
Maj S. Petzing and Capt C. G. Reeves	
The Sweep realised £33.50 and the winners were:	
1st Capt P. A. Bruckmann	
2nd Capt J. A. Clark	
3rd Capt H. C. Mason	

Regimental Association Reunion

The Annual Reunion of the Regimental Association was held at the Drill Hall, Kingston upon Thames, on Friday, 13th October, 1972. In spite of the inauspicious date, it was a very cheerful gathering, a record number of 190 attending. Not all our guests from the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, were able to come, but we were delighted to see In Pensioner "Jimmy" Allingham, a sprightly 93, wearing both South African War medals, and In Pensioner J. E. Fitzgerald. A party of one NCO and four men from 2 Pl A Coy 5(V) Queen's provided invaluable assistance in preparing the hall and in supervising car parking. One, Pte Arnold, had given up his last night as a bachelor for this duty. We wish Mr. and Mrs. Arnold every happiness.

Mr. "Chic" Evans, our expert "raffler", succeeded in coaxing £13.70 from the pockets of our members. As the Reunion Fund runs on a shoestring, this provided a very welcome boost to our finances.

For Mr. H. White of the Queen's, it was a nostalgic occasion for he is emigrating to New Zealand. Mr. Joe Dennis brought his usual party from 4 Queen's OCA, and the Veterans Company of the 6th Queen's was well represented. It was pleasant to see how many members

Forecast of Principal Regimental and other Service Functions in 1973

Date	Place	Function
Sat. 10 Feb.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association—Sobraon Dance
Fri. 13 Apr. (Provisional)	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society—Spring Meeting and AGM
Sat. 12 May	Guildford	512 Queen's OMA—Annual Reunion
Fri. 18 May (Provisional)	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society—Match v Royal Marines
Sat. 19 May	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association—AGM and Annual Dinner
Fri. 15 June	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club—Cocktail Party
Sun. 17 June	Guildford	Regimental Association—Annual Cathedral Service
June	Not yet known	The Queen's Regiment—Presentation of Colours
Thur. 4 Oct. and Fri. 5 Oct.	Richmond	Queen's Surreys Golf Society—Autumn Meeting
Fri. 5 Oct.	London	Queen's Surreys Officers Club—Annual Dinner
Sat. 6 Oct.	Kingston	Regimental Association—Annual Reunion
Sat. 13 Oct.	Kingston	Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association—Ladies Dinner and Dance
Sun. 11 Nov.	Kingston and Guildford	Remembrance Day Parades

had brought their sons, or was it the other way round? There were four Regiments represented—The Queen's Regiment, The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment, The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment, and it was very pleasant to see how happily they all mixed in together on this friendly Regimental occasion.

News of the Associations

Warrant Officers and Sergeants Association

It is now 22 years since we held our Inaugural Meeting at the Depot, Kingston Barracks under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Twohey. Since then the Committee has held 197 Meetings. This, I think is an excellent record and I am sure our younger members will be interested to know this. In spite of all the changes we still continue to thrive and we are still recruiting. If you should meet up with any ex-Queensmen or Surrey who was a member of the Sergeants Mess while serving, do encourage him to join us. The Secretary is Mr. A. R. Scriven, MBE, TAVR Centre, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames.

We still continue to hold our monthly meeting and socials on the last Saturday of each month and these attract a large number of members and their wives.

Our annual Ladies Dinner Dance was held on 7th October, at which 181 members and their friends attended. An excellent dinner was served and everyone enjoyed themselves dancing until midnight. Our thanks to Chic Evans and his lady assistants for running a most successful raffle, and to those members who so kindly contributed the prizes.

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of Fred Gater an ex Queensman and Major Charles Ricketts who served for many years in the Surreys and was well known both as RSM and later as a commissioned Officer.

A.R.S.

4th Queen's Old Comrades Association

The Association suffered a sad loss on 7th July, 1972, in the death of Mr. E. H. Organ, a Founder Member and one time Secretary. Ernie Organ enlisted in the 4th Bn The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment (TA) in 1913 and after service in India and UK retired as a CSM. In 1939 he formed a unit of Local Defence Volunteers (later the Home Guard) and in 1942 was appointed to a Home Guard Commission. A tribute to Mr. Organ will be found in the obituary column.

The September 1972 issue of the Braganza Bulletin, edited by Mr. Paul Shonfeld, contains the following notice:

"Do not forget that the Social Evenings in the Mess at Mitcham Road are still held every last Saturday of each month. They're great fun. Come and find out!"

The Queen's (Bermondsey) Regimental Association

The Bermondsey Association, now temporarily domiciled in the adjoining Borough of Deptford, still continues to function. While awaiting the return to our former haunts we manage to keep active. Once a month the Social Section contrives to put on a Saturday social evening where the regulars can let their hair down and enjoy a good drink. For those who remember the old Drill Hall at Bermondsey, alas, it is no more. The well-known landmark has now been demolished. The reassuring sight however is the speed at which the new

building is taking place and the hope that it will not be too long before we once again take up residence there.

This summer has seen both the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary visiting Canada, although not at the same time. The location was nearly the same and both itineraries included the Armoury of our former affiliated Regiment The Queen's York Rangers in Toronto. In the case of the Vice-Chairman he was rather unlucky because the Regiment was at camp; however he did meet the Commanding Officer. The Hon Sec was luckier, he was met by the RSM Bill Cochrane, and escorted on a grand tour of the Armoury, Old Fort York and the stone frigate HMCS York, the HQ of the RCNR. A launch trip around Lake Ontario was also included. My thanks to our Canadian friends for a truly enjoyable day. Also visited during the tour were some former members of the 1/6th and 6th Bns and once again the hospitality was overwhelming.

To a more sombre note, it is with regret that the loss of two long-serving members is recorded. These were ex-C/Sgt Morrie Burns, BEM, and ex-Sergt Freddie Gibbins, both of whom were pre-war members of the Bn. Further details are given in the Obituary notices.

Once again we intend to hold what has now become an annual event the Reunion Dinner. This will be held at the "Oxford Arms" at Deptford on Saturday, 11th November. May it be as successful as its predecessors.

2nd/6th Bn The Queens Royal Regiment

The annual Salerno Day Reunion was held on 9th September last, on the 29th anniversary of the day of the landings in Italy in 1943.

Now that the Drill Hall in Bermondsey is under demolition, Frank Peart had to scout around for a suitable venue. He found it in the Petty Officers Mess on board HMS *President* on the Victoria Embankment. This enabled him to say in his welcoming speech that just as we had to thank the Navy for their magnificent support on the beaches of Salerno and on Hill 210 three days after the landings, so now we had to thank them again for permitting us the use of their ship for the Reunion.

It was a most attractive setting and some 70 members of the Battalion were present and enjoyed themselves to the full. An attractive buffet was provided by Col and Mrs. Peet. After arranging it at their home in Sudbury, Suffolk, Col Peet travelled to London by car and all arrived in good condition.

As usual one or two new faces appeared with the old and gallant and we were again pleased to see "Doc" Hogan who makes a special trip from Dublin to attend the party. We were saddened to learn of the death of "Pat" McCormack, MM and bar, who died in May. A collection was made for his widow which realised £30. This was later taken by Frank Peart to Mrs. McCormack who was very grateful for the kindness shown by her husband's old comrades.

Col John Kealy, DSO, replied to the speech of welcome and echoed the thanks of all present to Frank Peart for his unflagging zeal and enthusiasm in keeping the party going year after year. He had organised the Reunion each year since 1961. A proud record.

S.W.P.

The Queen's Regiment

News of the Regular Battalions

As the senior resident Battalion in Berlin the 1st Battalion had the honour of trooping its Queen's Colour and providing No. 1 Guard, Escort for the Colour, at the Berlin Infantry Brigade's parade for Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday. The salute was taken by HRH The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowden. On 7th July, the Battalion said its official farewell to Berlin with a floodlit tattoo by the Band and Drums.

The 1st Battalion is now in Northern Ireland, and have just sustained their first fatal casualty—Pte R. J. Sinclair, killed in Belfast on 31st October, 1972.

The 2nd Battalion, formerly at Werl in BAOR, arrived in Ulster at the end of July. They are due to return to Werl in November.

The 3rd Battalion, who were based at Tidworth, have also had a spell of duty in Northern Ireland and were engaged in operations in Londonderry's Creggan Estate. They are due for Cyprus in November.

The 4th Battalion, Albuhera Company, has changed its primary role from recruiting to the training of junior soldiers. They now form part of a wing of the Junior Infantrymen's Battalion at Howe Barracks, Canterbury. However, the Regimental Information Team has been reformed and deployed in three sections to continue the task of recruiting for the Regiment in our Regimental area.

From Here and There

District Commissioner in Botswana

Elsewhere in this News Letter will be found a tribute to the late Major Charles Lamb in which mention is made of his work as a District Commissioner and of his love of Africa. A Regimental friend has given permission to publish the following extract from a letter written by Charles Lamb four months before he died.

"I am now District Commissioner Kalahari Desert in charge of 42,000 square miles of it and 18,000 people. This is a one man European station, the rest are camel policemen, government employees of various sorts and hangers on. It sounds terrible but is in fact great fun. I have to travel vast distances holding court at various out-lying police posts, but this relieves the monotony. I love this country and have become a Botswana citizen! Later I plan to retire to a place called Maun on the edge of the Okavango Swamps. It seems doubtful if I will ever see England again, but I would love a fortnight in London just to see it and meet old friends."

Drum Major's Mace

In the Regimental Museum there is a drum major's mace and cross-belt bearing the cipher ER VIII. They were held by the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment before the 1939-45 War, and were in use at the Ceremony of Trooping the Colour at Omdurman in 1938.

The notes to the programme for that parade state, "The Mace carried by the Drum Major is one of three in the British Army to bear the cipher of King Edward VIII."

Does any reader know who the other two Regiments were?

Regimental Numbers

Mr. C. S. A. Avis (9661) of Pretoria, South Africa, writing with the authority of an ex-Orderly Room Sergeant, adds the following comment to the article on Regimental Numbers in the 1914-18 War, which appeared in the last News Letter.

"The old system of Regimental Numbers caused a good deal of confusion during the first World War. In many cases other ranks were using the original regimental numbers and the titles of the last regiment they had served with before becoming a casualty. Regimental numbers prefixed with the letter 'G' were allotted to volunteers on a Duration of War and thereafter for six months engagement, and to men conscripted in terms of the Military Service Act of 1916. The letter 'L' was prefixed to regimental numbers allotted to recruits on a regular engagement applicable to the branch of the Army in which they wished to serve. At the time there were several attestation forms in use."

Information Sought

Mr. R. D. Galliers, 1 Abbotts Close, Alwyne Road, London, N.1, is collecting information on his grandfather, Cpl Ernest William Leach, who served in the 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1914-18 War. He lived in Bushey Park Road, Teddington.

The 6th Battalion mobilized at Surbiton on 4th/5th August, 1914, and then moved to Maidstone prior to embarkation for India. Pte Leach (1276) was first in D Coy, and later in E Coy. His elder brother, Arthur, was a sergeant in the Battalion.

After service in Fyzabad in the United Provinces, Leach, now a L/Cpl was sent home in 1915 to join the 1st Bn The Rifle Brigade. He was allocated the number B.200581 and was promoted Corporal. Cpl Leach served in France when he was seriously wounded, and was subsequently invalided out of the Service.

Mr. Galliers, would like to hear from anyone who might have known his grandfather. Telephone (evenings): 01-226 0369.

Calling the 61418s

Mr. H. Mellows (6141832), 9 Salisbury Road, Canterbury, Kent, would like to hear from other 61418s, particularly those who were with him in Sgt Ward's squad at the Depot of The East Surrey Regiment in January 1937.

Mr. Mellows, along with 55 other 61418s, served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment in Malaya, and was a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

Queen's man from Thornton Heath

Old members of the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment will remember Cpl P. E. T. Sterling (6088095) who has joined the Regimental Association. Philip Sterling, a native of Thornton Heath, enlisted on a Regular engagement in May 1938 and served in the Isle of Wight, Palestine, Egypt, Syria and North Africa. When the

2nd Queen's were withdrawn to Egypt prior to embarkation to Burma, he was transferred to the 2/6th Queen's and slogged across the Desert again—this time as far as Tunis. Returning to England in 1943, he was transferred to the 5th Bn The Wiltshire Regiment in October. He landed in Normandy on 18th June, 1944, and fought with that Battalion up to the outskirts of Aarnhem, when he received multiple gunshot wounds which resulted in his discharge the following year.

After the War, he returned to Thornton Heath and joined the Hospital Service. He is now Head Porter of the Mayday Hospital which many of our readers will know.

Infernals machine in Kingston Barracks

Mr F. J. Humberstone, referring to the unexploded 500 pound bomb which dropped in Kingston Barracks during the war, writes:

"I was in the Sergeants Mess at the time, and Bill Wernham and I shot under the billiard table. The following day Bill said to me, 'Humbo, you pulled tug-o-war for the Battalion in Cairo and Hong Kong. They want a team on the rope to pull out that HE bomb. They say it's a dud'. I replied, 'I don't fancy myself as front man nor yet anchor man on *that* rope.'

"Anyway, the project was shelved and the demolition squad took the bomb away. When they returned the whole squad drank nothing but brown ale in the Mess. I well remember noting 'Bomb and brown ale' in my diary. Fred Pusey, I believe was there at the time. I am sure many old timers enjoy your tales in the News Letter, as I do."

As forecast in the last News Letter, work has now started on the building of houses, flats and maisonettes in the old Depot of The East Surrey Regiment. Part of the perimeter wall has been knocked down to allow access by contractors' plant and heavy lorries. The Keep remains unaffected by all this activity.

1/5th Surreys in the 1914-18 War

The widow of the Rev E. P. Orr has presented to the Regimental Museum an interesting collection of photographs taken by her husband in India and Mesopotamia. Edward Percival Orr joined the 5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment (TA) in November 1914 and served with them throughout. After the War he was ordained. Mr Orr was a brother of the late Canon Wellesley Orr who was well known to all East Surreys who served at the Regimental Depot.

"Dinner is served"

Captain R. A. Caplen, who served in the 1/21st London Regiment in the 1914-18 War, writes:

"One of the memories which stands out in my mind, must have taken place over the same ground where the East Surreys won three Victoria Crosses in April of 1915. It was in October of 1916. We had taken over the sector facing Hill 60, and as a young rifleman, I was detailed to go back and bring up the Platoon's mid-day meal. The condition of the communicating trenches defies description. While unladen to get along it was

terrible, but to return laden with a metal vacuum flask, filled with stew, tested a man's staying power to the uttermost. Having sunk in the mud up to my knees, I decided to try over the top, but snipers were too active. It took me a long while to get back to the platoon, when yells of derision greeted me for being so long. When it was discovered that two bullets had penetrated the flask, and much of the stew had been lost, and what was present was cold and unpalatable, the jeers became curses. The kindest comment was perhaps 'Pity it wasn't your bloody head'."

Award of the Croix de Guerre in 1918

Mr A. J. Edwards, formerly CSM Edwards of the 2/4th Queen's, has revived memories of the Battle of Soissonais-Ourcq, 28th July to 2nd August, 1918. In this action the 34th Division with the French XXX Corps on their right attacked the Grand Rozoy Ridge. The 2/4th Queen's, one of the leading battalions in 101 Brigade, succeeded in getting some way up the slopes north of the Beugneux Woods. The French took Grand Rozoy but were driven back by a German counter-attack. The British line held during the heavy fighting of the next three days and on 1st August the Allied advance was resumed. The operations had cost the 34th Division 153 Officers and 3,617 Other Ranks. A special Order of the Day by General Mangin, Commanding Tenth French Army, commanding the gallantry of the British 34th Division was published, and a number of awards were made.

CSM Edwards received the Croix de Guerre and the citation recorded that he had "given to men of all ranks a magnificent example of sacrifice, self-denial and absolute disregard for his personal safety during the whole of the operation." Mr Edwards wished to know why his Croix de Guerre bore a star on the ribbon while others had a laurel leaf.

The Croix de Guerre is awarded to those mentioned in French despatches, and the embellishment is related to the formation publishing the despatch, as under.

Formation	Embellishment
Army	Small bronze laurel branch
Army Corps	Silver gilt star
Division	Silver star
Brigade, Regimental or similar unit	Bronze star

A Regimental Amalgamation

Mr S. J. ("Chippy") Wood (6136274), who served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1923 to 1931 is to marry Mrs Ann Griffin on 25th November, 1972. Mrs Griffin is the widow of Sgt Albert William Griffin who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1915 to 1919. We send our very best wishes to Mr and Mrs Wood.

Donations

The Secretary acknowledges with thanks donations from the following ladies.

Miss M. Steel, in memory of her brother, Major A. K. Steel, The East Surrey Regiment, who died on 8th August, 1972.

Mrs A. Sloan, in memory of her son, Captain Geoffrey Sloan, 1/6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment, who was killed in action at Cassino on 18th May, 1944.

The Queen's Regiment Tie

A new tie for The Queen's Regiment has been produced. It may be worn by anyone who has served in The Queen's Royal Regiment, The East Surrey Regiment or The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment. The design is broad diagonal stripes of blue edged with yellow on a silver background. The tie, in non-crease silk, is available to members of the Regimental Association for £1.90.

The tie may be ordered on the Order Form enclosed.

Villiers Marines Picture

Earlier this year a souvenir philatelic cover was produced by Stamp Publicity (Worthing) Ltd to commemorate the 270th Anniversary of the formation of The East Surrey Regiment. The cover bore a coloured picture of a soldier of Villiers Marines painted by the well-known military artist, Charles C. Stadden.

Reproductions of the original painting may be obtained from the Queen's Surreys Office as under, using the order form enclosed with this News Letter.

Postcard size with brief history of the Regiment on reverse 7p

The same picture mounted on a coloured background and framed 8" x 6½" 27p

News from "Down Under"

Reunion in Australia

Major J. W. Francis, now British Exchange Officer at the RMC Duntroon, is hoping to organise a get-together of old comrades from The Queen's Regiment and our former Regiments now resident in Australia.

Old soldiers of The Queen's Royal Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment living in Australia are invited to get in touch with Major J. W. Francis, The Queen's Regiment, Royal Military College, Duntroon, Canberra, ACT, Australia.

Change of Address

In our last News Letter, Mr Cribbes gives an account of his life in Australia where he has been since 1966. Mr Cribbes has now moved from "the bush" and his address is:

Flat 11, 46 Ormond Esplanade
Elwood
Victoria 3184
Australia.

Visitor from Australia

Mr Hector Alexander Ford called at the Queen's Surreys Office on 4th May, 1972. He was a pre-War member of the 17th North Sydney Regiment, and remembers the very active liaison in the 1930s between his Regiment and The East Surrey Regiment.

Correspondence

From: Colonel M. St. G. Pallot
Deputy Colonel
The Royal Anglian Regiment
Alne Cross
York.

9th October, 1972

To: Major General F. A. H. Ling,
CB, CBE, DSO, DL,
Deputy Colonel The Queen's Regiment
TAVR Centre
Portsmouth Road
Kingston upon Thames
Surrey

Dear General,

I very much appreciated your kindness in sending me a copy of "The East Surrey Regiment" by Michael Langley. I found the book most interesting and, despite the well known difficulty of presenting regimental histories, easily readable. Quite the most interesting part to me was, of course, the disastrous Malayan campaign. Your 2nd Surreys and our 1st certainly made history at Kampar and I hope your old Regiment and mine will never let the name of the "British Battalion" be forgotten. Very few of our chaps who did that terrible stint as Japanese prisoners of war are alive today.

Again thank you so much and apologies for my delay in writing to thank you but I did want to read the history before writing.

All best wishes,

Yours ever,
Mike.

From: Mr H. G. Meatyard
11 Killyon Road
South Lambeth
London SW8 2XS.

24th May, 1972

To: Editor
Regimental Association News Letter

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for News Letter No. 11 which I found of great interest as usual. I note that in 1973 the cost increases, but I feel that is not too much to ask for a News Letter to me of great interest.

Your inquiry on whether items such as Colours, Regimental Chapels, Regimental History and Battlefield Tours should still be included prompts from me a big "Yes". Nostalgia plays a big part in old soldiers' lives, I'm sure, and to read of old comrades brings in many cases happy memories, and maybe even a reunion with a long lost "mucker".

So, keep up the good work with the usual format, and don't forget the old 2/7th Queen's who will always be the greatest battalion of all to me.

Yours truly,
Harry G. Meatyard.

From: Mr A. D. Moody
127 Hillmead
Shepton Mallet
Somerset BA4 5EZ
12th July, 1972

To: Editor
Regimental Association News Letter
Dear Major Hill,

Thank you for the last issue of the News Letter—one that I found rather interesting.

My comments on the News Letter. I may be in the minority, but I like it as it is and don't care how much it costs me. Every item is of interest to some person. Possibly Regimental History could be left out, but Battlefield Tours, obituaries and members' letters are a "must", plus general news of the Association. Otherwise the News Letter is concise, compact and just as it should be.

Yours sincerely,
A. D. Moody
(ex-2/6th Queens).

Request for posting

In April 1917 the 1/5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment was posted from Nowshera to Muttra, and on 5th November, 1917, orders were received to prepare for service in Mesopotamia. It appears news of the Battalion's posting from India got around a couple of months before, as witness Sweeper Paran's application to Lieut E. P. Orr.

"Respected Sir,

I most humbly and respectfully beg to bring to your kind notice and hope to meet your favourable consideration that when you start from Nowshera, there were seven gentlemen altogether. That time I have made my objection, that I cannot go Muttra. Then it was given me order that I should go Muttra, and for this means my pay was stopped for fifteen days at Nowshera. Now I beg to say out of you several gentlemen gone away, you are now only three men, who are also ready to go in a day or two, only one gentleman will remain, who will also shift to another Bungalow, this Bungalow will remain empty and myself will have no employment at all.

I beg to say, that I am poor man and have got my wife and two little children with me. Now how I can go back to Nowshera from this foreign country?

I therefore hope you three gentlemen have decided this matter among yourself and be pleased have pity towards me and my poor family and little ones. Anyhow kindly send us back to Nowshera with a railway fair expense as I am your poor humble sweeper. For which act of kindness I together my poor family and little ones shall as in duty bound to ever pray for your long life, health, wealth and prosperity.

I remain

Sir
Your most obedient servant
Paran (Sweeper)."

We hope Paran got his posting back to Nowshera, together with the traditional testimonial for sweepers in India—"He has taken a great interest in everything he has carried out".

The unofficial truces of December 1914

The Queen's Royal Regiment

In so far as the 2nd Queen's were concerned, there were three cease-fires—on 19th December, Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Of the last two little is recorded, the Regimental History merely stating that "On Christmas Day and also on the 26th there was again an informal armistice when the German officers provided lists of British officers recently captured."

The cease fire on 19th December is better documented. Colonel Coates's account of it was published in the last News Letter. Now we have the reports of two others who were there.

Mr R. W. Walters, at that time 9521 Pte Walters, A Coy, 2 Queen's, writes,

"The truce was started by one 'Darkie' of A Coy who crawled out in daylight to try and bring in a badly wounded man. I knew 'Darkie' by sight but unfortunately, not his name. I think he came from Bermondsey. At that time there were very few Regulars in A Company, six or eight I should say. The rest were Militia or TA who came out after the Brigade had been withdrawn from Ypres.

'Darkie' was seen by the Germans, and several standing on the fire step exposed their head and shoulders and indicated to 'Darkie' he would not be fired on. Encouraged by this, 'Darkie' stood up and shortly afterwards one or two more of A Company went to fetch some wounded.

Then, several Germans, unarmed, came out and so on. It took everybody by surprise and I received a message from OC A Company (Capt Hewitt) of the West Kents not to let more than three of my six men to leave the sap."

Ex-Pte Gilbert Smith (10532), who was a regimental machine gunner, has vivid memories of the unsuccessful attack by two companies of the Queen's in the early evening of 18th December. Regarding the "Armistice" the next day, Mr Smith writes:

"With regard to the 'Unofficial Armistice' on our front, this was not so much an armistice as a burial of the dead. All kinds of rumours were put about but the following seems very credible. It was either the 19th or 20th December that a short cease fire was ordered. We were told that a white flag had been hoisted, and that a German officer had met a British officer in No Man's Land and handed him a document of some kind. The document, it appears, was a truce of two hours to bury the British dead. The two hours burial took place and was honoured by the Germans. The ground was frozen hard and the corpses were covered with long whiskers of frost. Communal graves were dug and the men were buried in long rows with a wooden cross erected over them in memory of so many of the 2nd Battalion the Queen's."

While the burials were in progress some men were detailed to collect identity discs. Others started to collect arms and equipment, but the German officer, an oldish man, said, 'No! I want the rifles and equipment buried

with the men.' This was done. During the period several men left the trenches and either watched the burials or fraternised with the enemy. But the Brigadier was in the line and naturally was very annoyed. He gave orders that all men not detailed were to come back in twos and threes so as not to cause suspicion by a sudden movement back to the firing line. At the expiration of the two hours 'Armistice' to bury the dead, firing by both sides was resumed."

The East Surrey Regiment

Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell writes:

"I was interested to read, in the Regimental News Letter of May 1972, Col Coates' account of the unofficial armistice in 1914 and from what he says I would certainly agree with him that the 2nd Queen's armistice 'was very properly conducted'. It was not quite the same in another sector. At Christmas time in 1914 the 1st Surreys were out of the line for a short rest when a message was received from G.H.Q. to say that troops in the front line were fraternising with the enemy: this was to cease forthwith; the 1st Surreys would relieve the Bn concerned that night and no further fraternisation would take place.

We moved at once, slightly disgruntled at having our brief rest curtailed, and took over from the 'offending' (?) Bn that evening.

My Coy was one of those in the front line and the officers of the Coy which we now relieved explained the situation before they left.

They told us that German officers would be coming over to our trenches soon after dark and that they would like to have copies of our recent newspapers and a chat before they went back to their side of the line.

The unit opposite to us was apparently a Bn from Saxony, thoroughly disgruntled at being kept in the front line for so long and with no intention of being aggressive in any way.

We completed the relief, posted our sentries but told our men not to fire if they saw a few Germans approaching our lines. In due course figures were seen in 'no-mans-land' (the area between the two opposing front lines) but before they reached our line of defensive wire I went out with one or two other officers and NCOs to meet them. They were, as we expected, English speaking German officers; we had a chat and explained to them that we had been sent up to stop the fraternisation and that they could no longer come into our trenches.

They quite saw the point but said that so long as we were not aggressive they would not fire at us at any time, by day or by night.

This suited us admirably; our defensive belt of wire in front of our trench was badly in need of repair, our trenches were shallow and wet and needed a great deal of work on them and our parapet was so low that in most places, anyone standing up in our trench could be clearly seen from the enemy lines which, being on slightly higher ground, looked down on us. The two front lines were about 150 yards apart.

We gave our Saxon visitors a copy of the Times said good night and expressed regret that in future we could not meet them in such happy circumstances!"

"They, in their turn, did us one further, and very valuable, service. They told us that behind them, waiting to relieve them at some future date, was a Bn of the Prussian Guard who, they warned us, were likely to be very aggressive when they got into the front line. As a warning as to when the relief was taking place the Saxons would fire three volleys over our heads just before they left.

The Saxons were still there when 1st Surreys were relieved; we had strengthened our belt of wire, deepened our trenches and heightened the parapet, frequently exposed to the enemy's view but without suffering a single casualty.

I heard later that in due course three volleys had been fired over our lines and that from then on one could not expose oneself without the grave risk of drawing fire from the enemy lines.

I like to remember this experience as one of my few decent impressions of the German Army."

Regimental Histories

The following Regimental Histories are available. Order form is enclosed.

The Queen's Regiment

"A Guide to The Queen's Regiment" by Major Gregory Blaxland is obtainable from Regimental Headquarters The Queen's Regiment, Howe Barracks, Canterbury, Kent. Price: 30p

The following publications are obtainable from Regimental Headquarters The Queen's Regiment, Queen's Surreys Office, Portsmouth Road, Kingston upon Thames.

The Queen's Royal Regiment

1. Volume VIII (1924 to 1948) of the official Regimental History by Major R. C. G. Foster. Price: £1.35
2. "The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey)" in the Famous Regiments series by Major C. J. D. Haswell. Price: £1.05

The East Surrey Regiment

1. Volume IV (1920 to 1952) of the official Regimental History by David Scott Daniell. Price: £1.20
2. "The East Surrey Regiment" in the Famous Regiments series by Michael Langley. Price: £1.75
3. "Operations of the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment in the 1939-45 War—Some Eye Witness Accounts".

- a. Part I—France and Belgium in 1940, with a foreword by Brigadier R. A. Boxshall. Price: 20p
- b. Part II—North Africa, Sicily and Italy up to May 1944 by Colonel H. B. L. Smith, MC. Price: 25p
- c. Part III—Italy May 1944 to May 1945 is in course of preparation by Mr H. C. Manning.

Regimental History— The Queen's Royal Regiment

The Glorious First of June

A correspondent has inquired about the disposition of the Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment to ships in Earl Howe's great victory over the French in 1794, and the

casualties sustained in action.

Of the 26 ships carrying marines or soldiers, 14 were manned by Marines, 5 by the Queen's, 4 by the 29th Regiment, 2 by the 25th Regiment and one by the 69th Regiment. The Queen's were allocated to ships as under, each detachment being commanded by a captain.

Queen Charlotte

(flagship)	3 Officers and 134 Other Ranks
Royal George	3 Officers and 31 Other Ranks
Defence	3 Officers and 80 Other Ranks
Majestic	3 Officers and 77 Other Ranks
Russell	3 Officers and 80 Other Ranks

During the battle, 288 seamen, marines and soldiers were killed and 810 wounded. The losses sustained by the Queen's were one officer (Lt John Neville in the Queen Charlotte) and seven privates killed, and one officer and eleven privates wounded.

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

The last issue of the News Letter contained an inquiry as to the authorship of the "History of the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the Italian Campaign". A number of letters have been received, including one from Major R. P. Mangles who has kindly presented to the Regimental archives his own copy, beautifully bound in green Florentine leather. Other questions raised concerned the Dog Press which printed the book, and recollections of the Italian Liaison Officer.

Authorship

Major R. P. Mangles writes:

"The book was produced in Trieste where the Battalion finished up the War. Dick Richardson was CO and, as far as I can remember, wrote Chapter 9. I wrote Chapters 7 and 8, and either Peter Taylor or Teddy Edwards wrote the other chapters."

Brigadier P. H. Richardson, who assumed command of the 2/6th Queen's in March 1944, writes:

"At the end of hostilities Brigadier W. H. Stratton, Comd 169 Bde, was very keen that each Battalion should make a record of its activities and lessons learnt before those chiefly concerned were dispersed. As a result histories were written based on War Diaries and personal memories. I cannot remember who wrote the various chapters of the 2/6th Battalion History. Ross Mangles, as he has said, wrote Chapters 7 and 8 and it is more than likely that I wrote Chapter 9, as I was CO during that period.

Other chapters were written by those who were with the Battalion during the periods covered by these chapters. No doubt Peter Taylor, Teddy Edwards and others contributed."

Ex-CQMS F. A. Peart, who served with the 2/6th Queen's throughout the War, writes:

"All evidence points to the fact that the booklet was written from the Diary kept by Lt A. E. Sanftleben, the IO, before he was killed at Gemmano on 8th September, 1944. The Diary was afterwards written by various IOs and finally edited by Capt Best who was IO at the finish of the War."

The Dog Press

Mr Peart says, "The book was printed in Trieste and the 'Dog Press' was a small printing works taken over by

the 2/6th Queen's. The cover was designed by Sgt Ted Blomely who was a well-known cartoonist in the Battalion. How the works was renamed the 'Dog Press' is not sure, but as the small Regimental badge worn on the collar was known as 'collar dog', I feel the name may have been taken from that."

Italian Liaison Officer

Major Mangles recalls, "Fontanelli was the officer interpreter—very popular with everyone." Brigadier Richardson writes, "During the Italian Campaign each battalion had an Italian Liaison officer attached to it. I cannot remember the name of the Italian officer attached to the 2/6th, but believe it was probably Signor Santucci Fontanelli who is mentioned in the News Letter."

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

In the last News Letter there was an article on the 25 Commanding Officers of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment between 4th August, 1914, and 11th November, 1918.

Mr V. E. Fagence (G/10081), who was wounded while serving in the 11th Queen's in 1917, writes:

"Of special interest to me in the News Letter was to read about the CO's of the 1st Queen's in the 1914-18 War as I spent the last fourteen months of my 3½ years service in the War with the 1st Battalion. I joined them as one of a draft of reinforcements early in January 1918 (when they were holding a sector of the line at Passchendaele) and remained with them until the middle of March 1919.

The command of the Battalion changed hands quite a number of times during that period but I did not realise that the number was so many as eleven.

I cannot remember all of them. Those that I can were Lt-Col Sladen who was unfortunately killed by an enemy shell on the 12th March, Lt-Col Kemp-Welch, DSO, who was promoted Brig Gen in April and left the Battalion to take command of the 123rd Brigade, 41st Division and Major Esaile who came to us from the 3rd Battalion. I had previously known him as Captain and Adjutant during the two periods that I spent at Sittingbourne, the first in September 1916 and the second in December 1917. He, Major Esaile, joined us I think in July or August and left us in the latter part of September.

I then remember Lt-Col Ritchie who I believe came to us as a Major from the 1st Cameronians who were in the same Brigade as we were (the 19th). I also of course remember Captain R. (Dicky) Nevins. I am not quite sure of the names of other officers who had command of the Battalion.

Other officers I remember in the Battalion were Major Iremonger, Captain (later Major) Avery, Captains Cooke and Abercrombie, Lieutenants Mallett, Haggard, Stevenson and Shipton. Warrant Officers and NCOs that I remember were RSM (Sammy) Reid, Drum Major Winter, CSM ('Munchy') Fisher, CSM Phillips and CSM Elderkin (a very fine soldier who was killed in action at Meteren on 12th April during the Battle of the Lys). He had won the DCM and MM previously. I remember

Sergeants Cobbett, Norman, Randall, Harris, Hall, Davies, Devereux, Hodge and Lee. Quite a number of these were of course killed in action and others I know have died since.

But I wonder how many who were in the 1st Battalion during the last year of the War are still alive now. If there are any who read the News Letters I would like to know of them."

Mr Fagence lives at 45 Eden Grove Road, Byfleet, Weybridge, Surrey.

Brigadier A. P. Block writes,

"I was interested in your article in News Letter No. 11. To Lieutenant-Colonel L. M. Crofts was given the task of forming the 2nd Queen's and taking them to India. We began to assemble at Tournai Barracks, Aldershot, early in 1919 and sailed that Autumn. The officers, warrant officers and many NCOs were hand-picked by Colonel Crofts. We were indebted to him for his knowledge of Regimental affairs.

A happy and potentially efficient Battalion arrived in Bareilly in the United Provinces in October. It was not long before we were visited by General Sir Charles Monro, the Colonel of the Regiment, who was Commander-in-Chief, India. He looked us over and informed us that he had selected 2 Queen's for service on the North West Frontier in 1920. It was during this year's training for mountain warfare that Colonel Crofts was at his best: paternal yet demanding high standards. His time for retirement was up in 1921 so he did not take us to the Frontier. The parting at Bareilly station was a sad day for us all. He had laid a foundation of happiness and efficiency which were later exploited by his successor Lieutenant-Colonel E. B. Mathew-Lannow.

On the Frontier we acquitted ourselves well. In 1922 we were chosen from the British battalions in India to form the Guard of Honour for the Prince of Wales at Viceregal Lodge, Delhi. This was the climax of his Indian Tour.

Colonel Crofts lost his son who was a Battle of Britain pilot in 1940. The Colonel died in 1942 at the age of 75.

Of the officers who went to India with 2 Queen's in 1919 there are five who are now members of the Queen's Surreys Officers Club—J. B. Coates, F. A. Jacob, J. H. Sillem, A. P. Block and H. P. Combe.

It would be interesting to know how many others of all ranks are still alive."

71st Independent Company—The Queen's Royal Regiment

This is the story of a little-known sub-unit in the 1939-45 War, contributed by its commander, now Lt-Col R. G. Cranham. The operations of 71st Independent Company are chronicled in Appendix E of Volume VIII of the History of The Queen's Royal Regiment, where incidentally the company's commander's name is recorded throughout as Captain R. G. Graham of The East Surrey Regiment. Captain Cranham commanded the Independent Company from its inception until a fortnight before its disbandment in September 1945.

"The 71st Independent Company The Queen's Royal Regiment was formed in April 1943 from 56 Division reinforcements at ITD, Geneifa, Egypt. It consisted of a captain OC, a captain 2IC, three subalterns and 108 Other Ranks, including a CSM and CQMS. All the Other Ranks were Queen's except the CQMS (RWK) and the storeman, Cpl Box (Surreys).

We moved in a short while to a camp site outside Damascus and joined 35 Brick, a new type of formation designed to land on enemy beaches at the start of operations and make suitable exits for foot soldiers and wheeled and tracked vehicles; then to assist in landing initial supplies at the beach-head and eventual formation of various supply dumps. The troops comprising this formation were from all arms of the Service and from all branches in the Army. The Infantry were specially trained in mine lifting and demolition; track laying and rudimentary training in the use of pontoons and other means of water crossing were also included. Training in these combined operations was under the direction of an RE Field Coy (1) to whom we were allocated as support troops.

After many dry exercises we were moved back to Egypt at Kabrit, where at the tender mercy of the Royal Navy we were pitched from great heights on to rope ladders, slithering and climbing down to bobbing craft, tossed in to any depth of water in the Bitter Lakes and left to fiddle our own rum ration by barter and blackmail from our friends in blue.

All these exercises, many of which were carried out at night, were executed with almost complete silence, and with everyone carrying special packs containing demolition charges strapped to our backs in addition to normal infantry battle order, which as anyone knows is heavy enough under normal battle conditions. At the end of a gruelling training period we moved by sea from Alexandria to Sfax then by rail to Bougie through the Kassarin Pass.

Here I must record an interesting anecdote. The men were in the usual '40 hommes, 8 chevaux' type of truck, but the officers had an elaborate wooden carriage with a verandah at the end. This carriage was the last of the line and during the night whilst the train made the long climb up the Pass I rose from my wooden seat and walked on to the verandah to ease springs—as a result of this action I discovered the coach was not only moving faster than it had before but was also going in the opposite direction. Hasty action with the hand-brake, after alerting my colleagues, did nothing to slacken its pace; however, we were comforted by the fact that our was the only train on the line, but somewhat discouraged by the fact that our coach had become detached from the main part and we were proceeding in splendid isolation away from our own troops, without rations and only the meagre supply of water in our water bottles. 24 hours later our train came back to find us and off we went again, there were thrills a plenty during that ride—I always remember the showers of sparks which flew off the tracks when enthusiastic Queen's men applied hand-brakes to their individual trucks on given signals from the engine driver—each truck trying to outdo its neighbour in sparks manufac-

ture—down hill on a sharp bend at an uncontrolled and dangerous speed it is terrifying.

Eventually camped at Bougie, where we met some Surreys nearby—my old friend WO 2 Goody was with the unit, but I cannot remember which battalion (2) it was. Then down to more training and eventual briefing for the landing on the shores at Salerno. We moved to Bizerta for embarkation and found we had an LCI (3) driven by an American crew all to ourselves. We staged on Sicily on the way over and then in the evening (gloriously sunny) of 8th September, 1943, we sailed by Salerno and up to Capri just for fun (so that the Jerrys could get a good idea of forthcoming events). During this voyage the anti-German and Italian hate campaign, to which we were well accustomed from our own propaganda machine, suddenly changed (during the night). I was handed a lengthy telegram from the Force Flagship, saying that the Germans we continue to hate, but Italians we now love—they are very cultured and we must do all we can to help and understand them as they have now laid down their arms and are at peace with us.

We landed on Red Beach at 0410 hrs and I can personally vouch for the fact that the Ities had not heard the good news or we had been mis-informed. The Queen's Coy, I am happy to say, got ashore safely and without fuss and all was fairly quiet for about ten minutes, after which we were in the thick of it. The next three weeks were most unpleasant, during this time we relieved the following units in the line from D + 5 or 6 (I can't remember which) until about D + 12—Oxf Bucks, 8 RF and 2 Commando.

I shall never forget Col Jack Churchill (4) departing from his HQ where we took over on White Cross Hill—gaily caparisoned with a captured Italian sash and sword and mounted on an Italian motor-cycle similarly acquired. At this point another interesting anecdote—one of my platoon srgts (Sgt Donald Dook), was a pre-war Regular officer (5) and one time mess mate of Jack Churchill, so the battle stopped for a few minutes whilst these two made arrangements to meet later on. I am happy to say that this was eventually arranged and we celebrated the reunion in the comparative peace and quiet of our rest area in Salerno.

There are probably some Queen's officers of other units who will remember seeing the artistic heraldry of my Company trucks and jeeps. These were painted on before we left North Africa, and as the badge bore no significant relationship to our rather odd formation, no one amongst the military hierarchy objected. I was quite pleased to see how quickly others followed suit and by the time we got to Normandy the practice was quite fashionable. After a few weeks of doing odd jobs, during which time we won the first drill competition to be held in Italy, we beat a hasty retreat to Taranto where we were told we should have to start more training for a small landing in the Med. I later discovered it was to have been on Rhodes, but instead we were shipped back to Egypt where we arrived on New Year's Day in 1944. We crossed in a Canadian Lake Steamer and it was no pleasure cruise.

Once again, we found ourselves climbing scaling ladders and making loud bangs in the Sinai Desert, but

by then we were a little more experienced in the handling of the Senior Service whom we always outnumbered on exercises; consequently there were less wet landings and rum was more easily forthcoming. Having been withdrawn from Italy and with no prospects of a move to UK, it was with some relief that we were told in February 1944 that the operation in Rhodes was off and we were to return to UK for our next operation. Eventually, we arrived intact at Ayr in Scotland where we all were given two weeks leave, after which we came south to Chichester Barracks where we were re-inforced and commenced final preparations for the Normandy invasion. We landed on Juno beach at Courseulles in three detachments commencing on D Day and were heavily engaged with the Beach Group (No. 36) until the break-through at Caen.

We then moved as a company to Boulogne and then to Calais, still in support of an Engineer Field Regiment of 36 Beach Group, which eventually took over the operation of the port of Calais. Before the war ended in Europe we were despatched as a company to relieve a unit of the Czech Brigade at Gravelines where they were containing the German garrison in Dunkirk. I suppose we could claim to be unique at the end of this episode, as when peace was declared on 8th May, 1945, we were still engaged with the Germans in Dunkirk. We did not in fact stand down until 36 hours after the armistice was announced, as the German admiral (whose name I cannot recall) defending the port refused to give up until the Czech artillery (and I like to think our little lot) proved to him the uselessness of carrying on. After peace we returned to Calais where we were informed that we should now discount rumours of demobilisation and return to UK, as our next task would be in the Far East, so training on the usual lines recommenced. Happily for all, our planned journey became unnecessary and by August 1945 the 71st Independent Coy The Queen's Royal Regiment was disbanded and its members dispersed.

Despite our losses, we were a happy band and a very well knit unit. At least we preserved our identity throughout and brought nothing but credit to the Regiment. We sent off Johnny Hayes to Sandhurst just before we disbanded, and he won the Sword of Honour presented by His Majesty."

Editor's Notes

1. 503 Fd Coy RE.
2. 1/6th Surreys.
3. Landing Craft Infantry.
4. Col J. M. T. Churchill, The Manchester Regiment.
5. Lt H. D. Dook, The Manchester Regiment.

Regimental History— The East Surrey Regiment

"One Man's Ration of War"

This was the name given by Harold Muggeridge of the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment to the diary he

kept throughout the 1914-18 War, excerpts of which were published in the Evening News of 11th November, 1971. Mr Muggeridge died in August 1971 at the age of 80, and left his diary to his daughter, Mrs Dale. We are indebted to Mrs Dale for permission to publish extracts from the diary in the News Letter.

Harold Muggeridge was a compositor aged 24 at the outbreak of the 1914-18 War. He enlisted in Lord Kitchener's Army in December 1914 and was posted to The East Surrey Regiment.

11th January, 1915

I marched from Kingston Barracks in the afternoon as one of a draft to join the 3rd Bn (the training Bn of The East Surrey Regiment) at Dover. We were accompanied by the Depot band as far as Surbiton railway station. En route we were freely cheered by the people in the streets. Entrained at 4 p.m., changing at Cannon Street where we had a long wait, leaving for Dover about 6 p.m. Entered the Grandshaft Barracks, Dover, via a tower of 199 stairs, at 9.30. Issued with my regimental number, 6932, on arrival. Supper of fried tomatoes, bread and tea in the barrack canteen. Slept upon a bare floor for the first time in my life, and with only a single blanket for covering. Ten men in one small room, all sleeping on the floor.

12th January, 1915

This morning our draft was inspected by Lieut-Col Shipley, the CO of this Bn. Most of us were then posted to No. 6 Company. A medical inspection followed. We were then made familiar with the barrack orders and routine. In the evening I made my first acquaintance with the game of 'Crown and Anchor'.

1st May, 1915

Transferred to No. 1 Company (Expeditionary).

19th May, 1915

The company was moved from Grandshaft Barracks to the Oil Mills Barracks near Dover Harbour. This was a definite sign of coming departure for the Front. Sent on 'Overseas' leave of four days.

25th May, 1915

Left Dover at 5 a.m. in Overseas draft for France under Lieuts Dowler and Lodge.

26th May, 1915

Disembarked at Rouen at noon. Streets full of demonstrative French people who cheered us en route. The first event upon arrival at the Base Camp was yet another medical inspection. An issue of extra iron rations. My first experience ever of sleeping under canvas, ten men to a tent, with two blankets each.

28th May, 1915

In the train all day going north. Arrived at Poperinge at 9 p.m. On leaving the train we marched to Vlamertinghe. En route we heard the distant guns of

Ypres and Very lights, afar off, were to be seen in the sky. Reached our 2nd Bn transport lines at 10 p.m. Further on was the barn billet of our Company. Here we settled down to sleep upon straw. In the early dawn we were joined by other men of the Bn coming from the front line trenches after being relieved. The faces and uniforms of these fellows were badly discoloured a greenish-yellow from the poisoned gas they had just experienced in the first Ypres gas attack. Most of them were coughing and spitting. Many casualties had depleted their ranks and these were replaced by our draft. Enjoyed my first issue of Army rum.

29th May, 1915

In billets at Vlamertinghe. Transformed motor buses from London were to be seen transporting troops. A few of the vehicles still bore London place names and advertisements.

3rd June, 1915

Appointed as a lance corporal, on pay, and issued with stripes for my tunic. We left Vlamertinghe billets at 6 p.m. for what to many of us was our first spell in the front line trenches. Many shell-shattered buildings were passed en route. The gunfire which had seemed mild from the distance was now becoming a trial for our ears. At the Bn trench dump we halted to pick up supplies and so by the time we entered the communication trench we were all well laden, many carrying petrol tins filled with fresh water. To the newcomers it was an eerie job proceeding as silently as possible along the communication trench, halting as a Verey light went up. Upon reaching the front line we were conducted by senior NCOs to our respective posts and, after a few brief words with the out-going tenants, we were left in charge of our little sector of the Western front at St Eloi. Very soon after our entry we had our first baptism of rifle fire from the enemy, but it was of short duration fortunately, and followed during the night by desultory firing and stray bullets from snipers. I quickly learnt to keep my head down below the parapet.

8th June, 1915

I had a most lucky escape from a spare bullet which grazed my ear as we were leaving the trench.

10th June to 19th June, 1915

Rest period. A typical day's routine during this so-called 'rest' was 5 a.m. Reveille, 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. route march, 9 a.m. to 12 noon trench-digging practice, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sergeant Major's parade, 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. inspections.

4th July, 1915

One morning the Bn was paraded at dawn to witness the shooting of a deserter who had run away from the front line and had even got back to England. We were told the 'charge' which was read out to us that this was the man's second offence of this nature and thus he had been brought back for trial and to pay the final penalty. To tired men, paraded in the grey dawn, the whole

business was sickening, even the CO was so moved that he could hardly read the charge. The shots from the firing squad having rung out, the parade was dismissed and the men returned to their bivouacs, but not to sleep and nobody seemed to want breakfast.

28th July, 1915

In front line trenches at Kemmel. The enemy trenches were only 40 to 60 yards away from ours. Another spot was named 'The Bull Ring'. From this we were subject to much sniping and enfilade fire. We replied with fixed rifle batteries of which we had several.

At each daybreak, however, there was a lull during which, on the first morning of our tenancy, we heard, shouted from the enemy lines: 'Hullo, Eastern Surreys, if you come from London keep your heads down.' This, we gleaned later, came from the men of a Saxon Regt who were opposite to us, men who before the war had been barbers or waiters in London. Just towards the end of our spell here, however, the morning greeting was changed to 'Look-out, Eastern Surreys, the Prussians are coming in to-night.' Sure enough it was so and the activity became even more intense."

(To be continued)

Extracts from another Diary

This diary was kept by 2nd Lieut A. F. Copp when serving in the 2/5th Bn The East Surrey Regiment in England in 1915 and 1916. The writer was later severely wounded serving in France in the 12th Surreys. Captain Copp was awarded the Military Cross in May 1918.

Wednesday 10th February, 1915

Mess is a very drawn out lengthy procedure of about six courses in the evening and goes on from 7.30 till 8.45, eating the whole time. We always have the King's Toast at dinner, and we generally have singing of an evening.

Monday 15th February

Had to attend Court Martial over my man Cairns. He was given 14 days CB.

Had an awful rag tonight, singing ragtimes and kicking up an awful row.

Tuesday 16th February

Today both the brothers Cairns have bolted. When we trace them it means Lewes Gaol.

Tuesday 23rd March

We attended a very interesting lecture given by Captain Chatterton, recently returned from the Front wounded. We picked up a number of tips and valuable information. Briefly 'Shoot every German you see—don't trust one.'

We are going to be served out with those little discs with name and religion on, so this looks more like business, I'm glad to say.

Thursday 1st April

We are going under canvas in Windsor Great Park.

I hear two subalterns are sleeping in a tent and the men twelve. Pretty thick I think, unless the tents are large.

Wednesday 7th April

Tomorrow is going to be a red letter day as the King is going to inspect the whole Brigade in the Park during the morning. The Colonel has ordered the Battalion to parade at 6 a.m. tomorrow in full marching kit so that there need be no hitch for 11.30 a.m., the time of the inspection.

Thursday 8th April

The inspection this morning by the King went off quite well, the whole Division being drawn up in Battalions in Windsor Great Park. The King was on his charger and passed quite close so that I could hear him talking to the Brigadier. The Queen, Princess Mary and the two little princes drove by in carriages, also quite close.

Whilst this was going on we had to stand at attention for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour—no movement whatsoever. Then we all marched past in column of fours, and this took over an hour, so that will give some idea of the number of men—roughly 25,000 of us.

The King spoke to our CO and complimented him on the Battalion's march past and on the appearance of all ranks. Our CO was frightfully bucked and seemed very pleased with the turnout. We all gave three cheers for the King on the sound of a bugle, the men lifting their caps and officers their swords.

Sunday 18th April

Various rumours in the Mess as to our going to the Dardanelles.

Monday 19th April

Heard unofficially this evening that the 4th Queen's are the likely Battalion to go.

Thursday 13th May

We have a new subaltern in A Company. He has been out in France and got wounded and has been given a commission. It's quite interesting to hear him relate stories on the War.

Saturday 7th August

Reveille at 4 a.m., breakfast at 5 and paraded at 6.10. The whole Division marched to a point 8 miles from Maidstone to be inspected by Lord Kitchener, after which our Brigade marched back via Wrotham to Tunbridge Wells, the distance being 26 miles. Got in at 7.15 after a very long and tedious day. The men were thoroughly fed up.

Kitchener was 'very pleased with the bearing and appearance of the Battalion' and promised the Division we shall go abroad 'in the very near future'.

Tuesday 16th November

We had our Rugger match against the 4th Queen's. The CO played. It was a top-hole game from beginning to end, although we lost 3 points to 5.

Tuesday 25th January, 1916

Bombing practice in a communication trench—great fun. Pte Barbour got stunned.

Friday 28 January

Went for a route march. Men forbidden by the CO to wear hats on the backs of their heads when marching at ease. Everyone very fed up. Hear we go abroad in April now."

Chapels and Memorials

The Queen's Royal Regiment

Major General J. Y. Whitfield

A bronze memorial plaque to the memory of Major General J. Y. Whitfield, last Colonel of The Queen's Royal Regiment, has been commissioned, and when completed, will be installed at the entrance to The Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel within Holy Trinity.

The Tanglin Memorial

In News Letter No. 9 of May 1971, it was reported that Major Ron Esler had had the job of preparing the lych gate from St George's Church, Tanglin, for shipment from Singapore to the Queen's Divisional Depot at Bassingbourn. The gate arrived safely and is now in position at the Depot.

Major Esler also arranged the return to Regimental Headquarters of a marble panel placed in the same church, which was erected to the memory of soldiers of the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment who were killed or died during the Malayan Campaign of 1954-1957. The panel, which measures twenty-four inches by twenty-seven inches, is in process of being installed in The Queen's Royal Regiment Chapel in Holy Trinity.

We hope to publish in our next issue that both the memorials are in position.

The East Surrey Regiment Chapel

The Regiment has provided two dozen chairs for the Regimental Chapel. The new chairs are made of laminated wood and are interlocking. They are similar to those in use in Canterbury Cathedral.

The Parochial Church Council of All Saints Parish Church, Kingston upon Thames, expressed their thanks in the following terms.

"The chairs have arrived and look very well in The East Surrey Regiment War Memorial Chapel. Already people are saying how considerably more comfortable the new chairs are and how they enhance the overall appearance of the Chapel. Please do convey our thanks, for this most generous gift which is greatly appreciated."

A memorial panel to the late Lt.-Colonel C. A. Clark, DSO, MC, has been installed in the Regimental Chapel.

Visit to War Cemetery

The following account has been received from Lieutenant Colonel H. C. Millman, OBE, who is an instructor at the Staff College.

"I have not long returned from the Staff College annual Battlefield Tour in Normandy. As you probably know it takes place in the Caen area and is concerned with the battles leading up to the final breakout from the bridgehead. Whilst it doesn't specifically cover the activities of 7 Armoured Division and, in particular, 131 Infantry Brigade, it does touch on events following Operation Goodwood (1).

It was whilst following the fortunes of Goodwood that I visited one afternoon the War Graves Cemetery at Tilly sur Seulles. It was a glorious summer's afternoon and all was peaceful in a typically beautiful Normandy setting. It is perhaps of interest that the cemetery contains the resting place of our Major Elliott (2) and a number of other Queensmen from 131 Infantry Brigade. May I simply say, for the benefit of the relations of those concerned and who have been unable to visit this little sanctuary, that the cemetery is most superbly maintained in the very best traditions of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. This fact, combined with the lovely setting, make it a memorable memorial to those who gave their lives so nobly in the cause."

- (1) Operation Goodwood was the attack south east of Caen which commenced on 19th July, 1944.
- (2) Major R. Elliott, OC "A" Company, 1/5 Queens, who was killed by shellfire in front of Livry on 18th June, 1944.

Book Review

"The East Surrey Regiment" by Michael Langley

The new history of the Regiment in the "Famous Regiments" series has now been published. Michael Langley, a former National Service Officer of The East Surrey Regiment, and a professional writer, has produced a concise and extremely readable account of the history of The East Surrey Regiment from the time of its formation as Villiers Marines in 1702 until its amalgamation with The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1959. Mr Langley has brought to his task a sound knowledge of the political issues directing the strategy of Britain's foreign affairs in the 18th and 19th Centuries, and also a real affection for and pride in the Regiment in which he himself served. He has had access to documents, photographs, and other materials not previously available to regimental historians, and the advice of several former officers of The East Surrey Regiment, including Brigadier Roupell, the last Colonel of the Regiment. He has been able to highlight the various episodes in the Regiment's long and distinguished service, in a factual, but nevertheless, entertaining manner.

The book is well illustrated and some of the pictures will be new to our readers, including a rather delightful painting of a private in the 31st chucking a serving wench under the chin. The four appendices record the

Regimental customs, important dates in Regimental History, the music of the 1st Battalion's quick-step and the Battle Honours of the Regiment. To those who had the privilege of serving in The East Surrey Regiment the book will be of particular interest but it would also be an ideal present for anyone interested in the history of the Army. General Horrocks's foreword pays tribute to the Regiment whom he had known in peace and in war.

Priced at £2.10 to the general public, it is offered to members of The Queen's Royal Surrey Regimental Association at the reduced price of £1.75 post free.

Our Allied Regiments

Canada

The following account has been received from Colonel C. H. Nice, TD, DL.

"On a recent visit to Canada, I was able to make two contacts of Regimental interest. In the first place, I called at the Fort York Armouries to pay my respects to the Queen's York Rangers who, before the many changes in the Services of both countries took place, had an alliance with The Queen's Royal Regiment. I gathered from the Commanding Officer, Colonel Stevenson, that he is applying through his own channels for alliance to The Queen's Regiment and that he was very keen that this connection should be re-established, and in particular, that exchange visits could be made. Incidentally Colonel Stevenson was a serving officer under our Deputy Colonel when he, General Ling, was GOC East Anglia, and I am sure that nothing would please him more than to bring about a close connection regimentally.

The Fort York Armoury (Drill Hall to us!) is a vast affair and the present buildings are adjacent to the site of the old Fort York itself which is still preserved as a replica of the original. I had a very warm welcome from some of the members of the Sgts Mess, where I was very pleased to see a framed collection of Queen's cap badges and collar dogs from time long past and up to that of the Queen's Surrey's. The absence of the badge of the Queen's Regiment was noted and one is now on its way to complete this collection. It was my pleasure to present, through the Sgts Mess, a copy of the Journal of The Queen's Royal Regiment dated 1933 in which was, not only a full report of the Regiment's activities (then the 1st American Rangers), but also an article on the early history of the Regiment, complete with prints and sketches of the old Fort York. Included in the activities of the 1st American Rangers was a reference to Lieut D. M. Findlay. In 1944, Lieut (later Major, ED, QC) D. M. Findlay joined 1/6 Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment and served with distinction with them in Normandy and N.W. Europe. In 1954 he became the first President of the Canloan Army Officers' Association when its National Constitution and Council was established.

Which quite smoothly leads me to my second contact, to the Canloan Army Officers' Association itself and to

some of its members who served in all three battalions of 131 (Queen's) Brigade in 7th Armoured Division, ie 1/5th, 1/6th and 1/7th, and wartime members of those battalions will readily recall these Canadian volunteers. Gordon Chatterton (1/5th) was my link and he took the greatest trouble to ensure that I met an old 'mate' in Arthur Connor, and also one of the Past Presidents and a Vice-President of this most lively and sincere Association. I have addresses of nine who served with 1/5th Queen's, ten with 1/6th and eight with 1/7th, some of them actually serving with two Bns when the Brigade was concentrated into 1/5th and re-formed (such as Joe Craib, Vince Lilley and John Surtees).

It is not generally known that all these Canadian officers were volunteers who came to serve with the British Army Regiments at a time when junior officers were greatly needed; under a scheme formulated in 1943 and effective in the spring of 1944, a total of 673 Canadian Officers volunteered and some even reverted to junior rank to do so. Of these 20% were killed in action or died of wounds, 50% were wounded and 5% POW, a total of 75% casualties, which more than speaks for itself as a record of gallant service. Links are still maintained where possible with the Regt HQs of Regiments with whom they served and on visits to this country, contact with old friends, with the consequent parties usually in liquid form, is made through Canloan sub-committees at such Headquarters.

It was disappointing to learn, therefore, that many ex-Queen's Canloan officers had re-visited the UK but had no point of contact whereby they could be put in touch. Now that we are in direct touch with the Canloan Army Officers' Association, it should not be difficult for representatives from each of the Bns with whom Canloan Officers served to form such a sub-committee in conjunction with RHQ The Queen's Regiment, Queen's Surreys Office, and I for one would be only too willing to help in any way."

Back Numbers of News Letter

The following back numbers of the News Letter are available from the Queen's Surreys Office:

- No. 1 May 1967
- No. 3 May 1968
- No. 4 Nov 1968
- No. 5 May 1969
- No. 6 Nov 1969
- No. 7 May 1970
- No. 8 Nov 1970

Copies will be sent free of charge, but a 3p stamp is requested.

Obituaries

Lt-Col H. L. Adams, CMG, TD

Louis Adams who died in July last, aged 62, had a distinguished career in the Colonial Service in Kenya, which

ended prematurely with Independence. Educated at Haileybury, where he was head of his house, he joined his two brothers, Guy and Paul, in the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's), later 7th Queen's, in 1929. In 1938, when the Territorial Army doubled, he was appointed Adjutant of the 2/7th Queen's, giving up his civilian job. He remained with that Battalion as Adjutant and then Company Commander, taking part in the Dunkirk retreat, until 1942. After a course at the wartime Staff College he was eventually posted to East Africa as GSO 2 in 1944 and promoted Lieutenant Colonel GSO 1 in 1945, when he was awarded the TD.

He had become so attracted to Kenya during his military service and, at the end of the war, was fortunately just young enough to be accepted as a Cadet in the Kenya Administration. He became Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Industry there in 1948. His ability as an administrator soon earned him promotion and he was secretary of that office from 1949 to 1954. He was then in succession, Economic Secretary and Chief Administrative Secretary to the East African High Commission, Permanent Secretary for Civil Aviation and Research and, from 1963 to 1964, Secretary for Civil Aviation. He played a leading part in the formation of East African Airways. In 1964, following Uhuru, he retired to England and settled in the Faversham area where he and his wife had made many friends in the early war years. He soon took an appointment in the Ministry of Overseas Development, which he still held when his final illness struck him. For his work in East Africa, he was made CMG in 1961.

He has been described by others as a man of humility, of charity, a friendly man. He was certainly a modest man who never allowed his success in his civil career to alter those other qualities. He died on the 38th Anniversary of his wedding to Molly, herself awarded the MBE for work in the Kenya Administration. She survives him with a daughter, Julia. To both of these our sympathies are extended.

P.A.

Brigadier G. V. Palmer, CBE, TD

"Reggie's" most outstanding characteristic was, possibly, his "dash". His brain worked very quickly and his consequent actions were instantaneous. On the Rugger field, where he was most widely known, he saw his opening and made for it often too quickly for the pass to reach him from a less quick thinking holder of the ball. His rugger fame started at Sandhurst and went on via the Harlequins, Richmond, the Army and the Combined Services to the England side: he was capped three times for England in 1928. He was a man of firm character and decided opinions: these he expressed most forcibly, sometimes too forcibly. He never related the story, but it is believed that he left the Harlequins because of a clash of ideas between him and the great Adrian Stoop, a man of similar characteristics. Physically Reggie was very strong and sturdy, of medium height, with fair hair—what there was of it. Even in his Sandhurst days he looked like and was often called a veteran from the touchline: this caused him a lot of amusement as he was always exceedingly virile and very far from being a veteran.

He joined the 1st Battalion in Ireland in 1918 and served with them and at the Depot until 1928. In those days in the Army subalterns frequently served for 18 years before promotion, so that when in 1928 he was offered a job at Lloyds he accepted it, particularly as he wanted to marry Marjorie Drysdale: this he did in 1930. He joined the 5th Territorial Battalion of the Regiment the day after retiring from the Regular Army and served with them till August 1941. He first commanded "A" Company at Reigate and took over command of the Battalion in 1937. Reggie's enthusiasm, drive and determination was the reason for the 5th Battalion achieving the reputation that it did: it was in fact the first English Regiment to duplicate in 1939 on the expansion of the Territorial Army, while on mobilisation

there was only one other Territorial commanding officer in the 4th Division to be left in command and not be replaced by a Regular soldier. It is suggested that Reggie's main military characteristic was his consideration for his men, of whom he was exceedingly proud. He continued to attend Regular and Territorial Dinners and Meetings to the last year of his life.

Having served with the 5th Battalion in France, in the Battle of the River Escout, where he was wounded and subsequently Mentioned in Despatches, and in the retreat to Dunkirk, he remained in command in south-east England till 1941 when he was promoted to command the Chatham Garrison and was awarded the OBE. From 1943 to 1944 he commanded 6 Base Sub Area Sicily and Italy as a Brigadier and was twice Mentioned in Despatches. From 1944 to 1945 he was BGS Supply and Relief Area Greece and Allied Control (Austria) Quadripartite Committee, Allied Control (Austria) Committee, Vienna. He was awarded the TD, American Legion of Merit and Silver Medal of the Greek Red Cross. In 1946 he became CBE. He finally retired in 1958 and took on a variety of civilian occupations: these included Member of Overseas Policy Committee, Federation of British Industries; Vice-Chairman of British Export Research Organization; Member of Kent Agricultural Wages Committee; Chairman of Institute of Export; Vice-President of British Sales Promotion Association.

The great tragedy of his life, and of that of his wife, was the death of his son Alan killed in action with 1st Queen's in Malaya in 1954.

Reggie and Marjorie as a couple were always the greatest fun. He will leave a gap that will be hard to fill among his many friends in the Regiment, in Surrey and in Rochester where they lived for some years and where he died on 28th April. To his widow, to his daughter Ursula and to her family we offer our sincere sympathy.

Finally, a personal reminiscence and tribute from the writer. Reggie was well read and it was seldom that, when appealed to, he could not complete or quote in full a quotation or passage from a well-known writer. To a more or less invalid mother who died in the 20's he was always a most devoted and attentive son.

"These hearts were woven of human joys and cares,
Washed marvellously with sorrow, swift to mirth."

Major C. M. Lamb

Charles Lamb who joined The East Surrey Regiment in 1938 had a lively and cheerful personality. He was the first officer of the Regiment to be wounded in the 1939-45 War, when the 1st Battalion was on the Maginot Line. Soon after discharge from hospital he was taken prisoner whilst trying to rejoin the 1st Battalion.

On his return from Germany in 1945 he joined the 2nd Surreys, and was Adjutant of the battalion when it sailed for Palestine in December of that year. Apart from a period on the staff of HQ Palestine Command, he served with the 2nd Surreys in Palestine and the Canal Zone until early in 1948.

It was a great loss to the Battalion when Charles Lamb was seconded to the Sudan Defence Force, and began an association with Africa which was to last over 23 years. At the end of his tour of duty with the S.D.F. he decided to retire from the Army, and became an Assistant District Commissioner in the Equatorial Province of the Sudan.

With the withdrawal of the British from the Sudan he returned home to obtain an appointment with the Colonial Service in Nigeria. Early in 1955 he left England in his Land Rover and drove across France and the Sahara Desert to take up his new duties.

Charles soon found that these involved too much office work and too little time on trek. After a year he resigned from the appointment and drove to Uganda where he became a District Commissioner.

Again the withdrawal of the British Administration caused him to move, but he was reluctant to leave Africa and was able to obtain a similar appointment in Botswana. It was in this country that he died after his leg had been poisoned.

Charles Lamb's love of the wild parts of Africa, his popularity and belief in tradition are summed up by a member of the Ministry of Local Government and Lands, Botswana, who writes

"Major Lamb was District Commissioner in Tshabong District which is in the extreme South Eastern corner of Botswana, which is remote and arid and characterised by the fact that camels are used for transport. He was highly respected and upheld his regimental tradition in a terrain notable for its lack of ordinary amenities. His funeral service at Gaborone was attended by many of his friends of all races."

A. N. White

Albert Newman White, who has died at the age of 84, joined the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment in 1908 and served with them in Gibraltar, Bermuda, South Africa and France. He was wounded in the First Battle of Ypres and again on the Somme in 1916. In 1917 he was appointed RSM of the 7th Queen's. After the War he had a tour at the Regimental Depot and his last appointment was as PSI to the 8th Bn The Middlesex Regiment. After retirement Mr White took the licence of the Good Hope Inn, Hilfield, which he held for 42 years.

Lieut-Colonel L. S. Sheldon writes, "He was a quite remarkable 84 when he died, and had kept his small pub going to within a few weeks of his death. I believe he had been a PT instructor in his younger days which may have contributed to his upright, brisk and springy manner."

Colonel F. J. Davis

Frank Davis joined The Queen's Royal Regiment in April 1918 and was wounded in France shortly afterwards. While serving in Ireland with the 1st Battalion, he attended an Instructors PT course at Aldershot which determined his military career. Although he served with the 2nd Queen's from 1927 to 1930 and then as Adjutant of the 24th London Regiment, the greater part of his service was in Physical Training appointments. He had been awarded a "Blue" for Association Football at Sandhurst in 1918. He played soccer for the Army and hockey for the Combined Services. He represented Middlesex, Hampshire and Wiltshire at hockey and he was an Army boxer and fencer.

He retired in 1936 but was recalled for service in 1939 and appointed GSO (PT) Southern Command. He became a member of the Directorate of Physical Recreation and commanded No. 1 and later No. 3 Physical Development Centre, later with the rank of Colonel. He was appointed OBE in June 1944 and finally retired in March 1949.

Colonel L. C. East, DSO, OBE, has contributed the following note:

In spite of his affiliation to PT Frank always looked upon himself as a Queensman and represented the Regiment at hockey and fencing whenever he could, often travelling long distances to do so. Frank was a prosaic, down-to-earth stalwart of whom it could aptly be said, "He was my friend, faithful and just to me". Memories of him recall that his chief characteristics were patience, tolerance and good humour though he was by no means placid—far from it—nor was he stodgy or dull. He took pleasure in simple things and was accordingly "fun", particularly devoted to children and loved by them. There were few people with whom he could not get on and he was ideally suited to train the young soldiers during his wartime appointments.

While serving in Ireland Frank met and married Mollie Harvey of Malin Hall Co Donegal. They had two daughters. Mollie died early in 1963. In the Autumn of 1963 Frank married Mollie Kiln who survives him. To her and to his two daughters we offer our sincere sympathy.

E. H. Organ

Mr Frank Paul Shonfeld contributes the following appreciation of his friend and colleague.

It was in 1920 when the 4th Bn The Queen's Royal West Surrey Regt formed its own Old Comrades Association and Ernie was not only a Founder Member but one of the few who had conceived this brilliant idea. In 1970 we celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a Grand Reunion in April which Ernie was just able to attend, for his health was then beginning to fail.

In his healthier years Ernie had served on the Committee of the OCA and eventually became Secretary, a post he held for many years during which time he forged the bonds of friendship in the Association still closer together than they had ever been; this link was further strengthened and reached wider when he and I began producing *The Braganza Journal* into the pages of which he put so many vivid articles.

There is so much that could be said to the credit of Ernie Organ and I feel certain that all those who knew him and remember him know exactly what those words would be if printed or spoken; they can be summed up in the words of Colonel K. A. Oswald who, writing to me on the occasion of Ernie's death, said: "He was a Queen's man through and through in the finest sense of the word and we shall miss him, but the name of Ernie Organ will be remembered for a long time".

Major F. J. Gaywood

Nearly all "Birdie" Gaywood's service in the 1914-18 War was in the 8th Battalion The East Surrey Regiment, although he was attached to 55 Trench Mortar Battery during 1916 and 1917. He had the distinction of being awarded the MC and two bars, the first two awards with 55 TMB and the last as a rifle company commander in the 8th Battalion. Birdie was a quiet unassuming man and his great love and accomplishment was music. When stationed at the Depot after the 1914-18 War he used often to play at services at St. Paul's, Kingston Hill. When he retired to Devon he was organist at his parish church, and a few years ago played for the Sunday Half Hour programme broadcast by the BBC.

F. W. Gater

Mr Paul Shonfeld, Assistant Secretary of the 4th Queen's OCA, writes:

"Fred Gater, who has died at the age of 81, joined The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment in August 1914. He served in France where he received war wounds which resulted in his discharge on medical grounds in February 1917, and which were to trouble him for the remainder of his life. He joined the 4th (Territorial) Battalion when it was re-formed in 1921 and left in 1928 with the rank of Sergeant. At this time he began to take an interest in the well-being of his comrades, visiting them at home and in hospital, and thus becoming a well-known figure to hospital staffs and social workers and to a much wider circle of friends.

"Fred enjoyed his pint of beer and would never be without his well-filled snuff box. Having once met him you could not fail to remember him for he had that kind of personality which left its impact on one's memory and was, therefore, a special character in his own special way."

Major A. K. Steel

Alfred Kenilworth Steel was educated at Dowsndale and commissioned in The East Surrey Regiment in 1929. During his service in the 2nd Battalion, he became a very keen rifle shot and developed an interest in fencing, winning the Individual Foil and Bayonet competitions in the Eastern Command Championships of 1935. "Nifty" Steel was of a quiet and studious disposition but he had one outside activity which was uncommon among young infantry officers in the thirties—flying. This was his great enthusiasm and interest in life. All his spare time and, one suspects, most of his pay was devoted to flying lessons. It was not long

before he qualified for his Civilian "A" licence, and there were few weekends when he was not to be seen at the flying club at Lympne.

Although he left the 2nd Surreys in the Far East in 1940 and never returned to regimental soldiering, "Nifty" kept up with his friends in the Regiment and there will be many who will miss him.

M. Burns

Mr E. F. Townsend, MBE, writes,

"Morrie joined the 22nd London Regiment The Queen's in 1924. It was whilst Morrie was with the Battalion on the La Bassée Canal in 1940 that he was captured by the Germans and spent the rest of the war in various POW camps. On his release after the war he was very impatiently waiting for the TA to re-form, and joined as soon as it did. He became Colour Sergeant to the Support Coy, and now shared his affection for the Vickers 303, with firstly the 6-pounder and later the 17-pounder A/Tank guns. He served until the re-organisation of the TA in 1961.

"He was for many years Hon Treasurer of the Bermondsey OCA, a duty which he fulfilled both conscientiously and ably. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List of 1960. He retired from Butlers Wharf in 1971 and was active right up to the time of his last, and I believe his first illness. He was 66 years old, and will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune to know him."

Major C. R. Ricketts

Brigadier G. R. P. Roupell writes:

"We served together in The Regiment on several occasions and I should like to pay a tribute to my old friend. He was a fine character whose merits, very rightly, took him up to the appointment of Regimental Sergeant Major and later earned him a Regular Commission and eventually the rank of Major. As RSM he always insisted on strict discipline which he combined with a sympathetic understanding of other men's difficulties, with most beneficial results to the Battalion as a whole.

"Charles took a great interest in sport and in his younger days was one of the most prominent members of the Regimental hockey team, at a time when they were one of the best sides in the Army. During his retirement he was a leading member of the Jersey Branch of the Old Comrades Association, and had the welfare of our old soldiers much at heart; a fine example of a 'loyal Surrey' and it is hard to pay him a nicer compliment than that.

"We offer our sincere sympathy and our kind thoughts to his widow Gladys, who has done so much to add to Charles' happiness during their married life in Jersey."

Mr J. A. Windsor

On the outbreak of the 1914-18 War, Jim Windsor was a Regular soldier of ten years service. He served throughout with the 1st Battalion and showed himself to be the best type of Regimental soldier, cheerful, tough, resourceful and loyal. A staunch member of the Regimental Association and the Old Contemptibles Association he much enjoyed the company of his fellows. Imbued with a great pride in his Regiment, Jim Windsor preserved throughout his long life his soldierly bearing and appearance.

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Deaths

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

Lamb On 28th March, 1971, Major Charles Michael Lamb, aged 53. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1938 to 1948. See obituary.

Attwood In November, 1971, Private John Attwood (6079130), aged 72. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1921 to 1925, having served in The Royal Sussex Regiment in the 1914-18 War.

Bradfield On 19th February, 1972, CSM George Alfred Bradfield (3441969), aged 65. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1937 to 1948 having previously served in the Lancashire Fusiliers.

Stone On 29th March, 1972, Sgt George Lloyd Stone (6087733). Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1937 to 1942 when he was transferred on medical grounds to the RAOC.

Davies On 28th April, 1972, Pte William Noah Davies (6143629), aged 61. Served in the 2nd Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1939 to 1946, during which time he spent 3½ years as a prisoner of war of the Japanese.

White In May, 1972, CSM Albert Newman White (6076215), aged 84. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1908 to 1929. See obituary.

McCormack On 4th May, 1972, Cpl P. McCormack, MM (6099701), aged 53. Served in the 2/6th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment in the 1939-45 War, and was the only soldier to be awarded a bar to his Military Medal.

Davis On 16th May, 1972, Colonel Francis Joseph Davis, OBE, aged 72. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1918 to 1936. See obituary.

Betteridge On 17th May, 1972, Pte Stanley Henry Betteridge (1235). Served in the 6th Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1911 to 1917 and in the Army Service Corps from 1917 to 1919. He was the father of 14797667 Pte A. Betteridge who served in the 1st Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1944 to 1947.

Danzey On 22nd May, 1972, CQMS John Jerard Danzey (6136940), aged 65. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1924 to 1945. A keen sportsman, he played football for the 1st Battalion in India. During the 1939-45 War he served in the 2/6th and 10th Battalions.

Adcock On 3rd June, 1972, Pte William Adcock (10662), aged 75. He was the third of four brothers who served in The East Surrey Regiment. See "A Regimental Family" in News Letter No. 10. Bill Adcock enlisted as a Regular soldier in 1913 and was posted to the 1st Battalion. At Richebourg St Vaast in October 1914 he sustained multiple bullet wounds which terminated his career as a soldier and which were to trouble him for the rest of his life. Nevertheless, he worked for the Post Office until reaching retirement age, and subsequently as a commissionaire to a firm in the City.

Agutter In June, 1972, Pte William Alfred James Agutter (6095589), aged 53. Served in the 2nd Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1946.

Turk On 23rd June, 1972, Major Ernest Joseph Turk, aged 69. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1923 and was RSM of the 1st Queen's when commissioned into the Indian Army in July 1942.

Webb On 6th July, 1972, Sergeant Charles Victor Webb (10382), aged 84. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1911 to 1917, and subsequently in The Manchester Regiment.

Organ On 7th July, 1972, CSM Ernest Henry Organ (6078512), aged 78. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1913 to 1934. See obituary.

Gaywood On 11th July, 1972, Major Frederick James Gaywood, MC, aged 80. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1916 to 1937 and from 1939 to 1944. See obituary.

Gater On 29th July, 1972, Sgt Frederick Walter Gater (G/103), aged 81. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1928. See obituary.

Brill In July, 1972, L/Cpl Henry George Brill (9758), aged 82. Served in both Regular Battalions of The East Surrey Regiment from 1908 to 1915, when he was wounded in the foot at Ypres. Subsequently served in the Royal Engineers until 1919.

Roper On 1st August, 1972, Lt-Colonel Kenneth Trevor Roper, The Dorset Regiment, aged 63. He commanded the 2nd Battalion The East Surrey Regiment from June 1943 to July 1944.

Steel On 8th August, 1972, Major Alfred Kenilworth Steel, aged 63. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1929 to 1958. See obituary.

Pay On 16th August, 1972, Pte Alfred William Pay (L/10009), aged 80. Served in the 2nd Battalion The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1911 to 1916. He went to France on 4th October, 1914, and was present at the meeting of the 1st and 2nd Battalions. Pte Pay was three times wounded, losing a foot at Loos in 1915.

Coker On 21st August, 1972, Pte James Isaac Coker (6081138), aged 67. Served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1923 to 1927 and in The Royal Tank Regiment during the 1939-45 War.

Woodford On 21st August, 1972, Pte Charles Woodford (3211), aged 76. Served in the 2/4th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1914 to 1918.

Jones On 21st September, 1972, Captain Wilfred Ernest Jones, TD. Educated at Dulwich College, "Steamboat" as he was known to his friends, was commissioned in the 24th London Regiment (The Queen's) in 1933. He held a number of Intelligence staff appointments during the 1939-45 War, and was transferred to TARO in 1946.

Warner On 25th September, 1972, Pte F. G. Warner (6078473), brother of Captain A. E. Warner, The Queen's Royal Regiment. Served in 1st Queen's from 1920 to 1930.

Burns On 27th September, 1972, WO II Maurice Burns, BEM (6757419), aged 66. Served in the 22nd London Regiment The Queen's and its successors from 1925 until 1961. See obituary.

Gibbins In September, 1972, Sgt Frederick Gibbins, aged 59. Served in the 22nd London Regiment The Queen's and its successors from 1938 to 1968. He was the son of the late CQMS F. D. Gibbins, MM.

Summers On 30th September, 1972, L/Cpl. Arthur George Summers (6102047), aged 59. Served in 2/5th Bn The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1940 to 1945.

Guy On 2nd October, 1972, Pte Rowland (Bill) Guy, aged 66. A pre-War Regular soldier, he served in The East Surrey Regiment from the 1930s until the cessation of hostilities.

Rogers On 10th October, 1972, Cpl George T. Rogers, The East Surrey Regiment. Originally a bandsman, he served from the early 1920s until after the War.

Ricketts On 14th October, 1972, Major Charles Richard Ricketts, aged 71. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1919 to 1952. See obituary.

Windsor On 21st November, 1972, Cpl James Albert Windsor (8288), aged 85. Served in the 1st Bn The East Surrey Regiment from 1904 to 1919 and went to France with the Battalion in August 1914. See obituary.

Druce On 21st November, 1972, Captain John Christopher Druce, MC, aged 80. Served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1914 to 1919. John Druce had the distinction of the longest continuous period of service in the 1st Battalion in the 1914-18 War than any other officer. He

was mentioned in despatches as a company commander and was Adjutant from September 1916 until severely wounded in May 1918. Captain Druce was awarded the Military Cross in 1918.

Regimental Families

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

Yalden On 4th March, 1972, Ada, aged 76, the widow of Captain T. H. Yalden, MC, The East Surrey Regiment.

Smith On 8th May, 1972, Mrs Nina Smith, aged 68, the widow of Pte Benjamin Smith (6077299), who served in The Queen's Royal Regiment from 1919 to 1926.

Cooke On 28th May, 1972, Mrs Ann Cooke, widow of 7681501 Sgt Thomas Arthur Cooke who served in The East Surrey Regiment from 1925 to 1941.

Monro On 28th August, 1972, the Hon Lady Mary Caroline Monro, DBE, aged 92. She was the widow of General Sir Charles Monro who was commissioned in The Queen's (Second) Royal Regiment of Foot in 1879, and who, after a distinguished career in peace and war, was Colonel of the Regiment from 1920 until his death in 1929.

As the Hon Mary Towneley O'Hagan, daughter of the first Lord O'Hagan, former Lord Chancellor of

Ireland, she married Major General Monro in 1912. Lady Monro was created DBE in 1919.

A memorial service for Lady Monro was held on 6th October, 1972, at St James's, Piccadilly. The Duchess of Kent was represented by Aileen Viscountess Slim and Major General F. J. C. Piggott represented the Regimental Association.

Bayliss On 28th September, 1972, Mrs Margaret Patricia (Banda) Bayliss, wife of the late Major H. V. Bayliss, DSO, MC, The East Surrey Regiment.

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